

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

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

JS – 79/2023

1 October 2023

My dear Confreres,

Greetings from the Provincial House, Guwahati.

As we tiptoe into October, which is traditionally the month of the Holy Rosary in the Church, I would like to invite everyone to begin this month by reflecting on an article of our **Constitution** on Mary: *“Mary, Mother of God, holds a unique place in the history of salvation. She is a model of prayer and pastoral love, the teacher of wisdom and the guide of our Family. We contemplate and imitate her faith, her concern for the needy, her fidelity at the hour of the cross and her joy at the wonders wrought by the Father.*

Mary Immaculate, Help of Christians leads us to the fullness of our offering to the Lord and gives us courage for the service of our brethren. We develop a strong filial devotion to her. We recite the rosary each day and celebrate her feasts to encourage a more convinced and personal imitation” (C 93).



Regulations 74 reads, *“As well as the Rosary, by means of which Mary teaches her children how to unite themselves with the mysteries of Christ, the monthly commemoration, the daily prayer after meditation and the frequent use of the Blessing of Mary Help of Christians are other signs of unity in our Marian devotion...*

The members, both individually and as a community, should feel the obligation of zealously spreading devotion to Mary Help of Christians and of fostering, wherever possible, the Association of the Clients of Mary Help of Christians” (R 74).

The good and the bad are always at war inside and outside us and it is a phenomenon since the beginning of creation. While God’s plan is good and for the fullness of life to all human beings, the powers of darkness always work to ruin God’s plan. The devil promises good but ultimately leads human beings into sin, suffering, death and perdition. God therefore inspires us to live always in His presence and exhorts us to pray without

ceasing to overcome temptations. God, through the mother Church has given many spiritual weapons to defend ourselves against the snares of the enemy as well as to grow in holiness. The devout prayer and meditation of the Holy Rosary is one such powerful spiritual instrument, not only to ward off the snares of the devil but also to grow in sanctity.

The desert hermits and monks used pebbles or knotted ropes to count the prayers during the rosary. The form of rosary, as it is today, began in the Middle Ages. St. Dominic, a 13th century Dominican friar, is credited with promoting the use of the rosary as a tool for spreading devotion and combating heresy.

One of the most pivotal moments in the history of the rosary occurred in 1214 when, according to legend, the Virgin Mary appeared to St. Dominic and gave him the rosary as a means to combat the heresy of the Albigensians and promote devotion to the life of Christ. This event is commemorated in the tradition of the "Blessed Mother handing the rosary to St. Dominic."

Over time, the rosary evolved to include the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous mysteries, each of which invites the faithful to contemplate different aspects of Jesus and Mary's lives. Pope John Paul II introduced the Luminous mysteries in 2002 to further enrich the devotional experience.

Deep reflection on the rosary involves immersing oneself in the mysteries and prayers, allowing them to penetrate the soul and nurture of our being and thereby establish a profound spiritual connection. Each mystery invites us to contemplate significant events in the life of Jesus and Mary, from the Annunciation to the Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven. These reflections can deepen our understanding of the Christian faith and our relationship with God and our Blessed Mother.

The rosary is, therefore, a profound and historically significant instrument of Christian devotion. Its structure, prayers, and mysteries provide a framework for deep reflection, allowing believers to connect with God and the sacred history of their faith. It is a powerful means of spiritual growth and communion with the divine, echoing through centuries of Christian tradition.

I urge you to consider the daily recitation of the rosary as a powerful spiritual practice that can enrich your lives and strengthen our commitment to the Salesian mission. The rosary is not merely a string of beads; it is a profound and time-honored method of prayer and meditation that has the potential to deepen your spiritual connection and fortify your dedication to the principles and values espoused by St. John Bosco, our Father and Founder.

Praying the rosary daily can foster a sense of unity and community among Salesians. When you come together as a group to pray the rosary, you strengthen your bond with one another and with the larger Salesian family. It reminds you that you are part of a global network of individuals committed to the same mission.

