

INM-KMJ-CIR 17/07-2018

JULY 2018

St. Thomas the Apostle and our Call to Faith

My dear Confreres,

Affectionate greetings from the Provincial House! We have just celebrated the feast of the Apostle Thomas, patron of our Province. The feast gives us an opportunity to make a reflection on the figure and character of the apostle, who not only brought the faith to our land twenty centuries ago, but also shed his blood in defence of it in this very city which is rightly known as the city of St. Thomas (San Thome). It is in Chennai that St Thomas spent his last years; here he lived, here he worked, and here he evangelized. We are privileged to have him as the patron of our Province.

Among all the apostles, Thomas is the only one who dared to cross the frontiers of the ancient Roman Empire for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus. His hallowed tomb in the beautiful crypt of San Thome Cathedral basilica is a constant reminder to us of Chennai's and our Province's apostolic link. St. John Chrysostom, as early as the 4th century, said of Thomas's mission in India that while "he would hardly venture to go with Jesus as far as the neighbouring town of Bethany, after the Pentecost, he would travel without Him to implant the Faith in faraway India where, even to this day, the faithful call themselves St. Thomas Christians."

Though St. Thomas appears in the Gospel of Matthew (10:3), Mark (3:18), and Luke (6:15) and the Acts (1:13), it is in the Gospel of John that his personality comes to its full stature. John the Evangelist in chapter 20 of his Gospel gives a graphic presentation of the mental struggle that this apostle went through before making his final declaration of faith in the Risen Lord. It is a great lesson for people of all generations, but particularly those of our times, who are often assailed by questions and doubts about faith.

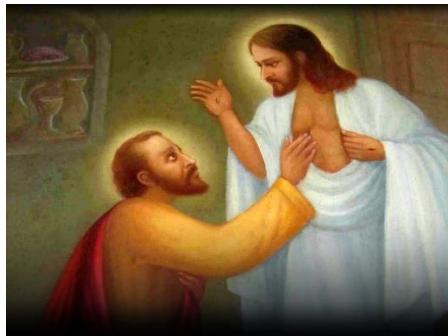
Thomas, a thoroughly Loyal Disciple

When the news of the death of Lazarus reached Jesus and Jesus wanted to go to Bethany, Thomas said to his fellow-disciples, "Let us also go that we may die with him" (Jn 11:16). Thomas was aware of the tremendous opposition Jesus would face in Jerusalem. Yet he suggested that they might all die together in the Holy City. Whatever else may be said of Thomas, it must be admitted that quicker than all the others, he recognised the death that was in store for Jesus, though he was the last to recognise the Resurrection. If Jesus desired to have Himself killed, Thomas was willing to be killed with Him. If the only way of continuing to be with the Master was to die with him, Thomas was willing to do that. There can

never be any doubt that he loved Jesus. He loved him enough to be willing to go to Jerusalem and die with him when the other disciples were hesitant and afraid.

Thomas, a Determined Seeker of Truth

In his farewell discourse, when Jesus was trying to console his disciples saying, “Do not let your heart be troubled... I go to prepare a place for you.... And you know the way where I am going,” Thomas protested with a sense of impatience and somewhat rudely, “Lord we do not know where you are going: how can we know the way” (John 14:5). This elicited from Jesus one of the most memorable and most-quoted and theologically rich lines in the Gospels: **“I am the Way the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6).**



Thomas, the Doubting Apostle

Absent at the first appearance of the risen Lord to the disciples, Thomas could not accept their evidence. He refused to trust the testimony of his fellow-apostles who had seen the risen Christ with their own eyes. He demanded a tangible proof. "Unless I see the mark of the nails in His hands and put my finger into the nail marks, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe" (John 20:25). Thomas did not say he would not believe, but that he was unable to believe until he had some solid proof.

