



FMA - CHENNAI

VIBRATIONS

JUNE - SEPTEMBER 2023

WE CELEBRATE



SR.MALAPATI FATIMA MARY

WE CHERISH



SR.PUTHUPALLIL ANNISA

YOU ARE A BLESSING



WE THANK YOU



PROVINCE NEWSLETTER
VIBRATIONS

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Editorial



TOWARDS SYNODALITY...

We are all well aware that the Church is marching ahead eagerly with Christ towards the new horizons - Synodality, like the three disciples walking with Jesus towards Mount Tabor, to witness the glory of Transfiguration. The Church strives to acquire the gaze and the attitude of Jesus to respond to the pre-existing and newly emerging tensions in the Church and the world.

The 364 participants in the Synod at Rome are bid to question, dialogue, discern and address many challenges the world is facing today. To set them on a track of faith, Fr. Timothy Peter Joseph Radcliffe led them into three days of retreat. It would be very useful to share some of the insights from the meditations he preached to the participants, which are indispensable elements for the building of a more Synodal lifestyle. They were given an in-detail reflection on Hoping against Hope; At home in God and God at home in us; Friendship; Conversation on the way to Emmaus; Authority and the Spirit of Truth.

In a world battered with challenges of various kinds, we need to have a strong realization that God is at home with us! With all of us! As He was at home 2000 years ago in a world facing the constraints of its era, we are supposed to be at home with God! Just as each one of us manifest ourselves as we are when at home, so also, we are to manifest ourselves to Jesus so that we may relish His divine friendship and in conversation with Him may allow our hearts to burn like the disciples of Emmaus. In this conversation with Him that challenges us, we also need to realize the authority with which he invites us, to go beyond our boundaries, accept differences and leap into the experience of the other person to see with their eyes and hear with their ears! We need to get inside their skin, because difference is fertile and generative. Each profound friendship brings into existence a dimension of our life - an identity that has never existed before.

Hence, whatever the circumstances and the differences may be, let us allow Jesus to make his home in us and feel at home with Him so that we may welcome differences with Hope! Not a worldly hope, but a Eucharistic Hope!

Eucharistic Hope, because we see that, at the last supper there seemed to be no future. All that lay ahead apparently was failure, suffering and death. And in this darkest moment, Jesus made the most hopeful gesture in the history of the world by breaking himself in the form of bread and wine. This is the hope that calls us beyond all divisions. When this hope is robust, we will let ourselves be guided by the Spirit of truth. It will sometime be painful. But we shall be led a little deeper into the mystery of divine love and we shall know the joy of the Lord, which we had not known before! So let us....

“Welcome Differences! Welcome Christ! Welcome Synodality!

Sr Santhiagu Mary Theresa FMA

Sr Anthony Cruz Mathalen Mary FMA

With Mary's Presence that

Generates Life

VOCATION SERIES

It was when I was at the end of my Class III and one day, I saw my mother talking to a Sister who had come to our village to conduct a retreat. I happened to be playing there and the Sister asked me "Are you going to get married or become a Sister?" I did not reply, but it struck me so much to hear the word 'marriage', from a Sister's mouth as I then considered that word as an unholy word. Then and there I decided to become a sister. This is how my vocation germinated.

I completed my Form III from my Parish's St Antony's Middle School. I knew that to become a Sister, I had to study further and move out of my village. On expressing my desire to continue my studies my eldest brother posed an obstacle saying that my education was sufficient as he was almost the ruler of the family. I pleaded with my second brother who had by then completed his Teacher's Training Course and also with my brothers-in-law with tears because I knew that I should study further to become a sister.



I finally managed to get permission and joined St Philomena's Girls' High School, Trichy where a girl from my village was pursuing her Teacher Training Course and she helped me to get admitted. There I got a lot of chances to nurture my vocation. I was asked by the boarding Sister to become a pre-aspirant, but I refused as I wasn't willing to join them.

After passing out Form VI (SSLC) with my consent, my priest brother sent me to St Mary's College, Tuticorin. Neither of us spoke about it to my eldest brother. But, when I was in the III year, the same brother resumed his opposition together with my second brother. Whenever I went home for holidays it was almost a torture. I made it known to my priest brother that I would stop my studies and join the convent. He enlightened me on how necessary it would be to complete the studies adding that I will have a better understanding of the rules and regulations of the congregation. I took courage and obeyed him.

After completing my B.A., our parish priest offered me a teacher's job in the Sacred Heart High School, to teach my village girls. During my free hours, I used to draw some pictures from magazines, especially

next home. I had no special friends as the Salesian Sisters were my guides in everything. My catechism teacher was Sr Mary Magdalene Perez who was a postulant. Sr Nancy Pereira, Sr Mary Vaz and Sr Helen Fernandez were following me closely. Mother Cesira and Sr Consiglia were real mothers to me!

When I was 11 years old, I had typhoid, which took me almost to death's door and it was because of the prayers of Mother Cesira who had asked God to give me life so that I would be His forever and I survived miraculously! After my SSLC, I went to Auxilium College to do my intermediate. I did my B.A. at Holy Cross College, Trichy. There I missed the homely atmosphere which I experienced while I was with the Salesian Sisters in Mary Immaculate at Tirupattur and Auxilium College in Katpadi. This longing made me discover and nurture my vocation.

I owe my vocation to my eldest sister. It was she who wanted to become a Sister but as she was a cardiac and asthmatic patient she was not permitted. She prayed for me and instilled in me the desire to follow Jesus. Her life of suffering was a source of inspiration for me. She offered her life for my vocation. She was holy! I enjoyed my eldest sister's prayer life and she taught me to be prayerful. We lost her when she was 33. I didn't have to face any difficulties in joining the convent. Both the Salesian Sisters and my family helped me to follow my vocation.

I didn't understand my vocation much during my aspirantate and postulancy but enjoyed my novitiate. I love my novitiate because of the guidance of my Mother Mistress Sr Virginia Marchetti. She helped me to deepen my faith life. She was firm but kind and oriented me to live a life of faith in all life's situations. Hence, all the inputs offered in the novitiate strengthened my vocation.

About my spiritual thirst, I still feel the importance of daily mass and desire to seek the sacrament of reconciliation that renews my life. It was because at home and in school I received a strong foundation for my sacramental life. Our Lady's devotion was always maintained in my family. Our Lady is a real mother to me! Devotion to Mary Help of Christians is very much dear to my heart. Wherever there is trouble I say the prayer of Don Bosco: "Oh! Mary! Most powerful Virgin...", I always think of Mary Help of Christians and feel her presence closer to me.

Sr Arul Josephine



MIRACLE

From 2000 onwards I had an indigestion problem and lost the ability to eat normally and this led to a change in my diet. The animators in various communities understood my inability to take a normal diet and gave me the freedom to take what agreed with my body. Assuming the discomfort in the upper abdomen to be a gastric problem I drank hot water to get some relief. In all my ailments I always clung to God and Mother Mary. I invoked the mercy of God by my constant short prayers.



These short prayers, the daily rosary and reflection on the Word of God helped me to carry out my daily responsibilities with an average health. On 8 March 2023, I fell ill and sought medical attention promptly for an accurate diagnosis and appropriate treatment. Analyzing my hemoglobin count to be very low, the doctors suggested finding donors for immediate blood infusions after which they proceeded to take an abdominal ultrasound scan and detected a big lump in the stomach which had burst.

Surgical removal of part of the intestine was necessary to manage the condition and prevent further complications. Subsequently, 70% of the affected portion was removed to preserve the healthy tissues. The operation was successful and doctors were taken up by my willpower. Within me, I had a great struggle in accepting my health condition and was not able to pray as before. As days went by, I realized the mighty hand of God in giving me new life. Now I wonder at my good health and witness to God’s miraculous way of leading each one of us. I can pray with love and try always to unite myself with a triune God. I strongly believe that Jesus can do marvellous things! He never leaves us in our pains and struggles!

I request you, dear Sisters, to be faithful to your prayers, reading the Word of God, invoking God through short prayers and making sacrifices. Then each one of us can be a living monument of God and Mary every moment of our life.

Sr Sebastian Philomena S.



FIRST PROFESSION

“This is the day the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.” (Ps 118: 24)

On **5 August 2023**, the day of the first profession of the three Novices, Sr Fernando Nilmini, Sr James Conar Krishmina and Sr Vasthiyampillai Sulaixana joy pervaded the atmosphere in Sacred Heart Novitiate, Negombo. The concelebrated Eucharist at 10.30 a.m. was presided by Fr Roshan Miranda the Provincial of Sri Lanka and many other priests. The parents of the newly professed and many other religious were present for the event to implore God’s blessings on them. The Novice Formator, Sr Siriapushpam accompanied the novices to be professed along with their parents to the altar. Sr Devadoss Margaret the Provincial adorned them with a brooch.



The celebrant gave an enriching homily quoting the Church documents and encouraging them to live their evangelical vows happily as per their theme “to be rooted in Christ and find happiness in Him alone”. After the homily during the significant rite of the profession, the three novices made their first profession of religious vows in the hands of Sr Devadoss Margaret with great fervour and zeal. It was a wonderful moment of prayer and grace as each of them received the constitutions and the crucifix from the hands of the provincial who accepted them as members of the Institute in the name of Mother General and as a sign of welcome gave them the lighted lamps while the congregation appreciated them with applause.

With joy and love bubbling in their hearts, the newly professed sang their theme song: “In Christ alone”. During the post-communion, the newly professed thanked the Almighty and all who had played a vital role in their formative journey. After the Mass, the cake was cut which was followed by the festal song and felicitations. The celebration concluded in a fraternal table fellowship, filled with joy, happiness and good cheer, while the joy of belonging to Christ continued to penetrate their hearts.

Sr Fernando Nilmini & Sr James Conar Kirshmina



GOLDEN JUBILEE OF THE RELIGIOUS PROFESSION

The golden bells at St Mary's Vellore chimed with melody on **26 August 2023** beckoning the entire province to join in and celebrate the Golden Years of the religious profession of Sr Puthupallil Annisa and Sr Malapati Fatima as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. There was great joy and excitement in the campus as it was slowly getting filled with the provincial Sr Margaret and her councillors, Sisters and superiors from all the communities, family members and relatives of the Golden Jubilarians, pupils, past pupils, teachers, and members of the Salesian family, friends, benefactors and well-wishers. A note of gratitude to God seemed to emanate from everything on the campus for the marvels he has done in the



lives of our dear Sisters Annisa and Fatima and for the dedicated fidelity with which they responded to God's call of love.

