



**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,  
4/288, Madurai Main Road, Manikandam,  
Tiruchirappalli - 620 012



Cir. No. 33

February 2026

*My dear Sisters,*

*Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes!*

The month of February begins right away with the themes of light, offering, consecration and commitment. On 02 February, we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord - the 'Candlemas', a feast that gathers in itself the tenderness of Christmas and prepares us for the deeper journey that lies ahead. The feast is marked by the lights carried in fragile hands, symbolising lives offered to the Lord in faith and lived in trust to the end. The day is also the World Day of Consecrated Life and that coincides with our reflection on the next article of our Constitutions, Article no. 71: In the light of the Consecration we are called to live our commitment to sacramental and Marian life.

### **Sacraments, Mary and our Consecration**

Opening this month with the day of Consecrated life, we are inspired to ask ourselves three fundamental questions: what is the meaning of our consecration today; how central are sacraments in our Salesian life; and how important is Mary in our Salesian spirituality! Yes, Article 71 of our Constitutions invites us to rediscover the heart of our Salesian spirituality - a life rooted in sacramental grace and shaped by our filial trust in our Blessed Mother.

### **Consecration: A Life Offered, A Life Given**

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple is a simple yet profound moment. Mary and Joseph bring their child, not to display Him, but to offer Him. They surrender Him into the hands of God, trusting that His life belongs to a larger plan. In this profound gesture, we see the prefigurement of our Religious consecration, not as some extraordinary feat, but as a daily offering, renewed everyday.

Our consecration as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians needs to flow from such a spirit. It cannot be merely a label we carry or a role we play, it has to become the innermost sense of belonging totally to God, in order that we may belong more freely to the young. Consecration shapes our mission from within. It gives us the inner freedom to love without possessing, to serve without seeking recognition, and to remain faithful even when the path is demanding. Like Mary, we learn that a life offered to God can never be something lost, it acquires an entire new meaning.

### **Sacraments: Encounters that Shape our Mission**

*"Animated by apostolic charity... we educate the young to live the liturgy, especially the Sacraments especially the Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation as transforming encounters with Christ, ...." (Art. 71)*

Article 71 reminds us that our mission is animated by apostolic charity and nourished by

sacramental life. In an incomparable manner, the sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation become the source from which our mission draws its life. They are moments when we approach the Lord and the Lord comes in search of us, an encounter, which when lived deeply, shapes our being, our doing and our meaning. Every such encounter makes us born anew.

In the Eucharist, we encounter Christ who gives Himself completely, broken and shared for the life of the world. This encounter shapes our way of being present among the young with patience, generosity and perseverance. It educates us to understand what total self-giving truly means. Reconciliation, on the other hand, puts us in touch not only with our weaknesses but much more with the mercy of God. This encounter keeps our hearts humble and transparent, reminding us that we are first of all receivers of mercy, and consequently witnesses of it, called to become instruments of it.

When young people see Sisters who draw strength from prayer, who find meaning in the sacraments, and who hold on to God in their daily living, they encounter a living catechesis, a witness that becomes an education in itself. Our mission becomes credible not because of many words, but because of our lives that point to a God who is real, forgiving, and near.

### **Mary: Consecration becoming Mission**

*“Let us also help them to know Mary, the Mother who welcomes and understands them, the helper who instils security, so that they may learn to love and imitate her in her openness to God and neighbour.”*

The article we reflect on this month, speaks of Mary as the Mother who welcomes and understands the young, as the helper who instils security. Mary does not draw attention to herself, instead she points to that space where we create an opportunity for God to act. In varied ways, Mary’s life presents itself as a harmony between consecration and mission.

In the feast of Presentation, we look up to Mary who offers her son without knowing the intricacies of where that path will lead. At Cana, she notices the needs of others and gently leads them to Jesus. At Calvary, she stands firm when everything seems lost. In all these moments, she teaches us that mission flows from fidelity, and fruitfulness grows from trust. For us as FMA, Marian life is not just one of our devotions; it has to grow up to be an imitation, an emulation of the person, her priorities and her choices. Mary shows us how to be present among the young - not hurried nor agitated, not anxious or ambitious, but ever attentive and strong in the Lord. We are beckoned to become women who create safe and secure spaces, who listen without judgment or fear, and who walk patiently with the rhythms of growth.

### **From Sacrament to Life: Forming Apostles from Within**

*“This sacramental and Marian life is the foundation of Salesian spirituality and education. It becomes a serious commitment to, “cheerfulness, work, and prayer” that leads young people to become apostles among their peers and is a genuine way of holiness for them.”*

Our Salesian mission is not merely a doing; it is in itself, a spirituality which aims at forming young people deeply rooted in faith and cheerfully committed to life. The article reminds us that educating young people to live the sacraments leads them towards responsibility, service, and holiness.

When the sacraments are lived as interpersonal encounters, young people learn to find joy, meaning and direction for life. They begin to grow in a faith that determines their daily choices. They open themselves towards relationships with serious commitments and life defining responsibility. Thus, they become apostles among their peers, not so much by preaching, as by living with integrity, hope, and courage. That has to be the Salesian way

of holiness, marked by “cheerfulness, work, and prayer.” In a world today, that is filled with noise instead of meaning, the task of a Salesian Sister is to help the young discover the real joy of communion with God.

### **Towards Lent: A Heart Prepared for Deeper Giving**

February leads us towards the holy season of Lent, inviting us to an introspection. The Season of Lent calls us to simplicity, conversion and renewed focus. We could extend the insight of this Article 71, to the lent, asking ourselves: *from where does my mission draw life?*

Our consecration comes into an intense focus during Lent, challenging us to evaluate our level of commitment and fidelity to the Lord who has consecrated us to Himself. Our celebration of Sacraments during Lent becomes a recurring call for us to remain in that incessant communion with God, from where our mission and our vision get their purpose and clarity. Mary walks beside us during lent helping us to become aware of the sense of sacrifice and consecration that her Son manifested in wholeheartedly taking up the Cross for our sake, for the sake of the plan of God, for the sake of the mission entrusted to him. Dear Sisters, let us strive to arrive at the realisation this month that our consecration and mission are not two separate paths; they are one single movement of love. The more deeply we belong to God, the more fully we belong to the young. The more we draw life from the sacraments, the more our presence becomes healing and hope-giving. The more we imitate our Blessed Mother, the more we bring our youth to love her Son from the depths of their hearts. This is the crux of our unique Spirituality.

### **❖—◆◆ MONTH’S SPECIAL! ◆◆—❖**

**PRESENTATION OF THE LORD** - (February 02) On the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord, the Church joyfully celebrates the World Day for Consecrated Life. As Mary and Joseph present the Child Jesus in the Temple, we are invited to contemplate the beauty of a life totally offered to God. Simeon and Anna, guided by the Spirit, recognize in Jesus the **Light to enlighten the nations**. This Light continues to shine today through the lives of consecrated persons who, by their faithful witness, proclaim hope, joy, and God’s tender love in the world. For us as a Province, this day is an invitation to **renew our “yes”** to the call we have received, to live our consecration with gratitude, simplicity, and prophetic courage. Rooted in communion and sustained by prayer, may our lives become a living presentation to the Lord, especially in our loving service to the young, the poor, and those on the margins.

**BL. EUSEBIA PALOMINO** - (February 09) Blessed Eusebia Palomino reminds us that holiness is often lived in hiddenness, humility, and joyful fidelity. Through her simple daily duties and quiet service, she radiated God’s love and became a source of peace and hope to all who encountered her. A woman of deep prayer and Eucharistic love, Bl. Eusebia allowed herself to be transformed by God, becoming a gentle instrument of reconciliation and compassion, especially for the young and the suffering. Her life teaches us that ordinary tasks, when done with extraordinary love, become paths to sanctity. As a Province, her witness invites us to renew our commitment to live our vocation with simplicity, perseverance, and trust in God’s grace. May Bl. Eusebia Palomino inspire us to be humble servants, faithful in small things, and joyful signs of God’s presence in our communities and mission.

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES** - (February 11) The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes draws us to Mary, who reveals herself as the Immaculate Conception and invites the world to prayer, penance, and

trust in God's mercy. Through her humble appearance to St. Bernadette, Mary reminds us that God looks with tenderness upon the poor, the sick, and the lowly. Lourdes has become a powerful sign of healing and hope, where faith consoles the suffering and restores courage to weary hearts. Mary's gentle call urges us to turn to her Son, Jesus, the true source of healing and salvation. As a Province, this feast encourages us to walk with compassion alongside those who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. May Our Lady of Lourdes strengthen our faith, deepen our sensitivity to human pain, and help us become instruments of God's healing love in our communities and ministries. May Mary, Health of the Sick, accompany us with her maternal care and lead us always to her Son.

**ASH WEDNESDAY 2026:** (February 18) As we begin the holy season of Lent with Ash Wednesday, we are gently reminded of our human frailty and our constant need for God's mercy. This sacred time invites us to return to the Lord with humble hearts through prayer, fasting, and works of charity. Echoing the Holy Father Pope Leo's Lenten message, may this journey help us walk with hope, deepen our spirit of conversion, and renew our commitment to live our vocation with joy and fidelity, as we move together toward the grace of Easter.

**SAINTS VERSIGLIA AND CARAVARIO** - (February 25) Saints Versiglia and Caravario, Salesian martyrs, bore heroic witness to Christ through their courage, pastoral zeal, and total self-gift. Faithful to the mission entrusted to them, they laid down their lives in defense of the young and the dignity of the human person. Their martyrdom inspires us to live our vocation with fearless faith, missionary ardor, and unwavering love. May their example strengthen us to be courageous witnesses of the Gospel in our daily mission.

**CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERFUL WISHES:** We joyfully congratulate the Salesian Province of Kolkata (INC) on its centenary, celebrating 100 years of faithful Salesian service to the young and the poor. We warmly welcome the Rector Major, Fr Fabio Attard, to India for this historic celebration, adding grace and unity to this milestone.

On this same day, we rejoice in the installation of Fr. Sunil Kerketta as the 18<sup>th</sup> Provincial of Kolkata. We assure him of our prayerful support as he takes up this responsibility.

Our sincere thanks to Fr. Pauria Joseph, the outgoing Provincial, for his faithful leadership, dedicated service, and selfless commitment in guiding the Province and nurturing the young and the poor.

May the Lord bless the Province with renewed zeal, continuing to be a sign of hope and love for the young, especially the poorest.

## ✂️ NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE! ✂️

- **PROVINCE LEVEL EDUCATING COMMUNITY MEET:** The Educating Community Meet will be held on 07 February 2026 at Auxilium, Thanjavur to plan the Plan and Project for the academic year 2026 - 2027, reflecting on Strenna 2026, the Peace Message of Pope Leo XIV for 2026, and the United Nations - International Year 2026. The active participation of all Animators, EC and Youth Pastoral Coordinators, School Headmistresses, and lay collaborators would be greatly valued.
- **ANNUAL RETREAT FOR DOMESTIC STAFF:** The domestic staff of our communities will take part in the Annual Retreat organized at the zonal level and hosted by cluster communities on 17 February 2026. Let us accompany them with our prayer for their spiritual growth.

- **ANIMATION FOR THE HEADS OF SCHOOLS:** An animation programme for the Heads of Schools will be conducted on 21 and 22 February 2026 at Tiruvottiyur. The programme will focus on leadership in mission, academic and pastoral planning, and effective responses to contemporary educational challenges. It aims at strengthening coordination and enhancing the quality of education in view of the academic year ahead.
- **ANNUAL EXAMINATION:** As the Annual Examinations approach, we extend our prayerful best wishes to all our students and staff. May the Lord bless them with wisdom, clarity of mind, and perseverance, and grant them peace, good health, and success in all their efforts.

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

- **VIII REGIONAL CONGRESS 2026 - SOUTH ASIA REGION:** Sr. Ignaci Kulandai Theresa participated in the VIII Regional Congress of the South Asia Region held from 16 to 18 January 2026, at Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati. The Congress was organised with the inspiring theme “To Know in Order to Revitalise” and brought together 75 participants, including Fathers, Sisters and Association of Salesian Cooperators Provincial Councillors from different provinces. Reportedly, the sessions were animated by eminent resource persons like Fr. Joseph Manipadam SDB, Sr. Luigina Dua FMA and Mr. Anthuvan, the former World Councillor, inviting the participants to deepen their understanding of the theme and renew their commitment to Salesian mission.
- **INAUGURATION OF THE CENTENARY CELEBRATION:** St. Francis Xavier’s Convent & Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary School, Broadway - Chennai, on 22 January 2026, inaugurated its Centenary celebration. It was a moment of gratitude and joy for me to be part of the inauguration ceremony, a sacred pause to recognise God’s faithful accompaniment through a hundred years of mission, education, and service.  
The celebration began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration, offering to the Lord the Institution’s journey, its humble beginnings, faithful perseverance, and future hopes. The Holy Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. John Alex SDB, Vice Provincial of the Province of Chennai, along with eight priests, creating a prayerful and grace-filled atmosphere. A formal inauguration was held in the evening with a programme that unfolded with simplicity and dignity in the presence of the Guest of Honour, Dr. Mohammed Abdullah, District Educational Officer for Elementary and Anglo-Indian Schools. Cultural performances and a thematic skit titled, “Humble Beginnings - The Legacy of the Pioneer Visionary” together, recalled the courageous vision of the pioneers. The unveiling of the Centenary Logo and the sharing by alumni highlighted the living legacy of the Institution. I wish to sincerely thank the Animator and the Community for their dedicated planning and collaborative spirit, which made this inaugural celebration meaningful and prayerful.
- **PROVINCE GRATITUDE DAY:** With hearts full of gratitude to God, we as a Province joyfully journeyed together towards the Gratitude Day 2026, from 02 to 23 January 2026, focusing on the theme: “A Joyful Community: Rooted in Mission, Love,

and Hope.” This period of prayerful preparation found its rich and radiant culmination in the Province Community Day celebration held on 24 January 2026 at Puthenthurai – Kottar - a true celebration of communion and shared mission, marked by the presence of 81 FMA Sisters and 536 members of the Educating Community from all our communities.

I express my deep and sincere appreciation to Sr. Bernardine Lazar, the Vice Provincial, who chose this meaningful theme and, together with the Provincial Councillors, meticulously planned every aspect of the celebration. Their vision, coordination, and commitment gave shape to a day that truly reflected the soul and spirit of our Province. My heartfelt thanks go to Sr. Poobalrayen Nirmala, the Animator, and the sisters of the Puthenthurai Community - Sr. Amalorpavanathan Premila Ruby, Sr. Gabriel Mary Malliga, Sr. John Bosco Edal Queen, and Sr. Syih Carolyn - who generously hosted this Province-level celebration. Their spirit of sacrifice, tireless efforts, and warm hospitality, wholeheartedly supported by the local people, made the celebration remarkably grand, far beyond what anyone could have imagined. The enthusiastic involvement of the staff and students, the colourful formations, the band, and the beautifully presented theme expressed through colours added life, depth, and elegance to the entire celebration. I am especially grateful to Sr. Sebastian Margaret Mary for her generous support, refined aesthetic sense, and creative leadership in preparing the ambience.

A special word of gratitude goes to Rev. Fr. De Rose Andrew, who graciously celebrated the Holy Eucharist. Through his inspiring homily, he touched hearts and led us to relive a spirit of gratitude, and rediscover the joy, hope, and love rooted in our shared vocation and mission.

The morning prayer, animated by the Tiruvottiyur Community, using the image of the honeycomb, highlighting values of leadership through the symbolism of the queen bee and the worker bees, was indeed an inspiring reminder of unity, responsibility, and shared mission that we have.

Our gratitude to the Therespuram Community for the expressive Prayer Dance, and to the Keela Eral Community for their vibrant and colourful cultural dance.

I remain deeply thankful to all those who extended their helping hands, in one way or another, often silently and behind the scenes. Each contribution, whether small or great, played a vital role in making this celebration meaningful and memorable. As we look back on this blessed day, we recognize once again that when we walk together as a joyful community, rooted in mission, love, and hope, God truly dwells among us. May the spirit of the Gratitude Day continue to animate our communities and strengthen our commitment to live joyfully for the glory of God and for the salvation of the young.

