



Cir. No. 21

February 2025

My dear Sisters,

Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes!

As I write these lines to you, my heart is filled with gratitude for the Triennial Verification that we lived through from January 24 to 28, 2025, at our Provincial House. It was a profound time of grace, reflection, and spiritual renewal - a precious gift for our Institute, for the Provincial Conference of India (PCI) and each of us as members of this great Salesian family. It was a meaningful gathering of the Animating Nucleus from the Centre, the Provincials, the Province delegates, lay collaborators, and youth.

As I communicate to each of you the warm greetings of love and affection from our Mother General, beloved Mother Chiara Cazzuola, her Vicar, Sr. Garcia Ribas Maria del Rosario, the General Councillor for Formation, Sr. Moraes de Nilza Fátima, and the Visiting Councillor, Sr. Celine Jacob, I wish to share with you some information and insight from the gathering, while it is still fresh and alive in my mind. The seven Provincials, 17 FMAs, seven lay collaborators and seven youth, from the seven provinces of India lived the five days of togetherness, being enriched by family spirit and a profound sense of belonging to a universal mission.

The Flow began with the River - the River of Life

Let me begin by sharing with you the delight of the inaugural ceremony, so symbolic and significant. The Triennial Verification was kick-started with choreography which our province had the privilege of preparing and presenting, entitled "*The River of Life*".

It was a symbolic and artistic presentation of the story of the Salesian charism, portraying Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello as two streams springing from very different landscapes yet converging to form a mighty river - a river that flows on, teaming with life, bringing renewal and hope into the world. The choreography elegantly depicted the evolution of the mission of the FMA, symbolized as the river flowing into communities, amidst the young hearts, into the educational institutions, onto the streets, families, and the entire society - nurturing life wherever it flows. The climax was built up as the seven Provincials poured their own jars of water into a receptacle representing the unity of the Provinces and the shared responsibility in the common mission. And the real climax was when Mother Chiara, unveiled the shell, the sign of life nurtured in water, gushing forth into a fountain and flowing on as the lives of the FMA as bearers of God's love.

It was a deeply moving performance by our young ones, well received by the entire assembly. Everyone appreciated the choreography not merely for its aesthetic beauty but for the powerful way it conveyed the essence of our mission and vocation as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, called to be living presences of Mary in the world today. This experience can communicate an undeniable truth of our lives: we are part of a river that flows beyond time and space; each of us, like a drop in this great river, contributes to the expansive life-giving mission of the Institute. Our communities are meant to be the tributaries of this stream, ever mindful of our unity and solidarity,

keeping alive hope in our own hearts and in the hearts of the young, enlightening minds through education, and reaching out to those most in need. May this imagery inspire us too, in our communities to live our vocation and mission with renewed passion. Let us be rivers of life, flowing on to nurture those entrusted to us, forming ourselves into communities of love and service, generating life wherever we are called, with a deep sense of conviction and strong faith.

Synodality - making it a lived experience in our Communities

Another insight that I wish to share from a recurring theme of Verification, is about our call to make synodality a lived experience in our communities. Certainly, we are aware that this involves walking together in mutual listening, active collaboration, and shared responsibility. In concrete terms, it means that our role as animators and educators is to create, foster and strengthen spaces where every voice is valued and every initiative is encouraged toward consolidating our shared mission.

This, more than being a call to innovation, is a challenge to rediscover the original missionary zeal of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. We are enthralled by the stories of the initial missionary expeditions, marked by sacrifice and courage. They remind us of our own call to respond to the needs of the young and the marginalized, with prophetic boldness and creativity. It is not that we do everything by ourselves. Our mission of education, for example, as envisioned by Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, is fundamentally a *pedagogy of environment*: cultivating a space that fosters responsibility, collaboration, and trust. It is within this space that young people would joyfully experience a true *home*, one built on shared passion, faith, hope, and love. That is synodality in concrete terms.