The music of St Mary's band accompanied the celebrities along with all the guests of honour to the dais for the felicitation program. The welcome address by Sr Anthony Raj Christina, Vice Provincial was

followed by the lively jubilee song rendered by the Auxilium higher secondary school, Katpadi. The fantastic choreography by St Mary's was a glowing tribute to the Golden Jubilarians bringing to light their joyful life of fidelity to God and His people. St Mary's Elementary School expressed gratitude with a lively western dance. The event's highlight was the holy Eucharist presided by Msgr I. John Robert, the Apostolic Administrator of Vellore Diocese who appreciated the committed religious life of the Jubilarians and spoke to the faithful on God's precious gift of religious call. The mass was followed by a fellowship meal.



SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF VIDES

Twenty-five years of commitment and service by the VIDES members of the province was celebrated on **24 September 2023**. Silver Jubilee of the Foundation of VIDES in the Province of St Thomas, the Apostle is indeed a milestone and was fittingly remembered with significant jubilation. The VIDES members joyfully gathered in the Auxilium College to celebrate the event. The day began with a thanksgiving morning prayer and a solemn Eucharistic Sacrifice at 8.45 a.m. The presence of Sr Mary Ann Fernando,



the Delegate of Sri Lanka, was a pleasant surprise to all. Her presence brought additional joy to the event for it was she who with great zeal was instrumental and the force behind giving birth to VIDES in the province twenty-five years ago. She had brought the big silver jubilee cake from Sri Lanka prepared lovingly by our Sisters. After the joyful moments of cutting, greetings and sharing of the cake, everyone assembled for the photo session. The

second session was initiated at 10.30 a.m., with an all-faith prayer. The VIDES President of INM Province Mr Silambarasan welcomed the chief guests and the gathering. The special guests were honoured with Silver Jubilee mementoes.



Sr Devadoss Margaret, the Provincial, in her Silver Jubilee address, appreciated the VIDES volunteers and motivated them to go ahead in forming and transforming the society as proactive leaders who sow the values of Christ at all levels. Then came the long-awaited moment to listen to Sr Mary Ann the pioneer of VIDES in INM. As she stepped forward, the auditorium echoed with the sound of thunderous claps. She shared her pioneering journey with VIDES which manifested her joyful experiences, struggle of the initial stages and the growth it has attained.



The program continued with the distribution of educational aid to 25 deserving students pursuing their higher education. After the lunch break, there followed an array of cultural items performed with elegance. VIDES province-level coordinators of the past and the long-standing VIDES coordinators were felicitated. An awareness dance by the College students was followed by the theme presentation of the VIDES' journey in the

province. We concluded the program with prayer and vote of thanks. A sapling was given to all the participants as VIDES Silver Jubilee Souvenir and everyone left with grateful hearts for the wonders done through 25 years.



Mary
joins us,
she fights
at our side.
She supports
Christians
in the fight
against
the forces
of evil...
through
the Rosary.



Pope Francis



MEETINGS & ANIMATIONS

43rd VIDES GENERAL BODY MEET

The 43rd VIDES General Body Meet was held on **2 July 2023** in St Mary's Vellore Mr Gananamoorthy, the President introduced the chief speaker of the day, Fr Sagayaraj SDB, who broadened our outlook regarding self-image, formation of attitudes, encountering life with optimism, types of leadership and its demands. The members evaluated VIDES activities and conveyed their opinions regarding their collaboration. After the lunch break Sr Rathinaswamy Regina Mary, the animator gave an inspiring talk on the goal of the association and the self-formation of the VIDES members.



Sr Maria Louis Isabel Sirumalar

SETTING CONTEXT AND WAY FORWARD

To respond wisely to contemporary society, one-day workshop was held in ARUWYE, Kodambakkam on **7 July 2023** for twenty Sisters working in the field of Social Ministry. After a short prayer moment and words of welcome to Sr Devadoss Margaret, the Provincial, Sr Anthony Raj Christina Vice-Provincial and Fr Selvin SJ the resource person the program commenced. Sr Margaret spoke on social work and the attributes of a social worker, correlating them with Jesus' ministry and portraying it as the model for outreach activities and emphasising it by citing examples from the scripture. The session resumed with a short reflection on the VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous) situation of our country and the world followed by a group discussion. The post-lunch session was a reflection on the challenges faced by the community and its response regarding the social ministry. Based on the key points that



emerged, concrete decisions were arrived at both individually and as a community to reach out to society. Sr Susai Josephine Rani, Province Secretary concluded the session with her encouraging words.

Sr Alphonse Mary Josephine Isabella

YAR LEADERS MEET

“History will judge us by the difference we make in the everyday lives of children”- Nelson Mandela.

Sr Mahimainadhan Sathiyavani, Coordinator of YAR organized YAR local coordinators and the boarding mistress’ meeting at Thoraipakkam on **7 July 2023** for 14 Sisters. The purpose of the meeting was twofold: to prepare the young minds to get involved in civil service



and to empower the vulnerable sections of society by ensuring their rights. After an intense prayer moment, Sr Sathiya welcomed the chief guest Mr Shanmuga Sundar, Sr Alphonse Mary J. Isabella, the councilor for social ministry and Sr Chinnappan Mano ranjitham, the animator of the community. Sr Mano delivered the keynote speech in which she appreciated the young Sisters for their zeal and enthusiasm in helping the children. Sr Isabella gave an introductory talk on Pope Francis’ message to the members of GCXXIV: to become generative communities and women of hope. The chief guest Mr Shanmuga Sundar, the Founder of Sirpugal IAS Academy & Uthirathin Uthavigal Charitable Trust,



spoke on the greater potency of one’s actions over one’s words and the five things to practice with the young and children in the process of accompaniment. He appreciated the Sisters for their enormous work in uplifting the society and educating the young. In the afternoon we shared about our work among the children and prepared the plan and project in two groups. With a vote of thanks, prayer and a hymn to our Blessed Mother we concluded the meeting.

Sr Mahimainadhan Sathiyavani

INM FMA PAST PUPILS FEDERATION MEET

The past pupils of the INM-FMA Federation, 76 of them from 11 units rejoiced to celebrate their Salesian identity and reunion with the Salesian Sisters on **1 July 2023** through the Past Pupils’ meet at Auxilium HSS, Katpadi. The Provincial Councilor for Salesian Family, Sr Ambrose Jayaceli and Province General Coordinator Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima were the chief guests of the day. Fr Maria Louis SDB the Rector and Parish Priest, Don Bosco, Ayanavaram, Chennai was the resource person.

The meeting began with a prayer service, welcome address and honouring the resource person Fr Louis. The new past pupils' delegates of the Province Sr Francis Jeyamani and Sr Xavier Wency were introduced by Sr Ambrose Jayaceli. She conveyed the wishes and blessings of the Provincial Sr Devadoss Margaret and gave an inspirational talk on the "Synodal journey of walking together" and stressed on the aspect participating together in the common mission of the Salesian Family.



All the participants observed a minute of silence in memory of the victims of Manipur violence. During the second session, Fr Louis shared his enriching experience as a past pupil of Don Bosco School and expressed the role of the Alma Mater in imparting him with the attitude of service. He did speak about communion, participation and mission - the three vital aspects of a Synodal living.

The third session was a group discussion on means of strengthening the federation; a year plan for outreach activities and ways to live Rector Major's Strenna. The report of the group discussions held unit-wise was presented to the province delegates. The last session was the much-awaited election of the Provincial level Office Bearers for 2023-2024. Ms. Shri Shruthi was elected as the President of Past Pupils Federation INM. After the election, with a group photo, sumptuous meal and note of gratitude we drew the curtain of the grand Past Pupils' meet.

Sr Francis Jeyamani

HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION MEET

VELLORE ZONE: HRE meet for 91 participants of Vellore Zone was held at St Mary's Vellore on **14 July 2023**. Sr Rathinaswamy Regina Mary gave the introductory talk on the 41st Session of "Universal Periodic Review". Sr Joseph Victoria Mary explained the articles of UDHR and presented the updated CRE modules I and II and the means to implement them in the non-formal educational sectors. Mr Francis Xavier, the monitoring and evaluation officer from SURABI, Chennai, enlightened the participants on "Anti - Human Trafficking" with authenticated data. The group discussion centred on creating awareness of the practice of UDHR and the action plan for the Human Rights Club. At the end of the program, posters were distributed for display on the school notice boards.



Sr Joseph Victoria Mary

CHENNAI ZONE: The zonal level Human Rights Education (HRE) Meet was held at Chetpet, Chennai on **22 July 2023** organized by Sr Savari Fatima and Sr Gabriel Mariammal the HRE Coordinators. The 58 participants comprised of Sisters, teachers and students. The event began with a short prayer followed by felicitations to the dignitaries. Sr Anthony Raj Christina the Vice Provincial set the tone for the meeting with her keynote address on human freedom. Sr Gabriel Mariammal highlighted the significance of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). Sr Alphonse Mary J Isabella, the Provincial Councilor for Social Ministry, guided the session on human trafficking. Sr Fatima presented the report of the activities of the year 2022-2023 and explained the Constitutional Rights Education (CRE) module I and II syllabus for classes VI-IX. She put forth a few recommendations regarding the Human Rights Education classes and Vaan Muhil Trust Tirunelveli. This was followed by group discussion, presentation of the report and discussion on local and province level action plans.



Sr Gabriel Mariammal

REPORT ON MASS MEDIA

CHENNAI ZONE: On 15 July 2023 media animation for the students of Chennai Zone was held in Chetpet on the theme: Responsible use of social media and Cyber Security with the participation of 45 students and 6 teachers.



Sr Anthony Cruz Mathalen began the program with a contextualized prayer and Sr Lourdasamy Solomon Kalai introduced the resource person Fr Sagayaraj and gave a motivational talk that triggered the attention of the students. Fr Sagayaraj illuminated the students creatively and interactively regarding the advantages and disadvantages of

social media, its characteristics, its wise usage, cybercrime and cyber security while Sr Lourdasamy Solomon Kalai presented the message of Pope Francis for the 57th World Communication Day. All participants in four groups reflected on: Responsible use of social media.



They came up with different ideas, depicted their understanding through beautiful drawings, interpreted their views with clarity and presented their annual action plan in the general assembly. The program ended with the presentation of the 2022-23 annual report and a scheme to execute the new action plan in their respective schools. After the vote of thanks, everyone gave positive feedback about the program and returned with an enriched mind.

VELLORE ZONE: Social Communication Coordinators, Sr Lourdasamy Solomon Kalai and Sr Anthony Cruz Mathalen Mary conducted a one-day seminar on the theme: Responsible use of social media and cyber security on 19 August 2023, at St Mary's Convent, Vellore. The students were motivated to master essential skills needed in handling media: aptitude for observing, listening, understanding and communicating.





