



**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,  
4/288, Madurai Main Road, Manikandam,  
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**Cir. No. 14**

**July 2024**

*My dear Sisters,*

*Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes to you ...*

I am pleased to share with you the loving and prayerful wishes of our beloved Mother General and her Councilors, from here in Rome, where I have the joy of meeting them personally. This month, I invite you to join me in reflecting on the theme:

### **"Religious Vocation - God's Call: God's Precious and Unique Gift."**

A religious vocation is a profound and sacred call from God, inviting individuals to sanctity, through dedicating their lives wholly to God and God's service. It is a unique and precious gift, an experience of and a testament to God's immense love and trust. First and foremost, it is a privilege to be called. Having a special purpose in life - a calling, a vocation - is a unique gift from God that comes with our birth and baptism. It involves recognizing God's invitation in every aspect of life, embracing the challenges, and finding joy in our unique roles. Our "yes" to God's call contributes to the grand design in the mind of God, enriching the world through our distinct paths. By embracing our vocation, we find personal fulfillment and joy, becoming channels of God's blessings to others. The response to God's call enriches the world and advances His divine purpose, manifesting the beauty of diverse vocations working in harmony. Beyond being a privilege, it is simultaneously, as we already reflected upon, a responsibility as well, a great life task to commit to.

God's call is an extraordinary invitation that speaks directly to our hearts, urging us to step into a life of purpose and divine sense. A religious call transcends our ordinary experiences, and draws us into a deeper understanding of who we are and what we are meant to be. This call is unique and precious, designed for each of us individually, reflecting God's intimate knowledge and love for us. It leads us on a journey that enriches our souls and brings us closer to the heart of God.

### **Biblical Foundations of God's Call:**

Our calling is the unique means by which we individually fulfil the purpose for which God created us. The call is not an end, but an opening, a grand embarking upon a journey towards a profound end, to which God calls a person. Throughout the Bible, God has called His people both to enjoy being with Him and to join with Him in His global mission. Through the call of Abraham, all the nations of the earth would be blessed, and Israel was called as a light to the nations. Everyone who was called, was called for a mission. When

Jesus called His first disciples, He said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Mark 1:17). Jesus called them too, for a specific mission, sharing his own mission from God. The call to follow Christ and the call to mission go hand-in-hand, no doubt.

Every individual called in the Scripture, such as the patriarchs, the judges and leaders, the prophets, the apostles and the disciples, Mary Magdalene and other women who accompanied Jesus on his missionary journeys, responded to God's call in a unique way and made impactful contributions for their personal salvation and that of the world. They shine as great witnesses and invitations, for us to adopt a lifestyle of responding to God. They urge us to listen to God’s call and discover our vocation through prayer and reflection.

Jesus was often addressed as rabbi or teacher. In those days, highly intelligent and gifted men alone could become rabbis, and when a rabbi said to a young person, “Follow me,” it was a great honor. That young person was being called to a status very important. When Jesus saw Simon (Peter), Andrew, James, and John casting and mending their fishing nets, He said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20). Jesus gave these men a new vocation built on what they had been doing, and definitely more profound than that. They became Apostles who took the Good News of Jesus Christ, built up the mystical Body of Christ, and changed the whole world into a different place altogether. We would do well to learn from them and follow their example. We too are set apart to discover our nothingness and to realize the purpose of our life, our vocation, our calling.

### **Our Salesian Roots of courage and openness:**

When God calls, there is an invitation not only to hear God’s voice but to respond to it with courage and openness. In answering God’s call, we enter into the grand design that is known only to God, where our unique gifts and experiences converge, creating a canvas that determines the beauties of the world.

Don Bosco's life was shaped by a transformative encounter of responding to God's call. Through visions God accosted him and in firm faith, he dedicated himself to responding to the call of education and spiritual formation of young people. His commitment to God's mission not only enriched the lives of countless youth but also inspired a global movement, the Salesian family, dedicated to holistic development and spiritual well-being.