A week later, he was present in the house with the rest when Jesus appeared. Jesus challenged Thomas to carry out his test. “Put your finger here; see my hands, reach your hand here and put it into my side” (John 20:27). Did Thomas really carry out the crude test he planned to do? Most likely he did not. One fleeting gaze at the wounded hands and side in the transfigured body of his Master was enough to melt his heart and banish his doubts. In that one burning instant, Thomas gathered up all the doubts of a depressed humanity to have them healed in that one great and spontaneous profession of his faith **“My Lord and my God”** (John 20:28). Thomas, who was the last to believe, thus became the first to make a full confession of the Divinity of the Risen Lord.

Yet there was something lacking in Thomas. The Master in fact told him, or rather reproached him, “Doubt no longer, but believe (Jn 20:27), and uttered what is truly the ninth Beatitude of the Gospels, **“Happy are they who never see and yet believe”** (John 20:29). Here Jesus tells us that there is a bigger faith than that which is arrived at after seeing proofs. It is the faith that dispenses with all tangible proofs and visible evidences, a faith that believes heroically even when there is no obvious and immediate confirmation.

Thomas probably thought he was doing the right thing in demanding the full evidence of tangible and visible proofs. Obviously, he was not so correct in that, because if it were so, what would happen to future generations of believers? Could they demand the same evidence? The Lord’s reproach to Thomas implied that future generations must accept the fact of the resurrection on the assurance of those who had been with Him. They would have to believe without seeing and touching, reverently accepting the testimony of the apostles in the Scriptures.

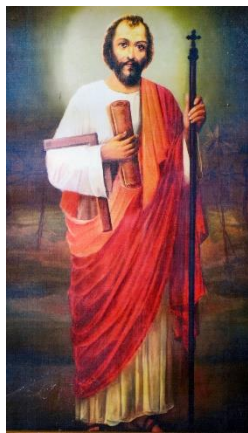
The Doubter's Virtues

Thomas was called Didymus, meaning "twin". Commenting on this, Venerable Archbishop Fulton Sheen remarks that Thomas was a twin in another sense too, for in him lived side by side unbelief and faith, each contending for mastery. There was faith, because he believed it was better to die with the Lord than to forsake Him; there was unbelief, for he refused to accept the testimony of his own fellow-apostles. Therefore he is nicknamed "doubting Thomas," but the Gospel shows he was a courageous man, willing to stand by Jesus in dangerous times. He also relentlessly sought the Truth.

He had two great virtues: First, he absolutely refused to say that he understood what he did not understand, or that he believed what he did not believe. There was an uncompromising honesty about him. He would never still his doubts by pretending that they did not exist. He was not the kind of man who would rattle off a creed without understanding what it was all about. Thomas had to be sure – and he was quite right. Indeed, as Tennyson wrote: "There lives more faith in honest doubt than in half the creeds." There is more faith in the man who insists on being sure than in the man who blindly repeats things which he has never thought out, and which he may not really believe.

Thomas's other great virtue was that, when he was sure, he was ready to go the whole way. There was no halfway house in his approach to problems. He was not airing his doubts just for the sake of mental acrobatics; he doubted in order to become sure; and when he did, his surrender to truth was complete. When one fights his way through his doubts to the conviction that Jesus Christ is Lord he attains to a certainty of faith that can never be reached by someone else who unthinkingly accepts things. Thus, for St Thomas, doubt was a path to greater clarity and conviction. Indeed, as an ancient Zen saying goes, "Great doubt: great awakening. Little doubt: little awakening. No doubt: no awakening."

Essentially Thomas was a valiant soul, loyal to Christ, in spite of all his doubts. Thomas may have been slow in believing. But after meeting the Lord face to face, he was a changed man. He leaped ahead of all the rest and reached the full truth.



