

Cir. No. 26

My dear Sisters,

Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes to you ...

"Co-workers in the Mission: Living the Apostolic Mandate Together"

As we step into a new month, I would like to invite you all to revisit a key element of our spiritual and apostolic identity - our shared mission as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. This reflection centers on Article 64 of our Constitutions, a passage that is not merely juridical but profoundly charismatic and ecclesial. This article affirms:

"The Apostolic mandate is entrusted by the Church to the Institute that implements it through the province and local communities in communion with the local Churches and participating in their evangelizing activities. By the very fact of being a member of a specific community, every Daughter of Mary Help of Christians is commissioned." (Art. 64)

Let us listen deeply with the ears of our vocation to what this moment invites us to live in our personal mission, community life, and response to the needs of the young.

The Apostolic Mandate - A Gift and a Responsibility

The apostolic mandate is not something external or optional. It is the very reason for our existence as an institute. When the Church entrusts a mission to a religious family, she confers a sacred trust: to make Christ present in a specific way, to a specific people in our case, the young, especially the poor and most in need.

Unlike a job assignment or career path, the apostolic mandate comes from the heart of the Church. It is exercised in and through community, and it is inseparable from our Salesian identity. This mandate is carried out through the province and local communities, meaning the mission is not fulfilled by individuals alone, but collectively, as a united whole. Each province becomes a local expression of the Church's apostolic desire, and each community becomes a missionary community where the Gospel is lived, shared, and witnessed.

Let us recall the small community of Mornese - few in number, yet rich in missionary zeal. Each Sister, whatever her role, shared one vision: to save souls, especially the young. When we see our communities not merely as places of residence but as true missionary spaces, we turn ordinary ground into sacred places where young lives are transformed.

"Every Sister is commissioned" - The Mission is Personal

Article 64 beautifully reminds us that by the very fact of being a member of a specific community, every Daughter of Mary Help of Christians is already commissioned. This is a profound and liberating truth: our mission doesn't begin with a role or assignment, it begins with our profession and the daily witness of our presence. Whether we are novices or elderly Sisters, formators or community animators, in classroom, kitchen, or chapel, our entire life is apostolic.

July 2025

There's a touching story from the life of Mother Mazzarello that speaks volumes. One day, a young Sister shared her sadness at not being given a visible role like teaching or leading youth groups. With her usual gentleness, Mother Mazzarello smiled and said, "Dear daughter, do you not realize that by being among your Sisters and doing your tasks well, with love, you are already building the Kingdom of God?"

In today's world, where recognition and achievement are often seen as measures of worth, her words are a powerful reminder: faithfulness in hidden, humble tasks is just as apostolic as preaching or teaching.

Community life is not a distraction from mission - it is its very foundation. Even our moments of frailty, silence, and simple service carry deep missionary value. A single act of love, offered quietly and faithfully, becomes a blessing for the whole Church.

Living the Spirit of Don Bosco: "Da Mihi Animas"

The heart of our apostolic spirituality is beautifully captured in Don Bosco's motto: "Da mihi animas, caetera tolle" - "Give me souls, take away the rest." This was not a mere slogan; it was the daily heartbeat of his life, a deep longing to bring every young person to Christ.

One evening in Valdocco, Don Bosco saw a boy stealing bread. Instead of reacting with anger, he gently asked, "Why are you doing this?" The boy answered, "I'm hungry and nobody cares." Don Bosco didn't judge him. He gave him food, offered him work, and restored his dignity. From this simple act of compassion sprang a revolution in education, one built not on punishment, but on understanding; not on rejection, but on redemption.

As Salesian women, we are not just educators - we are co-redeemers, instruments of God's mercy. Whether in the classroom, the courtyard, the refectory, or the infirmary, every space becomes an altar of encounter. When we live our mission with this zeal for souls, we are no longer defined by what we do, but by the fire that burns within us. Don Bosco reminds us that the young must not only be loved, they must know they are loved. This is our apostolic programme. This is our way of holiness.

