

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



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**Circular AB/02**

**01 September, 2011**

**My dear Confreres,**

Cordial greetings from Vinayalaya, Bangalore. We are in the month of September and we have two important days in this month (September 15<sup>th</sup> and September 30<sup>th</sup>) that need our personal attention and community celebration. The feast of Mother of Compassion and Mermier's Day fall on this month reminding us of our need to show our filial love toward our Patroness and our deep love for our Founder and our Congregation.



Let me share with you a thought that Our Holy Father Benedict XVI shared with the people at CASTEL GANDOLFO, reflecting on the gospel of Mathew 16: 21 – 26. When Jesus prophesied his suffering, death, and resurrection, Peter rebelled and said to his Master: “God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you”. What appears evident here is the plan of God for his only begotten Son on the cross to save humanity, and the expectations, the desires, and the

plans of the disciple. There is a discord between the plan of God and the plans of disciples. The same discord occurs also today. When the fulfillment of one's life is directed solely to social success, to physical and economic wellbeing, then one no longer reasons according to God, but according to worldly standards. To think according to the world is to put God aside, not to accept his plan of love, almost impeding the fulfillment of his holy will. Benedict XVI invited Christians to follow Christ by accepting the cross with love, though in the eyes of the world, this seems a defeat and loss of life.



### 1. September 15, Feast of Mother of Compassion

The feast of Mother of Sorrows and Founder's Day invite us all to seek the plan of God like Mary our Mother and Father Peter Mermier, our Founder. "Where there is less of our own choice there is more of God" was the test given by St. Francis de Sales in seeking the will of God.

**We have a special devotion to the Virgin Mother of God, who being closely related to the Mystery of Christ, is the model for our consecrated and apostolic life. We express our filial love to Mary by meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, the Seven Sorrows and by honoring her as the Mother of Compassion (Const. 109).**

**The solemnities of St. Francis de Sales and of the Mother of Compassion are to be celebrated by all with earnestness and love. The feast day celebrations must be preceded by appropriate preparatory devotional practices like Novena etc. (Gen. Dir. 80/iii).**

**It is recommended that as a devotional practice all perpetually professed members make a devotional renewal of their vow once a year on a day fixed by the Provincial to deepen their awareness that the final commitment is an on-going one (Gen. Dir. 80/ii).**

Please make sure that we start the novena to the Mother of Compassion by September 6<sup>th</sup>. All the perpetually professed confreres can come together some time on or around the Feast Day or Founder's Day for a devotional renewal of vows as recommended by our General Directory. The Local Superiors, Conveners of Apostolic Communities, and the Rectors of Formation Houses can coordinate this devotional practice according to your discretion in consultation with community members.

### 2. September 30, Founder's day

**A preparation lasting nine days is to be made in order to highlight the solemnity of the Founder's Day on 30<sup>th</sup> September every year. Our deep love for our Founder and our Congregation should mark these days. A votive Mass in honor of St. Francis de Sales is to be celebrated on the Founder's Day (Gen. Dir. 80/ IV).**

I recommend a celebration of Founder's Day at the Apostolic Community or Local Community level.

### 3. Provincial's Visitation

Please accept my profound gratitude for extending warm hospitality and generosity during my visit with you personally, and at Local community level/Apostolic Community level. I had the opportunity to be part of the Apostolic Community meetings in some units. It was also an opportunity for me to see personally the various ministries in our Province. Each situation and each ministry is unique. Along with the challenges and struggles our confreres encounter in some places, there is also reward and fulfillment. I appreciate the way you deal with various situations with commitment, optimism, and missionary spirit. We need short term and long term planning to address our concerns. We need to strike a balance between stabilization and expansion of our projects. Effectiveness lies in the balance. Each center has to evolve its mission and vision plan

that is realistic and realizable within the limited financial and human resources available in the Province. We need to apply our heart and mind to work out the best options for each center of the Province.

#### 4. Provincial Chapter 2011

We have begun our preparations for the Provincial Chapter. The Reflection Paper on **“Re- Discovering our MSFS Identity: A Prophetic Response to Emerging Threats to our Religious Life and Missionary Life”** is sent to all our confreres. If you have not received a copy yet, please let the secretary know. The prayer in preparation for the Chapter is to be recited by all as spiritual preparation. The Conveners of Apostolic Communities, Delegates to the Provincial Chapter, and Representatives of the Scholastics will make an effort to facilitate the process of sharing and preparing a comprehensive report on the Reflection Paper based on the questions. Your active participation and contribution mean a lot. The Report from each Apostolic Community or geographical unit should reach the Provincial’s office on or before September 20, 2011.

