

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



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Circular BK/1

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My Dear Confreres,



Fraternal greetings to each one of you. We have entered the season of Lent. 'It is a grace-filled occasion to spend more time in prayer, to fast and to share our resources with others'. These statements almost sound like a compulsory grinding labour. The little child in all of us cries out, "Do I have to?" We might feel some reluctance to "celebrate" Lent, then the season of Lent means a change in daily routine. But, instead of changing routine, shall we consider a change in focus? That is why Jesus recommends

prayer, fasting, and almsgiving as three key elements of Christian following. Yet they are only means and not the end. We practice them to open ourselves to God and to the needs of others. These three weapons of the season of Lent has special goals to achieve in our lives. **Prayer puts us in closer union with God.** Lent is an invitation to go beyond our mere recitation of prayers, seeking deeper union with Him. "Prayer enlarges our heart and prepares it to receive God's gifts. Prayer illumines our eyes to be able to see others the way God sees them, to love as God loves", says Pope Francis. It is a welcome sign to set God as our first priority. **Fasting puts us in disciplined relationship with ourselves.** Fasting is not just depriving ourselves of what we like to have but a joyful abstinence to focus on the higher perspectives of our lives. It is a means for us to realize that we are created in the image of God and that we are good and beautiful in the sight of God. **Almsgiving invites us to extend our arms to our fellow beings in love.** Almsgiving should not be limited to just money but all of our resources both physical and human. It is an answer to the question: "Where is your Brother?" My dear Confreres Let us enter into the season of Lent with a renewed spirit and enthusiasm that we can know Jesus more personally and that we can LIVE JESUS in our daily life. I wish each one of you God's abundant blessings in your personal and ministerial life during this season of Lent.

My Message to the Province on the Day of My Installation as the Provincial

"Education of the Heart is the Heart of Education." With this vision of the founding Father of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, venerable, Fr.



Peter Mermier, South West India Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales was erected on the 3rd July 1991 bifurcating it from the mother province of Visakhapatnam. Its birth, no doubt, was rather insignificant for the apparent eyes. Its near and dear ones perhaps were uncertain of its full development. But by God's grace it grew up into one of exceptional traits. It has not been an easy job trying to encompass the changes the past years have wrought. And it is not an easy job to produce the gamut of experiences that have made impressions on the minds of numberless people throughout the world in all the continents. This year is the Jubilee year of South West India Province. I pay my honest respect to Rev. Dr. Thomas Cherukat

MSFS, the first provincial of the South West India Province for three terms. Through his astute planning and leadership he laid the foundation for the growth of our province. I sincerely thank you Father for your inspiring presence today on the day of my installation. I appreciate the valuable presence of Rev. Fr. Jose Parappillil MSFS, the second Provincial of our province from the 10th to the 15th year of its life. I thank you Father for the dynamic leadership you rendered to the province. I thank you for your presence today. I place on record the multifarious contribution and generosity and the innovative direction given to the Province by Rev. Dr. Mathew Kozhupakkalam MSFS during the four and half years of his tenure as the provincial. I remember him especially today and pay my respect to him. With gratefulness I remember Rev. Dr. Abraham Vettuvilil MSFS, the fourth Provincial of our province for the brotherly guidance and leadership he gave to our province during the short term in office until he was elected as the Superior General of our congregation. With genuine expression of gratitude I place on record the sincere leadership of Rev. Dr. Jose Kumbloickal MSFS. The firm yet gentle guidance of the province through his versatile dynamism and correct vision for the province and the congregation at large had been tremendous. I bow my head before these great leaders who animated the province with focus and total commitment.

The story of the South West India Province is the history of the past 25 years. With the number of perpetually professed confreres, close to 250, the province has effected tremendous impact in the lives of people whom it serves. The confreres of our province have excelled themselves in the Spirit and Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in and through the charism of our congregation. We have endeared ourselves to the heart of the people through the ministry of the renewal of Christian life; through parish missions and pioneering evangelisation and apostolate overseas we have extended our commitment to the people around us in and outside India. Apostolate of education and formation, especially of the youth has become the heart of our province. I express my gratitude to God for all my confreres in the province, young and old, for the veracity,

vibrancy and commitment to the mission of God through the ministry of our province in the MSFS Congregation.

