Mary Immarulate Province

MSMHC Provincial House
Ichapur, H.I.T. Road
Howrah 711 104
West Bengal, India
Tel. : 033-2667 8465 & 2677 6405
e-mail : msmhckol@gmail.com

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"We have consecrated ourselves to God to practice charity towards our neighbor and only for the love of God. Bp S. Ferrando

My dear Sisters,

I am sure that by now you have received the letter of Convocation of fifth Provincial Chapter. We have very short time before our Provincial Chapter. It is our responsibility to spend these coming days in more reading and reflection on our religious consecration. Let us also take some time, reflecting on the circular of our Mother General dated 6 January, along with the General Chapter convocation. "Nothing will change in our consecration to God, we follow Jesus Christ chaste, poor and obedient, living a life of charity towards our sisters and the souls entrusted to our care" The exhortation of our Founder has a great meaning for us as we prepare for the Provincial Chapter. Consecrated life, in the canonical sense defined by the Catholic Church in the *Code of Canon Law*, "is a stable form of living by which the faithful, following Christ more closely under the action of the Holy Spirit, are totally dedicated to God who is loved most of all, so that, having dedicated themselves to His honor, to the building up of the Church and to the salvation of the world, they strive for the perfection of charity in service to the Kingdom of God". Our consecrated life becomes more demanding by the fact that we make the public profession of vows, to commit ourselves for love of God.

In today's world, the way we serve Christ and the Church while answering the call to live a consecrated life is rooted in our experiences of prayer, service and community life. Our daily prayer is central to living the consecrated life; without it, our lives make no sense. The grace of service is summed up best by Luke 12:48b: "Everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded". I have received much, and I need to use what I have received in an optimal way, for others. The congregation has afforded me untold opportunities to serve the Church and Society, while prayer and service are essential; it is the community that holds our consecrated life together. We know one alone cannot move our mission forward and thus the communal aspect of prayer, mission and service to be upheld and it is most rewarding. The Chapter is another opening for us to redirect and deepen our consecrated life.

"For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life" Eph.2:10. A phase in the life of Mary Immaculate Province,

Kolkata has completed and another phase began today. On 28 January when the new and old team met together at the Provincial House, Ichapur along with our Superior General, Sr.

Philomena Mathew, we had a meaningful day. We thanked our outgoing leaders and thanked them for their generous service to the Province and the new leaders were congratulated and thanked for accepting the great task of leading the Province. We assure them our continuous prayer, support and cooperation.

I sincerely thank Sr. Amala George, Sr. Sini Mathew, Sr. Rose Khriam and Sr. Mary Nemi for their generous contribution towards the growth of the Province. Each one of you has contributed your share in shaping the Province as it is today. I personally experienced your co-operation, support and encouragement. I really appreciate your willingness to undertake any pain for sake of the Province. May God reward you for all that you have done for the Province and its mission and continue to bless and guide you in the days ahead! Dear Sisters, let us continue to support each other and work with one heart and soul to bring up our Province, thus to spread God's kingdom wherever we are.

I would like to take your attention back to the Provincial Chapter, kindly read articles of the **Constitutions from 185-189 and regulations 202-210** before the election of the delegates and substitutes for the chapter.

We have to elect the **Delegates** and **Substitutes** to attend the Provincial Chapter. Before we enter into this important task of electing the above members spend some time in prayer and reflection and have an hour of Adoration, preceding the election. After the Adoration the community shall assemble together to exercise their responsibility of electing the Delegates and Substitutes for the Provincial Chapter.

Following are the Regular communities to elect Delegates and Substitutes. Superiors of the regular communities are members of the Chapter by right.

Regular Communities

1. MSMHC Maayer Asha, Ichapur

2. Ferrando Convent, Bandel

3. Auxilium Convent, Siliguri

4. St. Mary's Convent, Agiamur

5. St. Mary's Bhavan, Dumka

6. St. Mary's Convent, Kudda

7. Ferrando Convent, Oodlabari

Combination of the Non-Regular communities for the election of the Delegates and Substitutes to the Provincial Chapter is given below.

1. Maria Nivas Barapahari, Sr. Sini Thomas & Sr. Deepa Sardar,
2. St. Joseph Convent Ambari, Catherine Lalalthuzuali , Melinda Mukhim
3. Auxilium Convent School, Sr. Mary Nemi & Sr. Kusum Kanti Aind
4. Hatigaon: Esther Sonunsangi, Sr. Marina Basumatary, Sr. Emilda Maring, Sr. Ibayada Jyrwa, Sr. Veronica Baskey, Sr. Grace Guria & Sr. Cecilia Tirkey

The following Sisters shall do the voting of the Delegates and Substitutes by letter.

1. MSMHC Lourd Prakash Bhavan, Nirmala Niketan Nedungapra & Sr. Mary Dodrai
2. Dhajea Sisters, Nellie Kujur, Diamon Xaxa, Kiran Dahanga
3. Malbasey & Sr. Anupam Purti & Sr. Mary Lalremkimi
4. Pindari Convent, Sr. Semi Jose

Communities Voting by Letter shall see that after the election of the Delegates and Substitutes kindly send your envelopes by registered/hand post to the Provincial Superior. Names of the sisters you elect as **Delegate** should be written in three separate papers marking as 1st ballot, 2nd ballot, 3rd ballot. Names of the sisters you elect as **Substitute** should be written in three separate papers marking as 1st ballot, 2nd ballot, 3rd ballot. If you have any doubts in this matter please contact me, I shall explain to you how to go about. You will vote from the community where you are at present. Enclosed please find names of sisters of the Communities.

For those who are not voting by letter kindly see that when the election is over fill in the enclosed form carefully and send the same to the Provincial Superior by registered/hand post by **28 February 2017.** Record diligently the minutes of the meeting held for the election of the Delegates and Substitutes for the Chapter.

Yours in Mary Help of Christians

S. Molly

Sr. Molly James
Provincial Superior

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