

# PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

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

JS – 72/2023

1 January 2023

**My dear Confreres,**

Cordial greetings from Don Bosco, Provincial House, Guwahati.

Christmas and New Year are seasons of gifts - giving gifts to and receiving them from friends and loved ones. On 25 December, God gifted His only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ to the world as its Messiah. Jesus in turn gave his life and teachings to humanity. Mary and Joseph surrendered (gifted) their will to God and God made a wonderful use of their “Yes” (fiat). The three wise men, the Magi travelled far to reach the new born king and gifted him with gold, frankincense and myrrh.



As we conclude the civil calendar 2022 on 31 December, the Lord gives us another new year on 1 January 2023. It is truly a gratuitous gift and we are privileged to see the brand new year, filled with possibilities and opportunities to grow in life. There were many who desired to set foot in this new year but could not. Every year we welcome the new year with excitement and a positive attitude. We set goals for ourselves to achieve and take resolutions to improve ourselves, our mission and apostolate.

I wish everyone of you a happy new year and encourage you to live everyday of 2023 with zest for life and with determination to do God’s will on behalf of the people to whom we are sent.

Let us keep working hard in 2023 to make our parishes the best parishes that can ever be, promoting synodality and organizing lots of meaningful celebration of the Sacraments, quality youth animation programmes, systematic tours of villages and families, and animation of the faithful. Preaching the Word of God in season and out of season and as effectively as possible should be our special characteristics. Evangelisation and catechesis need to receive the highest attention in every community and parish. Care for the families, prevention of family breakdown, upbringing of children and youth in all spheres, generating love for the Church and promotion of vocations need much greater initiative and attention.

Let us work ceaselessly to make our educational institutions as centres of excellence. It is clear that we need to perform much better in education sector - curricular/academic and co-curricular. The students need to be loved, not failed and detained, especially in huge numbers. We must be able to say emphatically like Don Bosco that “for you, I study, for you, I work, for you, I live, for you, I am ready even to give my life” (C 14). They need to be accompanied systematically and fearlessly from day one and made to come out successfully in life, especially in studies and examinations. Blaming the students, rightly or wrongly is only a scapegoat and cannot be accepted. Too many failures and detentions mean that we have failed, as Principals, teachers and parents.

Our formation in educational institutions need to be matter of the hearts. The confreres who are heading these institutions need to plan in detail and must have huge determination to uphold the brand **DON BOSCO**. They need to follow up closely the teaching and learning, imparted in the school. We ourselves need to be more disciplined and then follow up the teachers and parents more closely. We witness sadly that there is lots of self complacency and half-hearted involvement in the mission of education. There is a subtle link/connection between our own performance and the performance of those under our care. Our hostel boys and girls must be loved and care for and let them become nurseries for vocations.

Formation and vocation today have become very crucial. The name **DON BOSCO** works magic in the minds and hearts of the young and the people of the north east India but we need to attract them through our exemplary life, life of dedication and excellent performance, spirituality and prayer, through our happy and cheerful life as individuals and in community life and having a special attention to the those in difficulty and poverty.

Let us uphold at all cost, our fidelity to religious life and discipline, our life of honesty and transparency especially in dealing with resources, finance and relationships, our simplicity of life and hard work, carrying out our duties well and cordial and respectful relationship with all especially our confreres in the community. One of the essential requirements of our religious life is community life. It is God who calls us and sends us brothers to love in the communities. We need to shed all our preferences and accept one another with all the good that we are and also the shortcomings that we all have.

May 2023 see us making greater progress and fidelity in all spheres of our mission and apostolate. He tells us, “Behold, I will be with you till the end of days” (Mt 28: 20). May our blessed Mother Mary, the Help of Christians be with us throughout this new year.

### **WITNESS THE 14th NATIONAL BOSCOREE AT TAPESIA “PROMOTE, AVOID DESTRUCTION”**

The end of the year 2022 and the beginning of 2023 witnessed a mammoth gathering of Don Bosco Scouts and Guides from the South Asia at the picturesque campus of the Assam Don Bosco University, Tapesia. The event has been the subject of meticulous and detailed planning, headed by Fr Joseph Teron, Vice Provincial and his team. There have been so many confreres, brothers, sisters, teachers and lay staff who have collaborated with him so well and the event will truly be a fitting tribute to Don Bosco, Baden Powell and the Scout and Guide Movement in the province and the country.



