

4.2 Chronicle of the General Councillors

The Vicar of the Rector Major

After the Winter Session of the Council, the Vicar went to Sardinia to attend the funeral of the late Fr Franco Pirisi, who died prematurely and suddenly following a serious illness.

Back in Rome, on 30 January, he went to Novata to celebrate the feast of St John Bosco with the confreres and the entire Salesian Family and our school children in the city cathedral.

On 31 January, in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, he presided at the concelebration of the Eucharist on the Solemnity of Don Bosco, broadcast live on TV2000, which was attended not only by the confreres of the community, but also by many of the faithful.

In the first ten days of February, the Vicar made a canonical visit to the Sacred Heart community in Rome in order to plan and prepare the upcoming work on the house at headquarters with the confreres.

After a short stay at the Salesian places he returned to Headquarters for canonical visits to the Vatican and San Callisto commu-

nities in Rome. They were very useful, as always, especially to meet the confreres who hold positions for the Church and the Congregation.

The time devoted to canonical visits to these houses directly dependent on the Rector Major was about four weeks.

From 9 March to 16 March, Fr Stefano was in Zagreb, Croatia, for a visit of animation and accompaniment for the Province. This allowed an acquaintance and exchange of ideas with the Provincial Council, Rectors, young confreres and other pastoral activities in the Zagreb area; always accompanied by the Provincial, Fr Tihomir Sutalo.

Back in Rome, the Vicar held meetings at headquarters and prepared the work of the Interim sessions of the General Council, which took place from 4 to 13 April 2022. This was the last council session held in Rome. In fact renovation work began on the building in Via Marsala in Rome on 4 April. These necessary renovations required the transfer of some confreres to other communities and the placement of lay co-workers in other facilities to continue essential services to the Congregation.

After Easter, the Vicar went to Valdocco, Turin, again, where he participated in some events:

- the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the foundation of the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, which was held from 24 to 26 April in Mornese, Turin and Nizza Monferrato. It was a well-prepared celebration in the places of the origins to thank the Lord for the good that the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians have achieved over these 150 years.
- participation on 29 April in Udine in a valuable meeting held at the G. Bearzi Salesian Institute, which was attended by the President of the Italian Republic, the Hon. Sergio Mattarella, who directly wished to visit the Salesian house and meet the parents of Lorenzo Parelli, a young student from our vocational training centre who died tragically in January while doing an internship as part of his vocational training course.

In early May, the Vicar took part in celebrations at the parish of St Joseph the Worker in Rebaudengo, Turin and at the Monterosa Institute in Turin as part

of the events prepared for the centenary of the work.

On 6 and 7 May, Fr Martoglio spoke at the meeting of Provincials of the Central and North Europe Region, sharing a reflection on the care of our identity and religious discipline. This very valuable meeting took place at the Provincial House in Vienna.

On 13 May, the Vicar left for Caracas, Venezuela, but via Istanbul, staying for a day and a half with the confreres in this Turkish community for a celebration in memory of Fr Franco Pirisi.

From Istanbul, the Vicar of the Rector Major resumed his journey to Venezuela, where he remained from 15 to 26 May. It was a journey of animation in the name of the Rector Major, to accompany the beautiful presence of the confreres and Salesian Family in that wonderful land so tried by the situation they are experiencing. The animation visit had the declared aim of making the presence of the Congregation and the Rector Major felt in their context. This was shared in many meetings with Salesians, Salesian Family, lay people and young people in the houses at Caracas and Valencia. A wonderful experience.

On return from Venezuela Fr Stefano went straight to Valdocco, where he prepared for the impending Summer Session of the General Council.

The General Councillor for Formation

The Albera year came to a conclusion and the de Sales year began on 13 January 2022, during the Salesian Spirituality Days at Valdocco. An exhibition on St Francis de Sales was opened by the Rector Major at the *Museo Casa Don Bosco*, Valdocco. The four-language translations of the book by André Ravier, *St Francis de Sales* (LDC 2021) – an edition edited by Fr Aldo Giraudo, with contributions from Fr Morand Wirth and Fr Wim Collin – were completed and disseminated in digital PDF format at the beginning of February 2022. The first two videos on St Francis de Sales, of a series of five prepared by Fr Michele Molinar, the ICP Vice-provincial, in collaboration with the social communication and youth ministry office of that province, were also released in five languages.

From 3 to 4 February, the Councillor presided over the Jerusalem

curatorium in person, with some sessions also offered online to facilitate the involvement of Provincials.

From 14 to 19 February, Fr Coelho travelled to the AFC Province where he visited the pre-novitiate in *La Cité des Jeunes*, Lubumbashi, the novitiate in Chem Chem, Ruashi, and attended the *curatorium* of the theologate, Lubumbashi, and the post-novitiate, Kansebula. He also had a meeting with the Rectors of the houses in and around Lubumbashi, and with the Provincial and his Council.

From 14 to 27 March, Fr Coelho conducted the Extraordinary Visitation to the Malta Vice-province (MLT).

The Salesian Spiritual Accompaniment School (English version) took place in Valdocco and Colle Don Bosco from 3 April to 6 May 2022, with 20 participants and 5 resident facilitators, under the guidance of Bro. Raymond Callo.

From 4 to 13 April, the Councillor took part in the work of the Interim sessions of the General Council at Headquarters in Rome.

From 17 to 22 April, Fr Coelho preached the Retreat for the confreres in Leeds (Great Britain).

On 29 and 30 April, the Days of Social Communication for young people in initial formation in the Salesian Family were held at the UPS under the guidance of the Social Communication Sector and the University's Social Communication Faculty. Fr Francesco Santos was part of the team that prepared and organised the event.

On 2 May, the Councillor visited the Genzano novitiate, together with Fr Francisco Santos, where he met the novices from the two novitiates in Italy (Genzano and Colle), and the two formation teams.

