

# **PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR**

Salesian Province of Mary Help of Christians, Guwahati, Assam, India

**SM-14/2025**

**1 JULY 2025**

Dear Confreres,

During this month most of us would be making our annual retreats. It is a God-gifted time for re-energising ourselves and be spiritually renewed at a personal and community level. As we prepare for the retreat, I wish to invite you to reflect deeply on our vocation and mission and the Lord's call to us to live and work in community. We are called to be living witnesses to the richness of community through a personal and deeper experience of Christ. In recent times there has been a great deal of reflection on the consecrated life lived in community and the quality of fraternal life, the demands of community life on our mission. As Salesians we turn to Don Bosco and his charism. His vocation like ours today is rooted in Christ who called the Apostles "to be with him and to be sent out".

## **THE SALESIAN VOCATION**

Don Bosco's vocation and charism are gifts of the Lord to the Church. This is clearly stated at the beginning of our Constitutions: "Through the motherly intervention of Mary, the Holy Spirit raised up St John Bosco to contribute to the salvation of youth" (art 1). Every Salesian is specially called and chosen by God to continue our Founder's charism. We do so by our wholehearted acceptance of the Lord's call to live and work in communities with others who are similarly called.

Our apostolic mission, therefore, begins within the community and extends beyond. The community is not simply a place where we stay together and do various kinds of activities, but an apostolic community of consecrated persons called by God. We live our vocation in mutual acceptance and love of the members of our community. "God calls us to live in community and entrusts us with brothers to love" (art 50). We carry out our mission in accordance with the rules and regulations that guide our life in community and in response to the needs of time and place. The community is the animating nucleus of the Salesian mission. We as consecrated persons are called to guarantee, bear witness and live out this charism.

## **DON BOSCO'S PROJECT**

Don Bosco was ahead of his times. This is evident in the way he involved many persons through his witness and the novelty of his project of life and the way he obtained support for his work. Our charism therefore was born in a context of communion of a family and educative kind, animated by an almost unlimited openness in collaborating, in doing good to various groups, with the specific aim of creating cooperation, solidarity and communion.

The Valdocco community was united around a plan of action and the person of Don Bosco, something he considered fundamental for its apostolic efficacy. He made every effort, therefore, to foster creativity and involve everyone through spontaneous or established forms of participation, so as to

ensure unity in activity, harmony among individuals and consistency of criteria. The community attracted and won over the hearts of the youngsters: it produced a climate of familiarity, which encouraged spontaneity and led to confidence; it expressed that “pedagogical charity”, the kindness which gave rise to loving attachment to the person of Don Bosco and one another in the community. Don Bosco in his Introduction to the Rule wrote: “When this brotherly love reigns in a community towards one another, and all rejoice in another’s good just as though it were their own, then that house becomes heaven itself”.

## **THE SALESIAN COMMUNITY**

Our community is the bedrock where our vocational fidelity finds its fullest expression. The mission, carried on with the same spirit of Valdocco, provides our communities with the criterion for living and working together. The mission is not an individual project from which one returns to the community only occasionally to pray and rest; we share its life and also the responsibility for its apostolic work. The Salesian mission is of its very nature a community project. The Constitution says so with great clarity, with the force of a definition: the mission is entrusted to a community, provincial and local: “To live and work together for us Salesians is a fundamental requirement and a sure way of fulfilling our vocation” (art 49).

The local communities are the places where we are at work every day: where we live out our consecrated lives and give expression to the quality of our commitment. Living and working together is a fundamental part of our identity. We do not choose the confreres with whom we live, nor do we choose the community or particular apostolate for ourselves in the community. We respond in obedience and with faith to live and work in a community and place assigned to us. The community in which we live our daily life is directly exposed to the public gaze. It is the place where the greatest expectations regarding maturity and apostolic fruitfulness are to be found.

## **THE ANIMATING NUCLEUS**

Don Bosco shaped his first collaborators in the spirit of “*Da mihi animas*”, with simplicity and according to a programme of work, prayer and temperance. Love of Jesus Christ and trust in his grace, contact with God and the Church, striving for holiness formed the essential disposition of this community. The nearness of God and the presence of Mary, most Holy, were almost sensibly felt. The Preventive System of Don Bosco rests on a family atmosphere and hence a network of relationships.

Don Bosco’s charism is concentrated primarily in the SDB community; it was moulded by him directly through the force of consecration, through the daily sharing of the charism with others, through the plan of life called for by Salesian spirituality, and through total dedication to apostolic work. Such concentration is not an end in itself; it is there to communicate and spread the particular gift of the Spirit to the Church which is the Salesian spirit.

## **A COMMUNITY CENTERED ON PRAYER**

In order that the Salesian community lives its charismatic identity, it is called to become an animating nucleus. We accompany the educative activity of others who form part of the Salesian family by being open to the Spirit and by giving meaning to their efforts to transform society. The confreres and the community which is entrusted with the mission of spiritual animation of others supposes and requires the experience of prayer. This life of prayer is expressed at two levels; at the level of personal prayer of the Salesian, which comes as a grace and is assiduously learned and practised; and that of the community, felt and shared at prepared moments, in a calm and free manner without haste or dispersion.

