



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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Cir. No. 22

March 2025

*My dear Sisters,*

*Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes from Tiruchirappalli.*

We are about to begin the season of Lent for this year, and we have chosen to reflect on our consecrated life as an ongoing theme... these two taken together can offer us an interesting point for reflection this month: **“Consecration: A daily journey of Renewal”**.

Our consecrated life is a gift, a call to cherish God’s love and share the same to the world. Every day, we are called to renew our 'Yes' to let our hearts be shaped by Christ, to allow God’s love to permeate our being, and to live out our mission as a manifestation of that love. This journey of consecration is not merely one long journey, but a dynamic, step-by-step, continually challenging call, to a constant return to the source of our calling, as a solid point of reference.

Beginning the season of Lent this month, offers us a sacred opportunity to reflect deeper on our vocation. It is a time to stand before the Lord and ask ourselves: how vibrant is my consecration? How much does my heart burn with love for God and God’s people? How open am I to the Spirit of the Lord who wishes to transform me? Lent, a season of grace, is a time to rediscover the beauty of our call, to let the Spirit breathe new life into our hearts, and to embrace the continual process of becoming more and more, Christ-like.

Consecrated life is not just about what we do, it is so much about who we think we are women set apart, by God, for God, to be the living witnesses of God’s presence. Yet, as the years go by, in living this call, a sense of routine could settle in, and the initial fire of our vocation could be doused by boredom or burden. The Lent is a desert that receives us, to rekindle that fire within us, helping us to get rid of what weighs us down, and make space for God to work anew within us. Jesus entered that desert not to escape but to encounter the Father closer. The same is our call this season: to embrace silence, to surrender our burdens, and to trust that in the stripping away, we are made whole. Lent is a time to return to the essence of our vocation. And how do we do it? Maybe we could adapt the following schemes!

- **PRAY** with a heart that listens deeply; listening not only to words around but to the silent voice of God within. We need to remind ourselves more that prayer is not simply a task to be completed everyday, but an encounter that takes place with the One who has called us in love.
- **FAST** from anything that weakens our fraternity, our joy, and our missionary zeal. It could be thoughts of negativity, tendency to compare, or a habit of indifference. This mode of fasting shall open the space within us, to grow in love for the Lord.
- **GIVE** not just from what we have, but from who we are; giving our presence, our kindness, our understanding, and our very being for the sake of those around us, especially who stand in need of God’s closer presence.

Let us not be content in living our consecration as a duty, but let us grow in living it as a manifestation of God's love, within us and through us. Let us not permit the routine of our days, to dull the radiance of our vocation. This Lent, may we walk together, allowing the Word to guide us, encountering the Lord more intimately, nurturing relationships among us, reflecting God's love, and thus becoming living witnesses of His presence.

Lent is certainly not a season of grief; it is a happy season of return, a time to realign our hearts with the Lord. I wish to share with you a simple and inspiring meaning for LENT, that I came across. If we consider Lent as a journey towards spiritual renewal, we need to embrace the fourfold call of this sacred time - to Listen, Encounter, Nurture and Transform:

- **LISTEN to the Word:** "Harden not your hearts as at Meribah," says the Lord. Lent invites us to cultivate the habit of daily listening to God's Word, allowing it to penetrate and transform us. Listening is an act of love, a willingness to let God speak into the depths of our being and reshape us according to His will.
- **ENCOUNTER the Lord:** In Scripture, in the events of each day, in those we meet even those we struggle to love - we are called to encounter Christ. True encounter is not a passing glance but a deep beholding, fostering a relationship of love and mercy. Every encounter is an opportunity to recognise Christ disguised in the ordinary moments of life.
- **NURTURE relationships:** Our God is a communion of persons the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit and we are created in that Image. Lent calls us to treasure the relationships entrusted to us, to seek reconciliation, and to build bonds of fraternity and sisterhood. In nurturing our relationships, we become visible signs of the unity and love of the Trinity, and our communities become reflections of the Reign of God.
- **TRANSFORM yourself:** The ultimate call of Lent is transformation. Conversion, repentance, return, and renewal are the gifts offered to us in this season. The Lord invites us to journey through these weeks of reflection with openness, that we may emerge renewed and ready to live our vocation with even greater love and conviction. Transformation is not instant but gradual, as grace chisels away our rough edges, shaping us into images of Christ.

May this Lent be a sacred time of Listening, Encountering, Nurturing, and Transforming. May our hearts be moulded by grace, and may our lives become fragrant offerings, manifesting the splendour of our consecration. Let us make this journey together, supporting one another as Sisters, and rejoicing in the ever-renewing love of Christ. May this season be a springtime for our souls, where every small sacrifice becomes a seed of the joy of Resurrection.

