



acts

of the general council

year CVII

january-june 2024

N. 443

official organ
of animation
and communication
for the
salesian congregation

Sede Centrale
Salesiana
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of the Salesian Society
of St John Bosco

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ANIMATION AND COMMUNICATION FOR THE SALESIAN CONGREGATION

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Our Journey to the 29th General Chapter

Father Alphonse OWOUDOU

GC29 Moderator

1. INTRODUCTION

On 24 September 2023, in a gesture of profound significance for the Salesian Congregation, the Rector Major, Father Ángel Fernández Artime, officially convened the 29th General Chapter (GC29). This extraordinary event, which will be held from 16 February to 12 April 2025, aims to explore the theme “Passionate about Jesus Christ, dedicated to young people”. GC29 sets itself the ambitious goal of reflecting on the fidelity and prophecy of the Salesian vocation in our contemporary context, expressing it through three fundamental core areas.

The choice of Valdocco, Turin, as the venue for the Chapter is not accidental. It underlines the deep desire to reconnect with the roots of the Congregation, in a place that breathes history and embodies the Salesian charism. The members of the Technical Commission, appointed by the Rector Major, have been working together for about a year to ensure the success of this important event.

In preparation for this crucial moment, significant symbolic elements have been developed: an evocative logo and a specific prayer. The latter, fervently recited in numerous Salesian provinces and houses, has been adopted and adapted for some Provincial Chapters, creating a climate of spiritual communion that embraces the entire Congregation. In more recent weeks, there has also been a musical version.

2. STEPS TAKEN SO FAR

2.1 Organisational aspects

The Moderator, supported by the Technical Commission, has undertaken intensive coordination and communication

work with moderators of Provincial Chapters. The secretariat has maintained a constant link with the 92 moderators of Provincial Chapters, facilitating a number of exchanges and valuable formation sessions through the dedicated portal. In a gesture of encouragement and support, the Moderator sent a personalised letter of greeting to each province before their respective Chapter.

The publication of the Acts of the General Council No. 441 provided the essential guidelines for preparation of the Chapter. The secretariat made itself available to clarify doubts and answer questions regarding the Chapters, methodology and rules of the various elections.

At the end of the Provincial Chapters, there were 224 future Chapter members elected for GC29, including 209 priests and 15 brothers. They will be joined by a support team consisting of 17 translators, 12 logistics staff, 12 for the Press and Director's Office, and 4 for IT, making a total of 269 people involved. The preparatory material, subdivided by core areas and juridical topics, has already been brought together in several languages, with a predominance of documents in English (125) and Italian (77), followed by Spanish (60) and parity between French and Portuguese (31 each). The core area breakdown sees an even distribution among the first three core areas (89, 89 and 86 documents respectively), while juridical topics include 47 contributions and 13 other topics. This voluminous material will now enter a phase of careful review by the secretariat and the moderator, to ensure maximum accuracy and relevance of the content for the upcoming work of the Pre-Chapter Commissions.

2.2 Logistical aspects

A general calendar has been defined outlining the 7-week programme of the GC29, from the days of the initial retreat to the conclusion in Rome, in the context of the 2025 Jubilee.

The IT aspect has received particular attention. Engineer Sandro has created a bespoke portal to facilitate sending out documents, managing participant files and systematically answering moderators' and provincials' questions. Given the impossibility of using the old portal, collaboration is underway with the *Protocolli Creativi* Company to develop a new tool for future Chapters. This innovative project, in addition to the secretariat, also involves experienced confreres such as Fr Stefano Vanoli, Fr Saimy, Fr Francesco Valente, Fr Andrei Munteanu and Fr Pierluigi Lanotte. This technological solution will not only facilitate the communication and sharing of documents, but will also guarantee greater efficiency and security in the performance of Chapter work. The use of this integrated digital platform represents an important step towards a more modern and sustainable management of the General Chapter, in line with the needs of our time.

Another significant innovation for this General Chapter is that each participant in GC29 will receive a tablet, a device on which they will do all the Chapter work, using the new software in intranet mode.

As for translations, we have opted for a cutting-edge approach that takes advantage of the latest technologies. In addition to the systematic translation of working texts, an API provided by DeepL will be implemented in the new platform to allow the real-time translation of interventions in English, Italian, French, Spanish and Portuguese. Under the expert coordination of Fr Gianni Rolandi, two specialised teams will be operating: the “interpreters” for simultaneous translation and the “translators” for the revision of important texts.

2.3 Aspects regarding core areas

The provinces dealt with the three core areas following the three-stage methodology of reflection – Listening, Interpreting and Choosing – suggested by Pope Francis for the 2018 Youth Synod. The juridical issues arising from GC28 have been

treated separately, some of which have been taken up in the context of the third core area.

Discernment plays a central role in this experience. Fr Pascual Chavez, Rector Major Emeritus, will lead the three days of initial spiritual retreat. The Vicar of the Rector Major, Fr Stefano Martoglio, as president of the Chapter, will lead weekly discussions on the core areas. Father Mauro-Giuseppe Lepori, Superior General of the Cistercians, will accompany the Chapter assembly in the discernment and elections of the Rector Major and the General Council.

Organisation of the liturgy, group dynamics and the contribution of the Salesian Biblical Association (ABS) in the form of *Lectio divina* will contribute to making GC29 a genuine event of listening to the Spirit.

3. NEXT STEPS UNTIL DECEMBER 2024

In the recent plenary session of the General Council, it emerged that the 92 provincial chapters took place regularly and the material was uploaded to the server in two formats: as an archive (file) and as individual responses in special fields. During August the secretariat will study this material to present to the members of the Pre-chapter Commission at an on-line meeting on 26 August and then when they come to Rome for their working session.

Subsequently, the Pre-chapter Juridical Commission will meet in Rome for ten days of work on the third core area and on juridical issues. The Pre-Chapter Commission will begin its session on 17 September 2024, working on the material received to produce the *GC29 Instrumentum Laboris*.

In October and November, while the team that collaborates with *Protocolli Creativi* will carry out tests and any adjustments of the new software, the tablets that will be the main tool for Chapter members will be prepared. By the end of

October 2024, Chapter members will receive the GC29 working tool to begin study and spiritual preparation. There will be two online meetings of Chapter members to familiarise themselves with the portal and exchange experiences.

In the months prior to the Chapter, the logistical preparation in Valdocco will be intensified, defining workspaces, accommodation for Chapter members and all the practical aspects necessary for the event to run smoothly.

4. CONCLUSION

The preparation of GC29 is configured as a journey that involves the entire Congregation in a process of reflection and profound renewal. The Rector Major urges us to intensify personal and community prayer, reminding us that “without prayer, without a heart that continually matures in faith, all we can do are sociological things that will end almost before they begin. Only in faith does God have the power to make all things new.”

We entrust this journey of preparation to Mary Help of Christians, invoking her maternal intercession so that GC29 may prove to be a “propitious moment” of grace and renewal for the entire Salesian Congregation. May the Holy Spirit illuminate our journey, helping us to remain faithful to the charism of Don Bosco and open to the challenges of our time, to continue to be signs and bearers of God’s love for the young people of today.

2.1 LETTER TO ELDERLY SALESIANS

SHARING WISDOM AND HOPE IN DIGITAL CULTURE

Fr Gildasio MENDES DOS SANTOS

General Councillor for Social Communication

Dear confreres,

I am addressing you with fraternal affection through these lines, to explore together the meaning of living with wisdom and hope in an era characterised by digital culture.¹ This letter stems from the desire you have expressed to share some reflections on how we can navigate these waters, orienting ourselves with the compass of the Gospel.

1. *History is life's teacher.* You have witnessed incredible revolutions: the rise of radio and television, the advent of the first personal computers, the age of the telephone that gradually paved the way for global connectivity. The digital adventure wrote one of its first chapters with the creation of ARPANET in the 1960s, the ancestor of the Internet. In the 1990s, the Internet entered the homes and lives of millions of people, with the arrival of mobile devices such as laptops, tablets and smartphones. In 1995, the first social networking platform came to life in the United States and Canada, ushering in an era in which information sharing and the integration of multimedia content – such as videos, music, movies, games, and shopping – became central to the online experience.

2. *We are witnessing a revolution.* With the emergence of

¹ Cf. *Walking with young people in digital culture* AGC 440, August-December 2023.

Artificial Intelligence, we will witness further and incredible evolutions in communication. It is not possible, nor even desirable, to stop this phenomenon, just as in the 1900s no one could stop the explosion of mass communication. The only option we have is to interpret it and put our experience at the service of others.

3. *All Salesians are and have been communicators.* In Salesian houses and institutions you have all experienced the communication tools of the time, such as films, slide projectors, mimeographs, turntables. Effective tools to engage young people before the advent of digital tools. Now, in the era of an accelerated expansion of technologies, the pace has intensified, allowing even the youngest to explore the web, play online, access music and movies on the Internet.

4. *In many ways, the digital evolution has changed the way we work, relate, study and have fun.* We know its challenges and opportunities and we are part of this universe. For us, who learn from our father Don Bosco how important it is to walk with the times, it is necessary to analyse and understand it in order to be protagonists and not victims.

5. *Times always urge us to change.* At every stage of our lives, as Salesian educators we are called to educate and evangelise through dialogue with different cultures, in the light of the Gospel. This involves understanding various human phenomena – such as interculturality and youth language – and addressing emerging social and political issues.

6. *Big changes, big questions.* Often, older Salesians ask themselves: how can I carry out my task in this world made of passwords, clicks, likes, photos, videos, news that are produced through countless devices? How can we continue to communicate our vocation and mission at the service of young people in a human and gospel-based way?

7. *In the Bible* we find characters who, in their old age, knew how to live and communicate God's message wisely and with rel-

evance. For example, Abraham,² who became a guide and father to his people in middle age, symbolises the courage and faith needed to undertake new ventures and missions. As a wise elder he inspired hope despite uncertainties, criticism, and indifference.

8. *Zechariah*, servant of the Lord and husband to Elizabeth, embodies the elder who is dedicated and reconciles family care and spiritual commitments, becoming an ambassador of hope. In his canticle³ (the *Benedictus*), he announces the arrival of the Saviour. Similarly, in late age Simeon sings of joy and gratitude (the *Nunc Dimittis*), having seen the Messiah with his own eyes. He represents the elder who celebrates life and the divine plan of salvation that has come his way and knows how to share his joy.

9. *Saint John Bosco*, our father and teacher, dedicates every moment of his life to the service of young people. He communicates his vision through books, letters, conferences, homilies, the Salesian Bulletin, as well as through music and photography.⁴ He became a living message to others until the end his life.

10. *In the light of a Salesian spiritual perspective*, the question that inevitably emerges in the face of the current panorama is: how can I bring fraternity, listening, conversation and the pleasure of being together at table back to the centre in a digital world full of stimuli and distractions? How can I, as a Salesian priest or brother, live wisely and carry on the work of evangelisation in this intricate universe of digital networks?

11. *First, remember what is the most authentic gift you can share*: Gospel wisdom and the gift of the Salesian vocation in your life that comes with it. Your path of faith, personal

² Cf. Gen 12:1-9.

³ Cf. Lk 1:68-79.

