



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

Provincial Circular

Auxilium Provincial House, Salesian Sisters,
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My dear Sisters,

Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes from Tiruchirappalli.

As we enter the month of May, our hearts instinctively turn to our Blessed Mother, Help of Christians. For us, she is not merely an object of devotion, but our firm refuge, a loving guidance and an assuring strength behind our life and mission. As Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, we do not walk alone; we walk with a Mother who goes before us, stays beside us, and leads us onwards to her Son. This month, as we celebrate her feast and witness the beautiful “yes” of our young Sisters at their first profession, we also bring to completion our reflection on “Our Mission”. It is indeed fitting, because mission, in its deepest sense, is nothing but our “yes”, a lived “yes” like Mary’s... simple, trusting, and total.

May: Mary Help of Christians - Renewing Ourselves as Salesian Missionaries

Articles 75 and 76 of our Constitutions, remind us that our mission is both **wide as the world** and **close as the person before us**. It carries within it a missionary zeal and a daily fidelity. It reaches out to new horizons, yet remains rooted in the charism of “Da mihi animas”. And in all this, Mary stands as our model and our companion.

Mission that Moves Out

“The missionary dimension, an essential element of the identity of the Institute and the expression of its universality, has been part of our history since its very beginning.” - Art. 75

From the very beginning, our Institute has carried a missionary heart. There is always a going forth, a restlessness that does not allow us to remain enclosed within our familiar frontiers or comfort zones. Like the first Sisters of Mornese, we are sent - sometimes across lands, sometimes across cultures, often into hearts that are waiting without knowing it.

We meet young people searching for meaning, longing for love, carrying questions they cannot always express. We certainly cannot have ready answers. We bring our presence, our patience, our kind assurance that they are loved by God.

Mission begins here; not in great actions, but in small encounters. Mary too set out “in haste”, not to do something extraordinary, but to be present, and through that presence, God’s promise began to unfold.

Meaning that Meets the Heart

Article 75 reminds us that we go to those who have not yet received the Good News. However, before we speak the Good News, we are called to recognise the goodness already present in the young - the aspirations, the values, the silent longing for truth and love that God has already placed within every heart. Our mission is not to impose, but to reveal. Not to replace, but to fulfill. We help young people discover what they are searching for, which has a name and that name is Christ. Like Mary at Cana, we do not draw attention to ourselves. We simply lead others to Him: *“Do whatever He tells you.”* In this gentle direction, hearts begin to open, faith begins to awaken, and life begins to find direction.

Witness that Wakes the World

True mission does not stop at announcing. It awakens. When young people encounter God’s personal love, something changes within them. They begin to see differently. They begin to choose differently. Slowly and gradually, they themselves become witnesses. This is the beauty of our mission, it is generative.

We do not create followers; we form apostles. We do not gather around ourselves; we send forth. It is our simple, joyful fidelity that becomes the first proclamation. A life lived with consistency, kindness, and conviction speaks louder than many words. Mary’s life was hidden, yet powerful. Her presence formed Jesus and her faith strengthened the disciples. So too, our witness, even when unnoticed can awaken faith in ways we may never fully realise.

Charism that Connects

Article 76 takes us to the heart of our identity - the unity of *“Da mihi animas”* lived in the plurality of environments. We serve in schools, colleges, *Marialayas*, boardings, hostels, youth centres, villages, social works etc. - each mission different, each context unique. Yet what unites all our efforts is the same passion, a love that seeks the good of the young, especially the poorest among them.

The methods may change. The needs may vary. But the heart remains the same. This is our strength: to be rooted and yet flexible, faithful and yet creative, consistent and yet open. Mary lived this unity beautifully. In Nazareth, in Bethlehem, at Cana, at Calvary, in different situations, yet the same trust, the same surrender, the same love. Wherever we are, whatever we do, we remain who we are.

Courage that Continues

Mission is not always easy. There are moments of fatigue, misunderstanding, slow results, hidden sacrifices. There are times when we feel we are giving much but seeing little returns. It is precisely here that our vocation deepens.

“I have promised God that till my last breath my life shall be for my boys” - these words of Don Bosco is not just a statement; it was a lifelong commitment. To remain... to continue to give... to persevere even when it is not seen - that is what lifelong commitment means. Mary stood at the foot of the Cross. She did not withdraw when the mission became painful. She remained faithful, silent and strong. And she teaches us the same courage: not the courage of great actions, but the courage of steady, silent, persistent love.

