



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

Provincial Circular

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My dear Sisters

Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes from Tiruchirappalli.

I am glad to share with you the joyful experience we lived as FMA India during the Inter Provincial Conference, which was held at St. Joseph Training Center, Lonavla, Maharashtra, from 16 to 21 August 2024. This significant gathering, led by our dear Mother General, Sr. Chiara Cazzuola, and her Councillors, brought together participants from the seven provinces of India: the Provincials and their Councils, along with National Coordinators.

The conference centered on the theme, “Animation that Generates Life,” providing an opportunity for deep reflection and fruitful discussions on how we can serve, animate, and govern in our communities. Each day, there was a focus on specific themes, with enriching input sessions, group discussions, and creative initiatives that helped us explore the challenges and opportunities in our mission.

Mother Chiara’s presence, along with the General Councillors, was a source of great inspiration. Her insights on synodality, the culture of care, and generative leadership resonated deeply with all participants. The conference concluded with a renewed zeal to serve our Provinces in a more synodal and life-giving way, following in the footsteps of our Founders. We will carry forward the spirit of this conference in our daily lives and mission, striving to be a more significant FMA presence in the world today.

This month, I wish to reflect with you on the theme: **“Religious Vocation is an Intimacy with God: A Relationship, Not a Technique.”**

Our religious vocation is not merely a path we have chosen; it is a divine invitation to enter into a deep, personal relationship with the One who has called us by name.

Vocation: A Response to God's Love

At the heart of our religious vocation is a response to God’s boundless love. This love is not distant or abstract but deeply personal, inviting each of us into a relationship that is both intimate and transformative. Our call to religious life is fundamentally a call to be close to God, to know Him more deeply, and to allow His love to shape every aspect of our being.

The Essence of Intimacy with God

Intimacy with God is not something we achieve through our efforts alone; it is a relationship we nurture through our daily lives, prayers, and community interactions. This relationship is rooted in trust, surrender, and a constant awareness of God’s presence in our lives. It grows not through grand gestures but through the simplicity of our everyday acts of love, service, and prayer.

In our vocation, we are invited to cultivate this intimacy by setting aside time to be with God, to listen to His voice in the silence of our hearts, and to respond with a heart full of faith and

devotion. Just as in any loving relationship, this bond with Christ demands time, sincerity, and openness. It invites us to walk with Him in trust, growing in love and understanding.

Living Our Founder's and Co-Foundress' Legacy Today

The life of our founder, Don Bosco, is a profound example of how a religious vocation is, at its core, a call to deep communion with the Lord. Don Bosco's profound connection with God was the cornerstone of his life and mission. From a young age, this deep relationship with God was not merely a facet of his vocation but its very essence, infusing his work with strength, creativity, and boundless dedication to the youth. His firm trust in Divine Providence defined his approach to both triumphs and challenges, relying not on personal resources but on God's guidance as a loving Father.

His mission to serve young people was a direct response to this divine call, reflecting not just an awareness of social needs but a heartfelt commitment to bringing God's love to the youth. Central to Don Bosco's spiritual life were prayer, the sacraments, and a profound devotion to Mary, Help of Christians. These practices were integral to his relationship with God, sustaining and deepening his vocation. This intimacy with God was the lifeblood of his mission, shaping every aspect of his work and dedication.

Our Co-Foundress, St. Mary Mazzarello, exemplifies our journey in religious life, highlighting our vocation as a profound call to intimacy with God. For Mary Mazzarello, her vocation transcended mere service; it was a deep, personal relationship with the Lord that permeated every aspect of her existence. Her life was marked by a heart open to God's presence, finding Him in the simplicity of daily life and the challenges she faced. This spiritual depth was nurtured through steadfast devotion to prayer and the sacraments, sources of her strength, wisdom, and compassion.

