



# PROVINCIAL *Circular*

Salesian Province of Chennai (INM)



**Circular #07**

**JULY 2017**

My dear confreres,

Affectionate greetings from the Provincial House!

I have just returned from Rome after attending the course for new provincials. It was indeed an enriching experience. I bring you the good wishes from the Rector Major and the members of the General Council. We were seven of us attending the course for the new Provincials. Our Rector Major and the Councillors expressed great appreciation and gratitude to the Chennai province for the generosity shown to the congregation.

The Rector Major, in the inaugural session, shared the roadmap of the congregation and his deep concern for deepening the Religious identity of the Salesians. All the Councillors shared the same concept from their perspectives, the way in which we need to animate and govern the province. The Secretary General, Heads of various branches of the Salesian Family, Department of Salesian History and few other specialists addressed us and enlightened us.

It was also an opportunity to meet all our confreres working and studying in Italy. They all looked very happy and serene. I could feel that they are all strengthened by the grace of God. Fr. Maria Lawrence was ever ready with the vehicle to receive and take us to various places. On 24<sup>th</sup> June, I was happy to be with our confreres Bro. Amalraj Ashwanth and Bro. Arokiasamy Martin who were ordained as deacons. Deacon Manuel Amalan who received his diaconate on 10<sup>th</sup> June also was present there. I was happy to see all our Professors from UPS: Fr. Francis Vincent, Fr. Pudumai Doss and Fr. Sahaya Doss. Other student priests Fr. Hendry Selvaraj, Fr. Anthony Lourdusamy, Fr. Emmanuel Maddichetty, Fr. Thomas Savari, Fr. Correya Cassius, Fr. Joseph Franklin, Fr. John Rosario and Fr. Ravi Aruldoss were also present. In addition, I was thrilled to see Fr. Nallayan, Fr. Samson David and Fr. Kannan Louis. Deacon John Wilson, Bro. Albert Kumar, Bro. Antony Pushparaj from Rattisbone, Bro. Leo Mohan from France, Bro. Alexander Cristopher and Bro. Franklin Amal from Crocetta were also present. In short, I must say it was happy family atmosphere. Fr. Jayapalan and Fr. Alphonse were present for the diaconate which added more joy to the celebration. Fr. Harris and Fr. Abraham Kavalakatt received us in Vatican very royally. All are keeping well and doing God's work with lots of generosity and commitment.

Before going to Rome, Fr. Antony Joseph and myself went to meet our confreres in Fujairah. They are a happy community with Fr. P. Sagayaraj as Rector, Fr. Arul Sekar, Fr. Suresh Kumar, Fr. K. J. Antony and Fr. Joy from Bangalore Province. I was able to meet

the parish council and the heads of other groups in the parish as well as the teachers of and the students of both the schools. As Bishop Paul Hinder had come to the parish, I had a nice interaction also with him.

The presence of so many of our confreres outside India shows the willingness of confreres to be in other parts of the world. This is our missionary spirit. So, I would like to focus on the missionary spirit of the province in this circular.

## **St. Thomas: Faithful Disciple and Fearless Missionary**

On July 3, we celebrated the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, the Patron of our Province. The feast gives us an opportunity to make a brief reflection on the person and character of the apostle who not only brought the faith to our land twenty centuries ago, but also shed his blood in defense of it. We are fortunate to have him as our patron. It is in Chennai that St Thomas spent his last years; here he lived; here he worked; here he evangelized, and here he laid down his life in witness to the faith he preached. Though the Synoptic Gospels and the Acts merely mention him in the listing of the apostles, the Gospel of John provides us with several interesting insights into his personality. Let me highlight just a few of them.

