

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

JULY 2025

DEAR CONFRERES, SALESIAN FAMILY AND BELOVED YOUNG PEOPLE

Cordial Greetings...

As we approach the [Feast of St. Thomas, the Apostle, on 3rd July](#), I extend my heartfelt greetings and prayers to each of you. This feast holds a special significance for us, particularly here in India, where St. Thomas holds a revered place as the evangelizer of our land. St. Thomas, often remembered as "Doubting Thomas," presents us with a powerful lesson in faith. His initial hesitation to believe in the Risen Christ, followed by his heartfelt confession, "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28), reminds us that faith is not always easy or immediate. It can be a journey, marked by questions, doubts, and the need for personal encounter. Yet, it's precisely in this journey that our faith can deepen and become more profound. His encounter with the wounded Christ transformed him from a doubter into a courageous missionary, willing to travel to distant lands to proclaim the Good News.



For us, Salesians, St. Thomas's legacy resonates deeply with our mission. As educators and evangelizers, we are called to bring Christ to young people, often encountering their own questions, uncertainties, and struggles. Like St. Thomas, we are called to be witnesses of the Risen Lord, not just through our words, but through our lives of dedicated service and joyful witness. His journey from doubt to unwavering conviction encourages us to persevere in our efforts, trusting that the Holy Spirit will open hearts and minds to the truth.

On this joyous occasion, we also extend our [warmest greetings and prayerful wishes to our confreres of the Salesian Province of Chennai \(INM\)](#) as they celebrate the feast of their patron, St. Thomas, the Apostle. May St. Thomas intercede for them, bless their communities, and strengthen them in their Salesian mission.

Leaders Retreat and Leaders Meet

The annual retreat for the Rectors and Leaders of our communities is scheduled from [June 30 to July 05, 2025, at The Retreat, Yercaud](#). I cordially invite all our Rectors and Leaders to participate in this meaningful spiritual experience. A few other confreres will also be attending the retreat. Following the retreat, all Rectors and Leaders will have a day of

meeting. I invite the entire province to pray for all our Rectors and Leaders, wishing them good health and a serene atmosphere throughout the retreat days.

New Provincial of INB

[Fr. Ashley Miranda SDB](#) has been nominated as the new Provincial of the Salesian Province of St. Francis Xavier, Mumbai (INB), for the six-year term 2025 to 2031. On behalf of the entire Province, I extend our heartfelt congratulations to Fr. Ashley Miranda as he prepares to undertake this significant responsibility of leading the province. He is widely recognized as a man of deep faith, unwavering religious conviction, diligent hard work, and profound future vision. We pray that the guiding hand of God will be with him, granting him good health and happiness as he carries out his duties. We are confident that his leadership will elevate the province to a greater level of fidelity to Don Bosco's mission and ensure the continued well-being of the young people.



We also express our sincere gratitude to Fr. Savio Silveira SDB, the outgoing Provincial. We are deeply thankful for his effective and wonderful pastoral leadership over the past six years, and for the affection, closeness, and unwavering support he consistently demonstrated towards our Province in addressing our various needs.

Jubilee of Youth 2025

The Youth Jubilee 2025, a significant event within the larger Jubilee Year 2025, is scheduled to take place in [Rome from July 28 to August 3, 2025](#). Young participants will arrive in Rome on July 28. The Jubilee will officially open with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration in St. Peter's Square on the evening of July 29. The following four days will feature a variety of



cultural, artistic, and spiritual activities across Rome. A key component will be volunteer programs and service learning, offering participants the chance to engage in community service, solidarity projects, and ecological initiatives, thereby putting Gospel values into practice and fostering social responsibility. The Jubilee will conclude on August 3 with a Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Pope Leo XIV at Tor Vergata.

The young people from our parishes and institutions cannot attend the programme in Rome. Instead, our communities, especially those with parishes, are strongly encouraged to organize meaningful programs to help young people feel connected to the universal Church's celebrations, strengthen their spiritual lives, and reinforce their commitment to living Gospel values.

Young Salesians Meet

All the young Salesians, who are doing practical training and college studies in our province, will have two days of animation at [The Retreat, Yercaud on 18 and 19 July 2025](#). I recommend the leaders to make sure that all the clerics attend the meeting and enjoy the fraternity and moments of togetherness.

Initial Visit

The initial visit is going on these days, and I have visited sixteen 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.

Congratulations to Fr. Casimir Raj

We congratulate Fr. Casimir Raj on his appointment as a member of the Tamil Nadu Commission for Protection of Child Rights (TNCPCR). This appointment is a well-deserved reward for his tireless ministry with children and young people at risk. We wish him all the best in his efforts to protect and promote the rights of children across the state.

Congratulations to Fr. Abraham Savarimuthu

We congratulate Fr. Abraham Savarimuthu on successfully completing his doctoral defence in Philosophy at UPS, Rome. We appreciate his hard work and dedication in pursuing his studies within the given timeframe. We wish him all the best for his future ministry, where he can apply his expertise.

PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH

30-05	Mon-Sat	Leaders Retreat @ Yercaud
06	Sun	Leaders Meet @ Yercaud
09	Wed	Assistant Parish Priests Meet @ Lalgudi
18,19	Fri, Sat	Young Salesians Meet @ Yercaud
20	Sun	Provincial Council

RECALLING EVENTS

Administrators Meet and New Administrators Training

A meeting for all the administrators of our communities was held on 26 June 2025 at Don Bosco Provincial house, Kallukuzhy. Followed by two days of training for the new administrators on 27 and 28 July 2025. Four 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 meeting and 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 different 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 ceremony for our new Rectors took place in their respective communities last month. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to each of them as they embark on this important responsibility of leadership. As they guide their communities, we offer our continued support and prayers. May their ministry be filled with wisdom, compassion, and the enduring spirit of Don Bosco. We are confident that they will foster a graceful atmosphere in the communities 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.

CONDOLENCES...

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

- To [Fr. Selvakumar Kamalakannan](#) at the demise of his mother [Mrs. Mariamuthu](#) (89) on 06 June 2025.
- To the [INM FMA Provincial](#) and the sisters at the demise of [Rev. Sr. Abraham Jacintha](#) (75) on June 14, 2025.

May the soul rest in peace!

COMMUNITY REFLECTION

Silver Jubilee Way Forward: 5. Spirituality of Communion

Salesian community life is something I really admire and appreciate. Many other Salesians have also shared with me their experience that this is very much true in their lives. Several other religious have bore witness to the same. I remember one of the senior Salesians, Fr. Joe Mannath, who shared with me the experience of his Jesuit friend, "Dear Joe, when I come home for holidays to Chennai, I love to be with your community than any of our houses. There is so much joy and happiness in your Salesian community." I do not think that anyone would have a contrary opinion to this. When there is so much joy and optimism in our Salesian community life, I am bit anxious about the way community life is lived these days. Hence, I want to share with you all, some of my reflections that's going on within me for the past many years. This sharing is timely according to me because of the

task that is entrusted to our province in the near future, namely, the consultation for a new provincial for the province of Tiruchy. Since the article is long, running into 12 pages, I am giving it as a separate attachment. I welcome anyone who wants to add to my reflections or am ready for a dialogue with those who have difference of opinion in anyway. The purpose is to build up our province and make the province healthy and wealthy as well.

As we celebrate the feast of St. Dominic Savio on July 6, I pray in a very special way for our province and all the confreres that we may pursue the path of holiness in every aspect of our religious life. May the saint inspire many more young people to become saints in the footsteps of our father and founder St. John Bosco.

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!**