

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

4.1 Chronicle of the Rector Major

Below are some of the main activities of the Rector Major from August to November 2016.

– **August 2016**

After the conclusion of the summer plenary session of the General Council, the Rector Major participated in the Word Youth Days (WYD) celebrated in Cracow. He left for Poland on July 26th together with his secretary, participated in the first day of the Salesian Youth Movement 'Forum' at world level, and later took part in various events of the WYD.

After his return to Rome, on August 4th he went to Mornese to participate in the ceremony for the perpetual profession of several sisters and the celebration of various anniversaries of the FMAs, since on that day they celebrated the 'day of the Institute'. He returned to Rome after a short visit to Valdocco, and on August 9th he went to Spain, to his hometown to meet his family and at the same time have some rest.

On the 25th, accompanied by his secretary, he went to the city of Panama to begin his *visit to the*

Province of Central America where, till September 6th, he could visit five of the six countries of the Province: Panama, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador.

In the city of *Panama*, in the morning of the 26th he received the visit of the Archbishop, Msgr. José Domingo Ulloa, and afterwards he encountered the students and the educative community of the Don Bosco Technical Institute and a delegation of the FMAs and the Daughters of the Divine Saviour, as well as representatives of a public school with the presence of Salesian Cooperators. Towards noon, accompanied by his secretary and by the Salesian Rector, he was welcomed in the government palace by the President of the Republic of Panama, Juan Carlos Varela, with whom he had lunch, and also shared some projects for a future development of the Salesian presence in that country. In the evening the Rector Major met the Salesians present in that nation.

On the 27th in the morning he met the groups of the Salesian Family and in the afternoon he visited and presided over the Eucharist in the Don Bosco Basilica, a

place of pilgrimage for the entire nation, since one of the caskets containing the relics of Don Bosco that traveled around the world, in preparation for the bicentenary of his birth, is being kept there.

On the 28th in the morning, accompanied also by the Provincial, Alejandro Hernández, he arrived in San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica. After lunch he visited the community in Cartago, where he met with the confreres, the Salesian Family and young people of the SYM.

On the 29th he visits the community of CEDES Don Bosco and the Don Bosco College of Zapote. In the first house he meets representatives of the students and in Zapote he presides over the Eucharist and meets the Salesian Family in Costa Rica. Back in San José, he has a meeting with the Salesians and before dinner he visits the “Casa de la Virgen” where for many years Blessed Sister Maria Romero lived. There he encounters the FMAs of the house, among whom there is also a sister who lived with Sister Maria.

On the 30th, the Rector Major, together with those accompanying him, goes to Managua, in *Nicaragua*, where he has a busy day. He begins with a meeting with the students of the schools of the Salesian

Family in Managua, then there is a festive lunch with the Salesians and lay collaborators and members of the Salesian Family, with the presence also of the Cardinal Archbishop of Managua, Leopoldo Brenes, Salesian Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, and the Salesian confrère bishop of Estelí, Msgr. Juan Abelardo Mata Guevara. In the afternoon he visits the house of Masaya where he meets the youth of the SYM in the country and the young people of that house. Later on he leaves for Granada, where on the 31st he spends the morning with the Salesian confrères of Nicaragua and in the afternoon he encounters the Salesian Family.

– **September 2016**

In the morning of September 1st, the Rector Major, accompanied by his secretary, arrives in Tegucigalpa, capital of *Honduras*. Then he has a meeting with Cardinal Oscar Rodríguez Maradiaga, SDB, who shares lunch with the community. In the afternoon the Rector Major meets the Salesian Family of Honduras and afterwards the Salesians; then he presides over the Eucharist in the Church dedicated to St. John Bosco. During dinner he also meets Msgr. Luis Santos, SDB, Bishop emeritus of Santa Rosa of Copán.

On September 2nd in the morning the Rector Major meets the young people of the CFP and of the various schools of Tegucigalpa, then he makes a visit to the Basilica of Suyapa, where he is welcomed by the Rector, Fr Carlo Magno Nuñez. After a moment of prayer, he leaves a floral homage to Our Lady Help of Christians and to Don Bosco, a witness of the gratitude of Honduran people to the Salesian presence.

From September 3rd to 6th, the Rector Major is in *Salvador*. After lunch on the first day with the community of the parish of Mary Help of Christians, he meets numerous representatives of the Salesian Family of Salvador. On the next day he meets the young people of SYM. On the 5th, at "Don Bosco Citadel" he meets the youth of the educational houses and in the afternoon the Salesians of the country. The visit to the *Ospedaletto*, where blessed Msgr. Oscar Arnulfo Romero lived and where he was killed during the celebration of the Eucharist, was particularly significant. On the 6th in the morning, the Rector Major has a meeting with the Provincial Council and in the afternoon, together with his secretary, he leaves to return to Rome.

He remains in Rome from September 8th to 13th, doing the usual

paperwork and having numerous hearings and meetings, including the one with the new missionaries who are preparing for the 147th missionary expedition.

On the evening of the 14th he goes with his secretary for a *visit to the ZMB Vice Province*, and in particular to the confrères and houses of Zambia and Malawi.

On the 15th in Lilongwe (*Malawi*), after a time of rest, in the evening he celebrates the Eucharist with the confrères and some collaborators and members of the Salesian Family, and blesses the new building for the Salesian community in this city. On September 16th, in the morning he meets the Provincial Council and in the afternoon the young people of the SYM and of other movements and diocesan groups gathered in the Salesian house.

On the 17th he presides over the Mass in the Salesian parish, receives the promise of 20 new Salesian Cooperators and blesses the new altar dedicated to Mary Help of Christians. In the afternoon, he meets the Salesian Family of the country.

On Sunday 18th in the morning, after having presided over the parish Mass, the Rector Major, together with his secretary and the Superior of the Vice Province, Fr

George Chalissery, leaves for Lusaka, Zambia. There he goes to the novitiate, where several Salesians, FMAs, Salesians Cooperators and benefactors have gathered. After the prayer of Vespers, the Rector Major blesses the new novitiate building.

On the 19th, he presides over the Eucharist in the novitiate, and has an encounter with the novices and the formators of the Vice Province. After lunch, he meets the FMAs, the Salesians and the young representatives of the different houses in the “City of Hope”, a presence of the FMAs.

On the 20th in the morning, the Rector Major has a meeting with the directors in the provincial house and in the afternoon he goes to Bauleni, where he has a meeting with the Salesian Family and the celebration of the Eucharist. On the next day, the Feast of St. Matthew, in the morning he has a meeting with the SDB confrères present in the country. Then after lunch, along with his secretary, he makes the return trip to Rome.

On September 23rd, the Rector Major goes to Turin for a meeting with the Provincials who have finished or are finishing the third year of their service. The meeting takes place in the Salesian places (Torino-Valdocco, Colle and Mor-

nese) till the 29th. The Rector Major is accompanied by his Vicar, Fr Francesco Cereda. During this encounter-pilgrimage, the Provincials make a personal revision of the experience and the performance of the Province during their first three years.

On Sunday 25th the Rector Major participates also in the ‘Harambée’ of the young missionaries and volunteers and in the afternoon he presides over the Mass in the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians where the missionary crosses of the 147th missionary expedition are distributed.

He returns to Rome in the evening of September 29th, and in the afternoon of the next day, together with his secretary, he goes to Bucharest, to make a visit to *Constanta, in Romania*. He is welcomed at the airport in Bucharest by the Provincial of the INE Province and the director of the community, he then reaches Constanta, where on his arrival he has a meeting with the young participants in a meeting of the SYM of Romania and Moldova.

