

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR



Salesian Province of Hyderabad

RB /INH /CIR 51 /2014

June 2014

Dear Confreres,

Greetings of peace and joy from Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad! As we are preparing ourselves for the Bi-centenary of Don Bosco I will be presenting in the Circular animation material presented to the GC 27 members during the pilgrimage to Salesian Places. Kindly read it in the community and make use of it for your animation.

Don Bosco's spiritual testament: "Work and Temperance"

On 31 January 1888 Fr Michael Rua announced Don Bosco's death to the Salesian Family: "With an anguished heart, eyes swollen from weeping, and a trembling hand I give you the most sorrowful news I have ever had to or could ever have to pass on in my lifetime; I am telling you that our beloved father in Jesus Christ, our founder, friend, advisor, guide for our lives, is dead. 'Ahi' ['ouch!']! A word that pierces the soul, transfixes the heart, opens the gates to a flood of tears!"

These words are not just rhetoric. They express the state of mind of those early Salesians who had been taken in as boys at Valdocco, and had found in Don Bosco a father and friend. He had always been

close to each of them with a powerful and solicitous love and fatherly tenderness.

The *Bollettino Salesiano* began this diary of events after his death with words that express the common state of mind: “We loved him just as one loves the smiles of children, the hopes of youth, the support and goodness of old age. For us he was the greatest, most noble, affectionate, generous being ever that could be found on earth. There is no moment in our lives that does not carry some memory of his affection for us”.

1. “The holiness of his sons is proof of the holiness of their Father”

They had hoped to bury Don Bosco's body in the church of Mary help of Christians. That was not possible. They got permission to do so beyond city boundaries at the house at Valsalice which had been a study centre for young Salesians for some time. This was a blessing. For forty years, the younger generation of the Congregation had the good fortune of being able to pray daily at their Father's graveside while being prepared for the Salesian mission.

It was at 5.30 p.m. on Saturday 4 February 1888, that the burial took place. There wasn't the crowd that had attended the public funeral rites which took place on the previous Wednesday. Only the small group of Superiors, the Mother General of the FMA and two sisters, and 120 Salesian clerics. Archbishop Cagliero in the name of the Superior Council entrusted this valuable 'deposit' to the Salesians at Valsalice. He asked them to look after it well, and to go to the spot where he was buried often, “to be inspired and to renew their fervour by practising the virtues of the one whose remains were consigned there”. Just as “the early Christians took courage to fight for the faith, suffer and die for Jesus Christ and fortified themselves

at the tombs of the martyrs ..., so too may you, we, everyone come often to this tomb and draw the strength from it that sustained our Don Bosco during his toughest undertakings working for the glory of God and the salvation of souls and warm ourselves with the fire of love which was always burning within and made him an apostle, not only in Turin, Piedmont, Italy, but to the furthest regions of this earth”.

Fr Rua spoke as well: "Divine Providence is entrusting custody of this sepulchre to us", he said, addressing himself to the Salesians. Therefore show yourselves worthy of this good fortune and by practising Don Bosco's virtues make him happy to be here among you in body, like a father amidst his children".

Some days later, the Rector Major sent a circular letter to the Rectors: "Dear confreres, adopting the advice given us by a pious and kindly Cooperator, from now on our watchword and motto will be: *The children's holiness will be proof of the Father's holiness*; this will increase our beloved Don Bosco's joy, whom we trust has been welcomed into the Father's bosom, while also resounding to our great spiritual benefit".

On 19 March, after the Holy See had confirmed his appointment as Rector Major, Fr. Rua described his guidelines for governing:

“We must consider ourselves very fortunate to be sons of such a Father. Therefore we must be solicitous in shouldering and in time further developing the work he began, faithfully following the methods he practised and taught and in our way of speaking and acting seek to imitate the model that the Lord in his goodness has given us. This, my dear sons, will be the programme I will be following while in office; let this also be the studied goal of every Salesian”.

2. Observance and fidelity

Fr. Rua was only taking up Don Bosco's *magisterium*, where he had constantly insisted on religious observance, a modest lifestyle, prayerful reflection and inwardness as dynamic elements of fidelity to the Salesian mission and identity.

From the time he founded the Congregation until his final days, Don Bosco had clearly pointed out the path to follow:

“Our Congregation has a happy future prepared for it by Divine Providence and its glory will endure so long as our rules are observed...”, he wrote in his “spiritual testament”. When the desire for ease and comfort grows amongst us, our pious Society will have run its course. The world will always welcome us as long as all our concern is for under-developed peoples, for poor children, the members of society most at risk. This is our real wealth which no one will envy and no one will take from us. When it happens that a Salesian yields up his life while working for souls, you can say that our Congregation has registered a great triumph and that on it will descend in abundance the blessings of Heaven”.

All of this comes from his austere, radical view of religious life. The consecrated individual offers to God a total, generous, unconditional gift of self. He wrote this in his introduction to the Constitutions: the vows are like “so many spiritual cords by which we consecrate ourselves to the Lord and place our will, our goods, our physical and moral faculties in the power of the superior, so that we may all form but one heart and one soul in order to promote the greater glory of God”. Whoever feels he is not able to keep them should not make them, or should at least defer professing them until he feels in his heart that he is firmly resolved to keep them”. This is a “heroic” consecration for which we need to prepare ourselves well;

“but once we have done so, let us try to maintain it, even at the cost of long and serious sacrifice”.

This is a way to understanding **the view Don Bosco had of the Salesian**.

His **obedience** ought to follow the example of Jesus, “who practised it even in the most difficult things, even to death on the cross, and should the glory of God demand as much from us, we also ought to be obedient, even to the point of sacrificing our lives”. Obedience characterised, however, by Salesian loving kindness: obeying “willingly and promptly” showing ourselves to be “compliant even in things which are most difficult and contrary to self-love”, doing them “courageously, even at the cost of pain and sacrifice *“The kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence and the violent are taking it by storm”* (Mt 11:12).

Salesian **poverty** is, “literally”, possessing nothing, “making ourselves poor to become rich with Jesus Christ ... who was born into poverty, lived deprived of all things and died stripped of his clothes on the cross”. It is to be practised from the Gospel point of view of following Christ, as radical but real detachment: “All that is beyond food and clothing is superfluous for us and contrary to a religious vocation. It is true that at times we shall have to suffer some inconvenience on our journeys, at work, in times of health and in sickness; we shall sometimes have food, clothing or other things not to our liking; but it is precisely then that we ought to bear in mind that we have made profession of poverty and that if we wish to have its merit and reward we ought to bear with its consequences”.

Chastity, “an extremely necessary virtue, a great virtue, crowning all the others ..., and very much besieged by the enemy of our souls”, is not only an essential aspect of consecrated life, but an

essential virtue for the Salesian who must deal “lovingly” with abandoned youth: “Whoever does not have the well-founded hope, with divine help, of preserving this virtue in words, deeds and thoughts, should not enrol in this Congregation, because he would be exposed at every step to great danger”.

And **fraternal charity** is the vital gland of Salesian communities: “When this brotherly love reigns in a community and all the members love one another and each one enjoys the other's good, as if it were his own, well then, this house becomes a paradise But as soon as self love and there are rifts and disagreements between members, then the house becomes hell”. So we need to live “united in heart and mind, serving God and helping one another in charity”. Flee from murmuring, gossip, jokes that can irritate our confreres, quarrels and conflicts. Show ourselves always to be “affable and gentle in manner to everybody”. Rein in our anger, avoiding “unpleasant words”, “a haughty and harsh manner”. Generously forgive and immediately ask forgiveness when we make a mistake. And beyond this: “Do not content yourself with just loving your companions with words only, but go out to help them with whatever kind of service you can render”. **(to be continued.....)**

Blessed Joseph Kowalski & Companions (Polish Salesian Martyrs): (12 June)

Joseph was born on 13th March 1911 at Siedliska, Poland. He was educated at the local state elementary school, and the Salesian school in Auschwitz. He was a member of the Holy Brigade, an unofficial group dedicated to the spiritual life of the school. Joseph joined the Salesians in 1927 and was ordained in 1938. He worked as a personal secretary of the Salesian provincial. He was noted for his

youth ministry, conducting conferences, teaching, hearing confessions, and forming a youth choir. He was arrested with eleven other Salesians at the church of Mary Help of Christians in Krakow, Poland by the Nazis on May 23, 1941 for providing such non-approved youth programs.

