

**DEAR CONFRERES,**

Cordial Greetings...

I am very sure that all the communities are ready with detailed planning and preparation to begin the new academic year. May the grace of God fill each one of us with good health and strength to carry out all our responsibilities to the best of our capabilities. The month of June aptly brings us to the feasts of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary. One of the most popular images of Jesus venerated in the Catholic churches and homes is the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is the image of God’s love revealed in the pierced heart of His Son. It is the symbol of a love that conquers sin and transcends death, the symbol of the One who loved us till the end. It is also the symbol of his meekness and humility. Jesus invites us to learn from his heart and to imitate his love, meekness, and humility. As we bear witness to such great love, may this be the experience of each young person who encounters us in our mission. I wish you all a happy feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary.



**Initial Visit**

The Provincial team will begin the initial visit to the communities where we have the installation of new rectors and the schedule for the rest of the communities will be sent later. I request the leaders of the communities to organise a meeting with all the members to plan the Salesian Community Plan of Life (SCPL), the Salesian Educative Pastoral Plan (SEPP) and the Youth Pastoral Plan (YPP) and send a copy to the Province Secretary before 25 June 2023. It will give more clarity and add efficacy to our mission.

**Sector Level Animation and Meetings**

At the beginning of the new academic year, we usually have the animation of various sectors of our province, such as commissions, sectors, and departments. These moments of animation are important to get to know the yearly plan and the mindset of the province. Hence, I recommend all the members of the various sectors to actively participate in these meetings together with the lay partners and offer your valuable suggestions for the betterment of the province and the mission. To enhance more participation, I exhort the Rectors and in charges of particular



sectors in the community and all the members of the community where the meeting is conducted to take part in the meeting. The venue, schedule and other arrangements regarding the animation and meetings are mentioned in the monthly programme and will be followed up by the respective heads. These meetings have been planned to take place in various communities pertaining to the sectors so that there would be greater learning and sharing with one another.

### **Appointment**

Rev. Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, our Rector Major, has approved the appointment of Fr. Amalorpavaraj Annappan as the Rector of Don Bosco Anbu Illam, Coimbatore for the term 2023 – 2026. I thank him for his availability and acceptance in taking up the responsibility. On behalf of the province, I wish him God's choicest blessings.

### **Special Assignments**

We appreciate and congratulate Fr. Patrick Anthonyraj, as he is appointed as the secretary to the Vicar of the Rector Major. We wish him all the best for his new assignment. It is a great honour and pride to our province when confreres are appointed to important responsibilities at the congregational level. I am sure Fr. Patrick Anthonyraj would greatly contribute to this office with his expertise and experience.

### **PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH**

|       |          |   |
|-------|----------|---|
| 2-3   | Fri, Sat | Students of Theology Meet @ DBPH, Tiruchy             |
| 9     | Fri      | Provincial Council                                    |
| 10    | Sat      | Academic Sector Meet @ DB School, Madurai (Forenoon)  |
| 11    | Sun      | Media Dept. Meet @ Manikandam, Tiruchy                |
| 12    | Mon      | YaR sector Meet @ NEST, Tiruppur                      |
| 12    | Mon      | Technical Sector Meet @ Amsam (Forenoon)              |
| 14    | Wed      | Youth Service Coordinators Meet @ Manikandam, Tiruchy |
| 15    | Thu      | Parish Sector Meet @ K.Pudur, Madurai                 |
| 16    | Fri      | Rural Sector Meet @ Cholapuram                        |
| 17    | Sat      | Formation Sector Meet @ DB, Dindigul                  |
| 17    | Sat      | Catechetical Dept. Meet @ Kallikudi, Tiruchy          |
| 18    | Sun      | Past Pupils Delegates Meet @ DB ITI Madurai           |
| 19    | Mon      | JANANAM Department Meet @ Keeranur                    |
| 20    | Tue      | Higher Education Sector Meet @ Manikandam, Tiruchy    |
| 22-23 | Thu, Fri | Training for the New Administrators @ DBPH, Tiruchy   |
| 23    | Fri      | DBCARES Meet @ Coimbatore                             |

### **RECALLING EVENTS**

#### **Perpetual Profession**

Four of our clerics, Arun Ebinesh Amalraj, Jeya Herman Jesudass, Bosco Sundhar Kaspar Paulraj and Robert Sahayaraj Paulraj made their perpetual profession on 24 May 2023 at

5.30 pm in Mary Help of Christian Church, Amsam, Tiruchy. It was a meaningful celebration with the participation of good number of confreres and family members. On behalf of the Province, I congratulate them and wish them all the best so that they could continue to experience the call of God at all walks of their life. I express my sincere thanks to the Vice Provincial, Economer, Fr. Jeyan Joseph and the Rector and confreres of Don Bosco Amsam community for organizing the entire programme. Bros. Ebinesh and Bosco will pursue Theology at KJC and Bros. Sahayaraj, Herman and Amuthan will go to DBTC for Theology. We wish them all the best for their studies.

### **First Profession**

Seven of our Novices made their first profession on 24 May 2023 in Idayadeepam Novitiate, Yellagiri. Let us continue to accompany them with our prayers that they may persevere in Salesian life and vocation. All of them have reached Yercaud for their study of philosophy.

### **Renewal of Profession**

Twenty-three clerics of our province renewed their vows on 24 May 2023 in Don Bosco Manikandam and one renewed in Don Bosco Keela Eral. I express my sincere wishes to all the brothers and pray that they may continue to grow in the love of God understanding the value of their Salesian vocation. I thank the Rector and confreres of Don Bosco Manikandam and Keela Eral community for making all the arrangements for the renewals.

### **Vocation Camp**

The Vocation Camp for this year was held in Don Bosco Thanjavur, from 03 – 19 May 2023 for the students who have completed 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> standard and College. Around Eighty students attended the camp from various dioceses of our region, and it was remarkable to have many students from our Salesian presences. We appreciate Fr. Antonisamy Arockiadoss, the vocation promoter, and all the brothers who organized the camp with variety of programme to impart Salesian style and spirit in the young minds to step into the first stage of Salesian life. My sincere thanks and appreciation to Fr. Thomas Louis, the Rector and the confreres of Don Bosco Thanjavur for making all the arrangements possible for the camp and for being present for all the events of the camp.

### **Anniversary of the Deceased Salesians**

04.06.2021 – Fr. Sahayaraj Arulkannu died at Thanjavur at the age of 61.

05.06.2021 – Fr. James Theophilus died at Salem at the age of 68.

09.06.2007 – Fr. Maddichetty Amala Joseph died at Wisconsin at the age of 45.

14.06.2020 – Fr. Thommai Antonirajan died at Sri Lanka at the age of 56.

### **CONDOLENCES...**

On behalf of the province, I offer my sincere condolences,

- To the [Provincial and confreres of INM Province](#) at the demise of [Rev. Fr. Stanislaus Swaminathan](#) (72) on 17 May 2023.

- To [Fr. Mohan Christuraj](#) at the demise of his sister [Mrs. Mary Amali](#) (50) on 26 May 2023.
- To [Fr. Dominic Savio](#) at the demise of his mother [Mrs. Regina Mary](#) (85) on 31 May 2023.

*May the souls rest in peace!*

## COMMUNITY REFLECTION

### GUIDELINES FOR LIFE IN THE SALESIAN COMMUNITY

My dear confreres and the members of the Salesian Family,

We are beginning another academic year and I thought of sharing with you some guidelines for taking care of confreres and the mission of the Salesian community. I have written only the essentials and not an exhaustive list of recommendations. I exhort the Rectors to make sure that we follow all these with love and concern so that everyone can be happy and fulfilled in the community. I wish all of you all the best for the coming academic year. May God bless us and guide us.

**01. The Community United in Prayer:** All the members of the community, beginning with the Rector should be present for the practices of piety without exception. This is the first and best expression of the unity of the community. Even if the members have differences of opinion with one another, prayer is not the time to show reaction by absenting themselves. Even if one is absent, that is not an excuse for another to be absent himself. In cases of travel and sickness, when one is absent for prayer, he should substitute the practice of piety with some other time during the day.

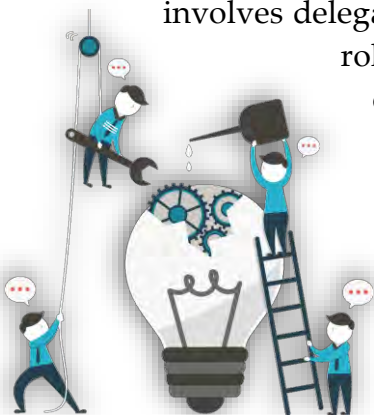
**02. Eucharist is the Hallmark of our Daily Life:** All priests should never miss celebrating the Eucharist. When it is your turn, celebrate it with the utmost fervour and devotion. Other times, you should concelebrate with the community or the parish. Private mass should be celebrated only when there is no opportunity to join the community or the parish. When a member goes out for chaplaincy, it does not mean that he should absent himself for prayer and meditation. He should join the community for prayer except at the time of the mass. When the community gathers for special celebrations like the weekly community day, a birthday, or special feasts in the parish, even if a member has only celebrated one mass, there is no harm in concelebration. When there is a need, bination and trination should be done with interest and enthusiasm. If one does not have an interest in celebrating the Eucharist, he should not continue in priestly and Salesian life.



**03. Coming Together for Meals is the Salesian Style:** It is true that confreres are busy with work all the time, but coming together for meals is essential. Though one meal is together, it does not mean that other meals can be skipped or members can come at their own sweet time. All the meals are together, and all the members should come together for all the meals as much as possible. Exceptions can be there because of our work, but exceptions should not become the rule. We should understand that meals are the time to build up our relationships and communion. When a person avoids community meals, it's a clear sign that he is losing his Salesian vocation. Eating and drinking in the room is not the Salesian style and should be strictly avoided. The sharing of information should take place at mealtime, particularly for those who do not have the opportunity to do so during good nights or other occasions.

**04. Salesian Presence is not an Option but a Vital Aspect:** Don Bosco has handed down to us this important aspect of our Salesian life, the Salesian Presence. Hence, every member, beginning with the Rector, should avoid frequent movements outside the community. I exhort especially the Rectors to be present in the community and animate it all the time. The members should not accept any invitation without the explicit permission of the Rector. Confreres are moving out too much these days, which creates tension in the community, and this should be avoided at all costs. Our presence among the young is also essential and we should enjoy being present with them. How wonderful it would be to see all the cassocks around the school in the morning when the students arrive!

**05. Everyone should Play their Role Well:** During the initial visit, the roles and responsibilities are clarified and entrusted to the members. This should be respected and upheld. The Rector should not take on the roles of the Administrator, Headmaster and others. Though he is everything in spirit and letter, the Salesian style of functioning involves delegating the roles to others and making sure that they exercise their roles well. The Rector should never say, "I am the Rector, and I can do anything. You just obey and continue." He should always encourage confreres to function well and step in only when it is necessary. Similarly, the members should not take for granted that their role is independent. They should always have recourse to the Rector and inform him; they should always get permission. We are not there in the community to prove who is greater and who is more popular. Collaboration and coordination are the attitudes necessary in the community.



**06. There is no Substitute for Hard Work:** I really admire many of our confreres who work very hard. At times, I tell them to relax and not take up too many tasks that will occupy them beyond their limits. Our province is blessed with such confreres, and everything goes well because of them. At the same time, I often wonder at some others how they can live in a community without getting involved in any of the activities of the community and yet go on day after day, gossiping and grumbling about everything and everyone in the

community. Let us all remember that we must all work hard. "He who does not work, shall not eat." 2 Thess 3:10. Work and temperance will make our congregation flourish. Hence, let us work hard and our reward will be great in heaven.

**07. Too Many Expectations Bring Only Discouragement:** "Pray as though everything depends on God and work as though everything depends on you" is a statement that can enlighten us to work without expectations. There are many of us who expect the impossible. Rome was not built in a day. Patience and perseverance make many things happen. There are some confreres who feel that they are qualified to be appointed to any vacant responsibility. Be it the Rector of Yercaud, the Vice Provincial, or a Provincial Councillor. What is important is that we perform well in the given responsibility and not long for something more all the time. Let us not forget the bible, Mt 25:23, "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!"

**08. Power of Positive Thinking:** People who are vibrant with positivity can accomplish much. We have seen this in our time and experience. On the contrary, people who are negative not only take away the happiness of others but also lose their own lives and happiness. During the Holy Mass on the 25th World Day for Consecrated Life, Pope Francis said, "Some people are masters of complaining, doctors of complaining; they are very good at complaining. No, complaining imprisons us. In this way, we lose that 'small' but most beautiful of virtues: hope." I have been talking about this very often, but some have yet to take it to heart and understand. Let everyone burn with zeal and enthusiasm to do more and to go forward with hope. I am sure God will take care of the rest.



**09. Availability to the Community and the Mission:** Confreres should be available in the community. They should be found in the offices, not locked up in the rooms. It is not uncommon to hear from the clerics that, despite their repeated requests, the rectors are not available for manifestation and the weekly conference. It is also true that the headmaster was out on the road with the bag on Friday evening to catch the bus before the boys could leave the school. One of the parish people phoned up to me and complained, "During the funeral of my relative, the parish priest of the next parish was celebrating the mass, but your priest was in the room having his siesta." Another one added, "I came to bless my vehicle after getting an appointment from your priest, but he informed another, and no one turned up for an hour. At the end, I went to the neighbouring parish and blessed my vehicle." Still another said, "How many times do I have to come to the parish office to get a baptism certificate? Your priests are worse than government servants." I don't need to describe the importance of our availability to the confreres and the mission more than the above references do.

**10. Kindness and Love Win Over People:** It is true that we have to follow the rules and the traditions. But if we do not have love, then what is the use of all this? It is easy to judge and pass comments. But if we have love, I am sure we will be more patient in putting up with all the inconveniences and defects of others. We should be strict with ourselves but free and forgiving with others. If every Salesian practices this, then our community life will be heaven. It's the same with people who come to us for help and guidance. At times, it's difficult to understand those confreres who yell and shout at everyone all the time. Have they lost their mind? People wonder. Salesian kindness should be part and parcel of our life and we can be certain that everything will fall into place. "His love is that of a father, brother and friend, able to draw out friendship in return; this is the loving kindness so much recommended by Don Bosco." Cons.15

**11. Dialogue and Personal Talk are Essential:** When things go well, it is important to appreciate people and pat them on the back. When things do not go well, it is essential to have a personal talk and dialogue with the concerned person and encourage him to fall in line and go forward with hope. Thus, the person will feel the confidence and support of the Rector. The same can be exercised with the staff and other collaborators in our apostolate. On the contrary, shouting in public or correcting people in front of others does great harm to the individual's personality. None of us like to be pointed out in public. Don Bosco has given us the golden rule of the word in the ear. How wonderful it would be if all of us followed it!

**12. Patience and Perseverance will Prove Successful:** Often we meet challenges and problems in our relationships with confreres and continuity in the apostolate. We cannot get discouraged and give up. We need to go ahead with patience and perseverance. Change those that can be changed, accept those that cannot be changed and have the wisdom to know the difference. The congregation will go on even without any of us. Hence, we need not change the whole world. Rather, we should be humble enough to rely on the Lord for inspiration and guidance. There is no need to compare oneself with others or worry too much about setbacks in the apostolate. What is needed is that everyone contributes their best for the good of the community and the mission.

There are many other things that are on my mind. But I guess we need to be clear and focused on our efforts so that they can be measured and evaluated at the end of the year. I will be happy to hear from the community how we follow these, during the visitation. Let us all help and support one another. Everyone is a package. There are good and bad things inside the package. We cannot take only the good and we need to accept the bad as well. All of us are humans and need help and acceptance. Hence, a good community will be one that gives everyone space to grow and be happy. As I suggested, personal talk and dialogue will help everyone express themselves and progress forward with hope.

Be sure of my prayerful support for each of you, my dear confreres. I can say from my conscience that I am trying to accompany everyone and do what is best for you. As a

human being, I also have my own limitations, so kindly approach me again and again if things are not attended to or forgotten. I promise you that I will be available and open to dialogue and discussion with you. We shall together live the charism of Don Bosco to the best of our capabilities, and I am sure he will guide us and take us to green pastures. All the very best for the coming academic year. May the Lord bless us and our Blessed Mother intercede for us.

Prayerful best wishes to all in the Family,

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco



Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam SDB  
Provincial – Salesian Province of Tiruchy, INT.



**Happy Feast of  
Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary!**