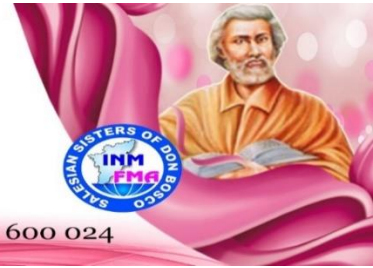




Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Salesiane di Don Bosco
S. Thomas the Apostles Province - INM
Madras - India



Provincial Circular 2023 - 2024

Mazzarello Convent, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600 024

INM FMA/Pro.Cir.3

August 2023

My Dearest Sisters,

Viva Gesu`!

Affectionate greetings to you from Kodambakkam!

I would like to reflect on the theme "**Holy Spirit: The Power of God's Presence**" for this month. The Holy Spirit sent by Jesus is the power of God's presence that dwells in us (Jn 15:26). He takes up residence in our hearts forever, sealing us with the confirming, certifying, and assuring pledge of our perpetual state as His children (Jn 14:16). Jesus gave the Spirit as "compensation" for His absence, to perform the functions toward us that He would have done if He had remained personally with us (Matt 28:20). In many ways, God communicates with us through the Holy Spirit, who is inside of us, and it is through the Holy Spirit that things are revealed and explained in both the physical and spiritual realms. To live a balanced, spirit-filled life and to get the correct guidance from God, we must endeavour to have the Holy Spirit as a sure presence of God and make our life and our mission permanent residences of Him (Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19 - 20; 12:13).

One way of being filled by the Holy Spirit as the power of *God's Presence* is described in the Bible as "*walking*" or "*living*" in the Spirit or "*being led*" or "*being accompanied*" by the Spirit. St. Paul says: "But I say, **walk by the Spirit**, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. But if you are **led by the Spirit**, you are not under the law." (Gal 5:16 - 18). At Baptism, the Holy Spirit came into our hearts to abide there. We are the headquarters for God here on this earth, and therefore we are the temples of God. Notice what St. Paul says to the Christians at Corinth: "Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?" (1 Cor 3:16). He doesn't say that we *ought* to be the temples of the Holy Spirit, but he says we *are* the temples of the Spirit of God. Let us then live a holy life consistent with the standards of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us.

The Holy Spirit, as the *Power of God's Presence* and the *source of our spiritual life* (Rom 8:9; Eph 5:18), empowers us at all times and works in us to make us more like Jesus. This can happen only if we allow the Holy Spirit to chip away at the old nature and replace it with the fruit or product of the Spirit's activity, beginning with love. The *fruits* of the Spirit (1 Cor.12:4-7), as the *character* of Christ formed in us, and the *gifts* of the Spirit (Gal 5:22 - 23), as powerful spiritual equipment developed in us, help us to carry out Christ's mission effectively.

In and through the power of the Holy Spirit, God has so "wired" each of us that each of us has talents, abilities, passions, and special spiritual empowerments to accomplish His mission on earth. The Spirit leads us to be Christ - centered, to cherish and practice the values of Christ in society. The Spirit equips us with the internal strength and courage to challenge every political or social structure that deprives a person of dignity and rights. Let us be the voice of the weak

and marginalized and work ceaselessly to promote peace in the world with the power of the Spirit. Let us discover the areas where we have the strongest spiritual gifts and concentrate our time and efforts there for the greatest effectiveness for Christ's kingdom.

Another way of being filled by the Holy Spirit as the *power of God's presence* is to align with God's will (Rom 8:26 - 27). The Holy Spirit, as the conduit of life from God into our hearts, controls our thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions as we follow his leading into the abundant life that Jesus promised (Jn 10:10). He not only enables us to pray to discern God's plan but also guides us from within in prayer; he is present in our prayer and gives it a divine dimension. Prayer through the power of the Holy Spirit empowers us with the spiritual gifts in the Body of Christ (1 Cor 12:7 - 11) to equip us for ministry (1 Cor 2:10 - 11; 12:11; Acts 4:5 - 12). The Holy Spirit's leading, teaching, gifting, and proclaiming is proof that we belong to God forever (Eph 1:13 - 14) and that we are in alignment with His designs.

