



My dear Confreres,

Warmest greetings from Don Bosco Provincial House, Shillong.

We are entering the month of June, traditionally dedicated to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**—a symbol of the profound love of Christ for humanity and a devotion deeply cherished in our Salesian tradition. The Heart of Jesus, pierced for love of us, stands as a perpetual reminder that our God is not distant or indifferent, but he is a God of love and mercy who always loves us with tenderness, compassion, and self-giving. This devotion to Sacred Heart is not merely a pious sentiment; it is a call to imitate the very heart of Jesus in our way of living, relating, and serving — especially in our mission to the young.

As Salesians, we are privileged to carry out our pastoral work not just as educators or administrators, but as witnesses of God's love, made visible and tangible in our relationships with the young, particularly those who are most in need. The Sacred Heart reminds us that our vocation is to love—to love with a heart like his: patient, forgiving, generous, and strong. Let this month renew in us the conviction that our life is a response to love—the love we have received, and the love we are called to give. May every pastoral plan and activity be carried out with great love and enthusiasm, aware that we are instruments of God's own heart, reaching out to the young who thirst for meaning, guidance, and affection.

Don Bosco and his Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Don Bosco himself was deeply moved by this devotion to Sacred Heart which was displayed in many forms and expressions in his writings, his prayers, his good advice and his recommendations. And his devotion was so compelling that it became part of the Salesian Charism itself, being spread by his successors and spiritual children to this day. Speaking of the Sacred Heart Don Bosco once said, *"Here one acquires true warmth, I mean the love of God, and not only for oneself, but to take it elsewhere and make souls share in it."* His devotion to Sacred Heart is also manifested in his insistence on frequent Confession and Communion and attendance at daily Mass, pillars that must support the educative pastoral endeavours and animate the practice of the preventive system.

He also encouraged us to cultivate it not only for personal sanctification but also as a source of apostolic zeal. In the Sacred Heart, Don Bosco saw the perfect model of the Good Shepherd, whose heart is always turned towards the flock—especially the lost, the weak, and the poor. So, Don Bosco wanted to express the concrete and effective part of this devotion in his work for the poor and abandoned boys through the good work of leading a companion away from sin and directing him to what is good.

Towards the end of his life Don Bosco accepted Pope Leo XIII's request to complete the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Rome. The church, started in 1870 by

Pope Pius IX was taken up and completed, thanks to Don Bosco's tenacity, in just a few years (1880-1887). It was an enterprise that cost him a lot of sacrifices. His successor, Blessed Michael Rua, consecrated the Salesian Congregation to the Sacred Heart on 31 December 1899 and, on that occasion, sent all the houses an instruction on this devotion. He emphasised its importance especially for the formation houses, and asked that the novitiates be dedicated to the Sacred Heart. A few days before his death, Fr. Rua asked Fr. Francesco Cerruti that a prayer to the Sacred Heart be composed for vocations. The following prayer was presented to him, which he approved, and recited often: *"O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, that you may send good and worthy workers to the Pious Salesian Society and keep them faithful in it, we beg you, hear us!"*

Finally, Article 11 of our Constitutions tells us about the connection between the Salesian spirit and the heart of Jesus: *"The Salesian spirit finds its model and source in the very heart of Christ, apostle of the Father. Reading the gospel, we become more aware of certain aspects of the figure of the Lord: gratitude to the Father for the gift of a divine vocation offered to everyone; predilection for the little ones and the poor; zeal in preaching, healing and saving because of the urgency of the coming of the Kingdom; the preoccupation of the Good Shepherd who wins hearts by gentleness and self-giving; the desire to gather his disciples into the unity of brotherly communion."* Therefore, in this month dedicated to the Sacred Heart, we are invited to renew our consecration to the Heart of Jesus, and to form our hearts in his likeness. Let us strive to become more compassionate in our dealings, more fervent in our mission, and more joyful in our consecration.

