



INM-KMJ-CIR 28/06-2019

JUNE 2019

SELECT FROM AMONG YOURSELVES MEN & WOMEN OF GOOD REPUTATION

Dear Confreres,



As we begin the new academic year 2019-20, I wish you all a very wonderful experience of working together in the mission as a community, looking only to serve and not to be served. We should always remember that all of us, no matter what position we may hold, should seek happiness only in the faithful and fruitful fulfilment of our consecration and mission. In this Circular, I wish to renew our obligation to involve more lay people as full-fledged partners in our Salesian Mission. During this academic year, the Province will be focused on this theme of 'lay involvement' in all our encounters and as I visit the communities, I will also personally meet our lay collaborators and initiate the process of preparing them for a wider and more participative roles in our work. Therefore, before I go to them, I thought it would be a good idea to refresh our own minds with the traditional spirit of a collaborative spirit of working closely together with the lay people at all levels. This we are doing, not because of a lack of Salesian personnel, but because of a conscious choice that we wish to make, in order to make our own Salesian consecration more meaningful and to enhance the Salesian mission more effectively.

Biblical Reason for a more Collaborative Lay Involvement in our Mission – Acts 6: 1-7

*At the time, **the number of the disciples was greatly increasing. A complaint arose from the Grecian Jews against the Hebrews because the Grecian widows were being neglected in the daily ministry. The twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, 'It's not appropriate for us to forsake the Word of God and serve tables. Therefore brethren, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom. Then we can appoint those men over this business, and we Apostles will continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the Ministry of the Word.'** This proposal pleased the whole multitude. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. The congregation presented these men to the apostles. When the apostles had prayed, they laid their hands on the chosen men." The **Word of God increased, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem. A great company of the priests obeyed the faith.**"*

In the Bible there are numerous instances of lay people collaborating and helping the Prophets as well as Jesus and his Apostles. But I thought that the above passage has got the motivation, the process as well as the results! So, trying to interpret the above passage in tune with our theme, we can confidently say that, by God's grace, our numbers have also increased, both, Salesians as well as our beneficiaries! **Our institutions and our presences have also increased.** And just as in the above passage, today also we do hear criticisms, not only from lay people, but from religious and even

Salesians, that, **we are not giving sufficient time to render spiritual service of those entrusted to our care.** It is wrong to think that spreading the Word of God must be done only in the Parishes or during the celebration of the Sacraments! *It's not appropriate for us to forsake the Word of God and serve tables.* In some of our institutions, we are only becoming Managers and Supervisors or Financial administrators. And for this, we have only ourselves to blame for this cyclic process! **Our institutions need us, and we need our institutions!** We have created our institutions and in turn we knowingly or unknowingly are formed for our institutions. Instead, as Salesian Priests and consecrated persons, we need to devote quality time, not just in monitoring the daily routine of our institutional work, but for the beneficiaries themselves. It is not enough to sit in our offices and plan out painstakingly as well as meticulously the various events of the institution. We need to meet our beneficiaries every day and as often as possible during the day, face to face, in order to and get to know them and offer them wholistic support, especially of a sacramental and pastoral nature. **Our institutions can very well serve as places of evangelization, either directly or indirectly, only if we are able to actually come in contact with those entrusted to our care.** And to achieve this, the opportunity of lay collaboration comes in very persuasively. *We will continue to devote ourselves to prayer and to the Ministry of the Word.* We need to select from among our lay collaborators, men and women, of good reputation, whom we can appoint, to carry out the important work of the regular running of the school/college/institution while we ourselves get up from our office chairs and up on our feet so that we can reach down to even the smallest children in our institutions, classrooms, playground, evening study centres, oratories, neighbourhood and beyond. The poor and the needy are just outside our compound wall! **We have become Salesians not to become Rectors, Headmasters, Principals or Administrators. We have chosen to be followers of Jesus Christ, just as Don Bosco did!** Noting how the above passage ends, *The Word of God increased, the number of the disciples multiplied greatly, and the priests obeyed the faith,* I am certain that even our Province will experience a rejuvenation of the Holy Spirit within us if we begin to **choose the better part** and allow the lay people to ably assist us in this process, so that the Wisdom of God himself will undoubtedly guide us every day as we journey ahead.

Don Bosco and his Vision of Lay Partnership

Don Bosco was **inspired to create a vast movement of persons to bring the Gospel of Jesus to young people** and to work for their benefit. He founded:

The Society of St. Francis de Sales (Salesians of Don Bosco),
The Institute of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians (Salesian Sisters),
The Association of Salesian Cooperators, and
The Association Devoted to Mary our Help (ADMA)

Other Salesian Family Groups have formed since then and today there are 31 Groups. The Salesian Family Groups have spread throughout the world. These Groups **live in communion with each other, share the same spirit,** and with **specifically distinct vocations,** continue the mission Don Bosco began. Don Bosco's **Salesian charism continues to inspire people** to serve young people, especially those who are poor and at risk.

To be in the Salesian Family is to hold a great responsibility in the Church. We need to continue to **grow in communion among ourselves,** to be **enthusiastic and hope-filled,** contemplating the world as God's Creation and trusting always that **the goodness in human hearts is much greater than the weaknesses.**



Apart from the officially recognized 31 Groups as Members of the Salesian Family, I would like to highlight various other Groups and Movements which exist in many of our Institutions and which can certainly be brought under a wider perspective banner of the Salesian Family given the fact that **they are present and collaborate with us in our mission and receive constantly from us the Spirit of Don Bosco himself through various methods animations.**

The Staff/Teachers in our Institutions

Parents-Teachers Association

Officially Recognized Associations - Cubs, Scouts & Guides /NCC/NSS/JRC/YCS/YCM/Red Ribbon

Groups in our Educational Institutions - Eco/Media/Social/Sports/Cultural/Literary/Civics Rights/Dramatics/RSP/Sodalities/House System/)

Associations in our Parishes - (Choir/Altar Servers/Anbians/Youth/Legion of Mary/St. Vincent de Paul/Madha Sabai)

Continuing and Intensifying Don Bosco's Vision

All of us are called to be instruments and **to grow in knowledge, in prayer and in the imitation of the Gospel** and of the Salesian charism in the world. In our working collaboratively with the lay people, we must pay close attention to all procedures for concerted action and decision-making! **We must prepare meetings suitably so they will not deteriorate into routine!** We must think of the future so that a new generation of dynamic and committed Salesians may be trained for such responsibilities! **It is a decisive form of collaboration for the Congregation! It is a place of permanent training in co-responsibility.** It is a school of realism in which the Gospel encounters our society, clashes with economic, cultural, and pedagogical realities as well as with the difficulties facing every Catholic institution in our own day!

Let us not wait until we have a real emergency to make a move toward replacement! Let us not play the politics of the ostrich. **Let us not hold out until our strength is exhausted, all the while neglecting to prepare for the future, to foresee the necessary stages, to set certain deadlines for change.** Otherwise the situation will be settled catastrophically amid disastrous conditions. It is not enough just to pull out of the game and abandon the school to its sad fate or to the highest bidder! That would be immoral! Let us take more interest in bringing in more collaborators without lessening our interest in spiritual leadership. Let us share our spirit so that, when it is picked up by others, it may be the guiding light of the institutional structures and a ferment of dynamism.

Innovating Without Too Much Fear

As we step into the new academic year 2019-20, with this call to intensify our collaboration with the lay people, do not imagine that I underrate all that is already being accomplished! I am well aware of many successes, of the generosity of certain communities and of the efforts of our many rural presences. But we must go further. **We need to overcome our self-sufficiency reflex in order to develop all forms of collaboration with greater boldness.** We need to have greater recourse than we now do to qualified individuals and organizations. We are deeply rooted in the habit of looking to our own almost exclusively for the person qualified for a specific task. We even run the risk of giving up the project altogether if we do not find such a person—and this often happens. Why can't we develop the contrary reflex: where can we find the same competence? Because of our lack of sufficient interest, because we don't know how to the right place to seek and to follow it through, we don't get much in the line of scholarships, nor of more substantial grants, nor of contributions from specialized

organizations. We collaborate very little with groups focusing habitually on the upliftment of the poorest of the poor! **We need to turn to our lay collaborators!** They are the need of the hour!

