

MISSIONARIES OF ST.FRANCIS DE SALES - MSFS

SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE



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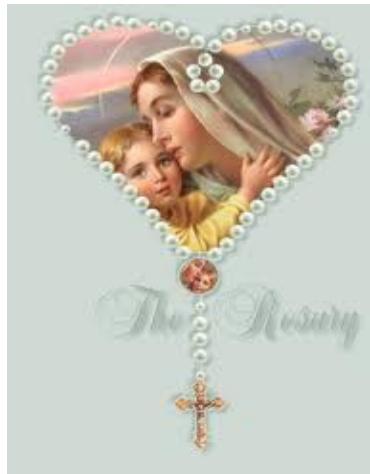
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VINAYALAYA, MSFS Provincial House
P.B.No.5557, Malleswaram West P.O
Bangalore 560 055, INDIA

Circular JK/11

October 20, 2014

My dear Confreres,



Month of October is dedicated to the devotion of the Holy Rosary. Praying the rosary in the families, in the communities and personally is a powerful means of growing in the continued presence of God through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. This devotion has been so powerful in the Church that it was able to fight schisms and heresies. Through the recital of Rosary victories are attributed in wars fought by Christian Kings in the past. Pope St. John Paul II speaks of the Rosary as a powerful weapon, more powerful than an atom-bomb to destroy the powers of evil in the world. The naval victory of Lepanto gained by Don John of Austria over the

Turkish fleet on the first Sunday of October in 1571 was attributed to the recital of Rosary and Pope Pius V ordered that a day be kept in honour of the Rosary. It was Pope Clement the XI that made the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary a universal one in 1716.

Devotion to our Blessed Mother is a sure foundation for deepening our priestly and religious consecration. I exhort all the members of our province that we revive this devotion in our personal lives and in all our communities. The practise of setting apart 10 days continuously for the devotion of reciting the Rosary in October is to be followed. Our first Missionaries consecrated the whole mission of the MSFS in India to the special patronage of Mother Mary on Ross Hill, in Visakhapatnam to save the Mission from natural calamities and other adversities. Let us once again go back to the good tradition of re-consecrating ourselves to her powerful protection. We express our solidarity with the people of Andhra and Orissa who were affected by the hurricane Hud-Hud, particularly with the communities in our Visakhapatnam Province. Let us pray to our Blessed mother to protect us from all natural and human-made calamities through her intercession.

Report of the Stewardship Forum Meeting

The Stewardship Forum of the South West India Province met on 29th August, 2014 at Vinayalaya, MSFS Provincial House Bangalore. The meeting began with a prayer and the

welcoming words of Fr. Joshy Thazhathukunnel, the Provincial Bursar. Rev. Fr. Jose Kumbolickal, the Provincial, in his inaugural address spoke about the importance of the meeting of stewardship forum as it is a formation for all involved in the financial administration of the province. He said that it is training for all to become familiar with the new rules and regulations of the government and to be more responsible with financial administration and planning. There were 32 participants from different MSFS communities. The first session of the meeting was mainly a sharing session where in all the participants were given opportunity to share in brief about the work they do, the challenges they encounter and the dynamism of their ministry with a focus on to the future plans and prospects of the respective local community. The second session contained with a presentation from Mr. Rohan Miranda, the auditor, who gave certain directives regarding methods of accounting and book keeping. He also found sufficient time to clarify the doubts of the participants regarding government regulations and new policies. The Provincial Bursar then shared in detail some of the concerns regarding accounting in our province and clarifications were made by the participants. The meeting served as training for the new procurators and for deepening of knowledge for all those who are in the financial administration already. The programme came to an end at 4.30 p.m. in the evening with the vote of thanks by the secretary.

