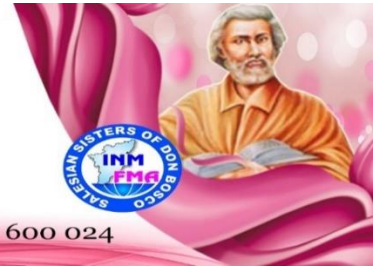




**Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice**  
Salesiane di Don Bosco  
S. Thomas the Apostles Province - INM  
Madras - India



## Provincial Circular 2023 - 2024

Mazzarello Convent, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600 024

**INM FMA/Pro.Cir.2**

**July 2023**

**My Dearest Sisters,**

*Viva Gesu`!*

*Affectionate greetings to you from Kodambakkam! Happy Feast of Saint Thomas the Apostle, the Patron of the Church in India and our Province!*

St Thomas was one of the Twelve Apostles chosen by Jesus to evangelize the world and shepherd His flock (the Church) after His Ascension to the Father. St Thomas was not among those disciples to whom the Risen Christ first appeared, and when they told the incredulous Thomas, he requested physical proof of the Resurrection. Jesus was pleased to accommodate himself to Thomas' request rather than leave him in his unbelief. So, Christ reappeared and specifically asked Thomas to touch his wounds (Jn 20:19–29). Upon seeing the Resurrected Lord and recognizing his tangible presence, St Thomas explicitly acknowledged Jesus' divinity by professing the expression of faith, "My Lord and My God!"

This confession of faith forms the climax and conclusion of the whole gospel. The words are fittingly considered as an impassioned declaration on the part of this devoted but unconvinced apostle, of his conviction not merely that his Risen Lord stood before him but that this Lord was also his God. Thus, astonished at Jesus' condescension and grace and ashamed of his unbelief, St Thomas asserts his loyalty to, affection for, and faith in the Risen Jesus as his Lord and God. This event reminds us that there is a higher faith than that which springs from visual evidence (Jn 20:29). Jesus is better pleased with a faith that does not require the evidence of sense, a faith founded on the perception that God is in Christ, and a faith in His Messiahship that continues to carry on the work of His Kingdom through every one of us.

St Thomas also appears in several other biblical passages asserting his trustworthy discipleship, such as John 11:16, in which the disciples are resisting Jesus' decision to return to Judea, where the Jews had previously tried to stone Jesus, and Thomas says, "Let us also go, that we might die with him." During the Last Supper, Jesus assures his disciples that they know where he is going, but Thomas protests that they don't know at all (Jn 14:5). Thomas' question, "How can we know the way?" moved Jesus to answer, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life." Thus, Jesus replies to Thomas' and Philip's requests with a detailed and difficult exposition of his relationship with God the Father.

Every biblical narrative points to the unchallenged utterance of faith in the presence of Jesus. From the wedding at Cana (Jn 2:1–12) to the raising of Lazarus (Jn 11:1–44), from the testimony of the Baptist (Jn 1:19–34) to the beseeching tones of intercessory prayer (Matt 6:9–13), every discourse, every miracle, points to this superlative conclusion, not breathed in loving

accents by the enthusiastic Mary, not sounded forth by the rock-like apostle, not whispered in awestruck affection by the beloved disciple, but wrung from the broken heart of the man who had said, "Unless I see the print of the nails, I will not believe." Thus, Thomas doubted that the Church might believe.

This feast invites us to an intimacy with Christ, who is eternally marked by the suffering of his crucifixion and resurrection. We can do this through a simple and honest acceptance of our lives scarred by our history and choices, by our sins and mistakes, marred and imperfect bodies on which the death and resurrection of Christ are recorded even today. He has risen, and we, touching his wounds as Thomas wanted to do, are enabled to be in touch with who we are, however scarred we may be.

