



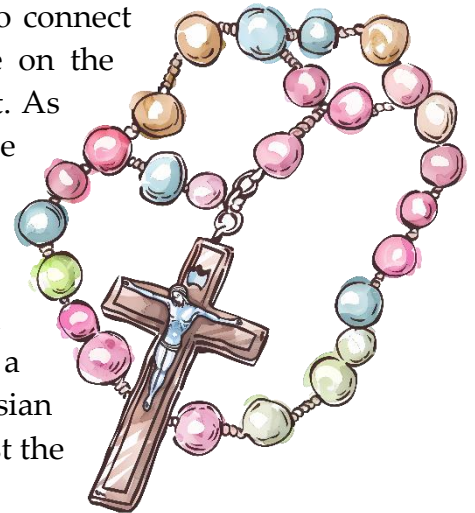
PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

OCTOBER 2024

DEAR CONFRERES,

Cordial Greetings...

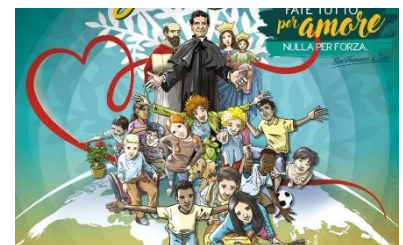
The month of October, dedicated to the Holy Rosary, holds a special place in the hearts of Salesians worldwide. As we embark on this sacred journey, let us reflect on the significance of the Rosary in our Salesian vocation and the profound impact it has on our lives. The Rosary, a simple yet powerful prayer, is a beautiful way to connect with Mary, the Mother of God. It invites us to meditate on the mysteries of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we contemplate these mysteries, we are drawn closer to the divine and experience a renewed sense of hope and peace. St. John Bosco, our father and founder, had a deep devotion to Mary and the Rosary. He recognized the power of prayer in shaping the lives of young people and encouraged the Salesian family to embrace the Rosary as a daily practice. The Rosary has been an integral part of Salesian spirituality for centuries, providing a spiritual anchor amidst the challenges and joys of our ministry.



As we celebrate the month of the Rosary, let us renew our commitment to this beautiful devotion by praying the Rosary daily and sharing the Rosary with others. The month of October offers us a unique opportunity to deepen our relationship with Mother Mary and to experience the transformative power of the Rosary. As Salesians, let us embrace this devotion with renewed fervour and share its beauty with the world. May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Queen of the Rosary, intercede for us all.

Salesian Family Live-In and Consult

The Salesian Family Day is organized in our province on **01 and 02 October 2024 at The Retreat, Yercaud**. I extend my warm welcome to all the Salesian family members for two days of togetherness and celebration. I am sure that these two days will help each other to understand the richness of the Salesian life with various association to cater to the life of the young people, understanding the mind and spirit of Don Bosco. The programme begins with the registration on the first day and ends with the Consult on the second day.



Salesian Brothers Meet INM and INT

It is an annual feature that the Salesian Brothers of both the provinces INM and INT come together for two days of meeting to evaluate their lives and ministries and the impact they create in the lives of the young people. This year, the meeting is organised by INT on [05 and 06 October 2024 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhy](#). I wish them all the best and extend a warm welcome especially to the brothers from INM.

Batch Meet

The Salesian priests and brothers belonging to the profession batch 2002 – 2008 will have two days of meeting on [25, 26 October 2024](#) at the animation centre of the Sacred Heart brothers in [Irudayakulam, near Tenkasi](#). May this coming together of confreres for the batch meet help each other to build fraternity and togetherness within the batch and with the confreres of the province.

Zonal Level Meeting for those in Initial formation

Two zonal-level meetings for clerics in initial formation will be held this month. One meeting will be organized in [Tiruppur on 05 October 2024](#) and the other meeting in [Surya Nagar on 19 October 2024](#). This meeting promises a vibrant opportunity for clerics to connect, share experiences, and be inspired by the lives and mission of one another. The Vice Provincial will provide further details regarding the meeting.

PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH

01, 02	Tue, Wed	Salesian Family Live In @ Yercaud
05, 06	Sat, Sun	Salesian Brothers Meet @ DBPH Kallukuzhy
05	Sat	Zonal Meeting for Clerics @ Tiruppur
12	Sat	Pre-novices, PHS and Aspirants Live-In @ Dindigul
19	Sat	Zonal Meeting for Clerics @ Surya Nagar
25, 26	Fri, Sat	Batch Meet (2002 – 2008 Profession Batch) @ Irudayakulam

RECALLING EVENTS

Joint Council Meet with INM was held on 12 September 2024 at DB Pre-novitiate, Dindigul. It was evident in the sharing and discussion that both the provinces want to explore more areas for collaboration to connect with the young people of Tamil Nadu and empower them towards the fulness of life. In the areas of formation and mission there will be more collaboration in the coming years. I extend my sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. Don Bosco Lourdasamy, the provincial of INM, and all the councillors for their availability, acceptance and contribution for such joint ventures. I wholeheartedly thank the rector and the confreres of DB Dindigul community for going out of their way to organize the meeting with wonderful hospitality.

Quinquennium Meet was held at Mount Don Bosco, on 06 and 07 September 2024. The young priests were given inputs on Psycho-Spiritual maturity and Migrant ministry on the

first day and they had interaction with the provincial and the dissemination of chapter deliberation on the second day. I appreciate the vice provincial, all the resource persons and the community of Mount Don Bosco Kotagiri for organizing the meeting.

Meeting for those due for Perpetual Profession was held at Don Bosco Provincial House on September 14, 2024. The clerics were animated on the evangelical counsels. In the afternoon, they had an outing to Sengipatti farm.

Zonal Level Meeting for those in Initial formation who come under the Thanjavur zone was held in September 28, 2024, at DB Thanjavur. They were animated on the Salesian Accompaniment. In the afternoon, they went on a pilgrimage to Poondi Basilica and visited Kallanai. I thank the rector and the confreres of DB Thanjavur community for hosting the meeting.

Province Secretaries Meet

The Province Secretaries of the SA region met together in the Provincial House, Mumbai on 17 and 18 September 2024. It was a chance for the secretaries to get familiarized with one another, informed with the best practices of other provinces and equipped with effective functioning of the office. Fr. Ashly, the province secretary, attended the meeting.

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. Raphael Appadan](#) (84) on 04 September 2024.
- To [Fr. Abraham Savarimuthu](#) at the demise of his father [Mr. Savarimuthu](#) (82) on 17 September 2024.
- To [Fr. John Baptist](#) at the demise of his sister [Mrs. Seltleat](#) (65) and brother-in-law [Mr. Ciluvai Porthiyas](#) (67) on September 27 in Canada.

May the souls rest in peace!

COMMUNITY REFLECTION

SILVER JUBILEE OF THE PROVINCE OF TIRUCHY – WAY FORWARD

Importance of Vocation Promotion

All of us are aware that the number of vocations is declining year by year. After the COVID, we have not regained our old numbers. This is a serious concern for our province and congregation. On the other hand, the number of vocations leaving the province continues to happen, and we have not been successful in controlling this either. Though numbers do not matter for the quality of our religious life, it matters a lot to continue our mission, or rather to extend our reach to other parts of the world where we have not reached so far. The interest in missionary vocation is increasing in our province, and that is the only

encouraging phenomenon in the recent past. Instead of conducting research on how and why the vocations are decreasing or leaving in the province, I would like to ponder some efforts and strategies to promote more vocations.

01. Following up Individual Candidates in our Parishes, Hostels and Institutions: I am sure many of us came into the congregation at the invitation of some individual Salesians, like the vocation promotor or any other person who saw the seeds of vocation in us. The same should be continued by each of us Salesians in our respective presences. A candidate showing some interest in spirituality or youth work should be our target. We should show personal attention and care to that candidate and, at the appropriate time, extend a loving invitation to come and see our life or join the aspirantate and experience the joy of growing in religious vocation. This will surely reap a good harvest even if all do not persevere till the end. 'Each one catch one' should be our watchword.

