



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

Provincial Circular

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Cir. No. 35

April 2026

My dear Sisters,

Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes from Tiruchirappalli.

We stand at the threshold of Easter.

Soon as people of God, we shall be singing our Alleluia again. As this circular finds itself in your hands, the silence and sobriety of Lent will be already giving way to joy and exultation. Yes, Easter explodes with rejoicing, and reminds us of the fact that God never stops working; God continues bringing life out of what we think is terminated. This Resurrection cannot remain only in prayer or liturgy, but has to seep into lives of people... in lives that are renewed out of an encounter. A reminder for us as consecrated persons is that our mission and ministry are meant to be a life-giving encounter, one that renews and transforms. Those who have experienced this encounter, especially our Past Pupils, are called to remain touched and transformed.

Our Past Pupils are the living expression of our mission, carrying it forward beyond our campuses. This month, we reflect on them, drawing inspiration from Article 74 of our Constitutions, as signs of new life that we are called to offer to the world.

New Life and Generative Faith: The Gift of our Past Pupils

“... we shall maintain cordial relationships with our past pupils receiving them with the welcome proper to our Family Spirit [...] let us propose suitable means to enable them to live and transmit to others the values assimilated during their formation.” - Article 74.

The Article reminds us that education does not end when a student leaves our institution. The relationship may change in form, but it continues in a new way, it does not end. At times, their departure may feel like a letting go for us. Yet, the message of Easter assures us that every letting go in faith holds the promise of new life.

In our Past Pupils, those who were once accompanied become companions on the journey. Those who once received now begin to share and give. Thus, the mission continues in new and wider spaces. Easter helps us understand this mystery: life in God never stops; it only grows into newer experiences.

Roots Remembered

Every past pupil carries bundles of memories. Maybe a classroom moment, a feast day celebration, a correction given with kindness, ... a word spoken at the right time, a sister who listened when no one else did, a presence that strengthened them at the most vulnerable of times... we may forget these moments as small and insignificant, because we do not really understand the gravity of these in those concrete lives involved. These memories remain alive in their hearts. At times, when they leave, we may wonder what will remain. Easter declares: what is sown in love never dies. Just like the seed that falls into the earth and seems to die and disappear, rises to new life, giving rise to

newer lives. Years later, they still speak with the same values, they treat others with respect, they stand for what is right even when it costs them something... we may not see the change immediately. But grace works slowly... like the seed beneath the soil, which waits in silence until its season comes. That is why nothing done with love is ever wasted.

Grace that Grows

Our Past Pupils reach places where we may not be able to go.

We may remain within our mission centres, but they are present in offices, villages, hospitals, homes, parishes and every arena of public life. What we once nurtured within the safety of our environment now enters the wider world, sometimes with struggle, sometimes with sacrifice, and always with endurance.

Often they themselves do not realise that they are carrying something sacred. They simply live naturally what they once experienced - to respect, to include, to forgive, to try again. And in that unassuming fidelity, the Risen Lord continues to work.

This is how faith spreads: not just by preaching, but by presence. Easter is exactly this - Christ alive and active beyond the walls where He was once recognised.

Mission Made Mutual

Article 74 of our Constitutions does not speak of Past Pupils as outsiders; rather, it sees them as part of our shared mission.

When Past Pupils stand beside us, something deeply Paschal takes place. What once seemed to have “gone away” returns transformed. The family grows wider, and those who once received begin to give. At times they collaborate actively; at other times, they remain close in quiet support and fidelity. Each reconnection reminds us that their leaving was not an ending, but a sending.

Jesus did not keep His disciples with Him forever, He sent them forth, and through that sending, the Gospel reached far and wide. In the same way, our Past Pupils carry forward the spirit of our mission in places we ourselves may never reach.

Fruits that Form Faith

We do not always see the full fruit of our efforts. At times, we may even wonder if what we do truly makes a difference. Then, years later, we meet a past pupil, living responsibly, caring for others, standing for truth, holding on to faith in moments of struggle, and contributing to the common good. In such moments, something deep within us proclaims: “Alleluia! He is Risen! He lives!”