⁴ Cf. *Circular Letter on the Spread of Good Books* by St John Bosco (19 March 1885), in CERIA E., *Epistolario di San Giovanni Bosco* volume 4, letter 2539.

growth, your commitment to consecrated life, fidelity to Don Bosco and love for Mary Help of Christians, loyalty to our charism and your generous dedication to young people are at the heart of the message to be spread. Example continues to be more effective than words: your lived life is the most powerful message you can offer.

12. *Second, your message will be made alive by the experience of communion in community:* fraternal life and prayer, love for the Word of God, the sacraments, joyful service, moments of silence and sacrifice.⁵

13. *Third, your gospel-based wisdom⁶ will be a source of inspiration* for young people and all members of the Salesian Family. Thanks to this you have learned to love and forgive; to be among the people; to authentically live the faith and your vocation which is an expression of God's love for others, especially for young people. So, this is the most authentic and credible message you can offer in the digital world.

14. *Everything you are contributes* to the Salesian mission, the evangelisation and education of young people⁷ in the community. Don't feel outdated. You are not: those who walk with wisdom and gospel hope always remain young. This way you can continue to actively collaborate with the Salesian mission in your communities. You are, then, our first and most important communicators.

⁵ Cf. John Paul II. Apostolic Letter *Salvifici Doloris* to Bishops, Priests, Religious Families and the Faithful of the Catholic Church on the Christian meaning of human suffering.

⁶ Cf. Pontifical Biblical Commission. "What is man?" (*Psalm 8:5*). *An itinerary of biblical anthropology*, no. 56.

⁷ Cf. Salesian Constitutions 14. "Our vocation is graced by a special gift of God – predilection for the young: 'That you are young is enough to make me love you very much.' This love is an expression of pastoral charity and gives meaning to our whole life. For their welfare we give generously of our time, talents and health: 'For you I study, for you I work, for you I live, for you I am ready even to give my life.'"

15. *We know that communication has changed shape*, but the underlying principles are always the same. In the inter-generational and multicultural context of many of our communities, we can always cultivate the gift of exchange and the construction of communion and fraternity in a shared mission.

16. *Today, every Salesian is “connected”*. It is important to accept a different way of living and working with an open mind. It is about cultivating our ability to understand people, to feel part of the mission of the community without losing the desire to serve others with joy and enthusiasm.

17. *The digital universe is a vast land of wheat and tares*.⁸ Digital technologies open broad prospects for human and cultural development. However, navigating prudently⁹ and wisely in this universe is critical. This does not mean labelling behaviours or prescribing strict rules, but adopting gospel and Salesian discernment. It is essential to know that political, economic and ideological interests lie behind the digital world. Knowing this and knowing how to avoid risks therefore becomes essential. It would be interesting to think of moments and spaces for sharing and forming people in the pastoral, educational and ethical use of these means.

18. *Experience is golden*. In this scenario, your life experience is valuable, because ethics returns to the centre of reflection on digital communication. It becomes a lighthouse for navigation in its oceans. In fact, the algorithms that underlie digital communication can lead to reckless consumption, data manipulation, damage to privacy, and the spread of hidden ideological currents. Precisely for this reason it is important to learn how to protect yourself, carefully manage your personal data and your own and

⁸ Cf. Mt 13:24

⁹ “The prudent person is creative: he or she reasons, evaluates, tries to understand the complexity of reality and does not allow him or herself to be overwhelmed by emotions, idleness, pressures and illusions.” (Cf. Pope Francis, General Audience. St Peter’s Square Wednesday, 20 March 2024)

others' privacy. Finally, protect your physical and psychological health.

19. *We are aware that the digital world is not only a risk, but also a great source of opportunity*, if lived with an educational and ethical approach. The network is a fundamental tool for the exchange of information, collaboration, study, research, evangelisation.

20. *We continue to communicate with an open heart* to our confreres and with eyes attentive to reality. We must always remember that living digitally with a critical spirit allows us not to limit our universe of thought to a bubble which keeps us away from real life: from poverty, wars, exclusion, environmental problems, the digital divide and individualism. It cannot be a screen to escape direct contact with people and the richness of community presence, which leads us to share experiences and emotions with confreres, lay people and young people.

21. *Dear confreres, let us continue to navigate together with wisdom and hope*. In our navigation Mary is the main lighthouse. Among the many titles of the Mother of Jesus, *Stella Maris* is the most enlightening. This name appeared when the first missionaries challenged the oceans. Mary is the guide in infinite spaces; she is Mother and Teacher and guides us in navigating the digital world.

4.1 Chronicle of the Rector Major

– JANUARY

After the Council concluded on 26 January 2024, the Rector Major went from Turin to the North-east of Brazil to celebrate the Feast of Don Bosco there and render homage to Servant of God, Father Cicero Romao Batista.

On 9 February he went to Santo Domingo to meet the Salesians from all over the Province.

On 10 February he participated in the Youth Environmental Forum at the “Eco Don Bosco” centre in Villa Altagracia. He then presided at the Eucharist in the Church of St John Bosco in Santo Domingo. “The presence of Cardinal Angel Fernandez Artime,” the Provincial Fr Josè Pastor Ramirez, said, “has left an indelible mark not only through concrete actions such as tree planting, but also and above all through the closeness and humanity shown to everyone by the Rector Major, who touched in particular the young people he met.”

– FEBRUARY

On 14 February, Ash Wednesday, the RM was in Vietnam for

the Team Visit with the Council. Beginning that same day, the visit continued for several days with animation and review meetings. It ended on 17 February 2024.

From Vietnam, Fr Artime travelled to Rwanda in Africa. There in Kigali he opened the Team Visit with the presence among others of the regional Fr Alphonse Owodou and Fr Alfred Maravilla, Councillor for the Missions. The visit ended on 23 February in the presence of the Apostolic Nuncio to Rwanda, Archbishop Sanchez Catalan.

Returning to Italy on 29 February in the morning, the RM was involved in a round table on work and youth vocational training in Milan. In the evening he was at the Vatican in Rome where a book that brings together all his Strennas with the title *Chiamati all’Amore con Speranza* (Called to Love with Hope) was presented. The presentation highlighted the richness of content of the messages of the 10th successor of Don Bosco. There were bishops and cardinals in the room.

– MARCH

On 7 March, Fr Artime returned to Brazil and to Aracatu-

ba in Mato Grosso where he received citizenship and great hospitality. He visited Campogrande, the University on the occasion of the 130th anniversary of the Salesian presence. He went to Corumbà and Meruri to the joy and gratitude of the Bororos and Chavantes population. The visit ended on 13 March in Sangradauro and on 14 March in Curubà.

On 15 March he took part in the Salesian Missionary Symposium with over a thousand young participants.

On Friday, 22 March, the RM spent a few hours among the young people at the Borgo Ragazzi Don Bosco in Rome.

– APRIL

April was marked by the Episcopal Ordination of Fr Angel. It took place together with the Episcopal Ordination of Salesian Fr Giordano Piccinotti in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major on 20 April. The following Sunday 21st there was a grand concelebration of the two Bishops in the Church of the Sacred Heart in Via Marsala. At both ceremonies there was a large group of members of the Salesian Family, bishops and cardinals, relatives of the Ordained.

On 26 April Cardinal Artime went to Valencia in Spain to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the foundation of that still lively and busy work.

– MAY

The RM's last international trip was dedicated to Africa where on 5 May he met the refugees at Palabek in Uganda. He remained until the 7th having meetings in Kampala and surroundings. The visit to Africa continued on through the Democratic Republic of the Congo. In the afternoon of 11 May the RM was in Lubumbashi. He also travelled to Zambia, visiting Sakania, while on the 9th he visited Goma.

On the way back to Europe the RM stopped over in Portugal for the great Marian pilgrimage of the Salesian Family (Fatima 18-19 May). He also took part in the meeting of the Salesian Youth Movement.

The return to Rome was marked by the Feast of Mary Help of Christians celebrated on 24 May in the Church where the cardinal is titular and also in the Temple of Don Bosco. Also with a Marian perspective was the trip to Slovakia on 25 May on the occasion of the centenary of the shrine of Mary Help of Christians in Rakovník.

4.2 Chronicle of the General Councillors

The Vicar of the Rector Major

At the end of the General Council's Winter Plenary Session, the Vicar remained for a few days in the Salesian sites to celebrate the feasts of Don Bosco, including the celebration in Valdocco, taking the place of the Rector Major.

After the celebrations for Don Bosco in different communities, the Vicar prepared to go down to Rome. With the conclusion of the Council's Winter Session, the presence in Turin, which lasted almost two years, came to an end and preparations were made to gradually return to the Headquarters in Rome, Sacred Heart, completely renovated for the ultimate work on the Sacred Heart house that will conclude towards the end of 2024.

After a few days in Rome, the Vicar, together with the Rector Major and the Sector Councillors, went first to Vietnam and then to Rwanda to participate in the two Team Visits, one for the East Asia-Oceania Region (Vietnam), the other for Africa-Madagascar Region (Rwanda). Two very beau-

tiful and intense experiences, to complete the cycle of the Six-Year Team Visits in preparation for the next General Chapter. The two Team Visits were very well taken care of and fruitful, thanks to the two Regional Councillors who coordinated them.

At the end of February, on returning from his visit to Rwanda, the Vicar went on a Provincial Visitation to the St Francis de Sales community in Vatican City. The visit was anticipated, compared to the other visits to RMG communities, to accompany the internal dynamics of the community itself and the changes of service under preparation.

At the beginning of March, the Vicar began the Extraordinary Visitation to the Santa Maria della Sapienza Vice-Province for the confreres dedicated to the mission of our UPS university. A visit for the Vicar that was a pleasant discovery of all the facets of our university and the different people who make it up. A chance to get to know and discuss the importance of the UPS, its current situation and future prospects. The visit lasted until the first ten days of May, but from 20 April it was interspersed with other things.

In the days before 20 April, the

Vicar of the Rector Major returned to Headquarters to take part in the Episcopal Ordination of the Rector Major, Cardinal Angel Fernandez Artime. A moment of grace which was an experience of Church and Congregation for the two episcopal ordinations of the Rector Major and Archbishop Giordano Piccinotti. The Headquarters community and the entire Congregation were represented for this event, gathering around Rector Major and Archbishop Piccinotti.

From 21 April, the Provincial Visitation to the Headquarters community in Rome, Sacred Heart, began. It was an important moment for the community to return to the renovated house, to build a shared path of “establishing” the new community. The provincial visitation lasted a week, with enough time to hold personal meetings, sector meetings, meetings of other animation groups of the Salesians and lay people who are involved in the mission of the Headquarters community.

After the visit to Sacred Heart, the Vicar carried out provincial visitations to the other RMG communities: Castelgandolfo, San Callisto, Colle don Bosco. The lat-

ter has only come under RMG coordination since last September 2023, meaning it was a visit that made it possible to consolidate and complete the pastoral project of this very important Salesian place.

From 23 May 2024, the Vicar of the Rector Major moved to Valdocco for the feast of Mary Help of Christians. An always great experience of devotion and popular faith, a personal grace to be able to be in Turin.

