

Cir. No. 03

August 2023

My Dearest Sisters,

Fraternal greetings from Tiruchirappalli.

I wish you all the happy feast of Our Lady of Snow, the Patroness of our Province. Our hearts overflow with gratitude as we gladly observe the triune feast on August 05 - the commemoration of the foundation day of the Institute, bringing to life the voice of our Blessed Mother saying, “I entrust them to you”; the Feast of Our Lady of Snow, the Patroness of our Province; and the joyful commemoration of the First and Final commitment of some of our Sisters. We remember in prayer all those who have consecrated themselves to God and who will be making their First and Final profession on this day. Having faith that Mother Mary will lead us, let us look to the future with hope and perseverance as we work to fulfill Don Bosco’s dream for our Institute, which is to be the living memorial of his gratitude to the Help of Christians and his thanks prolonged in time. May the Blessed Mother plead Her Son Jesus to shower our Province and Institute with spiritual graces and many more holy vocations.

As Don Bosco would repeat, “She who did it all,” so can we as a Province exclaim that Mary walks with us, follows our footsteps, dispels gloom, and reassures us with her motherly concern to take up our daily commitment of fidelity to the mission of Christ in the Church of today.

This month I would like to reflect with you on “**A Community Living in Harmony**”.

Life in a Religious Community is the earthly version of the Kingdom of God. Everyone wishes to be in communion, to love, and to be loved. Obviously, communion and community life are not one and the same. We come together and live in a community for a double purpose: to help each other to get closer to God and to fulfill a common mission. A community helps us to reach both of these goals. It is the place where we calm our tensions and replenish our energy for our mission. A religious with a caring community around her is significantly more enthusiastic and joyful about her mission.

This resonant witness comes from the earliest Mornesian community: there, they had only love and hence, a future! It was a loving community that aimed to unite all the children into “one heart and one soul” in Christ as a ‘sign’ of its concern for them. There was an unseen protagonist of communion at work in the group and in each person’s heart... It was evident in Mary Domenica’s clear vision when she wrote to the Sisters, “It is the hand of God which works in you.” (MM L 66, 2.) For this reason, Mother was astounded by the kindness that pervaded and the sisterly bond that existed, which made her wonder and be amazed.

Fr. Pestarino also perceived the Sisters’ fellowship as a “blessing” from God and Mary, and this gave him consolation and edification. With a feeling of tremendous confidence, he described in

his first report to Don Bosco how there was “a true union of spirit, of charity, full harmony and holy joy among all” in the community, from shared work to recreation, from prayer to the educational purpose.

Building a community in daily life was a challenge, a patient apprenticeship filled with struggles and a spiritual practice, for the first community as it is for all of our communities today. Our communities are naturally comprised of our human weaknesses requiring continual reconciliation in the monotonous events of everyday life and in a rich combination of our poor human relationships. In the community, we live a Salesian style, where everything is carried out in creative fidelity, promoting the spirit of family and fraternity, which does not level everyone to the same mould, nor lumps everyone together into one crowd; rather it favours the expression of personal richness in participation and co-responsibility. Every member is called not only to become competent, remain faithful to her task and respect that of others, but also to show herself open to all, grateful for the presence of others and the wealth of their unique contribution.

We have all been created, each of us, as unique and unrepeatable melodies, which can be realized only if the right notes and right chords are played, composing the song of our life, contributing to the symphony called the community. Thus, in the community the most precious gift we can offer someone is to support them lovingly as they strive to become the best version of themselves -that is, to become who God always intended them to be. Only so, a true harmony can be established which takes the personal dignity and mutual respect equally into consideration, demands personal commitment of each one to the perfection of communion within a community.

Communion is the sweet melody created in unison, and the community is the arrangement of notes and chords and the interplay of the varied instruments. The notes, the chords and the instruments are prerequisites, but not enough to create the melody... the player brings them together in the act of playing, and thus is created the resounding melody. Just so, having a community, the house, a mission, the roles defined and the infrastructure does not create communion by default. It has to be the act of the Holy Spirit who infuses the spirit of love and respect that makes the sweet melody of communion, come alive. That melody is a proclamation, the announcing of the Good News of God to all who are around. The important task is that each of us asks oneself, what do I do to build up a true communion of hearts and minds wherever I live and work?

Maybe the following qualities can serve as criteria to create a community of communion and harmony: being unconditionally kind to the other; forgiving without keeping the count; reconciling readily putting one's ego aside; growing in abounding gratitude; developing a genuine mutual appreciation; spreading hope without false promises, extending hospitality without discrimination; practising humility without pretensions; and maturing in patience filled with endurance.