From 10 to 12 May, Sector members led the Salesians participating in the ongoing formation course for formators held at the UPS in the first half of the year (11 confreres from 8 provinces). From next year, Fr Carlo Maria Zanotti, course coordinator, will take responsibility for organising a "Salesian week" for Salesian participants, with visits to the Salesian places.

On 20 May, Fr Coelho took part in an event at the Pontifical Gregorian University to commemorate 50 years since the publication of Bernard Lonergan's *Method in Theology*, where he gave a talk.

The statutes of some *curatoriums* and theological study centres, including Jerusalem, Gerini in Rome, Utume and Lubumbashi, were reviewed.

In addition, the Sector continued the work of revising the Ratio, with various online meetings. Since December 2021, a group of editors assisted by other confreres from different provinces around the world (about fifty people including Salesians and lay people) has been working on various parts of the text, and at the end of March 2022 handed the work over to the Sector. The next steps in the drafting of the text are now left to the members of the Sector, with help from others where necessary.

On 18 and 19 May, the curatorium of the novitiate in Gbdjomé and the post-novitiate in Lomé, AOS - Togo, was held, attended by Fr Silvio Roggia representing the Formation Councillor.

From 20 to 24 May, Fr Francisco Santos and other members of the Sector helped with the meeting of novices from Europe at Colle Don Bosco and Valdocco.

Fr Jose Kuttianimattathil, a new member of the Sector, arrived on 21 May. Fr Silvio Roggia has been transferred to the UPS

Vice-province from 1 September 2022, where he will be Rector of the Zefirino Namuncurá theologate, Rome (known as Gerini), while continuing to work with the Sector.

The Sector made the choice to move to Valdocco for the duration of the renovation work at Headquarters. Fr Silvio Roggia and Bro. Raymond Callo moved out on 15 March, Fr Francisco Santos on 19 May, and Fr Coelho on 23 May.

The General Councillor for Youth Ministry

In January, the official presentation of the brochure on Parish and Shrines entrusted to the Salesians took place through the Zoom platform on the 10th (in English) and 11th (in Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Polish and French). Fr Miguel Ángel García Morcuende gave a summary of the entire document and proposed some strategies.

Also in the same month, the regional meeting of Youth Ministry delegates from the two regions of Europe was held in Fatima from the 8th to the 12th.

The Youth Ministry Councillor then participated in the online

formation day (12 January) with Salesians and lay people responsible for Youth Ministry in MEG Province. He was then present at the online formation day for Delegates of the School of Communication with the Salesians in the South Asia Region (13 January), the Interamerica Region (20 January), at the 7th *Jornada Salesiana de Comunicación* of the *Centro Nacional Salesiano*, Spain (24 February), and the same for Brazil (3 May).

The Councillor offered his contribution on the occasion of the online formation session with the new Salesian Family Delegates, and as part of the school promoted by the Salesian Family Secretariat, held in Valdocco (19 January). He was then asked to take part in the online formation session at the 6th IUS EG Seminar (26 April), held in Quito, Ecuador.

There were numerous coordination meetings arranged with Fr Joshtrom Kureethadam, coordinator of the Ecology and Creativity Sector of the (Vatican) Dicastery for the Service of Integral Human Development, to prepare the planning of this sector in the Congregation. Also with a view to greater collaboration, the Councillor held several meetings with the initial European Formation Centre man-

agement team, chaired by the Vicar of the Rector Major.

Coordination and planning meetings were then held for the implementation of DBTech Europe (20 January, 20 April and 27 May).

Fr Miguel Ángel chaired the DBI General Assembly in Rome (17 January) and attended the IUS General Assembly (24-28 January) at headquarters (Sacred Heart) in Rome. He gave an address on the second day of this important event.

The Councillor offered a message at the Planning Workshop (14 February) for Phase 2 of the ASEAN DB TECH, which was attended by the respective country coordinators, PDOs and other TVET representatives. He also spoke at several MGS-LEADS regional online meetings.

From 16 February to 30 April, the Councillor for Youth Ministry conducted the Extraordinary Visitation to San Luis Beltrán Province in Medellín, Colombia. At the same time, he took part in the Provincial Chapter of this same province.

Very enriching was the School of Provincial Delegates for Youth Ministry organised in Valdocco

from 4 to 18 May, which was attended by 46 representatives from all Regions.

The Councillor for Youth Ministry was present with the Rector Major at the opening of the new headquarters of the CNOS National Centre in Italy.

During this time, Fr Miguel Ángel coordinated the drafting of a number of documents involving experts: “A youth ministry that educates to love”, “Don Bosco’s Salesians on the road to a sustainable world in the light of integral ecology”, “Charter of Identity of the Salesian School in Europe” and “No to hate speech. Building a culture of human rights together”. It is also important to highlight the online consultancy service to some provinces for the development and implementation of their plans (SEPP and OPP).

In these first five months of 2022, other meetings including coordination meetings with the DBI and the Sector Team continued on a regular basis.

Preparations continue for the International Congress of Social Works and Services to be held in Valdocco at the end of September this year.

Chronicle of the General Councillor for the Missions

During the Winter Session, from 14-17 January 2022, Fr Alfred Maravilla, General Councillor for the Missions, was in Tunisia to meet the confreres and get to know the Salesian works in Tunis and Manouba better. On 26 January, he attended the board meeting of the Don Bosco Network, held at *Sacro Cuore*. On 29 January, he left for the Philippines for the Extraordinary Visitation of the North Philippines Province (FIN). Upon arrival, the following day he underwent the five-day mandatory quarantine following COVID-19 protocols.

On 8 February, he met online with all the FIN Rectors, where he presented the Rector Major's letter of convocation from July 2021, in which he explained the purpose of the Extraordinary Visitation. On 9 February, he met with the Provincial Delegates of Provincial Commissions to talk about the reports they had previously sent him where they explained the strengths and challenges in their task of animating the Province. The following day he met with the Provincial Council to discuss important issues re-

lated to the governance and animation of the Province. On 11 February, he began the visit to the 25 houses.