Prayer gives back to us the taste for being with Christ and the meaning of the mission. Don Bosco reminds us that “just as food nourishes and preserves the body, so do the practices of piety nourish the soul and make it strong in time of temptation. As long as we observe our practices of piety, we shall live in harmony with everyone, and we shall see the Salesian cheerful and happy in his vocation”. For this reason, our personal and community life must be daily nourished by prayer, the daily renewal of our vocation to follow Christ and a deep desire to seek holiness of life.

We express the spirituality of the community through the diligence and quality of its prayer. We are led by the Word of God which gives us enlightenment in our personal ministry and community life, being enthused to animate and guide the youth and the members of the Salesian Family. It is a spirituality lived in ordinary humble circumstances as well as in difficult situations.

## **FAMILY SPIRIT**

Don Bosco's charism in service of the young was born in the context of communion of a family and in an educative context. The Salesian community is a sign, an Oratory, a school and an environment of faith. Hence, we are called to foster family spirit and work together with the members of the Salesian Family and lay collaborators. The recent General Chapters have been emphasising this aspect a great deal, showing us of the many ways through which we can be the animating nucleus in diverse religious, cultural and social contexts.

As with the apostolic community after Pentecost, we too must be ready to “go out” to the others, to attract, unite, build and foster the community in the risen Christ. The first duty of those who are called to live the consecrated life is to make visible the marvels wrought by God in the frail humanity of those who are called. They bear witness to these marvels not so much in words as by the eloquent language of a transfigured life, capable of amazing the world.

## **A COMMUNITY THAT IS DYNAMIC AND GROWING**

A Salesian community is not a finished product nor is it a perfect one. We may not find ideal situations and perfect people in a community. Living and working with people of different cultures, temperaments and talents can be challenging, but what unites us as Salesians and sons of Don Bosco are far more than what differentiate us. Don Bosco's first community was in no way extraordinary; it was formed of youngsters long on enthusiasm but short on experience, some with outstanding qualities and others with normal and even quite modest endowments. Nevertheless, it was a community led by Don Bosco, with his understanding of each one's capabilities, in a "mission" felt by all to be unique and one in which they were all involved. There were different roles, tasks and work to be done in widely different ways; but there was a definite and general sense of belonging to Don Bosco. It was in no way diminished or obscured by the variety of roles or commitments, or the dimensions of skills and settings.

We need to guard against the temptation to work without the community, to seek personal gratification, individualism and autonomy. Individualism manifests itself in different ways: through segmentation of work, lack of joint planning, decision-making and discernment, lack of willingness to share about one's work, unwillingness to be evaluated, and sensitivity to criticism and correction. We tend to forget the fact that the mission is entrusted to the whole community and that we carry out the specific work entrusted to us in the name of the community. We should not also get too attached to a particular work or a place to the extent that we are reluctant to move out and take up new apostolic assignments. When we act independently, we are cutting ourselves off from the community. We are travelling a road that is different from the one Don Bosco has shown us.

## **EMERGING MODELS AND NEW CHALLENGES**

Today religious communities, particularly of Congregations like ours, are becoming more global, diverse, multi-cultural and decentralised. Our work requires participation and sharing, collaboration and networking, involving many other Religious and Lay people, including some who may not be Christians. In such a context, our community living and working becomes a clear manifestation of our Salesian identity and a clear sign and witness to the values of the Kingdom of God for which we all yearn.

Second Vatican Council and the subsequent documents of the Church and the recent Synod on Synodality as well as our recent General Chapter have been proposing to us new models of collaborative approach to ministry and how best we can respond to the many diverse pastoral needs and situations. We are invited to do so through conversation in the Spirit, basic ecclesial communities, joint prayer and worship, celebration of the Eucharist and other Sacraments, practice of Lectio Divina, and through the observance of the specifically Salesian devotions.

Today the ever growing and expanding world of communication, new insights from psychology, management and other human sciences provide us with knowledge and skills to build communities, have better networking and consultations, of information sharing and dealing with problems. The

new and emerging challenges we confront today demand of us Salesians to deepen our knowledge and improve our skills along with a firm resolve to be animated and renewed in the spirit and charism of our Founder. Every confrere must strive to make our local communities the soul of the Salesian charism and apostolate and fight against anything that weakens it through superficiality, fragmentation and division.

### **HOLINESS - THE HALLMARK OF THE SALESIAN COMMUNITY**

At Valdocco Don Bosco created a school of spirituality which found expression in the environment, in the work of everyday, in the quality of fellowship and in prayer: simple in outward appearance, but substantial and authentic. He invited his youngsters and anyone who wanted to collaborate with him to follow him in the same spirit in line with their own particular circumstances.

At Valdocco there was a unique atmosphere: holiness was built up together; it was shared and mutually communicated, in such a way that the holiness of some cannot be explained without the holiness of the others (GC24). To build and enjoy this climate of shared holiness is something to which the consecrated persons today are called. Every religious community is called to be the setting for an experience of God. Everything that is done is thought out with this in mind and with a view to this end. "The spiritual life must therefore have first place in the families of consecrated life, apostolic fruitfulness, love of the poor, and the ability to attract vocations among the young. All of these depend on the priority the community attaches to its growth in personal and community commitment.

