



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. 05

October 2023

My Dearest Sisters,

Loving greetings from Tiruchirappalli.

As we begin the month dedicated to Our Blessed Mother of the Holy Rosary, I would like to reflect with you on Mary's presence in our Institute and in the life of each one of us. As our Constitutions affirm, ours is a Religious Family that belongs entirely to Mary (cf. Cons. n. 4); we are an Institute willed by God and guided by Our Blessed Mother. Let our deeper conviction of this bring us to ever new discoveries of the motherly presence of Mary in our lives and specially in the Institute from its beginning and at every step of its development. Don Bosco's words to the sisters at his last visit to Nizza Monferrato in 1885, "Mary walks in this house" (Cf. Cronistoria V, 51-52) was a very clear confirmation of her tangible and maternal presence in all our houses. Wherever Mary is present as protector, guide and inspirer, she helps us to live the generative power of the Charism in today's history. "Mary walks with us," is not an abstract phrase but a reality that evokes a 'vision', a certainty, rooted in faith and in the Salesian Charism, a lived experience.

In the life of Don Bosco, Mary was a living and guiding presence throughout his life, and he firmly believed in her presence and guidance. He developed a tender and personal relationship, and expressed his devotion through continuous prayer and dedication to his work and mission. He was determined that he would never be able to thank Our Blessed Mother for what she had done in his life and in the Congregation, he had founded, which was expanding more and more. In order to find a way to express his fervent gratitude to Our Mother, Don Bosco thought of consecrated hearts as living monuments and that 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 sign of thanks to Our Blessed Mother.

Our beloved former General, Mother Yvonne Reungoat, in her Circular (n. 995), had highlighted this special aspect of our 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. Cons. n. 4 and n. 65)."

At Mornese, as at Nizza, Mary was not a guest, she was the head of the house. It was she, in fact, who guided the community. Mother Mazzarello related to her as a daughter with great confidence. She placed the keys of the house at the foot of the image of Mary and entrusted to her the heart of each person in the community. The entrustment of the house keys symbolized who the head of the family was. Thus, the real Superior was indeed, Mary Help of Christians, of whom Mother felt

she was the Vicar. The keys ‘open, close and guard’ the intimacy of the house: the keys that open express welcome; the keys that lock, preserve and guard the family.

The community experienced her protection and motherly presence. Mother Mazzarello recommended to the sisters that they should be, and act like, “true images of Mary”. The Marian dimension of our charism is not a self-centered relationship, nor an excuse for social silence, but it is a call to participate in the events of the society. It consists of making our own, the attitudes of Mary as mother and teacher of God’s children, journeying towards fullness of life in Christ. This in short is “to help Jesus grow in the hearts of the young”.

Mary our Help, accompanies us at this time of great transformation and uncertainty, of fear and enthusiasm, so that the newness of God may make progress even in this moment of history. She, who in the Magnificat, sang of the presence of God in her own life and in the events of her people’s history, points out prophetic ways for us, where the poor of the earth are filled with good things, the oppressed find a hand that lifts them up again, cultures discover their genuine identity and unite to sing to the Lord who is faithful to His promises forever.

The role of Mother Mary in the lives of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello is an inspiration for us. The same Mother continues to accompany us in all the events and situations of our personal life and mission. May Mother Mary be a guiding star, a mother who never deserts her children, a sure hope in time of desperation, a mother in times of pain and suffering, an inspirer in the time of discouragement, and a perfect model to look upon and to love and imitate. She is indeed our mother and the mother of all humankind.

As we enter into the month of Holy Rosary, let us be faithful in praying the Rosary as a community and instill the same fervour in the hearts of the young with love for our Blessed Mother, our Teacher and Guide.

“Blessed those houses,” Don Bosco said, “in which the Rosary resounds”. Blessed those communities in which attentive and devout recitation of the Rosary becomes a communion of minds and a harmonious agreement of hearts, giving expression to filial prayer and love for our Blessed Mother. Don Bosco “never permitted a dispensation from a community recitation of the Rosary for any reason. It was for him an indispensable exercise of piety for a good life; the daily bread to keep oneself strong and fit.” Rosary, according to him, is a weapon which gives victory not only to individuals, but to the whole Church.

Dear loving Sisters, let us grow in our attachment to the holy Rosary that it may sustain us in dangers, draw us ever closer towards sanctity, a sanctity which shines in all its fullness in our heavenly Mother.

For our personal Reflection:

- Am I conscious of Mary’s active presence in my life and that my identity as Daughter of Mary help of Christians is proportionate to the measure I follow faithfully her footsteps, making her known to all whom I encounter in my mission?
- Do I create, in and around me, a Marian atmosphere that will reflect the Marian Spirituality of our Institute?

