



INM-KMJ-CIR 16/06-2018

JUNE 2018

Remembering the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee of the Consecration of the INM Province

My dear confreres,

Cordial greetings from the Provincial House!

Seventy-five years ago, the Salesian Province of South India was consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Going by the Salesian lore in the Province, it was the most outstanding and the most memorable event in the first decades of the history of our Province. The historic event took place in Tirupattur, the cradle of Salesians in South India, on 2nd July 1943, the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Hence, this year we commemorate the platinum jubilee of that event. We are fortunate to have among us one confrere who was present on that occasion in Tirupattur, 75 years ago -- Fr. Cedric Bout, who is now 100 years old. He is the only one still living who participated in that event as a Salesian. Fr. Joseph Thekkedath of Bangalore Province also was there, but as an aspirant. Fr. Bout recalls with nostalgia the solemn moment. He says he was then a practical trainee and was one of those who knelt in the sanctuary of the newly blessed church in Tirupattur and pronounced the words of the Consecration!

Consecrating the Province to the Sacred Heart of Jesus was the initiative of Fr. **Josè Carreño**, the then Provincial of the Province of South India, who was also a great apostle of the Sacred Heart. It was the very first decision he made as a provincial. Fr. Joseph Thekkedath, the author of the two-volume history of the Salesians in India, has recorded the event thus: "In the very first meeting of the Provincial Council, held at Tirupattur on 28 January 1943, the Council unanimously resolved to consecrate the Province of South India to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, so that, being completely dedicated to Him, He might deign to protect it, guide it, help it and also preserve it in unity. The date of the consecration would be the feast of the Sacred Heart which in 1943 would fall on 2nd July." In order that the consecration might have a befitting frame of solemnity, it was proposed to have the following events around it: the blessing of the new church at Tirupattur and the consecration of its altar; inauguration of the monument to the Sacred Heart; the

ordination of six new priests; and the inauguration of the aspirantate. The consecration took place in the evening, at the end of a day of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

The feast of the Sacred Heart was celebrated at Tirupattur with great joy and splendour from 29th June to 2nd July 1943. All the priests of the province, except three, and a number of diocesan priests, and representatives from the houses and parishes of the province were present in large numbers. All the Salesians knelt in the sanctuary before the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus and recited aloud the words of that solemn consecration composed by Fr. Carreño. Here I present some of the significant lines from it.

“O most loving Jesus, when thy servant Fr. Rua consecrated the Salesian Congregation to thy Most Sacred Heart, our Salesian Province of South India did not exist, except in thy loving designs. But now that Thou hast called it to life we want it entirely and spontaneously consecrated to Thee. To this purpose we gather today before Thee O Jesus here present in the most Holy Sacrament of the Eucharist in this first Temple that our Province has erected to Thy love, and after having implored the assistance of the Most Pure Heart of Mary Help of Christians, of St. Joseph, of our Father St. John Bosco, St. Francis de Sales, and of all the saints of Heaven.

“We solemnly and officially consecrate entirely and for ever to Thy Most Sacred Heart our Salesian Province of St. Thomas the Apostle in South India. We consecrate to Thee our persons... We consecrate to thee our Houses and Institutions which we want to be schools of Thy love and doctrine ... We consecrate to thee our mission stations... We consecrate to Thee our aspirants, future apostles of Thy Kingdom... and we lay in the shelter of Thy Heart the future of our Province....”

Inter Nos, the Province Newsletter of the time, reported the event thus: “There has never been anything like it before. Feasts have come and gone; feasts will come and go, but the feast that encircled the Sacred Heart Day in 1943 will be unique and invincible in the years to come.” Fr. Carreño always attributed the prodigious growth of the province to this consecration. Even years later, a number of Salesians in the province were convinced that the extraordinary growth of the Southern Province during the years that followed was due to this consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

We shall commemorate the Platinum Jubilee of this event in a fitting manner with a solemn renewal of the Consecration in October when the Rector Major will be visiting the Province.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart

The devotion to the Sacred Heart has its origin on Mount Calvary, where Jesus’s heart was pierced with a lance. The Fathers of the Church invite the faithful to penetrate the mysteries of Christ by contemplating the wound opened in his side. From the 13th to the 16th centuries, the devotion was everywhere practised by individuals and by different religious orders. In the 17th century it was greatly popularised by Sr. Margaret Mary Alacoque, to whom Jesus appeared in 1673-1675, showing her his Sacred Heart. The

term "**Sacred Heart of Jesus**" denotes the entire mystery of Christ, the totality of his being and his person. The Sacred Heart is Christ, the Word Incarnate, Saviour, intrinsically containing an infinite divine-human love for the Father and for his brothers and sisters.

