

# PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

*St. Joseph Province of Hyderabad - INH*



**RB /INH /CIR 54 /2014**

**October, 2014**

**Dear Confreres,**

Greetings of peace and joy in this gracious month of the Holy Rosary from Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad! In the following article we shall 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.**

On 7 April 1849, *Il Conciliatore Torinese*, the 'moderate-liberal' Catholic newspaper, published a well-documented article on Don Bosco's Oratory concerning the humble priest who had no other wealth than abundant charity, who for a few years had been gathering five or six hundred children every weekend to instruct them in Christian virtues and gradually make them children of God and excellent citizens. It highlighted Don Bosco's zeal, approach and the results he got. In particular, the author of the article said he was impressed by the industrious and happy fervour that was a feature of the work:

A hive around which a swarm of bees was buzzing, while most of them were peacefully producing honey, would offer you a good image of what was happening in that holy enclave on weekends. And along the streets that led there, you would meet crowds of kids at every step, singing away as happily as if they were going to a party: inside everywhere you'd see kids split up into small groups playing, some jumping around, others playing ball, bocce, on seesaws, doing somersaults, standing on their heads: while in the little chapel others were learning catechism, still others were getting ready

for the sacraments, and in nearby rooms still others were learning to read and write, arithmetic, practising handwriting, singing.....

The beehive is a significant image, since it gives the idea of an efficiently organised hard-working but orderly and productive community.

### **1. The Oratory at Valdocco: an industrious and lively hive of activity**

This industrious fervour of the Oratory mirrored Don Bosco's personality, the culture he had grown up in and the fire of charity burning in his heart. Documents of the time presented him as "*active and impatient in his charity*", as a government official wrote in 1851. Likewise convinced of this was Prof. Casimiro Danna, a keen observer of the pedagogical method employed at the Oratory of St Francis de Sales, a title chosen – he wrote – not by chance nor in vain, because more than just being a title, the spirit of that ardent apostle of **just zeal** blazing in his heart, was something this excellent priest had infused into his institute. He had consecrated himself to the task of lessening the sorrow of the poor, ennobling their thinking.... Don Bosco's ardent charity, then, was at the origins of his tireless activity and generated his unmistakable lifestyle.

Like any good formator, he had a positive and functional view of time as an opportunity given to the human being by a loving God. In his room, as he tells us in the Life of Francis Besucco, he had a poster on which was written: "*Every moment of time is to be treasured*", and he explained it to his boys this way: Every moment is there for us to learn something scientific or religious, to practise virtue, make an act of love for God.... and before the Lord all these things too are treasures which will benefit us now and in eternity.

In 1862 Don Bosco wrote to a young man: Heaven was not made for the lazy types, so why are you wasting so much time? (MB VII. 7).

Michael Magone, often used to say: Whoever wastes a moment of time is losing out on a treasure. Moved by this idea he never lost a moment without doing whatever his strength allowed. Don Bosco wrote: I have in front of me the marks for diligence and conduct he received each week for all the time he was with us. In the first few weeks his conduct was mediocre, then good, then pretty much excellent. After three months he continued with excellent; and that's the way he was with everything for the rest of the time he was in this house.

It was a fervent and intelligent industriousness that gained substantial results by taking advantage of every moment to become more perfect: perfect in practising virtue,

perfect in doing his duty and studying, perfect in charity, perfect in looking after the talents he had received.

We can read what Don Bosco meant by work in a chapter of his ***Regulations for the houses***: By work we mean fulfilling the duties of our state, be they academic studies, arts or trades. He added: Through work you can become worthy of society, religion and do good to your soul, especially if you offer all your daily work to God. Always begin work, study, school with a *Hail Mary*, and finish with the *Angelus*. Say these little prayers well so the Lord can be your guide in your work and study.

It was something Don Bosco could boast: 'young people brought up at the Oratory had gained the habit of being honest, moral and hard-working.' Civil authorities recognised this as a merit of the Oratory as we can read in a letter from the Mayor of Turin to the Minister for Public Education: The good it has done over these 25 years since it started here is famous: thousands upon thousands of poor, neglected youngsters who were a danger to society, have been reborn, educated, turned into hard-working citizens who in arts, education, as priests or in other fields, are a clear testimony of this worthy establishment.

From amongst those boys who were trained to use every moment of time and who were formed to hard work came the first generation of Salesians.

Tullo Goffi, a scholar of 19th century Italian spirituality, writes: Don Bosco, who had been trained at the Pastoral Institute (Convitto) to tireless apostolic asceticism, saw that it was appropriate to offer the clerics who were helping him a spiritual formation that was different from the one that obtained in the seminaries and novitiates. These formed clerics and novices by totally separating them from the world, aiming to create in them a mindset and habits that were opposed to those of the laity. To the contrary, Don Bosco immersed his clerics amidst the young people sharing piety and duties with them. His view was that apostolic dedication was not just an impregnable bulwark of morality but a sure form of asceticism which produced the very best of apostolic charity.

His biographical sketches offer us the lifestyle of these very observant, hard-working young confreres: they assisted the boys in study and in the dormitory, taught them in the classrooms and workshops, joined them at recreation and in the oratories, taught them catechism and music, ran theatre groups ... And meanwhile they were studying philosophy and theology, getting ready for university exams, taking up personal studies which would be useful for their mission.

Not everyone was in agreement with his formational approach, for the risks it took. But Don Bosco did everything to defend his system and when he was forced to set

up novitiates and studentates he invented practical training. He appealed to a faculty given him “*viva vocis oraculo*” by Pius IX, to entrust the clerics, even during their novitiate year, with the tasks indicated in the Constitutions for the trial period, whenever he considered it would be for the greater glory of God. He liked to repeat certain of the Pope's recommendations: ‘Indeed, don't put them in the sacristy where they will become lazy; put them to work, work! (MB X, 799). I believe that the religious house where they pray a little but work a lot is better than the one where they have lots of prayers but little or no work’ (MB IX, 566).

In 1879 he wrote a report to the Holy See on the moral and material state of the Congregation: There is more work than there are confreres or the strength to do it; but no one seems dismayed, and it seems that hard work is a second form of nourishment after material food. It is true that some fell victim to their zeal both in Europe and in the foreign missions; but all this was to increase the yearning for work in the other Salesians. However, we see that nobody works beyond his capabilities to the detriment of his health.

( will continue....)

### **Salesian Saints of the month**

#### **Bl. Albert Marvelli (5<sup>th</sup> Oct)**

Albert Marvelli was born on 21 March 1918 in Ferrara, Italy, the second of six children to Luigi Marvelli and Maria Mary. He was a lively child but also very thoughtful and reserved, most sensitive to the needs of others. He was especially influenced by his mother, who was the ‘Good Samaritan’ of the Marvelli family and always kept open house for the poor.

In June 1930 the Marvelli family moved to Rimini and Alberto began to attend the Salesian Oratory and Catholic Action group in the parish, where his faith was nurtured and sustained increasing the awareness of his call to holiness. He would often say, “My programme of life is summed up in one word: **holy**”. He lived his Christian faith especially in the political and social work, understood as service of the common good: With the Lord’s help I desire and I resolve to be always an example to my colleagues and to defend my faith in all circumstances without human respect, and have my mind always directed to the greater glory of God.

He was one of the most popular candidates of the Christian Democratic Party and was respected by all. On the evening of 5<sup>th</sup> October 1946, as he was cycling to attend a meeting for the local election, for which he was a candidate, he was run over by an army truck and died. He was 28 years old.

**Bl. Alessandrina Maria da Costa (13<sup>th</sup> Oct)**

Alessandrina Maria da Costa was born on 30<sup>th</sup> march 1904 in Balasar, Portugal. She received her Christian education from her mother and her sister. Her lively, well-mannered nature made her very likeable. On Holy Saturday of 1918, three men violently entered their home and attempted to sexually violate her. To preserve her purity, she jumped from a window, falling four meters to the ground. Her injuries were many and paralysis was predicted.

