



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

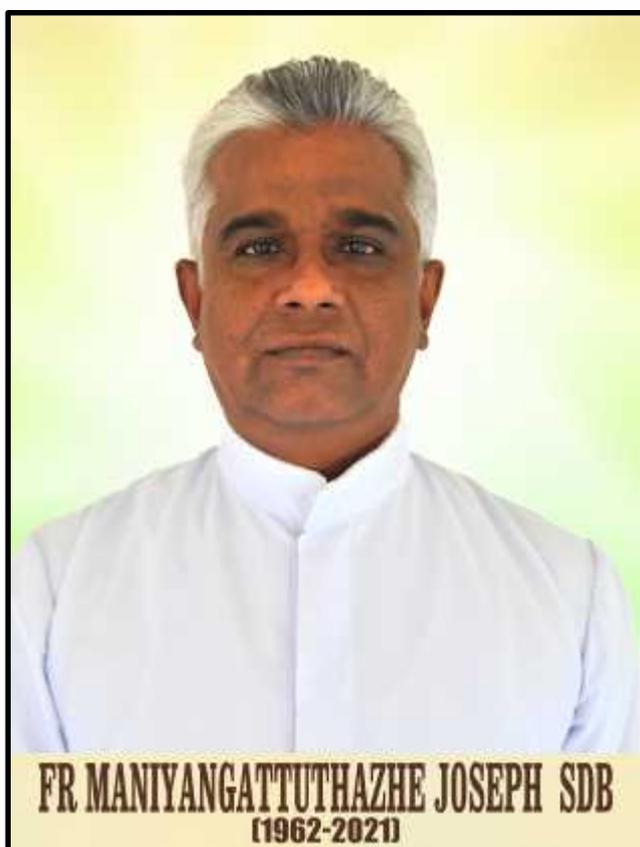
Salesian Province of St. Joseph, Hyderabad



INH/TVB/CIR 22/2021

JUNE 2021

FR MANIYANGATTUTHAZHE JOSEPH SDB (JOSEPH ABRAHAM) - 1962-2021 A MEEK, GENTLE AND PASSIONATE APOSTLE OF CHRIST



John 6: 51 "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

Dear Confreres,

I write this circular with a heavy heart after the demise of Fr Joseph Abraham. As humans, we had our hopes and expectations of his complete recovery after the liver transplant. After all the efforts, sacrifices and the long suffering endured by Fr Joseph Abraham, he deserved to live on a few more years for the glory of God. But it was not to be. We humbly surrender ourselves to the Will of God. He breathed his last on June 06, 2021 at Vijay Marie Hospital, Hyderabad, at 3:05 am on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. He was 59 years old when he died. He suffered from a massive cardiac arrest, which proved to be the last stage of his long and many illnesses for past three and half years necessitating even a major liver transplantation

on December 16, 2020 at Continental Hospital, Gachibowli. In spite of the on-going lockdown across the region of our Province and restrictions on movement of people and vehicles, God has enabled us in His providence, to celebrate Requiem Mass on June 06 at 10:30 am and Funeral Mass on June 07 at Don Bosco Shrine, Bandlaguda Jagir, at 8:30 am for the repose of the soul of Fr Joseph Abraham. The funeral mass was followed by the burial of our dear confrere at our Province Cemetery, at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad at 11.30 am. Despite the fact that most of our confreres, family members, friends, collaborators and well-wishers of Fr Joseph Abraham could not be present for the funeral on account of the raging second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, we gave a meaningful and fitting farewell to our brother in the presence of a good number of confreres, priests, sisters, family members and friends of Fr Joseph Abraham. Many joined us online as we were all united in spirit and in prayer so that we could accompany our dear

confrere on his final journey, commending him to the Merciful Father in Heaven, who promised Eternal Life to those who lived by the food of the body and blood of His Son, Jesus Christ.

59 years seem relatively short, but they have been packed with passion and zeal for Christ. I express my deepest condolences to the family of Fr Joseph Abraham, to his brothers, sisters, relatives, to all the parishioners for whom he labored, to friends and to members of the Salesian family. Mr George Abraham, his elder brother was present with us representing all the family members. He too journeyed with Fr Joseph Abraham in his moments of physical pain and suffering, especially during the process of the liver transplant.

