



Instituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Salesiane di Don Bosco
St. Thomas the Apostle Province - INM
Madras - India

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My Dearest Sisters,

Viva Gesu`! Affectionate greetings to each one of you from Kodambakkam!

The Vow of Poverty: An Indefatigable, Life-Giving Freedom to Serve the Poor

INTRODUCTION

There is the unbelievable richness of vowed religious life. The vows are designed to facilitate the freedom to pursue fullness of relationship with God and a capacity to love and care for others that would not be possible otherwise. In the vow of poverty, we renounce personal ownership of created temporal things and hold that all material goods are owned collectively by the community. The vow of poverty consists of far more than merely not possessing certain material goods. The ultimate goal is that we prefer nothing to the love of Christ and discerningly use material goods only insofar as they are beneficial to our relationship with God and others (Ps 16:2). There's an incredible, life-giving freedom in the realisation that God will always give us precisely what we need when we need it.

Poverty is grounded in the recognition that we were created from nothing, have received everything that we are and have, solely from God, and are constantly sustained in existence by this same loving Creator every moment of every day of our lives. We can rest in the confidence that God knows our individual needs and will never fail to provide for us in every aspect of our lives if we but let Him. In addition to having complete trust in God's desires and providence for us, it is also crucial that we actively strive to detach ourselves from everyone and everything that could distract or detract from our relationship with God. One can never give one's heart fully to God if that same heart is encumbered by attachments to material things. This month, let us focus on the significance of the vow of poverty as an indefatigable, life-giving freedom to serve the Lord in the poor.

1. Maximally Available for Mission

Poverty enables us to be maximally available for the mission of God. The vow of poverty facilitates freedom for mission in the fact that all of the time and energy we would otherwise expend in taking care of material goods can be allocated to the needs of the mission and relationships with God and others. The Christian faith, right from the time of Christ, has a unique consideration for the poor and vulnerable. Jesus had a special place in His heart for them, and the Gospels are replete with stories of how He helped the poor in their need. The passage of Scripture on the Beatitudes (Matt 5:3-12), the last judgement narratives (Matt 25:31-46), the story of the Good Samaritan (Lk 10:25-37), among others, summarise the importance of Christian service to the poor.

The radical option for the poor is seen in the incarnation-kenosis of Jesus (Jn 3:16), assuming truly the human flesh and nature in their entirety, understood from the viewpoint of his divinity. Christ is seen as an obedient servant who selflessly offered himself freely for others, characterised by humble obedience to the Father, leading to his death on the Cross (Phil 2:16-21). This selfless act demonstrates the option for the poor as Christ accepted poverty, weakness and death out of love, coming into contact with humanity and recognising the pain and needs of the poor. This should be the first consideration when referring to the option for the poor, particularly for a consecrated person desiring to follow Christ intimately. To follow Christ with greater freedom of heart and moved by the Holy Spirit, we (FMA) willingly embrace evangelical poverty. In this way, we become sharers in the mystery of the self-emptying of the Son of God who, being rich, made himself poor through his poverty (FMA Const. art. 18).

Jesus, the poor, is the model par excellence in being available for the mission of God. No one has lived what he lived, and, consequently, no one has renounced as much as he did. He gave himself completely for love of us and with indefatigable freedom (Jn 10:17-18). He lived in an attitude of total availability for what the Father wanted of him, detached from all and everyone (poverty). On the cross he lived the culminating moment of this poverty: without possessions, without dignity, oppressed by the political and the religious power (Jn 8:29; 16:32). This total availability to the Father unto the moment of the cross (Phil 2:5-11) had already brought him during his public life. He was free for the mission, moved by his love for the Father and his brothers and sisters. Our Constitution states that each Sister is personally responsible for what she has promised to the Lord. She will practise the detachment and dependence inherent in every form of poverty, freeing herself from all individualism and the desire to possess... Express her poverty by a strong sense of belonging to the community and loving care for the Sisters (cf. FMA Const. art. 21).

