



**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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Tiruchirappalli - 620 012



Cir. No. 29

October 2025

*My dear Sisters*

*Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes from Tiruchirappalli.*

As we begin the month of October, it is my joy yet again to send across each of you, my affectionate greetings and heartfelt blessings. During my annual retreat at Shillong, I held you all in my prayers, entrusting each of you to God's loving care. May these prayers continue to accompany you throughout the month, inspiring courage, peace, and renewed zeal in our mission.

The month of October draws us close to Mary, the Queen of the Holy Rosary. Each bead in the Rosary in our hands, is like the heartbeat of the Mother who never leaves our side. As we whisper the Hail Marys, we are not only reciting those prayers but we let Mary teach us the way she was present to the Holy will of God, to Jesus her God-given Son, and to each of us sons and daughters entrusted to her by her Son - her presence characterised by attention, tenderness, and faithfulness. This presence can be seen also at the heart of our charism. Article 67 of our Constitutions speaks to us of **Salesian Assistance** and reminds us that it is not a technique, but a vocation. It is a warm-hearted, welcoming, witnessing presence among the young, which makes them feel loved, valued, and led to God.

## **1. Assistance: The Expression of our Charism**

*“Salesian Assistance, a typical expression of the Preventive System, [...] is a welcoming, active, witnessing presence among young people, a warm-hearted sharing in their lives, and aspirations.”*

### ***Salesian Assistance - a Presence that Protects***

We know the fact that young people today live in a reality filled with both promise and peril. They are open to dreams, but also vulnerable to distractions. Social media, substance abuse, peer pressures, loneliness, and anxieties often weigh heavily on them. In such a fragile world, the Salesian presence becomes a safe shelter. Being there physically among the young is important, but even more, they long for a presence that protects their hearts: a Sister who listens without judging, who notices when something is wrong, who quietly prays for them, and who believes in them when they dare not believe in themselves. This is the heart of Salesian Assistance; the presence that shields without suffocating, and protects without possessing.

### ***Salesian Assistance - a Guidance that Gives Life***

Salesian Assistance is not just about being present; it is about guiding with gentleness. Can we forget those beautiful words of Don Bosco: it is not enough to love the young people, they must know that they

are loved. That visible love is what gives our words authority and our guidance its relevance. We assist by encouraging, asking questions that open their horizons, by helping them choose life over destruction. Mary at Cana is our model: she did not perform the miracle herself, but simply pointed to Jesus and said, “Do whatever He tells you.” Guidance in the Salesian sense means walking beside, pointing to Christ, and leading the young gently to their own fullness of life.

### ***Salesian Assistance - an Accompaniment that Awakens Hope***

Assistance, in its deepest sense, is about awakening hope. Many young people today feel unnoticed, unheard, or unimportant. Our presence, marked with kindness and attention, can awaken in them the courage to dream. Like Mary at Nazareth, who created a home of simplicity, warmth, and trust, we too are called to create spaces where the young feel at home. A smile at the gate, a word in the corridor, a quiet chat during recreation, a gentle pat when someone is found sad - these small gestures of accompaniment can awaken hope more powerfully than long discourses. In this, we touch the lives of the young, not just at the surface but at the heart. For Don Bosco, assistance meant being with them and before them, in the playground, the classroom, the chapel, the workshop - not at a distance, but at the side of his youngsters. He did not merely instruct; he accompanied. He did not merely teach; he inspired. His presence reassured his boys, that they were never alone, and in his smile and words they experienced a trace of God’s love.

## **2. Assistance: A Spirituality of Hope**

At its core, Salesian assistance is a **spirituality of hope**. The articles states:

*“Finding themselves accepted and understood in the things that they like, they, in turn, will be more ready to accept what we propose.”*

We see here a ‘spirituality’ at play and ‘hope’ in consideration.

