



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

MAY 2023

DEAR CONFRERES,

Cordial Greetings...

We are at the close of the academic year 2022 - 2023. Let us thank God for all the blessings we received through the powerful intercession of our Blessed Mother and our beloved founder St. John Bosco in animating the young people of our mission centres. May they continue to intercede for each one of us that we may use our talents and utilize our time to bring out the best in the young people who are entrusted to our care.

The month of May brings us three important Salesian Feasts: Feast of [St. Dominic Savio](#) on 06, [St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello](#) on 13 and [Mary Help of Christians](#) on 24. Let us give utmost priority in celebrating these feasts meaningfully and joyfully with the beneficiaries and the collaborators of our mission. May 24 is a special day, in the life of every one of us, which reminds us of our first and perpetual commitment to follow the footsteps of our beloved father and founder St. John Bosco. I Wish you all dear confreres and the Salesian Family members a very happy feast of Mary Help of Christians, our patroness.



May She be our help and guide at all walks of our life. On behalf of the Province, I wish all the Salesian sisters a very happy feast of their co-foundress St. Mary Domenica Mazzarello.

Apostolic Assignments 2023 - 2024

The Apostolic Assignment for 2023 - 2024 has been already sent to our communities on the Easter day. I thank each one of you for your openness and willingness to accept the responsibilities assigned to you. I recommend all our confreres to be present in the respective communities with the new responsibilities on or before 24 May 2023 which would enhance better planning and good beginning of the academic year. During the time of transfer, I urge all of you to properly follow the procedures in handing over the office and administration to the successors. I am sure the Rectors would ensure the smooth hand over procedure in the various houses.

The New Provincial Councillors

I am happy to inform you that [Fr. Ferrington Boopalarayan](#), [Fr. Charles Joseph](#) and [Fr. John Barnabas](#) have been appointed as the Provincial Councillors for the first term 2023 – 2026. [Fr. Amalorpavaraj Annappan](#) will continue as councillor for the second term. We

congratulate them and wish them all the best to carry out their responsibilities. [Fr. Amaladoss Samson](#) will continue as the Economer of the Province for another term 2023 - 2026.

I sincerely thank the outgoing councillors Fr. Thomas Louis, Fr. Arockia Raj Mariasusai and Fr. Ricopar Royan for their valuable contribution, dedication, interest and great efforts towards the growth of the province as councillors. May God bless them and assist them in all phases of their life.

Appointment of Rectors for 2023 – 2026

Rev. Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, our Rector Major, has approved the appointment of the following confreres as Rectors for the term 2023 – 2026.

First Term

P John Kennedy Irudayam	-	Amsam
P Robert Simon	-	DBPH Kallukuzhy
P George Fernandez	-	LS Madurai
P Charles Joseph	-	Manikandam
P Susai Savariannan	-	Pallithammam
P Felix Arulnathan	-	Tiruppur

Second Term

P Dominic Bernatsha	-	DB Dindigul
P Casimir Raj Motcham	-	DBAI Salem
P Albert Johnson	-	Kuthenkuly
P Arockiam Vedamuthu	-	Sayalgudi

I thank the Rectors for their availability and acceptance in taking up the responsibility. On behalf of the province, I wish them all God's choicest blessings. I thank the outgoing Rectors Fr. Xavier Michael, Fr. Lawrence David, and Fr. Arulkumar Sebastian for their committed services. They have contributed much to the development of the mission and the apostolate in their respective places. I wish them all the best in the new places of their ministry.

Installation of New Rectors

The installation of New Rectors will be held in the respective communities on the following dates in June 2023.

05	Sun	-	Pallithammam (Morning) LS Madurai (Evening)
06	Mon	-	DBPH Kallukuzhy (Morning) Amsam (Before Noon) Manikandam (Evening)
07	Tue	-	Tiruppur

Handing over Offices, Planning and Budgeting

Fr. Amaladoss, the Economer of the province will send the guidelines and directions to be followed while handing over the offices to the new confreres. Kindly verify physically the documents at the time of handing over. All the accounts of all the sectors must be handed over to the administrator in the presence of the Rector and the respective sectoral-head to facilitate centralized administration in all our presences.



A copy of the signed handing-over document and the budget of each sector for the year has to reach the Economer's office by 15 June.

Missionary Vocations

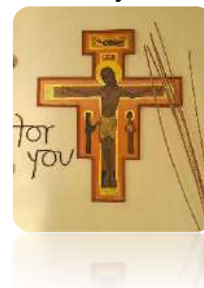
Our province sends confreres every year as missionaries either on contract basis or through mission ad-gentes, to those provinces where there is a greater need. Certainly, this missionary experience enriches our confreres, deepening their religious lives and enabling them to be more committed. This year too, a few of our confreres expressed their desire to go as missionaries.

