



Provincial Office, Auxilium, P.B. 19877, Bandra, Mumbai 400 050

INB/VII/19/17

February 2017

Dear Sisters,

Greetings from Provincialate Bandra!

In keeping with the awesome tradition of our province, we had a meaningful celebration of the Provincial Gratitude day on 11-12 February 2017 at SJTC Lonavla. The one month Spiritual preparation has indeed paved the way to this celebration of togetherness, gratitude and joy.

The theme chosen for this meaningful Annual event of our Province "*Consecrated to be merciful*" was given expression through the various spiritual practices and initiatives undertaken by the Province and each community during the time of preparation. It was a celebration with a special note of simplicity, joy and togetherness. A sincere word of thanks to our Vice-Provincial Sr. Agatha Dias, for her able coordination of the entire celebration. My thanks goes to Sr. Cecilia Crasta, Sr. Josephine Fernandes and their Communities for hosting the Provincial Gratitude Day and to the Communities of Maria Bhavan - Bableshtar, SJTC - Lonavla, Auxilium Convent – Lonavla, Ashish Bhavan – Kune, Auxilium Welfare Centre – Koregaon Park, Eusebia Centre – Mundhwa and Maria Sharan - Keshwand for their active collaboration in adding flavor to this joyous event. I also thank the individual sisters and persons who have contributed in one way or the other to make this celebration meaningful.

Consecrated life will be beautiful, bright, radiant and charming if we cultivate in us the capacity for intense and personal love for one another and all those whom we encounter. Let us continue our journey of Mercy by choosing all that promotes life and love in our Communities and in our areas of mission. Let love, gentleness, kindness, encouragement, respect, care, concern and true sisterly love become tangible characteristics of every FMA. Let our Communities be Prophetic Communities in this world torn apart by war, injustice, violence and division.

Triennial Evaluation: We have already received from the Centre of the Institute, some indications and guidelines for the preparation and realization of the *Mid-term Evaluation 2018*. It is an opportunity that the Institute offers us in order to revive our awareness of our charismatic identity, re-read our lived reality and the challenges of today in the light of the Word of God and to launch ourselves with new hope towards the future. The personal and community evaluation, at the local and provincial level, is an indispensable stage for the preparation of the evaluation that will be held at the interprovincial level. I exhort each community to prepare for this important event with much prayer, reflection and in dialogue with the ecclesial and local realities.

Adieu Sr. Christina:

The memories of our dear Sr. Christina Galus, whom the Lord called to her eternal reward on 19th January 2017, are still very fresh in our minds and hearts. Her sudden death has certainly shaken all of us. All those who lived with Sr. Christina and knew her personally, will testify that she was a vibrant, committed and dedicated sister, who made the best of her practical sense to carry forward any mission that was entrusted to her. Within the short span of 9 years of religious life, she has been able to touch the lives of many children, youth and women. We thank the Lord for the gift of Sr. Christina Galus to our Congregation and especially to our Province. The month's mind Mass for Sr. Christina will be held on 25th February 2017 at Jag Prakash Chatralay – Pansora. May God grant her Eternal Rest.

Communications:

- ❖ The Workshop for CPOs and one member of Child protection Committee for Goa-Karnataka region has been re-scheduled for 4th – 5th March 2017. It will be held at Caranzalem.
- ❖ The Media Team of the Province will be organizing a Media cum Faith Fest on the theme **“Cometaste His Mercy”**, for the young people connected with the Communities of the Maharastra region, from 18th – 19th of February 2017 at Auxilium Youth Animation Centre, Dahanu.
- ❖ Sr. Agatha Dias and Sr. Catherine Fernandes will be flying to Jerusalem on the 27th February 2017 to participate in the Project Jerusalem to be held from 1st March to 23rd April 2017. We wish them a safe flight and a wonderful and enriching experience in the Holy Land. May they truly have a living experience of Jesus as they visit the places where He Lived, Preached, Worked, Died and Rose again. **Bon Voyage and God be with you!**
- ❖ **Studies in Rome:** The Provincial Council has decided to send Sr. Jacinta Moisan to do the Biennial Course in **Salesian Spirituality** at Casa Madre Ersilia Canta, Rome, Italy.
- ❖ The Council has accepted the application, of Sr. Rita Mascarenhas, to go as a Missionary. She will leave for Rome in mid-July to participate in the Course for New Missionaries. May God accompany her on this journey as she discerns and responds to her Missionary calling.
- ❖ Our Golden Jubilarians – Sr. Stella Rebello, Sr. Margret Annaswamy and Sr. Veronica Fernandes, together with their companions of the Chennai Province, will participate in a Course on **“Personal encounter”** at SEARCH Ashram, Chennai from 26th February -8th March. We wish our Sisters a deep Spiritual experience.
- ❖ The Silver Jubilarians (Batch – 1992) - Sr. Sabina Almeida, Sr. LavitaVaz, Sr. Irene Pinto and Sr. Macline D’Souza, together with their missionary companion Sr. Maria Antonette Monterio will be participating in a Spiritual Renewal Programme **“Covenantal Spirituality and spirituality of Human relationship”** at Mysore from 13th- 25thFebruary 2017. We wish them a fruitful experience.

