



13 February 2022

WITH AN INDEBTED HEART

Dear Sisters, Loving and prayerful greetings from Bangalore!

"A THANKFUL HEART IS NOT ONLY THE GREATEST VIRTUE, BUT THE PARENT OF ALL THE OTHER VIRTUES" It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I write this circular to all of you dear Fathers,



Sisters, young people and the entire beneficiary who are connected with us in one way or the other. I am grateful to each one of you young and old, for your faithfulness to the consecrated life and your spirit of hard work and dedicated service in the mission entrusted. I would like to express my love and gratitude to everyone in the province, 6 FMA Provinces and 11 SDB Provinces of India for your timely help and support, collaboration and above all for the prayers offered in different period of time.

I wish to thank you dear Sr. Elizabeth Pothen & Sr. Annie Thoppil for your persevering fidelity, prayerful support and constant collaboration in fulfilling our mission as followers of Jesus and for the praiseworthy and memorable service as our Vice Provincials during the past years. You have been doing that service with enduring dedication, daily commitment and professional resourcefulness. I also thank Sr. Saly Abraham for her very creditable and daring service as the Provincial Economer. The responsibility of the Economer was executed by her very proficiently and fruitfully. I thank you for your authentic spirit of hard work in a very dependable manner. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to Sr. Shiny Karakkat for her precise, untiring, dedicated work as secretary of the province. Thanks to you for your presence and diligent service.

Let me also acknowledge my deep sense of gratitude to all the members of the Provincial Council, for carrying out the responsibility of different sectors in the province, for your cordiality, friendliness, affability, dedication and the spirit of collaboration with which you have animated the Province. Thanks to each of the members of the Provincial Council past and present: Sr. Monica Thomas, Sr. Margrat Mathai, Sr. Molly Joseph, Rosy Lopez, Sr. Maryjyanthi Boyopati, Sr. Dayana Rodrigues, Sr. Bala Savarimuthu, Sr. Bridget Jacob for the sense of co-responsibility, and for all the shared moments of travelling together in the animation of the Province. Each one with her own experience and insights have contributed, for the animation and governance of the Province. Sincere Thanks to you dear members of the Provincial Council.



A special word of Thanks to Sr. Rosy Lopez, the directress of CDEW (Centre for Development and Empowerment of Women Society) of our Province. Thanks for the professional and exact following up of the programmes and projects and making our presence and our mission relevant and meaningful.

I express my love and thanks to the superior and the sisters of the Community of the Provincial House which was my home for the past five years. Thanks to all for building up a good Community and for all the efforts that you make to facilitate the smooth running of the animation programmes of the Province. I am grateful to all the Animators of communities for gladly carrying out the demanding role in the animation of the local communities with the attitude of submission and dedication. Thank you dear sisters, for your support, friendliness, spirit of joy, care and concern whenever I visited the communities. I thank each and every sister of our province for all what you are and what you do for the growth of the province and its mission.

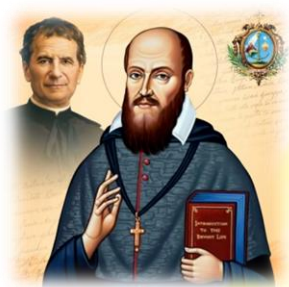
I would like to express my gratitude to all the members of Salesian Family specially in an exceptional way SDB Provincials of Bangalore province, Rev. Fr. Joyce Francis, and Rev. Fr. Jose Koyickal and Hyderabad Province Rev. Fr. Thathireddy Vijaya Bhaskar for the close collaboration, Spiritual guidance, timely help and support and sharing the Salesian spirit and spirituality in the communities and the mission. My Heartfelt Thanks to all the Salesians who are rendering their spiritual help and guidance in many of our communities in the Province. Thanks to all the provinces of SDB's for your friendliness and spirit of sharing. I am also appreciative to all the educating Community members with whom we work together in the mission given to us by God: the staff, supporting staff and the domestic staff in each of our Communities. Thanks to them for their very dedicated and creditable service.