Many believers attest to the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary when they pray the rosary. It is a means to seek her protection, guidance, and blessings for yourself and the young and old you serve. Mary's maternal care can be a source of lasting comfort and profound strength.

Daily prayer of the rosary can facilitate personal growth in your faith journey. It encourages discipline, mindfulness, and a deeper understanding of the mysteries of the Christian faith. Through consistent practice, you may find spiritual growth and a heightened awareness of God's presence in your life.

Remember that the rosary is a timeless and cherished tradition within the Catholic faith. By embracing it, you can draw strength, inspiration, and guidance as you continue to live out the Salesian charism and bring the message of Christ's love to the young people entrusted to your care. In the spirit of St. John Bosco, let the rosary be a beacon of light and love on your path of service and devotion.

During the month of the rosary, we could revisit some of the popular Marian activities, especially carried out in our formation houses which powerfully inculcated devotion to the rosary and our Lady. Marian or rosary sermonettes, Marian procession, Marian nite, special Rosary service, Marian Quiz, special decoration of the statue of Mary, drawing and painting competitions, Marian singing competitions, learning the Hail Mary in different languages etc., besides the other traditional practices like the blessing of Mary Help of Christians, daily rosary, novena, nosgays, etc.,. I wish you all a very happy month of our Lady and the rosary. Let us not miss praying the rosary daily. Be assured of my prayers.

SPCSA MEETING IN SRI LANKA “COME AND PRAY TOGETHER, STUDY AND REVIEW OURSELVES AND MOVE AHEAD WITH GREATER ZEAL”

The 46th SPCSA Council, held from 1 to 3 September 2023 at the picturesque Don Bosco Provincial House, was hosted by the “growing” Vice Province of Sri Lanka, headed by Fr Roshan Miranda SDB and confreres of this enchanting island nation.

In between the sessions, all of us provincials, twelve in number, toured the historical places like the National Seminary of Our Lady of Lanka, the beautiful cities of Colombo and Kandy, the Buddhist Monastery and the City Centre, Kandy, the aspirantate and the Prenovitiate of the Vice Province, St. Sebastian's Church Negombo where a suicide bomber killed 320 people on Easter Sunday, 21 April 2019, St Anthony's Shrine,

Colombo where another suicide bomber killed many and destroyed parts of the Shrine and many other enchanting places. The programmes were very well organized by the hosting province and the provincial.

Recently Sri Lanka was plunged into deep political and economic crisis, throwing the nation and the citizens into an unprecedented nightmare. The nation is still struggling to come out of it.



Among many others, the topics that kept the Council deliberating for days, included the evaluation of the implementation of six-year plan of the Congregation and the region, the implementation of the recommendations of the Team visit in Hyderabad, the extraordinary visitation of the provinces, the joint formation of laity and the Salesians, DBTech, re-start of the Deacons' course, the trademark, meeting of the secretaries of the Provinces, submission of the evaluation of the missionary aspirantates and the Philosophate at Karunapuram.

A couple of weeks ago, I had written a circular to all the Rectors and leaders, insisting with them that the next House Council meeting and the Assembly of confreres need to be spent in studying and drawing up practical lines of action to implement the recommendations of the Team visit and the Extra ordinary visitation of the province. I had also asked them to collect the records of the training, placement and the assistance that each community gave to the poorest of the poor in our area. The Provincial team will examine them as and when it visits the communities in later dates. I request the Rectors and leaders to initiate this process which was also the recommendation given at the SPCSA council meeting.

NORTH EAST CRI MEETING: ONE WITH MANIPUR AND WITH ONE ANOTHER

Religious heads (Mothers General, Provincials, Vice Provincials, Delegates of religious Superiors, invited Guests) of different congregations working for and with the Church in the northeast India assembled in the Social Forum from 6 to 9 September to show their unity and solidarity and share information on challenges and issues that confront the nation today. Sr Maria Nirmalini, AC, National President of the Conference of Religious in India gave the opening talk, wherein she dwelt at length on the Synod on Synodality and the need for greater collaboration without losing one's identity and unhealthy submissiveness. She exhorted the Women religious to qualify themselves better and move from dependence to inter-dependence.

