

Cir. No. 41

October 2026

My dear Sisters

Cordial greetings and prayerful wishes from Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli.

We are on the threshold of October, a month that comes with a sentiment so dear to us – the month of the Holy Rosary, a prayer that has accompanied generations of Catholics and has a very special place in the heart of every Daughter of Mary Help of Christians. Praying the Holy Rosary, we walk with Mary through the mysteries of the life of Jesus, the mysteries that have saved us. We stand with her at Bethlehem, Cana, Calvary and in the joy of the Resurrection. As we repeat the simple words of the Hail Mary, our hearts slowly are transported to what is essential: Christ, His love and His salvific sacrifice for our sake.

This month, as we begin the **Second Provincial Chapter**, we are called as a Province to listen to one another, discern the path ahead and renew our commitment to the mission entrusted to us. In this spirit, let us reflect on the next Beatitude:

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Mt.5:9)

Peace! Peace is something everyone desires, yet it is so strangely difficult for persons to do anything for it concretely. We pray every day for peace in the world, peace in our families, peace in our communities and peace in the hearts of young people. But what are we really ready to DO for it? Jesus says, **“Blessed are the peacemakers.”** A peacemaker does not simply wait for peace to happen. She makes it happen!

Where Peace begins...

Peace begins in the hearts. Work for peace begins in our own hearts. We can speak about peace and yet carry within us hurts. We can pray for peace and still leave among us unresolved misunderstandings. We may long for unity in the community and yet hold on to our own egoistic way of doing things. Often, what disturbs our peace is not a great happening, but a word that hurts, something left unsaid, a misunderstanding that was never clarified or a disappointment we have not been able to let go.

Rosary and peace have something that connects them. The simple act of piety can become a beautiful school of peace. As we move from one mystery to another, we slow down, remain with Jesus and Mary and gently place before the Lord what is within us. A decade of the Rosary can be enough to bring before God a person with whom we struggle, a situation that troubles us or a hurt that we find difficult to forgive.

Jesus was in no way free from suffering, misunderstanding or opposition. Yet His heart remained rooted in the Father's love. This gave Him the inner peace and the strength to forgive, to continue loving and to remain faithful to His mission. This is truly where peacemaking begins: a heart that does not allow any disturbance to take away its peace, the inner peace.

Peace we share

What we hold within us eventually reaches others. A peaceful person brings peace to the place where she is. We have all experienced the inner comfort of being with someone who listens without judgement, one with whom we can speak freely. We may not always agree with that person, but we would feel safe with her. At the same time, we also know how quickly our own impatience, tension or irritation can disturb those around us.

Our spiritual heritage, the Preventive System could be considered a way of building peace: being present, listening, understanding, correcting without humiliating, forgiving, encouraging and giving another opportunity. These simple but profound gestures can become concrete acts of peacemaking.

How much our young people need this today! They live in a world where a misunderstanding can break a friendship and harsh words can spread in seconds. Probably they can learn more about peace from the way we handle a disagreement, forgive a hurt or make space for another rather than from a whole lecture on peace.

Peace that brings us together

The theme of General Chapter XXV invites us towards being “missionaries of communion together with young people” - peacemaking is at the heart of this mission.

Communion does not mean monotony! It is certainly not in the sense that everyone thinks alike or everyone does everything in the same way. Each of us is different in her personality, experiences and ways of seeing things. Communion enables us to bring these differences together with patience and love.

Can I listen to another Sister who thinks different from me? Can I speak direct when there is a misunderstanding rather than allow issues to cloud around? Can I appreciate another's contribution even when I know I would have done things differently? Can I forgive without keeping a record?

These are not insignificant questions in community life. They are part of our mission. A peaceful community becomes a powerful witness. Our life can become a testimony among the young when we care for one another, forgive each other, laugh together and stand by each other in difficult moments. Our life can teach them far more lessons than our said words. Our communities need to be places where differences are celebrated, hurts are healed and reconciliation remains always possible.

