



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

NOVEMBER 2024

DEAR CONFRERES,

Cordial Greetings...

As we journey through the month of November, we are invited to pause and reflect on the profound mysteries of life, death, and eternity. All Saints Day and All Souls Day offer us a unique opportunity to honour the saints who have gone before us and to pray for the souls of the departed. On All Saints Day, we celebrate the communion of saints, the vast multitude of believers who have lived lives of faith and virtue. These holy men and women, from biblical figures to contemporary martyrs, inspire us to strive for holiness in our own lives. They remind us that the path to sainthood is open to all who seek to follow Christ.



All Souls Day is a solemn occasion dedicated to praying for the souls of the faithful departed who are still being purified in purgatory. Through our prayers and sacrifices, we can help alleviate their suffering and hasten their entry into the joy of heaven. To honour the Saints and pray for the departed, let us participate in the Eucharistic celebration, where we offer prayers for the saints and the souls of the departed. Let us spend time in prayer and reflection at the graves of loved ones. Giving alms to the poor and needy, volunteering to help others, and offering our daily sacrifices such as fasting or abstaining from certain pleasures for the intentions of the saints and the souls of the departed are certainly best practices in our Christian life.

As we commemorate All Saints Day and All Souls Day, let us renew our commitment to living a holy life and to praying for the eternal repose of the faithful departed. May the intercession of the saints and the prayers of the Church bring comfort to all who mourn and hope to all who believe.

Let us remember in a special way the deceased Salesians of our province. As we celebrate the Silver Jubilee, the province is indebted to the 20 Salesians who have gone to their eternal abode in the past 25 years. They have lived their lives with commitment and dedication, setting us all good examples of Salesian charism and fidelity to Don Bosco, our father and founder. I am certain that they have received their reward in heaven. We remember them with love and gratitude. May their souls rest in peace.

Animation on Spiritual Direction for Leaders

The Salesian Province of Tiruchy is embarking on a pioneering journey by organizing a dedicated animation on Spiritual Direction for the leaders of our communities from [19 to 23 November 2024 in Don Bosco, Manikandam](#). This transformative initiative aims to equip our esteemed leaders with the tools and insights necessary to foster a deeper spiritual life and guide others on their own spiritual paths. In today's fast-paced world, spiritual direction offers a much-needed oasis of tranquillity and reflection. It provides a safe space for individuals to delve into the depths of their souls, explore their relationship with God, and discern His will for their lives. By participating in this animation, our leaders will gain practical tools and techniques to deepen their personal prayer life and spiritual growth. They will learn to discern God's voice amidst the noise of everyday life and make informed decisions. They will also acquire the skills to offer spiritual direction to others, particularly young people and fellow Salesians and contribute to a renewed emphasis on spiritual growth and renewal within the province.

I invite all leaders of our communities to embrace this opportunity to deepen their spiritual lives and become effective spiritual guides. By participating in this animation, you will not only enrich your own journey but also contribute to the spiritual renewal of our province. Let us embark on this transformative journey together, guided by the Holy Spirit. I am grateful to Fr. Wilson ofm cap, who has agreed to conduct this course. With his knowledge and expertise in this field, I am sure he will make this program a memorable one indeed.

Batch Meet

I am pleased to announce an upcoming batch meeting for all Salesian Priests and Brothers who made their profession before 1991. This gathering will take place on [November 8 and 9, 2024 at Divine Word Centre in Vadipatti](#). It is a chance for reunion of confreres and to share their experiences, insights, and lessons learned throughout the years of service. It is also an opportunity to discuss current challenges and opportunities in our ministry and explore new ways to serve young people and spend time in prayer and reflection, renewing our spiritual commitment. I cordially invite all the confreres belonging to these batches to participate in this important meeting. Your presence will enrich the gathering and contribute to the strengthening of our Salesian life.

Diaconate Ministry

The four deacons from Don Bosco Theological College, Chennai will have diaconate ministry in the north India from November onwards and they will reach the province in April. The three deacons from Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore will be available from 29 November to 20 April for their diaconate ministry. We extend our prayerful support and best wishes to all our deacons.

PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH

08, 09 Fri, Sat	Priest and Salesian Brothers meet (before 2001) @ Vadipatti
18 Mon	Provincial Council
19 - 23 Tue - Sat	Animation on Spiritual direction for Leaders – Fr. Wilson Cap @ Manikandam

22 - 24 Fri - Sun Domestic Staff Pilgrimage to Goa
30 Sat All commissions and Departments – Mid-year evaluation @ DBPH
Tri Monthly Recollection, Quarterly Assessment of the Temporary Professed

RECALLING EVENTS

Salesian Family Live-In and Consult

The Salesian Family live-in and consult was organized in our province on 01 and 02 October 2024 at The Retreat, Yercaud. A very good representation was there from all the associations of the Salesian family. After a few years again we have organized the meeting for two days. The entire programme was organized well with varieties of programme for the members to know each other and to know the charism of the Salesian family. I extend my gratitude to Fr. Ferrington, the Salesian family delegate of the province for coordinating the entire programme, the rector and community of the Retreat - Yercaud for the wonderful hospitality and all the participants for their encouraging presence.

Salesian Brothers Meet INM and INT

As an annual feature the Salesian Brothers of both the provinces INM and INT came together for two days of meeting to evaluate their lives and ministries on 05 and 06 October 2024 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Kallukuzhy. Both the provincials of INT and INM and the vice provincial of INM were present and had interaction with the brothers on their life and mission. Almost all the brothers from both the provinces participated in the meeting and I thank them for their hard work in their ministry places. I am grateful to Br. Edwin Arockiadoss for coordinating this program on behalf of the province.

Batch Meet

The batch meeting for those who professed between 2002 to 2008 was held in Valam Retreat Center at Irudayakulam in Tirunelveli District on 25 and 26 October 2024. On the first day Fr. Arul Ambrose from Pallayamkottai diocese animated the first session on "Appropriate Youth ministry for present generation". The second session was animated by Fr. Selva Kumar on "Use of AI tools in Youth ministry for our province". After lunch Fr. John Dharman presented the scientific study of our province and facilitated the group discussion on the future plan for our province. In the evening they had the assembly of the confreres. Next day, they went for a Picnic to Manimutharu falls and the program ended with Lunch.

Zonal Level Meeting for those in Initial formation

The zonal meeting for brothers in Coimbatore region was held at Don Bosco NEST, Tiruppur on October 5, 2024 and in Madurai region at Surya Nagar on 19 October 2024. Both the groups were animated by Fr. Ashok Lawrence on Salesian accompaniment of the youngsters with biblical background and our Salesian traditions. After the lunch the first group went to Kangeyam and had the Eucharistic celebration in the shrine of Maria Bambino and the second group went to Vadipatti and had the Eucharistic celebration in the shrine of Our Lady of Good Health.

Provincial Secretaries Course at Rome

Our congregation has organized a meeting for all the provincial secretaries at the Pontifical Salesian University (UPS) in Rome. It was an invaluable opportunity for provincial secretaries from across the congregation to gather, learn, and collaborate in their office. The event focused on enhancing the skills and knowledge of secretaries based on juridical elements and administrative praxis in the government of the province, enabling them to better serve their provinces and contribute to the overall mission of the Salesian Family. Fr. Ashly, our province secretary, attended the meeting.

CONDOLENCES...

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

- To the [Provincial and confreres of INC Province](#) at the demise of [Rev. Br. Thomas Kuttamplackal SDB](#) (89) on 29 October 2024.
- To the [Provincial and confreres of INP Province](#) at the demise of [Rev. Fr. Lino Lopes SDB](#) (60) on 30 October 2024.
- To [Fr. Alphonse Lazar](#) at the demise of his mother [Mrs. Syria Pushpam](#) (80) on 10 October 2024.

May the souls rest in peace!

COMMUNITY REFLECTION

SILVER JUBILEE OF THE PROVINCE OF TIRUCHY – WAY FORWARD

2. Intimacy In The Mission

The provincial visitation is going on in the province these days, and I have visited 12 communities so far. It is wonderful to witness an enormous number of activities carried out in various houses. Our campuses are filled with young people, children, and others who exhibit joy and happiness in their lives. The spiritual vibration of the people in the parishes is growing day by day, and a greater number of people are tuned to living the spirituality. Pious associations are increasing in numbers, and the members are becoming positive and exemplary. They contribute their might for the welfare of the people entrusted to their care. Institutions are focused on the formation of children and young people, and results are great and encouraging. The young at risk are specially cared for, and it's wonderful to see their happy faces radiating joy and optimism in life. In short, I must say that the Lord is blessing us with gifts and blessings day after day, especially as we are in the Jubilee year. We are grateful to the Lord for everything that has happened in the past, and we look forward to a bright future.