Mother Mazzarello: A Model of Apostolic Fidelity

Mother Mazzarello's life is a testament to how even suffering and limitation can become apostolic. After falling ill with typhoid, she could no longer work in the fields. She was devastated. But rather than give in to despair, she asked, "What does God want of me now?" And so began a new mission: forming girls in virtue, in skill, and in faith. Her little sewing room became a school of holiness.

She once said, "Do good, but do it well... and do it cheerfully." Her apostolic fervor was not limited to her energy. It flowed from her union with God and her charity toward others. Even when she became Superior General, she never ceased being a mother, a sister, and a friend to each one. Every letter she wrote carried apostolic wisdom simple, yet profound. "Be cheerful, the devil is afraid of joyful souls." "Work always in union with the others." "Let your love for the girls be tender, but strong." In her, we see a woman who truly lived her mission, not with grand gestures, but with heroic daily faithfulness. She lived Article 64 before it was ever written.

Apostolic Identity in Community: Unity in Diversity

The article calls us to live our identity as Salesian educators in communion, each fulfilling different but complementary roles in the spirit of "*Da mihi animas*…" This unity is vital - our apostolic witness loses strength when our community life lacks harmony. In Mornese, when one Sister fell ill, another quietly took her night duty. The girl they cared for later became a catechist, saying, "*It wasn't your words - it was your joy that made me believe in God.*" When we live in communion,

we preach without words. By valuing each Sister's role, however simple, we reveal the Body of Christ united, joyful, and forgiving. This is the Gospel lived in community.

A Mission of Hope: In Light of the Jubilee Year

As we journey toward the Jubilee of 2025 with the theme "*Spes non confundit*" ("Hope does not disappoint"), we are reminded that our mission is also a mission of hope. Today's young people face deep anxiety, brokenness, and despair. We are called to be pilgrims of hope, bringing Christ's light into their darkness. Pope Francis urged consecrated persons to be islands of mercy, bridges of reconciliation, and witnesses of resurrection. Hope is not wishful thinking, it is the certainty that in Christ, no one is ever truly lost. When we listen, smile, or accompany with love, we become signs of hope. Like Mary, may we carry Christ to every heart, every place, and every moment entrusted to us.

To reflect

Article 64 calls us to remember our shared responsibility, personal commitment, and common identity. It invites each of us to reflect: "*How am I living my mission today*?" "*Am I a woman of communion*?" "*Do I carry an apostolic fire in my daily life*?"

Like Don Bosco, may we burn with zeal for souls. Like St. Mary Mazzarello, may we radiate humility, joy, and simplicity. Like Mary Help of Christians, may we be gentle, faithful, and strong in love. Let us walk this mission together, hand in hand, heart to heart - knowing that Christ sends us, the Church trusts us, and the young are waiting.

✤—··· MONTH'S SPECIAL! ····→

ST. THOMAS - THE APOSTLE OF INDIA (03 July): St. Thomas the Apostle, often remembered for his doubt, offers a powerful testimony of sincere faith. His need to see and touch the Risen Lord was not a sign of disbelief but a deep desire for a personal and authentic encounter with Christ. When Jesus appeared and invited him to believe, Thomas responded with one of the most profound declarations in Scripture: "My Lord and my God!" This moment of transformation led him to a life of fearless missionary zeal, believed to have taken him as far as India, where he preached the Gospel and gave his life in martyrdom. His journey reminds us that questioning can be a path to deeper belief and that true faith is not blind, but grounded in a personal relationship with the living Christ.

On this special day, heartfelt wishes to all the members of the SDBs and FMAs of the INM Province of St. Thomas, the Apostle as they celebrate their Patron Saint. May his example inspire renewed faith, unity, and missionary passion in every community.

BLESSED MARIA ROMERO MENESES: On 07 July, we commemorate Blessed Maria Romero Meneses, FMA, a shining example of Salesian holiness and social commitment. Her life was marked by profound trust in Mary Help of Christians and a courageous dedication to uplifting the poor and marginalized. With a heart full of compassion, she became a bridge between the rich and the poor, creating works of charity that reflected God's tender love. As we honour her memory today, may we too be inspired to live out our faith with joy, simplicity, and a generous spirit of service, bringing hope to those most in need.

