



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

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR 2024 - 2025



Mazzarello Convent, Kodambakkam, Chennai - 600 024

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My Dearest Sisters,

Viva Gesu`! Affectionate New Year greetings to each one of you!

As we bid farewell to 2024 with hearts full of gratitude, we eagerly welcome 2025 with renewed hope, joy, and trust in God's abundant providence. Guided by the loving presence of Mary, our Mother, we enter the New Year, with a renewed sense of purpose and eager expectation. Let us reflect on the following theme: Love and Communion: The Essence of Religious Community Life.

INTRODUCTION

In Religious Life, the members live in a community sharing life and love, communion and mission, charism and spirituality. Shared community life of love is an integral part of religious life. In professing vows and living within the community, the members, individually and as a whole, witness a life of love and communion with Christ, the Church, and each other. Religious life, in addition to being an essential witness for evangelization, has great significance for apostolic activity and its ultimate purpose of establishing God's Kingdom here and now.

The religious community is a living sign of the primacy of the love of God, who works wonders, and of the love for God and for one another as manifested and lived by Jesus Christ. It is a participation in and a qualified witness of the Church-Mystery, a living expression of "communion" of the great Trinitarian "koinonia.". In its existence, structure, motivations, and distinguishing charismatic values, the religious community makes publicly visible and continually perceptible, the gift of Christ's love and communion to the whole Church (FMA Const. 49).

1. Presence of God's Saving and Compassionate Love

Religious people are called to stand together as a presence of God's saving, compassionate love. Religious, by living in the community and making their community a 'place of love', can witness the universal love of salvation brought about by Christ (Jn 3:16). They are to become agents of love, peace, and justice through evangelization, in the strict sense and through education that makes people sensitive to social issues that call for just and peaceful solutions. It is a call and consecration on the sign-value of love living in a community with the family spirit and on the apostolic dimension inherent in every religious vocation (FMA Const. 50-51).

Religious community life is said to be rooted in and based on love. It is meant to be a witness of love to others. The world desperately needs the example of people living together and serving others in love. Remember Christ's commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 13:34). Love is the source of the spiritual growth of religious persons in the life of Christ. In other words, for the religious to grow in their spiritual life, they have no choice but to live with others in love and accomplish the mission of Christ in the unity of heart and mind. Charity has to be the basis of spiritual life and the foundation of one's fidelity as religious in the community. "By this shall all know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35).

Religious community life is the reflection of the community of the Trinity of love and is part of divine revelation and salvation. The Trinity is an incomprehensible divine mystery and the religious community life is a comprehensible human mystery. The practice of charity in community life is to show one's love for God by one's selfless love for others with whom one is living and working. Every religious person living in a community understands the self-sacrifice that living a community life requires. St John Berchman has rightly said, "My greatest mortification is community life." It expresses the experience of every religious who wishes to live community life seriously and faithfully in love and harmony.

The spirituality of love and communion in community life implies the ability to see what is positive in others, to welcome it, to value it as a gift from God, and to know how to share each other's burdens. Everyone has to admit that creating a healthy community of love and communion is difficult. It is the community life that provides consistent opportunities for experiencing and expressing one's love for God and others. Pope Francis says, "Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of the ideal of fraternal love" (EG, # 101). One's love for God is mainly revealed by the degree and depth of one's love for others in the community (FMA Const. 62).

Charity is the one virtue that community life draws out as a magnet from the most selfish human heart. To live in a community, one must cultivate the capacity for sisterly attachment, attentive listening, respect for others, sincerity and truthfulness in relationships, friendship, understanding, benevolence, mutual accompaniment, considering others better than oneself, enjoying others' success, sharing in others' pains and failures, and experiencing mercy in oneself and others. Sometimes one has to consider that community life is the most effective way of expiating one's sins and obtaining mercy from an all-just God as St Paul says, "Let us never grow weary in doing what is right" (cf. Gal 6:9).

