



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Salesiane di Don Bosco
Our Lady of the Snow Province - INT
Tiruchirappalli - India

Provincial Circular

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Cir. No. 24

May 2025

My dear Sisters,

I wish to open this month's circular with fond and grateful prayers for Pope Francis!

With hearts full of gratitude, we remember **Pope Francis**, a shepherd after God's own heart and a Father to the world. He was indeed '*a Pope for our times*' in words enlightened minds, and his life inspired hearts. As Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, we unite in prayer, entrusting his soul to the loving embrace of the Eternal Father. May his legacy of compassion, humility, and hope continue to guide the Church.

As we begin the month of May, the Marian month so dear to us all, our hearts naturally turn to Mary, our Mother and First Disciple. This time of the year invites us to pause, look at her again, and see in her a quiet strength, a loving heart, and a life wholly given to God. She lived simply, loved deeply, and walked faithfully in the way presented by the Father.

Continuing our reflection on consecrated life this year, Mary draws close to us in a special way. Not ahead of us like a distant figure, nor behind us just as an onlooker, Mary walks beside us, holding our hands along the path defined for us. Her self and her choices speak directly to us, of our vocation: a humble yes, a life of service, a quiet fidelity even in pain, and a heart totally open to the Spirit.

We are invited to walk closely with Mary, our Mother and Model, as we reflect on the beauty and depth of consecrated life. "**With Mary, A Journey of Consecration**" is more than a theme, it is a lived experience, a call to journey hand in hand with the one who first said 'yes' with courage and trust. May we allow her to speak gently to our hearts, and through her, may we hear again the Lord's invitation to a life fully consecrated to love.

1. A Hidden Life: Where God Finds Us

In the little town of Nazareth, tucked away from the eyes of the world, God found Mary. Her life was quiet, simple, and deeply rooted in Him. That's where God began the story of our salvation not in the grand or impressive phenomena, but in everyday events. There's something deeply comforting here for us. In our own hidden routines, our small acts of love, our quiet fidelity, God continues to write the story of the universe and of humanity. Following her example, we are challenged to find God in the ordinary, and let God find us there.

2. A Gentle Yes: Trusting the Unknown

Mary's "Let it be done to me" was not spoken with full understanding but it was spoken with full trust and total entrustment to the Lord. She did not ask for any guarantees or assurances. She simply made room for God's plan, even when it was mysterious and unexpected. We often find ourselves in similar situations we may have to say yes to things we don't fully grasp, paths we never imagined. But Mary shows us that a humble yes opens

the door to grace. As consecrated women, our trust is not in our own strength, but in the One who has called us.

3. A Love that Moves: Going in Haste to Serve

After the Annunciation, Mary didn't linger. She set off in haste to visit Elizabeth not to talk about herself, but to be of help. That quiet urgency to love, to serve, to be present it's at the heart of our Salesian vocation too. Our consecration calls us to move outward, not inward. Like Mary, we are sent not just to be noticed, but to bring Christ through our presence, our work, and our care for the young and the poor. Love doesn't sit still; it moves; it reaches out.

4. A Faith that Stays: Standing at the Cross

Mary stayed. When others fled, she remained at the foot of the Cross. She didn't speak. She didn't try to fix the pain. She simply stood there, faithful, loving, and present. In our journey, there are crosses too moments of loss, disappointment, misunderstandings, or inner struggles. Mary teaches us that sometimes the greatest act of love is simply to stay. It means to remain faithful, even when we don't understand. That's consecrated life: a love that doesn't walk away.

5. A Heart that Waits: Praying for the Spirit

After the Resurrection, we see that Mary was in the Upper Room, praying quietly with the others, waiting for the Spirit. She wasn't leading, but she was there among them making space for the Spirit to come and take over. Our mission too begins in this space of prayer. In the quiet hours before the tabernacle, in our whispered prayers, in our silent waiting the Spirit is at work. Mary teaches us that prayer isn't wasted time. It's where God shapes us for mission.

6. A Life to Imitate: Mary and Our Vocation

Mary doesn't just inspire us she helps us live our call. Her simplicity, her quiet joy, her readiness to serve all of it is woven into our Salesian way of life. She is not far from us. She is in the fabric of our very Charism, in the rhythm of our daily living. To live like Mary is not so much trying to be perfect, as it is to be available. To listen. To give what we have, even if it feels small. The way she teaches us is a daily yes, a deep joy, and a love that keeps going.

7. A Spirit to Renew Us: Consecrated with Mary's Heart

As we honour our Blessed Mother, She gently invites us to renew our 'yes' not in grand gestures, but in simple faithfulness. She shows us how to listen again to God's voice, how to serve with joy, how to remain rooted in prayer. Consecrated life isn't about being extraordinary. It's about being completely given. That's what Mary teaches us. And in her company, we find the strength to begin again, to love more freely, to give ourselves more fully.

