



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. 38

July 2026

*My dear Sisters,*

*Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes to you ...*

July brings with it a special grace for our Province. As we gather for the General Assemblies we are invited to enter into a mode of listening, discernment and shared responsibility. A Chapter experience is always much more than sessions, reports and discussions. It is a privileged moment when, together as one family, we seek to recognise the voice of the Spirit speaking through the life of the Province, through the signs of the times, and very often, through one another.

As we continue our journey of preparation towards the Provincial Chapter let us reflect on: **“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” (Mt 5:5)**. At first sight, these words seem strange. The world admires strength, power, influence, and one’s ability to impose oneself on the world around. But Jesus points us towards another kind of strength, one that is gentle, patient, and deeply rooted in trust. Perhaps this Beatitude has a very special message to give us as we prepare ourselves to walk together as a Province towards GC XXV.

## **The Strength of Gentleness**

Meekness is often misunderstood as weakness. It is not. Nor is it the inability to speak or act. In the Gospel, the meek are not passive people; they are people whose strength is under the guidance of love. They do not react impulsively. They do not seek to dominate. They know how to wait, how to listen and how to make room for others. An incomparable example is Jesus himself - we see how he welcomed children, touched lepers, forgave sinners, and washed the feet of His disciples. He never imposed himself, yet hearts were drawn to him. Even on the Cross, there was only love. Perhaps meekness is not so much about being soft, but about having a heart that has learnt to surrender itself to God.

## **Learning to Listen**

Our General Chapter XXV invite us to a journey of listening. Listening is no easy task. Sometimes we think we are listening while we are only hearing, hearing the words, hearing the voice, without grasping the underlying message or its real sense. Sometimes our own ideas, concerns, or expectations become so strong that there is little room left for the other’s perspective. The central challenge of the beatitude of meekness lies here. A meek person does not feel the need to have the last word, nor does she seek recognition. She is able to rejoice in the success of the other. She knows how to disagree without wounding. She is capable of speaking the truth without losing the sense of charity. Communion is not the state where everyone thinks alike; it is that capacity where we can look beyond, beyond differences, beyond likes and dislikes and beyond personal opinions. It is that experience when we sincerely and unconditionally open to each other. The greatest service we can render to each other during this time of Capitular preparation is, not trying to convince, but resolving to listen; not looking to insist, but being ready to discern together.

## **The Wisdom of Everyday Meekness**

There are persons whose simple presence brings peace. They need not be necessarily the ones who speak the most or the ones who occupy important positions. Yet their genuine goodness makes a difference. They are persons who encourage the other without drawing attention to themselves. They create a positive energy wherever they are. Such persons teach us that meekness is lived in ordinary ways. It is seen in the one who patiently explains something once again, who chooses understanding over criticism and who carries responsibilities without making others feel small. It is found in those hidden acts of kindness that often pass unnoticed, but which make community life lighter and more joyful.

Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello touched so many hearts with this virtue. For that matter, most of the saints we know of possess this quality as a personality trait. Reflecting on our own founders, their authority was never rooted in enforcements and sanctions. It was founded in sacrificing love and spiritual affection. People felt understood in their presence. Particularly, young people are deeply sensitive to this and they are drawn to those who are naturally approachable although firm, those who correct without humiliating, who guide without dominating. A gentle presence often speaks more powerfully than many words.

## **The Meek shall inherit the Earth**

Apparently, this promise of Jesus seems surprising. How do the meek conquer the earth? In fact, they don't! They inherit it. An inheritance is received; it is a gift. It cannot be seized or demanded. There is a way in which we can make sense of what Jesus means - those who live in humility, patience, and trust will inherit hearts, hearts of people in kindness, goodness and sensitivity for the other. Such lives will leave behind memories of kindness, long after words are forgotten and actions are completed. As Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, we know this from experience. Some of the most beautiful chapters of our congregation have been written not by extraordinary achievements, but by ordinary people whose gentleness reflected the meek and compassionate Heart of Christ.

Mary herself is our teacher in this regard. At Nazareth, at Cana, and beneath the Cross – Mary is always pictured in a contemplative silence, without any clamour for prominence or craving for power. Yet, generations continue to call her Blessed, thanks to her greatness that consists in her humility, trust in the Lord, and her unwavering love for her Creator.

Dear Sisters, at the outset of this preparation towards the Chapters (immediately our own, and eventually the GC), the Lord seems to invite us to cultivate this beautiful Beatitude in our own lives. In a world that is known to often reward noise and self-assertion, we are challenged not to be afraid to choose the way of gentleness. We are called to contemplate the wisdom of listening, the grace of understanding, and the strength of true humility. In the final analysis, for the Reign of God, it is not power that changes hearts, but love and meekness that leave the deepest of imprints.

