Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Salesiane di Don Bosco
St Thomas the Apostle Province- INM
Madras- India

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My Dearest Sisters,

Viva Gesù! Affectionate greetings from Kodambakkam to each of you!

"Blessed Are You: With the Prophetic Power of the Charism, Missionaries of Communion, Together with Young People"

INTRODUCTION: We have just concluded the **grace-filled and enriching experience of the 17th Provincial Chapter 2026**. I am happy, dear Sisters, to share the proceedings of these significant days of prayer, reflection, communion, discernment and collective action plan and journey. Inspired by the theme: *"Blessed Are You: With the Prophetic Power of the Charism, Missionaries of Communion, Together with Young People,"* the Chapter spurred us to rediscover the prophetic vitality of our charism, deepen our commitment to communion and renew our missionary availability to accompany young people. Each day unfolded as an opportunity to listen to the Holy Spirit, share our experiences, discern the realities of our Province and seek together the paths that God was opening before us.

18 October 2026, Arrival and inauguration of the Provincial Chapter: The seventy-one Chapter members and the three invitees arrived at the Provincial House and were warmly welcomed. Sr Wilson Anitha Arockiam led us through the opening prayer moment, invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I enthroned the Word of God and lit the candle, while the Provincial Councillors placed the GC XXV Preparatory Document, the FMA Constitutions and Regulations, and the General Council working documents. Representatives of the Chapter members placed lighted lamps, symbolising Christ, the Light of the World. I welcomed the participants and expressed my gratitude to the commissions for their dedicated preparation and valuable contributions. Quoting Mahatma Gandhi, I exhorted the members: "Be the change that you wish to see in the world." Sr Anthony Raj Christina, Moderator, presented the procedures, regulations and general instructions for PC 2026. This was followed by a candlelight Rosary procession around the campus. Rev Fr Thomas Elango, Parish Priest of Fatima Church, Kodambakkam, presided over the inaugural Eucharistic Celebration. In his homily, he invited us to contribute actively to the renewal of the Congregation's mission. The Superior and Sisters of the Sacred Heart Community, Polur, animated the liturgy, and Sr Samala Rayappan Elisa proposed the vote of thanks. We expressed our gratitude to the celebrant with a shawl and a gift. During supper, the Kodambakkam community warmly welcomed the participants. I cut the cake together with the Moderator, symbolically marking the beginning of the Provincial Chapter. During the Good Night, I invited the members to cultivate other-centredness, move beyond individualism and place their trust in God, our true wealth. I concluded with the words: "Let our hearts be focused, contented and generous in our commitment." Sr Rathinasamy Regina Mary documented the day's proceedings.

19 October 2026: Recollection and Spiritual Preparation: The day was dedicated to spiritual reflection and discernment in preparation for the Provincial Chapter. Fr Stanislaus Swamikannu SDB, Rector of Lourdes Shrine, Perambur, Chennai, animated the recollection on the theme: *"Prophetic Religious Life Today: Discernment, Renewal and Fidelity."* Through his reflections, he invited us to rediscover our Salesian charism, place God at the centre of our lives, view reality through the eyes of the poor and vulnerable, nurture a genuine vocation culture and resist the subtle influences of secularisation. He emphasised the need to move from routine to spiritual depth, from administration to mission animation, from division to unity in plurality, and from individualism to communion and transparency. He also led us through personal and community discernment on God's dream for each Sister and the Province. The day included Eucharistic celebration, personal reflection, Eucharistic Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The recollection concluded with a renewed invitation to prepare for the Provincial Chapter and GC XXV through intense prayer, interior conversion, mutual trust and fidelity to our Salesian mission, especially among the young and the poor. Sr Francis Jayamani and Sr Periyanayagam Martina documented the day's proceedings.

20 October 2026: Inauguration and Opening Proceedings: The day marked a significant milestone with the solemn inauguration of the 17th Provincial Chapter. The programme was coordinated by Sr Ambrose Arokia Jeyaceli and Sr Dominic Switha. Morning Prayer was animated by Sr Panakezham Annie and Sr Periyanayagam Auxilia, followed by the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Most Rev Dr George Antonysamy, Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore. Rev Fr Lourdusamy Don Bosco SDB, INM Provincial, Fr Jerry Arumainathan SDB, Provincial Secretary and Rev Fr Philip Maria Alphonse Raj SDB, Rector of Don Bosco, Egmore, concelebrated. The liturgy was animated by Sr Kanickaraj M. Tamizharasi and the community of St Joseph's Convent, Arni. The inauguration began with a prayer dance by the students of St Mary's Higher Secondary School, Vellore. I welcomed the gathering and formally declared the Provincial Chapter open. The theme song, presented by Auxilium Academy, Kodambakkam, set the tone for the Chapter. The programme included the release of publications, the inaugural address by Archbishop George Antonysamy, a message from Fr Lourdusamy Don Bosco SDB and a message from Superior General of SMA, Sr Josephine Selvi Singarayar. Messages from the Rector Major, Mother General and other dignitaries were presented by Sr Anthony Raj Christina and Sr Susai Josephine Rani. Members of the Salesian Family also participated in the celebration. Fatima Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Kodambakkam, presented the Chapter theme and its significance for our life and mission. I proposed the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all who contributed to the celebration.

