

# MISSIONARIES OF ST.FRANCIS DE SALES – MSFS

## SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE



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**Circular JK/3**

**September 06, 2013**

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**My dear Confreres,**



I wish you, at the outset, a very Happy Feast of Our Lady of Compassion, the Patroness of our Congregation and a Blessed day of the Death Anniversary of our beloved Founder, Servant of God Fr. Peter Marie Mermier! The month of September is something special for the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales as these two important events that are very close to the heart of all the members coincide. Our Constitutions, in Art. No. 10 elucidate the reason for our Founder to choose Mother of Compassion as our heavenly Patroness: “To be closer to the Crucified Christ, through a life of complete surrender and total dedication to the Father’s will and to be more ready to suffer the consequences of standing for the values of the Kingdom of love, justice, peace and reconciliation, our Founder presents Mary, the Mother of

Sorrows/Compassion as the Patroness of our Congregation”. I entreat every confrere of the Province to prepare spiritually by praying the Novena to Mother of Compassion and also the Novena to our Founder for a renewal of our religious and missionary consecration.



This year the Founder’s day is something special for us as it marks the 150<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary of Fr. Peter Marie Mermier. Our Founder’s spirit and vision is recaptured in the Art. No. 4 of our Constitutions: “I have totally dedicated myself to the work of the missions, to the sublime ministry of Jesus Christ who is the first missionary and leader in every mission”. Our vision for this double Jubilee Year was well articulated by the General Chapter 2013: It is three fold – to be missionaries absorbing the Fransalian heritage of our Founder and of our pioneering missionaries, to be Mystics of God’s love by deeply rooted in Salesian spirituality and to be Prophets who will embrace the voice of God and the vision of the Congregation. I wish and pray that this Jubilee Year be a blessing for all the MSFS to renew ourselves in the pioneering missionary spirit of our early fathers!

### **My Visitation of Chad-Cameroon Mission**

I made the official visitation of Chad-Cameroon Mission from the 11<sup>th</sup> of July to 6<sup>th</sup> of August, 2013. I visited all the centres of our Mission, met all the confreres and animated the



Mission Colloquium for the sharing and planning of future activities of the mission. It was a spiritually enriching experience for me personally and I believe it was the same for the confreres in the Chad-Cameroon Mission too. The visitation was meticulously planned by Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam, the Mission Superior and he accompanied me to each and every mission station personally. I take this opportunity to thank him and to place on record the untiring efforts he had made in making this visitation a fruitful one. Chad-Cameroon Mission

is taking definite shape and it is geared towards stabilization. This year we had two new ordinations and after three more years we will have steady ordinations every year. We have two missions in Chad – Bero and Doba. Four of our fathers are working there – Fr. Sandeep Tirkey and Fr. Christoph, with Bro. Boris at Bero; Fr. Scaria and Fr. Robin at Doba. Bero is the first mission of the South West Province in Central Africa. Doba was taken up later. The religious climate in the Diocese of Doba, where our fathers are working, is in turmoil right now. The bishop was expelled by the Chad Government on the accusation that he spoke against the Chad Government. We have well established missions started by the Combonian fathers, consisting of parishes with several mission stations, schools and boys' home. Our continuity in Chad depends on the new bishop and how the religious scenario evolves in the Diocese of Doba.

Our Mission in Cameroon is really flourishing. In the Diocese of Ngaoundéré the King has



gifted us with a good plot of land and we are beginning our Minor Seminary, a School and a clinic in collaboration with women religious congregations. Two of our fathers are engaged in the pastoral activities, both in the University of Ngaoundéré and in two parishes - Fr. Giridhari is the pastor in charge of University chaplaincy and Fr. Bipin Xess is the parish priest. This can be one of the permanent presences of the MSFS in Cameroon and the bishop is very welcoming and supportive. In the

