

Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales

SOUTH WEST PROVINCE – INDIA

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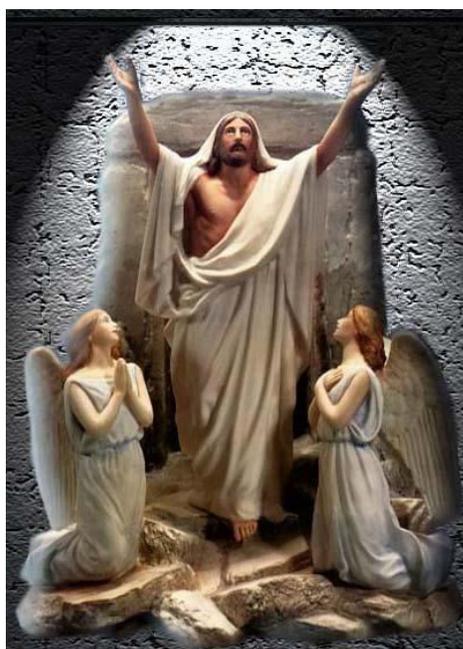
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Circular MK/13

23 .03. 2008

My dear Confreres,

“I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever.” Rev 1:18



This triumphant statement of Risen Lord revolutionizes the lives of every Christian. When Jesus rises He doesn't do so alone. He takes with Him all who believe in Him. To believe in Lord's resurrection is to believe in one's own resurrection. Not only a resurrection sometime in the future on the last day, but a resurrection that has already taken place. Through faith and baptism we have died to sin. We have received a new life, a life of holiness and this life is Christ.

Holiness is something we have already been given, we carry it deep within us. All we need to do is let this holiness shine through us because we are God's chosen and holy ones and we should be good, friendly and humble. Col 3:12. Once we are truly convinced of the holiness in us there will be a harmony between what we intimately are and what

we do. If we clothe ourselves in Christ, then everything we do will be influenced by Him. Then we can say we are partakers in the resurrection of the Lord or we are living a Risen Life.

Bro. Antony A reminiscence



Bro. Antony left us for his heavenly abode on the 25th of January. Still the sweet memories of our elder brother cling to my thoughts and I bend my head in prayer. Bro. Antony Nedungatt, the youngest of the nine children of Mathai and Aliamma Mathai, was born on 8th October 1928 at Karimpani, Palai, Kottayam. His primary education was in schools at Thachilangatt and Kozhuvanal. He completed high school education at Kidangoor and Mutholy. In 1955 he joined the Visakhapatnam Mission. After a few years of technical studies he joined the novitiate at Pune which was later moved to Visakhapatnam. He did technical studies

(AMIMET) at British Institute Bombay and management study in Calcutta. He served the Congregation at different places in various capacities. He worked as principal of St. Aloysius technical school, Visakh for 28 years and came to Bangalore in 1985. He was in Sudhirvana (5years), Nilambur (3 years) and Vinayalaya 13 years.

Bro. Antony drew every one's attention through his exemplary attitude of commitment and dedication. He loved the congregation and was always ready to sacrifice his personal interests and likings for the greater interest of the congregation. He won the hearts all with his sense of humor and innocuous stubbornness. He always liked to be with young people and was a source of inspiration for the young confreres as he was very law abiding and a man of prayer. I know Bro. Antony for the last 38 years and used to wonder at the way he inspired me as I met him as a young seminarian. He was known for hard work and unwavering spirit which he was always unwilling to give up. That was Bro. Antony who left us on the 25th of January. I wished to be in Ettumanoor to pay homage to our beloved brother but unfortunately I had to be away on visitation to our African mission.

Our Silver Jubilarian

Fr. Johny Kanjiramparampil will be completing 25 years of the priestly ordination on 22 April 2008. As he celebrates the Silver Jubilee year of his ordination let us keep thanking the Lord for all His blessings.

Fr. Johny was born on 10th July 1956 at Edayazham, Vaikom. After completion of his schooling he joined SFS Seminary Ettumanoor in 1975. He entered the Novitiate at Salesianum in 1975 and made his first profession on 10th June 1976. The philosophical studies took him to Christ King College at Shillong. After completing his theological studies in Pune he was ordained priest on 22nd April 1983.



During the 25 years as a priest he has served the province in various capacities. From 1983 to 1986 he was engaged in the pastoral activities in Vaniyambadi parish of Vellore Diocese as an assistant parish priest and later as parish priest. From 1986 to 1992, he rendered his service in SFS Seminary Ettumanoor fostering and promoting vocations in Kerala. From 1992 to 1998 he worked in the diocese of Trichur, Thiruthiparambu and Chembuthara. In 1998 he was appointed as the first Novice

Master of Sannidhi, the Novitiate of MSFS South West Province where he established good religious traditions. He also established it as a Fransalian Home for God experience for the novices of our Province.

