

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR



Salesian Province of Hyderabad

Thursday, 8 December 2005

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

INH/Cir 20/2005

My Dear Confreres,

Prayers and good wishes from Don Bosco Provincial House, Hyderabad!

Advent

Advent is a time to look forward with hope towards the future, while we recall and make our own the expectation of the people of Israel for the coming of the Messiah. Every year the church invites us to make this spiritual journey at the start the new liturgical year. The Season of Advent is an opportunity to take decisive steps to encounter Jesus of Nazareth, who is the centre of human history, who gives meaning to our present, past and future. We can meaningfully celebrate Christmas, only when we imbibe the attitude of Our Blessed Mother, who was totally receptive to the Word of God and made possible for the Word to become flesh. May we prepare the way of the Lord that He may come into our lives and that we may proclaim His good news to others to bring about peace and harmony in the world!

Immaculate Conception

The solemnity of the Immaculate Conception is another occasion when the church brings forth before us our Blessed Mother Mary as an icon of faith for all of us. The feast reminds us that God's election to accomplish his mission brings along with it the donation of seemingly impossible and unbelievable interventions in the life of a person. The impossible will become possible for us too if we have the attitude of the Blessed Virgin Mary who responded to God saying: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done unto me according to your Word" (Luke 1:38). The feast of Immaculate Conception brings to our mind the origins of our society, when Don Bosco said "yes" like Mary, by responding to the call of the neglected lad, Bartholomeo Garelli, and allowed God to begin to enfold His mission through his life. May

the celebration of this feast help us to be docile to the Spirit of God and to say “yes” like Mary and Don Bosco.

Visit of the Rector Major and Centenary Celebrations

To celebrate the centenary event the provincial commissions have planned various programmes in the province. These should also be opportune moments for our spiritual renewal as communities and as individuals. I am sending along with this circular prayer services which could be used once a week in every community to facilitate a process of spiritual renewal in view of the centenary celebrations.

The printed card with a *Centenary Prayer* has been sent out to all our presences. Let the daily recitation of this prayer be a reminder to each one of us of the mission we have inherited from our zealous forerunners, and inspire us to commit ourselves to forge ahead to incarnate the charism and mission of Don Bosco in our times.

Meeting of Rectors and Administrators

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of the Don Bosco Mission, Ravulapalem, the community hosted the above meeting on 21-23 November. On the first day a programme to monitor and coordinate the Provincial Commissions and Animation Centres in the task of implementing the OPP (PC 5) was drawn up. I should appreciate and congratulate the participants of this meeting for their inputs, discussions and dissemination of information. The meeting has been first of its kind and the participants were impressed by the various interventions of the commissions and animation centres, and the quality and quantity of the work done by them. This would be an annual feature’ to have mid-term evaluation of our animation activities in the province.

Sincere thanks to the Rector, Fr. Pandicherry Joseph, Fr. Thomas Pallithanam, Fr. Thanchan, Bro. Thambi and their collaborators at Don Bosco Mission, Ravulapalem, for successfully hosting these meetings and the Provincial Community Day at ETC - PARA and for the hard work put in to make our stay a pleasant and enjoyable one.

Congratulations

YAR Day

The 4th of December was a significant milestone in the history our province. The YAR provincial commission organised the first YAR DAY

at Don Bosco Ramanthpur. Over 500 youth, lay collaborators and Salesians from 15 of our DBNJ centres of Andhra Pradesh participated in the celebration. The day was packed with seminar, sports, games, dances and other activities for motivation, instilling hope, enthusiasm and delight for everyone present there. I congratulate and thank Fr. Koshy, the delegate of YAR commission, and Fr. G. Anand, who meticulously spear-headed the organisational tasks with Bro. Ch. Gregory, Fr. Y. Joji, Fr. P. Sojan, Bro. T. David and all others who joined hands together to make that day a memorable one.

Assumption Church, Pezzonipet

November 13th 2005 was a historic day for the Salesians, the faithful and diocesan clergy at Assumption Church, Pezzonipet. Whereas the faithful and the diocesan clergy celebrated 50 years of existence as a faith community, the Salesians also celebrated 25 years of our presence and the starting of the youth centre. Congratulations to Fr. M. Sebastian, Fr. T. Johnny and Fr. R. Thomas who made this celebration a time of grace and enrichment in faith for all who participated in the celebration.

All India Deacons' Meet

Hearty Congratulations and thanks to Fr. L. B. Anthony, Don Bosco Renewal Centre, Bangalore, for the organization of the Deacons' Course, which was successfully concluded on 6 December 2005. We congratulate the 39 Deacons who will receive the Sacred Order of Priesthood during the coming days. May the Lord God anoint them with the gifts of the Holy Spirit to make them resonate with the charism of Don Bosco.

Our hearty Congratulations and wishes to our Deacon Thomas Santiago who will be ordained on December 27 2005 at Perambur in Chennai. Let us pray for him in a very special way as he begins to share the priesthood of Christ.

Kaburulu

Acknowledging the earnest work of the Editorial Board of Kaburulu, the news and information communiqué of the Province, I appreciate the face-lift given to the province news magazine during the centenary year. I wish that it would gradually bolster the raison d'être of the Salesian mode of life and pave the way for change and transformation. I wish that all the presences be regular in sending reports to the editor and make his task easier. Once again congratulations to Fr. Thatireddy Vijaya Bhaskar for the beautiful current issue.

Silver Jubilee celebrations

I wish the Silver Jubilarians, Fr. K.K Joseph and Fr. M.C. Abraham, God's choicest blessings and congratulate them for their dedicated service in the Province.

Fr. Antonio Domenech

According the recent letter we have received from the vicar of Rector Major, there is a noticeable improvement in the health of Rev. Fr Antonio Domenech, Councillor for Youth Ministry. The chemotherapy treatment is being carried out in different phases, and by God's healing power, his body is responding well to the treatment. Let us continue to pray for his cure with the firm hope that the Lord will soon restore Rev. Fr Antonio to complete health and make him available for the service of animation in the Congregation.

Consultation for Appointment of Rectors:

The letter and consultation forms for appointment of Rectors was sent out on 16th November 2005. The last date for sending in your consultation was 8th December 2005. I would like that more confreres spend time to complete this all important and responsible task and send their consultation forms in a sealed envelope before 11th of January.

Documents needed for the Archives

I thank those who have given me a copy of these documents during the Provincial Visitation. Those who have not given me, kindly send me a copy of these documents for Provincial archives by 31st December, 2005. I am once again enclosing the list to prepare the documents for Provincial Visitation, for those who have not still given these documents.

Upcoming Events

- ⊙ Feast of Bl. Philip Rinaldi on Monday 5 December 2005.
- ⊙ The Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception on Thursday, 8 December 2005.
- ⊙ Meeting of the Provincial Council at Don Bosco Provincial House on Thursday, 15 December 2005 at 09.00 a.m.
- ⊙ Salesian Co_operators' Centenary Celebrations at Tanjore on Saturday, 14 -16 January 2006.
- ⊙ The Novena in preparation for the Feast of St. John Bosco begins on the Feast of Bl. Laura Vicuna on Sunday, 22 January, 2006.

- ⌚ Retreat for General Patronage begins on Monday, 23 January 2006.
- ⌚ Feast of St. Francis De Sales on Tuesday, 24 January 2006.
- ⌚ The Centenary Retreat for Senior Priests & Brothers at Velankkanni from 30 January 2006.

Condolences

- ⌚ We received the news of the death of Mr. George Kannadipara, the elder brother of Fr. Mathew Kannadipara on 1st December, 2005. He died very suddenly because of a heart attach. He is survived by his three children. It is to be recalled that they lost their mother too only two months earlier. Let us be together with Fr. K.P.Mathew and the family at this hour of pain and support them with our prayers.
- ⌚ Fr. Eleuterio Fernandes SDB, a senior confrere of the Mumbai province, died at Matunga on 29th November, 2005. Our heartfelt condolences to the confreres of Mumbai province.
- ⌚ We also offer our heartfelt condolences to the confreres of Delhi province as they mourn the death of Bro. Francis Suri who died at Kokar, Ranchi, on 26th November 2005. He was elderly and aging.
- ⌚ Fr. Carmel Attard SDB died on 19th November, 2005 at Savio Juniorate, Mawlai, Shillong. We offer our hearty condolences to the confreres of Guwahati province.

We commend them all to the loving mercy of God.

Christmas, a feast of Peace and Joy

The most uncertain disposition of a person today could be expressed in a question: will there ever be peace on earth? Seeing the state of the world today, with terrorism rampant everywhere, we may be inclined to say that we could never see peace in our days. But we have to realise that we too are partly responsible for the global terrorism. Terrorism dwells in our heart. When we hate or do not forgive others, we start a chain reaction of terrorism. If we throw a pebble into the quite waters of a lake, the original ripple moves in concentric circles on the surface till it reaches the furthestmost shores of the lake. Similarly we ourselves have been agents of universal terrorism, we and many like us.

But we can reverse the course of terrorism by starting a process of counter terrorism. The dynamics of it is the same. We accept Jesus in

our heart as the prince of peace, and this peace that dwells now in our hearts will spread in concentric circles till it reaches the furthest ends of the world. We know that peace and love are correlative and interchangeable. Where there is peace there is love and vice versa. Both are fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5: 22) living and acting in our hearts.

The feast of Christmas is God's precious gift of Love, Peace and Joy through the Christ Child to each one of us and to the whole world. May the coming of Christ in our hearts and in our communities start a ripple of Love and Peace to reach out all around us especially to poor young people!

I greet you all and implore upon you the blessings of the Infant Jesus. May our celebration of Christmas and New Year make us messengers of Peace and Love.

May the dawning of the New Year in this era of Globalization be envisaged as an opportunity to launch a counter movement of Globalization for Justice, Peace and Love of Christ and usher in a hopeful future to the marginalized of our world.

Fraternally in Christ Jesus,



Fr. Maddhichetty Noel SDB
Provincial

Enclosures :

- I. List of documents to be kept ready for Provincial Visitation
- II. [Prayer Services](#) for Centenary
 1. Called to be [Signs and Bearers](#)
 2. [Fraternal Communion](#)
 3. [Evangelical Witness](#)
 4. [Salesian Community](#). A privileged setting for Formation and Animation