– **October 2016**

Always in Constanta, the Rector Major takes part in the celebratory moment “Don Bosco yesterday and today in Romania”, to celebrate

the first 20 years since the arrival of the Salesians. There is also the Apostolic Nuncio in Romania and Moldova, Msgr. Miguel Maury Buendía, as well as civil authorities of the municipality and the province. In the afternoon the Rector Major meets the Salesians present in Romania and Moldova, along with some others coming from the INE Province, on which depend the Salesian houses in Romania and Moldova.

On Sunday the 2nd, the Rector Major and all the Salesians present take part in the Mass that is presided over by the Archbishop of Bucharest, Msgr. Joan Robu, on the occasion of the anniversary. “You have come to give everything without asking anything in return,” says the Archbishop.

On his return to Rome, from September 3rd to 12th, the Rector Major presides over the meetings of the “intermediate session” of the General Council.

In a space of time available (September 7th-10th), he can make a visit to *Moscow, Russia*, to a Salesian presence dependent on the Province of North Poland (PLN). He is welcomed at the airport, along with his secretary, by the Provincial of Piła, Fr Roman Jachimowicz, the Rector of the community and the FMA Provincial, along with other

confrères and sisters of the place. Together with the Provincial and several members of the Provincial Council who have come to accompany the visit, he wants to know more in depth the reality of the Salesian presence in Russia. The Rector Major at different times encounters the Salesians, the FMAs, members of the Salesian Family and the youth.

On Sunday, October 9th, in the Cathedral, all participate in the thanksgiving Mass for the 25th anniversary of the Salesian presence that is presided over by the Archbishop of Moscow, Msgr. Paolo Pezzi. The Rector Major concludes the celebration with his greeting. In the afternoon he visits the house of Filii, meeting the boys and girls of the family home and their educators and young people of the SYM of the Salesian parish.

Back in Rome, the Rector Major remains there for about ten days, with the usual rhythm of work (hearings, meetings, etc.). He also takes a few days of rest.

In the morning of the 19th he presides over the official opening of the academic year at UPS.

On the 20th in the afternoon, together with his personal secretary, he leaves for a visit to the Salesians in *Mongolia and Myanmar-Burma*.

In this visit, he is also accompanied by the Regional Councillor, Fr Václav Klement.

Making a stopover in Seoul (Korea) in the evening of the 21st, he can greet a good group of confrères of the houses close to the Provincial House, and has dinner with them; the next morning he also meets the FMAs, having with them Mass and breakfast. He continues by plane to Ulaanbaatar, in *Mongolia*, where he is received in a very simple and familiar way by SDB confrères, FMAs, Salesian Cooperators and other lay people of the Salesian houses.

On Sunday 23rd, early in the morning, the Rector Major and a group formed by some SDBs and young communicators and translators, go to Darkhan City (a four-hour trip, with very low temperatures). In Darkhan they are welcomed in the local traditional way (the Rector Major and the Regional Councillor are dressed in the way of tradition and are put on camels...). Then, they take part in the Mass, presided over by the Delegate, Fr Paul Leung Kon Chin; the Rector Major delivers the homily in Italian. Lunch is served in a traditional tent call “ger”; then the Rector Major meets all the confrères (100%) of the two presences of the country.

On his return to Ulaanbaatar, on the 24th the Rector Major blesses the new installations of the “Don Bosco Centre”; he has a meeting with the Council of the Delegation (that depends from the Province of Vietnam), presides over the liturgy and participates in a traditional cultural act with the youth of the Salesians and the FMAs. In the afternoon he visits a centre of evangelization close to the capital and in the evening he meets the Apostolic Prefect of Ulaanbaatar, Msgr. Wenceslao Selga Padilla, who also remains for supper together with members of the Salesian Family.

In the morning of the 25th, the Rector Major with his secretary and the Regional Councillor leaves for Bangkok, Thailand, where on the next day they meet the confrères who work in Pakistan, to assess together the present and the future prospects of that presence.

On the 27th they depart for Mandalay, *Myanmar-Burma*, and from there they go to the Salesian house in Anisakan, where they meet young people from all the SDB and FMA presences of the country.

On the 28th the Rector Major presides over the Mass with the Salesian Family of the village and numerous young people (more than 700). During the day the Rector Major meets the Salesians, the Pro-

vincial Council, the FMAs and exchanges a dialogue with the youth.

On the 29th, before going to the airport, the Rector Major inaugurates the new chapel of the presence in Mandalay, where he meets the Archbishop, Msgr. Nicholas Mang Thang, who later presides over the Mass with the Salesians and the people. The Rector Major also visits the parish of Lafon that was the first Salesian presence in the country.

After returning to Rome on Sunday, October 30th, the Rector Major leaves for his hometown in Asturias, for a family gathering. He returns to Rome in the morning of November 2nd.

– **November 2016**

On November 4th, the Rector Major, accompanied by his secretary, leaves for Bratislava for a *visit to the Province of Slovakia*. On their arrival at Vienna airport, they are welcomed by the Provincials of Austria and Slovakia. In the afternoon the Rector Major has a meeting with the Provincial Council of Slovakia. After dinner they go to Vajnory, the hometown of the Servant of God Fr Titus Zeman, where he also is buried.

On the 5th, the Rector Major, with the little group that accompanies him, goes to Žilina where he meets

the Salesian Family and the young people of the SYM.

On Sunday 6th, after the Mass celebrated with the confrères of the community, he meets a large group of VDBs of Slovakia and of the Czech Republic with their Major Coordinator, Olga Krizova. Then the Rector Major goes to Prešov, where he meets the confrères of the Province who had come from the different houses of the East area. He spends the night in Poprad, where the novitiate is located.

On the 7th, he goes to Nová Dobnica to meet the confrères who had come from the different communities of the West zone; he then goes to Bratislava, where he has dinner with the community of the provincial house of the FMAs. On the following day he returns to Rome.

On November 9th, the Rector Major and his secretary leave for Colombo, *Sri Lanka*, to visit this Vice-Province. He arrives on the following day and reaches the house of Metiyagane and stays there, sharing several moments with the young residents and the community. During the visit, he is also accompanied by the Councillor for the South Asia region, Fr Maria Arokiam Kanaga.

On the 11th the Rector Major has a meeting with the Provincial

Council: he later celebrates Mass, with the Councillors, the confrères and the young people of the house, who had been prepared for the occasion. In the afternoon he also meets young people coming from other Salesian houses, including pre-novices and aspirants of the last years. He then has a meeting with the confrères of the Vice Province.

On Saturday 12th, the Rector Major and those accompanying him go to Kotadeniyawa, headquarters of the post-novitiate, where he has Mass with the communities of the post-novitiate and the novitiate; later he visits the aspirantate in Dankotuwa, meeting as well the aspirants of Mankulam. In the afternoon he visits the FMAs in Negombo, where he also meets their aspirants.

On Sunday 13th, early in the morning, the Rector Major, his secretary and the Regional Councillor leave for *Tiruchy, India*, where they are welcomed according to tradition, both at the airport and in the Provincial House at Kallukushy, where the Rector Major meets the Provincial Council. In the afternoon they go to Thanjavur, where the Rector Major meets the aspirants and then the Salesian Family and the young people of the SYM, with several mo-

ments of dialogue and the celebration of the Eucharist.

On the 14th, after meeting the pre-novices in the provincial house, the Rector Major leaves for Madurai, where he is received in the city street near the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Lourdes. The Salesian Bishop Msgr. Jerome Doss Varuval, bishop of Kuzhithurai, and Msgr. George Rajendran Kuttinadar, Bishop of Thuckalay welcome him on his arrival. In the afternoon he meets the confrères of the Province and then he presides over the Eucharist, with a very large attendance that includes members of the Salesian Family and parishioners. The Mass is followed by a cultural program.