ST. ALPHONSA MUTTATHUPADATHU (22 July): St. Alphonsa Muttathupadathu, the first woman of Indian origin to be canonized, shines as a model of humility, patience, and joyful acceptance of suffering. Through her silent sacrifice and deep union with Christ in the midst of pain, she teaches us the power of redemptive suffering offered with love. St. Alphonsa's gentle life reminds us that holiness can be found in simple, hidden deeds done with great love. On her

feast, may we be inspired to embrace our daily crosses with courage, trusting that God's grace transforms even our trials into blessings for the world.

WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY (27 July): The World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be celebrated on Sunday, 27 July 2025, as announced by the Catholic Grandparents Association. This special day, instituted by Pope Francis, is observed on the fourth Sunday of July, close to the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus. The theme for this year is "Blessed are those who have not lost hope." On this occasion, we lift our hearts in gratitude for the lives, wisdom, and unwavering faith of our elders. Their enduring trust in God's providence, especially amid life's trials, is a powerful testimony to hope. May their witness of perseverance and prayer continue to be a guiding light for younger generations. Let us lovingly cherish, accompany, and honor them, asking the Lord to bless them with strength, peace, and the joyful assurance that their lives still bear rich fruit in the heart of the Church.

CONGRATULATIONS:

• A Joyful Moment for Our Institute! I am glad to share the news that on 24 June 2025, the Holy Father Pope Leo XIV appointed our beloved Mother Chiara Cazzuola, Superior General of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, as a member of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. This esteemed appointment is a recognition of her wisdom, leadership, and commitment to consecrated life. It is also a proud and grace-filled moment for our entire Salesian Family.

Dear Mother Chiara, we, your daughters from the Province of Our Lady of Snow, Tiruchirappalli - INT, rejoice with you and assure you of our prayers and support as you take up this new mission of service in the heart of the Church.

• Hearty congratulations to Rev. Fr. Ashley Miranda on his appointment as the twelfth Provincial of the Salesian Province of St. Francis Xavier, Bombay. As he prepares to assume this responsibility on 08 September 2025, we pray that the Lord may bless him abundantly, guide him in his leadership, and accompany him in his mission. May his tenure bring renewed zeal, unity, and growth to the Province.

FOR PEACE IN THE WORLD: I earnestly invite each of you to unite in prayer for peace and unity in our world, especially for the regions suffering from conflict - Russia and Ukraine, and those affected by the Iran-Israel war. May our prayers obtain from the Lord the gift of reconciliation, healing, and harmony among nations. Let us entrust the suffering people to the mercy and providence of God.

*****─··· NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE!····→*****

• **GOLDEN JUBILEE:** With great joy, I invite you to join for the joyful celebration of the Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession of our Sisters: Sr. Aruldoss Rose Mary and Sr. Pushpanathan Virginia on 05 July 2025 at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. Let us come together to thank God for their faithful and fruitful years of consecrated life, and to share in their joy as they renew their 'yes' to the Lord.

• DIPLOMA COURSE IN THEOLOGY:

- **CONGRATULATIONS AND HEARTFELT APPRECIATION**: With joy, we acknowledge Sr. Vishvanathan Sujatha and Sr. Xavier Jenophia Josephine for earning their Diploma in Theology from St. Paul's Institute, Tiruchirappalli, through a dedicated two-year

online programme (2023 - 2025). This milestone reflects their sincere commitment to spiritual and intellectual growth. Congratulations on this noteworthy accomplishment!

