



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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My dear Sisters

Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes from Tiruchirappalli.

I acknowledge with gratitude, the love and hospitality shown by the communities with whom I had the initial visit. It has been a wonderful experience to meet the Sisters and get to know them personally, their life, their ministry and activities, the challenges and difficulties, besides their joys and achievements. My sincere thanks to everyone who made the necessary arrangements, taking utmost care and showing extraordinary interest in making the visits significant.

For the formative part of this month's communication with you, I wish to reflect with you on "**Fidelity to the Charism of the Origins**".

Charism is a divine gift that helps in building the Church. For religious communities, the charism is the soul of their life in common, giving it purpose, motivation and animating its action. Charism involves history, traditions, rule and norms of life, apostolate and spirituality, customs and heritage, all of which make it what it is. Together, these elements help the members grow in their identity and call to holiness, develop an intimate bond with the Trinitarian God, and more broadly, become a symbol and messenger of God's love to the world.

Understanding and recognizing Salesian charism begins with appreciating the spiritual qualities bestowed upon Don Bosco for the purpose of educating and evangelizing the poor youth. Even today, people who are called to participate in the mission of St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello continue to receive these gifts from the Holy Spirit. We, the Salesian Sisters, consecrated women in the Church, who live in communities, express our radical love for Christ in our loving relationships with each other and in the service to the young in joyful simplicity.

Characteristics of our Charism

The **Charismatic Elements of our Charism**, namely the centrality of the Sacraments of Eucharist & Reconciliation, filial devotion to Our Blessed Mother, love for the Pope, pastoral charity, joy and optimism, work and temperance, and life in communities, constantly require a revitalization. Each of these elements is crucial to living out our Salesian Charism, and each of them is imprinted in the heart of every Salesian Sister. St. John Bosco, our holy founder, defined these for us, and we hold fast to his method, and his plan evermore willingly and joyfully.

Eucharist & Reconciliation: Don Bosco had a great devotion to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, and believed that frequent Communion and Confession were the secret to creating a happy and peaceful atmosphere at school, where young people could grow in faith. He repeated often to his boys, "If you are in need of many graces, go more often to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament."

Regarding confessions, Don Bosco said, "First of all, do everything you can to avoid offending God, but if unfortunately, you should commit sin, do not let the devil prevail upon you to not confess it. Remember that the confessor is a father who is eager to do all he can for you and help to protect you from all possible harm."

We participate in the celebration of the Eucharist daily, and try to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament as often as we can. We also say a special prayer called 'the Visit to the Blessed Sacrament' in the middle of the day.

Devotion to Our Blessed Mother: Mother Mary, who served as Don Bosco's mentor and counsellor, began her special rapport with him from his dream when he was nine. He pictured Mary as the omnipresent Mother who attended to her children's needs, heard their pleas, and supported them on their way to heaven. Don Bosco first learnt how to pray the Angelus from his mother, Mamma Margaret. Later, in finding a name for the Sisters, he decided to call us Mary's Daughters, as he would define us, "living monuments in gratitude to Mary". The Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians continues today to hold on to this self-identity that Don Bosco intended, and prays daily entrusting itself to Mary, Help of Christians.

Love for the Pope: Don Bosco remained constant in his filial love and loyalty to the Holy Father during a period of great unrest and struggle in Italy, in a time when many were antagonistic to the Pope and to the Church in Rome. He taught his sons to say, "Viva il Papa" (Long live Pope!), and encouraged a special affection for the Roman Pontiff. We still follow Don Bosco's example and pray for the Holy Father every day. We continue to promote the love for the Pope and that young people should turn to him for moral and religious advice. We still certainly affirm Don Bosco's statement that "the Pope's wish should be our norm".

Pastoral Charity: The foundation and culmination of Salesian Spirituality is pastoral charity. St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello prioritized their love for young people in their lives. In reality, these two holy founders of ours, gave their entire life to Christ, in and through the service of the young. They counted no cost when it came to serving the young and hardly took time for themselves. They were renowned for their unending tolerance with young people. Don Bosco would tell the educators, looking at the negligent pupils sent out of the classrooms, "be patient with their light-mindedness."