What seemed ordinary has borne fruit.
What seemed small has grown strong.
What seemed hidden has become visible.

Their goodness has not appeared suddenly, nor has their generosity come from nowhere. Their faith has been gently nurtured along the way. Somewhere in their journey, they encountered acceptance, accompaniment, and hope, and God continued His work in them long after they left us.

In time, they begin to evangelise us in return. Their dedication, perseverance, gratitude, and courage renew our hope and rekindle our zeal. In them, we see not only the fruit of our mission, but the living presence of our charism, alive, growing, and reaching far beyond us.

Risen Relationships

After Resurrection, Jesus had a totally different relationship with His disciples - it was not anymore merely physical near, but much deeper and radically freer. It is so with our Past Pupils too. We no longer guide every step of theirs, yet we remain a point of reference; they no longer depend on us, yet they feel they belong! The bond matures, less visible perhaps, but much more interior. This is the beauty of true education. It allows us to let go without losing. It allows them to walk ahead without disconnecting. Each time a past pupil lives with conscience and kindness, Resurrection happens... it becomes visible again, life continues beyond our presence.

Legacy that Lives

As we get into the season of Easter, we learn to look at our Past Pupils not with nostalgia but with gratitude.

They are the living continuation of what God began in and through us. They are the echo of our charism in places out of reach to us. They are a proof that love given in youth can shape a lifetime and that God remains faithful to the seeds planted in faith.

Our task is simple: remain welcoming, available, and trusting. Not holding them back nor forgetting them, but walking with them whenever paths meet again. The real fruit of education is not success inside the institution. It is goodness lived outside it.

And that should mean Easter to us!

Life continues. Faith grows. Love spreads. We cherish and accompany this precious gift entrusted to us, 'our Past Pupils', signs that what was once sown, now lives on in the light of the Risen Lord!

Wish you a Happy Easter!



HOLY WEEK: (29 March - 04 April): Holy Week invites us to walk closely with Jesus Christ, not as distant observers but as women who carry both faith and fragility in our daily lives. In Him, we encounter a love that remains faithful even in suffering, misunderstanding, and silence. As we journey from Palm Sunday to Easter, we recognize our own story in His, moments of enthusiasm, but also fatigue and struggle. Yet, the Lord simply asks us to remain with Him. In Holy Thursday, we rediscover our call to serve with love; in Good Friday, we learn that our crosses can become places of grace; and the sacred silence of Holy Saturday, we are invited to trust like our Blessed Mother, who, even in the darkness of uncertainty, held firm in faith, hope, and love, believing that God's promises would be fulfilled. Easter then becomes a living promise that hope and life will have the final word. May this sacred time renew our hearts and deepen our commitment to live with love, simplicity, and joy as one Province.

POPE'S VOCATIONS DAY MESSAGE: The Interior Discovery of God's Gift: For the 63rd World Day of Prayer for Vocations, which will be celebrated on 26 April 2026, "Good Shepherd Sunday," Pope Leo XIV invites all, especially young people, to discover vocation as God's free gift within the heart, nurtured through prayer, silence, and a personal relationship with Jesus the Good Shepherd. Vocation is not imposed but unfolds as an "adventure of love," growing in trust like Saint Joseph, and deepened through God's Word, the Sacraments, and community support. Rooted in God's love, it matures into a unique path of holiness and service, bearing joyful and fruitful witness in the Church and the world.

IN PREPARATION FOR THE GENERAL CHAPTER XXV: In preparation for the General Chapter XXV, Mother Chiara Cazzuola invites all the Sisters to undertake a spiritual and communal journey, inspired by significant milestones such as the 150th anniversary of the Institute, the Canonization of Sr. Maria Troncatti, and the Church's Synodal and Jubilee Journey. She convokes the General Chapter to be held on 22 September 2027 in Rome, as a time of prayer, discernment, and seeking God's will, centred on the Theme:

*“Blessed are you...”
With the prophetic power of the charism,
missionaries of communion together with young people.*

The journey unfolds in three Nucleus:

- **Prophetic Power of the Charism** - living the Beatitudes through personal and communal conversion in the spirit of St. John Bosco and St. Maria Domenica Mazzarello.
- **Missionaries of Communion** - building synodal communities rooted in care, unity, and shared mission.
- **Together with the Young** - accompanying young people as protagonists, creating spaces of belonging, nurturing vocations, and renewing missionary zeal.

