



Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales

SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE

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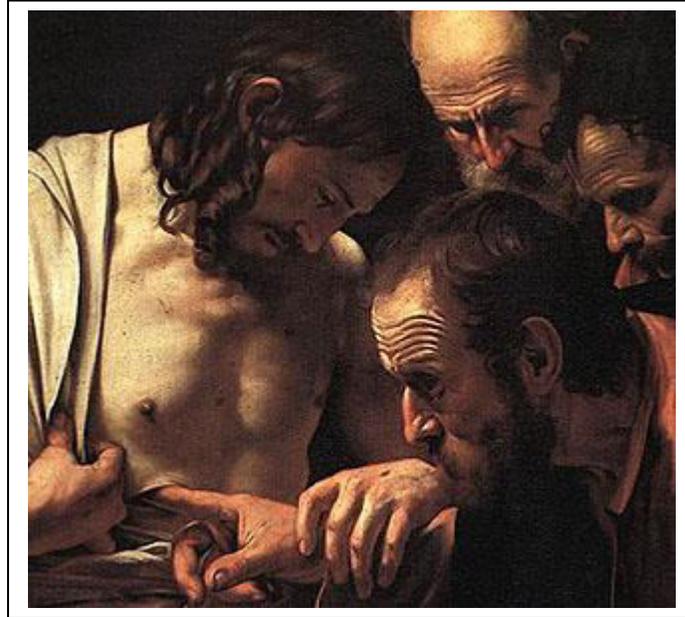
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Circular MK/8

03 July 2007

My dear Confreres,

Fraternal greetings and best wishes from Mysore. I wish you all a happy feast of St. Thomas. We completed sixteen years of ministry as a Province on the feast of St. Thomas, the Apostle of



India. During the last sixteen years we have grown in number and strength.

The joy of being part of a big family should fill our heart as every one participated in the growth of the Province. This feeling of oneness inspired us always especially during the time of difficulties. We faced them together and grown together as a family. On the occasion of the 17th birth day of our Province I remember all of you especially Frs. Thomas Cherukat and Jose Parappillil who led us in the past and pray for God's Blessings on each one of us. May the spirit of St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Mermier continue to inspire us and make us more committed and united!

Annual Retreat of the Province

I would like to remind you of the importance of attending the annual retreat. Retreat is a God given opportunity for personal renewal and an occasion to be with the other members of the Province family. So I strongly appeal to you to attend the retreat in any of the given places. We will also have a Province gathering at the end of the retreat. Please arrange your programmes to make yourselves free for the retreat. If you haven't received the form you may inform Provincial's office over phone or by e-mail.

- i. Charis Bhavan : September 24 – 28, 2007**
- ii. Vinayalaya: October 8- 12, 2007**

General Chapter 2007

18th Ordinary General Chapter took place in Suvidya College in a spirit of cordiality and openness. It was a wonderful spiritual experience to be participating in the chapter. The chapter wanted to reaffirm our identity as Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (Fransalians) and not just as Fransalian of a particular province or region. The main emphasis was on the community centered life and mission. We are men with a mission on a mission. And we are **Men Sent For Service (MSFS)**. The General Chapter besides approved the new General Directory. The General Chapter also raised the Tamil Nadu Pondicherry Region into the status of a Province.

Statement and Action Plan of the General Chapter

Enclosed please find the Statements and Action Plan of the General Chapter. It is important to make it a matter of personal study and integration. We shall also discuss them in the Apostolic Community Meetings and see how the decisions can be implemented. Besides the document also gives a letter of the Superior General and the norms governing the confreres sent abroad for ministry.

A New Councilor for the Province

Fr. Johny Kanjirampambil is appointed as the councilor for *Missions* and Pastoral Ministry and admonitor as the office fell vacant due to the election of Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil as General Councilor. The appointment is done according to Art.148 of the General Directory. "When the office of a Provincial Councilor becomes vacant, the Provincial and his Council appoint a successor. His term of office expires at the same time as that of the others."

