



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Salesiane di Don Bosco
Our Lady of the Snow Province - INT
Tiruchirappalli - India

Provincial Circular

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My dear Sisters,

Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes from Tiruchirappalli.

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.” - (John 14:27)

I send across to you, my sincere and prayerful wishes for a Happy and Hope-filled Easter.

The Lenten journey of penance and repentance culminates in the celebration of the resurrection of our Lord, which holds profound significance for our faith. His resurrection, followed by his ascension to the right hand of the Father, gives an ever-new meaning to the way of life that we are called, as his disciples to live - a life characterized by peace, love, and selflessness.

For disciples of Christ, Resurrection offers courage and hope. It is an assurance that the path of peace is not only feasible but also the authentic way to live. Despite the uncertainties and challenges we may face, we find strength in the knowledge that we are witnesses to a kingdom with a difference - a kingdom of God's love and righteousness.

Resurrection serves also as a reminder that peace-making is not always immediately effective. Yet, it remains the very mind of the disciples of Christ. We get to understand that our commitment to peace and righteousness may entail suffering and sacrifice, however, our faithfulness to the call that we have received will never be in vain. Ultimately, it is our conviction that our perseverance will be rewarded by the merciful Lord, in God's own time and plan. The ways of Jesus were always centered on peace, as both the means and the end. But “peace” had a complete and prophetic sense when Jesus proposed it as a way of life, as a gift from God, and as a sign of fraternity. Since Jesus himself lived a life marked by this peace, and his resurrection affirmed the validity of this way, peace isn't merely an optional aspect of discipleship; it's at the very core of it. The resurrection of Jesus Christ, with profound implications for the pursuit of peace, both spiritually and in the world, serves as a reminder of the transformative power of peace and the promise of new life for those who remain committed to the way of Jesus. Reflecting on Jesus' resurrection and its relationship with peace can reveal to us several key insights:

1. **Ultimate Triumph over Evil and Death:** Jesus' resurrection symbolizes the ultimate victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and life over death. By conquering death, Jesus manifests the power of divine love, which prevails over the forces of destruction and despair. This triumph instills hope and confidence in believers, empowering them to confront life's trials with courage and resilience.
2. **Reconciliation and Healing:** At the core of Jesus' resurrection lies the message of reconciliation and healing. Through his total self-giving, Jesus has bridged the gap between humanity and God, restoring fractured relationships and extending forgiveness

to all who seek it. This act of reconciliation transcends individual redemption, encompassing communities, nations, and the entire world. It calls people to pursue peace through acts of forgiveness, understanding, and reconciliation, fostering unity and harmony.

3. **Transformation and Renewal:** The resurrection of Jesus heralds a profound transformation in the lives of believers. It signifies not only the renewal of spiritual life but also the potential for personal and societal transformation. Just as Jesus emerged from the tomb with renewed vigour, believers are called to embrace lives characterized by compassion, justice, and service, working towards the creation of a more peaceful and just world.
4. **Hope in the Midst of Despair:** In a world plagued by conflict, injustice, and suffering, the resurrection offers a beacon of hope and redemption. It reminds believers that even in the darkest of times, there exists the possibility of renewal and restoration. This hope empowers individuals to resist despair and cynicism, motivating them to tirelessly pursue peace and justice in their communities and beyond.
5. **Blessed are the Peacemakers:** Jesus' resurrection serves as a clarion call for believers to actively engage in the work of promoting peace. By emulating Jesus' life and teachings, every disciple of his, is called to advocate for peace through nonviolence, reconciliation, and solidarity with the marginalized and oppressed. This entails addressing the root causes of conflict and injustice while promoting dialogue, understanding, and cooperation among diverse communities.

In conclusion, contemplating Jesus' resurrection in relation to peace, we witness the new life, the new heaven and new earth that Lord promises, - a call to profound transformation and everlasting hope. Christ's victory over death not only offers solace to the weary soul but also ignites a fire within us to pursue peace relentlessly.

