

**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](mailto:provincialsouthwestmsfs@gmail.com) Website:[www.msfsouthwest.com](http://www.msfsouthwest.com)  
[secretaryprovincialsouthwest@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryprovincialsouthwest@gmail.com)

---

**SWIP Circular BK/19**

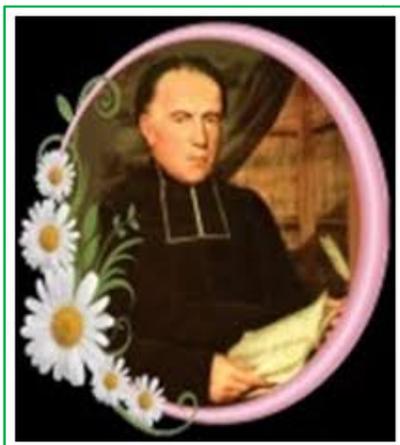
**September 28, 2017**

---

**My dear Confreres,**

Fraternal greetings to you from Fr. Benny. Once again we are privileged with a great opportunity to dwell on the legacy of our Congregation handed over to us by our beloved Founder Fr. Peter Mary Mermier. As we are celebrating the **Founder's Day** on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September we shall reflect on one of the sterling aspects of Fr. Mermier's life on this auspicious occasion of his 155<sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary. I would call him a **Man in the Zone**.

**FR. PETER MARY MERMIER: A MAN 'IN THE ZONE'**



My dear Confreres, the usage '**being in the zone**' is common in the sports arena. Very often it is used without necessarily understanding its meaning. In fact Psychology offers more clarity in this regard. Psychology calls the 'zone' "*a state of heightened focus and blissful immersion in ones task*". The 'task', it goes on to define, is something with an *obvious set of goals*. For example, if it is in a cricket match, it is like getting a big chase of a massive score with a brisk start.

Secondly, the defined goal makes it clear that *it should have a clear feedback system* - like the roar of the crowd or the need for the lost ball and/or the bowler to be replaced. Most importantly, *there is a need to balance between the challenges of the task and the*

*skill of the performer.* Therefore, 'being in the zone' to bring positive result demands that the individual performer should have clarity of his vision and at the same time an idyllic immersion of himself into the given task.

**When I look at our beloved Founder I see in him a man 'in the zone'.** Waving off the challenges that surrounded him insurmountably, such as the initial stages of the struggles in starting our Congregation and directing the course of the lives of the first Missionaries, Fr. Mermier astoundingly showed forth the tenacity of a man whose 'heightened focus' defined the future of a till then undefined Missionary Congregation. His willingness to take the 'bull by the horn' was vividly expressed in his vociferous expression to Fr. Martin: *If you wish, you could also go away; but I want Missions.* We see in our Founder a great missionary with his focus set on the goal. The blissful immersion of his whole personality into the task that he defined for himself became evident in the sending of the Missionaries into an unknown land – India – and the consecutive correspondences and wishes of love and affection that he was constantly extending to them.

**My dear Confreres,** one of the greatest qualities of our Founder is that **he set his goals ahead and continued to challenge the daunting task by listening to the feedback system.** Time and again he listened to the Confreres in the Missions, as a skilled sportsman will listen to the roaring crowd at the stadium and draw inspiration. Fr. Mermier responded to the situations of the Missionaries through constant communication with them and took all their qualms in prayer to God. He not only reviewed the trials of the task but also proficiently balanced those challenges with a dexterous involvement of his very being through relentless communication, arduous planning and meticulous implementation of the plans. *But above all, we see that he balanced his natural skill by attaching it with a constant dependence on the grace of God.* **This is the sign of a man in the zone.**

My dear Confreres, on this occasion of the Feast of our beloved Founder I entreat each of you to **skilfully prepare yourself to be in the zone.** Let us be fully aware, even for a seasoned and well-qualified person to belong to the zone permanently is a tedious task. **The zone is a temporary place.** When the effects begin wearing off, there is a need to graft again, no matter how great the pedigree of the person. This is a death warrant. **We cannot permanently embark ourselves on the grandeurs of the yester years and continue to rave off under its glories, instead we need to heighten our focus, set**

our goals, listen to the feedback system around us and finally balance ourselves between the challenges of the task and skilfully run through the task. We need to heed to the natural warnings that we receive from our surroundings and respond to them with skilful application and constant evaluation. **May our Founder become a constant inspiration for all of us to remain in the Zone. HAPPY FOUNDER'S DAY!**

## **VISITATION TO THE PHILIPPINES**

My dear Fathers, from the 4<sup>th</sup> of September to the 14<sup>th</sup> I was on visitation to the Philippine Delegation. This visitation was coincided with the visitation of the Superior General Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvilil and the Ordination of Dn. Nathaniel Masendo. The visitation consisted of the personal meeting of the Superior General and the Provincial with each of the Perpetually Professed Member of the Delegation and common meeting and message of the Superior General with the Seminarians at various stages of their Formation.



