

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

St. Joseph Province of Hyderabad - INH



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November, 2015

Dear Confreres,

Cordial greetings from Don Bosco Provincial house, Hyderabad.

Life as Prayer (AGC 421)

Here is the summary of the article Life as Prayer by Fr Ivo Coelo. Prayer is referred not as prayers we recite but as union with God. Mental prayer is nothing but friendship, the willingness to spend much time in the company of someone who we know loves us. (St. Theresa of child Jesus). Article no3 of our constitutions set the tenor of our mission.

Prayer is distinguish mark of a Salesian. Art 95 of our Constitutions bears the title life as prayer. The article says that we Salesians meet God in the young people to whom we are sent. He draws his strength from the good shepherd. His need for God and His apostolic commitment leads him to celebrate the liturgy of life, attaining that tireless industry made holy by prayer and union with God which is the characteristic of the sons of St. John Bosco. Here are some conditions of possibility for moving towards prayer and experience.

1. **Salesian presence:** Our mission does not consists in doing things but being like Jesus and bearing witness. Our presence with the young is the concrete mediation of the presence of God-with-us. All of us Salesians are called to be assistance. It is necessary to for the confreres experience of being with the youth.
2. **The Salesian presence is marked by the characteristic:** The consciousness of the mission. The text of the constitution explicitly speaks about to those whom he is sent. It means not just to people or young people but to those whom we are sent. We constantly search for Jesus in whom he himself sends us. In this way we passionately search for the will of God in Salesian obedience like Jesus himself. (My food is to do the will of Him who sent me. Jn 4,34). Sometimes our work may not give us satisfaction but we continually search for his will. Therefore we are called precisely to find God in youth who are poor, abandoned in danger (C26) primarily boys and young men (R3) and not just in any people at all.
3. God waits for us in the recipients of our mission. We are called to bring them His saving love. In this sense we become prayer and sacrifice prayer for the sake of work.
4. Today there is a danger of working as a mere NGO for the welfare of the young people. We need to recognize the working of the spirit in our activities and see and do everything with the mind

and heart of Jesus. Pope Francis in *Laudato Si* refers as pastoral look and serene attentiveness.

5. For Don Bosco Praying and working were spontaneously united (C86). The Eucharist is the source and summit of our Christian life. Salesian prayer is drawn from the life experience and flows back in it.
6. **Typical form of prayer of intercession:** With the young people in their own life's struggle the Salesian prays with them as Jesus after his failure of his preaching in the cities gives praise and thanks to the Father (Mt11,25-30). The prayer of petition comes from the problems and difficulties of their life. As Salesians through this type praying we need to bring them closer to Jesus the good shepherd.
7. **Community dimension of prayer:** We are enriched in communities by sharing the experience of God with our own community members. It enriches our lives. The Icon of Emmaus there is an encounter between those who stayed back in Jerusalem and those who went to the village. There is an exchange of encounter with the Risen Lord that culminates the presence of the Lord himself.
8. **Importance of ongoing formation:** The Salesian learns to meet God not only by encountering with those whom he is sent but also by a period of learning and spiritual accompaniment. There for the need of updating and renewal is important to grow in union with God. (for the detailed article refer AGC421)

Salesian Saint of the Month

Bl. Artemide Zatti (13 Nov) Salesian Coadjutor

Blessed Artemide Zatti, SDB (1880-1951). He left Italy with his family in search of a better life in Argentina, the land dreamed of Don Bosco. There he discovered his Salesian vocation which he lived in a passionate competent service, and with a great love for the sick. For almost fifty years he lived in Viedma as an exemplary religious, punctual in the discharge of his duties and dedicated totally to the service of the needy.

What gave depth to all this and what immediately struck those who met him, was his interior life as a disciple of the Lord, who lived his consecration at every moment of his life, in constant union with God and in gospel fraternity. From the judgment of doctors who were close to him over a long period at delicate moments such as long operations, the opinions of fellow workers, the words of public officials, and the testimony of his confreres, what emerges is an all round person, with the Salesian balance which united the different aspects of his life in a harmonious personality, unified, peaceful, open to the mystery of God in his daily life.

It is remarkable that, with the challenging tasks he had to do, Artemide Zatti never lost the sense of community. He was always present for daily prayer, moments of fraternal gatherings at table and other

occasions for sharing the joy of family, which he expressed in a very special way. For him, the Salesian community was a place to experience God and the fraternity of the gospel.

Bl. Magdalene Morano (15 Nov) *Salesian sister*

Magdalene Morano, was a “teacher” par excellence, a woman rich in love, goodness, intelligent vivacity and wisdom. As a young teacher she lived a life of deep union with God, teaching catechism, preparing children to receive the sacraments, visiting the sick and serving the parish community. Her life is even today a prophecy of love inspiring us in the education of women and in joyful and zealous evangelization.

Venerable Simon Srugi (25 Nov) *Salesian Coadjutor*

Simon Srugi was born at Nazareth of Galilee on 27th June 1877, the last of ten children. His parents passed away when he was just six years old and his aunt sent him to the Catholic orphanage at Bethlehem, which was in the care of the Salesians. His experience there was so wonderful that he expressed his desire to live as a Salesian all his life. Thereafter, he underwent the entire formation process particularly prescribed for a coadjutor and professed as a Lay Salesian.

His entire life was spent in the Agricultural School at Bietgamal, in simplicity, humility and total dedication to his Salesian Commitment. He was most sought after for his ability to care and nurse the sick and the infirm – especially the poor, the emaciated, those with repugnant ailments and others who could not afford the service of a doctor. He carried out his apostolate in humility, silence, obedience and overall a prayerful manner.

Servant of God Margaret Occhiena (25th Nov)

In 1940, Pope Pius XII said, “In the plan of God the parents are the first educators of children. To understand how Don Bosco realized his boyhood dream of becoming the father of abandoned boys, one must remember the kind of education he had received from his own mother.”

Margaret Melchior Occhiena, the third child of Melchior Occhiena, was born on 1st April 1788. Her deep religiosity, her faith in God, her heroic detachment and her unconditional love brought into this world John Bosco and sowed into his heart the seed of a Salesian Mission for the young. It was she who led Don Bosco on the road to sanctity.

Month of the Holy Souls

In this month of November, specially dedicated to the Holy Souls, the Church reminds us of our obligation to pray for the deceased. Besides our own dear ones who have already left this world, we have several Salesians who have gone before us, having laboured with and among us. Let us gratefully remember our dear confreres, Cl. James Thuruthel, Fr John Varricatt, Bro. Gabriel Fernandez, Fr Benjamin Puthota, Fr. Abraham Panampara, Fr. John Lens and Fr. Chinnappa Thomas, let us pray for them during this month. Each of the departed confreres presents a particular Spirit of Salesian life and Sanctity. Their love for God

and for His people was very much evident. Their faith, their vision, their hard work and their sacrifices are to be remembered and cherished.

Jubilee Celebrations

Hearty Congratulations to all our confreres celebrating their jubilees this year. We rejoice with them and thank God for the great things He has done for them. Fr. Madathumuriyil Sebastian and Fr. Moonnanappallil Jacob are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession. Fr. Maniyangattthuzhazhe Joseph, Fr. Nagothu Papaiah and Fr. Cheruvathur James are celebrating the Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination. Fr. Kollithanathu Joseph, Fr. Mallavarapu Rayanna, Fr. Parecattil Tom and Fr. Puthussery Sojan are celebrating the Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession. Let us pray and wish them God's choicest blessings for all the dedicated service that they have rendered to the Congregation, in a particular way to our Province.

Provincial Community Day – Don Bosco, Gunadala

Art. 42 of the General Regulations invites the local and provincial community to gather around the superior to celebrate the community feast day as a sign of its fraternal communion and an expression of its gratitude. We will celebrate our togetherness as a province on 01 December 2015, at Don Bosco, Gunadala. May I invite you all to participate in this event as a concrete expression of our fraternal unity to rejoice over our communion and to thank one another as one family.

Programme of Provincial Community Day

03.00 pm- Animation; 5.30 am – Holy Eucharist

07.00 pm – Cultural Prog. & Felicitations; Fellowship Meal – 08.00 pm

Forthcoming Events – November 2015

- 9 – 12 Provincial Chapter IX
- 12 – Jubilee Celebrations of the Confreres
- 28 - First Anniversary of Fr. John Lens (Holy Eucharist at D.B. Karunapuram, 10 am)
- 01 December - Provincial Community Day – Don Bosco Gunadala
- 21 December - Priestly Ordinations at Don Bosco Shrine, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad

Dear confreres in the month of November we commemorate all souls day. Every community is expected to offer one mass for the deceased benefactors and members of the Salesian Family on 5 November 2015 and every community is expected to offer one mass for the deceased parents of Salesians on 25 November 2015 (R. 76, 4). I strongly exhort that this month, especially the date mentioned above, be commemorated with due reverence and piety.

“Our life on earth is very brief but that we are loved by God before we were born and will continue to be loved by God after we die. This brief life time is my opportunity to receive love, deepen love, grow in love and give love”. (Henry J.M. Nouwen, finding my way home, p11).

As we remember those who have gone ahead of us to the eternal reward let us too prepare ourselves well for the eternal life that Jesus promised as we are journeying on earth towards our permanent home in heaven.

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,

Fr. R. Balaraju



Fr Ramedini Balaraju sdb

Provincial

TRAVELOGUE OF THE PROVINCIAL – November 2015

NOV	Community
02 - 03	Don Bosco Academy, Nalgonda APV
04 - 05	Don Bosco Chandur APV
09 -12	Provincial Chapter
12	Jubilee Celebrations
13 - 15	DB Karunapuram APV
16 -17	DB Mariapuram APV
18 - 19	DB Wyra APV
21	Provincial Council
28	First Anniversary of Fr. Lens – Mass in Karunapuram
TRAVELOGUE OF THE VICE Provincial – November 2015	
01-05	DBYA - Bangalore
09-12	Provincial Chapter
12	Jubilee Celebrations
16	Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad
21	Provincial Council
23	Don Bosco Kurnool, Don Bosco Raptadu
24	Don Bosco Punganur
28	First Anniversary of Fr. Lens – Mass in Karunapuram
29 - 30	Don Bosco Gunadala