Three publications were released: Weaving Hope with Youth: 16 Years Journey, on the mission in Sri Lanka by **Sr Jacintha Irudayasamy**; Amezaanin Theebachudar: Punitha Maria Troncatti, the biography of St Maria Troncatti in Tamil by Sr Joseph Isabella; and A Journey of Grace Beyond the Hills, on integral ecology: the experiences of Junior Sisters, edited by Sr Susai Josephine Rani. I felicitated the authors. Four student publications were also released: 'The Fearless Adventurers' by Amrutha, 'Echoes of Ataraxia' by Azeera Naseer, 'Integral Ecology' compiled by Sr Salvadore Gertrude M. Nirmala, and 'Women's Success Stories' compiled by Sr Alphonse Mary J. Isabella, ARUWEY. I congratulated the young authors for their creativity and initiative. I then presented the Province Report, reviewing our journey, achievements, challenges and missionary commitments. Sr Kunnathu Anna, Provincial Bursar, presented the Financial Report, highlighting the Province's financial realities and responsibilities. Sr Johnson Towle Irine, General Coordinator, presented the process of renewal in our communities, inviting us to embrace personal and communal transformation. The Sisters gathered for the Rosary, animated by Sr Irudayaraj Lourdu Mary. Sr Maria Louis Isabel

Sirumalar animated the Evening Prayer. After supper, recreation was conducted by Sr Gabriel Mariammal and Sr Chinnanayagam Mary Sheela. I shared the Good Night message, followed by the night prayer animated by Sr Anandan Anna Mary Rosintha. Sr Dominic Switha and Sr Rajendran Selvarani documented the day's proceedings.

21 October 2026: The Prophetic Power of the Charism: The day was dedicated to the theme: "The Prophetic Power of the Charism." The programme was coordinated by Sr Mariadoss Amala Mary and Sr Lourdusamy Solomon Kalai. Morning Prayer was animated by Sr Arulanandu Arockia Mary, followed by the Eucharistic Celebration presided by Rev Fr Raj Maria Susai SDB. The liturgy was prepared by Sr Alexander Amali. In his homily, Fr Raj Maria Susai described prophecy as both a privilege and a challenge. Reflecting on the Beatitudes, he invited us to live our charism with conviction, inner freedom and courage, free from the pursuit of recognition, power and personal glory, and from attachment to the past. Sr Mariadoss Amala Mary thanked the celebrant. The morning session began with a prayer animated by Sr Bathalapalli Irudaya Mary, invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Sr Dominic Switha and Sr Rajendran Selvarani presented the highlights of the previous day. I delivered the keynote address on: "The Prophetic Power of the Charism: A Beacon That Warns and Guides," reflecting on the prophetic charism in contemporary society, its expression throughout the history of the Catholic Church, its relevance in the Indian Church and its significance for the FMA mission. Sr Anthony Raj Christina, Chapter Moderator, introduced the first workshop on Nucleus 1, Question 1, focusing on the Province's action plan and proposals. Through the Conversation in the Spirit methodology, the Sisters were engaged in attentive listening, sharing and collective discernment. During the General Assembly, the group secretaries presented their reflections and proposals, facilitated by the chairpersons, Sr Yetukuri Alphonsa Maria and Sr Sebastian Elizabeth. After every presentation, space was given for clarifications and suggestions.

In the afternoon, the realities of Formation in the Province were presented. Sr Susai Josephine Rani presented the report on Ongoing Formation, while Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima presented the realities of Initial Formation. The presentations highlighted the strengths, challenges and emerging needs in both areas. The second workshop continued the reflection on the Province's realities and future proposals. After the Rosary, animated by Sr Puliyani Lucy, the General Assembly resumed with further reflections on formation, guided by Sr Lazar Maria Nirmala and Sr Gaspar Mary Celine. Sr Alphonse Mary J. Isabella presented the final report on Nucleus 1. Sr Arokia Samy Rackel Mary animated the Evening Prayer. After supper, Sr Gloria Navaneetham and Sr Issac Angela Mary conducted the recreation. Sr Lourdusamy Solomon Kalai presented an overview of the ICSE School, followed by a presentation on Higher Education by Sr Ambrose Arokia Jayaceli, with the involvement of Sr Anthony Raj Mary Josephine and Sr De Rose Amala. I shared the Good Night message, and Sr Emmanuvel Camalin Rialini animated the night prayer. The day was spent in recognising that the prophetic power of our charism becomes visible through lives rooted in the Gospel and communities that courageously respond to the signs of the times. Sr Salas Sylviya and Sr Rajendran Thimena Celine documented the day's proceedings.

22 October 2026: Missionaries of Communion: The day's programme was coordinated by Sr Rathinasamy Regina Mary and Sr Xavier Wency. Morning Prayer was animated by Sr Mahimainadhan Sathiyavani, followed by the Eucharistic Celebration presided by Fr Sahay Vijayan SJ. Sr Mariadoss Amala Mary prepared the liturgy, and Sr Rathinasamy Regina Mary thanked the celebrant. The session began with a prayer animated by Sr Nguyen Thi Long Phuong Maria. Sr Salas Silviya and Sr Rajendran Thimena Celine presented the

previous day's highlights, followed by my keynote address. Sr Anthony Raj Christina, Chapter Moderator, oriented the members for the group work on Nucleus 2, Questions 2 and 3, focusing on the Province's action plan and proposals. Through the Conversation in the Spirit methodology, the Sisters reflected on strengthening communion and responding to the needs of the mission. The General Assembly was guided by Sr Fernando Mary Ann and Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi. This day was marked by the participation of the laity, and their contribution enriched the Chapter proceedings greatly. It was very significant to note the presence and contribution of the laity: two women from Sri Lanka.

