

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

SALESIAN PROVINCE OF HYDERABAD



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“Work, work, work” - Don Bosco

Dear Confreres,

A very happy feast of St. Joseph, the patron of our Province. Through his powerful intercession we have completed these 25 years of fruitful service to the poor and downtrodden. St. Joseph reminds us of our commitment and dedication to work.

Many years ago, a smart, intelligent and capable young man, was forced due to certain circumstances to work in a limestone quarry. He used to break stones and carry buckets of lime. His hands cracked and used to bleed due to the bitter cold. This man persevered in his attitude towards work and times changed. From his experiences of the value of work, he wrote:

Work is a good thing. It corresponds to human dignity, expresses this dignity and increases it. Work is a good thing, for humanity through work not only transforms nature, but also achieves fulfillment as human beings, and indeed in a sense becomes ‘more human beings.’

That young man working in the limestone quarry was Saint John Paul II and the quote is from his encyclical, ‘*On Human Work*’. The same can be said about our Father and Founder St. John Bosco who had to work hard right from his childhood, even to support his own education. Later in life, it was his tireless work that wore him out. No wonder, the concept of work is abounding in Salesian literature. *Work and Temperance will make our congregation flourish.* (BM XII, 338). We also know that by our work we participate in the creative action of God and we also cooperate with Christ, in building God’s kingdom (C 18). *Unremitting and self-sacrificing work is a dear characteristic left us by Don Bosco, and is a concrete expression of our poverty. In our daily labours we are at one with the poor who live by the sweat of their brow, and we bear witness to the human and Christian value of work(C 78).* Even while on his deathbed Don Bosco invited his sons to ‘*Work, Work, Work.*’

Though there are many aspects to work, I would like to dwell on just two of them, Work as Spirituality and Work as responsibility.

Work as Spirituality:

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that *by work man participates in the Divine work of creation. When united to Christ, work is redemptive* (CCC 2427). Work creates an intrinsic relationship between the acting subject and the object of action. The work of creation is not detached from the creator. When God chose to create humanity, he transferred something of himself to the creation. We read in Genesis, that He created humanity in his own image and likeness. He breathed his breath into us. This way God sanctified work.

This spiritual dimension of work is evident in the life of St. Joseph. The task of being a foster father, of nurturing the life of Jesus and even teaching him a trade (carpentry), is a participation in the new creation that God intends to bring through Christ. St. Joseph was committed and dedicated to this noble work. God chose Don Bosco and us his sons to collaborate and work for the salvation of the young. In all our efforts and interventions on behalf of the young, we share something of ourselves. Through our relentless work, we find Christ in the young and at the same time, we bring Christ to them.

Contrary to this understanding, we could fall prey to an idea of work as something detached from oneself and therefore a burden. Let us look up to Don Bosco who gave dignity to work and made it a redemptive action. Let Don Bosco's words be ours today as we work for the young in different situations: *'for you I study, for you I work, for you I live, for you I am ready to give even my life'*.

Work as Responsibility:

Called upon to take Mary as his wife and entrusted with the task of taking care of Jesus, St. Joseph took this great responsibility to his heart. He provided for and nurtured Jesus as his own.

Through our consecration, we are entrusted with the care of the young. We have been given the task of becoming foster fathers to them after the example of Don Bosco. We have been entrusted with the responsibility of nurturing their lives. The danger that we could face

sometimes, is that we don't own up our work, our apostolate and our young. We could become mere disconnected service providers rather than responsible care-takers. In each of our institutions, we need to take full responsibility for the growth and well-being of children and youth entrusted to our care. We accomplish this responsibility in a silent and humble manner as St. Joseph did. Let us as members of this glorious province of St. Joseph, try to imitate our heavenly patron.

Congratulations and Thanks

Team Visit - Chennai

Along with the Provincial Council, I have attended the Team Visit in Chennai from 28 February to 4 March. These days were ably animated by Fr Angel Fernandez Arttime, our Rector Major, Fr Francesco Cereda, the Vicar General, the general councillors and the SPCSA team. We have reflected on the implementation of GC27, the statistical data of the South Asian Region and the Strategic Planning and Evaluation of our Region. It was a clarion call to transform ourselves and respond to the new socio-political, religious and cultural situations and needs of the young. Heartfelt thanks to the Province of Chennai for their efforts in organizing the Team Visit successfully. It was meticulously planned and carefully executed. Gratitude also to the SPCSA team for the efficient coordination of the event. This was a singular experience of Salesian fraternity and of unity in diversity in the region.

Information

Applications for Renewal and Perpetual Profession

The Rectors and clerics in temporary Profession are once again reminded about submitting the application forms for renewal/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 21 March 2017.

Diaconate at KJC, Bangalore

On March 19, 2017, Br. Jinugu Vidya Sagar will receive the diaconate ordination at Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore. We congratulate him and accompany him in this final phase of preparation to receive the Priestly ordination. We also thank the confreres and the

community of KJC, Bangalore for their support and guidance in helping our young confreres on their journey towards Priesthood.

Summer Apostolate:

The Deacon, the students of theology and the students of Philosophy will be coming to the various communities of our province for their summer apostolate. Let us make them feel at home in our communities. May I remind all the communities in the spirit of the RATIO, that the summer apostolate is a special moment of formation in Salesian Youth Ministry. Hence, all the communities are requested to plan together with them their summer apostolate, evaluate their performance and send a report to the vice-provincial, at the end of their summer apostolate. In this way, we can accompany them in their process of formation and provide in every community an ambient of growth for our Young Salesians. Here is the list of Confreres from Kristu Jyothi College and their places of Apostolate.

| | NAME | DURATION | COMMUNITY |
|-----|-------------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 01. | Cl. Jinugu Vidya Sagar | From 20th March | Ravulapalem |
| 02. | Cl. Jangala Upendar | 20th Mar - 5th June | Kurnool |
| 03. | Cl. Salibindla Marreddy | 20th Mar - 5th June | Wyra |
| 04. | Cl. Yeruva Inna Reddy | 20th Mar - 5th June | Gunadala |
| 05. | Cl. Gadesula Naresh | 20th Mar - 5th June | Nalgonda |
| 06. | Cl. KasuLourdu Reddy | 20th Mar - 5th June | Pezzonipet |
| 07. | Cl. Narisetty Anup | 20th Mar - 5th June | Narsipatnam |
| 08. | Cl. Palem Jeevan Kumar | 20th Mar - 5th June | Gagillapuram |

Commission and Centre Heads' Meeting - Evaluation

On 22 April, there will be a meeting of the heads of the various commissions/sectors/centres at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. This meeting will be to evaluate their functioning and to plan for the coming academic year 2017-2018.

Summer Formation Programme

We will have the annual summer formation course for the practical trainees and the student brothers from 10 May at BIRDY, Hyderabad. This should be a moment of renewal and of learning for the young salesians.

Retreat

There will be a retreat in the month of May, for those preparing to make their perpetual profession. I suggest that all those who have not yet made their annual retreat this year, avail this opportunity to make a retreat. Kindly give your names to the vice provincial by 10 April 2017.

Assurance of Prayers

Let us remember and pray for Fr Anand Gopu who needs our support and prayers. Let us continue to pray for his recovery. Kindly offer special prayers through the intercession of St. Joseph our patron.

We also extend our solidarity to the Province of Bangalore and remember to pray for the safe release of Fr Tom Uzhunallil.

Condolences:

We extend our deepest condolences to Fr Johny Thennattil and his family members for the demise of his beloved mother Mrs. Rosamma Thennattil. She died on 21 February 2017 at the age of 97. Out of her 9 children, two are priests and five are religious sisters. Let us entrust her to the merciful love of God and pray that He may grant her eternal rest.

Feast of St. Joseph, the Patron of our Province:

As we celebrate the feast of St. Joseph, may we all once again make a fervent effort to know the spirit of this dear saint, who inspires us with his humble and hard working presence as the head of the Holy Family. Let us thank him in a special manner for his powerful intercession on behalf of our Province, in the past twenty five years. Let us celebrate his feast in a fitting manner and implore him to continue to protect us and intercede for the various intentions we have for the good of our province and of every community.

Affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar SDB
Provincial

