

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



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Circular AB/13

November 30, 2012

My dear Confreres,



Prayerful wishes and warm greetings from Vinayalaya! We are all getting into busy times in our ministries while planning for the season of Advent, school anniversaries, parish feasts, priestly ordinations, Christmas and New Year celebrations, and Holiday season. We are also preparing for the great Jubilee year of the Foundation of our Congregation, the year of Faith, the Mission Sangamam in connection with the 25th death anniversary of our pioneering missionary Fr. George Vayalil, and the 19th Ordinary General Chapter. In the midst of all these ‘biggies’ coming up, let me

draw our attention, during the Advent season, to our mission in and through community life. Mission of Christ is the heartbeat of the Church and of religious life. Today we speak of a shift from religious life-shaped-mission to mission-shaped-religious life, where mission and charism shape religious life. No life ever grows until it is focused and disciplined. Our mission and charism should shape our religious life in communities. We are already working on it since some time. While some communities are faithful in living our religious community life in the spirit of our Constitutions and General Directory under the guidance of the Local Superior, some are yet to rise up to the challenges and demands. Why are some people more successful than others? One of the most important success principles of all was stated by Thomas Huxley: **“Do what you should do, when you should do it, whether you feel like or not”**. Jesus said: “And he who sent me is with me; he has not left me alone, because I always do what pleases him” (John 8:29). We shall do what we should do and what pleases Him in shaping our religious community life whether we feel like it or not. I invite all our local superiors of communities to make consistent effort, during this season of spiritual preparation for Christmas, to animate the communities in the spirit of our mission and charism. Have a blessed season of Advent.

1. Letter from the Superior General to all the Confreres

Please read the attached letter of our Superior General. He keeps us informed ‘on matters that matter and which affect our common life as MSFS’. We are requested ‘to read

carefully through all the pages and experience the energy of fraternal communion and the joy of remaining in link with the entire Congregation.’

2. Mission Sangamam

On the occasion of the 25th death anniversary of our veteran missionary Fr. George Vayalil (the first MSFS priest from Kerala and the First and the Pioneering missionary from the Syro Malabar Church in Kerala) we are organizing a Mission Sangamam - 2013. The detailed information is already in circulation. This mega event is scheduled to take place at SFS Seminary Ettumanoor on January 16th and 17th together with celebration of 175th year of the Foundation of the Congregation and the Year of Faith. I join the Apostolic Community at Ettumanoor and invite all the confreres of the South West India Province and all the students of Fr. Vayalil in the other Provinces, and Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy and Sisters of St. Ann of Luzern promoted and guided by him to attend this great event in order to re-live the memories and celebrate the life of our dear Father. Superiors of various local communities in consultation with Conveners of Apostolic communities will please make necessary arrangements in your communities for every confrere to participate in this Province event. Make all necessary arrangements in your respective centers so that every confrere can attend this event. Thank you for your understanding and participation in advance.

3. Inauguration of the 175th Anniversary of the Foundation

The parish church at Shaanwadi, Pune officially opened the Jubilee Year on October 24th, 2012 with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Most Rev. Thomas Dabre, the bishop of Pune. The General Curia, the Provincials of India and East Africa, and a large number of confreres and religious concelebrated with the bishop. Hundreds of people participated in the Eucharistic celebration. Large number of people gathered there enjoyed the cultural event, felicitation program, and fellowship meal organized by the Provincialate community and the parish. Hearty congrats to Fr. Vincent, the Provincial and the entire Province for hosting this historical event!

4. 175th Jubilee of our Congregation

We are planning a celebration of our Jubilee at the National level sometime in the month of September 2013 in Suvidya College. This will be an opportunity for all MSFS confreres of Indian Provinces to come together and celebrate our accomplishments and those of our pioneering missionaries. Please block the month of September in your calendar for another mega event.

5. Provincials of India Forum

PIF had a meeting with the Superior General and the general Administration at Pune on October 23 – 25, 2012 to discuss concerns of inter provincial nature.

6. Appointment of New Bursar in Suvidya

Fr. Maria Selvan of the South East India Province is appointed the new Bursar of Suvidya College and he has taken charge of his responsibility on November 19, 2012. We wish him our prayerful support on his new assignment. Congratulations! We express our sincere appreciation and thanks to the outgoing bursar Fr. Mendem Bhaskar for his hard work and service.

7. Appointments

Fr. Sudeep Paul is appointed as the Principal of the proposed Degree College at Kolar with effect from November 8, 2012.

Fr. Timson Parakkottil is appointed as the Vice Principal of SFS Degree College, Hebbagodi with effect from December 3, 2012.

