



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

Provincial Circular

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September 2025

My dear Sisters

Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes from Tiruchirappalli.

As we walk the path of our vocation as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, the month of September turns our gaze to Mary, our Mother and Teacher, whose nativity we joyfully celebrate. Her life, simple yet radiant, becomes for us a source of inspiration as we strive to live the mission entrusted to us. In this light, Article 66 of our Constitutions invites us to treasure the precious patrimony passed on to the entire Salesian Family, by our loving Founder St. John Bosco - the Preventive System.

The Preventive System and our Mission - Mary, the Teacher

“Do whatever He tells you” (Jn 2:5)

In the heart of our Salesian charism, Mary’s presence is not accidental; but it is an essential component of our call and mission. Don Bosco himself entrusted the entire mission to her and said with conviction; *“She did it all”*. In the light of Article 66 of our Constitutions, which reminds us of the Preventive System as Don Bosco’s “indispensable heritage,” we recognise how Mary continues to be our teacher, in living this style of education and accompaniment.

“In our apostolic work the Preventive System, Don Bosco’s indispensable heritage to the Salesian Family, becomes an experience of communion lived among ourselves and with young people, in an atmosphere of spontaneity, friendship, and joy.” - Art. 66

We know well that Preventive System is not merely a method or pedagogy; it is a way of life, a spiritual experience of communion lived with the young. Don Bosco summed it up in three simple words: reason, religion, and loving-kindness. But behind these lies the maternal face of Mary, that teacher who was given to him right from his dream at nine. She shaped his heart into that of a shepherd and father. Speaking of spontaneity, friendship, and joy as the climate of our mission, we are inspired to think of the home of Nazareth, where Mary created an atmosphere of simplicity, trust, and cheerful labour!

Mary, teaches us Reason

Reason, within Preventive System, on a primary consideration means logic. It is having a reason for all that we do, or decide to choose. Looking a little beyond, it would mean the wisdom to see reality with the eyes of discernment, guided by faith in God’s will revealed in our daily life. Mary is our teacher in this. When the Angel announced to her, the call and mission, she raised a question: “How can this be?” It was not as much a question of doubt as that which sought the clarity of reason, illumined by faith.

Our Blessed Mother teaches us to respect the intelligence of young people, trust their ability to make choices when guided with patience, dialogue, and understanding. The way Mary dealt with the boy Jesus who was lost and found after three days, was a typical instance of educative reason. How many

young people today cry out to be heard! They long for guides who can reason out with them, not merely impose rules upon them. Mary teaches us to engage their questions with respect, to appeal to their inner resources, and to lead them gently to the truth that sets them free.

Mary, shows us what true Religion is

Religion, in the Preventive System is that personal, deep, joyful relationship with God. Who better than Mary can introduce us to Jesus? As at Cana, she points to the Lord, and says: *“Do whatever He tells you.”* Mary teaches us that our mission is fundamentally, doing what He tells us. Mary continues to whisper that lesson into our ears, urging us to awaken in the young a taste for God, create in them a thirst for prayer, and instill in them a hunger for meaning.

Mary collaborated with the Holy Will of God, not because she understood everything right from the beginning, but because she had total trust in the Lord, an absolute personal commitment. She kept everything in her heart and pondered deeply on what God wanted of her. In a world often marked by restlessness that leads to emptiness, our task is to offer the young, not merely activities, but a true encounter with Christ, the source of fullness. Like Mary, who pondered all things in her heart, we too are called to create spaces of silence, where young people can discover in depth God’s voice within.

Mary communicates Loving Kindness

Loving kindness is the very soul of the Preventive System. It is the art of rendering our love visible and tangible; it is about creating a family spirit where each one feels loved. Don Bosco inherited this capacity from his mother, Mamma Margaret; however, we can trace its roots back to our blessed Mother. In the image of Mary with the Divine infant in her arms, what stands out is her maternal heart that makes every member of this Divine family feel at home.