Mary, the Woman of Peace

October naturally brings us closer to Mary. When we hold the Rosary in our hands, we place our hands in hers as she teaches us to remain with Jesus through every mystery, in joy and sorrow, in moments we understand and in moments we do not.

Mary knew uncertainties, misunderstandings and sorrows. From Bethlehem to Calvary, from the moments she carried the Son of God in her womb to the waiting of Holy Saturday, she remained faithful. She did not allow suffering to harden her heart. Mary was known for noticing a need and bringing it to Jesus, as at Cana where she became a bridge between a difficulty and the One who could help. This too is part of being a peacemaker: to become a bridge rather than a wall.

How many misunderstandings could be healed by a kind word? How many young people could find their way back if someone took the first step towards them? Our Blessed Mother inspires us to bring people together, to build bridges and to lead hearts towards her Son.

Peace and our Mission

We often think of mission as something we do for others. Yet the Beatitudes remind us that mission begins with the person that we are. To be a peacemaker does not require a special position or

ministry. Every Sister can become a peacemaker wherever the Lord has placed her: in the classroom, community, office, hostel, playground, parish or family.

Sometimes peacemaking could consist of saying, *“Come, let us talk about it.”* Sometimes it would be simply saying, *“I am sorry.”* At times it would be choosing not to respond when we are hurt or just helping two people understand each other. Other times, it might mean refusing to add another word to a conversation that is becoming unkind. These may seem like little things, but the peace of the Gospel often enters our world through little things. Our mission consists in these!

The Rosary makes us Peacemakers

Dear Sisters, this October, as we take the Rosary in our hands every day, let us bring before the Lord the places where peace is longed for: our world, our Church, our communities, our families, our young people and in our own hearts.

May we along with St. Francis of Assisi whose feast we celebrate this month say *“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.”* Let us make this our prayer: Make me Lord, patient where I am easily irritated, humble where I want to prove that I am right, forgiving where I am hurt, and courageous where I hesitate to take the first step towards reconciliation. Make me Lord, a bridge when people sense being divided.

With a prayer of this kind, Rosary will become more than merely a prayer we recite. It will become a commitment that changes the way we look at others, relate to them and share our lives with them.

As we continue our journey as a Province, for the second Provincial Chapter, may the Beatitude *“Blessed are the peacemakers”* become a way of life for us. As missionaries of communion together with young people, may we spread peace wherever we go, bringing together what is divided and healing what is wounded.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.” (Mt 5:9)



ST. TERESA OF CHILD JESUS (01 October): We begin the month of October with Saint Teresa of the Child Jesus, in whose honour the Church celebrates this month as Missionary Month, offers us a profound inspiration for missionary zeal. She is known as the “Missionary within the Four Walls,” as she never left the confines of a cloister. She embraced the whole world through her prayers, sacrifices, and acts of love, contributing greatly to the salvation of souls. Let us pray for all missionaries, that their labour may bear abundant fruit in spreading God’s love and mercy to every corner of the earth.

THE FEAST OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS (02 October): We celebrate the Feast of the Guardian Angels, a sign of our honour and gratitude to the angels appointed to watch over and guide us. In the Salesian tradition, this day holds a special significance, as it reminds us of the selfless dedication of those who assist and guide young people in oratories, schools, and other institutions. Everyone who ensures Salesian Assistance in our ministry settings is a personification of the Guardian angel. Don Bosco highlighted this significance of caring for the young with love and patience. Let us entrust all the educators and helpers in our educative communities to the Lord and thank our own guardian angels for their protection and guidance.

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI (04 October): The feast of St. Francis of Assisi this year marks 800th Anniversary of the Final journey of St. Francis. The theme of this year's Season of Creation (01 September - 04 October, 2026), invited us to reflect on "Living Water", inspired by the biblical text of Ezekiel 47:1-12. We cannot forget the recent horrible scenes that went viral from the floods of Nepal. Water is indeed a living force. It is important for us to reflect, pray, and act on behalf of our common home. This day, we are reminded to joyfully embrace the virtues of simplicity, humility, and a deep love for creation as signs of being persons of God. Francis' radical poverty always challenges us towards a detachment from excesses and a choice to live with compassion for the poor and the vulnerable.

