



## PROVINCE OF OUR LADY OF SNOW PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

AUXILIUM PROVINCIAL HOUSE, SALESIAN SISTERS,  
MADURAI MAIN ROAD, MANIKANDAM, TIRUCHIRAPALLI – 620 012

CIR. NO. 33

MARCH 2020

At the very outset, I take this opportunity to wish you a very fruitful **Lenten journey** in the company of Jesus and Mary. In a world in which we often struggle to distinguish the voice of the Lord, Jesus calls us during this lent to enter into the desert. Lenten desert is made up of “prayer, fasting, works of mercy”, so that it may lead us “from death to life”. Even today, close to us, there are many deserts, many lonely and abandoned people. The desert is the place of life, a place in which to dialogue in silence with the Lord who gives us life. The solitude of the desert increases our sensitivity to those who quietly cry out for help. Fasting is being capable of giving up the superfluous and going to the essential. Fasting is not only losing weight, it is seeking the beauty of a simpler life. Pope Francis says that lent is a time to disconnect from cell phones and connect to the Gospel. It is the time to give up useless words, chatter, rumors, gossip, and talk and to speak directly to the Lord. Lent is a time to dedicate ourselves to ecology of the heart. “If we enter the desert with Jesus, we will leave it at Easter when the power of God’s love renews life and just like those deserts that bloom in spring with buds and plants suddenly sprouting from the sand, if we follow Jesus, our deserts will also bloom.”

We celebrate with joy the **International Women’s Day** on 8 March 2020. United Nation theme for this International Women’s Day is **“I am Generation Equality: Realizing Women’s Rights”**. International Women’s Day is powered by the collective efforts of all collective action and shared ownership. Gloria Steinem, World renowned feminist, journalist and activist says, “The story of women’s struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights.” So let us make International Women’s Day our day and do what we can to truly make a positive difference for women in our locality.

Greetings of joy to each one of you as we are going to celebrate the **Feast of St. Joseph**, the protector of the Church, religious and families. He is a “protector” because he was able to hear God’s voice and be guided by his will; and for this reason, he was sensitive to the persons entrusted to his safekeeping. He could look at things realistically, he was in touch with his surroundings, he could make truly wise decisions. In him, we learn how to respond to God’s call, readily, willingly and lead young people on the same path.

### A GLIMPSE OF OUR JOURNEY

**IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CHURCH:** At this historical moment where the world is aspiring for peace, harmony and safe environment, we are beckoned to insert ourselves in the journey of the Church by studying the ecclesial documents: **Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together** on its first anniversary, and the Post Synod Apostolic Exhortation **Querida Amazonia**.

**HUMAN FRATERNITY FOR WORLD PEACE AND LIVING TOGETHER:** The Document on **Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together** is a joint statement signed by Pope Francis of the Catholic Church and Sheikh Ahmed el-Tayeb, Grand Imam of Al-Azhar, on 4 February 2019 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. It was born of a fraternal open discussion between our Pope and Tayeb, and it is meant to be a guide on advancing a "culture of mutual respect". The document is concerned with how different faiths can live peaceably in the same world and areas. Pope Francis and Tayeb "declare the adoption of a **culture of dialogue** as the path; **mutual cooperation** as the code of conduct; **reciprocal understanding** as the method and standard." They called on world leaders "to work strenuously to spread the **culture of tolerance and of living together in peace**; to intervene at the earliest opportunity to stop the shedding of innocent blood and bring an end to wars, conflicts, environmental decay and the moral and cultural decline that the world is presently experiencing." They asked leaders and would-be influencers "to **rediscover the values of peace, justice, goodness, beauty, human fraternity and coexistence** in order to confirm the importance of these values as anchors of salvation for all, and to promote them everywhere." The body of the document has a paragraph to uphold each of these **values**: "**peace**"; "**freedom** of every person"; "**justice** based on mercy"; "**dialogue**" in order to promote "peace" and "tolerance", noting that "dialogue among believers" needs to avoid "unproductive discussions"; "protection of places of worship"; the necessity "to stop terrorism", particularly naming "financing, the provision of weapons", and "using media to justify" terrorism; "full citizenship"; "**good relations between East and West**"; "**the right of women**"; "**protection** of the fundamental **rights of children**"; and "protection of the rights of **the elderly, the weak, the disabled, and the oppressed**".

**QUERIDA AMAZONIA:** Indian Cardinal Oswald Gracias is a Synod Father appointed by Pope Francis to the October 6-27 Special Assembly of the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon Region. In an interview to Vatican News, he looks at the Synod and its issues from the Indian perspective. Listening to the various interventions of the Synod, Cardinal Gracias says he feels the Church is really one body. He notes that Asia, as well as India, have challenges that are similar to the people of Amazonia.