## ✠... MONTH'S SPECIAL! ...✠

Apart from the season of Lent that we begin on the 5<sup>th</sup> of this month, we have the following important events that inspire us:

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (08 March):** With a heart full of gratitude, I extend my warmest wishes to all for the International Women's Day 2025. This day is a celebration of the strength, flexibility, and grace invested in every woman to contribute to the growth of families, communities, and the world. As daughters of God, we are called to lead with wisdom, serve with love, and transform with courage, following the example of our Blessed Mother, who embraced

her mission with faith and humility. This day, as we honour the dignity and contributions of women to the world history, let us renew our commitment to empowering, supporting, and uplifting the womankind , creating a world where justice, equality, and respect prevail.

**SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH, OUR DEAR PATRON (19 March):** The feast of St. Joseph usually comes during the season of Lent. The Church makes an exception to acknowledge the unique role played by the person of Joseph, within the salvation plan, and invites us to celebrate it as a solemnity. Joseph is a personality who resembles more the patriarchs of the Old Testament... like Abraham, or Jacob, or Joseph. He stands for the promises of the Lord that are fulfilled to details, in God's own time. The message to us is that, by imitating St. Joseph, when troubles come our way and we struggle to find solutions in difficult times, we should return to the promises of the Lord. By standing on His promises, we can live our daily lives with hope, despite any uncertainties that surround us. May St. Joseph inspire us!

**FEAST OF ANNUNCIATION TO OUR BLESSED MOTHER (25 March):** The Feast of Annunciation is the celebration of Mary's "Yes" to God's divine plan. With profound faith and humility, she embraced her mission, becoming the Mother of the Saviour. Her response, "Let it be done to me according to Your word" (Lk 1:38), is a call for us to trust in God's will and surrender ourselves to His grace. On this sacred day, may we learn from Mary's openness, courage, and faith, saying our own "yes" to God's call in our daily lives. May her example inspire us to live with joyful obedience and unwavering trust in the Divine Providence.

**PRAYER FOR THE HOLY FATHER:** With deep faith and filial devotion, I earnestly invite each of you and our communities to intensify our prayers for the good health and strength of our beloved Holy Father, Pope Francis. As he shoulders the immense responsibility of shepherding the people of God, with wisdom and love, let us lift him up in our daily prayers, personal sacrifices, and moments of adoration. May our fervent supplications reach the heart of the Lord, and surrender his health condition to the most holy Will of God.

**WORLD GRATITUDE DAY (26 April):** The World Gratitude Day 2025 will be celebrated in the Mary Help of Christians Province of Vietnam (VTN) , on 26<sup>th</sup> April.



In this Jubilee Year, coinciding with our preparation for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first missionary departure of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA), we relive Saint Maria Mazzarello's call: "It is time to rekindle the fire" - the fire of the Gospel, mission, hope, and gratitude. Guided by "Christ Jesus our hope" (1 Timothy 1:1), we celebrate the Gratitude Day with the theme: "Igniting the Gospel of Hope." The logo, designed by the "Mary Help of Christians" Province in Vietnam, encapsulates this theme

through symbols such as

- the globe, representing our shared commitment to youth education;
- the map of Vietnam, highlighting the growth of the Salesian charism;
- the bronze drum, reflecting Vietnamese cultural pride;
- Mary Help of Christians, depicted as the Mother of Hope;
- the anchor and cross, signifying our steadfast faith in Christ;

- and the central fire and youth, symbolizing our enthusiastic mission to proclaim Christ to all, especially the young.

In preparation, a four-week program offers *Lectio Divina* materials and prayer intentions, fostering a deep spiritual journey as we unite to ignite the Gospel of Hope.

This year's World Gratitude Day takes on a special colour in anticipation of the canonization of Blessed Maria Troncatti. As Mother Chiara had said in her Circular 1046: "This is for all of us a time of special grace, a call to renew ourselves as an Institute to continue, with courage and joy, the path of holiness that God asks us to follow today."

**FINAL AND GOVERNMENT EXAMINATIONS:** To our dear students approaching their annual examinations, and those who are taking their Public Government examinations, I extend my best wishes and prayerful accompaniment. May they approach their studies with diligence and confidence, trusting in the abilities that God has bestowed upon them. Remember, success is not solely measured by grades, but by the integrity and the sincerity in effort that they invest in their endeavours.

