



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,
4/288, Madurai Main Road, Manikandam,
Tiruchirappalli - 620 012



Cir. No. 23

April 2025

My dear Sisters,

Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes from Tiruchirappalli.

As we step into this new month, we continue our reflections on the precious gift of our consecrated life, in the light of Easter. This month I would like to reflect with you on **Risen in Christ: the Call to Consecrated Witness!** The Easter joy is the very foundation of our faith, the fulfilment of God's eternal promise, and a definitive victory of light over darkness, life over death, and love over indifference. To say that *Christ is Risen* is to profess that the power of His Resurrection is alive in us, calling us to *rise*, to rise above all that keeps us bound - our fears, our insecurities, our human frailties, and our attachments to worldly concerns.

To *be risen in Christ*, is not merely a theological truth but a profound transformation of heart, mind, and spirit. As consecrated women, our lives must echo the reality of the Resurrection in the way we think, speak, act, and relate to one another. If Christ is truly risen, then we too must rise - to a new way of living, to a new way of loving, and to a new way of witnessing to the Gospel. We cannot remain in the tombs of doubt, complacency, or lukewarm faith. We are challenged to step forward with renewed zeal, embracing our vocation with joy, fidelity, and a deep sense of mission.

The call to Consecrated Witness is not just some spiritualizing concept, but a daily commitment to authenticity, integrity, and holiness. In today's world, where values are compromised, where faith is reduced to mere rituals, and where self-interest overrides the call to selfless service, our Consecrated witness is more significant than ever. Our vocation is a call to be living testimonies of Christ's Resurrection, to shine as beacons of hope in a world often clouded by despair.

Let us live with an Easter Perspective

To be risen in Christ is to see life with *Easter eyes* - eyes that recognize hope amidst suffering, light amidst darkness, and God's presence amidst the most challenging moments. It is to believe that no situation is beyond redemption, no person is beyond transformation, and no difficulty is beyond God's power to overcome. An Easter perspective does not deny the reality of struggles, but it refuses to be defeated by them. As consecrated women, we are called to cultivate this perspective in our personal lives, in our communities, and in our apostolic mission.

Let us move from Fear to Faith

Resurrection is a call to fearless living. When the Risen Christ appeared to His disciples, His first words were, "*Do not be afraid.*" Fear can paralyze us - fear of the unknown, fear of failure, fear of stepping out of our comfort zones. But true discipleship demands trust, courage, and a willingness to surrender to God's plan. Are we holding ourselves back

because of fear? Are we allowing uncertainties to dictate our choices? Resurrection invites us to place our trust in God's providence and to move forward with confidence, knowing that the Risen Lord walks with us.

Let us transform from being Passive Observers to Active Participants in Life

Resurrection is not meant to be *watched* from a distance; it is meant to be *lived*. The women at the tomb did not remain silent; they ran to proclaim the Good News. The disciples did not stay locked in fear; they went forth to preach the Gospel. Our faith cannot be passive - it must be dynamic, transformative, and contagious. As consecrated women, we need to ask ourselves: *Are we actively engaging in the mission entrusted to us? Are we willing to go beyond our routines and personal comforts to truly be instruments of Christ's hope?*

Let us shift from Selective Commitment to Total Surrender

At times, we are *choosy* in the way we respond to God's call. We choose when to be generous, whom to love, and what sacrifices to make. But when Jesus gave Himself, He did not do so partially - He gave Himself completely. As consecrated women, our response to God has to be complete and wholehearted too. Our vocation is not an entitlement, but a mission. If we have been chosen, we must embrace our chosenness with joy and above all with responsibility. The world needs radical witnesses of faith in us - women who live with passion, conviction, and a deep sense of purpose.

