

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

Salesian Province of Hyderabad

RB /INH /CIR 01 /2016

January, 2016

Dear Confreres,

Greetings of peace and joy from Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad! Wish you all a very happy and a prosperous new year 2016. Here I am happy to give you the summary of the Strenna 2016. The video of the Strenna is available in sdb.org

Strenna 2016: “With Jesus, let us adventure in the spirit together”

Life is where we find ourselves at the crossroads. We are all familiar with this experience, confronted as we are by a variety of paths and options. And it is precisely along the path of life that the Spirit operates and, in all freedom, knocks on the door of every human heart.

In one way or another we all have the experience of being travelers, and there are days when we have travelled long distances. This experience of journeying sheds light on what it means to engage in an adventure with the Spirit. The Rector Major, drew attention to several aspects: first, the power of the Spirit who acts in freedom and knocks on the door of every human being; secondly, the experience of the journey that all must do as they go through life: then the sense of adventure, because often in the journey we reach a point where “there

Are no certainties,” but we carry on in the knowledge that the Spirit will surprise us and lead us beyond all our expectations. Why? What does it mean to “adventure in the Spirit”?

→ In the first place, it is a journey of INTERIORITY.

→ But, a journey of interiority and spirituality accompanied by the Spirit is expressed: - In a profound experience of Faith. – By cultivating the Community dimension of this same faith. – By growing in mercy and in the fraternal dimension of life. For us, it is a journey of SPIRITUALITY.

Jesus himself lived an authentic “adventure” of openness to the Spirit. He always sought the Will of the Father who in His Spirit inspired, accompanied, moved and guided Him.

Don Bosco himself lived his entire life, open to the Spirit, because it was his desire to respond to what God asked of him, with regard to himself and for the sake of his boys. The path he followed at Chieri and his continual searching were a truly adventurous journey, as he allowed himself to be guided by the Spirit. This journey led him down the years to that harmony and personal unity that were far removed from any kind of fragmentation.

It was the same thing with the Lord Jesus, with Mary of Nazareth - they lived an adventure of the Spirit by trusting in God without knowing the point of arrival and with Don Bosco, whose yes to the Spirit was a real life adventure with incredible challenges. And this is the invitation we receive each day to go deeper along the path of the Spirit, allowing ourselves to be accompanied, led and surprised by Him. It is a path that holds a lot of "adventure": in it there are no certainties, but the point of arrival is fascinating.

Finally, we would like to ask you, dear young people, to allow us to make this journey together with you. Let us walk this path together! Let us learn together, let us experience together, because this will do a lot of good to all of us. And, in this "all" we include the Salesian Family in all its various manifestations for whom this Strenna is primarily intended. But, we also think of you, the many thousands and thousands of young people who in various countries, cultures and Salesian presences are the animators of other young people, accompanying them on this adventurous journey, accompanied along the way by Him, the Spirit of God, who, as we said, surprises, stimulates, provokes, inspires, fascinates and accompanies. **Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime, Rector Major.**

Salesian Saints of the Month

Bl. Louis Variara (15 Jan)

He was born at Viarigi (Asti) in 1875. His father brought Luigi to Valdocco on 1 October 1887 and entrusted him to Don Bosco. He was ordained a priest in 1898

and relentlessly continued his work among the unfortunate leprosy patients in Columbia. He gave up his entire life in their dedicated service, ultimately contracting the dread disease himself.

He was a Salesian Missionary who spent 28 years in Colombia, dedicating himself to lepers in Agua de Dios. He transformed the sadness of this place through his Salesian cheerfulness, with music, theatre, sport, and a Salesian oratory lifestyle. He founded the first religious community made up of lepers or children of lepers, (besides other groups) the Daughters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Colombia on 7th May 1905 with its special charism to cater to the needs of those affected by leprosy. He died while in an imposed and heavy “exile” that had distanced him from the total dedication of his life to the sick and to his institute, uniting in himself unrestricted religious obedience in fidelity to the work the Lord had asked of him, and his submission to orders from his legitimate superior that seemed to alienate him from the ways in which God was directing him.

Bl. Laura Vicuna (22 Jan)

She was born at Santiago, Chile on 5th April 1891. On 21 January 1900 she became a boarder at the school of the Salesian sisters. On realizing her mother’s helpless, immoral situation she offered herself to the Lord for her mother’s conversion. She experienced the joy of her mother’s conversion before dying on 22nd January 1904.

The ‘Rose of the Andes’ and patroness of young girls. She is a beautiful example of the success of the preventive system of Don Bosco and the spirituality of Mary Mazzerello and the Salesian Sisters.

She doubled her prayer, sought the opportunities for sacrifice that each day presented, and bore everything in her heart as a great secret known only to the Lord. During a school vacation, when Manuel Mora, who was living with her mother, became infatuated with Laura and did everything to get her, the girl rejected him more than once, decisively and with the strength that came from her authentic faith. Laura’s offer of her life was accepted, and the girl died peacefully after she had uttered these happy words: “Thank you, Jesus. Thank you, Mary!

Now I die happy!” This year is the 25th anniversary of beatification of this teenaged pupil of the Salesian Sisters.

St. Francis de Sales (24 Jan)

The patron of our Salesian Society: Don Bosco chose him as the model and protector of his own mission among the young. Inspired by the virtues of this great Saint, Don Bosco wished to call his followers ‘Salesians’. May the great qualities of kindness, patience and active charity of St. Francis de Sales continue to inspire us in our mission with the young.

His spirituality was so human that even the common people could understand and follow it. He was very gentle, optimistic and positive about life and the world. Strong in character and compassionate in ministry, he had a harmonious and peaceful spirit. He believed the worst sin was to judge someone or to gossip about them. Even if we say we do it out of love we’re still doing it to look better ourselves. But we should be as gentle and forgiving with ourselves as we should be with others.

He tells us: “The person who possesses Christian meekness is affectionate and tender towards everyone: he is disposed to forgive and excuse the frailties of others; the goodness of his heart appears in a sweet affability that influences his words and actions, presents every object to his view in the most charitable and pleasing light”

Bl. Bronislao Markewicz (30 Jan)

He was born on 13th July 1842 in Galizia (Southern Poland). As a priest he was attracted to the Spirituality of Don Bosco. He followed Don Bosco’s principles more radically and founded a society called work and temperance (Michaelities), belonging to the Salesian Family. He died on 29th January 1921 and was beatified on 19th June 2005.

His experience of struggle would produce a revived faith and strengthened hope and charity, a keen desire to live humbly, as he often told his boys “without humility or acceptance of humiliations, you will not find the Lord Jesus in prayer, fasting, tears, or in vigil”.

Congratulations to the New Provincial

The Rector Major with the consent of his council has appointed Fr Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar as the Fifth provincial of the province of St. Joseph Hyderabad. I congratulate him in the name of the province and wish God's blessings for his fruitful ministry. The installation of the new provincial will be on 01st February 2016 during the Holy Eucharistic celebration at 5.30 pm presided over by the regional councilor Fr Maria Arokiam Kanaga at Don Bosco Shrine, Bandlaguda. The programme: 5.30pm Holy Eucharist, 7.00pm Felicitations & Agape.

Thank you dear Provincial Councilors

Dear provincial councillors Fr Yeruva Joji Reddy, Fr Puthussery Sojan, Fr. Koonananickal Jose, Fr Kudiyirippil James, Fr Mallavarapu Rayanna, Fr. Santiago Thomas, Fr Vatti Rayappa Reddy for your support co-operation and availability. You have sacrificed your time and energy to participate in the meetings and above all in collaborating with me in animating the province. May God bless each one of you.

My thanks to Fr Yandava Kalyan Kumar, the province and provincial secretary for the last three years of his dedicated service. He has been always available and showed a great sense of belonging to the province.

I thank all the leaders of the province for your able animation of the communities. I also thank the commission and animation center heads for your commitment. I am grateful to each and every confrere for your valuable contribution for the smooth running of the province.

My thanks to Fr Pandicherry Joseph who was always available to correct my circulars and to give a fine tune.

Annual Retreat

The third annual retreat will begin on January 11 (9.15 am) and conclude on January 16 (12.30 pm), 2016. Fr. George Sebastian sj will be the animator. The list of the participants is enclosed. Kindly make use of this opportunity for your personal renewal. Article 91 of our Constitutions emphasizes on Annual Retreat as an occasion of spiritual renewal which Don Bosco considered the fundamental

part and the synthesis of all the practices of piety. For every Salesian these are privileged moments for listening to the Word of God, discerning his will and purifying our hearts. These times of grace restore to our spirit a deep unity in the Lord Jesus and keep alive in us the expectation of his return.

Projects to be submitted

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

Remembering deceased Salesians

On February 01, we always remember the deceased members of our Salesian Society. Along with the numerous Salesians who have preceded us for their eternal reward, we remember in a special way remember Bro. Thuruthel James, Fr. Varricatt John, Br. Fernandez Gabriel, Fr. Benjamin Puthota, Fr. Abraham Panampara, Fr. John Lens and Fr. Chinnappa Thomas.

Annual Budget

I would like to remind you about sending the annual budget for the year 2016 – 2017 by 15th February 2016 to the Provincial Economist.

Novena to Don Bosco

We commence the novena in preparation for the solemnity of St. John Bosco on 31st January 2016. I also take this occasion to remind you once again to personally read and reflect more on Don Bosco and our Salesian tradition during this month.

Regarding Cl. Gorumuchu Christuraju

The provincial council on 21st December 2015 has admitted Cl Gorumuchu Christuraju for the diaconate. He will receive diaconate at KJC Bangalore on 19th March 2016. Let us continue to accompany him through our prayers.

Assessment forms

Kindly note that the second assessment of the temporary professed Salesians is to reach the Provincial office by January 20, 2016. This is also an urgent reminder for those who are still to send the first assessment. The rectors of the respective houses are exhorted to take the necessary steps in ensuring that these

forms are diligently filled in by the community. We consider that this process is one of the valuable means of accompanying our young Salesians as they mature in their Salesian Vocation.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - January 2016:

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| ✓ | 11 – 16 | - | Annual Retreat III |
| ✓ | 23 | - | Provincial Council |
| ✓ | 31 | - | Solemnity of St. John Bosco |

Conclusion

We are in the month of Don Bosco, our Father and Founder. Let us not spare any effort to honour him, to manifest our love for him and to present him to all our Youth as their friend and father. Don Bosco was called by God to a unique mission for the salvation of the young and the poor. He was totally dedicated to the task entrusted to him by God. He was able to be deeply holy because he was deeply human. He did not take a step, utter a word, or put his hand to any enterprise that was not aimed at the salvation of young people. His heart was set on nothing but souls. As we prepare ourselves to celebrate the feast of our founder, let us recommit ourselves for the salvation of the young. Kindly make sure that the Novena is celebrated well and the month of Don Bosco and the feast itself, on 31st January.

Dear Confreres, this will be my last circular. Thank you dear confreres for your availability and dedicated service in the province. Thank you for your collaboration and understanding. I wish you all a very happy New Year 2016 and happy feast of our beloved founder, Don Bosco. May our Blessed mother continue to lead us and support us in the New Year 2016. Praying for all of you. Pray for me.

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,

Fr. R. Balaraju
Fr Raminedi Balaraju sdb

Provincial