### **a) The Delegation Colloquium**

The Delegation Colloquium was organized in the Minor Seminary at Silang. All the Ordained Confreres of the Delegation and the perpetually professed members participated in the Colloquium. The Colloquium was animated by the Superior General himself who explained the nuances of the Charism of our Congregation and the importance of applying it in the particular context of a country or culture where our Congregation is implanted. The colloquium also gave opportunity to the Confreres to share their views on the life-experiences they are making in the context of the Philippines. It gave an added impetus to the members of the Delegation to review their

religious life and the ministries in which they are involved and to prioritize the goals that are to be achieved within a specific time-frame.

### **b) Ordination of Deacon Nathaniel Masendo**



On the 9<sup>th</sup> of September 2017 at 4 pm Dn. Nathaniel was ordained Priest in Our Lady of Sacred Heart Church Molino, Citihomes, by Bishop Reynaldo G. Evangelista, the bishop of the Diocese of Imus. It was a very sacred and holy function attended by numerous Priests, Religious and Laity. The bishop was very graceful in his homily quoting the life-examples of St. Francis de Sales and instructing the candidate to Priesthood and all present to live the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in their day to day life. Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, the Superior General presented the candidate to the Bishop. After the ordination ceremony and the mass there was a short felicitation given to the Bishop, the Superior General and the newly ordained Priest. I had the privilege of felicitating them and thanking the Bishop in particular for his love for the MSFS and for all the support and encouragement. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of September Rev. Fr. Nathaniel celebrated his first mass in the same church in the presence of his family members and many confreres and people. On behalf of the province once again I congratulate Fr. Nathaniel and wish him all the best.

### **c) Extension of MSFS Presence to Barili, Cebu**



Through the generosity of Rev. Fr. Sid, a Diocesan Priest belonging to the Archdiocese of Manila, who generously donated his patrimony to the MSFS Congregation, has helped us

to envisage the construction of a Minor Seminary in Barili, Cebu, one of major cities in the Philippines. Fr. Sid, who is a professor in the diocesan Major Seminary, is the Professor of Fr. Jinu Pathiyakam, the Delegation Superior. Together with the Superior General, I had the privilege to visit this island and have a firsthand experience of this place. Fr. Noel Tatoy is appointed as the Priest-in-charge to initiate the construction of the Minor Seminary. Fr. Noel is also serving one of the parishes in Barili. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Fr. Sid for his generous contribution and pray for God's blessings on him. During our visit to Cebu we also had the privilege of meeting with the Auxiliary Bishop of Cebu Most Rev. Dennis Vilarojo. We hope to start the new minor seminary by the next academic year.

#### **d) Salesian Seminar**

On the occasion of the visitation of the Superior General and the Provincial the Philippine Delegation organized the Annual Salesian Seminar together with all the **Associates of the Fransalians** in Georgetown, the Sub-station of Our Lady of Sacred Heart Parish. Fathers Jundie and Roney organized the seminar. More than 300 people attended the seminar. The Superior General and I had the opportunity to speak on the **Salesian Understanding of Marian Spirituality in the Context of Families**. The seminar was followed by Holy Eucharist and refreshment.

#### **e) Philippine Delegation in General**

The Philippine Delegation is in the 24<sup>th</sup> year of its existence. It has come up to the present status through the hard work and commitment of our Missionaries. Many were the hurdles that we had to surmount in order to help the Delegation to see its present stage. I place on record the wonderful services rendered by our pioneers in the Philippine mission and thank God for them. At Present we have 11 MSFS Fathers working in the Philippine Delegation, out of which 3 are Filipino MSFS. We have one Minor Seminary, one Novitiate and one Scholasticate in order to form our Seminarians. We have more than 24 Seminarians in various stages of their Formation. There is one major parish and seven substations to it. All our Fathers render services in these parishes, especially on Sundays. With the growing number of local priests the Philippine Delegation has a bright future. Let us pray that God guides and animates our Confreres that they are able to belong to the zone of God and proclaim His name effectively through their ministries.

## **f) Evaluation of the Superior General after the Visitation**



The Superior General expressed his heartfelt appreciation at the remarkable progress the Delegation has made in the course of the past two decades. He also shared his joy at the improving number of local priests, which is a sign of growth of the Delegation. At the same time he also encouraged the members to take note of the following matters for the growth of the Delegation.