Her example emphasizes that our vocation is fundamentally about who we are in our relationship with God, not just what we do. St. Mary Mazzarello's trust in Divine Providence and her humble openness to "God's Will" allowed her to serve others with love and joy, even amidst difficulties.

Living Out Our Intimacy in Community

Our relationship with God is not only personal but also communal. As we live out our vocation, this intimacy with God should be reflected in our interactions with one another. Our communities should be places where the love of God is evident, where we support each other in our spiritual journeys, and where we encourage one another to grow closer to God.

Concrete Steps to Deepen Intimacy

1. **Personal Prayer and Meditation:** Dedicate specific times for personal prayer each day. This time with God is essential for nurturing your relationship with Him.
2. **Eucharistic Adoration:** Spend time in adoration, allowing yourself to be in the presence of the Lord. Let this be a time of silent communion, where words are not needed, and your heart can simply rest in God's love.
3. **Scripture Reflection:** Engage in Lectio Divina, allowing the Word of God to speak to your heart. Reflect on how God's Word challenges and inspires you to grow in your relationship with Him.
4. **Community Sharing:** Create opportunities for spiritual sharing within your community. Discuss how you experience God in your life, the challenges you face, and the joys of your spiritual journey.

5. **Acts of Service:** Let your ministry be an expression of your love for God. In serving others, we serve Christ Himself, and this deepens our relationship with Him.

A Lifelong Journey

Intimacy with God is a lifelong journey, one that we are called to deepen continually. As we grow in our relationship with God, we find that our vocation becomes not just a duty but a joyful response to His love. We are transformed, becoming more like Christ in our thoughts, words, and actions.

May we always remember that our religious vocation is a call to be close to God, to enter into the mystery of His love, and to respond with our whole hearts. Let our lives be a testament to this relationship, inspiring others to seek the Lord with all their hearts.

◆◆◆MONTH'S SPECIAL!◆◆◆

TEACHERS' DAY & FEAST OF ST. MOTHER TERESA OF KOLKATA (05 September): On this special occasion of Teachers' Day and the Feast of St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata, we celebrate the incredible impact teachers have in shaping our minds and hearts. Teachers, much like St. Mother Teresa, dedicate their lives to nurturing and guiding us, often going beyond the call of duty to ensure we grow into compassionate and knowledgeable individuals.

Dear Teachers, you dispel darkness from the mind of the pupils and thus lead them through the right path to acquire the right knowledge for right living. Your dedication and commitment in educating and uplifting others is a beacon of hope and inspiration. As we honor you today, we wish you continued strength and wisdom in your noble journey.

As we celebrate Teachers' Day and the Feast of St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata, we honour all Salesian Sisters and priests who are dedicated to educating by their divine calling. Like Saint Mother Teresa, we consecrate our lives to serving others, nurturing young minds with love, wisdom, and compassion.

BLESSEDS SR. CARMEN MORENO BENITEZ AND SR. AMPARO CARBONELL MUÑOZ (06 September): Blessed Sr. Carmen Moreno Benítez and Sr. Amparo Carbonell Muñoz exemplify strong faith and courage. On September 6, 1936, during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), they chose to remain behind to care for a sick sister (Sr. Carmen Xammar) rather than escape to safety. Their ultimate sacrifice at the Barcelona hippodrome serves as a profound testament to their deep commitment to Christ and their vocation. Their martyrdom reminds us to face our own trials with similar resolve and dedication, inspiring us to live our faith with courage and love.

NATIVITY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (08 September): On September 8th, we joyfully celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a day that also coincides with “The Girl Child Day” in India. This special day invites us to reflect on the purity, grace, and strength of Mary, whose life stands as a testament to the profound dignity and potential of every girl child. Just as Mary was chosen for a divine purpose, each girl is born with her own unique potential and purpose, deserving love, respect, and opportunities to flourish.