To make our environments authentically Salesian and deeply transformative, we need to ensure:

- **Formation of Educators:** Cultivating within our educators, Gospel-inspired values, critical thinking, and professionalism in educational relationships.
- **Collaborative Mission:** Building an educational plan that involves dialogue, discernment, and mutual contribution, forming covenants of co-responsibility.
- **Openness to Growth:** Promoting opportunities for young people to explore their potential, express themselves, and develop their life skills within a supportive environment.

The ambiance of Love and Growth

A third insight that I wish to offer is the call for our communities to radiate values through every encounter, interaction, activity, plan and project. Even the walls and corridors of our institutions, need to resound with shared values and commitment to virtues. As Don Bosco's fatherly advice goes: "*Let them run, jump, and shout, but ensure their morality and health are safeguarded.*"

The Salesian environment has to be a preparatory space for life, a laboratory for living - an ambiance where young people learn friendship, accountability, respect, and social responsibility. The environment has to render itself a refuge against the isolation of digital dependencies that are becoming the norm of the times, educating the youth to a virtuous inhabiting in the world of technology, never undermining the inviolable value of persons and indisputable significance of interpersonal relationships.

Mary and Jesus - the Foundations of our Educational Mission

At the heart of our educational mission are the pillars of the Preventive System - Love, Reason and Religion. These are brought together into a synthetic harmony in practices such as frequent recourse to the Sacraments and devotion to Mary Help of Christians. Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament and Mary with her maternal presence, make our communities, homes of holy joy, loving growth, and ardent hope. The gathering of the Triennial Verification, turned out to be a time of renewal, recalling our attention in committing ourselves to a holistic personal formation, Spirit-filled evangelization and fostering of family spirit as the heart of our mission. Our Salesian presence is not only a call to action but an invitation to *be* - to be signs of God's love and hope in the world.

An experience of Reflection, Renewal and Relaunch

In the light of the experience, of which we will have more occasions to share and discuss, let us as individuals and communities reflect on the following questions:

- How do we envision the spirit of synodality in our communities, and how can we deepen it?
- What are the characteristic features of our Salesian Identity in today's context?
- Can we think of some practical ways to rekindle our missionary zeal - as individuals and as communities?
- Accompaniment - what does that concretely mean for us, with respect to the young people and each other?

These reflections are straight from the concrete experience of these days, which we hosted as a province. There would be further moments for a deeper and more attentive study and sharing of the outcomes of this Verification. But these sparks of inspiration, may they inspire us to recommit ourselves to walking together as *Pilgrims of Hope*, in the light of the Holy Spirit and with the maternal guidance of our Blessed Mother, Help of Christians. May we continue to grow evermore courageous and creative in responding to the needs of the young, founded on the Preventive System and enlivened by the Salesian charism.

✂—◆◆ MONTH'S SPECIAL! ◆◆—✂

PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - (February 02) (World Day for Consecrated Life) As we commemorate the Presentation of the Lord, we are reminded that Christ, the Light of the World, entered the Temple as an infant - a humble offering that transformed the darkness of humanity into the radiant dawn of salvation. For us consecrated women, this feast is a call to a return to the beginnings of our vocation, a reminder of a renewal of the original wonder of being chosen by God to live for Him with undivided hearts. Our lives, marked by the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience, have to echo the selfless love of Christ. Our witness of service, tenderness, and sacrificial giving has to inspire the world to see and serve Christ in the weak, the poor, and the marginalized. Like Simeon and Anna, may we too be filled with the Spirit, proclaiming Christ as the eternal light who banishes the gloom and fills our lives with hope.

BL. EUSEBIA PALOMINO - (February 09) Blessed Eusebia Palomino Yenes FMA, shines as a reminder that sanctity is founded on simplicity and total trust in God. Her humble life and ordinary daily tasks became extraordinary through her deep love for Christ and filial devotion to Mary. She teaches us that true greatness lies not in grand achievements but in a heart united to

God, offering small acts with immense love. Her life invites us to draw close to Christ, transforming ourselves and others by reflecting His light in our daily lives. Although this year, the memoria is overshadowed by the Sunday, we can certainly beseech Blessed Eusebia, to intercede for us to grow constantly in our personal relationship with the person of Christ.