On Tuesday 15th, the Rector Major visits the house of Moolakadu, “Don Bosco Care Home”, where there are several groups of young people at risk, even from other houses of the Province. Among these children there is a special group of HIV carriers. Then the Rector Major with his companions continues his journey to Yercaud, where he meets young Salesians and novices. After the customary photo session, he leaves for Vellakin, Coimbatore, where – despite the delay – they are greeted with a friendly welcome by the young people and friends of the house.

On the 16th, after having presided over the Mass and a cultural program of tribute to those who work with youth at risk, the Rector Major, along with his secretary and the Regional Councillor, leaves for *Hyderabad, India*, where he is received by the Provincial and some other confrères. In the afternoon, he has a first meeting with the Provincial Council.

On the 17th, after another meeting with the Provincial Council, the Rector Major reaches the house of Don Bosco Navajeevan, Ramanthapur where he meets the youth and the Salesian Family.

On the 18th, he travels to Guntupalli, Vijayawada where, after the welcome address, he stays with the pre-novices and young confrères. In the afternoon he arrives at Guntur, where he is received with a solemn procession through the streets of the city. He presides over the Eucharist and takes part in a cultural program. Three bishops are also present: Msgr. Bhagyaiah Chinnabathini, Bishop of Guntur, Msgr. Gali Bali, Bishop Emeritus, and Msgr. Joseph Raja Rao Thelegathoti, SMM, Bishop of Vijayawada.

On Saturday 19th, on his return to the Provincial House in Hyderabad, the Rector Major meets the confrères of the Province and

greet the relatives of the Salesians. Soon afterwards he presides over the Eucharist and the act of celebration of the *Jubilee of the Province*. In the evening the Rector Major and his secretary leave to return to Rome.

In Rome, on November 21st, the Rector Major takes part in the meeting of the Executive Council of the Union of Superiors General (USG), of which he is a member, and on the following day he meets the English-speaking Novice Masters, who are attending the course organized for them by the Dicastery for Formation.

From November 23rd to 25th he attends the Assembly of the USG held at the Salesianum, but leaves in the morning of the 24th to take part as Chancellor in the opening ceremony of the academic year at the Auxilium Faculty of the FMAs. In the evening he goes to the general house of the FMAs to give the 'Buona Notte' in the encounter of the FMA Provincial Economers.

From November 26th to 30th, the Rector Major, along with his secretary, pays a visit to the *Province of Germany*. In the late afternoon of the 26th, he is met at the airport by the Provincial with some other confrères, and is taken to Benediktbeuern. After dinner he meets

the Salesians and the young volunteers who animate the centre of spirituality.

On Sunday the 27th, he concelebrates the Eucharist that is presided over by Fr Josef Grüner, in German, and delivers the homily in Italian. Then there follows a visit to the imposing structure of the house of Benediktbeuern, a former Benedictine monastery. In the afternoon, along with his secretary, he leaves for Munich, where he meets the confrères and after dinner a group of the Salesian Family and lay collaborators.

In the morning of the 28th, he meets the Provincial Council; in the afternoon he meets the Salesians rectors, together with the lay people who collaborate in various houses and in various projects.

On the 29th, after a visit to the educational house of Munich, he also makes a visit to the provincial house of the FMAs, where he meets the Mother Provincial and several sisters. Later on he leaves for Bonn, at the Salesian house of the Procure.

On Wednesday the 30th, he meets the staff of the Procure in Bonn and later on those of the Procure in Beromünster. Before celebrating the Eucharist and having lunch with everyone present, he stays with the confrères of the western

area of the country. In the evening he returns to Rome.

From December 2nd to 4th, the Rector Major presides over the meeting of the Provincials of Europe to share experiences and perspectives of 'Project Europe'. Meanwhile in the morning of the 2nd he meets once more the Novice Masters, at the conclusion of their formation course and in the evening he gives the 'Buona Notte' to the FMAs who are participating in the gathering of the Provincial Councils of Italy that is being held at the Salesianum.

On December 5th the winter plenary session of the General Council commences.

4.2 Chronicle of the General Councillors

The Vicar of the Rector Major

The Vicar of the Rector Major, Fr Francesco Cereda, in the six months from August to December 2016, continued his ordinary engagement in the General House. He worked in contact with Provincials and confrères to find person-

nel for the multiple needs of the Congregation. He followed the progress of ongoing penal and civil processes. Together with the Secretary General, he followed the clarification of the irregular situations of confrères. He maintained, together with the General Procurator, constant relations with the Provinces that interrogated him on issues of lapses in religious discipline.

From August 28th to September 6th, he made a visit to the Province of Chile, on the occasion of the centenary of the death of Fr Joseph Fagnano; he met the confrères who gathered in four communities: Iquique and Alto Hospicio, Concepción, Punta Arenas, Santiago “La Gratitude Nacional”; he also visited the communities of Santiago “La Cisterna”, Santiago “La Florida” and Puerto Natales; in Punta Arenas he had three days of meetings with the rectors of the Province and attended the civil and religious program in memory of Msgr. Fagnano; he concluded the visit with a meeting with Cardinal Riccardo Ezzati and with the Provincial Council. On September 8th-9th, at Colle Don Bosco he presided over the first profession of the novices in Pinerolo and paid a visit to the community of Colle. From the 23rd to the 29th he took

part with the Rector Major in Turin Valdocco in the encounter of the Provincials who are spending their third year of animation and government of the provinces; during the meeting there were the visits to Colle and Mornese and he participated in the Eucharistic celebration for the handing of the crucifix to the new SDB and FMA missionaries and to lay volunteers.

In *October*, from the 3rd to the 12th he took part in the Intermediate General Council; on the 12th he participated in the Board of Directors of the “Gerini” Foundation; on the 14th he convened the Group of UPS personnel; on the 15th he took part in the ‘Curatorium’ of UPS and on the 19th in the inauguration ceremony of the academic year of UPS. From the 17th to 21st he made the canonical visitation to the Community of Rome “San Callisto”. From the 24th to the 29th he visited the Delegation of Belarus, during which he met the Council of the Delegation, the Archbishop and the Auxiliary Bishop of Minsk; he had colloquia with the confrères and pre-novices; he visited the community of Baraulany, Dzysatlava, Minsk, Smarhon and the parishes of Baruny and Zhuprany; on the feast of Don Rua he attended the Assembly of all the confrères of the Delegation with the

celebration of the Eucharist and moments of sharing about our vocational, spiritual and pastoral charismatic identity. On the 30th he presided over the Eucharist and participated in the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Salesian presence in the parish of “Our Lady of Hope” in Rome.

In *November*, from the 2nd to the 6th he did the canonical visitation to the community “St. Francis de Sales” in the Vatican and also had meetings with the authorities of the Holy See. From the 9th to the 30th he did the canonical visitation to the community “Blessed Michael Rua” of the General House. On the 10th at UPS he participated in the seminar on the figure and academic activity of Fr Pietro Braido. On the 11th he presided over the Eucharist and participated in the feast of the patron saint of the community of UPS theology students, “Blessed Ceferino Namuncurá” in Rome. On the 15th in Warsaw he took part in the Provincial Council of the Province of Northern Poland. On the 18th he celebrated the Eucharist for the Provincial Economers of FMAs in their General House and on the 19th he convened the Group of the UPS staff. On the 21st together with the Regional Councillor of the Mediterranean Region he met the Provin-

cial of the ICP and the superiors of the communities of the Salesian places of Turin Valdocco “Mary Help of Christians” and of Colle Don Bosco. From the 23rd to the 25th he took part in the Assembly of Superiors General at the “Salesianum” in Rome. On the 26th he held the quarterly retreat in “St. Thomas” community at UPS. On the 30th he participated in the Board of Directors of the “Gerini” Foundation.

In *December*, from the 2nd to the 4th, he attended the Meeting of the Provincials of Centre and North Europe and of the Mediterranean region to discuss on the path of ‘Project Europe’.