She was still able to 'drag herself' to church where, she would remain in prayer, to the great amazement of the parishioners. With her paralysis and pain worsening, however, she was forced to remain immobile, until her death – approximately 30 years. She continued to ask the Blessed Mother for the grace of a miraculous healing, promising to become a missionary if she were healed. Little by little, God helped her to see that suffering was her vocation and that she had a special call to be the Lord's 'victim'.

On 27<sup>th</sup> march 1942, a new phase began for her which would continue for 13 years and seven months until her death. She received no nourishment of any kind except the Holy Eucharist and at one point weighed as little as 33 kilos. In 1944, she became a member of the 'Union of Salesian Cooperators' and offered her sufferings for the salvation of souls and for the sanctification of youth. She kept a lively interest in the poor as well as in the spiritual health of those who sought out her counsel.

**St. Louis Guanella (24<sup>th</sup> Oct)**

St. Louis Guanella was born on December 19, 1842 in the small village of Fraciscio, Italy in the Southern Alps. He grew up experiencing both poverty and illiteracy, which had a profound impact on his life. He was raised in the school of Don Bosco and St Joseph Cottolengo: Louis Guanella was a champion of faith and charity. Guanella was ordained a priest on May 26, 1866 in Como, and was assigned to a small parish in Savogno.

A deeply spiritual person, he offered his whole humanity to God, through his personal moral integrity and his witness to the presence of God among the poor of this world, in a way that was original and heroic. "Take away the sense of despair and bring all people to God," sums up the work of Fr Luigi Guanella, a man who dedicated his life to the homeless and elderly, and to young people with mental disorder, physical difficulties or some moral issues.

St. Joseph is the patron saint of the Dying and of a Happy Death and Fr. Guanella

began the Pious Union of St. Joseph, a worldwide confraternity that prays daily for the sick and the dying of the world. He was stricken with a paralysis and died on October 24, 1915. He was beatified by Pope Paul VI on October 25, 1964 and was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 23, 2011 in Rome.

### **Blessed Michael Rua (29<sup>th</sup> Oct)**

Born in Turin on June 9, 1873, the youngest of nine children. He came to the Oratory in 1852. "Don Rua was the most faithful, and therefore the most humble and the most valiant of the sons of Don Bosco. He was the first successor of Don Bosco: son, disciple, imitator. He made the example of the Saint a school, his life a history, his rule a spirit, his holiness a type, a model. He made this source, a stream, a river." With these words on 29 October 1972, Pope Paul VI delineated forever the human and spiritual figure of Don Rua. Fr Rua's road to holiness was marked by devotion to Jesus in the Eucharist and to Mary Help of Christians, the three vows and total fidelity to Don Bosco.

He was the most faithful and most valiant of the sons of Don Bosco. He carried out the vision and mission of Don Bosco with a spirit of faithfulness and availability. Like Don Bosco, he had the same gentleness, the same humility, the same simplicity, the same greatness of soul and same spirit of joy. He was loved and admired by all for his faithfulness in imitating Don Bosco in words, deeds and gestures. His heroic example is a perfect testimony to Salesian holiness.

**There are some international events connected with the Bicentenary Celebrations:**

### **Exposition of the Holy Shroud in Turin**

On the occasion of the Bicentenary and precisely because of the commemoration of Don Bosco's birth, the Archbishop of Turin has announced that the Holy Shroud will be on display in Turin for 45 days between Easter and the end of the Bicentenary celebrations.

### **Visit of Pope Francis**

Pope Francis has been invited to Turin. The Archbishop says: "We are confident that Pope Francis will come to pray before the sacred Shroud and to honour St. John Bosco, setting a seal upon a remarkable year.

### **Projects to be submitted**

Those who are sending projects from different Communities are requested to send them to the Provincial's office by 10<sup>th</sup> of every month.

### **Annual Retreat**

On 6<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30 am, we begin the second of our annual spiritual retreats at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. We welcome the Retreat Preacher, Fr. K.M. Jose among us. We look forward to an enriching experience of spiritual renewal and pray, already now, for that grace from the Lord. The retreat is due to conclude on 11<sup>th</sup> October by 12.30 noon, 2014. The list of the participants is enclosed.

### **Brothers meet**

The meeting of Clerics who are doing Practical Training and Studies is scheduled for 11-12 October 2014. Please may I request all the Rectors and In-Charges of the communities to send all the brothers in time for the meeting. The meeting starts at 3 p.m on 11 October and ends by 5 p.m on 12 October at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. The list of the brothers is enclosed.

### **Jubilee Celebrations**

The Province will celebrate around five of our confreres who celebrate significant milestones in their lives. We rejoice with them and thank God for the great things He has done for them. Fr. Medabalimi Balaswamy is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession. There are two confreres celebrating the Silver Jubilee of Priestly Ordination: Fr. Aiyarappallil John Punnose and Fr. Puthuppambil George. Two more are celebrating the Silver Jubilee of Religious Profession. They are Fr. Chowaran Tom Varkey and Fr. Salibindla Bala Reddy. We congratulate and assure them of our special prayers. We shall felicitate the Jubilerians as a province on 21<sup>st</sup> October 2014 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. May I request the confreres to take part in the celebrations and pray for the Jubilarians.

### **Provincial Visitation**

The Canonical Visitation of the communities this year will start from 3<sup>rd</sup> of this month. 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.

### **Condolences and Prayers**

Fr. Santosh Minj of Guwahati Province passed away on 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2014. We extend our Condolences to the Provincial and Confreres and join them in praying for the repose of his Soul and share in the bereavement with the family members and relatives.

Mrs. Mallichetty Rani, mother of M. Balaraju who is in the Novitiate, passed away on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at Thalluru village in Guntur Dt. Let us continue to pray for her soul and for his near and dear ones.

### **Fourth Provincial Chapter of MSMHC sisters**

We rejoice with our Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians (MSMHC), Little Flower Province, Bangalore as they start their fourth provincial chapter from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> of October 2014. The theme of the Chapter is "The Spirit and Spirituality of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians". The celebration of the Chapter with this theme is a fitting tribute to the Patriarch of our Family, St. John Bosco, during this bicentenary year of his birth. As members of the Salesian Family let us accompany and support our sisters with our prayers.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS - October 2014:**

- |                   |                                  |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| ❖ October 03      | Provincial Visitation (Begins)   |
| ❖ October 06 - 11 | II Annual Retreat                |
| ❖ October 11-12   | Pt/Students Brothers' Meet – Hyd |
| ❖ October 21 – 22 | Leaders' Meet                    |
| ❖ October 23      | Provincial Council               |
| ❖ October 31      | DBYA – Annual Convention         |

### **Month of the Holy Rosary**

The month of October is traditionally commemorated as the month of the Holy Rosary. The Rosary is Christo-centric, setting forth the entire life of Jesus Christ, the passion and death, resurrection and glory. The Rosary honors and contemplates Mary too, because of the mission she received from God. Her life is most closely linked with

the mysteries of Jesus Christ and there is no one who has followed in the footsteps of the Incarnate Word more closely and with more merit than she.

Let us continue to seek the guidance of Mother Mary for our life and mission through the daily recitation of the Holy Rosary. May Mother Mary be our guide through all our life and mission, that we may be able to re-launch Don Bosco's charism with immense hopes and possibilities for the salvation of the young. During this year of Bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco, let us pray the Rosary daily with the children and the people and seek to follow Mary on her earthly journey. I wish you all a very happy month of the Holy Rosary.

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,

*Fr. R. Balaraju*



Fr Ramedini Balaraju sdb

Provincial

**TRAVELOGUE OF THE PROVINCIAL – October - 2014**

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

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

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

**ANNUAL SPIRITUAL RETREAT 2014-2015**  
**PROVINCE OF ST. JOSEPH - HYDERABAD**  
**Fr K. M. Jose SDB - October 6 (9.30am) - 11 (12.30pm), 2014**

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**List of the Participants**

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1. Fr Alappat Jose
2. Fr Androth Jose
3. Fr Bandha Suresh
4. Fr Bobba Joji Prasad
5. Fr Chinnappa Thomas
6. Fr Gopu Marreddy
7. Fr Govindu Joseph
8. Fr Guntaka Marianna
9. Fr Illuri Balthazar
10. Fr Kannadipara Mathew
11. Fr Kowju Melchior
12. Fr Kuthanapallil Sebastian
13. Fr Matheikal Wilson
14. Fr Mattathilani Abraham
15. Fr Mattukoyya Mariadas
16. Fr Nali Anthaiah
17. Fr Pallithanam Thomas
18. Fr Punnose John
19. Fr Puthussery Sojan
20. Fr Tharakan John
21. Fr Thattil Chacko
22. Fr Thottiyil Thomas
23. Fr Yeruva Arogya
24. Br Alluri Anil
25. Br Dasari Johannes
26. Br Dias Charles
27. Br Dibbagalla Rajashekar
28. Br Gadesula Naresh
29. Br Kalapala Rajesh
30. Br Kornana Suresh
31. Br Marasu Suresh
32. Br Mettupally Prashanth
33. Br Mutyala Sudhakar
34. Br Thumma Pradeep
35. Br Morcha Yesudas
36. Br Pale Justin
37. Br Salibindla Praveen

**PRACTICAL TRAINEES & STUDENTS MEET 2014-2015**  
**PROVINCE OF ST. JOSEPH - HYDERABAD**  
**October 11 (3.30pm) - 12 (5.00pm), 2014**

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01. Alluri Anil
02. Dasari Shiva Johannes
03. Dibbagalla Rajashekar
04. Gadesula Naresh
05. Jangala Upendar
06. Kakumanu Praveen Kumar
07. Kalapala Rajesh
08. Kommu Sudharshan
09. Kona Mukthiraj
10. kornana Suresh
11. Maram Reddy Dilip
12. Marasu Suresh
13. Mettupally Prashanth
14. Morcha Yesudas
15. Mutyala Sudhakar
16. Narisetty Anup
17. Neelam Naresh
18. Nhondimakal Manu Michael (INK)
19. Palem Jeevan Kumar
20. Palle Justin
21. Salibindla Marreddy
22. Salibindla Praveen
23. Thumma Pradeep Kumar
24. Topno Ranjit
25. Vanga Joseph
26. Yeruva Inna Reddy

**REQUIRMENTS FOR THE PROVINCIAL VISITATION 2014 - 2015****To be prepared for the provincial visitation****Province of St Joseph - Hyderabad**

<b>S.No</b>	<b>Task to be done</b>	<b>Responsible Person</b>
1.	Community project of life – Evaluation of its implementation (CPL)	Rector and Community
2.	The Educative and Pastoral Plan of the Community (EPP) – Evaluation of its implementation	Rector and Community
3.	Minutes of the House Council (A Summary Report of the principal deliberations since the last Extraordinary Visitation)	Rector and Council
4.	Minutes of the House Assembly	Rector
5.	Report of how the recommendations of the last Provincial Visitation have been carried out in the community	Rector and Community
6.	Mass Register	Rector
7.	Chronicle of the House	Rector
8.	Assessment of the apostolic efficacy of the community	Rector and council
9.	Assessment of the Religious life and growth of the community (compiled by the Rector)	Local Delegate of the Salesian Family
10.	Present situation of the community, its chief problems and needs, and future plans	Rector and Community
11.	Vocation Plan	Rector and Community
12.	Annual Financial Budget and Implementation	Administrator
13.	List of Development projects and Sustainability Plan of the Community	Administrator
14.	Report of the Groups and Associations animated by the community (e.g. Cooperators, Past-pupils, etc.)	Rector
15.	Types of apostolate and Activities and number of beneficiaries for this year and from the beginning of the presence.	Rector and incharges of sectors and activities
16.	Relevant statistics of the school / parish / oratory in which the community is engaged	Rector and Community
17.	Plan of the Community on the way ahead of GC 27	Rector and Community
18.	Update Bio Data of the individual confreres	Confreres
19.	Special programme conducted for youth	Rector and Community
20.	Contribution to Kaburulu – BIS Correspondent	BIS Reporter
21.	Brochure of the Institute	Rector
22.	Bi-Centenary Plan of the community	Rector and Community
23.	Child protection policy implementation	Rector and Community