2. Place of Daily Pardon Given and Received

Jean Vanier says that a religious community is a privileged 'place of forgiveness.' Community life is a sacrament of God's compassionate love if and in so far as it embodies the saving reality of universal reconciliation of God in Christ. The community should be a place where pardons are given and received daily. It should become a clear sign to its members and to all that God reconciles people to Himself and with each other. This will enable them to become active agents of pardon and reconciliation (cf. 2 Cor 5:18-21). The more the members of a religious community are bound to one another by bonds of deep friendship and love, the more that community embodies the reality of the Church as the 'sacrament of salvation' (LG 48). A truly united community becomes a sacramental presence of God's saving love.

Religious community life can very frequently embody the reality of God's pardon, precisely because it is often hard and burdened by conflicts, and so, calls for reconciliation. Once consecrated persons grasp the fact that they are forgiven unconditionally by a merciful and compassionate God, then they become agents of reconciliation. Inevitably, when persons live close to each other, words will wound, and susceptibilities clash, but the grace of God enables the members of the community to forgive and start afresh. Because God is the God of compassion, a community is most God-like if it can rise to the heights of being a 'place of forgiveness' where, with tender compassion, hurts are healed and relations of love and trust are created anew (Lk 15).

The challenge of reconciliation is to keep at it; to keep opponents talking, encourage compassionate listening, invite forgiveness, find the middle ground for peace, and never give up. As St Paul exhorts us, "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so must you also do. And over all these put on love, that is, the bond of perfection" (Col 3:12-14). In a religious community, practising reconciliation, being patient with one another, bearing with one another, and forgiving one another is Christ's condition for His mercy on us. Let every consecrated person seek reconciliation with any person or persons with whom they now have a ruptured or unhappy relationship (FMA Const. 53).

3. Significant Impact on the Perseverance of Religious Vocation

Sisterly love and communion in religious life express the communion realized by God's love for humanity. In religious life, it is part of God's plan, and He wishes to share His life of communion and mission with us. The quality of community life has a significant impact on the perseverance of individual religious vocation. Just as the poor quality of community life has been mentioned frequently by many as the reason for leaving religious life, so, a community life of love lived fully has often been, and still is, a valuable support to the perseverance of many in responding to God's call. (FMA Const. 54)

Within a genuine religious community, each member has a sense of co-responsibility for the faithfulness of the others. Each one has to contribute to a serene climate of sharing life, understanding, and mutual help. Each person is to be attentive to the moments of fatigue, suffering, isolation, or lack of motivation in others. Each one must feel the responsibility to offer support to those who are saddened by difficulties and trials, temptations, and suffering. Religious community life is to be so defined that for all, it proves to be of mutual assistance to fulfilling one's religious vocation and mission. Shared living in the religious community must aim towards supporting each member in its totality. Solid human relationships built within the community must give strength and encouragement in joyfully living one's vocation in fidelity.

God wishes to overwhelm the world with his love. So, the experience of community communion and love must make the religious become missionaries of God's unconditional love and concrete signs of His unifying power. One must be able to enter into communion of life, participate in common prayer moments, share life and apostolate, reflect, research, and discern God's plan for the benefit of all. To do this, one must silence egocentrism, individualism, or the desire to isolate oneself; one must also overcome partisanship or narrow-mindedness. In short, the community dimension of one's life and mission cannot be acquired once and for all but must be constantly renewed and strengthened.

CONCLUSION

All of us have a history of good or bad experiences living in a community. Everyone has at least some idea of what can be positive in building a good community life and what can be an obstacle or even what can destroy it. We all know that good community life requires a commitment from community leaders (who bear a great deal of responsibility in this regard) and from each community member. Commitment begins primarily with oneself without expecting from others. It is both a personal and a collective commitment. Making time for each other, praying together, eating together, and relaxing together can all contribute to making our community life more than just living under the same roof.