### ***Salesian Assistance as our Spirituality***

“Preventive System”, which is considered the epitome of Salesian Spirituality, can be concretely translated as our constant, committed and compassionate presence among the young. We understand the young, their dreams, their aspirations, their difficulties and their challenges, because we are constantly with them, sharing their daily lives. It is the way we give ourselves to the integral wellbeing, the total development – in a single term, the salvation of the young. It becomes the way we express ourselves, find our fulfillment, our real meaning and the significance of our call. Being with the young is the incarnational principle involved in our charismatic expression.

### ***Salesian Assistance as manifestation of our Hope***

Being with the young, is not merely an act. It is a lifestyle, an outlook, a way of looking at the young and understanding them not as problems to be solved but as promises to be fulfilled. It is believing that no young person is ever too lost, too broken, or too far from God’s embrace. In living assistance, we proclaim by our lives that there is always a way forward, always a seed of goodness waiting to sprout, always a hidden flame ready to be fanned into fire. This hope-filled presence is the most precious gift we can offer to today’s youth.

### 3. Living Assistance Today

Let us now pose to ourselves a simple, practical question: How can we live Salesian assistance concretely today? Some most probable means could be...

- **Being where the young are:** to step into the world of the young - their games, their digital spaces, their questions, their joys and their aspirations;
- **Listening deeply:** to hear not only their words but beyond - the cries of their hearts and the sighs of their souls;
- **Creating family spirit:** communities that radiate joy, spirit of welcome, and sense of belonging, become schools of Preventive System;
- **Walking with Mary:** praying the Rosary and expressing our filial love for our Blessed Mother, makes Mary a person who can shape our presence into one that reflects God's tenderness.

Assistance is not about doing more, but about being more - more present, more loving, more available. It renders us to be channels of God's love in the ordinariness of daily life. Let us look at a significant reference to this all important term - ASSIST.

- **A**ttention - to notice the little things that matter in a young person's life.
- **S**upport - to walk with them in joys and struggles.
- **S**pirituality - to find one's fulfillment and lead others to the same.
- **I**nspiration - to encourage them towards initiatives and constant efforts.
- **S**afety - to protect them from harm, physical and emotional and so on.
- **T**enderness - to make them feel loved and valued, opening oneself to the tender love of God.

This simple acronym can remind us of the fact that assistance is not about doing great things, but it is all about living in simple and concrete ways with great constancy.

#### In conclusion...

Salesian assistance is the heartbeat of our vocation. It is the way we stand beside the young, not as supervisors but as companions who share their lives. One risk to pay attention to, is the fact that we could be physically present but inwardly absent. We could be near in body but far in spirit from the young. The spirituality of assistance calls us to a very special kind of presence: with eyes that notice, ears that listen, hearts that respond, hands that reach out and legs that walk with the young.

Celebrating our Blessed Mother, Queen of the Holy Rosary, we are challenged us to ask ourselves: Do our communities radiate the warmth of a family where each one feels safe and loved? As in contemplating the mysteries of the Rosary, Mary reminds us of what true presence means - in Nazareth, Cana, and Calvary, Mary was always there, not passive, but loving, steadfast, and strong, we too are called to such a presence. We are called, not to be distant observers, but to be women who stand close, inspire trust, and awaken hope by "being there."

Salesian assistance is not a method to be applied but the charism that we live. It is born from communion with Christ and is animated by the maternal presence of Mary. As we celebrate the Holy Rosary this month, may Mary form in us hearts that are attentive, patient, and courageous - hearts that believe in the hidden potential of every young person. Let us hear her whisper as she once did into Mother Mazzarello's ears: *"I entrust them to you" Be with them! Be present to them!*

## ◆◆◆MONTH'S SPECIAL!◆◆◆

**ST. THERESA OF CHILD JESUS (01 October):** We begin the month of October with St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, in whose honour the Church celebrates this Missionary Month. The “Little Flower” offers us a profound example of missionary zeal, even within the confines of a cloister. Known as the “Missionary within the Four Walls,” she embraced the whole world through her prayers, sacrifices, and acts of love, contributing greatly to the salvation of souls. This year marks *the centenary of her canonization*, a reminder of the timeless inspiration she gives to the Church. Her life invites every believer to share in the mission of Christ, each according to their own vocation. Let us pray for all missionaries, that their labour may bear abundant fruit in spreading God’s love and mercy to every corner of the earth.

