



Province of
St. Francis De Sales

Provincial Circular

Salesian Province of Dimapur - IND

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MY DEAR CONFRERES,

ROSARY – A GOSPEL PRAYER

We are entering into the month of October, the month of the holy rosary. The rosary which is the string of beads and prayers was called by many popes as the “compendium of the entire Gospel”. For centuries, it has been one of the most prevalent forms of popular piety in the Catholic Church. By meditating on its mysteries and reciting the chain of prayers, countless Catholics have drawn closer to Jesus and His mother Mary.

Our Lady has revealed to several people that each time they say a Hail Mary, they are giving her a beautiful rose, and that each complete rosary makes her a crown of roses. The rose is the queen of flowers, and so the rosary is the crown of all devotions. It is considered a perfect prayer because it reveals awesome story of our salvation.

Pope St. John Paul II in October 2002 took the initiative of proclaiming October 2002-2003 as the Year of the Rosary and published the Apostolic letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* on October 16, 2002. In it, he reminded us that the rosary, “is a prayer loved by countless saints and encouraged by the Magisterium”. For him, it “is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Christ”. It is a privileged way of contemplating the face of Christ through prayer and worship, by which we are able to bring Christ into our lives and to the world, in order that He may transform us and the world. Through the rosary, our Blessed Mother herself assists us to look upon the face of Christ as she did from the moment of His birth, throughout his public ministry, at His passion and death, and in His resurrection and ascension to the right hand of the Father.



The rosary is basically a gospel prayer, and to pray it properly requires that each decade be a reflection on some aspect of the joyful, luminous, sorrowful, or glorious mysteries of our redemption. As Blessed Pope Paul VI wrote in *Marialis cultus*, “Without this (contemplation) the rosary is a body without a soul, and its recitation is in danger of becoming a mechanical repetition of formulas”. In praying it, we can well take Our Lady as a model, for as the Scriptures tell us, “Mary kept all these words, pondering them in her heart”.

Origin of the Devotion to the Rosary

The rosary probably began as a practice by the laity to imitate the monastic Divine Office (Breviary or Liturgy of the Hours), during the course of which the monks daily prayed the 150 psalms. The laity, many of whom could not read, substituted 50 or even 150 Hail Marys for the psalms. This prayer seems to date from as early as the second century, as ancient graffiti at Christian sites suggest. Sometimes a cord with knots on it was used to keep an accurate count of the Hail Marys.

The first clear historical reference to the rosary, however, is from the life of St. Dominic (1170-1221), the founder of the Order of Preachers or Dominicans. He preached a form of the rosary in France at the time that the Albigensian heresy was devastating the Christian faith. Tradition has it that the Blessed Mother herself asked for the practice as an antidote for heresy and sin. One of St. Dominic’s future disciples, Blessed Alain de Roche, began to establish rosary confraternities to

promote the praying of the rosary. The form of the rosary we have today is believed to date from his time. Over the centuries, the saints and popes have highly recommended the rosary, the greatest prayer in the Church after the holy mass and the Liturgy of the Hours.

Why should we pray the rosary?

Certainly, we pray the rosary to grow in holiness and in prayer life. As Catholics, we know that the fervent recitation of the rosary is a powerful means of obtaining abundant graces from God. On 6 October 1970, Our Lady of the Roses in her message during the apparition seemed to have said the following: "Realize the power in your hand with the rosary, for in your hands you hold the power of God. If you do not recognize the rosary, can you expect to be recognized by my Son? How much can you expect? Why do you hide my rosary? It was with a Mother's loving heart that I chose to give you these pearls of Heaven that you reject".



Apparitions of Our Lady and the Rosary

In every apparition, the heavenly Mother has invited us to say the rosary as a powerful weapon against evil, to bring us to true peace and for the good of humanity. In the apparition at Lourdes in 1858, the Virgin had a long rosary in her arm and in 1917 at Fatima, she invited and urged to pray the rosary every day.

Apparition at Lourdes

Our Lady appeared at Lourdes, France in 1858 for eighteen times. Right off, the first apparition on 11 February 1858 began with Our Lady praying the Holy Rosary with St. Bernadette Soubirous: "Without thinking of what I was doing I took my rosary in my hands and went on my knees. The Lady made with her head a sign of approval and herself took into her hands a rosary which hung on her right arm. When I attempted to begin the rosary and tried to lift my hand to my forehead, my arm remained paralyzed, and it was only after the Lady had signed herself that I could do the same. The Lady left me to pray all alone; She passed the beads of her rosary between her fingers but she said nothing; only at the end of each decade did she say the 'Glory be' with me. When the recitation of the rosary was finished, the Lady returned to the interior of the rock and the golden coloured cloud disappeared with her. As soon as the Lady had disappeared Jeanne Abadie and my sister returned to the Grotto and found me on my knees".