The Councillor for Formation

In *August*, the Councillor for Formation, Fr Ivo Coelho, together with Fr Silvio Roggia, made an animation visit to some formation houses of the Province of Hyderabad - India (INH): the novitiate of Manoharabad and the aspirantate of Chandur - before participating in the Regional Commission for Formation of South Asia, held in Hyderabad from August 16th to 19th, 2016. From August 21st to 26th he participated in the conference-

meeting of the Salesian Biblical Association (ABS), held at the *Salesian Monastery* of Ratisbonne, in Jerusalem.

From **September** 1st to 9th, again with Fr Silvio Roggia, he visited the formation houses of the Province ITM East Timor (the novitiate in Fatumaca and the post-novitiate in Dili-Comoro) and of the Delegation of ITM-Indonesia (the post-novitiate in Jakarta and the pre-novitiate in Sumba).

After returning to Rome, he went to São Paulo, Brazil, where he participated, together with Fr Cleofas Murguia, in the Regional Commission for Formation of America South Cone, from September 16th to 19th. This was followed by a visit to the formation houses of the Province of Campo Grande, Brazil (BCG): the pre-novitiate in Dourados - Indapolis and the post-novitiate in São Vicente - Campo Grande.

From September 26th to 28th he visited the formation house of Dingli, of the IRL-Malta delegation, meeting the aspirants, pre-novices and post-novices and the only student of theology who resides in that community.

After the intermediate session of the General Council, which was held from **October** 3rd to 12th, Fr Ivo Coelho travelled to Bogotá,

Colombia, to participate in the meetings of the Provincials of the Interamerica Region, from October 16th to 22nd. He seized this opportunity to visit also the theologate in Bogotá. He then went to Ramon Mejia - Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the encounter with the Provincials of America South Cone Region, which was held from October 24th to 30th.

From **November** 3rd to 7th he participated, with Fr Silvio Roggia, in the meeting of the two Regional Commissions for Formation of Europe (Centre and North Europe and Mediterranean), in Skofja Loka, Slovenia. From Slovenia, he went directly to the Philippines, with a brief 12-hours' flight stop in Istanbul, which allowed a short but significant visit to the Salesian community that resides there. In Batulao, an hour away from Manila, there was the meeting of the Regional Commission for Formation of the East Asia - Oceania Region, together with the meeting of the Provincial Delegates for Youth Ministry in the same region. It was a very propitious and fruitful opportunity to share perspectives and programs between youth ministry and formation in the East Asia and Oceania Region.

On his return to Rome, he attended the seminar on prayer in

the context of spiritual accompaniment of young people, held at the General House from November 16th to 20th, animated by the Dicastery for Youth Ministry. From November 20th to December 2nd there was the seminar for the English-speaking Novice Masters, always at the General House in Rome, led by the Dicastery for Formation. 23 Novice Masters from 5 Regions attended the seminar. This was a moment of great Salesian fraternity and growth for all. Finally, from December 2nd to 4th, he took part in the sixth meeting of the Provincials of Europe, held at the General House in Rome.

The Councillor for Youth Ministry

After the summer session of the General Council, the Councillor Fr Fabio Attard together with the team of the Dicastery for Youth Ministry went to Krakow in view of the celebration of the World Youth Days 2016. Their presence provided assistance for the organization of the Days, especially of the day for the Salesian Youth Movement (SYM) held on Wednesday, July 27th in the halls of EXPO KRAKOW with the presence of more than five thousand young

people of the SYM from all over the world.

From **August** 20th to 23rd, the Councillor and Fr Angel García Morcuende, who is in charge of the Schools and Vocational Training Centres within the Dicastery, were invited to attend the meeting of the Salesian Biblical Association held in Ratisbonne, in Jerusalem. Their presence was intended to present the *Frame of Reference* of the Salesian Youth Ministry to the participants and also to share with them the pastoral choices focused on the Word of God, which the Dicastery is accompanying in the various national and international meetings.

From August 29th to 31st, the Councillor accompanied the process of reflection on the structures and activities of the Salesian Youth Ministry in the Province of Sicily. In the various meetings with the rectors, lay people and various groups of the Salesian Family, it was possible to study and reflect on the *Frame of Reference* of Salesian Youth Ministry.

From **September** 1st to 5th, 2016, Fr Fabio was invited in the two Provinces of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians, in Naples and Milan, for animation and reflection encounters on the theme of Salesian Youth Ministry. In the various meetings with superiors,

groups of animation and also, in Milan, with all the lay collaborators of our facilities, moments of sharing on the strengthening of pastoral processes were offered.

In mid-September, from the 12th to the 15th, the annual regional meeting for the Delegates of Youth Ministry of the Region of Africa and Madagascar was held in Kigali, Rwanda. In this meeting, as well as in the meetings that followed, two major themes were a reflection on the Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, the theme of the family in the pastoral processes, and a reflection and analysis on the process of assimilation of the *Frame of Reference* of Salesian Youth Ministry.

From **October** 13th to 22nd, the Councillor participated in two meetings held in Los Angeles: the one of the group that follows the sector of marginalization and migration, *Opcion Preferencial*, and the one of the Delegates for Youth Ministry of Interamerica Region.

From October 14th to 27th in Buenos Aires, Argentina, there was the meeting for the Delegates for Youth Ministry of the America South Cone Region. At the same time and in the same place, there also was the meeting of the Provincials of the Region. The Regional Councillor, Fr Natale Vitali, invited Fr Fabio Attard to present the path

on the theme of the family and the International Congress on Youth and the Family, to be held in Madrid from November 27th to December 1st, 2017.

From October 31st to **November** 3rd, it was the turn of the Delegates for Youth Ministry of South Asia Region, in a meeting that was held in Mumbai, India.

On November 4th and 5th, the Councillor attended the meeting of the Deans of the Schools in India, where he also made a conference on educational challenges in the light of the charism of Don Bosco.

On November 6th, in the Provincial House in Kolkata, the Councillor accompanied the rectors and parish priests of the Province in a reflection on the *Frame of Reference* of Salesian Youth Ministry.

From November 8th to 13th, the Councillor attended the meeting of Delegates for Youth Ministry of the East Asia – Oceania Region in Batulao, Philippines. During this meeting, in the same place, there also was the regional meeting of the Provincial Delegates for Formation. The two groups had a day of reflection together on common processes and on how to strengthen them. In the days prior to this meeting, in Manila, the Councillor had a meeting with the team for Youth Ministry of the province, two

conferences with post-novices and theologians in the theologate in Paranaque.

From November 16th to 20th, at the Salesianum in Rome, Fr Fabio Attard presided over the seminar on *Spiritual Direction and Prayer*. The 70 participants from 41 provinces and 32 countries could hear some reports on the issue and offer their reactions, starting from their experience of pastoral accompaniment of young people in prayer.

In preparation for the Synod in 2018, the Councillor was invited by the Secretariat of the Synod, together with two other Salesians and a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, to be part of a study group to help in this preparatory process. From November 21st to 22nd two days of study were organized, where it was possible to make a contribution to this path on behalf of the Salesian Congregation.

Finally, the last two engagements of this period were of a European nature. A first meeting was that of the representatives of various European countries for the annual meeting of the PGS-International. During this meeting there was the election of the Committee for the next three years and there was also the presentation of the upcoming games that will be orga-

nized in Seville by the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians.

The second meeting was that of the Provincials of Europe on the theme of “Project Europe”. The Councillor with the whole team of the Dicastery participated in the work groups where one of the topics dealt with was that of the school and vocational centres. The topic was introduced with a summary of the progress made in recent years on various animation processes in this field.

The Councillor for Social Communication

The Councillor for Social Communication, Fr Filiberto Rodríguez, at the end of the summer plenary session of the General Council, left for the Province of Mexico-Guadalajara (MEG) with the intention of visiting his family and the Salesian confrères.

