

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES – MSFS

SOUTH WEST PROVINCE - INDIA



Tel. 080 23345594,23348041,23340379 Mob: 91 9448480379, Fax: 080 23341329

Website: www.msfsouthwest.org e-mail: msfsbangalore@yahoo.com

VINAYALAYA, MSFS Provincial House
P.B.No.5557, Malleswaram West P.O
Bangalore 560 055, INDIA

Circular MK/18

24 January 2009

My dear Confreres

We had nine ordinations during the last months. The ceremonies especially in the Syro-Malabar rites were really touching. I felt so good to be with our brother priests and scholastics to attend those functions. It was a time to think of my own vocation to the ministerial priesthood. I felt deep within me that a new wind is blowing because these young confreres of ours are the first fruits of our new theological venture, Tejas Vidya Peetha. The ceremonies were touching, the ordinations were composed, a spiritual atmosphere prevailed and God spoke in songs, prayers, His Word and in silence to each of us.

Francis de Sales, our Patron was ordained on December 18, 1593. He was then 26 years of age. Immediately after his ordination he devoted his time to preaching, hearing confessions and performing acts of charity towards the poor. People flocked to him attracted as they were by his kindness and simple way in which he explained the truths of the faith. Francis took up an impossible mission in Chablais. The 26 year old priest declared:

“My Lord, Bishop, if you think that I am capable of undertaking the mission, tell me to go. I am ready to obey, and should be happy to be chosen.” The “Apostle of Chablais” went to Thonon and the situation he found was run-down churches, no congregation to preach to, nor penitents that went to him for confession. The poor young priest was ignored and occasionally sneered at by the diehard Calvinists. Francis did not give up. Since nobody went to hear his sermons, he wrote them by hand on sheets of paper which he inserted under entrance doors of his opponents. The results were baffling: slowly many got back to the Catholic Church. Francis confuted the Calvinists through the clarity of his presentation, the cogency of his arguments but it was especially through his unmatched amiability that he won over the hearts of many.

When we celebrate his feast on 24 January it is good for all of us especially the young priests to remember the immortal words that the “Gentleman Bishop” who had conquered the hearts of millions through his boundless compassion, understanding, patience and



kindness, has spoken: **“Our greatest fault is that we wish to serve God in our way and not in His way”.**

I wish all of you, my dear brothers and fathers a very happy Feast of our Patron.

Hearty Congratulations

Xess Bipin Kishore – 09/11/2008



Bipin Kishore was born of Mr. Libnus Xess and Sabina Xess on 21.05.1979 in Kusumdegi, Orissa. He has three brothers and three sisters. He joined Divya Jyothi Ashram, our minor seminary in Latapara. After a year or Orientation there he continued his studies in SFS Seminary Ettumanoor. He made his first religious profession on 11.06.2001 at Sannidhi, Mysore. Philosophy was in Suvidya College and Regency I Mundargi. The Theology studies he did in Tejas Vidya Peetha, our Mission

Oriented and Contextual Theology Center in Bangalore. He was ordained priest on 9 November 2008 at Kusumdegi by His Lordship Most Rev. Dr. Alphonse Bilung Bishop of Rourkela.

Dandavathi Jeevan Prasad – 27/11/2008



Jeevan Prasad Dandavate was born of Mr. Arogyappa and Shantamma on 04.02.1979 in Jawelgerra, Karnataka. He has three brothers and seven sisters. After SSLC he joined our minor seminary in Ettumanoor. He made his first religious profession on 11.06.1999 at Sannidhi, Mysore. He did his Philosophical studies in Suvidya College. After the regency in Koppal he did his Masters Degree in Social Work from Mangalore University. Theology was in Tejas Vidya Peetha, our Mission Oriented and

Contextual Theology Center in Bangalore. He was ordained priest on 27 November 2008 by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Henry D’Souza, Bishop of Bellary.

Arackal Shaju- 26/12/2008



Arackal Shaju was born of Mr. A.C Ouseph and Elia on 13.08.1973 in Chennaipara, Trichur. He has four brothers and five sisters. After the pre-degree and ITC studies he joined Sudhirvana and after one year continued his minor Seminary studies in SFS Seminary Ettumanoor. He made his first religious profession on 11.06.2000 at Sannidhi, Mysore. He did his Philosophical studies in Suvidya College. After the Regency

in Srinivaspur he continued his theological studies in St. Peters Pontifical Institute and Tejas Vidya Peetha, our Mission oriented and contextual theology center, Bangalore. He was ordained priest on 26 December 2008 at Peechi by His Grace Mar Andrews Thazhath, Archbishop of Trichur.

Vazhaparambil Riju - 28/12/2008



Vazhaparambil Riju was born of Mr. V.J Joseph and Alice on 29.02.1980 in Kaloor, Kerala. He has one brother and two sisters. After SSLC he joined our minor seminary in Ettumanoor. He made his first religious profession on 11.06.1999 at Sannidhi, Mysore. He did his Philosophical Studies in Suvidya College. After the regency in Savanur he did his Masters Degree in Social Work from Madras Christian College. He did his theology studies in Tejas Vidya Peetha, our Mission Oriented and Contextual Theology Center. He was ordained priest on 28 December 2008 at Kullapuram by His Lordship Mar George Punnakottil, Bishop of Kothamangalam.

Vallisserikettil Majish-30/12/2008



Vallisserikettil Majish was born of V.U Mathew and Thresiamma on 08.02.1982 in Onamthuruthu, Kerala. He has one brother and one sister. After the SSLC he joined for the Orientation Course in Sudhirvana Bangalore. The minor Seminary formation continued in Ettumanoor. He made his first religious profession on 11.06.2001 at Sannidhi, Mysore. The philosophical studies were in Suvidya College and Theology in Tejas Vidya Peetha, our Mission Oriented and Contextual Theology Center, Bangalore. He was ordained priest on 30.12.2008 at Kurumullor by His Grace Mar Mathew Moolakatt, Archbishop of Kottayam.

Cheriyakavil Prince-31/12/2008



Cheriyakavil Prince was born of Mr. C.M Kurian and Leelamma on 22.12.1981 in Cherukulam, Kerala. He has one younger brother. After the SSLC he joined for the Orientation Course in Sudhirvana Bangalore. The minor Seminary formation continued in Ettumanoor. He made his first religious profession on 11.06.2001 at Sannidhi, Mysore. The philosophical studies were in Suvidya College and Theology in Tejas Vidya Peetha, our Mission Oriented and Contextual Theology Center, Bangalore. He was ordained priest on 31 December 2008 at Philgiri by His Lordship Mar George Alancherry, Bishop of Thuckalay

Mattathil Joby-03/01/2009



Mattathil Joby was born of Mr. Abraham and Pennamma on 22.08.1981 in Cherupuzha, Kerala. He has one brother and three sisters. After the SSLC he joined for the Orientation Course in Sudhirvana Bangalore. The minor Seminary formation continued in Ettumanoor. He made his first religious profession on 11.06.2001 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his philosophical studies in Suvidya College he did a year of Regency in Vinayakumar Ashram, Nilambur. His Theology was in Tejas Vidya Peetha,

our Mission Oriented and Contextual Theology Center, Bangalore. He was ordained priest on 3 January 2009 at Koluvally by His Grace Mar George Valiamattam, Archbishop of Thalassery.

Kollarayath Jaison-05/01/2009



Kollarayath Jaison was born of Mr. Joseph and Annamma on 10.04.1981 in Karuvanchal, Kerala. He has one elder brother and two elder sisters. After the SSLC he joined for the Orientation Course in Sudhirvana Bangalore. The minor Seminary formation continued in Ettumanoor. He made his first religious profession on 11.06.2001 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his philosophical studies in Suvidya College he did a year of Regency in Kannur. Theology studies were done in Tejas Vidya Peetha our Mission Oriented and Contextual Theology Center.

He was ordained a priest on 05 January 2009 at Karuvanchal by His Grace Mar George Valiamattam, Archbishop of Thalassery.

Balavendra Jacob-08/01/2009



Balavendra Jacob was born of Mr. Jacob and Joseph Mary on 01.05.1982 in Gokunte, Karnataka. He has two brothers and three sisters. After the SSLC he joined for the Orientation Course in Sudhirvana Bangalore. The minor Seminary formation continued in Ettumanoor. He made his first religious profession on 11.06.2001 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his philosophical studies in Suvidya he did a year of Regency in Kadisenahilly. Theology studies were done in Tejas Vidya

Peetha our Mission Oriented and Contextual Theology Center, He was ordained a priest on 08 January 2009 at Gokunte by His Grace Ignatius Pinto the former Archbishop of Bangalore.

Visitation of Very Rev. Fr. Superior General to Philippines

From 9 to 18 January 2009 I had the opportunity to visit our Philippine Mission with Very Rev. Fr. Superior General, Agnelo Fernandes. Father Superior General arrived on 10 January afternoon. We went straight to Bagong Silang with Fr. Sunny Punnakuzhy, the Mission Superior. The Church with its sanctuary portion completed with stained glass and other art works is now beautiful. Congratulations to Fr. Sunny, Jimmy and the former Parish Priest Fr. Joy who started the work. Fr. Superior General was the main celebrant for the Sunday Mass at 9.00 a.m. after which there was a rousing welcome and reception for us. The artistic talents of the children from De Sales Academy Bagong Silang and the youth of the parish were remarkable. The youth is participating in a parish renewal programme known as the 'prex'.

After lunch we started our journey to Molino, where we were to participate in the evening mass of the parish. The people were excited to welcome Fr. Superior General. The choir with its melodious songs in Tagalog gave colour and solemnity to the celebration. Molino

has been entrusted to us before 3 years by the Bishop of Imus and in this record time, Jinu the parish priest did commendable work to start the parish, organize it and to build a beautiful church which can definitely accommodate a thousand people. The sanctuary portion is being given the final touch, so that it can be ready when the present quasi-parish will be formally raised into a parish. Congratulations to Fr. Jinu, Fr. Jayaraj till January 1, 2009 his assistant and Fr. Devasia Koottarapally who stays as studying priest in our community at Molino. In Molino Parish there are 120 Altar Boys (Knights of the Altar) some hopefuls if God wills for the MSFS Congregation.

Once again we could enjoy the great Philippine hospitality wherever we went. People are simple, friendly and above all so conscious of cleanliness of their own self and the environment. Even the children in the slum have very clean clothes on. We stayed overnight in Molino and the next day we came to Silang Cavite, where we have our formation houses viz. Seminary and the Novitiate. The aspirants, postulants and the philosophers live in the same house but in separate rooms. The novitiate is also in the same campus and it may soon be needed to shift it to another campus. Monday and Tuesday were filled with personal meetings of fathers and students. Wednesday the whole mission community of Philippines together with us made a day out in Subic in the north of the island where we had the opportunity to watch a sea lion and dolphin show. It was a fantastic day and all enjoyed the same and the day greatly promoted the community building.

The personal meetings continued on Thursday and on Friday we went to pay a courtesy visit to the Bishop of Imus, Bishop Luis Antonio Tagle, a known Theologian and sought after Retreat Preacher in the Philippines. He has temporarily agreed to be preaching a retreat for us in 2010. The Apostolic Community Meeting with the Agnelo Fernandes set priorities for our mission and formulated a vision for Philippines. We are full of hope as the first novices will make their Religious Profession in June 2009 and other three novices will enter the novitiate on the same date.

A Retreat with Father Manjackal



On 3 December 2008 I flew to Europe to take part in a retreat with **Fr. Manjackal** in Fatima. The organiser of the retreat Mr. Joao Silvia Das had sent the ticket and booked the hotel for me to enable me to participate in the retreat which Fr. Manjackal preached from 12-14 December 2008.

He preached in the Pope Paul VI auditorium in the sanctuary which has the capacity to hold 3000 people. The hall was filled to the brim and

on the last day a number of people were standing in the hall as they had no seats. I am so happy that I could take part in this retreat. It was wonderful to see that one of our confreres is doing such good works. I could feel deep within me that he is actually

leading people back to God. He tells them to have a sense of sin, to repent, giving them an opportunity to get reconciled with each other. He teaches the genuine Catholic Doctrine to them. I could see that a number of people had the experience of Metanoia, a conversion in their life and after many years they find their way back to the Church. In his preaching he always invited people to be faithful to the Catholic Church and its teachings.

It is Evangelization or re-evangelization in the true sense of the word. I saw people giving witnesses to what happens in their life, how they got converted to God and the church after taking part in the retreat with Fr. Manjackal. I am sure that some bishops may not fully agree with all what Fr. Manjackal says. Many in Europe do not want to hear about sin especially in the area of sexuality. He speaks in all



clarity against Homosexuality, Lesbianism, Premarital Sex, the immorality of divorce etc. They are themes which the European Church prefers to be silent about. I felt he has the courage to express his views about such issues in Europe.

There are elements of Charismatic preaching, with clapping of Hands, movements of hands and body, praying in tongues, etc. which may be foreign to any European way of liturgical celebration. But he always stresses the importance of faith. Unless we participate in the retreat it is difficult to make any judgments about it. Fr. Manjackal is capable of attracting big crowds for his preaching. Some may be jealous. So they often spread the rumors that he is not allowed to preach in India and seeks a safe haven in Europe. I think they are calumnies and do not serve any purpose. I think and believe that his preaching contributes to a great extent to the re-evangelization of Europe.

For me personally it was a wonderful experience not only because I had the opportunity to speak to a group of about 3000 people but also because I could personally experience the wonderful works that God is doing through Fr. Manjackal in western countries. His speech is simply electrifying because the Spirit is at work and the people are moved to know that the Will of God is their Salvation. If you want to know more about his preaching and ministries please open his website: www.jmanjackal.net and if you write in the guest book it will be wonderful.

During my visit I had also opportunity to meet the confreres although it was not an official visitation and the time was very limited. I shall write more about it after I visit them again in April.

Transfers and Appointments

Fr. Jeevan Prasad is appointed to our community in Chennarayapatna and designated to be appointed by the Bishop of Chickmagalur to do weekend ministry in one of the parishes. He will look after the social work project which we have started in Chennarayapatna.

Fr. Thomas Moongamackal has temporarily taken up his residence in Sudhirvana.

Fr. Anthony Swamy has taken a year of leave to complete his doctorate. But he continues to reside in Mermier Bhavan.

Fr. Manu Kumbidiamakkal is appointed to take care of the day-to day running of the College. Fr. Anthony Swamy remains officially the Principal.

Mass intentions

The confreres are obliged to celebrate Mass for the province intentions. All the expenses of the confreres are met from the province directly or through the communities and some ask for Mass intentions from confreres abroad. I think it is a very unhealthy practice and it should not be continued by those doing it.

Stop for confreres being sent to Western countries

Till further notification by the Superior General no confrere is to be sent to Western countries for ministries. This ruling is in effect since July 2008. The Process of sending Fr. James Panickerveetil abroad had started before that and so he was not included in this regulation. However we can continue to send confreres for studies to Western countries but with a mandate to complete the same within five years and return to the Province. **Frs. Sen Vellakada and Joe Cherolickal** will leave for their studies to Austria in one of these days.

To Australia

Fr. C. Joseph has gone to Australia for fundraising for Gokunte Project. Fr. Belevendran looks after the Parish and the Boys' Home in his absence.

Bon Voyage



- a) **Fr. Mannaparambil Augustine Joseph** left for USA on 22 December 2008 to do his ministry with Alexian Brothers. He is now staying in the community of Alexian Brothers and his address is the same as Fr. Kuzhuppil's. He is designated for ministry for 5 years. It may be prolonged for a term of another 5 years if the Provincial Administration deems it necessary that time. I make use of this opportunity to wish him all the best .



- b) **Fr. James Panickerveetil** has left for Germany on 15 January 2009. He is now staying with Fr. Joseph Pazhayattil and is getting some exposure to the language and the culture. He is designated for ministry for a term as is envisaged by the General Chapter of 2007. I wish him all the best.

On holidays

Frs. Georgekutty Puthiyidom and Scaria Kannezhathu from Chad-Cameroun Mission are in India for their holidays.. Fr. Viju Kunnathottel from France is on his Holidays. Frs. Cyriac Ummikuzhiyil and Mathew Elayidathumadathil from USA are also on their holidays.

Let us pray for the sick.

Mrs. Achamma mother of Fr. Georgekutty Puthiyidom is suffering from heart decease.

Let us pray for the departed

Fr. A. Maria John Bosco, who had a serious accident on 28 January 2008, left us for his eternal reward on 21 December 2008. He was born on 29.03.1969. He made his first vows on 10 June 1994. He was ordained a priest on 24 April 2002. He belonged to the South East India Province. Let us pray in a special way for the departed member of our Congregation. Please fulfill the suffrages prescribed in the General Directory No.98.

Fr. Selva Raj lost his grand Mother **Arogyamma** on 12 December 2008. She was 98 years old.

Glimpses from the Life of the Province

Upcoming events

Two day Convention (Retreat) in Mysore: A two day convention (Retreat) at the diocese level for all the college students on the 25th and 26th of January 2009 will be conducted in St. Philomena's College Auditorim Mysore. Kindly pray for success of the programme. **Fr. Abraham Vettuveli MSFS and Fr. Kuiran Karickal MSFS** are coming with their team. The retreat will be conducted in English but two talks will be in Kannada given by **Fr. George Rosario MSFS**.

Provincial's Meet: All the Indian Provincials will meet on 27 and 28 January 2008 in Vinayalaya, the Provincial House to discuss various issues pertaining to the running of the Provinces. On 27 afternoons there will be also the Governing Body Meeting of Suvidya College in Hebbagodi.

Kolar Meet: All the fathers working in Kolar Mission will meet in Vinayalaya, the Provincial House on 31 January 2008 to evaluate our vision and mission for Kolar.

Blessing and Inauguration of Tejas Vidya Peetha and NEST-Children's Village: On 3 February 2009 at 05.00 PM we will have the Blessing and Inauguration of the Tejas

Vidya Peetha – Institute of Mission-oriented and Contextual Theology and NEST-Children's Village. Most Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras, Archbishop of Bangalore, Abbot Bernhard Backovsky and Dr. Leopold Streit of Stift-klosterburg will grace the occasion. During the Holy Eucharist **eleven of our Brothers will receive their Order of Diaconate.**

Stewardship Forum Meeting: The stewardship forum will have its first meeting in two places. On 04 February 2009 the Forum members in Karnataka will meet in Vinayalaya, the MSFS Provincial House, Bangalore. The members of the Forum in Kerala will have the meeting on 09 February 2009 in SFS Seminary Ettumanoor. All the members of the Stewardship Forum are expected to be present for the Meeting. In case you are unable to make it please get a prior permission from Fr. Provincial. For further details please contact **Fr. Benny Marangolil**, Provincial Bursar. Mob. 00919448321416.

Silver Jubilee Celebrations and Alumni Gathering: Suvidya College, the Fransalian Institute of philosophy and Religion, Bangalore is celebrating its Silver Jubilee from 08 to 10 February 2009. The program is as follows:

Sunday, 8th February: Inauguration of the concluding ceremony

07.00a.m Eucharistic Celebration (presided over by Re. Fr. Devasia Kuzhuppil, msfs, pioneering visionary of Suvidya College & First Provincial of the erstwhile Vizag Province)

6.30 p.m. Cultural Programme- performed by NBCLC, Bangalore- Open to all.

Monday, 9th February

5.00p.m. Solemn Eucharistic Celebration (presided over by His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr. Ignatius Pinto, Archbishop Emeritus of Bangalore)

6.30p.m. Felicitation

7.30p.m. Dinner

Tuesday, 10th February

10.30 a.m. Alumni Gathering

5.00p.m. Solemn Eucharistic Celebration (presided over by His Eminence Telesphore Placidus Cardinal Toppo, Archbishop of Ranchi)

6.30p.m. Felicitation

7.30p.m. Dinner.

Innovative Ministries Forum: The first meeting of the Innovative Ministries Forum of South West Province will be from morning of 12 March to noon of 13 March 2009 in Vinayalaya, MSFS Provincial House Bangalore. **Fr. Abraham Vettuvilil** will be the resource person for the same. All the members of the Forum are expected to be present for the Meeting. In case you are unable to make it please get a prior permission from Fr. Provincial. For further details please contact **Fr. Benny Kottanal** Councillor in charge of Innovative Ministry. Mob. 00919448853188

Update and Renewal Programme- 2009

Update and Renewal Programme for the first group of priests from all provinces will be held at Suvidya College, Bangalore from 14 to 20 April 2009. The groups are made by dividing all confreres from 6 Indian provinces into two major groups. They are: those who are 40 years and above and those who are below 40 years. The first **and second groups** will be confreres who are 40 or above and the **third and fourth** groups will

consist of confreres who are below 40. The first and second groups will complete their programme by the year 2010 and third and fourth groups will complete by 2012.

The first group of participants from South West Province.

1. Rev. Fr. A Anthony Swamy
2. Rev. Fr. Aranjanil Paul
3. Rev. Fr. Aranjaniiyl Kurian
4. Rev. Fr. Chennakattukunnel Thomas
5. Rev. Fr. Cherukat Thomas
6. Rev. Fr. Chirackalpuraidathil Tomy
7. Rev. Fr. Chirayil George
8. Rev. Fr. Choorapuzha George
9. Rev. Fr. Conrad Sebastian
10. Rev. Fr. E. Erudaya Raja
11. Rev. Fr. Edasseril Jose
12. Rev. Fr. Illikkattil Thomas
13. Rev. Fr. James Thomas
14. Rev. Fr. Kalapura Devasia
15. Rev. Fr. Kalariparambil Thomas
16. Rev. Fr. Kalathil Mathew
17. Rev. Fr. Kalathungal Mathew
18. Rev. Fr. Kallacheril Joseph
19. Rev. Fr. Kanat Thomas
20. Rev. Fr. Kanjirampampil Johny
21. Rev. Fr. Kannadom Joseph
22. Rev. Fr. Karekatt Jose
23. Rev. Fr. Karickal Kurian
24. Rev. Fr. Kavithazha Mathew
25. Rev. Fr. Kizhakkethazhe Francis
26. Rev. Fr. Kochupurackal Santy
27. Rev. Fr. Kodikuthiyil Henry
28. Rev. Fr. Kokkandathil Jose
29. Rev. Fr. Kolencherry Antony
30. Rev. Fr. Kootanal Benny
31. Rev. Fr. Kottam Wilson
32. Rev. Fr. Kozhuppakalam Mathew
33. Rev. Fr. Kumblolickal Jose
34. Rev. Fr. Kuzhuppil Joseph
35. Rev. Fr. Kuzhuppil Devasia
36. Rev. Fr. Kuzhuppillil Aloysius
37. Rev. Fr. Maliekal Jose
38. Rev. Fr. Mamala Mathew
39. Rev. Fr. Manjackal James

Fr. Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil, MSFS (Convenor-UDRP)

Reports

Mission Forum Meeting: The first mission forum meeting was held at Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha on 6 and 7 January 2009. The meeting was attended by nineteen participants. Fr. Provincial Mathew Kozhuppakalam in the Keynote Address said that all are called to be leaders. The whole session, moderated by **Very Rev. Jose Navaz**, Vicar General of Vijayapuram diocese focused on "Skills for an effective Pastoral Ministry". The programme began with the group dynamics, highlighting the importance of team work. The main points of the session are being sent to you on a separate sheet.

Fr. Jose Vechuvettickal.

Regents Meet 2008: The Regents Meet was held on 1 and 2 January 2009 at Vinayakumar Ashram, Chokkad, (Kerala). It was a joyful reunion for the regents after six months of regency in different parts of the province. **Fr. Jeevan Prasad** animated the session and celebrated the Holy Eucharist. Fr. Provincial encouraged the regents to continue their ministry, to equip themselves for the mission and to imbibe the creative vision of our Founder. It was an opportunity to share ideas, works, feelings, emotions, and above all to come together as members of one family. We were spiritually nourished through the Adoration, Morning Prayers, Meditation and Holy Eucharist. We doubled our joy with an outing along with Fr. Henry Jose the Councillor in charge of formation.

Bro. Marcellin Raj.

Vocation Promoters' Meet -22 December 2008, Mysore: The Vocation Promoters' meet of the South-West Province of India was convened on the 22 December, 2008. Rev. Fr. Henry Jose K. MSFS, Councillor in Charge of Formation welcomed all and set the agenda for the day's meet. The members present were Rev. Frs. Jabamalai, Selvaraj, Joseph Thoppil, Francis Ekka, Rosario and Jeevan Prasad D. This meeting was called to address the issues concerning Karnataka and Central India in regard to vocation promotion. The sharing and the deliberations put forward by the participants are being sent to you along with this circular on a separate sheet.

Fr. Henry Jose

Inter Church Christmas Celebrations: Christmas 2008 was jointly celebrated by the SFS parish Vattiyurkavu (Syro-Malabar Rite), St Antony's Parish Kanjirampara (Malankara Rite) and the Vimala Hrudaya Kanjirampara, Little Flower Church Nattayam (Latin Rite) and Anchamada Holy Family Church (Malankara Rite) on 21 December, 2008. The five parishes met in the SFS parish hall at 5-30 p.m. for the event of the year. The meeting opened with a welcome/prayer song by the SFS parish choir followed by the welcome speech by Rtd. Major Thomas Kochumannakuzhy. Christmas message was delivered by Rev Dr. John V Thadathil (Co-coordinator of Southern Region of the Syro-Malabar Church and Vicar of the Lourdes Forane Church). During the Spirit-filled and thought-provoking address, Fr. Thadathil gave an outline of the challenges which the Church is going through currently. All the parish priests (Viz: Rev Fr. Jose Vechuvettickal, Rev Fr. Johnson Kochuthundiyil and Rev Fr. Lenin Raj) gave separate

Christmas messages for the community. Various programs- very colorful well prepared and well-performed and based on biblical themes added life to the celebrations. Everything came to an end with the papal anthem followed by Christmas dinner. Members of all the three communities enthusiastically availed the opportunity, to know one another, familiarize and share their experiences- this being the first ever opportunity of its kind. The Spirit of Love of Jesus pervaded the atmosphere throughout.

Fr. Jose Vechuvettickal

One Minute with St. Francis de Sales: “Gentleness, humility and simplicity are the three dove-like virtues which the Divine Spouse wishes to see in his beloved”.

Inspiration from our Founder: The most virtuous avoid sin and great faults; but they are careless in the practice of virtues: It is not enough to avoid evil but it is necessary to do good. “ I pray for this that you love grow more and more together with knowledge and right judgment.” (phil 1.9) (Selected Letters and Writings of Fr. Peter Marie Mermier, Ed. By Adrien Duval, Translated by Antony Mookenthottam,p.153.