

5. DOCUMENTS AND NEWS

5.1 A significant initiative, The Salesian Biblical Association (ABS)

During the recent seventh world convention of the Salesian Biblical Association (ABS), held at Ratisbonne, Jerusalem, 21-27 August 2016, I was impressed by the biblical competence of the participants, but even more by their clear Salesian identity and desire to collaborate in the mission of don Bosco. This, I think, is something very precious, because it is part of the *raison d'être* of this association, and it made me think that the ABS is an initiative that deserves to be better known, appreciated and promoted within the congregation.

The ABS was born in Cremisan in 1982, in response to the need felt to work out a Salesian response to the observation of *Dei Verbum*, that the goal and result of scientific study of the Bible is pastoral action.¹ The Cremisan meeting itself – the first world convention of Salesian biblists – was convoked at the initiative of Fr Egidio Viganò, Rector Major. Already in this meeting, the statutes of the association were drawn up; they were approved *ad experimentum* by Fr Viganò on 19 March 1983, and definitively on 8 December 1989,

with a revision being approved by Fr Pascual Chávez on 6 May 2005.

The objectives of the association are as follows:

- a) Updating of and collaboration among the members, whether professors or pastoral agents involved in catechesis and/or biblical apostolate.
- b) Promotion of biblical animation in the Congregation and sharing of experiences within the Salesian Family.
- c) Biblical service in the Church according to the Salesian charism.

Since 1982, the ABS has met every five years: at Frascati and Turin in 1998, with the participation of Fr Viganò and Cardinal Antonio M. Javierre, SDB; at Tlaquepaque, Mexico in 1993; at Cremisan, 1999; at Krakow in December-January 2005; and at Ratisbonne, Jerusalem in 2011 and in 2016. The conventions are centred around basic aspects of the Salesian charism or else on topics of contemporary interest in the church. Since the fourth convention the ABS has opened its doors to other members of the Salesian Family. Since 1989, the association has also been a member of the Catholic Biblical Federation.

Besides the annual *Bolletino di collegamento* containing information about the biblical activities of the members, new initiatives, and publications, the Acts of the various conventions have also been published: *Parola di Dio e carisma salesiano* (1989);² *Parola di Dio e evangelizzazione dei giovani*. (1994);³ *Parola di Dio e spirito salesiano* (1996);⁴ *La tua parola è luce sul mio cammino* (2000);⁵ *Ripartire da Cristo, Parola di Dio* (2005);⁶ *Atti del VI Convegno Mondiale dell'ABS* (2011).⁷

In addition, the association also offered reflections to the members of GC26 under the title *Passione*

apostolica. “*Da mihi animas*” (2008),⁸ and another to GC27, entitled *Testimoni della radicalità evangelica. Una riflessione biblica e salesiana* (2014),⁹ also available in Italian and English. In the bicentenary of Don Bosco’s birth, the ABS published another volume of *lectio divina: Luz para mis pasos. Lectio divina sobre las citas bíblicas de las Constituciones SDB* (2016), also available in Italian and English.¹⁰

It is right to acknowledge also the contributions of many members of the ABS in different areas of the congregation and of the church: study trips in the Holy Land organized by the Depart-

¹ *Dei Verbum* chapter 6.

² C. BISSOLI (a cura di), *Parola di Dio e Carisma Salesiano*. Atti del II Convegno Mondiale dell’Associazione Biblica Salesiana. Villa Tuscolana (Frascati), 23-26 agosto 1988, Roma, 1989.

³ F. Perrenchio (a cura di), *Parola di Dio e evangelizzazione dei giovani*. Atti del III Convegno Mondiale dell’Associazione Biblica Salesiana. Guadalajara-Tlaquepaque, Mexico, 29.08 - 08.09.1993, Roma, 1994.

⁴ ABS, *Parola di Dio e Spirito Salesiano*, Elledici, Leumann To, 1996.

⁵ M. CIMOSA - A. STRUS (a cura di), *La tua Parola è luce sul mio cammino*. Atti del IV Convegno Mondiale ABS su “Parola di Dio e Formazione salesiana”. Cremisan, Israel, 23.08 - 2.09.1999, Roma, 2000.

⁶ C. PASTORE - R. VICENT (a cura di), *Ripartire da Cristo, Parola di Dio*. *Lectio divina e vita salesiana, oggi*. Atti del V Convegno Mondiale ABS, Kraków, Polonia, 27.12.2004 -3.01.2005, Roma, 2005.

⁷ F. MOSETTO (a cura di), *Atti del VI Convegno Mondiale*, Gerusalemme, 22-31 agosto 2011. *Bolletino ABS*, n° 24, Roma, 2012.

⁸ C. PASTORE - R. VICENT (a cura di), *Passione apostolica. “Da mihi animas”*, Elledici, Torino, 2008.

⁹ J. J. BARTOLOMÉ - R. VICENT (a cura di), *Testimoni della radicalità evangelica. Una riflessione biblica e salesiana*, Elledici, Torino, 2014. Edizione in spagnolo, a cura di J. J. BARTOLOMÉ, CCS, Madrid, 2014.

