



Sede Centrale Salesiana

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Solemnity of Mary Help of Christians

Sub: Monthly Animation Kit for Rectors and Leaders of Communities - "Common Spiritual Direction Series"

Dear Rectors and Leaders of Communities,

Greetings from our Generalate in Rome! Happy Feast of Mary Help of Christians!

As we are all aware, following General Chapter XXIX and the Rector Major's choice of focus areas for the six-year term, the South Asia Region selected six focus areas for the implementation of the GC29 directives (see list below). While various strategies have been identified to implement this six-point agenda, the SPCSA Assembly and Council recognized that the role of the Rectors and leaders of communities is absolutely crucial in helping the confreres, and consequently the South Asia Salesian Region, especially to renew resolutely the centrality of Christ (Agenda 1), revitalize fraternal life in communities (Agenda 2), strengthen service to the poorest young people in all communities (Agenda 3), and renew the processes of initial and ongoing formation (Agenda 4).

Knowing the many responsibilities that each of our Rectors and leaders carries for our beloved mission, it was proposed that the Region support the Rectors in their "first task" of animating the community. One means identified was to provide Rectors and leaders with "animation material" that they could creatively use for community animation. As you know well, our *Constitutions and Regulations* indicate the crucial role of the Rector and suggest various means to animate and spiritually guide the community through conferences, good night talks, celebration of the Day of the Community, and other practices. We are also aware of the gradual reduction of these practices, especially in smaller communities, as well as the resistance sometimes experienced in sustaining them.

Against this background, the SPCSA will offer, beginning in June 2026, a monthly animation kit for Rectors and leaders of communities. The official source of the animation kit will be the Don Bosco Renewal Centre (DBRC), Bangalore, our Regional house for ongoing formation. The Regional Councillor's Secretary, Fr. Vinod Mascarenhas (INB), has kindly consented to coordinate the production process, which will involve many confreres from all our Provinces as contributors. He will be assisted by Fr. Nice (Mathew) Valiyakattel (INK). We will also have the support of BOSCOM, together with the webmaster and technical team. I am grateful to the large team of nearly 100 confreres who will be involved in this initiative under the leadership of all our Provincials of the SPCSA.

The use of the animation kit is left to the creativity of the Rectors and leaders. We cannot sufficiently stress the importance of your role in animating the life of the confreres, our mission, and the charismatic identity of the Congregation. One good practice that I noticed in some Provinces during my visitations is the designation, at the beginning of the year, of one fixed day each week (for example, Saturday) for community activities. In this way, all confreres know while planning their various activities that this dedicated community time should not be occupied by other sectoral or personal engagements except in cases of emergency. The various

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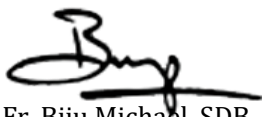
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practices stipulated in our *Regulations* – such as House Council meetings, recollections, the Day of the Community, EPC meetings, conferences by the Rector, study days, House Assemblies and similar activities – can then be scheduled systematically across the four or five weeks of the month. This structured approach, while respecting everyone's commitments, can bring much peace and facilitate well-planned community animation without the need to negotiate each meeting individually.

I hope and pray that all communities will be enriched through the use of these animation tools that will be shared at the Regional level. The plan is for the material for the following month to reach the Rector or leader on the day we commemorate Don Bosco, namely the last day of each month. Since this is primarily a Rector's toolkit, it will initially be sent only to Rectors and leaders. At the end of each month, it is planned to make the toolkit available on a web portal accessible to all. As we move forward, your feedback will help improve this collective effort.

I conclude this letter by recalling Don Bosco's confidence in the Rectors of individual houses as key figures in helping the Congregation flourish. At the end of his "Confidential Reminders to Rectors" written in 1886, Don Bosco stated in the concluding paragraph: "If this advice is put into practice, I will die happy because I will be certain that our Society will flourish even more before men and be blessed by the Lord, and it will achieve its end, which is the greater glory of God and the salvation of souls."

Entrusting our efforts into the loving intercession of our mother Mary Help of Christians,



Fr. Biju Michael, SDB
General Councillor for South Asia Region



SIX-YEAR PLAN FOR THE SOUTH ASIA REGION – Walking the Talk of GC 29

- 1) **Resolutely Renew the Centrality of Jesus Christ**, rediscovering the grace of unity and avoiding spiritual superficiality (cf. GC29, no. 18, RM Priority 1, Team Visit nos. 1, 2, 3).
- 2) **Revitalize Fraternal Life in Communities** as an authentic expression of the Salesian Charism (GC29, no. 28, RM Priority 1, Team Visit nos. 1, 2, 3).
- 3) **Strengthen Service to the Poorest Young People** as an authentic expression of the Salesian Charism (cf. GC29, no. 28, RM Priority 1, Team Visit nos. 9, 10)
- 4) **Renew the Formation Processes** (initial and ongoing), taking care of accompaniment and formation in the mission (cf. GC29, no. 39, RM Priority 1, 4, Team Visit nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 8)
- 5) **Joint Formation of Salesians and the Laity/Salesian Family**, sharing spirituality, mission and formation with lay people and members of the Salesian Family in every Educative and Pastoral Community (cf. GC29, no. 51, RM Priority 2, 3, Team Visit nos. 7, 11)
- 6) **Strengthen Accompaniment of Youth especially in the Digital Environment** (cf. GC29, no. 69, RM Priority 3)