

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

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

SM-19/2025

1 DECEMBER 2025

DEAR CONFRERES,

GREETINGS FROM THE PROVINCIAL HOUSE, GUWAHATI!

We are celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Salesian Congregation's first missionary expedition sent by Don Bosco in 1875. Celebrating this event is an occasion to pray God to renew the same spirit in us so that we may imbibe Don Bosco's missionary heart. The first expedition, and all those that followed, are not just a matter of chronology, but historic milestones in the annals of Salesian history. It is also a renewed invitation to us to be faithful to Christ who calls us and to Don Bosco, our Father. The Lord continues to call us to go to the whole world to proclaim the Good News.

The Church is missionary by nature and everything that we do must be centred on this identity of the Church. We as Salesians have been chosen for this privileged gift of sharing the Gospel in various missionary contexts and countries. Moments like this commemoration remind us that what we do is part of a mission that is universal and entrusted to us by the Church. It is also a mission that is deeply personal as we have positively responded to God's call to give our lives freely and wholeheartedly. In all that we do, we share in the one mission which is at the heart of the Church and of our Congregation. What we do and the way we exercise the mission flow from our Salesian vocation and we act in the name of the community. Let us be inspired by the desire of Don Bosco to make God's love visible among the young people with special preference for the poorest and needy.

BEGINNINGS OF DON BOSCO'S MISSIONARY VOCATION

Don Bosco was born at a time when the Church was experiencing a great reawakening of missionary fervour. Pope Gregory XVI, before his election as the Pope was the Prefect of the Propaganda Fide. His successor Pope Pius IX continued the missionary impetus of his predecessor and established numerous apostolic vicariates and prefectures in mission lands. He brought into the Church a fresh missionary enthusiasm which found many tangible expressions. In 1822, Pauline Jaricot, a French woman, founded the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in order to support the work of missionaries. Numerous books and letters of missionaries from far-flung lands further spurred great missionary enthusiasm. Archdioceses like Turin raised funds from the Faithful in support of the missionaries.

John Bosco grew up in Piedmont during these vibrant times. He was an active promoter of the missionary spirit in the minor seminary which was situated in the compound of the Cottolengo Institute. The Annals of the Propagation of the Faith was widely circulated in the seminary in Chieri and the Convitto Ecclesiastico. Fr. Joseph Cafasso was one of the leading priests in Turin who actively promoted the newly founded Society for the Propagation of the Faith. The Biographical Memoires narrate that the seminarian Bosco avidly read the Annals, which recounted the struggles, sufferings and needs of missionaries and the invitation to the faithful encouraging them to help missions and missionaries. Studying in such an

atmosphere, it was no surprise that John Bosco, the seminarian, nurtured in his heart a keen desire to be a missionary.

He nurtured dreams of going overseas as a missionary priest. It was Fr. Cafasso who helped him to discern that his work among the poor and abandoned immigrant youth of Turin was just as commendable and comparable to that in the foreign missions. But the missionary spirit remained in him with the same intensity, which inspired his vision, his apostolic thrust and his pastoral background: he was a missionary there in Turin.

THE SALESIAN MISSIONARY VOCATION

Don Bosco, growing up in such a fervent missionary ambient, developed a clear vision for the Congregation he founded. Without losing focus on his charism for the salvation of the youth, he understood that God has given concrete expression to the vibrant missionary reawakening that was so characteristic of his times. As early as 1848 he talked to his boys about sending missionaries to distant regions, speaking often about his desire of evangelizing those who do not know Christ in Africa, America and Asia.

His missionary option stemmed from three factors: firstly, it was the realization of his own long-held personal desire 'to go to the missions' expressed in his five 'missionary dreams'. Secondly, Don Bosco felt that the missionary commitment of his newly approved Congregation would prevent the members from falling into the real danger of a soft and easy lifestyle. Thirdly, and most importantly, Don Bosco saw the Congregation's missionary commitment as the fullest expression of his motto: *Da mihi animas, caetera tolle*.

Already from the beginning of the Congregation, Don Bosco began to prepare some of his men for the missions. He did not wait to consolidate and build a strong foundation in Italy and other European countries before he decided to respond to the call for sending missionaries to faraway lands. During the Annual Conference of Saint Francis de Sales, on June 29, 1875, Don Bosco solemnly announced his decision to send the first group of Salesians to South America. The Congregation was in its beginning, and this was the first time that Don Bosco had discussed this matter in public. There was much joy and enthusiasm among the Salesians at this announcement.

THE FIRST MISSIONARY EXPEDITION

The day Don Bosco sent off his first missionary expedition on 11 November 1875 was a solemn and emotional day. In the Salesian annals, this day marks the beginnings of a great enterprise. Don Bosco prepared a sermon for the day to accompany his sons who would be the first to cross the ocean to Argentina. He carefully wrote down the advice he wanted to give to the first missionaries. Thanks to the famous photo taken by Michele Schemboche, a professional photographer, we have the memory of that event well documented. The Salesians chosen to go on the first expedition were: Giovanni Battista Allavena, Fr. Giovanni Battista Baccino, Fr. Valentino Cassini, Fr. Domenico Tomatis, Stephen Belmonte, Vincenzo Gioia, Bartolomeo Molinari, Bartolomeo Scavini, Fr. Joseph Fagnano and Fr. John Cagliero, the leader of the expedition.

