

PROVINCIAL CIRCULAR



Feast of St Benedict 10th July 2009, Upper Hill

My dear confreres,

On 20th June the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus I had the good fortune of concelebrating with over 100 priests of the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam in the solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by his Eminence Polycarp Cardinal Pengo inaugurating the 'year of priesthood (priests)' announced by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI. His Eminence exhorted the faithful present to understand more deeply the inestimable value of priesthood, to pray for priests intensely during this year.

The Pope decided to inaugurate the 'Year for Priests' in the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the "dies natalis" of John Mary Vianney, the patron saint of parish priests. The year is meant to deepen the commitment of all priests to interior renewal for the sake of a more forceful and incisive witness to the Gospel in today's world and will conclude on the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart in 2010. The Curé of Ars was quite humble, yet as a priest he was conscious of being an immense gift to his people: "A good shepherd, a pastor after God's heart, is the greatest treasure which the good Lord can grant to a parish, and one of the most precious gifts of divine mercy."

It is interesting to note that the 150th anniversary of the death of Saint John Mary Vianney (1859) follows upon the celebration of the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Lourdes (1858). Is it not wonderful that this year is also the 150th year of the founding of our Congregation?

These are times when the sins (of scandal) of a few priests have received a lot of publicity. I believe that the individual and community witness to the holiness and dignity of priesthood can have tremendous value today. The witness of the 'splendour of chastity' is more than ever relevant. May I urge each community to make creative programs to honour and witness to the holiness of priesthood during this year.

Delegate for Sudan

The Rector Major has appointed Fr Ferrington Poobalarayen as the Delegate for Sudan. We offer our heartfelt congratulations to Fr Ferrington. We wish the Delegation

continued growth in Salesian and missionary identity under his dynamic leadership. May I express our heartfelt thanks to Fr Jacob Thelekkadan for his dedicated and committed leadership of the Delegation from its inception in 2006!

Father Ferrington has finished a first visit of all the communities of Sudan during which he carried out a consultation for the members of the Delegation Council. He has been invited to by the Rector Major to Rome for a meeting with him and the General Councillors. He leaves Khartoum on 11th July and will be back in Khartoum on 24th July. There will be a Delegation Assembly on 30th July. We have scheduled the 31st July as the day of installation of the Delegate.

I take this opportunity to thank Fr Ferrington for the great work he has done during the past one year as the Youth Pastoral Delegate. We shall continue to build on the good foundations which he has laid.

Delegation Council

Following the consultations and the discernment thereafter the following confreres have been appointed as Councillors of the Sudan Delegation:

Fr Henry Woo	Economer
Fr Cyril Odia	Youth Pastoral Delegate
Fr James Pulickal	Formation

We congratulate these confreres for accepting the responsibility for the animation of the Delegation and wish them every success in promoting the growth of the Delegation.

Youth Ministry Reach-Out Seminar in TZ Dioceses

I want to congratulate Fr Ferrington for the creative way in which we organize the holiday apostolate of the brothers and for the promotion of the Salesian charism through it. He writes about it:

'As recommended by the Rectors' Conference of 2008 in Dar es Salaam the Youth Ministry under the guidance of Fr Ferrington set out a program to visit the various Dioceses and offer the Christian Life Skills Program (Chuo Cham Maisha) which was very creatively prepared by Fr Selvam. He was joined by Fr Paul Nyagah and Fr Alex Mulongo in

heading 4 teams made of 4 Facilitators each. There were CI Oswin and CI Vincent from Utume community and Mathagu, Mugendi, Chege, Orioki, Charles, Dominic Kamau and Orotu from Don Bosco Moshi community. There were 5 other youth from Don Bosco Youth for Youth (Prosper, alex, Neema, Joyce and Flora) Dar es Salaam. We had already done this 20 weeks program in the 12 Parishes of Arch Diocese of Dar es Salaam and we intended to do the same program in the various Dioceses of TZ. We had managed to liaise with the Youth Chaplains and Parish Priests of 9 Dioceses in Tanzania (Magomeni-Dar, Burka parish-Arusha, Mrao Parish-Moshi, CDNK Junior Sisters-Rombo, Mahenge Diocese, Mafinga & neighbouring parishes-Iringa, Don Bosco Frelimo-Iringa, Songea Archdiocese, Mtwara Diocese and Lindi Diocese). We had reached out to the youth leaders (about 400) of all these parishes and Dioceses (Mrao parish alone with 234 youth). We were also interested in letting ourselves known, vocation promotion and of course in helping them understand their human and Christian Vocation, their responsibility in the Family, society and Church at large. It was a thrilling and first experience for most of the participants to have gone through this formation program for 10 and in some places 5 full days. In some places we did meet the Bishops who expressed their profound gratitude for this service and initiative. I am sure our visits and interventions in these places will definitely bear fruit in the years to come. We wish we could continue the similar program in the other dioceses next year and also target the period of Easter Conference in these Dioceses where we really meet the young people of the Schools and Universities. We thank the Dar es Salaam-Upanga Evangelization group which had sponsored graciously to make this missionary trip for 17 of us a memorable one and for the young participants an unforgettable experience.'

New Youth Pastoral Delegate:

Fr Augustine Sellam has accepted to be the new Youth Pastoral Delegate of the Province. We wish him the Lord's blessings and guidance in the animation of the Province.

Perpetual Profession

Though the actual day of 150th Anniversary of the founding of the Congregation is December 18th the Rector Major has indicated four days to be celebrated specially during this year. One of these days is the birthday of Don Bosco, 16th August. We shall solemnize this day by having the perpetual professions in Dodoma. Brothers Matthias Isaka, Delphinus Felician, Richard Mtui and Vincent Mokka will be making their final vows on that day.

Retreat in Oysteraby

Twenty-four confreres from various parts of the Province attended the Oysterbay retreat. Bro. Robert Dias from AGL also graced us with his presence at the retreat. It was a Salesian retreat in every way preached by Fr Jose Kuttianimattathil until recently the Provincial of the Province of Bangalore, India. His theme 'Starting afresh from Don Bosco' enriched and deepened our knowledge of Don Bosco. It inspired us to love and imitate Don Bosco more. Our heartfelt thanks to Fr Jose for helping us to understand more deeply the main themes of GC 26!

Young Priests' Meeting

The annual young priests' meeting was also animated by Fr Jose Kuttianimattathil. Fifteen young priests attended the meeting which this year has special significance because it coincided with the inauguration of the Year of the Priest. Fr Jose dealt with very relevant themes on religious life and celibacy with their practical implications for everyday life. The help that Fr Jose has given to the young priests has been precious and valuable. Once again our heartfelt gratitude to Fr Jose!

National Congress of Past Pupils - Kenya

On July 5th, at Don Bosco *Utume*, there took place for the first time the Past Pupils' National Congress for Kenya. The attendance was good: close to three hundred people, including some last-year students from Boys' Town and Embu and the families of some Past Pupils who came along. The highlight of the programme was the keynote address by Fr Simon Asira, the Delegate for the Salesian Family, who spoke about the Movement's origin and aims, connecting them to the present reality in Kenya and encouraging all present to take seriously their belonging to it. Fr Mathew VJ was instrumental for the success of the event. I would like to thank him wholeheartedly for his dedication and the great amount of work he put into the preparation for this day. Fr Gianni Rolandi was present throughout the meeting, representing the Provincial, and presided over the Eucharistic Celebration at the end of the afternoon session. At the conclusion of the day, the new membership cards were symbolically presented to some of the Past Pupils who were in attendance. Let us pray that this branch of our Family may continue steadily in its growth.

Admissions

The following novices have been admitted to First Profession:

Achondo Anthony Okello

Aruya Charles Getate

Cheruiyot Geoffrey Keter

Flavian Faustine Banturaki

Kariuki David Kagai

Ochanda Mark Okoth

Ojwan'g Moses Amallah

Vuga Stephen Joseph Stephen

Confreres who have been admitted to renewal of vows:

Leonard Muli 2 yrs

Joseph Can 2 yrs

Paul Tung 2 yrs

Charles Taban 2 yrs

Ben Agunga 1 yr

Fred Njuguna 1 yr

Perpetual Profession: Matthias Isaka has been admitted to perpetual profession.

Ministries: Dietrich Mwenda received the ministry of Lector on 10th May 2009 in Ratisbonne, Jerusalem. Matthias Isaka has received the ministry of Acolyte in Gerini, Rome.

Order of Priesthood: Deacon Dunstan Haule has been admitted to priestly ordination.

PRIESTLY ORDINATION



Deacon Dunstan Chrisantus Haule has returned to the Province after completing his theological formation in Ratisbone, Jerusalem. He will be ordained priest on 6th August, 2009 at 10.00 am in the parish of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Mpitimbi-Songea, Tanzania by His Grace Norbert Mtega Archbishop of Songea.

Specific Formation of Salesian Brothers

Following the discernment done by the Provincials during the last *Curatorium Meeting*, the Specific Formation Program will come to a close with this year. The *General Councillor* for Formation Fr Francesco Cereda has directed that the three brothers who are in their final year will stay at Utume under the supervision of one of the *Formation Guides*.

Preparatory Course for Perpetual Profession

The annual preparatory course for those preparing themselves for Perpetual vows started on July 5th in DBYES. There are fifteen participants from the Provinces of AET, AFW and AFE. They are:

ABRAHA Hailu Sebhat (AET)

BRHANU Ushu Shuka (AET)

GEREMEW Addise (AET)

HAFTU Giday Gebreyesus (AET)

ISAKA Mathias Nchudi (AFE)

MALLESA Victor (AFE)

MORBA Peter Chinweike (AFW)

MULUGETA Woldemeskel (AET)

TEDROS Berhe Hawku (AET)

TESFAYE Mateos Argaw (AET)

WAMBUA Lawrence Kituku (AFE)

YOHANNES Hagos Giday (AET)

The Vice Provincial Fr Gianni Rolandi is accompanying them during the one month period which will end on 4th August. We wish them a fruitful period of discernment and of deepening of their understanding of Salesian religious commitment.

Novices and Post Novices from Sri Lanka

The Provincial of Sri Lanka Fr Humer Pinto made a plea to accept their novices and Post Novices for formation with us. This year they were not able to obtain entry permits to India where they had planned to send them. With the knowledge and understanding of the General Councillor for Formation Fr Francesco Cereda we are happy to accept them as we had done in earlier years. The four novices who will join the next year of novitiate are:

Emmanuel Rogasious
Rogus Appuge Gayan Indika
Yesuthasan Sebaganam
Marisal Dilan

Those joining the Post Novitiate in Moshi are:

Fernando Dunamalage Jude Nevil
Reval Anton Gnanaraj
Fernando Warnakulasuriya Alistus Sebastian

We welcome them most warm heartedly to Morogoro and Moshi.

Novitiate

The Novitiate community is moving to Morogoro on 11th July (today). They will occupy a small section of the unfinished building. The official inauguration of the Novitiate will be some time later. We wish the Novice Master Fr Michael, his collaborators and the novices a blessing-filled beginning as they bring the Salesian charism to Kilimanjaro, Morogoro. The Postal address of the community: SALESIAN NOVITIATE, P.O. BOX 2164, MOROGORO, TANZANIA.

Formation Personnel from ZMB, AFW, AET

Fr Vincent Tembo from ZMB will be joining the Formation Staff of Moshi. We extend a hearty welcome to Fr Vincent. Fr Vincent will be In Charge of the apostolate of the Post Novices.

Fr Lionel Xavier from AFW and Fr Hailemariam Medhin from AET will be joining the Formation team of Utume. Fr Lionel will be In Charge of the Brothers in Specific

Formation. Fr Hailemariam will be the Liturgical Animator of the community. We say:
Karibuni sana! Mjisikie nyumbani AFE!

I take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the Provincials who have generously contributed to our interprovincial formation program.

Transfer of Province

Fr Henry Juszczak has requested for transfer of Province to his Province of origin and accordingly has been definitively transferred to PLO (Wroclaw - Poland). We thank Fr Henry for his many years of dedicated service in the Province and wish him happy Salesian apostolate in his home Province.

With the consent of the Provincials of AFE and INB, Fr Glenford Lowe has been definitively transferred to his Province of origin India-Mumbai. We are sorry to lose Fr Glenn who has contributed the best of his energies to building up the Province over the past twenty years. As we express our sincere gratitude to him for his dedicated service to the Province we wish him fruitful and happy apostolate in his home Province.

Fr Christopher Owczarek, Bro Celestine Nathan

Fr Christopher Owczarek has been invited to teach Scripture in UPS Rome for the coming academic year. He is leaving for medical treatment to the States. On his return he will join the staff of UPS for one year.

Bro. Celestine Nathan is attending a two-month course of Psycho-spiritual Renewal in Sumedha Centre Nainital, Uttarkhand. After that he will be doing an updating course in CNC technology in Delhi.

Mr Eddie Lobo

Mr Eddie Lobo who wanted to donate two of his plots in Mombasa for Salesian apostolate stayed with us for a few months. He has returned to the States. He has left the power of attorney to Mr Tony D'Costa to continue the process of transferring the title deeds. We thank Mr Eddie for his generosity and wish him and his family abundant blessings.

ASSIGNMENTS

Provincial Councillors

The Rector Major has appointed Fr Simon Asira and Fr Ferrington Poobalarayen for another term of three years as Provincial Councillors.

Rectors

The Rector Major has approved the nominations of the following confreres as Rectors of communities:

Fr Simon Asira	Embu	Second term
Fr Joseph Minja	Makalala	First term
Fr Sebastian Koladiyil	DBYES	First term
Fr James Njoroge	Nzaikoni	First term
Fr Jacob Thelekkadan	Wau	First term

I would like to thank these confreres for accepting these responsibilities and wish them the intercession and assistance of St John Bosco and Our Blessed Mother in the task entrusted to them. May I express my heartfelt thanks to the outgoing Rectors Fr Devasia Manathara, Fr Tom Kunnel and Fr Adiroopanathan Mariasoosai for their dedicated and committed leadership!

Vocation Promoters for Kenya, Tanzania

Fr Simon Asira will be the Vocation Promoter for Kenya. Fr Augustine Sellam the new Youth Pastoral Delegate of the Province will hold the additional responsibility of Vocation Promoter for Tanzania.

Other responsibilities

(Dn) Dunstan Haule	Asst. PP, Adm., Secret.	Upper Hill, Nairobi
Fr Thomas Anickatt	Adm, Clr	Boys Town, Karen
Fr Tom Kunnel	Principal, Clr, Communications	Boys Town, Karen

Jeremiah Nyaga	PT	Boys Town, Karen
Fr Lionel Xavier (AFW)	Specific Form, Clr	Utume
Fr Hailemariam Medhin (AET)	Apostolate, Clr	Utume
Cl George Kulwa	1 st year Th	Utume
Cl Philip Odwori	1 st year Th	Utume
Cl Ben Agunga	1 st year Th	Utume
Cl John Njagi	1 st year Th	Utume
Cl Joseph Can	1 st year Th	Utume
Cl Paul Tung	1 st year Th	Utume
Cl Dominic Kubuya	1 st year Th	Utume
Br Toppo Raju Sandeep	2 nd yr Sp Form	Utume
Br Marko Mhara (AFM)	2 nd yr Sp Form	Utume
Br Mojela Fihlo (AFM)	2 nd yr Sp Form	Utume
Fr Matthew Udoka (AFW)	MA Student IYM	UTUME
Fr Paul Luseno	Adm	Bosco Boys
Fr George Kocholickal	Asst Pre Nov Dir	Bosco Boys
Cl Sivali Joachim	PT	Bosco Boys
Fr Peter Mtunga	Headmaster	Bosco Boys
Cl Eric Owuor	Student (CUEA), Asst Pre Nov	Bosco Boys
Cl Bernard Onyiego	PT	Kakuma
Fr Devasia Manathara	VR, Asst PP, Adm, Clr	Makuyu

Fr Adiroop Mariasoosai	Adm, Carp, Clr	Embu
Br Benedict Muriuki	PT	Embu
Fr Abel Thathi	Adm, BEAMS	DBYES
Fr Mathew VJ	Adm, Asst PP	Nzaikoni
Cl David Nduati	PT	Korr
Fr Augustine Sellam	Youth Past Del	Upanga
Fr Alex Mulongo	Princ, Clr	Dodoma
Fr Marko Lepakit	Adm, Asst PP, Clr	Mafinga Parish
Fr Victor Mallesa	Adm	Makalala
Fr Erasthus Nthiga	Adm, School, Clr	Moshi
Fr Vincent Tembo (ZMB)	Apostolate	Moshi
Cl Onyiego Evans	PT	Moshi
Fr Michael Kalathipullatt	In C, Nov Dir	Morogoro
Fr George PD	Conf, Clr	Morogoro
Br Tyrone Baron	Adm, Clr	Morogoro
Cl Michael Muia	PT	Morogoro
Fr Edwin Kaigarula	Dean, Clr	Mafinga Sem
Fr Celestine Kharkongor	Adm, Clr	Mafinga Sem
Cl Anastasio Nyaga	LA	Mafinga Sem
Fr Melchades Lukanyanga	VR, Headm, Clr	Didia
Fr Stanislav Somora	Adm, Clr	Didia

Fr Peter Mugho	Adm	El Obeid
Fr Sunil Orathel	Principal	Tonj
Fr Francis Nhat	Adm	Khartoum VTC
Fr Lotidak John Bosco	Asst PP, Arabic language	St Joseph's Kalakala
Fr Ernesto De Gaspari	Asst PP	St Joseph's Kalakala
Fr James Pulickal	Asst PP, new mission Maridi	Juba
Cl Delphinus Felician	Stud Th	UPS, Rome
Br Celestine Nathan	Spirituality	India
Br Charles Taban	Sp. Formation	Valdocco

I want to express my sincere thanks and appreciation for the confreres who have accepted these assignments in the spirit of faith, understanding the needs of the Province. I know that sometimes these changes have interfered with the good plans that some had for the development of the sectors entrusted to them. May the Lord reward your generosity and love for the Province!

Though the official date of transfers is the traditional July 15th, in several case there will be a delay of one month because of special circumstances.

Conclusion

Every change brings a challenge to the person involved and to the communities involved. As we accept the healthy tension that comes through the process of adjusting, understanding and accepting one another the Lord helps each one of us to grow in our Salesian religious commitment. May Our Blessed Mother and our father Don Bosco accompany each one of us in our vocation journey with their constant intercession!

Affectionately in the Lord,

Fr Joseph Pulikkal
Provincial