Likewise, Maria Domenica Mazzarello, amidst the challenges of her times, found God's call echoing in the ordinary experiences of life and her committed response during the cholera epidemic and her subsequent dedication to educating young girls in practical skills, were profound expressions of her vocation. In accepting God's call, Mother Mazzarello exemplified admirable flexibility and humility, transforming adversities into opportunities for spiritual growth and selfless service.

Our journey of vocation mirrors these inspiring examples. It begins with listening attentively to God's voice amidst the noise of daily life. It requires discernment and prayerful reflection on where and how God calls us to live and serve.

Hence, in conclusion, Religious Vocation is:

- a covenantal relationship with God.
- a constant discernment and concrete living of God's will.
- a complete sacrifice of oneself.
- a profound personal journey that demands commitment, discernment, and a deep desire to serve God and others joyfully.
- a journey of deep spiritual fulfilment.
- a close communion with God.
- a life of lasting positive impact on the world.
- an ongoing commitment and not merely a one-time assent to something.

Dear Sisters, there is a practical danger that each of us faces in our daily life - that we could lose the sense of vocation. It may surprise you to listen to that but it is an unfortunate fact. What do we mean by that – “losing the sense of vocation”. It is when we are busy living our everyday timetable and work commitments, without really having the sense of responding to a specific and loving call from God. We live and do all that we are involved in, out of routine, and forget that we are doing it out of love for the One who has called us, that One who gives us a commission! Could it be our experience? Is it not important to constantly check ourselves on our sense of vocation?

As we reflect on these realities, let us be inspired by the examples set before us. Let us resolve to listen attentively to God's call in our lives, respond with courage and faith, and journey forward, not only towards our own fulfilment but more so about contributing to the salvation of all. The journey of a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, is a testament to this divine plan revealed in time. It is a unique gift that you and I have received from the Lord to live a life in God, in the footsteps of St. John Bosco and our beloved Mother Mazzarello, living with joy, dedication, and a strong commitment to the divine plan as missionaries dedicated to the holistic wellbeing of the young people, in response to the invitation from the Lord for the sake of the Church and the world.

### ✠—◆ MONTH'S SPECIAL! ◆—✠

**ST. THOMAS - THE APOSTLE OF INDIA (03 July):** On 03<sup>rd</sup> July, we joyfully celebrate the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, the Patron of India. The Church rejoices in this devout follower of Christ, who was not hesitant to acknowledge his human weakness but stands out as a timeless model of faith, reminding us of the journey from doubt to profound belief. His ultimate proclamation, “My Lord and my God,” inspires us to seek and deepen our own faith journey, embracing any trace of doubt as a pathway to a deeper understanding and a more childlike trust in divine presence.

On this special day, we extend our prayers and warm greetings to all the members of the SDBs and FMAs of the INM Province of St. Thomas, as they celebrate their patron saint. May St. Thomas inspire and guide us with wisdom and faith, strength and dedication in our mission to serve others, bringing persons to God and bringing God to persons.

**WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY (28 July):** Pope Francis has chosen the theme “Do not cast me off in my old age” from Psalm 71, for the World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 2024, celebrated on 28<sup>th</sup> July. The theme proposed highlights the loneliness experienced by many elderly individuals, emphasizing the Church's call to cherish and support them. The day, established in 2021 marking the feast of Sts. Joachim and Anne, aims to strengthen bonds between generations and combat societal trends that marginalize the elderly. Let us salute the elderly with love and thanks for their vital role in preserving and promoting cultural and religious heritage, essential for every human community. We encourage children and young people to visit their grandparents or elderly individuals who live alone, to spend some meaningful time with them. These connections not only bridge generations but also honour the wisdom and experience that enrich our lives.

**CONGRATULATION:** The installation of Rev. Fr. Joseph Pampackal, the New Provincial for the Salesian Province of Dimapur, will be held on 03 August 2024. May God bless his mission and guide him in his leadership, bringing continued growth and blessings to the province.