From 2001 to 2007 Fr. Johny was given the responsibility to form our candidates as the Rector of SFS Seminary Ettumanoor. Through his simplicity of life, concern and regard for the confreres, generosity and availability he enriched the life of seminary Community. From 2003 onwards he guided the Community of SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor as the Local Superior. With his cheerful nature and deep sense of commitment he inspired all especially the youngsters. In 2007 he was appointed as the Superior of Charis Bhavan Community, Athirampuzha. With his credibility, religious commitment and an incredible gift of interpersonal relationship, he has always served the community. His simplicity of life and the depth in spirituality endears him to many people. From 2007 July onwards he is also serving the Congregation as the Provincial Councilor and Admonitor of the

South West Province, India. With his vast experience as pastor and formator he continues to be an effective instrument in the hands of God.

On this occasion of his Silver Jubilee we wish him God's abundant blessings and we join him in thanking God for all blessing he has received from God. We remember and thank him for all that he is to our Congregation and especially to our Province. I make use of this opportunity to congratulate him and wish him abundant Blessings from God. Ad Multos Annos.

Among the Confreres in Africa

From the 28th of January till the 18th of February together with Fr. Erudayaraj I had made the visitation of the Chad-Cameroon mission. It was a touching experience for both of us. We could see the immense progress the mission has made in the last nine years of its existence. It was on 12th November 1999 that the first batch of three MSFS arrived in Doba in Chad (Frs. Antony Mookenthottam, Thomas Payattukandam and Jose Puthiyaparambil). **In November 2008 we will enter the 10th year of our mission in Chad.** It is definitely an occasion to thank the Almighty for the innumerable graces he has showered on us and our mission. Through struggles we have grown and we shall be proud that our missionary endeavor has taken wings to go to where the Church most need us.

I was deeply impressed by the welcome that the confreres had accorded to us and by their love and care. We enjoyed the stay in all communities and every encounter with the confreres was enriching, satisfying and comforting for me. In their daring missionary commitment they have gone beyond the ordinary and made themselves available for the global mission of the Church. The Catholic Church always felt and expressed that its future to a great extent depends on Africa. I am sure that commitment and example of our confreres will be of utmost importance to the future generations of MSFS not only in Chad and Cameroon but also in India.

As I refresh my memories of my visit to the Mission, I am still in deep appreciation of the commitment and enthusiasm of our confreres for the mission. They started to dream and set goals for the mission. The focus goes to implant our Congregation in the West-Central Africa and to render service to the local Church in Chad and Cameroon to the best of our abilities. The goal remains for us as defined in our directory "the sharing of the message of Christ, making Him known, and implanting the Church wherever possible."

I have given the confreres once again the assurance that the Chad-Cameroon Mission is an integral part of the South West Province and its dreams are the dreams of the South West Province and its success and failures, problems and difficulties, aspirations and longings are that of the South West Province. The mission centers in Chad Cameroon are like any other mission centers of the South West Province besides the defined goals of its overseas commitment.

On this occasion **I join with the whole Province** to thank each and every one of our confreres in Africa for the person that they are, the commitment they have made, the dreams they nurture and the goals they want to achieve during their period of ministry in the mission of Chad and Cameroon. I am sure with the cooperation of all our confreres there, we can realize the dreams to bring to existence an indigenous MSFS Province in Chad- Cameroon.

In Bero we will build up a school to impart education to the deprived, a boys' town to facilitate a qualitative education of at least 50 children from the surrounding villages, thus giving hope and future for some who otherwise do not have them. We will work towards the construction of a "centre de culture (cultural centre)", and definitely continue the work of faith formation and intensify the missionary work in the villages. If some sisters come in the course of time to be missionary collaborators we shall encourage them to start a "girls' town" also. Frs. Joshy Mangalath, Manoj, Scaria and Paulraj are committed to this vision.

In Bini Dang/Ngaoundere our focus will be the university students and we make available for them the best of spiritual and psychological help through counseling and possibilities for faith formation through bible classes, bible cells, faith forums, and create opportunities that the students avail themselves the sacraments of the Church. The Parish of Bini Dang (Fr. A.C. Arockianathan), **Mbe- Karna** (Fr.Johnny Cheruvil) and **Berem**(Fr. Thomas Payattukandam) will continue to be in the focus of our missionary activities there. In Gada Mabanga we will establish the Postulants House and work towards the realization of a school and a "centre de Sante" (dispensary) in the near future. We shall plan to have a presbytery at Mbe and get some projects sanctioned to make drinking water available in Mbe, Karna and Berem. We shall take steps to revitalize the schools at Berem and Karna and engage ourselves to make these centers vibrant Christian communities.