### **Absolutely loyalty to his Master**

When the news of the death of Lazarus reached Jesus and He wanted to go to Bethany and from there proceed to Jerusalem, Thomas said to his fellow-disciples: "Let us also go that we may die with him" (Jn11:16). Thomas was aware of the opposition and danger to life that Jesus would face in Jerusalem. Yet he suggested that they might all die together in the Holy City. Whatever else may be said of Thomas, it must be admitted that quicker than all the others, he recognized the death that was in store for Jesus, though he was the last to recognize his Resurrection. If Jesus desired to have himself killed, Thomas was willing to be killed with him. If the only way of continuing to be with the Master was to die with him, Thomas was willing to do that. He loved him enough to be willing to go to Jerusalem and die with him when the other disciples were hesitant and afraid.

### **An impatient and relentless seeker of truth**

In his farewell discourse, when Jesus was trying to console his disciples saying, "Do not let your hearts be troubled... I go to prepare a place for you ... And *you know the way where I am going*," Thomas protested with a sense of impatience and somewhat rudely, saying, "Lord we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" (Jn 14:5). This elicited from Jesus one of the most memorable and most quoted and theologically rich lines in the Gospels: "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me" (Jn 14:6).

### **Eagerness for personal experience of the Lord**

He was absent at the first appearance of the Risen Lord to the disciples. When the other disciples told Thomas about it, he could not accept their evidence. He refused to trust the testimony of his fellow-apostles who had seen the risen Christ with their own eyes. He demanded a tangible proof. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nail marks, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe" (Jn 20:25).

A week later, he was present in the house with the rest when Jesus appeared to them. Approaching Thomas, Jesus challenged him to carry out his test. "Put your finger here, see my hands, reach your hand here and put it into my side" (Jn 20:27). Did Thomas really carry out the crude test he planned to do? Most likely he did not. Just one fleeting gaze at the wounded hands and side of the transfigured body of his Master was enough to melt his heart and banish his doubts. His spontaneous response was, "My Lord and My God" (Jn 20:28). Thomas, who was the last to believe, thus became the first to make a full confession of the Divinity of the Risen Lord.

Yet there was something lacking in Thomas. The master in fact told him, or rather rebuked him, saying, “**Doubt no longer, but believe** (Jn 20:27), and uttered what is truly the ninth Beatitude of the Gospels, “Happy are they who never see and yet believe” (Jn 20:29). Here Jesus reminds Thomas -- and all of us -- that there is a bigger faith than that which is arrived at after seeing proofs. It is the faith that dispenses with all tangible proofs and visible evidences, a faith that believes heroically even when there is no obvious and immediate confirmation.

Thomas probably thought he was doing the right thing in demanding tangible and visible proofs. Obviously, he was not so correct in that, because if it were so what would happen to future generations of believers? And so, the Lord’s reproach to Thomas implied that future generations would have to accept the fact of the resurrection on the assurance of those who had been with Him. They would have to believe without seeing and touching, reverently accepting the testimony of the apostles in the Scriptures.

### **Doubting as a way to clarity and conviction**

We may fault Thomas for being slow to believe, but the good thing about him is that he absolutely refused to say that he understood what he did not understand, or that he believed what he did not believe. He would never still his doubts by pretending that they did not exist. He was not the kind of man who would rattle off a creed without understanding what it was all about. Thomas had to be sure – and he was quite right. Indeed, as Tennyson wrote, “There lives more faith in honest doubt than in half the creeds.” There is more faith in the man who insists on being sure than in the man who blindly repeats things which he has never thought out, and which he may not really believe. When one fights his way through his doubts to the conviction that Jesus is the Lord he attains to a certainty of faith that can never be reached by someone else who unthinkingly accepts things. Thus, for St Thomas, doubt was a path to greater clarity and conviction.

### **Daring Missionary -- Eager to share the faith**

St. Thomas had his doubts, he was slow to believe. But once he got his doubts cleared, he was ready to go the whole way. His acceptance of truth was complete; his surrender to the Lord was total. He was ready to go to the ends of the earth in the service of his Lord. In fact, among the twelve apostles, Thomas was the only one who dared to cross the boundaries of the ancient Roman Empire to share the faith that he had received. His courage and missionary zeal is something that should challenge us. This is one aspect of his life that I would like all of you, dear confreres, to reflect upon, because St. Thomas can be a great inspiration for us who are also called to be missionaries.