Report of the Visitation to Europe

From the 30th of March to the 30th of April I have been to Europe on visitation. It was a good experience to be with the confreres. As I fell sick (allergic asthma) I could not take sufficient time to visit all the confreres. I had to take time also to visit some funding agencies and see whether one or the other projects could be financed. The salary of the confreres working in various dioceses is a great source of financial support for us. I thank all of them for their generosity and good will.

The first visit after my customary visit to the monastery of the Augustinians and to **Rev. Dr. Leopold Streit**, a great friend of the MSFS, was to the newly constituted community of our Fathers in Vienna. Frs. **Bobby Puthenparambil and Sibichan Kochuveedu** stay together in the presbytery of the Parish of **Neustift-Vienna** entrusted to the care of us. Fr. Bobby is in charge of the Parish of Sievering, barely three KM away from Neustift. Fr. Sibichan looks after the parish of Neustift. Both parishes belong to the Augustinian Monastery and they have invited us to start our community there. Living together is a powerful witness for religious life in a place where most of the priests stay alone. They have mastered the language well and are moderators of their respective parishes (Parish Priests).

Fr. James Manjackal continues with his customary retreat preaching and healing ministry in various parts of Europe. We thank God for the gift of him to our Congregation. His message reaches many people as he courageously and fearlessly proclaims the message of Jesus to the

people in Europe. Fr. James has organized a number of benefactors for our seminarians and has helped the province much. Now he is fully concentrating on getting Fr. Thomaskutty well which costs enormous amount of money. Thank you, Fr. James for your love and concern for the Congregation and your confreres. Fr. Manjackal had an operation to remove a polyp in his throat. He was not able to speak and preach which constitute the core element of his ministries. The operation done in Munich in Germany was successful and he is quite fine.

In the diocese of Augsburg we have three parishes and three parish priests: Frs. **James Mukalel**, **Thomas Moongamackal** and **Joseph Pazhayattil**. Fr. **James Mukalel** is getting a transfer but he has rendered yeomen service to the Parish of Oy and Maria Rain for the past 17 years or so. He has been able to organize a number of benefactors and friends for the works of the province. Fr. Thomas is very much active in Weilach and has been able to organize with the parishioners funds for our constructions in Sulthan Batheri. Fr. Joseph Pazhayattil with his parishioners and friends has substantially contributed towards the construction of TTI Kolar. I thank all of them for their generosity and good will. They are well appreciated for the good works they do in the parishes.

Fr. **Joy Vazhapally** renders his service in the **diocese of Muenster** and forms a good community with his Parish Priest. Fr. Joy together with his community in Alternberge both the ecclesial and civil has been very much instrumental in enabling Fides India to do the Tsunami Rehabilitation Program in Tamil Nadu. Fr. Joy is well appreciated for his work there.

Frs. George Chirayil, **Siby Manickathan**, **Tomy Mullassery**, are already veterans working in the **diocese of Eichstaett**. They are very much appreciated in the place of their work and have been instrumental in helping the works of the province. Fr. George is instrumental in helping few children to have their education; Fr. Siby with his community organized a great Tsunami emergency help. Fr. Tomy found financial resources to build our boys' homes in Mundargi and Ulickal. I thank them for what they are and what they do for us. Frs. **Thomas Mekatt** and **Binod Puthenpurackal** are still taking roots in the diocese. They are new and **we wish them all the best**.

Fr. Y. Mathias in the **diocese of Wuerzburg** has been at the service of the Generalate but is now given back to the Province with new ways of financial support being envisaged by the General Chapter. Thank you, Mathias for your concern and commitment.

Our missionary collaboration with the Franco-Swiss Province is symbolized through the services of Frs. **Viju Kunnathottel** and **Jose Puthiyaparambil**. Both, missionaries from our Chad-Cameroon mission, are now at the service of the Franco-Swiss Province and are well integrated into their communities. The concerns of our mission are uppermost in their mind and they do their best to be of service to it. Fr. Viju organized with his friends some financial help for our Tsunami Rehabilitation program and for the Nest.