Pope Francis says that the Institutes of Consecrated Life are “repositories of a great heritage and a rich tradition of synodality. Walking together, with Christ and in the Spirit, constitutes the essence of Christian religious life. The Pope said that walking together in the Spirit imprints a style of communion and participation marked by mission. In all our places of mission, we must seek with others how to “walk together” and discern what the Spirit is calling us to. As consecrated persons, we will walk together to imagine how to experience our faith and our hope in the times to come. The specific contribution of religious life on the theme of synodality should also be this: words and messages of fraternity, solidarity, reconciliation, and peace at the heart of our world.

Living in a community is a daily challenge. However, the use of certain means of communication is not always beneficial to community life. Therefore, let us be careful that our smartphones, tablets, computers, etc., do not replace our Sisters. We all need a supportive community! In his encyclical letter, *Fratelli Tutti*, Pope Francis writes explicitly: “No one can face life in isolation. We need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead. How important it is to dream together. By ourselves, we risk seeing mirages, things that are not there: Dreams on the other hand are built together” (# 8). A solid sisterly life in a community also helps the religious to live and remain faithful to the religious commitments we made on the day of our first profession. Undoubtedly, a good community can serve as a beneficial social control.

Let us realize and make efforts that every religious is responsible for sisterly life in common so that it will manifest their belonging to Christ, who chooses and calls brothers and sisters to live together in His name. United with Mary, Mother of Jesus, our communities invoke the Spirit, who has the power to create fraternal communities that radiate the joy of the Gospel and are capable of attracting new disciples (Acts 2:42; 5:14). May Mary, Mother of God and our Mother too, bring together religious communities and support them daily in invoking the Spirit, who is the bond, the ferment, and the source of all sisterly love and communion.

Points for Reflection and Sharing:

1. Why are ‘love and communion’ the essence of religious community life?
2. Is our community ‘the presence of God’s saving, compassionate love’?
3. How can we make our community a place of daily pardon, given and received?
4. How does our community significantly impact the perseverance of religious vocation?
5. What can I do to build up a genuine communion of hearts and minds in the community with selfless love and acceptance, deep mutual care and respect, trust and confidence, forgiveness, and mercy?

PEACE MESSAGE 2025: "Forgive us our trespasses: grant us your peace"

In his message for the 58th World Day of Peace, Pope Francis calls for a cultural and structural transformation rooted in justice, mercy, and the spirit of forgiveness. Emphasizing the Jubilee Year as a time of hope and renewal, he draws attention to the suffering of the oppressed and the environmental decay that threatens humanity's future. Echoing the Biblical tradition of the Jubilee, the Pope advocates for the forgiveness of foreign and ecological debts, particularly between the Global North and South, to establish a more equitable and peaceful world. He reminds us that true peace stems from a heart disarmed by mercy, compassion, and the willingness to forgive. Pope Francis urges us to recognize our shared responsibility and interdependence, especially in the context of economic injustice and exploitation. He proposes concrete actions, including the cancellation of international debts, the abolition of the death penalty, and the redirection of military funds towards humanitarian needs: food security and sustainable development. With these steps, he envisions a global movement toward peace, where all people embrace the common good and are inspired by hope in God's unlimited mercy. This peace is not merely the absence of war, but a transformative journey toward reconciliation and solidarity.

STRENNA 2025: "Anchored in Hope, Pilgrims with Young People"

The 2025 Strenna focuses on the theme of **hope**. This aligns with the **2025 Jubilee Year** and marks the **150th anniversary** of Don Bosco's first missionary expedition to Argentina. The title, "*Anchored in Hope, Pilgrims with Young People*," expresses our commitment to walking with the youth, journeying through life's challenges with Christian hope. **Hope Beyond Fear:** Pope Francis' call to **hope** resonates deeply, reminding us that while uncertainty and fear are part of life, true Christian hope, based on faith and charity, sustains us. Hope helps us face difficulties with courage and confidence in God's love. **Christian Hope:** True Christian hope doesn't disappoint. It is rooted in the certainty that nothing can separate us from God's love, as St Paul reminds us. Our journey with young people will be one of transformation - where we embrace the essentials and make space for God to encounter us. **Dreaming with Hope:** Inspired by Don Bosco's dreams, young people are encouraged to dream big. As educators, we must help them turn their hopes into action. The young hold the future in their hands, and their dreams are the foundation for building a better, more hopeful tomorrow. Dreams shaped by hope and service drive individuals to pursue paths in healing, education, and support, all with a focus on making a positive impact. These aspirations reflect resilience, personal growth, and a deep commitment to uplifting others. Thus, Strenna invites us to renew our trust in hope, walk alongside young people, and inspire them to dream and act for a brighter future.

