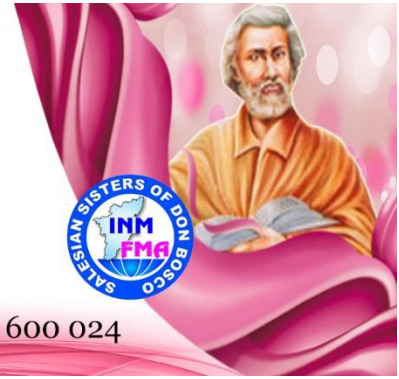




Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Salesiane di Don Bosco
S. Thomas the Apostles Province - INM
Madras - India



Provincial Circular 2023 - 2024

Mazzarello Convent, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600 024

INM FMA/Pro.Cir.1

June 2023

My Dearest Sisters,

Viva Gesu`!

Affectionate greetings to you from Sri Lanka! I am here for a few days and I am happy to bring you warm wishes from all our Sisters, Novices and Candidates.

“And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.” (1 Chronicles 29:13)

I thank and praise God the Almighty for His benevolent love, gracious predilection, and assuring presence in my life. I strongly believe that He will continue to assist, guide, and lead me in animating the Province of St Thomas the Apostle in the spirit of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello according to the signs of the times. I am ever grateful to our beloved Mother General, Sr Chiara Cazzuola, and the Members of the General Council who have entrusted me with the responsibility of animating, leading, and governing the Province. I express a special note of gratitude to our dear Sr Jacob Celine, the Visiting General Councillor, for her loving and encouraging presence, above all for installing me as the 16th Provincial of Chennai Province.

The GCXXIV invites us to be a presence that generates life. Therefore, in this first circular letter, I would like to share my reflection on the "Presence of God." God's Presence is a felt awareness of inner beauty, sacred stillness, and a sanctuary of consciousness. The Bible emphasizes God's manifest presence, not only his omnipresence (Ps 139:5-12; 1 Kings 8:27) it is more concerned with his presence manifested in relationships and redemption. The biblical story presents God's being manifest with his people in Eden (Gen. 3:8), the covenants, the tabernacle/temple, the incarnation of the Son of God, and the new heaven and new earth (Rev 21:1-4), where all of God's people enjoy his presence eternally.

At the heart of God's covenant is a relationship (Gen. 17:7; Ex 6:7; 29:45; Rev. 21:3, etc.). God enters into his creation to create a people and a place for his presence. And so, the covenant as the Lord declares at Sinai is: "I will dwell among the people of Israel and be their God." "And they shall know that I am the Lord their God, who brought them out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them" (Ex 29:45-46). The Bible makes clear that the presence of God is not only the central goal in God's redemptive mission but also how it is fulfilled.

The presence of God finds its supreme expression in Immanuel, God with us (Matt. 20:28; Mark 10:45). God in Christ became man (Jn 3:16), walked among humanity, died for his people, and continues to live through the Church. In this merciful act, Christ reconciles us to himself and re-opens access to the Father so that those who were once exiled from his presence might again draw near to God (Heb. 4:16; 7:19).

The presence of God has substantial implications for the way we understand and fulfil our mission in the Church (1 Cor. 3:16–17; 2 Cor. 6:14–7:1; Eph. 2:13-22). Our mission in the church has two lucid purposes: 1) the church works within itself for the sanctification of its members to prepare them for God's presence in the present and the future, and 2) the church works externally to share the gospel so that all people may enjoy God's presence now and forever.

God's presence is all-embracing and generously welcoming. In His presence, everyone and everything is seen as a blessing or a blessing in disguise. When we see all things through the lenses of God's perception, anxiety, fear, and doubt naturally fade away; instead, calmness, peacefulness, total commitment, and compassionate passion for His mission reign. To be a joyful religious is to know and live in God's presence and manifest his relational presence in our mission. This is why David proclaims, "In your presence, there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Ps 16:11).