Don Vecchi, our former Rector Major, once wrote: "To share in Don Bosco's mission and spirit is not an extra function for particular occasions: it is a part of the identity of each consecrated individual Salesian and community. Every SDB is an animator and strives always to fulfil the task more efficiently". There is no need for special qualities beyond those that correspond to the Salesian vocation. It is a matter of living the gift inherent in the community."

### **THE PROVINCIAL AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES**

The role and responsibility of the local and provincial community in what concerns the confreres, the community and our mission are clearly defined in our Congregation's documents. I do not intend to repeat them here, but it is important that we read and re-read them in order to ensure our communities strive to follow the programme of life and vision they present to us.

Considering the diverse situations and to ensure pastoral effectiveness in our apostolate, we may adopt a certain amount of autonomy, including financial subsidiarity. However, this should not become a licence to act independently of the community. It is essential that we develop a culture and mentality of working together, which our Constitutions presents to us as a fundamental need, a hallmark of our identity. It is not the Salesian way to focus on one's particular sector of work independently and without the knowledge and involvement of the community. The community members

need to meet regularly, discuss, share, plan and carry out the pastoral, educational project together. The role of the Rector or Leader is important in this regard. He is expected to ensure that all the confreres in the community abide by the criteria by which our lives are to be ordered. He also must find time and opportunity for the community members to share about their work and concerns, present their plans and proposals.

It may be observed that there are tendencies in the province and among some confreres that show an unwillingness to share, discuss and communicate. Some do not care about the community which holds responsibility for the whole mission, but adopt an individualistic approach and behave as though they are solely responsible for a particular sector. Instead of community-based discernment in decision making, they tend to operate on their own. It is necessary that all major decisions are made in consultation with the local community and in important matters also with the approval and consent of the Provincial and his Council. Individual confreres as well as communities must refrain from engaging in major financial transactions- lending and borrowing, taking loans, mortgaging property, purchase or sale of vehicles, tour programmes and excursions of an expensive nature within and outside the country.

### **ROLE OF THE RECTOR/LEADER**

The Rector or Leader of the community is entrusted with the responsibility of animation and governance of the local community. It is his responsibility to see that there is unity, friendship and family spirit on the one hand, and due regard for the rules and regulations on the other. He holds responsibility for the faithful carrying out of the community's mission, the administration of the goods of the community, the wellbeing and proper conduct of its members, proper liturgical celebrations, community prayer and recreation. During the visitation it has been noted that some communities do not hold regular House Council meetings and community meetings nor maintain the necessary records. It is true that many of our communities are small, and the works are diverse and demanding. Even in such situations, it is necessary to find time to meet together, pray, share meals, to plan and discuss about the activities of the community.

As you are aware we as an apostolic community of consecrated persons are bound by the laws and regulations of the Church and the Congregation. We are also duty-bound to comply with the norms and regulations of various juridical bodies of the government and the society. Today all institutions, be they secular or religious, are under strict scrutiny and there is no getting away from legal compliances. Hence, we need to ensure that all our administrative actions are done with due respect to the laws that govern us.

In recent years the Church too has enacted strict laws and protocols regarding the administration of finances and materials goods. Everyone in leadership and authority, including bishops and major superiors, have to follow strict norms for alienation or mortgaging of land and property. There is also zero tolerance towards any violations related to safeguarding norms. Faults of some have resulted in the loss of faith, resources, credibility of the Church and even invited punitive actions. Violations in these sectors,

inappropriate conduct and failure to follow accountability norms have come with a heavy cost.

## **FAITHFUL STEWARDS**

We are stewards of the goods we administer and hence we are expected to be transparent, faithful and honest. Even when we earn salaries or receive donations and gifts, we are obliged to follow the regulations governing our Province and the Congregation. The money or the goods we administer do not belong to us, but to the community and the Congregation, and it is placed in our hands for the common mission entrusted to us. This responsibility demands of us to maintain proper accounts and records. The best ways to ensure good administration include presenting a monthly account to the House Council, submitting annual audited accounts to the community and the Provincial administration. In times of transfer, it is of utmost importance to follow the proper handing over process.

It has been observed that sometimes failures in compliance with administrative norms arise from mala fide intentions while in some instances, it is due to lack of knowledge about laws and regulations and procedures. However, ignorance of the law is not an excuse before law enforcing authorities.

Let each community under the direction of the Rector or Leader see that the community maintains proper records of land, buildings, agreements with the government authorities, dioceses and other Congregations. So too we need to maintain Mass book, records of community meetings and visitation reports. There should be updated records of taxes paid, agreements, electrical and other installations, vehicle registrations, insurances, licenses and permits of various kinds, letters of appointment of employees, resolutions and minutes of the governing boards, provident funds etc. Parishes are obliged to maintain proper records of baptism and other sacraments administered.

