

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

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

SM-17/2025

1 OCTOBER 2025

DEAR CONFRERES,

GREETINGS FROM THE PROVINCIAL HOUSE!

The month of October, dedicated to the Holy Rosary, invites us not only to deepen our love for Mary but also to rediscover our own call to holiness through the witness of the saints. This month is adorned with a “galaxy of saints”—from St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus to St. John Paul II—reminding us that holiness is possible in every age, vocation, and circumstance. In a special way, the Salesian Family rejoices this October with the canonisation of Blessed Maria Troncatti, FMA, and we also look with gratitude to the Church’s recognition of two young saints, Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati. Their lives challenge us to live the Gospel with joy, fidelity, and hope, following in the footsteps of Don Bosco and all the saints who point us to Christ.

CALL TO HOLINESS

We observe October as the month of the Holy Rosary. In addition to this important devotion in our life, the month presents to us a rich galaxy of saints who are dear to most Catholics and to each one of us. The saints of the Church are for universal veneration. They are both witnesses on earth and intercessors in heaven. The canonisations of the months of September and October this year and the annual commemoration of the saints of this month invite us once again to reflect on the call of God to each one of us to seek holiness of life. The saints are those who followed Christ by bearing witness to him and living out the Gospel in their lives with utmost faithfulness. We too can grow in holiness by fidelity to Christ and the Gospel and our own Constitutions.

In the month of October we honour St Therese of the Child Jesus, the Guardian Angels, Saint Francis of Assisi, Pope Saint John XXIII, Pope St John Paul II, St Theresa of Avila, St Margaret Mary Alacoque, St Ignatius of Antioch, St Luke the Evangelist, St Anthony Mary Claret, Apostles Saints Simon and Jude and many more. In October this year the Salesian Family has further reason to rejoice as we will be blessed with another saint, Blessed Maria Troncati FMA, who would be canonised on Mission Sunday of October.

On September 7, 2025, Pope Leo XIV canonized two young men, aged twenty-four and fourteen, who have fascinated the world with their outstanding holiness and faith. They are Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati and Blessed Carlo Acutis. In this era where faith and holiness are question marks, these young men's witnessing lives are a challenge and inspiration for many youth. Both Frassati and Acutis loved Jesus more than anything else, and they saw, loved, and served the divine Lord in the Holy Eucharist and in their companions. They both loved Jesus more than anyone else and

lived for Jesus. Even their parents were amazed by their testimonies of faith and the holiness of their children.

Every canonisation is a formal recognition of the outstanding holiness of the person raised to the altar as worthy of veneration by the whole Church. Their lives testify to what grace can work in ordinary human beings with extraordinary earnestness for holiness. Acutis and Frassati are both young and have so much to offer through their lives for other young people who desire to live a holy life. They are now among the ranks of young saints like Dominic Savio. Let us present them as role models for the youth in our institutions, parishes and communities.

HOLINESS AND THE SALESIAN CHARISM

Before presenting briefly about the saints Acutis, Frassati and Troncati, I would like to draw your attention to the importance of holiness in the Salesian charism and mission. The Salesian Family has a rich gallery of saints who are proof of the richness of Don Bosco's charism and the path of holiness that he presented.

We are familiar with the four pillars that sustained Don Bosco in his pedagogy as a priest and Christian educator. These pillars are also important steps to climb the ladder of sanctity for the members of the Salesian Family. They include devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, devotion to the Eucharist, cheerfulness and joy that come from the virtue of hope, obedience to and communion with the Pope and the Pastors of the Church.

DEVOTION TO MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS AND THE HOLY ROSARY

For Don Bosco, the Immaculate Virgin, Mary Help of Christians, was the ever-present Mother who helps her children daily, going to their rescue and leading them to Jesus. "Be devoted to Mary Help of Christians", he would say, "and you will see what miracles are!". Little Johnny learnt to pray to Our Lady from his mother Mama Margaret. For Don Bosco Marian devotion had an intrinsically ecclesial dimension since he saw the Blessed Virgin Mary as the powerful helper for all those who invoked her help and sought her intercession. This is why in the Salesian tradition the daily recitation of the Holy Rosary is not only an element of Marian devotion, but above all, the contemplation of Jesus in the mysteries of his saving incarnation, passion, death and resurrection.

During this month of the Rosary, I invite you dear Confreres, to foster and promote this valuable devotion among our people and in our communities. For most Christian faithful, the Rosary is their most frequented and fervent prayer. Let us strive to make the mysteries of the Rosary a means to help meditate on the life of Christ and the Word of God. Don Bosco, throughout his life experienced the powerful intercession of Mary Help of Christians. We, his children, can never honour our Blessed Mother enough. Every act of veneration and honour to her would surely help us grow in holiness and grace.

DEVOTION TO JESUS IN THE EUCHARIST

Don Bosco's spirituality was rooted in devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist, which he saw as the heart of every Salesian house. He earnestly promoted

the Sacrament of Confession, active participation in the Holy Mass and frequent reception of the Holy Communion. He used to remind the Salesians and young people: "If you want many graces, pay many visits to Jesus in the Sacrament". Don Bosco was a saint formed through and through by the Eucharist. He was so passionate about the Eucharist that he communicated his passion to the young people. He carefully prepared them for Holy Communion through the sacrament of Reconciliation. He spent many hours of his busy life in the confessional. For him, Confession and the Eucharist were the two sacraments that inculcated in young people the Christian virtues and holiness.

