





Address presented to V. Rev.Fr. Rector Major on  
the occasion of his visit to Madras on 28.2.'68

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Most Reverend Father,

I have the unique opportunity to voice forth the sentiments of love and gratitude on behalf of the innumerable past pupils of DON BOSCO who are spread all over the sub - continent of India. Ours is really a complex group speaking different tongues and following different customs, cultures and religions but all of us have one thing in common -- that is of having had education in a salesian school. We are identified by our ideals and interests which are truly salesian in character. We all understand the same language of love and cheerfully follow the proud banner of the past pupils of DON BOSCO. We are always ready to follow his clarion call, which happens to be yours at the present, being the successor of DON BOSCO, the most wonderful saint of the youth. We want to share in all the activities of the youth to make them real children of God and the most useful citizens of the country.

Most Reverend Father, as you are the sixth successor of DON BOSCO, the Director General of all the activities, being the central nervous system for all the projects that emerge from Turin it is most fitting to convey personally through you, Father our deep debt of gratitude to the Salesians of DON BOSCO who have given us in India excellent educational institutions, oratories, chapels and churches, convents and cloisters. They are educating millions of our children. We convey our homage to the selfless devotion of the able band of salesian Fathers, brothers, sisters, teachers, and other lay workers, who are deeply engaged in the task of catering for the intellectual, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of the children with particularly the youth of the country. They are all engaged with undiminished enthusiasm and unabated vigour for the all round development of the children under their care with particular emphasis on religious and moral training.

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It is one of our aims that such a training we ourselves had received should not go useless and that influence should be felt in every walk of life in which we engaged. As a result of receiving such an education we feel very young in mind and have cultivated the habit of happily experiencing life to its fullest extent, not forgetting to prepare also for the life everlasting. The very idea of having the federation is to carry the banner of Don Bosco wherever we go, in the various walks of life, and hold it high and lofty among the millions of this good country of ours. We are proud to belong to this great fraternity and to be part of the World Confederation of DON BOSCO.

As the President of the National Federation of the past pupil of DON BOSCO in India, I have the proud privilege of conveying our filial feeling to you personally. We feel that you have a special affection for India. Otherwise you would not have chosen our country as the venue of the historic conferences that had taken place this month. Your child-like simplicity, your readiness to serve others, your open heartedness and your mode of approach which is suitable for the modern times are already influencing others who seek you and look upon you as a guide and example for emulation. Your first-hand field study here would have given a better perspective of the different aspects of the missionary activity in our country. We all have great faith in your endeavours as we pray to our Divine Mother for all assistance.

We are also endeavouring our best according to the famous dictum of DON BOSCO "Know one another, love one another and keep united."

May Mary Help of Christians shower more and more blessings on all your enterprises.

The President and Members of the  
Federation of the Past Pupils of  
DON BOSCO in INDIA