From Doubting to Believing

Throughout our life, the struggle to make sense of the ups and downs of our existence is often played out in our interior conflicts between faith and doubt. In fact, in this world, faith is always subject to temptations of disbelief. These temptations may arise in the midst of crises which leave our hearts with a profound sense of darkness and abandonment. Great spiritual masters like St. John of the Cross and St. Teresa of Avila both experienced deep struggles with their life of faith which they described as the "dark night of the soul". Even St. Therese of the Child Jesus experienced this turmoil: "Her soul was enveloped in thick darkness, and her temptations against Faith, ever conquered but ever returning, were there to rob her of all feeling of happiness...by this trial, the Divine Master wished to put the finishing touches to her purification." (*Story of A Soul*, Epilogue).

Closer to home, Mother Teresa of Kolkata too had similar experiences for long years. She once wrote to Archbishop P erier of Kolkata, at the beginning of her work, "There is such terrible darkness within me, as if everything was dead. It has been like this more or less from the time I started the work." She suffered darkness deeply: "In my heart there is no faith—no love—no trust—there is so much pain—the pain of longing, the pain of not being wanted. I want God with all the powers of my soul, and yet there between

us, is a terrible separation. I don't pray any longer." Yet even with this darkness, Mother Teresa lived an apparently joyful exterior life, dedicated to her many works, just believing that God knows best.

INM PC 2019

A Vision for our INM Youth Ministry

Our Rector Major has convoked the General Chapter 28 with the theme: "What kind of Salesians for the youth of today?" He has divided this theme into three points:



1. Priority of the Salesian mission among today's youth
2. Profile of the Salesian for today's youth
3. Together with lay people in the mission and in formation.

"As Jesus with the disciples of Emmaus, so the Church must become today the travelling companion of young people." St. John Paul II on World Youth Day 1995. As a Church, we are asked to travel with today's young people. The process of youth ministry is described within the Gospel story of Jesus walking with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. We meet youth in the midst of their questions. We walk with them and present the fulness of the faith. We stay with them. Together we break the bread and experience Jesus in our midst. Transformed by His presence, we walk with youth as they journey to the upper room and spread the message of their experience of the risen Christ.

To be Church with young people means that we help youth to fully participate in the community that is gathered in Christ's name. We evangelize youth and share the Good News with them in the context of their life and relationships. We catechize youth and help them grow in active faith. We include youth in worship and sacraments. We empower youth to minister to others and witness to their faith.

"What is needed today is a Church which knows how to respond to the expectations of young people. Jesus wants to enter into dialogue with them and, through his body which is the Church, to propose the possibility of a choice which will require a commitment of their lives." (St. John Paul II at World Youth Day 1995.

When Jesus encountered someone in need, he did not see them only as someone needy. He healed them, fed them, transformed their life, and challenged them to join healing, feeding, and transforming others for the Kingdom of God. We see in youth not just their needs but also the incredible gifts they have to share with the community. Thus we can define youth ministry as: "Youth ministry is the response of the Christian community to the needs of young people, and the sharing of the unique gifts of youth with the larger community."

To live out this definition, we need to know young people and become aware of their needs so that we can help our community reach out and respond. We also need to learn the gifts of youth and work to make room for young people throughout the life of our parish by including them in leadership committees, ministries and opportunities to be involved in service and advocacy. There is a beautiful mutuality described in this relationship between youth and the community. The community has resources to offer

young people; youth have gifts that our communities need today. Some of these gifts such as enthusiasm, creativity, new ideas and hospitality are exactly the gifts needed by our communities so that we can truly become vibrant signs of God's love in our community. As the Church strives to be the sacrament of Christ's presence in the world, young disciples join with adults in this witness of love.

The dream of our Rector Major is that the world all over, on hearing the word Salesians of Don Bosco, must speak about us as consecrated persons, who always and in every place or situation opt for the young, the boys and girls who are the poorest, the vulnerable, those deprived of their dignity, because they need us and are waiting for us.

Fr. L. Don Bosco, our Vice-Provincial who is also the Moderator of the Chapter has designed with the Provincial Council and the core team the entire process of the Provincial Chapter. The first phase of the Chapter is to disseminate the "Acts of the General Council No. 247" in the four regions of Pondicherry, Tirupattur, Vellore and Chennai. This will definitely evoke in us the urgency to cast a wide net, go deep, make it personal and put out our oars in the water going the same direction of listening and accompanying the young people to lead them ultimately to God.



INM PC 2019 & THE SYNOD

The Theme of the Synod to be held in October 2018: **Young people, Faith and Vocational Discernment**, also emphasizes the need of the Church to focus on accompanying the young. In the teachings of over three decades of Catholic Youth ministry, we see this essential pattern for ministry with young people:

- a) Provide an encounter with Christ and support youth in their "yes" to the invitation to the adventure of discipleship. This encounter and invitation strengthen the ways that God has walked with young people and their families through childhood and prepares youth for the questions, challenges, and opportunities of adult faithful living. We support youth and their families along this distinctive path their journey takes during the adolescent years.
- b) As Salesians called to give priority to mission among today's youth, we are challenged to be faithful in our part of facilitating God's encounter and communicating God's encounter. This invitation will take the full breadth of our commitment and resources.
- c) We need to cast a wide net. Our Rector Major would tell us that we need to reach out to the really poor and the "cast offs" in the world, child migrants, refugees who have arrived alone in foreign countries, street boys and girls, children and young people whose human rights and dignity are violated every day, young people caught up in various forms of dependence etc. Our mission is vast and so we need to have a wide net.
- d) We need to go deep. The consistent messages to young people by St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and now Pope Francis at World Youth Days have been about challenge and going beyond the expectations of popular culture. Youth are hungry for the challenge of discipleship. They long to experience an invitation that is bold and big enough for their life's dreams and visions. Our efforts in youth ministry should feed that hunger and help youth to grow deeply in their faith. Pope

Francis would say: “We have created a “throw away” culture which is now spreading. It is no longer about exploitation and oppression but the outcasts, the “leftovers”.

- e) We need to make it personal. Youth long to experience God in a personal way and to feel personally invited and connected to the faith community. To be personal does not mean that we organize ministries around our personality. Making it personal means that, as a community, we strive to make a personal connection with youth as we help them know Jesus in a variety of ways.
- f) We need to put all of our oars in the water, going the same direction. Effective youth ministry requires the concerted, collaborative, and coordinated efforts of a faith community that longs to become Christ’s love incarnate in the lives of young people today.

INM MEETINGS – JULY 2018

INM JULY 2018		
5	Thu	Education & Culture Commission Meetings
6	Fri	SEPP – TKUNDRAM / SEPP - PAVUNJUR
7	Sat	EPP – PONDY PARISH/ SEPP PONDY BOYS HOME
8	Sun	SEPP – CUDDALORE / SEPP - KARAİKAL / SEPP – THENNANGUDI
9	Mon	SEPP - MARANODAI
10	Tue	SEPP – ST. BEDE’S / SEPP – DB PERAMBUR / St. Anne’s – Madhavaram/Technical Education Commission Meet
11	Wed	SEPP – BROADWAY FX / SEPP – BROADWAY REFUGE /SEPP – BASIN BRIDGE/ Education to Faith Meet / Parish Commission Meet
12	Thu	SEPP – RED HILLS / SEPP – ST. MARY’S / YAR Commission Meet
13	Fri	SEPP– DBYAC ENNORE / Youth Services Meet
14	Sat	SEPP – DBAI KAVARAPETTAI / SEPP – DBTC KAVARAPETTAI/Formation Commission Meet
15	Sun	SEPP – RINALDI SIGA / SEPP – CITADEL / INM PC2019 Preparatory Commission Meet 2 Inauguration of Platinum Jubilee – Broadway Refuge/ Social Ministry Commission Meet / Missionary Commission Animation Meet/ Social Experience Commission (Groups & Movements) Meet
16	Mon	SEPP – DB EGMORE / DBYA Meet - Yercaud
17	Tue	DBYA Meet - Yercaud
18	Wed	DBYA Meet – Yercaud / New Rectors Course Begins and Ends on August 1 st / Boarding, Hostel, Orphanages Policy Meet/ GC28 Theme Dissemination Meet – Chennai Region @ Citadel
19	Thu	GC28 Theme Dissemination Meet – Chennai Region @ Citadel
20	Fri	ADMINISTRATORS & LAY ACCOUNTANTS MEETING IN CITADEL / Vocational Guidance Commission Meet
21	Sat	Seminar on Spiritual Direction at Ennore / INM Priestly Ordinations at Broadway at 5.30 p.m.
22	Sun	Seminar on Spiritual Direction at Ennore
23	Mon	Social Communication Commission Meet
24	Tue	Inauguration of DEAL / Religious Discipline Meet
25	Wed	GC 28 Theme Dissemination – Pondy Region @ Thattanchavady
26	Thu	GC 28 Theme Dissemination – Vellore Region @ St. Joseph’s Katpadi
27	Fri	Young Priests Meet/ GC 28 Theme Dissemination – Tirupattur Region @ DB, TPT
28	Sat	INM DBYA Meet/Southern Region Social Experience Meet/Pre-Synod Meet Province level Programme: Pre-Synod – Ennore – In-Charge: Dy. YMC/ Deepagam
29	Sun	INM DBYA Meet/Southern Region Social Experience Meet/Pre-Synod Meet Province level Programme: Pre-Synod – Ennore – In-Charge: Dy. YMC/ Deepagam
30	Mon	Southern Region Social Experience Meet/Pre-Synod Meet
31	Tue	Don Bosco Green Alliance Seminar – Social Sector

INM ORDINATIONS July-August 2018

This month and the next will witness four more newly ordained priests! We are indeed very blessed and immensely grateful to the Lord for the gift of priestly vocations to our Congregations. Let us congratulate and pray for these confreres as they prepare themselves to be HIS servants and surrender themselves totally at HIS service. Let us try to be present in person and bless these young men as they begin their priestly ministry.

21 st July 2018	Ashwanth Amalraj	St. Francis Xavier's Church, Broadway at 5.30 p.m.
21 st July 2018	Martin Raj Arokiasamy	St. Francis Xavier's Church, Broadway at 5.30 p.m.
4 th August 2018	Gnana Pragash	Our Lady of Fatima Church, Virudachalam at 5.30 p.m.
10 th August 2018	Manuel Amalan Thirukudumbam	St. Joseph's Church, Kootapuly at 5.30 p.m.

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE

REPORT OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9th June 2018

The meeting of all the INM Rectors, Leaders, Headmasters, Principals and Administrators was held on 9th June 2018 in Citadel. Most of the confreres attended this combined gathering at the start of the new academic year. Fr. Provincial initiated the day's work with a short prayer session, during which he also remembered the departed Salesians, Fr. Basil and Fr. Vettom. In his introductory session, Fr. Provincial expounded the themes of Communion, Communication, Co-responsibility, Service of Authority, Faith and Prayer. He said that each community should learn to love and live together. The Vice-Provincial then introduced the various Dimensions and Sectors of the Youth Pastoral Ministry Team and their plans for the academic year. This was followed by a meaningful and interactive discussion on the Roles and functions of the various portfolios and how they could serve to become links and not locks for the common mission. The Economist then presented the financial situation of the Province in general and with details of each community in particular. After lunch, the Vice Provincial presented the Annual Plan for 2018-19, took suggestions for INM PC 2019 sub themes and animated discussions on other relevant issues. After tea, as a fitting conclusion of the day, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated together, presided over by the Provincial, at the end of which the Province was once again consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in commemoration of the event which occurred 50 years ago in Sacred Heart, Tirupattur by the then Provincial Fr. Joseph Carreno.



INM PROVINCE FEAST & JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS ON 03.07.2018

It was a very cool and fresh morning on the 3rd of July 2018 after the heavy showers of blessings! The campus of Don Bosco, Katpadi, was festively decorated and all ready to host the INM Province Patron, St. Thomas Feast Day together with the 2017-18 Jubilee celebrations of 9 our confreres. The Don Bosco Hall was under renovation the last two weeks in view of the Jubilee celebration. At 9 a.m. the Provincial, Rev. Fr. K.M. Jose SDB, blessed the hall, in the

presence of the Rector Rev. Fr. Michael V. and the Salesian community members.

