

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

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

JS – 14/2019

1 April, 2019

My Dear Confreres,

Cordial greetings from Don Bosco Provincial House, Guwahati!

The Holy Week is fast approaching and is here for us to behold, learn and imitate Jesus, the suffering Servant. He made these days of the week HOLY by living a life of obedience to His Father's will and a life of sinlessness despite all trials, suffering and pain. He further sanctified it by giving His life totally for others/sinners. Here are a few reflections on the most important days of the year of Christian worship and life. Everyone of you particularly those of you who are in the parish set up will be extremely busy, ministering to the spiritual needs of our people. It will however be important for us to keep in mind our own holiness and change of heart while we minister the people.

Holy Week: The greatest of all weeks for us Christians is the Holy Week. It is the most significant week of the year for Christian worship. During this week the church remembers the events of Christ's passion, death and resurrection. We direct our attention during this week to the Lamb of God, the Suffering Servant, the Saviour of the world. We trace Jesus' life through the events of the last days before his death. In doing so, we see again our own sin and failure, but at the same time marvel at the love of Christ for the world.

The Holy Week is time for careful attention, prayer-filled reverence and profound wonder at the love of God shown in Jesus. As we participate in the Holy Week liturgy which is based on centuries-old tradition, let us deepen our devotion to the Cross, and proclaim the words of St. Paul most of all through our lives: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me." (Gal 2:20)



During this most solemn week of the church year we are invited to take the road with Mary and those few friends who follow Christ to Calvary, and to be silently at his side. He wants the work of his cross to touch our lives, to break our sinful ways so that we may be changed and know God. The decisive test of our faith is one day to reach the point where we are ready to accompany Jesus to Calvary along the same path into destruction and death. The sufferings of Christ which we recall in a special way during

Holy Week have been a source of strength to countless people throughout the ages. His passion gives us at least a tiny glimpse into the mystery of suffering that surrounds us on all sides. In times of trials, suffering and mental torture often what keeps people going and gives them strength and inspiration is the knowledge that they are at one with Jesus who suffered in the same way before them.

In Holy Week we are confronted with the primary Christian symbol – the cross – without which we cannot become his disciples. It affords us an opportunity to ponder as to what is the cross that we are taking up daily or refusing to face? Where is our sharing in his passion? There is not much point in dwelling on the crucifixion of Christ during this solemn week if it is an isolated event and not linked with the drama of suffering that goes on in our lives for the rest of the year.

Palm Sunday: We begin the Holy Week with the Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday), which commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. Acclaimed as king and hailed as a conquering hero by the cheering crowd he seemed to have arrived at the fulfillment of his earthly mission. For Christ, it's the beginning of the last week of his life, a week of violent contrasts, which will end in grief and glory. The palms will soon be formed into crosses and the cheers will turn into jeers calling for his death. Throughout the passion our attention is focused on Jesus who appears as a person completely absorbed in prayer, responding quietly and sensitively to each new moment of sorrow.



Maundy Thursday: Holy Thursday or Maundy (from *mandatum* meaning “commandment”) Thursday which commemorates the Lord’s last supper with his disciples, when he gave his commandment of love. On this day, he showed us how to love, how to serve, how to wash another’s feet. Jesus tells us, “Do you understand what I have done to you? Do you understand what it means to serve and to love? I gave you a model of what you should do: Wash each other’s feet, and after that, break your bread, sharing it all over the world, all over humanity until I will be with you again in the Kingdom to come.” Love is not just an emotion or feeling. Jesus shows that it must be practical and expressed in action.



Dorothy Day, a foremost American social activist-mystic of the 20th century, says, “The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us. When we begin to take the lowest places, to wash the feet of others, to love our brothers and sisters with that burning love, that passion which led to the cross, then we can truly say, ‘Now I have begun.’”

On this day, we remember the Exodus event of the Old Testament, the Passover, which is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. It was during the Passover meal that Jesus institutes the Eucharist, saying “Do this in remembrance of me.” And through it Jesus also institutes the Sacrament of the Holy Orders.

Good Friday: Before his triumphant resurrection Jesus has to go through a disgraceful death. In the garden of Gethsemane he is deeply troubled, and he sweats blood as he prays for the Father to remove the chalice of suffering and death from him. Betrayed and taken prisoner he is mocked, blindfolded, beaten and spat upon, while a convicted murderer is set free. He undergoes a final wrench of pain when Peter denies him and the apostles forsake him. His sense of abandonment by God is increased by the desertion of his friends. On Calvary he is crucified between two thieves and dies as a common criminal. Mary alone stands at the foot of the cross faithful to the last.

John’s Passion Narrative, that we will use for our liturgy on Good Friday, makes it very clear: Jesus delivered himself freely into the hands of man. When the mob came to meet him, he asked them: “Whom are you looking for?” and when they answered: “Jesus of

Nazareth” he made them all tumble on their faces in the mud of the wicked earth on which they had been standing. He let them taste the bitterness of the earth’s lot.