In the afternoon, Sr Joseph Victoria Mary presented Academic Coordination, Sr Rajendran Selvarani Youth Ministry, and Sr Tharcius Sagaya Mary presented Administration. The second workshop continued with reflections on the Province's realities and proposals. Sr Irudayam M. Nirmal Rose animated the Rosary. The General Assembly resumed with a focus on Youth Pastoral and Administration, guided by Sr Lourdusamy Ugini Fatima and Sr De Rose Amala. The final report on Nucleus 2, Questions 2 and 3, was presented. Sr Periyanayagam John Martina animated the Evening Prayer. After supper, recreation was conducted by Sr Mathew Alice and Sr Peddineeni Mary Philomena. Sr Lazar Maria Nirmala and Sr Sebastian Princy presented an overview of the Sri Lankan Mission. I shared the Good Night message, followed by the night prayer animated by Sr Mudiyappaswamy Nirmala. The day reaffirmed that communion is lived through mutual respect, shared responsibility and unity in our common mission. Sr De Rose Amala and Sr Gabriel Mariammal documented the day's proceedings.

23 October 2026: Together with Young People: The day's programme was coordinated by Sr Anthony Raj Mary Josephine and Sr Salas Silviya. The Morning Prayer was animated by Sr Alexander Lilly Rose, followed by the Holy Eucharist celebrated by Rev Fr Theophil Gregory SDB. In his homily, he exhorted us to help young people become attentive to the presence of God and to be a furnace of sanctity, fostering inclusivity and social responsibility. He encouraged us to adopt new strategies by listening attentively to the young, spending quality time with them, creating safe spaces for dialogue and platforms for social awareness. He also emphasised the need to remain well-equipped and updated so as to guide them effectively in responding to the challenges of the present times. The liturgy prepared by Sr Anandaraj Jaya Shanthi, and Sr Anthony Raj Mary Josephine expressed gratitude to the celebrant. The session began with a prayer animated by Sr Mahimainadhan Sathiyavani. Sr De Rose Amala and Sr Gabriel Mariammal presented the highlights of PC 2026, followed by my keynote address. Sr Anthony Raj Christina, PC Moderator, oriented the members for the group study on Nucleus 3, Question 4, focusing on the action plan and proposals for the Province. Through the Conversation in the Spirit methodology, the Sisters reflected on strengthening our accompaniment of young people and responding prophetically to their realities. The General Assembly continued the discussion, with Sr Susai Josephine Rani and Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima serving as chairpersons. The day was marked by the participation of 24 young persons, including one from Sri Lanka, and they greatly enriched the Chapter members by their sharing and reflections.

In the afternoon, the session focused on the realities of the Province concerning the Salesian Family and Social Ministry. Sr Francis Jayamani presented the report on the Salesian Family, while Sr Alphonse Mary J. Isabella presented the realities of Social Ministry. The Sisters continued their group study and identified action plans and proposals for the Province. Following the Rosary, animated by Sr Rayappan Leema Rose, the General Assembly examined these realities, guided by Sr Alexander Amali and Sr Stanislaus Mary Dora. The final report on Nucleus 3, Question 4, was presented. Sr Anandan Anna Mary Rosintha animated the

Evening Prayer. After supper, recreation was conducted by Sr Pazhayatil Annie and Sr Sebastian Princy. Sr Stanislaus Mary Dora and Sr Alphonse Mary J. Isabella presented an overview of Social Ministry. I shared the Good Night message, followed by the night prayer animated by Sr Francis Irudhaya Mary. The day's deliberations reaffirmed our commitment to walk with young people, recognise their potential and involve them as active participants in our educational and evangelising mission. Sr Susai Raj Mary Sheila and Sr Fernando Amutha documented the day's proceedings.

24 October: Mary, the Woman of Discernment: The day began with prayer animated by Sr Susai Raj Mary Sheila, entrusting the Chapter proceedings to the Lord through Mary's maternal care. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev Fr Doss Kennedy SDB, INT Provincial, with the liturgy animated by Sr Anthony Raj Mary Josephine. In his homily, he invited us to embody Don Bosco's Oratorian spirit by becoming welcoming homes, evangelising communities, places of learning and spaces of friendship and joy for young people. Sr Irudayanathan Helen expressed gratitude to the celebrant. At the conclusion of the Mass, the Sisters received a statue of Mother Mary, a Holy Spirit button and the thought "Carry Mary Home" as reminders to listen to the Holy Spirit and discern God's will. Eucharistic Adoration was animated by Sr Savariappan Irene Novila Rani and Sr Wilson Anitha Arockiam. Sr Anthony Raj Christina, PC Moderator, explained the procedure for the election of the Delegate to General Chapter XXV and her Substitute. As Provincial and President of the Chapter, I read the relevant articles of the Constitutions and regulations governing the election. Following the presentation of the list of eligible candidates, the election was held. I heartily congratulated Sr Anthony Raj Christina, elected as Delegate, and Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi, elected as Substitute, and wished them God's abundant blessings in undertaking this important responsibility on behalf of the Province.

The Sisters then reviewed the proposals and deliberations for the Province under my chairpersonship. In the afternoon, they continued examining the proposals for General Chapter XXV and reflected on the future direction of the Institute in fidelity to its charism and mission. Sr Anthony Raj Christina, PC Moderator, presented the deliberations of PC 2026, highlighting the decisions and directions emerging from the Chapter and inviting the members to embrace them with responsibility, unity and renewed missionary commitment. A Thanksgiving Prayer Service was animated by Sr Adaikalam Rekha and Sr Rajendran Selvarani. After supper, Sr Francis Jayamani, Sr Salas Silviya, Sr Joseph Victoria and Sr Gabriel Mariammal shared expressions of gratitude and appreciation. I offered the Good Night message, followed by the night prayer animated by Sr Arockiasamy Felix. Inspired by Mary, the Woman of Discernment, the day strengthened our commitment to listen attentively to God's voice, remain open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and move forward with renewed missionary availability. Sr Johnson Towle Irene and Sr Tharsius Sagayamary documented the day's proceedings.