❖···Month’s Special!···❖

FEAST OF GUARDIAN ANGELS: The truth that each and every human soul has a Guardian Angel who protects us from both spiritual and physical evil has been shown throughout the Old Testament, and is made very clear in the New. It is written that the Lord Jesus was strengthened by an angel in the Garden of Gethsemane, and that an angel delivered St. Peter from prison in the Acts of the Apostles. But Jesus makes the existence and function of guardian angels explicit when

he says, “See that you despise not one of these little ones: for I say to you, that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father who is in heaven.” (Matthew 18:10). Let us inculcate devotion to Guardian angels among the young people so that during trials and temptations they may invoke their Guardian Angels.

ST. FRANCIS ASSISI: “St. Francis invites us to see that all created things are brothers and sisters, that we are interdependent.” He considered the nature as the mirror of God and as so many steps to God. From 01 September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi on 04 October, this month-long celebration offers us time to reflect on the needs of our planet and what we can do in our communities to make a difference. This year, the closing of the Season of Creation on 04 October, the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, will coincide with the opening of the Synod on Synodality. The entire People of God is being invited to an immersive journey of synodal dialogue and conversion. As followers of Christ on our shared synodal journey, let us live, work and pray that our common home will teem with life once again. With and like St. Francis let’s praise God for creation, pledging to do our part to be a faithful steward of what He has given us.

ST. TERESA OF AVILA: On 15th October we honor Saint Teresa of Avila, Patroness of our Institute. She was an example of the extraordinary role that women have played throughout history in the Church and in the society. Pope Francis noted that her message and example are for everyone, “for those who feel the call to religious life,” but also “for all those who wish to progress on the path of purification from all worldliness, which leads to union with God, to the lofty abodes of the interior castle.” One of the key hallmarks of the spiritual heights of Saint Teresa of Avila is the importance of prayer. She believed that the most powerful and acceptable prayer was that prayer that leads to action. Good effects were better than pious sensations that only make the person praying feel good. Through the teaching and intercession of Saint Teresa of Avila, may we persevere in prayer and acts of loving kindness.

BLESSED DON MICHAEL RUA: Don Rua - much more than a disciple, a friend, a son or a successor, God gave St. John Bosco another himself to expand his work. Don Rua’s strict fidelity, fatherliness imbued with delicacy and his wise and far-seeing actions earned for him the title of “The Living Rule”. Let us imitate the same gentleness, humility, simplicity, grandeur of soul and joy that radiates around him and become the spiritual heirs of Saint John Bosco.

...News from the Province!...

WORLD MISSION DAY: His Holiness Pope Francis has chosen the theme “Hearts on fire, feet on the move” for the World Mission Sunday 2023. He urges the faithful to join in bringing the Gospel to today’s broken world following the example of the disciples on the way to Emmaus. He points out that all of us “can contribute to the missionary movement with our prayers and activities, with material offerings and the offering of our sufferings, and with our personal witness”.

SALESIAN FAMILY LIVE-IN PROGRAMME: “Salesian Family: Our Challenges and Opportunities of Evangelizing through Digital Media” is the theme for the ‘Salesian Family Live-in’ programme which will be on 02 October 2023, at Don Bosco Media Centre, Manikandam -

Tiruchirappalli. The following Sisters are the participants: Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy, Sr. Abraham Epsibai, Sr. Susaimuthu Arul Mary, Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani, Sr. Amalopavanathan Premila Ruby, Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy, Sr. Arockiasamy Rani Celine Mary, Sr. Aynthukayam Malarjothi, Sr. Jeganathan Assumtha and Sr. Xavier Jenophia Josephine.

SEMINAR ON EVANGELIZING MISSION AT THE HEART OF THE SALESIAN CHARISM: Sr. Robert Santhiya Punitha will participate in the seminar organized for the Salesian Family of South Asia Region from 03 - 06 October 2023 at Don Bosco Institute Guwahati, Assam.

ASIAN PROVINCIALS' ANNUAL RETREAT: The Provincials of Asia, Oceania will have the Annual Retreat in Sam Pharan, Thailand from 03 to 10 October 2023 animated by Mother General Sr. Chiara Cazzuola. I request your prayers for our fruitful experience with God.

PCI FORMATORS MEET: Sr. Lazar Bernardine, Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela and Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani will participate in the PCI formators' meeting organized by Sr Sangitha Rani, the National Coordinator for formation from 14 - 16 October 2023 at Sacred Heart Convent, Provincial House, Bangalore.

ASHRAM EXPERIENCE: The six first-year novices will be going to Mannivakkam, Chennai for the Ashram Experience, from 20 to 29 October, 2023. May this experience be a reinforcement of their call to become another Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

YOUTH FEST: I cordially invite the communities to participate in the Province Level Youth Fest, which will be held on 28 October 2023 at Thanjavur.

SALESIAN FAMILY MEET: From 31 October to 05 November 2023, the encounter of the delegates of the Salesian Family with Rev. Fr. John Playa and the central team from Rome will take place at Don Bosco Institute for Development & Leadership (DBIDI) Dimapur. Sr. Antony Swamy Rosy, the Provincial Conuncillor for Salesian Family will participate in it.

