



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

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INB/ VII/25/17

August 2017

Greetings from the Provincialate!

*St. John Mary Vianey - Patron of Priests* (4<sup>th</sup> August)

John Mary Vianey was ordained Priest in 1815 and three years later he was made Parish Priest of Ars, France; where his reputation as a confessor and director of souls made him known throughout the Christian world. He led a life of extreme mortification and severe austerity. His life was filled with works of Charity and love. Looking at him even the most hardened sinners were converted towards a renewed life. He was most outstanding in his Pastoral zeal. Let us gratefully remember our Priests and Parish Priests in particular, those who need our prayerful support to be faithful ministers of Christ.

*Our Lady of the Snows- Foundation Day:*

The 5<sup>th</sup> of August marks the Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome, also known as Our Lady of the Snows. It also marks the Foundation Day of our beloved Institute. Mary's position as Jesus' mother gives her special intercessory abilities, particularly in interceding for his mercy for sinners. During this Marian month, let us take time to reflect on Mary's vital role in our salvation, by spending time with her in private prayer, to increase our love for her and obtain graces for our sanctification.

Let us spend this day in thanksgiving for the gift of Mary and the marvellous way she intervened in the life of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, to give birth to our Institute which belongs entirely to Mary. She continues to make her presence and assistance tangibly felt in the life of each of her daughters. It is also a day to renew our loyalty and commitment to God and to our institute. Let us also join our Sisters in different parts of the world, who will be making their first or final professions on this day and all those who commemorate the anniversaries of their profession. Let us all sing our magnificat for the unique gift of our vocation.

*The Assumption of the Bl. Virgin Mary.*

"The Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory". With these words, Pope Pius XII

proclaimed the dogma of the Assumption of Mary, the Mother of the Lord in 1950. The Assumption is God's crowning of His work as Mary ends her earthly life and enters eternity. While Mary's Assumption into heaven is a gift of grace for her, it is also a gift of grace for us. What God has done for Mary, God will also do for us. We too will one day be with the Lord, body and soul in the heavenly glory. As we celebrate this feast, rejoicing in the honour conferred upon the most humble Virgin, let us remind ourselves of the dignity God has bestowed upon our own body, in creating us in his image and likeness. Let us be determined to uphold and protect that dignity and holiness, in ourselves and others, especially in times when it is threatened by sinfulness and the forces of evil.

### *The 71st Independence of our Country*

Our Independence Day reminds us of those patriots who fought and suffered to win freedom for us. Homage is paid to those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of our Country. We are living in a time when the very core of our Constitutional values are being threatened and challenged. Violence, terrorism, lynching, Class discrimination, racism, attacks on minorities, war of words, hate speeches, revenge etc. seem to be the trend of our society. In such situations we are called upon to educate ourselves, our youngsters and the society to rise above all forms of terror and hatred and stand united in promoting and supporting the secular and pluralistic values defined in our Indian Constitutions. Let us join hands with like-minded organisations and persons of good will in defending the rights of every individual, particularly the weaker sections of our society. Let us consistently pray for our political leaders, and responsible persons who make policies and take decisions which will have a positive impact on the life of our country and its citizens.

### *Birthday of our Father and Founder.*

On 16th August we celebrate the birthday of our Father and Founder Don Bosco. Don Bosco was a man very much in tune with the Holy Spirit at work in his own life, Saint John Bosco saw the good within everyone. He was filled with gifts of nature and of grace to the point that his outside was a perfect reflection of the beauty he possessed on the inside. He spoke with inner conviction and integrity to the young people most at risk. To the most challenging, he said, "*Believe in yourself*". "*You are God's work of art, his masterpiece*". Thank you for your example dear St. John Bosco, do watch over us. Happy Birthday!

