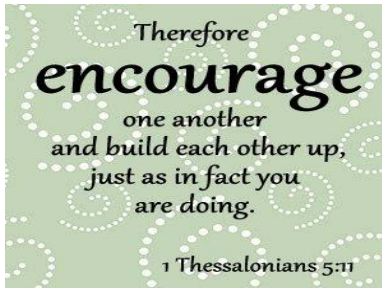




*Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10*

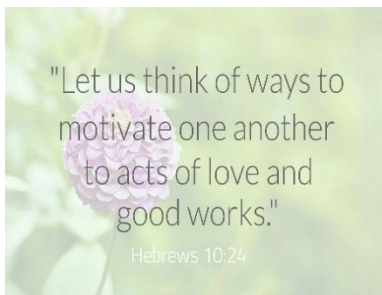
**The Bible is also quite clear on the familial responsibility we have towards encouraging each other:**



**Hebrews 13:1** - *Let brotherly love continue.*

**Ephesians 4:31-32** - *Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamour and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.*

**Romans 15:2** - *Let each of us please his neighbour for his good, to build him up.*



**1 Thessalonians 4:18** - *Therefore encourage one another with these words.*

**Hebrews 10:24-25** - *And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

**1 Peter 4:8-10** - *Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace.*

### **JESUS – An Encouraging Personality**

Undoubtedly, Jesus was the greatest disciple-maker ever! **One of the things that Jesus used in the disciple-making process that we'd do well to do ourselves, is to use encouragement** when making disciples. **Multiple times in the New Testament we're told to encourage one another.** There's a great reason for this. **Encouragement builds up and ultimately leads to the person being disciplined fully embracing their identity in Christ.** Jesus seemed to use three types of encouragement when disciple-making:

**Encouragement to move forward in Faith – In Matthew 14 Jesus comes walking on water.** He approaches his disciples who had gone ahead of Him in the boat. When Peter sees Jesus he cries out, *“Lord, if it's You, command me to come to You on the water.”* **Jesus encourages Peter to move forward by simply stating, “Come!”** Scripture then goes on to describe what Peter did. Disciple makers who aid those they're discipling to become mature disciples don't keep them in their comfort zones, they encourage them to move into dangerous places in faith. So also, we need to encourage one another to be creative and innovative in our mission.

**Encouragement to embrace a new identity – Matthew 16** describes a moment in time when Jesus called Simon by his new name, Peter. Jesus identified Peter as the rock on which His Church would be founded.” Jesus revealed Peter's new identity. Peter, a man who was once blatantly and outrageously spastic in his ideas and actions, went on to lead the early Church! **Jesus gave Peter a new identity and this encouraged Peter to have a transformed perspective of himself and his role in the Kingdom of God.**

**This master-disciple type of encouragement** is something that even we Salesians can imitate in our day to day lives in the mission as well as in the community. **This kind of encouragement is a must** as none of us will ever escape from the daily problems and anomalies of our earthly life.

### **Don Bosco: An Inspiring Personality**

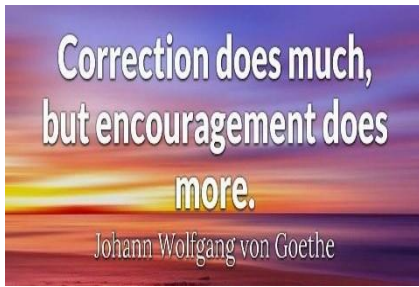
Doubtless, no one in Christian annals, save the Good Shepherd Himself, was so naturally or so deeply loved by youth as Don Bosco. He possessed, it would seem, a singular grace from heaven in that regard. **Utterly irresistible was the charm he held over little ones. A kind word, a gentle smile, even a mere glance from the Saint often was sufficient to capture the most calloused heart** – so has said many an enchanted victim. This helps explain why the tiny Oratory of Saint Francis de Sales – the name Father John Bosco gave his band of urchin pupils – which humbly began on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception in 1841, swelled week after week. Word of the kind and holy friend of all boys never stopped spreading to spiritually starved wanderers of Turin and beyond, who came in ever-increasing numbers to learn the beautiful truths and mysteries of the Catholic Faith. Saint John Bosco was totally devoted to his boys not just on Sundays, but every hour of every day! **He would visit them on their jobs, nurse them in illness, counsel them in their problems, help them to find employment, beg for clothes and shoes to dress them, and in short, attend to their every need, spiritual and temporal. Most of all, he prayed for them endlessly.**

