



Province of
St. Francis De Sales

Provincial Circular

Salesian Province of Dimapur - IND

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1 August 2017

MY DEAR CONFRERES,

We are going to celebrate again the feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother and 71st anniversary of independence of our country. We continue to celebrate these twin feasts again and again at times missing their significances. In the first place let me wish you all a very joyous and happy feast of our Blessed Mother and jubilant Independence Day 2017 celebration of our country.



According to the tradition and belief we consider that Mary was taken up to heaven body and soul by God. Through this act God is keeping His promise and sets a pattern for all humanity to follow. In this feast, we are celebrating the glorification of our mother and it is only

natural that we, her children, rejoice in a special way at the joy brought about by God in the life of our Blessed Mother. We read in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 966*, that “Finally the Immaculate Virgin, preserved free from all stain of original sin, when the course of her earthly life was finished, was taken up body and soul into heavenly glory, and exalted by the Lord as Queen over all things, so that she might be the more fully conformed to her Son, the Lord of lords and conqueror of sin and death”.

This is the basic teaching of the Church regarding our Heavenly Mother. She is portrayed as an example for all human beings to imitate. We are called to live our life worthily for the Kingdom of heaven and “become for the young signs of love and unity” (Art 49) thus making it possible for every human being to enter the Kingdom of God.

It is an undoubted fact that God the Father had a divine plan for Our Blessed Mother. He prepared her for that singular offering of herself as the Mother of Jesus and Mother of God by enabling her to accept the salutation of the angel, “Rejoice, you who enjoy God’s favour! The Lord is with you.” (Lk. 1:28). God’s grace worked so much in her that even though she enquired about the possibility of the things to happen in her life she humbly and putatively accepted by saying, “You see before you the Lord’s servant, let it happen to me as you have said” (Lk. 1: 38). Our Lady cooperated with God to fulfil the promise He had made to humanity.

Our Lady by cooperating with God, made it possible for her to enjoy eternal life with the Lord in body and soul in heaven. This is the direct gift for her sacrificing and enduring steadfastness all along her life. The parents of Our Blessed Mother – Joachim and Anne – brought up their daughter in the “fear of the Lord” so that their daughter would have that

beatification of the Lord in heaven, for she had been specially chosen by the Lord.

Our Lady lived her life to fulfil God's will in her life. The glorification and assumption that have taken place in the life of Our Blessed Mother is because of her dedicated and self-sacrificing life lived out till the end to fulfil God's will. The good that she performed by being the mother of Jesus is commensurated with her assumption to heaven in body and soul. "The mystery of Mary's Assumption body and soul is fully inscribed in the resurrection of Christ. The Mother's humanity is 'attracted' by the Son in his own passage from death to life. Once and for all, Jesus entered eternal life with all the humanity he had drawn from Mary; and she, the Mother, who followed him faithfully throughout her life, followed him with her heart, and entered with him into eternal life which we also call *heaven, paradise, the Father's house*" (Pope Francis, homily, 15 August 2013). Her life's purpose was to be with the Lord. This is achieved at the end of her life when her soul and body was taken up to heaven.

One can achieve a goal personally by ruthlessly adhering to the objectives of it or by seeking others' help in accomplishing the goal. When the goal is achieved through personal



strides, it is sweeter. Our lady achieved the goal of her life by being obedient to God's will and personally living out her life in accordance with God's will. In this manner, she becomes a role model for us Christians. This is the reason why Pope Benedict tells us that "the Assumption is a reality that touches us too, for it points us in a luminous way toward our destiny, that of humanity and of history. In Mary, indeed, we contemplate that reality of glory to which each one of us and the entire Church is called" (Benedict XVI, Angelus, 15 August 2012).

Our Lady, a full participant in the work of our salvation, follows in the footsteps of her Son: the poverty of Bethlehem, the everyday work of a hidden life in Nazareth, the manifestation of his divinity in Cana of Galilee, the tortures of his passion, the divine sacrifice on the Cross, the eternal blessedness of paradise. Thus, assumption of her comes in the manner of Our Lord's own ascension into heaven.

The singular privilege of assuming her soul and body to heaven at the end of her sojourn here on earth affects us directly because this supernatural itinerary is the way we are to follow. Mary shows us that we can walk this path with confidence. She has preceded us on the way of imitating Christ, and her glorification is the firm hope of our own salvation. For these reasons, we call her 'our hope, cause of our joy' and it is she who "leads us to the fullness of our offering to the Lord and gives us courage for the service of our brethren" (Art. 92).

We can never lose hope of becoming holy, of accepting the invitations of God, of persevering until the very end. The assurance of God comes in the letter of Philippians, "I am quite confident that the One who began a good work in you will go on completing it until the Day of Jesus Christ comes" (Phil 1:6).