I could not make it to meet **Fr. Antony Kolencherry**. He is rendering his service to the Parish at Solothurn and is very much committed to bring up the Congregation he has founded, the Sisters of Sacred Sciences. We wish him all the best in all his endeavor and we know he is a tireless worker.

Our Foundation at Oy/Mittelberg

The Bishop has proposed a transfer for Fr. James Mukalel. On 19th July 1994 the Diocese of Augsburg has entered into a contract with the South West Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales to canonically erect a community at Oy/Mittlberg, where Fr. James Mukalel was

the Parish Priest. As Fr. James is transferred now from there, we will have also the foundation transferred.

Our Society in Germany: "Kongregation der Missionare des Hl. Franz von Sales e.V."

The society was founded and registered on 2 July 1996 at the personal initiative of Fr. James Mukalel. It is a society like any other we have in India. It was mainly to streamline the salaries of the confreres then working in the diocese of Augsburg and to enter as a legal person into contract with the diocese of Augsburg. Only through this society can we could claim the tax exemption that is due to a religious congregation. Fr. James is the president of the society and Frs. Mathew Vempala and Thomas Moongamackal are Treasurer and Secretary respectively. Today it caters to the common good of all the MSFS confreres in Germany. The vehicles of almost all the confreres are bought and registered through the society. The insurance of the vehicles are paid through the society. The salaries of most confreres go through the society and then distributed to each province account. Health insurance for most of the confreres is also done. Every three months all the receipts and payments through the bank is checked by the auditor and he presents the balance sheet to the income tax department.

I could see the enormous work that **Fr. James** has done and is doing to keep the society going. Often it is a thankless job as many of the works that he does go unnoticed and taken for granted. I like to thank **Fr. James** for all what he has done for the benefit of the Province and the Congregation at large.

Fr. Thomas Mattakarathundiyl

Fr. Thomas is no more in Badelona near Barcelona in Spain. The bed sore he contracted during his stay in the hospital in India could not be healed till now and is now a big wound. To better facilitate his cure Fr. Manjackal together with his friends and well-wishers organized to have him transferred to Wels in Austria where he could get better medical attention in the hospital run by the Holy Cross Sisters of Ingenbohl (Hazaribagh).



Because the wound was taking such a long time to get healed the proposed Rehabilitation Program could not take place to the extent planned. We wish that Fr. Thomaskutty be touched by the healing power of the Lord as we continue to pray for his speedy recovery. His new Address is:

Fr. Thomas Mattakarathundiyl
Krankenhaus St. Stephan, Room No. 303
Salzburger Strasse 65,
4600 Wels, Austria,
Europe
Tel. 0043 7242 41 53288

Fr. Kurian Aranjanil

Fr. Kurian completed two terms as General Procurator to the Holy See. He has been officially representing the congregation at the Vatican. During his tenure he was able to organize the purchase of the house at Via Del Mascherino, which served as the Generalate in Rome till the new house was purchased at Via delle Testuggini. He mobilized financial resources for the running the house for long time. Although he personally likes to render his services to the Province now Fr. General has requested him to continue in office for another year, till the new organization of the Generalate is in place. We would have been happy to have Fr. Kurian back at the service of the Province but we are content that he is privileged to serve the entire Congregation for another year.

Fr. Philip Valakodiyil

Fr. Philip will continue to serve as the Secretary to Fr. Superior General for two more years. He has completed his Licentiate in “Vita Consecrata” with Magna cum Laude. *Congratulations*. He will continue to do his doctorate in the same university.

Organization of the Provincial Curia and Secretariats

According to the final draft approved by the General Chapter 2007, the provincial curia is to be organized as envisaged in the Constitutions 2007. The four councilors are in charge of four areas of Ministry. Each of the ministries will have an office known as secretariats in the newly planned provincial house at Vinayalaya.

