



## PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

OCTOBER 2023

### DEAR CONFRERES,

As we begin the month of October, we are invited to join together in prayer and reflection on the mystery of Christ's life, death, and resurrection through the Rosary. This beautiful devotion, which has been cherished by Catholics for centuries, is a powerful means of encountering Jesus and His mother, Mary. The Rosary is a meditation on the mysteries of the Gospel, and it invites us to journey with Mary through the key moments in Jesus' life. As we pray the Rosary, we are invited to ponder the love that God has for us and to open our hearts to His grace. Let us grow in this devotion and show our love for Jesus and Mary and to ask for their intercession for our Salesian family and the world. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Rosary, intercede for us and guide us on our journey to Christ.



### Congratulations to Bishop Elect Mgr. Lourdu Anandam - Sivagangai Diocese

Our Holy Father has appointed Rev. Fr. Lourdu Anandam (65), of the clergy of the Archdiocese of Madurai, currently the parish priest of the Holy Rosary Church and the Episcopal Vicar for religious of Madurai Archdiocese, as the third Bishop of Sivagangai. This provision was made public in Rome on 21 September 2023. Fr. Lourdu Anandam was born on 15 August 1958 in Thiruvarangam, in the Diocese of Sivagangai. He was ordained a priest on 06 April 1986 for the Archdiocese of Madurai. On behalf of our province, we wish him all the best and support him with our prayers.



### 29<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (GC 29)

Our beloved Rector Major, Rev. Fr. Angel Fernandez Arttime, has officially convoked the 29<sup>th</sup> General Chapter with the theme *“Passionate for Jesus Christ, Dedicated to the Young - For a faithful and prophetic lived experience of our Salesian vocation”*. He has appointed Rev. Fr. Alphonse Owoudou, Regional Councillor for Africa and Madagascar, as the moderator of the chapter. GC 29 is articulated in three core themes:

- Theme 1: Animation and care of the true life of every Salesian.
- Theme 2: Together as Salesians, Salesian Family, and Lay People 'With' and 'For' the Young.

- Theme 3: A courageous verification and redesigning of the Governance of the Congregation at all levels.

We congratulate the moderator and wish him all the best. We thank the Rector Major and his Council for coming up with the relevant theme. Let us continue to pray for the success of the Chapter so that we may receive the grace of God through the entire process of preparation and celebration of the Chapter.

### **09<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter of INT (PC 2024)**

Through this circular, I convoke the 9<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter of the Salesian Province of Tiruchy, according to the norms of Articles 170–174 of our constitutions. The Provincial Chapter will begin on [02 April 2024](#) and end on [06 April 2024](#). With the consent of the Provincial Council, I have appointed [Fr. Robert Simon as the Moderator](#) of the Chapter. I thank him for his availability and wish him all the best to shoulder this responsibility meticulously. He will contact you from now on to get ready the preparatory documents for the chapter. I implore God's blessings upon all of you, dear Confreres, that our discussion and suggestion for the preparation of the documents may be in line with the charism of Don Bosco and the Gospel values.

[The preparatory committee will have the following members: Fr. Suresh Felix, Fr. Casimir Raj, Fr. Ferrington Poobalarayen, Fr. Arul Maran and Fr. Ricopar Royan.](#) I thank them for their availability and May God bless them for their hard work and contribution for the success of the Provincial Chapter.

### **Provincial Visitation 2023 - 2024**

The provincial visitation for 2023–2024 will begin in the [second week of November 2023](#). The schedule will be announced in the middle of October. I request the leaders go through the recommendations of the previous visitation with other confreres of the community to verify whether everything is implemented. Kindly update all the necessary documents and ensure their filing and archiving in the local communities. I request the leaders organise a house assembly to prepare an assessment of the prayer life, fraternal life and evangelical life of the community and the apostolic efficacy of the Salesian presence in the mission and submit the report during the visitation. Moreover, we will take up the EPP and update them during this year. Let us pray that the time of visitation may bring more joy and understanding in the lives of the Confreres and grater efficacy in the lives of the young people and the mission.

### **Salesian Family Day and Consult**

The Salesian Family Day will be held on [2 October 2023 in Don Bosco, Manikandam](#). We warmly welcome all the Salesian family members for a day of celebration. I am sure this will help us to deeply imbibe the mind of Don Bosco and to feel as one Salesian family. In this effort, let us bring many souls closer to the heart of Don Bosco. The programme will begin in the morning and end with the Eucharist before Lunch. The Consult will be held after lunch.



### **Zonal Level Meeting for those in Initial formation**

The third zonal-level meeting for the Coimbatore zone will be held on [07 October 2023](#) at [Don Bosco Nest Tiruppur](#) for the clerics who are in the initial formation. I am sure all the clerics will attend these meetings joyfully, as it is an animation at the province level. The details will be communicated by the Vice Provincial.

