



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

Provincial Circular

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My dear Sisters,

Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes from Tiruchirappalli.

Having begun the holy season of Advent, I send across to you my affectionate and prayerful wishes. In this quiet season of waiting, we are invited once again to allow the mystery of Incarnation to touch every part of our life and mission. Advent calls us to slow down, to listen, and to prepare not only outwardly but inwardly for the coming of the Word made flesh. Emmanuel - God-with-us - reminds us that the true experience of salvation embraces the whole person: mind, heart, body, emotions and attitudes. Article 69 of our Constitution invites us to form the young in this sense of wholeness, just as Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello sought to help every young person become a “good Christian and honest citizen,” capable of wisdom, freedom, responsibility, and service.

Incarnation, the Salvation of the Whole Person (Cons. Art. 69)

1. Advent: The Season of God drawing Near

Advent is the gentle knock of God at the door of our daily life. It is an emphatic reassurance that God does not save us from afar, but steps into our humanity with tenderness and humility. The Incarnation is God choosing our frailty so that we may share His life. As we light the candles of the Advent wreath, we are reminded that God’s nearness is not an idea but a concrete presence that illumines the dim corners of our heart. In this season, the Church invites us to rediscover the truth that God’s coming always transforms: it heals, restores, and makes whole.

For us as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, Advent becomes an invitation to examine: Do we allow the Lord to enter all areas of our life - our thoughts, our emotions, our relationships, our ministry, our fatigue, our hopes? The Incarnation is God’s way of saying, “Your whole person matters to me.” And the same concern must shape the way we accompany the young who are entrusted to us.

2. The God who became small: The Heart of Holistic Education

The grotto of Bethlehem is more than a symbol; it is a school. In that fragile child, wrapped in simple cloth, God reveals the dignity of every human person. Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello understood this mystery deeply. They did not separate faith from life, prayer

from work, or morality from joy. For them, forming the whole person meant fostering clarity of mind, strength of character, openness to God, and sensitivity to others.

Article 69 reminds us that our mission is to nurture young people who are capable of right judgment, free choices, and generous service. This cannot happen through lessons alone; it happens through patient accompaniment, gentle guidance, and a concrete presence that believes in the hidden goodness within each young person. Just as the Christ Child grew in wisdom and grace within the humble home of Nazareth, the young grow best when surrounded by acceptance, trust, good example, and hope.

3. “Good Christians and Honest Citizens”: A Vision for Today

When Don Bosco dreamt of forming “good Christians and honest citizens,” he dreamt of young people whose faith touched their character and whose character shaped their society. Today more than ever, this dream is urgent. We live in a world marked by confusion, anxiety, distraction, and a loss of meaning. The young need adults who listen, encourage, and point them towards what is good and true.

Holistic formation means helping them grow in awareness of their emotions, responsibility in their choices, clarity in their values, and sensitivity in their relationships. It means helping them discover that God walks with them, in their struggles, friendships, studies, dreams, and fears. Eventually, it means empowering them to stand on their own feet, able to choose the path of life.

This is the salvation that Christ brings, not just some afterlife but the flourishing of every dimension of the human person. We are called to be humble instruments of that salvation.

4. Forming Hearts, not just Minds

The Article gently reminds us that education can never be limited to academic skill or external discipline. True formation happens when the heart is touched. Young people flourish when they feel respected, understood, and guided with patience. Our presence must therefore be a reflection of God’s own way of educating, through love, truth, mercy, and example.

In our communities, we form the whole person when we create spaces of trust, joy, forgiveness, and shared responsibility. A young person who feels recognised and valued will naturally grow in maturity. Like the home at Nazareth, our works must become places where the simple rhythms of daily life become lessons of holiness, where the young learn to pray, think, choose, serve, and love.

5. The Incarnation and our Daily Mission

The beauty of the Incarnation is that it sanctifies the ordinary. Nothing is too small for God to pervade. Every classroom, playground, study hour, community meeting, and pastoral encounter becomes a Bethlehem where God is quietly at work.

When we help a young person make a good decision, when we listen to her confusion, when we encourage her to try again, when we pray for her silently, we participate in Christ’s mission of forming the whole person. Our mission becomes a living extension of the Incarnation: God reaching hearts through our presence, our words, and our joy.

This Advent, let us ask ourselves: Are we helping the young discover the God who walks with them - in their questions, their mistakes, their growth, their talents, their wounds? This is the heart of Article 69: to awaken them to the mystery of God already alive in them - *Christus vivit* - Christ is alive, in them.