### ✂️ † NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE! † ✂️

- **WELCOME BACK:** A warm welcome to Sr. Maria Arul Paulia Mary, who has successfully completed her two-year study on Salesian Spirituality at Madre Ersilia Canta in Rome, Italy. She will be returning to our Province on 06 July 2024, to assume her role as the Assistant of the Novices of INM and INT. May God bless her in this new mission.
- **DIPLOMA COURSE IN THEOLOGY:**
  - Sr. Pensiker Bastina, Sr. Remigius Angel Veda and Sr. Robinson Jenny Grace, will attend the two-year online diploma course in Theology organized by St. Paul's Institute of Theology - Tiruchirappalli.
  - Sr. John Shantha Mary, Sr. Joseph Prakash J. Reena and Sr. Xavier Raj Iruthaya Arasi will attend the two-year online diploma course in Theology organized by St. Peter's Seminary- Bangalore.
- **CONGRATULATIONS AND HEARTFELT APPRECIATION:** We extend our sincere congratulations and deep appreciation to Sr. Abraham Epsibai, Sr. Ayundukayam Arockia Malarjothi, Sr. Belevendiran Alankara Mary, Sr. Irudayam Janci Rani, and Sr. Sebastiar Caroli who obtained a Diploma in Theology from St. Paul's Institute - Tiruchirappalli by completing a two-year online course. Your dedication and achievement are truly commendable!
- **NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICE - ORIENTATION MEETING:** The Orientation Meeting on the Projects of NDF and the Action Plan for the year 2024 -

2025 will be organized by Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi, the National Delegate for Social Development. The meeting will be held on 09 and 10 July 2024. SDCs from seven Provinces will participate in the meeting which will take place in Don Bosco Wellington. Sr. John Bosco Edal Queen will be participating from our Province.

- **TRAINING ON DEINSTITUTIONALIZATION AND COMMUNITY CARE:** Training on Deinstitutionalization and Community Care for YAR Coordinators will be organized by Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi, the National Delegate for Social Development. Sr. Antony Muthu Lourdumary, Sr. Irudayasamy Maria Tamilselvi and Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary from our Province will be participating in this meeting. The meeting will be held in Don Bosco Wellington from 11 to 13 of July 2024.
- **HEADMISTRESSES MEET:** On 14 July 2024, the Headmistresses Meet will be held at Thanjavur. This gathering will be an opportunity for all headmistresses to come together, share insights, discuss challenges, and collaborate on best practices for the upcoming academic year.
- **NEW ANIMATORS' COURSE:** We are happy that Sr. Diaz Francis Immaculate and Sr. Vedamuthu Savariamammal will participate in the "Leadership for Mission: Course for Superiors" at Ishvani Kendra, Pune, from 21 July to 03 August 2024. We wish them an enriching experience at the course which will certainly sharpen their leadership skills and empower the community in turn.
- **TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTION FOR SENIORS:** The Trimonthly Recollection for Seniors will be held in the cluster communities on 27 July 2024 on the Theme "Spirituality of St. Paul - Letters of St. Paul to Corinthians".
- **INTENSIVE JUNIORATE FORMATION:** Sr. James Arockiadoss Micheal Avila and Sr. Santhiagu Arokia Jelaja will be leaving on 31 July 2024, for their Intensive Juniorate at Auxilium Provincial House, Guwahati. The programme will commence on 13 August 2024. We accompany them with our loving prayers as they begin their journey in this important phase of their formation and wish them well to have a rich and fulfilling experience.

## **PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS AND THANKS:**

- **POSTULANTS' MEDAL CEREMONY:** Congratulations to the Postulants: Charles Jasmin Jaya, Jonas Jenova Teresa and Subbiah Shenbaga Mallika of our province and Abel Lourdu Mary, John David Asha Mary, Rajesh Srinithi and Tharsius Raja Auxilia of the INM Province, who received their Postulants' medal on 20 June 2024, after a spiritual retreat from 17 - 19 June 2024 at Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi. We lovingly assure them our prayers, as they step forward in their process of continuous discernment of God's plan for them.