May our communities become hubs of communion announcing the Lord of harmony and love.

◆◆ **Month's Special!** ◆◆

SR. TERESA VALSÈ PANTELLINI ON THE WAY TO CANONIZATION: In response to the direction given by the Centre, to deepen the knowledge of the way our charism has been lived by the Sisters on her way to canonization, on 03 August 2023, we are invited to celebrate the 120 years of the first profession of Sr. Teresa Valsè Pantellini (1903-2023). Let us spread the

knowledge of Sr. Valse among young people and families, through means including the social media, using the materials on the site, (<https://www.cgfmanet.org/en/ifma-en/120-years-after-the-irrevocable-decision/>). We are invited to report the graces received to the email: animazionesantifma@cgfma.org.

THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER AND THE INDEPENDENCE DAY:

The month of August comes with two other great occasions to celebrate on the same day - the solemnity of the Assumption of Mary and the Independence Day of our beloved Nation. The Assumption is the celebration of our Catholic faith that God assumed the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven with her body and soul - celebrated in the early Church as the Feast of Dormition of our Blessed Mother. The core of the feast is evoked in the words of Pope Benedict XVI, who says: “By contemplating Mary in heavenly glory, we understand that the earth is not the definitive homeland for us either, and that if we live with our gaze fixed on eternal goods, we will one day share in the same glory, and the earth will become more beautiful.”

This year as we commemorate the 78th anniversary of India’s Independence, let’s pray for the country’s peace and freedom, which were once bravely and tirelessly sought after by our great leaders and simple predecessors. Today these very values are being destroyed by the selfish and fundamentalist evil forces in varied disguise. One recent and current occurrence is the horrifying brutality in Manipur, not to forget about numerous other ugly manifestations all around the country. The lovely yet enigmatic motto and driving force of our nation, “Unity in diversity,” is now at risk due to some political developments such as the New Uniform Civil Code, which challenges and threatens the very foundational principles of the Constitutions. We are in bounden duty to pray for our Nation, that true freedom and rights of all be honoured in our Nation. May our Blessed Mother Assumed into heaven, the Patroness of our Nation intercedes and bless our Country and our people.

BIRTHDAY OF DON BOSCO: 16 August is a memorable day for us the Salesian family, as we celebrate the 208th birthday of our Father and Founder St. John Bosco. Let us renew our commitment to being Don Bosco, to our young people till our last breath.

BL. MARIA TRONCATTI: On 25 August we celebrate the feast of Blessed Sr. Maria Troncatti, who was a missionary in Ecuador for many years. She was burning with zeal for salvation of souls. Throughout her life she was engaged in evangelization and care for the Shuar people of the Amazon, looking after their physical needs as a nurse, surgeon and dentist, and their spiritual needs as a catechist, evangelizer and role model. With a maternal patience, she listened, fostered communion among the people and educated the indigenous and the settlers towards a lifestyle of forgiveness, in the course of it offering her own life as a ransom. We entrust to her intercession our desire to grow to be true evangelizers wherever we are.

♦♦ News from the Province! ♦♦

THE SUCCESSOR OF DON BOSCO APPOINTED CARDINAL: We extend our loving and prayer filled wishes to our beloved Rector Major, Rev. Fr. Angel Fernández Artime as he assumes his new role as a Cardinal of the Church. We rejoice and celebrate it with the entire Salesian Family and express our spiritual closeness and sincere prayers to the Rector Major, recognizing the responsibility that this honour brings along. We wish him all the very best in his ministry to the Church as a Successor and Son of Don Bosco!

MOTHER YVONNE REUNGOAT INVITED TO THE SYNOD: The Institute of FMA feels honored by yet another significant choice of the Holy Father Pope Francis in nominating Mother Yvonne Reungoat, Mother General Emeritus of the Institute, as a participant in the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. We congratulate and assure her of our intense prayers and our closeness. The first session of the Synod will be held in Vatican from 04 to 29 October, 2023.

XXXVII WORLD YOUTH DAY: It will take place at Lisbon, Portugal, from 01 to 06 August 2023. The youth from all over the world will be taking part. Let us remember them in our prayers.

STUDENT TO ROME: On 25 July 2023, Sr. Soosai Leema Rose left for Italy to do her two-year course on Salesian Spirituality at Madre Ersilia Canta, Rome, Italy. We wish her all success and an enriching experience in Italy.

