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03rd July 2024

My dear Confreres,

Prayerful greetings from Don Bosco Provincial House, Shillong.

We are glad that all the confreres who are on transfer have reached the places of their new assignment and took charge of their own responsibilities assigned to them in different communities. Once again, I thank all of them for their availability and willingness to take up new roles for the overall well being and more effectiveness of our apostolic works in different regions of our province. I thank in a special way **Fr. Jeevan Lakra, the Vice Provincial, Fr. Genesis Wanniang, the Economer and other Council members** for facilitating the smooth transfer and handing over of various responsibilities. May the good Lord continue to bless all our communities and our apostolic endeavours.

In this connection, I would like to invite all the communities to welcome the new members with brotherly affection and open heart. Our Constitution says, *"The community receives each confrere with an open heart. It accepts him as he is and fosters his growth to maturity"* (C 52). Let us receive and accept each other as brothers, and create family environment where each confrere feels at home and experiences growth and maturity in his Salesian vocation. Furthermore, we believe that it is God who has called us *"to live in community and entrust us with brothers to love"* (C 50). It is our duty to accept each confrere with open heart in spite of all his limitations, and to help and support him with genuine love and concern for his growth to maturity as a Salesian.

As we are called to live in community, we also need to learn to live and work together as a family. Let us remind ourselves that *"to live and work together is for us Salesians a fundamental requirement and a sure way of fulfilling our vocation"* (C 49). Living and working together is not merely a functional necessity for us Salesians but a fundamental requirement and a profound expression of the core values and mission of our Salesian identity. At the heart of this commitment lies mutual trust and acceptance without any prejudice, which is indispensable for our community life and our apostolic activities, and to live fully our Salesian vocation according to the vision of our father and founder St. John Bosco. Furthermore, living and working together is a testament to our commitment to emulate the example of the early Christian community: *"All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need"* (Acts 2:44-45). Just as the early disciples lived in community, sharing everything in common and supporting one another in their mission to spread the Gospel, we also strive to live out this spirit of communion and solidarity. Through our collective witness of unity and service, we can offer a compelling model of Christian discipleship to the world, inspiring others to embrace a life of selflessness and generosity.

So, as we live and work together in community, we need to foster a sense of unity and fraternity among us. By sharing our life and mission, we can cultivate and increase the bonds of mutual support, encouragement, and companionship. Community living is not

just about cohabitation but about building relationships based on trust, respect, and love. It should provide a nurturing environment where each member can grow personally, spiritually, and professionally, while also being accountable to one another in the shared mission. For this reason, it is important to give priority and sincere commitment to our community life and our common mission above all else. As the mission is entrusted to the community all our apostolic activities have to be carried out in accordance with the community plan and project under the direction of the Rector together with the house council. There can be no personal project and an individual ownership of any apostolic works. However, sometimes an individual may take initiatives to begin innovative ministry but it has to be done always with the knowledge and approval of the Rector and his council. As we have common mission entrusted to the community each individual will have a particular responsibility and is entrusted to certain sectors of the apostolic activity of a community. We must remember that these are not separate entities by themselves, but they form integral parts of the common apostolic undertakings, and they belong to the community. Hence, to facilitate and coordinate better our apostolic works and be more effective we need to come together for planning and sharing our community life and apostolic activities so that we can have better collaboration and understanding among ourselves.

Our former Rector Major, **Fr. Pasqual Chavez**, writes: “The fraternal life of the community aims at fostering the processes of the human and vocational growth of the confreres, promoting deep interpersonal relationships, strengthening the feeling of belonging and the family spirit, and helping to build up a community vision that is more widely shared. For this purpose, it may be found useful **the personal life-plan, the practice of community discernment, the good use of occasions of meeting together, and the Salesian community project**” (cf. *The Salesian Community Today*, GC25 Documents, Society of St Francis of Sales, N. 378, May 2002). It is true that we need to cherish and strengthen the fraternal life of the community by coming together for sharing and communicating our life and activities, the needs and concerns of the community. This is fundamental to foster unity and fraternity among us and to build up a sense of belonging to our community and to our Congregation at large. Therefore, I strongly recommend all the communities to have a regular house council and a periodic assembly of the confreres to discuss the common interest and concerns of the community, to seek appropriate means of fostering our religious and apostolic life, to draw up annual programme and activities, to be informed and reflect on the financial situation of the community etc. (cf. R 184).

Another important aspect of our community life is prayer. The quality of our community life will depend on the quality of our community prayer. As the saying goes “*A family that prays together stays together*”. If we give importance to our community prayer and come together daily for Eucharistic celebration and listening to the word of God most of our problems in the community life will be solved. We will be able to form a happy community and our apostolic works will bear abundant fruit. Therefore, let us not forget to give the primacy of God in our life and make effort to be present in our community prayer in spite of our busy schedule and our activities. In this context, let me quote again from the same letter of **Fr. Pasqual Chavez** who says, “Evangelical witness calls on us to make outwardly visible the primacy of God in the life of the community, to

live the 'grace of unity' in its community expressions, to make the following of Christ radical, prophetic and attractive, and to share with each other vocational motivations and the experience of God. **The central place given to the Word of God, fostered by the practice of *lectio divina*, the quality of community prayer and the daily Eucharist will help to deepen the spiritual experience and the manifestation of the central place of God in our life.** "Let us believe in the power of prayer and be convinced that our life and apostolic works need to be sustained and nourished by our life of prayers.