**THE FEAST OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS (02 October):** We celebrate the Feast of the Guardian Angels, a sign of our honour and gratitude to the angels appointed to watch over and guide us. In the Salesian tradition, this day holds special significance, as it also recognizes the selfless dedication of those who assist and guide young people in oratories, schools, and educational institutions - everyone who ensures Salesian Assistance in our ministry settings is a personification of the Guardian angel. Don Bosco highlighted this significance of caring for the young with love and patience, just as guardian angels protect and accompany those entrusted to them. Let us entrust all the educators and helpers in our educative community settings to the Lord and thank our own guardian angels for their protection and guidance.

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (04 October):** The feast of St. Francis of Assisi this year marks the conclusion of the Season of Creation (01 September - 04 October, 2025). It was a time to reflect, pray, and act for the care of our common home. This day, we are reminded to joyfully embrace the virtues of simplicity, humility, and a deep love for creation as signs of being persons of God. Francis’ radical poverty challenges us to a detachment from excesses and to a choice to live with gratitude, and with compassion for the poor and the vulnerable.

**ROSARY FOR PEACE (11 October):** Pope Leo XIV has invited all the faithful to join in praying the Rosary every day during October to invoke God’s gift of peace for the entire world. The Holy Father has announced that a Rosary will be prayed in St. Peter’s Square on October 11 as part of the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality, and has invited the entire Church to unite spiritually in this prayer and in this intention. The Sisters are invited to join the Rosary online at 09.30 p.m. IST, praying together as communities in communion with the universal Church.

**ST. TERESA OF AVILA (15 October):** On 15 October, we honour St. Teresa of Jesus, or popularly known as Teresa of Avila - a reformer, mystic, and a Doctor of the Church. Her spirituality, rooted in profound prayer and trust in God, continues to inspire us today. As a patroness of our Institute, she teaches us that genuine renewal begins in the heart, with an intimate union with Christ. Her courage in facing trials and her passion for truth encourage us to live our Salesian mission with authenticity, forming and guiding young people, and fostering communities where God’s presence can be deeply felt.

**MISSION SUNDAY (19 October):** The Mission Sunday this year invites us to reflect on the theme “*Missionaries of Hope Among all Peoples.*” We shall join the universal Church in prayer for all missionaries who dedicate their lives to spreading the Gospel, often in challenging and difficult situations. In our communities we shall find ways and means of animating the faithful to support the missionary mandate of the Church in and through prayer, sacrifice, and solidarity.

**BLESSED MICHAEL RUA (29 October):** Blessed Michael Rua, the first successor of Don Bosco, is remembered as the “**Faithful Disciple**” who carried forward the Salesian charism with humility, dedication, and strong fidelity. He transformed Don Bosco’s vision into reality by consolidating the Congregation and spreading its spirit across the world. His life of prayer, kindness, and tireless work among the young continues to inspire us to live our vocation with joy, perseverance, and faithfulness.

## ◆◆◆NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE!◆◆◆

- **CANONIZATION OF SR. MARIA TRONCATTI:** The Institute of FMA, along with the entire Salesian Family, exults with immense joy and gratitude as one of its beloved members, Sister Maria Troncatti, FMA, is raised to the altars as a Saint. Her canonization is not merely a moment of pride, but that of inspiration, reminding us of the extraordinary holiness that can shine through a life of humble service, firm faith, and undaunted dedication to Gospel.

On 19 October 2025, the Church will officially canonize Sr. Maria Troncatti, FMA, honouring her heroic virtue and remarkable life of service. Born in Corteno Golgi, Italy, in 1883, she entered the Institute of Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in 1908. She served as a Red Cross nurse during World War I and faithful to the promise she made to Our Blessed Mother, became a missionary in Ecuador in 1922. For nearly fifty years among the Shuar people, she was known as the “doctor of the jungle” and “madrecita,” caring for the sick, educating children, empowering women, and fostering peace and reconciliation. She died in a plane crash in Sucúa, Ecuador, in 1969.