UNO Themes

The United Nations has declared 2025 the **International Year of Cooperatives** to highlight the transformative power of cooperatives in fostering sustainable development, social inclusion, and economic resilience. This global initiative aims to showcase how cooperatives, through their democratic, people-centred model, can tackle global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and environmental sustainability. It underscores the potential of cooperatives to promote inclusive growth, empower marginalized communities, and contribute to a more just, equitable, and resilient world while demonstrating their capacity to drive both local and global change in a rapidly evolving economic landscape.

The **International Year of Quantum Science 2025** is an initiative declared by the United Nations to celebrate and promote the advancements in quantum science and technology. This year aims to highlight the revolutionary potential of quantum computing, quantum communication, and quantum sensing, which are poised to reshape industries, economies, and global security. By fostering collaboration and knowledge-sharing across borders, the International Year of Quantum Science will emphasize how these technologies can address complex challenges in fields like healthcare, climate change, energy, and cybersecurity. The year will also aim to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers, and innovators, ensuring that the benefits of quantum science are harnessed for the collective good of humanity.

The **International Year of Peace and Trust 2025** declared by the United Nations aims to highlight the vital connection between peace and trust in fostering a more harmonious and sustainable world. As global challenges such as conflicts, inequality, and climate change continue to test humanity, this year will emphasize the importance of trust at all levels, from individual relationships to international diplomacy. It encourages governments, civil society, and organizations to focus on building and restoring trust through dialogue, transparency, and cooperative actions. By promoting peace through trust, the initiative seeks to strengthen conflict resolution mechanisms, reduce violence, and create the conditions necessary for long-term stability and development, ensuring that trust becomes a cornerstone in achieving peace and social cohesion worldwide.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

OCTAVE OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY (18-25 Jan. 2025)

The **Unity Octave** is an annual week-long observance dedicated to promoting Christian unity, typically celebrated from **18 to 25 January** each year. This period, also known as the **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, invites Christians from various denominations to come together in prayer, reflection, and dialogue, seeking greater unity within the global Christian community. The Octave was originally initiated in 1908 by the **Graymoor Friars** in the United States and has since become a worldwide tradition.

The theme for the Unity Octave often varies each year and is chosen to reflect the ongoing challenges and aspirations for Christian unity, reconciliation, and the healing of divisions. Through shared prayer and scriptural reflection, the Unity Octave encourages Christians to deepen their commitment to living the gospel message in unity, fostering greater mutual respect and understanding, across denominational lines. It is a time for believers to pray for the full visible unity of the Church, inspired by Jesus' prayer for his followers in **John 17:21**, that "they may all be one."

REPUBLIC DAY!

Republic Day is a momentous occasion in India, commemorating the day the Constitution of India came into effect on January 26th, marking a pivotal chapter in our nation's history. It holds profound significance in the hearts of every Indian, honouring the spirit of unity, diversity, and commitment to democratic values that define our nation. This day fills every citizen with immense pride, symbolizing India's dedication to democracy, equality, and justice. In a time of global interconnectedness and evolving societal dynamics, let us reaffirm

our commitment to these enduring ideals, working together to build a future where every citizen is empowered, every voice is heard, and the spirit of democracy flourishes. Let this Republic Day inspire us to contribute to a just and harmonious India, united in purpose and diversity. As we celebrate, let us also rekindle our patriotic spirit, passing it on to the younger generation with the same fervour, and do all we can to educate them as responsible, honest, and devoted citizens of our beloved India.

CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH

01 Wed	-	Mary, Mother of God
03 Fri	-	Holy Name of Jesus
05 Sun	-	The Epiphany of the Lord/ Bl. Titus Zeman SDB
12 Sun	-	Baptism of the Lord
14 Tue	-	St Devasahayam, Martyr
15 Wed	-	Bl. Luigi Variara SDB
16 Thu	-	St Joseph Vaz
18 - 25	-	Unity Octave
22 Sun	-	Bl. Laura Vicuna
24 Fri	-	St Francis De Sales
25 Sat	-	Conversion of St Paul
26 Sun	-	Republic Day
31 Fri	-	St John Bosco

ALL IN THE FAMILY

PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY DAY - 2025

The Provincial Community Day will be celebrated on 11 January 2025, at Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam. This is a moment of unity, a time to celebrate the marvellous works the Lord has accomplished within our Province, our communities, and our mission. May the preparation and celebration of this occasion deepen our bonds of communion, fostering a greater sense of love and belonging to the Province! Let it be a time of renewal, strengthening our shared commitment and connection to one another in faith.

ANIMATORS MEET

The Animators will have a brief meeting after the Provincial Community Day celebrations. During this meeting, important communications will be shared with you. Please remember to bring all necessary documents, particularly the Junior Sisters' reports, for assessment purposes.

TRIENNIAL EVALUATION

The Triennial Evaluation, scheduled to be held at Manikandam, Tiruchirapalli, from January 24-28, 2025, at the PCI level, is an important event that will provide an opportunity for reflection, assessment, and renewal of our collective mission. It will be a time for evaluating the progress of our work, identifying areas of growth, and strengthening our commitment to

the values that guide us. Let us pray for the fruitfulness of this gathering, that it may lead to fruitful discussions, deeper insights, and renewed dedication to our shared goals. May it inspire all participants to be more effective in their mission and bring greater harmony and success to our endeavours! Along with me, the following members will participate in the meeting: Sr Susai Josephine Rani and Sr Ambrose Arockia Jayaceli – Delegates, Mrs Berlin Diana Jenifer, a Lay Collaborator from Aruwey, Kodambakkam, and Ms Udaya Kumar Tamilarasi a student from Auxilium College, Gandhi Nagar, Vellore.

VOCATION DRIVE

During the upcoming Pongal holidays, I urge all the communities to take a proactive role in nurturing vocations by visiting parishes, engaging with families, and reaching out to young girls who may be discerning a religious calling. This is a crucial time to infuse new vitality into our charism and inspire a deeper commitment to the vocation. Let us work with dedication and enthusiasm to accompany these young girls on their spiritual journey. By fostering an environment of support and guidance, we can help cultivate a sense of purpose and vocation, ensuring the continued growth and vitality of our mission.

EDUCATING COMMUNITY ZONAL MEET

The Educating Community Meet at the Province level will be held in two zones: Chetpet-Chennai, and St Mary's Convent, Vellore, on Saturday, 18 January 2025. All the animators, headmistresses, coordinators and members of the Educating Community are requested to participate in their respective zones without fail.

REQUEST FOR PRAYERS

Dear Sisters, let us offer our prayers for our ailing Sisters and the parents of our Sisters, that they may experience comfort and restoration. May God's healing touch renew their strength, and may His grace surround and guide them through this difficult time.