Mary’s presence with the disciples in the upper room is an epitome of the maternal heart filled with affection, love and compassion. In our life in communities and in the works of our mission, this loving-kindness has to shine forth in our smile, our availability, and our willingness to walk with the young in their joys and sorrows. For a youngster from a broken family, for a youth trapped in addictions, for an adolescent struggling with self-worth, our presence, filled with loving-kindness, becomes a sacrament of God’s tenderness.

The Preventive System as a Marian Mission

Article 66 of our Constitutions, reminds us that the Preventive System is not only about methods but about communicating the Father’s love. Practiced in this way, it opens the young to the liberating power of grace and the joy of self-giving. Mary shines forth both as a model and the guarantee of this mission. When we look at our Blessed Mother, we are reminded that our work fundamentally is all about the accompaniment of the young. It is about relationship and not control; it is about the entire journey of their lives and not merely results. Mary was repeatedly expected to carry out this mission - to be present, to be there, to listen, to encourage and to guide!

With Mary, Bearers of Hope for Today’s Youth

This month, as we celebrate the nativity of Mary, our Mother and Teacher, the Church’s invitation to listen, walk together, and discern, finds a special echo in our Salesian way of living the Preventive System. Our young people face dangers that Don Bosco could have never imagined. For example, today we face challenges like digital addiction, identity confusion, the weakening of family life, and other crises of our time. However, the life experience offered by Don Bosco remains an ever relevant principle for life, because it is not just a technique but a spirituality, a spirituality of hope. Mary walks with us in this mission, reminding us that no young person is ever lost, broken, or far from God’s love.

Like her, we are invited to believe in the hidden potential within every child, to fan into flame even the smallest spark of goodness.

A Personal Reflection...

Dear Sisters, each of us is called to be a Marian presence for the young. What do we do to create in our houses an atmosphere of spontaneity, friendship, and joy? Do our words reveal reason illumined by faith? What importance do we attach to the daily growth in our relationship with God? Do our hearts radiate loving-kindness that makes each young person feel unique and loved? Perhaps the greatest gift we can offer our communities this September would be to renew our commitment to the Preventive System, not merely as methodology in our classrooms and playgrounds, but as our lifestyle in our corridors, recreation halls, kitchens and dining rooms, and wherever life is shared.

As we honour Mary, the Teacher, on her birthday, let us allow her to take us by the hand once more and lead us every day towards her Son. She who taught Don Bosco to dream big and who guided Mother Mazzarello in her simplicity continues to guide us today. May she mould our lives into living testimonies of the Preventive System, making our mission a holistic project of reason, religion, and loving-kindness. Let not our young people only hear about God's love, but experience it alive, in and through us.

Let us never forget what Don Bosco instructed us: *"If you want miracles, go to Mary."* Let us go to Mary and she will make a miracle of our lives!

◆◆◆MONTH'S SPECIAL!◆◆◆

TEACHERS' DAY & FEAST OF ST. MOTHER TERESA OF KOLKATA (05 September): We unite two beautiful celebrations this day, Teachers' Day and the Feast of St. Mother Teresa of Kolkata. Both invite us to recognize the power of love, sacrifice, and guidance in shaping lives. A teacher is more than one who imparts knowledge; a teacher is a guide, a mentor, and a witness of values. The words and example of a teacher remain engraved in the hearts of students long after lessons are forgotten. Mother Teresa, through her life of humility and service, became a teacher par excellence of love to the whole world. Without textbooks or classrooms, she taught an incomparable lesson of compassion, beholding the face of Christ in the poorest of the poor. Both vocations, teaching and serving remind us that true greatness lies not in status or power, but in the daily gift of self to others. Teachers mould minds and touch souls, while Mother Teresa's life teaches us to love without limits.