2. Jesus' Unique Consideration for the Poor and Vulnerable

For the consecrated persons, the preferential option for the poor is to proclaim Christ as the Saviour who illuminates their dignity, helps them in their efforts toward liberation from all deficiencies, and brings them into communion with God and one another by living in evangelical poverty. Jesus demonstrated his genuine concern for the underprivileged and oppressed in several ways. He shared with the impoverished the good news of God's love and salvation. He touched the leper, healed the sick, and restored sight to the blind (Matt 11:4-6); He invited the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind to his feasts and lived among them (Lk 14:13); He lived in poverty with few material belongings and declared, "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor" (Lk 4:18).

Jesus rode a borrowed colt, preached from borrowed boats, and was laid to rest in a borrowed tomb. In addition to living among the impoverished, Jesus encouraged people to do the same by stating, "If you want to be perfect, go, sell your possessions and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven" (Matt 19:21). He also stated, "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God" (Matt 5:3) and "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of these least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matt 25:40). Above all, Jesus became poor on the cross as a voluntary act to provide us with the riches of his grace. Thus, Scripture says, "Though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, that you, through his poverty, might become rich" (2Cor 8:9). The FMA will love poverty in an "authentic and practical way" since Jesus made it an indispensable condition for his followers, and it is also a requirement of the *da mihi animas cetera tolle*. (cf. FMA Const. Art. 22)

The religious are called to live in poverty as a choice, making their own the condition of the Son of Man, who “has nowhere to rest his head” (Lk 9:58). The mission of the religious becomes a means to helping the poor and not for self-satisfaction. The duty to “help the poor through work” redefines common life and shows how poverty can be “really lived by pooling goods”. The preferential option for the poor ultimately sheds new light on the way of living the vow of poverty and informs common life (cf. Is 61:1-2; Lk 4:16-21). The option for the poor expresses profoundly the free and demanding love of God, which Jesus had commanded: “Love one another as I have loved you” (Jn 13:34). The vow of poverty is a reference to the preferential option for the poor, and requires a constant call to love effectively and to shun selfishness for conversion of mind and heart and “for liberation from all temporal encumbrances” (cf. FMA Const. art 24-26).

3. The Option for the Poor: An Obligation to Care

For the consecrated persons, the option for the poor is an obligation to care for the poor and vulnerable. Through the vow of poverty, they seek to imitate Christ and embody the beatitude of the poor. This vow is not just about material possessions but encompasses an internal, personal decision to live a life identical to that of Christ. It is a response to the materialistic attitude in the world, emphasising sensitivity to the needs of others. The evangelical vow of poverty requires them to demonstrate solidarity with the neglected in society. It calls for self-denial, restraint, and a preferential love for the poor. Consecrated life shares in the radical poverty embraced by the Lord and fulfils a specific role in the salvific mystery of his incarnation and redeeming death.

On 8 March 2014, Pope Francis, addressing religious men and women at the International Symposium on the “Management of Ecclesiastical Goods of the Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, for the Service of Humanity and the Mission of the Church”, stated that the consecrated persons are a prophetic voice and living witness to the newness which is Christ and that they have to conform themselves to the One who made himself poor so that we might become rich by his poverty. This loving poverty is solidarity, sharing, and charity and is expressed in moderation, in the quest for justice, and contentment with a simple life. These basic attitudes include solidarity, sharing, charity, moderation, justice, contentment with a simple life, etc. These ensure that their poverty is not theoretical but in consonance and communion with the poorest of this world.

The option for the poor is an important dimension of the mission of consecrated persons. Jesus refers to them as a real proclamation of the Gospel inherited from Jesus of Nazareth (Lk 4:16-19). Pope Francis invited them to be for the Church and the world “the outposts of care for all of the poor and for all material, moral and spiritual poverty, and examples in overcoming every form of egoism through the logic of the Gospel which teaches us to trust in the Providence of God.” This is the kind of poverty that all of us need to learn by touching the flesh of the poor Christ in the humble, in the poor, in the sick, and in children, young people and women. Jesus identifies himself with those in need: with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and those in prison (Matt 25: 40). Today, there are new poor and new faces of poverty: the hungry, the homeless, the sick and abandoned, drug addicts, migrants and the marginalised, political and environmental refugees, and the indigenous peoples. The consecrated persons are called to get involved by living a life of poverty and embracing the cause of the poor.