Cl. David Broon - Mission ad-gentes

Fr. John Baptist - Canada

Fr. Alex Johny Pitchai – Nepal (INC)

Cl. Maria Anthiyoke – Belgium (BEN)



We appreciate our confreres and wish them all the best for their missionary zeal.

Special Assignments

We appreciate Fr. Doss Kennedy, as he is appointed as the Rector of DBRC, Bangalore. We wish him all the best for his new assignment. It is a great honour and pride to our province when confreres are chosen for animation at the level of SPCSA. I am sure Fr. Doss Kennedy would contribute in a big way with his experience in leadership in the past years.

Perpetual Profession

Four of our clerics, [Arun Ebinesh Amalraj](#), [Jeya Herman Jesudass](#), [Bosco Sundhar Kaspar Paulraj](#) and [Robert Sahayaraj Paulraj](#) will make their perpetual profession on [24 May 2023](#) at [5.30 pm](#) in [Mary Help of Christian Church, Amsam, Tiruchy](#). On behalf of the Province, I wish them all the best for their perpetual commitment in the Salesian way of life. The immediate preparation for the clerics who are due for perpetual will take place from 11 to 16 May and the Retreat will be conducted from 17 to 22 May 2023 at Don Bosco Animation Centre, Ennore.

First Profession

[Seven of our Novices](#) will be making their first profession on [24 May 2023](#) in [Idayadeepam Novitiate, Yellagiri](#). Let us accompany them with our prayers that they may persevere in their vocation to Salesian life. We thank the Novice Master, Fr. John Rosario and the Salesian staff for preparing and guiding our novices to reach the stage of first profession.

Renewal of Profession

Twenty-five of our clerics are due for renewals this year. Twenty-four of them will renew their vows on 24 May 2023 in Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhy and one will renew his vows in Sri Lanka. Those who are due for their renewal are recommended to reach the Provincial House for night stay on 23 May 2023 without any excuse. We will assist these young Salesians with our prayerful support so that they may continue to live joyfully as Salesians.

Admission to the Novitiate and Pre-Novitiate

Eight Pre-Novices of Tiruchy Province and Five Pre-Novices of Chennai Province have been admitted to the Novitiate. All the eight Pre-Novices of our Province will go to Idaya Deepam, Yellagiri for their Novitiate. Let us accompany them with our prayers that they may have a year of fruitful spiritual formation. We are grateful to Fr. Dominic Bernatsha and the entire staff of the Pre-Novitiate Community for accompanying these young candidates with much dedication.

Fifteen candidates, six from PHS Nettur and Nine from Don Bosco Thanjavur, have been admitted to the Pre-Novitiate. We appreciate them and wish them all the best as they begin their first phase of formation. We thank Fr. Rajadevan Pushpanathan and the staff of Nettur community and Fr. Thomas Louis and the staff of Don Bosco Thanjavur community for preparing these candidates to enter the Pre-Novitiate.

Vocation Camp

The Vocation Camp for this year will be held in Don Bosco Thanjavur, from 03 – 19 May 2023 for the students who have completed 8th, 10th, 12th standard and above. We appreciate Fr. Antonisamy Arockiadoss, the vocation promoter, for his hard work in contacting the young boys regularly and encouraging them to participate in this 'Come and See' Programme. Let us encourage the boys from our own presences to attend the vocation camp and to serve in the vineyard of the Lord.

Combined Retreat with INM

One of the deliberations of the combined provincial council we had in the beginning of the year with INM is to have collaboration in the animation of the confreres. As a result, both the provinces have agreed to have two combined retreats, one in Kottagiri from 01 - 06 May and another in Yercaud from 08 - 13 May. I am sure this initiative will help the confreres to know one another better and have greater collaboration in the mission. We thank the Fr. Don Bosco, the Provincial of INM and his council for such an initiative. We look forward to collaborating with INM in many other fields and areas of our apostolate.

40th Day Memorial Mass for Fr. Selvadurai Paulraj SDB

It is almost a month since Fr. Selvadurai Paulraj left all of us for his eternal abode. I am sure that all our communities have offered the due masses for the repose of his soul. Let us continue to pray that the Lord may grant him the bliss of eternal vision. As we are thankful

for the wonderful life of Fr. Selvadurai Paulraj, we will be having the 40th day mass on [19 May 2023, Friday at the Shrine of Mary Help of Christians, Amsam](#). Once again, I earnestly remind you dear confreres to participate in big numbers in the memorial mass of our dear confrere. May I request the confreres to send your experiences and good memories with Fr. Selvadurai for the obituary which is being prepared by DBAI Community, Coimbatore.