Declared a Venerable in 2008, and beatified in 2012, her canonization was confirmed through a miracle attributed to her intercession, testifying to her closeness to God and extraordinary virtue. Together with the whole Church, we shall celebrate marking this event of canonization in all our communities and mission places. As Mother General Sr. Chiara Cazzuola invites us, may the life of Sr. Maria Troncatti continue to inspire us, the FMA and the Salesian Family, to be agents of peace, stewards of mercy, and faithful witnesses of God’s love in every corner of the world. May her example strengthen our missionary spirit, renew our commitment to the young and the poor, and encourage us to walk with courage and joy in the path of the Gospel.

- **SALESIAN FAMILY LIVE-IN:** A Salesian Family Live-in will be held on 01 and 02 October 2025, at Don Bosco Vellakinar, Coimbatore. The theme for the days of the Live-in will be “Communion in Salesian family”. The following Sisters from our Province will be participating in it this year: Sr. Abraham Epsibai, Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy, Sr. Antony Rajapusam, Sr. Babiles Prabhakaran Sweety, Sr. George Mary Vijila Rani, Sr. Irudhayaraj Victoria, Sr. Panneerselvam Alphonsa, Sr. Robert Santhiyagu Punitha and Sr. Xavier Jenophia Josephine.
- **ASHRAM EXPERIENCE:** The six first-year Novices shall have an Ashram Experience at Mannivakkam, Chennai from 07 to 17 October 2025. We wish that this sacred time be filled with deep spiritual growth, reflection, and a profound encounter with God, for our young sisters in the Lord.
- **TRIPLE FEST AT AUXILIUM, CHITTAMPATTI:** The Province Youth Fest shall take place on 10 October 2025 at Auxilium Arts and Science College for Women, Chittampatti, Madurai. The Local Youth Pastoral Coordinators, with the youth from each community will be participating in it. We wish the organizers and the participants a wonderful experience of fellowship and spirit of youthfulness. The occasion shall be marked by the Inauguration of the College Building (Academic Block) at Chittampatti and the celebration of the Canonization of Sr. Maria Troncatti, a Daughter of Mary Help

of Christians, missionary, an artisan of peace and Reconciliation and a saint of the Amazon. We wish the community all the best in their continued mission of education of the young and in keeping alive the Salesian Charism of joyful holiness.

- **FMA-PCI FORMATORS MEET - 2025:** The Formation Sector of FMA-PCI organizes a Formators' Programme from 22-27 October 2025 at Auxilium Provincial House, Guwahati. The theme of the gathering shall be "Formative Accompaniment of the FMA India in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Concerns & Challenges." Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy, Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani, and Sr. Maria Arul Paulia Mary, from our province, shall participate in the programme.
- **FMA & SDB SALESIAN COOPERATORS - PROVINCE ELECTIVE CONGRESS:** The Salesian Cooperators will be having their Elective Congress at Don Bosco Alaihal Media, Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli on 26 October 2025.
- **TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTION AND A DAY OF ANIMATION:**
  - **JUNIORS:** Trimonthly Recollection and Day of Animation for the Junior Sisters of INT and INM will be held on 08 and 09 November 2025 at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. The participants are expected to arrive the prior evening by 04.30 p.m.
  - **SENIORS:** The Trimonthly Recollection for the Senior Sisters will take place in the cluster communities on 01 November 2025. The theme for the trimonthly recollection will be, "Spirituality of St. Paul" on 1 and 2 Thessalonians and Hebrews.

