

# PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

## SALESIAN PROVINCE OF HYDERABAD



INH/TVB/CIR 11/2016

November 2016

### The Fragrance of Don Bosco

*The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all seeds but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree (Mt 13, 31)*

Dear Confreres,

We are in the Silver Jubilee year of the birth of our Province and this month is significant as we celebrate the Jubilee with the visit of our beloved Rector Major, Rev. Fr Angel Fernandez Arttime the 10<sup>th</sup> successor of Don Bosco. We heartily welcome him to our Province. We need to celebrate and give glory to God for the 25 years of God's compassion and providential love, as well as for our fruitful service in God's vineyard.

These celebrations should be for us moments of introspection and of renewal. As St. John Paul II would say, every religious family should live the Jubilee by returning with purity of heart to the spirit of the Founder. This year should be a Holy Year for us, where we relive with clarity and creativity our fidelity to the Spirit of Don Bosco. I invite you primarily to cherish the memory of the past, which will give us impetus to turn to the future with renewed dynamism.

The seed of the Salesian Spirit was sown in the Telugu soil, in the year 1964. The first group of Salesians lived the *Da Mihi Animas* in a wonderful life filled with pastoral charity. Their fidelity to Don Bosco and the Salesian Spirit has been the cause of the prodigic growth that we still experience. The fragrance of their creative fidelity to the Salesian spirit, spreads throughout our region even now and we are all called to be part of this continuing adventure. I would like to

reflect and trace back the salient features of how this growth has taken place and the lessons that we can learn from it.

The seed that was sown in 1964 at Guntur grew up to be a mighty tree by 1992, when it became a province, bifurcated from the Province of Bangalore. The fragrance of Don Bosco is still afresh amidst us because of the strong foundations laid by the pioneering Salesians, Fr Benjamin Puthota, Fr Abraham Panampara and Br Gabriel Fernandez. Our early Salesians were icons of Salesian Spirituality, hard work, sacrifice and pastoral charity. In the past 25 years, this tree continued to grow and spread its branches, as it reached out to the poor and abandoned. As a Province, our vision has been to educate evangelize and empower. The establishment of schools, technical schools and colleges in remote rural areas clearly defines the predilection that we have for the poor. Our pioneers realized that in this fast changing world, education and skill training are the most influential and important agents of transformation that give dignity, self-respect and foster development.

Don Bosco had a great passion for missions. He sent his sons to bring Christ to the people of Patagonia. Our pioneers driven by the same passion of Don Bosco to preach the Word of God and to make Christ known, plunged into serious mission work and established many Christian communities and even ventured beyond the frontiers to Odisha.

True to the charism of our father and founder, who started his work with the street children of Turin during the wake of the industrial revolution, our Salesians too ventured in to the streets of our cities where the poor and abandoned young were prey to evils both of the body and soul. The YaR sector has grown by leaps and bounds over the years and is a true expression of Don Bosco's predilection for poor and abandoned young people.

Don Bosco in his souvenir to the first missionaries, recommended them to take care of the poor. St. Francis de Sales, was one of the first to believe in the intrinsic worth and dignity of all people. Following both our Patron and our Founder, as a response to the social evils and injustice present in our society, the Salesians began interventions for the social upliftment of the down-trodden classes.

Dear confreres, this tree continues to grow because of the dedication and commitment of each one of us. We are bearers of the legacy of Don Bosco presented to us. It is our turn now to let his light shine and allow the fragrance of Don Bosco to spread, ever more in our Province. Let this celebration of the Jubilee be a moment of gratitude and grace, renewal and reconciliation, that leads to communion and love. Let us live our fraternity joyfully, thus becoming signs and bearers of God's love to young people.

**Hearty Welcome to Rev. Fr Angel Fernandez Artime, 10<sup>th</sup> Successor of Don Bosco.**

Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, the Rector Major will be with us from 16 to 19 November, accompanied by his secretary Fr Horacio Lopez and our Regional, Fr Maria Arokiam. In the person of Fr Angel Fernandez, it is Don Bosco himself who is visiting us. We welcome him whole heartedly and show our affection to him as his dear sons.

These days will be grace filled days for our province and the events planned at different parts of our province will be moments of renewal and revival. I humbly request each confrere to make use of these opportunities, to participate and collaborate in every way possible to make his visit a memorable one. I would like you to specially participate in the interaction with the Rector Major on 19 November, and to have a personal encounter with him.

### **Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Province**

Here is the schedule of the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of the Province.

November 17 at Don Bosco Navajeevan, Ramanthapur.

November 18 at Don Bosco, Guntupally and St. Michael's Boys Home, Guntur.

November 19 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad.

