



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,
Tiruchirappalli - 620 012



Cir. No. 12

May 2024

My dear Sisters,

Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes from Tiruchirappalli.

In the Salesian tradition, the month of May is deeply meaningful as it is dedicated to Mary Help of Christians. Blessed Mother Mary holds a central place in our hearts, closely intertwined with the life and mission of our Founder St. John Bosco. He had a profound devotion to Mary Help of Christians, whom he regarded as his special advocate and guide in his work with young people. He often attributed the successes of his ministry to her intercession and placed great trust in her maternal care.

To express his gratitude to Mary Help of Christians Don Bosco built in 1868 a basilica named after her in Valdocco (Turin), and also wanted this act to be perpetuated as a 'Living Monument' by founding in 1872, together with St. Maria Domenica Mazzarello, the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

On a 24 May evening 1868, four years before the foundation of our Institute, St. John Bosco shared a vision with Fr. Bonetti. As they watched the illuminated Basilica and joyful boys in the courtyard, Fr. Bonetti remarked on the miracle of Our Lady. "Then Don Bosco stopped and added: **'But a stone monument is not enough to sing our gratitude to Our Lady. We will have a living monument.'** Fr. Bonetti looked at him, not understanding what Don Bosco meant. Don Bosco, realizing from Fr. Bonetti's look that he had not understood his affirmation, continued: 'Yes, we will have a living monument and this living monument will be the sisters.' It was the first time Don Bosco had spoken of sisters."

The FMA Constitutions Article 04 affirms: "Mary Most Holy inspired our Institute, and continues to be its mother and teacher. We are, therefore, "a religious Family that belongs entirely to Mary". Don Bosco wanted us to be "***a living monument***" of his gratitude to ***Mary Help of Christians***, and asks us to extend his thanks throughout all time.

- To be a living monument of gratitude to Mary means that we, the Salesian Sisters, are called to follow Mary's virtues of humility, compassion, and selflessness in our daily lives and ministries. It means recognizing Mary's guidance and protection in our work, and expressing our thankfulness through our words, actions, and prayers.
- To be a Monument means being witness, a sign and reminder of an event. It means raising a memorial to a person. Mary is eminently a woman of Memory, who "kept all

of these things in her heart”, who witnesses to the great things carried out by God in her and in history.

- ***To be a monument like Mary, the Woman of Memory***, means to remember with love, to think with our hearts. In the Bible, the heart represents the deepest part of who we are, where our truest self-resides. From this place, our decisions and actions spring forth, shaping our entire being.

- ***To be a monument of gratitude like Mary, the Virgin of the Magnificat***, means expressing profound thankfulness and humility. Just as Mary humbly accepted her role in God's plan, we too can discover His greatness through humility. Similarly, when we approach life with humility and gratitude, we can uncover the profound blessings and wonders that God has bestowed upon us. Mary's example inspires us to acknowledge God's goodness and mercy, magnifying His glory through our words and deeds.

- ***To be a monument of gratitude like Mary, the helper and prophet***, means to imitate her role as a compassionate guide and messenger of God's word. Mary's example inspires us to extend a helping hand to those in need and to proclaim the message of love and salvation to the world.

The former Mother General, Sr. Yvonne Reungoat, in Circular 995, highlights this special aspect of every FMA vocation. *“In our heart lives the joy of knowing that we are the ‘living monument of gratitude to Mary Help of Christians’ wanted by Don Bosco as ‘perennial gratitude for the singular favors obtained by such a good Mother’ (MB X, 600). Our Founder built it with ‘living stones’ that have a precise name: the name of each one of us. He wanted it to be dynamic, creative, constantly expanding, pervaded by an inner tension of growth, capable of affecting society and the Church, doing ‘great good’ to young people. (...) Like her, we too are called to live the joy of the Magnificat with humility, prolonging her presence in history. In fact, we too are called to be like her ‘helpers’ among the young people, with a gaze of predilection on those who are subject to various forms of poverty and who await hope and trust in life (cf. C 4 and 65).”*

Don Bosco felt that alone he would never be able to thank Our Lady for what she had done in his life and in the history of the Congregation he had founded and which was expanding more and more without his even knowing how. In order to find a way to express fervent gratitude to Our Lady, Don Bosco thought of consecrated hearts. And this is how we came to be, right from his heart. **Each of us was present in the heart of Don Bosco through Mary’s inspiration, as a living thank you to Our Lady. Each of us is a Thank you to Mary, she is a Thank you from the heart of a saint. And while Don Bosco today in Heaven says his thanks to Our Lady, we say it on earth, with our life!”**

✠ ††† **Month’s Special!** ††† ✠

- **St. Joseph the Worker (01 May):** St. Joseph the Worker, revered as the model and patron of laborers, stands as a guiding light for all who toil. With his example of steadfast dedication and firm commitment to his craft, he inspires workers across the ages to approach their tasks with responsibility. As the earthly guardian of the Holy

Family, St. Joseph teaches us the sanctity of labor and the inherent dignity found in honest work. His intercession serves as a source of strength and protection for all who labor, reminding them that their efforts, no matter how humble, are valued and cherished in the eyes of God. May St. Joseph bless and guide those who work diligently each day to support themselves and their loved ones. May he intercede for those facing challenges in their jobs, grant them strength and perseverance and his humility and dedication inspire all workers to carry out their duties with integrity and diligence.

