



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

## Provincial Circular

Auxilium Provincial House, Salesian Sisters,  
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Cir. No. 02

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**Dearest Sisters,**

Fraternal greetings of peace and joy of the Lord. I would like to thank you dear Sisters for your cordial and affectionate welcome, together with your educating communities during my first initial visit to some of the communities of our province. It was an enriching experience getting to know you and our mission in these places. It is my earnest wish that we continue as a province to live the core of our identity as Religious - to be beloved disciples of Jesus in every way.

Our reflection for this month is entitled, “**A Community Rooted in Christ**”. Being rooted in Christ means establishing our foundation, our source in Christ. It is establishing a strong faith and solid reliance on Jesus. When we build our life on Christ and his Word, we are building a strong foundation for our life; as Jesus would say, we are building our house on the rock.

Being rooted in Jesus refers to a personal and profound relationship with Jesus. Just as a tree cannot survive without its roots, so too, we cannot grow if we are not grounded in Jesus. Just like a house that is built on a rock, when we build our lives on Jesus, we shall stand firm through any trials or storms. We will not be tossed around when time gets tough because we have built our life on the solid foundation of Jesus Christ. Being rooted in Christ and laying our life’s foundation on Jesus is the key to standing firm in our faith and accomplishing the purpose and mission that God has given to each of us.

At Mornese the presence of Jesus, “the Absolute Master of the house and hearts,” was the real dynamic center of the community. Jesus was not just a motivating force, he was a caller to conversion and missionary witness. Jesus was the very life of the community of Mornese. That meant living with an attitude of a spouse of Christ and owning the Gospel radically as life’s pattern. The simple and meaningful expressions of St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello indicate the fact that the community strove to live a “spirit of companionship”. “Working to please Him alone,” “Uniting oneself closely to Jesus,” “speaking often with Him and remaining continually in His presence,” and “finding in Him the strength to live, to suffer, to love and to hope” - these were profound phrases which described the lifestyle of Mornese. The first FMA community was so firmly rooted in its spousal love for Jesus, that relationships became awareness, love, and proclamation of the person of Christ centered on the Eucharist. Daily life became practically a Eucharistic existence, a living encounter with Jesus in the brothers and sisters around, particularly those in need!

**To know, love, proclaim Jesus:**

The words which Peter once said to Jesus echoed in Mornese: “Everyone is looking for you.” (Mk.1,37). The life of our first Sisters was a passionate search for Jesus, a daily experience rooted in Him, founded on His presence, similar to the house firmly built on rock,

a great tree rooted in good and fertile soil. To Jesus, who had chosen and preferred them, they gave every fiber of their hearts with joy and without reserve. Their lamps were truly full of the oil of nuptial love. The environment of Mornese was full of the presence of Jesus, a luminous and radiating presence. This was the source of its spiritual fervor, its apostolic fruitfulness, and the secret of the freshness of its contagious joy.

Many of the First FMA had a motto that was particularly dear to all: “*If it pleases Jesus, it pleases me.*” He was for them the point of convergence of their spiritual universe, the measure of everything. Mother Mazzarello recalls in her letter, the fundamental criteria of the formative journey of the one who has chosen God as her only love: “Seek to render yourself dear to Jesus.” The dream of Mary Mazzarello was that each sister should let her whole life be consumed in love of Him and, be truly all His. She wrote to the sisters: “My heart continually asks for a blessing for all of you, that you may truly put on the spirit of Jesus and therefore do much good for yourselves and for your dear neighbours, so much in need of help”.

