



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/40/2015

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MY DEAR CONFRERES,

Greetings from Provincial House Dimapur!

First and foremost I extend to you the affectionate greetings of our beloved Rector Major Rev. Fr. Angel Fernandez Artime and of the General Councillors. The meeting with the Rector Major and the General Councillors from 12 to 15 October 2015 was very cordial, enlightening and enriching experience. They are very much appreciative of the Salesian mission work being carried out in the North East region and in particular in Dimapur province.

While appreciating all our mission works the Rector Major and General Council reminded us of the importance of Salesian community life, numerical consistency and implementation of the "Salesian Youth Ministry - Frame of Reference" in all our settings. They also encouraged us to put into practice the recommendations given by Rev Fr. Kanaga Maria Arokiam, Regional Councillor for South Asia, during his extraordinary visitation of the province of Dimapur from February to May 2015.

In order to have better understanding and insight into the "Youth ministry manual: the Frame of Reference" we are grateful to Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard the General Councillor for youth ministry for his generosity to animate our confreres from 25 – 27 February, 2016 in Dimapur.

Significance of November

"Being more closely united to Christ, those who dwell in heaven fix the whole Church more firmly in holiness...They do not cease to intercede with the Father for us...So, by their fraternal concern, is our weakness greatly helped." (CCC 956)

"...as Christian communion among our fellow pilgrims brings us closer to Christ, so our communion with the saints joins us to Christ, from whom as from its fountain and head issues all grace, and the life of the People of God itself: We worship Christ as God's Son; we love the martyrs as the Lord's disciples and imitators, and rightly so because of their matchless devotion towards their king and master. May we also be their companions and fellow disciples." (CCC 957)

As we approach the end of the calendar year and also the liturgical year, month of November reminds us of the two realities of life: death and life after death. The Church reminds us that all those who believe in Christ and make effort to live according to the teachings of Christ will be rewarded to join the saints in heaven and death is the passage to eternal heaven. The Catechism of the Catholic Church concisely describes that the communion among believers and with the saints, we are

connected to Christ and ultimately to one another. The Martyrdom of Polycarp, probably written near the middle of the second century, attests to this reality: "Accordingly, we afterwards took up his bones, more precious than the most exquisite jewels, and more pure than gold, and deposited them in a fitting place, so that when being gathered together, as opportunity is allowed us, with joy and rejoicing, the Lord shall grant us to celebrate the anniversary of his martyrdom, both in memory of those who have already finished their course, and for the exercising and preparation of those yet to walk in their steps."

Therefore, the first two days of November are two important feast days in the liturgy of the Church. On 1 November is the feast of All Saints, when we honour all the saints in heaven having no special feast day of their own. November 2nd is All Souls Day, the day the Church sets aside to pray for the souls suffering in purgatory. The souls suffering in purgatory are members of the Church Suffering. They, together with the Church Triumphant, the saints in heaven whom we honour on November 1st and the Church Militant, those of us struggling to save our souls here on earth, form the communion of Saints. The souls suffering in purgatory are in need of help. During the month of November the Church urges us to pray for them in a special way. The month of November is dedicated to them. The Church's desire that we pray for the departed souls has a longstanding tradition.

In the Book of Maccabees in the Old Testament we read that it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins. (2 Maccabees 12, 40-45)

Finally dear confreres, All Saints Day remind us that the saints in heaven can help us and we need to invoke their aid through prayer. They have great power in interceding with God for us. Similarly, All Souls Day reminds us that in everything keep the end in mind, that we are immortal, that we shall not really die and that we have an eternity to live. Our eternity depends on how we live here on earth. Our works follow us. There is a real connection between this life and the next. During this month of November, let us pray often for the Poor Souls, considering that purgatory may possibly be our future home; we will then want others to pray for us.

Let the words of St. Monica to St. Augustine, "When I die, bury me anywhere you like, but remember to pray for me at the altar", be our inspiration during this month when we fondly remember the deceased confreres, parents, benefactors and friends.

DBYA MEETING

Following is the report by the vice provincial, Fr. Bosco, of the annual meeting of DBYA held at Bangalore:

Annual meeting of Don Bosco Youth Animation – South Asia, was held from 2nd to 5th November 2015 at Don Bosco Skill Mission, Bangalore. This was a combined meeting of Youth Ministry and the Mission, organized by Fr. Maria Charles, the Youth Pastoral delegate, South Asia. Rev. Fr Attard Fabio, the General Councillor for Youth Ministry and Rev. Fr. Basanes Guillermo, the General Councillor for Missions were the main resource persons for the meeting. This meeting entirely focused on the dissemination of the Salesian Youth Ministry: Frame of Reference, and Voluntary Service in the Salesian Mission. During the meeting it was felt that:

- a. *There is a need to strengthen the YM team at the provincial level to coordinate the Youth Ministry in the province. The Youth Ministry Delegate is the one who will coordinate the work of a team which will ensure the convergence of all activities in the province (GC 23, no.244). He is not the one who is in-charge neither of the initiatives nor of a single area but the one who ensures a structured pastoral operation in the province and pays attention to all aspects. Normally he dedicates himself full time to province pastoral animation.*
- b. *There is an immediate need for the appointment of Youth Ministry Local Coordinator (YMLC) in all the communities to take initiative and organize all the Youth Ministry activities of the local community who in turn will be a link to the Provincial Youth Ministry Delegate.*

Voluntary Service being an effective and valuable manifestation of the missionary dynamism of the Church and the Congregation, during the combined meeting of YM and Mission, held on 3 November 2015, it was decided that all the confreres of the province will be animated on the document "Voluntary Service in the Salesian Mission" (Rome, 2008) in order to understand deeply the invitation of the congregation to encourage the young people of our settings to offer themselves generously in voluntary service.

MISSIONARY ANIMATION MEETING

Below is the report by Fr. Anto Tharakan of the Missionary Animation Meeting:

The meeting of the Provincial Delegates for Missionary Animation was held at Don Bosco Skill Mission, Bengaluru from Oct. 29 to 1 Nov. 2015. The programme began with adoration in the evening of 29 Oct. Besides the Salesian PDMA's, the representatives from other groups of the Salesian family were also present. Altogether we were about 40 of us. The whole day of 30th was spent in inputs from various people, priests and religious. The inputs were well prepared and enriching.

The second full day of the Seminar was dedicated to the talk from Rev. Fr. Nestor Guria our Provincial and Delegate Provincial for Missionary Animation. After the Coffee Break Mr. T.C. Thankachan, Professor of St. Thomas College Palai and the brother of Fr. TC George, RDMA, spoke about the Mission work from a layman's perspective. That day we had also group discussions and planning for the future. The Salesian family members presented their reports on this day. The next day was the Feast of All Saints and a Sunday. But we had a hectic day to draw up the final draft of the meeting preceded by the presentation of the reports by the Salesian PDMA's. By the time everything was over it was 1.30pm.

Meanwhile Rev. Fr. Basanes Guillermo, the General Councillor for the Missions and Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard, General Councillor for the Youth Pastoral arrived for the Joint meeting of the Department of Missions and the Youth Ministry. In the afternoon we had the solemn Mass with the BCCM (Bengaluru Christian Community of Meghalaya). Fr. Fabio Attard presided over the same. After the Mass there was a felicitation for the dignitaries. After that the Salesian family members and other delegated members for the Seminar left from the place. That day in the evening we had the Adoration at 7.00 pm. After the supper we had an informal gathering of the PDMA's and the delegates for the Youth Pastoral from the different Provinces. The

meeting was animated by the two General Council members, Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard and Rev Fr. Guillermo Basanes.

Next day, 2nd of Nov., was spent in prayer and reflection. The day started with the first Mass at 7.30 a.m. At 9.00 a.m. we had the reflection on the Word of God. At 11.00 a.m. we had the second Mass of the day. At 2.30 p.m. we had the joint sitting for the clarification of the Mission work and the Youth Pastoral work in the Congregation and the Provinces. Then we went into groups for Group Discussions. When we came back at 5.45 p.m. we had the presentation of the reports from the groups. At 7.30 p.m. we had an animated evening prayer.

On 3rd, 4th and 5th Nov. we had the meetings separately for the PDMAs and the Youth Pastoral Delegates with their respective General Councillor. Only the prayer moments were together. The Meeting came to an end by lunch time of 5th Nov.

The two different meetings together with the Seminar were very enriching and useful. Certain matters of the two departments were clarified in the presence of the two General Councillors. It was a very useful meeting.

PROVINCE LEVEL BICENTENARY CELEBRATION

At World Level, Regional Level and National Level various programmes were organized on Don Bosco, to celebrate meaningfully the Bicentenary of the Birth of Don Bosco. All the provinces of South Asia celebrated this historical event in a very grand manner. The young people of the Salesian Family of Dimapur province had the opportunity to know, to love and to emulate Don Bosco through various events at the local, regional and finally at the provincial level from 23 – 26 October 2015. The two days of celebration was indeed very meaningful experience for the young people of our province.

I take this occasion to thank in a very special way Sr. Elizabeth George, FMA Provincial of Guwahati, Sr. Daisy Jacob, MSMHC Provincial of Tinsukia province, all the organizing core group members, leaders of communities, sister-superiors, principals, teachers, Don Bosco Alumni, and Salesian Cooperators for their generous contribution, cooperation and sacrifice for the successful completion of the provincial level Bicentenary Celebration.

We gratefully acknowledge the contribution of Sr. Sheeba MSMHC superior of St. Mary's Padampukhri, Sr. Lydia FMA superior of LFS Kohima, Sr. Maria Scaria FMA superior of Auxilium, Dimapur, and Fr. CT Varghese, Rector of Don Bosco Dimapur, and Fr. Joshua, Principal of Don Bosco Dimapur, Dr Stephen Kamson, president of Don Bosco Alumni, Dimapur province, in organizing this mega event in a fitting manner. I also thank Fr. Nebu Mathew, the Provincial Economist and Fr. Bosco, the Vice Provincial for their hard work in the organization of the bicentenary celebration. May Don Bosco, the father, teacher and friend of the young continue to shower his blessings upon all of us!

BIRTHDAYS

16 /11 /1981	Fr Neljen Antony	Paglam Don Bosco
18 /11 /1928	Fr Nangachiveetil Joseph (NJ)	Zubza Savio Home

19	/11	/1939	Fr	Kulathunkal Joseph	Jorhat Rua Home
22	/11	/1938	Fr	Ponnattil Mathew (PK)	Dibrugarh DBosco
24	/11	/1989	Cl	Rangla John Jaitheireng	Becchi INM
25	/11	/1989	Cl	Kiro John Paul	Dimapur Bosco Coll
25	/11	/1994	Cl	Kujur Eleajar	Dimapur SC2
3	/12	/1987	Dn	Phimu Hriiyio Michael	Shillong SHTC INS
6	/12	/1984	Dn	Awungshi Ngasammi Joseph	Shillong SHTC INS
7	/12	/1947	Fr	Akkarapatty Jose (AD)	Kheti Don Bosco
9	/12	/1958	Fr	Tirkey Albert	Rangajan DBosco
17	/12	/1995	Cl	Soymurum Isaiah	Dimapur SC1

LET US PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED:

- † 14 Fr. Rosario Krishnaraj (INM) 14 Nov 2015
We express our heartfelt condolences to the provincial and confreres of Chennai province.
- † 18 Bp. Abraham Alangimattathil Dimapur 1997 64
 † 22 Fr. Jose Nedumattathil Maram 1997 35
 † 24 Fr. Zachary Panamattamparambil Tinsukia 1985 50

RETREATS 2016

The Retreats for the coming year are as follows:

- ❖ 1st: 4-10 July 2016 at Dimapur – Animator: Fr. Anil Dev IMS
- ❖ 2nd: 11-17 July 2016 at Dimapur – Animator: Fr. Anil Dev IMS
- ❖ 3rd: 24-29 October 2016 at Guwahati – Animator: Rev. Fr. Pascual Chavez

In 2016 there will not be a separate retreat for young priests. They are expected to attend one of the above.

The leaders of communities are requested to fill in the form being circulated by the vice provincial regarding the retreat attendance of the members of your communities.

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,

Fr. Nestor Guria, SDB
 (Provincial)



My Programme for November

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| 01 | Sun | Missionary Seminar Bangalore |
| 02 | Mon | Guwahati |
| 03 | Tue | Dimapur |
| 04 | Wed | Itanagar DB College (West Arunachal recollection and meeting) |
| 05 | Thu | Itanagar, Doimukh, Harmutty |
| 06 | Fri | Dibrugarh |
| 07 | Sat | Dibrugarh (Assam regional recollection and meeting), Amguri |
| 08 | Sun | Amguri, Jorhat, Dergaon |
| 09 | Mon | Golaghat, Rangajan, Dimapur |
| 10 | Tue | Dimapur (Council Meeting) |
| 11 | Wed | Golaghat, Hijuguri |
| 12 | Thu | Hijuguri (East Arunachal Recollection and meeting) |
| 13 | Fri | Dimapur |
| 14 | Sat | Emmaus |
| 15 | Sun | Savio Home |
| 16 | Mon | Christ King, Punanamai |
| 17 | Tue | Imphal |
| 18 | Wed | Chingmeirong (Manipur regional recollection and meeting) |
| 19 | Thu | Dimapur |
| 20 | Fri | Dimapur: Nagaland regional recollection and meeting at DBIDL |
| 21 | Sat | Rajanagar |
| 22 | Sun | Rajanagar: Golden Jubilee of Catholicism in Gidding village, Bordumsa |
| 23 | Mon | Wakro |
| 24 | Tue | Khobong |
| 25 | Wed | Doom Dooma |
| 26 | Thu | Tinsukia |
| 27 | Fri | Tinsukia |
| 29 | Sat | Borduria |
| 30 | Sun | Kheti |