A brief trajectory of the life of Fr Joseph Abraham

FR MANIYANGATTUTHAZHE JOSEPH SDB (JOSEPH ABRAHAM) was born on November 10, 1962 at Kozhuvanal, Kottayam, Kerala to Mr Abraham and Mrs Mariakutty. Fr Joseph Abraham was blessed with one elder sister, one elder brother, four younger brothers and one younger sister. Having been baptized on November 17, 1962 at St John Nephumsian's Church, Kozhuvanal, Palai Diocese and confirmed on November 16, 1976 at St Antony's Church, Mannuthy, Trichur Diocese, he studied at Don Bosco School, Irinjalakuda from 1974 to 1978, thus completing PDC. He was a pre-novice from 1979 to 1980 and a novice from 1980 to 1981 at Kotagiri, where he made his first religious profession on May 24, 1981 at the hands of Fr Thayil Thomas, the then Provincial of the Salesian Province of Bangalore. From the Novitiate, he moved to the philosophate at Yercaud, where he completed philosophical studies from 1981 to 1983. He was then a practical trainee and a college student at Don Bosco Premnivas, Mangalagiri from 1983 to 1987. It was from the same Salesian House that he was admitted to the final religious profession, through which he perpetually committed himself to the Lord in the Salesian Congregation on June 04, 1987 at Vaduthala, Cochin. He was then a student of Theology at Kristu Jyoti College from 1987 to 1990 having been ordained a deacon on March 19, 1989 at Bangalore by Rt Rev. Alphonsus Mathias and a priest on December 26, 1990 at Kozhuvanal by Rt Rev. Joseph Pallikka Parambil of Palai Diocese.

Having thus prepared himself through the years of Salesian philosophical, theological and pastoral training, he gave himself totally to the mission that was awaiting him at Guntur as an assistant parish priest till May 1991; at Patsala Tadiparru, as an assistant parish priest from 1991 to 1993; at Wyra as a Parish Priest from 1993 to 2000; at Patsala Tadiparru as Rector and parish priest from 2000 to 2006; at Raptadu as an assistant parish priest and administrator from 2006 to 2010; at Mariapuram as Rector and parish priest from 2010 to 2013; at Raptadu as Rector and parish priest from 2013 to 2015; at Patsala Tadiparru as an assistant parish priest from 2015 to 2018; again at Patsala Tadiparru as Rector and parish priest from 2018 to 2021. However, Fr Joseph Abraham had to leave the mission behind at Patsala Tadiparru on account of his illness and thus became a member of the Provincial House Community from January 2020 to June 06, 2021, the day he gave back his soul to his Lord and Creator.

A long journey of illness and treatment has come to an end!

We have been aware, dear confreres, of the long and painful physical suffering of Fr Joseph Abraham for past three and half years. He joined the Provincial House Community in January 2020 when he was diagnosed with high levels of jaundice. Ever since he was part of the Provincial House Community till he breathed his last on June 06, 2021. He was first treated at AIG Hospital, later at St Theresa's and then at Continental Hospital, Gachibowli, Hyderabad. As he was making

progress and responding to different types of medication and interventions in treating what was identified as liver disease, we witnessed how he had to battle with many excruciating side effects and complications. It was in July 2020, in the midst of the rapid spread of the coronavirus infections across the region, that he developed internal bleeding due to which he was immediately rushed to St. Theresa's Hospital, where he had to undergo a procedure called banding of the blood vessels in order to stop internal bleeding. Though this intervention proved to be a temporary relief for Fr Joseph Abraham, it was becoming more and more clear that a liver transplantation would be the only alternative left to save his life.

