

Mary Immaculate Province



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"God placed Mary far above all the angels and saints and so filled her with every heavenly grace from his own divine treasury so that her innocence and holiness exceeded every creature but God himself." -Pope Pius IX

"You are the hope of the Congregation and I am confident that you will grow day by day in the knowledge and love of our Lord Jesus Christ" -Bishop S. Ferrando

My dear Sisters,

Most of us have made the annual retreat and attended the seminars organized in the Province. We are now set to start anew with new resolutions, plans and projects for our personal life and mission. This is an important year as we are preparing ourselves to enter in the platinum jubilee year of our dear Congregation. Let us thank the Lord for blessing us with the desire to experience the divine, be happy in life and be fruitful. One of the recommendations of the congregation is to live the general and provincial chapter directives which are very helpful to live the MSMHC way of life. Let us be focused on our mission as "no one can serve two masters" (Mt 6:24). Our mind is a gift from God. It is the most important tool to fulfill our dreams, we have the power to create literally what we think about, with the energy of our thoughts. When we keep our mind clear, still and focused, we can certainly wield the power to affect the object of our attention. Jesus was able to turn water into wine because he could focus his mind. We too have the power to turn our dreams into reality by focusing on what we want.

We celebrate the twin feasts on 15 August: the Assumption of our Blessed Mother and the independence day of our country. They tell us the importance of focusing on our goals in life. Mary was very much focused on fulfilling God's will in her life. Similarly, as we reflect on the Independence Day, we see the untiring efforts of many who kept working to achieve the goal of leading our country to freedom. It is something unique that we are able to celebrate this twin feasts on this day. It gives us the assurance of our blessed Mother's intervention as we honour her as the patroness of our country. Indeed, the feast leads everyone to love Mary and to seek her merciful and motherly sovereignty. She gave the most valuable gift of Jesus, her beloved Son to the world. At the Visitation, Elizabeth called Mary "mother of my Lord." As in all the mysteries of Mary's life, Mary is closely associated with Jesus: Her Queenship is a share in Jesus' kingship. Let us recognize Mary's Queenship, enthrone her in our hearts and communities and consecrate ourselves to her. By doing this let us welcome to our lives the reign of Mary, the Immaculate Queen of the Universe. "We know all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son" (Rom 8: 28-29). Let us trust in the

goodness of God and in His promises. As the glorified Jesus remains with us as our King till the end of time, so does Mary, who was assumed into heaven and crowned queen of heaven and earth.

Let us spend some time in reflection on Mary's Queenship to understand her role in our lives. In her earthly life, she had none of the human privileges which are usually associated with royalty; she did not grow up living in palaces or castles; she did not have a high-profile wedding; she had no wealth, no fancy clothes, no jewel crown, and no banquets. Yet, she had the greatest privilege and treasure of all: she was the Mother of God. She gave birth to Jesus and had a unique human relationship with Him. It was at her petition that the Lord worked His first public miracle. Just before He died, Jesus gave her to the world as our common Mother. He took her up to heaven to be with Him, and there she continues to present our needs and prayers to Him. So let us confidently seek her intercession for ourselves and for everyone, knowing that she loves us as her children. We can be sure that, with the help of her intercession, God will give the best possible answers to our prayers and petitions. *"... the blessed Virgin is called powerful - nay, sometimes, all-powerful, because she has, more than anyone else, more than all the angels and saints, this great, prevailing gift of prayer. No one has access to the Almighty as His Mother has; none has merit such as hers. Her Son will deny her nothing that she asks; and herein lies her power. While she defends the Church, neither height nor depth, neither men nor evil spirits, neither great monarchs, nor craft of man, nor popular violence, can avail to harm us; for human life is short, but Mary reigns above, a Queen forever."* (Cardinal Newman)

While we celebrate the independence day of our country, we have a great responsibility to pray for our country and to do all that we can for our country. We are very much aware of the current happenings in and around the country. Even though we have gained freedom from foreign domination, many people in our country have not yet experienced freedom. Many of our Christian brothers and sisters are the victims of today's inhuman acts. We need to pay heed to the call of the hour and do our part. It is important that we become aware of the rights and privileges, in order to render assistance to the deprived and to empower them to gain the rightful place in the society.

Dear Sisters, let us contribute our share to make the society better by our act of love, charity, and above all by living our commitment effectively. Let us entrust our country and its leaders to the care and guidance of our Blessed Mother. Wish each of you, **happy feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother and a meaningful Independence Day celebration.**

Affectionately yours in Our Lady,



Sr. Molly James

Provincial

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