Let us renew our spirit of Gratitude and Joy

Consecrated witness is concretely a life of joy. Resurrection is the triumph of joy over sorrow, yet how often do we live as if burdened by life's challenges? True Christian joy is not dependent on circumstances; it is rooted in the certainty that we are loved, redeemed, and called by God. A grateful heart sees blessings even in trials and remains hopeful even in difficult moments. We are lovingly challenged to radiate the joy of Easter in our communities, ministries, and personal interactions, and enable others see in us the light of Christ's victory over sin and death!

Let us grow to be Women of Deep Faith, Love, and Service

The true mark of our consecration is not merely our religious habit or our years in the convent, but the depth of our faith, our capacity to love, and our willingness to serve. The world does not need more professionals; it needs *prophets* - women who witness to the Gospel, not just in words but in action. This requires deep prayer, desire for ongoing formation, and a daily renewal of our commitment to Christ.

Dear Sisters, Resurrection is not just a doctrine; it is the very core of our vocation. To be *Risen with Christ* is to live as *women of hope*, to proclaim through our lives that *love has conquered everything* and that *Our God lives!* Easter season is an invitation to renew our commitment, to rise from a possible spiritual slumber, and to embrace with greater zeal the mission entrusted to us. It is easy to be *silent spectators* of the glorious event of Resurrection. But the call is to be *consecrated witnesses* of God's never-failing hope, personified in Risen Lord! In being that we become living proofs that *Christus Vivit... that Christ lives* - in our hearts, in our communities, and in the world. May our lives be an unceasing *Alleluia*, a hymn of praise that resounds in everything we are involved in.

May the Risen Lord bless us and strengthen us in our journey of hope, that we grow to be Consecrated Witnesses wherever we are!

✂️... MONTH'S SPECIAL! ...✂️

HOLY WEEK - THE JOURNEY OF LOVE: (13 -19 April) Holy Week is the ultimate story of love, sacrifice, and redemption. It begins with joyful hosannas and ends with the silence of the tomb only to burst forth in the glory of the Resurrection. Jesus walks the path of suffering not out of obligation, but out of love for you, for me, for all. Every step He takes, from the Last Supper to the agony of the Cross, speaks of a love that never gives up. As we journey with Christ this week, may we open our hearts to His mercy, embrace the Cross with trust, and rise with Him into new life. "Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends." (John 15:13)

11TH SUCCESSOR OF DON BOSCO - REV. FR. FABIO ATTARD SDB: The Province of Tiruchirappalli (INT) expresses its loving wishes to the newly elected Rector Major, Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard SDB, the 11th Successor of Don Bosco. We assure our sincere and prayerful solidarity as he takes up this new responsibility as the Father of the great big Salesian Family, continuing Don Bosco's mission of accompanying and uplifting young people worldwide. May the Holy Spirit guide him with wisdom and strength, and may Our Blessed Mother Help of Christians be his constant companion.

We also warmly congratulate the newly elected General Councillors and Regional Councillors. We assure the entire team, our prayers and support as we work together at the service of the Church, living out our Salesian charism in communion. May their leadership bring renewed hope, joy, and transformative change to the lives of many, especially the young.

In a special way, we wish to extend our best wishes to **Fr. Biju Michael SDB** on his re-election as the Regional Councillor for South Asia, for a second term. We thank God for his continued commitment and dedicated leadership. May the Lord bless him abundantly and guide him in his mission of service to the Salesian Family.

WORLD GRATITUDE DAY (26 April): As we are already aware of, the World Gratitude Day will be celebrated in the Province of *Mary Help of Christians, Vietnam* (VTN), on 26 April 2025, with the theme: "*Light the Gospel of hope*".

The website www.festadelgrazie.org offers resources to deepen the theme with a **four-week itinerary** proposed by the host province of Vietnam, illumined by the theme of Jubilee 2025 on Hope:

- 1st Week (26 March - 05 April) **Jesus Christ - source of hope**
- 2nd Week (06 April - 12 April) **Pilgrims of hope**
- 3rd Week (13 April - 19 April) **Witnesses of hope for the world**
- 4th Week (20 April - 25 April) **Gratitude Week: Light the Gospel of Hope**

In addition to the preparatory journey, among the resources contained in the Archive you would find the Letter of the Vicar General, the Act of **Entrustment to Mary** in Communities in different languages, the Italian and English versions of the logo of the

Feast, the dossier on Vietnam, and the history of the Province of VTN. Also available are **Lectio divina** for each week.