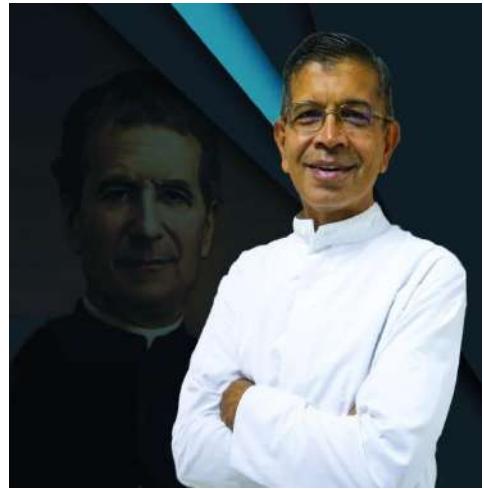
Besides the directives of our Provincial Chapter Directory, we also send you regular list of documents to be maintained and made available for the Provincial Visitation as well as the Extraordinary Visitation. Communities still requiring assistance in checking and updating its records, please write to the Secretary or the Provincial Economer.

## **NEWS & EVENTS**

### **REV. FR ASHLEY MIRANDA NOMINATED THE 12<sup>th</sup> PROVINCIAL OF INB**

In a communiqué issued on behalf of the Rector Major, Fr. Biju Michael, General Councillor for South Asia, announced the appointment of Rev. Fr. Ashley Miranda, SDB, as the 12<sup>th</sup> Provincial of the Salesian Province of St. Francis Xavier (INB) for the term 2025–2031. He will succeed Fr. Savio Silveira, SDB, at the conclusion of his mandate.

Born on May 1, 1965, in Udupi, Karnataka, Fr. Ashley was inspired by the Salesian spirit during his schooling at Don Bosco, Borivali. He made his first profession in 1983 and was ordained a priest in 1993. A doctor in philosophy from the Salesian Pontifical University, Rome, he has served for over two decades as a professor and formator in Nashik, where he was also rector, principal, and novice master. He has held key leadership roles including Provincial Councilor, Formation Delegate, and Vice Provincial (2019–2025). In 2024, he represented INB at General Chapter 29. Known and admired for his affable nature, spiritual depth, and pastoral zeal, he has made a lasting impact through his work with young Salesians and the poor. Fr. Ashley will be installed on September 8, 2025, at the Shrine of Don Bosco's Madonna, Matunga, Mumbai.



On behalf of the Salesian Province of Guwahati, I warmly congratulate Fr. Ashley and wish him God's abundant blessings as he takes up this important role of leadership and service.

### **INITIATION OF PRE-NOVITIATE BATCH 2025–2026 AT DOTMA**

The initiation ceremony of the 2025–2026 Pre-novitiate Batch was held at Don Bosco Pre-novitiate House, Dotma, on 2nd June 2025. The ceremony commenced with a solemn Holy Mass presided over by Rev. Fr. Bivan



Rodrigues Mukhim, SDB, Vice Provincial. In his homily, Fr. Bivan encouraged the 25 newly admitted Pre-novices to entrust their vocational journey to God and to the maternal care of the Blessed Mother. He urged the young pre-novices to persevere with courage, giving their best in prayer, studies, and community life, and reminded them of the powerful words: “*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.*”

The Holy Mass was followed by a programme which included a hymn to the Holy Spirit and the symbolic lighting of the lamp by the Vice Provincial, the former and present Directors of the house, and a Pre-novice—signifying dedication and surrender to God’s will. Also present for the occasion were Fr. Joseph Almeida, SDB (former Director), Fr. Mackley Gomes, SDB (current Director), and Fr. Ajay Xaxa, SDB (Administrator and Dean of Studies). A word of thanks to the Pre-novitiate community for organizing the initiation ceremony so beautifully and meaningfully. Special thanks to Rev. Fr. Bivan Mukhim, our Vice Provincial, for presiding over the celebration and giving a fitting and inspiring start to this one-year journey of Pre-novitiate formation.

### **PRINCIPALS’ MEETING ADDRESSES KEY EDUCATIONAL PRIORITIES**

On 7 June 2025, the Principals of our schools had their monthly meeting at Provincial House, which began with a prayer led by Fr. Anthony Dhason, SDB. The meeting focused on key educational priorities such as holistic student development, discipline, and the pursuit of school excellence.



I delivered the keynote address, encouraging Principals to look beyond academics and foster strong, personal connections with students, especially in the primary sections. I highlighted the importance of discipline, cleanliness, collaboration, value-based education, and proper record-keeping as essential pillars of leadership. I also commended the schools for

their commendable academic results and urged continued dedication to the Don Bosco School Excellence Mission (DBSEM).

The day featured enriching sessions by Mr. Sandeep Dey on academic strategies and Mr. Rahul Kumar on the use of Abacus to enhance cognitive skills. In the sharing sessions, Fr. MC George spoke about the upcoming Mini Boscoree at Don Bosco School, Barpeta Road; Fr. Jogesh Sangma emphasized strengthening Past Pupils' associations; and Fr. Threnius Sangma highlighted the role of the Sports Academy in holistic education.

The meeting concluded with an open session moderated by Fr. Nicodim Aind, SDB, followed by a vote of thanks by Fr. Kerobin Minj, SDB. I express my sincere appreciation to Fr. Alex Kattakayam, SDB, and Fr. Nicodim Aind, SDB, for organizing this well-coordinated and fruitful meeting, which reflects our Province's commitment to providing quality education.

