



PROVINCIAL Circular

Salesian Province of Chennai (INM)



INM-KMJ-CIR 55/09-2021 **TOTALLY CONSECRATED TO GOD FOR THE POOREST YOUNG IN DON BOSCO'S WAY** **SEPTEMBER 2021**

Dear Confreres,

As we enter the month of September, as we intensify preparation for our INM Provincial Chapter 2022, I would like to reflect with you on the nuances of our Salesian Consecration and Mission, as given to us by the Rector Major himself nearly a year ago at the conclusion of GC28. In that letter he has given us challenges that we need to respond to and the objectives that we need to pursue. These are as follows:

- 1. SALESIAN OF DON BOSCO FOREVER. Six years for growth in Salesian identity.**
- 2. In a Congregation where we are invited by the "DA MIHI ANIMAS, CETERA TOLLE"**
- 3. To live the "SALESIAN SACRAMENT OF PRESENCE"**
- 4. Formation for being SALESIAN PASTORS TODAY**
- 5. ABSOLUTE PRIORITY for the young, the poorest, the most abandoned and defenceless.**
- 6. TOGETHER WITH LAY PEOPLE IN THE MISSION AND IN FORMATION. The charismatic strength that the laity and the Salesian Family offer us.**
- 7. IT IS TIME FOR GREATER GENEROSITY IN THE CONGREGATION. A Universal and Missionary Congregation.**
- 8. Accompanying the young towards a SUSTAINABLE FUTURE.**

- 1. SALESIAN OF DON BOSCO FOREVER. Six years for growth in Salesian identity.**



Let us not forget that the Salesian mission and the Congregation itself came into being from God, raised up by his Spirit: *"With a feeling of humble gratitude we believe that the Society of St Francis de Sales came into being not as a merely human venture, but by the initiative of God"* (Const.1); and that each one of us Salesians of Don Bosco, is sent to the young by God himself who sends us (Const.15). The essential and fundamental point of departure is our condition as consecrated individuals. The future of consecrated life, and of Salesian life for us

consecrated members, has its foundation in Jesus Christ. As people who are consecrated, the *sequela Christi*, the following of Christ, shapes our identity, integrating our pastoral formation within it. As consecrated individuals, as Salesians of Don Bosco, God makes of us "a living memorial of Jesus' way of living and acting", And the vocational challenge for all of consecrated life and for us in particular as Salesians of Don Bosco, is that of "always returning to Jesus", renouncing everything that is not Him or that distances us from Him. **As a Province, we will need to ensure that our Salesian identity is revived, retained and radiated in all that we do, both in the Mission and by our Consecration. We will continue to pay great attention so that as a Province and as individuals we are not infected by the "virus of clericalism and career-seeking".**

2. In a Congregation where we are invited by the “DA MIHI ANIMAS, CETERA TOLLE”

In Don Bosco and his history, we encounter the basis of his educative and pastoral activity that is characterised by a very concrete proposal of Christian life; **by the attention shown to each young person, along with a commitment to offering concrete responses to their needs; and by his trust in God’s presence.** The “*Da mihi animas*” means it is urgent that we give absolute priority to the commitment to evangelise the young with conscious, intentional and explicit proposals. It is urgent that we help the young and their families to discover the presence of Christ in their lives as the key to happiness and the meaning of their existence. The “*cetera tolle*” makes us ready to leave behind everything that hinders us from going out to those most in need of us. It is the asceticism that emanates from the previous choice, renouncing much (personal tastes, preferences, and even legitimate actions and services) of what does not allow us to devote all the energies of our pastoral heart to what we have given priority to.

3. To live the “SALESIAN SACRAMENT OF PRESENCE”

The young people who accompanied us during the General Chapter addressed a strong appeal to us Salesians to be a significant presence for them. They told us explicitly: *“Our search for spiritual and personal fulfilment worries us. We want to journey towards spiritual and personal growth and we want to do it with you Salesians... We would like you to guide us, in our situation, with love... Salesians, do not forget us young people because we have not forgotten you and the charism you have taught us! We want to express this with all our hearts. Being here, we have fulfilled a dream – in this special place in Valdocco, where the Salesian mission began, bringing together Salesians and young people for the Salesian mission with our desire to be saints together. You have our heart in your hands. You must take care of your precious treasure. Please do not forget us and continue to listen to us.”* Presence does not only consist in spending time with young people as a group, but in meeting them individually in a personal way, establishing a relationship that allows us to get to know and listen to their desires, their difficulties and struggles and, at times, their fears and qualms. It is a relationship that seeks to go beyond superficial knowledge, offering friendship characterised by mutual confidence and sharing.