### *Salesian Saints of the month.*

On 2nd August we venerate **Blessed Augustus Czarторыski**. Augustus Czarторыski was born in Paris on the 2nd August 1858, in exile, to the Polish Prince Ladislaw and Princess Mary Amparo, daughter of the Queen of Spain. In July 1887, after meeting Don Bosco, Augustus joined the Salesian order in Turin, with the ailing Bosco's blessing. He studied theology and philosophy but his health continued to decline. On April 2, 1892 he was ordained as a priest by the Bishop of Ventimiglia, though his family discouraged this, and refused to attend the ceremony. "*How lovely is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! My soul yearns and pines for the courts of the Lord. ... Better one*

*day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere"* (Psalms 84:2,11) - Blessed Augustus Czaratoryski had these words of the Psalm written as his motto of life on the memento of his first Mass. In them are reflected the rapture of a man who, following the voice of the call, discovers the beauty of the priestly ministry. Augustus fully absorbed the Salesian Spirituality, especially the element of sacrifice and offered his life and sufferings for the good of the young and the Congregation just as Don Bosco did. He died on April 8, 1893, in Alassio, Italy, of tuberculosis, at the age of 35. John Paul II, the Polish Pope, had the joy of declaring him Blessed on the 25th April 2004. Let us propose his example of holiness above all to young people, who today seek to discern the will of God in regard to their lives and wish to proceed faithfully every day according to the divine word.

**Blessed Maria Troncati's** feast is celebrated on 25<sup>th</sup> August. An intrepid Italian FMA missionary among the indigenous Shuar and Kiwaro tribes of Latin America (Ecuador), she had an immense love for Mary and an ardent spirit of sacrifice and dedication to the evangelization of these tribes on the highland of Ecuador. Without having done any medical studies, she performed surgeries and cured those who were sick, more by her faith and prayer than by the simple country medicines she gave them. Maria communicated to everyone the foundation on which her enterprising missionary work was based: *"We need not fear, but we need to have confidence in God and give ourselves totally to Him"*. Her holiness was recognized by the Church and she was beatified on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2012.

The memorial of **Blessed Zephyrinus Namancura** is kept on 26<sup>th</sup> August. He was the son of the last great chief of the Araucano Indian tribe of Patagonia- Argentina. Growing up in a Salesian mission school, he learnt to love Jesus Christ and was captivated by the family atmosphere at the Salesian College. He became another Dominic Savio and was exemplary in his piety, charity, daily duties and practice of mortification. He desired to become a Salesian and was accepted among the group of Aspirants at Viedma. Because of his poor health he was taken to Italy for better medical treatment and also to pursue his priestly studies. His ardent desire was to become a priest and evangelize all the members of his tribe. However, suffering from tuberculosis, he was admitted to hospital in Rome and died there peacefully on 11<sup>th</sup> May 1905. He was beatified on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at Chimpay, his birth place.

May the memory of these Salesian Saints spur us onward in our own journey of holiness through the ups and downs of daily life.

*Adieu Sr. Edvige:*

On 28<sup>th</sup> July 2017 our dear Sister Edvige Nazareth, winged her flight to heaven. *"I will sing unto the Lord as Long as I live"* Sr. Edvige made these sentiments of the Psalmist her own. Gifted with music and song, she made a life a continuous song of praise bringing life and joy wherever she went. Her religious life was founded on the two pillars of Salesian Life - Ardent love for Jesus in the Eucharist and Tender Devotions to our Blessed Mother. Obedience was her forte knit together with great love for her Superiors. She lived the Mornesian *"I'll go and I'll do"*. Though Sr. Edvige is no more with us, her memories will linger on in our hearts. She will always be remembered as the

“Singing Nun” of our province. My sincere thanks to Sr. Meena D’Silva and the Community of Auxilium Convent – Wadala, for the attention and care they have offered our dear Sr. Edvige during the past two years. I am sure she is smiling upon you dear sisters with gratitude and love and will intercede for you and for the Province, with the Lord.

### *Province 5 year plan:*

The final draft of the Province 5 year plan along with the Annual Plan 2017-2018 has been sent to all the communities for study and implementation. I request the PAC members and animators to explain this plan to the communities, and strictly abide by the deadlines given in implementing the plan. A report of the same will be submitted to the Councillor of your region and also to the Provincial during Provincial visit. While preparing your community plan, also take into consideration the Action Plan prepared by the participants of the Seminar at Indore.

