



# acts

**of the general council**

---

year XCIX

july-december 2018

**N. 428**

official organ  
of animation  
and communication  
for the  
salesian congregation

Direzione Generale  
Opere don Bosco  
Roma





# acts

of the General Council  
of the Salesian Society  
of St John Bosco

---

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ANIMATION AND COMMUNICATION FOR THE SALESIAN CONGREGATION

---

year XCIX  
july-december 2018 **N. 428**

1. LETTER OF THE RECTOR MAJOR	1.1 Fr Ángel FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME <b>FOLLOWING A PATH OF FIDELITY</b> <i>A greeting as GC28 fast approaches</i>	3
2. GUIDELINES AND POLICIES	2.1 Fr Stefano VANOLI <b>LISTENING TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN VIEW OF THE CG28</b>	18
	2.2 Fr Ivo COELHO <b>THE SPECIFIC FORMATION OF THE SALESIAN BROTHER</b>	21
	2.3 Fr Fabio ATTARD <b>YOUTH MINISTRY AND FAMILY</b>	26
	2.4 Fr Guillermo BASAÑES <b>EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH</b>	41
3. DISPOSITIONS AND NORMS	(none in this issue)	
4. ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL	4.1 Chronicle of the Rector Major	49
	4.2 Chronicle of the General Councillors	60
5. DOCUMENTS AND NEWS	5.1 Second Seminar on the Promotion of the Causes of Beatification and Canonization of the Salesian Family	82
	5.2 Venerability of the Servant of God Augustus Hlond	86
	5.3 Decree of Canonical Erection of the Salesian Vice-Province "Mgr. Louis Versiglia" of Indonesia	90
	5.4 Decree of Canonical Erection of the Salesian Vice-Province "Mary Help of Christians" of Malta	92
	5.5 New Provincials	94
	5.6 New Salesian Bishops	102
	5.7 Our dead confreres	106

Editrice S.D.B.  
Edizione extra commerciale  
Sede Centrale Salesiana  
Via Marsala, 42  
00185 Roma

---

Tipolitografia Istituto Salesiano Pio XI - Via Umbertide, 11 - 00181 Roma  
Tel. 06.78.27.819 - Fax 06.78.48.333 - E-mail: [tipolito@pcn.net](mailto:tipolito@pcn.net)  
*Finito di stampare: Settembre 2018*

## FOLLOWING A PATH OF FIDELITY

### *A greeting as GC28 fast approaches*

1. THE "HOUR" OF THE GC28 AND YOUNG PEOPLE. – 2. HOW IS OUR CONGREGATION GETTING ON? - *What weaknesses are more apparent?* - 3. THE MISSIONARY SPIRIT OF THE CONGREGATION, A SOURCE OF HOPE.

Rome, 8 September 2018

My Dear Confreres,

Recently in the *Acts of the General Council* (N. 427) the letter convoking the GC28 was published. As a result of the reflections of the General Council in the month of April and of my own personal view of the Congregation, I issued there an invitation to consider the wonderful opportunity offered to our Salesian Congregation, as in fact in all General Chapters, to take another step forward along the path of fidelity to the Lord in the footsteps of Don Bosco.

In that issue of the *Acts of the General Council* many points to be taken into consideration by each of the Provinces and Vice Provinces in view of the General Chapter were indicated and explained in practical terms.

Now we are taking advantage of the publication of this issue of the *Acts* to send you some further reflections and deliberations of the General Council together with information about the agenda and the animation provided by the Rector Major and all the members of the General Council.

For my part, this new issue of the *Acts* gives me the chance to send you dear Confreres my greetings and to write a very informal letter which is meant to be a fraternal and frank communication.

From this point of view I have to tell you that I feel very much in tune with the style of writing employed by the first Rector Majors, who, in contexts certainly very different from our own,

used to write to the confreres in such a close and familiar manner that it seemed they were in touching distance of all the members of the Congregation; as though they were all living there in Valdocco. Reading many of the letters of Don Rua, Don Albera, Don Rinaldi, I have enjoyed and experienced those pleasant feelings.

## **1. THE 'HOUR' OF THE GC28 AND THE YOUNG**

I have already spoken about this in the letter convoking the Chapter. Certainly the next General Chapter, that is just round the corner, needs an appropriate preparation by each of the Provinces and Vice Provinces. I can assure you that as the General Council we are awaiting this event with great hope; and we are sure that it will be another time of grace and an outpouring of the Holy Spirit for our Congregation.

I can tell you that in these months up to the present I have received a large number of messages both from Provinces and from individual confreres grateful for the choice of the theme, and with words of encouragement to prepare and to live it as a special opportunity to continue on the path in fidelity.

I have welcomed the suggestion from the Moderator of the General Chapter to organise everywhere, in each Province and Vice Province, a process of consultation of the young people in our centres. I want to emphasise this particular idea.

Dear Confreres, let us ask the young people, all of them: those close to us and those further away or those from whom we are at some distance. Let us ask them what they want from us; how we can help them, and how they can help us to be like Don Bosco more faithful to the Lord. Let us not miss this opportunity. Together with us Salesians of Don Bosco they can be other people with a part to play in our Chapter. Their participation in the Chapter Assembly will be – I presume – “symbolic”; but even if they cannot take part physically in all the stages of the GC28, they will make their presence felt through their words – youthful,

strong, courageous and even “daring” which we will accept with an open heart.

By way of example, and in the same informal way with which I have begun this letter, I want to share with all of you *two letters that I recently received*. The first is a personal note that reached me on “facebook”; and the other is what a young man I met on one of my recent visits said to me.

I record the two messages just as they were written by the young people, including the grammatical mistakes. The first message received two weeks ago is from a young female youth leader:

«Dear Fr Ángel,

I have just seen your message about the 28<sup>th</sup> General Chapter and I have decided to write to you just to tell you something: the theme of the Chapter seemed to me a marvellous one. I had already spent some time thinking about the sort of Salesian that our situation needs and that we young people need, based on my personal experience, which I have had with Salesians who have accompanied me all the time I have been growing up. It seems to me that the Chapter can directly involve us, young people in formation-accompaniment situations or already youth leaders, since we are very open to the opportunities that may be offered to us. To be honest, sometimes I felt a bit sad since apparently for some Salesians other things seem to be considered more important such as the accounts, household affairs, the finances, the buildings, management etc.

All the same, the invitation to put in the first place things of the heart fills me with joy; I am really filled with great hope by the challenge to leave our comfort zones, because we really need Salesians of conviction, with dreams and passion, who can be living witnesses to the love of Christ, and be for us an example of all that Don Bosco stood for.

I believe that in this way we can once again fall in love with this way of life, and make our dear Salesian Family continue to grow more and more, naturally with everyone playing their proper part. I keep you in my heart.

Very affectionately»

P



On my last visit to Mexico a young man from the Salesian Youth Movement gave me this letter after having first read it out in public.

«Hi! Don Ángel.

First of all I want to say hello and thank you for all that you are doing.

As a young person of the Salesian Movement it is a real pleasure to be able to share with you a little of the experience of my community.

I am A.K. and I am 23 years of age. I originally come from the frontier region, from Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas. It is quite a challenge to be writing these words knowing that they are going to be read by the successor of Don Bosco, our beloved Don Bosco, the person who has inspired thousands of young people to change their lives for the Love of God, to have unforgettable experiences and to get to know themselves more deeply.

I can tell you that I have known the Salesians for 10 years. I consider it a great blessing to have seen an Oratory come to life out of a veritable rubbish dump; the joy of seeing how a community was gradually formed, one that wanted to work, to make a difference, to cultivate a space of joy, of living together, of peace for our children and young people, a place in which to love Christ freely, devoting time and effort.

During this time it has been difficult to keep the Oratory going because of the difficult surroundings full of drugs, alcohol, trafficking, illegal immigration, and where those most in danger are the boys and girls. The constant struggle everyday is difficult, a struggle involving everyone.

The support of the Salesian community and of the volunteers who accompany us and who try to keep the youngsters free from the situations must be given due recognition. Yet at the same time there are young people full of love for Jesus and for Don Bosco, young people who have found a second home, new friends, a place where we can express ourselves and enjoy ourselves in a healthy way.

For this reason we the young people of Nuevo Laredo want to say to Don Bosco that like him we want to be courageous in coping with so many problems without losing hope and without giving

up, always fighting for our dreams, even though we don't know how far we may have to go. Many of us continue to ask ourselves what we have done to have been chosen to know and to live in an Oratory and there to learn to follow the example of Don Bosco. It thrills us to know how he devoted his time and his life to those most in need giving them a place to live, sending people to accompany us, passing on to us the same strength to believe in Jesus and to live following his example.

Many of us cannot imagine a life without Don Bosco, without the Salesians, and we can say that we would not have come to love God in such a "mad" way full of laughter and marvellous experiences, without him. Don Bosco, you led the lost, who without knowing the way their lives were going have found the answer inside this house, school, church and playground.

For this reason dear Don Bosco, I want to say to you thank you so that you may always continue to encourage and motivate young people, and I want to thank you so that you may keep my "Great Salesian Family" going in which I have lived the best moments of my life, where I have got to know extraordinary people, from whom I am still learning, above all the joy of loving God in a way I would never have thought possible: the happiness of being myself, doing what I like to do, without being afraid or embarrassed in front of other people, just simple living as far as I can the Salesian charism to the highest degree possible and so being able to say that I have chosen Christ, in Don Bosco's way.»

Here then are two personal accounts that tell us how important for these young people is the way of life in the Salesian setting in which they find themselves, and how this Salesian environment has brought them and continues to bring them to an encounter with Jesus. At the same time, they are asking us to be close to them, to walk beside them – especially in their important decisions, the most significant ones, those that really touch their lives and their hearts.

While I was writing this I was thinking: the witness of two young people is already telling us so much; how much greater will what is said by thousands of young people be when it reaches our

General Chapter. This will enable us to hear their heartbeats, and it will not leave the Chapter Assembly indifferent because it will be the expression of the Holy Spirit who will also be speaking through them.

Dear Confreres, we cannot forget that the ones who give fulness to our lives, who really “save” us as Salesians, who shape our vocations are the youngsters, the teenagers, the young people in the world for whom the Lord calls us and to whom he sends us.

That which keeps us far from young people will not save us nor will it strengthen our vocation. Administration on its own, or the management of plans and projects will not make us better Salesians in the style of Don Bosco. Only the young will make our hearts ever more Salesian; as happened with Don Bosco’s boys who with the grace of God enabled him to live until his last breath giving himself for each one of them.

This conviction requires from each of us an ***affective and effective presence among the young***. One of the expressions of the “return to Don Bosco”, that we took up as a programme for the whole Congregation in past years and which ought to be permanent is the affective and effective presence among the young. This means that we must cultivate our Salesian heart that beats strongly faced with the situation of our young people as we dream and hope what is best for them, wanting to share their way of life as the two young people witnessed in the letters that I have transcribed. They need us and want us at their side to accompany them on life’s journey.

My Dear Confreres, travelling around our Salesian world I always return home moved and with a heart enriched by the good that the Congregation is doing in so many places. But at the same time I say to myself: «How fascinating the present and the future of our Congregation would be if each and every one of my Salesian confreres wherever they might be in the world were to make the resolution to be and to live ever more and more for our youngsters and young people!»

Undoubtedly the Congregation is enjoying good health, At the same time I think that one can say that the letter from Rome written by Don Bosco remains always relevant. Not because there is not a Salesian atmosphere in the places where we are, but because we have to demand more of ourselves in this area, always more, much more.

We ought to be able to be proud of the fact that every boy, girl, teenager and young person in the world who find themselves in any Salesian house and who need the presence of a Salesian as a friend, a brother and a father can always find one.

Dear Confreres, without overstating the case, I would dare to say that in today's world there is a great "crisis of paternity". There are so many pointers, and the specialists in the field clearly provide the evidence for it. Well then, in Salesian houses our boys and girls ought to find that atmosphere which in all freedom helps them grow in all aspects of their lives. They ought to meet people capable of accompanying them in this way in the areas of their lives in which they feel vulnerable and insecure. They need to meet educators, Salesians of Don Bosco and lay people who because they carry Don Bosco in their hearts and always look back to him, are ready to welcome all young people in their varied situations just as they are.

## **2. HOW IS OUR CONGREGATION GETTING ON?**

In my visits to the Provinces I am often asked this question.

During the celebration of the GC28 we will provide information on the state of the Congregation. Obviously the depth and breadth of the topic do not allow me to reply adequately to this question now.

In any case, dear Confreres, in all sincerity and objectively speaking I can state that the Congregation is enjoying good health. We are pursuing or trying to pursue a steady path of fidelity; with our strengths and weaknesses as is normal, but following in the footsteps of Don Bosco.

The nine "Team Visits" undertaken have indicated what I am saying, as also the evaluation that we have reported on those occasions.

In this regard I mention just a few pointers, well aware that this is only an initial outline and in no way exhaustive.

- Young people continue to be at the centre of our mission and must continue more and more to be so.

And *among these the poorest and most in need*. In these years I have forcefully insisted on repeating this priority. Also the members of the General Council have contributed to re-enforcing this message through their own observations in the different countries.

We are a Congregation that was raised up by the Holy Spirit for young people, and among these with absolute priority, the poorest and most in need.

Not in all the Salesian houses in the world are the poor the ones we are working for. Many times the families are quite ordinary, humble, hard-working. However the presence also of other youngsters less in need, thanks to their contribution, makes it possible to offer education, formation and evangelization to many others who would hardly have any chance had they not come in contact with Don Bosco and with Salesian houses.

I remind all the Provinces in the world that when it is a question of undertaking a process of discernment or of making a Province decision of any kind, it should be borne in mind that such a choice ought to help us to be more faithful to the charism and to the priority option on behalf of those most in need. In the case of any doubt whenever there might be one, this ought to be the criterion: the poorest and the most in need, as it was for Don Bosco.

- Together with the priority of the presence among the young and the option for the poorest, *evangelization and education to the faith* ought to be always a special feature of our Congregation. «Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!»<sup>1</sup>, the Apostle Paul writes.



Not infrequently we are conscious of our limitations. Various social contexts at times hamper us and we do not always know the best way to act and we feel helpless... However, the efforts to undertake real evangelization and education to the faith are genuine.

To this should be added the sensitivity also to involve the families of our young people in the Salesian mission. We are aware that working in a pastoral way with families remains "an unresolved problem." We have said this on many occasions but we are taking the necessary steps. These years have seen much progress in this area.

- Significant efforts are being made in the field of *formation* and particularly in the area of the *formation of the formation personnel*, whether for the prenovitiate, or in the formation of the directors of novices, or in the preparation of formation personnel for the other stages.

To this should be added the task, undertaken in four Regions of the Congregation, in dialogue with the Rector Major and his Council, to set up a new geographical distribution of the houses of formation: a task that has had to be put on hold given the profound changes experienced in some Provinces in recent years. This reorganization of the houses of formation applies to the Interamerica Region, the America South Cone Region and the two Regions of Europe. For the Regions of Africa and Madagascar, South Asia and East Asia Oceania it is still in the pipeline but with a firm commitment on the part of the Rector Major and his Council to deal with the situation.

Obviously the General Chapter will have something very significant to say on the formation of the Salesians of Don Bosco as a response to the theme of the Chapter itself: «What kind of Salesians for the youth of today?» And without doubt we will be given a splendid opportunity to be more faithful also today and to respond to what the Lord is expecting from us, in a

<sup>1</sup> 1 Cor 9,16.

world and in a complex society where the Salesian charism is extremely relevant and is more than ever necessary.

- No less is the effort being made by the Congregation in relation to *the Economy* and to economic transparency in all parts of the world. We know that situations are not the same everywhere. Nevertheless it is important to know that very significant steps forward are being taken.
- The situation regarding *social communication* in the Provinces varies greatly. Some have taken very significant steps so as not to reduce social communication solely to the use of technological means but to appreciate it as a language, as a means to making pastoral ministry more incisive and always with a clear intention of making the good that is being done visible and known about.  
In other areas of the world the situation is poorer and we need to continue to develop it.

### ***What weaknesses are more apparent?***

- The most evident, which I would dare to say is common in apostolic religious life (or active religious life) in the whole Church, is the weak manner in which we bear witness to the fact that we are consecrated persons, in other words ***God's witnesses***. Our life, more by what we are and not only by what we do, ought to make visible and transparent the humanity of God among the people.  
Dear Confreres, the GC27 faced up very well to this situation and we have made considerable progress; but this still remains one of the weaker points. In fact, we feel more comfortable doing things, being creative, managing and organising rather than through our way of living, praying, speaking and working bearing witness to the fact that we are consecrated to God. I would dare to say that this is our "Achilles' heel".
- And we still have to continue to grow in the coming years in the ***sense of identity and of belonging*** to our Congregation.

We certainly remember, at least those of us who are no longer so young in the Congregation, the warning given by Fr Egidio Viganò about the danger of genericism. After thirty years a danger that is evident in some confreres, among whom an important part is made up of priests who are looking for a Bishop so as to be incardinated in a diocese, is precisely that of a weak Salesian identity, of a limited sense of belonging. Sometimes we are very far from that love for Don Bosco expressed by the young John Cagliero: «Friar or not I am staying with Don Bosco.»<sup>2</sup>

There are two other things that I consider very important and which I have spoken about in the 70 Provinces and Vice Provinces that I have visited.

From the first months at the beginning of my service as Rector Major, I began to notice something that I shared with the General Council and which together we have examined further.

I was very surprised when at the end of November 2016, Pope Francis gave a private audience to the Union of Superiors General: a meeting that the Pope wanted with the 117 Superiors General and that was held in the Hall of the Synod of Bishops.

The Pope spoke to us about what he had on his mind, and he spoke to us as a father speaks to his sons, very well aware of our state as religious; he spoke to us with total freedom, without anything being recorded, without television or other media present, and he offered us his vision of the Church and of Religious Life.

At one point the Pope told us about his concerns in regard to two large problems that are afflicting the Church. With exceptional force he told us that these problems are called **clericalism** and **power-seeking**.

It is easy to immediately think of our Congregation, because in some cases these temptations are knocking loudly at our door and there are some confreres who give in to them.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *BM VI*, 181.

At the same time these temptations are so subtle that they present themselves as being helpful, even to the point of appearing as a very normal way of acting, quite appropriate and even correct.

By **clericalism** there is no intention to refer to the situation of Salesian priests. In our Congregation seventy per cent of Salesians are also priests and this is a wonderful way of living out the one religious vocation to which we are called: that of being *Salesians of Don Bosco*, as Salesians who are priests or as Salesians who are brothers.

Instead, *clericalism* has a lot to do with believing that, by the fact of being a priest you have all the authority and everything has to pass through your hands. It has to do with the temptation to careerism. It is very much connected to the creation of a state of dependence – and there are confreres who love to have people who “are dependent on them”.

The second danger is in regard to the temptation to *power*. When I say ‘power’ I am not referring directly to authority. If this is exercised in an evangelical spirit of service, there is no danger of power-seeking... But when the responsibility, the office, the authority are exercised as power (not infrequently with a sense of pride) and lived as an exercise of power over others since they depend on our economic resources, or on our being able to employ them, or they help one or another just as they feel like it... Well then, in these cases it is necessary to go back to living according to the Gospel so as not to fall into the nets woven by the temptation of power.

And we must not believe dear Confreres that we are immune to this danger. All of us and every day - starting with the one writing this, we must examine ourselves before the Lord with regard to this danger and ask His grace to live constantly in the dimension of gift and of simple and transparent service.

### 3. THE MISSIONARY SPIRIT OF THE CONGREGATION, A SOURCE OF HOPE

Dear Confreres. I cannot finish this letter of mine without referring to a final point that I consider important.

We know from our Constitutions and Regulations that in the Church we are recognised juridically as a Congregation of Apostolic Life with a charism that has a preference for the young and among these the poorest and the abandoned.

We do not belong to those Congregations recognised officially as "missionary". This is true. Nevertheless, we also know that the missionary dimension of the Congregation was something essential and a priority for Don Bosco and it is and must remain so also for us today.

From this point of view the Congregation will continue to enjoy good health if it continues to maintain and to intensify its own missionary character.

I find great joy for this reason, and many times I thank the Lord for this gift and for the fact that He continues to take care of our Congregation and to call many confreres to live out their Salesian missionary vocation *ad gentes, ad vitam*.

In these years I have seen an increase in the number of confreres responding to this call of the Lord.

I have seen in the Provinces the great respect shown to this call, and the availability of the confreres even at the cost of "losing" confreres from their own Province in order to offer them to other parts of the Congregation.

I emphasise the generosity shown by some Provinces that would have had many reasons in human terms to say that their own needs did not allow them to help others. Nevertheless, with a faith-vision and truly believing that it was the Lord who was calling, they facilitated all the necessary arrangements.

Finally I have seen that faced by the specific help requested, for example for the founding of a new presence in a refugee camp at Palabek (Uganda) with the creation of an international com-



munity, various Provincials made available excellent confreres of whom they had need.

All of this speaks of a faith-vision; it speaks of a sense of the Church and of the Congregation; it speaks of generosity.

And let us not forget that the Lord will never be outdone in generosity.

Last year there was a 60% increase in the number of confreres, who after a serious process of discernment personal, provincial and subsequently in dialogue with the Rector Major and the General Councillor for the Missions, have expressed their readiness for the *missio ad gentes, ad vitam*.

There is no doubt that together with a passion for the evangelisation and education of the young, with the Salesian passion to be on the side of the poorest and most needy, and together with the growing desire to accompany families more and more, and the journey of faith and the vocational discernment of their children, the response to the missionary call is another of the great blessings and a sure way of fidelity for the Congregation.

I send you my greetings my dear Confreres.

I want to do so in the same informal and familiar tone that I wanted to give to this letter, handing on to you what I carry in my heart.

Thank you to each and every one of you for the generous response to the Lord with a Salesian heart.

Thank you for the life of each one of you my dear Salesian Confreres, the true wealth and patrimony of our Congregation.

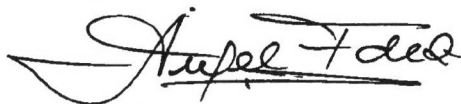
Thank you for having wanted to live a beautiful and authentic way of life according to the Gospel, with Don Bosco, like Don Bosco, and for being the Salesians that today's world and our young people are waiting for and which they need.

May our Mother the Help of Christians follow and accompany us.

She has done everything, She is following us, doing everything!

And may Don Bosco follow us, guiding us as his sons, guiding his beloved Congregation.

Yours affectionately

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ángel F. Artime', with a large, sweeping flourish on the left side.

**Fr Ángel FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME, sdb**  
*Rector Major*

## 2. GUIDELINES AND DIRECTIVES

---

### 2.1 LISTENING TO YOUNG PEOPLE IN VIEW OF THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER AND GENERAL CHAPTER

Fr Stefano VANOLI

*Moderator of the General Chapter*

In these days during the summer plenary session with the Rector Major and the General Council we have been considering the important need in view of the GC28 and of the Provincial Chapters to listen to young people.

The letter of the Rector Major convoking the GC28 and the outline of reflection and work on the theme published in the 427 Acts of the General Council indicate the “centrality” of all the young people “to whom we want to give an answer in the light of a charismatic vision that wants them at the centre of our Salesian vocation.”

Therefore in harmony with the process of the Church Synod on the young, the Rector Major and the General Council are asking each local community to find an opportunity for really listening to the young people in our educative pastoral communities, through some simple questions involving them in the Chapter process underway.

It is a matter of putting to the young people in as creative a way as possible as each Province and Salesian community will devise the same question proposed as the title of the GC28: “What kind of Salesians for the youth of today?”

If it is true, as the Rector Major writes that, “Don Bosco for us is not just a memory of the past, but a charismatic living presence, active and stretching out to the future” and that in looking at him “we reach a better understanding of ourselves and we find the true sense of what it means to belong to the Congregation” it is likewise true that our relationship with young people defines our identity and is the characteristic feature of our mission.