As we prepare for the World Feast of Gratitude on April 26, 2025, let us open our hearts to this sacred time of prayer, preparation, and renewal. This celebration is more than an expression of gratitude to our beloved Mother General, Sr. Chiara Cazzuola, it is a powerful moment to rekindle hope, deepen our faith, and strengthen our commitment to the mission entrusted to us. The theme, "Light the Gospel of Hope," invites us to be living flames of faith, bringing Christ's love to a world longing for light. Let us especially pray for our Vietnamese Province, "Mary Help of Christians" (VTN), as they host this meaningful celebration, and for all who carry forward the Salesian mission with love and dedication. With Mary Help of Christians as our guide, let us move forward together, united in gratitude and hope.

MESSAGE OF SOLIDARITY AND PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF MYANMAR AND THAILAND:

With a heavy heart, we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Myanmar and Thailand who have been affected by the devastating earthquake. The loss of lives, the destruction of homes, and the suffering endured by so many fill us with deep sorrow. In this time of immense pain, we unite our hearts in prayer, imploring the Lord to grant strength and courage to all those suffering brethren. May His comforting presence be with those who mourn, the injured, and the displaced. We also remember the rescue workers and volunteers who are tirelessly offering their assistance may they be blessed with compassion and mercy. Let us keep them in our prayers, asking God to grant them strength, comfort, and hope. May our support and concern be a source of encouragement during this difficult time.

✠...NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE!...✠

- **DISSEMINATION OF THE TRIENNIAL VERIFICATION FMA-PCI 2025:** On 06 April 2025, the Dissemination of the Triennial Verification will be organized for the Sisters who attended the Annual Retreat from 26 December 2024 to 02 January 2025 at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli.
- **SECOND NOVITIATE - PHASE II:** Sr. Devadoss S. Soniya, Sr. Paralagaraj Jeya, and Sr. Paralagaraj Sutha will attend the Second Phase of their Second Novitiate from 15 April to 15 May 2025, at Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam. May this special time bring them strength and deepen their commitment to their vocation. Let us keep them in our prayers.
- **SUBMISSION OF SOCIETY ACCOUNT:** It will be held at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli from 25 April 2025 onwards.

✂️♦♦PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS ♦♦✂️

- **COURSE FOR NEW PROVINCIAL SECRETARIES:** Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy, the Province Secretary, attended the Formation Course for the New Secretaries from 06 to 23 March 2025, at Rome. The course was focused on the theme "Provincial Secretary: A Mission in Service of Communion," and intended to deepen the spirituality of the Secretaries, enhancing professional skills, fostering historical awareness, and strengthening ties with the General Secretariat and Archive. It was participated by 22 FMAs from all over the world, and favoured the possibility to deepen and create communication networks, exchange experiences, and celebrate cultural diversity within our beloved Institute.
- **SECOND ANNUAL RETREAT:** This year's second Annual Retreat for the Provincial Councillors and Animators was held from 10 to 17 March 2025 at Don Bosco, Wellington. Fr. Joy Austin MSFS, the preacher, led the retreatants through a transformative journey with the theme "With a Unique God Experience Towards a Prophetic Religious Life." A sincere thanks to all the Sisters who generously collaborated in the two-day Animation that followed the Retreat. There were fruitful discussions on the Province plan and project, resource mapping, and community budget. The presence of the local Economers, who joined on 18 March 2025, added further value to the reflections.
- **VOCATION CAMP:** The Zonal level Vocation camps were conducted in the following places: St. Francis Xavier's Convent, Broadway - Chennai, Marialaya - Coimbatore, Chittampatti - Madurai, and Therespuram on 29 and 30 March 2025. Let us continue to pray that the Lord of the Harvest may send many laborers to work in His vineyard and spread His Kingdom.
- **FMA PCI MEET - 2025:** The FMA Provincial Conference of India convened an extraordinary meeting with the theme, "Working of the FMA National Office" at Auxilium Convent, Dum Dum, Kolkata, from 29 to 31 March 2025 in the presence of Sr. Celine Jacob, the Visiting Councillor for India. This significant event brought together 25 participants, including Provincials from India's seven provinces, Provincial Delegates, and National Coordinators. The two delegates Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi and Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani participated along with me in the meeting.