During the visit, Fr Maravilla had a personal conversation with all the Salesians. He met most of our lay collaborators. He also met with the Parish Pastoral Councils and leaders in the different presences. He had the opportunity to address most of the students of the vocational centres (TVET), since the students were still studying online from home. During the visit, he met with representatives of the Salesian Family: ADMA, Salesian Cooperators, Past Pupils, VDB, CDB and Damas Salesianas. He paid courtesy visits to the communities of the FMA and the Caritas Sisters of Jesus. Although he was unable to visit the new community in Kuching, Malaysia, due to COVID-19 restrictions, he met online with the confreres and the Archbishop of Kuching to discuss ways to develop our missionary presence in the country.

On 30 April he presided at the perpetual profession of 10 theology students at the National Shrine of Mary Help of Christians in Parañaque. On 20 May, together with the Regional Councillor

for East Asia and Oceania, Fr Joseph Phuoc, he met the Provincial Council to present his observations and recommendations. The following day, he presided at the concluding Eucharist, together with the Provincial, Fr Gerry Martin, and the Regional Councillor. The Mass was followed by his presentation of the relevant observations and recommendations to the confreres.

On the morning of 24 May, he presided at the perpetual profession of two coadjutor brothers at the Diocesan Shrine of Mary Help of Christians in Canlubang, Laguna. In the afternoon, he took part in the pontifical coronation of the historic statue of Mary Help of Christians brought to the Philippines in 1922 by Apostolic Delegate Archbishop Guglielmo Piani SDB. This was the final act concluding the Extraordinary Visitation to FIN. At midnight he left for Rome.

On his arrival in Rome, he organised his temporary office and room in the Pontifical Salesian University, then met the members of the Missions Sector team. On 31 May, he gave an address on the urgency and importance of First Announcement to the members of the General Chapter of the

Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers), at the invitation of the Superior General, Father Stanislas Lubungu M.Afr. On the afternoon of 31 May, he left for Valdocco, Turin, to attend the Summer Session of the General Council.

The General Councillor for Social Communication

After the Winter Plenary Session of the General Council (December 2021-January 2022) and after a brief visit to family members in Brazil, the Councillor for Social Communication returned to the Salesian Headquarters or Generalate in Rome at the end of February.

After two weeks at headquarters, from 13 to 19 March he was in Poland on an animation visit to the Salesian Province of Warsaw, where he met with the Communications Delegates of the country's four Provinces; he visited TVP (Polish public television) with Fr Maciej Makula SDB, TVP's Catholic editor-in-chief; he took part in the national meeting of those in charge of Salesian schools in Poland, in the presence of Fr Roman Jachimowicz, Regional Councillor for Central and Northern Europe. After briefly

visiting both the Salesian communities in Lodz, Lutomiersk, and the Mission Office in Warsaw (where an aid centre for Ukraine is now based), he also gave an interview to TVP, at the headquarters of SOM (Salesian Mission Centre), in Warsaw. He had a meeting with the people in charge of the Salesian "Helping in Ukraine" Project – Fr Krzysztof Grzendzinski and Fr Jacek Zdzieborski – and was able to encourage volunteers and people helping to prepare relief work for Ukraine. Invited by the Warsaw Provincial, Fr Tadeusz Jarecki, he took part in a meeting with the members of the Provincial Council, presenting them with the Sector's guidelines for Institutional Communication. The meeting continued with discussion and calm dialogue.

Returning to headquarters from Poland, he began individual talks with each of the Provinces' Communications Delegates both to review local communication activities, and to update the Communication Plan according to the Rector Major's Guidelines following GC28, and also to revise the "School of Communication".

From the 4th to the 10th he attended the Interim Session of the General Council at Sacred Heart;

then, on 14 April, he left for Barcelona (Spain) for a visit to the EDEBÉ publishing house. Together with the management team, he learned about the Publishing House's educational and management plan and visited its book distribution centre. Following this, on the 18th he travelled from Barcelona to Seville to take part in the meeting of Provincials of the Mediterranean Region. On the 26th he presented them with the Congregation's Communication Project, the situation of the Publishing Houses in Europe and the planning of the Communication Sector for the Mediterranean Region.

Returning to Rome (on 28 April), immediately on 29-30 April he was at the Pontifical Salesian University (UPS) in Rome – together with the Sector's Communication, the Dean of the Salesian Faculty of Communication of the UPS, SDBs from the Formation Sector and members of the FMA Communication Sector – involved in the Salesian Communication Meeting for young men and women in formation in Italy.

From 3 to 6 May, various meetings were held online with the Delegates of Communication from the following six Regions: South Cone America, Interameri-

ca, Africa-Madagascar, South Asia, East Asia-Oceania and Central and North Europe, for the preparation of the meetings of Communication Delegates and men in formation, which will take place from August in the various Regions of the Congregation.

From 9 to 15 May he participated online in both the preparation meeting for the Communications World Advisory Council (in Lisbon, October 2022) and the meeting of the coordinators of the “School of Communication”, and also in preparation for the Meeting of Radios and Publishers in the South Cone and Interamerica Regions. From the 20th to the 25th he worked on the preparation of the first draft of the Sector’s new Communication Text.

On the 21st, after speaking at the monthly recollection day for the Salesian community at Testaccio, in Rome, on the 23rd and 24th Fr Gildasio was in Valdocco to join in with the Feast of Mary Help of Christians together with some of the Sector’s Communication Team; and on 28 May he was at the opening of the “National Centre” (CNOS), in Rome.

On 31 May he left for Valdocco to attend the Summer Plenary Session of the General Council.

The Economer General

At the end of January 2022, the Economer General had several meetings with the Boards of Directors of different foundations and went to Beromünster (Switzerland) to meet some members of the NGO’s mission projects commission. He went to Belgium to celebrate the feast of Don Bosco in Brussels and to meet with officials of the European Commission and members of the European Parliament, all organised by the Salesian DBI (Don Bosco International). He then went to Germany for the Board Meeting of the Missions Office in Bonn.