25 October 2026 – Thanksgiving and Renewed Missionary Commitment: The day marked the conclusion of the Provincial Chapter, a time of thanksgiving, fellowship and renewed missionary commitment. It began with a Morning Thanksgiving Prayer animated by Sr Vedanayagam Usha Catherine Viji and Sr Salvadore Gertrude M. Nirmala. Rooted in the Beatitudes, the prayer expressed gratitude for the graces received during the Chapter and acknowledged the dedication of the Provincial, Moderator, Councillors, organising teams, Superiors and delegates. The Thanksgiving Eucharist was presided by Most Rev Dr Ambrose Pitchaimuthu, Bishop of Vellore Diocese, with Rev Fr Sagayaraj Devadoss SDB, Rector of St Bede's Community, Chennai, as concelebrant. The liturgy was animated by the Sisters of Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam, and enriched by symbolic offerings of lamps, the Bible and

Constitutions, soil and seeds, and the deliberations of PC 2026. In his homily, Bishop Ambrose reflected on three dimensions of religious vocation: love that protects, transforms and welcomes. Drawing inspiration from Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, he invited us to respond generously to God's call, accompany young people and recognise them as active participants and protagonists in our mission. He emphasised the need to listen to God's voice, strengthen communion and renew our missionary passion.

At the conclusion of the Eucharist, I expressed my gratitude to the celebrants and honoured them with a shawl and gifts. Group photographs captured the spirit of unity and fellowship among the Chapter members and other participants. The organising team presented mementoes and gifts to the Provincial, Moderator and Chapter members. Special appreciation was extended to the Sisters of Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam, and the postulants for their dedicated service throughout the Chapter. Their generous contributions were acknowledged with tokens of gratitude. With hearts filled with thanksgiving, the members departed for their respective communities, carrying the fruits of their shared discernment and a renewed commitment to translate the Chapter's deliberations into concrete action. Sr Xavier Wency documented the day's proceedings.

CONCLUSION: As we brought the 17th Provincial Chapter 2026 to a close, I expressed my sincere gratitude to Sr Anthony Raj Christina, PC Moderator, for her dedicated guidance and facilitation of the Chapter proceedings. I thanked the Provincial Councillors, heads of commissions, coordinators, chairpersons, rapporteurs, group secretaries, liturgical animators and all who carried out their responsibilities with commitment and generosity. I also expressed my appreciation to the celebrants for accompanying us through the Eucharistic celebrations, to the Sisters of Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam, and the postulants for their generous hospitality and tireless service and to all the Chapter members for their active participation, thoughtful contributions and spirit of listening, sharing and discernment.

I feel confident that the fruits of the Chapter would inspire us to become prophetic witnesses of the charism, missionaries of communion and companions of young people. May the Beatitudes shape our lives, Mary, the Woman of Discernment, guide our decisions, and the Holy Spirit strengthen us to respond courageously to the challenges and hopes of our Province. Though the Chapter has concluded, its mission continues in every community, educational setting and encounter with the young. We are called to move forward together, rooted in Christ, united in our charism and committed to making God's love visible in the world.

ADIEU, SR AROKIASWAMY CELINE

SR AROKIASWAMY CELINE, FMA (1938 - 2026)

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).

With hearts filled with gratitude to God for a life wholly consecrated to Him, we commend to His eternal embrace our beloved Sr Arokiaswamy Celine, who peacefully passed away on 27 October 2026 from Auxilium Care Home, Katpadi, Vellore, at the age of 88. Having served the Lord faithfully for sixty years, she celebrated her Diamond Jubilee of Religious Profession on 22 August 2026.

Born on 14 August 1938 in Pollachi, Tamil Nadu, to Mr Sinnappan Arokiaswamy and Mrs Ananthan Rose Mary, Sr Celine was the eldest of six children in a deeply religious and closely united family. The values of faith, integrity, reason, religion and loving-kindness, imbibed from her parents, became the foundation of her Salesian spirituality. Inspired by the lives of the saints and nurtured by a profound devotion to Mary, she gradually discerned her vocation to religious life. After completing her B.Sc. and M.Sc. in Chemistry, she taught at Auxilium College, Katpadi, for two years before entering the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians on 31 January 1963. She made her First Profession on 5 August 1966 at Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi. From 1966 to 1968, she pursued higher studies in Religious Sciences, Psychology, Pedagogy and Catechetics in Turin, Italy.

Gifted with a contemplative spirit, a keen intellect and a strong sense of responsibility, Sr Celine rendered outstanding service to the Province in diverse roles: Lecturer in Chemistry, Assistant of Juniors, Superior, Provincial Councillor, member and General Co-ordinator of the Provincial Team, Novice Formator, Student Counsellor and Provincial. She served as Provincial for six years, guiding the Province with farsighted vision, courageous discernment and steadfast fidelity to the Salesian charism. Her leadership facilitated the expansion of FMA presence beyond Tamil Nadu into Kerala, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, laying the groundwork for the re-dimensioning of the mission in South India and the emergence of the Bangalore Province. She also established the Tamil Nadu Novitiate at Trichy, strengthening the formation of future generations of FMA, missionaries of communion. Her preferential love for the poor and the marginalised found concrete expression in pioneering initiatives for young at risk and disadvantaged women. In 1999, she established the first *Marialaya* in India at Broadway, Chennai, to reach out to vulnerable children, opening new horizons for the FMA mission beyond formal education. She further promoted rural apostolate, parish animation, technical education and initiatives for marginalised women, including her service among the women of Keel Eral. Her commitment to ongoing renewal was evident in her efforts to broaden the Sisters' understanding of Indian Christian spirituality through an experience at Anjali Ashram, Mysore, and to prepare them for emerging educational and pastoral challenges.

