

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

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

SM-18/2025

1 NOVEMBER 2025

DEAR CONFRERES,

GREETINGS FROM THE PROVINCIAL HOUSE!

For the month of November, I wish to draw your attention to the subject of formation- an important area that the 29th General Chapter has emphasised, and something that we all need to collectively reflect and act upon. I also wish to invite you to observe November as a special month of commemorating the souls of the dead. Let us in particular remember all our deceased Salesians, parents of Salesians who have departed from this world, the deceased members of the Salesian Family and our benefactors.

ALL SOULS DAY

All Souls Day, observed on November 2, is a day in the Christian liturgical calendar dedicated to remembering and praying for the souls of the faithful departed. Let us observe this month to pray for the souls in purgatory. We begin the month of November with All Saints Day, which honours all the saints, known and unknown. All Souls Day, which follows affirms our faith in eternal life and salvation and reminds us of the need to pray for the deceased. The Church teaches us that through prayer, intercessions, and the Mass, the living can help cleanse the souls of the departed, aiding and hastening their journey to heaven.

The tradition of All Souls Day, dating back to the early centuries of Christianity, is a testament to the enduring belief in the communion of saints—the spiritual solidarity between the living and the dead. It is a day of solemn reflection, where families and communities come together to honour the memory of their loved ones, finding comfort and hope in the promise of eternal life, a belief that has sustained Christians for centuries.

Besides the Mass for the deceased, we can also visit cemeteries, pray the Rosary and offer other prayers for the dead throughout this month. These practices serve as a reminder of the transient nature of life and the enduring, unbreakable bonds of love and faith that connect the living with those who have passed away. The day provides an opportunity for the faithful to express their love and remembrance, finding solace in the shared act of honouring the deceased. Remembering our Salesian Confreres who have passed away is the best way to express our gratitude to their services as well as draw inspiration from their lives. Let us observe the month of November as a beautiful and heartfelt tribute to the departed. I wish to invite communities to come together in prayer, reflection, and remembrance.

SALESIAN FORMATION

Our congregation has always placed great importance on the formation of the Salesian. The various documents on formation provide us clear indications on the priority in the maturing of our call and the carrying out of our mission. Formation is primarily a work of God which he accomplishes in us through the grace of the Holy Spirit. It is the Father who calls and who,

through the Spirit, forms the inner attitudes of the Son in the heart of young people. But since God is utterly respectful of our freedom, formation, involves our response. Our Constitutions see formation as response to a vocation and a matter of “learning by experience the meaning of the Salesian vocation.” If God is at work in us forming in our hearts the attitudes of the Son, the more attentive we are to this work, the better we can respond to it and collaborate with it.

Like our vocation, our consecrated life as Salesians requires openness to God’s grace and a consistent effort to grow and mature in this call. From the time of our birth we have received various forms of influence which we need to critically evaluate. Those which help us to grow and mature in our vocation and mission must be carefully nurtured and deepened while trying to remove from us anything that prevent us from making progress in our spirituality, particularly whatever is in conflict with our life of consecration and mission. A good spiritual guide can help us in directing the working of God in our life.

Formation is a lifelong process of the educative-pastoral community. As Salesians we share our mission with many lay people and members of the Salesian Family. The recent General Chapter has given much attention to our identity as Salesian consecrated persons living out our vocation in community in lay or clerical state. The goal of Salesian formation is to confirm ourselves to Christ the Good Shepherd in the footsteps of Don Bosco.

CONFORMITY TO CHRIST IN FREEDOM

As Vita Consecrata reminds us, the “primary objective of the formation process is to prepare oneself for the total consecration of oneself to God in the following of Christ at the service of the Church’s mission” (65). Therefore, our formation programme is designed to help us grow in the understanding of God’s call; in friendship and love of God, Mary, our Blessed Mother, and the Church; in greater self-awareness; and in integration into our Salesian way of life, to render ourselves capable of a free response in love and joy.

We deepen our discernment to see how best we can live with and among the young as a contemplative-in-action in the spirit of Don Bosco. This journey is always made with the help of a formator and spiritual guide and lived in community. The goal of formation to consecrated life proposed in Vita consecrata is neither mere external conformity, nor even a set of attitudes and competences, but rather the call to “assume the sentiments of Christ” (Phil 2,5) or putting on Christ (Rom 13,14), letting Christ be formed in us (Gal 4,19), sharing the Son’s total self-giving to the Father and to his brothers and sisters, becoming a living memorial of him to the point of sharing even his concrete life choices (66, 22). The goal of Salesian formation, we could add, is conformity to Christ the Good Shepherd in the footsteps of Don Bosco.

Formation involves freedom. Grace influences our freedom but never takes it away. The heart of man can and must be educated and evangelized, purified and liberated through asceticism and renunciation for a total following of Christ. It is a freedom received as a gift from God in Christ and continually revitalized by the gift of the word and sacraments. The climate of

true freedom enables the young Salesian in formation to overcome inner resistance and fear, become aware of the many levels of his own deep motivations, and find the courage to express them to himself and to his guides. The external acts marking one's profession and renewal of vows must be in harmony with the interiority of the person.

Pope Francis spoke of the dynamic of beauty, the *via pulchritudinis* (EG 15, 167). The Trinity makes consecrated life participate in the beauty of God himself. In *Vita Consecrata* beauty is a key to the reading of consecrated life. Vocation ministry and formation must know how to communicate the beauty of the sequela (VC 64, 66). The young person must be formed to see and taste the beautiful and not merely the holy and the dutiful – the beauty, attractiveness and splendour of the Lord who calls, and of the life to which he calls. The beauty of our lives communicates the joy of the gospel: this is a great element in the teaching of Pope Francis, and with him we recall that this must be especially true of consecrated persons, and even more so of those entrusted with the ministry of formation.