4. The Indispensability of Witnessing to Christ in the Poor

The consecrated life has a fundamental space for the poor based on the vow of poverty and the indispensability of witnessing to Christ, whom they have chosen to follow more closely. The incarnation of Christ is a radical expression of the option for the poor. Option for the poor demands of consecrated life the living of the vow of poverty and the significance of witnessing. The call for the commitment of consecrated persons to the needs of the poor and vulnerable of society is based on their decision to follow Jesus more closely, who, though God, became poor, embracing weakness and death in acknowledgement of the need and redemption of poor humanity. There is a unity between evangelical poverty and the option for the poor. It requires consecrated persons to demonstrate solidarity with the neglected in society and calls for self-denial, restraint, and a preferential love and care for the poor and marginalised.

The greatest witness needs to manifest from within, thus becoming a living witness and power. Poverty, therefore, means acceptance of self, of others and reality as they are, with the possibilities and limitations of each one and each thing. Acceptance is a “yes” to life, to persons (beginning with one’s own), and to all of creation. But it is also a point of departure because then, through one’s donation, sharing and love, the person tries to bring oneself, others and created reality to an ever-greater fullness. Therefore, poverty is simplicity of life, openness, hospitality, availability, and promotion of life. It means liberation from concupiscence or greed of possession, from selfishness and power, from exploitation, narcissism and the manipulation of others or creation. For every FMA, diligent, creative and responsible work is an essential aspect of poverty through which she collaborates in the ongoing work of creation and redemption of the world. She will strive to bear witness to the Christian meaning of work in the construction of a more humane world following God’s design (cf. FMA Const. art. 24).

CONCLUSION

The life of the religious is called to become a state of overall and unconditional availability, service, solidarity, simplicity, unbounded generosity (cf. VC 104-105), flexibility, and continual uprooting according to the characteristics of each charism. The religious do not make a vow of perpetual despondency, just as they do not consecrate themselves to God to avoid family troubles. Their life will be simple, austere, hard-working and responsible, serene, realistic and joyous, humanly and Christianly mature, and thus be as available as possible to God and others. So, it is a deep, adult and mature joy that comes from faith, which illumines the life of the religious and helps them to embrace decisively, lovingly and realistically both the joy of living and the risks and difficulties of every human life and their own concretely. “I know in whom I have believed”, as Paul said (2 Tm 1:12). This is the inexhaustible source of the seriousness and depth of their life and, at the same time, of their joy and serenity.

The vow of poverty demands that the consecrated persons be maximally available to the mission of the community. There should be a demonstrable preference given to powerless individuals who live on the margins of society: “Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me” (Matt 25). Poverty that leads to gratuitousness, to giving of self and sharing, overcoming the continuous temptation of profit, of selfish calculation, of exploitation and manipulation of others, of oneself or things. It is a call to finding one’s happiness in serving the poor and being at the service of the mission of the community. It is in giving and in

loving the poor that there is more joy: “There is more joy in giving than in receiving” (Acts 20:35). The consecrated persons need to be convinced of the witness that our world is expecting of them today. This calls for their consistency and fidelity because their life is a gift that God has given to them.

POINTS TO PONDER, REFLECT, SHARE AND LIVE:

1. What is the connection between consecrated life and the option for the poor? Why is the option for the poor a fundamental dimension of consecrated life?
2. How maximally am I available for the mission of the community?
3. What have I learnt from Jesus’ unique consideration for the poor and vulnerable?
4. Why is the option for the poor an obligation to care?
5. How will you witness to Christ in the poor today?

CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH

- 03 - St Thomas, the Apostle
- 06 - St Maria Goretti
- 07 - Bl. Maria Romero
- 16 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- 22 - St Mary Magdalene
- 25 - St James, the Apostle
- 26 - Sts Joachim & Anne
- 28 - St Alphonsa Muthathupadathu
- 31 - St Ignatius of Loyola

CONGRATULATIONS

- With deep joy and gratitude, we celebrate the event of the appointment of our beloved Mother Chiara Cazzuola, Superior General of our Institute, as a member of the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life by Pope Leo XIV, on 24 June 2025. As the 10th Successor of St Mary Domenica Mazzarello, Mother Chiara embodies the wisdom, simplicity, and maternal love of our charism, shaped through her years of service as educator, Provincial, Visiting General Councillor, Vicar General, and now as the Superior General. Her appointment is a recognition not only of her fidelity and dedication but also of the vibrant life of our Institute in the heart of the Church. Along with her, the Holy Father has called other esteemed Cardinals, Bishops, and Superiors from across the world, weaving a beautiful tapestry of consecrated life. This mission, entrusted to Mother Chiara, is a gift and a responsibility that she embraces with humility and love, assuring her full availability in the name of the Institute. With affection and filial pride, we, her daughters, offer our heartfelt congratulations, promise our prayers, and entrust her to Mary Help of Christians to guide and accompany Mother Chiara in this, her new service to the Church.