Querida Amazonia (*Beloved Amazon*) is a post-synodal apostolic exhortation of Pope Francis, written in response to the Synod of Bishops for the Pan-Amazon region, held in Rome from 6 to 27 October 2019. Focusing on the Amazon region of South America, it is addressed "to the people of God and to all persons of good will". The document is dated 2 February 2020, the liturgical feast of Candlemas, and was released by the Holy See Press Office at a press conference on 12 February, 2020. The English version of the exhortation has 16,000 words which are organized into 111 paragraphs, in four chapters each of which is dedicated to a "great dream": social, cultural, ecological and ecclesial.

In the **first chapter**, entitled "**A Social Dream**", Francis focuses on **improving the quality of life** of the Amazonian people, underscoring the need to **assist the poor**. He addresses the "injustice and crime" faced by such peoples, caused by industries in the rainforest such as timber and mining, and criticizes a conception of the region as "an enormous empty space to be filled, a source of raw resources to be developed, a wild expanse to be domesticated", which do not respect the rights of the indigenous. Moreover, the Pope also notes that "outrage" needs to be felt in the face of injustice and cruelty suffered by them, and asks for forgiveness for the failings of the church and wider society in the Amazon region, noting that it is possible to **construct "networks of solidarity and development"** to overcome "**colonizing mentalities**". He ends the chapter with a reflection on the "broken institutions" of civil society, and calls for "social dialogue" to take place with the poor of the Amazon.

**The second chapter** of the exhortation, "**A Cultural Dream**", utilizes a positive approach towards indigenous peoples, emphasizing that promotion of the Amazon does not mean "colonizing it culturally". Describing the region as a "polyhedron", Francis deplores the exile of the indigenous from their homes into regional cities, and the subsequent loss of their cultural identities, also urging young people to "**take charge of their roots**". Furthermore, the Pope also encourages an "**intercultural encounter**", rejecting colonialism and indigenism, observing that a culture can "grow barren" when it closes itself off from dialogue in an "impoverished isolation".

The document's **third chapter**, "An Ecological Dream", recalls Benedict XVI's teaching on "human ecology", referencing also Francis's own encyclical *Laudato si'*. The Pope again condemns multinational corporations and "powerful industries" for harming the Amazonian environment, and stresses the importance of water, referring to the Amazon River as the "spinal column that creates harmony and unity". Francis also highlights the need to learn from indigenous peoples, as well as a "prophecy of contemplation" for believers to encounter a "theological locus" in the region. He calls for "**ecological education and habits**" to overcome modern consumerism in the region, an initiative to which, he says, the Church can also contribute.

"An Ecclesial Dream", **the final chapter** comprising almost half the document, examines the role of the Catholic Church in the Amazon. Francis affirms the Great Commission of **preaching the Gospel** in order to confront the region's problems, underlining the importance of kerygma. He also explores "paths of inculturation" in the Amazon, to bring goodness in existing cultures to "fulfilment in the light of the Gospel", extolling the "great riches" of pre-Columbian cultures and the tradition of Christian wisdom. He accentuates the role of the laity in spiritual formation, while emphasizing that priests remain necessary to preside over the liturgy. In addition, Francis addresses the "strength and gift" of women, praising their role in the Amazon. He underlines the traditional importance of priests being male, and provides the example of the Virgin Mary's "tender strength" as a model for women. In briefly exploring the possibilities arising from ecumenism and "interreligious coexistence", he invites believers to "find occasions to speak to one another". The exhortation concludes with a prayer addressed to Mary, "mother of the Amazon region".

We are also invited to accompany with interest and prayer the coming events *The Economy of Francis. The Young, a Pact, the Future*, that will take place in Assisi from **26-28, March** and *Rebuilding the Global Educational Pact*, that will take place in the Vatican on **May 14, 2020**. Both events challenge us as educating communities to identify possible responses to the emerging formation questions.

**IN THE LIGHT OF OUR INSTITUTE:** The World Feast of Gratitude 2020 will be celebrated in the Roman Province of St. John Bosco on 26 April, 2020 with the theme "**Your life is a tree that bears fruit - Thank you Mother**", drawing our reflection from Psalm 1 and exhorted to pray the 'Our Father', the prayer of the Children that promotes harmony with the creator and the creation. As a sign of communion, we are exhorted to choose one of the circulars of our Mother General and make it an object of sharing and prayer with the Educating Community. Accordingly the Provincial Council has chosen our Mother General's **Circular 977- With the Young we touch the chords of life**. We are asked to **choose a thank you Commitment** by answering the questions contained in the chosen circular and mail it to - [sfrancixavierconvent@gmail.com](mailto:sfrancixavierconvent@gmail.com) by 14 March, 2020. Kindly follow other

details from the letter of our dear Sr.Cazzuola Chiara, the Vicar General of the Institute on World Feast of Gratitude 2020.

