

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

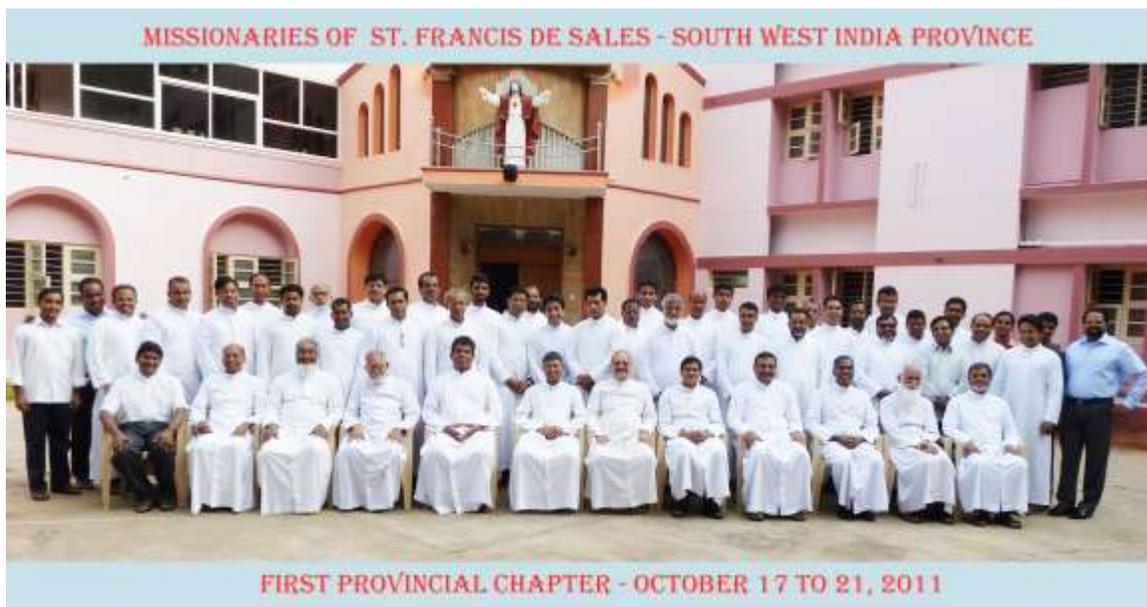


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Circular AB/04

01 November, 2011



My dear Confreres,

Cordial and prayerful greetings from Vinayalaya. We are in the month of November and Holy Mother the Church reminds us how important it is to offer prayers for those who have died but have not reached the full glory of heaven. Transitioning from earthly life into full union with God in heaven is not instantaneous. We cannot take our sinfulness to heaven. We must be purged in the cleansing fire. When we die, we come into full contact with the Infinite love of God; suddenly we realize how unlike God we really are. When we are aware how unloving we were in our sinful habits, we long and long to be purified so that we can be in full love. We burn with this desire to be purified. For John Paul II: **‘Purgatory is a place of joy, not punishment. Purgatory is a place of mercy’**. The cleansing and purifying fire of purgatory is our deepest regret over how imperfectly we have loved God. It is our deepest yearning to live eternally in his holy Love. During this month we shall be specially united with our confreres, near and dear ones who have gone before us so that they can be in full communion with God.

1. PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2011

Our Provincial Chapter was indeed a time of grace and blessing for the whole Province. There were 45 delegates (15 ex-officio and 30 elected), four Indian Provincials (Rev. Fathers Simon Paicatt, Jacob Karamakuzhiyil, Vincent Lourdsamy and Antony Dharmaraj), Rev. Fr. James Manjackal (special invitee), and two scholastic representatives who participated in the Chapter. The Chapter days were days of fraternal communion, sharing concerns, debating issues, and supporting and caring for each other. Prayerful recollection, reflections, celebration of liturgy, time spent before the Blessed Sacrament, personal sharing, and interactions solely focused on re-discovering our MSFS identity and living our religious and missionary identity amidst the threats of passivity and negativity creeping into our Province life. The five days of intense study and prayerful reflection have given us a new VISION and a fresh ACTION PLAN. Praise the Lord for revealing GOD'S VISION and we need renewed PASSION to carry forward this vision to our mission. VISION + PASSION = MISSION. Let us stay filled with hope and kindle the fire of passion in us to realize our vision in the next three years. Let us stop cursing the darkness but start lighting the candle. It is not where we are that matters but where God can take us as a Province.