Of course, my dear Confreres, the challenges set before us is far from over. There is a need to dream higher and to work out the possibilities of actualizing our set priorities. The General Chapter of our Congregation in the year 2013 has invited us to animate our religious life and community life. It insists that we give primacy for personal prayer and community prayers, to simplify our personal and community life, to enter into more spiritual leadership, to organise community life as per the constitutions and directory of our congregation. Our Superior General after his visitation to our province has given us a set of possibilities and vision plan that we need to implement in the context of our province. The mission thrust that we need to have in order to be effective in our ministry need to be emphasized in our lives. The specific mission of Chad and Cameroon must become a thrust point of our commitment to the humanity around us. Our Philippine delegation is on a strong footing with the perfect missionary commitment of our confreres working there. Our institutions should become the channel of hope for the humanity to hearken the possibilities of their lives. Our formation houses must become the haven of disciples becoming apostles.

In order to orient ourselves to understand properly the task at hand, as members of the South West India Province of the MSFS I would request us to ask ourselves the question: **Why is it that I am here?** This should give us an answer to understand the purpose of our life. A deeper understanding of my religious life should enlighten me to practically apply that which is doctrinally gulped down in theology. One of the questions in the Bible, which touched me deep is the question asked by the disciples of John to Jesus: Where are you staying? This is a question of pertinent importance. The desire of the disciples of John was to have a glimpse of that eternity which Jesus was promising, to understand the value system that was being proposed by Jesus. It means equally that I am not part of this world, I do not feel totally comfortable in this world, and the values of this world somehow do not fully fit into my life. I need to know well that the lamp may get put off but the light remains, the grape may decay but the wine remains, the clay may break but the treasure remains. All through these 25 years we had been working on this particular search to find the meaning of our lives as religious, as MSFS, as radical followers of Jesus. During this jubilee year we need to perhaps ask ourselves: Do I know clearly where he is staying? Have I taken him seriously? Have I taken the first step to go to him? It equally means that our vocation is to be a disciple first, to be at the feet of the master. Let our commitment in religious life come through the experience of Jesus that leads to enlightenment.

My Dear Confreres, on this our Feast day and on this auspicious day of my installation as the 6th provincial of our beloved province, I have a dream to share with you. You have elected me and the Superior General has appointed me as the provincial of our province. During these days I had been flooded with messages of good wishes, especially through Email. I was touched by the message written by one of the young Confreres. He wrote: "Father, we don't want you to construct buildings, but do construct our lives." Dear

Confreres, I would like to serve you. I have no personal agenda, but only the vision and mission of our congregation in view. St Francis de Sales says, "hold firm to your convictions, remain human in your speech, let your actions tell your story and that would be history." I would like to be a brother to you in my relationship, merciful in understanding, just in action, available in need. I envision for myself the necessity to integrate our communities as places of hospitality, sharing, brotherhood and a place of prayer. In this year of formation I envision that we give a special thrust to the formation of our younger brothers through constant accompaniment and direction. We need to encourage and put on a higher pedestal the Chad-Cameroon mission of our province and the Philippine delegation which are now on a strong footing and convincing commitment. I would like to go with you in communities and listen to you like a brother. For all these I need your hearts and hands.

The answer of Jesus to the disciples of John was: *Come and See*. More than a husband, more than a wife, more than children and possessions, we need a Master, a *Guru* in our life. Only a master can give us orientation in our life, only a master can give us direction to our life, even when we are tossed up and down in the currents of life only a master can show us the meaning of our existence, the hitherto of our life. I need a master in my life.

Where do I find my master, Jesus? It is my primary responsibility to return there where I can find him: The gospels. The Gospels prove that every aspect of Jesus' life was based on his relationship with his Father. In the same way, it is our relationship with Jesus and his Father, more concretely, our prayer life, which should be the pattern of our spirituality. A theologian or a teacher of religion, a religious who does not spend daily minimum half an hour in prayer in order to interiorize and to realize the purpose of all that he does and minimum half an hour in reading, in order to enlighten his mind and heart, can also prepare himself to contribute to the humanity the minimum possible. Should I be merely an ordinary person? Or do I want to raise something out of this ordinary sphere of my life? If so, we need to dare to think different. We need to understand what our priorities are and set them aright. We need to understand that fatigue is often a mental creation that stems from doing things we do not like to do. Am I doing what I do not like to do? Seneca observes: "It is not because things are difficult that we do not dare; it is because we do not dare that things are difficult."

My dear Confreres, This is what we are all about. We plant the seeds hoping that one day they will grow. We water the seeds already planted knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing this. This enables us to do something and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master-builder and the worker. We are workers, not master-builders, ministers and not messiahs. We are prophets of a future that is not our own. May the Lord surprise us yet again in this jubilee year through our new beginning. Let us bloom where we are planted. Live Jesus.