"To *be* 'in the Spirit' is to *be* in God, for the Spirit is not external but internal to the Godhead," says Torrance. The whole process of becoming an authentic Christian and a credible Salesian Religious Sister is really a marvellous work of the Holy Spirit. In the Person of the Holy Spirit, whom Jesus sent, we are transformed and united to God, and we partake of the life that is God's. Everyone who has sincerely opened the door of their heart to Christ has been regenerated, baptized, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Eph 5:18). Let us realize that the Holy Spirit is God living inside of us, filling us, and calling us to be Christ's witnesses here and now.

Finally, for effective and efficient guidance in all areas of our lives and mission in this present world, we need the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit. With the presence of the Holy Spirit, God speaks through the Word of God to us, and transports the Word to our hearts. He will direct our steps through all the complicated paths of life (Rom 8:9, 11). Let us allow the Holy Spirit and the power of God's presence to renew, sanctify, and make us holy (Rom 8:10-11); to have a personal and intimate relationship with God; to strengthen our walk with God; to boost our faith; and to make our mission effective. Let the Holy Spirit empower us to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ (Acts 1:8). Let the knowledge that the Holy Spirit of God has taken up residence in our lives and that He performs all the miraculous functions in and through us in our mission be the cause of great joy and comfort.

CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH – AUGUST 2023

- 02 - Bl Augustus Czartoryski SDB
- 04 - St John Maria Vianney
- 05 - Foundation Day of FMA Institute / Our Lady of Snow
- 06 - Transfiguration of the Lord
- 15 - Assumption of Mother Mary / Independence Day
- 16 - Birthday of Johnny Bosco
- 22 - Queenship of Mary
- 24 - St Bartholomew
- 25 - Bl Maria Troncati
- 26 - Bl Zeferino Namuncura
- 29 - Beheading of St John the Baptist

ALL IN THE FAMILY

POSTULANTS' MEDAL RECEIVING

Aspirants and Postulants made their annual retreat from 21 - 23 July 2023 at Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi. Fr. Theophil Anand SDB from Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur was the Retreat Preacher. On 24 July, the Postulants: Micheal Infancia, Velankanni Amalraj Leema Jenifer, Lawrence Mary Sujatha, Suresh Chandhar Paul Nancy, Vinoth Kumar Nagomi, of INM Province and Maria Louis Maria Yasmin and Arockiasamy Reyasna Mercily from INT received their Medal. The Aspirants, John David Asha Mary, Abel Lourdu Mary, Rajesh Srinithi, Tharsius Raja Auxilia, Tharsius Ramya of INM, James Asin Kilba, Charels Jasmin Jaya, Jonas Jenova Teresa, Subbiah Shenbaga Mallika, Valanarasu Swetha Jenifer of INT, were initiated officially into the Aspirantate. The Sisters from three communities residing in the campus and the girls of apostolic School from Auxilium Home and some hostel girls from Auxilium College, Sisters and girls from St Mary's who show signs of vocation participated and prayed for the Candidates. Sincere thanks to Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima, the Animator of Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi, and the Community for their hard work and involvement.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS!

- ✚ The first session of the **XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops** will be held in the Vatican from 4 to 29 October 2023. **Sr Yvonne Reungoat**, Mother General emeritus of the FMA Institute, is on the list of participants among the experts and facilitators. We express our joy and congratulate our beloved Sr Yvonne Reungoat for this great gift which Pope Francis gives us.
- ✚ Hearty congratulations to our dear Junior Sisters: Sr Anthonipillai Perera Arul Malar, Sr Anton Bernard Liyana, Sr Christopher Dionit Nilojana, Sr David Anushiya, Sr Nechilan Maria Nisobana, Sr Rathnayaka Madushika Sewwandi and Sr Santhiyogu Verginiya who will be making their Renewal of Vows on 4 August 2023. I thank all the community Animators who accompanied these our Young Sisters in their Vocational growth. Let us support them constantly in their vocational maturity.
- ✚ Congratulations to the II Year Novices: Fernando Nilmini, James Conar Krishmina, Vasthiyampillai Sulaxana who will be making their First Profession on 5 August 2023 at Negombo, Sri Lanka. Sincere thanks to the Novice Formator, Sr Mathew Siriapushpam, for her tireless service and accompaniment for the past two years in the formative journey of the Novices. I am indebted to thank Sr Mary Ann, the Delegate of Sri Lanka, for making all the arrangements necessary for the annual retreat of the Novices and the First Profession.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