### **My Abroad Trip**

It was a long-time intention to visit the confreres of our province working/studying abroad and those who are under mission ad gentes. Hence, I am making this trip from [28 September to 5 November 2023](#) to spend time with them and meet their provincials for further collaboration. I will also visit some of the agencies that help our mission, along with Fr. Ricopar Royan, who is attending the workshop for the province procures of the congregation in Turin. I also attended the ceremony on 30 September 2023 where Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, our beloved Rector Major, was solemnly created a cardinal by the Holy Father, Pope Francis. Therefore, in my absence, kindly contact the Vice Provincial, Fr. Xavier Michael or Fr. Amaladoss, the provincial economer, for guidance and decisions.

### **Mission Ad Gentes - Cl. David Broon**

Cl. David Broon has just returned after attending the orientation course for the new missionaries - 2023 which began on 21 August and concluded on 24 September 2023. He is part of the 24 members of the 154<sup>th</sup> Salesian Missionary Expedition. He received the missionary cross from the rector major in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, Turin, on the concluding day. He has been assigned to go to Albania, Province of Southern Italy (IME). He will leave India on 13 October 2023 and continue his missionary journey to Albania. On behalf of all the confreres of our province, I pray and wish that he may enjoy good health, keep up his good spirits and contribute in the best way possible to enrich his missionary vocation.

### **Approval for the New Presence - Kallikudi**

Rev. Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, our Rector Major, with the consent of the General Council, has approved our request to make Kallikudi an independent presence. Don Bosco - Kallikudi presence will be a provincial level centre for faith formation (Christodayam), job placement and career guidance (Vazhikatti) and Vocation promotion.

The place will also serve the Catholic youth who aspire to write government examinations to work in the central and state government administrations. Since there is a well-known coaching centre close by, this building can give them accommodation facilities. There are other reach-out services planned for the people of the locality too. They are; Government E-sevai Maiyam (to get all legal documents through online application), environmental education



and moral education in the neighbouring schools (Government Middle School, Vincent Matriculation School, etc) and evening tuition centres.

### **Fr. Francis Sagaya Pinto - Definitive Transfer from INT to INM**

Fr. Francis Sagaya Pinto, belonging to the Salesian province of Tiruchy, has been working at INM for the past few years on a temporary contract. He had requested the Rector Major for the definitive transfer from INT to INM. The Rector Major has accepted his request and transferred him from INT to INM and his definitive transfer comes into effect from 01 October 2023 onwards. As we wish him all the best, with grateful hearts we also remember his contribution to our province through various ministries in the Parishes, Schools and Technical sector.

### **PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH**

02	Mon	Salesian Family Live In @ Manikandam
07	Sat	Zonal Level Meeting for those in Initial formation (Tiruppur)
21-22	Sat, Sun	Live-In for PHS and Aspirants @ DB, Dindigul

### **RECALLING EVENTS**

**Rectors Meeting:** A day of meeting was conducted for the rectors and leaders of our province on 19 September 2023 at DBPH Kallukuzhy. All the topics discussed in the previous chapters were presented to the leaders by Fr. Arul Maran and there was a discussion and suggestion of topics for the coming chapter. In the afternoon, there was a session on health and wellness by Dr. Fazel from Kauveri Hospital. I thank Fr. Xavier Michael, the Vice Provincial, for organizing the day and all the leaders for their active participation.

**Quinquennium Meet:** The meeting for those in their first and second years of ordination in INM and INT was held on 07 and 08 September 2023 at Life Centre, Dindigul. There were thirty-five participants. They were animated on Ethical Boundaries in Psychosexual Maturity by Fr. Rodolf cmf. There was lots of joy and enthusiasm in the group and they shared valuable suggestions for their Salesian ministry in the future. I express my gratitude to Fr. Don Bosco, the provincial and Fr. John Alexander, the vice provincial of INM, for their full cooperation in the joint venture. A special word of thanks to Fr. Xavier Michael, our vice provincial, for heading the meeting and to all the young priests for their encouraging participation.

**Meeting for those due for Perpetual Profession:** The clerics due for perpetual profession this year (May 2024) had a day of meeting at Don Bosco Provincial House on September 16, 2023. There were eight clerics who attended the meeting. Let us continue to accompany them with our prayers so that they may prepare well to commit their lives perpetually in the Salesian congregation.

**Zonal Level Meeting for those in Initial formation:** Two zonal-level meetings were organized this month for the clerics who are in the initial formation, one on 23 September 2023 at Surya Nagar and the other on 30 September 2023 at Don Bosco Thanjavur. I express my thanks to the Rector and Confreres of Surya Nagar and DB Thanjavur community for hosting the events.

