



**INM-JA-CIR 01/06-2023**

**JULY 2023**

## **Provincial Circular – July 2023**

**By Fr. John Alexander SDB, Vice Provincial**

Dear Confreres,

The month of June has been a special month of God's blessings. In the post-Covid period, we have been able to peacefully begin our Salesian community life with new community members. Most Salesian communities had their House council meetings, House assemblies and SEPP (Salesian Educative Pastoral Plan) meetings in order to plan for the year ahead. Also, we have been able to joyfully receive our students and children in our schools, colleges, boardings, hostels and care homes. This is a wonderful beginning.

Here, during this month the Provincial House (Citadel) was busy with meetings for confreres involved in various ministries in our province. All these meetings were well attended with a lot of enthusiasm and eagerness to contribute to the growth of the province as well as the wellbeing of young people in our presences. During these meetings, we could discern the movement of the Holy Spirit, inspiring us to prioritize and to rededicate ourselves to our religious life and mission.

At this crucial moment, I am happy to make this reflection, "The Seven Golden Habits of Fruitful Salesians" which can guide us as individual Salesians and Salesian communities to work towards positive changes for the glory of God and the salvation of young people. I shared some of these insights in the various Province meetings, and here, I am pleased to present it as a synthesized model or "frame of reference" for Salesian spirituality.

### **The Seven Golden Habits of Fruitful Salesians**

As a Salesian, "what do I still lack?" As a Salesian community and Province, "What more can we do for the Lord and for the poorest youth?" These are good questions that can push us towards "Salesian pastoral conversion". The young man of the Gospels (Mt 19:16-22) was intelligent enough to ask the right question. But when Jesus invited him from a "legal minimum" to a life of greater generosity, he walked away. Are we going to disappoint the Lord who has called us? The choice is ours. Here, the seven habits are proposed in the spirit of reshaping our purpose towards a fruitful Salesian life and mission. Personal holiness and fruitfulness in the mission are the products of daily habits and commitments, not merely of one-time spectacular performance.

Moreover, human being is a mixture of good and evil, virtues and vices, angels and devils, strengths and weakness. None of us are permanently in the "state of grace" or "state of sin".

We struggle from one to the other. We are pilgrims on a journey towards fullness. This realistic view will help us to honestly review our Salesian consecrated life and our mission for the poor young, and work towards enduring changes by nurturing good habits and living our Salesian life with joy and optimism. The list of habits I present here is suggestive rather than exhaustive. More items can be added depending on the Salesian experience and context.

### Habit 1: Respecting Every Person as a Sacred Mystery

I learned the importance of this habit from Fr Rosario Krishnaraj SDB (1931-2015) who was my spiritual director for many years. He advised that that we should treat every person as a sacred mystery. He also embodied this habit by patiently listening to people and dealing with confreres and young people with kindness and gentleness. Many of his novices and confreres from the various Indian provinces would vouch for this.



As Salesians, our vocation is to interact, accompany, help, encourage, orient and lead people – community members, students, youth, teachers, parents, parishioners, clerks, watchmen, cooks, drivers, etc. Educational qualifications, knowledge, talents for teaching, music, organizing and preaching, and technical and professional skills which we have acquired in our formation should help us in understanding and treating people with patience, respect, love and kindness. In fact, like Don Bosco, for a Salesian, his human and divine qualities should gently envelop and shine over other skills, performance and achievements.

Moreover, in dealing with young people, it is important to remember that “every person is a mystery” created by God for a purpose and hence we need to approach them with utmost respect and reverence. Mystery implies that there is something that we see, but there is also so much that we do not see, many realities that lie hidden. Holy Eucharist, for example, is a mystery because what we apparently see is a wheat bread, but in it is Jesus Christ which can be seen only with the eyes of faith. In *Amoris Laetitia* (Joy of Love), Pope Francis said, “children are not your properties” to own and control. They need to be treasured and nurtured as “gifts of God”. Again, in *Christus Vivit* (Chris is Alive), he said that “each young person’s heart should thus be considered a ‘holy ground’, a bearer of seeds of divine life, before which we must ‘take off our shoes’ in order to draw near and enter more deeply into the Mystery.” In the post-chapter reflection of CG 28, our beloved Rector Major Angel Fernandez has invited the Salesians to adopt this as the programme of life and mission: “For us, boys, girls, young people are *sacred in the name of God*.”

