



Provincial Circular

Salesian Province of Dimapur - IND

ind.sdbprovincial@gmail.com; nestorguria@gmail.com 03862244675, 9436002717



Province of
St. Francis De Sales

CIR/NG/22/2014

4 April 2014

My Dear Confreres,

Greetings from Rome!

"*We* bring you the good news that what God promised to the fathers, this day he has fulfilled to us their children by raising Jesus." (Acts 13:32)



Here are a few thoughts on the greatest feast in Christendom, Jesus' Resurrection. Through His resurrection Jesus has made the battle of life an easy task, almost a fun, because total victory is already ours in Him.

THOUGHTS ON RESURRECTION

The Resurrection of Jesus is the crowning truth of our faith in Christ, a faith believed and lived as the central truth by the first Christian community; handed on as fundamental by Tradition; established by the documents of the New Testament; and preached as an essential part of the Paschal mystery along with the cross:

*Christ is risen from the dead!
Dying, he conquered death;
To the dead, he has given life. (CCC 638)*

By means of touch and the sharing of a meal, the risen Jesus establishes direct contact with his disciples. He invites them in this way to recognize that he is not a ghost and above all to verify that the risen body in which he appears to them is the same body that had been tortured and crucified, for it still bears the traces of his Passion. Yet at the same time this authentic, real body possesses the new properties of a glorious body: not limited by space and time but able to be present how and when he wills; for Christ's humanity can no longer be confined to earth, and belongs henceforth only to the Father's divine realm. For this reason too the risen Jesus enjoys the sovereign freedom of appearing as he wishes: in the guise of a gardener or in other forms familiar to his disciples, precisely to awaken their faith. (CCC 645)

Christ's Resurrection was not a return to earthly life, as was the case with the raisings from the dead that he had performed before Easter: Jairus' daughter, the young man of Naim, Lazarus. These actions were miraculous events, but the persons miraculously raised returned by Jesus' power to ordinary earthly life. At some particular moment they would die again. Christ's Resurrection is essentially different. In his risen body he passes from the state of death to another life beyond time and space. At Jesus' Resurrection his body is filled with the power of the Holy Spirit: he shares the divine life in his glorious state, so that St. Paul can say that

Christ is "the man of heaven". (CCC 646)

Christ's Resurrection is an object of faith in that it is a transcendent intervention of God himself in creation and history. In it the three divine persons act together as one, and manifest their own proper characteristics. The Father's power "raised up" Christ his Son and by doing so perfectly introduced his Son's humanity, including his body, into the Trinity. Jesus is conclusively revealed as "Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his Resurrection from the dead". St. Paul insists on the manifestation of God's power through the working of the Spirit who gave life to Jesus' dead humanity and called it to the glorious state of Lordship. (CCC 648)

The Fathers contemplate the Resurrection from the perspective of the divine person of Christ who remained united to his soul and body, even when these were separated from each other by death: "By the unity of the divine nature, which remains present in each of the two components of man, these are reunited. For, as death is produced by the separation of the human components, so Resurrection is achieved by the union of the two."(St.Gregory of Nyssa) (CCC 650)

Where the Paschal blood is poured
Death's dark angel sheathes his sword
Israel's hosts triumphant go
Through the wave that drowns the foe
Praise we Christ whose blood was shed
Paschal Victim and Paschal Bread
With sincerity and love
Eat we the manna from above! (17th c. Hymn)

Thus, the resurrection represents the fulfilment and climax of God's plan of redemption and salvation for humanity. The good, but fallen creation is restored and redeemed in the Incarnation and the resurrection. The sinless life and resurrection of the Jesus, the second Adam, is an "undoing" of the sin and death of the first Adam (cf. Irenaeus). In the same way, the imperfect shadows of the Old Testament are given their true meaning in the reality of Christ.

Why did Jesus' glorified body have wounds?

Thomas Aquinas gave an excellent summary of reasons: to confirm the disciples' faith, to rightly intercede for humanity, to show the Father what he had suffered for humanity, to demonstrate the continuity of the pre and post-Easter body, and to show on the last day to all humans "an everlasting trophy of his victory"

Christian is a Proclaimer of Easter

"Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event." (*Pope Benedict XVI in God Is Love*).

"What puzzles the world, and its wise philosophers and fanciful pagan poets, about the priests and people of the Catholic Church is that they still behave as if they were messengers. A messenger does not dream about what his message might be, or argue about what it probably would be; he delivers it as it is." (GK Chesterton)





POPE FRANCIS TO THE GC 27 PARTICIPANTS

Monday, 31 March 2014

Dear Brothers,

You are very welcome! I thank Father Angelo for his words. It is my wish for him and the new General Council to be able to serve by guiding, accompanying and sustaining the Salesian Congregation on its journey. May the Holy Spirit help you to respond to the expectations and challenges of our time, especially of young people, and to interpret them in the light of the Gospel and of your charism.

I imagine that during the Chapter -- which had the theme "Witnesses to the Radical Approach of the Gospel" -- you always had Don Bosco and young people before you; and Don Bosco with his motto: "Da mihi animas, cetera tolle." He reinforced this programme with two other elements: work and temperance. I remember that in school it was forbidden to have a siesta! ... Temperance! For the Salesians and for us! "Work and temperance" -- he said -- will make the Congregation flourish." When one thinks of working for the good of souls, one overcomes the temptation of spiritual worldliness; one does not look for other things, but God alone and his Kingdom. Temperance, then, is the sense of due measure, being content, being simple. May the poverty of Don Bosco and of Mother Margaret inspire every Salesian and every community of yours to an essential and austere way of life, closeness to the poor, transparency and responsibility in the management of goods.

1. The evangelization of young

people is the mission that the Holy Spirit has entrusted to you in the Church. It is closely connected with their education: the journey of faith is part of their process of growth, and the Gospel also enriches human maturation. Young people must be prepared to work in society according to the spirit of the Gospel, as agents of justice and peace, and to live as protagonists in the Church. Therefore, you avail yourselves of the necessary further pedagogical and cultural reflections and updating to respond to the current educational emergency. May Don Bosco's experience and his "preventive system" always sustain you in your commitment to living with young people. May your presence among them be distinguished by that tenderness that Don Bosco called loving kindness, also using new languages, but knowing well that the language of the heart is the fundamental one to come close to them and to become their friends.

Essential here is the vocational dimension. Sometimes the vocation to the consecrated life is confused with a choice of voluntary service, and this distorted vision does no good to the Institutes. The coming year 2015, dedicated to consecrated life, will be a favourable occasion to present its beauty to young people. In any case it is necessary to avoid partial views, so as not to arouse vocations that are fragile and sustained by weak motivations. Ordinarily apostolic vocations are the fruit of a good youth ministry. The care of vocations requires specific attention, first of all to prayer,

then appropriate activities, personalised courses, the courage to offer the proposal, support and the involvement of the families. Vocational geography has changed and is changing, and this means new demands for formation, support and discernment.

2. Working with young people, you come across the world of youth exclusion. And this is frightening! Today, it is frightening to think that there are 75 million young people without work, here, in the West. We think of the vast reality of unemployment, with so many negative consequences. We think of the addictions, which sadly are manifold, but which stem from a common root of an absence of true love. Reaching marginalised youth requires courage, maturity and much prayer. And the best must be sent to this work! The best! There can be the risk of being carried away by enthusiasm, sending to such frontiers people of good will, but who are not suited. Therefore, careful discernment and constant support are necessary. This is the criterion: the best must go there. "I need him to make him superior of that, or to study theology ...". However, if you have this mission, send him there! The best!



Rector Major's Address to the Holy Father

Dear Pope Francis, Dear Father,

We are very happy to be here with you. Thank you for this opportunity to meet you. For us it is a very precious gift and a unique occasion, allowing us to express the feelings we bear for you in our hearts. We love you, Father! We greatly value your courage and your testimony. With joy we see your great love for the Lord Jesus, for the Church, and your desire for the profound

3. Thank God you do not live or work as isolated individuals, but as a community: and thank God for this! The community sustains the whole apostolate. Sometimes Religious Communities are riddled with tensions, with the risk of individualism and of dispersion, whereas there is need for deep communication and genuine relationships. The humanising force of the Gospel is witnessed to by the fraternity lived in community, made up of hospitality, respect, reciprocal help, understanding, courtesy, forgiveness and joy. The family spirit that Don Bosco left you helps a great deal in this respect encouraging perseverance and creating an attraction to consecrated life

Dear Brothers, the bicentenary of Don Bosco's birth is almost upon us. It will be a propitious occasion to propose again your Founder's charism. Mary Help of Christians has never failed to give her help in the life of the Congregation, and she certainly will not fail to do so in the future. May her maternal intercession obtain for you from God the hoped for anticipated fruits. I bless you and pray for you and, please, pray also for me.

Thank you!



renewal of the whole Christian community over which you preside in service and love.

We know very well that for Don Bosco, love for the Pope meant love for the Church and love for the mission. Our meeting would have no meaning were it not accompanied at the same time by the desire to express to you, dear

Father, our willingness to renew our charismatic and missionary commitment to the Church and the world with particular attention to the young, especially the poorest and most abandoned. So we accept your invitation to open the doors of our houses and our hearts, to be announcers of Gospel joy, believing strongly in a God who loves human beings and desires their salvation. In the words of “Gaudium et spes”, we want to share the joys and sorrows of today’s world and of the young people who live in it, fully committing ourselves to building the Kingdom of God.

During this General Chapter, with the theme of being “Witnesses to the radical approach of the Gospel”, we have felt that we are deeply in tune with your Apostolic Exhortation “Evangelii Gaudium”. This text has enlightened and guided our reflection.

It has been an occasion to reflect deeply on our Salesian charismatic identity, bearing in mind at the same time the need to interpret what Don Bosco experienced and passed on to us, in a way that is relevant. We have identified a path to renewal in which we commit ourselves to living the mystical dimension of consecrated individuals who intend to give absolute primacy to God, the Lord of our life. Moved by the Spirit of Jesus therefore we want to be “seekers and witnesses of God”, joyfully accompanying young people on a journey of human and Christian growth.

We are proposing to renew the prophetic witness of our fraternal life. In a world often torn by conflict at every level, it seems to us that our religious

life has as one of its principle tasks witnessing to the joy of a communion of brothers who feel they are all disciples of the Lord. It is a fellowship that involves our daily life, our work, our prayer and it becomes in itself a proclamation of a life expressed in new relationships inspired by the words of the Gospel and able to attract young people to the precious experience of a life given for others according to Don Bosco’s charism.

In our mission we want to reaffirm our desire to be servants of the young, through an educative proposal inspired by Gospel values and with a generous commitment to transforming the world. We want to reaffirm the criterion of Don Bosco’s choice: preferential availability for the poorest of the young, the most disadvantaged peoples, those on the margins, in traditional missionary settings and in the more secularised societies.

We welcome, dear Pope Francis, your words and proposals for an ecclesial choice of the major guidelines which will guide us over the next six years.

With the entire Salesian Family I take this opportunity to thank you, for having agreed to come to Turin for the Second Centenary of Don Bosco’s birth. With the affection of children we assure you of our prayers, as we entrust your mission to the Virgin Help of Christians, Mother of the Church and we ask for your paternal blessing.

Fr Ángel Fernández Artime
Vatican City, 31 March 2014
Rector Major

LET US PRAY FOR:

- ✚ Fr.Job undergoing treatment for heart problems.
- ✚ Fr.PX Francis undergoing treatment on his right palm
- ✚ Mr.Binoy the younger brother of Fr.Benny Karinattu. Mr.Binoy, 36, was diagnosed with brain tumour, and passed away on 16th March, 2014.

- ✚ Bro.Manuel Marde of Guwahati province, a 2nd year student of philosophy. Bro Marde, 24, was diagnosed with leukaemia. He passed away on 24th March at B.Baruah Cancer Hospital in Guwahati.

PROGRAMMES AHEAD

- ✚ 7-9 April TRAINING IN YOUTH MINISTRY animated by Fr.DEVAJOE of Chennai
- ✚ 12 April GC ends
- ✚ 15 Back in the province.