One of the significant achievements of the province in this regard include getting the status of a District for Don Bosco Scouts and Guides movement in the province from the Government which gives us the possibility of organising the movement with certain amount of autonomy and creativity which will contribute towards offering greater facilities and opportunities to our boys

and girls who join the movement.

The mega event will take place in the spacious and sprawling green environment of the Assam Don Bosco University Tapesia campus. Despite the fact that the venue has its own beauty already, the organisers especially the Salesian community at Tapesia have given it additional facelift, in which the young boys and girls will be able to see, live and learn. Our sessions and activities are programmed in a way as to evoke in the young minds the urgent need to love, promote and protect the Mother Earth, our only home.

In so many ways, the team spirit and togetherness are witnessed and felt. The Assam Government through the concerned department has supported the event. The Assam State Transport Corporation is offering some transport services. There are some private donors and sponsors. Bosconet too has pitched in their share with timely assistance. All the students in our schools have contributed for the last two years towards the event. The Salesian family (fathers, brothers and sisters) and the lay collaborators have come together for training, planning and have geared themselves up for the event. All the provinces of the SPCSA are participating in the event and some of the Provincials will personally participate in the event.

North east India is a home of simple and hospitable tribes. Our ancestors loved nature and promoted bio-diversity over the centuries. Their innate wisdom seemed to have told them that Nature is humanity's home, mother and is indispensable for our future and existence.

The entire India acknowledge our simplicity, closeness to nature and capability of playing a good host. Therefore it is important that we put our heads and minds together and make the event memorable. We have had meetings online and offline, prayed much and so optimistically, let us do it together for the greater glory of God and for the promotion of youth potentialities and participation.

I wish Fr Teron and everyone in the team all the best and implore God's special blessings and assistance on the opportunity that we offer to the young minds to come together, learn and be happy.

## **GRAND OPENING CEREMONY OF 14<sup>th</sup> NATIONAL BOSCOREE HELD - THE REST MOVING ON SMOOTHLY AND POISED TO END ON A GRAND SCALE**

The 14<sup>th</sup> National Boscoree started off on a very solemn note on 30 December 2022 at 10.30 am at the Assam Don Bosco University campus, Tapesia. The weather at the venue was superfine. The grand opening ceremony witnessed the attendance of prominent members of the Salesian family of the North east India and the SPCSA.



Most Rev Thomas Menampampil, SDB, DD, the Archbishop emeritus of Guwahati Archdiocese graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and took the salute of a large number of marching contingents. Other prominent guests of the day included Sr Philomina Mathew MSMHC, Superior General of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC), Sr Christina Mynsong MSMHC, Asst Superior General (MSMHC), Fr Savio Silveira SDB, Provincial of Mumbai province, Fr Don Bosco Lourdsami SDB,

Provincial designate of Chennai Province, Fr Robert Simon SDB, Youth Pastoral Delegate, SPCSA, Sr Alphonsa Kurisingal FMA, Provincial, FMA Province of Guwahati, Sr Mary Mathew SMI, SMI Provincial, Sr Liza Chhetri MSMHC, Provincial, MSMHC Province of Guwahati, Fr Teixeira Banzelao SDB, Vice Provincial, Panjim Province, Sr Lydia Komuhra FMA, Vice Provincial, FMA Province of Guwahati, Fr Nazarius Lakra SDB, Vice Provincial, Dimapur province, a large number of Youth Pastoral Delegates of the Salesian SDB provinces, other Fathers, Brothers, Clerics, Sisters, teachers and more than 3200 scouts and guides from all the provinces of the SPCSA.

Present on the occasion were Mr Rahul Das, Managing Director, Assam State Transport Corporation (ASTC) and Mr Manas Ranjan, Deputy Inspector General.

At 10.30 am, the Provincial and the organising team received the Chief Guest at the venue, who then was escorted to the dais by the colour party. Next Fr Robert Simon unfurled the Boscoree flag and Mr AR Lazar invited everyone to salute the flag most reverently. Then began the march past of 104 marching contingents of Don Bosco Scouts and Guides to the smart drum beat of the bands of Nirmala School, Damra and Holy Child School, Guwahati. Several dignitaries received the salute of the marching contingents as the number of contingents were so huge. It was a wonderful sight to see Bosco Scouts and Guides putting up their best and felt proud to be part of such a mega event in a rare and magnificent venue.

At the official opening ceremony inside the atrium, the programme started with a beautiful prayer dance and the lighting of the lamp by the invited dignitaries. With a huge high resolution LED monitor right in front to project relevant and appropriate visuals, the mammoth gathering sang the melodious Boscoree anthem with gusto and clarity. While Fr Jose Palely SDB, Pro-Vice Chancellor spoke affectionate words of welcome to

everyone gathered for the occasion, Fr Robert Simon and I, as the Provincial of the host province gave short messages during the programme. Many prominent Scout Masters and Guide captains who contributed very significantly for the growth of the movement in the past were felicitated and awarded during the gathering. The programme was interspersed with quality fusion dances, choir and group songs.

Most Rev Thomas Menampampil, the Chief Guest in his presidential address highly appreciated Don Bosco India for accompanying the young closely, just like St John Bosco himself and giving them wonderful opportunities as the Boscoree to assemble together to learn, to develop friendship and character and promote team and family spirit through staying together and learning through fun, games, adventure, competitions, get together, cultural programmes, camp fire, and other activities. The future is built today, he said, with such opportunities towards making the young honest and good citizens and conscious about environment protection. Don Bosco University campus offers the best setting for youth to be together and go back home with sweet memories after having spent a few days in the beautiful lap of nature, he said.

Quoting the theme of this edition of Boscoree, he invited everyone to play his or her role in promoting clean and healthy environment before it is too late. The youth need to raise its voice against wanton destruction of our home, he said. He further added that whenever everyone does his or her share of responsibility, the collective responsibility or synodality comes into effect. In his concluding remark he said that such assembly will promote living together and national integration in the young minds, breaking down barriers of division, promoting peace and respect to one another, to other cultures and to our mother nature and planet which is our only home.

I wish to congratulate Fr Joseph Teron, Vice Provincial and his team at Boscoree who have given their best to make the event a successful and memorable one. We wish them all the best for the rest of the Boscoree programme. May the young boys and girls experience God's special blessings in this new (Boscoree) year.

**FR VACLAV KLEMENT - THE NEW PROVINCIAL OF SOUTH AFRICA VICE PROVINCE (AFM)**

On December 22, 2022, the Rector Major, Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime, with the consent of the General Council, appointed Fr. Václav Klement as Superior of the Southern Africa VP (AFM) for the six-year term, 2023-2029.

Fr. Klement was born Oct. 7, 1958, in Brno, Czechoslovakia, and began his Salesian consecrated life during the former totalitarian regime. He made his first profession in 1982, then left his country for Italy, crossing the Alps to pursue his second vocation as a missionary ad gentes for the Africa Project. At his perpetual profession in Rome in 1985, he was incardinated at the Vice-Province of South Korea, and immediately after his priestly ordination on May 25, 1986, he began his missionary life in Seoul on August 11, 1986.

During his 16 years of missionary life in South Korea (1986-2002) Fr. Klement was engaged in pastoral care for at-risk youth, in a secondary school as a catechist and then as rector of Seoul's "Mother House" of Daerim dong; in 1996 he was appointed Superior of the Vice-Province of the Holy Korean Martyrs.

During the 25th General Chapter (2002) Fr. Klement was elected as the first Councilor for the newly formed East Asia-Oceania Region. After six years, he was elected at GC26 (2008) as General Councilor for Missions. Then, at GC27 (2014) he was again elected as Councilor for the East Asia-Oceania Region. After GC28, in May 2020, the Rector Major appointed him as Extraordinary Visitor "ad nutum et pro tempore," and to date, he has been making the Extraordinary Visitation to the Vice-Province of Zambia (ZMB) and the Provinces of Poland-Pila (PLN) and East Africa (AFE).

Soon after his appointment, Fr Biju Michael, our Regional wrote that the Rector Major and his council will announce the next Extra ordinary visitor to the province.

### **STRENNA OF THE YEAR 2023 : AS THE YEAST IN TODAY'S HUMAN FAMILY - The lay dimension in the family of Don Bosco.**

On 24 November 2022, the Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime presented to the Salesian family the Strenna for 2023. It reads "AS THE YEAST IN TODAY'S HUMAN FAMILY. The lay dimension in the family of Don Bosco"



The option of animating the Salesian Family with two different images is renewed once again this year, because both are able to represent the proposed theme well, each enhancing different accents, styles and suggestions. The first of the two posters is the work of the Office of Social Communication of the "St. Anthony" Province of Portugal, and it clearly expresses the

industriousness and liveliness of the Salesian Family at the service of young people all over the world, both yesterday and today.

The proposed illustration is inspired by the affection and family dimension that united Don Bosco and Mamma Margaret to the young people welcomed at the Oratory in Valdocco.

In presenting the poster, the artist Nuno Quaresma from the Communications Team of Portugal, explained the details and significance of his work of art:

"It represents, allegorically, the humble and loving courage with which, even with limited resources, a House was built, where filial connection to the founder, love and faith in God, mutual trust, fraternity and joy, were the fertile ground for a community that never stopped growing. The simplicity of the food prepared, in the foreground, and the austerity of those serving at the table, on the right of the image, evokes the miracle of the five loaves and two fishes.

In the scene, Don Bosco, Father and Teacher, leads and organizes these young people, who are his own now, who are hungry, who need a shepherd, so that they may find within themselves the gift of solidarity, of loving zeal for small tasks, of shared bread,

those who need to know that they are the good yeast, that helps to grow and makes the “bread of the Human Family” greater and tastier.”

**ORDAINED TO BE SACRIFICED “YOU ARE A PRIEST FOREVER”**

This year the province is blessed with five new priests. There are two more deacons in the Province - Somesh Tudu and Hopna Tudu. In an era when globally the Church faces the problem of paucity of priests and religious, the gift of five new priests and religious is a matter of great rejoicing. We pray for them that they may find their vocation fulfilling and that they may remain faithful to the call to discipleship - the call to carry the cross, to be good shepherds who like Jesus himself are willing to lay down their lives for the sheep, to be men who are set apart (consecrated) to be deeply spiritual and holy, to be humble, sincere and honest and be detached from worldly ways of thinking and living.

The new priests day will be announced shortly and it will once again give the province the opportunity to congratulate and surround them with love and appreciation and assure them our support in the journey of being missionaries especially of the young.

SI no	Date	Name of Deacon	Venue
1	07 January	Dn Ravi Prabhat Ekka	Ranchi, Jharkhand
2	07 January	Dn Richard Barla	Orlanpur - Assam
3	15 January	Dn Rajib Lakra	Sarupathar - Assam
4	02 February	Dn Silverius Amsong	Umswai - Karbi Anglong
5	19 February	Dn Jyotish Beck	Mazbath - Assam

**CENTENARY CELEBRATION OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE DAUGHTERS OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS TO THE NORTH EAST INAUGURATED**



(Standing from left) Antonietta Rosetti, Clotilde Appiano, Cecilia Da Roit  
 (Sitting from left) Giulia Berra, Innocenza Vallino and Maria Bricarello.

In the year 2023, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians will celebrate the centenary of the arrival of the first batch of their sisters to the North east in 1923. Following the footsteps of the SDB Fathers and Brothers who arrived in the north east in 1922, the Salesian sisters set foot in this beloved land one year later and began their mission in right earnest, with strong network and collaboration with the Salesian priests and brothers while maintaining a healthy autonomy and independence.

On 5 December, the centenary celebration was flagged off with an inaugural programme at St Mary’s Convent, Guwahati. It began with the hoisting of the centenary

flag which was followed by a Eucharistic celebration presided over by Most Rev John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati and a host of concelebrants. During the Mass, the Archbishop declared the Chapel of the community as the Shrine dedicated to St Mary Domenica Mazzarello. Before the festive dinner, there was a short get together where songs were sang, short dramas were enacted and gifts were presented to the dignitaries.

We wish the Salesian sisters a meaningful celebration of the centenary wherein they will be able to look back at the past with gratitude and move on to the future with hope, greater determination, innovation and creativity.

### **CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF ARRIVAL OF ICONIC APOSTLE VENERABLE STEPHEN FERRANDO BEGINS BY SR IRENE ZOSIAMI MSMHC**

The yearlong centennial celebration of the arrival of Venerable Stephen Ferrando, the iconic apostle to Northeast India and one of its longest serving prelate officially kick started with a solemn inaugural function on December 22 at the Generalate of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC), Guwahati. The occasion also marked the centenary of his priestly ordination as a Salesian priest in the year 1923.



The hoisting of centenary flag by Archbishop Emeritus of Guwahati, Thomas Menampampil, initiated the centenary year followed by a fitting floral tribute to Bishop Ferrando in front of his impressive portrait. The centenary lamp lighted by Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General of the MSMHC will keep on burning throughout the centenary year.

Archbishop Thomas who, as a young priest had a first-hand experience of Bishop Ferrando spoke of him with high esteem as “a great communicator” and applauded his incredible influence on the collective missionary spirit of the region. He said, “Amazingly he played a bigger role in the collective missionary charism of the Northeast as most of the young priests at earlier times were trained by him.”

Sr. Philomena Mathew, the Superior General reaffirmed the significance of his arrival and said, “Had he not come who knows, where and what would have been the story of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians”. She continued, “Throughout the year we hope to keep alive his memory more intensely and more meaningfully by undertaking various grassroot charitable activities for the uplift of the poor, and the marginalized; empowerment of women and girls.”

Fr. Januarius Sangma, the Salesian Provincial of Guwahati Province admired Bishop Ferrando’s missionary dynamism who, as a “valiant son of Don Bosco reached out the length and breadth of Northeast rural areas and interacted with simple people.” He also wished and prayed, “Let him not remain as our priceless possession to Northeast alone, Salesian families and the MSMHC, but be declared a saint to become the role model to the whole world and imitated for his virtues.”



The MSMHC across the globe observed this day with great fervour in their own respective provinces and mission stations by hoisting of the centenary flag, organized prayers and Holy Mass.

The significant line of Salesian Rector Major, Fr. Philip Rinaldi's letter, "You are to go to the Indian missions – Assam", clearly destined the path of the newly ordained Fr. Ferrando. He as a young priest then had to spearhead the third batch of Salesian missionaries to Northeast India. With a group of young novices under his guard, he landed the exotic mission land of Assam from Italy on 22 December 1923, which was his maiden and ultimate mission. Since then, he breathed the air of Northeast, enjoyed the enchanting beauty of the hills and valleys, smelled the fragrance of its flora and fauna and walked through the streets of its cities and villages with the vision and mission of serving the poorest and the marginalized.

With his indomitable spirit, unflinching commitment and love for the diverse - ethnic people, Bishop Ferrando walked the road less travelled, as a pioneer missionary to this pristine land of Northeast and brought tremendous changes and growth in the society and the church. For an elongated 34 years as a prelate, he headed the vast and frontier mission of Northeast India which in those days was plagued by utter poverty, illiteracy, dearth of personnel and World War – II with its remnants of miseries. With his visionary astuteness and the generous outreach to people even to the remotest corner of the village, he left an indelible imprint into the fabric of the society through the vast array of pastoral, developmental and charitable activities.

The founding of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC), the first indigenous congregation in Northeast India was undoubtedly Bishop Ferrando's ingenious and visionary response to the emerging needs and miseries of the people doubled by World War – II. He proved to be a war time leader who led from the front and walked amidst his people in darkest time.

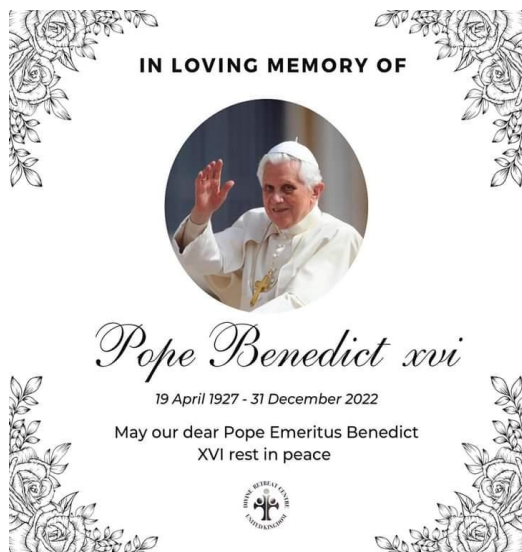
Today, the MSMHC spreads across the 12 countries other than India and continues its charitable services to the people of varied cultures with focus on women and children, the less privileged and the marginalized through various social, pastoral, educational and developmental activities.