As disciples of the Risen Christ, we are entrusted with this sacred mission: to be instruments of reconciliation and agents of healing in a world stained by conflicts and divisions. Resurrection breathes life into our aspirations for peace, infusing us with the courage to confront injustice and the compassion to extend forgiveness.

In every act of kindness, in every word of encouragement, we are called to witness the essence of Christ's Resurrection, weaving threads of harmony amidst the fabric of discord. Let us embrace this call with humility and determination, knowing that through our efforts, we participate in the unfolding of God's Kingdom on earth.

✦ ◆◆◆ MONTH'S SPECIAL! ◆◆◆ ✦

- **DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY (07 April):** Divine Mercy Sunday is a special feast, celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. It was established by Pope John Paul II in 2000, based on the private revelations of Saint Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun. The feast focuses on the mercy of God, particularly emphasized in the message given to Saint Faustina, which centers on trust in Jesus and seeking His mercy for the whole world. The devotion to Divine Mercy has gained widespread popularity, offering hope and comfort to many in their spiritual journeys. As we ponder Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, we're called to pray: "Jesus, I trust in You, have mercy on us and the

world.” This prayer sums up Divine Mercy, urging us to trust in love's transformative power and to share that mercy with everyone.

- **FEAST OF ANNUNCIATION OF MARY (08 April):** The Solemnity of the Annunciation, usually celebrated on 25 March each year, has been this year rescheduled to 08 April 2024, due to the Holy Week programme. Celebrating this significant day, we remember that event when God chose to begin the definitive realization of God's eternal plan of salvation of humankind, through the “Yes” of the humble handmaid of the Lord, Mary. The historical event of the Angel Gabriel appearing to the Blessed Virgin Mary reminds us of Mary's loving acceptance of God's divine plan. We honour her docility, obedience, humility, and her crucial role as the Mother of God. We earnestly beseech our Blessed Mother to intercede for us, that we may imitate her “Yes” to the will of our Heavenly Father, enabling us to bring forth her Divine Son in our souls, thereby manifesting Christ in the world through our lives.
- **INT SDB IX PROVINCIAL CHAPTER:** We extend our heartfelt wishes to Fr. Sarprasadam Aghilan SDB, the Provincial, and all the confreres of the Province of Our Lady of Velankanni, Tiruchy, as they celebrate their IX Provincial Chapter from 02 to 06 of April, 2024 at The Citadel, Chennai. As they delve into the theme “Passionate about Jesus Christ, Dedicated to Young People,” our thoughts and prayers accompany them, in their efforts to faithfully and prophetically live out their Salesian vocation, as a province shaping a brighter future for the young people entrusted to their care.
- **WORLD GRATITUDE DAY (26 April):** This year, the World Day of Gratitude 2024 will be celebrated in Mozambique on April 26, organized by the Mozambican Province “St. John Bosco.” The theme, “With Mary, guided by the ‘dream,’ we generate peace by taking care of our Common Home,” will be the focus of the celebration. The intense preparation for this event commences on 01 April 2024. To prepare ourselves for this event, we are offered a four-week itinerary:

First Week (01 - 06 April)

Deepen “taking care” in the experience of Mother Mazzarello (Letter 22 and C. 49, 50)

Second Week (08 - 13 April)

Deepen “taking care” in the experience of Don Bosco (Strenna 2024, the dream at nine years)

Third Week (15 - 20 April)

Deepen “Education and ecological spirituality” (Laudato si’, Chapter VI)

Fourth Week (22 - 25 April)

Lectio on the Beatitudes and commitment to live them every day with the Educating Communities through concrete gestures that express them:

- **Day 22:** «Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven» (Recognize the presence of God in every person and in creation)
- **Day 23:** «Blessed are the peacemakers; they shall be called children of God»

(Concrete gestures of fraternity and peace)

- **Day 24:** «Blessed are the merciful, they shall obtain mercy»
(Gestures of forgiveness, given and received)
- **Day 25:** «Blessed are the pure of heart, they shall see God»
(Expressions of joy)

To ensure meaningful participation, I request each community to send a photograph of the seed's growth along with a proper caption on or before 20 April, 2024. This will allow us to witness the progress of the seed's journey, reflecting its significance for our State - Tamil Nadu. Your active involvement in this symbolic gesture will contribute to the collective spirit of the World Day of Gratitude 2024 celebration.

