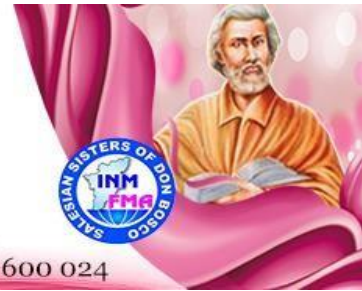




Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Salesiane di Don Bosco
St Thomas the Apostle Province - INM
Madras - India



Provincial Circular

2023 - 2024

Mazzarello Convent, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600 024

INM FMA / Pro.Cir.11

April 2024

My Dearest Sisters,

Viva Gesu`! Affectionate greetings to each one of you from Kodambakkam!

Creative Presence: Unleashing Creativity for Inspired Results

INTRODUCTION

Creative presence adds colour and flavour to our lives. Without a creative presence, life would be dull, monotonous, uninteresting, and unexciting. The paradox of creative presence is the inherent stillness that blends seamlessly with the spontaneous and eternal arising of the creative impulse of life itself. That blend of tranquillity and “aliveness” is where one can discover the true creative power of presence. When we’re in this state of being, insights, ideas, and words arise from the unlimited potential of all that has yet to manifest and take form as they pour through us into the world. The importance of having a creative presence has a close connection with being mindful and present in that presence.

Creative presence helps us express ourselves in unique and authentic ways, and it fuels innovation and progress in every sphere of life. The importance of creative presence cannot be overstated, and we must embrace and nurture it in our lives. Creative presence ignites the power of imagination, which allows individuals to generate new and unique ideas, concepts, and solutions. As an important feature of our lives, it enables us to express ourselves, adapt to new situations, stay ahead of the curve, and make progress in our life and mission.

Creativity, as part of creative presence, is a skill that can be developed and nurtured in anyone willing to explore their imagination and think outside the box. It generates a new vision and allows one to express oneself in unique ways in all aspects of life. Creativity in creative presence is a fundamental aspect of human life that plays a significant role in shaping our future. It plays a vital role and is a driving force that allows us to explore new horizons, experiment with different techniques and methodologies, and create something unique and original in fulfilling our educational mission. Let us reflect on some of the significant aspects of creative presence, which is an essential tool for personal growth and development, community and missionary progress, and prosperity.

1. Makes us more proactive and optimistic

One major benefit of creative presence is that it makes the person more proactive and excited to take on challenges. This opens up new opportunities that we might have otherwise avoided

due to a fear of failure and disappointment. When we have a creative and enthusiastic mindset, we're able to reframe the vision of our mission, which improves our performance. As creative individuals, we are more likely to be adaptable, flexible, and resilient, which are essential qualities for the successful accomplishment of our mission today. People are increasingly looking for individuals who possess creativity and innovation skills, and individuals who possess these skills are more likely to succeed in their mission.

Creative presence helps us to focus on positive thinking, and engaging in creative activities can enhance mental and emotional well-being. Creative expression is an effective way to communicate thoughts, feelings, and ideas. It allows us to connect with others on a deeper level and express ourselves in unique ways. Creative activities improve communication and social skills. These activities require active listening, empathy, and the ability to understand and respond to others' emotions. They also promote teamwork, collaboration, and leadership skills. Studies have shown that creative expressions and creative activities (painting, writing, music, dancing, gardening, etc.) can reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, increase self-esteem, and promote a sense of purpose and fulfilment. They can provide a sense of control, relaxation, mindfulness, and being proactive and optimistic, which can improve our overall well-being.

2. Inspires innovation and fosters problem-solving

Creative presence is essential for innovation and problem-solving. It allows us to create something that reflects our personality, beliefs, and values. Creative presence creates something new, unique, and original, and inspires innovation. It makes us think beyond conventional boundaries, come up with something innovative, and create something that has never been done before. It helps us to think outside the box and come up with new and exciting ideas. By encouraging one another to think creatively, we can come up with new and innovative ideas that can help us stay ahead of the game. Creative presence gives us the freedom to express ourselves and showcase our unique style in fulfilling our mission.