OUR LADY OF LOURDES - (February 11) Our Lady of Lourdes offers us timeless inspiration, beckoning us to a transformative journey of faith, through prayer, penance, and trust in God. By appearing to Bernadette, Our Blessed Mother highlights God's preference for the humble and teaches us that a willing heart is all we need to embrace God's love and grace. Mary's call to prayer helps us center our lives on God, towards receiving the grace of peace and strength in a chaotic world. Her message of penance reminds us to acknowledge our weaknesses and fragility and strive for inner renewal. The messages of the Apparition of Lourdes, remain a source of hope and encouragement, urging us to grow closer to God and to live with grace and purpose.

SAINTS VERSIGLIA AND CARAVARIO - (February 25) The lives of Sts. Aloysius Versiglia and Callistus Caravario, inspire us to reflect on the depth of our faith and our readiness to live it courageously. Their firm trust in God and commitment to the mission of the Church remind us of the fact that true discipleship requires sacrifice and steadfastness in adversity. Their martyrdom challenges us to stand firm in our beliefs, even when it comes at a great cost. Embracing the Salesian spirit of "*Da mihi animas, caetera tolle*," they prioritized persons above all else, transforming lives through education, care, and compassion. Their legacy calls us to persevere in trials, live with purpose, and serve others with love, bearing witness that holiness is found in faith, service, and sacrifice.

✂️... NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE! ...✂️

- **SUBMISSION OF ACCOUNTS:** The local economers shall submit the Annual Accounts at Divyadhanam Novitiate, Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli, on 03 and 04 February 2025. May the Spirit of the Lord guide and support them as they dedicate themselves to this important task within our mission.
- **PROVINCE GRATITUDE DAY:** With hearts full of joy and gratitude, we have been prayerfully preparing for Province Gratitude Day on the theme: "*A Caring Community: Where Love Grows and God Abides*." This month-long journey, from 08 January to 07 February 2025, has been a time to reflect on the values of care, love, and communion in our daily lives. The celebration will take place on 08 February 2025, at Archbishop Louis Mathias Home, Tiruvottiyur, Chennai. May this special day renew our spirit of unity and thanksgiving as we continue to grow together in God's love.
- **TEAM MEET:** The Provincial Councillors and Team members will come together for the Team Meet on 09 February 2025 at St. Francis Xavier Convent, Broadway - Chennai.
- **TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTIONS:**
 - The Trimonthly Recollection for Senior Sisters will be held in their respective communities on 01 February 2025.