¹⁰ J. J. BARTOLOMÉ - X. MATOSÉS (a cura di), *Luce sui miei passi*. *Lectio divina sulle citazioni bibliche delle Costituzioni SDB*, Elledici, Torino, 2016. Edizione in spagnolo, a cura di J. J. BARTOLOMÉ, CCS, Madrid, 2016; edizione in inglese, a cura di J. J. BARTOLOMÉ - S. J. PUYKUNNEL, Kristu Jyoti, 2016.

ment of Youth Ministry and Catechetics of the UPS, involving Maria Cimosà, Corrado Pastore, Xavier Matoses and others; archaeological excavations carried out by Andrzej Strus at the tomb of St Stephen at Beitgemal; Jozef Heriban's pioneering efforts to offer biblical resources in the Slovakian language; the work of Carlo Buzzetti in the field of inter-confessional translations of the Bible; the researches of Mario Cimosà on the Septuagint; the contributions of Cesare Bissoli in the area of the Biblical Apostolate of the CEI; Giorgio Zevini's zealous diffusion of *lectio divina*; Frank Moloney's international reputation as an exegete, and his stint as Dean of the Faculty of Theology at the Catholic University of Washington; Gianni Barbiero's long years of teaching at the Biblicum in Rome; the work of Francesco Masetto in the Associazione Biblica Italiana, of which he was president; and the scholarly labours and publications of Juan José Barolomé.

In the near future, the association would like to offer Salesians a two-week retreat-cum-pilgrimage to the Holy Land in Italian, Spanish and English, as well as a two-week pilgrimage for youth animators from the Italian-speaking area. I hope there will be a good response to these initiatives.

As I write about the ABS, I find it opportune to make a few general considerations about the place of the Word of God in Salesian life.

Let me begin by recalling that the Word of God is "the first source of all Christian spirituality."¹¹ I feel the need to say this clearly in the light of a temptation with which I am all too familiar, to downplay the importance of the Word in favour of a spirituality or mysticism that goes "beyond the Word." I have always felt that it was in the light of this pervasive New Age influence that John Paul II invited the whole church to a rediscovery of the ancient practice of *lectio divina*,¹² and that GC25 proposed it as a practice for Salesians and for young people.¹³

¹¹ *Vita Consecrata* 94.

¹² See *Novo Millennio Ineunte* 39. "Pope JOHN PAUL II has pointed out to the whole Church the example and the doctrine of St. Teresa of Avila who in her life had to reject the temptation of certain methods which proposed a leaving aside of the humanity of Christ in favor of a vague self-immersion in the abyss of the divinity." (Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith, Letter to the Bishops of the Catholic Church on Some Aspects of Christian Meditation, 15 October 1989. See http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_19891015_meditazione-cristiana_en.html (01.11.2016)).

¹³ GC25 47, 61, 73, 185.

It is amazing to see the importance that Don Bosco gave to the Word, in a context that was quite different from our own post-conciliar one. He described the Christian as “one who is guided by the divine Word,”¹⁴ and the *Companion of Youth* as a book of devotions adapted to the times and to young people, providing religious ideas “based on the Bible.”¹⁵

Don Bosco’s successors have followed his example. Fr Paolo Albera called the Bible “the *liber sacerdotalis* par excellence,” and asked that the study of the Bible “be given precedence over every other study.”¹⁶ Fr Egidio Viganò pointed out that the Word of God is not so much a response to our questions as an initiative of God that calls us into question. The educator, he said, must be conscious of and loyal to precisely this characteristic of the Word of God. His pedagogical preoccupation must not lead him to ignore his pastoral commitment

as prophet of the gospel.¹⁷ The Rector’s manual promulgated by Fr Viganò is incisive on this point: “We who are so active have to be convinced that every action springs from the intimate movement of the heart by which God unites us to himself. In this way our actions are a consequence of the Word, whom we receive and who reveals Himself to us, and of the free interior consent of a loving heart. We are not just responding to stimuli which come from the environment, nor even to some sort of vital impulse or an irresistible ‘will to accomplish.’ It is rather the fulfillment of His will.”¹⁸ Fr Pascual Chávez, in his turn, is passionate: “I yearn for the day when we could dedicate a bit more of our time to welcoming Jesus and hearing his word, ‘the only thing necessary’ (Lk 10,42).”¹⁹ If it is God who calls us and entrusts young people to us, we must have his Word in our hands each day, so that we might “walk side by side with the young

¹⁴ Giovanni BOSCO, *Il mese di maggio consacrato a Maria Ss. Immacolata* (Torino 1858), in *OE X* (Roma 1976) 356.

¹⁵ Giovanni BOSCO, *Memorie dell’Oratorio* 169.

¹⁶ *Lettere circolari di D. Paolo Albera ai Salesiani* (Torino 1922) 394-395.

¹⁷ Egidio VIGANÒ, “Il progetto educativo salesiano,” ACS 290 (1978) 35.

¹⁸ *The Salesian Rector: A ministry for the animation and governing of the local community* (Rome, 1986) n. 180.

¹⁹ Pascual CHÁVEZ, *Witnesses of the Living God: Nature and Future of Consecrated Life. A Salesian Vision* (Bengaluru: Kristu Jyoti Publications, 2013) 120 = Pascual CHÁVEZ, “Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life’ (Jn 6,69). The Word of God and Salesian Life Today,” ACG 386 (2004) 5.

so as to lead them to the risen Lord.” (C 34) Our recent general chapters have also insisted abundantly on the central place of the Word of God in our lives.²⁰

The ABS is one of the expressions of the love of the congregation for the Word of God. It is an organ of collaboration and coordination of all Salesian biblical experts and pastoral agents that is in the process of involving the Salesian Family in an ever more significant way. It is marked by a deep sense of belonging to the congregation, as witnessed by the themes it chooses to study and the contributions it has made to various general chapters and to the promotion of *lectio divina*. *The present letter is a warm acknowledgement of its spirit and activity, and at the same time an invitation and encouragement to all Salesian biblists to form part of the association in some way.* This is not merely a question of “what’s in it for me?” – for surely there are larger and more prestigious associations, meetings and conferences, in which we must no doubt be present. It is a question of a celebration of our fraternity, and at the same time also of what we can do together to accompany the congre-

gation and the Family in its response to the Word and in its service to those to whom we are sent.

