



Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales

SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE

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Circular MK/1

25 July 2006

My dear Confreres,

Greetings of peace and love to all of you. At the Eucharistic Celebration on 3 July 2006, on the Feast of St. Thomas, I was installed as the third Provincial of the South West Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. It was a simple but beautiful and meaningful celebration. A large number of confreres from the Province and some from outside the Province were present for the function. The presence of so many of you, my dear confreres, as expressions of your love, concern and support imparted to me a lot of courage and strength. I know I can count on you. My initial reluctance to assume such great responsibility gave way to more confidence and trust.

I thank each and every one of you for having placed your confidence in me to lead the province for the next three years. I express my gratitude to our beloved Father Superior General, Agnelo Fernandes and the General Curia for having entrusted me the leadership of the province. Almost all confreres from the Province and many from outside the Province have sent me felicitation, good wishes, assurance of prayers and support. May I make use of this opportunity to thank each and all of you for the same.

1. An Expression of deep-felt Gratitude

I thank God for all the gifts that He has showered on us during the past 15 years of the existence of our Province. We have grown, grown much more than anyone of us could imagine, in numbers, in varieties of ministry, in institutions and assets. Let us lift up our hearts in praise and thanksgiving to the Almighty whose protective and guiding hands have led us.

For the past six years the leadership of the Province was placed in the hands of **Fr. Jose Parapillil**. With single-minded devotion, with great love for the confreres and with a unique and daring exercise of leadership he led and guided the Province. The Province has grown in leaps and bounds. He dared to venture into hitherto unknown grounds and paved the way for relevant and people-oriented ministries in the context of the Church and its mission. He in a way redefined our apostolate of pioneering mission and overseas evangelization by making it mandatory for all confreres to go to our Missions in Chad-Cameroon and Philippines if they are called to do so. The Province got a new identity with an international and global

dimension with Chad-Cameroon, Philippines and our missions in USA and Europe forming an integral part of it. Joining the South-West Province means being ready to go and work anywhere in the thus defined territory.

He extended the Apostolate of Education and Formation into including in it also institutions of higher learning. He took interest to establish Boys' Homes to reach out to the poor in our education ministry.

The Apostolate of the Renewal of Christian Life was given new meaning and content with the inclusion of counseling and especially family counseling into the areas of our ministry. New Vistas for preaching ministry was opened up. **Once again I make use of this occasion to thank you, dear Father Jose, and to thank God for you, who has given You as a gift to the Province, the Congregation and the Church at large.** You have given 100% of your ability, talents, time and energy for the welfare of the Province and for the well-being of the confreres. I wish you well and thank you because you have now put yourself totally at the disposal of the Province, to go anywhere, where you are appointed.

Fr. Jose intends to spend a few days in prayer and reflection after which he will fly to the States for Mission Appeal arranged by Fr. Joseph Kuzhuppil. He will return at the end of August and then he will be given an appointment.

I would like to thank **Fr. Binu Edathumparambil** who with competency and effectiveness ran the day to day affairs of the Secretariat of the Provincial. His simplicity and whole hearted commitment coupled with a deep seated interest for the good of the Province and the welfare of each confrere put him in the right-spirit and enabled to fulfill the duty entrusted to him with competence and effectiveness. Fr. Binu is designated to take up ministry and studies in the USA and may soon leave the country. Farewell, dear Father Binu.

I thank also Fr. Mathew Mamala, who with an unparalleled kindness of heart looked into the needs of each confrere and mission centre and did his best to serve the Province in his capacity as the Provincial Bursar.

2. Provincial Congress 2006

The provincial Council which met on 3 July 2006, in Mysore has proposed to hold a Provincial Congress as per Article 179 of the Constitution and Article 158 of the General Directory. According to the Provincial Statutes V, I the South-West Province has opted for Provincial Congress "as it brings confreres together, provides an opportunity to meet, to pray, share and discuss together various aspirations they have, the problems and trails they face and to rejoice in and thank God for the achievements." Provincial Congress therefore will be a time of grace for the Province and all its members.

We shall make it:

- *A powerful spiritual experience of Religious life*
- *Evaluate the past with its strength and weakness*
- *Rejoice at our achievement*

- *Plan our future in total openness to the spirit*
- *Discern collectively God's will*
- *Give expressions to our life and mission in the context of Kerala and Karnataka*
- *Propose orientations which best respond to the pastoral needs of the local Church*
- *Elect our provincial councilors, admonitor and bursar*

a) Convocation of the Provincial Congress

As per the requirements of the Constitution the Provincial is to convoke the Provincial Congress/Chapter within three months after his appointment. In accordance with the article 180 of the constitution and 158 of our directory **I hereby convoke the Fifth Ordinary Provincial Congress to be held from 9-13, October 2006 at Vinayalaya, Malleswaram West, Bangalore.** As the time exceeds the stipulated period of 3 months, with his letter dated 17.03.2006 our Superior General, has given his approval for the proposed date. The Provincial Congress with all its sessions will be conducted in Vinayalaya. Accommodation is arranged in both Vinayalaya and Indian Institute of Spirituality. I would like to thank Fr. Henry Jose and Fr. Jose Kumblolickal for readily agreeing to host the Congress.

b) The Theme

GROWING TOGETHER IN SPIRIT - PASSIONATELY COMMITTED TO CHRIST'S MISSION

c) The Steering Committee

The Provincial council has constituted a steering committee for coordinating all preparatory activities and to prepare the orientation papers. The Provincial is the convener of the committee and the provincial secretary is also the secretary to the committee. The other members are: *Fr. Jacob Parapally, Fr. Johnny Kanjiramparambil, Fr. Henry Jose, Fr. Benny Marangolil and Fr. Roy Plathottathil.* If needed the steering committee is empowered to constitute various sub-committees.

d) The Spiritual Preparation

Please keep the intentions of the Provincial Congress close to your heart.

- In preparation for the General Chapter the prayer to the Holy Spirit is being recited daily by individuals and in communities. *Take also the intention of the Provincial Congress for the coming three months into the same prayer.*
- Keep weekly at least once the Provincial Congress as an **additional intention during your Mass.** The scholastics and brothers will **recite in common a rosary once a week** for the success of the Provincial Congress. *Keep this intention also during your weekly Holy Hour. The novices will hold daily Adoration for the success of the Congress.*
- *Celebrate at least one Mass* exclusively for the intention of the Provincial Congress.

e) Preparations in view of the theme

In its first meeting the steering committee felt that this Provincial Congress should be more realistic in its discussions and orientations. More time is to be devoted to understand and assimilate the religious character and implications of our commitment to Christ and His Mission. *The congress should generate in its members a deeper feeling of belongingness to one another as a religious community and an undivided love and loyalty to the Congregation.* The Experience of Congress must bring about a deeper level of solidarity among the members and a deep lying concern for each other and each undertaking of the province in whichever geographical location it may be situated. The preparation for the Congress is envisaged at three levels.

i. Personal Level

Along with this circular you are getting a **Folder** with the **Main Thrust of the Congress**, with some questions for personal reflection and evaluation. The focus of reflection must be: *Am I effective enough in the mission and ministry entrusted to me?* Please pray, take time to reflect, assimilate the spirit of the theme of Provincial Congress and prepare few thoughts that you can share in your community meeting.

ii. Community Level

At community level (i.e. even if there are only two in a centre) a meeting is to be conducted where everyone shares his personal reflections, his visions, hopes, concerns and anxieties for the particular centre or for the community and its apostolates. By the beginning of August you will receive the second set of orientation papers which will contain more insights into the theme and also a set of questions which will enable you to focus and have a fruitful discussion *on issues that are really relevant for our mission.* Therefore this sharing and discussion is to be done only after you receive the second set of orientation papers.

iii. Apostolic Community Level

The findings of the community can be brought to the Apostolic Community meeting where they can be shared. The apostolic community can establish imbalances in the development of centers and plan for the mission and apostolates in the local area. *Suggestions for further development are to be corrective and creative.* Networking at personal and community level need to be discussed thoroughly. A power point presentation with the activities of the apostolic communities is to be done in one of the designated sessions in the Congress. Fr. Roji Kuttivayalil, the Secretary will give you all assistance if needed in this regard.

3. Return of the Missionaries from Chad-Cameroon

Fathers Saji Vadakkedath and Jaison Pezhathinal are back in India from the mission of Chad-Cameroon. Fr. Benoy Kidangathkarot will also be back on 26th July. The globalization of the province mission started with these fathers, as they were asked to go to the Chad-Cameroon Mission immediately after their ordination. It was surely hard for them, having no pastoral experience or totally being unprepared for such a daring venture. But with a generous heart they accepted it courageously. After serving a five year term they are back in India, ready for

further appointment. I make use of this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude for having committed themselves and laid a strong foundation for our African Mission.

4. Tejas and Fides India

Tejas Vidya Vihar was started as Mission Institute for mission-oriented and contextual theology in June 2005. *Our Apostolate of pioneering mission* get a hitherto unknown dimension when we enter into the life-struggles of people, be in touch with the marginalized and share their concerns, problems, hopes and anxieties. **Through cultural immersion and exposure** the scholastics learn to identify the 'anti-kingdom' structures prevalent in our society. The confrontation with the concrete situation of the people and the structures of the society they live in (**context**) demand a response from them, which becomes the propelling factor for a total commitment to the Mission of the Lord (**mission-oriented**). The scholastics learn skills that are needed to exercise various forms of ministry not only in the context of an established Catholic community but also that of non-Christian communities.

Our apostolate of education, by which we have access to thousands of children, can be transformative only if we touch the hearts of these children with the message of love, care, concern, peace and harmony, which are truly gospel values. The scholastics of Tejas engage themselves in schools by giving study assistance to children in tuition centers, conducting value-education seminars, leadership training, personality development course, motivational training etc. Besides they conduct a number of seminars for teachers and students in Catholic institutions. They organize '*talent days*' for children of selected corporation and government schools. They learn to deal with all kinds of people and situations. They are introduced into the language and culture of our mission fields. Specialized training in retreat preaching, pastoral and family counseling to engage in *the Apostolate for the Renewal of Christian Life* more effectively form also part of the program of Tejas. **Besides the students of Tejas "Earn while they Learn"**. In Tejas the students are expected to earn and meet part of the expense of the formation (25-30 %) through their work and ministry.

The study of theology is thereby in no way compromised. Rather it is deepened and made relevant. The confrontation with the actual situations of the people triggers in the students a process of reflection which enables them to theologize in context and devise methods and means to reach out to all to bring the message of Christ to them. The students of Tejas had to put up with a lot of inconveniences and difficulties but they have done it cheerfully. Hopefully they can move to the new campus in Kengeri by June 2007.

All the above programs are made possible for the students by networking with Fides India. Fides India made access to over 50 villages and slums in and around Bangalore. It has already 55 SHGs of its own, established 20 Tuition Centers and conducts all the above mentioned social programs besides programs like, legal assistance, AIDS prevention, and ecological concern and income generating activities for SHGs.

5. SFS College, Electronics City

At the request of Fr. Anthony Swamy the Principal, the following Scholastics render their service in the form of classes, seminars, Religion, Value Education, counseling etc. to St. Francis Sales Degree College, Electronics City.

- Bro. Jino Plathottathil
- Bro. Sudeep Paul
- Bro. Timson Parakottil
- Bro. Vipin Kishore
- Bro. Jeevan Prasad
- Bro. Prince Kurian

I thank the generosity of the brothers to put their time at the disposal of the mission of the congregation although they are fully involved in their studies.

Brothers will take turn to render their services to the college.

6 Congratulations to Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil



Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil (Kalary) has recently co-translated one of Martin Heidegger's most important works "**Besinnung**" (**Mindfulness**) into English. The book has been published by "Continuum", a London based international publishing company. It is a tedious job to translate such a philosophical work especially from German language which is known for its precision of words and expressions. Along with his duty as Rector and Professor of Suvidya College, Fr. Kalary has been able to accomplish this work in record time. It is a matter of pride for us that Fr. Kalary now belongs to the international circle of Heidegger experts. Fr. Kalary

after laying down his office as Rector of Suvidya College for six years, which period was marked by a phenomenal growth of the institution, continues to be Professor in Suvidya College and Jnana Deep Vidya Peeth, Pune. During his tenure as Rector the Emil Mayoraz Academic Block, a spacious three lecture hall building and the Administrative Building with offices, two seminar rooms and a staff room were built. He reorganized the structures of the existing building to provide room for the growing number of students. Congrats and thank you, dear Fr. Kalary.

7. Telephone Numbers and Email ID of the Provincial and the Provincial's Office

To get in touch with the Provincial please use the land lines of the Provincial House or the mobile number 9845111206. The email ID of the Provincial's office is:

msfsmys@dataone.in and msfsmysore@yahoo.com

I will retain my personal Email ID frmathewmsfs@gmail.com My ID fathmathewmsfs@rediffmail.com will gradually cease to exist. All official correspondence is to be done through the email ID of the Provincial's Office as I may be out often and important matters have to be attended to which will be informed to me by the secretary.

8. Leave of Absence

The Provincial Council has extended the leave of absence for **Fr Josey Ponnambal** for a term of another year.

Scholastic **Shibu Keerapel**, who was doing his theological studies in Cameroon is granted a leave of Absence for a term of one year.

9. Let us Pray

Bro. Anthony Nedungatt has got problems with his knees and has difficulty in walking. He is dependent on the help of someone even to look after his basic needs. I would like to thank Fr. Henry Jose, the staff and students of Vinayalaya for their dedicated service to Bro. Anthony. At present he is on treatment in St. Martha's Hospital. Please pray for him.

For Mrs. Elikutty, the mother of Fr. Jose Parappillil who is admitted in the hospital.

May they rest in peace

Fr. Santy Kochupurackal lost his mother (Mariakutty) on 24th July

Fr. Joseph Mannukuzhumbil lost his grandmother (Tresa) on 21st July

Bro. Sujith Xavier, III year BA, lost his father (Xavier) on 24th July

10. A word of Thanks

I would like to thank all of you for the confidence you have placed in me. I shall try my best to do justice to the duties that are entrusted to me. I deeply acknowledge my inadequacies, and inaptitude. But I like out of the faith, that God will do His work through me. I just have to dispose myself that He can do His works and fulfill His mission through me. I request your prayers and support.

Provincial Installed

Mysore: At a solemn Eucharistic celebration held at the Provincial House, on July 3, Rev. Fr. Mathew Kozhupakalam was installed as the provincial by the out-going provincial Rev. Fr. Jose Parapillil in the presence of the admonitor Rev. Fr. Antony Mookenthottam.



Fr. Mathew stated that he has accepted the office of the provincial as God's will and he wants to be only an instrument in working out God's plans. Recalling the lesson he studied in his fourth standard about "Unity is strength" he counted on the support and love of the confreres. He added that united we can achieve a lot, if divided we fall. Fr. Mathew emphasised that the greatest treasure of the province is not the property or its buildings, but, it is the confreres and he vowed to be instrumental in bringing out the best from them.

Felicitating Fr. Mathew, Fr. Antony went down the memory lane and remembered the dreams that he shared along with Fr. Mathew during their stay in Europe. He felt that the dream is coming true. The Eucharistic celebration was followed by felicitation and lunch. Confreres from all over Kerala and Karnataka, parish priests from neighbouring parishes, religious from in and around Mysore, were present. - **Report by Bro. Sudeep Paul**



From the Spiritual Directory of St. Francis de Sales

The Great Intention

“May your whole life and everything you do tend to unite you with God.

May your prayers, good works and the practice of the Christian virtues, above all that of charity, contribute to the life of the Church and to the salvation of your neighbor.

For this reason, may you desire nothing so much as to live an intensely spiritual life. Then, while pleasing to God, your power for good will be communicated to the hearts of the faithful.”

Yours Sincerely,

Mathew Kozhuppakalam

Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam msfs
Provincial