As an iconic apostle and champion for the cause of the poor, Northeast had found a true leader in Bishop Ferrando who by treading his own path paved the way to the glorious morn of the church and the society in Northeast today.

A hundred year has gone by since Bishop Ferrando set his foot on the soil of Northeast; and as the generation of his time too is fading away into oblivion, the light of this iconic figure shines ever brighter with the continued works of his legacy.

Now that the centenary flag is unfurled. The sight of it waving high in the vast canopy of the blue sky will definitely be a perfect reminder of this great man who laid down his life for the people of Northeast India.

## POPE EMERITUS BENEDICT XVI PASSES AWAY AT 95 YEARS OF AGE



Former Pope Benedict XVI, born Joseph Ratzinger in Germany passed away at his Vatican residence at the age of 95.

The 265<sup>th</sup> leader of the Roman Catholic Church had been ill for some time. He led the Catholic Church for less than eight years until, in 2013, he became the first Pope to resign since Gregory XII in 1415.

Let us thank God for the gift of this holy and inspired Pope and pray for the repose of his soul.

According to the Vatican news, the details of the final rites will be announced soon. We will be able to participate in them and pray for him together with the whole Church.

## SILVER JUBILEE OF MY PRIESTLY ORDINATION CELEBRATED IN TURA

On 28 December, the day of my priestly ordination at Don Bosco School, Tura in 1997, the Salesians and the Salesian family of Garo Hills region, together with the priests, the clergy and the religious celebrated the Silver jubilee of my ordination. It was on this day in 1997 that Bishop George Mamalassery, the then Bishop of Tura, ordained Lt Fr Anthony Abong B Marak and me as priests in front of the huge gathering of the faithful. Since then there has been no ordination in Tura for the past 25 years, neither the religious nor the diocesan clergy.



Concelebrated by a decent number of priests and religious, I presided over the jubilee Eucharist in the presence of Confreres, Sisters, my family members, friends, well wishers and faithful. After the Mass there was a short felicitation programme, in which the two Bishops of Tura - Bishop Andrew R Marak and Bishop Jose Chirackal (CJ) also participated. The celebration ended with a sumptuous dinner for all.

I place of record my love and appreciation to Fr Jogesh B Sangma, Rector and his community at Don Bosco Centre for Learning, Tura (DBCL) for taking this initiative and I

thank all the confreres of the region for the wishes and prayers. I truly appreciate all that you have done and pray God to bless you manifold.

My ordination motto was “My grace is sufficient for you” (II Cor 12:9). Ordinary as I am, I owe everything to God and His grace working in all of us, for all that I am and all that I am able to do, small though they may be. I owe my gratitude to all my confreres of the province, the Salesian family and my own family members.

### **REQUEST FOR PRAYERS AND GENTLE REMINDERS :**

1. Fr George Chittapanatt (CV) of the Provincial House, Guwahati is admitted at St John’s Hospital, Christian Basti on 30 December for a close and better medical attention. He showed symptoms of acute weakness and as the confreres are busy with the Boscoree events, the community thought it wise to admit him in the hospital. When I visited him on 31 December, he had improved and was sleeping well. He has some issues with his kidney, for which the treatment is being given. Let us accompany him in our prayers.
2. Eleven (11) of our clerics/brothers are travelling to Don Bosco Renewal Centre, Bangalore on 31 December (night) for one month of preparation for their perpetual profession. These days, journeying seems challenging for various reasons. Let us keep them in our prayers especially for a fruitful and intense preparation for the final commitment.
3. Kindly pray and prepare for the extra ordinary visitation. The Rectors/leaders are to get ready all the documents that are asked to be presented to the visitor. The list of documents could be obtained from the Province Secretary, if needed.
4. Each region will study the strenna with the Salesian family. In the Provincial house too, the Salesian family will study the same, as is customary. Someone could be appointed by the regional councillors to prepare ahead and animate the study.
5. On 31 January 2023, on the feast day of St John Bosco, we shall solemnly concluded the Centenary year. The common programme will be sent to the communities before the actual date.
6. All the communities especially the Principals will prepare the students for the Board examination 2023. It is very unfortunate that in some schools, big number of students were detained. The Principals will follow up the students for the next year’s Board examination, if there is Class X examination still, from the beginning of this year itself.
7. The dates for the vocation camps have been announced for all the regions of the province. I request everyone to become conscious of promoting vocation as a community as well as at the individual level. Let us promote good vocations and for that we need to accompany them closely.
8. This year the schools especially those under MBOSE are opening the school earlier than other years. It is a very good decision which will increase the number of working/class days. I congratulate the Principals who are offering additional Pre-

board tests to students soon after the new year which certainly will help the students towards better preparation for the board examinations.

