

Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales

SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE

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Circular MK/12

24 January 2008

Dear Confreres,

Today we are celebrating the fest of our heavenly Patron St. Francis de Sales. It is in fact a blessing that we are dedicating *Vinayalaya* as our Provincial house. This ceremony is an opportunity for us to come together and praise and thank the Lord as a family. Coming together and living together is the heart of Salesian way of religious life. It is possible only when we possess docility of heart and gentleness in our attitude towards others especially towards our own confreres and communities. I wish you all a happy feast of Patron.



Fr. Thomas Cherukatt, We thank You

In the Genral Chapter Fr. Thomas Chrukat was elected as the assistant Genral which obliges him to take up his residence in the Generalate in Rome. Now we need to express our heart fdelt thanks to him.

Poineering mission and overseas evangelization has always been the centre of the heart of Fr. Thomas Chrukat. During his tenure ans provincial he mad contracts with the Arch diocese of Bangalore to take up the Kola rmission for pioneering evangelization fro 40 years. Similar contracts were signed with the dioces of Bellary and Belguam to take up the Missions in Koppal

Mundargi and savanur. No wonder that his heart went to Chad Cameroon Mission as soon as he laid down his office in 2000. He also started the Philippine mission. After nine years of dedicated service as the first Provincial of the South West Province. November 2000 he reached the Chad Cameroon mission the coming years were full of activities for Fr. Thomas to make the Chad Cameroon mission a success story. With an indomitable spirit and single minded devotion he built up the mission extending our missionary activity beyond the boundaries of Chad. Today the mission is proud to have a house of its own in Ngoya, Yaounde (Lafette) which serves as the scholasticate. He has entered into agreement with the Archdiocese of Yaounde which was handed over the responsibility of St. Joseph of Bhakitha Parish in Ekoundum and Ekekam in the diocese of Obala. The ministry to over 50000 catholic students in the university at Gaudere in North Cameroon and the dedication of the Fathers who do this ministry adds definitely another feather to the cap of Fr. Thomas. With the Bishop of Gaudere he has entered into a contract to take care of the Pastoral needs of the parishes of Binidang, Imbe Karna and Berem. Surely we will miss Fr. Cherukat with his initiatives and enthusiasm in the mission he has formed leaders who will realize dreams for MSFS in Central Africa. From tomorrow. We wish him God's choicest blessing for the important ministry which he is going to take up as a full timer. He was the first provincial

Fr. Mathew Thudianplackal

Fr. Mathew has a new home now in Mermier Bhavan Community. He had a heart attack after which he underwent an Angioplasty in Narayana Hrudayalaya. He is happy to take up his residence in Hebbagodi. He feels quite good and at home there. He has been staying for years in Katherine Nivas in Vidya Nagar since 199 with the Seva Nilaya sisters. I thank Sr. Pauline and community very specially for having taken care of him. Fr. Mathew has been a good friend of them for them especially when they started their house there.

The Chennai Province

The General Chapter 2007 unanimously decided to raise the Chennai Region into a Province. The new Province will be formally inaugurated on 24th January 2008. We wish that the new Province with its young provincial and members have a great future. We also congratulate them and wish God's choicest Blessings on the Province and its members.

Congratulations to Fr. A. Lawrence

Fr. A. Lawrence is appointed by the Superior General as the first Provincial of Chennai Province. Congratulations and best wishes to him.

Congratulations to Fr. Francis Thadathil

The Superior General has appointed Fr. Francis Thadathil as the new Provincial of North-East India. Fr. Francis is supposed to take charge on 24th January 2008. But as he is still in the US he will assume his office only in the month of February. Congratulations and best wishes to him.

Return of Fr. George Valliamthadathil

Fr. George Valliamthadathil returned to India at the end of December after completing successfully his Masters in “Theology and Ministry”. For few months he will be assisting Fr. Aloysius Kuzhipillil to organize the Mother of Sorrows (Syro-Malabar) in Hebbagodi. He will do this ministry till May after which he will receive another appointment. With his vast experience in the Syro-Malabar Community in Bristol he will be able to give concrete orientations and guidance in the forming of a vibrant Syro-Malabar Community in Hebbagodi.

Dedication of Vinayalaya as Provincial House

The dedication of Vinayalaya as Provincial House will take place on the Feast of St. Francis de Sales at 6.00 p.m. His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras, the Archbishop of Bangalore has consented to preside over the Eucharistic Celebration and to bless the new facilities of the Provincial House in Vinayalaya. Vinayalaya was first a Philosophate, then Theologate and now the Provincial House. It has always been a house where confreres from all the provinces found a home. I hope this house will now become the mother house of the Province and a spiritual centre. It will continue to serve as a house where all confreres will be welcomed.