Thank you, Dear Fr. Jose Kumbloickal



I would like to thank Rev. Fr. Jose Kumbloickal, the outgoing provincial, for the generosity of his commitment. Fr. Jose, with conviction I say, during your tenure as the provincial you have grounded certain valuable foundations for our province. Your insistence on spiritual life, community life, accountability and authenticity has given the province and the members a sense of hope. I know the tireless efforts you have put in to organise the confreres by visiting them constantly and responding to their needs with immediacy. You

have given a new outlook to the foreign mission of the province by bringing in right spirit and order in the Chad-Cameroon mission and in the Philippine delegation. You held together the unity of the province by being just to all. I respect you and appreciate you for the manner and the order in which you handed over the office to me. God bless you dear Fr. Jose and we are indebted to you. Wish you all the best in all your endeavours.

Convocation of the Provincial Chapter

My dear Confreres, with the Consent of the Superior General and after having consulted the approval of the Provincial Administration and in the spirit of true Prayer and discernment and in accordance with the Constitutions and Directory of our Congregation I would like to convoke a Provincial Chapter. The dates of the Provincial Chapter shall be from the **11th of April 2016 to the 15th of April 2016**. In the spirit of the General Chapter 2013 and the theme of the year 2016 in the Church and in the Congregation we have chosen the theme for the Chapter as: **FORMING COMMITTED MSFS ROOTED IN COMMUNITY LIFE FOR PROPHETIC MINISTRIES TODAY**. Our Superior General, in his letter of approval of the convocation of the Provincial Chapter, comments: "The theme reflects the spirit of General Chapter 2013 and the theme of the Year 2016 in the Church and in our Congregation, a Year dedicated to MSFS Formation for Mission of Mercy and Compassion, which is prophetic in purpose and content. This is a spiritual event in the Province. It calls for intense personal and community preparation as it is **intended 'to make the spiritual life and mission of the Province more vibrant and effective' (Const. # 235)**." I welcome each one of you, my dear Confreres to make our provincial chapter a spiritual event in the life of our province through your prayers and through creative and constructive participation.

Steering Committee for the Provincial Chapter

With the approval of the provincial council I appoint the following confreres as the members of the Steering Committee for the organization and the implementation of the procedures of the provincial chapter.

Rev.Fr. Benny Koottanal, Provincial (Convenor)

Fr. R. Santhosh Kumar (Chairman)

Fr. Roy Plathottathil (Member)

Fr. Sibichen Panthanmackel (Member)

Fr. Jijo Chemplany (Member)

I thank these confreres for their readiness to be at the service of the province for this important act of our province. Within a short while, the steering committee shall prepare and communicate the procedures for the election of the chapter members and send the ballots to the respective Convenors of the apostolic communities to be distributed among the members. In consultation with the provincial they shall also be preparing the procedures of the Chapter.

Provincial Statutes

Dear Confreres, in the past years we had been making strenuous efforts to have statutes of our own for practical and spiritual implementation of a rule of life for our province. After serious and meaningful study and evaluation we are completing the draft of the Provincial Statutes of the South West India Province. The Drafting Committee consisting of **Frs. Thomas Chennakattukunnel, R. Santhosh Kumar and A. Jerome** will give the final touch to it. Thereafter the draft of the Provincial Statutes shall be sent to each Apostolic Community for serious reflection and study. The suggestions and recommendations that you make in the Apostolic Communities shall be studied in the provincial chapter. The provincial statutes have to be finally approved in the Provincial Chapter so that it can be implemented for our day-to-day life in the province. I request the Convenors/Secretaries of the Apostolic Communities, as soon as they receive the draft of the provincial statutes, to convoke the apostolic community meeting (if necessary, more than once) to study and to make creative suggestions regarding the provincial statutes.

Vocation Promotion: Challenges and Possibilities

In this year of Formation I come to you, my dear Confreres, with an earnest appeal to **promote Vocations to our Province**. Article No. 131 of our Constitution states: *To continue our mission we need those who give themselves completely for the missionary tasks of our Congregation. It is the responsibility of every Province to organize effective means for promoting genuine vocations. Each Confrere and every Community also has the duty to make known the life and mission of the Congregation so that we are able to inspire young men to opt for our way of life.*