This hope, which is a gift from God, does not exempt us from fighting; we cannot be merely passive. On the contrary: faith and our own experience show us that Christian life must go by way of the Cross to achieve glory; and that faithfulness consists of continually waging war against all odds to get there.

“Our faith tells us that here below, in our present life, we are pilgrims, wayfarers. Our lot is one of sacrifices, suffering and privations. Nonetheless, joy must mark the rhythm of our steps and we surrender ourselves totally to God, “whom we love above all else, we commit ourselves to a form of life based entirely on gospel values (Art. 60). By living the “grace of our baptism radically and more fully” (Art. 60) we shall follow the steps of Our Lady and be an example to the young people who are entrusted to our care. In this way, every Salesian becomes “signs” and hope for the young and others for the Kingdom of God where our Blessed Mother is already a member.

St. Josemaría consistently emphasizes the great truth that our most ordinary human interests can and should reflect the presence and transcendence of God, and that one should strive always to sanctify every detail of our daily life. He says, “*Cor Mariae Dulcissimum, iter para tutum*: Most Sweet Heart of Mary, prepare a safe way. Guide our steps on earth with strength and security. Become for us the path we are to follow, since you in your love know the way, a sure short-cut, to the love of Jesus Christ” (Christ is Passing By, no. 178).

CONGRATULATIONS

We welcome back to the province **Fr. TETE Blasius** and **Fr. CHIHARMEI Kharsi Alayee Pius** after their successful completion of MTh at Mathias Institute, Shillong.

EVENTS AHEAD

09 and 10 August Parish Priests’ Meeting at DBPH at 9.00 am
18 to 24 August Retreat V for the young priests preached by Fr. Biji Thomas SDB at DBIDL starts at 6.00 pm
30 and 31 August Provincial Council Meeting

CONDOLENCES

- ✠ To Sr. Rose Ezarath, the Provincial and other sisters of Kolkata Province at the sudden death of **Sr. Teresa Ruben (INC)** aged 59 on 4 July 2017.
- ✠ To Fr. PARAPPILLY Jacob (PD) who lost his mother, **Mrs. Eliakutty (87)** on 29 July 2017.
- ✠ To Fr. Mathew Thonikuzhiyil, the Provincial and other Salesians of Bangalore Province at the sudden death of **Fr. George Arimpoor (INK)** aged 85 who passed away on 1 August 2017 at Aluva, Kerala.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY – August

Date	Name	Place	Year	Age	Anniversary
28	Fr. Edamala Chacko	Dibrugarh	1985	46	32 nd
29	Fr. Barwa Dominic	Dibrugarh	1990	67	27 th

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr. Nestor Guria, SDB
(Provincial)



Programme for the Month of August 2017

Date	Day	Provincial's Programme	Vice Provincial's Programme	Economer's Programme
1	Tue	Mon > Amguri	Formators' Seminar at NBCLC, Bangalore 1-16	Mon > Amguri
2	Wed	Tuli > Dimapur		Tuli > Dimapur
3	Thu	Dimapur		Dimapur
4	Fri	Dimapur		Maram
5	Sat	Guwahati (CRI Ex. Meeting)		Tamenglong
6	Sun	S. H. Shillong		Tamenglong
7	Mon	S. H. Shillong (Lector & Acolyte, GB meeting)		Khoupum
8	Tue	S. H. Shillong (Inauguration of new academic year)		Imphal
9	Wed	Dimapur		
10	Thu	Dimapur		
11	Fri	Shajouba (Visitation)		Shajouba
12	Sat	Shajouba (Visitation)		
13	Sun	Imphal		
14	Mon	Imphal > Maram Parish		
15	Tue			
16	Wed	Maram College (Inauguration of the Hall)	Formators' Seminar NBCLC	
17	Thu	Dimapur	Dimapur	
18	Fri	Dimapur (Retreat)		
19	Sat	Dimapur (Retreat)		
20	Sun	Dimapur (Retreat)		
21	Mon	Dimapur (Retreat)		
22	Tue	Dimapur (Retreat)		
23	Wed	Dimapur (Retreat)	Dimapur	
24	Thu	Dimapur	Nagaland Regional Meeting with Young People In preparation for the Synod 2018	
25	Fri	Dimapur	Nagaland Regional Meeting with Young People In preparation for the Synod 2018	
26	Sat	Dimapur (Council)	Council Meeting	Council Meeting
27	Sun	Dimapur (Council)	Council Meeting	Council Meeting
28	Mon	> Delhi	Manipur Regional Meeting with Young People In preparation for the Synod 2018	
29	Tue	Delhi (SPCSA Council)	Manipur Regional Meeting with Young People In preparation for the Synod 2018	
30	Wed	Delhi (SPCSA Council)	Assam Regional Meeting with Young People In preparation for the Synod 2018	
31	Thu	Dimapur	Assam Regional Meeting with Young People In preparation for the Synod 2018	