



PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

Salesian Province of St. Joseph, Hyderabad



INH/TVB/CIR 11/2019

November, 2019

Human Relations - Rediscovering the community dimension

Dear confreres,

I would like to thank you for preparing well for the Annual Provincial Visitation that is being carried out in different communities. Thank you for the fraternal sharing and openness. In terms of our mission and ministry there is a lot of positive change. Most of our confreres are working very hard and striving towards excellence in what we do. While we are doing well in the apostolate, I would like to draw our attention to the community life. In some communities, we are limited to functional relationships. In some communities, confreres do not feel that they belong to a family. In a few others, there are unresolved tensions. One begins to wonder if we are not capable of profound relationships. In some way, the 'Contemporary Culture' is influencing our community living.

By essence, we are meant to be social and relational. The Contemporary Culture has promoted exaggerated individualism. The traditional family system of relationships is at stake. Most are lost in the technological, digital and virtual world. Recently, I stopped to have a meal in a restaurant while on a journey to one of our communities. The table next to me was occupied by a family - parents and their two children. Perhaps they were traveling somewhere or they came out together as a family. During their meal, all of them were busy with their cell phones. They hardly spoke to each other and each was immersed in a different world of his or her own. The crisis of the Contemporary Culture is 'anthropological': an anthropology of the self over that of the community. It has contributed to inordinate self-absorption and self-gratification. As we lose the sense of the other we find it difficult to engage in deeper relationships.

We too are influenced by this 'Contemporary Culture'. While there is a yearning for recognition, acceptance, respect and peace in the community, there is also loneliness, isolation, individualism, independence and excessive privacy. We are called live in the community, love our brothers whom the Lord has placed around us and thus share the mission. There is a tendency in some to spend hours together on the cell phone. It will not be an exaggeration for me to say that a good number of confreres spend 5 to 6 hours a day on their mobiles: be it for gossip, be it on social media - Whatsapp, Facebook, Twitter, etc. We are robbing ourselves of the time that is to be spent with our young people and our confreres in the community. When there is a lack of communication and communion, it leads to rejection, emptiness, stress and personal crisis. When one does not feel the support of the other, one looks for consolation outside and in extreme cases, one looks for extreme solutions. The Salesian India has experienced this phenomenon and I am afraid it might be growing if we do not immediately address the crisis of the community life today.

One of the sad facts of our community life is to find confreres who have lived, and continue to live with past hurts and unresolved conflicts experienced with their fellow confreres. Sometimes their life is rooted in bitterness and while they may celebrate the sacraments and preach (recollections and retreats) to others, yet they cannot bring themselves to forgive the brother they are living with in the community. Sometimes we find people who make rash negative judgments and engage in unhelpful conversations filled with cynicism and sarcasm.

The community life is a prophetic sign. By living together, even at a great cost, religious are able to bear striking witness to the Trinitarian mystery of self-emptying love. Our living together has to be guided by our faith experience. It is the Lord who gives us brothers to love. "God calls us to live in community and entrusts us with brothers to love" (C 50). Certainly we are not formed by the natural attraction of like-minded people. We are given to one another by Christ and He calls us to accept one another as we are. By abiding in Him we can be united in a mutual love that goes deeper than personal attraction. We are also invited to accept each other's fragility, complexity and incompleteness. Tensions and frictions are inevitably woven into the fabric of everyday life. But when we are led by faith, we will be able to forgive and encourage each other.

Jean Vanier, in the book, *Community and Growth* says that sometimes it is easier to hear the cries of the poor, than to hear the cries of our brothers in our own community. Our relationships should go beyond our functional existing together. We need to make greater effort in getting to know one another. We must spend time with the other; listen to his story, his joys and his anguish with respect. Through this fraternal care, acceptance, understanding and tenderness, we will be able to enter into deeper communion. Pope Francis emphasizes the ‘spirituality of communion’ as “a way of being”. “Communion is lived first and foremost within the respective communities of each Institute. To this end, I would ask you to think about my frequent comments about criticism, gossip, envy, jealousy, hostility as ways of acting which have no place in our houses. This being the case, the path of charity open before us is almost infinite, since it entails mutual acceptance and concern, practicing a communion of goods both material and spiritual, fraternal correction and respect for those who are weak ... it is the “mystique of living together” which makes our life “a sacred pilgrimage”. We need to ask ourselves about the way we relate to persons from different cultures, as our communities become increasingly international. How can we enable each member to say freely what he or she thinks, to be accepted with his or her particular gifts, and to become fully co-responsible?” Let us humanize our communities with greater understanding and love and encourage communion of heart and spirit. Let us put aside all our differences and live in unity and brotherly charity.

Blessing of Savio Block at Don Bosco School, Bandlaguda

We have finally blessed and inaugurated the Savio Block of Don Bosco CBSE School, Bandlaguda on October 17, 2019. The children have at last entered the new building and classes are going on in full swing much to the satisfaction and benefit of both parents and students. I cannot but thank all those confreres, especially our Economer, Fr Androth and many lay people who tirelessly worked for realizing this project which once again proves that God’s providence never fails us that He constantly invites us out of our comfort zones to become part of His great and marvelous plans for everyone, especially for young people. I thank each of you too dear confreres for your prayers and support. I wish the Principal, Fr G. Chinnappa all the very best for the challenge of continuing to transmit quality and value-based education to our children and young people so that they may in turn become God-fearing and responsible citizens making our world a beautiful place to live in wherever they are.

Salesian Family Day

On October 26, 2019 The Salesian Family day was organized at Don Bosco School, Gunadala with the theme “Salesian Holiness”, in keeping with the Strenna of the current year - Holiness for you too. The SDBs and FMAs were joined by cooperators, sisters of MSMHC, Disciples of Jesus, member of ADMA and past pupils. I had the opportunity to share with all the participants of the Salesian Family Day the innumerable struggles Don Bosco had to go through to have the Constitutions approved by the Holy See and to have his plans materialized for the temporal as well as the eternal happiness of young people who became his life and his only passion. After this I had the privilege of releasing the Constitutions of Salesian Co-Operators, translated from English into Telugu. I wholeheartedly thank Fr. Basani Matthias who spared no effort in meticulously translating the English version into Telugu. I thank our Vice Provincial Fr Santiago Thomas for following up the invitations, arrangements and the logistics for this event. Special thanks to Fr Kishore, the delegate of the Salesian Family and the Rector of Don Bosco, Gunadala and the community for making all the arrangements and for hosting the event. I thank also Fr Gaddam Carlo who having participated in Salesian Family Delegates’ Meet in Rome between September 17 and 22, 2019, shared the challenges, opportunities and hopes of Salesian Family. Let us continue to collaborate with the members of the Salesian Family wherever we are for the benefit of our young people for whom Don Bosco was ready to do anything provided their souls could be saved.

The Annual Spiritual Retreats

Two annual spiritual retreats have already been conducted in the Provincial House, Hyderabad. The first retreat was preached by Fr Theophilus SDB from DBRC, Bangalore. It was held from October 7 to 12, 2019 and attended by Rectors, in-charges and provincial council members. The second retreat for the general patronage was held from October 28 to November 02, 2019. It was preached by Fr Albert Johnson SDB, SPCSA Secretary, Delhi. A good number of confreres have turned out for these two retreats. I sincerely thank the preachers for facilitating the process of our own spiritual renewal for greater commitment to our vocation and mission according to the way of Don Bosco. The third retreat will be held between January 13 and 18, 2020 which will be preached by Fr. Jose Parapillil MSFS. I encourage all those confreres, who have not yet made their retreat this year to attend this province retreat without fail.

Archbishop Dominic Jala SDB left us

We are still recovering from the sudden and unexpected loss of our confrere and Church leader and shepherd Archbishop Dominic Jala who breathed his last in a fatal accident in the United States on October 10, 2019. As professor of Liturgy at Sacred Heart College Shillong, Provincial of the undivided province of Guwahati, Archbishop of Shillong Archdiocese and Apostolic Administrator of the diocese of Nongstoin, Rev. Dominic Jala made an impression on so many lives who continue to mourn his tragic death. Fr. Mathew Vellankal who was driving the car that met with an accident also lost his life. He was a Salesian of the Province of Guwahati, till he joined one of the dioceses in the United States.

Nearly 100,000 people from across northeastern India, particularly Meghalaya, attended the state funeral of Archbishop Dominic Jala in Shillong held on October 23, 2019. Archbishop John Moolachria of Guwahati, president of the North East India Bishops Council, led the Mass at the Cathedral of Mary Help of Christians, Laitumkhrach, downtown Shillong. He was assisted by 15 archbishops and bishops from northeastern India and other dioceses in India. After the Mass, Archbishop Jala was laid to rest in a grave close to the Cathedral church. The Catholic Church also presented a Crucifix to the family members of the Archbishop. We ask God to grant both these souls admittance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Consultation for Rectors

I am sending the consultation forms already with this circular in view of the special situation of General Chapter that commences in February 2020. I request you to send the consultation forms duly filled by December 10, 2019. The Rectors who are completing their 1st Term are:

1. Fr Ramanedi Balaraju - Chandur
2. Fr Kollamparambil Joseph - Mothinagar
3. Fr Vatti Balashowry - Nalgonda
4. Fr Barigala Arokianathan - Guntupalli

Assignment for our Deacons

Deacons from Kristu Jyoti College, Bangalore are assigned to the following communities from November 2019 as they prepare themselves for their priestly ordination scheduled for December 21, 2019 at 10 am at Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad. I wish them a very meaningful and enriching pastoral experience. I urge the respective communities to guide them and support them in all the ways possible.

