



Istituto Figlie di Maria Ausiliatrice
Salesiane di Don Bosco
Mary Help of Christians Province - INC
Kolkata - India



Provincial Circular

Salesian Sisters, Auxilium Convent
10 P.K. Guha Road, Dum Dum, Kolkata - 700028

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08 January 2026

*Dear Loving Sisters,
Loving Prayerful greetings from the Provincial House, Dum Dum !*

As we step into the New Year 2026, I offer my sincere gratitude for your committed and faithful service. Your dedication, sacrifice, and love have been a great blessing and a true inspiration. May this year bring you renewed strength, deep joy, good health, and abundant blessings.

This year unfolds before us a time of grace marked by two significant milestones for our Institute and, in a particular way, for our Province. At the Institute level, we enter the final year of preparation for the 150th anniversary of the first missionary expedition, and at the Provincial level, we begin our journey of preparation for the Ruby Jubilee of our Province.

As I ponder these momentous events, my thoughts return to the recently celebrated mystery of the Nativity of our Lord, "Emmanuel—God with us". This profound mystery reminds us that the Mighty God chose to come down to earth to dwell among us, to walk with us, accompany us, guide us, and ultimately lead us back to the Father's home.

My dear Sisters, this truth offers a powerful lesson in the light of our vocation. Our vocational identity proclaims Emmanuel. We are called to make God present to His people. Each of us is called to be His representative—His ambassador—by being present to our children, our young people, our collaborators, and our sisters in the community. Such presence is not incidental; it is essential. This invites us to ask ourselves: How do I represent the living God—a God who is compassionate, endlessly loving, and the true image of the Good Shepherd? How do I stand as His credible witness in today's world?

May this time of preparation become a sacred opportunity to revive, renew, and relaunch our identity. May it inspire us to mirror more deeply the image of our Blessed Mother for our children, embodying in our lives the tenderness and strength of a true mother.

We are the living monument of Don Bosco. May this monument truly be alive—radiating the fragrance of a life that makes Jesus visible through our thoughts, our words, and our deeds. May those who encounter us recognise someone who belongs to the family of God, who reflects the image of Mary, and who brings only good news to the world.

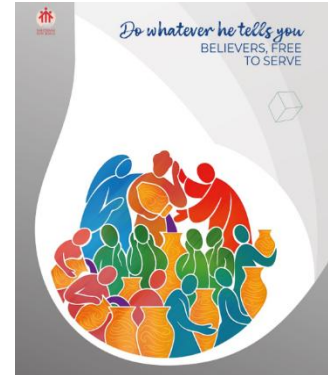


May you continue your service with the same zeal and devotion, and may God graciously guide, protect, and accompany us all. May His presence strengthen your work and fill your hearts with peace and purpose throughout 2026.



We have begun the year with the **Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**, on the first of January. Mary stands at the doorway of the New Year as a woman of faith, silence and trust. She teaches us to welcome each new beginning with openness to God's will. As she pondered all things in her heart, may we too learn to carry the year ahead prayerfully, trusting that God is already at work in all that awaits us.

On 27 December 2025, in Rome, in the FMA General House, the Rector Major, Fr. Fabio Attard, presented Strenna 2026 as a world premiere to the FMA and to the entire Salesian Family. The theme is “**Do whatever he tells you – Believers, free to serve.**” The Rector Major said This is the STRENNA that I offer you with joy and emotion, and which I, first of all, commit myself to live by. Let us bring the new wine of the wedding at Cana, which symbolises the newness promoted by those who believe, with joy and hope, even and especially in the midst of challenges and difficulties, doubts and uncertainties. Both in the Church and in society, the young people we accompany are bearers of a thirst for authentic, genuine life. They seek to meet *believers* who communicate a *credible* Christian proposal and are therefore *believed* by them. This is the challenge that STRENNA 2026 entrusts to all of us in the Salesian Family who care about the new generations. Don Bosco's dream continues every time a young person discovers not a limitation on their freedom but the way to become themselves in the educators and pastors they encounter, believers who live their faith in the service of their brothers and sisters. This is the ‘good news’ that the Salesian mission is called to proclaim: the boldness of faith and the joy of sharing. Dear Sisters, I encourage you to reflect deeply on the Strenna and open your empty jars so they may be filled with God's abundant blessings.



The image of **Jubilee 2025 – Pilgrims of Hope** beautifully reflects the grace-filled journey we have shared. Anchored in the Cross of Christ and moving forward as one people, we have walked this Jubilee path with faith, unity, and renewed trust in God's promises.

As we mark the **conclusion of the Jubilee on 6 January**, the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, we give thanks for the many blessings received during this sacred time. Like the Magi, we have been pilgrims—seeking, journeying, and discovering Christ anew as the light for all nations.

The Cross rising from the anchor in this symbol reminds us that Christ remains our sure foundation beyond the Jubilee year. Though this special time has formally closed, its call does not end. We are sent forth to carry hope into our communities, to be witnesses of reconciliation, compassion, and missionary zeal in our daily lives.

May the fruits of this Jubilee continue to inspire us to walk together, support one another, and serve especially those most in need. Let us remain pilgrims—rooted in faith, guided by the Cross, and anchored in hope.

The Chair of Unity Octave (18 January – 25 January)

The unity octave, a precious period of eight days of prayer for the **reunion of Christendom, the return of lapsed Catholics and the conversion of unbelievers**, calls us to renew our commitment to unity—the very desire of Christ’s heart.

This initiative, founded by Fr. Paul James Francis, S.A., and later blessed by St. Pius X, reminds us that unity is not merely an ideal but a mission entrusted to the Church. Jesus Himself prayed, *“That they may all be one”* (Jn 17:21). During these days, we are invited to make this prayer our own.



Dear Sisters, unity begins within our hearts, within our communities and within our relationships. As consecrated women, we are called to be bridges of communion, witnesses of charity, and instruments of peace. Our daily attitudes—listening, forgiving, understanding, and welcoming—become powerful signs of God’s unifying presence in a divided world.

May this Octave inspire us to examine our own lives:

- How do I foster unity in my community?
- Do my words and actions build communion or division?
- Am I open to dialogue, reconciliation, and mutual respect?

Let us especially pray that those who have drifted away from the Church may rediscover the embrace of Christ and that those who do not yet know Him may encounter His saving love through our witness. May our prayer be accompanied by humble hearts, sincere repentance, and concrete gestures of love.

I encourage every community to mark these days meaningfully through common prayer, Eucharistic adoration, the Word of God, and acts of reconciliation. Let our lives proclaim that unity is possible when Christ is at the centre.

Entrusting this Octave to Mary, Mother of the Church, I pray that she may lead us ever closer to her Son and to one another.

Daily Intentions

Jan. 18 The union of all Christians in the one true faith and in the Church.

Jan. 19 The return of separated Eastern Christians to communion with the Holy See.

Jan. 20 The reconciliation of Anglicans with the Holy See.

Jan. 21 The reconciliation of European Protestants with the Holy See.

Jan 22 That American Christians become one in union with the Chair of Peter.

Jan 23 The restoration of lapsed Catholics to the sacramental life of the Church.

Jan. 24 That the Jewish people come into their inheritance in Jesus Christ.

Jan. 25 The missionary extension of Christ’s kingdom throughout the world.



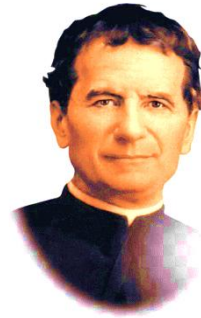
The feast of **Blessed Laura Vicuña** on 22 of this month inspires us with her courageous fidelity, purity of heart, and generous self-giving. Though young in years, her love for God was mature and steadfast. In a world that often compromises values, Laura challenges us to live with integrity, inner freedom, and joyful sacrifice, especially in our witness to the young and the vulnerable.

In **St. Francis de Sales** whose feast we celebrate on 24 January, we are reminded that holiness is found in gentleness, patience and everyday faithfulness. His simple yet profound wisdom invites us to walk the path of love with calm hearts and compassionate attitudes. As we begin this year, let us resolve to cultivate kindness in our words, serenity in our relationships, and perseverance in our commitments.



As citizens, we commemorate the Republic **Day on 26 January**. It is a moment to renew our gratitude for the freedom we enjoy and our responsibility toward the nation. May this day deepen our sense of service, justice and solidarity, especially with the poor and marginalised. Our consecrated life finds meaning when it responds to the cries of society with courage and hope.

The month culminates with the feast of **St. John Bosco**, father and friend of the young, whose life was marked by joy, trust in Divine Providence, and tireless dedication. His optimism and pastoral zeal urge us to walk with the young with loving presence, encouraging them to discover God's dream for their lives. May his spirit renew our missionary enthusiasm and joyful availability.



Congratulations to

- ❖ Rev. Fr. Sunil Kerketta, SDB, as the new Provincial of the Salesian Province of St John Bosco (INC), for the six years of 2026-2032.
- ❖ Rev. Fr. Doss Kennedy SDB as the Sixth Provincial of the Salesian Province of Our Lady of Velankanni, Trichy (INT) for the six-year term 2026 – 2032.

Gratitude and Appreciation to:

- 🇮🇳 Sr. Celine Alexander and the community of Auxilium Bandel for their unwavering dedication to attending to every detail of the sainthood celebration of Maria Troncatti. From the retreat and meetings to the meticulous arrangements for the entire event, their tireless efforts ensured that each moment was meaningful and prayerful. Their commitment, care, and attention to detail truly made the celebration a grace-filled and memorable occasion for all.
- Sr. Stella Potteparambil and the community of Auxilium Dum Dum for preparing a beautiful picture frame of St. Maria Trocatti.
- Sr. Rosy Velliyan and the Aspirantate community, together with Sr. Lily Perumpettikunnel and the Auxilium Barasat community, are gratefully acknowledged for their dedicated efforts in preparing the aspirants, postulants, and candidates. Their graceful and rhythmic performances filled the St. Maria Troncatti celebration with joy, energy, and vibrant color,

making the occasion truly memorable and colorful.

- Sr. Domenica Thapa and the community of Thecho for their beautiful and creative introduction to the Mass with meaningful symbols—the **first aid box**, signifying care and service, and the **relics of Blessed Maria Troncatti**, inspiring us with her missionary zeal and holiness. Sr. Pranati Sabhasundar and the community of Auxilium Gobra for the meaningful Prayer of the Faithful, which enriched our Eucharistic celebration.

Let us pray for our dear departed - Condolences to:

- † Sr. Sadhana Majumdar at the demise of her dear father Mr. Promatha Majumdar (85), on 01 December 2025.
- † Rt. Rev. Bishop Elias Frank and the priests of the Kolkata diocese at the sudden demise of Fr. Elias D’Mello, who was the parish priest of Mother Teresa Church, Mathkol. On 03 December 2025.
- † Sr. Shanti Lakda at the passing away of her paternal uncle, Mr Anil Lakda, on 08 December and her elder brother Mr. Amit Lakda, aged 29, on 11 December 2025.
- † Sr. Rosa Pyngrope FMA, the provincial, and all the sisters of INS at the sudden passing away of Sr. Christia on 10 December 2025.
- † Sr. Anjana Rai at the demise of brother-in-law Mr Saran Limbu, aged 50, on 11 December 2025.
- † Sr. Mabel Gothorp FMA, the provincial and all the sisters of ING at the passing away of Sr. Bridget Kurian on 14 December 2025.
- † Sr. Annie Thevarkunnel at the passing away of her sister-in-law Mrs. Theresaimma Joseph, aged 84, on 18 December 2025.
- † Fr. Provincial and the SDBs of Kolkata province at the demise of Br. Policarp Ekka SDB, aged 81 on 30 December 2025.
- † Sr. Rosina Thomas at the passing away of her sister-in-law, Mrs Annamma Chacko, on 04 January 2026.

Let us keep praying for the needs of the province and our communities, and for the health of our sisters and family members who are sick.

Dear Sisters,

As a Province, we begin this year united in our common vision and charism. Our strength lies not in numbers or achievements, but in our faithfulness to God’s call and in the quality of our fraternal love. Let us continue to walk together — listening, supporting one another, and bearing witness to the Gospel with humility and courage.

I invite each community to consciously make this month a time of prayerful intention-setting: offering the year for the Church, for our Congregation, for the people entrusted to us and for a world longing for peace and meaning. Let us renew our faith, our fraternity, and our mission. Let us walk into this New Year not burdened by the past nor anxious about the future, but anchored in hope and united in purpose.

Together, guided by Mary and inspired by our saints, may we continue to be signs of God's love in the world. Entrusting each one of you and our entire Province to God's loving care, I assure you of my prayerful support as we journey through this year together.

Yours affectionately in Our Lady,

Sr. Leelamma Palliparambil FMA
Provincial



Happy New Year
2026