



INM-KMJ-CIR 26/05-2019

MAY 2019

SHE STILL DOES IT ALL!

My dear confreres,

As we begin this month of May and prepare ourselves for the new academic year 2019-20, now that the transfers and appointments list is out, I would like to reflect with you on our **Marian Devotion and its historic importance in our Salesian life and mission.**

In his **Spiritual Testament** to his Salesians, Don Bosco wrote, "The Blessed Virgin will certainly continue to protect our Congregation and our Salesian works if we maintain our trust in her and promote devotion to her." **For Don Bosco, Mary was more than an object of veneration.** Mary was for him a living person. He felt her presence in every moment of his life. He emulated in her the virtue of sensitivity, her obedience to the will of God, and her commitment and fidelity at the hour of the cross. From the very beginning of his life, she showed him the way, inspired his actions, sustained his strength and helped him to obtain his purpose, even in extraordinary ways. **For Don Bosco 'Mary did it all!' For us, "She still does it all"!**

Mother Mary in the Life and Mission of Don Bosco

Don Bosco's mother Mamma Margaret cultivated in him a devotion to Mother Mary from his childhood. Don Bosco firmly believed that Mary is present in all the activities as a Mother. She always came to the aid of Don Bosco when he was deeply in trouble and infused a ray of hope in times of discouragement. In many of his dreams, Mary appeared as a loving mother. She was a mother who looked after the needs of all his works. She provided him with financial and spiritual help. **In all his problems, he felt her presence concretely.** Mary took care of all the boys in the oratory. She protected them from all the dangers of all life. Don Bosco acknowledges it in his testament when he said, **'The God of mercy and his Holy Mother came to our help in our needs.** This was especially true when it was a case of providing for poor and abandoned boys, and even more when their souls were in danger.' He also believed that, Mary takes special care of every youngster on entering the Salesian house and provides them with bread and means to study, by endless graces and wonders.



Don Bosco was a man of dreams. In other words, he saw the vision of his life in his dreams. He saw Mary in all his dreams. He started believing his own dreams when one by one he saw them being realized in his real life. He also asked guidance from Father Cafasso, but later on he will say: *"The Virgin Mary had in dreams indicated the field in which I was to work. I therefore had the design of a complete, pre-studied plan from which I did not wish to depart. I was made totally responsible for the success of this plan. I had a clear idea of the lines I had to follow, and therefore I would not risk to spoil the plan by submitting it to the judgment and will of others"* (MB III). Thus, **Don Bosco became a firm**

believer in the guidance of Mary and the two worked together. At times Mary took the initiative; at times it was Don Bosco that had recourse to her for help – it is impossible to keep an account of all the favours Don Bosco received as a consequence of his prayers. He was absolutely sure of her help, even when the Government threatened to close the Oratory. “Poor people, said Don Bosco, they are mistaken. *They will not succeed. They think they are dealing with Don Bosco only; they don’t know that they have to do with one much more powerful, with the Blessed Virgin, even with God himself who will shatter their plans. No, they will not succeed to close the Oratory!*” Indeed, they never succeeded in closing any of the works of Don Bosco!

Making a Place for Mary in our Community
(Cf: Don Egidius Vigano Letter 25 March 1978)



On assuming office as the Rector Major of the Salesian Congregation, in his very first letter to the confreres, which was during Eastertide, Don Vigano stressed the need for all Salesians to resolve to imitate the beloved disciple in “**making a place for Mary in our home, our hearts, our community, our lives, our mission**”. Pope Paul's apostolic exhortation *Marialis Cultus* sets out precise directives and places a direct responsibility on us religious “to promote a genuine creative activity of expressions and exercises of piety directed towards the Blessed Virgin. Therefore, just as Don Bosco was able to give special honour and foster devotion to our Lady through the “birth” of the Congregation and the Salesian family, so **today we should with equal love and initiative, know how to give her special honour and veneration everyday of our lives, through our consecration and mission.**