As we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary's birth, let us also commit to nurturing and empowering every girl child, recognizing them as blessings in our lives and in the society. By celebrating their presence and supporting their dreams, we contribute to a world where each girl can grow into her fullest self, echoing the virtues of Mary's courage, wisdom, and resolute faith. May this day inspire us to uplift and cherish the girl child, ensuring they have the freedom and encouragement to fulfill their God-given potential.

Our heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the SDB Province of INT - the Salesian Province of Tiruchy, dedicated to Our Lady of Velankanni, on the joyous occasion of the feast of their Patroness, in this silver jubilee year of theirs. May Our Lady of Velankanni continue to guide and bless their province, filling it with grace, strength, and inspiration as they carry forward their mission with faith and enthusiasm.

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS AND OUR LADY OF SORROWS (14 & 15 September): The Exaltation of the Holy Cross and the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows have deep significance in the Christian faith, offering profound lessons of love, sacrifice, and hope.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, celebrated on September 14th, commemorates the discovery of the True Cross by St. Helena and its subsequent veneration. For Christians, the Cross is not merely a symbol of suffering but a powerful emblem of victory and redemption. It reminds us that through Jesus' sacrifice, the instrument of death was transformed into means of salvation, offering hope and eternal life to all who believe. The Cross calls us to embrace our own trials with faith, trusting that through them, God's greater purpose will unfold.

The Memory of Our Lady of Sorrows, observed on September 15th, invites us to reflect on the profound suffering of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, as she witnessed her Son's passion and crucifixion. Her sorrows, traditionally depicted in the Seven Sorrows of Mary, reveal a heart full of love and firm faith even in the face of unimaginable grief. For us, Our Lady of Sorrows is a source of comfort and strength, reminding us that even in our deepest pain, we are not alone. She teaches us the value of compassionate love, the power of resilience, and the importance of trusting in God's plan, even when it leads us through sorrow.

STS. MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL (29 September): On September 29, the Church celebrates the feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, the Archangels, and we are reminded of their powerful and compassionate roles in guiding and protecting us. St. Michael, the protector against evil; St. Gabriel, the messenger of God's divine plans; and St. Raphael, the healer and guide, each play a vital role in our spiritual journey. May their heavenly presence inspire and strengthen us, bringing us closer to God's will and helping us in our daily lives. May they continue to intercede for us, offering their protection, guidance, and healing. Happy Feast Day!

✠◆◆NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE!◆◆✠

- **THE SEASON OF CREATION 2024:** From September 01 to October 04, 2024, we celebrate the Season of Creation. The theme, "To hope and act with Creation," invites us to

understand how Creation is groaning, echoing the pain of childbirth, as our Sister, Mother Earth, suffers due to our selfishness and destructive actions. Saint Francis of Assisi's vision of the Earth as our sister and mother calls us to deep respect and care for Creation. The current climate crisis, destruction of biodiversity, and widespread suffering reveal the urgent need for change. Yet, there is hope - a hope that calls us to action, to work together as children of God, striving for new life and a future where Creation is cherished as part of our cosmic family, manifesting the kingdom of justice.

I request all communities to follow the “*Season of Creation - Activity Chart*” prepared by Nitika Don Bosco, Kolkata, to live significantly during the Season of Creation.

- **FMA-PCI MEET:** The FMA-PCI Meet will be held on 02 September 2024, hosted by INC at Auxilium Convent, St. Mary’s Hill, Kurseong, Kolkata.
- **ANNUAL RETREAT FOR PCI PROVINCIALS:** I will be in Kurseong, Kolkata from 03 to 10 September 2024 for my Annual Retreat. Together with the other Provincials from the Seven Provinces at the PCI level, we will dedicate this time to our personal spiritual renewal and reflection. I humbly ask you to keep us in your prayers, that the Lord may guide and enlighten us during these days of retreat.
- **SALESIAN FAMILY MISSIONARY FORMATION COURSE:** The Missionary Formation course will be held at Mathias Institute, Shillong, from 06 September to 08 October 2023, including a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Sr. Aruldass Rose Mary and Sr. Yacob Amalie will be participating from our Province.
- **ASC FORMATIVE CONGRESS:** On September 22, 2024 the INT SDB and FMA Association of Salesian Cooperators (ASC) will celebrate a Formative Congress at Madurai Sirudur.
- **PROJECT MORNESE:** We wish safe journey to Sr. Devaraj Jeyarani, Sr. Joseph Juli Nirmala, and Sr. Rayappan Sampooranam from our Province as they participate in Project Mornese from September 24 to October 14, 2024. May this experience be a time of deep spiritual growth and renewal for them, and may they return enriched and inspired to continue their mission with even greater zeal. Let us keep them in our prayers.