### **Our Missionary Response**

Today St. Thomas challenges us to reawaken our missionary spirit. Article 30 of our Constitutions says, “We look upon missionary work as an essential feature of our Congregation.” Indeed, it would be right to say that missionary sensitivity is part of our Salesian DNA. The missionary dimension is an essential feature of our charism. Art. 6 of the Constitutions says: “We proclaim the Gospel to those who have not yet received it.” To understand the missionary character of the Salesian vocation, it is necessary to begin with Don Bosco himself.

### **Don Bosco’s missionary heart**

Though he never personally worked on *ad gentes* missions, Don Bosco can rightly be listed among the great missionaries of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (AGC 336). The missionary idea was present in Don Bosco from his childhood, and it continued to grow with him as he entered the seminary and later as a priest. Don Albera says: “The foreign missions were

always a burning aspiration in Don Bosco's heart.... He spoke about it continually to us, his first sons; we were filled with wonder and felt ourselves carried away by a holy enthusiasm." Don Rinaldi, speaking on the occasion of the centenary of Don Bosco's dream at the age of nine (1825-1925) said, "In commemorating that first dream of our Father, we have implicitly celebrated the centenary of the beginning of the whole of Salesian work – because we may say that it was in that first dream that he was consecrated as the apostle of youth, the father of a new religious family, *a missionary to non-Christian peoples*; that dream it was that stirred up also in his heart a lively desire for religious life and the evangelization of faraway peoples."

In 1844, at the end of his pastoral course in the Convitto, Don Bosco was thinking of entering the Oblates of the Blessed Virgin who had opened a flourishing mission in Vietnam, so that he could soon become a missionary. With this intention, he began to prepare himself by the study of languages. When he started studying French and Spanish, Don Cafasso, his spiritual director, let him go along for a while, but then when he began to take up the study of English, he told him outright: "The foreign missions are not for you!" (BM II, p. 161).

In the early days of the Oratory, after dinner Don Bosco would sit with his boys and read aloud anecdotes and stories from the newsletters of the Propagation of the Faith and the Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood. Already then, Don Bosco felt drawn to those faraway lands. "He burned with a desire to convert all the people of the world and save their souls," says Fr. Ascanio Savio, his first seminarian.

And in 1875, after he was able to launch his first missionary expedition, his missionary heart exulted, and he seemed to give to the missions the whole of his attention. From then onwards, wrote Fr Albera, "the missions were at the centre of his heart and he seemed to live only for them. He talked about them with such enthusiasm that we all marvelled and were deeply edified by his burning ardour for souls."

Writing about Don Bosco's missionary zeal, Don Rinaldi wrote in 1925: "In his great heart there had been accumulating for years the apostolic ardour of a Francis Xavier, nourished by a heavenly flame that was revealing the future to him through dreams... For me, there has never been a missionary as zealous and tireless in his propaganda as he was. I can still see him, the loving Father, in the distant memories of my Salesian vocation, precisely in those years when his missionary fervour was at its height; and it has left an indelible impression on me; he was a true missionary, an apostle devoured by a passion for souls."

### **Ours is a missionary Congregation**

For us Salesians, missions *ad gentes* are not just one work among many others; they are an essential aspect, a particular dimension of our identity as Salesians of Don Bosco in the Church. It may be true that the Congregation is not listed in the Pontifical Yearbook among the "missionary Institutes" strictly so called, that is, those dedicated solely to the foreign missions. But our Founder wanted that there be in the Congregation a true commitment to missions *ad gentes*.

Salesian history clearly shows how from the very beginning we have fostered missionary vocations in the strict sense. Every confrere was fundamentally available to go to the missions if obedience should take them there. In fact, it is amazing to note that, at the death of Don Bosco, 20 percent of the Salesians were in the missions (SGC 471). Further, the 147 expeditions consisting of some 12,000 SDB missionaries who left from the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Turin in the past 142 years is proof enough of the Congregation's commitment to mission *ad gentes*.