*Don Bosco lived a pastoral experience in his first Oratory which serves as a model; it was for the youngsters a home that welcomed, a parish that evangelized, a school that prepared them for life, and a playground where friends could meet and enjoy themselves. As we carry out our mission today, the Valdocco experience is still the lasting criterion for discernment and renewal in all our activities and works. [Constitution 40] The welcoming ‘home’ represents family, nurture, safety, community and belonging. The evangelising ‘parish’ represents prayer, liturgy, catechesis, sacraments and church. The life-engendering ‘school’ represents learning, development, skills, commitment and endeavour, the vibrant playground (the genius insight of Don Bosco) represents friendship, fun, activity, acceptance and mutuality.* Thus, we can very clearly see that Don Bosco never lost hope in his youngsters and the youth themselves felt encouraged and reinvigorated in a Society which actually ignored them! Even today, there are numerous opportunities for the Salesian to be constantly encouraging and reassuring in his work with and of the young, just as Don Bosco did.

***“If you can’t fly, then run, if you can’t run, then walk, if you can’t walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward.”*** These words of Martin Luther King Jr. remind us that we, the sons of Don Bosco should never be disheartened. We need to be like him. Because the youth are with us and there is always a future ahead. And as Abraham Lincoln said: "The best thing about the future is that it comes only one day at a time." So, we just have to be sufficiently prepared for today.

Don Bosco knew how to combine a tender heart with great practical sense. Boys need love and boys need God. Yes, but they also need food, jobs, recreation, and wise guidance for the future. So, he wanted his Salesians to provide an integral education that helps a young person to earn a learning, become a responsible citizen and a caring spouse and parent, with concern for others and readiness to help. Faithful to the tradition of Saint John Bosco, **the Salesian community is constantly challenged to re-interpret and re-enliven his enlightening vision in every generation and circumstance,** according to the requirements of the contemporary situation and the needs of young people, to whom he once said: **“I have only one wish: that you be happy in this world and the next”**.

## Some Practical Tips to become an Encouraging Person in the Community



**At the very outset, we need to create a culture of encouragement!** We need to become Salesians who are capable of encouraging others. **Every confrere needs to encourage and to be encouraged!** Where people step up is when there is room to move up! Given below are some common ways, for individual Salesians as well as for those in authority, by which we can encourage both our confreres and our collaborators in the day-to-day mission:

- 1. Recognize Their Strengths.** Don't do anything on your own if it can be prevented but recognize your confreres' strengths and allow them to participate as much as they can. Don't take their aptitudes for granted. Make it a point to talk individually with each member of your community to discuss their interests, strengths and skills and encourage them to take charge.
- 2. Let Others Make Important Decisions.** If you are the leader or in a position to make decisions, if you allow your collaborators to make important decisions, you are encouraging them to come out of themselves. When they are empowered to make decisions that matter and can affect the mission, they see themselves as worthy collaborators.
- 3. Give Them More Responsibility.** When you give a confrere or any of our lay collaborators more responsibility you are expressing faith in their abilities. The moment they take on more responsibility is the moment they can say, "Yes, I am stepping up." To make them feel a better sense of belonging, give them more to be accountable for and let them know the price of influence is responsibility.
- 4. Don't Impose Fear.** If you want to encourage more confreres or others to bring out the best in themselves, you have to relate with them without imposing fear. Encouraging personalities inspire those around them. Therefore, surround yourself with people of diverse perspectives and establish a culture where they can even disagree with you without fear!
- 5. Trust Them.** Trust is the glue that binds us together. To encourage confreres in our mission, we need to begin by trusting them, and the only way to do that is to overcome the need to be in constant control. We need to trust those guiding us as well as all those who are entrusted to our care.



**6. Help Them Grow.** Don't wait for confreres or collaborators to come to you, instead, you should approach them. Let them know what talent and qualities you see in them and help them see how they can utilize their gifts for their own personal growth as well as for the growth of the mission. The best way to encourage them is to show appreciation for who they are and help them just be themselves. Show that you believe in them and give them opportunities to prove you right.

