



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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Tiruchirappalli - 620 012



Cir. No. 19

December 2024

*My dear Sisters,*

*Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes from Tiruchirappalli.*

*“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will.”*

The journey of Advent, is the joyful anticipation of the Birth of Lord Jesus Christ. The four weeks of preparation and reflection lead us to the pinnacle of our celebration. May this sacred season of Advent fill our hearts with hope, peace, joy and love, as we prepare to welcome the Saviour of the World.

In the spirit of this Advent, I wish to invite you to reflect on the theme: **“Religious Life - A Profound Call to be Living Testimonies to the Gospel”**.

In the beauty and depth of our religious vocation, we are reminded that we are called to follow Christ and to become living testimonies of His Gospel. Religious life is a response to God’s profound invitation, a commitment to live as witnesses to His love, truth, and hope in a world yearning for meaning. Like, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the Magi, who participated in the events of the first Christmas we too are called to live with faith, humility, and a deep awareness of God’s presence in the world.

- ***Living the Gospel: The Foundation of Religious Life:*** At the heart of religious life is the call to be the Gospel. This means becoming a living manifestation of Christ’s love, forgiveness, and hope. We are not merely followers but co-workers in God’s vineyard, bringing His message to life through our words, actions, and relationships. Like the shepherds on Christmas night, who shared the Good News with joy, and the Magi, who sought truth and offered their treasures, we are called to proclaim Christ in a way that touches hearts and transforms lives.
- ***Witnessing to the Gospel in Daily Life:*** Religious life is not a role we play but a life we live fully. As Christ’s witnesses, our words, actions, and attitudes need to reflect the heart of the Gospel. This requires a consistent alignment of our thoughts and deeds with Christ’s teachings, allowing His light to shine through us in every encounter.
- ***The Example of Mary and Joseph:*** Mary and Joseph, who lived the Gospel even before it was written, offer us an unparalleled model of fidelity to God’s will. Mary’s “yes” and Joseph’s silent yet steadfast obedience teach us the essence of religious life: trusting God, even in uncertainty. Like them, we are invited to embrace humility, simplicity, and complete surrender to His plan.

- ***Called to be Shepherds and Magi:*** The shepherds represent those who proclaim the Gospel with simplicity and joy, while the magi symbolize seekers of truth who honour Christ through their gifts. As religious, we are both shepherds and magi, entrusted with sharing the good news while continually seeking a deeper understanding of God’s mystery.
- ***The Witness of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello:*** St. John Bosco and St. Mary Mazzarello showed how to live as true witnesses of the Gospel. Their lives radiated the joy, zeal, and humility of Christ, making the Gospel accessible to the young and marginalized.
  - **Don Bosco** lived the Gospel through his strong commitment to the young, especially the poor and abandoned. His “Preventive System” of reason, religion, and loving-kindness was not just a method but a way of expressing Christ’s compassion and care. His life reminds us that religious witness is about seeing Christ in others, especially in the most vulnerable.
  - **Mother Mazzarello**, inspired by the same Salesian spirit, witnessed to the Gospel through her humility, practical wisdom, and deep faith. Her ability to nurture and guide young women toward holiness reflected her intimate relationship with Christ. Her legacy teaches us that the Gospel becomes alive when lived in simplicity, service, and genuine concern for others.
- ***Living the Charism as our Gospel:*** Our charism is our unique way of living and witnessing to the Gospel. Whether through education, healthcare, pastoral ministry, or presence among the marginalized, our mission must always be rooted in the example of Christ, who came “not to be served, but to serve” (Matthew 20:28). In living our charism, we make it a Gospel to be preached to the world.
- ***The Challenge and the Renewal:*** In today’s world, living as Gospel witnesses is not without challenges. The noise of materialism, individualism, and indifference often competes with our call to simplicity, community, and compassion. Yet, these challenges are opportunities for renewal, pushing us to examine and deepen our spiritual roots. To remain vibrant witnesses, we must nourish our interior life through prayer and reflection, foster authentic relationships within our communities and serve with humility and openness, embracing the needs of the times.

Let us ask ourselves:

- How faithfully are we living our charism?
- Do our communities radiate the peace and joy of Christ?
- How can we deepen our commitment in being Gospel witnesses in our ministry and community life?

As we welcome this call to be living testimonies of the Gospel, let us remember that we are not alone. The same Spirit who guided Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi accompanies us today. Just as the Christmas story unfolds in simplicity, wonder, and faith, religious life shines as a continuous invitation to live authentically, making Christ visible through a life of love and service.