Reported by Fr. Joby Mattathil

Report of Social and Innovative Forum Meeting

Social and Innovative Ministry Forum Meeting of South West India Province was held on 28th august 2014 at Vinayalaya, Bangalore. Rev. Fr. Jose Kumbolickal, the Provincial of South West India Province and Fr. Benny Koottanal, the Provincial Councillor for Social and Innovative Ministries addressed the members of the Forum. Fr. Mathew MI was the main invitee to address the Innovative Ministry Forum. He presented to the members the relevance of Social Apostolate in the Church today and how we can be innovative in the work we do and how to initiate new ones. He mentioned that to work for the welfare of the people is our commitment and the poor have a right to receive our services. The Government is offering many opportunities for new innovative ministries for us and we need to be aware of them and be collaborators. We need to change according to the times and if not we become irrelevant. We should have the courage to stop or change the way of doing things when they become irrelevant and look for more meaningful ministries according to the need of the people. It was encouraging to note that almost all the members of the Forum were present for the meeting. Fathers from different social centres shared their views and concerns. The meeting reviewed the difficulties and challenges faced in the social apostolate and put forward suggestions to make it more innovative and effective. Rev. Fr. Jose Kumbolickal, the Provincial noted that South West Province has diverse forms of ministries, but we should not be contended with the minimum. Government has taken over most of the ministries that we were doing at one time. We have to explore possibilities and enter into new and diversified projects. He also mentioned the importance of network with likeminded NGOs. We need to be alert to know the need of the time and tap the resources to conduct better. Fr. Benny Koottanal concluded the meeting, highlighting the main concerns that emerged in the meeting followed by a short prayer. Fr. Anil Thondampallil proposed the vote of thanks.

Reported by Fr. Jijo Chemplanickal

Founder's Day Celebrations at Silang, Cavite, Philippines



On 30th of September 2014, the MSFS Philippine Delegation celebrated the founder's day. It was held at MSFS Formation house Silang, Cavite. Prior to the coming together for the common celebration as one Fransalian family, the Seminary in Silang had 9 days of intense spiritual preparation, assimilating the spirituality, life and works of Fr. Peter Marie Mermier. There were

reflections on specific aspects of the life and activities of Fr. Mermier, followed by short meditation and prayer for the beatification of our founder. It was indeed a meaningful preparation for the Founder's Day, and it added to the knowledge of each and every one of us about our founder's faith, determination, courage and perseverance in the mission. On the day of our Founder's Death Anniversary all the members of our different communities came together at Silang. We had chosen the theme "Building a talented and zealous community in Fr. Peter Marie Mermier's Spirituality". The coming together forged our oneness and unity and boosted our enthusiasm to be missionaries after the spirit of our Founder. We started our activity with the Solemn Eucharistic celebration that was presided over by our Philippine Delegation Superior Rev. Fr. Ginu Pathiyakam together with the MSFS fathers and brothers. During the Eucharistic celebration Bro. Anishmon Joseph was given the ministry of Lector while Bro. Nathaniel Masendo and Bro. Ronie Fernandis were conferred the ministry of Acolyte. After the Holy Mass we had our Agape meal, followed by a short cultural program that was a joint presentation by the three formation houses namely, Novitiate, Scholasticate and the Minor seminary.

Reported by Bro. Noel Suico Tatoy

Golden Jubilee Celebrations at Vinayakumar Ashram, Nilambur



September 15, 2014 was a memorable day for Vinayakumar Ashram, Nilambur as it was the Golden Jubilee celebration Day for the Estate-Ashram. The Solemn Thanksgiving Eucharist was presided over by Most Rev. Dr. Varghese Chakkalakkal, the Bishop of Calicut, and concelebrated by 62 priests. Rev. Dr. Jose Kumbolickal, the Provincial of South West India Province introduced and welcomed the dignitaries and all the guests to this celebration. Bishop, in his homily, called upon all Christians to witness Christ in all the circumstances of their lives and he also enumerated the contributions of MSFS Fathers in Nilambur area in building up and sustaining Christian faith.

Immediately after the mass the colourful felicitation began with the lighting of the lamp to symbolize the presence of God. Vinayakumar Ashram presented "**Symphony of Gratitude**" a documentary film about the historical presence of the MSFS congregation in Kerala and particularly at Nilambur region. This documentary film highlighted the struggles and the dedicated works MSFS priests and brothers rendered for the pastoral, educational, medical, social, agricultural and economic growth of the people in and around Nilambur during the past fifty years. Fr. Saji Vadakkedath, the Superior, welcomed the dignitaries to the stage, especially Most Rev. Dr. Varghese Chakkalakkal, Chief guest, Rev. Dr. Jose Kumbolickal, President, Sri N.M Basheer, Panchayath President, Sri. Baburaj, Sub-Inspector of Police, Fr. Thomas Anikkala, Fr. Jose Kokkandathil and Forane-Vicars of Calicut and Mananthavady dioceses. He also welcomed the MSFS confreres from Nagpur, Northeast and Vizag Provinces and all the confreres from Karnataka & Kerala, priests and religious sisters from in and around Nilambur, officials, parish council members - representing the parishes where MSFS worked, well-wishers, workers and neighbours. Bishop in his inaugural address narrated the history of the local church in Nilambur region and enumerated the concrete contributions of the MSFS for the Calicut Diocese and to the Thalacherry Archdiocese. Provincial in his presidential address thanked all the bishops of Calicut & Mananthavady dioceses for their support to the MSFS and for the encouragement for all the priest-members present in these dioceses. He said that the Jubilee year is the time to recommit ourselves to the Lord and to his people. In this jubilee year he asked pardon for the mistakes and offences that MSFS may have committed in the past.