**7. Respect Them.** People tend to step up when you show them respect. If you want to encourage them, first empower them by respecting them for who they are. The best leaders go out of their way to boost their members' self-esteem. This is very true even in our own communities. As John Maxwell stated, **when people respect you as a person, they admire you; when they respect you as a friend, they love you; when they respect you as a leader, they follow you.** Our Salesian structure is such that no one remains on the top forever! Therefore, all the more, why we need to respect and appreciate each and every member in the community.

**8. Praise And Appreciate Them.** If the actions of your confreres inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then they are your guiding stars! Appreciate them for who they are and praise them for their inspirational actions. Let them know how much their influence and stimulus mean to you and how they influence others.

Helping to create a culture of encouragement is the ultimate expression of your own mission. And it's a legacy you can start building today.

### **NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE**

#### **A BIG THANK YOU FOR INM PC 2019**



Once again, I would like to express my sentiments of gratitude to the Almighty at the conclusion of our Provincial Chapter which was fraternal moments of togetherness, family spirit, discernment, enlightenment and grace from God. Let us thank the Lord for the inspiration that we received from the Holy Spirit. Everyone felt that the Holy Spirit was very much at work as we were gracefully guided by Fr. Jose Kuttianimattathil during the recollection before the Chapter could begin. I would like to thank the Moderator Fr. Don Bosco Lourdusamy and the pre-capitular commission members: Fr. Jeffrey Gladstone, Fr. John Rosario, Fr. Britto Savarinathan, Fr. Thaddeus Gregory, Fr. Edwin Vasanthan and Fr. Bellarmine Fernando who had prepared the working documents with much precision and grip. Let me also thank all the Provincial Chapter members, particularly the commission heads and the secretaries for their valuable contributions, the observers and all those who assisted the Chapter as secretaries, scrutineers and time keeper. It was indeed an active and involved Chapter where all the communities also contributed their share with lots of valuable suggestions. I really felt that the whole Province was at work in the Chapter. So, let me thank everyone for the committed involvement, in a very special way, the Citadel community for meticulously planning the logistics and hosting the event. I have already communicated to the Rectors and Leaders some of the salient steps that we need to take to move forward in our discipleship and mission to the poorest. These decisions have been arrived at the Provincial Council after having listened to the pulse of the Provincial Chapter members. May Our Blessed Mother and our Father and Founder Don Bosco accompany us in taking the mission of Christ for the poor young people forward.

#### **GRATITUDE FOR PROVINCIAL COMMUNITY DAY CONTRIBUTION FOR INM YOUTH MINISTRY**

I am also very grateful to all the confreres who participated in the Provincial Community Day at the conclusion of the Provincial Chapter. We felicitated the New Priests and the Silver Jubilarians as well. This year the contributions were for the Youth Ministry of the Province. Sincere thanks to all the communities for your generosity.

## **REGIONAL CONGRESS OF SALESIAN COOPERATORS**

The two-day South Asian 5th Regional Congress of Salesian Cooperators were held in the Provincial House, Citadel with great festivity and family spirit. There were 91 participants (including Salesian Provincials, SDB-FMA delegates, Provincial Coordinators and other Salesian Cooperators from 11 Salesian Indian provinces. The first day (January 25th) of animations and discussions were fruitful in enhancing the vocation of a Salesian Cooperator in their social thrust. The second day (January 26th) was geared towards action plan for the next 6 years in the South Asia Region. Moreover, the election of Zonal leaders were held for both North and South Zones. For the South Zone the following persons were elected unanimously: Mr. Arockia Arasu (Auxilium, Katpadi unit) was as Coordinator, Mr. Jesuraj, (DB, Tanjore) and Mr. Hubert Fenelon (St. Bede's unit). We congratulate them and assure them of our prayerful support for their service as South Zone leaders for a term of three years. We congratulate Fr. Edwin George SDB, the INM Provincial Delegate of the Salesian Cooperators, Mr. Aseervatham (INM-Provincial Coordinator) and his team of Councillors for their meticulous planning and execution of the event to the satisfaction of all the participants. May the Salesian Cooperators continue to grow in their vocation and faithful service in the Salesian mission for the young.

## **NEW BISHOP FOR THE DIOCESE OF TUTICORIN**

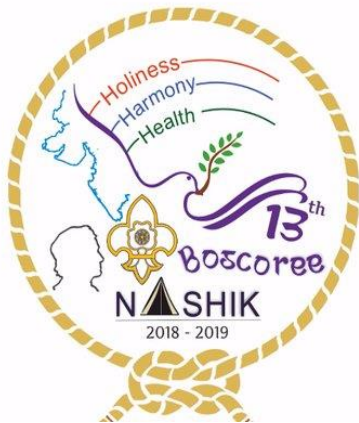
His Holiness Pope Francis has appointed Fr. Stephen Antony Pillai (67), of the clergy of Vellore, Tamilnadu, as the new Bishop of Tuticorin, Tamilnadu. Fr. Stephen Antony Pillai was born in Keezha Manakudy, Diocese of Kottar, on 22 June 1952 and was ordained priest on 7 May 1979 for the Diocese of Vellore. On behalf of the province I extend our greetings to the Bishop Elect and assure him of our prayerful support. He will be consecrated on 24 February 2019. I also take this opportunity to thank Most Rev. Yvon Ambrose DD, who has been a great support to all the Salesians working in the diocese of Tuticorin. He has served as a pastor for the past fourteen years and he has led the diocese in a crucial period with his dedicated and systematic administration.

## **SPCSA ASSEMBLY AND COUNCIL**

The SPCSA Assembly and the Council will be held from 25<sup>th</sup> February to 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2019 at Dimapur. Some of the General Council members will be animating the SPCSA Council along with our Regional Councillor. This time Fr. Pierfausto Frisoli, the Procurator General will address the Provincials, Vice Provincials and the Province Secretaries on juridical elements in order to rectify those in particular situation before the next General Chapter - GC 28. From our Province Fr. Don Bosco Lourdasamy the Vice Provincial, Fr. Xavier Packia, the Economer and Fr. Dominic Matthews the Province Secretary will be attending this meeting along with me.

## **BROTHERS CONGRESS**

I was indeed very happy to be present at the 8<sup>th</sup> South Asia Salesian Brothers' Congress held at Don Bosco Skill Mission Bangalore from 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019. The Theme of the 5-day Congress was: "Salesian, be a Faithful Witness". A total of 130 Salesians participated in the Congress, including 98 Brothers and 32 priests. Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore, Salesian Bishop George Rajendran of Thukalay, General Councillor for Formation Fr Ivo Coelho, Economer General from Rome Br Jean Paul Muller, and Regional Councillor for South Asia Fr Maria Arokiam Kanaga, along with all 12 Salesian provincials of the region, graced the 8<sup>th</sup> Brothers Congress with their presence at various moments. Brothers' Congress concluded with a statement which listed action plans for three areas concerning Identity, Visibility and Credibility of vocation to the Brotherhood. Some of the concrete steps taken are: Salesian Brother's spiritual testimony, promotion of Brother Vocation, and providing the sketches of exemplary and holy Brothers in local languages in the coming four years. Another important highlight of the Congress was the election of Bro. Jose Puthenpurackal as the new Delegate for South Asia Region.



**The 13th NATIONAL BOSCOREE** was held from 30<sup>th</sup> December 2018 to 03<sup>rd</sup> January 2019, at Nashik. A good number of Scouts and Guides from our Province participated actively in this National Boscoree. I thank Fr. John Peter Suvickan, Provincial Delegate of Scouts and Guides who worked to the details of the safe journey and active participation of our students. I thank all our Salesians and lay staff who accompanied our students to the National Boscoree. On behalf of INM I congratulate Fr. Godfrey D'Souza, the Provincial of Mumbai - the hosting Province and the organizers who shouldered the responsibility of planning and executing the 13th National Boscoree 2018 and brought it to a great success. The fourteenth National Boscoree 2022 will be hosted by the Province of Guwahati.

### **Strenna 2019 Dissemination of the Rector Major's Strenna for INM Salesian Family**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb. 2019 - CHENNAI Region

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019 – PONDY Region

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019 – TIRUPATTUR Region

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> Feb. 2019 – VELLORE Region

**National Meet on Salesian oratories and Youth centres** was held on 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> January 2019 at DB Provincial House, Mumbai. Rev. Fr. Maria Arokiam, the Regional Superior delivered the Key Note address on the topic, 'A Relook at our Salesian Identity as an Oratorian Congregation.' From our Province Fr. Anbu Francis, Fr. Felix Arulnathan, Mr. Anand (Broadway DBYC)



### **WORLD YOUTH DAY**

Pope Francis celebrated mass with hundreds of thousands of young pilgrims in Panama on Sunday, January 27, winding up a 5-day visit of the 34<sup>th</sup> World Youth Day. Event officials say some 1,13,000 registered as pilgrims to attend various events. What the event in Panama may — or may not — have lacked in numbers, it made up for in its treatment of young pilgrims. Priests, bishops,

women religious and thousands of volunteers, young and old, officially and unofficially, seemed to devote more quality time to participants than in the past. Panamanians outwardly celebrated pilgrims from various visiting countries, spontaneously shouting out the name of the nation as they spotted them carrying their respective flags on the streets of their city. Youth from 156 different countries, who spoke different languages and had different customs and practices, managed to unite around faith and serving others. World Youth Day showed the world that we're one family of humanity! Lisbon, Portugal, will open its doors to the world's young people in 2022 for the next World Youth Day.

### **GET WELL SOON**

I seek your prayers for the speedy recovery of Rev. Bro. Meril Rodrigo and Rev. Fr. Augustine Nathan. Both of them had to undergo minor surgeries and which have enfeebled them and hence they need our prayerful thoughts. Kindly do remember them prayerfully and encourage them with your fraternal get-well soon phone calls as well!

## REST IN PEACE – Our Prayerful Condolences

Mr. Santhanam Michael (63) dad of Fr. John Wilson passed away on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

Mr. Arulanandu (84) dad of Fr. Alphonse Arulanandu died on 9<sup>th</sup> January 2019.

In the passing away of Rev. **Fr. Joseph Thekadathu SDB** on 15 January 2019, Salesian India has lost an eminent Church historian and a distinguished professor who rendered his services at Kristu Jytoi College Bangalore for more than half a century. He was 91. The painstaking work he did of writing the history of the Salesian works in India after much research and study is his unique contribution to Salesian India. We offer our heartfelt condolences to Fr. Provincial and the confreres of Bangalore Province at the demise of this great Salesian. The province of Bangalore lost another veteran Salesian on 17 January 2019 in the person of Rev. **Bro. Mathew Aayila**. He was 80. For many years he worked as a missionary in East Africa. He worked also in INM. Once again, our condolences and assurance of prayers to Fr. Provincial and the confreres of Bangalore province.

**Rev. Bro. Mathew Thaiparambil SDB** of INC passed away today. He was 78. Our heartfelt condolences to the Provincial and confreres of Kolkata Province.

## Conclusion



That the festive Oratories of Don Bosco were renowned as the finest schools for boys in Piedmont is due simply to the fact that he was the greatest educator of modern times. And his secret of envied success in that field is embodied in the concise wisdoms with which he counselled his assistant priests: **“Make yourselves loved if you wish to be obeyed. Be fathers, not superiors.”** Or for another: **“Without affection, there is no confidence. Without confidence, no education.”**

The Salesian Mission is the Education and Evangelisation of the young. The young live in a world that is constantly changing. As they grow, they need to learn and adapt. Their circumstances and experiences place before them challenges and opportunities. **The Salesian Charism flowing from Don Bosco’s History, Pedagogy and Spirituality must continually be renewed, revitalized and reimagined as each generation of young people and their educators encounter it.** We need to attempt an ‘**Encouraging Profile**’ within our particular culture and time and with the intention of localizing and personalizing our Salesian Charism.

I wish you all a very happy feast of the Presentation of Our Lord and Happy Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes!

Yours affectionately in Don Bosco,

**Fr. K.M. Jose SDB**  
Provincial

Date: 02.02.2019  
Place: Chennai 600010