#### **FACULTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (FDP) HELD AT ADBU**

On 10 June 2025, Assam Don Bosco University, Azara campus, hosted a one-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) for Don Bosco school teachers from most of the Schools of our Province. Held in the university's Azara Campus' Conference Hall, the event aimed to empower educators with modern teaching tools while staying rooted in Don Bosco's educational philosophy.



I delivered the keynote address, emphasizing the need for a shift in teaching mentality and continual learning. "Teachers must adapt to the times while accompanying the young towards a better future," I reiterated, recalling Don Bosco's innovative response to the challenges of his era.

The day included technical sessions by experts on NEP, digital and AI tools, design thinking, indigenous knowledge systems, and Salesian pedagogy. Highlights included talks by Fr. Bivan Rodrigues, Dr. Vijay Prasad, and Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, among others. Departmental newsletters were also

released during the inaugural session. The programme concluded with a valedictory session, feedback sharing, and certificate distribution.

I thank ADBU, Azara, for this wonderful initiative and sincerely hope it becomes an annual feature to continually enrich and empower our educators.

## **REGIONAL MEETINGS ASSAM PLAINS, BTR AND GARO HILLS HELD**

The Salesian Province of Guwahati organized three Regional Meetings in June 2025—bringing together Salesians from the Assam Plains, BTR Region, and Garo Hills & Rabha Hasong to reflect on the directives of General Chapter 29 (GC29) and address regional concerns in the spirit of Don Bosco.



The Assam Plains Regional Meeting was held on 14 June at Hubert D'Rosario Aspirantate, Sirajuli, beginning with a warm welcome by the aspirants. In my keynote address I emphasized that Salesians are consecrated religious, not social workers, and urged all to live the spirit of GC29. Fr. Joy Kachappilly, SDB, animated the session on GC29, followed by regional discussions moderated by Fr. Ethelbert Minj, SDB.

On 21 June, the BTR Region met at Don Bosco College, Chapaguri. The programme opened with songs by students and prayers led by Fr. Francis Basumatary, SDB. In my address, I called for unity and fidelity to the Salesian charism. Sessions on GC29 was animated by Fr. Joy Kachappilly and open discussion on concerns of the region was moderated by Fr. Cyriac Vettickathadam.

The Garo Hills & Rabha Hasong Regional Meeting took place on 28 June at Don Bosco Centre for Learning (DBCL), Tura, with a lively welcome by students of DBCL and Bosco Mount. Fr. Jogesh B. Sangma, SDB, welcomed the gathering. In my talk, I reminded the confreres that “we are not mere

social workers, but Salesians consecrated for the young." The meeting included a session on GC29 by Fr. Joy, and a presentation by Mr. Sebastian Horo on the Mission Poverty Eradication initiative, followed by discussions on the region moderated Fr. Tomey Anikuzhikattil, SDB. Each meeting ended with prayer, fraternal sharing, and renewed commitment to our mission.

I thank Fr. Joy Kachappilly for his excellent animation on GC29, the region Incharges for their meticulous planning, and all confreres for their presence and active participation.

### **BRO HOLDS MEETING ON POVERTY ERADICATION MISSION**



On 19 June 2025, Bosco Reach Out (BRO), the social development wing of the Salesians of Guwahati, hosted a strategic meeting on Mission Poverty Eradication, animated by Fr. Tony Pellissery, SDB. Present were Fr. Bivan Rodrigues Mukhim, Vice Provincial, Fr. Sebastian Isorari, Director of BRO, Fr Ignatius Gari, the Province Incharge of this project and several other Salesians.

Fr. Tony challenged participants to return to Don Bosco's foundational spirit—being with the poor in the streets—and urged alignment with GC29's call to "redesign the congregation to better serve the poor." Quoting Pope Francis and Fr. Pascual Chávez, he emphasized that serving the poor is not optional but central to our Salesian identity.

He called for a collective and radical commitment, reminding the Province that with South Asia's vast Salesian presence, poverty eradication is achievable with united vision and purpose. The session ended with renewed dedication to champion the cause of the marginalized.

## **ST. MARY'S CHURCH INAUGURATED AT MAHUR, HAFLONG**

On 21 June 2025, the Catholic faithful of Mahur Village, a sub-centre of St. Francis Xavier Parish, Haflong, joyfully celebrated the inauguration and blessing of the newly built St. Mary's Chapel. The Holy Mass was presided over by Rt. Rev. Paul Mattekkatt, D.D., Bishop of Diphu

The chapel was made possible through the generous support of benefactors through the Mission Office, New Rochelle, and the dedicated efforts of Fr. Albert D. Sangma, Parish Priest, the Parish Council, and the faithful of Mahur. A special thanks goes to Fr. Thomas Kunnappillil, SDB, who initiated the project. Though I could not be present, I express my gratitude to all who worked tirelessly to make this dream a reality.