## Questions

Therefore in the name of the Rector Major and of the General Council I am asking each Salesian community to involve the young people by putting to them the following questions:

- 1) What would be your dream of the kind of Salesian you would want for young people of today and tomorrow ?
- 2) What do you see as missing in the Salesians of today to be like that?
- 3) What are your main needs for which you ask the help of the Salesians?
- 4) How can you play your part in working with the Salesians to help young people in your own situation?

To help with the work of each community and of the Province, these questions will be put on a specially prepared form and accompany this letter.

## Working method

- 1) Each local Salesian community will be made familiar with the contents of this letter and with the forms to be used in collecting the information.
- 2) Each local community will question as many young people as possible between 16 and 30 years of age in each educative pastoral community.
- 3) Each local community will draw up a summary of the replies, and completing the appropriate form send it to the Moderator of the Provincial Chapter.
- 4) The Moderator of the Provincial Chapter together with the Delegate for Youth Ministry will draw up a Province summary from the replies of the local Salesian communities.
- 5) The Moderator will send to those taking part in the Provincial Chapter the forms from each local Salesian community and

the Province summary so that the voices of young people may be taken into account during the Provincial Chapter.

- 6) The Moderator of the Provincial Chapter will send the Province summary of the voice of young people completing the document, **in digital form only by 31 May 2019** to Fr Saimy Ezhanikatt, the Secretary of the Moderator of the GC28: *segretarocg28@sdb.org*



## 2.2 THE SPECIFIC FORMATION OF THE SALESIAN BROTHER

### Reflections from the Seminar of 12-15 October 2017

Fr Ivo COELHO

*General Councillor for Formation*

A seminar on the specific formation of the Salesian Brother was held at Genzano, 12-15 October 2017. The participants were 20 Salesians from all the Regions, plus the 4 members of the Formation Department that organized the meeting. From the centres for the specific formation of Brothers there were the directors and one other team member, but also 3 young Salesian Brothers who made a special contribution to the seminar, all of them being past pupils of our centres for the specific formation of Salesian Brothers. Some of those invited were not able to participate for a variety of reasons, and so, unfortunately, we had no representatives from the Mediterranean and South Asia Regions.

The aim of the seminar was to evaluate the specific formation of Salesian Brothers and learn from the experience of the centres, both those actually functioning (CRESCO-Guatemala, Yaoundé-Camerun, Sandor-Paranaque), and those that have suspended activity (Torino-Valdocco, Shillong-India, Sunyani-Ghana).

The participants came prepared with (1) a comment on the revised portions of our *Ratio* regarding the Salesian Brother (cf. the 2016 online edition), (2) a comment on the evaluation of intellectual formation carried out by the Formation Department in 2012, and (3) an evaluation of the centre for the specific formation of Salesian Brothers with which they were associated.

Certain interesting points emerged from the work of the seminar:

- There are Provinces that do not see the need/usefulness of specific formation for Salesian Brothers.

- Our *Ratio* (2016) is appreciated for the clarity and solidity with which it presents the formation journey of the Salesian Brother, but we need to take into consideration the great variety of personal and regional situations.
- The two important factors in the experience of the centres for the specific formation of the Salesian Brother are the quality and preparation of formators, and the quality of the programme of studies.
- As far as the programme of studies is concerned, we maintain that theology is not merely a preparation for aspirants to the priesthood; it is, above all, a gift for thinking the faith and giving reason for the hope that is in us (1 Pet 3,15).
- It is not true to say that Salesian Brothers have always had difficulty with the programme of studies. The programme of the Institut de Théologie e de Pastorale pour les Religieux, Yaoundé is highly appreciated, as also the online catechetical course of Maryvale University that used to be part of the programme in Sunyani.
- The specific formation of the Salesian Brother should have a more practical orientation. It should aim at vocational growth and at the development of pastoral and educative capacities. In this sense, we need to give more attention to spiritual theology. The specific formation of Salesian Brothers could be re-thought as a prolonged experience of “spiritual exercises.”
- To ensure a good component of Salesian studies and of the theology of consecrated life, we need to prepare Salesians, not only Priests but also Brothers, for formation and for teaching. It is good, therefore, that some Salesian Brothers earn a bachelor’s degree in theology.
- Pastoral accompaniment – “learning by experience the meaning of the Salesian vocation” (C 98) – is important. If formators are well prepared for this, accompaniment and discernment (C 119) can become the heart of the method of formation.

## Conclusions

### *On the formation journey of the Salesian Brother:*

- 1) The Formation Department will evaluate the “formation sections” of the Provincial Directories on the topic of the Salesian Brother, to ensure a formation journey in keeping with the *Ratio* (2016).
- 2) The Formation Department will offer the Congregation criteria for discernment of the two forms of our vocation; it will offer a practical course in such discernment to novice masters and those in charge of prenovices.
- 3) The Provincials will dialogue with the Salesian Brothers already during the postnovitiate, to draw up with them a clear and personalized formation process, making sure that professional qualification is neither improvised nor too late, and that it be always in view of the needs of the Congregation and of the Province, as stated in the Provincial Organic Plan and in the Provincial Plan for the qualification of confreres.

### *On specific formation:*

- 4) The Formation Department and the Regional Councillors will maintain for each Province an annually updated list of Salesian Brothers due for specific formation.
- 5) The various centres for specific formation will offer formation modules for Salesian Brothers who have not been able to frequent the centre, and also for the ongoing formation of Salesian Brothers.
- 6) With a view to helping Salesian Brothers in the area of self-awareness, discernment and accompaniment, the Formation Department will offer formators, beginning with the formators in centres for the specific formation of Salesian Brothers, a course on the *experiential method* in formation.
- 7) The Formation Department will prepare and circulate materials in various languages for specific and ongoing formation (on

particular themes, history of Salesian Brothers, common tools to be used in the formation process), with the help of the Istituto Storico Salesiano (ISS) and the site created by Bro. Marco Bay: <http://www.coadiutoresalesiano.net/>

### **Decisions of the Rector Major and his council**

- 1) CRESCO – Guatemala and the Salesian Brothers' Formation House "Blessed Stephen Sándor Community – Parañaque will study and modify their academic programme in order to make it more suitable for the formation of consecrated laypersons, with emphases that are different from the theological preparation of aspirants for the priesthood. The programmes of Religious Studies Institutes, as for example those of the Instituto Superior de Ciencias Religiosas Don Bosco, Martí-Codolar - Barcelona, and the Institut de Théologie et de Pastorale pour les Religieux, Yaoundé, could become useful points of reference.
- 2) The specific formation of Salesian Brothers will include an experience of one or two weeks in the Salesian Places, possibly in preparation for perpetual profession.
- 3) The professional formation of Salesian Brothers needs to be ensured, keeping in mind the variety of contexts.
- 4) Every Region, through the Regional Formation Commission, will study the possibility of offering a differentiated course of postnovitiate studies, in accordance with the *Ratio* (2016 # 408): "The studies of the postnovitiate take into consideration the characteristics proper to the vocation of the Salesian brother. Because of the importance of philosophy in forming to religious life and preparing an educator of the young, the Salesian brother too studies it in the manner and to the extent that is appropriate to his specific vocation. His programme of studies also includes a training in pedagogy, elements of pastoral formation and catechetics, and a socio-political education that is based primarily on the social teaching of the Church and geared to preparing him for a specific educational activity in

the world. It is therefore necessary that at provincial or inter-provincial level *the brothers be offered 'a formation programme that is serious but also flexible and adapted to the nature of their various responsibilities as well as to their actual possibilities' (GC21 301).*"

- 5) A new formation centre, mainly for the Salesian Brothers of Europe, is being set up at Martí-Codolar, Barcelona, in accordance with the decision taken by the Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, in 2016. Thus, with CRESCO, Yaoundé and Sandor, we will have 4 centres for the specific formation of the Salesian Brother. At the moment, the confreres of the South Asia Region and the English-speaking confreres of the Africa-Madagascar Region have been asked to frequent the Sandor Community, Parañaque.

\* \* \*

*Enlightened by the person of Christ and by his Gospel, lived according to Don Bosco's spirit, the Salesian commits himself to a formation process which will last all his life and will keep pace with his maturing in other ways. He learns by experience the meaning of the Salesian vocation at the various moments of his life and accepts the ascetical demands it makes on him.*

*With the help of Mary, his Mother and Teacher, he gradually becomes a pastor and educator of the young in the lay or priestly state which he has embraced. (C 98)*

Just as formation embraces the whole of our life, so also the concern for our Salesian consecrated identity in its lay and priestly forms is a gift that reaches everyone and does good to all. Specific formation is not, therefore, a question for the 'experts,' or only for those who find themselves at that particular phase of Salesian life. It is a responsibility and a gift that regards each one of us, for the good of all the Salesians of Don Bosco in the world.

## 2.3 YOUTH MINISTRY AND FAMILY

Fr Fabio ATTARD

*General Councillor for Youth Ministry*

The present orientation is a summary of the contents of the International Congress “Youth Ministry and Family”, promoted by the Youth Ministry Department of the Salesians of Don Bosco and held in Madrid from 27<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017. It is the result of the combination of selected passages from the texts of the conferences offered to the participants by the speakers Archbishop Bruno Forte, Fabio Attard SDB, Dr. Carmen Peña and Rossano Sala SDB.

Part I, titled “Youth Ministry and Family in the Synodal Journey of the Church”, is taken from the following conferences:

- Archbishop Bruno Forte, The Family on the Synodal Journey of the Church: Perspectives and Opportunities.
- Dr. Carmen Peña, Ecclesiastical Reading: how does the Church accompany the family?

Part II, titled “Youth Ministry and Family in the Journey of the Salesian Congregation”, is instead taken from the following conferences:

- Fabio Attard SDB, Interpretation and Proposal on the current state of the Congregation.
- Rossano Sala SDB, Educative and Pastoral Interpretation: the family in the Salesian pastoral proposal.

The conclusions are drawn from the conference of Fabio Attard SDB.

## 1. Youth Ministry and Family in the Synodal journey of the Church

Family Ministry and Youth Ministry are important for the whole Church and particularly for the followers of Don Bosco. The International Congress on 'Youth Ministry and Family' was intended to outline the fundamental features of the Church's approach to the family that has been developing in recent years in order to draw "benefit" from it for the young and to "earn souls for God"; it also wished to indicate some priority lines for pastoral action, especially from a Salesian perspective.

The Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, among the challenges that demanded more care, indicated in the first place the family as "true foundation of society" (GS 47). This care to the family, was particularly vivid in the teaching of John Paul II, who dedicated the Apostolic Exhortation *Familiaris Consortio*<sup>1</sup> after the Synod of Bishops (1980) on "the Christian Family". Then, recently, one of the relevant events at the ecclesial level, has been the convocation of the Synod of the Family by Pope Francis, celebrated in two-sessions: (October 2014 and October 2015<sup>2</sup>). This convocation of the Synod opened what someone called the "Family Trienium"<sup>3</sup>, which was "concluded" with the publication

<sup>1</sup> JOHN PAUL II, *Familiaris consortio. Apostolic Exhortation on the role of the Christian family in the modern world*, 22 November 1981.

<sup>2</sup> Among the documents issued during this Synodal process - published on the Vatican website - the *Instrumentum Laboris* of the Extraordinary Assembly, of 26 June 2014, and *The pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization* are of particular interest; the *Relatio post disceptationem*, dated 13 October 2014 (11<sup>th</sup> Congregazione Generale); the *Relatio Synodi*, dated October 18, 2014; the *Instrumentum laboris* for the Ordinary Assembly on the vocation and mission of the family in the Church and in the contemporary world, of 23 June 2015, resulting from the integration of the answers given to the questionnaire attached to the *Relatio Synodi* of 2014; and, lastly, the Final Report of the Synod of Bishops of October 24, 2015. There is a profound connection and progression in the work of both Synod assemblies, despite the fact that the comparison with the subsequent documents shows that some themes while still relevant, have been neglected in the second part of the work.

<sup>3</sup> F. VIDAL, *El valor de la familia en la sociedad de los cuidados*, Lección inaugural del curso 2016-17 de la Universidad Pontificia Comillas, Madrid 2016, 6-9.

of Pope Francis' Apostolic Exhortation, *Amoris Laetitia* (AL) on March 19, 2016. After having listened to the Synod Fathers, the Pope set out the most adequate magisterial principles and pastoral guidelines to respond to the challenges and the needs that the families are facing in the present context.

After reading the reality and the challenges of the family today, *Amoris Laetitia* presents the vocation of the family in the light of the Gospel message. We can therefore speak of a "gospel of the family" to be proclaimed. This good news, according to the faith and the experience of the Church, embraces four key aspects which should always be present and be proposed as a unity. The family is the school of humanity, of social life, of the life of the Church and of holiness. The family is first of all a *school of humanity*, that is, a school of love for the life and growth of the person<sup>4</sup>. Because it is a unique school of love, the family is also a school of *social life*. It enables a person to grow in his or her capacity of socialization and of constructing the society. Similarly, the family becomes *the womb of ecclesial life*, where the members learn to live in communion with the Church. The family is also called to be a *school of faith and holiness* in which the path of holiness of spouses and children is lived and nourished.

Welcoming, accompanying and discerning in view of the appropriate integration of each one in the life of the ecclesial community is the pastoral choice that the Exhortation proposes for the whole Church. Rather than offering a new general canonical norm – which would be impossible in the face of diverse and complex situations – Pope Francis encourages a responsible personal and pastoral discernment of special cases inspired by mercy. With creativity and evangelical and ecclesial audacity, an action plan has to be developed to enact and implement synodal suggestions in our real pastoral care. This is a significant challenge, in this post-synodal period, while we wait for the next Synod of the Young in 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. *Gaudium et Spes*, 52: "The family is a kind of school of deeper humanity".



Indeed, 'family' is a relevant dimension and a challenge in the field of youth ministry from a two-fold perspective: on the one hand, because in working with young people one cannot neglect the context and environment where they live, the family is a fundamental integrating part of this context. On the other, where it takes on more of the "challenge" aspect, because the families of the next decades will be made up by today's young people and children, whose human, affective and spiritual formation will significantly influence the solidity of their future.

In the light of this, we understand the centrality of the family in the life of the Church, and thus also in the apostolic service of the Salesian family. This centrality has two aspects: Firstly, the family is a privileged agent in the transmission of faith, and therefore in the education of children and young people to Christian life and in the help to be offered to them in vocational discernment. Secondly, the family has a prior place in the pastoral care of the Church and of the followers of Don Bosco.

## **2. Youth Ministry and Family in the journey of the Salesian Congregation**

That the family is at the heart of our Salesian mission is stated clearly and with simplicity within our *Constitutions and Regulations* of the Society of Saint Francis di Sales<sup>5</sup>. In the light of the journey of the Second Vatican Council, the Special General Chapter (1972) laid the foundations for a Salesian pastoral vision in this area. Already in the SGC we reached the understanding that "the family is not only the object but the subject of pastoral action". The SGC also pointed out the concrete steps, asking the educative-pastoral community to think of a planning journey to make this conviction operative, on the accompaniment of married couples and on the proposal of family spirituality groups where

<sup>5</sup> Constitutions, Art. 47; Regulations, Art. 5.

the lived spirituality becomes courage and dynamism to assume a pastoral commitment.

For various reasons, the perspectives and the directions generated by the SGC did not arouse similar reflections in the following General Chapters, which were called to discuss other topics<sup>6</sup>. On the other hand, the GC 26 offered a platform capable of generating two positive processes, also on the explicit invitation of Pope Benedict XVI to the Chapter itself. The first was to reinforce the theme of the family not only as a closed proposal within our walls, but as an ecclesial journey. The second, instead, was to accompany and promote the theme of the family as a subject in the educative-pastoral community through reflections and concrete proposals in many Salesian Provinces. Thanks to the convocation of the two Synods of the Bishops on the family, finally, the GC 27 insisted on the involvement of the family in Salesian ministry and formation in this area. This presentation of the journey of the Congregation must obviously be completed with a reference to the three letters written by the Rector Majors on the theme of the Family<sup>7</sup>.

Notwithstanding the challenges and opportunities that exist in the various contexts in which the Salesian Congregation is present, with great satisfaction we see today, pastoral journeys in various Provinces that are taking seriously the call in favour of the family within Salesian Youth Ministry and the Educative-Pastoral Communities.

<sup>6</sup> In the *General Chapters 21, 22, 23, 24 and 25*, it was very much focused on the theme of education and evangelization, the renewal of the Constitutions, the education of young people to the faith, Salesians and lay people, communion and sharing in the spirit and mission of Don Bosco, and the Salesian community today.

<sup>7</sup> Don Egidio VIGANÒ, *In the Year of the Family*, AGC n. 349 (1994); don Pascual Chávez, *'And Jesus increased in wisdom and in year and in favour with God and man'* (Lk 2,52), AGC 392 (2006); don Angel Fernandez Artime, *"We Are Family": Every home, a school of Life and Love*, AGC 424 (2017).

## 2.1. The Salesian Youth Ministry for the Family

As Salesians, we do not want a “Family Ministry” that is separate from “Youth Ministry”. As a follow up to this international congress, we are not asking every Province in the Congregation to create a new department dedicated to family ministry that runs parallel to, or worse yet, in competition with, Youth Ministry. What we want is, family spirit to be the hallmark of our works, vocational attentiveness to be directed to all young people, deliberate attention to be dedicated to the fragility of family life today, and finally, that these three aspects be present transversally in all of the ways we implement our educative and pastoral processes. Thus we see how the family can be the indirect or direct object of our pastoral care.

### 2.1.1. The Educative and Pastoral Community: realization of the ‘Family Spirit’

*We want to minister to families first of all by presenting ourselves as a model of family and by making it obvious that we live and work together as a family in our educative and pastoral works. As a large family dedicated to the education and evangelization of youth in a particular territory, the EPC is the embodiment today of that family spirit that was so characteristic at the birth of our charism.<sup>8</sup> In summary, the EPC is our way of being Church and of living a concrete experience of the Salesian charism: to be and to live as one large family where sharing, communion, and co-responsibility express our passion for the education and evangelization of the younger generations. The decisive factor which brought us to this point is “the new season which the Church is experiencing. There is a keen awareness of the Church as being in communion with God and with all people; this communion is the *primary means for bringing about the salvation of humankind*”.<sup>9</sup>*

<sup>8</sup> YOUTH MINISTRY DEPARTMENT, *Salesian Youth Ministry, Frame of Reference*, Rome, 2014, 118.

<sup>9</sup> ACTS OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL 363 (1998), I.3.

If the EPC is the body which unites all those who bring the Salesian reality to life, it is imperative to define, so to speak, the family nucleus which animates this huge family. We speak of the “animating nucleus”, that is, of a small group of people who are tasked with the responsibility of gathering, motivating and involving all the members of the EPC.<sup>10</sup> What flows from all this is a pastoral journey that clearly assumes communion among EPC members as the foundation for the mission, and builds everything around the hub of “the prophecy of fraternity” which remains the true vehicle for education and evangelization.

### **2.1.2. “Youth vocation ministry”: family ministry from a preventive perspective**

*We collaborate primarily in family ministry, through the charismatic Salesian approach, offering youth ministry in a way that is sound, coherent, and farsighted.* We are convinced that good Youth Ministry will contribute to the formation of young people who are strong, who stand in solidarity with others, and who are capable of love. Our goal is to lay the necessary foundations for future families that are solid, faithful, and happy. *The Preparatory Document* for the upcoming Synod speaks in many instances of “youth vocation ministry” and asserts that vocational discernment is an appropriate task for the specific age of youth<sup>11</sup>. Therefore, what the Church expects of us is youth ministry that is *conducive to vocational discernment* and that expands the scope of vocation animation to embrace the vocation of family life as well.

This ministerial vision proceeds from the foundational conviction that marriage (like all the other Christian vocations) is an authentic and unique vocation in the Church, and as such it has something particular and unique to offer with regard to the other

<sup>10</sup> *Salesian Youth Ministry, Frame of Reference*, 125-126.

<sup>11</sup> Cfr. SALA R., *Pastorale giovanile vocazionale. L'invito sinodale a qualificare vocationalmente il nostro impegno educativo-pastorale* in «Note di pastorale giovanile» 3 (2017) 2-4.

vocational calls in the Church<sup>12</sup>. In recent years, one of the Church's strongest messages has been the rediscovered appreciation of marriage as an authentic vocation that brings a unique value to and enriches the other states of Christian life. There is no turning back from this conviction. In the prolonged discussions on the vocation of marriage at the last two Synods on the Family, much was said about preparation for marriage – remote preparation, proximate preparation and immediate preparation<sup>13</sup>. In fact, the connection between these three moments (remote, proximate and immediate) provides the point of intersection, so to speak, of *three distinct but necessary and related areas of pastoral care*: family ministry, youth ministry and vocational ministry. Too often, however, we treat these like three separate fields of ministry, whereas in reality they are grafted onto each other; they are either mutually reinforcing or mutually disempowering, growing or diminishing in direct proportion one to the other. Work done well in one area is the best guarantee of success in the other two as well. *Marriage preparation* is an area in which many aspects must be brought together in synergy. It includes both vocation ministry – the scope of which must be broader than simply promoting the consecrated vocations – and youth ministry – which cannot be limited to gathering large group of youths without providing adequate attention to the specific vocational decision that each young person must make as they mature out of our pastoral itineraries.

What emerges as fundamental and non-negotiable is the recognition that any pastoral “reboot” must have a strong connection with the family, both as *its point of departure and as its goal*. As its point of departure, because youth ministry deals not only with youth in the strict sense, but also with infants, children and adolescents. When dealing with infants and children, the primary, if not absolute protagonist is their family and others who are in primary relationships with the youngster. With adolescence begins

<sup>12</sup> FRANCIS, *Amoris laetitia*, n. 72.211

<sup>13</sup> SYNOD ON THE FAMILY, *Final report approved by the Synod Fathers*, n. 57.

the period of rebellion and breaking away from family life. The family, therefore, must also be a goal of youth ministry because those who complete the rite of passage from youth to adulthood are generally called to live their Christian vocation by establishing a family of their own. Therefore, it stands to reason that one of the fundamental objectives of youth ministry must be to prepare young people to embrace adult responsibilities, with family responsibilities holding pride of place. This is why the question of vocation animation is so pertinent to our reflection.

### **2.1.3. Salesian pastoral care of the family: a sign of the times**

From the perspective of the Salesian charism, it is necessary to keep a specific focus on the family because our young people, in addition to managing many types of poverty (material, cultural, moral, spiritual), are also living serious forms of “family poverty”. The configuration of family models is changing and with this change, it must also follow a change in the way we communicate our pastoral proposals. Thanks to the indications of Benedict XVI,<sup>14</sup> in the final document of the 26th General Chapter, among the new frontiers, the family was indicated as one of the privileged areas of commitment<sup>15</sup>. One of the distinguishing aspects of our charism is its missionary dimension: we are called to greater awareness that “nowadays, pastoral care of families has to be fundamentally missionary, going out to where people are. We can no longer be like a factory, churning out courses that for the most part are poorly attended”<sup>16</sup>. For us, “going out to where people are” means meeting families in their real life situations, seeking to accompany them with patience and prudence along the many twists and turns, ups and downs of their journey, being an intelligent and

<sup>14</sup> BENEDICT XVI, *Discourse of His Holiness Benedict XVI to the participants of the General Chapter of the Society of Salesians of Don Bosco (Salesians)* 31 March, 2008

<sup>15</sup> Even if on the family the first part of n. 99 (call of God) and of n. 122 (situation) offered more a direction of journey than of concrete proposals.

<sup>16</sup> FRANCIS, *Amoris laetitia*, n. 230.

wise presence in key moments of discernment and assuring them of our accompaniment especially in their struggles and sorrows.