We will continue to be Salesian educators only if we take the Sacred Scriptures daily into our hands (C 87), allowing ourselves to be transformed by them (DV 25). Only thus will we be able to help our confreres and the members of the Salesian Family, and above all the youth, to discover the hidden treasure that we encounter in the word of God – the person of Jesus Christ

Let us entrust ourselves to the heart of Mary, and let us entrust to her also the work of the ABS. We ask that we might belong to the school of Mary, so as to learn from her to welcome and to contemplate the word, to keep the word in our hearts and to proclaim it with joy and enthusiasm.

Fr Ivo COELHO
General Councillor for Formation

²⁰ See GC26 10, 11, 32-35, 37, and GC27 5, 34, 52, 64.2, 65.2, 65.3, 67.4.

5.2 Decree of Canonical Erection of the Salesian Vice-Province of “Mary Help of Christians” of Africa Congo Congo

Here below please find the Decree of Canonical Erection of the new Salesian Vice-Province of “Mary help of Christians” in Africa, called Africa Congo Congo (ACC), approved by the Rector Major with the consent of his Council on July 18th, 2016.

The undersigned,
Fr Ángel FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME,
Rector Major of the Salesian Society of St. John Bosco,

- Considering the development of the Salesian mission and the territorial extension of the Salesian province of “Assumption” of Lubumbashi (Democratic Republic of the Congo);
- Considering the development of the Salesian mission and the territorial extension of the Salesian Vice Province of “Our Lady of Africa” of Yaoundé (Cameroon);
- Taking into account that, for a more effective animation, on January 23rd, 2013, the Provincial Delegation of the Democratic Republic of West Congo, based in Kinshasa-Masina (Democratic Republic of the Congo) was constituted;

- Taking into account that, for a more effective animation, on January 23rd, 2013 the Provincial Delegation of Congo Brazzaville, based in Brazzaville-Don Bosco (Congo) was constituted;
- Having regard to the outcome of the consultations carried out in the Salesian Province of “Assumption” in Lubumbashi (AFC) and the outcome of the consultation carried out in the Salesian Vice Province of “Our Lady of Africa” in Yaoundé (ATE);
- Having regard to the favourable opinion of the AFC Provincial with his Council and the approval of the ATE Superior and his Council;
- After obtaining the consent of the General Council in its meeting on **July 18th, 2016**, according to Articles 132 §1,1 and 156 of the Constitutions:

Hereby DETACHES from the Salesian Province “Assumption” of Lubumbashi (Democratic Republic of the Congo) the following houses:

1. Kinshasa - Kingabwa, “*Mary Help of Christians*”
2. Kinshasa - Lukunga, “*St. John Bosco*”
3. Kinshasa - Masina, “*Mary Help of Christians*”

4. Mbuji Mayi, “*St. Tarcisius*”
5. Kananga, community not canonically erected
6. Tshikapa, community not canonically erected
7. Kinshasa Gombe, community not canonically erected

He also DETACHES from the Salesian Vice Province “Our Lady of Africa” of Yaoundé (Cameroon) the following houses:

1. Pointe Noire, “*St. Peter*”
2. Brazzaville, “*St. John Bosco*”
3. Brazzaville, “*St. Charles Lwanga*”

and by means of this Decree,

HE CANONICALLY ERECTS

the new **SALESIAN VICE-PROVINCE OF AFRICA CONGO KINSHASA AND CONGO BRAZZAVILLE (ACC)**, entitled to “**MARY HELP OF CHRISTIANS**”, with its headquarters in **KINSASHA-MASINA (DRC)**, in the house “**Mary Help of Christians**”, with the above-mentioned houses.

The following is also decreed:

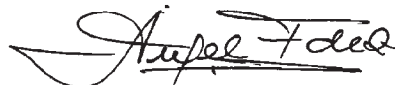
1. The confrères who appear in the list drawn up by the Regional Councillor, the AFC

Provincial, the ATE Superior, the appointed ACC Superior belong to the Vice-Province. This list will be approved by the Rector Major and the General Council on April 12th, 2017, and the juridical position of the confrères with permanent or temporary transfer to the new ACC Province will be indicated.

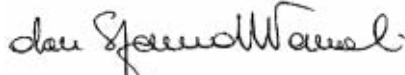
2. The Vice-Province may develop its mission in Congo Brazzaville and in the areas of Kinshasa, East Kasai, West Kasai, Bas-Congo, Bandundu, Equateur of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
3. The relationships of the ACC Vice-Province ACC with AFC Province and the ATE Vice-Province will be defined through possible conventions approved by the Rector Major.

The Vice Province will commence with the induction of the new Superior on June 3rd, 2017.

Rome, July 24th, 2016



Fr Ángel FERNÁNDEZ ARTIME, sdb
Rector Major



Fr Stefano VANOLI
General Secretary

5.3 Dispositions for the General House and other communities depending on the Rector Major (RMG)

Here below find some dispositions of the Rector Major and his Council concerning the General House and the other communities directly depending on the Rector Major (altogether identified with the abbreviation RMG).

By official decree No. 16/0426 dated November 24th, 2016, the Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, after obtaining the consent of the General Council, delegated to his Vicar, Fr Francesco Cereda, the necessary powers of animation, care and government of the communities directly depending on the Rector Major. In the same decree the Rector Major also formed a council – made up by the General Economist and two other General Councillors, appointed for three years – to help the Vicar of the Rector in carrying out those tasks.

The communities directly depending on the Rector Major, which are thus affected by the decree are: the community “Blessed Michael Rua” of the General House; the community “St. Francis de Sales”, with headquarters in Vatican City; the community “San Callisto” in

Rome; the two Salesian communities in Eritrea, “San Giovanni Bosco” in Asmara and “St. Justin de Jacobis” in Dekehare.

These are communities for which, over the years and for different reasons, it was considered appropriate that they refer directly to the Rector Major.

Although these communities do not constitute a juridical circumscription, in order to guarantee for them the specific service of the major Superior, the Vicar of the Rector Major is thus delegated, to fulfil the tasks envisaged in art. 161 of the Salesian Constitutions (inherent in the figure of the Provincial).

In exercising these functions Fr Cereda will be joined by the Economist General, Bro. Jean Paul Muller, and two General Councillors, appointed for three years – at present Fr Ivo Coelho, General Councillor for Formation, and Fr Guillermo Basaños, General Councillor for the Missions – in what concerns the implementation of the tasks prescribed by art. 165 of the Constitution and by articles 156 and 157 of the General Regulations (regarding the Provincial Council).

This Decree will be effective as of today, December 1st, 2016, and is valid until further notice. The

representation of these communities at the General Chapter will be defined in a subsequent decree.

5.4 New Provincials

Here below find (in alphabetical order) some biographical details on the Provincials and Superiors of Vice-Provinces appointed by the Rector Major with his Council in December 2016, during the plenary winter session.

1. ASIRA LIPUKU Simon, Provincial of EAST AFRICA (AFE)

On December 15th, 2016, Fr *Simon Asira LIPUKU* was appointed to lead the “Saint John Bosco” Province of East Africa (AFE). He succeeds Fr Gianni Rolandi.

Born on January 27th, 1966, in Shikoti, Butsotso (Kenya), he is a Salesian since May 24th, 1988, the date of his first profession he made in Embu (Kenya). He pronounced his perpetual vows on May 24, 1994; he was ordained a priest on March 30th, 1996.

After his priestly ordination, he carried out his educational and pastoral ministry in various houses of the AFE Province: Nzaikoni, Kenya (1997-1999); Moshi, Tanzania (1999-2002); Dar Es Salaam-Upangas, Tanzania (2002-2003);

Nairobi - Boys Town (2003-2006); Embu (2006-2011), as Rector; Nairobi - Upper Hill (2011-2015). In July 2015 he was appointed Rector of the house of Nairobi - Utume, a task that was still carrying out.

At a provincial level he had several tasks: Provincial Councillor, Delegate for the sectors of the Salesian Family and of Formation, Provincial Secretary, Vice Provincial for two three-year periods, a task he was fulfilling when he was appointed as Provincial.

2. GESING Reinhard, Provincial of the Province of GERMANY

On December 14th, 2016, the Rector Major with his Council appointed Fr *Reinhard GESING* as Provincial of “Saint Boniface” Province of Germany (GER). He succeeds Fr Josef Grüner.

Born on August 13th, 1962, in Südlohn NRW (Germany), Reinhard Gesing made his first religious profession on August 15th, 1983 in the then Province of Germany-North (GEK) and his perpetual profession on August 15th, 1989.

Ordained a priest on June 28th, 1992, he exerted his educational and pastoral ministry in the communities of Velbert (1992-1995); Jünkerath (1995-2005) as Novice

Master. Since 2005 he was in the house of Benediktbeuern, of which he was appointed Rector in April 2015. At a provincial level, since March 2011 he held the position of Vice Provincial.

3. *JIMÉNEZ CASTRO Manuel, Superior of the Vice-Province of AFRICA TROPICAL EQUATORIAL*

Fr Manuel JIMÉNEZ CASTRO is the Superior of the new Vice-Province of “Mary Help of Christians” of “Africa Congo Kinshasa and Congo Brazzaville” (ACC), appointed for this service by the Rector Major with his Council on December 20th, 2016.

Born on October 23rd, 1959, in Tarifa (Cádiz), Spain, he is a Salesian since August 28th, 1977, when he made his first profession in Cabezo de Torres, in the Province of Seville. He pronounced his perpetual vows on 08.21.1983 and did his theological studies in Seville, where he was ordained a priest on May 17th, 1986.

After a few years’ ministry in his Province of origin (in the houses of Seville - Community of Theologians, Cádiz-Aspirantate and Sanlúcar la Mayor, as Novice Master), he left for the African mission to the house of Kara (Togo) of which

he was Rector from 1996 to 2002; he then went to the house of Lomé, as Rector and Parish Priest. In 2004 the Rector Major and his Council called him to do the service of Superior of the Vice Province of West Africa Francophone Africa (AFO).

After his six-year period as Superior in AFO, on March 10th, 2010, the Rector Major and his Council entrusted him with the guidance of the Africa Tropical Equatorial (ATE) Vice-Province, a task he held until May 2015. Later on, in September 2015 he was appointed Rector of the General House in Rome.

Now, as mentioned above, he is called to guide the new Vice-Province of “Mary Help of Christians” in Africa.

4. *JOSEPH P. Antony, Provincial of the Province of Tiruchy, INDIA (INT)*

Fr JOSEPH P. Antony is the new Provincial of the Province of “Our Lady of Health of Velankanni” in Tiruchy, India (INT); he was appointed by the Rector Major and his Council on December 9th, 2016. He succeeds Fr Albert Johnson.

He was born on July 23rd, 1964, in Thennur, Trichinoly, Tamilnadu (India) and is a Salesian since May

24th, 1983, when he did his first profession. He pronounced his perpetual vows on June 4th, 1990, and was ordained a priest on December 29th, 1996.

After his priestly ordination, he exerted his educational and pastoral ministry in different houses of the Province: Tirupattur-Dominic Savio (1996-1998); Tirupattur-Sacred Heart College (1998-2000); Sivakasi-Vidivelli (2000-2002), as rector; Tiruchirapally-Manikandam (2002-2009), as economer; Tiruchirapally-Kallukuzhy (2009-2011). Since April 2011 he was rector in Pallithammam Bosco Maiyam. At a provincial level he covered the role of provincial economer in the period 2002-2011).

5. *KITUNGWA KABUGÉ Albert, the Province CENTRAL AFRICA Inspector (AFC)*

Fr *Albert KITUNGWA KABUGÉ* succeeds Fr Jean-Claude Ngoy as Provincial of the “Assumption” Province of Central Africa (AFC), appointed to this task by the Rector Major and his Council on December 22nd, 2016.

Born in Kipushi, Katanga (Congo-Brazzaville), he is a Salesian since August 24th, 1998, the date of the first profession, which he did in the Province of West Africa

Francophone, to which he belonged. Perpetually professed July 9th, 2005, he was ordained a priest on July 15th, 2006.

After his priestly ordination, he exerted his ministry for two years (2006-2008) in the house of Abidjan-Koumassi (Ivory Coast). He was then for two years (2008-2010) at UPS in Rome. On his return to Africa, from 2010 to 2013 he worked in the house of Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), as economer, and in the year 2013 to 2014 in Cotonou (Benin). In 2014 he was transferred to the Central Africa Province (AFC) as Vice-Provincial. At the same time he was Rector of the provincial house in Lubumbashi.

Now he continues in the AFC Province as Provincial.

6. *KOCHAMKUNNEL Jose, Provincial of the Province of MADRAS, INDIA (INM)*

Fr *Jose KOCHAMKUNNEL* is the new Provincial of ‘St. Thomas, Apostle’ Province in Chennai (Madras), India (INM); he was appointed by the Rector Major and his Council on December 20th, 2016. He succeeds Fr Joseph Devapragasam.

Born on February 22nd, 1956, in Manoor, Kottayam, Kerala (India),

he made his first Salesian religious profession on May 24th, 1975, and his perpetual profession on May 22nd, 1982. On December 31st, 1985, he was ordained a priest.

After his priestly ordination, he joined the Province of Madras from the theologate in Bangalore, where he had studied, and spent one year in the house of Madras-Ennore, then he was for three years (1993-1996) in New Rochelle, in the provincial headquarters. Returned to Madras, he worked in various houses of the Province, with positions of responsibility: Madras-Citalel-Provincial House (1998-2003), rector; Madras-Broadway (2003-2005), rector; Madras-Citalel-Provincial House (2005-2008), rector; Tirupattur (2008-2014), rector. From 2005 to 2008 he was Vice-Provincial. In March he was assigned to the “Don Bosco Renewal Centre” in Bangalore, of which he later was rector. Now he is called to the responsibility of Provincial.

7. *MCDONNELL Eunan, Provincial of the Province of IRELAND*

As Provincial of “Saint Patrick” Province in Ireland (IRL), the Rector Major and his Council on December 22nd, 2016, appointed Fr *Eunan McDONNELL*. He succeeds Michael D. Casey.

Eunan McDonnell was born on September 28th, 1961, in Strabane, Co. Tyrone (Ireland) and is a Salesian since September 8th, 1982, the date of first profession. He pronounced his perpetual vows on July 9th, 1988, and was ordained a priest on June 16th, 1990.

After his ordination, he remained for a two-year period in the Studentate of Maynooth; then he spent a year in the Provincial House in Dublin, then in Rome-UPS to continue his studies in the year 1993-1994. On his return to Ireland, from 1995 to 1999 he was Novice Master (and simultaneously Vicar of the Provincial House of Dublin). In September 2000 he leaves to Adigrat (Ethiopia), where he remains till September 2004 as a school Principal. On his return to Ireland, he worked successively in the houses of Celbridge (2004-2005), Maynooth (2005-2015) and from 2016 again in Celbridge, of which he was appointed rector.

8. *PRADO José Ángel Mendoza, Provincial of the Province of CENTRAL AMERICA (CAM)*

Fr *José Ángel Mendoza PRADO* is the new Provincial of the Province of the “Divine Saviour” of Central America (CAM), ap-

pointed by the Rector Major and his Council on December 15th, 2016. He succeeds Fr Alejandro Hernández.

Fr José Ángel Mendoza Prado was born on December 17th, 1957, in San José (Costa Rica) and is a Salesian since January 15th, 1978, the date of his first religious profession. He pronounced his perpetual vows on October 22nd, 1984, and was ordained a priest on May 28th, 1988.

After his ordination, he remained in the theologate in Guatemala till February 1992. After he exerted his educational and pastoral ministry in different houses of the CAM Province. From February 1992 to December 2001 he was in San Isidro-Don Bosco Centre (Costa Rica), from 1995 to 2001 as rector. He spent a year in Cartago (Costa Rica); in December 2002 he was appointed rector of the house of San José-Técnico (Costa Rica), a task he fulfilled for six years. In January 2011 he was appointed Vice-Provincial, a task he fulfilled for two three-year periods (in the first three years he was also rector of the provincial house in Guatemala). In February 2016 he was sent to the house of Panama-Técnico Don Bosco. Now he assumes the task of Provincial.

9. *THEPHARAT PITISANT John Bosco, Provincial of the Province of THAILAND (THA)*

The Rector Major and his Council on December 20th, 2016, appointed Fr *John Bosco THEPHARAT PITISANT* as Provincial of the Province of “Saint Paul” in Thailand (THA). He succeeds Fr Paul Praset Somngam.

Born on November 16th, 1951, in Bangkok (Thailand), John Bosco Thepharat is a Salesian since May 1st, 1971, when he did his first profession in Canlubang. He pronounced his perpetual vows on March 22nd, 1978, and was ordained a priest on June 6th, 1982.

After his priestly ordination, he carried out his Salesian mission in the house of Hua Hin from September 1985 to September 1991, when he was transferred to the house of Banpong-Sarasit, where in 1995 he assumed the role of Rector for six years. In May 2001 he was sent to the house of Ban Saeng Arun, where he stayed for three years. In December 2004 he passed to the house of Bangkok - provincial centre, till July 2011 when he was transferred to the house of Hua Hin as Rector and Parish Priest. He was still there when he was appointed as Provincial.

10. *WAMBEKE Wilfried, Provincial of the Province OF BELGIUM NORTH (BEN)*

Fr *Wilfried WAMBEKE* is the new Provincial of the “St John Berchmans” Province of Belgium North (BEN), appointed by the Rector Major and his Council on December 9th, 2016. He succeeds Fr Mark D. Tips.

He was born on May 25th, 1955, in Tielt, West-Vlaanderen (Belgium) and is a Salesian since September 8th, 1974, when he did his first religious profession. He pronounced his perpetual vows on November 25th, 1979, and was ordained a priest on April 24th, 1982.

After his ordination, he exerted his educational and pastoral ministry in various houses of the Province of Belgium North: Oud-Heverlee from 1985 to 1991; Groot-Bijgaarden from 1991 to 1994; Hechtel from 1994-1999; again in Groot-Bijgaarden from 1999 to 2009. In 2009-2010 he was at UPS in Rome. Upon returning to Belgium in May 2010, he was appointed rector in the house of Hechtel, a task he fulfilled till March 2015, when he was transferred as Rector to the house of Heverlee - S.G.B. (Leuven). Here was reached by his appointment as Provincial. Since

March 2011 he was a member of the Provincial Council.

5.5 New Salesian Bishop

SANTOS Canavarros Dos Edmilson Tadeu, Auxiliary Bishop of Manaus (Brazil)

On October 12th, 2016, the Supreme Pontiff Francis appointed Fr *Edmilson Tadeu CANAVAROS DOS SANTOS, SDB*, as Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Manaus, Brazil, assigning him the titular see of lesser Feradi.

Emildson Canavarros Tadeu dos Santos was born on December 5th, 1967 in Corumbá, State of Mato Grosso, Brazil. He made his first religious profession on January 31st, 1988 in Dourados-Indápolis, in the Province of Campo Grande, his perpetual profession on May 22nd, 1994, in Araçatuba, and he was ordained a priest on December 7th, 1996, in Campo Grande.

After his ordination to the priesthood, after two years of educational and pastoral work in the house of Dourados-Indápolis, he served as Rector of the Salesian aspirantate of Campo Grande during the three-year period 1999-2002, then as Rector of the Salesian School of Lins from 2002 to 2004. Later on,

from 2005 to 2008 he was Rector of the Theological Institute “Pio XI” of Sao Paolo. In June 2008 he was appointed Vice Provincial in the Province of Campo Grande, a task he held for six years, till 2014. During this period he also covered the task of Rector of the Paul VI community of Campo Grande (2010-2012) and afterwards of the post-novitiate of Campo Grande - São Vicente (2012-2014). After the six years as Vice Provincial and

one year in the College of “Santa Teresa” in Corumbá (2014), he returned to the house of Campo Grande - Paul VI as Rector and Parish Priest. Here he received his appointment as bishop by Pope Francis.

In the Province of Campo Grande, between 2009 and 2015 he also had the tasks of Delegate for the Educative Pastoral Communities, Formation and Vocation Ministry.

5.6 Our dead confreres (2nd list 2016)

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

SURNAME AND NAME	PLACE of death	DATE	AGE	PROV
P ABDU Fathi Milad	Minia (Egypt)	30/11/2016	43	MOR
P ALAKULAM George	Gayaganga (India)	13/12/2016	87	INC
P ALBA MONTESINOS Pedro	Seville (Spain)	25/12/2016	92	SMX
P ARBELAEZ HOYOS Mario	Medellin (Colombia)	20/10/2016	83	COM
P ARTUSIO Romolo	Turin (Italy)	12/08/2016	101	ICP
E ASURMENDI ARAMANDÍA Miguel	Pamplona (Spain)	09/08/2016	76	—
<i>Was Provincial for 7 years, Bishop of Tarazona (Spain) for 5 years and for 21 years Bishop of Vitoria (Spain)</i>				
P ATZORI Giancarlo	Rome (Italy)	22/11/2016	74	ICC
P BALDO Danilo	Nazareth (Israel)	16/01/2016	78	MOR
L BAŠA Eugen	Prešov (Slovakia)	04/08/2016	85	SLK
P BATTAGLIERI Guido	Mondovi (Italy)	29/08/2016	86	ICP
P BERAUD Jean Baptiste	Yaoundé (Cameroun)	14/12/2016	94	ATE
P BERTOLINO Aldo	Turin (Italy)	09/09/2016	82	ICP
P BETANCOURT RAMÍREZ Homero	Jarabacoa (Dominican Rep.)	27/10/2016	97	ANT
P BLEIBTREU Karl	Linz (Austria)	17/09/2016	80	AUS
P BOGANTES Fernando	San Salvador (El Salvador)	14/12/2016	91	CAM
P BOYD William	Farnborough (England)	28/08/2016	98	GBR
P BUSOLIN Battista	Tura (India)	24/12/2016	94	ING
P CAPRIOGLIO Dante	Borgo S. Martino (Italy)	27/11/2016	96	ICP
P CARRONE Carlos Alfonso	Rosario, Santa Fe (Argentina)	26/08/2016	86	ARN
L CHOWRY Jose	Panjim, Goa (India)	10/07/2016	94	INP
P CHUDÝ František	Nitra (Slovakia)	04/07/2016	86	SLK
P CID GONZÁLEZ Marcial	Seville (Spain)	09/10/2016	88	SMX
P CODUTTI Jean-Baptiste	Chambery (France)	27/07/2016	82	FRB
P COLOMBI Guillermo	Lima (Peru)	07/07/2016	90	PER
P CONTIN Ugo	Loreto (Italy)	10/07/2016	83	ICC
P CORTÉS MIRALLES Francisco	Barcelona (Spain)	03/12/2016	94	SMX
P CUADRADO BERNARDO Leovigildo	Arévalo (Spain)	28/12/2016	88	SSM
L DA SILVA Manoel Vicente	Natal, RN (Brazil)	23/12/2016	83	BRE
P DE WULF Willy	Kortrijk (Belgium)	02/07/2016	80	BEN
L DIAS Robert	Kampala (Uganda)	04/11/2016	93	AGL
P DIUR André	Lubumbashi (R.D. Congo)	11/12/2016	34	AFC
P ELSAKKERS Toon	Zoetermeer (Netherlands)	19/12/2016	95	BEN
P FASOLATO Juan Antonio	Córdoba (Argentina)	28/10/2016	80	ARN
L FERNÁNDEZ FERNÁNDEZ Julio	Ourense (Spain)	04/09/2016	77	SSM
P FERNÁNDEZ MULTILOA Martin	Quito (Ecuador)	12/12/2016	85	ECU
P FORLANI Angelo	Vallecrosia (Italy)	16/11/2016	81	ICC
P FOSCATO Luciano	Rome (Italy)	12/10/2016	82	ICC
P FRANK Pál	Budapest (Hungary)	27/12/2016	88	UNG

SURNAME AND NAME	PLACE of death	DATE	AGE	PROV
P GABREL Antoni	Łódź (Poland)	02/11/2016	81	PLE
P GASSER Alfonso Miguel	Córdoba (Argentina)	04/12/2016	90	ARN
L GEMBOLYS Alojzy	Warszawa (Poland)	02/10/2016	80	PLE
P GHILARDI Giovanni	Genova (Italy)	15/09/2016	80	ICC
L GONZÁLEZ CARDIEL H. Cristóbal	Jalisco (Mexico)	02/08/2016	81	MEG
L GONZÁLEZ MARTÍN Alberto	Arévalo (Spain)	31/12/2016	94	SSM
P GONZÁLEZ MARTÍN del C. Ramón	Jalisco (Mexico)	19/07/2016	80	MEG
P GROß Julius	Köln (Germany)	11/12/2016	92	GER
P GUARINO Roberto	Salerno (Italy)	29/09/2016	64	IME
L GUERRA Giuseppe	Ivrea (Italy)	14/12/2016	91	ICP
P GUTIÉRREZ MUÑOZ Miguel	Seville (Spain)	20/12/2016	84	SMX
L HARASYM Gerard	Surrey (Canada)	26/08/2016	79	SUE
P HUERTA JAIMES José Antonio	Mexico City (Mexico)	13/10/2016	84	MEM
P HUERTA PALMA José Hiram	Mexico City (Mexico)	14/07/2016	78	MEM
P IGNACE-THEOBALDE Pierre	Nice (France)	08/10/2016	89	FRB
L IHL Jean	Nice (France)	15/08/2016	87	FRB
P ISHII Yasuto Yohane	Tokyo (Japan)	16/11/2016	78	GIA
P ISOARDI Giancarlo	Turin (Italy)	24/12/2016	80	ICP
P JARZĄBEK Kazimierz	Olsztyn (Poland)	26/08/2016	81	PLE
P JOB Eliseo	Santiago (Chile)	27/09/2016	95	CIL
P JOUSSET Jacques	Caen (France)	31/07/2016	95	FRB
D KELNAR Václav	Brno (Czech Rep.)	21/12/2016	87	CEP
P KOCHAŃSKI Jacek	Szczecin (Poland)	12/11/2016	97	PLN
P KOU Chih-ming Matthias	Hong Kong	16/10/2016	90	CIN
P KRÄMER Michael	Benediktbeuern (Germany)	11/12/2016	93	GER
P LISAUT TOLOZA Walter	Montevideo (Uruguay)	29/11/2016	91	URU
L LOBO Expedit	Chennai (India)	06/09/2016	77	INM
P LÓPEZ SEVILLANO Juan	Oviedo (Spain)	05/08/2016	70	SSM
P LUCIANO Giovanni	Lanzo torinese (Italy)	03/12/2016	79	ICP
P MACÁK Ernst	Cerová (Slovakia)	13/10/2016	96	SLK
<i>Was Provincial for 6 years</i>				
L MAMPILLY James	Calcutta (India)	22/11/2016	89	INC
L MARCACCINI Antonio	Arese (Italy)	11/11/2016	84	ILE
P MARINONE Giovanni Antonio Natale	Arese (Italy)	18/12/2016	89	ILE
L MARTÍN HERNÁNDEZ Euniciano	Barcelona (Spain)	29/07/2016	91	SMX
P MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA Carlos	Masaya (Nicaragua)	23/08/2016	87	CAM
P MASNÝ Alojz	Bratislava (Slovakia)	17/12/2016	88	SLK
P MAURO Noël	Lyon (France)	28/08/2016	92	FRB
P MAZZELLI Piergiorgio	Brescia (Italy)	28/10/2016	78	ILE
P MEIM Daniel Dennis	Makati City/Manila (Philippine)	04/09/2016	57	FIN
P MENOR CONDE Delfín	Seville (Spain)	16/08/2016	79	SMX
P MESSA Giovanni	Parma (Italy)	03/09/2016	91	ILE
P MOLINA VALCÁRCEL Gabriel	El Campello (Spain)	06/12/2016	87	SMX
P MONNIER Jean-Pierre	Caen-Calvados	06/10/2016	77	FRB
P MONTALDO Edgardo	Rosario (Argentina)	25/12/2016	86	ARN
P MOOLACHERRY Augustine	Chennai (India)	15/11/2016	90	INM
P MOSKWA Michael	Moguro (Japan)	09/08/2016	100	GIA

SURNAME AND NAME	PLACE of death	DATE	AGE	PROV
P NEFFARI Giancarlo	Castello di Godego (Italy)	21/09/2016	81	INE
P NOLLI Agostino	Arese (Italy)	18/12/2016	83	ILE
P NONNE Giovanni	Rome (Italy)	28/10/2016	88	ICC
P NORONHA Romulo	Panjim, Goa (India)	17/08/2016	72	INP
P OPPER Josef	Prüm/Eifel (Germany)	01/09/2016	89	GER
<i>Was Provincial for 6 years</i>				
P PADILLA VILLAMIL Gustavo	Girardot (Colombia)	02/11/2016	61	COB
P PENNISI Antonino	Catania (Italy)	13/12/2016	90	ISI
P PEPATI Aldo	Turin (Italy)	08/08/2016	77	ICP
P PERNBRÜNNER Pietro	Bahía Blanca (Argentina)	21/10/2016	91	ARS
P POSADA Oscar de Jesus	Medellín (Colombia)	17/12/2016	89	COM
P PROU Marcel	Caen (France)	13/11/2016	95	FRB
P PUTHUVA Joffie	Tellakam (India)	03/08/2016	50	INK
P RIDELLA Francesco	Genoa (Italy)	05/08/2016	93	ICC
L RINERO Michele	Turin (Italy)	25/12/2016	82	ICP
L ROCCATI Carlo	Rome (Italy)	01/07/2016	83	ICC
P RODRÍGUEZ GONZÁLEZ Carlos F.	Bogotá (Colombia)	05/12/2016	80	COB
P RODRÍGUEZ IZQUIERDO Andrés	Caracas (Venezuela)	24/12/2016	76	VEN
P ROSÉS VIA Francisco	Barcelona (Spain)	25/09/2016	93	SMX
P ROSS Michael	Dublin (Ireland)	30/10/2016	68	IRL
P RÖTTGERING Joop	Amsterdam (Netherlands)	09/12/2016	84	KOR
P SALGADO PARDO Manuel	Seville (Spain)	30/09/2016	87	SMX
P SÁNCHEZ SALDÍAS Roberto	Punta Arenas (Chile)	06/11/2016	86	CIL
P SERNA del CAMPO Javier	Fuenlabrada (Spain)	31/12/2016	79	SSM
L SOLÍS ORTIZ Arturo	Jalisco (Mexico)	30/12/2016	50	MEG
P SOUSA Fernando	Manique-Estoril (Portugal)	21/12/2016	87	POR
P SUTHERLAND Francis	Glasgow (Scotland)	24/09/2016	89	GBR
P SYNOWIEC Ludwik	Kobyła (Poland)	12/11/2016	62	PLS
P SZYMAŃSKI Bronisław	Cieszyn (Poland)	24/12/2016	95	PLS
P TEPLÝ Václav	Brandýs nad Labem (Czech Rep.)	27/12/2016	88	CEP
L THERUVIL Mani	Pandey Sebeyan (India)	27/11/2016	83	INC
L TIRKEY Romanus	Hijuguri (India)	21/12/2016	66	IND
L TOBÓN Octavio	Medellín (Colombia)	26/09/2016	92	COM
L TRAVASINO Giuseppe	Rome (Italy)	01/09/2016	85	ICC
P VALDAMBRINI Ivo	Rome (Italy)	29/12/2016	93	ICC
P VALENCIANO POLACK Antonio	León (Spain)	15/07/2016	95	SSM
P VALENTE Pasquale	Rome (Italy)	29/12/2016	81	ICC
P VALLICHERY Mathew	Aluva, Kerala (India)	09/07/2016	91	INK
P VAN LUYN Kees	Assel (Belgium)	15/10/2016	82	BEN
P VATEL Jacques	Guincamp (France)	06/10/2016	93	FRB
P VELAZCO Juan Andrés	Bernal (Argentina)	03/08/2016	77	ARS
P VÉLEZ RENDÓN Bernardo	Medellín (Colombia)	26/07/2016	96	COM
P VIAN Luigi	Vigo di Fassa (Italy)	30/11/2016	91	INE
P YAMANO Paolo Gentaro	Beppu (Japan)	02/08/2016	69	GIA