- ❖ Better yourself books – Best-Seller “*Dream big Dream True*” authored by our dear Sr. Teresa Joseph has gone into its 7th Print edition, with over 22,000 copies sold out. The inspirational volume offers us 35 practical tips to make the best of our lives. Congratulations! dear Sr. Teresa Joseph.

Sincere appreciation and thanks to:

- ❖ Sr. Moksha Anthonappa for organizing the National YaR meet from 20th to 22nd January 2017 and to Sr. Hilda Braganza and the Community of MYC for hosting the meeting.
- ❖ The three Communities of Gujarat, for all the arrangements made for the funeral of Sr. Christina Galus.
- ❖ Sr. Angeline Fernandes and Community of Auxilium Convent – Pali, for hosting the Tri-monthly Meet for Temporary Professed Sisters from 2nd – 3rd February 2017; and to Fr. Vincent SSP for the enriching seminar on the Holy Father’s, Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation - ‘Amoris Laetitia.
- ❖ Sr. Cecilia Crasta and the Community of SJTC – Lonavla, for hosting the Seminar for the Animators of Communities. I also thank Fr. Joy Pullikonnal SJ for animating the group with enriching Sessions on ‘*Dealing with Emotions*’.

Let us Celebrate!

- ❖ Together with Sr. Magnificat Soosai and the Sisters of the Province of St. Thomas the Apostle – Chennai, we celebrate the birth of a New Sister Province, The *Province of Tiruchirapalli* (FMA-INT). We congratulate and thank Sr. Magnificat Soosai, for her untiring efforts, in leading the Province through this important phase of discernment. Let us thank God for this wonderful gift to FMA-India.
- ❖ We rejoice and celebrate, as the Salesian Missionary who worked on Indian soil, Fr. Francesco Convertini, has been declared Venerable by our Holy Father, Pope Francis. Fr. Convertini set out from Genoa to India (Bengal) after receiving the Missionary Crucifix from the hands of Blessed Fr. Philip Rinaldi. He was distinguished for his exceptional apostolic zeal, was loved by all and revered as a master of interior life and wisdom of heart.

Heartly Congratulations to:

- ❖ Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret on being appointed as the first provincial of the New Province of Tiruchirapalli - FMA-INT for the term 2017-2023. We wish her God’s abundant blessings and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, as she takes up the challenging task of nurturing and bringing up the Province right from its inception.