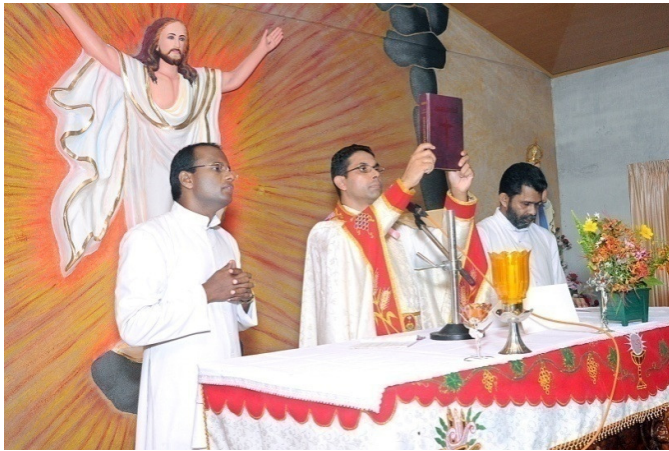
Archdiocese of Yaoundé we have one of the most promising parishes, that of Ekoundoum. Two of our fathers are working there – Fr. Boban Elanjimattathil is the superior and Asst. Parish Priest and Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam is the parish priest. The parish church construction is near completion and this church is a mini basilica which is constructed with the help of the people and by the untiring efforts of our confreres. This parish consists of very educated and influential people who support the MSFS and many form part of *Friends of Fransalians*. Within the territory of this parish, we have a plot of land which is apt for a

school and we are beginning a school there this year. We have also another four acres of land in the vicinity of this parish, where there is scope for another school.

In the Diocese of Obala we have our Major Seminary, La Feuillette, situated and we have a permanent parish entrusted to our care at Ekkekam. Fr. Manoj Arackal is the Rector of the Seminary and the Parish Priest at Ebang. Under the parish of Ekkekam there are two plots of land for us and we are planning to have a school and a dispensary there for the people. Fr. Marcel and Fr. Parfait serve this parish at present. Fr. Mathew Kavithazhe has taken up one of the most remote and challenging missions in our Chad-Cameroon Mission. The place is called Kokabouma, it is in the Anglophone area of Cameroon and the access to this mission is a serious problem. The people are very cooperative and Fr. Mathew is fully engaged in the construction of the new Church there and in the building up of the parish community. Fr. Thomas Moongamackal is designated as the University chaplain at Bouya, which is again in the Anglophone area of Cameroon and it is the oldest diocese in Cameroon. Fr. Gijo Panamattam is at Arusha, serving the Philosophate and preparing for his studies. Fr. Kuldeep Kujur is appointed as Socius at Kibaha in Tanzania.

In our Mission Colloquium, we had a very meaningful sharing and planning regarding the future of our Chad-Cameroon Mission. Two of our newly ordained priests will soon take up their B.Ed studies and Fr. Emile is pursuing his MTh studies at IIS, India. Two more confreres from Chad-Cameroon will go to Germany for pastoral ministry in order to support the future Delegation financially. In my visitation of Franco-Swiss Province in January-February 2014 we will arrive at concrete plans for the financial support of Chad-Cameroon Mission. After lengthy and in-depth sharing and discussion, it was unanimously proposed in the Mission Colloquium to raise Chad-Cameroon Mission into a Delegation.

### **Blessing of the Newly Constructed Chapel at Atmajyothi Retreat Centre, Pattikkad**



The newly constructed chapel at Atmajyothi Retreat Centre, Pattikkad was blessed by Rev. Fr. Jose Kumbloickal, the Provincial, on July 7, 2013. Fr. Tomy Pulimthanam, the Director of the centre, welcomed the invitees. The occasion was solemnized by the presence of many MSFS Confreres, Priests from the Diocese, Religious sisters, neighbours and benefactors. Rev. Fr. Jose Kumbloickal, the Provincial, congratulated the Director, Fr. Tomichen and the

Procurator, Fr. Devasia Koottarappallil for their tireless efforts in materializing this dream project and for their team work. He also thanked the group of collaborators at Atmajyothi for the wonderful apostolate of Renewal of Christian life done at the Centre and in the neighbouring parishes. In his message he highlighted the importance of our Prayer Centre and its activities. At present Atmajyothi Retreat Centre caters to the spiritual empowerment of the faithful by way of organising regular residential retreats, family retreats, evening convention and counselling. The programme came to an end with the agape meal.

**Fr. Tomy Pulimthanam MSFS**

## A Short Report on Mission Colloquium, Chad-Cameroon



The Chad-Cameroon Mission had two mission colloquiums in this year 2013. The first one took place in the month of March, 2013 during the visitation of Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our Superior General. And the second one took place on 22nd July, 2013. Though the meeting was foreseen for two days, the discussions came to an end by the first day itself. All the confreres were present except Fr. Scaria Kannezhath and Fr.