1. The councilor for Missions and Pastoral Ministry – Fr. Johnny Kanjiramparambil
Secretaries: Fr. Thomas Chennakattukunnel – Kerala Sector
Fr. A. Jabamala – Karnataka Sector
2. The Councilor for Formation : Fr. Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil
Secretary: Fr. Sibichan Panthamackal
3. Councilor for Education – Fr. Erudaya Raja
Secretaries: Fr. Saju Vilachirayil – Kerala Sector
Fr. Joshy Thazhathukunnel – Karnataka Sector
4. Councilor for Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries – Fr. Benny Kootanal
Secretaries: Fr. Jose Karekatt – Kerala Sector
Fr. Shibu Thundathil – Karnataka Sector
5. Provincial Bursar: Centre for Resource Mobilisation
Secretaries: Bro. Jeevan Prasad
Bro. Riju K

The modalities for the functioning of the Secretariats are being worked out. We hope to have a better and more efficient province administration through this set up.

Course on Communication and Leadership

A course on Leadership in Ministry and Communication is organized in Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha and Indian Institute of Spirituality, Bangalore. Dr. Charles Gravensteine from the United States and Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil will be the resource persons. All the local superiors are expected to attend the course either in Charis Bhavan or in IIS. You may inform the concerned institute about your participation. The course will end by 9th November and 16th November by noon. After the course the local superiors will gather together for an evaluation in the afternoon

Charis Bhavan : 05th to 09th November 2007

I I S, Bangalore : 12th to 16th November 2007

Appointments

1. Fr. Thomas Chennakattukunnel is designated to be appointed in the diocese of Belthangady. The Bishop has a plan to entrust a parish to the MSFS.
2. Fr. Arockiasamy is appointed to the community at Tejas to be working with Fides India.
3. Fr. Mathew Kalam will stay till January 2008 in the community at De Sales Skill Development and Technical Training Center (TTI) at Kolar. He is on a sabbatical leave and follows some update and renewal programmes at various centers.
4. Fr. Bnoy Kidangathukarott is designated to be appointed to the MSFS Parish at Annemasse in the Franco-Swiss Province.
5. Fr. Jose Maliekal is appointed to St. Joseph Catholic Church, 87 Lacy Street, N.W., Marietta, Ga 30060, USA Telephone: Office - 001 770 422 5633, extn. 38, Rectory 001 770 422 5637, Fax 001 770 422 1148
6. Fr. Francis Kizhakkethazhe is appointed by Most Reverend Daniel N. DiNardo, The Archbishop of Galveston-Houston as Parochial vicar of Notre Dame Parish in Houston. The address of Fr. Francis will be informed later.
7. Fr. George Vattapara is appointed by Most Reverend Daniel N. DiNardo, the Archbishop of Galveston-Houston as Parochial Vicar of St. Anthony of Padua Church in the Woodlands. His Address is: St. Anthony of Padua Church, 7801 Bay Branch Drive, The Woodlands, Texas 77382 – 5359, USA

On Holidays

Frs. Sibi Manickathan, George Chirayil, Sibichen Kochuveedu, Mathew Elayidathumadam, Francis Kizhakkethazhe, and Joshy Nellimalamattam were on holidays and have returned back. Frs. George Purayidom and Joshy Mangalath are still here. Deacons Manoj Aracakal, Scaria Kannezhath, Paulraj Thaveethu and Bros. Boban Elanjimattathil and Giridhari Lakra are also on holidays.

Ordinations to Priesthood

Dn. **Manoj Arackal** is due to be ordained on Tuesday, 24 July 2007 by Rt. Rev. Mathew Arackal in St. Sebastian's Church, Padimaruthu, Kasargod, Kerala

Dn. **Scaria Kannezhathu** is due to be ordained on Thursday, 02 August 2007 by Most Rev. Jacob George Valiamattam in Fatima Matha Church, Kudianmala, Kannur, Kerala

Dn. **Paulraj Thaveedhu** is due to be ordained on Friday 10 August 2007 in Vattanam, Thondi Parish, by Rt. Rev. Soosai Manickam of Sivaganga Diocese in Tamil Nadu

Diaconate

Br. **Regi Muthukattil** was ordained a deacon on 21st June 2007 by His Excellency Sebastian Thekkethechheril in SFS Seminary Ettumanoor.

Perpetual Profession in Vinayalaya

Bros. Boban Elanjimattathil and Giridhari Lakra will make their perpetual profession on 12 September 2007 in Vinayalaya.

USA Region Inaugurated

On July 3, 2007 the American Mission was elevated to the status of a Region with **Fr. Augustine Tharappel** as its first Regional Superior. The Bishop of Tyler officiated the Eucharistic Celebration in the presence of 6 confreres and 60 friends and well-wishers.



The region is constituted in view of taking care of the Religious life of the confreres and therefore all in the USA are members of the region. But Frs. Joseph Mullakara and George Puraidom have been permitted by the Provincial administration to be permanent members of the region with a right to return to the Province at any time. Their salary will go to the Region. The salary of others after their expense comes to the province.

We wish Fr. Augustine and the Confreres of the Region abundance of God's blessings.

Vision Statement of the Scholastics of South West Province

The Scholastics of the South West Province gathered together on 28 and 29 May 2007 in Vinayalaya together with the Councilor in Charge of Formation, **Fr. Henry Jose**, brought out the following vision statement. It is good that the whole province is aware of this vision that the scholastics have set for themselves.

1. Personal renewal

- a. Each of us scholastics will have a program of life by integrating the spiritual and intellectual dimensions and a regular personal evaluation of its implementation. We will devote everyday sufficient time for personal prayer. We will regularly visit spiritual director and evaluate our life with his assistance.
- b. We will strive to integrate work, prayer and study.
- c. We resolve ourselves to be more acquainted with teachings of St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Mermier with some extensive reading.
- d. We make conscious effort to develop a Salesian attitude and approach to our personal and interpersonal relationships.
- e. We will identify the ministry in consultation with our superiors and equip ourselves to be competent for the future ministry.
- f. To equip ourselves better for the future ministry, we will make a conscious effort to learn the local language, culture and familiarize ourselves with the hard realities of our mission.

2. Ministry

- a. We will provide tuition to the students hailing from the poor economic background.
- b. We will impart value education and group dynamics with a Fransalian touch to the students in our vicinity and coordinate the same for the students belonging to the SFS Schools.
- c. To equip ourselves for the preaching ministry we intend to prepare recollection and retreat talks for children, students, youth and others both in Kerala and Karnataka.

- d. We will organize workshops and seminars to equip ourselves to conduct programmes for different groups of people, especially in the area of family apostolate with a maximum utilization of the Salesian literature, which we intend to make available in local languages.
- e. We will coordinate with NGO's for Social awareness programmes and leadership training for youth in the slums. We will associate with Jesus Youth to work among the Professionals.
- f. We will organize spiritual empowerment programs for nurses and students.
- g. We will make an effort to evangelize through the means of electronic media, by way of producing a few programmes for local media. We will make a documentary on South West Province or any one of the institutions of the Province.
- h. We will focus on family renewal programmes through family counseling and family visits.
- i. We will make ourselves environmental conscious and disseminate the same to others.

3. Mission

- a. We are ready and available for the global mission of the Province
- b. We commit ourselves to any ministry of the province consisting of renewal mission, pioneering mission, education and youth ministry, social apostolate, media and communication in a creative way.
- c. We grow in our missionary commitment in the spirit of "the Chablais experience" and "I want mission experience". We will make constant efforts to live by the missionary zeal of our Patron and Founder.
- d. We will make efforts to promote vocations.

Congratulations to Fr. Sen Vellakada

Fr. Sen Vellakada has compiled and published a book on 24 May 2007 on, "**ENGLISH PHONETICS**". The book gives a detailed account of the way sounds are produced and pronounced. Every theme in the book is explained with a scholarly touch and it will surely be a real guide for those students who are interested in learning and pronouncing the English language properly. I strongly recommend this book for the students of our schools. Hearty congratulations for this commendable work by Fr. Sen. The book is priced at Rs. 100. But for MSFS Seminaries 50% Discount and for the Schools 25% Discount will be granted. .

Congratulations to:

1. Fr. Joseph Mannukuzhumpil passed B.Ed. with 75% from R.V College, Bangalore and passed M.Sc. Psychology from Madras University
2. Fr. Christopher Crasta passed B.Ed. with Distinction from IGNOU, Delhi
3. Fr. Roy Plathottathil passed B.Ed. with Distinction from IGNOU, Delhi
4. Fr. A. Johnson, passed B.Ed. with 82% from St. Francis B.Ed. College, Bangalore
5. Fr. Jojo Kolarickal, passed B.Ed. with 82%, from Vikram B.Ed. College, Chintamani

Record Number of Students in Suvidya College

Suvidya College, the inter-provincial Philosophate of the six Indian Provinces can be proud of having **202 students** this year but out of which only **21 students** are for the South West Province.

Admissions to Minor Seminaries

There are 33 new admissions in SFS Ettumanoor. 15 Students are in the Orientation Course at Saumya Sadan in Karnataka. 3 students are admitted to Divya Jyothi Ashram. Latapara. So there are a total of 51 new admissions this year. Congratulations to all Vocation Promoters. Vocation promotion is a work of the province and many confreres wholeheartedly cooperated in this venture. I wish to express a personal note of thanks to all of them.

Let us pray for the departed

1. Mr. Erani Mose (Jerome), aged 86, the uncle of Fr. Jacob, died on 23.06.2007. As Fr. Jacob's lost his father already in 1961 it was his uncle who loved and cared for him and his family.
2. Mr. Jose, aged 59, the father of Lalu Jose Thadathilankkal, died on 01 July 2007,
3. Mr. Joseph Kanjirapallil, aged 80, the maternal grand father of Bro. Aneesh Mundianickal, died on 28 June 2007
4. Mrs. Elsamma, the Aunt (father's sister) of Bro. Aneesh Mundianickal, 46 years old, had liver cancer and died on 02 June 2007
5. Fr. Joseph Kalariparambil, aged 82, uncle of Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil, died on 25 June 2007.

GLIMPSES FROM THE LIFE OF THE PROVINCE

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW PRIESTS

Fr. Antony Sagaya Tharcus



Born	: 29.01.1979
Minor Seminary	: MSFS Seminary, Pudukottai
Novitiate	: Sannidhi, Mysore
First Profession	: 11.06.1999
Philosophy	: Suvidya College, Bangalore
Regency	: Ka Syiem Jigsuk Parish, Amlarem
Theology	: Vinayalaya, Bangalore
Ordination	: 16.04.2007

Fr. S. Arokiasamy



Born	: 07.09.1980
Minor Seminary	: MSFS Seminary, Pudukottai
Novitiate	: Sannidhi, Mysore
First Profession	: 11.06.1999
Philosophy	: Suvidya College, Bangalore
Regency	: MSFS House, Mundargi
Theology	: Vinayalaya, Bangalore
Ordination	: 24.06.2007

Cultural Immersion Programme (CIP) of Tejas

Cultural Immersion Program (CIP) is an integral part of the formation in our Mission-Oriented and Contextual Theological Centre, Tejas. The scholastics spent a month in one of the families, a Keralite normally in a Hindu family in North Karnataka and a Non-Keralite in a traditional Catholic Family of Kerala. In the CIP program the scholastics are not just outside observers of the life of the people of a particular place but they immerse themselves in the life and struggles of the people of the family with whom they live. In this process of cultural immersion they begin to live a culture different from their own and are challenged to shed many of their prejudices and learn to appreciate and respect the richness of other cultures. They discern the presence of God's Spirit in all that is good and holy in them and experiences what is dehumanizing and oppressive in these cultures that go against the Kingdom values.

On 3rd June the third batch of theologians journeyed to the homes unknown to them for a month-long experience of a culture other than theirs. Two were in families close to our two missions of Savanur and Kukkanoor. One was among the Lambanis of Bijapur and the other among the poorest of the poor at Gurugunta of Lingskur Taluk of Raichur Dt. The scholastic sent to Kerala lived in a traditional Catholic family near Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha. During their stay in the family, the Tejas staff visited them and the families and at the end of the program a personal sharing of their experience and evaluation was done in the presence of the entire community. The scholastics maintain a diary of their experiences and write an assignment based on their insights from the CIP program. CIP program prepares the scholastics to enter meaningfully into the mission-oriented and contextual theology program as envisaged in Tejas.

Perpetual Profession

Twelve of our brothers made perpetual commitment on 30th May 2007 at St. Francis de sales Church in the presence of Superior General Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandez and other dignitaries.

First Profession

Eight novices from Sannidhi, Mysore made their first profession on 11th June 2007 by pronouncing the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in order to make themselves available for the service of God and fellow humans by following the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, the Patron and the missionary spirit of Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, the founder.



The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Fr. Mathew Kozhupakalam, the provincial. The brothers were privileged to make their commitment to God in the presence of their own parents and other distinguished guests.

Reported by Fr. Vinoy Valachathinakathu

Inauguration of the Orientation Programme

The much awaited dream of South West province, of having an orientation programme in Karnataka, took flesh and blood, on 17 June 2007, as the inaugural function of the orientation course was done with simplicity and grace, in Mysore. The house was inaugurated at 4.p.m, attended by the religious and friends around. Fr. Mathew, the Provincial, spoke on the occasion and stated that the dire need of the Province of having a formation house in Karnataka was materialized with

the opening of the house. This formation house is dedicated to the care of Our lady of Compassion, the Patroness of our Congregation. There are as many as fifteen candidates from the three states of Karnataka(11), Tamilnadu(2) and Andhra Pradesh(2). Frs. Christopher Crasta, the Rector, Jose Edasseril, the Spiritual Director and Bro. Sujith are directly involved in the formation. Fr. Vinoy Valachathinakathu and Mr. Joseph Puthumana are also part of the staff. The young community looks forward to an integral formation and is ready with the baton.



Reported by Bro. Sujith Xavier Pallassery

Salesian Inspirations

Ever been angry? Of course you have! Anger is a fact of life, a volatile fact of life. Like any emotion, it cannot be denied or suppressed. Nor should it be recklessly unbridled. We seldom plan to grow angry. As such it often catches us off guard. Precisely because of its spontaneity and intensity, anger can quickly get the upper hand...and get out of hand.

“Once admitted it is with difficulty driven out again. It enters as a little twig, and in less than no time it grows big and becomes a beam.” Therefore it is better to deny entry to just and reasonable anger rather than welcome it, however small it may be.” “Many are greatly to blame who, on being overcome by anger, are angry for being angry: St.Francis de Sales suggests:

- When it comes to anger, don’t fight fire with fire
- Do not restrain with violence your anger
- Let your anger cool before making a decision or taking some action
- Avoid speaking in anger and avoid wallowing in anger
- Anger is an emotion not a way of life.

Yours Sincerely,

Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam

Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam msfs
Provincial

A DAY TO REMEMBER, A DAY TO CHERISH
(a short report by Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, msfs)

Wednesday, 20th June 2007, 3.00 PM. At the Basilica of the Visitation, Annecy, France, Most Reverend Yves Boivineau, the Bishop of Annecy, along with Archbishop Laurent Ulrich, Archbishop of Chambéry, Bishop Pierre Farine, the Auxiliary Bishop in Geneva, Bishop Joseph Duval former Bishop of Rouen concelebrated the Holy Eucharist to mark the transfer of the mortal remains of the Servant of God, Fr. Pierre-Marie Mermier and of Monsignor Joseph Rey, Bishop of Annecy. The day evoked sentiments of loyalty and fraternal ties that binds the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales to their Founder, Fr. Mermier. It revived memories of close collaboration of Fr. Mermier with Mother Claudine Echernier in founding the Congregation of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod. It inspired gratitude to God for Monsignor Rey who was responsible for bringing the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy

to the Diocese and for the total support that Fr. Mermier received in him in founding the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales.

Present at the celebrations were the Superior General of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, Provincials of the Franco-Swiss, Nagpur and Brazil Provinces of MSFS, Frs Jean-Paul Fournier, Fr. Joseph Pulloppillil and Lindsay Hendricks respectively. Representing the Chile Mission of MSFS was Fr. Hector Valdes, the Mission Superior, and representing the English Province of MSFS was Fr. Jean-Patrice Coulon. The presence of the Provincial of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod and the Superior General of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy was an acknowledgement of the impact the two saintly men had on the life of the Church. Together with them there were a host of confreres and Sisters of the three Congregations who had come to witness and take part in the ceremony. 40 confreres from India engaged in pastoral ministry in Germany and Austria made a pilgrimage to the Basilica on this day as an expression of their love and loyalty to their Founder, Fr. Peter Mary Mermier.

Fr. Jean Paul Fournier, the Provincial of Franco-Swiss Province with a Committee of the confreres of Franco-Swiss Province had worked with the greatest concern and respect to ensure that the mortal remains of Fr. Mermier and Bishop Rey found a worthy place of honour in the great Basilica of the Visitation. In close collaboration with the Bishop of Annecy, Civil authorities of the place and the Sisters of the Visitation of Annecy, the Committee ensured the construction of a simple, elegant, and dignified tomb in the crypt of the Basilica of the Visitation where the mortal remains are now interred. Fr. Jean Paul Fournier, the Provincial of Franco-Swiss Province welcomed all in his characteristic Salesian simplicity and joy.

The atmosphere in the Basilica throughout the ceremony was an atmosphere of prayer of thanksgiving, joy and praise to God for the marvels He has worked through the lives of the two saintly men. Fr. Emile Mayoraz, the former Superior General of the MSFS preached a very inspiring and informative homily on the spirit of Fr. Mermier, which the saintly Founder had imbibed from St. Francis de Sales. Fr. Mayoraz highlighted three important aspects of the Salesian spirituality of Fr. Mermier, namely, zeal, conformity to divine will and humility.

Fr. Mermier was Savoyard in his roots and origins but universal in his embrace and outreach. Symbolic of the catholicity of this great Founder, the liturgy conducted in French was punctuated with interventions in Spanish, Portuguese, and English. A group of Sisters from India performed the “Aarati”, at the time of the Great Praise to the Father at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer. Aarati is an offering of light, flowers and incense to Almighty God as the supreme symbolic surrender of oneself to His Divine glory and praise. The liturgy prepared with greatest attention to the minutest detail by Fr. Francois Mercier created the ambience of prayer and evoked sentiments of love and gratitude to God who does such marvels in the lives of persons like Fr. Mermier and Bishop Rey.

After the Eucharist, all the participants gathered in front of the Basilica in an orderly circle of obeisance as the mortal remains of Fr. Mermier and Bishop Rey were borne by the bearers escorted by the Superior Generals, Provincials and representatives of various groups and Congregations to the crypt of the Basilica. The two caskets of the mortal remains were placed on the floor of the crypt. The Bishop of Annecy made a simple prayer coming from his heart and thanked God for the gift of Fr. Mermier and Bishop Rey to the Church. All who had gathered paid their respect to the mortal remains of Fr. Mermier and Bishop Rey, received their paternal blessings and went for a fraternal sharing of the joy of the day with refreshments.

Now at the Basilica of the Visitation, Annecy we are always welcomed by a heavenly Salesian community symbolised externally by the space they share through the presence of their mortal remains: that of St. Francis de Sales, St. Jane de Chantal, Bishop Joseph Rey and Servant of God, Fr. Peter Mary Mermier. Reflection on the lives of each of these saintly personalities reveals the height, depth, length and breadth of the ever relevant Salesian spirituality. We, the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, will always feel at home in Annecy. At Annecy is our Mother –House. At Annecy is the source of our inspiration. The Basilica of the Visitation will be our destination as pilgrims to draw strength and to carry on the missionary project of Fr. Mermier to all nations and to the ends of the world.