



INM-KMJ-CIR 61/03-2022 Totally consecrated to God for the poorest young in Don Bosco's way March 2022

Dear Confreres,

We have entered into a very subtle period in our world history. Just when we were recovering from the pandemic, we find ourselves at the threshold of what is threatening to become another world war. Russia's declaration of war on Ukraine on February 24th 2022, has prompted outrage from across the world with nations and people alike condemning the act. The unfortunate Ukraine-Russia crisis is getting hazardous with every passing day. "Every war leaves our world worse than it was before. War is a failure of politics and of humanity, a shameful capitulation, a stinging defeat before the forces of evil," said Pope Francis, on February 26th 2022. Ukraine is an Eastern European country of 44 million people bordering Belarus, Russia, Moldova, Romania, Hungary, Slovakia, and Poland. It is Europe's second-largest country by area after Russia. The U.N. Refugee Agency reports that more than 1.5 million people have fled Ukraine since the start of the invasion and have crossed the country's western border into Poland and Romania via Ukraine's southern border. Thousands have also crossed into Moldova, to the south, and Slovakia, to the West. Ukraine's Latin Rite Catholic Bishops have asked Pope Francis to consecrate Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Their request came as Russian forces moved to encircle the Ukrainian capital Kyiv, where multiple blasts were reported early Wednesday morning, and troops laid siege to Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city. Let us intensify our daily personal and community prayers for peace in the world and for a diplomatic resolution to this petrifying current global crisis.



A Brief Summary of INM PC 2022

We have just celebrated our Provincial Chapter 2022. **A hundred and fifteen confreres participated in it (106 with the right to vote, 3 observers, 3 secretaries, 3 scrutineers).** Primarily it was a very good program of ongoing formation as we had the opportunity to reflect carefully on being "Totally consecrated to God for the poorest young in Don Bosco's way: Profile of the Salesian today."



Totally consecrated to God for the poorest young in Don Bosco's way: Profile of the Salesian today.

Thanks to the Preparatory Commission members, Fr. Pathiaraj, the Moderator, Fr. Edwin Vasanth, Fr. Edwin George, Fr. John Britto, Fr. V. Sebastian and Fr. Paul Mark for all the preparatory works such as the conscientization of the Province, formulation of the topics, writing of the documents, election of the delegates of the communities and of the provincial community were completed by the end of December.

Uncertainties of COVID-19 in the beginning of January 2022 made us postpone the Chapter that had been planned for January 11-15, 2022.

With the situation becoming better and the untimeliness of holding it in April (tail-end of the year) made us choose the end of February. And thus, it was fixed for 22 to 26 February 2022. The Chapter members had been provided printed copies and all the confreres were sent soft copies of the draft documents of PC2022 in the beginning of January. Thus, they had lot of time to read the documents.

On 22nd February we began the Chapter placing ourselves at the feet of the Lord and imploring his mercy through a recollection preached on 'Lay Participation' by Fr. Sivy Koroth SDB, from Bangalore Province. **The Chapter was inaugurated on 23rd with the Holy Eucharist presided over by Most Rev. Dr. George Antonysamy D.D., Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore**, and the inaugural function in which I declared the Provincial Chapter 2022 open. The representatives of the members of the Salesian Family participated and encouraged the Chapter members: Sr. Nirmala Mary Lazar FMA, Provincial of Chennai; Sr. Josephine Selvi SMA, Superior General; Ms. Joy Sandhya VDB, The Local Responsible; Mr. Aseervatham, Provincial Coordinator of the Salesian Cooperators; Mr. J. Sathish, President of Chennai Federation of Past Pupils; Mr. Lourdusamy of ADMA. We are grateful to them for their presence, participation and concern.