- **JUNIORS' TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTIONS:** The Juniors' Trimonthly Recollection and Day of Animation was held at the Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli, on 31 January and 01 February 2026. Rev. Fr. Xavier Terrence, Director of St. Paul's Institute of Theology, Tiruchirappalli, preached on the theme of "Convinced and Committed Consecrated Life" on 31<sup>st</sup>, drawing attention to the significance of consecrated life today amidst the challenges of modern society. On the 1<sup>st</sup> of February, the day of animation, I took the opportunity to animate our sisters on "Sacred Turning Point: Renewal as an act of Truth." We believe that this programme would keep the Juniors reflecting on their journey of consecration and the need for constant renewal, in order to rediscover constantly the joy and meaning of their vocation. We need to develop the experience of accompanying our young sisters

helping them to strengthen their commitment to religious life with responsibility, openness, and missionary enthusiasm.

### ✂️...♦♦ **APPRECIATION AND THANKS!** ...♦♦✂️

- To the Animator and the Sisters of the Puthenthurai Community for graciously hosting the Provincial Community Day on 24 January 2026 and the Provincial Council Meeting on 25 January 2026. Their warm hospitality, attentive preparation, and loving care created a prayerful and welcoming atmosphere. Their thoughtful attention to every detail ensured the smooth and meaningful conduct of the programmes.
- To the Animator Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy, and the Sisters of the community of Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli for hosting the Submission of the Annual Accounts on 27 and 28 January 2026 and the INT Juniors' Trimonthly Recollection and a Day of Animation on 31 January and 01 February 2026.

### ✂️...♦♦ **IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE MONTH AHEAD!** ...♦♦✂️

02	-	Presentation of the Lord / World Day of Consecrated Life
04	-	St. John de Britto (Mem)
05	-	St. Agatha, Virgin and Mart (Mem)
07	-	Bl. Pius IX (Opt. Mem)
08	-	St. Josephine Bakhita (Opt. Mem)
09	-	Bl. Eusebia Palomino (Mem)
11	-	Our Lady of Lourdes / World Day of the Sick (Opt. Mem)
18	-	Ash Wednesday
25	-	Sts. Versiglia and Caravario (Mem)

### ✂️...♦♦ **MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE** ...♦♦✂️

DATE	MEETING	PLACE
31 Jan. - 01 Feb.	Juniors' Trimonthly Recollection and Day of Animation	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
01	Trimonthly Recollection (Seniors)	Local Communities
07	Province Level - EC Meet	Thanjavur
10 - 11	Provincial Council	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
14	Training on Eco-Feminism	Tiruppur

15	Vocation - Parish Visit	Local communities
17	Domestic Staff Annual Retreat	Zonal Level
21-22	Head Mistress Meet	Tiruvottiyur - Chennai
21	Salesian Cooperators Local New Councillors Meet	Thanjavur
27	Vision Development in Childrens' cognitive development for the Evening Coaching class Students and Staff	Online meet
28	Leadership Skills in Children - YaR Children	Pothur
24-25	Inter-Novitiate Meet	St. Anne's of Trichy, Crawford

## ✂️...♦️ **CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS** ...✂️

- † *To the Provincial and confreres of INB Province at the demise of Rev. Fr. Anthony Goyal (59) on 10 January 2026.*
- † *To the Provincial and confreres of INT Province at the demise of Fr. Mathew Orathel SDB (90) on 14 January 2026.*
- † *To the Provincial and confreres of INM Province at the passing away of Fr. Rajanna Kondaveeti SDB (75) on 23 January 2026.*

Dear Sisters, as we enter the holy season of Lent that invites us to a sacred journey of interior renewal, we shall choose to walk with the Lord in prayer, penance, and loving service to our neighbours. May our hearts be gently reshaped by God's boundless mercy and may this grace-filled time deepen our faith, purify our intentions, and renew in us the joy of belonging wholly to God and His mission.

I wish each of you a meaningful, blessed and profound Lenten season.

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella

Provincial

# PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

**FEBRUARY - 2026**

31 Jan. - 01 Feb.	Juniors Trimonthly Recollection and a Day of Animation	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
07	Province Level - EC Meet	Thanjavur
10 -11	Provincial Council	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
21 - 22	Head Mistress Meet	Tiruvottiyur - Chennai
25 - 26	Provincial Visit	M. Saveriarpuram