



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



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My Dearest Sisters,

Viva Gesù! Affectionate greetings to you from Auxilium Home, Katpadi!

Impactful Presence of the Consecrated Person in the World of Education Today

INTRODUCTION

The impactful presence of consecrated individuals in education today serves as an essential bridge connecting **academic excellence, human development, and spiritual growth**. Even amid dwindling vocations and modern structural complexities, religious Sisters, brothers, and priests provide a uniquely transformative anchor within scholastic environments. They move beyond mere instruction to cultivate the complete, integral formation of young generations. The impactful presence of consecrated individuals in education today centres on integrating spiritual witness with holistic human formation. They bring a radical, lived experience of God and Gospel values into the school environment. They connect academic learning with a deeper search for meaning and a relationship with God.

Consecrated persons play a vital, living role in modern education by bridging academic education with spiritual formation and evangelical values. Beyond academics, they guide students toward spiritual and religious maturity, nurturing the whole person, intellectually, morally, and physically. Their presence brings a spiritual dimension to schools, opening students up to God and demonstrating that faith illuminates human values and culture. Rooted in community life and the evangelical counsels (Cf. FMA Const. Art. 11-35: poverty, chastity, and obedience), they model a spirituality of communion, solidarity, and constructive dialogue. They fulfil a preferential love for the poor by fighting against the cultural and religious poverty that lacks proper training and formation.

1. Principal Pillars of Strategic Educational Impacts

The pillars of strategic educational impacts call for deep listening that leads to authentic empathy and a safe school environment that supports holistic growth. It builds a sanctuary where schools become safe havens. Students feel seen, known, and loved individually. Attentive listening and loving presence spot hidden wounds in students. Listening helps consecrated educators guide students. It helps address anxiety, broken family dynamics, and low self-esteem. The educator's unconditional acceptance helps them discover their unique, God-given purpose in life. They learn to replicate this empathetic listening with their peers and neighbours. They promote a Christian view of the human person where faith, culture, and daily life connect harmoniously. The following are the ways through which they make educational impacts.

1.1 Integrating Faith with Culture

The impactful presence of a consecrated person in education bridges the gap between modern culture and timeless spiritual values by leading a life wholly given to God and others. Consecrated individuals bring God into secularised and busy school environments. They synthesise academic facts with authentic gospel values. The core contributions of consecrated persons to faith and culture are their life of transcendent values, constructive transmission of culture, option for the poor and marginalised, and building a culture of peace and dialogue. They help students evaluate modern ideas through the lens of the Gospel. Faith is not kept separate from learning; rather, reason and belief work together to form whole persons. Their daily joy and commitment remind students of a reality beyond material success.

Rooted in the vows of poverty and solidarity, consecrated educators prioritise the vulnerable. They ensure that quality culture and education reach those who are poor or at risk. Art. 76 of the FMA Constitutions states that we are called to carry out our mission in the unity of our charism and the plurality of socio-cultural situations, with adaptability, courage, and creativity that impelled Don Bosco to go out to meet young people. In diverse and pluralistic classrooms, the consecrated persons are to model intercultural respect. They teach students how to live alongside differences without losing their own moral and religious identity. Consecrated persons are called to focus on personal accompaniment, contemplative presence, community synergy, and fostering a contemplative glance. They listen closely to students on a human scale and not as anonymous numbers in mass education. They teach students the value of silence, listening, and self-reflection. By introducing moments of silence, reflection, and prayer into academic spaces, they teach the students to counter digital noise and superficiality. By working in collaboration with lay teachers and families, they form an active community of faith.

1.2 Modelling Witness and Testimony

Modelling witness and testimony is exhibiting a life rooted in Christ, offering hope and a search for existential meaning. Consecrated persons bear witness to their teaching by integrating Gospel values, personal integrity, and compassionate presence into their daily teaching and school leadership. Their “witness” means living their faith visibly through actions rather than just words. Art. 8 of our Constitution highlights that the FMA are called to live the Beatitudes radically, proclaiming and bearing witness to the Good News of God’s saving love. The core principles of witnessing in education are living with transparency, being a sacred presence, and offering joyful service. They show consistency between what they teach and how they live in their daily lives. They treat the classroom and schoolyard as holy ground where every student is valued as a child of God. They approach their work with a deep, quiet joy that comes from prayer and spiritual grounding.

1.3 Listening and Empathy

Active listening and empathy are the core foundations of consecrated persons working in education. These qualities transform teaching from a career into a spiritual ministry. Listening and empathy make consecrated persons show unconditional regard for everyone. They make time to listen to students who struggle with personal or academic problems. They look past misbehaviour to see the human being underneath, offering patience and a second chance. They hear and listen with the heart. This involves an attentive presence that suspends judgment and discerns the deeper needs behind a student’s words. They fulfil the academic service with pastoral empathy, mirroring Christ’s compassion. They accompany students, valuing their unique struggles and sharing their joys and anxieties with understanding and compassion.