In the following days, after celebrating the feast of Mary Help of Christians in other Salesian houses, the Vicar returned to Rome to prepare for the imminent start of the summer session of the General Council. On 1 – 2 June, the Vicar participated in the UPS Team Visit, together with the Rector Major and the Sector Councillors, crowning the experience of the Extraordinary Visitation there.

In the week from 3 June to 9 June, General Council sessions began to take place, which would formally begin on 8 June. On 4 June, the Vicar was able to take part in the opening and blessing of facilities at the new Postulation in the Salesian house in via Bu-

falotta in Rome. A beautiful and important structure of the Congregation for the Care of the Causes of Saints and Holiness.

The General Councillor for Formation

After the conclusion of the General Council's 2023-2024 Winter Session, Fr Ivo Coelho, Councillor for Formation, went to Hyderabad – India to participate in the international seminar to study the possibility of sharing the Salesian mission with lay people of other religions and cultural traditions, 28 January – 1 February.

During a few days spent with his family in Goa, on 3-5 February Fr Coelho took part online in the Curatorium of the formation community of the theologate in Jerusalem. He also made a visit to the interprovincial prenovitiate in Loutolim – Goa.

He returned to Rome for the World Advisory Council Formation meeting that was held in Genzano, Rome (7-11 February).

On 11 February he resumed his residence at Headquarters in Sacred Heart, Rome, after the pro-

longed stay in Valdocco, Turin (May 2022 – February 2024).

Immediately after the Advisory Council, Fr Coelho travelled to Vietnam for the Team Visit for the East Asia – Oceania Region, in Da Lat, on 14-17 February. From Vietnam he travelled to Kigali, Rwanda (stopping briefly in the Salesian community in Istanbul) for the Team Visit for the Africa – Madagascar Region, on 20-24 February.

The Councillor arrived at Headquarters, Rome, on 25 February, where he remained for March, April and May, working on the revision of the Ratio, with some short trips and visits.

On 5 March he visited the Testaccio community. From 5 to 8 April he paid a visit to the BEN Province. On 20 April, together with the other members of the General Council, he took part in the episcopal ordination of Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime and Fr Giordano Piccinotti, in the papal basilica of Saint Mary Major, Rome. On 22-23 April he attended the meeting of those in charge of bookings in Europe, organised by the Formation Sector, in Valdocco. On 23 April he made a brief visit to the Salesian Accompaniment

School, Colle Don Bosco, and also participated in the Curatorium of the novitiate at Colle Don Bosco, on the same day.

On 2 May he represented the General Council at the funeral of Fr Len Kofler, founder of the St Anselm's Institute Ciampino, Rome. From 6 to 10 May he made another visit to the Salesian Accompaniment School, presenting some topics such as the friendly talk with the rector, spiritual accompaniment and admissions.

From 24 to 27 May he travelled to Albania, where he visited the communities in Lushjne and Shkodra. On 27 May, together with the other members of the Formation Sector, he met the Salesians participating in the ongoing formation course for formators – UPS.

On 30 May he travelled to Goa for his brother-in-law's funeral. He could not take part in the Team Visit of the UPS Vice-Province and the University, 1-2 June.

The summer session of the General Council began on 8 June 2024, at Headquarters, Rome.

The General Councillor for Youth Ministry

Fr Miguel Angel continued organisational and planning appointments with the Sector Team in the various scheduled meetings, including, among others, the yearly review (26-27 July). At the same time, coordination meetings were scheduled with members who were off-site. On 26 April this meeting was held in the presence of the Vicar of the Rector Major. Two topics to which extra time was dedicated were the revision of the General Council's Directory - Youth Ministry Section and the preparation of the report for GC29. He started a group within the Youth Ministry Sector to support animation activities for integral human development/advocacy. Similarly with the Team he promoted and shared an interesting idea with different people about creating an Education Office in the future that can animate, promote, and support schools of all levels, Vocational Training Centres (VTCs), and Universities.

With regard to DB Tech activities, the Councillor continued to promote coordination between DB Tech India, DB Tech Africa, and

the America VTC Network. Particularly demanding over these months has been the establishing of Tech Don Bosco Europe: definition and elaboration of its legal form, registering Articles of Association and Statutes, arrangement of the staff and the strategic plan and budget. The first General Assembly of the Salesian Provincials Europe association was held (24 April).

Regarding other coordination meetings for drafting some texts concerning *Safeguarding*, a working group followed up, carrying out a comparative study of province texts on safeguarding minors and vulnerable persons, with the aim of carrying out an examination of common standards and sharing future procedures to ensure implementation and updates.

The Councillor for Youth Ministry continued with the preparation of the Salesian Youth Synod, together with his Team. Many meetings were held regarding accommodation at Colle and Valdocco, the contents, communication with Provinces, logistics, financing, and various teams.

Within the IUS framework, Fr Miguel Angel presented some

choices and guidelines during the meeting of African IUS coordinators (9 April) and the Board of Directors (20 June).

Just like every year, much importance was given to formation, including providing an opportunity for growth and discussion in provinces. During these months, Fr Miguel Angel, together with the Sector team at Headquarters, organised ten webinars on mental health (12, 13, 15, 18, and 21 March), which were attended with interest and received a very positive final evaluation by numerous delegates and lay people. He then offered three formation days to the Salesians in Slovakia (5-7 March); a formation session with employees at Headquarters (27 March) and with the House Council (16 April). The Councillor held an online formation session with a number of provinces: AOS (8 March), CAM (13 April), BRE (3 June), POR (25 June), and PER (25 July).

Fr Miguel Angel offered a formation session in Seville for the Salesian Cooperators Assembly, SMX (6 April) and at the course for Salesian Family delegates held at the UPS (23 April). He celebrated the Eucharist and held a workshop on educational pastoral

care during the Escuela Salesiana America meeting (1-4 May). He preached a few days of the novena at the Maria Auxiliadora Shrine in Madrid (21-24 May).

Always within the area of education, the Counselor led some training sessions on “a youth ministry that educates to love”: for the SMM Salesian Province (11 January) and for the national scout movement committee (14 April); two sessions at the Seminar organised by UPS (1-2 March).

He encouraged the European provinces to participate in a proposal for charismatic formation (a second-level advanced formation course) for lay people who have leadership roles in our Works.

During this semester and within are of the advocacy and institutional relations, the General Councillor for Youth Ministry followed the work of the DBI and the Salesian representative at the UN in New York, including joining certain platforms, projects, and organisations, as well as the importance of supporting political impact through policies, statements, online campaigns, and publications. Coordination meetings of the DBI have been regularly held

with the incoming treasurer and Executive Secretary, as well as the annual DBI Assembly (22 January).

It is important to highlight the numerous meetings with other organisations (DBN, DBGA, President of CNOS-FAP, President of VIS, Migration Commission for the Mediterranean Region, the Mattei Plan). The Councillor met with a team from the Salesian Co-operators Association (Italy-Middle East-Malta Region) on 19 March to discuss more teamwork regarding future proposals and working towards establishing a school focused on education for social and political engagement.

At the level of animation of provincial delegates, his involvement occurred notably during the meeting with provincial youth ministry delegates in Europe (6-9 February, Madrid) and at the Fourth School of Youth Ministry Delegates (8-18 May). On 17 July, Fr Miguel Angel met with the new ICC youth ministry delegate and its recently appointed provincial (17 July). In preparation for the upcoming regional delegates’ meetings, the Councillor distributed the convocation letter with all relevant information.

The Youth Ministry Councillor held a meeting for the drafting of the OPP and SEPP for some provinces. He was asked to provide pastoral consultation by the Congregation of the Apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (27 February).

Fr Miguel Angel conducted formation sessions during the new provincials course in June) and had a conversation with each of them. He participated in the East Asia Oceania Region Team Visit (14-17 February), in the Africa Madagascar Region Team Visit (20-23 February), and the UPS Team Visit (1-2 June). Furthermore, he attended the summer plenary sessions (June-July) of the General Council.

It is important to mention that over these months Fr Miguel Angel coordinated the preparation, printing, and dissemination of a number of documents: “Works and services for young people in situations of vulnerability and exclusion”, “The Professional Training Centre”, and “Hidden Diamonds”; at the same time, he participated in the preparation and printing of “Itineraries: A youth ministry that educates to love” (March). This latter was then presented on several occasions to different groups

of Salesians and laypeople. The launching of the text on the “Salesian Oratory-Youth Centre” was carried out on 24 April, in two morning and afternoon sessions.

Finally, again with regard to written production, he wrote some articles and interviews for magazines and a new Flash support for vocational animation of the Provinces.

The General Councillor for the Missions

Fr Alfred Maravilla, General Councillor for Missions, was in Kenitra Morocco for an animation visit on January 12-15, 2024. From January 19-22, he participated in the first meeting of Salesian missionary Museums held at Colle Don Bosco. After the winter session of the General Council, he proceeded to Hyderabad, India for the International Research Seminar on sharing Salesian charism and mission with followers of other religions from January 28 – February 1. The research seminar was jointly organised by the Regional Councillor for South Asia and the General Councillors for Missions and for Formation. From Feb 2-7, he was in the

Province of Dimapur for a missionary animation visit. Accompanied by Fr Nazarius Lakra, the Vice-Provincial, Fr Maravilla visited the houses of formation and some significant presences that recall the history, challenges, and successes of the Salesians in their commitment to evangelisation. From 7 to 12 February, Fr Maravilla was in the Province of Jesus the Good Shepherd, New Delhi (INN). Due to the immense extent of the Province, Fr Maravilla was only able to visit presences in the New Delhi and Ranchi regions and was able to meet confreres who gathered for a fraternal encounter. He was able to see for himself the great work that the Salesians were doing among the tribal populations of the Ranchi region.

On Feb 14-17, he was in K'long, Vietnam for the Team Visit to the East Asia – Oceania Region. He then proceeded to Kigali, Rwanda, from 20 to 23 February for the Team Visit of the Africa – Madagascar Region. From Kigali, he proceeded to Kenya. Together with the Superior of AFE, Fr George Tharaniyil, Fr Jose Padinjareparampil, Delegate for Missionary Animation and Fr. Eric Mairura, member of the Missions

Sector, the General Councillor for Missions visited the Mission in Korr, the first Salesian presence in Kenya, in the vast Kaisut desert, where the population is mostly made up of pastoralists. They then proceeded to Kakuma refugee camp, the second-largest refugee camp in Africa. The Salesians began their presence in Kakuma in 1993. Presently, they run a technical training centre, literacy courses and a parish. Before leaving for Rome on 1 March, Fr Maravilla also met the 37 prenovices of the AFE Province and the 52 theology students in Utume, Nairobi. On March 5-8, he participated in the meeting on Salesian Volunteering jointly organised by the Sectors for Missions and for Youth Ministry held at the UPS, Rome. On March 16-18, he was on a missionary animation visit to the two presences in Lithuania. He then proceeded to Romania from 19 to Saturday 23, above all to meet the first two missionaries sent during the last missionary expedition. Fr. Maravilla was happy to ascertain the community's accompaniment in their gradual integration into Romanian culture. He then proceeded to Moldova on March 23-24 to visit the confreres working in the oratory and parish. From 27 to 31

March 2024 visited the Salesian community of Fujairah in the UAE. The Salesians administer a parish for migrant workers and a school with about 2,500 students from 40 countries. Although explicit evangelisation is prohibited, school is a meeting point where children of different faiths work side by side and experience the value of tolerance and respect for a healthy human society.