Don Bosco wrote: "Frequent Confession, frequent Communion and daily Mass are the pillars that must support an educational building that we desire to protect from threats and scourges. At the same time he also urged the Salesians: "Never force youngsters to receive the holy sacraments, but only encourage them and make it easy for them to do so".

The two newly canonised saints Carlo Acutis and Giorgio Frassati were great devotees of the Holy Eucharist. Acutis from a young age called the Eucharist his highway to heaven. Frassati attended Mass regularly and spent many hours in Eucharistic adoration, finding strength and inspiration in the presence of Christ. "I beg you to approach the Eucharistic table as often as possible with all the strength of your soul. Eat this bread of angels, which gives you strength to face your inner struggles." He had a deep devotion to the Virgin Mary and the Most Holy Eucharist. Acutis' website "Miracles of the Eucharist" is a testimony of his great love for the Eucharist. Since his first communion, he regularly attended Mass and received Communion.

In addition, Carlo prayed many rosaries and had great devotion to the Blessed Mother. He closely resembles in our day, the 15-year-old St Dominic Savio. In his day Savio became a shining example of this sacramental pedagogy which strengthened his virtuous habits and his union with Jesus, witnessed by his Eucharistic ecstasies during Holy Communion.

JOY AS THE HALLMARK OF HOLINESS

Don Bosco's educational system and spirituality was deeply rooted in his educational system of joy and hope. Dominic Savio, who once said to Don Bosco: "I am the fabric, you are the tailor; make me into a beautiful suit for the Lord!", had fully grasped this when he suggested to his young companions: "Let's make holiness consist in being very cheerful!". Salesian holiness is the fruit of a pedagogy of joy based on Christian hope in the eternal joy of paradise. In this year of the Jubilee of Hope, we should make every effort to inculcate this virtue of joyful hope in our youth. Don Bosco often used to say that the saints, while taking the final judgment seriously, lived in supreme joy because they trusted in the goodness of a Father who has infinite good things in store for his faithful servants. Don Bosco made joy holy, recalling the words of St Philip Neri who used to tell his young followers: "Run, jump, amuse yourselves as much as you like, but for pity's sake, don't sin!"

For Don Bosco the virtue of hope and trust in God spurred him to embark on the most adventurous undertakings, such as the construction of the Church of Mary Help of Christians in Turin and of the Basilica of the Sacred

Heart in Rome, and the foundation of two religious congregations with barely a penny in his pocket. He was able to overcome unspeakable trials through full trust in the Lord's provident presence in his life. Hope, which is a disposition given by God, gives rise to happiness and optimism. He felt that there was an affinity between serene young people and Christian life.

Don Bosco wrote: "The young person who feels he is in a state of grace with God naturally experiences joy in the certainty that he possesses a good that is completely within his reach, and he expresses this state of pleasure in cheerfulness." We remember that Johny Bosco promoted joy in his companions through his Societa' dell'Allegria, a sort of merry club. He used games and magic to keep them happy and cheerful and lead them away from bad habits and direct them to God. For his spirituality, Don Bosco chose St Francis de Sales and St Philip Neri as models precisely for the reason that they proposed a holiness and piety that were attractive for the young. Don Bosco insisted that the Salesian communities foster and promote practices of piety and a spirituality that were simple, spontaneous and attractive. Joy, games, fun, hiking were the distinct hallmarks of the life of the young saints Acutis and Frassati too, things that Don Bosco proposed to the youth of his day and to the Salesians so as to draw them closer to God and a life of holiness and goodness.

FIDELITY TO THE CHURCH AND POPE

The Salesian spirituality is also rooted in a deep sense of reverence and fidelity to the Church and to her Pastors, especially to the Holy Father. Don Bosco's love for the Pope was extraordinary and is an integral part of the Salesian formation and apostolate. He lived with a special devotion to the Supreme Pontiff and his Magisterium. His second successor, Fr Paul Albera, wrote: "Let us remember that in following in the footsteps of the saints, Don Bosco wanted sincere submission to the teaching of the Pope. The Salesian ecclesial dimension is a living legacy that Don Bosco has left for us. He was always and everywhere a champion and defender of the Catholic Church. Don Bosco's educational project called "preventive system", insisted on prevention rather than repression, and emphasised reason, religion and loving kindness. Through these three key values he showed how education is a task founded on sound reason, on the grace of Baptism, and above all, on the good, transparent heart of the educator.

SALESIAN HOLINESS: RICHNESS AND DIVERSITY

Holiness is found in ordinary acts of charity, joy, and optimism, demonstrated by individuals from various walks of life, and is exemplified by the numerous members of the Salesian Family called to sainthood or on their way. Salesian holiness has found expression in a great diversity of ages, vocations, and social and cultural contexts. Among the list of Salesian Servants of God, Venerables, Blesseds, and Saints, we meet women and men, consecrated and lay, bishops, priests, Salesian Lay Brothers, missionaries, and martyrs. Among them are founders of religious orders as well as members of 15 of the 32 groups of the Salesian Family. They are spread out to nearly every continent. Among them are missionaries who laboured in the frontline mission lands and mystics who offered their physical and spiritual sufferings as a way to live *Da Mihi Animas*. Not

surprising, there are 46 young people under the age of 29, the youngest being Bl. Laura Vicuña (13 years old), then St. Dominic Savio (almost 15 years old), who inspired many other youth to follow the path of holiness. A vast majority of these young men and women are martyrs, including the latest one- Akash Bashir, a Salesian pupil and the first native-born Pakistani martyr now on the path to sainthood.