At 9.30 a.m. we witnessed a solemn entrance procession of about 100 priests, the nine Jubilarians, accompanied also by the Bishop Most Rev. Dr. Soundaraj Perianayagam D.D., who preferred to remain inconspicuous by joining just as a concelebrant. The school band and the Scouts provided the pomp and show at the start of this beautiful day. The Introduction for the Eucharist was done by the Provincial

himself. Fr. Vincent Durairaj, a former Provincial of INM, presided over the Eucharist. Fr. Maria Selvam Rayappan gave a very brief but inspiring homily. The students of Don Bosco Theological Centre Kavrapettai, joined together in a splendid harmony of music and grace as they sang the mass hymns with soul-stirring voices hymns in Tamil and English. The entire liturgy was planned and animated by Rev. Fr. Parthiban, the Director of Deepagam. The hall was full to its capacity of 1000. Religious priests and nuns, relatives and family members of the Jubilarians were present, together with representatives of the Salesian Family.

After the Solemn Eucharistic celebration, the invitees were provided warm refreshments and the Felicitation program commenced at 11.30 a.m. Rev. Bro. Anthonysamy was the Master of Ceremony. The Jubilarians were felicitated with mementoes, gifts and shawls by the Bishop, the SDB Provincial and the FMA Provincial who was also present for the Eucharist. Fr. A.M. Mathew and Fr. Charles Stephen felicitated them on behalf of the INM confreres. Bro. Meril Rodrigo and Fr. Joy Panackel thanked the gathering on behalf of the Jubilarians. Cultural performances by Don Bosco School, Katpadi and DBTC, together with an audio-visual presentation by DBICA, made the entire program, entertaining and meaningful. Special INM awards 2018 for outstanding personalities in the Social Sector, Scout Movement and Salesian Cooperators. Special thanks to the Rector, the Salesians, Staff, workers and students of Don Bosco, Katpadi, for organizing the Province Feast day celebration. My sincere thanks to Fr. Don Bosco, the Vice Provincial, who coordinated and controlled the day's program, together with Fr. Xavier Packia, the Economist, who saw to the financial details.

Ongoing Formation Courses in Don Bosco Renewal Centre, Bangalore

Given below are the meetings relevant for our INM confreres:

July 18th to August 1st 2018 – Course for the Salesian Rectors.

Fr. Paul Mark, Rector of Polur ITI, will attend.

September 12th to September 25th 2018 – Renewal Course for Silver Jubilee of Profession

Our Silver Jubilarians 2018-19, Frs. Abraham Robert, Arulraj Joseph, Nicholas Saul, Rathinasamy Kirubakaran, Susai Arokiadoss and Mudiappan David will attend.

CONGRATULATIONS

SILVER JUBILEE OF EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

The Silver Jubilee of the Episcopal Ordination of Most Rev. Dr. A.M. Chinappa, SDB., DD., Former Bishop of Vellore and Archbishop Emeritus of Madras-Mylapore was held on Friday 20th June 2018 at Assumption Cathedral at 5.30 p.m. The evening witnessed a solemn thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration presided over by the veteran Patriarch himself, with many religious and diocesan priests, Bishops and numerous faithful in attendance. The Provincial and Vice Provincial, together with many of our Salesians were also present to pray and thank the Almighty for our dear Pastor. Bishop Chinappa expressed his sincere gratitude to thank each and every one of you for the prayers offered for him and his intentions.

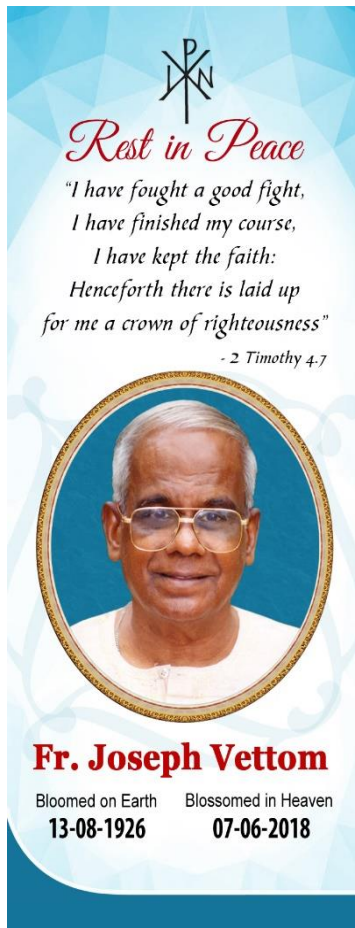
REV. FR. JOSE KURUVACHIRA - NEW PROVINCIAL OF DIMAPUR

On behalf of the Province, I extend our hearty congratulations to Fr. Jose Kuruvachira, the newly appointed Provincial of Dimapur and assure him of our prayerful support. He becomes the 7th Provincial of the Province of Dimapur. He has been serving at the Salesian Pontifical University (UPS) in Rome since

2010 in the Faculty of Philosophy as professor of Indian Philosophy and Eastern Religions. He succeeds Fr. Nestor Guria who lays down his office in August 2018, after six years of service.

TO THE BISHOP ELECT - Fr. Dennis Panipitchai SDB

On 8th June 2018, Pope Francis appointed Rev. Fr. Dennis Panipitchai SDB as the Auxiliary Bishop of Miao Diocese. We congratulate him on behalf of the Province and assure him of our prayers. Rev. Fr. Dennis Panipitchai, SDB, was born in Colachel, in the Diocese of Kottar (Tamil Nadu), on 27th July 1958. Fr. Dennis is currently the Salesian Novice Master in Kohima, Nagaland. The Episcopal Ordination of the Auxiliary Bishop-elect will be held on 2nd August 2018 at Mary Help of Christians Church, Borduria, Arunachal Pradesh.

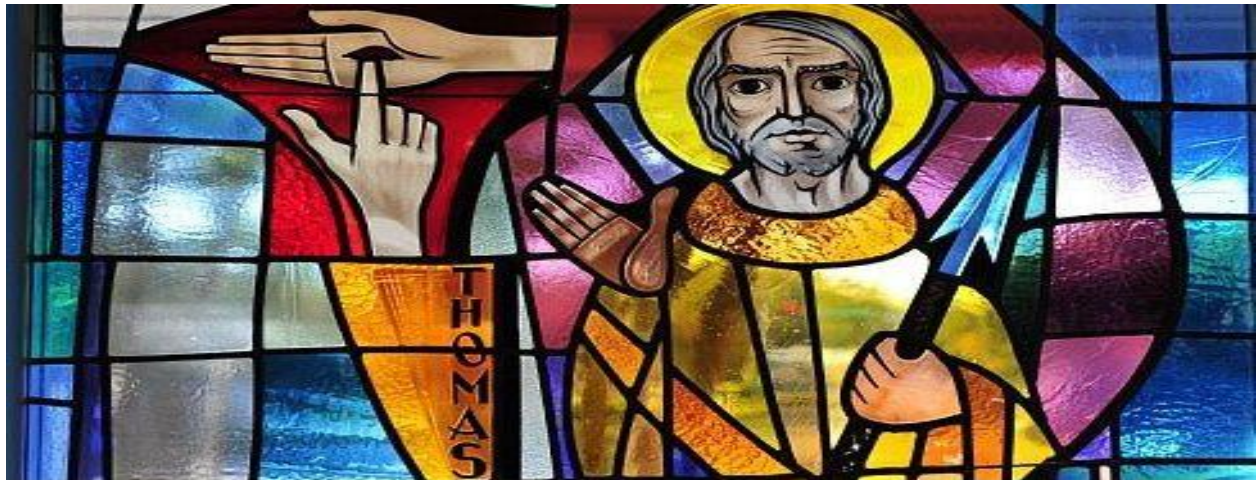


RIP - FR. JOSEPH VETOM SDB

He was born on 13 August 1926, to Mr. Mani Kuruvilla and Mrs. Anna, at Palai, in the Diocese of Meenachi, Kerala and entered the Salesian aspirantate at Tirupattur in Salesian House 1946. He did his Novitiate at Mount Don Bosco, Kotagiri, and made his first profession on 24 May 1950. He was ordained a priest on 28th June 1959 at Malawi, Shillong. The first years of his priesthood was in Sacro Cuore - Rome, Italy Student 1960 - 1963). The rest of his pastoral years were in:

Sacred Heart Seminary - Poonamallee, Madras Teacher (1963 - 1964).
The Retreat - Yercaud Teacher (1964 - 1966).
Sacred Heart Seminary - Poonamallee, Madras Teacher (1966 - 1971).
DB Beatitudes - Vyasarpadi - Madras Assistant Parish Priest (1971 - 1973).
St. Joseph's Church - Erukanchery, Madras Parish Priest (1978 - 1981).
O.L. of Health - Sastrinagar, Madras Parish Priest (1981 - 1984).
St. Francis Xavier Church - Broadway, Madras Assistant Parish Priest (1984 - 1985).
DB - Navalur Kuttapattu, Tiruchirapalli - In Charge (1985 - 1988).
Don Bosco - Manakkal, Lalgudi Parish Priest (1988 - 1990).
The Retreat -Yercaud Vice-Rector Teacher (1990 - 1991).
Don Bosco - Sagayathottam Confessor Procure Director 1991 - 1998).
DBAI - Kavarapettai Spiritual Director (1998 - 2005).
Don Bosco - Sagayathottam Confessor (2005 - 2012).
DB Wisdom Town - Red Hills, Chennai Confessor (2012-2015).
INK: Kerala-Aluva-Senior Salesian Home (2015-2018).

He was a good Pastor, very kind and affectionate to all whom he met. He suffered silently his physical sickness and always wanted to be considered the least among his confreres. A very simple and humble Salesian who loved Don Bosco till the end of his life. May he rest in eternal peace!



Conclusion: Everything is Possible for the One who Believes

St. James the Apostle has very harsh words for all doubters! He tells us, “The one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed about by the wind” (James 1:6). Obviously, to surrender to disbelief is to abandon one’s faith. But overcoming disbelief is not always achieved at one go. Particularly in the present times, it is a struggle that we have to face day by day. Faith often begins like a tiny seed, and takes root slowly, and becomes strong over time. It is like the “mustard seed” Jesus spoke about. When it was fully grown, it became a large bush and the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches” (Luke 13.19). With time and grace, the works of faith sprout and grow in such a way that they provide shelter for others who are seeking God.

In Mark’s Gospel, in response to the urgent appeal of a father whose son was desperately ill, Jesus said: **“Everything is possible to the one who has faith”** (Mk 9.23). Jesus sets no limits to the power of faith. The man recognized that truth but realized his own faith was too feeble, too weak, too fragile even to deserve the name “faith” and made that wonderful prayer: **“Lord I believe, help my unbelief”** (Mk 9:24). This is a prayer that should rise daily from our hearts, for there is always in us a strange mixture of belief and unbelief. To have faith is to believe that God is in control of everything; that He has the power to change our present reality. It is to trust that He will do what He knows is best for us. The example of the saints beckons us to “persevere in running the race that lies before us while keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus, the leader and perfecter of faith” (Heb 12:1-2). May our patron St. Thomas continue to challenge us to deepen our faith in the Risen Lord and to share that faith with everyone we come across in our life.

Yours truly in Don Bosco,

Fr. K.M. Jose SDB
Provincial

Date: 04.07.2018
Place: Chennai - 600010