Seven Habits of Highly Effective People

We are all quite familiar with this classic by Stephen Covey. The fourth, fifth and sixth habits are extremely helpful to form successful groups.

4th Habit: Think Win/Win

Win/Win is not a technique; it’s a total philosophy of human interaction. It is a frame of mind and heart that constantly seeks mutual benefit in all human interactions. All parties feel good about the decision and feel committed to the action plan. It is based on the paradigm that there is plenty for everybody, that one person’s success is not achieved at the expense or exclusion of the success of others.

Win/Win is a belief in the third alternative: It’s not your way or my way; it’s a better way, a higher way.

In win/lose, we use the authoritarian approach: “I’ll get my way; you don’t get yours”. Such people use power, credentials, possessions or personality to get their way.

The Four Success Paradigms, which shows the four paradigms each of us may have in relation to success, with examples.

The Four Success Paradigms

Me	The Other Person	Paradigm	Example
Lose	Lose	Lose-Lose	Someone who doesn't try and doesn't think anything can work out for anyone
Lose	Win	Lose-Win	A martyr type who thinks that the world is a competition, and doesn't want anyone else to lose
Win	Lose	Win-Lose	The classic competitor: From football player to salesman
Win	Win	Win-Win	An entrepreneur who succeeds by delighting his customers

When we work in our communities and in the various groups, if we operate from the Win/Win paradigm, we can be sure of good collaboration, commitment and completion of the task at hand.

Habit Five: Seek first to understand then to be understood

When we have the ability to understand the feelings of others, the well-being of others, the happiness of others, we seek first to understand the other. At times, we want others to understand us because we might think that my ideas are correct and even perfect. So, we expect others to fall in line with my thinking. But it is only a selfless person who can see from the other’s perspective and give merit to their ideas. In this way, we give credit to my neighbour and build up people around me. It is in this understanding spirit that we build up happy communities.

My ego usually will not allow another to have better ideas or solutions. One has to let go of the ego to appreciate the goodness in the other and make them feel good. When we understand the why of one’s behaviour, we will be much more considerate and help a person to let go of his negative attitude.

Habit Six: Synergize

The essence of synergy is to value and respect differences, to build on strengths and to compensate for weaknesses. The author says that many of us haven't actually experienced synergy in our family lives or in other interactions. We've been shaped into defensive and protective communications or into believing that life or other people can't be trusted. Therefore, we tend to not open up to this highly effective principle which "requires enormous personal security and openness and a spirit of adventure".

When we garner together all the God-given talents for the mission, we see the best of results. When we go in for comparison and competition, we naturally engage in jealousy, conflict and fights become obvious. The best way is therefore to synergize and grow from strength to strength.

I do feel that these three habits can help us to come together, work together and achieve greater effectiveness. These habits can help in the formation of our communities. A happy united community is the best witness and sermon for all our groups. Looking at us, people should be able to say: "**How they love one another and work together as one family**". This is the best gift we can give to the world today.

We have taken for ourselves the six priorities of which the third is lay formation and participation.

It is our ardent desire that we consider all our lay collaborators as partners of our mission and build up the mission as a family. Let us see our lay staff as part of our mission and give them the recognition by making them sharers of our mission by discerning together, deciding together, working together and being transparent. In this way, we will form happy Salesian family spirit and the mission will be at its peak leading all to the one desire we all have: "**To possess God forever**".

SANCTITY IS HALLMARK OF THE SALESIAN FAMILY



The Dossier of the General Postulation of the Causes of Saints of the Salesian Family has been updated, presenting the situation of the Causes of Beatification and Canonization in 2018. "At this moment," explains Fr. Pierluigi Cameroni, SDB, Postulator General, "Postulation accompanies 50 Causes concerning 168 between Saints, Blessed, Venerable, Servants of God. There are also 5 other causes entrusted to our Postulation: the Venerable Casimiro Barello, Camille Costa de Beauregard and Jan Tyranowski, the Servants of God Augusto Bertazzoni and Felice Canelli."