JUNIORS' TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTION AND ANIMATION: Juniors of INM and INT will be participating in the Juniors' Trimonthly Recollection and Animation from 04 - 05 November 2023 at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. Sisters are requested to be present by 04.00 p.m. on 03 November 2023.

BIRTH CENTENARY OF REV. FR. PATRICK ISAAC: On 30 October 2023, we join with the community of Sringeri Nagar to celebrate joyfully the 100th Birthday of Rev. Fr. Patrick Isaac, the donar of Partrick Home of Hope for Women and Children.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP ELECT MGR. LOURDU ANANDAM - SIVAGANGAI DIOCESE: Rev. Fr. Lourdu Anandam (65), of the clergy of the Archdiocese of Madurai, currently the parish priest of the Holy Rosary Church and the Episcopal Vicar for religious of Madurai Archdiocese, is appointed by Our Holy Father as the third Bishop of Sivagangai. We assure him of our loving prayers.

✦ Participation at Meetings ✦

YaR MEET: Yar sector organized orientation programme on Inner healing and psychological support at Marialaya Pothur on 3rd of September. 40 children from both GT and Pothur Marialaya participated. The resource persons were Miss. Sabaritha and Miss. Surithi, the Trainers from Chennai.

CONCLUSION OF THE CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS: Our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to Rev. Sr. Elizabeth George, the Provincial and the Sisters of the INS Province for the meticulous planning, wonderful hospitality and the fabulous celebration of the Conclusion of the Centenary.

WOMEN COORDINATOR MEET: Women sector organized a training on responsible parenting with the critical view of media for 60 women self-help group members of Marialaya, Coimbatore on the 14 September 2023, with the aim of making the role of women in the family and the society more caring and building a relationship that is lasting and meaningful.

CELEBRATING THE SEASON OF CREATION 2023: On 23 September 2023, online meeting was conducted to celebrate the Season of Creation together with our Young People at the PCI level. Ms. Jeromi, the student of Auxilium College of Regunathapuram represented the INT Province.

◆◆◆ Appreciation and Thanks! ◆◆◆

- *To Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary and the community* of Auxilium Provincial House, Manikandam, Tiruchirappalli for having created a conducive atmosphere for the Provincial Council meeting on 14 and 15 September 2023 and for hosting the Economers Meet on September 16 and 17, 2023.
- *To Rev. Sr. Devadoss Margaret, the Provincial of INM and the community* of Yercaud for having organized and hosted the Batch meetings from 25 to 30 September 2023.
- *To the animators and the communities* who favoured the conducive atmosphere for the animation of Women and YaR Sectors for the students, staff and the Sisters of Marialayas.

◆◆◆ Important days of the month ◆◆◆

01	-	St. Theresa of Child Jesus
02	-	Guardian Angels
04	-	St. Francis of Assisi
07	-	Our Lady of Rosary
15	-	St. Teresa of Avila
16	-	St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
18	-	Feast of Luke, the Evangelist
28	-	Feast of Simon and Jude, Apostles
29	-	Bl. Micheal Rua

◆◆◆ Meetings in the Province ◆◆◆

01	-	Be a Conqueror 21st Century Skill Training	Local Communities
02	-	Salesian Family Meet	Trichy SDB
04 - 05	-	Economers' Formation Meeting	Online
07	-	Catechetical Animation	Madurai
07	-	Media Animation Meet for Staff	Tiruvottiyur

11	- Training on Responsible Parenting Focusing on the Critical Usage of Social Media.	Tiruppur Marialaya
14	- NCP - Training	Trichy
15	- VIDES General Body Meet	Puliadithammam
	- Media Animation for Staff	Therespuram
21-22	- Provincial Council Meet	Punthenthurai
22	- One day Vocation animation	Local Communities
28	- Provincial Level Youth Fest	Thanjavur
20-29	- 1 st year Novices Ashram Experience	Mannivakkam - Chennai
30	- Birth Centenary of Rev. Fr. Patrick Isaac	Sringerinagar - Madurai
30 - 05Nov.	- Salesian Family Meet	Dimapur

✠···Condolences and Prayers···✠

† **To Sr. Sesu John** at the loss of her beloved nephew, Mr. Vinoson (25), on September 20, 2023.

† **To Sr. Leelamma Palliprambil**, the Provincial of INC, who lost her beloved mother Mrs. Clarakutty (84) on 26 September 2023.

I conclude by quoting the words of Don Bosco “Be devoted to Mary Most Holy; frequently call on her. Never was it known that anyone who trustingly had recourse to her was not promptly heard.”

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,



Sr. Fernando Majella
Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

OCTOBER - 2023

01-15	Annual Retreat	Thailand
21-22	Provincial Council	Puthenthurai
28	Youth Fest	Thanjavur
30	Birth Centenary of Rev. Fr. Patrick Isaac	Sringerinagar - Madurai

ECONOMER ITINERARY

October - 2023

05 - 06	Wellington
07 - 08	Tiruppur
09 - 10	Narasipuram
11 - 12	Coimbatore
13 - 14	Tiruvottiyur - Chennai