◆◆PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS◆◆

- **INT LOCAL MISSION AD/INTER GENTES COORDINATORS MEET:** On August 3, 2024, the Local Mission Ad/Inter Gentes Coordinators Meet in Puthenthurai was organized by Sr. Robert Punitha, Province Coordinator for Mission Ad/Inter Gentes. The theme was “Love is the root of mission; sacrifice is the fruit of mission.” The event gathered Sixteen sisters and thirteen laypeople for a day of reflection, discussions, and planning. It included motivating talks by Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi on the outcomes of the 2023 Synod Results, by Sr. Premila Ruby FMA on the 150th Anniversary of the First Pioneers’ Missionary spirit to Uruguay, and by Rev. Fr. Sahaya Jerald Ebin MSFS on “Pilgrims of

Hope 2025” (a global Catholic celebration from December 24, 2024, to December 23, 2025).

- **NEW ANIMATORS’ TRAINING PROGRAMME:** A formative programme for the New Animators of Communities was organised from July 21 to August 03, 2024 on the theme “Leadership for Mission: Course for Superiors” at Ishvani Kendra, Pune. Sr. Diaz Francis Immaculate and Sr. Vedamuthu Saveriammal participated in the course, from our Province and they have returned with a positive mindset, more enthused and energised as Animators.
- **TRAINING FOR HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION:** On August 17, 2024, Province Co-ordinator for Human Right Education, Sr. Irudayam Jancy Rani, organized a training session on Human Rights Skills and Attitudes. It was held in Thanjavur for the sisters in charge of HRE, CRE, and CPP sectors and teachers. Dr. C. D. Christi Anandan, Assistant Professor at Sacred Heart College, Tirupathur, led the session. The event was attended by eight Sisters and nineteen teachers. The training focused on planning and engaging children and youth in understanding Human Rights, Children’s Rights, and the Child Protection Policy.
- **INM & INT FORMATORS’ MEET:** The Joint Formators’ Meet for the INM and INT Provinces took place on August 9, 2024, at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. The event gathered the Provincials of INM and INT along with six sisters from INM and eight Sisters from INT involved in formation. The agenda focused on enhancing the formation programmes and support systems for the formees. The meeting facilitated valuable exchange of ideas and best practices, reinforcing our commitment in guiding and supporting our formees in their vocational journey.
- **INT FMA SALESIAN COOPERATORS - LOCAL DELEGATES MEET:** On August 10, 2024, INT FMA Salesian Cooperators - Local Delegates meet was conducted by the Province Delegate for the Association of Salesian Co-operators, Sr. Ignaci Kulandai Theresa, at Madurai Sirudur. The Six Sisters, Local Delegates, partook in the meeting and they were enlightened by Sr. Soosaimarian Pushpam FMA, Sr. Kulandai Theresa FMA and Mr. Peter Arokiasamy, the INT Province Councillor for Formation, on Three Dimensions of the Formation, and the Statues and the Regulations of Co-operators.
- **COUNCIL MEET FOR FMA & SDB LOCAL DELEGATES OF ASC:** The SDB and FMA local Delegates of the Association of Salesian Co-operators (ASC) of Trichy Province gathered at Auxilium Convent, Madurai Sirudur on August 10, 2024, for the Council Meet. Sr. Ignaci Kulandai Theresa FMA, Province Delegate for the Association of Salesian Co-operators were one of the twelve participants who discussed about the Province Formative Congress which will be held at Auxilium Convent - Madurai Sirudur on September 22, 2024.
- **RETREAT AND A DAY OF ANIMATION - SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS COIMBATORE ZONE:** On August 18, 2024, the Association of Salesian Co-operators Coimbatore Zone held a retreat and a day of animation at Don Bosco, Wellington. The