The significance of the expedition is clear from Don Bosco's invitation to the missionaries to follow the mandate of Christ before his ascension to go to the whole world and proclaim the Gospel.

Don Bosco insisted that with these words "our Saviour was giving His Apostles not a suggestion, but an order to go and bring the light of the Gospel to all parts of the earth."

Among the hundreds of letters from Don Bosco that crossed the Atlantic Ocean from 1874 to 1887, most were addressed to the Salesians, from Fr. Cagliari to Fr. Fagnano, from Fr. Bodrato to Fr. Vespignani, from Fr. Costamagna to Fr. Tomatis and so on to many of the 150 Salesians, priests, brothers, clerics, who left during the 12 missionary expeditions organized from 1875.

DON BOSCO'S MESSAGE TO THE FIRST MISSIONARIES

Don Bosco's Farewell message to the first Missionaries contains words of great affection, encouragement and assurance of closeness: "Whatever remote part of the world you may be, never forget that here in Italy you have a father who loves you in the Lord and a Congregation that thinks of you in every circumstance, provides for your needs and will always welcome you as brothers. Go, then. You will have to face all kinds of trials, hardships, and dangers. Do not be afraid; God is with you; He will give you such grace that you will be able to say with St. Paul: By myself I can do nothing, but with Divine help, I am all powerful.

"Yes, go forth bravely, but remember that there is but one Church that is spread over Europe, America, and the whole world and welcomes men of all nations who seek refuge at her maternal bosom." The mission is the same, regardless of location, and unity of spirit prevails even when we are physically distant, all working for the greater glory of God, maintaining the Salesian and Catholic identity, loving, professing and preaching the Gospel.

You will go, but you will not go alone because everyone will accompany you. Many of your companions will follow your example and join you in the field of glory and tribulation. Those who are unable to accompany you to the evangelical field to which Divine Providence has destined you, will follow you in thought and prayer. Farewell! Perhaps some of us shall not meet again on this earth. For a while we shall be physically separated, but one day we shall be reunited forever."

ORATORY OF DON BOSCO: A NURSERY OF MISSIONARY VOCATIONS

The Oratory of Don Bosco remained as a fertile nursery of missionary vocations. During the process of beatification, Cardinal Cagliari testified that he heard Don Bosco state several times that "he had always desired as a seminarian and as a priest to consecrate himself for the missions. In the Oratory, he fostered among his boys the missionary fervour. He challenged his best boys to befriend those who were not so good and encouraged them to visit the Blessed Sacrament and approach the Sacraments. As early as 1848 he talked to his boys about sending missionaries to distant regions.

The First Vatican Council convoked by Pope Pius IX which commenced on December 8, 1869, gave Don Bosco the opportunity to meet several missionary bishops who visited his work in Valdocco. His visit to Rome from January 24 to February 22, 1870, while the Council was in session, further

enabled him to meet other missionary bishops from various parts of the world. We know of letters from many bishops in India, such as Mangalore, Calcutta, writing to the Salesian superiors asking to send missionaries and to establish houses.

Thus, right from the beginning, Don Bosco involved the whole Salesian Family in his missionary commitment. The missionary spirit prevailing in the Church at that time further deepened Don Bosco's vision and his pastoral initiatives. His pastoral charity, manifested in the 'Oratorian heart' was imbued with the redeeming love of the Good Shepherd. It is summed up in his motto: 'Da mihi animas, caetera tolle.' Fr. Luigi Ricceri, the 6th successor of Don Bosco, said that the missionary spirit was not just a personal inclination of Don Bosco. It is a foundational charism and an intimate part of the founder's charism so much so that the Salesian Constitutions consider missionary work an essential feature of the Salesian Congregation.

The missionary commitment of Don Bosco reveals the intensity of his pastoral charity, zeal for souls, passion for the greater glory of God, and availability for the spread of God's Kingdom especially among the poorest. For him mission to the young who are poor and abandoned and mission ad gentes were like the two sides of the same coin. In this way the missionary spirit became part and parcel of the life of every Salesian because it is rooted in the Salesian spirit itself.

MISSIONARY DREAMS OF DON BOSCO

Don Bosco had at least five missionary dreams in which he foresaw the Lord's plan for the Salesian missions in different parts of the world. In his fifth dream in 1886 Don Bosco saw the plan of God for his Salesians from Valparaiso to Peking and from there "I saw Calcutta mountains, sea and hills" and Santiago. The shepherdess told me that starting from that point I would have a standard of what the Salesians would do in the future. Then, turned the other way, she had me draw a line of sight. I could still see mountains, sea and hills, the children in chorus read 'Peking'. Then she had me draw another line from one end to the other, from Peking to Santiago, with its centre in Africa. I did not understand how I could do all this: the distances were immense, the places difficult and the Salesians few. "Don't worry. Your sons, the sons of your sons, and their sons again will do this. Just let them steadfastly observe the Rules and keep the spirit of the Pious Society."