1.4 The Ministry of Presence

The ministry of presence refers to spending time with students. This includes availability during recess, lunch, or after-school activities. The “ministry of presence” of consecrated persons in education refers to their vital role in bearing witness to Christian values simply by being present, living their faith, and forming authentic relationships within school communities. Art. 7 of our constitutions invites the FMA to live the educational presence as the power of persuasion and love, collaborating with the Holy Spirit, for the growth of Christ in the hearts of young people. The role of the ministry of presence is outlined in official reflections such as the Vatican document *Consecrated Persons and Their Mission in Schools*. The core dimensions of the ministry of presence are witness **over task, fostering communion and peace, priority to integral human formation, and preferential love for the poor**. Primary contribution of consecrated men and women is not administrative or academic, but the living witness of a life dedicated radically to God through evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

Consecrated persons help in the complete development of the student by uniting faith, life, and culture. While secular education focuses on horizontal relationships (learning to live and work responsibly with others in society), consecrated presence introduces the “vertical dimension”, reminding students and staff of an openness to God, spiritual depth, and an eternal perspective. Rooted in community life, consecrated persons help build a “spirituality of communion” within schools. They bridge differences, model constructive dialogue, and encourage solidarity and joint responsibility among teachers, students, and parents.

2. Radical Personalism

Radical personalism is treating every student as an individual. It prioritises the person over academic metrics or rigid rule enforcement. The “radical personalism” of consecrated persons in education is an evangelical approach that views every student not as a mere number or consumer, but as a unique human being created in the image and likeness of God. Consecrated educators offer a “radical response” to the Gospel through lives of poverty, chastity, and obedience, treating education not just as a job but as a total gift of self and a path to holiness. This personalism unites faith and reason, ensuring intellectual growth and spiritual awakening.

Moving past purely functional or utilitarian teaching, consecrated persons accompany young people toward deeper meaning, recognising their individual faces, stories, and sacred dignity. They bring culture and moral grounding, especially to marginalised or at-risk youth, fighting the deep poverty that stems from a lack of integral formation. They foster community and social responsibility while keeping students open to the transcendent dimension of life and God. They offer young people struggling with modern anxieties an anchor for meaning, listening patiently and guiding them toward deeper existential values. By serving in schools, especially in marginalised or under-resourced areas, consecrated educators actively combat cultural and religious poverty, offering young generations the tools for intellectual and spiritual liberation.

3. Restorative Dialogue

Restorative Dialogue is using mistakes as teaching moments. Consecrated educators listen to the root cause of misbehaviour instead of issuing punitive discipline. Restorative Dialogue by consecrated persons in education blends modern restorative practices with the spirituality of communion outlined by the Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education. Restorative Dialogue shifts academic discipline from punitive measures to ministry of reconciliation, framing wrongdoing as a rupture in harmonious relationships with God and others.

Core theological and pedagogical foundations are human dignity, being with the wounded, separating deed from doer, and *cura personalis*. Their educational approach is grounded in the understanding that every student and educator is created in the image and likeness of God (cf. Gen 2:25). They operate under high expectations paired with high support, ensuring educators are firm but fair rather than punitive or passive. They condemn the disruptive behaviour while unconditionally validating the sacred worth of the individual. They incorporate Jesus's value of caring for the whole person to look after both the healing of the victim and the rehabilitation of the offender (cf. Jn 8; Lk 15).

Consecrated educators apply dialogue across a spectrum of everyday school interactions to proactively build community and responsively mend harm by on-the-spot, non-judgmental expressions using "I" statements to share how a behaviour directly impacts others. Brief, structured discussions are utilised to address minor classroom conflicts before they escalate. Through the proactive community-building meetings, they cultivate empathy, trust, and shared values. Well-structured, high-tier interventions bring together all affected parties, including families, to resolve severe incidents.

Instead of interrogating with "Why did you do that?" consecrated educators utilise open-ended questions designed to foster self-reflection, eliminate shame, and maintain human dignity. To effectively change an educational institution from retributive rules to restorative dialogue, consecrated leadership should employ a targeted, school-wide roadmap: **Spiritual Integration:** Align the discipline policy explicitly with Gospel values of reconciliation, mercy, and responsibility during staff retreats. **Logical Consequences:** Replace standard detentions with contextual actions, such as rewriting a message respectfully, fixing property, or completing a service task. **Vowed Accompaniment:** Present the community life of consecrated persons as a living laboratory of communion, demonstrating how distinct individuals navigate differences through dialogue. **Family-Centred Catechesis:** Conduct parent workshops to harmonise behavioural expectations at home with the school's restorative frameworks.

CONCLUSION

The presence of consecrated persons in education bridges the gap between secular learning and spiritual formation by witnessing Gospel values within school communities. Consecrated persons introduce an openness to God, integrating prayer, silence, and the sacred into daily life alongside standard academics. Through the evangelical councils, they offer students an example of an all-embracing, definitive commitment centred on love and service. They build a true community through mutual respect, shared responsibility, and ongoing dialogue between consecrated and lay educators. They structure schools as welcoming spaces for listening, communication, and constructive engagement rather than mere administrative efficiency. With guiding pedagogical choices, they can favour mutual enhancement, help the vulnerable, and overcome competition and indifference. They can serve as accessible guides and spiritual companions for students and colleagues in their search for meaning and faith.