The power of God's presence ignites our capacity to create a remarkable future by transforming that intention into future action. God's loving presence invites each of us to be aware and attentive to the present moment and every moment. People who live in God's presence have an inner radiance; they are comfortable and content within themselves because their being and their gestures are graced by God. Let us live our lives with the awareness of God's indwelling presence within us and His incarnate presence in others and all the realities of our daily lives. Let heartfelt gratitude, natural generosity, and unconditional love for all be the clearest indicators of God's presence in our lives and mission. Let us be focused on the task at hand, whether in a formal or non-formal setting, so that we may glow and radiate the presence of God in our community and our mission.

MILLION THANKS

My deepest gratitude to Most Rev Dr Neethinathan, the Bishop of Chenglepet, for presiding over the Holy Eucharist and imploring God's abundant blessings upon me and on all of us gathered for the installation event. I am grateful to Fr Lourdasamy Don Bosco, the Provincial of Chennai, and Fr K.M.Jose, the former Provincial, for their brotherly presence and support. My sincere thanks to all the priests, religious Sisters and brothers, friends, well-wishers, benefactors, and members of the Salesian family for their prayerful and reassuring presence on that memorable day.

I express my gratitude to Rev. Sr Lazar Maria Nirmala for the tireless service rendered to our province together with her able councillors during her tenure as the Provincial of Chennai. God had been so benevolent to us through her leadership to face the challenges of the pandemic and its aftermath effects and to revive the Salesian charism in various places for the neediest. She has spent her energy drawing the best from our educational mission, with her characteristic goodness, all these six years. With her genuine love for the Lord and his people, she has led the province with ease and in an unassuming manner. God has accomplished many great things during her leadership, and one such is the Centenary Celebrations of FMA Presence in India. On behalf of all the Sisters of our Province and the members of the Educating Community, I extend my heartfelt thanks to dear Sr Lazar Maria Nirmala and wish her good health and a wonderful mission in the years to come.

I owe my wholehearted thanks to Sr Celine Gaspar, the Vice Provincial and the Animator of the Fatima convent community for the planning and execution of the memorable twin events: thanking the Outgoing Provincial, Sr Lazar Maria Nirmala and the installation of the New Provincial Sr Devadoss Margaret. I am grateful in a very special way to the Provincial Councillors, the Animators, and the team members for their support, dedication, teamwork, and untiring efforts towards the memorable celebration of the day.

I appreciate and thank the Sisters and the candidates of the community of Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi, Sr Gaspar Celine and the Sisters of the community of Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam, Sr Peddineeni Philomena and the community of Little Flower Convent, Pallikonda, Sr Mariadoss Amala and the Sisters of Auxilium Home, Katpadi, Sr Kunnathu Anna and the Sisters of Auxilium College, Katpadi, Sr Irudayanathan Agatha and the Junior Sisters, Sr Sheila Susai Raj and the Sisters of Our Lady's Convent, Kingsford, Sr Francis Irudaya Mary and all of you, my dear Sisters, who animated the different prayer moments, the colourful cultural events, and melodious songs with a great sense of joy and belonging. I render my special thanks to all our young people, along with the teaching and non-teaching staff, who made the day a meaningful and joyous one.

My deepest gratitude to you, dear Sisters of the INM Province both in India and Sri Lanka, for your trust, confidence, openness, and eventually your availability for the mission as we begin a new chapter in the history of the presence of FMA in the INM province. I am looking forward to a joint venture of the provincial councillors, the team members, and the animators of the communities to accomplish the mission of God. Let us make our religious life and our apostolic presences generate quality of life; let us make our communities live and promote authentic synodal styles of life; and finally, let us make our mission bear witness to the Gospel values; and let all our presences become hubs, nurturing vocations.

I consider it a privilege and honour to accept the leadership of the INM Province during this significant moment of the 101st Year of its founding in India. I believe that with the collective wisdom of everyone, a common vision of mutual aspirations and a shared mission, and a determined, committed strategy, we will be able to faithfully and successfully lead the province to new levels of noteworthy progress. I believe that as a group of passionate, generous, joyous, and dedicated visionary disciples of Christ, we can faithfully and effectively take forward the choices and deliberations of GCXXIV. Through continued efforts, we shall achieve the goal and mission of our lives in the INM Province of Chennai by "bringing about positive changes within" and "creating innovative initiatives" for the integral well-being of all, for the next six years.