We have therefore intensified our efforts already from the month of October 2020 at identifying all the means and ways possible to initiate the procedures for liver transplant banking on the providence of the Lord and the generous offering of a part of liver by any donor. After overcoming a very difficult, complicated and tedious process of obtaining an official permission, the liver transplantation was carried out on December 16, 2020 at Continental Hospital, Gachibowli, certainly made possible only by the supreme act of generosity and sacrifice of our Vice Provincial, Fr Thomas Santiago, who donated over 61 percent of his liver. The surgical procedure itself took 18 hours and we couldn't be more thankful to the Lord for guiding the hands of Dr Tom Cherian and his team and for making it a success, despite a few minor complications that had to be addressed during the post-operative care. Everyone in the Province, thousands of well-wishers in India and across the globe had prayed for our dear confreres. While Fr Thomas Santiago was discharged from the hospital on December 26, 2020, Fr Joseph Abraham was discharged on January 09, 2021. As they were recovering from the operation at the Provincial House, what was expected was only a regular medical review for a few weeks. The health condition of Fr Joseph Abraham and Fr Thomas Santiago was said to be stable and they were making steady progress with regular reviews and necessary post-operation medical attention.

However, Fr Joseph Abraham needed further surgical interventions due to internal infection causing continuous fever and lack of appetite. After the major liver transplant, another surgical intervention was carried out on March 01, 2021 as well as on March 11, 2021 at Continental Hospital to identify the source of infection and treat the same. Though there was every hope that these two surgeries would finally set him on the road to complete recovery, he was still losing weight, vomiting food and developing bouts of fever requiring blood transfusion from time to time. He was admitted to Vijay Marie Hospital on May 26, 2021 and remained there till he breathed his last. On 5th June, I visited Fr Joseph Abraham along with Fr T. Johny. He was already extremely weak and could not recognize us or respond to us as we tried to speak to him. On the same day, Dr Tom who was continuously following up his treatment, communicated to us over the phone that the health of Fr Joseph Abraham was deteriorating very fast. Though we were determined to meet Dr Tom in person the following day to discuss the future course of action in terms of the treatment of Fr Joseph Abraham, Dr Tom suggested a video conference call at 2.30 pm on 5th June itself. He made it clear to us that they had medically carried out everything possible to save him, but that Fr Joseph Abraham's health was deteriorating faster than imagined. On 4th June, Fr Joseph Abraham received the Holy Viaticum administered by Fr Arogyaswamy, the Parish Priest of Khairathabad. Fr Joseph Abraham breathed his last on June 06, 2021 at 3.05 am.

A Salesian champion of the good news of Jesus Christ

Fr Joseph Abraham was an ardent and zealous missionary of Jesus Christ who shared profusely in the suffering and passion of the Lord through his long and painful illnesses, bearing the brunt of complicated surgical interventions and fighting many physical and emotional battles in accepting the will of the Father. We commend him to the Merciful Father so that Fr Joseph Abraham may be welcomed into the Halls of Heaven, where he can continue to worship and adore the Savior, whom he loved with all his heart, mind, strength and soul. His life was characterized by:

1. Deep love for Christ: Fr Joseph Abraham loved Jesus passionately. He wanted to communicate this love to people in season and out of season. Returning very late in the night from villages and mission stations, he would still make an effort to be in the Church at 5am kneeling and praying in front of the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament, thus nurturing his interior life and spending quality time with the Lord of his life. His robust interior life was built upon frequent confessions made at any opportune time. Even in his sickness and pain, he spent time reading the Bible, celebrating the daily Eucharist and listening to retreat talks, praying the rosary, etc.

2. Missionary zeal and passion: As a true and missionary son of Don Bosco, Fr Joseph worked tirelessly to bring the Good News of Jesus to the poor, the marginalized and to the rural folk of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. All the three decades of his priestly ministry were dedicated to the proclamation of the Gospel in various rural parishes and mission stations of the Province. He gave his all for the salvation of souls. Don Bosco's motto, "Da mihi animas caetera tolle" was truly lived by him. When he was appointed the delegate of Education to Faith and Missionary Dimension, he told me that we should do everything possible to revive the missionary spirit of the Province and reach out to those thirsting for the Word of God. He worked hard to keep alive the missionary zeal in the Province. He organized a memorable mega Missionary Seminar for the entire Salesian Family of the Province inviting Fr Basanes, the then General councilor for Missions to contribute to the revival of the missionary spirit. His zeal for the mission was explicit in the way in which he made himself available for the mission anywhere at any time. People could approach him any time of the day or night. In various parishes where he served, he invited sisters of various congregations to help out in the work of evangelization. Many summer camps were organized in villages to deepen the faith of the people through catechesis. He strengthened the faith of the Catholic communities in different parishes.