In February, the Economer General together with his team began to organise the SDB Change Congress to be held at the Pontifical Salesian University in Rome in September to be attended by Provincial Economers, Mission Office and PDO leaders. On 4 February, he conducted an evaluation of the vocational training projects in the Philippines. On 10 February, he visited the Verona 311 Centre in Verona to study the situation of young NEEETs and the possibilities of helping them re-enter their education cycle.

On the 16th of the month he met with the Major Archbishop of

the Greek-Ukrainian Church in Rome. On the 22nd, he discussed the topic of artificial intelligence and its impact on the education of young people in a talk with officials of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Culture. A few days later he met with the President of the Council of Bishops' Conferences in Europe (CCEE) for a dialogue on the situation of the Church in Europe. On 25 February, at the Gregorian University, he participated in the international conference on "Eradication of slavery". In the same month, the Economist's office and the *Don Bosco nel Mondo* Foundation office were moved to new headquarters in Rome, since renovations were undertaken at *Sacro Cuore*.

In March, the Economist General attended the DBTEC Africa conference and several meetings on non-formal vocational training.

After taking part in meetings with the other Sector Councillors, he travelled to Poland from 9 to 11 March to follow and coordinate support for the Ukrainian people, hard hit by the war with Russia. Later in Rome, he took part in and organised several moments of prayer for Peace in Ukraine and followed the care for refugees, especially young mothers with their children in the various provinces

of Europe, but also elsewhere.

In the middle of the month, he attended the *Pro Universitate Don Bosco* Foundation assembly, the USG Economers General Assembly, the DBN Donors Meeting and some emergency coordination sessions for Ukrainians in their country and fleeing the war, at the *Kuratorium* in Berlin. On 28 and 29 March, Bro. Muller and his entire team visited the UPS in preparation for the SDB Change Congress and the key points of the entire Congress were agreed upon.

He restructured responsibilities in the Economist's Office in view of his absence for the work of the General Council in Turin, and in an assembly for employees at the General Administration and the *Don Bosco nel Mondo* Foundation he implemented the new working regulations related to the AGI-DAE Contract.

During April, the Economist General took part in meetings of the Interim General Council to study the South Asia and Inter-america Regions, which took place from 4 to 14 April. In the second half of the month, he met with several Provincial Economers both in person and online to discuss together the issues and challenges affecting the various Sale-

sian works. On 24 April, he received a group of employees in Salesian works in Austria to give them an address on the structures of the Congregation and also give them a guided tour of Don Bosco's places in Rome. At a round table he informed them about the new discussions on Salesian anthropology in the challenges of the times (UPS). From 25 to 27 April, Bro. Muller attended the meeting of Provincials of the Mediterranean Region in Seville.

In May, several occasions were dedicated to the challenges of provinces in very delicate situations. On 11 May, at the invitation of the Patriarchate, he participated in a conference on the situation in the Holy Land after the violence in Jerusalem between different groups of residents. He continued his work for the support of the people suffering from the war in Ukraine throughout the month, for which the Economer General met with the heads of Salesian NGOs and had several meetings in person and online with international foundations and associations to request support. On 12 May, he showed his closeness to the Borgo Ragazzi Don Bosco in Rome with his presence at the Charity Dinner in the Chioistro Bramante. A highlight

was the participation on 15 May at the canonisation of 10 new Saints in St Peter's and the meeting with many members of the Salesian Family on this occasion.

On the 17th, he and his team held a formation meeting with the newly-appointed Provincial Economers. From 19 to 26 May, he visited the AFM Vice-province and met the various members of the communities in South Africa, Lesotho and Eswatini. At the end of the month, the Economer General, together with the other Council members, travelled to Turin to attend the Plenary Session of the General Council, which began on 1 June.

The Councillor for the Africa and Madagascar Region

The General Councillor for Africa and Madagascar left Rome on 29 January 2022 to travel to West Africa for the installation of two new Provincials appointed by the Rector Major last December. On 2 February, at St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Zogbo (Cotonou), he celebrated the installation of Fr Jesus-Benoit Badji. On this occasion, he made a quick inspection of the infrastructures that could temporarily house the new

Superior and the provincial services for AON. On Saturday, 5 February, it was the turn of Fr Denis Soro to be installed in his headquarters in Ashaiman (Accra), Ghana. After this tour of the two new locations, Father Alphonse stopped in Lomé to take stock of the unprecedented situation of the Akodessewa Postnovitiate, recently divided into two locations, the second of which is behind the novitiate in Gbodjomé.

After this brief trip to West Africa, the Regional went to Kansebula (DRC), from 16 to 18 February, to preside over the 2022 session of the *Curatorium*, together with Fr Ivo Coelho, General Councillor for Formation, and the Provincials and formators. On 18 February, the Regional went to the ACC Vice-province together with the Superior, Fr Manolo Jiménez. On 21 February, the Extraordinary Visitation to ACC began with a meeting with the Superior and his Council at Masina 2, Kinshasa (DRC). From the 22nd to the 25th, Fr Alphonse began the visit with the Provincial House/Headquarters, with its different sectors. He then attended the quarterly recollection of the confreres from Kinshasa in Lukunga, before crossing the

Congo River the following day to visit the three works in the Republic of Congo.

From 28 February to 3 March, the confreres of Pointe Noire received the extraordinary visit of the Regional, with a short visit to the sectors at Tchibambouka and Cote Matève. On 4 March, he returned to Brazzaville to visit the two communities in the city: from 4 to 6 March he was in Makélékélé Brazzaville, with a brief visit to the new presence of the FMA in Makana, and finally from 7 to 11 March, the visit to Massengo, the provisional seat of the novitiate, with a visit to the villages of Odziba (100 km from Brazzaville) and Lefini (200 km, on the borders of the archdiocese). On 12 March, the Regional concluded the Extraordinary Visitation for the confreres in the area of the Republic of Congo by meeting the three Rectors in the morning and the entire assembly of confreres in the afternoon.