It is good for us to note here that Don Bosco did not arrive at this devotion by mere chance, nor was it dependent on some local apparition; it appears rather as the maturation of a spiritual and apostolic line of thought that had been developing and becoming clearer with successive historical circumstances, interpreted in the light of a deep personal dialogue with the Holy Spirit in the context of those typically characteristic Marian touches so familiar in the daily life of Don Bosco. **The Help of Christians represents the peak of Don Bosco's feelings about our Lady:** advocate, helper, mother of youth, protectress of Christian people, conqueror of the devil, victor over heresy, aid of the Church in difficulty, bastion of the Pope and the Bishops tormented by the forces of evil.

This deep awareness of Mary's personal relationship with him was to help Don Bosco to develop spontaneously in his heart a care and affection that go far beyond local Marian feasts and titles, though he certainly appreciated and celebrated these with enthusiasm. This mark of personal relationship with the Madonna will always be characteristic of him: **his Marian devotion leads him directly to the living person of Mary and in her he contemplates and admires her greatness, her numerous roles and the many titles of veneration attached to her.** Thus, a Marian devotion was gradually built up in Don Bosco's heart of a kind which was not compartmentalized or partial, but comprehensive and total, centered directly on the living and real aspect more ecclesiastically proper to the person of Mary. **In Mary Help of Christians Don Bosco finally recognized the true image of the Lady who had established his vocation and had been and always would be his inspirer and guide.** “*The experience of eighteen centuries - wrote Don Bosco, drawing from authoritative sources - makes us realize very vividly that from heaven Mary has continued with great success the mission of Mother of the Church and Help of Christians that she had begun on earth*”. **We know too how Don Bosco retained and deepened in his heart the sense of the presence of Mary in his vocation and in the life of the Church.** His meditations and personal intuitions in this regard is widely recorded. The construction of the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians at Valdocco by Don Bosco is in itself quite prodigious. It was to be a shrine to Mary for the city, the country and the world itself, open to more

universal spiritual and apostolic needs. **From the time this sanctuary came into existence the Help of Christians became the Marian expression that would always characterize the spirit and the apostolate of Don Bosco:** his entire apostolic vocation he would see as the work of Mary Help of Christians; and his many great initiatives, especially the Society of St. Francis of Sales, the Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians and the big Salesian family would in his eyes be foundations desired and watched over by her.

Elements to enhance our Marian Devotion

Let us now dwell briefly on some of the rudiments which were strongly emphasized by our Father Don Bosco, and which help to give this devotion a characteristic physiognomy and style. In the first place, **the living awareness of the personal presence of Mary** in the history of salvation brings to Don Bosco's devotion, as we have already seen, **the continual desire to establish a living relationship with her.** This awareness of the personal presence of Mary Help of Christians was felt positively by Don Bosco in his own life as a basic objective fact, a fundamental element of his whole vocation both as regards the objectives and style of his apostolic mission and the delineation of his own evangelic spirit.

Secondly, **the Church's renewal is strictly linked with the relaunching of a sound Marian devotion. Loss of the sense of the maternal vocation of the Virgin Mary leads to a loss of the sense of the Church as 'mother'.**

Thirdly, and most importantly, it is certainly a fact, and we are very grateful for it, that **there is an intimate link between devotion to the Help of Christians and our Salesian vocation.** It is not difficult to demonstrate this in Don Bosco: from the beginning as in the dream at the Becchi at the age of nine, to the end as in the dream at Barcelona in 1886; from the catechism classes begun with Bartholomew Garelli, to the way in which he obtained the approval of the Constitutions of the Society of St Francis of Sales; from the intimate conviction of Don Bosco expressed on so many occasions, to the external sign of the wonderful works he accomplished. But the origins are only the first fruits of the total reality. **Our Founder assures us that the Salesian vocation cannot be explained either in its birth or in its continuing development without the continual and maternal guidance of Mary.** Often, he himself claimed that the Madonna was its "Foundress" and its "Support", and he assures us that our Congregation is destined to do great things and to spread all over the world, if the Salesians remain faithful to the Rule given to them by Mary.