## ✿...NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE!...✿

- **NEW SECRETARIES' COURSE:** Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy, the Province Secretary will be participating in the New Secretaries' Course in Rome, from 03 to 23 March 2025. We wish her a safe journey and a fruitful course.
- **ANNUAL RETREAT - II:** The Annual Retreat for the Province Councillors and Animators will take place from 10 to 17 March 2025, at Don Bosco, Wellington. It will be followed by the Animation on 18 March 2025 during which the local Economers will join the rest for the animation.
- **FMA PCI MEET - 2025:** FMA-PCI 2025 meeting will be held at Auxilium Provincial House, Dum Dum, Kolkata, from 29 to 31 March 2025. The theme for this gathering is 'Working of the FMA National Office,' and the participants will include Provincials and two delegates from each province, as per the statutes of the FMA-PCI.

## ✿...PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS AND THANKS ✿

- **ANIMATORS' MEET & DISSEMINATION OF THE TRIENNIAL VERIFICATION FMA PCI 2025:** The Animators' Meet held on 07 February 2025, at St. Francis Xavier Convent, Broadway - Chennai was a day of enriching reflections, discussions, and collective commitment to leadership and growth. In the Introductory Talk, I tried focusing on Leadership and its Value, emphasizing the essence of true leadership, and urging the Animators to embrace their roles with responsibility, vision, and a heart for service. Following this, the Economer provided insights into financial stewardship, the Secretary communicated important details about documentation, and the Social Development Sector highlighted ongoing and upcoming initiatives for community empowerment.

**Dissemination of the Triennial Verification FMA PCI 2025:** The afternoon session was dedicated to the dissemination of the results of the Triennial Verification (FMA PCI-2025).

Along with me, Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy and Sr. John Bosco Edal Queen, presented the key findings of the Verification, ensuring that the essence of the evaluation was accurately communicated. Through group study and discussion, the Animators were encouraged to analyze, reflect, and select areas for strengthening within their communities. The interactive approach fostered dialogue, critical thinking, and a collective commitment to growth and renewal. My special thanks to the animators from the following communities for their wonderful contribution in animating the prayer moments during the sessions: Narasipuram, Tiruppur and Vadakku Paganoor.

- **PROVINCE GRATITUDE DAY:** The enchanting celebration of the Province Gratitude Day, on 08 February 2025, at Archbishop Louis Mathias Home, Tiruvottiyur, Chennai, was a profound expression of gratitude to God and to one another for the joyful unity and fraternal love shared in the Province. My Special appreciation and thanks to Sr. Lazar Bernardine, Vice Provincial, for her loving preparations and meticulous organization of the event. The theme “A Caring Community: Where Love Grows and God Abides,” which marked the month-long spiritual journey from 08 January to 07 February 2025, prepared our hearts and minds for this significant occasion. My sincere thanks to Sr. Peter Selvarani, the animator, the Community Sisters, and the Educating Community of Archbishop Louis Mathias Home, Tiruvottiyur, Chennai, for their admirable arrangements, warm hospitality, and lovely decorations. The collective efforts of the management, teachers, and students showcased the spirit of teamwork in making the event a grand success. My heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Fr. Rajan Pushpam SDB who presided over the Solemn Eucharistic celebration, preaching on the quality of Leadership and thanks also to the other priests who concelebrated making the moment so prayerful and blessed.

My heartfelt thanks to the Provincial Councillors, Team members, students, teachers, the Educating Community, the Salesian Family members, and all the communities, in a particular way to the communities of Coimbatore, George Town, St. Francis Xavier Convent - Broadway, Pothur, Puliadithamam, Marianathapuram, Ulagampatti and Regunathapuram for animating various moments of joyful blend of fellowship for the day. Thanks to all the Sisters who gracefully carried out their responsibilities, with a strong sense of belonging. Sincere thanks to the members of the Salesian Family - Salesian Co-operators, Past Pupils, VIDES, Educating Community Members, Women Groups, and Well-wishers, who came together to express their heartfelt affection and appreciation.

- **TEAM MEET:** The Provincial Councillors and the Team members came together for the Team Meet on 09 February 2025, at St. Francis Xavier Convent, Broadway, to discuss the Annual Calendar and the Animation of the different sectors of the province.

Heartfelt appreciation for the insightful sharing of Peace Message of the Holy Father 2025 - “Forgive us our trespasses; grant us your peace” by Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani, for the presentation of the Strenna 2025 - “Anchored in Hope - Pilgrims with Young People” by Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jennifer, and for the UNO message - International Year of Quantum Science and Technology, explained by Sr. Ayudukayam Arockia Malar Jothi to the Team members on 09 February 2025. The same presentations were delivered online by the same resource persons to the sisters of the Province on 13 February 2025.



