

## PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

01 OCTOBER 2017

### DEAR CONFRERES

Month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. The feast of the Holy Rosary, celebrated on 7<sup>th</sup> October is the anniversary of the glorious and triumphant victory at the Battle of Lepanto, Rome. That battle was the most convincing military victory that proved without a doubt the great power of the Rosary. Let us keep up the good Salesian tradition of praying the Rosary everyday. As it is a powerful instrument for conversion, the Rosary will certainly bring great peace and holiness to our life. It is the best method of honouring our Blessed Mother.

“Be devout to Our Lady,” was the advice of Mamma Margaret to her son John when he left in 1830 to stay and study at Castelnuovo. On 25<sup>th</sup> October 1835, after receiving the cassock, John was preparing to join the Seminary at Chieri, his mother took him aside and said, “When you came into the world, I entrusted you to the Blessed Virgin; when you commenced your studies I recommended you to practice devotion to Her; now I urge you to give yourself wholly to Her. Associate with companions who are devoted to Her and when you are a priest do your utmost to draw people to Her.” Today, Don Bosco’s name is so linked with the Blessed Virgin that she is often known as “The Madonna of Don Bosco.”

Our beloved father and founder Don Bosco was a devotee of the Rosary par excellence. He was very much devoted to praying the Rosary daily. He testifies “I learnt to recite the Rosary on the knees of my mother.” Don Bosco was very particular that the Rosary should be recited in all his houses. Every year he took a group of boys to the chapel dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary at Becchi for the feast to kindle in them the devotion to the Holy Rosary. Let us continue to follow the footsteps of our father and founder in spreading the devotion to the Holy Rosary.

### PROVINCIAL VISITATION 2017 – 2018

As you know, each year, the Provincial makes a canonical visit of each and every mission in the province. The visitation of the Provincial should be so prepared that it becomes an occasion for evaluation, renewal, and re-invigoration of the various activities of the mission. The visitation focusses on the evaluation of Community, apostolic and Religious life of the Confreres and the effectiveness of the Salesian mission. Kindly fill in and send to the Secretary and the economer the assessment forms that have been sent to you already in view of the provincial visitation.

I have already completed the visitation in Salem Anbullam and Namakkal Don Bosco Mission. The works for the Young at risk in both the places are going on well. On behalf of

the Province, I would like to sincerely appreciate and thank the Salesians of both the communities for their commitment and hard work.

In the forthcoming months I will be making visitation of some of the communities. I request the leaders and the other Salesians to sincerely prepare for this visit so as to make it a time of grace for the mission.

### **THE SPCSA COUNCIL MEETING**

The SPCSA council meeting was held for the first time in the new SPCSA house at Dwarka, New Delhi on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> August. We thank Fr.Regional and the previous and the present SPCSA secretaries for preparing the new SPCSA house and making it functional.

### **BOSCOREE**

The 13<sup>th</sup> Boscoree will be held at Nasik from 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019. Fr.GodfreyD'souza, the provincial of Mumbai Province and his team is preparing in a big way for this event. I request all our schools to prepare our students to participate in this great event.

### **INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON YOUTH AND FAMILY**

The youth ministry department of the congregation is organizing an international congress on youth and family from 27<sup>th</sup> November to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017. From our province Fr. Vincent Arockia Xavier and Fr.Gabriel Karunaraj will be taking part in this event.

### **RELEASE OF FATHER TOM UZHUNNALIL**

The province of Tiruchy rejoices and thanks the Lord along with Father Tom Uzhunnalil, who was freed after being kept in captivity by the ISIS for 18 months in Yemen. After his release, speaking to the Public he said "I thank God almighty. I thank everybody in the name of Jesus". These were the genuine sentiments of Fr.Tom to the Lord for the gift of his release. I take this opportunity to thank all those who prayed for his release.

### **RECALLING EVENTS...**

- The ongoing formation programme for those in quinquennium period was conducted at Yercaud in two batches between 13<sup>th</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> September. It was animated by Fr. Kulandaisamy SVD, a person doing professional counseling in Hyderabad. There were 17 in the first batch and 18 in the second batch. All of them enjoyed the hospitality of the Salesians in Yercaud and profited much by their personal sharing of their experiences.
- There was a meeting for those in Formation houses in Ennore between 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September on the theme, "Basic Skills for Listening and Accompaniment." Frs. SusaiSavariannan, Dominic Bernatsha, John Barnabass, SimonrajSavarimuthu and IrudayarajMariadoss attended the programme from our Province.