1. Dn. GADESULA Naresh - Chandur
2. Dn. KASU Lourdu Reddy - P.T. Parru
3. Dn. NARISSETTY Anup - Nalgonda
4. Dn. PALEM Jeevan Kumar - Peddaboddepalli

Salesian Sanctity in November

- November 5 - Eucharist for deceased benefactors and SF members
November 13 - Blessed Artemide Zatti
November 15 - Blessed Magdalena Morano, virgin (FMA)
November 25 - Eucharist offered for deceased SDB parents

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| November 09 | Tri-Monthly Recollection |
| November 12-13 | Brothers' Meet |
| November 19 | Leaders' Meet, Jubilee of Confreres |
| November 20 | Leaders' Meet, Heads of Dimensions, Commissions, Sectors and Centers - Review Meet |
| November 22-23 | Salesian Social Forum - DBPH |

Condolences

We offer our sincere condolences:

- To Fr. Peyyala Ignatius and to all his family members at the death of his younger sister Ms. Xavier, who passed away in Vishakapatnam on October 4, 2019.
- To the Provincial and sisters of the FMA Province of Chennai at the sad demise of dear Sr. Antonia Rayappan (51) on October 08, 2019 at 10 am, in Sacred Heart Home, Katpadi, Vellore.

- To Provincial and confreres of SDB Province of Shillong and to the faithful of the Archdiocese of Shillong at the unexpected passing away of Most Rev. DOMINIC JALA SDB, DD on October 10, 2019 in California, U.S.A, at 10.30 pm
- To Fr Pasala Bhaskar and to all his family members at the sudden death of his beloved dad Mr. P. Anthaiah on October 11, 2019 aged 69 at 3:15pm at Gandhi Hospital Hyderabad.
- To the Provincial and confreres of the Province of Chennai at the sad death of a young confrere Fr. Martin Sowriappan SDB on October 22, 2019.
- To Fr Mattukoyya Mariadas and to all his family members at the death of Mr K. Ramaswamy the brother-in-law of Fr Mariadas. He passed away at 2am on October 24, 2019 in Pedda Parimi village near Amaravati. He was 69 years of age.

Conclusion

As the weather grows colder and the leaves fall, it is natural that our thoughts turn to those whom we have loved who are no longer with us. How appropriate, then, that the Catholic Church offers us November, which begins with All Saints Day and All Souls Day, as the Month of the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

In recent years, perhaps no Catholic doctrine has been more misunderstood by Catholics themselves than the doctrine of Purgatory. Consequently, we tend to downplay it, even seem a little embarrassed by it. Purgatory is not, as many people think, one last trial; all of those who make it to Purgatory will one day be in Heaven. Purgatory is where those who have died in grace, but who have not fully atoned for the temporal punishments resulting from their sins, go to finish their atonement before entering Heaven. A soul in Purgatory may suffer, but he has the assurance that he will ultimately enter Heaven when his punishment is complete. Catholics believe that Purgatory is an expression of God's love, His desire to cleanse our souls of all that might keep us from experiencing the fullness of joy in Heaven.

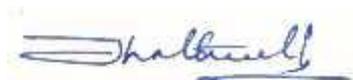
As Christians, we do not travel through this world alone. Our salvation is wrapped up with the salvation of others, and charity requires us to come to their aid. The same is true of the Holy Souls. In their time in Purgatory, they can pray for us, and we should pray for

the faithful departed that they may be freed from the punishment for their sins and enter into Heaven.

We should pray for the dead throughout the year, especially on the anniversary of their death, but in this Month of the Holy Souls, we should devote some time every day to prayer for the dead. We should start with those closest to us—our mother and father, our confreres, for instance—but we should also offer prayers for all the souls, and especially for those most forsaken.

We believe that those Holy Souls for whom we pray will continue to pray for us after they have been released from Purgatory. If we live Christian lives, we too will likely find ourselves in Purgatory someday, and our acts of charity toward the Holy Souls there now will ensure that they remember us before the throne of God when we are most in need of prayers. It's a comforting thought, and one that should encourage us, especially in this month of November, to offer our prayers for the Holy Souls.

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar SDB
Provincial