- All the Confreres should learn the local language. The people of Philippines are relational people and communication is an effective means of evangelization.
- We need to prepare more Confreres for the Apostolate of Formation. Every Formator should be formed first to give the Formees depth in their commitment.
- Priests, other than the MSFS, could be invited to give orientation to our Seminarians.
- We need to take extra effort to bridge the cultural gaps. Everyone need to inculturate himself into the new culture of the place where we are appointed. Ours is an international congregation that goes beyond the barriers of culture, race and caste.

## **g) Gratitude**

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our beloved Superior General for the quality time that he spent with our Confreres in the Philippine Delegation. His advises and suggestions are pointers towards the progress the Delegation will aim at. I am also grateful to Fr. Jinu Pathiyakam, the Delegation Superior, for his affable and loving relationship as well as for the meticulous planning and organization of the visitation. I am grateful to all our Confreres in the Delegation for their commitment to the Mission of the Congregation and for their love and affection. God bless Philippine Delegation.

## **FORUM MEETINGS**

As per the directives given by the Superior General various forum meetings were held under the guidance of General Councillors at Vinayalaya, Provincial House, Bangalore from 17 – 23 September 2017. I thank the General Councillors for their presence and all the participants.

## Formation Forum



Formator's Forum meeting was held at Vinayalaya on 17<sup>th</sup> of September 2017. The meeting commenced with a hymn followed by a short prayer. Fr. Santhosh Kumar R, PCIF welcomed the members of the Formation Forum. A special welcome was accorded to Rev. Fr. Noel Rebello, the General Councilor-in-charge of Formation. Fifteen members were present for the meeting, including two of the confreres who are actively coordinating in the task of vocation promotion in our Province. Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, the Provincial shared his valuable insights concerning the need for effective ways of promoting genuine vocations as well as grooming those prized vocations at different stages of formation in our formation houses. He exhorted the Formators to be imbued with an intense love and profound passion for the ministry of forming the young ones through the instrumentality of constant cheerful availability and personally convinced exemplary lifestyle. The formation program of the previous academic year was objectively evaluated and updates with clearly set goals for the ongoing academic year were presented in the Forum. All the three sessions were replete with creative interaction and mutual sharing. The presence of Rev. Fr. Noel Rebello enriched the meeting, especially when he enlightened the forum concerning the impending Graded formation program in our congregation. The meeting was concluded with vote of thanks proposed by Fr. Sibichen Panthanmackel, the secretary to the Formation Forum.

## Education Forum



The Education Forum meeting was held from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm on Tuesday, 19 September 2017, at Vinayalaya, Bangalore. The meeting was convoked as per the directive of our beloved Superior General, and under the direction of Rev. Fr. George Parampukattil, General Councilor in-charge of Education. Almost all members of the forum were present at the meeting. Fr. Benny Koottanal, the General Manager, delivered the keynote address highlighting our identity as missionary priests engaged in the apostolate of Education. Fr. George Parampukattil spoke on the National Education Policy and the Fransalian Education Policy with special reference to POSCO, the Child Protection Policy of CBCI, and the 'Three Kinds of Leadership' we exercise in the ministry of education.

Ms Sandhya Gatti, resource person of the day, conducted a class on 'New Trends in Education.' Fr. Vinod Kanattu, Provincial Bursar, updated the gathering about the financial planning and management of our educational institutions. The afternoon session was devoted to discussions and clarifications on the implementation of the action plan in the Year of Education, the celebration of the 450<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of SFS, financial management and transparency in accounting, and stricter implementation of the educational policies as per the statutes of the Province.

## Mission Forum



On 21st September 2017, the Mission Forum gathered at Vinayalaya for its annual meeting. The meeting was graced by the presence of Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, the general councillor-in-charge of Mission. It was also enriched by the presence of our beloved provincial, Rev. Dr. Benny Kootanal. About thirty members participated both from Kerala and Karnataka. On the one hand, Rev. Fr. Provincial in his key-note address emphasised the missionary, spiritual and pastoral dimensions of our ministries. He forthrightly underlined the spiritual significance of religious life in animating and renewing the parish missions that are entrusted to our care. He also acknowledged the vibrancy of our fathers in animating and rendering pastoral services to the people. On the other hand, Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes in his discourse presented the importance of theology of leadership in pastoral apostolate. He also gave instructions and insights on the matters of PMP and the cause of Fr. Peter Mermier. During the meeting, fruitful dialogue and response of the confreres evolved concerning the missions and the animations of the parish. The highlight of the meeting was the evaluation of the mission plan of our provincial chapter and that of TMM. The members were delighted to hear that the provincial administration has been consistently and vigorously executing the

mission plan proposed by the Provincial Chapter. The gathering was concluded with the Eucharistic adoration.