BLESSEDS SR. CARMEN MORENO BENITEZ AND SR. AMPARO CARBONELL MUÑOZ (06 September): The two Blessed Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Sr. Carmen Moreno Benítez and Sr. Amparo Carbonell Muñoz, gave their lives during the Spanish Civil War (1936). Out of love, they chose to remain with their sick Sister rather than seek safety, embracing danger with faith and courage. Their martyrdom reminds us that true fidelity to Christ means loving and serving even when it costs us everything. May their witness inspire us to live our daily duties with trust in God, courage in trials, and a love that never gives up.

NATIVITY OF BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (08 September): Celebrating the birth of Mother Mary is a moment of joy for the whole Church. She entered the world as a sign of hope, chosen to bring forth the Saviour. On this same day, India celebrates Girl Child Day, reminding us that every girl, like Mary, carries within her the gift of life, love, and a unique mission. Mary's birth tells us that each life is precious, each child is a blessing, and each girl deserves

to be cherished and given the freedom to grow. When we nurture and respect the girl child, we honour God's plan and reflect the same care with which God prepared Mary for her role in salvation. Let us celebrate this day with gratitude, thanking God for Mary, and committing ourselves to uplift every girl child with love and respect.

GREETINGS TO THE SDB PROVINCE OF TIRUCHY: The Nativity of our Blessed Mother also marks the feast of the Mother of Good Health, Velankanni. On this joyful occasion, we lovingly greet the Salesian Province of Tiruchy (INT), which has entrusted itself into the care of Our Lady of Velankanni. As they celebrate this special moment of grace, we pray that Our Blessed Mother accompany them with her maternal protection all through the year, strengthen their mission with faith and unity, and fill the Province with renewed zeal in the service of young people and the Church.

EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (14 September): The Cross, once a sign of suffering and shame, has become for us the sign of victory and salvation. It offers us the powerful message that through love and sacrifice, even pain can be transformed into blessings and a fount of life. Embracing the Cross with faith leads us to resurrection and hope.

OUR LADY OF SORROWS (15 September): Mary, the Mother of Sorrows, stood at the foot of the Cross with firm faith and courage. She teaches us that true love means remaining faithful even in suffering. From her, we learn to trust that every sorrow united with Christ opens the way to new life and deeper joy.

ARCHANGELS MICHAEL, GABRIEL AND RAPHAEL (29 September): On September 29, we celebrate the Feast of Saints Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, who reveal God's presence among us. St. Michael defends us in the struggle against evil, St. Gabriel brings us God's message of hope, and St. Raphael guides and heals us on life's journey. Their lives remind us that God never abandons His people: God protects, speaks, and heals through these special messengers. Like them, we too are called to be bearers of faith, courage, and love in our daily lives.

◆◆◆NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE!◆◆◆

- **ANNUAL RETREAT OF THE PCI:** The annual Retreat of the FMA PCI (FMA Provincial Conference of India) will be held in Auxilium Provincial house, Shillong, from 02 to 10 September 2025. I kindly request your prayers for a fruitful and grace-filled retreat of the Leaders of our provinces. In my absence, kindly refer all urgent matters to the Vice-Provincial, Sr. Lazar Bernardine.
- **THE SEASON OF CREATION - 2025:** The Catholic Season of Creation 2025 will be held from 01 September to 04 October with the theme "*Peace with Creation.*" It calls us to prayer and action on behalf of our common home, beginning with the *World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation* and ending with the *Feast of St. Francis of Assisi*. The theme reminds us that caring for the Earth is closely tied to lasting peace and justice, especially for the poor. May this season move us to live simple, protect creation, and reflect God's harmony and goodness.

LAUDATO SI' WEEK - 2025: In our Province, the Laudato Si' Week 2025 will be celebrated from 08 to 14 September. I kindly request all communities to participate actively by making use of the materials that will be shared by Sr. Ayudukayam Arockia Malarjothi, Province Coordinator for Laudato Si'. These resources include:

- *Laudato Si' Goals and Good Practices*
- *Workbook to support the development of Laudato Si' Action Plans by Religious*
- *Suggested Activities for Celebrating the Season of Creation and Laudato Si' Week 2025.*

Let this celebration strengthen our commitment to care for creation, uniting prayer with meaningful steps that bring life and harmony to our world.”