Drawing a new line from Santiago to the centre of Africa, I saw ten stations. The shepherdess told me that those centres would have houses of studies and novitiates, providing many Salesian missionaries. On the other side, I saw another ten centres from the centre of Africa to Beijing which will form missionaries. "There's Hong Kong; there, Calcutta; farther on, Madagascar. Here and also elsewhere there will be more houses, houses for studies and novitiates." "There is only one thing to do: recommend that my sons constantly cultivate the virtue of Mary."

FLOWERING OF MISSIONARY CHARISM IN THE SALESIAN FAMILY

Not only did the Salesian Congregation continued the legacy of Don Bosco to send missionaries to the far away mission lands year after year, but God blessed these efforts with the birth of new missionary Congregations within the Salesian Family. Some of the pioneer missionaries in the frontiers of the Salesian missions founded religious Congregations and apostolic institutes in response to the needs of the local Churches.

We have today numerous groups of missionary institutes among the members of the Salesian Family. It is indeed a sign of the fruitfulness of Don Bosco's missionary charism. Many of these were founded by Salesian missionaries and were born in mission territories. In our own country and in Northeast India, we have been blessed by three such missionary Congregations, namely, the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC), Sisters of Mary Immaculate (SMI) and Visitation Sisters of Don Bosco (VSDB). These have responded to the call of the Lord to send missionaries to continents such as Africa, Asia, Europe, and Americas. Though the young Church in Northeast India is young, it has been sending missionaries to other countries.

SANCTITY AMONG THE MISSIONARIES AND IN MISSION LANDS

God's grace and the fruitfulness of the Salesian charism grew not only in the missionary vocations from the mission lands but also in fruits of holiness in the Salesian Family. We have today a growing number of persons on the path of sanctity, who hail from the mission lands. Among the Salesian Family members from India whose cause for canonisation are in progress include: Archbishop Stephen Ferrando, Fr Constantine Vendrame, Fr Francis Convertini, Bishop Orestes Marengo.

Among missionaries who laboured for long and often in difficult circumstances, we have many more men and women of outstanding holiness and zeal. Their shining example of hard work, fidelity to their vocation and the gift of faith they implanted in the lives of thousands, are a stimulus for us too, to be faithful to our missionary vocation. Another tangible fruit of the Salesian missions is the life of four young people whose holiness is recognised by the Church as witnesses of Christian hope and courage. They are Ceferino Namuncurá, Laura Vicuña, Simão Bororo and Akash Bashir, a young Salesian pupil martyred in Pakistan.

SALESIAN MISSIONARIES IN INDIA

Since the arrival of the first Salesians in Tanjore India in 1906, we have had Don Bosco's missionary dream grow and mature in this country. From 1922, this received a major flip with the arrival of the first Salesian missionary expedition to Assam led by Mgr Louis Mathias, followed by the arrival of subsequent batches of young missionaries from Europe. Some of the senior Salesians have known and lived with many of them and can vouch for their zeal and passion for the Gospel. We cannot forget the immense work they did to build up the local Church and numerous institutions in our region and plant the charism of Don Bosco in Northeast India. At the moment, we have only four of the missionaries who came from Europe, still living in our midst in Northeast India.

It is a reminder to us of the passing of an era and beginning of a new phase in the Salesian missions. God continued to bless our land and people with vocations

from other parts of the country, and now we are on another phase of the missionary journey with most of the Salesians in our Provinces hailing from the region itself. But we must know that we are stepping into the shoes of pioneers who have left us a rich and challenging legacy that we ought to take forward. Let us make every effort to keep the memory of the pioneers alive and celebrate the fruit of their work. Let us also remember to pray for the souls of the departed Salesians and Salesian Family members, benefactors and friends who assiduously laboured and supported our work in our region.

SALESIAN MISSION WORLDWIDE TODAY

Since Don Bosco's first expedition, every year missionaries have gone out from Turin to the ends of the world. Establishment of new Salesian presences, especially in countries where Salesians were not present, are indications of the missionary impetus of our Congregation. Such generous sharing and exchange of missionary personnel for the service of the Salesian missions worldwide can invigorate faith, foster vocational enthusiasm among the young and revitalise the charismatic identity of our Congregation. It is gratifying that even young Congregations and missionary provinces of the Salesian Family from the young churches are also generously contributing missionary personnel to serve in new frontiers.

The missionary impetus started by Don Bosco continues with generous individuals from Congregations of the Salesian Family and Salesian Provinces. They are coming forward to offer themselves to be at the service of the Salesian missionary project worldwide. This truly is an expression of the richness of Salesian missionary vocation that is ready to go beyond one's borders. The Rector Major Rev Fr Fabio Attard in his letter dated November 14, has indicated the new missionary frontiers, and called for generous response to share personnel to meet the needs of these countries. While responding to this need, we reaffirm our conviction that our Salesian vocation is not bound by geographical or cultural limits, but we are truly willing to heed the Lord's call to the Apostles: to "go to the ends of the earth and proclaim the Good News."