Thaveethu Paulraj. The meeting was presided over by Rev. Fr. Jose Kumblolickal, the Provincial Superior of the South West India Province. The confreres shared the life in the mission centres, presented plans and visions for all the units. There were special sessions on Financial Planning, Ongoing Formation of Confreres and Opening of New Centres in the Mission. Discussions were held also on how to make the Mission self sufficient and how to improve the functioning and administration. After sufficient and mature discussion on the question whether to raise the status of the Mission into a Delegation under South West India Province or not, the members unanimously voted in favour of raising the Mission into a Delegation. The Mission Colloquium came to an end with the thanksgiving Holy Hour Adoration, the first Mass of the new priests and the group photo.

**Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam MSFS**

### Members of the Forums

The following members belong to the below mentioned Forums in the Province:

Fr. Elanjimattathil Baby	- Mission Forum
Fr. P.Maria Lawrence	- Education Forum
Fr. A. Antony Sathiya Seelan	- Mission Forum

### Reminder to Participate in the Forum Meetings

The meetings of the various forums with the respective General Councillor in-charge are scheduled in the following way:

Mission Forum	16-17 September 2013 ( Vinayalaya)
Education Forum	18-19 September 2013 “
Formation Forum	19-20 September 2013 “
Superiors' Forum	27 September 2013 “

The Social and Innovative Forum meeting will be in the month of November due to the ill-health of the General Councillor in-charge. The date and venue will be communicated to you in a short while.

I remind all the confreres that these meetings are strictly obligatory as they fall within the exercise of the new governance in our Congregation. Kindly take note of the dates and the members of the respective forums are to take part in the meeting without fail.

### **Province Retreat in October, 2013**

The last and final retreat for this academic year 2013-2014 is scheduled from October 14 – 18, 2013 at Vinayalaya. Please make sure that **everyone who did not participate in the first retreat at Charis Bhavan joins this retreat without any exception**. Participation in the annual retreat of the Province is a Constitutional requirement. Please register your names with Fr. Joji if you have not yet registered.

### **SFS Pratheeksha Boys' Home, Chintamani**

One of the Action Plan of the Provincial Congress 2013 was to revive the Boys' Home in Chintamani. Due attention has been paid to it and the Boys' Home is in full function now. We have this year sixteen boys and the Director and Principal at Chintamani give sufficient attention to improve the infrastructure and facilities to the boys. This boys' home is part of our pastoral plan for Karnataka that we cater to poor Catholic boys in our mission in Karnataka to educate them and support them to find a job in their lives. I thank our Frs. AC Arokianathan and Prasanth Kumar at Chintamani for the keen interest they have shown in reviving the Boys' Home and attending to the over-all needs of the boys.

### **Schools' Contribution for Chad-Cameroon Mission**

It was also one of the resolutions of the Provincial Congress that we continue to support our Chad-Cameroon Mission, especially with our collaboration through schools in the Province in India. Accordingly an *Africa Day* was held in all our Schools and the annual collection of last year is Rs. 2,91,525. I earnestly enjoin all the principals of our schools and colleges to hold the *Africa Day* this year with appropriate theme and exhibition, inculcating in the students a sense of solidarity with our mission in Africa. I thank all the principals and managers of our schools and colleges for their whole-hearted cooperation and support.

### **ID Card from the Archdiocese**

The Archdiocese of Bangalore has made it obligatory that all the priests, religious and diocesans, working within the Archdiocese to furnish their personal data to the Archdiocesan office for issuing ID cards to the fathers. Kindly get in touch with the Archdiocesan office and send your Curriculum Vitae to the Archbishops office at the earliest for the purpose of creating an ID Card for those who work in the Archdiocese, either in the parish or in religious institutions.

### **Salary Increment of Teachers**

The common education policy in the province demands that all our educational units follow strictly the common policies and practises we have in the province. Any salary increment to the teachers will have to be brought to the notice of the provincial administration for its

approval. All our educational institutions are kindly requested to follow these guidelines strictly without any exception.

