

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

SALESIAN PROVINCE OF HYDERABAD



INH/TVB/CIR 07/2019

July, 2019

Studia di fartiamare

Dear Confreres,

In this circular I would like to reflect with you on the third priority we have taken up for this year, which is Youth Ministry. The crux of youth ministry is that we place every young person at the centre of all our life and mission and assist him/her towards self-actualization. Don Bosco invites us to deal with young people with utmost care. 'It is only through love can that we can win over their hearts. Don Bosco's advice to Don Rua *Studia di fartiamare* (make yourself loved) is the core of Salesian approach to young people. The 'preventive system' is certainly a great legacy that our father Don Bosco handed on to us his sons.

As Salesians, how much are we convinced about this legacy of Don Bosco? How much of our time do we spend qualitatively with the young? Do we give personal attention to individuals and accompany them? Do the students and children enjoy being assisted and are they happy in our presence? Do they grow up in inner freedom and maturity in our institutions?

In that well-known letter from Rome (10 May, 1884) Don Bosco recalls the experience of the oratory as narrated by two of the past pupils in his dream. Being a visionary, Don Bosco foresaw also the probable challenges not just at the Oratory in Turin, but also in the Salesian institutions across the world. It is good to be aware of the challenges, perchance some of our communities might be going through the same.

Don Bosco warns us of the impending dangers in our institutions through Joseph Buzzetti, one of the past pupils who appeared to him in his dream. Don Bosco narrates, "I saw the Oratory and everyone of you in recreation. But the cries of joy and the songs I no longer heard, nor was there lively activity... Instead boredom, weariness and ill-humour could be seen in the actions and on the faces of many of the lads, together with a lack of trust

which made me sore at heart. There were many, it is true, who were moving and running about in a spirit of carefree joy. But I saw others, and their number was anything but small, standing by themselves, leaning against the pillars where they were a prey to disturbing fantasies, or standing on the steps or in the corridors or on the garden terraces, trying to get away from the common recreation. Some were strolling about in groups, talking in subdued voices and casting suspicious and furtive glances in every direction; they would smile from time to time but the glances that accompanied their smiles made it plain that St. Aloysius would have blushed had he been in their company. Even among those who ran around there were some who put so little heart into what they were about that it was quite clear they had no real taste for their games.” Here we do not find the Salesian presence. Boys are left to themselves.

Would this be true of us and of our communities today? Sometimes being present with our boys and girls during recreation is a big challenge for some of us. We tend to spend more time in the virtual world of our mobile phones, internet, facebook, whatsapp messages, etc., than in the real world of encounters with people and youth in particular. It is only our physical, emotional and loving presence among young people that will bring fresh life to our young people and our institutions.

Don Bosco reminds us of his own experience and the magic of loving accompaniment. Valfre, one of the past pupils recollected joyfully the ambience at the Oratory. Reliving that experience, Don Bosco writes, “It seemed to me that I was in recreation in the Oratory of those days. Everywhere I looked there was life, movement and joy; some were running, some jumping, some skipping. Some were playing leap-frog, some tag, some with a ball; in one corner was a huddle of boys hanging on the words of one of the priests as he told them a story; in another corner a cleric was playing with a group of lads. There were songs and laughter on all sides, Brothers and Priests everywhere and the joyful cries of the boys around them. It was perfectly clear that the greatest cordiality and confidence existed between the boys and their superiors.” The boys knew that they were loved and cared for. The loving kindness of Don Bosco was manifested and perceived. This has to be the daily experience of each of us. I wish to remind all of us of the need to love our young people unconditionally. All of us are aware of the ZERO tolerance policy regarding any form of child abuse. I recommend that all of us strictly abide by this policy. Going beyond the rule, I can say that our passion for the good of the young, genuine and selfless love for their welfare should continue to be the guiding force of all that we do for young people.

Commitment to Child Policy

I am sure that all the Salesians and the staff are aware of the Don Bosco Child Policy. I request all the Leaders of the communities to ensure that the Don Bosco Child Protection Policy is communicated to all the Salesians and the staff and that the Don Bosco Child Protection Code of Conduct is duly signed by them by 31 July, 2019. This will be a concrete sign of our commitment to the care and protection of all the minors and young people entrusted to our care. The document, "The Don Bosco Child Protection Code of Conduct" will be sent to you soon.