DON BOSCO'S FORMATION

When we read the life of Don Bosco, we come to know how seriously he attended to his own formation in Christian piety and virtues. From early in life, he had a clear vision about his life, vocation and mission. His earnest resolve to be a good priest was discernible in his resolutions as a young boy. He knew of God's call and his future mission from the time of his dream at the age of nine. Don Bosco's life and vocation grew and developed in his family environment and under the guidance of his saintly mother, Mama Margaret. Later on, during the period of his seminary formation Don Bosco made use of every opportunity to mature in his vocation to priesthood.

AT THE CONVITTO

Soon after his ordination Don Bosco diligently sought and followed the guidance and direction of his wise and saintly spiritual guide, Don Cafasso. In spite of his eagerness to plunge fully into his mission in favour of young people, Don Bosco followed the advice of Don Cafasso and continued his formation with utmost diligence. He made every effort to deepen his theological, ecclesiastical and pastoral formation at the Convitto Ecclesiastico in Turin.

In his quasi-autobiographical *Memoirs of the Oratory*, Don Bosco speaks of the offers of gainful employment made to him after his ordination in 1841. He consulted Don Cafasso. Without a moment's hesitation, Don Cafasso told him: "You need to study moral theology and homiletics. For the present forget all these offers and come to the Convitto." Writes Don Bosco: "I willingly followed his wise advice; on November 3, 1841, I entered the Convitto." Don Bosco then goes on to describe the nature and purpose of this institution. It was a kind of 'finishing school' where, he says "one learnt to be a priest." As Don Bosco later wrote, at the Convitto they devoted time to "meditation, spiritual reading, two conferences a day, lessons in preaching, and every convenience for study and reading good authors. These were the areas of learning to which we had to apply ourselves."

Most Salesians, familiar as they are with passages on the subject from Don Bosco's own pen and from biographies of St. Joseph Cafasso, are acquainted

with the name of Convitto, and to some extent also with the nature and purpose of this institution. And yet not a few will be amazed at the terms in which a major modern Church historian Dubet assesses its importance: In Piedmont - "the people which in Italy took Catholicism most seriously"-apostles like Don Bosco, Cafasso, and Murialdo- were only the most outstanding examples of a great number of pious and diligent priests who, thanks to their education in the Convitto, clearly surpassed all the Italian clergy, including those in the Papal States.

DON BOSCO'S FORMATION FOR HIS MISSION

We know that Don Bosco greatly valued every opportunity to form himself to be a holy, learned and committed priest. His preparation was at all times intellectual as well as spiritual, aimed at his own sanctification as well as to serve the Church and the youth for the salvation of their souls. We can find how his own resolutions at his priestly ordination as well as the advice of his mother reflect these priorities. His numerous and rich writings and publications on ecclesiastical as well as secular subjects, the founding of the Salesian Congregation and the other constituents of the Salesian Family, the drafting of the Constitutions and the Regulations for these, and numerous responsibilities he undertook on behalf of the Church, the Holy See and the local churches, his missionary enterprises and numerous other initiatives were truly the fruit of his spiritual and intellectual formation.

FORMATION AS PROPOSED BY THE CHURCH AND CONGREGATION

The various documents of the Church and of our Congregation have been clear and consistent on formation to priestly and consecrated life. Documents on consecrated life such as *Vita Consecrata*, the manuals on the Ratio from the Church's magisterium are vital sources for a systematic formation programme.

We also have rich resources and indications from our Congregation's documents. For nurturing a true Salesian spirit in those who are aspiring to follow Don Bosco and his charism we look to our Constitutions, the documents of the Provincial and General Chapters, and the writings of the successors of Don Bosco, the Rector Majors, and the Formation Department. These resources are not only meant for Salesians but also for members of the Salesian Family and our lay collaborators. These have repeatedly stressed the importance of formation and ongoing formation of the Salesian as indispensable for our journey as consecrated persons and in carrying out our mission with fidelity.

THE FORMATION GUIDES AND SALESIAN COMMUNITY

Formation begins in the family. All our life experiences shape our identity and way of thinking and acting, and these important environmental factors continue to impact most in our adult life as consecrated persons. So, the first step is learning to accept ourselves as we are and to be reasonably at peace with our personal and family history. It is a journey of self-discovery and self-acceptance by the grace of God's love and light that unfolds throughout our lives.

Above all, the community plays a crucial role in the formation process. As Constitutions 118 exhorts us, "Through personal and community initiatives

we nurture our Salesian spiritual life, ensure our theological and pastoral updating, and develop our professional competence and our apostolic inventiveness.” A good spiritual director, one’s religious community formator, Confessor, good friends, good books, a life of prayer – these are all means by which one can grow in inner freedom and serenity.

Community life calls for deep communion between individuals, fostering fraternal bonds, and embracing forgiveness and genuine love. Praying together strengthens the community’s spiritual foundation. The Salesian precepts like loving kindness, a joyful spirit infused with Trinitarian love, and a strong family spirit form the foundations of Salesian formative experience. They actively engage in holistic development, extend a welcoming environment, and emphasise prayer and the Eucharist to foster communion with each other and with God. The community life plays a pivotal role in our living together in fraternal communion.

