



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.*

The month of March comes to us wrapped in silence and strength. It is the month dedicated to Saint Joseph - the dedicated guardian, the faithful worker, the man who listened more than he spoke and obeyed more than he understood. We are in the heart of Lent too - a season that gently calls us back to what truly matters.

This month we shall consider two articles from our constitutions together for a reflection on our mission. There is something deeply fitting, in reflecting this month on Articles 72 and 73 that speak about vocational guidance and vocations in the Church, the Institute and the Salesian family. We reflect on Mission and Vocation Promotion in the light of St. Joseph and in the background of Lent - both inviting us towards listening, trusting, and loving through concrete daily responsibility.

## **Mission and Vocation Promotion: A Lenten inspiration from St. Joseph**

*“The goal towards which all our pastoral work must be directed is the education of young women to discern God's plan for them in their lives and to accept this as their mission.”*

- Art. 72

Helping young women discern God's plan for them can never be, for us, a secondary task. We know that, it is exactly the direction toward which all that we do has to lead definitively.

### **1. Listening Hearts: The Beginning of Every Vocation**

St. Joseph teaches us that vocation begins with listening. The Gospel never records his words, but it reveals his attentiveness. In dreams, in uncertainty, in sudden changes, he listened and he acted.

We know, our young people today are surrounded by noise - digital noise, social pressures, peer expectations, constant comparisons, and what not? In such a world, helping them to understand the importance of listening becomes a sacred mission. Vocational guidance is not about persuading; it is about awakening. It is about creating a safe and secure space where a girl can ask herself honestly: *What does God desire for me? For whom am I meant to be a gift?*

Article 72 reminds us that the culmination of our pastoral work is indeed, discernment. Life is not about successes, it is not merely about achievements, but it is all about discernment. Every classroom, every encounter with the young, our counselling sessions, the youth gatherings, our personal conversations... each of these should open new horizons for the young. We are not forming young women merely to adapt to society, but to shape it with competence, courage and renew it with the Gospel spirit.

Lent sustains this significance powerfully. It invites silence, reflection and truth. When we begin to enter Lent seriously by simplicity of life, profundity of prayer, and consciousness of our intentions, we become better guides and mentors for others. A consecrated person who listens, forms listening hearts.

## **2. Loving Courage: Lent as a School of Vocation**

Lent, as much as the Cross, is very often misunderstood and misinterpreted in terms of sorrow and burden. But in truth, it is a school of love; a spiritual gymnasium that forms us in love, a love that is honest, free, and evermore sacrificing. And vocation, at its core, is nothing but love that chooses.

To help a young woman discern her path is to help her grow in love. Love that is not self-centred, but love that is generous, love that is ready to give of itself for something greater. Her calling that leads her to family life, a professional service, to consecrated life, or to a deeper involvement in a Salesian mission - the foundation is always the same, a heart capable of loving without counting the cost!

When we guide the young towards sacraments during Lent, especially Reconciliation, we help them experience what it means to “return to their senses,” like the prodigal son, to realise their dignity, to return to the love of God, and to rejoice again. A vocation sprouts and matures on the ground of mercy.

Lent, hence, is not merely a ‘preparation’ for Easter, it is an ongoing realisation; it is a time when hearts are softened, priorities clarified, and courage strengthened – towards a new life, a renewed life, that is Easter.

## **3. Living Witness: Where Vocations are Born**

Let us listen to what Article 73 tells us:

*“Knowing that in every age God calls some people to follow him more closely, let us take special care of those young women who show signs of a religious vocation”.*

Clearly, in every age, God continues to call persons to follow Him more closely. Of course, we have no responsibility of creating vocations, but we have a grave responsibility to care for any sign of vocations!

A vocation to Religious life does not usually begin with a dramatic experience. It often begins quietly, in an admiration for a Sister’s joy, in attraction to an experience of community life, in a fantasy mode desire to serve the world at large... and that is why, our joyful and constant fidelity is itself the first and strongest *vocation promotion*.

The Young sense authenticity. They see when we are tired but still faithful, when we are challenged but persistently peaceful, when we are busy yet unassumingly prayerful. They intuit whether our consecration is a burden or a blessing. Let us face the hard fact: our lives either invite or discourage the young!

Let us turn to St. Joseph again, our model in this respect too. He never preached his vocation, he just lived it. He never drew attention to himself, he protected and nurtured life quietly. Vocations grow best in such soil, a terrain enriched by humility, responsibility, and steady love.

We are called to widen the horizon, and that is how some young people may feel drawn to share in our calling and our Salesian mission ... not only as religious, also as lay collaborators, as members of the Salesian Family, as committed professionals serving the young and so on. To propose these paths sincerely is also an integral part of our fidelity.

## **4. The Lenten Mission: Realise, Return and Rejoice**

Perhaps the Lenten mission to realise, return and rejoice, can guide our vocation ministry too, by proposing those three simple but challenging itineraries.

First, to help the young **realise who they are** - beloved daughters of God, gifted, capable, called to greatness in love. Many of our young struggle with self-worth and before asking themselves the question what they are called to do, they need to ask themselves, who they are.

Secondly, to invite them to **return to the love of God** - through prayer, through reconciliation, through honest conversation. A heart reconciled with God becomes free to choose.

Third, to encourage them to **rejoice in the Lord**. Christian life is not meant to be lived in fear. True vocation brings joy, not an easy joy, but a deep one. When young people see joy in us, they begin to believe that giving one's life to God and to others is not a loss, but a gain!

## 5. 'March'ing on with Steady Commitment

Dear Sisters, we begin March... and we journey through the Lent this month under the patronage of St. Joseph. Let us renew our own vocational gratitude and remember the day when we felt that God has called us. Let us thank Him for the call to belong to the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

From gratitude flows responsibility. From responsibility flows care. And from care, new vocations emerge. May our communities be homes where discernment is respected, families where questions are welcome, shrines where faith is lived profoundly, and laboratories where young women feel accompanied towards discovering their path towards a life to the full.

There is another important dimension we are offered to reflect on from the image of St. Joseph, silent and strong. He walked his vocation faithfully until the end, a faithfulness that never ever wavered despite all trials and troubles. May he teach us to do the same. And may this Lent truly become for us and for the young a school of love, love that leads to true and deep meaning of life.

## ❖—◆ MONTH'S SPECIAL! ◆—❖

**INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY (08 March):** On the International Women's Day, we give thanks for our identity as women consecrated to God, called to reflect His tenderness, strength, and creative love in the world. In a society that often measures worth by power or productivity, our consecrated life proclaims a different truth: that a woman's deepest identity is rooted in her dignity as a daughter of God. Like Mary, we are called to a courageous "yes", a yes that nurtures life, restores hope, and accompanies the vulnerable. Our feminine genius shines in relentless fidelity, compassionate presence, and attentive listening, manifesting the God given capacity to generate life, although not biologically, but spiritually and relationally. In community life, in mission, in education, in pastoral service, we become signs of God's care and instruments of communion. Today, we also remember the countless women who struggle for recognition, safety, and opportunity. As Religious Sisters, may we continue to stand in solidarity with them, raising our voice for justice, walking with the young, and creating spaces where every woman can flourish. May this day renew in us the joy of our vocation and the conviction that our presence matters, in the Church and in the world.

**FEAST OF ANNUNCIATION OF MARY (25 March):** The Feast of the Annunciation reminds us of that sacred moment when the Angel Gabriel announced God's plan to Mary. Through Mary's humble and courageous "yes," the mystery of Incarnation began. In the hiddenness of Nazareth, Mary listened deeply, questioned with simplicity, and surrendered with total trust: *"Let it be done to me according to your word."* Her response was not passive resignation but an active, faith-filled acceptance that opened the door for God to dwell among His people. This feast reminds us that God continues to "announce" His will in the ordinary rhythms of our lives, in community life, in mission, in moments of uncertainty, and in the needs of the young and the poor. Like Mary, we are invited to cultivate a listening heart, to trust even when the path is unclear, and to believe that "nothing is impossible with God." For us as Religious Sisters, Annunciation could be reminder of our vocation, and the response that we had given to the Lord, to make space for the Word that

Christ may become visible through our lives. May our daily “yes,” given in faith and love, allow God’s saving work continue in the world today.

**WORLD GRATITUDE DAY (26 April):** The **World Feast of Gratitude 2026** will be celebrated from **23 to 26 April 2026** in the Sagrado Corazón Province of Ecuador. This cherished family event gathers us in prayer, joy, and communion to express our filial gratitude and affection to Mother Chiara Cazzuola, the center of unity of our Institute.

This year’s celebration is enriched by two significant events: the recent canonization of Maria Troncatti and the 150th anniversary of the First Missionary Departure. In this grace-filled context, we are invited to renew our missionary ardour with the theme:

**Be missionaries everywhere: *Go and do likewise (Lk 10:37)***

Inspired by the Good Samaritan, we are called to be signs of God’s compassionate love, especially where life is most fragile.

### **The Logo of the Feast**

The logo, proposed by the Ecuadorian Province, visually brings forth this missionary call. At its center is Saint Maria Troncatti, placed within the heart of Mary Help of Christians - highlighting the deep bond between her missionary dedication and her trust in Mary’s maternal guidance. The design recalls the Ecuadorian Amazon, where she carried out her apostolic service, uniting the geographical reality of her mission with its spiritual and charismatic depth.



Encircling Mary’s crown are five stars in the traditional missionary colors - white, red, green, yellow, and blue - representing the FMA presence in the five continents. This global symbol reinforces our identity as a missionary Institute, sent forth in communion for the life of the world.

The Ecuadorian Province proposes a **preparatory Triduum** centered on Saint Maria Troncatti as *Mother, Missionary, and Artisan of Peace*. Materials will be available on the Institute’s website.

Each Province is invited to send a **photo of the Educating Community** (landscape format, minimum 1 MB), expressing the assigned continental theme, to **amministratoreweb@cgfma.org** by the second week of April.

Let us prepare ourselves spiritually to live this Feast as a renewed gratitude for our missionary vocation, in communion with each other as one worldwide family.

**CONVOCATION OF GC XXV:** With hearts filled with gratitude, we share the joyful news of the official convocation of the General Chapter XXV, in accordance with art. 138 of the Constitutions. The Chapter will begin on 22 September 2027 in Rome, at the Generalate. This grace-filled moment invites the entire Institute to a time of deep listening, sincere reflection, and communal discernment as we seek together the will of God for the future of our mission. During this significant event, the Superior General and the General Councillors will be elected, entrusting the life of the Institute to those whom the Spirit will indicate. Sr. María del Rosario García Ribas has been appointed Moderator and will accompany the preparation and development of the Chapter.

The theme of GC XXV, “*Blessed are you... With the prophetic power of the charism, missionaries of communion together with the young*” calls us to rekindle our missionary passion, to live the Beatitudes with courage, and to renew our fidelity in the spirit of Don Bosco, Mother Mazzarello, and Saint Maria Troncatti. The document is being sent as Mother General’s Circular No. 1056.

Further communications in preparation for GC XXV will be shared with all as soon as we receive the official English translation of the documents.