- Juniors' Trimonthly Recollection and a Day of Animation will be held at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli on 15 and 16 February 2025. The Junior Sisters are requested to be present at the venue by 04.00 p.m. on 14 February 2025.
- The theme for the Recollection shall be, "Spirituality of St. Paul".
- **XVII SOUTHERN CONFERENCE OF SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS:** Sr. Ignaci Kulandai Theresa will participate in the XVII Southern Conference of Salesian Co-operators. It will be held at Don Bosco Provincial House - Hyderabad on 15 and 16 February 2025, with the theme, "Salesian Co-operators - Co-pilgrims with the young".
- **AUXISTEM ROBOTICS LEAGUE - 2025 - SEASON 2:** Auxilium Group of Schools from INT Province will organize Season 2 of the Interschool Robotics Contest which aims to cultivate scientific curiosity and technological talent among children of FMA-run schools in Tamilnadu, with the theme "Creativity Meets Logic". It will be held at Auxilium Convent, Madurai - Sirudur on 21 February 2025. We wish them all the best.
- **SCOUTS AND GUIDES - FOUNDER'S DAY:** This year, 2025, to mark the birthdays of Robert Baden-Powell and his wife Olave Baden-Powell, the founders of Scouting and Guiding, the FMAs and SDBs of Trichy Province have been organizing various competitions from 22 January and it will go on till 22 February 2025. These activities aim to enable the young to rejoice with Don Bosco, enhance their scouting skills, and express their concern for our common home, in Scouting style. The celebration will culminate with a grand rally on 22 February 2025 in Thanjavur - the Founders' Day. We extend our best wishes to all members involved for a fruitful and meaningful celebration.
- **ANIMATION FOR THE HEADS OF SCHOOLS:** A day of animation for the Head Mistresses of our Schools will be held at Thanjavur on 23 February 2025.
- **INTER-NOVITIATE MEET:** The Inter-Novitiate Meet will take place from 26 to 28 February 2025, at Divyadhanam Novitiate, Manikandam, Tiruchirappalli. These three days of animation will be led by Most Rt. Rev. Savarimuthu Arockiaraj, D.D., the Bishop Tiruchirappalli, focusing on the theme "Liturgy." It will be an enriching opportunity for the Novices to deepen their understanding of the updated version of the liturgy and thus to live its significance in their formative journey.
- **EDUCATING COMMUNITY MEET:** The Educating Community Meet will be held in our respective communities.
- **ANNUAL RETREAT FOR DOMESTIC STAFF:** The domestic staff of our communities will have the opportunity to participate in the Annual Retreat at the zonal level, hosted in cluster communities on 01 March 2025. Let us support this event and pray for their spiritual enrichment.
- **GC XXIX OF THE SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO:** Our prayerful wishes to all the Salesian Provincials and the Delegates for a fruitful and grace-filled journey as they participate in the 29th General Chapter (GC29) in Turin. May the Holy Spirit guide and inspire their discussions and decisions for the good of the Salesian mission. May these moments strengthen their mission and bring abundant blessings. Assuring them of our prayers for a safe journey.

- **ANNUAL EXAMINATION:** As our students step into their annual examinations this month, let us keep them in our loving prayers and extend our sincere wishes to all of them. May their dedication and hard work be rewarded, their minds be illumined, and their hearts be at peace.

✂️... **APPRECIATION AND THANKS!** ...✂️

- Our deepest gratitude to the Animator, Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy, and the Sisters of the community of Auxilium Provincial House for their warm hospitality and tireless dedication in hosting the Triennial Evaluation - FMA-PCI 2025 from 24 to 28 January 2025. Their meticulous planning, gracious welcome, and attentive care created a spirit of communion and joy, making this gathering a truly enriching and transformative experience. May their generosity and commitment be abundantly blessed.
- Our heartfelt thanks to the Novice Formator, Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela, the Community Sisters, and the Novices for their exceptional hospitality in providing accommodation to the lay collaborators and youth of the seven provinces who had come for the Triennial Verification. Their timely support throughout the meeting had been highly appreciable and it played a key role in the success of the event.
- Our special thanks go to the Animators and the Sisters of the communities of Coimbatore, Chittampatti-Madurai, George Town Marialaya - Chennai, Keela Eral, Pothur Marialaya, Tiruvottiyur, Regunathapuram, Thanjavur, and Vadakku Paganoor for their incredible generosity, in sending the Junior Sisters who offered their invaluable service to the event of the Triennial Verification. It was truly inspiring. They went out of their way to care for the needs of the participants with loving attention. Their service was pivotal in ensuring the smooth progress of the event.
- Our genuine gratitude and appreciation to the Sisters, Staff and students of the communities of the Colleges at Regunathapuram and Chittampatti Madurai, Auxilium School - Thanjavur, and the Staff of Madurai Sirudur for their outstanding performances. Their talents, enthusiasm, and dedication brought a special charm to the inaugural function of the Triennial Verification, on 24 January and the Republic Day celebration on 26 January 2025. God bless them for sharing their wonderful gifts with us and making these moments truly unforgettable.