3. Love of the poor: Fr Joseph always loved the company of the poor and spent unlimited time with people in the villages. He would go to villages a few hours early in order to visit families and this would continue even after the Holy Mass as he would give generously of his time to listen to the life stories of those to whom he had been sent. Pope Francis' exhortation to priests 'to live by the smell of the sheep' was fully a reality in his life. He was a great pastor who loved his sheep and loved everything about them. He would gladly accept whatever food the poor offered him. Every family considered him a member of his/her family. With the help of the past pupils, he revived the hostel for poor boys at PT Paruru. He was able to gather over 800 past pupils through whose support a scholarship fund was established for the poor children of the hostel.

4. Humility and meekness: Fr Joseph Abraham has earned a place in the hearts of so many people through his simplicity, exemplary life and commitment to the cause of Jesus Christ. When one entered into a deeper conversation with him, he would very often narrate the fact that he

was not talented but that God made use of him mightily for His mission and for His glory. Everyone felt at home in his company.

5. Sacrifice and suffering: Fr Joseph underwent a lot of suffering and made many sacrifices in his life. His physical pain and suffering was insurmountable. In the past three years, he was sick with various health complications. He was taken to several hospitals and he had to finally undergo the liver transplant, which did not spare him of any pain either. His love and passion for the mission took a toll on his health. He did not bother much about the health of his body. He was concerned about sharing the spiritual food, the body and blood of Jesus with the poor. There were also some moments of discouragement in his life. He suffered in silence. The sisters and nurses who looked after him at Vijay Marie hospital testified that even when he was going through unbearable pain, he did not complain. The Lord became his strength and his refuge.

I did not have the opportunity to live with Fr Joseph Abraham until he joined the Provincial House Community in January 2020. Even in his sickness, he was full of passion for the mission. He wanted to get well and return to his community to evangelize. As he was recuperating from the surgery, he expressed his gratitude to God for blessing him with a second chance to live. He expressed his immense gratitude to Fr Santiago Thomas for his act of love towards him, and to the Province that took care of him so well. He was eager to get back to the community to rededicate himself with renewed zeal to the proclamation of the Good News. In his own words, he expressed thus: “The Lord was good to me. I will commit myself to the Lord with greater passion and live for Him alone.” Fr Joseph Abraham lived passionately for Christ and for His mission. He leaves behind this great legacy for all the present and future generations to imitate and emulate. Our province is a missionary Province. Let the life and example of Fr Joseph Abraham inspire us to revive our missionary spirit both as individuals and as a Province. May Fr Joseph Abraham intercede for us from heaven!

Sincere thanks each one of you

I thank you dear confreres for your support and closeness as we accompanied Fr Joseph in his illness and treatment. I thank you for offering special prayers every single day for his good health and recovery. I thank all the members of the Salesian family, all the Provincials and confreres of South Asia for their prayers. Words are insufficient to express my deepest appreciation and heartfelt gratitude for the great act of sacrifice of our confrere, Fr Santiago Thomas who offered more than half of his liver out of selfless love for his fellow confrere. This will be remembered in the annals of our Province and the Congregation. We thank you dear Fr Thomas for your courageous and cheerful giving. I also would like to express my sincere gratitude to Fr Jose Androth, our Economer, for his close accompaniment of Fr Joseph Abraham in the past couple of years, especially during the entire process of the liver transplant and thereafter. He had been a good friend, companion and support to Fr Joseph. He has made countless visits to hospitals, spent sleepless nights and sacrificed so much for his well-being. I thank Mr George Abraham, the elder brother of Fr Joseph who gave much support and strength to our confrere. I wish to express once again my profound thanks to the dear mother and brothers of Fr Thomas Santiago for their support and consent. My gratitude is due to the confreres of the Provincial House and BIRDY communities, especially to Fr Sudhakar, Fr S. Rajesh, and Fr G. Chinnappa for taking care of the needs of Fr Joseph.

We were fortunate to find Dr Tom Cherian and his team of doctors who are exceptionally gifted doctors and who have done their best for Fr Joseph. They have become a part and parcel of our lives and that of Fr Joseph. But who can change the Will of God? We submit and surrender ourselves to the Divine Will knowing fully well that being with the Lord is our ultimate destiny. Thank you Dr Tom, Dr Fazil, all the other doctors and nurses at Continental Hospital.

We also thank Sisters and Doctors of St Theresa's Hospital, the Doctors at AIG Hospital, Sisters and Doctors of Vijay Marie Hospital, and Sr Vijji and other sisters of the Vincenza Nilayam Community. I owe my sincere thanks to Mr Bhartu, who was a constant companion and a guardian angel to Fr Joseph. May God bless him and his family! Fr B. Charan and Fr T. Johny played an important role in easing the work load of the Provincial House Community as they took turns to accompany the sick confreres; Fr Joseph in particular. The drivers and the kitchen staff rendered us their support at any time of the day or night in caring for Fr Joseph. They tried their best to nourish Fr Joseph with a great hope of seeing him one day on his feet. Many thanks to them. I also express my gratitude to Fr M.C. Abraham, vice rector at Don Bosco P.T Paruru, for taking charge of the Community during the prolonged absence of Fr Joseph and to the other members of the Community for their support.

I thank Fr Santiago Thomas, our vice provincial for making all the arrangement for a meaningful farewell to Fr Joseph with the help and collaboration of the Confreres of the Provincial House, BIRDY and Novitiate communities. The funeral service and the burial service were beautifully organized and we had indeed given a fitting farewell to our confrere, Fr Joseph Abraham, who now, according to our faith, intercedes for us from Heaven.

LAUDATO SI' IN THE PROVINCE, 2020-21

The year-long celebration in our Province of the Fifth Anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si' of Pope Francis as part of the priorities of the Province for 2020-21 was indeed a pilgrimage for the entire Province in developing consciousness and praxis towards caring for our common home, heeding the cry of the Earth and the cry of the Poor of the Earth.

Banking on *The Ten Green Commandments*, actually a commentary on Laudato Si', written by our confrere Fr Joshtrom Kureethadam, the year-long itinerary of our Province had a series of webinars under the programmatic keys of SEE, JUDGE and ACT. After the impact-filled presentation of the entire document of the Laudato Si' by Fr Nireekshanraju under the key of Seeing, I had the honor of making a presentation on "Taking Care of our Common Home in Peril" and Fr Ignatius Vattigunta, the Director of PARA along with Mr Job challenged us to heed the cry of the poor. As per the evolving dynamics, we had the Praxis orientation webinars on "Getting to know the Green Alliance" by none other than Fr Savio Silveira, the Provincial of Mumbai and on the "Carbon Footprint Audit" by Fr T.D. John.

Under the key of judging, we had presentations on "Rediscovering a Theological Vision of the Natural world", "Recognizing that the Abuse of Creation is an Ecological sin" and on "Acknowledging the Human Roots of the Crisis of Our Common Home", by Fr Thomas Santiago, the Vice-Provincial, Fr Wilson Jose and Fr Thumma Prathap respectively. The corresponding Praxis-Orientation webinars were led by experts like Bro Alex Gonsalves SDB on "Water Shed Management and Community Building", on "Waste Management as Recreation" by Dr Lubna Sarwath and on "Networking with those in Common Cause against Ecological Degradation" by Bro Varghese Theckanath S.G.

Under the dimension of Acting, we had a webinar on the key thrust of Laudato Si', "Developing an Integral Ecology" by Fr Joshtrom himself, on " Learning a New Way of Dwelling in our Common Home" by Fr Mallavarapu Rayanna, on " Educate toward Ecological Citizenship" by Fr Pallithanam Thomas, the Salesian Representative to the U.N., on "Embracing an Ecological Spirituality" by Fr Stanislaus Swamikannu, the Rector of the Salesian Monastery at Ratisbonne, Jerusalem and on "Cultivating Ecological Virtues" by Fr Salagala Rajesh. The related Praxis-Oriented webinars were led by Fr Cedric Prakash S.J., on "Grounding Laudato Si' in the Soil and Culture of Human Rights in India", by Fr Pallithanam Thomas and his team on "Grounding Laudato Si' in Sustainable Development Goals", by Fr Subash Anand, on "Contemplating the Eco-Spirituality of Indic and Indigenous Religiosities", and by Fr Felix Wilfred, on "Grounding Laudato Si' in the Soil of Asia and Carrying it Forward."

As I wholeheartedly thank the Province Laudato Si' commission members, Fr Maliekal Jose and Fr Dasari Nireekshanraju for their year-long creative and praxis-oriented animation in responding to the cry of the earth and of the poor, I would like to invite every member of the Province to continue to allow the spirit of Laudato Si' to prick our conscience, as regards our personal and collective life styles, our spiritualities and our advocacy for policy-making that will bring about sustainable development not only for our common home, but also for the poor of our common planetary home.

LSAP - Laudato Si' Action Platform (LSAP)

The "action-oriented" project which is a seven-year journey towards an integral ecology was introduced on May 25, 2021 as part of the conclusion of the Laudato Si' year on May 24, 2021. The Action Platform is seen in the context of the numerous initiatives that marked the Year. The worldwide reception of the proposal and celebration of a special year of Laudato Si' has been generous, as we have witnessed in our Province. We along with local Churches, associations, movements, and many others have responded with great enthusiasm to Pope Francis's appeal to take care of our common home. However, now is the time to act, to do something concrete.

Seven Laudato Si' goals are being proposed: the Response to the Cry of the Earth, the Response to the Cry of the Poor, Ecological Economics, Adoption of Simple Lifestyles, Ecological Education, Ecological Spirituality, and Community Involvement and Participatory Action. The journey of the LSAP will take place over seven years, with the first year dedicated to "the three fundamental tasks of community building, resource sharing, and drawing up of concrete action plans" for the realization of those goals. The seventh year will be a "Sabbatical year to praise and thank God." I invite every Community and every confrere that we carry on with the processes we have initiated in the Province in line with the spirit of Laudato Si' so that our common planetary home will become a better and beautiful place for present and future generations.

NEW INVOCATIONS TO ST. JOSEPH

On May 01, the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, 7 new invocations have been added to the Litany of St. Joseph, with the approval of Pope Francis. The initiative comes during the Year of St. Joseph which we have been invited to observe from 8 December 2020, to 8 December 2021. On the 150th anniversary of the proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, the Holy Father published the Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, with the aim to increase our love for this great saint, to encourage us to implore his intercession and to imitate his virtues and his zeal. In

this light, it appeared opportune to update the Litany in honor of Saint Joseph by integrating seven new invocations drawn from the interventions of the Popes who have reflected on the figure of the Patron of the Universal Church.

The new invocations, originally in Latin, are as follows: Custos Redemptoris, Serve Christi, Minister salutis, Fulcimen in difficultatibus, Patrone exulum, Patrone afflictorum, Patrone pauperum. These could be translated as: Guardian of the Redeemer, Servant of Christ, Minister of salvation, Support in difficulties, Patron of exiles, Patron of the afflicted and Patron of the poor. With these additions, the invocations in the Litany to St. Joseph now rise to 31. Let us continue to have recourse to the figure of St Joseph, the Patron of our Province, to help us face the challenges of the present times with courage, trust and faith in God's promises.

GRATITUDE FOR GOD'S PROVIDENCE

God provides. This is what we have once again experienced even during the deadly second wave of the Covid-19 pandemic as the provident Lord enabled us to celebrate first professions, final professions and renewals of the religious profession across the Province. In addition to this, 9 novices are admitted to the Novitiate on May 27, 2021 at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad. I would like to thank each one of you for your prayers and cooperation and collaboration in this regard. In particular I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to our Vice Provincial, Fr Thomas Santiago, who has meticulously planned and executed the Perpetual Profession Course, including the guided retreat by Fr Donthireddy Raja at our Provincial House. An online summer formation program was also organized under the supervision and guidance of our Vice Provincial, which included a day of recollection by Fr Godugunuru Chinnappa for brothers/clerics who renewed their religious profession at various communities of the Province. As I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each one of you, I raise a hymn of thanksgiving to the Lord, who has safely brought us through this period of professions and renewals of vows. I invite you all to become extensions of God's unfailing providence in accompanying our young confreres in formation so that they too may reach the full stature of Salesian charismatic identity, thus proving to be worthy sons of St. John Bosco, our Father and Founder.

CONGRATULATIONS TO CL MORCHA YESUDASS

We extend our warmest greetings and congratulations to Cl Morcha Yesudass, who will be ordained deacon on June 12, 2021 at Church of All Nations, Gethsemane, Jerusalem by H.B. Mons. Pierbattista Pizzaballa, OFM, Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem. He has been unable to travel to the Province for his holidays due to the Covid-19 pandemic; however, he has continued with his studies and successfully completed the third year of theology at Salesian Monastery Ratisbonne. We are thankful to the Rector and Community of Salesian Monastery Ratisbonne for the accompaniment and the theological training they have rendered to our confrere. We congratulate Cl Maramreddy Bala Dileep and Cl Mullangi Indrajit Gupta who will also be ordained deacons at Sacred Heart Theological College, Shillong on July 01, 2021. Let us pray that these young confreres may learn to become ardent and zealous ministers of the Word that gives life, light and liberty, and proclaim the same to others as his ordained ministers in the order of the diaconate.

WELCOME BACK TO FR THOMAS AQUINAS

On behalf of the Province, I heartily welcome back our confrere, Fr Thomas Aquinas who is now a member of Don Bosco Motinagar Community. He has just returned to the Province after 6 long years of commendable service he has rendered to the network of YaR at the national level. He

has contributed much to the ministry of YaR especially in developing softwares and in creating virtual platforms, so that the ministry of YaR could be extended to every nook and corner of the region bringing a new lease of life to those at risk, the poorest and the most abandoned. I wish him an enriching and fruitful ministry as Vice Principal of Don Bosco Degree College at Motinagar.

PROVINCIAL COMMISSIONS, DIMENSIONS, SECTORS AND CENTERS

I have enclosed along with my Circular Letter the list of members of the Provincial commissions, dimensions, sectors and centers. Most of the members are continuing. There are some changes and hence I request all, especially the delegates and the members, to take note of the same. I thank all those who extended their services in the past as heads and members of various provincial commissions. I would also like to thank all those who continue to serve as well as the new members for accepting to fulfil this role of animation in the Province.

SALESIAN SANCTITY IN JUNE

June 08	Bl. Stephen Sandor, martyr, Memorial
June 12	Blessed Francis Kesy, lay person, and 4 companions martyrs, Optional Memorial
June 23	Saint Joseph Cafasso, priest, Memorial
June 24	Commemoration of Mary Help of Christians
June 30	Commemoration of St John Bosco

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 11	Death Anniversary of Fr Abraham Panampara
June 14-15	Leaders' Meet - Online (9.30 am to 1.00 pm)
June 16	Perpetually Professed Confreres' Meet - Online (9.30am to 1 pm)
June 17	Provincial Council Meeting

CONDOLENCES

We offer our heartfelt condolences:

- to Fr Provincial and the confreres of the Province of Kolkata at the demise of Fr John Ekka on May 14, 2021;
- to Fr Provincial and the confreres of the Province of Bangalore at the passing away of Fr Antony Mampra on May 16, 2021;
- to Fr Provincial and the confreres of the Province of Dimapur at the death of Fr Stanislus Kerketta on May 28, 2021;
- to Fr Gopu Peter and his family members at the demise of his beloved mother, Mrs Gopu Mary, aged 65, on May 06, 2021;
- to Fr Kowju Melchior Raj and his family members at the death of his beloved mother, Mrs Devamani, aged 75, on May 18, 2021;
- to Fr Bellamkonda Sudhakar and his family members at the passing away of his beloved mother, Mrs Jacinta Mary, aged 68, on May 21, 2021;
- to Fr Provincial and the confreres of the Province of Chennai at the death of Fr Antony Pottakerry, aged 86, on June 02, 2021.

CONCLUSION

As May was the month of Mary our Mother, June is the month of the Sacred Heart of her Son Jesus. It is often said that the mother is the heart of the home. But on the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus we honor what should be the heart of hearts in every home. And why the heart? Jesus surely had a brain with which he thought, and muscles which mobilized him as he grew, traveled, and felt the suffering of the Cross. He had feet which carried him and hands which served him as he performed miracles. So why the heart? Well, without the heart to pump vitality to the body the other parts are useless. Rather than the brain, the heart has long been considered the center of our being - literally and emotionally. The heart is at the *heart* of our being and the corporal being of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus - a heart wounded and surrounded with a crown of thorns, with flames showing his suffering love for humanity - has been honored since the twelfth century. Devotion to the Sacred Heart was popularized by the visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in France in the late 1600s. Our Lord asked for a Feast in reparation for the offenses against his love, saying, "Behold the Heart that has so loved men ... instead of gratitude I receive from the greater part (of mankind) only ingratitude" For those who practice devotion to his Sacred Heart, Our Lord made twelve promises:

- 1) I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
- 2) I will establish peace in their families.
- 3) I will console them in all their troubles.
- 4) They shall find in My Heart an assured refuge during life and especially at the hour of their death.
- 5) I will pour abundant blessings on all their undertakings.
- 6) Sinners shall find in My Heart the source of an infinite ocean of mercy.
- 7) Tepid souls shall become fervent.
- 8) Fervent souls shall speedily rise to great perfection.
- 9) I will bless the homes where an image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored.
- 10) I will give to priests the power of touching the most hardened hearts.
- 11) Those who propagate this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be effaced.
- 12) The all-powerful love of My Heart will grant to all those who shall receive Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months the grace of final repentance; they shall not die under my displeasure, nor without receiving their Sacraments; my heart shall be their assured refuge at that last hour.

As the month of June has begun, may it find us all developing a deeper devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and likewise finding comfort through the Immaculate Heart of his Mother!

Yours in the Lord,



Fr Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar SDB,
Provincial



Travelogue of Provincial, Vice Provincial and Economer - June 2021

		Provincial	Vice Provincial	Economer
May 24	Mon	Installation of the Rector and Novice Master - Manoharabad		
June 9	Wed			
June 10	Thu			
June 11	Fri	Manoharabad	Manoharabad	
June 12	Sat	Installation of the Rector - St Theresa's, Sanathnagar - Team Visit	Team Visit - St Theresa's	Team Visit - St Theresa's
June 13	Sun			
June 14	Mon	DBPH Leaders' Meet - 9.30 am to 1.00 pm	Leaders' Meet - 9.30 am to 1.00 pm	Leaders' Meet - 9.30 am to 1.00 pm
June 15	Tue	DBPH Leaders' Meet - 9.30 am to 1.00 pm	Leaders' Meet - 9.30 am to 1.00 pm	Leaders' Meet - 9.30 am to 1.00 pm
June 16	Wed	DBPH Perpetually Professed Confreres' Meet 9.30 am to 1.00 pm	Perpetually Professed Confreres' Meet 9.30 am to 1.00 pm	Perpetually Professed Confreres' Meet 9.30 am to 1.00 pm
June 17	Thu	DBPH Provincial Council	Provincial Council	Provincial Council
June 18	Fri			
June 19	Sat	Ramanthapur	Ramanthapur	Ramanthapur
June 20	Sun			
June 21	Mon	Guntupalli	Guntupalli	Guntupalli
June 22	Tue	Installation of the Rector - Mangalagiri	Mangalagiri	Mangalagiri
June 23	Wed	Installation of the Rector - Guntur	Guntur	Guntur
June 24	Thu	Installation of the Rector - PT Parru	Ongole	Ongole
June 25	Fri	Installation of the Rector - Nuzvid		
June 26	Sat	Ravulapalem / Para	Installation of the Rector - Kurnool	
June 27	Sun		Installation of the Rector - Kadapa	
June 28	Mon	Installation of the Rector - Kondadaba	Installation of the Rector - Punganur	
June 29	Tue			
June 30	Wed		Installation of the Rector - Rapthadu	