The missionary trait belongs not only to Don Bosco as an individual, but to his charism as Founder. From him it has passed to the Congregation as a feature of its spiritual and pastoral physiognomy. He has passed on his missionary spirit to the Congregation as an essential part of his spiritual and apostolic patrimony. In 1880 Don Bosco wrote to Pope Leo XIII: "The foreign missions have always been a cherished concern of the Salesian Congregation." It was his wish therefore that his Congregation should be truly missionary, missionary *ad gentes*. The missionary spirit is so central to the Congregation that in the Project of Life we read: "Without missionary work the Congregation would not only be impoverished, but would be distorted and alienated from its true nature. In it one could no longer recognize the Salesian society as its Founder had visualized and wanted it." (p. 307).

GC 19 expressed the same thing when it said: "The Salesian Congregation... revives the ideal of Don Bosco who wanted the work of the missions to be a permanent preoccupation of the Congregation to the extent of being part of its nature and purpose... it therefore reaffirms the missionary vocation of the Salesian Society... and intends that it be known as such in the Church as well as to its own members and cooperators (GC 19, pp 178-179).

It means too that the Congregation accepts and fosters the development of the vocation of those who feel called to this eminent service. It also means that every member of the Salesian Society is a missionary in his own way. All foster in the heart a thirst for the expansion of the Kingdom to the very ends of the earth. All are "missionaries" in the specific sense of this word, i.e., missionaries *ad gentes*, in the places where they happen to be working; and even those who are not engaged directly in missionary work offer their collaboration according to the possibilities of each one, by prayer, interest, words and deeds.

### **Our Missionary response**

We are inheritors of a beautiful missionary tradition. What we are today is to a great extent the result of the hard work and sacrifices of the missionaries who came to India from as many as 25 countries, over a period of hundred years. We stand tall on their shoulders. The appeal of Fr. Pascual Chavez, on the occasion of the Centenary celebrations in Thanjavur in 2006, is worth recalling. He said: "The time has come for India to send missionaries around the world. What we received in the past, now we need to give back to the Congregation and the Church" This is an appeal that we can never forget.

It is indeed heartening to see that in many of our confreres there is the desire to serve mission *ad gentes*. Every year, from our province we have been sending to the missions a small number of confreres and today nearly 50 of them are working as missionaries *ad gentes* in various parts of the world. We need to keep alive this missionary flame in our hearts. We need to re-discover the missionary dimension of our Salesian vocation and live our Salesian consecrated life "permanently in a state of mission", as Pope Francis puts it in *Evangelii Gaudium* (no. 25). The missionary commitment impels us to live our faith and religious consecration with greater joy and authenticity.

The missionary aspirantate which we started in 2012 stands as a concrete expression of our commitment to promote missions *ad gentes*. We are happy that this month Bro. Raymond, the very first candidate from our missionary aspirantate, is going to his mission field in Siberia. We are sure many more will follow him. It is time that all of us make a sincere effort to foster the missionary spirit among our young people. The monthly commemoration on 11<sup>th</sup> of every month, and the **missionary groups** can be of great help in this. In a particular way, I would like that we encourage the formation of missionary groups among our youngsters wherever possible, especially in our boarding houses,

parishes and schools. The missionary groups, if well animated and followed up, can produce wonderful results. For as Fr Pascual Chavez once said, "There is no *missio ad gentes*, if there is no *missio intra gentes*," which means, you can't be a good missionary if you are not already a missionary in your own context.

## **NEWS AND INFORMATION**

### **Jubilee celebrations**

On 3<sup>rd</sup> July, we celebrated the feast of St. Thomas, our patron, and the Golden and Diamond Jubilees of religious profession and the Golden Jubilee of Ordination of our confreres with a solemn Eucharistic celebration and a well-prepared felicitation programme in their honour at St. Bede's, Santhome.