Most Rev. Dr. Varghese Chakkalakkal, Rev. Dr. Jose Kumbolickal and Fr. Thomas Anikkala felicitated the former Superiors, fathers who were members of the community, and workers who rendered dedicated services at Vinayakumar Ashram, Nilambur. The cultural programmes performed by the children from the St. George church, T K Colony added colour to the function. Around 800 people participated in the celebration. Fr. Mijo Kulamkuthiyil thanked all for their esteemed presence. The celebrations came to an end with a delicious lunch.

Reported by Bro. Robin Vattoth

Abhishekiranavu Jubilee Convention at Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha

The Annual Convention of Charis Bhavan this year was unique as it was the Silver Jubilee Convention of the Renewal Centre. The theme chosen for the Convention conveyed the special focus of the event – *Abhishekiranavu*, meaning “fullness of God’s grace”. The Convention hall was packed with a huge crowd during the first five days of



October 2014. There were echoes of praises to God all around and bold proclamation of the Word of God by eminent preachers. The 24th Annual Bible Convention in Charis Bhavan was inaugurated on 1st October by Most. Rev. Zacharias Mar Philixinos, Arch Bishop of Malabar Diocese by lighting the lamp and he eloquently preached on 'Christ the Anointed and the Anointing one.' He gratefully acknowledged the role of Charis Bhavan in his life since he was a former student in the School of Evangelization of Charis Bhavan.

In the following days of the Convention Fr. Jacob Manjaly, Fr. Sebastian Poovathinkal, Fr. Kurian Karickal MSFS, Sr. Jermain and Bro. Santhosh Karumathra preached the word of God on various topics related to the theme and on the need to be anointed in our concrete life situation. Rev. Fr. John Marymangalam (Chancellor of Vijayapuram Diocese) presided over the Eucharist on the third day. Rev. Fr. Jose Kumbolickal MSFS (Provincial of South West India Province) was the chief guest on 4th day and presided over the Eucharist and gave a message on recognizing the anointing of Jesus in every stage of our lives and deepening it. Fr. Jose Parappillil MSFS, Fr. Dijo Koikkara MSFS and Fr. George Kalayikkal (Vicar, Kurumullur) presided over the mass during the days of the Convention. *Abhishekaniravu* Convention was really an experience of anointing for around ten thousand people who gathered daily at Charis Bhavan for this convention. As this is the Silver Jubilee year of the foundation of Charis Bhavan we launched a plan for constructing houses for the poor people in the society. Collection pots were distributed to everyone who attended the convention with an invitation to join with Charis Bhavan in providing shelter to the poor families. *Abhishekaniravu* Convention 2014 came to an end on October 5th evening at 5.00 p.m with the solemn Eucharistic procession and blessing.

Reported by Fr. Anish Mundiyani

General Chapter-Congregational Retreat at Vinayalaya



The second General Chapter - Congregational Retreat of the year for the South West India Province confreres was held at Vinayalaya

from 6-10 October, 2014. Fr. Pulloppillil Joseph and Fr. John Karondukadavil animated

the retreat. It was a time of reflection, rejuvenation, interiorization, and recapturing the spirit of our Founder and the early missionaries for the participants. The preachers passionately appealed to the members to be true to the call they have received as missionaries in the congregation after the model of Fr. Mermier, our founder and the early missionaries. The atmosphere of total silence and the serious participation of the members contributed for the effectiveness of the retreat. On the fourth day evening there was a gathering of the participants with the Provincial for an update of province matters and for sharing their concerns. The retreatants with the help of talks, group meditation, group discussion, self-direction, Holy Eucharist and Adoration made best use of the retreat and went back energized by the Spirit. There were as many as 63 participants from different centres of the SW Province and some participants were from the other Provinces.

Reported by Fr. Sujith Pallasseril

New Provincial Administration of East Africa Province

The Seventh Provincial Congress of the East Africa Province elected the following Confreres to the new Provincial Administration:

Fr. Kochuparampil Thomas	- Councillor in-charge of Formation & Admonitor
Fr. Vettikal Sunny	- Councillor in-charge of Education
Fr. Chinnappan Arockiasamy	- Councillor in-charge of Mission
Fr. Chozhithara Thomas	- Councillor in-charge of Social and Innovative Ministries
Fr. Soosai Raj Robert	- Provincial Bursar

New Provincial Administration of Pune Province

The Seventh Provincial Congress of the Pune Province elected the following Confreres to the new Provincial Administration:

Fr. Sunny Kualangarath	-Councillor in-charge of Formation & Admonitor
Fr. Peppin Jeyaraj	-Councillor in-charge of Education
Fr. Nazareth D'Silva	-Councillor in-charge of Mission
Fr. Albert Fernandes	-Councillor in-charge of Social and Innovative Ministries
Fr. Jerry Misquith	-Provincial Bursar

South West Provincial Administration and the members of the Province congratulate the re-elected Provincials of East Africa Province and Pune Province and felicitate the newly elected administrative teams! We assure you our prayers and we wish you God's abundant blessings for a fruitful tenure in service.

Transfers and Appointments

Fr. Giridhari Lakra, Fr. Robin Thonikuzhiyil and Fr. Amougou Amougou Emile Paulin are appointed as members of the **Advisory Council** to the Mission Superior of Chad-Cameroon with effect from 25th September, 2014 till the Delegation is raised or to the period of time judged opportune by the Provincial Administration. The Council has already met once in September with the Mission Superior and made concrete plans and proposals for the future expansion and stabilization of the Mission. I congratulate the

Advisory Council members and thank them for their generosity to be at the service of the Mission.

Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam is appointed as the Superior and Procurator of our Community at Ekoundoum with effect from 15th October, 2014.

Fr. Robin Thonikuzhiyil was designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of Paroisse St. Daniel Comboni, Doba with effect from 12th October 2014. He is also appointed as the Superior of our house at Comboni, Doba.

Fr. Abessouguie Christophe Bertrand is appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of Paroisse Ste. Famlle'd Ebang with effect from 15th October 2014. He is also appointed as the Vocation Promoter of Chad-Cameroon Mission and the Disciplinarian of Seminarians at La Feuillette.

Fr. Innocent Parfait Onomo Ayissi is appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of Paroisse St. Daniel Comboni with effect from 19th October, 2014. He is also appointed as the House Procurator and Director of St. Daniel Comboni Primary School, Doba.

Fr. Thomas Chennakattukunnel is designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of St. Alphonsa'a Church, Kuvempunagar, Mysore. He is also appointed as the Local Superior and Procurator of our MSFS House at Kuvempunagar with effect from October 19th, 2014.

Fr. A. Jerome is appointed by the Archbishop of Bangalore on the permanent staff of St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore to the Department of Canon Law. He will continue to exercise his present responsibility residing at Malur during this year.

Fr. Shino Puthusseray is appointed to the Community of Charis Bhavan with the specific duty as the Director of Charis Niketan, Athiarampuzha with effect from 20th October, 2014.

Fr. Biju Palamkunnel is appointed as the Superior and House Procurator of our Community at PSI Sevagram, Kengeri with effect from October 15, 2014.

Fr. Ekka Anand is designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of St. Xavier's Church, Sedam with effect from 25th October 2014. He is also appointed as the Local Neighbourhood Community Superior to our MSFS confreres working in the diocese of Gulbarga.

Fr. Boban Elanjimattathil has returned and **Fr. Scaria Kannezhathu** is returning to India from Chad-Cameroon after their services to the Mission. We thank them for their dedicated services to the Province and to the Mission. Hearty welcome dear fathers!

Bon Voyage

Fr. T. Paul Raj and Fr. Ekka Sunil Kumar left for pastoral ministry in the diocese of Eichstatt, Germany on October 9, 2014. They are undergoing the German language course and pastoral training in the Diocese for one year. We wish you God's abundant blessings in the new ministry!

Congratulations

Fr. Tom Pannalakunnel has successfully defended his doctoral dissertation titled "**Changes in substance craving and other psychological components after treatment in a religious based program**" on 5th October, 2014 at Argosy University, Schaumburg,

U.S.A. We congratulate you dear father and wish you God's blessings!

Change of Address and Phone Numbers

1. P. Jaimes Varghese Panickaruveettil

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2. Fr. A. Jabamalai

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3. Fr. James Manjackal

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4. Fr. Boban Elanjimattathil

Mobile: 0091 7259378093

News about Sick Confreres

Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam underwent a hernia operation and he is recovering. Kindly keep him in our prayers.

Fr. Arockiya Samy is still recovering from the surgery of piles he underwent two months back and he now resides at Vinayalaya. Let us continue to pray for his recovery.

Fr. Raison Kaduvakuzhy is very weak and his health is fast deteriorating. Bro. Jibin, the regent, who is a BSC Nurse, gives personal and special care for Fr. Raison. He is unable to speak clearly and he can only consume liquid food now. I once again thank the Mermier Bhavan community for all the care and attention given to Fr. Raison. Let us intensify our prayers for Fr. Raison.

Fr. James Manjackal – is consistently recovering and now he is able to move a few steps by himself. Recently he had sent a WhatsApp video clip of his first steps alone in the room. He needs to regain more strength for his hands and fingers. Dear Fr. James, we assure you our continued prayers for your complete recovery. We wish you all the best for your future retreat programs.

Fr. Thomas Mattakarathundiyl – is steady in his condition. I met him during the Charis Bhavan Annual Convention. He meets people and also comes out in the wheelchair during most evenings. He continuously prays for the Congregation and for all the members. We assure you father our continued prayers and support. May God grant you his healing and strength!

On Home Visit and Vacation

Fr. Binod Puthenpurackal, Fr. Thomas Mekkattu, Fr. Joseph Mannukuzhumpil, Fr. Praful Tigga, Fr. Thadeus Lakra and Fr. D. Jeevan Prasad are on home visit. Fr. Mathew Thottiyil and Fr. George Vattappara returned to the US after their visit here in India. Fr. Jose Puthiyaparambil (Jr) and Fr. Antony Valiaparambil will be visiting India soon with

another confrere from Franco Swiss Province. We wish our confreres pleasant stay and safe journey back to their places of study and ministry.

Provincial Vicar – during my Visitation to English Province and GAH

During my visitation to English Province and GAH Fr. Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil will be the Provincial Vicar. You can contact me on e-mail and in case of emergency my contact numbers will be available with the Provincial Vicar.

Let us Pray for the Departed

1. Fr. Varkey Joseph Koovackal of Vizag Province, aged 84, passed away on 23rd September, 2014.

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

2. Let us pray for **Libnus Xess**, father of Fr. Bipin Xess, who passed away on 18.10.2014. Fr. Bipin was unable to attend the funeral. We join you dear father and your family in the sorrow and pain of the loss of your dear father. We assure you our prayers for the eternal repose of your father and for the comfort and strength for all the family members. Fr. Bipin Xess will visit the family soon and spend a few days with them.

My Programme

October 2014

21- Nov 21 – Visitation of confreres in U.K, Spain, Germany and Austria

November 2014

22 Nest Home Day, Kumbalgodu, Kengeri

23 Council Meeting, Vinayalaya

25-26 Meeting of Indian Provincials-Councilors with General Curia, Vinayalaya

27 PIF-PEA Meeting, Vinayalaya

December 2014

1 Kannur School Program

8 Council Meeting, Vinayalaya

13 Charis Bhavan Silver Jubilee, Athirampuzha, Kerala

20 SFS PU College Blessing, Kolar; Apostolic Community Meeting, Vinayalaya

22 KRCR Executive Committee Meeting, Vinayalaya

23 Visitation to the Philippines Delegation

In the Footsteps of our Patron, St. Francis de Sales:

Pigeons are seen who, moved by vanity, show off in the air sometimes, gliding this way and that, admiring the beauty of their feathers. It is then that the falcons, which catch sight of them, fall upon them and seize them. This they would never do if the pigeons were flying their normal flight, as they have wings stronger than those birds of prey.

Alas, Theotimus, if only we did not occupy ourselves with the emptiness of passing pleasures, especially in the delight of self-love. Rather, having once received charity, if we were careful to fly straight to where it would take us, we would never be caught by suggestions and temptations. But like doves led astray and deceived by self-esteem, we turn in on ourselves and occupy our hearts too much with creatures. And so we find ourselves often caught by surprise in the talons of our enemies who carry us off and destroy us" (**SFS**, *Treatises on the Love of God*, Bk IV, Ch 3).

Fraternally in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Jose Kumbolickal".

**Rev. Fr. Jose Kumbolickal MSFS
Provincial Superior**