In Ekkoundoum (Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam and Fr. Georgekutty) we shall be going ahead with the construction of the Parish Church and work intensively towards creating a school in a land that is still to be acquired. The school will have also a Boys' Town for some poor or destitute children to bring some smiles on their faces and a Vocational Training Centre with some trades like Carpentry, Welding, Fitter, Automobile Mechanism and Computer Application. We shall study further the possibilities of making such units also financially and economically viable by creating workshops and units of production. Meanwhile, I am sure Ekkoundoum will emerge as a class I parish in Yaounde Diocese. The remaining works at **Ngoya** (Fr. Sathish and the Scholastics) is to be completed. The Parish at Ekkekam (Fr.Marin Richard) will be the focus of our ministry there. We shall resolve to make it a model parish with the help of the scholastics who can animate various groups. We form them into Christians with solid faith formation and deep spiritual roots.

And as I was with the confreres, we dared to dream together of many other things. We shall keep the dreams alive and we shall one day definitely achieve them. Finally a sincere word of appreciation for what the confreres are and what they do. God is with us. We trust in his Providence. For him "Nothing is Impossible". I would like to express also my sincere thanks to the benefactors of our Mission: Fr. Superior General's Africa Fund, Franco-Swiss Province, Mission Procure of Fr. Emile Mayoraz, Fr. Thomas Fernandez, Fr. Augustine Tharappel and the Wellspring Community, and Friends of Agape Chad-Cameroon founded by Fr. Thomas Cherukat.

Impressions from a Missionary Journey by Fr. E. Erudayaraj

The word 'Missionary' finds its real meaning in the life experiences of Chad Cameroon Mission. The presence of M.S.F.S has made a deep impact on the people through their

life, hard work and commitment. The founder's dream comes true when we see the La Feuillette scholasticate at Yaounde. It speaks volumes about the missionary zeal, challenges and hardships endured by Fr. Thomas Cherukat. It is a beautiful monument. This house equips the young seminarians to assimilate the language, culture and traditions of the place. Fr. Martin Richard, the Parish priest of Ozom and Nkong takes care of the people with deep interest and responsibility. Fr. Joshy, the parish priest and Fr. Georgekutty Assistant Parish priest of Ekoumdoum form a beautiful community to plan, execute new and innovative ministries. They are always available to people.

Ngaoundere community which consists of Fr. Thomas Payattukandathil, Fr. Arokianathan and Fr. Joshy Cheruvil, who make things happen in Bini-Dang, Berem and Mbe-Karna. They are trying their best to keep the momentum going and make the local Church self reliant through religious and moral education, pious associations and above all through their life witness they inspire many young people to reform their life and look to their future with hope. Fr. Joshy Mangalathu, Fr. Manoj Arackal, Fr. Scaria Kannezhathu, Fr. Paul Raj are in the mission of Bero, a vibrant, dynamic community with bare minimum facilities. The ministry of the Fransalians in the continent reaches out to all spheres of life in the holistic development of its people, in evangelization, in renewal of Christian life, healing ministry preaching and prison ministry, vocational training and many other developmental activities. In a span of nine years it has made tremendous progress through its devotion, dedication and discipline. I could see the ground realities of life, the earnestness and the uncompromising dedication of the Fransalians to the global mission of the church. I simply admire the confreres of Chad Cameroon Mission for their great sacrifice, pioneering efforts and missionary zeal. May God bless our communities and give them good health and contentment in their ministry. LONG LIVE CHAD-CAMEROON MISSION.

Salesian Seminar 2008: A Commemoration of the 4th Centenary of the Publication of *Introduction to the Devout Life* and the Silver Jubilee of the Salesian Seminar

It is extremely rare that an author brings about radical changes in humans and society through his book. Still rarer it is that its momentum continues for centuries and never ceases. Such is the author **St. Francis de Sales** and his book **Introduction to the Devout Life**. Nearly 350 years before *Lumen Gentium* (of the Second Vatican Council) spoke about the Universal Call to Holiness, St. Francis de Sales wrote: "It is an error, or rather, a heresy, to try to exclude the devout life (holiness) from the soldiers regiment, the workman's shop, the court of rulers or the home of the married."

This year, 2008, marks the beginning of the Fourth Centenary of the publication, **The Introduction to the Devout Life**. It keeps its relevance even today. The laity often spontaneously ask: Why didn't anyone introduce me to this book so far? Today some search for a spirituality for the laity. The **Introduction** offers spirituality suitable not only to the laity or religious of any country or nation but also of any denomination and even of any religious tradition. This spiritual classic transcends time and space. It touches the heart and transforms. On this great occasion, Indian Institute of Spirituality is organizing the Salesian Seminar 2008 from 4th May (evening 6'o clock) – 9th May (noon). The

whole theme of the seminar will be centered on the **Introduction to the Devout Life**. For further information contact Indian Institute of Spirituality.

Educational Seminar in Guwahati

I would like to bring to your attention the educational Seminar to be held in MSFS Provincial House, Guwahati from 7th May to 10th May 2008. All those who are engaged in education ministry may avail themselves of this opportunity to equip themselves to be better educators.

Please Note...

The Telephone number of the Provincial's Office	080 23348041
Personal number of the Provincial	080 23345594
Mobile Number of the Provincial	(0)9448480379
Phone Number of Vinayalaya Community	080 23340379
The official E-Mail ID of the Provincial's Office	<u>msfsbangalore@yahoo.com</u>
Personal ID of the Provincial	<u>frmathewmsfs@gmail.com</u>

The New General Directory Administrative Plan

The new General Directory and Administrative Plan of the Congregation is now available for distribution. Some of the communities and members have already received them. Others will receive them soon. Please take time to read the New Directory and the Administrative plan envisaged by the Constitution and Directory. This necessitates us to recast our Provincial Statutes, which may have to be taken up in the next Provincial Congress. We shall soon form a committee to study the matter and update the Provincial Statutes.

Coordinator of Kolar Mission

We have entered into a contract with the Archdiocese of Bangalore and have taken up the whole of erstwhile Kolar District except few Talukas. We are primarily responsible for the overall development of Kolar mission be it missionary, pastoral, social or educational. In many centers we have developed our own institutions but we need to keep in mind that the mission is to be given back to the Archdiocese after 23 years.

Therefore the Provincial Administration is appointing **Fr. E. Erudayaraj** as **Coordinator** of our Kolar Mission and wishes that he be available for services to whole mission and its pastoral activities, taking special interest in various parishes there, organizing, animating the confreres, studying various possibilities and initiating projects for our effective apostolate and work for the overall development of the mission. We need also to study the possibility of starting one or more schools in strategic places in collaboration with the Archdiocese which can be given back after the period of contract. We wish Erudayaraj all the best in this great missionary endeavor.

.Designated to the Franco Swiss Province

Frs. Martin Richard and Johny Cheruvil are designated to the Franco-Swiss Province and will start their ministry there in the month of October 2008. As the confreres from the

Chad-Cameroon are well equipped with the French Language and had already exposure to the Mission in France during their holiday ministry we are glad that they have willingly agreed to comply with our request to render service to the Franco-Swiss Province to meet their immediate needs.

Fr. Bnoy Kidangathukarottu

Left for France in the month of January and is available for service in the Franco-Swiss Province. We wish him all the best and God's Blessings for a fruitful and a grace-filled time of ministry in the home cities of our Patron St. Francis de Sales.

SFS Public School, Ettumanoor

The Higher Secondary section of SFS Public School, Ettumanoor, is being affiliated to CBSE, New Delhi, with effect from April 2008

Transfers and Appointments:

Fr. Martin Richard is appointed as the Acting Rector of La Feuillette, Ngoya from 25th February 2008

Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam is appointed as the Rector of La Feuillette with effect from April 5, 2008.

Fr. Manoj Arackal is appointed as the "Prefect of Studies" at La Feuillette at Ngoya with effect from September 2008. Besides he will also be the Procurator of the Scholasticate and the Parish Priest of Ekekkam.

Fr. Manoj Arackal will assist Fr. Arockianathan to look after the Parishes of Berem and Mbe-Karna during the absence of Frs. Thomas Payattukandam and Johnny Cheruvil who are due for their holidays after Easter.

Fr. Paul Raj is appointed to the community at Bero to be in charge of the proposed Boys' town in Bero with immediate effect and designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest at Bero by the Bishop of Doba, Chad.

Fr. Scaria Kannezhathu is appointed to the community at Bero and designated to be appointed as Assistant Parish Priest and Procurator to the community at Bero with immediate effect.

Fr. Sathish Vellaramkunnel is appointed to assist Fr. Martin and Fr. Joshy N. till September 2008 during which he will continue to get mastery in the French language. From September 2008 he is designated to be appointed by the Bishop of Ngaoundere to be assistant Chaplain for the University students and Assistant Parish Priest at Bini Dang.

Fr. Sathish Vellaramkunnel is also appointed as procurator of Bini Dang Community with effect from September 2008.

Fr. Thomas Payattukandathil is appointed as the Superior of the community to be formed at Gada Mabanga while continuing to be Parish Priest of Berem.

Fr. Johnny Cheruvil is appointed to be a member of this community while continuing to look after the Parish of Mbe -Karna and start the construction of the Postulants' house in Gada Mabanga. Till his departure to France he will also function as procurator of this community.

Fr. A.C. Arockianathan is appointed the Superior of the community at Bini Dang with immediate effect.

Bro. Innocent Parfait is appointed to the community at Gada Mabanga for his Regency.

Fr. Joy Kochupoovathummootil is appointed as the Novice Master of the Novitiate to be started in Philippines in the month of June.

Fr. Joseph Pulpara is designated to be appointed by the Bishop of Kannur to St. Joseph's Church, Ulickal with effect from 15 May 2008.

Fr. Thomas Puthussery is designated to be appointed by the Bishop of Kannur to the Parish at Kannadiparampu, with effect from 15 May 2008.

Fr. Thomas Illikattil is granted an extension of service till the end of May 2008 at Divine Retreat Centre, Muringoor at the request of the director.

Fr. Mathew Kavithazha is appointed as the Superior of the community at Pattikad and designated to be appointed by the Archbishop of Trichur as Parish Priest of St. Thomas Church, Manjakunnu with effect from 20 May, 2008

Fr. Jose Kokkandathil is appointed Manager of Vinayakumar Estate and Correspondent of NAAMALP School at Thelpara, with effect from May 2008. He is designated to be appointed by the Bishop of Manathavadi to be the Parish Priest of St. George's Church T.K. Colony.

Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil will take up his residence in Vattiyoor kavu, Trivandrum.

Fr. Kurian Karickal is appointed as Director of Charis Bhavan with effect from September 2008.

Fr. E. Erudayaraj is appointed as the Principal of SFS School Malur. He is also appointed as coordinator of our missionary activities in the Kolar Missions with effect from 15 May 2008.

Fr. Jose Karekatt is given an extension of his service to the Justice, Peace and Development Commission of KCBC and will continue to function as Director of Jesus Fraternity for a period of another year at the request of the Bishops.

Fr. Johnny Puthiyaparambil is designated to go to Atlanta, USA.

Fr. Joseph Mannukuzhumpil is appointed as Principal of the Pre University College at Hebbagodi with effect from 15 April, 2008

Fr. George Valliamthadathil is appointed as Rector of SFS Seminary at Ettumanoor, Kerala with effect from 1 May 2008.

Fr. Tomy Pulinthanam is appointed to our community at Pattikad to continue his mission and ministry of preaching and to activate the counselling and spiritual empowerment centre at Pattikad with effect from September 2008

Fr. Sebastian Kulangarathottiyil is appointed as the Superior and Procurator of the Community at Chintamani and Correspondent of the SFS Schools at Chintamani. He is designated to be appointed by the Archbishop of Bangalore to be the Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Church, Chintamani.

Fr. Regi Narikunnel is appointed as the Superior of the MSFS House at Koppal

Fr. Jojo Kolarickal is appointed as the Principal of the SFS Schools in Chintamani and Director of SFS Boys' Home with effect from 01 May 2008.

Fr. Binoy Kuzhuppil is appointed to the community at SFS Vidyashram, Aluva to be assisting Fr. Jose Parapillil in organising various programs at the centre and to be procurator of the house with effect from June 15, 2008.

Fr. Baby Elanjimattathil is appointed to the community at Charis Bhavan with effect from 20 February 2008 and as Procurator to the community at Charis Bhavan with effect from 01 April 2008.

Fr. A. Johnson appointed as Assistant Principal at SFS Pubic School, Ettumanoor, Kerala with effect from 01 May 2008.

Fr. John Melukunnel is appointed as the correspondent and Administrator of the SFS Schools in Koppal and Procurator of the House with effect from 1 May, 2008.

Fr. Joseph Thoppil is designated to be appointed as Parish Priest of St. Francis de Sales Church at Koppal.

Fr. James Panickerveetil is designated to go for pastoral ministry to the Archdiocese of Munich, Germany

Fr. Augustine Mannampambil is designated to go to Signal Mountain to Alexian Senior Citizen's Village for ministry.

There will be one more list of Transfers and Appointments after my return from Europe. I will be leaving on an important mission to Europe on 24 March 2008. Please pray for a safe journey for me and our concerns especially in Chad-Cameroon mission. During my absence Fr. Johnny will be the Provincial Vicar.

The Provincial Congress of the Chennai Province

The Provincial Congress of the Chennai Province took place from the 10 – 14 March 2008, in SFS Seminary, Pudukottai with the theme “Rooted in Christ and Nurtured in Fraternal Communion we flourish as Committed Fransalian Missionaries.” I had the privilege of being present for the Congress and preach the recollection. The Congress elected Frs. F. Emmanuel, G. Dominic Savio, A. Patrick Jayaraj, Arul Francis, as Councillors and John Wilson Fernando as the Procurator. Chennai Province has a wealth

of talented persons who can take the province to new ways of MSFS Mission. We wish Fr. Lawrence and the new Provincial Administration all the best and God's blessings.

Let us pray for the Departed

Mr. Thomas (Pappachan) Mookenthottam aged 84, brother of Rev. Fr. Antony Mookenthottam, expired on January 30, 2008.

Mr. Siluvai Raj, aged 80, father of **Fr. S Arockia Jayaraj**, missionary in the Philippines, expired on February 28, 2008.

Mrs. Thresiamma, aged 85, the mother of Fr. George Puraidom presently doing ministry in the USA Region, expired on March 16, 2008

Please pray

For speedy recovery of Fr. Joseph Kuzhuppil who was admitted to emergency with severe chest pain. He had an angiogram and found two arteries with blockage. They have put two stents to clear the blockage and he will return after a day to his place.

For speedy recovery of Fr. Bosco of Chennai Province who had a serious accident before a month and is still unconscious. He is in the intensive station at KIMS, Trivandrum.

For speedy recovery of Mr. Varkey aged 98 years, the father of Fr. Joseph Vettukattil who has hurt himself after a fall and is now recuperating in the hospital.

Coming for Holidays

Fr. Arockiajayaraj from the Philippine Mission is on holidays. He had to rush home as his father died unexpectedly. **Frs. Thomas Payattukandathil, Martin Richard and Johnny Cheruvil** will be on holidays to India after Easter. **Fr. Tomy Mullasseril** will be on holidays in the month of April. **Fr. Mathew Thottiyil** will be arriving in May. **Fr. Jimmy Parayakuzhy** will be arriving from Philippines on 31 March. We wish them a good and relaxing holiday.

Congratulations

To Fr. Sibichan Panthamakkal who completed his M.Th. in Biblical Theology in St. Peter's Pontifical Institute of Theology, Bangalore with 75%. We congratulate him and wish him all the best.

Ceases to be members of the Congregation

Shibu Keerappel has requested for dispensation from religious vows.

Vipin Kishore Kujur does not feel himself called to religious way of life

Glimpses from the Life of the Province

Vinayalaya dedicated as the Provincial House

On January 24, 2008, the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales of South-west India Province inaugurated and officially dedicated Vinayalaya, Bangalore as the new Provincial House. The third floor houses provincial's office and other offices for the Province administration, like finance, education, formation, mission, innovative ministries, FIDESIndia and PSI.

The building was blessed and dedicated by the Archbishop of Bangalore, Bernard Moras. In his homily, he said that the Provincial House would be the centre and heart of the Province, and he wished that, it would animate everyone to deeply experience God. It should be a symbol of the strong and growing relationship between the members of the society, said he.

Provincial, Rev. Fr. Mathew Kozhupakalam, encapsulated the significance of the occasion of shifting the Provincial House from Mysore to Bangalore in the following words: "...It was the unanimous decision of the Provincial Congress of October 2006 to shift the provincial house to Bangalore, as it provides much better accessibility to the confreres and administrative effectiveness." Going down the memory lane, he expressed that this day repeats the precedence of 1991. Immediately after the bifurcation of the erstwhile Visakhapatnam Province, into South-West India Province a part of Vinayalaya was used as the administrative offices of the Province and the Provincial continued to have an office at Vinayalaya since then. He further added that though Vinayalaya ceases to be a scholasticate of the SW Province it would continue to house scholastics and fathers who would pursue their theological studies at St. Peter's Pontifical Institute. *Report by Bro. Sudeep Paul MSFS*

Launching of Journal of Indian Theology:

On the occasion of the feast of St. Francis de Sales, our patron and the patron of all journalists, and after the blessing of the New Provincial House, Tejas Institute of Mission-Oriented and Contextual Theology, Bangalore, under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Jacob Parappally, (Chief Editor) launched the *Journal of Indian Theology*. This new theological journal is a response to the call of Vatican II to articulate our faith experience in 'terms of the philosophy and wisdom of the people, and how their customs, concept of life and social structures can be reconciled with the standard proposed by divine revelation' during the centenary year of the death of Brhamabandhab Upadhyay, the father of Indian Christian theology.

Fr. Parappally said that the aim of this journal is to support and promote theologizing in the Indian context and to give a wider publicity to the attempts of theologians to articulate a relevant theology in dialogue with a plurality of religions, cultures, world-views and socio-economic and political situation of India. . *JIT* will also include short book-reviews. *JIT* is to be published in English once in four months, in January, May and September, said he. *Report by Sudeep Paul MSFS*

Inter-religious dialogue at Indian Institute of spirituality

On the 25th of February 2008 Indian Institute of Spirituality organized the 16th Inter-Religious Dialogue on the Topic **A Common Response to the Uplift of the Poor: An Inter-Religious Perspective**. Prominent Leaders from various religions, such as, Sikhism, Jainism, Islam and Christianity presented their particular religious perspective on this relevant topic. This Inter-Religious Dialogue was an immediate response to the main thrust of the CBCI meeting 2007, conducted in Bangalore, which emphasized the need for the education of the poor. The seminar included a panel discussion in which the participants were given opportunity to clarify their queries and an inter-religious prayer service, which highlighted the dignity of every human being as the child of God. The end-goal of the dialogue was to concentrate on the possibilities of enabling the poor and the marginalized in our country to live a meaningful life through self-

awareness and education. The participation of a large number of theologians, Postgraduate and Doctoral Students, scholastics and laity added solidity to the meaningfulness and success of the programme. *Report by Fr. Benny Kootanal MSFS*