Without a creative presence, we would be unable to explore new horizons for our mission. Creative presence allows us to come up with new ideas and creative solutions to even the most complex problems in our lives and mission. Creative thinking in creative presence involves looking at a problem from different perspectives, generating multiple solutions, and selecting the most effective one. This type of thinking helps us adapt to changing circumstances and find new and effective ways to solve the problems of daily life. Creative presence helps us to express ourselves, inspires innovation, adds value to life, and is essential for personal growth. Creativity is a vital component of our lives, and it's about finding new ways to solve problems, improve processes, and create value for one's life and that of others.

3. Explores inner selves and discovers the true positive potential for growth

Creative presence is essential for personal growth as it allows us to explore our inner selves and discover our true potential. It allows us to express our emotions, thoughts, and experiences, which is essential for personal development. It encourages individuals to take risks, experiment with new ideas, and learn from their mistakes. It also helps individuals

develop a sense of self-worth and confidence, which are essential for personal growth. It helps us to develop our skills, improve our techniques, and grow as individuals.

A creative presence can also help create a more positive potential for growth. It can also lead to increased productivity and profitability. By coming up with new and innovative initiatives in our apostolate, we can attract new collaborators and increase fruitfulness. Additionally, it can help us increase efficiency, leading to a higher status in our life and mission. When lay collaborators feel empowered to be creative and share their ideas, they are more engaged and motivated. This can lead to increased satisfaction with the fulfilment of the mission and higher turnover rates. A positive potential in a mission environment can improve collaboration and teamwork, leading to better results and higher productivity. We can share our perspective with the world and make a lasting impact by adding value, depth, and meaning.

4. Builds participatory and interactive trust

Creative presence connects with people and increases our chances of being successful in situations where we want to build trust. By demonstrating that we're open, friendly, and sincere, we encourage others to exhibit those traits toward us in return. A creative presence builds and nurtures confidence. When we are confident, young people are less easily influenced by others. Creative expression in creative presence gives a voice, instils curiosity, and encourages questions. It helps capture ideas, thoughts, and visions about the world that young people can advocate for themselves and others. When engaging creative presence with creativity, young people are not passively listening or absorbing but are exploring, discovering, and communicating. It can encourage young people to be more active and present as members of society.

Creative presence opens the mind. A society that has lost touch with its creative side is an imprisoned society, in which generations of people may be closed-minded. It broadens our perspectives and can help us overcome prejudices. Creative presence with creative interactions inspires collective thinking, nurtures ideas, and supports resilience. It stimulates, motivates, and allows exploration and communication beyond the limitations of words. It keeps the mind active and engages different learning styles with joys and surprises.

CONCLUSION

Creative presence is essential for us to stay competitive and innovative in today's mission environment. By embracing creativity, we can drive innovation, foster a positive work environment, solve complex problems, and increase profitability. Creativity, as part of a creative presence, is the cornerstone of innovation. It enables individuals to come up with new and unique ideas that can transform the world. Innovation is not limited to technology; it can also be applied to various fields such as education, healthcare, and social services. Creative individuals are more likely to think outside the box and come up with innovative solutions that can solve complex problems.

Creative presence is a powerful tool for problem-solving. It enables individuals to approach problems from different angles and come up with unique solutions. Creative individuals are not limited by conventional thinking and are more likely to find creative solutions to complex problems. Problem-solving requires a combination of analytical thinking and creativity, and individuals who possess both skills are more likely to succeed in their lives.

To enjoy our creative presence, we must step away from the idea that we are “not creative.” This exercise permits us to explore creativity and expression with no expectations and no end goal. It’s an invitation to tune into our body, connect with our breath, and find a calm space to experience something different. Creative presence is one approach to creativity, and certainly not the only one. Ordinary thinking about the challenge can pave the way for new insights and creative acts. Furthermore, creative insights can occur in any context, from crises to dreams to wild passions. Nevertheless, the creative presence approach blends with and extends our spiritual practice. From deep inner work, the resulting quiet, clear mind and peaceful heart offer excellent conditions for the creative impulse to enter us and be recognized.

