



**Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice**  
Salesiane di Don Bosco  
Our Lady of the Snow Province - INT  
Tiruchirappalli - India

## Provincial Circular

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**Cir. No. 15**

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*My Dearest Sisters,*

*Fraternal greetings from Tiruchirappalli.*

I am delighted to bring you the warm and prayerful greetings of our Mother General and the General Councillors. The New Provincials' Course in Rome was a deeply enriching experience for me personally. Led deep into our Salesian heritage, I had the privilege of engaging with our charism and mission alongside provincials from around the globe. The course offered invaluable insights into leadership, pastoral care, and community building, equipping me with new perspectives and tools to better serve our province and the congregation. I thank God for His guidance and you, dear Sisters, for your loving prayers!

It gives me joy also to wish you all a joyful feast of Our Lady of Snow, the Patroness of our Province, the glorious Assumption of our Blessed Mother and a wonderful celebration of the Independence Day of our Nation! May these occasions fill our hearts with gratitude and inspire us to continue our mission with renewed vigour.

This month, I would like to invite you to join me in reflecting on the theme of **“Religious Vocation is a Unique Gift with Personal Charism”**.

A religious vocation is considered as a unique and profound gift that comes with a personal charism, a special spiritual endowment bestowed by the Holy Spirit. This combination not only defines the life and mission of individuals who embrace it but also enriches the broader community within the Church. Understanding this intricate relationship between religious vocation and personal charism requires a profound reflection into the theological, historical, and practical aspects of religious life.

### **Religious Vocation - its Nature and Significance:**

Religious vocation, we know, refers to the calling of individuals to dedicate their lives to the service of God and God's people (the Church) through specific commitments such as chastity, poverty and obedience. These vows, often referred to as evangelical counsels, are a fundamental element of religious life, helping persons to align more closely with the life of Christ and His teachings.

In his apostolic exhortation *Vita Consecrata* (1996), Pope John Paul II had described these vows as reflections of the divine love and unity within the Trinity. Chastity is seen as a manifestation of undivided love for God, poverty as a proclamation that God is the ultimate treasure, and obedience as a liberating trust in God's will.

### **Understanding Charism:**

Charism, derived from the Greek word *charis* meaning “gift” or “grace,” refers to the special spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit to individuals or communities. These gifts

are intended to build up and renew the Church, serving specific needs and missions within the Christian community.

Each religious community is founded on a particular charism, which is the unique vision and mission inspired by its founder. This charism guides the community's activities, spirituality, and its way of life. It is not merely a static attribute but a dynamic and evolving expression of the Holy Spirit's ongoing work in the world.

### **The Role of Charism in Religious Life:**

The charism of a religious community shapes its identity and mission. For instance, the Franciscan charism focuses on a life centered on simplicity, poverty, humility, and love for all creation, inspired by St. Francis of Assisi, while the Jesuit charism emphasizes commitment to intellectual excellence, dedication to social justice and promoting the greater glory of God, rooted in the vision of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

Charisms indeed are essential in differentiating the various religious orders and determining their specific contributions to the Church. They influence the particular community's prayer life, apostolic works, and communal living, providing a cohesive framework for its members to follow Christ in a distinct manner.

### **Personal Charism and Its Impact:**

While the community's charism provides a collective identity and mission, personal charism refers to the individual spiritual gifts and talents bestowed on each member. These personal charisms enhance the community's mission and are crucial for its vitality and effectiveness.

While the charism of the individual helps him or her to discern which is the community or the religious order that would enable him or her to live to the full, the individuals are called integrate their personal charisms into the community's broader mission. This integration paves way for a richer and more dynamic expression of the community's charism, as each member contributes uniquely to its life and mission.

### **Historical Context of Charism:**

Historically, the reflection on the concept of charisms can be traced back to the early Church, where the apostles and early Christians received various spiritual gifts to build up the Christian community. St. Paul's letters frequently mention these gifts, emphasizing their importance in the life of the Church (1 Corinthians 12).

The founders of religious communities often received a specific charism that addressed the needs of their time. For example, the Benedictine charism of stability and community life responded to the instability and individualism of the believing communities in early medieval period. Similarly, the charism of the Missionaries of Charity, founded by Mother Teresa, focused on serving the poorest of the poor, addressing the dire need for compassion and care in modern society.