CONGRATULATIONS

- **Youth Fest in Sri Lanka** – I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Sr Nirmala Lazar, the Delegate, Sr Nguyen thi Long Phuong Maria, the Youth Pastoral Coordinator, the Animators, and the Sisters, for your exceptional coordination, cooperation, and participation in the Youth Fest held in Sri Lanka. The event, centred on the theme "The Dream That Makes You Dream," took place on 28 December 2024, in Columbuthurai, and 19 January 2025, in Negombo. Your dedication and involvement are truly commendable.
- **SYM FEST in Tirupattur:** Congratulations to the Province Youth Pastoral Coordinators - Sr Rajendiran Selvarani, Sr Dharmalingam Jayaceli, and Sr Elizabeth Sebastian, the Animator and the Sisters of the Mazzarello Home community, Tirupattur, Sr Samala Elisa, the Animator and the Sisters of the Mary Immaculate Convent community. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to the six Sisters: Sr Rajendiran Selvarani, Sr Dominic Switha, Sr Anthony Sheeba, Sr Innasi Malarvizhi, Sr Wilson Anitha Arockiam, Sr Anthonysamy Arul Pragasa Mary who accompanied the 33 young girls from various communities. Your collaboration and participation in the SYM FEST in Tirupattur from 29 December 2024 to 1 January 2025 are deeply appreciated. A special word of appreciation goes to Sr Kanickaraj M. Tamizharasi for her excellent coordination.

NOTE OF THANKS

- ❖ Thanks to Sr Chinnappan Philomena Rani, the Animator and the Community of Yercaud for hosting the Batch Meet for the Sisters of Profession Batches from 1981-1991, from 1 to 2 December 2024 and Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima and the Community of Sacred Heart Home for hosting the Batch Meet for the Sisters of Profession Batches from 1992-2018, from 4 to 8 December 2024. A word of appreciation to Sr Anthony Samy Jecintha Mary, Sr Adaikalam Rekha, Sr Kabriel Gracy Marthal, Sr Wilson Anitha, Sr Paul Ezhilarasi and Sr Tharsius Sancu who helped in Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi during the course.
- ❖ A note of thanks to Sr Antony Raj Josephine, the animator, and the community of Auxilium College, Gandhi Nagar for hosting the Provincial Council on 14 and 15 December 2024.
- ❖ Hearty thanks to Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima and the community of Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi, for making all arrangements to create a prayerful atmosphere for the 45 Sisters of Annual Retreat - I, from 26 December 2024 to 2 January 2025. My special thanks to Sr Anthony Samy Jecintha Mary, Sr Samuel Gloria Navaneetham and Sr Savarimuthu Stella Rani who helped during the Annual Retreat.
- ❖ My gratitude goes to Sr Kanickaraj Mary Tamizharasi and the Sisters of St Joseph's Convent, Arni, for hosting the House Girls Retreat on 27 and 28 December 2024.
- ❖ A note of thanks to Sr Anthony Raj Christina and the community of Kodambakkam for making all the arrangements to hold the Counselling Psychotherapy Course for twenty Young Sisters from 27 to 30 December 2024. I also extend my heartfelt thanks to Sr Susai Josephine Rani for accompanying the young Sisters and facilitating their journey. Sincere appreciation goes to Sr Kunnathu Anna for the thoughtful arrangements made to accommodate the Sisters.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

- **Course on Psychotherapy and Counselling for Young Sisters:** Sr Joseph Mercy Buella Mary, Sr Adaikalam Rekha, Sr Anthony Cruz Mathalen Mary, Sr Susai Nathan Ayesha Bindhu, Sr Santhiagu Mary Theresa, Sr Kabriel Gracy Marthal, Sr Premkumar Josephine Keerthana, Sr Jayaseelan Jasmine, Sr Rayappan Stephina Roy, Sr Arockia Samy Ancy Jenifer, Sr Anthonysamy Mary Abisha, Sr Tharcus Sancu, Sr Vincent Priyadharshini, Sr Anthonysamy Dyana Roseline, Sr Immanuel Celcia, Sr Standly Andrew Mary Margaret, Sr Joseph S. Christina Jenifer, Sr Divyanatha Helen Gracy, Sr Sagaya Lourdu Nathan Akila, and Sr Lourdunathan Sujitha Jayaseeli participated from 26-30 December 2024 at Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam. Fr Sathian Innasi, a Capuchin from Anugraha, served as the resource person for the course. Sr Susai Josephine Rani, the Formation Coordinator, accompanied the participants throughout the course.
- **Seminar on Lawful Management of Societies and Properties – Level II:** The course, organized by the Legal Cell, will be held in Madurai from 31 January to 1 February 2025. Sr Kunnathu Anna and Sr Mariadoss Bridget will be participating in it.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