FORMATION HOUSES AND SETTINGS

Communities which live the Salesian charism and spirit in an exemplary way and appropriate formation settings are essential for true formation to happen. We might tend to think that our Province does not have formation houses such as Novitiate, Philosophate and Theologate. But even if institutions that provide these specific stages are not present within the territory of our Province, we should not forget that we have confreres in all these stages of formation. Besides these, we also have centres like the aspirantates, pre-novitiate house, and confreres in formation like college and university studies, practical training, within the Province. Even when our confreres have their formation outside the Province, we have an obligation to accompany them in their formation and vocational maturation. Much of these responsibilities in our Province are coordinated by the Vice-Provincial and the Formation Commission. I also invite confreres to visit the formation houses whenever possible encourage the formators as well as those under formation, especially those whose vocation you may have promoted.

I would like to remind all confreres who are perpetually professed, and in particular the Rectors and leaders of communities, to pay special attention to guide, encourage and follow up those who are in formation, those who come to our communities from formation houses during holiday assignments and those in practical training or college/university studies. While we ought to be committed to discern, encourage and send eligible young boys to our apostolic schools and aspirantates, we should not fail to strengthen the vocation of those who are already in our communities. We ought to do everything that is necessary and possible to help their growth in human, Christian and religious formation as Salesians. We know that every effort in this regard is a wise investment for the fruitfulness of our apostolate.

FORMATORS AS ROLE MODELS

Formators need to be role models in the formation settings after the example of Jesus. They need to be men of God imbued with the charism of Don Bosco and have qualities of genuineness. They must have positive regard for the candidates and understanding of their backgrounds, capacity for

attentive and empathetic listening, and ability to discern wisely whatever the candidates are expressing. In the process of loving accompaniment, leaders and those entrusted with guiding the formees must show warmth and understanding, mutual trust, affection and faith. Those in formation too must have right intentions and motivation and be open to the process of formation under the guidance of the Rectors and others entrusted with the responsibility of guiding them.

It is necessary for communities with confreres in initial stages of formation to have a healthy environment rooted in prayer, sacramental life, especially frequent confession, communion, and daily Mass, the liturgy of hours. They need to be helped to deepen their love for the Word of God, practice of Lectio Divina, knowledge of Christian doctrines, personal and contemplative prayer, meditation, spiritual reading, recitation of the Rosary and other practices of piety. The Salesian practices of manifestation and spiritual direction are essential to deepen one's spiritual life and formation.

During the initial stages of formation, the candidates should be provided with opportunities for human and supernatural means to grow in love with the Lord and be firm in their vocation. Optimism, joy, openness, cordiality, and family spirit characterise Salesian community life, providing a nurturing atmosphere for them. Regular scrutiny of the candidates and fraternal correction can help them grow in their vocation. Genuine love and kindness from the formation team and other confreres in the province and communities greatly help younger Salesians to adapt to the new environment and help them love the Congregation and persevere in their vocation. Don Bosco's insistence on creating a family-like setting is indispensable to encourage openness and dialogue, enabling progressive maturing of the Salesian in his vocation.

QUALITY OF FORMATION AND ITS IMPACT ON OUR MISSION

The quality of formation can directly impact our mission. Today the Salesian congregation, as we know, is present in many countries and diverse cultural contexts. We work in a wide variety of pastoral settings, primarily in favour of the youth who are poor, disadvantaged, unemployed and marginalised. We can see the number of Salesians opting for missions are sent to countries, cultures and contexts that are totally different from their own. This calls for a formation that helps the young Salesian to understand the diverse contexts, problems and situations where the Salesians work. A successful missionary is the one who promptly adapts to the changes, learns the languages and cultures of the places where he is sent. The Salesians today are the numerically largest religious Congregation of men in the Church, and we work in 136 countries of the world. Hence, all of us need to develop a global sense of Salesian mission rather than being stuck in our own immediate environment and its day-to-day problems.

Our life of consecration and mission today present numerous challenges for which the Salesians, particularly those in early stages of formation must be prepared. Today we face new challenges in our mission, especially in the area of youth ministry. The global challenges that we confront today, and the needs of the youth and the demands of the diverse missionary situations call us to revitalise our formation.

The young confreres in formation must be formed to be effective in this kind of global vision and sense of universality of the Church's and Congregation's mission. They must develop deeper understanding of the Church's attention to Synodality, the role of women, laity and youth in the Church, the concern for the poor, the ethnic communities, for the environment, human rights and peace. The General Chapter has, in the light of these priorities, proposed a six-year plan of the Congregation. Major concerns include issues such as poverty eradication, capacity building in skills for the young, environmental and ecological concerns, promotion of peace and social justice. We must read up news and information about the Salesian missions worldwide and also contribute news and information about our own contexts and pastoral experiences with others.

Young confreres are more easily capable of adapting to diversity and change. In a province like ours with many ethnic and linguistic communities, we must help the Salesians in formation to learn new languages and a deeper and critical knowledge of socio-cultural, economic and religious issues. Young Salesians can contribute much to propose new and innovative ways to meet the challenges faced by the young people in this digital age. They must become influencers for good rather than being influenced by what is not conducive to their holistic growth.

ONGOING FORMATION

Formation is not only what we receive through the various stages of initial years of consecrated life leading to perpetual profession or priestly ordination. These are somewhat well structured and organised with clear indications of what is to be done and its goals. The Congregation has been also emphasising ongoing formation that is ever continuing throughout our life.