Significance of the Consecration

On 11 June 1899, Pope Leo XIII consecrated the entire human race to the Sacred Heart and asked that on that same day in all the churches of the world, the faithful gather and recite the same act of consecration. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the Consecration of the Human Race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (11 June 1999), Pope St. John Paul II wrote: "The consecration of the human race to the Heart of Jesus was "the summit and crowning of all the honours which have been customarily paid to the Most Sacred Heart". **Every member of the Church is invited to see consecration as the giving and binding of oneself to Jesus Christ.** From the Heart of Christ crucified is born the new humanity redeemed from sin. The man of the new millennium needs Christ's Heart to know God and to know himself; he needs it to build the civilization of love". Pope Paul VI would add, "The Church, in fact, was born from the pierced Heart of the Redeemer and from that Heart receives her nourishment, for Christ 'gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word' (Eph 5: 25-26)". Through the Holy Spirit, then, the love which permeates the Heart of Jesus is poured out into the hearts of men (cf. Rom 5: 5) and moves them to adoration of his "unsearchable riches" (Eph 3: 8) and to filial and trusting petition to the Father (cf. Rom 8: 15-16) through the Risen One who "always lives to make intercession for us" (Heb 7: 25).

Sacred Heart and the Salesians

Don Bosco had a great devotion to the Sacred Heart. He recommended it to his boys in a big way. "In the heart of Jesus," he used to say, "we acquire the real warmth of the love of God, not only for ourselves, but also to be shared with others." On 31st December 1900, Bl. Michael Rua consecrated the Salesian Congregation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. On that occasion, Fr. Rua sent to all communities what he called an "instruction" on this devotion. In it he emphasized its importance especially in the houses of formation and asked that novitiates be dedicated to the Sacred Heart. A few days before he died, Fr. Rua asked Fr Francis Cerruti to compose a prayer to the Sacred Heart for vocations. Fr. Cerruti did it in Latin and we are all familiar with it. It goes like this: *Cor Jesu Sacratissimum, ut bonos et dignos operarios piae Salesianorum Societati mittere et in ea conservare digneris, te rogamus audi nos!* In English it translates to: "O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, deign to send good and worthy vocations to our Pious Salesian Society and keep them faithful to it, we beseech you, hear us O Lord!" Fr. Rua was very pleased with this prayer, recited it daily and asked that a copy of it be placed under his pillow. The prayer, in Latin, was set to music by Fr. Alfred Schupp SDB in Tirupattur and was sung for the first time during the solemn Pontifical Mass for the consecration of the main altar of the church in Tirupattur on 30 June 1943.



Don Bosco's Basilicas of the Sacred Heart

Don Bosco's devotion to the Sacred Heart was admirable. He showed his love and devotion by undertaking, near the end of his life, and at great cost and sacrifice to himself, the construction of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, next to Rome's Termini station. The foundation for this church was laid by Pope Pius IX in 1870, but the work was interrupted due to the annexation of Rome by the Italian state. Ten years later, on April 5, 1880, Pope Leo XIII invited Don

Bosco to take the initiative to complete the construction, specifying that he had no funds to offer him. Don Bosco accepted it on one condition: expanding the work to include "a large hostel, where poor young people, extremely numerous, especially in this very neighborhood, can be housed." The project cost Don Bosco an incredible effort and considerable sacrifices but on May 14, 1887, it was consecrated. Don Bosco celebrated Mass there for the last time on May 16, 1887, during which he often wept thinking of the wonderful things the Lord and our Blessed Mother had done in his life. In 1921, Pope Benedict XV declared it a minor basilica.

The Tibidabo Basilica



In 1886, even as the construction of the Sacred Heart Basilica in Rome was nearing completion, Don Bosco undertook a journey to Spain to meet his benefactors and to raise the funds needed to complete the basilica. In the train, he was thinking to himself what he could do next to honour the Sacred Heart and promote devotion to it. Then a thought came to his mind: maybe, build another church in another city to honour the Sacred Heart. He then heard a mysterious voice whispering to him, "Tibi dabo, Tibi dabo", a Latin phrase meaning, "I will give you, I will give you". At that moment, he just brushed it aside and continued his journey. On the last day of his stay in Spain, while in Barcelona, he was praying in the Basilica of Our Lady of Mercy when some gentlemen approached him with an astounding offer. They wanted to give

Don Bosco a beautiful property they had recently acquired right on top of the mountain known as Tibidabo, overlooking the city of Barcelona! There and then the gentlemen

handed over the documents to Don Bosco, with these words: "To perpetuate the memory of your visit to this city, the gentlemen gathered here met in consultation and unanimously decided to cede to you their property on Mount Tibidabo, so that its summit, which was in danger of being converted into a casino, may be consecrated with a shrine to the Sacred Heart of Jesus..." In a flash Don Bosco understood the mysterious voice he had heard in the train.