On this Gratitude Day, with the entire Educating Community, we joyfully extend our warmest wishes to our beloved Mother General, expressing deep gratitude and appreciation for her wise stewardship and courageous leadership of our Institute.

- **CONGRATULATIONS:** We wish to extend our hearty congratulations to the newly appointed Provincials:
 - Fr. Sebastian Kuricheal SDB, the Provincial of Guwahati
 - Sr. Rosa Pyngrope, the Provincial of Shillong
 - Sr. Mabel Gothorp, the Provincial of Guwahati

Our sincere prayers, as they take up this important assignment. May they be blessed with God's wisdom and strength to lead the Province with integrity and compassion.

- **ELECTIONS:** The General Elections to the Parliament will be taking place on 19 April 2024, in our State - Tamil Nadu. I invite you personally, and as communities to take an active and responsible part in the proceedings, creating a sense of urgency within us, and around us, to act in favour of democracy and social justice. As followers of the Kingdom of God, it's our duty to respond in the right way and inspire others to do the same. Let's create urgency and make sure our voices are heard for the sake of democracy and fairness.

✂️...**NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE!**...✂️

- **FMA PCI MEET - 2024:** The PCI Meet will be held at the Auxilium Provincial House, Christian Basti, Dispur, Guwahati on 02 and 03 April 2024. The theme of the PCI Meet is "Ecological Consciousness for Ecological Justice". I request your prayers for the success of this meet.
- **BATCH MEET I & II:** Rev. Sr. Inigo Joachim SSA will animate the Sisters of our Province professed between the years 1975 to 2017. The animation will take place in two groups: 05 to 07 April 2024, Batch - I and 09 to 11 April 2024, Batch - II. It will be held at St. Francis Xavier Convent, Broadway - Chennai. The theme will be "Consecrated Life: a gift and a challenge". The participants are requested to bring the Holy Bible with them.

- **ANIMATORS' ANNUAL RETREAT:** The Second Annual Retreat will take place from 12 to 18 April, 2024 at DMI Animation and Retreat Centre, St. Thomas Mount - Chennai. This retreat for all the Animators and Provincial Councillors, will be preached by Rev. Fr. Dominic Kennedy (popularly known as, Fr. Thanjai Domi).
- **VOCATION CAMP:** The Province Vocation Camp for this year, will be held in Madurai Sirudur from 26 to 28 April 2024. Animators are requested to encourage and send the girls identified in our presences and around with an orientation to religious life, accompanied by the Sisters from the respective communities.
- **SECOND NOVITIATE - PHASE II:** Sr. Anthony Samy Renuga, Sr. Charles Sandal Princy and Sr. Joseph Kulandai Theresa from INT Province, Sr. Adaikalam Rekha, Sr. Andrews Roseline, Sr. Anthoni Cruz Madalene Mary and Sr. Amirthasingam Nirosha and Sr. Ganesan Maria Rohini from INM Province, will be making their Second Phase of the Second Novitiate from 20 April to 15 May 2024, at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. Then they will participate in the Annual Retreat from 16 to 22 May 2024 at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli. We accompany them with our prayers as they take on this significant step in their lives.
- **ANNUAL RETREAT III:** The Third Annual Retreat will be held from 03 to 10 May, 2024 at Don Bosco, Wellington and it will be preached by Rev. Fr. David Jesuraj CSsR.
- **JUNIORS RENEWAL PROGRAMME:** The Junior Sisters will have the animation from 12 to 21 May 2024 at Marianathapuram - Dindigul. The participants are expected to arrive by 11 May evening itself. The Recollection and the renewal of the Vows will take place on 22 and 23 May 2024 at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli.
- **ONGOING MISSIONARY FORMATION COURSE IN ROME:** Sr. Antony Lourdu Sagayam will participate in the Ongoing Missionary Formation from 05 to 31 May 2024 in Rome. We wish her a fruitful stay and enriching experience.

