



## PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

JULY 2024

### DEAR CONFRERES,

Cordial Greetings...

This month of July reminds us of the feast of [St. Thomas the Apostle](#), a man of unwavering faith and boundless missionary zeal, who undertook incredible journeys to spread the Gospel message across vast distances. His life serves as a constant source of inspiration for all, especially the Salesians who are missionaries of the young. We, too, are called to be apostles, not venturing across continents perhaps, but traversing the landscapes of our own communities. The underprivileged youth entrusted to our care are our mission field, and within their hearts, we are called to plant the seeds of faith, nurture them with the nourishment of knowledge and love, and watch them blossom into individuals of purpose and character.



We extend our heartfelt [congratulations and prayers to our beloved confreres of the Chennai Province](#) as they celebrate the feast of the patron of the province. May the blessings of St. Thomas be upon them and their endeavours, granting them continued strength and fervour in their mission.

### INT Silver Jubilee Celebrations

It is with a profound gratitude and heart brimming with love, I invite you all to celebrate the [silver jubilee of the Salesian Province of Tiruchy](#). For twenty-five blessed years, we have walked hand-in-hand with the divine, witnessing the countless graces showered upon us by our Almighty God. We have also gone through three years of preparation taking time to reflect, look back at the seeds we sowed, the challenges we braved together, and the beautiful stories of transformation that bloomed under the loving light of Don Bosco's charism. Now it is a time for jubilation and celebration.

To commemorate this milestone, we are honoured to have [Rev. Fr. Stefano Martoglio](#), the Vicar of the Rector Major, as our chief guest. His presence will



undoubtedly be a source of immense inspiration and guidance. On behalf of the province, I extend a warm welcome to the Vicar. Together, [we will gather as a family - Salesians, Sisters, past pupils, cooperators, benefactors, and friends](#) - to rejoice in the lives we've touched, the landmarks we've achieved, and the unwavering commitment we share towards empowering underprivileged youth. Prepare yourselves for a joyous celebration filled with thanksgiving, vibrant cultural performances, and an enthusiastic gathering of the Salesian Family.

[Mark your calendars with the dates](#) and details of this grand event given below:

[02 August 2024](#) – Celebration with YaR Children at [Moolakadu](#), Salem

[03 August 2024](#) - Celebration with Young Salesians at [Yercaud](#)

[04 August 2024](#) - Celebration with the Salesian Family at [Manikandam](#)

[05 August 2024](#) – Grand Celebration at [DB Thanjavur](#)

Let us come together in prayer and celebration, rekindling the spirit of Don Bosco and embarking on the glorious journey of the next chapter of the Salesian Province of Tiruchy. With immense joy, I look forward to welcoming you all!

### **Leaders Meet**

The meeting for all the Rectors and Leaders of our communities has been scheduled on [12 July 2024 at DBPH Kallukuzhy](#). This meeting will focus on equipping our communities for effective planning. The agenda will feature a comprehensive training session on the development of both SEPP (Salesian Educative Pastoral Project) and EPCC (Educative Pastoral Community Council). Through this workshop, we will gain valuable skills and resources to create a roadmap for the educational and pastoral ministry of our communities, ensuring a vibrant Salesian presence for the young people we serve.

### **New Provincial of IND**

[Fr. Joseph Pampackal SDB](#) has been appointed as the eighth Provincial of the Salesian Province of St. Francis De Sales, Dimapur (IND). On behalf of the Province, I express my heartfelt congratulations to Fr. Joseph Pampackal as he takes up the important responsibility as a provincial to lead the province. He is a man of deep faith, religious conviction, hard work and future vision. May the guiding hand of God be with him to lead and carry out his responsibility with good health and happiness. I am sure his service of leadership will take the province to a greater level of fidelity to Don Bosco and good care of the young people. I am also grateful to Fr. Joseph Kuruvachira, the outgoing provincial, for the effective and wonderful pastoral leadership rendered to the province in the past six years.