- **HEARTY WELCOME, DEAR SR. PANNIRSELVAM ALPHONSA :** With immense joy, we welcome back Sr. Pannirselvam Alphonsa to our Province after 22 years of dedicated service at the Generalate in Rome as Informarian. Her delicate care and devoted service to the Sisters have been a great blessing to the Institute. As she now returns to our Province, we gratefully recognize her fidelity and passion for the Salesian mission and pray that the Lord may bless and strengthen her in this new chapter of her mission among us. Welcome home, dear Sister!
- **NEW PROVINCIAL OF BOMBAY PROVINCE:** On behalf of our Province, we congratulate Fr. Ashley Miranda SDB on his installation as the 12th Provincial of the Salesian Province of St. Francis Xavier, Mumbai, on 08 September 2025 at Don Bosco Madonna, Matunga. We assure him of our prayerful support, that his mission may reflect Don Bosco's heart for the young and Christ's compassion for the least. May Mary Help of Christians walk with him and strengthen him in this noble service.

✦♦♦PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS♦♦✦

- **PAST PUPILS' MEET:** Auxilium Convent, Madurai, Sirudur, joyfully welcomed 47 past pupils and 10 sisters from ten units on 09 August 2025. In my initial talk, I encouraged new approaches to engage the past pupils. Mr. Major Muthukumar from MRC Barracks, Wellington, a Past pupil from Puliadithammam, inspired the gathering with his talk on “Give Hope to the Hopeless - Pilgrims of Hope”. The Province Delegate, Sr. Viagappan Rosario Jebamani, emphasised the value of unity through a presentation on the honeycomb, shared updates on the International Congress and Mornese FMA Statutes, and presented the year's plan. After group discussions and presentations, the day concluded joyfully, with past pupils leaving inspired to be ambassadors of hope.
- **HEADMISTRESSES' MEET:** A meeting of the Headmistresses was organized by Sr. Sebastian Margaret Mary, Province Academic Coordinator, on 10 August 2025 at Auxilium Convent, Sirudur - Madurai. In my inaugural address, the participants were invited to cultivate authenticity, integrity, and empathetic listening as essential leadership qualities. Fr. John Peter SDB, in his sessions on *Education: A Commitment to Experience*, spoke on the essential qualities of effective educators - communication, ethics, creativity, and inclusivity - and also presented twelve rules for effective service, stressing professionalism, spirituality, and teamwork. Sr. Sebastian Margaret Mary explained the

rules and regulations of the Minority Schools in regard with Government Orders, and the procedure for applying for Minority Status. The expectations of animators from Headmistresses were clarified, and Sr. Joseph Prettencia presented the FMA Environmental Policy and encouraged its practical implementation. The meeting fostered awareness, professional clarity, and renewed dedication to the educational mission.

- **ANIMATORS' MEET:** The Animators' Meeting was held at St. Francis Xavier Convent, Broadway, Chennai, from 16 to 18 August 2025, providing a fruitful space for learning, reflection, and sharing in the spirit of Salesian leadership.

On 16 August, a session on "Humility in Leadership" invited the participants to rediscover the heroism hidden in humble service. The study of FMA Constitutions, Articles 52 and 164, enriched the understanding of an animator's role in fostering communion and vibrant community life. In the afternoon, the Provincial staff shared valuable insights: Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy, Province Secretary (communication and documentation), Sr. Madalaimuthu Angela, Province Economist (accountability and transparency), and Sr. Sebastian Margaret Mary, Academic Coordinator (quality education and holistic growth).

On 17 August, with the theme "Being Animators in the Digital Times," the participants were offered practical guidance on some essential apps and the positive use of mobile technology, led by Sr. Samson Gnana Jennifer, the Province Coordinator for Social Media Communication. The reflection was enriched by Dr. A. Magimai Pragasam, who offered a session on the safe and productive use of media, encouraging responsible, ethical, and creative engagement with technology for evangelization, education, and community building.