### *Communications:*

- ❖ The FMA PCI 2017 will take place from 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at SJTC, Lonavla. The PCI meet will be preceded by the Meetings of the National General Coordinators on 28<sup>th</sup> August. The Provincials too will have a meeting on the same day. We warmly welcome Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, the Presiding General Councillor, all the FMA – Provincials, the delegates and the National Co-ordinators. We wish them a happy stay and a fruitful meeting.
- ❖ I am happy to announce that the delegates from our province for the FMA PCI are: Sr. Joanna Lobo and Sr. Rita Lobo. Let us intensify our prayers for the success of the meeting.
- ❖ A meeting will be organized for the local Delegates (FMA Sisters) of the SALFAM (the Salesian Co-operators, Past Pupils and ADMA). It will be held on Sunday 13th August 2017 from 10 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. at Auxilium Convent - Pali Hill. I request the local delegates to participate in the same.
- ❖ A Renewal programme for FMA Silver Jubilarians will be organised at the PCI level from 24<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Don Bosco – SPCI House, New Delhi. The participants from our province are: Srs. Rita D’Souza, Precilla D’Souza, Gema Gudinho, Teresa John, Dolly Rodrigues, Innocencia Rosario, Sr. Priscilla Travasso, Sr. Prema Tauro, and Sr. Rita Fernandes.
- ❖ The Youth Pastoral Sector, Rome has organized a meeting for the coordinators of Youth Pastoral, Education and Social Ministry at the FMA-PCI Level from 26<sup>th</sup>– 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Guwahati. The participants from our province are: Sr. Meena D’Silva, Sr. Susan Moares, Sr. Roseline Pereira and myself.
- ❖ The first Tri-monthly meet for Junior Sisters will be held from 4-6<sup>th</sup> August at SJTC-Lonavla. Sr. Cecilia Crasta and Fr. Joy Pullikkonnel SJ will animate the group.

- ❖ The 2<sup>nd</sup> year Novices will have their apostolic experience from 1<sup>st</sup> August – 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017 in the communities of Baroda, Benaulim, Carona, Kune, and Oros. We wish our novices an enriching and fruitful community and mission experience.
- ❖ Sr. Teresa Joseph has been invited by the Sector for Mission Ad Gentes to participate in the Seminar for Missionary Animation and Formation; Initial Proclamation and Salesian Mission, The meeting will take place at “Ban Than Phraphon” (Sam Phran) Thailand from 13<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> August 2017. Sr. Teresa will offer her valid contribution at this Seminar and we wish her all the best as she prepares for this venture.
- ❖ We wish Buon Voyage to Sr. Supriya Noronha and the participants of Project Mornese. We wish them a deeper experience of Salesian Charism in the land of our founders. We extend our good wishes to Sr. Supriya and the animating team as they accompany and animate the participants of Project Mornese.
- ❖ Sr. Magdeline Sequeira and Sr. Leema Rose a fruitful missionary course in Shillong and a joyful pilgrimage to the Holy land.
- ❖ We warmly welcome our missionary Sisters, Sr. Annamma Parackal who arrived on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017 and Sr. Susan Fernandes who will be arriving in Goa on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2017. We wish them an enjoyable and time with their dear ones and in our province.
- ❖ The following Sisters and Candidates will participate in the two day training programme (GRO Mo 2017) for the Guide Captains at Lonavla on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017. This is in view of preparing our sisters for the forthcoming National Boscoree 2019 which will be held in Nashik. Sr. Shobha D'Souza Sr. Sunita Motheghar, Sr. Teresa John, Sr. Rexela Kharja, Sr. Nilima Rodrigues, Miss. Quincy Vieira and Miss. Novnita Pachigorla.

*Sincere appreciation and Thanks to:*

- ❖ Fr. Joe Xavier SJ for guiding us in the process of drafting the 5 Year Plan for the province, and the community of MYC for hosting the PAC meet and the Council meet from 6 – 8 July 2017.
- ❖ To Sr. Roseline Pereira and her team for organising the VTC Co-ordinators meet and Sr. Leema Joseph and the community of Pali Hill for hosting the meet.
- ❖ Sr. Moksha Antonappa for organising the Social coordinators meet; Sr. Agatha Dias and Sr. Roseline Pereira for conducting sessions; and Sr. Hilda Braganza and community for hosting the meet.
- ❖ Sr. Rita D'Souza and Sr. Perpetual Ferrao for organising the New Administrators Training Programme and Sr. Caroline Fernandes and the Community of Auxilium Bandra for hosting the meet.
- ❖ Sr. Santana Perieira for animating the retreat for the Aspirants and Postulants at Lonavla.