Bon Voyage

[Fr. Arul Maran](#) has gone to attend the School of Salesian Spiritual Accompaniment Course at Turin and Colle Don Bosco scheduled from 16 April – 19 May 2023. He will also visit some of the benefactors who help the Salesian mission and will reach back the province on 03 June 2023. We wish him all the best and happy stay that he may have enriching experience in fulfilling these responsibilities assigned to him by the province.

[Fr. Amaladoss Samson](#) will leave for Mission Co-operative Programme from 26 May to 20 August 2023 to USA. We wish him all the best in carrying out this responsibility for the development of the province and come back hale and healthy. In his absence, kindly contact me for directions and guidance.

PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH

- 03-19 **Wed - Fri** Vocation Camp @ DB Thanjavur
- 08-13 **Mon – Sat** III Retreat- General Patronage @ Yercaud
- 11-22 **Thu – Tue** Preparatory Course, Retreat for those Due for Perpetual @ Ennore
- 19 **Fri** 40th Day Mass for Fr. Selvadurai @ Amsam
- 24 **Wed** Renewals, Perpetual Professions @ DBPH, Amsam

RECALLING EVENTS

Vestition Ceremony was held for the second-year students of Philosophy on 09 April 2023 in The Retreat – Yercaud. 15 clerics belonging to both INM and INT received their cassock. A very good spiritual ambience was created for the ceremony. I express my sincere thanks to Fr. Arul Maran and the staff of The Retreat community for their valuable accompaniment with these young Salesians. Thanks to Fr. Don Bosco, the provincial of INM for his valuable presence and animation.

In **Sayalgudi**, the opening of the Thiruvalluvar statue and the blessing and inauguration of DBSE Sports Space AIO (All in One), one of the first attempts in Tamil Nau to have sports space integrated with various sports courts namely Basketball, Skating, Throwball, Badminton and Shuttlecock was held on 26 April 2023. We appreciate and congratulate the Rector and confreres of Sayalgudi community for the well-planned infrastructure for the sports which will enhance the physical health of the students.

Anniversary of the Deceased Salesians

22.05.2009 – [Fr. Edwin Santharaj](#) died at Tiruchy at the age of 29

CONDOLENCES...

On behalf of the province, I offer my sincere condolences

- To the Provincial and confreres of INM Province at the demise of Rev. Fr. Jayaprakash Reddy (69) on 11 April 2023.
- To the Provincial and confreres of ING Province at the demise of Rev. Fr. George Chittappanatt (86) on 11 April 2023.
- To the Provincial and confreres of INK Province at the demise of Rev. Br. Joseph Neeliyara (91) on 17 April 2023.
- To Fr. Justin Prabhakar at the demise of his mother Mrs. Salethmary (61) on 21 April 2023.
- To the Provincial and confreres of IND Province at the demise of Rev. Fr. Nangachiveetil Joseph (94) on 28 April 2023.
- To the Provincial and sisters of FMA-INM Province at the demise of Rev. Sr. Philomena Doss (84) on 29 April 2023.

May the souls rest in peace!

COMMUNITY REFLECTION

MISSION TO THE YOUNG - 6

LIGHT A CANDLE INSTEAD OF CURSING THE DARKNESS

My dear confreres,

As we are reflecting about our mission to the young in the second year of our preparation for the Silver Jubilee of our province, I would like to exhort all of us to have a closer look at our mission and apostolate. While on the one hand we are grateful to the Lord for the immense blessings and countless miracles happening in many of our presences, on the other hand there is a need to multiply our efforts and work hard for the salvation of souls especially that of the young entrusted to our care. I will be sharing in detail what all we can do to better our apostolate in the future in my next circular. Yet, I just want to start off the spark in this circular too.

Recently we had a meeting for all the administrators about planning and budgeting. I am happy that most of the administrators participated and learnt the techniques of budgeting. We also have other trainings for planning for the academic year like the updating of the SEPP (Salesian Educative Pastoral Plan), the YMP (Youth Ministry Plan), the Annual Plan, etc. In the beginning of the academic year, all the sectors, commissions and departments meet individually to plan for the year. Hence, plans are excellent. But, how about the execution of the plans and budgets? What is the quality of our systems and lines of action? Is there any plan for the same?