6. Advent Hope: Allowing Christ to Be Born in Us Again

Advent is a season of hope - not vague optimism, but a deep trust that God is faithful. As religious, we are called to be signs of this hope - not by doing extraordinary things, but by living ordinary things with extraordinary love. When the young look at us, may they glimpse something of the God who chose to dwell among His people.

The Incarnation teaches us that God believes in humanity. May this Advent help us believe again in the goodness of the young, of our communities, and of ourselves. May it help us rediscover the beauty of our vocation: to form, to accompany, to bless, and to awaken. When Christ is born in us, others find the inspiration and the courage to be reborn too.

May Mary, the central figure of the Advent wait, walk with us, form us, and prepare in our hearts a place for her Son. May this season renew in us the joy of helping the young grow into the fullness God dreams for them - whole, free, joyful, and deeply loved.

✂—◆◆ MONTH'S SPECIAL! ◆◆—✂

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER (December 03): St. Francis Xavier, the Patron of Missions We celebrate this month the feast of St. Francis Xavier, the great missionary who came to our land. It is an interesting fact that he felt his call quite late in life. However, his surrender was such that he was ready to give up his entire life for the mission that was entrusted to him. He was just 46 when he died but he had an extensive mission accomplished already by then. It was not enough for him to have reached India; he wanted to go to Japan, China and everywhere possible. It looked like his lifetime was not enough for him - a great life of missionary passion. May Francis Xavier assist us to be faithful to the call we have received, inspire us in our commitment to the mission entrusted to us and challenge us to surrender our entire selves to the Lord's purposes.

BL. PHILIP RINALDI (December 05): Blessed Philip Rinaldi, the third successor of Don Bosco, is remembered as a master of spiritual accompaniment and a fatherly guide who helped many discover God's will with clarity and joy. Deeply devoted to Mary Help of Christians, he taught that holiness is found in daily fidelity, gentleness in relationships, and a heart open to God's grace. On his feast, we are invited to renew our commitment to accompany one another with patience, to cultivate interior silence, and to serve with humility - just as he did so beautifully within the Salesian Family. On this day, let us also pray for the VDB, the secular institute founded by him, that they may continue to live their vocation with fidelity, joy, and apostolic zeal.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (December 08): As we celebrate the Immaculate Conception, we look to Mary, full of grace, who collaborated with the Divine grace by keeping her heart always open to God with humility and trust. Her purity came from listening deeply, loving generously, and letting God lead her life. She reminds us that holiness grows through simple acts of faith and a heart free from negativity.

This feast also recalls to us specially, Don Bosco's first "Hail Mary" with Bartholomeo Garelli, the humble beginning of our Salesian mission. In that simple prayer, Don Bosco entrusted everything to Mary, and from her maternal care the entire Salesian family was born. With Mary as our guide and helper, let us renew our trust in her loving intercession and allow God's grace to work through us – especially in our service to the young and in building communities filled with faith, hope, and charity.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY (December 10) : Human Rights Day, celebrated on December 10, commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 a landmark affirmation that every person is endowed with dignity, freedom, and equal worth. This day invites us to reflect on our collective duty to safeguard the rights of all, transcending boundaries of culture, religion, gender, nationality, or social background. It urges us to oppose every form of injustice, discrimination, and violence, and to promote a world where each individual can live in peace, with respect, opportunities, and hope. May this observance renew our commitment to compassion, solidarity, and justice within our communities and in the wider world.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH (December 29): As we celebrate the Holy Family of Nazareth, we look to Jesus, Mary, and Joseph as the model of every Christian community: a home where love reigns in simplicity, work progresses in fidelity, and God's presence is welcomed in trust. The Holy Family teaches us that holiness grows in daily life - through patience, listening, forgiveness, and quiet sacrifice. In their union, we see the beauty of a family rooted in faith and open to God's plan. May the Holy Family inspire our communities in 2026 to be places of peace, understanding, and compassionate love, where each person feels welcomed, valued, and supported in their journey toward God.

✂️ ♦♦ NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE! ♦♦ ✂️

- **TNBCLC BIBLICAL FORMATION:** On 13–14 December 2025, Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani, Sr. Maria Kanikkai Savariammal and Sr. Arulandhu Savari Stella will attend a Biblical Formation programme organised by the Tamil Nadu Biblical, Catechetical and Liturgical Centre (TNBCLC) at Tindivanam.
- **ANIMATORS' MEET:** The Animators' Meet will be held on 13 and 14 December 2025 at St. Francis Xavier Convent, Broadway, Chennai. The animators are requested to arrive on the previous evening by 4.30 p.m.
- **ANNUAL RETREAT - I:** The first Annual Retreat will be held from 26 December 2025 to 02 January 2026 at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. On 2nd there will be animation and in the evening all can depart. May these grace-filled days be for the participants a time of deep renewal, joyful rejuvenation, and a fresh encounter with the Lord's loving presence.