May Mary Help of Christians, the humble handmaid of the Lord, teach us to walk this path with serenity and trust. And may our preparation for the Provincial Chapter become, for each one of us, an experience of true communion, where the Spirit encounters humble and meek hearts ready to listen and willing to walk the path shown by the Lord.

**“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.”**

## ✦... MONTH'S SPECIAL! ...✦

**ST. THOMAS - THE APOSTLE OF INDIA (03 JULY):** As we celebrate the feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle, we are reminded that genuine faith is born from a personal encounter with the Risen Lord. Though Thomas struggled with doubt, he ended up making a profound profession of faith: "My Lord and my God!" His apostolic zeal brought the Gospel to India, making him a model of a courageous missionary! May his example inspire us to deepen our faith, strengthen our mission, and joyfully proclaim Christ in our daily lives. For us, this is a very special celebration as St. Thomas is the Apostle of India! More specifically, we know St. Thomas is the Patron Saint of SDB and FMA Provinces of Chennai, and we extend our prayerful greetings and best wishes to the Provincials and the members of the Provinces, and the entire Church in India.

**BLESSED MARIA ROMERO MENESES (07 JULY):** On the feast of Blessed Maria Romero Meneses, we gratefully remember her exemplary life of faith, charity, and dedicated service to the poor and marginalized. Through her compassion, generosity, and trust in God's providence, she challenges us to make holiness visible through concrete acts of love and service. May her example inspire us to live our vocation with zeal and joy, and may her intercession obtain abundant blessings for our Province, communities, and mission.

**ST. ALPHONSA MUTTATHUPADATHU (22 JULY):** On the feast of Saint Alphonsa, the first Indian woman to be canonized, we remember her life of profound faith, humility, and patient acceptance of suffering. Amid many trials and physical hardships, she remained steadfast in her love for Christ, offering her life in prayer and sacrifice. Her witness reminds us that holiness is basically the faithful perseverance and complete trust in God's will. May St. Alphonsa inspire us to grow in holiness, strengthen our faith in times of difficulty, and live our vocation with joy and generosity.

**WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY (26 JULY):** The theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV for the Sixth World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, "*I will never forget you*" (Is 49:15), reminds us of God's unfailing love and care for every person, especially the elderly. In a world where many elders experience loneliness and neglect, this message calls us to recognize their dignity, cherish their wisdom, and ensure that they remain valued members of our families and our faith communities. May this celebration inspire us to accompany our grandparents and elderly with gratitude and respect.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO REV. SR. ALESSANDRA SMERILLI, F.M.A.:** With joy and gratitude, we extend our warmest congratulations to *Rev. Sr. Alessandra Smerilli, FMA*, on her appointment by His Holiness Pope Leo XIV On 30 June 2026, as *Prefect of the Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development*. Having faithfully served as Secretary of the Dicastery, Sr. Alessandra assumes this significant responsibility beginning 1 September 2026. We rejoice in the trust placed in her by the Holy Father and recognize this appointment as a testament to her dedicated service, competence, and commitment to the mission of the Church.

## ✦... NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE! ...✦

**SPECIAL REQUEST:** At the request of Most Rev. Rajendiran D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Kuzhithalai, Sr. Maria Arul Paulia Mary has been appointed as the Principal of St. Alphonsa Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Nagercoil. I sincerely thank His Lordship for the trust and confidence placed in our Province by entrusting this important educational ministry to us. I welcome this new responsibility as a precious gift and an opportunity to extend our Salesian mission of education and evangelization.

**SAFEGUARDING COMMISSION:** In response to the requirement to establish a Safeguarding Commission in the Province, I am pleased to inform you that the Provincial Safeguarding Commission has been constituted. **Sr. Joseph Prettencia** has been appointed as the **Provincial Safeguarding Coordinator**. She will be assisted by the members of the Commission: **Sr. Sirumani Sathiya, Sr. Vishvanathan Sujatha and Mr. Jothi Prakasham, Salesian Cooperator**. May the Lord guide and strengthen them in promoting a culture of care, respect, and protection, ensuring safe environments for all, especially children, young people, and vulnerable persons entrusted to our mission.