And let us not forget that Salesian presence is a special presence, meaning that the Salesian treats young people with deep respect, meets them at their level of freedom, and treats them as active and responsible members of the educative and pastoral community. This is why **the Salesian learns a style of listening, dialogue and personal and community discernment.** And this applies not only to ministry among the young but also to our houses of formation, where “we learn to be Salesians”.

4. Formation for being SALESIAN PASTORS TODAY

In his message to GC28, Pope Francis said: *Reflecting on the profile of the Salesian for the young people of today implies accepting that we are immersed in a time of change. There is a need, then, to renew our style of formation, something that needs to be thought of more and more in **personalising, holistic, relational, contextual and intercultural** terms. We will have to continue to make progress in order to set up and really experience formation within the context of vocation and therefore far from being understood, as has been the tendency sometimes, as just a duty that lasts a few years and is necessarily superseded in order to arrive at “real life”, concrete life, the life we were looking for. What a dangerous notion of formation it is when we contrast real life with the formation of the Salesian educator and pastor!* Pope Francis reminds us again: “It is important to

say that we are not formed **for** the mission, but that we are formed **in** the mission. Our whole life revolves around it, with its choices and priorities. Initial and ongoing formation cannot be a prior, parallel or separate instance of the identity and sensitivity of the disciple.” Therefore, as a Province, and as individual confreres, let us not forget that there is a real urgency that **every community is a place of formation.**

5. ABSOLUTE PRIORITY for the young, the poorest, the most abandoned and defenceless.

Dear confreres, our Rector Major tells us that it would be the death-knell of our Congregation if we were to distance ourselves from the poorest. Like Don Bosco, we too promised in our religious profession to offer ourselves to God pledging our forces to the service of the young, especially the poorest of them and this is why we must listen together to God's call coming to us through forms of youth poverty. It also requires spiritual depth, so as not to fall into activism or a corporate mentality, a willingness to work together, abandoning all pastoral individualism and having a flexibility in rethinking our lifestyle and our works. I am convinced that assuming this perspective as an indispensable one will be very significant throughout the Congregation and in all contexts, cultures and continents.



6. TOGETHER WITH LAY PEOPLE IN THE MISSION AND IN FORMATION.

The charismatic strength that the laity and the Salesian Family offer us.

Article 47 of our Constitutions contains the most essential elements of our mission shared with lay people. As a Province, we must examine ourselves in the light of this perspective and verify the extent which we are personally making in this direction that expresses our charismatic identity so well. From the beginning our Founder was concerned with involving the greatest number of collaborators possible in his operational plan: from Mamma Margaret to work providers, from helpful members of the public to theologians, from aristocrats to the politicians of the era. We were born and raised historically in communion with the laity and they with us. In particular, we must stress the importance that the young had in the development of the Salesian charism and mission: Don Bosco found his first collaborators in the young who thus became, in a certain sense, co-founders of the Salesian Congregation. Therefore, as a Province and as individual Salesians, we should remember that **as consecrated persons we are a specific incarnation of the Salesian charism, but we are not the only repositories of it.**

7. IT IS TIME FOR GREATER GENEROSITY IN THE CONGREGATION.

A Universal and Missionary Congregation.

Dear confreres, we all belong to God and to our unique Congregation, of which we are joyfully members. We are all Salesians of Don Bosco in the world. Our affection will always be addressed to our confreres in our Province of origin where we are “vocationally born”; but our truest and deepest membership is in the Congregation, and it begins with our religious profession. We live in times when we have to face reality with a renewed mentality which allows us to “cross borders”. In a world where borders are more and more “a defence against others”, the prophecy of our life as Salesians of Don Bosco also consists in this: in showing that for us there are no borders. The only reality we respond to is: **God, the Gospel and the mission that has been entrusted to us.** It is precisely for this that our international and intercultural communities have great prophetic value today, without hiding the fact that building fraternity in different situations requires a vision of faith and personal engagement. The 150th anniversary of Don Bosco’s first Missionary Expedition to

Argentina (that will be in 2025) and the First Centenary of the Missionary Presence in Northeast India (in 2022), can become good opportunities for our Province to generously continue our Congregation's Missionary Project.