After the inaugural function the whole of 23rd was dedicated to the presentation of the various draft documents. Each of the five documents was presented for thirty minutes by the members of the Preparatory Commission. After the presentation, the documents were put to vote to be accepted as the working documents of the Chapter. **All the five documents were voted in as working documents.** That tells us that the Preparatory Commission had worked hard to prepare those documents. The members were then divided into five commissions to work on the documents. They elected their presidents and secretaries:



The following were the elected presidents and secretaries:

Implementation of GC 28: Fr. Edwin George (P) & Fr. Emmanuel Maddichetty (S).

PD: School Education Ministry: Fr. John Britto (P) & Fr. Suvickan John Peter (S).

PD: Economic Section: Fr. Edwin Vasanthan (P) & Fr. John Borg (S).

PD: Technical & Vocation Education & Training: Fr. Johnson Antonysamy (P) & Fr. Lourduraj Savari (S) Supplement to PD: Social Ministry – Way forward: Fr. V. Sebastian (P) & Fr. Leo Joseph (S).

It was then agreed that these five presidents will be part of the steering committee along with the Provincial, Vice Provincial and Moderator. The second day was dedicated to discussions on the themes. Each theme was allotted one hour, which was ordinarily prolonged for a longer period of time because the members contributed on various points spelt out in the documents. Sheer number of interventions reveal how involved the discussions were:

GC28: 13 written interventions & 30 oral interventions

Social: 40 written interventions
School: 49 written interventions
Economic section: 43 written interventions
Technical: 16 written & 13 oral interventions

All the suggestions were given to the respective Commission for integration into the working documents. On the second day (24th), I presented to the Chapter the State of the Province, on these lines: (1) Data of the confreres and the apostolic activities of each of our centres (2) A brief report of our Animation Centres and Commissions (3) Financial status of the Province and the Administration (4) Overall assessment of the Province (on three levels: Individual, community and Province). The Chapter members studied the document and asked for some clarifications which I explained to them. There was truly a good spirit of 'owning' of the Province as 'ours'.

The verification of the deliberations made in PC2019 done by the Preparatory Commission was presented to the members by Fr. Don Bosco, Vice Provincial. Due to COVID restrictions we were unable to carry out many of the deliberations. So, we have included them in the GC28 implementation document so that we will fulfill them now.

Third day (25th) was dedicated to the Commissions to present the modifications introduced into the documents based on the interventions of the members in the Chapter Hall. Time was provided for further discussion in the Chapter Assembly. These interventions were then passed on to the Commission for integration into the document. The Commissions worked on the documents and finalized them.

Forenoon session of the last day (26th) was dedicated to voting on the documents. Two thirds majority was needed to pass anything as a deliberation. GC28 Implementation Document was passed with 104/106 votes. The supplement to Provincial Directory: Social ministry – Way Forward was passed with 105/106 votes. The Provincial Directory: School Education Ministry was passed with 105/106 votes. The Provincial Directory: Economic Section was passed with 104/106 votes. The Provincial Directory: Technical & Vocational Education & Training was passed with 104/106 votes.

In the afternoon session, the Chapter took up for discussion various issues of importance to the life of the Province brought as such by the members. Members could bring any issue for discussion. But the issue had to be accepted at least by one third of the assembly to be taken up for discussion. And for the same to become a deliberation it needed two thirds majority. Accordingly, there were twenty-nine issues brought by the members. Of these sixteen were taken up for discussion. Each issue was discussed and then voted upon. Of these eight of them were approved as deliberations. **The Chapter concluded with the Holy Eucharist and the singing of the *Te Deum* (in Tamil). And I declared the Provincial Chapter 2022 closed.**

The Document Implementation of GC28 gives us the profile of the Salesians for today: **(1) We are consecrated persons – Christ is our all. (2) Our main concern is for souls: *Da mihi animas*. (3) Our methodology is loving presence among the young. (4) We are in an ongoing formation to become good shepherds. (5) We have a preferential option for the poorest young. (6) We work hand-in-hand with the lay people conscious of their vocation. (7) We are generous missionaries go wherever the Lord calls us. (8) We are committed to protect God-given nature for posterity.**

The above eight guidelines are our sure path to our true religious identity. It is in this discovery of our religious identity that we find happiness and fulfillment in our lives. The question posed by one of the Chapter members “*Are we really happy?*” made everyone reflect seriously to discover a genuine answer to this question. The more we reflect on this question and find answers for ourselves will make us transform our lives.