✂️...PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS AND THANKS ...✂️

- **SEMINAR ON SYNODAL FORMATION FOR JUNIOR RELIGIOUS FORMATORS:** Sr. Susai Anthonia and Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy participated in the course for the Juniorate Religious Formators at Shanti Sadan, Benaulim, Goa from 11 to 16 March 2024. There were 23 participants from different congregations. The theme of the course was "A Spiritual Journey to sustain the Vocations to Consecrated Life." It was organized by the CCBI Commission for Vocations, Seminaries, Clergy and Religious (VSCR).

- **NATIONAL LEVEL CONFERENCE ON WASH:** Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi, National Social Development Coordinator, participated in the Salesian Sisters' National Level Conference on WASH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene), from 20 to 23 March, 2024 at St. Joseph Vaz Retreat Centre, Karmali, Old Goa. There were 65 participants from nine States, including policymakers, government officials, NGOs, academia and Industrial experts. The central objective was to confront the critical challenges within WASH Programs, evaluating outcomes and strategizing for future endeavours with a specific focus on marginalized communities.

✂️... **APPRECIATION AND THANKS!** ...✂️

- To Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary and the Community of Auxilium Provincial House, Manikandam, Tiruchirappalli for having facilitated the following meetings:
 - Interim Audit from 05 to 08 March 2024;
 - Provincial Council meet on 09 March 2024; and
 - Provincial Council cum Team Co-ordinators' Meet on 10 March 2024.

✂️... **IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE MONTH AHEAD!** ...✂️

- 07 - Divine Mercy Sunday
- 08 - The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord
- 25 - The Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist
- 26 - World Gratitude Day 2024

✂️... **MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE** ...✂️


02 - 03	PCI Meet - 2024	Guwahati
05 - 07	Batch Meet - I	FX Broadway - Chennai
09 -11	Batch Meet - II	FX Broadway - Chennai
12 -18	Animators - Annual Retreat	St. Thomas Mount - Chennai
20 April -15 May	Second Novitiate - Second Phase	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
24 - 25	Provincial Council Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
03 - 10 May	Annual Retreat - III	Don Bosco - Wellington

✠...✠ **CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS** ...✠

- † *To Sr. Santiago Celine who lost her beloved father Mr. Santiago (91) on 11 March 2024.*
- † *To the Provincial and the Sisters of INS Province at the demise of Sr. Catherine Susngi (89) on 14 March 2024.*
- † *To the Provincial and Confreres of ING Province at the death of Bro. Angelus Tete SDB on 22 March 2024.*
- † *To the Provincial and the Sisters of INB Province at the demise of Sr. Teresa Castellino (80) on 29 March 2024.*
- † *To the Provincial and the Sisters of INK Province at the demise of Sr. Helen Thonippara (88) on 30 March 2024.*

Immersed in the Easter tide, let us internalize the profound significance of sharing in the risen life of Jesus. This period calls for a profound transformation in our lives and behaviors, reflecting a genuine faith in Jesus Christ and a deep love for his teachings. It's through this authentic connection that true transformation occurs. Jesus invites us to be his witnesses in the world and to spread the peace of Easter and the gift of life to those around us. Therefore, let us joyfully proclaim, "The Lord is risen indeed - Let us rejoice and be glad," embracing the promise of renewal and the enduring hope that Easter brings.

Yours affectionately in the Risen Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella

Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

APRIL - 2024

02 - 03	FMA PCI Meet	Guwahati
05 - 07	Batch Meet - I	FX - Broadway Chennai
09 - 11	Batch Meet - II	FX - Broadway Chennai
12 - 18	Animators - Annual Retreat	St. Thomas Mount - Chennai
20	Second Phase Second Novitiate - Inauguration	Auxilium Provincial House Tiruchirappalli
24 - 25	Provincial Council	Auxilium Provincial House Tiruchirappalli
26 - 29	Provincial Office	Auxilium Provincial House Tiruchirappalli
30 - 31	Provincial Visit	Wellington
03 - 10	Annual Retreat - III	Wellington