

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

St. Joseph Province of Hyderabad - INH



RB /INH /CIR 55 /2014

November, 2014

Dear Confreres,

Greetings of peace and joy from Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad! In the following article we shall continue to reflect on the life style of the Oratory and of the first Salesian Community at Valdocco, Turin. Kindly read this in the communities and make use of it for animation.

Life style at the Oratory and the first Salesian Community at Valdocco, Turin. (continuation)

2. Characteristics of Salesian work

Don Bosco recommends and praises hard work, but under certain conditions: the first that it be *orderly and properly organised, suitable and useful* – as Fr Cafasso used to tell his young priests: something which was part of the mission received, the role one had in the community, to the advantage of the Christian education of the young, under the guidance of the superiors. This sort of hard work was the result of availability by vocation and gift of self. It was an attitude that Don Bosco saw, in those who followed him even before the official act of founding the Congregation: “Often, and for many years, finding himself in a huddle with a group of boys or his clerics. and ioking with them as usual. he would end up sitting on

the ground, his legs crossed and his students around him.

He would have a white handkerchief in his hand, roll it into a ball and throw it from one hand to the other. The youngsters would silently observe this then: -'Oh!' he would say at one point; 'if I had twelve young people with me and could command them to do as I am doing with this handkerchief, I could spread the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ not only throughout Europe, but beyond its borders to very distant lands'. And he would explain no further" (MB IV, 424).

Apostolic work: this was Don Bosco's main concern. At a conference he gave on 19 March 1876 commenting on Jesus' words, "the harvest is great but the labourers are few", he told the Salesians and the boys: "The workers are those who in some way help with the salvation of souls". In the Lord's field "there is a need for all kinds of workers, really all kinds; No one can say: 'Although my behaviour is irreproachable, I will be no good working for the greater glory of God'. No, nobody can say that; everyone can do something. ...

Now, someone might ask: 'But Don Bosco, what are you trying to say by this? Oh, my dear friends! That cry of Jesus "*operarii autem pauci*" (workers are few) was not only heard in ancient times, in centuries gone by but today as well. In our own times we hear it more and more demandingly. The Salesian Congregation's harvest is growing beyond proportions so that I can say that we no longer know where to begin or how to organise our work. It is for this reason that I would like to see you all quickly as labourers in the Lord's vineyard! Requests for colleges, houses, missions are arriving in extraordinary numbers both from around Italy, France and other parts of the world. From Algeria, Egypt, Nigeria in Africa, from Arabia, India, China and Japan in Asia; from Australia, the Argentinian Republic, Paraguay, Gibraltar and one could say from all over America there are requests to open new houses because everywhere there is such a lack of workers for the Gospel so that it frightens anyone who observes the amount of good that

could be done and that has to be left undone through lack of missionaries ...“But in view of so many needs, such a lack of labourers for the Gospel, noting that all of you here, in one way or another can work in the Lord's vineyard, could I just stay quiet and not manifest the secret desire of my heart? Oh how much I would like to see you encouraged to work like the apostles! All my thoughts turn to this, all my concerns, all my efforts. ... Could I stay silent in view of such pressing needs? And while they are calling for us from everywhere and it seems to be the voice of God manifested in so many mouths, could I just pull back? After the manifest signs from Divine Providence of the great things he wishes to achieve through the Salesians, could I remain quiet and not try to increase the number of evangelical apostles?”.

In an apostolic outlook like this, work can only be *sanctified* for the Salesians. “Salesian work”, Fr. Alberto Caviglia says, “is the work of the soul, our soul, the spirituality we put into work. So, in short we are saints with our sleeves rolled up: this is the Salesian kind of work. If I had to paint Don Bosco amongst the Salesians, I would paint him with his sleeves rolled up.... Pius XI said: ‘The true Salesian does not try to measure out his work’. What beautiful words! For goodness sake, never pay heed to the snooze-artists you'll find in every house: ‘Don't tire yourself out, eat more, work less, etc... but drive home this idea: you have to work. Don't work like some kind of go-getter but to please God”.

Then Fr. Caviglia lists other characteristics of Salesian work:

The Salesian works *with a collective conscience*, that is, with a sense of belonging to a shared mission.

The Salesian works *with inner awareness* which leads him to do his act of service well, whatever it is, precisely and with the expertise of the skilled craftsman.

The Salesian works *with love*: “Working with love is the secret of our professional and pedagogical success”.

The Salesian works *courageously and zealously*: “This is a quality we should never overlook. This is how the old Salesians were formed. School doesn't teach you everything you need to know. If you don't know something, adapt, look around and be daring. That will teach you. ‘But I don't know how!’ Be daring, do what you can, study. Don't take notice of the nay-sayers: ‘But your health...?’ God will help you”.

Finally, the Salesian *knows more than one trade*: “The value of a Brother is that he knows how to do more than one thing. Our houses are lucky when we have Brothers who can do everything.... For the priest, learning is a matter of conscience: in modern life that little bit of theology you did is no longer enough, you need to be formed in culture. Don Bosco's first helpers, in their free time, always had a book in hand so they could perfect their trade. There were some real surprises; nobody expected so much learning from that Salesian”.

This is all in the area of asceticism. Like other spiritual masters formed in the early part of the 19th century – convinced that the action of grace urges us to a personal life of moral virtue and holy industriousness – Don Bosco too, although imbued with romantic feelings of devotion and affection, was not too trusting of mystical experiences since he felt it alienated one from daily work and serving one's brothers and sisters, a misunderstood *fuga mundi* (*fleeing the world*).

He preferred a willing activity for good, being immersed in daily life, virtuous and cheerful hard work, helpful, friendly relationships and especially apostolic charity: “concern for the good of souls” and zeal for “instructing children in the truths of the faith”, to win all humankind “over to God”. But it should be noted that this ascetic, hard-working energy, this tendency in Don Bosco to spiritual and material charity did not run counter to inner communion with God; he never overlooked the prayer of union, and indeed was always obedient to the movement of the Holy Spirit.

3. The asceticism of duty done out of love

In Don Bosco's praxis, the lesson of classical spirituality was reformulated in an anthropological outlook that was suited to the life circumstances of his boys and his Salesians. As we see in the three lives (Savio, Magone and Besucco) or the dream of the Pergola of Roses, he was always attentive to correcting anything that looked like a misunderstood spirituality, calling people back to real life which not only should be accepted but happily embraced. He drew his inspiration from the teaching of St Francis de Sales and suggested a kind of 'positive' mortification where rigidity and excess was ruled out, while at the same time demanding that everything be focused on the circumstances of life... duties of state.

“The exact fulfilment of one's duties”: here we have one of the cornerstones of his approach to formation. Speaking to his boys he would consider a wide range of duties, those which arose from their circumstances: “duties of piety, respect and obedience to parents and charity to everyone”. Mortification of the senses could be had through “diligence in study, paying attention in class, obeying your superiors, putting up with the inconveniences of life like heat, cold, wind, hunger, thirst”, calmly accepting them “out of love for God”.

Other mortifications arose from practising the Gospel precept of love: practising “much kindness and charity” towards one's neighbour, putting up with their faults, “giving good advice”; “doing things for your friends, bringing them some water, cleaning their shoes, serving at table too ..., sweeping the dining room, dormitory, taking out the rubbish, bringing in the wood, carrying bags”. All these things according to Don Bosco were to be done “joyfully” and with “satisfaction”. Indeed, “real penance is not doing what pleases us, but doing what pleases the Lord and helps to promote his glory”.

He gave a similar address to the Salesians. Don Bosco agreed with

Saint Teresa of Lisieux in seeing perfection as charity in practice, in concrete service of one's neighbour, without self-interest, calmly, lovingly and faithfully doing one's job, even amidst suffering and opposition. This is what he suggested to his helpers, that they give example of it in their own lives, fully consecrated to the good of young people.

In 1864 he told his Salesians the dream of the Pergola of Roses and finished it by telling them of the comment from the man who was his guide: "Know then that this road [with its roses and thorns] means *the care you must take in looking after young people*. You have to walk along this road with your shoes on, meaning *mortification*. These beautiful roses are a symbol of *burning charity* which should distinguish you and all your helpers in the education of youth.

The thorns mean all the *obstacles, sufferings, disappointments* you have to put up with while doing this. But never lose courage in being charitable, you will overcome everything through mortification. And at the end you will have roses without thorns as you saw in that rich hall you finally arrived at".

So everything is based here on charity, sacrificial love, unconditional gift of self to God whom you love above all else and in dedication to the young. This is an inner movement of loving offering in everyday life, out of which arises a sense of ardent and joyful charity, an intense, serene, hard-working fervour, along with an unmistakable style of relationships, a special model of the religious and educational community and a typically Salesian approach to activity.

Salesian Saints of the Month

Bl. Magdalene Morano (15 Nov)

Magdalene Morano, born in Chieri (Turin) on November 15, 1847. From an early age she began to teach the local children. She 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 even today is a prophecy of love inspiring us in the education of women and in joyful and zealous evangelization.

She took on the work of formation of the many new vocations that were attracted by her zeal and by the community atmosphere she created. Her manifold apostolate was appreciated and encouraged by the Bishops, who entrusted the work of catechesis to her evangelical creativity. She had always lived up to her resolution of “never block the action of Grace by giving in to personal egotism”.

Servant of God Margaret Occhiena (25 Nov)

Margaret Melchior Occhiena, was born on 1st April 1788. She was from a better off family. 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 the Salesian mission for the young.

She was a veritable mother to all the boys, so good, attentive and solicitous as to make them forget their own mothers who were either dead or far away. When she was with Don Bosco, she said to him, “Keep in mind that many are seeking their own interests rather than God’s glory. I must depart and leave my chores to others. Our Lady will not fail to assist you. Do not seek pomp or splendor in your work. Seek only the glory of God and let the foundation of your work be true poverty.

Some people preach poverty to others but do not practice it themselves. The best way to preach is to practice what one preaches. Let your relatives stay as they are – poor; they will get along best that way”. Following in the footsteps of Don Bosco, we cannot but look at his mother. It was she who led Don Bosco on the road to sanctity. She died on 25 November 1856 at the age of 68 years.

Venerable Simon Srugi (27 Nov)

Simon Srugi was born at Nazareth of Galilee on 27 June 1877. His parents passed away when he was just six years and thereon 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 lay coadjutor and then professed as a Coadjutor 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 services of a doctor. The sick said of him: “other doctors do not have the blessed hands of Srugi”. Visiting the Salesian confreres, Bl. Michael Rua called him a ‘Saint’. He died on 27 November 1943 at the age of sixty-six, worn out with work and malaria.

SPCSA meet in Sri Lanka

The SPCSA council meet will be held in Sri Lanka on 15th and 16th of this month and I will be leaving on 14th to be back on 18th November. The Provincial Conference will take up for discussions, the implementation of GC 27 the Rector Major’s Plan for the coming six years and the South Asia Plan. Kindly pray for the effectiveness of this meeting.

Extraordinary Synod on the Family

Pope Francis announced the Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops on topics related to the family and evangelization. The theme “The Pastoral challenges of the family in the context of evangelization”, was held in Rome from 5 to 19 of October 2014.

The Holy Father in his speech wrapped up the proceedings of the

Synod with a statement which says that there needs to be a balance between mercy and morality...that while mercy should temper justice, moral rectitude and traditional values must be insisted upon.

He cautioned against, “a temptation to hostile inflexibility” as well as the tendency to fall into the ‘destructive tendency’ of being do-gooders, who in the name of a deceptive mercy binds up the wounds without first curing them and treating them.

Evidently the Pope was referring to the dilemma involved in the formulation of and living out of the beneficial moral codes in today’s society with its diverse approaches and attitudes. What he seems to state is that one needs to avoid extremes and seek to find a balance. The reluctance to live a disciplined and value-oriented life may find expression in many of the temptations which the Holy Father referred to in his speech to the members of the synod on the family. However this is not confined to issues dealing with the family but is applicable to life and administration at any and every level.

FMA – Mother General Re-elected

On the 24 October 2014, the chapter members re-elected Sr. Yvonne Reungoat as the Mother General, 9th Successor of Mother Maria Domenica Mazzarello. The first to congratulate her along with the chapter members was the Rector Major, Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime. We Congratulate her and promise her our Prayers.

Projects to be submitted

Those who are sending projects from different Communities are requested to send them to the Provincial’s office by 10th of every month.

Provincial Community Day – Don Bosco Nava Nirman, Muniguda

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 11 November 2014, at Don Bosco Nava Nirman, Muniguda. May I invite you to participate in this event as a concrete expression of our fraternal unity to rejoice over our communion and to thank one another.

Programme of Provincial community Day

10.00 am- Animation; 11.30 am – Cultural Prog. & Felicitations
12.30 pm – Fellowship Meal; 2.30 pm – Holy Eucharist; 4.30 pm –
Tea/Departure

Provincial Visitation

The Canonical Visitation of the communities has begun and prior to my visit, Fr. Vice Provincial and Fr. Economer will make a study of the house and its mission and present their report. The Rectors and Leaders of the communities are expected to make sure that all the documents, reports, registers and minutes are kept up-to-date for the Provincial Visitation.

I believe, the Provincial Visitation will be a great moment of grace to all of us. It will help us to run the province on sound and effective lines. I am sure that God will bless all our Communities, Confreres and lay collaborators during this Annual Provincial Visitation. Kindly pray for me that I may be guided by God's Spirit during the visitation of our communities.

National Educational Conference of Don Bosco Schools - NECDBS

The All India Don Bosco Education Society (AIDBES) principals meet is going to be held in the Province of Mumbai from 6 to 9 of this month. Fr. Bandha Suresh, Fr. Thattireddy Michael, Fr. Maramreddy Vijay Prakash, Fr. Illuri Balthazar, Fr. Gopu Peter, Fr. Pasala Bhaskar and Fr. Govindu Joseph are participating from our Province. The theme for the conference is "Leading Don Bosco Schools in the 21st Century". We wish them a fruitful

and enriching experience.

Hudhud cyclone affected place in Vizag

The Hudhud cyclone had affected Vishakhapatnam very much: our children's home at Allipuram shelter, Sivalayam shelter, Don Bosco home at Sabbavaram and slums where we run the tuition centers. The cyclone has almost given a death blow to 'the Vizag Navajeevan Bala Bhavan' by destroying or making many of its buildings uninhabitable and wiping out its sources of livelihood. As an expression of our solidarity I have requested all the communities to contribute generously to overcome the crisis, return to normalcy and to continue the valuable service to the most deserving category of the young.

The Year of Consecrated Life

Pope Francis announced that 2015 will be a year dedicated to the promotion of consecrated life, and is asking the church's religious sisters, brothers and priests to 'wake up the world' with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope. The year of Consecrated life is coinciding with the 50th anniversary of the promulgation of *Lumen Gentium* (the second Vatican Council's constitution on the Church), on the occasion of the close of the Year, in November 2015. Cardinal Joao Braz de Aviz Prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, has emphasized that this special year (2015) has three objectives:

- 1. Recent Past - remembrance of:** "We believe that the (second Vatican) Council has been a breath of the Spirit not only for the whole Church but perhaps especially, for the consecrated life".
- 2. Future – embrace with hope:** With this positive outlook on the past, he continued, "we want to 'embrace the future with hope'".
- 3. Present – living with passion:** This hope cannot keep us from "living the present with passion" – and this is the third objective of

the coming year... an evangelical focus, helping people to realize “the beauty of following Christ” in the various types of religious vocations.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - November 2014

- ❖ 6 – 9 Nov - All India Don Bosco Education Society (AIDBES) Meet - Mumbai
- ❖ 8 Nov - “Salesian Family Day” - Hyderabad
- ❖ **11 Nov – Provincial Community Day**
- ❖ 14 – 15 – DBYA-IUS-Higher Education Institute Principals Meet – Hyderabad
- ❖ 15 -16 – SPCSA Council – Sri Lanka
- ❖ 20 – 22 – Salesian Family National Council Meet - Mumbai
- ❖ 28 – 29 – DBAI – PDO Annual Meet
- ❖ 30 – 1 – Economers: Annual Meet

Conclusion

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. We gratefully remember them all during this month. In Particular let us gratefully remember our dear confreres, Cl. James Thuruthel, Fr John Varricatt, Bro. Gabriel Fernandez, Fr Benjamin Puthota and Fr. Panampara Abraham. Let us pray for them during this month.

By the end of this month we are entering into the Season of Advent. Let us prepare ourselves well to welcome our Lord into our lives.

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,

Fr. R. Balaraju



Fr Ramedini Balaraju sdb

Provincial

TRAVELOGUE OF THE PROVINCIAL – October - 2014

October	Community	November	Community
03 -04	Annual Provincial Visitation- Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad	01 - 05	DBYA meet, DBPH, Hyderabad
06 - 11	Annual retreat, DBPH, Hyderabad	06	Provincial council meet with Fr Maria Arokiam Kanaga, Regional councillor
11 - 12	Practical trainees and students meet, DBPH, Hyderabad	11	Provincial community day - Muniguda
13 - 14	DB Mariapuram- APV	15 - 16	SPCSA Sri Lanka
18 - 19	DB Chandur-APV	25	Jubilee at Punganur
21	Leaders meet- Jubilee	26 - 27	DB Navajeevan, Punganur APV
22	Leaders meet	29 - 30	DB School, Sanathanagar APV
23	Provincial council, DBPH		
27 - 28	APV- Ramanthapur		
31	DBYA council meet		

TRAVELOGUE OF THE Vice Provincial and Economer**Fr. Vice Provincial****Fr. Economer**

October	Community	October	Community
01	Preparation for Provincial Visitation -Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad	01	Preparation for Provincial Visitation -Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad
06 - 11	Annual retreat, DBPH, Hyderabad	02	Don Bosco Mission Complex, Mariapuram
10	Chandur - Preparation for Provincial Visitation	06 - 11	Annual retreat, DBPH, Hyderabad
11 - 12	Brothers' Meet	21 - 22	Leaders meet / Jubilee Celebrations
14	Muniguda	23	Provincial council, DBPH
18	Hyderabad	25	Ramanthapur - Preparation for Provincial Visitation
21 - 22	Leaders meet / Jubilee Celebrations		
23	Provincial council, DBPH		
24	Ramanthapur - Preparation for Provincial Visitation		
26	Mariapuram		
27	Wyra		
31	DBYA – Council and Board Meet Hyderabad		