2. A BIG THANK YOU

On behalf of the South West India Province, I want to thank Very Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, our Superior General and General Administration for the guidance, support, and encouragement for a productive and successful Provincial Chapter. I thank Rev. Fr. Joseph Pulloppally for animating the recollection, challenging us with the power of God's word and instilling in us a sense of prayer. I thank Rev. Fr. Noel Rebello, Delegate of the Superior General, for clarifying the principles of new governance, the decisions of the General Administration, and the new Code of Ethics for safety and boundary in our ministries against abusive tendencies. I thank Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy for the excellent Key-Note address stretching our minds and hearts to our MSFS identity as religious and missionaries. I thank the steering committee members Frs. Benny Koottanal, Chennakattukunnel Thomas, Thazhathukunnel Joshy and Jeevan Prasad for their excellent organization and management of the arrangements for the chapter. I thank Fr. Binoy Kuzhuppil and the Vinayalaya community for the hard work they put in to make everyone feel comfortable and healthy. I thank all the delegates and ex-officio members from Chad – Cameroon, the Philippines, Europe, and the U.S.A for their sincere effort to attend the Chapter. I thank all the participants and the entire Province for your participation and prayerful support toward this great event in our Province. Praise the Lord!

My sincere thanks go to Rev. Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam, our former Provincial who guided us as a Province family during the past five years. As an able administrator, animator, visionary, and missionary, he walked into every sphere of life and mission of the Province and made a deep impact by stabilizing various concerns. I thank Rev. Fr. Kurian Aranjanil of happy memories, Fr. Jose Kumblolickal, Fr. Kurian Karickal, and Fr. Santhosh Kumar for their dedicated and committed service to the Province as Councillors

in spite of their numerous other responsibilities. As Administrator and Advisors, Fr. Jose Kumbloickal and team rose up to the occasion and made sure that the transition went smooth. I thank Fr. Benny Marangolil, our provincial Bursar, who rendered an excellent service to the Province through his meticulous planning and management of the available resources. The Province will always be grateful to the outgoing administration. May the good Lord continue to bless each one of them to be at the service of His mission.

3. NEW S.W. INDIA PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION

The Provincial Chapter elected the following confreres to the Provincial Administration

Fr. Jose Parappilly	-	Provincial Councillor and Admonitor
Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil	-	Provincial Councillor
Fr. Jose Kumbloickal	-	Provincial Councillor
Fr. Benny Koottanal	-	Provincial Councillor
Fr. Joshy Thazhathukunnel	-	Provincial Bursar

In the name of all confreres in the Province, I congratulate them and welcome them to the new team of Administration. I thank them for accepting this huge responsibility and making themselves available to the service of the life and mission of the Province.

4. MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Capitulants of the Provincial Chapter of the South West India Province of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, gathered at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, from October 17 – 21, 2011, resolved to live the implications of the theme: “**RE-DISCOVERING MSFS IDENTITY: A PROPHETIC RESPONSE TO THE EMERGING THREATS TO OUR RELIGIOUS LIFE AND MISSIONARY LIFE.**” We renew our religious and missionary identity in the Congregation and in the Church as we make the following statements:

- Our discussions and deliberations in a spirit of prayer and fellowship, helped us to rediscover our identity as Missionaries of St Francis de Sales and the threats that we face in living this identity
- We recognize the need to differentiate between the core identity and the role identity so as to become conscious of the primacy of the core identity
- We commit ourselves to develop a sense of belongingness to Christ as our core identity following the spirituality of St Francis de Sales, our patron
- We pledge to enhance the quality of our religious life by promoting healthy fraternal communities of mutual love, anticipated forgiveness, trust, understanding, appreciation and respect
- We are to be effective missionaries by reflecting our Fransalian identity by way of reviving and revitalizing our original legacy of preaching parish missions in the footsteps of our founder Servant of God, Fr. Peter Mary Mermier

