

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

SALESIAN PROVINCE OF HYDERABAD



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“He walked by their side” (Lk. 24: 15)

One of the most creative and energetic stages of life is youth. If guided and channelled rightly, it can transform the world. If let loose, it can cause even the destruction of the same.

In the recent past, at various intervals, the world has been engaged in discussing and focussing on youth and youth related issues. The United Nations has declared 2010-11 as the Year of Youth: ‘to listen, discuss and deliberate on the issues concerning young people.’ Pope Francis called for a synod on the youth in 2018 for which the preparations and reflections are already on. The theme, ‘Youth, Faith and Vocational Discernment’ is centred on how the Catholic Church can help in accompanying young people in discerning God’s call in their lives.

As Salesians, since our charism is for young people, the Pope has invited us to play a pivotal role in this process. Both the SDBs and FMAs along with our Rector Major Fr Angel Fernandez Artime, and the FMA Superior General, Mother Yvonne Reungoat, had a meeting at Castelgandolfo on July 24, 2017 to discuss about the process towards the Synod. The following points emerged in this discussion:

- the journey towards the 2018 Synod is a unique chance for the entire Salesian family to be one with the universal Church and share the Salesian charism in the local Churches;
- only when SDB and FMA listen to the young with compassion will they, in turn, listen to us;
- the deficit in Salesian accompaniment of the young might be caused by the personal lack of accompaniment received;
- Pope Francis' invitation to listen to young people is an appeal to a real and concrete conversion, to give time to the young at any and every possible occasion, to invest more in personal support as the heart of the Preventive System of Don Bosco;

- there is a need for a more active presence of SDB and FMA among the young within the Salesian Youth Movement and the missionary volunteers, especially as being a point of reference for certain roles is a sign of these times.

It will be a great opportunity for the Church, (the world) and for us Salesians to listen with respect and engage in a meaningful dialogue with young people in order to accompany them in their life journey. We walk side by side with the young so as to lead them to the risen Lord, and so discover in Him ... the deepest meaning of their own existence (Const 34). We are called to be actively present among them, helping them in their efforts to grow in what is good and encouraging them to cast off every form of slavery (Const 39).

Today's young people are smart and talented. They are digital natives. Information and technology is at their finger tips literally. They have access to all the knowledge in the world, at a swipe away on their mobile phones. **As the needs of young people are changing today, what remains ever relevant and constant is our accompaniment.** Today young people long for a listening ear. They need someone who can understand them and show them the way.

The ATRCRI in the annual general body meeting on 8 July 2017, reflected on the preliminary document of the synod on youth. At the end of our discussions we have taken up two deliberations to be implemented: the first is the accompaniment of the young. In order to accompany the young in their life journey, we need to ensure that in every institution, there be 'a fulltime or at least a part time counsellor'. This also means that all of us, priests, religious and the staff need to be engaged as spiritual guides in accompanying the young. The second deliberation is to help the young to use the media responsibly. One of the major challenges that young people face today is that of the internet and the social media. The young need guidance in this area. The CRI decided to prepare a manual on the responsible use of the media to be used in our schools as a guide book. I recommend that these deliberations are taken seriously and implemented in all our institutions.

The call to accompany the young, places the responsibility of being accompanied ourselves. **There is a growing false sense of being in total control of our lives. All of us need guides and spiritual directors.** It is rather startling to know that very few of us seek spiritual guidance. If we want to make any difference in the lives of the young, we need to seek guidance ourselves.

How many of us really accompany the young personally? We are busy with various activities and programmes for young people. But they want us to listen to them personally and accompany them. As part of our preparation for the Synod, I exhort each one personally and as a community to reflect on our interventions on behalf of the young people and the various possibilities of accompanying them. To this end I also attach with this circular the letter of the Rector Major, which reflects on the Preparatory Document of the Synod of Bishops 2018. I exhort you as a community to study the letter and answer the questions presented by the Rector Major.

Information

Letter of Rector Major regarding Gerini Case

You must be well aware of the litigation concerning Gerini case, which also involves our Generalate - The Pisana. This process has been going on for over 10 years and it is almost proceeding towards a conclusion. There is one last possible miracle of saving the case. Kindly keep this intention in your prayers. With this circular I attach also the letter that the Rector Major has addressed to the whole congregation and the Salesian Family. Please make sure that you read the letter in the community.

New Office Bearers of the Past Pupils' Federation of our Province

On 19 and 20 July, we had the Province Level Past Pupils' Federation meet. 45 Local Past Pupil Units' office bearers participated in this meet. On 20 July, under the supervision of Fr Yeruva Joji, the Vice Provincial, we had the election of the Province Level Past Pupils' Federation office bearers. The following are the new office bearers for the period 2017-18- 2020-21

President	Mr. Marian Lucas Anil Devaraj - Don Bosco Navajeevan, Vijayawada
Senior Vice President	Mr. Illuri Prasad - Don Bosco, Ravulapalem
GEX Vice President	Mr. Seelam Sandeep Kumar - Don Bosco Navajeevan, Vijayawada
Secretary	Mr. Pamisetty Balaswamy - Don Bosco, Kurnool
Treasurer	Mr. Kochera Nageswararao - Don Bosco, P.T Parru
Councillor I and Rep. for National Committee	Mr. Dunna Rajesh - Don Bosco, P.T Parru
Councillor II	Mr. Boppani Prasad - Don Bosco Academy, Nalgonda
Councillor III	Mr. Talamala Anand Kumar - Don Bosco, Guntur

Upcoming events

Provincial Visitation

I will soon commence the annual provincial visitation of the communities. I exhort all the confreres and communities to prepare well for the visitation. Please ensure that all the documents and accounts are in order. The Visitation is also an occasion to evaluate our strengths and enforce them while paying due attention to the areas which need greater attention.

Conclusion of the Marian Month

Every year we dedicate an entire month, to instil in our wards and rejuvenate in ourselves the filial veneration to our Blessed Mother. We have already begun the Marian Month on 16 July in all our institutes. I believe you are making special efforts to remember and venerate Mother Mary. As we draw to the conclusion of this month, I encourage you to prepare well to give a fitting conclusion to the Marian Month on the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady.

Death anniversary of Fr John Varricatt

On 21 August we commemorate the death anniversary of Fr John Varricatt, the first confrere to pass on to his eternal reward from our Province. Please do remember to pray for him and to him too; that inspired by his loving example of religious fidelity and missionary zeal many may join us Salesians.

Animation for the Child Rights Protection Committees

As we are well aware the Child Rights Protection Committees have been set up in all the institutes of our province, which care for minors. To facilitate the better functioning of these committees, there will a training and animation programme for the same, on 19 August 2017 from 9 am to 4 pm at Don Bosco Navajeevan, Yuva Bhavan, Vijayawada for the Andhra Region and on 26 August 2017 from 9 am to 4 pm at Don Bosco Navajeevan, Ramanthapur for the Telangana Region. I invite all the members involved, to attend the training programme without fail.

Head Masters', Asst. Headmasters and Principals of Junior colleges Meet

On 9-10 September, there will a Meeting for all the Head Masters, Assistant Head Masters and the Principals of Junior Colleges. The meeting will commence at 9 am on 9 September and conclude at 4 pm on 10 September. The Adhyayan Study report will be presented during this meeting.

Condolences

Mr Manuel Androth (85), the father of Fr Androth Jose passed away on 3 August 2017 at 12.40 am. The funeral mass was celebrated on 4 August at Palakkad, Kerala. Let us offer our fraternal support to our confrere and the family members in this time of deep sorrow. May the soul of the departed rest in peace.

Our condolences to the Provincial and Sisters of the FMA Province of Tiruchy on the sad demise of Sr Edvige Nazareth (91) on 28 July, 2017 at Auxilium Convent, Wadala, Mumbai. May her soul rest in peace.


We also extend our sincere condolences to the Provincial and Confreres of the Salesian Province of Bangalore at the demise of Fr George Arimpoor (85). He died on 1 August, 2017 at Don Bosco, Aluva, Kerala. May the soul of our departed confrere through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Feast of the Assumption and Independence

On 15 August, we celebrate two significant and related events, the twin feasts of the Assumption and the Independence of our nation. They are twin feasts because both speak about freedom, liberation. Independence is celebrated as Freedom from the British rule and domination, to self rule and governance. Assumption is also freedom from this limited and incomplete life, to the bliss of eternal and perpetual life, presented to Mother Mary. This celebration should invite us to reflect on the important question, 'are we truly free?' Can we call ourselves free when women and girls are raped or molested! When our natural resources are destroyed for our selfish ends! When scores of our countrymen still live in utter poverty and without basic human dignity! Can we call ourselves truly free?

May this solemn occasion inspire each of us to be efficient instruments of liberation to all, for and with whom we work. May our Blessed Mother be our model and guide in this endeavour to liberate ourselves and others from everything that enslaves us both from within and without. I wish each one of you a very happy and meaningful feast of the Assumption and the Independence of India, our motherland.

Affectionately yours in Don Bosco,



Fr Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar
Provincial.