- **JUNIORS' MEET:** The twenty-seven Junior Sisters between the years of profession from 2019 to 2024 and another two sisters from our Province took part in the meeting animated by Rev. Sr. Inigo Joachim SSA from 8 to 10 June 2024, at St. Francis Xavier Convent, Broadway - Chennai. The theme was "Consecrated Life: a Gift and a Challenge." Our sincere thanks go to Sr. Inigo for the guidance and the animation that has helped our dear sisters gain new perspectives on embracing the joys and overcoming the obstacles of religious life. Such gatherings strengthen our resolve and deepen our faith, fostering our ongoing maturity.
- **SALESIAN ASSISTANCE - ZOOM MEETING:** On 15 June 2024, an online meeting at the PCI level was held on the theme, "Salesian Assistance," organized by Sr. Sangitha Rani INK, the National Coordinator for Formation. The resource person for the meeting was Sr. Runita Borja, General Councilor for Youth Ministry. The primary aim of the webinar was to enhance the understanding and implementation of Salesian Assistance across communities. The Sisters participated actively in the discussions and gained valuable insights to apply within their respective areas, making the webinar a dynamic platform for learning and collaboration in advancing Salesian Assistance initiatives.
- **PROVINCIAL TEAM MEET:** The Provincial Team meet was held on 15 and 16 June 2024, at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. The meeting was a fruitful moment of in-depth discussion and planning. It has certainly been an effective exercise of collaboration and synergy towards animating the province in all its dimensions.
- **NEW ECONOMERS' MEET:** On 18 and 19 June 2024, the newly appointed Economers of our Province were convened for a meeting at the Auxilium Provincial House, organized by Sr. Madalaimuthu Angela, the Provincial Economist. The meeting was intended to be informative and empowering for the new Economers, to equip them with the necessary skills of financial management.
- **LOCAL YOUTH PASTORAL COORDINATORS' MEET:** On 22 June 2024, twenty-three local youth pastoral coordinators gathered at Auxilium in Sirudur - Madurai for a one-day animation organized by Sr. John Bosco Edal Queen, the Province Coordinator for Youth Pastoral. The event started with an introductory talk by Youth Pastoral Councillor Sr. Vedamuthu Savariammal. Rev. Fr. Robert Simon SDB then led a session on the theme "21st Century Youth Ministers." Province Secretary Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy explained the importance of proper filing, updating, and maintaining of documents regarding community activities. Sr. Edal Queen presented the plan and project, annual calendar, and activities for the year. The day served as an orientation to help the local coordinators to enhance their service to the youth in their communities.
- **SALESIAN COOPERATORS - COORDINATORS' MEET:** On 30 June 2024, Salesian Cooperators Coordinators meeting was organized and animated by Fr. John Barnabas SDB, Provincial Delegate for the Association of Salesian Cooperators, Sr. Anthony Swamy Rosy FMA, Provincial Councillor for the Salesian Family and

Sr. Ignaci Kulandai Theresa, Provincial Delegate for the Salesian Cooperators. Thirty-five Salesian Cooperators from SDB and FMA Units participated in the meeting at AMSAM, Tiruchirappalli to discuss the Plan and Project for the year and the upcoming Congress.

- **LOCAL MEDIA COORDINATORS' MEET:** On 29 and 30 June 2024, the Province Media Coordinator, Sr. Samson Gnana Jennifer, organized a meeting cum training for Local Media Coordinators at the Auxilium Convent, Regunathapuram. Media Minds Meet, as it is called, enabled the 22 participant Sisters to update themselves with new information and skills related to Artificial Intelligence and media. Sincere appreciation and gratitude to Sr. Samson Gnana Jennifer and Sr. Sundaram Bernadette Neha, the resource persons, for their effective animation on the theme “Communicating with the Heart: Artificial Intelligence and the Natural Wisdom”. Their hands-on training sessions on using various AI tools were particularly enlightening. Special thanks to Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy for her insightful guidance on the proper filing and maintenance of media documents, and to Sr. Raja Clarencia Mary for offering practical tips on becoming tech-savvy within our communities. The two-day animation empowered the Sisters, equipping them with the knowledge and skills to use AI more efficiently and effectively.