ST. TERESA OF AVILA (15 October): On 15 October, we celebrate St. Teresa of Jesus, a woman of prayer, courage and missionary zeal. She teaches us that a life deeply rooted in God becomes a source of strength and renewal for others. Her unwavering trust enabled her to face challenges with courage and to serve the Church with a generous heart. As we live our Salesian mission, may St. Teresa inspire us to seek God in the midst of our daily responsibilities and to let our communion with Christ shape the way we accompany the young and build communities of faith and hope.

WORLD MISSION SUNDAY (18 October): On 18 October, the Church celebrates the 100th World Mission Day with the theme "One in Christ, united in mission." Pope Leo XIV reminds us that mission flows from our communion with Christ and our unity with one another. As we mark this centenary, let us renew our missionary spirit, remember all missionaries in our prayers, and support their mission through prayer, generosity and solidarity. United in Christ, may we continue to be united in mission.

BLESSED MICHAEL RUA (29 October): Blessed Michael Rua, the first successor of Don Bosco, is remembered as the "Faithful Disciple" who carried forward the Salesian charism with humility, dedication, and strong fidelity. He transformed Don Bosco's vision into reality by consolidating the Congregation and spreading its spirit across the world. His life of prayer, kindness, and tireless work among the young continues to inspire us to live our vocation with joy, perseverance, and faithfulness.

◆◆◆NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE!◆◆◆

- **II PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2026:** The II Provincial Chapter of our Province will be held from 16 to 21 October 2026, at Auxilium Provincial House, Manikandam, Tiruchirappalli. It is a grace-filled moment for us, to come together in communion, prayer and discernment, to look at our journey and seek God's direction for the future of our Province.

On 17 October 2026, the inaugural session of the PC - 2026 will be honoured by the presence of Most Rev. T. Sagayaraj, D.D., Bishop of Thanjavur, who will preside over the inaugural Eucharist and address the Chapter Members.

I invite all the Sisters to accompany the Chapter through prayer and Sacrifice. The list of the participants of the Chapter - II are:

Members of the Second Provincial Chapter - 2026

Provincial 1. Sr. Fernando Majella Provincial Councillors 2. Sr. Lazar Bernardine 3. Sr. Antonyswamy Rosy 4. Sr. Azarias Arockia Mary Selvi 5. Sr. Peter Selvarani 6. Sr. Vedamuthu Saveriammal 7. Sr. Michael Arokia Sujatha Mary 8. Sr. Antony Rayappan Jothy Animators 9. Sr. Amalanathan Mary Margaret 10. Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushpam 11. Sr. Antony Lourdu Sagayam 12. Sr. Arockiam Gracy Rani 13. Sr. Diaz Francis Immaculate 14. Sr. Gabriel Mary Malliga 15. Sr. Irudayaraj Victoria 16. Sr. Irudayasamy M. Tamil Selvi 17. Sr. Micheal Raj Loyola 18. Sr. Poobalarayen Nirmala 19. Sr. Rayappan Sampooranam 20. Sr. Remegius Angel Veda 21. Sr. Robinson Jenny Grace 22. Sr. Santhana Pushpa Jeya 23. Sr. Soosai Magnificat 24. Sr. Soosaimuthu Arul Mary 25. Sr. Susai Mary Anna Manickam 26. Sr. Susai Anthonia 27. Sr. Viagappan Rosario Jebamani	Community Delegates 28. Sr. Madalaimuthu Angela 29. Sr. Sebastian Margaret Mary 30. Sr. George Mary Vijila Rani 31. Sr. Anthonyswamy Suganthi 32. Sr. Samson S. Gnana Jennifer 33. Sr. Cruz Anthoni Michaela 34. Sr. John Bosco Edal Queen 35. Sr. Masilamani Sebasti Jeya Pushpam 36. Sr. Rayan M. Auxilia Sopiya 37. Sr. Rodriquez Mary Magadalen 38. Sr. Soosai Leema Rose 39. Sr. Joseph Pretencia 40. Sr. Antony Muthu Lourdu Mary 41. Sr. Antony Regina Mary 42. Sr. Irudayam Jancy Rani 43. Sr. John Santha Mary Province Delegates 44. Sr. Ambrose Little Flower 45. Sr. Arockianathan Verginia Mary 46. Sr. Arockiasamy Rani Celine Mary 47. Sr. Ayundukayam Arokia Malarjothi 48. Sr. Devaraj Jeyarani 49. Sr. Irudayam Benita Rani 50. Sr. Maria Arul Paulia Mary 51. Sr. Robert Santhiya Punitha 52. Sr. Vedamuthu Santiago Theresal Invitees 53. Sr. Ignaci Kulandai Theresa 54. Sr. Antony Rajapushpam 55. Sr. Rayappan Selvi Cecily 56. Sr. Amal Raj Rabeca 57. Sr. Beniston Susmitha
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- **SALESIAN FAMILY LIVE-IN:** A Salesian Family Live-in will be organized on 02 and 03 October 2026 at Don Bosco, Manikamdham, Tiruchirappali. The theme of the Live-in will be “Do whatever he tells you. Believers, free to serve”. Ten Sisters from our Province will participate in the programme.
- **ELEVATE LEADERSHIP TRAINING:** Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani and Sr. Belevendiran Alankaram will participate in a three-day residential leadership programme, ELEVATE, for first-time Principals and Administrators at Kristu Jayanti University, Bengaluru, from 08 to 10