18th Annual Convocation at Indian Institute of Spirituality

10th of March 2008 was a historical day in the annals of Indian Institute of Spirituality as 68 of its students received certificates in Diploma, Certificate and Extension courses during the 18th annual Convocation day. Most Rev. Dr. Thomas A. Vazhapilly, the Bishop of Mysore, presided over the Holy Eucharist and conferred the degrees to the students during the convocation. Rev. Dr. K.J. Thomas, the President of St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, delivered the convocation address, wherein he emphasized the importance of the study of spirituality in the context of the modern trend to a globalized society. Fr. Benny Kootanal, msfs, the dean of the institute, presented the report of the academic year 2007-2008, emphasizing the motto of the institute for a holistic growth of the person through the integration of the academic, spiritual, physical, emotional and psychological aspects of one's life. The melodious singing and the spiritual atmosphere that enveloped programme added beauty to the whole event. *Report by Fr. Benny Kootanal MSFS*

School day celebrations

SFS Public School, Ettumanoor

The 5th Annual Day celebrations of SFS Public School, Ettumanoor, were held at the school premises on Saturday, 2nd February 2008. Light, colour and pomp marked the evening. The programme got to a majestic opening with the lighting of the traditional lamp by the chief guest, Shri Mons Joseph, Minister for Public Works in the Government of Kerala. Despite his youth, the Minister was bubbling with wit and wisdom when he underlined the need for all-round development if education was to make headway in today's techno-savvy world. The keynote speaker on the occasion was Shri James Joseph, former Director of the Department of Higher Secondary Education in Kerala. Based on his years of service to the cause of education in the State, he showed us a new way of perceiving our world. This hi-tech perception of reality, he pointed out, could be utilized to bring about a better quality of life for everyone. Shri K V James, the PTA President, too shared his views on education with the audience. Fr Joseph Thayil, the School Manager, gave away the prizes to class toppers and competition winners. Fr Binoy Kurakalayil, the School Principal, presented a bird's eye-view of the academic year, interspersed with highlights of events. The presentation was a light-and-sound affair that kept the spectators riveted to their seats. The variety entertainment that followed was a spell-binding spectacle, filled with catchy tuneful songs, fusion dances, mimes, action songs, group songs, bhangra dances, the lot. The entertainment programme which stretched into the late hours of the night kept everyone cheerfully exploding in guffaws of laughter. *Report by Fr. Binoy Kurakalayil MSFS*

SFS School, Koppal

S.F.S.School, Koppal, celebrated its 12th Annual Day on 16th February 2008. Dignitaries, Well wishers, Parents and Students gathered at the school grounds at 6.30 pm. Fr. Regi, the Principal welcomed the gathering. Shri Laxmi Narayana IAS the Transport Commissioner, Govt of Karnataka was the Chief guest. Shri Ramanna Naik IAS, Deputy Commissioner of Koppal presided over the function. Fr.L.A.Nathan, the Principal, St. Joseph's High School Bellary and Fr.Francis Bhashyam, the Manager, Christ the King School, Kushtagi were the Guests of Honor. Fr. Joseph Thoppil, the Vice Principal, felicitated the Dignitaries. A concise School Report of the

current academic year was presented by Ms Reshma, the Headmistress. Distinguished guests addressed the gathering with their words of wit and wisdom and assured their support for the smooth functioning of the school. Mr. Suresh Jain, Parent of the first student of the school, spoke on the occasion about the service rendered by the School. Fr. Joseph Pulpara, the Manager of the School, gave away the prizes for the proficiency holders of the academic year 2006-2007. Students from K.G.section to Std X including the ICSE School students staged various cultural events. The program ended at 9.30pm. *Report by Fr. Regi Narikunnel MSFS*

SFS Public School, Hebbagodi. -Blooms-2007-08

St. Francis de Sales Public School, Bangalore celebrated its 3rd annual day in a colorful and exciting way on 23rd February 2008. Very Rev. Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam msfs, General Manager and Provincial of the South West India Province, was the chief guest. Prof. Arul Selvan, Associate Director NTT, Bangalore presided over the function. Rev. Fr. Jolly Chackalekal msfs, Rector of Suvidya College was the guest of Honour. To start the function, the Chief Guest and other dignitaries were welcomed with a drum band and then lamps were lit to signal the beginning of the event. The programme auspiciously started with an invocation dance, which was followed by a panoramic display of talents like Group song, Speeches, Skating, Karate, Yoga, English Skit, Dances etc. Students of the nursery section presented a spectacular show of Welcome song, Dance, One act play etc. which were so artistic that it won the audiences' hearts. The third issue of the third volume of the newsletter, 'Strides' was released by the chief guest during the occasion. To add colour to the cultural extravaganza, the action packed annual report was presented with audio-visual effects by the Principal. Prizes were given away at the end. All the students of the school participated in the cultural programme. The curtain was drawn with the words of gratitude and the singing of the national anthem. *Report by Fr. Roy Plathottathil MSFS*