On 18 August, the Animators' meet concluded with a refreshing outing to the VGP Marine Kingdom - Chennai, where the animators were filled with awe by God's wonders in creation and enjoyed moments of fraternity. This joyful experience crowned the three days of learning and sharing, leaving them renewed in spirit and strengthened in their mission to lead with humility, creativity, and dedication.

- **GLOBAL MISSION TEAM - ASIAN PROVINCE MISSION AD/INTER GENTES COORDINATORS ONLINE MEETING:** On 23 August 2025, Sr. Robert Santhiya Punitha, Province Mission Ad/Inter Gentes Coordinator, participated in an Asia-level online meeting organized by the Global Mission Team for Province Mission Ad/Inter Gentes Coordinators. Sr. Mora Ruth del Pilar, the General Councillor for the Mission, opened the session, reflecting on the second year of preparation for the 150th anniversary of the first FMA expedition to America and the canonization of Blessed Maria Troncatti. She recalled the words of Pope Francis' call to evangelization, encouraged participants to be messengers of peace, and invited prayers for those affected by war in Myanmar. Sr. Francisca Cassano presented on the life, virtues, and missionary spirit of Blessed Maria Troncatti. The session concluded with group sharing, discussions, and updates on ongoing preparations and the canonization process.
- **VIDES GENERAL BODY MEETING:** The Zonal cum General Body Meeting of VIDES, was organized by Sr. Devaraj Jeyarani, Province Coordinator for VIDES, on 24 August 2025, at Therespuram, Tuticorin, bringing together 52 participants, including the local Coordinators (Sisters), VIDES members, and Junior VIDES. The meeting revolved around the themes "Guidelines of VIDES Volunteer" and "Volunteers: Powered by Passion, Fueled by Kindness." The Meeting featured the presentation of the Junior VIDES Plan and Project 2025 - 2026. Resource persons: Sr. Azarias Arokia Mary Selvi, Fr. Jeyan

Joseph SDB, and Sr. Devaraj Jeyarani led the lively and interactive sessions using videos, presentations, games, and group discussions, encouraging active participation and collaboration. A key decision was made to implement the Junior VIDES across local units and schools.

- **MEETING OF LOCAL COORDINATORS OF LAY MISSION AD/INTER GENTES:** On 30 August 2025, the Local Mission Ad/Inter Gentes Coordinators' Meet was held at Auxilium Convent, Sirudur, Madurai, organized and animated by Sr. Robert Santhiya Punitha, Province Coordinator for Mission Ad/Inter Gentes. The meeting brought together 18 Sisters and 12 lay collaborators. Centred on the theme "*The Soul of Our Mission is Hope,*" the participants reflected on Pope Francis' Message for Mission Sunday and drew inspiration from the life of Blessed Maria Troncatti, a true missionary of hope among the Shuar people. Sessions were led by Sr. Antony Lourdu Sagayam, Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani, Sr. Robert Santhiya Punitha, and Sr. Savari Raj Arockia Sophiya, and enriched with video clippings, group discussions, and sharing. Practical resolutions included motivating lay participation, strengthening family visits, involving youth in spreading hope, and promoting the life stories of Salesian Saints. The meeting concluded with gratitude, souvenirs, and the Jubilee Year song, renewing the participants' commitment to live and spread hope as the soul of every mission.