The Mother who helps us render our Mission Meaningful

As we celebrate Mary Help of Christians, we recognise her not only as our guide but as the one who makes our mission fruitful. She goes before us and prepares hearts before we reach out them. She inspires our initiatives and sustains us when we feel weak. She walks beside us and completes what we cannot. As we witness our young Sisters offer their lives in first profession, and those who come forward to offer themselves to the Lord in perpetuity, we are reminded that our vocation itself is the most beautiful expression of God-given mission. A heart touched by God becomes a life given to God, in joy and in hope. This is mission fulfilled.

With this month of May, we conclude our year-long reflections on Mission. Certainly, what prevails is not a sense of completion, but a renewed sense of commitment. Mission is not a theme we reflect on; it is the life we live, everyday. May this Marian month deepen in us the same strong “yes”, as that of our Blessed Mother. A yes that makes us faithful in the ordinary, generous amidst demands, and joyful along our life’s journey.

Like Mary, may we carry Christ within us. Like Mary, may we bring Christ to others. Like Mary, may we be Christ to the others... thus with Don Bosco, may we be able to say: **“I have promised God that my life, till its last breath, shall be for my poor children!”**

✠...MONTH’S SPECIAL!...✠

- **ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER (01 May):** St. Joseph the Worker stands for the dignity and holiness of daily labour. In the quiet workshop of Nazareth, he transformed ordinary work into an offering of love, care, and responsibility. As the faithful guardian of Jesus and Mary, Joseph teaches us that work is not merely a duty, but a participation in God’s creative plan. Marked by silence, humility, and unwavering trust in God, the life that he lived without seeking any recognition, shines as a proof of his fulfilled mission, dedication and integrity. May his example inspire us to sanctify our work, however small or hidden it may seem, and to carry it out with love, patience, and a deep sense of God’s presence.
- **ST. DOMINIC SAVIO (06 May):** Saint Dominic Savio, the little giant of sanctity, stands as a radiant witness to holiness lived in simplicity and joy. Formed under the guidance of Saint John Bosco, he embraced an ordinary life with extraordinary love for God. His famous resolution, “Death rather than sin,” was not a statement of fear, but of deep love and total surrender to God. He teaches us that sanctity does not depend on age, status, or great achievements, but on fidelity in small things, prayer, kindness, purity of heart, and joyful service. May his witness move us to deepen our fidelity in everyday responsibilities, so that through a joyful and hope-filled life, we may reflect God’s presence wherever we are sent.
- **BIRTHDAY (09 May) & FEAST DAY OF ST. MARY MAZZARELLO (13 May):** The life of St. Mary Mazzarello is a beautiful witness to simplicity, humility, and joyful holiness. Rooted in deep union with God, she transformed ordinary daily duties into moments of grace. As co-foundress with Saint John Bosco, she dedicated her life to the education and formation of young girls, especially the poor, becoming a motherly presence filled with kindness and strength.

Her birthday (09 May) reminds us of God's loving plan in calling each person to a unique mission, while her feast day (13 May) invites us to celebrate a life fully given to God and to others. She teaches us that holiness is lived in the present moment, with cheerfulness, patience, and a heart open to serve. May her example inspire us to live our vocation with joy, to nurture a loving community, and to be instruments of God's tenderness, especially among the young and those in need.

- **THE FEAST OF PENTECOST (24 May):** The event of Pentecost is a powerful outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples, transforming fear into courage and uncertainty into mission. As Religious, we are called to be continually renewed by the Spirit, allowing God to work through our weaknesses. Pentecost invites us to deepen our openness to the Spirit, who guides, strengthens, and unites us in community. It is the Spirit who gives life to our vocation, helping us to live with zeal, joy, and fidelity. May the grace of Pentecost renew our hearts with the Spirit's fire, empowering us to live our vocation with fresh zeal and to radiate Christ's love in generous service.
- **THE FEAST OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS (25 May):** We celebrate the feast of Mary Help of Christians, liturgically, this year on the 25th of May, as the great and solemn feast of Pentecost falls on the 24th. The day coincides also with the Memoria that was instituted by beloved Pope Francis - Mary, mother of the Church. We, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, were intended as the living monuments of gratitude to our Blessed Mother Help of Christians, who had been strongly by the side of Don Bosco during his life time and now continues to guide and protect the Salesian Family. Let us renew our love and affection for our Blessed Mother and ask her to be with us and to give us the strength, to love her Son above all, and to edify without ceasing his Mystical Body on earth - the Church.
- **THE SOLEMNITY OF THE HOLY TRINITY (31 May):** In this Solemnity, we celebrate one of the most fundamental truths of our Christian faith and experience - the truth and the mystery of the Holy Trinity, the Triune God, who is the Communion that Commissions each of us, to be God's children and God's people. The Revelation of God as Trinity, come right from the beginning of creation - God created, through God's Words as God's Spirit was moving on the waters! We reflect on the Christ-event where Christ declared that he came from the Father and would go back to the Father, sending us the Spirit as advocate and counselor: this has been the ultimate revelation of the Trinitarian God. We are formed in the image and likeness of this Trinitarian God of communion; let us become ever more aware and convinced of our call to become persons of communion and proclaim peace and oneness in God.
- **60TH WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS:** The 60th World Day of Social Communications will be observed on Sunday, 17 May 2026, with the theme "Preserving Human Voices and Faces," announced by Pope Leo XIV. The message stresses the need to protect human dignity and authentic relationships in an age shaped by artificial intelligence, warning against risks such as misinformation, privacy violations, and weakened critical thinking. It calls for ethical technology that serves humanity and encourages responsible digital communication, keeping human values and judgment at the center.