Through these holy men and women in our Salesian Family, we recognize particular aspects of the Salesian charism brought into focus, such as ardent pastoral charity, special concern for vocations to consecrated life and ordained ministry, the urgency to announce the Gospel, pastoral charity, education as our way of participating in the mission of the Church, the joy of having Jesus and Mary as our friends. We also see how often holiness is achieved together—saints helping others become saints as is evident in the Oratory of Valdocco by the example and guidance of our saintly founder Don Bosco himself.

The numerous saints in the Salesian calendar help us recognize that fidelity to the Salesian charism is an authentic path to attain holiness. We acknowledge how these men and women have lived the Gospel with radical love and heroic virtue, and we are challenged to greater fidelity in our own vocation. The two young saints canonised in September, Acutis and Frassati have most of these qualities of Salesian holiness. Let us present them to our young people along with the other Saints as role models, inspiration and intercessors. Let me now present them briefly.

CARLO ACUTIS: THE FIRST MILLENNIAL SAINT

Carol Acutis was an Italian computer-coding and tech-savvy kid who loved computers, animals, and video games. He died of cancer in 2006 at the age of 15. He is the first millennial saint of the Catholic Church. Shortly after his first Communion at the age of 7, Acutis told his mother that he wanted always “to be united to Jesus: this is my life plan.” To accomplish this, he sought to attend daily Mass. He called the Eucharist “my highway to heaven,” and did all in his power to make this presence known. His witness inspired his own parents to return to practicing the Catholic faith and his Hindu au pair to convert and be baptized.

Acutis, worked with his family to put together an exhibition on Eucharistic miracles that premiered in 2005 during the Year of the Eucharist proclaimed by Pope John Paul II. Many of Acutis’ classmates, friends, and family members have testified how he brought them closer to God. Acutis was a very open person and was not shy about speaking with his classmates and anyone he met about the things he loved: the Mass, the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, and heaven. He is remembered for saying: “People who place themselves before the sun get a tan; people who place themselves before the Eucharist become saints.”



Acutis died in 2006, shortly after being diagnosed with leukaemia, and as per his wish was buried in Assisi. Before he died, he told his mother: "I offer all my suffering to the Lord for the pope and for the Church in order not to go to purgatory but to go straight to heaven." On October 10, 2020, Pope Francis beatified Acutis. Since then, thousands of people have been visiting his tomb in the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. Pope Francis encouraged young people to imitate Acutis in prioritizing "the great gift of the Eucharist". In 2020 the Church recognised the curing of a child's pancreatic disease as a miracle attributed to Acutis' intercession. Following this, Acutis' mother told the press that her son had appeared to her in dreams saying that he would be not only beatified but also canonized a saint in the future. A website was created for his canonization. Others were created for educators, young people, and prayer groups, and for each of the four exhibitions that he inspired.

On 23 May 2024, Pope Francis recognized a second miracle attributed to the intercession of Acutis. A Costa Rican woman named Valeria Valverde, who fell off her bike and suffered brain haemorrhage, was healed through his intercession after her mother prayed at the tomb of Acutis.

The life of Carlo Acutis has inspired multiple media adaptations, including comic books, video games and films. Acutis is regarded as a model for young believers and is often referred to as the "first millennial saint". Famed for his love of the Eucharist and his passion for technology, Acutis has also been called by many as the "first gamer saint" and "an influencer of holiness".

PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI: 'TO THE HEIGHTS' OF HOLINESS

Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901- 2025), was a young man from Don Bosco's own city of Turin, an avid mountaineer and known for his charitable outreach. He was canonised by Pope Leo XIV on September 7 along with Carlo Acutis. Frassati who died at the age of 24 in 1925, is loved by many today for his enthusiastic witness to holiness that reaches 'to the heights.'

Frassati was born in 1901 in a wealthy, influential Italian family in Turin. He was the son of the founder and director of the Italian newspaper La Stampa. At the age of 17, he joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society and dedicated much of his spare time to taking care of the poor, the homeless, and the sick as well as demobilized servicemen returning from World War I. He was also involved in the Apostleship of Prayer and Catholic Action. He obtained permission to receive daily Communion.

Frassati died of polio on July 4, 1925. His doctors later speculated that the young man had caught polio while serving the sick. Frassati's short life was devoted to prayer and helping the vulnerable. He is also famed as the 'saint of the peaks', because he loved climbing mountains, accompanying his friends to the highest peaks, so as to see the sky better. He would end his many letters to friends with the phrase "Duc in Altum" (Put out into the



deep). On a photograph of what would be his last climb, Frassati wrote the phrase ‘Verso L’Alto,’ which means ‘to the heights.’ This phrase has become a motto for Catholics inspired by Frassati to strive for the summit of eternal life with Christ.

John Paul II, who beatified Frassati in 1990, called him a “man of the eight beatitudes,” describing him as “entirely immersed in the mystery of God and totally dedicated to the constant service of his neighbour.” He is considered one of the Italian “social” saints, because of his life completely dedicated to the most needy.

The two young saints—one from the early twentieth century, the other the first twenty-first-century saint—have become inspirations for millions of youth across the world. The Jubilee of Hope proclaimed by Pope Francis for 2025 and the stories of holiness of two young people, continue to echo the theme of the jubilee that “Hope that does not disappoint”.