Soon, with Don Bosco's encouragement and the support of benefactors the foundation stone of the future Tibidabo basilica was laid in December 1902. The top of the main tower was crowned in October 1961 with a 23-foot tall bronze statue of Jesus blessing the city below, marking the completion of the project. Simultaneously, Pope John XXIII raised the church to the status of a basilica. Thus, the second basilica in honour of the Sacred Heart that Don Bosco initiated was completed by his sons 75 years later. It also marked the 75th anniversary of Don Bosco's final visit to Barcelona.

Devotional Practices connected to the Sacred Heart

There are many devotional practices connected with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Some of the more important ones, explicitly approved and frequently recommended by the Church, are the following:

Personal Consecration: described by Pope Pius XI as "undoubtedly the principal devotional practice used in relation to the Sacred Heart".

Family Consecration: in which the family is dedicated to Christ so that He might reign in the hearts of all its members.

Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: approved for the whole Church in 1891, which is evidently biblical in character and to which many indulgences have been attached.

Act of Reparation to the Sacred Heart: a prayer with which the faithful, mindful of the infinite goodness of Christ, implore mercy for the offences committed in so many ways against his Sacred Heart.

Enthronement of the Sacred Heart: based on the promise of the Saviour given to St. Margaret Mary: "I will bless every dwelling where an image of My Heart is both exposed and honoured."

The Practice of the First Fridays: it derives from the "great promises" made by Jesus to St. Margaret Mary.

Conclusion

Article 11 of our Constitutions states: "**The Salesian Spirit finds its model and source in the very Heart of Christ**, Apostle of the Father. The article speaks of Salesian spirit in its relationship with Christ, highlighting two aspects: as a "model" and as a "source". To look on the Heart of Christ as a model means to "put on Christ" and make our own St. Paul's claim, "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2: 20). To understand the central element of our spirit, we also need to go beyond the person of Don Bosco and reach the source from which he himself drew – the very person of Christ, the Sacred Heart as the full revelation of divine love. Thus, in our mission, we will be able to make our hearts like His and bring many more young hearts closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE

INM JUNE PROGRAM

The month of June is an invitation for us to plan well for the new academic year 2018-19. As you see below, the Province is organizing many important meetings at the Provincial level. **A special meeting is planned on the 9th of June from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. for all Rectors/Leaders/Principals/Headmasters & Administrators.** Kindly plan ahead for the various meetings both at the community (Installation, SEPP, SCPL and Budgeting) and be present for the provincial level meetings, so that we can make this INM Jubilee year a fruitful and memorable one.

