



Provincial Circular

Salesian Province of Dimapur-IND

ind.sdbprovincial@gmail.com; nestorguria@gmail.com 03862-244817, 9436002717



Province of
St. Francis De Sales

CIR/NG/31/2015

(Jan-Feb) 5 February 2015

My Dear Confreres,

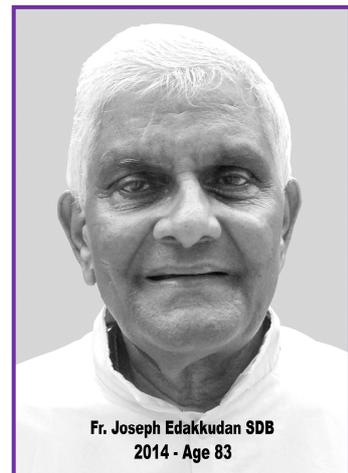
Love, Greetings, Best Wishes and Prayers from Don Bosco, Provincial House, Dimapur for a Happy and Blessed 2015 filled with fruitful apostolate on behalf of the young and the poor!

The Month of December 2014 was a time of active ministry in our parishes and villages. We felt close to our people in transmitting the joyful message of the angels to them: Glory to God in the highest heaven and on earth peace among those whom he favours. Many of us also had the privilege of being with our dear ones for Christmas. However our Christmas joy was lessened due to the unexpected departure of our dear confrere Fr. Joseph Edakkudan for his heavenly home. Due to the holidays and Christmas duties quite many of us were unable to be present for his funeral. However it was encouraging to see the Church full of religious and priests as well as some lay people.

Below is the talk given by Fr. TC Joseph, the Rector, at the funeral Mass:

FR. JOSEPH EDAKKUDAN (1931-2014)

Dear Fathers, brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, death is part of the finiteness of our human existence. Death makes our earthly life complete. It is our common destiny. In the face of death the riddle and the mystery of human existence becomes more puzzling. However Christian acceptance of death transforms death itself. In our broken and imperfect world we believe that death is life's passage to eternity. *"Life is not ended, but only changed"*. As we gather around the mortal remains of our dear Fr. Joe Edakkudan, we bow our heads and recommend his soul to God.



Fr. Joseph Edakkudan SDB
2014 - Age 83

His early life

Fr. Joseph Edakkudan was born on 20th August 1931 at Kadamakudy of Ernakulam District in Kerala. Of four children born to Mr Augustine and Mariamma he was the third. Both his elder brother Mr Paulose, and elder sister Kochumariam, who became a nun in the CSC congregation, have passed on. His younger sister Mrs Rosy Mathai is rather sickly at present.

Fr. Joe had his early schooling in Narackal government school and after finishing his HSLC examinations joined the Salesian Congregation for the Assam missions. He did his aspirantate and novitiate in Shillong, and made the first profession on 16th April, 1953. He did his philosophical studies at Sonada, practical training at Don Bosco Guwahati, and theological studies at Sacred Heart College, Shillong. He was ordained on 8th December 1963.

His priestly ministry:

1964 – 69 : HM, DBS, Imphal	1969 – 70 : PP & Rector, Golaghat
1970 – 75 : Rector & HM, Tura	1975 – 81 : Rector & PP, Imphal

1981 – 84	: Rector & PP, Mao	1985 – 88	: PP, Tseminyu
1989 – 93	: PP, SFS, Kohima	1993 – 94	: Warden, DB Hostel, Kohima
1995 – 98	: Admn, DBS, Maram	1998 – 04	: PP, Maram
2004 – 07	: APp, Christ King, Kohima	2007 – 10	: Confessor DBVTC, Dimapur
2010 – 14	: Confessor B.Ed. College, Dimapur		

His sickness and last days

Fr. Joe was a well-built person who always kept good health and remained active in life. In the year 2006 he had a major jeep accident at Nerema near Kohima which was a major blow to his active life. But he recovered quite well and kept himself active and continued to enjoy good health. However towards the middle of September this year, he began to suffer from loss of weight and developed abdominal pains. At times it was very difficult for him to sit comfortably. He had undergone three hernia operations earlier and discomfort was beginning again. Towards the end of September his regular physician in Dimapur Dr Burman referred him to the Referral Hospital in Dimapur where many tests and scanning were conducted on him. Studying the reports of all these, the doctors in Referral Hospital intimated to me that his intestines were giving way and rapidly getting affected again. Since he had three hernia operations already and due to the advancement of his age, 83, no more medication or treatment was possible. They advised me that he should just continue with his normal life and be given home care.

In the early part of October his uneasiness became more acute. In my absence Fr. Joe went again to the Referral Hospital with Fr. V. M. Joseph. The doctors kept him there for just one night in order to satisfy him and prescribed some tablets. When he returned, he took all the reports from the Referral Hospital to Dr Burman who on examining them gently told him that the only thing to do was to wait for the call from above. Back in the house, he retired and confined himself totally to his room. Though his overall health condition was not visibly so bad at that time, he wanted the anointing of the sick almost every day and it was administered to him a couple of times. From then on he also wanted somebody to be with him at night. The brothers took turns to sleep in his room during the night. Daytime care was given by our domestic staff. Perhaps due to his internal pain and discomfort he gave up solid food totally and relied on fruit juices and tea alone. These too he gave up gradually and his health began to decline rapidly.

He celebrated the Eucharist in his room. Towards the end of November two of his nephews from Kerala visited him and stayed with him for three days and joined him for the daily Eucharist. However, after their return to Kerala, he took totally to bed. We gave Holy Communion to him.

On 14 December after their final examinations the brothers doing B.Ed. left the house. Since then I was with him every night. His health was deteriorating rapidly and he needed help for everything. On 21st evening Fr. Bosco, the vice provincial visited him. On 22nd he was suffering much and fell into a semi-conscious state. Fr. Bosco visited him again that evening. By 9.30pm when I came to his room I found him resting quite peacefully though the breathing seemed rather heavy. As I retired to my bed in the room, I could distinctly hear him breathing. Just when I was about to doze off, I heard a jerking sound; I thought he had turned himself to one side, but then I could not hear his breathing. So I got up to have a look. I found him lying peacefully in his usual sleeping position. I realized that he was not breathing at all. I shook him and called him a number of times and found him neither responding nor breathing. Fearing the worst, I called Fr. Sabu from his room. Both of us together again called him and there was absolutely no response. We realized that Fr. Joe was no more. It was at 10.10pm, 22 December 2014.

Immediately we called Fr. Tom and Fr. Rajeesh from Salesian College. They came at once and Fr. Tom gave him the final anointing. After the important and necessary information to the concerned people, together with Fr. Bosco we proceeded with all the necessary arrangements that night itself.

The Person of Fr. Joe Edakkudan

“There are more things to admire in people than to despise”, so said philosopher Albert Camus. I have been with Fr. Joe only for the past year and a half. Basing much on hearsay and a modest measure on my personal experience let me try to underscore a few outstanding qualities of our dear Fr. Joe.

Fr. Joe had a wonderful combination of qualities: shrewdness, simplicity, joviality, sensitivity and courage, both physical and moral, and above all he possessed a warm human heart.

He was a man of great intelligence and integrity. As a pastor, he was a totally committed minister of the Church and truly concerned about his flock. He was convinced that salvation is not only spiritual, but also secular. His agricultural revolution in passion fruit and potato cultivation in Maram area for the economic upliftment of the people bear testimony to this. As the parish priest of St Francis de Sales parish in Kohima town, he began the popular ‘Family Day’ a personal initiative of his that called for much hard work. It became a trend setter in itself and is highly appreciated by everyone even today. He was ever ready to move out of his comfort zone and embrace challenging situations, even at an advanced age.

Wherever he went, he fought almost singlehandedly against the menace of alcoholism; even to the extent of making a public vow that he himself would never touch alcohol. He kept his promise till his last breath. In dealing with the young he introduced the parliament of the students especially in the boardings and hostels and appointed ministers with definite portfolios. He had that peculiar quality of finding creative solutions to problems and crises. Fr. Joe saw paths where none seemed to exist. He sought solutions where others only encountered problems. In any situation, going beyond the half-truths was his priority.

He was a writer of substantial calibre and his legendary ‘On Memory Trail’ remains a splendid fusion of autobiography and ecclesiastical history of the north east. He was a meticulously orderly man and he always kept copies of his correspondences, business transactions, deals and contracts and documented them in the most perfect way. Though his name ‘Edakkudan’ might have the vernacular ring of a trouble maker, in actuality, everyone knew that he was a specialist in trouble shooting! He had a tremendous love for the Salesian congregation and always defended the confreres and the congregation at all costs. Wherever he worked he took keen interest in starting the units of Salesian Co-operators and encouraged vocations to priestly and religious life.

It is said that the strongest man in the world is he who stands most alone. Under any circumstance, Fr. Joe always had the courage of conviction to stand alone against all odds and pressure. He lived by certain solid and uncompromising principles of life, and never made any concessions for himself. He always nursed within him an insatiable desire for life, and his strength lay in his cheery frankness and perpetual radiant optimism. Men of such calibre are rare indeed, and they are dear to us because they are rare.

We were truly fortunate to have had great man in our midst. We thank the Lord for the unique gift of Fr. Joe to all of us. His illustrious life and missionary accomplishments speak for themselves and they ever remain as great examples for us. I know that there was more in him than I have known. These words are but an immediate and tiny tribute to this towering missionary and a faithful son of Don Bosco. May his soul rest in peace!

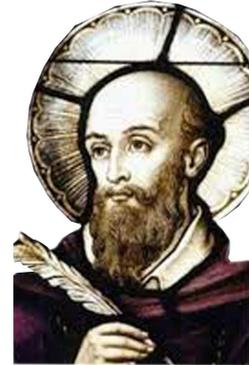
DON BOSCO



*“Walk with your feet
on earth.
But let your heart be
in heaven!”*

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

*“It is not those who commit the least faults who are the most holy,
but those who have the greatest courage,
the greatest generosity, the greatest love,
who make the boldest efforts to overcome themselves,
and are not immediately apprehensive about tripping.”*



2015 - YEAR OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Pope Francis announced that 2015 will be a year dedicated to the promotion of consecrated life, and is asking the church's religious sisters, brothers and priests to “wake up the world” with their testimony of faith, holiness and hope.

It is a year of blessing for all of us. It is a special year for us Salesians. This year coincides with the year of bicentenary celebration of the birth of Don Bosco. I would like to thank each one of you for your life and work in the various centres of our province as consecrated Salesians. May our community life make our consecration a joyful experience as Pope Francis would wish.

I am giving below some of the aims for the year of consecrated life. This is to help us to reflect and to enable us to be better religious and Salesians.

Aims of the Year of Consecrated Life

1. The first of these aims is to look to the past with gratitude.
 - a. Our congregation has got a history rich in charism. At our origins we see the hand of God, who, in his Spirit, called Don Bosco to follow Christ more closely, to translate the Gospel into the life of young people,
 - b. We need to read the signs of the times with the eyes of faith and to respond creatively to the needs of the Church and of the young people.
 - c. During this Year, it would be appropriate for us all to reflect on our origins and history, in order to thank God for the variety of gifts which embellish us and equip us for every good work in the congregation and in the province.
 - d. May this Year of Consecrated Life also be an occasion for confessing humbly, with immense confidence in the God who is Love (cf. 1 Jn 4:8), our own weakness and, in it, to experience the Lord's merciful love.
 - e. May this Year be an occasion for bearing vigorous and joyful witness before the young people to the holiness and vitality present in so many of those called to follow Jesus and our Salesian consecrated life.
2. This Year also calls us to live the present with passion.
 - a. Grateful remembrance of the past leads us, as we listen attentively to what the Holy Spirit is saying to the Salesian congregation today, to implement ever more fully the essential aspects of our consecrated life.
 - b. For Don Bosco the Gospel was the absolute rule, whereas every other rule was meant merely to be an expression of the Gospel and a means of living the Gospel to

the full. For him, the ideal was Christ; he sought to be interiorly united to him and thus to be able to say with Saint Paul: "For to me to live is Christ" (Phil 1:21). Our vows were intended as a concrete expression of this passionate love.

- c. The question we have to ask ourselves during this Year is if and how we too are open to being challenged by the Gospel; whether the Gospel is truly the "manual" for our daily living and the decisions we are called to make.
 - d. The Gospel is demanding: it demands to be lived radically and sincerely. This was the call of the 27th General chapter. It is not enough to read it. Jesus asks us to practice it, to put his words into effect in our lives.
 - e. Once again, we have to ask ourselves: Is Jesus really our first and only love, as we professed our vows? Only if he is, will we be empowered to love, in truth and mercy,
3. To embrace the future with hope should be the third aim of this Year.
- a. This hope is not based on statistics or accomplishments, but on the One in whom we have put our trust (cf. 2 Tim 1:2), the One for whom "nothing is impossible" (Lk 1:37). This is the hope which does not disappoint; it is the hope which enables our consecrated life to keep writing its great history well into the future. We need to write a good Salesian history into the future.
 - b. So do not yield to the temptation to see things in terms of numbers and efficiency, and even less to trust in our own strength. In scanning the horizons of our lives and the present moment, be watchful and alert. Together with Benedict XVI, I urge you not to "join the ranks of the prophets of doom who proclaim the end or meaninglessness of the consecrated life in the Church in our day; rather, clothe yourselves in Jesus Christ and put on the armour of light, as Saint Paul urged (cf. Rm 13:11-14), keeping awake and watchful". Let us constantly set out anew, with trust in the Lord.

As we have begun this beautiful year of consecration, let us awaken the world as Pope Francis is telling all the religious. Let us awaken our communities and let us awaken our young people through our dedicated and committed apostolic ministry as consecrated Salesians. Passion for Christ and passion for Young people will make our consecrated life more meaningful and happy. Let us in unison say we shall awaken the world today!

EXTRAORDINARY VISITATION

The extraordinary visitation by our Regional Councillor Rev. Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga has already begun. With regard to this our General Regulations state: "*Personally or through others the Rector Major may visit each and every province and local community wherever the need arises. In particular he will arrange for an extraordinary visitation of every province during his six-year term of office. This may be carried out as he thinks fit, either by the regional councillor or by another visitor delegated by the Rector Major to whom he gives this power of jurisdiction required by the nature itself of the visit*" (Reg.104).

In our case it is the regional councillor who is making the visitation. We welcome him and wish him a happy visitation of our various communities. We know our province is rather extensive and not so easy a terrain to traverse, yet we wish him good health and happy stay in our communities.

Let us welcome this event as a time of grace and the presence of Don Bosco in the person of the Visitor. Let us be open to his observations and suggestions to improve our ministry. It is quite natural at times not to be able to notice the discrepancies in our daily life. Visitation is an occasion to throw light on these, to evaluate our apostolate and thus carry forward our Salesian Charism.

I am giving below the visitation programme chart once again because there have been a few more changes made to suit local exigencies.