Our Devotion to Mary Help of Christians

Without doubt it would be of great benefit to study in depth the significance and function of devotion to the Help of Christians in our Salesian Spirituality. Now devotion to the Help of Christians is, as we have seen, an integral part of the "Salesian phenomenon" in the Church because it forms a vital part of its totality. It would be senseless and even destructive to try to separate our spirituality from devotion to Mary Help of Christians, just as it is impossible to separate Don Bosco from the Madonna; that would be an absurdity. **Devotion to the Help of Christians is therefore an essential part of our charism.**



It permeates its whole structure and gives life to the various component parts. Without a healthy Marian life our spirituality would suffer in its vigour and fruitfulness, while on the other hand a timely effort towards a profound Marian renewal will give freshness to the whole of the Salesian vocation. Let it suffice to note how our

devotion to the Help of Christians is closely and vitally connected with the Salesian “mission” and with the “spirit” of our own particular charism.

Don Bosco “was not content with just loving the Help of Christians; he did a great deal also to make her loved by others. A kind of pact exists between Mary Help of Christians and the Salesian Family. Mary helps this Family and looks after the development of its enterprises. In their turn the members and the branches of the Salesian Family, each in its own way, spread the cult of the Help of Christians among both young and old. It is one aspect of the Salesian service to the Church.



Some Practical Guidelines to help us cherish and nurture this Marian Devotion

My dear confreres, I think that there is an urgent need for a genuine renewal of our devotion to Mary Help of Christians in all our communities once again rendering present the charism of our Founder, making it become concrete and genuine. Every community will need to study local possibilities and methods, and I ask all the Rectors/Leaders to insert a carefully prepared Marian activity into their daily plans for the community, in dialogue with the other groups of the Salesian Family. An immediate increase of devotion to the Help of Christians will certainly revive even our Salesian Family Spirit and give every confrere a spiritual enhancement both at the personal and community level:

- 1. The recitation of the Angelus thrice a day without omitting the three Hail Marys!**
- 2. Lauds in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturdays when liturgically feasible.**
- 3. A prayerful and daily recitation of the Holy Rosary in the community (and personally too) at any appropriate time of the day together with our beneficiaries, where possible.**
- 4. Celebration of the Holy Mass in honour of Our Lady every Saturday whenever the liturgy permits.**
- 5. Marian Month celebration (either in May, August or October) depending on the mission.**
- 6. Daily recitation of three Hail Mary's during the Marian Month as a community.**
- 7. Solemn liturgical celebration of all the Marian Feast days, especially Mary, Mother of God Jan.1st), Mary Help of Christians (24th May), Assumption (15th Aug.), Nativity of Our Lady (8th Sept.) and Immaculate Conception (8th Dec.) together with our beneficiaries, where possible.**
- 8. Reading of Marian Church Documents during the Spiritual Reading at least in May, August and October every year.**
- 9. Solemn commemoration (Procession, Rosary, Litany, Holy Eucharist) of Mary Help of Christians on the 24th of every month (even if it is a Sunday or holiday) as a Salesian community and with the beneficiaries too.**
- 10. Revive the tradition (if not present) of the daily Good Night Talk in all our communities, even if it is just for Salesians only. Salesians can take turns to give these 3-minute talks which will certainly be of immense help in strengthening our spiritual life.**
- 11. There are 14 articles on Mary in the Constitutions and Regulations of the Society of St. Francis de Sales. Please read them devoutly personally and animate the Community's *Lectio Divina* on them, particularly on articles 87 and 92.**
- 12. *Mary has and is still playing a vital role in the lives of many of us. Organize an evening with the community members and share your personal experiences with each other.***



Conclusion: Why this predilection of Mary for Don Bosco?