event was attended by forty-eight Salesian Co-operators. Fr. Antony Rosario SDB from Alaigal Media guided the participants on the theme “Growing in Salesian Spirituality and Bringing Our Youth to Grow in Salesian Spirituality.” The retreat focused on deepening the spiritual understanding of Salesian principles and fostering growth among youth.

- **ASIA REGION MISSION AD/INTER GENTES PROVINCE COORDINATORS ONLINE MEETING:** On August 24, 2024, the Asia Region Mission Ad/Inter Gentes Province Coordinators held an online meeting, led by the Global Mission Team, with eighteen participants. Sr. Robert Punitha, Province Coordinator for Mission Ad/Inter Gentes participated in it. Key discussions included the Church's mission in the digital age, as highlighted by Don Fabio Pasqualetti, and insights from Pope Francis' World Mission Day 2024 message, shared by Father Dinh Anh Nhue Nguyen. The meeting also explored the role of AI in missionary work and included updates on the 150th anniversary of the first missionary expedition to Uruguay offered by Sr. Maria Ruth Pillar FMA. The event emphasized collaboration and innovation in advancing the Church's mission.
- **ANIMATORS' MEET:** On August 25 and 26, 2024, the animators' meeting was held at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. It began on 25th with a Holy Mass, setting a spiritual foundation for the gathering. The insights and guidance received from Mother General during the New Provincial Course at Castelgandolfo, Rome was shared with the animators. We are blessed with the great leader, Mother Chiara Cazzuola, whose words were both inspiring and instructive, offering us a clear vision for our journey ahead. The meeting proceeded with communication sessions led by the Vice Provincial, Province Economer, Province Secretary, and Social Development Office - ASSIST.

On August 26, on the theme “Leader in Christ,” a subject that profoundly aligns with our leadership responsibilities within our communities was presented. The topic encouraged us to reflect on our leadership roles, inspiring us to imitate Christ by leading with humility and love. Then, Prof. Bernardo Toro's article, “CARE: The Ethical Paradigm of the New Civilization,” was read and shared in groups, focusing on essential elements for developing a new cosmology and culture of care. In the afternoon, participants evaluated the consolidated report of the Triennial Verification questions. The meeting successfully blended spiritual reflection with practical insights, providing valuable guidance for the animators' ongoing mission.

✠◆◆◆APPRECIATION AND THANKS!◆◆◆✠

- *To the Animator and the Community of Puthenthurai* for having favoured the conducive atmosphere for the animation of the Local Mission Ad/Inter Gentes Coordinators Meet on August 03, 2024.
- *To the Animator and the Community of Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli* for having created a prayerful and serene atmosphere for the INM-INT Formators' Meet on August 09, 2024 and INT Animators' meet on August 25 - 26, 2024.
- *To the Animator and the Community of Madurai Sirudur* for having facilitated the INT FMA Salesian Cooperators - Local Delegate Meet on August 10, 2024.

- **To Rev. Sr. Devadoss Margaret, INM Provincial, Sr. Soosai Josephine Rani, INM Secretary, the Animator and the Community of Fatima Convent Kodambakkam** for having organized and hosted the INM & INT Juniors' Animation and Recollection on August 10-11, 2024.
- **To the Animator and the Community of Thanjavur** for having hosted the Human Rights Meeting on August 17, 2024.
- **To the Provincial, Rev. Sr. Meenakshi D'Silva, her Councillors and all the Sisters of INB Province** for their exceptional hospitality and meticulous organization in hosting the Inter Provincial Conference, at St. Joseph Training Center, Lonavla, Maharashtra, from 16 to 21 August 2024.

