

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



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**Circular MK/20**

**10 July 2009**

## Live Jesus

**"It was to a land of dark people he was sent, to clothe them by Baptism in white robes. His grateful dawn dispelled India's painful darkness. It was his mission to espouse India to the One-Begotten" (Ephr. Hymni et Sermones, IV).**

On 3 July 2009 the Province has completed 18 years of its existence. Gratefully we can look back and thank God for the manifold blessings he has showered on us. God has chosen us to do His work and Fr. Mermier wants us to do it by living the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in the Mission.



The province which began with 52 priests, two brothers and a few scholastics and candidates in 1991 has grown into a large one with 182 priests, 1 brother, 83 scholastics, 16 novices and over a hundred candidates to date. The first Provincial, Fr. Thomas Cherukat took over the administration of the Province on 3rd July 1991. With all the initial difficulties he with his long vision and undying zeal built it up into a strong and vibrant province

remaining at the helm of affairs of the province for three consecutive terms of three years as provincial. During his tenure many new missions were opened and the existing ones were stabilized. The missions in Philippines and West Central Africa were opened in 1993 and 1999 respectively. On 3rd July, 2000 the baton of animating the province and its administration was handed over to the second provincial Fr. Jose Parappillil. Under his able and dynamic leadership the Province has grown into newer and greater heights day by day. The whole province community was brimming with life, activity and a deep zeal for the mission of the Congregation and the Church. New ventures into which MSFS has not ventured into has been initiated and implemented by him. On this historic occasion we thank God for the gift of these persons and gratefully call to mind the yeomen service they have rendered to our province.

### 1. Mandated for a second term

On 03 July 2006 I took over the administration and looking back I am happy that God has been with us. Fr. Superior General has now appointed me for a second term as the Provincial. I know we have a hard task lying ahead of us and together with all of you, the

great wealth of our province, I am confident of going forward. Our life and activities are built on the spiritual foundation and we make the following of Christ the supreme norm of our religious life. Therefore we need to be deeply rooted in Christ, “cultivating a close friendship with our Lord who has called each one of this to this Congregation of Missionaries” (Const. Art. 15). In this context it may be apt that we recall to mind what our constitution underlines before us as the basic tenets of our religious life.

- We deepen our baptismal consecration through our religious consecration (Art 19) and pledge to live it more fully and offer ourselves to be at the service of God and His people (Art. 45).
- We commit ourselves to announce the Good News to all humans, especially to the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized (Art.20).
- Our entire religious life is to be permeated with an apostolic spirit (Art. 21).
- Through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience we consecrate our whole life joyfully to the service of God and His Kingdom (Art. 49).
- Our religious consecration is lived and nurtured in a community of fraternal love and brotherhood ... the Eucharist becomes the very centre of our life in the community (Art. 79, 82).
- The meaning of our religious consecration is our life in Christ ... configured to Christ ... we become more attuned to God’s presence and action in our lives.

## 2. Provincial Congress 2009

The Provincial Council has once again proposed to hold a Provincial Congress as per Article 228 of our constitutions and article 261 of our General Directory. As per the requirement of the Constitutions the Provincial is to convoke the Provincial Congress /Chapter within three months of his appointment, but in his letter dated 04 July 2009 Fr. Superior General has given the approval for the proposed date below. All members by right take part in the Provincial Congress (Directory 277, 1) and have active voice

### a) Convocation

In accordance with the article number 228 of our Constitutions and article number 261 of General Directory I hereby convoke the seventh Ordinary Provincial Congress to be held from 5 - 9 October 2009. The sessions will start at 11.00 a.m on Monday 05 and will end at 01.00 p.m on Friday 09, 2009.

### b) Venue

The Provincial Congress with all its sessions will be conducted in the Provincial House. Accommodation will be arranged in the Provincial House and in the Indian Institute of Spirituality.

### c) What the Provincial Congress needs to be

- “A symbol of fraternal union and a forum of collective discernment and accountability for the life and mission of the entire Province” (Cont. 234).

- A time to evaluate the past, discern collectively God's will and plan for the future, propose orientations which best respond to the pastoral needs of the local churches of Karnataka and Kerala, our Missions in Philippines and Chad-Cameroon.
- A time to update our provincial statutes
- A time to bring about a deeper level of solidarity among the members and a deep lying concern for each other and each undertaking of the province
- A joint attempt to find ways and means to make the spiritual life and mission of the Province more vibrant and effective (Const. 235).
- A powerful spiritual experience for all the members.

#### d) The Theme

<b>Faithfulness to Christ for a Revitalized Community on Mission</b>
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The theme is in tune with the call of the General Chapter 2007 and the call of Pope to celebrate year 2009-2010 as the year of Priests.

#### e) The Steering Committee

The Provincial Council has constituted a steering committee to prepare the orientation papers and to coordinate all preparatory activities of the Congress. The Provincial is the convenor of the committee and the provincial secretary is also the secretary to the committee. The members are: Fr. Thomas Chennakattukunnel, Fr. Jose Kumblolickal, Fr. Jose Karekatt, Fr. Santhosh Kumar and Fr. Jino Plathottathil.

#### f) Personal and Spiritual preparation

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

- ❖ Say daily the prayer to the Holy Spirit in preparation for the Provincial Congress 2009
- ❖ Keep weekly at least once the Provincial Congress as an additional intention during your Holy Eucharistic celebration. Keep this intention also during your weekly Holy Hour
- ❖ Celebrate at least one mass exclusively for the intentions of the Provincial Congress
- ❖ Scholastics, novices and minor seminarians will recite once a week a rosary for the intentions of the Provincial Congress and offer their weekly holy hour for the success of the Provincial Congress

#### g) Preparations: Ist Phase

#### i) Community:

- ❖ Every community comes together before **25 July 2009** for a community meeting prepared by an hour of adoration.

- ❖ It evaluates thoroughly the community life and its dynamics under the following heads: **Personal relationship** between the members, community prayer and community meals, emotional support and concern for each other, communitarian awareness of the mission of the centre, mechanisms of conflict resolutions, ways to improve community living.
- ❖ It evaluates and looks at the **public relationships** of the community: with neighbours, bureaucrats and officials, with other institutions and religious congregations of men and women, with the local ordinary, with the diocese and the diocesan clergy, ways to improve such relations.
- ❖ Evaluates the ministries done by the community, its problems and possibilities. Each one presents a report of his activities.
- ❖ Makes concrete suggestions and recommendations to the Provincial Congress

The report of the community meeting is to reach the Provincial's office by the 1<sup>st</sup> of **August 2009**. If a confrere is living alone he makes a personal evaluation of the ministry he is engaged in and makes suggestions and recommendations to the Provincial Congress. A copy of such evaluation must reach provincial's office by the 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2009.

#### ii) First Apostolic Community Meeting

- ❖ The convenor of each Apostolic Community holds a meeting before the 4<sup>th</sup> of **August** with a recollection and an hour of adoration
- ❖ evaluates the religious life, fraternal unity, interaction and mutual support among the communities
- ❖ The reports from the communities and confreres living alone are discussed and collated to make it one comprehensive report to be presented during the time of Congress.
- ❖ Makes concrete proposals and recommendations to the Provincial Congress

The report of the apostolic community meeting must reach the Provincial's office by **10 August 2009**. Only this collated report will be presented in the Provincial Congress.

#### h) Preparations: Second Phase

##### *i) Local Superiors Meet:*

The Meeting of the Local Superiors of the Province is scheduled to take place on **5<sup>th</sup> August 2009** in the Provincial House. All Local Superiors are expected to attend the meeting.

- ❖ The Meeting will address issues and concerns connected with the administration of the community like: Governing the life and activities of the Local Community in accordance with the directives of the constitutions and General Directory, holding every month a formal community meeting, reviewing the life and mission of the community, openness to constructive criticism, House Council in Formed

Communities, respecting and esteeming the office of the Local Superior, Local Superior – local Bursar relationship.

- ❖ Animating the day to day activities and the spiritual life of the communities, organising the life-style of the communities, a genuine Fransalian Community life based on Salesian virtues. Besides it will address also the dynamics of community living, leadership and animation of the communities etc.

The report of the meeting along with recommendations and proposals to the Provincial congress must reach the Provincial's Office by **15<sup>th</sup> August 2009**.

*ii) Local Bursars Meet:*

The meeting of the Local Bursars is scheduled to take place on **6<sup>th</sup> August** in the Provincial House. All the Local bursars are expected to attend the meeting.

- ❖ it will address issues and concerns regarding the conscientious and accurate administration of temporal goods in a spirit of poverty, Stewardship, accountability to the Local Superior, transparency and responsibility, collaboration with the Provincial bursar, regular report of financial situation, taking advise from competent persons in economic matters.
- ❖ administration of our legal bodies (juridical persons), administering the properties owned by the legal bodies (title deeds, juridical documents, obtaining such if it is not there), maintaining the buildings and other assets, taxes to civil authorities, important transactions and acquisition and the consent required, income from the management of properties, a percentage of the net income for developmental and charitable purposes. Self-reliance and community resources.

The report of the meeting along with recommendations and proposals to the Provincial congress must reach the Provincial's Office by **15<sup>th</sup> August 2009**.

All the forums conduct a meeting to address issues and concerns that are relevant for the life and missions of the province. The dates of the forums are already fixed **and all the members of the forums are to take part in the meeting. Any exceptions in this regard can be given only by the Provincial.**

*iii) The Education Forum* will conduct their meeting on **7<sup>th</sup> August** in the Provincial House.

- ❖ and will address issues like: our apostolate of education as constitutive element of Fransalian charism, Catholic identity of our institution, making our school a centre of inter religious harmony, value-based education, respectful, collegial and supportive relations with the staff, loving and cordial approach to students, ways of creating a “Fransalian culture in our schools”
- ❖ issues of school administration, School accounts, Sales of books and note books and the income generated, probity in relationship and money matters in schools, leadership and managerial skills and ongoing formation and education of the educators

- ❖ our commitment to the poor and marginalized, Public relations in the school, alumni association, positive and negative features of our educational institutions, development fees and other fee structures, scholarship fund for the poor

The report of the meeting along with recommendations and proposals to the Provincial congress must reach the Provincial's Office by **15<sup>th</sup> August 2009**.

*iv) The Innovative Ministries Forum* will come together for its meeting on **8<sup>th</sup> August** in Provincial House.

- ❖ to address issues and concerns in the field of social commitment, anchoring our social apostolate in the mission and charism of the Congregation creative ministries for the marginalized and slums children, street children, prison ministry, ministry to the migrants, community colleges, other social activities like Sujala and governmental projects, Legal Aid and Just wages in our institutions
- ❖ our boys' homes (prateeksha) and children's village
- ❖ De Sales ITC and its activities, computer training and other possible vocational trainings

The report of the meeting along with recommendations and proposals to the Provincial congress must reach the Provincial's Office by **15<sup>th</sup> August 2009**.

*v) The Mission Forum* meeting will be held in Charis Bhavan on **18<sup>th</sup> August 2009**.

- ❖ will address issues like: the mission policy of the MSFS Congregation, Missions at home and missions abroad, our overseas mission: Philippines and Chad-Cameroon and enterprising spirit of SFS, taking up mission centres or parishes at the request of the Local Ordinary, missionary orientation from the beginning of formation, inculcating missionary motivation
- ❖ our mission centres - problems and possibilities, organising faith formation and catechesis of children, BCC and other pious organisations, ward meetings and ward prayer, prayers groups, adoration and other religious activities for the spiritual welfare of the parish community, women and senior citizens in the parish, displaced and disoriented youth in our parishes
- ❖ our preaching and counselling ministry and our centres for the same, possibilities and problems.

The report of the meeting along with recommendations and proposals to the Provincial congress must reach the Provincial's Office by **25<sup>th</sup> August 2009**.

*vi) The Formator's Forum* will meet on **23<sup>rd</sup> August** in SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor

- ❖ will address issues and concerns related to formation: Human and religious formation, mission oriented formation from the beginning of formation, growth in Salesian spirituality, vocation promotion, various stages of formation and problems and possibilities, syllabus for the novitiate program, language policies and concrete guidelines regarding it

- ❖ Suggestions and recommendations for creating religious and spiritual atmosphere in our formation houses, creating internationality in our formation houses creating an MSFS identity and a Fransalian culture in our formation houses. the parents and siblings of the students, registering the parents as members of the Fransalian Mission Association
- ❖ On going formation of the formators, the quality of community life and its impact on formation, Relationship Superior and Rector, Rector Staff and other related issues.

The report of the meeting along with recommendations and proposals to the Provincial congress must reach the Provincial's Office by **25<sup>th</sup> August 2009**.

#### vii) Second Apostolic Community meeting:

The convenor calls for the second apostolic Community Meeting before the **6<sup>th</sup> of September 2009**

- ❖ will discuss the orientation papers of the Congress. This paper will be sent to you later
- ❖ will discuss the updated Provincial statutes and propose corrections and point out issues and concerns that are of importance but are not included in the updated statutes.
- ❖ Other possibilities for apostolic daring and activities.

The report of this apostolic community meeting must reach the Provincial's office by **9<sup>th</sup> September 2009**.

#### i. Preparations - Scholastics and Regents

Scholastics and regents will come together for a meeting before the **25<sup>th</sup> July**:

- ❖ To evaluate their personal life and their personal commitment to formation, their responsibility and accountability, their preparedness to cooperate with the formators, their evaluation of the formation programs.
- ❖ a second meeting is to be conducted before **15<sup>th</sup> August** with the councillor in charge of formation to discuss issues concerning formation, mission-oriented formation, participatory formation, apostolic activities of the province, scholastics' evaluation of the missionary dynamism of the Province and their vision for a vibrant province of the south-west
- ❖ They will deliberate on what they wish the province be and how they want to make a difference, make proposals and recommendations for better mission-oriented, intellectual, and spiritual formation in philosophate, regency time, novitiate and minor seminary. The reports of the meetings must reach Provincial's office by **20<sup>th</sup> August**

#### j. Preparations - Philosophers:

- ❖ They will come together for a meeting before 25<sup>th</sup> July, to evaluate their personal life, how they feel they are cooperating with the formation in Suvidya, their transparency and openness towards the formators, their commitment to religious and spiritual life,
- ❖ together with the councillor in Charge of formation before 15<sup>th</sup> August they will read the articles in Constitution and Directory concerning the provincial Congress and understand the dynamics of the Congress.
- ❖ They will deliberate on what they wish the MSFS Congregation and the South West Province be, their vision and their preparedness to be at the mission of the province and how they want to make a difference, their proposals and recommendations to make the formation more effective, person centered, mission oriented, scriptural and more spiritual. The reports of the meeting must reach Provincial's office by 20<sup>th</sup> August 2009

#### k. Preparation – Novices

- ❖ The novices will come together with the Novice Master and read the articles in constitutions and directory regarding Provincial Congress
- ❖ They will deliberate on what they wish that MSFS South West be, express their missionary commitment and make proposals for more effective minor seminary formation
- ❖ They will participate in the congress by conducting intercessory prayers in Adoration (possibly for 2- 3 hours daily) during the congress for the success of the same. The report of the discussion must reach the Provincial's office by 20<sup>th</sup> August 2009

#### l. Preparation - Minor Seminarians

- ❖ The minor seminarians will come together with the Rector in batches and the Rector explains to them with the help of constitutions and directory what the provincial Congress is all about, how they are also very much part of it through their participation in prayer for the success of the Provincial Congress
- ❖ The rector will deliberate with them about their preparedness to be a missionary, what they wish that the priests and missionaries be
- ❖ Conduct intercessory prayers in adoration for the participants (every day adoration) during the congress of five days.

The effectiveness of the Congress depends on the good preparations we do for it. I firmly hope that everyone will cooperate and give their best for making the Congress a Spiritual Event for the Province.

### 3. Our Silver Jubilarian



Fr. Joseph Kuzhuppil is on his 25<sup>th</sup> year of the Priestly life. He will be completing 25 years of the priestly ordination on 10.01.2010. As he celebrates the Silver Jubilee year of his



ordination let us keep thanking the Lord for the gift of Fr. Joseph to the MSF Congregation and our Province.

Fr. Joseph was born on 10 January 1955 at Athirampuzha, Kottayam/Kerala to Kurian and Mariam Kuzhuppil. After completion of his schooling in Athirampuzha he joined the SFS Seminary Ettumanoor in June 1973. His Novitiate was at Salesianum in 1976 under the guidance of Fr. O. V. Zacharias and he made his first profession on 10 June 1977. He had his philosophical studies in St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary Bangalore. After the Regency in Chintamani Mission he pursued his theological studies in St. John's Regional Seminary Hyderabad. He was ordained Priest on 10 January 1985.

During the 25 years as a priest he has served the province in various capacities. From 1985 to 1986 he was in Roman Catholic Mission Parlakumidi Visakhapatnam and from 1986 to 1987 he was in Mudugula Mission engaged in the pastoral activities. From 1987 to 1988 he rendered his service in Holy Cross Church Ajitsingh Nagar, Vijayawada, from 1988 to 1989 St. Mary's Church Chokkad, Kerala and from 1989 to 1990 SFS Church Anantapur. From 1990 to 1992 he was appointed in Sacred Heart Church Pazhakulam, Punalur.

In 1992 he was appointed as the Administrator and Formator at Suvidya College Bangalore where he did a great service. And he continued being so till he was elected Provincial Bursar of South West Province in 1997. He served two terms in the Office till 2003. After having laid down his office he went to do ministry in the Alexian Village, Signal Mountain, USA.

A whole hearted commitment to the mission of Jesus and a deep love for the Congregation characterized the life and ministry of Fr. Joseph Kuzhuppil. No task was too difficult for him and he was ready to spend all his available energy to make things happen and to get things done. I can see that he is very much concerned about the Province and its mission and in whichever way possible he organizes funds for the mission of the Province. Dear Fr. Kuzhuppil, on this occasion of your Silver Jubilee we just say; we thank God for the gift of your person to our Province. We thank you for what you are. We appreciate what you do for our Congregation especially for our Province.. And we wish you God's abundant blessings. Ad Multos Annos.

#### **4. De Sales ITC Kolar**

De Sales ITC Kolar is now affiliated to NCVT (National Council for Vocational Training) which functions under the aegis of Directorate General of Employment & Training, Ministry of Labour & Employment, Government of India. The course presently affiliated is Computer Operator and Programming Assistant (COPA). There is already a batch of 22 students undergoing the training since August 2008. Congratulations to Frs. Saji, Biju and Shalbin who has done everything possible to make things happen. We can now affiliate any number of courses to NCVT and we intend to start also some Modular Employable Skills (MES) Training in De Sales ITC.

#### **5. Orientation for Jesus Youth Candidates for Priesthood in SFS Vidyashram, Aluva**

Fr. Thomas Tharayil on behalf of the Jesus Youth has requested the services of Fr. Jose Parapillil to be a Formator for the initial formation of the Candidates from Jesus Youth for Priesthood. There are five candidates who have expressed their desire to be available for the movement. Archbishop Abraham Viruthukulangara has confirmed that these candidates will be ordained by His Grace himself or any other benevolent Bishop once they successfully complete their formation. The candidates will have their accommodation in our house and Fr. Jose is working out a program for their spiritual year. The International Pastor, Fr. Thomas Tharayil and Mr. Manoj, the International Coordinator have been in touch with Fr. Jose since some time. It is definitely an acknowledgement of his commitment and dedication for the ministry of the Lord. I thank Fr. Jose for his readiness to be at the service to Jesus Youth. As Fr. Jose has rightly remarked “this request is to be seen as a call of the Spirit to us, to open new vistas for our missionary activities especially for the youth.” Our association with the Jesus Youth has inspired a number of our Fathers to deeply commit themselves to Jesus and his cause. Fr. Binu, Fr. Roji, and Fr. Sathish have been in the ministry to Jesus Youth in various capacities. Now Fr. Shibu.Thundathil is rendering his service as Pastor for Professional Ministry, Fr. Shino Puthusserry as animator of Jesus Youth, Mysore Sector and Fr. Jais Mecheril as KJYT (Karnataka Jesus Youth Team) animator.

## 6. Parish Church at Malur



Our commitment to the missions we have taken up in Kolar District got a fillip through the inauguration and Blessings of the St. Francis de Sales Church at Malur. On 6<sup>th</sup> October His Grace Bishop Bernard Moras, the Archbishop of Bangalore blessed and inaugurated the Church in a solemn function attended by many confreres and faithful from nearby parishes. I would like to bring my deep-felt gratitude and appreciation for **Fr. Joshy Thazhathukunnel** for the wonderful way he went about building this Church. He left no stones unturned to mobilize funds for the building of the Church. He made extensive campaign not only in the Parish of Malur but also among his relatives and friends and mobilized funds for the Church. Although the Parish of Malur has only 45 families through this personal effort he could mobilize over Six lakhs and his friends and relatives others six lakhs. Some confreres like Fr. Joseph Kannadom also mobilized funds for the construction through his parish at Yelahanka New Town. Fr. Jose Puthiyaparambil Jr. through his personal effort mobilized nearly five lakhs through his parishioners in Annecy, France. Our Friend in Germany Fr. Franz-Xaver Eder also contributed a substantial sum (three lakhs) for the construction. I thank all of them for their generosity and express my sincere thanks to Fr. Joshy for his hard work and Fr. Erudaya Raj who stood by him and gave him all the support.

## 7. Appointment

**Fr. Thomas Moongamackal** is appointed by the Bishop of Punalur as the Parish Priest of St. John of the Cross Church, Adoor.

Fr. Joseph Vettukattil is designated to be appointed by the Bishop of Calicut as Parish Priest of Nilambur Parish.

**Fr. Cyriac Ummikuzhiyil** is appointed to the community at Kuknoor with immediate effect

**Fr. Wilson Kottam** is appointed to the community at Trichur

**Fr. Christopher Crasta** is appointed by the Bishop of Mysore as the Youth Director of Mysore Diocese

**Fr. Jais Mecheril** is elected as the Pastor for Karnataka Jesus Youth Team

## **8. Change of Phone Number**

Fr. Louis Parappuram	-0091 9497020237
Fr. Thomas Puthusserry	-0091 9496355458
Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal	-0091 9946730939
Fr. Justin Chirackal	-0091 9048802567
Fr. Tito Puthuparambil	-00639088629640

## **9. Congratulations**

**Fr. Saju Vilachirayil** has completed his Masters in Education with Distinction (77.00%) from the University of Mangalore. Congratulations and best wishes to Saju.

## **10. Home coming**

**Fr. Cyriac Ummikuzhiyil** reached back India on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June and is appointed to the community in Kuknboor. He has been doing pastoral service in the United States.

**Fr. Philip Valakodiyil** after rendering services as Secretary to the Superior General for seven years and Secretary to the General Bursar for two years (from June 2002 till 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009) has come back to India on 8<sup>th</sup> of July and is appointed to the Indian institute of Spirituality as Dean of Studies.

**Fr. Kurian Aranjanilyil** after being elected as Procurator General of the Congregation for two consecutive terms and again appointed by the Superior General for another two years till 30<sup>th</sup> June 2009, is expected back to the Province on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 2009.

## **11. On Holidays**

We welcome cordially our confreres who are on vacation and home leave:

**Fr. Ginu Pathiyakam** from Molino Mission, Philippines

**Fr. Jose Puthiaparambil Jr.** from Annecy Mission, France

**Frs. Joshy Mangalathu and T. Paul Raj** from Bero Mission in Chad

**Deacon Boban Elanjimattathil** from Ngoya, Cameroon for his Ordination

**Bro. Emile Amougou Amougou** from Cameroon to get to know our province

**Brothers Robin Thonikuzhiyil and Kuldeep Kujur** from Ngoya, Cameroon

## 12. Ordination

**Deacon Boban Elanjimattathil** will be ordained on 30 July 2009, 09.00 AM by **Most Rev. Lawrence Mukkuzhy**, the Bishop of Belthangady at St Mary's Church Mudur. Let us keep him and his Family in our prayers.

## 13. Let us pray for the departed

- ❖ **Fr Joseph Genoud msfs**, aged 85 belonging to the Franco – Swiss Province, expired on 28 May 2009 at the community of Florimont in Geneva. During his whole life he has been at the service of the education of youth in our Institute Florimont. Since three years he has been enduring bad health with courage and a sense of humor. Please fulfill the suffrages prescribed in the directory.
- ❖ **Mrs. Eliamma** Grandmother of Fr. Thomas Thekkekarottu expired on 23 June 2009.

## 14. SFS School Ettumanoor

**Congratulations** to Fathers **Binoy and Johnson** and staff of SFS Public School Ettumanoor for securing 100% result in CBSE exams for the academic year 2008-09. Out of the 42 students who appeared for the exam 40 were awarded Distinction and 2 first classes. The highest percentage obtained by the student was 95.8%. We wish all the best for the present academic year.

## 15. The Minor Seminarians of this year

First of all I would like to thank all who worked for the Promotion of Vocation especially Frs. Saji Eanthanamkuzhiyil, Anil Thondampallil, Thomas Thekkekarottu, L. Selvaraj, George Rosario, Jeevan Prasad, Salvador, Prashanth Kumar, A. Johnson, Sunil Ekka, Francis Ekka and Bipin Kishore who did a commendable job to enthuse boys to join our Congregation. **Divya Jyothi Ashram**, Latapara has 10 candidates for South West Province of which seven have completed their plus two. 2 are from Jharkhand, 1 from Orissa and 7 from Chattisgarh. The Orientation programme at **Saumya Sadan**, Mysore has for this year 16 brothers who have completed their SSLC successfully. Two out of sixteen are from Tamil Nadu and the rest from Karnataka. There are candidates from various parts of the state from Raichur to Mysore. **SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor** has 39 new comers. One from Arunachal Pradesh, one from Rajasthan, one from Karnataka and others from various parts of Kerala.

Your Brother in Christ

*Mathew Kozhuppakalam*

**Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam MSFS**  
Provincial, MSFS South West province

## Glimpses from the Life of the Province

### 1. Christeen Retreat in Charis Bhavan

A Retreat for children between the age of 10 and 15 was conducted by the Charis Bhavan team under the leadership of Fr Kurian Karickal at Charis Bhavan on May 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup>. Charis Bhavan accommodated its maximum number, about 250 children. It was wonderful experience for children to be together, singing and dancing to the rhythm of the action songs. The classes using multimedia Slide shows, movie bits were very effective and it gave more colour to the retreat. When the three full days of Prayer and fun ended children felt sad to leave Charis Bhavan as it was an enchanting experience for them. The parents were very grateful to Charis Bhavan team for conducting such a wonderful programme for Children.

Fr Shajan Manickathan msfs

### 2. Leaving our Boats to Live Jesus

Tejas Vidya Peetha: (02.06.2009) ‘Leaving our boats to live Jesus’ was the sentiment of our Brothers Lalu Jose, Martin, Subin and Anish when they said a whole hearted ‘Yes’ to the Lord forever by making their Perpetual Profession in the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales on 2 June, 2009. Their whole-hearted commitment was made during a solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided by Rev. Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam MSFS, Provincial, South-west India Province in the presence of many confreres from in and around Bangalore and the family members. Fr. Mathew in his homily exhorted the brothers to make their commitment a complete one – a firm ‘yes’. He added that ‘yes’ is a word where there cannot be gradation, either it should be a ‘yes’ or it should be a ‘no’. On this occasion six of our brothers also renewed their vows.

Deacon Sudeep Paul

### 3. Initiation and Profession in Sannidhi – 2009



“Two paths diverged in a wood I took the one less traveled by And that has made all the difference!” Says Robert Frost, in his book “Road not taken”.

On June 11<sup>th</sup> 2009, at Sannidhi Novitiate House., Mysore, another batch of Novices from our Congregation has made their first Profession. By June 10<sup>th</sup> the parents of the Novices had arrived and they experienced the prayer life the Novices along with Novice Master. Fr. Sebastian Vellaramkunnel who guided the adoration and prayer session for them. On 10 July seventeen brothers were initiated into Novitiate during the Holy Eucharistic celebration, 12 for SW, 4 Pune Province and 1 for East African Province. Rev Fr Mario D’Souza gave a beautiful message on listening, learning and letting go. In the evening the parents interacted with the Provincials Fr Mathew Kozhuppakalam, and Fr Mario D’Souza, in a group gathering.

On 11<sup>th</sup> July the First Profession ceremonies began with the Holy Eucharistic celebration presided by Rev Fr Mathew Kozhuppakalam and con celebrated by Fr. Mario D’souza

and other priests who gathered for the function. 18 of our dear brothers made their first Profession; 13 for the South West and 5 for Pune province and gave their whole self to God. It was an occasion of great joy for them and their parents who witnessed the first step of their commitment. After the mass the newly professed members cut the cake and the community wished and congratulated them. Now we have a new batch of 17 novices. It is their turn to decide, discern and respond. "Here I am Lord, to do your will" (Heb 10:07), because in God, new areas are always opening out ahead if you want to voyage on.

Bro. Justin Panachickal

#### **4. Doing theology is delightful engagement with life processes: Kalliath CMI**

Tejas Vidya Peetha: (10.06.09) It's back to School at Tejas. After having spent fruitful holidays in doing diaconate ministry, animating retreats, conducting seminars on Value Education and Spoken English Classes, helping out in catechism camp, attending computer courses, retreats, and counselor training programmes, the tejasites are full of enthusiasm looking forward to the new academic year.

The academic year 2009-10 was inaugurated with a Solemn Eucharistic Celebration invoking the Holy Spirit presided by Fr. Rector, Jacob Parappally, MSFS. The inaugural lecture was delivered by Rev. Dr. Antony Kalliath, CMI, Secretary, Indian Theological Association. He stated that theological formation is a delightful engagement with life processes. He insisted that doing theology should be a joyful experience wherein we have to move from being normative to narrative and at the praxis level we need to move from telling the story of Jesus to retelling it. Rev. Frs. Henry Kodikuthiyil and Jose Kumblolickal were officially welcomed as the Staff of Tejas. Rev. Fr. Mario D'Souza MSFS, the Provincial of Pune Province, also graced the occasion.

- Dn. Sudeep Paul, MSFS

#### **5. Jesus Youth Gathering in SFS College Hebbagodi.**

Around 150 Jesus Youth from nearly 20 centers in Karnataka came together on June 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> in St. Francis De Sales College, Bangalore. Besides being a time of joyful fellowship, the two days were of prayer and spiritual nourishment. In this gathering a newly elected 'Karnataka Jesus Youth Team' was formed with the blessings of Most Rev. Robert Miranda (*Bishop of Gulbarga*) and Archbishop Ignatius Paul Pinto (*Archbishop Emeritus of Bangalore*). During the meeting Fr. Jais Mecheril was elected again as the team pastor of the Jesus Youth of Karnataka.

#### **6. Program for Nurses on the Feast of St Thomas, Kuvempunagar.**

Around 110 nursing students gathered in MSFS house Kuvempunagar Mysore to celebrate the Feast of St. Thomas on 27 June 2009. The day began with the Holy Eucharistic celebrated by Fr Jose Maliekal and Fr Shino Puthussery, followed by a beautiful adoration conducted by the nurses. The day was colored with cultural programme which included dances and singing. Frs. Christopher, Jose and Shino gave the

messages. The program came to an end with meal. Most Rev Thomas Vazhappillil has agreed to visit all the immigrants especially all the students who come for the mass in msfs house on 16 August 2009.

Fr Shino Puthussery (Priest In charge Of immigrants)

## 7.. 19<sup>th</sup> Charis Bhavan Annual Convnetion

Charis Bhavan solicits your presence and prayers for the success of the 19<sup>th</sup> Charis Bhavan Annual Convention, scheduled to be held from September 24<sup>th</sup> Thursday to 28<sup>th</sup> Monday 2009. The Theme chosen for the Convention is *Thirurakthabhishekha Convention*. The inaugural Address will be delivered by **Rt. Rev. Dr Sebastian Thekkethecherry**, the Bishop of **Vijayapuram** and on the Final day Eucharistic Celebration will be presided over by **Rt. Dr. Joseph Kariyil**, Bishop of **Kochi** and will deliver the concluding Message. Our Provincial **Rev. Dr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam msfs** has consented to address the convention and to celebrate the Eucharist. The event will be conducted by Charis Bhavan team under the leadership of Fr Kurian Karickal msfs with the help of the committed staff, volunteers and various committees with Fr Diyo Koikkara msfs as the Convenor and Mr. Jose Pulinkalayil as Assistant Convenor.

Fr Shajan Manickathan msfs

## 8. New Orientation batch – 2009-‘10

The orientation programme commenced as all the brothers arrived at Saumya Sadan on 15, June 2009. There are 16 young men this year from both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu We have built a temporary (detachable) shelter on the left wing of the existing building to accommodate the candidates more comfortably. I thank the provincial and the administration for their whole hearted support. We the staff wish the candidates a pleasant stay with us and a wholesome development to be committed missionaries. We have Fr. Christopher Crasta, Fr. Jose Edasseril, Fr. Rosario, Fr. Shino, Fr. Jose Maleikal, Bro. Prasanna and Mr. Joseph to guide and mold the candidates. God bless our Church in India – God bless MSFS Congregation.

Fr. Christopher Crasta MSFS

## 9. SFS Seminary Ettumanoor

There are 39 new comers in SFS Ettumanoor. On 24th June, 26 brothers SFS Seminary entered the one year of postulancy. It was a day of rejoicing for each one of us. The brothers who entered the postulancy were Bros. Kakkadiyil Ajith , Navagekar Alex.R, Arackaparambil Amal, Puthyakunnel Amjith, Parippil Anoop, Keerampanal Bernard, Puthenpurackel Dhanoop, Jaison.R, Koonamackal Jobish, John Joseph, Madathisseril Libins, Karakattu Nobin, Pradeep.J, Pushpakkunnel Prasad, Rohan Immanuel, Vattoth Roji, Hanchinamani Samuel, Panackappilly Shince, Palamattathil Subin, Purapuzha Sujith, Munduchalil Tony, Vattoth Robin, Tony Pushparaj, Mattakkarathundiyl Anthony, Petrus, Rakesh Ekka.

Rev. Fr.Mathew Kozhuppakalam, our Provincial officiated the ceremony. It began with the solemn Eucharistic celebration. He preached the homily during which he reminded the brothers the importance of the year of postulancy. It is a stepping stone to enter the novitiate. At the end of the official ceremony, he gave the Rosary and the Cross

as a sign of acceptance and encouragement to become religious. The solemn Eucharistic celebration got over at 8 A.M.

Fr. Louis Parappuram msfs

## **Year of Priesthood**

I intend to publish a series of reflective articles which will be written by our confreres on Priesthood during this year of Priesthood. The first of the series is from Fr. Jacob Parappally.

## **A Call to an Effective Priestly Life and Ministry**

“Faithfulness of Christ, Faithfulness of the Priest” is the theme of the Year of Priesthood declared by Pope Benedict the XVI. This is the most appropriate and the most critical time to discover the meaning of priesthood in relation to Christ and his mission. It is the most appropriate time because it comes immediately after the Year of Paul who was so configured to Christ that he could say that it is no longer I that live but Christ lives in me’ (Gal 2:20) and a person who became all things to all to win them all for Christ. Paul is an inspiring model for priests who are configured to Christ in a special way by their vocation and ordination. It is the most critical time to reflect on priesthood because of the unfaithfulness of some of the priests to their state of life is a great scandal corroding the credibility of thousands of other priests who struggle to live an authentic and committed priestly life. This crisis in priesthood is also a God-given opportunity to recapture the authentic meaning of priestly identity and to commit oneself to an effective priestly ministry. The Year of Priesthood may engender such renewal of priesthood.

The New Testament confesses that Jesus Christ is the only priest. The early Church encountered him as the only mediator between God and humans (I Tim. 2:5) fulfilling once and for all the mediating function of priests. The Christian priesthood, both the common priesthood of the people and as ministerial priesthood of those who are called to serve them, is a participation in the priesthood of Christ, who is believed and proclaimed as priest, prophet and king. Therefore, the priests in Christian tradition are not mediators or priests on their own right. The ministerial priesthood makes the mediation of Jesus Christ present in the community in a sacramental way that the community can encounter the living Christ and grow in holiness and wholeness. Thus a transition from a cult-centred priesthood to community-centred priesthood is the core of the NT understanding of priesthood. Therefore, the primary task of the priest is to facilitate the community-building function of Jesus Christ. It is a misconception among people and even among some of the priests that the priests are ordained to celebrate the Eucharist and other sacraments and to officiate various cultic functions. They are ordained to build the community of the faithful through various means. Since ‘the community makes the Eucharist and the Eucharist makes the community’, the celebration of the Eucharist becomes an important means to build up the community. In the past, due to the mystification of the Eucharist, excessive sacerdotalism and clericalism, a cultic, moralizing and policing model of Christian ministerial priesthood, blurred the real image ministerial priest as the servant of the community. An attempt is made in the second Vatican Council is to re-capture the NT understanding of Christian leadership as pastoral



and prophetic. Therefore, a minister in the Church must strive to manifest through his life and ministry the one who “came to serve and not to be served and to give his life as a ransom for many” ( Mk 10:45) and who washed the feet of his disciples (cfr. Jn 13: 4-16). A Priest is a prophet and a facilitator of communion.

The prophetic vocation of a priest is to challenge everything that disfigures human beings who are created in the image of the Triune God, the God of Communion. All systems and ideologies that divide humans in the name of race, religion, gender, class, caste, language, nationality, rites, denominations etc. and everything that created conditions that do not promote communion among people must be prophetically denounced. A minister of Jesus Christ must constantly challenge himself to transcend the human-made barriers and recognize the worth of humans who are called to live in communion with God, other humans In fact, no one should be excluded from his priestly care and concern. Thirdly, as a facilitator communion he needs to promote human beings’ right relation with nature which mirrors the glory of God.

By his Christian vocation and by his charism of ministerial priesthood, a priest cannot but be a mystic. Therefore, a minister of Christ must train his faculties to grow in contemplation. It implies that a priest needs to find time *to be* with the Lord so that he can go out to preach and to heal with *authority* (cfr. Mk 3:13). What can hold together the various activities of a priest and make them effective is only his *being* with the Lord. This would make him to be patient with himself and be patient with others.

A priest is, indeed, a wounded healer as Henri J.M. Nouwen describes a priest. A priest must make his own wounds, his vulnerability, his loneliness, his failures, his experience of rejection, lack of support and encouragement, his fears, his insecurity and so on a source of his healing ministry in reaching out to others who need his presence and care.. Such an awareness of his own situation, instead of leading him to self-pity, makes him more sensitive and compassionate to those who need his attention and healing. Compassion means to suffer with. A priest who can suffer with those who suffer, whatever be the cause of their suffering, brings about a healing which can be understood only by recognizing a priest as the one who has freely committed to be an officially appointed extension of God’s own compassion. Embodying in his own life the compassion of God as Jesus did, makes a priest an authentic minister of reconciliation and forgiveness. In a world of specialists and professionals, in a world everything is structured and organized in terms of profits and usefulness, in a world that the rich and the powerful consider the weak and the poor dispensable a priest must remain as effective sign of God’s compassion for the weak and the poor and all those who seek God’s forgiveness and compassionate love. The challenge of a priest to be an effective witness of genuine humanness, which manifests God’s own glory.

The ideal set before all priests seems to be too high or almost unattainable! To be other Christs or *alter Christus*. But it is possible if we are faithful to Christ. The Year of Priesthood from 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2009 to 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2010, is a call to all priests to review their priestly commitment, re-capture the priestly faithfulness of Jesus and live their priestly vocation in total surrender to the Lord and in self-emptying service to his people.

-Jacob Parappally, MSFS

One Minute with St. Francis De Sales

Virtue and devotion can make you happy in this world. They are beautiful. How gentle is patience in comparison with revenge; gentleness in comparison with anger and irritability; humility in comparison with pride and ambition; generosity in comparison with avarice; charity in comparison with envy; sobriety in comparison with dissipation. The virtues fill the heart with incomparable sweetness and delight when practiced. But vices leave us completely wearied and ill-treated.

Inspiration from our Founder

“I have totally dedicated myself to the work of the missions, to the sublime ministry of Jesus Christ who is the first missionary and the leader in every mission” On 24 Sep. 1838

A Prayer

O love eternal, my soul needs and chooses Thee eternally!  
Ah, come Holy Ghost, and inflame our hearts with Thy love!  
To love -- or to die!  
To die -- and to love!

To die to all other love in order to live in Jesus' love, so that we may not die eternally;  
but that we may live in Thine eternal love, O Saviour of our souls, we eternally sing,

"Live, Jesus!  
Jesus, I love!  
Live, Jesus, whom I love!  
Jesus, I love, Jesus Who lives and reigneth forever and ever.

AMEN

*From The Treatise on the Love of God.*