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

- To Sr Rosa Pyngrope, the Provincial and the Sisters of Shillong Province at the demise of Sr Marinella Hinge (37) on 10 December 2024.
- To Sr Mabel Gothorp, the Provincial and the Sisters of Guwahati Province at the demise of Sr Anna Thekkanal (64) on 12 December 2024.
- To Sr Maharahatti A. D. Sapna Nimesha at the demise of her maternal uncle Mr Janaka Asela (41) in Sri Lanka on 13 December 2024.
- To Sr Bestonia Warjri (INS) at the demise of her father Mr Akostin Nongbri (61) in Shillong on 14 December 2024.
- To Sr Premkumar Josephine Keerthana at the passing away of her aunt Mrs Jayarani (45) in Chingleput on 18 December 2024.
- To Sr Peddineeni Mary Philomena at the passing away of her brother Mr Arulraj P. (70), in Bangalore on 18 December 2024.
- To Sr Samuel Gloria Navaneetham at the passing away of her brother-in-law, Mr Patrick Nicolas (69) in Coimbatore on 19 December 2024.
- To Bishop Most Rev Dr Ambrose Pitchaimuthu and the Priests of Vellore Diocese at the passing away of Mgr Nambikairaj (89) in Vellore on 23 December 2024.
- To Sr Meenakshi D'Silva, the Provincial and the Sisters of Mumbai Province at the demise of Sr Phyllis Fernandes (84) on 28 December 2024.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY

- 03 † Sr Rita Thomas (2013)
- 05 † Sr Giuseppina Efsia Festa (1987)
- 07 † Sr Marie Ranner (2002)
- 08 † Sr Clotilde Appiano (1968)
- 14 † Sr Teresa Villa (1989)
- 15 † Sr Josephine Pereira (2021)
- 17 † Sr Annie Kottaram (2023)
- 18 † Sr Walentyna Czernick (2009)
- 19 † Sr Sagayaselvi Periyamayagam (2024)
- 24 † Sr Sr Caterina Mania (1983), Sr Rosary Muthusamy (2018)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

02	Thu	Animation for the Retreatants, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
05	Sun	Provincial Team Meet, Online
06-07	Mon-Tue	Seminar on Self-Awareness and Inner freedom, Sisters Batch - I, Omanthai, Sri Lanka.
08-09	Wed-Thu	Seminar on Self-Awareness and Inner Freedom, Sisters Batch - II, Negombo, Sri Lanka.
08	Wed	Submission of House Accounts, Kodambakkam and Omanthai, Sri Lanka
10	Fri	Salesian Family Day, the Citadel, Chennai
11	Sat	Provincial Community Day, Kodambakkam
12-13	Sun-Mon	Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
20	Mon	Seminar on Organic Farming for Women – Thiruvalluvar (Chennai Zone), HRDC, Kodambakkam
23 - 28	Thu-Tue	Triennial Evaluation, PCI for Provincial & Delegates, Trichy, Manikandam
31	Fri	Renewal of the Promise for the Promised Salesian Cooperators, Local Communities.

The Feast of Bl. Laura Vicuña is celebrated on **22 January 2025**. Laura Vicuña (1891–1904), of Chilean origin, is a shining example of holiness and self-sacrifice. After moving to Junín de los Andes, Argentina, Laura encountered the Salesian Sisters and found in their school a place where she could deepen her faith and live her Christian vocation. There, she matured spiritually, embracing a life of holiness in her everyday actions. At just thirteen years of age, Laura chose to offer her suffering for the conversion of her mother, an act of profound love and sacrifice that led to her death on January 22, 1904. Beatified by Pope John Paul II on 3 September 1988, she was proposed as a model of evangelical coherence and self-giving, particularly for young people. She remains an inspiring example of love, sacrifice, and charity. May her life continue to inspire young people to walk the path of holiness, and guide us, the educators to follow her virtues of dedication, compassion, and faith!