**DIPLOMA COURSE IN THEOLOGY: Congratulations and heartfelt appreciation:** I congratulate Sr. Pensiker Bastina, Sr. Remigius Angel Veda, and Sr. Robinson Jenny Grace for successfully completing a two-year (2024-2026) online Diploma Course in Theology organized by St. Paul's Institute of Theology, Tiruchirappalli. My sincere appreciation also to Sr. John Shantha Mary, Sr. Joseph Prakash J. Reena, and Sr. Xavier Raj Iruthaya Arasi for completing a two-year (2024-2026) online Diploma Course in Theology organized by St. Peter's Seminary, Bengaluru. May their preparation add quality to life and mission.

Sr. Micheal Raj Loyola and Sr. Ignaci Kulandai Theresa will begin their two-year (2026-2028) online Diploma course in Theology organized by St. Paul's Institute of Theology, Tiruchirappalli. May they have a fruitful and enriching learning experience.

**WELCOME BACK:** I am glad to welcome Sr. Anthony Samy Renuga back to the Province after her enriching two-year course in Salesian Spirituality at Madre Ersilia Canta, Rome. She will be returning on 03 July 2026, and is temporarily assigned to serve at Sacred Heart, Katpadi (INM Province), as Assistant of the Aspirants and Postulants. I wish her every blessing for this ministry of formation and accompaniment.

**BUON VIAGGIO:** I wish Sr. Raja Clarenca Mary God's blessings as she leaves for Rome on 10 July 2026 to begin her two-year course in Salesian Spirituality at Madre Ersilia Canta. May the Lord keep her safe and bless her during this special time of study and formation. May this experience help her grow closer to God, deepen her Salesian vocation, and prepare her for greater service in the mission. We assure her of our prayers and wish her a joyful, fruitful, and grace-filled stay in Rome.

**POSULANTS' RETREAT:** The spiritual retreat of the Aspirants and Postulants will be held from 21- 23 July 2026 at Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi. **The Postulants: AMULRAJ Kamala Mary from INT and ANTHONY Kiruthika, AROKKIYASAMI Paska Deepa Mary, DILLI Babu Monisha, BABU Shamila** of INM Province will be receiving the Medal at the end of the Retreat, on 24 July 2026. All the best dear Postulants, and assurance of our prayers as you discern God's holy will for your life.

#### **ANNUAL YEAR-BEGINNING MEETINGS:**

- **Tuesday, July 21, 2026** - Meeting of the Coordinators of YaR and Non-Formal sector will be held at Marialaya, Coimbatore.
- **Wednesday, July 22, 2026** - Coordinators of the Local Women's groups will be held at Mariyalaya, Coimbatore.
- **Friday, July 24, 2026** - Head Mistresses and Past Pupils Coordinators will meet at Madurai, Sirudur.
- **Saturday July 25 – Sunday July 26, 2026** - A Meeting of the Local Youth Pastoral Coordinators, Media Coordinators, Human Rights Coordinators, Coordinators of Mission Ad/inter Gentes, and Coordinators of Integral Ecology, will be held at Madurai, Sirudur.

**JUNIORS TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTION:** The Trimonthly Recollection for INT Juniors will be conducted on 08-09 August 2026 at Auxilium Provincial House Tiruchirappalli. Juniors are requested to reach the venue on the previous day 07 August by 04.00 p.m.

**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME - Lead Academy:** Sr. Arulandhu Savari Stella and Sr. Abraham Epsibai will participate in the LEAD Academy Leadership Development Programme 2026, which will be conducted in two phases: 4-19 July (15 days) at DBI, Guwahati, Siloam, Shillong, Diphu and Dimapur and 17-27 October (10 days) at Maitreya, Bengaluru.

**COURSES AND SEMINARS:**

- Sr. Joseph Prettencia will attend NDF meeting held in Gobra, Kolkata from 01 - 03 July 2026.
- Sr. Susaimuthu Arul Mary and Sr. Irudayasamy M. Tamil Selvi will participate in the AMRAT Regional meeting at Thozhamai Illam, Kanyakumari from 04 - 05 July 2026.

**INTENSIVE JUNIORATE:** Sr. Tamil Selvan Tensiya and Sr. Arokkiya Raj Ebseeba Lourdemary will be making their Intensive Juniorate experience at Auxilium Convent, Shillong – Nongthymmai from 11 August 2026. We wish them all the very best for this special phase of formation.

**PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2026:** I am happy to inform you the Preparatory Core Group and the Provincial Chapter 2026 Commission Members.