Our challenges are great, but the potential for meeting them does exist; hence, success is attainable. Let us all pledge to work together to meet these challenges. If we truly commit ourselves to such a pledge, history will show that we, in our day, met the demands that our times required of us. I count on your wholehearted collaboration and cooperation, which will be enormously helpful, and your support and commitment, which will be greatly valued in governing the province in the days ahead.

Dear Sisters, I am once again deeply honoured by the confidence you have placed in my ability to lead the province. I have only one wish: to serve to the best of my ability, for the integrity of life, loyalty to God, and remarkable service to all the people of God. I feel relaxed, though the weight of responsibility lays heavy on me because I feel that I will always be supported and sustained by your prayers.

COMMUNICATIONS

NEW PROVINCIAL TEAM

I am happy to announce the new team members of our province who will be animating the different sectors of our province. I thank them for their generosity in accepting this important mission with enthusiasm and commitment.

General Co-ordinator Formation	Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima Sr Susai Josephine Rani Sr Mathew J.Siriapushpam
Youth Pastoral	Sr Sebastian Elizabeth Sr Alexander Lilly Rose
Catechetics Academic Coordinator	Sr Tharcus Sagaya Mary Sr Alexander Amali Sr Irudayaraj Lourdumary
Educating Community	Sr Salas Silviya Sr Madalaimuthu Lidwin Mary
Social Communication Human Rights Education Young at Risk, Non Formal & Women Groups	Sr Lourdusamy Salomon Kalai Sr Joseph Victoria Sr Mahimainathan Sathiyavani Sr Alphonse Mary J. Isabella
Salesian Co-operators	Sr Joseph Jackulen Anthony Sr Fernando Amutha
Past Pupils VIDES	Sr Francis Jeyamani Sr Maria Louis Isabel Sirumalar Sr Maindan Jeya Priya
Mission Ad/Inter Gentes & Social Development ADMA	Sr Alphonse Mary J.Isabella Sr Varghese Mary Janet Sr Mathew Alice

The Provincial Councillors who will be guiding different areas of animation are:

Ongoing Formation	Sr Susai Josephine Rani
Initial Formation	Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima
Academic Coordination	Sr Christina Antonyraj
Youth Ministry	Sr Kanickaraj M.Tamizharasi
Social Communication & Educating Community	Sr Antonyraj Christina
Salesian Family	Sr Ambrose Arokia Jayaceli
Social Ministry	Sr Alphonse Mary J.Isabella

VIDES GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEET

Sr Mahimaidoss Jeya Sunitha, our student Sister in Rome, will attend the meeting of the Ordinary General Assembly of the Association VIDES on behalf of the Province Delegate from 29 June to 1 July 2023, at Bijgaarden, Belgium.

PROJECT JERUSALEM

Sr Lazar Maria Nirmala and Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi left for Jerusalem on 31 May to participate in Project Jerusalem from 1 June to 13 July 2023, organized by our Institute. We wish them an intense experience of the mystery of salvation, prayer, and reflection in the holy land.

CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH

04	Holy Trinity
05	World Environment Day
08	St Mariam Teresia Bl. Stephen Sandor SDB
11	Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

13	St Antony of Padua
16	Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
17	Immaculate Heart of Mary
23	St Joseph Cafasso
24	Nativity of John the Baptist
29	Sts Peter and Paul

ALL IN THE FAMILY

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

- ✚ Hearty congratulations to you, dear headmistresses, animators, Sisters, staff, and students of all our educational institutions, for the hard work you put in during the academic year 2022–23. It has produced excellent results, especially in Std. X, XI, and XII board examinations. I greatly appreciate all your dedicated services in the cause of the education of poor young people.
- ✚ We congratulate our four Sisters who made their final commitment on 24 May 2023, at Kodambakkam Fatima Church.

To Sr Majella Fernando, who was installed as the 2nd Provincial of Trichy Province on 26 May 2023, we bring our wishes and prayers for a fruitful mission of guiding the Sisters of the province in the style of Christ the Good Shepherd, following in the footsteps of Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello.

A WARM WELCOME!