Every Saint, Blessed, Venerable, Servant of God is the bearer of a wealth of aspects that must be considered and valued. It is a matter of contemplating a diamond with many faces, some more visible and attractive, others less immediate, but no less true and decisive. Knowing and making known these extraordinary figures of believers generates a progressive involvement in their journey, a passionate interest in their affairs, a joyous sharing of projects and hopes that animated their steps.

No doubt it will be of great interest for the Salesian Family, and especially for 31 Groups of the great family tree, to see some of their members involved in one of these processes. As Fr. Rua wrote in a letter to the Salesian Rectors in February 1888, a few days after the burial of Don Bosco's body in Valsalice: "Be it our motto from now on: **the sanctity of the children be proof of the sanctity of the father.**"

The Strenna of the Rector Major for this year is a strong invitation to know and appreciate this precious heritage and to stimulate renewed resolutions of holiness. The Rector Major wrote: "**My dear brothers and sisters, I can safely say that the greatest need and the greatest urgency we have today**

in our Salesian world is not to do more things, to plan and redesign new realities, to start new presences... but to show what our lives communicate personally and collectively, our way of living the Gospel, which develops and extends over time, as a prolongation of the way of life of Jesus. Ultimately our sanctity is at stake!"

Conclusion

Even though the collaboration between religious and laypersons has a long history, the fact remains that in almost all of our institutions, the communitarian responsibilities and tasks are assumed by us. We depended entirely on our own resources. **We are self-sufficient.** We have to gradually allow the lay to take charge. In light of the number of young religious in formation and the demands stemming from numerous restrictions and qualitative requirements, **we can no longer be the jack-of-all-trades missionaries that we have been in the past. We must share our responsibilities and depend more on the collaboration of laypersons, allowing them an indispensable freedom of action.**

This is not a simply technical operation. The insertion of laypersons right into the fabric of our communitarian life, demands on our part a change in mentality, habits, ways of looking at things and of making decisions. **Dialogue, sharing and co-responsibility** are words we need to use on a regular basis in the near future. **A change in outlook is demanded of us** at a moment when our communities are finding it hard to adapt to much-needed transformations. This new orientation will be beneficial only if we are willing to adapt to new conditions. **Are we able to sacrifice our habits and our comforts to our love for the Kingdom?** For, in the last analysis, that is what is really at stake!

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCE

THANK YOU

INM Vocation Camp – Sincere thanks to the Vocation Promoter and those who helped out in the Vocation Camp.

First Profession – We thank the Novice Master Rev. Fr. Pathiaraj Rayappan and the Novitiate community of Don Bosco Idaya Deepam, Yelagiri Hills, for planning and hosting the First Profession of our INT & INM Novices on the morning of 24th May 2019. We congratulate the newly professed! It was a memorable occasion indeed!

Perpetual Profession & Renewals – We are immensely grateful to Rectors and Salesians of both the communities of Puducherry, viz. Tagore Nagar and Thattanchavady, for the organization of the Perpetuals and Renewals on the 24th of May 2019. Our prayerful wishes to them. A note of appreciation to the Vice Provincial for the prior preparation for this momentous day.

Summer Camp for DBTC Students

In line with the Priorities of the Province (Strengthening the Rural Presences) of the Province as well as following the recommendation of the INM PC 2019, a one-month Social Exposure Program was organized for the students of Theology (DBTC Kavarapettai) by the Social Commission and DBSARC. The main objectives were:

a) To give exposure to our students of theology on current socio/politico situation of Northern Tamil Nadu (INM territory)

b) To scientifically study the possibilities for social outreach interventions in the neighbourhood of every Salesian presence in our Province.

Five days of input sessions were conducted for the brothers in DB Rural centre at T.K. Puram and 25 days of field visits were organized. All the Brothers enthusiastically participated in the program and did their best to contribute to each of our Salesian presences in our Province. The results are being consolidated by DBSARC and the same will be given to each house to be incorporated into the EPP of the house to be implemented during the academic year.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank the organizers, DBSARC and the Social Commission Members for organizing this camp for our Brothers. My thanks also to the other Salesians involved and to the people of T.K. Puram for facilitating their stay and the field work. I am sure this experience will revivify in our young Salesians a profound love to work for the poor wherever we are.

Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle

This year the **INM Jubilee celebrations** on the **3rd July 2019** will be in **Don Bosco Yelagiri Hills**. The Official Invitation will be sent to you soon.

Planning Committee for Rector Major's Visit

In view of the **Rector Major's Visit** to our Province from **September 6th – 9th 2019**, the Provincial Council has formed a Planning Committee to look into the logistics of the Visit. The members are:

Fr. John Bosco Lourdusamy

Fr. Xavier Packia

Bro. Anandaraj Savariappan

Fr. Antonyraj Chinnappan

Fr. Edwin George

Fr. Parthibanraj Soosai

Let us plan well and ensure that this visit of our dear Rector Major is a blessing for all the members of the Salesian Family.

Change in Transfers & Appointments

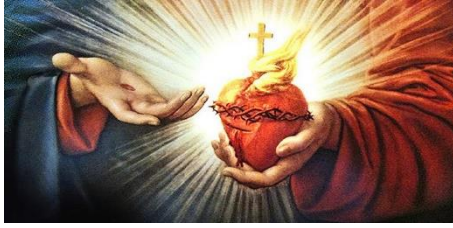
Due to unavoidable circumstances, **Fr. Johnson Paulraj** will not be returning to INM this year. Therefore, **Bro. Arokiasamy Velankanni** will be the Administrator of Basin Bridge community.

Rest In Peace

Rev. Sr. Perez Mary Maddalene FMA (95), passed away on 19th May. The funeral was held in Our Lady's Convent, Chetpet, at 9 a.m. on 20th May.

Mrs. Mary (56), younger sister of Fr. Mark Velanganny, passed away on 20th May. The funeral was held the same day.

Mrs. S. Theresa Raj (80, Rtd. Headmistress), mother of Fr. Gilbert passed away on 25th May. The funeral was held on 26th May at Mugalur.



FEAST OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

In the Catholic Church, the month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This great feast in the Church is always celebrated on the Octave Day of Corpus Christi, the feast which celebrates the Body and Blood of Christ. Corpus Christi falls on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday (which itself falls on the Sunday after Pentecost), which means the feast of the Sacred Heart falls nineteen days after Pentecost Sunday. The following day is the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, so these two devotions to the hearts of Jesus and Mary are side-by-side on the liturgical calendar. Jesus also gave us, through St. Margaret Mary, **special promises for those who keep a loving devotion to the attribute of His infinite love for mankind as represented in His Most Sacred Heart.** Close to the Heart of the Son is the Heart of the Mother whom the Church celebrates the day after the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Let it again be the Holy Father who illuminates us with regard to this mystery: **“The heart that resembles that of Christ more than any other is without a doubt the Heart of Mary,** his Immaculate Mother, and for this very reason the liturgy holds them up together for our veneration. Responding to the Virgin's invitation at Fatima, let us entrust the whole world to her Immaculate Heart, which we contemplated yesterday in a special way, so that it may experience the merciful love of God and know true peace” (Benedict XVI, Angelus 5 June 2005).

Don Bosco's own great devotion was such that he himself wrote that, after the revelations to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, **“This devotion was taken up by clergy and lay people with exceptional zeal, as though it corresponded to some pressing need of the human heart”.** Fr. Giulio Barberis SDB wrote about Don Bosco's devotion: “Don Bosco's devotion to the Sacred Heart was admirable. He recommended it in a big way to his boys...”. 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, which now, incidentally, is our Salesian Generalate! Seventy-six years ago, the Salesian Province of South India was consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. 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.

Yours affectionately,

Fr. K.M. Jose SDB

Provincial

Date: 02.06.2019

Place: Chennai - 600010