

R B \ I N H \ C I R 0 7 \ 2 0 1 5

# PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

*St. Joseph Province of Hyderabad - INH*



RB /INH /CIR 07 /2015

July, 2015

**Dear Confreres,**

Greetings of peace and joy from Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad! The Holy Father Pope Francis visited Turin on 21 June 2015 and gave a message stressing three things about Don Bosco: his trust in the divine providence - he being a priest for the young - he being at the service of the Church. Here I am giving his message for the reflection in communities.

The Holy Father proceeded to the basilica of Mary Help of Christians to celebrate with the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians in their motherhouse on the bicentenary of the birth of the “apostle of the young”, St. John Bosco. Thousands of young people from Salesian oratories from all over the world awaited the Pope outside the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians. Upon arrival Pope Francis, accompanied by the Archbishop of Turin, Cesare Nosiglia, left a floral tribute at the main altar, which was inaugurated in 1868 at the behest of St. John Bosco; accompanied by the Rector Major, Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime, the Pope gave the following discourse.

“I thank the Lord with you for having given the Church this saint, who along with many other saints from the region, is an honour and a blessing for the Church and for society in Turin and Piedmont, for Italy and all the world, in particular for the attention he showed to the young and marginalised poor. Much may be said of Don Bosco. However, I would like to emphasise just three characteristics:

His trust in Divine Providence, the vocation of being a priest for the young, especially the poorest; and his loyal and active service to the Church, especially to Peter's successor”.

“Don Bosco carried out his priestly mission up to his last breath, supported by an unswerving trust in God and in His love, and for this he was able to do great things. This relationship of trust with the Lord is also the substance of consecrated life, so that

service to the Gospel and to our brothers does not remain a prisoner of our viewpoints, of the transient realities of this world, but rather a continual surpassing of ourselves, anchoring us in external realities and submerging ourselves in the Lord, our strength and our hope. And this will also be our fruitfulness”.

“The other important aspect of the life of Don Bosco is service to the young. He achieved this with steadfastness and constancy, notwithstanding obstacles and hardships, with the sensibility of a generous heart. The charism of Don Bosco leads us to be educators of the young, implementing that pedagogy of the faith that may be summarised thus: 'evangelise by educating and educate by evangelising'. To evangelise the young, to educate the young full-time, starting from the most fragile and abandoned, proposing an educational style made of reason, religion and affection, universally appreciated as the 'preventive system'. Encourages you to continue with generosity and trust your many activities in support of the new generations: oratories, youth centres, professional institutes, schools and colleges. But without forgetting what Don Bosco called the 'street children': they are greatly in need of hope, of being formed in the joy of Christian life”.

“Don Bosco was always obedient and faithful the Church and the Pope, following suggestions and pastoral indications. Today the Church turns to you, spiritual sons and daughters of this great Saint, and in a concrete way invites you to reach out, to go out anew to find the children and young people where they are: in the peripheries of the metropolises, in the areas of physical and moral danger, in social contexts where many material things are missing, but where above all there is a lack of love, understanding, tenderness and hope. Go towards them with the overflowing paternity of Don Bosco.

The oratory of Don Bosco was born of the encounter with street children and for a certain time he lived an itinerant life in the quarters of Turin. May you be able to announce Jesus' mercy to all, making every place an 'oratory', especially those that seem most impervious; carrying in your hearts Don Bosco's oratory style and looking to ever-broader apostolic horizons. From the solid root that he laid down two hundred years ago in the terrain of the Church and society, many branches have grown: thirty religious institutions that live the charism to share the mission of carrying the Gospel to the outer reaches of the peripheries. The Lord has blessed this service, inspiring among you, throughout these two centuries, a great number of people whom the Church has proclaimed blessed and saints. I encourage you to continue on this path, imitating the

faith of your predecessors”.

### **Salesian Saint of the Month**

#### **Bl. Maria Romero:**

Blessed Maria Romero was born in Granada to a rich bourgeois family; her father was a high-ranking state official, who was a religious man and sensitive to the problems of poor people. After completing her studies she joined the congregation of Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and became a Salesian sister in 1923. Working for the poor of the place, she managed to bring about a revolution of charity by inspiring the well to do families.

She founded the “Little Mission” in the year 1939. The purpose of the mission was to help the poor and preach about Jesus. She emptied herself of all selfish motives and filled herself with God. She had great devotion to Our Lady, “I know the Madonna is guiding me and I follow her with closed eyes, without the least fear or preoccupation”. She reminded herself continually, like Don Bosco of the divine dimension of her work and cultivated union with God. She was indeed a contemplative in action.

#### **Feast of St. Anne and Joaquim**

On 26<sup>th</sup> July, we celebrate the feast of St. Anne and Joaquim. They were the grandparents of Jesus Christ. They were an exemplary couple. Theirs was the best family next only to their daughter’s, which comprised of Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Anne and Joaquim spent most of their time in prayer. Let us pray that these simple, pious, God-fearing, patient, kind-hearted and peaceful couple help us to be models in our Community life and to be rooted in prayer.

#### **Congratulations:**

**Fr. Joseph Almeida**, has been appointed as the New Provincial of the Vice-Province of Sri Lanka. He was the Rector of Salesian Missionary Aspirantate at Sirajuli in the Province of Guwahati. He holds a doctorate in Spiritual Theology and carries with him the rich experience of having been Province Secretary, Provincial Councillor, Novice Master, Vice Provincial and Provincial for six years. We wish him a very fruitful ministry as he takes up the leadership of the Vice Province of Sri Lanka. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Fr. Nihal Liyanage as he lays down office. Let us continue to support him through our prayers.

**Sr. Rose Ezarath**, has been appointed as the New Provincial of the Salesian

Sisters of Kolkata Province. We wish her a very fruitful ministry and assure her of our prayers.

### **Provincial Chapter IX**

We will be having the Ninth Provincial Chapter from 09 to 12 November 2015 at DBPH Hyderabad. With this circular, I am convoking the Ninth Provincial Chapter of the Salesian Province of Hyderabad as laid down in art.172 of our Constitutions. I am happy to announce the appointment of Fr Yeruva Joji Reddy as the moderator of the Chapter. I am grateful to him for accepting this responsibility. The moderator will be assisted by the preparatory commission members. I thank the preparatory commission members for their availability. Here is the list of the preparatory commission members.

Fr Garlapati Kishore, Fr Bellamkonda Sudhakar, Fr Chinnabathuni Louis, Fr Vatti Balashowry, Fr Koonananickal Jose, Fr Pitchaimuthu Arul Das, Fr Yandava Kalayan Kumar.

### **Condolences:**

**Fr. Francis Kharjia sdb (aged 63)** belonging to the Province of Mumbai passed away on 17 June 2015 in Kuwait. Let us convey our condolences to the Provincial and confreres of Mumbai Province.

**Br. Philip Neri sdb (aged 54)** belonging to the Province of Panjim passed away on 24 June 2015. Let us convey our condolences to the Provincial and confreres of Panjim Province.

**Sr. Nirmala Joshi (aged 81)** the first successor of Mother Theresa passed away on 22 June 2015. She was one of the first Sisters of the Congregation to head a foreign mission when she went to panama. In 1976, she started the contemplative branch of the Missionaries of Charity and remained as its head until her election as Mother Theresa's first successor.

### **Marian Month**

The month of July brings to our mind the figure of Don Bosco's Madonna, "the model of prayer and pastoral love, and the teacher of wisdom and guide of our family". A month-long devotional practices begin on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Thursday 16 July 2015. This offers us a golden opportunity to spread and deepen the devotion to our Blessed Mother and continue to inspire in the young the love for God. I am sure you will utilize this opportunity to grow in your love for our heavenly Mother

and lead our boys and girls to this filial love.

As we are just one more month away to conclude the Bi-centenary year of the birth of our loving father Don Bosco, I urge all the confreres and communities to organize spiritual/cultural celebrations, inviting the young to participate and experience our love for this great Saint of the Young.

**Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,**

*Fr. R. Balaraju*



**Fr Ramedni Balaraju sdb**

**Provincial**