As a formator, Sr Celine will be remembered for her maternal tenderness, empathy and patient accompaniment. During her seventeen years as Novice Mistress, she guided young Sisters towards interior freedom, personal responsibility and a deeper union with Christ. Her attentive listening, gentle encouragement and confidence in each Sister fostered maturity and fidelity to the vocation. She was equally dedicated to student counselling, recognising the evolving needs of young people and seeking new ways to accompany them in their growth. After serving for a year in Sri Lanka, accompanying candidates in formation and contributing to the consolidation of the FMA presence there, she returned to India in 2011 and served for six years as a full-time Student Counsellor at Broadway. From 2017, she devoted herself to the apostolate of prayer at the Provincial House, Kodambakkam, and later at Auxilium Care Home, Katpadi. These years became a serene preparation for her final encounter with the Lord. In her personal profile written in 2022, she expressed this longing poignantly: *"I feel the urgency to become more and more of God and to prepare myself for the joyous final encounter with Jesus in the embrace of Mary, my mother."*

Affable, sincere, serene, strong-willed and deeply sensitive to others, Sr Celine embodied the Salesian ideal of uniting contemplation and action, prayer and work, and life and liturgy. Her great sense of belonging to the community, Province and Institute, together with her fidelity to the Preventive System, marked her life of service and leadership. Above all, she bore witness

to the conviction that *being* must take precedence over *doing*, allowing her life to be progressively transformed by Christ.

As we entrust our beloved Sr Celine to the merciful love of the Father, we give thanks for her sixty years of consecrated life, her visionary leadership, her formative dedication and her compassionate love for the young and the poor. May the Lord whom she served so faithfully grant her the crown of righteousness and welcome her into the eternal embrace of Mary, her Mother. May her life continue to inspire us, the Sisters of the Province, to deepen our faith, renew our missionary zeal.

CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH

01 Sun	-	All Saints' Day
02 Mon	-	All Souls' Day
09 Mon	-	Dedication of the Lateran Basilica in Rome
13 Fri	-	St Artemide Zatti
14 Sat	-	Children's Day, 150th Anniversary of the First Salesian Missionary Expedition
15 Sun	-	Bl. Maddalena Morano
18 Wed	-	Dedication of the Basilica of Sts Peter and Paul, Apostles
22 Sun	-	Christ the King and St Cecilia
25 Wed	-	Venerable Margherita Occhiena
29 Sun	-	First Sunday of Advent and Novena to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception
30 Mon	-	St Andrew the Apostle

CONGRATULATIONS

Delegate to GCXXV: It gives me great joy to announce that Sr Anthony Raj Christina has been elected as the Delegate and Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi as the Substitute to the XXV General Chapter. We thank God for guiding the discernment process and congratulate Sr Anthony Raj Christina. We assure her of our prayers and support as she prepares, together with me, to participate in this significant event in the life of the Institute. May the Holy Spirit enlighten us with wisdom and courage, and may Mary, our Mother and Help, accompany us throughout this journey. Let us continue to pray that GCXXV may be a fruitful experience of communion, discernment and renewed missionary commitment for our Institute.

Postulant's Medal Receiving Celebration: Heartfelt congratulations to Perera Jayasekara Dusheni Sethmi of Sri Lanka on receiving the Postulant's Medal on 7 October 2026, marking a courageous step forward in her vocational journey and the beginning of a new phase of formation. May the Lord strengthen her commitment, deepen her relationship with Him and guide her in the joyful discernment of her vocation. My sincere appreciation to Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima and the community for their loving accompaniment and for making the necessary arrangements for this meaningful celebration. I also thank Fr Sebastian Michael Raj of the Diocese of Sivagangai, Scripture Scholar and Member of the Biblical Commission of Tamil Nadu, India, currently serving at TNBCLC, Dindivanam, for preaching the three-day retreat for our Aspirant, Perera Jayasekara Dusheni Sethmi, from 4 to 6 October 2026, on the theme "The Cost of Discipleship."

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Welcome to Sr Mora Ruth del Pilar, General Councillor for Missions: It is with great joy that we welcome our beloved Sr Mora Ruth del Pilar, the General Councillor for Missions, to Sri Lanka, which forms part of the INM Province, from 11 to 28 November 2026. Her presence among us is a precious opportunity to strengthen our missionary spirit, deepen our communion with the Institute and renew our commitment to the Salesian mission. We assure her of our warm welcome, prayerful support and fraternal collaboration throughout her visit.

Preparation for the Visit: Her visit will include encounters with the Sisters, young people, candidates, students, educators, parents and members of the Salesian Family in our communities in Sri Lanka. I kindly request all the Superiors and Sisters to follow the timetable carefully, keep ready the required reports, documents and relevant information about the community and its mission, and make the necessary arrangements for each encounter. Let us extend to Sr Mora Ruth del Pilar a warm and joyful welcome, ensuring that her visit becomes a meaningful experience of communion, listening and missionary renewal.