OTHERS TO THE ALTAR

In October, Pope Leo will canonize seven other Blesseds, including martyred Armenian Catholic Archbishop Ignatius Shoukrallah Maloyan, who died in 1915; and Peter To Rot, a lay catechist who was martyred in Japan in 1945. Blessed Peter will be the first canonized saint from Papua New Guinea.

Three religious women are also among those who will be canonized in October: Vincenza Maria Poloni, founder of the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Verona; Maria del Monte Carmelo Rendiles (née Carmen Elena Rendiles Martínez), from Venezuela, founder of the Congregation of the Servants of Jesus; and Maria Troncatti, a professed religious of the Daughters of Mary, Help of Christians.

Finally, two other laymen will be among those enrolled in the calendar of the saints: Bartolo Longo, founder of the famous Marian Shrine at Pompeii, and José Gregorio Hernández Cisneros, a Venezuelan doctor and member of the Secular Franciscan Order, known as “the doctor of the poor” because he treated those in need and even paid for their medicines.

MARIA TRONCATTI FMA

With the whole Salesian Family, we rejoice in the canonisation of Salesian Sister Maria Troncatti scheduled for 19 October 2025, the Mission Sunday. She will be the newest Salesian saint who testifies to the holiness of the Salesian vocation and charism. Her canonisation is another invitation to all members of the Salesian Family and the Youth to walk the path of holiness traced by Don Bosco and Mother Maria Domenica Mazzarello.



Born in Córteno Golgi in Italy, on 16 February 1883, Troncatti entered the Congregation of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. She went to Ecuador as a missionary and died there on 25 August 1969.

Superior General of the Institute of the FMA, Mother Chiara Cazzuola, in her address to the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians expressed joy and thanks for the great things the Lord is

working in the Church and in the history of the Institute, with the direct intervention of Mary Help of Christians. She called the canonisation of Sister Troncati “an extraordinary grace, a call to renew ourselves in order to continue, with courage and joy, on the path of holiness that God is asking us to travel today.” The Daughters of Mary Help of Christians have set up a website with the biography, photos, texts, multimedia resources, news and other materials on her (www.mariatroncatti.org).

MISSION POVERTY ERADICATION (MPE)

We have completed one year of the South Asia initiative, *Mission Poverty Eradication* (MPE), launched by the Vicar of the Rector Major on 05 August 2024, in the presence of the Regional and all the Provincials of South Asia.

MPE is first and foremost an *animation process* to renew and strengthen our commitment to the poorest youth in all our works and services. At its heart is the practice of regularly auditing what we do, and how we carry out our mission for and with the poor. This ongoing verification helps us to remain faithful and transparent in our mission. In the long run, MPE aims to become not just an activity, but a way of being and working that consistently prioritises the poorest and most abandoned youth. In line with global efforts, our interventions are also mapped with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this first year, our focus was on:

- Spreading the vision of MPE across Provinces and Communities.
- Assessing our current reach to the “poorest, most abandoned and defenceless.”
- Arriving at targets—both Province and Region level—to be achieved by 2030.

These were shared at the Annual Review Meet *MPE – Rewind 2025*, held at DBSM, Bangalore on 5–6 September 2025, and subsequently presented to the SPCSA Council on 9 September 2025.

At the SPCSA Council in Mumbai (9–10 September 2025), we decided that the months of October and November 2025 would be dedicated to a Community Audit in every Salesian Community across South Asia. This will culminate on 15 November 2025, a day set apart for all SDB Communities to complete this process.

The central questions for the Community Audit are:

1. “What did our community do in 2025 to be effectively and authentically signs and bearers of God’s love to the young, especially the poorest?”
2. “In what ways did we give absolute priority to the poorest, most abandoned, and defenceless?”
3. “What more can we do in 2026 to improve, increase, or change our outreach to them and their access to our institutions and services?”

From this discernment, each community will prepare an inventory of its efforts and its concrete commitments. These community-level contributions will then form the Province's collective contribution to the South Asia Region's targets for *Mission Poverty Eradication 2025–2030*.

The Province Project Director (PPD) for MPE, for our Province Fr Ignatius Gari, will soon be in touch with you with the necessary materials, tools, and guidance to carry out this process.

Dear Confreres, I warmly encourage and exhort each community to take up this process with utmost seriousness, seeing it as a privileged opportunity to renew our Salesian commitment to serving the poorest youth. By doing so, we continue Don Bosco's charism of making the young—especially the poorest and most abandoned—our absolute priority.

SIX YEAR ACTION PLAN FOR THE SALESIAN PROVINCE OF MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS, GUWAHATI - WALKING THE TALK OF GC 29

In the light of the deliberations of GC29, the four priorities identified by the Rector Major and the General Council, the indications of the Team Visit to the South Asia Region, the reflections of the Provincials with their Councils, the SPCSA Assembly, and the six priorities set for the South Asia Region for 2025–2031, the Provincial Council has prepared the **Six-Year Action Plan for the Salesian Province of Mary Help of Christians, Guwahati**.

I earnestly request every community to **implement and faithfully live out** the directives of this plan with utmost seriousness and commitment. Let us together "*walk the talk*" of GC29 with dedication and passion, so that it may bring about the desired renewal and transformation in our communities and in each one of us, and enable our mission among the young to continue to bear abundant fruit.

