



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,
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My dear Sisters

Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes from Tiruchirappalli.

The month of October marks the Month of the Rosary and Missionary Month, a time to deepen our faith and our commitment in spreading God's love, through renewed dedication to our mission and a closer relationship with Our Blessed Mother.

For this month we shall reflect together on **“Religious Vocation: A Journey of Commitment, Discernment, and Joyful Service to God and others.”**

The call to a religious vocation is an extraordinary invitation, a profound journey that leads to a deep union with God, in terms of commitment, discernment, and joyful service to others. The key here is to understand that a religious vocation is more than just a life choice; it is an invitation to enter into a profound relationship with God, serving Him and His people with a joyful heart. This journey demands not only courage and faith, but also a deep commitment to discernment and a constant openness to God's calling. The following essential values help us to understand better our spiritual and personal journey as religious.

Commitment: Answering God's Call

At the heart of every vocation is commitment, the willingness to dedicate one's life entirely to God's will. It requires strength, perseverance, and a profound trust in God's plan. Those called to religious life are invited to reflect Christ's love and selflessness, living in a way that witnesses to the beauty of a life wholly dedicated to others. A vocation begins with an act of commitment to God, an act of faith that echoes Saint Paul's words in his letter to the Romans: *“I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.”* (Romans 12:1)

Mother Mary exemplified this commitment in her *fiat* at the Annunciation, when she said: *“Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”* (Luke 1:38) Her instant “yes” to God's plan and her fidelity to it, required immense faith. She did not know the full scope of what her “yes” entailed, but she trusted that God's plan for her life was perfect. Just like her, all who are called to religious life are invited to trust in God's plan, offering their lives as a living sacrifice, confident that His grace will guide them.

When one answers the call to religious life, the person offers his or her entire being as a living sacrifice, trusting that God will lead the called in God's perfect will. This radical commitment demands selflessness and trust, and it leads to a freedom that comes from surrendering everything to Christ. St. Teresa of Ávila had reminded us, *“Christ has no body now but yours. No hands, no feet on earth but yours.”* In responding to our vocation, we become instruments of God's love, completely devoted to His work.

Discernment: Listening to God's Voice

Discernment is an essential part of the vocational journey. It is the art of listening to God's voice in the depths of our hearts and allowing God's will to shape our lives. This process takes time and demands patience, often requiring the wisdom of spiritual mentors and prayerful reflection on one's deepest desires. Through discernment, one aligns his or her heart with God's will, trusting that God will lead the called where they are meant to live and serve. Discernment is the spiritual practice of listening for God's voice amidst the noise of the world. It is in silence and prayer that we can hear God's voice clearly. Just as the Lord spoke to Elijah in a gentle whisper, and not in the rushing wind or blazing fire (1 Kings 19:11-13), so we are called to attune our hearts to hear God's voice in the sound of sheer silence.

Our Blessed Mother lived a life of discernment, as she pondered over the mysteries of God treasuring them in her heart (Cf. Luke 2:19). In the life of a religious, as in Mary's life, discernment happens not only in extraordinary moments but in the quiet of everyday reflection and prayer. Mary's example teaches us to be open and attentive to God's voice, patiently awaiting His gentle whisper.

Joyful Service: Reflecting Christ's Love

A vocation is not just about what we do, but how we do it. The joy of religious life comes from a heart that is set free to love and serve others unconditionally. As religious, we are called to reflect Christ's compassion, humility, and boundless love in our ministries. Whether through prayer, teaching, or outreach to those in need, we become instruments of spreading God's peace.

At the heart of religious vocation is service, service not merely as an act of volunteerism but more as a joyful response to a personal experience of God's love. We are called to serve not out of duty or obligation, but from the joy that comes from a heart transformed by Christ. In the Gospel according to Matthew, Jesus reminds us of the essence of a calling: *"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* (Matthew 20:28) Mother Mary's life was one of humble and joyful service to God and others. After learning she would be the Mother of the Saviour, we read that she immediately set out to serve her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56), expressing her selfless love in action. Her joyful service culminates in her song of praise, the *Magnificat*, where Mary glorifies God for the great things He has done.

