

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

St. Joseph Province of Hyderabad - INH



RB /INH /CIR 01 /2015

January, 2015

Dear Confreres,

Greetings of peace and joy from Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad! Wish you all a very happy New Year 2015. This month too we shall continue reflecting on the **'Relatio Synodi'** document on family. Kindly read this in the communities and make use of it for animation.

Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelization

PART II

Looking at Christ: the Gospel of the Family - Looking at Jesus and the Divine Pedagogy in the History of Salvation

12. In order to “walk among contemporary challenges, the decisive condition is to maintain a fixed gaze on Jesus Christ, to pause in contemplation and in adoration of his Face. Indeed, every time we return to the source of the Christian experience, new paths and undreamed of possibilities open up” (Pope Francis, **Discourse**, 4 October 2014). Jesus looked upon the women and the men he met with love and tenderness, accompanying their steps with patience and mercy, in proclaiming the demands of the Kingdom of God.

13. Since the order of creation is determined by its orientation towards Christ, a distinction needs to be made without separating the various levels through which God communicates to humanity the grace of the covenant. By reason of the divine pedagogy, according to which the order of creation develops through successive stages to the moment of redemption, we need to understand the newness of the Sacrament of Marriage in continuity with natural marriage in its origin, that is, the manner of God's saving action in both creation and the Christian life. In the Christian life, the reception

of Baptism brings the believer into the Church through the **domestic church**, namely, the family; thus beginning “a dynamic process [which] develops, one which advances gradually with the progressive integration of the gifts of God” (**Familiaris Consortio**, 9), in an ongoing conversion to a love which saves us from sin and gives us fullness of life.

14. Jesus himself, referring to the original plan of the human couple, reaffirms the indissoluble union between a man and a woman and says to the Pharisees that “for your hardness of heart Moses allowed you to divorce your wives, but from the beginning it was not so” (**Mt** 19: 8). The indissolubility of marriage “what God has joined together, let no man put asunder” (**Mt** 19:6), is not to be understood as a “yoke” imposed on persons but as a “gift” to a husband and wife united in marriage. The Gospels make clear that Jesus’ example is paradigmatic for the Church. In fact, Jesus was born in a family; he began to work his signs at the wedding of Cana; and announced the meaning of marriage as the fullness of revelation which restores the original divine plan (**Mt** 19:3).

The Family in God’s Salvific Plan

15. The words of eternal life, which Jesus gave to his disciples, included the teaching on marriage and the family. Jesus’ teaching allows us to distinguish three basic stages in God's plan for marriage and the family. In the beginning, there is the original family, when God the Creator instituted the first marriage between Adam and Eve as the solid foundation of the family. God not only created human beings male and female (**Gen** 1:27), but he also blessed them so they might be fruitful and multiply (**Gen** 1:28).

For this reason, “a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife and the two become one flesh” (**Gen**2:24). This union was corrupted by sin and became the historical form of marriage among the People of God, for which Moses granted the possibility of issuing a bill of divorce (cf. **Dt** 24: 1ff.). This was the principal practice in the time of Jesus. With Christ’s coming and his reconciling a fallen world through his redemption, the period begun by Moses ended.

16. Jesus, who reconciled all things in himself, restored marriage and the family to their original form (**Mk** 10:1-12). Marriage and the family have been redeemed by Christ (**Eph** 5:21-32), restored in the image of the Holy Trinity, the mystery from which every true love flows. The spousal covenant, originating in creation and revealed in the history of salvation, receives its full meaning in Christ and his Church. Through his Church, Christ bestows on marriage and the family the grace necessary to witness to the love of God and to live the life of communion.

The Family in the Church’s Documents

17. “Throughout the centuries, the Church has maintained her constant teaching on marriage and family. One of the highest expressions of this teaching was proposed by the Second Vatican Council, in the Pastoral Constitution **Gaudium et Spes**, which devotes an entire chapter to promoting the dignity of marriage and the family. This document defined marriage as a community of life and love, placing love at the center of the family and manifesting, at the same time, the truth of this love in counter distinction to the various forms of reductionism present in contemporary culture. The ‘true love between husband and wife’ implies a mutual gift of self and includes and integrates the sexual and affective aspects, according to the divine plan.

Christ the Lord ‘comes into the lives of married Christians through the Sacrament of Matrimony,’ and remains with them. In the Incarnation, he assumes human love, purifies it and brings it to fulfillment. Through his Spirit, he enables the bridegroom to live their love and makes that love permeate every part of their lives of faith, hope and charity. In this way, the bride and groom are, so to speak, consecrated and, through his grace, they build up the Body of Christ and are a domestic church (cf. **Lumen Gentium**, 11), so that the Church, in order to understand fully her mystery, looks to the Christian family, which manifests her in a real way.

18. In the wake of Vatican II, the papal Magisterium has further refined the doctrine on marriage and the family. In a special way, Blessed Pope Paul VI, in his Encyclical **Humanae Vitae**, displayed the intimate bond between conjugal love and the generation of life. Pope St. John Paul II devoted special attention to the family in his catechesis on human love, his **Letter to Families (Gratissimam Sane)** and, especially, his Apostolic Exhortation **Familiaris Consortio**. In these documents, the Pope called the family the ‘way of the Church,’ gave an overview on the vocation of man and woman to love and proposed the basic guidelines for the pastoral care of the family and the presence of the family in society. In specifically treating ‘conjugal love,’ he described how the spouses, through their mutual love, receive the gift of the Spirit of Christ and live their call to holiness”(**Instrumentum Laboris**, 5).

19. “Pope Benedict XVI, in his Encyclical **Deus Caritas Est**, again took up the topic of the truth of the love between man and woman, which is fully understood only in the light of the love of Christ Crucified. The Pope emphasized that ‘marriage based on an exclusive and definitive love becomes the icon of the relationship between God and his people and vice versa. God's way of loving becomes the measure of human love’. Moreover, in his Encyclical **Caritas in Veritate**, he emphasizes the importance of love as the principle of life in society, the place where a person learns to experience the

common good”.

20. “Pope Francis, in his Encyclical *Lumen Fidei*, treating the connection between the family and faith, writes: ‘Encountering Christ, letting themselves (young people) be caught up in and guided by his love, enlarges the horizons of existence, gives it a firm hope which will not disappoint. Faith is no refuge for the fainthearted, but something which enhances our lives. It makes us aware of a magnificent calling, the vocation of love. It assures us that this love is trustworthy and worth embracing, for it is based on God’s faithfulness which is stronger than our every weakness” (*Instrumentum Laboris*, 7).

The Indissolubility of Marriage and the Joy of Sharing Life Together

21. Mutual self-giving in the Sacrament of Marriage is grounded in the grace of Baptism, which establishes in all its recipients a foundational covenant with Christ in the Church. In accepting each other and with Christ’s grace, the engaged couple promises a total self-giving, faithfulness and openness to new life. The married couple recognizes these elements as constitutive in marriage, gifts offered to them by God, which they take seriously in their mutual commitment, in God’s name and in the presence of the Church.

Faith facilitates the possibility of assuming the benefits of marriage as commitments which are sustainable through the help of the grace of the Sacrament. God consecrates the love of husband and wife and confirms the indissoluble character of their love, offering them assistance to live their faithfulness, mutual complementarity and openness to new life. Therefore, the Church looks to married couples as the heart of the entire family, which, in turn, looks to Jesus.

22. From the same perspective, in keeping with the teaching of the Apostle who said that the whole of creation was planned in Christ and for him. (cf. *Col* 1:16) The presence of the seeds of the Word in these cultures (cf. *Ad Gentes*, 11) could even be applied, in some ways, to marriage and the family in so many societies and non-Christian peoples. Valid elements, therefore, exist in some forms outside of Christian marriage, based on a stable and true relationship of a man and a woman which, in any case, might be oriented towards Christian marriage. With an eye to the popular wisdom of different peoples and cultures, the Church also recognizes this type of family as the basic, necessary and fruitful unit for humanity’s life together.

The Truth and Beauty of the Family and Mercy towards Broken and Fragile Families

23. With inner joy and deep comfort, the Church looks to families who remain faithful to the teachings of the Gospel, encouraging them and thanking them for the testimony they offer. In fact, they witness, in a credible way, to the beauty of an indissoluble marriage, while always remaining faithful to each other. Within the family, “which could be called a domestic church” (***Lumen Gentium***, 11), a person begins a Church experience of communion among persons, which reflects, through grace, the Mystery of the Holy Trinity. “In a family, a person learns endurance, the joy of work, fraternal love, generosity in forgiving others, above all divine worship in prayer and the offering of one's life” (***Catechism of the Catholic Church***, 1657).

The Holy Family of Nazareth is a wondrous model in whose school we “understand why we have to maintain spiritual discipline, if we wish to follow the teachings of the Gospel and become Christ's disciples” (Blessed Pope Paul VI, ***Address at Nazareth***, 5 January 1964). The Gospel of the Family also nourishes the seeds which are still waiting to grow; and serves as the basis for caring for those trees which might have withered and need treatment.

24. The Church, a sure teacher and caring mother, recognizes that the only marriage bond for those who are baptized is sacramental and any breach of it is against the will of God. At the same time, the Church is conscious of the weakness of many of her children who are struggling in their journey of faith. “Consequently, without detracting from the evangelical ideal, they need to accompany with mercy and patience the eventual stages of personal growth as these progressively occur. A small step in the midst of great human limitations can be more pleasing to God than a life which outwardly appears in order and passes the day without confronting great difficulties. Everyone needs to be touched by the comfort and attraction of God's saving love, which is mysteriously at work in each person, above and beyond their faults and failings” (***Gaudium Evangelii***, 44).

25. In considering a pastoral approach towards people who have contracted a civil marriage, who are divorced and remarried or simply living together, the Church has the responsibility of helping them understand the divine pedagogy of grace in their lives and offering them assistance so they can reach the fullness of the God's plan for them. Looking to Christ, whose light illumines every person (cf. ***Jn*** 1: 9; ***Gaudium et Spes***, 22), the Church turns with love to those who participate in her life in an incomplete manner, recognizing that the grace of God works also in their lives by giving them the courage to do good, to care for one another in love and to be of service to the community in which they live and work.

26. The Church looks with concern at the distrust of many young people in relation to a commitment in marriage and suffers at the haste with which many of the faithful decide to put an end to the obligation they assumed and to take on another. These lay people, who are members of the Church, need pastoral attention which is merciful and encouraging, so they might adequately determine their situation. Young people, who are baptized, should be encouraged to understand that the Sacrament of Marriage can enrich their prospects of love and they can be sustained by the grace of Christ in the Sacrament and by the possibility of participating fully in the life of the Church.

27. In this regard, a new aspect of family ministry is requiring attention today - the reality of civil marriages between a man and woman, traditional marriages and, taking into consideration the differences involved, even cohabitation. When a union reaches a particular stability, legally recognized, characterized by deep affection and responsibility for children and showing an ability to overcome trials, these unions can offer occasions for guidance with an eye towards the eventual celebration of the Sacrament of Marriage. Oftentimes, a couple lives together without the possibility of a future marriage and without any intention of a legally binding relationship.

28. In accordance with Christ's mercy, the Church must accompany with attention and care the weakest of her children, who show signs of a wounded and lost love, by restoring in them hope and confidence, like the beacon of a lighthouse in a port or a torch carried among the people to enlighten those who have lost their way or who are in the midst of a storm. Conscious that the most merciful thing is to tell the truth in love, we go beyond compassion. Merciful love, as it attracts and unites, transforms and elevates. It is an invitation to conversion. We understand the Lord's attitude in the same way; he does not condemn the adulterous woman, but asks her to sin no more (**Jn** 8: 1-11).

(.....to be continued.....)

Salesian Saint of the Month

Bl. Louis Variara (15 Jan)

He was born at Viarigi (Asti) in 1875. His father brought Luigi to Valdocco on 1 October 1887 and entrusted him to Don Bosco. He was ordained a priest in 1898 and relentlessly continued his work among the unfortunate leprosy patients in Columbia. He gave up his entire life in their dedicated service, ultimately contracting the dread disease himself.

He was a Salesian Missionary who spent 28 years in Colombia, dedicating himself to lepers in Agua de Dios. He transformed the sadness of this place through his Salesian

cheerfulness, with music, theatre, sport, and a Salesian oratory lifestyle. He founded the first religious community made up of lepers or children of lepers, (besides other groups) the Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Colombia on 7 May 1905 with its special charism to cater to the needs of those affected by leprosy.

Bl. Laura Vicuna (22 Jan)

She was born at Santiago, Chile on 5 April 1891. On 21 January 1900 she became a boarder at the school of the Salesian sisters. On realizing her mother's helpless, immoral situation she offered herself to the Lord for her mother's conversion. She experienced the joy of her mother's conversion before dying on 22 January 1904.

The 'Rose of the Andes' and patroness of young girls. She is a beautiful example of the success of the preventive system of Don Bosco and the spirituality of Mary Mazzerello and the Salesian Sisters.

St. Francis de Sales (24 Jan)

The patron of our Salesian Society: Don Bosco chose him as the model and protector of his own mission among the young. Inspired by the virtues of this great Saint, Don Bosco wished to call his followers 'Salesians'. May the great qualities of kindness, patience and active charity of St. Francis de Sales continue to inspire us in our mission with the young.

Bl. Bronislao Markewicz (30 Jan)

He was born on 13 July 1842 in Galizia (Southern Poland). As a priest he was attracted to the Spirituality of Don Bosco. He followed Don Bosco's principles more radically and founded a society called work and temperance (Michaelities), belonging to the Salesian Family. He died on 29 January 1921 and was beatified on 19 June 2005.

His experience of struggle would produce a revived faith and strengthened hope and charity, a keen desire to live humbly, as he often told his boys "without humility or acceptance of humiliations, you will not find the Lord Jesus in prayer, fasting, tears, or in vigil".

Congratulations to the New Provincial's

With great joy we congratulate Fr. Joyce Thonikuzhiyil the new Provincial of the Sacred Heart Province of Bangalore and Fr. Jose Mathew Koorappallil the new Provincial of the Jesus the Good Shepherd Province of New Delhi.

Consultation for the Provincial Councillor and Rectors

By May 2015, Fr. Maliekal Jose completes his second term as Provincial Councillor. As per the Constitutions (art 167) the Provincial Councillors are appointed by the Rector Major with the consent of his council, on the proposal of the Provincial following a wide consultation among the confreres of the Province.

By May 2015, the following Rectors of our communities complete the first term:

Don Bosco Gunadala	-	Fr. Vatti Rayappa Reddy
St. Michael's - Guntur	-	Fr. Chinnabathuni Louis
St. Theresa's church - Hyderabad	-	Fr. Madathumuriyil Sebastian
DB Philosophate - Karunapuram	-	Fr. Mallavarapu Rayanna
St. John's regional Seminary - Kondadaba-	-	Fr. Maliekal Jose
DB Prem Nivas - Mangalagiri	-	Fr. Remalla Thomas
Sacred heart Novitiate - Manoharabad	-	Fr. Kannadipara Mathew
St. Paul's Regional seminary - Nuzvid	-	Fr. Garlapati Michael Kishore
DB Mission - P.T. Paruru	-	Fr. Bokkala Rayappa
DB Navajeevan - Punganur	-	Fr. Sangipagi Shantha Murthy

I am also sending the consultation form for the Community of Don Bosco I.T.C Kadapa. Though Fr. Alappat Jose has not finished his first term as Rector, due to personal reasons he has requested for a change. From February 2015 he will join the Manoharabad, Novitiate Community, as confessor. I thank him for all the hard work and collaboration he has rendered for the past one and half years in Don Bosco I.T.I, Kadapa. Fr. Cheruvathur James will be incharge in DB Kadapa till May 2015.

In accordance with the Constitutions, I hereby include the consultation forms for all the communities listed above. I count on your cooperation and responsibility to assist me in this important task of appointing animators. Kindly return the duly filled-in consultation forms to the Provincial office by **10 February, 2015**.

Annual Retreat

The annual retreat for general patronage will begin on January 5 (9.30 am) and conclude on January 10 (12.30 pm), 2015. Fr. K.M. Jose sdb from Chennai Province will be the animator.

Projects to be submitted

Those who are sending projects from different Communities are requested to send them to the Provincial's office by 10th of the month.

Youth Expo of the Province of Hyderabad

The Youth Expo of the Province that was scheduled to the 24 and 25 January is

postponed to 11 and 12 of July 2015.

Young Priests Meet

The meeting of the Young Priests' will be held on 4 & 5 of February, 2015 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. All the Young Priests' are requested to ensure that they are present for these two days of animation.

Practical Trainees Meet

The meeting of Clerics who are doing Practical Training and Studies is on 25 & 26 of January 2015. Please may I request all the Rectors and In-Charges of the Communities to send all the brothers on time. The meeting starts at 9.30 am on 25th January and ends by 4.30 pm on 26th January at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad.

Remembering deceased Salesians

On February 01, we always remember the deceased members of our Salesian Society. Along with the numerous Salesians who have preceded us for their eternal reward, we remember in a special way remember Bro. Thuruthel James, Fr. Varricatt John, Br. Fernandez Gabriel, Fr. Benjamin Puthota, Fr. Abraham Panampara and Fr. John Lens.

Annual Budget

I would like to remind you about sending the annual budget for the year 2015 – 2016 by 15 February 2015 to the Provincial Economer.

Novena to Don Bosco

We commence the novena in preparation for the solemn feast of Don Bosco and the Bicentenary of his birth. I also take this occasion to remind you once again to personally read and reflect more on Don Bosco and our Salesian tradition during this year of the Bicentenary.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - December 2014:

- | | | | |
|---|---------|---|--------------------------------------|
| ✓ | 5 - 10 | - | Retreat for general patronage |
| ✓ | 19 | - | Diamond Jubilee of Pezzonipet |
| ✓ | 25 – 26 | - | Practical Trainees and Students Meet |
| ✓ | 27 | - | Provincial Council |

Conclusion

As January is the month of Don Bosco and in the Bicentenary Year we need to organize

special programmes in our institutions. He was called by God to a unique mission for the salvation of the young and the poor. He was totally dedicated to the task entrusted to him by God. As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the feast of our founder, let us recommit ourselves for the salvation of the young.

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,

Fr. R. Balaraju



Fr Ramedini Balaraju sdb

Provincial

Wish You A Bright New Year 2015

TRAVELOGUE OF THE PROVINCIAL – January - February 2015

Jan	Community	Feb	Community
02-03	Don Bosco Mission - Kollapur	2-3	St. John's regional seminary, Kondadaba
05-10	Retreat for general patronage	4-5	Young Priests Meet
12-15	DB Philosophate, Karunapuram - APV	7	YaR Governing body meet at Chennai
16-17	St. Michael's Boys Home Guntur, APV	11-12	DB Premnivas Mangalagiri, APV
19	Diamond Jubilee of Pezzonipet	13	DB Ongole APV
20-21	DB Ravulapalem APV	14	Jubilee mass at Emani, Guntur
22-23	St. Paul's regional seminary, Nuzvid APV	15-16	Assumption church, Pezzonipet APV
24	Jubilee Mass at Auxilium, Guntur	17-18	DB Gunadala APV
25-26	Practical Trainees & Students Meet	20-21	DB Mission Wyra APV
27	Provincial Council	22	Provincial Council
28-29	DB Academy, Nalgonda APV	24-26	SPCSA Assembly, DBPH Hyderabad
31	Feast of Don Bosco – DBPH Hyderabad	27-28	Provincials meeting with Major Superiors, DBPH Hyderabad

TRAVELOGUE OF THE VICE PROVINCIAL - January 2015

Jan	Community
02	Don Bosco School, Mothinagar
03	Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad
05 - 13	Don Bosco I.T.C - Kadapa
14	DB Navajeevan - Punganur
19	Assumption Church - Pezzonipet
20	DBPH - Hyderabad
23	DB Junior College - Chandur
24	DB Academy - Nalgonda
27	Provincial Council
28	Gunadala - DBNJ
29	Mangalagiri - Guntur
30	Ponnur – P.T. Parru