Formation is not something that someone does to us, even though we go through various stages of accompaniment directed by our superiors and formators. It is something that we give to ourselves under the grace of God, in order to become more worthy of God's favour and call. St Peter calls us to fan into flame, the call we have received from God and make it into a permanent experience (1 Peter 1,10). This certainly is an ongoing work to which each one of us must diligently attend to. Let us welcome every opportunity to renew and deepen our religious, priestly and Salesian vocation.

Every Salesian ought to consider his formation as a lifelong project to follow Christ as well as imbibe the spirit of Don Bosco to become a better, more mature and holy Salesian. The Chapter documents in particular emphasise these facts that the Salesian ought to be constantly qualifying himself to deal with the ever emerging and diverse situations, where we are called to live and exercise our ministry. The pastoral situations where we work are not static. Therefore, we cannot have a fixed approach to the formation of young people and services that we render in their favour. However, there are perennial values in the charism of Don Bosco such as his educational system based on *da mihi animas cetera tolle*. We need to deepen our understanding of his educational methods of which I have already written in my previous circular. Formation at a personal level as well as at the level of the community and the Province requires of us openness to the work of the

Holy Spirit in us, and of readiness to avail of opportunities to improve, deepen and strengthen our vocational discernment and commitment.

THE PROVINCIAL AND GENERAL CHAPTER

Our Provincial Chapter as well as the 29th General Chapter have given particular attention to the area of formation as a vital challenge in order to commit ourselves in the spirit of Don Bosco, to build greater fraternal spirit of living and working together in community. To do so we need to grow in human maturity and faith. Vocations mature and grow in an atmosphere of fraternal charity and family spirit. While deepening our own call to serve the Lord as consecrated persons and attending to our own ongoing formation, we are also invited to give particular attention to strengthen the vocation of confreres in initial formation. At the South Asia region, the Formation Commission (SAFC) has formulated a few guidelines that each of us must be familiar with in order to help us guide those who are in various stages of formation. I invite communities to read this document and also periodically review it and offer suggestions to make the formation programme truly beneficial for all concerned.

The General Chapter has recommended the need to initiate joint formation programmes for the Salesian Family and Laity in a true spirit of collaboration. The Salesian formation has some specific features, quite distinct from the formation of a priest or religious in other Congregations and settings. Our own vocation calls us to understand more deeply our founder and his holiness, the Salesian charism and spirit. The Salesian religious community is part of the animating nucleus of the educative-pastoral community and of all those who share the mission of Don Bosco, members of the Salesian Family and lay mission partners. Hence, it is important to foster and promote opportunities for collaborative formation programmes, joint studies and meeting together. There is a great deal of emphasis on integrating our approach.

Collaboration in the area of formation means finding suitable moments to promote study and reflection of our spirituality along with the members of the Salesian Family and lay collaborators. While respecting the specific stages of formation of each of the Family segments, we can create avenues and opportunities for shared spirituality and prayer, retreats, recollections, study of Strenna and other Salesian documents, Salesian spirituality, Preventive System and celebration of the Salesian Family Day. Our formation must make everyone who share Don Bosco's spirit and charism capable of working together for the common mission we all share- be it in the work of evangelisation, education, development and formation.

NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

MISSIONARY AD GENTES – FR. UTTAM HUBERT MOLSOM

Fr. Uttam Hubert Molsom SDB left for Rome on 12 October to participate in the Missionary Course held from 5 October – 14 November 2025. On 11 November, he will receive the missionary cross during the historic 156th Missionary Expedition at Valdocco, Turin—exactly 150 years after Don Bosco sent the first Salesians to Argentina in 1875. Rector Major has assigned him to the Salesian Province Africa Meridionalis (AFM).



SNEHALAYA, 'HOUSE OF LOVE,' CELEBRATES SILVER JUBILEE

Snehalaya, the “House of Love” and Young at Risk (YaR) centre of the Guwahati Province, joyfully celebrated its Silver Jubilee on 8 October 2025,

SILVER JUBILEE OF SNEHALAYA

8 October 2025



marking 25 years of yeoman service to marginalized and vulnerable children. The celebration, held at the Social Forum Auditorium, Kharghuli, began with a solemn Holy Mass of thanksgiving presided over by Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, and attended by YaR delegates from South Asia, priests, sisters, and lay collaborators.

In his homily, Archbishop Moolachira praised Snehalaya's compassionate mission and the leadership of Fr. Lukose Cheruvalel, highlighting the community's patient and loving care for the young. He urged all to continue serving the poor with generosity and to support Snehalaya's mission of hope and transformation. I, along with other Salesians and guests, joined the celebration, which highlighted Snehalaya's 25 years of faith-filled commitment to empowering Guwahati's most vulnerable youth. On behalf of the Province, I sincerely thank Fr. Lukose Cheruvalel, the Director and Founder, along with all the confreres—past and present—staff, and stakeholders, for their 25 years of selfless and dedicated service to the most marginalized and vulnerable children.

YAR NATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD AT DBI, GUWAHATI



The Don Bosco National Forum for the Young at Risk (YaR) held its Annual National Conference at Don Bosco Institute (DBI), Kharghuli, Guwahati, from 7–8 October 2025. The two-day event, themed “*Engaging with Community and Youth Leaders to Create an Enabling Ecosystem for Young at Risk*,” brought together experts, community leaders, and youth workers to strengthen child protection and empowerment initiatives. Dr. Madhulika Jonathan, Chief of UNICEF Field Office, Guwahati, was the Chief Guest and highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in safeguarding

children. I welcomed the participants and reaffirmed the Salesian commitment to youth in need.