Religious life is a reflection of this Christ-like service, where we pour out our lives in love for others. Saint Mother Teresa, one of the greatest modern witnesses to this joyful service, said, *"Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love."* Love in action is the hallmark of a true vocation, as it radiates Christ's presence and brings hope to the broken, comfort to the suffering, and peace to the weary. Radical dedication is a source and fruit of profound joy, as those who embrace their vocation find fulfillment in serving God and others. Pope Francis continues to encourage young people to respond to God's call with courage and joy: *"Do not be afraid to dream great things, to seek the paths of holiness and to make your life a gift of love."* (*Christus Vivit*, 15)

Mother Mary's journey of commitment, discernment, and joyful service is the blueprint for our religious vocation. She said "yes" to God with an unwavering trust, discerned God's will through prayerful reflection, and dedicated her life to service of others with selfless love and humility. In her footsteps, we are called to embrace our vocation with courage, allowing God's grace to guide us every step of the way. Mother Mary, as the ultimate model of faith and service, represents commitment to God's will and compassion for others. Don Bosco, with his vision for the salvation of the young, emphasized discernment and guidance, helping many find their path. Mary Mazzarello complemented this mission with her unwavering dedication to the education of the girls and upliftment of the community, fostering an environment of love and dedication.

◆◆◆MONTH'S SPECIAL!◆◆◆

ST. THERESA OF CHILD JESUS (01 October): St. Thérèse of Lisieux, known for her "Little Way" - the spirituality of small acts of love and faith - is the patroness of missions, despite never ever traveling as a missionary. Her deep desire to save souls through prayer and sacrifice made her a source of spiritual support for missionaries. She was declared the patroness of the mission by Pope Pius XI in 1927. In October, the Church celebrates **Missionary Month**, posing the example of this great saint, inspiring every believer to participate in spreading the Gospel, whether through prayer, sacrifices, offerings, or missionary work.

THE FEAST OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS: Celebrated on October 02, this feast is a powerful reminder of God's loving care through the constant presence of the angels who protect and guide us throughout our lives. This divine assurance, revealed in both Old and New Testaments, is a source of strength and means of assistance, as we see Jesus comforted in Gethsemane and Peter freed from the prison. For us, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, this feast holds special meaning as we strive to be "guardian angels" of the young, entrusted to our care, offering them not only education but also spiritual and emotional support. This feast also gives us a reminder of our task to instil devotion to the guardian angels in hearts of our young assuring them of the presence of their angels during moments of their trials and temptation, knowing that these heavenly protectors always stand before the face of God.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI: From 01 September to 04 October 2024, the global Christian community is celebrating the Season of Creation with the theme, "To Hope and Act with Creation." As the season concludes, on the Feast of St. Francis, the patron saint for ecology, we reflect on his teachings of love, simplicity, and responsibility toward Creation. Our communities are called to respond with hope, not with passive sentiments but as a call to concrete action - embracing sustainable practices and advocating for the care of our common home.

This occasion can serve as a reminder that ecological conversion is not just an environmental issue but a moral and spiritual one, urging us to take meaningful action to preserve the gift of creation for the future generations.

ST. TERESA OF AVILA: The Feast of St. Teresa of Avila, celebrated on 15 October, honours her life as a Carmelite reformer, mystic, and Doctor of the Church. As a patroness of our Institute, her impact on our spirituality is quite significant. Her deep prayer life and commitment in helping others goes perfectly in line with our Salesian mission of educating and caring for the young. Following her example of prayer, perseverance, and faith, we work to create welcoming spaces where young people can experience God's love and find sustenance for their faith journeys.

BLESSED MICHAEL RUA: The Feast of Blessed Michael Rua, fondly known as "The Living Rule" is celebrated on 29 October. As a close collaborator of St. John Bosco, who went half with him in everything, the first successor of Don Bosco, Don Rua dedicated his life to the well-being of the young academically, spiritually and in every way. His humility and servant leadership inspire us to prioritize the needs of others, fostering a sense of community and compassion. Don Rua challenges us, to grow to be spiritual daughters of Don Bosco, to be convinced disciples and faithful imitators, continuing Don Bosco's dream for the poorest and the abandoned young.