- **Saint Dominic Savio (06 May):** Saint Dominic Savio, admired for his dedication to youth, serves as a model and inspiration for present-day young people. Despite his tender age of 15 at his passing, he exemplified exceptional holiness, earning him the distinction of being one of the youngest non-martyr saints canonized by the Church. Dominic's firm commitment to purity and virtue is reflected in his adoption of the motto "Death, but not sin!" at his first Communion, manifesting his steadfast resolve to live a life pleasing to God. Guided by St. John Bosco, Dominic embraced a balanced spirituality, emphasizing cheerfulness and diligence in his duties. His humble aspiration to glorify God in every small action serves as a timeless example for today's youth, inspiring them to live lives of faith, integrity, and service to others. May St. Dominic Savio continue to be a beacon of light and a model of holiness for all young people, guiding them on their journey of faith and virtue.

✠ ... **NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE!** ... ✠

- **ANNUAL RETREAT III:** Third Annual Retreat will be from 03-10 May 2024 at Don Bosco Wellington preached by Rev. Fr. David Jesuraj CSsR.
- **SUMMER CAMP:** ASSIST will organize the Summer Camp at Avoor, near Tiruchirappalli from 06 to 09 May 2024.
- **JUNIORS RENEWAL PROGRAMME 2024:** The twenty-two Junior Sisters will have their renewal program from 12 - 21 May 2024, at Marianathapuram - Dindigul. They are expected to arrive by the evening of May 11th. Sr. Madalaimuthu Pokkisha Mary will be the facilitator. On 21st May 2024, they will travel to Divyadhanam Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli for a one-day retreat and to renew their vows on May 23rd, 2024.
- **POSTULANTS ENTRY INTO THE NOVITIATE:** A warm welcome to the six Postulants: Maria Louis Maria Yasmin and Arockiyasamy Reyasna Mercily, Velankanni Amalraj Leema Jenifer, Lawrence Mary Sujatha, Suresh Chandhar Paul Nancy and Muthu Nagomi who will be arriving at Divyadhanam Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli on 15 May 2024. They will make their Annual Retreat from 16 - 22 May 2024 and the initiation into the Novitiate will take place on 23 May 2024.
- **NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CRI:** I will be participating in the "National Assembly of the Conference of Religious in India" at Christ University, Bangalore from

May 13 to 17, 2024. The theme 'Journeying with Hope: Relevance and our Prophetic Response' offers a vital platform for religious congregations nationwide to come together, share perspectives, and address our common mission's challenges and prospects."

- **ANNUAL RETREAT IV:** Postulants, Novices, Juniors, Second Novitiate Sisters of INM and INT Provinces and few Sisters will participate from 16 to 22 May 2024 at Divyadhanam Novitiate, Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli, preached by Rev. Fr. Antro Belevendiran SDB.
- **FIRST PROFESSION:** I am glad to inform you that Sr. Arockiasamy Augusta, Sr. John Kennady Christina Derina and Sr. Sesuraj Jenifer from INT Province and Sr. Divyanathan Helen Gracy, Sr. Lourdunathan Sujitha Jayaseeli, Sr. Sagaya Lourdu Nathan Akila and Sr. Victor Sharmila from INM Province will make their First Profession on 24 May 2024 at Auxilium Provincial House, Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli with the Motto "In the style of Christ the Good Shepherd to realize the dream of the young". Most Rt. Rev. Stephen Antony D.D., Bishop of Tuticorin will solemnize the Holy Eucharist at 10.30 a.m.
- **FINAL PROFESSION:** Our hearts resound with praise as we celebrate the Final Commitment of our beloved Sisters: Sr. Anthony Samy Renuga, Sr. Charles Sandal Princy and Sr. Joseph Kulandai Theresa at Sagayamadha Church, Pallithammam, Sivagangai on 26 May 2024 at 11.30 a.m. The Holy Mass will be solemnized by Most Rt. Rev. Lourdu Anandam D.D. May God bless them abundantly, enabling them to remain steadfast in their commitment and serve the Lord joyfully.
- **TRANSFERS:** I request all the sisters who received the transfer to complete and hand over the office and administration to the successors and move to the new communities on 29 May 2024.

STUDIES IN ITALY: Sr. Anthony Swamy Renuga will be leaving for Italy on 08 June 2024 for her two years studies on Salesian Spirituality at Casa Madre Ersilia Canta, Rome. May God bless her journey and her fruitful stay in Italy.

PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS AND THANKS:

- **FMA PCI MEET - 2024:** The PCI Meet took place at the Auxilium Provincial House in Christian Basti, Dispur, Guwahati on 02 and 03 April 2024. With the theme "Ecological Consciousness for Ecological Justice," the meeting enabled us to draw goals and action plans at the PCI level for implementation in our communities in the coming year.
- **Batch Meet I & II:** Rev. Sr. Inigo Joachim SSA animated the Sisters of our Province in two groups from 05 to 07 April 2024, and from 09 to 11 April 2024, at St. Francis Xavier Convent in Broadway, Chennai. These sessions were instrumental in revitalizing our

consecrated life, helping us to see it as both a gift and a challenge. We were constantly reminded that God works within us, and we are cherished as His children, redeemed by His precious Blood.

- **ANIAMTORS ANNUAL RETREAT:** The second Annual Retreat for the twenty-eight Animators and Provincial Councillors was guided by Rev. Fr. Dominic Kennedy on the theme “The life of the beloved” from 12 to 18 April, 2024, at DMI Animation and Retreat Centre, St. Thomas Mount - Chennai. We appreciate his simple and witnessing presence.
- **VOCATION CAMP:** I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the Animators and Sisters who tirelessly went around in search of the vocationable girls to send them to the vocation camp held at Madurai Sirudur from 26 to 28 April 2024. A special thank you goes to Sr. Susai Anthonia, the Vocation Promoter of the Province, and her team for their coordination and organization. I also appreciate the Sisters who dedicated their efforts to ensure the camp's success.

✦ ... **APPRECIATION AND THANKS!** ... ✦

- To Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushpam and the Community for the wonderful arrangement and the favourable atmosphere created for the two groups of sisters from 05 to 07 April 2024 and from 09 to 11 April 2024 to participate in the meetings animated by Sr. Inigo Joachim SSA at St. Francis Xavier Convent, Broadway Chennai.
- To Sr. Soosai Magnificat, the Community who organized the vocation camp from 20 to 21 April 2024 at Regunathapuram. Special thanks to Sr. Joseph Prettencia and all the sisters who energetically guided and inspired the girls during the camp.
- To Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary and the Community of Auxilium Provincial House, Manikandam, Tiruchirappalli for creating the conducive atmosphere for the Provincial Council meet on 25 April 2024.
- To Sr. Assumpta and the Community for hosting the vocation camp at province level from 26 to 28 April 2024 at Sirudur Madurai.

✦ ... **Important days of the month ahead!** ... ✦

01	-	St. Joseph the Worker
03	-	Sts. James and Philip
06	-	St. Dominic Savio
12	-	Ascension of the Lord
13	-	Our Lady of Fatima
14	-	St. Matthias
19	-	Pentecost
24	-	Feast of Mary Help of Christians
26	-	The Most Holy Trinity
31	-	The feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary



♦♦ Meetings in the Province ♦♦


30 April - 02 May	:	Provincial Visit	Don Bosco Wellington
20 April -15 May	:	Second Novitiate Second Phase	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
06-09 May	:	Summer Camp	Avoor - Tiruchirappalli
03-10 May	:	Annual Retreat - III	Wellington
15	:	Arrival of the Postulants	Divyadhanam Sacred Heart Novitiate - Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli
13-17	:	CRI Meet	Bangalore
12-21	:	Juniors Renewal Programme	Marianathapuram - Dindigul
16-22	:	Annual Retreat - IV	Divyadhanam. Sacred Heart Novitiate - Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli
23	:	Renewal of the Vows	Divyadhanam Sacred Heart Novitiate - Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli
24	:	First Profession	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
26	:	Final Commitment	Pallithammam

✠♦♦ CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS ♦♦✠

† *To the Provincial and the Sisters of INM Province at the demise of Sr. Felix Hilda (73) and Sr. Pears Alice (86) on 20 April 2024.*

Don Bosco's vision for us, the Daughter of Mary Help of Christians was born out of his deep gratitude to Mary and his desire for a dynamic and active expression of that gratitude. Mary is indeed actively present in our lives and in the history of our Institute, guiding us as a caring Mother and wise educator. Let's hold for her the same grateful and loving affection that Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello had, and let's make it our mission to pass on this affection to the young people we serve. Just as Don Bosco encouraged us to share the blessings Mary brings into our lives, let's also share our personal experiences of Mary's presence with our community and with the young people we serve. In doing so, let's become living monuments of gratitude to Mary, witnessing her love and guidance in all that we do.

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella
Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

APRIL - 2024

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03-10 May	Annual Retreat - III	Wellington
13-17 May	CRI Meet	Bangalore
12 May	Juniors Renewal Programme	Marianathapuram - Dindigul
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23 May	Renewal of the Vows	Divyadhanam Sacred Heart Novitiate - Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli
24 May	First Profession	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
26 May	Final Commitment	Pallithammam