Focus Area	Objective	Action Plan
1. Renew the Centrality of Jesus Christ	Deepen spiritual life and unity among Salesians, Salesian Family and laypeople	<p>All the communities are obligated to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Daily compulsory 30 minutes of Meditation after Morning Prayer and before Holy Mass - Daily Eucharistic Adoration (Half an Hour) - Regular Tri-monthly recollection region-wise (Region incharge will follow up). - <i>Lectio Divina</i> in all communities' minimum twice a month - Commemoration of MHC on 24 of every month, - Commemoration of DB on the last day of the Month and observance of Missionary Day on every 11 of the month. - Integrate minimum 15 minutes of Spiritual reading with evening

		prayers and Adoration
2. Revitalize Fraternal Life in Communities	Foster authentic Salesian community life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Salesian Community Concelebration of the Holy Eucharist at least twice a month. - Day of community combined with the House council/Assembly of confreres once a month - Daily atleast one community meal together - Once a year Local community Day Celebration - Roles and responsibilities of the members of community are clearly specified and assigned by the Rector and the same is approved by the Provincial (cf. Province Directory). Rector initiates and assists the new confreres to their roles and responsibilities. - <i>Scrutinium Paupertatis</i> on the feast of Don Rua - Monthly Community Plan and community budget to be presented every month during the house council and the copy of it to be send to the provincial office.
3. Strengthen Service to Poorest Youth	Provide quality education and support to marginalized youth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Identify and reach out to 3000 poor/vulnerable youth in one year through communities sponsorship and support. b) Sponsorship/support of atleast 5% poor students by each community which is properly documented and the same is shared with the Provincial office. (No separate sponsorship by different confreres of the community) c) Develop education, skills training, spiritual growth programs with partners (DBI, DBSTI, BRO, VTCs, Snehalaya, CFG, NEST, Navoperorana) by establishing partnerships with local authorities, CSRs, NGOs etc.
4. Renew Formation Processes	Enhance initial and ongoing Salesian formation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Review and update formation programme in province based on SAFC guidelines. b) Qualify Personnel for various sectors based on the formation plan of the Province.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c) Provide workshops/seminars for ongoing formation (Quinquennium, Rectors Animation, Parish Priests' meetings, Administrators' meeting, Principals' meetings and ongoing formation courses at DBRC or elsewhere). d) Emphasize accompaniment and Spiritual Guidance for those in initial formation (Those in initial formation should compulsorily have spiritual directors). e) Organise ongoing formation courses for those entering their 40s and above.
5. Joint Formation of Salesian Family and Laity	Foster collaboration and shared spirituality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop joint formation programmes and workshops for Salesian family and laypeople. b) Encourage shared prayer/reflection, recollections, joint retreats, Popular Devotions. c) Region-wise observance of Salesian Family Day once a year. d) Promote ministry collaboration with Salesian Family members through project-based initiatives by Economist's office in collaboration with PDMA.
6. Strengthen Accompaniment of Youth Digitally	Effectively minister to youth in the digital age.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Develop digital literacy programs for children of Cl. V and above. b) Use social media and online platforms for ministry/outreach. c) Provide workshops on online safety and digital citizenship by social communication commission. d) Setup one media centre in Garo Hills (Entrusted to DBC & DBCL, Tura).

NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

ANNUAL RETREAT FOR BROTHERS BEGINS AT JOROPARA

The Annual Spiritual Retreat for Clerics and Brothers in Practical Training, College, and University Students of the Province began on 28 September 2025 at Joropara, Mendal, and will continue until 4 October. Twenty-eight confreres are participating in it.

Preached by Rev. Fr. Blasius Tete SDB of the Dimapur Province, the retreat is centered on the theme *"Da Mihi Animas, Caetera Tolle – Rekindling the Fire of Our Vocation."* It seeks to help young Salesians deepen their spiritual life, renew their commitment, and rekindle their passion for the Salesian charism and mission. Let us accompany our clerics and brothers with prayer, that this retreat may be a true moment of renewal and grace. I am

grateful to Fr Bivan Mukhim, Vice Provincial for taking trouble to make all the necessary arrangements together the communities of Joropara (BRO) and Mendal for success of this retreat.

RETREAT OF BROTHERS AT JOROPARA



28 SEPT - 4 OCT 2025

SYM LEADERS AND ANIMATORS FORMATION HELD AT DIMAPUR

The Salesian Youth Movement (SYM) Leaders and Animators Formation

SYM LEADERS FORMATION PROGRAMME



DIMAPUR, 6 - 8 SEPT 2025

Programme for the three North-Eastern Provinces was held from 6 to 8 September 2025 at the Don Bosco Institute for Development and Leadership (DBIDL), Dimapur. Seventy-five young leaders took part in the three-day formation course, including twenty-nine from our Province.

The event was inaugurated with a solemn Holy Mass presided over by Rev. Fr. Joseph Pampackal SDB, Provincial of Dimapur, who in his homily urged the youth to be “the salt of the earth, the light of the world, and a city on a hill,” living as witnesses of faith, hope and service according to the Charism of Don Bosco. Through inputs, sharings, reflections, and workshops, the participants were guided and equipped to grow as effective leaders and animators of the Salesian Youth Movement in their respective centres. I sincerely thank Fr. Bivan Rodriques Mukhim, Fr. Cletus Sebastian, and the organizing team for their tireless efforts in making this programme a fruitful and enriching experience for our young leaders.