Without creativity, we would not have made the significant advancements we enjoy today. It helps us connect with others. It is a universal language that transcends borders and cultures. It helps us connect with others and build meaningful relationships. A creative presence brings people together and fosters a sense of community and belonging. Creative presence is a vital part of our lives, and we must embrace it and nurture it through creative expressions and activities. By doing so, we can tap into our innermost selves, connect with others, and create a brighter and more vibrant world for all to live in.

Points to Ponder:

1. How can a creative presence make one more proactive and excited to take on the challenges of our lives and mission today?
2. How will the creative presence inspire innovation and foster problem-solving?
3. Why is creative presence essential to exploring inner selves and discovering true positive potential for growth?
4. How does creative presence build participatory and interactive trust for inspiring results in our lives and mission?

CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH - APRIL 2024

07 Sun	-	Divine Mercy Sunday
08 Mon	-	Annunciation of the Lord
21 Sun	-	Vocation Sunday
22 Mon	-	International Mother Earth Day
25 Thu	-	St Mark, the Evangelist
26 Fri	-	World Feast of Gratitude

ALL IN THE FAMILY

WORLD DAY OF GRATITUDE

Let us intensify our prayers for our beloved Mother General as we prepare ourselves to celebrate World Gratitude Day on April 26, 2024, in Mozambique, with the theme “*With Mary, guided by the ‘dream’, we generate peace by taking care of our Common Home*”.

On the website <https://www.festadelgrazie.org>, we can find the Journey in Preparation for the World Feast of Gratitude 2024 of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians. Let us join in the network as FMA, Educating Communities, lay people, and young people of the Salesian Family, express our gratitude to Mother Chiara Cazzuola, and prepare to live, with renewed enthusiasm, the charismatic event of the World Feast of Gratitude.

To prepare ourselves for this event, we are offered a four-week itinerary by the Province of Saint John Bosco (MOZ).

1st Week (1–6 April): ‘Taking care’ in Mother Mazzarello

2nd Week (8–13 April): ‘Taking care’ in Don Bosco: the dream at nine years of age.

3rd Week (15–20 April) Ecological Spirituality

4th Week (22–25 April): Lectio on the Beatitudes

We extend our heartfelt wishes to our beloved Mother Chiara Cazzuola and her esteemed Councillors, a very happy feast day, along with the young people of our Province community and our lay collaborators. Let us thank God for the abundant blessings bestowed upon our Institute and each individual within it and offer prayers of gratitude. May our Blessed Mother continue to illumine our path and accompany us in our onward journey.

The Second Novitiate II Phase: Sr Adaikalan Rekha, Sr Andrews Roseline, Sr Arokia Raj Deepika, Sr Anthony Cruz Mathalen Mary, Sr Amirhtasingam Nirosha and Sr Ganesan Maria Rohini will be making their II Phase of the Second Novitiate from 20 April to 15 May 2024 along with their three companions of INT Province in Trichy, Manikandam. They will have sessions and reflections on FMA Constitutions, Religious life in the Virtual World, Living the Preventive System in today’s Context, Women Discipleship, Social Teachings of the Church, Newer Challenges of Consecrated life, Pedagogical Perspective of a Person, Administration Skills and Consecrated life to the Position of Jesus. They will make their Annual Spiritual Retreat along with the novices from 16 to 23 May 2024. We wish them a profound experience of the journey toward a binding decision and assure them of our prayers and support.

Vocation Sunday: 21 April 2024 - The Fourth Sunday of Easter is known as Vocations Sunday or Good Shepherd Sunday, and is marked as the **World Day of Prayer for Vocations**. The purpose of this day is to fulfil Jesus’ instruction to “Pray the Lord of the harvest to send labourers into his harvest” (Mt. 9:38). While appreciating all vocations, the

Church concentrates her attention on raising up vocations for religious life and priesthood in the Church. Dear Sisters, let us pray and promote vocations for our Congregation and vocations to the Salesian Family.