SALESIAN MISSION DAY 2025

The first Salesian Mission Day (SMD) was established in 1988 and it is an opportunity offered every year to SDB communities, Educative and Pastoral Communities (EPCs), all young people and members of the Salesian Family to live this aspect of the Salesian charism well, and spread missionary spirit. The "Mission Day" can be celebrated on any convenient day or occasion in the Provinces and communities which best suits each Province. It is a good opportunity for missionary animation and awareness. We can think of creative ways to observe the day with a view to foster missionary enthusiasm in the Salesian Family.

Salesian Mission Day 2025 calls us to remember the first missionary expedition sent by Don Bosco in 1875. The Day focuses on the themes "Give Thanks, Rethink, Relaunch". This year we observe the 150th anniversary of the first missionary expedition set out by Don Bosco. The slogan chosen for the occasion calls us to give thanks to God for the gift of missionary vocation which enables the sons of Don Bosco today to continue our Father's legacy.

The event also offers us an opportune occasion to rethink and develop a renewed vision on the Salesian Missions in the light of new challenges and

new perspectives leading to new missiological reflections. We are also called to relaunch our missionary projects by looking at the glorious past to remember and be grateful for, but also a great history still to be accomplished! We look to the future with missionary zeal and enthusiasm so that we may reach out to the young to meet the contemporary challenges and situations.

For the celebrations for 150th anniversary each Province has been invited to undertake a concrete missionary initiative internally or to significantly strengthen existing initiatives that will become permanent signs of this celebration. We are grateful to Fr. Hubert Molsom Uttam who volunteered to join Ad Gentes from our province this year. The Vicar of the Rector Major, Fr. Stefano Martoglio has appointed him to the Vice Province of Southern Africa (AFM). At the congregational level, the Rector Major presided over the missionary send-off of the 151st missionary expedition on 11 November 2025 in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Valdocco. It is a celebration with which the Congregation renews its missionary commitment in front of Mary Help of Christians. All the celebrations at different levels have a single goal: to keep the missionary flame alive in the Congregation.

I invite you to read attentively the beautiful booklet published by the Mission Office of the Congregation for the occasion of the Salesian Mission Day 2025 which highlights the 150th anniversary of the first Salesian Missionary Expedition sent by Don Bosco. The book is a valuable compendium on Salesian missions that can help those who are in leadership to animate the communities, Salesian Family and the youth in our pastoral care.

RECTOR MAJOR ON OUR MISSIONARY CALL

The Rector Major Rev Fr Fabio Attard, in a letter written after sending off the missionary expedition of the year 2025, has highlighting the identity of our missionary vocation and the need for a renewed and wholehearted commitment to give ourselves generously for the Salvation of the young: “The cries of today’s young people take on concrete “faces” of Christ that become a missionary call: the faces of young migrants uprooted by forced displacement; the faces of youth scarred by war and violence; the faces of the excluded, trapped in poverty and denied opportunities for work and study; the faces of those burdened by ecological and social crises; the faces of the spiritually abandoned, weighed down by loneliness, despair, or a sense of meaninglessness; and the faces of children living on the streets or suffering exploitation. Each face is a call, each cry is a mission, and each young person is Christ Himself, waiting to be loved.”

Don Bosco’s dream for the young must continue through us. Let us pray, especially for all the Salesian missionaries in difficult situations for the blessings of the Lord and the maternal assistance of our Blessed Mother Mary Help of Christians. As we celebrate the memory of 150 years of Don Bosco’s missionary legacy, let us renew the fire of that apostolic zeal together with the 14,000 Salesians in 137 countries, and the other members of the Salesian Family. Let us fervently pray for more generous missionary vocations to meet our ever-growing needs in different parts of the world.

NEWS, EVENTS & INFORMATION

ADBU AND UNISERVITATE SIGN COLLABORATION AGREEMENT

On 31 October 2025, Don Bosco University, Assam, and Uniservitate, Rome, signed a formal agreement to collaborate, marking a significant milestone in Salesian higher education. The signing took place during the closing session of the Three-Day Conference on Salesian Facilitation, held at Sede Centrale Salesiana, Rome, in the presence of Dr. María Nieves Tapia from Uniservitate and Fr Dr Jose Palely, SDB, from Don Bosco University.



The agreement strengthens joint initiatives in service-learning and the promotion of Salesian educational values across the global IUS network. The event also included a special audience with Pope Leo XIV, a visit to the Jubilee of Education Exhibition, and a Eucharistic celebration at the Casa Don Bosco Museum, underscoring the spiritual and educational significance of the collaboration. Four confreres from the Province—Fr. Abhilash Vadakkekara, Fr. Jogesh B. Sangma, Fr. P.D. Johny, and Fr. Jose Palely—participated in the conference. The collaboration sets the stage for continued partnership and shared initiatives, with both institutions looking forward to their next Global Conference in Rome in November 2026.

THE CURATORIUM MEETING OF SHTC, SHILLONG HELD

The Curatorium Meeting of Sacred Heart Theological College (SHTC) was held on 4 November 2025 at the college. Fr. Biju Michael, Regional Councillor for South Asia, was also present, enriching the discussions with his guidance. The meeting was chaired by Fr. John Zosiana SDB, Provincial of INS. The Governing Board members present included the Provincials of Guwahati, Kolkata, Dimapur, and New Delhi, along with the Director, Rector, Vice-Director, Registrar, Administrator, and Staff Representative.