✂️...NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE!...✂️

- **NEW ANIMATOR:** Sr. **Irudayaraj Victoria** has been appointed as the Animator of Madras Georgetown, Marialaya community for the first term of three years (2026 - 2029), succeeding Sr. Micheal Arokia Sujatha Mary, who has been entrusted with the responsibility of Provincial Economist. We extend our heartfelt congratulations and wish her God's abundant blessings as she assumes this responsibility.
- **VI WORLD CONGRESS OF THE ASSCC:** The Sixth World Congress of Salesian Cooperators, with the theme 'Being Yeast for Being Fruitful' will be held from 07 to 10 May, 2026 at the Domus Fraternalis House in Rome, marking the 150th anniversary of their foundation. Sr. Xavier Xenophia Josephine from the INT FMA Unit, along with other delegates from various SDB units, will be participating in it. Our prayers and best wishes accompany them in this meaningful experience of spiritual enrichment!
- **SOCIETY AUDITING:** From 05 to 16 May 2026, the Society Auditing of our Province will be carried out in the three zonals: Chennai, Trichy, and Coimbatore. The Economists are requested to keep all the required documents ready and to extend their cooperation for the smooth and effective conduct of the auditing.
- **VOCATION CAMP:** The Province-level Vocation Camps for students of Classes IX to XII, will be held at Auxilium Centre, Thanjavur, on 08 and 09 May 2026. May the Lord of the harvest, bless our efforts and inspire many more vocations in our Province.
- **INITIATION OF POSTULANTS TO THE NOVITIATE:** I am happy to welcome the 12 Postulants: AMALRAJ Anitha, AROCKIAM JOSEPHINE Infanta, JAMES Loveveena, SANTHHIYAGU Gladis Dayana, SEBASTIAN CHRISTOPHER Josephine Janet from our Province (INT) and ANTHONISAMY MAST Rojiya, AROKIA SAMY Lourdu Mary, JAGANTHAN Jayasri, MARTIN DOSS Poulin Prasanna, SAGAYARAJ Suji, SELVI RAJ Rosali Archana and THEODOR Sandhiya Theras from INM Province. They will be arriving at Divyadhanam Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manikandam, Tiruchirappalli on 15 May 2026. Their Annual Retreat will be held from 16 to 22 May 2026, and the initiation ceremony will take place on 23 May 2026. May this meaningful beginning initiate them into the process of growth in grace, leading them to a deep and loving commitment to the One who calls them.
- **JUNIORS RENEWAL PROGRAMME 2026:** The Renewal Programme for the Junior Sisters is scheduled from 12 to 21 May 2026 at Puliadthammam. Sr. Rodriguez Mary Magdalen will be the facilitator. The Sisters are expected to reach the venue by the evening of 11 May 2026. On 21 May 2026, they will proceed to Divyadhanam, Manikandam, Tiruchirappalli for a full-day recollection, followed by the renewal of their vows on 23 May 2026.