After that, he delivered himself to the corruption in their temple, to the intrigues in their politics, to the jealousies in their lives, to the injustices at their courts. They took him, grabbed him, detained him, interrogated him, caned him, and crowned him with thorns.



We took him, grabbed him, detained him, interrogated him, caned him, and crowned him with thorns, shouting for his end, calling for his blood, demanding his death: hoping for light but preferring the dark.

The evangelist John not only reports how Jesus hung on the cross, how he bled empty, how his lungs collapsed, how he bent his head, how his body twitched for the last time. He also tells us how a soldier looked up at him, and how he took a spear and pushed it through his chest into his heart and out flowed his blood and the last drop of water. He was dead, absolutely and totally dead. That soldier added a full stop behind the story of that glorious life.

They all went home, after having killed—they thought—all goodness in this world, after having given up their most deeply rooted hope, trying to convince each other: “Didn’t I tell you this type of life cannot survive in this, our world? Didn’t I tell you? Let us forget about it. Let us forget about him. Let us be realistic. We have to learn to live the life we have, corrupt and violent, harsh and treacherous.”

And when they all were at home, insofar as they had homes in this homeless world, Mary, his mother, Joseph of Arimathea, Nicodemus, and a few others took him down and buried him in a tomb with a stone in front, sealed and blocked.

The sun darkened. The curtains in the temple ripped apart. The whole earth shook in vehemence when it received his body, its origin and its end.

The death of Jesus is not a tragedy. It is through his death that we receive life, eternal life, life in its fullness. This is what we are going to reflect on Good Friday.

Easter: Jesus' journey does not end on Good Friday, it is followed by a Easter, a Resurrection. As we will participate in the Easter Vigil and other Easter Masses and services, let us bring to mind our own crosses and sufferings. They too will have a resurrection. Something good will happen in our sufferings and troubles.



The Resurrection appears here, in this moment when things seem dead, when we have reached our human limits, when it feels as though there is no love. Resurrection is not an event in the past but a concrete reality, something we look for every day. It is to be completely poor and to receive God in that space as life.

God will even use our various deaths in our favour, if we will allow it. God's mercy is so infinite and resourceful that God uses even our sins and failures and unfaithfulness for our own redemption. The failures, emptiness, negativity, acts of resistance, sinfulness, weaknesses and fragility that we encounter in our daily lives end up being the very force and motivation that catapults us ahead. In sum, the true meaning of the raising of Jesus is that God will turn all our human crucifixions into resurrection.

Death is not a loss. As we pray from the Preface of the Mass for the Dead, life is not ended, but merely changed. Nothing is ever lost, everything is transformed. Nothing that we love is ever lost, everything is transformed. Let us die to our ego, our false self, our selfishness. We need to let go of our ego, of our envy, greed, violence, anger, self-satisfaction. The cross is not the price that Jesus had to pay in order to convince God into loving us. No. It is rather simply where love will lead us. To love is to die. To love or to forgive is to let go, to forego of our own wills and wishes. If we love, if we give

ourselves to feel the pain of the world, it will crucify us. Some kind of suffering is always the price and proof of love.

SPCSA COUNCIL & ANNUAL ASSEMBLY IN DIMAPUR

From 25th February to 2nd March, 2019 we had the SPCSA Council & Assembly at Don Bosco IDL, Dimapur. The entire meeting was hosted by the Province of Dimapur. On 25th and 26th February a few sessions were set aside for some important inputs and interactions with the General Councillors who were present there. Fr. Fabio Attard, Councillor for Youth Pastoral, shared with us a few important highlights on the fruits of the Synod of Bishops on the theme “Young people, Faith and Vocational Discernment.” Fr. Guillermo Basaños, the Councilor for Missions, with his usual passionate way presented to us the guidelines for the Provincial Delegate for Missionary Animation in the Province.

On 26th February in the first session we had a general sharing on some pertinent questions. The second session was animated by Fr. Xavier Pakkiam on “Governance and Financial Management in Don Bosco Institutions” and the Current Demands in Maintaining Accounts. On 27th and 28th February, we had the SPCSA assembly in which the different networks presented their challenges and innovative practices taking place in each of our various provinces. It was indeed very meaningful to see what activities the various Provinces had taken up the theme of “Nation Building in the Constitutional Way” in a planned manner with lots of creativity and each Province gave a short presentation in this regard. The reports were instrumental in creating in all of us a deep awareness to build our Nation along the path of our Constitutions.