I would like to conclude my reflection with the words of Pope Francis that invite us to turn a compassionate eye to the suffering around us: "How can I find the wounds of Jesus today? I cannot see them as Thomas saw them. I find them in doing works of mercy, in giving to the body, to the body and the soul, but I stress, the body of your injured brethren, for they are hungry, thirsty, naked, humiliated, slaves, in prison and hospital. These are the wounds of Jesus in our day" (Pope Francis, July 3, 2013, the feast of St. Thomas).

Again, the Pontiff reminds us that there is no lack of wounds around us, and every wound is a wound of Christ: "It is more than ever important in our day that Christ's faithful people give witness to tenderness and compassion." Listening to the cry of the poor that resonates within us, allowing ourselves to be overwhelmed by the suffering of others, and deciding to go out of our way to touch their wounds which are the wounds of Christ, not only participates in the building of a better world, more family, more evangelical, but it also strengthens the Church in her mission to hasten the building of the Kingdom of God. (Pope Francis, in an address to Fidesco, a charitable organization)

The challenge, of course, is to take up this invitation as much as we can, not only in the shadow of the cross but also in light of the Resurrection. Our role as witnesses, compassionately present as we can be, is to bring hope of new life to people, even amid the wounds that scar their everyday lives. Let us express solidarity, extend hope, and help the suffering people all over the world, especially in Manipur.

## **CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH - JULY**

- 03 - St Thomas, the Apostle
- 06 - St Maria Goretti
- 07 - Bl. Maria Romero
- 16 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 22 - St Mary Magdalene
- 25 - St James, the Apostle
- 26 - Sts Joachim & Anne
- 28 - St Alphonsa Muthathupadathu
- 31 - St Ignatius of Loyola

### INAUGURATION OF THE NEW COMMUNITY

With sentiments of gratitude for the Divine Providence and the Maternal intervention of Mary Help of Christians, the Province opened the new house at Jaffna, Columbuthurai, Sri Lanka. The New Community was erected on 3 June 2023. We thank our beloved Mother General Sr Chiara Cazzuola, who, with the consent of her General Council, has issued the above Decree under code 609 \$1 of the Canon Law and Art. 134 of the Constitutions of the Institute and a beautiful prayer moment brought down to us God's manifold blessings. Sr Devadoss Margaret, the Provincial, installed Sr Irudayaraj Lourdummy as the first animator of the community. The main mission of the Columbuthurai community is Primary School, Parish Ministry, Village Visits, Oratory and Evening Coaching Classes. We hope that through the Mission of this house, we will be able to reach out to many poor and abandoned children and women of Columbuthurai, Sri Lanka.

### ASPIRANTS & POSTULANTS' RETREAT

Aspirants and Postulants will make their annual retreat from 21 - 23 July 2023 at Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi. On 24th July, the Aspirants will become Postulants during a solemn prayer moment. We congratulate Micheal Infancia, Velankanni Amalraj Leema Jenifer, Lawrence Mary Sujatha, Suresh Chandhar Paul Nancy, Vinoth Kumar Nagomi, Pichai Muthu Aswini of INM Province and Maria Louis Maria Yasmin and Arockiasamy Reyasna Mercily from INT for their courageous Yes to the Lord. Let us intensify our prayers for them so that they may respond to the call of God joyfully and generously.

### HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

- ✚ Congratulations to our Rector Major Fr Angel Artime Fernandes, and the Salesian Family for Archbishop Antônio de Almeida Lustosa, SDB, who was declared *Venerable* by the Holy Father on 22 June 2023.
- ✚ Congratulations to Sr Maria Trigila, Daughter of Mary Help of Christians of the Sicilian Province of Mother Maddalena Morano, Italy, who received the *Fair Play for Life Award*, on 23 June 2023 in Rome, at the CONI Hall of Honor, Rome.
- ✚ Congratulations and assurance of prayers to all our Salesians of Chennai Province who celebrate the Diamond jubilee of religious profession, Golden and Silver jubilee of their priestly ordination and religious profession on 3 July 2023 at Don Bosco, Egmore. May they continue to serve the Lord in the young people with the zeal of the *da mihi animas*.