Education fosters family spirit and heals division; therefore, consecrated persons must treat fellow teachers, staff, and parents with mutual respect and collaboration. They need to act as peacemakers when conflicts arise within the school community. They need to build a community of persons in education involving sharing a common spiritual charism, fostering deep interpersonal communion, and collaborating closely with lay educators to create an environment centred on evangelical values. They can bring their lived experience of religious community life into the school, offering an alternative model to individualistic societies. Their presence must act as a catalyst for spiritual maturity, integrating faith, culture, and daily life.

POINTS TO PONDER, SHARE, AND LIVE

1. How is the impactful presence of the consecrated person in the world of education today?
2. What are the principal pillars of strategic educational impacts?
3. How can you integrate faith with culture?
4. How will you model witness and testimony in education?
5. Why is radical *personalism* important in education today?
6. How can you foster restorative dialogue in an educative environment?

CELEBRATIONS OF THE MONTH

01 Sep - 04 Oct	- Season of Creation
03 Thu September	- St Gregory the Great
05 Sat	- St Mother Teresa of Calcutta / Teachers Day
06 Sun	- Bl. Carmen Moreno, Maria Amparo Carbonell
08 Tue	- Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary / Girl Child Day
12 Sat	- Holy Name of Mary
14 Mon	- Exaltation of the Holy Cross
15 Tue	- Our Lady of Sorrows Dedication of the Cathedral Church - Diocese of Vellore
21 Mon	- St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
22 Tue	- Bl. Joseph Calasanz, Enrico Saiz Aparicio SDB & Co
24 Tue	- Our Lady of Ransom
29 Tue	- Archangels: Michael, Raphael and Gabriel - World Day of Migrants and Refugees

ALL IN THE FAMILY

ANNUAL RETREAT FOR PCI PROVINCIALS, KOHIMA: The FMA Provincials of India will gather in the Provincial House, Kohima, Guwahati (ING) from 11 to 18 September 2026, for the Annual Spiritual Retreat, a time of Grace, renewal, and reflection. I leave on 11 September and will return to the Province on 19 September 2026. Please be assured that each of you, your communities, and your mission will be held in my prayers throughout this retreat. We extend our sincere gratitude to Sr Gothorp Mabel, Provincial of the ING Province, for hosting this significant spiritual event.

ANNUAL RETREAT FOR SISTERS, ENNORE: The Sisters, who attended the TET preparatory classes in Yercaud last summer, will make their annual Spiritual Retreat at Don Bosco Youth Animation Centre, Ennore, from 10 to 16 September 2026. Kindly bring the *Holy Bible*, the *FMA Constitutions*, and the book, *The Constitutions of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians: A Journey of Holiness in Everyday Life*. I urge you to make good use of this grace-filled time and be renewed spiritually and physically to carry on the mission entrusted to you. You are expected to be at the venue at 8.00 am on 10 September 2026.

I thank **Fr Vincent Robert SDB, the Rector, and the community of Don Bosco Youth Animation Centre, Ennore**, for hosting the retreat. I express my special gratitude to **Fr Benjamin Selvanathan SDB, the Preacher**, for rendering this valuable service of spiritual animation to our Sisters.

ANNUAL RETREAT-1 FOR SENIOR SISTERS, AUXILIUM CARE HOME, KATPADI: All the senior Sisters as indicated in the list from the Provincial office will attend their Annual Spiritual Retreat **from 01 to 08 October 2026**, preached by Fr Dr Michael Raj Sebastian, General Secretary for Tamil Nadu Bible Commission. The Sisters will have the Holy Mass at 7.00 am and the talk for the retreatants at 9.30 am. In the evening, at 7.00 pm, after the evening prayers, the retreat preacher will conduct Eucharistic adoration. Kindly take note of the timetable and the change in the date. I invite all the Sisters to accompany our beloved senior Sisters by offering your fervent prayers that they may enjoy and cherish this time of grace and regain health in mind and body.

THE SEASON OF CREATION – 1 SEPTEMBER TO 4 OCTOBER 2026: The **Season of Creation**, celebrated from **1 September to 4 October**, invites us to renew our gratitude for the gift of creation and deepen our commitment to care for our **Common Home**. This year's theme, **"Living Water,"** inspired by Ezekiel 47:1–12, reminds us that God's living water brings healing, renewal and life to creation. Pope Leo XIV calls us to a **personal and collective ecological conversion**, transforming our ways of living so that they promote life, peace and the well-being of the poor and the earth.

As Salesian Consecrated women, in the spirit of the **Preventive System** and in response to the call of the **XXIV General Chapter**, let us hear the **"cry of the earth and the cry of the poor"** and respond through concrete actions. During this Season, every community and Educating Community is encouraged to include prayers for Creation in community and liturgical celebrations, use **Good Morning reflections and educational activities** to promote ecological awareness, practise responsible use of water, strengthen waste segregation and recycling, reduce single-use plastics, and develop or maintain school and community gardens and tree-planting initiatives. Let us also involve young people in cleanliness and environmental activities, and where possible, support initiatives that respond to the water and livelihood needs of the poor. Meaningful ecological practices may also be shared to inspire other communities. May this Season help us to experience God's **"Living Water"** as a source of renewal and inspire us to become, together with the young people, **agents of healing for our earth, our communities and those most vulnerable**.

INTENSE JUNIORATE, SHILLONG: I am happy to inform you that after much struggle, Sr Lazar Maria Nirmala, with the help of Sisters in Shillong Province, managed to get a visa for our Juniors in Sri Lanka: Sr Anton Bernard Liyana, Sr Christopher Dionit Nilojana, Sr Santhiogu Verginiya. They reached Shillong on 29 August 2026. I urge you to pray for Sr Anthonipillai Perera Arul Malar and Sr Sahayaseelan Kajana that they too may get the necessary documents soon and continue their formation programme. My sincere thanks to Sr Lazar Maria Nirmala, the Delegate, for her dedicated service to our Sisters.

PRAYER REQUEST: Let us offer prayers for all our sick sisters, the parents and the dear ones of our sisters that Our Blessed Mother, Our Lady of Good Health, may bring wholeness and total well-being. I urge you to pray earnestly for the speedy recovery of our dear **Sr Kasu Sleeva Showrilu (SL)**.

On Wednesday, 12 August 2026, our dear **Sr MUNISWAMY Dolores** from the house of Auxilium College, Katpadi, belonging to the Province of St Thomas the Apostle (INM), Tamil Nadu, South India, was called by the Lord to her eternal reward. Sr Muniswamy Dolores is said to have been born on 15 August 1942 at Anamandur, Bangalore. She was brought to the Salesian Sisters at St Joseph's Convent, Arni, as a three-month-old baby, and on 15 September 1943 was baptised as Viagulamary. The missionaries called the baby by the Italian version of the name. Thus, Viagulamary came to be known as Dolores, and it continued when she joined the Institute.

When the Mary Immaculate Convent opened in Tirupattur in 1946, little Dolores accompanied Sr Cesira Gallina, the Superior of St Joseph's Convent, Arni, to be the first superior at Tirupattur. Dolores completed her High School and Basic Teacher Training Course under the loving guidance of the pioneering missionary, Sr Consiglia Tarricone, the Superior. Dolores expressed her desire to be an FMA. Among the many orphans reared by the Salesian Sisters and who wanted to be FMA, only Dolores was accepted, which she considers a special gift and privilege. Sr Dolores made her profession as FMA on 5 August 1970 in Bangalore.

Sr Dolores worked in many houses of the province in various capacities as teacher, Headmistress, office assistant, in charge of boarding, oratory and evening study centres in the villages, always with the right proportion of firmness and kindness befitting the preventive system. She served in the communities as administrator and councillor. She loved to prepare children for the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation and adults for marriage. She enjoyed teaching catechism in the parish on Sundays, animating the basic Christian communities, and the association of Salesian Cooperators.

She worked untiringly for children at risk in the Mariyalayas, short-stay homes for women. She contributed greatly to the Women Promotion Centre in Dindigul Diocese. As coordinator for Women Self Help Groups in various centres, she raised the living standards of many women. For this excellent service, her organisation received the 'Best NGO Award' from the Mayor of Chennai, M.K. Stalin, who later became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Sr Dolores was a woman of prayer. Daily Mass, frequent confession and continuous short prayers were her strong weapons against the wiles of the devil. She relished community life, helping others in whatever way she could, enjoying their presence and encouraging their growth. Her conversations had a characteristic wit and wisdom, keeping the community joyful. She was skilled at needlework and spent all her spare moments preparing the church linen, a task she continued till the end of her life, making her time productive in every possible way.

Deprived of a mother's love from birth, Sr Dolores developed an ardent devotion to Mother Mary. She never missed a day of praying the entire Rosary and the Novena to Mary, Help of Christians, and she loved spending long hours in the chapel, gazing lovingly at the image of Our Blessed Mother. Her deep solidarity with the poor and disadvantaged was a concrete expression of her gratitude to the Salesian Family that had nurtured and cared for her. She generously gave herself out to those in need, especially orphans, becoming a source of comfort, care and hope to many.

For almost a month, Sr Dolores suffered from a pulmonary infection and received treatment at Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore. When her condition was stable, she was brought to the Auxilium Care Home and lovingly cared for by the nurses and community Sisters. At around 6.15 am on 12 August 2026, she peacefully left us after a cardiac arrest.

Her funeral was held on 13 August 2026. The large number of beneficiaries and people whom she had lovingly served, who came to bid her a final farewell, was a touching testimony to the profound love she had for the poor and the deprived. Their presence spoke eloquently of the lasting impact of her compassionate and selfless life.

We are confident that Sr Muniswamy Dolores, now united with the Lord and with Mary Help of Christians whom she loved so dearly, will continue to intercede before God for all the needs of our Province, especially for the flourishing of vocations and for the young and the poor whom she served with such generous love. May she rest in peace!

COURSES AND SEMINARS

- Sr Lawrence Mary Sujatha participated in a **Prayer Experience** at Sogathur from 24 to 28 August 2026.
- Sr Sebastian Amalorpava Mary, Sr Amaladoss Victoria Selvi and Sr Antony Sheeba will participate in the **Missionary Formation Course** from **31 August to 23 September 2026**. Sr Victoria Selvi and Sr Antony Sheeba will return on **23 September**, while **Sr Amalorpava Mary will proceed to the Holy Land and return on 3 October 2026**.
- Sr Samala Rayappan Elisa and Sr Gaspar Mary Celine will participate in a **Prayer Experience** at Logos, Divine Retreat Centre, Bangalore, from 20 to 24 September 2026.
- Sr Irudayanathan Helen and Sr Arockiasamy Jasmine Julia will attend the Course on **Biblical Foundation for Religious Life and Discernment** from 28 to 30 September 2026 at TNBCLC, Tindivanam.
- Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima and Sr Augustine Sagaya Rani will participate in the **Child Protection and Safeguarding Training Workshop for Formators**, on the Theme: Together for Safe and Life-Giving Formation Communities, from 15 to 19 September 2026 at St Bartolomea Nilayam, Don Bosco Nagar Post, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad.

NOTE OF THANKS

- I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Sr Anthony Raj Christina and the Community of Fatima Convent, Kodambakkam, for hosting the Juniors for the Tri-monthly Recollection and Animation from 1 to 2 August 2026. I express my sincere gratitude to Sr Susai Josephine Rani, the Formation Coordinator, for meticulously planning, organising and animating the Juniors. I also thank Fr Maria Antony of Vellore Diocese

for preaching the Recollection for the Juniors and Fr Vinodh Amala SDB for helping our Juniors with a follow-up programme of the Summer Village exposure and social ministry.

- Hearty thanks to Sr Anandaraj Jaya Shanthi and the Community of Mary Immaculate Convent, Tirupattur for hosting and organising the Trimonthly Recollection for Senior Sisters on 2 August 2026.
- My heartfelt thanks to Sr Anandan Anna Mary Rosintha and the Community for hosting and animating the Educating Community Core Group Meeting on 1 August 2026 at Colombo.
- My sincere thanks to Sr Mariadoss Amala Mary and the community of Kingford, Chennai, Sr Chinnappan Gracy Fatima and the community of Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi, and Sr Stanislaus Mary Dora and the community of Salem, Avvai Nagar for thoughtfully organising and hosting the Tri-monthly Recollection for Senior Sisters on 8 August 2026.
- I thank Sr Mathew Alice, the ADMA Coordinator, for animating the local Coordinators and the Members of ADMA in Sri Lanka, through an online meeting on 8 August 2026.
- A heartfelt thanks to Sr Arulanandu Arockia Mary, and the Community of Auxilium Convent, Negombo, for hosting the Annual Spiritual Retreat for the Sisters from 27 July to 3 August and again from 6 to 13 August 2026, the Renewal of the Vows on 4 August 2026, and the First Profession on 5 August 2026. I sincerely thank Sr Lazar Maria Nirmala, the Delegate of Sri Lanka, for making all the arrangements for the two Annual Retreats, Renewal of the Vows, and the First Profession. Sincere thanks to **Fr Vajira Silva TOR**, the Retreat Preacher.
- I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to Sr Anthony Raj Mary Josephine, the National Coordinator for Higher Education, and Sr Joseph Victoria Mary, the National Coordinator for School Education, for their meticulous planning, coordination, and dedicated efforts in organising the National Seminar for Principals of Schools and Colleges, held on 15 and 16 August 2026 at Auxilium College, Katpadi. I thank Sr Anthony Raj Mary Josephine and the community of Auxilium College profusely for hosting this national meeting.
- I express my sincere appreciation to Sr Mahimainadhan Sathiyavani, the YaR Coordinator, for organising the online animation on Organ Donation Day, on 13 August 2026.
- I appreciate Sr Susainathan Ayesha Bindhu for animating the Local YaR Coordinators during the webinar on 17 August 2026.
- I owe my gratitude to **Sr Leslie del Socorro Sándigo**, General Councillor for the Salesian Family, **Sr Carmen Lucrecia Uribe**, World Delegate of the Salesian Cooperators and ADMA, **Sr Sahaya Sanghita Rani Maria Soosai**, World Delegate of the Past Pupils of the FMA, for their presence and animation of the INM and INT Salesian Family from 18 to 20 August 2026 at Kodambakkam.

- I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Sr Anthony Raj Christina and the community of Fatima Convent for hosting the Salesian Family Meet for the FMA Delegates of INM and INT along with the Lay participants at Kodambakkam, Chennai, from 18 to 20 August 2026. I express my sincere gratitude to Sr Ambrose Arokia Jayaceli, the Councillor in charge of Salesian Family and Sr Anjalan Stella Rani, in charge of the Salesian Cooperators, and to Sr Francis Jeyamani and Sr Salas Silviya, in charge of the Past Pupils, for their collaboration and network, which contributed greatly to the success of the Salesian Family Meeting. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Sr Susai Josephine Rani, Provincial Secretary, and Sr Kunnathu Anna, Provincial Economer, for their valuable support for the smooth running of the meeting.
- My sincere appreciation and gratitude to **Most Rev Bishop Ambrose Pitchaimuthu**, the Bishop of Vellore Diocese, for graciously presiding over the Diamond and Golden Jubilee of the Religious Profession of our beloved Sisters on 22 August 2026 and enriching us with his deep reflections on the religious life. I also thank all the **priests of the diocese and the SDBs** who concelebrated the Eucharist and prayed for our Sisters on this great occasion.
- I express my deepest gratitude to Sr Anthony Raj Christina, the Vice Provincial, for her dedicated coordination of the Golden Jubilee of the Religious Profession of our Sisters, celebrated on 22 August 2026 at Auxilium College. I am grateful to Sr Irudayam M. Nirmal Rose, the Superior, and the community of Auxilium Home for their meticulous planning, gracious hospitality, and the many sacrifices they made to ensure the success of the celebrations. I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to Sr Anthony Raj Mary Josephine, the Superior, and the Auxilium College community for accommodating the Sisters and the relatives of the jubilarians and for preparing the venue for the celebrations. My sincere thanks also to the various communities and Sisters who took responsibility for the liturgy, evening prayer, morning prayer, Holy Mass, stage arrangements, flower arrangements and the cultural programme. Your generous collaboration and commitment contributed greatly to the beauty and success of the celebration. Finally, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Provincial Councillors, Superiors, and all the Educating Communities for their invaluable contributions, both great and small. Your prayerful support, cooperation, and loving service enriched the Jubilee celebrations and made this occasion truly memorable, joyful, and grace-filled. May God bless each one of you abundantly for your generous service and collaboration.
- My sincere appreciation to Sr Fernando Majella, Provincial of INT, and Sr Arokiam Gracy Rani, Novice Formator, for graciously hosting the Salesian Family Meeting with the Postulants and Novices of INM and INT at Manikandam, Trichy, from 21 to 22 August 2026. I deeply appreciate their warm hospitality, careful preparations, and dedicated efforts in making the gathering meaningful and enriching.
- I owe my thanks to Sr Anthony Raj Mary Josephine and the Community of Auxilium College, Katpadi, for hosting the Superior's Meeting on 23 August 2026 and the Provincial Council Meeting from 24 to 25 August 2026. I thank Sr Susai Josephine Rani, Sr Kunnathu Anna and Sr Alexander Amali for their communications and recommendations to the Superiors for the formative, administrative and educative mission in the local communities.
- My sincere thanks to Sr Irudayam M. Nirmal Rose who animated the Superiors and economers of Sri Lanka on the budget system through an online meeting on 27 August 2027.

- I express my heartfelt gratitude to Sr Mariadoss Amala Mary, the Superior, and the community of Kingsford, for their warm hospitality and generous support in hosting the Media Animation Programme for the Chennai Zone students on 28 August 2026. I also extend my appreciation to Sr Rajendran Thimena Celine and Sr Anthony Cruz Mathalen Mary, the Coordinators for Social Communication and Sr Anthony Raj Christina, councillor in charge of Social Communication, for their valuable coordination of the programme.

HEARTFELT SYMPATHIES

Our loving prayers and condolences to all those who lost their dear ones in August 2026.

- To Sr Nicholas Susheela at the demise of her nephew, Mr Moses David Nicholas (39), on 4 July 2026 in Bangalore.
- To Sr Puthupallil Mary, at the loss of her eldest brother-in-law Mr Illikal Varkey (78), on 9 August 2026 at Vattapparambu in Kerala
- To Sr Gnanapragassam Putti Mary and Sr Gnanapragassam Viagulam Putti, at the loss of their brother-in-law Mr Christuraj Puthotta, on 8 August 2026, in Chennai.
- To Fr Davis Maniparamben, SDB, the Provincial and the confreres of INN at the demise of Br Anthony Tigga SDB on 19 August 2026 at Khalari, Ranchi.
- To Sr Peter Ganesan Ragini at the loss of her beloved father, Mr Peter Ganesan (93), on 24 August 2026, in Kasthampadi, Arni.
- To Sr Rayappan Stephina Roy at the passing away of her paternal uncle, Mr Vanatheyan (82), on 25 August 2026, in Viruduvilanginan.
- To Sr Elizabeth Cyril at the passing away of her Paternal uncle, Mr Patric Godfrey (86), on 29 August 2026 in Ponnarimangalam.

LIVING IN OUR MEMORY

- 04 † Sr Maria Dal Corso (1986)
- 06 † Sr Elizabeth Gullery (1996)
- 12 † Sr Giacomina Borrini (1972), Sr Maude Hale (2009)
- 13 † Sr Judith Aranha (2011), Sr Philomena T. Sebastian (2022)
- 15 † Sr Anna Abraham (2009)
- 18 † Sr Hilda Barragan (2022)
- 19 † Sr Stefanina Stefani (1949)
- 22 † Sr Gracy Mathai (2018), Sr Philomena Prabalanathan (2022)
- 23 † Sr Maddalena Marengo (1978), Sr Margaret Rose Yettukuri (2004)
- 24 † Sr Rose Kallidukil (2016)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

September 2026

01.09.2026	Tue	
to	to	
04.10.2026	Fri	The Season of Creation for Students and Youth in Local Communities
05.09.2026	Sat	Teachers' Day Celebrations in Local Communities
07.09.2026	Mon	Animation on: Digital Responsibility, Young Sisters (SL), Online
08.09.2026	Tue	Girl Child Day, Children, Local communities
		Provincial's Journey to Imphal
09.09.2026	Wed	Webinar at 5.30 pm on "Being Consecrated Women in the Digital Age: A Presence that Witnesses, Accompanies and Educates."
		The speaker will be Sr Nina Krapic, Vice Director of the Holy See Press Office.
10.09.2026	Thu	World Suicide Prevention Day, Children/Youth/ Women, Online
10.09.2026	Thu	
to	to	
16.09.2026	Wed	Annual Retreat for Sisters, DBYAC, Ennore, Chennai
10.09.2026	Thu	Salesian Family Delegates, FMA Delegates
to	to	
13.09.2026	Sun	
11.09.2026	Fri	Legal Awareness, Women Leaders, Online
		Animation on Digital Responsibility, Teachers and Parents (Local Level), In-person local level
11.09.2026	Fri	
to	to	
18.09.2026	Fri	Provincial's Annual Retreat, PCI – Provincials, Kohima - ING
12.09.2026	Sat	Media Animation for Non-Formal Sector, Evening Coaching Students – Vellore Zone, Anmarudai
		Quiz Competition, ADMA Members, Local Community
13.09.2026	Sun	Half-yearly Evaluation, Principals, Online
21.09.2026	Mon	
to	to	
22.09.2026	Tue	Provincial Visit – Nandambakkam, Chennai
23.09.2026	Wed	
to	to	
24.09.2026	Thu	Provincial Council, Kodambakkam, Chennai
25.09.2026	Fri	
to	to	
27.09.2026	Sun	Provincial Council & Commission Members Meet, Kodambakkam
30.09.2026	Wed	Orientation towards the month of the Rosary and missionaries, Sisters (SL), Online
01.10.2026	Thu	
to	to	
08.10.2026	Thu	Annual Retreat – 1 for Senior Sisters, Auxilium Care Home, Katpadi

The Season of Creation is celebrated every year from 1 September to 4 October and invites us to renew our gratitude for the beautiful gift of creation entrusted to our care. It is a privileged time to deepen our ecological conversion and recognise our responsibility towards our common home. As Salesian women, we are called to educate ourselves and others to respect, protect and cherish creation. May our communities become places where sustainable lifestyles, simplicity and care for the earth are consciously practised. Let us listen attentively to both the “**cry of the earth and the cry of the poor**”, responding with concrete gestures of love and responsibility. May this season awaken in us a renewed sense of wonder for God’s creation and a commitment to leave a more habitable world for generations to come.

On 5 September, we lovingly remember **St Mother Teresa of Calcutta**, whose life was a radiant witness to Christ’s compassionate love. She saw Jesus in the poorest, the abandoned and those whom society often overlooked, offering herself generously in humble and selfless service. Her life reminds us that holiness is expressed through simple acts of love performed with great generosity. She challenges us to recognise the dignity of every person and to serve with tenderness, patience and compassion. May her example inspire us to become, in our own contexts, a loving presence to those who are suffering and in need. Let us ask her intercession that our lives may become a credible expression of God’s merciful and compassionate heart.

On 5 September we also celebrate **Teachers’ Day**. We gratefully acknowledge the noble mission of all who dedicate themselves to the **education and formation of the young**. For us as Salesian educators, teaching is more than imparting knowledge; it is a mission of accompanying young people towards the fullness of life. Inspired by **Don Bosco and Mother Mazzarello**, may we educate with reason, religion and loving-kindness, creating environments of trust, joy and belonging. Let us appreciate and encourage our teachers who, often through quiet and unseen efforts, shape lives and build a better future. May every educator be a joyful presence, an attentive listener and a person of hope for the young. Let us entrust all teachers to the Lord, asking for wisdom, patience and a generous heart in their mission.

Blessed Carmen Moreno on 6 September: Blessed Carmen Moreno Benítez, FMA, was a courageous Salesian Sister who lived her vocation with deep love for Christ and generous dedication to the young and the sick. Gifted with a compassionate heart, she served others with simplicity, kindness and selfless love. Even amid suffering and persecution, she remained faithful to God and her vocation. She courageously bore witness to her faith until her martyrdom in 1936. Her life is a beautiful testimony of fidelity, courage and trust in God. May her example inspire us to remain steadfast in our vocation and to live each day with generous love and joyful faith.

Blessed María Amparo Carbonell on 6 September: Blessed María Amparo Carbonell was a faithful witness to Christ who remained firm in her faith during the religious persecution in Spain. With courage and serenity, she faced suffering without renouncing her love for God. Her life reflects a deep spirit of prayer, fidelity and generous self-giving. She teaches us that true faith remains steadfast even in moments of trial and uncertainty. Her courageous witness reminds us to place our complete trust in God and to remain faithful to our Christian calling. May her example strengthen us to live our faith with courage, hope and unwavering love.

On 8 September, we celebrate with great joy the **Nativity of our Blessed Mother Mary**, the dawn that heralded the coming of Christ our Saviour. Mary's birth fills the Church with hope and invites us to contemplate God's loving plan unfolding through her life. From her earliest days, Mary was prepared to become the humble handmaid who would welcome God's will with an open heart. As Daughters of **Mary Help of Christians**, may we learn from her faith, humility, availability and total trust in God. May she accompany our communities and young people, leading each one closer to Jesus. With Mary, let us renew our "yes" to God and allow Him to accomplish His plan through our lives.

On 8 September, we also observe **Girl Child Day**. We are reminded of the dignity, rights and God-given potential of every girl child. Every girl child deserves to grow in an environment of **love, safety, education, dignity and equal opportunities**. Our Salesian mission calls us to be particularly attentive to girls who are vulnerable, marginalised or deprived of opportunities. Let us create spaces where every girl can discover her gifts, develop confidence and dream of a future filled with hope. May our educational communities empower girls to become responsible, compassionate and courageous women who can contribute meaningfully to society. Let us entrust every girl child to Mary, our Mother and Educator, asking her to protect, guide and accompany them always.

On 14 September, we celebrate the **Exaltation of the Holy Cross**, the supreme sign of God's sacrificial love revealed in Christ. The Cross reminds us that suffering, when embraced in love and united with Christ, can become a path to redemption and new life. As consecrated women, we are invited to contemplate the Crucified Christ and learn from His self-giving, forgiveness and obedience. The Cross also challenges us to remain faithful when our mission becomes demanding, and the path ahead is difficult. May we never be discouraged by our daily sacrifices, but offer them with love for the salvation of the young. Gazing upon the Cross, may we discover the depth of Christ's love anew and renew our own total gift of self.

On 15 September, the Church lovingly commemorates **Our Lady of Sorrows**, contemplating Mary's profound union with the suffering and sacrifice of her Son, Jesus. Standing faithfully at the foot of the Cross, Mary teaches us the meaning of steadfast love, courage and silent accompaniment in moments of pain. Her sorrow was not a sorrow without hope, but one transformed by faith and trust in God's saving plan. As Daughters of **Mary Help of Christians**, may we learn from her to remain close to those who suffer, especially the young, the poor and the vulnerable. May Mary, Mother of Sorrows, comfort all who carry burdens in their hearts and help us to transform our own sufferings into offerings of love. Through her intercession, may we grow in compassion, patience and deeper confidence in God's presence amid every trial.

On 29 September, we celebrate the **feast of the Archangels**, whom the Church honours as messengers and servants of God. Their lives remind us of the beauty of listening to God, faithfully carrying out His will and serving His people. **St Michael** teaches us courage and fidelity in the struggle against evil; **St Gabriel**, openness and availability to God's call; and **St Raphael**, compassionate accompaniment and healing. May their example inspire us to be

faithful messengers of God's love in our communities and apostolic mission. Let us entrust our Province, our young people and all our ministries to their protection and guidance. May we too become humble instruments through whom God's light, peace and hope reach those entrusted to our care.

I wish you all a very Happy Birthday of Mother Mary and a happy feast of our Lady of Good Health, Velankanni.

Special wishes to the community of Michaelpuram on the feast of their Patron, St Michael, the Archangel.

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Devadoss Margaret

Sr Devadoss Margaret FMA
INM Provincial



ITINERARY OF THE PROVINCIAL SEPTEMBER – 2026

September 2026		
31Aug - 02	Mon -Wed	Provincial Visit – Auxilium Home, Katpadi
03	Thu	Centenary Celebration, Broadway, Chennai Strategy Planning Team Meet of TNBC/ TNLBC for the Region of Tamil Nadu, Santhome, Chennai.
04 - 07	Fri - Mon	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
08	Tue	Journey to Imphal
11 - 18	Fri - Fri	PCI Provincials’ Spiritual Annual Retreat, Kohima - ING
19	Sat	Return Journey to Chennai
21 - 22	Mon - Tue	Provincial Visit – Nandambakkam, Chennai
23 - 24	Wed - Thu	Provincial Council, Kodambakkam
25 - 27	Fri -Sun	PC – Commission Meeting, Kodambakkam
28 - 30	Mon	Provincial Office, Kodambakkam
October 2026		
01 - 08	Thu -Thu	Annual Retreat – 1 for Senior Sisters, Auxilium Care Home, Katpadi

