

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



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

Tel. 080 23340379 Mob: 91 9739010026, Fax: 080 23341329

E-mail:provincialsouthwestmsfs@gmail.com Website:www.msfsouthwest.com

SWIP Circular BK/13

April 15, 2017

My dear Confreres,

Fraternal greetings from Fr. Benny. After forty days of personal renewal through fasting, self-retrospection and conscious self-renewal we are now knocking at the door of **EASTER**, a new life proposed by Jesus. I wish each one of you, my dear Confreres, the joy, peace and single-mindedness of the Risen Lord.

EASTER: QUINTESSENCE OF CHRISTIAN INTEGRITY

My dear Confreres, the past forty days of intimate journey along with Jesus brought to us certain silver lines of Christian way of living. During these forty days of closer walk with the Church, we were helped to encounter the real personality of Jesus. Whether it



was *the temptation in the desert*, or *the picture of Lazarus and the rich man* or *the incident of the sinner woman caught in adultery* or *the passion of Jesus*, in and through these incidents **the Divine Integrity of Jesus** was highlighted. The ultimate experience of this integrity of Jesus is portrayed through His Resurrection from the dead.

Jesus is unaffected by the filth, grime and smut which often affect our Easter experience. Let us have a petite glance at the three levels of integrity of Jesus that can help us in our effort to a life of Resurrection.

If we go through the gospels we can see that during the Public Ministry of Jesus, He walked with three kinds of people:

- a) **Pleasure-seeking Women:** It is said that during His Public Ministry one of the groups of people with whom Jesus walked constantly was known as 'Pleasure seeking Women'. The Gospel of Luke 8/1-3 mentions that Jesus was accompanied by a group of women. These women were considered pleasure seeking because they were possessed by demons, leprosy and were affected by undue desires of the body through prostitutions. The society rubbished it on them as their own personal mistake. The Lord touched them and healed them and they became constant followers of Jesus.

- b) **Power-seeking Zealots:** The very word Zealot denotes 'zeal'. Zealots are the so-called patriots who would do anything for the safety and protection of their nation. They considered the power and position of their nation above that of anyone and anything. They believed in the philosophy of self-righteousness and personal gain above altruism and humanism. They wouldn't mind to kill a tax collector whom they considered a traitor of the nation. But remember, among the band of the disciples there was a zealot: **Simon the Zealot.**

- c) **Money-seeking Tax Collectors:** Apparently known to be a category of people who are treacherous in their handling of money, the tax collectors were the most hated brand of people in the era of Jesus. It was also because of the added reason of the title 'traitor' attached to their job, because they were collecting the taxes for the foreigners. But remember, among the apostles there was a tax collector: **Mathew, the Tax Collector.**

My dear Confreres, in spite of the fact that Jesus walked with these three categories of people so constantly, we would notice in the Gospels that **Jesus was never questioned of his integrity. Jesus developed a LOTUS SPIRITUALITY, that is, living in the dirt, but totally unaffected by the dirt.**

The resurrection of Jesus from the dead is an invitation for all of us to develop a **Lotus Spirituality.** The insubstantial definitions that we give to our chosen way of life have affected the credibility of our religious and consecrated life. We are affected by unchaste, power-driven and money-minded brawl games. Pleasure stands against the vow of Chastity, Power stands against the vow of Obedience and Money stands against the vow of Poverty. **These three vows are the quintessence of our integrity in religious life. We need a resurrection from these clutches.**

Let this celebration of Easter be a welcome sign for us to a new life of Resurrection: **Resurrection from the clutches of Pleasure, Power and Money.** Every MSFS is bound by the conscious choice of chaste living, obedience and respect to the authorities and transparency in financial management. Even when we go about preaching the gospel so vigorously, if the foundation of our life is ruined by these perfidies, the "woe to you" of Jesus will be looming over us. **My dear Confreres, LET US RISE TO A NEW LIFE WITH JESUS, TO THE LIFE OF INTEGRITY IN CONSECRATED LIFE.**

Visitation to Sedam: The New Mission Terrain of the Province

My dear Confreres, I had the great privilege of visiting the Sedam Mission in the Mission Diocese of Gulbarga in North Karnataka. At present we have only a small parish in Sedam. **Fr. Balavendra Jacob** is the parish priest and the mission co-ordinator of the centre.

a) The Parish at Sedam

This parish is entrusted to the MSFS Fathers by the diocese of Gulbarga. It is a small parish consisting around 20 families. I had the great opportunity to spend quality time



with the parish community as I preached a half-day retreat for them, administered the sacrament of confession and celebrated the Palm Sunday Liturgy with them. Fr. Vinod Kanattu and Fr. Balavendra joined me in the whole celebrations. Waving off the extreme weather conditions Fr. Balavendra gives his best for the spiritual renewal of the parish community through the visiting of the families and constant renewal programs. He is also the President of the CRI in the Diocese of Gulbarga.