## WELCOME HOME

Sr Mahimaidoss Jeya Sunitha, after her two-year spirituality course at Casa Ersilia Canta is returning to the Province on 6 July 2023. We give her a warm welcome and wish her a fruitful pastoral experience at Divyadhanam, Trichy, as the assistant of novices.

We welcome our dear Sr Nirmala Lazar, our Former Provincial and Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi, the Former Secretary, who will be back from the Holy Land on 14 July 2023 after their wonderful and enriching experience of the 'Jerusalem Project'.

## NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ Sincere Thanks to Sr Mary Ann, the Delegate of Sri Lanka, for making all the arrangements necessary for the installation of the New Animators, the starting of the New Community at Columbutruai and for the initial visit of the Provincial to all the communities in Sri Lanka.
- ✚ Hearty thanks to our dear Sr Antonyraj Mary Josephine and the Community for organizing the blessing of the ' Home for the Retired Sisters Staff ' in Auxilium College Campus on 11 June 2023 and for hosting the meeting of the Animators, the Provincial Council and the Team members on 12 June 2023.
- ✚ Sincere thanks to Sr Antonyraj Christiana, the Animator and the Community of Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam, for hosting the INM & INT Formators Meet on 17 June 2023, and thanks to Sr Susai Josephine Rani, the INM Coordinator for Formation, for Coordinating the Meeting.
- ✚ Sincere appreciation and gratitude to Sr Gaspar Mary Celine, the animator, and the community of Auxilium Home, Katpadi, for hosting the YP/SC/Catechetics/Social Ministry Coordinators' Meet on 24 June 2023.
- ✚ We express our gratitude to the Formation Sector of the PCI for conducting the Webinar on *Docibilitas* on 29 June 2023, and special thanks to Sr Miranda Anelfreda, the team member of the FMA Formation Sector, Rome.
- ✚ We are grateful to the PCI Centenary Renewal Committee for organizing the Centenary Renewal Programme online on 30 June 2023.

## HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

Our heartfelt condolences and prayers to all those who lost their dear ones in June 2023:

- ✚ Our Beloved Rector Major at the passing away of his Mother Mrs Isabel Arttime Garcia, on 24 June 2023, Spain
- ✚ The Provincial and the Confreres of INK at the passing away of Fr Ittira Mondoth SDB (84) on 22 June 2023 in Mamma Margaret Home, Aluva, Kerala.
- ✚ Sr Augustine Sagaya Rani and her family at the demise of her Aunt Mrs M Annammal on 24 June 2023 at Chelliampatti, Dharmapuri.

## LIVING IN OUR MEMORY- JULY 2023

- 01 † Sr Michael Lily Rufina (2005)
- 02 † Sr Anglesio Margherita (1988)
- 06 † Sr Fino Maria (2007)
- 07 † Sr Dias Zita (1966) & Sr Mathew Teresa (2007)
- 12 † Sr Bosotti Angela (1966)
- 13 † Sr Saletta Luigina (1965)
- 14 † Sr Pereira Nancy (2010)
- 18 † Sr Venkateswamy B. Margaret (1999)
- 20 † Sr Thecla Chit Mary (2018)
- 21 † Sr Gnanapragasam Victorina (2020)
- 22 † Sr Lazar Idaya (1998)
- 23 † Sr Burgos Alessandra (1976) & Sr Moris Kanikkam Maria (2014)
- 24 † Sr Colombo Regina (2004)
- 27 † Sr Gila Adele Caterina (1973)
- 28 † Sr D'Souza Juliana (2013) & Sr Nazareth Edvige (2017)
- 30 † Sr Joseph Regina (2015)

## FORTHCOMING EVENTS – JULY 2023

- 25 June - 05 - Postulants Ashram Experience, Mannivakkam
- 01 July - Past Pupils Meet, Auxilium Home, Katpadi
- 02 - VIDES General Body Meet, St Mary's Vellore
- 03 - SPM Meet, Mazzarello Home, TPT
- 04 - 05 - New Animators Meet, Kodambakkam
- 06 - 07 - New Economers Meet, Kodambakkam
- 07 - Workshop on Juniors IAS Academy Programme for children, Thoraipakkam
- 07-08 - Meeting of the Sisters involved in Social Ministry, Kodambakkam
- 09 - Meetings for the Heads of the Schools and Colleges, ACK
- 14 - HR Animation, Auxilium Home, Katpadi
- 14 - 15 - Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
- 15 - Media Animation, Chetpet, Chennai
- 16 - Ongoing formation for Salesian Cooperators, Chennai Zone, St Mary's Co-Cathedral, Armenian Street, Chennai
- 21 - 23 - Retreat for the Candidates, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi

- 22 - HR Animation, Chetpet, Chennai
- 24 - Postulants Medal receiving, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
- 28 - 04 Aug - Annual Retreat for Novices, Negombo, Sri Lanka
- 29 - Women Protection from partner violence, Kodambakkam
- 29 - 30 - Trimonthly Recollection and Animation for Juniors, Kodambakkam
- 30 - Ongoing formation for Salesian Cooperators, Vellore Zone,  
St Mary's Convent, Vellore
- Centenary Renewal Programme, Online
- 31 - Trafficking of Youth: A Modern Slavery, Online
- August**
- 04 - Media Animation, St. Mary's Vellore
- 05 - First Profession, Negombo, Sri Lanka
- 06 - 13 - Sisters Retreat, Sri Lanka

**On 3 July, we celebrate with joy the feast of St Thomas the Apostle**, the patron of our Province, SDB Province of Chennai and our Archdiocese of Madras - Mylapore.

Let us thank God for the gift of this great apostle of India and pray to Him to give us the same zeal and passion as that of St Thomas, to build His kingdom here and now by our witnessing words and daring deeds, especially during this time of struggle and trial. On his feast day, let us remember as a community to renew: 'The Consecration of our Province to the Sacred Heart of Jesus'.

*I wish you all a very Happy Feast of St Thomas, the patron of our Province!*



## Itinerary of the Provincial JULY 2023

01	Sat	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
02	Sun	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
03	Mon	St Thomas - Province Feast, Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
04 - 05	Tue - Wed	New Animators Meet, Kodambakkam
06 - 07	Thu - Fri	New Economers Meet, Kodambakkam
07	Fri	Social Ministry Coordinators Meet, Kodambakkam
08	Sat	Provincial Visit - Auxilium College, Katpadi
09	Sun	Meeting for the Heads of the Schools and Colleges, ACK Provincial Visit - Auxilium Home, Katpadi
10	Mon	Provincial Visit - Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
11	Tue	Provincial Visit - Pallikonda / Yellagiri Hills
12	Wed	Provincial Visit - Jawadhi Hills / Polur
13	Thu	Provincial Visit - Michaelpuram
14	Fri	Provincial Council - Kodambakkam
15	Sat	Provincial Council - Kodambakkam
16	Sun	Provincial Visit - Yercaud / Avvai Nagar, Salem
17	Mon	Provincial Visit - Marialaya, Erode / Anna 4 Home, Salem
18	Tue	Provincial Visit - Arni / Mosavadi
19	Wed	Provincial Visit - Anmarudai, Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
20	Thu	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
21 - 23	Fri - Sun	Candidates Retreat, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
24	Mon	Postulants Receiving the Medals, S H Home, Katpadi Provincial Visit - St. Mary's Vellore
25	Tue	Provincial Visit - Mary Immaculate, Tirupattur
26	Wed	Provincial Visit - Mazzarello Home/ Dharmapuri
27 - 28	Thu - Fri	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
29	Sat	Tri Monthly Recollection for Juniors, Kodambakkam
30	Sun	Animation for Juniors, Kodambakkam
31	Mon	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
AUGUST		
01	Tue	Departure to Sri Lanka (Retreat for Novices - SL)
05	Sat	Foundation Day - First Profession (SL)
06 - 13	Sun - Sun	Sisters Retreat (SL)