**SPCSA Council Meeting in Sri Lanka:** The 46<sup>th</sup> Salesian Provincial Council of South Asia (SPCSA) Meeting was held from 31 August to 5 September 2023 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Dungalpitya, Sri Lanka. We are grateful to Fr. Andrea Bozzolo, the Rector Magnificus of the Pontifical Salesian University in Rome, and Fr. Jaroslaw Rochowiak, the Secretary General of the Salesian Pontifical University (UPS), for their interaction on the three theologates in India and the vice province of Sri Lanka for all the arrangements made for the meeting and their wonderful hospitality. The decisions made in the SPCSA council are already communicated to the Rectors.



### **CONDOLENCES...**

On behalf of the province, I offer my sincere condolences,

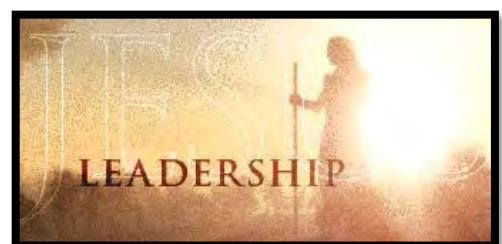
- To the [Superior General and the SMA Sisters](#) at the demise of [Sr. Theresammal](#) on 13 September 2023.
- To [Mr. Devanesan and family members](#), at the demise of [Mrs. Sahaya Mary Rita](#) (61), in Thanjavur, on 13 September.
- To [Fr. Edwin Vasanth](#), INM Provincial Economist, at the passing away of his mother [Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas](#) (84), at Arni, on 13 September 2023.

*May the souls rest in peace!*

### **COMMUNITY REFLECTION**

#### **TOWARDS SILVER JUBILEE - YEAR 3: SPIRITUALITY OF WITNESS LEADERSHIP IS BEING A WITNESS TODAY.**

Everyone is talking about success in leadership in various terms, such as seven habits, ten commandments, essential aspects, etc. But I guess nothing can work except being a witness. Everyone knows the theory of life—how good we must be and how effective our lives should be. There is no second thought about all these. What makes the difference is: who is the one who talks about these? Or who is the proponent of such tips and ideas? Meaning to say, how is his witnessing life and how is his



character? Is he human and loving? Does he do what he says? Hence, I feel that leadership is all about being a witness first and only then can he exercise leadership effectively.



I remember the days of my practical training as an assistant in the novitiate in Vellakinar, Coimbatore. My beloved novices are all doing very well today in both the provinces of INT and INM and others in the world. The timetable of the day used to start with a 10-minute exercise of running and doing some bodily movements. There were always some absentees for this first programme of the day. We can understand the laziness of everyone in this regard. Then I began leading the crowd and conducting the exercise myself. Every day we used to go in a different direction; otherwise, there were some wise novices who used to join the group only for the return journey. There were quiet gossips and murmurings here and there in the beginning, but everyone was present from then on, and gradually they also began to enjoy the exercise, after which my follow-up was not needed.

This is the reason why our Salesian presence plays a vital role in the formation of the candidates in our congregation. It is certainly not to limit or curtail the freedom of the individual, but to help or propose a model of doing things right. I have heard from many who are out in the world that the first and foremost thing they have found very helpful in their lives is the Salesian Presence. Now it is bringing rewards into their lives in the corporate world. All of us Salesians are leaders in one form or another in our daily lives. We need to be models and witnesses to the young in every aspect of our lives. There is no other secret to success in leadership.

I am grateful to God for the good leaders we have in our province. I must say most of our



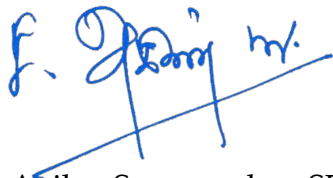
houses are doing well because of the good leaders we have and their witnessing lives. But it is sad to note a few who expect much but who do not live much. I hope you understand what I am arriving at. Hence, as we are reflecting on the spirituality of witness, it is essential that all of us become witnesses. A witness is the one who is very strict with himself but very free and forgiving with others. He is the one who does not look for an exception but gives space

and freedom to everyone else. If it's a matter of suffering, he will choose to suffer and save the others from suffering. "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for his friends." Jn15:13.

As I am going around the different provinces of the world where our confreres are doing wonders, I feel honoured and proud that we have many witnesses all over the world. That is also the reason why there are many requests for personnel from our province. It is good that many of our young confreres are coming forward to offer themselves as missionaries in these years. As we are grateful to the Lord for the good spirits reigning in our province, let us continue to pray for each one of us that we become leaders through our witnessing lives.

Prayerful best wishes to all in the Family,

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco



Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam SDB

Provincial – Salesian Province of Tiruchy, INT.



**Our Lady of Rosary,  
Pray for us!**