SECOND SESSION OF THE XVI ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD: It will take place in Rome from 02 to 27 October 2024, focusing on the theme: "For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation, and Mission." We congratulate and appreciate Mother Yvonne Reungoat, who will continue to serve as a facilitator among the esteemed experts during the Synod, providing invaluable leadership in fostering dialogue and participation. May her contributions to the Synod and the broader Church community bear abundant fruit. Let us join in prayer for this great Church event, nurturing the spirit of walking together and bringing our contributions to the Church.

◆◆◆NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE!◆◆◆

- **ASHRAM EXPERIENCE:** The six first-year Novices are having an Ashram Experience at Mannivakkam, Chennai from 26 September to 07 October. We wish them that this sacred time be filled with deep spiritual growth, reflection, and a profound encounter with God.
- **ALTERNATIVE THERAPY PROGRAMME:** Sr. Antony Muthu Lourdhu Mary and Sr. Sylas Rani Salujah will attend the Alternative Therapy Programme at Auxilium Convent, Mirik, Darjeeling (INC Province) from 30 September to 04 October 2024.
- **VIDES ASSEMBLY:** Sr. Azarai Arockia Mary Selvi and Sr. John Bosco Edal Queen have travelled to Portugal to participate in the VIDES Assembly from 23 September to 07 October 2024. We wish them well and pray for their fruitful mission.
- **SALESIAN FAMILY LIVE-IN PROGRAMME:** “Salesian Family Live-in” will be held on 01 and 02 October 2024, at The Retreat, - Yercaud. The theme for the days will be “Here I bring you news of great joy”. The following Sisters will be participating in it this year: Sr. Amalorpavanathan Premila Ruby, Sr. Abraham Epsibai, Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy, Sr. Gabriel Mary Malliga, Sr. George Mary Vijila Rani, Sr. Irudhayam Janci Rani, Sr. Joseph Prakash Josephin Reena, Sr. Josephraj Josephin Diana, Sr. Joseph Susai Latha and Sr. Robinson Jenny Grace.
- **YaR MEET:** Sr. Sirumani Sathiya and Sr. Irudayasamy Maria Tamil Selvi will participate in the YaR Seminar which will be held at Cochin, Kerala on 03 and 04 October 2024. The seminar topic is “Empowerment of Family and Community for the care of the YaR”.
- **VISIT OF SR. NILZA FÁTIMA DE MORAES, GENERAL COUNCILLOR FOR FORMATION:** We are delighted as a province to welcome Sr. Nilza Fátima de Moraes, the General Councillor for Formation, who will be visiting our Province from 09 to 16 October 2024. Sr. Nilza will be accompanied by her collaborator, Sr. Miranda Anelfreda, during this significant visit. The schedule of her visit shall be as follows:
 - **09 - 10 Oct. 2024:** Meeting with the Novices at Divyadhanam Novitiate, Manikandam, Tiruchirappalli
 - **11 - 12 Oct. 2024:** Meeting with the Young Sisters up to 10 years of Profession at Auxilium Provincial House Tiruchirappalli.
 - **14 October 2024:** Meeting with the girls of the Apostolic School in Thanjavur and the College Girls in Regunathapuram
 - **15 October 2024:** Meeting with the Animators of the Communities at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli.
 - **16 October 2024:** Meeting with the Formation Teams of INM & INT at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli.

We extend our warmest wishes to Sr. Nilza and Sr. Anelfreda for a peaceful and fruitful stay with us. May God bless this visit and make it a moment of blessings.