- We stand united to stabilize our existing missions in Kolar, North Karnataka, the Philippines and Chad-Cameroon by making available more personnel and launching into new and relevant ministries
- We focus on the need of inculcating deeper missionary consciousness and sensitivity in all the stages of formation
- We are committed to provide value-based, holistic and Christian education to the young with a Salesian spirit
- We are to hold firm our Christian ideals and Salesian values in our educational apostolate
- We resolve to invigorate our innovative ministry to enliven our traditional apostolate with new dynamism so as to embrace humanity in a wider horizon for their integral development
- We envisage a smooth administration of the Province in accordance with the new governance in tune with the Constitutions
- We strive to be eco-friendly in all dimensions of our mission and ministry
- We uphold moral integrity in our vowed life and transparent accountability in financial management
- We safeguard our core identity threatened by passivity, negativity, consumerism and individualism

Therefore, imbibing the spirit of this Chapter, we resolve to be fully prepared to respond to the call of the Universal Church and to commit ourselves to the new evangelization of the world.

5. ACTION PLAN

I. Religious and Missionary Life:

Personal level:

- Strengthen the core identity by spending daily at least half- hour of personal prayer

Community level:

- Gather together daily for the Liturgy of the Hours, community prayer, common meals, community recreation, community meetings (monthly)

Apostolate level:

- a) Maintain good rapport with priests, religious and lay people
- b) Participate in the pastoral and missionary activities of the local Church
- c) Form Friends of Fransalians

II. Mission:

- a) Take concrete steps to implant our missionary presence in Bagepally and Gudibanda of Kolar Mission
- b) Monitor and coordinate our missionary efforts in Shimoga and Gulbarga by the Provincial Administration

- c) Strengthen the Philippines mission by providing more personnel and financial support and explore the possibilities of promoting vocations from Indonesia
- d) Strengthen the Chad-Cameroon mission with more personnel and finance and extend the mission into Anglophone area
- e) Coordinate the preaching ministry and form preaching teams in English, Kannada and Malayalam within a year
- f) Establish a retreat centre in Karnataka

III. Education:

- a) Set up an expert standing committee to plan, promote and evaluate the functioning of all our educational institutions within six months
- b) Trained counselors and spiritual animators are to be appointed in all our educational institutions by the next academic year
- c) Plan programmes regularly to disseminate Salesian values among teaching and non-teaching staff
- d) Organise programmes for the benefit of the students and parents to promote communal harmony and national integration
- e) Organise Help African Children Day once a year in all our educational institutions in support of our children in the Chad-Cameroon Mission
- f) Start PG programmes at SFS Degree College in Electronic City

IV. Formation:

- a) Train more confreres for the formation apostolate
- b) Establish a minor seminary in Karnataka by the next academic year
- c) Invite our missionaries to share their experiences with the formees at various stages of formation
- d) Make available written, audio and video materials on global mission and missionaries depicting their style and method of evangelization to the seminarians
- e) Set up an independent commission to evaluate the formation programme at Tejas Vidya Peetha
- f) Ensure that all confreres of our Province attend update/renewal/ongoing formation programmes at least once in three years

V. Innovative Ministry:

- a) Support the children of Pratheeksha Homes until they are settled in life
- b) Make use of all the available Government projects to benefit the disadvantaged in our missions
- c) Establish centres of family counselling in Makkiyad, Calicut and Bathery Start a printing press in Kolar

VI. Stewardship

- The Bursar should present the monthly statement of accounts in the community meetings

6. DELEGATES TO the 19th ordinary GENERAL CHAPTER - 2013

Three delegates have been elected from our Province to the General Chapter 2013. Here is the result of the second round:

Total number of Confreres eligible to vote: 203

Total number of ballot papers issued: 203

Total number of votes received: 103

Elected Delegates

Fr. Kumblolickal Jose (68)

Fr. Parappillil Jose (56)

Fr. Kalariparambil Thomas (51)

Congratulation to the elected delegates and wish you all the best for the coming General Chapter.

Substitutes

Fr. Koottanal Benny

Fr. Kodikuthiyil Henry

Fr. Mookenthottam Antony

7. Report from Apostolic Communities for the 19th General Chapter 2013:

In preparation for the 19th General Chapter 2013 the conveners of the Apostolic Communities are requested to arrange the meetings to study the three working papers in the booklet provided by Rev. Fr. Superior General. The reports based on the study and discussion of the working papers have to reach the Provincial's office as per the time-frame: working paper 2: **Religious Life as a Prophetic Vision**- 30th November 2011, working paper 3: **Prophetic Mission Today**- 28th February 2012. The conveners of the Apostolic Communities please make sure that the report reaches the Provincial's office as per the time frame.

8. DVD OF PROVINCE LIFE AND MISSION

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 pictures 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 to prepare the DVD of the Province.

9. NEW PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION IN PUNE PROVINCE

Fr. Vincent Lourdeswamy- Provincial

Councillors

Fr. Daiy Sebastian (Admonitor)

Fr. S.Jayaseelan,

Fr. Johnson Gonsalves,

Fr. Peppin Jayaraj

Fr. Kulangarath Sunny (Bursar)

10. NEW PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION IN NAGPUR PROVINCE

Fr. Karamakuzhiyil Jacob-Provincial

Councillors

Fr. Almeida Melroy

Fr. Muthuswamy John Britto (Admonitor)

Fr. Tirkey Manoj

Fr. Denis Joseph

Fr. Adackaparayil Wilson (Bursar)

11. Kannada Christian Devotional CD: Fr. Santhosh Kumar has brought out his fourth Kannada Christian Devotional Audio CD called **SAHRUDAYA**. The CD was released on the 6th of October in the Parish of Chikkaballapur. Apart from the lyrics and composition of hymns, he has also played Saxophone as part of the background music for the same. Mr. Stephen Prayog, a leading Music Director has done the orchestration. Congratulation dear Father for your great work.

12. Bon Voyage



Bro. Rony Fernandis has left for our Philippine Mission on 29 October 2011 to continue the rest of his formation and to work in the Philippines. He is appointed to the MSFS Scholasticate Malabag community, Silang, where he will learn the language till he begins his theological studies in 2012. I thank him for his readiness to work in the Philippine Mission. We wish him all the best and God's blessings for a wonderful stay in our mission

13. 6th VAYALIL MEMORIAL LECTURES AT IIS

On the 24th and 25th of October 2011, Indian Institute of Spirituality organized Rev. Fr. George Vayalil MSFS Memorial Lectures, based on the topic "Family Spirituality." Eminent scholars, Rev. Dr. Mathew Vellanickal, Rev. Dr. George Manalel, VC and Prof. Dr. A. Pushparajan were the resource personnel. They dealt with some of the important and relevant areas of human concerns, such as, Biblical, psychological and practical aspects of family spirituality. The participants included theologians, missiology research

students and doctoral research students from various Institutes along with the resident students.

The sessions were very relevant and beneficial, and the participants were exceedingly grateful to the institute for providing this opportunity for them to assimilate and integrate the input sessions for an effective pastoral ministry and life.

14. Congratulation to Fr. S. Arokiaswamy who secured first class in MSW from the University of Mysore.

15. Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Hebbagodi has a new website. The website is olschurch.org

15. Let us pray for the sick

Please keep in our prayers the father of Fr. Sunny Paul Aranjanil who is seriously sick.

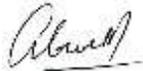
Please pray for Fr. Arokianathan's brother Tony who met with a major accident and is admitted in the hospital

Salesian Thought

“In the end, we are really only what we are before Almighty God.”

St. Francis de Sales

**God Bless you
Yours Fraternally**



**Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS
Provincial**