On 14 March, together with the members of the Provincial Council and the ACC Provincial, the Regional flew to Cameroon, where the Retreat for the whole Africa and Madagascar Region was held, preached by the Rector Major, Fr Angel Fernandez Ar-

time. On the morning of 17 March, the Regional chaired the *curatorium* of the two inter-provincial formation houses in Yaoundé, namely St Augustine's Theologate and the Centre for Specific Formation for Coadjutor Brothers.

After the Retreat, Father Alphonse went to Nigeria to celebrate the installation of the new ANN Provincial, Fr Jorge Mario Crisafulli, on Sunday 27 March in Iju (Lagos). On 29 March, Fr Alphonse returned to Kinshasa to continue his Extraordinary Visitation to the DRC area. On 31 March, he left for Tshikapa, where he visited the Salesian work and the future community of Tshikapa-Sami from 1 to 4 April. Returning to Kinshasa on 5 April, he flew to Mbuji-Mayi where he visited the Salesian work, until his return to Kinshasa on 11 April to visit the Salesian work in Lukunga from 12 to 16 April. The Lukunga work is the oldest in Kinshasa. After presiding at the Eucharist for the confreres gathered in Kinshasa for the annual retreat from 17 April, the Regional interrupted the Extraordinary Visitation to join the Rector Major on a visit to the ZMB Vice-province.

Before arriving in Zambia, from 19 to 24 April, Fr Alphonse made a short stay in AGL to discover the Salesian project in Palabek on behalf of Sudanese refugees. He took the opportunity to greet his confreres in Bombo and Namugongo. Arriving in Zambia on 25 April, he stayed in Kabwe and Lusaka for the celebration of 40 years of Salesian presence, together with the Rector Major and the Salesian Bishop of Kabwe, Bishop Clement Mulenga. On his return to the DRC, the Regional Superior began the last series of visits to works in Kinshasa: from 1 to 3 May to La Gombe, from 4 to 7 May to Kingabwa, and finally from 8 to 11 May to Masina 1, near the Provincial House. The general conclusion of the Extraordinary Visitation was celebrated in turn with the meeting of the DRC Area Rectors in the afternoon of 13 May and, during the day on 14 May, with the Provincial Council in the morning and the Confreres' Assembly in the afternoon.

Following the Extraordinary Visit to the ACC Vice-province – which was also preparing to begin its second Provincial Chapter at the end of May – the Regional went to Togo to preside over a special *curatorium* in the new

AOS Province for formation houses in Togo and Ghana. Many Provincials attended this *curatorium*, which took place over two days, from 18 to 19 May, to take stock of the formation houses already in operation in each of the provinces of the sub-region, to suggest some future perspectives to the Rector Major, and to analyse the responses of the post-novices and others in formation in this area to an extract of the 2017 questionnaire on accompaniment and formation. After this *curatorium*, the Regional visited the confreres at Don Bosco House in Akodessewa, and also went to Gbodjomé, also in Togo, to see the novices, as well as the possibilities for the renovation of the second site occupied since the beginning of this year by the third-year post-novices, with a team of three formators. From Lomé, on 28 May, the Regional began his return to the new headquarters in Turin.

The Councillor for the East Asia-Oceania Region

On 28 January 2022, at the conclusion of the winter session of the General Council, the Regional for EAO, Fr Joseph Nguyen Thanh Phuoc flew to Timor-Leste

for the consultation for the new superior. In this way, he could celebrate the feast of St John Bosco in Dili and participate in the liturgy presided over by Salesian Archbishop Virgilio (now, the newly appointed Cardinal). After a long period of Covid restriction he was able to see the gathering of many people and witness their love for Don Bosco. Three weeks in the country allowed him to meet all the Salesians and groups of confreres in initial formation as well as various groups of the Salesian Family. The confreres responded enthusiastically to the consultation and were able to see the bright vision of the growth of the Vice-province.

On 21 March, Fr Joseph travelled to Papua New Guinea for his 45-day Extraordinary Visitation to the Papua New Guinea-Solomon Islands Vice-Province (PGS). Unfortunately, the Solomon Islands Government had still closed its borders due to Covid restrictions. Therefore, he only made an online visit to the two communities in the islands. All other communities were visited and sufficient time was spent listening to each confrere and their Salesian missionary companions. He then concluded the visit with the involvement of the

Superior and his council on 12 April and he attended the Provincial Chapter of the Vice Province the following day.

The Easter Triduum was celebrated by the Regional in Vietnam (VIE) as he was asked to return to sign legal documents. He took the opportunity to visit the novitiate (14 novices), the post-novitiate (47 post-novices) and the theologate (19), and the pre-novitiate (18 first year and 14 second year).

From Vietnam, on 24 April, he travelled to Indonesia (INA) to visit some of the Vice-province's main presences, such as the provincial house, the post-novitiate (16 post-novices with 3 coadjutor brothers), the aspirantate and some technical schools in the country.

The high point of these summer trips was the retreat offered by the Rector Major to the provincials/superiors and their councils in Thailand from 7 to 10 May. 77 Salesians attended the Retreat and were encouraged by the Rector Major's talks in the morning and dialogue with the Rector Major in the afternoon. After the Retreat, the Regional accompanied the Rector Major on animation visits to different communities in the country. A historic event for

the Salesians in Thailand was the presence of the Rector Major who was main celebrant at the Mass for the first religious profession of 10 novices.

On 18 May, he flew to Manila, Philippines, and stayed in the Sandor community (formation house for coadjutor brothers in the Region) to meet with coadjutor and clerical confreres in specific formation. On 21 May, he participated in the conclusion of the Extraordinary Visitation by Fr Alfred Maravilla SDB.

On the evening of 21 May, he took the midnight flight from Manila to Phnom Penh to make another visit of animation to the Salesian Delegation of Cambodia. After 14 years since the previous visit, he was able to witness the enormous change/transformation of society and the great successes of the Salesian missions in the country as they recovered after the most tragic period in the country's history (1975–1990). He was informed that last April, the first local vocation made his perpetual religious profession and two confreres *ad gentes* will begin their 4-year specific formation in Parañaque.