- **GENERAL ASSEMBLY:** On 19 October 2024, the Sisters who professed between 1989 and 2011 will participate in the General Assembly at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli.
- **WORLD MISSION DAY:** Mission Sunday 2024 will be celebrated on 20 October. It unites Catholics globally in prayer, solidarity, and support for the Church's mission. This year's theme, chosen by Pope

Francis, is inspired by the Gospel according to Matthew: “*Go and Invite Everyone to the Banquet*,” highlighting the Church’s call to bring God’s love to all people. It serves as a reminder of the inclusive and urgent mission that we have, to spread the Gospel, inviting everyone to experience the joy of Christ’s message. Let us get ourselves together in this shared purpose, supporting the global Church’s mission, and reach out to every person in the world with Christ’s love.

- **ECONOMERS’ MEET:** The local Economers’ meeting will be held at Narasipuram on 27 and 28 October 2024.
- **TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTION:**
 - **JUNIORS:** Trimonthly Recollection and Day of Animation for the Junior Sisters of our province will be held on 02 and 03 November 2024.
 - **SENIORS:** The Trimonthly Recollection for the Senior Sisters will take place in the cluster communities on 09 November 2024.

The theme for the trimonthly recollections will be, "*Spirituality of St. Paul - Letters of St. Paul to the Corinthians*".

◆◆PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS◆◆

- **TNPCRI FORMATORS’ MEET REPORT:** Sr. Maria Arul Paulia Mary attended the Tamil Nadu Pondicherry Conference of Religious in India (TNPCRI) Formators' meeting, held at Anugraha, Nochiodaipatty, Dindigul, from 10 to 11 September 2024. The event animated by Rev. Fr. Dr. Sundar Wilson, OFM Cap, focused on “Effective Accompaniment in Religious Formation During Challenging Times.” Key topics included forming the millennial generation, Ayurveda’s holistic health approach, mind lock, and fostering non-judgmental attitudes.
- **ISS-FMA, ASIA-AFRICA WEBINAR:** This year, our Province was given the responsibility of convening and organizing the ISS - FMA webinar for the Asia - Africa region. We congratulate Sr. Vedamuthu Saveriammal for organizing the meet on 21 September 2024 ably assisted by Sr. Sundaram Bernadette Neha, and Sr. Samson Gnana Jennifer for making a presentation on the topic “Educating to Purposeful Living: An Inspiration from ‘Meaning Therapy’” at 11.30 a.m. IST via Zoom. The webinar had 85 connections online from all over Asia and Africa, with numerous participants from varied contexts, reflecting on our commitment to fostering meaningful and purpose-driven education. A special note of thanks to Sr. Jennifer for her clear and inspiring presentation, making this event a success. Let us continue to support such initiatives that bring us together and promote our shared mission at a global level.
- **ASC FORMATIVE CONGRESS:** On 22 September 2024 the INT SDB and FMA Association of Salesian Cooperators (ASC) celebrated a Formative Congress at Madurai Sirudur. There were twenty-five SDB and FMA local delegates and hundred and forty-five local council members participated in it. The day began with registration and the hoisting of the ASC flag by the INT Provincials: Rev. Sr. Fernando Majella FMA and Rev. Fr. Sarprasadam Agilan SDB. This was followed by a solemn Holy Mass concelebrated by other Salesian Priests. Rev. Sr. Soosaimarian Pushpam FMA, and Mr. Peter Arokiasamy delivered an inspiring message on “Autonomy in Communion.” Fr. Joseph Charles SDB, stressed the importance of communion, participation, and mission for Salesian Cooperators. Mr. Prabakar, the province secretary, discussed the Apostolic Life Project and the responsibilities of local council members, as well as an overview of the ASC handbook. A special thanks to all the organizers, who made this Formative Congress successful which enlightened the participants with valuable insights and a deeper understanding of their mission.

❖❖❖ APPRECIATION AND THANKS! ❖❖❖

- *To Sr. Ignaci Kulandhai Theresa and the community* of Don Bosco, Wellington for having hosted the Provincial Council meeting on 17 and 18 September 2024.
- *To Sr. Antony Lourdu Sagayam and the community* of Madurai Sirudur for having organized and hosted the INT SDB and FMA Association of Salesian Cooperators' (ASC) Formative Congress on 22 September 2024.