The conference featured sessions on community-based child protection, youth empowerment, and Catholic education as a tool for poverty alleviation. Highlights included an art exhibition by children and the YaR Award Ceremony recognizing outstanding contributions to child welfare. The event concluded with the Silver Jubilee celebration of Snehalaya Centre, marking 25 years of dedicated service to children and youth at risk.

BOSCO MOUNT RONGKHON HOSTS THREE-DAY ANNUAL CONCERT

Bosco Mount Rongkhon hosted a three-day Annual Concert from October 10 to 12, 2025. This year's concert was the musical adaptation of "*Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*" by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice.



The Bosco Mount aspirants captivated audiences with their mesmerising acting skills, energetic dances, and melodious songs, beautifully portraying the biblical story of Joseph — a tale of jealousy, forgiveness, and divine providence. Each evening drew enthusiastic audiences, including students, religious, and parishioners from various institutions in and around Tura. The production stood out as a celebration of youthful creativity, teamwork, and faith, delivering a powerful message of reconciliation and hope.

The concert concluded on October 12 with thunderous applause and heartfelt appreciation of the audience which marked the yet another memorable memorable musical put up by the young aspirants.

PARISH PRIESTS' ANIMATION AND MEETING HELD AT DBPH



The Parish Priests' Animation and Meeting was held on 17 October 2025 at Mario Hall, Don Bosco Provincial House, Panbazar, under the theme "Shepherds of Hope: Renewing Pastoral Zeal in the Spirit of Don Bosco." Parish Priests from across the Province gathered for a day of reflection, renewal, and pastoral planning. Most Rev. Bishop George Palliparampil, SDB, Bishop of Miao, served as the resource person, offering inspiring insights on pastoral leadership rooted in hope, authenticity, and service. In his address, he reminded the participants that "Salesians are the pride of Northeast India" and urged them to prioritise their missionary work with renewed zeal, not be become complacent and bask in the past glory. In my welcome address I encouraged Parish Priests to rekindle their missionary enthusiasm and prepare their communities for the Great Jubilee of 2033. The day also featured a session on pastoral action plans facilitated by Fr. Amit Chama Lakra, SDB, and inputs from Fr. Ignatius Gari, SDB, and Fr. Joy Kachappilly, SDB, on the Mission Poverty Eradication initiative. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks and a spirit of fellowship, leaving participants renewed in their pastoral commitment.

PROVINCE CELEBRATES JUBILEE OF CONFRERES AND PROVINCE COMMUNITY DAY 2025

The Province celebrated the Jubilee of Confreres and Province Community Day on 18 October 2025 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Panbazar. Salesians from across the Province gathered to thank God for the gift of consecrated life and to honour the golden and silver jubilarians. The celebration began with a solemn Holy Mass at St. Joseph's Co-Cathedral, presided over by Fr Joseph Puthenpurackal, SDB, with Fr Joseph Thelekkatt, SDB, preaching the homily. A felicitation programme followed at Mama Margaret Hall, highlighted by an AI-assisted video tribute and cultural performances. As Provincial, I expressed deep appreciation to the jubilarians for their dedication, missionary zeal, and inspiring witness to Salesian life. The day concluded with a fellowship meal, marking a joyful moment of gratitude and communion.

JUBILEE OF CONFRERES & PROVINCE COMMUNITY 2025



18 OCTOBER 2025

CHAPEL OF ST. DOMINIC BLESSED AT SONAJULI NO. SANTHAL BASTI

On Sunday, 19 October 2025, I had the privilege of blessing and inaugurating the new Chapel of St. Dominic at Sonajuli No. Santhal Basti

CHAPEL BLESSING SONAJULI, DIMAKUCHI



19 OCT 2025

under Dimakuchi Parish. The celebration was graced by Fr Anugrah Tete, SDB, Parish Priest of Dimakuchi, along with Fr Xavier Tete, SDB, Fr Albinus Dhanwar, SDB, Fr Barnabas Mardi, Fr Cornelius Myrthong, several priests, religious, and a large gathering of the faithful from neighboring villages.

“YOUTH FOR MARY” CAMP HELD AT DAMRA PARISH

St. Michael’s Parish, Damra, organised a three-day live-in youth camp titled “Youth for Mary” from October 18–20, 2025, bringing together young people for catechesis, faith formation, fellowship, and fun. Organized under the



leadership of Fr Richard Barla SDB, with the support of the Confreres of the community, MSMHC sisters, and youth leaders, the camp combined catechesis, sports, and creative activities to help the youth grow in Marian devotion and Christian values. Over 200 participants engaged in games, quizzes, music, and skits focused on Gospel values. The camp concluded with renewed enthusiasm among the youth to live their faith joyfully, proudly and actively in their families and communities.

ING CONFRERES PARTICIPATE IN IUS CONFERENCE AT ROME

Four confreres from our Province — Fr Abhilash Vadakkekara, Fr Jogesh B. Sangma, Fr P.D. Johny, and Fr Jose Palely — attended the IUS (Salesian Institutions of Higher Education) International Conference held at the Università Pontificia Salesiana (UPS), Rome, from 27 to 30 October 2025. On 28 October, they had the privilege of personally meeting the Rector Major, Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard SDB.