The Board reviewed the academic, formative, and administrative situation of the College through the reports presented by the Rector, Director, Registrar, and Administrator. The Provincials offered suggestions to strengthen

formation and community life. Fr. Biju Michael encouraged continued commitment to quality theological education in a strong Salesian spirit. The meeting concluded with gratitude to all members for their collaboration in supporting the mission of SHTC.

ST. PAUL PARISH, AMKACHI, CELEBRATED ITS SILVER JUBILEE

The celebration began on the 8th November with the hoisting of the Jubilee flag by Rev. Fr. Joachim Pumah SDB, the Parish Priest, followed by the blessing of the Jubilee pandal, release of the Souvenir, and a solemn



Eucharistic Adoration led by former Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Joseph Teron.

On 9 November, Most Rev. Bishop Paul Mattekatt was warmly welcomed with a traditional Karbi dance. He blessed the newly built grotto, a lasting Jubilee memorial, and presided over the Solemn Eucharist during which several young parishioners received the Sacrament of Confirmation. In his homily, the Bishop highlighted how faith, like a growing tree, has taken root and borne abundant fruit in Amkachi, reflected especially in the rise of local vocations.

I had the privilege of participating in the celebration, along with former parish priests, assistant Parish Priests, other priests who worked there, priests, religious, Parishioners and faithful from neighbouring communities. I expressed deep appreciation and gratitude for the missionaries and parishioners whose tireless efforts built and nurtured the parish over 25 years. The Jubilee concluded with a felicitation program and a fellowship meal, joyfully affirming twenty-five years of faith, unity, and God's enduring blessings for St. Paul Parish, Amkachi.

THE 7TH NECDBS EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCE HELD IN SHILLONG

The 7th National Education Conference of Don Bosco Schools (NECDBS 2025) was held at St. Anthony's Higher Secondary School, Shillong, from 6–8 November 2025, hosted by the Salesian Province of Shillong. About 240 principals and delegates from all 11 Salesian Provinces of India gathered under the theme *“Educational Excellence in the Spirit of Don Bosco.”* The event was inaugurated by the Governor of Meghalaya, who praised the contribution of Don Bosco Schools to value-based education.



The conference featured inspiring sessions on transformative leadership, mentoring, digital education, ecological responsibility, and the well-being of educators. Two panel discussions explored practical strategies for strengthening Salesian education in today's context. Cultural performances by local schools added vibrancy and highlighted the region's rich heritage.

The conference concluded with the adoption of national priorities to guide Don Bosco Schools in the coming years, renewing the commitment to Don Bosco's vision of forming competent, compassionate, and responsible young people. NECDBS 2025 stood as a moment of learning, collaboration, and renewal for the entire Salesian educational family.

FR AMIT LAKRA PARTICIPATES IN PDMA MEETING IN VALDOCCO

In November 2025, the first-ever World Meeting of Province Delegates for Mission Animation (PDMA) was held in Valdocco, Turin, marking the 150th



anniversary of the first Salesian missionary expedition. Fr. Amit Chama Lakra, ING PDMA, represented the Province.

The three-day gathering (9–11 November) included meetings, reflections, and presentations on successful missionary practices worldwide. A central highlight was the missionary sending ceremony on 11 November, where new missionaries received the Missionary Crucifix from the hand of Fr Fabio Attard, Rector Major. Participants also visited Genoa on 12 November, touring the historic port from which the first missionaries departed and inaugurating the new Museum of Missionary Expeditions. The meeting strengthened global Salesian missionary collaboration and renewed commitment to mission animation.

FR. UTTAM MOLSOM RECEIVES MISSIONARY CROSS IN VALDOCCO

The Province joyfully shares that Fr. Hubert Uttam Molsom SDB, after completing the Missionary Course held in Turin from 5 October to 14 November 2025, received the Missionary Cross during the historic 156th Missionary Expedition at Valdocco, Turin, on 11 November 2025—exactly 150 years after Don Bosco sent the first Salesians to Argentina in 1875.

During the solemn celebration at the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians, Rector Major, Fr. Fabio Attard SDB, commissioned the new missionaries and officially assigned Fr. Hubert to the Salesian Province of Africa Meridionalis (AFM). Fr Hubert Uttam Molsom is now officially incardinated into the AFM Province. His commissioning is a moment of great pride, reflecting the missionary spirit, vitality, and generosity of our Province. As we congratulate and thank him for his courageous response to his missionary call, we invoke God's abundant blessings on him as he sets forth and soon begins his missionary life. We, as a Province assure him of our fraternal and prayerful support.



HOLY MASS FOR DECEASED SALESIANS AT UZANBAZAR CEMETERY

MASS FOR THE DECEASED SALESIANS



10 NOVEMBER, UZAN BAZAR CHRISTIAN CEMETERY

On November 10, 2025, the Holy Mass for the deceased Salesian confreres was held at the Catholic Cemetery, Uzanbazar, beginning with the Rosary at 2:30 p.m. At the start of the Eucharist, the names of the confreres who had served the Province and gone to their eternal rest were solemnly read out. I presided over the celebration, offering prayers of gratitude for their dedicated and faith-filled service.