- ❖ Sr. Lazar Maria Nirmala on being appointed as Provincial of the Province of St. Thomas the Apostle - Chennai (FMA-INM) for the term 2017 – 2023. We wish her God’s choicest blessings that she may bear abundant fruit in the accomplishment of the responsibility assigned to her.
- ❖ Sr. Celine Jacob on being appointed, as the 5th Provincial of the Province of The Sacred Heart of Jesus – Bangalore (INK). We congratulate Sr. Celine Jacob, and assure her of the support of our prayers, as she prepares herself to take up this new responsibility. We also thank Sr. Crescentia D’Almeida, the outgoing Provincial for her dedicated animation of the Province and her wholehearted collaboration at the FMA-PCI level, during her term of office.
- ❖ Our two *Neo Missionarie*, Sr. Mary Cherian and Sr. Mary Chacko, who joyfully received their Missionary Mandate from Mother General on the 2nd February 2017. Sr. Mary Cherian will join the East African Province of Kenya, while Sr. Mary Chacko is destined for the Province of South Africa. We wish them every blessing as they prepare to venture towards new missionary frontiers.
- ❖ The two newly ordained Auxiliary Bishops of the Arch-Diocese of Mumbai, Bishop Allwyn D’Silva and Bishop Barthol Barretto, who through the traditional imposition of hands, joined the ranks of the Shepherds of the Church. May they be accompanied by the Divine Shepherd in fulfilling their leadership role as Pastors and Shepherds who smell like their sheep.
- ❖ Archbishop Giambattista Diquattro, on being appointed by Pope Francis, as the Holy See’s new Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal. We assure him of our prayerful support as he assumes this new responsibility as Nuncio.

Heartfelt Condolences to:

- ❖ Sr. Elizabeth George and the Sisters of the Gawahati Province at the demise of Sr. Elizabeth Condpan on 21 January 2017.
- ❖ Sr. Marina Fernandes who lost her maternal aunt Miss Louisa Menezes (92) on 31st December 2016 at Kundapura.
- ❖ Sr. Thelma Barrett at the passing away of her sister Mrs. Rita
- ❖ Sr. Maria Achandil at the demise of her elder brother in Kerala on 15th January 2017.
- ❖ Sr. Celsa Magalhaes at the passing away of her first cousin in Goa.
- ❖ Sr. Joanita Antao who lost her brother in law, aged 72, due to a massive heart attack on 14th February 2017.

May God receive into His Kingdom all the dear departed and grant comfort, peace and hope to the dear family members who mourn their loss.

Prayers requested for:

- ❖ Sr. Precilla D'Souza who underwent another surgery for the removal of a festered abscess. Let us pray for her complete and speedy recovery, as the healing process seems to be taking longer time than usual, causing her much pain and suffering.
- ❖ Sr. Gladys D'Souza who is still ailing and confined to her bed.
- ❖ Sr. Teresina Barretto, who had a fall and fractured her wrist.

The season of lent begins on Ash Wednesday, 1st March 2017. During this season of prayer and penance, we are invited to go through a process of kenosis, self emptying and openness in order to discover our true selves as disciples and apostles of Christ. This process calls for both emptying and filling ourselves in order to have the same mind that the Lord Jesus had. Today we are challenged to empty ourselves of our ego, self-centredness, insensitivity to persons and lack of respect for the rights of others. Emptying oneself becomes a true spiritual experience, when we begin to experience 'openness' to the Lord and others, in and around us. During this season of lent let us take up concrete practices which will facilitate the process of emptying oneself and openness to others.

I conclude with the quote from Pope Francis "*Mercy has a youthful face which can move us beyond our comfort zones and make us ready to embrace every one*".

With Assurance of prayers and sisterly accompaniment,

Affectionately,



Sr. Ritha Dora Thomas
Provincial



Itinerary of the Provincial

FEBRUARY 2017

1	Provincial Office
2-3	Pali Hill PV
4-5	Meeting of the temporary professed- Pali Hill
6-7-8-9	Provincial Office
10-11	Seminar for Animators
11-12	provincial Gratitude Day
13-14	Provincial Council Meet
15 -16-17am	Auxilium Lonavla PV
17-18	SJTC Lonavla PV
19-20 am	Mundhwa PV
20 pm - 24	Provincial Office
24 pm	Departure for Dakor (PV)
25am	Dakor (PV)
25 pm	Months mind Mass for Sr. Christina (Pansora)
26 -27	Dakor (PV)
28 – 2 March	Pansora (PV)

MARCH 2017

3 – 5	Baroda (PV)
6 – 8	Provincial Office
9-10	Uttan PV
13-15	Provincial Council Meet
16-17	Provincial Office
18	Koparkhairane PV
19	Provincial Office
20-21-22	Nandgad PV
23-24	Provincial Office
24-25 am	SHTC Nasik
25 pm-26	Maria Vihar Nasik PV
27	Meeting with Bishop
28	Provincial Office
29-30	MYC, Wadala PV