8. Accompanying the young towards a SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Our commitment to an integral human ecology comes from a conviction of faith for which "everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others". **We cannot separate the care of the environment from the social life of human beings.** Therefore, ecology must be integral, human. And, consequently, we are invited to an ecological conversion that concerns not only the economy and politics, but also social life, relationships, affectivity and spirituality. Together with Pope Francis, we recognise the evidence provided by science that the acceleration of climate change coming from human activity is real. Air pollution, water pollution, Improper waste disposal, loss of biodiversity and other environmental issues that have a negative impact on human life are increasing. Unsustainable production and consumption are pushing our world and its ecosystems beyond their limits, undermining their ability to provide resources and actions vital to life, development and regeneration. It is no less true that the poorest (it is always the poorest!) suffer the disastrous effects of deforestation and changes in climate, the ruin of their very poor crops, their only resource for survival. Therefore, as a Province and as individual confreres, while listening to the worldwide cry of so many young people today, we need to commit ourselves to being credible witnesses of change in caring for Creation and Ecological Spirituality.

Theme for the INM Provincial Chapter 2022

Profile of the Salesian Today:

Totally consecrated to God for the poorest young in Don Bosco's way

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. He has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. Lk 4:18

Explanation of the Theme

We acknowledge our divine election and consecration for His mission in Don Bosco's way. This is our charismatic identity, the central theme of GC28. So, we intend to internalize and convert into action the guidelines of GC28: **Implementation of GC28** tied to the 'post-chapter reflection with particular attention to the 'action programme for the six-year period.' (**Theme One**). In this regard the Vicar of the Rector Major writes, "As part of this single assigned task and with regard to the post-chapter reflection, the Provincial Chapter should indicate, without neglecting reflection on and verification of all eight policy guidelines for the six-year period, which of them have been developed and implemented within the Province to date, and what are the criteria and guidelines in their regard that have already become part of the life of the Province and the communities. In carrying out this analysis, the Provincial Chapter should dwell mainly on the points concerning the evangelisation of young people, the preferential option in favour of the neediest, and on the shared mission and formation with the laity."

In speaking to GC28 members, our Rector Major said, "*I dream that today, saying 'Salesians of Don Bosco' means consecrated 'crazies', that is, Salesians who love with a true Salesian heart, who are perhaps even 'a little crazy', oriented towards the poorest. Dear confreres, if we distance ourselves from the poorest, this will spell the death of the Congregation. ... Let us therefore pay attention to what I consider to be an authentic 'Chapter Deliberation', even if not in the proper sense, because its content is already found in our Constitutions: a radical, preferential, personal, institutional and structural option -- in short, from all points of view -- for the most needy, poor and excluded youngsters.*" And so, the Province intends to reinvigorate one of our ministries on behalf of the

poorest: **Social Ministry - The Way Forward (Theme Two)**. Incidentally, it is over 25 years since the adoption of the 'New Vision' by our Province.

Another of our Province's ministries on behalf of the poor is the school education. And the Province feels the need to revise the directory for **School Ministry (Theme Three)** to remain ever relevant. While the administrative aspects are very important, the Province wants us to read our School Ministry in the light of the guidelines of GC28 so as to make it ever meaningful.

Our ministry on behalf of the poorest demands judicious use of the meagre funds that we generate. Hence, the Province intends to revise the **Economic Directory (Theme Four)**.

Methodology

The Methodology adopted for dissemination and involvement of confreres: For the first three themes the Preparatory Commission meets all the members of the Province through group meetings (Novices; Students of Philosophy; Practical Trainees & College students; Students of Theology; Quinquennists; Rectors & Leaders; other confreres in two regional meetings) and explain the Theme; initiates group discussions in smaller groups; calls upon the individual confrere as well as groups to answer some questions on the way forward. These contributions will be collated to form the working document for the Chapter. For the fourth theme on Economic directory, questionnaires will be sent to different communities and feedback collected from which the working document will be drafted.

CONCLUSION

In the 10th Chapter of Saint Mark's Gospel, a rich man runs up to Jesus, kneels before him and exclaims, "*Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?*". After the dialogue that ensues between them about "Goodness" and the "Commandments", Jesus "looking upon him loved him" (**Mark 10:21**), and then gives him the astonishing invitation: "**Go, sell all that you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me**" (**Mark 10:21**). Instead of reacting with joy and relief, the rich man's "*countenance fell and he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions*" (**Mark 10:22**). Jesus had offered him what he asked for and more: fulfilment, joy, the "kingdom of heaven," life. He had shown this young man what, elsewhere in the Gospels, Jesus would call the "*pearl of great price*" (**Matthew 13:46**). Yet **the young man is more attached to his things than to the maker of all things**. He has no space in himself for so surpassing a gift. This attachment shows his forgetfulness of the chief lesson that the Torah, the law of Moses, is meant to teach: "*Hear, Oh Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One!*" (**Deuteronomy 6:4**). The rich man goes away sorrowing because he has forgotten that Israel's only treasure is the God who is "*merciful and gracious ... and abounding in steadfast love*" (**Exodus 34:6**) – and God's incomparable glory.

From the very beginning of the Church, there have been men and women who have been drawn by the Holy Spirit to follow Christ with greater freedom. We too have sought to imitate Him through committing ourselves to poverty, chastity and obedience, the "evangelical counsels". This means that **we consecrated people commit to giving everything (poverty) and doing anything (obedience) in God's service, as a loving response to God's love for them (chastity)**. But it is possible that unlike the young man who refused to leave everything and follow Jesus, we may have initially left everything in our attempt to follow HIM, but on the way, we would have picked up a few bags and still follow behind HIM! **Jesus looks at each one of us and still loves us!** Let this Provincial Chapter be a reminder for all of us to once again to all our baggage and follow HIM faithfully just as our Father and Founder did.

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE

INT & INM First Professions 2021

Regardless of the pandemic, we are blessed to have **17 new Salesians (9 for INM & 8 for INT)** for our Provinces. These 17 young men will be making their First Profession in Don Bosco Idaya Deepam Novitiate, Yellagiri Hills on the 08th September 2021, at 10.30 a.m.

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| 1. Y. Ajay Prasanth (INM) | 10. J. Lourd Raphael (INT) |
| 2. A. Arun Edward (INT) | 11. G. Melvindaasan (INT) |
| 3. MANICKARAJ Britto (INT) | 12. SEKAR Naveen (INM) |
| 4. PEETER Don Frangleen (INM) | 13. M. Praveen (INM) |
| 5. SOOSAINATHAN Don Rishop (INM) | 14. SUSAIRAJ Roshan (INT) |
| 6. J. Edwin Bernard (INM) | 15. A. Saleth Kumar (INM) |
| 7. R. Hentry Jibin (INT) | 16. R. Silambarasan (INM) |
| 8. A. Ithaya Joel (INT) | 17. ROSARIYO Thomas (INT) |
| 9. M.J. Kishore Arokyavimal (INM) | |

We are grateful to Fr. Pathiaraj Rayappan SDB, the Novice Master and the Novitiate Community as well as to all the formators in the Aspirantates and Prenovitiate for the dedicated effort put into forming these young minds. Our sincere thanks and prayerful also to the parents and family members of the novices.

Re-drafting the *RATIO* – Our Participation & Contribution

As you are aware, the entire Salesian Congregation is now gearing towards the revision of the Ratio. Therefore, it is our responsibility to ensure that we participate actively in this historical process. The Vice Provincial has already sent you the details on how each individual Salesian and every community can ensure their contribution. The deadline for this process is 30 September 2021. As this exercise is mandatory and of utmost importance in our formation, those of you who have not yet completed doing this process online are exhorted to do so at the earliest.

Annual Retreat for Rectors and Leaders

As decided in the Rectors and Leaders Meetings which were held in Tirupattur and Chennai, this year we shall not have a common Retreat for Rectors and Leaders. Those Rectors and Leaders who have not yet made their Retreat along with your community members are requested to inform the Vice Provincial and take personal responsibility to make your Retreat well.

Don Bosco Global Youth Film Festival (DBGYFF)

The Department of Social Communication, Rome, has launched and invited all the young people to take part in the **Don Bosco Global Youth Film Festival (DBGYFF)**. The theme for this film festival is **“MOVED BY HOPE: Youth - beacons of Hope in the post-pandemic world”**. This is a very important initiative from the congregation level that is going to unite all our youth at the global level under the name of Don Bosco in the 134 countries, where we are present. This is a unique platform to motivate, encourage, promote and showcase the talents of the youth, and accompany them in the expression of their creative ideas towards the common good. From Chennai Province, Fr. Ernest Rosario, the Co-ordinator for Social Communication Dimension, will coordinate this initiative and contact all the heads of the community for this purpose. Therefore, I kindly request all the Rectors, Leaders, Headmasters and Principals to extend your support and collaboration by way of involving young Salesians, Teachers and Professors on your campus to promote the event and create awareness among our students and neighbouring institutions.

Quinquennium Meet

The Vice Provincial will visit the Quinquennium Priests (*Quinquennists*) individually in the coming days as per his program for September 2021. This will be followed by a meeting of all the Quinquennists together. The date and venue will be communicated later.

INM Formation Commission

The Provincial Council met on 30th August in DBTC, Kavaraipettai. The members of the Formation Commission were also present. The meeting began at 9 a.m. and ended at 12.30 p.m. Some of the salient features discussed during this meeting were as follows:

1. All candidates should be given language-training skills in both English and Tamil so that they will be able to think creatively and express their thoughts clearly.
2. A personal individual-based process of formation is very important.
3. Formees should be motivated to choose academic subjects which are suited for the Mission of the Province, keeping in mind their aptitude.
4. Every community is a formation community. Hence, it is the duty of every confrere in the community to make the young confreres feel at home and contented in the community.
5. On-going Formation is a Life-long formation. Hence, confreres, should feel the need to update themselves periodically on various spiritual and Salesian themes.
6. Fraternal correction and word-in-the-ear technique are still the need of the hour as we all strive towards religious discipline.
7. In vocation promotion and when choosing candidates, we need to focus on the motivation of the candidate and his family.
8. Neighbourhood Ministry should be reinforced in all our communities.
9. For us Salesians, Pastoral Ministry means working with the poor youth and not just in a Parish.
10. It is essential that the Social Dimension is present in all the sectors of our Mission and that the Social Sector should not be seen as an isolated fragment.
11. All Salesians in initial formation should utilize the opportunities provided to intellectually apply themselves sincerely.

Meeting of Young Salesians doing PT and College Studies

The Province of Chennai (INM) organized two days of meeting for all the brothers who are in the formation stages of Practical Training and College Studies. The Meeting was held in Don Bosco Centre, Yellagiri Hills from 11/08/2021 to 13/08/2021. Fr. Don Bosco, the Vice Provincial of INM coordinated the Meeting along with Fr. Praveen, the Vocation Promoter of INM. Clerics from other Provinces who are doing their Studies in Chennai Province were also present for the Meeting. There were altogether 47 brothers who attended this meeting.

The Themes reflected upon during these two days were: **1.** *'Prayer and Leadership'* by Fr. Alphonse Philip **2.** *'Joyful Salesian in Community life'* by Fr. John Alexander **3.** *'Emotional Balancing'* by Fr. Paul Raj **4.** *'Spiritual Direction and Manifestation'* by Fr. Pathiaraj **5.** Fr. Ernest Rosario and Fr. Raj Kumar enlightened the brothers on the *'usage of Social Media and electronic gadgets'*. **6.** Fr. Christopher, in-charge of DBSARC, spoke about the *'Salesian work in our rural settings'*.

The brothers enjoyed these two days of Salesian togetherness, joy and optimism, and thus were able to renew their spiritual fervour as well. I express my sincere thanks to Fr. Don Bosco, the Vice Provincial and Formation Delegate, together with all the resource persons, for having organized these two days of live-in experience for the brothers. We wholeheartedly thank the Yellagiri College Community for hosting the meeting and for the warm hospitality that the Brothers experienced during their stay here.

SPCSA Council (1-3 Sep 2021)

The SPCSA Council was held at Don Bosco Provincial House, Trichy. Rev. Fr. Agilan, the Provincial with his efficient team had prepared the place meticulously and saw to all the details. Rev. Fr. Biju Michael, the Regional Councillor started the session with an animation on the topic of metamorphosis. I am reproducing the full text here for your reflection because I found it to be quite relevant and interesting as well:

The best example of metamorphosis is the story of the caterpillar and butterflies. It is all about change and transformation. There is a quantum leap as one creature changes physically into quite another. What begins as one that crawls becomes one who flies. What begins as an all-consuming grub, destroying the very plant that feeds it, becomes one who touches creation lightly and pollinates the plants on which it alights. The potential death-dealer becomes the life-giver. Some people call these 180 transformations.

Religious tradition might call it metanoia or conversion from a lower to a higher state of being. Some cells within the caterpillar although sharing the same DNA, differ from the majority of the cells in significant ways. Biologists report that they resonate on a different frequency from the others, and that they hold the blueprint for what will become the various parts of the future butterfly. These are the **imaginal cells**. They are called imaginal not because they are in any way imaginary but because they hold the blueprint for the mature insect that will emerge from that particular caterpillar. Initially the imaginal cells operate independently as single cell organisms, but the caterpillar's immune system regards them as a threat and attacks them, drenching them in juvenile hormone to suppress their activation during the caterpillar stage of the cycle. The imaginal cells persist, however, multiply and begin to connect with each other forming clusters, and start to resonate at the new frequency of the emerging butterfly, sharing information among themselves. In the chrysalis



stage, they reach critical mass, and begin to function as a coherent multi-cell organism as, in the fullness of time, they become the butterfly. This is the biology. The wider implications, however, are very far-reaching indeed, which is why an imaginal cell will be our narrator of this unfolding story. Our imaginal cell carries a deeper wisdom that we need if we are to embrace the invitation to transformation that our times are pressing upon us, and for which most spiritual traditions seek to prepare us. This imaginal

wisdom warns us that the path to transformation will not be an easy one. It will bring us up against serious opposition; just as the prophetic voices all down the ages have been vilified and suppressed. But it also assures us that the call to a transformed life will always prevail over all the odds that are stacked against it. Opposition can kill the dreamer, as history repeatedly reveals, but it can never kill the dream. How urgently we need this reassurance in our present deeply troubled times, but it needs to be an authentic reassurance and no mere morale-boosting rhetoric from either politicians or pulpits.

The caterpillar story is as real as it gets, literally growing in our own back yard. What can we learn from it? How might it bring genuine encouragement into our global disillusionment? The imaginal wisdom also knows that, although we are currently groping our way through threatening, adversarial and deeply divisive situations, the time will come when the forces of such extreme opposition (the ordinary caterpillar cells) will become the very means of nourishing and enabling the new possibility. So profound is the change into which we are being invited that what appear to be its enemies will in time become its enablers. The imaginal cell knows that the promise of transformation is both true and possible, as it carries the still unborn future deep within it. It also knows that the emergence of the new beginning only happens through the catastrophic meltdown (in the chrysalis) of the old order. It knows that this new order also depends on a change of attitude away from 'I can do this on my own' in favour of 'To make this a reality we need to work together'. It trusts what it knows deep inside itself, all through that breakdown, even when everything seems to shout the opposite message. It trusts the hidden wings it already contains but that it cannot, as yet, even imagine. Doesn't that sound rather like 'faith'? Finally, the imaginal cell knows, against all the evidence to the contrary, that there is more to the caterpillar than even the caterpillar can guess. It will come as no surprise, therefore,

to learn that the term imaginal cell is also sometimes applied to visionary leaders who imagine a better future for life on our planet and strive, with others, to make this future a reality. You may well think there is a conspicuous absence of such leaders in our world today; in fact, they could probably be counted on the fingers of one hand. But consider these possibilities: What if each of us is potentially an imaginal cell, carrying the still hidden seed of the best possible version of who we can become? What if each one of us carries within us a fragment of a bigger story – the best possible version of humanity we can become, on this beautiful fragile planet we call home? What if the ‘extra-ordinary’ is always present and striving to emerge from our own very ordinary lives? What if, as the opening quotation suggests, we too ‘dwell in possibility’? What might such possibility become? How might we birth it into being?

An invitation to evolve: If we didn’t have caterpillars, we would have to invent them, because they provide a perfect metaphor – more than that, a model – of our own spiritual journey from all we are now to all we can become. This humble creature transforms, through metamorphosis, from a potentially destructive, all-consuming pest, to a beautiful and life-giving butterfly, taking flight, spreading life to all the flowers it pollinates and joy to all who see it. The metamorphosis of the caterpillar sounds incredible, and yet we see the evidence of it all around us every summer. It’s rather harder to believe that we too are in process of transformation, but unlike the caterpillar we have choices. We can work with the dynamic of transformation, or against it. The way we make our choices will determine the future of human life on planet Earth. My hope is that it may, with the help of the caterpillar, and particularly the imaginal cell who will be our guide, give us a reason to trust the way ahead, to risk, however grudgingly, the chaos that engulfs us, and to make choices that prepare us to make the quantum leap beyond the impasse to a new stage of human life on this planet that at present we cannot even imagine.

With the above animation, we went into discussion on various aspects like Formation, Ongoing Formation, Formation with the lay people for facilitating greater collaborative ministry with the laity, New Education Policy and its implementation strategies, Vocationalisation of Education, Don Bosco Trademark, Don Bosco Green Alliance, Sports Academy, Migrant Ministry, Boscoree, Salesian Facilitation Services, Centenary celebrations in the North East, DB Tech, BOSCOM, DB Higher Education Sector, etc.

Upcoming Programmes of SPCSA

1. Retreat for the Provincial Councillors of the South Asia Region animated by the Rector Major from the 8th - 13th September 2022 at St. Joseph Vaz Renewal Centre in Goa.
2. Boscoree at DB University in Guwahati from 29th December 2022 - 3rd January 2023.
3. World Congress of the Salesian Family from 13-16th January 2022.
4. Team Visit of the Rector Major from 28th February to 4th March 2023.

General Chapter of FMA

Our Salesian Sisters will be having their 24th General Chapter in Rome from September 17th to October 24th 2021. We offer them our prayerful wishes for an inspiring General Chapter. Our wishes to Rev. Sr. Yvonne Reungoat FMA, the Mother General of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (FMA), as they reflect on the theme “*Do whatever He tells you*” (Jn 2:5), Communities that generate life in the heart of contemporaneity. On behalf of INM SDB, we extend our prayerful wishes to all the FMA Chapter members as they are on a progression of resurgence to their call to serve the young.

Teachers’ Day

When Dr. Radhakrishnan took the Office of the Second President of India in 1962, his students approached him to seek permission to celebrate September 5 as a special day. Dr. Radhakrishnan instead made a request of them to observe September 5 as Teachers’ Day, to recognise the contribution of teachers to the society. For school students, the day means getting roses, chocolates, gifts including handmade cards to profess their affection for their favourite teachers.

Due to the pandemic scenario, virtual wishes are still the order of the day! My wishes to all of you dear confreres on this significant day. As Salesians, all of us are teachers and teachers are the bedrock upon which any quality education is built. So let us continue to offer the best of our selves for our dear students.

INM Upcoming Programmes

06 th Sept, (Mon)	-	Rectors & Leaders Meeting
08 th Sept, (Wed)	-	INT & INM First Profession at Yelagiri Hills
18 th Sept, (Sat)	-	Due for Perpetual Meet
26 th Sept, (Sun)	-	Due for Pre-Perpetual Meet

REST IN PEACE

Br. Joseph Das SDB (INM), aged 87, passed away on the 25th August 2021, at the Provincial House - Citadel, Chennai. **The Memorial Mass for our beloved Bro. Joseph Das SDB will be held on the 25th September 2021 at 10.30 a.m. in the Provincial House – Citadel.**

Mrs. Mercy George Pulickal (70), younger sister of Fr. Augustine Kariamadam SDB, has passed away on the 20th August 2021.

Mr. Antonysamy, (72), father of Fr Emmanuel SDB (Veeralur) has passed away on the 23rd August 2021 at Eraiyur.

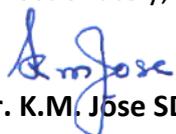
Mr. Arulanadam, the elder brother of Fr. Arul Gnanamani (Sagayathottam), passed away on the 25th August 2021 in Arasukuzhi, Virudachalam.

We offer our condolences to our dear confreres who have lost their dear ones in their family. We shall continue to pray for the deceased souls and for their family members.

This month, we celebrate the feast of our Lady of Good Health and the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary on September 8, as the child of Saints Joachim and Anne. Saint Augustine connects Mary's birth with Jesus' saving work. He tells the earth to rejoice and shine forth in the light of her birth. "She is the flower of the field from whom bloomed the precious lily of the valley." We can see every human birth as a call for new hope in the world. The new child has the potential to be a channel of God's love and peace to the world. Birthday celebrations bring happiness to the celebrant as well as to family and friends. Next to the birth of Jesus, Mary's birth offers the greatest possible happiness to the world. Each time we celebrate her birth, we can confidently hope for an increase of peace in our hearts and in the world at large. I wish you all very meaningful feast of the Nativity of blessed Virgin Mary. I take this opportunity to wish all the confreres of Trichy Province a very happy feast of their Patron, Our Lady of Vailankanni. Happy feast to all!

Praying for you all.

Affectionately,



Fr. K.M. Jose SDB
INM Provincial



Date: 06.09.2021

Place: Chennai - 600010