INM MEETINGS IN JUNE 2018		
1	Fri	Youth Pastoral Council / Installation of Fr. Tharsius – DB Perambur
2	Sat	Provincial Council with DBTC & Novitiate Staff in Citadel (Morn) / Provincial Council Meeting (Aft)
3	Sun	Meeting for ALL INM Students of Theology at Citadel
4	Mon	Installation of Installation of Fr. Leo Arokiam – Pondy/ Fr. Lawrence Soosai – Thirukazhukundram
5	Tue	Installation of Fr. Paul Mark – Polur / Installation of Fr. Majella - Jawadhi
6	Wed	Inauguration of DBTC / Installation of Fr. Joe Prabu - Kavarapettai
7	Thu	Installation of Fr. Jeffrey – Pannur / Meeting of Youth Ministry Coordinators/ YCD
8	Fri	Meeting of Parish Priests
9	Sat	Meeting of all INM Rectors/Leaders/HMs/Principals/Administrators (9 a.m. to 5.00 p.m.)
10	Sun	Provincial Council Meeting at 6.30 a.m. Salesian Cooperators Local Delegates/ Councillors Meeting in Citadel
11	Mon	Installation of Fr. Arulanandam – Jolarpet / Installation of Fr. John Alex – Yellagiri
12	Tue	St. Mary's, Chennai
13	Wed	Installation of Fr. Rajkumar – Dharmapuri / SEPP – DHARMAPURI/ SEPP – BAGALUR
14	Thu	Installation of Fr. Robert Pathi - Thalavadi / SEPP – THALAVADI / SEPP – KADAMBUR
15	Fri	SEPP - KOTAGIRI
16	Sat	SEPP - TIRUPATTUR PARISH / SEPP - DOMINIC SAVIO TIRUPATTUR
17	Sun	SEPP – DON BOSCO TIRUPATTUR / SEPP – SACRED HEART COLLEGE
18	Mon	SEPP – JOLARPET / SEPP – DON BOSCO YELLAGIRI
19	Tue	SEPP – NOVITIATE / SEPP – JAWADHI
20	Wed	SEPP – POLUR ITI / SEPP – POLUR PARISH
21	Thu	SEPP – VEERALUR / SEPP - SIHARAM
22	Fri	SEPP – KATTUPADI / SEPP – DB VELLORE / SEPP – ST. JOSEPH'S KATPADI
23	Sat	SEPP – SAGAYATHOTTAM / SEPP - PANNUR / BIS Correspondents Meeting
24	Sun	Meeting the Legal Cell Members/ DBYA Networks Meet
25	Mon	SEPP - AYANAVARAM / SEPP - LS PERAMBUR / Meeting of Local Delegates of DB Alumni
26	Tue	SEPP – PJG / SEPP – ANAT FARM
27	Wed	SEPP DBAI PARK TOWN / SEPP MKB NAGAR
28	Thu	SEPP VYASARPADI / SEPP SM NAGAR
29	Fri	Silver Jubilee of Episcopal Ordination of Most Rev. Archbishop Chinnappa in Vellore
30	Sat	Meeting with Salesian Family/ ADMA / Education & Culture Commission Meet

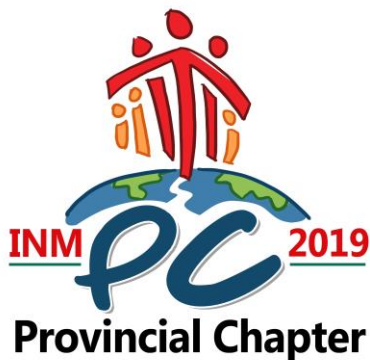
DIACONATE ORDINATIONS 2018 – HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS & PRAYERFUL WISHES!

PRAVIN JOSEPH	-	16.06.2018	-	MHC, Turin
ANTHUVAN PUSHPARAJ	-	17.06.2018	-	Gethsemane, Jerusalem
ALBERT KUMAR SAVARIMUTHU	-	23.06.2018	-	Sacro Cuore, Rome

DON BOSCO IAS ACADEMY

DEAL (Don Bosco Education & Animation for Leadership), an initiative of the SPCSA, will commence its activity of preparing the Catholic and poor youth for the UPSC exams, from the month of July 2018 in Chennai (INM). This programme will serve 30 youth with exceptional intellectual and aptitudinal talent, from the 3 southern Salesian Provinces (INK, INM & INT). They will engage in an intense yearlong preparation with undeterred dedication and commitment. This year the programme will be coordinated in collaboration with an institute called Officers IAS Academy at Anna Nagar, Chennai. The afore said centre will provide the necessary academic training to the candidates while we will supplement it with psychological and spiritual accompaniment. We will provide them boarding and lodging, towards which each candidate will contribute a nominal monthly fee. Applications are invited for this from the youngsters (male and female) who have completed their graduation in any discipline. The mode of applying is explained in the poster that is attached with this Circular. I request confreres to identify and assist the talented and interested youth to make their application in due time. For further information kindly contact Fr. Robert Simon (9871296791 / 9443141279).

INM PC 2019



We are happy to convoke the Provincial Chapter 2019 from the **11th - 15th January at Citadel**. On **16th January we will have the Provincial Community Day**. The Moderator of the Chapter is Fr. Don Bosco, our Vice Provincial. I thank him for accepting to render this service for the Province. The INM PC 2019 we will have as its focus the General Chapter Theme: **“What kind of Salesians are we for the youth of today?”** We shall also take up some additional themes. Kindly send your proposals to the moderator by the 9th of June.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

As a Province, we are really interested in preparing confreres for Spiritual Direction. While we have a two days seminar on 18th and 19th of July 2018 for Rectors and Confessors who are interested, we would also like to prepare some confreres more professionally. May I invite you to **propose at least three names of confreres** whom you feel would be fit for this ministry. **Please send the names to me before 24th of June.**

National CRI

The National Conference for the CRI was held at SRM University, Chennai from 27 -30 May 2018 where 594 Provincials and Superior Generals participated. Archbishop Giambattista Diquattro, the Apostolic Nuncio was present all through the conference and met the superiors individually. The themes for the conference was centred on the **Current Scenario and Move to the Margins**. The challenge to move to the peripheries came up very strongly in all the presentations.



Consecration of the province to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Seventy-Five years ago, on the feast of Sacred Heart, Fr. Joseph Carreño, the then Provincial, together with all the Salesians, consecrated the Madras Province to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The early Salesians attributed the prodigious growth of the Province of South India to this Consecration. It is only fitting that we thank the Sacred Heart for all the blessings we have received in the past 75 years. **This year the feast of Sacred Heart is on the 8th of June. May I**

invite all the confreres of the Chennai Region for an adoration at 7 p.m. in Citadel and at that time we shall renew our consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Father Basil Thornaplackal SDB



With deep sorrow we bid farewell to Father Basil Thornaplackal (86 years), at 9.15 a.m. on 18th May 2018, at the Provincial House, Chennai. The funeral took place on 19th May at 3.30 p.m. at Don Bosco, Tirupattur.

He was born on 2nd February 1932, to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Thornaplackal, at Manimala, in the diocese of Changanacherry, Kerala, and entered the Salesian aspirantate at Tirupattur in June 1946. He did his novitiate at Kotagiri and made his first profession on 24 May 1953. He was Ordained a priest on 8th December 1963 at Shillong.

The first years of his priesthood (1964-1970) were spent in the missions of North-East India. Back in Chennai he served in Don Bosco Egmore, Don Bosco, Irinjalakuda in Kerala and Don Bosco, Broadway, Chennai. From 1977 to 1991, he worked in the Province of Kolkata at Don Bosco-Park Circus, Don Bosco-Liluah and Don Bosco-Kokar. From 1991, he has served various communities in Chennai, particularly, Lourdes Shrine (Perambur), St. Theresa's (Madumanagar), Pavunjur, and St. Antony's Sathya Murthy Nagar.

He worked with dedication and commitment to spread the mission of Don Bosco especially with the poor and spread the love of Christ to those entrusted under his care.

In 1994, he was appointed parish priest of Madumanagar, a former sub-station of Perambur. In the nine years he served there, he not only built a new parish church but transformed the parish into a vibrant Christian community. So also, his eight years (2008-2015) of ministry in Sathya Murthy Nagar in Chennai

stands as a solid testimony to his missionary zeal and love for the poorest of the poor. Always well-focused on evangelization and catechesis, he always wanted that people understand the essentials of faith and live by convictions.

In his death the Salesian Province of Chennai has lost a great missionary and a lover of the poor. May his soul rest in peace.



ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM...

My heartfelt condolences to the Provincials and confreres at the passing of -

Fr. Naikampambil Jose SDB (71) (INN) on 1st May 2018.

Fr. Manu Kuzhivelipambil SDB (35) (INK) on Tuesday, 22 May 2018 at Don Bosco, Devadurga.

Fr. Lloyd Rodrigues SDB (INB) at 04:30 pm. on Tuesday, 15 May 2018 at the Karuna Hospital, Borivli, Mumbai.

My sincere condolences to Fr. David Maria Selvam who lost his beloved mother **Mrs. Angela**, on May 24th, 2018. The funeral was held on May 25th in St. Thomas Church, Alphonsapuram, K.G. Kandigai. We continue to pray for the family members in this time of immense sorrow and pain.

CONCLUSION - WITH GRATEFUL HEARTS – A BIG THANK YOU TO EACH ONE OF YOU

We have concluded the academic year 2017-18 on a very optimistic note, with 98% participation in the Annual Retreats, a successful completion of our INM Vocation Camp, numerous Summer Camps organized in our institutions, the First Professions in Yellagiri, the Renewals in SIHARAM, the Perpetuals in Polur, very good School Results of different Boards from most of our institutions and the blessing of Divine Providence to help us through the last year. I sincerely thank each one of you my dear confreres for your personal interest in the mission of the community. As we enter this new academic year 2018-19, let us remember to look on the Heart of Christ as the source of our spirit means to grow in our intimacy with Him so that we are able to recognize the Spirit who consecrates us in Christ, conforms our life to His, helps us to penetrate his mystery, opens us to an experience of communion with Him, leads us to immerse ourselves in Him, the Good Shepherd, who desires the salvation of the young.



Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,

Fr. K.M. Jose SDB
Provincial

Date: 03.06.2018
Place: Chennai - 600010