## ◆◆◆PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS◆◆◆

- **VOCATION PROMOTERS SEMINAR:** Sr. Rayappan Sampooram, the INT Province Vocation Promoter, participated in the Vocation Promoters Seminar held on 30 and 31 August 2025 at Poondimadha Retreat Centre, Poondimadha Basilica, Thirukattuppalli. A total of 124 coordinators took part, including Diocesan, Religious, and Zonal-level Vocation Promoters and Coordinators from various congregations across Tamil Nadu. The seminar was centered on the theme: "Participation and Contribution of Women in Vocation Promotion and in the Formation of Vocation Promoters and Consecrated Persons." Most Rev. Dr. Arulselvam Rayappan D.D., Bishop of Salem, presided over the seminar, and Rev. Sr. Deva Priya SMMI served as the resource person.
- **ADMA - DON BOSCO WELLINGTON:** It was a great joy for me to preside over the solemn promise and the grand celebration on 14 September 2025, where 30 new members of the *Association of Devotees of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA)* of the INT Province were warmly welcomed into the Salesian Family at Don Bosco Wellington. After a meaningful period of formation under the guidance of Sr. Ignaci Kulandai Theresa, Province Delegate of the Salesian Cooperators, the candidates committed themselves to Marian devotion, Eucharistic worship, living the Salesian family spirit, and supporting young people in Don Bosco's mission. Their profession marks a significant step forward for the province, bringing renewed energy and dedication to the Salesian apostolate. A heartfelt word of thanks goes to Sr. Kulandai Theresa, the community of Don Bosco Wellington, and the Salesian Cooperators of the Coimbatore Zone, whose dedication made this celebration both grand and grace-filled.

- **FMA-PCI YOUTH PASTORAL - WEBINAR:** An online webinar entitled “*Anchored in Hope: Overcoming Mental Challenges*” was organized on 20 September 2025, under the initiative of Sr. Kalyani Subramaniam, the National Youth Coordinator. Sr. John Bosco Edal Queen, the Province Youth Pastoral Coordinator, together with a few local pastoral coordinators and about 30 youngsters, took part in the programme. The introductory talk was given by Sr. Mabel Gothorp, Provincial of Guwahati and FMA-PCI Vice President, referring to the theme of the 39<sup>th</sup> World Health Day, “*Healthy beginnings, hopeful futures*”. The resource person, Sr. Wismary Kharbihkhiew, developed the theme “*Anchored in Hope: Overcoming Mental Challenges*”, highlighting the importance of resilience, positive thinking, and self-care. The session became interactive through a participatory activity on hope and inspiring stories of perseverance. The webinar concluded with the strong reminder that hope is the anchor in life’s struggles, empowering the young to face challenges with courage and faith.
- **FMA-PCI MEDIA MEET - BASIC VIDEO EDITING WORKSHOP:** The National-level FMA-PCI Media Meet was held from 20 to 22 September 2025 at Auxilium College, Katpadi, as a workshop for *Basic Video Editing*. It was organized by Sr. Varapragasam Maria Rajeshwari, (INK) National Coordinator for Social Communication and coordinated by Sr. Rajendiran Thimena Celine (INM). Sisters from all seven provinces of India participated and from our province, Sr. Pensikar Bastina Mary, Sr. Mahimai Raj Jaya Sharmila, and Sr. Charles Sandal Princy took part in the workshop actively. The workshop proved to be a joyful and fruitful experience, leaving the sisters confident and motivated to launch their own creative video projects.

## ❖❖❖ APPRECIATION AND THANKS! ❖❖❖

- *To Sr. Rosa Pyngrope and the Sisters of the Province of INS, for their warm and affectionate hospitality, and for the meticulous and well-prepared arrangements made for the Annual Retreat of the FMA-PCI Provincials, held in Shillong from 01 to 10 September 2025.*
- *To Sr. Mabel Gothorp, the Provincial, and the Provincial House Community of the Province of ING, for their efficient transport arrangements, gracious sisterly accompaniment, and prompt attentiveness to our needs throughout the journey, at the FMA-PCI meet.*
- *To Sr. Lazar Bernardine, the Vice Provincial, for her generous and attentive accompaniment of the Sisters and the Province during my absence.*
- *To Sr. Anthony Swamy Rosy and the community of Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli, for having hosted the Provincial Council meeting on 25 September 2025.*
- *To Sr. Susai Anthonia and the Community of Marianathapuram - Dindigul for hosting the Neighbourhood Children Parliament Meet on 28 and 29 September 2025, and for their care in welcoming and guiding the 48 NCP members and 10 staff from Dindigul, Puliadithammam and Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli.*

- To Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani and the Community of Keela Eral for facilitating the *Neighbourhood Children Parliament Meet* on 01 and 02 October 2025, and for accompanying the 49 NCP members and 5 staff from Keela Eral.