CONGRATULATIONS

- ✚ We express our hearty congratulations to Fr Sebastian Kuricheal SDB, the New Provincial who will be installed as Provincial of Mary Help of Christians Province, Guwahati, on 25 May 2024.
- ✚ We rejoice and thank God that our Mother General, Chiara Cazzuola has nominated Sr Mabel Gothorp as Provincial of ING Province and Sr Rosa Pyngrope as Provincial of INS Province. May God bless them as they embark on their mission.

NOTE OF THANKS

- ✚ Thanks to Sr Alphonse Mary J Isabella Councillor in charge of Social Ministry for organizing state level workshop on Gender Equality in Auxilium College, Katpadi on 08 March 2024 and to ARUWYE for organizing the Women's Day celebration in Kodambakkam on 16 March 2024.
- ✚ A heartfelt thanks to Sr Stanislaus Mary Dora, the Animator, and the Community of Marialaya, Avvai Nagar, for hosting the Annual Retreat for the workers on 15 March 2024. Your hospitality and commitment to spiritual enrichment are truly appreciated.
- ✚ Heartfelt gratitude to the Animators Sr Anthony Raj Christina, Sr Samuel Gloria Navanetham, and Sr Samala Rayappan Elisa, and the Communities of Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam, Little Flower Convent, Pallikonda, Mary Immaculate, Tirupattur for hosting the Annual Retreat for the workers on 17 March 2024. Your dedication and warm hospitality contributed to a meaningful and enriching experience for all involved.
- ✚ Grateful acknowledgements to Sr Antony Raj Christina, the Animator, and the entire Kodambakkam Community for hosting the Provincial Council on 18 - 19 March 2024.
- ✚ Hearty thanks to Sr Chinnappan Philomena Rani and the community of Mornese, Yercaud, for making all the arrangements to create a prayerful atmosphere for the 42 Sisters of Second Annual Retreat of the year, from 20 to 27 January March 2024.

HEARTY WELCOME

Fr Giovanni Rolandi SDB, the **Extraordinary visitor** of INM SDB Province will visit us on April 22 Monday at Kodambakkam. All the Sisters in the Chennai houses can gather around 3.00 p.m. in Kodambakkam to listen to his gracious words and receive his blessings as he comes in the name of the Lord as a bond of communion in the Salesian Family.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

- Course on Media skills will be conducted at DBICA, Citadel. Sr Francis Amala Nayagi, Sr Arockiam Santhana Mary, Sr Joseph Karmel Mary, and Sr Vincent Priyadharshini will participate in the I batch from 15 to 27 April 2024. Sr Lourdusamy Jebamani, Sr Jayaseelan Jasmine and Sr Joseph S. Christina Jenifer will participate in the II batch from 29 April to 11 May 2024.
- Ongoing Missionary Formation will be held from 05 to 31 May 2024 in Rome. Sr Paul M. Mary and Sr Mahimainadhan Sathiyavani will participate in it.
- One-month intensive course on Consecrated Life will be held from 30 April-30 May 2024, at Carmelaram, Bangalore. Sr Arockiadoss Brijit Nirmala and Sr Lourdusamy Catherine Juliet will participate in it.

May they have a profoundly enriching and rewarding experience!

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

Our loving prayers and condolences to all those who lost their dear ones in March 2024:

- To Fr Roshan Miranda and his Confreres of the Vice Province of Sri Lanka, at the demise of Fr Dilan Marisal SDB (35) on 05 March 2024 in Mannar.
- To the family of Mrs Amala, an orphan of Polur Sacred Heart Community, at the death of her husband Mr Francis (77) on 10 March 2024 at Thattanchavadi, Pondicherry.
- To the community of Mary Immaculate Convent, Tirupattur, at the demise of the orphan Ms Aurelia Srinivasan (79) on 12 March 2024, in Tirupattur.
- To Sr Elizabeth George and the Sisters of the Province of Shillong, at the passing away of Sr Catherine Susngi (93), on 14 March 2024, in Shillong.
- To Sr Meenakshi D'Silva and the Sisters of the Province of Mumbai, at the demise of Sr Teresa Castellino (81), on 29 March 2024, in Pune.
- To Sr Lucy Rose Ozhukayil and the Sisters of the Province of Bangalore, at the demise of Sr Helen Thonippara (89), on 30 March 2024, in Bangalore.
- To Sr Xavier Wency and the family at the passing away of her brother-in-law, Mr Xavier Jayakumar (55), on 30 March 2024, in Coimbatore.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY - APRIL 2024