In conclusion, living and working together is not merely a practical necessity for our mission but a profound expression of our Salesian religious life. It strengthens the bonds of our fraternity, enhances our collective influence in serving young people, and bears witness to the transformative power of community life rooted in faith and love. By embracing this fundamental requirement, we will be able to continue to uphold the legacy of our father, St. John Bosco, and remain steadfast in our commitment to be the signs and bearers of God's love to those around us especially to the young people.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

Annual Contributions in Installments

I would like to remind all the communities about the Annual Contributions to be given in installments as per the unanimous decision taken in the last Provincial Chapter and other forums/meetings. I request the cooperation of all Rectors, In-charges, Parish Priests, Administrators and Principals along with their respective House Councils, to facilitate this important process at your earliest convenience. Your generous contributions and spirit of solidarity are vital to the continued well-being of our Province and the Salesian Congregation.

As per our unanimous decision, **the first installment is due by the end of June, and the second installment by the end of December.** The Economist's office will follow up with each community to ensure a smooth process.

Prenovitate Course in Bosco Home, Herma

This year we have 30 prenovices; and they reached Bosco Home Herma, Tripura on 2nd June 2024. Fr. Glorious Syiemlieh, the Rector of Prenovitate house and the staff welcomed them, and Fr. Provincial received them officially as Prenovices during the Holy Mass in the evening of the same day. We thank Fr. Daniel Cajee who made the arrangement of their journey to Herma and also thank Fr. Nicholas Sun and Bro. Leo Myrchiang who accompanied them. This year 5 prenovices have gone to Panjim to do their prenovitiate; they will continue to do their novitiate and post-novitiate there.

New Aspirants

The new aspirants began their Preparatory Course in Nonglakhiat and Pastoral Centre respectively. The post-Matric aspirants joined Don Bosco Aspirantate, Nonglakhiat while

those who completed Class XII and above joined Pastoral Centre. We have 26 in Nonglakhiat and 10 in Pastoral Centre. We pray for their joyful perseverance.

Installation of the New Rectors

All the new Rectors have been installed. Fr. KK Joseph, Rector of Pathaliaghat, on 3rd June; Fr. Sunil Barla, Rector of Sacred Heart Theological College, on 8th June; Fr. Giles Thyrniang, Rector of Sonapahar, on 11th June; Fr. Philip Barjo, Rector of STC, on 13th June; and Fr. Jeevan Lakra, Rector of Don Bosco Provincial House, on 14th June. We convey our best wishes and God's choicest blessings upon each one of them.

Pilgrimage to Sacred Heart Shrine, Mawlai

The Annual Pilgrimage to the Shrine of the Sacred Heart, Mawlai was held on 9th June 2024. The Holy Mass was presided over by Most. Rev. Victor Lyngdoh DD, Archbishop of Shillong. A large number of people turned up for the Pilgrimage. It is inspiring to see the people upholding and propagating this pious devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We congratulate and thank the community of Sacred Heart Theological College for planning together and successfully organizing this important event in the Archdiocese of Shillong.

Ordination to Diaconate

The Diaconate Ordination took place on 1st July 2024. There were 20 Salesian deacons conferred by His Lordship, Rt. Rev. Joseph Aind SDB, Bishop emeritus of Dibrugarh.

Among the 20 new Deacons, four belong to our province. They have been assigned places for their diaconate ministry: Dn. Jetendis Sohshang - Don Bosco Centre & Parish, Bishramganj; Dn. Santreki Mular - Bosco Home, Herma; Dn. Donald Savio Sohshang - Don Bosco School & Parish, Lawngtlai; and Dn. Shaborlin Khardewsaw - Mawpdang Parish. We pray that they may have a fruitful diaconate ministry.

Upcoming Programmes

The **1st Retreat** which has started on 30th June 2024 is going on in Pastoral Centre, Shillong. The **2nd Retreat**, beginning on 7th June evening, will also be in Pastoral Centre being animated by the same preacher - Fr. Paulson M. The **3rd Retreat**, 6th - 12th October, will be organized only for Student Brothers and PTs in one of the Retreat Centres.

Due to the Northeast Pastoral Conference in Guwahati, **the Principals Meet** is being shifted to 28th - 30th August 2024 in Provincial House. It will start on 28th evening and conclude on 30th August 2024.