02. Conducting Vocation Camp for all the XII std Catholic Students of our Schools: We can conduct a summer camp for all the Catholic boys of all our schools during the summer, not calling it a vocation camp. The spirit of vocation camp should be there, and who knows, some of the candidates may be inspired those days and opt to join our congregation. By this, I do not mean that we must force every one of the students to attend the camp, but we can at least give them an experience of our life, and it does not matter if they do not opt to join us after the camp. Let them have the joy of making use of the summertime in the best way possible.

03. Rectors Meeting the Hostel Boys Individually once in a way to Motivate them and instil in them the Seeds of Vocation: The boys are very smart these days, and there are umpty number of distractions that keep them busy. Hence, we Salesians also should be smarter in doing our homework and creatively attract the boys to our congregation. The rectors meeting the boys individually at least once a term will certainly help in coming to know the interest of the boy, and this will give us an opportunity to invite him to join our congregation. Every opportunity is a God-given chance to promote vocations to our congregation. I am sure that following this method with seriousness and great interest will bring good results.

04. Celebrating the Feast of Don Bosco in other Parishes and Institutions: We, the Salesians, have been mostly busy celebrating the feast of Don Bosco in our community, and we invite all the other religious and guests for the same. This is really good. But why don't we go out of our campuses now and then and celebrate the feast of Don Bosco elsewhere. I am sure there will be some parish priests who may be interested in giving us an opportunity of this sort. We could celebrate mass and give some pictures of Don Bosco or some souvenirs to all the people or even give them a good meal. I am sure the families will begin to talk about Don Bosco and the

Salesians from then on, and gradually there may be some good souls opting to join our congregation. Even if some candidates do not turn up, we can at least be satisfied with spreading the name of Don Bosco far and wide.

05. Erecting some Monuments of Don Bosco in other Parishes and Institutions: All of us are aware of youth groups in several parishes named after Don Bosco. It will be good to offer them a statue or even erect a grotto or a bust of Don Bosco in those places and spread the devotion to Don Bosco. Frequent visits to such places and celebrating masses and novenas to Don Bosco will surely help in promoting vocations to our congregation. We will be erecting a monument to Don Bosco in St. Xavier's ITI and Don Bosco Press in Thanjavur, and we are grateful to the Provincial of Mumbai, who has accepted to sponsor the same. I feel we should be ready to spend any amount of money for such works, which will eventually promote vocations.

06. Beginning a Magazine like Don Bosco's Madonna in our Province: Don Bosco was a man for the times, and amidst all the works, he was a publisher and a writer. We should follow and interpret him to our own times. There is already a magazine in Tamil, 'Salesian Seithi Malar.' We could perhaps circulate this in a big way in our province or start another smaller magazine that need not be even printed but circulated digitally to all the parents and children of our schools and parishes so that they come to know all our works. I am certain that this effort will create some sensation, and there will be candidates motivated to join us in the future. Who knows, there may be some good souls who may become our benefactors too.

07. Vocation Promotion Commission and Zonal Vocation Promoters: We will be having a commission for vocation promotion from this academic year, and there will be zonal vocation promoters appointed who will work in collaboration with the Vocation promotor of the province. We realize that one person is unable to be present in the parishes at the stipulated time, and so these zonal vocation promoters will be able to substitute the vocation promotor. I am sure this strategy will be helpful in contacting many parishes and candidates who are interested in joining our congregation. Personal follow-up will also be there, which will gradually increase our popularity among the region, and many more candidates will come to know about Don Bosco and our charism.

08. Vocation Day in all our Parishes and Institutions: I exhort all our presences to seriously plan this vocation day and make sure all the students experience a memorable day. Giving them all a book, a picture, or some souvenir will be a good gesture. Let's go back to the traditions our missionaries followed in their times for promoting vocations. Every effort that we undertake will be a great investment in vocation promotion.

My dear Confreres, I have given a few suggestions for vocation promotion. There could be many more innovative ideas in your minds. Let's all join hands together and work hard in this area of promoting vocations to our congregation. The results do not matter, but our efforts matter a lot in this endeavour. God will surely reward our hard work and send many more vocations to our congregation. Let's move forward with faith and hope.

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!**