



## PROVINCE OF OUR LADY OF SNOW PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

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

*Cir. No. 31*

*January 2020*

Viva Gesu`!

Greetings of peace to each one of you and the entire Educating Community. We are standing at the brink of the New Year, aware of the past, the present and the future. There is no need for us to dwell on the past or to have desires for the future. All of the possibilities for the future dwell in the seed of this moment. The hope of the world lives in each of us. So in this moment of promise, let us forgive ourselves and forgive others. Live in peace and be at peace with others. Fill our hearts with happiness and share happiness. Reconnect with the supreme Source of peace, love and happiness, and make our life a constant light for humanity.

### THEMES OF 2020 IN FOCUS

On the first of January we celebrate the Feast of the *Motherhood of Mary*. The love of our Blessed Mother is the foundation of humanity and the cure for a world which often aspires for harmony and peace. Mary's motherhood is noted for her heroism in self-giving, strength in compassion and wisdom in meekness. A world that looks to the future without a mother's gaze is shortsighted. Humanity is built upon mothers. A world in which maternal tenderness is dismissed as mere sentiment may be rich materially, but poor where the future is concerned. The New Year is a time to be amazed not only by the opportunity for new beginnings, but also by the Mother of God, who was deeply united with her Son, Jesus. God is not distant Lord, dwelling in splendid isolation above the heavens, but love incarnate, born like us of a mother, in order to become a brother to each of us. Let us implore our Blessed Mother for the grace to be amazed at the God of surprises as 2020 gets started. We are living in a world where there is dispersion and solitude. The world is completely connected, yet seems increasingly disjointed. Faced with this reality, we need to entrust ourselves to our Mother. Mary is a cure for solitude and dispersion. She is the Mother of consolation: she stands 'with' those who are alone. She knows that words are not enough to console. Presence is needed and she is present as a Mother. Our Lady is not an optional accessory, but rather has to be welcomed into our life. She is the Queen of peace, who triumphs over evil and leads us along paths of goodness, who restores unity to her children, who teaches us to be compassionate.

The Pope's message for the *2020 World Day of Peace* is entitled, "**Peace as a journey of Hope, Dialogue, Reconciliation and Ecological Conversion.**" The message of Pope Francis calls for openness to dialogue, commitment to forgiveness and an ecological conversion. The world does not need empty words but convinced witnesses, peacemakers who are open to a dialogue that rejects exclusion or manipulation. We cannot truly achieve peace without a convinced dialogue between men and women who seek the truth beyond ideologies and

differing opinion. Peace must be built up continually it is a journey made together in constant pursuit of the common good, truthfulness and respect for law. The answer to breaking today's unhealthy mentality of threats and fear is to pursue a genuine fraternity based on our common origin from God through dialogue and mutual trust. Only by choosing the path of respect can we break the spiral of vengeance. This path of reconciliation is a summons to discover in the depths of our heart the power of forgiveness and the capacity to acknowledge one another as brothers and sisters. When we learn to live in forgiveness, we grow in our capacity to become men and women of peace. For us Christians, Confession is a part of the peace process because it renews individuals and communities and bids us to keep our gaze fixed on Jesus, who reconciled all things by making peace through the blood of His Cross. The Sacrament requires us to set aside every act of violence in thought, word and deed, whether against our neighbours or against God's creation.

The United Nations has declared 2020 the "*International Year of Plant Health*." Celebration of the International year of plant Health would bring increased global attention to the importance of plant health in solving global issues including hunger, poverty and threats to the environment.

In the *Strenna 2020*, the Rector Major emphasises that as a Salesian Family we must be very attentive to the great human challenges of our world, such as honesty as people, living as a committee citizenship that seeks the good, making the Church's social doctrine present in everyday life, the option for the most disadvantaged, ensure that Christians and our young people are at the service of the people, through the service of politics, special attention to the encyclical 'Laudato Si', that focuses on climate change and care for Creation and of course the firm defense that the Salesian Family must have with regard to human rights and in particular, the rights of children who tend to be the most fragile. The *strenna 2020* offers us the opportunity to rebuild what Don Bosco thought and what his way of doing and acting among his young people was.

#### **WITHIN THE FAMILY:**

**INSTALLATION OF THE NEW PROVINCIAL:** We are happy to congratulate Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam SDB on the occasion of his installation as Provincial of Tiruchirapalli on Saturday 04 January, 2020 at Mary Help of Christians Shrine, AMSAM, Tiruchirapalli. We offer our special prayers and appreciation to the Provincial in assuming this new ministry with faith and generosity.