With Mary... Towards the Heart of God

Mary walks with us side by side. She reminds us that a life fully offered is a life deeply blessed. She shows us that joy and suffering, action and prayer, visibility and hiddenness

all belong in the journey of consecration. So, in this month of our Blessed Mother, let us allow her to draw us closer to the Heart of Christ. May our lives like hers be a heart-filled hymn of love, sung not in words, but in our way of life, the way we live our consecrated lives.

✂—♦♦ MONTH'S SPECIAL! ♦♦—✂

- **ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER (01 May):** First of May, stands as a powerful reminder of the dignity of work and the value of every worker. It is a day to honour those who build, serve, care, and contribute to the world through their daily labour. In our Catholic tradition, this day also celebrates **St. Joseph, as the Patron of Workers**, a humble carpenter who faithfully carried out his duties with quiet strength and devotion. Through St. Joseph, we are reminded that work is not just a means of survival, but a path to holiness, purpose, and service. Whether it's done with our hands or minds, in homes or offices, all honest work reflects the creativity and love of God. As we celebrate this day, may we renew our respect for every worker and strive for justice, fairness, and dignity in all workplaces.
- **SAINT DOMINIC SAVIO (06 May):** St. Dominic Savio, though young in age, showed extraordinary faith, purity, and a deep love for God. He believed that holiness was possible even for children and lived by the simple yet powerful motto: **"Death rather than sin."** Guided by St. John Bosco, Dominic embraced prayer, kindness, and obedience with a joyful heart, proving that sainthood is not about age, but about love and commitment to God. For young people today, St. Dominic Savio stands as lived example of the fact that one's journey to holiness or fullness begins with small acts of goodness, honesty, and faithfulness in daily life. His life teaches us that with courage, a pure heart, and trust in God, we too can live with purpose and aim for the greatest reward: eternal life with Christ.
- **BIRTHDAY (09 May) & FEAST DAY OF ST. MARY MAZZARELLO (13 May):** Each year, these special days: 09 May and 13 May, invite us to remember and give thanks to the Lord for St. Mary Mazzarello, our beloved Co-Foundress and spiritual Mother in the Salesian Family.

09 May, her birthday, is a tender reminder of the gift God gave the world through her life. Born into simplicity and humility, Mary Mazzarello grew to embody the heart of a true disciple: joyful, hardworking, and deeply rooted in faith. On this day, we celebrate the beginning of her earthly journey, a life destined to be poured out in love and service.

Her feast on 13 May draws us deeper into the mystery of her holiness. It is not only a celebration of her passage to eternal life but also a call for us, her daughters, to renew our commitment to the charism she helped shape alongside St. John Bosco. Her example of unwavering trust in Divine Providence and tireless dedication to the young challenges us to live the Gospel with authenticity and fervour.

As we honour these days, may we open our hearts to the grace that marked her life. Let us be recollected through prayer, listen with the ears of the soul, and allow her witness to echo within us, encouraging us to embrace a life of simplicity, joy, and service. In remembering St. Mary Mazzarello, we do more than admire a saint; we reawaken the

dream she lived to bring the love of Christ to the world, especially to the young and the poor.

- **THE FEAST OF THE VISITATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (31 May):** Mary's visitation to Elizabeth exemplifies the transformative power of presence. Her journey was not merely a familial visit but a deliberate act of bringing the Divine presence into another's life. This encounter highlights how our own presence, imbued with faith and compassion, can profoundly impact those around us. In our daily lives, we too are called to be bearers of Christ's presence, much like Mary. Whether through acts of kindness, words of encouragement, or simply being present for someone in need, our actions can bring comfort and hope. Thus, we become vessels of grace and joy, illuminating the lives of others with the light of Christ. Let us, therefore, be inspired by Mary's example to reach out with love and compassion, recognizing that our presence, guided by faith, can be a powerful conduit of God's love for the world.
- **PRAYER REQUEST FOR THE UPCOMING CONCLAVE AND ELECTION OF THE NEW POPE:** As the Conclave that will begin on 07 May 2025, and the election of the new Pope, let us unite in prayer for this important moment in the life of the Church. We pray that the Holy Spirit will guide the Cardinals in their discernment, granting them wisdom, unity, and courage as they seek to choose a shepherd who will lead the Church with faith, compassion, and strength. May this sacred process bring peace to the hearts of all believers, and may it strengthen the Church's mission of love and service to the world.