Joy & Optimism: "A joyful heart is the sign of a great love for the Lord"- this is our lifestyle just as St. Mary Mazzarello relentlessly taught. Salesian homes and schools are renowned for being happy environments where joy abounds and laughter fills the corridors and classrooms. Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello had a positive outlook on life and a joy-filled world view. They could not but see and affirm the promise in everything. "Always try to think well of others," advised St. John Bosco, "at the very least, give them credit for their good intentions. Never return to them the wrongs that have previously been pardoned."

Hard Work: Mother Mazzarello and Don Bosco were both known for their strenuous labour and their insistence with their followers on working hard and incessantly. Work, hard work, yes! But for what? "Da Mihi Animas" - the first half of Don Bosco's motto explains it all. The salvation of the young was the highest of his priorities and he was determined to leave no stones unturned for the sake of it. We are still renowned for being tenacious workers, who are never hesitant of any type of work, in order to assist the young at all times. Working hard is the joy of our life, not a predicament!

Salesian Community: St. John Bosco says, "If we practice charity, every community will be a little heaven." The Salesian ideal of creating a home of our educational institutions springs from the experience of home lived among the people engaged in the educative mission, that is among the Sisters in the Salesian community, and those who form part of the educating community - that includes everyone who makes up the setting that educates the young. The heart of the Salesian approach and charism continues to be the wellbeing of this community and its shared quest for sanctity.

Thus, by living the elements of our Charism we dedicate ourselves to those young people who are the poorest, to those who for various reasons have less possibilities and limited scope, and those that are exposed to danger. Our missionary zeal is expressed in our deliberate choice for Education as the privileged way to Gospel citizenship.

✦ ††† Month's Special! ††† ✦

TEACHERS' DAY & FEAST OF ST. MOTHER TERESA OF KOLKATA: September 05 is a very special day in our Indian context, when we celebrate the Teachers' in our society. A teacher/guru is one who dispels darkness from the mind of the pupils and thus leads them through the right path to acquire the right knowledge for right living. As we remember the great Statesman leader and President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, we hail also Saint Mother Teresa of Kolkata, a teacher with a difference, who exemplified in her own life the pedagogy of the heart. She said: "Let no one feel unwanted, let us love all." Indeed, it is a great 'mantra' for those involved in the educative mission. On this occasion, we pay our humble tribute to each of our respected teachers who has made us what we are today, and those who accompany us in our making even today. I wish a 'Happy Teachers' Day', to all the teachers in our educational institutions, and thank them for the invaluable service they render in 'dispelling' darkness and illumining minds. May God bless them all!

BLESSED SR. CARMEN MORENO BENITEZ AND SR. AMPARO CARBONELL MUÑOZ: September 06, 2023 marks the 87th anniversary of the martyrdom of the Blessed Sr. Carmen Moreno Benitez FMA and Sr. Amparo Carbonell Muñoz FMA, during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). Though they had the possibility of saving their lives to escape to Italy on 07 August 1936, at the beginning of the civil war, they decided to stay with Sr. Carmen Xammar, who had just been operated on and was not in a condition to travel. At dawn on 06 September 1936, in the Barcelona hippodrome, the two FMAs were shot. A few days earlier, they had been arrested along with a third Sister, sick and just out of the hospital, who was released. Thus, they sacrificed their lives for love and stand as models to the supreme witness of faith and fraternal charity. May God grant us the grace to respond generously to God's call with coherent faith in the trials of life and with the gift of ourselves with love and joy.

NATIVITY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY: On September 08, we celebrate the Nativity of Blessed Virgin Mary and "The Girl Child Day in India". When God chose to send His Son into the world, to take human flesh, he chose a woman, Mary. This choice of a woman is indeed worth reflecting on, because it indicates God's way of doing extraordinary things, ordinarily. Right through the history of humankind, there have been violations of the basic rights of women, subjected to various forms of disrespect and exploitation in society, especially in our own country. Rapes, abuse, female feticides and infanticides, dowry, sexual exploitation etc.... have become part of everyday news reports. As we celebrate Mary's birth let us contemplate the new beginning that God brought about in her and with her. Let our celebrations increase the room for hope and peace in our hearts and a greater acceptance of the Girl Children in the world, recognizing their equal dignity and the right for opportunities in the society.