❖❖❖IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE MONTH❖❖❖

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| 05 | - | St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata / Teachers' Day |
| 06 | - | Bl. Carmen Moreno & Maria Amparo Carbonell |
| 08 | - | Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary / Girl Child's Day |
| 12 | - | Holy Name of Mary |
| 14 | - | Exaltation of The Holy Cross |
| 15 | - | Our Lady of Sorrows |
| 21 | - | St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist |
| 24 | - | Our Lady of Ransom |
| 25 | - | World Day of Migrants and Refugees |

❖❖❖MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE❖❖❖

DATE	PROGRAMME	VENUE
02	PCI Meet	Kurseong - Kolkata
03- 10	Provincial Annual Retreat	Kurseong - Kolkata
08	Vocation Commission Meet	Online
17-18	Provincial Council Meet	Wellington
22	INT FMA & SDB Salesian Cooperators - Formative Congress	Madurai Sirudur
28	Media Animation for Non-formal sector	Coimbatore, Narasipuram, Tiruppur
	Training on Food Plan for Sustainability of families - Women	Marialaya, Tiruppur
29	Creativity and imagination Training - Non-formal Children	(Online) Narasipuram, GT Marialaya, Pothur

✠◆◆◆CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS◆◆◆✠

- † *To the Provincial and the confreres of INB Province* on the passing away of Fr. John Samala (86) on 12 August 2024.
- † *To the Provincial and the Sisters of INC Province* at the demise of Sr. Julita Kujur (37), on August 13, 2023.
- † *To the Provincial and the confreres of INN Province* at the loss of Fr. Joseph Kezhakkekara SDB (86) on August 22, 2024.
- † *To Sr. Lucy Rose Ozhukayil, the Provincial of INK Province* on the passing away of her beloved Sister, Sr. Ann Thomas FMM (76) on August 28, 2024.
- † *To Sr. Vedamuthu Savariammal* who lost her dear father Mr. Vedamuthu (88) on 29.08.2024.

I wish to thank you all, dear Sisters involved in School ministry and all the teachers, for the great service you do towards the fulfillment of our mission, which is the education of the young, Your incredible dedication, wisdom, and passion are the foundations on which the entire edifice stands tall. You are the guiding lights in the lives of our young ones, shaping not just their minds, but their hearts and spirits as well. May you continue to inspire, uplift, and lead with the grace and love that define a true educator. Happy Teachers' Day!

Prayerful greetings to all, on the Feast of Our Lady of Velankanni! This year is very special, as just in the month past (August 2024), the Church has officially recognized and approved the devotion that has been going on in the Shrine-Basilica for centuries! May the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother bless us with grace, strength, and peace. As we honor our beloved Mother, let us unite in prayer, seeking her guidance and protection for ourselves, our communities and for the young entrusted to our care. May she continue to inspire us with her love and lead us closer to her Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella FMA

Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

SEPTEMBER - 2024

02	FMA PCI Meet	Kurseong - Kolkata
03-10	Annual Retreat	Kurseong - Kolkata
17-18	Provincial Council meet	Wellington
22	INT FMA & SDB Salesian Cooperators - Formative Congress	Madurai Sirudur
23	Provincial Visit	Madurai Sirudur
24	Provincial Visit	Madurai Sringerinagar

ECONOMER ITINERARY

04 - 06	-	Pothur - Chennai
07 - 09	-	Tiruvottiyur - Chennai
10 - 12	-	FX Broadway - Chennai
13 - 14	-	G. T. Marialaya - Chennai
21 - 23	-	Therespuram
24 - 25	-	M. Saveriyarpuram
26 - 28	-	Keela Eral