What Don Bosco did was the work of Mary, it was her initiative, he was told to do it with her method of gentleness and kindness. The first article of our Constitutions affirms: *'Through the motherly intervention of Mary, the Holy Spirit raised up Saint John Bosco to contribute to the salvation of youth.'* For starters, it is interesting to note that it is Our Lady who points the way to the Saint! She does not say: "Go wherever you want," but shows him the right path, for God has chosen a path for each one of us; a path which, if we are faithful, we must tread all the way to the end.

In the case of Don Bosco, his path was not without many crosses and suffering, symbolized by the thorns that afflicted the great saint. In our earthly life, God wants us to face and overcome obstacles in order to sanctify ourselves and gain merits for Heaven. As one can see from the words of the Saint, people can sometimes wrongly assess the situation of others, seeing only roses and no thorns. In any case, what matters is not the concept that others have of us but what we do before God, who judges our right intention regardless of what others may think. However, Mother Mary also warns Don Bosco about the dangers inherent to his well-deserving activity of educating the young. Indeed, educators can have attachments, preferences, ulterior motives, dislikes, and so forth. However, when doing something for the love of God, the latter must be our sole motivation, without mixing emotions and movements of the soul that distract us from that love, depriving us of the merits we would gain for our actions.

Finally, it is worth noting that Our Lady promises happiness — the rose without thorns — but only at the end! In this earthly life we will face greater or lesser problems and sufferings. Perfect happiness is attained only in the eternal life, for which we must constantly prepare ourselves. Let us emulate our Father and Founder Saint John Bosco by doing what God asks of us with courage and perseverance: we will not lack the means to do it; eventually, we will receive the prize that Our Lady has prepared for us: Eternal bliss! Dear confreres, let us listen again to the last words of Don Bosco: **"The Blessed Virgin Mary will certainly continue to protect our Congregation and our Salesian works if we continue to place our trust in her and promote devotion to her."** Let us promise Don Bosco that we will really act in this way as true sons, imitating his great trust and his ardent gift of self.

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE

INM EXTRAORDINARY VISITATION 2019

As already mentioned in my April 2019 Circular, **Rev. Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga SDB**, General Councillor in charge of South Asia Region, will be the **Extraordinary Visitor of INM for the Extraordinary Canonical Visitation of our Province**. We wholeheartedly welcome Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga and assure him of our full collaboration to ensure the success of this Extraordinary Visitation. The official appointment letter from the Rector Major, the letter from the Extraordinary Visitor to the confreres as well as the requirements for the Extraordinary Visitation were sent to you last month but am sending them again with this Circular. **KINDLY READ THROUGH THE INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN BY THE EXTRAORDINARY VISITOR AND PREPARE WELL FOR THE VISITATION.**

SCHEDULE FOR INM EXTRAORDINARY VISITATION 2019 - FIRST PHASE

DATE			COMMUNITY	CONTACT DETAILS
May	18	Sat	REGIONAL ARRIVES IN INM	
May	19	Sun	Jolarpet Parish	Fr. Arulanandam Devasagayam - +919443423344
May	20	Mon	Jolarpet Parish	Fr. Arulanandam Devasagayam - +919443423344
May	21	Tue	Polur ITI	Fr. Paul Mark - +91 9787364004
May	22	Wed	Polur ITI	Fr. Paul Mark - +919486914627
May	23	Thu	SIHARAM, TV Malai	Fr. Michaelraj Lazar - +919445775817
May	24	Fri	SIHARAM, TV Malai	Afternoon to Pondy Parish for Perpetuals
May	25	Sat	Citadel	Provincial Council Meeting
May	26	Sun	SM Nagar Parish	Fr. Clement - +91944498924
May	27	Mon	REGIONAL LEAVES CHENNAI AND ARRIVES IN FUJAIRAH	
May	28	Tue	Fujairah	Fr. P. Sagayaraj - +971503324026
May	29	Wed	Fujairah	Fr. P. Sagayaraj - +971503324026

The schedule for the second phase of the Extraordinary Visitation will be sent to you soon. Fr. Anbu Francis the Provincial Secretary will accompany Fr. Maria Arokiam Kanaga SDB. Therefore, for all information and communication with regard to the Extraordinary Visitation, kindly contact him.

FIRST PROFESSIONS

The Provincial Council met on 15.04.2019 regarding the admission of the Novices for their First Profession. After prayer and discernment together, the following novices have been admitted for the First Profession, which will be on **24th May 2019, in Idaya Deepam Novitiate, Yellagiri Hills, at 7.00 a.m.** find below the details:

Akash A. (INT)	Francis Xavier A. (INM)	Mariya Anthiyok S. (INT)
Akilan J. (INT)	Hemant Kumar Minj S. (INM)	Nirmalpackyaraj T. (INT)
Arun Kumar P. (INM)	Ignatious Patrick D. (INT)	Paulsilvester P. J. (INM)
Christen P. (INT)	John Felix (INM)	Pradeep B. (INT)
Darwin J. (INM)	Johnson Tony A. (INM)	Robin Son P. (INM)
Deepakroshan D. (INM)	Lokesh K. (INM)	

I take this opportunity to thank the Rector & Novice Master, Rev. Fr. Pathiaraj, for his personal care and accompaniment of the Novices. My thanks also to the Salesians for supporting him in this noble task of formation. I wish the Novices have a meaningful experience of Salesian life as we accompany them on their Salesian experience.

PERPETUAL PROFESSIONS

Hearty congratulations to our eleven INM clerics who have been admitted for their Perpetual Vows this year. The Perpetual Profession will be on 24th May 2019, at Holy Spirit Church, Tagore Nagar, Pondy, at 5 p.m. We assure them of our prayers as they commit themselves in perpetuity to the Lord in the service of the poor and marginalized youth, following in the footsteps of Don Bosco, our Father and Founder.

Amirtharaj John Bosco	Anandaraj Thairiyathan	Arokiasamy Anand
Christuraj Periyanyagam	Edward Pethal	Dominic Jerome Cyril
Arumainathan Jerry	Leo Joseph Arokiadoss	Maria Fernandes Joseph
Gnanasekar Nitiyan	Martin Sukan Laleth Kumar	

RENEWALS

All those who are renewing their vows this year (and Perpetuals) will be present at 5 p.m. on 23rd May 2019 at Holy Spirit Church, Tagore Nagar, Pondy, for the Recollection. The Renewals will be on 24th morning in Tagore Nagar at 7 a.m.

PAVUNJUR

We are grateful to God and to **Habitat for Humanity** for having built 12 houses for the homeless people of Pavunjur Parish and handing them over to the deserving families on 30th April 2019. Another 15 houses have been approved and the foundation for the same has already been laid. We sincerely thank the former Parish Priest Fr. Michael Thomas and the present Salesian community, under the leadership of Fr. Raj Michael for the hard work put in to make this project a reality. Thanks also to SURABI for following up the formalities in this process.

INM MEETINGS IN JUNE – PLAN AHEAD

Date	Day	JUNE 2019
1	Sat	Meeting for the Practical Training and College Student Brothers
2	Sun	Youth Pastoral Core Team Meet
3	Mon	Vyasarpadi (Morning)/ Staff Meet @ Kavrapettai (Afternoon) / Students of Theology (INM) Meet @ Citadel (Evening)
4	Tue	Students of Theology (INM) Meet @ Citadel
5	Wed	YAR Sector Meet
6	Thu	Social Sector Meet
7	Fri	Department Heads Meet (Youth Service)
8	Sat	Rectors & Leaders Meet
9	Sun	Provincial Council / Evening S.M. Nagar @ 6 p.m.
13	Thu	Formation Sector Meet
14	Fri	Higher Education Sector Meet / Technical Sector Meet
15	Sat	DBYA Network Heads Meet, SPCI, Delhi - HMs/Principals Meet - Academic Sector Meet
16	Sun	Administrators Meet / Youth Ministry Department Directors Meet
21	Fri	Meeting of all the Commission and Dimension Heads and Members
22	Sat	Meeting of all the Local Youth Ministry Coordinators Meet / Local Delegate of DB Alumni Meet
23	Sun	Provincial Council of the Salesian Cooperators Meet / Local Coordinators of Cooperators Meet
28	Fri	Parish Priests Meet / Local Delegate of the coordinators Meet
29	Sat	Online Survey Dissemination of DB School Leadership @ Chennai / All India Education Conference
30	Sun	PC 2019 Review Committee Members Meet

CONGRATS TO OUR SCHOOLS

I place on record all the hard work put in by all our schools towards preparing our students for the exams and in achieving good results in the tenth and twelfth standard examinations. Congratulations dear Salesians, Principals, Head Masters, staff and students. A sincere thanks to you Salesians, faculty members and parents for accompanying and motivating our young people during the days of exams. I recommend to continue offering your guidance and advice to our students to help them choose the right field of education for their future.

PERMANENT TRANSFER

Fr. Anand Adaikalasamy has been definitively transferred to the Province of Madras (INM) through the Decree of the Rector Major dated 8th April 2019 (Prot. No.19/0136). I welcome him to our Province, and we wish him joy, happiness and fulfilment in his Salesian priestly vocation here in INM.

YOUTH PASCH

Youth Pasch 2019 was a joint venture of INT and INM Province to catechize the youth on the Paschal Mystery of Christ and prepare them to meaningfully celebrate the solemnity of Easter. This event was held for three days from 18 to 21 April 2019 at Don Bosco Youth Village, Keeranur Susaipudayanpatti. Forty-five young people from both the Provinces participated. The Ilamai and the Catechetical Departments of INT together with Deepagam and DBYES from INM organised this event. Sincere thanks to the Keeranur Salesian community for coordinating this memorable occasion and special thanks to the organizers and the INT Province in a special way for hosting the event. Our appreciation also to Deepagam and DBYES.

PRAY FOR SRI LANKA

It was indeed a very shocking occurrence to know about the series of bomb blasts in Sri Lanka on EASTER SUNDAY 21st April 2019. **It is reported that more than 300 people were killed and more than 500 injured in the blasts that targeted Churches and Hotels.** We express our togetherness to the Provincial and confreres of the Vice Province of Sri Lanka, in this terrific moment of anxiety and turbulence. Let us continue to support and pray to the Risen Lord, through special prayers services and adorations, for all those who were tragically killed, injured and all who are suffering as a result of this traumatic event.

REST IN PEACE – Our Heartfelt Sympathies and prayers for the dear departed...

Mrs. A. Maria Kuzhandai (70), mother of Fr. Robert Vincent passed away on 10th April 2019.
Mr. Joseph Rosario, brother of Fr. Amalan Seraphin, died on 20th April 2019.

ST. JOSEPH, THE WORKER

As I conclude this Circular, just a note about this silent and sincere Saint, Joseph, the Worker! The proverb "*Actions speak louder than words*" finds its fulfilment in him! A man who did not utter even a single (recorded) word in Scripture yet fulfilled his sacred mission as Foster Father of the Saviour and as the Faithful Spouse, the first and the supreme devotee of Our Lady! May we learn from him to make our actions speak louder and more convincingly than our words and to imitate his devotion for our Blessed Mother, Mary, Help of Christians.



Yours truly in Don Bosco,

Fr. K.M. Jose SDB
Provincial

Date: 01.05.2019
Place: Chennai – 600010.