FR. ASHLEY MIRANDA INSTALLED AS 12TH PROVINCIAL OF INB



Rev. Fr. Ashley Miranda SDB was installed as the 12th Provincial of the Salesian Province of Mumbai during a solemn Eucharistic celebration at the Shrine of Don Bosco’s Madonna, Matunga, on 8 September 2025, presided over by Rev. Fr. Biju Michael SDB, Regional Councillor for South Asia. I had the privilege of attending the ceremony and on behalf of the Province of Mary Help of Christians, Guwahati, I congratulated and felicitated Fr. Ashley with an Assamese *Phoolan Gamocha*, assuring him of our fraternal and prayerful support. I also extended congratulations to Fr. Robert Pen SDB, the newly appointed Vice Provincial, assuring him of our prayers in his ministry. The Guwahati Province conveys its best wishes and assures the new leadership team of prayers, and continued collaboration as they lead, govern and animate the Province of Mumbai.

DB PAST PUPILS MEET OF THE GARO HILLS UNIT HELD AT DBC, TURA

The Past Pupils Association Meet of the Garo Hills Unit was held on 13 September 2025 at Don Bosco College, Tura, with over 150 participants. Organized under the leadership of Fr. Jogesh B. Sangma SDB, Province

Delegate of Past Pupils, the day celebrated unity, service, and Salesian family togetherness.

The inaugural session opened with a prayer dance by the Auxilium Girls of Tura and a scripture reading and reflection by Fr. Andreas Panna SDB on gratitude and the mission of past pupils. I had the joy of leading the lamp-lighting ceremony with confreres and representatives from various institutions, followed by felicitations, and special honours to Sir Hilarius Ch. Sangma for his long-standing service. Cultural performances by DBCL students and the DBCT Cultural Club enriched the programme, which concluded with my message of encouragement and the Hymn to Don Bosco.

In my keynote address, I underlined Don Bosco's vision and the role of past pupils in society. Reports from the various units followed showcasing inspiring initiatives and contributions. Later in the day, Fr. Januarius S. Sangma's input deepened reflection on their identity and mission of the past pupils. The deliberations concluded with three resolutions: a) to hold annual animation programmes (next at Holy Family HSS, Rongjeng), b) intensify enrolment drives, and c) organize career guidance and blood donation programmes in all units.

The day ended with a fellowship meal that fostered joy and fraternity. I sincerely thank Fr. Jogesh B. Sangma for his tireless efforts in organizing this event so meaningfully.



INTER-PROVINCIAL QUINQUENNium HELD AT SILOAM, UMIAM

The Salesian Provinces of Guwahati (ING) and Shillong (INS) jointly held the Inter-Provincial Junior Priests and Brothers' Animation (Quinquennium) from 22–26 September 2025 at Siloam, Umiyam, with 52 young Salesians Priests and Brothers participating in it. Rev. Fr. Albert Johnson SDB, former Provincial of Trichy, animated the four days programme on the theme “*A Concentrated Consecrated Life*,” offering inputs on vocation, pastoral challenges, youth ministry, and the dynamics of consecrated life. One of the important aspect of the meet was the sharing of the personal experiences of the young priests which enriched everyone.



In my inaugural address, I emphasized that formation is a lifelong journey and invited the participants to build joyful, fraternal, and nurturing communities. A highlight of the programme was the Holy Mass on 25 September, presided over by Archbishop Victor Lyngdoh of Shillong, who urged the young Salesians to be humble and compassionate shepherds, rooted in prayer, simplicity of life, and service of the poor.

The days of animation and sharing of experiences strengthened fraternal bonds, rekindled missionary zeal, and reaffirmed the consecrated Salesian

identity of our young priests and brothers. I also thank Fr. Bivan Mukhim for diligently overseeing the organizational details and logistics, and for securing a worthy resource person to animate our junior priests and brothers.

ADMINISTRATORS' MEETING HELD AT PROVINCIAL HOUSE

On September 26, 2025, the Provincial House, Panbazar, Guwahati hosted the meeting of administrators of all the communities of the Province. The day-long event, focused on enhancing administrative efficiency and financial stewardship, brought together confreres for a series of informative sessions and strategic discussions.

The proceedings commenced with words of welcome from Rev. Fr. Jayaprakash Anthonimuttu SDB, Economer, setting a tone for the day. This was followed by an opening prayer led by Rev. Fr. Benny Alex, invoking God's guidance for the day's animation and discussion.



In my keynote address, I outlined the expectations from the administrators of our communities. I reminded them that they are not the owners of community resources, but stewards of God's gifts, entrusted for the service of the poor, apostolic works, and charitable activities.

A highlight of the morning session was the introduction of the resource person, Chartered Accountant Mr. Saurav Das. He led two intensive sessions, one before and one after the tea break, focusing on crucial principles of financial management and compliance protocols essential for the smooth functioning of the Province's institutions.

Following lunch, the focus shifted to internal leadership. Rev. Fr. Benny Alex conducted the third session, offering insights into administrative responsibilities within a spiritual framework. This was followed by a session led by Rev. Fr. Jayaprakash, who presented practical operational guidelines and future plans.

The meeting concluded with my final remarks, synthesizing the day's learnings. I underlined that *every confrere in the community should be aware of the house accounts*. I reminded the participants: *"Money cannot build our communities. What sustains us is fraternal life, humility, and transparency."*

We must be humble enough to share the economic situation of the house with all confreres.” I further stressed that honesty and accountability in managing finances are essential for every administrator in the Province. A word of gratitude goes to Rev. Fr. Anthonimuttu Jayaprakash and his team for diligently organizing this important animation and meeting.