- **ANNUAL RETREAT IV:** The IV Annual Retreat for the Postulants, Novices, Second Novitiate Sisters of our Province, along with a few other Sisters, will be held from 16 to 22 May 2026 at Divyadhanam Novitiate, Manikandam -Tiruchirappalli. The retreat will be preached by Rev. Fr. John Barnabas, SDB.
- **FIRST PROFESSION:** It is with great joy that we announce the First Profession of Sr. Maria Louis Maria Yasmin and Sr. AROCKIYASAMY Reyasna Mercy of our province (INT) and Sr. VELANKANNI AMALRAJ Leema Jenifer, Sr. LAWRENCE Mary Sujatha and Sr. SURESH CHANDHAR PAUL Nancy from the Province of Chennai (INM). The Profession will take place on 24 May 2026 at Auxilium Provincial House, Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli, with the theme “Rooted in Christ, with Mary for the young”. The Solemn Holy Eucharist at 10.30 a.m. will be presided over by Most Rev. Dr. Savarimuthu Arockiaraj, D.D., S.T.D., Bishop of Tiruchirappalli. We entrust these Sisters to God’s gracious care as they take this important step in their religious journey dedicating themselves totally to belong to the Lord and to serve him with faith, joy, and wholehearted commitment.
- **GUIDE COURSE - WOOD BADGE PREPARATION:** The special Guide Course in preparation for the Wood Badge will be held from 25 to 30 May 2026 at Keeranur - Tiruchirappalli. Sr. Sebastian Mary Margaret, FMA, ALT. The participants from our Province are Sr. Abraham Epsibai, Sr. Amal Raj Rebecca, Sr. Anthony Samy Jerline, Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani, Sr. Arockiadass Raja Nirmala, Sr. Arokkiya Raj Ebseeba Lourdemary, Sr. Arulananthu Jefri, Sr. Arulsamy Alpenda, Sr. Arulsamy Pemina, Sr. Ayundukayam Arockia Malarjothi, Sr. Beniston Susmitha, Sr. Devadoss S. Soniya, Sr. Joseph Jency Arokia, Sr. Kulanthaisamy Arul Jenifer, Sr. Mahimai Raj Jaya Sharmila, Sr. Pensiker Bastina Mary, Sr. Pitchai Muthu Masilin Mariya, Sr. Sundaram Bernadette Neha, Sr. Tamil Selvan Tensiya, and Sr. Victor Maria Kilodiya.
- **TRANSFERS:** I kindly invite those who have received new appointments to ensure a smooth and responsible handing over of duties to their successors, and to reach their new communities by 28 May 2026. May this transition be lived with grace, in a spirit of obedience and joyful readiness for the mission entrusted to you.
- **STUDIES IN ITALY:** Sr. Raja Clarenca Mary will be leaving for Italy in July 2026 for her two-year studies in Salesian Spirituality at Casa Madre Ersilia Canta, Rome. May God bless her journey, stay, and her studies in Italy.

✂️…PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS AND THANKS…✂️

- **ANNUAL RETREAT II:** Twenty-seven participants, comprising the Animators and Provincial Councillors, gathered at Don Bosco, Wellington from 13 to 20 April 2026 for their Annual Retreat. The Retreat was centered on the theme “The Spirituality of Movement,” preached by Fr. Savariarpitchai Jayaseelan, SDB. We thank him for his availability and for the diligence with which he inspired the participant sisters.

- **ANNUAL RETREAT III:** Fifty Sisters participated in the Annual Retreat III from 26 April to 02 May 2026 at Don Bosco, Wellington. Rev. Fr. Austin Joy MSFS preached the retreat on the theme, “With a Unique God’s Experience, Towards the Prophetic Religious Life,” calling participants to deepen their encounter with God and to dedicate themselves to Him with an undivided heart. We thank him for his inspiring presence and enriching sharing.
- **A DAY OF ANIMATION:** Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi and Sr. Joseph Prettenca animated sessions on Safeguarding Policies, with special focus on the protection of children and vulnerable adults on 20 April 2026 for the Provincial Councillors and Animators, and on 03 May 2026 for the Sisters of the Annual Retreat III. We acknowledge with thanks the contribution of the resource persons, through the practical sessions, engaging group activities, and meaningful sharing which helped the participants understand the policies more clearly and the ways to apply them effectively in their respective places of ministry.
- **CIRCULAR - 1056 PRESENTATION:** On 21 April 2026, I presented Mother General’s Circular (No. 1056) which convokes the CG XXV. It fills our hearts with gratitude, to see the official convocation of the General Chapter XXV, in accordance with art. 138 of our 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 gathering, the Superior General and the General Councillors will be elected, entrusting the life of the Institute to those whom the Spirit shall indicate. Sr. María del Rosario García Ribas, the Vicar General has been appointed as the Moderator and she will accompany the preparations towards 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.