Filled with enthusiasm and deep conviction about the significance and importance of the Salesian

charism in the region, the Regional returned to Turin on 30 May to attend the Summer Plenary Session of the General Council.

The Councillor for the South Asia Region

After the conclusion of the Winter Session of the General Council, the Regional for South Asia, Fr Biju Michael, travelled to Bangalore, India, on 29 January 2022. After due quarantine, the Regional presided at the installation ceremony of the new Provincial of Hyderabad (INH), Fr Thomas Santiago, on 4 February 2021. On 5 February, he travelled to Dimapur to attend the funeral of Fr E. C. Michael. On 6 February, the Regional formally began the Extraordinary Visitation of the Province of Dimapur with a meeting with the confreres in their Quinquennium, followed by meetings of the Provincial Council and the heads of the Provincial Commissions on 7 and 8 February. From 9 to 10 February, the visit to the houses began with Golaghat. The visitation continued in the communities of Rangajan (10-11 February), Dergaon (11 February), Jorhat Aspirantate and school (12-13 February), Tuli (13 February), Amguri

Reservistate, school and parish (14-15 February), Tinsukia school and parish (16-17 February), Khobong school and parish (17-18 February).

On 18 February, the Regional went to Delhi to participate in the Province's Silver Jubilee celebrations, held on 19 February, and met with the Apostolic Nuncio. He returned to Hijuguri for the visit (20-21 February). On 22 February, he chaired a regional meeting of Rectors and those in charge of houses in eastern Arunachal Pradesh in Tinsukia. He then went on to visit the school and parish in Sadiya (22-23) and the school in Wakro (23-24).

On 25 February, the Regional went to New Delhi, the headquarters of the SPCSA, to attend the SPCSA Assembly and Council meetings held online (27-28 February).

On 2 March, the Regional went to Goa to begin the consultation for the new Provincial for the Panjim Province. On 3 March he held meetings with the Provincial Council. On 4 March, he led the consultation meeting of confreres gathered at Don Bosco Panjim. He also had a meeting with Bishop Alwyn Barretto of Sindhudurg and visited the houses at Oros and Pinguli. On 5 March he met

Bishop Filipe Neri Ferrão of Goa and visited the houses at Sulcorna and Quepem and led a consultation meeting for confreres gathered at Don Bosco Fatrorda and then visited the house of Loutolim. On 6 March he led a consultation meeting for confreres gathered at Don Bosco Trasi. On 7 March he met Bishop Gerald Isaac Lobo of Udupi and visited the houses at Shirva and Kelmбет. In the evening, he met Bishop Peter Paul Saldanha of Mangalore. On 8 March, he visited the houses at Paliem and Parra and addressed the members at the opening session of the Provincial Chapter, before leaving for Dibrugarh to continue the Extraordinary Visitation to Dimapur.

The Regional visited Doom Dooma school and parish (10-12 March), Rajanagar school and parish (12-13 March), Longding school (14-15 March), Mintong school and parish (16-17 March), Kheti school (17-18 March), Borduria school and parish (18-19 March), Mebo school (19-20 March), Paglam school and parish (21-22 March), Doimukh school (22-24 March), Palin school and parish (24-25 March), Itanagar school (26-27 March) and Itanagar parish (27-29 March). He chaired the Rectors and commu-

nity leaders of Western Arunachal meeting on 29 March in Itanagar. On the same day, he also met and interacted with Bishop John Thomas of Itanagar. He continued with an Extraordinary Visit to Itanagar college (29-31 March) and Harmuty school and parish (31 March - 1 April).

On 1 April, he travelled via Delhi to Rome to attend the Interim Session of the General Council, where a report on the South Asia Region was presented in view of the Team Visit to the Region in 2023. On his return to the Province of Dimapur, he again visited the University institute and parish of Itanagar (16-17 April) for the Visitation, and went on to visit Jorhat Life Plus (17-18 April), the schools at Mon (18-19 April), the school at Dibrugarh (20-22 April) and the school and parish at Lamphel (22-23 April). On 23 April, he met Bishop Dominic Lumon of Imphal, and on 24 April, he led the meeting of Rectors and leaders of the Manipur region. He then visited the school and parish in Chinmeirong (23-26 April), the school and parish in Khoupum (26-27 April), the school and parish in Tamenglong (28-29 April), and the school and parish in Maram (29-30 April), Maram University Institution (1-2 May),

Shajouba School (3-4 May), Mao School and Parish (4-5 May), and Kohima School and University Institution (5-7 May). On 6 May, he met Bishop James Thoppil of Kohima and led the regional meeting of rectors and community leaders in Nagaland. He went on to visit Kohima Christ the King (7-8 May) and Wokha school and parish (9-10 May).

On 10 May, he travelled to Shillong to attend the opening of the Provincial Chapter on 11 May 2022.

On his return, he attended the funeral of Fr V. M. Joseph on 12 May in Dimapur and continued his visit to the novitiate in Zubza (12-13 May). He visited the Salesian university institute in Dimapur (13-15 May), the BEd university institute in Dimapur (15-16 May), the DBVTC in Dimapur (17-18 May), the school and AIDA in Dimapur (18-20 May) and the Provincial House (20-22 May). On 23 May, he officiated at the perpetual profession of three confreres. On 24 May, he officiated at the first profession of thirteen young men at the novitiate in Zubza and continued his visit to Savio House in Zubza (24-25 May). On 26 May he met the Provincial Council and on 27 May he chaired the assembly of the

confreres and the meeting of Rectors and community leaders of the Province in Dimapur and concluded the Extraordinary Visitation with the celebration of the Eucharist. On 29 May, he travelled to Rome via Delhi and on 30 May he reached Turin, where the General Council meetings began on 31 May.

The Councillor for the America South Cone Region

On the same day the General Council's Winter Session ended, he left for Brazil.

On 31 January he presided at the celebrations for Don Bosco in Recife. On 2 February he presided at the perpetual profession celebration of a Salesian from BRE in Jaboatão dos Guararapes (Recife) and in the evening, presided over the opening celebration of the new Novitiate in Jaboatão, with 15 novices from the provinces of BSP, BRE and BPA.

From 13 to 19 February, after a few days visiting relatives, he took part in the Retreat with the Rector Major, all the Provincials and the Provincial Councillors in São Leopoldo (Porto Alegre-Brazil) and after a meeting between the Provincials of the Re-

gion, with the Rector Major.

On 21 and 22 February in Asunción (Paraguay) he had a meeting with the Provincial, some confreres on the Provincial Council and visited the Apostolic Nuncio.

On 23 February, he began the Extraordinary Visitation to the Province of São Paulo, Brazil in the name of the Rector Major, which ended on 26 May. During this time he spoke with all the Salesians of the Province (128); he visited the 18 canonical houses and the UNISAL University Centre. He got to know the situation of the 11 colleges, one of which is completely philanthropic, the 14 parishes, some of which have rural areas with pastoral care, the two Shrines, the social works, youth centres and festive oratories, the vocational training courses.

He met twice with the Provincial Council and twice with all Salesian Rectors. He also spoke with 6 diocesan bishops, with Provincials of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, and with Mother Provincial of the Caritas Sisters of Jesus.

In the communities he also met with the groups of the Salesian Family, some of which were founded there, such as *Canção Nova*. He spoke with the provin-

cial coordinators and presidents of all the groups.

On 6 May, he participated in the *Curatorium* of the Post-novitiate in Córdoba, an interprovincial house of five Provinces: ARN, ARS, CIL, PAR, URU.

He visited the houses of formation in the Province of São Paulo: the Theology Studentate (Lapa Pio XI) and the Post-novitiate in Lorraine.

He also attended the meetings of the Salesian Network of Brazil (RSB), the Provincial of Brazil (CISBRASIL) and the Provincials from CIS.

On 27 May, he went to Turin to attend the Winter Session of the General Council.

The Councillor for the Central and North Europe Region

The Winter Plenary Session of the General Council ended on 28 January 2022. The Regional for Central and Northern Europe, Fr Roman Jachimowicz, conducted the Extraordinary Visitation to the Polish St Hyacinth Province of Kraków (PLS). The Visitation took place from 3 February to 23 April 2022.

During the Visit Fr Roman visited the following Salesian com-

munities – in February: 10-11: Zabrze, 14-15: Pogrzebie and Kobyla, 15-18: Kraków-Konfederacka and Stani tki, Saltrom, 21: Kraków-Beato Joseph Kowalski, 22-23: Kraków-Inspectoral Centre and afternoon of the 23rd: the Provincial Council, 24-25: Kraków-Nowa Huta, 28: Kraków-Youth Pastoral Centre (WDM); in March: 1-5: Kraków-Teologato, on the 5th in the Theological Studentate he celebrated the Eucharistic with the conferring of the ministry of Reader for confreres from the four Polish Provinces, 7-9: O wi cim-Jagiełły, 9-10: O wi cim-Zasole, 11-12: Skawa and Witów, 14-15: wi tochłowice, 15-16: Kielce and Niewachłów, 17-19: Szczyrk, Przył ków and Wisła, 21-23: Lublin, 23-25: Rzeszów, 28-30: Przemy l, Lipowica and Polana. In addition, on 13 March he took part in the Social Communication meeting in Warsaw (AWP) attended by the Councillor for SC, Fr Gildásio Dos Santos Mendes. On 19 March he took part in the meeting concerning the distribution of funding for Ukraine, and on the 20th in the KSIP Conference meeting in Warsaw (AWP). In April he went to the Ukraine where war is raging to visit the Salesian communities and see how the situation of the confreres

is: 5-7: Bibrka, Peremyshlany, Korostyshiv, 8-9: Zhytomyr and Korostyshiv, 10: meeting with the Provincial, Fr Mykhaylo Chaban (UKR), 11: Odessa, online meeting with the confreres. On 23 April there was the conclusion of the Extraordinary Visitation with the meeting of the Rectors, the conclusion of the Provincial Chapter in the Theological Studentate in Krakow and the meeting with the Provincial Council in the Provincial House in Krakow.

On 5-6 May, the Regional, Fr Roman, took part in the online meeting of the Social Communication Sector. Then on 5-6 May he visited the Formation Houses in Poland. On 6-8 May, he took part in the meeting of the Provincials of the Central and Northern European Region in Vienna (AUS) in the presence of the Vicar of the Rector Major, Fr Stefano Martoglio, the Rector Major's Delegate for the Salesian Family, Fr Joan Lluís Playà, World Delegate for Salesian Cooperators and Past Pupils Bro. Dominic Nguyen, collaborator for Missions Fr Pavel Ženišek and two lay collaborators (Italy and Spain) from the Youth Ministry Sector.

From the 12th-14th, Fr Roman made a visit to the Formation Houses in Poland. On the 20th he

participated in the funeral of the mother of the recently-appointed Provincial Fr Bartłomiej Pola ski of the Wrocław Province (PLO). On the 20th in the Marian Shrine of Twardogóra he celebrated the Eucharistic for the installation of the new Provincial of Wrocław Fr Bartłomiej Pola ski.

On 30 May, Fr Roman went to Valdocco, Turin, for the Summer Session of the General Council, which began on 1 June and ended on 25 June.

On 3-5 June he accompanied the Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, to Hungary. On 4 June in Budapest, at the end of the Eucharistic Celebration, the Rector Major blessed the new casket containing the relics of Blessed Stephen Sándor, which were found and identified in 2019. The Reliquary was carried in solemn procession and placed at the altar of Mary Help of Christians in the Clarisseum Church, where the young Coadjutor Brother spent a large part of his religious life in the service of young people, as a master printer and educator loved and esteemed by the confreres and young people.

From 26 June to 3 July, on the occasion of the 400th anniversary of the death of St Francis de Sales, Patron Saint of the Sale-

sian Congregation, the General Council took part in the Retreat preached by Fr Morand Wirth, SDB at the Jean XXIII centre in Annecy, France.

On 23 July, Fr Roman together with the Vicar of the Rector Major Fr Stefano Martoglio, the Councillor for Formation Fr Ivo Coelho, the Regional for the Mediterranean Region Fr Juan Carlos Pérez Godoy, went to the Province of Poland-Warsaw (PLE) for a meeting concerning the novitiates in Europe and particularly in the Central and Northern Europe Region.

The following day, after the conclusion of the Summer Session of the General Council, Fr Roman travelled to Poland.

The Councillor for the Interamerica Region

At the end of January 2022 he was due to leave for Haiti for the installation of the new superior, Fr Morachell Bonhomme, but one evening before departure he received the news that he was positive for the COVID 19 test, so had to cancel the trip and take a few days off until the test came back negative.

From 5 to 10 February, together with the Rector Major, he partici-

pated in a series of Retreats for the Provincials and their Councils held in the community of San Patricio in Cumbayá, Ecuador. It was an excellent experience of communion and accompaniment. At the end of the retreat he had the opportunity, together with the Provincials of the region, to conclude the annual meeting corresponding to the previous cycle, as had been previously agreed.

From 15 February to 26 May, on behalf of the Rector Major, he conducted the Extraordinary Visitation to the Sacred Heart Province in Ecuador. He spent 92 days in the country, visited 23 communities. He met for dialogue with 132 SDBs, 33 volunteers, 10 lay bursars and 4 bishops: Archbishop Alfredo José Espinoza Mateus SDB, Archbishop and Primate of Quito, Ecuador, Bishop Néstor Montesdeoca Becerra SDB, bishop of the Apostolic Vicariate Méndez, Bishop Pietro Gabrielli SDB, bishop emeritus of the Vicariate of Mendez and Bishop Luis Antonio Sánchez Armijos, bishop emeritus of Machala, as well as meetings with various leaders of the EPCs.

From 4 to 13 April, he attended the Interim Council sessions in Rome, to present the report of the study on the Interamerica Region

as part of the preparatory process for the next global visit.

On 14 April, he arrived at the Salesian community at Sampierdarena in Genoa to accompany the pastoral care of the Holy Days with the Latin community (Ecuadorians and Peruvians) participating in the parish of San Juan Bosco and San Cayetano.

On 28 May he arrived in Turin for the 2022 Summer Session of the General Council.

The Councillor for the Mediterranean Region

At the end of the General Council's meetings, the Councillor for the Mediterranean Region went to Catania to continue the Extraordinary Visitation on behalf of the Rector Major to the San Paolo Sicilian Province (ISI) Italy. This second part of the visit began on 29 January by meeting the confreres from the San Tommaso Theological Studentate community in Messina until 5 February. He celebrated the Solemnity of Don Bosco on 31 January, and participated in meeting in person and online with the Salesian Family to present the Rector Major's Strenna in Messina in the FMA House. He then went on to visit a group

of Houses in the Province until 27 March: Ranchibile Palermo, Barriera Catania, San Francesco di Sales Catania, Santa Chiara Palermo, Gesù Adolescente Palermo, Camporeale, Marsala, Trapani, Barcellona, Viagrande, Randazzo Catania, Associazione Don Bosco 2000, Province Centre, Giostra Messina, Alcamo and Salette/San Gregorio Catania. During the visit, he took part in the Provincial Council of the Salesian Family on 2 February.

From 28 March until 1 April, he participated in the *curatorium* of the Region's formation houses in Messina, Crocetta, Il Colle, Nave, Genzano and San Tarcisio. On the weekend of 2-3 April he had a meeting in Rome with the Vicar of the Rector Major and other meetings. After which he returned to Catania to resume the Extraordinary Visitation on 5 April to the Associazione Meta Cometa and went to Tunisia, Manouba and Tunis from 5 to 11 April.

After the visit to Tunisia, he finished his visit to the Province Centre and celebrated the Easter Triduum in San Francesco di Sales, Catania. On 17 April he had the final meeting with the Provincial to share an overview of the visit and on the 18th with the Provincial Council in the morning and with

the Rectors in the afternoon, thus concluding the Extraordinary Visitation to the Sicilian Province and returning to Rome.

From 21 to 29 April, he travelled to Spain to take part in the various meetings of the Iberian Conference, the Mediterranean Region and the CIS in Sanlúcar la Mayor (Seville), taking the opportunity to greet his family and accompany the Councillor for Social Communication (who contributed an address to the Mediterranean meeting) for him to get to know some of the Houses of the Province of Seville (SMX) and some cultural visits.

On 30 April, he travelled with the Provincial of MOR Province to Israel and Palestine to continue the Extraordinary Visitation in this province. He started the visit at Ratisbonne, continuing on to Betgemal, Nazareth, Bethlehem and Cremisan, until 16 May. On the 13th he was able to participate with the Italian Consul and other local authorities in the inauguration of a children's park built on the grounds of our House in Cremisan with Italian cooperation and VIS. After a few days to finish the report of the Visitation, he met with the Provincial, the Provincial Council and the Rectors to share the overview of the

visit, and to conclude he had a nice online meeting with all the communities of the Province.

After finishing his visit to the MOR Province, he travelled to Portugal on 20 May for a visit to animate and get to know some of the houses there. He celebrated the Solemnity of Our Lady Help of Christians in Lisbon, celebrating Mass with all the young peo-

ple, educators and all the staff. On 28 May he visited the Salesian House in Málaga, taking part in the procession of Mary Help of Christians and on the 30th in the morning he spoke at the meeting of the two National YM Centres, Madrid and Rome. After this meeting he returned to Rome and on the 31st went to Turin to begin General Council Summer Session.