To arrive at the profile, we have taken some deliberations. The Moderator will compile all the deliberations and these will be printed and sent to all the confreres in the coming weeks. While we await the approval of the General Council for the Chapter deliberations, **we can already begin to practice them even from today, as these are only additional helps for us to adhere faithfully to our Salesian Constitutions on the pathway to holiness.**

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE

INM Provincial Chapter 2022

We have just celebrated our Provincial Chapter 2022 very eloquently. It was indeed a meaningful celebration of our togetherness and our expression of concern for the Province and its mission to the poorest young. The Lord has been guiding us in this process of reflection and discernment, starting from the month of July 2021. At this moment, I express my gratitude to Fr. Pathiaraj Rayappan SDB, the Moderator for carrying out this responsibility in a calm and composed manner. I do thank the Preparatory team: Fr. Edwin George, Fr. John Britto Savarinathan, Fr. Edwin Vasanthan, Fr. Sebastian Vanathiyan and Fr. Paul Mark for meticulously and patiently preparing the working document. I also thank and appreciate the members of the Provincial Chapter for your committed participation and intense discussion. My special thanks to the Vice Provincial, Economist, Administrator, all the Salesians and lay staff of Citadel community for the hospitality and hard work done to prepare for this Chapter.

INM Annual Retreats 2021-22

We begin our Annual Retreats from 07th of March 2022 at Don Bosco Youth Animation Centre, Ennore. For us Salesians, Retreat is an opportune time for spiritual renewal and privileged moment for listening to the Word of God, discerning His will and purifying our hearts. May I request every confrere to make use of this opportunity religiously. The **updated Schedule** of Annual Retreats are given below:

| Retreat | Date | Venue | Preacher |
|---------|--|--------------------|--|
| 1 | 07-12 March 2022 | DBYAC, Ennore | Fr. Joe Mannath SDB |
| 2 | 22-27 March 2022 | DBTC, Kavrapettai | Fr. Albert Johnson SDB (INT) |
| 3 | 03-08 April 2022 | DBYAC, Ennore | Fr. Vinod Mascarenhas SDB (INB) |
| 4 | 19-24 April 2022 | Mount DB, Kotagiri | Fr. Gnanadoss |
| 5 | 03-08 April 2022 | Mount DB, Kotagiri | Fr. Gnanadoss |
| 6 | 10-15 May 2022 | DBYAC, Ennore | Fr. Emmanuel Maddhichetty SDB |
| 7 | 04-09 July 2022 (for Rectors & Leaders) | DBYAC, Ennore | Fr. Nirmal Gomez, SDB (Former Provincial of Calcutta) |
| 8 | 08-13 September 2022 (Provincial & Council) | Goa | Rector Major |

The retreatants are expected to be at the venue on the previous day of the retreat for the **orientation talk at 7.00 p.m.** All the retreatants are requested to bring their Cassock, Bible and Breviary. **The retreat fee is Rs. 4,000/- per participant.**

Diaconate Ordinations 2022

On the 19th of March 2022, Saturday, we are pleased to celebrate the **Diaconate Ordinations at St. Mary's Co-Cathedral Church, Chennai.** Totally 13 brothers will be ordained as Deacons. We are indeed blessed by the Lord to have 11 Deacons (INM 7 and INT 4) from DBTC Kavarapettai this year. Two Josephites from Poonamallee Seminary will also be joining the Ordinations. These brothers will be ordained by our **Archbishop Most. Rev. Dr. George Antonysamy D.D.,** Archbishop of Madras-Mylapore.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. S John Bosco Amirtharaj (INM) | 7. S Nithiyan Kunnadiyan (INM) |
| 2. S Arokiasamy Anand (INM) | 8. S Alex Rubin (INT) |
| 3. S Thairiyanathan Anandaraj (INM) | 9. S Emmanuvel Fernandas (INT) |
| 4. S Christhuraj Periyamayagam (INM) | 10. S Januarius Lourdusamy (INT) |
| 5. S Leojoseph Arokiyadoss (INM) | 11. S Michael Arulraj (INT) |
| 6. S Maria Fernandes Joseph (INM) | |

We thank and praise the Lord for the gift of these vocations to serve the people in the Vineyard of the Lord.

Admission to First Profession/Perpetuals & Renewals

All the Young Salesians in temporary profession, who are due for Perpetual or Renewal, are requested to make their application for vows to Provincial through the Local House Council at the earliest. **I request all the Rectors/Leaders to send the Application, Admission Form (F4) and the Scrutiny Report (3rd) to the Provincial Office before 22nd of March 2022.**

Artificial Intelligence for ALL - ONLINE Course to Students

The INTEL company is offering an ONLINE certificate course to all the students above the age of 11. AIDBES is promoting this in all our Indian provinces with the approval of SPCSA. Hence, **I earnestly appeal to all the Rectors/Leaders, Headmasters and Principals of all the educational institutions to ensure that students from 6th Std upwards to those in our colleges complete the AI For ALL online certificate course by the 31st of March 2022.** DB Kalvi Solai (DBKS) has given enough information and links to facilitate the completion of the course. DBKS website provides the link. Students could be given this course as a science project to be completed and if the school or college wishes, offer some internal marks. For more details kindly refer Fr. John Britto Savarinathan, the director of Kalvi Solai.

INM News Desk

Our Province has been blessed with a variety of ministries, initiatives, empowerment and outreach programs in so many fields across the length and breadth of our Region touching and changing thousands of lives. It is a known fact that every presence of ours is buzzing with so many events, projects and activities on a day-to-day basis. Therefore, in an effort to streamline the archiving and reporting of all the newsworthy items we are putting together a team and creating the **"INM News Desk"** to systematically and consistently carry out this important task. The Team will be in constant touch with the contact person from every presence/region to gather relevant details and media

elements. I kindly request you to extend your cooperation and support by contributing news and information to bring more visibility to our social empowerment programs. DBICA will update you with more information regarding this initiative.

Official Contact Info: Email: newsdesk@sdbchennai.org Phone & WhatsApp: +91 98403 32568

Preparation for Synod of Bishops 2021-2023

Fr. Deva Joe SDB, the INM Co-ordinator for Synod 2023, had already circulated the preparatory questionnaire for us to reply individually. May I exhort all the confreres to respond to it at the earliest. The questions are made simple-objective type. Lay people in the various Sectors of your community are also invited to answer these questions individually. You may answer either in Tamil or in English. Kindly send your answers by e-mail: **inmsynod2023@gmail.com** or by post to: **Fr. Deva Joe, SDB**

Important Programs in March 2022

| Date | Day | Program |
|------|-----|--|
| 03 | Thu | Provincial Council Meet @ St. Joseph's, Vellore |
| 07 | Mon | Annual Retreat 1 (7-12) @ Ennore, Preached by Fr. Joe Mannath SDB |
| 12 | Sat | Synod 2021-23 Presentation |
| 13 | Sun | Meeting for Pre-Perpetual Profession |
| 18 | Fri | Diaconate Ordinations @ KJC, Bangalore |
| 19 | Sat | Diaconate Ordinations @ St. Mary's, Chennai |
| 20 | Sun | Meeting for Practical Trainees/College Students |
| 22 | Tue | Annual Retreat 2 (22-27) @ Kavrapettai, Preached by Fr. Albert Johnson SDB |
| 24 | Thu | Provincial Council @ Kavrapettai |

Rest in Peace

Rev. Fr. Michael Eanthanamkuzhiyil SDB (IND), aged 68, died on the 04th of February 2022. Our heartfelt condolences to Fr. Jose Kuruvachira SDB, the Provincial and the confreres of Dimapur Province.

Rev. Br. Paul Mojo SDB (INS), aged 92, passed away on the 09th of February 2022 in Shillong. We express our deep sorrow to Fr. Paul Olphindro Lyngkot SDB, the Provincial and the confreres of Shillong Province.

Rev. Br. Sushanto Biswas SDB (INC), aged 76, breathed his last on 25th of February 2022. We offer our sympathies to Fr. Joseph Pauria SDB, the Provincial and the confreres of Kolkata Province.

Mrs. Rita, aged 70, mother of Fr. Edward Michael SDB, passed away on the 10th of February 2022 in Shenbakkam, Vellore, due to cardiac arrest.

Mr. Thaineese, aged 64, elder brother of Fr. Alphonse Arulanandam SDB, passed away on the 13th of February 2022 due to multiple organs failure at the hospital in Madurai.

Mr. P. Aruldass, aged 69, father of Fr. Ravi Aruldass SDB passed away on the 16th of February 2022 in Chennai Airport following a massive heart attack.

Mrs. Sibil Correya, aged 78, mother of Fr. Cassius Correya SDB passed away on the 26th of February 2022 in Australia.

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.

Conclusion

We have just entered into the season of Lent, and it's fairly common to hear people (and even our confreres) describing what they're "giving up for Lent" this year. **Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season.** Humanity's "Fall" away from God and into sin began



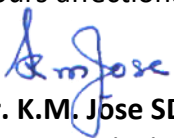
with eating. God had proclaimed a fast from the fruit of only one tree, the tree of knowledge of good and evil (**Gen. 2:17**), and Adam and Eve broke it. Fasting is here connected with the very mystery of life and death, of salvation and damnation. Food perpetuates life in this physical world, which is subject to decay and death. But God "created no death." (**Wis. 1:13**) Humanity, in Adam and Eve, rejected a life dependent on God alone for one that was dependent rather on "bread alone." (**Dt. 8:3; Mt. 4:4; Lk.**

4:4) The whole world was given to man as a kind of food, as a means to life, but "life" is meant as communion with God, not as food. ("Their god is their belly." **Phil. 3:19**) The tragedy is not so much that Adam ate food, but that he ate the food for its own sake, "apart" from God and to be independent of Him. Believing that food had life in itself and thus he could be "like God." And he put his faith in food. This kind of existence seems to be built on the principle that man does indeed live "by bread alone."

Christ, however, is the new Adam. At the beginning of his ministry in the Gospel of Matthew, we read, "When He had fasted 40 days and 40 nights, He became hungry." Hunger is that state in which we realize our dependence on something else—when we face the ultimate question: "on what does my life depend?" Satan tempted both Adam and Christ, saying: Eat, for your hunger is proof that you depend entirely on food, that your life is in food. Adam believed and ate. Christ said, "Man does NOT live by bread alone." (**Mt. 4:4; Lk. 4:4**) This liberates us from total dependence on food, on matter, on the world. Thus, for the Christian, fasting is the only means by which man recovers his true spiritual nature. **In order for fasting to be effective, then, the spirit must be a part of it. Christian fasting is not concerned with losing weight. It is a matter of prayer and the spirit.** And because of that, because it is truly a place of the spirit, true fasting may well lead to temptation, and weakness and doubt and irritation. In other words, it will be a real fight between good and evil, and very likely we shall fail many times in these battles. But the very discovery of the Christian life as "fight" and "effort" is an essential aspect of fasting.

Let this season of Lent once again become for us a season of Grace. May we not only fast from food but seek to make our fasting lead to the fringes of society in our neighbourhood just as the theme of the Provincial Chapter would remind us that we are totally consecrated to God for the poorest young in Don Bosco's way. Have a grace-full Lent!

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr. K.M. Jose SDB
INM Provincial



Date: 06.03.2022

Place: Chennai - 600010