9. Despite early and several reminders, there are few confreres of some communities who did not make the retreat in the centenary year. They have not made their annual retreats too and I doubt if they have made it before or after the Christmas. It is not a healthy trend. There are some Rectors/leaders who did not plan it ahead and have not facilitated it for the confreres of the community. Only a few of them had genuine reasons. It will be good to look at this aspect of our religious life in the coming year.

## CONCLUSION

I recommend you and your communities to God that He may accompany you in this new year. God needs to be the centre of all that we are and all that we will do. As has been repeated by the Popes and the Superiors of the congregations, let us return to our roots of fidelity, dynamism and community life.

I entrust our province and all the confreres of the communities to the maternal assistance and prayer of our Blessed Mother of God.

May St John Bosco, our father and founder whose feast we shall celebrate at the end of this month be alive in us especially for the poor and needy young. Just like Don Bosco who did not fail the most unruly and un-educated street children of his time, let us not fail the young in our parish ministry and especially in our educational institutions.

Be assured of my fraternal appreciation, remembrance and prayers.

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,



**Fr Januarius S Sangma, SDB**  
**Provincial**



JANUARY 2023		
Date	Day	PROGRAMME
1	Sun	New Year Day : Mary, Mother of God - Mass at Tapesia (Boscoree)
2	Mon	Tapesia : Boscoree
3	Tue	Tapesia : Boscoree Valedictory Function and conclusion of Boscoree
4	Wed	Guwahati
5	Thu	Guwahati : Meeting Dominican Sisters
6	Fri	Satgaon : Inauguration of Youth fest & Holy Mass
7	Sat	Guwahati : Holy Mass - MSMHC Provincial House - Installation Ceremony
8	Sun	<b>Ordinations: Dn Ravi Prabhat Ekka (Ranchi) &amp; Dn Richard Barla (Orlanpur)</b>
9	Mon	Guwahati
10	Tue	Sashipur : Holy Mass - Diocesan Mission Exposure Programme <b>Arrival of the Extra ordinary Visitor to the Province</b>
11	Wed	Guwahati : Visitation Programme
12	Thu	Guwahati : Extraordinary Visitor meets the Provincial Council (10.00 am - 12.00 noon) Provincial Council meeting in the PH (6.00 pm - 8.00 pm)
13	Fri	Opening Conference – Rectors, Leaders, Parish Priests, Asst PPs, Principals, Vice Principals, Administrators and other confreres at 10.00 am in the PH. Assembly of Salesian Family (FMA, MSMHC, SMI, VSDB, ADMA, Co-operators, Past Pupils - PH (conference 6.00 –7.00 pm; interaction 7.00 – 7.30 pm) Dinner with the Salesian family
14	Sat	Golden Jubilee and Centenary celebration - Doomni
15	Sun	<b>Ordination : Dn Rajib Lakra, Sarupathar</b>
16	Mon	Guwahati
17	Tue	Guwahati
18	Wed	Guwahati
19	Thu	Guwahati
20	Fri	Guwahati
21	Sat	Guwahati
22	Sun	Novena for the feast of St. John Bosco : Chapel Blessing : Dimakuchi
23	Mon	Novena
24	Tue	Novena
25	Wed	Novena
26	Thu	Novena
27	Fri	Novena
28	Sat	Novena
29	Sun	Novena - <b>Silver Jubilee: St John Bosco Parish Kokrajhar</b>
30	Mon	Novena
31	Tue	<b>Closing of the Centenary year: Solemn Eucharistic Celebration and closing ceremony in the communities</b>

**NB:** Extraordinary Visitation time table has become tentative with the appointment of Fr Vaslav Klement in South Africa. The communities will be informed about the details of the visitation as and when informations come.