

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



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Circular MK/24

18 December 2009



"Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a Son, and they shall call His Name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us."

There is no way our little minds can comprehend the love of God. But that didn't keep Him from coming...From the cradle in Bethlehem to the cross in Jerusalem we've pondered the love of our Father. What can you say to that kind of emotion? Upon learning that God would rather die than live without you, how do you react? How can you begin to explain such passion?

When the Scriptures are searched one finds that Emmanuel -God being with us - is true for every time of life, for those who have been born again.

He was with us before we were born. Psalm 139:13

He is with us in times of trouble. Psalm 27:5

He is with us in times of oppression. Psalm 9:9

He is with us morning, evening and afternoon. Psalm 55:17

He is with us continually. Psalm 73:23

Because He is with us we can work with Him without fear. Acts 18:10

He will be with us when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death. Psalm 23:4

He will be with us forever. Revelation 21:3-4

Retreats for the year of Priests

As it was decided in the action Plan of the Provincial Congress to conduct a special retreat in the year of priests we have organized two retreats with two inspiring and famous retreat preachers.

1. The first retreat will begin on **Monday, February 22, 2010 by 11.00 a.m. and will end on 26 Friday afternoon in Charis Bhavan. The retreat will be preached by Rev. Dr. Fio Mascarenhas, SJ.** He is a noted retreat director who has been invited to over 80 countries to speak at clergy retreats, leader's conferences and laity formation seminars. He has many books to his credit. Fr. Fio worked in Vatican City from 1981-1988 and is now the Chairman of the Catholic Bible Institute, Mumbai.

2. The second retreat will take place in Vinayalaya **from Monday 26 April 2010 to 30 April. Bishop Lourdunada Daniel, Bishop of Amaravati has consented to preach this retreat.** He is priest for 30 years and Bishop since three years. He is also a renowned and inspiring preacher and has preached a number of retreats.

As it is the follow up of the Action Plan of the Provincial Congress 2010, I request all the confreres to take part in the retreat. Please register your name for one of the retreats. The registration for the retreats should reach Provincial's office by 29th of January 2010.

Update and Renewal Programme

The Update and Renewal Programme for Group II is to be held at Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha from 5th to 11th January 2010. The information letter as well as the registration forms were already sent to you from the office of the Provincial. Only very few have registered for the Programme. Some cannot take part in it because of the sheer distance. One or the other is sick. I request all the participants in India to send back the filled-in forms to Fr. Henry Jose at the earliest. Others abroad have to make use of an opportunity to attend some programs of ongoing formation in the place of their stay or when they are on holidays in India and inform the same to the Provincial. Some members of Group I could not take part in the last renewal program. They also may register their name for the same. Our Const. Art. No. 159 reminds us to pursue a life-long process of formation and to involve ourselves in the theological, spiritual and pastoral search of the Church to become more effective and relevant to our times.

The following is the list of participants from our Province:

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|---|---|
| 1. Fr. Mekkattu Thomas (Germany) | 19. Fr. Puthuparambil Varghese |
| 2. Fr. Mookenthottam Antony | 20. Fr. Puthussery Abraham |
| 3. Fr. Moongamakkal Thomas | 21. Fr. Puthussery Thomas |
| 4. Fr. Mukalel James (Germany) | 22. Fr. Punnakuzhy Sunny
(Philippines) |
| 5. Fr. Mullenkuzhy Joseph | 23. Fr. Thayil Joseph |
| 6. Fr. Onayathumkuzhy Zacharias | 24. Fr. Thazhathukunnel Joshy |
| 7. Fr. Ottalankal Chacko | 25. Fr. Thottiyil Mathew (USA) |
| 8. Fr. Panickerveetil James
(Germany) | 26. Fr. Thudianplackal Mathew |
| 9. Fr. Parappally Jacob | 27. Fr. Thudipara Jacob |
| 10. Fr. Parappillil Jose | 28. Fr. Ummikuzhiyil Cyriac |
| 11. Fr. Payattukandathil Thomas
(Cameroon) | 29. Fr. Valakodiyil Philip |
| 12. Fr. Pazhayattil Joseph(Germany) | 30. Fr. Valiaveetil Benny (England) |
| 13. Fr. Pendanam Abraham | 31. Fr. Valliamthadathil George |
| 14. Bro. Pindipuzha Joseph | 32. Fr. Vattappara George (USA) |
| 15. Fr. Pulpara Joseph | 33. Fr. Vechuvettickal Jose |
| 16. Fr. Puthiaparampil Jose (Sr.) | 34. Fr. Vellaramkunnel Sebastian |
| 17. Fr. Puthiaparampil Johny(USA) | 35. Fr. Vettukattil Joseph |
| 18. Fr. Puthiaparampil Jose (jr.)
(France) | 36. Fr. Vettuvelil Abraham |
| | 37. Fr. Y. Mathias (Germany) |

Seminar on Trends of Modern Education

Fransalian education forum – Regional (FEF-Regional) is organizing a seminar for all the confreres engaged in the apostolate of education on Emerging trends of Modern Education to be animated by Fr. Maggi Murzello, of St. Adnrews college, Mumbai from 3rd of May Evening (arrival) till 7th evening(dep.). It will be at Nirmala Institute of Education (B.Ed college campus Althinho, Panjim ,Goa). For further information please contact Rev. Fr. George Parampukattil secretary for education. Contact No: 09968654688. All engaged in the educational ministry are expected to take part in the seminar.

Visitation to the Chad-Cameroon Mission

Immediately after the Provincial Congress I made a visit to the Chad-Cameroon Mission, to be with our young and dynamic confreres who were very much affected and grieved by the death of Fr. George Puthiyidom. I reached the Mission on the 16th of October 2009 with a Swiss Air Flight. The journey was long. The first days I could remain with our confreres who were most affected by the tragic death. Then I moved on to the visitation of all our centers. In La Feuillette I conferred the ministry of the lector to two of our Cameroonian confreres Parfait and Christophe. The confreres there are engaged in various apostolates in various missions. I give below their place of work. Some of the appointments were just recently done. A report on various centres is given at the end of this circular.

Bero Community at St. Josephine Bakhita Parish

Fr.Joshy Mangalath - Superior, Parish Priest and Bursar
Fr. Paulraj - Director – St. Francis de Sales School, Director - De Sales Boy's Town, Assistant Parish Priest

New Community in Doba at Daniel Comboni Parish

Fr.Scaria Kannezhathu - Superior and Parish Priest
Fr.Boban Elanjimattathil - Local Bursar and Asst. Parish Priest
Dn.Giridhari Lakra - Due to be ordained on 30th Jan. 2010: To be appointed as Asst. Parish Priest and Director of the School.

Mabanga Jalingo Postulant House Community

Fr.Thomas Payattukandathil - Rector and Superior, Parish Priest of Berem
Fr.Sathish Vellaramkunnel - Vocation promoter, Local Bursar and Parish Priest of Mbe Karna

Bini Dang Community at St. Thomas More Parish

Fr.Arokianathan - Superior and Parish Priest of Bini Dang,
- Chaplain of University Students
Fr.Periyamayagam - Mission Procurator, Asst. Parish priest, Local Bursar

La Feuillette Scholasticate Community, Ngoya

Fr.Arackal Manoj - Rector and Bursar
Fr.Xess Bipin Kishore - Newly appointed

Ekoumdoum Community at St. Josephine Bakhita Parish

Fr.Joshy Nellimalamattam - Mission Superior, Local Superior and Parish Priest
Fr.Gijo Panamattathil - Local Bursar, Asst. Parish Priest

Fr. Xess Bipin is temporarily appointed to the community at La Feuillette to continue the study of the French Language and to be helpful in the community.

Meeting of the General Curia and the Indian Provincials

The General Curia had a very important meeting with the Provincials of India in the Provincialate of North East Province in Guwahai from 11th to the 14th November 2009. Many important issues were discussed. The Superior General will communicate to us the decisions taken after their General Council Meeting.

Meeting of the Superior General and Assistant General with the South West Provincial Curia

One of the decisions taken by the General Curia based on the suggestion made by the Provincials was to have formation programs for the Provincial Curia of each province. Accordingly Fr. Agnelo and Fr. Cherukat have been going to all the provinces

to conduct this program. Our Provincial Curia met with them on 30th November and 1st December 2009. The enlightening program gave directions and orientations for the Provincial Administration to fulfill their function according to the constitution and with greater effectiveness.

Blessing of the New Provincial House of South East Province.

Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Devotta Bishop of Thrichirappalli blessed the New Provincial House and it was inaugurated by our Superior General in the presence of Fr. Cherukat the Assistant General and other dignitaries on 5th December 2009 at Trichy.

Ordination

Deacon Giridhari Lakra, is to be Ordained on 30 January 2010 at St. Joseph's Church, Sikajore by Rt. Rev John Barwa, Bishop of Rourkela

New Publications

1. Pray Always...

The revised and enlarged version of the Fransalians at Prayer was released on 25 November 2009 at Vinayalaya, Bangalore by Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam with the new name "Pray Always..." The present edition contains various prayers extremely beneficial for each person, for communities and families. The editors hope that the present work will be handy not only for the MSFS but also for all those who have a longing and thirst for God. I thank all the persons who have contributed to this work especially the editors **Frs. Tom Kanat , Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil, and Antony Mookenthottam. Special congrats to fr. Tom Kanat for the wonderful layout and good format of the book**

2. New Mass Diary and Ordo

The new mass diary and Ordo 2010 are published and will be made available to you at the earliest. The Mass Diary is valid for five years and has to be preserved till 2015. You can make your entry of the received an exonerated mass on the same page. The mass diary is to be shown to the Provincial during the time of his visitation. I thank Fr. Tom Kanat for the new look and innovative way he has done both the books. Thank you, Tom.

3. Fransalian Inter-secretariat Newsletter

The first issue of the Inter-Secretariat Newsletter of our Congregation is out and will be send to those who have not yet received it. This newsletter is to be published once a year to enable the confreres to value and cherish the work that they are conjointly engaged in with the General Secretariats. We congratulate the General Curia for this innovation.

Appointments

- 1. Fr. Ummikuzhiyil Cyriac** is appointed as the Superior of the MSFS Community in Kuknoor. He is also appointed as the principal of SFS School and Director of PSI Seva Bhavan Kuknoor from 1st of November 2009.
- 2. Fr. Shalbin Marottikudy** is appointed as the Parish Priest of St. Ignatius Church, Kannadiparamba, Kannur. Mob. No: +91 9497230292.
- 3. Fr. Thomas Puthusserry** is appointed as the superior to the community at Calicut.

4. **Fr. Jeevan Prasad Dandavate** is appointed as Executive Director of PSI with effect from 01 January 2010.

Change of Address

Joy Vazhappillil
Warendorferstr-10a
48231 Warendorf
Germany
Tel.0049.2581.7846116

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

In the year of priests twenty four of our confreres went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from 19th October to 29th October 2009. The tour as has been informed already was sponsored by Fr. James Manjackal with the returns of his preaching ministry. It was a wonderful experience for our priests and I thank Fr. Majackal for this generous gesture.

Visit of Benefactors to the Province

Deacon Tony Schmid along with his wife Emmi, Rudi and Lore Brunnbauer and Ilse Artmann from St. Martin Parish, Austria visited our mission from the 23rd of November 2009 to 3rd December 2009. They were very much enthused by the work that the MSFS is engaged in and promised to continue their support for our missionary activities.

Request for Prayers

Fr. Manjackal is preparing for the Michro Surgery "ablation" on 21 December 2009 in Narayana Hrudayalaya in Bangalore

Mrs. Annamma Puthumana the Elder Sister of Antony Mookenthottam is Sick and is hospitalized.

Mrs. Shanti Monica Tigga, the mother of Deacon Praful Tigga who is admitted to the ICU for Brain Tumor. She probably needs an operation and Praful is due to be ordained on the 3rd of January 2010.

Let us Pray for the departed

Fr. Anthonioz Fernand msfs, of Franco Swiss Province expired on 17th October 2009. He was born on the 12th of October 1923 in 'Haute Savoie', France, made his first profession on 18th November 1943 and was ordained priest on 18th July 1948. He had 66 years of professed life and 61 years of priesthood. He was buried on 19 October 2009, at the Visitation Basilica in Annecy.

Mr. Varkey, 91 years, Father of Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal died on 29.11.09.

Sr. Elsius FCC 72 years, younger sister of Fr. Kurian Aranjanijil died on 20 November 2009.

A brief report about the Centers and activities of our Chad-Cameroon Mission

La Feuilleté, The Scholasticate in Ngoya, Yaounde

In the year 2000 the provincial administration decided to establish an MSFS Foundation in Yaounde in Cameroon and Fr. Thomas Cherukat, the former Provincial and present Assistant General of the MSFS Congregation, was entrusted with the task of pioneering the new Foundation. After a few months of preparation and study he

established an MSFS community at Yaounde on 29 June 2001 and the house was named Maison Pierre Mermier. It was in a rented house. We acquired about 4 hectares of land at Ngoya in the diocese of Obala for the construction of a formation house. In 2007, we moved into our own house in Ngoya, near to Yaounde. Our scholastics from India and Cameroon reside here and go to St. Cyprian's Institute of Theology in Ngoya. But this house continues to be the mission house and serves as a transit house for confreres coming from India.

St. Josephine Bakhita Parish Ekkoundoum

Our mission in Africa is making steady growth with new implantations and expansions and stabilization of the centres already taken up. We have taken up the parish in Ekkoundoum, in the archdiocese of Yaounde, on 30 October 2005. The new community is canonically established on 24 October 2005, on the anniversary of the Foundation of the Congregation. This is a parish about 15 kms from the city centre, Yaoundé. This is an important location for the congregation from different perspectives. This is very close to the international airport and would prove to be a transit house for us and for our collaborators.

We have good possibilities of initiating our own ministries according to our charism ensuring the permanent presence of the congregation in Yaoundé city. We are still negotiating for a land for the Congregation to start a school and we hope to have it very soon. We are in the process of registering a piece of land comprising an area of 2000 sq. mtrs. 1000 of which is donated to us. We intend to start a Kindergarten in the near future in this land. The Parishioners are very actively involved in the pastoral and very soon the Parish will be self-supportive and will be able to maintain its priests.

We have a group of "Friends of Fransalians" in this parish who actively support the education of our seminarians. Every month there is a meeting in which a theme from the Introduction to Devout Life is explained and discussed. We have brought out a series of new Catechism books which are used to systematically impart faith education for the children.

Reported by Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam MSFS

St. Francis de Sales Parish at Ekekam, Obala, Cameroon

The Bishop of Obala created a parish at Ekekam, named it St. Francis de Sales Parish and entrusted the same to the Fransalians in the year 2006. Fr. Martin Richard MSFS was appointed as the first parish priest in the year 2006. Ekekam is a village parish in the diocese of Obala situated about 35 kms away from Yaoundé, the capital city of Cameroon. This parish has got two sectors, Ekekam and Nkong messa and nine villages. The total population of Ekekam is Thousand two hundred and forty two, of which Thousand one hundred and twenty four are Catholics. The roads are bad. In the rainy season, they are very bad. The people have to walk the whole stretch of about 15 kms to reach the main road leading to Yaoundé city.

Religiously most of the people are Catholics by name. Faith has not gone deep into their culture. Polygamy continues to be a common practice in this region. Poverty, illiteracy and ignorance force the people to have recourse to all sorts of superstitious beliefs and they easily fall victims to all forms of witchcraft and sorcery practised by the unscrupulous and fake healers. The parish is a place of reunion and community worship for all the Christians who are around the nine villages. This parish serves as a meeting place for the formation of Christian communities in sound faith.

Socially most of the people are cultivators/farmers. Most of the youths, almost 50% leave the village and go to Yaoundé for their studies and to find some job. There is no Electricity. There are two bore wells in Ekekam. There is no church school but there

are two government primary schools, one in Ekekam and another in Nkong - Messa. There is a public health care centre in Ekekam III. AIDS is a real menace to these villagers, as the population tends to indulge in sexual promiscuity often due to ignorance and lack of guidance. The unemployed youth attracted by the consumerist culture of the city life, seek employment in Yaoundé and other townships. The permissive atmosphere of the city life, they are easily trapped into contracting the killer diseases (STD/ HIV) and on their return to the villages, they easily transmit the disease to their spouses and soon it is spread into the interior villages.

In the year 2008 Fr. Manoj Xavier Arackal MSFS was appointed as the parish priest. In the parish, there is no daily mass because there is no presbytery and priest is staying some 40km away in the formation house. Every Sunday and most of the Saturdays, masses are offered in the parish. Every Sunday, there are three masses. The Scholastics are involved in teaching catechism to the children.

Reported by Fr. Manoj Xavier Arackal MSFS

The Postulancy house at N'Gaoundere

In 2008, an MSFS formation house for the postulants came into existence in Chad Cameroon Mission. The formation community is lodged in a diocesan house for the time being. The Lamidot (Muslim king) of Ngaoundere had doanted us 10 hectares of land, not far from the Ngaoundere City. In 2008 we could get all the titles for this land. We plan to construct the postulant's house on this land. We have presently one postulant. With the vocation drive that is planned for the Year 2010 we are confident of getting more vocations. The construction of a school and a dispensary on the same land is also being planned. .

The Chaplaincy at Bini Dang, N'gaoundere

It is in Ngaoundere in North Cameroon that we have our third MSFS mission and community. It is a small town but strategically located between Yaounde and Bero. We had taken up the mission in Bini-Dang in the diocese of Ngaoundere for a period of fifteen years on a contract with the bishop of Ngaoundere. This is an area in Cameroon to make a definite implantation of the congregation with our specific ministries. We need the required land and other infra-structures to be built up. Bini Dang, the main parish where we have the community is a parish mainly meant to cater to the University students. We are entrusted with the chaplaincy to about 5000 University students.

Parish of St. Charles Lwanga - Berem, N'Gaoundéré, Cameroon.

The parish St. Charles Lwanga, Berem is situated about 80 k.m. away from the town of N'Gaoundéré. This parish exists from the year 1943. Though Berem has got about a population of 2000, only a very few are Christians. This parish has got about 300 people. Among them around 170 are adults and around 130 are children. Every Sunday around 120 adults and 100 children participate in the Holy Mass. The majority of the population here is Muslims. All the members of this parish church are converts from Islam and some of the parents and brothers of the faithful are Muslims who live in the same house. Therefore they have their difficulties to practise their faith freely and openly.

This parish has got a primary school with about 160 children and three teachers. Though there are many children in the village all are not able to attend the class due to lack of finances to buy books and pay the school fees. Since there are no drinking water facilities, the children get sick very often. The people walk 2 to 3 km far to draw drinking water from the public bore-well. Due to scarcity, pumping water from this well is restricted to certain hours of the day. Every year many of them especially many children die here due to lack of proper treatments and medicines.

This parish has got two sub-stations:

1. Gop-Reym is 10km away from the main parish church. The faithful are the refugees from Chad. Around 40 people participate in the Sunday liturgy. Here too there is a primary school with about 150 children and three teachers. There is no drinking water facility for the children. There are many children who remain at home due to lack of money for their basic education.

2. Mbang-Boum is the second substation of the parish of St. Charles Lwanga. It is situated around 12km interior of the parish. In this centre around 60 people including the children participate regularly the Sunday liturgy. Here too, many of them are refugees from Chad and those who came from the boundary of Cameroon and Chad in search of job. Here there is neither school nor health care centre. And during the rainy season it is impossible to reach this substation due to lack of proper road.

The parish priest is trying his level best to impart the faith to the people. He concentrates more on the children to give them a strong faith formation. His effort is to help the people to persevere in their faith and he organises faith formation camp, youth camp, women's developmental programmes and regular formation for the catechists. With the given facilities the parish priest also commits himself to organise pilgrimage, developmental and educational film shows which help the people in their over all growth.

Reported by Fr. Thomas Payattukandathil, MSFS

Parish of St. Andrew Mbe-Karna, Ngaoundere, Cameroon

The parish of Mbe-Karna is situated in the north of Cameroun in the Diocese of Ngaoundere. The parish was established in 1950's by the OMI Priests. The parish was given to Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales along with the parish of Berem as we began our service in the University of Ngaoundere. The first priest who served in the parish was Fr. Jaison Pezathinal and then Fr. Johny Cheruvil succeeded by Fr Sathish Vellaramkunnel.

The parish is situated almost 70 kms from Ngaoundere and the territory of the parish is very vast stretching almost 40 kms radius around Mbe-Karna which has 9 established centers. The people of Karna are traditional settlers unlike all other centers which has floating population especially number of nomadic groups and refugees from Chad. They mostly come down in search of food and green Pastures for their cattles especially from the extreme north of Chad which is the border of Sahara desert. Mbe-Karna is too the part of Sub-Saharan ranges which has dry climate almost throughout the year.

The ministry that we are engaged is mostly pastoral, celebration of the sacraments, teaching catechism social awareness classes etc. we are also engaged in providing financial and material help for the education of the poor children in the villages. The main centre of Karna has almost 70 families and Mbe around 80 families the rest of the stations vary from 20 to 35 families. The vast majority of the people are agriculturists. The cultivation is mostly depended on the rain.

The main problem the people are facing is lack of drinking water facilities and the consequent health hazard. A vast majority of the population is affected by HIV and malaria is also taking away a number of lives every year. The diocese is running a primary school in the premises of the parish. And dispensary is being run by the sisters who are collaborating in the pastoral work in the parish.

Reported by Fr. Sathish Vellaramkunnel MSFS

St. Daniel Comboni Parish, Doba, Chad - New MSFS Community

Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales amidst struggles and difficulties have been serving in the diocese of Doba, Chad for the last ten years. Ten years is not a long period for a

Congregation like ours but for the diocese of Doba, which is still a fledgling in the missionary endeavor, it really is. Our ten years of service in this diocese stands out remarkably because we succeeded in giving a new hope to Bero parish and all the villages that belong to her. A few years of service made the bishop of Doba confident to entrust to the MSFS a second parish. Though it was a long felt need to begin a second community, we took a few years to give a positive answer to the bishop due to the lack of personnel. It was the decennial celebration of the presence of MSFS in Chad which made us confident to accept a second parish in October 2009.

This parish has a history of 12 years as a parish and 37 years as a sector. The city of Doba is shared by two parishes namely Cathedral Parish and the Daniel Comboni. Doba is a fast developing city. This parish was, from its very inception entrusted to the Combonian Fathers. It is almost an established parish with all the necessary infrastructures. There are 5246 Christians and 1724 catechumens in the parish. Parish has nine CEBs (Basic Christian Communities) in the city. Each CEB has as many as 300 members. Parish also has 4 sectors comprising of 29 villages. The farthest village is 37km from the church.

There are 134 catechists who prepare the candidates for baptism, confirmation and marriage. Normally there are no child baptisms. On Sundays there are two masses. On week days mass is at 5.30 which is attended by about 100 people. Due to the lack of personnel every sector gets only a mass a month and every village a mass or two a year. Every year in this parish there are more than 200 baptisms. The Parish has a nursery school with 60 students and a primary school with 300 students. The administration and the management of the school will be entrusted to the MSFS if the province appoints a fulltime director. The bishop and the parents wish that MSFS take charge of the school.

Even with a full-fledged community with three members we can not fully respond to the pastoral needs of the area. The Parish is so vast and pastoral activities are enormous. This parish has got the potentiality to become self-reliant in the course of time.

Reported by Fr. Scaria Kannezhathu MSFS

SFS Primary School Bero – An Ever Radiating Source Of Light

To respond to the needs of the local people Mgr. Michel Russo, Bishop of Doba erected a new parish namely St. Josephine Bakhita in Bero and entrusted it to the care of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in 2003. Bero is situated in the petrol zone and it's a developing area, but has no catholic school which has around 48 big villages. As it is our charism to educate the young and after a detailed study about the moral and social situation of the children we found that a school is an urgent need here. A small community school was started in accordance with the rules of the diocese and with the permission of the local authorities in 2005-2006. A small thatched shed was constructed and a class of "Pré-cp" (LKG), with 30 children was started. The school went through a steady growth as the parents were very cooperative. Today, it is one of the best educational institutions in the locality and avidly sought after.

On 1st January 2009 with the generous help of OBOS (an NGO from South Korea) we constructed a beautiful primary school with six class rooms, a staff room, an office of the director, and a store room. Today, it has reached up to the classes of CE2 (4th STD), with a strength of 185 children. The MSFS fathers, with their presence and the untiring and zealous activities, have created a deep impact on the life of the people of Bero parish and the neighboring villages in the diocese. It's through education that the life of these local people can be changed and transformed, enriched and enlightened. Thus our school entitled as "Ecole Saint Francois De Sales" in Béro will remain forever a radiating source of light to the people.

Reported by Fr. Paul Raj, MSFS

Towards A Bright Future “De Sales” Boy’s Town

“I am totally dedicated to mission work, to the hallowed and noble purpose of our Savior who, as the first missionary, is the leader in every mission,” says Fr. Peter Mary Mermier. Following up the vision of our founder and being faithful to the missionary traditions of our Congregation, we ventured into starting a *Boy’s Town* in our parish in the year 2008 in Béro. It is now on its way to become a good centre, which has 20 boys from the age of 9-14 years. They hail from different far away villages belonging to our parish. The house was inaugurated and blessed on 10th November 2008, by **Mgr. Michel Rouso**, the Bishop of Doba and recognized it as “*Foyer d’ Etudiants St. François de Sales*” (“*De Sales*” *Boy’s Town*), with 14 students. For this great event the chief of the canton of Béro (chef de canton Béro), and all the leaders of the villages of Béro were invited. In his speech the Bishop appreciated MSFS fathers for their untiring missionary and pastoral commitment, and thanked them especially for this new initiative undertaken for the first time in his diocese. He mentioned that each person working in this diocese is looking forward to the successful functioning of this new project and henceforth to be imitated in other parishes of the diocese.

The ultimate aim of this project is to give an opportunity to the children of our parish who are poor and marginalized a good education. It is also to promote authentic local vocation for God’s mission. “**Boys Town**” in the town of Bero, is also *to form good and responsible lay leaders, to help children develop their talents and potentialities, to teach them human values and to capacitate them to be responsible citizens of the country*. It aims at educating and enlightening them to work for a better world, in terms of justice, equality, freedom, and genuine brotherhood in their respective village, the good news that Jesus brought.

And it is the road to a bright future of the nation. Thus our pastoral endeavors ensure our steady progress in the mission countries and this project is the hallmark of our ten year presence in the Chad Mission.

Reported by: Fr. T. Paul Raj, MSFS

Your Brother in Christ

Mathew Kozhuppakalam

Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam MSFS
Provincial, MSFS South West Province

One Minute with St. Francis de Sales

Do you see this infant Jesus in the crib? He suffers from all inclemencies of the weather, from cold and everything else His Father allows to happen to him. He does not refuse the little comforts His Mother lavishes upon Him. It is not written anywhere that He ever stretched out His hands to reach out to His mother’s breasts, but left all that to her care and solicitude. And so, we have also to desire nothing and refuse nothing, and accept all that God sends us; cold and the harshness of the weather.

Inspiration from our Founder

In his memoir he writes: “The constant and sincere wish of the Missionaries has always been to be united together ... It is not enough to bring together a few zealous priests ... People see the Missionaries as extraordinary men called to fight against the greatest disorders and remedy the greatest evils. Thus, we need well-prepared and well-tested men.”