## **2.2. The family is co-responsible for the salesian mission**

The Church's Post-Conciliar journey emphasises Christian baptism as the point of access to all missionary and evangelizing initiatives. Consequently, the family, as the founding nucleus and authentic expression of the Church, must be intentionally included in this logic, as an active and enthusiastic subject in the process of spreading the Good News. It stands to reason, therefore, that within the Salesian charism the family holds pride of place as a *subject* of the educative and evangelizing mission to the younger generations.

### **2.2.1. What is proper to the family?**

The first unique characteristic of the family is its *vocation to love*. Chapter four of the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* states that the family has the specific task of demonstrating what love is and how it can be lived in everyday life. The choice of using St. Paul's hymn to love from 1 Cor 13—which Don Bosco always used to express the essence of his educative system!—as a rich expression of what love is in concrete terms. Added to the canticle are the attitudes which people who love need to nurture daily. It is requesting our Heavenly Father not only for our daily bread, but also our daily love. If we are to understand the gospel of the family, we must take time to speak of love<sup>17</sup>.

The second characteristic of the family is its *vocation to generativity*. Love is always and absolutely fertile and generative<sup>18</sup>: the very biological configuration of man and woman declares that the default position for humans is to be life-giving. No other vocation in the Church is generative in the way a family is. Other forms of

<sup>17</sup> *Ivi*, n. 89.

<sup>18</sup> *Ivi*, n. 165.

generativity, such as spiritual paternity or maternity, find in the family their privileged reference point. In Mary we see the perfect embodiment of this unity: in her, conceiving in faith and conceiving in the flesh, is one and the same.

The third unique aspect of the family is its *educative vocation*. This is the topic of chapter seven of AL which affirms that the family is the privileged and primary educator of children. Neither the Church nor the state nor the school is the primary locus of education. The family is. While the family can rightly seek the assistance of ecclesial and civic partners in fulfilling this responsibility, it cannot delegate this task because “the family is the first school of human values, where we learn the wise use of freedom”<sup>19</sup>. The Exhortation’s goal in terms of education is to motivate parents to set aside the logic of “delegating” or “consigning” the education of their children to “educative agencies”, and to reclaim their educative responsibility with due consideration of their family dynamics<sup>20</sup>.

### **2.2.2. What type of contributions? Some privileged possibilities**

In a nutshell, what we need to do is to weave together in a wise and prudent way the four pillars of the Salesian charism which are summarized in the oratorian criteria – a home that welcomes, a parish that evangelizes, a school that educates for life, and a playground for meeting friends<sup>21</sup> – with the three dimensions that are proper to the family – love, generativity and education. One can imagine the vast array of possibilities this could open up for us. Among all the possible options we could explore in this regard, we suggest three privileged areas of attention: affective education within youth groups and ministry groups; the presence of families as animators of other families and of educators, especially within a parish setting; the involvement of families together with conse-

<sup>19</sup> *Ivi*, n. 274.

<sup>20</sup> *Ivi*, n. 84.

<sup>21</sup> Cfr. *Salesian Youth Ministry, Frame of Reference*, 134-139.



crated men and women in moments of local and provincial vocational animation.

With respect to the *first area*, we stress *the strategic contribution families could make when it comes to educating to love*: affectivity, love and mutual self-giving. It is not difficult to see how the many transitions that characterize family life as a journey, which demands more and more self-giving, can become an educative dynamic for adolescents and youths<sup>22</sup>. It is good to emphasize, in the context of the family's specific duty, the presence and the necessity of families that welcome boys and girls, adolescents and youth. There are families that share in the Salesian mission by welcoming young people into their homes: through adoption, short or long-term foster plans, various forms of responsibility with Salesian works that take care of youth without families, as, for example, in group homes.

With regard to *the second area*, it deals with couples committed to the spiritual animation of groups of families. We underline the necessary *liberation of family ministry from clerical control* which, as we all know, is always a two-edged sword: "clericalism" is always the fruit of those who want to stay on the front line (priests or religious), and those who are content to stay in the back-ground and be passive recipients (lay people and families). In short, what is needed are *families who are committed to families*. For this reason, it is necessary that we step up our game, as couples, as Salesian Provinces, as local Salesians: to create formative programmes to empower lay leaders for family ministry; to have couples as well as single people as educators; to encourage the growth of family groups that are responsible for their own formation in the Word and in Salesian spirituality so they can become animating nuclei of other families.

Finally, some thoughts on the *third area* which deals with *vocational discernment*. This area is connected to the experience of

<sup>22</sup> FRANCIS, *Amoris laetitia*, n. 220

Salesian spirituality at the local and provincial levels, where it is important to show that youth ministry is entirely directed towards helping the young to make vocational choices. Think about how beautiful and close the ties are between family, consecrated men and women, and ordained ministers when a young person is working through a demanding vocational discernment: the coexistence of virginity for the kingdom and human fertility manifests the diverse forms of love that, far from being in competition with each other, share an authentic, albeit different type of fertility, that is both physical and spiritual.

This brings us to two problems that must be addressed. The first is thinking about Youth Ministry as a service that has no end, that is, without a clear and intentional vocational focus. But if it is important that youth ministry, a task inspired by the charism, has a beginning, it is even more important that it has an end. Our pastoral efforts are intended to form adults in life and in the faith. This is why we help the young to entrust themselves to people who have attained a certain level of vocational maturity in one of the various states of Christian life. The second problem deals with a style of vocational animation that is limited only to the so called "vocations of special consecration", that is, religious life and the priesthood. No doubt these vocations have unique aspects to be carefully explored, but rather than do so in an exclusive or excluding way, it is best done within an inclusive and integrated vocational dynamic<sup>23</sup>.

### **2.2.3. What kind of formation? Formative itineraries for the Salesian mission**

All that is said, to be realized, demand innovative processes of formation for each and every one. Formation applies not only to families, but also to every consecrated and ordained Salesian. What we need in the first place is to implement a genuine renew-

---

<sup>23</sup> Cfr. SYNOD OF BISHOPS - XV ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY, *The Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment. Preparatory document and questionnaire*, II, 2.

al for all of us, a genuine conversion which calls us to *assimilate the style of communion, the dynamics of sharing, and the art of co-responsibility*. Today, it is of paramount importance that we live a *spirituality of communion and the prophecy of fraternity*: consecrated women and men, families and young people united by genuine apostolic co-responsibility. What needs to emerge is a specifically *relational style*. When I say “style” I mean something very specific: the concrete manner in which our strengths and our structures – personal, community and institutional – weave together to create a living unity, giving life to a truly functioning ecosystem<sup>24</sup>. Working together co-responsibly will demand critical pastoral conversion: from “doing for the young” to “doing with the young”; from running “disconnected events” to leading “a ministry lived in everyday life”; from “large group gatherings” to “responsible individual accompaniment”; from “we’ve always done it like this” to “thinking together according to Gospel values”; from “co-responsibility in doing” to “co-responsibility in planning”; from simply “accepting” lay people and families to “valuing” their presence and contribution.

No doubt, there is a great need for formation in our *educational method*, the preventive system. Characterized by reason, religion and kindness, the preventive system remains our compass for living a spiritual and educative experience in all of our presences<sup>25</sup>. We recall the great pillars of *Salesian youth spirituality*<sup>26</sup>. What we need is specific formation that gives adequate attention to our particular mission, Youth Ministry, in each of its five key components: human development, explicit proclamation of the gospel, moral formation of conscience, co-responsibility for the mission and vocational accompaniment. All the five dimensions must be deepened through solid proposals within a systematically

<sup>24</sup> See General Chapter 24, n. 91-93. Regarding personal skills and attitudes to cultivate, see also GC 24, n. 103.

<sup>25</sup> Cfr. *Salesian Youth Ministry, Frame of Reference*, 83-111.

<sup>26</sup> GENERAL CHAPTER 23, n. 161. Cfr. *Salesian Youth Ministry, Frame of Reference*, 101-107.

developed project<sup>27</sup>. Finally, we need a specific formation plan for *family ministry*: formation for marriage preparation of the young, for accompaniment of newly married couples and for groups of families, for support to couples in difficult situations.

## Conclusions

Finally, at this historic moment, the urgency of making intelligent and creative pastoral choices by those responsible for the government and animation at all levels is increasingly evident. The processes that really leave an imprint on a Province are the result of a serious reflection, based on prayer, enlightened by the charism of Don Bosco, and shared with all the members of the Provincial EPC. Here it is not just a sociological reading and proposal, however indispensable all that is. Here it is not about offering experiences that can sell. Here it is about listening to the cry of young people, a hidden but deep cry. Here we have to read carefully and seriously and honestly contemplate the social, cultural and spiritual implications of our young people's lives: the lost hope, the lack of trust, the absence of horizons.

In the light of these challenges, the family is not another resource, but an indispensable protagonist: that needs accompaniment, that is seeking support, but that also has a unique, unrepeatable, indispensable vocation. The government has the call to "recognize", "interpret", and "choose" those ways the Lord is providentially pointing to us. All of us have to take Jesus' words seriously: Get up and walk!

<sup>27</sup> Cfr. SALA R. (con A. Bozzolo, R. Carelli e P. Zini - Prefazione di G. Mari e postfazione di S. Currò), *Pastorale giovanile 1. Evangelizzazione ed educazione dei giovani. Un percorso teorico-pratico*, LAS, Roma 2017, 333-398.

## 2.4 EXTRAORDINARY MISSIONARY MONTH OF OCTOBER 2019

### Suggestions for a fruitful celebration of the Extraordinary Missionary Month

Fr Guillermo BASAÑES  
*Councillor General for the Missions*

In the letter of Pope Francis to Cardinal Filoni, Prefect for the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, which recalls the 100th anniversary of the publication of the Apostolic Letter “*Maximum Illud*” by Pope Benedict XV concerning the activities carried out by missionaries in the world, *two objectives* are indicated for the **Extraordinary Missionary Month of October 2019**:

- “to further awaken awareness of the *missio ad gentes*; that all the faithful truly care about the proclamation of the Gospel;
- to resume with renewed enthusiasm the missionary transformation of life and pastoral care; the conversion of communities into missionary and evangelizing realities”

To this end it also asks Institutes of consecrated life to raise awareness. First of all, study and reflection are needed, and on this occasion they have a very precise and precious jubilee content: the **Apostolic Letter *Maximum Illud* of Pope Benedict XV** of 30 November 1919. Reading and meditating on it and sharing in fraternal community discernment, with a living missionary sense of responsibility in our very different contexts, we can start by simply asking ourselves some questions about certain charismatic resonances that this Letter evokes or awakens in us.

Here then are some suggestions that can draw the attention of the confreres and the communities to this precious source and inspire or arouse within the Salesian educational communities some audacious and fruitful Salesian missionary programmes.

- 1) The Letter of Pope Benedict XV was written at the conclusion of the First World War, a period no less dramatic than the one we

are experiencing today, which Pope Francis refers to as “*a third world war in pieces*”. The memory of the “*fury of persecutions*” of the first centuries of Christianity also makes us look with realism and responsibility at this hour marked by clear signs of opposition and non-acceptance of the light of the Gospel.

- 2) Apart from the inevitable **vocabulary** of the time (“*infidel*”, “*sacred Missions*”, “*Christianizing*”, etc.), a vocabulary that is very frequent in the sources of Don Bosco and the first decades of the Salesian Congregation, we are called to **grasp the spirit** that inspired Pope Benedict XV to make this missionary appeal. The meaning is clear: “to kindle”, means to rekindle the momentum and the missionary commitment, and also, to indicate journeys, programmes, “ways” to fulfil this commitment. We can summarize it with the words “**fire**” and “**journey**”: rekindle the missionary fire, do not let it go out, and try, risk new ways. “Fire” and “journey” are at the heart of the evangelical icon chosen by GC23 in 1990: “Educating young people to the faith”: “*Did not our hearts burn within as he talked to us on the road?*” (Lk 24, 32). In this sense “*propaganda fidei*”, the “*propagation of the faith throughout the world*”, should be understood as a living expression of the sentiments and of the project of Jesus himself: “*I have come to bring fire to the earth; and how I wish it were blazing already!*” (Lk 12, 49); “*But when the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth?*” (Lk 18, 8).
- 3) This Christocentric character of *Maximum Illud* reminds us clearly and forcefully of a key article of our Constitutions, **article 11**: “*the Salesian spirit finds its model and source in the very heart of Christ, apostle of the Father*”. We are reminded in particular of two aspects of the figure of the Lord - perhaps among the most missionary aspects - which we become aware of in reading the Gospel: “*zeal in preaching, healing and saving because of the urgency of the coming of the Kingdom and the desire to gather his disciples into the unity of brotherly communion*”. It is indeed very encouraging to go through the whole Letter of Pope Benedict XV under the gaze of our founding article.

- 4) There is a clear emphasis on the missionary activity of **religious congregations**, in particular of the Franciscans, Dominicans and Jesuits, during these centuries of the modern history of the Church and of evangelization. This reminds us of our current historical responsibility, as the Society of St. Francis de Sales. Our Society has been fully missionary since its foundation and is called to youth missionary involvement now in the third millennium.
- 5) The uninterrupted Sending of Missionary Expeditions from Valdocco by Don Bosco himself and his Successors, (149 Expeditions, over 11,000 SDB sent), is a clear indication and a sign of our incessant and generous missionary commitment. In recent years this has been written clearly on the back of the new missionary crucifix, in use since 2016, where it says: "*Euntes ergo docete omnes gentes baptizantes eos in nomine Patris et Filii et Spiritus Sancti (Mt 28, 19) /missionary expedition/ Basilica of Mary Help of Christians*". It is not by chance that *Maximum Illud* opens with the same formula of missionary commissioning, but taken from the Gospel of Mark (16, 15).
- 6) The frequent references to the person of those who "*preside over the sacred Missions*", lead us to an interesting and direct link in the Congregation between the **service of authority** and **missionary animation**. In our Constitutions the care and animation of both religious and apostolic-missionary life are constantly connected to the office of the Superior (see C 161 and 176). Provincials and Rectors, being those who preside over the mission at provincial and local level, direct the processes of re-dimensioning within their territories that must be in harmony with the development of the spirit and of the missionary commitment (see C 138). At this point the awareness emerges that it is a collective "presidency", where the Superior works in communion with his Council. In this context, the figure and ministry of the Provincial Delegate for Missionary Animation (DIAM) should stand out, as the first collaborator of the Superior in his function of "*presiding over the sacred*

*Missions*", as "*the missionary sentinel of each Province*" "(PDMA Manual, Rome 2017).

- 7) In *Maximum Illud* we find a clear reference to the urgency of **forming "the missionary"**, that is, giving adequate formation to every agent of evangelization. References to the "deformations" of this figure are very explicit ("*avarice*", "*pursuit of wealth*") even if it does not use expressions that are more common today such as nationalism, colonialism, mission as merely material and social development, the missionary as a manager or even a businessman, etc. In this context, "detachment", catholicity, education and, above all, spirituality and holiness of life of the missionary are strongly highlighted: "*homo Dei sit oportet, qui Deum praedicat*" – *the one who preaches God should be a man of God* who "burns with charity". The Salesian Congregation continues to grow in awareness of the need for a structured commitment to the "Missionary Formation of the Salesians of Don Bosco" (Rome 2013). This should continue to be a priority and a major commitment among the sons of Don Bosco. The qualification of confreres in missiology as well as in the sciences in general that make direct reference to our commitment to evangelization *ad gentes*, is an area that we should develop much more in the Congregation.
- 8) The missionary is **a man of communion** and a builder of community life. He is a leader in the apostolic discernment of the communities, and not a charismatic adventurer or individualist. The long Pauline quotation that Pope Benedict XV includes in his Letter (Col 3, 12: "be clothed in heartfelt compassion ...") is very eloquent. The same quotation is found in art. 51 of our Constitutions, rightly reminding us that "*we share our apostolic plans and experiences*" in an atmosphere of brotherly friendship. This essential Community profile of the "missionary" also evokes our "missionary" co-responsibility in obedience, when we reread article 66 of our Constitutions from this point of view: "*in matters of importance we seek*



*the will of the Lord together in patient brotherly dialogue, with a deep awareness of shared responsibility*". And this is not only something "important", but it is a "*maximum illud*", that is, a "great and sublime mission", according to the opening words of the Apostolic Letter.

- 9) One of the most original and incisive themes of this Pontifical Letter is undoubtedly its prophetic and enlightened insistence on the promotion of "indigenous clergy". Today in our environments and in our shared vision we speak of missionary animation and vocational animation. It is very significant that not a few of the newer Regions and Provinces of the Congregation are today a source of missionary vocations *ad gentes*. This is very rooted in our Salesian way of being missionaries, where "*missionary activity (...) mobilizes all the educational and pastoral commitments proper to our charism*" (C 30), and among these, vocation animation which is "*the crown of all our educative and pastoral action*" (C.37). Blessed Ceferino Namuncurá, a mature fruit of the first great missionary project of the Society of St. Francis de Sales, is a very eloquent icon of this vocational aspect of all our Salesian missionary praxis.
- 10) Pope Benedict XV makes a heartfelt appeal for missionary availability when he says: "*stimulate the vocation to the Missions among the clergy and the students of the diocesan seminary*". In recent years the Successor of Don Bosco has also made **a missionary appeal** addressed to the whole Congregation every year on 8 December, Solemnity of Mary Immaculate. In this sense, the Salesian missionary commissioning is not only done "by Mary Help of Christians" at Valdocco, but also "by Mary Immaculate": "*Mary Immaculate. Help of Christians, leads us to the fullness of our offering to the Lord and gives us courage for the service of our brethren*" (C 92). It is highly significant that in the copy of the Constitutions of Fr Declan Collins, a missionary confrere killed in South Africa, † 16.01.2002, the only sentence highlighted by himself in the entire text is precisely this article 92.

*This **promotion of missionary vocations** “ad gentes, ad exteros, ad vitam” is presented in *Maximum Illud* with two very interesting details: do it with zeal (“as soon as someone gives evidence of a vocation to the Missions”) and send your best (“we make a fervent appeal to the Superiors of Orders and of religious Institutes which are dedicated to the Foreign Missions, asking them to give only the best of their students.”) Almost identical words were spoken to us by Pope Francis during GC27, in a friendly talk about apostolic work with poor young people: “the best must be sent! The best!”.*

Finally, this availability is not just for those going on mission for the first time, but it is a call for a permanent availability; it is addressed to missionaries who are ready to set out again after years of life and work in a particular place: “let these veteran soldiers of Christ move to snatch another people from the hands of the devil and leave to others, without regret, the task of developing and improving what they have started for Christ”. In the wise words of our father Don Bosco: “My dear boys, cabbages grow bigger and better when they are transplanted, (MB II, chapter 32).

- 11) Referring to missionary territories entrusted to specific Orders, Pope Benedict XV invites us to be open to cooperating with other Orders. We can also open up to working with other members of the **Salesian Family** and in particular its **lay branches**. We SDBs often find ourselves unable to embrace new missionary challenges especially because of a lack of personnel. But even in these circumstances we often fail to think about the availability of other groups of the Salesian Family, consecrated and lay, who could be present, while we become facilitators of the fruitful missionary expansion of many groups of our Family. When we fail to do so, we deprive many young people of access to Don Bosco. They are waiting for it, but it does not have to be through the presence of SDBs. In this sense we will have to call to mind more often our “*particular responsibility*” towards the Salesian Family, also in terms of “*greater apostolic effectiveness*” (C 5).

- 12) Pope Benedict XV makes an incisive appeal for a greater awareness and an effective **prayer for the missions** and for missionaries: *“all Christians must pray to support missionaries of the Gospel, while they sweat in the vineyard of the Lord”, “to participate with the heart in their holy apostolic labours”*. The Congregation is in a process of growing involvement at this level through various initiatives: the implementation – gradual and at different speeds – of what is indicated in “SDB Missionary Formation” (Rome, 2013); the missionary prayer intentions of each month; the regular letters from the Councillor for the Missions sent on the occasion of the annual missionary remembrance every 11 November, to the sick and elderly confreres who, for a variety of reasons, are far from the daily field of the mission, inviting them to an active missionary prayer role.
- 13) Finally, *Maximum Illud* has a clear reference to **material solidarity** in the missionary field with a very pressing statement: *“we trust that Catholics of the whole world will not allow that we have to struggle with poverty in spreading the truth while others have powerful means to spread error.”* With a variety of initiatives and policies of missionary animation and fund raising, in recent decades our Salesian Missions Offices – the “major” ones under the direct guidance of the Rector Major and the smaller ones scattered in many Salesian Provinces of the world (see R24) – have developed very efficient methods of promoting effective “globalization of solidarity” that are creative and adapted to the times. The central challenge is always to make of all this gigantic and generous commitment of solidarity a clear and direct contribution to the missionary action of the Church and of the Congregation, and therefore to the spread of the Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

These Salesian ideas for reflection could and should be implemented in concrete steps, especially at the level of local communities. In fact, as Pope Francis says in the letter cited above, addressed to the Prefect for the Evangelization of Peoples, this Extraordinary Missionary Month is an *“occasion of intense and*

*fruitful grace to promote initiatives and intensify in a particular way:*

- prayer as the soul of every mission
- the proclamation of the Gospel
- biblical and theological reflection on the mission
- works of Christian charity
- concrete actions of collaboration and solidarity among the Churches”.

## 4. ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

---

### 4.1 Chronicle of the Rector Major

*Below are some of the main activities of the Rector Major in the Semester from January to June 2018.*

#### – **January 2018**

The Rector Major begins the year 2018 at home with his family in his native Spain. Returning to Rome after the feast of the Epiphany, he resumes work with his Council in the second part of the winter session. During this time, the office work also continues, with numerous visits and meetings. He receives several recently appointed Provincials: Marko Košnik, SLO; Jefferson Da Silva Santos, BMA; Januarius Sangma, ING; Paul Olphindro, INS, and Tihomir Šutalo, CRO. He also receives several groups or confreres of UPS, including the Working Commission set up for a proposal of management organization; in UPS Vice-Province he offers a thought of “Good Night”. Then on the 25<sup>th</sup> he gives the “Good Night” to the community of the Headquarters, at the conclusion of the winter session of the Council. Among the visits and meetings in January, we should re-

member the meeting with a group of confreres from the Far East on January 9<sup>th</sup>; he also received the Board of Directors of IUS (Salesian Higher Institutions), as well as the Ambassador of Panama to the Holy See, Her Excellency Miroslava Rosas, in relation to WYD that will take place in Panama.

Other special animation activities should also be mentioned.

On the 13<sup>th</sup>, accompanied by his secretary, he met the FMA novices of the two novitiates in Rome; the day before he had shared the Eucharist with a group of FMAs in a meeting of the European Provinces.

Between 19<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> he participated in the *Salesian Family Days* held in Turin-Valdocco with great success, both for the organization and for the location, and especially for the large participation of the various members of the Salesian Family, among whom many superiors/moderators or major moderators of SF groups.

On the 28<sup>th</sup>, accompanied by his secretary, he left for East Timor to visit the *ITM Vice-Province* (this was the acronym at the time; today they are two Vice-Provinces: TLS and INA), going to East Timor and

Indonesia, always accompanied also by the Regional Councillor Fr. Václav Klement. He remains in this Vice-Province until February 8<sup>th</sup>, when he returns to Rome.

In East Timor he met the Salesian confreres, the youth, the Salesian Family and many people from the presences of this country. On January 31<sup>st</sup>, at Dili (Parish of Mary Help of Christians), the Rector Major presided over the Feast of Don Bosco with great solemnity, with the presence of about five thousand faithful, among whom the President of the Republic of East Timor, Francisco Guterres, civil and military authorities, members of the Salesian Family and simple faithful.