Another important feature in the SPCSA Assembly was the Solemn Inauguration by Fr. Maria Arokiam of the Three Year Preparation for the **Centenary of the Arrival of the Salesians in the North East**. As per the plans drawn by the three provinces, these three years will focus on Evangelization and Catechesis, Youth Ministry and Salesian Spirituality. In his speech Fr. Maria Arokiam said that North East is the best secret of India which is not discovered, a beauty not known to the rest of the world. However the Salesians discovered it about 100 years ago and is a feather on the cap of the Catholic Church particularly of the Salesians.

On 1st March together with the secretaries of the provinces we had a full day animation of Fr. Pier Fausto Frisoli, the Procurator General of the Congregation. With great clarity, authority and expertise he explained to us matters concerning religious discipline and the procedures to be followed in enforcing it. On 2nd March once again the SPCSA Council met for a few sessions to discuss various matters pertaining South Asia and fixed a number of important appointments.

During the SPCSA Council meeting various Networks presented their budgets for the coming year. We would like to express our deep gratitude to Fr. Maria Arokiam for his

constant presence and effective animation, and also thank the SPCSA Secretary, Fr. Albert Johnson for his able organization of the Council & the Assembly, and thank in a special way Fr Jose Kuruvachira, the Provincial of Dimapur and other confreres for hosting it in an excellent manner. May God bless them for their sacrifices and efforts.

SPCSA LEVEL APPOINTMENTS AND EVENTS

The following appointments at the National level were made during the SPCSA Council and Assembly held at Dimapur: Fr. Gilbert Choondal as the Coordinator for Faith Formation and Catechesis based at Nitika; Fr. George Mathew Mannuedupankuzhiyil as the DBTech Executive Director, Fr. Jijo John Kanniyattukunnel as DBTech Assistant Director and Executive Board Member; Fr. Thomas Vattathara as DBTech Team Member; Fr. Elevanal Joseph as DBSM Director and Executive Board Member; Fr. Gabriel Karunaraj as In-charge of Vocational Guidance Dimension and Bro. Jose Puthenpurackal as Coordinator of Salesian Brothers.

These are the major Programmes/Events at the National Level: GC28 Delegates Meet in Chennai from 29th to 30th July 2019; North Zone Conference on Cooperators from 5th to 7th October 2019; Visit of the Rector Major to Nepal and North Bengal from 23rd to 26th October 2019; A National Seminar on the role of young people in Nation Building from 23rd to 26th October 2019 in Kolkata; A Symposium on Discipleship for the members of the Provincial Formation Commission from 3rd to 6th February, 2020 in Mumbai.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF THE CENTENARY 2022

In the year 2022, the three provinces of the North East (ING, IND and INS) will celebrate the Centenary of the arrival of Salesians to Assam (North East). It was on 13th January, 1922 that 11 Salesians – 6 priests and 5 brothers landed on the fertile soil of the North East and set in motion the growth of our gigantic religious (Salesian) family.

The three provincials in their meeting have agreed to organize a few inter-provincial programmes each year, as a means to prepare the confreres for the meaningful celebration of the centenary. Simultaneously, the provinces are also to organize their own provincial, regional and community level programmes in order to give opportunities for confreres and members of the Salesian family to prepare themselves well for the centenary celebrations.

ING PROVINCIAL LEVEL CELEBRATIONS

At the provincial level, the celebrations that should prepare the confreres to celebrate the centenary meaningfully will consist of the following programmes.

- The reflective study, discussion and assimilation of the chapter theme should be one of the best means to prepare ourselves for the centenary. The theme “What kind of Salesians for the Youth of today” invited us to introspect and examine our

relevance for the youth of today. The communities discussed the chapter theme in some detail. The Working Document was the outcome of the community reflections. The Chapter then was held at DBI which was indeed a moment of celebration, fraternity, prayer, deep reflection and sharing and a good mixture of moments of being with the young and only by ourselves. Very soon, we shall be sending to the communities the approved deliberations of the Chapter, which the communities are to study, interiorize and live them out.

- This year, the Spiritual retreats will be animated on the theme, **Missionary Evangelization and Catechesis**. Our province will organise three retreats – the first one will be in May and will be only for the clerics and brothers who will make the final professions or renew the vows. It will be at DBI. The other two retreats will be in July at Siloam and will be open to all. It will be preached by Fr. Tom Karthick SDB (IND). The INS and IND provinces will also organize the retreats on the same theme. The confreres who want to join these retreats may inform Fr. Joseph Teron, Vice Provincial and may make their own arrangements.
- The province will organize a Symposium on **Missionary Evangelization and Catechesis** in October at Guwahati. There will be participants from all the three provinces. Fr. Biju Michael and his team have started working on it with great earnestness.
- Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Province in October will also be one of the preparations for the Centenary. The main celebrant for the solemn Eucharistic celebration will be Very Rev. Fr. Francesco Cereda SDB, Vicar General. Fr. Joseph Teron and the committee will oversee its organization. Fr. Saimy Joseph SDB will accompany him on his tour.
- The youth fest and the cultural extravaganza in the month of October will precede the Diamond jubilee celebrations. It will be a moment of gratitude to God and the congregation for having evangelised the indigenous cultures and the people. The regional councillors will facilitate the organization of the same.
- The Province will organize training of Catechists and the touring sisters in all the regions of the Province. Fr. Francis Hembrom, Provincial Missions delegate is in the process of preparing the details of the same.