I appeal to each one of you, my dear Conferes, to be responsible in upholding the future of our province and the congregation through effective promotion of vocations to our province. Through your personal contacts, ministries, such as parishes, schools, retreat

centres and Boys' Homes encourage and announce about our province and congregation. Let us encourage vocations from our own families too. It is sad to see and hear that many of our nephews and cousins join other congregations and not MSFS. In a globalised world today the aptitude towards religious and priestly life is dwindling. But let us not moan over the situation, instead try to remedy it through our personal commitment. We have officially appointed two co-ordinators of vocation promotion in Kerala and Karnataka, they are, **Fr. Shinto Parayankunnel** (for Kerala) and **Fr. Santosh Pereira** (for Karnataka). In addition to that I would like to appoint a few more Fathers to assist them directly in vocation promotion. They are:

Fr. Jose Vechuvettickal (North Kerala)

Fr. Mijo Kulamkuthiyil (Centre Kerala)

Fr. Johny Puthiyaparambil (Centre and South Kerala)

Fr. Francis Ekka (North India)

Fr. Anand Ekka (North India)

Fr. L. Selvaraj (Bangalore, Tamil Nadu)

Fr. J. Perianayagam (North Karnataka)

Fr. Salvador Fernandes (North & South Karnataka, Mangalore & Goa)

These Confreres would collaborate with the Co-ordinators in promoting vocations to our province. At the same time let us not spare any iota of effort to promote, support and sustain quality vocations to our congregation. **Art. No. 103** of our General Directory states: *The members of each province are to be alert to awaken vocations, welcome and nurture them. Every confrere and community has to work with earnestness to identify and promote vocations. It is the responsibility of each Confrere and of every community to pray for vocations and to publicize our Fransalian Ideals.*

Dear Confreres, I request you to pray for vocations and to publicize our Fransalian Ideals through our Words, Deeds and Commitment.

Visitation to Chad- Cameroon Mission



From the 5th January 2016 to the 16th January 2016 I had the privilege to visit the Chad-Cameroon Mission of our Province together with the then Provincial Rev. Fr. Jose Kumblolickal and Fr. Joshy Thazhathukunnel, the Provincial Bursar. We were cordially welcomed at the Yaounde Airport by Frs. Manoj Arckal and Sujith Pallassery. At La Feuillette, our Minor Seminary and the Mission

House, Frs. Manoj, Emil Amougou, Bipin Xess and Sujith are staying together with the minor Seminarians and the theologians. Bros. Ajish and John Joseph are also there learning the French Language and the culture of the people. We had the opportunity to meet our Confreres in common as well as personally. We celebrated the Holy Eucharist with the people in the parishes where our confreres are rendering their services, such as Ekkoundum, Ekekam and Ebang. It had been a wonderful opportunity to share their life and faith.

We visited Frs. Thomas Moongamakkal and Christophe at Buea in the Anglophone speaking area of Cameroon. Fr. Thomas is the Chaplain of the University Chapel and the parish priest. Fr. Christophe is assisting him and doing university studies. At Ngaoundere Frs. Giridhari and Marcel are rendering a wonderful service as university chaplain and parish priest. We are also running a school in Ngaoundere.

We visited our mission in Chad both in Doba and Bero. At Doba Frs. Robin and Parfait are rendering a commendable job as parish priest and manager of the school. At Bero Fr. Sandeep is the parish priest and the director and manager of the SFS Boys' Home. Fr. Kuldeep is rendering his service in the East Africa Province.

Action Plan Deriving out of the Mission Colloquium 2016 at Ngaoundere



At Ngaoundere all our Confreres gathered together for a day's Mission Colloquium. It was a wonderful experience of brotherhood and sharing. Following are the action plans derived out of the Mission Colloquium.

- 1.** Start the construction of minor seminary at Ngaoundere by February 2016
- 2.** Buy a piece of land at Buea and get the canonical permission from the bishop to start a school or MSFS novitiate in 2016.
- 3.** Start the construction of the community house, school and boys home at Doba the earliest. Present the project to various funding agencies and finish within next three years.
- 4.** Intensify the vocation promotion and promote at least ten candidates every year.
- 5.** Have a financial plan and budgeting for the communities and for the mission from 15th of Feb 2016.
- 6.** Appoint a correspondent for contacting the benefactors of western world.
- 7.** Prepare statutes for the Chad-Cameroon Mission by 15 Feb. 2016

8. Have regular community meetings and presentation of the accounts in all the communities every month.
9. Intensify the unity and the communion among the confreres by means of birthday and feast day greetings and common celebration of the congregational feasts by the visit of the mission superior to the members.
10. Revive the apostolic communities in the Chad Cameroon mission.
11. Ensure internal auditing and appoint two confreres for the internal auditing. One in Chad and one in Cameroon.
12. Revive the Friends of Fransalians by appointing a confrere as contact person.
13. Mission circular once in 4 months.
14. Strengthen the children sponsor program
15. Find out Sponsors for all the professed members.
16. Make a written contract with the dioceses of Doba for 10 years, Ngaoundere for 10 years, Buea request the bishop to have a contract of 25 years. Ekekam as a permanent MSFS parish in the diocese of Obala.
17. Make safe the lands in Yaoundé.
18. Think of the possibility of getting the collaboration of the religious womens' congregation for the Gadambanga Land. We should do the follow up with the Holy Cross sisters.
19. Province should send at least two priests every year to the mission.
20. Ensure the financial stability of the mission.

One of the things that has touched me most during this short visitation to Chad and Cameroon is the joy and fulfilment with which our confreres are rendering their services to the people through the ministry of our congregation. I met each one of our confreres personally, including the theologians and regents. I met the postulants and seminarians in group and shared with them our vision as a congregation and as a province. I was edified by their selfless commitment and the sense of belongingness to the province. I thank Fr. Manoj for his dynamic and tireless leadership and sincere commitment. I thank all the daring missionaries of Chad-Cameroon mission for their availability and sense of commitment. God bless the Chad-Cameroon mission.

Hearty Congratulations to our New Priests



Fr. Innacimuthu was born on May 28, 1981 to Mr. R. S. Selvaraj and Mrs. S. Michaelammal at Pudukotai. He joined MSFS Formation House at Saumya Sadan, Mysore on June 16, 2007. He had his Novitiate at Sannidhi, Mysore and made his first profession on June 11, 2009. After completing his philosophical studies at Suvidya College he was sent for his regency to Vinayakumar Ahsram, Nilambur. He had his theological studies at Tejas Vidya Peetha and was sent to JDV, Pune for his free semester. He was ordained a priest on

December 21, 2015 by his Grace Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras of Bangalore Archdiocese at SFS Church, Hebbagodi. He is appointed as the Asst. Parish Priest of St. Josph's Church, Sagar in the Diocese of Shimoga.



Fr. Pulikkalath Nirmal was born on 07.01.1989 at Nedumunda to Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Valsamma. He joined SFS Minor Seminary, Ettumanoor in June 2004. He had his Novitiate at Sannidhi, Mysore and made his First Profession on June 11, 2008. After completing his philosophical studies at Suvidya College he was sent for his regency to SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor. He completed his Theological studies from Tejas Vidya Peetha and was sent to JDV, Pune for his Free Semester. He was ordained a priest on December 26, 2015 at St. Mary's Forane Church, Edoor by his Lordship Rev.Dr. Lawrence Mukkuzhy, Bishop of Belthangady. He is appointed as the Asst. Parish Priest of St. Sebastian's Church, Ashokapuram, in the Archdioce of Ernakulam –Angamaly.



Fr. Joseph O.T Ouseparambil was born on 25.09. 1987 to Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Mary. He joined SFS Minor Seminary, Ettumanoor in June 2004. He had his Novitiate at Sannidhi, Mysore and made his First Profession on June 11, 2008. After completing his philosophical studies at Suvidya College he was sent for his regency to Vinayakumar Ashram, Nilambur. He completed his Theological studies from Tejas Vidya Peetha and was sent to St. Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Jeppu, Mangalore for his Free Semester. He was ordained a priest on December 29, 2015 at St. Joseph's Church, Pulingome by his Grace Rev. Dr. George Valiamattam, Archbishop Emeritus of Tellicherry. He is appointed as the Asst. Parish Priest of St. James Church, Punithara in the Archdioce of Ernakulam – Angamaly.



Fr. Josemon John Kochuputhenpurayil was born on 11.02.1988 at Manvettom to Mr. John Joseph and Mrs. Mercy John. He joined SFS Minor Seminary, Ettumanoor in June 2004. He had his Novitiate at Sannidhi, Mysore and made his First Profession on June 11, 2008. After completing his philosophical studies at Suvidya College he was sent for his regency to Vinayalaya, Bangalore. He completed his Theological studies from Tejas Vidya Peetha and was sent to St. Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Jeppu, Mangalore for his Free Semester. He was ordained a priest on December 30, 2015 at St. George Church, Manvettom by his Grace

Rev. Dr Mathew Moolakkatt, Archbishop of Kottayam. He is appointed as the Asst. Parish Priest of St.Thomas Church, Pulluvazhyin the Archdiocese of Ernakulam – Angamaly.



Fr. T. C Jose Thottukadavil was born on December 21, 1944 at Kavalam, Alappuzha to Mr. Cherian and Mrs. Theresa. He was a family man and after the death of his wife he was reflecting for long time to become a priest. He was a professor of Mathematics in India and in African countries. After some thirteen years of reflection and prayer he joined our congregation to become a priest. He joined our community at SFS Vidyasharm, Aluva in November 2009. He had his Novitiate at Snehajyothi Ashram, Makkiad and made his First Profession on June 09, 2011. He had his philosophical studies at St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore. After completing his Theological studies from Tejas Vidya Peetha, Bangalore he was ordained a priest on January 3, 2016 at SFS Church, Vattiyoorkavu by his Grace Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Perumthottam, Archbishop of Changanacherry. He is appointed to our community at CharisBhavan.

Appointments

Fr. Jose Kumbloickal is granted permission for the Sabbatical Year starting from February 3, 2016. During the sabbatical year, he will be residing at our MSFS House, Mattanoor with effect from February 03, 2016.

Fr. Innacimuthu is appointed as the Asst. Parish Priest of St.Joseph's Church, Sagar in the diocese of Shimoga with effect from February 04, 2016.

Fr. Pulikkalath Nirmal is appointed as the Asst. Parish Priest of St. Sebastian's Church, Ashokapuram, in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam –Angamaly with effect from 30th January 2016.

Fr. O.T Joseph Ouseparambil is appointed as the Asst. Parish Priest of St. James Church, Punithara in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam –Angamaly with effect from 30th January 2016.

Fr. Josemon John Kochuputhenpurayil is appointed as the Asst. Parish Priest of St.Thomas Church, Pulluvazhy in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam –Angamaly with effect from 30th January 2016.

Fr. T.C Jose Thottukadavil is appointed to our community at Charis Bhavan with effect from 30th January 2016.

Fr. Paul Aranjanil is designated to be appointed in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly with effect from 24th February, 2016.

Fr. Jose Vechuvettickal is appointed as the Superior of MSFS House, Mattanoor with effect from 30th January 2015.

Blessing of the Newly Constructed Church at Koppal



The Koppal Mission completed more than two decades of its existence pioneered by Fr. Sebastian Conrad in 1994. This vibrant mission opened new vistas of education, pastoral, and social commitment to large population of multilingual community in Koppal. The development of this mission was fostered by many confreres and more so with Fr. Tomy Mullasseril as the current parish priest and Superior of the community. St. Francis De Sales Church was the dream Project of our Province and it's actualized by Fr. Tomy, whose unsurpassing dedication and hard work paved foundation of a new Church in Koppal. The financial help from Germany, England, and the

local benefactors' substantially improved since the foundation stone laid on 25th July 2014 by Fr. Jose Kumblolickal, former provincial of South West India Province. The entire construction took more than a year and today St. Francis De Sales Church Koppal elegantly poised as the most ethnic architecture style with stunning and luminous interiors. St. Francis De Sales Church Koppal was dedicated and blessed by His Lordship Rev. Dr. Henry D'Souza, the bishop of Ballary on 28th January 2016 at 11.00 am in the presence of Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, the provincial Superior of South west India Province. A large congregation of priests and religious from Bellary diocese and good number of MSFS confreres from Karnataka and Kerala participated in the Holy Mass and the agape thereafter.

Reported by Fr. Binoy Kurakalayil MSFS

Blessing and Inauguration of New MSFS House at Mattannur



MSFS Congregation has made its formal presence in the Archdiocese of Tellicherry by inaugurating and blessing our first community house at Mattannur on 30th January, 2016. Although we had the land purchased in 2003 and obtained the canonical

permission to establish a community of the MSFS at Mattannur under the Archdiocese of Tellicherry, this did not become a reality till January 2016. The solemn inauguration of the new MSFS House was done by the new Provincial of South West India Province, Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal in the presence of the Archbishop of Tellicherry Mar George Njaralakatt, numerous MSFS confreres, priests from the Tellicherry Archdiocese, Kannur Diocese and a large number of Friends of Fransalians and well-wishers. After the inauguration of the House, the Archbishop of Tellicherry blessed and consecrated the house for the use of the MSFS during the Holy Mass officiated by him. During the homily, the Archbishop welcomed the MSFS formally into his Archdiocese and assured his support and patronage. He appreciated the presence of the MSFS in this area of his Archdiocese where there is a lot of need for spiritual and pastoral assistance to people. The Provincial, in his thanksgiving message, also announced the administrative decision to formally constitute this to be the new community of South West Province in the Kannur Apostolic Community and appointed Fr. Jose Vechuvettickal as the Local Superior of the Community.

Mattannur as a town is growing in importance and it is very strategically situated in North Kerala as the gate way to the whole region of Malabar. Our present house is around 5 km away from the new International Airport which will be soon functional. The house is very beautifully designed and built under the able leadership of Fr. Jose Vechuvettickal, who has completed the work in record time of 7 months. He deserves our sincere appreciation and felicitation for the hard work accomplished. It is spacious and has 4 rooms, with chapel, parlour, spacious interior hall and two porticos. The Provincial Administration has entrusted the community at Mattannur to discern the new ministries to be initiated here within a year and the community is studying the various possibilities of starting relevant apostolate according to the needs of the people and the faithful in this area.

Reported by Fr. Jose Kumblolickal MSFS

ISO Certification, SFS Public School & Junior College, Ettumanoor

SFS Public School & Junior College, Ettumanoor, has been awarded the ISO Certificate (ISO 9901:2008; Certificate Number QMS2014069) in recognition of its high-quality performance and state-of-the-art infrastructure. This award is a well-deserved recognition and the school is justly proud of its all-round performance. The School also recently received extension of its provisional affiliation with the Central Board of Secondary Education, Delhi, (CBSE) for a further period of five years until 31 March 2021.

Reported by Fr. Roy Plathottathil MSFS

Report of the School Day: SFS Public School, Kengeri

SFS Public School, Kengeri celebrated its third annual day on 30th January 2016. It was a day of great joy and satisfaction for all of us, as we witnessed the unfolding talents of our students through varieties of programmes.

The celebrations began at 5.30 pm with a prayer dance and Rev. Fr. Christopher Crasta MSFS presided over the programme. Rev. Fr. Mathew Mamala, Principal of the school presented a detailed report about the growth and the various activities that took place in the last year. Dr. Sony Pellissery, associate prof., Bangalore National School of Law and the young scientist award winner graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Shri. Madhev, Circle –Inspector of police, Kumbalgodu distributed prizes for the toppers. It was followed by a cultural banquet by the students of SFS School. The varieties of dances, skits, comedy, mime, karate, music and yoga were a real treat to the crowd that had gathered for the programme. The presence of MSFS Confreres, Religious, Priests and brothers enhanced our joy on that happy day.

Reported by Fr. Sijo Olickal MSFS

Superiors' Meeting

The Annual Superiors' Meeting was conducted on 2nd February 2016 at Vinayalaya. Twenty Seven Local Superiors of our communities attended it. The meeting began at 9 am with a prayer by the Provincial. The Provincial welcomed the gathering of the Superiors and the resource person Rev. Fr. Joe Mathias SJ, the Rector of St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary. Fr. Joe spoke very convincingly of the **Challenges for Leadership in Animating Community Today** which evoked adequate responses and queries from the gathering. Thereafter the Provincial addressed the gathering of the Superiors regarding the challenges in the province for further growth and the role of the Superiors. The provincial also shared with the Superiors regarding the proposals made by the Superior General after his visitation of our province especially regarding the spiritual life, community life and the animation role of the superiors. The Superiors then shared their experiences in the communities as well as the up-to-date functioning of the respective communities with the new initiatives and challenges. The meeting came to an end with an adoration of the Blessed Sacrament animated by the Provincial.

Formators' Forum Meeting, 2016

The first meeting of the formation forum in the year of formation was held at Vinayalaya Bangalore under the able leadership of Rev. Fr. Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil, Councilor in charge of Formation, on 11th February 2016. The meeting was well attended by formators from Tejas Vidya Peetha, Suvidya College, Sneha Jyothi, Makkiyad, SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor and Sannidhi, Mysore who actively involved themselves in discussion and deliberation. The meeting began with Provincial's address followed by the sharing of the activities by the representatives from respective houses. The main thrust of the meeting was to plan out programmes for the year of formation. Various activities for the different stages of formation, formation for the formators and ongoing formation were planned which would be implemented in the year of Formation. Special discussions were held on the creative ways of vocation promotion. Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, the provincial appreciated the formators for their commitment and sacrifice in forming the future of the Province and also called on them to be models for the formees.

The meeting was concluded with 30 minutes of adoration led by Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, the Provincial.

Reported by Fr. Santosh Pereira MSFS

Regency Meeting- 2015

The midterm evaluation of regents was held on 21st and 22nd December 2015, at Vinayalaya. All the regents were present. It began with prayer at 9.30 a.m; Rev. Frs. Jose Kumblolickal, Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil, Benny Koottanal, and Fr. Riju were the special animators of the meeting. Father Provincial gave orientation talk exhorting all the regents on the need to be responsible in all the aspects of community life. After which Fr. Henry met all the regents personally. Later we all moved to Hebbagodi to partake in the ordination of deacon Innaci Muthu. On 22nd we began the day with the morning Adoration at 6.00 am. At 8.30 am in the presence of Rev. Fr. Jose Kumblolickal, Fr. Henry and Rev. Fr. Benny we had sharing session, it was the platform where each regent could share all his experiences, sharing session was concluded by the inspiring talk of Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal emphasizing the need of being a man of prayer. Later Fr. Riju, one of the resource persons, challenged the regents with his convictions and motivated the regents to stretch out maximum to be of use for the community. Then we had group discussion and prepared action plan together with Fr. Henry for the coming days where all the regents resolved to be more faithful and responsible in their community. The talks were very challenging as the resource persons spoke with conviction and from their lives and activities. There was also time for the regents to share their concerns either personally or in common. Bro. Arun Cyriac proposed the vote of thanks and the meeting came to a close at around 1.00 p.m. on 22th December 2015. It was a great time of coming together and meeting everyone and getting rejuvenated for the future growth.

Reported by Bro. Joseph Madalai Muthu

Let us Pray for the Departed

1. Fr. Varghese Elanjipuram (84), belonging to Vizag province, passed away on Januray 07,2016.

Kindly favour our departed confrere with the suffrages prescribed in our constitutions.

2. Mrs. Annamma,75 years old, Motherof Fr. James Panickerveetil,passed away on 15 January 2016

3.Fr. Devasia Koottarapally's Mother Mrs. Thresiamma, 74 years old, passed away on January 19, 2016 due to cancer.

4. Fr. Crasta Herold Christopher's nephew Michael Suvarn Miranda, aged 17 years, expired on January 9, 2016.

5. Fr. George Chirayil's first cousin Mr.Joseph Chirayil, aged 70 years, expired on January 16, 2016.

6. Fr. Wilson Kottam's aunt **Mrs. Thresiamma**, aged 86 years, expired on January 18, 2016.

7. Fr. Shibu Thundathil's cousin **Mr. Binu Thomas**, 45 years old, passed away on January 26, 2016.

8. Fr. George Mariaraj's nephew passed away on February 5, 2016.

9. Bro. Tony Munduchalil's mother **Mrs. Anamma Thomas** passed away on January 17, 2016.

Let us remember our confreres in their sorrow and we assure you dear fathers and brother the remembrance of your dear ones in our Holy Mass and prayers.

My Program

January 2016

- January 26 - Council Meeting, Vinayalaya
- January 27 - Visitation to Savanur, Mundargi, Kuknoor
- January 28 - Blessing of the new Church at Koppal
- January 29 - Visitation to Sannidhi, Soumya Sadhan, MSFS House, Mysore
- January 30 - Visitation to Ulickal, Blessing of the new MSFS House in Mattannur, Blessing of the new extension of SFS School, Kannur

February 2016

- February 1 - Council Meeting, Steering Committee meeting at Vinayalaya
- February 2 - Superiors' Meeting at Vinayalaya
- February 3 - Visitation to Charis Bhavan, Charis Niketan
- February 4 - Episcopal Consecration of Mar Jose Pulickal at Kanjirappally
- February 5 - Visitation to SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, SFS School, Ettumanoor
- February 6 - Annual Day, SFS School (State Syllabus), Hebbagodi
- February 7 - Institute Day Mass at Visvadeep, SDB Spirituality Centre, Bangalore
- February 8 - Visitation to Chintamani, Srinivaspura, Kadisenahalli, Sidlaghatta
- February 9-10 - IIS, Bangalore
- February 11 - Formators' Meeting, Steering Committee Meeting, Vinayalaya
- February 13 - Visitation to PSI Kengeri, Bathery
- February 14 - Visitation to Makkiad, Sannidhi Mysore
- February 15 - Visitation to Sannidhi, Mysore, Tejas, Kengeri
- February 16 - Visitation to Tejas, Nest, Fides India
- February 17-29 - MTH Defences in IIS

- February 20 - Diaconate, Tejas
February 21 - Council Meeting, Vinayalaya
February 27 - School Annual Day, CBSE, Hebbagodi

Salesian Thought:

“Hold firm to your convictions, remain human in your speech, let your actions tell your story and that would be history.” – St. Francis de Sales

Fraternally,



Fr. Benny B. Kootanal MSFS

Rev. Fr. Benny Kootanal MSFS

Provincial