From March 31 to April 6 il Consigliere Generale per le Missioni, preached the annual retreat for the post-novices of the Africa Great Lakes (AGL) Vice-Province. He was able to greet the novices as well and give them the 'good night' since the novitiate was nearby. From Kigali, he proceeded to Vietnam to continue the extraordinary visitation. This was interrupted by a short trip to Rome to participate in the episcopal ordination of the Rector Major on April 20. On May 4-25, the 'Sorgente' course for missionaries over 70 years took place guided by Fr. Reginaldo Cordeiro of the Missions Sector. Unable to be present due to the extraordinary visitation, Fr. Maravilla welcomed the participants through a letter. On May 19, the Visitor met the Provincial Council to share

his observations and clarify his impressions. On May 20 he concluded the visitation with a meeting with around 120 confreres living around Ho Chi Minh City. This was followed by the Eucharist presided over by the Provincial, Fr. Barnaba An Phong Le, concluded by a fraternal lunch. The extraordinary visit to the Province of Vietnam (VIE) lasted a total of almost nine months, although conducted at different periods.

On May 24, he arrived in Atyrau, Kazakhstan for an exploratory visit upon the invitation of the Apostolic Administrator of Atyrau. He accepted the invitation because it is the task of the General Councillor for the Missions to explore new possible frontiers for the Congregation. During the visit to some parishes and talks with the Apostolic Administrator, he explained the criteria of the Congregation for accepting the opening of a new presence in a country and the preferred beneficiaries of the Salesians of Don Bosco: young people, especially those who are poor, marginalised and at risk. The Apostolic Administrator assured him that these criteria and the conditions will be discussed in their Presbyteral

Council. Fr. Maravilla returned to Rome on May 28. He spent the time to arrange his new office in Sacro Cuore before the start of the General Council on June 8.

The General Councillor for Social Communication

– JANUARY

During the month of January, the General Councillor for Social Communication, Fr Gildasio Mendes, attended the General Council meetings held in Valdocco, Turin. During this time he had the opportunity to be involved in the Salesian Family Spirituality Days from the 18th to the 21st. From the 23rd to the 26th he took part in the meeting of the editorial team dealing with the drafting of the new social communication document. On 25 January, he took part in the first international online workshop, as part of the Voices project, involving young indigenous people in Cambodia.

On 30 January he collaborated in the preparatory meeting of the committee for the next International Congress on Communication, which will be held from 2 to 7 August 2024 at the UPS in Rome.

– FEBRUARY

On 1 February, the Councillor returned to the Sacred Heart, and on the following days 2nd and 3rd, he attended a meeting with members of the Social Communication Sector to plan all the activities in the sector scheduled for the first half of 2024.

On the 12th, he went together with the Rector Major, the Vicar of the Rector Major and the Councillors to Ho Chi Minh City then on to K'Long, for the EAO Region Team Visit.

On the 18th, together with the members of the General Council, he travelled to Kigali, Rwanda, to begin the Team Visit for the Africa Madagascar Region, held from the 19th to 23rd.

On the 24th he returned to Rome. From the 26th to 28th he participated in several online meetings with communication delegates from the 7 regions to plan and evaluate communication projects in the regions and provinces.

– MARCH

From the 2nd to the 8th, at Sacred Heart, the Councillor worked on the revision of the second draft of the new communication document.

From the 10th to 12th he met with members of the communication sector to study the texts for the preparation of General Chapter 29.

From the 20th to the 27th, he worked at Headquarters for the revision of the third draft of the communication document.

– APRIL

On 8 April, the Councillor for Communications went to the capital of Madagascar, Antananarivo, to carry out an animation visit to this Province: he visited the staff and facilities of Radio Don Bosco, met the delegate and the communication team, spoke with the provincial social communication delegate and made some visits to works run by the Salesians.

On the 12th he left Antananarivo for Lubumbashi, Congo, for an animation visit. In this region, he met the Provincial and those responsible for the movement and management of the various pastoral sectors; he also visited two radio stations and a television network in the city and finally the postnovitiate and the theologate. During the visit to Radio Don Bosco, he met the lay people who work there and the multimedia

centre. Later, he got to know some of the Salesian works in this city. On the last day, he held a meeting with the Provincial, the members of the Provincial Council and the Delegate for Social Communication. On the 17th he returned to Headquarters in Rome, Sacred Heart.

On the 20th, together with the members of the General Council, he joined the Episcopal Ordination of the Rector Major, Fr Angel Fernandez Artime, in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major in Rome. On the 22nd, he met with the members of the Sector to review and update the General Council's Directory for the part on Communication. On the 24th he attended the Sector's meeting with the Vicar of the Rector Major, Fr Stefano Martoglio, to prepare for GC29.

– MAY

On the 3rd and 4th, the Councillor participated in the Communication and Formation Day (SDB and FMA), held at the UPS (Pontifical Salesian University). On the 9th, at the invitation of the Central European Regional Council, he participated in the first day of the meeting of the Provinces of the Region in Warsaw, Poland,

giving a report on social communication.

On the 16th, together with the members of the Communication Sector, he attended the online meeting of the regional communication coordinators of the Congregation, to prepare for the World Conference on Social Communication.

On the 17th, he met with the members of the Sector to examine the General Council's Directory regarding Communication.

On the 23rd, Fr Gildasio went to Lagos, Nigeria, for an animation visit to that Province. On 24 May he presided at the Eucharist in the postnovitiate, together with the formation community. On 26 May he met with the Vice-Provincial and the members of the Provincial Council. On the 29th he returned to the Sacred Heart in Rome.

– JUNE

Together with the Rector Major, the Vicar of the Rector Major and the Sector Councillors, he participated from the 1st to 2nd in the Team Visit at the UPS (Pontifical Salesian University) in Rome.

On the 4th, the Councillor took part in the opening of the

archives at the new headquarters for the Postulation for the Cause of Saints of the Congregation at via Bufalotta in Rome, accompanying the Rector Major and some members of the General Council.

On 6 June, the meeting of the General Council began at the Sacred Heart Headquarters in Rome.

The Economist General

The beginning of the new year opened with Br. Muller's visit to the Salesian work projects in Bangladesh and from 8 January he took part again in the General Council meetings held in Turin. In the following weeks the Economist General met with several provincials and attended the meetings of the DBN, and the Bonn Mission Office.

During February, the Economist General first participated in the Team Visit for the Asia-East Oceania Region which took place in the second week of the month in Dalat in Vietnam (12-17), and then in Kigali in Rwanda for the Team Visit for the Africa-Madagascar Region (19-24).

In March, Br. Muller participated in the various Boards of Direc-

tors of the entities he follows up and held several video conferences with the provincial economists of different Salesian circumscriptions. On the 25th he took part in a Sector meeting with the other General Councillors. In April and on subsequent dates he worked on the preparation of the “Mattei Plan”, a project of the Italian government that can promote vocational training in Africa. As a member of the Board of Directors, the Economist General attended the first inaugural meeting of DBTec Europe in Rome, a long-term support programme for the vocational training of young people across Europe.

Immediately after Easter, the Economist General travelled to China where he had the opportunity to visit several significant places. In mid-April, he took part in the General Council meetings held in Rome.

During May, Br. Muller together with his team coordinated the work of the course for the new provincial economists at the UPS, which took place from Monday 6th to Friday 10th. The week from 13 to 19 May was characterised by the preparation and follow-up of a hearing in the Court of Appeal in which it was possible

to definitively resolve a long-standing dispute.

Meetings were organised with architects from Turin to gather ideas on a possible use of the buildings of the former SEI publishing house in Valdocco. In Valdocco, decisions with experts were necessary to carry out the renovation of the Casa Mamma Margerita and, in agreement with the provincial economists office, the renovation of the two spires of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians.

The meeting with the representatives of the Eastern Churches demonstrated the difficulties and opportunities for priority projects in the Holy Land, to be implemented in the near future.

In a seminar on research and sustainable work in African agriculture, the Economist General has made new contacts that he would like to make available to the provinces.

Together with the other Sector Councillors, he was involved in the first two days of June in the Team Visit for the Maria Sapienza UPS Vice-Province, where he gained a good overview of the state of education and the economy of both the Vice-Province and the University.

The Councillor for the Africa and Madagascar Region

After taking part in the Plenary Session of the General Council in Rome until 27 January 2024, Fr Alphonse Owoudou left for Cameroon on 28 January to renew his passport.

On 2 February he celebrated the Presentation of the Lord with Salesians and other Consecrated persons in Yaoundé. From 11 February he welcomed the Rector Magnificus of the Pontifical Salesian University in Rome, Fr Andrea Bozzolo, visiting the Saint Augustine Theologate, the Saint Cyprien School of Theology in Ngoya and other local Salesian works.

On 15 February, he went to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to preside over the Curatorium of the Kansebula Philosophate, the largest Salesian house in the region with 84 young Salesians and 9 formators.

On 17 February Fr Owoudou arrived in Kigali to prepare for the Team Visit with the Rector Major in AGL, to be held in Gatenga, an historic work in Kigali. Following the Team Visit he took part in the session of Salesian Family Delegates from 25 to 28 February.

On 29 February he once again

began a four-day visit in Congo to Uvira, followed by Bukavu on 5 March. In Nyakadaka, during his visit he held meetings with the girls at the technical school and the mothers from the village on 8 March. He then visited the ITIG work in Goma from 9 March and Bosco Lac, the location of the Prenovitiate, from 13 March. On 16 March he arrived at the Salesian work in Ngangi, a place of refuge for more than 30,000 people fleeing the war between armed groups in this eastern area of the Congo. On 23 March he began his visit to Kalemie, the last Salesian work opened by the AFC, and concluded his Extraordinary Visitation to Lubumbashi with the Easter Triduum. On 31 March he returned to Kigali and began his visit to the Novitiate in Rango-Butare from 1 to 4 April. He visited the Postnovitiate in Kabgayi from 6 to 9 April.

In Uganda he visited Palabek from 11 to 13 April and Atede from 14 to 16 April.

After a break to return to Rome to take part in the Episcopal Ordination of the Rector Major on 20 April, he returned to Uganda after a series of meetings in Rome with the GC29 technical commission and the General Council, to visit Bombo Namaliga from 25 to

27 April, Kamuli from 28 to 30 April, and Namugongo in Kampala from 1 to 3 May.

On 5 May he accompanied the Rector Major to the refugee camp in Palabek and then to Goma for two days of visits. Then accelerating the pace of visits to Burundi, Fr Owoudou visited Ngozi from 12 to 14 May, Rukago from 15 May, and Buterere in Bujumbura from 17 May. He concluded the Extraordinary Visitation with the remaining houses in Rwanda, that is with a visit to Gatenga from 19 to 22 May, IFAK from 22 to 24 May and finally the Provincial House from the 25th to the 27th.

The Extraordinary Visitation ended with the consultation for the appointment of the future superior of the AGL Vice-Province, holding assemblies in Ngozi, Bombo, Kigali until 27 May assisted by Fr Max Okoro and Fr Gerald Umoh from the Regional team in Nairobi.