- **Training in Media & Film Making** will be in Goa from 6 - 26 August 2023 and Sr Lourdusamy Salomon Kalai, Sr Anthony Cruz Mathalene Mary and Sr Savari Fatima will be attending.
- **NDF Meeting** will be held in Kolkota from 15 - 18 August 2023. Sr Alphonse J. Isabella, Sr Mahimainathan Sathiyavani and Sr Amirthanathan Preethi will be participating.

- **Barefoot Counselling Course**, organized by SDBs of INM and INT (a joint venture), will be held at Ennore from 18 - 20 August 2023. The following Sisters will be the participants: Sr Cherayath Annarani, Sr Sebastian Amalorpava Mary, Sr Mariapragasam Reetha, Sr Salas Silviya, Sr Anthonysamy Arul Pragasamary, Sr Chinnapan Rosemary, Sr Anthonysamy Jacintha, Sr Anthony Sheeba, Sr Madalaimuthu Lidwin Mary, Sr Arockiasamy Felix.

XXXVII WORLD YOUTH DAY will take place at Lisbon, Portugal, from 1 to 6 of August 2023. The youth from all over the world will be taking part. From our Province Sr Elizabeth Sebastian, the Youth Pastoral Coordinator with youth representatives Ms Princy Thiruvalluvar, Ms Helen Infant, Ms Dency Infensiya will be taking part in the event. They will go on 31 July and return on 12 August. We wish them a very happy and enriching experience!

SABATICAL RENEWAL EXPERIENCE: Sr Lazar Nirmala will be participating in the Renewal course at Phillippines from 4 August to 1 December 2023. We wish her a very fruitful and holistic experience in an Asian cross-cultural ecclesial context.

ANNUAL RETREAT FOR SISTRS (SL)

Sisters Annual Retreat will be held at Negombo, Sri Lanka from 6 to 13 August 2023.

ENTRY INTO THE NOVITIATE

Hearty congratulations to our two postulants Fernando W. Shashini Piumika and Fernando W. Ann Nimesha Dulanjalee who will be entering the Sacred Heart Novitiate, Negombo, Sri Lanka on 5 August 2023. We wish them a deeper experience of Jesus in their formative journey.

GOLDEN JUBILEE

On 26 August 2023 we are celebrating with joy the Golden Jubilee of the Religious Profession of Sr Malapati Fatima Mary and Sr Puthupallil Annisa, in St. Mary's, Vellore. We thank the Lord for their committed religious life and missionary ardour and assure them of our prayers and wish them a fruitful mission in their onward journey.

CONCLUDING CENTENERY CELEBRATIONS AT SHILLONG:

The following Sisters and Youth representatives will participate in the celebrations which will be held at Shillong from 9 - 10 September 2023.

Commission Heads: Sr Anthonyraj Christina, Sr Alexander Amali, Sr Victor Juliana, Sr Yetukuri Alphonsa Mary along with **our Sisters Representatives:** Sr Gomes Dorothy, Sr Elizabeth Sebastian, Sr Nirmala Muddiappan, Sr Angela Issac, Sr Rayappan Selvi, Sr Vedanayagam Usha Catherine Viji, Sr Packiyathan Rita, Sr Periyayagam Auxilia, Sr Rajendran Selvarani, Sr Arockiasamy Celine Mary.

