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PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

St. Joseph Province of Hyderabad - INH



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September, 2015

Dear Confreres,

Greetings from Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad.

Dear confreres the latest letter of the Rector Major is about the 5 fruits of the bicentenary of the birth of Don Bosco. Here we see five dreams of the Rector Major.

A Congregation of happy Salesians:-

We are called to be happy and joyful Salesians. In the letter he refers to GC 27 about living the Gospel joyfully. GC27, no.4 expresses this sentiment, “for the **fidely** of so many confreres and for the **holiness of some members of the Salesian family that has been recognised by the Church.....** Every day we are in contact with adults and young people, confreres old and young, sick or at the height of their activity who bear witness to the fascination of the search for God, the radical approach of the Gospel lived joyfully and a keen passion for Don Bosco.”

In the message for the opening of the year of consecrated life Pope Francis spoke about happiness and joy in following Jesus Christ. “Being full of joy shows everyone that following Christ and putting his Gospel into practice fills your heart with happiness. Infect those who are near you with this joy.”

Being joyful is the gift of the Holy Spirit. In times of difficulties and sufferings we need to turn to the Lord for his guidance and strength and need to renew our first love with which we started following Christ.

We need to forget ourselves as in the case of Don Bosco and rededicate ourselves with passion for God and for the young. We need to put God at the center of our lives and giving priority in our hearts to the young people who are poor. This is the secret of happiness for a Salesian.

Men of faith filled with God:-

We are known for work in various countries of the world. But people do not know why we work or the deep motivation for our work. We are appreciated for our services in various sectors. Those who meet us should also feel that we are men of faith consecrated by God for a mission.

Full of Passion for the young, the poorest ones:-

Like the good shepherd Jesus and with the heart of Don Bosco we need to give our best to the young, those who are most in need of us. This will be a true witness and the means will be provided by Divine Providence.

Pope Francis invites us not to yield to the temptation of numbers and efficiency and our own strength but to trust the Lord who has called us. Our poor youth should always find place in our houses as we are meant for them.

The second chapter of *'Evangelii Gaudium'* has reference to the power and idolatry of money. We need to always seek to serve and never power or money. We need to serve the young who are poor abandoned and in danger as per the constitution no.26.

In this way our identity is very clear and we are on the right path. As confreres we need to help each other exercise authority with service-mindedness. We need to help each other with regard to the use of money and economic resources and to have more clarity and transparency.

A Congregation of real evangelizers and educators in the faith:-

We need to give special attention to the dimension of evangelization. In the prophetic words of Fr Vecchi: "It can happen that under the pressure of a multitude of activities, concerned about structures and busy with organization, we run the risk of losing sight of the horizon of our activity and appearing like so many activists or grass-root theorists, managers of works or structures, admirable benefactors but poor as explicit witnesses to Christ, mediators of his saving work, formators of souls and guides in the life of grace." (AGC373,36)

We need to proclaim Christ through our education and evangelization because it is the right of every one to know Christ. Even in diversity of religious contexts in our social and humanitarian activity our priority should be the proclamation of Christ. In all our activities top priority must be given to the centrality of God, *'Da mi hi animas cetera tolle'*

as Don Bosco himself began the society for this purpose.

A Congregation that is always missionary:-

Missionary work is an essential feature of our congregation. As we know from the biographical memoirs, Don Bosco wanted to become a missionary. But it was Fr Cafasso his spiritual director who blocked his path and told him that the missions were not for him. But later he fulfilled his desire by sending missionaries. At the time of his death there were 153 Salesians as missionaries which shows the missionary zeal of Don Bosco. Don Bosco spoke often about missions and could instill a strong desire for missions among the Salesians. For detailed information you can read the latest letter of the Rector Major on the five fruits of the bicentenary.

Dear Confreres ours is a missionary Province. As in the congregation so also in our Province the missionary activity is going down. Let us give more importance to this aspect of our congregation and Salesian spirit.

Salesian Saint of the Month

Bl. Joseph Calasanz and 31 Companions (Sep 22)

Martyrs are the living monuments of our faith. Each and every martyr has left the world with a single but powerful message: to live and die for an eternal cause.

In 1930's there was a disastrous civil war and religious persecution in Spain. During the years 1936 to 1939 the fight against the Church was at its worst. Among the thousands of Spaniards who gave their lives for Christ, thousands of priests, religious men and women and lay people were massacred, simply because they were Christians. Amongst these were many members of the Salesian Family: 39 priests, 22 clerics, 24 Brothers, 2 Salesian sisters, 4 Salesian Cooperators, 3 Salesian Aspirants and 1 lay Co-worker: 95 in all.

Fr. Joseph Calasanz was born in Azanuy. He became a Salesian in 1890, and a priest five years later. He was secretary to Fr. Rinaldi and following that superior of the Province of Peru- Bolivia- Valencia. He was a man of great heart and a hard worker, interested in the salvation of his confreres from the outset. He was captured together with other Salesians while he was conducting a retreat in Valencia. He was killed while being taken away, with a single shot to the head.

Fr. Joseph Calasanz and 31 companions were beatified in 2001 by Pope John Paul II. The Martyrdom of Blessed Joseph Calasanz and his 31 companions invite all of us to a fearless living out of our faith even in the midst of persecutions.

Annual Provincial Visitation

I will commence the annual Provincial Visitation this month. The details are given in my travelogue. The Vice Provincial as well as the Economer will visit each of the communities before the visitation. Kindly keep all that is required ready in time for the visitation.

Projects to be submitted

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

Annual Retreat

The first annual retreat for this year begins on 7th and concludes on the 12th of this month. Fr. Vincent CSSR is the preacher for this retreat. Let us make this experience a fruitful one in praying for one another so that we may continue to grow in faith both as individuals and as a community.

Salesian Renewal Course at DBRC

Fr. Guvvala Balaraju and Fr. Cheruvathur James will be attending the Salesian Renewal Course conducted at Don Bosco Renewal Centere, Banglore from 2 September 2015 to 11 October 2015.

Young Priests' Meet

The young Salesian priests meet will be on 17 – 18 September 2015. Let this gathering bring a renewal of the spirit of sharing and reflecting together on the five beautiful years of Priestly Ministry. All the Young Priests should participate without exception.

Changes in the Schedule for the Provincial Consultation:

The regional superior Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga will be in the Province from 03 to 06 October 2015 for the Consultation. The regional will hold discernment meetings at the following places.

Schedule for consultation – October 2015

03 Sat – 04.30 pm – Warangal Region - Karunapuram

04 Sun – 10.00 am – Vishak Region at Navajeevan, Vishakapatnam

- 05 Mon - 11.00 am – Vijayawada & Guntur Region at DB Premnivas, Mangalagiri
06 Tue - 09.00 am – Rayalaseema Region at DB Kurnool
06 Tue - 04.30 pm – Hyderabad Region, at DBPH, Hyderabad

Forthcoming Events – September 2015

- 4 – 5 September - YaR Mid Year Governing Body Meet – Hyderabad
- 7 – 12 September - Annual Retreat I - DBPH
- 17 – 18 September - Young Priests' Meet - DBPH
- 20 – 21 September - Volunteer's Meet – DBPH
- 26 – 28 September - Salesian Family Seminar at Kolkata
- 29 – 30 September - Youth Expo – Delhi

Birth day of the Blessed Virgin Mary

On 8 September we celebrate the Feast of the Birth of The Blessed Virgin Mary. The birth of Mary was miraculous. She was conceived without sin as a special grace because God had selected her to become the mother of His Son.

God had certainly mysterious plans for the Blessed Virgin. God certainly guided her steps from the very moment of her birth into this world. God has his mysterious plans for each one of us. May The Mother of God intercede for us. Wish you all a very happy feast of the nativity of Our Lady. May she play a vital role in our lives as she did in the life of Don Bosco.

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,

Fr. R. Balaraju



Fr Ramedini Balaraju sdb

Provincial