On 28 May, the Regional Councillor, Fr Owoudou, presided at the Mass for the opening of the AGL 7th Provincial Chapter. After a brief pause in Nigeria for the funeral of confrere Agbara Fidelis, Fr Alphonse visited the Salesian Postnovitiate in Ibadan, celebrating the feast of the Visita-

tion of the Virgin Mary. On 2 June he returned to Rome.

The General Councillor for the East Asia-Oceania Region

At the end of the Winter Session (December 2023-January 2024), the Regional for EAO left for Vietnam to double check the preparation for the Team Visit that took place from February 15-18, 2024. The Visit took place right in the week the Vietnamese (and many other Asians) were celebrating the Lunar New Year of the Dragon. 110 Salesians from the Region and the Generalate gathered in the Retreat House of the Province of Vietnam (K'Long), in a high plateau area, spending four full days to examine the situation of the Region, its challenges and how it could move forward to better serve the young and the Salesian Family. At the end of the Team Visit, the Rector Major offered a final Conclusion to guide 12 Provinces and Vice-Provinces to envision how to face the future changes in a Region where there is so much pluralism but also where the Salesians are making progress in serving thousands of young people in need.

Then, on February 20, the Regional came to Timor-Leste to undertake the Extraordinary Visitation as delegated by the Rector Major. One and half months spent in the Vice-Province of Timor-Leste, the Regional and Visitor was introduced profoundly into the beautiful experiences of the educational and pastoral services offered by our heroic Salesians in the city, towns and more often, in the villages and forests with mission stations. The Vice-Province has just shared the independence period of the country for 20 years, yet it shows signs of quick development with the new Institute of Philosophy and Pedagogy and the consolidation of Provincial Structures of animation and governance. The Visitor left a number of recommendations to improve the quality of formation of many confreres in initial formation. The Vice-Province of almost 200 confreres with an average age 35 is looking for the future growth into a Province as they will celebrate their Centenary in 2027.

The Regional came back to Rome for the Episcopal Ordination of the Rector Major, Cardinal Angel Fernandez Artime and witnessed the affection and the com-

munion of all members of Salesian Family shown to the 10th Successor of Don Bosco.

The Regional's journey continued with his Extraordinary Visitation to the Province of Korea from 6 April-6 June 2024. It coincided with the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the arrival of the first Salesians in this country. Presently, from a country destroyed by the domination of foreign countries during WW2, Korea has become one of the five Dragons of East Asia (with Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore). It has grown exponentially since the 1980s in terms of economy, social welfare and health care. These have great positive impacts upon the education of young people. Yet, there are groups of young people who have been unable to share in this progress and are left behind in schools or miss their integration into society. The Salesian Province of Korea has targeted this group of young people in many of its works. It is amazing to witness a Province of 110 Confreres who dedicate their ministry to the young in the Salesian spirit in a professional way, saving them from their foreseen pitiful destiny to become good and productive members of society. It is no strange phenomenon that

once the “Magone” kids come under the accompaniment of the Salesians, breathing the atmosphere of the Preventive System, they become happy and 8.5% of them have been admitted to Holy Mother Church through baptism as they have requested with the consent of their parents. Seeing the efficacy of the Preventive System, transforming the *wolves into lambs*, quite a few young volunteers have asked to join the Salesian Forces to continue the mission to the young in need.

The Visitation was combined with the sensitive ministry of consultation for the new Superior of the Korean Province. 97% of the Salesians were involved in the consultation process with hope and trust in the bright future. God is blessing the Salesians and the young in Korea. The lively testimony of Fr John Lee Tae-Seok SDB (+2010), former missionary in Tonji, Sudan has been an inspiration of the young and the Church in Korea to dedicate itself more radically to the well-being of the young.

On 6 June 2024 the Regional returned to Rome to participate in the Summer Session of the General Council. He is full of hope for the future of the two provinces he

rendered his services to on behalf of the Rector Major.

The Councillor for the South Asia Region

After the conclusion of the Winter Session (June-July) of the General Council, the Regional for South Asia, Fr. Biju Michael participated in the International Research Seminar on “Sharing Salesian Charism and Mission with People of Neighbour Religions” organized jointly by the South Asia Region, the Formation Sector and Mission Sector on 28 January to 2 February 2024.

He reached Mumbai on 6 February to prepare and participate in the Salesian Provincial Conference’s Assembly and Council held on 8-11 February. On 12 February he travelled to New Delhi in preparation for the Extraordinary Visitation.

After the Ash Wednesday celebrations on 14 February, the Regional met with the Provincial Council of New Delhi on 16 February and inaugurated the Extraordinary Visitation on 17 February with the Assembly of Confreres and a meeting of the Rectors and Leaders of communities. The ex-

traordinary visitation to the communities began with the Salesian house at Najafgarh (18-19 February), and continued with Jhajjar (19-21 February), Ashalayam, Palam (21-23 February), Alaknanda (23-25 February), SPCI Dwarka (25-26 February), and DBTI, Okhla (27-February – 1 March).

On 2-5 March the Regional travelled home to participate in the first death anniversary of his mother. On 6 March he returned to Delhi to meet with some Benefactors of the Region. He then continued the visits to the communities at Jharmari (7-9 March), and Chandigarh (9-11 March). On 11 March he met Bishop Ignatius of Chandigarh and returned to Delhi. On 12 March he tabled to Jeolikote in Uttarakhand to see the site of the future Sumedha Centre. On 13 March he met the Apostolic Nuncio to India and Nepal, Archbishop Leopoldo Girelli and Archbishop Anil Couto of Delhi at the Nunciature. He continued the visitation of the communities with Provincial House Delhi (13-15 March). On 16-17 March he held a meeting at DBSM Bangalore and continued the visitation at Ilu Jargo (18-19 March), Gumla (20-21 March), Kokar (22 March), and returned to Provincial House Delhi. He then

spent additional days of visitation at SPCI House (24-25 March) and travelled to Jabalpur and held visitation there (26-29 March). On 27 March he met Bishop elect Rev. Dr. J. G. Valan Arasu at Jabalpur. The Regional returned to Delhi Provincial House for Easter Sunday on 30 March and met Archbishop of Delhi Most Reverend Anil Cuoto and his Auxiliary, Very Rev. Deepak Valerian Tauro.

He then travelled to Bihar to continue the visitation in the community at Buxar (1-3 April), and then to Uttar Pradesh to visit the communities of Lucknow (4-5 April), Kanpur (6-7 April), and Jhansi (7-8 April). On 9 April the Regional returned to Delhi and then on 10 April he travelled to Dimapur to begin the Consultation for new Provincial of Dimapur Province. He held meetings at Dimapur in Nagaland (10 April), Kohima in Nagaland (11 April), Dergaon in Assam (13 April), Dibrugarh in Assam (13 April), Itanagar in Arunachal Pradesh (14 April), and Imphal in Manipur (16 April). Through Guwahati he travelled to Rome on 18 April to participate in the Episcopal Ordination of the Rector Major on 21 April and after a session of the General Council on 22 April he reached Delhi on the

morning of 24 April and carried on to Shillong for the installation of the new Provincial in the evening at Shillong. On 25 April he travelled to Ranchi and in the evening held an Assembly of Confreres at Kokar for the Chotanagpur region of the Province of Delhi. He then continued visitation at Kokar (26-27 April), followed by Hatia (28 April-2 May).

On 30 April he travelled to Goa and joined the inauguration of the new Provincial House at Odxel, Goa. On returning to Hatia he carried on the visitation there till 2 May and then moved on to Kereng (3-5 May), Jumaikela (5-7 May), and Jokbahla (8-10). On 8 May he participated in the Presbyteral Ordination of Deacon Ashok Ekka, sdb and met with Bishop Anthonis Minj of Ambikapur. He then did the visitation of Kuarmunda (11-13 May) and Jharsuguda in Orissa (14-16 May), and Jamtoli in Chhattisgarh (16-18 May). On 18 May he met with Bishop Vincent Barwa of Simdega and joined the Blessing of the Chapel at Bhokatoli. On 19 May he presided at the Perpetual Profession of 4 confreres at Bichna and did the visitation of Bichna (19-21 May) followed by Bariatu (21-23 May). He then returned to the Provincial House at Delhi and

on 24 May travelled to Guwahati. On 25 May he presided over the installation function of the new Provincial at Guwahati and on 27 May he returned to Delhi. On 29 May he met with the Provincial Council and on 30 May with an Assembly of Confreres and a meeting of Rectors and Leaders of communities, he concluded the extraordinary visitation.

On 31 May he travelled back to Rome via Poland for the summer session of the General Council.

The General Councillor for the America South Cone Region

On the same day the General Council Winter Session in Italy ended, the Councillor left for Chile for the installation of the new Provincial of Chile, Fr Nelson Moreno, on 27 January. Two days later was the installation of the new Provincial of Uruguay, Fr Francisco Lezama, on 29 January in Montevideo.

On 31 January, in Barbacena, he received the profession of the 8 new Salesians from the Campo Grande and Manaus Provinces of Brazil. From 2 to 4 January, together with the Rector Major, he took part in the consecration of the

Jesús Buon Pastore church in the Orto del Fr Cicero, in Juazeiro do Norte, state of Ceará, Brazil. On 5 January he presided over the installation of the new Provincial of Manaus, Brazil, Fr Philippe Bauzière, in Manus.

The Extraordinary Visitation to the Blessed Ceferino Namuncurá Province of Argentina South (ARS) began on 7 February, lasting until 24 May, together with Fr Alfonso Bauer (current director of novices in Uruguay), on behalf of the Rector Major. During this time he spoke with all the Salesians of the Province (147); he visited the 26 canonical houses with Salesian communities and together with Fr Bauer they visited the 38 works under lay management that this province has. They learned about the situation of the different schools, parishes and public churches, social works and youth centres, work with young people at risk, festive oratories, the different vocational training centres, pedagogical formation centres and the university.

He met twice with the Provincial Council and once with all the Salesian rectors. He also spoke with the Provincial of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians. In the communities he also met with the

Salesian Family Groups and spoke with the coordinators and Provincial presidents of many groups. He met with the Salesian Family Council online.

He took part in the Episcopal Ordination of Card. Angel Fernández Artime, on 20 April in Rome.

From 25 to 28 May he held the Consultation for the new Provincial of Paraguay, in three places in the country: Coronel Oviedo, Concepción and Asunción. On 29 May he returned to Rome to attend the summer session of the General Council.

The Councillor for the Central and Northern Europe Region

After the conclusion of the General Council's Winter Plenary Session, Fr Roman Jachimowicz, the Regional Councillor for Central and Northern Europe, went for the Extraordinary Visitation to the Province of Warsaw, Poland (PLE), from 8 February to 13 March 2024. From 5-7 March he visited the Provincial Delegation of Belarus which is part of the PLE Province.

From 7 to 30 April 2024 he carried out the Extraordinary Visitation to the Province of Croatia

(CRO). On 26 - 28 April he went to Bosnia and Herzegovina to visit the Salesian community in Žepče, which is part of the CRO Province.