✂️... NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE! ...✂️

- **ANNUAL RETREAT III:** The Third Annual Retreat will be held from 03 to 10 May 2025, at Don Bosco, Wellington, and will be preached by Rev. Fr. Patrick Mathias SDB. On 10 May 2025, the Dissemination of the Triennial Verification FMA PCI - 2025 will take place.
- **NATIONAL EDUCATORS' SUMMIT 2025:** Sr. Amalorpavanathan Premila Ruby, Sr. Arockiasamy Rani Celine Mary, Sr. Arockianathan Verginia Mary and Sr. Xavier Raj Irudaya Arasi will participate in the National Educators' Summit 2025 which is scheduled to take place from 08 to 10 May 2025 at Kristu Jayanti College (Autonomous), Bengaluru. The summit is organized with the theme "Empowering School Leaders with Indian Ethos and Excellence." This event is specially curated for Principals, Headmasters, Educational Administrators, Campus Directors, Counsellors, Management Representatives, and Senior Teachers from Secondary Schools, Pre-University Colleges, and Higher Secondary Schools across the country.
- **EXTENDED PRESIDENCY COUNCIL MEETING - VIDES INTERNATIONAL:** Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi has been invited to participate in the Extended Presidency Council Meeting - VIDES International, representing India in the meeting to be held in Rome from 09 to 11 May 2025. This meeting aims to provide the opportunity to initiate a shared and participatory process, that will lead to the new

Elective Assembly with a thorough identification and accountability of the new council members, in order to continuously improve our network and especially VIDES.

- **FMA PCI STATUTES DRAFTING COMMITTEE MEETING:** Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi will participate in the FMA PCI Statutes drafting Committee Meeting. It will be held in Auxilium Convent, Gobra, Kolkata from 15 to 17 May 2025.
- **INITIATION OF POSTULANTS TO THE NOVITIATE:** A warm welcome to the six Postulants: CHARELS Jasmin Jaya, JONAS Jenova Teresa and SUBBIAH Shenbaga Mallika from INT Province and JOHN DAVID Asha Mary, RAJESH Srinithi and THARSIUS RAJA Auxilia from INM. They will arrive at Divyadhanam Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli on 15 May 2025. They will make their Annual Retreat from 16 to 22 May 2025 and the initiation ceremony will take place on 23 May 2025.
- **JUNIORS RENEWAL PROGRAMME 2025:** Nineteen Junior Sisters will have their Renewal programme from 12 - 21 May 2025, at Puliadthammam. Sr. Rodriquez Mary Magdalen FMA will be the facilitator. They are expected to arrive by evening on 11 May 2025. On 21 May 2025, they will travel to Divyadhanam Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli for a full-day recollection, and the renewal of their vows on 23 May 2025.
- **ANNUAL RETREAT IV:** Postulants, Novices, Second Novitiate Sisters of INT and INM Provinces and a few other Sisters will participate in the IV Annual Retreat for this year, from 16 to 22 May 2025 at Divyadhanam Novitiate, Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli, preached by Rev. Fr. Ashok Lawrence Britto SDB.
- **FIRST PROFESSION:** It is a glad news that Sr. Babiles Paul Prabhakaran Sweety and Sr. Rabel Ketharin from the Province of INT and Sr. Anthony Raj Nirmala, Sr. Arockia Dass Anish Hema, Sr. Arul Pragasam Fabia Cletus and Sr. Maria Selvam Susai Mary from the Province of INM, will make their First Profession on 24 May 2025 at Auxilium Provincial House, Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli with the Motto "Beacon of Hope for the Youth". Rev. Fr. Sarprasadam Agilan SDB, Provincial of the Province of Our Lady of Good Health - Trichy will preside over the Solemn Holy Eucharist at 10.30 a.m.
- **FINAL PROFESSION:** With hearts filled with joy and gratitude, we rejoice at the Final Commitment of our beloved Sisters: Sr. Devadoss S. Soniya, Sr. Paralagaraj Jeya, and Sr. Paralagaraj Sutha, to be held on 26 May 2025, at 11.00 a.m. at the Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. The Solemn Eucharistic celebration will be presided over by Most Rev. Dr. Savarimuthu Arockiaraj, D.D., S.T.D., Bishop of Tiruchirappalli. We pray that the Lord may bless our Sisters abundantly, strengthening them to remain faithful and joyful in their lifelong commitment to serve Him and His people with love and dedication.
- **TRANSFERS:** I request all the Sisters who have received their new appointments to graciously carry out the process of handing over their responsibilities, to their respective successors and to reach their newly assigned communities on 28 May 2025, in a spirit of obedience and joyful availability.

- **STUDIES IN ITALY:** Sr. Sahayaraj Infanta will be leaving for Italy for her five-year studies in Psychological Sciences and Techniques at the Pontifical Faculty of Auxilium, Rome. May God bless her journey and grant her a fruitful stay in Italy.
- **PROJECT MORNESE:** Sr. Irudayam Benita Rani, Sr. Rayappan Selvi Cecily and Sr. Savarimuthu Annamanickam shall participate in Project Mornese, from 03 to 23 June 2025. Our prayers and best wishes accompany them in this meaningful experience and spiritual enrichment they are given with.
- **VOCATION CAMP:** The Province Vocation Camps will be conducted for the students from IX to XI Standards, in two places: Maraianathapuram - Dindigul and Puliaditahmmam. May the Lord of harvest send many more vocation to our province.