Other upcoming programmes (July to October 2024):

DATE	PROGRAMME/EVENT	PLACE	ANIMATOR
July 23	Seminar on the Contribution of Fr. Constantine Vendrame	Sacred Heart Theo. College	Fr. Barnes Mawrie
Sep 15-18	Junior Priests' Meeting	DB Silchar	Vice Provincial
Sept - Oct	Missionary Course	DB Provincial House	SA Delegate - Fr. Sunny
Oct 06	Salesian Mission Day	INS Province	PDMA - Fr. Saji

Oct 14-16	Rectors and Parish Priests' Meeting, Jubilee of Confreres & Prov. Comty Day	DB Provincial House Nongthymmai	Provincial Vice Pro. & Rector
Oct 23-26	Practical Training Brothers' Meet	DB Provincial House	Vice Provincial

Health Insurance of the Province

Star Health and Allied Insurance Co. Ltd. is the health insurance company that the province has registered for all the confreres. We can stake claim once a confrere gets admitted in any hospital.

Nazareth and Woodland Hospitals are empanelled whereby the company can pay directly to the hospital. In other hospitals which are not empanelled, we need to pay to the hospital and then claim from the company by using the payment receipts. Therefore, whenever a confrere is admitted to any hospital community members are requested to immediately inform Fr. Genesisus Wanniang, the Economer or Mr. Libianta Suchiang, the Accountant.

Health updates

Fr. Zephyrinus Baxla has not been keeping well. He was admitted in the hospital due to weakening of his kidney and was undergoing dialysis. Fr. Jeevan Lakra, the Vice Provincial, will visit him in the month of July to see his condition.

Dn. Donald Savio Sohshang is still in Nazareth Hospital gradually recovering from the injuries due to the accident. Let us pray for their speedy recovery.

Birthdays of Confreres

We express our prayerful wishes to all our confreres who celebrate their birthday this month. We assure them of our prayers; may God bless them and their ministry.

Dates	Names	Dates	Names
02	Fr. John Kharshandi	10	Cl. LamborThyrniang
	Fr. Kamborsing Sun	11	Fr. GervasisKozhuppathadam
	Br. Joveen Orion Nongrum		Fr. Dominic Lalrintluanga
03	Cl. Dinimemon Shylla	21	Fr. Antony Kannanayakkal (KJ)
04	Fr. Edmund Gomes	22	Fr. Sebastian Tirkey
05	Cl. Mewan P. Talang		Fr. Felix D. Dkhar
06	Fr. Mathew Parackatte(PM)	26	Fr. Jeffree Kharkongor
08	Br. Anand Prakash Lakra	28	Fr. Thomas Marak
	Cl. Edmund E. Ryngnga	29	Cl. Markus Muktieh
	Cl. Julian Ch. Marak	30	Fr. Gilbert Gel Bhoi

Congratulations to Fr. Joseph Pampackal, IND New Provincial

We congratulate Fr. Joseph Pampackal SDB on being nominated as the new Provincial of Dimapur province. Cardinal Archbishop Ángel Fernández Artime, Rector Major, made this nomination on 19 June 2024.

Fr. Joseph Pampackal brings with him a rich experience in Salesian animation. He has served the province as Economer for nine years. He also served in the capacity of Dean of Studies in the Philosopate - Salesian College Dimapur, Headmaster at Don Bosco School Jorhat, Administrator at Dibrugarh and Imphal, Rector at Tinsukia and Maram, as well as Provincial Secretary. We extend our prayerful support to Fr. Joseph as he is preparing himself to shoulder the new leadership role in the Province of Dimapur.

Salesian Feasts

On 7th July, we commemorate Bl. Maria Romero Meneses, FMA Sister. Liturgically, it is Memoria for the FMAs and Optional Memoria for others.

Death Anniversary of INS Confreres

On 22nd July, we remember with love Fr. Dominic Jyrwa on his 3rd death anniversary. Let remember him in our prayers especially during the holy Eucharist. May the Lord grant him eternal rest.

Condolences

Let us pray for the repose of the departed souls:

- ✠ **Mrs. Mariam PouloPalatty**, mother of Fr. Sebastian Palatty, who passed away on 13th June 2024.
- ✠ **Mr. KynsaiborKharkongor**, elder brother of Fr. RitonborKharkongor, who passed away on 19th June 2024.

We express our heartfelt condolences to Fr. Jose Koyickal, the Provincial of Bangalore and all the confreres at the passing away of **Fr. Josin Thazahthette (70)** on 3rd July 2024. May the Lord welcome Fr. Josin in his heavenly kingdom and may his soul rest in peace.

Conclusion

Let us continue to live our Salesian consecrated life with joy and enthusiasm. The life and mission of the Congregation and the Church is lived and carried out in communities. While being busy in our duties and responsibilities, let us not forget to live together as brothers with joy and optimism; keeping God at the centre of our community life. May our communities continue to resemble the communion and mission of the early Christians in the Bible and the replica of the life and mission of Don Bosco at Valdocco.

May God bless you all!

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr. John Zosiama SDB
INS Provincial

