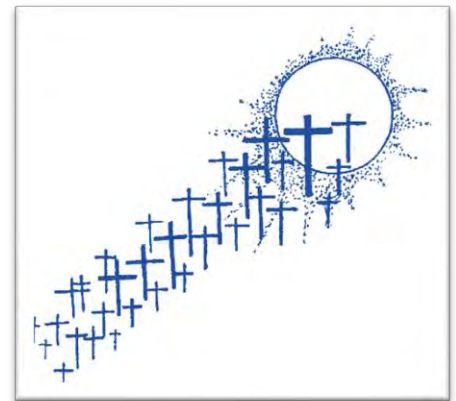


**DEAR CONFRERES,**

Cordial Greetings...

On November 1 and 2, we celebrate two important days in the Christian calendar: All Saints Day and All Souls Day. The Church teaches us that there is a powerful spiritual bond between those in heaven, "the Church triumphant", the living "the Church militant", and those in purgatory "the Church penitent." On All Saints Day, we celebrate all the saints, both known and unknown, who have attained the beatific vision in heaven. These are people who have lived lives of holiness and virtue and who have shown us what it means to be a true Christian. The Bible tells us that the saints are a "great cloud of witnesses" who are cheering us on in our race towards heaven (Hebrews 12:1). They are also our intercessors, praying for us before the throne of God (Revelation 8:3-4).



On All Souls Day, we pray for the souls of the deceased, especially those who have died recently or who are in purgatory. Purgatory is a state of purification for those who have died in a state of grace but who still have some temporal punishment to undergo due to their sins. The Bible teaches that we can pray for the dead (2 Maccabees 12:42-46). When we pray for the dead, we are asking God to have mercy on them and to hasten their purification so that they may enter the fullness of eternal life. Let us celebrate these two days meaningfully, praying to and for all those who have gone before us for the eternal reward.

**29<sup>th</sup> General Chapter (GC 29)**

Acts of the General Council N. 441 is the first preparatory document for GC 29, which carry the letter of convocation of General Chapter 29 by the Rector Major and the guidelines and directives for the General Chapter and the Provincial Chapter. The soft copy of the document is attached to the circular and the whole document should be read in all the communities during spiritual reading without fail to come to know the mind of the congregation in organizing the chapter.

**09<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter of INT (PC 2024)**

The core committee and the subcommittees for the provincial chapter have been formed. The moderator will organize various meetings with the core and subcommittees for the further proceedings of the preparatory documents and it will be sent to the communities for discussion and reflection. I exhort the rectors and all the members of the community to

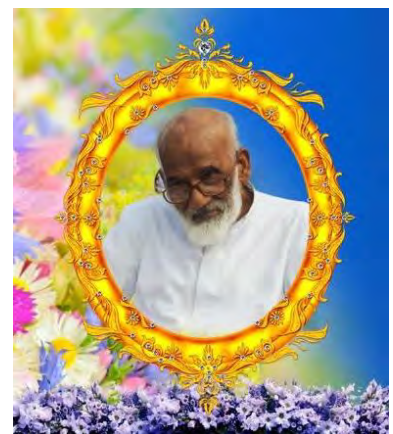
participate actively in all the discussions and to send the replies promptly to the moderator on time.

### **Provincial Visitation 2023 - 2024**

The canonical visitation of the communities begins from this month and the schedule has already been sent to you. Our regulation 146 explicitly states the nature of the visitation: "Once a year, the provincial visits each community. He meets each member, holds a local council meeting, and carries out with the community the review of their religious observance, the witness of their consecrated life, their apostolic zeal in pastoral activities, their concern for fostering vocations, and their financial situation. At the end of the visitation, he writes down his observations and decisions and at the next visitation, he should verify that they have been carried out." Therefore, the visitation is a time of blessing and grace to understand and appreciate the dedication and hard work of every confrere and community for the amount of work being laboured for the salvation of young people. In this view, once again, I remind the Rectors to organize a meeting to evaluate the evangelical life and mission of the community, to implement the recommendations made in the previous visitation and to keep track of all the records for the community archive and to submit the report during the visitation. A check list will also be sent from the Economer and secretary offices.