Our Special Greetings and wishes to the SDB Province of INT - the Province of Our Lady of Velankanni, Tiruchirappalli on the feast of the Patroness of their Province.

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS AND OUR LADY OF SORROWS: The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, on September 14, is a gentle reminder that the admirable and holy wish to live in union with Christ necessarily includes bearing His Cross and everything it implies, not merely in resignation, but with joy and for love. Therefore, let us cast all of our cares and burdens upon Him, because He will enable us to carry our daily crosses and achieve the goal of our sanctity. The feast of Our Lady of Sorrows that we commemorate the very next day (September 15) is an invitation by example, to participate in the life, sufferings and the passion of Jesus, just like Mary our Mother. In her suffering she shines as a co-redeemer, and reminds us of the treacherous evil of sin and the tremendous need for immediate and true repentance. Looking to the example of Mary, may we too unite our sufferings to our Lord, facing them with courage, love, and trust.

STS. MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL: On September 29, the Church celebrates the Archangels: Saints Michael, Gabriel and Raphael! Each of these archangels performs a different

mission as we witness in Scriptures: Michael protects; Gabriel announces; Raphael heals. They are messengers sent by God, to communicate to us something that God wishes to. They bring us good news, heal our sicknesses and do many special favours in our lives. In their presence we recognize that we are never alone, but surrounded by the glory of God. Let us entrust ourselves to the spiritual presence of these magnificent Beings, that they may help us fight against the seductions of the evil one and enable us to avoid any the wrong choices in our life's daily journey.

✦...News from the Province!...✦

THE SEASON OF CREATION 2023: From September 01 to October 04, 2023, we celebrate the Season of Creation. The theme "Let Justice and Peace flow", invites us to be channels of God's Justice and Peace wherever we are. Let's take conscious steps during his special time, to safeguard our Common Home.

CONCLUSION OF THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS: We extend our "Hearty Welcome" to our dear Mother General Chiara Cazzuola and the General Councillors: Sr. Runita Borja, Sr. Nilza Fátima de Moraes and Sr. Celine Jacob, who bring God's blessings to our mother land India, who grace the occasion of the Conclusion of the Centenary Celebrations of the presence of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in India, on 09 and 10 September 2023.

We congratulate and offer prayers to Sr. Elizabeth George, the Provincial and the Sisters of the Province of Shillong.

TNPCRI FORMATORS' MEET: On September 05 and 06, 2023, Sr. Abraham Epsibai will participate in the TNPCRI Formators Meet at Poondi Madha Retreat Centre, Poondi. Rev. Fr. Michael Augustine SCJ, the Provincial Superior Chennai, will be animating on the theme, "Towards an integrated formation: Pyscho-Spiritual tools for fostering efficient and effective Formation."

ECONOMERS' MEET: A meeting for the Economers of the communities will be held at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli on September 16 and 17, 2023.

BATCH MEETS: The Batch meetings will be held at Mornese, Yercard for the INM and INT sisters, from 25 to 30 September, 2023, in three groups according to the year of First Profession: 1985 - 1991, 1992 - 2001, 2002 - 2016. The resource person for this ongoing formation meet will be Sr. Premila Almeida SCB.

ANNUAL RETREAT FOR ASIAN PROVINCIALS: From 01 to 15 October 2023, I will be in Thailand for my Annual Retreat. We will be 17 Provincials - 9 of CIAO, 7 of PCI and the SPR Provincial. Kindly remember us in your prayers.

✦... Participation At Meetings...✦

- **ANIMATION OF ASC LOCAL DELEGATES:** The SDB and FMA local Delegates of the Association of Salesian Co-operators of Trichy Province gathered at Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhy, Trichy on August 12, 2023, for a day of animation. The animation was organized to focus on the Structure and Function of ASC; the Roles and Responsibilities of the local delegates; the Financial Solidarity of the Association and to plan out the details of the forthcoming ASC Congress.

