

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR



SALESIAN PROVINCE OF HYDERABAD

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Communication ←→ Communion

True communication is Communion - the realization of oneness which is love- Eckhart Tolle.

Dear confreres,

Greetings from Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. I have begun the annual provincial visitations. It has been a grace filled time for me to come to know the confreres a little more and have a deeper understanding of our interventions and mission on behalf of the young. It has been a very fruitful experience and I am delighted to see the amount of good that is being done. Our confreres are hardworking, committed and I am happy to see the revival of some of our presences reaching out to the young.

We become true prophets of fraternity when we are able to live together as brothers creating loving environment in our communities while uniting our efforts in service. In this circular I wish to reflect on one of the essential aspects of our daily life in communities - Communication.

I limit myself to reflect on communication that builds relationships and leads to communion. English terms “communication” and “communion” trace their roots to the Latin words “cum” and “unus,” that call to mind the concept of relationship and unity. Communication understood in this way, becomes essential for us Salesian religious, as we are called to live in fraternal unity. Our Constitutions clearly state, *God calls us to live in community and entrusts us with brothers to love* (C. 50). Our communities are not simply a collection of individuals in search of personal perfection and self-realization. Our Constitutions clearly state the purpose of our coming together: *This is why we come together in communities, where our love for each other leads us to share all we have in a family spirit, and so create communion between person and person. The community is a reflection of the mystery of the Trinity* (C. 49).

Trinity is the perfect harmony between the Father, Son and the Spirit and wrapped in the mystery of the eternal communion, which makes the Three Persons live a single divine life. Through the mystery of incarnation which is the self communication of God, we are invited to participate in this communion. Our fraternal life in communities is an invitation to pre-figure the Trinitarian communion here and now.

Do our communities reflect this perfect communication and communion? We have to be honest and humble enough to accept that our communities need to move towards the ideal envisioned in our constitutions. A lack of or poor communication automatically leads to weakening of fraternity. Though in the midst of confreres, one feels lonely and isolated.

To achieve this ideal, we have no other means except the gift of communication. This is where the upward movement is envisioned: from Communication to Communion. We have to start from the lowest level of communication, that is receiving and sharing information. It is true that we use social media to inform others about events and happenings in our institutes, but sharing of a more personal nature is either absent or sometimes lost. Our communication in communities is most often centered around problems and issues but rarely on the essential aspects of our living together. Communion takes place when there is encounter of two persons, when they see eye to eye and feel the presence of one another in time and space.

We need to move towards creating and building strong relationships within the community, which can only be achieved through a deeper, humble, honest sharing and communication. This in turn will lead to Communion. I strongly believe that most of the problems in our community life would be solved if we trust one another and engage ourselves in an open and deeper interpersonal communication. I hope we truly become prophets of fraternity where unity and love will be the hallmarks of our communities and thus participate in the Trinitarian mystery.

Upcoming Events

Volunteers' Meet

The annual Volunteers' Meet will be held at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad on 19 and 20 October. There are 17 volunteers helping in the three major Navajeevan Centers in our Province. I wish them a fruitful sharing, reflection and discussion about their presence and contribution in these centers. We extend a warm welcome to Mr Johannes and Ms Johanna from Jugend Eine Welt. We wish them a fruitful stay in our province.

Fr Pascual Chavez's Retreat

The Second Annual Retreat of our province will be preached by our former Rector Major Rev. Fr Pascual Chavez. This retreat will also be attended by Confreres from the Panjim and Mumbai Provinces. We cordially welcome our former Rector Major and the confreres of these provinces. Ours is a missionary province. I am sure that this missionary retreat will help us to revive and rejuvenate our missionary spirit.

Rector Majors' Visit and Jubilee Preparations

From 17 to 19 November, we will be having Rev. Fr Angel Fernandez Artime the 10 Successor of Don Bosco amidst us. We are glad that he is visiting us during this Silver Jubilee Year of the birth of our Province. I request all the confreres to actively participate in these important moments.

Information

Bon Voyage to Fr Y. Kalyan Kumar and Br Vincent Castilino

On 19 September Fr Y. Kalyan Kumar left for his ministry in Turin, Italy and Br Vincent Castilino left for London, England on 2 October, 2016 for his studies. We wish these confreres the very best and continue to support them with our prayers.

Salesian Family Delegates' Meet

Our Province hosted the Salesian Family Delegates' meet from 21-23 September. It was animated by Fr Eusebio Munoz, Delegate of the Rector Major for the Salesian Family and his team. It was a grace filled experience and as a concrete response to this meet, we need to revive the dormant Alumni and Cooperators' Units in our province. ADMA (Association of Mary Help of Christians) a pious association could also be initiated in our communities. The main purpose of the association is to promote devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and Mary Help of Christians. We thank Fr Yeruva Joji, the Vice-Provincial for coordinating and organizing this meeting.

Condolences

Br Expedit Lobo of the Province of St Thomas the Apostle (INM), Chennai, entered his eternal rest on 6 September 2016. He was an exemplary brother and some of us carry fond memories of him. We extend our condolences to Fr Jayapalan Raphael the provincial and the confreres of

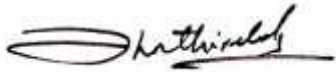
the Chennai Province at the loss of this veteran Salesian. May his soul rest in the peaceful embrace of the Heavenly Father.

Conclusion

Month of the Holy Rosary

We have begun the month of the Holy Rosary, which was so dear to our Father Don Bosco. The mysteries in the life of Christ and Blessed Mother Mary shed light and meaning to the mysteries of our own life. They accompany us in our Joyous, Sorrowful, Luminous and Glorious Moments. During this month let us all strive to be faithful to this Marian devotion and find it as moment of grace to understand God's ways in our daily life.

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr. Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar
Provincial

