

MISSIONARIES OF ST.FRANCIS DE SALES – MSFS SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE



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Circular AB/11

August 17, 2012

My dear Confreres,



lived in the **1899-1987**

Fraternal and warm greetings from Vinayalaya. As a Province Family we have come a long way in organizing our community life. We will continue to strengthen and deepen our consecrated lives through a fervent community living. The retreats on community life have put us on the right perspective on community-based ministries. Local superiors are empowered to animate communities in the spirit of our Constitutions. We are ready to move on, united in heart and mind, as consecrated persons. It is the responsibility of each confrere to make the needed shift in his life in order to be an authentic Fransalian in his own community. As we all know, religious life as it is today is in crisis. But we cannot doubt its relevance in the post-modern world. We appreciate the many positive changes taken place in our Province during the past years. We need to be aware that there is also an erosion of credibility in the way religious life is lived out everywhere. Absence of a vibrant spirituality and community life can be sensed anywhere. Stay passionate about life in the community and about the sacrifice you are called to make for the community and for the mission of the Church. The word 'sacrifice' should stay at the back of our minds. Stop magnifying your problems and problems of others; instead start magnifying God like Mary our Mother in her song of *Magnificat*. St. Augustine says: "He who is lost in his passion is less lost than he who has lost his passion". Have we lost our passion for the mission of the Lord? Are we cocooned in our comfort zones of security? We remember a great and passionate missionary on August 21, on his 25th death anniversary, the first missionary who broke the geographical boundaries of culture, language, and State and initiated a missionary movement in India, Rev. Fr. George Vayalil MSFS. We are proud of Fr. Vayalil, popularly known as 'Vayalilachan' and his legacy, which is still alive in the hearts of not only MSFS, but also many other missionary priests, and Rev. Sisters all over the world.

1. 25th death anniversary of Father George Vayalil

There will be a special mass and prayers at SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor on August 21, 2012, on the occasion of the 25th death anniversary of Fr. George Vayalil of happy memories. The Ettumanoor Apostolic Community members are joining the Eucharistic celebration. Please contact Father Rector if you would like to be part of the celebration. The Apostolic community is planning to have a 'Mission Sangamam' to honor the memory Fr. Vayalil later. The date and program will be announced shortly.

2. Father Mermier, Our Founder, 150th Death Anniversary

Our Superior General, Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, has reminded us through his letter that 'the 150th death anniversary of our Founder (this year) and 175th anniversary of the Foundation of our Congregation (next year) are invitations to deepen our renewal and rootedness in the Founder'. On September 30, 2012, I invite all our apostolic communities and Formation houses to have a meaningful celebration of the Founder's day. Wherever you are, make it a day of grace and thanksgiving. The Local Superiors and the Conveners of Apostolic Communities will take note of the date and call for appropriate community celebration. In the Province level, we will plan a grand celebration of the 150th and 175th in the coming months.

3. Visit to Europe and USA:

From July 7 – August 4, I had the opportunity to visit all our confreres in Germany and Austria. By God's grace and generosity of our confreres I was able to spend some time with each confrere in his own ministry place. I started my visitation with Father Y.Mathias and then visited all our confreres and concluded my visitation again with the parish of Father Mathias. I thank all our confreres in Germany and Austria for their hospitality and concern and love for the Province and its mission. Some of our confreres were able to contact their Pastors and collect mass stipends for the Province. We had a gathering of all our confreres in the parish of Father Joseph Pazhayattil on July 16th and we celebrated the silver Jubilee of his ordination. All the confreres of the South West India Province, except those who were in India for holidays, participated in the grand celebration of the thanksgiving Eucharist with the Jubilarian followed by a community meeting and a delicious meal (German style) at the restaurant. For the smooth functioning of our confreres in Germany, the community has elected Fr. Pazhayattil as the Contact Person for the Province in Germany and Fr. Binod Puthenpura as the Treasurer in the place of Father Siby Manickathan. I thank Father Siby for his excellent and faithful service to the Province as Treasurer. I thank Father James Mukalel who is doing enormous work in maintaining the accounts of salaries of confreres of our Province and also of the other Provinces. I thank all our confreres for their service to the Church in Germany and Austria and their commitment to the mission of the Province.

4. Syro Malabar Convention 2012:

At the invitation of Syro-Malabar Convention Committee of North America, I participated in the mega Convention in Atlanta as a speaker, in the Georgia Convention Center, Atlanta. Nearly 2500 participants from all over U.S and Canada were present. The Syro-Malabar Parish of Atlanta, under the leadership of Fr. Johny Puthiyaparambil, organized the convention. Many bishops including His Beatitude Mar George Alencherry was present for the convention. I congratulate Fr. Johny and the Parish team in Atlanta who worked hard to make it a memorable event.

5. Retreat with Father James Manjackal



It was my first experience of a Charismatic retreat with Father Manjackal outside India, in Guarda, Portugal. It was a treat and an uplifting experience for me to see around 1300 people from Portugal and Spain gathered in an auditorium for three days of prayer, celebration of the sacraments, and healing service. The long line of people standing for the sacrament of reconciliation was truly an intervention of the Holy Spirit in the lives of so many people who were away from the Catholic Church for many years. Father Manjackal has a great team of volunteers who coordinate the program in such a way that he is free to do the preaching and celebration of the sacraments. The bishop of the diocese was present for the Eucharistic celebration and he wanted more Fransalians like Father James Manjackal to continue the new Evangelization. As I participated in the week end retreat in Guarda, I was delighted to see the energy of Father Manjackal who has retreats every week end and he travels miles and miles for every retreat. People in Portugal lovingly call him “Our Achan” and they experience the powerful presence of God in him and in his ministry. Thank you Father James for what you are doing for the People of God who are searching for a Saviour in the brokenness of their lives. I thank you for the arrangements you made for my stay and travels.

I had a great opportunity to spend two evenings in Fatima, Portugal as organized by Father Manjackal. Each one of you was close to me in my prayers and I placed the entire Province with all our confreres and their ministries at the feet of our Blessed Mother.

6. Thanks to the Retreat Preaching Team

I thank and appreciate the retreat team consisting of Fathers Jose Parappillil, Jacob Parappally, and Thomas Kalariparambil who did an excellent job in preparing and animating 4 retreats on community living for our confreres in the Province. We shall now live the retreat in our communities. Only 4 confreres were not able to participate in the

retreat. It is important that we make our plan and program leaving room for the Province retreat every year. As a Province Family we shall make all efforts possible not to compromise on annual retreats and other important events of the Province.

7. Re-location of Province Property

We have been making a thorough study of the possibilities of new openings of mission with specific ministries and communities in Kerala and Karnataka. It is important to complete and stabilize the unfinished projects and existing ministries in the Province and at the same time to start new communities and ministries where needed in the context of more new confreres available for ministry and more senior confreres getting experienced and qualified. We are blessed that we have pieces of land as assets in both Karnataka and Kerala. They were purchased with the purpose of starting new ministries but we could not succeed in implementing some of those projects. The Provincial Administration made a detailed study of the possibilities of utilizing these properties (Mysore, Dandeli in Karwar, Moonalam in Adoor, and Kattappana) for ministries. We are also in the process of exploring the possibilities of relocating them through the sale of the above mentioned properties and purchasing new land in those areas where there is need for our pastoral presence according to our charism. We are still negotiating the sale and purchase of land except in Mysore where the sale is partially done.

8. Silver Jubilee of S.F.S. School, Kadisenahalli

St. Francis de Sales School, Kadishenahalli is completing 25 years of its service to the rural population in and around the village. The School is organizing a public program on September 6, 2012 to celebrate the occasion. God Bless SFS Kadisenahalli!

9. Fr. Abey Thunduparambil and Bro. Anishmon Kamukumthottathil have reached Philippines on August 8, 2012. Fr. Abey is designated to be appointed as assistant Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Molino and Bro. Anishmon is appointed to the MSFS Scholasticate Malabag community, Silang where he will continue his regency till he begins his Theological studies. We wish both of them all the best and abundance of God's blessings in their mission, ministry and study in the Philippine Delegation.

10. Congratulations to the new Apostolic Community Conveners and Secretaries:

The following are the Apostolic Community Conveners and Secretaries elected by the community and approved by the Provincial:

Fr. Shaju Arackal: Convener of Apostolic Community in Kannur

Fr. A. Prashanthkumar: Convener of the Apostolic Community in North Karnataka and
Fr. Martin Elayidathumadathil: Secretary

Fr. Jose Maliekal: Convener of the Apostolic Community at Ettumanoor and Fr. K. George Rosario: Secretary

11. Appointments:

Fr. A. Jabamalai, who is serving in the Expert Committee for Education, is appointed 'liaison officer' in Karnataka to serve as a link between the management and the Board of Education and as a contact person to furnish us with information from different departments.

Fr. Benny Marangolil is the Principal-designate of S.F.S. Degree College, Hebbagodi with effect from September 1, 2012

Fr. Gino Plathottam is appointed to the community of S.F.S. Vidyashram, Aluva.

12. SFS YOUTH MEET 2012



was conducted at CHINTHAMANI for the young people from SFS Parishes in the Archdiocese of Bangalore. It was attended by 250 participants accompanied by Priests and nuns. The main theme of the meet was 'JESUS CALLS YOU TO LIVE AND WITNESS TO HIS MISSION.' The introductory talk was given by Rev. Fr. Jabamalai

MSFS on the theme "how to witness Christ in our lives"? The Holy Eucharistic was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Santhosh Kumar along with Fr. Irudayaraj, Fr. Periyamayagam, Fr. Subin, Fr. Johnson and Fr. Jojo. Various competitions were conducted to encourage the youths to remain in unity. Special thanks to Fr. Jojo, DSS Sisters and SFS youth Chinthamani for their hard work and making the meet a successful one.

Fr. Jabamalai MSFS, Youth Director

13. Church at Srinivasapur:



On August 1, 2012, His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Bernad Moras, the Archbishop of Bangalore has blessed and laid the foundation stone of the proposed New Church and the Presbytery at Srinivasapur. The Archbishop has dedicated this New Church to "Nithyadhaara Mathe" (Our Lady of Perpetual Succour). *Fr. M. Periyamayagam, msfs, Parish Priest*

14. Let us Pray for the Sick

Father Lindsay Hendricks of Brazil Province is seriously ill and admitted in the Intensive Care Unit. Please pray for Father Lindsay

15. Let us pray for the Departed

Rev.Fr. Joseph Victor Chappuis of Brazil Province passed away on July 30, 2012 at Caçador. He was born on August 21, 1919, made his first profession on August 24, 1945 and was ordained a priest on July 21, 1950. He arrived in Brazil in 1952. The last seven years of his life were years of suffering but he never complained. May God grant him eternal rest!

My Program:

August 18 – 21: SFS Ettumanoor for Death Anniversary
August 23: Pre Novitiate Program, Sudhirvana
August 27 – 30: Clergy retreat in the diocese of Ernakulam
September 1-4: Regional Formation Forum in Visakhapatnam
September 6: SFS School Kadisenahalli
September 9: IIS Bangalore for Institute day
September 10 – 14: North Karnataka
September 15 – 16: Provincial Council Meeting

Salesian Thought:

“Let us say to God, “Father, if possible, let this chalice pass from me,” but let us courageously add, “But not my will, but yours be done.”

St. Francis de Sales

Fraternally in Christ,



Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS
Provincial Superior