

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

SALESIAN PROVINCE OF HYDERABAD



INH/TVB/CIR 05/2017

May 2017

... and Mary said, 'YES'

We are in the month of May. A month dedicated Mother Mary and a month dear to us Salesians as we honor her as Mary, Help of Christians. In Nazareth, there is a majestic Basilica dedicated to the Annunciation. This basilica is built around what is said to be the house of Mother Mary. At the heart of the Basilica is a grotto, at the center of which stands an Altar in white. On this altar are inscribed the words, '*verbum caro hic factum est.*' (The Word became flesh, Here). This is the place where the angel Gabriel presented to Mary the request of the Father and it was Mary's response which changed the world forever. Her response though small, was enough for God to take flesh and become one of us.

Mary said: 'YES'

Since we have the perspective of knowing the rest of the story, it is difficult for us to comprehend the depth of Mary's faith. This young girl in all probability did not understand, what was asked of her. But her Yes was total, unconditional. It was this small yet unmitigated, unreserved Yes that made way for God to put into action his salvific plan.

Mary's journey does not end with her saying YES. Her YES meant being a pregnant unwed mother, the consequence of which was being stoned to death according to the Mosaic Law. Her YES meant giving birth to a child in a dirty stable. Her YES meant an arduous journey to Egypt, fleeing from Herod who wanted to kill her son. Her YES meant seeing her only Son die on the Cross naked, like a criminal. She could not have possibly imagined that she would undergo all these sufferings or even the incredible blessings she would receive. She never retraced or reconsidered her YES.

The same God seeks even now from us that unconditional yet simple YES. An answer to his divine plan so vast, so profound and so seemingly impossible that you and I cannot comprehend it. Can we

respond to God's call like Mary with our availability and willingness, to incarnate Christ in our lives living in communities, through the mission entrusted to us. We often fall prey to the temptation of human calculations and personal agendas. Can we be courageous enough to trust God as Mary did, allow him to guide our lives?

From the moment she said YES, from the manger to the cross, Mary's life was radically changed – her relationship with God profoundly deepened. Each time we say YES and commit ourselves to embracing God's call and accepting His will, we mark a new point on the path of our relationship with Him. With this circular I am presenting to you the list of transfers. While I thank you dear confreres for the valuable service that you have rendered in the past year(s), I wish you a fruitful ministry in the new place of apostolate. Transfers come into effect from 24 May.

I also request the outgoing confreres to ensure that all the accounts and documents are up to date. You are expected to hand over the updated accounts and documents to the one taking charge in the presence of the Rector of the house.

Congratulations and All the Best

Fr Pallithanam Thomas - Salesian Representative at the United Nations

Fr Pallithanam Thomas of our Province, has been appointed by the Rector Major as the Salesian Representative to the United Nations in New York. It is an honor for us as one of our confreres is chosen for this task. We thank him for the valuable services that he has rendered at PARA, Ravulapalem. We also wish him the best of luck and the graces of God for this important task that he will be shouldering at the International level.

Br Kakarla Chandra Mohan - Salesian Missionary to Nepal

Heeding to the call of the Rector Major, requesting missionaries to Nepal, Br Kakarla Chandra Mohan will be going to Nepal. He will be temporarily transferred to the Province of Kolkata. We thank him for his generosity and wish him all the graces of God for this important moment in his Salesian Life as a missionary outside our province.

Best Wishes to the Practical Trainees

We also welcome our young confreres who having completed their immediate post-novitiate formation, will begin their practical training in the various communities. I wish them all the best as

they begin this important phase of their formation and exhort the communities, especially the Rectors, to assist them and accompany them in deepening their Salesian Vocation.

Upcoming Events

Month's Mind of Fr Gopu Anand

We are still in a shock at the loss of Fr Gopu Anand, yet we believe that our province has gained a powerful intercessor in heaven. We will be having the month's mind of Fr Gopu Anand at Don Bosco Academy, Nalgonda on 7 May, 2017. The memorial mass will be at 5.00 pm. I also remind you that in accordance with our regulations 76, *'on the death of a confrere the community to which he belonged will have thirty masses said and one mass will be said in every house of the Province.'* Let us continue to pray for the repose of his soul.

Summer Formation Course

The annual summer formation course (SFC) for the Brothers doing the Practical Training or college studies will start on 12 May, 2017. The brothers are requested to reach BIRDY by 9 am. The course will conclude on 21 May at 8 pm. On 22, there will be a day of recollection and on 23 Morning at 6.30 am the brothers will renew their vows at the Provincial House Chapel.

Meeting of the Commission Heads

There will be a meeting of the heads of commissions, centers and sectors on 16 May, 2017 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. The meeting is meant to review the SEPP of the year 2016-2017 and plan the SEPP of 2017-2018. The meeting will commence at 9.00 am and will conclude by 5.00 pm. May I once again request all the commission heads to convene a meeting in their respective commissions before 15 May.

First professions

Eleven young men will be making their First Profession at Sacred Heart Novitiate on 24 May 2017, during the Holy Mass at 6.30 am. We thank the Lord for the gift of these young Salesians to our Province and the Congregation. We congratulate them wholeheartedly and welcome them with fraternal love into our Society. I take this opportunity to thank Fr K.P. Mathew, the Novice Master and the community of Manoharabad for their efforts and hard work in preparing these young men to understand and accept the divine call.

Another batch of 15 prenovices, will be commencing their novitiate on May 23, 2017. We wish them all the best in discerning God's holy will in their lives. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Fr Vatti Rayappa and the Gunadala community for accompanying them in the prenovitiate.

Perpetual Professions

Cl. Kakumanu Praveen Kumar, Cl. Pale Justin, Cl. Salibindla Praveen and Cl. Thumma Pradeep Kumar will make their perpetual profession during the solemn holy Eucharist at 6.00 pm on 24 May 2017 at Don Bosco Shrine, Bandlaguda, Hyderabad. As we wish them the very best in their Religious life we also thank them for their generosity in committing themselves to the Lord in perpetuity, in the Salesian way. I would like to thank their parents, dear ones and all their formators who have helped them on this journey of Salesian Life.

Annual Meetings in June

We will be having a series of meetings for animation, evaluation and planning at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. Please take note of them and kindly participate in these important moments of the province.

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| 2 June | Meeting of the Administrators (9.30 am - 5.00 pm) |
| | Meeting of the Students of Theology (3.00 pm - 7.00 pm) |
| 3 June | Meeting of the Perpetually Professed Confreres (9.30 am - 8.00 pm) |
| 4 June | Meeting of the Head Masters (9.30 am - 5.00 pm) |
| 5-6 June | Meeting of the Leaders (Rectors/In-charges/Parish Priests/
Commission/Sector/Center heads) |

Condolences

We extend our condolences to Fr Kudiyrrippil James and his family members at the demise of his elder brother Mr. Kudiyrrippil Anthony on 17 April 2017. May his soul rest in peace.

We also convey our condolences to the Provincial and the Salesians of the Province of New Delhi at the demise of Br Jojo Andrew (74), who died on 13 April 2017. May the Lord grant him eternal rest.

We extend our condolences to the Provincial and the Salesians of the Province of Chennai at the demise of Br Julian Santi SDB, who died on 30 April, 2017. He was the last of the Missionaries to the Province of Chennai. May his soul rest in peace.


Conclusion

On 24 May, we will be celebrating the solemnity of Mary Help of Christians. For Don Bosco, Mary Help of Christians was his guide, teacher and mother. He attributed all his success to the maternal intervention of Mary in his life. He tangibly saw the hand of God intervening in all his endeavours, because of his filial devotion and love to our heavenly Mother. *'Be devoted to Mary, Help of Christians'*, he would often say, *'and you will see what miracles are!'*

As faithful sons of Don Bosco, it is our privilege and duty to celebrate in a very fitting manner the feast of our Blessed Mother, Mary Help of Christians. I firmly believe that if we want to see miracles in our lives and in the life of our Province, we need to cultivate the same filial devotion to Mary Help of Christians that Don Bosco had. Let us not make Mary, Help of Christians just a formula, an invocation, for concluding our prayer. I exhort each one of us to believe that she is our divine mother, patroness and powerful intercessor.

I am sure all our communities will be reciting the Novena, which commences on May 15 and will celebrate the Feast itself in a solemn and meaningful manner. May Mary, our Mother, teach us to be always faithful to our commitment and to be generous in the service of the poor and the needy. Wish you all a very Happy Feast of Mary, Help of Christians.

Yours in Don Bosco



Fr Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar
Provincial