### ✦ ... APPRECIATION AND THANKS! ... ✦

- To Sr. Anthony Swamy Rosy and the Community of Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli for providing a conducive atmosphere for the Auditing from 10 to 15 June 2024, Team Meet on 15 and 16 June 2024, and the New Economers' Meet on 18 and 19 June 2024.
- To Sr. Antony Lourdu Sagayam and the Community of Auxilium - Sirudur, Madurai for hosting the Local Youth Pastoral Coordinators' Meet on 22 June 2024.
- To Sr. Soosai Magnificat and the community of Auxilium Convent, Regunathapuram for hosting the Local Media Coordinators' meet on 29 and 30 June 2024.

### ✦ ... IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE MONTH AHEAD! ... ✦

03	-	St. Thomas the Apostle, Patron of India - Solemnity
06	-	St. Maria Goretti
07	-	Blessed Maria Romero FMA
08	-	Venerable Joseph Augusto Arribat SDB
16	-	Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel
22	-	St. Mary Magdalene - Feast
25	-	St. James the Apostle - Feast
26	-	Sts. Joachim and Anne

- 28 - St. Alphonsa Muttathupadathu / IV World Day for Grandparents and Elderly  
 31 - St. Ignatius of Loyola

❖ ❖ ❖ **MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE** ❖ ❖ ❖

05	:	Catechetical Animation	Puliadithammam
06	:	VIDES General Body Meet	Therespuram
07	:	Vocation Promotion in the Parish	Local Communities
09-10	:	National level Orientation for SDO Personnel	Wellington
12	:	Catechetical Animation	TVT
11-13	:	National YAR Sector Meet	Wellington
13	:	Past Pupils Meet	Thanjavur
14	:	Headmistress Meet	Thanjavur
15	:	Catechetical Animation	Thanjavur
17	:	YAR & ESC Coordinators	Pothur
18	:	Women Coordinator	Pothur
	:	Sal. Cooperators Zonal level Animation	Madurai
20	:	Cyber Education Training Meet for Media Club Staff and Students	Thanjavur
21 July - 03 Aug.	:	New Animators Course	Pune
21	:	VIDES Chennai Zone	TVT
26	:	Vocation Promotion in Schools	Local Communities
	:	Human Rights Meet - School	Puliadithammam
27	:	Trimonthly Recollection for Seniors	Cluster Communities
	:	Cyber Education Training Meet for Media Club Staff and Students	Broadway
	:	Training on Food Plan for Sustainable families	Georgetown, Marialaya
28	:	NCP Training	Communities

❖ ❖ ❖ **CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS** ❖ ❖ ❖

† **To Fr. Xavier Packiam SDB** who lost his beloved Mother, Mrs. Maria Selvam (84) on 27 June 2024.



My dear Sisters, I wish each of you a happy feast of St. Thomas the Apostle. He stands out as an excellent model for those who respond to the Divine call, all their weaknesses and difficulties notwithstanding. His steadfast faith just as that of all other saints who have lived their unique gift of vocation in diverse and inspiring ways, remains a great school of fidelity that inspires us to respond to our call with wholehearted dedication, assuming our daily responsibilities with courage and humility. Let us grow in our grateful acknowledgement of the goodness of the Lord who has called us, and as we journey forward, let us remain mindful of our need to respond to God in every way we can, trusting in the guiding grace that leads us to true fulfillment and eternal joy. Let us mean it as we proclaim with the apostle to India, “My Lord and My God!”

Yours affectionately in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sr. Fernando Majella". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Sr. Fernando Majella

Provincial

# ECONOMER ITINERARY

**JULY - 2024**

09	:	Siringerinagar - Madurai
10	:	Sirudur - Madurai
11	:	Chittamapatti - Madurai
12 - 13	:	Narasipuram
14 - 15	:	Wellington
16 - 17	:	Coimbatore
18 -19	:	Tiruppur