- We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Fr Ashley Miranda, SDB, on his appointment as the new Provincial of the Salesian Province of St Francis Xavier (INB) for the term 2025-2031. He will take up his mandate from 8 September 2025. We assure him of our prayers and support as he embarks on this important mission, and we thank Fr Savio Silveira, SDB, for his dedicated service and leadership.
- Congratulations and assurance of prayers to all our Salesians of Chennai Province who celebrate the Diamond jubilee of religious profession, Golden and Silver jubilee of their priestly ordination and religious profession on 3 July 2025 at Don Bosco Beatitudes, Vyasarpadi. May they continue to serve the Lord in the young people with the zeal of the *da mihi animas* of Don Bosco.

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Buon Viaggio!

We extend our heartfelt wishes for a happy and safe journey to our dear Sr Joseph Karmel Mary, who will be travelling to Rome on 11 July 2025. We wish her every success and abundant blessings as she begins her two-year spirituality course at Casa Ersilia Canta in Rome. We also offer our best wishes to our dear Sr Fernando Nilmini, who will be pursuing a three-year course in *Religious Sciences* at Auxilium, Rome, starting in July 2025. She will leave for Rome as soon as her documents are finalised. Let us accompany our Sisters with our prayers.

Workshop for House Cronaca Writers:

A workshop for House Cronaca writers will be held at Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam, on 12 July 2025. This initiative aims to enhance the quality of community chronicles through shared insights, creative techniques, and meaningful reflection. All designated writers are encouraged to participate wholeheartedly in this formative experience.

Formators Meeting:

INM-INT Formators Meet, Kodambakkam on 14 July 2025: I invite all the Formators: Sr Susai Josephine Rani, Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima, Sr Gaspar Mary Celine, Sr Mahimai Doss Jaya Sunitha and Sr Savarimuthu Mary Emelda, to participate wholeheartedly and plan for the integral growth of our Sisters and all the Candidates in formation.

Aspirants & Postulants' Retreat:

Aspirants and Postulants will make their annual retreat from 21 to 23 July 2025 at Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi. On 24 July 2025, the Aspirants will receive the Postulants' medal during a solemn prayer moment. We congratulate them: Anthonisamy Mast Rojiya, Jaganathan Jayasri, Martin Doss Poulin Prasanna, Sagayaraj Suji, Selvin Raj Rosali Archana, Arokia Samy Lourdu Mary, Theodor Sandhiyatheras of INM Province and Amalraj Anitha, Arockiam Josephine Infanta, James Loveveena, Santhiyagu Gladis Dayana, Sebastian Christopher Josephine Jenat from INT, for their courageous Yes to the Lord. Let us intensify our prayers for them so that they may respond to the call of God joyfully and generously.

Meeting for New Superiors and New Eonomers:

The meeting for the newly appointed Superiors and Eonomers will be held on 25 July 2025 at Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam. This is an important moment of orientation and shared responsibility. All are kindly requested to be present without fail.

INM-INT Juniors Trimonthly Recollection and Animation:

On 26 and 27 July 2025, INM and INT Juniors will have the Trimonthly Recollection and a Day of Animation at Kodambakkam, Chennai. The Juniors are expected to be in the venue at 04.00 p.m. on Friday, 25 July 2025.

Annual Spiritual Retreat, Negombo, Sri Lanka:

The annual spiritual retreat is a precious time of renewal, a moment to rekindle our faith and deepen our commitment. Our Sisters in Sri Lanka will be making their Annual Spiritual Retreat from 28 July to 4 August 2025. Let us accompany them with our prayers.

Prayer Service for Forgiveness, Reconciliation, and Healing Relationships:

As decided in the Superiors' Meeting, some sisters have generously volunteered to prepare a prayer service on forgiveness and reconciliation. This month, Sr Lourdasamy Eugini Fatima has written the service. I thank her for her availability, and I urge all of you to use it in your communities to foster a spirit of joy and build a harmonious community life.