<b>Preparatory Core Group and Commissions</b>	
<p><b>Provincial :</b> Sr. Fernando Majella  <b>Moderator :</b> Sr. Lazar Bernardine</p> <p><b>PREPARATORY CORE GROUP</b>            Sr. Fernando Majella            Sr. Lazar Bernardine            Sr. Soosai Magnificat            Sr. Peter Selvarani            Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi            Sr. Vedamuthu Saveriammal            Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy            Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jennifer</p>	
<b>PREPARATORY COMMISSIONS</b>	
<p><b>Formation</b>            Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela            Sr. Soosai Magnificat            Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret            Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani            Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy            Sr. Maria Arul Paulia Mary</p>	<p><b>Salesian Family</b>            Sr. Anthony Samy Rosy            Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushpam            Sr. Viagappan Rosario Jebamani            Sr. Ignaci Kulanthai Theresa            Sr. Santhana Pushpa Jeya            Sr. Rayappan Sampooranam            Sr. Irudayam Benita Rani</p>
<p><b>Youth Ministry</b>            Sr. Vedamuthu Saveriammal            Sr. John Bosco Edal Queen            Sr. Diaz Francis Immaculate            Sr. Arockianathan Verginia Mary            Sr. Irudhayam Janci Rani            Sr. Vedamuthu Santhiagu Theresal            Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jennifer</p>	<p><b>Administration</b>            Sr. Madalaimuthu Angela            Sr. Michael Arokia Sujatha Mary            Sr. Arulandhu Savari Stella            Sr. Devaraj Jeyarani            Sr. Anthonysamy Suganthi</p>

<p><b>Education</b></p> <p>Sr. Sebastian Margaret Mary  Sr. Peter Selvarani  Sr. Ambrose Little Flower  Sr. Antony Regina Mary  Sr. Rayan M. Auxilia Sophia  Sr. Arockiasamy Rani Celine Mary  Sr. Masilamani Sebasti Jeya Pushpam</p>	<p><b>Final Document Drafting Committee</b></p> <p>Sr. Lazar Bernardine  Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi  Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy  Sr. Joseph Prettenca  Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jennifer</p>
<p><b>Social Ministry</b></p> <p>Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi  Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary  Sr. Antony Lourdu Sagayam  Sr. Joseph Prettenca  Sr. Antony Muthu Lourdhu Mary  Sr. Robert Snathiagu Punitha  Sr. Irudayasmai M. Tamil Selvi  Sr. Remegius Angel Veda</p>	<p><b>Translation Team</b></p> <p>Sr. Lazar Bernardine  Sr. Soosai Magnificat  Sr. Antony Regina Mary  Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani  Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy</p>

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY I & II:** As part of our preparation for the Provincial Chapter 2026, two General Assemblies have been planned for all the Sisters of the Province. General Assembly I will be held at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli, on 12 July 2026, and General Assembly II will take place at Madurai, Sirudur, on 18 July 2026. The General Assemblies will help us to enter into a reflection on the theme of the Chapter: **“Blessed are you...” With the prophetic power of the charism, missionaries of communion together with young people.** I request everyone to participate actively and keep this journey in your prayers.

## ✠...PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS...✠

**TEAM AND COMMISSION MEET:** The meeting of the Provincial Team and the Province Commission Members was held on 20 and 21 June 2026 at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli, with the aim of evaluating the past year’s journey and collaboratively review the plan and project for each sector and the annual calendar. Each sector presented their annual report. Thanks to the commissions who had worked on the plan, and we wish that the work put in bears fruit during the year.

**FMA-PCI WEBINAR ON COMPASSIONATE LISTENING:** The Social Communication Sector of FMA-PCI organised a National level Webinar on the theme *Human Communication – Compassionate Listening*, on 28 July 2026. Rev. Fr. Irudayaswamy, from the diocese of Bangalore was the Resource person who addressed the Sisters from all the provinces of PCI. As the Provincial Responsible for the Social Communication Sector at the PCI level, I had the privilege of offering the introductory message, during which I had highlighted the importance of nurturing a culture of listening in our communities and mission. The webinar offered enriching insights and practical guidance for fostering deeper, more meaningful and life-promoting communication.

## ✠...APPRECIATION AND THANKS!...✠

*To Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy and the Community of Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli for lovingly hosting the Provincial Council Meet on 18 and 19 June 2026, and the Team and Commissions Meet on 20 and 21 June 2026.*

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

03	-	St. Thomas the Apostle, Patron of India - Solemnity
07	-	Blessed Maria Romero FMA
16	-	Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel
22	-	St. Mary Magdalene - Feast
25	-	St. James the Apostle - Feast
26	-	Sts. Joachim and Anne / World Day for Grandparents and Elderly
28	-	St. Alphonsa Muttathupadathu
29	-	Sts. Mary, Martha and Lazarus
31	-	St. Ignatius of Loyola