- **PROMISE DAY OF THE SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS:** On August 13, 2023, the Promise Day of the Salesian Co-operators was organized at Bosco Maiyam, Pallithammam and 26 aspirants made their promises. Special thanks and appreciation to Fr. John Barnabas, Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy and Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani for their spiritual accompaniment.
- **TRAINING FOR PROJECT WRITING AND DOCUMENTATION:** Sincere gratitude to the Provincial, Sr. Leelamma and the Sisters of Auxilium Convent, Kurseong, Darjeeling (INC) for facilitating the training on project writing organized by National Development Forum from 16 to 18 August 2023, with a sense of loving hospitality in the eco-friendly ambience. There were 21 Sisters and 7 Lay Staff who partook in the training. We appreciate and thank the National Development Co-ordinator, Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi, for animating the event.
- **GOLDEN JUBILEE:** The Golden Jubilee of Sr. Arockiasamy Pragasi was celebrated on August 19, 2023, at the Auxilium Provincial House in Tiruchirappalli, amidst joy and gratitude. Around 75 FMAs, including Animators and Team members gathered to celebrate it with a significant moment of prayer, followed by felicitations and recollections of the wonders in the life of Sr. Pragasi's 50 dedicated years in service of the Lord and the poor. The Most Rev. J. Susaimanickam D.D., S.T.D., Bishop Emeritus of Sivagangai solemnized the Holy Eucharist along with 13 priests from the neighbouring religious communities. The jubilee felicitation consisted of a note of appreciation by the Provincial, and a colourful cultural programme: the prayer dance by the Novices, the short highlights of her life presented by the Madurai Sirudur Students and the youthful vibrant performance of the Chittampatti Auxilium College Students made the occasion memorable. The programme ended with a note of thanks by Sr. Pragasi to all who were responsible for the day's programme. Thanks to all the animators and the community members who actively collaborated in the animation and creatively enriched the event.
- **TEAM AND ANIMATORS' MEET:** On August 19, 2023, the Provincial Team members briefly presented their first term reports in the presence of the Provincial, Provincial Councillors and the Local Animators. Everyone was appreciative of the short video presentation of the animations and activities of the sectors, by the Social Communication Team. The video has been uploaded on the province website and in the Province YouTube Channel. You are invited to have a look and be informed.
- On August 20, 2023, the Provincial addressed the Animators on the theme "Leadership and Religious Life today". The Meet consisted also of a group study on the following materials: Uniform Civil Code and Religious Life Today: A Privilege and a Challenge. It concluded with a general assembly moderated by Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela. In the afternoon, the Provincial, the Vice Provincial, the Secretary, the Economer and the NDF Co-ordinator shared various communications and clarified.
- **VOCATION PROMOTERS' SEMINAR:** Sr. Susai Anthonia attended the Vocation Promoters Seminar at Poondi Madha Retreat Centre, Poondi from 26 to 27 August 2023. It was organized by TNBLC Commission for Vocation and the theme was "Evangelization in the Indian Scenario".
- **LAUDATO SI:** On August 05, 2023, 48 representatives of the Educating Communities and 5 Sisters from the Chennai Zone participated in the Laudato Si` Zonal level animation at Tiruvoittiyur. Sr. Ayunthukayam Malarjothi, the *Laudato Si* Co-ordinator, and Sr. Antony Regina

Mary animated the gathering on the theme “The Role of EC Members in safeguarding Mother Earth”.

- **MEDIA ANIMATION:** On August 26, 2023 a Media Animation was offered for the Zones of Thanjavur and Chennai, for the Staff and Students. The animations were held simultaneously at Thanjavur and Broadway by Sr. Sundaram Bernadette Neha and Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jennifer respectively. 65 students and 10 staff participated in the Thanjavur zone while 64 students and 11 staff participated in the Chennai zone. It was held on the theme “Speaking with the heart, the truth in love”.
- **CATECHETICAL ANIMATIONS:** On August 05, 06 and 26, 2023, 45 Students at Regunathapuram, 208 students and 45 staff at Thanjavur and 200 students and 46 staff Therespuram participated in the Catechetical Animation organized by Sr. Arockianathan Verginia Mary, the Province Catechetical Co-ordinator. It was held in the morning for the students on the theme “Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation ‘Christus Vivit: ‘(Christ is Alive)’” and in the afternoon for the staff on “Post Synodal Apostolic Exhortation ‘Amoris Laetitia’.”

