

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR



Salesian Province of Hyderabad

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Dear Confreres,

Greetings from Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. I would like to give you some excerpts from the message of the Holy Father Pope Francis on the bicentenary celebrations of Don Bosco. Kindly read it in the communities and make use of it for your animation.

Message of Pope Francis:

Italy, Europe and the world have changed considerably in these two centuries, but the soul of the young has not changed: even today boys and girls are open to life and to the encounter with God and with others, but there are so many of them exposed to discouragement, spiritual anemia and marginalization.

Don Bosco teaches us first of all not to stand by idly, but to put ourselves in the vanguard by offering young people an integral educational experience which, firmly based on the religious dimension, affects the mind, the emotions and the whole person, always considered as someone created and loved by God. This leads to a genuinely human and Christian pedagogy, one that is animated by a concern for prevention and inclusion, especially of the children of the working classes and the marginalized groups of society and offers them an opportunity for education and for learning a trade in order to become good Christians and honest citizens. By working for the moral, civil and cultural education of youth, Don Bosco worked for the good of people and civil society, following his particular view of man that combines happiness, study and prayer, or to put it in another way, work, religion and virtue.

An integral part of this process is the development of a person's vocation in order to enable him to assume the concrete way of life in the Church to which the Lord calls him. This wide-ranging and demanding educational vision which Don Bosco

condensed in his motto, "*Da Mihi Animas*", accomplished what we today express in the phrase, "educate by evangelizing and evangelize by educating" (Congregation for the Clergy, General Directory for Catechesis [August 15, 1997], n. 147).

A characteristic feature of Don Bosco's pedagogy is loving kindness, which is to be understood as a love that is manifested and perceived, and reveals itself in caring, affection, understanding and involvement in the life of another person. In the experiential process of education, according to Don Bosco, it is not enough to love, but love needs to be expressed in gestures that are concrete and effective. Thanks to this loving kindness, so many children and adolescents in Salesian settings have experienced an intense and serene emotional growth, which has proved very valuable in the shaping of their personality and in their life's journey. Within this framework lie other distinctive traits of Don Bosco's educational method: a family environment; the presence of the educator as a father, teacher and friend of the young person, which is conveyed by a classical term of Salesian pedagogy: assistance; a climate of joy and celebration; ample space offered for singing, music and the theatre; the importance of the playground, games, sports and outings.

He was able to elicit the cooperation of Saint Mary Domenica Mazzarello and the cooperation of lay people, giving rise to the large tree of the Salesian Family which has received and enhanced his legacy. In short, Don Bosco lived with a great passion for the salvation of the young, appearing as a credible witness of Jesus Christ and as an outstanding herald of his Gospel, in profound communion with the Church, and in particular, with the Pope. He lived in constant prayer and union with God, with a strong and tender devotion to Our Lady, whom he invoked as the Immaculate Virgin and the Help of Christians; he was endowed with mystical experiences and the gift of miracles for the sake of his boys.

Even today the Salesian Family opens out to new frontiers in education and missionary work, pursuing the paths traced out by the new means of social communication and by an intercultural education among peoples of different religions in countries of the developing world or in places marked by migration. The challenges of the Turin of the nineteenth century have assumed global dimensions: the idolatry of money, an inequality that generates violence, an ideological colonization and cultural challenges related to urban contexts. Some

aspects are more directly connected with the world of the young, such as the spread of the Internet, and therefore they pose a challenge to you, sons and daughters of Don Bosco, called as you are to work and to keep in mind, together with the hurts, also the resources that the Holy Spirit inspires in crisis situations. As a Salesian Family you are called to let the creativity typical of your charism flourish once more in and beyond your educational institutions, as you take your place with apostolic dedication among young people, especially those on the peripheries.

"Youth ministry, as traditionally organized, has also suffered the impact of social changes. Young people often fail to find responses to their concerns, needs, problems and hurts in the usual structures. As adults, we find it hard to listen patiently to them, to appreciate their concerns and demands, and to speak to them in a language they can understand" (Apost. Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 105). Let us ensure that, as educators and as a community, we accompany them on their journey so that they feel the joy of bringing Jesus to every street, to every square, to every corner of the earth (cf. *ibid.*, 106).

May Don Bosco help you to not disappoint the deep aspirations of the young: their need for life, openness, joy, freedom, and the future; their desire to collaborate in building up a more just and fraternal world, in fostering the development of all peoples, in safeguarding nature and the living environment. Following his example, you will help them to experience that only in the life of grace, i.e., in friendship with Christ, does one fully attain the most authentic ideals. You will have the joy of accompanying them in their search for a synthesis of faith, culture and life at moments when they take decisions or attempt to interpret a reality that is complex.

In particular, I want to point out to two tasks that arise today from a discernment of the youth reality: the first is that of educating, in accordance with a Christian anthropology, to the language of the new means of social communication and of the social networks, that deeply shape the cultural and value systems of the young, and therefore their outlook on the reality of man and religion; the second is that of promoting forms of social volunteering, and not resigning yourselves to the

ideologies that place the market and production above the dignity of the person and the value of work.

Today more than ever, in the face of what Pope Benedict XVI often referred to as an "educational emergency" (cf. Letter to the diocese and the city of Rome on the urgent task of educating young people, 21 January 2008), I invite the Salesian Family to promote an effective educational alliance between different religious and secular agencies so as to move forward with the diversity of your charisms at the service of youth in the different continents. In particular, I remind you of the imperative need to involve the families of young people. There can indeed be no effective youth ministry without a good family ministry.

The Salesian is an educator who, in the midst of his many relationships and commitments, always lets the first proclamation resound, the good news that directly or indirectly can never be absent: "Jesus Christ loves you; he gave his life to save you, and now he is living at your side every day to enlighten, strengthen and free you "(Apost. Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 164). To be faithful disciples of Don Bosco requires you to renew the choice of catechesis that was his lifelong commitment, understanding it today within the mission of a new evangelization (cf. *ibid.*, 160-175). This evangelizing catechesis deserves pride of place in Salesian institutions and must be made with theological and pedagogical competence as well as the educator's transparent witness. It requires a process that involves listening to the Word of God, frequenting the sacraments, especially Confession and the Eucharist and a filial relationship with the Virgin Mary.

Dear Salesian Brothers and Sisters, Don Bosco testifies that Christianity is the source of happiness, because it is the Gospel of love. It is from this source, and in your Salesian educational practice as well, that joy and celebration find their consistency and continuity. "We become fully human when we become more than human, when we let God bring us beyond ourselves in order to attain the fullest truth of our being. Here we find the source and inspiration of all our efforts at evangelization"(Apost. Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, 8).

The Church has great expectations concerning the care of the young; great too is the charism that the Holy Spirit bestowed on St. John Bosco, a charism that has

been carried forward by the Salesian Family with a passionate dedication to the youth of all continents and a flowering of numerous priestly, religious and lay vocations. I therefore cordially encourage you to take up the legacy of your founder and father with the Gospel radicalism that he made his own in his thinking, speaking and acting, with a proper competence and a generous spirit of service, like Don Bosco, with the young and for the young.

Salesian Saint of the Month

Blessed Augustus Czartoryski: (2nd August)

Augustus Czartoryski was born in Paris on the 2 August 1858, in exile, to the Polish Prince Ladislaw and Princess Mary Amparo, daughter of the queen of Spain. When he was six, Augustus lost his mother. Although much attached to his beloved Poland, he was never attracted to courtly life. The action of grace in his soul gave him detachment from earthly goods and a serious spiritual life.

In May 1883 Don Bosco was in France. He was invited to Lambert Palace by Princess Margaret d'Orleans. Augustus served his Mass, and the saint said to him: "I have wanted to meet you for quite some time!". The prince was struck by his encounter. Following this he went several times to Turin to meet Don Bosco. He insisted with him that he be allowed to enter the Salesians, but the Founder was not convinced. Augustus spoke with Pope Leo XIII, who invited Don Bosco to accept him.

Don Bosco almost on his death bed blessed his religious habit. He began his philosophy studies. He soon took ill with tuberculosis. In the house at Valsalice, Turin, he met Venerable Andrea Beltrami. The two developed a deep spiritual friendship, while Andrea looked after Augustus during his illness.

He fully took on Salesian spirituality, especially its element of sacrifice and offered his life and sufferings for the good of the young and the Congregation just as Don Bosco did. Fr. Augustus died at Alassio on 8 April 1893, on the Saturday of the Octave of Easter: "What a wonderful Easter", he had said. He was 35 years old. John Paul II, the Polish Pope, had the joy of declaring him Blessed on the 25 April 2004. His body is venerated in Przemysl (Poland).

Blessed Maria Troncatti: (25th August)

Maria Troncatti was born in Cortegno Golgi (Brescia) on February 16, 1883. She grew up happy and hardworking among her numerous family, dividing her time between the farm and caring for her little brothers and sisters, in the warm and loving atmosphere created by her exemplary parents. She regularly attended catechism, in her parish, where she developed a deep Christian spirit and opened her heart to the values of a religious vocation. She joined in the Institute of the Salesian Sisters and made her first profession in 1908 at Nizza Monferrato. During the First World War she took a course in health care in Varazze and worked as a Red Cross nurse in the military hospital. This experience was to prove very valuable in the course of her long missionary life in the Amazon forests of Ecuador.

She left for Ecuador in 1922 and was sent to work among the Shuar people where together with two other Sisters, she began the difficult work of evangelization. She was nurse, surgeon, orthopedist, dentist, anesthetist, but above all she was catechist and evangelizer, rich in the wonderful resources of her faith, patience and fraternal love. She died in a tragic air crash at Sucua on August 25, 1969.

Venerable Zeffirino Namuncura:

The holiness of Zeffirino Namuncura is the expression and fruit of Salesian youth spirituality, the spirituality of joy, friendship with Jesus and Mary, who on entering the Salesian college opened his heart to a different dream of becoming the first Arancanian Priest and to evangelize his own. His exemplary commitment to piety, charity, daily duty and asceticism made him a model of youth.

He was born in Chimpay on August 26, 1886 and was baptized two years later, by the Salesian missionary Fr Milanese, who had brokered the peace agreement between the Mapuce and the Argentine army, making it possible for Zefferino's father to retain the title of "Great cacique" for himself, and also the territory of Chimpay for his people.

He was eleven years old when his father enrolled him in the government school in Buenos Aires: he wanted to make his son the future defender of his people. But there Zefferino found himself uncomfortable and his father sent him to the Salesian College "Pius IX." Here he began the adventure of grace, which

transformed a heart not yet enlightened by faith in a heroic witness of Christian life.

It was during those years of inner growth that he became ill with tuberculosis. He died on 11th May 1905, leaving behind him the memory of goodness, diligence, purity and inimitable cheerfulness. He was declared venerable on 22nd June 1972. This continues to be our task today in a world in need of young people inspired by a clear sense of life, bold in their options and firmly focused on God while serving others.

Death anniversary of Fr John Varricatt

On August 21 we commemorate the death anniversary of Fr John Varricatt, the first confrere to pass on to his eternal reward from our Province. Please do remember to pray for his soul.

Consultation for the nomination of the new provincial

Herewith I am sending the letter of the Rector Major on consultation for the nomination of the New Provincial. The letter is attached to the circular. Please read it in the community and exhibit it in the community notice board. Let the leaders distribute the consultation forms to the confreres.

The Regional superior Fr Maria Arokiam Kanaga will be in the province from 03-06 October 2015 for the consultation. I am sending the formats for the consultation to be filled in at the time of the common discernment. The regional will hold discernment meetings at the following places. All are expected to participate in the discernment process.

Schedule for consultations

03 Sat - October 2015 - 4.30 pm - Warangal Region - Karunapuram

04 Sun- October 2015 - 10.00 am - Vishak Region at Navajeevan, Vishakapatnam.

05 Mon - 9.00 am - Hyderabad Region, at DBPH, Hyderabad

05 Mon - 4.30pm – Rayalaseema Region at DB Kurnool

06 Tue - 3.00pm - Vijayawada and Guntur Regions at DB Premnivas, Mangalagiri

Provincial chapter 9

In the last circular I have announced the moderator and pre-capitulars members of the chapter. The moderator will send the ex-officio members list and the

community grouping to elect the community delegates and then the perpetual confreres list will be sent to elect the province delegates.

Confreres may propose themes and topics, they feel should be dealt with at the chapter, to the moderator by 10 September 2015. The provincial council decided that we will have a preparatory session of the chapter from 16-17 October 2015 in Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad.

Wish you a very happy journey

Our confreres Fr Putti Anthaiah and Fr Maramreddy Prakash will be travelling to Rome on 20 August and Fr Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar will be travelling on 25 August. We wish our confreres fruitful studies and ministry in Rome.

The Salesian Family Congress 2015

The Salesian Family Congress 2015 will be held at Don Bosco Liluah from 26 to 28 September. Over 1700 delegates have registered for this great event and the registration has been closed. The concluding ceremony is in Netaji Indoor Stadium on 28th evening.

First Annual Retreat 2015

The first Annual Retreat in 2015 will begin on 7 September (upto 12) preached by Fr. Vincent CSSR. I am grateful to him for accepting to preach the retreat for us. The list of the first Annual Retreat was sent to you all by Fr. Vice Provincial.

Principals and Headmasters meet

The meeting of the Principals and Headmasters will be held on 23 and 24 August 2015 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. The meeting commences at 9 am on 23 and concludes by 5 pm on 24.

Administrator's Meeting

As scheduled and informed, there will be the administrators' meeting at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad on 28 and 29 August 2015. All the administrators are requested to ensure that they are present for these two days of animation and planning to enhance the quality of our service.

Forth Coming Events

August 23 – 24 – Principals' and Headmasters Meeting

August 28 – 29 – Administrators’ Meet

September 7 – 12 – First Annual Retreat

Conclusion

For the last three years we have been preparing for the bicentenary of Don Bosco. We have reflected on the History, Pedagogy and Spirituality of Don Bosco. May this bicentenary of the birth of our founder bring us closer to the young people, Don Bosco and Jesus and Mary. May we continue the mission with the great passion that our father had for the poor and the marginalized youth. May Don Bosco lead us and guide us in our ministry. Praying for you all and do pray for me.

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,

Fr. R. Balaraju



Fr Ramedini Balaraju sdb

Provincial