SABBATICAL RENEWAL EXPERIENCE: We gratefully wish a safe journey and a fruitful experience to our beloved Sr. Margaret Amalanathan, the former provincial, as she travels to Philippines to take part in the Sabbatical Renewal Experience Programme from 07 August to 01 December 2023. The programme will be held at East Asian Pastoral Institute, Manila.

INTENSIVE JUNIORATE: Sr. Sahayaraj Infanta and Sr. Anthonysamy Reshma will leave on 09 August 2023 for their Intensive Juniorate at Guwahati. It will commence on 13 August 2023 at Auxilium, Provincial House, Guwahati. We pray for them and accompany them with our best wishes for a rich experience.

GOLDEN JUBILEE: We thank God for our dear Sr. Arokiasamy Pragasi who celebrates her fifty years of fidelity and fruitfulness as a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians. On 19 August 2023, her Golden Jubilee of First Profession will be celebrated at our Provincial House in Trichy. May God shower His choicest blessings on her and keep her happy and healthy for long years to come. The Animators and the Team Members are expected to be in the Provincial House, the previous evening.

ANIMATORS' MEET: The Animators meeting will be held at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli on 20 August, 2023.

CONCLUDING CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS AT SHILLONG: The Centenary Celebrations will be brought to a close with a solemn gathering at Auxilium Provincial House, Nongthymmai - Shillong on 09 and 10 September 2023. The following Sisters from our Province will participate: Sr. Antony Regina Mary, Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy, Sr. Anthonyswamy Suganthi, Sr. Madalaimuthu Angela, Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani, Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy, Sr. John Bosco Edal Queen, Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jennifer, Sr. Vedamuthu Saveriammal, Sr. Vedamuthu Santiago Theresal and Sr. Viagappan Rosario Jebamani.

Youth Representatives from the following Institutions: Auxilium College, Regunathapuram: Ms. Arockiya Jeromi Soosairaj and Ms. Bhagyalakshmi; St. Francis Xavier's Broadway: Ms. Sagaya Jenisha, Ms. Ninya Asfrid Anthony; Auxilium, Thanjavur: Ms. Stefy Evanjaline, Ms. Saral Sathiyathan, Our Lady's - Tiruvottiyur: Ms. Priscilla Oviya, Ms. Maria Soniya and Auxilium College, Chittampatti: Ms. Merlin Mirzha, Ms. Rexlin Shibi Xavier Justus.

SR. MADALAIMUTHU POKKISHAMARY FOR MISSIONARY FORMATION: The Missionary Formation course will be held in Mathias Institute, Shillong from 01 September

to 04 October 2023, which includes a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Sr. Madalaimuthu Pokkishamary will be participating in it this year, from our Province.

TRAINING ON PROJECT WRITING: National Development Forum (NDF) is organizing a training on Project writing and orientation on environmental projects, at the FMA-India level, from 16 to 18 August 2023 in Darjeeling. Sr. Michael Arokia Sujatha, Sr. Irudayasamy Maria Tamil Selvi and Sr. Vishvanathan Sujatha will be participating in it from our Province. We extend our best wishes to Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi who will be organizing the training programme.

WORKSHOP ON BAREFOOT COUNSELLING SKILLS: The three days' workshop on Barefoot Counselling Skills is being organized by SDBs of INM and INT (a joint venture) at Don Bosco Youth Animation Centre Ennore from 18 - 20 August 2023. The following Sisters will be the participants: Sr. Joseph Prakash Josephin Reena, Sr. Josephraj Josephin Diana, Sr. Joseph Juile Nirmala, Sr. Pensiker Bastina Mary, Sr. Peter Arockia Mary and Sr. Robinson Jenny Grace.

PRAY FOR MANIPUR: The State of Manipur is under social unrest, people are homeless and forced to live in camps with uncertainty. As a province on 13 August 2023, we will have an hour of adoration to express our support and prayers for peace.

INAUGURATION OF THE ACADEMIC BLOCK - GROUND FLOOR AT AUXILIUM COLLEGE, CHITTAMPATTI: We are grateful to the Lord for the inauguration of the ground floor of the Academic Block of Auxilium Arts and Science College for Women, at Chittampatti, Madurai on 21 July 2023. Most Rt. Rev. Antony Pappusamy D.D., the Archbishop of Madurai, blessed the Arts and the Science Wings of the Academic Block, and I had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon! It is a notable grace and blessing that around 200 students have been admitted as the College enters its second year of existence. The Bishop commended the efforts put in so far and wished the college a bright future, urging the students to strive for excellence and never to settle for mediocrity. The province acknowledges with immense gratitude and appreciation the undaunting labour and seamless coordination of Sr. Vedamuthu Saveriammal, the Animator and Principal and the active community for this milestone.

TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTION:

- The Trimonthly Recollection for Seniors was held in the cluster communities on 29 July on the Theme "Life in the Spirit: Romans 8: 1-17".
- Junior's Trimonthly Recollection and a day of Animation was held at Kodambakkam on 29 and 30 July 2023 on the theme "Spirituality of St. Paul".

♦♦ Participation and Representation at Meetings - Thanks! ♦♦

The Month of July was filled with meetings and animations, rightly because of the beginning of the academic year. Our sincere appreciation and thanks to the team members who organized these meetings and programmes, with stimulating themes and creative proposals:

- On 9 July 2023, an online meeting was held on the theme "Young people, you are the now of God" (*Christus Vivit*), organized by Sr. Runita Borja, General Councillor for Youth Ministry at PCI level. Appreciation and gratitude to Sr. Vedamutu Savariammal, the Province Councillor for the Youth Ministry, Sr. Rosario Jebamani, Province Youth Pastoral Coordinator and the two young people, Ms. Jeromi and Ms. Stefi, the students from Auxilium

College of Arts and Science, Regunathapuram, for their enriching, pleasant and stimulating sharing. Our sincere thanks to Sr. Soosai Magnificat and the Community for motivating the youth to represent our province with their meaningful interventions.

- On 8 and 9 July 2023, the Province Media Coordinator, Sr. Samson Gnana Jennifer, organized a meeting cum training for Local Media Coordinators at the Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. The 26 Sisters updated themselves with new information and skills related to media. Sincere gratitude to Fr. Arockia Selvakumar SDB, the Director of Don Bosco Alaihal Media, and his Team for their effective animation on the theme “Social Media - New Trends, Challenges and Prospectives.” Appreciation also to the Sisters who illumined the participants on various specific media skills.
- On 15 July 2023, the 11 new animators attended a one-day preparatory programme at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. The programme consisted of: directions and practical tips on how to be a self-leader by Sr. Majella the Provincial; tips for effective animation of communities by Sr. Lazar Bernardine; directions on documentation and maintenance of records by Sr. Ambrose Little Flower; and discussions on governance and administration by Sr. Madalaimuthu Angela.
- On 16 July 2023, the 22 Economers of the Province had a meeting at the Provincial House, organized by Sr. Madalaimuthu Angela, the Province Economer. The economers were given instructions on book keeping, budgeting, auditing, and other topics related to accounting.
- On 18 July 2023, at the Provincial House, Sr. Antony Muthu Lourdu Mary, the Province YaR Coordinator, organized a meeting for 26 local YaR coordinators and non-formal sector coordinators on the theme “Better and Positive Living.”
- On 19 July 2023, the 20 participants from 8 communities attended a meeting held by Sr. Lourdu Sagayam, the Province Women Groups Coordinator, with the theme “The Role of Women in the Family and the Society.” The meeting was held at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli.

We are extremely grateful to Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary and the community of Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli for making all the arrangements to host these important meetings for the good of our province.

- On 22 July 2023, 18 Sisters and 11 lay people took part in the Mission Ad/Inter Gentes - Local Coordinators Meet at Keela Eral - Tuticorin. It was organized by Sr. Robert Santhiya Punitha, the Province Coordinator for Mission Ad/Inter Gentes with the help of resource persons, namely, Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani and Sr. Rayan M. Auxilia Sophia.
We appreciate Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani and the community of Keela Eral for facilitating the meeting.
- On 22 July 2023, Sr. John Bosco Edal Queen, the Province Past Pupils’ Coordinator, organized the Past Pupils meet at St. Francis Xavier’s Convent, Broadway. Fr. Oswald SDB, spoke to the participants on the theme, “Past students as yeast in the human world for ecological conversion.” 60 participants from 9 units, including 9 Sisters, participated in the meeting.
- On 23 July 2023, 19 Sisters attended the Headmistresses Meet at St. Francis Xavier’s Convent, Broadway. It was organized by Sr. Sebastian Mary Margaret, the Province Academic Coordinator, with the topic: “Five Key Strategies for boosting admissions” The

participants were introduced to Genie - the world's first augmented reality enabled intelligent teaching console for Classrooms. There was a topic also on the "Slow Learners" - how are they identified and supported in their learning disabilities.