## ❖... MONTH'S SPECIAL! ...❖

**ADVENT:** Advent, the season of preparation and anticipation, invites us to awaken our hearts to the presence of God in our lives. Pope Francis in his Advent message for this year, invites us to “awaken from our slumber” and embrace a heightened awareness of God’s love and guidance. It is a journey of love and discovery, actively seeking God’s will in our daily routines and relationships, while welcoming Him through small, transformative acts of trust and gratitude. This sacred time also prompts us to reflect on our prayer life - what we pray, how we pray, and why we pray - inviting us to deepen our connection with God and align our hearts with His divine plan. As we light the Advent candles, their glow reminds us of the hope, love, joy, and peace that Christ brings into our lives. May this Advent be a time of grace and renewal where, through prayer and love, we draw closer to the light of Christ and prepare to welcome Him with open hearts.

**BL. PHILIP RINALDI (December 05):** Blessed Philip Rinaldi, a man of deep humility and firm faith, was a shining example of Salesian spirituality and commitment to God’s mission. As the third successor of Don Bosco, he led with wisdom, compassion, and a fatherly heart, fostering vocations and creating new ways for laypeople to participate in the Salesian mission. His profound love for prayer and the Eucharist was the foundation of his leadership, inspiring holiness in ordinary life and leaving a legacy of trust in God’s providence. May his life inspire us to live our own vocations with dedication, simplicity, and love, bringing Christ’s light to the young, the poor, and all we encounter.

**IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (December 08):** The Mystery of Immaculate Conception reminds us of Mary’s singular role in God’s plan of salvation. As the model of the Church, she inspires us to live in holiness, reflecting her purity and devotion. Mary’s Immaculate Conception assures us of God’s power to sanctify and reminds us of His special love for each of us. As the Mother of God, she walks with us, interceding for her children and leading us closer to her Son. In Mary, we see the mystery of faith fully realized, a mystery that will only be comprehended in eternity.

On this Feast of the Immaculate Conception, we recall with gratitude the humble beginnings of the Salesian mission, marked by Don Bosco’s simple yet heartfelt “Hail Mary” with the young Bartholomeo Garelli in 1841. From that moment of trust in Mary’s maternal intercession, a mission that has touched the hearts of millions of young people worldwide was born. This feast holds deep significance for all members of the Salesian Family as we honour Mary, our guide and inspiration. Together with Don Bosco, let us turn to her with a childlike heart, confident that through her intercession, we can become instruments of God’s grace to the world.

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH (December 29):** The Feast of the Holy Family of Nazareth is a beautiful reminder for every religious family to live in unity, faith, and self-giving love. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph exemplified a life rooted in prayer, mutual support, and trust in God’s will. Their home in Nazareth was a place where God’s presence was cherished and His mission embraced with humility and joy. For religious communities, the Holy Family is a model of living together in harmony, sharing a common purpose, and radiating God’s love to others. May this feast inspire us to strengthen our bonds as a spiritual family, support one another in our mission, and grow in holiness as we follow the example of the Holy Family.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO BISHOP ELECT REV DR AMBROSE PICHAIMUTHU - VELLORE DIOCESE:** Our heartfelt prayers and best wishes to Bishop-Elect Mons. Rev Dr Ambrose Pichaimuthu on his Episcopal ordination as Bishop of the Diocese of Vellore on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2024. May he be blessed with God's endless grace, wisdom, and strength as he begins this holy mission, leading and encouraging the faithful with the love and compassion of Jesus.

**BLESSED MARIA TRONCATTI SOON A SAINT:** We are delighted to announce that on November 25, 2024, Pope Francis authorized the Decree concerning the miracle attributed to the intercession of Blessed Maria Troncatti, marking a significant step towards her Canonization. Blessed Maria Troncatti, a professed Sister of our FMA Congregation, was born in Corteno Golgi, Italy, on February 16, 1883, and passed away in Sucúa, Ecuador, on August 25, 1969. This news brings immense joy and gratitude as we begin our three-year preparation for the first missionary expedition of the FMA. We eagerly await the official date of her Canonization. Let us deepen our knowledge of Blessed Maria Troncatti, promote her intercession, and inspire our young people to follow her example of holiness.