CHAPEL OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT AT PATTANGRE BLESSED

On 28 September 2025, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel at Pattangre was blessed and inaugurated with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Most Rev. Andrew R. Marak, DD, Bishop of Tura. The blessing and inauguration of this chapel is a significant milestone in the life of the faithful of Pattangre, offering them a sacred space for prayer, reception of Sacraments, and communion with the Lord.



GAROBADHA, 28 SEPT 2025

The celebration was graced by the presence of several priests, including Fr. Jogesh, Rector and Principal of Don Bosco Junior College, Tura; Fr. Punit, Rector and Principal of St. Dominic Savio, Garobadha; Fr. Threinus, Rector and Principal of Don Bosco School, Tura, Fr Benjamin Daimary, the Rector of Bosco Mount and several others priests. A large number of FMA Sisters from Garobadha and Tura also joined the occasion, together with the faithful, in an atmosphere of devotion and festivity.

A word of gratitude to Fr. Siby John, Parish Priest of Garobadha and to the community of Garobadha, for diligently overseeing the construction of this beautiful chapel and ensuring its completion.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ❖ **NATIONAL YaR Commission and Silver Jubilee of Snehalaya** from 7 to 10 October at DBI.
- ❖ **MISSION POVERTY ERADICATION (MPE)** meeting on 11 October at DBPH.
- ❖ **PARISH PRIESTS' MEETING** on 17 October at DBPH.
- ❖ **JUBILEE OF CONFRERES** on 18 October at DBPH
- ❖ **NATIONAL LEVEL MEETING OF THE MPE PROVINCE COORDINATORS** on 30th & 31st October at DBPH

CONDOLENCES:

- ❖ To the Sr Provincial, Sister of Guwahati FMA Province and to Fr Sebastian Ishorary at sad demise of **Sr Rachel Ishorary** on 27 September 2025. May her soul rest in the peace of Christ whom she lovingly served.

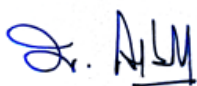
CONCLUSION

As we honour and venerate the great saints of the Church and of our Salesian Family during this month of October, let us be renewed in our fidelity to our vocation as Salesians and commit ourselves to walk the path of holiness traced out for us by Don Bosco, our Father and Founder. Don Bosco reminded his boys that sanctity does not consist in doing extraordinary things, but in doing ordinary things with great love and fervour—by fulfilling our duties faithfully, being cheerful, and avoiding sin.

In the midst of our daily responsibilities and busy schedules, let us not lose sight of the most important purpose of our vocation: to become holy. Don Bosco continues to inspire us with his heartfelt motto: *“Da mihi animas, cetera tolle.”* To all his sons and daughters, he repeats: *“The most divine of all divine things is to cooperate with God in the salvation of souls, and it is a sure path to the highest holiness.”*

May the example of the newest saints of the Church, together with the saints of our Salesian Family whom we commemorate this month, inspire us to live our consecration with greater joy and dedication. Let us become authentic witnesses and “influencers of holiness” in this digital age, drawing many young people closer to God through our lives.

Yours sincerely in Don Bosco,



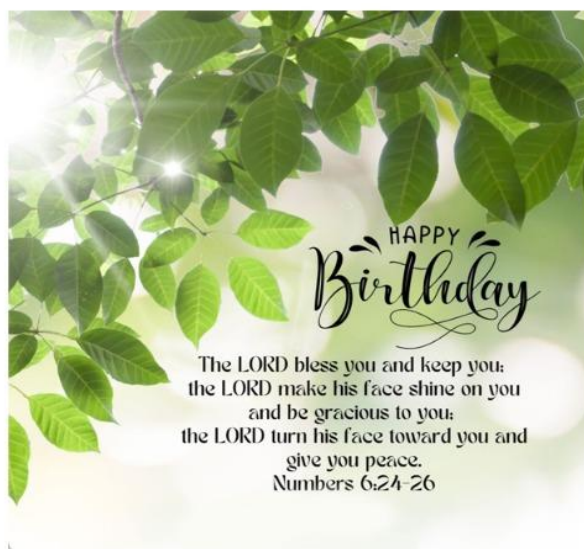
Fr. Sebastian Mathew SDB

Provincial





- 1 Dn. Basumatary Sebastian
- 4 Fr. Francis Kalariparampil
- 6 Fr. Anthony A. Sangma
- 7 Fr. Sebirence Islary
- 8 Fr. Albert Thyrniang
- 8 Cl. Prabhat Bara
- 9 Cl. Amrit Tirkey
- 10 Fr. Kuriala Chittattukalam
- 12 Fr. Joseph Thelekkatt
- 13 Fr. Edward D'Souza
- 13 Br. Sunil Prakash Kerketta
- 14 Fr. Jose Kadaprayil
- 15 Fr. Paul Rabha



- 16 Fr. Justin Arul Chinnaparaj
- 16 Fr. Bipin Kumar Lakra
- 18 Fr. Louis Arimboor
- 18 Cl. Lucas Victor Topno
- 18 Cl. Rakesh Niranjan Kujur
- 20 Fr. Marcus Lakra
- 20 Fr. Xavier Beck
- 21 Cl. Umesh Kujur

22 Bp. Thomas

Menamparampil (MC)

- 23 Fr. Joy Joseph Kachappilly
- 23 Fr. Pradeep Ekka
- 26 Fr. Cornelius Panna
- 27 Fr. Albinus Dhanwar
- 27 Cl. Alex Champramary