### **Practical Implications of Charism:**

In practical terms, the charism of a religious community directs its ministries and apostolic works. Communities discern how best to live out their charism in response to contemporary needs, often leading to diverse forms of service such as education, healthcare, social justice, and pastoral care.

The personal charisms of individual members play a significant role in these ministries. For example, a sister with a charism for teaching may be involved in education, while another with a charism for healing may work in healthcare. This diversity of gifts enriches the community and enhances its ability to serve the Church and society effectively.

### **The Global and Local Dimensions of Charism:**

Religious life today thrives in a setting of collaboration and interdependence. Charisms are not limited to the local context but often have a global impact. Religious communities frequently collaborate across national and cultural boundaries, bringing their unique charisms to bear on global issues such as poverty, injustice, and environmental degradation.

This global dimension of charism fosters a sense of solidarity and unity among religious communities worldwide. It also challenges them to continually discern how their charism can address the emerging global needs while staying true to their foundational mission and identity.

A religious vocation, endowed with a personal charism, is indeed a unique and profound gift. It calls individuals to dedicate their lives to God through the evangelical counsels and empowers them with specific spiritual gifts to serve the Church and the world. The interplay between community charism and personal charism creates a dynamic and vibrant religious life that responds to both local and global needs. Understanding and living out this unique gift requires continual discernment, deep commitment, and a profound trust in the Holy Spirit's guidance.

Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello exemplified how these individual gifts can be harmonized to build a vibrant, mission-driven community. It is important that we continue to reflect on their lives from these points of view, and let ourselves be inspired to discover and nurture our own unique charisms, embracing the diverse ways we can contribute to our shared mission. Together, let us seek innovative approaches to foster unity, compassion, and spiritual renewal within our communities.

### **✦—◆ MONTH'S SPECIAL! ◆—✦**

- **CELEBRATION OF A TRIUNE OCCASION (5 AUGUST):** On this blessed day of August 5th, we joyfully celebrate a triune occasion:
  - **Foundation Day of the FMA Congregation:** We celebrate the Foundation Day of our beloved Institute, marking the beginning of a journey rooted in faith, dedication, and love. As we reflect on the legacy of our Founders and the first Community of Mornese, let us renew our commitment to serve with zeal and compassion, inspired by their humility and devotion. May we continue to thrive in our mission to serve the young people and the world.
  - **Feast of Our Lady of Snow, Patroness of the INT Province:** This feast honors Our Lady of Snow, the patroness of our province. Her guidance and protection are especially remembered and invoked on this day, reinforcing our devotion and trust in her powerful intercession.
  - **Anniversary of the First and Final Profession of our Sisters:** On this special day, we remember with gratitude all the Sisters who made their first and final

profession. Congratulations on this significant anniversary. We offer them our special prayers, asking the Lord to strengthen and sustain them on their journey of faith and service. May their years ahead be filled with abundant grace and joy.

- **THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR BLESSED MOTHER AND THE INDEPENDENCE DAY (15 August):**

- **The Assumption of Our Blessed Mother:** On this solemn feast, we celebrate the Assumption of Mary into Heaven, body and soul. This glorious event highlights Mary's unique role in salvation history and her closeness to God. It serves as a reminder of the ultimate fulfillment and promise of eternal life for all who remain faithful. The challenge of this day is to express Mary's virtues - her humility, trust in God, and firm faith by striving to live a life of holiness and dedication in our own journey.
- **Independence Day:** On this day we commemorate the anniversary of our country's freedom and sovereignty. It is a moment to honor the struggles and sacrifices of our freedom fighters. Let us reflect on the principles of justice and freedom, ensuring that we continue to uphold these values in our society and work towards a more just and equitable future for all.

As we celebrate these two occasions, let us draw inspiration from the virtues of Our Blessed Mother and the principles of our nation, committing ourselves to live with faith, responsibility, and a spirit of service.