Br. Varghese Theckanath, SG, Direction, Montfort Social Institute, Hyderabad enlightened the participants on the need of the religious to play a proactive role in nation-building and especially in exercising the franchise in the forthcoming elections. He emphasized upon the duty of the Church leaders to guide the faithful to exercise their franchise conscientiously and select leaders who are truly good and work sincerely for the people. The Church personnel could conscientize the people especially the less educated on how to identify and choose future leaders and to desist from voting because of money, liquor and other allurements to get votes.

During the meeting, the assembly had the first-hand report on the Manipur embroglio from some Sisters who had to face the ordeal during the irreparable damage to life and property by the marauding crowd. From the sharing that was done, it appreciably evident that the Church and the religious congregations did much to serve the suffering humanity in Manipur.

Towards the end of the meeting, the assembly chalked out some concrete lines of action, centred mainly on nation-building. The priests and religious need to exercise their franchise and motivate all sections of people under our care also to cast their votes. We need to enlighten the people to scrutinize candidates and choose leaders who would work for equality, justice, unity, inclusiveness, peace and avoid those taking bribes, act in a partisan manner or those who cause division and spread hatred.

CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF DAUGHTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS (FMA) TO THE NORTH EAST

On 8 December 1923, six Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA) arrived in the Northeast India. These pioneers were Sr Innocenza Vallino (leader), Sr Maria Bricarello, Sr Giulia Berra, Sr Clotilde Appiano, Sr Cecilia Da Roit and Sr Antonietta Rosetti.

Today, the congregation ranks first among the Women religious in the Church, with over 13,653 members, of which 1272 are in India. Over these one hundred years, the

congregation has grown immensely in India with seven provinces spread all over the country. In Northeast India, the FMA have two provinces, namely, Shillong and Guwahati with over 600 sisters.

Looking back, the sisters have rendered a yeoman service to society through education of youth and a myriad of other allied activities. Today, the congregation runs 33 schools and 4 colleges on their own and 27 schools and 3 colleges in collaboration with others. Most of their educational institutions like schools and hostels are in rural areas, catering to the poor and marginalized people.



Prominent educational institutions include St. Mary's School Guwahati (1932), St. Joseph's School Tezpur (1936), Sacred Heart School Shillong (1938), Auxilium School, Shillong, Little Flower School Imphal (1958), Little Flower School Kohima (1964), St. Mary's School Maligaon (1967), Auxilium HS School in Agartala and many others.

They were entrusted by the Assam Government to look after the nursing staff of the Ganesh Das Hospital, Shillong from 1946 till 1979. They were the pioneers of the Rapsbun Nursing School in 1979. In Assam, the sisters were part of the nursing staff of Guwahati Civil Hospital from 1932 to 1962.

Ever since their arrival, they have always catered to the socio-economic needs of the people in mostly rural areas. The sisters are instrumental in initiating Self -Help Groups which have been responsible for the economic progress of rural communities. They, like many other women religious toured the villages for evangelisation, catechesis, health care and family apostolate.

The Centenary celebrations were graced by the presence of Mother General and General Councillors of formation and youth pastoral. In Shillong, Rt. Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, the Archbishop of Shillong presided over the centenary Holy Eucharist. The cultural programme was organised at 3.00 pm with the participation of youth from all parts of the province. In Guwahati, Rt. Rev. Thomas Menampampil presided over the Holy Eucharist, which was followed by the release of book, "Unfading Flowers" and the blessing and inauguration of the Legacy Gallery.

“CALLED TO WALK IN THE WAY OF THE MAN WHO STILLED THE WATERS” - DN SOMESH TUDU ORDAINED TO BE A PRIEST FOREVER

Planning together and working as a **TEAM** have paid off magnificently in the sacerdotal ordination of Dn. Somesh Tudu. Despite apprehensions of all sorts, the event went off well due to God’s blessings and the hard work and generosity of the Salesian communities in and around Kumarikata and the faithful.



Most Rev John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati ordained Dn. Somesh Tudu a priest, in the presence of a huge gathering of faithful, wherein his parents and sister also participated. On arrival, the Archbishop, the Provincial and the Deacon were ceremoniously welcomed with the traditional washing of feet and the cultural dances. Fr Marcus Lakra prepared the people spiritually before the Holy Mass and that greatly helped to make the celebration devout and spiritual.

One is able to witness the joy and happiness on the faces of people who participated in the ordination. The newly ordained, his family and relatives and the parish priest were visible happy, with Fr. Somesh Tudu choosing an appropriate ordination motto: “My grace is sufficient for you” which we hope and pray be his inspiration in his ordained ministry.

We had ample opportunity to appeal to the people to promote vocations and vocations come only from families are strongly rooted in faith and live in unity. I am very grateful to the confreres of Kumarikata, Sashipur, Dimakuchi, Tangla, and Sirajuli for pooling their resources together and organizing the ordination beautifully.

QUINQUENNIUM MEETING “TOWARDS GREATER EFFECTIVENESS”

Twenty (20) young priests of our province attended the animation and interactive session, conducted by Fr. John Alexander SDB, Vice Provincial, Chennai Province from 19 to 22 September 2023 in the Mario Hall, Provincial House. The so-called Junior Priests' or Quinquennium meeting is an ongoing formation for young confreres, within five years of their ordination. It is mostly held within the province only for the confreres of the province but in some years, it becomes an inter-Provincial event, bringing together the young Salesians from the provinces of Shillong and Dimapur.



Interspersed between animation sessions, sharing of personal experiences and discussions, the full three day programme fully energised and revitalised our young salesians. They availed for themselves a half-day of outing together too. A few of the resolutions that they took for themselves seemed edifying.

- To be regular for personal prayer daily.
- To be positive in life, outlook and in talks and conversations.
- To continue to be accountable in everything especially in finance
- To take Spiritual Direction seriously.
- To accompany the young closely especially by being present in their midst as often as possible.
- To take keen interest in Youth ministry and the Salesian family
- To make conscious effort to promote vocations.

All the Junior priests, except one, attended the programme. He was busy with the preparations for the convocation in the university. I request confreres due for such meetings to attend them without fail every year.

I wish to thank Fr. Joseph Teron, Vice Provincial and main organiser of the meeting, Fr. Jayaprakash, Economer, Fr. Marcus Lakra, Youth Pastoral delegate, Fr. Charles Lakra, Rector of Provincial House, Fr. Bartholomew Marak, Administrator and all support staff who worked hard and made the programme an enriching one. May God bless you all.

TRI-MONTHLY MEETING AND RECOLLECTION OF CLERICS AND BROTHERS

Forty two (42) Clerics and Salesian Brothers, in different stages of their post novitiate formation had their tri-monthly animation, meeting, recollection and sharing of life



experiences on 23 and 24 September in the Mario Hall, Provincial House. Fr. Lukose Cheruvalel familiarised them on “Promotion of Rights of Minors and Prevention of Abuse”. Fr. Marcus Lakra gave the recollection talk, after which, there were moments of silence, recollection and confession. Some of them made use of the occasion to meet me for a friendly chat.

On Sunday (24 September), Fr. Joseph Teron, Vice Provincial took sessions on rootedness in the Salesian family, after which Fr. Jayaprakash, Economer reviewed the practices of poverty, accountability and administration of finance. The final session was taken by me during which we cross-checked the fundamentals towards growing into full maturity, like absolute fidelity to community and personal prayer, the personal plan of life, sharing of one’s spiritual experiences with someone who could guide, efforts towards excellence in studies and personal development, healthy relationships and developing reading habits.

