

Dear Confreres,

I am pleased to send you this first circular regarding our forthcoming Provincial Chapter 2019 and set in motion the various phases of preparation, both at the individual level and at the community level.

I would like to also express a special note of gratitude to Fr. Provincial and the Provincial Councilors for the confidence placed in me and entrusting this responsibility, to be the moderator. I also thank all the preparatory commission members for their collaboration and contribution towards the realization of our Provincial Chapter.

As scheduled, the Provincial Chapter will be held at Citadel, from 11th to 15th January. More than looking at this moment as a routine feature, let us prepare ourselves through prayer, reflection, community sharing, discussion, and make an honest evaluation of our life and mission to the young specially those who are poorest of the poor, marginalized and the voiceless.

The theme of our Chapter is in tune with theme of GC 28: "What kind of Salesians for the youth of today?" Our Rector Major in the Acts of the General Council (AGC 427), the letter convoking the General Chapter affirms that the theme chosen is the result of an extensive and profound reflection undertaken by the General Council, which has taken into account the current indications of the Church and of Pope Francis.

Our Rector Major affirms of the need to focus our attention on the individual Salesian who as a man of God, a consecrated person and an apostle needs to be capable of being fully in tune with today's teenagers and young people and their world, and to educate them, to evangelize them, prepare them for life and accompany them in their meeting with the Lord.

I firmly believe, that this is the source of our religious life and we need to be very much convinced of this our Salesian identity, which makes our lives credible and our mission efficacious.

Hence the theme for our Provincial Chapter is:

"WHAT KIND OF SALESIANS FOR THE YOUTH OF TODAY?"

The sub-themes are the following:

- 1. Juridical aspects of the Congregation
- 2. Verification of PC 2016
- 3. Approval of the Directories: Formation, Higher Education and Social

The first sub-theme exhorts us to keep in mind what our Rector Major has invited our attention to, namely, 'Study about the Juridical aspects according to the Constitution'

The second and third sub-themes, have been chosen as the most important areas for the present situation of the province, and these have emerged from the suggestions of our confreres and the decision of the Provincial Council.

I request the Rectors and Leaders of Communities to make use of the enclosed INM PC 2019 Prayer at suitable moments of community prayer.

I consider the coming months of preparation as an opportune time for us to re-think, reflect, pray and work towards forming ourselves with the profile of a Salesian, ready to face the challenges of the youth and to focus our mission towards serving the poorest of the poor, the excluded, marginalized and voiceless in the society.

Let this preparatory journey of INM PC2019, re-awaken in us that purpose and vision of our Salesian identity, render greater apostolic fruitfulness in our mission, and strengthen us as apostles of the young. May our Blessed mother guide us and bless us in our journey.

With warm regards,

Rev. Fr. Don Bosco SDB

Moderator INM PC 2019

NB: Enclosed Documents

- 1. INM PC 2019 Prayer
- 2. Preparatory Commission members for each theme.