Youth Representatives: Auxilium Arts & Science College: Ms Kiara Gabriella, Ms Yamini, Ms Vetriselvi; Auxilium College of Education: Ms Maria Merline, Ms Shiny Sneha Bliss; Fatima Mat. Hr. Sec. School, Kodambakkam: Ms Smriti Michael, Ms Shania, Ms Sonali Thilaga Shri; Auxilium Hr. Sec. School, Katpadi: Ms Ashmathi Jerusha, Ms Susan Mary Agnes; Mazzarello Home, Tirupattur: Ms Celine Maria Josephine, Ms. Reni J.

NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ Sincere Thanks to Sr Pichai Mary Saroja and the Community for accompanying the Postulants during their Ashram Experience from 25 June to 5 July 2023 at Mannivakkam.
- ✚ I thank Sr Samala Elisa and the Community of Mary Immaculate, Tirupattur, and Sr Kanickaraj Tamizharasi and the Community of Arni for welcoming the II Year Novices to have their Apostolic & Community Experience from 15 July to 5 August 2023.
- ✚ A word of appreciation to Sr Gaspar Celine, the Animator and the Community of Auxilium Home, Katpadi for hosting the Past Pupil's Meet on 1 July 2023. I thank Sr Francis Jeyamani, the Delegate of Past Pupils, Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima, the General Coordinator, Sr Joseph Jackulen Anthony, in charge of Salesian Family and Sr Ambrose Jayaceli, the Councillor in charge of Salesian Family for organizing it and conducting the elections.
- ✚ Sincere thanks to Sr Rathinasamy Regina and the Community of St Mary's Vellore for hosting the VIDES General Body Meet on 2 July 2023. Thanks to Sr Maria Louis Isabel Sirumalar for the coordination of the event.
- ✚ Thanks to Sr Sebastian Elizabeth for hosting and conducting the SPM Training Programme at Mazzarello Home from 3 to 6 July 2023.
- ✚ I am grateful to Sr Antony Raj Christina and the community of Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam for hosting the New Animators Meet from 04 - 05 July 2023 and that of the New Economers from 6 - 7 July 2023. I thank Sr Susai Josephine Rani and Sr Kunnathu Anna for their meticulous planning and hard work.
- ✚ I am grateful to Sr Gaspar Celine, the Animator, and the Community of Auxilium Home, Katpadi for hosting the HR Animation for the students on 14 July 2023. Thanks to Sr Gabriel Mariammal, Sr Savari Fathima and Sr Joseph Victoria.
- ✚ My gratitude goes to Sr Amali Alexander & Sr Joseph Victoria, the academic coordinators of the Province, for organising the meeting of the Heads of the Schools and Colleges. Thanks to Sr Antony Raj Christina for her involvement and I thank Sr Anthony Raj Mary Josephine and the community of Auxilium College, Katpadi for hosting the meeting.
- ✚ Sincere thanks to Sr Mahimainathan Sathiyavani for coordinating the YaR Meeting for the Boarding Mistress on 8 July 2023 at Thoraipakkam. Thanks to Sr Chinnappan Mano Ranjitham and the Community of Thoraipakkam for hosting the meeting.
- ✚ I thank Sr Lourdusamy Salomon Kalai for organizing the Media Education for the students of Chennai Zone at Chetpet. Thanks also to Sr Susai Raj Mary Sheila, the Animator, and the Sisters of the community for hosting the meeting.
- ✚ A word of appreciation to Sr Alphonse Mary J. Isabella for organizing the Seminar on Women Protection from Partner Violence, held on 29 July 2023 at Kodambakkam.
- ✚ Thanks to Sr Antony Raj Christina and the community of Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam for hosting the meeting of the Juniors of INM and INT as well as Junior student Sisters of INK, INS, ING Provinces, for their Trimonthly Recollection & Animation from 29 - 30 July 2023, at Kodambakkam. I thank Fr Emmanuel Maddichetty sdb, Principal of Theologate at Kavarapetai who preached the recollection on 29 July 2023.
- ✚ My gratitude goes to Sr Alphonse Mary J. Isabella for organizing the Webinar on the theme: Trafficking of Youth - A Modern Slavery, on 31 July 2023.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY- AUGUST