THE WORKSHOP ON MISSION POVERTY ERADICATION HELD AT DBPH



The Mission Poverty Eradication (MPE) Strategy Workshop II was held at Don Bosco Provincial House, Panbazar, Guwahati, from 30–31 October 2025, bringing together MPE Project Directors from all the Salesian provinces of South Asia. The two-day workshop focused on evaluation and the formulation of concrete strategies to strengthen the Salesian mission of serving the poorest and most marginalized sections of society.

The inaugural session at Mario Hall, I welcomed all the Delegates and reminded the absolute priority of Salesians to work for the poorer and most venerable section of the society. Rev. Fr Biju Michael, Regional Councillor for South Asia, delivered an inspiring call to action, urging a renewed dedication to the Congregation's foundational mission of working for the poor and the neglected. The workshop also included strategy sessions and visits to Don Bosco institutions such as Assam Don Bosco University (Tapesia), Snehalya, Don Bosco Institute (DBI), and BRO, highlighting the province's impactful grassroots initiatives.

NEW ST. MARY'S VILLAGE CHAPEL INAUGURATED AT KARIGAON



On Sunday, 26 October 2025, I had the privilege of blessing and inaugurating the new St. Mary's Village Chapel at Karigaon under Dotma Parish. The joyous celebration brought together over 2,000 faithful and was graced by Fr Jayaprakash Anothimuthu, Economer, Fr Edward D'Souza, Fr Francis Basumatary, Fr Sebastian Edathumparambil SDB, Parish Priest of Dotma, Fr Anil Condpan, Fr Mackely Gomes, Fr Pascal Dungdung, Fr Bipin Lakra, Fr Sebirence Islary, Fr Somesh Tudu, Fr Hopna Tudu, along with several sisters and religious. Former minister Mrs Promila Brahma also honoured the occasion with her presence.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **MEETING OF BHUTAN MINISTRY INITIATIVE** on 3 November in DBPH.
- ❖ **VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND FORMATION COMMISSION MEETING** on 8 Nov 2025 at 10:00 am in Provincial House.
- ❖ **TRIMONTHY RECOLLECTION FOR BROTHERS from 8- 9 November** in DBPH
- ❖ **HOLY MASS FOR THE DEPARTED SALESIANS OF ING** on 10 November at Uzanbazar Christian Cemetery at 2:30pm.
- ❖ **ANNUAL MEET OF SALESIAN BROTHERS** at DBCL, Tura on 15 November.
- ❖ **JUBILEE OF BONGAIGAON DIOCESE** on 22 November at Bongaigoan.

REMINDERS:

MISSION POVERTY ERADICATION (MPE) COMMUNITY AUDIT

The SPCSA Council has resolved to dedicate **15 November 2025** as a Day of Reflection in all Salesian communities of the Region. This day invites every community to prayerfully review its commitment and outreach to the poor during the year 2025 and to explore creative and concrete ways to deepen our Salesian mission in their service.

Although 15 November is the day indicated by the SPCSA for all of South Asia, communities unable to hold the reflection on the designated date may do so on another suitable day in November. Reports are to be submitted to the Provincial, and a consolidated summary will be sent to the Director of the Mission Poverty Eradication (MPE). The Central Office of MPE will coordinate the preparations for this process.

1. CORE QUESTION FOR COMMUNITY REFLECTION

At the heart of the reflection process lies this key question: "What did our community do in 2025 to be effectively and authentically the signs and bearers of God's love to young people who are poor?" **or** "How did we actualize in our community and context the Salesian commitment to give *absolute priority to the poorest, the most abandoned, and the defenceless?*"

2. FOCUS OF THE PROCESS

The emphasis is on **community reflection and discernment**. The purpose is not data collection for its own sake but a shared awareness of our mission and a renewed call to action. Quantitative data may serve only as a secondary tool for understanding and evaluation.

3. GATHERING BASIC DATA QUESTIONNAIRES FOR COMMUNITY REFLECTION, DISCUSSION AND REPORTING (KINDLY FIND IN THE ATTACHMENT EXCEL SHEET WITH SAME QUESTIONNAIRES)

1. Brief description of the activity, or service, or intervention, or support, or assistance, or initiative

2. Brief description of the recipients or beneficiaries of the activity, service, and intervention.

- ❖ Whether they are students in our institutions, students in other institutions, trainees in our institutions, trainees in other institutions, hostellers, YaR centre inmates, etc
- ❖ Whether they are of school age and out of school, drop-out, street involved, doing petty jobs, unemployed youth, etc
- ❖ Whether they are village folk (or slum dwellers, or pavement dwellers, vulnerable migrant workers etc) for whom a programme is being run etc
- ❖ Whether they are in any very disadvantaged or vulnerable situations ... like addicted to substances, physically or mentally challenged, victims of conflict or disaster etc.

3. Whether recipients are selected because they are the target group of a project: (Yes/No), If "Yes", Project Name?

4. Recipients – Number_____, Male_____Female_____ Other _____

5. I) Age - Number _____ Male_____

- a) Below 15 Yrs
- b) 15 - 24 Yrs
- c) 25-35 Yrs
- d) 35-50 Yrs
- e) Above 50 Yrs

II) Age - Number _____Female_____

- a) Below 15 Yrs
- b) 15 - 24 Yrs
- c) 25-35 Yrs
- d) 35-50 Yrs
- e) Above 50 Yrs

6. Religion - Number

- ❖ Catholic_____, Other Denom._____, Hindu_____, Muslim_____, Unknown_____, Other Religions_____

7. SC/ST - Number

- ❖ ST_____, SC_____, General_____, OBC_____, Others, _____ Unknown_____

8. Tribal/Non-Tribal Number

- ❖ Tribal_____, Non-Tribal_____, Unknown_____

9. If measurable in terms of Rupees, what is the average cost of the service/support/assistance for 1 person for 1 year? If average cost for 1 person for 1 year is difficult to arrive at, what is the total cost for the entire

assistance for 1 year? If not measurable in terms of Rupees, briefly explain the reason.

10. Source of funds for the service/assistance/support (indicate ✓ one; if more than one apply please indicate percentage of each)
 - Community's Income (like School/College/Hostel Fees, Sale of products or services etc)
 - Government schemes, projects, grants (received by the community or routed through the PDO, Province or National Networks)
 - Corporate Funds, CSR, projects (received by the community or routed through the PDO, Province or National Networks)
 - Non-institutional donors/benefactors (of the community or the PDO, Province or National Networks)
 - Foreign donations and projects (received by the community or routed through the PDO, Province or National Networks)
 - If any other, specify
11. What factors qualified the recipients as “poor” or “poorest, most abandoned or defenceless” or deserving our support or help can be a very large and diverse set or combination of factors like extreme poverty, YaR, vulnerable migrant, slum dweller, pavement dweller, accident victim, single mother, addicted to substances, differently abled, and if none of these, it could be “project target group” of specific projects, and many more ...
12. What objectively verifiable documentation is available with us for the financial/disadvantaged/excluded/deprived status of the recipients? Could be income certificate, ration card, SC/ST certificate, disability certificate, affidavit, photograph, CWC order etc. If no documentation is needed or possible, please indicate why?
13. What objectively verifiable documentation is available with us for the service/support rendered? Could be photographs, receipts, payment records, audio-video testimonies etc.
14. What objectively verifiable results/outcome (if any) of this activity of 2025 (or of other years, if done also earlier) are we able to show or describe or demonstrate? Could be photographs, data, certificates, audio-video clips/testimonies etc.
15. In what ways can we do more/better to improve/increase/change this service to increase our reach to the poorest, most abandoned and defenceless in 2026. In what ways can we do more/better to improve/increase/change the access of the poorest, most abandoned & defenceless to us, our institutions, our services” in 2026.

Let me conclude by reminding again that this day of reflection is not merely an exercise in reporting, but a spiritual and pastoral moment for every Salesian community — to rediscover the heart of Don Bosco’s mission: *to be signs and bearers of God’s love, especially to the young and the poor*. Let this process renew in us the courage and compassion to stand beside the most abandoned and to build together a Salesian family truly “for and with the poor.”

CONDOLENCES:

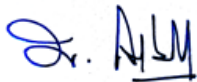
- ❖ To Fr Denis T. Sangma, his family, Sr. Provincial and MSMHC Sisters of Shillong Province at the passing away of **Sr. Susanna T. Sangma** on 8 October 2025.
- ❖ To the Sr Provincial and Sisters of FMA Guwahati Province at sad demise of **Sr Namita Basumatary** on 26 October 2025.

CONCLUSION

As we enter the month of November — a time of remembrance, gratitude, and renewed mission — let us draw inspiration from the saints and our departed confreres who walked before us in faith. May their example strengthen our resolve to live our Salesian vocation with greater zeal, simplicity, and love for the young, especially the poorest and most abandoned.

Let us continue to journey together in hope, faithful to Don Bosco's spirit, and united in our commitment to make Christ known and loved.

Yours sincerely in Don Bosco,

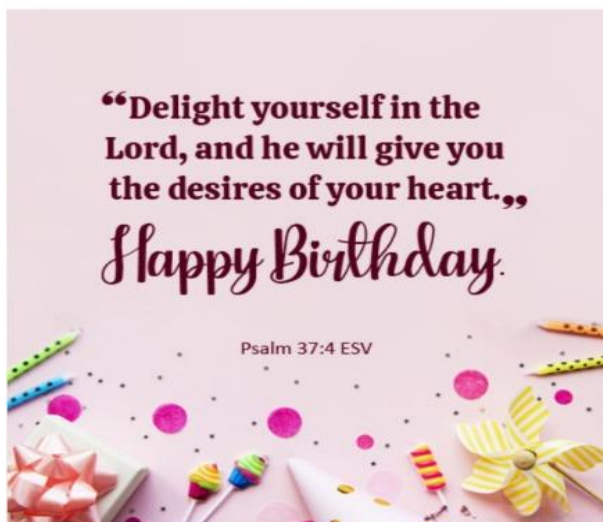


Fr. Sebastian Mathew SDB
Provincial



NOVEMBER HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Fr. Abraham Kanattu
- 1 Fr. Robert Faustin
Lalfakzuala
- 1 Cl. Ojoy M. Sangma
- 4 Fr. Quirinus Syiemlieh
- 7 Cl. Themus Lugun
- 9 Cl. Alphar Beck
- 10 Fr. Albert Tigidi Sangma
- 11 Fr. Sebastian Ishorary
- 11 Fr. Sanjay Aind
- 11 Cl. Anthony D. Shira
- 11 Cl. Arkidon Derek
Kharmawphlang (INS)



- 14 Fr. Francis Xavier Lakra
- 14 Cl. Damien Surin
- 15 Fr. Ravi Prabhat Ekka
- 19 Cl. Augustine Hemrom
- 20 Fr. Stephen Mavely
- 20 Dn. Sanjosh D. Sangma
- 22 Cl. Rajib Kujur
- 28 Fr. Romanus Barwa
- 29 Cl. Siprian Surin
- 30 Fr. Stefano Martoglio**



