

Speaking Profile

Father Joseph Thannickal, SDB, PhD

Catholic priest, Speaker, Program Director and Psychologist at the International Don Bosco Renewal Center, Bangalore, India

Fr. Joseph uses his life experiences from North America, Europe, and Asia to help improve the quality of life of people, especially ministers of the Church. He believes that the Churches with their large numbers of committed ministers can become useful instruments of positive power for all people, if they become seekers of excellence, and develop an inclusive outlook. His newly designed course in *Meaningful Living* is much appreciated all over India, both by ministers and others alike.



Joseph, born in the southern state of Kerala, India, began to pursue his religious and priestly vocation at the age of 14. Having completed his training and ordination for the Catholic Church, he immediately began his work for the development of people starting with students in schools and colleges. Later he focused on the teaching community and youth ministers; and now his expertise is on call by his own Church to benefit those engaged in the ministry, especially Catholic clergy. His pursuit for human excellence, has taken him all over India in speaking engagements, as well as several other parts of the world. During his stint of 8 years in the United States, he was heavily sought after and much appreciated for his engaging presentations, which according to many, were full of optimism, good sense, humor, and a fundamental openness to everything human.

In his diverse services under the auspices of his Order of the Salesians of Don Bosco, Fr. Joseph left his creative mark on the things he did. In the capacities of trainer, media producer, retreat director, lecturer, and director of educational services, he helped to bring forth newer dimensions necessary for large organizations like the Salesians who currently work in over 130 countries. As a teacher in school and college, he brought an emphasis on arts and theatre as essential supplements to the academic curriculum. As a member of the religious educator's training team, Joseph worked hard to promote the use of the mass media. Later as provincial coordinator for education for his Order, he undertook a research project whose results he wove into a concrete plan that gave birth to the *Don Bosco Centre for Educational Services* in Calcutta, India, which continues to provide training and consultative services for educational institutions.



Today he serves in Bangalore, India, in one of the two institutions of this kind that the 17,000 member strong Order of the Salesians run worldwide, the other being in Quito, Ecuador.

Fr. Joseph's publications span from motivational writings that supplement his training programs, to more technical research oriented materials. He is one of the authors in *Responsibility 911* published by the Statue of Responsibility Foundation.

Thannickal's doctoral thesis on transformation of meanings as a paradigm for ministry brought the philosophies of both Viktor Frankl and Mother Theresa together. Fr. Joseph believes that Dr. Viktor E. Frankl's assessment of the American society as holding an insufficient understanding of responsibility is applicable to democracies all over the world. He believes with his whole heart that a symbol of responsibility anywhere in the world will serve people everywhere else. He needs no convincing that Viktor Frankl was absolutely right about the necessity to build the Statue of Responsibility.

To book Fr. Joseph for a speaking engagement, contact him at:

Don Bosco Renewal Center, SOS Post, Bangalore - 560076, India.

Tel. 91-080-26584115; Cell 91-9449823718

E-mail: jtham123@yahoo.com