## **BLESSING AND INAUGURATION CHAPEL AT, SIMLIGURI, KUMARIKATA**

On 22 June 2025, St. Joseph Parish, Kumarikata, joyfully celebrated the blessing and inauguration of the newly built Mary Queen of the Angels Chapel in Simliguri village. The celebration began with a warm welcome by Fr. Amit Chama Lakra, SDB, Parish Priest, who greeted all those present, including Fr. Nicodim Aind, SDB, Fr. Barnabas Mardi, SDB, Fr. Paul Minj, SDB, other Salesians, Sisters, and numerous faithful from the area. I had the privilege of presiding over the Holy Mass and the blessing ceremony. In my homily, I emphasized that the Church is more than a physical structure—it is a sacred space where the faithful gather for worship, prayer, and spiritual nourishment. It is the community's faith and unity in Christ that truly makes the building a Church.

I also acknowledged and appreciated the dedicated efforts of the parish priest, the faithful, and the benefactors whose generosity and hard work made the construction of this chapel a reality.

# CHAPEL BLESSING, SIMLIGURI

23 June, 2025



## CAREER GUIDANCE HELD AT DON BOSCO SCHOOL, SASHIPUR

On 27 June 2025, Don Bosco School, Sashipur hosted a Career Guidance Programme for Class X students, organized by the 23 Para Special Force stationed at Sashipur.

## CAREER GUIDANCE



DON BOSCO, SASHIPUR

The programme commenced with Fr. Nicodim Aind, SDB, Principal, warmly welcoming the officer and expressing his gratitude for the inspiring initiative. Major Kushagra led an interactive session, sharing insights into careers in the armed forces and motivating students to consider a path of service and discipline. I thank Fr. Nicodim and the 23 Para SF for organizing the session and encouraged the students to explore opportunities in the defence services with enthusiasm and a strong sense of purpose to serve the nation.

### **DBS, RONGJENG HOSTS DRUG ABUSE AWARENESS PROGRAMME**

On 25 June 2025, Don Bosco School, Rongjeng organized an Awareness Programme on Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in collaboration with the District Administration and Meghalaya Police, marking the International Day Against Drug abuse.

Fr. Pojit Marak, SDB, Rector and Principal, welcomed the gathering and thanked officials for their commitment to educating youth. Sessions were led by Shri Walsrang G Momin (O/C Rongjeng), Shri Subhir A Sangma (DSP, Williamnagar), Dr. Tochri Sangma, and Shri Selwin Sangma (Inspector), who spoke on the legal, health, and social impacts of drug abuse.

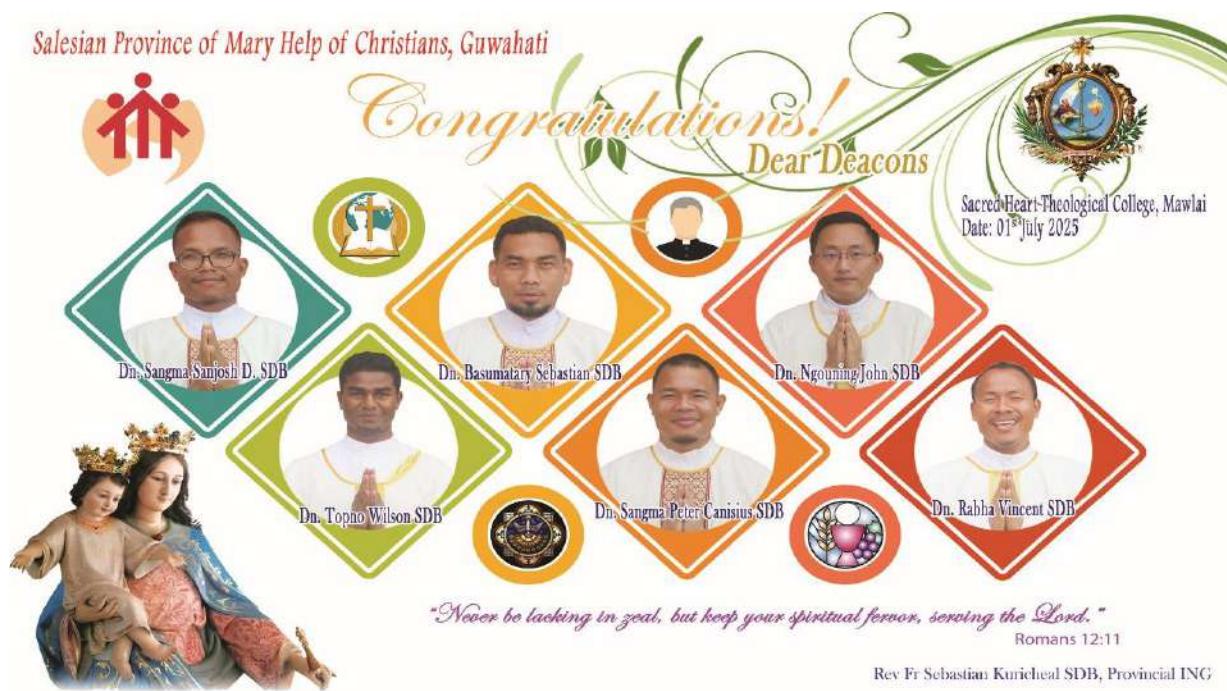


I thank Fr. Pojit Marak for organizing this important initiative and the resource persons for their availability. Their efforts empowered students to make informed choices and highlighted the shared responsibility of schools, police, and health services in building a drug-free and healthy society.