- Sr. Arulanandhu Jefri, Sr. Maria Kanikkai Savariammal, and Sr. Sylas Rani Salujah will be attending the two-year (2025 -2027) online Diploma course in Theology organized by St. Paul's Institute of Theology, Tiruchirappalli. We wish them a fruitful and enriching learning experience.
- WELCOME BACK: We joyfully welcome Sr. Soosai Leema Rose, who has successfully completed her two-year study in Salesian Spirituality at Madre Ersilia Canta, Rome. She will be returning to our Province on 07 July 2025, and has been temporarily transferred to the INM Province to serve at Sacred Heart, Katpadi, as the Assistant of the Aspirants and Postulants. May God bless her abundantly in this new mission of accompaniment and formation.
- **BUON VIAGGIO:** We extend our prayerful wishes and best regards to Sr. Sahayaraj Infanta as she departs for Rome on 11 July 2025 to pursue her five-year studies in Psychological Sciences and Techniques at the Pontifical Faculty of Auxilium, Rome. May the Lord bless her journey and grant her a fruitful, enriching experience during her stay in Rome.
- **INM & INT FORMATORS MEET:** The meeting will be held on 14 July 2025 at Kodambakkam, Chennai, providing a valuable opportunity for mutual sharing, reflection, and planning for the initial and ongoing formative journey of our Sisters.
- **PSYCHO-SPIRITUAL INTEGRATION COURSE:** The Psycho-Spiritual Integration Course for the Sisters will be conducted in batches at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli, as scheduled below:
 - Batch I (16 17 July 2025) : 43 Sisters (Years of Profession: 2010 2025)
 - Batch II (19 20 July2025) : 45 Sisters (Years of Profession: 1992 2011)
 - Batch III (22 23 July2025) : 35 Sisters (Years of Profession:1975 1991)
- **POSULANTS RETREAT**: The spiritual retreat of the Aspirants and Postulants will be held from 21- 23 July 2025 at Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi. The Postulants: AMAL RAJ Anitha, AROCKIAM Josephine Infanta, JAMES Loveveena, SANTHIYAGU Gladis Dayana, SEBASTIAN CHRISTOBHER Josephine Jenat of INT Province and ANTHONISAMY Mast Rojiya, JAGANATHAN Jayasri, MARTIN DOSS Poulin Prasanna, SAGAYARAJ Suji, SELVIN RAJ Rosali Archana, AROKIA SAMY Lourdu Mary, THEDOR Sandhiyatheras of INM Province will be receiving the Medal on 24 July 2025. Congratulations dear Postulants! Assurance of our prayers as you discern God's plan for you.
- **JUNIORS TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTION**: The Trimonthly Recollection for INM and INT Juniors will be conducted on 26-27 July 2025 at Kodambakkam. Juniors are requested to reach the venue on the previous day 25 July by 04.00 p.m.
- **LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME, LEAD ACADEMY 2025:** Sr. Robinson Jenny Grace and Sr. George Mary Vijila Rani will participate in the Leadership Development Programme of LEAD Academy 2025, which will be held in two phases: 16 to 30 July at Guwahati and 18 to 28 October 2025 at Bangalore.

∻----•**PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS AND THANKS**•----**?**

• **TEAM AND COMMISSION MEET:** The meeting of the Provincial Team and the Province Commission Members was held on 14 June 2025 at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli, with the aim of evaluating the past year's journey and collaboratively planning

for the new academic year. To set the tone for the day, I initiated the gathering with a talk on 'Team Building'. Sector coordinators presented their Annual Plans and Projects, and the Annual Calendar was reviewed and updated. On this occasion, Sr. Peter Selvarani was gratefully acknowledged for her seven years of service as General Coordinator, while Sr. Rayan M. Auxilia Sophi was warmly welcomed as the new General Coordinator, along with the newly inducted team members. Annual Reports from the various sectors were shared, highlighting achievements and challenges. In the afternoon, participants visited the Team Room to update files with reports and photos, ensuring proper documentation. A joint discussion between team and commission members focused on key areas for growth. The General Assembly offered a moment of collective reflection and renewed commitment to the Province's mission. The presence of five lay collaborators enriched the discussions with fresh perspectives. The day concluded with tea and a spirit of collaboration and dedication.