August 2016. On August 15th, early in the morning, he leaves from Guadalajara to Bogota, Colombia. In the provincial house he officially opens the *Extraordinary Visitation to the COB Province* on 16th, meeting in the morning the Provincial and his Council and in the afternoon the Provincial Dele-

gates of the Sectors; then he continues with all the members of the Provincial House and the staff of services and provincial sectors: Youth Ministry, Missions, Social Communication, Salesian Family and Economy, till the 19th. On the 20th he participates in the priestly ordination of Ramiro Morales Hernández in the house of “Niño Jesús”. From the 21st to the 24th he visits the Community of “Nuestra Señora de Las Nieves” and there he celebrates his birthday with the confrères of the community, the students and teachers of the school, the parishioners and the Bishop of the city. From the 24th to 28th he visits the “Sagrado Corazón community”, the school and the parish in the city of Duitama. He also visits the community of HHSSCC (Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary) for the sick and the elderly. From August 29th to September 2nd he visits the house of “Niño Jesús”.

September 2016. On September 3rd he takes part in Bogotá in the VIII Provincial day of Spirituality of the Salesian Family. On the 4th he participates in the Niño Jesús feast. On the 5th and the 6th he meets the Provincial Council, always in Bogotá. From the 7th to the 9th he participates in the meeting of Rectors

at the “Salesianum” Spirituality Centre of Fusagasugá. On the 10th he takes part in the Provincial Feast, celebrated in Agua de Dios, on the 125th anniversary of this house; he also meets the HHSSCC sisters in their Mother House. From the 13th to the 19th in São Paulo-Brazil (Lapa) he chairs the meeting of Delegates for Social Communication of the Interamerica and America-South Cone Regions. With all of them he visits Cachoeira Paulista, the mother-house of Canção Nova, and the Shrine of Aparecida. From evening 20th to morning 25th he visits the Luis Variara community of Cúcuta - Los Olivos, the Maria Mazzarello Parish and the Don Bosco Oratory, as well as the Domingo Savio school in the town of Tibú. From evening 25th to the 29th he visits the “San Juan Bosco” community of Cúcuta, which is in charge of two schools, three school locations and the Maria Auxiliadora Parish. From September 30th to October 1st he visits the community of the ‘Juan Bosco Obrero’ house in Bogotá.

October 2016. From October 2nd to 4th he visits the community of San José Mosquera, which comprises parish, school and pre-novitiate, and also animates two other schools run by lay people with the

Salesian style. In Bogota, from the 5th to the 8th, he visits the ‘Santa Ana’ community that is in charge of three works: the Don Bosco Centre, the Colegio León XIII and the ‘Santuario del Carmen’. From the 9th to the 13th he visits the community of the international Theologate “Santo Tomás de Aquino” which also includes a parish. From the 14th to the 18th he participates in the meeting of the Provincials of the Interamerica Region. From the 19th to the 23rd he visits the ‘San Lazaro’ community in Contratación that is in charge of the Maria Auxiliadora Parish and of a government school. On the 25th-26th he visits the San Alberto Magno community that is in charge of the “Valsalice” Salesian Agricultural Technical Institute in the city of Fusagasugá. On the 27th-28th he visits to the community of Agua de Dios, which includes the Parish of Carmen and the direction of a state school. From October 29th to November 2nd he visits the San Medardo community, which is responsible for a college and a parish.

November 2016. From November 3rd to 5th at the Salesianum in Fusagasugá he participates in the meeting of Rectors, Delegates of the sectors and some lay collabo-

rators to make the assessment of the year 2016, and to plan the year 2017. From the 7th to the 9th, in the city of Granada he visits the community of “Nuestra Señora del Carmen” - Salesian Agricultural Institute “La Holanda”. From the 10th to the 13th in the city of Bucaramanga he visits the “Maria Auxiliadora” community, which is in charge of a college and a parish. On the 13th he visits the novitiate of the Rio Negro to talk with the COB staff; on the 14th he goes to the post-novitiate of Copacabana to have colloquia with the post-novices and the formators of COB. On the 15th he is in the provincial house of Medellín and meets the two teams of communication of COB and COM to check and plan the Salesian Bulletin at a national level. On the 20th he meets the COB Council in Bogotá in the provincial house. On the 21st he presents the final report of the Extraordinary Visitation to ninety confrères of the Province. On November 24th he returns to the General House in Rome.

The Councillor for the Missions

After the summer session of the General Council, the Councillor

for the Missions, Fr Guillermo Basañes, left for the Province of Calcutta, where on July 23rd and 24th he took part in the formation meeting and expedition of a group of missionaries of the South Asia Region, assigned to Nepal. Over the next three days he could visit several missions of the INC Province missions.

From July 29th to August 2nd, Fr Basañes did an animation visit in the Province of Madras (INM), with a particular attention to the missionary aspirantate of Perambur, where he spent two full days. Soon afterwards, till August 9th he could visit almost all the houses of the Vice Province of Sri Lanka, devoting enough time to formation houses and aspirantates.

Back in Rome, as usual, the Councillor presided over the Eucharist on the 11th of the month – Missionary memory – in the infirmary of UPS.

His next destination was the Middle East Province (MOR), where from August 19th to 28th he visited almost all of the Salesian houses in Egypt, Lebanon and Syria. Very significant was his presence in Upper Egypt – where for a long time the Congregation has been studying the possibility of a new missionary work – and in Syria, where despite the delicate

situation of war, Fr Basañes could travel together with the Provincial to Damascus and Kafroun.

On his return to the General House, the Councillor has had several periods of work with the whole team of the Missions sector, and could especially accompany the organization of the course of preparation of new missionaries, held in Rome and Turin from September 1st to 25th, and which ended on the last Sunday of the month, as usual, with the 147th Missionary Expedition in Valdocco.

Besides, during this month Fr Guillermo travelled to Krakow to participate, on September 9th, in the Presidential Council of the 'Don Bosco Network'.

From September 27th to 30th, the Councillor visited the Salesian presence in Tunisia, and in particular the just begun new presence in the centre of Tunis.

During the Intermediate Council of October in Rome, Fr Basañes was also engaged in the work of the Missions sector, as well as in accompanying the Salesians taking part in the Course of Ongoing Formation in Missionary Ministry at UPS.

Soon afterwards, the Councillor left again for India, this time to meet in New Delhi, on October 14th and 15th, all the Provincial Dele-

gates for Missionary Animation gathered for their annual assembly. After this strategic encounter, Fr Guillermo departed directly for Nigeria, Lagos to participate in the work of the Conference of the Provinces and Vice Provinces of Africa and Madagascar (CIVAM) from October 18th to 22nd. On these days he could also make a short visit of missionary animation to the post-novitiate of Ibadan.

On his return to Rome, from October 24th to 26th, at the Salesianum, Fr Basaños was present in several meetings organized by the 'Don Bosco Network', among which the most important was the General Assembly.

On October 28th, he met again the Salesians of the UPS Missions Course, and soon afterwards, he began his journey to the Province of Hyderabad, where, together with all the members of the Missions sector, he took part, from October 31st to November 5th, in one of the three retreats preached by the Rector Major Emeritus, Fr Pascual Chávez, and organized by the Regional Missionary Animation of South Asia.

After this retreat, Fr Basaños began his first visit to the Province of Vietnam (from November 7th to 13th), particularly focused on two events of missionary animation

– in the Provincial House and in the post-novitiate in Dalat – with great participation of SDBs and members of the Salesian Family, on the annual commemoration of the first missionary expedition. During the days of this visit the Councillor for the Missions could greet a considerable number of parents of missionaries 'ad gentes', as well as visit several of their homes.