He died on July 3, 1942 at the concentration camp in Auschwitz, Poland. He was one of the 108 Polish martyrs of the Second World War. He was drowned in a cesspool. Pope John Paul II beatified him with five youngsters of the Salesian oratory on 13th June 1999 at Warsaw, Poland.

First Profession

The Province of Hyderabad was blessed with ten new Salesians on 24th May, 2014 as they made their First Profession at Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad. We thank the Novitiate community and the Master, who have been accompanying them in their discernment to live a Salesian life. We appreciate them for the generosity with which they have responded to God's call.

Forever with Don Bosco

Cl. Boddu Charan Kumar and Cl. Jinugu Vidyasagar, made their final commitment at the Sacred Heart Novitiate, Manoharabad. We congratulate them for their commitment to the congregation for ever. While we particularly thank the parents of these clerics, we also accompany them as they continue their journey towards greater sanctity in the Salesian Apostolate.

Renewal of Vows:

We congratulate fifty four of our confreres in Temporary Profession who have renewed their vows this year, manifesting their deep desire to follow the Lord ever more closely in the way of Don Bosco. Our best wishes for these young Salesians as they continue to cherish their Salesian vocation and grow deeper in their commitment. I also take this opportunity to thank the community of BIRDY for hosting the Summer Formation Course for our Salesians in practical training and college studies and the renewal ceremony.

Admission to Novitiate 2014

Eighteen young men were admitted to the Novitiate. We wish them all a fruitful year of Novitiate. We are grateful to the Don Bosco Gunadala, community who have accompanied these young candidates with great dedication.

Summer Camps

Some of the communities of the province had organized summer camps for the children and youth of the locality and helped them gain proficiency in English and to learn the use of computer skills, soft skills and Bible Camps. I congratulate each and every confrere of these communities for their commitment and hard work. In a special way I appreciate the students of Theology and Philosophy who did a great job during the summer vacation.

Delegates of Commissions

1. Delegate for Social Communication – Fr. Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar
2. Delegate for Colleges – Fr. Vatti Balashowreddy
3. Delegate for Mission – Fr. Michel Jayaraj Alex
4. Delegate for Technical Schools – Fr. Yerramaneni Balaswamy

5. Delegate for Salesian Family & SF Co-operators – Fr. Garlapati Michael Kishore
6. Delegate for Schools – Fr. Bandha Suresh

Good Results

Congratulations to all our schools and colleges, managements and students especially for the fine performance of our students in the exams of this year. While we congratulate them, we wish them all the best for this academic year in their delicate task of preparing the young minds to be honest and God fearing citizens.

Apostolic Assignment 2014 – 2015

1. Don Bosco School, Sanathnagar

a. Fr. Yeddanapalli Selvaraj – Co

b. Fr. Pentareddy Jayapaul – Pp – St. Francis Xavier’s Church, Borabanda

2. Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad

a. Fr. Chinnabathuni Showrilu – Adm / Liturgical Animator

Meeting of the Rectors and In-charges:

The annual meeting of the Leaders of the communities was held on 3rd and 4th June 2014. On 3rd June Fr. Maria Charles animated us on the theme “Don Bosco Child Protection Policy”. On the second day, the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by the New Priests (Fr. Lingampalli Ashok, Fr. Goli Suman Showri and Fr. Thalla Wilson) of our Province. In the morning session the Leaders discussed the implementation of the Chapter directives in the best way possible to make the whole province better Mystics in the Spirit, more authentic Prophets of Fraternity and loving Servants of the Young.

Region wise GC 27 Presentation

Hyderabad Region – in Provincial House – Animated by **Fr. Provincial**
– On 16th June, from 5.30 to 8.00 pm

Warangal Region - in Karunapuram – Animated by **Fr. Provincial** –
On 17th June, from 5.30 to 8.00 pm

Vijayawada & Guntur Region – in Mangalagiri - Animated by **Fr.**
Viceprovincial – On 18th June, from 5.30 to 8.00 pm

Rayalaseema Region – in Kurnool – Animated by **Fr. Provincial** – On
19th June, from 9.00 to 11.30 am

Visakhapatnam Region – in Kondadaba – Animated by

Fr. Viceprovincial – On 20th June, from
5.30 to 8.00 pm

Hearty Congratulations

Don Bosco Nava Nirman – Muniguda

I extend my hearty congratulations to the community of Don Bosco Nava Nirman, Muniguda who won the “Pascual Chavez Award 2013” for innovative Salesian Ministry in South Asia, which was presented by the Salesian Provincial Conference of South Asia to Peace and Unity programme by Don Bosco Nava Nirman in appreciation of their daring initiatives for peace and inter religious dialogue at Muniguda, Odisha.

Ordination of Dn Barigala Arockia Nathan

Dn. Barigala Arockia Nathan will be ordained a priest on 28th June, 2014 at 18.00 at Cattedrale San Marco – Latina, Italy by **Most Rev. Mariamo Crociata** vescovo di Latina – Terracina. In the name of the Province I congratulate him whole heartedly and assure him of our prayerful and fraternal support in his Salesian Priestly journey.

In-charge of Tri-monthly Recollection

Guntur Region:	Fr Kottekarotte Joseph
Vijayawada Region:	Fr Thathireddy Michael
Rayalaseema Region:	Fr Tom Chowaran
Hyderabad Region	Fr Madathumuriyil Sebastian
Visakhapatnam Region:	Fr Thottiyil Thomas
Warangal Region:	Fr Mallavarapu Rayanna

Annual Retreats :

1. **25 – 30** August - Annual Retreat **I** – General Patronage
2. **06 – 11** October – Annual Retreat **II** - General Patronage
3. **12 – 17** January - Annual Retreat **III** - General Patronage

Bon Voyage!

Fr. Marneni Mariadas left for Mission preaching to the USA on June 8th. We wish him a happy stay and God's abundant blessings and a fruitful experience.

Prayers for the Deceased

- On 19th May 2014 we received the sad news of the death of Mr. Mathai Thomas, aged 83, father of Fr. Koonananickal Jose, Rector of BIRDY, Hyderabad. We extend our support and solidarity to Fr. Koonananickal Jose and pray for the repose of Mr. Mathai Thomas.
- On 27th May 2014 Mrs. Veronickamma, aged 79, the mother of Fr. Gopu Anand Reddy passed away. We offer our condolences and prayers to our dear confrere Fr. Gopu Anand Reddy. Let us pray for the repose of the soul of the deceased.

Sacred Heart

The Sacred Heart is often depicted as a flaming heart shining with divine light, pierced by the lance-wound, encircled by a crown of thorns, surmounted by a cross and bleeding. Sometimes the image is shown shining within the bosom of Christ with his wounded hands pointing at the heart. The wounds and crown of thorns allude to the manner of Jesus' death, while the fire represents the transformative power of divine love.

The Heart of Jesus is the centre of his personality; it is the intimate source from which his thoughts originate, his affection, his words, his works... It is the key of all the dogmas. It is the explanation of all the mysteries and the profound sense of each word of the Gospel because everything is illuminated and inflamed by charity. This is why Pius XI wrote "The Heart of Jesus is the compendium of the whole Catholic religion."

At the very outset of this scholastic year as we launch out again into the vineyard of the Lord as ministers in His Kingdom, I entrust every confrere to the unconditional love of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and entreat Him and our Blessed Mother Mary to lead us by walking beside and before us today and always.

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,

Fr Raminedi Balaraju sdb
Provincial