We extend a warm welcome to our dear Sr Antonyraj Josephine, who returned to the Province on 31 May 2023, after the completion of the formation course at UPS, Rome. We are glad to welcome Sr Mahimaidoss Jeya Sunitha, who returns to the province after having completed the spirituality course at Madre Ersilia Canta, Rome. Welcome home, dear Sisters.

NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ Hearty thanks to Sr Chinnappan Mano Ranjitham, animator, and the community of Yercaud for the hospitality extended to the Sisters during the Annual Spiritual Retreat IV and Animation from 2 - 9 May 2023.
- ✚ Sincere thanks to Sr Mariadoss Amala Mary, animator of Auxilium Home, Katpadi for organizing the Vocation camp from 5 - 12 May 2023.
- ✚ Thanks to Sr Chinnappan Mano Ranjitham, animator, and the community of Yercaud for arranging the wedding of R Mary Ramya with Mr Arun Godwin, at Tanjore on 22 May 2023.
- ✚ Thanks a million to Sr Gaspar Celine, the animator, and the community of Fatima Convent Kodambakkam for hosting the provincial council on 11-12 May and the Junior Sisters summer course from 13 - 21 May, the animation and recollection of the Junior Sisters on 22 May, the renewal of vows of the Junior Sisters on 23 May, the final commitment of our four Sisters on 24 May, thanking the outgoing provincial and the installation of the new provincial on 25 May 2023.
- ✚ Our gratitude to Sr Fernando Mary Ann, the Delegate of Sri Lanka, for organizing the renewal of vows of Junior Sisters on 31 May 2023. Thanks for hosting the animators for their animation from 1 - 2 June 2023.
- ✚ Thanks to Sr Arockiasamy Rackel Mary, animator, and the community of Auxilium Negombo for hosting the Junior Sisters for the animation and for the renewal of the vows from 29 - 30 May 2023; the final commitment of our Sisters on 31 May 2023.

Thanks to Sr Kanikairaj Shermila for her six years of service rendered at the development office, rendering her best for vulnerable women, youth, and children. As she steps down, we wish her good luck and all success in her future endeavours.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

- ✓ Our Sisters, Sr Standly Andrew Mary Margaret and Sr Joseph S. Christina Jenifer, will attend the Basic Theological and Formative Course at Tindivanam from 20 June to 10 December 2023.
- ✓ Sr Anthony Dass Arockia Marial and Sr Immanuel Celcia will make their intense juniorate at Guwahati, while Sr Arulnesan Jenatnayaki and Sr. Emmanuel Camalin Riyalini will make their intense juniorate at Shillong.
- ✓ Sr Periyanyagam Sagaya Selvi and Sr Augustine Sagayarani will do their formation course and spirituality course, respectively, in Rome from July 2023 to July 2024.
- ✓ Sr Gnanapragasam Putti Mary will go to the Generalate in Rome, and from there she will be assigned to her new mission land.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

Our loving prayers and condolences to all those who lost their dear ones during May 2023:

- ✠ Sr Amala Samala at the demise of her brother, Mr Innaiya (82) on 13 May 2023
- ✠ Provincial and the Confreres of Chennai Province (INM) at the passing away of Fr Stanislaus Swaminathan SDB, on 17 May 2023

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY- JUNE 2023

- 03 † Sr Barberi Lina (1986) and Sr Bagyam Mary (2004)
- 05 † Sr Martina Francesca (1994)
- 07 † Sr Nadar Catherine (2000)
- 09 † Sr Correa Alice (1996)
- 11 † Sr Drago Maria (2008)
- 13 † Sr Balestra Teresa (1955)
- 15 † Sr Joseph Lumin Priscilla (2010)
- 20 † Sr Saturnina De Souza (2009)
- 21 † Sr Fernandes Evelina (1989)
- 25 † Sr Mc Guire Ada (1969)
- 27 † Sr Abramo Teresa (2017)
- 30 † Sr Fassa Cleofe (2001)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - JUNE 2023