## ✦…NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE!…✦

- **MEETING OF THE MAJOR SUPERIORS OF THE SALESIAN FAMILY - INDIA / SOUTH ASIA:** The meeting of the Major Superiors of the Salesian Family of India / South Asia will be held on 06 March 2026 at Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati. On this significant occasion of communion and shared discernment within the Salesian Family, we are invited by the convenor Rev. Fr. Biju Michael SDB, General Councillor for Salesian Region of South Asia and President of SPCSA, to make a presentation on the presence and mission of the Salesian Sisters in India FMA-PCI.  
I thank you for your collaboration in providing the statistics of each community. The FMA-PCI report, scheduled for 15-20 minutes, will present a holistic overview of our FMA reality within the wider FMA presence in India and South Asia. It will also be an excellent opportunity to deepen communion among the various groups of the Salesian Family and to reflect together on the signs of the times in our South Asian context. I kindly request you to accompany this initiative with your valuable prayers.
- **ISS-FMA IV WORLD MEETING 2026:** The Fourth International ISS-FMA World Meeting will be held in Laguna, Philippines, from 09 to 13 March 2026, on the theme “*Empowerment of Young People to be Protagonists of Social Transformation.*” Sr. Vedamuthu Savariammal and Sr. Masilamani Jeya Pushpam will be representing the Province at this significant International gathering.
- **MEETING FOR PROVINCE COORDINATORS FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATION:** Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jennifer, Province Coordinator for Social Communication, will be participating in the formation course for Province Coordinators for Social Communication, to be held from 16 to 28 March 2026 at Rome - Italy, as foreseen in the General Plan for 2022-2027 of the GC XXIV. The programme, coordinated by Sr. Maria Ausilia De Siena, General Councillor for Social Communication, aims to strengthen the animation of the communication sector at the level of the Institute.
- **TEAM MEET:** The Provincial Team Meet will be held on 21 and 22 March 2026 at Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli to submit the annual report of the sectors.
- **ONLINE DIPLOMA IN SAFEGUARDING:** The Online Diploma in Safeguarding is a collaborative initiative of the Conference of Religious Women India (CRWI), the Institute for Formators (IFF), and Safeguarding Religious Women India (SRWI). The course is offered by the Pontifical Gregorian University for religious. The programme comprises 19 units and will be conducted over 19 Saturdays, with a maximum of 70 participants. All the communities of the Marialaya Sectors of our Province: Coimbatore Marialaya, George Town - Chennai Marialaya, Pothur Marialaya, Tiruppur Marialaya, Madurai - Sringerinagar, and ASSIST will participate in this course to strengthen their competence and deepen their commitment in the area of safeguarding.
- **SILVER JUBILARIAN COURSE:** Ten Sisters of our Province who made their First Profession between 2000 and 2003 will participate in the Silver Jubilarian Renewal Course on the theme “Remember - Rejoice - Recommit: Rekindling the First Love” from 22 to 31 March 2026 at AIACHE Ecumenical Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi. We wish our sisters a grace-filled and fruitful renewal experience.

## ✦...PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS AND THANKS ...✦

- **EDUCATIVE COMMUNITY MEET:** A day of collaboration, reflection, and renewed zeal marked the Educative Community Meeting at Auxilium Centre, Thanjavur on 07 February 2026. With 31 Sisters and 140 lay collaborators participating, the gathering reflected the vibrant family spirit that animates our Salesian educational mission. In my talk drawing inspiration from Galatians 6:9, I encouraged the participants not to grow weary in doing good, but to persevere with renewed zeal and hope. Sr. Rayan M. Auxilia Sophia presented a theme from the 2026 Strenna - the four key words, “Look, Listen, Choose, Act,” urging educators to journey closely with the young, responding with awareness, empathy, discernment, and courage. Sr. Antony Rayyappan Jothy shared the Holy Father’s message on peace, stressing that true peace is built through dialogue, justice, forgiveness, and respect. Sr. Joseph Preetencia presented the UNO Message, emphasizing sustainable development, empowerment of women farmers, and care for creation.
- **HEADMISTRESSES’ MEETING:** The Headmistresses’ Meeting was held on 21 February 2026 at Tiruvottiyur - Chennai, coordinated by Sr. Sebastian Margaret, Province Academic Coordinator. Nineteen Headmistresses participated. The morning session was led by Dr. K. S. Antonysamy, M.A., M.Phil., M.Ed., Ph.D., (Loyola Alumni Association / LIBA, Loyola College) who addressed the gathering on servant leadership, emphasizing vision, integrity, and the role of the Headmistress in inspiring and empowering the school community. The afternoon session was conducted by Mr. Bala and Mr. Melkish, Project Promotion Officers from Chrysalis Group who presented AI training initiatives for teachers to prepare institutions for future curriculum integration. General instructions and academic guidelines were shared by Sr. Sebastian Margaret during the session, providing clarity on administrative responsibilities and academic priorities to be implemented in the institutions.
- **INTER-NOVITIATE MEET:** The Inter-Novitiate Meet was held on 23 and 24 February 2026 at St. Anne’s Novitiate, Crawford, Tiruchirappalli. The ten INT and INM Novices actively participated along with 43 Novices from various congregations, including the Sisters of St. Anne (Trichy), Sisters of the Holy Cross, St. Thomas Sisters, and the Sacred Heart Sisters. The seminar was animated by Rev. Fr. Timothy Kamaraj, OFM Cap, on the theme “Becoming Christ-like,” drawing inspiration from the Sermon on the Mount and the Eight Beatitudes. Through inspiring reflections and interactive sessions, he emphasized that religious life is centered on inner transformation and authentic living of the vows. The programme was a grace-filled experience of unity, renewal, and recommitment, encouraging the Novices to radiate Christ’s compassion and humility in their vocation.
- **ONLINE ORIENTATION ON AI SAMARTH:** An Online Orientation and Training on AI SAMARTH - India’s Largest AI Literacy Mission for Schools was conducted for the INT College Principals, Professors, School Headmistresses, Teaching Staff and students (Grades 6 -11) on 25 and 28 February 2026 from 05.00 to 07.00 p.m. via Zoom. AI Samarth is a national initiative supported by Central Square Foundation and IIT Madras, and implemented by Chrysalis. The programme aims to equip teachers and students with foundational AI literacy, practical skills, and responsible AI awareness.