The program attended by 67 students, from standard IX, and 12 teachers from various schools started at 9.30 a.m., with a short prayer and welcome. Sr Rathinaswamy Regina Mary, the animator of St Mary's School, Vellore gave a motivating talk. The resource person, Fr Sagayaraj SDB, enlightened the students on the history of media, its merits and demerits, a survey on media usage, the stress involved in excessive media consumption and the four principles of social media

that addicts the user: Trigger, Action, Reward and Time Investment.

During the II sessions, topics such as nomophobia, sexting, cyber bullies, side effects of video games, shrewdness in handling personal data and preserving its secrecy were emphasized. The session concluded with the presentation of certain research findings regarding social networking triggers and hormone release systems. Sr Lourdusamy Solomon Kalai animated the III session and presented the message of Pope Francis on the 57th World Communication Day on the theme: Speaking with the heart.

She focused on communicating cordially, heart to heart and in a synodal process highlighting the importance of verbal and non-verbal communication and screened a short film on non-verbal communication. The session at 3.00 p.m. was a school-wise discussion on the topic of responsible use of Social Media at the end of which each school presented the chart work and the action plan for the academic year. The program was wrapped up at 4.00 p.m. with a vote of thanks.

Sr Lourdusamy Solomon Kalai

COUNSELLING COURSE FOR RELIGIOUS SUPERIORS & FORMATORS

The nine newly appointed animators of the province participated in the counselling course for the religious superiors and formators held in NBCLC Bangalore 20 to 27 July 2023.



The course was inaugurated with a prayer moment and the Assistant Director Fr Nysson

Luka introduced Sr (Dr) Juliana Pinto UFS, the course guide. With a meticulously planned programme of practical sessions and sharing of experiences, Sr Juliana facilitated the Sisters to learn counselling skills and techniques.

The movie 'The Beautiful Mind' enabled us to understand the trauma of people suffering from psychological illnesses. We understood that effective counselling requires the integration of one's psychic stability to solve the problem raised by the client. Daily activities were well spaced with sufficient time for prayer and recreation providing ample opportunities to mingle with each other. On the final day, all the participants were awarded the course completion certificates.

SEMINAR ON RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP

The seminar on religious leadership commenced on **29 July 2023**. Among the 59 participants from 18 Congregations 7 of us were animators from INM province. During these days, we were animated on



various themes through numerous experts. We were enlightened on a variety of topics relevant for modern times: making a difference in society today, feminism, empowerment of women, gender justice in church and society, psycho-spiritual

maturity of a religious leader at mid-life transition, bridging the generation gap between the young and elders in the community, ethical and moral issues in religious life, practical understanding of Canon Law, experience-based tips for animators and formators, leadership in the light of Vatican II and post Vatican and recent documents of Pope Francis. Eight days of our stay at NBCLC were very enlightening and the course broadened our vision and rejuvenated our energy to live and exercise a synodal style of leadership in our communities.

NEW ANIMATORS' MEET

The seven new animators of the province gathered for the new animators meet held on **4 and 5 July 2023** and the Sri Lankan participants came on Zoom meet. The meeting was convened by Sr Devadoss

Margaret Provincial, Sr Susai Josephine Rani, Provincial Secretary and Sr Kunnathu Anna, Provincial Economist. After the initiation with a prayer moment, Sr Devadoss Margaret the provincial gave a session on the Identity of an Animator enlightening us regarding the service of authority.

The II session, animated by Sr Susai Josephine Rani on History - Memory, inspired us to keep the charism alive, by engraving the essentials and erasing those not needed. Important communications and details regarding the documentation were also notified. In the afternoon Mother Provincial continued her II talk on:



General Principles and the global presentation of the articles. We read the articles individually to discern their implications in our daily lives shared our reflections on the experience of service in daily life described the attitudes and behaviours of the servant leader and presented the Decalogue of FMA and the hinges that adjoin authority and service. On the second day, Fr Pathiraj SDB, Rector of Becchi Theologate, Kavaraipet explained his personal experience regarding the service of authority and gave us practical tips to create harmony in oneself and become fruitful in the community and mission.



He concluded with the words of St Teresa of Calcutta: "We are not called to be successful, but faithful" and emphasised the call to be servant leaders always. This was followed by Sr Anna briefing on the administration, based on the Constitution articles and regulations, the role and functions of local animators and the registers to be maintained. Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima thanked the Provincial, Secretary and the Bursar for spending their valuable time in animating us and for the community that facilitated our stay. In conclusion, Mother Provincial urged all of us to nurture the community communion, by being cordial and understanding.

Sr Chinnanayagam Mary Sheela

INM & INT FORMATORS MEET

Urged by the Spirit of "Da mihi animas cetera tolle" and the desire to be conformed to the image of Christ, the provincials and formators of INM and INT gathered at Mazzarello Convent, Kodambakkam on **17 June 2023**. The formators from Sri Lanka also participated through Zoom Meeting. The day commenced with a photo session of the fifteen participants. Sr Susai Josephine Rani, the INM Formation Coordinator welcomed the participants, Sr Devadoss Margaret, the INM Provincial, Sr Fernando Majella, the INT Provincial and all the participants. In her key note address, Sr Devadoss Margaret urged the formators to focus on the witnessing life of those directly involved in the formation process respecting the individual's rhythm of growth. Highlighting the articles of the Constitutions 77- 80 dealing with the general principles of formation, she reminded us of the goal of formation: The maturing of the whole person in a gradual, progressive configuration to Christ.



In line with the teachings of our beloved Mother General as expressed in her circular letter 1029 “in the contemporary world there are innumerable signs, often expressed implicitly or negatively, of the thirst for God, for the ultimate meaning of life” we spent a few minutes together reading an article from the L’Osservatore Romano, titled, *Challenges to Consecrated Life* by Fr José Rodríguez Carballo, Secretary of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. We were divided into two groups to study the article, share our reflections and take action plans to implement them in our formation journey. The following points were converging: discernment as a way of life; maximising all



that is positive in our life; becoming joyful messengers of a challenging proposal; reawakening the original freshness of our vocation and augmenting passion for Christ and the Mission. After the sharing, we moved on to discuss and finalise the proposal of study material for the formation journey 2023-2024, the themes for the tri-monthly recollection and other essential elements regarding the formation.

In her concluding message Sr Fernando Majella said that our formation program and accompaniment should focus on 3 Gs:

1. God oriented
2. Gratitude to God and others
3. Giving attitude.

She thanked Sr Devadoss Margaret, for hosting the meeting and Sr Susai Josephine Rani, the coordinator of the day and all the participants for their presence and contribution. With a final prayer and a hymn to our Blessed Mother, the meeting came to an end.

Sr Susai Josephine Rani

NEW ECONOMERS MEET

Ten new local eonomers of the province, including three from Sri Lanka, joined online for a meeting on **6 July 2023**. The Provincial Sr Devadoss Margaret in her inaugural speech quoted the words of Pope Francis on a Just Economy and Poverty where people are valued with justice, emphasizing being a compassionate Church, accompanying humanity with a transformative mission. She recommended the eonomers to



be more vigilant in taking care of the mission and the needs of the Sisters, to be more attentive to the poor around, and to learn to handle the people with respect and affection. She also explained their responsibilities from the constitutions and the regulations. The participants started learning ACME Plus Software to do the House Accounts. Mr Perumal, IT Trainer taught them to maintain the daily cash register manually before entering the data in the software. The first session on the second day was handled by Sr Kunnath Anna, the province administrator.

She spoke on the practical aspects regarding maintenance of accounts, upkeep of the house and the buildings, updating of society registration and regularly supplying the information required by the Province. They were taught also the Tally software to do the Society Accounts. The Sisters were eager



and enthusiastic to learn and benefited much from all the inputs. At the end of the sessions Sr Devadoss Margaret urged the economers 'to be leaven', unnoticed by others but doing good and making the community happy and as field hospitals to heal the people of neighbourhood. Her final exhortation was to be persons of sacrifice to live the Logic of Love.

Sr Kunnathu Anna

HEADMISTRESS MEET

Province-level meeting of the Principals of Schools and Colleges was held in Auxilium College on **8 July 2023**, in which 35 Sisters participated. After a significant prayer moment and welcome address, Sr Devadoss Margaret, the Provincial gave an introductory talk on "Tips to make our educational Institutions shine" exhorting the Sisters towards responsible academic leadership. Sr Alexander Amali the Province Academic Coordinator presented the seven essential characteristics of the Good Shepherd and spoke on the Role of educational leaders, accentuating Salesian leadership and Salesian Identity in FMA Schools. She emphasised on creating four space experiences for the young people in our Institutions:

- Home Belonging
- School Learning
- Playground Celebrating and
- Church Reflecting

Sr Alexandar Amali explained in detail the Tamil Nadu Private Schools Code of Conduct. Sr Anthony Raj Christina



the Vice Provincial gave practical tips and recommendations regarding the administration of the educational institutions. The Sisters were enriched by the animation and felt accompanied to guide the young in making the academic institutions into a quality presence in the footsteps of our Founders.

Sr Alexander Amali & Sr Joseph Victoria Mary

TRI- MONTHLY RECOLLECTION AND ANIMATION FOR JUNIORS



To be strengthened in the realization of totally belonging to Christ, the 23 young sisters of INM and 27 of INT gathered in Fatima Campus, Kodambakkam, on **28 July 2023**. It was indeed a long-awaited day for all the young Sisters as they were having the animation together after a long period. During the goodnight, Sr Devadoss Margaret, the Provincial welcomed the Sisters and prepared them for the next day with her reflection on the Word

of God. Fr Emmanuel SDB preached the recollection on **29 July** with his talks based on the theme: Spirituality in Relationship with God. He explained the charismatic characters from the Holy Bible and Saints who were constantly striving for a deep personal relationship with God.

We were motivated to question ourselves every day in front of the Lord like St Teresa of Child Jesus, "What do you want of me, Lord?". In his homily, he stressed that each one of us should be the altar of God, where Jesus can willingly sacrifice Himself. In the afternoon session, we were enriched with his insights on humility and the letters of St Mary Mazzarello. The focal point of Sr Devadoss Margaret's talk to the juniors the following day was: Evangelical Vows as the Goal for Perfect Charity. She navigated the spirit of all by asking everyone to become a sign of Christ's love for the young people.

This was followed by sharing and discussions among the companions regarding the experiences and challenges in prayer life, community, mission and in living the vows. The points that emerged were shared and the Provincial gave her suggestions and challenged us to renew our lives. The creative presentation of the history of the Institute and the Pact of our Covenant with God by the juniors as per their profession batches was a feast to the heart and mind. The meeting concluded with acts of gratitude for everyone and everything. Wishes were packed with prayers and love to all the communities.

