

# PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

## SALESIAN PROVINCE OF HYDERABAD



INH/TVB/CIR 05/2016

May 2016

### Mary, Mother of Mercy

Dear Confreres,

Greetings from Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. We are well into the month of May, a month dedicated to our Blessed Mother. In this year of 'Mercy' we are invited to contemplate God as our 'Merciful Father'. Jesus is the sign of the immeasurable Mercy of the Father. The primary purpose of the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy is to experience the abundant Mercy of God towards each one of us and to BE Merciful ourselves towards our neighbours.

*Bonum est diffusivum sui* - Goodness, by its very nature, is self-diffusive said St Thomas Aquinas. The unconditional mercy of God has this quality per se, and the greatest recipient of this mercy of God is the person closest to him, Mother Mary. As the greatest recipient of this Mercy she also in turn becomes the Mother of Mercy.

God's mercy is a concrete manifestation of His Grace. We, sinful as we are, can obtain God's grace only through his abundant and unconditional mercy. The first person to experience this abundant grace of God, is our Mother, whom God himself addressed as 'full of grace'. She was able to receive the fullness of grace and mercy, because of an attitude of surrender, of unworthiness expressed through her *fiat... Behold the handmaid of the Lord...* (Lk 1,38). This complete surrender and humility enabled her to bear God in her womb. The humble acceptance of the abundant mercy of the Father made of her the bearer of Christ for the world.

We find ourselves, inserted and surrounded by a relativistic society which has lost the sense of sin. The *magisterium*, time and again has reminded us of the loss of the sense of sin in our modern times. From Pope Pius XII who declared that, "*the sin of the century is the loss of sense of sin*" to Pope Francis who warns us, "*The year of mercy makes sense only if you haven't lost the sense of sin.*"

As we look up to our Mother of Mercy, we are called to become aware of our lowliness, our brokenness and our unworthiness. This awareness of our human condition will create in us a thirst for the abundant, healing mercy of God. Once we open our hearts, sinful and

sorrowful to the mercy of God, we ourselves will become bearers of Christ to the world like Mother Mary. She is the perfect example of God's transforming grace and mercy, which takes our sinful and fragile nature, and makes of it a vessel, a medium, a channel of God's presence to the world. From her immaculate conception to her glorious assumption into heaven, God fashioned her to be the created masterpiece of his mercy in the World. Our *Fiat*, our humble surrender and openness to the mercy of God, will create of us masterpieces of His mercy in the world.

The Mother of Mercy is also for us a model of being agents of mercy to others. It is a known fact that one can give only what one has. Mary, Mother of Mercy, received this abundant, unconditional mercy of the Father and being full of His grace, she became an agent of mercy herself to the people around her. Her extraordinary acts of mercy start from the moment of the annunciation, where she went in haste to serve her cousin Elizabeth. It is at this encounter, that the eulogy to the mercy of God is proclaimed through her *Magnificat*. She becomes an agent of God's providential grace at the marriage feast of Cana. Her comforting presence with Jesus on his journey to Calvary and at the foot of the Cross, is also an icon of God's mercy to us.

As we venerate and honour, Mary, our Mother as the Mother of Mercy, we are also called as her loving children, to follow her footsteps and learn from her, as to how to become agents of God's Mercy, especially to members of our own communities and the people with whom we share our life.

### **Vocation Camps**

The first vocation camp was held at Don Bosco Academy, Nalgonda from 18 to 21 April 2016. The second camp was held at Don Bosco ITC, Kadapa from 03 to 07 May 2016 and the third camp, from 11 to 18 May 2016 at Don Bosco, Gunadala, Vijayawada. We wish the vocation director and his team all the best and offer our prayers for the success of these camps. May Mary, our Mother, guide many young people, to offer themselves to follow the Lord in the way of Don Bosco. I thank the rectors and confreres of the communities where these camps are organized for their collaboration and help.

### **Best Wishes to the Practical Trainees**

Heartily welcome to our young confreres who have completed their immediate post-novitiate formation, and begin their practical training from this academic year. I wish them all the best as they begin this important phase of their formation. At the same time, I exhort the communities to assist them in deepening their Salesian Vocation.

### **Summer Formation Course at BIRDY, Hyderabad**

The annual summer formation course (SFC) for the Brothers in Practical Training or doing college studies will start on 12 May 2016. The Brothers are expected to reach BIRDY by 10 am. The course concludes on 21 May. On 22 May, there will be a day of recollection and on 23 May at 06.30 am there will be the renewal of vows in St Joseph's Chapel, Provincial House. I thank Fr Vice Provincial for organizing the SFC with the help of the BIRDY community.

### **Renewal of Vows**

Confreres in temporary vows who are due for renewal will have a day of recollection on 22 May 2016 at BIRDY, Hyderabad and renew their vows on the following day at 06.30 am at Don Bosco Provincial House. The list of those renewing their vows is enclosed.

### **First professions**

This year we are blessed with eight novices who will be making their first profession on 24 May 2016 at 06.45 am in the Sacred Heart Chapel, at Manoharabad. We thank the Lord for the gift of these young men and congratulate them wholeheartedly and welcome them joyfully into the Congregation and to our province. I take this opportunity to thank the Novice Master, Fr K.P. Mathew and the community of Manoharabad for guiding and accompanying these young men to understand and accept the divine call.

A batch of 12 young men will be joining the novitiate on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2016 to commence their novitiate. We wish them all the best in discerning God's holy will in their lives.

### **Perpetual Profession**

Cl. Gadesula Naresh, Cl. Kasu Lourdu Reddy, Cl. Narisetty Anup and Cl. Palem Jeevan Kumar will make their perpetual profession on 24 May 2016 at Don Bosco Shrine, Bandlaguda at 06.00 pm. We congratulate them as they commit themselves to the Lord in perpetuity in the Salesian way. We also thank their parents and dear ones who constantly supported them in their journey of religious life and extend our gratitude to all their formators who guided and helped them to arrive at this important decision.

### **Planning for the academic year 2016-2017 and Sessennio**

Without proper planning, we easily dissipate our energies and resources. Hence there is a need to plan all our interventions on behalf of the poor youth. The meetings in the month of June for the Perpetually professed confreres and leaders are important moments for

the life and functioning of our province. We will be discussing the annual plans and a general plan for the coming six years. Based on the SEPP of the Province, after its approval by the Provincial council, each community is exhorted to draw up a community plan, the local SEPP.

### **Meeting of the Perpetually Professed Confreres**

Following the deliberations of the Provincial Chapter 9, there will be a meeting for all the Perpetually Professed Confreres on 1 June 2016. The meeting commences at 09.30 am and concludes by 05.00 pm. Kindly find the list of all the perpetually professed confreres due to attend the meeting enclosed.

### **Meeting of the Rectors and In-charges**

The annual meeting of the Leaders (Rectors / In-charges / Parish Priests/ Commission and Animation Center heads) will be held on 3 and 4 June 2016. The meeting commences at 09.30 am on 3 June, and concludes by 05.00 pm on 4 June 2016. The list of the participants is enclosed herewith.

### **Lenten Contribution**

I exhort all the leaders of different communities who have not yet sent the Lenten contribution to send it at the earliest to the Provincial Economer (at least by 24 May 2016). We will be sending the total amount to the Rector Major.

### **Welcome back Fr Barigala Arockia Nathan from Rome**

We welcome Fr Barigala Arockia Nathan, who has been working in Italy (ICC) since the past two years, back to our Province. He takes up his responsibility as Vice Rector / Administrator and as Headmaster of the CBSE school at Don Bosco Guntupalli. He will be arriving in Hyderabad on 24<sup>th</sup> May 2016. We wish him a happy and fruitful ministry in the Province.

### **Welcome Br Biju Joseph**

The SPCSA has appointed Br Biju Joseph of the province of Dimapur as in charge of the specific formation of the coadjutors in Karunapuram. He is appointed for a term of three years. We heartily welcome him to our Province and wish him all the best as he renders his service as a formator.

### **Temporary transfer of Fr. Palakuzha Thomas**

Fr Palakuzha Thomas of our Province is on a temporary transfer to the Province of Bangalore at his request. He has rendered his services to our Province from its inception in various capacities. We thank him for his selfless service in our Province and wish him a fruitful ministry in the Province of Bangalore.

### **Handing Over of Bobbarlanka Mission to the Diocese of Eluru**

The Ravulapalem Mission has grown over the years and has given birth to many faith communities. Presently there are nine sub-stations. The Bishop of Eluru has requested us to handover the Bobbarlanka sub-station along with Velicheru, Vadiparu, Uchili, Vasanthavada situated in Athreyapuram mandal, to the diocese of Eluru. After study and discussion with the community, the Provincial and the council, has consented to handover the sub-stations to the diocese of Eluru. We pray for the continued deepening of faith in the people of the new parish of Bobbarlanka.

### **Blessing and Inauguration of Chapels**

The Sacred Heart of Jesus Chapel at Chundur, a sub-station of Don Bosco Mission, P.T. Parru was blessed and inaugurated by Most Rev. Gali Bali, Bishop of Guntur on 5 April 2016.

St Joseph's Church at Singaram Village, a sub-station of the Don Bosco Parish, Mariapuram was blessed and inaugurated by Most Rev. Udumala Bala, the Bishop of Warangal on 14 April 2016.

We congratulate and thank all the confreres who worked towards the completion of these chapels, in a special manner Fr Gopu Marreddy, Rector and Parish Priest, P.T. Parru and Fr Puthupparambil George, Rector and Parish Priest, Mariapuram.

### **Heartfelt Condolences**

Mr Godugunuru Yesu Ratnam (67), beloved father of Fr Godugunuru Chinnappa died on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2016 due to heart failure. We offer Fr Chinnappa and all his family members our deep condolences and sincere prayers.

### **Salesian Saints of the month**

**St Dominic Savio (6 May):** Dominic Savio was born at Riva di Chieri, Italy on 2 April 1842, in a poor family, yet a family that was rich when it came to religious values. He was

totally dedicated to God and from a very young age, showed signs of holiness. At Valdocco, he discovered the higher perspectives of the life he was called to live, the road to holiness and understood well the self-donation to God that he needed to make. His life was lived in joy, nourished with great devotion to the sacraments and to our Blessed Mother. He was canonized a saint on 12 June 1954.

**St Mary Mazzarello (13 May):** Saint Mary Mazzarello is the fertile root of the tree of feminine Salesianity, not only sharing in the charism of foundation but also being herself endowed with an outstanding gift of the Holy Spirit springing forth as a new foundation. The title of co-foundress therefore is the one which gives her the greatest prominence, because it denotes the position which is uniquely and specifically hers. In fact, Mary Mazzarello is not just the cornerstone and the first superior of the Institute but also the one who, in virtue of a special gift of the Holy Spirit integrates, completes, enriches and gives a specifically feminine touch to Don Bosco's charismatic action in founding the Institute.

She generated life because she knew to die to herself like her Lord and Master Jesus Christ. Today if she wears the crown of unfading glory it is because she lived constantly under the shadow of the cross. Let us learn from the school of our master, the Lord of creation and the world around us that only by dying to ourselves can we rise to a new life and colour the world with love as did our saint.

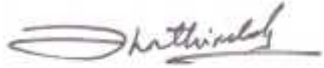
**Saint Leonard Murialdo (18 May):** He was amongst those fostering the first popular Catholic Libraries and Catholic Workers Unions, and would be their ecclesiastical assistant for many years. In 1873, with the support of some helpers, he founded the Congregation of Saint Joseph (Giuseppini of Murialdo). Their apostolic purpose was the education of youth, especially the poor and abandoned. He opened oratories, technical schools, family homes for young workers including young farmers, and took on further commitment in lay associations, especially in the field of technical formation of the young and printing works. His motto was *fare e tacere* (Do and be silent!). He was a spiritual person and a man of prayer, a contemplative in action like Don Bosco.

### The Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians

Devotion to Mary Help of Christians is part of our DNA as Salesians. For our father, Don Bosco, Mary Help of Christians was his guide, teacher and principal patroness. All that he accomplished in his life time, he attributed to the maternal intervention of Mary. As faithful sons of Don Bosco, it is our duty and our privilege to celebrate in a very fitting manner the feast of Our Blessed Mother, Mary Help of Christians. I am sure that all of us, in our institutions and parishes will celebrate the novena and the feast in a solemn

manner. Let us not spare any effort to spread devotion to our Mother. I wish you all a very happy Feast of Mary Help of Christians. May the Mother of Mercy's constant intercession and intervention guide us.

Affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr Thathireddy Bhaskar SDB  
Provincial



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| <b>TRAVELOGUE OF THE PROVINCIAL - May 2016</b> |
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| 12 | Summer Formation Course, Hyderabad                        |
| 13 | Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad                       |
| 17 | Theology Students' Meet, Hyderabad                        |
| 23 | Renewal of vows, Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad    |
| 24 | First Profession, Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad     |
| 24 | Final Profession, Don Bosco Shrine, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad |
| 29 | <b>Provincial Council</b>                                 |

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| <b>TRAVELOGUE OF THE VICE PROVINCIAL - May 2016</b> |
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| 04      | Don Bosco Mission, Raptadu                                 |
| 05      | Vocation Camp, Don Bosco ITC, Kadapa                       |
| 12 - 21 | Summer Formation Course, BIRDY                             |
| 14 - 15 | PNC Intensive course, Vocation Camp, Gunadala              |
| 17      | Meeting the Confreres who are due for Perpetual, Hyderabad |
| 22      | Recollection to those who are due for Renewal, Hyderabad   |
| 23      | Renewal of vows, Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad     |
| 24      | First Profession, Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad      |
| 24      | Final Profession, Don Bosco Shrine, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad  |
| 25      | Don Bosco Academy, Nalgonda                                |
| 26      | Ponnur, P.T. Parru   |
| 29      | <b>Provincial Council</b>                                  |