During these two Extraordinary Visitations in PLE and CRO the Regional Councillor Fr Roman had numerous meetings with the various groups that carry out activities in our Salesian Works and met all the confreres in the individual Salesian communities, and participated in all the moments of the Salesian life of the place. In addition to visiting the individual communities, he participated in the meetings of the Provincial Council and the Rectors of the Salesian communities. Being present in the individual Salesian Houses, he was able to visit the places where the confreres work. It was a question of knowing the working conditions and infrastructure as a whole. He was able to meet with various groups of employees of our schools and those responsible for the groups working in our oratories /youth centres, social works, parishes. He always had an encounter with the Salesian Family. In this way these two Extraordinary Visitations in PLE and CRO allowed the Regional Councillor Fr Roman to gain good knowledge of the life of the Salesians, the works

and the activities guided by them.

On 20 March, the Regional Councillor, Fr Roman, together with the entire General Council, took part in the Episcopal Ordination of the Rector Major, His Eminence Cardinal Ángel Fernández Artime, which took place in Rome in the Basilica of Saint Mary Major.

On 9 - 12 May, the Regional Councillor Fr Roman Jachimowicz chaired the annual meeting of Provincials of the Central and Northern Europe Region (ECN) which took place in the Warsaw Province (PLE) in the Mission Office community (SOM). This meeting of the Provincials gave the opportunity to discuss the current issues concerning the ECN Region and experience the moments of fraternal life.

After the meeting, the Regional Councillor, Fr Roman, accompanied the Secretary General, Fr Guido Garino, who was present at the meeting of Provincials, discussing the legal issues, to learn briefly about the situation of Salesian life in the Provinces in Poland and some important places of Polish culture and then had the visit and accompanied the Regional Councillor of the South Asia Region, Fr Michael Bijū.

On 25 May, the Regional Councillor, Fr Roman, presided over the installation of the new Provincial of the Province of Slovenia (SLO), Fr Peter Končan.

He then went to Rome to Salesian Headquarters for the summer plenary session of the General Council which began on 8 June. On 15 June, the Regional Councillor, Fr Roman, presided over the installation of the new Provincial of the Province of Croatia (CRO), Fr Ivančević Milan, and on 6 July, the installation of the new Superior of the Malta Vice-Province (MLT), Fr Eric Chachia.

The General Councillor for the Interamerica Region

Over the days between 29 January, when I left Italy, and 29 May, when I returned, I had the opportunity to be in the Interamerica Region. On behalf of the Rector Major I made two Extraordinary Visitations, one to Venezuela (VEN) and the other to the Western United States (SUO). Both were a splendid opportunity to meet the confreres and the works for young people that the Congregation animates in these two countries.

In the first 5 days of May 2024, I had the opportunity to participate in the 5th Meeting of the Salesian Schools of America, which was held in the city of Guadalajara, Mexico (MEG). Together with the Youth Ministry Sector Councillor, the regional animation teams and the participants from all over the continent, we dreamed together about the future of the Salesian School in America.

Finally, from 21 to 28 May, I visited the Province of Colombia Medellin (COM), where I took part in the curatorium at the novitiate in La Ceja and the postnovitiate in Copacabana, and I believe it was a very positive experience of regional shared responsibility. I had a small follow-up meeting to the Extraordinary Visitation with the provincial and his council.

Also in this period I carried out the Consultation for the discernment of the next COM provincial; we had three regional meetings. The first in the city of Medellin, in the facilities at the Pedro Justo Berrio College, brought together the communities in Medellin and those nearby, involving most of the confreres. At the Colegio San Pedro Claver in Cartagena, the host community welcomed the confreres from the Barranquilla com-

munity. Finally, the confreres from the communities in southern Colombia gathered in the San Juan Bosco Institute community in Cali.

At the same time, from February to May 2024, an Extraordinary Visitation was made to the Province of Central America (CAM), thanks to Fr Walter Jara SDB, originally from Argentina North, delegated by the Rector Major as Visitor.

The General Councillor for the Mediterranean Region

After the General Council's Winter Session, the Councillor for the Mediterranean Region went to Pius XI, Rome, to continue the Extraordinary Visitation on behalf of the Rector Major in the Central Sacred Heart Province (ICC) of Italy. This second part of the visit began on 27 January, meeting the confreres from the Pius XI community in Rome and the EPC until 31 January, the feast of Don Bosco. From here he moved to the House in Aquila to make the Extraordinary Visitation until 2 February and then continued with a group of Houses until 6 March: Vasto-Ortona, Terni, Pe-

rugia, Livorno, La Spezia, Olbia, Sassari, Cagliari Don Bosco-SP-Selargius, Florence-Scandicci, Colle Val d'Elsa-Siena and the Provincial House in Rome, at Genzano. Afterwards, he had time to prepare the final report for the Visitation and was able to meet all the EPC Councils and, on another day, the young people in the Provincial SYM. On 10 March he met with the provincial to share the overview after the Visitation and, subsequently, he met with the Provincial Council and, the next day, the rectors.

At the end of the Visitation he took the opportunity to present and begin the discernment in view of the appointment of the new provincial. On 12 March an assembly was held in Rome. On the 13th an assembly was scheduled in La Spezia and on the 14th in Cagliari. For health reasons, these two were done online. Again because of his health, the Councillor's plans changed. After accompanying the Rector Major to Seville, he remained there to pay attention to his health. After recovering, he returned happily on 6 June to resume work by participating in the summer session of the General Council.

5.1 THE PROVINCE MISSION OFFICE

GUIDELINES AND ORIENTATIONS

Fr Alfred MARAVILLA, SDB
General Councillor for the Missions

1. The Identity of the Province Mission Office

The Province Mission Office is an expression of Don Bosco's charism. It is established by the Provincial "with the consent of his council and in agreement with the General Councillor for the Missions" (Reg. 24) and must be approved by the Rector Major.

The Province Mission Office belongs to the Province, adheres to the Constitutions and Regulations of the Salesian Congregation, the decisions of Provincial Chapters, and is led by a director.

The Province Mission Office is governed by its statutes which guarantee Salesian values, Salesian spirituality and Don Bosco's preventive system. It is the responsibility of the Provincial, with the consent of his council, to draw up the statutes which must be presented to the Rector Major for approval.

2. The Purpose of the Province Mission Office

The Province Mission Office supports the Overall Province Plan (OPP) and, in step with the Province's Salesian Educative and Pastoral Plan (SEPP), all actions and plans that are aimed at integral evangelisation and integral human development, especially of poor and marginalised young people. It is an essential part of the purpose of the Provincial Mission Office to be involved in and be in solidarity with the worldwide mission of the Congregation.

3. The Activities of the Province Mission Office

The Province Mission Office

- mobilises resources for activities of integral evangelisation and integral human development of the Province and the entire Congregation;

- supports the educational, pastoral, and social projects of the Province through those who are in charge, as indicated in the OPP and SEPP;
- makes the missionary activities of the Province and the Salesian Congregation known at the local level and beyond, maintaining contacts with non-government, civil and other associative bodies and organisations, public entities, companies, and enterprises;
- extends its help to other provinces, in coordination with the Missions Sector, to ensure a fair distribution of resources throughout the Congregation;
- regularly contributes to the Rector Major's Distribution as a concrete expression of communion with the Congregation;
- organises displays, prepares publications, supports the Province's mission animation and draws up programmes of activity in step with the SEPP;
- supports mission animation in coordination with the Provincial Delegate for Mission Animation (PDMA) so that Don Bosco's missionary spirit is kept alive in each of the Province's EPCs;
- helps missionaries passing through for their holidays by showing attention to their specific needs;
- maintains links with friends and benefactors as a sign of recognition of their generosity, keeping them up-to-date with Salesian missionary activities locally and around the world, and assuring them of prayer for them and their intentions.

4. The Provincial

The Provincial with his council guides and supervises the observance of the Statutes, and checks that these are implemented and procedures are carried out.

5. The Director

- a. The Director of the Province Mission Office, whether a Salesian or a lay person, is appointed by the Provincial, with the consent of his council, for a period of three years which may be renewed but for no more than three consecutive terms. The Director is responsible for the functioning and development of the Province Mission Office.

- b. A Board of Management supports the Director in the effective fulfilment of the mission of the Province Mission Office. It is made up of at least 3 members appointed by the Provincial with the consent of his council. The Director calls this Board to meet at least twice a year.
- c. The Director, with the consent of his Board of Management, presents the Provincial and his council with the annual budget and final balance sheet or statement.

6. The Province Mission Office and the PDO

In some situations, a Province may have the same Director for the Province Mission Office and the *Planning and Development Office* (PDO) This is possible as long as the distinct identity of each of them is maintained.¹

7. Foundations and Civil Organisations

Should the Province have a foundation or other civil organisations with the same purposes as the Province Mission Office, these organisations should be coordinated and integrated into the service that the Mission Office provides for the pastoral care of the Province.

8. The National Mission Office

In countries where there are multiple provinces in the same territory, it is advisable for the relevant provincials to create a National Mis-

¹ The *Planning and Development Office* is at the service of the Provincial and his council to guarantee quality, efficacy, and efficiency of the Provincial and his council's management of the Province's Strategic Plan, the development of life and mission of the Province described and listed in the Overall Provincial Plan and in areas and dimensions of their competence. Its task is to advise and coordinate with the Provincial and his council and collaborate with the different Provincial Commissions and the local communities. The Planning and Development Office (PDO) is not an independent body or a fundraising body, nor an NGO in a civic sense. The coordination of the PDOs pertains to the Economist General. Cf. Economist General's Office, *General Guidelines of the Model and Tasks of the Provincial Planning and Development Office in the Salesian World* (Rome, 2017), p. 5,7,8-10.

sion Office to coordinate the mobilisation of resources within a national territory. Where the provinces in a country belong to a Conference, it is up to the Conference to establish the National Mission Office. The National Mission Office is governed by the Statutes approved by the Rector Major and his Council, with a Governing Board made up of the Provincials concerned (or by members of the Conference). If the Governing Board deems it appropriate, other representatives of the Provinces may be invited (for example, Provincial Economers).

9. Mission Offices at Congregational Level

“To support missionary activity, the Rector Major with the consent of his Council and in agreement with the local provincial, may set up mission offices to serve the whole Congregation. Their organisation and method of functioning will depend on the provincial or provincials in whose territory the offices operate, in the light of a statutory agreement made previously with the Rector Major; and in agreement with the General Councillor for the Missions and with the Economer General” (*Reg.* 24). The Mission Office at Congregational level is governed by the Statutes approved by the Rector Major. The General Councillor for the Missions, the Economer General and the Regional Councillor are *ex-ufficio* members of the Governing Board of every Mission Office at Congregational level.

10. Province Mission Offices and Mission Offices at Congregational Level

Provincial or National Mission Offices, as well as foundations with the same purpose, must not affect or undermine the mobilisation of resources of Mission Offices at Congregational level.

11. The Missions Sector

The Missions Sector coordinates the work of the Mission Offices throughout the world. Although each of them is independent, the Missions Sector, through a Sector representative, promotes networking, builds synergies, and solidarity towards a more effective realisation of the identity and mission of each Mission Office.

12. Existing Province Mission Offices

It is the task of the Provincial and the Director of existing Province Mission Offices to ensure that their Statutes are amended on the basis on these guidelines.

ORIENTATIONS

13. Integral Human Development

The Mission Office is committed to fostering a vision of development that involves the whole person and encompasses all aspects of our humanity, including evangelisation and the defence of the integrity of creation. This vision is rooted in Catholic Social Teaching but is also shared by other religious and faith traditions. Integral human development is built upon three principles: *human dignity*, *solidarity*, and *subsidiarity*. *Human Dignity* is rooted in the conviction that the human person is created in God's image and likeness (*Gen 1:26*). *Solidarity* flows from faith and implies a firm commitment to the common good and fosters personal responsibility as a bedrock of individual freedom. *Subsidiarity*, a key principle of the Church's social teaching, is the assistance provided by the higher level to the lower level through appropriate means. Conversely, it implies that the higher level does not make decisions that are meant for the competent lower level, depriving the latter of its functions (*Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1883).

14. Stewardship

The Mission Office fosters the Christian attitude of being simple *administrators* of God's gifts (*Mt 25:14-30*) among all stakeholders: benefactors, donors, missionaries, and beneficiaries. *Stewardship* implies maintaining accepted standards of accountability and transparency, preserving paper documents so that auditors, accountants, and bookkeepers can verify the use of money, compliance with government financial regulations, and ethical and moral integrity. It also means that the actual needs of evangelisation and the local context are given primary importance and not projects that interest the benefactors or donors. *Stewardship* means overcoming paternalistic dependence that causes people to passively wait for handouts rather than actively contribute to meeting their own needs.

15. Mobilising Resources

The Mission Office activity is clearly part of the shift from “fundraising” to “resource mobilisation,” which is the opposite of begging. It is proclaiming what we believe by offering people the opportunity to be associated with our Salesian mission and inviting them to collaborate meaningfully in various ways to our work of building the Kingdom of God that is already present in our midst. By inviting people to be involved in making a concrete gesture to alleviate poverty, and proclaim the gospel - using their own time, personal gifts, and resources - they become part of something bigger than themselves bringing an inspiring vision to their lives and offering them a new sense of belonging to our human family.

16. Fostering a Spirituality of Resource Mobilisation

The Mission Office is a form of Salesian ministry. It provides special care so that people who share their resources have a spiritual perspective, come closer to God and are in a new spiritual communion with the wider human family. People who have resources are led to a greater awareness that even a seemingly small act of generosity can grow into something far beyond what one might imagine. This makes generosity and the spirit of gratitude grow in people’s hearts.

17. Fostering Communion with the Salesian Congregation

The Mission Office fosters a strong sense of communion with the Salesian Congregation through a variety of activities which provide opportunities for supporting the formation of Salesians and involvement in the worldwide work of Salesians for the young, especially the poor and marginalised.

These guidelines and orientations were approved by the Rector Major and his Council at its 23 January 2024 session. They come into force on 1 September 2024.

5.2 New Salesian Provincials

1. *Néstor LEDESMA, Provincial of the Our Lady of the Assumption Province of Paraguay (PAR). He succeeds Fr Mario Jesús Villalba Ramírez.*

The Rector Major with the consent of the General Council on 13 June 2024, appointed Fr Néstor Ledesma Provincial of Our Lady of the Assumption Province of Paraguay (PAR), for the 2024-2030 period.

Fr Ledesma was born on 11 July 1970 in Asunción, Capital of Paraguay, a city where his parents, Carlos Alberto Ledesma and María Amada Peralta, still live. He met the Salesians in his hometown and then entered the prenovitiate.

He made his novitiate in Ramos Mejía, Argentina, and made his first religious profession on 31 January 1998 in Buenos Aires.

He completed his philosophical studies at the Postnovitiate in Asunción and did his Practical Training in Minga Guazú, in 2001, and at Don Bosco Roga in Asunción, in 2002. He completed his theological studies in Chile, at the Catholic University, residing in the community of the Theologate in Lo Cañas, Santiago. On 31

January 2004 he made his perpetual profession in Asunción, and on 13 August 2005 he was ordained a deacon in Chile. In 2006 he served in the Don Bosco Roga house in Asunción and on 2 December 2006 he was ordained a priest in Asunción.

Since 2007, serving at the Provincial House, he has carried out various provincial animation services as Delegate for the Salesian Youth Movement and Youth Ministry (2007-2010) and then as Economer. On 14 August 2012 he assumed the position of Superior of Paraguay for the first time, until August 2018.

After serving as Provincial he was sent to the Pontifical Salesian University in Rome, where he obtained his Doctorate in Youth Ministry in June 2021. On his return to the Province, he again took up the position of Economer, also collaborating in the associative and vocational dimension of Youth Ministry.

2. *Marcello BAEK, Provincial of the Korean Holy Martyrs' Province (KOR). He succeeds Fr Timothy Choi Won Chol.*

The Rector Major with the consent of the General Council on 12 June 2024, appointed Fr Marcello

Baek as Provincial of the Korean Holy Martyrs Province (KOR), for the 2024-2030 period.

Fr Baek, born in 1964, entered the Salesian Congregation after obtaining a Master's degree in Microbiological Engineering. He made his novitiate in the Jeong Rim Dong Community and made his first profession on 30 January 1993. After his Practical Training in the Igok Dong community in Gwangju, he was sent to Italy for Specific Formation at the Gerini Institute in Rome; he then made his perpetual profession in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians in Valdocco, Turin, on 27 April 2000; and he was ordained a priest in Seoul on 24 June 2001.

He continued his studies at the Pontifical Salesian University (UPS) until he obtained his Licentiate in Youth Ministry and returned to the Province in 2003, assuming various responsibilities as Director of Novices (2004-2005), Delegate for Formation (2004-2007; 2015-2019), Delegate for Youth Ministry (2006-2015; 2023 onwards), Delegate for the Salesian Family (2022-2023) and Vice-Provincial (2014-2023).

While carrying out these responsibilities at the provincial level, he also took on the role of lead-

er of several local communities, as Rector of the Provincial House (2009-2011; 2014-2015; 2024), or of the Dae Rim Dong centre; also of the Don Bosco Youth Centre, Principal of a vocational school.

Currently, the Salesians in the Korean Holy Martyrs' Province of South Korea (KOR) work in 6 dioceses and run a large ordinary school and 3 alternative schools (which take in young people for a special high school program), as well as several youth centres that offer various services to young people who need accompaniment and psychological care.

3. Roberto COLAMEO Provincial of the Sacred Heart Province of Central Italy (ICC). He succeeds Fr Stefano Esperettati.

The Rector Major with the consent of the General Council on 13 June 2024, appointed Fr Roberto Colameo Provincial of the Sacred Heart Province of Central Italy (ICC), for the 2024-2030 period.

Fr Colameo was born in Rome on 8 September 1964 and has known the Salesian world since his aspirantate in Genzano. He made his novitiate in Lanuvio and has been a Salesian of Don Bosco since 1 October 1984. After professing perpetual vows in Civi-

tavecchia on 23 September 1990, he became a priest on 31 October 1992 in his hometown.

He lived in Rome's St Peter's community and later the Sacred Heart community. In 1999 he obtained a licentiate in Dogmatic Theology from the Pontifical Salesian University (UPS) in Rome and in 2000 a licentiate in Liturgy from the St Anselm Pontifical Liturgical Institute.

He was Rector and Parish Priest of the Latina community (2002-2006); Rector and Parish Priest of Rome's Santa Maria della Speranza community, adjacent to the UPS (2008-2011); Rector of the community in Florence (2011-2014); and since 2019 Rector and Parish Priest of the Don Bosco Church community in Rome.

He also carried out various responsibilities at Province level: he was Delegate for Youth Ministry (1997-2002), Vice-Provincial (2001-2004), then Economer (2006-2008) for the then Roman Province (IRO). For the ICC District he served in the provincial teams for Parishes and Oratories (2009-2011) and then again as Economer (2014-2019).

4. *Gabriel NGENDAKURIYO*
Superior of the *St Charles Lwanga*
Vice-Province of *Africa Great*

Lakes (AGL). He succeeds Fr Pierre Célestin Ngoboka.

The Rector Major, with the consent of the General Council, on 25 June 2024, appointed Fr Gabriel Ngendakuriyo Superior of the St Charles Lwanga Vice-Province of Africa Great Lakes (AGL) for the 2024-2030 period.

Born on 3 July 1954 in Mugongo Kabarore, in the territory of the diocese of Ngozi, Burundi, Fr Gabriel Ngendakuriyo is now 69 years old. He joined the Salesians of Don Bosco in 1978, making his novitiate in Butare, Rwanda, and professing his first vows on 9 September 1979. He then made his perpetual profession on 22 July 1984 in Kicukiro and was ordained a priest on 11 August 1987 in Lubumbashi.

Fr Ngendakuriyo has held several positions of responsibility for the Salesian Congregation, including Rector of the Theological Studentate in Lubumbashi (1999-2005), Rector of the Provincial House in Lubumbashi, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2005-2006) – when the territories of the current Vice-Province were still part of the Province of Central Africa (AFC); he was also Vice-Provincial of AFC (2005-2006) and then first superior of

the new AGL Vice-Province from 2006 to 2012.

Subsequently, he continued his service to young people and his AGL confreres as Rector of the Bujumbura-Buterere community (2013-2015) and of the Blessed Michael Rua community at the Pontifical Salesian University in Rome (2015-2021).

A polyglot, Fr Ngendakuriyo speaks Kirundi, French and Italian fluently. He has extensive experience in the formation and animation of Salesian communities.

5. *José Ariel Guerrero CASTRO Provincial of the St Luis Bertrand Province of Colombia Medellin (COM). He succeeds Fr Luis Fernando Valencia Mosquera.*

The Rector Major with the consent of the General Council, on 20 June 2024, appointed Fr José Ariel Guerrero Castro Superior of the San Luigi Bertrando Province of Medellín, Colombia (COM) for the 2024-2030 period.

José Ariel Guerrero Castro was born on 20 July 1962 in La Unión, Colombia; he attended the Salesian novitiate in La Ceja, between 1985 and 1986, and there he professed his first vows on 24 January 1986. After continuing his initial formation, he professed his

perpetual vows on 11 January 1992 in La Ceja and was ordained priest in Rio Negro on 23 July 1994.

Among his assignments he was Vice-Rector of the San Juan Bosco Institute in Cali (1995-1998) and in Rio Negro (1998); then he served as Rector of the Novitiate in La Ceja and Director of Novices (2006-2012), then as Rector (2013-2018) and Economist (2014-2016) in Cali. Since 2018 he has been the Rector of the Provincial House in Medellín, of which in 2019 he also became Economist.

At the provincial level he has been Delegate for Formation (2004-2007 and 2011-2013) and for Vocational Ministry (2004-2007), as well as Economist, since 2021.

Fr Guerrero will succeed Fr Luis Fernando Valencia Mosquera as Provincial, who has been serving COM Province since 2018, and will thus become the 11th Superior of this Province.

6. *Joseph PAMPACKAL Provincial of the Saint Francis de Sales Province of Dimapur, India (IND). He succeeds Fr Jose Kuruvachira.*

The Rector Major with the consent of the General Council, on 19 June 2024, appointed Fr Joseph

Pampackal Superior of the Saint Francis of Sales Province Dimapur, India (IND) for the 2024-2030 period.

Fr Pampackal was born in Thattarathatta, in the South Indian State of Kerala, on 15 February 1955. He left his small land and, after spending a year with the Salesians in Vaduthala, he joined Shillong at the age of 13: he attended the Savio Juniorate aspirantate in Shillong and then the novitiate in the same city. He made his first profession on 24 May 1975; then he studied Philosophy at the Salesian Institute in Sonada and Theology at the Sacred Heart Studentate in Shillong, making his perpetual vows on 23 May 1980 in Shillong. He was ordained a priest on 27 December 1983 in Thodupuzha, a year after the separation of the Dimapur

Province from Guwahati – until then he had, in fact, been a member of the Guwahati Province.

Has gained a wide variety of experiences of service. He was Provincial Economist for nine years (2000-2009). He has served in different missionary contexts: as Dean of studies in the Philosophy Studentate; as Principal of the Don Bosco school in Jorhat; as Administrator in Dibrugarh and Imphal; as Rector in Tinsukia and Maram; and as head of a new mission in Rangajan. He was also Provincial Secretary.

Fr Pampackal holds a Master's degree in Economics, a degree in Education and a diploma in Salesian spirituality from the Institute of Salesian Studies and Spirituality in Berkeley, California, in the United States.

5.3 Deceased confreres 1 GENNAIO 18 LUGLIO 2024

“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” (C. 94).

SURNAME AND NAME	PLACE of death	DATE	AGE	PROV
L CARVAJAL CARRERA, Ángel	Logroño	2024/01/01	81	SSM
P KASZTURA, Leopold	Częstochowa	2024/01/02	90	PLO
P VASCONCELOS, Américo de	Recife	2024/01/03	81	BRE
P ŠOŠIĆ, Niko	Cugovec (Gradec)	2024/01/06	77	CRO
P TIELEMANS, Guido	Heverlee	2024/01/07	84	BEN
P YAO, Lawrence	Hong Kong	2024/01/08	91	CIN
P SPITALE, Salvatore	Catania (CT)	2024/01/11	80	ISI
P MEDINA MOLINA, Alfredo	Ypacaraí	2024/01/15	76	PAR
L PATRUCCO, Giovanni	Duayaw Nkwanta	2024/01/15	95	ANN
P WICKI, Brunon	Plock	2024/01/15	86	PLE
P SZURGOT, Jerzy	Poznań	2024/01/16	71	PLN
P GOMES, Ernesto	Manique	2024/01/23	94	POR
P ELLERO, Giuseppe	Buenos Aires	2024/01/24	77	ARS
P GARCÍA MORALES, Juan José	Avila	2024/01/25	89	SSM
P ĐURICA, Milan	Bratislava	2024/01/25	98	SLK
L PIERRE, Louis	Caen	2024/01/26	78	FRB
L NOGUEIRA, Vicente	Campinas	2024/01/28	95	BSP
L NOVELLO, Marco	Venezia-Mestre	2024/01/29	92	INE
P FERNÁNDEZ LOIS, Abel Hugo	Buenos Aires	2024/01/30	71	ARS
L HEIDE, Wojciech	Campo Grande - MS	2024/01/30	90	BCG
P CHERUVALLI, George	Aluva, Kerala	2024/02/07	58	INK
P STIAPPACASSE, Antonio	Rome (RM)	2024/02/10	88	ICC
P MUNSHYA, Vincent	Libreville	2024/02/12	69	ATE
P OPPEZZO, Francesco	Turin	2024/02/12	98	ICP
P OSELLADORE, Dino	Mestre (VE)	2024/02/12	90	INE
P PALAZZIN, Piergiorgio	Torino	2024/02/12	87	ICP
P PROVOOST, Stan	Sint-Denijs-Westrem	2024/02/12	85	BEN
P SESSA, Pietro	Salerno	2024/02/13	89	IME
P FURLAN, Marino	Mestre (VE)	2024/02/14	92	INE
L POLJANŠEK, Vincenc	Jesenice	2024/02/17	82	SLO
P HO KWOK-CHEUNG, Joseph	Scarborough, Ontario	2024/02/18	84	SUE
P PACHECO VASQUEZ, Francisco	San Salvador	2024/02/18	95	CAM
P ANDRADE PUYANA, Ángel	Seville	2024/02/19	97	SMX
P CENTIONI, Nazzareno	Rome (RM)	2024/02/20	91	ICC
P TOCKÝ, Ján	Žilina	2024/02/21	93	SLK
P TSAI, John	Hong Kong	2024/02/24	94	CIN
P COSTA DIANA, Rafael	Montevideo	2024/02/26	66	URU

SURNAME AND NAME	PLACE of death	DATE	AGE	PROV
P MUCILLI, Eliodoro	Córdoba	2024/02/27	85	ARN
L AIME, Giovanni	Turin (TO)	2024/02/28	91	ICP
P SLOMP, Germano	Campinas - SP	2024/02/29	91	BSP
P RICCA, Domenico	Turin	2024/03/02	77	ICP
L O'HARE, James	Maynooth, Co. Kildare	2024/03/04	95	IRL
P GENOVIA, Edwin	Simbu	2024/03/05	60	PGS
L BEJARANO BELTRAN, Roque Anatolio	Bogotá	2024/03/07	88	COB
L MEJIA ASTUDILLO, José Hernán	Lumbisi, Cumbayá	2024/03/07	88	ECU
P RUIZ MILLÁN, Francisco	Córdoba	2024/03/07	62	SMX
P KUJAWA, Tadeusz	Łódź	2024/03/13	90	PLE
L PROCIDA, Orazio	Chieri (TO)	2024/03/17	93	ICP
P ALZUETA DOMÉÑO, José Javier	Zaragoza	2024/03/22	82	SMX
L TETE, Angelus	Sirajuli	2024/03/22	64	ING
P KNEVELS, Jaak	Heverlee	2024/03/26	87	BEN
P FERREIRA, Antero José	Manique	2024/03/27	85	POR
P MARCHIOLI, Mario	Rome (RM)	2024/03/27	79	ICC
L TOMASETTO, Gianpaolo	Caracas	2024/03/29	83	VEN
P NGUYEN, Van Quang (Sr)	Phuoc Loc	2024/03/30	75	VIE
P GONÇALVES DA SILVA, Vicente	Belo Horizonte - MG	2024/04/01	88	BBH
P PERON, Gianpaolo	Caracas	2024/04/03	81	VEN
P OLAZAR GALEANO, Camilo	Fernando de la Mora	2024/04/06	83	PAR
P TERRAZAS PEÑA, Andrónico	Bogotá	2024/04/06	53	COB
P NORILER, Alvaro	Porto Alegre	2024/04/11	82	BPA
P MORETTO, Eligio Gianbattista	Caracas	2024/04/12	84	VEN
P PAYAPPILLY, Mathew	Shillong, Meghalaya	2024/04/15	63	INS
P CAIMI, Giovanni	Montecchio Emilia	2024/04/16	93	ILE
P GORACY, Marian	Wrocław	2024/04/19	79	PLO
P OSTROP, Udo	Benediktbeuern	2024/04/19	86	GER
P ROSSI, Filiberto	Rome (RM)	2024/04/19	99	ICC
P FERREIRA PEDROSA, José	Manique	2024/04/22	85	POR
L SANTOS SOUZA DOS, Manoel	Campos dos Goytacazes - RJ	2024/04/22	65	BBH
L ARVOTTI, Giuseppe	Venice-Mestre	2024/04/24	90	INE
L BORDIGNON, Albino	Venice-Mestre	2024/04/24	92	INE
P MAGBITANG, Crisostomo	Makati	2024/04/25	61	FIN
P PASTOR MENDOZA, Héctor Gerardo	Mexico City	2024/04/27	67	MEM
P TRENTIN, Pietro	Treviso	2024/04/27	68	INE
L BUSSINELLO, Carlo	Castello di Godego (TV)	2024/04/29	90	INE
P PANIAGO VILELA, Sebastião	Campo Grande - MS	2024/04/29	96	BCG
P PIACENZA, Lorenzo	Caracas	2024/04/29	92	VEN
P KRUPA, Tadeusz	Szczecin	2024/04/30	92	PLN
P BRANDANI FILHO, Orestes	Campinas - SP	2024/05/03	95	BSP
P WITEK, Jerzy	Wrocław	2024/05/03	75	PLO
P BALLESTEROS RICO, Leopoldo	Ciudad de México	2024/05/05	88	MEM
P FOLLESE, Giovanni	Fianarantsoa	2024/05/05	94	MDG
L SILVA, António Cornélio	Manique	2024/05/13	88	POR

SURNAME AND NAME	PLACE of death	DATE	AGE	PROV
P MARUVATHRAIL, Mathew	Bangalore, Karnataka	2024/05/14	94	INK
P MEJÍAS VALLEJO, Antonio	Seville	2024/05/17	92	SMX
P AGBARA, Tolulope Fidelis	Iju, Lagos	2024/05/18	50	ANN
P WILLE, Michel	Farnières	2024/05/18	84	FRB
L DIRRIGL, Georg	Munich	2024/05/21	84	GER
P HENRY, Lionel Gerald	Perth	2024/05/24	88	AUL
P FERNANDES JOÃO, José Francisco	Manique	2024/05/25	103	POR
P MOESTER, Anton Gerard	Parkville, Victoria	2024/05/25	96	AUL
P COLOMBO (CORGANO), Stefano	Turin (TO)	2024/05/26	84	ICP
P DE GASPARI, Ernesto	Nairobi	2024/05/26	88	AFE
P MACZKA, Janusz	Krakow	2024/05/28	64	PLS
P GSCHWIND, Eduardo Miguel	Posadas, Misiones	2024/05/30	55	ARN
P RUIZ FERNANDEZ, Joaquín	Barakaldo-Cruces	2024/06/01	94	SSM
P BRUDEK, Stanisław	Krakow	2024/06/02	84	PLS
P MOCCIARO, Mauro	Catania (CT)	2024/06/04	84	ISI
P FALCÓN GASTIABURU, Leopoldo Oscar	Lima	2024/06/08	72	PER
P UMAÑA ARAQUE, José Rafael	Bogotá	2024/06/12	89	COB
P BETTIN, Romano	Venice - Mestre	2024/06/16	94	INE
L CHRISTIEN, Gabriel	Quimper	2024/06/18	86	FRB
L CÁRDENAS BUSTAMANTE, Uldaricio	Santiago	2024/06/18	93	CIL
P ANTONIAZZI, Rodolfo	Venice - Mestre	2024/06/24	88	INE
P RIBEIRO DA COSTA, Humberto	Manaus - AM	2024/06/28	74	BMA
P BERTAPELLE, Benito Pio	Castello di Godego (TV)	2024/06/29	88	INE
P DI MURO, Savino	Salerno (SA)	2024/06/29	85	IME
P THAZHATHETTE, Josin	Aluva, Kerala	2024/07/03	69	INK
L JUARROS MANERO, José	Avila	2024/07/04	88	SSM
P KUDIYARIPPIL, James	Karunapuram, Telangana	2024/07/05	79	INH
P CARRARO BACCHIN, Giovanni	Santiago	2024/07/15	83	CIL
P BREA PAZOS, Francisco	León	2024/07/18	90	SSM
L ROBUSTI, Angelo	Guayaquil	2024/07/18	92	ECU