IN LOVING MEMORY OCTOBER

Dt	Name of the Confrere	Place	Year	Age	Province
2	P Anthony Payngott	Chennai	1983	57	INM, ING, IND
5	L Mario Roncoroni	Turin Italy	1978	82	INDIA, INC, ING
7	P Krius Gregorius Rymbai	Mawjrong	2007	40	ING, INS
8	P Edward Guttierrez	Shillong	1976	89	ING, INDIA, INC, INM, IND, INS
8	P Achille Visentin	Este Italy	1976	66	INDIA, INC, ING
10	E Dominic Jala	Oakland, USA	2019	68	INS, ING
11	P Michael Balavoine	Shillong	1989	67	ING, INC, INS
11	P Orestes Paviotti	Udine	1991	80	ING, INDIA, INC, INM, INK, INS
11	L Angelo Bongiorno	Turin Italy	1998	81	INC, ING, MYM, INS
13	P Michael Devalle	Guwahati	1988	80	ING, INDIA, INM, INB, I INC, INS
14	P Siro Righetto	Verona Italy	1977	77	INDIA, ING, INC, INS
15	P Sebastian Pallissery	Jorhat, Assam	2023	81	IND, ING
16	L Alfred Topno	Guwahati	1960	47	ING, INC, INS
16	L Attilio Areng	Shillong	2003	72	ING, INP, INB, INS
17	P Umberto Marocchino	Nasugbu-Batulao	1991	82	INDIA, INC, ING, INS
18	P Antony Del Col	Guwahati	1960	45	ING, INDIA, INC, INN, MYM
18	P Vittorio Vigada	Turin Italy	1962	66	INDIA, INC, ING, INN
20	P Andrew Cocco	S. Lussurgiu	1967	77	INDIA, INC, ING, INN
21	P Joseph Hauber	Shillong	1946	68	ING, INDIA, INC, INM, INB, INS
21	L Augustine Conti	Kolkata	1970	83	INC, INDIA, ING, INN, INS
21	P Mario Bianchi	Como Italy	1978	66	INDIA, ING, INS, INM, INDIA
24	L Joseph Casagrande	Trento Italy	1949	67	INDIA, INC, ING, INS
28	P Elias Hopewell	Shillong	1966	47	ING, INC, INS
28	P Joseph Arminana	Shillong	1987	58	ING, INC, INS

Salesian Feasts/Commemorations

05	Blessed Alberto Marvelli, lay person
11	Salesian Missionary Day (monthly commemoration)
13	Blessed Alexandrina Maria da Costa, virgin
24	Saint Luigi Guanella, priest, Founder of the Servants of Charity
24	Commemoration of Mary Help of Christians
25	Anniversary of the Dedication of the church (when the date is unknown)
29	Blessed Michael Rua, priest, first successor of Don Bosco
31	Commemoration of Don Bosco

Always
in
Our
Hearts

Guwahati				
OCTOBER 2025				
DATE	DAY	PROVINCIAL	VICE PROVINCIAL	ECONOMER
1	Wed	Retreat of Brothers, Joropara	Retreat of Brothers, Joropara	Guwahati
2	Thu	Retreat of Brothers, Joropara	Guwahati	Guwahati
3	Fri	Retreat of Brothers, Joropara	Guwahati	Guwahati
4	Sat	Guwahati – Meeting 2.00pm	Guwahati	Guwahati
5	Sun		Formation Meet, Mumbai	Guwahati
6	Mon	Guwahati	Mumbai	Guwahati
7	Tue	YaR Assembly - DBI	Mumbai	YaR Assembly - DBI
8	Wed	YaR Snehalaya Silver Jubilee	Mumbai	YaR Snehalaya Silver Jubilee
9	Thu	Shallang Visitation	Diyadhaan - Nashik	Shallang Visitation
10	Fri	Shallang>Guwahati	Guwahati	Shallang>Guwahati
11	Sat	MPE Meeting: DBPH	MPE Meeting: DBPH	MPE Meeting: DBPH
12	Sun	DBI Jubilee	SHTC Shillong	Guwahati
13	Mon	Garobadha Visitation	Herma - Tripura	Garobadha Visitation
14	Tue	Garobadha	Herma - Tripura	Garobadha
15	Wed	Rongjeng>Guwahati	Herma - Tripura	Rongjeng>Guwahati
16	Thu	Guwahati	Guwahati	Guwahati
17	Fri	Parish Priests' Meeting	Parish Priests' Meeting	Parish Priests' Meeting
18	Sat	Jubilee of Confreres: DBPH	Jubilee of Confreres: DBPH	Jubilee of Confreres: DBPH
19	Sun	Dimakuchi Church Blessing	Guwahati	Guwahati
20	Mon	Dipphu Visitation	Tangla, Bhooteachang	Dipphu Visitation
21	Tue	Sojong Visitation	Sirajuli	Sojong Visitation
22	Wed	Satgaon Visitation	DBSTI Tezpur	Satgaon Visitation
23	Thu	Guwahati	Umswai - Amkachi	Guwahati
24	Fri	Curatorium, Sonada	Guwahati	Guwahati
25	Sat	Curatorium	Guwahati – Auxilium Christian Basti	Guwahati
26	Sun	Blessing of the Chapel, Dotma	Guwahati	Guwahati
27	Mon	Chapaguri - Guwahati	Guwahati	Guwahati
28	Tue	Provincial Council	Provincial Council	Provincial Council
29	Wed	Guwahati	Guwahati	Guwahati
30	Thu	MPE Meeting	Guwahati	MPE Meeting
31	Fri	MPE Meeting	Guwahati	MPE Meeting