Sr Thirukumaran Tamil Selvi

SEMINAR ON PSYCHOLOGICAL MATURITY: The Sisters professed from 1985 to 2016 from both INM and INT FMA Provinces were given the opportunity to participate in the most enriching and enlightening Seminar on Affective Maturity by the Resource Person Sr Pramila D'Almeida SSCB, Directress of Novices. A member of the Congregation of St Charles Borromeo Sr Pramila is a Professional Counsellor with a specialization in marriage and family therapy with rich experience in formation ministry presently providing counselling services to M.Sc. Students at Montfort Counseling College.

The seminar was held at Mornese, Yercaud in three spells:

1. Profession Batches 1985 to 1991 on 25 & 26 September
2. Profession Batches 1992 to 2001 on 27 & 28 September
3. Profession Batches 2002 to 2016 on 29 & 30 September

Here below is the feedback from the participants:

It was a God-given grace and gift, to be relieved from our normal routine to recharge ourselves, and to become more effective religious in our mission. We came to know the prevalent issues that women religious face concerning social and cultural aspects. We were able to comprehend aspects such as balance in interpersonal relationships, psychological stability and the positive impacts created by women religious. We are determined to reawaken the culture of peace, unity and well-being in our communities and the mission, inspired by Jesus our role model, who went beyond the family ties and Jewish Circle, and associated with the lowly, rich and poor alike. We spent time examining our contribution to the mission and resolved to enhance it. We received many motivational insights:

- to accept life with a positive outlook in all circumstances
- to stop, look back, observe and proceed even through difficult situations
- to be humorous even in trying situations
- to be faith-filled and
- to be grounded in life and mission like Moses in the Scripture.

The two days of animation rejuvenated our spirit, reoriented our perspectives and strengthened the bonds existing between the batches and one another. We heartily thank the Provincials who arranged it and the members of the community who created a conducive atmosphere for the meeting. We shall cherish the beautiful memories forever.

Sr Bathalapalli Irudaya Mary on behalf of the 1985 - 1991 profession batches

The sessions were interspersed with a lot of interactions among companions and one-to-one sharing. The resource person had apt anecdotes to clearly define certain ideas such as facing reality and the Power Point presentations clearly defined the aspects, signs and explanations of affective maturity. Sr Pramila elicited a lot of responses and the sessions were lively and relevant.

Her session on 'vulnerability' proved to be a topic well defined and highly scholar led research topic. The ground rules to deal with hurt feelings were highly beneficial as they were purely practical tips. The sessions on the second day gave us a lot of beneficial insights on self-management and anger management. The biblical comparative study of Pharaoh and Moses was truly an in-depth and insightful analysis. It is fitting to say that true to the words of Prophet Ezekiel we were energized and realized that God has endowed us with a new heart having led to introspect and become aware of ourselves.

The two days were in the true sense a journey back in time as the Sisters experienced the reunion with the companions from both the provinces of INM and INT. The house of Mornese, Yercaud witnessed the affectionate bonding of the Sisters with their companions. There was a lot of excitement, fun and rejoicing in the meeting of the seniors and juniors



too. Echoes of joy, cheer and laughter in togetherness filled the air as fond memories of the good old days were recalled by the Sisters. We are truly grateful to our Provincial Sr Margaret Devadoss and the councillors for this wonderful experience. We owe our gratitude to Sr Philomena Chinnappan and the Sisters of the community of Mornese for their care and hospitality.

Sr De Rose Amala on behalf of 1992-2001 Profession batches

The two-day meeting was indeed a celebration of the grace of God! The animator, Sr Pramila Almeida illumined the participants, enumerating the signs of affective maturity in women religious. The session on the common challenges faced by women religious in developing affective maturity was explored deeply through group discussion. The evening session introduced us to a visual mental counselling technique, applying it to the participants in pairs, aimed at inner healing and forgiveness.



The animation on the second day was centred on 'self-awareness,' with introspection on some of the cognitive biases we hold on to. The moments of discussions led to listing down the practices we have in our congregation to promote self-awareness, and how effective they have proved to be! The final session, was on leadership highlighting the biblical example of Moses. It was focused on the importance of a synodal journey, animating the people of God, after the model of Moses.

The two-day meet was brought to a successful completion, with the motivation to pay forward for all the graces received and be grateful for those that cannot be paid back. We express our deep gratitude to Sr Devadoss Margaret and Sr Fernando Majella for these days and extend our cordial thanks to Sr Pramila, Sr Christina, the Sisters of the community and the workers.

Sr Samson Gnana Jennifer (INT), on behalf of 2002- 2016 profession batches

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THE SEVEN BLESSINGS OF THE ROSARY

“The Rosary, recited with meditation on the mysteries, brings about the following marvellous results:

- 1. It gradually gives us a perfect knowledge of Jesus Christ;**
- 2. It purifies our souls, washing away sin;**
- 3. It gives us victory over all our enemies;**
- 4. It makes it easy for us to practice virtue;**
- 5. It sets us on fire with love of Our Blessed Lord;**
- 6. It enriches us with graces and merits;**
- 7. It supplies us with what is needed to pay, all our debts to God and to our fellow men and finally, it obtains all kinds of graces for us from Almighty God.”**



St Louis Marie Grignion De Montfort (1673-1716)

ECHOES FROM THE COMMUNITIES

ANMARUDAI

On 3 June 2023 orientation program was conducted for the staff of Auxilium Matriculation School (MS) and the evening coaching class teachers. Fr Maria Antony shared his insights on inner healing, mental health, forgiveness, tips for good health and service. The teachers benefited much from the resourceful session.



Sr Peddineeni Mary Philomena the animator and Sr Cherayath Anna Rani Principal conducted the **parents' teachers' meeting** on 23 June 2023 and the parents numbered around 500. They were beckoned to be yeast in the family and society, leading exemplary lives to inspire their children; the use of millets was also encouraged as it is "Year of Millets".

On 24 June 2023 we convened a meeting in Auxilium MS to pray for peace, particularly in Manipur.



Mr Gopala Krishnan the Health Inspector of Peranamalur presided over the **investiture ceremony** held in Auxilium MS on 27 July 2023 and conferred leadership by distributing badges he summarized leadership in three points - to value their potential, to be positive and to appreciate others.

On 11 July 2023, **Bible Day** was celebrated in Auxilium MS and Fr Paul Velankanni was the resource person. There was procession, enthronement of the Bible and students performed action songs, enacted parables and recited Bible verses. The chief guest appreciated the students and enumerated the merits of reading the Bible and the eternal values it presents.

ARNI

On **23 July 2023**, the boarders of St Joseph's Convent, Arni had the **inauguration of groups**. The children came forward in groups and presented their symbol and slogan and took the oath. Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi, the animator encouraged them to be synergetic in all the group activities and conform to the rules of the boarding. She pinned brooches and distributed sweets, rosaries and holy pictures.



On **8 September 2023**, we celebrated the **feast of Nativity of Mother Mary, Girl Children's Day** and disseminated the **Season of Creation** with special programmes in our schools and boarding. In the evening prayer service with boarders, we praised God for the wonder of creation and beseeched pardon for having depleted it; offered special prayers for girl children indwelling with us and invited representatives from each class to plant a sapling and entrusted it to the class. All of us resolved to promote the rights of girl children, create a plastic-free campus and preserve natural resources.

Sr Chinnaraj Thangam

DHARMAPURI

The **academic year 2023-24** was **inaugurated** at Auxilium Matriculation Higher Secondary School (MHSS) Dharmapuri, on **12 June 2023** at 9.30 a.m. The event aimed to motivate students to strive for excellence in their studies. The correspondent and animator Sr Mariadoss Amala Mary shared her vision for the students, assured them of her availability and emphasized on being positive and industrious. Recognizing the vital role of both teaching and non-teaching staff she encouraged them in their service to the young people.

Inauguration of groups for Hostellers and Marialaya children was held on **21 July 2023** with a solemn prayer service at 7.00 p.m., animated by Sr Arul Pragasa Mary and teachers. The leaders introduced themselves, presented the motto and took oath. The final message was given by Sr Amala on fraternal charity and the way of living and



working together. We were excited to see the potential present in the group and the positivity they could diffuse.

On **17 June 2023**, at 9.30 a.m., the teaching faculty had an **orientation program**, the resource person was Dr G Theophil Anand, Vice Principal, Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur. He emphasized integrating modern technology into teaching and dedicating time to children.

The **Investiture Ceremony** at Auxilium MHSS in Dharmapuri was held on **12 July 2023** on the theme: **Crowning the Leaders of Tomorrow**. Sr Amala addressed them on the theme "A leader must know the way, show the way, make the way and go the way". She encouraged students to be responsible and contribute their best to the progress of the school.

The Auxilium MHSS celebrated a vibrant and engaging "**Red Day**" with KG kids on **4 August 2023**. The event was meant to introduce the young learners to the colour red and foster their creativity and social skills through related fun-filled activities. The kids enjoyed the day and happiness was pervasive.



On **13 September 2023**, the members of the Eco Club celebrated the **Season of Creation** in Auxilium MHSS on the theme "Let Justice and Peace Flow". The presentations of the children were based on preserving nature and gratitude to the Creator. In keeping with the celebration, students brought saplings which were later planted on the campus.

Girl Guides' inauguration ceremony was held on **22 September 2023** with the theme "Developing Tomorrow's Leaders". Sr Amala, Sr Pragasi, Mr T. Manivel the Dist. Org. Commissioner, Mrs. Jayapurnima the Dist. Scout Coordinator and Ms Prabhavathi the Dist. Scouts Joint Secretary led the event and the guides were given a scarf as a mark of their formal acceptance. Mr. Manivel praised the management's commitment in instilling guides' principles in the youth.



Sr Arul Pragasa Mary & Sr Joseph Mercy Buela

ERODE



On **18 June 2023** around 50 inmates participated in the **leadership training program** and Mr Surya Kumar, Asst. Prof. of Arts and Science College Erode animated them. 'Discovering the Who' and 'Build' were the topics of focus which aimed at developing the ability to achieve goals and building leadership qualities. Through various activities, their cognitive abilities and leadership skills were tapped.

On **21 June 2023**, the **9th International Yoga Day** was observed in Marialaya Erode and the children performed asanas before leaving for school. Our Animator Sr Rayappan Leema Rose explained to them the benefits of practising Yoga. They practise yoga everyday as part of the morning prayer. Besides they also have Yoga classes, in the school curriculum.



CHETPET



The Auxilium MHSS had the **Investiture Ceremony and Group Inauguration** on **12 July 2023**, graced by Fr Anthonyamy Albert Nelson, the Director of Don Bosco Youth Centre and youth service coordinator of Anbu Illam, Vyasarpadi. He affirmed that leaders are not born; they are made and encouraged the students to be catalysts in society. The leaders received badges from Sr Sheila Susai Raj the Correspondent and Sr Joseph Jackulen Anthony the Head Mistress. The Oath-taking ceremony was led by Ms Shadhana the School Pupil Leader.