✂️... **IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE MONTH AHEAD!** ...✂️

02	-	Presentation of the Lord / World Day of Consecrated Life
04	-	St. John de Britto
05	-	St. Agatha, Virgin and Mart, Mem
07	-	Bl. Pius IX
08	-	St. Josephine Bakhita
09	-	Bl. Eusebia Palomino
11	-	Our Lady of Lourdes / World Day of the Sick
16	-	Bl. Maria Troncatti
18	-	St. Kuriakose Elias Chavara
22	-	The Chair of Saint Peter
25	-	Sts. Versiglia and Caravario

✂️ ♦♦ MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE ♦♦ ✂️

DATE	MEETING	PLACE
01	Trimonthly Recollection (Seniors)	Local Communities
03-04	Submission of the account	Divyadhanam - Manikandam Tiruchirappalli
07	Animators' Meet	FX Broadway - Chennai
08	Province Gratitude Day	Tiruvottiyur - Chennai
09	Team Meet	FX Broadway - Chennai
15-16	Juniors Trimonthly Recollection and a Day of Animation	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
15-16	XVII Southern Conference of Salesian Co-operators	Hyderabad
18-19	Provincial Council	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
21	AUXISTEM Robotics League - 2025 - Season 2	Madurai - Sirudur
22	SCOUTS and GUIDES - Founder's Day	Thanjavur
22	Women Evaluation Meeting	George Town - Chennai
23	Head Mistress Meet	Thanjavur
28	NCP Functional Training	Coimbatore
26-28	Inter-Novitiate Meet	Divyadhanam - Manikandam Tiruchirappalli
01 March	Domestic Staff Annual Retreat	Zonal Level

✂️ ♦♦ CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS ♦♦ ✂️

- † ***To Fr. Charles Joseph SDB, the Rector Don Bosco Alaihal Media***, who lost his father Mr. Antony Selvaraj(76) on 04 January 2025.
- † ***To the Provincial and confreres of INP Province*** at the demise of Rev. Fr. Chrysologus D'Cunha (82) on 06 January 2025.
- † ***To Sr. Jeganathan Assumpta*** who lost her mother Mrs. Philomena (91) on 08 January 2025.
- † ***To Fr. L. Don Bosco, the Provincial of INM***, who lost his father Mr. Lourdusamy (91) on 08 January 2025.
- † ***To the Provincial and confreres of IND Province*** at the demise of Rev. Fr. Kulathunkal Joseph (85) on 09 January 2025.
- † ***To the Provincial and confreres of INC Province*** at the demise of Rev. Fr. Panackachaly Abraham (90) on 29 January 2025.

Dear Sisters, with deep gratitude, I wish to thank all of you for your constant prayers, and invaluable support that made the Triennial Verification a remarkable success. I am profoundly grateful for your contribution to this important event. As we move forward, may we embrace the Salesian Charism with renewed vigour and passion. Let us live joyfully, committed to the mission of empowering and uplifting young people entrusted to our care. May the spirit of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello guide and inspire us to continue our work with love, unity and zeal - on the synodal path.

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella

Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

FEBRUARY - 2025

01	Trimonthly Recollection	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
03-04	Economer -	Divyadhanam - Manikandam Tiruchirappalli
07	Animators' Meet	FX Broadway - Chennai
08	Province Gratitude Day	Tiruvottiur - Chennai
09	Team Meet	FX Broadway - Chennai
10	Provincial Visit	Narasipuram
11-12	Provincial Visit	Tiruppur
13-14	Provincial Visit	Coimbatore
15-16	Juniors' Trimonthly Recollection and a Day of Animation	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
18-19	Provincial Council	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
21	AUXISTEM Robotics League - 2025 - Season 2	Madurai - Sirudur
22	SCOUTS and GUIDES - Founder's Day	Thanjavur
23	Head Mistress' Meet	Thanjavur