In the homily, I reflected on remembrance, gratitude, and the hope of the Resurrection, recalling not only those buried at Uzanbazar but also those

resting at Bosco Mount, Rongkhon, and in Shillong. Their tireless commitment to the mission continues to inspire the Salesian family.

A good number of confreres from our communities of Guwahati city participated in the prayerful gathering. After the Mass, we moved to the graves to offer tributes and prayers, honoring their enduring legacy with affection and reverence.

SILVER JUBILEE OF BONGAIGAON DIOCESE CELEBRATED

The Diocese of Bongaigaon celebrated its Silver Jubilee (2000–2025) along with the Silver Jubilee of the episcopal ordination of its first Bishop, Thomas Pulloppillil. Held on 22–23 November 2025 at the Cathedral Church, the celebration brought together over 30,000 faithful, including bishops, clergy, religious, lay leaders, and dignitaries from across the region.



Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli, Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, graced the event as Chief Guest, conveying the Holy Father's blessings. The programmes featured the solemn Eucharist, cultural performances, and a reception honouring the Nuncio and other guests. A key highlight was the release of the Bodo Lectionary, a significant step toward strengthening local liturgical life. The Jubilee Souvenir and the book *Contours of Belonging*, documenting the history of the diocese, were also released.

The celebration concluded with a Pontifical Mass and a fellowship meal, marking 25 years of faith, unity, and pastoral growth as the diocese looks to the future with renewed hope and mission.

DBI MARKS 25 GLORIOUS YEARS WITH A GRAND JUBILEE CELEBRATION

Don Bosco Institute (DBI), Kharghuli, celebrated its Silver Jubilee on 22 November 2025, marking 25 years of dedicated service to the youth of Northeast India. The event brought together judges, government officials, clergy, religious, alumni, friends and well-wishers who gathered to honour DBI's inspiring journey and impact.



The celebration opened with the traditional invocation *Jyoti* and the lighting of the lamp. Fr. Cletus Sebastian SDB, Executive Director, welcomed the gathering, followed by words of introduction from Dr. Amarjyoti Choudhury, Chairman of the Organising Committee. A special presentation, *DBI Roots & Wings – 25 Years*, traced the institute's growth, complemented by a lively dance drama titled *Immortal Echoes* performed by the students.

The Chief Guest, Hon'ble Justice Ujjal Bhuyan, Judge of the Supreme Court of India, delivered the Jubilee Address, while Shri Devajit Lon Saikia, Advocate General of Assam and BCCI Secretary, served as Guest of Honour. Significant milestones marked the evening, including the inauguration of AIGNITE and the release of *Building Dreams & Shaping Lives*, the autobiography of Founder Director Fr. V.M. Thomas SDB. Justice Bhuyan also released a commemorative publication. A rich cultural segment followed, featuring the Jubilee Choir and a musical tribute to Bhupen Hazarika and Zubeen Garg by Ms. Sunita Bhuyan and a band led by Devasish Sharma, IAS. The Chief Guest also inaugurated the Zubeen memorial Hall, honouring the legendary singer. The celebration concluded with a renewed commitment to DBI's mission of building dreams and shaping lives, reaffirming its role as a beacon of hope for the youth of the Northeast.

CHAPEL BLESSED AT NAKEYGAON, KOKRAJHAR PARISH

On 29 November 2025, the Catholic community of Nayekgaon witnessed a joyful and grace-filled milestone with the blessing and inauguration of their new Chapel. The Chapel was solemnly blessed by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Thomas Pulloppillil, Bishop of Bongaigaon, and inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Bivan Rodrigues Mukhim, Vice Provincial of Guwahati Salesian Province.

Present for the occasion were Fr. Francis Basumatary, Parish Priest of Kokrajhar; Fr. Damien Basumatary, Parish Priest of Bengtol; Fr. Cyriac, Fr. Emmanuel Margnar, Fr. Pascal Dungdung, Fr. Seberince Islary, along with Sisters, Brothers, and a large gathering of the faithful.

His Lordship presided over the Solemn Holy Eucharist, thanking God for the gift of a new place of worship and encouraging the faithful to deepen their life of faith and unity. The celebration continued with a vibrant cultural programme showcasing the rich local traditions, and concluded with a sumptuous festive lunch joyfully shared by all.



REMINDERS:

- ❖ The last date for submitting the *consultation forms* - **10 December 2025.**
- ❖ Kindly send the *Community Audit (MPE) report* at the earliest to the Provincial's office.

UPCOMING EVENTS

RETREAT: ING DECEMBER ANNUAL RETREAT from 8-14 at DBPH.