The sessions introduced key areas: understanding AI and its types, essential AI concepts (ML, NLP, Data Literacy), ethical and social implications, and practical classroom applications including prompt writing and lesson planning. Participants appreciated the relevance of the programme, recognizing it as a timely initiative to prepare our institutions to become technologically empowered.

## ✂️... APPRECIATION AND THANKS! ...✂️

- To Sr. Diaz Francis Immaculate and the Community of Auxilium Centre, Thanjavur, for facilitating the favourable atmosphere for the Province Level Educative Community Meet on 07 February 2026.
- To Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy and the Community of Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli for hosting the Provincial Council Meet on 10 and 11 February 2026 at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli.
- To Sr. Peter Selvarani and the Community of ABLM Home Tiruvottiyur, Chennai for the conducive atmosphere for the Headmistresses' Meet on 21 February 2026.
- To the following animators and the Communities: ABLM Home Tiruvottiyur - Chennai, Auxilium Centre Thanjavur, Divyadhana - Manikandam, Tiruchirappalli, Auxilium Convent, Therespuram - Turicorin and Tiruppur Marialaya for successfully hosting the Zonel Level Annual Retreat for the Domestic Staff.

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

08	-	International Women's Day
19	-	Solemnity of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
25	-	The Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity
29	-	Palm Sunday

## ✂️... MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE ...✂️

DATE	MEETING	PLACE
06	Meeting for the Major Superiors of the Salesian Family of India / South Asia	Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati
09 - 13	ISS-FMA IV World Meeting 2026	Laguna - Philippines
14	Training on Eco Feminism	Puliadithammam
16 - 28	Formation Course for Province Coordinators for Social Communication	Rome - Italy
20	Provincial Council Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
21 - 22	Team Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
28	Leadership Skills for YaR Children	GT Marialaya - Chennai
22 - 31	Silver Jubilarian Renewal Course	AIACHE Ecumenical Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi

## ✂️... CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS ...✂️

† To Sr. *Sebastiar Caroli* who lost her eldest brother *Mr. Irudaya Florence (62)* on 13 February 2026.

† **To Sr. Ignaci Kulandai Theresa** at the lose of her eldest Sister **Mrs. Maria Mathalai (76)** on 14 February 2026.

Dear Sisters, as we celebrate the International Women’s Day this month, we pledge to renew our commitment to uphold the dignity and strength of every single woman. We recognize in each girl we educate, in every woman we accompany, and in our own consecrated lives, a gentle yet powerful force capable of transforming the world. As we enter the sacred journey of the Passion of Christ, we are invited not merely to remember His suffering but to walk with Him in self-giving love, allowing the Cross to renew our communities in unity, forgiveness, simplicity, and generous charity. Beginning our preparation for the World Gratitude Day, let us allow this grace-filled time to deepen our communion and missionary zeal. Thus, guided by Our Blessed Mother Help of Christians, may we keep inspiring the world as women of faith, gratitude, and joyful service.

## HAPPY WOMEN’S DAY!

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella

Provincial

## PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

**MARCH - 2026**

06	Meeting for the Major Superiors of the Salesian Family of India / South Asia	Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati.
16 - 17	Provincial Visit	Puthenthurai
20	Provincial Council Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
21 - 22	Team Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
31 March - 02 April	Provincial Visit	Madurai - Chittampatti