"Do You Love Me More Than These?" (Jn 21:15)

I would like to connect this reflection on the devotion to Sacred Heart with the Gospel passage where Jesus asked Peter on the shore of Lake Tiberias: ***"Do you love me more than these?"*** (Jn 21:15). This is not a question of performance or success; it is a question of the heart. A question that Jesus asks not only of Peter but each one of us, especially those called to be pastors, educators, and spiritual fathers to the young.

This thought-provoking question invites us to reflect on the foundation of our Salesian vocation: our love for Jesus. Before we take up any responsibility as pastors and leaders of the Church and communities, Jesus asks us this simple yet deeply challenging question: ***"Do you love me?"***. It is only from this love that true pastoral fruitfulness flows. Jesus does not first command Peter to build the church, to preach, or to teach—He first asks for love. Then, and only then, does he say, ***"Feed my sheep."*** Our love for the mission and the people whom we serve should flow from our love for Jesus. We cannot serve with true joy and dedication unless our hearts are rooted in a deep love for the Master who calls us to work in his vineyard. He must be our first priority. We are called to remain close to him through intimate prayer and communion. The fruitfulness of our pastoral work depends entirely on the depth of our relationship with him and our love for him above all else.

Dear confreres, in the midst of our many responsibilities and daily challenges, let us not lose sight of this essential truth: our ministry must flow from a heart rooted in love for Jesus. Without that love, our work risks becoming empty routine, mere activism, or even a search for personal affirmation and achievement. But when our

ministry is fuelled by deep love for the Lord, even the smallest acts become meaningful and life-giving. Let this question echo in our hearts: Do I love Jesus more than my plans, my comforts, my success, or even my work for him? Our greatest effectiveness with the young depends not so much on our talents or capabilities, but on the authenticity of our love for Jesus, which the young can sense, often more than they understand.

As Salesians, we are called to place Jesus at the center—not only of our prayer, but also of our relationships, our decisions, our community life, and every pastoral encounter. The young people we serve do not need perfect educators; they need men of God, men in love with Christ, men whose joy, patience, and generosity flow from a deep union with him. May Mary Help of Christians, who stood faithfully by the Heart that was pierced, guide us to ever greater love. And may Don Bosco intercede for us, that we may continue to be faithful disciples and tireless apostles of the young.

NEWS AND INFORMATION

First Profession in Sunnyside

We thank the Lord for the gift of 26 new Salesians to our Province. On 24th May 2025, twenty-six novices—22 from the INS Province and 4 from the ING Province—made their First Profession at Sunnyside, Upper Shillong. We are also happy to have our four novices who made their First Profession in Nashik; and they will continue their Post Novitiate Formation there.

The solemn celebration of the Eucharist was attended by many confreres, along with a large number of family members and relatives, who gathered to witness this important moment and to pray for our young brothers. On behalf of the Province, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Paul Olphindro Lyngkot, the Novice Master and the staff of Sunnyside for their dedicated accompaniment of the novices and their careful preparation for this important event in their religious life.

Among the newly professed, two have professed as Salesian Brothers. Their assignments for Philosophy and B.A. studies are as follows: 4 in Sonada, 5 in Dimapur, 7 in Nashik, 4 in Karunapuram, 3 in Aluva, 3 in Yercaud and 1 in Sri Lanka. Cl. Meshan Mawroh who was not able to continue his Philosophy last year due to ill-health will resume his Post Novitiate Formation in Yercaud. Let us continue to support them with our prayers as they begin this new journey in the Salesian vocation.

Perpetual Profession and Renewal of Vows

We give thanks to the Lord for 12 Brothers (10 from INS and 2 from IND) who made their Perpetual Profession on 24th May 2025 at Sacred Heart Theological College, Mawlai, Shillong. The celebration was attended by priests, religious, lay faithful, confreres, and the families of the brothers—gathered together to witness and rejoice in the generosity of these young men who have said their ‘Yes’ to God forever in the spirit of Don Bosco.