They ended the programme by assessing for themselves the strength and the positive aspects of the province, while at the same time, taking note of areas of concern.

POSITIVE POINTS:

1. Our ING confreres hail from diverse cultures and live in unity.
2. Sports and games, co-curricular activities and involvement of Clerics/Brothers in them are encouraged by the Superiors.
3. Collaboration exists among the confreres.
4. Animations are regular and efforts are made to do them well.
5. Human formation is taken care of greatly.
6. Increase in vocations and especially new priests each year.
7. Senior confreres are available for the accompaniment and guidance of the young.
8. Circulars are regular and appreciated.
9. The Superiors love and accompany the young Clerics/Brothers closely. Rector and confreres of Provincial House (the Mother House) are warm hearted and hospitable.
10. There exists familiarity and friendliness among confreres - young and old.

CHALLENGES

1. Monthly recollections for Clerics and Brothers need to be regular in some regions.
2. Clerics and Brothers could have their recollection only by themselves and not with hostel boys.
3. Efforts could be made by the young and the old confreres to know one another.
4. Greater personal efforts could be made to grow in efficiency, competency and personal grooming (elocution, public speaking, debating skills, games, etiquette etc.)
5. Achieve mastery of musical instruments for animation (guitar, keyboard etc.)

It was decided that in the next Tri-monthly meeting, the clerics and brothers will be tutored in tonic solfa by a professional.

GRAND AND GLORIOUS 12th CONVOCATION OF THE ASSAM DON BOSCO UNIVERSITY

On 17 September 2023, graced by His Excellency, Shri Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Assam and the visitor to the University, our own Assam Don Bosco University organised its 12th Convocation, where in front of the festive assembly of academicians, educationists, special invitees, parents of students, well-wishers of the university, the Staff and students of the institution, one thousand four hundred and forty nine (1449) students were conferred degrees and awards by the Vice Chancellor. While some received their Doctoral degrees, a huge number of young and brilliant minds were conferred their Masters and Bachelors degrees, to the great joy, pride, happiness and sense of achievement of the future citizens of our country. Scores of such students were also awarded the gold medal for being the most meritorious student of the university.

The highly elated visitor to the University and Governor of Assam, in his speech exuded tremendous positivity and praised the Don Bosco Society for providing a centre of excellence to the young to harness and develop their intellect and heart. He was particularly happy to see a huge participation of students, from across the states and countries, most of whom were women which conveyed the message of empowerment of women. As he congratulated them, he exhorted them to be nation builders and contribute positively towards inclusive development of the country. Often he repeated words, like - dreams, visions, innovation, impactful, dedication, initiative etc. Several times he was interrupted by the rapturous applause of the audience.



The verdant university campus saw a sea of humanity on that memorable day, with vehicles, fully packed and parked as per the directions by the student-volunteers. The



Academic Block II, the venue of the Convocation, was bedecked with decorations and throughout the lengthy three-hour programme, the participants maintained decorum and discipline. Apart from speeches of the Chancellor, the Vice Chancellor and a student representative, the programme was kept lively and vibrant through the melodious rendition of the national anthem and other songs by the choir of the university.

I quote two closing paragraphs of my speech, in which I said that *“As builders of the nation, you - my dear young graduates, you must be stewards of our planet. The challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, and resource depletion require your*



attention and action. Remember that our nation's future is intimately linked with the health of our environment, and it is your responsibility to ensure that we leave a legacy of stewardship and sustainability for generations to come.



In conclusion, my dear graduates, the world stands before you, as a canvas awaiting your brushstrokes, a stage awaiting your performance, a laboratory awaiting your experiments, and a nation awaiting your leadership. Just as the Chandrayaan-3 mission ignited the imaginations of millions and showcased the limitless potential of human endeavor, so too, your journey can inspire others and leave an indelible mark on our nation”.

Indeed, it was a moment of glory and achievement both for the university and the students. Nothing gives greater pride and satisfaction to the parents and the university than to see young Bosconians move into the world of work and further studies with joy and contentment.

Let us pray for each one of them that the values and the principles we made effort to implant in them, may grow and influence ther world and beyond. I am truly indebted to Fr. Abraham, the Rector, Fr Jose Palely, the Vice Chancellor, Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, the Pro-Vice Chancellor, the Confreres, the Staff and the students for planning and executing the event well.

THE DAY OF THE FAMILY SPENT IN PRAYER, ANIMATION, FEASTING, GAMES, AND BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS



The Provincial community day, which was the day of the family, held on 27 September in the Provincial House, began with a well-animated prayer and a welcome ceremony. Fr. Sabu Francis, Provincial, Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales (MSFS) then animated us on the spirituality of St. Francis. He said that “Every congregation is known by a virtue. Benedictine/prayer, Franciscan/poverty, Capuchins/penance, Dominicans/preaching, some for adoration, and some for praying the breviary. Salesians are known forgentleness and humility”.

He quoted St John Bosco who said, "Be humble and patient and the Lord Jesus will give you, the will and the means." He again quoted C.S. Lewis' reflection on humility,

saying, "Humility is not thinking less of ourselves; it is thinking of ourselves less." Referring to St Francis' reflection on humility, he said, "Just as humility perfects us with respect to God, gentleness perfects us with respect to our neighbour". He also spoke on anger, hostility, hatred and abuse of all sorts. He kept the audience awake through his



humour and jokes.

Soon after the coffee break, Fr. Saju Kariyil, Vice Principal of Don Bosco School, Guwahati felicitated the Provincial and the Councillors. His presentation through the powerpoint and video was apt, crisp, well prepared, entertaining and much appreciated.



In my animation, I began a video song, **BIND US TOGETHER**. One of Jesus' preoccupations before his passion, death and resurrection was the unity and fraternity of his apostles; Don Bosco also was concerned about his Salesians working together, especially after he departed from this earth. In the later part of the animation, I expressed my gratitude to all the Council members, Rectors/leaders and all the confreres and presented a few inspiring quotations on leadership.

After the festive Holy Eucharist, celebrated in the Co-Cathedral of St Joseph, we felicitated Br. Angelus Tete on his birthday and had the feast day meal. At 3.00 pm, there took place the Inter-Region football tournament, wherein Salesian, young and old participated actively. The Provincial Team finally lifted the Champions Trophy, with the

Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao team resigning to the runners up position. After a short valedictory and vote of thanks, the curtain of the memorable day was gloriously lowered.

I am grateful to the organizers of this memorable day for their meticulous planning and execution of the same and to all those who participated in the day's events actively, thus showing that we indeed are a happy family of St John Bosco.

In a special way, I owe my debt of gratitude to Fr. Joseph Teron, Vice Provincial, Fr. Jayaprakash, Economer, Fr. Marcus Lakra, Youth Pastoral delegate whose office is in the Provincial House, Fr. Charles Deepen Lakra, Rector, Provincial House, Fr. Bartholomew K Marak, Administrator and all the support staff for a great show of commitment and admirable performance of assigned responsibilities.

GENTLE REMINDERS :

The visit of Fr Stefano Martoglio, Vicar General will take place as scheduled. He has approved the itinerary with a slight modification which will be circulated soon. Kindly pray for the success of his visit, the animation and the consultation process. Kindly prepare the programmes well. As much as possible keep the time as scheduled and do not tire him with long cultural programmes.

The Rector Major and his team have promulgated the 29 General Chapter. It reads as "**Passionate for Jesus Christ, Dedicated to the Young - For a faithful and prophetic lived experience of our Salesian vocation.**" I shall soon convoke the Provincial Chapter and appoint the Moderator.

The communities will, without fail study the reports of the **Team visit** and the **Extra Ordinary visitation** of the Province and draw up practical lines of action. This can be done in the next Council meeting or in the Day of the Community or the Assembly of confreres. I shall examine them with the community in my next visit to the communities.