- SAFC (South Asian Formation Commission) Meeting was held at Guwahati from 18<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> September on the theme, “Formation of Formators on Accompaniment and Processing.” Fr. Raj Mariasusai , the formation Delegate of our province attended the meeting.
- DB YaR Annual National Seminar was conducted in DBI, Guwahati from 19<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> September on the theme, “Restorative Justice and Practices. The Annual General Body meeting was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> September in the same venue. Representatives from our YaR presences attend the meeting.
- Meeting for those due for Perpetuals was conducted at the Provincial house on 30<sup>th</sup> September. 11 clerics were present. The Provincial and the vice provincial animated them on various aspects of Religious Life and they were happy to share about their personal experiences in the afternoon.

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

- Salesian Family Day @ DBPH (2 Oct)
- Leaders Meeting @ DB, Manikandam (12-13 Oct)
- Provincial Council @ DBPH (14 Oct)
- Youth Coordinators Meet @ DB, Manikandam (23 -24 Oct)
- National level meeting of Groups and Movements @DBPH (26-27 Oct)
- Recollection and Promise Day for Salesian Cooperators @ DB, Manikandam (28-29 Oct)

### **REFLECTION: ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

‘Don Bosco Eco Concerns’ Programme of the Province has set a tone towards ecological sensitivity and well being. The Ten Point Green Programme is aimed at influencing our life-style and that of the young, to be greener, healthier and sustainable. I encourage that every confrere and Salesian house take the Church’s call seriously and be responsible stewards of creation. I invite you all, through these series of reflections on the ten action plans, to get actively engaged in protecting and nurturing our common home. In this circular let us reflect on ‘Trees’ and our need to ‘increase the green cover’

#### **Grow like a Cedar of Lebanon: Spiritual Lessons from Trees**

“Trees are earth’s endless effort to speak to the listening heaven” says Rabindranath Tagore. Trees have been honored throughout the history as steadfast providers. Trees generate oxygen to sustain living breath; shelters and burrows for animals, birds, mosses, lichens and insects. It offers food and is a great resource for medicine.

A tree is one of humankind's most powerful symbols. It is the embodiment of life in all its realms: the point of union between heaven and earth. In mythology, trees are considered to have an abundance of divine creative energy. Trees and humans are often compared to one another. Trees provide us a profound spiritual guidance: Deep rootedness and unconditional generosity

When we meet a tree we need to be in a receptive mode. In holy writings, trees are symbol of divine knowledge. They have the strength to renew the life force. Obvious example is Buddha's enlightenment under Bodhi tree. In the Bible, God's righteous people are referred to as trees. "The righteous flourish like the palm tree and grow like a cedar in Lebanon." (Ps 92:12). These are the images that are used to describe those people who are covenanted to God.

Trees are sacred symbols used to help men and women to understand what is basic about life. Accordingly Albert Einstein says, "Look deep into nature and then you will understand everything better." It fulfills our spiritual thirsts. It calls us to a state of 'mindfulness,' where we become better in tune with and more compassionate toward our surroundings.

Let us thank the Lord for the wonderful nature along with psalmist,  
"Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad;  
let the sea resound, and all that is in it.  
Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them;  
let all the trees of the forest sing for joy." (Ps. 96: 11,12)

### **Protecting our Eden: Increase the Green Cover**

The wonder, realization and gratitude should lead us to be proactive believers. Pope Francis has been forceful and without mincing any words he calls for urgent action, "As stewards of God's creation, we are called to make the earth a beautiful garden for the human family. When we destroy our forests, ravage our soil and pollute our seas, we betray that noble calling."

Statics reveal that between 1880 and 2013, India has lost about 40% of its forest cover. It is we who have exploited God's free gift. Global warming and its impact is the bitter fruit or consequence of our infidelity to God. As stewards we have failed. We need to restore our lost dignity. Let us get into action: as Salesians, as lay collaborators and as young people. We have deliberated in our last General Chapter, "**Sensitizing communities and the young to respect creation, educating them to ecological responsibility through concrete activities which safeguard the environment and sustainable development.**" GC 27: 73,6.

We are contemplatives in action. Respect for creation should lead us to design concrete activities. In 'Don Bosco Eco Concerns' plan of our Province, our first and foremost action plan is '**Increasing the Green Cover**'

It is our prime environmental responsibility to educate and engage our young people in this great task:

- Sensitize and educate every young people of our Presence to understand the value of trees, its varieties and its resourcefulness in sustaining the planet
- Engage the eco-clubs to plant and nurture as many trees as possible inside the campus and in the neighbourhood
- Organise various groups, clubs, self-help groups, pious associations of our institutions and parishes to commonly engage in planting of trees and preserving it.

- Facilitate rural communities, *panchayats*, village administrations, to use their traditional wisdom of growing trees in public spaces, around water bodies, etc.

The monsoon has set in and it is the right time to plant as many as tree as possible. Trees go together to make forests and that is the need of the hour. Let us make our common home a healthier place to breathe and live.

Prayerful Best wishes to all in the Family  
Yours Affectionately in Don Bosco



Fr. Antony Joseph SDB  
Provincial – Salesian Province of Tiruchy



“The greatest method of praying is to pray the Holy Rosary.”

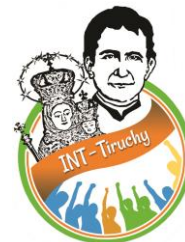
- Saint Francis de Sales



## PROGRAMME FOR OCTOBER 2017

### PROVINCIAL

02	Mon	-	Salesian family Day @ DB Manikandam
03 – 06	Tue, Fri	-	PV: Yercaud
07	Sat	-	Seminar @ St.Joseph's College
08 – 10	Sun, Tue	-	PV: Pallithammam
12 – 13	Thu, Fri	-	Leader's Meet @ DB Manikandam
14	Sat	-	Provincial Council @DBPH
15 – 16	Sun, Mon	-	PV: Lourdes's Shrine, Madurai
17 – 18	Tue, Wed	-	PV: Don Bosco ITI, Madurai,
20 – 23	Fri ,Mon	-	PV: Dindigul
24	Tue	-	Youth Coordinators meet @ DB Manikandam
25 – 26	Wed, Thu	-	PV: Nilavarappatti
27	Fri	-	DBYA Meeting for groups and Movemnants DBPH Tiruchy
28 – 29	Sat, Sun	-	Recollection & Promise Day for Salesian Cooperators
30 – 01	Mon, Wed	-	PV: DBAI ,Coimbatore



### VICE PROVINCIAL

2	Mon	-	Salesian family Day @ DB Manikandam
06	Fri	-	PV: Yercaud
07	Sat	-	Seminar @ St.Joseph's College
12 – 13	Thu, Fri	-	Leader's Meet @ DB Manikandam
14	Sat	-	Provincial Council @DBPH
23	Mon	-	PV: Dindigul
23 –24	Mon, Tue	-	Youth Coordinators meet @ DB Manikandam
26 –27	Thu, Fri	-	DBYA Meeting for groups and Movemnants @ DBPH, Tiruchy
28 – 29	Sat, Sun	-	Recollection & Promise Day for Salesian Cooperators
30	Mon	-	Youth Pastoral Delegate Meeting at Sri Lanka

### ECONOMER

06	Fri	-	PV: Yercaud
07	Sat	-	Seminar @ St.Joseph's College
10	Tue	-	PV: Pallithammam
12 – 13	Thu, Fri	-	Leader's Meet @ DB Manikandam
14	Sat	-	Provincial Council
16	Tue	-	PV: Lourdes's Shrine, Madurai
18	Wed	-	PV: Don Bosco ITI, Madurai,
23	Mon	-	PV: Dindigul
25 – 26	Wed, Thu	-	PV: Nilavarappatti
27	Fri	-	National Meeting for Groups & Movements @DBPH, Tiruchy
30 – 01	Mon – Wed	-	Vellakinar&PV: DBAI ,Coimbatore



