



SDB PROVINCE OF GUWAHATI - ING

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Congratulations

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Coronavirus pandemic generates universal brotherhood & faith

Dear readers,

The world is beset with a deadly virus called Coronavirus, COVID-19, which originated in Wuhan city of China. It has become a pandemic, creating fears and anxieties in everyone. Despite huge loss of human lives and economy on one side, on the other side, there is a good thing happening and that is ‘the universal brotherhood’ among nations for a common cause of fighting against the COVID-19. This is because the humanity is at stake. I think the world has never been so united and so unified in its response to any problems in the world like terrorism, poverty, human trafficking, mafia, drugs, anti- nuclear weapons etc., than the coronavirus. So, also, the people are having now more recourse to the divine power for protection and good health than at other times.



Fr. Pojit Marak, sdb
Editor, Newline

Thus, before this deadly virus, even the intellectuals, the scientists, the world best physicians, the technocrats, the most powerful people of the world in terms of money, wealth, power, fame etc., have to bend their knees and surrender before the deadly monster of COVID-19.

Another big lesson that the humanity should learn from what is happening today, is that its activities should not go against the natural law – buying and selling, and eating of snakes and bats and other animals as has happened in the seafood market in Wuhan city of China. Otherwise, once the nature is raged, unbearable and uncountable are going to be its punishments and destructions.

We, as believers in God, who is above all things, created and uncreated, above all powers and pandemics etc., should continue to seek His protection and providence by bowing our heads in humility for our sins, and the sins of the world.

The 28th General Chapter of the Salesian Congregation have to wind up early due to this worldwide epidemic. But the Salesian world celebrates at the re-election of Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime as Rector Major, for a second term. We congratulate him and all the Sector Councillors and the regional councillors who were elected during the Chapter, to serve as leaders for the next six years. The Province of Guwahati rejoices at the election of Rev. Fr. Biju Michael Pulianmackal as Regional Councillor for South Asia. This is the first time that a member from the north-eastern provinces is elevated to this prestigious post. Prior to his election, he was the registrar of Assam Don Bosco University and a Provincial Councillor. It's a big blessing and a big glory for the Salesian Province of Guwahati in particular as its member is elected to take up leadership at the congregational level. We congratulate and pray for Rector Major and his team as they hold the great responsibilities of animation and governance of the Salesian family. May they always and everywhere feel and experience the closeness of Mary Help of Christians, of St. Joseph, St. Francis de Sales and all the Salesian saints in their salvific and humanitarian ministry towards young people.

The present Newline, dedicates much of its pages to the General Chapter and the re-election of Rector Major and his General Councillors, the strenna, the new priests, and various other important events and activities of our province. May St. John Bosco bless us from above so that we are able to respond to the cry of the young people in these troubled times.



GENERAL CHAPTER 28

The 28th General Chapter of the Salesians which started at Valdocco in Turin from 16th February 2020 was brought to a closure midway on 13th March 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic after completing all the essential requirements of a chapter.

As many as 242 delegates of 66 nationalities and representing the seven regions spread over more than 130 countries participated in the meet. The chapter was originally scheduled to end on April 4, 2020.

The theme of the chapter is “What kind of Salesians for the young people of today?” The Rector Major began the chapter with several words of thanks to the many guests, Salesians and representatives of the groups

of the Salesian Family. Fr Angel said that the first focus is that of a prophetic and hopeful gaze for an especially significant commitment: “responsibly guiding and animating a charism of the Church, for the Church and for the world, aroused by the Spirit.”

The Rector major echoed the words of Fr Luigi Ricceri in General Chapter 20: ‘Ours is not an assembly of shareholders of an industry, it is not a political assembly with factions with conflicting interests that are economic, prestige and ambition. We are here as Church – better, an assembly of consecrated men, gathered in the name of the Lord, totally devoted to a supernatural ideal.’



General Chapter 28 is a great summons “to discern with realism, courage and determination, the orientation of the path to embark upon in this 21st century, in a very special ecclesial moment of renewal and purification.”

What is the profile of the Salesian today? The one that has Don Bosco as a model. With Don Bosco as a model, saying Salesian today should be the same as saying:

- consecrated man of deep faith;
- apostolic passion for young people;
- son of God who knows he is and feels like a father to young people;
- charismatic identity of everyone who enriches the Church with the

charism of Don Bosco and creates ecclesial communion;

- always faithful apostle of young people, always flexible and creative;
- always educator, always friend of young people.”

For the Province of Guwahati, it was a moment of great joy and jubilation after it received the news of the election of Fr (Dr) Biju Michael Pulianmackal as Regional Councillor for South Asia. Father Biju Michael succeeds Father Maria Arokiam Kanaga of Chennai Province, who served in the same post two terms.

RECTOR MAJOR RE-ELECTED



The 28th General Chapter of the Salesian Congregation has re-elected Fr Ángel Fernández Artime as Rector Major for a second

term, from 2020- 2026. The election was decided at the first round of voting.

Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, 59, was born on 21 August 1960 in Gozón -Luanco, Asturias, Spain; he made his first profession on 3 September 1978, his perpetual vows on 17 June 1984 in Santiago de Compostela, and was ordained priest on 4 July 1987 in León.

Originally from León Province, he has been Youth Ministry Delegate, Rector of the

school at Ourense, member of the Council and Vice Provincial and, from 2000 to 2006, Provincial of León. *March 2020 | 05*

He has a Doctorate in Pastoral Theology and a Licence in Philosophy and Pedagogy.

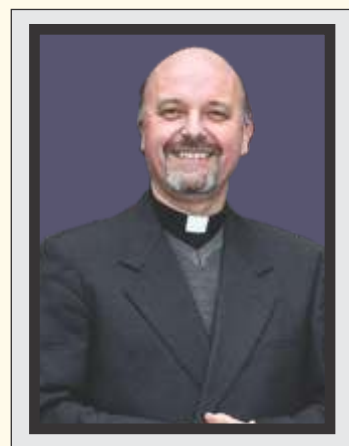
He was a member of the technical commission that prepared the General Chapter 26. In 2009, he was appointed Provincial of South Argentina, and thanks to this position he also got to know and collaborate personally with the then Archbishop of Buenos Aires, card. Jorge Mario Bergoglio, today Pope Francis.

On 23 December 2013, he was appointed Provincial of the new province of Mary Help of Christians in Spain, an office he couldn't take on, since the 27th General Chapter had elected him as tenth Successor of Don Bosco. It was 25 March 2014.

Stefano Martoglio ELECTED VICAR

The 28th General Chapter of the Salesian Congregation has elected Fr Stefano Martoglio as Vicar of the Rector Major for 2020-2026. Before his election, he was the Councillor for the Mediterranean region.

Stefano Martoglio was born in Turin on 30 November 1965. He entered the novitiate at Monte Oliveto in



Pinerolo in 1984, made his first profession in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin on 8 September 1985, and his perpetual profession on 27 September 1992 in Castelnuovo Don Bosco. He was ordained priest in Turin on 11 June 1994.

He served as a member of the House Council in the community of Pinerolo and that of St. Dominic Savio, Valdocco, before becoming Rector of the Mother House of the Congregation in Valdocco in 2004. In 2008 he was appointed Superior of the Special Circumscription of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta.

He participated in the 25th General Chapter and was part of the pre-chapter Commission for GC27. The 27th General Chapter elected him as the 1st Councillor for the Mediterranean region.

GENERAL COUNCIL APPOINTED



28th General Chapter of the Salesian Congregation has elected the General Councillors for Formation, Youth Ministry, Social Communication and Missions for the 2020- 2026 term. The Economer General of the Congregation was also appointed on 12th march 2020.



In Formation, **Fr Ivo Coelho** (India) was confirmed for a second six-year term, as he held the same office in 2014-

2020. Fr Ivo Nicholas Coelho was born on 15 October 1958 in Mumbai (India). Entering the Salesian novitiate in Yercaud in 1976, he made his first vows on 24 May 1977 in the same city, and his perpetual vows exactly 7 years later in Mumbai. He was ordained a priest on 27 December 1987 in

Panjim. Among the most important previous positions, he was Provincial of India-Mumbai (2002-2008) and moderator at General Chapter 26.



Fr Miguel Angel Garcia Morcuende (Spain) was elected as Councilor for Youth Ministry, having served in the same Department between 2010 and 2017, involved in the School and Vocational Training Sector. Fr Garcia Morcuende was born on 29 September 1967 in Madrid (Spain); he attended the Salesian novitiate in Mohernando, where he made his first profession on 16 August 1986. He made his perpetual vows in Arevalo on 11 June 1994, and was ordained a priest on 5 April 1997 in Madrid. Before his period of service in Rome he had already served in Youth Ministry at his home Province (2003-2010), the then "Spain-Madrid".



Elected to Social Communication was **Fr Gildasio Mendes dos Santos** (Brazil), this past February installed as Provincial of the Salesian Province of Brazil-Belo Horizonte (BBH), and previously Provincial of Brazil-Campo Grande (BCG). Born on 18 March 1963 in Conceição do Barra, Fr Gildasio Mendes dos Santos entered the Salesian novitiate in São Carlos, where he made his first vows on 6 January 1984. He made his perpetual profession on 11 February 1990 in Campo Grande. On December 12, two years later, in Rondonopolis, he received priestly ordination. He gained his experience in the sector as Provincial Delegate for Social

Communication (2004-2005 and then 2009-2015) in the BCG Province.



For Salesian Missions, **Fr Alfred Maravilla**, (Philippines) currently Superior of the Vice Province of Papua New Guinea-Solomon Islands (PGS) was elected. Alfred Maravilla was born in Silay City, Negros Occidental, Philippines, on 31 July 1962. After completing his novitiate in Canlubang, he left as a missionary to Papua New Guinea, where he made perpetual vows on 24 March 1988 in Gabutu. After studying Theology in Cremisan, Israel, he received priestly ordination in his hometown on August 15, 1992. For him too it is a return to a Department where he had already collaborated: from 2008 to 2017, he was in Rome, working with the formation and accompaniment of missionaries.



Finally, reconfirmed as Economer General was **Fr Jean Paul Muller**, (Luxembourg) Salesian coadjutor, who first served in this office on 27 January 2011 when he was appointed by the then Rector Major, Fr Pascual Chávez, and confirmed Economer by the 27th General Chapter. Born on October 13, 1957, in Grevenmacher, Luxembourg, he entered the novitiate in Jünkerath on August 16, 1978, where he made his first Salesian profession on August 15 of the following

year, and made his perpetual profession on August 15, 1984. He participated in General

Chapters 23, 24 and 26 and was part of the pre-capitular commission for the Gc27.

REGIONAL COUNCILLORS

The Capitulars of the 28th General Chapter of the Salesian Congregation elected **Fr (Dr) Biju Michael Pulianmackal** of the Province of Guwahati as the New Regional for *South Asia*. Fr. Biju Michael was born on 19th March 1970 at Moolamattam in Kerala, India. He was ordained a priest on January 5, 1999. He holds a doctorate in Moral Theology and Masters in English and in Bioethics. Until now he was holding the post of Registrar at Assam Don Bosco University and was a Councilor of the Province. He was the President of the Jerusalem Campus (Ratisbonne) of the Salesian Pontifical University. He is an internationally published author. His books include: *Integrity the Core of Leadership* (Oklahoma, USA), *Educating Leaders for Social Transformation* (ed) (Munich, Germany), *Jesus' Ways to Success* (New York, USA), *Youth Vision* (ed.) (Guwahati, India), *Virtues* (Jerusalem), *Mary of Nazareth: Through Poems and Pictures from the Holy Land* (Jerusalem, Israel).



The 28th General Chapter of the Salesian Congregation has also elected the seven new regional Councilors for the 2020-2026 six-year term.



For the *Africa-Madagascar region*, **Fr Alphonse Owoudou** was elected, until now Superior of the Equatorial Tropical

Africa Vice Province (ATE). Fr Owoudou was born in Ebolowa (Cameroon) on April 30, 1969; he carried out his novitiate in Lomé (Togo) between 1989 and 1990; he made his perpetual vows on 9 August 1997 in Yaoundé (Cameroon), where he was ordained a priest on 11 July 1999. He was Dean of the Post-Novitiate of Lomé (2011-

2015) and Dean of the Salesian institute of Yaoundé. He obtained a Doctorate in Psychology from the Salesian Pontifical University (UPS) in Rome.



Elected for the *America South Cone region* was **Fr Gabriel Romero**, until now Provincial of North Argentina (ARN). Fr Gabriel Romero was born on 10 September 1971 in San Miguel de Tucumán (Argentina). He attended the novitiate in La Plata, professing as a Salesian on January 31, 1991. His perpetual profession was made on 5 October 1996 and he received his priestly ordination in Cordoba on December 11, 1999. He is a professor of Philosophy and Educational Sciences, specializing in Youth Ministry. He also participated in the 27th General Chapter.



For the *East Asia region*, **Fr Giuseppe Nguyen Tinh Phuoc**, currently serving at the Mission Department, was elected. Born on 2 November 1955 in Quang Ngai (Vietnam), he carried out his novitiate in Tram Hanh, concluded with his first profession on August 15, 1974. He made his perpetual vows in Dalat on 15 August 1980 and was ordained a priest on 9 September 1995 in Fountain Valley (USA). For his home Province, he was Councilor and Delegate for Formation.



For the *Central and Northern Europe region*, **Fr Roman Jachimowicz** was elected; until now he held the position of Provincial of the Province of Poland-Piła (PLN). Fr Jachimowicz was born on 13 November 1967 in Gorzów Wlkp (Poland), carried out his novitiate in Swobnica, made his first profession on 22 August 1987 and perpetual profession on July 31, 1993, in Rumia; he was ordained a priest on 25 May 1995 in Lad. He was also Delegate for the Past Pupils for the "St. Adalbert" Province of Poland. He also speaks German and Russian.



For the *Interamerica region*, the new Councilor is **Fr Hugo Orozco Sánchez**, who until today was Provincial of Mexico-Guadalajara. Born on June 30, 1968, in San Luis de Potosí (Mexico), he carried out his novitiate in Chula-Vista, made his first vows on 16 August 1989 in Tlaquepaque and perpetual ones on 10 September 1995, always in Tlaquepaque. He received priestly ordination in San Pedro de Tlaquepaque on 15 March 1997. Before being appointed Provincial, he had also served as Delegate for Youth Ministry and Formation for the MEG Province.



Finally, for the *Mediterranean region*, **Fr Juan Carlos Pérez Godoy**, outgoing Superior of the Salesian Province of

Spain-St James Major (SSM) was chosen to replace Fr Stefano Martoglio, elected Vicar of the Rector Major. Fr Pérez Godoy was born on 5 November 1959 in Burguillos, made his first religious profession on September 8, 1978, perpetual profession on 15 August 1984 and was ordained a priest on

June 5, 1987. Before serving the SSM Province, in the old Province of Seville, he was Delegate of Youth Ministry, Vicar, and Provincial. Graduated in Ecclesiastical Sciences, he has a Diploma in Magisterium and Catechetics and in Youth Ministry.

"DO DREAM ... AND MAKE OTHERS DREAM"

Pope Francis

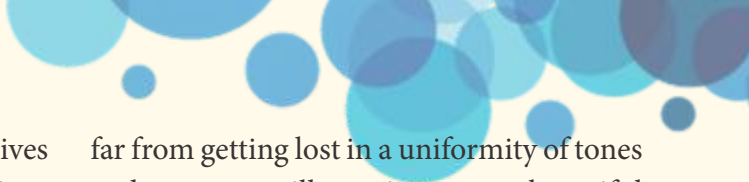


In the message, sent to the Salesians on the occasion of the 28th General Chapter, Pope Francis displayed his intimate and profound knowledge of Don Bosco's charisma. Speaking with familiarity, as if it were a simple "goodnight" in the oratory, he helped to identify the answer to the

Chapter's question: "What Salesians for today's young people?" For the Argentine pontiff, the answer is: "the Salesian of the XXI century is a man full of hope because he knows that his center is in the Lord, able to make all things new."

After rejoicing at the fact that the General Chapter was taking place in Valdocco, he told the Salesians, "never to forget the youthful noise and the chattering of the Oratories", especially those who find themselves "like sheep without a shepherd", the Holy Father invites each Son of Don Bosco to "cultivate a contemplative attitude, able to identify and discern the crucial points," which then makes it able to show and open onto other dreams that this world fails to offer.

Taking Don Bosco as a model, the Pope indicated to the Salesians a religious model incapable of remaining neutral or inert in the face of events: a Salesian, we could say with



reference to the Strenna for 2020, who lives the policy of the Our Father, descended into reality to bring reality towards God. A Salesian neither clerical nor rigorist, but rather a consecrated person who does not choose to separate himself from the world to seek holiness, but allows himself be questioned, consulted, and chooses how and which world to live in.

Among the ideas he offered for the future journey of the Congregation, Pope Francis also underlined the gift of the female presence in Salesian works, from Mamma Margherita onwards: a presence capable of transmitting the dimension of hospitality, an affective - as well as effective - presence, and for this to be valued "as an actor who is not auxiliary, but rather constitutive of your presences."

Finally, the Pope Francis encouraged Salesians "to preserve the wealth of many of the cultures in which you are immersed without trying to 'standardize' them." On the contrary, "in this way the Salesian spirit,

far from getting lost in a uniformity of tones and nuances, will acquire a more beautiful and attractive expression. It will be able to express itself in 'dialect.'" And it will also be able to speak, with the same naturalness and authority, even in the languages of digital courtyards, in "the widespread 'pastoral of the screen.'"

The Pope's conclusion was almost a hymn to Don Bosco and his dreams for young people, and in particular those most in need: "Open homes that allows the Lord to manifest to many young people his unconditional love and allow you in return to enjoy the beauty to which you have been called. Do dream... And not just for yourselves and for the good of the Congregation, but for all young people without strength, deprived of the light and comfort of friendship with Jesus Christ, without a community of faith that sustains them, devoid of a horizon of meaning and life. Do dream ... and make others dream as well!"

VALDOCCO OPTION, OUR WAY FORWARD

Rector Major

The Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime concluded the 28th General Chapter with a parable from Holy Scripture, "What can I compare the kingdom of God to? It is similar to a bit of yeast: if a woman takes it

and kneads it with three large measures of flour, then the yeast ferments all the dough." This beautiful parable of Jesus can be a good comparison for General Chapter XXVIII. He said, "It was shorter than expected, but



like a pinch of yeast, its work has only just begun: it will spread its strength and beneficial ferments in and throughout the Congregation.”

Pope Francis underlined in his message: "The Valdocco option of your 28th General Chapter is a good opportunity to regard the sources and ask the Lord: *Da mihi animas, cetera tolle*. This requires, on our part, to overcome the fears and apprehensions that may arise. Living faithfully the charism is something richer and more stimulating than simple abandonment, retreat or readjustment of the houses or activities; it involves a change of mentality in the face of the mission to be accomplished."

Nor can we forget the words of the young people present in the Chapter: "Salesians, do not forget us young people because we have not forgotten you and the charism that you have taught us! We want to express it wholeheartedly. Being here, we've made a

dream come true. In this special place in Valdocco, where the Salesian mission began, which brings together Salesians and young people together. You have our hearts in your hands. You have to take care of your precious treasure. Please don't forget us and do keep listening to us."

Quoting Pope Francis, Fr. Arttime said, "Salesianity is born precisely from this meeting capable of arousing prophecies and visions: welcoming, integrating and making the best qualities grow as a gift for others, especially for those marginalized and abandoned from whom nothing is expected."

In an atmosphere of true harmony, the Chapter demonstrated with empathy and coherence another truth underlined by the Pope: "The interlocutors of Don Bosco yesterday and of the Salesian today are not mere recipients of a strategy planned in advance, but live protagonists of the oratory

to be built. Through them and with them, the Lord shows us His will and His dreams. We could call them co-founders of your houses."

The portrait of the Salesian for today's young people can be reflected in what the Rector Major affirms of himself: "I will try to be, as far as possible, a true man of God, with a strong charismatic and pastoral identity, far-sighted, capable of one gaze of faith and hope

in reading reality. It is my deep desire to continue to be, as far as possible, a man capable of paternity and fraternal affection, of accompaniment, close to the confreres. I

6 NEW PRIESTS for Salesian Province of Guwahati



This year the Salesian Province of Guwahati is abundantly blessed with 6 New Priests hailing from different parts of the country. They are Fr. John Paul Turkey, ordained on 5th January 2020 in Salana Parish, Tezpur Diocese; Fr. A. Anthony Dhason, ordained on 15th January 2020 in Muttom Parish, Kottar Diocese Tamilnadu; Fr. Amit Tete, ordained on 16th January 2020 in Bihabandh Parish, Rourkela Diocese, Odisha; Fr. Kishor Moshahary ordained on 18th January

2020, in Soraibil Parish, Bongaigaon Diocese; Fr. Francis Xavier Kujur, ordained on 18th January 2020, in Kuarmunda Parish, Rourkela Diocese, Odisha and Fr. Klisterwel Songthiang, ordained on 18th January 2020 in Cathedral of Mary help of Christians, Laitumkhrah, Shillong Archdiocese. We congratulate them for their 'Fiat' to their Lord and Master in a Salesian way and we accompany them in their priestly ministry.



NATIONAL TRIBAL YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAM held at Don Bosco Institute, Guwahati

Don Bosco Institute hosted the National Tribal Youth Exchange Program from 2nd March to 8th March 2020. 500 NSS volunteers and Program Officers from all over the country participated in this colourful cross-cultural event. Much time was dedicated to meeting and interacting with fellow citizens from across the country, to making new friends and to engaging in fun and educative activities, especially in the form of life-skills and personality development. 'Unity in Diversity', 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', 'Not Me but You' were some of the slogans during the camp.

The National Youth Meet was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of Assam, Shri Jagdish Mukhi on 2nd March at 3 pm in the Amphitheatre of Don Bosco Institute. Other dignitaries who graced the inaugural function was Dr. Joram Begi, State Chief Information Director, Arunachal Pradesh,

Fr. Joseph L. Teron, Vice Provincial, Mr. Dipak Kumar, Regional Director of NSS and Dr (Fr) P.D. John, Executive Director, DBI.

Prof. Jagdish Mukhi, Hon'ble Governor expressed his joy to be a part of the program. He spoke about the various initiatives taken up by the central govt to develop the tribal community. He told the students to take this opportunity to know each other. Learn about each other's culture and when they go home take something new with them. He advised the youngsters to make one new friend every day from another State and interact with participants of different states learn from their culture. He reminded the students that we are Indians first and everything else comes second. He praised Don Bosco Institute for hosting this mega event and thanked NSS Regional Directorate for joining hands with Don Bosco.

The NSS National Youth Exchange Program came to a conclusion on International Women's Day, 8th of March 2020. The chief guest of the day was Smti Pallavi Kachari, Collector, Guwahati Municipal Corporation. While thanking DBI for inviting her, Madam Pallavi reminded the youth, "We must teach our sons to respect girls. Every girl's safety is in the hands of men. We should educate our men on how to treat women."

Other guests on the closing day included Prof. Alak Buragohain, Chairperson, Royal Global University, Shri. Angshuman Prasad Das, State Director of NYKS, Shri. Abhijit Sharma, Director, Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship, Brig. R.K. Singh, Deputy Director General, NCC Shillong, and Regional Director, NSS Guwahati Mr. Dipak Kumar.

Ahamed Jimshad, Program Officer from Kerala said, "Three letters of NSS brought us

to Northeast to see the rich cultures of Northeast. In DBI, we were treated like 'Chief Guest' every day. By being in DBI, we felt we were in all the 8 States of Northeast as DBI houses all cultures of Northeast."

Pusha Saroj, a participant from Delhi said, "I love DBI and the people of Northeast. They are so welcoming, colourful and sociable. I am going to tell every one about the beauty of DBI and Northeast."

Shreya from UP studying in Benares Hindu University said, "Everything is different in Northeast. But I was able to adjust myself and enjoy the sessions and learn a lot. The entire camp was an eyeopener for me about the rich culture of Northeast."

Milind Kr Gautam, P.O. from Madhya Pradesh said, "In my thirty years life, I never had such a wonderful experience as I had these days in DBI – a place where all cultures and all religions meet."



Pope Appoints

AUXILIARY BISHOP FOR TURA DIOCESE



New Delhi, Feb 24, 2020: Pope Francis on February 24 appointed Father Jose Chirackal as the auxiliary bishop of Tura, a diocese in the northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya. The announcement was made at noon in Rome and its corresponding time (4:30 pm) in India. He will be consecrated as Bishop on 25th April 2020 at Sacred Heart Shrine, Tura.

The bishop-elect was born on July 14, 1960 at Ayiroor near Karukutty in Kerala's Ernakulam district. He was ordained a priest for Tura on December 29, 1987.

After the schooling in Kerala, he joined the Tura diocese in 1976. He studied at St. Paul's Minor Seminary, Philosophy at Christ King

College, and Theology at Oriens Theological College, all in Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya state. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts from St. Anthony's College, Shillong, and later a Licentiate and Doctorate in Canon Law from Università Urbaniana, Roma, in 1995.

According to a press note from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, the bishop-elect had served the diocese in the following ministries: 1988-1991: Asst. Priest, St. Joseph's Church, Selsella; 1991: Acting Headmaster, Sacred Heart School, Dalu; 1995-2004: Rector, St. Peter's Minor Seminary, Tura; 2004-2009: Diocesan Procurator and Chancellor; 2004-2011: Judicial Vicar and Diocesan Spokesperson; 2009-2011.

He also served as the parish priest of the Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians, Tura; 2011-2014: Rector, Oriens Theological College, Shillong, and Secretary, North East Regional Commission for Vocations and Formation; 2014-2019.

Since July 2019, he was appointed parish priest of St Luke's Church, Walbakgre, Tura and director of Pastoral Centre. He has been member of the College of Consultors, and visiting professor in Oriens Theological College, Shillong, for many years.

Release of

TIWA TRANSLATION OF THE BIBLE

in Umswai



It was a historic moment for the Tiwa people and the Province of Guwahati, when the Complete Bible in Tiwa was released by His Lordship, Most Rev. Paul Mattekatt, Bishop of Diphu, on 21st December 2019 in the parish of Umswai. Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, was the main celebrant of the Holy Eucharist in which 20 priests and thousands of Catholic faithful along with religious and other well wishers attended the Holy Mass.

For the complete Tiwa Bible, special credit goes to Rev. Fr UV Jose SDB, former Parish Priest of Umswai. Under his able leadership, more than ten local church leaders did the translation work for the past five years. In

this first edition, 2000 copies of the new complete Tiwa Bible (Old Testament & New Testament) were printed. It will be available for the faithful at the cost of Rs. 200/- per copy. During the releasing ceremony, four Protestant Tiwa Pastors were also given the newly released Tiwa Bible. The Tiwa Bible will also be a great asset for Tiwa Literature. It is also a great contribution of the Catholic Church to the Tiwa tribe. I take this opportunity to thank Fr Tomy Anikuzhikattil and the community of Umswai for having organized and seen to all the arrangements of the Bible release. Thanks to all who have worked hard for the translation of the complete Tiwa Bible.

ONE DAY SEMINAR for Principals of ING Schools

Fr. Robert Faustin, SDB

32 ING Principals gathered together for a day of animation in Don Bosco Provincial House, Guwahati. The Seminar was organised by the Education Commission (Schools) under the leadership of Fr. Sebastian Kuricheal (Delegate for Schools). Mrs Gowri Mahesh and Mrs Chenda from Bengaluru were the resource persons.

Rev. Fr Joseph Teron (Vice Provincial) welcomed the participants and invited them to make good use of the opportunity to improve our schools.

The resource persons touched upon the three themes, namely, School administration/management, handling of students, teachers, parents and taking the school forward. The participants were asked to randomly put down into writing the various strategies that will help in planning by K, W and L chart. 'K' stands for 'What you already know', 'W' stands for 'What you

want to know' and 'L' stands for 'What you'll learn at the end of the course. The 'Swot' formula (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) were also explained to the participants in order to plan and evaluate in an effective manner.

Building relationships, policy making, book keeping, documentation, capacity building, regular training, lesson plans, rules of evaluation, making the system in its place, building student engagement system were also highlighted during the seminar.

The principals who attended the seminar expressed their satisfaction at the end of the workshop. "It was indeed a learning time" for us said one of the participants.

"Learning Matters (We transform teaching and improve learning outcomes in schools)" can also be studied in detail through the website: <http://learningmatters-india.org/#>.



TEACHERS' SEMINAR AT HAFLONG

Fr. Albert Thyрниang



Don Bosco Schools of Karbi Anglong and Dima Hasao region organised a Teachers Seminar on 21st and 22nd February 2020 at Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Haflong. 173 teachers from 10 Don Bosco Schools of Karbi Anglong region participated in the seminar. The schools include - Don Bosco School, Haflong, Don Bosco School, Mahur, Don Bosco School, Asalu, Don Bosco School, Laisong, Don Bosco School, Harangajao, Don Bosco School, Umswai, Don Bosco School, Amkachi, Don Bosco School, Sojong, Don Bosco School, Satgaon and Don Bosco School. Baithalangso.

Smt. Nandita Gorlosa, a former teacher of Don Bosco, Haflong and presently Executive Member (EM) of Dima Hasao District Council inaugurated the seminar.

She urged the teachers to prepare their students for life and not just for acquiring a degree. “Degrees are just a piece of paper” she said, while advising teachers to engage their students in outdoor activities like sports and games, gardening etc. Spread over five sessions, the two-day seminar had inputs on Skills of the 21st century and Effective teaching of English, Child Rights, and the Preventive System.

Fr. Emmanuel Marngar, Principal of Don Bosco School, Haflong was gratefully acknowledged for his meticulous planning, preparation and splendid execution of the program. Larlin Engtipi, a participant from Don Bosco Sojong said, “The environment was captivating, the sessions on Child Rights and Don Bosco’s Preventive System were very useful for us.”

EXPOSURE CUM TRAINING FOR CFG STAFF

Fr. Thadeus Kujur, SDB



50 CFG Staff of Snehalaya had gone for a 2-day exposure cum Training program to Amguri from 13th to 14th March 2020. The program was coordinated by Mr. Deba Dutta of CFG in collaboration with the Fr. Ignatius Gari and Staff of Don Bosco School, Amguri. The staff had the opportunity to visit several CARE centres and interact with the local community leaders. It was a time of great awareness and fun-filled learning for the team of CFG. They were able to understand the difficulties faced by the people. In spite of the difficulties, CFG found that the care centres were providing

the best of resources and creating a learning environment to bring up rural children. There are lack of hospitals, no proper communication, language problem (can hardly communicate in Assamese or Hindi), no market, shortage of water (wells have been in dug but there is still scarcity), lack of income source and devoid of basic facilities, no proper schools, parents and children are not aware about the rest of the world; there have been many child trafficking cases for child labour, child marriage, and for other business activities.



TWO-DAY WORKSHOP AT AMKACHI

Bro. Godfrey Ekka



A two-day workshop was organized by Don Bosco School Amkachi for the senior students and staff. Dr. Vijaya Saraswathy, Pro-Vice Chancellor of St. Mother Theresa University and CEO & Founder of the Godwin Academy animated both the students and teachers. Dr Saraswathy is a well-known International trainer for the intellectual and brain power.

On 2nd March 2020, the workshop was conducted for the students of the higher classes. The workshop helped the students to attain mental tranquility and improve their concentration. The resource person helped the students with techniques to improve memory power. It was a wonderful learning experience for students and profited much from this exercise.

On 3rd March, the workshop was conducted for the teachers. The Principal and the teachers of Don Bosco Higher Secondary School Umswai also participated in the program along with the teachers of Amkachi. The main topics covered during the sessions were based on five dimensions: Graphical Brain Enrichment, Psycho-Cybernetics' memory, Guided Imagery Interface, Visual Auditory Kinaesthetic and lastly, Repetition Impression & Association.

The participants enjoyed the workshop and said, "The seminar was so effective, practical and beneficial to us. It is the first time that we attended a seminar of this nature and the topics were so new and very relevant to us." All those who attended received certificate of participation.

CARENO AWARD 2020 for Archbishop Thomas Menamparampil

Supreme Court Judge Justice Kurian Joseph (Rtd), presented the Indian Catholic Press Association's (ICPA) prestigious award

named after Father Louis Joseph Careno for Excellence in Journalism to Archbishop Emeritus Thomas Menamparampil of



Guwahati on February 29, 2020 at New Delhi.

Addressing the gathering after receiving the award, Archbishop Menamparampil spoke about the importance of dissent, its legitimacy and its need for the emergence of common wisdom. He also urged the members to engage in intelligent dialogue for the truth to emerge eventually.

This award is given for his relentless peace-activism and his bold writing against Communalism and fundamentalism

gaining ground globally. Archbishop Menamparampil's name is synonymous with peace, inter-community dialogue and social harmony. His incisive, though -provoking writing on these subjects are noted for their lucidity, clarity, relevance and authenticity. His razor -sharp analyses of social-cultural and political issues, especially relating to North-East have led to soul- searching debates and concrete peace-initiatives, for which he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011.

Award to ADBU

ENGAGED UNIVERSITY OF THE YEAR 2020



Fr. Joseph Nellanatt, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Assam Don Bosco University, received the most “Engaged University of the Year Award” on behalf of the Vice Chancellor at Taj Resort & Spa, Kochi, Kerala on January 10, 2020. Fr (Dr) Stephen Mavelly, Vice Chancellor said, “It is a validation of the University's engagement in 'Service

Learning' - a unique feature of Don Bosco University that integrates academic inputs, relevant community-centred activities followed and preceded by structured reflection in an intertwined partnership.”

In October 2018, the University was awarded 'University of the Year' (among universities in India in existence for 1-10 years) by FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) at the 14th FICCI Higher Education Summit 2018 held in New Delhi.

Last year, through the initiatives of International Association of Universities (IAU), the BBC Storyworks Production team came to the University and produced a video on how Don Bosco University researched, invented and built water purifier for the neighbouring villages.

NGO LEADERSHIP AWARD for Snehalaya

Snehalaya was awarded the NGO Leadership Award by the World Federation of CSR Professionals on the occasion of World CSR Day on February 26, 2020 at Taj Vivanta Hotel, Guwahati in the presence of various professionals, VIPs and dignitaries

from different parts of India. Fr. Thadeus Kujur received the award on behalf of Snehalaya and addressed the gathering about the activities and works of Snehalaya. He said that Snehalaya is a centre for Child Rights, under the umbrella of Don Bosco



Society, Guwahati Province is committed to work for the underprivileged and orphan children especially those who are most need of love, care and protection. Snehalaya, which was started in 2001 is registered under Govt. JJ. Act 2015 and is now a full-fledged CCI fit for the care and protection of underprovided children.

Snehalaya, planted as a sapling and nurtured for long years by Fr. Lukose Cheruvallal, the founder and his team is now bearing fruit. Today, Snehalaya stands as a model for the rest of the CCIs, NGOs, government and civil society and this award is a recognition of its service to humanity.

HONORARY DOCTORATE to Fr Dennis Solomon



On 10th of March 2020, Fr. Dennis Solomon, Principal of Don Bosco School, Amkachi, Karbi Anglong, Assam,

received the honorary doctorate in Education for “Innovative Teaching Learning in education”. With a spirit of humility, Fr. Solomon dedicated this

recognition to the entire Salesian congregation working for the welfare of the poor and the marginalized. He said that he always wanted to work for those who can’t afford education and bring smiles to their faces.

Fr. Solomon was also instrumental in starting around 40 Study Centres for the street children of Guwahati. He has made a YouTube Documentary under the title Snehalaya – an abode of love. Fr Solomon’s desire and goal in life is to give quality education to the poorest section of people and create leaders who will be transformers of individuals and community.

Annual Sobha - **OUR WAY OF LIFE - IN DAMRA**

Fr. K.O. Augustine



The annual Sobha of Damra Parish was inaugurated on Friday, the 21st of February at 6 pm by Fr. Charles Sangma SDB, Rector and Parish Priest of Don Bosco, Mendal, who also celebrated the Holy Mass on the opening day.

On second, 22nd February, catechesis was done to prepare children for First Communion and Confirmation. The day ended with a Marian procession and Holy Mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. CA John SDB, Parish Priest of Gojapara.

The Archbishop of Guwahati, Most Rev. John Moolachira DD, graced the occasion as main celebrant on Sunday, 23rd of February. On that day 45 children received First Communion and 90 children were given the sacrament of Confirmation.

Fr. Hubert Marak SDB, Rector of Rongjeng preached the Word of God in the evening.

On Monday, the 24th morning the traditional Mass for the dead was offered by Fr. K.O. Augustine SDB, Rector and Parish Priest and then the flag was lowered marking the end of a wonderful socio-religious get together going a long way to build up the Parish Community and the Youth.

The Sobha witnessed wonderful teaching sessions by neighborhood Parish priest Fr. Crosper Sangma of Goalpara, Fr. CA Thomas of Mendipathar, Fr. Anthony Xavier of Damas, Fr. Hubert Sangma of Chima-impel. The Sobha committee led by Mr. Benedict Marak and the Parish Council and the Salesian Community Fr. Nicodim, Br. Benedict and Fr. Augustine, together with the Sisters all helped to make the Sobha an unforgettable one.

ANNUAL SOBHA, UMSWAI PARISH



The Annual Sobha of Umswai parish, held in Pundurimakha village came to a close on 2nd February 2020 with the solemn Mass, Eucharist procession and Praise and Worship by a team from Kettri Retreat Centre. The two-day annual religious program saw the participation of about 2000 people.

The theme of the Sobha was, “Blessed are the poor in spirit for the kingdom of heaven is theirs” (Mathew 5:3). Fr. Denis Lalfela SDB from Sacred Heart Theological College, Shillong was the main animator. He encouraged the people to start reading the Bible daily and be faithful to family prayer.

The Eucharist on Sunday was presided over by Fr. Peter Sagra, the first priest of the

village and Umswai Parish. The added solemnities were the Entrance and offertory dances and the prayerful Mass songs. Further elaborating on the theme, the main celebrant said that ‘poor in poor in spirit’ basically means ‘humble people.’ “In fact, if you substitute ‘poor’ with ‘humble’ there is no need for an explanation”, he said. Driving home the point he quoted other verses and passages from the Scripture. Five other priests concelebrated. After the Eucharistic procession that followed the Mass, Praise and Worship was conducted by a team from Kettri which included a powerful testimony of Mr. Don Kupar from Shillong.

ANNUAL SOBHAS

Celebrated in Boko

Fr. Joy Joseph Kachappilly, SDB



The parish community of Boko spent the month of January 2020 fruitfully by celebrating two sobhas. The first sobha, meant for the Assamese speaking Catholics who include both the Boros and the Rabhas, was held from 10-12 January 2020 in Sakati village. The first two days were spent in charismatic spiritual retreat, which Rev. Fr Thaddeus Kujur, Director of Snehalya, Guwahati, animated. Most Rev. John Moolachira, our Archbishop solemnized the concluding day with Holy Eucharist during which he administered the sacrament of Confirmation and gave Holy Communion to our new communicants.

The second sobha was held in Korebari village from 24-27 January 2020 for the Garo speaking Catholics who form the majority of the Catholic population of the parish. Mr Celestine Sangma from Tura animated the people for first two days, while on the third day, the Archbishop, Most Rev. John Moolachira administered the sacrament of Confirmation and Communion. The presence of Fathers from different Centres helped the people to receive the sacrament of penance and to benefit spiritually from the various exercises held during the sabhas.

RETREATS IN BENGTOLE PARISH

Fr. Francis Basumatary, SDB



Blessed Don Rua Parish Bengtola had planned to conduct three retreats during the Lenten season for different zones of the Parish. The first was held on 6th March 2020 was held in the parish premises for the women of Bengtola area comprising of three Zonals namely St. Francis Xavier, St. Anthony and St. John with 25 villages. This one day retreat was preached by Rev. Fr. Mathew Kottaram, Co-Pastor of Gurubasa Parish.

The second retreat was a charismatic one conducted in St. Dominic Zonal at Dimapur Village from 12th to 15th March 2020 under the direction of Rev. Fr. John Pullumarikunnel. There was great participation by the people on all days of the retreat. In spite of a rain on 14th, the people's spirit and enthusiasm were

remarkable. Hundreds of faithful queued up for confessions. Fr. Nicholas, the Chancellor of the Diocese helped us with confessions. The MSMHC Postulants who had come for mission experience from Little Flower Convent, Bongaigaon helped in the organisation of the retreat. The main celebrant for Sunday Mass, concluding day of the retreat was Rev. Fr. Michael Elango, the Vicar general of the Diocese who preached an inspiring sermon in Boro. The Holy Mass was followed by a short felicitation program and lunch.

The third retreat planned for St. Paul's zone at Malivita from 19th to 22nd March had to be cancelled due to the outbreak of coronavirus.

BRO REACHES OUT TO THE POOR



The Social Service wing of the Don Bosco Society, Guwahati Province, known as 'Bosco Reach Out' headquartered at Ulubari, Guwahati has been providing food and relief materials to 3500 poor daily wagers and migrant families who are suffering due to the 21-day lockdown after the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic. Currently Bosco Reach Out is distributing essentials kit which consists of Rice, Dal, Oil, Soya Nuggets, Soap, Hand Sanitizer and most important is Mask. We have planned to reach out 3500 families in Assam and Meghalaya. Till now we have provided immediate need of 263 families in urban slum of Guwahati city at Boothnath and Manipuri Basti.

The COVID-19 Crisis relief program for Boothnath and Manipuri Basti was organized on 31.3.2020 with the help of Assam Police. In Boothnath Slum a total of 172 families and in Manipuri Basti 91 families were found to be affected due to the COVID-19 lockdown. Most of the families are daily wage earners, servants, construction workers, daily labourers, Rickshaw-pullers, Balloon sellers, and so on, who have no means of income to feed their families for the next few weeks, due to lockdown. Bosco Reach Out gave them essential kit so they can sustain their family for 10 days.

Bosco Reach Out is grateful to the Assam Police personnel, volunteers and the staff of Bosco Reach Out, Guwahati for assisting

them to distribute the provisions at this critical time.

DBC Tura hosts **NORTH-EAST NSS FESTIVAL**



Don Bosco College, Tura hosted the North-East NSS Festival from 20th to 24th January 2020. The festival was attended by over 300 NSS volunteers from various colleges of the eight North-Eastern states of India. Shri Anurag Kumar, IPS, DIG Western Range, Tura, inaugurated the festival and emphasized the importance of selfless voluntary service and the necessity to give back to society what one has received. Fr. Januarius S. Sangma, Salesian Provincial

who spoke on the occasion said that such a gathering in Tura is a sign of great hope for a better future and stressed the importance of community service-mindedness. Fr. Bivan Rodriques Mukhim, Principal, Don Bosco College, Tura welcomed the distinguished guests, Programme Officers and NSS volunteers and expressed his joy that such a festival was being held for the first time in Tura.

SEMINAR ON PROMOTING TUBER CROPS at DBC Tura

A one-day seminar on the theme “Rainbow Diet Campaign: Promoting Tuber Crops based Diet for Food, Nutritional and Health Security and Creating Entrepreneurs”

organised jointly by Incubation Center, NEHU, Tura campus and Don Bosco College Tura on March 5, 2020.



The Keynote Address on Rainbow Diet Campaign was delivered by Dr. C. A. Jayaprakash, Principal Scientist (Agric. Entomology) and Head Division of Crop Production, ICAR – Central Tuber Crops Research Institute, Thiruvanthapuram. He explained the concept of Rainbow Diet Campaign and said that the institute is promoting the importance of tuber crop that is easily available in the market. Dr.

Sivakumar Sethuraman, Principal Scientist ICAR – CTCRI explained the various advantages of Tuber crop which is common among the tribal groups of Northeast India. He said that most of the Northeastern states suffered from deficiency of Vitamin A. “Tuber crops like sweet potatoes can help in minimizing the risks of vitamin deficiency in the Northeast.”

WORLD CONSUMER RIGHTS DAY celebrated in DBC Tura



Commerce Department of Don Bosco College, Tura in collaboration with the Department of Food Supplies and Consumer Affairs, West Garo Hills

observed World Consumer Rights Day on 16th March 2020 at Don Bosco College Auditorium. World Consumer Rights Day

is celebrated every year on March 15. It is a day marked to raise global awareness about consumer rights and needs.

Shri Ram Singh IAS, DC of West Garo Hills graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Ram Singh highlighted the need for sustaining the environment through sustainable

consumer which is the theme of this year's World Consumer Rights Day. Prof C.P. Suresh from the Department of Horticulture, NEHU Tura campus called on those present to use organic materials to sustain the environment.

INAUGURATION OF ACADEMIC YEAR and Release of School Magazine in Umswai



11 February 2020 Umswai: On the occasion of the Inauguration of the new academic year 2020 of Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Umswai the second edition of the school magazine titled, "The DB Umswai 2019" was released on 11th February 2020 by Rev. Quirinus Syiemlieh SDB, Parish Priest of St. Paul Church, Amkachi in a grand and solemn function held in the school premise. Also present were Fr. AT Thomas SDB, Rector and Parish Priest, Fr. Jonas Toppo, Administrator, Sr. Celina

Maslai FMA, Superior of Auxilium Convent, neighbouring heads of schools and some local leaders.

Speaking on the occasion, Fr. Quirinus who was also the chief guest congratulated the school and the teachers for bringing out the school magazine that contains well 'written articles, poems and captivating photographs'. Drawing inspiration from the image of Don Bosco in the back drop he said that Don Bosco was a dreamer. He had

dreams for his boys of his time. “Today Don Bosco, through the institution, has a dream for each and every bosconian of the school”, he said while urging each student to realise that dream with the help of parents and teachers.

Others who spoke were Fr. AT Thomas SDB, Rector and parish priest and Fr. Albert

Thyrniang who welcomed everyone to the function and recalled the main events of the last scholastic year 2019.

KG kids, students of IV, VII, IX and XI danced beautifully and sang melodiously much to the delight of the guests and cheers of their fellow students. Well begun and this is half done.

Fr. P.D. John **ELECTED AS CRI PRESIDENT** of Guwahati Region

Sr. Escosiana Vaz, MSMHC



Fr. P.D. John SDB, Rector and Executive Director of Don Bosco Institute, Kharghuli was elected as CRI President of Guwahati Region and Sr. Catherine Kanampuzha FMA, Superior of Holy Child Convent was elected Secretary in the annual general body meeting held on 29th February 2020 at St.

Joseph's Co-Cathedral Parish Hall, Panbazar.

Guwahati Region of CRI consists of the entire Archdiocese of Guwahati which is sub-divided into 4 zones – Guwahati, Goalpara, Nagaon and Kumarikatta.

Guwahati region has 75 different religious congregations rendering their service, out of which 27 belongs to men congregations and 48 to women congregations. Out of the 76 presences of various men congregations, 16 of them are belonging to the SDB's and out of

the 116 presences of women congregations, MSMHC's have 14 centres and FMA's have 9 centres. Thus, the religious are rendering their services in 192 centres within the Archdiocese of Guwahati.

RIP



Fr MILON NARJARY, SDB

Fr Milon Narjary SDB passed away on 4th January 2020 at Apollo Hospital, Guwahati. In spite of the best possible treatment given to him, he couldn't live his normal life after he suffered a stroke on 14th December 2017 at Gojapara when he was Parish Priest of Gojapara and incharge of the Centre. After

he was taken to Nirmala Hospital, Goalpara, he was rushed to Nemcare Hospital, Bhangagarh, Guwahati where he underwent a major surgery on his head to remove the blood clot, which involved a craniotomy, that is, the surgical removal of a part of the skull in order to remove the



clot. For a few weeks, he was in the ICU as he needed an extended critical care. Then he was shifted to the Sacred Heart Palliative Care Centre, 9th Mile, Guwahati, run by the Sacred Heart Sisters, where he was showing gradual improvement in his health. Though there was some amount of recovery, his memory was not proper. He could not remember much of the past.