### **SIX FROM GUWAHATI PROVINCE ORDAINED DEACONS AT SHTC**

On 1 July 2025, 24 Salesians were ordained deacons at Sacred Heart Theological College, Mawlai, by Most Rev. Bernard Laloo, DD, Auxiliary Bishop of Shillong. Among them, 6 belong to our Province: Dn. Sebastian Basumatary, Dn. John Ngouning, Dn. Sanjosh Sangma, Dn. Wilson Topno, Dn. Peter Canisius, and Dn. Vincent Rabha.

Salesian Province of Mary Help of Christians, Guwahati



We offer them our sincerest congratulations and accompany them with our prayers as they begin their diaconate ministry and prepare for Priestly Ordination.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **SYM Meeting and Training** at DBI from 1-3 July 2025.
- ❖ **MINI BOSCOREE** at Don Bosco, Barpeta Road from 1-7 July 2025.
- ❖ **REGIONAL MEETING:** Karbi Anglong & Dima Hasao Region at Sojong on 05 July 2025
- ❖ **RETREATS**

*Salesian Province of Mary Help of Christians*

**ANNUAL RETREAT 2025**

DATE	PLACE	PREACHER
★ 11 Jul - 17 Jul 2025	Siloam	Fr Jose Varickasseril SDB
★ 27 Jul - 02 Aug 2025	Siloam	Fr Biju Thomas SDB
★ 28 Sep - 04 Oct 2025 (Mostly for Brothers doing PT/College/University Studies)	Jorapara	Fr P. Suresh Innocent SDB
★ 08 Dec - 14 Dec 2025	Bethel	Fr Ian Sigueiredo SDB

**REGISTER**



## ❖ SUMMER TIME YOUTH MINISTRY

**SUMMER TIME YOUTH MINISTRY (STYM)**

An exciting opportunity for the young people of our centres to be animated, inspired, and empowered by the Salesians!

This Youth Animation program is more than just a gathering—it's a spiritual encounter, a joyful celebration, and a transformative journey guided by the Salesian spirit of reason, religion, and loving kindness.

**What to Expect ?**

- Inspiring sessions by Salesians
- Fun-filled group activities
- Music, games & creativity
- Faith sharing & reflection

Discovering your unique call and mission. Let this be a moment to rekindle your dreams, build collaborations, and grow in faith as part of the vibrant Salesian Youth Movement.

**Contact:**  
Fr. Cletus Sebastian SDB (SYM Coordinator, ING)  
Mobile: +91 923 503

SI No	Dates	GROUP 1	GROUP 2	GROUP 3
1.	01-03 July 2025	Orientation of Young Salesians at DBI, Kharghuli		
2.	04-06 July 2025	BOKO	SATGAON/ SOJONG	GOJAPARA
3.	11-13 July 2025	TANGLA/ DIMAKUCHI	BAITHALANGSO	MENDAL
4.	18-20 July 2025	KUMARIKATA	UMSWAI	RONGKHON
5.	25-27 July 2025	KOKRAJHAR/ AMGURI	DOOMNI	DOTMA/RAMFALBIL
6.	28 July 2025	Evaluation and Conclusion at DBI, Kharghuli		

## CONDOLENCES TO:

- ❖ Fr Prasad Kalaparth and his family at the sad demise his brother Mr. Shyam Babu (57) on 03 June 2025.
- ❖ Rector & Community of Hubert D' Rosario Aspirantate, Sirajuli and bereaved family at the sudden and untimely demise of Aspirant Newbarth Sangma on 25 June 2025.

## CONCLUSION

As I conclude these reflections and directives, let us renew our trust in God who called us. May Don Bosco, our Father and Founder, lead us along the path of fidelity and holiness. He reminds us that Mary Help of Christians who is part of our community continues to lead and guide us. She is the Patron of our Province, and we can count on her unfailing help and intercession as we strive to live in communion. With Mary's help, may we overcome all obstacles and difficulties, and experience the richness of the communion which is the fruit of Christ's death and resurrection.

Yours sincerely in Don Bosco

**Fr. Sebastian Mathew SDB**  
Provincial

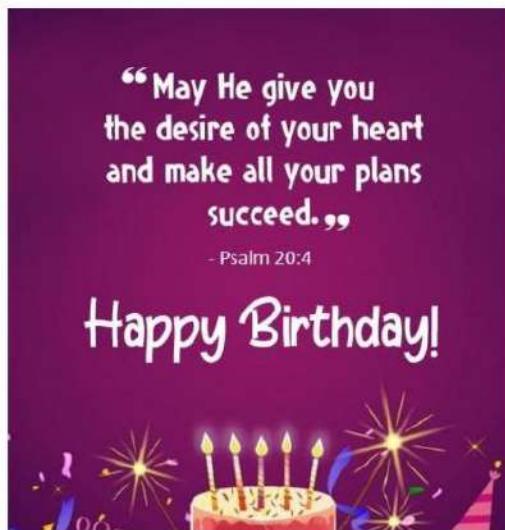




- 1 Fr. Cletus Sebastian  
Pattamkulam
- 2 Fr. Godwin S. Kharkongor
- 2 Fr. Lucas Ch. Marak
- 3 Fr. Joseph Bara
- 7 Fr. Antony Dhason Antony
- 8 Fr. John Paul Tirkey
- 10 Cl. Vincent Rabha
- 17 Fr. Thomas Lakra
- 26 Fr. Gabriel Gabil Momin