Sincere appreciation to Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Puspham and the community of St. Francis Xavier's Broadway for hosting these meetings.

- Sr. Ayunthukayam Malarjothi, the Laudato Si Coordinator animated the meeting on "Laudato Si - 7 goals" on 1 July at Tiruppur, on 08 July at Therespuram, on 11 July at Divyadhanam Novitiate, Tiruchirappalli, on 15 July at Madurai Sirudur and on 22 July at Regunathapuram.
- Sr. Arockiasamy Rani Celine Mary, the Human Rights Coordinator organized a meeting on "Orientation on CPP, HRE & CRE" on 21 July at Keela Eral and on 28 July at Tiruppur.

We wish to express our appreciation to the above communities who facilitated and provided a favourable environment for the meetings held at the Zonel Level.

- We wish to thank Rev. Sr. Devadoss Margaret, the Provincial of INM, Sr. Antony Christina Mary, and the community of Kodambakkam for having organized and hosted the Juniors' Animation and Recollection on 29 and 30 July 2023.

••• Important days of the month ahead! •••

- 05 - Dedication of Basilica of Mary Major - Our Lady of Snow: Province Feast
- 06 - The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
- 10 - Memory of St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr
- 15 - The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Indian Independence Day
- 16 - Birthday of St. John Bosco
- 22 - Feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 24 - Feast of St. Bartholomew Apostle
- 25 - Memoria of Bl. Maria Troncatti
- 26 - Memoria of Bl. Zefferino Namuncura
- 29 - The Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist
- 30 - Feast of St. Euphrasia

••• Meetings in the Province •••

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| 02-03 | : Provincial Council Meet | Therespuram |
| 05 | : Laudato Si - 7 goals | Tiruvottiyur |
| | : Catechetical Animation | Thanjavur |
| 07 | : Catechetical Animation | Regunathapuram |
| 10 | : Training on Responsible Parenting focusing on the Critical usage of Social Media | G. T. Marialaya |
| 12 | : NCP - Training | Trichy - ASSIST |
| | : Media Animation for South Zone Staff and Students | Thanjavur |

	: ASC FMA & SDB Delegate Meet	Puliadithammam
13	: Salesian Cooperators Promise Day	Puliadithammam
	: Orientation on CPP, HRE & CRE	Vadakku Paganoor
16, 19	: Inner Healing Session / Psychological Support	G. T. Chennai, Coimbatore Marialaya
16-18	Training on Project writing and orientation on environmental projects.	Darjeeling
19	: Golden Jubilee of Sr. Pragasi	Aux. Pro. House, Trichy
	: Report Presentation by Team members	Aux. Pro. House, Trichy
20	: Animators' Meet	Aux. Pro. House, Trichy
26	: Catechetical Animation	Therespuram
	: Media Animation for Chennai Zone Staff and Students	Broadway
27	: VIDES Meet - Chennai Zone	Tiruvottiyur

*** Condolences and Prayers ***

† *To Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil and Sisters* of INK at the demise of Sr. Lizy K.V. Kunnumpurathu (53) on 07 July 2023.

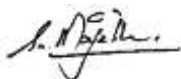
† *To Sr. Anthony Samy Reshma* who lost her youngest Sister Ms. Victoria (20) on 12 July 2023.

† *To Sr. Lazar Bernardine* at the loss of her brother-in-law, Mr. K.C. Paul (75), on 22 July 2023.

Dear Sisters, at the end of this eventful month and at the beginning of another month filled with meaningful commemorations, I wish you all a very Happy Feast Our Lady of Snow, our blessed patroness. May she continue to protect, guide, inspire and assist us.

Recalling the inspiration from the late Pope Benedict XVI, let us remember that the doctrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Mother offers us a great hope that one day we shall also rise with our bodies and enjoy the eternal bliss with our heavenly mother. Our present lives are destined for eternity and this eternity is definitely proportionate to our goodness here on earth and now in this life. Happy Feast of Assumption and a Happy Independence Day to each of you.

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella
Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

AUGUST - 2023

02-03	Provincial Council Provincial Visit	Therespuram Saveriarpuram
04	Provincial Visit	Keela Eral
06	Provincial Visit	Therespuram
07-12	Provincial Office	Auxilium Provincial House
13	Salesian Cooperators Promising Day	Puliadithammam
19	Golden Jubilee	Auxilium Provincial House
20	Animators Meet	Auxilium Provincial House
22	Provincial Visit	Tiruppur
23	Provincial Visit	Wellington
30-31	Provincial Council	Puthenthurai