## Hearty Congratulations to our New Priests from Chad- Cameroon Mission



### **Fr. Christophe Bertrand Abessougui**

Fr. Christophe Bertrand Abessougui is the second priest from our Chad- Cameroon mission. He was born on 14. 09 .1983 at Ombessa, Cameroon to Mr. Abessougui Christophe and of Mrs. Agoumé Félicité. . He was admitted as postulant to our community house, Maison Pierre Mermier at Nkolbisson, Yaoundé in 2004. He did his Pre- Novitiate at Ndagani, Kenya from 2006-2007 and Novitiate at Fransalianum Kibaha. He made his first profession on 10.07.2008 at Fransalianum, Kibaha. He did his philosophical studies in the University of Yaoundé, Cameroun. After the completion of his philosophical studies, he was sent for the regency to our community at Bini Dan, Ngaoundere, Cameroon. He completed his theological studies at Ecole Théologique Saint-Cyprien Ngoya- Cameroon. He was ordained a priest by His Grace Archbishop Piero Pioppo, Apostolic Nuncio to Cameroon and Equatorial Guinea, on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 at St. Sebastian's Cathedral, Bafia, Cameroon and celebrated his First Holy Eucharist in his home parish, Notre Dame du Mont Carmel Church, Ombessa, Diocese of Bafia on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2013. On behalf of the entire Province we Congratulate Fr. Christophe and wish him God's abundant blessings!

### **Fr. Innocent Parfait Onomo Ayissi**

Fr. Innocent Parfait Onomo Ayissi is the third priest from our Chad- Cameroon mission. He was born on 20. 04.1978, Cameroon to Mr. Ayissi Ernest and Mrs. Nga Agnès Béatrice, as their second among six children in the family. In September 2002 he was admitted as postulant to our community house, Maison Pierre Mermier at Nkolbisson, Yaoundé. After that he was sent to Tanzania for his Pre-Novitiate from 2004-2005, and then Novitiate from 2005-2006 at Fransalianum, Kibaha. He made his first profession on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2006. He did

his philosophical studies at Institut de Philosophie Saint-Joseph Mukasa, Yaoundé from 2006-2008. After the completion of his philosophical studies, he was sent for the regency to our parish at Sainte Joséphine Bakhita, Bero, Chad. He completed his theological studies at Ecole Théologique Saint-Cyprien Ngoya- Cameroon. At the end of his theological studies, he made his perpetual profession on 21st September 2012. He was ordained a priest by Most Rev. Dr. Sosthène Léopold Bayemi Matjei at Ntsa-Ekang in Obala Diocese on 20<sup>th</sup> July, 2013 and celebrated his First Holy Eucharist on 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2013, at St. Joseph the Worker, his home parish. On behalf of the Province we wish Fr. Parfait hearty Congratulations and God's abundant blessings!

## Diaconate

**Bro. Joseph Charles Periyannayagam and Bro. Padikara Nelson** were ordained Deacons on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2013, at Tejas Vidya Peetha, Kengeri by Most Rev. Thomasappa Anthony Swamy, Bishop of Chickmagalur. The occasion was graced by the presence of many MSFS confreres and the Spanish team. Hearty congratulations to our new deacons.

## Hearty Congratulations to our Silver Jubilarian : Fr. Jose Kokkandathil MSFS



Fr. Kokkandathil Jose was born on April 19, 1959 at Kaloor, Moovatupuzha. He joined the minor seminary at Ettumanoor and made his first profession at Salesianum, Vizag on June 10, 1981. He was ordained a priest on April 19, 1989 at St. John the Baptist Church, Kaloor by his Lordship George Punnakkottil of Kothamangalam diocese. After his ordination he rendered his service at Vinayakumar Estate, Chokad, SFS Seminary Ettumanoor, St. John of the Cross Church, Adoor, and MSFS House, Pattikkad. At present Fr. Jose is the Administrator of SFS Group of Institutions and Parish Priest of Our Lady of Sorrows Syro-Malabar Parish, Hebbagodi. Fr. Jose is a dedicated pastor, good administrator and a lover of nature. He is a committed religious who upholds the lofty values of religious life. The entire province family joins you, dear Fr. Jose Kokkandathil, in thanking God for the gift of priesthood and for the divine call you have received to the family of MSFS. We pray for your good health and wish you *ad multos annos!*

## Transfers and Appointment

**Fr. Marcel Dung Dung** is appointed as the Director of Aspirants and house Procurator at La Feuillette, Ngoya, Cameroon. He is also designated to be appointed as the parish priest of SFS Church, Ekekkam, in the Diocese of Obala, with effect from September 1, 2013.

**Fr. Kuldeep Kujur** is designated to be appointed as the Socius and Procurator of the Novitiate at Kibaha, Tanzania for a term of two years with effect from September 1, 2013.

**Fr. Abessouguie Christophe Bertrand** is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of Sainte Joséphine Bakhitha Parish, Bero, Chad. He is also appointed as the Director

of SFS School and as the procurator of our community at Bero with effect from September 1, 2013. He will also pursue his B. Ed Studies.