Second Novitiate – Phase I: I am happy to inform you that our Sisters Sr Anthonysamy Mary Abisha, Sr Arockia Samy Ancy Jenifer, Sr David Anushiya (SL), Sr Don Bosco Swingle Jerida (SL), Sr Jayaseelan Jasmine, Sr Nekchilan Maria Nisobana (SL), Sr Rayappan Stephina Roy, Sr Tharcius Sanci and Sr Vincent Priyadharshini will have the First Phase of their Second Novitiate at Auxilium Provincial House, Guwahati, from 15 November to 15 December 2026. This will be a time of renewal and grace, dedicated to deepening their spiritual life, enriching their understanding of religious vocation and strengthening their commitment to the Salesian mission. May this period of study, reflection and community living help them integrate their experiences and insights, grow in fidelity and joy, and prepare themselves to dedicate their lives more fully to the service of God's Kingdom.

Trimonthly Recollection and Animation for Junior Sisters: All the Junior Sisters of our Province are expected to arrive at Sacred Heart Home by 5 pm on Friday, 6 November 2026. On 7 November, they will have their trimonthly recollection preached by Fr Siluvai Muthu SDB, Director of Aruloudhayam Ashram, A. Kattupadi, Vellore. The programme on 8 November will be dedicated to animation, focusing on their formative journey, sharing of experiences, reflection on the study materials and evaluation of their personal and community growth.

I encourage the Junior Sisters to come well prepared to share the insights gained through their study of the Cronistoria and The Pact of Our Covenant with God by Carlo Colli. They are also expected to maintain their daily journals faithfully, reflecting on their experiences and personal growth. I remind the Superiors of their responsibility to accompany the Junior Sisters and ensure that they have adequate time for personal study, reflection and journal writing as essential elements of their formative journey.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

- Sr Anthonyraj Narmadha participated in a Prayer Experience at Sogathur from 26 to 30 October 2026.

- Sr Samala Rayappan Elisa, Sr Victor Juliana Agnes and Sr Savari Fathima will participate in the CCBI Intense Course for Diocesan and Religious Financial Administrators from 16 to 21 November 2026.

NOTE OF THANKS

- I thank Sr Mamani Liendro Maria Susi for animating the Sisters in Sri Lanka on 11 September 2026 and providing guidelines to all communities for conducting media meetings with parents.

- My sincere thanks to Sr Sebastian Princy for organising the online meeting for the Sisters in Sri Lanka on 30 September 2026, on the theme: "Orientation towards the Marian Month of the Rosary and Missionaries."

- I sincerely thank Sr Mathew Josephine Siriapushpam, Superior, and the community of Auxilium Care Home, Katpadi, for graciously hosting the Annual Retreat I for Senior Sisters from 1 to 8 October 2026. I also extend my heartfelt gratitude to Sr Anthony Raj Mary Josephine and the community of Auxilium College; Sr Irudayasamy M. Nirmal Rose and the community of Auxilium Home; and Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima and the community of Sacred Heart Home for their support, cooperation and fraternal presence. My special thanks to the retreat preacher, Fr Sebastian Michael Raj of the Diocese of Sivagangai, Scripture Scholar and Member of the Biblical Commission of Tamil Nadu, India, currently serving at TNBCLC, Dindivanam, for animating the Sisters on the theme "Returning to the Lord."

- I thank Sr Mathew Alice, ADMA Coordinator, for animating the local Coordinators and members of ADMA in Sri Lanka through a Chain Rosary for World Peace on 1 October 2026.

- I express my sincere gratitude to Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima, Superior, and the entire community of Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi, for organising the Postulant Medal Receiving Celebration on 7 October 2026 and arranging the three-day retreat in preparation for this special occasion.

- I thank Sr Lazar Maria Nirmala, the Delegate, Sr Arulanandu Arockia Mary, Superior, and the Sisters of Negombo for organising and hosting the retreat for the Apostolic School Girls from 9 to 11 October 2026.

- My sincere thanks to Sr Nguyen Thi Long Phuong Maria, Youth Coordinator for Sri Lanka, for coordinating the youth leadership programme held at Omanthai on 10 October 2026. I also thank Sr Fernando Mary Ann, Superior, and the community of Omanthai for their warm hospitality and support.

- My heartfelt gratitude to Sr Anthony Raj Christina, Superior, and the community of Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam, for hosting the Provincial Chapter 2026 from 18 to 25 October 2026. I sincerely thank Sr Kunnathu Anna, Provincial Economer, and Sr Susai Josephine Rani, Provincial Secretary, for their valuable contributions and hard work throughout the Chapter. My special appreciation goes to Sr Anthony Raj Christina, Moderator of the Provincial Chapter, for her dedicated service in facilitating the proceedings. I am deeply grateful to each of you for your wholehearted collaboration. May the Lord bless you abundantly.

- I extend my sincere gratitude to Sr Anthony Raj Christina and the community of Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam, for organising and hosting the Provincial Council Meeting on 25 October 2026.

- My heartfelt thanks to Sr Sebastian Elizabeth, Superior, and the community of Mazzarello Home for hosting the Training on Psychological Well-being for Local YaR Coordinators on 10 October 2026. I also thank Sr Mahimainadhan Sathiyavani and Sr Susainathan Ayesha Bindhu for organising and animating the programme.

- My sincere thanks to Sr Mariadoss Amala Mary and the community of Kingsford, Chennai; Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima and the community of Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi; and Sr Stanislaus Mary Dora and the community of Salem, Avvai Nagar, for organising and hosting the Trimonthly Recollection for Senior Sisters on 31 October 2026.

