



Provincial Circular

SALESIAN PROVINCE OF CHENNAI (INM)



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FORMATION AS LIFELONG

Loving and Living the New Ratio

By Fr John Alexander SDB

Vice Provincial

Dear Confreres,

On 26 January 2026, Fr Fabio Attard, our Rector Major, promulgated the fifth edition of *The Formation of the Salesians of Don Bosco – Principles and Norms – Ratio Fundamental Institutionis et Studiorum*. The date was deliberately chosen for its symbolic significance. On 26 January 1854, Don Bosco gathered four young men—Rua, Cagliero, Rocchietti and Artiglia—and proposed that they make a practical exercise of charity towards their neighbour. From that evening, the name “Salesians” was given to those who chose this path. More than 170 years later, the same date invites us, in the words of the Rector Major, to “resume our formation journey with renewed enthusiasm, whatever stage of life we find ourselves in.”

Welcoming the New Ratio with Joy and Gratitude

The new *Ratio* has been received with great interest and appreciation, and processes of study, reflection and dissemination are taking place at regional and province levels. We too, in our Province, have begun this journey. Many Rectors are using the *Ratio* in their ministry of animation, while several communities are drawing from it for spiritual reading, reflection and meditation.

The new *Ratio* offers several important perspectives for renewing our Salesian consecrated life and mission. In this circular, I would like to reflect with you one of them: *formation as lifelong, closely connected with another key idea, formation in mission*.

Imagine a stone that remains in a river for fifty years, surrounded and washed by water, and yet remains dry within. A living plant on the riverbank, instead, receives the water into itself; it is nourished, grows and bears fruit. The difference is not simply exposure, but assimilation. Something similar can happen in our Salesian life. We can pass through years of formation, retreats, community life, pastoral experiences, responsibilities, successes and failures—and remain largely unchanged. Or we can allow what we live to enter us, question us and transform us.

The *Ratio* puts it simply: formation as lifelong is first and foremost our daily response to God’s call. Formation does not end because vocation does not end. The real question, therefore, is not merely, *how many years of formation have I completed?* It is rather: After all these years, am I still capable of being formed?

1. Formation Is Not a Stage of Life—It Is a Way of Living

For many of us, “formation” instinctively evokes a particular period: aspirantate, pre-novitiate, novitiate, post-novitiate, practical training and theological studies. After perpetual profession or ordination, we speak instead of “ongoing formation.” Without intending it, we can create the impression that serious formation belongs principally to the first part of Salesian life and that what follows is mainly updating and maintenance.

The new Ratio invites us to think differently. The foundation is already present in our Constitutions. Art. 98 tells us that the Salesian “commits himself to a formation process which will last all his life.” At the different moments of his existence, he learns through experience the meaning of his Salesian vocation and gradually becomes the pastor and educator of the young whom God has called him to be.

The expression “formation as lifelong” therefore says something deeper than simply “ongoing formation.” Formation is not an activity added periodically to Salesian life. It is a way of living Salesian life. Why is formation lifelong? Because God’s call is lifelong. Our vocation is not simply an event that happened twenty, thirty or fifty years ago when we first entered a Salesian house. God continues to call us today. Every stage of life contains a new call and asks for a new response. No stage of life is outside formation.

Don Bosco himself offers us a beautiful example. In the *Memoirs of the Oratory*, he looks back at his vocational journey and reads it in faith. Family poverty, the dream at nine, his teachers and friends, seminary life, spiritual guides, pastoral encounters and difficulties all became part of his formation. Significantly, the new Ratio asks young Salesians to study and meditate on the Memoirs and to understand their own vocational history in the light of Don Bosco’s vocational journey.

One could say that Don Bosco was always “learning to be a priest,” as Chapter 27 of the Memoirs puts it. Ordination did not complete that learning. Through his encounters with young prisoners, poor boys, apprentices and students, he continued learning what it meant to be a father, teacher and shepherd. The Oratory itself became a school in which his priestly and pastoral heart matured.

The same is true for us. Profession does not produce a finished Salesian. Ordination does not produce a finished Salesian priest. A leadership appointment does not automatically make us mature Rectors, Principals or Parish Priests. We become what we have promised to be, little by little, step by step, over a lifetime. The goal of formation, therefore, is not merely greater competence. It is to become more deeply conformed to Christ the Good Shepherd in the spirit of Don Bosco. We are not Salesians who occasionally undergo formation; we are Salesians who are always in formation.

2. Formed by Life and Mission

If formation is lifelong, where does it take place? The answer of the Ratio is both simple and demanding: *in life itself—and especially in the mission entrusted to us*. Article 98 says that the Salesian “learns by experience” the meaning of his vocation. But there is an important difference between having experiences and learning from experience. During a recent conversation with a group of teachers, one of them proudly claimed to have thirty years of experience. His colleague, who knew him well, remarked: “Not exactly. He has had one year of experience repeated thirty times!” If we are not careful, this could be our story too. We can pass through many communities without learning about community life, work with young people for decades without really learning to listen to them or hold responsibilities for many years without necessarily becoming wiser leaders.

Experience by itself does not form us. For experience to become formative, it must be attended to, reflected upon and discerned. Article 119 speaks of discerning the voice of the Spirit in the events of each day. Lifelong formation therefore involves a simple but profound movement: **Experience → Reflection → Discernment → Growth**.

Here, “*formation as lifelong*” meets another key idea of the new Ratio: “*formation in mission*.” In his message to GC28, Pope Francis offered a striking formulation which the Rector Major recalls in the promulgation of the new Ratio: “we are not formed for the mission, but ... we are formed in the mission.” He then adds: “The mission *inter gentes* is our best school: beginning with this we pray, reflect, study and rest.”

This is an important shift in perspective. Mission is not simply what begins after formation. Mission itself forms us. We do not first become perfect Salesians and then go to the young. We become Salesians by being sent to and living among the young. The young themselves become part of God’s way of forming us. The Ratio says this with remarkable clarity: like Don Bosco and the first Salesians, we welcome and form poor young people, and we are in turn formed by them. Indeed, without poor young people we cannot become the Salesians we are called to be.

A difficult young person, a student who asks an uncomfortable question, a poor family, a confrere who disagrees with me, a transfer, criticism, success or failure—all can become formative when we learn to discern what God is saying through them. Young people immersed in social media, digital culture and artificial intelligence can challenge our pastoral assumptions and compel us to learn new languages of education and evangelisation. We form the young, and the young form us.

But what enables these experiences actually to form us? Here we come to another important word in the Ratio: *docibilitas*. It means more than passive docility. It is the capacity to remain teachable and formable—willing to learn from God, from others, from life and from experience. Initial formation, therefore, cannot aim at producing a “finished Salesian.” It must teach us how to remain in formation throughout life. The Ratio insists that quality must prevail over quantity: the point is not merely to have many experiences but to learn from them.

One of the subtle dangers of experience, seniority and responsibility is that we can gradually become less teachable: “I know this already.” “We tried that twenty years ago.” “This is how we have always done it.” “What can these youngsters teach me?” Such expressions may sometimes contain legitimate wisdom. But they can also indicate that the heart is beginning to close.

For us Salesians, there is something especially beautiful here: the young keep us young when we allow them to question us. Don Bosco did not develop his pastoral method in isolation and then impose it on young people. It grew through encounter, experimentation, difficulties, reflection, adaptation and love. The Oratory was not only the place where Don Bosco formed young people; it was also where Don Bosco himself was formed as their father and teacher.

Our changing world asks the same openness and “pastoral conversion” from us. Digital culture, artificial intelligence, changing family patterns and attitudes towards authority require more than new techniques. They require Salesians capable of learning again. Sometimes lifelong formation means learning something new. At other times it means unlearning something: an authoritarian style of leadership, a prejudice, an attachment to office, an outdated pastoral assumption, or the conviction that my way is the only way.

Perhaps, then, two questions could become part of our personal examen: “Lord, what are you teaching me through what I am living today?” and “How teachable am I?”

3. Creating a Culture of Lifelong Formation

A plant does not flourish because it receives a large quantity of water once a month. It needs an environment that continuously sustains life—good soil, water, sunlight, air and pruning. Our Province can be similar. Retreats, seminars, quinquennial programmes, leadership courses and updating sessions are valuable and necessary. But a Province can have many formation programmes without necessarily having a culture of formation. A programme is something we attend; a culture is something we breathe.

When Fr Silvio Roggia, General Councillor for Formation, visited our Province in January 2026, he made a simple but significant observation: “The formation of the province depends on the lifestyle of the confreres.” The way we pray, relate, work, exercise authority, live community life and carry out the mission creates the formative culture of a Province.

Our Constitutions locate this responsibility at three interconnected levels: the individual Salesian, the local community and the provincial community. First, the individual Salesian. Art. 99 could hardly be clearer: “Each Salesian accepts responsibility for his own formation.” Docile to the Holy Spirit, he develops his talents and gifts of grace “in a constant effort of conversion and renewal” as he lives and works for the common mission. No Provincial, Rector, Formation Delegate or programme can substitute for the personal willingness of a confrere to grow. Prayer and the Word of God, the sacraments, spiritual accompaniment, personal reading and reflection on experience are ordinary means by which we remain open to the Spirit. The question is not only, “What formation is the province providing for me?” but also, “What am I doing to remain responsible for my own growth?”

Second, the local community. Art. 99 calls it “the natural environment for vocational growth” and says that the very life of a community, when united in Christ and open to the needs of the times, “is itself a factor in formation.” The ordinary place of lifelong formation, therefore, is not principally the conference hall or retreat centre. It is the community in which we live every day. Our communities become learning communities when younger and older confreres learn from one another, pastoral experiences are reflected upon rather than merely reported, and together we ask: What is the Spirit saying to us through the young and through our mission?

Formation often happens through the quality of ordinary things: the way we pray together, speak and listen to one another, conduct community meetings, evaluate our apostolate and respond to conflict. It also extends to the Educative Pastoral Community. Lay people who share the mission bring professional competence, family experience, faith and perspectives that can form us too. We have something to give, but also something to receive.

Third, the Province. Constitution 101 entrusts the provincial community with the responsibility to “welcome and follow up the vocation of every confrere,” prepare formation personnel, provide formation structures and make each local community aware of its formative responsibility. The province must therefore continue to provide retreats, age-specific programmes, leadership formation, professional updating and opportunities for deeper renewal. But extraordinary initiatives can never substitute for the ordinary formative rhythm of Salesian life.

Article 101 adds an important reminder: every Salesian contributes to the formation of his brothers. Through prayer and personal witness, each confrere helps sustain and renew the vocation of others. Formation is therefore not only something I receive. By the way I live my vocation, I become part of the formative environment of my brothers. Therefore, our dream should be a Province that is not merely doing formation but is itself a formative environment.

Conclusion: Formed in Christ, with Mary as our Model

Dear Confreres, the reception of the new *Ratio* offers us much more than another document to study. It gives us an opportunity to look again at the journey of our own vocation. Saint Paul gives us a beautiful expression: “until Christ is formed in you” (Gal 4:19). That is ultimately the purpose of all formation.

God is the first formator. Through the Holy Spirit, he patiently shapes in us the heart of Christ the Good Shepherd. He forms us through his Word and the Eucharist, through Don Bosco and our Constitutions, through community and the young, through friendship and responsibility, through success and failure, through strength and vulnerability, through youth and old age. Nothing is wasted when we allow life to become a place of encounter with God.

And beside us on this lifelong journey stands Mary, Mother and Teacher. The new *Ratio* reminds us that, through her maternal intervention, the Holy Spirit formed in Don Bosco the heart of a father and teacher; with her help, the Salesian too gradually becomes a pastor and educator of the young. That word “gradually” is important.

As we enter October, the month of the Holy Rosary, Mary becomes for us a credible model and loving companion on this journey of lifelong formation. The mysteries of the Rosary remind us how she remained open to God throughout her life: welcoming and pondering the Word, accompanying Jesus as his mission unfolded, remaining faithful beneath the Cross, and waiting in hope with the disciples. Her *fiat* at Nazareth was not simply a response made once and for all; it was a “yes” lived and renewed through every season of life. Mary welcomed, pondered, discerned and remained open to what God was doing in and through her. Her journey reminds us that fidelity is not standing still; it is allowing God to lead us, stage by stage, into a deeper “yes.”

We too are unfinished. There is always something more that the Lord wants to teach us, something that needs to be purified or brought to maturity, and some new way in which he asks us to love and serve. May the reception of the new *Ratio* in our Province, therefore, not remain simply the study of a new text. May it help us rediscover our own life as a place of formation—our prayer and work, our community and mission, our relationships and responsibilities, our encounters with the young, our joys and disappointments—and above all, renew in us the desire and responsibility to become ever more credible “signs and bearers of God’s love to the young.”

May Mary Help of Christians, our Mother and Teacher, and St John Bosco, our Father and Founder, accompany us on this lifelong journey of formation, so that Christ may be formed ever more fully in us and, through us, become visible to the young whom God entrusts to our care.

United with you in prayer



Fr John Alexander

Vice Provincial & Formation Delegate



Place: Chennai – 10

Date: 01.10.2026

FROM THE PROVINCIAL’S DESK

South Asia Salesian Leadership Meeting in New Delhi

For the first time at the South Asia regional level, a meeting was organised for the Former Provincials, General Councillors and the Present Provincials in the presence of the Rector Major, under the able guidance of the Regional Councillor for South Asia, Fr. Biju Michael. Held on 6 and 7 September, the meeting had three main purposes: to express gratitude to the leaders for their valuable contribution to the growth of the South Asia Region, to reflect together with the Rector Major on the future priorities of the Region and to prepare for the forthcoming Team Visits to South Asia. Following an input session by the Rector Major, the participants were divided into groups for reflection and conversation in the spirit of

synodality and their discussions were consolidated into a report. The meeting offered a meaningful opportunity for the confreres to become more aware of the journey, challenges and future direction of the Region.

On 8 September, the participants celebrated fraternity with the Rector Major and his Secretary, Fr. Thathireddy, through a visit to the Taj Mahal, which provided another joyful occasion to experience the closeness and fatherly presence of the Rector Major. The gathering continued on 9 and 10 September with a meeting exclusively for the Provincials, together with the Rector Major and the President of the SPCSA. An effective and interactive exchange addressed various concerns of the Region and the individual Provinces. The participants expressed gratitude to the Regional Councillor and his Secretary, Fr. Vinoth; the SPCSA Secretary, Fr. P. D. Johny; and the Province of Delhi for their coordination, hospitality, and generous hosting of the gathering.

PRIORITIES FROM “CONVERSATION IN THE SPIRIT”

1. Consecrated Life and Identity

- *God-Centeredness*: Emphasize the centrality of God, charismatic identity, and being authentic “men of God.”
- *Spiritual Depth*: Cultivate a passion for Christ (“Mystics in the Spirit”), the grace of unity, and authentic spirituality.
- *Quality over Quantity*: Focus on mature, authentic spiritual quality rather than mere numbers or institutional expansion.

2. Community Life

- *Prophets of Fraternity*: Rebuild authentic Salesian community life to become “prophets of fraternity”; create/ use structures that foster synodality.
- *Concrete Practices*: Ensure fixed and non-negotiable community moments, such as sharing two meals together a day, dedicated times of prayer, and community *giornos*.
- *Correcting Imbalances*: Address the major drawback of an “activism-oriented life” that undermines authentic Salesian community living.

3. Formation (Initial, Ongoing, and Leadership)

- *Shift in Approach*: Formation must move from mere conformity to deep personal conviction, emphasizing lifelong/ ongoing formation.
- *Leadership and Scope*: Train confreres to think at the congregational, regional, and intercultural levels. Prepare credible, high-quality Salesian leaders.
- *Modern Challenges*: Include “AI Preparedness” in formation to ensure Salesians remain competent educators and promoters of human dignity.
- *Spiritual Direction*: Make a systematic plan for spiritual direction and accompaniment (emphasizing processes over events).

4. Shared Mission and Lay Collaboration

- *Systematic Training*: Move beyond using lay people merely for administrative support. Focus on systematic training of lay collaborators to involve them deeply in ministry, shared spirituality, and as true partners in the mission (the Salesian charism must define this collaboration).

- *Networking*: Beyond collaborating with laity in our institutions, collaborate with Church and other lay organisations.

5. Restructuring of Provinces and Formation Houses

- *Territorial Reconfiguration*: Redraw the territorial distribution of Salesian provinces in South Asia, recognizing that the Salesian charism is bigger than current boundaries.
- *Optimization*: Reorganize and reduce the number of formation houses (as there are too many structures in the region). Close houses that no longer serve the charism and restructure our presences and works to reach the unreached.
- *Ecclesial Harmony*: Ensure proper and formal agreements with local Bishops.

6. Sharing of Personnel

- *Strategic Allocation*: Take creative and strategic decisions for an interprovincial sharing of Salesian personnel. Let provinces with adequate numbers share confreres with other provinces to meet pastoral and educational needs.

7. Mission and Mission Ad Gentes

- *Missionary Audacity*: Begin presences in rural/ mission areas and assign young confreres to mission territories.
- *Beyond Institutions*: Enlarge the area of mission beyond traditional Salesian institutions to include new platforms like government bodies, NGOs, and Church organizations working with youth.
- *Shared Mission*: Undertake mission collaboratively, maintaining missionary audacity both within and outside the South Asia region.

8. Vocation Promotion, Discernment, and Accompaniment

- *Witness Over Recruitment*: Shift from traditional “recruitment” to accompaniment and discernment. Vocations must flow from the authentic witness of Salesian community life and be the fruit of youth ministry.
- *New Demographics*: Acknowledge a reversal in vocation trends with new vocations emerging from “new faith communities”. Adapt strategies to focus on going to and working in these specific areas.

9. Educative Pastoral Mission

- *Quality of Education*: Address concerns about the declining quality of some Salesian schools/ colleges and ensure a tangible “Salesian Impact” on the education system.
- *Faith and Values*: Strengthen and reorient the faith formation of the young, ensuring an inculcation of human values, social justice, and ecological sensitivity in students.
- *Human Dignity*: Leverage tools like AI responsibly to ensure technological preparedness always serves the promotion of human dignity.

10. Advocacy

- *Prophetic Voice*: Exercise the prophetic dimension of religious life by addressing issues connected with integral ecology.
- *Strategic Presence*: Redirect efforts to influence society by preparing confreres to get government and bureaucratic positions (not partisan politics) to advocate for the poor.
- *Youth Conscientization*: Conscientize young people on constitutional values and form citizens committed to a transformation of society.

Midterm Provincial Course 2026 - Valdocco

Dear Confreres,

Fraternal greetings!

I would like to share with you reflections and experiences from the Mid-Term Provincial Course, held from 13 to 22 September 2026 at Valdocco, Turin. It was a significant and grace-filled opportunity for the Provincials gathered from different parts of the Congregation to renew themselves in the Salesian spirit, to reflect on their service of animation and governance, and, above all, to experience the fatherly accompaniment of the Rector Major and his Vicar closely.

A Time of Fraternal Encounter and Accompaniment

Fifteen Provincials from fifteen different countries participated in the course. The presence of the Rector Major and the Vicar of the Rector Major throughout the programme made these days particularly meaningful.

What impressed us deeply was their fatherly presence, availability and accessibility. The Rector Major and his Vicar journeyed with us throughout the course. They accompanied us in prayer and meditation, participated in the Holy Eucharist, animated through the conferences, listened to our '*colloquio*' and spent considerable time with us in sharing, dialogue and clarification. Their presence was a genuine experience of fraternity, accompaniment and communion.

Formation for Animation and Governance

The daily formation sessions - animated by two Salesians and lay person in addition to the Rector Major and the Vicar - offered valuable insights for our service as Provincials. The Rector Major focused particularly on the animation and governance of the Province, while the Vicar of the Rector Major reflected on important priorities of the Congregation, including:

- the six priorities of the Congregation;
- vocational animation;
- youth ministry and youth leadership;
- self-care and the psychological dimensions of religious life;
- personal and community accompaniment;
- lay leadership and collaboration.

The daily sharing among the Provincials was another enriching experience. Listening to the experiences, challenges and responses of confreres from different cultural and ecclesial contexts broadened our understanding and helped us learn from one another.

Returning to Don Bosco and Mary Mazzarello

The course also gave us the precious opportunity to return to the sources of our Salesian spirituality. One full day was dedicated to Don Bosco Colle and Chieri, enabling us to revisit important places associated with the life, vocation and spirituality of Don Bosco. It was a reminder that our mission today must always be rooted in the person, experience and spirituality of our Founder.

Another full day was spent visiting Mornese, Valponasca, College and Nizza Monferrato, reflecting on the life and spirituality of St Mary Mazzarello. We were deeply touched by the warmth, availability and hospitality of the Sisters who welcomed us at these places.

The Rector Major and his Vicar accompanied us even during these visits, making the experience all the more meaningful.

The Constitution as Our Road Map

One of the strongest reminders emerging from the course was the need to return continually to our Constitutions. Our Constitutions are a road map for our consecrated life and mission. Repeatedly, we were invited to examine whether our personal and community life truly reflects what we have professed.

Two fundamental pillars

Consecrated life and community life were the two fundamental pillars that echoed often during the course. From these two pillars our mission emerges. Therefore, our mission cannot be separated from the quality of our consecrated and community life. We were encouraged to shift from an excessive focus on activities and programmes to processes of accompaniment, formation, and transformation.

Vocational Animation, Youth Leadership and Lay Leadership

Importance was given particularly to vocational animation. We were encouraged to evaluate our mission not merely by the number of activities conducted, but by asking: How effectively are we accompanying young people personally? What are the fruits of our accompaniment in terms of vocational discernment and commitment?

A Particular Examination for Our Province

The course also provided an opportunity to revisit the road map given to our Province by the Rector Major and the Extraordinary Visitor. Several areas were highlighted for our continued reflection and concrete action.

Among them are:

1. Avoiding a career approach to religious life
2. Responsible use of financial resources
3. Fidelity to community life
4. Personal prayer and Eucharistic life

5. Accompaniment and responsibility
6. Being with the poor and becoming poor
7. Religious life and discipline

The Importance of Self-Care

Another significant theme of the course was self-care. Self-care should not be understood as an individualistic concern or merely as a matter of physical well-being. Proper care of our physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual well-being enables us to live our consecration with greater freedom and generosity. When we neglect ourselves, our prayer, community life and mission can gradually be affected. Therefore, caring for ourselves is also a way of caring for our consecrated vocation, our community and the young people entrusted to us.

From Activities to Processes

A recurring insight throughout the course was the need to give greater importance to processes rather than merely activities. We may conduct numerous programmes, meetings and initiatives, but the deeper question is: What transformation is taking place in the lives of our confreres, young people, lay collaborators and communities? This calls us to strengthen personal accompaniment, community discernment, vocational animation, leadership formation and ongoing formation.

Gratitude

I would like to express our sincere gratitude to the Rector Major and his Vicar for their fatherly presence and generous accompaniment throughout these days. The participants particularly appreciated the dedicated service of Fr Patrick, Secretary to the Vicar of the Rector Major, who coordinated the programme and Fr Thathireddy, Secretary to the Rector Major, who assisted him. Their careful preparation and coordination contributed greatly to the richness of the course.

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE

Provincial visitation

We commence the provincial canonical visitation on 17th October. Let's pray for each other that this principal practice of our congregation enhances our ministry towards the young and the poor. The schedule has been sent to you by the secretary. Kindly prepare the necessary documents for the visitation well in advance. The Provincial Economist and the respective Regional Councillor may visit along with the provincial as needed.

Information on the Provincial Chapter

As the Province is expected to submit its Provincial Chapter reports to the General Council in February 2028, the Provincial Council, taking into consideration the suggestions received from the communities, has decided to hold the Provincial Chapter in January 2028. The themes and suggestions from all communities are being collated presently. The preparatory process will begin in June 2027 and involve the communities in the various stages of reflection. The official convocation letter for the Provincial Chapter will be issued in 2027. Meanwhile, we shall seriously study and follow up on the implementation process of GC29 and PC24.

Course for the Vice Provincials

The formation program for the service of the Vice-Provincial is scheduled, according to the deliberation of GC 29, from October 18 to 24, 2026, in Rome. This programme is organised to strengthen the singular field of Religious Life and Discipline and to remain available to the Provincials. Fr. John Alexander, our Vice-Provincial, will participate on behalf of the province. We wish him all the best and a fruitful meeting.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Vice-Provincial, together with the members of the Provincial Council, for their constant support and collaboration in managing the province's ordinary governance in my absence.

15th Boscoree @ SHC, Tirupattur

Our province will host the 15th Boscoree at Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur from 28th December 2027 to 2nd January 2028. The theme chosen for the Boscoree is "Building Friendship, Celebrating Humanity". The initial preparatory meeting was held at the Sacred Heart College on 19, September 2026. We wish all the Salesians, laypeople and students a wonderful and fruitful event.

Ratio Study and Training

The Formation Commission, together with all the Salesians from the formation houses, gathered at the Citadel on 24 September 2026 for a day of study and training on the Revised RATIO. The programme also brought together lay partners actively involved in forming candidates at various stages.

The gathering focused on understanding the importance of effectively implementing the Revised RATIO in the formation process. The participants reflected on its key aspects and implications for Salesian formation. The formators also received stage-specific training, enabling them to better understand their responsibilities and accompany those entrusted to their care according to the needs and requirements of each stage of formation.

Congratulations, Don Bosco College, Yelagiri

With immense joy and pride, we congratulate the entire Don Bosco College (Co-Ed), Yelagiri Hills on the grant of Permanent Affiliation from Thiruvalluvar University, effective from the Academic Year 2026–2027. This is a proud moment for the college and the community, achieved through hard work and dedication. We wish the Rector and Community, Principal, Faculty, Staff, Students, Alumni, and the entire Don Bosco College, Yelagiri Hills, to grow from strength to strength.

Rest in Peace!

Rev. Fr. Neeranal Francis SDB of the Province of Dimapur passed away on 5 September 2026. **Fr. Lakra Rajesh SDB** of the same province passed away on 29 September 2026. We offer our prayers for the repose of his soul and assure the Provincial and the confreres of the province of Dimapur of our prayers.

Rev. Br. Dias Charles SDB of the Salesian Province of Hyderabad breathed his last on 24 September 2026. We express our condolences to the Provincial and the Confreres of the Hyderabad Province.

Rev. Sr. Dashwood Hazel FMA (79) of the Salesian Sisters' Province of Chennai passed away on 30 September 2026. We offer our prayerful condolences to the Provincial and Sisters of INM FMA.

Mrs Arputham. S (89), the beloved Mother of Fr. Sundardoss (Principal of SIGA Polytechnic College, Chennai), entered eternal abode on the 9th of September 2026.

Mr VS Joseph John Kennedy (60), the beloved Father of Br. Jacob Leon (Refuge community – Broadway) passed away on the 27th of September 2026.

We offer our prayerful condolences to the bereaved family members of our confreres.

Important Dates and Events in October

DATE	Events
05 & 06	Monthly Recollection
08	Provincial Council
17	PV: Sacred Heart Church, Polur
18	PV: Sacred Heart Church, Polur / PV: Don Bosco Agro Tech, Polur
19	PV: Don Bosco Agro Tech, Polur
20	PV: Don Bosco Illam, Peravallur
21	PV: Pope John's Garden
22	PV: ANAT Farm
23	PV: Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Park Town
26	PV: Our Lady of Refuge, Broadway
28	PV: DB Beatitudes, Vyasarpadi
30 - 31	Rectors & Leaders Meet & RATIO Dissemination
1 Nov	PV: DB Beatitudes, Vyasarpadi