REGIONAL ASSEMBLIES ... PREPARATIONS FOR CENTENARY

Four regional meetings have so far been organised in different parts of the Province mainly to study the Strenna of the year, **HOLINESS FOR YOU TOO** and also to plan as a region for the celebration of the centenary. I am grateful to the regional councillors and all the confreres of the regions for the active participation in these meetings.

On 5th March, the Garo Hills region held its meeting at Holy Cross Parish, Rongkhon. The Bodolond region met at Don Bosco Junior college, Bongaigaon on 16th March. The Sojong community hosted the Karbi Anglong regional meeting on 22nd March and finally the Tezpur region assembled at DBSTI, Tezpur on 26th March. In all these meetings, the confreres drew up schedules of preparation in great detail.



The regional councillors and the confreres incharge of programmes will plan the programmes in detail and execute the same as per schedule. I felt happy to see meaningful programmes that have been drawn up. Now, it is important that we execute them effectively as a mark of our gratitude to God and to the congregation for the great wonders that the Lord has worked for our people and the young in the North East through Salesians.

With the interprovincial, provincial and regional level programmes, being already drawn up, it is now for each community to devote one of its House councils and the assembly of confreres to chalk out the preparatory programme of its own. I request the Rectors to do it as early as possible.

“HISTORY OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AMONG THE GAROS” BY FR. GEORGE PLATHOTTAM RELEASED DURING THE RUBY JUBILEE OF MONS. GEORGE MAMALASSERY

On 16th March, 2019, all the Archbishops and Bishops of North East India, the priests, religious and laity of the Diocese of Tura celebrated the three significant milestones and achievements in the history of the Catholic Church in Garo Hills. On that day, Bishop emeritus, George Mamalassery, the first Bishop of



Tura celebrated the Ruby Jubilee of his episcopal ordination. Present on the occasion were not only the Archbishops and Bishops of the North East but also several Religious Superiors of several congregations and a host of dignitaries and well wishes of Bishop Mamalassery who were from all walks of life, including Ms. Agatha K Sangma, the former Member of Parliament and the Legislative Assembly.



On the occasion, the Diocese also blessed and inaugurated the newly constructed Pastoral centre of the Diocese, which was sponsored by the Church In Need Organisation, Germany. The construction of the majestic and architecturally well designed pastoral centre, having adequate and well equipped accommodation and training facilities was supervised and monitored by Bishop emeritus himself. Both during the devout Eucharistic celebration and the felicitation ceremony, the jubilant Bishop recounted the wonders that the Lord and Mother Mary have done in his life and in the

history of the diocese. Indeed “the Almighty has done great things for me and Holy is His name” the Bishop prayed using the words of Mary. Together with hosts of dignitaries, the event was attended also by his close relatives and family members.

It was a moment of great joy and happiness for the Salesians too, as on the solemn occasion and in the presence of so many Church and Civil society dignitaries, Fr. (Dr.) George Plathottam, Rector, Don Bosco College, and Director of Don Bosco Academy, Tura released his book, titled “**THE HISTORY OF CATHOLIC CHURCH AMONG THE GAROS.**” After the solemn and official release of the book, the first copies were presented to the Jubilarian Bishop and Bishop Andrew R Marak, Bishop of Tura. All the Bishops and religious superiors were also presented a copy each of the same.

On behalf of the entire province, I wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude and congratulation to Fr. George Plathottam who painstakingly has made this significant and priceless contribution to the Church and the society. The completion and release of the historical book during the blessing of the Pastoral center and the Ruby jubilee celebration of Bishop emeritus fit in very well with the spiritual preparations that the province is making towards celebration of the Centenary of the arrival of Salesians to the North East.

FR. GEORGE PLATHOTTAM IS THE NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF FABC OFFICE OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION (OSC) - MANILA

Fr. (Dr.) George Plathottam (62) has been appointed the Executive Secretary of the FABC Office of Social Communications (OSC) in Manila, Philippines for a period of 4 years. The FABC-OSC is responsible for the Radio Veritas Asia (RVA), the only continental Catholic Radio Service broadcasting in 22 languages of Asia for the last 50 years. “We extend to you a warm welcome into the FABC family and thank you for your acceptance of this important FABC position,” wrote FABC President Salesian Cardinal Charles Bo of Yangon, Myanmar.

Dr. Plathottam was Rector of Don Bosco College, Tura at the time of his appointment and he ably directed Don Bosco Academy – a centre for Civil Service Preparatory training and career guidance prior to this recent appointment. In 1992, he won The North-South Friendship Prize from Union of Catholic International Press and the Government of Germany.

TOWARDS GREATER EFFECTIVENESS ... COMMISSIONS' MEETINGS

We seemed to have started off the year well in the sphere of shared responsibility in the animation and governance of the province. All the commissions of the province have had their meetings once and have chalked out the lines of action. It is definitely a good beginning, as we have completed this important process at the start of the year. We have another nine months to implement the way forward. The provincial and the council have gone through the reports, assessments and especially the way forward proposals

and gave their assent. It will be of extreme importance now, for all the commissions to work towards the implementation of the same. It will ensure uniformity of growth and development. I am grateful to the commission delegates for their role in animation and wish all the commissions a fruitful implementation of the decisions taken.

VOCATION CAMPS FOR POST MATRIC AND H.S. STUDENTS HELD

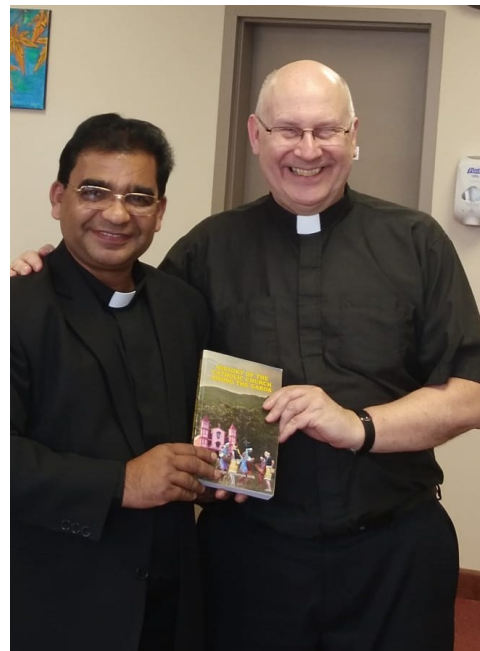
Two Vocation Camps for Post Matric and HS students were held at Hubert D’Rosario International Missionary Aspirantate, Sirajuli from 18th to 21st March and at Holy Cross Church, Rongkhon from 26th to 29th March, 2019. Altogether 21 young boys attended the camp at Sirajuli while ten (10) boys turned up for the camp at Holy Cross Parish, Rongkhon. They seemed to be lively and enthusiastic. The confreres of the houses and the regions assisted Fr. Teron, Vice Provincial and Vocation Co-ordinator to conduct the camps effectively and smoothly.



Candidates learned different aspects of vocation to religious life and opted to join either Sirajuli or Bosco Mount. Twelve (12) boys from Sirajuli camp and six (6) boys from Rongkhon camp opted to join Bosco Mount; while eight (8) boys from Sirajuli camp and four (4) boys from Rongkhon camp will join Sirajuli Aspirantate. They will reach Sirajuli and Bosco Mount on 15th April, 2019 (Monday) to begin their formation.

Fr. ECONOMER’S VISIT TO THE USA

Fr. Benny, Economer made a short visit to the USA this month. He visited the Salesian Missions Office in New Rochelle, NY and had discussion with Fr. Mark Hyde, the Director of the Salesian Mission Procure in America. He also had discussions with other personnel in the office: Jaime Correa-Montalvo, *Director, Office for International Programs*, and Jessica O’Connor, his assistant. Fr. Mark Hyde was extremely happy to meet the Economer. He invited other staff of the mission office for discussion with Fr. Benny about the Province plans and activities.



The Salesian mission supports the province with village chapel projects, Mass intentions and other developmental activities for the past many years and

is continuing to do so. At present, we have nine chapels, being built in various parishes and mission centers of our Province. Fr. Economer also had a meeting with Fr. Timothy Zack SDB, the Provincial of New Rochelle Province, comprising of Canada and Eastern United States. Fr. Tim was cordial and accommodative. After the fruitful meeting and discussions in Salesian mission office NY, he also visited other Salesian presences in the Central America province in San Francisco where, in one of the communities, Fr. Thomas Thodukulam SDB is the Rector who was a member of of our province in 1991-1995.

A part of the USA visit made him reach other places where some of our former Salesians are working: the Dioceses of New Jersey, Nebraska, Grand Island and Wichita (Kansas). All of them were cordial and hospitable. Fr. PJ James of INS province accompanied him to all the places and he was instrumental for his travel plans. Fr. Benny returned with a sense of satisfaction and gratitude to God and persons who assisted him during his trips, and made it a success for further networking for the interest of our mission centers in the Province. I thank him for his timely visit, and for his negotiations for the betterment and development of our Province.

