

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



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**My dear Confreres,**

Fraternal greetings to you from Fr Benny. As all of us have entered into the thick of the activities of the year, especially as the academic and financial year is coming to a close, I wish each of you God's abundant blessings in your particular ministries. I have just returned after an experiential visitation to the Chad-Cameroon Mission of our Province, encountering the joys and struggles of our missionaries working in the remote parts of the world. Their witnessing life-style and commitment reminds me of the '**Poor Jesus**' who went about doing good.

## **Jesus: The Poor Missionary**



My dear Confreres, one of the crucial commitments of a religious is to follow 'Jesus, the Poor' in our life as Missionaries. I would like to reflect with you the meaning of poverty as proposed by Jesus. **The poverty that is proposed by Jesus is absolutely radical**, sometimes even unthinkable. Although not a literal definition, for me, the name 'Jesus' means, **the door that is shut against the poor**. Even as

He was in the womb of His mother He was denied a place to be born (Lk 2/7). His call was to run for life with His parents (Mt 2/13). If you look further into the public ministry of Jesus, we would notice that **Jesus lived a "gipsy life-style" – a wanderer to the core** (Mk 1/35-39). When people offered to follow him, his answer was: *Foxes have holes, Birds of the air have nest, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head* (Lk 9/58): **Sincere identification with millions of shelter-less people all over the world**. When He was questioned whether He pays tax, Jesus told His disciples to go and throw the net into the sea and open the mouth of the first fish that they get and they would find a Shekel in its mouth (Mt 17/27): **A clear indication that one should work hard to live his/her life meaningfully. Vow of Poverty demands hard work to earn one's living.**

Jesus was questioned: Is it lawful to pay tax to Caesar? Interestingly he asks one from the crowd, whether he has a coin with him (Mt. 22/19) - A clear sign that He did not even have a single coin for His daily bread: **Jesus was an Indigent who lived on the mercy of others.** At the time of his passion even His cloth was taken away (Jn 19/24) – the God of heaven and earth did not even have sufficient clothes to cover Himself – **a true identification with millions of people in the world who do not have sufficient cloth to cover themselves.** One of the most shameful things for a Jew is to die without a family tomb –Jesus underwent the maximum of shame and humiliation as He was buried in the tomb of someone else (Mk 15/46) – **a true identification with millions of refugees all over the world, who die unidentified and ‘mass buried’ without even a prayer being said for them.** My dear Confreres, the Gospel challenges us to measure out the depth of our following of Jesus.

The mission of Jesus to proclaim the beatitude of Poverty continued even after His resurrection. One of the first instructions that He gave to His disciples after His resurrection was: *Tell my brothers, they should leave Jerusalem and go to Galilee* (Mt 28/10). For the Lord **Jerusalem is merely a place of intellectual grandiloquence, merely a place of philosophy and theology without sense of purpose in life. Galilee is the SHORE meant for the disciples. It is the shore to the periphery, the fringe and the border of the society. There awaits millions of people for the disciples and for the missionaries to extend their helping hands and hearts.**

My dear Confreres, **it is time for us to RETURN TO GALILEE.** There is no meaning in professing the vow of Poverty without returning to Galilee. **Pope John Paul II** in one of His messages to the Superiors General of all the congregations said: **Let us not spiritualize poverty; let us participate in the material poverty of the people in our midst.** I see a tinge of this radical approach in the life-style of our missionaries in Chad and Cameroon. Waving off the fear of Malaria and Typhoid these young missionaries have set afire a new philosophy of life, modelling in their personal life, Jesus, the poor and the radical. Let us empower ourselves by evaluating the purpose of our vocation to be poor. Let us challenge ourselves: **Am I courageous enough to return to Galilee: to the Shore, to the Periphery, to the Border?**

### **Visitation to the Chad-Cameroon Mission**

I had the privilege to visit the Chad-Cameroon Mission of our province from the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2017 to the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2017. It had been an eventful visitation considering the valuable evaluations, personal meetings, common discernments and decisions undertaken for the well being of the Chad-Cameroon mission. I was accompanied by Frs. Joy Vazhappillil and Vinod Kanattu, the councilor and Provincial Bursar respectively, whose presence and contributions gave a lot of impetus for the strengthening of the mission. Hereby I would like to present to you a short report of the visitation.

## **I. VISITATION TO TANZANIA, EAST AFRICA PROVINCE**

### **1. Visitation to the NOVICES in Kibaha, Tanzania**



We arrived in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2017. **Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS**, the Provincial of the East Africa Province, welcomed us at the airport. From the airport we went directly to the Novitiate of the East Africa Province, where we have six of our Novices. Rev. Frs. Sebastian, the Novice Master and Santhosh, the Socius, welcomed us cordially. In the novitiate I had the opportunity to address all the novices together and to meet six of our novices personally and to celebrate the Holy Eucharist with the whole community.

### **2. Visiting FR. KULDEEP KUJUR in the Parish of Dumila, Tanzania**

Fr. Kuldeep Kujur, who is a member of our province, is rendering his service to the East Africa Province since four years. At present he is the Assistant Parish Priest in the Parish of Dumila, around 70 kms. away from Morogoro. I met Fr. Kuldeep personally and he is very satisfied in the ministry he is rendering and has endeared himself very well to the people and to the Confreres of East Africa Province. We spent the night in the Provincial house as we also celebrated there the Feast of St. Francis de Sales together with the members of various other Religious Congregations and diocesan priests.

### **3. Visiting FR. MATHEW KOZHUPPAKALAM, FR. GIJO PANAMATTAM AND SCHOLASTICS in Arusha, Tanzania**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2017 we travelled by Road, close to 700 kms, to Arusha. I had the great privilege of meeting our Confreres and Scholastics. It was also a coincidence that I could meet **Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil**, our beloved Superior General, as he is taking classes for the students undergoing Formators' Course. Rev. Frs. Agnelo Fernandes, Abraham Mullenkuzhy, Mathew Kozhuppakalam, Devasia Manalel, Mathew

Thazhathukunnel, Thomas Kochalumchuvattil, Tomichan Perumanoor and Gijo Panamattam are also rendering their services to this prestigious institution. I had also the personal privilege to meet the veteran missionary, **Fr. Mathew Chavely**.

**Rev. Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam** is rendering a yeomen service to the community of Arusha as Lecturer for the scholastics in various subjects, moderator of theses of students at various levels, Spiritual Director, Retreat Preacher and animator of short-term programs. Fr. Mathew's services are well recognized by the staff and students of Arusha. I had the opportunity to meet him personally and share some fruitful time of discussion. I thank him and appreciate him whole-heartedly for the ministry that he is undertaking joyfully.

**Fr. Gijo Panamattam** is the administrator of the Arusha community. At the same time Fr. Gijo offers classes for the students of Arusha and renders pastoral services to the neighbouring parishes and communities. Fr. Gijo is also preparing himself to go to Canada for further studies in counselling and psychology. If everything goes well he should be commencing this program by August-September 2017. In my personal meeting with him he has shared the joy of rendering services to the community of Arusha. I wish him all the best for his further endeavours.

We have **Thirteen of our Scholastics** at present undertaking philosophical studies at Arusha, Tanzania: Seven from Cameroon, Three from Chad and Three from India. I had the great privilege of meeting them and evaluating with them the progress of their studies, religious life and community life. It was also an opportunity to share with them the expectations we have of them. We celebrated the Sunday Mass with the whole community of the scholastics and the staff of the campus.



The first stage of our visitation was a great experience to share personally the life, ministry and the aspirations of our Confreres, Novices and Scholastics in Tanzania. We were also equally impressed by the personal commitment and missionary life-style of our Confreres in East Africa Province. I take this opportunity to thank Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, the provincial of East Africa Province, who spared no effort to make sure that our stay in Tanzania was very comfortable.

## II. VISITATION TO THE CHAD-CAMEROON MISSION

On the 30<sup>th</sup> of January we flew from Kilimanjaro via Nairobi to Yaounde, Cameroon. At the airport of Nairobi, Kenya, Fr. Sen Vellakada and Bros. Arun Valliara and Israil Lakra were waiting for us. From Nairobi we travelled together to Yaounde. **Fr. Manoj Arackal**, the Mission Superior, was at the airport to welcome us. We travelled together to our Community at Ngoya, in the diocese of Obala, where we were whole-heartedly welcomed by Frs. Manoj, Emile Amougou and Bipin Kishore Xess and the Theologians and Postulants.

### 1. LA FEUILLETTE: Our Community at Ngoya: Mission House, Theologate and Postulancy House



This is the 'Mother House' of our Mission in Chad and Cameroon. We have three of our Confreres as members of the Community along with a number of Seminarians.

**Fr. Manoj Arackal** is the Mission Superior of Chad-Cameroon Mission, rendering a wonderful service of missionary commitment of animation of the confreres, co-ordination of the mission-projects and as contact person between the province and the mission. Fr. Manoj renders his service also as the Parish Priest of the parish of Ebang in the Archdiocese of Yaounde and as the animator of the theologians.

**Fr. Emile Amougou Amougou** is the Mission Procurator of the Chad-Cameroon Mission. He renders his service in the community of La Feuillette as the Animator of the Postulants and commits himself for pastoral ministries, especially in the parish of Ekkoundum in the Archdiocese of Yaounde.

**Fr. Bipin Kishore Xess** is the Parish Priest of Ekekam, in the diocese of Obala. He renders his service also as the administrator of the La Feuillette community and assists in the animation of the brothers.

**Fr. Sen Vellakada** has joined the community of La Feuillette on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2017. Fr. Sen is appointed as the Superior of the Community, as the Animator of the Theologians and the Coordinator of the Benefactors of our mission.

**Postulants (Minor Seminarians):** At present we have eight postulants in the first year and five in the second year who undergo two years of postulancy program including community experiences in our communities in Chad and Cameroon before they enter the novitiate in Tanzania.

**Theologians:** We have five scholastics who undertake theological studies at the Theological Study Centre, Ngoya. Three of them belong to our province and two of them to the East Africa Province.

I had the opportunity to meet all our Fathers and Theologians in La Feuillette personally and the postulants jointly. It was an opportunity to assess our life as MSFS and to visualize our future plans for the mission.

**Task at Hand:**

- The community at La Feuillette is already constructing a Mission House and extension of the theologate in the vicinity of the existing house. It is a multi-purpose house with 42 rooms, auditorium, chapel, refectory and other facilities. It is envisaged to be an administrative house of the mission, spirituality cum retreat centre and the extension of the existing theologate. The construction of this house is expected to be completed by July 2017.

**On the 11<sup>th</sup> of February 2017** I had the privilege of administering the **ministries of Lector and Acolyte** to five of our Brothers in La Feuillette.

**2. Fr. Abessouguie Christophe Bertrand at Sts. Peter and Paul University Church, Buea**

We made our next journey to Buea by bus, in the Anglophone area of Cameroon, around 450 kilo meters away from Yaounde, where Fr. Christophe is rendering his service to the University Church of Sts. Peter and Paul. This parish has mainly more than 3000 university students attending services and a few families too. The ministry consists of the celebration of the Eucharist and rendering spiritual services to the university students, such as, administering sacraments, counselling and assistance in devotional practices. At the moment one of our postulants, Paulin, is having community experience in Buea. In the vicinity to this parish we have bought a plot of land consisting of five acres, which can in the course of time be planned as a site for a Novitiate community or

eventually even a school. We also had the privilege to meet the Bishop of Buea, **Bishop Emmanuel Bushu**.

#### **Tasks at Hand:**

- To support Fr. Christophe with at least one more Confrere to assist him in the ministry
- To complete the title deed of the land we have already bought and secure the land for the future purposes.

### **3. Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam in the Parish of Ekkoundum, Archdiocese of Yaounde**



Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam is rendering a great service to the parish of Ekkoundum in the Archdiocese of Yaounde as Parish Priest. This is a very big parish consisting more than thousand families. In addition to the responsibility of a parish priest, Fr. Joshy has undertaken a yeomen task of constructing a beautiful Church, which has reached its final stage. The speciality of this church is that it is constructed solely with the contributions of the parish community without any foreign aid. For the services in the Church he is timely assisted by Fr. Emile Amougu and by yet another religious congregation.

#### **Tasks at hand:**

- To support Fr. Joshy with one more Confrere at the earliest to join the community and to assist him in the ministry
- To complete the construction of the Church within a stipulated time limit.

### **4. Visiting our Confreres in Binidang, in the Diocese of Ngaoundere**

We took up our next visitation to our community at Binidang, in Ngaoundere by train, around 600 kilo meters, which can be considered the 'stopover' community between Chad and Cameroon. In our community we have two Fathers and a postulant, Bro. Felix, who is undergoing community experience.

**Fr. Girdhari Lakra:** Fr. Giridhari is the parish priest of the University Church of Binidang, Ngaoundere. He is also the superior of the community. The University Church consists of more than 2000 students from the university of Ngaoundere, participating in spiritual activities such as administration of the sacraments, counselling and other devotional practices.

**Fr. Marcel Dung Dung:** Fr. Marcel is the parish priest of Berem, which consists of more than 300 families. The parish is situated around 65 kms away from the city of Ngaoundere on the way to Chad. Fr. Marcel is also the administrator of the community.

## **We have two major Projects at Ngaoundere:**

- **SFS School, Ngaudamabanga, Ngaoundere:** This school has at present around 250 students up to the third standard. Fr. Giridhari is the manager of the school.
- **Minor Seminary at Ngaudamabanga, Ngaoundere:** The construction of the new minor seminary at Ngaoundere, solely supported by Fr. James Manjackal, is under construction. Once the construction of the seminary is completed our postulants in Ngoya will be brought to the new seminary.

### **Tasks at hand:**

- To complete the construction of the seminary and the extension of the school building within a stipulated time
- To bring in more qualified Confreres to assist the ministries such as pastoral, education and formation.

## **5. Visiting our Confreres in Doba, Chad**

We travelled to Doba, Chad by Car from Ngaoundere, a distance of around 550 kms. In Doba we have two of our Fathers, together with a regent and a postulant, Bro. Bertrand, who is having community experience.

**Fr. Robin Thonikuzhy:** Fr. Robin is the parish priest of the parish of St. Daniel Camboni and the superior of the community at Doba. The parish consists of more than 1000 families. It is one of the most important parishes in the diocese of Doba with various substations under it. In addition, Fr. Robin is also the manager of the secondary school of the diocese in the premises of the parish.

**Fr. Innocent Parfait Onomo Ayissi:** Fr. Parfait assists Fr. Robin in the parish. In addition he is also directly in charge of the primary school of the diocese in the premises of the parish and the coordinator of education in the diocese of Doba. Fr. Parfait serves the community also as the administrator of the community.

**Bro. Senghor:** Bro. Senghor, having completed the philosophical studies at Arusha, is now undergoing the regency experience in Doba.

We had also the great opportunity to host a dinner in our community in Doba for the Bishop Elect of Doba, and the outgoing Administrator of the diocese of Doba.

## **The Major Project at Doba**

We have a plot of around 12 acres of land in Doba. We plan to start a school, a community house and a Boys' Home in this premise. This land is situated around two kilo meters away from the parish. I had the privilege to celebrate the Holy Eucharist in our land together with the Vicar General of the diocese of Doba and to **lay the Foundation Stone for our School**. This is a great missionary endeavour we undertake

in the poverty-stricken land of Doba, Chad. We are generously supported by the new



Society founded by Fr. Sen Vellakada in Austria and a few other funding agencies. But we still need a lot more help to accomplish the task. Under the animation of Frs. Manoj and Emile the immediate construction plans will be undertaken by Fr. Robin and Fr. Parfait.

#### **Tasks at Hand:**

- To begin the construction of the school and garner more sponsors for the project.
- To bring in at least one or two more confreres to assist in the parish and to supervise the construction.

#### **6. Visiting our Confreres in Bero, Chad**

Our community at Bero is situated around 25 kilo meters away from Doba. We have two of our Fathers in the community along with a regent and Bro. Eric having community experience.

**Fr. Sandeep Tirkey:** Fr. Sandeep is the Superior of the community at Bero and the Parish Priest of the parish of St. Josephine Bhakita. The parish consists of not less than 500 families with various substations under it. Fr. Sandeep is also the manager of a school of the diocese, which is named after St. Francis de Sales.

**Fr. Sujith Pallassery:** Fr. Sujith is the administrator of the community and the Director of the SFS Boys' Home, with forty children, which is the only Boys' Home in the whole diocese of Doba. He is also the administrator of the community and assists Fr. Sandeep in the pastoral ministry.

**Bro. Cyril:** Bro. Cyril is undergoing the regency experience in Bero after the philosophical studies in Arusha.

## Tasks at Hand

- There is a need to coordinate the Boys' Home through better facilities and planning.
- The presence of one more Confrere would make the ministries much more effective.

## III. MISSION COLLOQUIUM



On the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2017 all the perpetually professed members of Chad-Cameroon mission gathered together at Binidang, Ngaoundere for the mission colloquium. It was a wonderful time of sharing, critical evaluation, definitive planning and a joyful time of togetherness and brotherhood. The mission colloquium brought to light all the matters concerning the ministry, financial and personnel management as well as the need of the mission to be raised to the status of a delegation.

### **Following are the most projected needs of our Mission in Chad and Cameroon:**

- The necessity to raise the Chad-Cameroon Mission to the Status of a Delegation.
- The necessity to make more Confreres available to make the ministries more effective and community life more active.
- The need to equip and qualify more confreres in specialized ministries through further studies and renewal programs.
- The necessity to have more organized financial viability through planned budgeting and calculative organization and implementation of projects.

After intensive discussions and deliberations the following points were jotted out as action plan for the year 2017.

## **Action Plan: Chad-Cameroon Mission 2017**

1. Raise Chad-Cameroon mission into a delegation.
2. Ensure half an hour of adoration in every community in the mission every day.
3. Have monthly community meetings and presenting of accounts in the communities.
4. Send annual budget of every community to the mission bursar before 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017 and ensure annual auditing.
5. Revive apostolic communities in the mission by having apostolic community meeting 4 times a year.
6. Continue the mission circular once in four months and ensure every centre sends news materials.
7. In the year of Education, social and innovative apostolate, start the construction of the school in Doba latest by 15<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and extent at least one class room for the Ngaoundere school before the end of august 2017.
8. In the year of Education, social and innovative apostolate strengthen the child scholarship programme by approaching more agencies and finding more worthy candidates.
9. Supervise the minor seminary construction and finish it before 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017.
10. Secure our properties and have a master plan for all our land in the mission.
11. Intensify the vocation promotion to have at least 10 candidates for next year. Make sure that every year candidates are recruited also from Chad.
12. Find sponsors for all professed members.
13. Have mission Corpus fund for emergency needs.
14. Seek the possibilities of Mission appeal in the USA and strengthen our collaboration with France-Swiss province.
15. Complete the work for the extension of La Feuillette by July 2017.

### **To provincial administration**

1. Strengthen the mission by sending more personnel.
2. Ensure the financial stability of the mission.
3. Revive the African day in all educational institutions of the province.

## **IV. PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF BRO. BORIS NIXON, RICHARD AND FRANCIS**



The 9<sup>th</sup> of February 2017 was a red letter day in the history of the Chad-Cameroon Mission and the East Africa Province as three of our confreres made their Perpetual Profession. Bros. Richard and Francis for the East Africa Province and Bro. Boris Nixon for the South West India Province made their final profession on this day. Bishop Emmanuel of Ngaoundere Diocese presided over the Holy Eucharist. I had the great privilege of preaching the homily and receiving the vows of our brothers. The Ceremony was attended by all our MSFS Fathers in the mission, Diocesan Priests, Religious Sisters and close to one thousand university students of Ngaoundere University. The choir was conducted by the university students of Ngaoundere. The Holy Eucharist was followed by a sumptuous meal for all. I take this opportunity to thank Frs. Giridhari and Marcel who spared no effort to make sure that the whole ceremony went on well.

**My dear Confreres**, it had been a heart-warming experience of true missionary life and commitment of our Confreres that we encountered during the three weeks long visitation to the Chad-Cameroon missions. I personally felt that the cry of Fr. Mermier ‘**I Want Missions**’ is being fulfilled effectively through our confreres who render their ministry with such a sense of joy and satisfaction. **Today our missionaries are empowered enough to withstand the chiding of weak minds that try to throw stones at them from safer shores.** I congratulate and thank each of our Fathers in Chad and Cameroon and assure them the whole-hearted support and accompaniment of the province administration. My dear Fathers, remember the words of St. Francis de Sales: “**Hold firm to your convictions, remain human in your speech, let your actions tell your story and that will be history.**” I thank Fr. Manoj Arackal, the Mission Superior and the Mission Council for the meticulous planning and implementation of the programs of my visitation. **God bless Chad-Cameroon Mission.**

### **The Diaconate Ordination in the Philippines**



Bro. Nathaniel Espenorio Masendo, MSFS, was ordained Deacon by **MOST REV. REYNALDO G. EVANGELISTA, D.D**, Bishop of Imus, at at Divine Word Seminary, Tagaytay City, Philippines, on 31 January, 2017. Bro. Nathaniel was ordained together with a Diocesan seminarian who belongs to the Diocese of Imus. A good number of

Diocesan priests, Religious and faithful were present at the occasion. I congratulate Dn. Nathanael and wish him God's abundant blessings in his ministry as Deacon.

### **Diaconate ordination in Fribourg**



Bro. Jose Simon, who is doing his theological studies in Fribourg, was ordained deacon by His Grace Rev. Alain de Raemy Auxiliary Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg on 28 January 2017 at St Peter's Church, Fribourg. He was ordained deacon along with two brothers from Visakapatanam province. Our confreres from France, Belgium and Switzerland were present for the celebration. Around 50 priest and 200 faithful shared our joy by their participation in the Eucharistic celebration. We thank Franco-Swiss Province for their help and service rendered to Dn. Jose Simon for his studies and stay in Fribourg as he is preparing for the ministry in the Chad-Cameroon mission. I congratulate Dn. Jose Simon on behalf of the Province and wish him well for his Diaconate Service.

### **Diaconate Ordination at Kengeri**



TO LIVE JESUS, THE SERVANT LEADER was the theme of the Diaconate ordination of nine of our brothers at Tejas Vidya Peetha on 18th February at 6.30pm. Most Rev. Dr. Bernard Mores, the Archbishop of Bangalore, presided over the solemn Eucharistic Celebration and ordained the brothers as Deacons. In the homily the Archbishop explicated the in-depth meaning and implications of the theme in context of the new

status of the brothers in the church. Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, the Provincial, Rev. Fr. Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil, the Rector, Rev. Fr Jayakumar, the provincial councilor in charge of the social and innovative ministry of the South East India province, were at the Altar and almost 40 priests from far and from vicinities of Bangalore concelebrated the Mass with the Archbishop. The newly ordained deacons were congratulated and together they cut the cake to express and share the joy and love at the felicitation ceremony. The memorable day came to an end with a fellowship meal. The event was blessed with the presence of guests numbered around hundred.

### **Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of the New CBSE School in Kengeri**



January 24th, on the feast day of our heavenly patron, FIDESIndia campus at Kengeri witnessed the laying of the foundation stone for the proposed new CBSE School. Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS, Provincial of south west India province laid the foundation stone. The ceremony was graced with the presence of the Fathers and Brothers from Tejas, staff and students of SFS School and the Nest Community. It was a day of dream becoming true for the FIDESIndia society as it extends its service into the field of education in the service of the society. Fr. Joy Vazhapilly, the executive director of FIDESIndia Society expressed his heartfelt gratitude to God and to all those who are part of this new venture.

### **Ongoing Formation Programme at Vinayalaya**

From 22-24 February 2017, the future pillars of the province the junior priests ordained between December 2008 to January 2016 gathered together at Vinayalaya for the Ongoing Formation Programme. There were 33 priests who actively involved themselves in the programme for three complete days. The programme began with the Provincials address on 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 9am and concluded with a short evaluation on 24<sup>th</sup> February at 5 pm. Fr. Santhosh Kumar Provincial Admonitor and Councillor in

charge of Formation Forum organized the whole programme meticulously. Fr Benny Koottanal, the Porvincial, Fr Santhosh Kumar, Fr Rayappan, Fr. George Kannanthanam CMF, Fr. Tom Pannalkunnel and Fr. Joe Cherolickal were the resource persons who enlightened the young minds with their youthful approach to various topics. There was a special opportunity for the young priests to interact with all the members of the Provincial Administration and to share their views and opinions. It was also an opportunity for all the participants to relax from the busy schedule and meet with each other.



### **Bala Sangama 2017**

The Bala Sangama 2017 was conducted at FIDESIndia Campus on 16th February 2017. It was a great and wonderful day in which the future of the nation gathered to exhibit their talents. The cultural competition with all its pomp and show and color began at 9.30am. It was a great matter of pride for the FIEDESINDIA that the event was blessed by the participation of 48 government schools and more than 1400 children



participated for the Bala Sangama 2017. The event became a highly delightful one with the presence of fathers and brothers from Tejas and NEST and the officials from the department of Education and political leaders. The whole event was animated and conducted in an excellent manner under the able guidance of Fr. Joy Vazhappillil, Fr Jijo Chemplanickal. Fr. Sijo Olickal, Fr. Shalbin. The day of innocent smiles, adorable talents and cute face was elegantly concluded by 3.30 pm with National Anthem.

## **Congratulations**

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our Confreres who have excelled in literary engagements as well as in academic performances:

**Fr. Binu Edathuparambil** has authored and published his second book titled, **“I Am Who I Am: Unraveling the Mystery of God”**.

**Fr. Sen Vellakada** has authored and published a book titled, **“Person-Oriented & Person Centred”**.

**Fr. Jijo Manjackal** has secured First Rank and gold medal in M.S.Communication from Central College, Bangalore University.

## **Bon Voyage**

**Fr. Jose Vettukattil** has left for Papua New Guinea on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February 2017 to undertake pastoral ministry. He is undertaking this ministry in collaboration with our Confreres in the Visakhapatnam Province. I wish Fr. Jose all the best and God’s blessings.

**Fr. Wilson Kottam** will be undertaking pastoral ministry in the English Administration. His visa is already secured and he will be leaving for England on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2017. We wish him all the best and success in his ministry and God’s abundant blessings.

## **New Address**

**Fr. Joby Pulichamakkal**

Santhpur P.O.

St. Mary’s Church

585 421, Bidar.

Namakkal

**Fr. Sudeep Andrews**

682 505, Kochi.

Our Lady of Lourdes Church

**Fr. Prakash Prashanth**

Thirthahalli

Holy Cross Church

577 432, Shimogga.

Shanthinilaya

## **Let us Pray for the Faithful Departed**

**Fr. Camile Meynet** aged 82 of France-Suisse Province passed away on 23, January 2017.



**Fr. George Nellikunnel** of Vizag Province, aged 97, passed away on 26, January 2017.



**Fr. Zacharias Mannukuzhumpil** of Vizag Province, aged 93, passed away on 26, January 2017.



**Fr. Ephrem Velamparambil** of Vizag Province, aged 79, passed away on 29, January 2017.



We remember these veteran missionaries of our congregation and pay them our tribute and respect. Fr. Zacharias, who was a former provincial, and Fr. Ephrem had been associated with many pioneering ministries within the territories of our province, in the then undivided Visakhapatnam Province. **I request all the Confreres to fulfil the suffrages as prescribed by MSFS Constitutions.**

### **My Program**

My dear Confreres, please do take note of my program schedule. Different from the previous circular, each new circular would bring in additional changes in my programs as per the need. Please do organize the visitation and other common meetings/programs according to the latest communication.

### **February 2017**

February 1-15	Visitation to Chad-Cameroon
February 16	Blessing the Marriage of Mr. Stany, Provincial's Driver, at Belthangady
February 17-18	Recollection for the Post-Graduate Students of IIS
February 18	Diaconate Ordination of our Brothers in Tejas
February 19-20	Visitation to SFS Seminary Ettumanoor, Meeting the Students, Assessment with the Staff regarding the Academic Year and the Formation
February 21	Conferring Minor Orders to the 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Theologians in Tejas
February 22-24	Gathering of the Young Priests at Vinayalaya
February 23	Visitation to Sannidhi, Mysore
February 25	Council Meeting
February 26	Parish Day celebration in the Mother of Sorrows Church, Hebbagodi
	Laying of the Foundation stone for the new Community House and Boys' Home, Chintamani
February 27	Input sessions for the Diploma Students of IIS on Life-Vision and Task Orientation
February 28	Laying of the Foundation stone for the new block of the SFS School, Malur
	Apostolic Community Meeting and Birthday cum 60 <sup>th</sup> Ordination Anniversary celebration of Fr. Antony Mookenthottam at IIS.

### **March 2017**

March 2-19	Visitation to our Confreres in the USA
March 22	Laying the Foundation Stone for the new school in Mattannur
	Visitation to the MSFS Community, Kannur
March 27-28	Recollection and Keynote Address for the Provincial Congress/Chapter of the South East India Province
March 29	Examination on Eucharist for the Theology Students of Tejas

March 30	Meeting of the Conveners and Secretaries of all the Apostolic Communities at Vinayalaya
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### April 2017

April 3	Council Meeting in Vinayalaya
April 5-6	Recollection for the Priests of the Diocese of Shimoga
April 8-10	Sedam Mission – Palm Sunday Celebration and visitation of the Confreres
April 14	Good Friday Liturgy at St. Francis de Sales Church, Jakkur
April 15	Easter Vigil at IIS
April 17-19	Keynote address for the Provincial Chapter of the North East Province
April 21	Visitation to Bathery Community
April 23	Parish Feast of T.K. Colony Parish, Nilambur, Chokad
April 28	Talk and Mass for the Salesian Seminar at IIS

### May 2017

May 4	Ordination of Dn. Aneeshmon at Kurichithanam, Palai
May 5-6	Council Meeting in SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor
May 5	Meeting of the Friends of Fransalians at Charis Bhavan
May 6	Silver Jubilee Celebration of Fr. Kurian Karickal at Charis Bhavan
May 7-13	Animating Salesian Retreat for our Brothers and Fathers at Makkiyad
May 16-23	Visitation to our Confreres in England
May 28	Perpetual profession and Renewal of Vows at Tejas
May 30	Initiation to Novitiate at Makkiyad
May 31	First Profession at Makkiyad

### Salesian Thought

“Those who foster a delicate conscience are rarely liable to rash judgment. It is the occupation of an idle person to be busy with scrutinizing the life of another.” - SFS

Fraternally,



Fr. Benny Kootanal MSFS  
Provincial