Youth Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope:

From 28 July to 3 August 2025, young adults between 18 and 35 years from every corner of the world will come together in Rome, Italy, to celebrate the Youth Jubilee with the uplifting theme **“Pilgrims of Hope.”** This grace-filled week will offer daily celebrations of the Eucharist, moments of prayer, catechetical teachings, and chances to engage in service and works of charity. A special highlight will be the vigil with the Holy Father, gathering everyone in a profound experience of prayer and unity. We send our warmest wishes to all the young people attending and join in praying that this important event may be blessed with abundant spiritual fruit.

Blessed Maria Troncatti to be Canonised:

What a moment of immense joy for our FMA Institute and the Salesian Family! Blessed Maria Troncati will be canonised on 19 October 2025, officially recognised as a saint and a radiant witness of missionary zeal and holiness. Born on 16 February 1883 in Corteno Golgi, Italy, she joined the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in 1908. After serving as a nurse during World War I, Sr Maria responded generously to the missionary call, bringing her medical and pastoral skills to the Shuar people in Ecuador's Amazon rainforest in 1922. There, in the heart of the jungle, she served tirelessly as a nurse, dentist, surgeon, and catechist, uplifting women, strengthening families, and establishing vibrant Christian communities.

Sr Maria's life was marked by extraordinary courage and boundless charity until her tragic death in a plane crash in Sucúa on 25 August 1969. Declared Venerable in 2008 and beatified in 2012, she now moves toward sainthood as the Church prepares to proclaim her a Saint. This canonisation is a precious gift to our FMA Institute, reaffirming our missionary spirit and inspiring us to serve with joyful dedication. Let us thank the Lord for this grace and pray that her example may enkindle holiness among us. Let us also avail ourselves of the materials sent from the Centre and spread knowledge of Sr Maria Troncati's holiness among the members of our Educating Communities, our young people, and our local Churches.

Request for Prayers:

Let us keep in our prayers all those who are sick, especially our Sisters, Parents, and the dear ones of our Sisters.

NOTE OF THANKS

- I express my heartfelt gratitude to Sr Sebastian Elizabeth and the Sisters of Mazzarello Home, Tirupattur, for their dedicated efforts and loving commitment in caring for our orphan Joseline Shankari. Their tireless support in arranging her engagement and wedding, held on 8 June 2025 in Koovilur, Tirupattur, is deeply appreciated. Thank you for being instruments of God's providence in her life. A sincere word of thanks to Sr Kunnathu Anna, our Provincial Economist, and all the Councillors for their gracious presence on the occasion and for imparting their blessings to the newly married couple.
- Sincere thanks to Sr Elisa Samala and the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Convent, Tirupattur, for hosting the Provincial Team and the Provincial Councillors Meet on 7 June 2025. A word of appreciation to Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima for coordinating the day's programme.
- A note of thanks to Sr Anandan Anna Mary Rosintha for organising the EC planning meeting online for the Sisters in Sri Lanka.
- I thank Sr Gaspar Mary Celine and the Sisters of Auxilium Home, Katpadi, for hosting the Inter-sector Meeting on 14 June 2025. Special thanks to Sr Johnson Irine Towle, the General Coordinator, for coordinating the programme.
- My earnest thanks to Sr Antony Samy Arul Pragasa Mary and Sr Gabriel Mariammal for organising the online Meeting on Human Rights Education for students on 20 June 2025.
- A lot of thanks to Sr Anandaraj Jayashanthi and the Sisters of Our Lady's Convent, Kingsford, for hosting the students of Chennai Zone for Media Animation and a special note of thanks to Sr Antony Cruz Mathalen Mary for organising the programme on 20 June 2025.
- A note of thanks to Sr Alexandar Amali and the Sisters of St Mary's Convent, Vellore, for hosting the Headmistress and Principals Meeting on 21 June 2025. Special thanks to Sr Alexandar Amali and Sr Joseph Victoria for coordinating the programme.
- My heartfelt gratitude to Sr Antony Raj Christina, and the Sisters of Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam, for hosting the Provincial Council on 22 June 2025.