### **– February 2018**

February 1<sup>st</sup> was a day characterized in particular by meetings with groups of the Salesian Family, with great participation. In the morning he met more than 500 Past Pupils in Dili. He then left for Fatumaca where, after a meeting with the novices and pre-novices, he found a large number of faithful who had come from all over the island to celebrate Our Lady. The majority of them were of the Salesian Family and among them especially the members of the Association of Mary Help of Christians (ADMA). They all lived together a true pop-

ular holiday, of faith and devotion to Mary Help of Christians. The moment of Fr. Ángel's meeting with the relatives of the Salesian missionaries who are elsewhere was also significant. The Rector Major also found some time, on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, to visit the works of Venilale and Baucau.

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, the Rector Major met a large number of Salesian Cooperators, and later the rectors of the various Salesian presences.

On Monday 5<sup>th</sup>, after the meeting with the Council of the Vice-Province, the Rector Major and his staff entered Indonesia, where in two days they met the Salesian confreres, the youth and the members of the Salesian Family. He also had a meeting with the Council of the Delegation (at the moment Indonesia was a Delegation of ITM Vice-Province; today it is the INA autonomous Vice-Province).

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, in the morning, after meeting with the lay collaborators of the various works in Jakarta-Wisma, the Rector Major had a meeting with the FMA in their home and in the afternoon visited the parish of St. John Bosco, meeting the group of disabled children called "Lovely Hands" and after the youth of the MGS/SYM and the educative pastoral community, in the celebration of the Eucharist.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> the Rector Major and his secretary returned to Rome.

On days 10 and 11, the Rector Major was in Luanco, his native town, for reasons of health of his parents. Returning to Rome, he met with confreres from the Ukraine, the Commission in charge of the revision of UPS management, the Council of the Sisters of Jesus' Charity in their house, the Central Management Commission of the Past Pupils.

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, together with his secretary, he left for Nairobi, Kenya, to participate in the "Team Visit" of Africa and Madagascar Region, which took place from February 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> were days of rest, personal work and some cultural visits to Nairobi. On the 26<sup>th</sup> in the morning the Rector Major and his secretary left for Mali, to visit that country, Burkina Faso and Togo that belong to the Western French-speaking Province (AFO). From February 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> in Bamako, Mali, he met the confreres present in this country and some who had come from Senegal and Guinea, the young students and groups who had come from the various presences, the FMAs in their house and various members of the Salesian Family, in a special gathering with them. In all the

meetings he experienced very fraternal and festive moments, which challenged the intense heat that came from the desert.

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, after leaving Mali, he arrived in Burkina Faso, first passing through Ouagadougou, where he blessed the construction of the community house, and then arrived in the evening at Bobo-Dioulasso.

### **– March 2018**

The Rector Major began the month of March in Bobo-Dioulasso, where he presided over the celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Salesian presence, had a meeting with the Provincial Council, met the pre-novices and the confreres who came from the different presences of the country. The encounter with the young people of the house and other Salesian works has always been beautiful. The presences in Burkina Faso are found in very popular, full of life contexts, where the significance of our charism is strongly highlighted.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, Fr. Ángel and Fr. Horacio left for Lomé, in Togo, where the Rector Major met the confreres of Togo and Benin, the Salesian Family of these two countries, the youth of the MGS/SYM, and the animators of the oratory. He also met with the FMAs in their house,

and with the EPC of the Parish of Mary Help of Christians in Lomé. He had a very fraternal moment together with the novices and other confreres in the novitiate of Gbodjome and in the afternoon of March 6<sup>th</sup> he also met with the Provincial Council. On March 7<sup>th</sup> he left for Rome where he arrived on the morning of March 8<sup>th</sup>.

Immediately on the next day, March 9<sup>th</sup>, he left for Rabat, Morocco, via Casablanca, to participate in the episcopal ordination of Bishop Cristobal López, until then Provincial of the SMX Province in Spain, appointed Bishop of Rabat. On the 10<sup>th</sup> he was also able to visit the Salesian house in Kénitra where he met the Salesians and the teachers of the school, even if it was a non-working day.

Always accompanied by his secretary, on the 11<sup>th</sup> he left for Burundi to visit the Africa Great Lakes Vice-Province (AGL) visiting the Salesian works in Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda, where he was also accompanied by the Regional Councillor, Fr. Américo Chaquisse.

When they arrived in Bujumbura, they briefly passed through the Salesian house, meeting young people and confreres. They then continued their journey towards Ngozi, where the Rector Major was received with great joy and enthu-

siasm by all the staff of the school, especially the children and young students, who were mostly boarders. There was a meeting with the confreres of Burundi, as well as with the members of the Salesian Family. On the 14<sup>th</sup> they left for the novitiate in Butare, Rwanda, and later they arrived at the post-novitiate in Kabgayi, where the next day the Rector Major met the Rwandan confreres as well as the youth and the Salesian Family of the country.

On the 16<sup>th</sup>, already in Uganda, the Rector Major visits Kampala. He then reaches Bombo, where he meets the Salesian Family, the youth and in the evening the confreres. On the 17<sup>th</sup>, after a meeting with the Provincial Council, the Rector Major, after spending almost one month in Africa, left for Entebbe airport to return to Rome.

In the weeks before Easter, from March 19<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, the Rector Major presided over the *intermediate session of the General Council*, while at the same time he did office work. During this period he had a meeting with the Commission of UPS Management Revision, and on the 21<sup>st</sup> he received Msgr. Viganò, former Head of the Vatican Secretariat of Communication. On the 28<sup>th</sup> he also received the Consul General of the Argentine Republic



in Rome. Later the Rector Major spent the Holy Easter Triduum in Spain with his parents.

#### – April 2018

Returning from Spain, in the evening of Easter Monday he left for Beirut, Lebanon, accompanied by his secretary. From April 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> he visited Lebanon, Syria and Egypt as part of his visit to the Middle East Province (MOR). In the afternoon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> he is in Jbeil (Biblos), where the works of El Housoun and Al Fidar are located. The Rector Major meets the Provincial Council and in the evening, together with the confreres of the community and the members of MOR Provincial Council, he visits the sanctuary of Our Lady of Harissa, where he prays for the presences of the Middle East. The next day, he meets the youth of the technical school and later the youth of the oratory and the Syrian and Iraqi refugees, and in the afternoon he first meets the confreres and then the whole Salesian Family.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> they leave by car for Damascus, Syria. The reception by the Salesians, FMAs and other members of the Salesian Family, and especially the young, is simple but very emotional, thinking that until ten days before it was not certain that the Rector Major could go,

because there were armed conflicts very close to the capital. In the afternoon of that day the Rector Major and a numerous group of young people and members of the SF went on a pilgrimage to the places of St. Paul in Damascus: the house of Ananias, the ancient walls of the city and the place of St. Paul's conversion, the area of Tabbala, where the Rector Major presided over the Mass. In the evening he met the FMAs in their home, in the Italian Hospital. The day after, the Rector Major met the confreres who work in Syria and after that he also had lunch with the Apostolic Nuncio, Card. Mario Zenari. In the afternoon he met the youth of the oratory and presided over the Mass, thanking and asking for the gift of peace. He later met young university students and other EPC members. Unfortunately, at the same time, armed conflicts began again in the vicinity of the capital.

On April 7<sup>th</sup> the Rector Major with a group of Salesians and young people left for Aleppo by car. Before they arrived they went through about 20 military checkpoints, but were always treated with kindness and care. Arrived in Aleppo after about 6 hours' journey, they were received by a bus full of boys and a caravan of many cars so that the arrival of the Rector

Major in the city did not pass unnoticed. In the afternoon, he met the confreres and the Salesian Family. On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup>, the Rector Major, accompanied by about eighty young people and Salesians, visited the ancient area of Aleppo, which was almost completely destroyed during the conflicts with the terrorists who had occupied it, and is now slowly but decisively being reconstructed. The Bishops of Latin, Chaldean, Maronite, Armenian Catholic Rites and the Greek Orthodox Bishop came for lunch. A representative of the Foundation that owns the place where the Salesian community carries out its mission was also present. In the evening the Rector Major met the Salesian Family and presided over the Mass, in which the new Salesian Cooperators of Aleppo pronounced their promise. The Greek Catholic Bishop and several members of the clergy of the Catholic and Orthodox churches present in Aleppo attended the Mass.

On the 9<sup>th</sup>, early in the morning, Fr. Ángel and Fr. Horacio left for Beirut by car, to board the plane there that would take them to Egypt. It was a journey of about 7 hours, with more than 20 military checkpoints to cross. But they were always treated with kindness.

In the evening they arrive in Cairo. On the next day, Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup>, the Rector Major meets the confreres of the various presences in Egypt and later the Salesian Family. He visits the social work in Zeitun, and then returns to Rod El Farag. On the 11<sup>th</sup> he travels by train to Alexandria, where he meets the students of the school, the young people of the oratory and the Salesian Family of Alexandria. In the evening he returns by train to Cairo Rod El Farag. On the 12<sup>th</sup> he meets the youth of the oratory, makes a short visit to the FMAs in their nearby house and after lunch takes the flight to return to Rome.

On April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> he participates in the Seminar organized by the Salesian Postulation General of Saints, which is held in the house of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in Via Aurelia.

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup>, he leaves with his secretary for Guadalajara, Mexico, to begin the *visit to the MEG Province*. This visit will take place from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> in the cities of Guadalajara, Leon and Tijuana. In the morning of the 17<sup>th</sup> he has a meeting with the Provincial Council, and in the evening he meets the students of theology in Tlaquepaque. On the next day, in Amatitán, he meets all the confreres who have come from the different

presences of the Province: the meeting, the Holy Mass, and a very participated provincial feast lived in a family atmosphere. In the evening, back in Guadalajara, he meets the laity and the Salesians who work in the various provincial services.

On the 19th he leaves by car for León, where he meets the youth of the MGS/SYM and the Salesian Family in the Sanctuary of San Giovanni Bosco. In the evening he goes to the house of the pre-novitiate and the new infirmary in Irapuato, where the next day he meets the pre-novices and the formators. In the afternoon, together with his staff, he takes a flight to Tijuana, where the communities of Tijuana and Mexicali await him, and spends the evening with the Salesian Family and the youth of the MGS/SYM. On the 21<sup>st</sup>, he has breakfast with the homeless at the "Desayunador", where between 900 and 1100 portions of an abundant breakfast are offered every day. After a couple of hours of this meeting, the Rector Major goes on a visit to the U.S. border, where he can see the double wall of bars and the sadness of so many families separated between one nation and the other. In the evening he leaves for Mexico City where he is welcomed for a stopover in the community of MEM's provin-

cial house. On the next morning he departs to return to Rome.

From April 24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> he remains in the headquarters for various of-fice works and some meetings.

On the 29<sup>th</sup> he leaves for Buenos Aires, Argentina, where he will make a stopover of about twenty hours, with a visit to the provincial house of South Argentina (ARS), where he lived as a Provincial before being elected Rector Major. On the 30<sup>th</sup> Fr. Ángel and his secretary leave for Asunción in Paraguay to begin their visit to the Province of Paraguay (PAR). Unfortunately, due to an unforeseen change of schedule, they miss their planned flight and have to take a later one arriving in Asunción late at night.

### – *May 2018*

The visit to Paraguay had two great moments: the houses of the missionary zone of the Chaco Paraguayo and other presences of the Province. On May 1<sup>st</sup> the Rector Major visited the social work "Don Bosco Roga" and there he met the children and the educators; he also met the youth orchestra. In the evening he met the MGS/SYM of the whole Province at the "Monseñor Lasagna".

On the next morning in Asunción the Rector Major met with the Provincial Council, blessed the re-

opening of the "Ayoreo" missionary museum and greeted the staff working at the Provincial House. In the afternoon and evening he visited the agro-technical school "Carlos Pfannl", next to the town of Coronel Oviedo, where he met the students and staff of this school, and the nearby school of Villarrica, which today is run by lay people.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup>, thanks to some benefactors, he was able to go to the Chaco area in a small plane and this allowed him to visit the various missionary presences, starting from the headquarters of the Vicariate of "Fuerte Olimpo", where he was welcomed by Bishop Msgr. Gabriel Escobar, sdb. From there, still by plane, he arrived in Ñu Porá, in a house of the FMAs, where he met the young people and animators of this area. In the afternoon, again by plane, he arrived at Carmelo Peralta, an important presence of the Salesian mission. On the next day he met several members of the Ayoreo indigenous communities and members of the EPC of the presence, arriving there by boat.

In the afternoon of May 4<sup>th</sup> he leaves for Puerto Casado in a three-hour boat trip on the Paraguay River, arriving after a slightly eventful trip because they had to stop a few times in the middle of the river for problems in the engine that were

eventually fixed; they arrive with some delay. In Puerto Casado he meets the Salesians, pastoral operators and young people. On the 5<sup>th</sup> he wakes up under a strong and persistent thunderstorm with big downpours, wondering whether to go and visit the indigenous community that is located at two hours' drive through hard paths and stones. He and his staff encouraged each other and were able to arrive with the assistance of a tractor that was not used. Returning to Puerto Casado in the afternoon, they later returned to the capital Asunción, on board the small plane that had brought him to the missionary area. In the evening he met with the post-novitiate community.

On May 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> he met the young people in the parish of St. Dominic Savio, the elders of the Zatti house, the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in their house, the Salesian Family and the Salesian confreres in the house of Ypacaraí. On the 7<sup>th</sup> he was able to visit the ruins and excavations of the Jesuit missions in the Guarani area. On the evening of the 8<sup>th</sup>, he left for Montevideo to *visit the Uruguay Province (URU)*.

On May 9<sup>th</sup> the Rector Major met the President of the Eastern Republic of Uruguay, Dr. Tabaré Vázquez, in his residence. Later he

met the Provincial Council and in the afternoon and evening he visited the FMAs in the health house in Las Piedras, and the Salesian social work. At lunch several Bishops from Uruguay were present to greet the Rector Major. He participated in an act of acknowledgement of the Minga work for the civil society in the country.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> he met the young people of the vocational groups and visited "Talleres Don Bosco", a technical presence, celebrating the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the workshops. There he met a group of politician past pupils and later on of university students. In the evening he participated in the monthly meeting "Hay algo más" ("there is something more"), in which a large group of young people, SDBs and FMAs come to pray and meditate on the Word.

The next day, he met the teachers and execs of the schools of the Province and in the evening he visited the house of Maturana. On Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> he had several media interviews and participated in a broadcast program of 'Radio Oriental' Catholic radio. In the afternoon he met with the Councils of different groups of the Salesian Family and in the afternoon he participated in the Villa Colón procession in honour of Mary Help of

Christians, together with the Cardinal Archbishop of Montevideo, Daniel Sturla, sdb. After the procession, the Rector Major presided over the Eucharist in the sanctuary of Mary Help of Christians.

The following day, Sunday 13<sup>th</sup>, he visited the FMAs in their provincial house at Villa Colón, the "Second Mornese", the first house of the FMAs in America, from where the missions in Patagonia started. After the Eucharist and the meeting with the sisters, he left for the airport to return to Rome.

From May 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> the Rector Major did office work and had some meetings. On the 17<sup>th</sup> he left by plane for Valdocco for the *visit to the Special Circumscription of Piedmont and Valle d'Aosta*.

On the first day of the visit he met the Provincial Council and in the afternoon he visited the house of Novara, where he met the youth and the members of the EPC and later the young confreres of the Province and those who are studying in Turin.

On the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> he had a large meeting with the confreres in the theatre of Valdocco and in the afternoon he greeted the FMAs in their house and met the youth of MGS/SYM in Valdocco.

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> he presides over the Mass in Turin-St. Paul and par-

ticipates in the celebration of the centenary of the house. In the afternoon he meets the Salesian Family of the Province and visits the elderly confreres of the Valdocco infirmary. On Monday 21<sup>st</sup> he visits Fossano, meeting the young people of the vocational formation centres of the Cuneo area and in the afternoon he visits the house of "Saint John the Evangelist", meeting volunteers, animators and young foreigners accompanied by this social work of St. Salvario district. This visit concludes the official visit to ICP. In the evening the Rector Major participates in the *World Consulting Board of the Salesian Family*, which will be held until noon 23<sup>rd</sup>.

In the afternoon of the 23<sup>rd</sup> he met the Commission for the places of Palazzo Pinardi, presiding over the presentation of the book "The City of Don Bosco". Afterwards he presided over the solemn Vespers in the Basilica, had dinner and spent the evening with the novices of the European meeting of novitiates.

On May 24<sup>th</sup>, Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians, the Rector Major in the morning meets the group of the fourth and last level of the course of teachers of Salesian Spirituality organized by the Centre for Ongoing Formation of America (with headquarters in Quito) and in the evening he presides over the

Eucharist and participates in the procession.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> he and his secretary drove to Rijeka to begin the *visit to the Province of Croatia*. On the 25<sup>th</sup> he is informed of his nomination to participate in the Synod of Bishops on Young People, made by the Assembly of the Union of Superiors General gathered in Ariccia.

In the days between May 26<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> the Rector Major visits the houses of Rijeka (SDB and FMA), Split and the presences in Zagreb. During these days he meets the Salesian Family of the different areas, the Salesian confreres, the Provincial Council (the incumbent and the new one), and especially the youth, with whom he has not only moments of formal meeting, but also more informal moments of the prayer of the Rosary at night and in the different playgrounds. On the 28<sup>th</sup>, during the celebration of the Eucharist with the confreres and some lay collaborators and members of the Salesian Family, the Rector Major presides over the induction of the new Provincial, Fr. Mihomir Šutalo.

The 29<sup>th</sup> is the day of his return to Rome by car.

From May 30<sup>th</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup> he will be at the headquarters doing office work. On May 31<sup>st</sup> he had supper with the confreres of the house in

the Vatican, together with his Vicar and several confrere Bishops.

### – June 2018

The month of June starts in Rome. He departs again from Rome and on June 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> he visits Podgorica, Montenegro, a work belonging to the *Province of Slovenia (SLO)*. He arrives by plane in Podgorica, accompanied by his secretary, meets the children and young people of the Salesian Oratory, then in the evening he meets the youth and adult animators. On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> he meets his confreres, some Bishops who have come to greet him, including the Apostolic Nuncio; later he concelebrates the Eucharist and blesses a statue of Don Bosco in the churchyard. After lunch he returns to Rome.

The *summer session of the General Council* begins on the 4<sup>th</sup>, so the Rector Major is at the headquarters and as his main task he presides over the various sessions of the Council. He spends more time doing office work and receiving several people; among others: Mother Mary Josephine Selvi, Superior General of the Sister of Maria Auxiliatrix (SMA), on the 6<sup>th</sup>; Fr. Angel Asurmendi, Inspector SMX, on the 7<sup>th</sup>; Fr. Mauro Mantovani and Fr. Mario Llanos (UPS); Fr. Roberto dal Molin (on the 14<sup>th</sup>) and Fr.

Leonardo Mancini (on the 18<sup>th</sup>), incumbent Provincials of INE and ICC Provinces. He also receives: Fr. Marko Košnik, SLO Provincial (19<sup>th</sup>); Mr. Michal Hort, World President of Past Pupils (Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>); Brother José Trigona, former economist at Colle Don Bosco and leaving as a missionary in Papua New Guinea; Fr. Manuel Jimenez, Provincial of ACC, and Fr. Angelo Santorsola, Provincial of EMI (26<sup>th</sup>), and Fr. Alejandro León Mendoza, appointed Provincial of MOR (27<sup>th</sup>).

He participates in the “Team Visit” to UPS Vice-Province (between June 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>); he presides over the solemnity of the Feast of the Sacred Heart in the Basilica; he participates in the Academic Council of Auxilium in the afternoon of June 12<sup>th</sup> and in the “Curatorium” of UPS on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>. He visits the FMAs of the house “Mother Ersilia Canta” on the evening of the 21<sup>st</sup>, and the house of Frascati, together with the Provincial, Fr. Leonardo Mancini, on the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup>. On the 30<sup>th</sup>, together with some members of the General Council, he receives the Provincial and the Council of the “Mary Help of Christians” Province of Spain (SMX).

### – July 2018

The Rector Major, together with his Council, begins the month of



July with a week of Spiritual Exercises, led by Fr. Fabio Manzini, in the locality of Guarcino.

On the 9<sup>th</sup>, the sessions of the General Council and the office work of the Rector Major resumed. In the afternoon of that same day, July 9<sup>th</sup>, the Rector Major receives the Provincial of Ireland (IRL), Fr. Eunan McDonnell, together with the Delegate for Malta, Fr. Paul Formosa. In the following days he also receives the newly appointed Provincials: Fr. Luis Fernando Valencia (COM); Fr. Jose Kuruvachira (IND); Fr. Joseph NG (CIN); Fr. Mario Villalba (PAR); Fr. Igino Biffi (INE); Fr. Jacob Hamaguchi (GIA), together with the former Provincial Mario Yamanouchi, appointed Bishop in Japan; Fr. Céléstin Ngoboka (AGL), and Fr. Stefano Aspettati (ICC).

In the afternoon and evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> the Rector Major and his entire Council meet the Mother General of the FMAs, Sr. Ivone Reungoat, and her Council, in their general house.

He spends the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> in the north on a private visit. From July 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> he goes to his hometown Luanco, in Spain, to meet his parents because of their poor health.

## 4.2 Chronicle of the General Councillors

### The Vicar of the Rector Major

In **January 2018**, from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup>, the Vicar of the Rector Major, Fr. Francesco Cereda, participated in the feasts of Don Bosco in Chieri, Colle Don Bosco and Turin-Valdocco Mary Help of Christians with celebrations and the presentation of the Strenna of the Rector Major.

In **February**, on the 12<sup>th</sup>, he took part in the Theological Commission of the Union of Superiors General. On the 13<sup>th</sup> he participated in the meeting with the Superior of Greek-Catholic Ukraine, the Provincial of Krakow and the Councillor of Centre and North Europe Region, convened by the Rector Major to examine the realities of Greek-Catholic Ukraine and Latin Ukraine. From 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> he participated in the "Team Visit" of Africa and Madagascar Region; then from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> he went to Kolkata for the meeting of the Provincials of South Asia Region.

In **March**, from 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, he went to Burgos for the meeting of the Provincial Council and of the rectors of "San Jago Mayor" Spanish Province in Madrid. Sub-



sequently, from 8<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup>, he met all the confrères of the Middle East Province for the consultation for the nomination of the new Provincial; the discernment meetings were held in the following communities: Jerusalem, Beitgemal, Cremisan, Bethlehem, Cairo - Rod el Farag, Alexandria, El Fidar. On the 28<sup>th</sup> he convened the UPS Personnel Group.

In **April**, from 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, he participated in Rome in the Second International Seminar on the Causes of Beatification and Canonization, convened by the Postulation. On 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> he made the *canonical visitation to the community of Rome "San Callisto"* at the Catacombs. From 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> he went to Greek-Catholic Ukraine for the presentation of the letter of the Rector Major, at the conclusion of the extraordinary Visitation, while visiting all the communities of the Circumscription. During this period he also had numerous meetings with some Superiors of the Holy See, in order to redefine our mission in the "St. Francis de Sales" community that is in the Vatican.

In **May**, on 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>, he participated in the meeting of the Provincials of Centre and North Europe Region in Lyon; then, on 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, he went to Barcelona for the in-

stallation of the new Provincial of "Mary Help of Christians" Spanish Province, based in Seville. On the 14<sup>th</sup> he participated in the Theological Commission of the Union of Superiors General. From May 15<sup>th</sup> to June 6<sup>th</sup> he conducted the *canonical Visitation to the community of "St. Joseph" of the Headquarters*. On 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> he took part in the six-monthly Assembly of the Union of Superiors General. Finally on June 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, he participated in the "Team Visit" of "Mary, Seat of Wisdom" Vice-Province in Rome and at the Salesian Pontifical University.

### **The Councillor for Formation**

A task of great importance, which engaged the Councillor for Formation, Fr. Ivo Coelho, at many times, was the *extraordinary Visitation to the Vice-Province of "Mary Seat of Wisdom" (UPS)* in Rome, which he carried out, on behalf of the Rector Major, in the period from January 27<sup>th</sup> to May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2018.