## **Initial Visit**

The initial visit is going on these days, and I have visited fifteen communities. The remaining communities will be visited this month. I once again urge the leaders of the communities to organise a meeting with all the members, to plan the Salesian Community Plan of Life (SCPL), the Salesian Educative Pastoral Project (SEPP) and the Youth Pastoral Plan (YPP) and send a copy to the Province Secretary.

## **Hearty Welcome dear Fr. Ashok Lawrence**

We are delighted to welcome Fr. Ashok Lawrence back to our Province after his Licentiate studies in Rome. He has successfully completed his studies and I am sure a gold medal is in the pipeline!! He will arrive on 5 July and will be installed as Rector of the Provincial House on 6 July. I am certain that his attitude of love and concern for the confreres will add flavour to the atmosphere of the Provincial house as we have experienced the same in the past. Hearty welcome dear father Ashok.

We also welcome **Cl. Leo Nepolian** from Belgium who will be in our province for holidays. We wish him a happy stay and get back with greater enthusiasm and vigour to continue his theological studies.

## **PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH**

06	Sat	Formation Commission meet @ Yercaud
09	Tue	Asst. Parish priests meet @ Madhakottai
12	Fri	Leaders Meeting (Training on SEPP, EPCC) @ DBPH
13	Sat	Provincial Council
14	Sun	APPDB executive committee meet @ Trichy
20	Sat	Ilamai General body meet @ Keeranur

## **RECALLING EVENTS**

### **New Administrators' Training**

The training for new administrators was held from 19 to 21 June 2024 at Don Bosco Provincial house. Nine administrators joined the training and learned the various techniques and latest updates involved in accounting and auditing. I thank all of them for their enthusiastic participation and the Economer and staff for organizing and animating the training.

### **Sector Level Animation and Meetings**

The animation of various sectors of our province, such as commissions and departments were conducted in the month of June. They were organized in different communities where the various sectors are active and vibrant. This method is envisaged to visit various centres for sharing the best practices and to have a detailed study of the sector as well. Congrats to all the heads and members of the sectors for the active participation and the meticulous planning. Special thanks to all the communities which hosted the meetings.

### **Installation of Rectors**

The installation ceremonies for our new Rectors were held in the respective communities last month except one which will be held in the first week of July. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to each of them as they embark on this important responsibility of leadership. As they guide their respective communities, we offer them our unwavering support and prayers. May their ministry be filled with wisdom, compassion, and continued spirit of Don Bosco. We are confident that they will foster graceful atmosphere where our Salesian mission flourishes for the benefit of the young people entrusted to our care.

### **Anniversary of the Deceased Salesians**

07.07.2007 – Fr. John Nedumpuram died at Vellakinar at the age of 85.

15.07.2015 – Br. Nicolas Ouseph died at Salem at the age of 26.

30.07.2007 – Fr. Philip Kutiannil died at Madhakottai at the age of 73.

### **COMMUNITY REFLECTION**

#### **TOWARDS SILVER JUBILEE - YEAR 3: SPIRITUALITY OF WITNESS**

##### **Witnesses Always Contribute Their Best**

My dear confreres and the members of the Salesian Family,

Recently, two of us Salesians went for a health checkup at the KMC hospital in Trichy. After all the tests, we sat down to meet the doctor for review and follow-up. At the end of the whole conversation and as we were about to leave, the doctor told us, "Dear fathers, I am a past pupil of Don Bosco. I have been working in various hospitals, including many of those run by the diocese and religious. But I feel you Salesians should start a hospital because your administration is really good and you always do your best." We were surprised and wondered at his sharing. He is one of the doctors who does not charge consultation fees for the fathers and sisters because he considers they are carrying out wonderful services to society. He does not also suggest unnecessary tests and surgeries that lead to unwanted expenses in medical consultation. In fact, in the corporate world, he is not the best because he does not bring in the expected revenues, but I admire him because he is doing what is best for the individual patient.