Golden Jubilee of Profession:

**Fr. Augustine Nathan, Fr. Joseph Fernandez (Berk), and Fr. Thomas Michael.**

Golden Jubilee of Ordination: **Fr. George Palackapilly (P.P.).**

Diamond Jubilee of Profession: **Fr. Pottackerry Anthony (P.E.); and Bro. Sigamony Anthony.**

Our jubilarians deserve our heartfelt thanks for their fifty and sixty years of humble and dedicated service as Salesians and priests in the Province. They are confreres who have touched the lives and guided the destinies of so many people through the various ministries they have been carrying out all these years. We thank the Lord for the gift of them to us and join them in praising the Lord for the many wonders He has done in their lives and, through them, in the lives of others.

I thank Fr. Bosco, the Vice Provincial, and Fr. Xavier, the Economer, for organizing the event, Fr. Stanley, the Rector, and the community of St. Bede's for hosting it and the many other confreres and collaborators who helped to make it a success

It was a also a beautiful moment to appreciate our lay collaborators who have rendered great service in the field of Social Ministry, Evangelization and in Scouting.

### **Social causes**

1. Mrs. Chitra Krishnamoorthy - (Anbu Illam)
2. Mr. Selvaraj - (Thurambar Ministry)
3. Mr. Kumar - (Tribal Ministry - Jawadhi)
4. Mrs. Jeya Thamodharan - (VIA - Polur)

### **Scouts and Guides**

1. Mr. C.K. Logadoss
2. Mr. K.V. Bakthavachalu
3. Mr. V. Sundaramoorthy
4. Mr. V. Amalraj Narayanasamy
5. Mr. A. Peter Santhanasamy

### **Catechetics**

1. Mr. Vasu Devan (Pavunjur)
2. Mr. Julias Bernard (FX, Broadway)
3. Mr. Philip (St. Mary's)

### **Meeting of BIS Correspondents**

Sharing of information is vital for building communion and promoting family spirit among ourselves and for making our good works known to the world at large. As we know, Bosco Information Service (BIS) is one of the important channels of information sharing within the Province and outside. To facilitate the gathering and sharing of information, we have appointed a correspondent in every community for reporting on events that take place in the community that are worth sharing with others. On 26 June, there was a one-day meeting of these correspondents at the Citadel/SIGA to motivate them and to equip them with certain skills that are essential for their work. I thank Fr. Dominic Matthews, the Provincial BIS Coordinator, who organized this training programme, and the resource persons, Fr. John Christy (news reporting and documentation), Fr. P. T. Joseph (strengths and weaknesses of our communication system), Bro. Sathish Paul (photo journalism), and Fr. Dominic Matthews (Facebook, WhatsApp, Telegram and other social networking applications). In this connection, I urge all the local correspondents to take this responsibility seriously and acquire the skills needed for their work.

### **NIRAIVAGAM: Training in Remedial Teaching for School Teachers**

The Don Bosco Institute of Psychological Services (*Niraivagam*), Chennai, in collaboration with NANDAVANAM, a Centre for Remedying Learning Difficulties, organized a training programme on remedial teaching for 45 teachers of Salesian Schools in Vellore region on 23-24 June 2017, using a scientifically designed programme. The two-day programme, held at Don Bosco Matriculation School, Gandhi Nagar, was the first module of an 8-day programme, spread over a period of four-month. The remaining modules are scheduled for 7-8 July, 4-5 August, and 8-9 September. This highly rated and expensive workshop is being offered free of cost by *Nanadavanam* for the benefit of our teachers. I thank Fr. Paulraj Amalraj, Director of *Niraivagam*, and Bro. Anandaraj, provincial councillor and in-charge of Education and Culture, for organizing it, and Fr. Michael Viyakulam, Rector, and Fr. Arokia Dass, principal of the Matriculation School, Katpadi, for facilitating the programme.

### **Animation Meetings at the beginning of the year**

We started off the new academic year with a series of meetings beginning with college students and practical trainees on 25-26 May, which was followed by Headmasters & Principals (27<sup>th</sup> May), Youth Pastoral Delegates (28<sup>th</sup> May), Rectors & Leaders (29<sup>th</sup> May), Administrators (30<sup>th</sup> May), students of theology (2<sup>nd</sup> June) and concluded on 5 June with those involved in social ministry. They were indeed moments of grace for listening to one another and getting to know the various problems and issues that affect all of us and which need attention in the coming year. I thank all of you who took an active part in these meetings and shared freely and frankly your views and thoughts. Fr. Vice Provincial who attended all these meetings has shared with the Provincial Council the concerns expressed by each group. Whatever follow-up actions are needed will be taken in due course.

### **Two more First Professions**

On 24<sup>th</sup> June two of our novices (**Bro. David Antony and Bro. Gunasekaran Leo**), who could not make their profession on 24<sup>th</sup> May as they had started their novitiate late, made their first profession at Idayadeepam Novitiate, Yellagiri. Their profession was received by Fr. L. Don Bosco, the vice provincial. We congratulate them and welcome them into the provincial community. May the Lord bless them for their generosity and fidelity.

### **Provincial Team Visit**

From 12<sup>th</sup> July, according to the schedule given in the Monthly Programme, I will be visiting every community, along with the Vice Provincial and the Provincial Economist, for a review of its community life (SCPL), Apostolic Life (SEPP of all sectors) and Financial Administration (Budget). The whole community is expected to be present for this meeting. Kindly take note of the dates and timings assigned to your community from the Monthly Programme sent along with this circular and keep the plans (SCPL, SEPP of all sectors) and budgets ready.

### **Canonical Visitation**

The Canonical Visitation of the Houses will start on 31 July with the community of Thalavadi. I request the Rectors to prepare the community for this important event by prayer and by keeping all the books and documents updated. A checklist of documents required will be sent to the houses shortly.

### **Congratulations**

Fr. Xavier Pakkam has been appointed as the Coordinator of Economers' Network - SPCSA.

Fr. Ajoy Fernandes of INB as the member of the SAFC for the three-year period of 2017 June to 2020 May.

### **Upcoming Events**

1. **Retreat for Rectors & Leaders:** The annual retreat for the Provincial Councillors, Rectors, Leaders and the Heads of various Dimensions will be held from 4<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> July at the Retreat Centre of Poondi Madha Basilica, Poondi, near Thanjavur. The retreat will be animated by Fr. Maria Arul Raja SJ. The annual retreat, as the Constitutions remind us, is "a privileged moment for discerning the will of God and purifying our hearts"; it is also "a time of grace to restore to our spirit a deep unity in the Lord" (C91). Kindly keep them in your prayers.
2. **Batch Meetings 2017:** This year we are resuming the practice of "batch meetings" of confreres. It is an opportunity to enrich ourselves through sharing of experiences, common concerns, reflection, and prayer.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> batch (First Profession **1940-1965**) will meet on **July 14-15** at the Citadel.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> batch (First Profession **1966-1979**) will meet on **July 17-18** at the Citadel.
3. **Leadership and Management Training:** Don Bosco Leadership and Management Training programme (DBLMT) for Headmasters and Principals of our educational institutions will be held on 14 and 15<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at the Citadel. The training will be conducted by Adhyayan Quality Standard, an organization working with schools.
4. **Priestly Ordination:** On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2017, three of our deacons – Dn. **John Wilson Santhanam**, Dn. **Praveen Raj Antony**, and Dn. **James Raj Samynathan** – will be ordained priests by the Most Rev. Dr. A. M. Chinnappa, Archbishop Emeritus of Madras-Mylapore, at 5.30 p.m. at **Lourdes Shrine, Perambur**. The three of them had their Theological formation outside the province: Wilson in Rome, James in Jerusalem and Praveen in Austria, where he is working as a missionary. We congratulate them and assure them of our prayerful support.

5. **Our Missionaries:** This year three confreres have opted for the missions: **Fr. Mariaselvam** and **Fr. Jerome Selvaraj** to **Sri Lanka** and **Bro. Raymond Joseph** to **Siberia** (Russia), as a missionary *ad gentes*. They will be leaving the Province shortly. Let us accompany them with our prayers. Bro. Raymond has just completed his post-novitiate in Yercaud and is the first fruit from our missionary aspirantate at Perambur. We wish him God's choicest blessings and a very fruitful missionary experience.

### News from the Provincial Council

- **Ayanavaram-Don Bosco Shrine:** permission granted for constructing two more floors for Higher Secondary classrooms over the existing hall.
- **Katpadi-Don Bosco:** permission granted to buy one more bus for the Matriculation School.
- **Redhills-Wisdom Town:** permission granted to hold the All-India McFerran Football Tournament.
- **Perambur- Lourdes Shrine:** permission granted to purchase an auto-rickshaw.
- **Pannur-Don Bosco:** permission granted to purchase a two-wheeler.
- **Polur-Sacred Heart:** permission granted to go ahead with the construction of classrooms and approved the contractor for the same.

### Obituary: Fr George Williams SDB

Fr. George Cuthbert Williams, former Regional Councillor for the English-speaking region, passed away on June 6, 2017 in Manchester at the age of 101. At the time of his death, he was the oldest ever Salesian in the history of GBR Province. He was Provincial of GBR from 1964 to 1970.

From 1971 to 1977 he served as the Regional Councillor for the English-speaking region, which included the provinces of USA, Great Britain, India, Australia and many countries of the present EAO region. From 1977, when India and the rest of South and East Asian countries became a separate region, Fr Williams continued as Regional Councillor for the rest of the English-speaking world till 1983. He is well remembered by the senior confreres in all the Indian provinces.

From 1983 till 2002, Fr. Williams was at the Salesian Generalate in Rome, working as a translator of official documents of the Congregation, as well as doing simultaneous translations during General Chapters and other international meetings at the Generalate.

Born as the only child of his parents on 26 May 1916 in England, he obtained a Ph. D. in Chemistry and served the Royal Institute of Chemistry. At the beginning of World War II he was appointed to the Ministry of Supply as a research scientist working on wartime firearms, ammunition and explosives. After the War he gave up his job and entered the Salesian novitiate and made his First Profession in 1947, at the age of 31. He was ordained a priest in 1954. May his soul rest in peace!

### Condolences

Kindly pray for the repose of the souls of:

- **Mr. Isaac** (84), father of Ms. Teresa Rani (VDB), who passed away on 11<sup>th</sup> June.
- **Mr. Francis Xavier** (65), brother-in-law of Fr. Y.F. Balasamy (ICP, Italy), who passed away on 18<sup>th</sup> June.
- **Master Mervin** (15) nephew of Fr. Moses D' Souza (Ennore) who passed away on 19<sup>th</sup> June.
- **Mr. Selladurai** (56), uncle of Bro. Arunraj Selladurai (The Citadel), who passed away on 27 June.
- **Mr. Lourdusamy** (86), father of Fr. Suresh Kumar (Fujairah) who passed away on 29<sup>th</sup> June.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of the bereaved and our prayers for the repose of the departed souls. May they rest in peace!

## **Conclusion**

As we are at the beginning of the new year of work, let me close this circular with an important line from art. 52 of our Constitutions: "The confrere pledges himself to build up the community in which he lives. He loves it, despite its imperfections, and knows that in it he finds the presence of Christ." The building of the community is a shared responsibility: the communion of individuals does not happen automatically. It is created through the patient effort of each one. Let us not shirk this responsibility. It naturally stems from the love and concern that the confrere has for his community and it is always enlightened by faith. God bless you!

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,

**Fr. K. M. Jose SDB**  
Provincial