**RIP - SR. ASIRVATHAM AMALORPAVAM:** On 19 December 2019, in Meenakshi Mission Hospital and Research Centre, Madurai belonging to the house of Maria Ausiliatrice, Madurai – Sringerinagar, the Lord of life rewarded our dear Sr. Amala with Eternal Paradise. *Sr.Asirvatham Amalorpavam* was born to Mr. Asirvatham and Mrs. Elizabeth on 24 February 1956 Baptised on 28 February 1956, Confirmed on 31 March, 1963 in Kakkaveri, Salem. She was born in a good Christian family with four siblings. Her parents gave importance for the faith formation. They frequented the Church for daily Mass and took an active part in all the Church activities. Her father who was her class teacher in Standard three trained her well in language and pronunciation. Tamil was her favourite subject. Being nurtured in a teachers' family, from her tender age she developed an interest in teaching. She was devoted to Our Lady of Perpetual Succor. She was a member of Children of Mary and was faithful for the family Rosary and during the Marian Months prayed the Rosary with the families in the neighbourhood.

After her High School studies she went to St. Mary's Convent, Vellore to do her Teacher Training. She worked in St. Mary's Primary School – English Medium at Vellore where Sr. Elizabeth George the then Animator encouraged her to become a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians. Moreover the cheerful, friendly and gentle ways of the Sisters coupled with prayer and dedication among the poorest young people attracted her to Salesian Congregation. She entered the Aspirantate in Katpadi on 13 September, 1977. She made her entry into the Postulancy on 24 July 1979. She set her foot in the Novitiate in Bangalore on 24 July 1980. She was privileged to be in close contact with the Pioneers Sr. Teresa Merlo and Sr. Consiglia Taricone and Missionaries during her Novitiate. During this period, she experienced their goodness, sacrifice and joy of living the religious life. She made her First Profession in Bangalore on 24 May, 1982 and her Final Profession on 5 August 1988. She was open, simple and very cheerful. She related with everyone genuinely. She loved to be with the poorest children. She obeyed and respected her Animators and elders. Sr. Amala availed herself generously for any type of work that was assigned to her. She had the joy of helping and serving the poor children of Elementary Schools for 29 years in Katpadi, Tiruvottiyur, Pallikonda, Thanjavur, Arni, Tirupattur and Polur. As a teacher she got award for Melt Handwriting. For five years she rendered her service as an Economer in Pallikonda, Manikandam and Thanjavur. She also worked in the parish of MPT Quarters in New Washermenpet, Chennai for a year. She was very happy to be with the Children of Marialaya in Coimbatore for one year and Fr. Patrick Isaac Home of Hope for Women and Children in Madurai, Sringerinagar from 2014 till date.

The poorest children were the privileged portion of her life. She was skilled to deal with them with tenderness, patience and kindness. While imparting education, she also infused in the students love for God and created opportunities for all the children to develop their skills. She took extra effort to coach them during holidays. She took care of the Sunday oratorians and taught Catechesis with much love. Her attention extended not only to the children but also to the widows. Thanks for her initiative in starting *Vinnmeen Self Help Group* in Mazzarello Home, Tirupattur to make the widows economically stable and sustainable.

Sr. Amala could relate with ease with everyone. She was cordial, hospitable, warm and frank in her relationship. She saw positive aspects in persons and appreciated them for every little thing and acknowledged favours with gratitude. Her presence could be easily identified with the burst of laughter. She knew each and every child with her or his name. Whenever Sisters went out for some tasks, she would wait for them with joy and would spend her time with them.

Her presence in the Parish was much appreciated and sought after. Whenever children made mistakes, she used to correct them with firmness but never harboured any ill feelings against them. Even when her eye sight was dwindling she prepared bracelets and presented them with delight for all the Provincial Chapter members.

She had viral fever from 20 November, 2019 which lingered for three days. She developed numbness in her hand and feet and on 30 November, 2019 she was admitted in St. Antony Hospital, Madurai. Dr. Antony Prince took great care of her and diagnosed that she was affected by GBS - Guillain-Barré Syndrome. Sr. Amala took her flight to heaven at 11.30 a.m. on 19 December, 2019. I extend my special thanks to Sr. Jeganathan Assumpta and Sr. Antony Muthu Lourdhu Mary, Sr. Anthonyswamy Suganthi and Community of Sringerinagar campus for accompanying our dear Sr. Amalorpavam during the last days of her earthly life and Sr. Cruz Antoni Michaela, her Community and Novices for organizing the funeral proceedings.

#### **XIV SOUTHERN ZONAL CONFERENCE OF SALESIAN CO OPERATORS:**

The 14 Southern Zonal Conference of Salesian Cooperators, will be held in Don Bosco, Manikandam, Tiruchirapalli from 12 to 13 January 2020 on the theme Good Christians and Upright Citizens. From our Province along with Sr. Antonyswamy Rosy the Province delegate for Salesian Cooperators, Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani from Thanjavur, Sr. Ayudukayam Arockia Malarjothi from Regunathapuram and Sr. Irudayaraj Victoria will be taking part in the meeting.

**PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY DAY AND ANIMATIONS:** On 24 January 2020, we will be celebrating our Provincial Community Day with due preparation. All the Animators and Economers will be present for the celebration which will be followed by animations. All the Animators and Economers are expected to be in the Provincial House on 23 January 2020 by 4 p.m. After the thanksgiving Mass there will be Animations for the Animators and Economers on “online administration” by Fr. Xavier Packiam - SDB INM Province Economer in Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirapalli. All the Economers and the Sisters with twin role of being Animators and Economers will take part in the Meeting held in Manikandam on 25 January, the remaining animators will take part in the EC Meeting in Madurai, Sirudur on 25 January 2020.

**NEW PCI NATIONAL DELEGATES:** We congratulate and extend our prayerful greetings to Sr. Alphonse Mary J. Isabella (INM) PCI delegate for Social Development and Sr. Phawa Theresa (INS) the delegate for Salesian Family for their generous and valid contribution in the past years and we welcome with joy *Sr. Mary Lamare* - INS PCI National Delegate for Salesian Family and *Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi* - INT PCI National Delegate for Social Development. May the Lord grant them the discernment to fulfill their mission in the light of Christ.

#### **THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO:**

- To Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela and Community of Manikandam for making all the arrangement for the Provincial Council held from 14 – 15 December, 2019 and team Meeting on 30 December, 2019.
- To Sr. Antonyswamy Suganthi and Community of Madurai, Sirudur for hosting the awareness on Gender Based Violence on 21 December 2019.

#### **FORTHCOMING FEASTS – JANUARY 2020**

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| 01 | The Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God            |
| 05 | The Epiphany of the Lord                              |
| 07 | Bl. Titus Zeman                                       |
| 15 | Bl. Louis Variara                                     |
| 24 | St. Francis of Sales, Bishop and doctor of the Church |
| 25 | Conversion of St. Paul                                |
| 30 | Bl. Bronslaus Markiewicz                              |
| 31 | Saint John Bosco, Priest                              |

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE – JANUARY 2020

9-10	Submission of House Accounts	Manikandam
11	Women Co-ordinators Meet (Women, Sisters)	Manikandam
	VIDES Cluster Meet	Tiruvottiyur
12-13	XIV Southern Zonal Conference of Salesian Co-operators	Don Bosco, Manikandam
14	Vocation Day	Local Communities
14 – 15	CPCs Annual Retreat	Marianthapuram, Dindigul
18	VTC Review Meeting	Manikandam
	VIDES Cluster Meet	Vadakku Paganoor
18 – 20	LSE III training – staff	Mannivakkam
23-24	Provincial Community Day	Auxilium Provincial House
24	Animators and Economers Meet	Auxilium Provincial House
25	Annual EC Meeting	Madurai, Sirudur
	Economers Meeting	Auxilium Provincial House
26	Provincial Council	Madurai
	Past Pupils Meeting	Local Communities

### Our heartfelt condolences and prayers

† To the Family of Mr. Samadhanam (69), the elder brother of Sr. Ignaci Kulanthai Theresa who passed away on 23 December, 2019.

May the Lord grant him eternal bliss and comfort the bereaved families.

I take this opportunity to wish you all a Grace filled New Year and a Happy Feast of our founder St. John Bosco. I pray that the Lord Jesus and our Blessed Mother may enrich our lives during the New Year with an abundance of God's blessings. Let's pray this prayer of Dag Hammarskjold: "Lord, for all that has been, Thanks! For all that will be, Yes!" – and this as well: "Give me a pure heart that I may see you, A humble heart that I may hear you, A heart of love that I may serve you, A heart of Faith that I may abide in you."



Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret  
Provincial



***PROVINCIAL ITENERARY  
JANUARY 2020***

4	Installation of the New Provincial	Manikandam
5-6	Provincial Visit	Vadakku Paganoor
9-10	Economers Meet	Manikandam
12-13	XIV Southern Zonal Conference of Salesian Co-operators	Don Bosco, Manikandam
14-15	Provincial Visit	Puthenthurai
16-17	Provincial Visit	Therespuram
18-19	Provincial Visit	Keela Eral
20-21	Office Work	Manikandam
23-24	Provincial Community Day	Manikandam
24	Animators and Economers Meeting	Manikandam
25	Educating Community Meeting	Madurai , Sirudhur
26	Provincial Council	Manikandam
28-30	Provincial Visit	Manikandam



*In every young person,  
a point of goodness is accessible!*