- My warm thanks to Sr Mamani Maria Susi, the Social Communication Coordinator for Sri Lanka, for organising the online meeting for all the Media coordinators on 23 June 2025.
- Sincere thanks to Sr Nguyen Thi Loong Phuong Maria for organising the Meeting for the Sri Lanka Youth Pastoral Coordinators, Online, on 26 June 2025. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Sr Lazar Maria Nirmala, the Delegate, for her insightful guidance and dedicated animation throughout all the meetings in Sri Lanka.
- Genuine thanks to Sr Elisa Samala and the Sisters of Mary Immaculate Convent, Tirupattur, for hosting the VIDES Meet on 29 June 2025 and special thanks to the coordinators, Sr Maria Louis Isabel Sirumalar and Sr Lourdusamy Emily Mary, for organising the meeting.

COURSES AND SEMINARS

Leadership Training for New Superiors, NBCLC, Bangalore:

Sr Jaya Santhi Anandaraj, Sr Sathiyavani Mahimainadhan, Sr Maria Phuong Nguyen Thi Long and Sr Arockiasamy Rackel Mary will participate in the Religious Leadership and Counselling Course for New Superiors, at NBCLC, Bangalore from 8-24 July 2025.

Leadership Development Programme:

Sr Lawrance Daisy Rachel Monica, and Sr Adaikalam Rekha will participate in the Leadership Development Programme conducted by the Lead Academy from 16 to 30 July 2025 at Don Bosco Institute (DBI), Guwahati.

ADIEU, SR ABRAHAM JACINTHA!

On Saturday, 14 June 2025, our dear Sr Abraham Jacintha, from the Kingsford community, Chennai, peacefully returned to the Lord. Born on 13 September 1950 in C. Nammiandal, Tiruvannamalai District, she was the youngest of five children of Abraham Naidu and Arulamma. Orphaned at a young age, she was lovingly raised by her siblings, who nurtured her faith, character, and natural talents.

Affectionately called 'Mani,' Jacintha did her schooling at St Philomena's in Tindivanam under the care of the Cluny Sisters, excelling in academics, sports, and dramatics. Her love for Mother Mary and inspiration from her brother Selvaraj and her parish priest led her to join the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians as an aspirant in Kodambakkam on 13 June 1970. She made her first profession on 5 August 1974 in Bangalore, beginning a joyful journey of consecrated life enriched by the companionship of her sisters and the guidance of her formators.

Sr Jacintha's apostolic zeal took her to many missions: caring for orphans in Pallikonda; teaching and serving as Headmistress in Arni; teaching in Thanjavur, Kingsford, Polur, Kodambakkam, and Nalgonda; being a hostel warden in Thanjavur and Kingsford; and animating Mothers' Groups in Kingsford. She also served as a boarding assistant, kitchen in-charge, and provincial team member. Passionate about catechesis, she taught in schools,

parishes, and non-formal settings, earning the 'Best Catechism Teacher' award from Kilpauk Parish and the 'Best Social Worker' award from the Minister for her tireless service. She equipped herself with a B.A., B.Ed., and M.A. degrees and completed a spirituality course at Dhyavanava, Mysore, to better serve the young.

Sr Jacintha was known for her warm smile, strong convictions, and deep interpersonal relationships. She united her extended family, offered wise counsel, and was a pillar of support to many. She accepted her sufferings with serenity and was always grateful for those who assisted her, especially during times of illness.

Having celebrated, in August 2024, the fifty golden years of her consecrated life as a Salesian Sister, the Lord of Life found Sr Jacintha fit and prepared to enter into His eternal joys. After three days in critical care, she peacefully breathed her last, succumbing to her third heart attack. Rest in peace, dear Sister. From your heavenly home, intercede for us, your Sisters, and obtain many holy vocations for our province. May your legacy of joyful service and steadfast faith continue to inspire us. We thank the Lord for the gift of your life and the countless hearts you touched. Pray for us that we may remain faithful to our mission, serving the young with love and dedication. May your memory strengthen our commitment as Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

Our loving prayers and condolences to all those who lost their dear ones in June 2025:

- To Sr May Santiago, at the passing away of her sister, Mrs Ruby Santiago (80), on 2 June 2025 in Coimbatore.
- To Sr Immauvel Celcia at the passing away of her maternal uncle, Mr Rajamanikam (55), on 13 June 2025 at Red Hills, Chennai
- To Madalaimuthu Lidwin Mary at the demise of her maternal grandmother, Mrs Sanjeevi Siluvai Mary (100), on 25 June 2025 at Valan Nagar, Dharmapuri.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY

- 01 † Sr Michael Lily Rufina (2005)
- 02 † Sr Anglesio Margherita (1988)
- 06 † Sr Fino Maria (2007)
- 07 † Sr Dias Zita (1966) & Sr Mathew Teresa (2007)
- 12 † Sr Bosotti Angela (1966)
- 13 † Sr Saletta Luigina (1965)
- 14 † Sr Pereira Nancy (2010)
- 16 † Sr Antonietta Garavaglia (1978)
- 18 † Sr Venkateswamy B. Margaret (1999)
- 20 † Sr Thecla Chit Mary (2018)
- 21 † Sr Gnanapragasam Victorina (2020)
- 22 † Sr Lazar Idaya (1998)
- 23 † Sr Burgos Alessandra (1976) & Sr Moris Kanikkam Maria (2014)
- 24 † Sr Colombo Regina (2004)
- 26 † Sr Zolia Castagnetti (2010)

- 27 † Sr Gila Adele Caterina (1973)
 28 † Sr D'Souza Juliana (2013) & Sr Nazareth Edvige (2017)
 30 † Sr Joseph Regina (2015)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

03.07.2025	Thu	Province Feast - St Thomas, the Apostle
05.07.2025	Sat	Past Pupils Meet, Pallikonda
06.07.2025	Sun	ADMA - Online Meeting, Sri Lanka
05.07.2025 - 15.07.2025	Sat - Tue	Ashram Experience for Postulants, Mannivakkam
08.07.2025 - 24.07.2025	Tue - Thu	Religious Leadership, Counselling Course for New Superiors, NBCLC, Bangalore
10.07.2025	Thu	EC Review Meet, Sri Lanka, Online
11.07.2025	Fri	Media Animation, Auxilium Home, Katpadi
12.07.2025	Sat	Workshop for House Cronaca Writers, Kodambakkam
13.07.2025	Sun	Ongoing Formation for Promised Salesian Cooperators
14.07.2025	Mon	INM-INT Formators' Meet, Kodambakkam
15.07.2025	Tue	World Youth Skill Day, HRDC / Online
18.07.2025	Fri	Media Animation for Vellore Zone Students, St Joseph's Convent, Arni
17.07.2025 - 18.07.2025	Thu - Fri	Workshop on Eco living practices for Transition & Transformation for Sisters
19.07.2025 - 20.07.2025	Sat - Sun	Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
19.07.2025	Sat	Faith Formation for Students, St Mary's Convent, Vellore
23.07.2025	Wed	Webinar on SDG Goals - Climate Change, Online, YP, SDC (Sri Lanka)
21.07.2025 - 23.07.2025	Mon - Wed	Retreat for Aspirants & Postulants, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
24.07.2025	Thu	Postulants Receiving Medal, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
25.07.2025	Fri	New Superiors and New Economers Meet, Kodambakkam
26.07.2025 - 27.07.2025	Sat - Sun	Tri-monthly Recollection and Animation for Juniors, Kodambakkam
26.07.2025	Sat	World Day against Trafficking in Persons / Drug Trafficking, HRDC – Physical, Other Centres (Online)
27.07.2025	Sun	Ongoing formation - Promised Salesian Cooperators Indigenous Clergy / Religious Day - Sri Lanka
28.07.2025 - 03.08.2025	Mon - Sun	Annual Retreat for Sisters – Negombo, Sri Lanka
04.08.2025	Mon	Renewal of Vows, Negombo, Sri Lanka
05.08.2025	Tue	First Profession, Negombo, Sri Lanka

On 3 July, we joyfully celebrate the feast of St Thomas the Apostle - the glorious patron of our Province, the Salesian Province of Chennai, and the Archdiocese of Madras - Mylapore. We thank the Lord for the precious gift of this great Apostle of India, whose steadfast faith and missionary zeal brought the light of the Gospel to our land. May his bold witness and passionate love for Christ inspire us today to proclaim the Good News with courageous words and prophetic actions, especially in these challenging times. As we honour his feast, let us come together as a community to renew *the Consecration of our Province to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*, entrusting ourselves once again to His love. Let this sacred act rekindle in us the fire of devotion and commitment to build God's Kingdom in our mission fields - here and now. Through the intercession of St Thomas, may our lives reflect the same daring faith that once echoed on the shores of Mylapore.