- 04 †Sr Angeleri Maria (1967)
06 †Sr Xavier Anna (2005)
08 †Sr Spitalieri Carmela (1938)
09 †Sr Arockia Maria Teresa (2021)
10 †Sr Da Roit Cecilia (1981)
11 †Sr Soosai Maria Teresa (2019)
13 †Sr Silviya Fernandes (2009)
15 †Sr Ravalico Maria (1980)
19 †Sr D’Couth Margaret (2007)
20 †Sr James Gloria Rita (2019)
23 †Sr D’Souza Celine (2013)
26 †Sr Tagliabue Camila (2004)
†Sr Vaz Mary (2016)
27 †Sr D’Silva Lorenza (2019)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – AUGUST 2023

- 01 - 06 - World Youth Day at Lisbon, Portugal
04 - Media Animation, St Mary’s Vellore
05 - First Profession, Negombo, Sri Lanka, Institute’s Foundation Day
06 - 13 - Sisters Retreat, Negombo, Sri Lanka
12 - Trimonthly Recollection for Seniors, Sacred Heart Home and Chetpet
13 - Salesian Cooperators Initial Formation - Aspirants, Vellore Zone
- Trimonthly Recollection for Seniors, Tirupattur, Salem, Omanthai
13 - 14 - Provincial Council, Mazzarello Convent, Kodambakkam
19 - Clean and Green Environment, HRDC, Kodambakkam
- Catechetical Animation, Auxilium College, Katpadi
21 - SPM, Mazzarello Home, Tirupattur
26 - Golden Jubilee, St Mary’s, Vellore
- Animators Meet, St Mary’s, Vellore
27 - Salesian Cooperators Initial Formation - Aspirants, Chennai Zone
- September**
- 09 - 10 - Centenary Celebration - Youth Convention, Shillong

On 15 August we celebrate the 77th Independence Day of our country. India is the world's largest democracy and accounts for a huge human population with more than 65% below the age of 35; a valuable human resource to be harnessed for growth. On this day, we celebrate our freedom won by the sacrifice of our Patriots and commemorate that historical event with great pride and enthusiasm. Freedom is the most prized of all the blessings and we thank God for it. Freedom is the responsibility to live with a purpose for which God made us. Human beings are made in the image of God; to be like Him and reflect His goodness and holiness. Freedom is doing what is right and good, true and honourable, honest and just which brings the inner joy of the spirit. Freedom is not to damage others but to seek the good of others in love. We pray that all the citizens may enjoy peace and freedom, especially we pray for those who suffer in Manipur.

On this day we also celebrate the feast of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a sign of sure hope and comfort to us, the pilgrim people. We believe that when she died, Mary went to heaven body and soul, where the Lord exalted her as Queen of Heaven. May Mary assumed into heaven make us realize the beauty of heaven and help us to love Jesus above all things and manifest it with concrete deeds.

We express our warm festal wishes to Sr Fernando Majella, the Provincial and all the Sisters of Trichy Province on 5 August, the feast of Our Lady of Snow, the Patroness of the Province.

Hearty congratulations and prayerful blessings to the novices who will be making their first profession, the Sisters who will be renewing their vows and making their Final Commitment, and to those who keep the anniversary of their first and final commitment on 5 August!

I wish you all a very Happy 151 Birthday of our Congregation, Feast of Our Lady assumed into heaven and Independence Day!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Margaret L.S.G.

Sr. Devadoss Margaret FMA
Provincial



Itinerary of the Provincial August 2023

- 01 Tue Journey to Sri Lanka (Retreat for Novices - SL)
- 05 Sat First Profession (SL), Foundation Day
- 06 - 13 Sun - Sun Sisters Retreat (SL), Journey to Chennai
- 13 - 14 Sun - Mon Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
- 15 - 25 Tue Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
- 26 Sat Golden Jubilee, St Mary's, Vellore
Animators Meet, St Mary's, Vellore
- 27 Sun Provincial Council Visit to St Joseph's, Arni
- 28 - 31 Mon - Thu Provincial Office, Kodambakkam