- **ANIMATORS MEET:** The Animators' Meet for community leaders appointed from 2017 onwards was held on 15 June 2025 at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. Fourteen animators participated in this formative gathering, which offered a meaningful opportunity for reflection, renewal, and growth in leadership. The day began with my talk on "Zoom Out", inviting animators to broaden their vision, look beyond immediate concerns, and embrace each community member with empathy and purpose. This approach is key to building unity and achieving shared goals. The Province Secretary provided clear guidance on essential community documentation, underlining the importance of accountability. The Province Economer shared practical strategies for sound financial and administrative management, equipping animators for responsible and effective stewardship.
- **COURSE ON JOURNAL WRITING**: The training course on Journal Writing was held on 21 and 22 June 2025 at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. Sincere Thanks to the animators who sent not only the sisters responsible for the Community Chronicles but also few more sisters eager to strengthen their writing skills. A total of 34 sisters from across the communities participated in this enriching formation session. Rev. Fr. M.A. Joe Antony, S.J. systematically guided the participants, encouraging them to have a love for writing and an appreciation for its value. Through practical workshops, he taught the essential elements of writing reports, magazine articles, profiles, and biographies. I wish that this significant initiative may further enhance the quality of documentation in our communities, enabling us to preserve and communicate the progressive history of the Province with greater clarity, depth, and professionalism.
- **NEW ECONOMERS' MEET:** The newly appointed Economers of our Province gathered for a two-day meeting on 26 and 27 June 2025 at Auxilium Provincial House. The sessions, organized by Sr. Madalaimuthu Angela, Provincial Economer, aimed at guiding and equipping the new Economers with essential knowledge and skills in financial management, helping them carry out their responsibilities with confidence and competence.
- GLOBAL COMPACT ON EDUCATION ONLINE MEETING: An online session on the Global Compact on Education was organized for all the Sisters on 25 June 2025, from 06.00 p.m. to 07.30 p.m. The session was led by Rev. Fr. John Parankimalil, SDB, who served as the resource person for this enriching and informative webinar. Fr. John clearly and effectively explained the seven key principles of the Global Compact on Education. His presentation was both inspiring and practical, offering concrete suggestions on how to implement these principles in our daily lives and educational missions. The session was highly appreciated by the participants for its clarity, depth, and practical relevance.
- SOUTH ASIA ACSSA REGIONAL SEMINAR: Sr. Antony Lourdu Sagayam, Sr. Anthony Rayappan Jothy, Sr. Mahimai Raj Jaya Sharmila, and Sr. Sundaram Bernadette Neha took part in the South Asia ACSSA Regional Seminar, held from 27 to 29 June 2025 at

the Salesian Provincial House, Bangalore. It was organized in preparation for the 150th anniversaries of the first Salesian missionary expeditions, SDB in 2025 and FMA in 2027, the seminar brought together 40 participants from across South Asia. It featured 20 scholarly presentations on the theme *"Salesian Missions in the World,"* with a special focus on evangelization efforts in South Asia. The event served as a meaningful platform for exploring and reflecting on the historical, cultural, and spiritual legacy of the Salesian missionary journey, both regionally and globally. We congratulate Sr. Philomena D'Souza FMA, Regional President and Fr. Mathew Kapplikunnel SDB, Regional Secretary of ACSSA for organizing the event effectively.

• LOCAL MEDIA COORDINATORS' MEET: The Media Minds Meet 2025 was organised for all the Local Media Coordinators of our Province and was held at St. Francis Xavier Convent, Broadway - Chennai, on 28 and 29 June 2025. Twenty-six Sisters enthusiastically participated in the two-day animation experience. Centered on the theme of the 59th World Day of Social Communications, "Share with gentleness the hope that is in your heart". The sessions were animated by a team of dedicated and competent resource persons: Sr. Samson Gnana Jennifer FMA, Sr. Raja Clarencia Mary FMA, Fr. Amirtharaj Arockiam SDB, and Dr. Magimai Pragasam, a Media Consultant. Through a variety of sessions, workshops, and hands-on training, participants explored themes such as: Sharing hope with gentleness, creating reels of real hope, Spreading a culture of care in communication, Optimizing our communication competence, Telling stories steeped in hope, Safeguarding against cyber threats, and Writing together the history of our future. The Media Minds Meet sparked fresh creativity and reinforced the responsibility of digital evangelization in our mission today.

✤──··APPRECIATION AND THANKS!····→

- To Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy and the Community of Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli for generously hosting the Team and Commission Meet on 14 June 2025, the Animators Meet on 15 June 2025, Course on Journal Writing on 21 and 22 June 2025 and the New Economers' Meet on 26 and 27 June 2025.
- To Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushpam and the community of St. Francis Xavier's Convent, Broadway, Chennai for providing a conducive atmosphere for the Local Media Coordinators' meet on 28 and 29 June 2025.

- 03 St. Thomas the Apostle, Patron of India Solemnity
- 07 Blessed Maria Romero FMA
- 08 Venerable Joseph Augusto Arribat SDB
- 16 Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel
- 22 St. Mary Magdalene Feast
- 25 St. James the Apostle Feast
- 26 Sts. Joachim and Anne
- 27 World Day for Grandparents and Elderly
- 28 St. Alphonsa Muttathupadathu
- 31 St. Ignatius of Loyola

05	:	Golden Jubilee	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
06	:	Co-operators Local Delegates SDB & FMA MEET	Kallukuzhi - Truchirappalli
09	:	YaR and Non-Formal Sector Co-ordinators Meet	Wellington
10	:	Local Women Coordinators Meet	Wellington
12	:	Local Youth Pastoral Coordinators Meet	Puthenthurai
13	:	ASC - ANNUAL Retreat - Coimbatore Zone	Wellington
14	:	INM & INT Formators Meet	Kodambakkam
16-17	:	Psycho Spiritual Integration Course Batch - I	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
19-20	:	Psycho Spiritual Integration Course Batch - II	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
22-23	:	Psycho Spiritual Integration Course Batch - III	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
24	:	Aspirants & Postulants Medal receiving	Vellore - Katpadi
26	:	Orientation for HR.CPP.CR's.	Vadakku Paganoor - Tiruchirappalli
20	:	Vision development in children for the child's (Cognitive) development (Evening Study Centre Coordinators & Staff)	Online
25-27	:	1 st Meeting of ISS-FMA India 2025	Guwahati
26-27	:	INM & INT Juniors Tri-monthly Recollection	Kodambakkam
28-29	:	Provincial Council Meet	Pothur - Chennai

- [†] To the Provincial and the Sisters of INM Province at the demise of Sr. Abraham Jacintha (75) on 14 June 2025.
- [†] To Sr. Sahayaraj Infanta at the loss of her beloved father Mr. Sahayaraj (64) on 25 June 2025.

As we celebrate the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, patron of our land, I extend my heartfelt wishes to each of you. May his courageous faith inspire us to deepen our own commitment. May each day of our life and every opportunity draw us closer to God, inspiring us to renew and equip ourselves to serve the Lord and young people with joy, dedication, and missionary zeal.

Yours affectionately in Christ,

In Maple.

Sr. Fernando Majella

Provincial



JULY - 2025

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01	Provincial Initial Visit	Ulagampatti & Marianathapuram	
02	Provincial Initial Visit	Madurai - Sirudur	
03	Provincial Initial Visit	Madurai - Sringerinagar	
05	Golden Jubilee	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli	
07	Provincial Initial Visit	Thanjavur	
08	Provincial Initial Visit	Regunathapuram	
09	Provincial Initial Visit	Vadakku Paganoor	
11	Provincial Initial Visit	Puthenthurai	
12	Local Youth Pastoral Coordinators Meet	Puthenthurai	
14	INM & INT Formators Meet	Kodambakkam	
16 - 23	Psycho Spiritual Integration Course Batch - I, II, III	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli	
24	Aspirants & Postulants receiving Medal	Vellore - Katpadi	
26	Provincial Initial Visit	Tiruvottiyur	
27	Provincial Initial Visit	GT Marialaya and Pothur	
28-29	Provincial Council Meet	Pothur	
30	Provincial Initial Visit	FX Broadway	