#### 5. Congratulations to the Elected Delegates/Representatives of the Provincial Chapter

The following are the elected delegates to the First Provincial Chapter:

- |                                      |                               |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Fr. Chirayil George               | 16. Fr. Mookenthottam Antony  |
| 2. Fr. E. Erudaya Raja               | 17. Fr. Narikunnel Regi       |
| 3. Fr. Elayidathumadam Mathew        | 18. Fr. Nellimalamattam Joshy |
| 4. Fr. Kalariparambil Thomas         | 19. Fr. Ottalankal Chacko     |
| 5. Fr. Kanjiramparampil Johnny       | 20. Fr. Palamkunnel Biju      |
| 6. Fr. Kizhakkethazhe Francis        | 21. Fr. Parapillil Jose       |
| 7. Fr. Kodikuthiyil Henry            | 22. Fr. Pattarakalayil Joseph |
| 8. Fr. Kokkandathil Jose             | 23. Fr. Pulpara Joseph        |
| 9. Fr. Koottanal Benny               | 24. Fr. S. Arockiasamy        |
| 10. Fr. Kulangarathottiyil Sebastian | 25. Fr. T. Paul Raj           |
| 11. Fr. Kumbidiamakkal Manu          | 26. Fr. Thazhathukunnel Joshy |
| 12. Fr. Kurakalayil Binoy            | 27. Fr. Thekkekarottu Thomas  |
| 13. Fr. Kuzhuppillil Aloysius        | 28. Fr. Thundathil Shibu      |
| 14. Fr. Manickathan Siby             | 29. Fr. Vattapara George      |
| 15. Fr. Mannukuzhumbil Joseph        | 30. Dn. Manjackal Jijo        |

#### Representatives

1. Bro. Pallassery Sujith (theology & regency)
2. Bro. S. Innaci Muthu (Philosophy)

#### 6. General Chapter 2013

We have completed the first round of ballot for the election of the Delegates to the General Chapter 2013. Here is the result of the first round:

Total number of Confreres eligible to vote: 203

Total number of ballot papers issued: 203

Total number of votes received: 80

Absolute Majority needed in the first round: 40 + 1

1. Fr. A. Anthony Swamy	9
2. Fr. Balavendra Jacob	1
3. Fr. Chennakattukunnel Thomas	3
4. Fr. Chirackal Justin	1
5. Fr. Chirayil George	2
6. Fr. Crasta Harold Christopher	2
7. Fr. D. Jeevan Prasad	3
8. Fr. Edathumparambil Binu	2
9. Fr. Kalariparambil Thomas	25
10. Fr. Kalathungal Mathew	2
11. Fr. Kallacheril Joseph	2
12. Fr. Kanjiramparambil Johny	3
13. Fr. Kannanaickal Jose	1
14. Fr. Karekatt Joseph	1
15. Fr. Karickal Kurian	5
16. Fr. Kizhakkethazhe Francis	5
17. Fr. Kodikuthiyil Henry	10
18. Fr. Kokkandathil Jose	3
19. Fr. Kolencherry Antony	1
20. Fr. Koottanal Benny	20
21. Fr. Kottam Wilson	1
22. Fr. Kozhuppakalam Mathew	5
23. Fr. Kumbidiamakkal Manu	1
24. Fr. Kumblolickal Jose	32
25. Fr. Kurakalayil Binoy	1
26. Fr. Kuzhuppil Devasia	1
27. Fr. Maliekal Jose	3
28. Fr. Mangalathu Joshy	1
29. Fr. Manjackal James	6
30. Fr. Mannukuzhumpil Joseph	1
31. Fr. Marangolil Benny	4
32. Fr. Mookenthottam Antony	10
33. Fr. Moongamakkal Thomas	1
34. Fr. Mullenkuzhy Joseph	2
35. Fr. Nellimalamattam Joshy	1
36. Fr. Ottalankal Chacko	4
37. Fr. Parapally Jacob	7
38. Fr. Parapillil Jose	26
39. Fr. Parappuram Louis	1
40. Fr. Pathiyakam Jinu	2
41. Fr. Plathotathil Jino	1
42. Fr. Ponnambel Josey	3
43. Fr. Pulpara Joseph	6

44. Fr. R. Santosh Kumar	4
45. Fr. Thayil Joseph	1
46. Fr. Thazhathukunnel Joshy	1
47. Fr. Thekkekarottu Thomas	1
48. Fr. Thondampallil Anil	1
49. Fr. Thudipara Jacob	1
50. Fr. Thundathil Shibu	1
51. Fr. Vadakkedath Saji	2
52. Fr. Valliamthadathil George	4
53. Fr. Vazheparambil Riju	2
54. Fr. Vellaramkunnel Sathish	1

It is sad to note that there is a significantly low percentage of polling in the first round. As no one has secured absolute majority, we go for a second round of voting. We will repeat the same process but a relative majority is sufficient this time. Please follow the same process by choosing three names from the previous list. The ballot papers will be sent to you shortly. May I request you to send your votes to the Provincial's Office on or before 30<sup>th</sup> September 2011. Please make sure you participate in the process by casting your vote. I request all of us to recite the prayer in preparation for the General Chapter.

