



Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales

SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE

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Circular MK/3

07 November 2006

My dear Confreres,

Greetings of Peace and Love to all of you. I have been away for the Provincial Chapter of Visakhapatnam immediately after our Congress and so I am late to come to you with this circular.

Provincial Congress 2006

The Provincial Congress from 9-13 October 2006 was an experience of being together and an experience of warmth and brotherhood. 104 Confreres were present for the occasion. Fr. A. Gabriel, the General Councilor in charge of Asia and Oceania, Thomas Perumalil Provincial of Visakhapatnam, Fr. Mario D'Souza, Provincial of Pune, Fr. A. Lawrence, Regional Superior of Tamilnadu – Pondicherry Region and Fr. Noel Rebello, the resource person for the keynote address were present for the Congress.

It was a time of grace and blessings from the Lord. We had gathered together to pray, to reflect and deepen our commitment to the Lord's Mission. We appreciated the past and looked into the future, to see what God is asking of us to be and to do. We deliberated on how to make our various apostolates more effective and fruitful. We have set trends for our future development. We deliberated on our presence in the Local Churches of Kerala and Karnataka and decided to commit ourselves to effective missionary work in the areas entrusted to us. We planned to express our concern for the Poor, Dalits and other marginalized and empower them through education in our own schools, by opening more homes for children and by creating a scholarship fund. We deliberated on our Apostolates overseas and recommitted ourselves to our Apostolates in Philippines and Chad-Cameroon.

Fr. Mario D'Souza, the Provincial of Pune preached a very inspiring recollection on the theme "the challenge to be prophet in the modern era". He emphasized that religious life is to be a sign of divine transcendence and every religious needs to believe that another world is possible. We need to be prophets, who are the conscience of the Church and of the world. We are called to be a leaven and not a labor force in our society.

In his keynote Address Fr. Noel Rebello said that religious life is affected by mediocrity and inordinate consumer mentality. Every Religious is challenged to confront the culture through radical commitment to gospel values. Fransalian life-style should be marked by solidarity, conviviality and friendship with Jesus. A strong message was given at the end of the talk that Jesus is to be lived in the daily life of a Fransalian.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Fr. Henry Jose and the community at Vinayalaya for the meticulous arrangements they made to host the Provincial Congress. I also thank Fr. Jose Kumblolickal and Community of Indian Institute of Spirituality for the facilities provided there and for the transportation. I am also grateful to the Rector of Claretian seminary for showing the willingness to accommodate few of our confreres in their seminary. I like to thank Fr. Mario and Fr. Noel for having readily accepted to preach the recollection and to give the key note address respectively. A great word of thanks is due to the Steering Committee viz. Frs. Jacob Parapally, Johnny Kanjirampambal, Henry Jose, Benny Marangolil and Roy Plathottathil who made the Congress a real success by their planning and supervision. I would like to thank also all who made presentations on various topics and concerns, the statement and action committee and all who in one way or other contributed to the success of the Congress. In fact everyone needs to be thanked personally for their whole hearted and **quality presence** during the sessions of the Congress.

New Provincial Administration

I would like to congratulate in the name of the Province the newly elected councilors and Bursar. The allocation of their responsibilities is as follows

1. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, Provincial Councilor and Admonitor - Secretariat for Mission and Pastoral Work
2. Fr. Henry Jose, Provincial Councilor - Secretariat for Formation
3. Fr. E. Erudaya Raj, Provincial Councilor - Secretariat for Education
4. Fr. Benny Kootanal, Provincial Councilor – Secretariat for Social Apostolate
5. Fr. Benny Marangolil, Provincial Bursar – Secretariat for Finance

I thank the new team for having accepted to shoulder the great responsibility of administering the Province along with the Provincial for the coming three years. The first Council Meeting was held already on the 13th October 2006 in Vinayalaya. The next meeting is due to take place from the 17th to 20th October. We want to spend time together in prayer and reflection, understand the dynamics of teamwork, discern the will of God for the Provincial Administration and deliberate on issues discussed in the Provincial Congress and formulated into Statement and Action Plan.

Provincial Bursar

Fr. Mathew Mamala continued to administer the financial affairs till today and Fr. Benny Marangolil will assume charges on the 9th November 2006. I thank Fr. Mathew Mamala for having readily accepted to render this service to the Province.

Vision Statement and Action Plan

Called to be Missionaries, we, the Fransalians of South west India province, assembled at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, from 9-13 October 2006, for the Sixth Ordinary Provincial Congress, having prayed, reflected and deliberated together, resolve to grow together in spirit-passionately committed to Christ's Mission.

Vision Statement

1. As a religious congregation, we are deeply aware of our prophetic mission to be the conscience of the Church and the society today.

2. We become aware of the need to pattern our communities after the Trinitarian Model of self-emptying love.
3. As missionaries, we take Jesus as our model, who was sent by the Father with a clear mission and message.
4. Walking in the footsteps of St. Francis de Sales, our Patron, and following the mission dream of our Founder, Fr. Peter Mermier, we re-commit ourselves to overseas mission and pioneering apostolate.
5. Affirming the call for a communitarian apostolate, we renounce individualism and self-promotion in life and ministry.
6. Passion for Jesus' mission implies a martyrdom of total self-gift to the other.
7. Without compromising the values of our consecrated life, we uphold the need for a professional approach in our apostolate.
8. Being genuine to the original spirit of our Founder, Fr. Peter Mermier, we resolve to re-commit ourselves to the renewal of parish missions.
9. Reading the signs of the times, we emphasize social justice along with charitable and developmental works.
10. Our educational institutions are to be centres of God-experience, inter-religious harmony marked by a concern for the poor and the marginalized.
11. The drop-out in the number of candidates in our formation houses challenges us to re-examine our formation policy.
12. In a spirit of accountability for our life and mission, we affirm our commitment to plan and manage the resources available in a responsible way for the effective fulfilling of our apostolate.

Action Plan

1. In our effort to strengthen the local Christian Communities, we decide to stabilize our existing missions by building Churches according to the contract with the respective Local Ordinaries.
2. In the next three years we give priority in our educational institutions to train our staff and students to address together issues like injustice and gender inequality. At the time of admission and recruitment we will give preference to catholic students and staff respectively.
3. We should take care to avoid scandal and extravaganza in the celebration of jubilees and other such events.
4. Every year a certain number of confreres should be exposed to professional training in various ministries- especially pastoral, such as youth-apostolate, training in Basic Christian communities and Counselling.
5. Formation of a team of preachers (renewal mission) for MSFS parishes in Karnataka, within a year.
6. Training our confreres in youth animation with a focus on spiritual growth and formation and their appointment for a minimum of three years in our mission region.
7. Establishing a pastoral centre in Karnataka in the near future.
8. Tap the resources of Trans-National and Multi-National Corporations for our social apostolate. Create a central corpus-fund, locally administered, for the purpose of the higher education of the marginalized.
9. The administration has to encourage the confreres and scholastics to form part of social movements like Justice and Peace Forum for the upliftment of the poor and the exploited.

10. Assess and prepare pioneers to take new missions abroad. The Provincial Administration would study the feasibility of raising Philippines and Chad- Cameroon to a Delegation.
11. Starting of orientation program for candidates in Karnataka by June 2007 and the re-organization of vocation promotion.
12. Shifting the Provincial House from Mysore to Vinayalaya, Bangalore, to be effected within three years.
13. Appointing a committee to study the ecclesial reality concerning our apostolate in the Syro-Malabar Church and our response to it.
14. Constituting a commission to propose the future possibilities of some ministry in Aluva when it ceases to be a study house.
15. A circular on Annual Financial situation at the end of each financial year.

Provincial Chapter – Visakhapatnam Province

I had the privilege of attending the Provincial Chapter which was held at Mary Matha Ashram, Ross Hill, Visakhapatnam. It was a good experience for me as I had also the opportunity to visit the Mission that I as a young boy joined and visit also some of our veteran missionaries like: Fr. Zacharias Mannukuzhumpil, Fr. Thomas Manalil, Fr. Alexander Kottam, Fr. Jacob Pathupallil and Bro. Michael Olickal.

The Provincial Chapter of Visakhapatnam took place from 20 – 24 October 2006. The theme of the chapter was: “Being renewed in our Religious Life and rekindled our missionary zeal we follow Jesus Christ the first Missionary”. The following is the New Administration of Visakhapatnam Province:

Fr. Kottam George - Councillor and Admonitor
 Fr. Pentareddy Chinnappa – Councillor
 Fr. Alapatt George– Councillor
 Fr. Kondala Joseph – Councillor
 Fr. A. Lawrence (Ex-officio Councillor)
 Fr. Jose Cheriantharayil (Bursar)

Appointments

1. Fr. Jose Parapillil to the MSFS House at Chemputhara as Program Director with effect from 1 November 2006.
2. Fr. Jacob Parapally as Rector of Tejas Vidya Vihar with effect from 1 November 2006. From the 2 July 2006 Fr. Jacob was serving as the Interim Rector of Tejas.
3. Fr. Binoy Kidangathkarot to the Community at Tejas to be on the staff and as Vice Rector with effect from 1 November 2006.
4. Fr. Tom Kanat to the Community at Indian Institute of Spirituality as Manager of SFS Publications with effect from 1 November 2006.
5. Fr. Saji Vadakkedath to the MSFS Community at Vinobhanagar, Kolar as Superior and Procurator and as Manager of SFS Technical Training Institute Kolar with effect from 1 November 2006
6. Fr. Jaison Pezhathinal to the Community at Tejas Vidya Vihar and Program Coordinator to Fides India Society with effect from 1 November 2006. He will reside in Nest (children’s village) in Kumbalgud with Fr. Shibu Thundathil.

7. Fr. Salvador Fernandes as the Parish Priest of S.F.S Church, savanur, Superior of M.S.F.S house at Savanur and the director of P.S.I Sevanikethan, Savanur with effect from 1 November, 2006.
8. Fr. John Melukunnel as the correspondent of S.F.S School, Savanur.

Meeting with the Archbishop of Bangalore

On 31 October the Archbishop, Most Rev. Bernard Moras, called for a meeting of all MSFS Priests working in the Archdiocese of Bangalore together with the Provincial to discuss about the commitment of MSFS in the Archdiocese. The meeting commenced at 10 a.m. and lasted till 1 p.m. A sumptuous dinner in the Bishop's house marked the culmination of the meeting. The meeting took place in a total atmosphere of cordiality and concern and we experienced the loving concern of the Local Ordinary. The Archbishop thanked the Fathers for their dedicated service and insisted on establishing the presence of the church also in the Taluks of Bagepalli and Gudibande by 2007. He enquired also about the contract if any for Venkatala and New Town Parishes. In Kolar district we cater to the spiritual needs of over 414 families and over 800 nursing students. Vision 2009, which was prepared at a meeting of all the confreres working in Kolar Region with Fr. Provincial on 27th January was presented to the Archbishop.

Vision 2009 for Kolar

- To establish Parish Churches in Malur (2007), Chintamani, Srinivaspur (2008)
- To build a Pastoral Centre in Kolar to animate retreats, parish missions, renewal programs, (in Kannada) and to organize and animate pastoral works of MSFS in Kolar Region (2008-2009)
- To build village chapels in two villages near Kadisenahalli with 5- 10 families (2009) in Mudianur, Mulbagal (2008)
- To extend missionary activities to Bagepalli and Gudibande within an year (2007)
- To establish BCC in all parishes of MSFS including Yelahanka Vekantala, Yelahanka New Town, Hebbagodi and Singasandra (2008)
- To have study assistance and tuition centers in Gokunte, Kadisenahalli, Malur, Kolar and Chintamani for weaker children (2007 onwards)
- To establish a Language center in Kolar (2007 -2008)
- To make further extension of TTI Kolar (Technical Training Institute) by introducing Printing technology (2009) to benefit the rural poor in Kolar sector
- To build a hostel for college-going boys in Vinobha Nagar, Kolar (2008)
- To establish Boys' homes in Mulbagal (2007)) and Malur (2008)
- To Extend the scholarship programs to include all the poor children of our centers
- To create a scholarship fund for higher education of catholic students
- To form Self help groups in surrounding villages of Kolar (2008)
- To establish a Kindergarten in Kadisenahalli (2007)
- To organize integrated village development in Gokunte
- To make Rakshanagiri in Gokunte a spiritual centre

Besides this we intend to build a community house in Srinivaspur and to continue the extension work of our schools in Malur, Srinivaspur, and Chintamani. A new home for the boys of Kadisenahalli is also planned as the present house they stay is very unhygienic and leaking.

Let us pray for the departed

Mr. Irudaya Swammy AA., father of Fr. Erudaya Raj died on 30.09.2006

Fr. Thomas Anchanickal

Fr. Thomas Anchanickal returned to India after a period of service for five years in the diocese of Birmingham in the United States. He was very much appreciated in the parish and did wonderful service there and was very much interested in promoting the projects of the Province. He will be given an appointment after a period of rest by the beginning of December.

First House in the Children's village (NEST)

Fourteen orphan and destitute children (boys and girls) together with Fr. Shibu, Fr. Jaison and Miss Rosamma and two personnel and a social worker cum secretary started living in the first house that is built in the Campus at Kumbalgud, Kengeri (land still to be registered) that is made available for the purpose. It will be formally inaugurated on 10th December 2006.

Miss Rosamma Thomas

Miss Rosamma Thomas, born on 7th May 1946 belongs to the secular Institute known as Ancillae with their Regional House in Shanti Nivas, Malleswaram. Ancillae Secular Institute was founded in 1947 by Madam Maria Radlmair in Germany and the members came to India in 1969 to establish their first house in Moolamattam, Kerala. She was their Regional Directress for over 8 years. Because of her personal contact with Fr. Shibu Thundathil and me she decided to join the project of our children's village after laying down her office as the Regional Directress. She joined the project already in August 2005 and has been ever since living with the children and promoting the cause of the poor and the marginalized. It is a great Blessing from God that she became one of our first Missionary collaborators in this project. I make use of this opportunity to thank her for this wonderful gesture and wish her abundance of God's Blessings.

Please mark the following dates in your calendar

The following deacons are due to be ordained as priests on:

- 1) November 25 2006 Dijo Koikkara
- 2) January 1, 2007 Thomas Mattakarathundiyl
- 3) January 2, 2007 Jais Mecherril
- 4) January 3, 2007 Antony Valiyaparambil
- 5) January 4, 2007 Shino Puthussery
- 6) January 13, 2007 Thomas Thekkekarot
- 7) January 16- 2007 Saji Eanthanamkuzhiyl
- 8) January 17- 2007 L. Selvaraj
- 9) January 18- 2007 J. Pangiraj

Diaconate in Vinayalaya is proposed to be taking place on 16th December. 10 Deacons are to be ordained by Most Rev. Bernard Moras, the Archbishop of Bangalore.

SFS Publications

In 1973 under the initiative of Fr. Anthony Mookenthottam the printing of SFS series was started. The confreres studying or working abroad financially supported this project. The

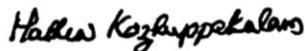
first book of the series “Pulpit and Pew” was published and released by Very Rev. Fr. Adrian Duval, the then Superior General on 15 February 1976. In 1983 it was registered at Visakhapatnam as a society entitled “SFS Publications” by the erstwhile Visakhapatnam Province. It was started to disseminate Salesian Spirituality and to print and make available other spiritual books and leaflets in the spirit of St. Francis de Sales, the Patron of Journalists. SFS Publications have obtained membership of the ISBN, the International Standard Book Number. Ever since it has made giant strides and today is recognized as one of the national Catholic Publications of India. The Indian Journal of Spirituality has given a spiritual and intellectual thrust to the cause of SFS Publications. I am confident that SFS Publication will make great progress with now Fr. Tom Kanat appointed as full time Manager. The Media Centre and the SFS Publications in the Indian Institute of spirituality has the potentiality to become one of the leading Catholic Publishers of India. We wish the staff of the media centre, the Indian Institute of Spirituality and Fr. Tom Kanat all the best and God’s abundant Blessings.

Salesian Perspective: Living Each Moment

Living each moment to the fullest with an eye of loving God must lead you to show compassion for others.

Each moment of each day comes from the hand of a loving God and is graced for your salvation. The only time you have is each present moment. Don’t live in the past; don’t dwell on the future. And the challenge of each moment is discerning the particular, unique way that God may be calling you to love God, yourself and others. God’s will is frequently communicated through the events, circumstances and relationships in which you find yourself.

Yours Sincerely



Fr. Mathew Kozhupakkalam msfs
Provincial