01. Playing One's Role Well Is Essential for Effective Ministry

In my experience and also listening to the experience of so many other religious, it is true that we have a good system of governance in our congregation and our province is known for effective administration as well. But still, there are a few Rectors who feel that they are

everything in the community. In spirit, it is true that the Rector represents the community, and he is center of the community. But in practice, the ideal way of running the community is to delegate and distribute the responsibilities to all. We are not exercising military rule in our houses and that is not the Salesian style at all. The role of the Rector is to animate in such a way that everything goes well in the community. He may feel that he is not doing anything in particular or he has not contributed to something directly. Never mind that at all. At times, that should be the right feeling of the Rector. Article 55 tells very clearly, "The Rector coordinates the efforts of all, bearing in mind the rights, duties and capabilities of every member." This is also applicable to every member of the community whoever is holding a responsibility to animate the community in various fields.

At the same time, the members also have a bounden duty to work in collaboration with the Rector. Recently, I came to know that there was a farewell organized in the community but in the absence of the Rector or rather the Rector was not informed about the farewell at all. I come to know that some of the parish priests never call the Rector for the Parish council meeting or discuss with him all the events and developments of the parish. This is diocesan mentality and not Salesian style at all. Bypassing the Rector and doing any activity in the Salesian community or in any sector of the apostolate should be totally avoided. It is not enough to give information to the Rector about various decisions, but due permission is absolutely necessary. Let us play our roles well so that the mission and the apostolate may flourish.

02. Walking An Extra Mile Is a Good Spirit to Be Followed

There is no substitute to hard work. There is no boundary or limits for hard work too. If you are burning with zeal and enthusiasm, there is no need for reminders and exhortation. Maintaining the status quo is very easy and comfortable. Walking an extra mile is tough and difficult. I adore and admire many of our confreres who think outside the box and dare to be different but contributing everything of themselves for the mission. They are the evangelizers and missionaries of today. It is because of such noble souls that many of our works are bearing good fruits. But there are quite a lot of confreres who need to learn what hard work is. While they can roam around the whole world for their personal program, they find it impossible to travel even a short distance for the sake of the mission. We all should remember the words of our father Don Bosco, "when ease and comfort enter our congregation, it would have run its course." Hence, as we are going to start a new academic year, it is only fitting that we prepare ourselves for hard work so that we may contribute our best for the mission.

Qualification is given great importance today and I am happy many confreres request me to send them for higher studies. But what happens after their study is more crucial because there are so many qualified but very few who pursue their field of study. Still worse, there are a few who decide on an area of ministry of their own. Let us not forget that we are all religious who should do what the congregation wants us to do. We should be able to sacrifice our own principles and ambition for the sake of the province and the congregation.

Though I am a promoter of individuals excelling in their own fields, I cannot forget the religious rule of the common good that is more important. Therefore, what matters the most is the best that we can offer to the young.

03. Good Community Life Is the First Requisite for Best Apostolate

I know very well that you are all tired of this topic that I am referring to again and again. But I am convinced about the fact that this is the only thing that matters for us Salesians in our religious life. How is that when certain individuals are there in the community, the mission flourishes and when others join that community, the apostolate perishes? Or when one Rector is there, the mission is at its heights and when another Rector reaches that community, the apostolate goes to rock bottom? It is interesting to note the statement of one Rector who says, "I have to set right everything in this house," and when he is transferred to another house, the next Rector repeats the same phrase again. I just wonder who has actually set things right. I guess, it is not the Rector or one of the confreres who sets the tone for the community but every member of the community who should fall in line with the community. It is not important that individual confrere wins over the community, but it is better that the community wins over the individuals in the community. This is the Salesian community.

After meeting all of you personally I come to know that the ninety nine percent of our problems are that of the community living. We want to change everyone but let us not forget that it is easy to change ourselves than others. What is pertinent is the commitment and dedication of individuals in the community. If that suffers, the community is doomed to die. Community does not exist in isolation or in the air. It is the individuals that make up the community. I wish and pray that we may all enjoy our community life in the coming academic year so that the mission may bear good fruits.

And finally, my dear confreres, we are given many opportunities to share and grow. Let us make use of them positively and become happy givers. At the end of every retreat, we have a dialogue session introduced this year so that we may receive more information and clarification. But there are not many making use of it. I am sure these occasions will help us to get rid of loose talk, gossip and grumbling going around in the province. We cannot put an end to everything but let us light a candle instead of cursing the darkness.

Prayerful best wishes to all in the Family,

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco



Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam SDB

Provincial – Salesian Province of Tiruchy, INT.



**Happy Feast of
Mary Help of Christians!**