October 2026. The programme, themed “Unlock Your Leadership Potential,” will enable participants to Explore, Leverage, Validate, Activate, Transform and Excel in their leadership journey.

- **TRIMONTHLY RECOLLECTION AND A DAY OF ANIMATION:**

- **SENIORS:** The Trimonthly Recollection for the Senior Sisters will take place in the cluster communities on 01 November 2026.
- **JUNIORS:** Trimonthly Recollection and Day of Animation for the Junior Sisters of INT will be held on 07 and 08 November 2026 at Auxilium Provincial House, Tiruchirappalli. The Junior Sisters are expected to arrive the prior evening by 04.30 p.m.

✠ ♦♦♦PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS♦♦♦ ✠

- **CENTENARY OF ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CONVENT, BROADWAY, CHENNAI - FX100 (03 SEPTEMBER 2026):** The Centenary celebration of St. Francis Xavier Convent, Broadway, Chennai, was a joyful moment of gratitude for 100 years of Salesian presence and mission. The year-long celebration, inaugurated on 22 January 2026, culminated in a memorable gathering of Sisters, students, teachers, past pupils, benefactors and the entire Broadway family.

A special highlight was the unveiling of the beautifully restructured Grotto of Our Lady as a Centenary Memorial, followed by its blessing by Most Rev. George Antonysamy, D.D., Archbishop of Madras - Mylapore, in the presence of the Salesian Provincials and FMA Provincial of INM. The Solemn Holy Mass, presided over by the Archbishop, was the spiritual heart of the celebration.

The presence of distinguished guests, including Hon’ble Speaker J.C.D. Prabhakar, Hon’ble Finance Minister J. Maria Wilson and Mr. Kabir, DEO for Anglo-Indian Higher Secondary Schools, added significance to the occasion.

I gratefully acknowledge the dedicated preparation, teamwork and generous cooperation of the Superior, Sr. Amirthasamy Maria Pushpam, and the Sisters of the FX community, together with the active participation of the teachers, students, EC members, Past Pupils, benefactors and well-wishers, who worked with enthusiasm to make FX-100 a truly memorable celebration. Their love and commitment reflected the deep bond that has grown around this institution over a century.

May the legacy of St. Francis Xavier Convent continue to inspire, educate and empower young people, carrying forward the Salesian mission with renewed hope and commitment for the years ahead.

- **WEBINAR - “BEING CONSECRATED IN THE DIGITAL AGE”:** The webinar, “Being Consecrated in the Digital Age: A Presence that Witnesses, Accompanies and Educates,” was held on 09 September 2026, with Sr. Nina Krapić, Deputy Director of the Holy See Press Office, as the resource person. FMA communities and Novices worldwide were offered an enriching reflection on consecrated life and the mission of witnessing, accompanying and educating in the digital environment. The session was conducted in Italian with simultaneous translation into English, Spanish, French and Portuguese. To enable Sisters who were unable to attend the live session, two repeat sessions with translations were offered on 25 and 26 September 2026.
- **REGIONAL COUNCIL OF THE SALESIAN FAMILY - SOUTH ASIA REGION:** The Second South Asia Regional Council of the Salesian Family was held from 10 to 13 September

2026 at the Provincial House - Nitika Complex in Kolkata. It brought together 45 members of the Salesian Family, including SDBs, FMAs, other Salesian religious congregations and lay representatives. The gathering was a fraternal opportunity to strengthen communion and collaboration and to reflect together on our shared mission, especially on our commitment to young people and the active involvement of lay collaborators. Sr. Anthonyswamy Rosy, Provincial Councillor for the Salesian Family, participated in the meeting.

- **SEASON OF CREATION 2026 - “LIVING WATER”:** The Season of Creation 2026 (01 September - 04 October), inspired by “Living Water” (Ezek. 47:1-12), encouraged our communities to deepen ecological awareness through prayer, reflection and concrete care for our Common Home, especially through the responsible use of water and resources.

As part of this journey, Sisters participated in two online formation programmes:

- **16 September 2026:** *Integral Ecology - The Compelling Consciousness*, organized by the Gujarat Province Eco Jesuits (PEJ).
- **23 September 2026:** *Living Water - Season of Creation 2026*, organized by the Province of St. Mary Mazzarello, Bombay (INB) for the FMA communities of PCI.

These initiatives strengthened our commitment to ecological conversion, responsible living and care for our Common Home.

- **TANCEAN GENERAL BODY MEETING 2025 - 2026:** The Annual General Body Meeting of Tamil Nadu Catholic Educational Association (TANCEAN) was held on 12 September 2026 at the Archdiocesan Pastoral Centre, Santhome, Chennai, bringing together leaders and representatives of Catholic educational institutions across Tamil Nadu. Sr. Antony Nirmala Rani, Sr. Irudayam Benita Rani, Sr. Santiago Celine and Sr. Sebastian Margaret Mary participated in the meeting. The main areas of discussion included the TNBC Education Mission 2033 and its Pastoral Plan, implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules 2026, concerns in school and higher education, emerging educational trends and policies, and collaborative strategies to strengthen Catholic education.

✠◆◆APPRECIATION AND THANKS!◆◆✠

- **To Sr. Mabel Gothorp, the Provincial, Sisters and the Communities of the Province of ING,** for creating a peaceful and prayerful atmosphere for the Provincial Retreat at Kohima, marked by sisterly warmth, love and care. I am grateful for the thoughtful arrangements, accompaniment and attention extended to us throughout our journey and stay, which enabled us to experience the retreat in serenity and joy.
- **To Sr. Lazar Bernardine, the Vice Provincial,** for her generous and attentive accompaniment of the Sisters and the Province during my absence.
- **To Sr. Irudayasamy Victoria and the Community of George Town Marialaya - Chennai** for facilitating for the Provincial Council meeting on 04 September 2026.

✠◆◆IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE MONTH◆◆✠

01	-	St. Teresa of Child Jesus
02	-	Guardian Angels
04	-	St. Francis of Assisi
05	-	Bl. Albert Marvelli

07	-	Our Lady of Rosary
11	-	St. Pope John XXIII
12	-	St Carlo Acutis
13	-	Bl. Alessandrina
15	-	St. Teresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church
16	-	St. Margaret Mary Alacoque
18	-	Mission Sunday
22	-	St. Pope John Paul II
24	-	Bl. Luigi Guanella SDB
28	-	Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles
29	-	Bl. Michel Rua SDB

✦♦♦♦ MEETINGS IN THE PROVINCE ♦♦♦✦

01 - 02	-	Salesian Co-operators Family Live-in	DB - Madurai - Suriya Nagar
03	-	Provincial Council Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli.
02 - 08	-	Commemoration of Anti - Untouchability Week (Human Right)	Local Communities
08 - 10	-	Elevate Leadership Training	Kristu Jayanti University, Bengaluru
09 - 10	-	PL's Training Camp	Keeranur
10	-	Online Meet - for Past Pupils and Delegates	Online
11	-	PEM Online Pilgrimage: 1 st Meeting: Southern Patagonia: Tierra del Fuego - Punta Arena	Online
15	-	Arrival of the PC Members	Auxilium Provincial House Tiruchirappalli.
16	-	Spiritual Retreat for all the Participants of PC - 2026	
17 - 21	-	Celebration of the II Provincial Chapter - 2026	
17	-	Happy Learners - Evening Centre - Staff	Online
18	-	Child and Earth Right - NCP Members	Online
	-	World Mission Sunday (100 Years)	Local Communities
23	-	Past Pupils' Re-union in FX	FX - Broadway
24	-	Women on Decision Makers at home & Environment	Tiruppur
25	-	PEM Online Pilgrimage: 2 nd Meeting: Southern Patagonia: Our Lady of Candelaria	Online
	-	FMA & SDB - Salesian Cooperators - ASC - Provincial Formative Congress	Thanjavur

25	-	ASC Formative Congress of the INT Province	Don Bosco - Thanjavur
26 - 27	-	Media Week	Local Communication
28	-	Vocation Drive	Trichy Zone
30	-	Media Mela	Local Communication
31	-	Trimonthly Recollection for Seniors	Local Communication
07 - 08 Nov.	-	INT Juniors Animation and Trimonthly Recollection	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli.

✠♦♦♦**CONDOLENCES AND PRAYERS**♦♦♦✠

- † **To Sr. Xavier Raj Irudaya Arasi** who lost her beloved mother, Mrs Arockia Mary (74) on 03 September 2026.
- † **To the Provincial and the confreres of IND Province** at the passing of Fr Neeranal Francis (66) on 05 September 2026.
- † **To the Provincial and confreres of INH Province** at the demise of Br Charles Dias (75) on 24 September 2026.
- † **To the Provincial and the confreres of IND Province** at the passing away of Fr Rajesh Lakra SDB (57) on 29 September 2026.
- † **To the Provincial and the Sisters of INM Province** at the loss of Sr Hazel Dashwood (79) on 30 September 2026.

Dear Sisters, as we enter the month of October, dedicated to the Holy Rosary and to the Missions, let us place our Province, our missions, our young people and our world in Mary's loving hands. May the Holy Rosary become a special act of communion in every community, bringing peace, hope and renewed missionary zeal.

We entrust the Provincial Chapter 2026 to the Lord, through our daily Rosary that becomes a prayer that unites the entire Province in communion with each other. With Mary Help of Christians beside us, may we remain open to the voice of the Holy Spirit, attentive to one another and ready to embrace the path God sets before us. May the days of prayer and discernment at the PC 2026, renew our hope, strengthen our unity and rekindle in us the joy of being missionaries of communion with our young people.

May Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, accompany our Chapter journey and lead us ever closer to Jesus.

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Sr. Fernando Majella
Provincial

PROVINCIAL ITINERARY

OCTOBER - 2026

03	Provincial Council Meet	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
15	Arrival of the PC Members	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
16	Spiritual Retreat for all the Participants of II - PC - 2026	
17 - 21	Celebration of the II Provincial Chapter - 2026	
23	Past Pupil's Reunion	FX - Broadway
25	ASC Formative Congress of the INT Province	Don Bosco - Thanjavur
31	Trimonthly Recollection for Seniors	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli
07 - 08 Nov.	INT Juniors Animation and Trimonthly Recollection	Auxilium Provincial House - Tiruchirappalli