ING VOCATION CAMPS 2025 - 2026:

Salesian Province of Mary Help of Christians, Guwahati

Vocation Camps 2025 - 2026

For Boys VII passed

1. Guwahati Region - (Dec 17 - 20, 2025)
Don Bosco School, Boko
2. Assam Plain Region (Dec 27 - 30, 2025)
Don Bosco School, Dimakuchi
3. Tura Region (Jan 05 - 08, 2026)
Don Bosco School, Chandmari
4. Bodoland Region (Jan 10-13, 2026)
Don Bosco School, Amguri
5. Karbi Anglong Region (Jan 19 - 22, 2026)
Don Bosco School, Satgaon

 *Come and See - Jn. 1:39*

For Details contact: Your Parish Priest or Fr Mathias Mrong Marak SDB (Vocation Promoter) Mob: 70050 34350

ING ORDINATIONS:

ING Congratulates our New Priests

 <p>Deacon Wilson Topno Date: 10 January 2026 Place: Dibrugarh, Assam</p>	 <p>Deacon John Ngouning Date: 15 January 2026 Place: Maram, Manipur</p>	 <p>Deacon Francis Xavier Minj Date: 15 January 2026 Place: Noadih Parish Gumla, Jharkhand</p>
 <p>Deacon Sanjosh Sangma Date: 17 January 2026 Place: Gojapara, Assam</p>	 <p>Deacon Peter Canisius A. Sangma Date: 24 Jan 2026 Place: Dalu, Meghalaya</p>	 <p>Deacon Sebastian Basumatary Date: 14 April 2026 Place: Udalguri, Assam</p>

CONDOLENCES:

- ❖ To the Provincial and the confreres of Panjim Province on the passing away of **Br. Frederick D'Souza** on **2 November 2025**.
- ❖ To the Provincial and the confreres of Shillong Province on the demise of **Fr. P.M. Mathew** on **7 November 2025**.
- ❖ To the Provincial and the confreres of Mumbai Province on the death of **Fr. Mathew Thalanany** on **22 November 2025**.
- ❖ To **Fr. Damien Basumatary** and his family at the sad demise of his mother, **Mrs. Namme Basumatary**, on **18 November 2025**.
- ❖ To **Fr. Somesh Tudu** and his family at the tragic death of his paternal aunt, **Mrs. Rajina Tudu**, on **16 November 2025**.
- ❖ To **Cl. Marcus Kurbah** and his family at the passing away of his sister, **Barisha Kurbah**, on **21 November 2025**.

CONCLUSION

As we celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception on 8 December, we remember its deep connection to the origins of Don Bosco's mission. It was on this day in 1841 that Don Bosco met Bartholomew Garelli in the sacristy of the Church of the Immaculate Conception—an encounter he always saw as Mary's loving intervention and the true beginning of the Salesian Oratory. Mary Immaculate remained his guide and protector, and she continues to accompany the Salesian Family today, helping us serve the young with faith, joy, and loving-kindness.

We are already in the season of Advent, the beginning of a new liturgical year and the time of immediate preparation for the celebration of Christmas. As we draw near to the great feast of the Lord's nativity, let us prepare our hearts to receive the boundless gift of God's love manifested in the Incarnation of Christ. Jesus, born of the Virgin Mary, is our Saviour who brings us peace, joy and salvation. For our people Christmas is a time of great gladness and celebration. Let us make every effort to foster the true spirit of Christmas by making Christ the centre of our celebration. Christ is the priceless gift of the Father to us- a gift wrapped in a love that is beyond all human understanding. May Christmas be for each one of us a season of hope and a time of grace. I wish our communities and each one of you a grace-filled and Christ-centred Christmas 2025.

Yours sincerely in Don Bosco,

Fr. Sebastian Mathew SDB

Provincial

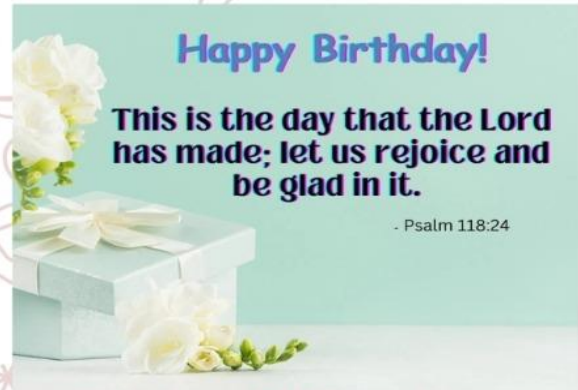


DECEMBER 2025

DATE	DAY	PROVINCIAL	VICE PROVINCIAL	ECONOMER
1	Mon	Dotma - Visitation	Guwahati	Dotma - Visitation
2	Tue	Chapaguri	ADBU Tapesia	Chapaguri
3	Wed	Guwahati	Guwahati	Guwahati
4	Thu		Sirajuli	Guwahati
5	Fri	GB Meeting	Guwahati	GB Meeting
6	Sat	Satgaon>Sojong	Guwahati	Amkachi
7	Sun	Satgaon>Guwahati	SYM DBI	Amkachi>Guwahati
8	Mon	DBI	Guwahati	Guwahati
9	Tue	Retreat	Retreat	Retreat
10	Wed	Retreat	Retreat	Retreat
11	Thu	Retreat	Retreat	Retreat
12	Fri	Retreat	Retreat	Retreat
13	Sat	GB Meeting - ADBU	Retreat	Retreat
14	Sun	Retreat - Conclusion	Retreat - Guwahati	Retreat - Conclusion
15	Mon	Guwahati	Guwahati	Guwahati
16	Tue	Baithalangso Visitation	Guwahati	Baithalangso Visitation
17	Wed	Umswai	Boko – Vocation Camp	Umswai
18	Thu	Amkachi>Guwahati	Boko – Vocation Camp	Amkachi>Guwahati
19	Fri	Guwahati	Boko – Vocation Camp	Guwahati
20	Sat	Council Meeting	Council Meeting	Council Meeting
21	Sun	Maligaon Visitation	Guwahati	Maligaon Visitation
22	Mon	Snehalaya Visitation	Guwahati	Snehalaya Visitation
23	Tue	Guwahati	Guwahati	Guwahati
24	Wed	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas
25	Thu	Christmas	Christmas	Christmas
26	Fri		Guwahati	Guwahati
27	Sat		Dimakuchi – Vocation Camp	Guwahati
28	Sun		Dimakuchi – Vocation Camp	Guwahati
29	Mon		Dimakuchi – Vocation Camp	Guwahati
30	Tues		Dimakuchi – Vocation Camp	Guwahati
31	Wed		Guwahati	Guwahati

DECEMBER HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 1 Fr. Francis Cheeramben (CJ)
- 1 Br. Peter Mark
- 2 Cl. Ashish Kongadi
- 5 Fr. Bartholomew Marak
- 7 Fr. Silverius Amsong
- 8 Fr. Jyotish Beck
- 10 Fr. Mackley Augustine Gomes
- 12 Fr. Denis Toju Sangma
- 12 Cl. Nicholas B. Marak
- 13 Fr. Anugrah Tete
- 13 Cl. Arkystar M. Chyne
- 15 Fr. Richard Barla



- 18 Cl. Ronghang John Paul
- 20 Br. Fernandes Bryce (INB)
- 21 Dn. Peter Canisius Sangma
- 23 Fr. John Chellanthara (CA)
- 24 Cl. Sengwill Sangma
- 26 Fr. Andreas Panna
- 26 Fr. Jonas Toppo
- 26 Fr. Emmanuel Marngar
- 27 Fr. Damian Basumatary
- 29 Fr. Victor Tigga
- 29 Cl. Essak Hereh
- 31 Fr. Denis Solomon Joseph
- 31 Fr. Hubert Uttam Molsom



MERRY
Christmas

Happy
New Year!



IN LOVING MEMORY - DECEMBER

Dt	Name of the Confrere	Place	Year	Age	Province
1	P Alvin Comba	Shillong	1970	89	ING, INDIA, INC, INM, INS
1	P William Balocco	Philippines	1998	87	INC, ING, MYM
2	P Albert Negri	USA	1989	71	INC, ING, INN
2	P Joseph Maliekal	Mysore	1996	71	INK, INM, ING, INB, AFE
7	P Mario Tognocchi	USA	1985	65	INC, ING, INS
8	P Thomas Vattoth	Dimapur	2021	86	IND, ING
10	P Archimedes Pianazzi	Italy	2000	94	INDIA, INC, INM, ING, INS
11	P George Stadler	Germany	1986	69	INC, ING
14	P Nicholas Schmidt	Germany	1979	74	INC, ING
17	P Louis Ravalico	Shillong	1967	61	ING, INDIA, INC, IND, INM, INP, INK, INS
18	P Cyprian Sanchez	Madrid	1947	47	INDIA, INC, ING, INN
19	P Chandy Edamalai	Kerala	2012	88	INK, INM, ING, IND
20	P Elias Kerketta	Guwahati	2010	79	ING, INS
21	L Romanus Tirkey	Hijuguri	2016	66	IND, ING, INS
22	P Michael Mundathanathu	Pala	2006	71	IND, INM, ING
22	P Joseph Edakudan	Dimapur	2014	83	IND, ING
22	E Robert Kerketta	Tezpur	2018	86	ING, INC, IND
24	P Battista Busolin	Tura	2016	95	ING, INS
25	L Thomas Dungdung	Shillong	1984	60	ING, INC, INS
25	N William Marak	Shillong	2002	20	ING, INS
25	P Philip Valayam	Nairobi	2005	46	AFE, ING, INS
25	P Alphonse Malngiang	Shillong	2019	66	INS, ING
27	P Fedele Cozzi	Italy	1963	60	INDIA, INC, INM, ING
28	P Joseph Divina	Italy	1983	79	INC, ING
29	P John Fergnani	Jerusalem	1932	58	INDIA, INC, ING
29	P Daniel Colussi	South Africa	1970	59	INDIA, INC, ING, INN
30	L Ernest Ferraris	Shillong	1993	95	ING, INDIA, INC, INS
31	P John William O'Day	Italy	1978	52	INC, ING, INP, INT
31	P Thomas Kannath	Dibrugarh	1995	48	IND, ING

Salesian Feasts/Commemorations

5	Blessed Philip Rinaldi, priest, Founder of the Secular Institute of the Volunteers of Don Bosco
11	Salesian Missionary Day (monthly commemoration)
24	Commemoration of Mary Help of Christians
31	Commemoration of Don Bosco

