

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



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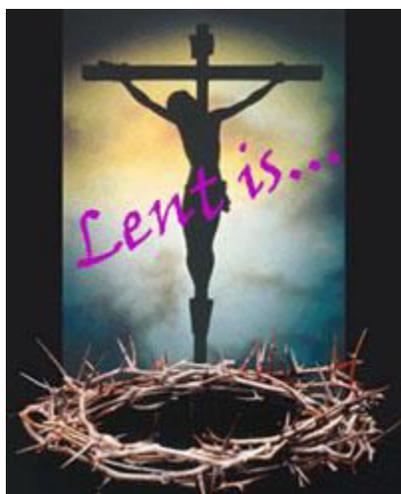
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Circular MK/32

01 March 2011

My Dear Confreres,



Greetings of Peace. We are starting the time of lent from 9th March 2011 with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. According to the *Catholic Encyclopedia*, “the real aim of Lent is ... to prepare people for the celebration of the death and Resurrection of Christ...the better the preparation the more effective the celebration will be. One can effectively relieve the mystery only with purified mind and heart. The purpose of Lent is to provide that purification by weaning men from sin and selfishness through self-denial and prayer, by creating in them the desire to do God’s will and to make His kingdom come by making it come first of all in their hearts.”

But Lent in the **days of the Church Fathers** was not only a time of introspection. Catholics did prayer and penance primarily for the sake of **others rather than themselves: i.e.** for the new Catholics to be baptized at Easter and lapsed Catholics to be readmitted to communion. These folks were praying and fasting during Lent to break the power of darkness in preparation for their crossing over the Jordan into the Promised Land through baptism and penance. We ought to **recover this ancient tradition** and do penance for and with those who will enter or return to the Church at Easter. But there is something else that we should do. There are millions more who should be returning or entering. **We need to tell them about Jesus. That is evangelization.** The second Vatican Council and all Popes since teach that **all** Catholics are called to evangelize in both deed **and** word.

Fr. Thumma Mariadas appointed as Postulator

With his letter dated 24 January 2011 Fr. Superior General has appointed Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas as **the Postulator of the Cause of Servant of God, Fr. Peter Mermier**. This work is a blend of administrative and animating service to the Congregation in rediscovering the sanctity of its Founder, wrote Fr. General in his appointment letter to Fr. Thumma Mariadas. We congratulate him on this appointment and wish him all the best. We have to appoint a

vice-postulator for each of the provinces. Fr. General would like us to look into creative ways of making the Founder known to many people.

Fr. Francis Thadathil – reconfirmed as the Provincial of North East

We are very glad that Fr. Francis Thadathil is appointed as the Provincial of the North East Province for a second term. We congratulate him on this occasion and wish him and the whole of the North East Province all the best. The Province has scheduled to have its Provincial Chapter with the theme **”Fransalians as Mystics and Prophets in Northeast India: Re-discovering the Heart of the Charism for Prophetic Mission”** from March 27th noon- March 31st noon, 2011 in MSFS Provincialate, Satgaon, Narengi. In the name of our South West Province I wish God’s choicest Blessings on all the members of the North East Province.

Provincial Congress of South East India Province

The South East Province is scheduled to have its Provincial Congress from March 14, 2011 (9 am) to 18 2011 till noon with the theme: **“Looking back and moving forward as loyal Fransalians bearing collective witness to Christ”**. In the name of the Province I wish God’s choicest Blessings on all the members of the South East Province.

A Central Syllabus School for our centre at Aluva

The Provincial Administration has decided to start a Central Syllabus School in our land at Aluva. A commission had been set up to study the possibility of starting an educational institution in the Campus. The team consisted of Fr. Jose Parapillil (convenor), Fr. Wilson Kottam, Fr. Binoy Kurakalayil, and Fr. Manu Kumbidiamakkal. They have done a good work and proposed for a central Syllabus School. I would like to thank them for their dedicated attempt to suggest the best for the campus at Aluva. Fr. James Manjackal has agreed to support this important venture in Aluva. Fr. Manjackal’s love for the welfare of the confreres and the Province is known to all of you. He has financed the construction of St. Francis de Sales College, at Hebbagodi, the community House at Mermier Bhavan, the purchase of land at various places, and he provides mass intentions for us and supports the education of our many seminarians.

