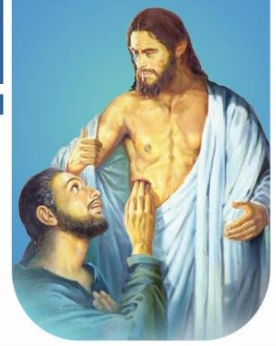




Provincial Circular

SALESIAN PROVINCE OF CHENNAI (INM)



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Rumours & Gossip in Salesian Religious Life: Challenges to Fraternity, Communion & Mission

Dear Confreres,

As we begin a new academic year and welcome confreres who are entering new communities after the transfers, we are invited once again to rediscover the beauty and responsibility of Salesian fraternity. Every transfer brings change, adjustment, new relationships, and new beginnings. Some confreres move with joy, others with uncertainty, and still others carrying the emotional weight of leaving behind familiar people and places. It is precisely at such moments that communities are called to become true homes of welcome, understanding, patience, and trust. The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity that we will be celebrating reminds us that our communion must reflect the communion of God Himself: a communion marked by unity, mutual respect, listening, and love. As new members enter our communities, let us consciously create an atmosphere free from suspicion, unhealthy curiosity, rumours, and gossip. Let us refrain from forming quick opinions about confreres based on hearsay, past narratives, or incomplete information. Every confrere deserves to begin anew with dignity, trust, and fraternity. St. John Bosco desired communities where charity was felt, where each person experienced belonging, and where relationships reflected the kindness of Christ Himself. The beginning of the academic year is therefore not merely an administrative transition but a spiritual opportunity to renew our commitment to authentic communion.

Rumours and Gossip

One of the greatest strengths of religious life is fraternity. At the same time, one of its greatest vulnerabilities is the misuse of speech. Communities are built by words of encouragement, truth, understanding, and charity, but they can also be slowly destroyed by words spoken carelessly, emotionally, irresponsibly, or maliciously. Rumours and gossip are not merely social weaknesses or harmless conversations. They are spiritual, psychological, and communal realities that deeply affect fraternity, trust, mission, and the witness of consecrated life. In every society rumours circulate quickly because human beings naturally seek explanations, interpretations, and hidden meanings behind events. Yet in religious life, rumours and gossip become even more dangerous because they affect not only personal relationships but also the spiritual atmosphere of the community and the credibility of the Congregation itself. What begins as an unverified statement often grows into suspicion, division, judgement, and eventually destruction of trust.

The Word of God repeatedly warns against the misuse of speech. The Letter of James states with striking clarity: "The tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits... How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire!" (James 3:5). Sacred Scripture recognizes that words have the power either to give life or to destroy communion. Proverbs reminds us that "death and life are in the power of the tongue" (Prov. 18:21). For this reason, the Church, the Salesian

Constitutions, and the tradition of the Church Fathers constantly insist on charity, prudence, truthfulness, and fraternal correction.

The Role of Rumours in Society

Rumours usually emerge in situations where there is uncertainty, fear, emotional tension, insecurity, lack of communication, or curiosity. A rumour often begins with partial information, personal interpretation, assumptions, or emotional reactions. It spreads rapidly because people are naturally drawn to dramatic or emotionally charged narratives. In society rumours often thrive because they provide people with a sense of importance, belonging, or control. Some spread rumours to gain attention, some to influence opinions, some out of insecurity, and others simply out of carelessness. In many cases people pass on information without verifying its truthfulness or considering the consequences.

Rumours generally thrive on three things: ambiguity, emotional excitement, and lack of direct communication. The less clarity people have, the more imagination fills the gap. Suspicion grows where trust is weak and communication is poor. The Fathers of the Church strongly condemned this tendency. St. Augustine warned that those who willingly listen to gossip become participants in the sin itself. St. John Chrysostom repeatedly taught that speaking against another person destroys not only the victim but also the soul of the speaker. For the Fathers of the Church, gossip was not a small moral weakness but a serious violation of charity and justice.

What Happens When Rumours Arise in a Religious Congregation or in a Province?

When rumours arise within a religious congregation or within a province, the damage becomes deeper because the bonds involved are sacred bonds of fraternity, vocation, and mission. A Salesian community is meant to be a sign of communion. The Constitutions remind us that “the Salesian community is characterized by the family spirit” (Const. 16). Rumours directly wound this family spirit. When rumours spread in the community, trust gradually disappears. Confreres begin to suspect one another. Relationships become guarded and defensive. Communication loses sincerity. Instead of fraternity, there emerges emotional distance. The confrere who becomes the object of rumours often experiences isolation, humiliation, anxiety, sadness, anger, or discouragement.

Sometimes rumours are spread subtly through suggestions, insinuations, selective sharing of information, facial expressions, sarcasm, or silence. In religious life this becomes particularly dangerous because people may outwardly maintain politeness while inwardly nurturing suspicion and judgement. The General Chapters repeatedly call Salesians to build communion through sincere fraternity and mutual respect. GC25 emphasized that authentic community life requires transparency, trust, dialogue, and fraternal charity. Rumours destroy all these elements silently and progressively. Very often the greatest damage is done not by enemies outside the congregation or the province but by negativity growing within the community itself. A province slowly weakens when confreres lose trust in one another. Vocations suffer where communities are marked by criticism, factions, hidden hostility, and gossip.

How Does Gossip Develop from Rumours?

Rumours become gossip when people begin adding interpretation, emotional colouring, personal judgement, exaggeration, or assumptions to incomplete information. At this stage

the focus shifts from facts to personalities. The person involved is no longer seen with compassion or objectivity but becomes reduced to a narrative created by others. What often begins as “I heard something about that person” gradually becomes “I know what kind of person he is.” This is the dangerous transition from uncertainty to judgement.

Gossip usually grows because people seek emotional satisfaction, desire to feel morally superior, want acceptance within a group, enjoy dramatic stories or unconsciously project their own insecurities onto others. Pope Francis has repeatedly warned religious communities about gossip. He has compared gossip to “terrorism” because one throws words like bombs and then walks away while others suffer destruction. He constantly reminds consecrated persons that communities cannot survive where gossip becomes normal. The tragedy is that gossip often disguises itself as concern, prayer requests, or pastoral discussion. Yet underneath there may exist jealousy, resentment, frustration, wounded pride, or personal insecurity.

How Do Rumours and Gossip Lead to Judgemental Conclusions?

One of the most dangerous aspects of rumours and gossip is the speed with which they produce judgemental conclusions. Human beings tend to fill missing details with assumptions. Once a negative narrative is repeated frequently, it begins to appear true even without evidence. The process usually follows a gradual pattern: partial information is heard; interpretation is added; emotional reactions emerge; assumptions become certainties; judgement is formed; and the person is labelled. At this stage, people stop seeking truth and begin defending opinions. The confrere involved is no longer approached personally or listened to fairly. Instead, conclusions are formed from fragments of information. This directly contradicts the Gospel spirit. Jesus himself warns: “Do not judge, so that you may not be judged” (Mt. 7:1). St. Thomas Aquinas considered rash judgement a sin against justice because it attributes moral fault without sufficient evidence. The Salesian spirit calls us to optimism, understanding, patience, and confidence in others. St. John Bosco himself preferred encouragement over condemnation. He corrected with charity and believed deeply in the goodness present within every person.

What Happens Psychologically and Spiritually to a Confrere in the Process?

When rumours and gossip spread, several destructive processes occur simultaneously. Psychologically, fear and insecurity increase. People become cautious about what they say and to whom they speak. Communities lose spontaneity and joy. Spiritually, charity weakens. Instead of seeing Christ in the confrere, individuals begin focusing on faults, weaknesses, or suspicions. Prayer loses authenticity because hearts become internally divided. The Salesian Constitutions call us to “bear one another’s burdens with mutual confidence and forgiveness” (cf. Const. 50). Rumours produce the opposite effect: burdening others through suspicion and emotional isolation.

Another serious danger is the hardening of the heart. Repeated gossip slowly dulls compassion. One begins to speak about another person’s suffering without sensitivity or responsibility. The individual becomes reduced to an object of discussion rather than a brother deserving dignity and respect. The process also affects leadership. Superiors who are influenced by rumours without discernment may begin making decisions based on perceptions rather than truth. This creates injustice and weakens confidence in authority.

What are the Essential Things That are Missed Out in Rumours and Gossip?

Rumours and gossip almost always ignore essential elements of truth. They usually omit: context, personal struggles, intentions, emotional suffering, clarification, repentance, growth, and the complexity of human situations. Human beings are never fully understood through fragments of information. Every confrere carries wounds, struggles, limitations, and personal histories known fully only to God. Rumours reduce reality into simplistic narratives. They emphasize weaknesses while ignoring virtues. They magnify mistakes while forgetting years of sacrifice and service. Most importantly, gossip forgets mercy. The Gospel constantly reveals a God who listens before judging, who accompanies before condemning, and who restores dignity rather than humiliating sinners publicly.

What do the Rumours and Gossip Emphasise and Thrive Upon?

Rumours and gossip thrive primarily on negativity. They focus on failures, scandals, weaknesses, mistakes, conflicts, and suspicions. Rarely do rumours spread quickly about goodness, sacrifice, fidelity, or holiness. They also thrive on emotional excitement. Negative information creates emotional stimulation and therefore spreads rapidly. Communities lacking healthy communication, emotional maturity, and fraternity become fertile ground for gossip. Another factor is idleness. St. John Bosco valued work because he knew that disciplined and meaningful activity protects both the mind and the community. Empty curiosity often becomes an opening for unhealthy conversations. Rumours also thrive where there is lack of transparency and direct communication. Silence and secrecy create spaces where assumptions multiply.

How do the Rumours & Gossip Destroy an Individual, the Community & the Province?

The destruction caused by rumours is often gradual but profound. First, the good name of the individual is damaged. Even false rumours leave lasting scars because once suspicion enters people's minds, complete restoration of trust becomes difficult. The confrere who becomes the object of gossip may lose confidence, peace, motivation, and even vocational enthusiasm. Some experience deep emotional suffering in silence because they feel misunderstood, isolated, or unfairly judged. At the community level, rumours weaken fraternity. Members become divided into informal groups. Trust diminishes. Openness decreases. Joy disappears. Meetings become superficial because people fear being misunderstood or discussed later. Over time the province itself suffers. Lay collaborators notice tensions. Young people perceive inconsistency. Families lose confidence. Vocations decline where communities are perceived as unhealthy or divided. The Salesian mission depends greatly on witness. St. John Bosco built communities marked by joy, simplicity, affection, and family spirit. Gossip destroys precisely this atmosphere. Jesus himself prayed: "That they may all be one" (Jn. 17:21). Every form of division weakens this evangelical witness.

Why Rumours and Gossip Arise?

Rumours and gossip often arise from deeper unresolved realities. Among these are: insecurity, jealousy, lack of communication, loneliness, frustration, emotional immaturity, desire for attention, unresolved conflicts, wounded pride, and absence of genuine fraternity. Sometimes communities become so task-oriented that emotional and spiritual relationships are neglected. Confreres live together physically but not relationally. In such climates misunderstandings easily grow. Gossip also arises where there is lack of direct dialogue. Instead of speaking respectfully to the person concerned, people speak about the person to

others. This contradicts the Gospel method of fraternal correction described by Jesus in Matthew 18:15: “If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone.” The Gospel always moves toward encounter, dialogue, reconciliation, and truth.

How can we Prevent Rumours and Gossip?

Prevention begins with personal conversion and transformation. Every confrere must examine how he speaks, listens, reacts, and communicates. Communities become healthy when members cultivate: silence, prudence, emotional maturity, patience, empathy, and responsible speech. Prayer is essential. A confrere deeply rooted in prayer becomes slower to judge and quicker to understand. Communities must also foster open communication. Difficult issues should be addressed honestly and respectfully rather than indirectly. Transparency reduces suspicion.

Formation is equally important. All the confreres must be educated regarding responsible communication, use of social media, confidentiality, emotional intelligence, and fraternal correction. The Rector or Director has a crucial role in creating an atmosphere of trust, fairness, and dialogue. Leadership that listens attentively and communicates clearly helps prevent unhealthy speculation. The community should consciously promote positive speech. Encouragement, appreciation, gratitude, and sincere affirmation strengthen fraternity.

How to Heal the Damage Caused by Rumours and Gossip?

Saint John Bosco experienced personally the pain caused by rumours, misunderstandings, false accusations, and public criticism, especially during the difficult period of his relationship with Archbishop Lorenzo Gastaldi of Turin. Many accusations, suspicions, and distorted narratives circulated about Don Bosco, his work, and even his intentions. Yet what is striking is not merely the opposition he suffered, but the manner in which he responded. Don Bosco refused to allow bitterness, revenge, or public attacks to guide his behaviour. He defended the truth when necessary, but he avoided humiliating persons, deepening divisions, or encouraging hostility among his followers. Even when wounded deeply, he continued to speak respectfully of Church authority and insisted that his Salesians remain obedient, charitable, and united. He carried suffering silently, prayed intensely, sought mediation patiently, and entrusted the matter to God and to the Church. Don Bosco understood that rumours and gossip flourish where there is pride, emotional reaction, and uncontrolled speech. Therefore, he fought them not through aggression but through charity, patience, transparency of life, tireless work for the young, and fidelity to his mission. His response teaches us a powerful lesson today: we do not overcome gossip by creating more gossip, nor defeat negativity through anger and retaliation. We overcome it through truth lived calmly, charity practiced consistently, silence when necessary, direct dialogue when possible, and unwavering commitment to our vocation and mission.

Healing requires humility, courage, and grace. The first step is acknowledging the harm done. Communities cannot heal by pretending that nothing happened. There must be sincere dialogue, clarification where necessary, and willingness to apologize. Forgiveness is essential, though often difficult. The Sacrament of Reconciliation also has deep communal significance. Healing begins when hearts are purified. Pope Francis often insisted on the “culture of encounter.” Communities heal when members genuinely meet, listen, and accompany one another with compassion. Superiors must handle conflicts carefully, avoiding favouritism or

emotional reactions. Justice and charity must go together. Healing also requires rebuilding trust slowly through consistent behaviour, transparency, and renewed fraternity.

The Change and Transformation Needed in Religious Life and in All of Us Today

Dear Confreres, one of the great dangers to fraternity and communion today is the habit of speaking carelessly about matters that we neither fully know nor properly understand. Loose talks, half-truths, anonymous letters, indirect comments, social media messages, and the spreading of unverified information can quietly destroy the good name of a confrere, wound communities, and weaken trust within the Province. It is easy to form opinions from fragments of information without knowing the deeper struggles, confidential realities, personal suffering, or the patient efforts being made by those in authority to accompany and help a confrere in difficulty. Superiors often carry heavy burdens silently, protecting persons, respecting confidentiality, and seeking solutions with charity and prudence, while others judge from a distance without knowing the facts. This creates injustice, discouragement, and unnecessary division. A Salesian must never become a source of confusion, suspicion, or negativity. We are called instead to be men of maturity, discretion, truth, and charity. The transformation needed today is a conversion of speech and attitude: from curiosity to compassion, from gossip to understanding, from judgement to accompaniment, and from irresponsible talk to responsible silence. Don Bosco built communities through trust, kindness, and family spirit; we weaken that spirit whenever our words become instruments of harm rather than channels of fraternity and grace.

Religious life today must rediscover the spirituality of communion strongly emphasized by St. John Paul II in *Novo Millennio Ineunte*. He taught that communion means seeing what is positive in others, making room for one another, and resisting selfishness, rivalry, and suspicion. The change required today is not merely structural but deeply spiritual. We need: hearts capable of listening, speech marked by charity, communities rooted in prayer, leaders who animate with wisdom, and confreres who choose fraternity over negativity. The Salesian vocation demands maturity of speech and relationships. Our Father and Founder built communities through kindness, familiarity, optimism, patience, and trust. He corrected firmly when necessary but never humiliated people publicly. Religious life cannot survive on external efficiency alone. It survives through communion. Young people today are searching for authentic witness. They are drawn not by perfect communities but by communities where charity, forgiveness, truth, and fraternity are visibly lived.

Conclusion

Every word spoken within the community either builds communion or weakens it. Rumours and gossip may appear small, but their consequences are immense. They wound individuals, weaken fraternity, damage vocations, and diminish the credibility of the mission entrusted to us. The Salesian community is called to be a home where every confrere feels safe, respected, listened to, and valued. This requires discipline of speech, maturity of judgement, transparency of heart, and deep charity. May we remember the words of St. Paul: “Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up” (Eph. 4:29).

As we journey through this month enriched by the feasts of the Universal Church and the Salesian Family, we are reminded that holiness is always deeply connected with charity and communion. The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) calls us to contemplate Christ who gives Himself completely for the unity and nourishment of His

people. Rumours and gossip divide the Body of Christ, while fraternal charity strengthens it. The Solemnity of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist invites us to imitate the humility of the one who prepared the way for the Lord without seeking personal glory or attention. In the Salesian Family, we celebrate Saint Joseph Cafasso, the wise and compassionate spiritual guide of Don Bosco, who accompanied souls with gentleness, discretion, and mercy. He teaches us the sacred responsibility of speaking words that heal rather than words that wound. Likewise, the Founding of the Don Bosco Past Pupils Association reminds us that the Salesian spirit leaves a lasting mark when communities are marked by love, encouragement, and genuine human warmth.

Finally, the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary invite us to return to the very heart of our vocation. The Heart of Jesus is a heart wounded yet open, patient yet truthful, firm yet compassionate. St. John Bosco drew immense strength from devotion to the Sacred Heart because he understood that every authentic apostolate must flow from love. Gossip, judgement, and negative speech harden the human heart, while fraternity, understanding, forgiveness, and respectful silence make it resemble the Heart of Christ. Saints Peter and Paul, whom we celebrate at the close of the month, were very different personalities, yet united in mission and communion. Their lives remind us that unity does not mean uniformity but mutual acceptance in Christ.

As confreres living and working together, may we become builders of communion, protectors of one another's dignity, and witnesses of that family spirit which our Father and Founder cherished so deeply. Let every community become a place where the young see not division and negativity, but the joyful witness of brothers who truly love and respect one another in the Lord. Let us therefore become confreres who protect one another's dignity, correct with charity, listen with patience, and speak with wisdom. In this way our communities will truly reflect the family spirit of St. John Bosco and become authentic signs of the presence of God among the young.

A Healthy Salesian for a Fruitful Mission

Let me add another note on Health as a friendly and fatherly concern to each one of you.

In recent years, diabetes has become increasingly common among priests and religious. Earlier it was considered a condition affecting mainly the elderly, but today even younger people are being diagnosed with high blood sugar. This is a matter that deserves our serious attention. Our health is not merely personal; it directly affects our vocation, our availability for the young, and the quality of our ministry. Don Bosco wanted his sons to be joyful, energetic, and always ready for mission. We cannot neglect the body through which we serve the Lord and His people.

Diabetes often develops silently. Many discover it only after complications begin to appear. Excessive thirst, tiredness, frequent urination, slow healing of wounds, blurred vision, or numbness should never be ignored. At the same time, some may have no visible symptoms at all. I strongly encourage every confrere, especially those above forty years of age, to undergo regular medical check-ups. Simple tests such as blood sugar, HbA1c, blood pressure, and lipid profile can help identify problems early and prevent serious complications later.

Our daily lifestyle requires greater discipline and moderation. Irregular meals, lack of exercise, stress, inadequate sleep, and long hours of sitting gradually weaken our health. We must become more attentive to what we eat and how we live. Simplicity in food, regular meal timings, walking, light exercise, recreation, and sufficient rest are not luxuries; they are necessary for sustaining long-term ministry. Our communities too should encourage healthier food habits and create opportunities for physical activity and recreation.

Confreres already undergoing treatment for diabetes should continue medications and medical consultations faithfully. Medicines should never be discontinued without proper advice. We should also avoid common misconceptions. Diabetes affects not only overweight persons. Prediabetes is not harmless. Exercise is beneficial, not dangerous. Balanced nutrition and moderation are more important than extreme restrictions. Responsible care today can prevent much suffering tomorrow. The yearly expenses for hospital, food and travel have increased drastically. I shall present the details during the forthcoming Rectors and Leaders meeting.

Dear confreres, caring for our health is also an act of caring for our vocation and the young to whom we are called to serve. Let us therefore cultivate healthy habits with maturity, moderation and gratitude to God. May Mary Help of Christians continue to protect all our confreres, especially the elderly and those struggling with illness.

News from the Province

1. Heartfelt Thanks to All!

a) Prayers and Support for my Good Health

Dear Confreres, I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your affectionate greetings, prayers and wishes for my good health, particularly during the recent minor operation for varicose veins. Your phone calls, messages and assurances of prayer were a source of great comfort and encouragement to me. Through your thoughtful concern and support, I deeply experienced the spirit of Salesian fraternity and brotherhood. Thank you all.

b) Celebrations of Religious Profession

The Province expresses its sincere gratitude to the Novice Master and the community of Don Bosco Idaya Deepam Novitiate, Yelagiri Hills, for the prayerful and well-organised celebration of the First Profession.

We also thank the Rector and community of Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur, for arranging the recollection and liturgical celebrations for the Renewal of Profession. We are grateful to the Rector and community of Don Bosco, Tirupattur, for the meticulous organisation of the Perpetual Profession ceremony and to the Rector and community of Mary Help of Christians Parish, Tirupattur, for their valuable collaboration.

The Province is deeply grateful to Fr. Xavier Michael, Vice Provincial of the Tiruchy Province, and his team for organising the preparatory course and retreat for the brothers preparing for Perpetual Profession at The Retreat, Yercaud. A special word of thanks is due to Fr. Arul

Maran, Rector, and the confreres of The Retreat- Yercaud, for their hospitality, care, and fraternal support extended to the participants throughout the programme.

We are immensely grateful to Fr. John Alexander, Vice Provincial, for his dedicated effort in coordinating every detail concerning the First, Renewal and Perpetual Professions. May the Lord abundantly bless all those who generously collaborated in these celebrations.

c) Youth Camps and Summer Programmes

A good number of youth camps and summer programmes of various levels were conducted throughout the Province. A sincere word of appreciation to the Rectors and confreres for making these opportunities available to children and youngsters.

We especially thank all the students of Theology and Philosophy, the college-going brothers, and the practical trainees of every house for making these programmes memorable and meaningful for our young people.

d) Meetings for Scholastics

The meetings for the scholastics were held on 25 and 26 May at Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur. The Province expresses its sincere appreciation to the Rector and the community for their hospitality and excellent arrangements.

A special word of gratitude is due to Fr. Michael Lazar and Fr. Lourdusamy for their dedicated animation and accompaniment of the brothers, in collaboration with Fr. John Alexander, Vice Provincial. The Province also gratefully acknowledges Fr. Robert Vincent, Rector, and the community of Don Bosco Youth Animation Centre (DBYAC), Ennore, for generously hosting the meeting for the theology students and providing a conducive environment for reflection, sharing, and formation.

2. Summer Vocation Camp 2026

The INM Summer Vocation Camp 2026 was organised at Don Bosco Aspirantate, Tirupattur from 26th April to 17th May 2026. A total of 103 boys took part in this camp. Out of these, 59 boys have been selected to join the Salesian Way of life. 42 boys will join the aspirantate at Don Bosco, Tirupattur and 17 will join Don Bosco, Pannur. Notably, approximately 58% (34) of these selected boys hail directly from our existing Salesian presences, underscoring the vital role of our local communities in fostering vocations.

We sincerely thank Fr. Anto John Jagadish, Vocation Promoter for months of dedicated follow-up of the candidates and execution of the vocation camp. We thank Rector and Community of Don Bosco, Tirupattur for their immense support and hospitality in conducting this camp. We thank Bro. Britto Leo, Camp Chief and all the scholastics and volunteers who provided the atmosphere for these young boys to open their hearts to God's call. Let us be deeply grateful to God and the Blessed Mother and let us continue to accompany and inspire many more young people to follow Christ in the footsteps of St John Bosco.

3. New Novices 2026-2027

A new batch of 27 novices was formally inducted into the Idaya Deepam Novitiate, Yelagiri Hills, on 23 May 2026. The ceremony was graced by the presence of Fr. Doss Kennedy, Provincial of Tiruchy Province and Fr. Michael Kishore, Vice Provincial of Hyderabad Province. Among the newly inducted novices, 16 belong to the Chennai Province, 7 to the Tiruchy Province, and 4 to the Hyderabad Province.

As we thank the Lord for the precious gift of these young men who have generously responded to His call, we wish them a spiritually enriching and transformative novitiate year under the guidance of Fr. Ravi Aruldass, the newly appointed Novice Master.

4. International Survey on Rethinking Salesian Education

In view of the international research project on “Rethinking Salesian Education”, commemorating 150 years of Don Bosco’s Preventive System, the Chennai Province is invited to actively participate in this important initiative. The survey in our Province will be conducted from 1st June to 20th June 2026. All communities involved in school education, technical education, higher education, and other educational sectors are encouraged to participate. The survey will be carried out in two groups:

Beneficiaries – young people and students who have experienced the Preventive System

Focus Group – educators, teachers, and collaborators who practice the Preventive System

The persons responsible for coordinating this survey are:

Fr. Arokia Stalin Dhanraj, Youth Ministry Delegate, Fr. Arokia Doss, Director, Don Bosco Kalvisolai will take forward this initiative. All are kindly requested to collaborate closely with them and ensure that the survey is completed by 15th June 2026, so that the consolidated data can be submitted to the central team in time. This is an online survey, and all necessary details are enclosed with this circular. This initiative offers us a valuable opportunity to contribute at the international level by sharing how the Preventive System is lived and practised in the Province of Chennai.

5. Youth at Risk: A New Initiative of Care and Accompaniment

Arulodhayam Ashram, Kattupadi and Arutkaram, Jawadhi Hills has now opened its doors to young people struggling with various forms of addiction and other harmful habits. Arulodhayam will serve for the general and Arutkaram will serve the Tribal youth. Preparation to obtain the government permission is underway and once it is obtained we request the Youth Service Coordinators of each community to identify and help young people suffering from various addictions through these centres. These centres will focus on rehabilitation, recovery and holistic development of young people.

Confreres who come across youngsters affected by addiction or related challenges are requested to contact Fr. Siluvai, Fr. Vinoth or Fr. Charles Gasper for further assistance.

6. Academic Excellence in Public Examinations

The Province extends its heartfelt congratulations to the Headmasters, Principals, teachers, parents and support staff whose dedication, hard work, and commitment have contributed to the commendable performance of our students in the recent Government Public Examinations. A special word of appreciation is due to **Don Bosco Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Tagore Nagar**, for achieving the distinction of securing the **State First Rank in the Puducherry–Karaikal Union Territory**, a remarkable accomplishment that brings honour to the entire Province.

SSLC (Class X) Results

- Total Students Appeared: **2,985**
- Passed: **2,696**
- Failed: **289**

Higher Secondary (Class XII) Results

- Total Students Appeared: **2,914**
- Passed: **2,781**
- Failed: **133**

While we rejoice in these encouraging results, we are also mindful of those students who were unable to succeed this time. We urge our institutions to extend special care, encouragement and academic support to these students, helping them prepare confidently for the supplementary examinations.

7. Mission-Oriented Budget Planning

As we prepare the budgets for the Academic Year 2026–2027, all communities and departments are encouraged to formulate a realistic budget, being mindful of our vow of poverty. The funds entrusted to our care are meant primarily for the service and welfare of the young, especially the poor and the most vulnerable. Therefore, our budgeting should reflect a preferential concern for the poor. The expenses incurred for the personal needs and comfort of confreres should always remain proportionately lower than those allocated for the mission and the people we serve. May our financial planning be guided by the spirit of stewardship, transparency, and fidelity to our religious vocation.

8. Animation and Organisation at the Provincial Level

As communicated by Fr. John Alexander, Vice Provincial, a series of animation meetings will be conducted in various regions of the Province during the coming months. These meetings are intended to strengthen our common mission, foster greater collaboration, and enhance the effective functioning of our communities and apostolic works.

All Rectors and leaders are requested to ensure that the confreres concerned participate in the meetings assigned to them by the Province and to be punctual for the meetings.

9. Promotion of Higher Education Institutions and Production Units

With the upgradation of most of our schools to the Higher Secondary level, greater attention is now required to guide and accompany students towards quality higher education opportunities within our Salesian institutions. Confreres are encouraged to take a proactive and personal interest in promoting our colleges and centres of higher learning, particularly programmes that offer strong career prospects, such as Agriculture, AICTE-approved professional courses, and other entrepreneurial and skill-oriented courses. We request the confreres to facilitate youngsters in our institution to get admitted to our ITIs and Polytechnics.

At the same time, in keeping with the directions and priorities emerging from the Provincial deliberations, all communities and institutions are encouraged to make effective use of the Province's production units - Boscofashion, Boscsoft, SIGA, and SAGAI. These initiatives have been established not only to support our mission but also to foster self-reliance, skill development and collaborative growth within the Province.

10. Reminder on Monthly Recollection

As our Constitutions remind us, monthly recollection is an opportune moment to renew our spiritual life and strengthen our commitment to serve the young according to the spirit of St. John Bosco. In this regard, I encourage everyone to participate faithfully in the monthly

recollections organised in the respective regions. Even those attending diocesan-level recollections are exhorted to participate in the recollections organised in the Province. During these moments of recollection, let us make use of the sacrament of reconciliation and let us maintain silence and be punctual for the recollection.

11. Planning for the Academic Year

As the tentative Province Plan has already been circulated, the house council may begin preparing their annual programmes and inform the major sectors of the house for better coordination and execution. This will help ensure the smooth functioning of both the community and the various sectors within the community.

12. Appeal Regarding Government Documentation

Rectors and leaders, together with your administrators, are requested to keep all necessary documents ready for submission to the Government for various requirements such as renewals, rectification of buildings, teacher and professor approvals, recognitions and related matters. Fr. Johnson Bashyam will coordinate these efforts to facilitate the necessary approvals and procedures for the communities.

13. Bon Voyage- Embarking on New Missions

The Province bids a warm farewell and assures its prayers to the confreres who are embarking on new missionary assignments abroad. Fr. Thomas Deepak Jesudoss departed for Ireland in the month of May. During June, Fr. Thominic, Fr. Stylo, and Fr. Josephraj will be leaving for Austria, while Fr. Dolphie will take up his new mission in Australia and Fr. M. J. Arun will begin his ministry in Canada. The Province expresses its heartfelt gratitude to these confreres for their generous availability and missionary spirit.

14. Rest in Peace

We commend to the loving mercy of God the souls of our departed brothers and family members who have recently been called to their eternal reward.

Rev. Fr. Peter Vincent Lourdes SDB (101) of the Salesian Province of Kolkata entered into eternal life on 28 May 2026. **Fr. Chiriakandath Mathew SDB (83)**, also of the same Province, was called to the Father's house on 30 May 2026.

Fr. Jyotish Kindo SDB (53 yrs) of the Salesian Province of New Delhi, passed away on 29 May 2026 following a cardiac arrest. We extend our heartfelt condolences and prayerful solidarity to the Provincial and confreres of the New Delhi Province.

Mr. Pushparaj (50), father of Bro. Arun Kumar, a theology student at Don Bosco Theological Centre, Kavaraipettai, was called to the Lord on 26 May 2026.

We offer our sincere condolences to Fr. Robert Abraham, Headmaster of Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Polur, on the demise of his beloved father, **Mr. C. Abraham (85)**, who passed away on 28 May 2026.

Let us unite in prayer for our departed brothers and loved ones, entrusting them to the infinite mercy of the Risen Lord. May He grant them eternal rest and console the confreres and bereaved family members.

Important Dates and Events in June & July

Date	Events
08 & 09	Monthly Recollection
09	New Rectors Meet
10	Provincial Council
11	Rectors & Leaders Meet
12	Rectors & Leaders Meet
13	Provincial Council
14	Vice Rectors Meet
16	Administrators Meeting
18	Youth Directors Meet
19 & 20	Principals & Headmasters Meet
21	Scouts & Rovers Meet
22	Parish Priests Meet
23	Lay Assistant HMs Meet
24	Meeting for the Local Delegates for Missionary Animation & Youth Service Coordinators Meet
July 1	National Research Seminar on Youth Accompaniment @ Citadel
July 3	St. Thomas Feast / Province Feast / Jubilee Celebration & Honouring New Priests

Yours affectionately,



Fr. Don Bosco SDB
INM Provincial



Date: 01.06.2026

Place: Chennai