Prateeksha – De Sales Boys’ Home Mundargi

With the construction of an additional wing to the SFS School at Mundargi we have created enough facilities for the functioning of the school. On the first floor of the newly constructed wing a Boys’ home has come into existence. It was with the help of Fr. Tomy Mullasseril and the parishioners of Obermaessing, Untermaessing, Grossshoebing, Koenigstein and Edelsfeld that we have such a home in Mundargi. We are very grateful to all of those generous persons who have contributed towards the construction of the building. The construction was started by Fr. Aloysius and continued by Fr. Jabamala. Fr. A. Jabamalai completed the building in record time. Now he is trying very hard to get permission for the high school and to rectify the records regarding the permission of the building etc. He started the home already in June 2007 and now the 5 boys can be proud of having their own facilities. In the course of time we will be able to accommodate at least twenty boys in the house. We hope that the new home serves the need of some needy children from the vicinity and especially North Karnataka. The home will be inaugurated on February 2008.

Prateeksha – Max Blank De Sales Boy’s Home Ulickal

Mr. Max Blank has a firm for making classic oven for heating in Germany and is a close friend of Fr. Tomy Mullasseril. The friendship between both of them found expression in the construction of Max Blank De Sales Boys’ Home in Ulickal. A substantial sum for the construction of the same has been put at the disposal of the province by Mr. Max Blank. We thank him, his family and his firm for having taken up this project. We have at present 16 boys in Ulickal and let us hope that some of the boys passing through the portals of this institution will have a great future. The building can offer a home for more than 25 boys who can definitely get a quality life and education in this home. I would like to thank Fr. Thomas Puthusseril and Fr.

Anil Thondampallil who supervised the work and got the building completed. Fr Anil besides the Conuselling he offers to people who look for it wants to make this home the best, opening up hope for few children who otherwise would not have such chance of a quality education.

Congratulations to:

Fr. Louis Parappuram who completed his M.A. in Christianity from Madras University and passed in second class

Fr. Sen Vellakada who completed his M.Sc. Psychology with first class from Madras University.

Fr. Joe Cherolickal who completed his M.A, English Literature from Annamalai University

Fr. Binoy Kurakalayil in M.A. in English Literature from Annamalai University.

Thanks to Fr. Thomas Cherukatt

Melanie and Horst on a visit to India

Melanie and Horst Buehler Weiss were a visit to India from the 13th February to 3rd January 2008. They support together with the parishioners in Gosheim three of our seminarians. They are close friends

Visitation to Chad-Cameroon Mission

On the 27th of Jan 2008 I will be flying to Yaoundé to reach there on 28th. Fr. Erudayaraj will be accompanying me on this missionary journey. Fr. Sathish Abraham will be also coming along with us to be in the Chad-Cameroon Mission. In my absence Fr. Johnny Kanjiramparambil will be the Provincial Vicar. I will be back on the 20th February 2008.

On Holidays

Fr. James Manjackal

Fr. Joseph Kuzhuppil from Signal Mountain, Chattanooga

Fr. Thomas Mekatt

Fr. Binod Puthenpurackal

Fr. Francis Kizhakkethazhe

Fr. Joseph Mullakara

Fr. Sunny Paul came to pay last respects to his brother

Fr. Mathew Kalam

Fr. Mathew Kalam has been on sabbatical leave and has attended a number of refresher courses and retreats and is now ready for a new appointment. He found this time very useful and

Fr. George Choorapuzha

Fr. George Choorapuzha is on a sabbatical leave. He has requested time for prayer and refresher course for six months.

New Priests and their ordination

Transfers and Appointments

Fr. Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil
Fr. Mathew Kalam
Fr. Joseph Mannukuzhumpil
Fr. George Valliamthadathil
Fr. Baby Elanjimattathil
Fr. L. Selvaraj
Fr. Jais Mecherry
Fr. Saji Eanthanamkuzhy
Fr. Thomas Thekkekarott
Fr. Shino Puthussery
Fr. Antony Valiaparambil
Fr. Regi Muthukattil
Fr. Jino Plathottathil
Fr. George Rosario
Fr. Victor Kujur
Fr. Francis Ekka
Fr. Sunil Ekka
Fr. Prashanth Kumar
Deacon Shalbin Marottikudy

Designated for Studies

Fr. Roji Kuttivayalil
Fr. Vinoy Valachathinakathu
Fr. Joe Cherolickal
Fr. Sen Vellakada
Fr. John Melukunnel
Fr. Joseph Thoppil
Fr. Pangi Raj

Focus on MSFS Mission and Apostolates

Focus Gokunte

The Gokunte missions belong definitely to the annals of the history of MSFS Mission in India. The MSFS started its presence in Gokunte way back in 19... Fr. Joseph Panjackal of happy memory was the pioneer. Of course he found a catholic community there. A number of priests were appointed there like:

Fr. Joseph C. was appointed by the Archbishop as Parish Priest in June 2005. Fr. James Thomas has already done a wonderful work of establishing the Salvation Hill, a hill of prayer dedicated to Jesus the Saviour. A large statue of Jesus the Saviour looms large over the hill. A large number of people find it a place of spiritual solace and comfort and they come from various parts of Karnataka and some even form Andhra Pradesh. Fr. Joseph put his heart and soul for the spiritual and material development of the people of Gokunte. With the help of Judy, an Australian benefactor, Joseph has been able to build 8 houses for the poor. Three more houses

are being constructed. Joseph and Judy together established a project Sunshine Gokunte for the overall and integral development of the village. This project runs under the aegis of Fides India. The long term vision is to make Gokunte a model village. A number of houses have been repaired by giving them 430 bags of cement. and a new stage constructed and a new bore well bored. Gokunte is poised for catching up with the development taking place elsewhere in the country. A four other people have built good homes now, seeing that for a quality living a good house is a must. Alcohol consumption has drastically been reduced. 50% of the people are farmers and they depend on paddy, ragi and groundnut cultivation.

Judy and the sunshine Gokunte members take special interest in the children. The 15 boys in ours boys' home are now sponsored by them. The boys are well dressed and taken good care. 16 girls of St. Ann's Girls' Home in Gokunte are also being sponsored.

Rskshanagiri has brought about a spiritual revival in Gokunte. Lots of people come on Friday and Sunday comes to Rskshanagiri for personal prayer. On Fridays the various groups of the parish with 35-40 people conduct on the hill Rosary and pray for various intentions of people seeking prayer. Every last Sunday of the month 250-300 people from various religions come there for the Eucharistic Celebration. For pastoral organisation Fr. Joseph has divided the parish in 6groups and they conduct the Sunday Liturgy by being available to give introduction to the Mass, Readings, Intercessory prayers and Singing. The Sisters of St. Ann of Bangalore help in the Church Activities like taking Catechism, house visit etc. They also conduct the school in Gokunte.

Joseph feels and thinks that some of the programmes that he has envisaged for Gokunte for the near future will soon become a reality like:

1. Stations of the Cross for Rakshanagiri
2. A Holy Bible for each family: 140 bibles
3. A crèche for preschool children
4. A tuition centre for children

Thank you, Joseph, for what you are and what you do.

Focus Ulickal

The **Ulickal** parish is entrusted by the Bishop of Kannur for a term of 25 Years starting from 2003. The parish comprises of 60 families of which most of them are Scheduled Caste and poor who go for manual labor to make their living. The Church has 5 acres of land. Including the faithful from other parishes (Syro- Malabar) around 60 to 100 persons attend daily mass.

Ulickal has a substation Called *Mattani* where there is no place to conduct liturgical services. There are 15 Families staying in the area and once a week, Mass and other prayer Services are offered there. Fr.Varghese Puthuparambil who served the Parish from 1998 to 2006 bought five (5) cents of land to build a church and now we have applied to the diocese for financial assistance to construct a small chapel. Fr. Thomas Puthusseril is now the Parish Priest and got the Grotto at the entrance of the Church repaired.

In 2004, Fr. Varghese Started SFS Boys' Home with 5 Children and year after year increased the number of inmates. In 2006, Frs. Thomas Puthusserry and Anil took charge as parish Priest and

assistant Parish Priest respectively. At present there are 17 inmates, 8 of them are in Upper Primary School, 8 in High School and one in Plus one. We are now constructing a new Boy's Home with the support of Mr. Max Blank, a personal friend of Fr. Tomy Mullassery. We hope to get the building ready soon.

Fr. Anil, the director of SFS Boy's Home is also the Regional Director of 'KAIROS' Diocesan Social Service Society and its Ulickal Unit Community Organizer. He renders Counseling Services like Free *tele-counselling*, *Family counselling* etc. at the centre. There are twelve Self-Help groups, under diocesan Service Society function here to empower people in different ways.

Our future plan is to strengthen the service of *family Counseling Centre*, thereby we will be able to foster the physical and mental health of people by Conducting different training Programmes like Personality Development, classes on Parenting Skills, Youth oriented Programmes, Awareness programmes on health, hygiene Aids etc.

-Report by **Fr. Anil Thondampallil**

Bereavements

Roy, aged 46, brother of Fr. Sunny Paul's Brother, died on 7th December 2007

Mr. Mathew the father of Bro. Jinu Mathew, 3rd year philosophy student at Suvidya died on the 13th of October 2007

Mrs. Annamma, 90 years old died on 29.12.2007, paternal Grandmother of Fr. Raison Kaduvakuzhikkal

Arokiamary, aged 62, the aunt of Fr. Jabamalai died of Heart Attack on 29th December 2007

The sister-in-law of Fr. Kurian Aranjanil

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Praying with our Patron

Lord, I am yours,
and I must belong to no one but you.
My soul is yours,
and must live only by you.
My will is yours,
and must love only for you.
I must love you as my first cause,
since I am from you.
I must love you as my end and rest,
since I am for you.
I must love you more than my own being,
since my being subsists by you.
I must love you more than myself,
since I am all yours and all in you.

AMEN.

from "Treatise on the Love of God"

Yours Sincerely,

Mathew Kozhuppakalam

Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam msfs
Provincial