We express our sincere appreciation to the community of Sacred Heart Theological College, especially under the leadership of Fr. Sunil Barla, the Rector, for all the thoughtful preparations made for this joyous occasion.

We also extend our congratulations to the 36 Brothers who renewed their religious vows on 24th May 2025 at the Pastoral Centre, Shillong. They spent a full day in recollection in preparation for their renewal. Our sincere thanks go to Fr. Jose Varickassril and the Vice Provincial for animating the recollection and leading the brothers in prayer and reflection. We are grateful to the community of the Pastoral Centre for their warm hospitality and for providing a conducive environment for this spiritual renewal.

At the same time, I would like to communicate to you that 4 temporary professed confreres (2 clerics – Pynshaibha Latam, Rinaldo Tympuin and 2 Salesian Brothers – Lambert Lyngdoh, Simon Thaimei) have decided to leave the Congregation after serious discernment and they did not apply for the renewal of vows. We wish them all the best and pray for them as they begin a new life.

Final Profession in Rome

On 31st May 2025, our confrere Bro. Jokim Manar, a student of Theology at the UPS in Rome, also made his Final Profession at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Rome, alongside four companions. The Solemn Mass was presided over by Fr. Fabio Attard, the Rector Major and he received the final profession. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to Bro. Jokim and wish him every blessing as he continues his theological studies.

Annual Practical Trainees' Meet

The Annual Practical Trainees' Meet took place from 26th to 28th May, 2025, at the Don Bosco Provincial House in Shillong. It was a meaningful occasion for the brothers to share their pastoral experiences and renew their commitment as Salesian assistants to the young.

In addition to the Provincial Team, the brothers were guided and inspired by our confreres, Fr. Ritonbor Kharkongor, the Youth Delegate, and Fr. Raphael Maiong, Professor and Director of ITLR. We express our heartfelt gratitude to them for their willingness to share their valuable insights, and also special thanks to Fr. Anthony Kharkongor and Fr. Thiewbor Kharsyntiew for their generous support.

The meeting concluded on 28th May with an outing and pilgrimage to St. John Bosco Shrine in Sohra. A special word of thanks and congratulations to the Vice Provincial for meticulously organizing the programme, and to the community of Don Bosco Provincial House for their warm hospitality and support.

Initiation of the New Novices

We give thanks to God for the 35 new Novices who began their novitiate on 29th May 2025, at St. Dominic Savio Novitiate, Sunnyside. The initiation ceremony was presided over by the Provincial. Among the new novices, 25 are from Shillong Province and 10 from Guwahati Province. Our sincere thanks to Fr. Glorious Syiemlieh, the Rector, and the staff of the Prenovitiate community at Bosco Home Herma, for their dedicated accompaniment and formation of these young men over the past year.

There are also five Novices from our province who have begun their novitiate in Nashik. Let us continue to support all of them with our prayers as they begin this important stage in their Salesian journey.

Handing over of Laitkor Parish to the Archdiocese

On 2nd June, 2025, we officially handed over the parish of Laitkor to the Archdiocese of Shillong in the presence of Auxiliary Bishop Bernard Laloo, the two Episcopal Vicars—Fr. Richard Majaw and Fr. Pius Shadap, the Chancellor — Fr. Jameris Shylla, and Fr. Francis Kharpran, the newly appointed Parish Priest.

We have served in Laitkor Parish for the past 21 years, and I express my heartfelt gratitude to all the confreres who have worked tirelessly for the growth and development of both the parish and the school. In particular, I would like to acknowledge Fr. Sylvester Synrem and Fr. U.V. Jose, the last two Salesians to serve here, for their dedication and commitment. We also extend our best wishes to Fr. Francis Kharpran as he begins his ministry in this parish. May his service be fruitful and blessed by the Lord.

Looking ahead, the new parish of the Sacred Heart in Smit, which has been entrusted to us, will be inaugurated on 29th June 2025, with Fr. Sylvester Synrem appointed as its first Parish Priest. We wish him every success and invoke God's blessings upon him as he takes up this new mission. Let us keep him in our prayers.