When I count my blessings, I count you my dear sisters, not once but twice and more. As I am here to bid farewell to you, Once again I say a **big thanks** for all that you had been to me, because you were indeed a part of my life, especially during these five years. Though I greatly desired to come to meet you all in person and spend some time with you, the situation is not favourable and I take it as the will of God, because God does everything for our good though we feel uncomfortable because it goes against our plans. I thank you in a special way for your cooperation, the awesome teamwork, mutual support and aid and docility in carrying out the proposals for the good of our Province and personal growth. We have made it because of our collective effort. May God bless you all dear sisters.

I have no gifts to offer you now but only assurance of my prayerful remembrance.

While we wish God's blessings on each other, let us continue to pray for the Person whom the Holy Spirit had already chosen that she may be docile to the spirit and be led by Him to pilot our Province as God wants.

I would like to conclude with a thought on the **Strenna of 2022** presented to us by Mother General in her Circular.



THE STRENNA 2022 - "DO EVERYTHING FOR LOVE, NOTHING BY FORCE"

Our mother General remind us in her circular 1013, the reflection on highlighting the strenna 2022 to deepen the spirituality of Saint Francis de Sales on the occasion of the fourth centenary of his death.

In the Strenna we are offered an itinerary of reflection to take on more consciously the spirituality of Saint Francis de Sales, to appreciate it as the foundation of Don Bosco's educational style and of Salesian youth spirituality. The Rector Major reminds us that the most revolutionary proposal of St. Francis de Sales was that of addressing the invitation to holiness to ordinary Christians, living daily life to the full, in the serene synthesis between action and contemplation, in valuing what is proper to human nature created by God and which, therefore, brings us closer to Him, making filial relationship and holiness possible for all. Therefore, each group of the Salesian Family can live this call to holiness by applying it in their own mission with original and specific nuances.

His humanism makes the centrality of love of God and love of neighbor the preferential way to enter into dialogue with everyone, living friendship as an important dimension in personal accompaniment. Don Bosco understood this and translated it into the synthesis, "Education is a thing of the heart". It is necessary that young people "not only be loved, but that they themselves know that they are loved." The effectiveness of the educational work starts from here and if the heart is not reached, the work will be difficult and the outcome uncertain. The holy Bishop of Geneva became the inspirer of Salesian spirituality and a model shepherd to whom Don Bosco looked from the very beginning of his work, for his ability to make himself lovable, for his intense apostolic activity, and the desire that everyone would know and meet the God of mercy and forgiveness. In fact, where he could not reach with evangelization, St. Francis de Sales arrived with understanding and patient intelligence and the sweetness of charity, managing to lead even non-Catholics to conversion.

Don Bosco chose him as Patron and model of life from his priestly Ordination and then from the foundation of the first Oratory and of the Salesian Congregation itself because the mission to the young required “great calm and gentleness”. In the Strenna we are offered an itinerary of reflection to take on more consciously the spirituality of Saint Francis de Sales, to appreciate it as the foundation of Don Bosco's educational style and of Salesian youth spirituality. The Rector Major reminds us that the most revolutionary proposal of St. Francis de Sales was that of addressing the invitation to holiness to ordinary Christians, living daily life to the full, in the serene synthesis between action and contemplation, in valuing what is proper to human nature created by God and which, therefore, brings us closer to Him, making filial relationship and holiness possible for all. Therefore, each group of the Salesian Family can live this call to holiness by applying it in their own mission with original and specific nuances. His humanism makes the centrality of love of God and love of neighbor the preferential way to enter into dialogue with everyone, living friendship as an important dimension in personal accompaniment. Don Bosco understood this and translated it into the synthesis, "Education is a thing of the heart". It is necessary that young people “not only be loved, but that they themselves know that they are loved.” The effectiveness of the educational work starts from here and if the heart is not reached, the work will be difficult and the outcome uncertain. As I leave the province to take up a new and wider mission in the Institute, I count on your prayers, so that I may spread the *Aroma of Christ* where ever I am and whatever I do.

Wishing on each one of you an abundance of God's blessings!

Yours affectionately,

Sr. Celine Jacob

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