b) Meeting with the Bishop of Gulbarga



I had the opportunity to meet with the Bishop of Gulbarga, Robert Miranda, and to dialogue regarding our future mission the diocese of Gulbarga. The bishop is willing to sell to us a piece of the diocesan land (approximately two acres) around 18 kilometres away from our parish in Sedam. This can be envisaged in the context of a social work ministry and in the course of

time further ministries as the time and the situation would prove itself. In the context of my meeting with the bishop together with Fr. Vinod and Fr. Balavendra, the following areas could be worked out for the furthering of the missionary dimension of our existence in the Mission Diocese of Gulbarga.

- **Immediate Measures**

- to collaborate with the social work wing of the diocese of Gulbarga, Seva Sangam, for the uplift of the poor from June 2017. Fr. Balavendra will be engaging himself in this ministry.
- to organize tuition for the children in the nearby villages of Sedam from June 2017 through the direct intervention of PSI and through the personal animation of Fr. Balavendra.

- **Long Term Measures**

- to start a community of the MSFS in the would be bought land
- to start effective ministries of social work as the opportunities opens itself up
- as the land which we are envisaging to buy from the diocese is close to three big villages, there are a lot of opportunities for furthering of our missionary presence there.

c) Visiting our Confreres in the Gulbarga Mission



Together with Fathers Vinod, Balavendra and Jijo Chemplany I visited **Fr. Prakash Prashant in Santpur**. It is around hundred kilometres away from Gulbarga. The parish consists of more than eleven mission stations. It has a school and a PU College. Fr. Prashant is well appreciated for his ministries and he does his pastoral ministry with a lot of enthusiasm and conviction.

We also had the opportunity to visit **Fr. Nirmal Jose in Ujjini**, which is around fifteen kilometres still interior from Santpur. This is one of the biggest parishes in the diocese. Fr. Nirmal is well integrated in the ministry of the mission through pastoral services, youth ministry and organization of children's programs.

My dear Confreres, in this year of Social and Innovative Ministries it is a wonderful initiative of the province to come to the aid of those who are in need of our compassionate care through the missionary commitment in the diocese of Gulbarga. The diocese of Gulbarga is an officially declared Mission Diocese. Let us pray that this mission we are envisaging in Gulbarga will be fulfilled through God's grace. I thank Fr. Balavendra for the wonderful commitment he shows for the growth of the MSFS mission in Gulbarga.

[Laying the Foundation Stone for the New Block of SFS School, Srinivaspura](#)

On the 11th of April 2017 the Foundation stone was laid for the new block of the SFS



School Srinivaspura. Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, the Provincial, blessed the foundation stone in the presence of Fr. Vinod Kanattu, Fr. A. Jerome and many other MSFS Fathers from the Kolar Deanery and in the presence of Rev. Sisters, Teachers and a number of students from the school. This new block would provide ample facility for quality education and holistic growth of the students.

Hearty congratulations to Fr. Selvaraj (the Manager), Fr. Majish (the Principal) and Fr. Prabhu for their teamwork and commitment for the uplift of the edifice of SFS Srinivaspura.

[Annual Retreat - It's Time to Register the Names](#)

My dear Confreres, as I had informed you sufficiently in advance the annual retreat of our province will be conducted first in **Charis Bhavan from 10-14 July 2017** and the second in **IIS from 09-13 October 2017**. As all of us are well aware, the annual retreats are constitutionally mandatory for every member of the congregation. Therefore no exemptions shall be permitted. I request all the Superiors of the communities to discuss this matter in your forthcoming community meeting and register the names of your community members for either of the retreats with the Provincial Secretary **on or before 15th May 2017**. I thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

The Preacher for the Annual Retreat: We are fortunate to have a renowned preacher for our retreats this time. **Rev. Fr. T. Xavier Terrence, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Palayamkottai** has agreed to preach both our retreats this year. Fr. Xavier Terrence is a well-known Scripture Scholar and a renowned Patristic Theologian. He

had been the resident professor of St. Peter's Pontifical Institute for several years and served the institute in his capacity as Registrar and Controller of Examination. He also rendered his services to St. Paul's Major Seminary, Trichy as its resident professor. At present he is the Vicar General of the Diocese of Palayamkottai. Let us make use of this great opportunity to be inspired by the spirit-filled preaching of Rev. Fr. T. Xavier Terrence.

Change of Address

Fr. Wilson Kottam

The Immaculate Conception Church
Beeches Green
GL5 4AA
Stroud
Gloucestershire
Mob: 097473487752
Ph: 01453762442

Fr. Joji Kazhukanolickal

Martinstr. 38
3400 Klosterneuburg, Austria
Ph: 004322433256873

Let us Pray for the Faithful Departed

Mr. K. C. Kurian, aged 92, Father of Fr. Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil, passed away on April 11, 2017

Rev. Sr. Stella SMMI, aged 82, Paternal Auntie of Fr. Tom Kanat, passed away on April 11, 2017

We assure you, dear Confreres, the remembrance of your dear ones in our Holy Mass and Prayers.

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.

April 2017

April 2-3	Council Meeting in Vinayalaya
April 4	Meeting with the Bishop of Mandya in the Bishop's House, Meeting with the Bishop of Mysore, Visiting Soumya Sadan, Mysore
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, Meeting the Bishop of Gulbarga
April 11	Laying the Foundation stone for the new block of SFS School

	Srinivaspura
April 13	Maundy Thursday Liturgy
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 20	*Blessing of the House of Mr. Rayappa, sponsored by the Province *Mass for all the Children from MSFS Parishes in Kolar Deanery at Tamaka
April 22	Visitation to Bathery Community
April 23	Parish Feast of T.K. Colony Parish, Nilambur, Chokad
April 28	Talk and Concluding Mass for the Salesian Seminar at IIS

May 2017

May 4	Ordination of Dn. Anishmon at Kurichithanam, Palai, overnight stay in SFS Vidyashram Aluva
May 5	Meeting with the Friends of Fransalians at Charis Bhavan
May 6	*Visiting Fr. Babychan and the site of the Construction of the Church at Adoor *Silver Jubilee Celebration of Fr. Kurian Karickal in Charis Bhavan
May 7	Session for the General Curia and Animators of CHF Congregation on the Founding Spirit and Spirituality of the Congregation, at CHF Generalate, Thrissur
May 7-13	Animating Salesian Retreat for our Fathers and Brothers at Makkiyad
May 14	Council Meeting in Vinayalaya
May 15	Blessing & Inauguration of the New SFS School, Antoni Nagara
May 16-24	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

JUNE 2017

June 3-5	Orientation course for the Diploma Students of IIS
June 7	Inauguration of the Academic Year in Tejas, Recollection and interaction with the Staff and Students
June 8	Visitation to the Community at Nest and Fides India
June 9	Visitation to PSI Sevagram, Kengeri
June 12-14	Visitation to Suvidya College, Inauguration of the Academic Year, PIF Meeting
June 16	Council Meeting
June 18	Visitation to MSFS House, Kuvempunagar

June 19-20	Visitation to Sannidhi
June 21	Visitation to Soumya Sadan
June 23-24	Visitation to Mermier Bhavan Community and SFS Institutions
June 25	Visitation to St. Francis de Sales Church, Hebbagodi
June 26	Visitation to Prateeksha Boys' Home, Hebbagodi
June 28	Visitation to SFS School and Community, Anthonynagara, Chikmagaluru
June 29	Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore

JULY 2017

July 1	Orientation Course for the Post Graduate Students of IIS
July 2	Recollection for the Diploma Students of IIS
July 4	Council Meeting
July 7-8	Visitation to SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor
July 9	Visitation to Charis Bhavan
July 10-14	Annual Retreat in Charis Bhavan
July 17-August 5	Visitation to our Confreres in GAH and France-Suisse Province

AUGUST 2017

August 1-5	Visitation to our Confreres in GAH and France-Suisse Province
August 6	Recollection for the Students of IIS
August 8	Council Meeting
August 13	Visitation to St. Mary's Church, Kolar
August 13-14	Visitation to ITI Kolar, Visitation to SFS PU College, Tamaka
August 15	Visitation to the Community and School at Srinivasapura
August 16	Visitation to the Community at Chintamani
August 17	Visitation to communities of Kadisanahalli, Sidlghatta
August 20-21	Visitation to SFS Church and Community, Malur
August 21-22	Visitation to the Community and Parish, Gokunte
August 24-25	Meeting the Community Members of Vinayalaya
August 28-Sept. 2	Classes in IIS

SEPTEMBER 2017

September 1-2	Classes in IIS
September 3	Recollection for the Students of IIS
September 4-15	Visitation to the Philippine Delegation (together with the Superior General), Ordination of Dn. Nathanael
September 17	Institute Day at IIS
September 19	Council Meeting, Vinayalaya
September 21	Visitation to the Community and School, Savanur
September 22	Visitation to the community and school, Mundargi
September 23	Visitation to the Community and School, Kuknoor

September 24-25	Visitation to the Community, Parish and Schools, Koppal
September 30	Founder's Day Celebration at Tejas

Salesian Thought

“Those who own pearls do not bother about shells; so too, those who aspire to virtuous life do not bother about honours.” - SFS

Fraternally,



**Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS
Provincial**