IN LOVING MEMORY - NOVEMBER

Dt	Name of the Confrere	Place	Year	Age	Province
2	P Charles Mlekus	Shillong	1933	31	INDIA, ING, INS
2	L Peter Francis Medaglia	Italy	1986	75	INM, ING, INP
2	P Attilio Colussi	Kolkata	1988	82	INC, INDIA, ING
2	P Giorgio Venturoli	Italy	2010	80	INC, ING, INS
3	L Barnabas Haw	Damra	1988	60	ING, INC, IND
3	P Anthony Buccieri	Shillong	1998	85	ING, INC, INM, INS
4	L Angel Garcia Morales	Spain	1975	70	INC, ING
6	P Firmus Hercules Fontana	Shillong	1964	64	ING, INDIA, INC, INS
8	L Ambrose Cogliati	Rome	1987	73	INM, INC, ING, INN
8	P Noel Joseph Kenny	Shillong	1995	85	ING, INC, INS
10	P George Desideri Vanni	Shillong	2003	76	ING, INC, INS
13	L Lazzaro Viganeno	Italy	1980	90	INDIA, ING
14	L Antonio Gota	Barcelona	1986	86	INDIA, INC, ING
14	P Florence Melino	Italy	1992	92	INDIA, ING, INC
14	P Paul Puthanangady	Aluva	2013	79	INK, INK, ING
18	E Abraham Alangimattathil	Dimapur	1997	65	IND, INC, ING, INS
18	P Paul Vadakumpadan	Shillong	2019	66	INS, ING
19	P Carmelo Attard	Shillong	2005	94	ING, INC, INS
20	P Felix Bollini	Shillong	1999	89	ING, INDIA, INC, INN, IND, INS
22	P Vincent Scuderi	Sicily	1982	80	INDIA, INC, ING, INM, INB, INP, INS
22	P Jose Nedumattathil	Maram	1997	35	IND, ING
22	L James Mampilly	Kolkata	2016	90	INC, ING, INS
24	P Zachary Panamattamparambil	Tinsukia	1985	50	IND, ING, INS
28	P John Theuwis	Austria	1968	71	INC, ING, IND
29	P Jose Pallikunnath	Trichur	1986	42	ING, INS
29	P Joseph Peringalathu	Imphal	2018	63	IND, ING

Salesian Feasts/Commemorations

5	Mass for Deceased Benefactors and Members of the Salesian Family
11	Salesian Mission Day, Commemoration of First Salesian Missionary Expedition
13	Saint Artemides Zatti, <i>religious</i>
15	Blessed Madeleine Morano, FMA
24	Commemoration of Mary Help of Christians
25	Commemoration of Mary Help of Christians
30	Commemoration of Don Bosco



NOVEMBER 2025

DATE	DAY	PROVINCIAL	VICE PROVINCIAL	ECONOMER
1	Sat	Boko	YMD Meeting, Siliguri	Guwahati
2	Sun	All Souls Day - Uzanbazar	YMD Meeting, Siliguri	Guwahati
3	Mon	Meeting Bhutan Ministry	YMD Meeting, Siliguri	Guwahati
4	Tue	Curatorium – SHTC Shillong	YMD Meeting, Siliguri	Guwahati
5	Wed	Shillong	Guwahati > Shillong	Guwahati
6	Thu	NECDBS	NECDBS	Guwahati
7	Fri	NECDBS	Guwahati	Guwahati
8	Sat	NECDBS	Formation Commission meeting, Ghy – Trimonthly Recollection	Guwahati
9	Sun	Amkachi - Jubilee	Trimonthly Recollection, Ghy	Out of Station
10	Mon	Mass for the Departed Salesians of ING - Uzanbazar	Mass for the Departed Salesians of ING - Uzanbazar	Out of Station
11	Tue	DBSTI - Visitation	Guwahati	DBST - Visitation
12	Wed	Tangla Visitation	ADBU Azara	Tangla - Visitation
13	Thu	Guwahati	ADBU Azara	Guwahati
14	Fri	Tura	Guwahati	Guwahati
15	Sat	Annual Salesian Brothers Meet - Tura	Guwahati	Guwahati
16	Sun	Jubilee Mendal >Guwahati	Guwahati	Guwahati
17	Mon	Haflong Visitation	DBCL, DBC Tura, DBS Tura	Haflong - Visitation
18	Tue	Haflong Visitation	DBCL, Tura, Bosco Mount	Haflong - Visitation
19	Wed	Haflong Visitation	Guwahati	Haflong - Visitation
20	Thu	Guwahati	Mini SYM - DBI	Delhi
21	Fri	Guwahati	DBI > Sashipur	Nepal – Economers' Meeting
22	Sat	DBI >Bongaigaon	Mini SYM - DBI	Nepal – Economers' Meeting
23	Sun	Jubilee of Bongaigoan Diocese	Guwahati	Nepal – Economers' Meeting
24	Mon	Chapaguri>Guwahati	Guwahati	Nepal – Economers' Meeting
25	Tue	Sashipur	Rongjeng	Nepal – Economers' Meeting
26	Wed	Kumarikata>Guwahati	Shallang	Nepal – Economers' Meeting
27	Thu	Guwahati	Guwahati	Guwahati
28	Fri	Council Meeting	Council Meeting	Guwahati
29	Sat	Chapel Blessing Kokrajhar	Guwahati	Kokrajhar
30	Sun	Dotma-Visitation	Guwahati	Dotma - Visitation