✂️...APPRECIATION AND THANKS!...✂️

- **VOCATION CAMP:**
 - To Sr. *Anthony swamy Rosy, the animator, and the community of Auxilium Provincial House, Manikandam, Tiruchirappalli*, for hosting the Province Level Vocation Camp on 08 and 09 April 2026.
 - To Sr. *Cruz Anthoni Michaela, the Novice Formator, and the Novitiate community*, for their generous hospitality and accommodation, which created a favourable atmosphere for conducting the camp.
 - A special thanks to the animator Sr. *Soosai Magnificat and the community members of Regunathapuram* for animating the Vocation Camp on 07 April 2026.
- To Sr. *Ignaci Kulandai Theresa and the community of Don Bosco - Wellington* for their generous hospitality and for creating a peaceful and prayerful atmosphere for the Annual Retreats II (April 13 - 30) and III (April 26 - May 03), and the respective days of Animation.

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

01	-	St. Joseph the Worker
06	-	St. Dominic Savio
13	-	St. Mary Mazzarello
14	-	St. Mathias, the Apostle
17	-	The Ascension of the Lord
15	-	Our Lady of Fatima (for us Salesians)
24	-	Feast of Pentecost
25	-	Feast of Mary Help of Christians / Mary, Mother of the Church
26	-	St. Philip Neri
31	-	The Most Holy Trinity

❧...♦♦MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE♦♦...❧

26 April - 03 May	:	Annual Retreat - III	Don Bosco - Wellington
27 April - 02 May	:	Course - Abiding in His Love and Renewal of Consecrated Life	Dhyanavana - Mysore
04 - 09 May	:	Course - Roots of Fruits Growing in Godliness and Spiritual Maturity	Dhyanavana - Mysore
07 - 09 May	:	National Educator Summit Meet	Kristu Jeyanthi College - Bangalore
06 - 10 May	:	Summer Bible Course	TNBCLC - Dindivanam
11 - 16 May	:	Course - Vision to Impact: Faith-filled Leadership for a Changing	Dhyanavana - Mysore
15 May	:	Arrival of the Postulants	Divyadhanam Sacred Heart Novitiate - Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli
12 - 20 May	:	Juniors Renewal Programme	Puliadithammam
20 - 21 May	:	Juniors' Animation	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
16 - 22 May	:	Annual Retreat - IV	Divyadhanam Sacred Heart Novitiate - Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli
23 May	:	Renewal of the Vows	Divyadhanam Sacred Heart Novitiate - Manikandam - Tiruchirappalli
24 May	:	First Profession	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli

✂️...**CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS**...✂️

- † To **Sr. Madalaimuthu Pokkisha Mary** at the loss of her beloved Sister, **Mrs. Gnana Mary (79)** on 15 April 2026.
- † To **Sr. Peter Selvarani** at the demise of her aunt, **Sr. Chinnamani FSJ (79)** on 17 April 2026.
- † To the **Provincial and confreres of Dimapur Province (IND)** at the demise of **Fr. Maippan Paul (62)** on 19 April 2026.
- † To **Sr. Nirmala Poobalrayan** at the loss of her nephew, **Mr. Benni (49)** on 24 April 2026.
- † To **Sr. Diaz Francis Immaculate** at the demise of her aunt, **Mrs. Masebeal Alice (75)** on 25 April 2026.
- † To the family of **Mrs. Linda, OLC Teacher, Broadway, Chennai** who passed away on 25 April 2026. *May she rest in the arms of the Lord.*

Dear Sisters, I extend my heartfelt wishes to each one of you on the joyful occasion of the Birthday and Feast of Mother Mazzarello. May her life of simplicity, charity, and joyful fidelity inspire us to deepen our commitment to the Lord and to our mission.

I lovingly invite each one of you to renew with fervour the grace of our first Profession, rekindling the love and generosity with which we first responded to God's call. May this renewal strengthen our dedication and unity in living our call with formidable zeal and filial faith.

As we celebrate the feasts of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Trinity, may we open our hearts to the guidance of the Spirit and the love of the Trinitarian God, allowing God to renew and transform us, so that we may continue to be authentic witnesses of God's love.

Finally, as we enter into the time of transfers, I invoke God's abundant blessings upon each one of you. May the Lord accompany you in your new missions, fill you with courage and peace, and make you instruments of His grace wherever you are sent.

With prayerful wishes and blessings.

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella

Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

MAY - 2026

26 April - 03May	Annual Retreat - III	Wellington
13 May	Initiation of Juniors Renewal Programme	Puliadithammam
20 - 21 May	Juniors' Animation	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
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