Let me enumerate some aspects of our mission that will help us to move forward in life focused on maximum goals and results.

01. The mission is entrusted to the Salesian Community. Hence, the members should be able to sacrifice their individual differences for the sake of the mission:

Art. 45 of our constitution tells us, "Each of us is responsible for the common mission, and participates in it with the richness of his own personal gifts." When we go through the

history of the province and individual houses, this aspect of working together in a community has been very strong, and that has paved the way for huge development of our works and activities. The rural presences are the best examples of the hard work of the early Salesians, and they were living amidst challenges of different types. I am sure they did not have proper facilities of accommodation, food, and entertainment. But they were immersed in the mission and enjoyed the ministry to the full. It is true that the problems are multifaceted today. And we need even more to be available and faithful to the mission entrusted to us.

There is a tendency in individuals to give more importance to their personal programs and schedules. We have a good tradition in the province that priority is given to the province and community-level programs first, and only then should the individuals plan their program. This needs to be strictly adhered to if we need to achieve greater results in our mission. Reactions like resigning the portfolios, walking out, etc. should be avoided. Better dialogue and discussion must be initiated at all levels. The leaders should be more patient and aim at bringing all the members together for the mission even if members do not cooperate. If there is a need, the individuals should be able to sacrifice their comforts for the sake of the mission of the community. Once the goals are clear and well set, all should march towards the same no matter what the challenges and difficulties may be.

02. Hard work without counting the cost will reap good fruits. The members should work towards the maximum:

The work culture of our ancestors is to be admired and appreciated. We wonder how people were able to work so hard and achieve the results expected. The commitment and dedication of the pioneers and missionaries of our province is certainly something to be followed today. Don Bosco was a man who built many churches at the same time besides the founding of the congregation and taking care of its growth and development amidst a multitude of challenges. He is our model and example. The residence and other facilities of all our houses, including those in the rural areas, are far better now than before. The number of confreres working in the individual presences is increasing year by year. The budget is also escalated, and the whole style of life is of good standards in the present scenario. But what is the output?

There are confreres who are after degrees and qualifications. Degrees are important, and the province has spent money and resources in qualifying our confreres. But what are the results? Are the qualified confreres scaling up the standards of our mission by their contribution? Are the developments equal to the investments made? As a leader of the province, while on the one hand, I adore some of the confreres for their hard work and commitment, I must bring to the notice of the province, the growing number of younger confreres who are complacent in doing the minimum or doing nothing at all. Some are draining the resources of the province and are becoming liabilities. It's sad to see them unhappy and becoming negative towards life. It's time now to wake up and keep the fire burning and our passion spreading to all around us. Let us contribute our best. Let us reach the heights at the earliest.

03. Creativity in our mission is the need of the hour. Variety and newness should become our constant companions in our ministry:

There is no doubt about our institutions, which have brought about a huge transformation of society. Education has been an important tool for empowering the poor and underprivileged. Our boardings and hostels have been agents of upliftment and encouragement to the youth, who are the hallmarks in many of the corporates in India and abroad. Lots of creativity has gone through our services and initiatives in the past years, and some of the works like the care for the HIV and young at risk are some of the monuments that will always stand in history. Almost all the departments have been the brainchild of some of the confreres who have thought wild for long and finally given shape to them. We are certainly marching on the right track in youth ministry.

I guess we have a long way to go in this journey, leaping into the dark courageously and boldly. Many times the path may not be visible and clear, and there may be hurdles and blocks all along the way, but they are not perennial or dead ends. Though the light may be bleak and thin, our efforts will make them bright and strong. Don Bosco was a man for the signs of the times, and he was considered mad at times. We may also run the risk of being termed abnormal, but let us move forward in our search for the new and essential. I am sure we will surely find the pearl, and the world will celebrate us for the inventions. Only this daring attitude will invite the newcomers for a challenged life. We need to open the third eye, which will see the road less travelled, and who knows, there may be a multitude following us in a short while.

I have mentioned only a few tips, and these are not the only ones we need in our mission journey. There are many more in store, and let us unwrap them one by one. Let us leap forward with full confidence that God will show the way. He will make things happen. All we need is to be open and faithful. May the holy souls in heaven inspire us and intercede for us.

Prayerful best wishes to all in the Family,

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco



Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam SDB
Provincial – Salesian Province of Tiruchy, INT.



**All Saints
Pray for us!**