It is also important to highlight the numerous and diverse commitments of animation, in the field of formation, carried out by the Councillor in the same period, at different times.

In January, the Councillor participated in the meetings for the planning of the European Formation Centre (January 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Rome).

In February 2018 he participated, together with Fr. Silvio Roggia, in the "Team Visit" of the Africa and Madagascar Region in Nairobi (February 20<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2018). Later on, (June 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>, 2018) he participated in the "Team Visit" of the Vice-Province of "Maria Sede della Sapienza" in Rome. In the period February-May he also participated in two meetings of Provincials: the one of South Asia Region in Kolkata (February 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>, 2018), and the one of Centre and North Europe Region in Lyon (May 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2018), together with Fr. Francisco Santos.

With Fr. Silvio Roggia the Councillor spoke at the World Consulting Body of the Salesian Family in Valdocco (May 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018), on the theme of accompaniment for formation and young people. The Councillor also presided over the *Curatorium* in Jerusalem (February 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2018) and the one of the Gerini community in Rome (June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018). Together with some members of the team, he also participated in the Days of Social Communication (Rome-UPS, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018); in the meeting of

novices and pre-novices in Italy in Genzano di Roma; in the annual meeting of the novices of Europe (Colle - Valdocco, May 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>, 2018) and in the meetings for the planning of the European Formation Centre (January 4<sup>th</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>, 2018, Rome).

During this period he could also visit the formation houses of Marti-Codolar - Barcelona (which will host the European Centre for the Specific Formation of Salesian Brothers), Granada (post-novitiate), and Lyon.

The team of the Department also organized various meetings and seminars. In particular, the meeting of the editorial group for the "Guidelines on Personal Salesian Accompaniment", Rome, March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018; the seminar on Salesian Meditation, S. Callisto - Rome, May 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 2018; and the seminar on the discernment of the two forms of the Salesian vocation, S. Callisto - Rome, May 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

In recent months, work has also been carried out on the preparation of the draft of the Director's Manual to be presented to the General Council, bringing to conclusion the consultation and involvement processes of the various Regions. The manual on Salesian prayer and the App that will accompany it have also reached their final draft.

Finally, work began on the drafting of the guidelines that will follow the research on personal Salesian accompaniment, the draft of which will be presented to the Council during the winter session.

### The Councillor for Youth Ministry

From January to June 2018, the Dicastery for Youth Ministry continued to follow the various processes of animation in the different sectors. What follows is the list of the commitments in which the Councillor, Fr. Fabio Attard, always took part with one or more members of the Dicastery.

1. In the field of the **animation of the processes of the Congregation** the following moments and proposals are to be highlighted:

- a. The meeting of the Delegates of Youth Ministry of all the Provinces of the two Regions of Europe, Mediterranean and Centre-North. The meeting, which was organized in Barcelona, continues to follow the path of the six-year period with the added value of a shared path between the two Regions.
- b. From February 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Councillor, along with Fr. Tarcizo Morais, did 4 days of animation in France - South Belgium (FRB). Four meetings were held in Nice, Lyon, Paris and Brussels, with the participation of Salesians, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and lay collaborators in the mission. The central theme was the socialization of the *Framework of Reference*, with special attention to the *Educative Pastoral Community* and the *Educative Pastoral Project* of our presences.
- c. At the beginning of April 2018, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Fabio was invited to carry out 3 days of study on the *Framework of Reference*, for Salesians, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and lay collaborators in the Province of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan.
- d. This study seminar was followed by two weeks of spiritual exercises in Batulao, North Philippines (FIN). Fr. Fabio preached two courses of exercises, in which the majority of the confreres of the Province participated.
- e. Three other moments at the level of youth ministry followed in Europe in May 2018. In Lyon the Councillor, together with

other Councillors of the Dicastries, had the opportunity of some sessions of animation for the Provincials of Centre and North Europe Region. Here the theme dealt with by Fr. Fabio was the Synod of Young People, with special attention to the theme of personal accompaniment and insisting on a youth ministry that is ever more attentive to the vocational dimension.

- f. In the field of animation, Fr. Fabio and Fr. Tarcizio Morais were invited by the Councillor for Centre and North Europe Region, Fr. Tadeusz Rozmus, to Wrocław, to meet the four Provincials of Poland, the one of Ukraine and the Delegate of Belarus, to share the path of animation of the Commissions for Youth Ministry. The meeting was a positive experience to strengthen the reflection, coordination and proposal of pastoral paths and educative pastoral communities more and more attentive to the new situation of young people in Europe.
- g. A subsequent meeting was the one held in Ireland, to conduct a study seminar, also here to socialize the *Framework of Reference*, with special attention to the *Educative Pastoral Community* and the *Educative Pastoral*

*Project*. Fr. Fabio and Fr. Tarcizio conducted a day of study, on Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, for Salesians, Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and lay collaborators of the various presences in Ireland. The day of study was followed by a morning of study with the Provincial Council and the Rectors of the houses in Ireland on Sunday May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

- 2. The Department is also following some **animation processes linked to the sectors** and carried out by the various members of the Dicastery.
  - a. On January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, *Don Bosco International* (DBI) held its Assembly, approving the second strategic plan and operational plan for the period 2018-2021 presented by Executive Secretary Angel Gudiña. The Assembly noted with pleasure the positive path of the DBI and the growing collaboration of the Provinces of Europe. In addition, the effort to bring the voice of the Congregation to the European institutions from other parts of the Congregation outside Europe was also appreciated: for example Colombia, Sierra Leone.

- b. Another process that is progressing is the one of marginalization and young people at risk. Daniel García and Patrick Anthonyraj had the opportunity to meet the group that accompanies the YAR (*Youth at Risk*) structures of India, and then also to plan the contribution of South Asia Region, in view of the International Consulting Board of the sector to be held in March 2019.
  - c. The school sector and vocational centres continued with the accompaniment of the various Regions: meeting with the industries in Madrid, January 2018; contact and participation in the processes of “Don Bosco-Tech Africa” and “Don Bosco Mondo”; study, reflection and planning days for the various processes of ESA, together with René Santos who is the coordinator of schools in America.
  - d. In the field of higher education – IUS – Marcelo Farfan continued to follow the various processes of animation and reflection with the regional Conferences and also to bring to maturity the document on Salesian Youth Ministry in the university.
  - e. The Salesian presence at the United Nations continued its journey during two meetings, to define its strategic and operational plan for the coming years. During March and June the Dicastery promoted some meetings at the Headquarters with the presence of Fr. Thomas Pallithanam, the new representative of the Salesians of Don Bosco at the United Nations headquarters in New York and the Provincial of SUE, Fr. Tim Zak, of New Rochelle.
  - f. Another sector that received very close attention is the MGS/SYM in view of the WYD of Panama, in January 2019. Renato Cursi, who follows the MGS/SYM sector together with Patrick Anthonyraj, went to Panama to participate in the meeting to prepare WYD promoted by the youth sector in the Vatican Dicastery “Lay people, Family and Life”. On that occasion Renato Cursi also made a visit to the house in Guatemala to define the preparation and organization of the MGS/SYM day that will be held during World Youth Day.
3. Councillor Fr. Fabio Attard was called to participate in various moments of **animation at the ecclesial level**:

- a. During the meeting of vocations promoters of the Episcopal Conferences in Tirana, Albania, at the beginning of March 2018, Fr. Fabio looked at the responses to the questionnaires from the European Episcopal Conferences and the challenges that these responses present to youth ministry in a vocational key.
- b. Another intervention with the theme of the next Synod was made during the refresher course for the clergy of Malta at the end of May 2018.

4. The Department for Youth Ministry had a new experience as part of **a course on Youth Ministry at UPS**. It was an experience of reflection and study for the members of the Dicastery and also served to offer the students who are doing their M.A. on Youth Ministry a close look at the experience of pastoral animation of the Congregation and to discover the dynamics of the process on “rethinking Youth Ministry”.

5. At the end of May an **International Commission** formed by Salesians and lay people, men and women, met to continue their reflection on the way to follow after the **Congress on Youth Ministry and the Family**. The proposal that

came out was to offer the Congregation guidelines that strengthen pastoral processes, where the family becomes more and more the subject within the processes and proposals of Salesian Youth Ministry.

6. Finally, the Dicastery is fully involved in the journey of the **Synod on Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment**. Within the processes of animation in the regional meetings, the Dicastery places as a center of study and reflection the *Instrumentum Laboris* and the various challenges that this Synod poses to us.

### **The Councillor for the Missions**

At the end of the winter session of the General Council, the Councillor for the Missions, Fr Guillermo Basaños, celebrated the feast of Don Bosco with the confrères in Sweden (PLN Province) on January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, finding there a strong missionary reality of immigration.

Soon after, from January 31<sup>st</sup> to February 7<sup>th</sup>, he spent a week with his family in Buenos Aires.

Returning to Europe, he took part in the biennial meeting of the missionaries of ‘Project Europe’,

from February 11<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>, this time including a winter pilgrimage – under heavy rain and snow – to Santiago de Compostela. Starting from Barcelona-Sarrià, Fr. Basaños walked, together with about forty confrères, over a period of five days, the 120 kilometers that lead to the Basilica of the Apostle.

On the night of January 19<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Basaños was already in Africa, in Nairobi, to participate in the “Team Visit” of Africa and Madagascar Region, concluding with a day of missionary animation in the East Africa Province on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup>.

From February 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, the Councillor took part in several meetings of the ‘Don Bosco Network’ (DBN) held at the UPS headquarters in Rome.

Fatima was Fr. Guillermo’s next destination, where he participated, from March 4<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>, in the Seminar of Animation and Missionary Formation for SDBs and FMAs of Europe, immediately followed by the meeting of *DIAMs* on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup>, and a full day, on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>, of missionary animation in the Province of Portugal.

On the following weekend, the Councillor visited the Salesian presence in Malta for the first time, this being the 98<sup>th</sup> country he visits.

After the conclusion of the Extraordinary Intermediate Session of the General Council in Rome, Fr. Basaños, on behalf of the Rector Major, began the ***Extraordinary Visitation to the Province of Chile***. He carried out this task at a particularly delicate and significant time for the Church in Chile, from March 30<sup>th</sup> to May 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **The Councillor for Social Communication**

The Councillor for Social Communication, Fr. Filiberto González Plasencia, after the end of the winter session of the General Council, was mainly involved in the following activities.

***From January 28<sup>th</sup> to March 13<sup>th</sup> 2018***, on behalf of the Rector Major, he made the ***Extraordinary Visitation to the Vice-Province of Mozambique (MOZ)***.

On ***January 29<sup>th</sup>*** he started the Visitation with a meeting with the Provincial and his Council in the morning, and with all the Delegates and Heads of Provincial Services in the afternoon, in order to have an overview of the Governance and Animation in the Vice-Province. On the 30<sup>th</sup> he began his visit to the community and institute in the headquarters of the

Vice-Province. On the 31<sup>st</sup> he celebrated the Eucharist and received the first profession of 3 novices of MOZ and 11 of ANG, and the renewal of the profession of 5 trainees of MOZ, in the church of Fatima, in Namaacha.

On **February 3<sup>rd</sup>** he concluded the visitation to the headquarters of the Vice-Province and in the morning he left for the community of "St. Joseph the Worker" in Moamba, that includes: parish and missionary communities, vocational school, pre-novitiate, oratory and boarding school for students. Later, from 8<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>, he visited the "St. Dominic Savio" community of Matola, with aspirantate, vocational school, festive oratory and spirituality centre. From 12<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> he visited the "Don Bosco" community of Matundo, with its vocational school, parish, festive oratory, primary school and missionary communities; he also met with the Apostolic Administrator and celebrated the Eucharist for the community of the FMAs of Moatize. From February 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> he interrupted the Extraordinary Visitation to participate with the Rector Major and the General Councillors of the Dicasteries in the "Team Visit" celebrated in Nairobi, Kenya. Subsequently he resumed the Extraordinary Visitation by going to

the community of "St. Dominic Savio" of Inharrime from February 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>; this house comprises vocational school, boarding school, festive oratory, pre-aspirantate; he also visited the community and the work of the FMAs and the parish priest with whom we collaborate in the missions.

In **March**, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>, he visited the "Saint Joseph" community of Lhanguene in Maputo, which includes parish church, festive oratory, commercial institute, vocational school, boarding school; he also met the Apostolic Nuncio, the Mother Provincial and the Council of the FMAs in their provincial headquarters, the father and family of Fr. Americo Chaquisse. Later, from March 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>, he visited the "Sacred Heart of Jesus" community of Namaacha, with the inter-provincial novitiate (MOZ - ANG), festive oratory and youth center; he also visited the novitiate and the school and boarding school of the FMAs. On March 10<sup>th</sup> in the headquarters of the Vice-Province he meets the members of the communication of the Vice-Province and the two members of "Cancão Nova" coming from Brazil, who will take the lead of Radio Don Bosco in Moatize. On March 12<sup>th</sup> he preached the quarterly spiritual retreat to SDBs and FMAs in Matola. On March 13<sup>th</sup> he



met the Provincial and his Council in the morning, in the afternoon he presented the final report to the Salesians of the Vice-Province and in the evening he closed the Extraordinary Visitation with the blessing of the Mural of the Nine Years of Age Dream in the chapel of the headquarters and with the Eucharist. Leaving Mozambique, he arrives in Ivato, Madagascar. Here from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> he met first with the Provincial, his Council and the Delegate for Social Communication and the director of Radio Don Bosco, then with all the technical and administrative staff and journalists of the Radio, he visited the land where the new headquarters of the Radio are planned in the city centre; he visited the SDB pre-novitiate and novitiate as well as the pre-novitiate and the boarding school of the FMAs. He then returned to Italy and from 19<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> he participated in the meetings of the General Council at the Headquarters at the "Sacred Heart".

In **April**, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, he makes an animation visit to Ireland, meeting in Dublin and at different times the Provincial, the SC Delegate, the Director of the Salesian Bulletin and a group of Salesians, to whom he introduces the SSCS and our presence in social networks. From April 16<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> he accompanies

the Rector Major in his visit to the Guadalajara Province in Mexico (MEG). On April 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> he presides over the FSC-UPS, together with the General Councillor for the SC Sector of the FMAs, the Days of Formation for Communication for SDB and FMA formandi and formators of Italy.

In **May**, from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup>, he participates in the meeting of the Provincials of Centre and North Europe in Lyon, then from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> in Venice-Mestre he presides over the meeting of the Delegates for SC of Europe, accompanied by Fr. Juan Pablo Abreu. Subsequently, from May 15<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>, he presided over the meeting of the Radio stations of America in Brasilia ("Centro Israel Pinheiro"); then, from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> in Buenos Aires he presided over the meeting of publishing houses in America. Throughout the month of May the team of ANS, Multimedia and SDB.org, in addition to their ordinary work, were particularly engaged in the production and promotion of videos of the "Novena to Mary Help of Christians" and of the book "The City of Don Bosco", the latter presented and delivered during the World Consulting Board of the Salesian Family celebrated in Valdocco. The vision and downloads of the Novena set a record figure.

## The Economist General

In **January 2018**, the Economist General, Bro. Jean Paul Muller, was engaged in the Commission appointed by the Rector Major for the needs of the UPS. At the end of the month he participated, as a member of the Board of Directors of the Missions Procure, in the **Forum Don Bosco** event in Bonn.

In **February**, the Economist General, participating in the "Team Visit" of Africa and Madagascar Region in Nairobi, gave a speech in which he highlighted the need to change and improve vocational training according to the needs of the new Africa that is growing, with the challenges of the digital world and the global market. On the same occasion, he affirmed the principle of Salesian quality, based on a more professional choice of lay personnel and of ongoing formation for all members of the Salesian Family.

At the end of February, the Economist General went to Kolkata, India, to meet with the Provincials of South Asia Region. On this occasion, the urgency of reshaping the Salesian works in the face of a growing number of youth and people in difficulty who knock at the doors of the Salesians, was underlined. The Economist stressed the

need for national coordination and for a strategic "Fundraising" plan in India among provinces and their NGOs active in this field.

In the first days of **March**, the Economist went to Seoul, where he met with the provincial economists of East Asia and Oceania Region. During these days, Bro. Muller stressed how it is of fundamental importance, within a Salesian centre, a confrontation with political institutions, with the situation of civil society and with the fundamental values of the Salesian charism. It is of fundamental importance that the social classes that are in greatest difficulty be protected and helped, especially the category of young people, who must be accompanied along their path of growth. Concern for the new forms of slavery that are growing in the industrial world requires from the Salesians creativity and courage.

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, Bro. Muller, in his capacity as Ecclesiastical Councillor of the Embassy of Luxembourg to the Holy See, was awarded the honor of the "Ordre de Mérite" by Grand Duc Henri.

At the end of the month, he went to Trebnitz, Germany, as a founding member of the "Kuratorium Heilpädagogik" and of the International Archive of Curative Pedagogy.

In **April**, there was one of the long-prepared events for the entire administration of Salesian works: the meeting in Nairobi for the Project Development Offices (PDO). 138 delegates (eonomers and PDO directors) were present and, during these days, meetings, round tables and workshops on different aspects concerning the whole Salesian world were held. Bro. Muller spoke about the challenges that each Region must face in order to keep up with the projects of the PDO, in keeping with the indications of the latest General Chapters, and how fundamental it is to take up the spirit of Hyderabad (the last PDOs meeting) also in Nairobi; and finally, how the “think tanks” can represent a valid instrument, in response to the problems concerning each individual Province. This meeting highlighted the importance of the economic sustainability of every Salesian work and of subsidiarity in the Congregation for financing new projects.

In **May**, the Eonomer General went to Lyon for a meeting with the Provincials of Centre and North Europe Region. His speech is focused on a number of topics: *firstly*, the demand for higher quality standards of lay collaborators who work in the European area, without,

however, neglecting dialogue and comparison with the other sectors of the Salesian Congregation within each Province; *secondly*, the need for all the European Provinces to adapt to the new general EU regulation on processing personal data, which came into force on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018; *thirdly*, the need was highlighted for a more strategic and common mentality among the Provinces in relation to migration, vocational training and the ongoing formation of responsible lay people; and, *fourthly*, how in European society and in the European Church it is necessary to move with a certain agility and timeliness in the face of the new challenges that arise in the perspective of a more secular Europe. For this reason, according to the Eonomer General, it is necessary to give more value to adaptation, so as to be able to change the Provincial Organic Project (POP), and to improve the formation of the Salesian.

Participation in the meeting of the Eonomers General of UISG (International Union of Superiors General) as a member of the Steering Committee provided an opportunity for a common reflection on the situation of the General Houses in Rome of the various Congregations and the specific challenges in the context of the city of Rome.

On May 8<sup>th</sup>, the Eonomer General went to Heiligenstadt in Germany for the annual congress of "Magdalena Postel". On this occasion, Bro. Muller criticized the increase in the number of poor and excluded people in society and the lack of projects for the inclusion and integration of foreign youth in schools and vocational training centres. According to him, this element favours an increase in the vulnerability and marginalization of a part of society. For this reason the Eonomer pushed those present to open their minds, so that this social difference can be reduced, if not totally eliminated.

In the week between May 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>, the Eonomer General welcomed the new Provincial Eonomers to the headquarters in Rome and gave them a precise and comprehensive picture of the tasks that they are called to carry out for the role that has been entrusted to them.

The schedule at the end of May marks meetings with lawyers and legal and administrative advisors to follow the cases pending in the Courts of Rome and Milan.

As a member of the Board of Directors, the Eonomer participated in the annual assembly of the "Pro Universitate Association", which supports with stipends

some students of the Salesian University.

The meeting of the Missions Procures and NGOs in Rome began on May 30<sup>th</sup>. The Eonomer gave his contribution to push for a more effective collaboration between the various organizations, especially to guarantee the financing of the formation of the young Salesians and Ph.D. students of the Congregation.

The "Team Visit" of the Vice-Province of "Mary Seat of Wisdom" created a broader vision of the life of this specific reality in the Congregation. Later, the Eonomer will resume his commitment as President of the Board of Directors of the Vice-Province and the University.

### ***The Councillor for the Africa and Madagascar Region***

After the conclusion of the winter plenary session of the General Council, the Councillor for Africa and Madagascar Region, Fr. Américo Chaquisse, left from Rome on January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018 for the Province of East Africa (EFA) for an animation visit to the communities of the EFA Delegation of Sudan, where he remained from February 1<sup>st</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. During his stay he visited the three communities of the Delegation.

Later, he left Khartoum for the Province of Central Africa (CAI), where he participated in the "Curatorium" of the theologate of St. Francis de Sales, and later visited the theologate and the novitiate, from February 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>.

He then returned to the AFE Province in Nairobi to take part in the "Team Visit" of Africa and Madagascar, which took place from February 20<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>. Later, on February 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, the Regional Councillor participated in the "Curatorium" of the Salesian theologate of Utume. From March 1<sup>st</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> he accompanied the Rector Major on his animation visits to the French-speaking Province of West Africa (AFO) and the Africa Great Lakes Vice-Province (AGL).

From March 18<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, the Councillor was in Rome to participate in the Intermediate session of the General Council.

Later, when he returned to Africa, Fr. Americo Chausse made the ***Extraordinary Visitation in AGL Vice-Province***, and at the same time the consultations for the new Superior of the Vice-Province, from March 31<sup>st</sup> to May 31<sup>st</sup>. While the Extraordinary Visitation to the AGL Province was in progress, from April 26<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> he was in Nairobi, where he participated in

the closing of the meeting of the *PDOs* of the entire Congregation. He then stopped in Utume for meetings and discussions with confrère students of AGL. Later, on May 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, he was in the Democratic Republic of Congo, in Goma, for an animation visit to the communities of the East.

### ***The Councillor for the Latin America - South Cone Region***

After the conclusion of the winter session of the General Council, the Councillor for Latin America, South Cone, Fr. Natale Vitali, went to Chile on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, to participate in the beginning of the mandate as Provincial of Fr. Carlo Lira.

On January 30<sup>th</sup> in the novitiate of Barbacena he received the first professions of the novices of three Provinces of Brazil.

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> he participated in the diaconal ordinations of 11 deacons of five Provinces of Brazil, in the city of St. Paul, in the Don Bosco Church.

On February 11<sup>th</sup> in the city of Manaus, Brazil, he participated in the beginning of the service of the new Provincial, Fr. Jefferson Luis Santos.

On February 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> he took part in the Provincial Council of Northern Argentina (ARN) to deliver the letter of the Rector Major that closes the extraordinary visitation of the previous year.

On February 15<sup>th</sup>, he began the *Extraordinary Visitation to the South Argentina Province (ARS)*, where there are 33 religious communities and 32 Salesian works run by lay people. The visitation will continue throughout the year.

From March 19<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, he participated in the meeting of the General Council in Rome, where the theme of the 28<sup>th</sup> General Chapter was defined.

On April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> he participated in the meeting of the Provincials of Brazil, in the city of Brasilia, and on April 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in the meeting of the Salesian network of schools with the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

Subsequently, he accompanied the Rector Major on the animation visit he made to Paraguay from April 29<sup>th</sup> to May 8<sup>th</sup>, and to Uruguay from May 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>.

On May 14<sup>th</sup> he took part in the "Curatorium" of the Novitiate of Alta Gracia (ARN); the following day, May 15<sup>th</sup>, he was in the post-novitiate of Córdoba (ARN) and on the 17<sup>th</sup> in the theologate of Montevideo (URU).

From May 18<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> he made the consultation for the appointment of the Provincial in the Province of Paraguay (PAR).