❖❖❖ IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE MONTH ❖❖❖

01	-	St. Theresa of Child Jesus
02	-	Guardian Angels
04	-	St. Francis of Assisi
05	-	Bl. Albert Marvelli SDB
07	-	Our Lady of Rosary
11	-	St. Pope John XXIII
12	-	Bl. Alessandrina
15	-	St. Teresa of Avila
16	-	St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
18	-	Feast of St. Luke, the Evangelist
20	-	World Mission Sunday
22	-	St. Pope John Paul II
24	-	Bl. Luigi Guanella SDB
28	-	Feast of Simon and Jude, Apostles
29	-	Bl. Micheal Rua

❖❖❖ MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE ❖❖❖

27 Sept. - 06 Oct. -		Ashram Experience of 1 st Year Novices	Mannivakkam
01 - 02	-	Salesian Family Meet	Yercaud
02 - 03	-	YaR Meet	Cochin - Kerala
04	-	Vocation Promotion in Schools 10 th , 11 th and 12 th Standard Catholic girls	Local Communities
07 - 11		Laudato Si` Week Celebration	All the Sectors of the Local Community
09 - 16	-	VISIT of Sr. Nilza Fátima de Moraes, Councillor for Formation	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
11 - 13	-	Rajapuraskar Testing Camp Scouts & Guides	Keeranoor
19	-	General Assembly	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
21 - 24	-	Media Week Students and Youth and non-formal sector	Local Communities

25	-	Mega Media Mela Students and Youth and non-formal sector	Local Communities
26	-	Training on Food Plan for Sustainable families Women	Puliadithammam
	-	Grey Water Recycle - Non-formal sector children	(Online) Tiruppur, Coimbatore, Narasipuram, George Town, Pothur
27	-	Grey Water Recycle Non-formal sector children	(Online) Tiruchirappalli, Vadakku Paganoor, Puliadithammam, Keela Eral, Ulagampatti
	-	Vocation Promotion Animation Children and Youth in the Parishes by the Local Vocation Promoter	Local Communities
27 - 28	-	Economer's Meet	Narasipuram
29 - 30	-	Provincial Council Meet	Puliadithammam
02 - 03 Nov.	-	Juniors' Trimonthly Recollection and a Day of Animation	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
09 Nov.	-	Tri-Monthly Recollection for Senior Sisters	Cluster Communities

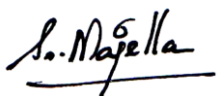
✠ ◆◆◆ CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS ◆◆◆ ✠

† *To the Provincial and the Confreres of the SDB Province of Madras at the passing of Fr. Raphael Appadan (83) on 04 September 2024.*

Dear Sisters, as we enter the month dedicated to Our Blessed Mother of the Holy Rosary and missions, we humbly invoke Mary, our guiding star, to inspire us to pray and surrender to God's will. May we deepen our commitment to missionary work, spreading love and hope. Let us live Mary's spirit of compassion and joy in every encounter, becoming instruments of peace.

Let us pray the Rosary daily, seeking Our Lady's intercession for our province, missionaries, and the world. May this month inspire us to pray fervently for missionaries and vulnerable communities, support missionary endeavors through prayer and action, and live God's mercy and love in our daily lives.

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella

Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

OCTOBER - 2024

02 - 03	Provincial Visit	Marianathapuram - DINDIGUL
04	Provincial Visit	Ulagampatti - DINDIGUL
09 - 16	Visit of Sr. Nilza Fátima de Moraes, Councillor for Formation	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
19	General Assembly	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
22 - 23	Provincial Visit	FX Broadway
24	Provincial Visit	GT Marialaya
25 - 26	Provincial Visit	Tiruvottiyur
27	Provincial Visit	Pothur
29 - 30	Provincial Council Meet	Puliadithammam
02 - 03 Nov.	Juniors' Trimonthly Recollection and a Day of Animation	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
09 Nov.	Tri-Monthly Recollection for Senior Sisters	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli