

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

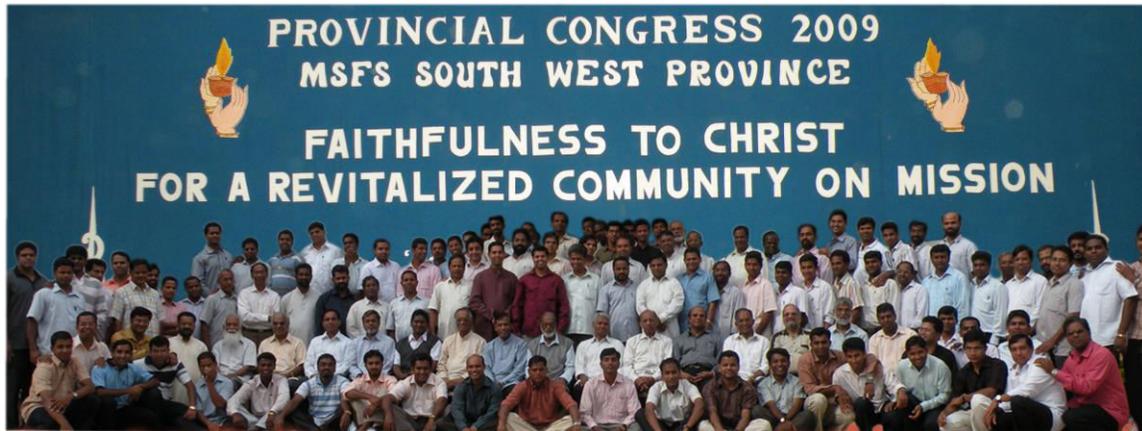


Tel. 080 23345594,23348041,23340379 Mob: 91 9448480379, Fax: 080 23341329  
Website: [www.msfsouthwest.org](http://www.msfsouthwest.org) e-mail: [msfsbangalore@yahoo.com](mailto:msfsbangalore@yahoo.com)

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

**Circular MK/23**

**15 October 2009**



## **Provincial Congress 2009**

The Provincial Congress took place in Vinayalaya from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009. They were days of intense spiritual experience. As the province family gathered together there were 120 members present and so it was also a strong communitarian experience. The invitees were Frs. Thumma Mariadas, the Delegate of the Superior General to the Congress; Noel Rebello, the General Councillor; Simon Paicattu, Provincial Visakhapatnam; Sebastian Annaikandathil, Provincial Nagpur; Mario D'Souza, Provincial Pune; and A. Lawrence, Provincial South East. The demise of Georgekutty Puthiyidom under tragic circumstances cast a pall of gloom over the assembly and the Congress started with observing silence for a minute to pay homage and respect to Fr. Georgekutty.

The preparations for the Congress were adequate at the personal, local, Apostolic Community level and at the level of the various Forums of the Province. I could see and experience how deeply the confreres were recognizing the need to renew oneself and to revitalize the communities to be faithful to Christ and to His Mission. The call of the Congress was to go back to our roots and to recapture the missionary zeal and enthusiasm of our Founder. There was a growing realization that Faithfulness to Christ is best experienced and expressed through the recognition of the sacredness of our vowed life and fidelity to it.

## **The New Provincial Administration**

The congress elected the following councilors to the Provincial Administration.

Fr. Kurian Aranjaneyil, Fr. Kurian Karickal, Fr. Jose Kumbloickal, Fr. R. Santhosh Kumar. Fr. Kurain Aranjaniyil was elected as the Admonitor to the Provincial. Fr. Benny Marangolil was elected as the Provincial Bursar. In the council meeting of 11 October 2009, the following portfolios were assigned to the councilors.

1. Fr. Kurian Aranjaneyil, Councilor in charge of Innovative Ministries
2. Fr. Kurian Karickal, Councilor in charge of the Missions and Renewal Programs
3. Fr. Jose Kumbloickal, Councilor in charge of the Formation
4. Fr. R. Santhosh Kumar, Councilor in charge of Education

## **Messages**

Fr. Superior General in his message underlined that the theme of the Congress brings the three strands of our MSFS Vocation together: Our God centeredness, our communion in community and our Mission through Salesian Spirituality. The vision of our founder can be summarized as:

- Be passionate disciples of Jesus Christ: “I have totally dedicated myself to the work of the Missions of which Jesus is the first Missionary...”
- Live in a community of brothers: “How I long to live in a community of brothers...”
- Be community in and on Mission in the Spirit of St. Francis de Sales: “ ... Be another St. Francis de Sales”.

Faithfulness to Christ is the spring and vitality of our religious life. Bishop Henry D’Souza exhorted us to be priests deeply involved in the service of people and the church, devoted and dedicated to be priests meant for people and deeply spiritual. Let us not become prisoners in our institutions but be real evangelizers in them.

Father Thumma Mariadas, the delegate of the Superior General to the Congress made us aware that Faithfulness to Christ is means and mission is the end. The world is desperately craving for men and women who are deep rooted, and not those who play safe but people who are committed to a cause. He asked the cutting question: “are we busy with our father’s affairs as Jesus (Lk. 2: 41-52) or are we busy with our self vested interests and affairs?”

## **Statement and Action Plan For The 7<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Provincial Congress**

\* We, the members of the South- West Province of the Missionaries of saint Francis de Sales, gathered at Vinayalaya, the Provincial House, for the 7<sup>th</sup> ordinary Provincial Congress, from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2009 resolved to live the implications of the theme of the provincial congress “**FAITHFULNESS TO CHRIST FOR A REVITALIZED COMMUNITY ON MISSION**”.

\* The adequate preparation for the provincial congress at the local and apostolic community, as well as, at the various forums level with serious discussions and proposals enable us to understand deeply the demands of our mission and our faithfulness to Christ as individuals and as communities.

\* We recognize the need for re-vitalization in both levels for the effectiveness of our mission. The call is to go back to our roots to recapture our missionary zeal and enthusiasm of our Founder, servant of God, Fr. Peter Marie Mermier and to live it in a deeper bond of communion among confreres.

\* We realize that we need to be alert as our search for self-satisfaction and material and institutional development can take away the centrality of Christ in terms of his person, values and mission.

\* The joy of our coming together for the Provincial Congress was overshadowed by the tragic death of our young confrere, Fr. Georgekutty Puthiyidom, in the distant Cameroon shore. But his spirit and missionary dynamism inspire us as we have gathered for the congress.

\* Our missionary endeavours, whether in Karnataka or in Kerala, in Chad- Cameroon or in the Philippines, in Europe or in the United States, do not deter us from our identity as Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and to live the spirit and spirituality of SFS in our commitment as a community.

\* In all our apostolate, in pioneering mission, in the renewal of Christian life and in education and formation, especially of the young, we recognize that there is a need for deepening our commitment, expansion of the areas of influence, entering into new and creative ways of proclamation.

Therefore, we as a community of confreres assert that the life of every Fransalian should be community oriented. He should be able to revitalize the community life being faithful to Christ in terms of his person, in terms of his values and in terms of his mission. He should discern the will of God through constant communication with God in prayer. Every Fransalian is challenged to go back to the roots in following God's mission by putting his faith in Christ and faithfulness to his teachings.

\* Our vocation is to realize that mission and prayer are indispensable elements of Jesus own mission. Faithfulness to Christ is best experienced and expressed through the recognition of the sacredness of the vowed life and fidelity to it. It is nurtured through our commitment to follow time-tested spiritual exercises like daily personal meditation, humility to approach the sacraments with faithfulness, regularity to delve into the scriptures, which will pave the way to great accomplishments in Mission for the Lord.

\* We undertake the mission of Christ as a religious community, in which empowering leadership and responsible and committed individual membership seeking together the demands of the mission and the will of God through credible life-witness and effective team work.

\* Therefore, we resolve to re-vitalize our community to accomplish the mission entrusted to us. In our commitment to the mission we show our solidarity with the entire church,

other religious congregations and all human beings of good will to create a just society, where human dignity is esteemed and human rights are respected. Together we will work for a world, where nature is respected and eco-system is sustained for the welfare of all.

## **ACTION PLAN**

### **FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF OUR MSFS COMMUNITIES**

#### **I. For Spiritual Revitalization and Renewal:**

- a) Conduct three retreats a year
- b) Conduct a special retreat in the year of priests
- c) Participate actively in the regular community prayer, meals and recreation
- d) Regularly approach the sacrament of reconciliation

#### **II. For Revitalizing the Community Governance**

- a) Conduct superior's forum meeting at least twice a year
- b) Conduct community meetings at least once a month
- c) Re-enthuse the religious spirit of belongingness, recognition and obedience through personal corrections and personal encouragement
- d) Initiate the responsible use of finance, means of communication (like mobiles, internet and electronic gadgets) and transportation

### **FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF THE MSFS MINISTRIES AND MISSION**

#### **III. Mission and Ministry**

- a) Stabilize the missions in Chad- Cameroon, in the Philippines and in North Karnataka
- b) Start/complete church construction in the mission areas, like Koppal, Chintamani .....
- c) Set apart 10% of our turn over for the education and other welfare programmes of the marginalized
- d) Organize training programmes for the lay leaders

#### **IV. Formation**

- a) Train more confreres for formation tasks
- b) Insist on missionary formation from the minor seminary onwards
- c) Give formees from the beginning opportunity to use freedom with responsibility
- d) Inculcate more religious spirit from the beginning of the formation
- e) In order to accompany the formee, pass on the reports from one stage to the other stage

#### **V. Education**

- a) Use means to exhibit our Christian identity through pictures, crosses and religious articles
- b) Establish crisis management team for our schools and other institutions
- c) Inspection team to visit all the educational institutes
- d) Appoint PRO's for our institutes
- f) Monitor the implementation of Fransalian educational policies and dissemination of Salesian values by the provincial and his administration

## VI. Innovative Ministry

- a) Make family counselling centres and make concerted effort for the family apostolate in the next three years.
- b) Make our institutions and communities to take steps for rain water harvesting, greening and plastic free compounds.
- c) Appoint more committed and trained persons for the innovative ministry
- d) Organize systematic programmes and financial resources in our Prateeksha Homes
- e) Undertake more projects and engage more personnel in the PSI
- f) Stabilize the functions of SFS Publications by systematic advertisements and timely publications
- g) Raise more local funds for our innovative ministries through more public contacts and relationships

## Other Trends Emerged

Connected to the statement and action plan and besides them some other important trends emerged in the communitarian and Apostolic Community discussions and at the forum level discussions. The Provincial Administration shall work also on such recommendations and suggestions.

- The provincial administration shall strictly implement the new MSFS Governance approved by the Superior General on February 1, 2008 with effective delegated authority along with accountability and subsidiarity.
- Superiors who are also spiritual animators of the local communities govern the communities through cooperation and collaboration with the members, delegation of power, collective discernment, and through timely fraternal correction to the erring confreres.
- In a religious community the Superior is the constitutional head. The Local Bursar manages the temporal goods of the community and works in collaboration with the Local Superior. The members respect the superior and seek permissions from him as is expected from the directory and provincial statutes.
- **Our centers are to be centers of God-Experience.** The vision and mission along with the apostolates of each centre and community must be articulated and the members enrolled into them. Individual initiatives are to be encouraged but be made known to and shared with the community.
- Every community should take care to foster good relationship with the neighbors, government officials, with other religious congregations, with the diocesan clergy and local ordinary. Good public relations ensure smooth running of our concerns and centers.
- We should have financially transparent and accountable systems in every centre and even for individuals serving in parishes. Money generated or any funds created in the province belong to the Congregation and are to be used to do our mission work.

- We shall stabilize the centers we have started and make it as far as possible self-reliant and the individuals need to keep away the tendency to feel dependent on outside funds to do one's ministry.
- But at the same time we shall study possibilities to open up new centers for mission and ministry to keep up the missionary dynamism of the province.
- As missionaries we should not limit our working area to a particular mission or institution; instead every one should be ready to render his service to any place where the mission demands.
- There is a collective responsibility of all the members in the formation of the young confreres. The entire formation should be filled with human qualities and religious spirit which would bring in zeal for the missions.
- Practical training in plumbing, electricity, first aid etc. is to be imparted to seminarians during holidays.
- The formation of the formators has to be given utmost importance so that we have qualified persons who are competent enough to handle the difficulties of the candidates and seminarians. Prepare a team of formators.
- Formators are to be encouraged to visit the houses of the students to foster good relationship between the staff and parents of candidates, novices and scholastics.
- In our educational ministry we shall seek to empower the Catholics, Dalits, Tribals and the minorities.
- We shall make social work and education go hand in hand. We need to do some brand-building exercises to make ourselves more competent in the areas we are working. The centers have to document their work in a professional manner.

### **Congratulations**

The fifth Provincial Congress of Visakhapatnam Province has elected the following confreres as the Councillors. Fr. George Kottam, Fr. P. Chinnappa Reddy, Fr.P.Inna Reddy and Fr. B. Suresh Babu. The Congress also elected Fr. Jose Chirayath as the Bursar.

### **Heartfelt Thanks to Fr. Thomas Cherukat**

Fr. Cherukat was good enough to respond to the request of us to go to Cameroon Mission and stand by our confreres in the moment of their grief and pain and to strengthen them. Although he had the visitation of the Nagpur Province, he cancelled the same and made himself available to be with the confreres in their time of trials and difficulties. I thank him very much for this wonderful gesture and wish him all the best for his ministry as Assistant General.

### **My Visit to Chad-Cameroon Mission**

I intend to visit the Cameroon Mission from the 15<sup>th</sup> of October and shall be back in the Province on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. As I am flying by Swiss Air, I will make also a flying visit to Frs. Mukalel and Pazhayattil.

**The General Administration meets the Indian Provincials** from 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November in MSFS Provincial House, Guwahati

**The Superior General and Assistant General meet the Provincial Administration** on the 30<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009 in Vinayalaya.

**Ordinations of 2009-2010: Kindly note the dates**

Name	Ordination	Parish Address	Bishop
<b>George M</b>	7 Nov 2009 (5.Pm)	St. John the Evangelist J.C. Nagar, (Benson Town) Bangalore, Tel: 23333317)	<b>Rev. Bernard Moras</b>
<b>Sudeep Paul</b>	24 Nov 2009	SFS Church Hebbagodi	<b>Rev. Henry D'Souza</b>
<b>Tony Erniakulathil</b>	27 Dec 2009 (9.30 Am)	St Thomas Carmel House Gonikoppal P.O Ponnempet Road South Coorg Ph: 08274 247242	<b>Rev. Lawrence Mukkuzhy</b>
<b>Timson Parakkottil</b>	2 January 2010 (9.30 Am)	Kakkoor P.O Koothattukulam (via) Ernakulam (Dist) Ph: 0485 2875365	<b>Rev. Joseph Erumachadath</b>
<b>Praful Tigga</b>	3 January 2010 (7. Am)	Nirmala Church Samlong, Namkum P.o, Ranchi Dt. Jharkhand	<b>Rev. Binay Kandulna</b> (Auxiliary Bishop)
<b>Aneesh Palathadathil</b>	4 January 2010 (2.00 Pm)	St. Joseph's Church Karippal P.O, Perumpadavu Kannur, Ph: 0460 2280133	<b>Rev. George Valiyamattam</b> Tellicherry
<b>Bijil Chakiath</b>	5 January 2010 (9.30 Am)	St. Mary's church Thundathumkadavu Varapuzha P.O, Ernakulam Ph:0484 2512345	<b>Rev. Sebastian Edayantharath</b>
<b>Anand kumar Ekka</b>	7 January 2010 (8.00 Am)	Holy Family Catholic Church Rajwal, Gumla (Dt) Jharkand 835 206	<b>Rev. Paul Lakra</b> Gumla Ph 06524 223228
<b>Abey Thunduparambil</b>	7 January 2010 (9.30 Am)	Lourde matha Church Pacha, CHEkkidikadau P.O Edathua. Alappuzha (Dt) Ph: 0477 2212302	<b>Rev. Joseph Perumthottam</b> Changanacherry
<b>Jose Puthukary</b>	9 January 2010 (9.30 Am)	Holy Ghost Forane Church Muttuchira P.O, Kottayam Ph: 04829 282369	<b>Rev. Joseph Pallikkaparambil</b> Palai
<b>Thadeus Lakra</b>	12 Jan 2010	Catholic Ashram Jamdara Jamdara Village Kunni P.O , Surguja (Dt) Chattisgrah 497116	<b>Rev. Patras Minj</b> Ambikapur

**Bon Voyage**



**Fr. Sibichan Panthanmackal** left for Rome in July 2009 to pursue his doctoral studies in the Gregorian University in

Rome. After completing his M.Th. in St. Peter's he has been serving as Dean of Studies in Tejas Vidya Peetha. Wherever his service was required Fr. Sibichan was there with his whole heart and soul. We wish you all the best. Thank you Sibichan and God Bless.



**Fr. Jiji Manjackal** has left for Philippines in August 2009 to strengthen the missionary activities in our Philippine Mission. I make use this opportunity to thank him for his generosity to go to the mission and wish him all the best. Fr. Jiji served as the Procurator to the SFS Seminary and administered the Kerala Fransalian Educational Society for four and half years. He is a pleasant person to be around and has great love for the Congregation and its mission. Thank you Jiji and God Bless.

### **Change of Address**

#### **1. Fr. Tomy Mullasseril**

Pfarrhofgasse 1, 86650 Wemding.  
Tel. 09092- 910569

#### **2. Fr. Sunny Paul**

Middle Lodge  
Woldingham School  
Marden Park, Woldingham  
Surrey, CR3 7YA  
Tel: 01883 349431, Mob:  
00447863551988

#### **3. Pater James Varghese MSFS (Panickerveetil)**

Kath. Pfarramt St.Ägidius,  
Kirchenplatz-4,  
85567-Graefing,  
Germany.  
Tel.0049/8092 850516,  
Mob.0049/170874529  
Parish.0049/80929217,  
Fax.0049/809232976.

### **Please Pray**

For Mr. Mariraj, the father of Deacon George Mariraj, ailing from high sugar and blood pressure and is in a critical condition. Deacon George is due to be ordained on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2009 in Bangalore.

Your Brother in Christ

*Mathew Kozhuppakalam*

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

### **Fraternal Advice:**

“When big problems come, face them with courage and faith. When small difficulties come, handle them patiently. At the end of the day, having worked hard, go to bed peacefully, the Lord is awake.” Victor Hugo, Quoted from the recollection talk of Bishop Henry D’Souza, Bellary.

## Charis Bhavan Bible Convention

The 19<sup>th</sup> Charismatic Bible Convention at Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha was held from Sep.24<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> 2009. Being the year of Priesthood, the theme of the convention for this year was “THIRURAKTHABHISHEKA CONVENTION”. The convention was inaugurated and blessed by His Grace Mar Sebastian Thekkathecherry, the Bishop of Vijayapuram. Many eminent and gifted preachers from all over Kerala were there to proclaim the word of God. On the third day of the convention Rev. Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam MSFS,



Provincial of South West Province, celebrated mass and preached the homily on the relevance of the Precious Blood of Christ. On the last day of the convention, Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Kariyil, the Bishop of Cochi, celebrated the Holy Eucharist and delivered the concluding message. A big gathering around 20,000 faithful attending the convention being anointed by the Holy Spirit was an amazing experience. The programme for each day was arranged with solid preaching, Eucharistic celebrations, healing service and opportunity for confession and counselling. The services were organized well under the leadership of Fr. Kurian Karickal along with the convenor, Fr. Dijo Koikkara and all fathers and committee members. The convention was an opportune time for many people to recommit themselves to Christ and a time for great spiritual revival by the precious Body and Blood of Christ. The convention was indeed a great blessing to a large number of people.



*Fr. Dijo Koikkara*

## The Song of Glory reverberates at SFS College – RIM REAPERS 09



Rim Reapers 2009 a covetous Basketball tournament in the City was organized by St. Francis de Sales College, Electronic City on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2009. 30 teams from the Industry and the Colleges in and around Bangalore participated in the tournament. The Tournament was sponsored by SRA Construction Group.

The Tournament was inaugurated by Mr. Dileep the Olympian. Mr. Baiju the MD of SRA Group, Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil, the manager of the college, Fr. Manu the Principal In charge and Fr. Anthony Swamy the Principal gave away the Trophies and the certificates to the



winner and runner up. Fr. Vinod Kanat, the Financial Administrator of the College Inaugurated the Final Match of the Tournament. In the final between WIPRO and SURANA College WIPRO won the trophy and the prize money of Rs. 10,000/- SURANA College was awarded with Cash prize of Rs. 5,000/- Mr. Saki of WIPRO was adjudged the best player of the Tournament. Hearty Congratulations to Fr. Jino, the Co-coordinator of Rim Reapers, for echoing the success once again.

*Fr. A. Anthony Swamy*

### **Rest In Peace – Demise of a Young Missionary**



The sad demise of Fr. Georgekutty made a great shock to everyone who knew him. He was a person who attracted everyone to him by his simple approach, sincere love and innocent smile. He could never offend anyone, but only love everyone. The practical theology which he derived by his personal intimacy with God and profound meditation captured the attention of the Mother General and the administration of Sisters of Charity (Mother Theresa Sisters)

and this made them to appoint Fr. Georgekutty as the official retreat preacher of their sisters who belong to seven countries in the African Continent.



The body of Fr. Georgekutty was received at Nedumbasserry Airport on 8<sup>th</sup> October at 07.30 by Rev. Fr. Provincial and was brought to SFS Seminary Ettumanoor. After short prayers and blessing the body was then taken to Charis Bhavan where it was kept for prayers and paying respects. The body of Fr. Georgekutty was again brought back to SFS Seminary Chapel at 08.00am. From that moment there was a continuous flow of priests, religious and the faithful to have a

last glance at the mortal remains of Fr. Georgekutty.



The funeral rites began at 10.00am with the mass for the dead presided over by Rev. Fr. Mathew Kozhupakalam, South West provincial, concelebrated by Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil (General Councillor), Fr. Simon Paicattu (Vizag Provincial) and more than two hundred and twenty five diocesan and religious priests.



**Prior** to the Holy Eucharistic celebration Fr. Binoy Kuzhuppil gave a biodata and ministry of Fr. Georgekutty. In addition to that Fr. Saji Eanthanamkuzhiyil the MC of the day gave short commentary to each rituals and rites. Fr. Provincial in his introductory words grieved over the unprecedented death of Fr. Georgekutty and invited the congregation to pray for his departed soul and for the bereaved family members. The homily was preached by Fr.

Jose Parappillil wherein he stressed the missionary enthusiasm and love for the mission with which Fr. Georgekutty worked in the Chad Cameroon Mission for the last four to five years. He also said that sad and sudden death of Fr. Georgekutty is an irreparable loss for the South West Province.



At around 11.30am His Excellency Rt. Rev. Mathew Arackal Bishop of Kanjirappally Diocese arrived and as soon as the Mass was over the final rites of funeral was officiated by the Bishop. The Bishop also gave a short message in which he expressed his heartfelt condolence to Provincial and all the members of the Province. The funeral Mass and ceremony was attended by hundreds of people and religious in and around Kottayam District.

At his tomb before the ceremony came to a close Fr. George Valliyamthadathil, Rector gave the vote of thanks to his Excellency Mar Mathew Arackal, to Fr. Georgekutty's family members, and to all those who had gathered there for their presence and prayers at the lose of our dear confrere Fr. Georgekutty. With the final blessings and prayers Fr. Georgekutty's mortal remains laid to rest at around 1.00pm. May his soul rest in peace.

*Fr. George Valliyamthadathil*

### **One Minute with St. Francis de Sales**

God loves those who, on all occasions, and under all circumstances, are ready with an honest and simple heart to say, "Thy will be done." (Letters of SFS)