### ***The Councillor for the Interamerica Region***

At the end of the winter session of the General Council, on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Councillor for Interamerica Region, Fr. Timothy Ploch, traveled to the Province of New Rochelle, New York (SUE). There he participated in the 'Curatorium' of the Inter-Provincial Post-Novitiate of SUE and SUO in Orange, NJ, on January 29<sup>th</sup>. He was planning to go immediately to Caracas, Venezuela, for the Extraordinary Visitation to the Province of St. Luke, but the Regional was not granted an entry visa and had to wait in New Rochelle until the entry visa was granted by the Venezuelan authorities at the end of February. During that month of waiting for the Visa to enter Venezuela, the Regional Councillor participated in the meetings of SUE Provincial Council, in the 'Curatorium' of the inter-provincial novitiate of SUO and SUE in Richmond, California, he met the Provincial Councils of MEM and ECU for the evaluation of their implementation

of the Rector Major's recommendations at the closure of the respective Extraordinary Visitations in 2015 and 2016, and led the consultation for the next Provincial of San Luis Beltrán Province in Medellín, Colombia (COM).

Fr. Ploch finally arrived in the **Venezuelan province** on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018. Given the socio-political situation of the country, the unreliability of ordinary means of transport, the short time available for the visit, and the terrible conditions in which our confreres find themselves (scarcity of food, medicines, gasoline, uncontrolled economic inflation, general insecurity, violence perpetrated by the government armed forces, etc.), the Rector Major decided that this Extraordinary Visitation be also "extraordinary" in the sense that the Visitor's task would be to accompany, support, animate and encourage the communities of the Province in these extreme circumstances. Nevertheless, Fr. Ploch was able to visit each of the communities (including the most remote one in the Amazon basin), speak with each of the confreres, meet the Provincial Council and the various Commissions of animation and governance, and draw up a final report.

The Visitor spent most of the months of March, April and May in

Venezuela, except for two weeks in mid-March when he had to leave the country to return to Rome and participate in the intermediate session of the General Council, focused on the choice of the theme for the 28<sup>th</sup> forthcoming General Chapter. As soon as the Extraordinary Visitation to Venezuela ended with a meeting with the Provincial Council, the Rectors and an assembly of the confreres, the Regional Councillor returned to Rome on May 31<sup>st</sup> for the beginning of the summer session of the General Council.

### ***The Councillor for the South Asia Region***

After the conclusion of the winter plenary session of the General Council, the Councillor for South Asia Region, Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga, arrived in Fujairah on January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018, to visit the local Salesian community in the Province of Chennai (NMI) for a period of three days. He also made a courtesy visit to the Bishop of Abu Dhabi to speak about the presence of Salesians in this Diocese, including Yemen, where the Salesians are currently not present.

Arriving in Chennai on February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the Regional Councillor

met the Economers of the Region, gathered for their annual meeting. After a week of visits to various communities in the provinces of INM and INT, he gave a speech at the Conference of Youth Ministry on Education in Chennai on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, he began the ***Extraordinary Visitation to the Province of New Delhi (INN)***. He had to interrupt the visit to attend the SPCSA (Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia) Assembly held in Kolkata, from February 25<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>. The first two days were animated by three General Councillors (the Vicar of the Rector Major, the Councillor for Formation and the Economer General). The following three days were devoted to the SPCSA Assembly and Council.

He resumed his visit to the communities of the New Delhi Province till March 18<sup>th</sup>, when he had to interrupt the visit again to participate in the intermediate session of the General Council in Rome from March 19<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

He returned to New Delhi on March 30<sup>th</sup> and resumed his visit to the Province immediately after the Easter Triduum. He traveled through the areas of Ranchi, Lucknow, Jabalpur until April 21<sup>st</sup>, when he interrupted his visit again

to go to the Dimapur Province (IND), from April 22<sup>nd</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, to carry out the consultation in view of the appointment of the new Provincial.

He resumed the Extraordinary Visitation on April 30<sup>th</sup>, concluding it on May 17<sup>th</sup>. He then chaired the SPCSA Permanent Working Committee in Kathmandu, Nepal, on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

Subsequently, the Regional Councillor travelled to Guwahati and Shillong for the induction of two new Provincials: Guwahati (ING) on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and Shillong (INS) on May 24<sup>th</sup>. On this day in Shillong Fr. Maria Arokiam also received the perpetual professions of 9 confreres. The next day he visited the new aspirantate of Nonglakhiat before returning to Chennai. From 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> he visited his family. On May 29<sup>th</sup>, he attended the triennial meeting of the National Conference of Religious in India (CRI) in Chennai. He then returned to Rome for the summer plenary session of the General Council.

### ***The Councillor for the East Asia and Oceania Region***

After the winter session of the General Council, the Councillor for East Africa and Oceania Region,



Fr. Václav Klement, presided over the induction of the new Provincial of Australia - Pacific (AUL), Fr. William Mathews, in Melbourne on January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018, and then joined the Rector Major on January 31<sup>st</sup> during the animation visit in the Vice-Province of East Timor - Indonesia (ITM), from January 31<sup>st</sup> to February 8<sup>th</sup>.

Immediately after the departure of the Rector Major to Rome, Fr. Klement made, during three months, the **Extraordinary Visitation of the ITM Province (Indonesia - East Timor)** from February 8<sup>th</sup> until May 10<sup>th</sup>. The Visitation was carried out with discernment in the style of GC27 (listening - interpretation - way forward). During his visit to the seven local communities in Indonesia (February 8<sup>th</sup>-March 3<sup>rd</sup>) and to the 11 communities in East Timor (March 10<sup>th</sup>-May 10<sup>th</sup>), the Visitor shared the biblical icon of GC27 – “Jesus the Vine and the Branches” – as a visible sign of conversion to belong more to God, the confreres and the young. During the Extraordinary Visitation, the consultation for the erection of the new Vice-Province of Indonesia (INA) also took place.

Furthermore, during the period of the Extraordinary Visitation, the Councillor presided over the annual meeting of the Provincials and

Superiors of the Delegations in Dili - Comoro (March 5<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>), enriched by the presence of the Salesian Co-operators (with the World Councillor for East Asia - Oceania, Mr. Philip Yu) and the Past Pupils of Don Bosco (including the World Delegate Fr. Rafael Jayapalan and the World Councillor for Asia-Oceania GEX, Mr. Alberto Piedade). Another interruption of the Visitation occurred because of the participation in the Plenum of the General Council (Rome, March 19<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>) for discernment in view of GC28.

After the Extraordinary Visitation to ITM, the Regional Councillor went to Parañaque (Manila, Philippines - FIN) on May 11<sup>th</sup> to encourage the participants in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Salesian Course of Salesian Studies “Pedagogy of Don Bosco”, organized at regional level for 29 SDBs and 15 lay collaborators (‘Lay Mission Partners’), by Fr. Francis Gustilo (Deputy Dean of DBCS Parañaque). The three-week workshop course helps to train Salesian formators both for initial SDB formation and for Salesian Co-operators, Past Pupils of Don Bosco or various teachers of Salesian educational institutions.

Later, Fr Václav made some short animation visits to the FIS Provinces (South Philippines, Cebu – May 12<sup>th</sup>), KOR (Korea, Seoul –

May 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>), MYM (Myanmar, Anisakan, May 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>) and VIE (Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City, May 21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>). The last official act before returning to Rome was the consultation for the new Provincial of China (CIN), held between May 25<sup>th</sup> and June 1<sup>st</sup> in Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan. After a day with his family in Brno (Czech Republic), Father Klement returned to Rome on June 3<sup>rd</sup> for the summer session of the General Council.

### ***The Councillor for the Central and North Europe Region***

After the conclusion of the winter session of the General Council, the Councillor for Centre and North Europe Region, Fr Tadeusz Rozmus, went to Warsaw on January 30<sup>th</sup> (PLE) to preside over the Provincial feast of Don Bosco and to begin the ***Extraordinary Visitation to the Province of Warsaw (PLE) and the Delegation of Belarus***. During the visitation, which lasted till May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Regional Councillor participated in several other meetings and various events. However, he mainly dedicated all the time between January 30<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup> to the various presences for the realization of the

Extraordinary Visitation. For this purpose he was also present between February 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in the **Delegation of Belarus** visiting all the communities present there, meeting all the confreres and also the ecclesial authorities.

During the period of the Extraordinary Visitation he visited all the Salesian communities and met the majority of the church and government authorities. At the end of the Visitation, on May 11<sup>th</sup> in Różanystok he met first with the Provincial Council and on the following day, with the presence of all the rectors of the communities, he presented the final report of the Extraordinary Visitation.

From February 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> he went to Baku in Azerbaijan to represent the Rector Major at the episcopal consecration of Fr. Vladimir Fekete SDB. On March 1<sup>st</sup> he was present at the postnovitiate of Łąd of the Provinces of Poland where he participated in the meeting of the *Curatorium*, and on March 9<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> he accompanied the participants of the **seminar on FMA - SDB mission animation**, to Fatima.

On March 18<sup>th</sup> he left for Rome to participate until March 28<sup>th</sup> in the *intermediate meeting of the General Council*, after which he returned to the Province of PLE, where he spent the Easter festivities.

He participated in the **centenary celebration of the presence of the Salesians in Krakow - Łosiówka**, location of the famous formation house and currently of the theologate of the four Provinces of Poland. The centenary was celebrated in Krakow on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

He then participated in the meeting of the *Consulting Board of the Salesian Family of Poland*.

For two days – on April 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> – he was in Hungary (UNG), where he presided over the induction for another period as Provincial of Fr. Abraham Bela.

One of the great events of world-wide importance are the *International Salesian Youth Games*, which took place in Krakow between April 28<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>. These games bring together several thousand young people coming from Salesian backgrounds from all continents of the world. The Regional Councillor presides over the inauguration Mass and is present during all the time of the Games.

From May 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> Fr. Rozmus presides over the *meeting of the Provincials of Centre and North Europe Region*, which took place in Lyon (FRB). The meeting was attended by the Vicar of the Rector Major, Fr. Francesco Cereda, and by all the General Councillors of the Dicasteries.

After the closure of the Extraordinary Visitation (May 12<sup>th</sup>), the Regional Councillor chaired the meeting of the *Conference of Polish Provincials (KSIP)* in Wrocław, which was held between May 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>. The Councillor for Youth Ministry, Fr. Fabio Attard, also participated in this meeting, along with his two collaborators, who met the people in charge and the commissions of youth ministry of all the Provinces of Poland, Ukraine (UKR) and the Delegation of Belarus.

Starting from May 19<sup>th</sup>, Fr. Rozmus participated in different moments of animation of the *Provinces of the CIMEC Zone*. On May 19<sup>th</sup> he was present in Gora Butkov and later in Bratislava; on May 21<sup>st</sup> he met the CEP Provincial Council in Brno in the Czech Republic; on May 22<sup>nd</sup> he had various meetings in Hungary, first in Kazincbarcika, where he met the Provincial Council, and then in Budapest. Directly from Budapest he left for Ljubljana in Slovenia, where he first met the Provincial Council on May 24<sup>th</sup> and then presided over the *induction of the new Provincial Fr. Marko Kosnik*.

From May 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> in Croatia he accompanied the Rector Major who was present in the Croatian Province for an animation visit. At

the end of this presence the Rector Major presided over the *induction of the new Provincial Fr. Tihomir Sutalo*. Before returning to Italy, the Regional Councillor visited the communities of Split and Zadar and participated in the meeting of Past Pupils in O wi cim (PLS). On June 1<sup>st</sup> he returned to Italy to participate in the summer session of the General Council.

### ***The Councillor for the Mediterranean Region***

The Councillor for the Mediterranean Region, Fr. Stefano Martoglio, immediately after the conclusion of the winter session of the General Council, resumed the ***Extraordinary Visitation to ICC*** with the community that animates the Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Rome, in the last days of January.

On January 31<sup>st</sup> he went to Brussels to celebrate the feast of Don Bosco at the Parliament of the European Union, animating a Eucharistic Celebration and participating in contacts and meetings prepared by the DBI present for the Congregation in Brussels.

At the beginning of February 2018 the Regional Councillor went to the Province of North East Italy

(INE) to begin the consultation called by the Rector Major for the appointment of the new Provincial. With the confreres he held two meetings, one in Venice-Mestre and one in Verona, to begin the provincial consultation.

Returning to Rome on February 4<sup>th</sup>, he left for Spain, where he began the consultation for the new SMX Provincial, following the appointment as Bishop of Rabat of Fr. Cristobal López Romero. The consultation began with various assemblies of confreres in different areas of the SMX Province and with the meeting of the Rectors and the Provincial Council. In the evening of February 9<sup>th</sup> he returned to Rome from Barcelona.

On February 10<sup>th</sup>, the Regional Councillor began the third and final consultation for the appointment of the new Provincial of ICC; since the Extraordinary Visitation was still in progress in the ICC, the Councillor animated four assemblies of confreres in four areas of the Province in the space of two weeks, interposing them with the continuation of the Extraordinary Visitation to the Province.

The Extraordinary Visitation proceeded, according to the schedule, with visits to individual houses, in different areas of the Province

for as long as necessary, from February until the end of May.

Some events were interposed as part of the ordinary work of visiting the houses. One was the preaching of the Regional Councillor to the rectors and councilors of the ICC of a week of spiritual exercises in Fatima: a rich and fruitful experience, appreciated by all for the place and the charge of spirituality that it transmits. Another event, which took place at the time of the Extraordinary Visitation, was the participation, in March for about ten days, in the intermediate session of the General Council, in which, under the leadership of the Rector Major, the whole Council worked on the theme of GC 28.

Once this time for the General Council ended on Maundy Thursday, the Visitation to ICC resumed at the end of March.

Immediately after Easter, the Regional Councillor also preached a week of spiritual exercises at Colle Don Bosco, from April 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, giving his contribution to the initiatives of formation and spirituality that the Salesian places have put in place in recent years.

On May 27<sup>th</sup>, after the visit to the ICC houses in Sardinia, the Regional Councillor returned to Rome and in the following days participated in the closing meetings with the rectors and the ICC Provincial Council, concluding the Extraordinary Visitation on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018.

## 5. DOCUMENTS AND NEWS

---

### 5.1 Second Seminar on the promotion of the Causes of Beatification and Canonization of the Salesian Family

#### LETTER OF THE RECTOR MAJOR AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE SEMINAR

*Dear Superiors/and those Responsible for the Salesian Family*

*Dear Provincials and those animating and promoting the Causes*

The celebration of the Seminar for the promotion of the Causes of Beatification and Canonization of the Salesian Family, held in Rome between 10 and 14 April 2018, with the participation of about 90 people coming from various parts of the world, was an occasion of grace to examine the spiritual and pastoral progress of the whole of our Salesian Family.

The meeting highlighted how the process and the witness of Salesian holiness in the Salesian Family are above all the gift of the Holy Spirit to be welcomed with humility and gratitude. They confirm the fact that it is not enough to offer services and to do things but that it is necessary to bring Jesus and to bring to Jesus, by proclaiming the joy of the Gospel.

From Don Bosco down to our own times we recognise a tradition of holiness to which we need to pay attention, since the incarnation of the charism that had its origin in him found its expression in a variety of states of life and in different forms, it is a question of men and women, young people and adults, consecrated persons and lay people, bishops and missionaries who in certain historical, cultural and social contexts, different in time and place, made the special light of the Salesian charism shine out, representing a heritage that continues to play an effective role in the life and in the communities of believers and of men and women of good will.

In my closing address I expressed this hope: "I would like to look at the witness of our saints, blessed and all the members of the Salesian Family on the way to holiness recognised by the Church, as those who accompany us in the ways and in the life of the Spirit. Their life-witness and the unfolding of their vocations and of their writings are for us *outlines of ways of life* from which we can learn how to place all our lives under the guidance of the Holy Spirit in order to be ready to listen to His inspirations and directives."

In this year in which the Church devotes the Synod of Bishops to the Young and their journey of faith and of vocation I should also like to look at both the *young saints* of the Salesian Family, of which there are 45 under 30 years of age – a sign of the dynamism of the Salesian spirit incarnated in youngsters, teenagers and young people – and also at the *youth of saints* as a manifestation of the way God can act in the lives of people in a variety of the most different ways.

By means of talks of the highest quality, opportunities for sharing ideas in group work, the aim was achieved of being able to present the material and the processes that assist in the verification and follow up of any presumed miracles but above all this gathering has been further confirmation of the fact that the promotion and the care given to the Causes of Beatification and Canonization of our Family give rise to the dynamics of grace that are the source of evangelical joy and to the sense of belonging to the charism, renewing resolutions and commitments to fidelity to the call received and creating apostolic and vocational fruitfulness.

This seminar – which will have its third edition between 13 and 17 April 2021 – gives rise to some reflections that involve the General Office of Postulation and those bodies that are coordinated by it at local level, but also makes some demands on the Government of the Congregation and on the Departments of which it is composed, in order to then branch out into the local situations, under the direction of the Provinces and of the Salesian Family, in accordance with the local Churches: a process that unfolds with two different timescales or, if you prefer, along two different paths – the institutional and the pastoral – which need to act in harmony as they give each other support. In this area some challenges have surfaced that need to be recognised and faced up to:

1. To continue in the Salesian Family, in communion with the local Churches, the process of promoting the Causes by means of initiatives to make our candidates for holiness known, imitated and prayed to. As a challenge I would like to ask, “Do we keep in mind and pray to our Blessed, Venerable and Servants of God? Do we have confidence in the communion of saints? Do we believe in the power of intercession of the saints?”.

2. To coordinate as well as possible the process of "Government" and that of the Postulation Office it is necessary that for each Cause at local level there be some people who take on the responsibility of following up our Causes, keeping them on track and keeping them alive, and spreading devotion to the Servants of God, the Venerable, and the Blessed in communion and collaboration with the local Churches. Vice-postulators, collaborators and promoters need to raise awareness, inform, and encourage approaches to the local Bishops and superiors. To keep things moving there is no need to wait quietly for the Bishops to make their decisions and give recommendations from on high. What is needed is to be responsible and to awaken a sense of co-responsibility, in a spirit of communion with the Church and of pastoral creativity. A first initiative could be that of proposing to/in the local Churches and within the Salesian Family a day on which to present and make known the findings of the Seminar.
3. To increase our awareness of the crucial importance of a miracle and the need for it for the successful outcome of a Cause. In the light of the talks by Card. Amato, Mons. Pellegrino and Father Turek it is necessary to reflect on the twofold aspects of a lack of scientific explanation and of intercession; to commit ourselves to praying and getting others to pray to our candidates for the altars, overcoming laziness and spiritual superficiality. Again here I ask: "Do we think that it is important to pray to obtain miracles? Or do we believe that miracles can no longer happen? Unless we pray to the Blessed and Venerable, we shall not be able to obtain miracles from God".
4. To appreciate the manifold richness of the one Salesian Family, made up of 31 different groups some of which are distinguished by being essentially lay in character: a richness in its own way unique in the Church. This richness that is expressed at the charismatic level, could now also be transformed into a new form of collaboration in the Causes of Beatification and Canonization, with all that this implies, and a very real movement in the Church to which it would give rise.

Holiness already recognised or in the process of being recognised, on the one hand is itself the realization of the evangelical radical approach and fidelity to the apostolic project of Don Bosco, which one can recognise as a spiritual and pastoral treasure; on the other hand, it is a challenge to

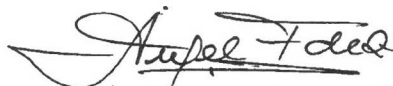


live one's own vocation with fidelity and to be ready to bear witness to love right to the end. Our Saints, Blessed. Venerable and Servants of God are the veritable incarnation of the Salesian charism and of the *Constitutions* or *Regulations* of our Institutes and Groups in the most diverse times and situations, overcoming that worldliness and spiritual superficiality that undermine the roots of our credibility and fruitfulness. They are true mystics of the primacy of God in the generous gift of oneself, prophets of evangelical fraternity, servants of their brothers and sisters with creativity.

I thank the Lord for the grace of this Seminar which has helped us to appreciate ever more the mystery of the Communion of Saints and has placed us within that "circle of saints" which in artistic language Blessed Fra Angelico wanted to describe and which in Salesian terms is like a "gift of the Spirit" which enables us to come together and to journey together along the joyful and demanding path of holiness. These initiatives are a privileged means for the promotion among the whole people of God of that common vocation to holiness which is so dear to us in our Salesian tradition and to which Pope Francis with his Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate* is exhorting us.

May Our Mother Mary Help of Christians, given to little John in his dream at 9 years of age as his «teacher, under whose guidance you will become wise and without whom all wisdom becomes foolishness, take us by the hand and with a motherly gaze accompany us on the way of holiness.

Rome, 20 May 2018  
Solemnity of Pentecost



Fr Ángel FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME, sdb  
Rector Major

**5.2 Venerability of the Servant of God Augustus Hlond,  
of the Society of St. Francis de Sales,  
Archbishop of Gniezno and Warsaw,  
Founder of the Society of Christ for the Emigrants of Poland**

**LETTER OF THE RECTOR MAJOR**

Prot. 18/0316

*My dear Salesian Confrères*

*My dear brothers and sisters of the Salesian Family*

On May 19, 2018, the Holy Father Pope Francis authorized the Congregation for the Causes of Saints to promulgate the decree concerning the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Augustus Joseph Hlond, of the Salesian Society of St. John Bosco, Archbishop of Gniezno and Warszawa, Primate of Poland, Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, Founder of the Society of Christ for Migrants; he was born on July 5, 1881 in Brzęczkowice (Poland) and died in Warszawa (Poland) on October 22, 1948.

This is a new gift to our Family and a confirmation of the path of holiness flourished from the charism given by God to the Church through our father Don Bosco.

He was the second of 11 children and his father was a railway worker. Having received from his parents a simple but strong faith, at the age of 12, attracted by the fame of Don Bosco, he followed his brother Ignatius to Italy to consecrate himself to the Lord in the Salesian Society, and there he soon attracted two other brothers: Antonio who would become a Salesian and a renowned musician and Clement, who would be a missionary. The college of Valsalice welcomed him for his high school studies. Admitted to the novitiate, he received the cassock from Blessed Michael Rua (1896). After making his religious profession in 1897, his superiors sent him to Rome at the Gregorian University for the course of philosophy that he crowned with his degree. From Rome he returned to Poland for the practical training in the college of Oświęcim. His fidelity to the educational system of Don Bosco, his commitment to assistance and in the school, his dedication to the young and the kindness of his trait gained him great ascendancy. He also immediately asserted himself for his musical talent.

After completing his theological studies, on 23 September 1905 he was ordained a priest by Bishop Nowak in Krakow. In the years 1905-09 he attended the faculty of letters at the universities of Krakow and Lviv. In 1907 he was in charge of running the new house in Przemyśl (1907-09), from where he passed to the management of the house in Vienna (1909-19). Here, his personal value and ability proved even greater because of the particular difficulties the institute was facing in the imperial capital.

Fr. Augustus Hlond, with his virtue and his touch, succeeded in a short time not only to fix the economic situation, but also to give rise to a flowering of youth works that attracted the admiration of every class of people. The care for the poor, workers and children attracted the affection of the humblest classes. Very dear to the bishops and apostolic nuncios, he enjoyed the esteem of the authorities and of the imperial family themselves. In recognition of this social and educational work, he received three times some of the most prestigious honours.

In 1919 the development of the Austro-Hungarian Province recommended a division proportional to the number of houses, and the superiors appointed Fr. Hlond as provincial of the German-Hungarian Province, based in Vienna (1919-22), entrusting him with the care of the Austrian, German and Hungarian confreres. In less than three years, the young provincial opened about ten new Salesian presences, and formed them in the most genuine Salesian spirit, awakening numerous vocations.

It was in the full fervour of his Salesian activity, when, in 1922, the Holy See having to provide for the religious organization of Polish Silesian that was still bleeding for the political and national struggles, that the Holy Father Pius XI entrusted him with the most delicate mission and appointed him Apostolic Administrator. From his mediation between the Germans and Poles the diocese of Katowice was born in 1925, of which he became bishop. In 1926 he was archbishop of Gniezno and Poznań and primate of Poland. On the following year the Pope created him cardinal. In 1932 he founded the Society of Christ for Polish Emigrants, which was intended to assist the many compatriots who had left the country.

