



# PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

*Salesian Province of St. Joseph, Hyderabad*



INH/TVB/CIR 08/2019

August, 2019

## Is freedom free for all?

Dear Confreres,

The month of August reminds us of two major celebrations: Assumption of our Blessed Mother and the Independence of our country. Both these feasts speak of freedom: internal freedom and external freedom respectively. Our emotions run very high whenever we celebrate the Independence Day of our country. The patriotic songs and speeches recall the great sacrifices our freedom fighters made to win us independence. We are the largest democracy in the world and seven decades of democracy have proved that it is the best form of government in a country that has a plethora of cultures, languages, creeds, etc. While most of us enjoy this freedom and live by it, there is a large portion of our population and especially young people who are still denied freedom. We may have politically achieved self-rule, but people are still enslaved by socio-economic, political and religious factors that dehumanize and abrogate freedom. There are many for whom freedom is still a distant dream.

We are confronted with many situations of enslavement in our daily lives. There are people who are denied freedom of expression, people who suffer injustice and inequality, people who are controlled, abused, ill-treated, threatened and even eliminated. A case in point is the life of a young girl who was sexually abused and who had to lose her father and her dear ones in her fight for justice, and is now battling for life in the ICU. What does freedom mean to her? We are not unfamiliar with scores of other such stories that leave us stunned, sad, angry and confused.

Freedom is a responsibility. It is a responsibility towards oneself, the other and the Nation. Viktor Frankl wrote that liberty and responsibility are two sides of the same coin. The statue of liberty can never stand alone. There has to be the statue of responsibility by its side. As educators, we are called to be proactively involved in bringing about social transformation. We need to constantly remind ourselves of the vision of Don Bosco. His dream was to form 'Good Christians and Upright and Responsible Citizens' which continues to be our dream even today.

Our Rector Major Fr Angel Fernandez has already announced the theme of the Strenna for 2020: “Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven” (Mt 6:10) - “Good Christians and Upright Citizens”. I do not wish to anticipate the presentation of the Strenna here. But I would like to draw our attention to this important duty and responsibility towards our Nation. We are called to form citizens of character. Don Bosco, while speaking to the past pupils, had this to say: “...Politics defines itself as the science and art of well governing the State. Now the work of the Oratory in Italy, France, Spain, America, in all countries where it has already settled, practicing especially to relieve the neediest youth, tends to reduce the number of rascals and vagabonds; tends to lessen the number of petty criminals and thieves; tends to empty prisons; tends, in a word, to form good citizens, who far from bothering the public authorities will be their support, to maintain order, tranquility and peace in society. This is our policy; this is what we have only dealt with so far, this is what we will deal with in the future. And it is precisely this method, which has allowed Don Bosco to do good first to you, and hence forward to many other young people of all ages and countries” (Salesian Sources). Our patriotism can be demonstrated through our commitment in shaping upright and responsible citizens.

The Assumption of our Blessed Mother reminds us of her total self-giving in freedom. It is an internal freedom from everything that can enslave us from within and hold us back in bondage. May our Blessed Mother be our model and guide in this endeavor to free ourselves and others from everything that can imprison us. I wish each one of you a very happy and meaningful feast of the Assumption of our Blessed Mother and Independence of India, our Motherland.

### **Congratulations and Gratitude**

#### **Gunadala Don Bsoco School (CBSE)**

I sincerely thank the bishop of Vijayawada, Most Rev. Thelagathoti Raja Rao D.D. (S.M.M.) for his presence at the blessing and inauguration of our Gunadala Don Bosco School on 13 July, 2019. We are ever indebted to him for his constant support and guidance through which we are able to live out our Salesian Charism in the Diocese of Vijayawada.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Fr Michael Kishore the Rector, Fr Pasala Bhaskar the Principal, Fr Maddhichetti Michael and the community of Gunadala on successfully inaugurating the new academic year in the newly established Don Bosco School. I thank them for their hard work and commitment through which our new school at Gunadala has become a reality. I also would like to sincerely thank Fr Santiago Thomas, our Vice Provincial and Fr Androth Jose, our Economer for their guidance and assistance in following up the academic and legal aspects of converting Gunadala house into a functional and beautiful school, another instrument for us in forming Upright Citizens.

### **Fr Ashley Miranda, New Vice Provincial of INB Province**

Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, our Rector Major, with the consent of the General Council, has approved the nomination of Fr Ashley Miranda as the next Vice Provincial of the Province of Mumbai. We congratulate Fr Ashley, who assumed office on 3 August, 2019 and wish him God's blessings in his new role as the first collaborator of the Provincial.

### **Appointment of two Salesians in Sports and Youth Affairs department - Meghalaya**

On June 27, 2019 the Governor of the State of Meghalaya, the Hon. Tathagata Roy, appointed two Salesian priests as official members of the Department of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Government of Meghalaya. The two Salesians who received this assignment are Fr Anthony Kharkongor, Delegate for Youth Ministry of the Shillong Province and director of the high school "St. Anthony "; and Fr Michael Makri, Director of the Don Bosco Youth Center and of the Don Bosco Media Network. We congratulate them on their appointment and wish them all the very best.

### **Information**

#### **STRENNA FOR 2020**

"Good Christians and Upright Citizens": a Strenna to meet the challenges of a changing world.

The Rector Major, Fr Ángel Fernández Artime, officially launched the 2020 Strenna's theme. A message that listens to and hears the historical circumstances that present themselves today, much awaited for its timeliness and the pastoral validity of a message that comes from the Successor of Don Bosco: "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Mt 6.10). "GOOD CHRISTIANS AND UPRIGHT CITIZENS."

The reasons for the 2020 theme are explained by Rector Major himself: "After listening to the Council of the Salesian Family in May, I chose this theme because we accompanied the steps of the Church with the families, we saw the reality of the young at the Synod and we opened ourselves to a great challenge that we have as a Salesian Family: to continue to be true Evangelizers-Educators of the young to the faith." The Strenna 2020 offers us the opportunity to rebuild what Don Bosco thought and what his way of doing and acting among his young people was.

#### **New World Moderator of Don Bosco Volunteers (VDB)**

On Friday 26 July, 2019 on the occasion of their Eighth General Assembly in Italy, the Volunteers of Don Bosco (VDB), the seventh group of the Salesian Family, elected their new World Moderator: the Slovak Dagmar K., who in the previous Central Council was in charge of following the Eastern European Regions, the Philippines and English-speaking groups. The Italian Pina B. was elected as Deputy; in the previous Council she dealt with French-speaking groups (France, Belgium and African countries) and relationships with the Salesian Family. In addition to the

Director and Deputy, the General Assembly also elected other VDBs of the Central Council, composed of 10 members.

During the days of the General Assembly, the 83 delegates from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe, representing the nearly 1,200 VDBs organized through 182 Groups and 27 Regions, experienced intense days of reflection and sharing, after which they approved the document "The mission of the VDB" which will serve as a guideline for the journey of the Institute in the next six years.

The document explores the challenges present in the various areas (mass media, politics, human rights, work, family, youth, ecology, existential peripheries, ecclesial environments, interreligious and intercultural dialogue ...) in which Don Bosco's Volunteers are called, as secular Salesian consecrated women, to be signs of the love of Christ in the midst of the world.

The Female Secular Institute with Pontifical Rights of the VDB was founded by Blessed Philip Rinaldi, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Successor of Don Bosco, on May 20, 1917, in Turin. It is currently the most numerous secular institute of the Catholic Church, and has recently seen a significant recognition by Pope Francis, who at the beginning of the month appointed Olga K - the Major Coordinator who has led the VDB in the last two terms for a total of 12 years - among the first seven women included as members of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life (CIVCSVA).

### **Vatican appointment of Fr Francesco Fontana SDB**

After many years of work for young people within the Salesian Congregation, Fr Francesco (Franco) Fontana was invited to serve directly at the center of the Universal Church: he was in fact chosen by Pope Francis as chaplain of the Directorate of Security Services and Civil Protection of the State of Vatican City, replacing Msgr. Alberto Lorenzelli, nominated auxiliary bishop of Santiago de Chile. We congratulate him on his appointment and wish him God's accompaniment in his new ministry at the service of the Universal Church.

### **Episcopal Ordination in Srikakulam**

We heartily congratulate Msgr. Rayarala Vijaya Kumar PIME on his appointment as the Bishop of the Diocese of Srikakulam. His Episcopal ordination is scheduled for September 02, 2019 at Sahayamatha Cathedral, Srikakulam at 10.00 am. Let us assure him of our prayers and fraternal support as he embarks on the journey of shepherding the people of the Diocese of Srikakulam. We ask the Good Lord to bless him with gifts of both body and mind so that he may effectively and efficiently fulfill his pastoral duties towards the flock entrusted to his care and guidance.

## **GC 28 Participants of SA Meet**

There was a meeting of the participants of the General Chapter 28 on the 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of July 2019 at The Citadel, Chennai. Fr Maria Arokiam our regional, 12 provincials, 21 delegates along with Fr Albert Johnson the SPCSA delegate were present for the meeting. The two day meeting was primarily organized as a preparation for the GC28. Fr Maria Arokiam presented the report of the Salesian South Asia. It was followed by the presentations of the highlights of the provincial chapters and the juridical elements that would be taken up in the Chapter. The members were encouraged to share about their possible contribution to the GC28 on the theme: “What kind of Salesians for the youth of today?”

## **Sanctity in the Salesian Family**

### **Blessed Augustus Czartoryski**

On 2 August, we have the commemoration of Blessed Augustus Czartoryski (1858-1893), who was born in Paris, as the firstborn son to Prince Ladislaus of Poland and Princess Maria Amparo. When Don Bosco came to Paris and celebrated Mass in the family chapel of the Lambert Palace, Augustus saw in this holy founder and teacher the "father of his soul" and guide for his future. Later he left his possessions and against the wish of his father became a Salesian. He manifested a deep love for God. After an year of his priestly life, he succumbed to tuberculosis. He was beatified on 25 April, 2004.

### **Blessed Zephyrinus Namuncura**

On 26 August we have the commemoration of Blessed Zephyrinus Namuncura (1886-1905), a model of sanctity at a very young age. The ceremony of beatification was held in Chimpay, Argentina, on November 11, 2007. It was one of the few beatification ceremonies held outside the Vatican and in the Blessed's own land; it was the first beatification of a South American aborigine. Blessed Zephyrinus was beatified by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone SDB, the then Vatican Secretary of State.

## **Upcoming Events**

August 03	Heads of Dimensions, Commissions, Sectors and Centers Meet
August 05-06	Brothers' Meet
August 15	Assumption of Our Lady and Independence Day
August 16	St John Bosco's Birthday
August 17	Administrators' Meet
August 21	Birthday of Rector Major; Death Anniversary of Fr V.T.John
August 27	Death Anniversary of Fr Benjamin Puthota

## Condolences

We offer our sincere condolences to:

- To Fr Manthuruthil Abraham and his family at the sad demise of Mary Stephen, his beloved mother. She died on 5 July, 2019. We implore the Lord to grant her eternal rest.
- To the Provincial and confreres of the Province of Bangalore at the death of Fr Thomas Kizaknellikunnel aged 67, who passed away on 7 July 2019 in Thope, Kollam at 8.15 a.m. He was knocked down by a vehicle as he was on his way to celebrate Sunday Mass. We commend his soul into God's hands.
- To Fr Dontireddy Raja and his family at the passing away of Mrs Naga Lakshamma aged 49, the sister of Fr Raja. She passed away on 08 July, 2019. May her soul rest in peace.
- To the provincial and sisters of the FMA Province of Guwahati at the death of Sr. Nunes Victoria who left for her eternal abode on 17 July, 2019. We entrust her soul to God's compassionate love.
- To the provincial and sisters of the FMA Province of Kolkata at the sad demise of Sr. Cecilia Tamba FMA, who breathed her last on 20 July, 2019. May the Lord receive her into His Kingdom.

## Conclusion

### **204<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Don Bosco**

On 16 August 2019, we celebrate the 204<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Don Bosco. We thank God for the gift of Don Bosco to the Church and the World. Many people achieve great things in their life time. But there are only a few individuals whose legacy lives on. Don Bosco's inspiration, ethos and charism continue to be relevant for our times. It is our responsibility to re-imagine the youth ministry for our times. I recommend you to read *Salesian Sources: 1. Don Bosco and His Work* (LAS - Rome and Kristu Jyoti Publications) to deepen our knowledge of our founder and renew our love and passion for Don Bosco's Charism and for the young.

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar SDB  
Provincial



## Travelogue for August 2019

DATE	DAY	Provincial	Vice Provincial
01	Thu	SPCSA - Chennai	Manoharabad
02	Fri		Manoharabad
03	Sat	Commission, sector, centre Heads meet	Heads of Dimensions, Commissions, Sectors and Centers Meet
<b>04</b>	<b>Sun</b>		CRI MEET - Hyderabad
05	Mon	Brothers' Meet	Brothers' Meet
06	Tue	Brothers' Meet	Brothers' Meet
07	Wed		Workshop on Synod on Youth - Mumbai
08	Thu	Karunapuram	Workshop on Synod on Youth - Mumbai
09	Fri		DBPH
10	Sat	CRI Meet - Vijayawada	DBPH
<b>11</b>	<b>Sun</b>	CRI Meet – Vijayawada- Gunadala	
12	Mon	Education to Faith and Parish commission meet - Pezzonipet	DBPH
13	Tue	Nuzvid	Vizag
14	Wed	Mangalagiri	Muniguda
15	Thu	DB School - Bandlaguda	Muniguda
16	Fri	Hyderabad	Kondadaba
17	Sat	St Theresas	Narsipatnam
<b>18</b>	<b>Sun</b>	Birdy	DBPH
19	Mon	Provincial Council	Provincial Council
20	Tue	Provincial Council	Provincial Council
21	Wed	DBNJ Vijayawada	Don Bosco School Mothinagar
22	Thu	Guntur	Don Bosco School Mothinagar
23	Fri	Hyderabad	DBPH
24	Sat	YaR - Hyderabad	DBPH
<b>25</b>	<b>Sun</b>	Borabanda	
26	Mon	Mothinagar – Don Bosco	Formation Commission Meet - Guwahati
27	Tue	Chandur	Formation Commission Meet – Guwahati
28	Wed	Chandur	Formation Commission Meet - Guwahati
29	Thu	Nalgonda	Formation Commission Meet - Guwahati
30	Fri	Wyra	Formation Commission Meet - Guwahati
31	Sat		SHILLONG