- **TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTIONS:**

- **SENIORS:** The Trimonthly Recollection for Senior Sisters was held in their respective Communities with the theme, “Spirituality of St. Paul” on 01 February 2025.
- **JUNIORS:** The Juniors’ Trimonthly Recollection and a day of animation were held at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli, on 15 and 16 February 2025. On 15 February, Rev. Fr. John Dharman SDB, preached the recollection on the theme “Consecrated Life” and inspired the juniors on the importance of staying close to God, overcoming distractions, and responding wholeheartedly to His call, following the example of the apostles. On 16 February, the day of animation was held on the theme “Becoming Beacons of Light to Everyone.” Animating the day, I encourage the juniors through group discussions to deepen their commitment to radiating God’s love in their communities and apostolates.

- **XVII SOUTH ZONE CONFERENCE OF SALESIAN CO-OPERATORS:** Sr. Ignaci Kulandai Theresa, the Province delegate of the Salesian Co-operator participated in the XVII South Zone Conference of the Association of Salesian Cooperators which was held on 15-16 February 2025, at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. The Conference brought together 65 participants, including SDB, FMA, Regional, World and Provincial Councilors from all the provinces.

The theme of the conference was “Salesian Cooperators, Pilgrims with the Young” which emphasized the importance of accompanying young people on their spiritual journey. The conference featured several thought-provoking topics, including:

- “A Reality check on Salesian Family and A Revival Plan for Catholic Education”.
- “Guidelines on Formation and PAL - The way of life”.
- “Salesian Cooperators - “A True vocation plan of God””.

The conference also included a panel discussion and an action plan for the year 2025. It provided a platform for participants to deepen their understanding of the Salesian Charism and to explore ways to collaborate and support each other in their mission to accompany young people.

- **AUXI-STEM ROBOTICS LEAGUE 2025 - SEASON 2:** With joy and pride, I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation to Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi and her Team for the resounding success of the AUXI-STEM Robotics League 2025 - Season 2, organized for the Auxilium Group of Schools and marking as a significant milestone in the Province of Our Lady of Snow, Tiruchirappalli. 138 students from 12 schools participated in the junior and senior level competitions and 650 students participated in the inauguration of the event and visited the Expo along with 25 Staff held in the campus of Auxilium Matriculation high School, Sirudur, Madurai from various districts of Tamilnadu. The rigorous 10-month preparation through workshops and expert mentorship had truly empowered our students, allowing them to explore and exhibit their creativity, innovation, and problem-solving skills. The theme, “Creativity meets Logic,” was exemplified in every project and challenge, fostering a spirit of discovery and excellence.

We cherished the presence of Dr. L. Daniel Chellappa, an Eminent Nuclear Scientist, and Mr. Ingersol Selladurai, Senior Scientist, ISRO, who instilled in our students a profound sense of purpose and national responsibility through science and technology.

I wish to congratulate and commend the organizing team, dedicated staff, and mentors for their tireless efforts in nurturing young talents and igniting a passion for STEM learning. The event's robotic challenges, 3D modeling, and circuit design competitions, evaluated by 12 esteemed STEM experts, reflected the students' brilliance and dedication. Congratulations to Auxilium Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Puliadithammam, for securing the overall championship and to all participants for their commendable efforts. May this initiative continue to inspire future innovators, shaping a world that thrives on technology, sustainability, and collaboration. Let us move forward with the same zeal, empowering young minds to lead with creativity, serve with wisdom, and transform the world with knowledge and compassion.