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

01 - 06 July	PCI Animators Workshop on Salesian Spirituality	Shillong
03	Preparatory Core Group and Commissions Meeting	Chittampatti - Madurai
08 -13 July	PCI Animators Workshop on Salesian Spirituality	Kurseong (Darjeeling)
12	Province General Assembly I	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
12	ASC Coordinators Meet	Online
18	Province General Assembly II	Madurai - Sirudur
19	Preparatory Commissions Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
20 -21	Provincial Council Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
20	Safeguarding Team Training	Assist, Trichy
21	YaR and Non-Formal Sector Co-ordinators Meet	Coimbatore
22	Local Women Coordinators Meet	Coimbatore
24	HMs and Past Pupils Coordinators' Meet	Madurai - Sirudur
24	Aspirants & Postulants Medal receiving	Vellore - Katpadi
25	Happy Learners Meet	Online
26	Child and Earth Rights	Online
25 - 26	Local Youth Pastoral Coordinators, Media, Human Rights, Mission Ad inter Gentes, Integral Ecology Coordinators' Meet	Madurai - Sirudur

## ❖...♦ **CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS** ...♦❖

† *To Rev. Sr. Devadoss Margaret FMA, the Provincial of INM* at the loss of her beloved brother Mr. D.J. Isai Arasan (70) on 21 June 2026.

The feast of St. Thomas the Apostle is a moment of hope and faith for us – we are reminded that the Risen Christ is our Lord and God, and we are all His apostles. We are sent into the world, in our faith, to bear witness to the message of this Risen Lord, as signs and bearers of the love and hope of

the Risen Lord, as apostles and proclaimers of the Good news.

May each day of our life and every opportunity it offers draw us closer to God, inspiring us to renew and equip ourselves to serve the Lord and young people with joy, dedication, and missionary zeal.

Yours affectionately in Christ,



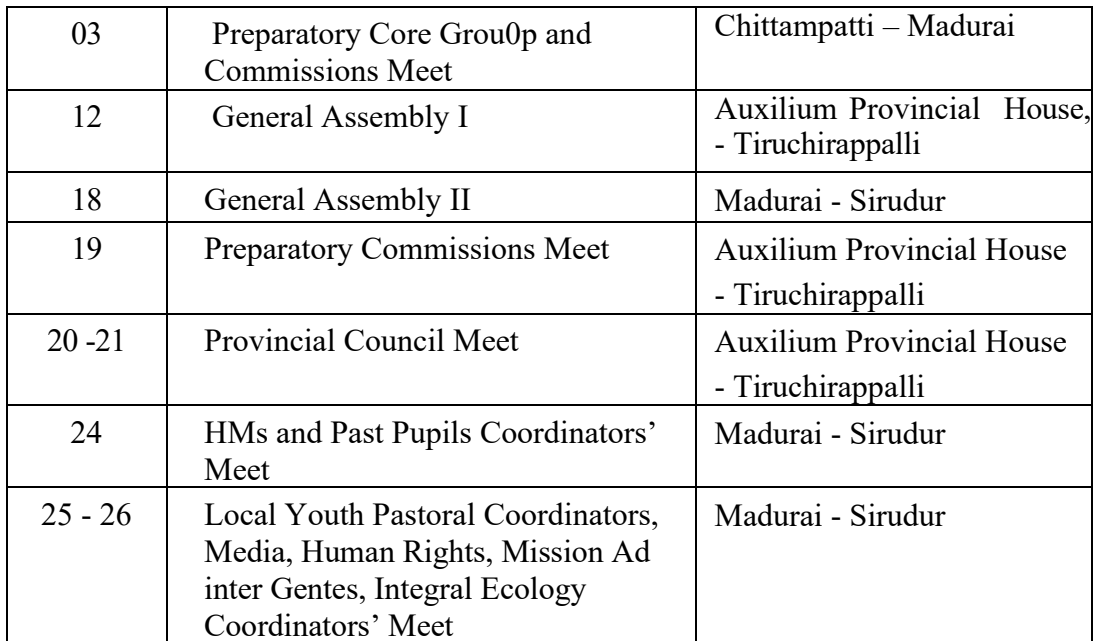
Sr. Fernando Majella

Provincial



## PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

**July - 2026**



03	Preparatory Core Group and Commissions Meet	Chittampatti – Madurai
12	General Assembly I	Auxilium Provincial House, - Tiruchirappalli
18	General Assembly II	Madurai - Sirudur
19	Preparatory Commissions Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
20 -21	Provincial Council Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
24	HMs and Past Pupils Coordinators' Meet	Madurai - Sirudur
25 - 26	Local Youth Pastoral Coordinators, Media, Human Rights, Mission Ad inter Gentes, Integral Ecology Coordinators' Meet	Madurai - Sirudur