APPRECIATION AND THANKS!

- **To Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy and the community of Therespuram** for creating a prayerful and serene atmosphere for the Provincial Council meet on 02 and 03 August, 2023.
- **To the Communities of Madurai Sirudur, Keela Eral, Thanjavur, Arni and Tirupattur** for the kind service rendered, the warm hospitality shown and the loving care and attention offered to our second-year Novices during their month-long **community and apostolic experience**.
- **To Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary and the community** of Auxilium Provincial House, Manikandam, Tiruchirappalli for organizing and celebrating the province level Golden Jubilee function for Sr. Arockiamsamy Pragasi and the Report Presentation of the Team Members on August 19, 2023 and for having facilitated the Animators’ meet on August 20, 2023.
- **To the Most Rev. J. Susaimanickam D.D., S.T.D.**, Bishop Emeritus of Sivagangai, for having solemnized the Golden Jubilee Function with his gracious Presence.
- **To the animators and the communities** who favoured the conducive atmosphere for the animation of the Social Communication, Catechetical and Laudato Si Teams, for the students, staff and the Sisters of Chennai, Thanjavur and Tuticorin Zones.

❖❖❖ Important days of the month❖❖❖

05	-	St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata / Teachers’ Day
06	-	Bl Carmen Moreno & Maria Amparo Carbonell
08	-	Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary / Girl Child’s Day
12	-	Holy Name of Mary
14	-	Exaltation of The Holy Cross
15	-	Our Lady of Sorrows
21	-	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
22	-	Bl. Joseph Calasanz & Enrico Saizapricio SDB & Co

- 24 - Our Lady of Ransom
- 25 - World Day of Migrants and Refugees
- 29 - Archangels: Michael, Raphael and Gabriel

❖❖❖Meetings in the Province❖❖❖

03	-	Be a Conqueror 21 st Century Skill Training	Local Communities
	-	Visit to the Parishes to Promote Vocations	Local Communities
09	-	NCP - Training	Trichy
14	-	Training on Responsible Parenting Focusing on the Critical usage of Social Media	Coimbatore Marialaya
14-15	-	Provincial Council Meet	Auxilium Provincial House
16-17	-	Economers Meet	Auxilium Provincial House
20	-	Recycling Waste Management Training Programme	Trichy
25 - 26	-	Batch Meet (1985 - 1991)	Yercaud
27 - 28	-	Batch Meet (1992 - 2001)	Yercaud
29 - 30	-	Batch Meet (2002 - 2016)	Yercaud

❖❖❖CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS❖❖❖

- † *To Sr. Palliparambil Leelema and Sisters* of INC Province on the passing away of Sr. Julita Kujur (37), on August 13, 2023.
- † *To Sr. Diaz Francis Immaculate* who lost her beloved mother, Mrs. Lourdu Bernadette Thangam (85), on August 14, 2023.
- † *To Sr. Sesu John* at the loss of her beloved mother, Mrs. Saroja (80), on August 21, 2023.

Before I close, I wish to congratulate all the TEACHERS in our formal and non-formal institution for their tireless and enthusiastic efforts in fostering the Salesian Educative Enterprise.

My prayerful wishes to all, for the feast of Our Lady of Velankanni, the birthday of our Beloved Mother. May She bless us with enough physical and spiritual health to never lack in our enthusiasm and commitment in our mission!

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella FMA
Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

SEPTEMBER - 2023

02	Monthly Recollection	Auxilium Provincial House
07-12	Centenary Celebration	Shillong
14-15	Provincial Council meet	Auxilium Provincial House
16-17	Economers Meet	Auxilium Provincial House
18-19	Provincial Visit	GT Marialaya
20-21	Provincial Visit	Pothur Mariyalaya
22-23	Provincial Visit	Madurai - Sringerinagar
25 - 26	Batch Meet (1985 - 1991)	Yercaud
30	Journey to Thailand	