Our Lady's School Matriculation Higher Secondary School (OLMS) organized one day seminar cum parents meet on **27 June 2023**. Mrs Shoba Madras High Court - Advocate was invited to speak on "Positive Parenting". The occasion served as a means to enhance the rapport between parents', teachers and children.

Fr. Joseph Jeyaraj SDB, Director of Niraivagam presided over **all faith day celebration** in OLMS Chetpet on **6 July 2023** and the students enthusiastically presented the various aspects from the Scripture of all the religion, Bible characters and the parables were also part of the program.

On **07 July 2023** an awareness program was organized on the theme "**Save Mother Earth**", by a group from CEO Corporate 'TEACH INDIA' they enlightened the students on creating a greener world and greener Chennai.

The **annual sports day** was celebrated with great zeal and enthusiasm on **1 August 2023** in the premises of OLMS. The vibrant march-past, track events, drill, yoga, karate and zumba were the series of program that enthused all. Dr S Vincent former Dean of Research Loyola College, Chennai the chief guest was appreciative of the event and enumerated on importance of sports.

Annual **Road Safety Patrol** inauguration was held in the Rajarathnam Stadium which was organized by Tamil Nadu Police Traffic Warden Association on **02 August 2023**, among the 250 schools Ms Kanimozhi, grade XII of OLMS added glory to our institution as she received award for East Zone Division for her active participation in RSP activities from Mr Sandeep Raj Rathore I.P.S.



Sr Jakulen Anthony & Sr Amala Sebastian

KODAMBAKKAM

"The journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." - Lao Tzu

The journey of the new academic year began with the **first PTA meeting** on **9 June 2023** for classes X, XI and XII. The new Correspondent Sr Antony Raj Christina and the new Principal Sr Madalaimuthu Lidwin Mary were cordially welcomed by the parents. Sr Christina briefed on a child's general conduct in the school and discussed methods which will be implemented to help improve the academic results. Sr Lidwin thanked the parents for their presence and assured them of a collaborative effort, for the students' growth. They stressed the importance of coordination between the management, staff and parents to achieve success.

"A leader knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way." -

John C. Maxwell

Such were the leaders elected for the academic year 2023-2024 for Fatima MHSS, Kodambakkam. The office bearers were **invested with leadership** on **30 June 2023**, by Fr Ignatius Thomas- Parish Priest of Fatima Church Kodambakkam, Sr Christina and Sr Lidwin. In a solemn ceremony, the leaders took oath and they were handed their scarves, badges and flags as a symbolic representation of their leadership.



"Education is not just going to school; it's about widening your knowledge"- Shakuntala Devi.

This was proved today when students of our school were invited to participate in the **workshop on Advances in coastal research** on **21 July 2023**, which was organized to mark the 25th year of the establishment of NCCR – National Centre for Coastal Research. Schools from various parts of Chennai participated in this esteemed event. It was a great opportunity for the students of classes X, XI and XII as they were able to interact with eminent scientists like Prof. T. Balasubramanian, National award winner for his work in Marine Biology, Dr Ramana Murthy, Director of NCCR and other faculty members from the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

“Gold medals aren't made of gold. They're made of sweat, determination and hard work”- Dan Gable.

This stood true for Fatima MHSS as we celebrated our **65th Annual Sports Day on 4 August 2023**. The day was graced by the chief guest Honorable Mayor of Chennai Mrs Priya Rajan and the guest of honour Mrs Mohideen Fathima Correspondent of Baba MHSS Kodambakkam. The event began with the traditional Guard of Honour for the dignitaries, followed by the flag hoisting and prayer service. The highlights of the day were the march-past, 4 x 100m relay for the various categories; drills and a splendid display of martial arts. Not to be left behind were the teachers, past pupils, parents and the support staff; they participated in the relays of their respective categories. All the winners were duly rewarded with medals and certificates. The formal lowering of the flag and closing ceremony ended the day on a joyous note where sportsmanship was enthusiastically seen.



The event “MISSION CHANDRAYAN - 3” was organized at Periyar Science and Technology Centre, Chennai on **12 August 2023**. More than 70 schools in the city took part in the **inter school science competition**. Seven students from Fatima MHSS accompanied by Mrs Penelope participated in the competitions. Amudhani of VIII A, won 6th place in the Tamil essay writing competition, Amrutha and Santhana Lakshmi of std. IX won the consolation prize in model making competition. Thus, we paved the way for students to get interested in science.

With clear vision and meticulous preparation, Sr Fernandes Crystal set the **reunion of retired teachers for 19 August 2023** which began with the mass at 11.30 a.m., by Fr Rajkumar SDB. After the photo session, Sr Devadoss Margaret the Provincial greeted everyone and highlighted the launching of the ICSE Board in Fatima which was followed by a sumptuous lunch. After a grand welcome Sr P Mary, Sr Christina, Mrs Lakshmi and Mrs Shashi did their best to impart in-depth intellectual knowledge and led them down memory lane, adding glory to the event; this was followed by games and the day concluded with a cup of tea and sweet memories.

To help every Catholic child realize the need for God, **Bible Day** was organized in our school on **23 August 2023**. The students from VI to XII put up a beautiful display of action songs, dance and parable enactment. Fr Antony Christy SDB, Assoc. Prof. Institute of Catechetics, Rome, Italy kept the children interested with his message on the various phenomenal facts of the Bible and the importance of reading the Holy Book.



The **Teachers' Day** in Fatima MHSS began with the Eucharistic celebration by Fr Thomas SDB on **5 September 2023** followed by a message from Sr Margaret the Provincial. The students expressed their love and affection through the programs they had so painstakingly prepared over a week. A diversity of cultural events followed, starting with the prayer service, songs, dances and skits. The teachers enjoyed

watching the program just as the students enjoyed presenting them. The day ended with a throw ball match between the teachers and students which emphasized the spirit of teamwork.

MICHAELPURAM

Eco week was celebrated in the community from **5 to 10 September 2023**. We began the season of creation by enlightening the children on message of Pope Francis "Let Justice and Peace flow" which was followed by a group discussion and an eco - walk. Similarly on 8 September the teacher and students from St Michael R.C. Primary school and the oratorians on 10 September gathered to enjoy the beauty and greenery of the campus. Thus, love and care for the nature was inculcated through the initiative undertaken by Sr Alocis the youth pastoral coordinator.



Sr Santiagu Amirtha Alocis

MOSAVADI

Fr Gregory the assistant parish priest of Arni conducted the **orientation program** to the teachers on **12 July 2023**. Mr John Ramesh H.M. introduced and honoured him. Fr Gregory enlightened the teachers on interpersonal relationships and spoke on a student-based approach. He presented the message of unity, through various games. The teachers were motivated to make resolutions to improve the student-friendly approach.



The birthday of former C.M. of T.N. Mr **Kumaraswami Kamarajar** was celebrated in the R.C.M. Middle School on **17 July 2023**. The BEO, Mr Guna Segaran was the special guest. Children paid homage to the portrait of Kamarajar with dance, lively theme songs and a recital of poems in his honour.

Teachers' Day was celebrated on **5 September 2023** in the R.C.M. school premises with a short program to honour the teachers. The children expressed their respect and affection through dance, song, and recitation of poems. The teachers were moved and were motivated to grow in their professional commitment.



"The Bible is God's book of promises and unlike the books of men it does not change or get out of date." - Billy Graham. Inspired by the promises of Christ we the Sisters at Mosavadi organized the **Bible day** in the R.C.M. School on **15 September 2023**. The children participated enthusiastically in all the activities based on the Word of God. Values engraved in the Bible were demonstrated through songs, dance, enactment and recital of psalms. Prizes were distributed to the children and they were enriched in their faith to be heralds of Good News.

Under the scheme of 'Varumun Kappom' a **medical camp** was organized on **6 October 2023** in the R.C.M. School to prevent communicable diseases in Mosavadi. Mr Ambeth Kumar MLA of Vandavasi presided over the program. Health checkup services and medical scans were rendered in the camp. Around 657 people of Mosavadi and the surrounding villages availed and benefitted. Dist. Medical Officer Mr Durai Raj, Dist. Health Supervisor Mr Pushpa Nathan, R.C.M. School Correspondent Sr Ugini Fatima, H.M. Mr John Ramesh, and Health Inspector Mr Gopala Krishnan were present.



POLUR



On **27 September 2023** at 9.00 a.m., we commenced celebrating the **season of creation** in Auxilium MHSS on the theme: Let justice and peace flow. Students from the Eco-club performed a mime on the depletion of Mother Earth by human beings. It provoked our thoughts and spurred us to safeguard the planet and reflect on the kind of world we would leave behind for future generations. Sr Agatha spontaneously conducted a quiz competition based on the enactment and insisted on keeping the environment clean.

**Mr Vinoth & ECO Club
Auxilium MHSS, POLUR**

The **inauguration of groups** was held on **16 July 2023** at 5.00 p.m., on the premises of Sacred Heart Convent Polur. After a brief introduction on the significance groups, the lighted candles and group symbols were carried in procession, the Holy Spirit was invoked and children presented the mottos. The animator of the community Sr Fernando Amutha blessed the children, pinned the badges, distributed gifts and encouraged the children to be committed and live their motto.





On **28 June 2023**, the Auxilium MHSS had their **Investiture ceremony**. Fr Prabhu SJ, Sr Amudha the animator, Sr Arockiasamy Celine Mary, the Principal presided over the event. The newly elected leaders received the scarves and badges. Fr Prabhu gave an enlightening speech on

discipline. Sr Amudha motivated them to be committed and dedicated Salesian leaders.

Muthamizh Vizha, a celebration of Iyal, Isai, and Nadakam components of Tamil Literature providing feasts for the intellect, eyes and ears was celebrated on **27 July 2023** in Auxilium MHSS and Sr Irudayanathan Agatha was the special invitee. The students staged the performing arts and other programs with zeal and diligence. The drama on Kundalakesi - one among five major epics was an amazing spectacle that exhibited the potential of the students. Sr Agatha exhorted the gathering to be proud of their language Tamil and master it.



Bible day triduum was held from **10 to 13 July 2023** in Auxilium MHSS on the theme: God's Word restores and without God we are nothing. The parables, Bible songs, action songs, and recital of Bible verses were staged. Various initiatives also

enlivened the faith of the students. On 13 July - Bible day the students performed

programs based on love and faith. Sr Amudha who presided over the celebration urged the students to read the Word of God daily to grow in faith.