Later, he had to undergo another surgery to replace the bone flap taken out from the skull and preserved in the abdomen. After this surgery, he was once again taken to Sacred Heart Palliative Care Centre for nursing care. After he had received sufficient nursing and medical attention, he was once again shifted to Provincial House for further care. He showed progress in health though it was very slow. He even joined the community for the Holy Mass and the Adoration regularly. Assisted by his attendant and his physiotherapist, he would do regular exercises in the verandah of the Provincial House.

Seeing his steady improvement, early last year he was taken to Kerala for a naturopathic treatment. It seemed to have helped him, though there was no visible sign of improvement with regard to his memory. On his return from Kerala, it was decided to take him closer to his home so that he could meet with his brothers and sisters and his dear ones. He was taken to Bengtol and then to Dotma. It was at Dotma that he had a fall,

and also contracted typhoid. His condition worsened ever since. No amount of medical treatment could help him, and the medical reports at this stage suggested that he was increasingly moving towards a vegetative state. But God called him to himself on January 4, 2020 at 11 pm to enter into the joy of the Master.

His Life and Vocation

Milon Narjary was born on 4th April 1965 to Late Mr Bovendra Narjary and Mrs Bonsri Narjary at Ladanguri, Assam, in the parish of Bengtol, in the Diocese of Bongaigaon. Milon was the second of the eight children: four brothers and four sisters. His father and one of his brother's had passed away two years ago.

Fr. Milon began his novitiate on 24th May 1984 in Sunnyside, Shillong and professed on 24th May 1985. After his profession, he was sent to Salesian College, Dimapur for his post novitiate formation and philosophical studies. He did his Practical Training in the parish of Barpeta for two years and in the Salesian novitiate of Sunnyside, Shillong for one year. He made his perpetual profession on 7th April 1991 in Shillong. The final phase of his theological training was at Sacred Heart Theological College, Shillong from 1991 to 1994. He was ordained a priest on 22nd January 1995. After his ordination, Fr Milon continued with his Masters in Theology, which he

completed in the year 1996. Later he also did a one-year formation and counselling course at NVSC, Pune (2007-2008).

Fr Milon's Ministry

There are two special features that characterised Fr Milon's religious and priestly ministry: one is formation work, and the other is pastoral-missionary work. Fr Milon was known as an effective and compassionate formator as well as a kind, people-centred pastor. He was Counsellor in the aspirantate at Bosco Mount, Tura during the year 1997-98 and was Rector in the same community between the years 2004 and 2007, and again from 2008 to 2013. Yet, the majority of his priestly and religious years were spent in the parishes and mission stations of Dotma, Damra and Gojapara. As a kind hearted pastor, he was close to the people he served.

As a religious, he was a community man, soft-spoken, humble and unassuming, regular for prayers and practices of piety. Lover of the Eucharist and of Mother Mary, he was a committed religious and priest. He avoided the limelight, but was there for others whenever needed. He connected to the simple and poor people easily. While he was sick, he would suddenly remember his boarding boys and ask me to take him back to Gojapara as he had to feed them, and buy provisions for them. He would remember

some others and weep suddenly. Even in his broken memories we could see him as a man for others, a man who wanted to keep his word, a man who was committed to his mission.

God has plucked a young and dynamic priest too soon for his heavenly abode. Fr Milon could have many more years of active service for the Lord as Salesian and pastor of the people. But God's plan is certainly better than our human plans for him. We have lost an endearing and sweet person in Fr Milon. God will continue to work in us through Fr Milon. His memory will live on in our hearts. His prayers and sacrifices, and especially his suffering will bless our apostolic efforts.

May our Blessed Mother Mary, Help of Christians lead his soul to Jesus and present him to God, our Father.





Bro. ALOYSIUS INDUAR, SDB

Bro. Aloysius Induar SDB passed away on 8 February 2020, at St. Augustine's Hospital, Bongaigaon. Though he had been ailing and bedridden for a few years, no one expected his sudden departure from this world.

In June last year, the Province celebrated the golden jubilee of Br. Aloysius in a very solemn way at his community, Barpeta Road, for which many confreres, religious and lay people, parishioners and well-wishers were present. Though Brother was weak and tired, he was very happy and cheerful. It was a celebration of the marvellous deeds worked by God in and through Br. Aloysius. It was also a celebration of Brother's commitment and dedication as Salesian. His satisfaction and contentment were clearly seen, also because his dear ones were around him for this special celebration.

His Life and Vocation.

Bro. Aloysius Induar was born on 1st January 1944, to Mrs. Philomena and Mr. Paulus Induar, at Baghmara village, in the

diocese of Dibrugarh. He was the youngest of the four children, and the only son. His three elder sisters already passed away earlier.

After having joined the Salesians, he entered the novitiate at Sunnyside, Shillong on 23rd May 1968 and made his first profession as a Salesian Coadjutor Brother on 24th May 1969. He went on to embark religious life by totally surrendering to God through Perpetual Profession on 24th May 1975 at Sonada, Darjeeling. Before his perpetual he qualified himself in the field of technical studies at Calcutta (Kolkata). As a committed son and follower of Don Bosco, Br. Aloysius had dedicated his life to various missions and to a number of institutions in his more than 50 years of his service.

From 1969 to 1991, and from 2003 to 2004 Bro. Aloysius served at Don Bosco Technical School, Maligaon, Guwahati, where he had been teacher to so many youngsters, including our own confreres. It

was here at Maligaon that Bro. Aloysius spent the longest time of his life and religious apostolate, that is, 23 years of his 50 years of religious life. He also spent considerable time at Tripura, pioneering the Salesian works in the state of Tripura. He served at the community of Mariam Nagar, Agartala, Tripura for four years: from 1991 to 1995, and at Bishramganj, Tripura for eight years: from 1995 to 2003. He also served as Warden in the community of Kumarikatta from 2004 to 2005. Then for two years he was at Snehalaya, Guwahati from 2005 to 2007 with the youth at risk, offering his love and expertise. There he was also incharge of the vocational training for the youngsters. Then he was appointed to the community of Doomni where he spent one year from 2007 to 2008, before he moved on to his last community of Barpeta. For 12 long years he was at Barpeta Road: from 2008 to 2020. He was incharge of the farm and other administrative activities before he became ill.

His Simplicity and Humility

What stands out from the life of Bro. Aloysius is his simplicity and humility. He never wanted to occupy big positions. He always wanted to play the second fiddle; he enjoyed being at backstage while at the same time encouraging so many confreres and youngsters in their education and offering

them training in various aspects. He was a silent worker. He lived his commitment like St. Joseph, silently but effectively.

His Cheerfulness

But whatever he did was done cheerfully, and with a lot of heart. His cheerful presence was one way of living his Salesian vocation and charism. His closeness to Don Bosco and his values were seen by his joyful optimism. Even during his moments of suffering, Bro. Aloysius tried his best to be cheerful and joyful. We thank him for this beautiful example. His simplicity, humility and cheerfulness will remain a legacy and in history a living spirit.

May God, the Merciful Father, grant Br. Aloysius an eternal place in His Kingdom, for whom he toiled and suffered. May many youngsters be inspired to follow Jesus as Br. Aloysius himself did.





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