Fr. Raison Kaduvakuzhiyil is appointed as the Director of Boys' Hostel at Hebbagodi Campus with effect from December 3, 2012.

Fr. Soby Maroor is appointed as the Procurator of Mermier Bhavan Community, Hebbagodi with effect from December 1, 2012.

Fr. Siby Manickathan is appointed as the Administrator of SFS Public School and Junior College, Ettumanoor with effect from December 3, 2012.

Fr. Aloysius Kuzhuppillil is designated to be appointed as the parish priest of St. Mary's Church, Kolar with effect from February 10, 2013

Fr. Tomy Mullasseril is appointed as the Superior of MSFS Local community of Koppal, Manager and Administrator of the SFS School and SFS Public School, and is also designated to be the parish priest of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Koppal from February 3, 2013.

Fr. George Chirayil is appointed as the Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church, Thamarachal in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam – Angamly

Fr. Saju Vilachirayil is appointed to the community of Malur with effect from January 28, 2013.

Fr. Mathew Elayidathumadathil is designated to be appointed as pastor of St. Alphonsa Syro Malabar Church in Atlanta, Ga. with effect from December 16, 2012

Fr. Johnny Puthiaparampil has completed his term of ministry at St. Alphonsa Church in Atlanta and he is returning to India shortly. We thank Fr. Johnny for his leadership and ministry to the Syro Malabar community. The parish has grown to be one of the vibrant parishes in the Syro Malabar diocese of Chicago. We welcome Fr. Johnny back to India where he will be completing doctorate in Spirituality at IIS, Bangalore.

Rev. Fr. Superior General has appointed Fr. Thomas Mekkattu as the local superior of Eichstatt-Regensburg local community (GAH) with effect from November 20, 2012 for three years.

Fr. Shibu Thundathil is appointed to the community of Vinayalaya with effect from November 9, 2012.

8. 'De Sales Degree College', Kolar

In the light of the recommendation to start a PU College in Kolar (Tamaka Land), we found that the changing scenario of Educational system in Karnataka foresees PU as part of the school system in the nearest future. The Provincial Administration, in the context of the need of the Kolar mission for educational ministry there, has decided to start a degree college from the academic year 2013. The proposed De Sales Degree College will offer bachelors programs in different streams to the local students who aspire for higher education. Fr. Sudeep Paul, the newly appointed Principal of the College is busy getting the ground-work done for the new college. We wish Fr. Sudeep all the best in this challenging project.

9. Regents Meet for Mid-Evaluation

All the regents are requested to attend the mid-evaluation of regency to be conducted in Vinayalaya from January 4-7, 2013. Local Superiors please make arrangements for the regents to attend this programme.

10. Athmabhisheka Convention in Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha

22nd Annual Charis Bhavan Bible convention led by Rev. Fr. James Manjackal MSFS, was held in Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha from October 20-24, 2012. A huge crowd



gathered for the convention and those were the days of God experience and spiritual renewal for all gathered. It was after 16 years that Fr. James preached a convention in Charis Bhavan. Fr. James was assisted by a group of preachers from different nationalities who experienced the touch of the Lord through his ministry and they gave their testimonies during the convention. The convention was inaugurated solemnly by Rt. Rev. Dr. Sebastian Thekkethecheril, Bishop of

Vijayapuram. Rt. Rev. Dr. Bosco Puhtur, Curia Bishop of Syro - Malabar Church also gave his message on one of the days of convention. Rev. Dr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS, Provincial of South- West India province presided over the Eucharistic celebration and shared God's word. He published 'DAIVATHE PRANAYIKKAN KAZHINJIRUNENKIL', the new book written by Rev. Fr. Kurian Karickal MSFS and new video and audio CD of talks in Malayalam on various topics. Many of our confreres were present even from the missions to give spiritual assistance to the people during the days of convention. Confreres and brothers from SFS seminary extended their great support for the success of the convention. The convention led by Fr. James was also a real preparation for the celebration of the Year of Faith. *Fr. Aneesh Mundiyanickal*

11. The meetings of the Formation Forum and Core Committee

The second half yearly meeting of the Formation Forum took place on November 24, 2012 at Vinayalaya , Bangalore. Prior to this meeting an important meeting of the newly constituted Core Committee took place at the Provincial House on November 23, 2012 at 6.00 pm to discuss and to enlist some of the main issues in the formation programmes of our Province.

On the following day the Formation Forum met at 9.00 am to evaluate and to discuss the main agenda already prepared by the Core Committee. The meeting discussed thoroughly about the implementation of the Action Plan of the Provincial Chapter and the Action Plan of the General Chapter on Formation. In the inaugural address Fr. Provincial said that our formation gains its strength when we live out the vision of the Church and the vision of the Congregation more than our personal vision. A detailed discussion on the various stages of formation and its difficulties and challenges were also taken for discussion. The meeting came to a close by 2.00 pm with a Eucharistic Adoration led by Fr. Jose Kumbloickal.

Fr. George Valliamthadathil

12. Visit of the Councillor in charge of Formation to Philippine Delegation



Fr. Benny Koottanal the Councillor in charge of Formation was in our Philippine Delegation from October 14-29, 2012 to visit the formation houses and to evaluate the ministry of formation. Two weeks of classes on Salesian Spirituality was conducted for the brothers at different stages of formation. There are 5 theologians, 4 postulants, 12 philosophers and 12 aspirants. A one day seminar on Salesian Spirituality was conducted for

all our benefactors and friends who are supporting our mission in the Philippines. Fr. Benny also blessed the newly constructed MSFS Scholasticate for theologians at Maitim, Brgy, on 27th October. Our brothers have already moved into the new house.

13. SFS Church Cemetery at Electronics City (Gollahalli)

Although the land for the cemetery was sanctioned in 1996 the villagers protested against the construction of a cemetery. On August 27, Fr. Christopher Crasta, the parish priest, accompanied by more than four hundred Christians both Catholics and Protestants along with Karnataka Kraistha Rakshna Vedike went and planted a Cross and began the construction of a wall around the land allotted for cemetery. On September 16, 2012 Archbishop Bernard Moras blessed the cemetery. Now a beautiful chapel is built for the celebration of the Eucharist and the land is fortified with 8 feet wall and a tall gate. We congratulate and appreciate the efforts of Fr. Crasta and his team and his predecessors who made cemetery project a reality.

Fr. Subin Puzhakara

14. New Ordo

The new Ordo for the year 2013 is ready. It is dispatched to all our communities. If anyone of you has not yet received the ordo, please contact Provincial secretary. I thank Fr. Tom Kanat for preparing the new Ordo, which he does joyfully for the past many years.

15. Gulbarga Mission



Frs. Doraiswamy and Ekka Anand are in Sedam in the diocese of Gulbarga for the past three years rendering their service as resident priests, taking care of a small Catholic Christian community with two substations. It is at the request of Rev. Dr Robert Miranda the bishop of Gulbarga that we opened a new mission station at Gurumitakal and at Sedam. It is a mission area and there are things we as missionaries can do for the people of the place. People need us in the field of education, health and

social service. The visit of Rev. Fr. Provincial in the month of September 11 to 14, 2012 was a real source of support and encouragement. He appreciated the fathers for their commitment. Fr. Doraiswamy and Fr. Anand are organizing tuitions for the poor children of the place.

Fr. Doraiswamy.D.msfs.

16. Change of Address

Fr. George Chirayil
Sacred Heart Church
Thamarachal
Kizhakkambalam
Kerala- 683 562
Mob: 8281521797

Fr. Thomas Thekkekarote
Facultad de Teologia
C/. E. Martinez del campo
10. 09003 Burgos, Spain
Mob No: [+34605656879](tel:+34605656879)

Fr. Tony Ernyakulathil
Maria Bhavan
Bhovi Colony, H.K Road
Shiralkoppa
Karnataka 577 428

17. Land at Dandelli

We have sold our land (5 acres) at Dandelli, North Karnataka on November 5, 2012 with the purpose of re-investing the money for other immediate projects.

18. Let us pray for the Sick

Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil has been admitted in Carithas Hospital since one month and his health continues to deteriorate. Please continue to pray for him.

19. Let us pray for the Departed Confreres



Rev. Fr. Devasia Kalapura MSFS (11.4.1950 – 18.10.2012)

Fr. Devasia Kalapura was born on April 11, 1950 at Edoor, Iritty, Kerala. (parents: late Joseph and Aleykutty, Parish: St. Mary's Church, Telleychery Diocese) After his school education in his home town he joined SFS Seminary Ettumanoor in 1970. He completed his Philosophical studies in St. Charles Seminary Nagpur and completed B.A in SFS College, Nagpur in 1976. He was appointed to SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor for regency in 1976-77. He did his novitiate in Salesianum and made his first profession on June 10, 1978. He

completed his theological studies at JDV, Pune from 1978-81 and was ordained priest on November 11, 1981 at Vinayalaya, Bangalore by Archbishop K. Mariadas.

He was first appointed to Vinayakumar Estate, Chokkad, Nilampur from 1981 to 1983. He was then sent to Silapathar to do his B.Ed studies from 1983-84. In 1985 he was appointed to Pastoral Sociology Institute in Hyderabad. He was appointed parish priest of St. Mary's Church and Head Master of NAAMALP School in Telpara from 1986 to 1992. In 1993 he was appointed Parish Priest at Holy Family church, Alimukku. From 1995 to 1997 he served as the Parish priest of St. Francis Xavier's Church, Vattapara. He was parish Priest of St. Thomas Church, Mangara from 1997 to 1999. In 2000 he was appointed to the community of PSI Sevagram, Kengeri. In 2002 he was appointed Principal of SFS School, Malur. In 2008 he was appointed as Superior and correspondent of SFS School, Srinivasapur. Due to ill health he was at Vinayalaya, Bangalore from 2008-2012. After prolonged years of intense suffering Fr. Devasia passed away on October 18, 2012 at Bangalore. The funeral service was held at SFS Seminary Ettumanoor on October 19, 2012 at 2 PM, where he is laid to rest.

Fr. Devasia had been always a hard working priest. When his health began to deteriorate he suffered patiently. He was a good pastor and an excellent and experienced, Educationist.



Rev. Fr. Thudianplackal Mathew MSFS (14.7.1929-

17.11.2012) was born on July 14, 1929 in Alanadu, Palai, Kerala to Mr. Mathew and Mrs. Anna. After finishing his school studies he joined the seminary in 1948. He did his philosophical studies in Sacred Heart Seminary, Poonamallee after which he was sent to Margao, Goa for the canonical year of Novitiate where he made his First Religious Profession on May 15, 1954. After his Theological studies at Papal Athaneum, Pune, he was ordained on May 26, 1957. During the initial years of Priesthood he worked as a missionary in Salur and Parvathipuram in the diocese of Visakhapatnam. A born mechanic and builder he

offered enormous service in this field during the rest of his life. For a year he supervised and built the St. John's Regional Seminary, Hyderabad. Then he was engaged in the repair of St. Ann's Cathedral, Visakhapatnam. Along with European MSFS Fathers he worked for 10 years in St. Aloysius' Industrial School Visakhapatnam, training young boys from the remote villages and training them qualified to get a job in the growing industrial city of Visakhapatnam. Later he was appointed manager of St. Aloysius' Industrial School. He constructed one wing of S.F.S. Minor Seminary Ettumanoor, the boarding of L.R.G. School, Anantapur and the school and Church in Shantinagar, Hyderabad. In 1980 he came to Bangalore and from 1981 to 1991 he was the parish priest of Holy Rosary Church Venkata. He continued his stay there and worked as Chaplain to the Missionaries of Charity, helping them in their ministry to the mentally and physically challenged people. He was also chaplain to Catherine Nivas, Vidyanagar, Bangalore. On May 26, 2007 he completed 50 years of his priesthood. Due to ill health he was appointed to the community of Mermier Bhavan, Hebbagodi on December 10, 2007. He breathed his last on November 17, 2012 at 3.45 PM at Mermier Bhavan, Hebbagodi. His funeral was at SFS Seminary Ettumanoor on November 19, 2012 at 2.30 pm.

Fr. Mathew was a person who was affable, loving, caring and never made a show of the innumerable services he rendered.

20. Thank you SFS Seminary Ettumanoor Community

Within the range of one month (October 19 –November 19), we had two funerals. We miss our confreres who contributed a big share to the mission of the Church and the Congregation. We continue to grieve the loss of our dear confreres. I thank Fr. Jose Maliekal, the Rector, the staff, and students of SFS for their single hearted effort to make all arrangements for the funeral service and liturgy, and for providing care and support to the families and confreres who attended the funerals in big number.

21. Let us Pray

Mrs. Mary Joseph, Mother of Fr. Jojo Kolarickal passed away on 20-10-2012. She was 69 years old.

Mrs. Sushila, Mother of Fr. James Thomas passed away on 10.11.2012. She was 85 years old

Sr. Valence, A.C, sister of Fr. Jose Edasseril passed away on 23.11.2012. She was 78 years old.

Mrs. Mariam, Mother of Fr. Jose Kokkandathil passed away on 25.11.2012. She was 81 years old

Programme:

December 2	Gokunte
December 3	Saveriyarpattanam for ordination
December 9	IIS Bangalore
December 12	Shimoga

December 22	Koppal and Kuknoor
December 27-29	Mumbai for ordination
December 31	Manikkadave for ordination
January 3	Kaduthuruthy for ordination
January 6	Nanjangodu for ordination

Salesian Thought:

“If you want to know whether a man is really wise, learned, generous or noble, see if his life is moulded by humility, modesty, and submission. If so, his gifts are genuine” *St. Francis de Sales*

Fraternally in Christ,



Fr. Abraham Vettuvilil MSFS
Provincial Superior