In March 1939 he took part in the Conclave that elected Pius XII. On September 1 of the same year the Nazis invaded Poland: the Second World War began. The cardinal raised his voice against the violations of human

rights and religious freedom committed by Hitler. Forced into exile, he took refuge in France, at the Abbey of Hautecombe, denouncing the persecutions against the Jews in Poland. The Gestapo penetrated the Abbey and arrested him, deporting him to Paris. The cardinal categorically refuses to support the formation of a pro-Nazi Polish government. He was first interned in Lorraine and then in Westphalia. Freed by Allied troops, he returned to his homeland in 1945.

In the new Poland freed from Nazism, he found Communism. He courageously defended the Poles from Marxist atheist oppression, even escaping some attempts on his life. He died on 22 October 1948 from pneumonia at the age of 67. Thousands of people flocked to his funeral.

Cardinal Hlond was a virtuous man, a luminous example of a Salesian religious and a generous, austere pastor, capable of prophetic visions. Obedient to the Church and firm in the exercise of authority, he showed heroic humility and unequivocal constancy in moments of greatest trial. He cultivated poverty and did justice to the poor and needy. The two columns of his spiritual life, at the school of St. John Bosco, were the Eucharist and Mary Help of Christians.

In the history of the Church of Poland, Cardinal Augustus Hlond was one of the most eminent figures for the religious witness of his life, the greatness, variety and originality of his pastoral ministry, for the sufferings he faced with an intrepid Christian spirit for the Kingdom of God. The apostolic ardour distinguished the pastoral work and spiritual physiognomy of Venerable Augustus Hlond, who, taking as his episcopal motto *Da mihi animas coetera tolle*, as a true son of Saint John Bosco, confirmed it with his life as a consecrated person and bishop, giving witness of tireless pastoral charity.

Finally, I would like to recall his great love for Our Lady, which he learned in his family and in the great devotion of the Polish people to the Mother of God, venerated in the sanctuary of Czestochowa. Furthermore, from Turin, where he began his journey as a Salesian, he spread the cult of Mary Help of Christians in Poland and consecrated Poland to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. His entrusting himself to Mary always supported him in adversities and in the hour of his extreme encounter with the Lord. He died with the beads of the Rosary in his hands telling those

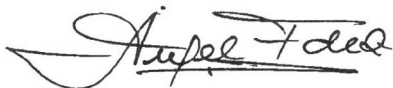
present that the victory, when it would come, would be the victory of Mary Immaculate.

In conclusion I want to underline how Venerable Cardinal Augustus Hlond is a singular witness of how we must accept the way of the Gospel every day despite the fact that it causes us problems, difficulties and even persecutions: this is holiness. "Jesus reminds us how many people have been, and still are, persecuted simply because they struggle for justice, because they take seriously their commitment to God and to others. Unless we wish to sink into an obscure mediocrity, let us not long for an easy life, for "whoever would save his life will lose it" (*Mt* 16:25). In living the Gospel, we cannot expect that everything will be easy, for the thirst for power and worldly interests often stands in our way... Whatever weariness and pain we may experience in living the commandment of love and following the way of justice, the cross remains the source of our growth and sanctification" (Francis, *Gaudete et Exultate*, No. 90-92).

I hope that you may truly draw inspiration from this example of Salesian holiness, knowing his witness and asking through his intercession for the grace of the miracle that opens the way to beatification.

Rome, 5 July 2018

*Anniversary of the birth  
of Venerable Augustus Hlond*

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ángel F. Artime', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Fr Ángel FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME, sdb  
*Rector Major*

### 5.3 Decree of Canonical Erection of the Salesian Vice-Province “St. Louis Versiglia” of Indonesia

Prot. 205/SG/2018

#### DECREE OF CANONICAL ERECTION OF THE VICE-PROVINCE OF “ST. LOUIS VERSIGLIA” OF INDONESIA

The undersigned,

Fr. **Ángel FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME**,

*Rector Major of the Salesian Society of St. John Bosco,*

- considering the development of the Salesian mission and the territorial extension of the Salesian Vice-Province of “St. Callistus Caravario” of Dili-Comoro (East Timor);
- taking into account that, for a more efficacious animation, on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2010, the Provincial Delegation of “Indonesia”, based in Jakarta (Indonesia), was constituted;
- considering the result of the consultation done in the Vice-Province;
- considering the favourable advice of the Superior with the Council of the Vice-Province of Timor and Indonesia;
- having obtained the consent of the General Council in the meeting of **June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, according to articles 132 §1,1 and 156 of the Constitutions:

**DETACHES from the Salesian Vice-Province of “St. Callistus Caravario” of Dili-Comoro (East Timor) the following Houses, canonically erected:**

1. BLITAR “St. Joseph”
2. JAKARTA-Wisma “Sacred Heart of Jesus”
3. PURWOKERTO “St. Dominic Savio”
4. SUMBA “St. John Bosco”
5. TIGARAKSA-Tanggerang “St. John Bosco”

**and the not canonically erected House:**

1. SURABAYA “St. Michael”

and, through the present Decree,

### CANONICALLY ERECTS

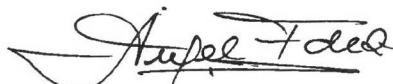
the new **SALESIAN VICE-PROVINCE of INDONESIA**, entitled to **"St. LOUIS VERSIGLIA"**, with its see in **JAKARTA (Indonesia)**, **House of the "Sacred Heart of Jesus"**, with the above-mentioned Houses.

The following is also decreed:

1. The confrères who on the present date of the canonical erection, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, live and work in the above-mentioned Salesian Houses, belong to the Vice-Province.
2. Besides, the confrères in formation who are originally from Indonesia and the missionary confrères, even if inserted in external formation communities, also belong to the Vice-Province.
3. The field of relationships of the Vice-Province of Indonesia (INA) with the Vice-Province of East Timor (TLS) will be defined by a possible Convention approved by the Rector Major.

The Vice-Province will commence with the induction of the new Superior.

Rome, 8 June 2018



Fr Ángel FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME, sdb  
*Rector Major*



Fr. Stefano VANOLI  
*General Secretary*

#### **5.4 Decree of Canonical Erection of the Salesian Vice-Province “Mary Help of Christians” of Malta**

Prot. 249/SG/2018

##### **DECREE OF CANONICAL ERECTION OF THE VICE-PROVINCE OF “MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS” OF MALTA**

The undersigned,

**Fr. Ángel FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME,**

*Rector Major of the Salesian Society of St. John Bosco,*

- considering the development of the Salesian mission and the territorial distance of the Salesian Province of “St. Patrick” of Dublin (Ireland);
- taking into account that, for a more efficacious animation, on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1980, the Provincial Delegation of “Malta”, based in Sliema (Malta), was constituted;
- considering the result of the consultation done in the Province;
- considering the favourable advice of the Provincial with his Council;
- having obtained the consent of the General Council in the meeting of **June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018**, according to articles 132 §1,1 and 156 of the Constitutions:

**DETACHES from the Salesian Province of “St. Patrick” of Dublin (Ireland) the following Houses, canonically erected:**

1. DINGLI “St. Dominic Savio”
2. SENGLEA “St. Philip Neri”
3. SLIEMA “St. Alfonse”
4. SLIEMA “St. Patrick”

**and the following suspended religious communities**

1. SLIEMA “Delegation”
2. SLIEMA “Mamma Margherita”
3. SLIEMA “Osanna Pia”



and, through the present Decree,

### CANONICALLY ERECTS

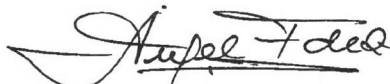
the new **SALESIAN VICE-PROVINCE of MALTA**, entitled to **“MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS”**, with its see in **SLIEMA (Malta)**, **“St. Alfonse” House**, with the above-mentioned Houses.

The following is also decreed:


1. The confrères who on the present date of the canonical erection, June 26<sup>th</sup>, 2018, live and work in the above-mentioned Salesian Houses, belong to the Vice-Province.
2. Besides, the confrères in formation who are originally from Malta, even if inserted in external formation communities, also belong to the Vice-Province.
3. The field of relationships of the Vice-Province of Malta (MLT) with the Province of Ireland (IRL) will be defined by a possible Convention approved by the Rector Major.

The Vice-Province will commence with the induction of the new Superior.

Rome, 8 July 2018



Fr Ángel FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME, sdb  
*Rector Major*



Fr. Stefano VANOLI  
*General Secretary*

## 5.5 New Provincials

*Here below find (in alphabetical order) some biographical details on the Provincials appointed by the Rector Major with his Council in the intermediate session and in the summer plenary session (June-July 2018) of the General Council*

### 1. ASPETTATI Stefano, Superior of the Circumscription of CENTRAL ITALY (ICC)

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Rector Major and his Council appointed Fr. Stefano ASPETTATI as head of the “Sacred Heart” Circumscription of Central Italy (ICC). He succeeds Fr. Leonardo Mancini.

Born on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 1974, in Florence (Italy), Stefano Aspettati made his first religious profession as a Salesian on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1998, in Turin, at the end of his novitiate in Pinerolo, Piedmont. He made his perpetual profession on 19<sup>th</sup>, 2004, and was ordained a priest on May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2006, in Florence.

After his priestly ordination, having completed his studies at UPS, in 2007 he was assigned to the Salesian house in Livorno, where he carried out his educational and pastoral ministry until September 2011, when he was transferred to

“Borgo Ragazzi Don Bosco” as rector of the community.

At provincial level in the years 2009-2011 he served as Delegate of the team “Parishes-Oratories” and in 2011 also as Delegate of the group for the service of “Marginalization and Discomfort”. From June 2014 until the present appointment as Provincial, he was a member of the Provincial Council.

### 2. ASURMENDI MARTÍNEZ Ángel, Provincial of the Province “Mary Help of Christians”, Spain (SMX)

P. Ángel ASURMENDI MARTÍNEZ is the new Superior of the Province of “Mary Help of Christians”, based in Seville, Spain (SMX). He has been appointed to this task by the Rector Major with his Council on March 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, during the intermediate session of the General Council. He succeeds Fr. Cristóbal López Romero, who was elected Bishop.

Born on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 1952, in Mendavia (Navarre, Spain), he made his first profession as a Salesian on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1971, and his perpetual profession on June 15<sup>th</sup>, 1980. He was ordained a priest in Barcelona on May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1983.

After his priestly ordination, he exerted his educational and pas-

toral ministry in the houses of Huesca (1983-1990), Barcelona-Rocafort (1991-1995), Barcelona-Horta (1995-1996). In 1995 he obtained an M.A. in Pedagogy. Later he was rector at the house of Barcelona-Sant Vicenç del Horts (1996-2000), then at the house of Barcelona-Sarrià (2000-2006). In 2002 he became a member of the Provincial Council and in 2006 he was appointed Vice-Provincial.

On June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Rector Major Fr. Chávez Villanueva and his Council appointed him Provincial of the then Province of "Most Holy Mary of Mercy", based in Barcelona, a task that he carried out for a six-year period until May 2014.

He concluded his ministry of Provincial in Barcelona and continued for three years (2014-2017) as Vice-Provincial in the new SMX Province. From September 2014 he was also Delegate for Formation.

Now he is again being called upon to carry out the ministry of Provincial.

### 3. *BIFFI Igino, Provincial of the Province of ITALY NORTH-EAST (INE)*

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Rector Major, with the consent of the General Council, appointed Fr. *Igino BIFFI*

*FI* Superior of the Province of "St. Mark", Italy North-East Italy, based in Venice-Mestre.

Igino Biffi, born in Latisana, province of Udine (Italy), on March 6<sup>th</sup>, 1970, made his first religious profession on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1991, as a Salesian of Don Bosco, at the end of his novitiate in Pinerolo, Piedmont. He pronounced his perpetual vows on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 1997, and was ordained a priest on June 26<sup>th</sup>, 1999, in Udine, after doing his theological studies in Cremisan, in the Province of the Middle East.

After his priestly ordination, he was assigned to the Proposal-Community in Mogliano Veneto, where he worked from 1999 to 2003 (in this community he had already worked in the years of his practical training 1993-1995.) Later he exerted his ministry for a three-year period (2003-2006) in the community of "St. Mark" of Venice-Mestre. He was then transferred to the Provincial community, also in Venice-Mestre, where he remained until June 2014, when he was appointed rector of the community of Udine, a task that he was still carrying out, until his appointment as Provincial.

At provincial level he was Delegate for Vocational Animation (1999-2003) and Youth Ministry

(2002-2003) of the then Veneta Est Province (IVE), before becoming Delegate for Youth Ministry (2006-2014) of the new INE Province, a task he fulfilled with the accompaniment of various groups and Salesian realities: "Youth and Social Tourism" (TGS) from 2003 to 2006; "Friends of Dominic Savio" from 2006 to 2008; International Volunteers for Development (VIS) from 2008 to 2010. He was also for a period a Provincial Councillor.

4. *FORMOSA Paul, Superior of the Vice-Province of MALTA (MLT)*

Fr. Paul FORMOSA is the first Superior of the Vice-Province of "Mary Help of Christians" of MALTA, erected in the recent summer plenary session of the General Council.

Paul Formosa was born on October 31<sup>st</sup>, 1960, in Valletta, Malta, and has been a Salesian since September 8<sup>th</sup>, 1981, when he did his first religious profession in Warrenstown after completing the novitiate in Dublin, Ireland.

He pronounced his perpetual vows on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1987, and was ordained a priest in Valletta, his hometown, on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1989, after the theological studies he did in Maynooth.

After his priestly ordination, he exerted his ministry mainly in the Salesian communities and works in Malta: economer from 1991 to 1995 in the house of Sliema-St. Alphonsus (Malta), then economer in the house of Dingli (Malta) from 1998 to 2007. In the six-year period 2001-2007 he was also rector of the community of Dingli. In March 2007 he was appointed rector of the Sliema-St. Alphonsus community, a task he carried out until 2016.

He then had tasks at the level of the "Delegation" of Malta, under the jurisdiction of the Irish Province. First as economer of the Delegation and in charge of Youth Ministry, in May 2008 he was appointed "Delegate", a task that was repeatedly confirmed every three years until the current appointment – by the Rector Major with his Council – as Superior of the new MLT Vice-Province, on July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

5. *HAMAGUCHI Jacob Hideaki, Provincial of the Province of JAPAN (GIA)*

Fr. Jacob Hideaki HAMAGUCHI is the new Provincial of the Province of "St. Francis Xavier" of JAPAN, appointed by the Rector Major with his Council on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018. He succeeds Fr. Mario

Yamanouchi, who was appointed Bishop of the Diocese of Saitama, Japan, on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

Born on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1958, in Sacebo City, Nagasaki, Japan, Jacob Hamaguchi made his first religious profession as a Salesian on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 1982, after his novitiate in Tokyo-Chofu. He did his perpetual profession on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 1988, and was ordained a priest in Tokyo on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1990.

After his priestly ordination, he spent another year in Tokyo-Chofu, then in February 1992 he was assigned to the community of Tokyo-Kodaira, in which in November 1995 he was appointed director for a six-year period. He remained in Tokyo-Kodaira until February 2005, when he was transferred to the community in Osaka. In February 2010, he was again sent to the community of Tokyo-Chofu, where he served as director for six years (from early 2012 to December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017). He later moved on to the Tokyo-Meguro community as rector.

He was Provincial Councillor since February 2012, and in December 2014 he was appointed Vice-Provincial, a task he carried out until the present appointment as Provincial. At provincial level, he also had the tasks of Delegate for Formation and for the Salesian Family.

## 6. *KURUVACHIRA Jose, Provincial of the Province of DIMAPUR, India (IND)*

The Rector Major and his Council, on June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018, appointed Fr. *Jose KURUVACHIRA* as head of the Province of "St. Francis de Sales" based in DIMAPUR, India.

Jose Kuruvachira was born on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 1958, in Rayarom, Cannalore (Kerala), India and has been a Salesian since May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1978, when he made his first religious profession, after the novitiate he completed at Shillong-Sunnyside. He made his perpetual profession on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1984 in Dimapur, and was ordained a priest on December 29<sup>th</sup>, 1988, in Marygiri.

Having obtained, during his studies, an MA in Theology and Philosophy, in September 1991 he was assigned to the Philosophy College in Dimapur, where he remained as a professor until September 1997, when he came to Rome first to complete his studies and then become a professor at the Salesian Pontifical University. In fact, in February 2010 he had a temporary transfer to the UPS Vice-Province of "Mary Seat of Wisdom" and was assigned to the Faculty of Philosophy in the chair of Anthropology. We recall that in 2008 he authored two books, one with the title "Finding

a Path to the Future” and the other “Politicisation of Hindu Religion in Postmodern India”. In September 2002 he returned to his province of origin in India, to the Philosophy College of Dimapur. In September 2010 he returned to the UPS Vice-Province, to the “Jesus the Teacher” Community, until his appointment as Provincial of Dimapur.

**7. LEÓN MENDOZA** *Alejandro José, Provincial of the Province of the MIDDLE EAST (MOR)*

The Rector Major with his Council, on March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018, (in the intermediate session of the Council) appointed Fr. *Alejandro José LEÓN MENDOZA* Superior of the Province of “Adolescent Jesus” of the MIDDLE EAST. He succeeds Fr. Munir El Rai.

Alejandro José León Mendoza was born on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 1979, in Mérida, Venezuela and has been a Salesian since August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1998, the date of his first religious profession in the novitiate of San Antonio de Los Altos, in the Province of Venezuela. In September 2004, still temporarily professed, he left as a missionary for the Middle East Province, destined for Cairo, Egypt, where he remained – for the practical training - for two years.

In September 2006 he came to Italy, to Turin-Crocetta, for his theological studies, which he completed at UPS in Rome. He pronounced his perpetual vows on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, and was ordained a priest on July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2010, in Mérida, his hometown.

In September 2009 he was canonically transferred to the Middle East Province. Here, in September 2011, he was sent to Damascus, Syria, where in June 2013 he took on the duties of rector of the community, and at the same time economer and responsible for the oratory.

Now, the Rector Major with his Council has called him to assume the ministry of Provincial of the MOR Province.

**8. NG CHI-YUEN** *Joseph, Provincial of the Province of CHINA (CIN)*

Fr. *Joseph NG CHI-YUEN* is the new Provincial of the “Mary Help of Christians” Province of CHINA, appointed by the Rector Major with his Council on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018. He succeeds Fr. Lanfranco Fedrigotti.

Born on September 12<sup>th</sup>, 1955, in Hong Kong, Joseph Ng Chi-Yuen made his first profession as a Salesian on July 16<sup>th</sup>, 1981, at the end of his novitiate in Hong Kong - Salesian Missionary House. On July

12<sup>th</sup>, 1987, he made his perpetual profession and was ordained a priest in Hong Kong on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1989.

After his priestly ordination, he remained for two years in Hong Kong, in the "Salesian Missionary House", then in September 1991 he was assigned to the Salesian community of Tainan, Taiwan. He then spent three years (1992-1995) in Los Angeles, USA.

On his return to China, in May 1996 he was appointed rector, and the following year also novice master in the novitiate of Chao Chou, Taiwan, until February 2004. He then spent a year (2004-2005) as rector in Taipei, Taiwan. Later, in September 2005, he was transferred to the "Salesian Missionary House" community in Hong Kong, of which he was appointed rector in July 2012, for a three-year period. On August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, he was appointed Provincial Economist, a task he carried out until the present appointment as Provincial.

9. *NGOBOKA Pierre Célestin, Provincial of the Vice-Province of AFRICA GREAT LAKES (AGL)*

At the head of the "St. Charles Lwanga" Vice-Province of AFRICA GREAT LAKES (AGL), on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, the Rector Major and his Council appointed Fr. *Célesin*

*NGOBOKA* as Superior. He succeeds Fr. Camiel Swertvagher.

Pierre Célestin Ngoboka was born on July 14<sup>th</sup>, 1974, in Nyabikenke, Rwanda, and made his first profession as a Salesian on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2001, in Kigali (then part of the FTA Province), after the novitiate he completed in Gatenga, Rwanda. He did his perpetual profession on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006, studied theology in Rome-UPS and was ordained a priest on July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2007 in Kanyanza, Rwanda.

After his priestly ordination, he spent three more years at UPS in Rome, obtaining a doctorate in Philosophy.

On his return to the Vice-Province, he was assigned to the postnovitiate house of Kabgayi, Rwanda, as a professor and since 2010 also as rector. At the level of the Vice-Province, he was delegate for vocational orientation and formation. In July 2012 he was appointed Vicar of the Superior of the Vice-Province, a task he carried out until his current appointment as Superior of the Vice-Province.

10. *VALENCIA MOSQUERA Luis Fernando, Provincial of COLOMBIA, MEDELLÍN (COM)*

On 9 June 2018, the Rector Major and his Council appointed Fr. *Luis*

*Fernando VALENCIA MOSQUERA* Superior of "St. Luis Bertrando" Province, based in MEDELLIN, COLOMBIA. He succeeds Fr. John Jairo Gómez.

Luis Fernando Valencia Mosquera was born on September 9<sup>th</sup>, 1963, in Abejorral, Antioquia, Colombia, and has been a Salesian since January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1983, the date of his first profession in Rionegro, where he made his novitiate. He pronounced his perpetual vows on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 1988, and was ordained a priest in Rionegro on November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1991.

After his priestly ordination, he exerted his ministry in various Salesian communities: Ibagué - San Jorge (1992-1994), La Ceja - Novitiate (1994-1996), Cartagena (1996-1997), Medellín - Provincial House (1997-1999), Medellín - Ciudad Don Bosco (1999-2008; rector for six years), Dublin, Ireland (2008-2010). From 2010 onwards he was at the Provincial House in Medellín, where he was first economer and from 2015 was rector.

At provincial level he was Councillor from 2000 to 2004, when he was appointed Vice-Provincial, a task he carried out for three years. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2009, he was appointed Provincial Economer, a task he carried out for three three-year periods until his present ap-

pointment as Provincial. At different times, he had the task of delegate at provincial level: for the ministry in marginalization and for economy.

11. *VILLALBA RAMÍREZ Mario Jesús*, Provincial of the Province of PARAGUAY (PAR)

Fr. *Mario Jesús VILLALBA RAMÍREZ* is the new Superior of the Province of "Maria SS. Assunta" of PARAGUAY, appointed for this task by the Rector Major with his Council on June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018. He succeeds Fr. Néstor Ledesma

Mario Jesús Villalba Ramírez, born on September 24<sup>th</sup>, 1970, in Asunción, Paraguay, made his first profession as a Salesian on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1991, in the novitiate of La Plata. He made his perpetual profession on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1997, and was ordained a priest on October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1999, in Asunción.

After his priestly ordination he was assigned to the post-novitiate house, where he served as economer and then also as vicar. At the end of 2002 he passed to the community of Ypacaraí, where he was rector for a year. Returning to the postnovitiate house in Asunción in February 2004, he remained there until the end of 2011, carrying out tasks as vicar and economer. In



2012 he was again rector in the Ypacaraí community. Later, in February 2013, he was called to the provincial house in Asunción, where he served as vicar and economer; and from December 2013 as rector. A year later, in December 2014, he was appointed rector of the house of Asunción - Salesiano, also carrying out the task of Headmaster. In 2016 he was economer in the community of Asunción - Mons. Lasagna. In December 2016, he took on the service of rector in the provincial house.

At the provincial level he had, at different times, the duties of delegate for the pastoral care of vocations and formation, then for economy. In August 2012 he was appointed Provincial Economer, a task he carried out until the present appointment as Provincial.