- I express my heartfelt gratitude to Sr Mathew J. Siriapushpam, Superior of Auxilium Care Home, and all the Sisters of the community, for the loving care and tender accompaniment extended to Sr Celine Arokiaswamy during the past year. Through your warmth, affection and attentive presence, you made the community a true home where she experienced dignity, comfort and a deep sense of belonging. In the final phase of her earthly journey, your loving care was a precious expression of sisterly communion. I extend my sincere gratitude to the communities of the Auxilium Campus, Auxilium College and Auxilium Home, and to the Sisters and candidates of Sacred Heart Home. My special thanks to Sr Josephine Anthony Raj, Sr Nirmal Rose and Sr Gracy Fatima, together with your respective communities, for your solidarity, support and fraternal presence. Your closeness has been a comforting expression of our Salesian family spirit, reminding us that we are united and strengthened by one another, especially in moments of sorrow.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

Our loving prayers and condolences to all those who lost their dear ones in October 2026.

- To Sr Mudiappaswamy Nirmala, at the demise of her aunt, Mrs Irudaya Mary (94), at Perundurai, Erode, on 21 October 2026.

- To Fr Doss Kennedy SDB, the Provincial and the Confreres of INT, at the demise of Fr Daniel Pushparayar (47), at Varadarajanpet, on 25 October 2026.
- To Sr Ozhukayil Lucy Rose, the Provincial, and the Sisters of INK, at the loss of Sr Catherin Aayila (79), at Thiruthiparambu, Kerala, on 26 October 2026.
- To Sr Susheela Nicholas (SL), at the death of her brother-in-law, Mr Patrick Charles (82), in Bangalore, on 26 October 2026.
- To the family of Sr Alice Pears, at the loss of her younger sister, Mrs Mary Paul (87), at Pallisery, Kerala, on 27 October 2026.
- To Sr Susai Raj Mary Sheila, at the demise of her brother-in-law, Mr Diliph (72), in Hyderabad, on 28 October 2026.
- To Sr Lourdusamy Solomon Kalai, at the loss of her brother-in-law, Mr Melquir Rajan (62), in Dindigul on 30 October 2026.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY

01 † Sr Fonseca Juanita (Novice) (1954)
06 † Sr Fernando Amala (2004)
09 † Sr Ghidoni Alma (1980)
11 † Sr Morris Flida (2016), Sr Viano Nicolina (2020)
14 † Sr Galli Clotilde (1990)
16 † Sr George Jolly (2016)
17 † Sr Thonippara Rosamma (2008)
18 † Sr Murgia Maria (1968)
20 † Sr Avio Maria (1959)
21 † Sr Schiapparelli Severina (1980), Sr Pereira Lutgarde (2001)
24 † Sr Gnavi Virginia (1977), Sr Anthoniappan Celine (2021)
24 † Sr David Arul Mary (1946), Sr Rodrigues Ethelvina (2016)
25 † Sr Azzolini Gina (1998), Sr D'Almeida Crescentia (2022)
28 † Sr D'Cruz Constance (2003)
29 † Sr Peenikkaparamban Elizabeth (2024)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

November 2026

01.11.2026	Sun	Tri-monthly Recollection for Seniors, Mary Immaculate, Tirupattur All Saints Day
02.11.2026	Mon	All Souls' Day
04.11.2026 to 14.11.2026	Wed to Sat	Ashram Experience for I year Novices, Mannivakkam, Chennai

06.11.2026	Fri	VIDES Meeting, Raffle Draw, Arni
07.11.2026	Sat	
to	to	
08.11.2026	Sun	Tri-monthly Recollection and Animation for INM Junior Sisters Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
07.11.2026	Sat	Youth Programme in view of the 150th year, Vellore Zone, St Mary's
09.11.2026	Mon	EC Meet for Local EC Members in Local Communities
11.11.2026	Wed	
to	to	
29.11.2026	Sun	Sr Mora Ruth del Pilar, General Councillor's visit to Sri Lanka
13.11.2026	Fri	Half-yearly Society Accounts Submission, Kodambakkam, Chennai
15.11.2026	Sun	
to	to	
15.12.2026	Tue	II Novitiate I Phase, Auxilium Provincial House, Guwahati
19.11.2026	Thu	
to	to	
25.11.2026	Wed	Orange Day Celebration Week, Children, Supplementary Centres and Schools
21.11.2026	Sat	Value Education for Workers in Local Communities Seminar on Burnout and Retention: Strategies for the Well-being: Teachers and Professors, Online ASC - Retreat and Preparation at Chennai and Vellore Zone for Eligible Aspirants to Make the Promise
22.11.2026	Sun	Promise Day for all the Eligible Members of Chennai and Vellore Zone at Basin Bridge, Chennai
26.11.2026	Thu	National Constitution Day in Formal and Non-Formal Sectors - Local Communities
28.11.2026	Sat	Past Pupils Meet: Rally for Mental Wellbeing - St Mary's Campus to Vellore Fort

Feast of All Saints: On 1 November, we rejoice in the Feast of All Saints, celebrating the countless men and women who have witnessed to the holiness of God through lives of faith, love and selfless service. Their example reminds us that holiness is a daily journey, lived through fidelity to our vocation and love for others. As FMA, may we draw inspiration from their lives and renew our commitment to become saints in the ordinary circumstances of life. May their intercession strengthen us to live the Salesian charism with joy and apostolic zeal.

Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed: On 2 November, we commemorate All Souls' Day, remembering with love and prayer our departed Sisters, family members, benefactors and all the faithful departed. United in the communion of saints, we entrust them to the infinite mercy and compassionate love of God. Their lives remain a precious legacy of faith, dedication and service. May our prayerful remembrance deepen our hope in the resurrection and strengthen our longing for eternal communion with God.