✂️ ♦♦ PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS AND THANKS ♦♦ ✂️

- **INT & INM JUNIORS' TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTION & DAY OF ANIMATION:** Fifty-two Juniors from the provinces of INM and INT came together for their Trimonthly Recollection and a day of Animation at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli, on 08 and 09 November 2025. The programme began on the 7th evening with a Rosary and moment of joyful recreation. The 8th was dedicated to an animation by Mr. Sam Cherrian and Mrs. Abi Cherrian, Psychologists from Shine Life Skill Organization, offering the Sisters, clear and practical sessions on emotional well-being, self-awareness, mindful presence, and responsible mobile use. It was intended as a help for the Juniors to refocus on a Christ-centred and committed religious life. That evening I had time with them, guiding them to revisit Mother Mazzarello's teachings and to identify concrete steps for growing together in community. The recollection on the 9th was centred on my talk, "The Joyful Yes," inspired by Biblical figures who responded to God with faith, courage, and openness. Silent adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the Divine Mercy Chaplet, and the renewal of Vows made the day deeply prayerful and spiritually enriching for the young sisters.
- **FMA PCI SOCIAL COMMUNICATION SECTOR ANNUAL MEET:** The Province Media Coordinator of our Province, Sr. Samson Gnana Jennifer, participated in the PCI Social Communication Meet held at St. Mary's Hill, Kurseong, from 13 to 15 November 2025. The gathering, organized by Sr. Maria Rajeshwari, PCI Coordinator for Social Communication, focused on digital wellness and mental wellness and planning for the next academic year. The seminar featured animation on themes of mental and digital wellness, by Fr. C. M. Paul SDB and Fr. Pritam Barla SDB. The group had also a field visit to the Radio Station of the Sonada Salesian College.
- **CBCI NATIONAL CONSULTATION ON EDUCATION 2025:** The CBCI National Consultation on Education 2025 was held at Don Bosco, Okhla, New Delhi, from 17 - 19 November 2025. Representing the Province of Our Lady of Snow - Tiruchirappalli (FMA-INT), Sr. Vedamuthu Santiagu Theresal and Sr. John Bosco Edal Queen participated in the gathering. The theme of the event was, "Educating for Hope and Transformation: Catholic Education in a Changing India," focusing on hope-centered education, AI integration, outcome-based learning, data-supported teaching, and the emotional well-being of students. The participants also had the opportunity to visit the DIDAC INDIA International Education Exhibition, where they encountered advanced technologies and global best practices, inspiring them to pursue new pathways of renewal and excellence in Catholic education.
- **FMA PCI MEET - 2025:** The FMA PCI Meet - 2025 was held in the Province of INM, at Mazzarello Provincial House, Kodambakkam, Chennai, from 26 to 27 November 2025, guided by the theme "*As Pilgrims of Hope, called to plant Seeds of Hope and Peace.*" Along with me, Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani and Sr. Micheal Arokia Sujatha Mary, participated in the meet joining the representatives from all seven Provinces. The main focus of the gathering was the study and approval of the revised

PCI Statutes, together with the annual reports presented by the National Coordinators and the PCI Office. The discussions underlined the need for deeper inter-provincial collaboration and a synodal way of journeying together in mission. The meeting concluded in a climate of fraternity and gratitude, with all returning renewed in hope and in their commitment to work unitedly for the good of the Province and the Institute.

- **NATIONAL LEVEL CHILDREN SAFEGUARDING MEET:** The National Development Forum (NDF) organised a five-day Safeguarding Workshop from 24 to 29 November 2025 at Asha Nivas, Chennai, animated by Mrs. Sandra, a consultant from Ireland. Nearly 30 participants took part, including the Provincials of seven provinces during the first two days, followed by Social Development Coordinators and representatives from the academic sector. From our Province, Sr. Joseph Prettencia and Sr. Irudhayam Janci Rani participated. The workshop focused on the importance of safeguarding, recognising forms of abuse, understanding NDF's safeguarding policy, and strengthening implementation and reporting procedures at provincial and local levels. The annual reports of NDF and the Social Development sectors were presented, and Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi, NDF Coordinator, introduced the new policies to be implemented across the Forum. The programme concluded with words of gratitude to Sr. Nolle, Mission Development Officer from Ireland, for her support, and to Mrs. Sandra for her meaningful and engaging animation.
- **ONLINE MEET FOR LOCAL MEDIA COORDINATORS:** On 28 November 2025, an online meet for all the Local Media Coordinators was organized by Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jennifer, the Province Media Coordinator, from 06.15 to 07.30 p.m. The meeting saw the participation of 21 coordinators from different communities. During the session, Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jennifer presented the topics on 'Digital Wellbeing' and 'Digital Detox Strategies'. The meeting also included a follow-up on the Media Mela held in the local communities and discussion on the maintenance of local Media archives. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jennifer for her dedication in organizing this meet at term's end.

