

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

SALESIAN PROVINCE OF HYDERABAD



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APRIL, 2016

Dear Confreres,

Greetings from Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. Wish you the peace and joy of the Risen Lord. I hope you had a meaningful and grace filled Holy Week and Easter celebrations. I just completed visiting all of our communities and confreres in the Province. It has been a hectic journey but a very fruitful one. I am sincerely grateful to you for receiving me with brotherly affection. 'Listening' to each confrere was an enriching experience. It made me reflect on the worth and wonder of each confrere. The journey that each of us make is so unique and yet so much in communion with each other.

In line with the call of the General Chapter 27, taking inspiration from the urgent needs and challenges of our Province expressed in the consultation for the new provincial, and at the end of my visit to all our communities, I share some reflections on our community life.

TOGETHER AS BROTHERS

The beauty of consecrated life is that we belong to a large family and that we have many brothers to love. Through obedience, we find ourselves in different houses and transform them into homes and in communities where we are sent, we become brothers to each other.

Our community life has a theological-spiritual dimension, and a human-relational dimension. The ideal of community life is achieved when we understand and blend these two dimensions in our praxis. The theological-spiritual dimension gives us the reasons for our living together in fraternal communities and human-relational dimension enables us to live it concretely.

Art. 49 of our Constitutions states: "To live and work together is for us Salesians a fundamental requirement and a sure way of fulfilling our vocation. This is why we come together in communities, where our love for each other leads us to share all we have in a family spirit, and so create communion between person and person. The community is a reflection of the mystery of the Trinity: There we find a response to the deep aspirations of the heart and we become for the young signs of love and unity."

Fully aware that the Lord has called us to live together in communities, we have to constantly purify our human-relational dimension. After having visited all our communities and after having listened to our confreres, I have noticed that there is on the one hand a great longing for acceptance, affirmation, respect, collaboration and working together, and on the other, the challenge of individualism, isolation, gossip and suspicion.

In a sense, living and sharing our lives together in a religious community itself is a mission. Pope Francis would say that community is the first and most believable gospel that we can preach. A community needs to transmit to others the appeal of living together, united in diversity, creating heartfelt and humanizing spaces that are open and joyful for each person and for others. Our fraternal life becomes prophetic when we are able to become a witnessing community of brotherhood in a world which is torn apart by divisions, conflicts, discrimination, prejudice, exclusion and individualism.

Sometimes our familiarity with each other undermines our worth as individuals. We could have the same attitude of the Pharisees of the Gospels, 'what good can come from Jesus, the carpenters' son?'. Their familiarity with the externals masked their perception and they failed to see the messiah in Jesus. We need to affirm and recognize the worth of individuals. Sometimes looking at the splinters in the eyes of our confreres does not help in building up of fraternal communities. At times it is easier to hear the cries of the poor people far away than to hear the cries and despair of our own confreres within the community.

Some of us continue to live with past hurts and unresolved conflicts. Our own lives may be rooted in bitterness, while we may be celebrating sacraments and preaching reconciliation to others. We are in the jubilee year of 'Mercy'. Pope Francis reminds us of this challenge: "...you are challenged to become 'experts' in divine mercy precisely through your life in community. From experience I know that community life is not always easy, but it is a providential training ground for the heart. It is unrealistic not to expect conflicts; misunderstandings will arise and they must be faced. Despite such difficulties, it is in community life that we are called to grow in mercy, forbearance and perfect charity." The jubilee year of 'Mercy' demands that as we receive forgiveness from the Lord and others, we need to forgive unconditionally and make peace especially with the confreres of our province and communities.

Another delicate area that needs immediate attention is the tendency to gossip. Gossip can cause irreparable damage to a confrere. All of us have the right to good reputation and all of us have the right to change. Fr Philip Rinaldi, the third successor of Don Bosco, used to encourage the Salesians to "think well of all, speak well of all and do good to all." Pope Francis addressing

a group of seminarians in Rome spoke of the terrorism of gossip. We rarely or never speak ill of our parents, or brothers or sisters. Our confreres are our family. They are brothers that the Lord has given to us to love. The best way to help a confrere is through brotherly correction and clarification.

I would like to remind ourselves of the deliberations of PC8 concerning community life in the light of GC27. These deliberations will help us live our community life in a more radical way, helping us to grow deeper in our union with each other: 1. We need to be faithful to the day of the community at least once a month where all the confreres are present and which becomes an occasion for mutual sharing. 2. To conduct house council every month and house assembly every once in three months. Active participation of every confrere is envisaged. 3. To be regular to all the community moments such as, prayer, meals, recreation, meetings, etc. A community that meets together stays together. 4. To fraternally offer correction to confreres rather than spread gossip about them.

Bishop Stephen Ferrando declared Venerable

In the audience granted on 3 March 2016 to Cardinal Angelo Amato SDB, prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, Pope Francis authorized the congregation to promulgate the decrees regarding the heroic virtues of the Servant of God Stephen Ferrando (1895-1978) of the Salesian Society of Don Bosco who was the Titular Archbishop of Troina (Italy) and former Bishop of Shillong and the Founder of the Congregation of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC).

Welcome to the New Provincial Economer and Provincial Councillors

Having processed the consultations I received and after due prayer and reflection, I am happy to announce and welcome the new Provincial Economer and the Provincial Councillors for the coming three years (2016 - 2019).

Fr Androth Jose	Provincial Economer (First term)
Fr Kollampambil Joseph	Provincial Councillor (First term)
Fr Garlapati Michael Kishore	Provincial Councillor (First term)
Fr Bellamkonda Sudhakar	Provincial Councillor (First term)
Fr Pitchaimuthu Arul Das	Provincial Councillor (First term)

I thank these confreres who have generously accepted the responsibility of animation and governance of the Province. I wish them a fruitful ministry of service.

Appointment of the Rectors

Our Rector Major Fr Angel Fernandez has approved the following confreres as Rectors for the specified period:

APPOINTMENT OF NEW RECTORS - FIRST TERM (2016 - 2019)

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|------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Fr Puthussery Sojan | Don Bosco Mission Complex, Mariapuram |
| 2. Fr Thota Mariadas | Assumption Church, Pezzonipet |

APPOINTMENT OF RECTORS - SECOND TERM (2016 - 2019)

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. Fr Koonananickal Jose | BIRDY, Hyderabad |
| 2. Fr Bellamkonda Sudhakar | Don Bosco Navajeevan, Ramanthapur |
| 3. Fr Sony Cyriac | Don Bosco Nava Nirman, Muniguda |
| 4. Fr Gopu Anand Reddy | Don Bosco Academy, Nalgonda |
| 5. Fr Madanu Rayappa | Don Bosco Mission, Narsipatnam |
| 6. Fr Guvvala Balaraju | Don Bosco Mission, Ravulapalem |
| 7. Fr Salibindla Balashowry | Nava Jeevan Bala Bhavan, Vijayawada |
| 8. Fr Valiarambil James | Don Bosco Mission, Wyra |

Regarding Bosco Ashram, Ponnur and Provincial House, Hyderabad

Following the guidelines of ACTS 422 regarding consistency of the number of confreres, the Rector Major has given non-canonical status to Bosco Ashram, Ponnur. Fr Raminedi Balaraju is hereby appointed as in charge of the community.

Fr Cheruvathur James, presently the Rector of Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad, has requested to be relieved of the responsibility of being the Rector for personal reasons. I thank him for all the hard work and collaboration he offered for the past one year in the Provincial House. In accordance with our Constitutions, I hereby circulate the consultation form for the Rector of the community of Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. Kindly return the duly filled-in consultation form to the Provincial Office by 30 April 2016.

Thanks to the outgoing Economer, Provincial Councillors and Rectors

I would like to thank the outgoing Provincial Economer, Fr Puthussery Sojan, for his dedicated service to the Province during the past six years. He will be remembered for his untiring hard-work and commitment. On behalf of our Province, I also thank the Provincial Councillors who are completing their term: Fr Kudiyirippil James, Fr Vatti Rayappa, Fr Mallavarapu Rayanna and Fr Santiago Thomas. They have been actively involved in the animation and governance of the Province in the past six years. May God bless their generosity.

I take this opportunity to thank the outgoing rectors: Fr Puthupparambil George, Fr Pandicherry Joseph & Fr Kottekarotte Joseph. May the Lord bless them abundantly for their dedicated service in the Province. I wish them all fruitful ministry in their new assignment.

Provincial Commissions & Animation Centres

The various commissions, sectors and centres assist in the animation of the Province. To enhance the quality of service, I request the heads of each individual commission, sector and centre to evaluate and prepare a plan of animation for the good of the Province prior to the joint meeting. These reports would be presented and discussed on 14 April 2016 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. The meeting commences at 9.30 am and concludes at 6 pm. Kindly incorporate the two important events of the Jubilee year of the Province and the visit of the Rector Major (18-21 November 2016) in your plans.

Jubilee Year of the Birth of our Province

On 24 April 2016 we commence the Silver Jubilee Year of the birth of our Province. Let us thank God for all the blessings that we have received as a Province. Let us thank Him for guiding our mission to reach those most in need. While we remember with gratitude God's goodness to us during these years, we also remember the pioneers who worked hard to make our province what it is today. Let us continue to go forward making our mission evermore relevant to the poor and needy. I take this opportunity to thank and congratulate each one of you dear confreres for your share in building up our province with your hard work, dedication and commitment. Let this year be a time of renewal, re-shaping (of our lives and activities) and rejuvenation of our commitment on behalf of the poor. As an added reminder and spiritual strengthening I request you to pray the jubilee prayer every day after the prayer of consecration.

St Joseph the Worker

We once again remember fondly the heavenly Patron of our Province St Joseph on Sunday, the 1st of May. St Joseph, the worker is a reminder to us that he lived by the sweat of his brow, and it was through his daily toil that he sanctified himself. May the example of St Joseph, spur us on in our commitment to the poor boys in our various communities.

Summer Vacation

We have come to the end of another academic year. I wish you all the best as you plan the various summer camps and programmes. These camps are opportunities for our young people to

spend their summer in a fruitful manner. While you chalk out these programmes and activities, do take care to plan out your annual home holidays and get the required rest to recuperate your energies.

Prayers Requested

- ❖ Fr Vadakeparasseril George had some complications with his health. He had treatment to ensure smooth flow of blood from his heart. He is recovering well. Let us continue to assist him with our prayers.
- ❖ Let us continue to pray for the safe release and return of Fr Tom Uzhunnalil. He has worked in our Province as a practical trainee from 1980 to 1982. Let us offer our fraternal support to the provincial and the confreres of the Bangalore Province.
- ❖ Cl Kalapala Rajesh lost his dear father Mr. Nagabushanam (52) on 3rd April, 2016. Cl Rajesh is currently pursuing his studies in Don Bosco Academy, Nalgonda. Let us accompany our young confrere in this difficult moment with our prayers and fraternal support.

Summer Apostolate

We welcome the students of Philosophy and Theology for the Summer Youth Ministry, which gives them another concrete opportunity of being involved in the Salesian community life and mission. May I request the Rectors and other members of the community to plan and facilitate their ministry and forward a brief description of their apostolate to the Provincial Office at the end of the summer vacation.

Lenten Contribution - A Reminder

As mentioned in the previous circular, all the leaders of the communities are requested to send the Lenten contribution to the Provincial Economer before 10th April 2016. The collated amount will be sent to the Rector Major.

Conclusion

Pope Francis, time and again, reminds us of the great virtue of being merciful. As we celebrate the Mercy of the heavenly Father towards each and everyone, let us grow in our understanding and concern towards all, especially our own confreres. Let us consolidate our own foundations (communities) before we venture out to help build the lives and edifices of the society. Trusting in the goodness of our brothers let us rid ourselves and our communities of all that hampers us

from being and giving of our very best to our mission.

We are capable of creating authentic communities that promote friendship, radiate joy, grow in support and reconcile through forgiveness. Let us therefore continue to strive to accept, appreciate, enthuse and when necessary fraternally challenge our brothers. Doing so in the right spirit, we create a little heaven right here, and the joy of our evangelical life will inspire and empower those whom we reach out to.

Affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr Thathireddy Bhaskar SDB

Provincial

TRAVELOGUE OF THE PROVINCIAL - APRIL 2016

- 05 Tue First Death Anniversary of FrChinnappa Thomas, Karunapuram
06 Wed Don Bosco School, Mothinagar
07 Thu Volunteers' Meet, Chiguru
08 Fri Past pupils' Meet, P.T. Parru
14 Thu Provincial Commission/Sector/Centre Heads Meet, Hyderabad
24 Sun Provincial Council / Silver Jubilee Year of the Province begins

TRAVELOGUE OF THE VICE PROVINCIAL - April 2016

- 01 Fri Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad
04 Mon DB Technical School, Kurnool
05 Tue Chundururu Church Blessing, P.T. Parru
07 Thu Volunteers' Meeting in Chiguru, Vijayawada
08 Fri DB Philosophate, Karunapuram
11 Mon Don Bosco Mission, Kollapur
14 Thu Evaluation of SEPP, Provincial Commissions Meet
15 Fri Don Bosco Mission Complex, Mariapuram
24 Sun Provincial Council
26 Tue Don Bosco Mission, Raptadu