Congratulations

We congratulate Fr SAVIO SILVEIRA SDB, as he is appointed as the Eleventh Provincial of the Salesian Province of St Francis Xavier, Mumbai (INB). We wish him the assistance and the gifts of the Holy Spirit in his responsibility of animation and governance of the Province. Fr. Silveira was born on 8 December, 1966 in Panjim, Goa, India. After attending the Salesian Novitiate in Nashik, he made his first vows on 31 May, 1985 and perpetual vows on 25 May, 1992, in Mumbai. He was ordained a Priest on 21 December, 1995. He has been the Vice Provincial of the province of Mumbai. He will be installed as the Provincial of the Province of Mumbai on 12 September, 2019 at the Shrine of Don Bosco's Madonna, Mumbai.

We also extend our gratitude to Fr Godfrey D'Souza, the present provincial of the Province of Mumbai for ably leading and animating the Province of Mumbai and for the help extended to our Province. May God continue to bless him in his ministry at the service of the Province and the Congregation.

Information/Communication

Closure of Kollapur Salesian Presence

In the General Council Meeting held on 21 June, 2019 our Rector Major in consultation with his council having approved our deliberation to close the Salesian Community at Kollapur gave us permission to hand it over back to the Diocese of Nalgonda. I sincerely thank all the confreres who have served tirelessly in this institution till the day of handing over. I am sure their hard work and commitment will yield many fruits even as it is being managed by the Diocese. I thank Most Rev. Govindu Joji DD, the Bishop of Nalgonda for entrusting this mission to us and for giving us this opportunity to work in his diocese.

Fr Sarath's Visit to Germany

At the request of the Provincial and his council, Fr Sarath has agreed to visit some project-related agencies and some personal benefactors in Germany. He will be visiting and presenting projects to different agencies in Germany in an effort to raise funds for various needs of our Province, including vocation promotion, of which he is in charge. I wish him all the very best. He will be in the German Province till 15 August, 2019.

A newly beatified Salesian Cooperator

On 15 June, 2019 in Pozzomaggiore, Sardinia, Cardinal Angelo Becciu, Prefect of the Congregation for the Causes of Saints, beatified, on behalf of the Holy Father, Edvige Carboni, a humble and strong woman with a "life imbued with God", who lived a life of manual work and service in the family and towards many needy people she met. She lived a life filled with graces and extraordinary supernatural gifts. As we thank the Lord for the life of this strong woman who through the ordinary and simple events of her life managed to reach heights of holiness, I would like to present a brief sketch of her life in my concluding thoughts for our own edification and emulation.

Provincial Commissions/Dimensions/Sectors/Centres

I am enclosing along with this letter the list of the members of the Provincial commissions, dimensions, sectors and centres. Most of the members are continuing. There are some changes and hence I request all, especially the delegates and the members to take note. I thank all those who extended their services in the past as heads and members of various provincial commissions. I would also like to thank all those who continue to serve as well as the new members for accepting to fulfil this role of animation in the province.

Tri-monthly Recollections

The following are the coordinators of the Tri-monthly recollections in different regions.

Hyderabad Region	Fr Nagothu Papaiah
Warangal Region	Fr Vatti Rayappa
Guntur Region	Fr Chinnabathuni Louis
Vijayawada Region	Fr Barigala Arockia Nathan
Vizag Region	Fr Mallavarapu Rayanna
Rajalaseema Region	Fr Nali Anthaiah

Let us be faithful to the tri-monthly recollections. It is a wonderful opportunity to spend a

day together as brothers as well as to pray together to deepen our relationship with Christ. I take this opportunity to extend my gratitude to Frs Pandicherry Joseph, Guntaka Marianna and Neelam Ratna who served as coordinators in different regions last year.

Upcoming Events

July 7, 2019	Headmasters' Meet
July 16, 2019	Marian Month begins
July 18, 2019	Local Youth Animators' Meet
July 19-20, 2019	Young Priests' Meet
July 22, 2019	Death Anniversary of Br. Gabriel Fernandez
July 25, 2019	Formation Commission Meet at DBPH
August 03, 2019	Heads of Dimensions, Commissions, Sectors and Centres Meet
August 05-06, 2019	Brothers' Meet

Condolences

We offer our sincere condolences to:

- The Provincial and confreres of the province of Calcutta at the death of Fr. Stroschio Rosario SDB who passed away on Pentecost Sunday 9 June, 2019. He was 97 years old. May the Good Lord look upon him with compassion and receive him into His eternal dwelling place.
- The Provincial and confreres of the province of Mumbai at the death of Fr Reginald Gracias SDB who passed away on 10 June 2019, at Holy Spirit Hospital, Andheri, Mumbai. May he be rewarded by God Almighty with eternal bliss and unending joy.
- The Provincial and confreres of the Province of Panjim at the death of Fr. Olivio Dias Miranda SDB who passed way on 18 June, 2019. May he find rest in God's Eternal Kingdom.
- The Provincial and confreres of the Vice Province of Sri Lanka at the death of Fr. Bernard Luciano SDB who passed away on 18 June, 2019. May the Risen Lord raise him too and give him a share in His glorious resurrection.
- The Provincial and confreres of The Province of Chennai at the death of Rev. Fr. Anthony Manayil SDB who passed away on 20 June, 2019. May the heavenly choirs welcome him into God's presence.
- To Fr Gorumuchu Christuraj and his family at the death of Mr. Gorumuchu Nageswararao, aged 60, the father of Fr. Christuraj. He passed away on 13 June, 2019. May he rest in peace. Let us continue to support our confrere and his family with our prayers.

Conclusion

Dear confreres, I would like to turn your attention once again to the words of our Rector major Fr Ángel Fernández Artime written in the Strenna for 2019: "I can safely say that the greatest need and the greatest urgency we have today in our Salesian world is not to do more things, to plan and to redesign new realities ..., but to show what our lives communicate personally and collectively, our way of living the Gospel."

I can say for sure that the life of the newly beatified Edvige Carboni is another reminder yet again as to what we are meant to be, what we are called for: we are above all else called to be Holy. This is our only vocation. This is what the world expects of us even today. Let us take a quick look at the life of the newly beatified and draw inspiration for our lives. Edvige Carboni was born in Pozzomaggiore on 3 May 1880, she wanted to become a religious, but had to stay close to her sick mother. Since then she spent a sober and collected domestic life, alternating household chores with moments of prayer. On July 14, 1911 the signs of the Passion of Jesus appeared on her body. This and other mystical phenomena that were attributed to her were investigated in the canonical process of 1925, to which she underwent with complete obedience. She then moved to Rome with the rest of her family, just as the Second World War was about to explode.

Since she took up residence in Rome, until her death (1938-1952), Edvige belonged to the parish of the Salesians "Saint Mary Help of Christians" on Via Tuscolana. There she went almost every morning for Mass and Communion; there she gathered in prayer, usually in the chapel of Saint Anne; most of the ecstasies and prodigious events took place there; on 25 September 1941 she also became a Salesian Cooperator.

She was very devoted to the Madonna, who appeared to her several times, she received many graces from her. Many were the saints of which she had apparitions, particularly Don Bosco and Dominic Savio. In her diary there are 20 apparitions of Don Bosco, often together with Mary Help of Christians or Dominic Savio. In these apparitions Don Bosco gave her suggestions, invited her to devotion to Our Lady, encouraged her in difficulties, asked her for prayers and sacrifices, showed her the great good that the Salesians did, many of whom praised holiness, and invited her to love the Salesian Sisters.

Cardinal Becciu said in the homily of the beatification rite: "Blessed Edvige embodies the most beautiful virtues of the Sardinian woman of the time. And yet from her experience, data emerge that make her testimony more relevant than ever ... Her simple and

profound spiritual experience, marked by limitless charity, boundless humility and incessant prayer, is still a current model, because it shows that even in a simple and ordinary life, it is possible to experience a solid communion with God and an apostolate characterized by a passion for wounded and disadvantaged humanity.”

Dear confreres, holiness is for us too. Let us remain true to our vocation by striving for holiness in the ordinary events of our lives. Let us offer the world what it needs most - THE JOY OF LIVING HOLY LIVES.

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar SDB,
Provincial.