### Habit 2: Faith and Prayer

The second habit that is important for Salesian fruitfulness is the habit of faith and prayer. The foundation and starting point of Salesian identity is *faith*. This means that God is the source and summit of our life, activities and projects. *We see people and events in the way God the Father sees them*. God is the author of our vocation and mission, and we are only humble instruments.



Don Bosco viewed his entire life and mission through the prism of faith. Our Constitutions requires us to live such a faith-filled life and avoid “worldly,” “sociological” and

“developmental” approaches to religious life and mission. The first article of our Constitution states this clearly: “With the feeling of humble gratitude, we believe that the Society of St Francis de Sales came into being not as a merely by human venture but by the *initiative of God*.” This is also reflected in the foundation of our community life. It is God who, in giving each of us the same Salesian vocation, brought us together. We are not like members of an NGO or a club who come together to do some charitable works. We are not corporates who focus only on profits, efficiency and outcomes. No, we are a group of persons *brought together by God*. We want to be fruitful in our mission together. As Const. 50 reminds us, “God calls us to live in community and entrusts us with brothers to love.” We receive each other from the hands of God. We accept each other in faith. We don’t choose with whom to live.

Moreover, a faith-filled Salesian will grow in the habit of prayer. Prayer is communion and communication with God. For us Salesians, we express this by developing habits of personal prayer as well as community prayer. “We can form praying communities only if individually we become men of prayer” (Const. 93). We need to set apart a particular time and place for our personal and community prayer and structure them into our daily schedule.

Prayer makes us more human, more loving, more apostolic, more ready for sacrifice. Prayer contributes to the sustaining and renewal of vocations. Prayer plays a very vital role in keeping the community united, enriching and efficacious. “The family that prays together stays together”, we say. This is also true for the religious community. “The community that prays together stays together.” Constitution 85 beautifully states the reason why we should pray together: “God brings our community together and keeps it united by his call, his Word, his love. In praying, the community responds to this call; it deepens its awareness of its intimate and living relationship with God, and of its saving mission.”

### **Habit 3: Discernment**

The habit of discernment is the ability to listen to God, and listen to people and events with an open heart. Discernment is the alignment of our wants, plans and projects with what God wants. This implies listening to what God is saying to us in our circumstances. So, discernment is not just a method or technique to diagnose and solve a problem or crisis, but *a life in process, a person who is on a journey to God, to understand where and how God is inviting a person or community to conversion and renewal*.

True, we all have our own plans and desires. In fact, many of us are good in dreaming and designing a “Master plan” for our life, our communities, our works, and our pet projects. But when we cultivate the habit of discernment, we will begin to ask, what is more important? My own “master plan” or “Master’s Plan”, the Lord’s plan for my life. In the practice of discernment, Don Bosco was lovingly guided by people like Mama Margaret, Father Calosso, Father Caffasso and others. Because Don Bosco was trying to do what God and our Blessed mother wanted, his Valdocco model – a home that welcomed, a parish that evangelized, a school that educated them for life and a playground for informal friendship and relaxation – serves as a “permanent criterion” for our own pastoral discernment and renewal.

As followers of Don Bosco, we are called to exercise this habit of discernment in our collective decision making and governance: “In matters of importance we seek the will of the Lord together in patient brotherly dialogue, with a deep awareness of shared responsibility” (Const. 66). The practice of community discernment is also crucial to review and reshape our pastoral fruitfulness: “The provincial and the rector, as promoters of dialogue and team work, guide the community in pastoral discernment, so that it may accomplish its apostolic plan in

unity and fidelity” (Const. 44). When there is no proper process and atmosphere of discernment, leaders and animators will be imposing their will and desires.