Fr. Kurian Aranjaniiyl’s dreams

On December 26, 2010 Fr. Kurian Aranjaniiyl left us for his eternal abode. As I have made it known earlier Fr. Kurian had great dreams. He had started the “distant adoption program” many years ago by which he was supporting the education of a number of children in Kolar District. We have decided that the PSI together with the De Sales Skills Development and Technical Training Centre will continue this program. 40 % of the net income of the Skills development centre at Kolar will be set apart to continue the program, to educate poor children and unemployed rural youth.

Another dream of Fr. Kurian was to start a centre for girl children in collaboration with a Congregation of Sisters. We still have to study the viability of this proposal. He wanted to conduct various courses in our facilities in Vinayalaya and some of them will be taken up and

executed. The first of its kind was the Accountancy Course arranged in Vinayalaya with over 55 participants from the 14-16 February 2011.

Our land in Tamaka – Kolar

This land had many problems as the land has been temporarily notified by the Government for industrial purposes as we bought it. We are trying our best to get the land denotified as it has been purchased for an educational purpose. It involves lot of finances and lot of energy. Please pray that things may go well.

Land needed for Syro-Malabar Parish, Hebbagodi and St. Alphonsa Parish, Mysore

We are in dire need for a land to build our Syro-Malabar Parish Church at Hebbagodi. Having two parishes with one Parish Church is not well seen by the authorities nor is it good in the long run, as it can lead to conflicts of interests. The land in and around Hebbagodi are extremely expensive but still we are trying our best to buy some land for the Church. To start also the construction of a Parish Church of St. Alphonsa's Parish, Rajarajeswari Nagar we are in search of land. The land in this area is also very expensive.

TTI Kolar: New Courses

Efforts are on way to introduce more job oriented courses in De Sales Skills Development and Technical Training Centre. Most probably we will get the approval for an electrical course from NCVT (National Council for Vocational Training) by June 2011. We also want to be part of the great effort of the Central Government to skill India and may join with other religious congregations to do it.

Community House at Batherry

The Provincial Administration has decided to construct a community House at Sulthan Batherry. The house will be in gratitude to Fr. S.L. Paul whom many of the senior confreres know and who from his savings has put a substantial sum at the disposal of the Kerala Mission. He is now in La Crosse in a senior citizen's home.

Kannada Course in Malur

I am very grateful to Fr. Jeevan Prasad for having agreed to organize an intensive Kannada Course in Malur for our junior fathers. Frs. Timson Parakottil, George Mariaraj, Subin Puzhakara and Martin Elayidathumadathil will attend the course. The course is designed in such a way that the participants are expected to acquire a reasonable command of the language and knowledge of the history, geography, socio-political climate, economic conditions and customs and traditions of Karnataka so as to ensure a meaningful rapport and acceptability with the people. The students from Suvidya also will undergo a Kannada language course in the month of March 2011 in Malur.

Postulant's House at N' gaoundere, Cameroon

It was a long felt need to have a postulants' house at a land that has been donated to us by the L'amidou of Ngaoundere. He has donated to us over 25 acres of land very close to the city of N'gaoundere. We have been hesitating to build our house there as there was a fear of shortage of water in this hilly area and as sufficient funds were not available for the completion of the project. Now Fr. Mathew Kavithazhe is appointed to the community at Ngaoundrer to make this long felt dream possible.

A Sister's Congregation for Missionary Collaboration in Koppal

The Province is looking for the assistance of Sisters in our Centre in Koppal where we have a Parish and two Schools. The sisters can be collaborators in our educational and pastoral apostolate and have the possibility of engaging themselves in Social Apostolate.