## ◆◆◆IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE MONTH◆◆◆

01	-	St. Teresa of Child Jesus
02	-	Guardian Angels
04	-	St. Francis of Assisi
05	-	Bl. Albert Marvelli
07	-	Our Lady of Rosary
11	-	Pope St. John XXIII
12	-	Bl. Alessandrina
15	-	St. Teresa of Avila
16	-	St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
18	-	Feast of St. Luke, the Evangelist
19	-	Mission Sunday / Canonization of Bl. Maria Trocatti
22	-	Pope St. John Paul II
24	-	St. Luigi Guanella
28	-	Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles
29	-	Bl. Michel Rua

## ◆◆◆MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE◆◆◆

01 - 02	-	Salesian Co-operators Family Live-in	Coimbatore
04	-	Local Coordinators - Mission ad/inter Gentes Coordinators meet.	Online meet
06 - 09	-	MEDIA WEEK in Schools and Colleges and Non-formal Sectors	Local Communities
07 - 16		Ashram Experience - 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Novices	Mannivakkam - Chennai
10		Province level celebration of Sr. Maria Troncatti, Province Youth Fest and Chittampatti Auxilium College Building Inauguration	Chittampatti - Madurai
19	-	Canonization of Sr. Maria Troncatti	Rome
23	-	Training on Ecological Entrepreneurship for Women	GT - Marialaya, Chennai

24	-	MEGA MEDIA MELA in Schools and Colleges and Non-formal sectors	Local Communities
25	-	YaR- Children - Training on Vision Building	Pothur
	-	Training on Child Rights Advocacy Training for NCP members	Puliadithammam
26	-	Vision development in children for the child's (cognitive) development for Evening Study Centre Coordinators & Staff	Online
25 - 26	-	FMA & SDB Salesian Cooperator - Province Elective Congress	Don Bosco House, Manikandam, Tiruchirappalli.
01 Nov.	-	Trimonthly Recollection for Seniors	Cluster Communities
08 - 09 Nov.	-	INT & INM Juniors Animation and Trimonthly Recollection	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli.

## ✠◆◆◆CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS◆◆◆✠

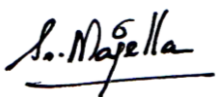
† *To the Provincial and the Sisters of Province of INC* at the demise of Sr. Anna Ma Ma FMA (78) on 09 September 2025.

† *To the Provincial and the Sisters of Province of ING* at the demise of Sr. Rachel Isorari FMA (87) on 27 September 2025.

Dear Sisters, as we step into the month of October, a month dedicated to Our Blessed Mother of the Holy Rosary and to the missions, let us open our hearts to Mary, who leads us closer to her Son. May her firm faith and gentle love inspire us to pray without ceasing, serve without hesitation, and trust God's plan every moment of our lives. Let us mirror her compassion and joy, bringing light to those who are weary, hope to the marginalized, and peace to all.

Let us make the moments of the Holy Rosary, very special in our communities, praying for peace in the world, for the missionaries in difficult situations, and for the youth who seek light and hope for their lives. May this month awaken in us a deeper missionary spirit, encouraging us to live generously, act courageously, and be signs of God's mercy and love to all whom we meet.

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella  
Provincial

# PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

OCTOBER - 2025

03 - 04	Provincial Visit	George Town, Broadway - Chennai
06 - 08	Provincial Visit	Puliadithammam
10	Province level celebration of Sr. Maria Troncatti, Province Youth Fest and Chittampatti Auxilium College Building Inauguration	Chittampatti - Madurai
11 - 12	Provincial Visit	Sirudur - Madurai
14 -16	Provincial Visit	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
08-09 Nov.	INT & INM Juniors Animation and Trimonthly Recollection	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli