



SALESIAN PROVINCE of ANNAI VELANKANNI

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DON BOSCO PROVINCIAL HOUSE, 65, Illuppur Road, Kallukuzhy, Tiruchy - 620 020
☎ 0431 2316324 / 2316525 🌐 www.donboscotiruchy.org

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR

01 DECEMBER 2019

DEAR CONFRERES, ○○

Greetings and Prayerful Wishes.

We are beginning the season of Advent, a time of preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Jesus. Christmas reminds us that Christ entered into our history as the gift par excellence. During this Season, giving and receiving gifts is only an external sign of our desire to be a gift to each other. May this celebration, the exchange of gifts remind us of our apostolic commitment to be the Lord's gift to the poor youngsters, giving ourselves totally and unconditionally for their welfare, without sparing anything of ourselves, our time, talents and energies. May the Child of Bethlehem be our inspiration and model in our efforts to see him in the broken and shattered face of the poor children and youngsters.



We are in the Novena in preparation for the feast of Immaculate Conception, a feast very close to our charism and the beginnings of our congregation. Let us celebrate the preparation and the feast meaningfully asking her guidance for the growth of the Salesian Mission to the poor, marginalized and those at the periphery. Wish you all a very happy feast of Immaculate Conception.

THANKS TO THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR THEIR VISIT ○○

Rev. Fr. Fabio Attard SDB, General Councilor for Youth Ministry made a short visit to the province on 01 and 02 November 2019. He repeatedly said, 'this is the first time, to visit eight presences in a single day.' I thank him, on behalf of the province, for his interest in visiting our province and for animating our confreres. In a special way I thank, for expressing his brotherly concern and condolences at the death of Fr. Antony Joseph, by celebrating Holy Eucharist on 2 November at Amsam cemetery, paying tribute to the deceased and praying for Fr. Antony Joseph. I thank all the Rectors and the communities, the Salesian sisters who welcomed and felicitated him during his visit. I thank Fr. Patrick Anthonyraj for accompanying Fr. Fabio during the entire journey.



Provincial Circular

Salesian Province of Tiruchy - INT

(December/2019)

Rev. Fr. Marcelo Farfan, SDB, IUS World Coordinator, Youth Pastoral Department, Rome, visited our province to participate as guest of honour in the national conference held by the Higher Education commission of the province. He also spent his valuable time in visiting a few of our higher education institutions and shared his inspiring thoughts. I extend my sincerest thanks to him for his presence and for his accompaniment.

THANK YOU FR. VACLAV FOR YOUR ANIMATING PRESENCE

I sincerely thank Fr. Vaclav Klement, Regional Councillor of East Asia – Oceania, for his availability to lead the province into discernment process, in choosing the next leader for the province. He, with all his spiritual wisdom and experience, has animated and guided every single confrere. I thank him for his patient listening to confreres and for his availability. May the Spirit of the Lord, continue to guide him towards the completion of this process and to present the actual situation to the Rector Major and the General Council. I thank Fr. Joe Augustine and Fr. Raj, Rectors of DB Jawaharpuram and The Retreat Yercaud and the confreres for making all the arrangements for this event. I thank each and every one of you, dear confreres, for the efforts taken to come in person and participate in this important event of the province. Let us continue to pray to the Lord for His will may be done in choosing the new provincial to our province.



PRAYERFUL WISHES TO MOST.REV.ANTONYSAMY, THE BISHOP ELECT



His Holiness, Pope Francis has appointed Msgr. Antonysamy Savarimuthu (59) of the Clergy of Palayamkottai, as Bishop of Palayamkottai Diocese. This announcement was made in Rome on Wednesday, 20 November, 2019. Msgr. Antonysamy Savarimuthu was born on 8 December 1960 and was ordained priest on 26 April 1987, for the Diocese of Palayamkottai. He studied at St. Peter's Minor Seminary, Madurai, and later at St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore. He served as the Secretary to the Bishop of Palayamkottai from 1987 to 1989. Since 2011, he is Resident Professor at St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore. The Episcopal Ordination of Most. Rev. Antonysamy Savarimuthu, the bishop-elect, will be held on 15 December 2019, at 05.00 pm in St Xavier's Higher Secondary's School ground, Palayamkottai. On 16 December 2019, the Bishop will celebrate his first Episcopal Mass in the Cathedral Campus at 06.00 am.

I extend, on behalf of the province, my prayerful wishes to Most. Rev. Antonysamy Savarimuthu, the Bishop Elect and wish him God's great blessings and guidance as he takes up this great responsibility of shepherding the Catholic folk of the diocese. I also sincerely thank the outgoing Bishop Most. Rev. Jude Paulraj for his dedicated service in the diocese and for his fatherly guidance to the Salesians.



SALESIAN BROTHERS DAY



On 5th December we celebrate the feast of Bl. Philip Rinaldi. This day is celebrated as Brothers' day to appreciate this complementary vocation and to promote vocations to this way of life. On behalf of the province I appreciate and wish all our Salesian Brothers of our Province, Br. George Joseph, Br. Arockiadoss, Br. Sagayaraj, Br.

Chinnaparaj, Br. Philip, Br. Edwin and Br. Amuthan for their witnessing life to the wonderful call of being a Salesian brother. I thank them for their committed service, hard work and for their optimistic presence in the province. I recommend all our communities to meaningfully celebrate the Salesian Brothers' Day on 5th December, praying for all our Salesian Brothers and promoting vocations to Salesian Brotherhood.

I also extend my wishes to the two Volunteers of Don Bosco of our province Miss. Sheela and Miss. Agnes as they celebrate the feast of their founder.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE BY HIGHER EDUCATION COMMISSION

I place on record and sincerely appreciate the higher education commission of the province for having organized a national conference on 14 and 15 November at Don Bosco Media Centre, Manikandam Trichy, on the theme, 'Educating Youth For Social Transformation: Towards New Paradigms And Inspiring Praxis.' It was an appreciative effort and initiative taken by the commission, towards promoting young people for nation building and integrity. This conference was organized by the higher education commission of the province in Collaboration



with DBHEI (Don Bosco Higher Education India), Don Bosco SPCI House, New Delhi. I appreciate Fr. Casimir Raj, Fr. Amala Jeyarayan and Fr. Rozario the chief organisers and the team for their meticulous planning and for their hard work. I thank all the participants from other provinces, from our province, from various religious congregations and institutes and young people for your active involvement and contribution. It was indeed an inspiring event for all the participants.

ORDINATION

The ordination of eight of our deacons will be held on 29 December 2019 at Lourdes Shrine, K.Pudur Madurai. Most. Rev. Antony Pappusamy, the Archbishop of Madurai, will confer the ministry of Ordination to our Deacons. On behalf of the province, I wish and pray for all our Deacons as they intensely prepare themselves for this great event of their life. The Deacons after their ordination will continue with their ministry, in the respective parishes where they are assigned, till May 2020.



Forthcoming Events...

5	Thu	-	Salesian Brothers Day
21	Sat	-	DBPH: Provincial Council
29	Sun	-	L.S. Madurai: Ordinations in Tiruchy Province

Upcoming Salesian Feasts...

05 Blessed Philip Rinaldi, Founder of the secular Institute of Don Bosco Volunteers

Recalling Events...

Cooperators Promise Day: 27 new Salesian Cooperators, pronounced their personal apostolic promise on 10 November 2019 at Don Bosco Provincial House, Tiruchy. After years of intensive preparation and accompaniment, the new Salesian Cooperators made their promise with a strong commitment to walk in the way of Don Bosco, in collaboration with the Salesians. Thanks to Fr. Thomas Louis, the Salesian family delegate, Fr. Mariadoss the Provincial delegate, Sr. Rosy the FMA Provincial delegate, Mr. Xavier the Provincial coordinator, the council members and all who accompanied and prepared these aspirants to this event. A special word of thanks to Rev. Sr. Mary Margaret the INT FMA Provincial, who blessed the new cooperators, gifting them with the constitutions and medals.

CONDOLENCES...

REST IN PEACE Dear Bishop Joseph Antony Irudayaraj D.D. SDB.

Bishop Joseph Antony SDB, passed away on 29th November 2019 at Don Bosco, Perambur, Chennai. He was a dear Rector, a zealous pastor and an inspiring formator. Many Salesians and priests would declare that they would have not been better persons, but for the tender accompaniment and inspiring personality of Bishop Joseph Antony. On behalf of the province I extend my sincerest condolences to the Diocese of Dharmapuri.

I extend my condolences on behalf of the province to

- Cl. Anthony Praveen at the death of his beloved father Mr. Joseph Peter (60) on 11 November 2019.
- Fr. Daniel Sebastian at the death of his beloved father Mr. Sebastian (89) on 13 November 2019.
- To the Provincial and confreres of INS province at the death of Fr. Paul Vadakumpadam (67), on 18 November 2019 at Sacred Heart Theological College at Mawlai, Shillong.

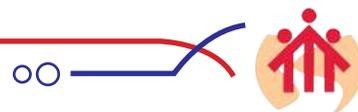
May the souls of the departed, rest in peace!

SPIRITUAL READING...

SALESIAN BROTHER: A WITNESS TO GOD'S KINGDOM IN THE WORLD

We celebrate on 5th December, on the memoria of Bl. Philip Rinaldi, the Salesian Brotherhood day. He was a great admirer and promoter of Salesian Brotherhood vocation.

According to the thought and practice of Don Bosco the new society he had founded was to move not in the direction of the monastic ideal of separation from the world but rather in that of the apostolic religious ideal level, lived in close contact with the reality of the young and the poorer classes. Don Bosco brought in a novelty in apostolic religious life by introducing lay brothers into his charism. The Salesian Brother combines in himself the gifts of consecration with those of the lay state. He lives the lay state not in secular conditions but in the consecrated life; as a Salesian religious he lives his vocation as a layman, and as a layman he lives his community vocation of a Salesian religious. In fact, "The Salesian charisma would be lacking in an essential element



without the figure of the Brother" (AGC 376 – p.35).

Constitution Art 45 places the Brother within the one Salesian vocation and mission, to which he brings his own specific contribution as a consecrated layman, "a witness to God's kingdom in the world, close as he is to the young and to the realities of working life". The GC 24 affirms that "The Salesian community is enriched by the significant and complementary presence of the Salesian Priest and the Salesian Brother. Together they provide an unusual complementarity of energy for witnessing and the educative mission."



The Salesian brothers, with their cross around their sleeves-shirts project themselves as common folk but set apart for God in the service of the young. As the ideal of a religious worker and educator, they always remain as bright as ever.

The Goal of every Salesian Brother is to mature alongside Don Bosco in sharing, in the *Da mihi animas*, in the warmth of his pastoral and educative charity, in the continual seeking after holiness: an experience of God, lived in the community and in the service of the young.

Yours affectionately in DB

Happy Feast of the Immaculate Conception!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam SDB".

Fr. Agilan Sarprasadam SDB

Vice Provincial – Salesian Province of Annai Velankanni, Tiruchy – INT



*COME
LORD
JESUS.*