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

- **SILVER JUBILARIANS RENEWAL COURSE:** From 06 to 12 April 2025 Sr. Diaz Francis Immaculate, Sr. Arulandu Saratha, Sr. Masilamani Jeya Pushpam, Sr. John Shantha Mary, Sr. Micheal Arockia Sujatha Mary, and Sr. Sesu John participated in the Silver Jubilarians Renewal Course at Holy Child Auxilium Convent, Vasant Vihar, New Delhi. The retreat was led by Rev. Fr. Naveen Saldanha OP and Rev. Fr. Rajiv Godinko OP. They were led to reflect on themes such as the Gratuitous Love of God, the Fruits of Contemplation, and the Beauty of Total Self-Giving to God.
- **TRAINING COURSES FOR BASIC SCOUT MASTERS AND BASIC GUIDE CAPTAINS:** The training courses for Basic Scout Masters and Basic Guide Captains were organized by Sr. Sebastian Margaret Mary FMA (DC (ALT/S)) at Don Bosco Youth Village, Keeranur, Pudukottai District from 24 to 30 April 2025. There were 34 participants for the Basic Scout Masters course and 26 participants for the Basic Guide Captains course. Fr. John Peter SDB (ALT/S) and Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani FMA (ALT/G) served as the Leaders of the Course (LOC) respectively. It was an enriching experience for the young, budding unit leaders. We wish them a fruitful and fulfilling scouting ministry as they journey ahead in forming and guiding young people.

✂️... APPRECIATION AND THANKS! ...✂️

- To Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy and the Community of Auxilium Provincial House for the wonderful arrangements made for the Dissemination of the Triennial Verification 2025 on 06 April 2025, for the Provincial Council meet on 15 April 2025 and for the Submission of the Society Accounts from 25 to 30 April 2025.
- To Sr. Diaz Francis Immaculate, the Animator, and the Community Sisters of Thanjavur, as well as to Sr. Soosai Magnificat, the Animator of Regunathapuram, and the Community Sisters for organizing and conducting the Vocation Camp at Thanjavur.

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

01	-	St. Joseph the Worker
03	-	Sts. James and Philip
06	-	St. Dominic Savio
12	-	Ascension of the Lord
13	-	Our Lady of Fatima
14	-	St. Matthias
24	-	Feast of Mary Help of Christians
31	-	The feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

✂️... MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE ...✂️

15 April - 15 May	:	Second Novitiate Second Phase	Mazzarello Convent - Kodambakkam
03-10 May	:	Annual Retreat - III	Wellington
15	:	Arrival of the Postulants	Divyadhanam Sacred Heart Novitiate - Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli
12-21	:	Juniors Renewal Programme	Puliadithammam
16-22	:	Annual Retreat - IV	Divyadhanam. Sacred Heart Novitiate - Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli
23	:	Renewal of the Vows	Divyadhanam Sacred Heart Novitiate - Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli
24	:	First Profession	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
26	:	Final Commitment	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli

✂️... CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS ...✂️

- † ***To Sr. Irudayaraj Tamil Selvi at the loss of her beloved mother, Mrs. Saleth Mary (86) on 06 April 2025.***
- † ***To the Provincial and the confreres of INM Province at the demise of Fr. Augustine Nathan SDB (81) and Fr. Arul Valan (54) on 07 April 2025.***
- † ***To Sr. Tamil Selvan Tensia at the sudden demise of her dear father, Mr. Tamil Selvan (55), on 09 April 2025.***

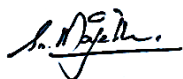
† **To Sr. Vishvanathan Sujatha Mary at the loss of her Aunty, Mrs. Caroline (54), on 22 April 2025**

As we journey through May, a month traditionally dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are reminded of our call to deepen our devotion to her. Mary's unwavering faith and obedience to God's will serve as a model for all believers. This month, we also celebrate the feast of St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello on 13th May, honouring her legacy as the co-foundress of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

May also reminds us of the reality of our “professions” - those preparing for their First Profession, Renewal of Vows and Final commitment, and those who remember their anniversaries. Let us sustain each other through our prayers, as we are called continuously to reaffirm our commitment to our Salesian vocation.

May this month be a time of spiritual renewal for all.

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella

Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

MAY - 2025

03-10 May	Annual Retreat - III	Wellington
15 May	Juniors Renewal Programme	Puliadithammam
16-22 May	Annual Retreat - IV	Divyadhanam Sacred Heart Novitiate - Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli
23 May	Renewal of the Vows	Divyadhanam Sacred Heart Novitiate - Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli
24 May	First Profession	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
26 May	Final Commitment	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli