



Provincial Circular

Salesian Province of Dimapur-IND

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Province of
St. Francis De Sales

CIR/NG/35/2015

11 June 2015

My Dear Confreres,

Greetings from the Provincial House!

This year from February to middle of May we experienced the presence of Don Bosco himself through the extraordinary visitation of our province by the Regional Councillor, Rev. Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga who represented Rev. Fr. Fernandez Angel Artime our beloved Rector Major.



Since I was not able to release the transfer list before the completion of the visitation, I have extended to June 24 as the last date for all those concerned to be in their new place of assignment. Please see that, possibly before this date, that responsibilities and other important information are handed down to the one who takes your place.

The extraordinary visitor summed up his report under the following headings: Consecrated Life, Community Life, Youth Ministry, Missions and Evangelization, Formation, Salesian Family, Collaboration, Laity and Governance. These are important areas of our life and apostolate. The regional has made his recommendations after due observation on our life and apostolate. He has left us several recommendations to work on, which I feel are quite objective. Often we get used to certain ways of living or working and may feel comfortable about it. But a visitor can point out aspects of our life and work that may need revision. Therefore let us at provincial or community or personal levels examine ourselves to be able to give better quality of witness through our religious life and works. Let each community sit down to evaluate its life on the recommendations left by the regional and draw up lines of action for future. This effort will be further facilitated during the provincial visitation.

SACRED HEART OF JESUS

On 12 June Church celebrates the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This feast is especially dear to us because the province of Dimapur was born 33 years ago on this feast day. Let us celebrate the feast of the Sacred Heart in a fitting manner to draw down abundant blessings upon us and on our young.

According to the admirable encyclical of Pius XII *Haurietis Aquas In Gaudio*, the object of this devotion is the Physical Heart of Jesus, symbol of the triple love of

Jesus: divine spiritual love that Jesus, as God, has in common with the Father and the Holy Spirit; spiritual human love; and human tangible love.

It is the devotion to the love of Jesus for the Father and for us, and it is the devotion of love for Jesus as our reply. Love is repaid with love. This devotion ends with the Person of Jesus Himself, considering his love, his interior life and his perfect human life.

The Heart of Jesus is the centre of his personality; it is the source from which originate his thoughts, his affection, his words and his works. It is the key to all the dogmas, the explanation of all mysteries and of each word of the Gospel because everything is illuminated and inflamed by charity. This is why Pius XI wrote in his Encyclical *Miserentissimus Redemptor*: "The Heart of Jesus is the compendium of the whole Catholic religion."

It is not just a devotion among others but the soul of all devotions. It is not just a sentimental devotion, but it obliges us to imitate the virtues of the Sacred Heart and especially to love the Heavenly Father and our brethren up to the heroism of total immolation. It is not a devotion foreign to actual social problems, because it aims at establishing the social kingdom of the Heart of Christ which is the kingdom of justice, love and peace.

How we must immerse ourselves in the ocean of infinite love of the Sacred Heart is what St. Pio teaches us through his letter of 12 April 1912 in which he revealed his sublime and inexpressible experience: *"When Mass was over I remained with Jesus in thanksgiving. Oh, how sweet was the colloquy with paradise that morning! It was such that although I want to tell you all about it, I cannot. There were things which cannot be translated into human language without losing their deep and heavenly meaning. The Heart of Jesus and my own—allow me to use the expression—were fused. No longer were two hearts beating but only one. My own heart had disappeared as a drop of water is lost in the ocean. Jesus was its paradise, its king. My joy was so intense and deep that I could bear no more and tears of happiness poured down my cheeks. When paradise is poured into a heart, this afflicted, exiled, weak and mortal, that heart cannot bear it without weeping."*

CAUSES OF THE SALESIAN SERVANTS OF GOD

Stephen Ferrando

On 5 March 2015, during the special Meeting of the theological consultors, a positive opinion was given, with all affirmative votes, on the fame of sanctity and the practice of heroic virtues of the Servant of God, Bp. Stephen Ferrando, born at Rossiglione on 28 September 1895 and died in Genoa on 20 June 1978, Salesian bishop of Shillong, and the founder of the Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians.

In the first months of 2016, during the ordinary session of the cardinals and bishops, the 'Positio' of Bp. Stephen Ferrando will be examined.

Joseph Convertini

On 10 November 2015 the theological consultants will examine the 'Positio' of the Servant of God, Fr. Joseph Convertini, born at Locorotondo on 29 August 1898 and died on 11 February 1975, a missionary in India.

Constantine Vendrame & Orestes Marengo

Preparation is in progress of the 'Positio' of the Servants of God Fr. Constantine Vendrame, missionary in North East India, and Bp. Oreste Marengo, Bishop of Dibrugarh, Tezpur and Tura.

Each cause of beatification and canonization has an ecclesial character, be it in the process of discernment or in the promotion of the cause. Involvement of more people, communities and groups implies more value and significance for the cause. In order to promote knowledge, devotion and imitation of our Servants of God, it is proposed to take special care of the following:

- a) To promote prayer through the intercession of the Servant of God with images (also relics *ex-indumentis*), brochures, books, etc. so that families, parishes, religious houses, spirituality centres, hospitals can ask the grace of miracles and favours through the intercession of the Servant of God.
- b) It is especially effective to promote novena to the Servant of God, and invoke his intercession in the various cases of material and spiritual needs. They highlight two formative elements: the value of insistent and confident prayer, and the prayer of the community.
- c) It is recommended that each month, the day which marks the date of the death of the Servant of God, a short of prayer is said and a monthly commemoration held.
- d) Collect the graces and favours that are attributed to him. It is useful to have a notebook to write down the graces requested and received, which will be a witness to the fame of sanctity and to the fame of the signs. If there are cases of healing and/or presumed miracles, it is important to collect immediately all the medical documentation that proves the case and the evidence attesting to the intercession of the Servant of God.

SALESIAN FAMILY DAY

On 6th June, at the provincial house we held our annual Salesian Family Day. Bp. James Thoppil of Kohima diocese presided over the Eucharist and gave a valuable message to the participants. In the meeting the theme of the strena of the Rector Major was presented by Fr. Jerish Abraham of Sacred Heart Theological College. In the group meetings the member congregations discussed and brought forward a suggestion each to put the strena into practice. I thank the FMA, MSMHC and SMI provincials for responding to my invitation to this annual event. I also thank the provincial delegate of the Salesian Family, Fr. Chittilappilly Varghese, for organizing the event.

RETREATS

- ❖ Young Priests' Meeting & Retreat at SILOAM: 22 June 9am to 29 June 8am – by Fr. Regi Augustine MSFS, Holy Redeemer Retreat Centre, Umroi.
- ❖ Retreat for Leaders of Communities at IDL (Don Bosco Dimapur): 24 July 6.30am to 29 July 8 am – by Fr.KC Varghese SDB, Rome
- ❖ Retreat for Administrators, HMs and Principals at IDL: 30 July 6.30pm to 5 August 8 am by Fr.KC Varghese SDB, Rome.
- ❖ Retreat for general patronage at IDL: 6 August 6.30pm to 12 August 8 am – by Fr.KC Varghese SDB, Rome.

BIRTHDAYS

JUNE

13 Fr Pellisery Tony
15 Fr Karippai Jose
16 Fr Parumala Vincent (PF)
18 Fr Lakra Bimal
20 Fr Elow Samuel
20 Fr Perianayagam John Bosco
25 Fr Madathiparambil Roy Mathew
25 Cl Kullu William
26 Cl Chiharme Kharsi Alayee Pius
28 Fr Kerketta Paulus
29 Fr Gangmei Jangsinlung Joshua
29 Fr Tharakan Mathew

30 Fr Paikada Manual

JULY

01 Br Tuti Alexius
03 Fr Chipfukho Salew Thomas
04 Fr Mattappally Joby Sebastian
04 Fr Vengakunnel Thomas (VA)
04 Cl Gangmei Jaojian Daniel
05 Fr Kaniyampady Jose
08 Fr Thettayil Joseph (TT)
13 Fr Chittisery Joseph
13 Fr Puthettupadavil Philip (PC)
13 Cl Gangmei Gaisinpou Romeo

OUR DEPARTED THIS MONTH

† Fr. Benjamin Toppo

I conclude with a reminder that all are expected to attend the annual spiritual retreat. "It is an occasion of spiritual renewal which Don Bosco considered the fundamental part and the synthesis of all the practices of piety. It is a time of grace to restore to our spirit a deep unity in the Lord Jesus and keep alive in us the expectation of his return." (C.91)

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,

Fr. Nestor Guria, SDB
(Provincial)