❧ ❧❧ APPRECIATION AND THANKS! ❧❧❧ ❧

- To all the animators of the cluster communities who made arrangements for the Seniors' Trimonthly Recollections on 01 November 2025.
- To Sr. Antony Swamy Rosy and the Community of Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli for hosting the Provincial Council Meeting on 05 and 06 November 2025 and for creating a conducive atmosphere for the INT and INM Juniors' Trimonthly Recollection and Animation on 08 and 09 December 2025.
- To Sr. Devadoss Margaret, Provincial of the INM Province, Sr. Antony Raj Christina, the Animator, and the Community of Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam, Chennai, for their hospitality and the favourable atmosphere provided for the FMA-PCI meeting held there from 26 to 27 November 2025.

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

- 03 - St. Francis Xavier
- 05 - Bl. Philip Rinaldi
- 07 - Second Sunday of Advent
- 08 - Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
- 10 - International Human Rights Day
- 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe
- 13 - Saint Lucy
- 14 - Gaudete Sunday
- 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 25 - Christmas
- 26 - St. Stephen
- 27 - St. John the Evangelist
- 28 - Holy Innocents
- 29 - The Holy Family of Nazareth

✂️ ❖❖❖ MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE ❖❖❖ ✂️

07	-	NCP Members Childrights Advocacy Rallies	Local Communities
07	-	Salesian Co-operators - Jubilee Year Celebration	Velankanni
10	-	Human Right Celebration	Local Communities
14	-	Training on ECO Feminism - Women	Vadakku Paganoor
13 - 14	-	Animators' Meet	FX Broadway - Chennai
15 - 16	-	Provincial Council Meet	FX Broadway - Chennai
26	-	Constituional Rights Day Celebration	Local Communities
26 Dec. 2025 02 Jan. 2026	-	Annual Retreat - I and Animation	Auxilium Provincial House Tiruchirappalli.
28	-	Vision Development in Chldren for the Child's (Cognitive) Development - Evening Study Centre Staff and Coordinators	Online

✂️ ❖❖❖ **CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS** ❖❖❖ ✂️

- † *To the Provincial and the Confreres of the SDB Province of INP* at the loss of Br. Frederick D’Souza (88) on 02 November 2025.
- † *To the Provincial and the Confreres of the SDB Province of INS* at the demise of Fr. Mathew Parackatte (73) on 07 November 2025.
- † *To the Provincial and the Confreres of the SDB Province of INB* at the passing away of Fr. Mathew Thalanany (96) on 22 November 2025.
- † *To Sr. Josephin Reena* at the passing away of her beloved mother Mrs. Immaculate (63) on 01 December 2025.

As we are already in the novena towards the Feast of the Immaculate Conception and in the grace-filled season of Advent preparing us towards Christmas, let us allow Mary’s joyful and courageous “yes” to inspire our own daily response to God. May the light of Christ, born in simplicity at Bethlehem, rekindle in us a renewed passion for our mission, a deeper love for our communities, and a heart that seeks God in all things. May the love of the Infant Jesus warm your Christmas, and may the New Year 2026 bring light to your paths and peace to your hearts.

**Merry Christmas and
a joy-filled New Year 2026!**

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella FMA

INT Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

NOVEMBER 2025		
28 – 29	Provincial Visit	Pothur
DECEMBER 2025		
04 – 06	Provincial Visit	Regunathapuram
07 – 09	Provincial Visit	Thanjavur
13 – 14	Animators' Meet	FX Broadway - Chennai
15 – 16	Provincial Council Meet	FX Broadway - Chennai
16 – 25	Provincial Office	APH Tiruchirappalli
26 Dec.2025 - 02 Jan. 2026	Annual Retreat – I and Animation	APH Tiruchirappalli
JANUARY 2026		
06 – 08	Provincial Visit	Tiruvottiyur
11 – 12	Provincial Visit	Vadaku Paganoor
13 – 15	Provincial Visit	Divyadhanam Novitiate
17 – 18	Provincial Visit	Marianathapuram
19 – 20	Provincial Visit	Ulagampatti