

# PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

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## SALESIAN PROVINCE OF HYDERABAD



**INH / TVB / CIR / 01 / 2016**

**FEBRUARY 2016**

**Dear Confreres,**

Greeting to you from Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. “God qualifies the called and only through His grace can we become worthy instruments of His love and mercy.” These are my sentiments as I take up the responsibility of leading the Province of St Joseph, Hyderabad, as its fifth leader. I thank you dear confreres for your support, love and acceptance. I hope to live up to the trust and confidence that our Rector Major Rev. Fr Angel Fernandez and his council has placed in me in guiding our Province. As I take up this important, but challenging responsibility, I ask your prayers that I lead by example, that I may become an instrument in bringing alive the spirit and charism of our dear father and founder Don Bosco, living our commitment to Jesus and bringing Christ to the young whom we serve, with the maternal protection of our loving Mother Mary. As I take up this sacred task, I promise to be at your service, as a brother among brothers, with a fathers’ heart, to help build the Salesian fraternity so that we may live our consecration and mission meaningfully and joyfully.

**Thank you dear Fr Raminedi Balaraju**

With a great sense of gratitude I recall the selfless service that Rev. Fr Raminedi Balaraju our former Provincial has rendered to our Province in the past six years. He was an exemplary Salesian who ably led the province according to the mind and heart of our founder St John Bosco. He made sincere efforts in attaining stability in the Province and will be remembered as a provincial who had an understanding heart. He encouraged the confreres to be faithful to their calling and simultaneously gave a new thrust to vocations. We assure him of our prayerful support as he continues to be at the service of our Province.

I would like to thank Rev. Fr Maria Arokiam, our Regional, who officiated the installation ceremony. I thank him for his encouragement and constant support. Thank you dear confreres for representing our communities either in person or through your wishes and prayers. Your support gives me a lot of courage and strength to walk the future confidently exploring new and effective ways of our ministry with and for the young, while building on the strong foundation of my predecessors. I thank Fr Yeruva Joji, the Vice Provincial who diligently planned and organized the welcome and adieu ceremony. Sincere thanks to the confreres, parishioners and staff of the Provincial House and BIRDY.

**The Season of Lent**

The season of lent commences with the Ash Wednesday on the 10<sup>th</sup> of this month. Lent is a time when we consciously resolve to do something more on our march towards God. We decide to give up something, or

we positively want to do something. In this year of Mercy, let the time of Lent invite us to be more genuinely merciful. Let us resolve to show mercy even when we think that he/she does not deserve it. Responding to the situation of the woman caught in adultery, Jesus was very clear, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her”(John 8:7). Ronald Rolheiser in his book, *The Passion and the Cross* says that Jesus gives away love in total self-sacrifice, at the cost of humiliation, brokenness and death. In the humdrum of our daily lives, we go through our own passion when we are rejected, hated, ill treated, gossiped about. It is in these moments that we can give our love and ourselves in a very deep way. Let this time of Lent be marked by this merciful attitude of forgiveness and reconciliation.

As regards to penance and mortification, Regulation 73 of our Constitutions reminds us: ‘In harmony with the Salesian tradition and the teaching of the Church, Friday is to be for the members a day of community penance. In Lent the community should establish some common practice of mortification, which helps the members to prepare for Easter and opens them to a greater sharing with the poor.’

Kindly do remember to send your Lenten contribution to the Provincial Economer.

### Consultation for the Provincial Councillors and Rectors

By April 2016, the Economer of the Province and the following Provincial Councillors complete their second term in office:

Fr Puthussery Sojan (Provincial Economer)  
 Fr Kudiyirippil James (Councillor)  
 Fr Vatti Rayappa (Councillor)  
 Fr Mallavarapu Rayanna (Councillor)  
 Fr Santiago Thomas (Councillor)

In accordance with the Art. 167 of our Constitutions, 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. Hence kindly send in the forms duly filled in by **5<sup>th</sup> March 2016**.

Furthermore in May 2016, eleven Rectors finish their first term in office in the various communities. The article 177 of our Constitutions states thus: ‘The Rector ... is appointed by the Provincial with the consent of his council and the approval of the Rector Major, due regard being paid to the results of a consultation carried out among the members of the Province.’

The following confreres complete their first term in office as Rectors:

1. Fr Koonananickal Jose (BIRDY, Hyderabad)
2. Fr Bellamkonda Anthony Sudhakar (DBNJ, Hyderabad)
3. Fr Puthupparambil George (DB Mission Complex, Mariapuram)
4. Fr Sony Cyriac (DB Nava Nirman, Muniguda)
5. Fr Gopu Anand (DB Academy, Nalgonda)
6. Fr Madanu Rayappa (DB Mission, Narsipatnam)
7. Fr Pandicherry Joseph (Assumption Church, Pezzonipet)

8. Fr Kottekarotte Joseph	(Bosco Ashram, Ponnur)
9. Fr Guvvala Balaraju	(DB Mission, Ravulapalem)
10. Fr Salibindla Balashowry	(DBNJ, Vijayawada)
11. Fr Valiarambil James	(DB Mission, Wyra)

In accordance with the Constitutions, I hereby include the consultation forms for all the offices listed above. I count on your cooperation and responsibility to assist me in this important task of appointing animators to the communities listed above. Kindly return the duly filled-in consultation forms to the Provincial office by **5<sup>th</sup> March, 2016**.

### Heartfelt Condolences

- ✓ On 15 January 2016, the Lord called to Himself Fr Moonnanappallil Jacob SDB, a confrere who suffered much especially in the last 22 years, being confined to the wheel chair. Our province has lost a hero of determination and hope. Through a serene acceptance of his condition and exemplary religious life, he continues to inspire and give meaning to his rather silent life. We miss dear Fr Jacob and we shall continue to draw inspiration from his determination and 'never give up' attitude. May his soul rest in peace. Our hearty condolences to his family members too. There will be a memorial mass for Fr M.D. Jacob on 13<sup>th</sup> February at 04.30 pm, at Don Bosco Philosophate, Karunapuram.
- ✓ Cl. Malisetti Balaraju lost his dear father Mr Malisetti Lourdu Raju (47) on 6 January, 2016. Cl. Balaraju is currently pursuing his 1<sup>st</sup> year of philosophy in Karunapuram. Let us accompany our young confrere in this difficult moment with our prayers and fraternal support.
- ✓ Mr Marneni Baltharaju (68) the brother of Fr Marneni Mariadas died on 8<sup>th</sup> January, 2016. We offer Fr Mariadas and all the family members our deep condolences and sincere prayers.
- ✓ On 2 January 2016, the Province of Chennai was saddened by the death of Fr John Peter Sathiaraj SDB. He was a former Provincial of the Chennai Province. We offer our condolences to the Provincial and the confreres of the Province.
- ✓ The Province of Kolkata lost Fr Joseph Punchekunnel SDB on 9 January 2016. He was a missionary in Bolivia for 25 years. We offer our condolences as a Province to the Provincial and the Salesians of the Kolkata province.

### Congratulations to the new Bishop of Vijayawada

We congratulate the new bishop of Vijayawada, Most Rev. Joseph Raja Rao Thelagathoti. Let us rejoice and thank the Lord along with the priests, religious and faithful of the diocese of Vijayawada for sending a Shepherd to lead the diocese. Let us promise him our collaboration in building up the Church in his diocese.

### SPCSA Assembly & Council

The next SPCSA Assembly and Council will take place in Mumbai from February 27 to March 2, 2016. The

Provincial council has chosen Fr Puthussery Sojan as the delegate to take part in the SPCSA Assembly.

### Fr Tom Varkey Chowaran

A *rescript* from the Congregation for Institute of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life has granted Fr Tom Chowaran *an indult* of departure *ad experimentum* from our Institute, to exercise his Priestly Ministry in the Diocese of Baker (US) for five years. Let us pray for him that he may continue to do God's work wherever he is.

### Assessment Forms

Kindly note that the third assessment of the temporarily professed Salesians is to reach the Provincial office by 5 March, 2016. This is also an urgent reminder for those who are still to send the second assessment. The Rectors of the respective houses are exhorted to take the necessary steps in ensuring that these forms are diligently filled in by the community. Since this process offers us one of the valuable means of accompanying our young Salesians as they grow in their Salesian Vocation we need to participate in it with due seriousness and concern.

### Applications for Renewal and Perpetual Profession

The Rectors and clerics in temporary Profession are once again reminded about submitting the application form for the renewal or perpetual Profession after due reflection, consultation and prayer. The last date for the application forms, along with the opinion of the local community to reach the Provincial office is 5 March, 2016.

### In View of Summer Ministry 2016

We have a few brothers studying Theology and Philosophy available for ministry during the summer holidays. In case you would like to avail of their services, kindly fill the format enclosed

and send it to the vice provincial before 29 February 2016.

### Salesian Events/Saints/Celebrations

#### 1 February - Deceased Salesians

The memory of deceased confreres unites us who are still pilgrims with those who are already resting in Christ. Don Bosco wrote, "It seems appropriate to say something about the life of each of them, so that their memory is preserved among us. What I am doing for them, we hope with the help of the Lord that the same will be done for the brothers already called to eternal life in the past and for those whom God pleases to call to himself in the future. We do this for three specific reasons: 1. Other religious orders and ecclesiastical congregations are accustomed to do so. 2. So that those who lived and practiced the same rules in an exemplary way may be an encouragement to us to imitate in doing good and avoiding evil. 3. That recording their names and their deeds we may remember more easily to raise prayers to

God for the eternal repose of their souls, if they have not yet been received into the bosom of God's Mercy."

### 7 February - Blessed Pius IX

Blessed Pope Pius IX was a contemporary of Don Bosco. He had a close connection to Don Bosco. He was the Pope who approved the Constitutions of the Salesian society and the Association of the Salesian Cooperators. Pius IX was deeply influenced by the spirituality of St Francis de Sales and that of St Alphonsus Maria de Liguori both of whom he proclaimed as Doctors of the Church. Don Bosco's own spirituality was modelled after these two saints especially during the years that he spent at the Ecclesiastical Institute. Pope Pius IX combated Jansenism successfully during his pontificate. His pontificate lasted between 1846-1878.

### 9 February - Blessed Eusebia Palomino

On 9 February we commemorate the feast of Bl. Eusebia Palomino Yenes, a Salesian Sister who worked in Spain and poured out her life as an offering to the Lord for the salvation of Spain and freedom of Religion during the revolution. The life of sister Eusebia enriches the Salesian charism not on account of her great accomplishments or her contribution to a specific doctrine but because of the extraordinary quality of her ordinary everyday life.

She manifested in her life some typical aspects of Salesian Spirituality: her positive outlook based on the certainty of being loved by God; her love for the Eucharist and for Mary - she had no hesitation in promoting *Marian Slavery* as taught by Louis Grignon de Montfort; her availability for any job, as an expression of *da mihi animas cetera tolle*; the discipline of ready availability without reservations and the offering of her daily life as a gift for others. The most evident trait of her life was her love for girls in need. This made her zealously seek the best ways of educating them in a spirit of true joy.

### 15 February - Venerable Vincent Cimatti

Vincent Cimatti was born in Faenza on 15<sup>th</sup> July 1879 to James and Rosa Pasi as the last of seven children. When only three, he lost his father. His mother brought him to the parish church where Don Bosco was preaching. "Vincent, look, look there at Don Bosco." He would recall the kindly face of the old priest the rest of his life.

After his ordination, he taught for a few years at Valsalice. Then Don Rinaldi sent him to lead the group founding the Salesian presence in Japan. He worked there for 40 years. In his letter of September 1926 to Fr Rinaldi, he synthesizes his missionary experience of the first few months. "The absolute conviction of my nothingness is a daily growing awareness. This is manifested in the difficulty of the language as well as in understanding the people". In spite of all the hardships, he won the hearts of the Japanese by his kindness, getting involved, like Don Bosco, in the apostolate of the press and in that of music. He translated the life of Dominic Savio into Japanese. He died in Japan, with patriarchal honour, on 6<sup>th</sup>

October 1965. He was recognized and honoured by both the Italian and the Japanese civil authorities. His body was exhumed in 1977 and was found to be perfectly intact and now lies in the crypt in Chofu.

### 25 February - Sts. Louis Versiglia and Callistus Caravario

These two souls were brave missionaries and proto-martyrs of the Salesian Family. Aloysius Versiglia was the bishop of Shiu Chow, China, while Callistus Caravario was a young missionary to the Chinese Missions. They were shot dead by pirates, while defending their faith and the chastity of the women travelling with them, in 1930.

On the eve of his ordination Callistus Caravario wrote to his mother, “Now your Callistus is no longer yours, he must be entirely the Lord’s, wholly consecrated to his service. I hope the Lord will grant me this grace. On your part, from now on, think only of praying that I may be a holy priest, setting good example to all and entirely dedicated to the cause of the Lord.” Bishop Versiglia showed his great spirit of faith especially in developing the mission entrusted to him. Faced with problems, lack of means and exhausted, he cried, “We have God with us, the Help of Christians and an inexhaustible treasure and wealth: the spirit of Don Bosco.” Their example inspires us to continue our mission and through our hardships focus purely on the One whom we have dedicated our lives to.

### First steps into my service

From the beginning of February 2016, I will be making my visits to the communities for a fraternal meeting of the confreres. I will be happy to listen to each confrere, his personal journey, his expectations and dreams for the Province. Kindly do not plan any programmes of felicitation. A simple fraternal welcome is more than sufficient.

As I conclude my maiden circular, I once again thank each one of you dear confreres for your trust and support. Trusting in God's manifold graces, Mother Mary's help and the genuine goodwill of my dear confreres and the young people with and for whom we work, I journey along with you all.

Affectionately in Don Bosco,




**Fr Thathireddy Bhaskar SDB**  
Provincial

### Enclosed:

Consultation forms for The Economer (1), Provincial Councillors (4) and Rectors (11) - for each confrere.

<b>TRAVELOGUE OF THE PROVINCIAL - FEBRUARY 2016</b>
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- 2 Gunadala - Vijayawada - Consecration of the Bishop of Vijayawada
- 4 Provincial House - Volunteers' Meet
- 6 Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad
- 9 Hyderabad - Rajiv Gandhi National Skills Training Meet
- 11 Don Bosco Missio, Wyra
- 12 Don Bosco Mission, Mariapuram
- 13 Karunapuram - Memorial Mass of Fr Moonnanappallil Jacob
- 14 Hyderabad
- 15 Mangalagiri - DBNJ, Vijayawada
- 16 Ravulapalem - Nuzvid
- 17 Pezzonipet - Guntupally
- 19 DB School, Bandlaguda
- 20 Provincial Council, Hyderabad**
- 21 Hyderabad - Human Rights' Meet
- 22 Don Bosco Academy, Nalgonda
- 23 Don Bosco Junior College, Chandur
- 24 Hyderabad - Economers' Meet
- 26 - 3 Mumbai - SPCSA Assembly & Council

<b>TRAVELOGUE OF THE PROVINCIAL - MARCH 2016</b>
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- 5 St. Michal's Boys Home, Guntur
- 6 Bosco Ashram, Ponnur, DB Mission - P.T. Parru
- 7 Don Bosco, Ongole
- 12 -13 Provincial Council**
- 14 St. Theresa's Church, Sanathnagar; Don Bosco School, Sanathnagar
- 15 Don Bosco Navajeevan, Ramanthapur
- 16 BIRDY, Hyderabad
- 19 Bangalore - Diaconate Ordinations
- 20 Don Bosco Navajeevan, Punganur
- 21 Don Bosco I.T.C Kadapa
- 22 Don Bosco Mission, Raptadu
- 23 Don Bosco Technical School, Kurnool
- 26 Don Bosco Nava Nirman, Muniguda
- 28 St. John's Regional Seminary, Kondadaba
- 29 Don Bosco Mission, Peddaboddepalli
- 30 Don Bosco Navajeevan Bala Bhavan, Visakhapatnam

TRAVELOGUE OF THE VICE PROVINCIAL - FEBRUARY 2016

- 1 Installation of the New Provincial
- 4 Don Bosco, Gunadala
- 8 Don Bosco Technical School, Kurnool
- 9 Don Bosco Mission, Raptadu
- 10 Don Bosco Navajeevan, Punganur
- 12 Don Bosco Philosophate, Karunapuram
- 13 Don Bosco Philosophate, Karunapuram - Month's Mind of Fr. Jacob
- 18 Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad
- 19 Bandlaguda School Day, Hyderabad
- 20 **Provincial Council**
- 21 SIGA - Chennai
- 22-23 Yercaud
- 24 Angadikadavu
- 28 Don Bosco Junior College Chandur, Nalgonda

TRAVELOGUE OF THE ECONOMER - FEBRUARY 2016

- 2 Provincial House
- 4 Volunteers' Meet - Hyderabad
- 5 Don Bosco School, Sanathnagar
- 8 Don Bosco School, Bandlaguda
- 12 Don Bosco Navajeevan, Ramanthapur
- 13 Karunapuram - Memorial Mass for Fr. Moonnanappallil Jacob
- 15 Don Bosco, Chandur
- 17 Don Bosco, Nalgonda
- 19 Don Bosco School, Bandlaguda
- 20 **Provincial Council**
- 24 Economers' Meet, Hyderabad
- 26 SPCSA - Mumbai