Sr Joseph Karmel Mary & Sr Arokiasamy Celine Mary

SALEM MARIALAYA, AVVAI NAGAR

INAUGURATION OF THE HOME FOR WOMEN AT RISK:



“The Lord has done great things for us and we are filled with joy”. (Ps. 126: 3)

With joy and gratitude bubbling in our hearts we welcomed **3 May 2023** to inaugurate our Home for the Women at Risk, by dear Mother Provincial Sr Lazar Maria Nirmala. The provincial councillors and the superiors and Sisters from various communities were present to grace the starting

of the new venture for the benefit of the society besides Mr Rajendiran, the MLA, Mr Ramachandran, the Mayor of Salem and Ms Jenifer Soniya Rani, the District Social Welfare Officer. Sr Stanislaus Dora Mary, the animator of the community, welcomed the gathering. The special invitees were appreciative of the new mission in their locality and expressed their pride and joy in being educated in the Christian Institutions, as they continued to uphold the values learnt in their Alma Mater. This was followed by the presentation of the Mission on “Home for Women at Risk” and a choreography portraying the strength of women. The event concluded with a sumptuous meal.

EMPOWERING WOMEN WORKING UNDER

MGNREGA: The Government of India introduced an Act and scheme called the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005 (MGNREGA). The majority of the works under this scheme are related to agricultural and allied activities, and its rural sanitation projects are facilitated in a major way. The works have been divided into 10 broad categories and various districts of Tamil Nadu follow it and implement the scheme for



alleviation, employment generation, capacity building, and women’s social and economic empowerment. In Salem, this scheme is in practice and is implemented in 10 blocks and villages. Through the interaction

with the people and proper follow-up of those who are working under the scheme, we came to know that they lack access to stable income, face economic vulnerability, limited opportunities for education and skill development, struggle to receive proper health care, face societal stigma, discrimination which leads them to isolation and limited community support. They also lack legal property rights, undergo gender-based violence, lack social safety nets and encounter mental health challenges. We give them awareness of Government grants and schemes and our Home for Women at Risk. Thanks to all those who network with the Sisters for the welfare of women at risk and women in difficult circumstances.

SALEM- PETHANAICKENPALAYAM

On **18 June 2023** free medical camp was organized in our Anna 4 Children Home, Pethanaickenpalayam by Manipal Hospital Salem at our request. The people from neighbourhood also were benefitted by the initiative. We honoured the medical staff members with gift and shawl.



We commenced the **Inauguration of the Groups** on **23 August 2023** with a short prayer service. As all the children are non – Christians they were well prepared for the ceremony. The students came forward in groups and presented their motto and promised to imitate their patron saints-

Mother Mary, Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello. The animator of the community Sr Kanickaraj Shanthi encouraged the children to live by what they promised, appreciating their efforts.

TIRUPATTUR- MARY IMMACULATE CONVENT

The community began in earnest with the **installation** of **Sr Samala Rayappan Elisa** as the new animator of the community on **29 May 2023** by Sr Gaspar Mary Celine the animator of Auxilium Home- Katpadi.



The boarders had the **inauguration of the six groups** on **12 July 2023**. Each group presented their group patron, symbol and motto. Sr Elisa pinned the badges, distributed rosaries and bid them to be humble and charitable like Christ.



Mary Immaculate Girls Higher Secondary School **conferred leadership on students and inaugurated groups** and movements on **3 July 2023**, the feast of St Thomas the Apostle. Sr Elisa presided over the ceremony with Sr Arockiasamy Jasmine Julia the Headmistress and the students received badges and scarves from them. In her presidential address, Sr Elisa pointed out the qualities of a leader and exhorted them to maintain discipline.

The Department of Tamil celebrated **Muthamizh Vizha** with Mr Prabhu the Asst. Prof. Dept. Tamil from Sacred Heart College, as the chief guest. The series of items depicting the culture and three components of Tamizh Literature was simply fabulous. Mr Prabhu appreciated the presentation, stressed the importance of mastering Tamizh and distributed the prizes.



The much-awaited **annual sports meet** was held on **28 July 2023**. Mrs Adhi Lakshmi S.I., Fr Clement Ignatius Parish Priest and other guests were welcomed with a guard of honour. Hoisting of the Olympic flag was followed by an impressive march past, exercises and a fantastic display of Indian and Korean martial arts.



The **International Yoga Day** was observed on **21 June 2023** in the premises of Our Lady's Matriculation School (OLS). Mrs Priya and Mrs Malathy the Yoga trainers made the day a remarkable one for the students by demonstrating many beneficial asanas an initiative which was much appreciated.

30 June 2023 was marked with an **investiture ceremony** in OLS. Sr Elisa the Superior and Sr Anitha the Principal pinned the badges to leaders after they took oath. Sr. Elisa addressed the students on the qualities of a good leader and appreciated them for their readiness to serve.



VELLORE- ST. MARY'S CONVENT



The **orientation program** for the teachers in St Mary's Vellore was held on **6 June 2023**. The resource person Fr Jose Sanjay H.O.D. Psychology, Sacred Heart College Tirupattur, celebrated the Eucharist. His sessions on life script, conflict management and methods of handling students

improved our attitude and skills in handling people with different temperaments.

The chief guest for the **investiture ceremony** in St Mary's HSS on **20 June 2023** was Fr Arul Shekar SDB, the Principal of D.B. High School. The badging ceremony commenced with the newly appointed leaders taking oath. Our chief guest, correspondent and principal did the honour of conferring the leadership duties by pinning the badges. The chief guest motivated the leaders through the action



song and his talk on the three 'Ls': LEAD, LIVE and LIGHT.

The **parents' meeting** for the academic year 2023-2024 was held on **24 June 2023** in St Mary's Primary School. The chief guest Mr David, Public Health Advisor was honoured by the Sr Gabriel Mariammal. He addressed them on the three essential elements of parental care: appreciation, time management and gratitude, and the four pillars of life: walking, sleeping, positive attitude, food and nutrients.



From **3 to 7 July 2023 Bible week** was celebrated in St Mary's Primary School. It was initiated with the enthronement of the Bible by Sr Maria and

Sr Sebastian Vimala. All classes took turns in presenting programs each day. Bible songs, quiz, dances, mono acts and women in the Bible were some of the many programs performed.

Sr Rathinaswamy Regina Mary the correspondent presided over the program on the concluding day and the students enacted on Martha and Mary. She appreciated the students for their performance and encouraged them to imitate the virtues of the two sisters.

The **76th Independence Day** was celebrated with great enthusiasm on the campus. Sr Vimala hoisted the National Flag and gave a message on unity, strength and diversity.



On **17 August 2023**, St Mary's Primary School had its **annual sports day**. Col. S.K. Sundaram, Retd. Admin officer T.N. was the chief guest. A sequel of programs comprising of march-past, lighting of the Olympic torch, rhythmic dance and drills were staged and it was a feast to the eyes. The program ended with the prize distribution and the message of the chief guest encouraging the parents to form a strong character in the children.



parents, teachers and non-teaching staff.

The annual sports day was held on 1 September 2023. The chief guest Mr K Gowthaman ADSP Vellore and other dignitaries were welcomed with a guard of honour. The program began with the march-past of four squads, followed by a flame lighting ceremony and carrying of the torch. The remarkable aesthetic movements and performances of the students delighted the audience. Games were conducted also for the

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF SR. FATIMA



Golden bells at St Mary's Vellore echoed jubilantly on 5 August 2023 announcing the Fifty Years of the Life of Sr Malapati Fatima Mary as a Salesian Sister. The splendid event began with the majestic march of the guides leading the procession of the Celebrity accompanied by the guests of honour. A solemn prayer moment was conducted by the teachers and pupils of the elementary school after which Sr Malapati Fatima Mary was felicitated by the community and relatives, friends and benefactors, teachers and pupils, past pupils and Salesian Cooperators acknowledging her dedicated services for the education of the young people. The melodious jubilee song and the western dance by primary school were

followed by the choreography of the high school on the theme: The Golden Memories, illustrating the entire life of Sr Fatima as a faithful servant of God in the Salesian Family. The concelebrated Eucharist was solemnized by Fr Roy Lazar and Fr Kulandai Yesu who paid glowing tribute to the dedicated Salesian religious life of Sr Fatima. The gracious event ended with the distribution of sweets and a fellowship meal with all the invitees.



VELLORE - AUXILIUM COLLEGE



A two-day **staff orientation program** for the faculty appointed from 2013 to 2023 and a one-day orientation for those appointed before 2013 was held at Auxilium College on **15 and 16 June 2023**. The Resource person was Fr (Dr) Stanley Alex, M.Phil., MS (Clinical Psychology), Ph.D. (Psychology in PTSD in

Chicago), Director, Fountain Institute of Psychology, Psychotherapy and Research, Sundampatti, Krishnagiri. He shared his insights on the impact of interpersonal relationships on the psychological health of adolescents and the means to improve it by being an empathetic listener, acknowledging the strength of team members, fostering an environment of wellness and scheduling team activities. Concepts like the Johari Window model, and psychological games were explained to enhance the individual's perception and dealing with others.

The college reopened on **19 June 2023** with an **orientation program** for the II and final year students. The students were divided into four groups, gathered in different blocks and animated by Fr G Tamil Selvam, Fr E Daniel Dayabaran, Fr Daniel Dilipkumar and Mr Leo Francis in four sessions. Fr Dayabaran spoke on setting realistic goals and achieving success in the



footsteps of their role models. Fr Dilip Kumar portrayed motivating personalities like Muniba Mazari, Abraham Lincoln, Einstein and many others as models. Fr Tamilselvam spoke about the challenges faced by students of various age groups bidding them to avoid distractions and be upright. In the last session, Mr Leo illuminated the students with his wise words 'You are Precious'. The program shed light on time management, challenges faced by adolescents and means to overcome them. All the sessions were interactive, effective, well organised and proved beneficial for the student community.

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports Nehru Yuva Kendra, Vellore in collaboration with NSS organized **District Level Yuva Utsav on 24 June 2023** on the theme: Panch Pran and conducted various cultural activities. Dr Ezhilan, Joint Director of Collegiate Education, Vellore region was the Chief Guest. Exhibits were put up portraying media growth, the importance of voting, women's freedom, etc. Competitions were held in elocution, dance, poetry writing, drawing and photography, and the best performers were awarded cash prizes and certificates. Dr Ezhilan spoke on the importance of sports, extra-curricular activities and its validity in getting good jobs. The District Youth Officer Mr Prem Bharath Kumar appreciated the students for participating in the Yuva Utsav 2023.