INTENSIVE ORIENTATION COURSE FOR THE PRENOVICES 2019

Thirty six (36) pre-novices of 2019-20 are now accommodated at Bosco Barefoot college, Boko under the care and supervision of Fr. Paul Rabha, Dn. Klisterwell Songthiang and Cl. Jonas Kujur. They will remain there till they move to Dotma to commence their prenovitiate course. They will go through an intensive orientation course and will focus mainly on deepening prayer life and learning English, both speaking and writing. There are hosts of other well planned programmes that are being offered to them. I thank Fr. Vice Provincial, Fr. PD Johny, the Sisters at Barefoot College, the resource persons and our three confreres who are stationed there for their contribution towards making the course a success.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS...

We warmly congratulate Deacon Klisterwell Songthiang on his ordination to the Ministry of a Deacon. He was ordained a deacon by the Archbishop of Bangalore at Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore along with his companions on 19th March, 2019, the feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Klisterwell did his theology at KJC and now he is in the province for his diaconal experience. He is assigned to the community of Boko and is helping out in teaching the prenovices. As we congratulate and welcome him back to the province, we pray that God may continue to assist and prepare him well for ordination and then send him out to be his true minister to the people of God.



PRENOVICES AT DOTMA AND AMGURI

The year 2019 saw our province, being blessed with fifteen (15) young prenovices. In May, on the completion of their prenovitiate course at Dotma and Amguri (IND), they will enter the novitiates at Sunnyside and Dhajea. We continue to pray for their perseverance and pray that the Holy Spirit may form them to be truly obedient, poor, chaste and make them live a life of fraternity. We are grateful to our confreres in both the places of formation for the work of formation they have rendered selflessly.

We keep on praying for good and quality vocations. It is important that we take vocation invitation a bit more seriously in all the communities of the province, particularly in the hostels. The boys whom we are intending to invite to join us must be met regularly. They must be encouraged and listened to. This is called accompanying them in their vocation journey. There are many good families in our parishes and good boys and girls in our hostels where vocations are waiting to be promoted. It is important that we make a conscious move and follow up “lovingly” those who want to say YES to God’s call. I request all the communities to start planning vocation recruitment for next year, from today onwards. “The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest” (Lk 10: 2).

THE USE OF MOBILE BY THE PRACTICAL TRAINEE CLERICS/BROTHERS

The Province follows the Church’s National guidelines regarding the use of media of Social Communications for priests and religious, nay even the laity. The guidelines are simple, clear and well thought out directives to promote the good and to prevent any misuse or aberrations. It was studied by the Provincial and the council and the copies of the same was passed on the communities. In case, any community is not in receipt of the same, copies of it are available in the office of the Province Secretary. It will do us good to follow such good directives and thereby take a good and healthy advantage of this God-given means of communication.

Through this communication, I wish to inform all the communities wherever there are clerics and Brothers in practical training that, if the House council so decides that the clerics/brothers need to be given mobiles due to the real need, we respect that decision and we understand the validity of such decision. But it has been unanimously decided in the council that even if the mobile is given to the practical trainee, it has to be a simple mobile which he can use only to make and receive calls.

No cleric/Brother in the PT should have smart phones, (openly or quietly) provided by the community or by anyone else. If any Cleric or Brother is having a smart phone, it has to be surrendered to the Rector/Dean of studies/Administrator who will keep it in his safe custody.

At the same time, the clerics/Brothers should have access to a community computer with internet facility for lesson preparation and for communication purposes. It is always healthy and expected of the formators of the house to supervise the use of such facilities in the community, install such facilities in places where supervision becomes easily possible and encourage the users not to go too late into the night. Fr. Joseph Teron, Vice Provincial is assigned to ensure the implementation of this decision.

CONDOLENCES

Br. Meril Rodrigo SDB (71) of the Salesian Province of Chennai (INM) passed away 3rd March, 2019, in Chennai. May his soul rest in peace. We offer our sympathies to Fr. K.M. Jose, Provincial, and Confreres of INM.

Fr. Anthony Thaiparambil SDB (83) of the Salesian Province of New Delhi (INN) passed away on 19th March, 2019. He will always be remembered for his committed work for the young at risk, and for establishing three *Ashalayams* (houses of hope for children at risk) in three big cities of Howrah, New Delhi and Lucknow. We pray that God may grant him eternal repose to his soul. We offer our heartfelt sympathies to Fr. Provincial and Confreres of INN.

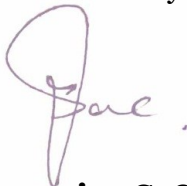
Sr. Catherine Das FMA (72), who belonged to the Province of Kolkata (INC), passed away on 8th March, 2019, in Barasat, West Bengal. She was born in Joypur, Dibrugarh, Assam. May God grant her eternal rest. We convey our condolences to the Provincial and Sisters of INC.

Sr. Dorothy Gonsalves FMA (91), belonging to the Province of Tiruchy (INT), passed away on 30th March, 2019, at Manikandam, Tiruchy. We pray for her eternal rest. We convey our heartfelt condolences to Sr. Provincial and other Sisters of INT.

CONCLUSION

I take this opportunity to wish you all a deep experience of the Lord during the Holy Week and a very Happy Easter! May the Risen Lord bless you and enable you to give life and light to whomever you meet!

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr. Januarius S. Sangma SDB
Provincial



THROUGH THE LENS

Photos of: Our sick confreres Fr. Thomas Kochupurackal, Br. Aloysius Induar and Fr. Milon Narzary; Trimonthly Recollection and Meeting of Brothers and Clerics; Holiday Package for Students at DBI and DBSTI; Release of Fr. George Plathottam's Book: History of the Catholic Church among the Garos



Birthdays: April

01 Fr. Nellanatt Joseph	13 Fr. Tharakunnel Pius
Fr. Plathottam George	14 Fr. Lakra Amit Kumar
02 Br. Sangma Walma Fredi	Cl. Lakra Godfrey
Cl. Sangma Jeniberth	17 Fr. Anikuzhikattil Thomas
04 Fr. Narjary Milon	Fr. Vadakkekara Abhilash
05 Fr. Condpan Anil Jerome	20 Fr. Lakra Punit Kumar
09 Fr. Marzo Alfred	23 Cl. Minj Paul
12 Fr. Daimari Benjamin	24 Fr. Marak Pojit
Fr. Dung Dung Pascal	30 Cl. Puma Philemon

**Death Anniversaries: April**

Name	Place	Year	Age	Province
1. Fr Boira Joseph	Spain	1978	78	INM, INB, INC
Bro Charles Sein Win	Kolkata	1993	68	INC, MYM
Bro Caratzu Diego	Italy	1997	91	INC
2. Bro Peter Vithuvatical	Mannuthy	1996	70	INK, INM, INT, INH
Fr Emilio Restelli	Italy	1993	77	INM, INT
Fr Anthony Doro	Krishnagar	1984	67	INC
Fr Thomas Kalathuveetil	Bangalore	1997	50	INK, INM, INB, INT
3. Fr Ernest Clavel	Italy	1983	65	INM, INB
4. Fr. Emmanuel Bars	Shillong	1974	84	ING, INC
Bp Mathew Baroi	Krishnagar	1983	57	INC Bp of Krishnagar
Fr Vincent Valiaveetil	Kolkata	2010	67	INC
5. Fr. Albano D'Mello	Goa	2009	77	INP, INB, ING, INM
Fr. Chacko Kuthur Vellatukara	Tangla	2015	58	ING.
Fr Chinnappa Thomas	Hyderabad	2015	78	INH
6. Fr Joseph Deane	London	1968	48	INM, INB
Fr Honorius Munoz	Chile	1994	98	INC, ING
Bro Joseph Paranthara	Kolkata	2011	79	INC
7. Fr Joaquim Minz	Tinsukia	2010	57	IND
Fr Gopu Anand	Nalgonda	2017	50	INH
8. Fr Thomas Braganza	Mumbai	1992	61	INB, INM, INP, AFE
9. N. Joseph Negro	Shillong	1933	23	ING
Fr Eugene Scagnetti	Italy	1962	73	INM
11. Fr Rudolph Toigo	Italy	1939	31	INC
13. Bro Jojo Andrew	Hatia	2017	74	INN, INC
14. Fr Joseph Arokiasamy	Shillong	1982	68	INC, ING, INM, INT



Fr Noe Nicoletto	Italy	1996	82	INM
Fr. Leo Tirkey	Dibrugarh	2006	64	IND, ING
15.D Michael Panhard	Italy	1948	30	INC
Bro Xavier Singaraj	Chetpet	1978	56	INM, INK
Fr Ignatius Rubio	Shillong	1983	62	ING, INM, INB, IND
Fr Antonio Bernardi	Krishnagar	1999	89	INC
Fr Pachiaraj Rayan	Trichy	2016	67	INT
16.Fr Julius Costa	Mendal	1970	69	ING, INC
Bro Cherian Palathumkal	Aluva	1994	59	AFE, INM, INK, LKC
Fr Dominic Almeida	Mumbai	2008	66	INB, INM
Fr Harold Shrieves	Shillong	2009	85	ING, INC
17.Fr. John Larrea	Shillong	2013	92	INS, ING, INC
18.Fr. Theodosio Bonomi	Italy	1979	77	INC, ING
Bro Antonio Dibitonto	Italy	1987	86	INC, ING
Fr. John Konglah	Jowai	1994	70	INC, ING, IND
19.Fr Vincent Vaz	Nashik	2009	75	INB, INM, INP
Fr George Padinjareparambil	Kanjirapally	2012	75	AFE, INC, ING, IND
20.Fr Adolph Toquist	Argentina	1971	83	INC, INM, INB
21.Fr George Piesiur	Bangalore	1945	60	INM, INT, INC
23.Fr Tarcisius Ratnaswamy	Chennai	2007	77	INM, INT, INC
24.Fr. Leandro Ayus	Spain	1973	80	INC, ING
25.Fr. Ernest Zanon	Calcutta	1975	69	INC, ING
Fr. George Chettupuzha	Emakulam	1999	61	INK, INM, ING
26.Bro Armando Frasson	Shillong	1978	77	INC, ING, INT
Fr John Barucci	Kotagiri	1985	80	INK, INM, INT
Bro Peter Robaldo	Turin	1991	84	INC, ING
27.Dn Mathew Kaduthalackal	Coonoor	1965	31	INM, INP
Fr Hugh McGlinchey	Dublin	1983	67	INM, INB, INP
28.Bro Anthony Remedios	Mumbai	1999	80	INB, INM
Fr Peter Khongshun	Shillong	2003	58	ING
29.Fr Remo Morra	Barpeta Road	1985	67	ING, INC
Fr Ignatius Kustec	Slovenia	2005	82	INM, INB
Fr Egidius Fernandes	Goa	2013	63	INP, INB
30.Fr Cesario Sergi	Raghabpur	1977	77	INC, ING
Bro Julian Santi	Chennai	2017	85	INM

PROGRAMME OF THE PROVINCIAL TEAM

APRIL 2019

Dt	Day	Provincial	Vice Provincial	Economer
1	Mon	Guwahati	Guwahati	DBC Bongaigaon
2	Tue	Visitation: Don Bosco Maligaon	Guwahati	Doomni
3	Wed	Visitation: Don Bosco Maligaon	Boko: Classes	Guwahati
4	Thu	Guwahati	Boko: Classes	Shillong - Jubilee Meeting
5	Fri	Guwahati	Guwahati: House Council	Guwahati: House Council
6	Sat	Guwahati > Gojapara Visitation	Tapesia > Amkachi	ADBU Tapesia
7	Sun	Visitation : Gojapara	Amkachi: Youth Animation	Guwahati
8	Mon	Guwahati : Budget Meeting	Guwahati: Budget	Budget - Guwahati
9	Tue	Guwahati : Budget Meeting	Guwahati: Budget > Maligaon	Budget - Guwahati
10	Wed	Guwahati : Budget Meeting	Guwahati: Budget > Snehalaya	Budget - Guwahati
11	Thu	Tura : Lok Sabha Elections	Guwahati: Dhirenpara	Shillong: Lok Sabha Elections
12	Fri	Guwahati : Budget Meeting	Guwahati: Budget	Budget - Guwahati
13	Sat	Guwahati : Budget Meeting	Guwahati: Budget. Meeting YPs	Budget - Guwahati
14	Sun	Guwahati: Palm Sunday	Ghy: Mass > Umswai	Guwahati: Palm Sunday
15	Mon	Visitation: Don Bosco, Kokrajhar	Umswai: Retreat	Budget - Guwahati
16	Tue	Visitation: Don Bosco, Kokrajhar	Umswai > Dispur Chrism Mass	Ghy: Chrism Mass
17	Wed	Visitation: Don Bosco, Bengtol	Guwahati	Guwahati
18	Thu	Maundy Thursday	Amkachi: Maundy Thursday	DBSTI Tezpur
19	Fri	Good Friday	Amkachi: Good Friday	Guwahati
20	Sat	Holy Saturday: Vigil Mass, DBI Ghy	Amkachi: Easter Vigil	Guwahati
21	Sun	Easter Sun: Mass Co-Cathedral	Amkachi: Easter Sunday	Easter Sunday
22	Mon	Guwahati	Guwahati	Guwahati
23	Tue	Visitation : Don Bosco College, Diphu	Guwahati	Bosco Mount > DBC Tura
24	Wed	Visitation : Don Bosco College, Diphu	Boko: Classes	DB School Tura
25	Thu	Visitation : Don Bosco, Haflong	Boko: Classes	Tura > Boko
26	Fri	Visitation : Don Bosco, Haflong	Guwahati: Recollection	Guwahati: Recollection
27	Sat	Guwahati: PROVINCIAL COUNCIL	PROVINCIAL COUNCIL	PROVINCIAL COUNCIL
28	Sun	Guwahati > Visitation: Dimakuchi	Baithalangso: Animation	Guwahati
29	Mon	Visitation: Dimakuchi > Tangla	Langchingbar: Animation	Guwahati
30	Tue	Tangla: Village Church Blessing > Ghy	Guwahati	Guwahati