I invite all the confreres and the members of the Salesian family wholeheartedly for these celebrations.

### **Jubilee Celebrations of Confreres**

In the presence of our Rector Major, on 19 November 2016, we have the joy of celebrating the Jubilees of our Confreres. This year we are blessed with two Golden Jubilees of Profession of Br

Chinnabathuni Gregory and Fr Kuthanapallil Sebastian, the Silver Jubilee of Ordination of Fr Androth Jose and Seven Silver Jubilees of Profession, of Fr Barigala Arockia Nathan, Fr Bellamkonda Sudhakar, Fr Madanu Rayappa, Fr Nali Anthaiah, Br Poonamkavil Biju Joseph, Fr Remalla Thomas and Fr Valiyakattel Benny. As we honour these confreres, we express our gratitude to them for their commitment, life and example.

## **Information**

### **Inauguration of Chapel at D.V.C. Colony, Ponnur**

On 7 October 2016, the newly constructed Chapel at D.V.C. Colony, Ponnur was blessed and inaugurated. We congratulate and thank Fr Raminedi Balaraju and Fr Alex Jayaraju for their zeal and enthusiasm in the mission. We also thank wholeheartedly our beloved benefactors for their generosity.

### **Collaboration with the Sisters of St. Anne, Phirangipuram**

On 11 October 2016 on the occasion of the International girl child day, we officially started our collaboration with the Sisters of St. Anne, Phirangipuram at Hayatnagar. We whole heartedly thank Mother Anothamma, the Superior General, Sr Ignatius Suman, the provincial of the Hyderabad Province for accepting our invitation and collaborating with us in this mission that caters to the upliftment of poor and abandoned girls (Don Bosco Prem Seva Sadan). We appreciate and thank Fr. Bellamkonda Sudhakar and the whole community for their commitment in the development of this centre for girls and for all their efforts in taking care of the young at risk in Hyderabad.

### **Inauguration of Hostel Building at Nalgonda**

On 20 October 2016, we had the blessing and inauguration of the Boys Hostel building at Don Bosco Academy Nalagonda. I would like to thank Fr Gopu Anand, Fr Vatti Balashowry and the community for the successful execution of this project. May God bless our dear benefactors, whose sacrifices help us to serve the poor youth.

## **Volunteers Meet**

On 19 and 20 of October, we organized a meeting for all the volunteers working in our Province. In all 16 Volunteers attended the meeting. It was an opportunity for them to come together to interact and share their experiences. We appreciate the presence of Mr Johannes and Ms Johanna the coordinators of the volunteers from Austria.

## **Missionary retreat preached by Fr Pascual Chavez for INB, INP and INH**

During the year of the Silver Jubilee of our Province we are also blessed to have Fr Pascual Chavez, the 9<sup>th</sup> successor of Don Bosco with us. He has animated the retreat from 31 October to 5 November. The Confreres from the Provinces of Mumbai, Panjim and Hyderabad participated. It was an added blessing for us as Fr Guillermo Basanes, the General Councillor for missions along with his team Fr Alfred Maravilla and Fr Martin Lasarte chose to join this retreat. We thank all of them for their presence and the blessings that we receive because of their presence.

## **Incardination of Fr Arikotlapu Vidya Sagar and Fr Nagothu Anthony Bala Kishore**

Fr Arikotlapu Vidya Sagar, has been incardinated into the Diocese of Grand Island, USA, by Bishop Joseph G. Hanefeldt and Fr Nagothu Anthony Balakishore has been incardinated into the Diocese of Ballarat, Australia, by Bishop Paul Bird CSsR. We wish both of them fruitful ministry in these dioceses. They have expressed their gratitude to the Province for all the support received.

## **Salesian Provincial's Course**

I will be leaving on 24th of this month for the Salesian Provincial's Course in Rome. I will be also visiting our confreres in Europe and some of our funding agencies. I will be returning to the Province on 28 December. In my absence Fr. Yeruva Joji the Vice Provincial will be in charge of the Province (Const. 168).

## **Diaconate Ministries**

As the four deacons of our Province, will be preparing for the Ordinations, they will also be doing their diaconate ministries in our Province. The following are their assignments

Dc. Aduri Chinnababu -St Anthony's Industrial Institute, Kadapa.

Dc. Mallavarapu Anil - Don Bosco Mission, PT Parru.

Dc. Salibindla Sandeep Innareddy - Don Bosco Academy, Nalgonda.

Dc. Gorumuchu Christuraju - Bosco Ashram, Ponnur.

We wish them all the best for their ministry and also promise them our prayerful support for the immediate preparation towards their ordinations and this vital step that they are taking towards being closer to Christ as his ministers.

## **Condolences**

Mrs Barland Mary, the mother of Fr P. Arul Das, passed to her eternal life on 27 October. We offer our condolences and prayerful support to Fr Arul and his family. May her soul rest in the joyful abode of the Father.

Mrs Mariamma Thomas, the elder sister of Fr James Kudiyirippil, has gone to her eternal reward on 30 October. We extend our condolences to Fr James and his family members. We assure them of our constant prayers and support. May her soul rest in peace.

## **Conclusion**

During this month of November we are called to offer special prayers for our dear departed. The Church commemorates all her faithful children who have departed from this life. It is the understanding of the Church that the souls in purgatory cannot help themselves, but can attain the joys of Heaven only through the help of others—through the intercessory prayers and sacrifices (*suffragia*) offered by us, the members of Christ's Body who are still in this world. Let us offer our prayers and sacrifices for the souls in purgatory especially those abandoned or forgotten.

As we celebrate the Jubilee of our Province, let us call to our minds the Salesians who have gone to their eternal rest after living out the charism of Don Bosco in our land. We need to pay a loving tribute to our pioneers, Fr Puthota Benjamin, Br Gabriel Fernandez and Fr Panampara Abraham and other exemplary Salesians, Br James Thuruthel, Fr John Varicatt, Fr John Lens, Fr Chinappa Thomas and Fr Monnanapallil Jacob for their contribution for the birth and growth of our Province. They have lived heroic lives of sanctity and their memory reminds us of our journey towards holiness of life.

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr. Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar

Provincial



### Saints of the month

#### **Blessed Maddalena Catherina Morano 15 November (1847 - 1908)**

She was born in Chieri (Turin) on November 15, 1847. Her father died when she was eight. She started helping her mother from that age. Her whole life was to be spent teaching, especially after her graduation as an elementary school teacher. Over a period of 30 years, she built up a rich experience in teaching and catechetics. Inspired by Don Bosco, in 1879 she became a Daughter of Mary Help of Christians, thereby fulfilling a desire of consecration that dated back to her First Communion. She asked the Lord for the grace “to stay alive until she reached a real level of holiness.” She was sent to Sicily in 1881, and there began a fruitful educational work among the girls and young women of the working classes. With “one eye on the ground and ten on Heaven,” she opened schools, youth centers, hostels and workshops all over the island. Appointed provincial, she assumed responsibility for the formation of the many new vocations who were attracted by her zeal and the community atmosphere that she created around her. Her widespread apostolate was appreciated and encouraged by the bishops, who entrusted their catechetical ministry to her overall responsibility. Affected by a tumor, Sr. Morano died on

March 26, 1908, in Catania. She lived totally consistent with her commitment, always with the aim of “never blocking the action of grace by giving into personal selfishness.”

Blessed Morano is an eminent model of authentic Salesian life, which began with personal contact with Don Bosco. She was the bearer of a special apostolic spirituality, in the style of her union with God, the spirit of initiative, hard work, and generosity of vision.

### **Mamma Margaret - 25 November (1788 - 1856)**

Margaret Occhiena, the mother of Don Bosco was the first educator and teacher of pedagogy for Don Bosco. St. John Paul II said, “Everyone knows what importance Mamma Margaret had in the life of Saint John Bosco. Not only did she give the oratory of Valdocco that characteristic family spirit that still exists today, but she was able to mould the heart of her young son John into that goodness and kindness which was to make him a friend and father of his poor boys.”

The 68 years of Mamma Margaret's life from 1 April 1788 to 25 November 1856 were lived in a turbulent era of revolutions. Her naturally strong character had occasion to be strengthened yet further: this ‘valiant woman’ had also to cope with a series of tragic events. She was born during the French Revolution. As a child she saw her country invaded by Napoleon's troops and become a French province for many years, plundered by the foreign armies, ravaged by conscription and expropriation: a country that even saw a Pope taken into exile and eventually freed. At 29 years of age she was a widow and had to cope with periods of insecurity and want; she had three sons to care for in a time of political and social instability. This was the time when the Kingdom of Sardinia, restored in 1815, was continually plagued by the depredations of rebellious and liberal activists (1821 and 1830-31). In Turin, with her son John, now a priest, she lived through the anxieties of the revolutions and wars of 1848-1849, suffered the terror of threats to her son's life, and experienced the tragedy of an entire whole city wilting under the cholera epidemic of 1854. This humble woman certainly had her full share of trials - but never gave into discouragement. Margherita's wisdom and goodness became the model for the "preventive system" that was the basis of Don Bosco's educational approach. Throughout her life, Margherita put God first and she was an example of a life of poverty, prayer and sacrifice.