To commemorate the **National Postal Life Insurance Week**, the Small Savings Club organized a five-days Postal Life Insurance Camp: Aadhaar Mela, from **10 to 14 July 2023** at Auxilium College in association with India Post Vellore. It was inaugurated by Sr (Dr) Jayasanthi R. Principal, Sr (Dr) Amala Valarmathy A., and Sr Juliana Agnes Victor, Vice

Principals Shift I & II along with Ms Priya, Development Officer and Mr Mohan Raj, Postal Life Insurance Advisor and Staff of Postal Department, Gandhi Nagar, Branch. Ms Priya created awareness about the Postal Department and Postal Life Insurance (PLI) Schemes. The staff members and students were fascinated by it and manifested their interest in PLI and did the required corrections to the Aadhaar Card. Ms Bharathi G. and Ms Suvetha G. were the staff and student co-ordinators respectively and 133 of them benefited from the mela.

On **14 July 2023** for the inaugural Mass concelebrated by Fr Stanislaus Swamikannu SDB and Fr Paul Mark SDB, all the catholic teaching & non-teaching staff and students were present. Fr Stanislaus in his homily bid the students to make the best use of the opportunities to become leaders of the Nation by being and becoming "Good Christians and Honest Citizens".

The **Inauguration of the College Union** and the Investiture of Office Bearers was held at 11.00 a.m., and our esteemed guests were Dr Vikram Mathews, Director of CMC, Vellore and Dr I. Ramya, H.O.D. of Medicine CMC, Vellore. Dr I. Ramya in the inaugural address exhorted all the leaders to be impartial, honest, source of unity, morality and discipline. She insisted on women's education and empowerment and encouraged them to take up Research. Extending our congratulations to the elect we look forward to the positive changes they will bring to our college community.



The Department of History organized a captivating enactment on **10 July 2023** to honor the historic event: the **Vellore Sepoy Mutiny** and to ignite patriotism. It was a significant rebellion by Indian sepoys against the East India Company that occurred on 10 July 1806. In

South India, Vellore, the mutiny lasted a day as brave mutineers seized the Vellore Fort, facing British troops. Ultimately, cavalry and artillery from Arcot quelled the rebellion. Thus, the rich heritage and their sacrifices were remembered and cherished by the audience.

Inaugurating a Beacon of Service and Humanity!

On **18 July 2023**, **Youth Red Cross** was inaugurated with the lighting of the lamp by chief guest Dr Sultan Ahmed Ismail, soil biologist and ecologist, managing director of eco-science research foundation and Ms Priyadarshini Asst. Prof. Coordinator YRC. The rules of YRC were presented. The chief guest inspired us



with their insights on respect and self-respect; the teaching and learning methods in simplest form; and time management. He encouraged the YRC members to be responsible and brave in the service of others.



The sports day unfolded on **25 August 2023** graced by the presence of Mr M.S. Muthusamy, IPS, Deputy Inspector General of Police, Vellore Region and the distinguished guest of honour was Ms Noelin John, District Sports Officer. From the poignant inaugural prayer to the spirited and determined march-past executed by our young women students, the day stood as a remarkable testament to dedication and

teamwork. Our teaching and non-teaching staff also participated with unwavering ardour in the games and sports. The chief guest's words reverberated, compelling students to grasp the opportunities before them. The passionate moments of determination, teamwork, and sportsmanship were the highlights of the event.

The Career Guidance and Placement Cell organized a **Soft Skill training program** on **28 September 2023** for Shift I and Shift II final-year students. The trainers were Mr Paul E, Mr Arvind, Mr Thivakaran, Ms Lakshmi, and Ms Joyce Esther from PAGO ACHIEVERS. The program enlightened the students on goal setting and time management, interview skills, the eight parameters for interview overview, method for interview preparation, grooming and body language, company research, resume writing, professional ethics, conflict and stress management. The final year UG students of all the departments actively participated in the programme and benefitted much.

The **Health and Fine Arts Club** was **inaugurated** on **28 August 2023**. The resource person was Mr S Selvaganesh, Dept. of Traditional Arts and Crafts, drawing teacher in the Govt. Mid. School, Sathuvachari, Vellore, proprietor of Dhanalakshmi Tanjore Arts & Crafts, Sathuvachari. He received the state award from the Govt. of T.N. in the year 1999 and 2018. He encouraged students to learn traditional arts and crafts; and conserve the values of traditional sculptures and traditional Indian arts. The session was highly interactive and students were enriched.

Auxilium Innovation and Incubation Centre (AIIC) in collaboration with Dept. of Business Administration and Central Footwear Training Institute (CFTI) inaugurated **the leather goods training program** on **30 August 2023**. The chief guests were Mr K Murali, Director of Central



Footwear Training Institute, Chennai, Mr Anbu Malar, Director of PA Footwear, College Secretary Sr (Dr) Mary Josephine Rani, Principal Sr (Dr) Jayasanthi R and Dr Beulah Suresh, Head, PG & Research, Department of Business Administration. The College Secretary and the Principal honoured the chief guests and motivated the students for the training program and they appreciated the department for the 17th MOU signed with CFTI. The chief guest gave a brief introduction about the training program and issued kits for the student's training program. Ms Sai Lakshmi, Lecturer, CFTI introduced CFTI's life mission and vision, courses offered and the training programmes.

MuthamizhVizha, an annual event organized by the Dept. of Tamil was celebrated on **2 September 2023**. The Tamil poet, lyricist and Tamil Nadu State film awardee Mr Yugabharathi was the chief guest. He spoke about the importance of Tamil Ilakkiyam. Mr Gowtham Raj an actor, writer and dubbing artist entertained the students with his splendid performance.



Various competitions like singing, choreography, and dramatics were conducted as part of the Muthamizh Vizha. The cultural programs staged were impressive and the prize winners of the competition were duly awarded.

Sr Juliana Victor

Bible Week Celebration - A Week of Spiritual Enrichment

With a solemn Eucharistic Banquet, the **Bible Week** was commenced on **9 September 2023**, wherein Sr Mary Josephine the animator enthroned the Bible. Fr Lua Thomas a Diocesan priest enlightened the girls with Word of God in the evening and Ms Jenifer from Sathuvacheri shared her testimony. As a tribute to the celebration various competitions were organized during the week. The Bible Week celebration left an indelible mark on the students, fostering a deep-seated desire to read, reflect upon and assimilate the Word of God.

Sr Dominic Switha

VELLORE - KATPADI - SACRED HEART HOME



The new candidates were allowed to introduce themselves to the community in a creative way on **17 July 2023** during the **freshers' day**. They displayed their talents in singing, dancing, and mono act and the occasion served as a means to facilitate

their insertion in the group helping us to know the candidates and their capabilities.

On **18 July 2023** the Salesian, Marian and Missionary groups were inaugurated with the enrollment of the candidates as members. The animator Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima addressed them on the theme of GCXXIV “Be a presence that generates life”; Rector Major’s Strenna “as the yeast in today’s human family” and the Holy Father’s message for World Day of Peace 2023. She encouraged them to be holy and inspire others.



Sr Savariappan Irene Novila Rani



From **25 June to 5 July 2023**, we the postulants had the Ashram experience at Mannivakkam, animated by Sr Doss Rosalia and Sr P. Mary. We learnt to meditate on the Word of God integrating Gospel values in our lives; and perceived the richness of our call by purifying our motivation and growing in

Christ consciousness. We benefited from the ambient that was conducive to recollection and serious reflection during prayer and work.

We the candidates began our **three-day annual retreat** on **20 July 2023** in preparation to enter Postulancy and Aspirantate. Fr Theophil Anand SDB, Sacred Heart College Tirupattur, preached the retreat and animated us on self-knowledge and acceptance, life of grace and witness, and responsible response to God’s call and mission.



On **24 July** the retreat concluded with a solemn Eucharistic celebration. The **Postulants’ medallion ceremony** began at 10.00 a.m. The Sisters from St Mary’s Vellore, Auxilium Home and College, candidates of the apostolic school and group of girls from St Mary’s and Auxilium College were also present. Seven candidates received the Postulants’ medal from Sr Devadoss

Margaret, the Provincial and the Aspirants were initiated officially into their formative phase. The Provincial blessed the candidates and encouraged them in their formative journey.

- Candidates

The Bible week and the season of creation were integrated and celebrated from 10 to 17 September 2023. A solemn prayer service with the enthronement of the Bible commenced with the theme of the season of creation: Let justice and peace flow. The six days comprised various competitions: action songs, enactment of parables,



dance, recital of psalms, recitation of bible quotations, quiz on synoptic Gospels and so on. The judges of the programs were Sisters from Auxilium College and Home. This initiative allowed us to express our creativity, assimilate the Scripture and experience the “Life-Giving Word of God”.

S. Mallika & V. Swetha (Aspirants)

VELLORE - KATPADI - AUXILIUM HOME

On 12 July 2023, Sr Chinnappan Rose Mary the youth pastoral coordinator animated the **inauguration of the groups** and each member pledged to live and become another Christ. Sr Gasper Mary Celine the animator distributed the badges and beckoned the apostolic school girls and teachers to abide by their pledge and practice virtues of humility and charity.

YERCAUD

“Each Community can take from the bounty of the earth whatever it needs for sustenance, but it also must protect the earth and ensure its fruitfulness for coming generations”
(*Laudato si'*:67)

With great enthusiasm, we the Sisters and workers in Mornese Yercaud, laid the **kitchen garden** and cultivated radish, chow-chow, potatoes, brinjal, tomatoes, cluster beans and mint and we reaped a harvest in three months. We continue cultivating and keeping the earth fertile. Praise be to you O Lord!



The boarders had the **inauguration of groups** on **13 June 2023** with a short prayer service and oath-taking ceremony. Sr Chinnappan Philomena Rani the animator gave a message on 'salt and light', motivated them growth in virtue and wisdom and to contribute their time and talents for the welfare of others.



On **15 August 2023**, we conducted a **free eye check-up camp** with the collaboration of Dr Helen a Volunteer from Chennai Agarwal Eye Hospital, for the tribal people in Yercaud. Many of our children, their parents, youth and the poor in the vicinity benefitted from it. This urged us to organize camps in parishes and villages and reach out to the marginalized.



SRI - LANKA

NEGOMBO- Novitiate

ANNUAL RETREATS: The **first batch** of two postulants, five novices and eleven Sisters began their annual retreat in Negombo, Sacred Heart Novitiate in the evening on **28 July 2023** with the introductory talk of Sr Fernando Mary Ann the Delegate of Sri Lanka who emphasized the importance and benefits of the annual retreat. The retreat preacher Fr Dhanushka Silva, Rector, Claritian Minor Seminary celebrated the Mass of the Holy Spirit and in the course of the retreat spurred us on with love for the Eucharist, devotion to Mother Mary, the importance of prayer, unwavering commitment and effective techniques to handle the challenges of consecrated life. We were also prepared efficiently for the sacrament of reconciliation by his talk on repentance. Ample time was at our disposal for deeper reflection and assimilation of the aforementioned elements. The retreat concluded on 4 August 2023.