Again, at the second apparition, she prayed the rosary with Mary after kneeling down with her friends: "Nicolaus then asked Bernadette what she had seen and she related what had occurred at the Grotto; again she had prayed the rosary accompanied by the Lady, who moved Her lips only at each 'Glory be', and who had again disappeared at the conclusion of the prayers".

At all the eighteen apparitions, St. Bernadette would kneel and begin to pray the holy rosary. Then Our Lady would appear and pray the rosary with her and then she would go into ecstasy: "With no sign of awkwardness or self-consciousness, the child took the rosary from her pocket and crossed herself in her usual profound manner".

Apparition at Fatima

During the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima between 13 May and 13 October 1917, besides a call to penance, it was a call to pray the rosary. So central is the rosary to the message of Fatima that Our Lady chose to identify herself as "The Lady of the Rosary". In each of the six apparitions she asked for the daily rosary, and especially as an instrument of world peace. As she revealed in the third apparition: "You must recite the rosary every day in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war for only she can obtain this".

When asked about the importance of the rosary, Sr. Lucia of Fatima responded: “My impression is that the rosary is of greatest value not only according to the words of Our Lady of Fatima, but from the effects of the rosary one sees throughout history. My impression is that Our Lady wanted to give ordinary people, who might not know how to pray, this simple method of getting closer to God”. She told us: “There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot solve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary. With the rosary we will save ourselves. We will sanctify ourselves. We will console Our Lord and obtain the salvation of many souls”.

The Blessed Mother terminated the final apparition by showing the children three separate tableaux symbolizing the entire message of the rosary. The first was a vision of the Holy Family – representing the joyful mysteries; the second a vision of Our Lady of Sorrows – representing the sorrowful mysteries; and the third a vision of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel – representing the glorious mysteries.

Fifteen promises of Our Lady to those who recite the rosary daily

Our Lady revealed to St. Dominic and Blessed Alan de la Roche the benefits for those who devoutly pray the rosary daily. Although they form part of the private revelation, these promises help us to grasp the inestimable value of praying the rosary daily.

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the rosary, shall receive signal graces.
2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the rosary.
3. The rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell; it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
4. It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the heart of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means!
5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the rosary shall not perish.
6. Whoever shall recite the rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries, shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprepared death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of eternal life.
7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
8. Those who are faithful to recite the rosary shall have, during their life and at their death, the light of God and the plenitude of His graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.
9. I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the rosary.
10. The faithful children of the rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.
11. You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the rosary.
12. All those who propagate the holy rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.
14. All who recite the rosary are my sons and daughters, and brothers and sisters of my only son Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion of my rosary is a great sign of predestination.

INFORMATION and UPDATES

The Release of Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil SDB

Along with the Provincial and others confreres of Bangalore Province we thank God for the release of **Fr. Tom Uzhunnalil SDB** on 12 September 2017. He is now back in his home province.

Father Uzhunnalil was kidnapped by a group of armed men on 4 March 2016, during an attack on the home of the Missionaries of Charity in Aden, Yemen, where 16 people were callously killed, including 4 MC Sisters. In compliance with His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Said, Oman in coordination with the Yemeni parties have managed rescue Fr. Tom. Soon after his release, Fr. Tom was placed in one of our houses in Vatican for medical check-ups. During this period he met the Holy Father - Pope Francis, Rector Major – Rev. Fr. Ángel Fernández Artime and other dignitaries. He also gave a press conference, the last one at Pisana, Rome. His release is certainly

an answer to all our prayers. Fr. Tom acknowledged it before the media saying “I owe my release to your prayers said all over the world.”

Salesian Co-operators’ Northern Zonal Conference

The North Zone co-operators’ meeting was held at DBIDL from 30 September to 1 October. Fr. Noel Maddhichetty handed over the responsibility of being the South Asian delegate for cooperators to Fr. Albert Johnson, the SPCSA secretary in India.

The 8th Northern Zonal Conference of the Salesian Cooperators was organized by Guwahati Province at the Don Bosco Institute for Development and Leadership (DBIDL), Dimapur, from 30 Sept. to 1 Oct. 2017. There were 70 participants including Provincial Coordinators, Secretaries, Administrators, Formators and Delegates from the Salesian Provinces of New Delhi, Kolkata, Shillong, Guwahati and Dimapur.

The Conference, with the theme “Family Ministry”, was inaugurated with the hoisting of the Association’s flag by Fr. Albert Johnson SDB, South Asian Delegate for Salesian Family. Sr. Alphonsa FMA read out the keynote address of Sr. Elizabeth George FMA, Provincial of Guwahati Province. In her address Sr. Elizabeth said that the family is the cradle of life where children feel loved, cared for, protected and accompanied. She quoted Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia* underscoring that the welfare of the family is decisive for the future of the world and the Church. Fr. Albert Johnson read out the message of Fr. Maria Kanaga SDB, who describes the Salesian Cooperators as secular arms and wings of the Salesian Family, playing a special role with their public commitment to God and the Salesian charism.

Mr. D. S. Anthuvan, World Councillor for the Salesian Cooperators welcomed all the participants. He especially thanked Fr. Noel Maddhichetty, former South Asian Delegate for Salesian Family, for his unstinted service to the Salesian Family. The study sessions had three topics: Session 1 – *Roles of Salesian Cooperators*, Session 2 – *Family Ministry* and Session 3 – *Formation of Lay Leadership*, animated by Fr. Theotimus Lakra, Fr. Noel Maddhichetty and Fr. Albert Johnson, respectively. There was also a session on Action Plan as well as a meeting of the National Advisory Council. The conference concluded with Mr. DS Anthuvan de-hoisting the Association flag. Ms. Sonia Gothorp handed it over to Ms. Teresa Tobias, Provincial Coordinator of Kolkata Province where the 9 Zonal Conference will be held.

The General Body Meeting of Brothers

The Salesian Brothers’ annual meeting of IND, ING and INS was held at provincial house Shillong. There were 35 brothers present for the meeting. There was animation by different people and interaction among themselves.

Don Bosco Tech Regional Meet of North Eastern Region held

Don Bosco Tech regional meeting of North-Eastern region was held from 21-22 September 2017 at AIDA with the theme ‘Transforming Lives through Skill Training’. The participants of two-day event included Don Bosco Tech skill training centre in-charges, training faculty, industry partners and government departments. The highlights of the programme were input sessions on ‘Don Bosco Tech and its impacts on skill development landscape in Northeast’ and ‘Our vision for North-East’, panel discussion on ‘Youth, Skill Development and Employment: Opportunities in Northeast’ and group discussion and presentations. Mr. Khekeya K. Sema IAS gave the keynote address. On the side-lines of the meeting the best performing centres and best performing trainers were awarded. AIDA centre was awarded the best performing centre and Ms. Regina Pamma Karai of AIDA centre was adjudged the best performing trainer.

AIDA

Annual General Body meeting of AIDA, the Planning and Development Office of the province, will be held on 26 October 2017 from 04.00 pm at AIDA conference room. This will be preceded by one-day workshop on GST on 26 October from 09.00 am.

In the current context of many financial policy changes being initiated by the government, it is imperative to update ourselves on topic such as GST. I would exhort every community to depute one member to this workshop. Please contact Bro. Sunny for further communication.

SMI

I wish to congratulate the newly appointed Superior General of the Congregation of the Catechist Sisters of Mary Immaculate (SMI) - **Rev. Sr. Dina Vellamaruthunkal SMI** and her team. She has been elected in their Ninth General Chapter at Krishnagar. The following Sisters have been elected as the Councillors: Sr. Jane Nadackal (First Councillor), Sr. Jaisy Varickamthotty (Second Councillor), Sr. Divya Lakra (Third Councillor), Sr. Margaret Ranjitham (Fourth Councillor), and Sr. Malabika Mondal (Fifth Councillor). Hearty congratulations dear sisters.

Young Priests' Meeting

I take this occasion to thank **Rev. FR. PC Bosco**, of Bangalore province, for animating our Young Priests for two days and giving them the importance of "Health Care in Ministry". Finally motivating them to understand that "spiritual care" is more important than only activities / ministries. We congratulate all the young priests for attending the animation programme. This is the first time all the young priests attending the young priests' meeting.

Statistical Information

We have been asked to collect some statistical information regarding our institutions by the education commission CBCI Delhi. Hence, kindly fill up the statistics forms sent by CBCI Delhi and send it back the filled forms to the office of Vice Provincial at the earliest.

Welcome Back

We are happy to welcome back **Fr. Selvaraj Stanislaus** from UPS after his Licentiate in Canon Law and **Fr. Kangba Rang Anthony** after his one year of practical training, five years of studies and four years of service as the dean of Don Bosco School in Genova – Sampierdarena, Italy.

APOSTOLIC ASSIGNMENTS

1. Fr. EKKA Romanus	In-Charge and PP	Rajanagar Don Bosco
2. Fr. KALAPPURAYIL George (KV)	APP	Doimukh Don Bosco
3. Fr. KARAMULLIL Jose George	Principal	Itanagar Don Bosco College
4. Fr. KERKETTA Paulus	APP	Palin Don Bosco
5. Fr. MINJ Sunny	Headmaster and APP	Rajanagar Don Bosco
6. Fr. MUTHIRAKALAM Sabu Joseph	Vice Principal and Adm	Itanagar Don Bosco College
7. Fr. R.K. Guangdiat Nicholas	Headmaster and APP	Khobong Don Bosco
8. Fr. SELVARAJ Stanislaus	Warden	Itanagar Don Bosco College
9. Fr. TIRKEY Rajesh	Ast Headmaster and APP	Khobong Don Bosco

EVENTS AHEAD

13 Oct	Provincial Council Meeting
26 Oct	Workshop on GST at AIDA Conference Room from 9.00 am
27 Oct	Rectors and In-Charges' Meeting at DBPH starts at 9.00 am and Provincial Community Day
28 Oct	Jubilee of Confreres at Salesian College at 9.30 am
31 Oct	Scrutiny of PT Brothers & Students to reach Provincial Office

CONDOLENCES

To Rt. Rev. James Thoppil DD, Bishop of Kohima diocese and all the clergy of the diocese at the sudden demise of **Fr. Mathew Keemattam** on 20 September 2017. He was former Vicar General of the diocese, passed away at Bethel Medical Centre, Kohima. Many of us do know him to be kind, helpful at all times, a pioneering missionary in Nagaland and gifted spiritual guide. May the good Lord grant him eternal reward.

To Sr. Isabella Suja, Provincial of Shillong Province and others sisters at the passing away of **Sr. Erina Susgni FMA (INS)** on 7 September, 2017. May God grant her eternal reward.

Dear Confreres, once again I invoke on you all the blessings of our Blessed Mother of the Holy Rosary. May she continue to guide and direct us particularly in our trials and uncertainties.

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,



Fr. Nestor Guria, SDB
(Provincial)



Programme for the Month of October 2017

Date	Day	Provincial	Vice Provincial	Economer
1	Sun	Dimapur	CBCI Survey Assam	Italy
2	Mon	Dimapur	CBCI Survey Assam	
3	Tue	Dimapur	Dimapur	
4	Wed	Dimapur	Maram	
5	Thu	Emmaus (Visitation)	Maram	
6	Fri	Emmaus (Visitation)	Maram	
7	Sat	Dimapur (Padum Pukhri - Platinum Jubilee)	Dimapur	
8	Sun	Punanamai (Visitation)	CBCI Survey E Arunachal P	
9	Mon	Punanamai (Visitation)	CBCI Survey E Arunachal P	Italy > Kolkata
10	Tue	Punanamai > Kohima > Zubza	Dimapur	Kolkata > Dimapur
11	Wed	Zubza Savio Home(Visitation)		Zubza
12	Thu	Zubza Savio Home(Visitation)	CBCI Survey W Arunachal P	
13	Fri	Dimapur (Council Meeting)	Dimapur	Dimapur (Council)
14	Sat	Itanagar	Itanagar	Itanagar
15	Sun	Itanagar Church Blessing	Itanagar	Itanagar
16	Mon	Dimapur	Dimapur	Golaghat
17	Tue	Golaghat (Visitation)		Golaghat
18	Wed	Golaghat (Visitation)		
19	Thu	Dimapur	Dimapur	Dimapur
20	Fri	Dimapur Don Bosco (Visitation)		Dimapur Don Bosco
21	Sat	Dimapur Don Bosco (Visitation)		Dimapur Don Bosco
22	Sun	Dimapur		
23	Mon	Maram		
24	Tue	Dimapur	CBCI Ed Survey	
25	Wed	Dimapur	CBCI Ed Survey	
26	Thu	Dimapur	Dimapur	
27	Fri	Dimapur (Community Leaders' Meeting)	Dimapur	Dimapur
28	Sat	Dimapur (Jubilee of Confreres)	Dimapur	Dimapur
29	Sun	Dimapur	DBYA Meeting - Colombo	
30	Mon	Dimapur	DBYA Meeting - Colombo	
31	Tue	Dimapur	DBYA Meeting - Colombo	