6 July 2025 – Feast of St Maria Goretti: St Maria Goretti, a young martyr of purity and forgiveness, inspires youth to value chastity and mercy. Her life calls educators to uphold the dignity of each child and to form them in integrity. She teaches the courage to choose right even amid pressure. We, as Salesian educators, are urged to cultivate safe, value-based environments. St Maria Goretti's example strengthens our mission to guide the young towards holiness in everyday life.

7 July 2025 – Feast of Bl. Maria Romero Meneses: Blessed Maria Romero, Salesian Sister and missionary to the poor in Costa Rica, lived joyful charity. Her deep Marian devotion and social outreach echo the Salesian call to serve the least. She challenges educators to empower youth, especially the marginalised, with faith and education. Her witness promotes a pedagogy of love and service. In her footsteps, we are called to animate young hearts to become agents of transformation.

16 July 2025 – Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel: Our Lady of Mount Carmel invites us to a contemplative intimacy with God and offers her maternal protection. This feast reminds us, as educators, to root our mission in prayer and to place our trust in Mary's guidance. Mary, our gentle Mother and perfect disciple, inspires us to accompany the young with tender love and patient care. Her mantle symbolises spiritual protection and a steadfast commitment to God's will. We are called to be both contemplative and active, forming youth in faith.

28 July 2025 – Feast of St Alphonsa: St Alphonsa, India's first woman saint, showed how suffering united with love leads to holiness. Born in 1910 in Kerala, she yearned to dedicate herself fully to Christ, despite enduring lifelong ill health. She embraced suffering joyfully, seeing it as God's greatest gift, living a hidden martyrdom of love. Her intercession has inspired many, including a miraculous healing of a boy in 1999. This miracle, verified by doctors and the Church, led to her canonisation in 2008. St Alphonsa teaches that suffering accepted with faith becomes redemptive, calling us to deeper trust.

Our beloved Mother General, Sr Chiara Cazzuola, writes in her Circular No. 1050: "Mary, the Mother of Jesus, is a gentle woman. It is the sweetness of her face and the light of her smile that attract even the most distant children to her Heart. She wonderfully harmonises the virtue of fortitude with that of meekness. Her strength springs from within; hers is the solidity of a house built on rock, against which the winds blow in vain and the waves of the sea break. She accompanies Jesus in the great trial against the empire of darkness, without ever wavering or stopping. She stands near the cross, praying, suffering, and offering; she is the icon of the strong woman who fights until victory." Like Mary, let us strive to be faithful witnesses of evangelical meekness among the young and the women of our society, spreading the fragrance of peace and joy.

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Devadoss Margaret

Sr Devadoss Margaret
INM FMA Provincial

HAPPY FEAST



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JULY 2025

01 - 03	Tue - Thu	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
04 - 05	Fri - Sat	Animation for the Holy Cross Sisters, Trichy
07 - 08	Mon - Tue	TNBC and CRI Meeting, Poondy
09 - 10	Wed - Thu	NCRWI AGB Meeting, Bangalore
11	Fri	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
12	Sat	Workshop for House Cronaca Writers, Kodambakkam
13	Sun	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
14	Mon	INM – INT Formators' Meet, Kodambakkam
15 - 18	Tue - Fri	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
19 - 20	Sat - Sun	Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
21 - 23	Mon - Wed	Retreat for Aspirants & Postulants, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
24	Thu	Postulants Receiving Medal, Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi
25	Fri	New Superiors and New Ecomers Meet, Kodambakkam
26 - 27	Sat - Sun	Tri-monthly Recollection and Animation for Juniors, Kodambakkam
28 - 31	Mon - Thu	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
AUGUST 2025		
01-02	Fri - Sat	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
03	Sun	Journey to Sri Lanka
04	Mon	Renewal of Vows, Negombo, Sri Lanka
05	Tue	First Profession, Negombo, Sri Lanka
11	Fri	Journey to Kodambakkam, Chennai