This journey calls the Institute to profound renewal, stronger communion, and a vibrant missionary commitment.

WORLD GRATITUDE DAY (26 April): As we continue our journey of preparation for the World Feast of Gratitude 2026, our hearts are gently drawn into a deeper missionary awareness. Celebrated this year in the Sacred Heart Province (ECU) of Ecuador from 23 to 26 April 2026, the theme *“Be missionaries everywhere”* becomes a simple yet profound call for each one of us. In the light of the recent canonization of Saint Maria Troncatti, we are gifted with a living witness of love, a mother, a missionary, and an artisan of peace.

As part of our preparation, we are invited to enter into a meaningful Triduum through Lectio Divina:

Lectio Divina I: **Theme: Saint Maria Troncatti, Mother;**

Lectio Divina II: **Theme: Saint Maria Troncatti, Missionary;**

Lectio Divina III: **Theme: Saint Maria Troncatti, Artisan of Peace.**

These moments offer us a grace-filled path to contemplate her life and to renew our own vocation with creative fidelity, especially as we journey towards the 150th anniversary of the First Missionary Departure. The Word of God, *“Go and do likewise” (Lk. 10:37)*, echoes in our hearts as a gentle invitation to become women of compassion, closeness, and care, particularly where life is most fragile.

With gratitude and hope, we also assure our loving prayers for Our La Madre, whose guidance strengthens our unity and missionary spirit across the Institute. At the same time, we hold close in prayer the Sacred Heart Province of Ecuador, asking the Lord to bless their generous service and make their mission flourish abundantly. May their witness continue to radiate God's love and peace, inspiring many to encounter His presence in their daily lives.

PRAYER FOR PEACE: In a world wounded by pain, conflict, and unrest, let us turn our hearts more deeply to prayer, carrying within us the silent cries of so many who long for peace. As spouses of Jesus Christ, we are called to be close to the suffering of humanity, placing every fear and burden gently into His loving hands. I invite each one of you and your communities to make sacrifices and embrace small acts of penance, offering simple yet heartfelt moments of prayer for peace, both personally and together. Through the intercession of Saint Maria Troncatti, may we become true artisans of peace, gently spreading hope, tenderness, and reconciliation in our daily lives. United in prayer, let us trust with quiet faith that even the smallest offering, made with love, can bring light and healing to our world.

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS: The Legislative Assembly Elections in Tamil Nadu on 23 April 2026 remind us of our important civic responsibility. Let us vote with care and awareness, choosing leaders who serve with honesty and concern for the common good. At the same time, let us encourage those in our care to take part actively in this democratic process. Guided by the values of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, may our participation promote the dignity of every person and strengthen the unity and well-being of our nation.

CONGRATULATIONS AND PRAYERFUL WISHES: With joy and gratitude to God, we warmly congratulate the Deacons who will be ordained this month and assure them of our prayerful support as they enter the priestly ministry in the true Salesian spirit. May the Lord anoint them with His Spirit, strengthen them in fidelity, and make their lives a generous gift in service, especially to the young and the poor.

✦...NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE!...✦

• **ANNUAL RETREATS II & III AND A DAY OF ANIMATION:**

- **ANNUAL RETREAT II:** From 13 to 21 April 2026, the Annual Retreat for the Animators will be held at Don Bosco Wellington by Rev. Fr. Jayaseelan Savariarpitchi SDB. On 20 April, the Province Safeguarding Team will conduct a Day of Animation on “Awareness on Safeguarding Policies.” The next day, 21 April 2026, there will be a presentation and drawing of the Annual Plan and Project for 2026 - 2027.
- **ANNUAL RETREAT III:** From 26 April to 03 May 2026, the Annual Retreat III will be conducted at Don Bosco Wellington by Rev. Fr. Joy Austin MSFS. On 03 May 2026, the Province Safeguarding Team will conduct a Day of Animation on “Awareness on Safeguarding Policies.”