06 † Sr Aloysius Antoinette (2014)

† Sr David Elizabeth (2021)

11 † Sr Ward Annie (1976)

15 † Sr Opezzo Caterina (2004)

16 † Sr Sindhuraj Regina (2021)

18 † Sr Albuquerque Alzira (2002)

20 † Sr Tarricone Consiglia (1990)

23 † Sr Arokiasami Philomena (2022)

26 † Sr D'Souza Margaret (1954)

† Sr Bossi Aurelia (1985)

28 † Sr Solomon Philomena (2020)

29 † Sr Mariadass Philomena (2023)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - APRIL 2024

02-03	Tue-Wed	FMA PCI, Guwahati
03-10	Wed-Wed	Annual Retreat for Animators, Yercaud
11	Thu	Animation for the Retreatants, Yercaud
13-14	Sat-Sun	Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
20-15 May	Sat-Wed	Second Novitiate II Phase, Trichy, Manikandam
22	Mon	Visit of Fr Giovanni Rolandi SDB, the Extraordinary Visitor, Kodambakkam
25	Thu	Submission of Society Accounts, Kodambakkam

Easter, the most significant celebration in the Christian calendar, commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, symbolizing hope, renewal, and eternal life. It marks the culmination of the Passion of Christ, including his crucifixion and burial, followed by his triumphant resurrection on the third day, as foretold in the scriptures.

The Easter Octave, spanning from Easter Sunday to Divine Mercy Sunday, is a time of deep reflection and joy. Each day emphasizes Christ's resurrection and the promise of redemption for all. It serves as a time of renewal and spiritual awakening, inviting us to deepen our faith and embrace the transformative power of Christ's resurrection. As the octave concludes, the Easter season continues, marking a period of continued rejoicing and profound gratitude for the gift of redemption.

Divine Mercy Sunday, celebrated on the second Sunday of Easter, **7 April**, is a special day in the liturgical calendar dedicated to honouring the boundless compassion and forgiveness of God. It commemorates the visions of Saint Faustina Kowalska, who received revelations of Jesus Christ emphasizing His mercy for all humanity. On this sacred day, we are invited to reflect on the infinite love and mercy of God, seeking forgiveness for our sins and extending forgiveness to others. Through the sacrament of reconciliation and participation in Holy Mass, let's renew our trust in the merciful heart of Jesus and experience the profound grace of His divine mercy. Let us remind our young people of the unending mercy available to all who turn to God with contrite hearts, offering hope, healing, and redemption.

On 8 April we celebrate the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord. The Annunciation marks the Angel Gabriel's visit to the Virgin Mary, announcing her role in bearing the Son of God. Mary's acceptance of this divine plan signifies the beginning of the Incarnation. This event serves as a reminder of God's love and His promise of salvation, inspiring us to reflect on Mary's faith and openness to divine guidance. It symbolizes the intersection of heaven and earth, bringing hope and redemption to humanity.

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Devadoss Margaret

**Sr Devadoss Margaret FMA
Provincial**



Happy Feast!



Itinerary of the Provincial APRIL 2024

01	Mon	Journey to Guwahati
02-03	Tue-Wed	FMA PCI, Guwahati
04	Thu	Journey to Chennai, and Yercaud
03-10	Wed-Wed	Annual Retreat for Animators, Yercaud
11	Thu	Animation for the Retreatants, Yercaud
12	Fri	Provincial Office
13-14	Sat-Sun	Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
15-21	Mon-Sun	Provincial Office
22	Tue	Visit of Fr Giovanni Rolandi SDB, the Extraordinary Visitor, Kodambakkam
23-28	Tue-Sun	Provincial Office
29	Mon	Journey to Trichy, Manikandam
30-01 May	Tue-Wed	Classes for the Second Novitiate Sisters
02-09	Thu-Thu	Annual Retreat for Sisters - IV, Yercaud