Programme of Regional Councillor Rev. Fr. Kanaga Maria Arokiam											
2015											
JANUARY			MARCH			APRIL			MAY		
31		ARRIVES AT GUWAHATI	1	Sun	HYDERABAD>DIBRUGAAR	1	Wed	SAVIO HOME	1	Fri	PROVINCIAL HOUSE
			2	Mon	HIJUGURI RECOL>PAGLAM	2	Thu	EMMAUS	2	Sat	ST. COMMITTEE MEETING
			3	Tue	PAGLAM	3	Fri	EMMAUS	3	Sun	ST. COMMITTEE MEETING
1	Sun	DIMAPUR MEETS COUNCIL	4	Wed	PAGLAM, DIBRUGARH	4	Sat	DON BOSCO KOHIMA	4	Mon	DIBRUGAARH
2	Mon	SALESIAN COLLEGE	5	Thu	WAKRO	5	Sun	DON BOSCO KOHIMA	5	Tue	DIBRU, RECOLLECTION
3	Tue	SALESIAN COLLEGE	6	Fri	WAKRO, BORDUMSA	6	Mon	CHRIST KING KOHIMA	6	Wed	DIBRUGAARH
4	Wed	B. ED COLLEGE	7	Sat	BORDUMSA	7	Tue	CHRIST KING, IMPHAL	7	Thu	SADIYA
5	Thu	B. ED COLLEGE/DBVTC	8	Sun	RAJANAGAR	8	Wed	IMPHAL, RECOLLECTION	8	Fri	SADIYA
6	Fri	DBVTC, 3RD MILE	9	Mon	RAJANAGAR, BORDURIA	9	Thu	IMPHAL, CHINGMEIRONG	9	Sat	KHOBONG
7	Sat	RECTORS/IN CHARGES	10	Tue	BORDURIA	10	Fri	TAMENGLONG	10	Sun	DOOMDOOMA
8	Sun	HARMUTTY	11	Wed	KHETI	11	Sat	TAMENGLONG	11	Mon	DOOMDOOMA
9	Mon	HARMUTTY RECOLLECTION	12	Thu	KHETI	12	Sun	KHOUPUM	12	Tue	TINSUKIA PARISH
10	Tue	PALIN	13	Fri	MINTHONG	13	Mon	KHOUPUM	13	Wed	TINSUKIA PARISH
11	Wed	PALIN	14	Sat	MINTHONG/LONGDING	14	Tue	LAMPHEL	14	Thu	HIJUGURI
12	Thu	ITANAGAR COLLEGE	15	Sun	LONGDING/TIZIT/MON	15	Wed	LAMPHEL	15	Fri	RUA HOME
13	Fri	ITANAGAR COLLEGE	16	Mon	MON	16	Thu	LAMPHEL, MARAM COLLE	16	Sat	RUA HOME
14	Sat	ITANAGAR SCHOOL	17	Tue	MON, AMGURI	17	Fri	MARAM COLLEGE	17	Sun	MEETING WITH COUNCIL
15	Sun	ITANAGAR SCHOOL	18	Wed	AMGURI>JORHAT>BANGA	18	Sat	MARAM COLLEGE	18	Mon	CONCLUSION, PHDIMAPUR
16	Mon	ITANAGAR PARISH	19	Thu	BANGALORE>CHENNAI	19	Sun	MARAM SCHOOL	19	Tue	KOLKOTA
17	Tue	ITA PARISH, DOIMUKH	20	Fri		20	Mon	MARAM SCHOOL, SHAJOU	20	Wed	KOLKOTA
18	Wed	DOIMUKH	21	Sat	ROME	21	Tue	SHAJOUBA, MAO	21	Thu	ROME
19	Thu	HARMUTTY	22	Sun	ROME	22	Wed	MAO, DIMAPUR	22	Fri	
20	Fri	HARMUTTY, GUWAHATI	23	Mon	ROME	23	Thu	DB DIMAPUR	23	Sat	
21	Sat	DELHI	24	Tue	ROME	24	Fri	DB DIMAPUR>DERGAON	24	Sun	
22	Sun	DELHI > HYDERABAD	25	Wed	ROME	25	Sat	DERGAON	25	Mon	
23	Mon	SPCSA, HYDERABAD	26	Thu	ROME	26	Sun	GOLAGHAT	26	Tue	
24	Tue	SPCSA, HYDERABAD	27	Fri	KOL >GUWAHATI > DIM	27	Mon	GOLAGHAT, RANGAJAN	27	Wed	
25	Wed	SPCSA, HYDERABAD	28	Sat	DIM RECOLLECTION, WOKHA	28	Tue	RANGAJAN	28	Thu	
26	Thu	SPCSA, HYDERABAD	29	Sun	WOKHA	29	Wed	BOSCO ASHA	29	Fri	
27	Fri	SPCSA, HYDERABAD	30	Mon	WOKHA, SAVIO HOME	30	Thu	BOSCO ASHA, DIMAPUR	30	Sat	
28	Sat	SPCSA, HYDERABAD	31	Tue	SAVIO HOME				31	Sun	

ACME ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE

As a province and as also required by the SPCSA all our houses have adopted AcME (Accounting Made Easy) as our accounting software from the financial year 2014-15. I appreciate your effort in learning AcMe and complying with the requirements, among which the most important one is that all the houses of the province have one auditor, namely, *H.K.Agrawala & Associates, Guwahati*.

In order to facilitate the common auditing with the financial year 2014-15, I request all the communities to send the appointment letter in the society name appointing *H.K.Agrawala & Associates* as the auditors for the financial year 2014-15 along with the relevant documents to the office of the Economist on or before Monday, 23 February 2015. The sample letter and the list of required documents are attached herewith.

As a province we have purchased the Four Basic Modules of the Smart School software namely Student Data, Staff Data, Fee Collection and Stationery Management. These modules will be installed in all our educational institutions. This is integrated with the AcME ERP so that accounting will be also made easy. Institutions can purchase other modules at additional cost.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

On February 8th, the first International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking will be held. The event will coincide with the feast day of St. Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese slave who became a Canossian Sister after she was freed. She was canonized in 2000 by St. John Paul II.

On that day, we are invited to recite the following prayer:

O God, when we hear of children and adults, deceived and taken to unknown places for purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, and organ 'harvesting', our hearts are saddened and our spirits angry that their dignity and rights are ignored through threats, lies, and force. We cry out against the evil practice of this modern slavery, and pray with St. Bakhita for it to end. Give us wisdom and courage to reach out and stand with those whose bodies, hearts and spirits have been so wounded, so that together we may make real your promises to fill these sisters and brothers with a love that is tender and good. Send the exploiters away empty-handed to be converted from this wickedness, and help us all to claim the freedom that is your gift to your children. Amen.

CONGRATULATIONS

- ❖ To Rev. Fr. Jose Mathew Koorappallil, the new provincial (4th) of New Delhi province.
- ❖ To Rev. Fr. Mathew Thonikuzhiyil (Joyce Francis), the new provincial (7th) of Bangalore province.
- ❖ To Fr. Jeromedhas Varuvel SDB, 63 years, the first bishop of the newly erected diocese of Kuzhithurai, southern Tamilnadu which has come into existence by the bifurcation of the diocese of Kottar, one of the largest dioceses in India with a Catholic population of around 550,000. The new diocese of Kuzhithurai has around 100 parishes and a Catholic population of around 260,000. At the time of his appointment, Bishop-elect Jeromedhas was the Master of Novices of the Chennai Province.

CONDOLENCES

- ❖ Our heartfelt condolences to the province of Guwahati on the loss of their confrere, Bro. Joseph Pakma.

LET US PRAY FOR:

- ❖ Fr. PK Mathew, Fr. Job and Fr. Narimattam who are undergoing medical treatment. May the Lord give them His healing touch.
- ❖ Those whose death anniversary occurs in February:

06	Br. Raphael Bara	Jorhat	1992	78
23	Fr. Joseph Murickal	Senapati	1999	45

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr. Nestor Guria, SDB
(Provincial)