◆◆◆APPRECIATION AND THANKS!◆◆◆

- To the Animator and the Community of Madurai - Sirudur for having created a conducive atmosphere for the Past Pupils' Meet on 09 August 2025, for Head Mistresses' Meet on 10 August 2025 and for the Local Mission Ad/Inter Gentes Co-ordinators' Meet on 30 August 2025.
- To the Animator and the Community of St. Francis Xavier Convent, Broadway - Chennai for having hosted the Animators' Meeting from 16 to 18 August 2025.
- To the Animator and the Community of Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli, for creating a serene atmosphere during the Provincial Council Meet held on 23 and 24 August 2025.
- To the Animator and the Community of Therespuram for having organized the VIDES General Body Meeting on 24 August 2025.
- To the Animators and the Communities of Vadakku Paganoor, Thanjavur, Arni, Polur and Pallikonda for their generous service, warm hospitality, and tender care shown to our second-year Novices, making their community and apostolic experience truly enriching and memorable.
- To the Animators and Communities who hosted the Trimonthly Recollection in the month of August.

◆◆◆IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE MONTH◆◆◆

01Sept. - 04 Oct	-	Season of Creation
05	-	St. Teresa of Kolkata / Teachers' Day
06	-	Bl. Carmen Moreno & Maria Amparo Carbonell
08	-	Nativity of The Blessed Virgin Mary / Girl Child's Day

12	-	Holy Name of Mary
14	-	Exaltation of The Holy Cross
15	-	Our Lady of Sorrows
21	-	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
22	-	Bl. Joseph Calasanza, Bl. Enrico Saizapricio SDB & Co
24	-	Our Lady of Ransom
25	-	World Day of Migrants and Refugees
26	-	Feast Archangels: Michael, Raphael and Gabriel

◆◆◆MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE◆◆◆

DATE	PROGRAMME	VENUE
01-10	Provincial Annual Retreat	Shillong
08-14	Laudato Si` Week	Local Communities
25	Provincial Council Meet	Madurai - Sringerinagar
26	Training on Ecological Entrepreneurship for Women	Manikandam - Trichy
27	Training on Vision Building	Pothur
27-28	Training on Child Rights Advocacy Training for NCP members	ASSIST, Trichy
30	Vision development in children for the child's (cognitive) development - Evening Study Centre Coordinators & Staff	Online

◆◆◆CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS◆◆◆

- † **To Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela**, who lost her eldest sister, Ms. Aloysious Mary (76), on 12 July 2025.
- † **To the Provincial and the confreres of INP Province** at the passing away of Br. Franco Braganca SDB (85) on 02 August 2025.
- † **To Sr. Savarimuthu Annamanickam** at the demise of her Sister-in-law, Mrs. Jeyarose Gaspar (60), on 04 August 2025.
- † **To the Provincial and the Sisters of INB Province**, at the demise of Sr. Florie D'Mello FMA (88), on 11 August 2025.
- † **To Sr. Madalaimuthu Pokkisha Mary** at the loss of her niece, Ms. Preethi (37), on 15 August 2025.

As we commemorate Teachers' Day at the beginning of this month, I take the opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to all our dear Sisters in the school ministry and to every teacher in our educational institutions, who generously share in our charismatic mission of educating the young. In fact, every Salesian Sister is an Educator of the Young! Dear Sisters and Teachers, your tireless dedication, creativity, and love form the pillars that sustain and shape the future of our children. You are true beacons of light, illuminating the minds, hearts, and souls of the young entrusted to our care.

Looking to Mary, the Mother and Teacher of life, may we as Salesian Sisters, rekindle our awareness that each of us is entrusted with the sacred task of nurturing life in the young, sowing within them seeds of hope, faith, and joy. May this month strengthen our vocation and fill us with the courage to educate with love, and to inspire with our very lives.

Wishing you all a Happy Teachers' Day. I assure my prayers for you to our Blessed Mother of Good Health, that each of you be filled with health, joy and blessings!

Yours affectionately in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sr. Fernando Majella FMA', written in a cursive style.

Sr. Fernando Majella FMA

INT Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

SEPTEMBER - 2025

01-10	FMA PCI Provincials Annual Retreat	Shillong
15-16	Provincial Visit	Wellington
18-19	Provincial Visit	Coimbatore
21-22	Provincial Visit	Narasipuram
23-24	Provincial Visit	Madurai - Sringerinagar
25	Provincial Council meet	Madurai - Sringerinagar