- **BIRTHDAY OF DON BOSCO (16 August):** As we celebrate Don Bosco's 209<sup>th</sup> birthday, we are reminded of the enduring relevance of his educational methods and life principles, which continue to guide and inspire us. As Salesian Sisters, we are called to continue his charism of love and firmness in our mission to support young people. In the face of modern challenges, we must draw upon his example of compassion and resilience. To address these challenges effectively, we need to empower young people by engaging them as active participants in their own lives and offering guidance that is both faith-based and responsive to their needs. By adhering to Don Bosco's Preventive System rooted in reason, religion, and loving-kindness we honor his legacy and make a meaningful impact on the lives of young people, as he did.
- **FEAST OF BLESSED SR. MARIA TRONCATTI (25 August):** On August 25, we celebrate the feast of Blessed Sr. Maria Troncatti, a beacon of dedication and service in the Salesian Family. Her life was marked by a resolute commitment to missionary work and a profound sense of faith and compassion. Sr. Maria's work in the missionary fields of South America exemplifies the spirit of selfless giving and evangelization that Don Bosco envisioned. As we honor her memory, let us reflect her courage and devotion, drawing inspiration from her life to deepen our own commitment to service and faith in our communities. May her example guide us in our journey of spiritual growth and mission.

- **CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP ELECT MGR. SAGAYARAJ THAMBURAJ - THANJAVUR DIOCESE:** Our heartfelt prayers and best wishes to Bishop-Elect Mgr. Sagayaraj Thamburaj on his esteemed appointment as Bishop of Thanjavur Diocese. May God's abundant grace, wisdom, and strength be with him as he embark on this sacred journey, guiding and uplifting the faithful with the heart of Jesus.
- **BICENTENARY OF DON BOSCO'S DREAM AT THE AGE OF NINE:** The Salesian Youth Synod will take place from 11 to 16 August 2024, at Valdocco and Colle Don Bosco to celebrate the bicentenary of Don Bosco's dream at the age of nine. This significant event will bring together Salesian youth from around the world, along with Salesian priests and sisters, to pray, listen, and reflect on the relevance of this dream today. The Synod aims to provide a synodal Church experience for the youth, fostering their growth in Salesian spirituality and helping them discover their vocation and mission in life. We offer our heartfelt prayers for a successful and inspiring event. May Don Bosco's vision continue to guide and inspire us all.
- **SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF INT SDB:** We extend our heartfelt welcome to dear and Rev. Fr. Stefano Martoglio, SDB, Vicar of the Rector Major, who brings God's blessings to our motherland, India, as he graces the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Salesian Province of Annai Velankanni, Tiruchy, on 05 August 2024. As they celebrate 25 years of steadfast and firm dedication and service in the Province of Our Lady, we offer our sincere congratulations and deep appreciation for the sacrifices and hardships endured by all our Salesians in serving God's people on the periphery. May this significant milestone be a time of profound reflection, heartfelt gratitude, and renewed commitment to their sacred mission. We pray that God's grace continue to guide and bless the province, bringing forth abundant fruits of love, service, and spiritual growth. Happy Silver Jubilee!
- **CONGRATULATIONS:**
  - To Sr. Mabel Gothorp as she steps into the role of Provincial of ING on 10 August 2024.
  - To Sr. Rosa Pyngrope on her installation as Provincial of INS on 13 August 2024.

May their leadership bring abundant blessings and growth to their province. Best wishes and prayers for a fruitful and inspiring tenure. The good Lord bless their new mandate and Mother Mary accompany them.

## ❖ NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE! ❖

- **COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE FOR NOVICES:** The Six Second Year Novices: two Novices from INT Province and four Novices from INM Province will be going for

their community experience from 07 August to 07 September 2024. May God guide and bless them, so that they may have a wonderful and fruitful experience.

- **INM-INT FORMATORS' MEET:** On 09 August 2024, the INM-INT Formators' Meet will be held at Auxilium Provincial House, Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli. Hearty welcome to the formators.
- **INM & INT JUNIORS TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTION AND ANIMATION:** On 10 and 11 August 2024, INM and INT Juniors will have the Trimonthly Recollection and a Day of Animation at Kodambakkam, Chennai. The Juniors are expected to be in the venue at 04.00 p.m. on 09 August 2024.
- **INTER-PROVINCIAL CONFERENCE - PCI:** The present General Council, within its six-year term from 2021-2027, is organizing a seminar at the inter-provincial level. It is now the turn of FMA-PCI to participate in this important event. The seminar, themed "For an Animation that Generates Life," will take place from 16 - 20 August 2024 at St. Joseph Training Centre, Lonavla. The seminar will be animated by the Mother General and the General Council and will include Provincials, Provincial Council members, and National Coordinators from all Seven Indian Provinces. Let us pray that the guidance and accompaniment of the Holy Spirit as this gathering will be crucial for advancing our post-chapter journey, providing opportunities for reflection and growth of the Institute. We welcome our dear Mother General and her Councilors warmly and wish them a happy stay in our mother Land!
- **ANIMATORS MEET:** Animators meet will be held at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli on 25 and 26 August 2024.