- 03 Inauguration of Columbuthurai Community, Sri Lanka
- 05 World Environment Day, Local Communities
- 11 Team Meet along with Provincial Councillors, Kodambakkam
- 12 Provincial Council Meet, Kodambakkam
- 17 INM – INT Formators Meet, Kodambakkam
- 24 YP/SC/Catechet/VIDES/Mission ad Gentes Coordinators Meet, Aux. Home
- 30 Centenary Renewal Programme, online

01 July
02

Past Pupils Meet – Online/Auxilium Home, Katpadi
VIDES General Body Meeting St Mary's Vellore

On 16 June, the Friday after the Solemnity of Corpus Christi, Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. God's infinite love for us is revealed in the pierced heart of His Son. It is the symbol of love that conquers sin and transcends death. It is the symbol of the One who loved us to the end.

The Church was born from the pierced heart of Jesus on the cross. When the soldier thrust his lance into Jesus' side, immediately blood and water flowed out. St John Chrysostom says that water and blood symbolized baptism and the holy Eucharist. From these two sacraments, the Church is born: from baptism, the cleansing water that gives rebirth and renewal through the Holy Spirit, and from the holy Eucharist, the outstanding gift of the Heart of Jesus, the Heart that gives life to the Church and all of us, her members.

In prayer, we contemplate the pierced Heart of our Saviour and His unfathomable love. We reflect on the mercy, compassion, and love that God has bestowed upon us. We become enthralled by Christ, like St Paul, who prayed that Christ might dwell in the hearts of the Ephesian Christians through faith and that they might know the love of Christ, which surpasses all knowledge. When Christ dwells in our hearts and we know his love deeply in our minds and hearts, we are moved to live the great commandments of love of God and neighbour. In our lives and our mission in the church, let us place all our hope in the One who said "Come to me, all you who labour and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart" (Mt. 11:28 - 29). Jesus invites us to learn from his heart and to imitate his love, his meekness, and his humility. Let us turn to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by reciting often the invocation: "Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto thine."

On 17 June, we commemorate the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This feast refers to the interior life of Mary, mother of Jesus, her joys and sorrows, her virtues and hidden perfections, and, above all, her virginal love for God the Father, her maternal love for her son Jesus Christ, and her motherly and compassionate love for all humankind. Let us unite ourselves with the heart of Mary and assume her virtues to love God and Jesus better.

I wish you all a very Happy Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus!

Festal wishes to Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi, Sacred Heart Convent, Polur, Sacred Heart Novitiate, Negombo; and our Lady's Centre, Chetpet, which has the Immaculate Heart of Mary as the patroness!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Margaret L.S.G.

**Sr. Devadoss Margaret FMA
Provincial**



Itinerary of the Provincial June 2023

MAY

- 29 Arrival at Negombo, Sri Lanka
- 30 Juniors Recollection, Animation
- 31 Renewal of vows/ Provincial Visit to Negombo community

JUNE

- 01 Provincial Visit - Nochchiyagama
- 02 Provincial Visit - Eppawala
- 03 Provincial Visit - Columbuthurai - Inauguration of the New Community
Installation of new Animator
- 04 Provincial Visit - Urumpirai
- 05 Provincial Visit - Jaffna – Installation of New Animator
- 06 Provincial Visit - Omandai
- 07 Provincial Visit - Batticaloa
- 08 Provincial Visit - Colombo
- 09 Provincial Visit - Negombo Novitiate
- 10 Departure to Chennai
- 11 Blessing of Home for the Home for the Retired sisters Staff, Animators Meet,
Provincial Council and the Team Meet, ACK
- 12 Provincial Council, ACK
- 17 INM INT Formators Meet, Kodambakkam
- 18 Animation for FMM Provincials of India, Chennai
- 19 Provincial Visit - Chetpet
- 20 Provincial Visit - Mannivakkam
- 21 Provincial Visit - Vyasarpadi
- 22 Provincial Visit - Nandambakkam
- 23 Provincial Visit - Kodambakkam
- 24 YP/SC/Catechetical/VIDES/Mission ad Gentes Coordinators Meet, Aux.Home
- 30 Centenary Renewal Programme, online

JULY

- 01 Past Pupil's Meet
- 02 VIDES General Body Meet, Auxilium Home – Katpadi