On November 15th and 16th, in Hong Kong, Fr Guillermo participated in another regional meeting of Provincial Delegates for Missionary Animation, those of the East Asia - Oceania Region. And immediately afterwards, he completed his visit to the Province of Vietnam, visiting the Delegation of Mongolia from November 17th to 21st.

Back in Rome, Fr Basaños met again with the SDBs participating in the course at the UPS, and presided over the Eucharist with the English-speaking Novice Masters at the General House on November 24th.

On November 27th and 28th he made a brief visit to the young missionaries in Ireland, and immediately returned to Rome to participate, from December 2nd to 4th, in the meeting of the Provincials of Europe.

The Eonomer General

In **July**, the General Eonomer, Mr Jean Paul Muller, was involved in the hearing of the penal court for the Gerini cause. In the following days the Eonomer had some meetings with the lawyers in order to take stock of the cause and plan solution strategies of the jurisdictional situation. On the 26th of the same month, he flies to Luxembourg for a meeting with the lawyers who follow the process in this country and have an updated picture of the situation. In the same month he has a meeting with those responsible in Valdocco, in view of a revival of the house as the centre of the Salesian charism. The month ends by taking part in the Board of Directors of the Gerini foundation.

In the month of **August** the Eonomer General visits the ZMB Province (Zambia-Malawi-Namibia-Zimbabwe). In this African Province, Jean Paul Muller holds three conferences: the first with the title "*The figure of the Salesian Brother in the XXI Century*", the second on "*Divine Providence and Economy: two aspects of the same coin in the Salesian management*" and the last concerning the explanation of chapter 11 of the book "*Legal Elements and Administra-*

tive Praxis in the Government of the Province." From the 10th to the 14th of the same month, the Eonomer meets European NGOs and discusses the situation of refugees in Europe, in order to achieve a decisive intervention of humanitarian aid. From the 22nd to the 27th he participates in the "Don Bosco Forum" in Benediktbeuern; then he attends the Board of Directors of the Missions Procure in Bonn.

In **September**, the General Eonomer goes to New York where he participates, at the Fordham University, in the international conference on the theme of social enterprise. In his report he highlights how, through social enterprise, economy can return to serve man rather than enslave him. In addition, he outlines a parallel between a social enterprise *tout court* and the Salesian social activity. In the US, the Eonomer meets the people in charge of the SUE Province responsible to prepare a draft to be presented to the General Council on the Salesian presence at the United Nations. On the 26th of the same month, Jean Paul Muller attended the hearing of the penal court. In the last days of September he chairs the 6th session of the Economic Commission at Valdocco, where aspects of the economic situation of the Congre-

gation and the accounting of the Provinces are dealt with; then he meets those in charge of the house, of SEI publishing house and the new rector of Colle Don Bosco.

In the month of **October** the Economist was engaged in a meeting with the director of the catacombs of San Callisto, to assess the current situation and possible future strategic plans of intervention. From the 17th to the 28th of this month, he travels to South America, first in Bogotá and later in Buenos Aires, where he lectures on the guidelines and *best practices* in the field of administration and use of funds for the virtuous management of Salesian houses with respect of transparency and cost-effectiveness. Also in this view of spreading new virtuous economic lines, in Latin American countries he discussed a text entitled “*Economy as Part of the Preventive System*”, where typically economic concepts are revised through a key of interpretation and a Salesian style.

The month of **November** begins with the speech of the General Economist at the conference of bishops of the Western European region on ‘Fundraising’ and ‘Financial Administration’ that was held in Warsaw (Poland). His research, focused on *Fundraising* and on *Crowdfunding* applied to

projects with a religious background, allowed not only the knowledge and publicizing of the Salesian work in the world, but it also provided an impulse to the search for new benefactors for Salesian houses. In addition, the commission has a specific workshop on the figure of the Salesian Economist, together with the explanation of the “*Best practices in financial management*.” On November 14th, the Economist takes part in a meeting at the Catacombs of San Callisto in relation to the functional reorganization of the work, while on November 18th he is once again engaged in attending the hearing of the penal court. On the 22nd, he chairs the seventh session of the Economic Commission in Rome. Later he takes part in the International Symposium for Religious Economists at the Vatican, entitled “*“Rethinking the Economy in Fidelity to the Charism”*”. At the end of the month the General Economist, together with the Rector Major, meets the Provincial Council of GER. From December 2nd to 4th, at the Salesianum, he participates in the evaluation of “Project Europe” by the Provincials in Europe.

In the month of **December**, besides participating in the session of the General Council, the Economist

is engaged in the upper Board of Directors of UPS, in order to assess the budgets of 2017 of the University and of the Vice-Province. He also gives his contribution to the course for new Provincials, held at Pisana, where, besides illustrating the regulations and the management and financial activities, he disserts on the binomial “*ambition and common good*”.

The Councillor for the Africa and Madagascar Region

After the summer plenary session of the General Council, the Councillor for the Region of Africa and Madagascar, Fr Américo Chausse, leaves Rome on July 25th for the Africa Great Lakes Vice Province (AGL) for an animation visit in Uganda. On July 31st he arrives in Nairobi, headquarters of the East Africa Province (AFE), to do the *Extraordinary Visitation* and animate the consultation for the appointment of the new Provincial. He does these tasks from August 3rd to November 24th.

On August 1st and 2nd, the Regional Councillor chairs the meeting of DBTA (Don Bosco Tech Africa), then on August 3rd he begins the *Extraordinary Visitation*, meeting the Provincial Council. He

then continues the visit in every community in the different countries that are part of the AFE Province: Tanzania, Kenya and South Sudan. He could not visit Sudan (Khartoum), since he did not have the entry visa.

During his stay in the AFE Province, the Regional Councillor has to interrupt the *Extraordinary Visitation* twice. A first time from September 18th to 21st to accompany the Rector Major on a visit to the ZMB Vice Province and from September 22nd to 29th to carry out two consultations in the AFC Province for the appointment of the AFC Provincial and of the Superior of the new ACC Vice-Province (Salesian Vice-Province of “Mary Help of Christians” of Africa Congo Kinshasa and Congo Brazzaville) erected by the Rector Major on July 24th, 2016. The second time the Regional Councillor goes to Lagos-Nigeria for the annual meeting of CIVAM from October 16th to 24th. At the end of the meeting the Regional Councillor blesses the house of the new headquarters of the Delegation of the AFW Province.

During the *Extraordinary Visitation* the Regional Councillor also participates in the annual meeting of the rectors of the AFE Province, from September 7th to 9th. Excep-

tionally from November 3rd to 10th, the Visitor is in Arua - Uganda to meet the confrères of the community of Maridi who were in Arua for reasons of insecurity in South Sudan. During his stay he visits some camps of South Sudan refugees.

For the conclusion of the Extraordinary Visitation, on November 24th, the Visitor gathers the Provincial Council for the presentation of the conclusions; later on, in the evening he has a meeting with all the confrères and finally there is a moment of fraternal sharing.

On the 25th he leaves for Lusaka to attend the first regional meeting of the Past Pupils of Don Bosco of Africa and Madagascar, which was animated by the World Presidency of Salesian past pupils.

On December 1st, Fr Américo returns to the headquarters in Rome for the winter session of the General Council.

The Councillor for the Latin America - South Cone Region

After participating in the summer plenary session of the General Council, the Councillor for the Latin America - South Cone Region, Fr Natale Vitali, on July 22nd leaves for São Paulo, Brazil.

On July 24th he attends the 'Curatorium' of the Novitiate in Brazil where there are 11 novices. On the 26th he participates in the Provincial Chapter of "St. Pius X" Province in Porto Alegre, Brazil, to deliver the letter of the Rector Major, at the conclusion of the Extraordinary Visitation done in the previous semester.

On August 1st, together with the Councillor for Interamerica Region, he participates in the 'Curatorium' of the "Regional Formation Centre for Salesian Brothers" (CRESCO) of Guatemala.

On August 4th he begins the *Extraordinary Visitation in the "Mary Help of Christians" Province of San Paolo, Brazil*, meeting the Rectors and the Provincial Council.

The Province realizes its mission in 19 communities canonically erected and with 135 Salesians (25 clerics, 20 brothers, 90 priests), who carry out the Salesian mission in 12 colleges, 1 University Centre with 6 campuses, 13 parishes, 2 Sanctuaries and 12 public Chapels, 16 Social Works and 27 Oratories.

On September 17, Fr Natale Vitali participates in São Paulo, Lapa, in the meeting of Delegates of Social Communication of the two Regions of America and on the 18th at the Regional Formation

Meeting. From the 27th to the 29th he takes part, in Brasilia, in the National Meeting of Parish Priests in Brazil, with the presence of 53 parish priests.

On October 4th, he participates in the Provincial Council of Argentina North and on the 5th in the one of Argentina South; on the next two days, October 6th and 7th, with the two Provincial Councils gathered, along with other issues, there is an assessment on the reunification of the five Provinces of Argentina in two new Provinces which started their activity on January 31st, 2010, with the presence of the Rector Major, Fr Pascual Chávez, in San Nicolás de los Arroyos, which is the first Salesian community that was created in America.

From October 24th to 28th, Fr Natale Vitali takes part in the meeting of 11 Provincials of America - South Cone, which was held in Buenos Aires, together with the General Economist, the Councillor for Formation and the Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family. The Director of the CRESCO of Guatemala and Director of the Centre for Ongoing Formation for America in Quito were also present in this meeting.

On November 3rd and 4th, the Regional Councillor participates

in the Provincial Council of the Province of Belo Horizonte.

On November 19th, he meets the Mother Provincial of the Province of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in San Paolo and on the 21st he concludes the Extraordinary Visitation of the Province of São Paulo, Brazil, meeting the Rectors and the Provincial Council.

On the next day, the 22nd, he participates in the 'Curatorium' of Lapa, Theological Institute, for the six Salesian Provinces of Brazil, where 42 students of theology are being formed.

From November 24th to 27th he attends the meeting of the Provincials of Brazil, in Brasilia, and with the Salesian Schools Network.

Finally, from November 28th to 30th, he takes part in the meeting of the Centre for Ongoing Formation of Quito, and afterwards he returns to Rome to participate in the winter session of the General Council.

The Councillor for the Interamerica Region

After the summer plenary session of the General Council in 2016, the Regional Councillor for Interamerica, Fr Timothy Plock, leaves Rome on Sunday, July 24th,

for Colombia. There, he has a series of *Curatoria* of the formation houses, in which to participate: that of the novitiate at La Ceja, (COM), the post-novitiate in Copacabana (COM), the theologate in Bogotá (COB) and the CRESCO in Guatemala (CAM). From there he travels to Ecuador, arriving there on August 4th.

His main occupation from August 4th till the end of November is to do, on behalf of the Rector Major, the *Extraordinary Visitation in the "Sacred Heart of Jesus" Province in Ecuador* (ECU). The Regional Councillor visits all 23 canonical communities and different presences, has colloquia with all the Confrères, and meets the Provincial and his Council twice, as well as bodies and animation Commissions of the various sectors of the ministry of the Province.

Twice he has to leave the Province: in August for a rest in the family, and in October for the Annual Meeting of the Provincials of the Interamerica Region, which was held in Bogotá, Colombia, and then to coordinate consultations for the nomination of the next Provincial of the Divine Saviour of Central America (CAM).

The Visitor concludes the extraordinary visitation to Ecuador on Friday, November 25th, with a

meeting with the Provincial and his Council in the morning and with the rectors in the evening. On Saturday, November 26th, there is an Assembly of Confrères, in which the Visitor shares the conclusions and guidelines of his Final Report.

In the last days of November, the Regional Councillor stops in Quito for the annual meeting of the "Enlarged Team" (*Equipo Ampliado*) of the Salesian Centre for Ongoing Formation in America (CSFPA). The meeting of CSFPA was also attended by the Regional Councillor for America South Cone, Fr Natali Vitali. The two Regional Councillors departed from Quito for Rome on November 30th, for the *winter plenary session* of the General Council.

The Councillor for the East Asia and Oceania Region

After the summer session of the General Council, Fr Václav Clement did for one month (from July 24th to August 18th) the *Extraordinary Visitation of the Vice Province of Myanmar (MYM)*. Then, for a *second Extraordinary Visitation to the Province of Japan (GIA)*, the Regional Councillor was engaged for nearly two months (from August 27th to October 18th). The two

Extraordinary Visitations were carried out according to the discernment in the style of GC27 (listening - interpretation – way forward) and the Visitor shared the biblical icon of the GC27 “Jesus the vine and the branches” as a visible sign of conversion to belong more to God, to the brethren and to the young.

Between the two Extraordinary Visitations, the Regional Councilor was present in Hong Kong (from August 19th to 21st, CIN) and then in Cebu (August 22nd-23rd, FIS) for two short visits of animation and the meeting with the respective Provincial Councils. Before the ‘Curatorium’ encounter in Parañaque (FIN, August 25th, with the presence of 8 Provincials and 2 Superiors of Delegations) Fr Klement presided with great fruit over the first meeting of the regional Coordinators of the various sectors: Formation, Youth Ministry, Social Communication and Economy in the provincial house of FIN, Manila - Makati.

Starting on October 21st, Fr Klement accompanied the Rector Major during his visit to the Delegation of Mongolia (VIE) from October 22nd to 25th, and to the Vice Province of Myanmar (MYM) from October 27th to 29th. Taking advantage of his arrival in the region, Fr Ángel F. Arttime also met the

Korean confrères gathered in the Provincial House in Seoul (October 22nd) and the confrères of Thailand gathered in the Provincial House in Bangkok (October 26th, THA).

Thanks to the Secretariat for the Salesian Family, over 120 SDBs and other members of the Salesian Family coming from all the 11 Provinces of the Region participated in the Formation Days of the Delegates of the Salesian Family that were held in three places: a first session in Seoul (KOR, November 15th to 18th), the second session in K’Long (VIE, November 20th-23rd) and the third session in Cebu (FIS, November 25th-27th). Together with the four members of the Secretariat (Fr Eusebio Muñoz, Fr Giuseppe Casti, Fr Joan Lluís Playa and Fr Pier Luigi Cameroni) the World Coordinator of the Salesian Cooperators (SS. CC.) Noemi Bertola and Major Manager of VDBs, Olga Krizova, were also present.

During the last month before the winter plenary session of the General Council, Fr Klement did the consultations for the next Provincial of the THA Province (Thailand-Cambodia-Laos) with 4 discernment meetings that were attended by almost all the confrères (November 4th-9th). Then a few brief visits of animation fol-

lowed: Dili (ITM, East Timor: November 10th to 12th), Ho Chi Min City (VIE, Vietnam: November 23rd) and finally Cebu (FIS, Philippines South: November 28th-30th). Fr Klement returned to the headquarters in Rome on December 1st.

The Councillor for the South Asia Region

After the conclusion of the summer session of the General Council, the Councillor for the South Asia Region, Fr Maria Arokiam, visits some Missions Procures - in Switzerland, Austria and Germany - before traveling to Goa, India, on July 31st, where on August 1st, he presides over the installation of the new Provincial of Panjim-Konkan, Fr Felix Fernandes. In the following two days he is in Chennai to visit the agricultural school in Sagayathottam and to meet the Provincial Council of INM. Later on he travels to New Delhi for a week. There he holds meetings with the Provincial Council of INN, and with all of SPCSA networks in the new house in Dwarka.

On August 11th, the Regional Councillor arrives in Mumbai to start the *Extraordinary Visitation in the INB Province*, with a meeting of all Rectors. In the first phase

he visits six houses in the Mumbai area and 4 other houses in the State of Gujarat. After that, he travels to Bangalore for two important meetings, one with the SPCSA Council and the other with the Major Superiors of all the groups of the Salesian Family in South Asia. These meetings were held from August 26th to 30th. In the long period between August 31st and October 21st the Regional Councillor is again in the territory of Mumbai Province and visits most of the communities, including the one in Kuwait.

On October 22nd the Regional Councillor goes to the Provinces of Chennai and Tiruchy till the 30th of the month for the consultations for the appointment of the new Provincials. He holds meetings with the confrères in 8 different locations for the process of discernment. On October 31st he reaches Bangalore and attends the inauguration of the Golden Jubilee of 'Kristu Jyothi College', making the inaugural speech of the academic year. Returning to Mumbai, he continues the visit till November 9th when he concludes it with a meeting of the Provincial Council and the Rectors. On the whole, about 80 days are spent visiting the 40 communities of the Mumbai Province.

From November 11th to 19th, Fr Maria Arokiam accompanies the Rector Major in his visit to the three Provinces of Sri Lanka, Tiruchy and Hyderabad. In the following two days he holds a meeting of the Permanent Committee of SPCSA, and another meeting of a 'think-tank' with various confrères summoned to the Provincial House in Hyderabad. From there, returning to Chennai, the Regional Councillor participates in the meeting of the directors of provincial development offices (PDO) on November 23rd. The following three days are used to visit his family in Varadara-janpet and for travels involved in this visit. On the 27th he attends the "Short Film Salesian Festival" of Chennai, in honour of people with disabilities. He returns to Rome on November 28th.

The Councillor for the Central and North Europe Region

During the summer session of the General Council, the Councillor for Centre and North Europe Region, Fr Tadeusz Rozmus, participates in various moments of regional animation, in particular in the installations of the new Provincials of PLO (June 11th) and CEP

(June 5th); the installation of the GBR Provincial will be on August 15th. On July 9th-11th he accompanies the Rector Major during his trip of animation in the Delegation of Belarus.

After the conclusion of the Council's summer session, the Regional Councillor on July 23rd goes to Krakow to attend the World Youth Days. During the trip he visits the communities of Benediktbeuern in Germany, Vienna and Linz in Austria and Bratislava in Slovakia. With the Rector Major and other representatives of the Salesian Family, from July 25th to 31st, he participates in Krakow in the various moments of the world meeting of the young with Pope Francis.

He spends the first days of August in Austria, sharing the pastoral service in one of the Austrian parishes with a moment of rest. On August 18th he leaves for Malta to start the *first part of the Extraordinary Visitation in the Province of Ireland (IRL)*, which also includes the Delegation of Malta. He returns for a few days to Poland to participate in the feast for the 85th birthday of his mother and on September 1st he leaves for the *Province of Belgium North (BEN)* to do the *Extraordinary Visitation* (September 1st – October 24th). During his presence in Belgium and

the Netherlands he returns to the General House in Rome for the intermediate session of the General Council and to present the results of the study on the situation of Centre and North Europe Region. In this period he also accompanies the Rector Major during his trip to Russia (October 8th-10th) to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the presence and educative and pastoral commitment of the Salesians in Moscow.

Back in Belgium, he continues and concludes the Extraordinary Visitation, doing also the consultation for the new Provincial. Soon afterwards, he leaves for the Province of Germany (GER) to animate the provincial discernment process for the appointment of the new Provincial (October 24th-29th). On October 31st in Brussels he meets the Provincial Council of the Province of France - Belgium South (FRB) and then all the confrères of the Province present in the territory of Belgium South. Shortly afterwards he leaves for Malta for the second part of the Extraordinary Visitation. After the visit in the Maltese Delegation, on November 8th he goes to Dublin to continue the visitation to the Province in Ireland. Here, too, besides his duties as Extraordinary Visitor, he performs the role of an-

imator for the discernment in the appointment of the new Provincial.

On November 26th he is in Dublin together with the whole IRL Province, with the presence of the Rectors and of the Council of the Delegation of Malta, for the conclusion of the Extraordinary Visitation. He first meets the Provincial Council, enlarged with the presence of the Provincial Delegates, then he presides over a thanksgiving Mass and shares the conclusions during the provincial assembly.

On November 28th, after the conclusion of the visit, he returns to Rome to participate in the meeting of the Provincials of the two Regions of Europe in the context of "Project Europe".

The Councillor for the Mediterranean Region

The Councillor for the Mediterranean Region, Fr Stefano Martoglio, at the conclusion of the works of the General Council plenary session, in the afternoon of the same day, July 22nd, participates in a meeting of the Provincial Council of ICC, to accompany the life of this large province.

In the following days he goes for a period of rest with his family during the last week of July.

From August 3rd to 7th he takes part in a formation encounter for the new Rectors of Italy and the Middle East in Alassio, Liguria; he then returns to Rome for a week of work in his headquarters.

On August 19th he is present in the Province of Sicily (ISI), where he has a meeting in the Institute St. Thomas of Messina with the young confrères of Italy and the Middle East who are preparing for their perpetual profession. Here, on behalf of the Rector Major, he begins the *Extraordinary Visitation in the ISI Province*, going from house to house. This Extraordinary Visitation in ISI had been convened by the Rector Major in June 2016 and presented to the Province by the Visitor on June 20th in Catania, in a plenary meeting with the confrères of the same province.

After commencing the visits in the houses of Sicily, the Regional Councillor provisionally leaves from August 28th to September 2nd for formation and animation meetings in the Lombard-Emilian Province (ILE). On September 3rd he participates in the ceremony of perpetual professions in the ICC; on September 8th he also presides over the ceremony of the first professions in Genzano di Roma. On September 11th in Milan he presides over the ceremony of per-

petual professions of the ILE Province.

From September 12th he continues the visits in the houses of the Sicilian Province till November 20th.

The visit in the ISI is an opportunity to know and meet a rich and varied Salesian reality, strongly engaged in pastoral work with the poor, the young and the working classes, and to be able to know in person the rich and vital presence of the Salesian Family in Sicily.

In the last week of his visit to the ISI PROVINCE, from November 15th to 20th, the Regional Councillor visits the community of Manouba, Tunisia, that is entrusted to the Province of Sicily. In Tunisia he meets a new reality, animated by the confrères, because since a few weeks a second school has been taken over; this school was previously entrusted by the Diocese of Tunis to the Marianists, and is now entrusted to us. Thus the community of Manouba is in charge of the animation of two schools located in different places, though not far from one another.

On November 21st the Councillor for the Mediterranean Region participates in the Pisana in a meeting for the Salesian places of Valdocco and Colle Don Bosco.

From November 22nd he participates in the 'Curatorium' for the

formation houses of Nave, Pinero-lo Monte Oliveto, Turin Crocetta and San Tarcisio Rome. The 'Curatorium' of the novitiate of Genzano is scheduled for December 4th in the afternoon, after the meeting of the Provincials of Europe, to allow all the Provincials of the 'Curatorium' to be present.

On November 26th Fr Stefano Martoglio is in Parma (ILE) for a day of animation of the CEP of the parishes and oratories of the Lombard-Emilian Province.

On November 27th he begins the consultations for the appointment of the new Provincial of the Southern Province (IME); these consultations continue till December 1st

so as to be able to organize meetings with the confrères in the various geographic regions that compose IME. For the same reason on December 7th-10th the Regional Councillor is in Albania/Kosovo, to meet the confrères and continue with them the consultations.

On December 2nd-4th, the Councillor for the Mediterranean, as all other members of the General Council, participates in the meeting of the Provincials of Europe held at the General House.

After this last engagement, on December 5th, 2016, he joins the work of the General Council gathered together for the winter plenary session.