St Maria Domenica Mazzarello: On 13 November, we joyfully celebrate the Feast of St Maria Domenica Mazzarello, our beloved Co-foundress and a woman of deep faith, simplicity and missionary zeal. This celebration invites us to rediscover her passion for God, her love for the young and her unwavering trust in Divine Providence. Let us make this occasion meaningful by celebrating with the young people, members of the Educating Community and neighbouring religious congregations. May her life and witness inspire us to nurture communion, strengthen our Salesian identity and renew our commitment to the education and evangelisation of the young.

St Artemide Zatti: On 13 November, we celebrate the feast of St Artemide Zatti, a Salesian Brother who made his life a generous offering of love through his dedicated service to the sick and the poor. With unwavering faith, tireless charity and profound trust in Divine Providence, he transformed his daily work into a living witness to the Gospel. His life invites us to recognise Christ in those who suffer and to serve them with compassion and joy. May his example inspire us to make our communities places of healing, hope and loving care, especially for the most vulnerable.

Children's Day: On 14 November, we celebrate Children's Day, honouring the gift, dignity and preciousness of every child. It is an occasion to renew our commitment to safeguarding their rights, nurturing their talents and creating safe and joyful spaces where they can grow and flourish. As educators in the Salesian spirit, let us reaffirm our mission of accompanying every child with love, understanding and hope. May we continue to make our educational communities into homes where every child feels welcomed, valued and empowered to build a better future.

World Day of the Poor: On 15 November, the 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, we celebrate the World Day of the Poor, inviting us to recognise Christ in those who experience poverty and exclusion. This day calls us to move beyond compassion in words towards concrete gestures of solidarity, justice and fraternal love. Faithful to the charism of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello, may we renew our preferential love for poor and vulnerable young people, especially girls and women on the peripheries. May our communities become welcoming homes where every person experiences dignity, hope and belonging.

Solemnity of Christ the King: On 22 November, we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King, proclaiming Jesus Christ as the centre of our lives and the Lord of history. His kingship is revealed not in power or domination, but in humble service, sacrificial love and obedience to the Father. As consecrated women, may we allow Christ to reign in our hearts, communities and apostolic commitments. May His values guide our choices and inspire us to build a world marked by peace, justice, compassion and fraternity.

Arrival of the Pioneers in India: On 24 November, we gratefully commemorate the arrival of the six pioneering FMA missionaries in Tanjore in 1922, marking the beginning of the Salesian mission of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in India. Their courageous response to God's call, missionary zeal and generous self-giving laid the foundation of our Institute in the country. Their pioneering spirit continues to inspire us to live our vocation with faith, courage and apostolic enthusiasm. May their legacy renew our missionary commitment and strengthen our dedication to the education and evangelisation of the young.

Venerable Margherita Occhiena: On 25 November, we remember Venerable Margherita Occhiena, affectionately known as Mamma Margaret, whose life of faith, simplicity and maternal wisdom profoundly shaped the spirituality of St John Bosco. Through her steadfast trust in God, loving presence and wise guidance, she nurtured in her son a heart devoted to the young and the poor. Her life bears witness to the sanctifying power of ordinary family life, patient sacrifice and unconditional love. May her example inspire us, as educators and consecrated women, to accompany the young with maternal tenderness, evangelical wisdom and unwavering confidence in God's Providence.

First Sunday of Advent: On 29 November, we begin the holy season of Advent, a time of joyful hope and vigilant waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The liturgy invites us to awaken our hearts, renew our faith and prepare a welcoming place for Him in our lives. Amid the demands of daily life, may we cultivate silence, prayer and attentive listening to the Word of God. As daughters of Mary Help of Christians, may we accompany the young with hope and become credible signs of God's presence, joyfully awaiting the Lord who comes to renew all things.

Commencement of the Spiritual Preparation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception: On 29 November, we begin the solemn novena in preparation for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a significant and grace-filled moment in the life of our Institute. This celebration recalls the humble beginnings of our Institute on 8 December 1872, under the maternal protection of Mary Immaculate. The novena invites every FMA to renew her love for Mary, deepen her fidelity to the Salesian charism and rekindle her missionary enthusiasm. As we prepare for the feast, may Mary inspire us to become joyful witnesses of Christ and courageous educators of the young. Let us entrust our communities, young people and mission to her maternal care.

I wish you a very happy Feast of All Saints and
Happy Children's Day to all the students who frequent our institutions!
A fervent Novena to the feast of Mary Immaculate to everyone!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Devadoss Margaret

Sr Devadoss Margaret FMA
INM Provincial



ITINERARY OF THE PROVINCIAL
NOVEMBER- 2026

November 2026		
01 - 03	Sun - Tue	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam, Chennai
04 - 05	Wed - Thu	Personal Work
06	Fri	VIDES Meeting, Raffle Draw, Arni Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
07 - 08	Sat - Sun	Tri-monthly Recollection and Animation for INM Junior Sisters, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi.
10	Tue	Journey to Bangalore
11	Wed	Journey to Sri Lanka
12 - 29	Thu - Sun	Visit of Sr Mora Ruth del Pilar to Sri Lanka
29	Sun	Journey to Kodambakkam, Chennai
30	Mon	Journey to Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
December 2026		
01 - 03	Tue - Thu	PV - Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
3 - 4	Thu - Fri	PV - Auxilium Care Home, Katpadi
5	Sat	Youth Convention - St Mary's Convent, Vellore
6 - 7	Sun - Mon	Provincial Council - Auxilium College, Katpadi
8 - 9	Tue - Wed	PV - Anmarudai
10	Thu	PV - Mosavadi
11 - 13	Fri - Sun	PV - Arni
14 -15	Mon - Tue	PV - Michaelpuram
15 - 17	Tue - Thu	PV - Polur
18 - 19	Fri - Sat	PV - Nandambakkam