Orientation Programme for Prenovices at RRTC, Umran

This year, the Orientation Programme for Prenovices began on 20th April at RRTC, Umran and concluded on 02nd June 2025 under the guidance of Fr. Kennedy Kharkongor and two clerics Mark Shanbor Thyrniang and Mewan Pyntngen Talang. A total of 32 prenovices participated in this intensive training programme, which focused on English, communication skills, interpersonal relationships, Salesian themes, and more.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Kennedy Kharkongor, Programme Coordinator, the two clerics, and all the confreres who enriched the course with their insightful and inspiring sessions. We are also deeply thankful to the RRTC Umran community, led by Fr. Kenny Pakma, Fr. Anugrah Kerketta, and Br. Lumlang Marbaniang, for their dedicated and selfless service throughout the one and a half months of the programme.

On 3rd June, the Prenovices arrived at the Prenovitiare House, Bosco Home, Herma, to begin their Prenovitiare course with great joy and enthusiasm. We wish them a fruitful and grace-filled year ahead.

Emergency Appeal for Victims of Landslides in Lawngtlai

As you aware the recent landslide in Lawngtlai, triggered by incessant heavy rainfall, has caused immense suffering, leading to the collapse of six double-storey buildings and directly impacting ten families. The affected families have lost not just their homes, but their sense of security, stability, and hope. They now face the harsh realities of fear, grief, and uncertainty. We are particularly concerned for the quarter/house of our Catechist in Lawngtlai which is also at risk, and the entire family has been shifted to a temporary shelter near the church for safety. This is a time for us to come together as a Salesian family and stand in solidarity with those who are suffering. Every contribution—be it a donation, a prayer, or a message of support—can make a meaningful difference.

In the name of the Province, I had made an appeal to your generous support for the families affected by this tragedy earlier. Some confreres and communities have responded generously. Through your generous contribution we hope to be able to provide emergency shelter, food, and clean drinking water and to support the rebuilding of homes and restoration of essential services.

Once again, I kindly remind all the confreres especially the Rectors, Parish Priests, and Principals to coordinate the collection of donations in your respective communities or schools. Please send your contributions as soon as possible to: Fr. Genesius Wanniang, the Economer. He will consolidate all donations and forward them to the community of Don Bosco Lawngtlai, who will ensure fair distribution to the families in need.

Bank Details

Name of the Account: Don Bosco Provincial House

Name of the Bank: Federal Bank

Account Number: 11900100222080

IFSC Code: FDRL0001190

Branch: Shillong, Police Bazaar

Kindly inform the Economer about the transaction done by sending a message to his number: +91 6909082228 or email to inssdbeconomer@gmail.com. Let us stand together with our brothers and sisters in Lawngtlai. In the face of great loss, our unity and compassion can become a source of healing and renewed hope.

First Installment of Annual Contribution

Once again, I would like to remind all communities about the Annual Contributions, which are to be given in installments, as unanimously decided during the last Provincial Chapter. I kindly request the cooperation of all Rectors, In-Charges, Parish Priests, Administrators, and Principals, together with their respective House Councils, in facilitating this important process at your earliest convenience. Your generous support and spirit of solidarity are essential to the continued well-being of our Province and the Salesian Congregation.

As agreed, the first installment is due by the end of June, and the second by the end of December. The Economer's Office will follow up with each community to ensure the smooth execution of this process. Thank you for your commitment and collaboration.

Congratulations to Fr. Ashley Miranda SDB

On behalf of all the confreres, I would like to extend a hearty Congratulations to Rev. Fr. Ashley Miranda SDB, the newly appointed Provincial of St. Francis Xavier Province, Bombay (INB). His appointment as the twelfth Provincial was announced on 03rd June 2025. We pray that the Lord may be with him as he prepares himself to take up the mantle of being the leader and guide of the province.