**IN THE REALITY OF PCI:** With gratitude and joy, we continue to prepare for the centenary celebration of FMA presence in India with arousing enthusiasm in all the Provinces. Let us allow ourselves to be inspired by the creative fidelity of our Pioneers and the daring witness of the first communities as we read and share our insights on ‘Diamond Years’ Volume I and II keeping in line with the time schedule set by the Coordinator for Formation.

**COMMISSION HEADS WORKSHOP:** With great enthusiasm and joy sixteen Sisters from the seven Provinces of India participated in the PCI Commission Heads Workshop on Commission Report Template preparation, news reporting tips, photo journalism, the use of snap seed and google survey, public relationship tips, from 22 - 24 February 2020 in Kolkata – Dum Dum animated by Rev. Fr. CM. Paul SDB from Siliguri and coordinated by Sr.Komuhra Lydia, the National General Coordinator of PCI. Thanks to the Sr. Ezarath Rose, the Provincial of INC, Sr. Adampakallel Teresa, the Animator and the community of Auxilium, Dum Dum for creating a conducive ambient for Sisters to learn and treasure the moments of being together. The sisters also cherish their visit to Mother Theresa’s Tomb, field visit and interaction with the staff of Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre.

### **WITHIN THE FAMILY:**

**RIP:** On 14 February, 2020, the Lord called Sr. Barbon Arokia Jebamani to celebrate Valentine’s Day - the Feast of Love, in his heavenly mansion. She rendered her service as a BT Assistant for seven years: In St. Joseph’s Higher Secondary School, Arni from 1988 - 1992 and 2008 to 2010; and in St. Mary’s Vellore from 1992 - 1993. As a Headmistress for fourteen years: in Our Lady’s Primary School - Tiruvottiyur from 1985 - 1988; in Auxilium High School, Thanjavur from 1993 – 1995; In Our Lady’s Matriculation School, Chetpet from 1995 – 1996; In St. Joseph’s High School, Arni from 1996 -2000; In Little Flower High School, Therespuram from 2001 to 2008; In Don Bosco High School, Vyasarpadi from 2010 to 2012, where she retired but continued her super annum from 2012 – 2013. She was a very enthusiastic Animator for seven years: in Therespuram from 2002 – 2008; in Amala Anjali, Yelagiri from 2013 - 2017; in Dindigul - Ulagampatti from 2017 to 2020. In Ulagampatti, she reached out to the children in remote villages by visiting them personally and motivating them to attend the coaching classes and Neighbourhood Children’s Parliament. She was prompt and accountable in submitting her monthly reports and always tried to facilitate the effective execution of common plan. Sr. Pushpanathan Virginia and Sr. Irudayam Jancy Rani of her community affirm that, she was hard working, simple, gentle in handling problems, deeply rooted in prayer, a good animator in facilitating a rich sacramental life, faithful in giving spiritual nourishment through conferences, recollections, hospitable in receiving the visitors and ever ready to offer herbal medicines to promote the well being of others, a caring shepherdess seeking after the weak and the fragile children and providing them with things needed for their daily life, lover of creatures, creation and the Creator. May the message of her sudden death resonate in our lives the message: “Let us be prepared to encounter the Lord at any moment of our life.” As she enjoys the bliss of paradise, may she bless the centre, parishioners, young people, workers and all her family members from heaven.

**BOARD EXAMINATIONS:** Joining with the entire Educating Community, I wish all the students the very best for the examinations. The students of 12, 11 and 10 will commence

their exams on 2, 4 and 17 March, 2020 respectively. May they be blessed with good memory power to do their Board Exams well and redound to the glory of God, parents, teachers and the Institutes.

**ONLINE COURSE:** Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy and Sr. Vedamuthu Santiago Theresal will participate in the **Online Coordinators 3.0 Course** on three Thematic Modules from 2 - 22 March 2020 with the objective of acquiring communication skills, with a focus on information, to educate oneself to 'good' quality communication aimed at the good which requires Studying Salesian Charismatic Communication; Knowing the Infosphere; Orienting oneself in the complexity of Information in Contemporaneity; Managing information Flows in the provinces; Being in the digital spaces with evangelizing intentionality. The Course is coordinated by Sr. Elisa Molinari, Collaborator of the FMA Communications Sector.

**AN OUTREACH PROGRAMME:** An Outreach Programme with focus on the Amendments in Budget 2020 will be animated by O/o Commissioner of Income tax (exemptions), Chennai and his team of Officers CA Dr. M. Kandasami and Team, Advisors, NPO Sector for Non Profit Organizations jointly organized with Loyola College Society Delegates Managing Trustees, Chairpersons, Treasurers, Governing Body and Board Members, Directors, CEO's and CFOs of NPOs in LICET Auditorium Loyola College Campus, Chennai on March 13, 2020 (Friday) 9.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., and in Coimbatore on 20 March, 2020. Sr. Gabriel Mary Malliga, Sr. Arulanandu Saradha, Sr. Irudayasamy Maria Tamil Selvi, Sr. Susai Anthonia and Sr. Belevendiran Alankara Mary will take part in the meeting to be held in Chennai and Sr. Madalaimuthu Anjula, Sr. Michael Arokia Sujatha Mary, Sr. Rayappan Selvi Cecily and Sr. Michael Raj Loyola will participate in the meeting in Coimbatore. We wish them a fruitful experience.

**ANNUAL RETREAT:** Spiritual Retreat refreshes and revitalizes, gives opportunity for more time to be spent in prayer and contemplation, rekindles and deepens one's relationship with God. We can take this opportunity to more clearly hear God's call and to seek God's healing grace and thereby attain a degree of spiritual renewal. The purpose of a spiritual retreat, as an addition to daily spiritual activities, is to temporarily leave behind the usual distractions we all face for a time, long enough to allow relaxation and for an inner change to occur the ongoing conversion of heart that is critical to deepening faith.

	<b>Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Preacher</b>
I Retreat	21-28 March, 2020	Wellington	Rev. Fr. Biji Thomas SDB
II Retreat	30 March to 06 April , 2020	Wellington	Rev. Fr. Biji Thomas SDB
III Retreat	16 – 23 May	Manikandam	Rev. Fr. Philip Maria Alphonse Raj, Rector of Don Bosco, Tirupattur

**WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE:**

- To Sr. Rayan M. Auxilia Sophia and Community for facilitating VIDES General Body Meeting on 1 February, 2020.
- To Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela and Community for arranging the Tri Monthly Recollection and Animation for the Juniors from 1- 2 February, 2020 and for hosting the funeral of Sr. Barbon Arokia Jebamani from 14 - 15 February, 2020.

- To Sr. Yacob Amalie, Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela, Sr. Medabalimi Josephine, Sr. Sebastian Margaret and Communities for organizing the Tri - Monthly Recollection for the seniors on 8 February, 2020.
- Sr. Fernando Majella and Community for arranging the Headmistresses' Meeting in Broadway on 16 February, 2020.

### **FORTH COMING FEASTS - MARCH 2020**

08	International Women's Day
19	St. Joseph
24	Sts. Mark and Timothy
25	Annunciation of the Lord

### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE - MARCH 2020**

7	NCP Formation Meeting	Tiruppur
8	Children and Women safety Awareness Day - SDC	Tiruchirapalli
11	Non Formal Education Coordinators Meeting	Pothur
15	Submission of the Report of all the sectors	Tiruchirapalli
21 – 28	Annual Retreat I	Wellington
30 – 06	Annual Retreat II	Wellington

### **OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS**

- † To Sr. Kurusinkal Alphonsa and the Sisters of Guwahati Province at the sudden death of Sr. Puthempurakel Teresa (73) on 07 February, 2020 and Sr. Mukalayil Teresa (86) on 09 February, 2020.
- † To the Provincial and the Confreres of the Province of Guwahati at the demise of Bro. Aloysius Induar SDB (76) on 08 February, 2020.
- † To Sr. Fernando Josephine and her family at the passing away of her brother-in-law Mr. Jothi Rayan (77) on 13 February, 2020.
- † To Sr. Susai Anthonia and her Family at the sudden death of her dear sister Mrs. Jothi Mary (58) on 25 February 2020.
- † To the Provincial and Confreres of the Province of Shillong at the demise of Bro. Dominic Indwar SDB on 28 February 2020.

*Sr. Margaret Amalanathan*

Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret  
Provincial



**PROVINCIAL ITENERARY  
MARCH 2020**

01	Recollection	Manikandam
02 - 04	Provincial Office	Manikandam
05 - 07	P.V	Regunathapuram
10 -11	P.V	Dindigul- Marianathapuram
12 - 13	P.V	Dindigul - Ulagampatti
14	30 <sup>th</sup> day Mass for Sr. Barbon Arokia Jebamani & Blessing of VTC building.	Dindigul-Ulagampatti
15	Pro. Council	Manikandam
20	Journey	Wellington
21- 28	Annual Retreat I	Wellington
30-06 April	Annual Retreat II	Wellington