### **Anniversary of Fr. Joseph Puthenkalam**

Time is moving fast, and it has already been one year since Fr. Joseph Puthenkalam left us for his eternal reward. He was very beloved to all of us with his warm smile, strong Salesian spirit and unwavering commitment to the charism of Don Bosco. As we are celebrating the first anniversary of his passing to eternal reward, let us remember him with gratitude and love. He is physically not with us, but his legacy will live on in the hearts of those who knew him and were touched by his love. May he enjoy the eternal bliss of God.



The first death anniversary mass for Fr. Puthenkalam will be held on 25 November 2023 at Mary Help of Christians Shrine, Amsam. There will be a blessing at the cemetery at 11.00 am followed by the Holy Eucharist at 11.30 am. Some of the family members and relatives of Fr. Puthenkalam have promised to join the event. I invite as many Salesians as possible to participate in this mass in memory and pray for the repose of his soul.

### **Diaconate Ministry**

All eight deacons of our province for this year from Don Bosco Theological College Chennai, Sacred Heart Theologate Shillong and Kristu Jyoti College Bangalore will be available from 08, 14 and 28 November 2023 respectively, for their diaconate ministry. They are assigned to the following parishes:

1. Dn. Aldon Jibose - Nettur
2. Dn. Antony Shajan - Savariyarpalayam
3. Dn. Clan Zackariyas - Madhakottai
4. Dn. Immanuel Karthick - Lalgudi
5. Dn. Justin Kumar - K. Pudur
6. Dn. Peter Doss Jepison - Amsam
7. Dn. Rex Jayakumar - Villathikulam
8. Dn. Xavier Vinoth - Pallithampam

We wish them all the best that they may have enriching experiences in the diaconate ministry, a time specially dedicated to service and proclamation of the Word.

### **Boscoree Silver Jubilee**

Bharat Scouts and Guides, Don Bosco District Association, is celebrating the silver jubilee this year and the culmination of the silver jubilee will be held on 18 November 2023 at St. Bede's Anglo Indian Higher Secondary School, Chennai. The whole year, they had various animations and competitions in view of the silver jubilee. As it is an effective movement in bringing discipline and efficiency to the lives of the children, let us encourage the movement in all our presences. We wish all the scouts, guides and scout masters of Don Bosco district a memorable jubilee celebration.

### **Silver Jubilee of INT**

As we all know, we are in the silver jubilee year of our province. The silver jubilee committee has planned various activities, and everything is being actualized one by one. I am sure that all the communities are regularly praying the silver jubilee prayer every day and a holy hour of adoration is organized every month. From now on number of competitions will be conducted at various levels. One of the important preparations is to achieve the target of one lakh tree plantation to safeguard the earth and the environment. So far, we have planted 64,121 trees. I encourage all our presences to take it forward to reach the target by joining hands with the local organizations, other institutes and panchayats.

### **150th Year of Missionary Expedition (1885–2025)**

The jubilee of the 150th year of the missionary expedition will be celebrated from 11 November 2024 to 11 November 2025. As a preparation for the jubilee year, we will have various animations from 11 November 2023 to 11 November 2024, by the missionary animation commission of our province. The animation materials will be posted in the official WhatsApp group for the rectors and leaders. Every month on the 11th, the rectors and leaders are requested to animate the confreres and young people.

### **My Abroad Trip**

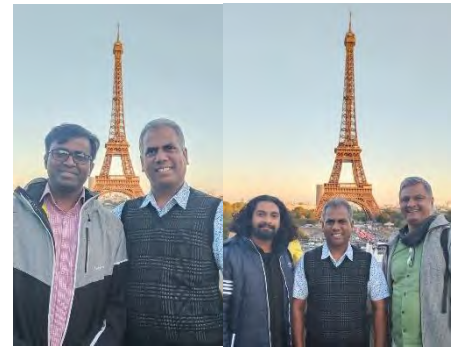
I am happy to share with you some news from abroad. The ceremony of our Rector Major becoming the Cardinal was wonderful and was attended by many members of the Salesian family. I met our confreres Fr. Ashok Lawrence and Abraham, who are studying at UPS

and Fr. Jeyaseelan, who is teaching philosophy at UPS. They are all doing well, and they are grateful to the province for the support. Then I visited France and met our confreres Fr.