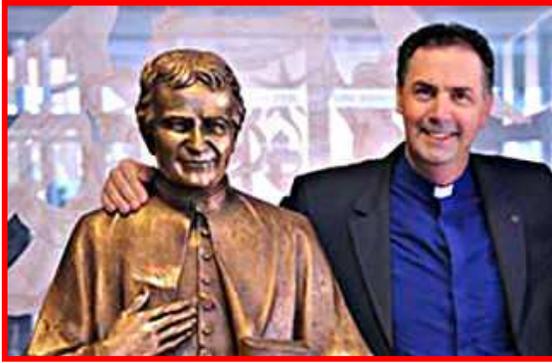
SHARING GC 27:

I would like all to attend this session of sharing. It will help us to understand and accept the challenges presented to us by GC27.

APRIL			
26	Sat	Dimapur DBHS - 5 pm	Confreeres of Dimapur
28	Mon	Dimapur Salesian College - 5 pm	Salesian College, B.College
29	Tue	Kohima Christ King - 5 pm	Kohima, Zubza, Wokha
MAY			
1	Thu	Maram College - 5 pm	Maram, Shajouba, Mao
2	Fri	Rua Home - 5 pm	Jorhat, Golaghat, Dergaon, Amguri, Tuli, Mon
3	Sat	Itanagar DBHS - 5 pm:	Itanagar, Doimukh, Palin, Harmutty
5	Mon	Dibrugarh DBHS - 5 pm	Dibrugarh, Doom Dooma, Sadiya
6	Tue	Kheti DBS - 5 pm	Mintong, Longding, Borduria, Miao
7	Wed	Tinsukia DBS - 5 pm	Tinsukia, Paglam, Wakro, Bordumsa, Rajanagar

BIRTHDAYS					
APRIL					
			17	Fr	Olikkarayil Regi Mani
1	Cl	Mundu Santosh	17	Fr	Palackel Mathew (Nebu)
2	Fr	Thalu Phuba James	19	Fr	Pulinthanathumalayil Cyriac (PC)
2	Cl	Ekka Thomas	20	Fr	Lakra Theotimus
3	Fr	Xalxo Policarp	24	Fr	Charuvila Andrew (PX)
3	Fr	Kaihrii Anthony	25	Cl	Horo Amrit
4	Fr	Tirkey Rajesh	25	Fr	Baxla Avay Kumar
7	Fr	Mannattel Roy George	27	Fr	Soreng Pradeep Kumar
7	Cl	Sandil Anand	27	Cl	Kamsuan Lungthaothui Robin
11	Fr	Narimattam Mathew			
11	Fr	Valiaparambil Shaji (Joseph)	MAY		
12	Cl	Kamsuan Daisinlung Sebastian	2	Cl	Kape Mekrūo Lawrence
12	Cl	Lugun Michael	3	Cl	Pamei Namphunlakpou Daniel
16	Fr	Kujur Lazarus	4	Fr	Appormattam Cijichen Jose
16	Fr	Karinattu Benny Kurian	7	Fr	Pulingathil Mathew

RECTOR MAJOR AND GENERAL COUNCIL



Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime
Rector Major



Fr. Francesco Cereda
Vicar of the RM



Fr. Ivo Coelho
Councillor for Formation



Fr. Fabio Attard
Councillor for Youth
Ministry



Fr. Filiberto Gonzalez
Councillor for Social
Communication



Fr. Guillermo Basaños
Councillor for the
Missions



Bro Jean Paul Muller
Economer General



Fr. Américo Chaquisse
Regional Councillor for
Africa-Madagascar



Fr. Natale Vitali
Regional Councillor for
America South Cone



Fr. Timothy Ploch
Regional Councillor for
Interamerica



Fr. Václav Klement
Regional Councillor for
East Asia Oceania



Fr. M. Arokiam Kanaga
Regional Councillor for
Asia South



Fr. Tadeusz Rozmus
Regional Councillor for
Europe North



Fr. Stefano Martoglio
Regional Councillor for
Italy Middle East



Fr. Marian Stempel
Secretary of the General
Council

Let us thank God for His gift of the new Rector Major, Fr. Angel, and his team. Let us pray that our congregation will see a new springtime of spiritual growth through the radical following of Our Lord in our Salesian religious life.

I take this occasion to thank our Vice Provincial, Fr. Bosco Perianayagam, for taking care of the ordinary running of the province in my absence.

I like to wish all of you a very Happy Easter! May our Risen Lord and Saviour be always with us “as cloud by day and fire by night”.

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,

Fr. Nestor Guria, SDB

(Provincial)