The historic meeting marked the new milestone in the mode of functioning of the FMA PCI with its New Office located in Auxilium Convent, Gobra, Kolkata. A new organogram for the efficient working of the national office was unanimously approved with the appointment of Sr. Alice Chacko as the Secretary of the National Office. National Coordinators were appointed replacing those who completed their term of office.

A note of gratitude was extended to Sr. Meenakshi D'Silva the former President for her loving service to FMA PCI. Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil was welcomed as the new President along with Sr. Mable Gothorp as the Vice President to initiate this new journey of FMA India as pilgrims of Hope during this Jubilee year.

✂️ ♦♦ APPRECIATION AND THANKS! ♦♦ ✂️

- To Sr. Ignaci Kulanthai Theresa and the Community of Don Bosco, Wellington for having facilitated the Second Annual Retreat from 10 to 17 March 2025.
- To Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy and the Community of Auxilium Provincial House Tiruchirappalli for creating a conducive atmosphere for the Provincial Council meet on 06 and 07 March 2025.
- To the animators and the Sisters of the following communities for their wonderful contribution in organizing the Vocation Camps on 29-30 March 2025: St. Francis Xavier Convent, Broadway-Chennai, Marialaya - Coimbatore, Chittampatti - Madurai, and Therespuram on 29 - 30 March 2025.

✂️ ♦♦ IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE MONTH AHEAD! ♦♦ ✂️

13	-	Palm Sunday
17	-	Maundy Thursday
18	-	Good Friday
19	-	Holy Saturday
20	-	Easter Day
25	-	The Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist
26	-	World Gratitude Day 2025

✂️ ♦♦ MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE ♦♦ ✂️

06	:	Dissemination of the Triennial Verification	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
15 - 16	:	Provincial Council Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
15 April - 15 May	:	Second Novitiate Second Phase	Fatima Convent - Kodambakkam
25 - 30	:	Submission of Society Account	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli

✂️ ♦♦ CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS ♦♦ ✂️

- † *To the Provincial and the Confreres of the Province of ING* at the demise of *Fr. Augustine Edasserithottathil SDB (75)* on 05 March 2025
- † *To Sr. D'Silva Meenakshi, the Provincial of INB* at the loss of her beloved father *Mr. Gregory D'Silva (96)* on 06 March 2025.
- † *To Sr. Savarimuthu Annamanikam* at the loss of her grandson *Mr. Joel (19)* on 12 March 2025.
- † *To the Provincial and the Sisters of INS Province* at the demise of *Sr. Sylvestra Khonglah (77)* on 14 March 2024.

Dear Sisters, as we enter the Sacred days of the Holy Week, may our hearts be united with Jesus in His Passion, Death, and Resurrection. May this time of grace deepen our faith, renew our hope, and strengthen our love and prepare us profoundly towards the celebration of the joy of the Risen Lord. May the Easter joy fill our lives and our communities, bringing peace, new life and above all, hope to all whom we serve.

Wishing you all a joyful and hope-filled Easter!

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella

Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

APRIL - 2025

02 - 03	Provincial Visit	Pothur
06	Dissemination of the Triennial Verification	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
09 - 10	Provincial Visit	Coimbatore
12 - 13	Provincial Visit	Wellington
15 - 16	Provincial Council Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
23	Animation - Second Novitiate Sisters	Kodambakkam
26 - 27	Provincial Visit	Puthenthurai