#### **Habit 4: Genuine Love**

Along with the habits of faith, prayer and discernment, we need to cultivate a genuine love for our young people, collaborators and community members. That’s what we have promised in our religious profession. Jesus showed us how to love. He loved us to the point of dying for us. Love is a decision, an act of the will that is focused on the good of the other person.

Genuine love is expressed in respecting and appreciating people. We can appreciate people of their talents and achievements. We need not restrict our appreciation only to “stage talents” like singing, dance, public speaking, artwork, etc. We can generously appreciate people for their human and spiritual qualities of kindness, charity and helping people to pray. We do not have to wait for big achievements and big occasions like Christmas, Pongal, Diwali and birthdays to appreciate. Genuine appreciation of even small things with love will improve the morale of people living and working with us. Our experience teaches us that the one who seeks happiness, love or gratitude will never find it; but, if he tries to bring happiness into another person’s life – this would be an example of self-giving – he finds happiness, love and gratitude. This is the Gospel paradox of true love: “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit” (Jn 12:24).



#### **Habit 5: Authentic Communication**

Genuine love is manifested in *authentic communication*. We often take this aspect for granted. It is not enough to love, we need to communicate with the person whom we love. In other words, communication is the heartbeat of a community life and mission with young people. We sometimes lack the skills for interpersonal communication. Authentic communication means listening more often than you speak, and when listening, focusing on the speaker and his or her message, rather than thinking about how to respond in advance. *A serious problem with our communication is we do not listen to understand. Often, we listen to reply.* In the Salesian tradition, communication is deeply connected with sharing. Our communication is not just about weather, politics, sports, entertainment, etc. It is much deeper. We must “share our joys and sorrows, our plans and apostolic experiences” (Const. 51). We must understand that “our love for each other leads us to share all we have in a family spirit” (Const. 49). And in the spirit of the First Christians, we share not only our material goods, the fruits of our work, the gifts we receive, but also our talents, our energies, and our experience (Const. 76).

We need to be aware of a growing problem in our religious life and communities. People spent more time with mobile phones, internet and social media than with confreres and young people. We can facilitate better communication and communion by intentionally spending time with young people during recreation, organizing formal and informal moments of community sharing like community day, community outings and pilgrimages and birthdays celebrations. Authentic and empathetic communication will lead to communion with our young people, lay collaborators and community members. Communication infused with love and respect will also avoid gossip and hurtful conversation.

## Habit 6: Synodality and Shared Responsibility

Synodality is at the heart of the Church by which all members are called to participate. Since we are all missionary disciples, every baptised person is called to participate in the mission of the Church. In *Amoris Laetitia* (The Joy of Love), Pope Francis stated that all baptized Christians are “capable of carrying out their own discernment” and that the task of the church is to “form consciences, not to replace them”. Pope Francis asked: Why are we finding it hard to make room for conscience and autonomy of the faithful? This means that habits of synodality and shared responsibility are not options, but obligation for pastors and leaders of the Church at all levels.

Don Bosco readily embraced the path of synodality and shared responsibility where all his benefactors, past pupils, government officials and well-wishers became “evangelical partners” of his mission for the poor youth. We imbibe this quality through the principle of shared responsibility which makes us understand that the mission is entrusted not to individual Salesians, but to a Salesian community and the Salesian family. In the Salesian system, there is no such thing as “my mission” or “my apostolate”. And so, there is no place for individualism and clericalism in our apostolate, no place for individuals who act on their own, without reference to a community. What this simply means is that we work together with others to carry out the common mission. In our context, this is manifested in planning and periodically evaluating our life and mission as community members in the form of SCPL, SEPP, monthly and trimonthly review.



## Habit 7: Pastoral and Prophetic Imagination

Pastoral imagination is the ability to visualize new and creative ideas and actualize them with hard work and commitment so that people, particularly the poorest youth can live a flourishing human and Christian life. Prophetic imagination is the spirit of courage to voice issues of truth and justice, and work on a new, more humane and more just world. Jesus was rich in imagination in the way he proclaimed God’s word, expressed solidarity with the poor and marginalized, and confronted indifferent neighbours, abusive religious and political leaders. Jesus wanted his disciples to cultivate a robust mind and a compassionate heart so that they can creatively respond to people’s needs and aspirations and work assiduously to establish the Kingdom of God.

Don Bosco was a creative pastor and courageous prophet who worked for the welfare and rights of young people of his times who were the victims of industrialization and unjust society. Today, a timely response to the needs of the poor youth requires the Salesians to “keep abreast of the new trends and meet them with well-balanced creativity of the founder” (Const. 19).

In today’s socio-political situation in India, in what ways, have we applied our pastoral and prophetic imagination to challenge unjust social and political forces? Political scientists and historians have observed that for the past ten years, the present ruling party has changed India from “Constitutional liberal secular democracy” to a “Hindu majoritarian” democracy. New Education Policy, anti-conversion bills, Citizenship Amendment Act and increase in the attacks on Dalits, farmers, tribals as in Manipur and other tribal areas, Muslim and Christian

minority communities in the country are only symptoms of a larger totalitarian force that is lurking behind. What have been our interventions and contributions to change the situation? A robust pastoral and prophetic imagination requires us to creatively and courageously respond to the situation.

### **Province Level Meetings**

Dear confreres, for a purpose-driven Salesian mission in our local communities and in the province, the 12 province level meetings conducted in the month of June were very helpful. They offered ample opportunities for brotherly sharing, synodal participation and strategic planning at the Province level. All the inputs by the confreres will be crystalize into the overall Province plan. Here are the outcomes of the meetings .

#### **Meeting for Brothers in Formation: Students of Theology, College Students & Practical Training**

The meeting for INM Brothers (College students and Practical Training) was organised at Sacred Heart College on 25-26 May 2023. 38 of our brothers attended this meeting, and they had group discussion in their respective batches on the theme "Salesian Community Life". On 2-3 June 2023, the meeting for INM Students of Theology was held at Don Bosco Youth Animation Centre (DBYAC), Ennore. 39 brothers participated in this meeting. Fr. John Alexander, the Vice Provincial guided them to grow in intellectual, emotional and spiritual maturity. Our young Salesians are well focused in their personal formation and growth.

#### **INM Youth Service Coordinators Meet**

The meeting for INM Youth Service Coordinators (Ys) on June 14, 2023 was a great success with 39 participants. Fr. John Alexander, the Vice Provincial, animated the Youth Service Coordinators on the important qualities required to be effective and fruitful Salesians. Mr. Edwin Louis, a Salesian collaborator, presented on 'Possibilities and Challenges in Youth Ministry.' Fr. Patrick Lepcha, the Youth Delegate of Social Experience Dimension (DBYA SA), addressed the participants on 'Youth Ministry in the South Asian Scenario.' An action plan was formulated based on the challenges and feedback received during the meeting and participants shared their experiences in youth ministry. We would like to express our gratitude to Fr. John Christy, the Provincial Councillor and Youth Ministry Delegate for effectively conducting the meeting.

#### **INM Social Ministry Meet**

The INM Social Ministry meeting commenced on June 16, 2023 at Citadel. 17 Salesians from various communities of the Province participated. Fr. John Alexander, the Vice Provincial, animated the group on the theme "Making Change Happen." He invited the Salesians to imbibe qualities such as empathy, compassion, and a genuine concern for the well-being of others in order to foster a supportive and caring environment within our Salesian communities. Mr. Devaneyan, a Human Rights Activist, shared insights on the current socio-political scenario and urged everyone to be aware and plan strategically to collectively address social issues. He strongly recommended working with a synodal mentality and documenting all social activities at the provincial level.



During the meeting, several significant points were discussed including the need for a permanent place for migrant ministry, fostering a social ministry mindset among the confreres, networking, and preparing personnel for special ministries. Collaboration at the national, provincial, and local levels, empowering DBSARC with more personnel and finances, embracing synodality, involving more lay leaders in social ministry, raising awareness among youth to counter Hindutva forces were among the suggestions raised. We extend our gratitude to Fr. John Christopher, the Provincial Councillor in charge of Social Ministry, and the resource persons and the participants.

### **Meeting for Headmasters and Principals of INM Schools**

On the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of June, the INM Headmasters and Principals Meet was held at our headquarters, with 26 Salesian Headmasters and Principals participating. The meeting began with an introductory session by Fr. John Alexander, the Vice Provincial addressed to the participants on the critical need to live out in our educational settings the distinct Catholic identity through a life of quiet witness and promotion of social justice and community development. Mr. Arul Subramaniam, a Salesian past pupil and the director of Master Yourself Academy and Fr. Xavier Packiam emphasized the importance of leadership qualities and digital data management for effective educators in the present scenario.

The participants reviewed the Province's School Education Policy. Discussions took place regarding student admissions, scholarships, staff appointments, and the service register. In the light of many failures in some of our schools, the school commission decided to work on framing common pedagogical policies and practices for Aided schools, to facilitate better involvement of the staff in the following up of the academics of the students, especially the weaker ones and obtain 100% results in the coming years.

Several valuable suggestions were made, including the creation of an online academic resource platform, the adoption of 2-3 Tamil medium schools by the province to improve infrastructure and facilitate better teaching and learning, and the formation and active involvement of the EPCC in planning and evaluating the EPP.

We extend our gratitude to all the Headmasters and Principals of INM schools, the resource persons, and Fr. John Britto, the Provincial Councillor in charge of School Education, for their coordination and contributions in making this meeting a success.

### **Meeting of INM Administrators**

The province level meeting of the administrators was held on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023 at Citadel. The following salient points emerged from the group discussions:

- To provide adequate care and support for the welfare and development of the poor children and youth in our institutes.
- To properly administer the local resources for the betterment of various ministries in the individual institutes.
- To pay due attention and adhere to the emerging demands of the new policies and directives by the government.
- To provide adequate care to the support staff of our institutes.

The Economist presented the current economic situation of the province and the need to make considerable improvement in the entire accounting system and the preservation of documents. Highlights were presented with data, the lack of proper response from the

individual institutes with regard to Budget, Book-keeping, Monthly returns etc... New inclusions in the software used in the province (AcMe, DMS and SSP) were highlighted and explained. Mr. Rosario and Mr. Kamalesh from Thomas & Co (Province Auditors) presented the emerging demands from the changing policies of the union government with regard to auditing.

### **Meeting for INM Parish Priests & Assistant Parish Priests**

Animation and Formation for pastoral and evangelization was programmed for 46 Parish Priest and Assistant Parish Priest of our Province on 22 June 2023. Fr. John Alexander the Vice provincial animated on the theme “Wounded Shepherd,” He invited the Parish Priests to imbibe the spirit of Pope Francis in reaching out to people who are excluded in the Church and the society. Fr. Jesudoss the Director of Deepagam animated on “Parish and the shrine entrusted to the Salesians”. A group discussion on the parish priests on their shared leadership was conducted. This included a personal preparation of the parish priests and their collaboration with laypeople, delegates, cooperators and other parish pious association and experts in the parish ministry. The parish priests had a discussion on their time spent and their personal wellbeing, finally the discussion ended with action plan to stop things that are anti pastoral and to start some of the initiatives to promote pastoral activity and to redefine some of their pastoral strategies. The whole program was designed to know the mind of the Church and Congregation as pastors.

### **Formation Guides Meet – INM & INT**

On the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2023, the representatives of the inter-formation team of the provinces of Chennai (INM) and Trichy (INT) joined together to discuss, discern and develop upon the process of formation with connectivity, consistency, and competency at Citadel, Chennai. Each phase of formative team representatives presented the joys and challenges of Salesian formation communities sharing like basic statistics of formees and formation team, best practices, quality of formation experience, challenges, etc.,

Starting from the initial phase of formation, the aspirantate to the Theologate, the formation experiences were shared. Major challenges are, Post covid-19 scenario – difficulty in the recruitment of candidates – IQ level – English knowledge – regular follow-up between the formation houses – individualism – unrefined motivation factor, were some of the highlighted ones amidst several other challenges discussed.

Fr. John Alexander moderated a panel discussion on the theme “Salesian Formation and Maturity”. The panel members Fr. Sitrarasu Kanikairaj, Fr. Sebastian Vanathayan, Ms. Christina and Mr. John Vianney shared their experiences and expectation on the spiritual, emotional and pastoral aspects of Salesian maturity. We thank Fr. Pathiaraj and the confreres involved in the formation communities in INM and INT Provinces for their participation and contribution.

### **Gratia!**

Dear confreres, we must acknowledge and thank all those people who helped us to conduct all the meetings at the Provincial House. In a special way I would like to express my sincere words of appreciation to the Rector, Administrator of Citadel community and the staff for accommodating everyone with a warm heart. We are grateful also to all the resource persons who animated various groups and heads of each group.



## **Priorities of the Province**

During the Provincial Council meeting from 27<sup>th</sup> -29<sup>th</sup> May and Rectors/Leaders meeting on 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup> May, the priorities of the Province were formulated after in-depth sharing and discussions. The 12 shortlisted priorities were sent to the communities to be discussed and identify the six most important priorities that we can adapt for the following six years (2023-2029). We received responses from 30 communities. During the Provincial Council meeting on 26<sup>th</sup> June, the Provincial Council decided on the following six priorities:

1. Education and formation of youth on the constitutional values and environmental responsibilities to become agents of social change.
2. A loving accompaniment and empowerment of Orphans and Semi-Orphans in Salesian presences.
3. Employability-focused skill education in resourceful and well-equipped technical institutes and colleges.
4. Witnessing to the prophetic character of Salesian community life through radical religious discipline and generous availability for the missions.
5. Absolute priority in making our educational institutions to serve the poorest and initiate new frontiers that offer the best to the least.
6. Formation of lay mission partners in Salesian charism and pedagogical leadership in view of a gradual entrusting of leadership roles of co-responsibility in the Educational Pastoral Community (EPC).

## **NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE**

### **Welcome back dear Fr. Provincial**

Our beloved Provincial Fr. Don Bosco Lourdusamy was away from the Province to attend the formation course for the new provincials in the month of June in Turin. He is returning on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of July. We wish him God's choicest blessing in guiding and leading the Province. May our Province flourish under his inspirational leadership.

### **Feast of the Province**

The Province feast of St. Thomas the Apostle and the Jubilee Celebrations of our dear confreres will be held at Don Bosco, Egmore on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023. The event is scheduled to begin with the Holy Eucharist at 09. 30 a.m. followed by the felicitation. We thank in advance the Rector and the community of DB Egmore, the Director and staff of DBICA, and the Rector and the community of Becchi, Kavarapettai in anticipation of taking the lead in conducting the event with a joyful heart.

### **Team Visit 2023**

Team consisting of Fr. Provincial, Fr. Vice Provincial and Fr. Economist, will begin to visit your communities from 06<sup>th</sup> July 2023 as it was indicated in May. Therefore, all the Rectors/Leaders are reminded to get ready the following for the verification: 1. Salesian Community Plan of

Life (SCPL), 2. Educational Pastoral Plan (EPP) of various sectors of your community 3. Annual Budget. The date of their visits will be communicated to you in a couple of days.

### **Don Bosco Scouts & Guides**

Don Bosco District, Bharat Scouts and Guides is celebrating the Silver Year of its foundation on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 in Chennai. To mark this great moment, the DB District Scouts and Guides would like to start Bunnies (5-7 Years Old) in our schools. Therefore, there will be a three-day non-residential training programme for the Bunnies leaders from 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 in Chennai. Therefore, you are encouraged to send participants for this training programme. Accommodation will be provided for the participants who come from outstation. For further details contact the District Chief Commissioner, Fr. Thomas Mariaraj SDB (+91 91761 50330).

### **South Asia Formation Commission (SAFC) Meet**

Annual meeting of the South Asia Formation Commission (SAFC) will be held from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2023 at Citadel, Chennai. Fr. Ivo Coelho, the General Councillor for Formation, and the formation commission team members of Salesian provinces in South Asia region will be participating. The Salesian Province of Chennai (INM) will be hosting this meeting.

### **Rest in Peace**

**Br. Mathew Vazhamplackal SDB**, who belonged to the Province of Shillong entered his Eternal abode on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2023 and **Fr. Jose Valiaveetil SDB**, of the same Province passed away on 19<sup>th</sup> June 2023. We express our heartfelt condolences to Fr. Paul Olphindro Lyngkot, the Provincial and the confreres of the Province of Shillong.

**Fr. Thomas Polackal SDB (86)** who belonged to the Salesian Province of Kolkata passed away due to cardio-respiratory failure on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2023. Sincere condolences to Fr. **fr. Pauria Joseph** the Provincial and confreres of the Province of Kolkata.

**Fr. Ittira Mondoth SDB (84)** of the Province of Bangalore united with his Master on 22 June 2023 in Mamma Margaret Home, Aluva, Kerala. We express our deepest condolences to **Fr. Jose Thomas Koyickal**, the Provincial and Salesians of the Province of Bangalore.

**Mrs Margarita Saminathan** aged 63, the beloved sister of Br. Celestine Nathan (Missionary in Kenya, Nairobi) passed away on 14 June 2023. May the departed soul of Mrs Margarita rest in the Lord.

**Mrs. Isabel Arttime Garcia** the beloved mother of our Rector Major passed away in Luanco, on June 24, 2023, at 87 years of age. We express our deepest condolences to Fr. Fernandez Arttime and his family members.

We shall remember the souls of the departed and the bereaved family members in our prayers.

## **Province Level Events**

<b>July 2023</b>	
1	Higher Education Principals & Leaders Meet @ Citadel
3	Feast of St. Thomas - Province Feast & Jubilee Celebrations @ DB Egmore
4	Provincial Council @ Becchi, Kavarapettai
5	Provincial Council @ Citadel
8	Lay Dimension Coordinators Meet
10 & 11	Monthly Recollection
18	Formation Commission Meet
21 & 22	Quinquennium Meet @ Kotagiri (INM&INT, 3-5 Years)
28 & 29	Meeting for the Salesians who are above 70 years of age
28-30	Young Administrators Meet
30	Student Brothers Meet @ Citadel

On 3 July 2023, we are celebrating the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle and the Jubilee anniversaries of our beloved confreres of our Province. It is a time of reflection, gratitude, and unity as we come together to express our profound appreciation for the blessings bestowed upon us. We rejoice in the spiritual legacy of St. Thomas and the inspiring examples set by our Jubilarians, whose unwavering commitment and selfless contributions have touched the lives of countless people. May this feast day and jubilee celebration serve as a reminder of the enduring strength of faith, the power of collective purpose, and the boundless potential for growth and renewal within our communities. May our Blessed Mother Mary Help of Christians and our father St John Bosco guide and protect us.

United with you in Prayers!

**Fr. John Alexander SDB**

INM Vice Provincial & Formation Delegate



Date: 01.07.2023

Place: Chennai - 10