- ❖ Sr. Meenakshi D'Silva, Sr. Hilda Braganza and two Communities of Wadala for making the necessary arrangements for the funeral of Sr. Edvige Nazareth.

### *Heartfelt Condolences to:*

- ❖ Sr. Marie D'Silva at the demise of her sister in law Mrs. Tessy D'Silva on 9<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
- ❖ Sr. Nayana Vankar at the passing away of her beloved father Mr. Lallubhai Vankar on 13th July 2017.
- ❖ Sr. Elizabeth D'Mello at the demise of her dear mother Mrs. Mary on 14th July 2017.
- ❖ Sr. Elveera D'Souza at the demise of her grandmother on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017.
- ❖ Fr. Joyce Thonikuzhiyil and the Salesians of Bangalore Province at the passing away Fr. George Arimpoor on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017.

May the souls of the dear departed enjoy the bliss of eternal life and the bereaved family members experience comfort, solace and peace!

### *Prayer requested for*

- ❖ Sr. Ruth Misquitta who had a fall and has fractured her hip. She will be operated on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017.
- ❖ The sister of Sr. Audrey and Sr. Agatha's who has been suffering from arthritis.
- ❖ The Sister of Sr. Jaya Pedthalala who suffers from severe Arthritis.
- ❖ The Sister of Sr. Blanchie Sambrya who is suffering from Cancer.
- ❖ The sick and senior Sisters of the province – our relatives, friends and benefactors who do not enjoy good health.
- ❖ For the intentions of the Rector Major and the Salesian Family.

Let us continue to pray for these and others who are suffering ill health that the Lord may give them healing and wholeness.

### *Heartly congratulations to:*

- ❖ Our three jubilarians: Sr. Stella Rebeiro, Sr. Veronica Fernandes and Sr. Margaret Annaswamy who celebrate the Golden jubilee of their profession on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017 and all our sisters who celebrate the anniversary of their religious profession on this day.
- ❖ Sr. Reshma Nunes who has completed her M.Com securing a first class.

During this year of the commemoration of the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first missionary expedition of our Institute, we have been invited to relive the missionary ardour of our first Sisters, to proclaim and witness to the young and with the young, the Good News of redemption. Kindly take note of the proposal provided by the Mission Sector for celebrating well the 140th anniversary of the first Missionary Expedition that seeks to be a concrete gesture and that will unite us all as Institute. Mother Yvonne says in her Circular (n. 964). “It would be beautiful if we revive the ‘strong missionary impulse’ that characterized the Institute from the beginning, in the heart of every FMA, in the young, and in all the members of the educating community”. It was this missionary impulse that, on November 14, 1877, spurred the departure of six very young FMA without any particular preparation: Sr. Angela Vallese (23), Sr. Giovanna Borgna (17), Sr. Angela Cassulo (25), Sr. Angela Denegri (17), Sr. Teresa Gedda (24), and Sr. Teresa Mazzarello (17). Some of them had made their profession just a few weeks before. None of them had made their Perpetual Profession, but all of them had a *Yes* forever sealed in their heart. It was a *Yes* that was translated into courage, into serene detachment, into a joyful response to the mission *ad gentes*. It was a faithful *Yes*, the maximum expression of the ‘*vado io’...I will go’ ‘Here I am. Send me!’* Sr. Angela Vallese was the pioneer of the FMA missionaries in America. She was a strong woman, with great faith and intense apostolic ardour. Let us imbibe this Missionary fervour and let it spur us on in carry out the mission entrusted to each of us.

Yours affectionately,



Sr. Ritha Dora Thomas fma  
Provincial

## **Itinerary of the Provincial**

August 2017

1	Provincial Council Meet
2-3	Provincial Office
4-6	Temporary Professed Sisters Meet- SJTC Lonavala
7	Uttan- Short Visit
9-15	Provincial Office
16	Departure for Gujarat
17	Pansora- Team Visit
18	Dakor – Team Visit
19	Gandhinagar- Meeting with Archbishop Rev.Thomas Macwan
20-21	Baroda- Team Visit
22-27	Provincial Office
28	FMA Provincial's Meet- Lonavla
29-31	FMA PCI- Lonavla