The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

DEUTERONOMY 31:8-9



- 27 Cl. Sangma Joy Pantora T.
- 28 Br. Joby Mani
- 28 Fr. Zacharias Minj
- 30 Cl. Sanjay Xalxo
- 31 Fr. Alfredo Maravilla



## IN LOVING MEMORY - JULY

Dt Name of the Confrere Place Year Age Province

1	P Efisio Sanna	Saharanpur	1936	46	INC, INDIA, INN
1	P Joseph Dieste	Spain	1986	60	ING, INC, INS
1	L Michael Cahoj	Shillong	1994	83	ING, INC, INS
1	P Luigi Borghi	Italy	2001	86	INC, ING
7	P Philip Kanjuparambil	Vellore	1983	34	ING, IND, INS
7	P George Kottuppallil	Shillong	1997	50	ING, INS
8	P Roger Dal Zovo	Shillong	1972	62	ING, INC, INN, INS
10	P Celestine Mauri	Chennai	1961	51	INM, INDIA, ING, INT
10	P Gerard Mandeville	Belgium	2002	88	INC, ING
13	P Andrew Killermann	Krishnagar	1984	84	INC, ING
14	P Philip Giraudo	Shillong	1988	60	ING, INC, INS
16	P Fortunato Zuccollo	Italy	1966	52	INDIA, INC, ING
17	P Louis Arneodo	Turin	1987	78	INC, ING
17	P Paul Bernick	Dimapur	2000	83	IND, INM, INT, ING, INS
19	P Louis Del Nevo	Italy	1955	48	INC, ING
20	P Mauro Casarotti	Mumbai	2007	90	INB, INM, INC, ING, INT, INP, INS

### Salesian Feasts/Commemorations

7	Blessed Mary Romero, FMA
11	Salesian Missionary Day (monthly commemoration)
24	Commemoration of Mary Help of Christians
31	Commemoration of Don Bosco



## JULY 2025

DATE	DAY	PROVINCIAL	VICE PROVINCIAL	ECONOMER
1	Tue	Diaconate SHTC	Barpeta Road>SYM DBI	Barpeta Road
2	Wed	Snehalaya	SYM DBI	Guwahati
3	Thu	Scout Camp – Barpeta	SYM DBI – Youth Camp Satgaon	Guwahati
4	Fri	Sojong	Satgaon	Sojong
5	Sat	<b>Sojong: Regional Meeting</b>	<b>Sojong: Regional Meeting</b>	<b>Sojong: Regional Meet</b>
6	Sun	Diphu>Guwahati	Guwahati	Diphu>Guwahati
7	Mon	SPCSA Meeting: Bangalore	SPCSA Meeting: Bangalore	Guwahati
8	Tue	SPCSA Meeting: Bangalore	SPCSA Meeting: Bangalore	Guwahati
9	Wed	SPCSA Meeting: Bangalore	SPCSA Meeting: Bangalore	Guwahati
10	Thu	SPCSA Meeting: Bangalore	Guwahati	Guwahati
11	Fri	SPCSA Meeting: Bangalore	Retreat: Siloam	Guwahati
12	Sat	Guwahati	Retreat: Siloam	Guwahati
13	Sun	Retreat: Siloam	STYM Tangla	Guwahati
14	Mon	Retreat: Siloam	Sirajuli	Guwahati
15	Tue	Retreat: Siloam	Guwahati	Guwahati
16	Wed	Retreat: Siloam	Guwahati	Guwahati
17	Thu	Retreat: Siloam	Guwahati	Guwahati
18	Fri	All Commission Heads' Meeting/Council Meeting	All Commission Heads' Meeting /Council Meeting	All Commission Heads' Meeting /Council Meeting
19	Sat	Snehalaya Trustee Meeting	Vocation Com. meeting	Snehalaya Trustee Meeting
20	Sun	Provincial House	STYM Kumarikata	Guwahati
21	Mon	Mass-DBI>Umswai Visitation	Guwahati	Umswai
22	Tue	Umswai>Amkachi Visitation	Guwahati	Umswai >Amkachi
23	Wed	Amkachi Visitation	Guwahati	Amkachi
24	Thu	Guwahati	Guwahati	Guwahati
25	Fri	Rongjeng with MSMI sisters	STYM Doomni	Guwahati
26	Sat	Garobadha with MSMI sisters	STYM Amguri	Guwahati
27	Sun	Retreat: Siloam	Retreat: Siloam	Guwahati
28	Mon	Retreat: Siloam	Retreat: Siloam	Guwahati
29	Tue	Retreat: Siloam	Retreat: Siloam	Guwahati
30	Wed	Retreat: Siloam	Retreat: Siloam	Guwahati
31	Thu	Retreat: Siloam	Retreat: Siloam	Guwahati