SFS School, Kuknoor

27th Feb was a special day for SFS School at Kuknoor. It was a double joy for the entire school. Just for the reason that we had two occasions to be happy; one the Inauguration of the new school building and the other is 4th school annual day. It was a day to be remembered and cherished. Fr. Provincial graced the occasion by lighting the lamp and inaugurating the new school building. Children were on their feet to dance and to entertain the crowd. And they did so. The day was successful because of the hard work of the staff and the co operation of the children and parents. Mr. Sadashiva Mergi DD food and civil supplies commended the hard work and spoke about the Christian missionary zeal in imparting the education for the children. He said and I quote "Christian education always aims at progress and uplift of the poor and down trodden. It is necessary that the institute and parents together create that atmosphere for children to grow and excel". Fr. Provincial congratulated the staff, students and parents for their co operation in imparting education to children. Fr. Jabamalai the correspondent of the school distributed the prizes. The Taluk and Grama Panchayat members were present and all of them applauded the hard work. There were about 1500 people present for the occasion. *Report by Fr. Rajkumar MSFS*

SFS School, Mundargi

25th February was a joyful day for the SFS family in Mundargi as we had the inauguration of the "Pratheeksha De Sales Boy's Home" and the celebration of SFS school anniversary. On this occasion the message delivered by the Provincial of South West Province, Rev. Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam brought out the importance of the value of education in the modern world. He stressed the need for a true education or education of heart since it is directed towards the

formation of the human person in view of his ultimate goal and the good of the society. The other invited guests also emphasized the importance of education and praised the tremendous efforts by our institution. They also expressed their full co-operation for the development and progress of the school. The celebration was concluded with various entertaining events by the students. *Report by Fr. Jabamalai MSFS*

SFS School, Savanur

The day of joy, the day of smile, the day of happiness was on 28th of February as we celebrated 6th school anniversary of S.F.S. school, Savanur. The School anniversary was presided over by Rev. Fr. Mathew Kozhupakkalam, the Provincial of Southwest Province of India. The Program was attended by many eminent persons like Mr. Jagadish, the Assistant Commissioner of Savanur, Mr. Shubhaveer Jain, the Civil Judge, Savanur, Mr. Shivanand Badshetti, B.E.O, Savanur, and Mrs. Jayanthi Thomas, one of the well wishers of the school. The program was attended by hundreds of Parents, Sisters and fathers from various communities, and well-wishers. As St. Francis de Sales says, Bloom were you are planted; it was the day for our children to Bloom with their various colorful cultural programmes. All the members of our community and school staff worked for the success. Our children could catch the eyes of many people of Savanur, with their numerous creativities. Thanks to the little children. As a whole it was a marvelous day and a day of remembrance. *Report by Fr. John Melukennel MSFS*

Nine new deacons to the Province

It was a joyous occasion for the Tejas Community as its first batch of nine students were ordained deacons during a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by the Archbishop of Bangalore, Most Rev. Bernard Moras on March 4. 'Serve the people with compassion following the missionary charism and your special formation at Tejas', exhorted the Archbishop of Bangalore, Bernard Moras during the homily. Prayer, holiness and loving service should be the hallmark of every person who is in the clerical state, he added.

The deacons ordained are Arackal Shaju, Balavendra Jacob, Cheriyaavil Prince Kurian, D. Jeevan Prasad, Kollarayath Jaison Joseph, Mattathil Joby Abraham, Vazheparambil Riju Jose, Vellisserikettil Magish Mathew and Xess Bipin Kishore. Around sixty priests including confreres from different parts of the province, religious from in and around of Bangalore, parents and relatives of the deacon were present for the occasion. *Report by Sudeep Paul MSFS*

Spiritual Renewal Programs

Immigrants Pastoral Kolar: One day spiritual renewal programme for the Migrated Catholics was conducted in Kolar denary On 2nd March, 2008. The programme was conducted in Malayalam at St. Mary's Church, Kolar. *Mr Siby Kuttambuzha and Team* from Jesus Youth, took classes and conducted the prayer service. Fr. Jais MSFS celebrated Eucharist at the conclusion of the programme. Frs. Doraisamy, Sebastian Kulangarathottiyil, Saji Vadakkedath, Jojo and Biju Palamkunnel were available for counselling and hearing confession. Sisters from SARWA (St. Annes) also were available for counselling. Nearly 200 faithful were spiritually enriched from the programme. - *Report by Biju Palamkunnel MSFS*

Yelahanka New Town : Our Lady of Velakanni Church, Yelahanka New Town went through a spiritual renewal under the guidance of Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvilil and Fr. Shibu Thundathil. The sessions were attended by 200 to 300 parishoners daily from March 14 to 16. Rev. Fr. Joseph Kannadom the Parish Priest appreciated the good work of the confreres and thanked them for that spirit filled days. *Report by Fr. Joseph Kannadom MSFS*

One Minute with St. Francis de Sales

“Let us often have the recourse to the Holy Cross, embracing it in our hearts. Let us rest in the shade of this holy tree! It is impossible that anything can hurt us if we keep to our resolution to belong totally to God. Do not get all upset, therefore, when difficulties come your way. Laugh in your enemy's face; you are in the arms of the Almighty. Therefore, let God be your strength and your love.”

Yours Sincerely,

Mathew Kozhuppakalam

Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam msfs

Provincial