12. *WONG Andrew, Superior of the Vice-Province of INDONESIA (INA)*

Fr. Andrew WONG is the first Superior of "St. Louis Versiglia" Vice-Province of INDONESIA (INA), erected on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

Born on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1952, in Santa Ana, Manila, Philippines, Andrew Wong made his first profession on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 1972 in Canlubang, where he had completed his novi-

tiate and where he also attended post-novitiate studies. For his practical training he was in the house of San Fernando's aspirantate, then followed theological studies in the Salesian college of Parañaque, Metro Manila. He did his perpetual profession on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1978, and was ordained a priest in Manila on December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1979.

Because of his qualities, he was soon involved in the field of formation. After a few years in the theologate of Parañaque, he was appointed as novice master in the novitiate of Canlubang, a task he continued – together with the one of rector – in Bacolod-Granada, in South Philippines, when the novitiate was transferred to this place (1991). In 1992, he was also a member of the South Philippines Provincial Council.

In 1994, the Superiors assigned him to Indonesia. After a year as rector in the formation community of Jakarta, in 1995 he was appointed rector and master in the novitiate of Fatumaca, East Timor, a task he carried out until 1998, when he was appointed Superior of the Vice-Province of East Timor - Indonesia. As Superior of the Vice-Province, he participated in the CG25.

At the end of his mandate as Provincial of East Timor, he was

appointed Provincial of North Philippines on 19 March 2005. And as Provincial of North Philippines he participated in the GC26 in 2008. At this General Chapter, on March 28, 2008, he was elected General Councillor for the Region of East Asia and Oceania, a task he carried out until the following General Chapter 27.

At the end of his term as Regional Councillor, in the three-year period 2014-2017 he was rector of the formation community of "Ratisbonne" in Jerusalem. Returning to his province of origin (North Philippines) he took on the service for the formation needs of the province and the region of East Asia and Oceania, particularly the specific formation of Salesian Brothers.

Now, on June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018, he was called by the Rector Major with his Council to lead the new Vice-Province of Indonesia, also because of the knowledge he already has of the Salesian presence in this territory.

## 5.6 New Salesian Bishops

*Here below find (in alphabetical order) some biographical details of the Salesian Bishops appointed by the Holy Father in the First Semester 2018.*

### 1. **LÓPEZ ROMERO Cristóbal, Archbishop of RABAT (Morocco)**

On December 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Pope Francis appointed Salesian priest **Cristóbal LÓPEZ ROMERO** as *Archbishop of the Archdiocese of RABAT (Morocco)*.

Cristóbal López was born on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1952, in Vélez Rubio (Almería), Spain, and has been a Salesian since August 16<sup>th</sup>, 1968, the date of the first religious profession he pronounced in the novitiate of Godelleta, in the then Province of Barcelona, Spain. He did his perpetual profession on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1974, and was ordained a priest on May 19<sup>th</sup>, 1979, in Barcelona.

After his priestly ordination, he spent a few years in the Province of Barcelona, then left for Paraguay, where he carried out his ministry in some communities, with significant tasks, including those of parish priest in Fernando de La Mora, rector of Asunción – Mons. Lasagna. In June 1994, the Rector Major and his Council appointed

him *Provincial of the "Maria SS. Assunta" Province of Paraguay*. In these years he was also President of the Conference of Religious of Paraguay. At the end of his six-year period as Provincial, in 2003 he was asked to go to Morocco, that depends on the Province of France, as rector of the community and of the Salesian house (vocational centre) in Kenitra. After he concluded his commitment in Morocco, in 2013 he was transferred to the *Province of Bolivia*, appointed *Provincial* in January 2011.

He worked in Bolivia for just over three years, until June 2014, when the Rector Major asked him to return to Spain, with the appointment of *Provincial of the new Province of "Mary Help of Christians" (SMX)*, based in Seville.

Now the Holy Father has appointed him Archbishop of Rabat. The episcopal consecration took place on March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018, in the Cathedral of Rabat.

## **2. MURGUIA VILLALOBOS** **Salvador Cleofás, Vescovo Prelato di MIXES (Messico)**

On June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the nomination by Pope Francis of Salesian priest Salvador Cleofás MURGUIA VILLALOBOS as *Bishop Prelate of MIXES (Mexico)* was announced.

Born on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 1953, in León (GTO - Mexico), Salvador Cleofás has been a Salesian since October 1<sup>st</sup>, 1974, the date of his first religious profession. He did his perpetual profession on September 28<sup>th</sup>, 1980, and was ordained a priest on December 11<sup>th</sup>, 1982.

After his priestly ordination, he was engaged in the houses of Tlaquepaque-Ministry Centre, where he was also rector, and later as rector at Guadalajara - Chapalita "ISOV". From December 1990 until June 1992 he was in Rome, at the Pontifical Salesian University, where he obtained an MA in "Educación Media" in the area of Pedagogy and an MA in Spiritual Theology.

Back in the Province, he was rector at the house of México-Huipulco (1992-1997). He was then in the Centre of Berkeley (USA) for a year. Later he was rector and novice master in Chula Vista (1999-2001). In 2001 he was appointed Vice-Provincial, a task he fulfilled until 2007, when he was appointed rector of the theologate of Tlaquepaque. On June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the Rector Major with his Council appointed him *Provincial of the Province of Guadalajara*.

At the end of his service as Provincial, he was transferred to Rome, to the Salesian Headquar-

ters, with the task of working, as a collaborator of the General Councillor, in the team of the sector for formation.

Now the Holy Father has called him to assume the service of Bishop in the territorial Prelature of Mixes in his homeland.

The episcopal consecration took place on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018, in the church of San Pedro y San Pablo Ayutla Mixe, in the Prelature.

### **3. PANIPITCHAI Dennis, Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of MIAO (India)**

On June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the nomination of Salesian priest *Dennis PANIPITCHAI as Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese of MIAO (India)* was announced.

Dennis Panipitchai was born on July 27<sup>th</sup>, 1958, in Colachel, in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu. After doing the novitiate in Shillong, he made his first profession as a Salesian on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1980, his perpetual profession on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1986, in Dimapur, and was ordained a priest in Colachel, his home town, on December 27<sup>th</sup>, 1991.

After his priestly ordination, he exerted his educative-pastoral ministry in numerous communities and houses of the Dimapur Province,

with various commitments. Among these are the tasks of economist of the Salesian mission of Tinsukia Hijuguri (1995-98), then rector and parish priest in Borduria between 2003 and 2009, then rector and headmaster in the Salesian house of Kohima (2009-2015), and lately parish priest and delegate for Salesian Cooperators in the Salesian house of "Chingmeirong" in Imphal. At the beginning of May 2018 he was appointed for a three-year period as rector and novice master of Sechii Zubza.

At provincial level, he was Provincial Councillor (2012-2018) and Delegate for the Salesian Family (2012-2016).

In his episcopal ministry Monsignor Panipitchai will go to help another spiritual son of Don Bosco, Mons. George Palliparambil, SDB, appointed in 2005 first Bishop of the Diocese of Miao. At the same time he will have the titular episcopal seat of Aggersel.

### **4. YAMANOUCHI Michiaki Mario, Bishop of the Diocese of SAITAMA (Japan)**

On June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 Pope Francis appointed Salesian priest *Mario Michiaki YAMANOUCHI Bishop of the Diocese of SAITAMA, in Japan*.

Fr. Mario Yamanouchi was born on December 8<sup>th</sup>, 1955, in Saeiki (Oita), Japan. His family emigrated to Argentina, to Manucho, and it was there that Mario met the Salesians and was attracted by that vocation. He entered the novitiate, which was in Manucho, and made his first religious profession on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 1976, in the then Province of Córdoba (Argentina). He pronounced his perpetual vows on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1982, and was ordained a priest on December 21<sup>st</sup>, 1984, in San Juan.

After his priestly ordination, between 1984 and 1996, he carried out the educational and pastoral mission, with various assignments in various houses in Argentina: Córdoba, La Plata and Ramos Mejía are the cities in which he worked as rector and novice master. He was also a Provincial Councillor

in the provinces of Córdoba and La Plata.

In 2001 he was transferred to the Province of Japan, in his native land. In Japan he served as rector in the houses of Tokyo-Suginami (2001-2004), Tokyo-Chofu (2004-2010) and Tokyo-Yotsuya (2010-2015). As Provincial Councillor, he was Provincial Delegate for Formation and for the Salesian Family. In January 2009, he was appointed Vice-Provincial, a task he carried out until the appointment of *Provincial of the Japanese Province* by the Rector Major and his Council on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Now, while he was serving as Provincial, the Holy Father called him to the episcopal ministry, entrusting to him the Diocese of Saitama.

The Episcopal Ordination took place in Miao on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018.

## 5.7 Our dead confreres (1<sup>st</sup> list 2018)

"Faith in the risen Christ sustains our hope and keeps alive our communion with our brothers who rest in Christ's peace. They have spent their lives in the Congregation, and not a few have suffered even to the point of martyrdom for the love of the Lord... Their remembrance is an incentive to continue faithfully in our mission" (*Const.* 94).

SURNAME AND NAME	PLACE of death	DATE	AGE	PROV
P ACERBONI Bernardo	Venice-Mestre (Italy)	03/06/2018	83	INE
P BAGGIO Federico	Rome (Italy)	29/03/2018	94	UPS
P BASSO Galliano	Salerno (Italy)	10/04/2018	88	IME
P BASTARRICA FERNÁNDEZ José M.	Logroño (Spain)	19/07/2018	87	SSM
L BELTRAME Marco	Quito (Ecuador)	12/05/2018	96	ECU
L BERGANT Joze	Jesenice (Slovenia)	09/02/2018	93	SLO
P BERNO Giuseppe (José)	Caracas (Venezuela)	10/06/2018	107	VEN
P BINDELLI Augusto	Cochabamba (Bolivia)	20/02/2018	87	BOL
P BIRÓ Lóránt	Budapest (Hungary)	25/01/2018	89	UNG
P BORREGO ARRUZ Jesús	Seville (Spain)	12/02/2018	91	SMX
L BRAMBILLA Dante	Buenos Aires (Argentina)	20/06/2018	91	ARS
L BREVI Giorgio	Turin (Italy)	08/03/2018	53	ICP
P CÂMPORA Mario Géronimo José	Santa Fe (Argentina)	13/01/2018	80	ARN
P CARANZANO Piercarlo	Rivera (Uruguay)	05/06/2018	95	URU
P CARDENAS BERMÚDEZ Luis Ángel	Medellín (Colombia)	06/06/2018	86	COM
P CARREÑO HERNÁNDEZ Leovigildo	Seville (Spain)	24/01/2018	87	SMX
P CASADO REVILLA Olegario	Madrid (Spain)	08/01/2018	84	SSM
P CASTRO Fernando	Manique (Portugal)	21/07/2018	79	POR
L CERESA Filippo	Rome (Italy)	11/04/2018	96	ICC
P CHUBIRKO Michael	Tampa, Florida (USA)	05/03/2018	94	SUE
P COTTOGNO Carmelo	Rome (Italy)	15/02/2018	84	ICC
P CREVACORE Giuseppe	Campo Grande/MS (Brazil)	07/03/2018	84	BCG
L CRUZ Javier	Santiago de Chile (Chile)	14/02/2018	83	CIL
P DE FRANCESCO Alberto	Trento (Italy)	02/03/2018	92	INE
P DE JONGHE Frans	Zwindrecht (Belgium)	02/02/2018	83	BEN
P DE LUCIA Fortunato	Salerno (Italy)	11/02/2018	94	IME
L DE NES Mariano	Castello di Godego (Italy)	09/07/2018	92	INE
P DE PIERI Severino	Mogliano Veneto (Italy)	28/01/2018	84	INE
L DELLAMEA Anival Marcelo	Córdoba (Argentina)	17/06/2018	79	ARN
P DESIR Jean Gabriel	Port-au-Prince (Haïti)	09/07/2018	90	HAI
P DEZZUTO Domenico	Beitgernal (Israel)	08/04/2018	96	MOR
P D'MELLO Jude	Mumbai (India)	18/07/2018	51	INB
P DOOLEY Peter	Manchester (Great Britain)	13/04/2018	86	GBR
P DUBOULOZ Bruno	Nice (France)	30/03/2018	89	FRB
P DUCA Antonio	Barcellona, Messina (Italy)	26/07/2018	95	ISI
P DUTRA CAMACHO Raúl Santiago	Montevideo (Uruguay)	01/03/2018	77	URU
P ENGER Joseph	Mulhouse (France)	22/05/2018	78	FRB

*Was Provincial for 8 years*

SURNAME AND NAME	PLACE of death	DATE	AGE	PROV
P FANTONI Italo	Venice-Mestre (Italy)	23/02/2018	90	INE
P FARAONI Pascual Alberto	Buenos Aires (Argentina)	10/01/2018	89	ARS
P FERNANDEZ Stanislaus	Aluva, Kerala (India)	19/01/2018	84	INM
P FERREIRA Carlos Alberto	Pinhal Novo, Setúbal (Portugal)	19/01/2018	82	POR
P FIZZOTTI Eugenio	Salerno (Italy)	25/06/2018	72	IME
P FOLENS Romain	Zwijnaarde (Belgium)	28/07/2018	86	BEN
P GALINDO BOZADA Alfredo	Jérez de la Frontera (Spain)	12/03/2018	85	SMX
P GALLO Paolo	Zugo (Switzerland)	19/02/2018	72	ILE
P GARCÍA SENDINO Clarencio	León (Spain)	18/05/2018	84	SSM
P GASCA Jorge Alcibiades	Tunja (Colombia)	09/04/2018	95	COB
P GAZICH Benito	Venice-Mestre (Italy)	11/04/2018	89	INE
P GIL GALLEGRO Faustino	Urnieta (Spain)	03/04/2018	76	SSM
P GIRARDI Mariano	Avigliana (Italy)	30/07/2018	64	ICP
L GONÇALVES João	Estoril (Portugal)	10/03/2018	93	POR
P GONZÁLES MORENO Juan	Guayaquil (Ecuador)	15/04/2018	87	ECU
L GRAF Franz	Untherhaching-München (GER)	07/02/2018	82	GER
P GRANZOTTO Peter	Port Chester, New York (USA)	14/06/2018	91	SUE
P GRILLO Piero	Turin (Italy)	11/06/2018	75	ICP
L GUERIN Marcel	Caen (France)	28/01/2018	93	FRB
P HARRINGTON Joseph Christopher	Limerick (Ireland)	03/06/2018	85	IRL
P HERNÁNDEZ HERNÁNDEZ Manuel L.	Seville (Spain)	27/04/2018	96	SMX
P HOFMANN Manfred	Ensdorf (Germany)	19/06/2018	77	GER
P INCHINGOLO Luigi	Rome (Italy)	02/05/2018	66	ICC
P JANZE Emmanuel	Negombo (Sri Lanka)	23/07/2018	75	LKC
P JOUBERT Louis	Toulon (France)	24/01/2018	81	FRB
P KAMEZAWA Joseph	Beppu (Japan)	16/06/2018	90	GIA
P KAMIŃSKI Lucjan	Łódź (Poland)	07/03/2018	82	PLE
P KHARKONGOR Leonard	Shillong (India)	16/01/2018	75	INS
P KRENN Anton	Laxenburg (Austria)	30/07/2018	86	AUS
P KUJAWA Bolesław	Piła (Poland)	19/03/2018	89	PLN
P KUZHIVELIPARAMBIL Manu	Deodurga (India)	22/05/2018	35	INK
L LA COMBE André	Bronx, New York (USA)	30/06/2018	86	SUE
L LINGAUER Josef	München (Germany)	10/07/2018	80	GER
P LIOY Franco	Rome (Italy)	12/07/2018	91	ICC
P LOSS Raimondo	Venice-Mestre (Italy)	13/03/2018	93	INE
L LUONG VAN TAM Joseph	Ky Anh (Vietnam)	19/04/2018	62	VIE
P MALARCZUK Antonio	Córdoba (Argentina)	08/06/2018	86	ARN
L MANDILE Philip	Lakewood, California (USA)	29/05/2018	75	SUO
P MANSO GONZÁLES Manuel	Seville (Spain)	25/02/2018	82	SMX
P MARAK Anthony	Guwahati (India)	12/02/2018	49	ING
P MARÍN VALIENTE Francisco	Seville (Spain)	28/02/2018	81	SMX
L MARITANO Walter	Turin (Italy)	13/06/2018	92	ICP
L MARTÍN LÓPEZ Guillermo	Seville (Spain)	08/06/2018	90	SMX
P MARTÍNEZ CABELLO Juan	Vigo (Spain)	27/01/2018	76	SSM
P MATIEVIĆ Ivan	Zagreb (Croatia)	05/07/2018	71	CRO
L MATSE Anthony	San Rafael, California (USA)	15/05/2018	90	SUO

SURNAME AND NAME	PLACE of death	DATE	AGE	PROV
P MAZZOLO Livio	Rome (Italy)	09/01/2018	87	ICC
L McDONALD Pádraig	Pallaskenry, Limerick (Ireland)	01/07/2018	53	IRL
P MELESI Luigi	Lecco (Italy)	10/07/2018	85	ILE
L MORMONTOY Hipólito	Cochabamba (Bolivia)	07/05/2018	87	BOL
P MTUI Richard Tumaini	Didia-Shinyanga (Tanzania)	30/03/2018	40	AFE
P MUNARI Timoteo	Turin (Italy)	02/02/2018	95	ICP
P NAIKAMPARAMBIL Joseph	New Delhi (India)	01/05/2018	70	INN
P NARIMATTAM Mathew	Dimapur (India)	24/02/2018	84	IND
P NAZER Venanzio	Chieri (Italy)	21/04/2018	83	ICP
P NEBAUER Rupert	Amberg (Germany)	30/07/2018	95	GER
P NIETO GARCÍA Teodoro	Santiago de Chile (Chile)	12/07/2018	95	CIL
E OBANDO BRAVO Miguel	Managua (Nicaragua)	03/06/2018	92	EP
<i>Was for 2 years Auxiliary Bishop of Matagalpa, Nicaragua (1968-1970); for 35 years Archbishop of Managua, Nicaragua (1970-2005); Cardinal from May 25<sup>th</sup>, 1985</i>				
P OLARTE FRANCO Julio Humberto	Bogotá (Colombia)	26/05/2018	70	COB
P OLMOS GARCÍA Jesús	El Campello, Alicante (Spain)	04/04/2018	85	SMX
P O'NEILL Gerard Francis	Limerick City (Ireland)	27/03/2018	74	IRL
P OPASO Joé Roberto	Córdoba (Argentina)	13/01/2018	89	ARN
L ORDÓÑEZ TAMIET Luis	Cambados (Spain)	09/04/2018	86	SSM
P PACZKOWSKI Vincent	Surrey (Canada)	21/07/2018	63	SUE
P PAGLIERO Angelo	Turin (Italy)	21/06/2018	96	ICP
P PARK Ambrogio	Seoul (South Korea)	03/01/2018	74	KOR
P PASTOR Luis	Chosica (Peru)	06/02/2018	61	PER
P PAZHEKADAVAN Joseph	Guwahati (India)	07/02/2018	86	ING
P PELLEGRINO Pietro	Turin (Italy)	28/01/2018	99	ICP
P PÉREZ ANDUEZA Hermógenes	Logroño (Spain)	16/05/2018	82	SSM
P PERIS GUANTER Vicent	Valencia (Spain)	31/05/2018	72	SMX
P PHAM DINH KHOI John Baptist	Hochiminh (Vietnam)	14/04/2018	72	VIE
E PICAN Pierre	Paris (France)	23/07/2018	83	EP
<i>Was Provincial for 6 years and for 12 years Bishop of the Diocese of Bayeux (France)</i>				
P PICCA Juan Vicente	Buenos Aires (Argentina)	18/01/2018	79	ARS
P POONTHURUTHIL James	Shillong (India)	21/01/2018	62	IND
<i>Was Provincial for 6 years</i>				
P POSTULKA Ernst	Köln (Germany)	12/02/2018	96	GER
P PROVERA Mario	Venice-Mestre (Italy)	30/03/2018	87	INE
P QUINTO Armand	Valhalla, New York (USA)	31/01/2018	73	SUE
P RÉAUDIN Yvon	Guebwiller (France)	15/04/2018	78	FRB
P REICHL Josef	Oberaudorf (Germany)	18/06/2018	60	GER
L RICHLÝ Jan	Ostrava (Czech Republic)	05/04/2018	85	CEP
P ROB Jan	Teplice (Czech Republic)	03/01/2018	103	CEP
P RODRIGUES Lloyd	Borivli (India)	15/05/2018	56	INB
P RODRÍGUEZ DE ROJAS Antonio J.	Seville (Spain)	06/02/2018	74	SMX
L ROLDÁN MARRODÁN Carmelo	Cartagena (Spain)	04/01/2018	71	SMX
P SANTIUSTE ARCE José María	Jarabacoa (Dominican Republic)	19/06/2018	85	ANT
L SANTOS Ófenis Vieira dos	San Paolo (Brazil)	17/04/2018	92	BSP
L SANZ GIL Severiano	Arévalo (Spain)	16/03/2018	91	SSM



SURNAME AND NAME	PLACE of death	DATE	AGE	PROV
P SANZ VICTORIA José Maria	Barcelona (Spain)	02/01/2018	89	SMX
P SCHEPENS Jacques	Heverlee (Belgium)	20/01/2018	76	BEN
L SCHWARZ Siegfried Gregor	Wien (Austria)	29/03/2018	76	AUS
P SCIULLO Carmine	Salerno (Italy)	19/04/2018	102	IME
P SIERRA PINEDA Juan Martín	Bogotá (Colombia)	15/04/2018	103	COB
P SMIT Tonny	Wijchen (Netherlands)	16/01/2018	89	BEN
P SOPEÑA ALCORLO Andrés	Arévalo (Spain)	22/01/2018	92	SSM
P ŠPALDOŇ Alojz	Nitra (Slovakia)	05/04/2018	77	SLK
P STOKINGER Johann	Amstetten (Austria)	24/03/2018	88	AUS
P SUCARRATS João	S. Isabel do Rio Negro (Brazil)	29/06/2018	73	BMA
<i>Was Provincial for 6 years</i>				
P SZULIM Czesław	Elbląg (Poland)	01/04/2018	75	PLE
P TANZER Johann	Wien (Austria)	12/06/2018	83	AUS
P THIEL Erich	Trier (Germany)	10/05/2018	85	GER
P THORNAPLACKAL Basil	Chennai (India)	18/05/2018	86	INM
P TONIOLO Pietro	Castello di Godego (Italy)	17/05/2018	94	INE
P TORIBIO OSORIO Ignacio	Zapopán, Jalisco (Mexico)	31/01/2018	73	MEG
P TORO ESCOBAR Jairo de Jesús	Medellín (Colombia)	19/01/2018	87	COM
P TREVISAN Remigio	Tolmezzo (Italy)	20/03/2018	93	INE
P VAGNON Lucien	Toulon (France)	07/05/2018	98	FRB
P VALENCIANO RAMÍREZ Alfonso	Mexico City (Mexico)	11/03/2018	87	MEM
P VASILJ Ante	Zagabria (Croatia)	27/07/2018	60	CRO
P VETOM Joseph	Aluva, Kerala (India)	06/06/2018	91	INM
E VIAN MORALES Oscar Julio	Guatemala (Guatemala)	24/02/2018	70	EP
<i>Was for 10 years Apostolic vicar of El Petén (Guatemala), for 3 years Archbishop of Los Altos, Quetzaltenango-Totonicapán (Guatemala) and for 8 years Archbishop of Santiago of Guatemala</i>				
P VICENTE VICENTE Felicísimo	Buenos Aires (Argentina)	08/04/2018	82	ARS
P VILLANI Dante	Salerno (Italy)	15/04/2018	95	IME
L WARNER Gerald	New Rochelle (USA)	02/04/2018	87	SUE
P ZAJTL Franz	Ljubljana (Slovenia)	10/04/2018	71	MOR
L ZAMBON Loris	Venice-Mestre (Italy)	23/05/2018	87	INE