Here are five practical steps to become more Rooted in Christ:

- 1. Surrendering our Whole Life to Christ:** God wants our whole heart, our entire life, our total self, and not just parts of it. If there is an area that we know, is out of line with God’s Word or not producing Godly fruit, maybe that is responsible for the storms and trials in our life. Let us surrender to God any area that we have been holding back from God and we will see how God brings peace to this area of our life. If we have never surrendered our life to Jesus, we need to learn yet about what it means to follow Jesus and to become a follower of Christ.
- 2. Meditating on God’s Word:** Reading, reflecting, and meditating on God’s Word is so important. The more we meditate on God’s Word, the stronger our roots get in Jesus. God wants to provide us with the spiritual nourishment that we need every day.
- 3. Spending Time With God in Prayer and Worship:** As religious we must learn to rely on the voice of the Holy Spirit within to guide and direct us. God wants a personal relationship with each of us, and we on our part need to spend quality time with God, to strengthen this relationship and to experience God speaking to us.
- 4. Standing Firm amidst Trials:** Being rooted in Christ also helps us stand strong and firm during trials that come our way. Paul’s letter to the Colossians (chapter 2) indicates how important it is to be rooted in Christ so that we are not deceived by the things of this world that seem good or reasonable.
- 5. Humbling ourselves before the Lord:** It means admitting that we need him and that we can’t do anything without him: being totally dependent on Him as the source of everything in our life.

Dear Sisters let us be rooted in Christ and He will accomplish wonders through us, all for the greater glory of God.

## ✠◆◆◆ **Month’s Special!** ◆◆◆✠

**ST. THOMAS - THE APOSTLE OF INDIA:** On 03 July, we shall joyfully celebrate the feast of St. Thomas, the Patron Saint of India. The Church commemorates the feast of St. Thomas, a dedicated follower of Christ but very human in his weaknesses. Through his own struggles, he has become the strength of all who struggle with their belief in God. The ability to see divinity is beyond the scope of mortal human beings, but Thomas was able to recognize Christ as a person and proclaimed Him as “My Lord and my God.” He developed courage and fervour, nothing less than the other disciples after witnessing the undeniable evidence of Christ’s resurrection and receiving the Holy Spirit on the Day of the Pentecost. He became

instrumental as a leader in the Church and helped spread the Gospel far and wide, as far as Asia. St. Thomas' failure and rising, serve as a lesson for us that there is no cause for uncertainty as long as we remain close to God, remember His promises, and follow His will in our lives.

On this special day, we extend our loving greetings and prayers to all the SDBs and FMAs of INM in honour of the feast day of St. Thomas the Apostle, the principal patron of their province. Through his intercession, we pray for all the Christians who are persecuted, particularly those in Manipur who face violence and destruction, that their faith be strengthened and that God may inspire mercy and kindness in the hearts of the persecutors and grant peace and harmony to humanity.

**BL. MARIA ROMERO:** On 07 July, we celebrate the feast of Blessed Maria Romero Meneses. She was extremely active and eminently mystical to the very end because she was a person in deep union with God. Her personal prayer gave her enormous strength. In her own words, to a human person, "Prayer is like air is for the lungs. For this reason, the one who prays is saved." She understood the purpose of her life. Through prayer and faith, she brought marvels of social change in people's lives in Costa Rica. She firmly believed that "Faith produces miracles, it is not miracles that produce faith." Let this be an inspiration for our daily life.

**WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY:** On 26 July, the Church celebrates the parents of the Virgin Mary, the grandparents of Jesus, Saints Joachim, and Anne, who cultivated in the young girl of Nazareth a love for God, preparing her for her role in the divine redemption. This year, the Church celebrates the third annual World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly on 23 July, the Sunday before the feast of Sts. Anne and Joachim, with the theme, proposed by the Holy Father, "His mercy is from age to age" (Lk 1:50). In today's world they are overlooked although they "are the link between generations, passing on the experience of life and faith to the young." Let us salute them warmly for their vital role in preserving the cultural and religious heritage that is so essential for every society. We shall encourage the children and the young to visit their grandparents or an elderly person who lives alone and spend some time with them.