Upcoming Events

I would like to remind you of the upcoming events scheduled in our Province for the months of June to August 2025. I kindly request your full cooperation with the respective coordinators when they share information or seek your support.

The key upcoming programmes are the following:

05th June: Green Alliance Day & World Environment Day: Fr. Nelson Joseph, INS Coordinator of Don Bosco Green Alliance has already shared the details regarding this event. Please follow up with him and extend your full cooperation.

08th June: Annual Pilgrimage in honour of Sacred Heart of Jesus at Sacred Heart Shrine, Mawlai, Shillong.

29th June – 05th July & 06th – 12th July: Annual Retreats. The Vice Provincial has informed you about the registration process. Kindly complete your registration at the earliest. We express our sincere gratitude to Fr. T.C. George SDB of Bangalore Province, who has generously agreed to animate both retreats.

07th – 09th August: Principals' Meeting will be held in Don Bosco Provincial House, Shillong. Fr. Babu Stephen will provide the programme logistics soon.

20th August: Missionary Formation Course for South Asia region will begin in Don Bosco Provincial House, Shillong under the guidance of Fr. Joseph Palamthattel (Sunny).

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
03	Cl. Bonifast Khardewsa	18	Cl. Ramul Madur
04	Br. Abraham Antony M.	21	Fr. Clarence Kharmawlong
	Cl. Lambert Thongnirit	23	Cl. Edmond Thyrniang
08	Cl. Eusebius Nongkhlaw	24	Fr. Francisco E. Dhar
09	Fr. Roy Anthony Parackal		Fr. Alphonse Rongrim
10	Fr. Arcadius Puweiñ		Cl. Petrus Khongiong
	Cl. Sagar Bandhu Molsom		Cl. Gilbert Sangriang
11	Fr. Primus Syiem	26	Cl. Banraplang Nongrum
13	Fr. George Maliekal		Cl. Eliphaz Nongdhar
14	Fr. Ronald Joseph Venadt	28	Fr. Junas Minj
16	Cl. Jobilson Nongrum		Dn. Donald Savio Sohshang

Salesian Feasts and Commemorations

This month of June, as the Salesian Family, we have the following feasts and commemorations:

- 12th June – Bl. Francis Kesy & Companions (Martyrs) - Boys from the Salesian Oratory who courageously faced martyrdom for their faith.
- 23rd June – St. Joseph Cafasso, the spiritual director of Don Bosco.

Death Anniversary of INS Confreres

This month we commemorate the death anniversary of **Br. Mathew Vazhamplackal (VS)** on 03rd June (2023), **Fr. Peter Schiavon** and **Fr. Jose Valiaveettil (VK)** on 19th June (2016 & 2023). Let us remember them in our prayers especially during the Holy Eucharist. May the Lord grant them eternal rest.

Condolences

We express our heartfelt condolences to:

- Fr. Stephen Kharbani at the passing away of his beloved mother, **Mrs. Tharina Kharbani (98)** on 6th May 2025.
- Sr. Maria Goretti T. Sangma MSMHC, Provincial and all the Sisters of Shillong Province at the passing away of **Sr. Sabina N. Marak (85)** on 9th May 2025.
- Fr. Jose Varickasseril at the passing away of his brother, **Mr. Mathew (Sony) Varghese Varickasseril (74)** on 19th May 2025.
- Fr. James Thyrniang (BIDS) and the Community of Nongthymmai at the passing away of the boy, **David Paul Suchiang (07)** on 21st May 2025.
- Fr. Davis Maniparamben, Provincial and all the confreres of New Delhi Province at the passing away of **Br. Justin Lakra (60)** on 22nd May 2025.

Once again, I would like to invite each one of you, dear confreres, to entrust yourselves and your missions totally to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. May all our words, actions and plans flow from that deep love for Jesus.

Secondly, let us continue to pray to the Sacred Heart for more vocations to our Congregation and the Church; and may all of us who are called and chosen remain faithful to Him.

May God bless you all.

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr. John Zosiama SDB
INS Provincial