January 24 marks the Feast of St Francis de Sales, the priest and bishop of Geneva, renowned as the patron of writers and Christian unity. St Francis was the central inspiration for Don Bosco, who recognized in him the foundations of Salesian spirituality. Don Bosco chose St Francis as the patron saint of the Salesian Institute (C.Art.45) and as a model for the Salesian Family. Before his priestly ordination, Don Bosco resolved: "The charity and kindness of St Francis de Sales will guide me in everything." This reveals how deeply Don Bosco admired Francis, not just as a model for his work, but as a guide for his whole life. Today, as members of the Salesian Family, it is our responsibility to continue living this

spirituality, particularly the core principles of the Preventive System. Central to this are the virtues of loving-kindness, gentleness, and meekness, qualities that are essential in accompanying young people on their journey of faith and growth.

On 31 January 2025, we joyfully celebrate the feast of our beloved **Father and Founder, St John Bosco**. He devoted his entire life to the education and welfare of street children, juvenile delinquents, and other marginalized youth. His educational approach was rooted in love rather than punishment, and he sought to place his boys in environments that minimized the temptation to sin. Like Don Bosco, the true friend of the young, we too are called to be experts in guiding the youth of today, particularly in their quest for vocation and holiness. This desire for guidance and accompaniment is more crucial than ever. In today's world, young people face numerous challenges, social pressures, existential doubts, and a sense of disconnection from traditional support systems. The Synod on Young People highlighted the importance of walking alongside them, especially as they navigate questions about their purpose, identity, and future. In a culture that often offers more distractions than direction, we are called to be a steady presence, helping young people not only discern their vocational path but also find meaning and fulfilment in their everyday lives. This deep need for mentorship and spiritual guidance remains one of the most urgent calls for our Salesian mission today.

In her Circular 1043, Mother General, Sr Chiara Cazzuola, calls for a renewed commitment to the Salesian mission of education and evangelization. She urges us to be attentive to the needs of young people, especially in today's world. Let us heed her call and commit to fostering joy, generosity, and creativity in our service, with unwavering dedication to accompanying youth on their journey of faith and growth.

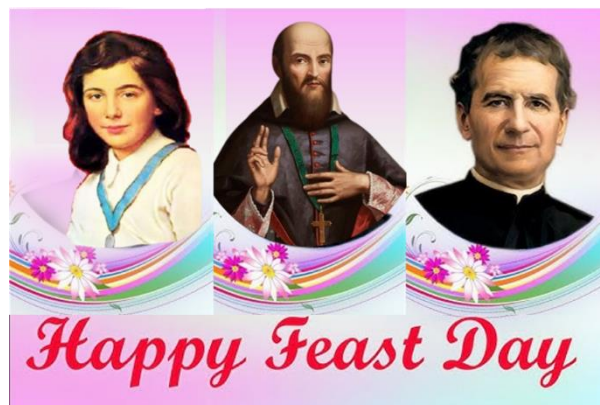
***I wish each one of you a very happy feast of the Epiphany,
Bl. Laura Vicuna, St Francis De Sales and St John Bosco!***

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Devadoss Margaret

Sr Devadoss Margaret

INM FMA|Provincial



ITINERARY OF THE PROVINCIAL
January 2025

02	Thu	Animation for the Retreatants, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
03	Fri	Provincial Visit, Mosavadi
05	Sun	Provincial Team Meet, Online
04 - 07	Sun - Tue	Provincial Visit, Arni
08 - 09	Wed - Thu	Provincial Visit, Anmarudai
08	Wed	Submission of House Accounts, Kodambakkam and Omanthai, Sri Lanka
10	Fri	Salesian Family Day, The Citadel, Chennai
11	Sat	Provincial Community Day, Kodambakkam
12 - 13	Sun - Mon	Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
14-22	Tue - Wed	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
23 - 28	Thu - Tue	Triennial Evaluation, PCI, Trichy, Manikandam
29-31	Wed - Fri	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam

