

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



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Circular AB/06

February 03, 2012

My dear Confreres,

Warm greetings and Prayerful wishes from Vinayalaya. I can't believe we have already passed the first month of January in 2012. We are blessed with nine new priests to begin our new year. As a Province, let us keep thanking the Lord for the gifts of these wonderful priests to our family. What they are capable of doing for the mission of the Lord through the different ministries in the Province will be blessings for us and for the Church. It is said: "the difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems". As I visited most of our communities and schools in the past one month, I am deeply impressed by the wonderful things happening through our confreres in the apostolate of education, mission, formation, and innovative ministries. My deep appreciation and congratulations to all of you for the blessings you bring to many people through your ministries. However, we shall go beyond what we normally do in order to accomplish what we are capable of doing. We have to aim at what we are capable of doing. There is still a wide gap between what we do and what we are capable of doing. The Province has already set a vision (for the apostolates of education, formation, mission, innovative ministries, and for the quality of our religious and community life) in the last Provincial Chapter in the light of what we are capable of doing. It is important that the personal vision of the confreres have to be in agreement with the vision of the Province/Congregation. When the personal vision and Province vision are in alignment with each other, there is commitment. Wherever this alignment is absent there are frustrations, disappointment, indifference, lethargy, and mediocrity. Committed confreres always look forward to making things happen in line with the articulated vision of the Province. I invite us all to accomplish what we are capable of accomplishing and not merely doing what we are doing. I wish and pray that we can apply our minds and hearts together to realize the mission of the Congregation and the Church, even by sacrificing our own personal dreams and visions. May the vision of St. Francis de Sales and of Father Peter Mermier alone guide us in the challenging missionary journey as MSFS.

1. Special Focus For The Year 2012

We shall focus on our religious life and missionary life as special intention during this year. Our Provincial Chapter clearly highlights in the Action Plan that we need to strengthen our Religious and Missionary life as we make huge plans and budgets for the realization of various Projects. We are religious and we are missionaries and this CORE

IDENTITY should be the propelling factor behind our developmental pursuits. I invite all the Local Superiors of the Communities to continue to animate their respective communities by gathering together for the Liturgy of the Hours, Community Prayer, Common meals, Common Rosary, and Monthly Community Meetings. “Local Superior as the animator of the spiritual and missionary life promotes and fosters the salesian and human way of living and guarantees unity and brotherhood in the community” (Superior General, *Local Communities*, 7.6.1., p.14). At a personal level, please make sure each individual confrere strengthens his CORE IDENTITY by spending daily at least half hour of personal prayer.

2. Constitution Retreat on Community Living 2012

The Retreats for the year 2012 are arranged in three places. Please make sure that every confrere in our Province attends the retreat without fail. Annual Retreat is a constitutional requirement and therefore please register your name with Fr. Prince latest by March 15, 2012.

April 16 – 20, 2012: Sneha Jyothi, Makkiyad

May 07 – 11, 2012: Vinayalaya, Bangalore

October 22 – 26, 2012: Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha

The Retreat from May 07-11, 2012 in Vinayalaya is primarily meant for the Local Superiors of all Local Communities in the Province. Please make sure that all Local Superiors attend this particular retreat in view of re-organizing our communities and community life.

3. Discussion on the third working paper of General Chapter 2013

Conveners of all the Apostolic communities are requested to arrange an Apostolic Community meeting to discuss the Third Working paper of the General Chapter 2013. The last date for submitting the report to the Provincial’s office is March 15, 2012

4. Appointments by Rev. Fr. Superior General

Fr. Francis Thadathil, Provincial of North-East India is appointed as the Chairman of the Governing Body of Suvidya College with effect from August 10, 2011.

Fr. Simon Paicatt, the Provincial of Visakh is confirmed in appointment as the Chairman of PIF (Provincials of India Forum) with effect from August 10, 2011 and **Fr. Antony Dharmaraj** is appointed as the Vice-Chairman of PIF with effect from December 27, 2011.

5. Education seminar at Charis Bhavan

An Education seminar is scheduled to be held at Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha, from May 2nd morning to 4th evening, 2012. It will be animated by Fr. Ignaci Muthu msfs and Fr. Joe Arimpoor an eminent educationist. All our confreres engaged in the apostolate of education are expected to participate in it in order to update themselves.

6. Best wishes to Fr. Aranjaniyil Sunny Paul

Rev. Fr. Superior General in his letter dated December 29, 2011 has notified that Fr. Sunny Paul is “detached from South-West India Province and is fully affiliated into the Province of England of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales with all rights and obligations in that Province with effect from 1st January 2012.” The South West India Province is always grateful to Fr. Sunny Paul for his service and concern for the Province. We wish Fr. Sunny all the best in his ministry in the Province of England.

7. From Fr. Benny Valiaveetil

Fr. Benny Valiaveetil has arrived in Bangalore on January 30, 2012. He has expressed his sincere thanks to all the confreres for their valuable prayers and support. The priests, staff and parishioners in the Cathedral and Fr. Roji provided good care and support to him. Fr. Benny says: **“I am on the road to recovery now, getting better day by day. I have completed the chemo therapy. My cancer is in remission now. The neurologist has also given me an all clearance. He is of the opinion that the seizure happened because of some infection when my immunity was very poor due to chemotherapy. They could not identify the infection because I was already taking antibiotics for chest infection when the seizure and respiratory arrest happened. The scan and the lumbar puncture did show no physiological problem. Now I have no medication except for a bad chesty cough. The next follow up check up is due in April.”** We shall continue to keep Fr. Benny in our Prayers and wish him a speedy recovery. Welcome Fr. Benny and we are delighted to have you with us.

8. Congratulations!



Fr. Jijo Jose Chemplanickal was born on February 9, 1984 at Randamkadavu to Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Thressiamma. After one year of orientation at Sudhirvana he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in the year 2001. He made his First Profession on June 11, 2004 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, he did his regency at Vinayakumar Estate, Nilampur. He had his theological studies at Tejas Vidya Peetha and was ordained priest by his Lordship Mar Lawrence Mukkuzhy of Balthagadi diocese on December 26, 2011 at St. Joseph’s Church Randamkadavu



Fr. Joji Sebastian Kazhukanolickal was born on December 17, 1984 at Kulathuvayal to Mr. Sebastian and Mrs. Mary. After one year of orientation at Sudhirvana he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in the year 2001. He made his First Profession on June 11, 2004 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, he did his regency at SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor. He had his theological studies at Tejas Vidya Peetha and was ordained priest by his Lordship Joseph Kunnath CMI of Adilabad diocese on December 27, 2011 at St. George Church, Kulathuvayal.



Fr. Kuldeep Kujur was born on January 25, 1977 to Mr. Michael and Mrs. Celina at Ekamba. After having completed his Higher Secondary Education, Joined Divya Jyothi Ashram, Latapara and made his First Profession on June 11, 2003 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 Rt. Rev. Immanuel Kerketta bishop of Jashpur on December 31, 2011 at St. Joseph's Church, Ekamba.



Fr. Jikson Joseph Cheravelil was born on July 13, 1985 at Koothattukulam to Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Jessy. After one year of orientation at Sudhirvana he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in the year 2001. He made his First Profession on June 11, 2004 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, he did his regency at Srinivaspur. He had his theological studies at Tejas Vidya Peetha and was ordained priest by his Lordship Gregory Karotembrel of Rajkot diocese on December 31, 2011 at St. George Church, Vayala



Fr. Mijo Kulamkuthiyil was born on June 11, 1984 at Athirampuzha to Mr. K.C. Cyriac and Mrs. Mary. After one year of orientation at Sudhirvana he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in the year 2001. He had his Novitiate at Sannidhi, Mysore and made his first profession on June 11, 2004. He completed his philosophical studies from Suvidya College and Theology from Tejas Vidya Peetha, Bangalore. He was ordained priest by his Lordship Dominic Kokkat CST on January 2, 2012 at St. Mary's Forane Church, Athirampuzha.



Fr. A. Mathias was born on April 20, 1985 at Gokunte to Mr. Antony Swamy and Mrs. Margareetha. After one year of orientation at Sudhirvana he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in the year 2001. He made his First Profession on June 11, 2004 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, he did his regency at Savanur. He had his theological studies at Tejas Vidya Peetha and was ordained priest by his Lordship Henry D'Souza of Bellary diocese on January 9, 2012 at St. Xavier's Church, Gokunte.



Fr. Robert. D was born on August 10, 1977 at Gadenahalli to late Mr. Justinappa and Mrs. Philomina. After one year of orientation at Sudhirvana he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in the year 2001. He made his First Profession on June 11, 2003 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, he did his regency at Malur. He had his theological studies at Tejas Vidya Peetha and was ordained priest by his Lordship Anthony Swamy of Chikamagaluru diocese on January 11, 2012 at St. Ignatius Church, Gadenahalli, Hassan.



Fr. Prabhu Prakash Kujur was born on September 12, 1979 at Bhairapur to Mr. Goakim and Mrs. Anna. He joined the minor seminary at Divya Jyothi Ashram in June 2000 and made his First Profession on June 11, 2003 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, he did his regency at Mermier Bhavan, Hebbagodi. He had his theological studies at Tejas Vidya Peetha and was ordained priest by his Lordship Rev. Patras Minj S.J of Ambikapur diocese on January 13, 2012 at Catholic Ashram Manpur



Fr. Marcel Dung Dung was born on June 10, 1983 at Nawagaon to Mr. Theophil and Mrs. Karmela. He joined the minor seminary at Divya Jyoti Ashram, Latapara in 1999 and made his First Profession on June 11, 2003 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, he did his regency at Kuknoor. He had his theological studies at Tejas Vidya Peetha and was ordained priest by his Lordship Lucas Kerketta svd of Sambalpur diocese on January 21, 2012 at Our Lady of Assumption Church, Kusumdegi.

9. Promotion to Diaconate

Five of our Scholastics from Tejas Vidya Peetha, Bros. A. Antony Sathiya Seelan, Chirackalpurayidathil Anish, Jeevan Prashant, Manjackal Jijo and Olickal Sijo are promoted to the ordination of Diaconate. Rt. Rev. Dr. Peter Machado of Belgaum diocese will confer the order of Diaconate on February 17, 2012 at Tejas Vidya Peetha.

10. Inauguration of Fr. Georgekutty MSFS Memorial parish hall

Fr. Georgekutty msfs Memorial Parish Hall was inaugurated on January 24, 2012 on the feast day of our Patron St. Francis de Sales. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by His Excellency Mgr. Léopold Sosthène Bayemi, Bishop of Obala at 10.30 am. We appreciate Fr. Manoj Arackal for the realization of this project.

11. Update from our student Priests

Fr. Joe Cherolickal is working on the theme “**The Salesian understanding of human person and its implications on spirituality and morality in an Indian context**” for his doctoral thesis. He has to make a public presentation of this theme on 20th March before the faculty of the University of Wien for approval.

Fr. Roy Plathottahil has completed his first year of M. Ed studies in Academic Standards and Reforms at De Sales University, Pennsylvania, USA. He has started his second year of study in January 2012 and is planning to complete the course by December 2012. He teaches two semesters at the University and also assists at the Church of the Assumption B.V.M, PA, 18015.

Fr. Vinod Kanattu is perusing his MBA from De Sales University, Allentown, Pennsylvania, U S A; with Management major. He began the course in January 2011 and is half way through the program. He is expected to complete his studies by December 2012. Fr. Vinod also teaches two courses at the University and assists at Assumption Church Bethlehem, PA.

Fr. Sen Vellakada after having finished preparatory German course for seven months began his studies at the University of Vienna at the Catholic Theology Faculty in March 2010. After the initial studies of one and a half years, he presented his Research Proposal in October 2011 and it was approved. The Theme for his doctoral studies is **“Pastoral Counselling in the Spirit of St Francis de Sales. Person-oriented spiritual direction in St Francis de Sales and Person-centred counselling in Carl Rogers – A Comparative Study in the Context of India.”** Meanwhile he has completed a Beginners and Advanced Person-centered Pastoral Counselling Course from the German Society for Pastoral Counselling under the direction of Dr Isidor Baumgartner.

Fr. Balavendra Jacob will be completing his Master’s Programme in Pastoral Management at J.D.V. Pune by the end of March 2012. At present he is working on his research paper which he has to submit by 20th of February and defend it in the month of March. As part of his Master’s Programme, the title of his research paper is: **‘The effectiveness of Small Christian Communities in the Archdiocese of Bengaluru in bringing Christian faithful close to God and to one another’.**

Fr. Pangiraj is completing his two years of Master's degree in spirituality and counselling at Dhamaram Vidya Kshetram, affiliated to Christ University, Bangalore. He is working on the internship practicum and thesis, and will be defending the same by the end of February and hope to complete the studies by the end of March.

Fr. A. Jerome is almost completing his Ph. D in Canon Law from the University of Urbaniana, Rome on the theme **“The New Forms of Consecrated Life according to Canon 605 with particular reference to India.”** The “new forms of consecrated life” are those that are not in conformity with the parameters of the part III of the Book II of the 1983 Code of Canon Law. In the canonical tradition and research much has been studied with regard to the already existing forms of consecrated life. Fr. Jerome’s contribution to the canonical field of consecrated life is with regard to the emerging forms in the Church in general and in the Indian Church in particular. He is hoping to defend his thesis in April 2012. Fr. Jerome, we wish you all the best and our prayerful support for the successful completion of your studies.

Fr. Antony Valiaparampil is completing his Master’s degree program by April 2012 from the University of Mysore through Suvidya College. He is currently working on his last semester academic requirements.

Fr. Raison Kaduvakuzhickal is completing his MBA degree at St. Joseph's College of Business Administration, Bangalore. This is a two year course which will end by the end of April 2012.

Fr. Shalbin Marottikudy has completed his B.Ed with high first class from St. Joseph's College, Mysore. Congratulations dear Fr. Shalbin!

12. Appointments:

Fr. Joji Kazhukanolickal and **Fr. Jikson Cheravelil**: designated to the diocese of Shimoga for pastoral ministry

Fr. Jijo Chemplanickal and **Fr. A. Mathias**: designated to the diocese of Gulberga for ministry

Fr. Mijo Kulamkuthiyil and **Fr. Prabhu Prakash**: designated to the diocese of Bellary for ministry

Fr. Marcel Dung Dung: designated to Chad Cameroon Mission

Fr. D. Robert: designated to the diocese of Belgaum for pastoral ministry

Fr. Gijo Panamattathil will join the staff of Lumen Christi Institute (Fransalian Institute for Mission Animation and Human Resource Development), Arusha from February 3, 2012. Father Gijo will represent the Chad Cameroon Mission of the South West India Province. We wish Father Gijo all the best in his responsibilities and ministries in Arusha.

Fr. Aneesh Mundiyanickal is designated to be appointed at Marian Retreat Center in Anakkara, in the diocese of Kanjirappally. Father Aneesh will work with Father Dominic Valanmanal, the Director of the Retreat Center and gain some experience and skills in preaching ministry. He will take up his assignment from February 13, 2012

Fr. Shalbin Marottikudy is designated to be appointed at St. George Church, Puthenpally, Varappuzha, in the Arch-diocese of Ernakulam - Angamaly with effect from February 5, 2012

Fr. Sathish Vellaramkunnel is back from the Chad Cameroon Mission. We welcome him back to India and wish him fruitful and productive ministry in India. Fr. Sathish will temporarily join the De Sales Community in Mysore. He will minister to the Immigrant students in the city of Mysore and also will render his service at Sannidhi (MSFS Formation House) from February 12, 2012

Fr. Jerome A. has returned to India after almost completing his doctoral thesis which he will defend shortly. We welcome Fr. Jerome to Bangalore and wish him all the best in the final stage of his doctoral thesis work. Fr. Jerome is temporarily appointed Resident Priest at St. Mary's Church, Kolar from February 2, 2012.

Fr. Majish Vallisserikettil has completed his B.Ed. Course and is temporarily appointed at S.F. S. community and School at Kannur from January 27, 2012.

13. Global Preaching Ministry

Fr. James Manjackal in spite of his recent health concerns is very active in his preaching ministry. Our prayers and support accompany you Father James as you travel from continent to continent with the Good News of the Gospel. Here is a statistic of people around the world who visited Fr. Manjackal's website from December 2-17, 2011, even in China and Russia.

Countries		Pages	clicks	bandwidth
Poland	pl	11,827	93,837	6.11 GB
Portugal	pt	5,020	79,190	5.12 GB
Germany	de	4,119	48,811	3.63 GB
Croatia	hr	3,755	33,119	1.24 GB
Austria	at	2,899	34,864	1.98 GB
United States	us	2,770	23,221	1.09 GB
France	fr	2,453	27,902	1018.97 MB
Spain	es	1,221	15,544	788.41 MB
Slovenia	si	1,084	17,906	1.79 GB
China	cn	836	1,179	36.05 MB
Czech Republic	cz	799	11,044	653.01 MB
Switzerland	ch	785	10,984	313.42 MB
Russian Federation	ru	712	947	38.53 MB
Belarus	by	703	3,456	701.17 MB
Mexico	mx	672	5,639	168.64 MB
Canada	ca	641	7,020	191.11 MB
Great Britain	gb	619	5,304	803.36 MB
India	in	613	10,713	376.61 MB
Colombia	co	592	2,810	59.80 MB
Bosnia-Herzegovina	ba	500	4,437	247.79 MB
European country	eu	444	3,955	263.80 MB
Mauritius	mu	436	2,774	109.28 MB
Romania	ro	379	522	31.90 MB
Venezuela	ve	337	1,951	58.96 MB
Peru	pe	333	2,672	80.79 MB

14. Vocation Promotion by all the Confreres:

I request all confreres, wherever you are, to promote one prospective candidate to the Minor Seminary for the year 2012 - 2013. Please contact Fr. Jose Puthukkary and Fr. Selvaraj if you know someone who is interested in MSFS life.

15. Regents' Meet 2012

We the regents had our mid regency evaluation programme from January 8-11, 2012 at Vinayalaya, Bangalore. The programme was well organized and well conducted by the formation forum. The input sessions led us to a personal realization and evaluation of our regency. It was also a time to refresh and renew ourselves with greater enthusiasm and zeal. The whole programme consisted of re-collection, re-orientation, re-structuring and renewal of our lives specifically as regents. The outcome of this meeting led to the implementation of certain action plan aiming at the forth coming months. The discussion stressed upon the availability of a person in the community with cheerfulness and sensitivity. On this occasion we would like to thank Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, the Provincial, Fr. Benny Koottanal, Councillor in Charge of Formation and Fr. George Valliamthadathil, Formation Secretary for their guidance and inspiring talks which brought us to the realization of the meaning of regency and how we need to conduct ourselves in the communities. We also thank the Vinayalaya community for their hospitality, availability and adjustability.

By Bro. Nirmal Jose

16. May the faithful departed through the mercy of God Rest In Peace!



Fr. Marcel BAECHLER MSFS, our dear confrere from the Florimont community, passed away on January 14, 2012 at "Résidence La Vendée", Petit-Lancy, Geneva. He was born on October 16, 1918 at Belfaux, canton Fribourg, Switzerland. He was a baptized for 94 years, a religious for 72 years and a priest for 66 years. After his priestly ordination, he spent his whole ministry years in Geneva: Florimont (1946-1973), assistant parish priest and parish priest at Vernier (1973-1986), chaplaincy of the Hospital (1986-88). After his retirement, he remained available for various ministries in the parishes around Geneva. For one and a half years, he was retired in a home for the aged.

My Programme (February)


- 04 30th School day celebration at SFS High School, Hebbagodi
- 06 Decennial celebration and blessing of the High School building at Savanur
- 10-21 Visitation to the Philippines
- 23-24 Council Meeting in Vinayalaya
- 26-28 Visiting communities at Calicut, Makkiyad and Bathery

Salesian Thought:

“If we had nothing else but God, would it not be enough?”

St. Francis de Sales

Fraternally in Christ,



Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS
Provincial