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

- **VIDES SOUTH ZONE CUM GENERAL BODY MEET:** On 06 July 2024, the VIDES South Zone cum General Body Meet was organized by Sr. Devaraj Jeyarani, the Province VIDES Coordinator, at Therespuram, Tuticorin. The event saw the participation of fifty individuals, including Sisters - the local coordinators of the communities, and six VIDES members from each unit. Sr. Amalanathan Mary Maragaret, the animator of the Therespuram Community, delivered an orientation talk on the qualities of a good volunteer, using the passage of the Wedding at Cana as her reference. Sr. Joseph Prakash Josephine Reena explained the "Guidelines for the Formation of VIDES Volunteers". Then Mr. Pethuru, the Province President of VIDES, gave a presentation on ecology. This meeting provided valuable insights and fostered a deeper understanding of volunteerism and environmental responsibility among the participants.
- **SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT COORDINATORS MEET:** Social Development Coordinators Meet was organized at Don Bosco, Wellington by Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi, the National Coordinator for Social Development. Six Sisters from six



provinces along with the two NDF staff participated in the meeting from 09 and 10 July 2024. A brief orientation about NDF, its ongoing projects and way forward were discussed and planned during the meeting.

- **NATIONAL YAR COORDINATORS MEET:** The National YaR Coordinators meet was held from 11 to 13 July 2024 at Don Bosco, Wellington, organized by Sr. Parmar Manisha INB and supported by Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi INT, the National Coordinator for Social Development. Eighteen participants from five provinces attended the meeting. The theme was “Re-Institutionalization and Community-Based Care”.
- **PAST PUPIL’S MEET:** On 13 July 2024, Province level Past Pupil’s meet was held at Thanjavur - Auxilium animated by Sr. Rosario Jebamani, Province Delegate of the Past Pupil. The local Past Pupils Coordinators and the thirty-five past pupils from nine units attended the meeting. “Develop the spirit of humanism and live the values of our founders” was the theme well animated by Rev. Fr. Dominic Bernatsha SDB. Rector of Don Bosco, Marianathapuram, Dindigul.
- **HEADMISTRESS MEET:** On 14<sup>th</sup> July 2024, Thanjavur Auxilium hosted a significant meeting for twenty-two Headmistresses of different schools of our province. This event was organized meticulously by Sr. Sebastian Margaret, the Academic Coordinator of the Province. Rev. Fr. Suresh Felix SDB, Rector of Don Bosco - Thanjavur, the keynote speaker, delved into the theme of Salesian Identity, providing an in-depth analysis that resonated with the participants. His talk highlighted the unique ethos and values that reinforced the Salesian educational approach.
- **WOMEN COORDINATORS’ MEET:** The meeting was held at Marialaya, Tiruppur on 18 July 2024. There were sixteen participants from six communities including sisters. Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi - Province Councilor for Social Development and Sr. Antony Lourdu Sagayam - Province Team Member for Women Development organized the day with games and different initiatives. The theme of the day was to “Inspire & Empower”.
- **TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTION FOR SENIOR SISTERS:** The Trimonthly Recollection for Senior Sisters were conducted in the cluster communities on 27 July 2024 on the Theme “Spirituality of St. Paul - Letters of St. Paul to Corinthians”.

### ✂—◆◆ APPRECIATION AND THANKS! ◆◆—✂

- To Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret and the Community of Auxilium Convent, Thereseapuram for the joyful atmosphere created to host the Vides South Zone Cum General Body Meet on 06 July 2024.
- To Sr. Ignaci Kulandai Theresa and the Community of Don Bosco Wellington for the generous hospitality and availability in facilitating the fruitfulness of the events:

Social Development Coordinators Meet on 09 and 10 July 2024 and the National YaR Coordinators meeting from 11 to 13 July 2024.