### ✂️... NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE! ...✂️

- **NDF 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEET 2024 :** Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi, Sr. John Bosco Edal Queen and Sr. Vedamuthu Savariammal will participate in the NDF Annual Meet from 08 to 10 December 2024 at Auxilium Gobra, Kolkata on theme: Recognizing and enforcing Child Rights and Environmental Rights towards building a resilient society.
- **SALESIAN YOUTH MOVEMENT FEST (SYMFEEST):** The Salesian Youth Movement Fest (SYMFEEST), a FMA-SDB joint venture for the youth across the South Asia Region, will be held from December 29, 2024 to January 01, 2025, at Sacred Heart College - Tiruppattur. The theme for this Fest is "Young People as Agents of Change: Anchored in Hope" (Hebrews 16:9). This vibrant celebration will bring together 35 young people from each FMA Province, all aged between 18 and 30, with 2 representatives (one religious and one laity) from each Province. From our Province the youth and the Youth Pastoral Coordinators from the communities of Broadway, Tiruvottiyur, Regunathapuram, Thanjavur, Pulliadhithammam, Chittampatti, and Sirudur - Madurai will participate in this event.
- **TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF AIACHE:** Sr. Masilamani Sebastia Jeya Pushpam and Sr. Vedamuthu Savariammal will participate at the Triennial Conference of the All India Association for Christian Higher Education (AIACHE). The conference will be held at XIM University, Bhubaneswar, from 27 to 29 December 2024.
- **ANNUAL RETREAT - I:** The first Annual Retreat will be held from 26 December 2024 to 02 January 2025 at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli.

### ✂️... PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS AND THANKS ...✂️

- **TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTION:** On 30 October and 01 November 2024, at Auxilium Provincial House in Tiruchirappalli the Juniors' Trimonthly Recollection and a Day

of Animation for the Juniors were held. Fr. Xavier Terrance preached on the topic, “Spirituality of St. Paul from the I & II Letter to the Corinthians”, and emphasized the importance of Christian Identity, Morality, Faith and Ministry. I had the opportunity of animating them with the topic, “To make an inward journey,” and made them to reflect on their daily choices of being an authentic FMA.

- **CBCI NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON EDUCATION:** Sr. Joseph Prettencia and Sr. Samson Gnana Jennifer participated in the CBCI National Consultation on Education, on the theme “A Renewed Response in Educating the Gen Next” held at Don Bosco, Okhla, New Delhi from 01 to 03 November 2024. The meeting gathered 120 Catholic educators from various dioceses and congregations. The consultation featured panel discussions with eminent speakers, analysts and experts on education. Key topics included the challenges and contexts of education in India, new methodologies for educating the ‘Alpha Generation’ and ‘Digital Natives,’ addressing the emotional and mental health of children, continuous professional development for teachers, and strengthening governance structures within the Church’s educational institutions. The Church’s renewed response to education was emphasized, aligning with the Strategic Pastoral Plan and NEP 2020 compliance.
- **ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP:** The Training of Trainers (ToT) on Environmental Stewardship for a Sustainable Future was held on 16 and 17 November 2024 at Maria Anjali, Marianathapuram, Dindigul, with 28 participants (20 FMA and 8 lay collaborators), organized by ASSIST and the Youth Pastoral Sector. The programme aimed to empower participants to inspire young people to care for creation amid socio-environmental challenges. Activities included an exposure visit to Vanagam - Nammalvar Ecological Foundation, sessions on eco-friendly lifestyles, an overview of the FMA India Environmental Policy, evaluation of FMA eco-club activities, feedback discussions, and region-wise action plan drafting. The programme fostered commitment to environmental stewardship, enhanced eco-club initiatives, and inspired actionable plans for sustainability in alignment with the FMA mission.
- **TRIPLE JUBILEE CELEBRATION - A MILESTONE OF GRATITUDE AND JOY:** On 23 November 2024, at Auxilium House, Thanjavur a memorable and joyous occasion, filled with heartfelt gratitude and celebrations marked three significant milestones in the life of our Province: the Golden Jubilee of Auxilium House, the Diamond Jubilee of Religious Profession of Sr. Arokiasami Ofelia and Sr. Fernando Josephine, and the Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession of Sr. Arockiasamy Jebamalai Fatima and Sr. Soosaimarian Pushpam. The key highlight of the day was the mesmerizing cultural stage performance by the students of Auxilium School, who captivated the audience with their talent and creativity. Adding a personal touch to the event, the life presentations of the Jubilarians, lovingly prepared by their respective communities and members of the educative community, brought smiles and heartfelt appreciation for their years of dedication and service. The presence of Bishop Emeritus Most Rev. Jude Paulraj, along with priests, religious, past and present Animators, Sisters, well-wishers, and past pupils, enriched the celebration, fostering a strong sense of family spirit. Their blessings and participation were a testament to the enduring unity and shared mission that guided Auxilium House through its golden years.

This momentous occasion not only celebrated milestones but also paid tribute to the vibrant legacy of Auxilium House and its contribution to the lives of so many. The atmosphere radiated gratitude, joy, and unity, reflecting the bonds of faith and service that define our Salesian family.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed in making this day truly special, especially the communities and the staff whose teamwork made this event a grand success. May the enthusiasm left behind by this Triple Jubilee inspire us all to continue in faith and commitment, drawing strength for our shared mission of carrying forward the spirit of gratitude and joy into the future.