John Paul and Martin Maria Francis, who are working in the Media Institute as director and assistant director. We are proud of these confreres who are working hard and building up the institution well. Fr. Benny and Fr. Joan Marshall are learning the language and attending the classes in the Media Institute. The provincial, Fr. Daniel, was very happy about our confreres and thanked our province for sending them.

My visit to the project offices in Turin, Milan and Vienna was good and they have promised to support us in the future. Because of the delay in visa, Fr. Rico could join me for the day when we visited Dr. Hauber in Rosenheim, Germany, who is supporting our scholarship project in a big way. Later, I spent 3 days with Fr. Siluvai Ignaci and was greatly inspired by his life and works. I visited Belgium and our confreres Leo Nepolian and Anthiyok, who are doing extremely well. Fr. Wilfried, the Rector and former provincial, thanked me profusely for sending these clerics and gave me an invitation to send many more in the future.



Fr. John Baptist should have reached Vancouver, Canada, to take up his responsibility as assistant parish priest, but because of the problems of the visa process, he is still waiting to reach his destination. I met Fr. John Louis, the Rector, and spent two days there. They are all waiting for our confrere and expect more people to join the communities in Canada. Finally, I will be meeting the provincial of SUE, Fr. Dominic, today in Tampa, Florida, USA.



Thank you, my dear confreres, for your prayers. I could really feel the power of God and the blessings of our Blessed Mother all these days. There is a great need for missionaries all over the world

and we are grateful to God for our confreres who have opted for the missions, and they are doing their best. I will share with you more experiences when we meet in our communities. Let us continue to pray for all our confreres who are working abroad that they may enjoy good health and happiness.

## PROGRAMME OF THE MONTH

- 5 Sun Mass for the Deceased Benefactors and Salesian Family Members
- 14 Tue Children's Day

21 Mon Provincial Council

25 Sat Community offers Mass for the Deceased parents of Salesians

*Tri Monthly Recollection*

*Quarterly Assessment of the Temporary Professed*

## RECALLING EVENTS

**Salesian Family Day and Consult** was held on 2 October 2023 in Don Bosco, Manikandam. There was good participation from priests, brothers, sisters and members of various associations and movements of the Salesian family. This type of celebration is always a moment of enthusiasm and encouragement to come to know and appreciate the varieties of work carried out in the world in the name of Don Bosco. I appreciate all the members of the Salesian family for making the day a successful one. I thank Fr. Ferrington, the Salesian Family Delegate, for organizing the day and the Rector and confreres of the Manikandam community for hosting the event.

**The third zonal-level meeting** for the Coimbatore zone was held on 07 October 2023 at Don Bosco Nest Tiruppur for the clerics who are in the initial formation. A total of eleven clerics attended the meeting and had an enriching experience. I sincerely thank Fr. Xavier Michael, the vice provincial, for animating all the zonal meetings and the Rector and confreres of the Tiruppur community for hosting the meeting for the Coimbatore zone.

**The South Asian Missionary Formation Course** was held from 15 September to 07 October 2023 at Don Bosco Institute, Kharguli, Guwahati. Fr. John Bosco Lourdusamy and Fr. Bharath Jeyaraj attended the course. Towards the end of the course from 03 to 07 October 2023, a seminar was organized on Evangelizing Mission at the Heart of Salesian Charism. Fr. Rajadevan Pushpanathan and Fr. Jeffery Jegan participated in the programme. Various topics under mission and evangelization were taken for animation and discussion during the seminar. I thank our confreres for their availability to attend the programme.

**The meeting for the provincial delegates of the Salesian Brothers** of the South Asia region was held at the Don Bosco Provincial House, Mumbai, on 7 and 8 October 2023. The key focus of the meeting was to plan for the upcoming Salesian Brothers Congress. The Congress will be hosted by the Province of Calcutta from 30 December 2023 to 3 January 2024. The central theme of this event would be 'The Salesian Brother in the 21st Century: Identity, Fidelity, Leadership'. Br. Chinnapparaj Antony from our province attended the meeting. I congratulate his availability and enthusiastic participation.

**Congratulations to the new Salesian Cooperators** who made their promise on 15 October 2023 at Don Bosco, Wellington. Totally, 45 cooperators made their promises after a specific period of formation and animation. I wish them all the best that they may be effective in our mission centers, shouldering with the Salesians and sisters to carry out the charism of Don Bosco far and wide. I sincerely appreciate Fr. John Barnabas and Sr. Rosy, the provincial delegates of SDB and FMA and Mr. Jothi Pragasam, the provincial coordinator, for their

involvement in forming and encouraging the new cooperators. I express my gratitude to the superior and the sisters of Don Bosco, Wellington, for hosting the celebration.

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

04.11.2020 – **Fr. Louis Kulangara** died at Tiruchy at the age of 76.

26.11.2022 – **Fr. Joseph Puthenkalam** died at Dindigul at the age of 94.

### **CONDOLENCES...**

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

- To **the Provincial and confreres of IND Province** at the demise of **Rev. Fr. Pallisery Sebastian** (81) on 15 October 2023.
- To **Fr. Felix Arulnathan**, at the demise of his mother **Mrs. Josphine** (77) on 25 October 2023.

*May the souls rest in peace!*

### **COMMUNITY REFLECTION**

#### **TOWARDS SILVER JUBILEE - YEAR 3: SPIRITUALITY OF WITNESS**

##### **Fr. Siluvai Ignaci, A Man with a Vision for the Mission**

All of us know that Pastor Lensen Polytechnic College has given career and life to thousands of youths in the past 20 years and it is only because of some challenges that the number of students has gone down in the past few years. This institution could be built up by the Salesians because of the benevolence and generosity of Fr. Siluvai Ignaci, the founder of the Sebastian Educational Trust. He continues to support us and our initiatives even today and as I spent a few days with him during this abroad trip, I felt it was necessary to share some values and dreams I have learned from his life's experiences.



The father of Fr. Siluvai, Mr. Xavier, was a sacristian in Matunga, Mumbai, which is actually the bond of our relationship with him. He had gone abroad early in life to study, and he became a priest. He has been studying and working in many countries in Europe and America, which has moulded him into a fine and self-reliant personality, above all, a person with a heart for the

poor and abandoned youth. He wants to do the maximum good during his lifetime and every effort was spearheaded with this single purpose in life. This impressed me very much and reminded me about Jesus, who went around doing good all the time. It's not easy to find people who want to always do good.

Fr. Siluvai is a learned person and has had various responsibilities in the diocese and the Church. He was in Bangalore for the propagation of faith commission and his hard work and creativity are known to all. He is now working as a pastor in Schwarzach-st. Veit, a busy parish in Salzberg, Austria. He is a dean (VF), coordinating a few parishes and also the chaplain of a big hospital. I had the opportunity to concelebrate mass with him and could

feel his closeness with the people. In fact, a married deacon of his parish is always ready to assist him at all times, which is a rare phenomenon. Though he held big responsibilities, I was inspired by his humility and simplicity. He never goes to a hotel for a meal because he considers that as a costly affair and saves that money for the poor youngsters in Kuthenkuly.



I had gone to meet him primarily to thank him for his continued support and spend some days sharing varied life experiences. I am grateful to God for such wonderful people who are great examples. There are many people who have lots of money, but they do not have the heart to share it with the poor. Most of our benefactors who have been helping us in the past are not certainly rich people. They skip some of their celebrations or set aside part of their income for the missions. But Fr. Siluvai has given everything to the poor and needy. I am sure he has quietly helped many people, even without the knowledge of anyone. He has helped the diocese in many ways and he has supported us Salesians in a very big way and we are grateful to him for his generosity.

What is very special about him, according to me, is his focus in life. A clear vision for the mission not getting distracted with many ideas and works or diverted in the process of executing the works. Above all, his deep faith in God is that He will take care of everything in life. Let us pray for him in a special way, as he is running 76, that God may bless him with good health and happiness. May his inspiration guide many more of us to be passionate about the mission entrusted to us in different parts of southern Tamil Nadu.

Prayerful best wishes to all in the Family,

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco

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



**All Saints,  
Pray for us!**