Wishing each one of you a grace-filled time of spiritual renewal. May these sacred days draw you into a profound encounter with Jesus Christ, filling your hearts with peace, renewed strength, and fresh zeal for the mission.

- **VOCATION CAMP:** The Province Level Vocation Camp will be held from 07 to 08 April 2026 at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. I encourage each community to take an active role in fostering vocations for our Province. Let us also earnestly pray to the Lord of the harvest, to inspire and call generous hearts to follow Him.

• **SUMMER COURSES:**

- **“Abiding in His Love: A Renewal of Consecrated Life”:** Sr. Diaz Francis Immaculate, Sr. Rynjah K. Dalanglin Mary and Sr. Sangma M. Lepchi will participate in the course on the theme “*Abiding in His Love: A Renewal of Consecrated Life*” at Dhyavanava, Mysore from 27 April to 02 May 2026.
- **Roots of Fruits: Growing in Godliness and Spiritual Maturity:** Sr. Michael Raj Loyola, Sr. Lourdu Sagayam, Sr. Rayappan Sampooranam and Sr. Susai Anthonia will participate in the course “*Roots of Fruits: Growing in Godliness and Spiritual Maturity*” at Dhyavanava, Mysore from 04 to 09 May 2026.
- **Summer Bible Course:** Sr. Amalorpavanathan Premila Ruby, Sr. Arulandhu Savari Stella, Sr. Arulanandu Saradha, Sr. Joseph Juli Nirmala, Sr. Devaraj Jeyarani, Sr. Mahimai

Raj Jaya Sharmila and Sr. Savari Raj Arockiya Sophiya will participate in the *Summer Bible Course* at TNBLC Dindivanam - Tamil Nadu from 06 to 10 May 2026.

- **National Educators Summit:** Sr. Amal Raj Rabecca, Sr. Anthony M. Ponraj Amudha Selva R., Sr. Antony Regina Mary, Sr. Irudayam Benita Rani, Sr. Pensiker Bastina Mary, Sr. Rayan M. Auxilia Sophia and Sr. Robert Santhiya Punitha will attend the *National Educators Summit on Navadrishti: Shaping Future- Ready Schools through Digital Leadership* at Kristu Jeyanthi College - Bangalore from 07 to 09 May 2026.
- **Vision to Impact - Faith-Filled Leadership for a Changing World:** Sr. Abraham Epsibai, Sr. Arockianathan Verginia Mary, Sr. Pannirselvam Alphonsa, Sr. Savarimuthu Annamanickam, Sr. Sesu John, Sr. Vedamuthu Santiagu Theresal and Sr. Xavier Raj Irudaya Arasi will take part in the course “*Vision to Impact - Faith-Filled Leadership for a Changing World*” at Dhyavanava, Mysore from 11 to 16 May 2026.

✂️...PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS...✂️

- **IV WORLD MEETING 2026 OF HIGHER EDUCATION, ISS - FMA:** From our Province, Sr. Vedamuthu Saveriammal and Sr. Masilamani Jeya Pushpam participated in the IV World Meeting of the Institutions of Higher Education of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (ISS-FMA), held from 09 to 13 March 2026 at the Mornese Spirituality Center, Pansol, Laguna, Philippines.

The meeting, organized by the Institute’s Sector for Youth Ministry in collaboration with the Central Commission of the ISS-FMA and the “Saint Mary Mazzarello” FMA Province (FIL), brought together 82 participants: 68 in person and 14 online (due to flight cancellations caused by recent conflicts). These included administrators, faculty members, and university students representing 20 Higher Education Institutions, 13 Provinces, and 10 countries across four continents.

Centered on the theme “Youth Empowerment to Drive Social Change,” the gathering provided a valuable space for dialogue, reflection, and sharing. It fostered a spirit of unity, intercultural exchange, and collaboration, strengthening the commitment to accompany young people in becoming active contributors to a more just, compassionate, and sustainable society.

- **SILVER JUBILARIAN COURSE:** The Silver Jubilarians Renewal Course, held from 22 to 31 March 2026 at the AIACHE Ecumenical Centre, Janakpuri, New Delhi, was attended by ten of our Sisters, who professed between 2000 and 2003.

Centered on the theme “Remember - Rejoice - Recommit: Rekindling the First Love,” it was a grace-filled time of prayer, reflection, and renewal. Through sessions on remembering one’s journey with God, re-centering in Christ, healing and integration, and recommitment, the Sisters deepened their vocation, experienced inner renewal, and moved forward with a renewed and joyful “yes” to God’s call.

- **MEETING FOR PROVINCE COORDINATORS FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATION:** Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jennifer, Province Coordinator for Social Communication had participated in the formation course held for the Province Coordinators for Social Communication, from 16 to 28 March 2026 at Rome - Italy, as foreseen in the General Plan for 2022-2027 of the GC XXIV. The programme, with the theme “the identity that speaks; the network that unites”, was coordinated by Sr. Maria Ausilia De Siena, General Councillor for Social Communication, aimed to strengthen the animation of the communication sector at the level of the Institute. It included the visits to the important places of the origins of our Salesian heritage (Turin and Mornese), creating a richer Salesian spirit and closer collaborative bond.

✂️...♦♦♦APPRECIATION AND THANKS!♦♦♦...✂️

- To Sr. Anthony Swamy Rosy and the Community of Auxilium Provincial House Tiruchirappalli for hosting the Provincial Council meet on 20 March 2026.

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

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| 02 | - | Maundy Thursday |
| 03 | - | Good Friday |
| 04 | - | Holy Saturday |
| 05 | - | Easter Day |
| 12 | - | Divine Mercy Sunday |
| 25 | - | The Feast of St. Mark, Evangelist |
| 26 | - | World Gratitude Day 2026 |

✂️...♦♦♦MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE♦♦♦...✂️

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|-------------------|---|--|---|
| 07 - 08 | : | Vocation Camp | Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli |
| 13 - 21 | : | Annual Retreat - II and a Day of Animation | Don Bosco - Wellington |
| 20 | : | Leadership Skill for Children - YaR Children | Tiruppur |
| 21 | : | Provincial Council Meet | Don Bosco - Wellington |
| 26 April - 03 May | : | Annual Retreat - III and a Day of Animation | Don Bosco - Wellington |

✂️...♦♦♦CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS♦♦♦...✂️

- † *To Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani at the demise of her Brother-in-law, Mr. Arockia Xavier (51), on 04 March 2026.*
- † *To Sr. Fernando Josephine at the passing away of her Brother-in-law, Mr. Joseph Fernando, on 10 March 2026.*
- † *To Sr. Rayappan Sampooram and Sr. Rayappan Cecily Selvi at the loss of their beloved Mother, Mrs. Mariammal (88), on 16 March 2026.*
- † *To the Provincial and the Confreres of the Province of INC at the loss of Br. Roy Thirumalachalil SDB (51) on 19 March 2026.*
- † *To the Provincial and the Confreres of the Province of INM at the demise of Most Rev. Bishop Jerome Dhas Varuvel, SDB (74), Emeritus Bishop of Kuzhithurai Diocese, on 24 March 2026.*

Dear Sisters, let us fix our gaze on the Risen Christ, who walks before us, accompanies us, and renews us each day. In Him, we find the strength to persevere, the courage to begin anew, and the joy of a life offered in love. May His living presence transform our communities into spaces of hope, communion, and mission.

In this spirit, I invite each of you to pray sincerely, asking the Holy Spirit to guide the forthcoming election, so that wise and faithful leaders may be chosen according to God's will.

Entrusting ourselves to Mary, Woman of Easter faith, may we journey with serenity and hope.

Wishing you all a blessed and grace-filled Easter!

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella

Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

APRIL - 2026

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