



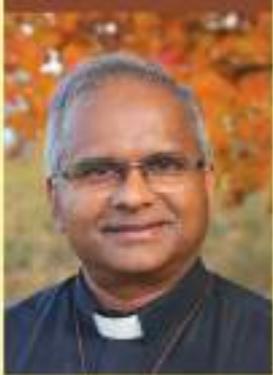
# PROVIDENCE LOVE IN ACTION

NEWSLETTER OF THE BANGALORE SALESIAN MISSION - 2025

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## MESSAGE



Fr Francis Joseph  
Vattukulam SDB

Dear Friends,

Cordial and affectionate greetings from the Mission Office, Bangalore!

Pope Francis had proclaimed 2025 as the Jubilee Year of Hope, titled "*Spes non confundit*" ("Hope Does Not Disappoint"), and focused on pilgrimage and hope. He officially inaugurated the Jubilee by opening the Holy Door of St Peter's Basilica on December 24, 2024, and the event will conclude on January 6, 2026. This Jubilee encourages Catholics worldwide to undertake pilgrimages and renew their hope and faith, with the goal of spiritual renewal and solidarity.

I am sure, in this jubilee year of Hope, many people have visited Rome and other places of pilgrimage and passed through the designated Holy Doors as a symbol of spiritual renewal and forgiveness. Crossing the threshold of a Holy Door is a profound act of faith, symbolizing a journey from sin to grace and the following of Jesus. For pilgrims, passing through the Holy Door during a Jubilee year offers the possibility of gaining a plenary indulgence as well.

Seeing the situation of the world around us, there is every reason for us to lose hope. There is war, hatred, violence, conflict, disharmony, poverty, hunger, malnutrition, injustice and the apparent situation of the evil dominating over good. There is a certain diffusion of evil that overshadows the good in people and in the world. This year of hope instills hope in us through the words of St Paul: "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us" (Rom 8:18). At the same it also invites us to instill hope in the lives of those who have lost hope because of poverty, lack of education, support system in the family and opportunities.

It appears to me that it is the teens and the youth that seem to lose hope easily in this fast changing world. Suicide is an indication of losing hope. Statistical data show that people between the age group of 15-30 are most prone to committing suicide. Don Bosco understood this age group as "that part of human society so exposed, yet so rich in promise."

This year the Church has given us two powerful models of a teen and a young adult in Sts Carlo Acutis and Pier Giorgio Frassati. They tell us that there is a lot we can hope for, that the world is not a 'hopeless' place to live in. They tell us how we can live our Christian life even in the midst of people who profess atheism and materialism. St Acutis lived a life centred around the Eucharist, while St Frassati lived a quiet life serving those in need. May they enliven our hope by focusing our life around the Eucharist and serving those needy people around us. God bless you!



# Carrying Forward Don Bosco's Dream

We are very happy to inform you that we have a new leadership in Rome to govern the entire Salesian world. We have a new Rector Major (General of our congregation) in V. Rev. Fr Fabio Attard, who was elected the 11<sup>th</sup> successor of Don Bosco to lead the Salesian Congregation on March 25, 2025. As the new Rector Major, Fr Fabio will lead a Congregation composed of 13,750 consecrated Salesians, organized in 92 provinces and present in 136 nations. With his deep spirituality, charismatic vision, brilliant academic career and decades of experience, he is fully prepared to animate and govern the Salesian Congregation and the Salesian Family in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Let us pray that the Holy Spirit may continue to guide and direct him in his ministry of animation.



## CALLED TO SERVE

“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.” (Lk 10:2)

Our New Priests for this year come as another blessing from God. They are an assurance that the Lord continues to call those whom He loves “to be with him and to be sent out to preach” (Mark 3:14). They have been assigned to various mission stations to continue the ministry begun by Don Bosco for the poor and marginalized children and youth.

Another blessing that marked our calendar this year was the Ordination of Deacons on 31<sup>st</sup> of March, 2025. We had 16 candidates getting ordained as Deacons in Kristu Jyoti College, our Institute of Theology in Bangalore.

Archbishop Peter Machado in his homily emphasized that humanity is more important than technology. Whatever may the advancement in technology or the use of artificial intelligence in our daily lives be, at the end of the day a child needs the bosom of its mother to lean on, and not some technologically developed machine. In the same way, we cannot also replace a Deacon or a Priest in this present world. The archbishop exhorted the candidates to be men of compassion after the model of St Lawrence of the early church who was compassionate and generous towards the poor and needy.

I thank you for supporting us with your prayers and resources and I request you to continue to pray for more vocations to serve in the vineyard of the Lord.



New Priests of our Mission



The young men who said YES to Jesus and NO to the world by their First Profession. They are just beginning their journey and they need our prayers



Newly Ordained Deacons with the Archbishop and Concelebrating Priests



Our Seminarians who committed themselves totally to serving Jesus in the Salesian Congregation by their Perpetual Profession

## NORBERT ANTONY: THE BOY WHO CONQUERED THE TRACKS

Growing up in a tiny fishing village in Kollam, Kerala, little did Norbert, a miserable young lad, realize that his life would change for the better when he was admitted to Don Bosco Sneha Bhavan in 2005. Coming from a family of 6 children, life was difficult until he found safety and security at the Don Bosco Home. This place instilled in him a sense of discipline, and he began to develop his social skills. He was given the opportunity to continue his schooling and then went on to do his engineering in Pondicherry University. Excelling in his academics, he earned a scholarship to do his Masters in International Transportation and Energy in France. Pocketing a fine job with the Alstom company, Norbert now travels all over Europe as a test engineer and plays an important role in modernizing fleets of high-speed bullet trains. He lives in Germany in his own house. He has built a home for his ancestral family in Kollam. He is ever grateful to Don Bosco Sneha Bhavan, which he refers to as “a home away from home.”

## DILEEP KUMAR: CRAFTING CULINARY DREAMS

The eldest of 4 children, Dileep Kumar had to step up after his mother abandoned them, and his father had committed suicide. He did all he could to support his younger siblings, until his sisters were adopted by a convent and his brother joined Don Bosco Sneha Bhavan. As for himself, he joined Bosco Nivas, where he was trained to face the future. A few years later, he moved into Sneha Bhavan, where he met Fr Stephen Mukkattil, who noticed Dileep’s potential. He found him a job in the Taj Hotels as a janitor. He worked hard for 10 years, while he was training himself to become a chef. With hard work and dedication, he now works as a Chef at the prestigious institution, never forgetting for a moment, his journey from hardship to one of success. With the timely intervention of the Don Bosco Mission, he found his way to scale the ladder of success and a dignified future. Today, Dileep is happily married and his children are well settled in Canada and Australia. He is an inspiration to the children of the Don Bosco Homes, with whom he shares this message: “Defeat prepares you for success. Keep trying until you succeed.”

## JETTILDA: THE ANGEL IN SCRUBS

Jettilda has a simple yet profound message to the world, reflecting her journey: “If you study, pray and treat everyone kindly, you can overcome anything in life.” Her life is a testimony to this statement.

Jettilda finds it incredulous when she thinks of how in despair, she, her mother and her sister just “existed” once upon a time. Her father, who died earlier, and her mother being unemployed, they couldn’t afford the basic necessities of life. With the help of a teacher she was brought to Valsalya Bhavan (Don Bosco home for Girls in distress). She then pursued her education with much diligence and she earned a diploma in Nursing and Midwifery. She then found a job in a hospital and further moved on to Oman where she has been ever since. Now she “lives” her life that reflects resilience, fortitude and determination. She feels that it is the discipline instilled in her at Valsalya Bhavan that kept her in good stead to face the challenges in life.

(\*We have withheld the photos in order to respect the privacy of the individuals.)



Visit of Datuk Seri Victor Paul (Malaysia) and his son Linton to our Bosco home in Bangalore



Visit of Preethi (USA) and her family to our Bosco home in Bangalore. The girl children in our Bosco home are being trained in knitting and embroidery during their vacation

# PROJECTS REALIZED

Education is the key to the integral development of the human person. Don Bosco Mission Bangalore has been able to reach out to the most deserving of people, especially in the state of Karnataka. We were able to launch new schools and boarding houses to the deprived sections of society.

**Hospet:** It is with a certain sense of gratitude and satisfaction that I announce to you the completion of two projects that I had mentioned in the newsletters of previous years. We have managed to complete the school in our mission station at Hospet. The work began in 2022, and some of you generously contributed towards the completion of this project. We have now more than 1200 children studying in our school. We will be able to accommodate more children in this school in the future.



**Prakashpalya:** Another project that saw its light of day was the completion of the dormitory block and toilets for our children in Prakashpalya. To those who generously contributed to the realization of this project, I extend my heartfelt gratitude and assurance of prayers.



**Rajanahalli (Hassan):** By blessing and inaugurating the new primary block for the school at Rajanahalli, the Bangalore mission has become a trendsetter to bring education to the doorsteps of the people of Rajanahalli, a remote village in Karnataka state of India. It brings a sigh of relief to the people of this village that their children do not have to travel distances for their schooling.



**Thiruvananthapuram:** The Bangalore Mission has never left a stone unturned when it came to the empowerment of women. What better way to make a woman financially independent, than to teach her a skill! You teach her a skill and she makes a kill! The tailoring course for the women was intended for this. Not only did the women learn the art of tailoring, including designing and stitching of apparels for children and women, they also learnt soft skills to live a meaningful social experience.



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