- **SCOUTS AND GUIDES - FOUNDER'S DAY:** I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Fr. James Benjamin SDB, Sr. Sebastian Mary Margaret FMA, Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani FMA, and their dedicated team for organizing an inspiring "Thinking Day 2025" celebration at Don Bosco, Thanjavur, on 22 February 2025. This year, our Province of INT (SDB & FMA) enriched the event by designating February as Baden-Powell Month, fostering the spirit of Scouting among our youth. The meticulously planned activities like quizzes, B.P. exercises, sessions on Scout Law and Promise, knot training, and vibrant colour parties empowered 185 Scouts, Guides, and Bulbuls from participating schools. The highlight was the drone formation reading, "GO GREEN", emphasizing environmental conservation, followed by a rally on "Protecting Nature and Child Protection." Each participant received a sapling, symbolizing growth and commitment to sustainability. Special thanks to the Scout Masters, Guide Captains, teachers, students, and the schools: Our Lady Hr. Sec. School (Thiruvottriyur), Our Lady Excellence (Thiruvottriyur), Our Lady (Broadway), St. Francis Xavier (Broadway), Auxilium (Puliadithammam), Auxilium (Keelar Iral), and Auxilium (Thanjavur), for their unwavering dedication to the Scouting movement.
- **HEADMISTRESS MEET:** The Second Headmistress meet for the academic year 2024-2025 was organized by Sr. Sebastian Mary Margaret, Province Academic Co-ordinator at Auxilium Centre, Thanjavur on 22 February 2025. There were 18 Headmistress from different schools of our Province eagerly participated in it. Through an introductory talk, I presented an insightful encouraging reflection and engagement on the theme "What is in Your Heart and Hands?" for the Headmistress from different schools of INT Province. Then Sr. Sebastian Margaret introduced the guest speakers: Dr. Prasanna, Mrs. Lucy Jeba Jose, and Mrs. Jharna, who are special educators and members of the organization "Illuminators". They conducted an informative session on D-Learners: Understanding Today's Students in a Classroom, providing valuable insights into modern educational challenges.
- **INTER-NOVITIATE MEET:** The Inter-Novitiate Meet on Liturgy was held from 26 to 28 February 2025, at Divyadhanam Novitiate, Manikandam, Tiruchirappalli, was a profound spiritual formation. Most Rev. Savarimuthu Arockiaraj, D.D., Bishop of Tiruchirappalli, guided the sessions with wisdom and depth, illuminating the significance of Liturgical Rites. Thirty-five Novices, accompanied by their Formators and Assistants from five Congregations: Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, St. Thomas, St. Anne's of Trichy, the Sacred Heart Sisters, and the Holy Cross engaged wholeheartedly, nurturing a spirit of learning and renewal. The gathering was an enriching experience, intensifying their understanding and devotion to the sacred liturgy.

## ❧... APPRECIATION AND THANKS! ...❧

- To the Novice Formator, Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela, the Community Sisters and the Novices of Divyadhanam, Manikandam, Tiruchirappalli, for having hosted the Economers' Meet on 03 and 04 February 2025.
- To Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushpam and the Community of St. Francis Xavier Convent, Broadway, Chennai for having created a favourable atmosphere for the Animators' Meet on 07 February 2025 and Team Co-ordinators Meet on 09 February 2025.
- To Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy and the Community of Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli for having facilitated the following meetings: Juniors' Tri-monthly Recollection and a Day of Animation on 15 and 16 February 2025 and Provincial Council on 18 and 19 February 2025 at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli.
- To Sr. Antony Lourdu Sagayam and the Community of Auxilium Convent, Sirudur - Madurai for having facilitated the dynamic environment that contributed to the success of the AUXI-STEM ROBOTICS League 2025 Season - 2 on 21 February 2025.
- To Sr. Diaz Francis Immaculate and the Community of Auxilium Centre, Thanjavur, for having created a conducive atmosphere for the Headmistresses' Meet on 23 February 2025.
- To all the Animators and the community sisters who organized the local level Educating Community Meet in their respective communities these days.

## ❧... IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE MONTH AHEAD! ...❧

- |    |   |   |
|----|---|---|
| 05 | - | Ash Wednesday   |
| 07 | - | Saints Perpetua and Felicity                            |
| 08 | - | International Women's Day                               |
| 19 | - | St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary Solemnity |
| 25 | - | The Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity                 |

## ❧... MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE ...❧

DATE	MEETING	PLACE
06 - 07	Provincial Council Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
10 - 17	Annual Retreat - II	Don Bosco - Wellington
18	Animation	Don Bosco - Wellington
03 - 23	New Secretary Course	Rome - Italy
29 - 31	FMA PCI - 2025	Kolkata
30	NCP - Functional Training	Online



## ✂️ ❖❖❖ CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS ❖❖❖ ✂️

- † To the Provincial and the confreres of the Province of INM at the demise of Fr. Francis Sebastian SDB (65) on 15 February 2025.
- † To Sr. Susaimanickam Josephine FMA, and the Provincial and the confreres of the Province of INT at the demise of Bro. George Joseph SDB (86) on 27 February 2025.

May the season of Lent that begins, inspire us to reflect on the transformative power of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving practices, drawing us closer to God and preparing our hearts for the joy of Resurrection. In this sacred season, let us invoke the powerful intercession of St. Joseph, the humble guardian of the Holy Family that his strong faith and obedience to God's will serve as a profound example for us all. May we strive to emulate his virtues in our daily lives.

*Wish you all a very happy feast of St. Joseph and Holy Season of Lent!*

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella

Provincial

## PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

**MARCH - 2025**

06 - 07	Provincial Council Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
10 - 17	Annual Retreat - II	Don Bosco - Wellington
18	Animation	Don Bosco - Wellington
29 - 31	PCI Meet	Kolkata