- **NATIONAL CATHOLIC MEDIA CONFERENCE:** Sr. Sundaram Bernadette Neha and Sr. Sahayaraj Infanta attended the National Catholic Media Conference on November 23-24, 2024, at St. John’s Medical College, Bangalore. The theme, “Illuminaire: Nurturing Digital Stewardship,” focused on using technology, social media, and AI to support the Church’s mission. It was organized by the Salesian Social Communication Sector, BOSCOM India, and the Vatican Dicastery for Communication. There were about 300 participants: priests, religious leaders, and digital evangelists nationwide who strive to serve the Gospel and the Church’s mission in the digital times. Notable speakers included Dr. Paolo Ruffini and Fr. Gildásio Mendes and topics like digital ministry and AI in outreach highlighted the need for creativity and Gospel-centered commitment in the digital era.
- **ONLINE MEET FOR LOCAL MEDIA COORDINATORS:** On 29 November 2024, an online meet for all the Local Media Coordinators was organized by Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jennifer, the Province Media Coordinator. There were thirteen coordinators from different communities participated in it. During the session, Sr. Jennifer presented the inspiring life of Blessed Carlo Acutis, the millennial model saint for Media Coordinators, who is set to be canonized in April 2025. The meeting also included a follow-up on the Media Mela held in the local communities and discussions on the maintenance of local media archives.

### ✂️… APPRECIATION AND THANKS! …✂️

- To *Sr. Susai Anthonia and the Community of Dindigul Marianathapuram* for creating the conducive atmosphere for the Youth Coordinators Meet - Environmental Stewardship, on 14 November 2024.
- To *Sr. Diaz Francis Immaculate and the community of Auxilium Thanjavur* for their excellent collaboration, dedication and teamwork that made the Triple Jubilee of 23 November, an event truly memorable.
- To *Sr. Rayappan Sampooranam and the Community of Puliadithammam* for hosting the Provincial Council Meeting on 27 and 28 November 2024.

### ✂️… IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE MONTH AHEAD! …✂️

- 01 - First Sunday of Advent
- 03 - St. Francis Xavier



- 05 - Bl. Philip Rinaldi
- 09 - Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 25 - Christmas
- 26 - St. Stephen
- 27 - St. John the Evangelist
- 28 - Holy Innocents
- 29 - The Holy Family

**✂️ ❖❖❖ MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE ❖❖❖ ✂️**

27 - 29 Dec. 2024.	:	Triennial Conference of AIACHE	Bhubaneswar
08 -10 Dec. 2024	:	NDF Annual Meet	Kolkata
29 Dec. 2024 - 01 Jan. 2025	:	Salesian Youth Movement Fest (SYMFEEST)	Tiruppattur
26 Dec. 2024 - 02 Jan. 2025	:	Annual Retreat - I	Auxilium Provincial House Tiruchirappalli

**✂️ ❖❖❖ CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS ❖❖❖ ✂️**

- † ***To Sr. Aruldoss Rose Mary*** who lost her nephew, Mr. Jude Emil Prakash (45), on 16 November 2024.
- † ***To the Provincial and the Sisters of the Province of INM*** at the demise of Sr. Peenikkaparamban Elizabeth (87) on 29 November 2024.
- † ***To the Provincial and the confreres of the Province of INB*** at the passing away of Fr. Vincent Rasquinha SDB (78) on 30 November 2024.

Dear Sisters, the sacred season of Christmas, is a reminder of God’s boundless love and His invitation to us to be bearers of His light in a world longing for renewal and healing. As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, let us rekindle our faith, strengthen our courage, and deepen our commitment in living out our mission with love and fidelity.

As we step into the New Year 2025, let us trust in God’s providence, allowing His grace to guide and sustain us in every endeavour. Together, may we continue to bring the joy of the Gospel to the lives we touch and the communities we serve.

May the blessings of the Divine Child surround you and your loved ones all through this holy season and throughout the new year ahead. I pray that 2025 may be filled with love, harmony, good health, and the abundance of God's grace for each one of you.



**A Love-Filled Christmas!**  
**and**  
**A Joy-Filled New Year 2025!**

Yours affectionately in Christ,

Sr. Fernando Majella  
 Provincial

**PROVINCIAL ITINERARY**

**DECEMBER - 2024**

05	Recollection	
06 - 08	Provincial Visit	Thanjavur
09 - 11	Provincial Visit	Regunathapuram
13 - 15	Provincial Visit	Chittampatti
17	Provincial Council	Auxilium Provincial House
21	Meeting the Bishop of Tiruchirappalli	
26 Dec.2024 - 02 Jan. 2025	Annual Retreat	Auxilium Provincial House