**ST. ALPHONSA MUTTATHUPADATHU:** On 28 July, the Church in India celebrates gladly the feast of St. Alphonsa, whose life reminds and challenges the twenty-first century with its enormous potential for human advancement but a constant vacuum for Peace, Joy, and Hope - Jesus Christ. She teaches us that personal prayer should stem from an intimate relationship with the person of Jesus and be fulfilled by our conscious choice of putting the Lord first in everything we do. Let us humbly ask God, through St. Alphonsa, to help us practice self-denial and self-negation in order to live for the greater glory of God and for the coming of His Kingdom.

**PRAYER FOR MANIPUR:** Our intense prayers towards an end to violence and inhumanities in Manipur, where the identities of different ethnic communities have repeatedly been weaponized to serve the interests of a powerful few. May our prayers and mortifications be offered in favour of advancing peacebuilding efforts and promoting respect for one another's history, culture, and traditions among different communities.

## ✠ ♦ ♦ ♦ News from the Province! ♦ ♦ ♦ ✠

**DIPLOMA COURSE IN THEOLOGY:** Sr. Xavier Jenophia Josephine and Sr. Vishvanathan Sujatha attend the two-year online diploma course in Theology organized by St. Paul's Institute of Theology - Tiruchirappali.

**ASHRAM EXPERIENCE:** Prayerful wishes to the Postulants as they are in Mannivakkam, for the Ashram Experience from 25 June to 05 July 2023. May God enlighten them to understand the purpose of their life and Call to religious life.

**POSULANTS RETREAT:** The spiritual retreat of the Aspirants and Postulants will be held from 21 - 23 July 2023 at Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi. The Postulants: Maria Louis Maria Yasmin and Arockiyasamy Reyasna Mercily of INT Province and Micheal Infancia, Velankanni Amalraj Leema Jenifer, Lawrence Mary Sujatha, Suresh Chandhar Paul Nancy, Vinoth Kumar Nagomi, Pichai Muthu Aswini of INM Province will be receiving the Medal on 24 July 2023. Congratulations dear Postulants! Assurance of our prayers as you discern God's plan for you.

**COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE FOR NOVICES:** The seven Second Year Novices: three Novices from INT Province and four Novices from INM Province will be going for their community experience from 15 July to 15 August 2023. May they have a fruitful period of Formative Experience.

### **PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS:**

- **PCI - MISSION AD/INTER GENTES COORDINATORS' ONLINE MEET:**  
On 01 June, 2023, Sr. Robert Santhiya Punitha, attended the PCI - Mission Ad/Inter Gentes Coordinators' Online Meet. The National PCI Coordinator, Sr. Adophro Rose Mary discussed with the seven Province Mission Ad/Inter Gentes coordinators, the concepts and plans for the provinces. It helped them to draw the plan of actions and the activities to be carried out in different sectors.
- **WEBINAR ON LAUDATO SÌ & THE PREVENTIVE SYSTEM:** On 09 June 2023 the Coordinators of the ISS-FMA Campus Ministry team conducted a webinar on "Laudato Si' and the Preventive System" for those in charge of the pastoral care of the ISS-FMA, university residences and lay people. Sr. Ayundukayam Arockia Malarjothi participated in the webinar and there were around 20 participants. Sr. Dr. Lolia Annie P. Neli hosted and was the resource person of the event. She presented the "integration of ecology with Don Bosco's Preventive System of Education". The presentation of the Seven Goals of Laudato Si' interpellated to consider what is happening in our common home. It motivated the participants to limit their screen time and establish real human relationships and praise the Creator with the creation.
- **NEW ANIMATORS COURSE:** The New Animators, Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani, Sr. John Santha Mary and Sr. Irudayasamy Maria Thamil Selvi, are attending the course for the Men and Women Religious Superiors on "Moving into Effective Leadership" at Yercaud from 29 June to 08 July 2023.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

- **To our Rector Major Fr. Angel Artime Fernandes**, and the Salesian Family for Archbishop Antônio de Almeida Lustosa, SDB, who was declared Venerable by the Holy Father on 22 June 2023.
- **To Sr. Dr. Teresa Joseph INB** who was appointed by Dicastery of Promoting Christian Unity (DCPCU) as a Catholic representative to the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) of the World Council of Churches for the period of 2023-30.
- **To the Sisters and the participants** of the Basic Training for Scouts and Guides. Immense gratitude to Sr. Margaret Sebastian, the INT delegate for Scouts and Guides, for organizing and leading the intense training at Keeranur from 08 to 14 June, 2023. We are grateful to Rev. Fr. John Barnabas SDB for accommodating and creating a favourable climate for them.
- **To Sr. Peter Selvarani, Community Sisters and Staff** of Our Lady School of Excellence (CBSE) for the successful completion of the Senior Secondary Inspection.
- **To the Principal and the Staff** of Auxilium College of Education for Women, Regunathapuram for the Centum results of the first-year examinations and appreciation to the 74 students who got distinction.
- **To Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jennifer** for the completion of her doctoral studies in Psychology with the discussion of her thesis on 21 June 2023, at Women's Christian College, Chennai on the theme, "Enhancing Emotional Health Among Adolescents of Single Parents in Tamilnadu: Using Meaning Therapy and Metaemotion Strategies." It was a moment of pride for us!
- **To Sr. Joseph Prettenia**, who had completed her interdisciplinary doctoral studies in Physics - Chemistry, with the defense of her thesis entitled "Synthesis and Characterization of Mn Rich Layered Cathode Material For High Energy Density Lithium-Ion Batteries" at Pallavaram, Chennai on 22 June 2023. It is indeed a great honour to all of us!

## APPRECIATION AND THANKS!

- **To Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary and the community** for having facilitated a conducive atmosphere for the Provincial Council meeting on 07 June 2023 and the Provincial Team Meet on 08 June 2023 and for hosting the INT FMA-SDB Salesian Cooperators Delegates' Meet on 25 June 2023, where two Salesian Priests, two Salesian Sisters, and 6 Co-operators took part. The participants were grateful for the incredible fraternal hospitality and arrangements.
- **To Sr. Devadoss Margaret, the INM Provincial and Sr. Susai Josephine Rani, the Formation Coordinator of INM Province** for organizing the INM-INT Formators' Meet on 17 June 2023. I am grateful to all formators for reflecting on 'new ways of accompaniment and formation during this challenging time' and drawing concrete action plans for the Initial and Ongoing Formation for the year 2023 - 2024.
- **To Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy and the Community** for the meticulous planning and arrangements for the Local Youth Pastoral Coordinators' Meet held on 24 June 2023 at Therespuram. Thanks to Rev. Fr. George Chinnappan SDB (Parish Priest of Keela Eral) for animating the Local Youth Pastoral Coordinators.

- *To Sr. M. S. Sangitha Rani INK*, the National Coordinator for Formation, for organizing and *Sr. Miranda Analfreda FMA*, the team member of the FMA formation sector, Rome for animating the Webinar on DOCIBILITAS on 29 June 2023.
- *To Sr. Peter Selvarani and Community* for making all the arrangements for half-day animation on ‘Orientation on CPP, HRE & CRE’ for the teachers of the Chennai zone on 30 June 2023.

### ✠ ♦♦♦ **Important days of the month ahead !** ♦♦♦ ✠

03	-	St. Thomas the apostle of India - Solemnity
06	-	St. Maria Goretti
07	-	Blessed Maria Romero, Virgin
08	-	Venerable Joseph Augusto Arribat, SDB, Priest
16	-	Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel
22	-	St. Mary Magdalene - Feast
24	-	III World Day for Grandparents and Elderly
25	-	St. James Apostle - Feast
26	-	Sts. Joachim and Anne
28	-	St. Alphonsa Muttathupadathu
31	-	St. Ignatius of Loyola

### ✠ ♦♦♦ **Meetings in the Province** ♦♦♦ ✠

01	:	Youth Leaders' Election	Madurai - Sirudur
	:	Laudato Si - 7goals	Tiruppur
02	:	ASC - FMA Delegates Meet	Madurai - Sirudur
08	:	Laudato Si - 7 goals	Therespuram
08 - 09	:	Local Media Coordinators Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
09	:	Youth Pastoral Meet	Rome - Online
14	:	Orientation on CPP, HRE & CRE	Puliadithammam
<b>15 July-15 Aug :</b> Apostolic Cum Community Experience			
15	:	New Animators' Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
	:	Laudato Si - 7 goals	Madurai - Sirudur
16	:	Economers' Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
	:	Family Visit to the nearby Parishes	Dindigul
16 - 17	:	Envisioning Exercise for Sisters of YAR Sectors	Tiruchirappalli
18	:	YAR - Coordinators and Evening Study Centres' Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
21	:	Orientation on CPP, HRE & CRE	Keela Eral

22	:	Catechetical Animation for Staff and Students	St. Francis Xavier Broadway
	:	NCP - Training	Dindigul - Ulagampatti
	:	Mission Ad/Inter Gentes	Keela Eral
22	:	Laudato Si - 7 goals	Regunathapuram
	:	Past Pupils Meet	St. Francis Xavier's Broadway
23	:	Head Mistress' Meet	St. Francis Xavier's Broadway
28	:	Orientation on CPP, HRE & CRE	Tiruppur
29	:	Tri-monthly Recollection for Seniors	Cluster Community
30	:	VIDES - Local Coordinators	M. Saveriarapuram - Tuticorin

✠ ◆◆◆ **CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS** ◆◆◆ ✠

- † *To our beloved Rector Major, Rev. Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime*, for the loss of his loving mother, Mrs. Isabel Artime Garcia on 24 June 2023.
- † *To Sr. Irudayam Janci Rani* and family who suffer the loss of her father Mr. Irudayam (95) on 04 June 2023.
- † *To Sr. Rodriguez Mary Magdalen, Sr. Rodriguez Annie, Sr. Rodriguez Auxilia* and their family who mourn over the death of their Sister in law, Mrs. L. Jacintha Augustine (67), on 14 June 2023.
- † *To the Provincial, Rev. Fr. Jose Thomas Koyickal*, and confreres of INK on the demise of Fr. Ittira Mondo SDB (84) on 22 June 2023 in Mamma Margaret Home, Aluva, Kerala.

I wish you a happy feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, who calls us to evaluate our life in Christ Jesus and reaffirm our trust and belief in Him. May Mary our Mother and Teacher grant us the courage to be deeply rooted in Christ and to make God known and loved.

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella

Provincial

# PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

**JULY - 2023**

30 June - 01 July	Provincial Council	Auxilium Provincial House
02	Provincial Visit	Vadakku Paganoor
03	Recollection	Auxilium Provincial House
04	Provincial Visit	Thanjavur
05	Provincial Visit	Regunathapuram
06 - 07	Provincial Visit	Auxilium Provincial House
08 - 09	Local Media Co-ordinators' Meet	Auxilium Provincial House
11 - 13	Provincial Visit	Puthenthurai
15	New Animators Meet	Auxilium Provincial House
16	Economers Meet	Auxilium Provincial House
17	Provincial Visit	Coimbatore
19	Provincial Visit	Narasipuram
21	Meeting with the Staff	Madurai - Chittampatti
22	Past Pupils Meet	F.X. Broadway
23	Headmistress Meet	F.X. Broadway
24 - 25	Provincial Office	Auxilium Provincial House
26	Provincial Visit	Tiruppur
27	Provincial Visit	Wellington
29	Tir-monthly Recollection for Senior Sisters	Auxilium Provincial House
30 - 31	Provincial Office	Auxilium Provincial House