**Fr. Innocent Parfait Onomo Ayisi** is appointed as the Vocation Promoter of the Chad – Cameroon Mission, he will assist Fr. Marcel at Ekekkam parish and help in the formation of Aspirants at La Feuillette. After the raising of the Mission into Delegation, he will be given his new assignment.

**Fr. Sandeep Tirkey** is designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of Sainte Josephine Bakhitha Parish, Bero, Chad. He is also appointed as the Superior of the community and as the Director of Boy's Home, Bero with effect from August 18, 2013.

**Fr. Amougou Amougou Emile** is assigned for his MTh studies in Spiritual Theology at Indian Institute Spirituality, Rajajinagar, Bangalore with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> July 2013.

**Fr. Scaria Kannezhath** will be relieved from his present duty as parish priest at Doba and is designated for pastoral ministry in Germany from March 2014.

**Fr. T. Paulraj** is relieved from his responsibility as parish priest of Bero and is designated for pastoral ministry in Germany from August, 2013.

**Fr. Sunny Punnakuzhy** is appointed as the Parish Priest of St. John Neumann Parish by the Archbishop of Atlanta, with effect from July 1, 2013.

### Promoted to Regency

1. Boris Nixon - Mission Catholique , Bero, Chad.
2. Karuvelil Simil - Lafeuillette Community, Ngoya, Cameroon.

### Let us pray for the Departed

**Rev. Fr. Philip D'Silva** of the Nagpur Province passed away at Mermier Sadan, Nagpur on 14.08.2013 at the age of 82.

**Rev. Fr. George O'Sullivan** of the English Province passed away at St. Aldhelm's Presbytery, Malmesbury on 22.08.2013, at the age of 83.

**Kindly favour our departed confreres with the suffrages prescribed in our constitution.**

Let us pray for **Mr. P. T. Thomas**, father of Fr. Jose Puthiapampil (Jr) and the brother of Fr. Jose Puthiapampil (Sr) who passed away on 14.07.2013.

**Mrs. Marykutty Chackochan** (58yrs), sister -in-law of Fr. Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil who passed away on 15.08.2013.

### My Programme

#### September 2013

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|---|---|
| 5 | Visitation, Nilambur Estate, Kerala       |
| 8 | IIS Institute Day, Holy Mass, Rajajinagar |



- 10-12 SFS Parish, Vattiyoorkavu, Novena Mass, Trivandrum; Meeting with Punaloor Bishop; Visitation ITTSCAT; Visitation Aluva Community,
- 13 Council Meeting, Vinayalaya
- 15 Mother of Compassion, Feast Day Mass, St. Alphonsa Church, Hebbagodi
- 16-22 Forum Meetings – Vinayalaya
- 23 Jubilee Celebrations, Suvidya, Electronics City
- 25-26 Gulbarga Mission Visitation
- 27 Superiors' Forum Meeting, Vinayalaya
- 29 CRI Executive Body Meeting, Vinayalaya
- 30 Founders Day, Tejas, Kengeri

**October 2013**

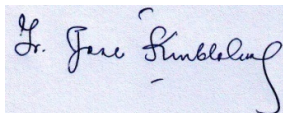
- 5-6 Stewardship Forum Meeting, Vinayalaya
- 9-10 PIF Meeting, Trichy
- 12-13 Council Meeting, Vinayalaya
- 14-18 Province Retreat, Vinayalaya
- 16 Charis Bhavan Convention, Holy Mass, Athirampuzha
- 17 Silver Jubilee celebrations – Fr. Jose Kokkandam, Vinayalaya
- 18 1<sup>st</sup> Death Anniversary Mass of Fr. Devasia Kalapurackal, Vinayalaya
- 18-4<sup>th</sup> Nov Visitation – Philippines Delegation

**Salesian Thought: *Love and Zeal***

*Zeal is simply love in earnest, or rather earnestness in love. Love, therefore, is the measure of zeal – love's energy. If love is right, its zeal is good; if love is wrong, its zeal is bad. Now, when I talk of zeal, I mean to include jealousy too, for jealousy is a type of zeal. The only difference between them, unless I am mistaken, is that zeal looks to the whole welfare of the beloved in order to remove the evil that endangers it, while jealousy looks to the particular good of the friendship in order to repel anything that may stand in the way of that.*

SFS, Treatise on the Love of God, Book 10, Ch. 12.

**Fraternally in Christ,**



**Fr. Jose Kumbloickal MSFS**  
**Provincial Superior**