

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

SALESIAN PROVINCE OF HYDERABAD



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July 2017

“The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak” Mt. 26:41

Dear confreres,

Greetings from the provincial house. I have begun my visits to our communities. I am glad to see that there is a lot of enthusiasm and new vigour among our confreres and the staff at the onset of the academic year 2017-18.

These days I was reflecting on the priorities that we have chosen for ourselves for this year 2017-18. Our priorities for this year too are very similar to what we have drafted and decided for last year. We have chosen to continue to work on our identity as consecrated people and to live our community life meaningfully. It is edifying to see that there is a lot of eagerness and willingness on our part to better ourselves. During our annual meetings in June, many have spoken up for what is ideal and suggested various ways to usher in the needed change. Yes, the spirit is willing. The disciples' spirits were willing and eager to do what was right, all of them pledged their lives to Jesus. Peter said, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never disown you.”

But the flesh is weak. The fact of deliberating upon the same challenges also this year speaks to a certain extent, about our failed commitment last year. There is a greater need for visible changes in our lives. There is a need for deeper union with the Lord and fraternal bonding that is prophetic.

We need to be aware of the weaknesses of the flesh. We have to keep a check on our laziness and easy excuses for being absent at various moments of prayer. Let us never forget that in our consecrated life, the Primacy is always towards God. Regarding our community life, in the introduction to the constitutions of 1885, Don Bosco reminds us that we need to renounce our own self-interest. He says, “let us not seek our own personal good, rather let us work with zeal for the common good of the Congregation. We have to love one another, help one another by counsel and prayer; we have to

advance the honour of our confreres not as if it concerned just one alone, but as a noble and essential heritage in which we all share.” He continues to write that when disagreements and dislikes arise among the members, then that house quickly resembles hell. The Lord loves to see that we all live in *unum*, united in mind and heart. Let us strive to show greater affection and understanding towards one another.

Let us take the priorities of the province seriously and begin to walk the talk each day. Let our desire for perfection and growth be translated into action in everything that we do. Here I would like to remind ourselves of the choices that we have made this year regarding our prayer and our community life.

1. To enable every confrere to lead a God centred Life

- The entire community is to be present for all the practices of piety (lauds and vespers, monthly and trimonthly recollection, *lectio divina* etc). The mission should not hinder this important aspect of our life.
- Every community is to gather around the Eucharistic Lord for an hour on every first Friday.
- The Rector and the Provincial has to remind and exhort the confreres who are not regular for the community moments of prayer with brotherly love.

2. To build loving Communities where individualism and selfishness gives way to fraternal relationships

- The mission is entrusted to the community. Every confrere involves himself in the mission and avoids individualism and compartmentalization.
- To be faithful to regular community meetings, day of the community and periodical evaluation of the community life and work.
- The confreres of the community to come together for at least one meal a day.
- The Provincial, the Vice-Provincial and the Economer together to visit every community at least once a year.

If we are faithful to these recommendations and deliberations we will certainly notice a gradual change in our personal lives and in our communities. I wish and pray that we are more holy and more united this year.

Upcoming Events

Marian Month

The month of July brings to mind the figure of Don Bosco's Madonna, "the model of prayer and pastoral love, and the teacher of wisdom and the guide of our family". A month-long, devotional practices begin on the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel on Sunday 16 July 2017. During this month let us consciously strengthen our devotion to Mary Help of Christians in each one of us and in our houses. I invite the Leaders of Communities to make necessary arrangements to honour Mary, through various signs, gestures and prayers during the Marian month. Let us also strive towards "a more convinced and personal imitation of her" (Const. 92).

Local Youth Coordinators' and Young Priests' Meet

There will be the annual Youth Animation Coordinators' Meet on 17 July 2017 at Don Bosco Provincial House from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm. This will be followed by the Young Priests' (quinquennium) meet on 17 July from 6.00 pm, to 18 July, till 4.30 pm. Kindly make your travel arrangements accordingly. These moments of ongoing formation are essential for our renewal. Kindly take part in these meetings without fail.

Past Pupils' Federation Meet

There will be a Province Level Past Pupils' Federation meet on 19 July 2017 from 4 pm to 20 July 2017, till 4 pm. All the Local Past Pupils' Units' office bearers will be participating in this meet. During this meeting we will also have the election of the Province Level Past Pupils' Federation Office bearers. I request all the Rectors to motivate the office bearers of the local past pupils' units to participate in this meet.

Adhyayan School Evaluation

We have the team from Adhyayan for the **School Self Review and Evaluation (SSRE)**. They will be visiting and evaluating each one of our schools, hence I request all the communities where we have schools to cooperate with the team in this process of evaluation and self-review. This will help us get a candid, clear and honest picture of our educational institutions and help us chart our way forward.

Death anniversary of Br Gabriel Fernandez

On 22 July 2017 we commemorate the eleventh death anniversary of Br Gabriel Fernandez. Kindly remember him in your prayers and may his intercession in heaven help us grow in our Salesian vocation.

Information

Hearty Welcome

We extend a very hearty welcome to Fr. Putti Anthaiah and Fr Maramreddy Prakash, who will be returning from Rome this month after the successful completion of their Licentiates in Spirituality from the Faculty of Theology, UPS. They will come back to the province on 14 July, 2017. Fr Putti Anthaiah wrote his thesis on the theme “**Community Life and its Relevance in the Formation to Religious Life, with Special Reference to Fraternal Life in Community and the GC XXV Documents of the Salesians of Don Bosco.**” Fr Prakash Maramreddy’s thesis was on “**The Integral Spiritual Formation of the Young with a Special Reference to the Catholic Institutes of Learning in Telugu Speaking Regions of South India.**” We wish them a fruitful experience in their ministries.

Fr T.V. Jose to Deepa Nivas

As per the request of Most Rev. Thelagathoti Joseph Raja Rao, the Bishop of Vijayawada, we have started rendering our services at Deepa Nivas - a centre for street involved children at Vijayawada. Fr T.V. Jose will be helping at this centre. He is transferred to the Don Bosco, Gunadala Community. We thank him for his long years of service and accompaniment of the young Salesians at Karunapuram.

Child Rights Protection Committees

The Child Rights Protection Committees are set up in all the institutes of our province, which care for minors. These committees will be a great help in safeguarding Child Rights in all our institutes. We thank Fr Yeruva Joji and the Rectors of various houses for the interest they have shown in forming these committees. There will be a training programme for the committee members in the month of August.

Reports to Kaburlu and Website

We are actively involved in various ministries. There is a lot of good that is being done and we have many stories to tell. Very few of us share about the good that we do. The news we share will serve as information as well as inspiration to others to do more. Hence I request all the communities to take interest in sending reports regularly about the activities and programmes of each community to Kaburlu and the Province website.

Condolences

Our heartfelt condolences to the Provincial and Sisters of the FMA Province of Tiruchy on the sad demise of Sr Abramo Teresa on 27 June, 2017 and to the Provincial and Sisters of the FMA Province of Kolkata on the demise of Sr Teresa Sagayamary Ruben on 4 July, 2017 at Bandel. May their souls rest in peace.

Our heartfelt condolences to Fr Chinnabathuni Showrilu and his family members on the demise of his mother, Mrs Gnanamma. She passed away on 30 June 2017. She had been battling ill-health for some time. May her soul rest in peace.

Conclusion

During the Perpetually professed confreres' meet and the Leaders' meet, I have witnessed great participation and willingness on the part of the confreres to work for the salvation of souls in the Lord's vineyard. You have expressed great interest in fostering the growth of our province. The fruits of these meetings are the various deliberations that we have arrived at, as a Province. We have created wonderful plans for every sector, commission, center and community. A plan is worthwhile only as much as it is put into practice. Hence as I conclude this circular I exhort each one of you, to give your best to the realization of God's plan in one's own life and in the mission entrusted to you.

Journeying together with you and assuring you of my constant support,

Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr. Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar
Provincial