Some years ago, I attended a promotion event organized by Bosconet in Bangalore, since I was the provincial in charge of that network. Several renowned industrialists and businessmen were present at the event. I had to address the gathering as the president of the function, and I was wondering what to share. We are all used to sharing some spiritual thought with our own religious members whenever there is an opportunity. But this was the first time I had to talk to the corporates. I wanted to be brief and personal. Hence, I began to share my vocation story and ended saying, "If I have another life, I would still love to be a Salesian priest and belong to the province of Tiruchy." The entire crowd clapped

hands, and I did not know why they were giving such applause. Initially, I thought the appreciation was for my short speech, but later several of them told me, "Father, if you were outside in the world, we would have hired you as one of our bosses because we are looking for such persons who are truly happy in their lives."

It is true, my dear confreres. The whole world admires us, our qualities, and our potential. For that matter, I am sure every girl would choose one of us in comparison to young men outside the world, not for our beauty and smartness but more for our discipline and values of life. No wonder a few of us have been stolen by the girls in our presences!! Jokes apart, I somehow believe that God has chosen each of us not because we are the best but because we can contribute our best. There is a difference between the two. The first part refers to us directly, and the second part refers to what God makes of us. This is what St. Paul shares with us: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Phil 4:13. Thus, witnesses are those who contribute their best for others and the world.

We are at the beginning of a new academic year. The provincial team is delighted to visit the different communities because all of them are full of energy and creativity. Everyone has tons of ideas and is just waiting to initiate them one by one. It is true that some are discouraged a little because we do not have sufficient funds to execute every one of the plans that we have, which I am sure will get materialized over time by divine providence. What impresses me most is the commitment and dedication of a few Salesians who are full of energy and enthusiasm. They cannot but do their best. They are like engines that start and go on until they are stopped. Likewise, the wish of the superior is enough for them to go ahead and accomplish as much good as possible. They see everything as an opportunity to do good. I am always grateful to God for such holy souls who are great sources of inspiration in our province. I wish and pray that this number doubles and multiplies a hundredfold. Every one of us should become motivators of this kind. We should be doing our best.

I want to appreciate and thank all the confreres who have shared their feedback about the province during the assembly of confreres conducted after every retreat. Some of them have been very helpful in improving our administration, and others were more emotional outbursts. All of us need to understand the fact that there is no ideal or perfect reality. All of us are moving towards that. Before we criticize others, we should also evaluate our personal lives and contributions. Whenever we share in public, we tend to exhibit more of ourselves than what we communicate. As a leader, it is my responsibility to share information, and I take the utmost care to use words that are constructive and helpful. It is true that when some are clouded, they are very selective in listening, pick and choose words that come from me, and give totally different pictures to the others. Never mind. I ask pardon from those who are hurt by my words or from those who think that I am against them. I am not against anyone in our province, and I truly mean it. I only want to be of some help and assistance. But let these not stop you from doing your best or contributing

your best. After all, provincials will come and go, but our sense of belonging to the province should be strong and vibrant.

As we are fast approaching the conclusion of our Silver Jubilee Celebrations, let me invite all of us to contribute your best for the growth of us personally and much more for the welfare of the young people and the development of our province. This should become a constant motivating factor in all that we carry out in our lives. "Let nothing upset you" is not only the phrase from Don Bosco, but it should be our mindset for the future. Do your best, and God will take care of the rest.

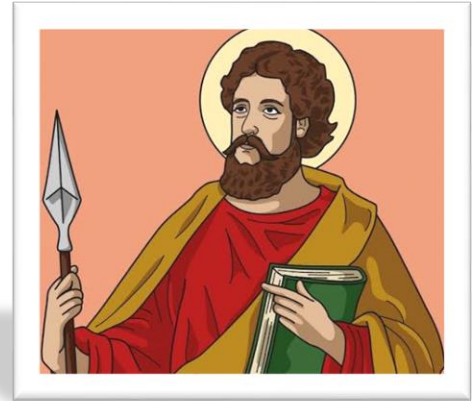
Prayerful best wishes to all in the Family,

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco



Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam SDB

Provincial – Salesian Province of Tiruchy, INT.



**Happy Feast of  
St. Thomas, The Apostle!**