## 7. Provincial Statutes

We have the new draft of the Provincial Statutes that was corrected and edited after studying them in the apostolic communities before the Provincial Congress 2009. Those corrections are incorporated in to the new text. However, the Provincial Statutes could not be taken up in the last Provincial Congress. We need to take up the same now for approval in the Provincial Chapter 2011. Before we do that I would like to place them once again in your hands for your final study and suggestions. In your Apostolic Community meetings, please take up this matter and send your valuable suggestions if any, on or before October 8, 2011.

## 8. Congratulations

- **Fr. Francis Thadathil** is appointed the Chairman of the Governing Body of Suvidya College from 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011.
- **Fr. Simon Paicatt** is appointed the Chairman of the Provincials of India Forum with effect from 10<sup>th</sup> August 2011.

## 9. Meetings of the various Forums

**Education Forum Meeting** was held on August 29, 2011 at Vinayalaya and it was attended by 21 confreres.

**Innovative Ministry Forum Meeting** was held on August 30, 2011 at Vinayalaya and it was attended by 17 participants.

**Mission Forum meeting** will be held on September 16, 2011 at Vinayalaya.

**Formation Forum meeting** will be held on September 17, 2011 at Vinayalaya.

Members of the various forums please make sure that you attend these Forum meetings without fail.

### 10. Silver Jubilee of Fr. Francis Kizhakethazhe



**Fr. Francis Kizhakethazhe** has begun the 25<sup>th</sup> year of his Priestly Ordination on 12.05.2011. He was born on 26.05.1960 at Pathanamthitta, Kerala. He made his First Profession on 10.06.1982. He was ordained priest by Mar Sebastian Valloppilli on 12.05.1987 at St. John's Church, Palavayal. On this occasion we shall, as a Province family, thank the Lord for the gift of Father Francis to us and specially pray for him and wish him God's abundant graces and blessings.

### 11. 60<sup>th</sup> birthday of Fr. George Chirayil



**Fr. George Chirayil** celebrated his 60<sup>th</sup> Birthday on 12.08.2011. He joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in 1968 and completed his philosophy and theology from Hyderabad. He was ordained priest on 08.03.1979 and in 2004 celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination. On his 60th birth-day we thank the Lord for the gift of the person of Father George to our MSFS family and pray for him that he may continue to be an effective instrument in the hands of the Lord.

### 12. Appointments

**Fr. Mamala Mathew** is appointed to Vinayakumar Ashram Community, Nilambur for a period of one year from 28.07. 2011. He was away from the Province to serve two years of Exclaustration from 17.03.2009 to 17.03.2011. His Exclaustration is terminated by a decree of the Superior General dated 26.01. 2011. We welcome him back to the Province.

**Fr. Jose Kannanaickal** is temporarily appointed to our community at Saumya Sadan till he obtains his visa to go for advanced studies.

**Fr. P. Maria Lawrence** is appointed as Assistant Parish Priest at St. Joseph's Church, Hubli by His Lordship Peter Machado with effect from September 01, 2011.

**Fr. Manickathan Shajan** will be rendering service in the Shrine Basilica of Our Lady of Health, Vailankanny for one month in the absence of Fr. K.V. Joseph.

**Fr. Santhosh Kumar** will be the Provincial Vicar in the absence of Fr. Provincial from September 3-20, 2011

**Fr. Pulpara Joseph** is elected Convener of Kannur Apostolic Community and **Fr. Kulangarathottiyil Sebastian** as Secretary.

**Fr. Puthuparambil Varghese** is elected Convener of Trivandrum-Adoor Apostolic Community and **Fr. Thunduparambil Abey** as secretary

### 13. Congratulations!



Fr. P. Maria Lawrence was born on 11.08.1982 at Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu to Mr. Philip and Mrs. Alphonse. He joined the minor seminary at Pudukkottai in 2000 and made his First Profession on 11.06.2002 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his Philosophical studies at Suvidya College, he was sent to Chad-Cameroon Mission for Regency. He completed his theological studies in St. Cyprain's Institute, Yaounde, Cameroon. He was ordained Priest by Most

Rev. Antony Devotta, Bishop of Trichy on 23.07.2011. We wish you a blessed ministry in Hubli.

#### 14. Ordinations

**Dn. Thonikuzhiyil Robin** will be ordained a priest on September 10, 2011 at 09.15 a.m., at Cherupushpa Church, Chandanackampara, Kannur, by His Grace Mar George Valiyamattam, Archbishop of Thalasserry.

**Dn. Emile Paulin Amougou Amougou** will be ordained a priest on September 17, 2011 at 10.00 a.m., at St. John Mary –Vianney Parish, Nkongoa by His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Victor Tonye Bakot, Archbishop of Yaounde.

#### 15. Change of Address

**Fr. Tony and Fr. Timson**  
Maria Bhavan  
3<sup>rd</sup> Cross, Durgigudi  
Honnali Town, Honnali Taluk  
Davangere District  
Karnataka-577 217

**Fr. James Thomas Mukalel GR**  
Kirchstr. 2  
87739 Breitenbrunn, GERMANY  
Tel. 08263 388  
Fax: 08263 960822  
Email jamesmukalel@yahoo.com

#### 16. The Constitution Growth Retreat

Constitution Growth Retreat for the third group of participants will be held in Vinayalaya from October 10-14, 2011. The retreat begins at 10:30 a.m. on Monday (October 10). **Every confrere is to attend the annual retreat of at least five days, arranged for the confreres of the Province (GD 60/i).** I request all our confreres who have not attended this mandatory Constitution Growth Retreat to do so without fail. Please contact the secretary for registration as early as possible.

#### 17. Update and Renewal Programme

Update and Renewal Programme of Group III was organized in two sessions. The first one was at Vinayalaya, Bangalore from January 11-17, 2011 in which only four members from our Province took part. The second one is at Mary Matha Dhyanaashram, Ross Hill, Visakhapatnam from October 25-31, 2011. All those who have not attended the first session please register your name for the second session with Fr. Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil, the coordinator of the programme. [e-mail: henrymsfs@gmail.com](mailto:henrymsfs@gmail.com), [frhenryjose@yahoo.com](mailto:frhenryjose@yahoo.com) Mobile: +919448819733.

#### 18. Data collection for the DVD of the South West India, Province

In view of the General Chapter 2013, Rev. Fr. Superior General has asked each province to make a DVD comprising of all the Centers: **its Origin** (Date, year, pioneering missionaries, catholic population, Confreres served in the place, etc.), **Location** (Place, taluk, District, etc.) **Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction** (Dioceses, Bishops.), **Kinds of ministry** (Parish/Education/Formation/Innovative Ministries), **Information regarding the place and activities and Summary of the ministry in few lines.**

Please make a few important photos and video clippings of ministries in your mission available for the preparation of the Province-DVD. Fr. Sudeep Paul is appointed to prepare the DVD. He will visit our communities with his team in the month of November 2011. Please furnish him with the above mentioned data.

### 19. KRCR Annual Assembly at Vinayalaya

17<sup>th</sup> Karnataka Regional Conference of Religious Annual Assembly of the Major Superiors of Karnataka was held in Vinayalaya from July 27<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011. There were 100 participants consisting of Major Superiors, their representatives and the executive members of local CRI units of Karnataka. Twelve bishops of Karnataka were present for one session and they celebrated the Eucharist with the participants. The theme of the assembly was “**Spirituality of good Governance**”.

### 20. Ceases to be member of the Congregation

**Nettananikal Robin** (III year philosophy) ceases to be member of the Congregation. We wish him all the best and God’s abundant blessings in his future career.

### 21. Let us pray

**Mr. Mathew**, father of Fr. Thomas Mekkatt passed away on July 24, 2011. He was 78 years old.

**Bishop Joe Rosario msfs** aged 96, Bishop Emeritus of Amaravati Passed Away on July 31, 2011. He was a Religious for 76 years, Priest for 67 years and Bishop for 56 years

**Salesian Thought: “Never be hurried in anything. Do all things calmly and in a spirit of repose. Do not lose your inward peace even if everything seems to be going wrong. What is anything in life compared to peace of soul?” *St. Francis de Sales***

### **Pope Benedict to Seminarians:**

Benedict XVI offered words of encouragement to the young men studying for the priesthood, telling them not to be afraid of giving their lives completely to Christ. He said: “Dear Seminarians, do not be afraid to take up the challenge to give your lives completely to Christ. Indeed, may all of us be generous in our commitment to him, carrying our cross with faith and courage”.

**Wishing you happy feast of our Patroness and happy Founder’s day**



**Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS**  
**Provincial**