On 1 and 2 October, all the **Salesian Brothers**' of the Province will assemble at Sirajuli for two days of animation and discussion. I thank Br. Jobi Mani for drawing up the programme. I request all the Salesian Brothers of the province to participate in it. We have nine (9) perpetually professed and five (5) temporarily professed Salesian Brothers in the province.

The SPCSA Commission for Missionary Animation will organise a seminar at Don Bosco Institute, Kharguli from 3 to 7 October, 2023. As many as one hundred and fifty three (153) have registered for it so far. ING will send 12 SDBs to participate in it. We wish the seminar a great success..

CONCLUSION

St John Paul II has these powerful lines on Rosary, “The power of the Rosary is immense. You cannot recite it repeatedly and not be changed in some way for the better. If you continue to say it, Mary will not leave you alone to live in sin, she will bring her Son to you. A similar need for commitment and prayer arises in relation to another critical contemporary issue: the family, the primary cell of society, increasingly menaced by forces of disintegration on both the ideological and practical planes, so as to make us fear for the future of this fundamental and indispensable institution and, with it, for the future of society as a whole. The revival of the Rosary in Christian families, within the context of a broader pastoral ministry to the family, will be an effective aid to countering the devastating effects of this crisis typical of our age.”

Archbishop Fulton J Sheen says that “The Rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description.”

St Padre Pio says that “Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the Madonna and pray the rosary, for her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother.”

St Louis De Montfort says that “In order to pray well, it is not enough to give expression to our petitions by means of that most excellent of all prayers, the Rosary, but we must also pray with real concentration for God listens more to the voice of the heart than that of the mouth... Finally, when people say the Rosary together, it is far more formidable to the devil than one said privately, because in this public prayer it is an army that is attacking him. He can often overcome the prayer of an individual, but if this prayer is joined to that of other Christians, the devil has much more trouble in getting the best of it.”

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr Januarius S Sangma SDB
Provincial



OCTOBER 2023		
Date	Day	PROGRAMME
1	Sun	Damra : Parish day - Holy Mass & Sirajuli : Salesian Brothers' Day
2	Mon	Sirajuli : Brothers' Day - Holy Mass >> Tangla and Bhootechang
3	Tue	Guwahati - Inauguration of Seminar on "Mission as Charism" at DBI
4	Wed	Tura : Governing Body meets the NAAC Peer Team
5	Thu	Guwahati - Seminar
6	Fri	Guwahati - Seminar
7	Sat	Guwahati - Conclusion of the Seminar
8	Sun	Guwahati
9	Mon	Guwahati
10	Tue	Guwahati >> Shallang
11	Wed	Shallang
12	Thu	Rongjeng
13	Fri	Rongjeng >> Guwahati
14	Sat	Guwahati
15	Sun	Guwahati
16	Mon	Guwahati : Arrival of Fr Stefano, Vicar General & Fr Patrick
17	Tue	Guwahati - JUBILEE OF CONFRERES
18	Wed	Fr Stefano in Tura
19	Thu	Fr Stefano in Kokrajhar
20	Fri	Fr Stefano in Tangla - Curatorium at Salesian College, Sonada
21	Sat	Fr Stefano in Sojong - Haflong (Asalu Programme)
22	Sun	Fr Stefano in Dimapur - Haflong (Asalu Programme)
23	Mon	Fr Stefano - from Dimapur to Shilong - Hostel Blessing, Joropara
24	Tue	Fr Stefano in Shillong
25	Wed	Fr Stefano - Shillong to Guwahati and departs to Rome
26	Thu	Guwahati
27	Fri	Provincial Council Meeting, Provincial House
28	Sat	Guwahati : ALL COMMISSIONS MEETING - Provincial House
29	Sun	Kokrajhar : Chapel Blessing
30	Mon	Dotma with the Prenovices
31	Tue	Guwahati : Conclusion of the month of the Rosary