The **second batch of fifteen Sisters** had their encounter with the Lord from **6 to 13 August 2023** under the guidance of Fr Hemantha Harshan, Professor, Our Lady of Lanka National Seminary, Kandy, who animated us on various topics: call of the first disciples, three stages of spiritual life, prayer in the life of a religious, St Joseph the man of silence, the evangelical vows and community life. On the day of conclusion, he enlightened us on a pertinent question “Where are you going?” referring to the fullness one has to reach in God. The Provincial Sr Devadoss Margaret presided over both the retreats and dealt with 'Rediscovering the Identity of Consecrated life in the changing world' and it served as a help to live the demands of Salesian life with greater commitment and faithfulness. We also reflected on the recommendations of the General Chapters XXIV and resolved to pay attention to our ongoing formation, missionary synodality and integral ecology by responding to the cry of the poor.

Sr Mathew Alice



MOTTO PRESENTATION: On **3 August 2023** in the evening, the first-year novices presented their motto, 'Be rooted in Christ, journey with the young' and the postulants presented theirs, 'You are the potter, I am the clay' in the presence of provincial Sr Margaret, Sr Mary Ann, Sr Josephine Siriapushpam, the community and the participants of the retreat. Their mottos certainly portrayed their love for the founders and their zeal for souls.

Sr Fernando Nilmini & Sr Piumika, I year Novice

INITIATION INTO RELIGIOUS LIFE: A momentous event in our life was our initiation into the religious life as first-year novices on **4 August 2023**. Sr Margaret, Sr Mary Ann, the community and the retreat participants were present for this sacred moment. The Provincial bedecked us with the novice's medal and entrusted us to our formator, Sr Siriapushpam. As a sign of welcome, we were embellished with a brooch. Joy pervaded our souls.



Sr Ann Nimesha & Sr Piumika I year Novices

RENEWAL OF THE RELIGIOUS PROFESSION: A strong spiritual impetus from the annual retreat disposed of the hearts of seven young Sisters to renew their vows with great fervour and joy on **4 August 2023**. They were honoured with brooches by the seven novices during the prayer moment animated by Sr Arulanandu Arokia Mary on the theme "I am the Vine and you are the branches". Fr Paul Sanjeevaka



SDB the Vice Provincial of Sri Lanka presided over the holy Eucharist and the seven Sisters carried the symbol of their motto during the entrance procession. In the homily, Fr Paul explained the significance of religious life and the way to respond to it like the apostles. He exhorted them never to turn back from what they had promised. After the homily, they renewed their vows in the hands of Sr Margaret the Provincial and the two witnesses Sr Mary Ann and Sr Siriapushpam. Joyous felicitations followed

celebrating the happy event with the cutting of the cake, singing and exchange of greetings and gifts.

Sr Anthonipillai Arulmalar

COLOMBO

The **Educating Community was inaugurated** ceremony on **14 July 2023** at 5.00 p.m., in Auxilium Convent, Columbuthurai. The animator Sr Anandan Anna Mary Rosintha gave a formative talk, outlining the role and responsibility of the parents, teachers and Sisters in a united manner to educate the little children. There was a spontaneous union of spirit, heart and mind during the discussion as they also planned to pray the 'Holy Rosary' together on the 24th of every month.

On **21 June 2023** we the Sisters of Holy Rosary Convent Colombo and two novices animated the **vocation day at St Peter's College** Negombo where we were warmly welcomed and readily assisted. Our vocation stories and the charism of our congregation were shared at the outset. The input sessions on the topics of religious life were made lively with action songs. At the end of the session, girls interacted with us and a few of them enrolled their names for the "Come and See" program.

Sr Anandan Anna Mary Rosintha



The **Play Market Day** was organized at Holy Rosary pre-school, Colombo. After the all-faith prayer and solemn welcome, the kids executed an array of programmes with veggies and fruits. The much-awaited moment was, the children selling the product of the land. The sound of the kids calling out aloud *'labai, labai'*, meaning cheap was fascinating. The parents manifested their delight in seeing the smartness of their children and appreciated the initiative.

Sr Sahayaseelan Kajana

COLUMBUTHURAI

Children's Mini Market Day was celebrated in Auxilium English Primary School, Columbuturai, on **6 July 2023** with the support of parents and teachers. The chief guests were Fr Arputharaja OMI, Fr Dixon Fernando SDB and other dignitaries from the Divisional Secretariat. The commodities were displayed beautifully and the children participated enthusiastically. The initiative was appreciated by all those who had come.

Sr Irudayaraj Lourdu Mary

EPPAWALA

On **28 June 2023**, the **colours day** was conducted in Meth Sewana pre-school for the 28 kids. The programme began around 9.00 a.m., with a series of lively programmes that captured the attention of all: dances and songs based on



colours and brain-storming games organized for kids. Parents also were entertained with games. In conclusion, Sr Mathew Alice, the principal of the school gave away the prizes to the winners and delivered the message about the beauty of life relating it with colours.

Sr Arulnesan Mariya Jenatnayaki

JAFFNA

We found a **golden treasure found** on **29 August 2023** while planning to sell old papers for scrap, we found the five years old details of the vocationable girls, realizing it as God given treasure we contacted them, and received few positive responses. It was an encouragement for us who had a series of continual disappointments earlier in vocation camp. May we never let



even small things go unnoticed!

On **30 August 2023** Sr Anthonipillai Arulmalar and Sr Christopher D. Nilojana had an **opportunity to supervise catechism exam** for the Diocese of Jaffna held at St Patrick's College. It was for the first time that the consecrated people were invited for the supervision. We did find the chance speaking about our charism and distributing vocation leaflets to girls; some of them enrolled their names.

Sr Pazhayattil Annie

NOCHCHIYAGAMA

We the Sisters of Auxilium Convent Nochchiyagama coordinated the **inauguration of groups** for children on **18 July 2023**. To facilitate their involvement in the ceremony and group activities the newcomers in the hostel and technical school were enlightened about the Salesian charism and Salesian Youth Movement. Invocation to the Holy Spirit was followed by the presentation of their mottos after which Sr Alexander Lilly Rose the animator, instructed the children to be united and live in God's presence.



On **17 September 2023 Parents' Day** was celebrated in Auxilium Convent Nochchiyagama and the parents of the hostellers gladly took part in the celebration and the chief guest was Mrs Dilani the councilor of Kekirawa, Anuradhapura. She enumerated on "Goal Setting" and personally met the children and exhorted the parents to bring up a happy family. An array of programs was staged to entertain the parents and a tableau based on 'Laudato Si' was performed. Sr Alexander Lilly Rose

the animator of the community spoke about parenting and concluded the event with a vote of thanks.

Sr Gansan Maria Rohini

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NOTE OF THANKS

To the Communities

Anmarudai - Mangala Geetham
Arni - St Joseph Convent
Dharmapuri - Marialaya
Erode - Marialaya
Madras- Kingsford
Madras - Kodambakkam
Michaelpuram -Auxilium Home
Mosavadi -St Joseph's Home
Polur - Sacred Heart Convent
Salem- Avvai Nagar- Marialaya
Salem- Pethanaickenpalayam- Marialaya
Tirupattur - Mary Immaculate Convent
Vellore -St Mary's Convent
Vellore - Auxilium College,Katpadi
Vellore - Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
Vellore -Auxilium Home, Katpadi
Yercaud- Mornese Convent
Sri Lanka - Colombo
Sri Lanka - Columbuturai
Sri Lanka - Eppawala
Sri Lanka - Jaffna
Sri Lanka - Nochchiyagama
Sri Lanka - Negombo
Sri Lanka - Negombo -Novitiate

Special THANKS to the Contributors

Sr Sebastian Philomena S
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Sr Francis Jeyamani

Sr Michael Augustine
Sr Arul Josephine
Sr Chinnanayagam Mary Sheela
Sr Susai Josephine Rani
Sr Kunnathu Anna
Sr Alexander Amali
Sr Joseph Victoria Mary
Sr Thirukumaran Tamil Selvi
Sr Bathalapalli Irudaya Mary
Sr De Rose Amala
Sr Samson Gnana Jennifer
Sr Chinnaraj Thangam
Sr Arul Pragasa Mary
Sr Mercy Buela
Mr Vinoth & ECO Club
Sr Joseph Karmel Mary & Sr Celine
Sr Dominic Switha
Sr Juliana Victor
Sr Savariappan Irene Novila Rani
Sr Santiagu Amirtha Alocis
Sr Mathew Alice
Sr Fernando Nilmini and Sr Piumika, I Novice
Sr Ann Nimesha and Sr Piumika I Novices
Sr Anthonipillai Arulmalar
Sr Fernando Nilmini
Sr James Conar Kirshmina
SrAnandan Anna Mary Rosintha
Sr Sahayaseelan Kajana
Sr Irudayaraj Lourdu Mary
Sr ArulnesanMariya Jenatnayaki
Sr Pazhayathil Annie
Sr Ganesan Maria Rohini

Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam!

-Amen.





November: Month of Souls in Purgatory

Padre Pio is known for his many mystical experiences during prayer, often piercing the heavenly veil while on earth. **One such experience involved an unexpected encounter with a soul from purgatory.** One day while praying alone, **Padre Pio opened his eyes to see an old man standing there.** He was surprised by the presence of another person in the room and explained in his testimony, "I could not imagine how he could have entered the friary at this time of night since all the doors are locked." Seeking to unravel the mystery, Pio asked the man, "**Who are you? What do you want?**"

The man responded, "Padre Pio, I am **Pietro Di Mauro**, son of Nicola, nicknamed Precoco. I died in this friary on the 18 September 1908, in cell number 4, when it was still a poorhouse. One night, while in bed, I fell asleep with a lighted cigar, which ignited the mattress and I died, suffocated and burned. I am still in purgatory. I need a holy Mass in order to be freed. God permitted that I come and ask you for help." Pio comforted the poor soul by saying, "**Rest assured that tomorrow I will celebrate Mass for your liberation.**"

The man left and the next day Pio did some investigative work and discovered the veracity of the story and how a man of the same name died on that day in 1908. **Everything was confirmed and Padre Pio celebrated a Mass for the repose of the old man's soul.** This was not the only appearance of a soul from purgatory asking Padre Pio for prayers. Pio claimed, "As many souls of the dead come up this road [to the monastery] as that of the souls of the living." Many times the souls would ask for a Mass to be said for them, highlighting the spiritual weight of a Mass and how it can lessen the time a person spends in purgatory before embracing the glories of heaven.

PRAYER OF ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT

*A prayer which would release
1000 souls from Purgatory each
time it is said:*

"Eternal Father, I offer thee the most precious blood of thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family.

Amen."



CONGRATULATIONS



VIDES SILVER JUBILEE