Missionary collaboration with other Congregations: Focus of CRI Meeting

The CRI meeting of Priests section held on 3-5 February 2011 in Bangalore stressed the need for the Religious congregations to collaborate in their missionary ventures. Some of the areas of such possible collaboration have been highlighted as that is the only way for us to be effectively engaging ourselves in Evangelisation.

New Kindergarten in Hebbagodi

There was a request from the Mermier Bhavan Community to start a new Kindergarten section for the state syllabus school in a separate building, as we intend to start a new division for the school. Fr. Provincial along with his council has granted the permission to go ahead with the proposal. The construction of the same has already started.

80th Birthday of Fr. Antony Mookenthottam: Celebration on 6th March in Vinayalaya

Fr. Antony Mookenthottam will celebrate his 80th Birthday on 28th February 2011. To commemorate the occasion Fr. Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil and Fr. Jose Maniparambil along with the Fransalian Theological Team is brining out a festschrift in honour of Fr. Antony and to acknowledge the literary contributions he has made in the field of Theology and Spirituality. The Festschrift will be released in a small function to be arranged in Vinayalaya on 6th March 2011.

Transfers and Appointments

- a) Fr. Devasia Koottarapallil is appointed by the Archbishop of Trichur as Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Parish at Chuvannamannu. He is also appointed as Chaplain to the FCC Convents at Chuvannamannu and Poovanchira by the Archbishop with effect from February 9, 2011. He will reside in our community at MSFS House Pattikad.

- b) Fr. Tomichan Pulinthanam is relieved from his responsibilities as Acting Vicar and Chaplain of Manjakunnu Parish with effect from February 9, 2011. The Archbishop has thanked the MSFS for the devoted service for the People of God at Manjakunnu for the last few years. Frs. Jose Kokkandam and Mathew Kavithazhe have served as Parish Priest in this Parish.
- c) Fr. Jose Puthukary is appointed to be on staff in SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor. He is also appointed as the Vocation Promoter in Kerala.
- d) Fr. Lalu Thadathilankal is appointed by Bishop Sebastian Adayantharath to be the Assistant in St. Joseph's Church, Chunangamvely in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly with effect from February 19, 2011. He is attached to the SFS Vidyashram Community at Aluva.
- e) AneeshMundiyanickal is appointed by Archbishop Andrews Thazhath as Assistant to the Parish Church at Kandassankadavu in the Archdiocese of Trichur. He is attached to our community in MSFS House, Pattilkad.
- f) Fr. Subin Puzhakkara is designated for an intensive Course in Kannada Language and Culture in PSI Centre Malur. He will reside in our PSI Community.
- g) Fr. Martin Elayidathumadathil is designated for an intensive Course in Kannada Language and Culture in PSI Centre Malur. He will reside in our PSI Community.
- h) Fr. Sandeep Tirkey is designated to be appointed by Bishop Michael Russo, the Bishop of Doba, as the Assistant Parish Priest at St. Josephine Bakhita Pasrish at Bero, in the diocese of Doba in Chad. He is also appointed Warden to the Boys'Town, Bero.
- i) Fr. Mathew Kavithazhe is appointed to our Postulant Community at N'gaoundere to be in charge of the construction of our Postulant House in Gada Mabanga/Dajlingo and to assist the formation of the Postulants.
- j) Fr. K.V. Joseph is appointed as Chaplain to Velilankanni Shrine in Velankanni, Nagapatanam for a term of one year beginning with the 31st of May to be assisting in the pastoral care of the Malayalees and Telugus who come there for pilgrimage.
- k) Fr. Sudeep Paul is appointed to make a DVD on the Province Life and Activities assisted by Fr. Prince Kurian Cheriyaavil. Each Province is to make a DVD on the life and activities of the Province by November 2011 as has been directed by the General Administration
- l) Fr. Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil has been appointed as Chaplain for three years to the DSFS Lay Community to assist them spiritually in the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales.

On holidays

Frs. Joshy Nellimalamattam, the Mission Superior from Chad-Cameroon Mission, Binod Puthenpurackal and Tomy Mullassery from Germany and Ginu Pathiyakam, the Delegation

Superior from Philippines are in India for their holidays. We wish them a pleasant stay and enjoyable holidays.

Constitution Retreat

Constitution retreat for the second group of participants will be held in Snehajyoti Ashram, Makkiyad from April 11-15, 2011. Constitution retreat is mandatory for all the perpetually professed confreres and if anyone has a valid reason for exemption he may inform the Provincial about it. The Participants are requested to bring the Constitution for the retreat.

New Addresses and Telephone Numbers

Fr. Roy Plathottathil and Vinod Kanat: Assumption BVM Church, 4101 Old Bethlehem Pike, Bethlehem, PA 18015-9097, USA. The office telephone number is 001-610-867-7424. Fr. Roy's Ext. is **24** and Fr. Vinod's Ext. is **25**. (Mobile: Fr. Roy 484-226-6738, Fr. Vinod: 484-274-3915).

Fr. Dorai Swamy: landline 08441 276522

Let us pray for the Departed:

Fr Roger SALLAZ (1914) of Franco-Swiss Province who passed away on 5 February 2011. He was a religious for 76 years and a priest for 68 years. He was a member of the community of Florimont, Geneva. Fr Sallaz has been bursar and a steward in various places: La Corbière (Fribourg), Ville-la-Grand, Notre-Dame de la Gorge, and Florimont, from 1960 to 1992. Before eight years he was a member of an old-age home at Veyrier, Geneva. He was the oldest member of the Congregation. The funeral service was held in the chapel of Florimont on Wednesday, 9 February 2011, at 4 p.m.

Mr. Abraham the father of Fr. Chacko Ottalankal who passed away on 13 February 2011. He was 87 years old.

Mrs. Lincy Manoj, aged 29, Sister-in-law of Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam who died on 31 January 2011.

Glimpses from the Life of the Province

Vinayalaya: From 14 -16 February 2011, a seminar on accounting was organized in Vinayalaya, in memory of Fr. Kurian Aranjanayil who had sent out invitations for the same. This very effective Seminar was conducted by Maclanro Consulting and attended by 55 persons. 16 confreres from our Province also attended this Seminar. All the participants were very much appreciative of the programme.

FIDESIndia Society organised the Baala Sagama 2011 on 12th of Feb 2011. The programme began at 10:00am. Sri Venkadesh, Sub Inspector of public instructions; Sri Ramakrishnaiah, Education Co ordinator; Sri Gopala Krishna, Panchayat President, Sri Sridhar, P.D.O Taluk panchayat and Fr. Jacob Parappally MSFS were Guests of honor. Fr Shibu, the Director welcomed and gave a brief introduction about FIDESIndia Society. About 600 children

from Bangalore South Taluk participated in the programme. Children performed beautiful dances, skits and sung melodious songs. All the children were given prizes and food was provided for all.

NEST, Kengeri: A Group of friends from Ville-la- Grand, France, most of them teachers from our school there, came with Fr Viju Kunnathottel, stayed in the NEST for few days. They were very much impressed by the work and were happy to stay there. They do campaign for NEST Project back in France. They spent a lot of time with children.

S. F. S. P. U. College, Hebbagodi: St. Francis De sales P.U. College conducted its 5th graduation day on 23 January 2011, at 10.30 am in the college premises. Rev. Dr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam presided over the function. Mrs. Mabasavanniappa, D.D.P.U. of Bangalore South was the Chief Guest. Mrs. Venkatesh was the parent representative in the function. In this function 241 students were awarded course completion certificate and mementos. The function was attended by Distinguished Guests, Parents, well wishers and College students

Hebbagodi: The ICSE School at Hebbagodi celebrated its 6th annual day “Blooms 2011” on 19 February 2011. President of the function was Fr. Joshy Thazhathukunnel, Secretary of Education in Karnataka for SFS Group of Institutions. Gayitry Devi, Secretary cum Treasurer of KISA was the chief guest. The much awaited scintillating bouquet of cultural extravaganza began with a captivating performance from tiny tots of Kindergarten. The whole programme was a thematic presentation of indigenous and international art and culture. These zestful performances were overwhelming.

SFS State Syllabus Hebbagodi Elixir -2011, the 29th school anniversary of SFS high school, Hebbagodi was celebrated with great pomp and gaiety on 29th of January 2011. Mr. A Narayana Swamy, Honourable minister for Social welfare, Karnataka state was the chief guest of the function. Rev. Mathew Kozhuppakalam, the Provincial presided over the function. Mr. Derrick M.B Fullinfaw, member of Karnataka legislative assembly, Mr. Basavaraj G.R., the honourable BEO of Anekal taluk, Mr. Christopher Prakash, manager of Samsonite India Ltd. and Mrs. Latha Manjunath, the president of Hebbagodi gram panchayat were special guests of honour. More than 9000 people gathered together at the SFS school campus to witness the cultural bonanza staged on the occasion which thrilled all of them.

Kolar: The year of the youth 2011 was celebrated on 2 February 2011 at Kolar I.T.I. The theme for the youth meet was “Rise and Shine.” Fr. Jabamalai welcomed the gathering. Fr. Cardoza was the resource person. Fr. Joshy Thazhathukunnel was the chief guest. MSFS priests from the Kolar Deanery were present for the gathering.

Savanur: The 9th annual day at SFS Savanur was celebrated on Saturday, 5th February 2011. Rev. Dr. Peter Machado, the Bishop of Belgaum was the President of the function. Mr. Mohanraj IAS (A.C- Savanur), Mr. M.D Ballary, B.E.O of Savanur, Mr. Shekargowda Patil and Rev. Sr. Sabini, Regional Superior of the Daughters of the Church, were the guests of the day. Students were awarded prize and certificates. It was attended by more than four thousand people.

Mundargi: On 25 February 2011 SFS Mundargi celebrated its 10th annual day. Most Rev. Dr. Peter Machado the Bishop of Belgaum was the president of the function. B. Kalyani, the Principal of Navodhaya School Mundargi was the guest of honour. The presence of Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam, the provincial and the confreres were the great sign of, support and encouragement. The Tahasildar and the B.E.O of Mundargi were the other dignitaries. It was a well organized programme appreciated by all.

Kuknoor: On 18 February 2011 SFS Kuknoor celebrated its 6th School day. The function was presided over by Fr. Joshy Thazhathukunnel and Sri Halappa Achar M.L.C. of Raichur. The celebration was attended by a large crowd of parents, relatives and local people who appreciated the great performance of the children.

Koppal: The ICSE School day was celebrated with pomp and gaiety on 12 February 2011. The function was presided over by Fr. Christopher Crasta and Shri Umesh M. Pujar, BEO was the chief guest. People came in large numbers and the children put up a splendid cultural program much to the entertainment of the parents.

Koppal: Christmas Celebration and School Day in Koppal was on 22 December 2010. Rev. Dr. Henry D'Souza the Bishop of Bellary was the chief guest of the function and Fr. Santhoshkumar was the president.

Kannur: The 8th annual day at SFS Kannur was celebrated on 12 February 2011. Rev. Fr. Devasia Cheerathara, the Vicar General of the Kannur Diocese was the chief guest of the function.

Ettumanoor: SFS Public School and Junior College at Ettumanoor, celebrated its eighth annual day on Saturday, 29 January 2011. Shri Kesvandra Kumar IAS, the sub-collector of Pala, Jose K Mani, MP, and Thomas Chazhikadan, MLA were the dignitaries present for the function. The variety entertainment programme was a magnificent one.

Your Brother in Christ

Mathew Kozhuppakalam

Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam MSFS
Provincial, MSFS South West province

One Minute with St. Francis de Sales

“As repentance grows strong it warms the soul’s desire of returning to God and of receiving His Grace of reconciliation which is the first spark of charity. Charity, then will, like a sacred fire, burst into flame.”

Inspiration from our Founder

“Nothing is impossible to God. He can do anything he wills. He enjoys choosing that are damaged, weak and of little moment, so as to confound the argumentative, the stubborn and he presumptuous, to do great things with nothing.” Fr. Peter Mermier