- To Sr. Diaz Francis Immaculate and the Community of Auxilium Thanjavur for providing a comfortable and a conducive space for the Past Pupils Meet on 13 July 2024 and the Head Mistress Meet on 14 July 2024.
- To Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary and the Community of Tiruppur Marialaya for the wonderful arrangement made to host the Women Coordinators' Meet on 18 July 2024.
- To all the animators of the cluster communities who made arrangements for the Senior's Trimonthly Recollections on 27 July 2024.

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

- 05 - Dedication of Basilica of Mary Major - Our Lady of Snow: Province Feast
- 06 - The Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord
- 10 - Memory of St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr
- 15 - The Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary and  
Indian Independence Day
- 16 - Birthday of St. John Bosco
- 22 - Feast of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- 24 - Feast of St. Bartholomew Apostle
- 25 - Memoria of Bl. Maria Troncatti
- 26 - Memoria of Bl. Zefferino Namuncura
- 29 - The Feast of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist
- 30 - Feast of St. Euphrasia

### ✦... **MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE** ...✦

- |                 |   |  |
|-----------------|---|--|
| 03              | : Mission Ad Gentes                               | Puthenthurai                                   |
| 04              | : Zonal YAR children meet                         | GT Marialaya                                   |
| 05              | : Silver Jubilee of INT SDB Province              | Thanjavur                                      |
| 06 - 07         | : Province Council Meet                           | Auxilium Provincial<br>House - Tiruchirappalli |
| 7 Aug. - 7Sept. | : Apostolic cum Community Experience -<br>Novices | Communities                                    |
| 09              | : INM & INT Formators Meet                        | Auxilium Provincial<br>House - Tiruchirappalli |



10-11	: INM & INT Juniors Animation & Trimonthly Recollection	Kodambakkam
	: Vocation Promotion in the Parishes	Local Communities
11	: SDB & FMA Sal. Cooperators Pro. Council --- Meet	
	: Zonal YAR children meet	Tiruppur Marialaya
15	: Past Pupils' Meet	Local Communities
16 - 20	: Inter Provincial Conference - PCI	Lonavla
17	: Human Rights Meet - Schools, South Zone	Madurai - Sirudur
23	: Vocation Promotion in Schools	Local Communities
	: Media Animation - Cyber Education	Sirudur & Therespuram
	: Training on Food Plan for Sustainable families	Coimbatore, Marialaya
24	: Creativity and imagination Training - Non-formal Children	(online) Tiruppur, Vadakku Paganoor, Tiruchirappalli,
25	: Creativity and imagination Training - Non-formal Children	(Online) Ulagampatti, Puliadithammam, Coimbatore Marialaya
24 - 25	: PLS Training (SDB & FMA) - SCOUTS & GUIDES	Keeranoor
25 - 26	: Animators Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli

## ✠... **CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS** ...✠

† *To Provincial and the Confreres of INK* at the demise of Rev. Fr. Josin Thazahthette, SDB (70) on 03 July 2024.

† *To the Provincial and the Confreres of INH* at the death of Rev. Fr. James Kudiyirippil SDB (80) on 05 July 2024.

† *To the Provincial and Sisters of ING* at the demise of Sr. Jiranda Maria Barretto (70) on 20 July 2024.

† *To the Provincial and confreres of INM* at the loss of Fr. John Joseph Kuruvachira (84) on 29 July 2024.

† *To the Provincial and Sisters of INB* at the passing away of Sr. Da Silva Servitas (81) on 31 July 2024.

Dear Sisters, with renewed zeal and enthusiasm, let us fulfil our responsibilities with faith and devotion, always striving to bring peace, strength, and unity. May the blessings of Our Lady of Snow, our Province's patroness, continue to inspire and guide us in our mission and daily lives. May Mother Mary, our guide and protectress bless us with wisdom and strength to nurture the young people entrusted to us, especially in this era of modern technology.

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella  
Provincial

## PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

**AUGUST - 2024**

04	Salesian Family Day	Alaihal Media - Tirchy
05	Silver Jubilee Celebration of INT SDB	Thanjavur
06 - 07	Province Council Meet	Auxilium Provincial House Tiruchirappalli
09	INT & INM Formators Meet	Auxilium Provincial House Tiruchirappalli
15 - 22	Inter Provincial Conference - PCI	Lonavla - INB
25 - 26	Animators Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli