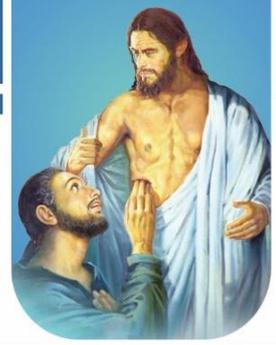




Provincial Circular

SALESIAN PROVINCE OF CHENNAI (INM)



INM-DBL-CIR 65/03-2026

MARCH 2026

SELF-DISCIPLINE IN THE LIFE OF A SALESIAN

Dear Confreres,

May the grace and peace of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts and renew in each of us during this Lenten season the joy of our consecration. During my visits to our communities and in personal conversations with many of you, I have sensed, here and there, a certain spiritual fatigue, a quiet relaxation in the observance of our common life, and what might be described as a creeping lethargy. I write not as a critic but as a brother, father and friend who shares both your burdens and your hopes. The purpose of this circular is to reflect together on self-discipline: what it is, what it is not, why it is essential to our vocation, and how we may strengthen it in ourselves and in our communities.

Biblical Foundations of Self-Discipline

Self-discipline is deeply rooted in Sacred Scripture, not as repression but as covenantal formation. From the beginning, God forms His people through guidance, correction, and instruction. The Book of Proverbs repeatedly affirms this truth: “My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline” (Prov 3:11). Here, discipline is presented as a sign of belonging. It is paternal, not punitive. The Letter to the Hebrews presents discipline as a sign of divine love: “For the Lord disciplines the one he loves” (Heb 12:6). Discipline or Self-discipline, therefore, is not opposed to love; it is love structured and made steadfast. St. Paul expresses the importance of self-discipline with the image of an athlete: “Every athlete exercises self-control in all things... I discipline my body and keep it under control” (1 Cor 9:25-27).

In the Old Testament, the journey of Israel through the desert is itself a school of discipline. The people are taught dependence, obedience, and trust. When discipline weakens, disorder follows. The episode of the golden calf (Ex 32) reveals how quickly a community without vigilance can fall into confusion. The loss of discipline began with impatience and ended in idolatry. Yet even after failure, God restores and renews the covenant, showing that divine discipline always aims at conversion and renewed fidelity. The lives of biblical figures illustrate both the strength and fragility of human discipline. Samson, consecrated from birth, gradually compromised his vocation through small concessions, until his strength failed him (Judg 16). King David anointed by God to lead Israel fails to keep vigilant of the desires of his heart and he commits adultery and murder. Scripture teaches us that discipline must be guarded precisely in moments of apparent stability. At the same time, the Bible offers luminous examples of steadfast discipline. Joseph in Egypt resisted temptation against Potiphar’s wife not merely by impulse but by a formed conscience and reverence for God and his precepts (Gen 39:9). Daniel and his companions, maintained fidelity to the Law even in a foreign court (Dan 1:8), demonstrating that discipline in small matters fortifies the heart for greater trials. Saint Paul, conscious of his apostolic mission, speaks of disciplining his body lest he himself

be disqualified (1 Cor 9:27). His words reveal an awareness that even great vocations or chosen ones of God require constant vigilance.

The New Testament presents Jesus Himself as the supreme model of disciplined obedience. His forty days in the desert (Mt 4:1-11) show deliberate disciplined spiritual preparation before public ministry. His regular withdrawal to pray (Mk 1:35) demonstrates that mission flows from ordered communion with the Father. In Gethsemane (Lk 22:42), discipline reaches its summit: "Not my will, but yours be done." Here we see that biblical discipline is ultimately filial obedience born of love. Finally, Scripture shows that when discipline is lost, it can be regained through repentance. Peter's denial was a collapse of courage and vigilance, yet his tears opened the path to restoration (Lk 22:62). The early Christian community, guided by apostolic teaching and structured prayer (Acts 2:42), demonstrates that shared discipline strengthens communion and mission. Thus, biblical discipline is never mere rule-keeping. It is the shaping of the heart according to God's covenant. It teaches vigilance in prosperity, perseverance in trial, humility after failure, and steadfastness in mission. For us as consecrated Salesians, the Word of God remains both mirror and guide, continually calling us to a disciplined love that sustains vocation and bears fruit for the Kingdom.

What Discipline Is Not

Discipline is not harshness, rigidity, or mechanical conformity. It is not blind submission nor a culture of fear. It is not the suffocation of personality or creativity. Whenever discipline becomes mere control or external pressure, it loses its evangelical spirit. Our father St. John Bosco never envisioned cold severity. His Preventive System was founded on reason, religion, and loving-kindness. For him, discipline flowed from paternal charity and aimed at winning hearts. Anything that contradicts charity cannot be authentically Salesian. At the same time, permissiveness is not charity. When a disciplined structure disappears, confusion grows. Discipline cannot be reduced to feelings; it must be anchored in conviction and fidelity.

What Discipline Truly Is

Discipline is ordered love. It is the deliberate structuring of life so that what matters most, such as, God, vocation and mission are protected and nourished. It is the capacity to choose the good consistently, even when one does not feel inclined to do so. The Christian tradition perceives discipline as cooperation with grace in forming virtue. Thomas Aquinas teaches that virtue grows through repeated and deliberate acts. Fidelity in small matters in the long run forms stability in great trials. Thus, self-discipline shapes character. The Scripture provides both warning and encouragement. King David allowed a moment of moral negligence and he fell into grave sin (2 Sam 11). His fall began not with rebellion but with a lapse in vigilance. Yet in Psalm 51 we see the path of return: humility, repentance, and renewed trust. Apostle Peter, overcome by fear, denied the Lord (Lk 22: 54-62), but his tears opened him to restoration (Jn 21: 15-19). Loss of discipline is not the end when humility intervenes. Prophet Daniel while living in Babylon "resolved that he would not defile himself" (Dan 1: 8). His disciplined decision in small matters prepared him for greater trials. These biblical figures remind us that vigilance in the ordinary safeguards fidelity in the extraordinary.

Religious Discipline

Religious discipline refers to the faithful observance of the commitment we have professed. Our Constitutions are not administrative texts but a spiritual path. The Church, particularly in *Perfectae Caritatis*, teaches that authentic renewal requires fidelity to the spirit and observance of the rule. Religious discipline ensures that our vows are lived concretely. Poverty becomes visible simplicity and responsible stewardship. Chastity becomes integrated love, transparency, and joyful purity of the heart. Obedience becomes attentive listening and generous collaboration. When self-discipline weakens, prayer becomes irregular, study gets neglected, community meetings become superficial, and individualism begins to overshadow fraternity. The fall, however, is gradual, often unnoticed at first. It is at this juncture that the Book of Revelation warns us saying: “You have abandoned the love you had at first” (Rev 2:4). Often what appears as loss of self-discipline is in fact an act of cooling one’s love with self-complacency, instead of being really passionate about it.

Self-Discipline

Self-discipline is the interior dimension of our fidelity to God and to the young to whom we are sent. Saint Paul reminds Timothy that God has given us “a spirit of power and love and self-control” (2 Tim 1:7). Self-control is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. St. Francis de Sales combines gentleness with firmness. Although he counsels patience with oneself, yet insists on determined effort to overcome habits that hinder holiness. Self-discipline manifests itself in rising daily from the bed promptly, guarding one’s thoughts, moderating the use of technology, dedicating quality time to study, preparing conscientiously for ministry, and completing the assigned responsibilities faithfully. The spiritual masters are unanimous on the point of self-discipline. St. Teresa of Avila spoke of “determined determination” in prayer. St. Ignatius of Loyola structured spiritual life through disciplined examination and discernment. St. John Bosco taught that holiness consists in faithful fulfillment of one’s daily duties: prayer, study, work, moral responsibility, and keeping commitments, with consistency and love. Through his Preventive System, built on reason, religion, and loving-kindness, he insisted that true self-discipline grows best in an atmosphere of guidance and affection rather than fear. He emphasized joyful perseverance, encouraging frequent confession and Communion, gratitude, purposeful activity, and the avoidance of idleness and occasions of sin. He urged prompt action against sin and the practice of small daily sacrifices instead of delay or excessive introspection. Finally, with his motto *Da mihi animas, cetera tolle*, he showed that disciplined effort, elevated by grace, must be directed outward in service and the salvation of souls. So, Grace does not eliminate effort; it elevates and directs it.

Discipline in a Salesian Community

Our discipline, as Salesians, has a distinctive character. We are not solitary ascetics but apostolic brothers sent to the young. Community discipline safeguards common prayer, shared meals, recreation, study, and pastoral planning. Fidelity to community schedules expresses mutual respect. Serious commitment to ongoing formation expresses love for the young who depend on our competence. St. John Bosco’s life is a luminous example. As a seminarian he followed a clear rule of life, carefully giving one’s time for prayer and study. In the early Oratory, amid chaos and opposition, he strengthened structure rather than abandoning it. He organized schedules, assigned responsibilities, insisted on presence among the boys, and filled the day with meaningful activity. He believed that idleness endangered souls. Even in overwhelming circumstances like going late to bed due to work or long journeys

or sick call or visit to the young or experiencing fatigue or feeling tired or disturbed sleep, he rose early in the morning for prayer and entrusted everything to God and to Mary Help of Christians. His discipline was practical, pastoral, and rooted in faith. Our mission to the poor and abandoned youth demands organized effort, responsible stewardship of resources, and coherent teamwork. Compassion without structure becomes ineffective. Self-discipline channels zeal into fruitful apostolate. Compassion without structure becomes ineffective because good intentions alone do not ensure lasting help; without proper order, planning, and accountability, generosity can become scattered or inconsistent. Structure provides direction, helps in setting priorities, forming habits, and establishing concrete practices, so that love reaches and sustains those in need. Self-discipline, then, channels zeal into fruitful apostolate by regulating time, energy, and emotion, preventing burnout and impulsive action. When guided by clear commitments and steady effort, compassion matures into dependable service that bears enduring spiritual and practical fruit.

The Dangers of Lethargy

Loss of discipline rarely begins dramatically. It often starts with small permissions: shortening prayer, postponing duties, casual use of time, neglect of study, avoidance of fraternal dialogue etc. Gradually these patterns shape the heart. However, physical fatigue, spiritual fatigue, social fatigue, emotional fatigue and the like can also wear down discipline. Therefore, healthy rhythms of rest and recreation are not luxuries but necessities. When isolation weakens perseverance, accountability strengthens it. A sincere daily examination of conscience remains as one of the most effective safeguards against such gradual decline. It is to be noted that the saints were not immune to weakness. What distinguished them was their prompt return to fidelity. Weakness does not disqualify us; complacency does.

Renewing and Safeguarding Discipline

If we perceive in ourselves signs of lethargy, renewal should begin with humility. A sincere confession, renewed meditation on the Gospel of our vocation, and prayerful re-reading of our Constitutions can rekindle our first love. Concrete resolutions such as specific times for prayer, disciplined use of media, structured study hours and concrete presence in the mission can translate desire into action. Spiritual accompaniment and fraternal accountability provide encouragement and clarity. Periodic retreats and recollections allow us to transform ourselves. Small acts of renunciation strengthen our interior freedom. Above all, confidence in God's grace sustains us: "My grace is sufficient for you" (2 Cor 12:9). It is to be noted that self-discipline rooted only in willpower collapses; however, discipline rooted in God's grace matures into joyful perseverance.

The Salesian Constitutions and Self-Discipline

For us Salesians, self-discipline is not private self-improvement but fidelity to the charism embodied in the Constitutions of our Society. The Constitutions are not merely juridical norms but a spiritual map translating the Gospel into Salesian life. Their faithful living requires of each one of us an interior discipline, since external observance without interior conviction becomes fragile. They constantly unite mission and holiness, reminding us that our apostolic consecration to the young demands prayer, simplicity, fraternity, and obedience. Self-discipline ensures that these are not left to mood or convenience. When the Constitutions of our Congregation call us to daily meditation, Eucharist, devotion to Mary Help of Christians, and regular spiritual accompaniment (cf. Const. 12, 84–95), they structure our day around

God and be available to the needy youngsters. Without self-discipline, prayer is easily displaced by urgent works, though it remains the wellspring of our apostolate. The evangelical counsels, as presented in the Constitutions (cf. Const. 60–79), require mature self-mastery. Poverty demands disciplined use of goods, transparency, and simplicity even amid comfort. Chastity calls for vigilance over senses, desires, relationships, and healthy ministerial boundaries. Obedience presupposes disciplined listening to superiors, confreres, and the Spirit in community discernment. None of these can be lived authentically without interior governance of preferences. Community life, essential to our vocation (cf. Const. 49–59), also depends on self-discipline. It appears in punctuality, preparation, participation in common prayer, and shared responsibility in the mission. It resists individualism and self-referential projects, creating space for fraternity and mission. Salesian tradition shows that fidelity to the Rule is inseparable from joy and family spirit. St. John Bosco insisted on exact observance of the rules, knowing well that the Rule safeguards unity and apostolic effectiveness. The Constitutions protect the charism from dilution, and self-discipline prevents them from becoming clichés. The Constitutions also affirm ongoing formation as a lifelong duty (Const. 118.119), requiring disciplined religious life, study, preparation, and openness to evaluation. Thus, self-discipline transforms the Rule into evangelical freedom, keeping our consecration vibrant and fruitful for the salvation of the young.

Self-Discipline in St. Joseph and Mary

Month of March celebrates two solemnities despite the Season of Lent: St. Joseph, husband of Mary and the Annunciation. St. Joseph offers a silent yet profound model of self-discipline. Called “a just man” (Mt 1:19), he lived in harmony with God’s will. Faced with Mary’s mysterious pregnancy, he did not react impulsively. He restrained anger and judgment, seeking a solution with both justice and compassion. His emotional self-mastery revealed a heart formed in prayerful discernment. When God spoke in a dream, Joseph obeyed promptly and concretely (Mt 1:24). He rose at night to flee to Egypt (Mt 2:14), showing disciplined readiness. His life shows that true discipline listens deeply, acts decisively, and perseveres faithfully. He accepted obscurity and sacrifice, proving that discipline protects vocation. Because of his interior order, he became trustworthy in God’s saving plan.

The Annunciation (Lk 1:26–38) reveals disciplined freedom in Mary. She listened, questioned, and reflected: “How can this be?” with composure and discernment. Her inquiry was not doubt but thoughtful openness to God’s call. Her *fiat*, “Let it be done to me according to your word,” was a free and conscious surrender. This surrender helped her to will actively with divine purpose. Her self-discipline allowed her to receive grace without resistance. Her “yes” was not isolated but flowed from a life already attuned to God. The hidden years at Nazareth continued that faithful interior order. In both Joseph and Mary, self-discipline appears as availability, not severity. It becomes readiness for God’s word, God’s timing, and God’s mission.

A Personal Appeal

Dear Confreres, discipline or self-discipline is not opposed to joy, it protects it. It is not contrary to freedom, it makes authentic freedom possible. It is not a remnant of a stricter past, it is the backbone of a fruitful future. If I speak frankly about lethargy among us, it is because I believe profoundly in the greatness of our vocation and in your generosity. Let us learn from David’s repentance, Peter’s tears, Daniel’s resolve, and above all from the steady

perseverance of St. John Bosco, St. Joseph and Mother Mary. Let us choose again the disciplined love that first drew us to Himself and goaded us towards the total consecration of ourselves. May the intercession of St. John Bosco and the gentle firmness of St. Francis de Sales accompany us. May our communities radiate the disciplined joy of men wholly given to God and encourage us to live as credible witnesses among the young, and faithful sons of the Church.

News from the Province

Visit of the Rector Major: A Visit that Inspired Hearts and Rekindled Zeal

The visit of the Rector Major, Rev. Fabio Attard sdb, has truly been a grace-filled moment and a source of renewed enthusiasm for the young people, Salesians and members of the Salesian Family in our Province. His presence among us, his fatherly guidance and his encouraging words have deeply strengthened our mission and spirit.

He expressed deep joy in visiting the services connected with the poor at Beatitudes, Vysarpadi, where he inspired the young beneficiaries to embrace education as a pathway to dignity and hope. The visit to Don Bosco Anbu Illam stands as a living testimony that the vision and mission of St. John Bosco continue to bear fruit among the most vulnerable. The students of Pope John's Garden, Madhavaram, fascinated all present with their vibrant songs and remarkable talents, reflecting resilience and joy.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Youth Ministry Department for organizing a memorable evening at Don Bosco, Perambur, marked by creative and meaningful cultural programmes. In Polur, the Rector Major received a warm and heartfelt welcome from the people of Jawadhi, Tiruvannamalai, and Veeralur. As the first Rector Major to visit these rural missions, his presence filled the faithful with hope and deepened their trust in the Lord.

The gathering of the Salesian Family from across the Province at Don Bosco, Katpadi, profoundly touched his heart. His interaction with the formees at Don Bosco, Tirupattur, was particularly inspiring; their thoughtful engagement and disciplined conduct reflected the vitality of our Province. The Eucharistic celebration at Don Rua, Tirupattur, with the Salesians of Vellore and Tirupattur, together with many young people, was a moment of immense grace.

He also witnessed the vibrant celebration of the Platinum Jubilee of Sacred Heart College, Tirupattur, where our mission to the young and the wider community continues with dedication and zeal.

At this significant juncture, we express our heartfelt gratitude to the Rev. Fr. John Alexander, Vice Provincial, for his meticulous planning and coordination, along with the Provincial Councillors, the Youth Ministry team, the Rectors, Leaders and Salesians of the various communities. We also gratefully acknowledge the collaboration of all heads of the Salesian Family in making this historic visit meaningful and fruitful.

May the Lord abundantly bless your generosity and continue to guide our Province through the powerful intercession of Mary Help of Christians and St. John Bosco.

Supporting Our Students During Public Examinations

The month of March is a decisive period in the academic calendar, as many of our students prepare to face their public examinations. It is a time marked by focus, discipline, and quiet determination. Hours of study, revision, and preparation now culminate in moments that will significantly influence their future paths. As a Province, let us uphold our students earnestly in prayer, asking the Lord to grant them clarity of mind, calmness of heart, and confidence in their abilities. We extend our heartfelt wishes to all the students of our institutions for success in their examinations and for a future filled with promise and purpose.

A Joyful Step Toward the Altar: Admission to the Diaconate & Pastoral Assignments

On 13th February, the Provincial Council admitted five scholastics of Chennai Province and three scholastics of Tiruchy Province to the Order of Diaconate, marking a significant milestone in their vocational journey. The diaconate ordination of the 8 brothers studying in Becchi Don Bosco (5 INM and 3 INT) will take place on **19th March 2026** in **Votive Shrine, Kilpauk, Chennai at 10.00 a.m.** **Most. Rev. Dr. George Antonysamy D.D.**, Archbishop of Madras- Mylapore will confer the Ordination.

Likewise, the Provincial Council of the Salesian Province of Bangalore has admitted **Br. Christopher Raj Francis** to the Order of Diaconate. He will be **ordained on 26th March 2026 at Kirstu Jyoti College, Bangalore.** **Bp. Arokia Raj Satis Kumar**, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Bangalore, will confer the Ordination.

The newly admitted deacons of our Province will be assigned to the following parishes for their diaconal ministry:

1. **S. Arockia Rogan Xavier** - *Mary Help of Christians Church, Tirupattur*
2. **S. Christopher Raj Francis** - *St. Joseph's Parish, Ferrargunj, S. Andaman*
3. **S. Gnanaraj Arulappan** - *Sacred Heart Church, Thennangudi, Karaikal*
4. **S. Johnson Arulappan** - *St. Francis Xavier's Church, Broadway*
5. **S. P.C. Paulraj Sebastine** - *Our Lady of Consolation Church, Vysarpadi*
6. **S. Servin Joseph** - *Vinnarasi Mission Parish, Maranodai*

We warmly congratulate these brothers as they draw closer to the altar of the Lord and embrace the ministry of service in the Church. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in them, bring it to fulfilment in faithful and joyful service. I sincerely thank the Rectors and formators of Becchi Don Bosco and Kristu Jyoti College for their invaluable presence and constant accompaniment in the formation of the brothers.

Admissions to Perpetual, Renewal, and First Profession

Rectors and Leaders are kindly reminded to submit the applications for Perpetual Profession, Renewal of Profession, and First Profession of our scholastics and novices to the Provincial Office on or before 24 March 2026. Please ensure that all documentation is prepared carefully and forwarded in accordance with the guidelines communicated by the Vice Provincial.

Strengthening Our Mission: Rectors and Leaders Meeting

On Monday, 9th March 2026, a meeting of the Rectors and Leaders will be held at Don Bosco Provincial House, The Citadel, Chennai. This important gathering is dedicated to a comprehensive review of the past year in collaboration with the Provincial Council. In preparation for this meeting, all communities are kindly requested to conduct a house

assembly to evaluate the life and mission of the Province and its various sectors. Such a reflective exercise will enable us to discern with clarity, identify areas of growth, and plan the coming year with renewed dedication and apostolic commitment.

Annual Retreats: A Sacred Time for Renewal

The annual spiritual retreat is a sacred moment set aside for spiritual renewal, deep reflection, and an intimate encounter with the Lord.

Retreat: March 2026

a) **23rd March to 28th March 2026** at Becchi Don Bosco, Kavarapettai, preached by Fr. Stanley Jayakumar sdb (INT). We request all the retreatants to be present the previous evening for the orientation talk. The annual retreat fee is ₹5,000 (Five Thousand only).

NB: Kindly make it a point to attend the retreat that you have chosen. Each confrere must attend one of the province's annual retreats, even if they have participated in a spiritual retreat at other retreat centres during this academic year.

Youth Pasch 2026

The Youth Ministry departments of the Chennai and Trichy provinces are jointly organising the Youth Pasch from **26th to 28th March at The Retreat, Yercaud**. We request you to send the youngsters of your institutions to be part of this wonderful spiritual experience in preparation for the Holy Week and Easter celebration. May the meditation of the Lord's passion help the youngsters to walk in the footsteps of Christ so that they may experience his love, his forgiveness and his presence in their lives. Kindly send the names to **Fr. Vincent Robert sdb** (Director, Salesian Youth Movement) **before 14th March 2026**. Contact Details: Ph: 9003517162; Email: vincyspency@gmail.com.

Serving the Young with Renewed Zeal

It is a profound joy to serve more than 10,000 young people through our various higher education institutions in Tirupattur, Dharmapuri, Sagayathottam, Thirukazhukundram, Karaikal, Yelagiri, Basin Bridge, and Kilpauk. Each day offers us a privileged opportunity to accompany them, guide them, and draw renewed inspiration from their energy and aspirations. In walking this path, we follow the example of Don Bosco, who loved the young simply because they were young. His spirit continues to animate our presence among them, and the mission of Don Bosco remains vibrant and fruitful in these centres of learning.

We express our deep gratitude to the Salesians, past and present, whose dedication and sacrifice have laid a strong foundation for this flourishing apostolate. Their commitment stands as a living testimony and an enduring lesson for all engaged in ministry to the young. Let us persevere in our service with renewed joy, attentively responding to the needs, concerns, and dreams of our young people, and sustaining them through our prayerful and generous presence.

Gratitude for Your Responsible Participation in the Consultation Process

I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to all the confreres who actively participated in the consultation process for the Provincial Councillors and Rectors. It is truly encouraging to note that most of the Salesians responded promptly and responsibly. Your cooperation reflects your deep sense of belonging and commitment to the life and mission of the Province. I sincerely appreciate your fraternal collaboration and assure you of my gratitude and prayers.

Summer Ministry: A Season of Joyful Presence Among the Young

The summer season offers a valuable opportunity to engage with young people in an informal and meaningful manner through initiatives such as Summer Camps, Vacation Bible School (VBS), Spoken English classes, Music programmes, and similar activities. These moments of encounter often become privileged spaces for guidance, encouragement, and evangelisation. Several brothers from our formation houses, along with scholastics pursuing their college studies, will be assigned to different communities to assist in these programmes.

I encourage every community to make special efforts to ensure that these initiatives are well-organised, enriching, and truly memorable for the students. Kindly take care and offer fraternal support to the young Salesians who generously offer their service during this period. A well-planned and guided summer ministry can leave a lasting impact on both the young and those who serve them.

Evaluation of the Year

Evaluation is essential for growth and success, acting as a compass for improvement. As many of our institutions are completing their academic year in March and April, it will be beneficial to have a sincere evaluation of the year with the EPCC and other important organs of the community and to study the possibility to work hard from strength to strength. It is an appropriate and timely moment to intensify promotional efforts for our institutions that are currently in the admission cycle, including the schools, ITI, Polytechnic colleges, and various non-formal skill development courses. A coordinated and proactive approach with the community and staff will help us reach deserving students and families effectively.

Office of the Reading

After visiting various communities in the province, I found that the practice of reading and praying with the office of reading is declining. I would like to remind you that **Canon 276 §2, 3°** of the Code of Canon Law, clearly points out that **Bishops, priests, and deacons preparing for the priesthood** are obliged to pray the entire Liturgy of the Hours daily, which includes the Office of Readings.

The Office of Readings is not merely an obligation but a privileged moment of:

- Deep contact with Sacred Scripture,
- Patristic and spiritual tradition,
- Theological nourishment for preaching and pastoral ministry.

May I request you to approach this beautiful gift given by the Church as a spiritual duty rooted in love rather than mere juridical compliance.

Fostering Unity and Renewing Our Mission

“Community life is the oxygen we breathe,” reminds our dear Rector Major, **Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard**. When the spirit of fraternity weakens, we lose the very breath that sustains our consecrated life. At the heart of our Salesian vocation lies genuine communion among confreres; it is not secondary, but foundational.

The first responsibility of a Rector, therefore, is to nurture and spiritually strengthen the community with a truly brotherly presence. For this reason, the Rector does not hold direct responsibility over any sector. He is called to remain available to all, impartial in approach,

attentive to each confrere, and deeply rooted in prayer, entrusting every intention to the loving care of our Blessed Mother and St. John Bosco.

As we move forward in appointing new Rectors and Leaders, let us earnestly pray that the Spirit of the Lord may guide our discernment and help us choose those who will animate our communities with wisdom, balance, and pastoral charity.

Official Visit of the Economer to Europe

Fr. Edwin Vasanthan, the Economer of the Province, will be undertaking an official visit to Europe from 7th March to 31st March to meet and interact with various funding agencies in Europe. During his absence, all matters related to economic administration may kindly be addressed to Fr. John Alexander, the Vice Provincial. We wish Fr. Edwin a fruitful and successful visit for the good of our mission.

Important dates and events in March 2026

Date	Events
01	PV: Don Bosco Tech Campus, Basin Bridge
07	PV: DB Beatitudes, Vyasarpadi
08	PV: DB Beatitudes, Vyasarpadi / St. Mary's, George Town
09	Rectors & Leaders Meet
10	PV: Our Lady of Refuge, Broadway
11 - 12	PV: The Citadel
13	PV: Don Bosco, Dharmapuri
14	PV: SIHARAM, Tiruvanamalai
15 - 16	PV: Our Lady of Victories, Jolarpet
17	PV: Kalvisolai, Puducherry
19	Diaconate Ordination for DBTC / Provincial Council
20	Provincial Council
21 - 22	PV: Lourdes Shrine, Perambur
23 - 28	Annual Spiritual Retreat 3 @ Becchi, Kavaraipettai
26	Diaconate Ordination @ KJC
29 - 30	PV: Mary Help of Christians Church, Tirupattur
30	Palm Sunday

Yours affectionately,



Fr. Don Bosco SDB
INM Provincial



Date: 01.03.2026

Place: Chennai