### **Social and Innovative Forum**



The IMF (Innovative Ministry Forum) Meeting of South West India Province was held on 23.09.2017, at Vinayalaya, Bangalore. The meeting was animated by Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernades MSFS, the General Councillor for Innovative and Social Apostolate. Almost all the members of the Forum participated in the meeting. Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal the Provincial in his introductory talk emphasized that being a priest and a social worker, we must be convinced of our ministries and without conviction no effectiveness can be brought in the lives of the people. He exhorted us to enter in to our ministry field with prayer and he said “the distance between your problem and its solution is the distance between your knees and the floor.” Fathers from different social centers shared their views and concerns. The meeting reviewed the difficulties and challenges faced in the social apostolate and put forward suggestions to become more innovative and effective. Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernades enlightened the forum with his inspiring talk on Four Theological approaches of social and innovative ministries.

### **BLESSING AND INAUGURATION OF THE NEW BLOCK AT SAVANUR**

It was indeed an auspicious day on 26 September 2017 for all of us – the management, staff and students of SFS School Savanur, as we witnessed the blessing of a new block and a multipurpose hall of our school. The ceremony was officiated by Rev. Dr. Benny



Koottanal MSFS, the Provincial of South West India Province. The newly built block has a modern look in the vicinity and consists of Computer room, Science lab, Library, class rooms and an infirmary. The multipurpose hall is well furnished with adequate facilities and spacious enough to accommodate more than thousand students. We are grateful to the Provincial administration and the Friends of Fransalians in Germany, in materializing this project.

### **APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY MEETING OF NORTH KARNATAKA**

On 24<sup>th</sup> September 2017 Rev. Fr. Provincial addressed the North Karnataka Apostolic Community in Mundargi as he was on a visitation to north Karnataka missions. The meeting was attended by all the ten members of the apostolic community. Each of the members shared about their life and ministries in the respective centers. The developmental activities of each center were apprised to Rev. Fr. Provincial. The confreres were happy for the quality time that they spend with the Provincial in interacting and evaluating the mission. It was also a time for the confreres to call the attention of the Provincial to some of the urgent needs of the centers. Responding to the sharing, Rev Fr provincial expressed his happiness over North Karnataka mission as

there is a better scope for meaningful mission and ministry. The confreres were exhorted to keep up the quality and integrity in serving the people and to integrate a



sense of spirituality to the educational system as education is the main ministry here. The meeting was followed by adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Dinner.

### **ANNUAL RETREAT**

My dear Confreres, the second and final Annual retreat of our province will be held 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 I exhort all those who have not attended the retreat held at Charis Bhavan to attend the retreat at IIS. Rev. Fr. Maria Antony, belonging to the Diocese of Sivagangai is the animator for the retreat.

### **PROVINCE ORDO 2018**

I am very happy to inform you that the Ordo of the Province for the Liturgical Year 2018 is ready and will be dispatched to you soon. I take this opportunity to thank **Fr. Tom Kanat** for the good and efficient work in getting the Ordo ready much ahead of time.

### **CONGRATULATIONS**

**Fr. Binu Edathumparambil MSFS** has authored and published his third book, titled, **Strangers to Spouses**. It is a book on arranged marriages in India, looking at the quality of relationship in those marriages. I take this opportunity to congratulate Fr. Binu for the literary excellence and authorship.

## APPOINTMENT

On special request by the Bishop of Tenerife, Spain **Fr. Jose Kumbloickal** is appointed to undertake pastoral animation program in the diocese of Tenerife from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017 to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018. After his services in the diocese of Tenerife for the above mentioned period of time he will return to India for a further appointment.

## NEW PROVINCIAL CURIA OF EAST AFRICA PROVINCE

The Provincial Congress of East Africa Province has elected the following persons to be the Provincial Administration. On behalf of South-West India Province I congratulate them and wish them all the very best.

Fr. Jacob Thekkekara (Admonitor)

Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil (Councillor)

Fr. Kurian Kollapallil (Councillor)

Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvatttil (Councillor)

Fr. Jose Eriyanickal (Bursar)

## NEW ADDRESS

### Reji Muthukattil MSFS

Eyblergasse 1

A: 1190 Wien

Austria

Tel. 0043 1440134012

Fax. 0043 1440134014

Mobile number : 00436765598376

## LET US PRAY FOR THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

**Fr. Theodore Vannay** of Franco-Swiss Province, aged 83, died on September 12, 2017



**I request all the Confreres to fulfil the suffrages as prescribed by MSFS Constitutions.**

- **Mr. Amougou Essama Emile Abraham** aged 81, Father of Fr. Emile Amougou died on September 24, 2017.

**We assure you, dear Confrere, the remembrance of your dear one 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.

### **OCTOBER 2017**

October 1	Holy Mass and Talk at the Charis Bhavan Convention
October 2	Blessing and Inauguration of the New MSFS House in Kattappana
October 3	Visit to Adoor and Aluva Community
October 4-5	Golden Jubilee Celebrations of SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor
October 8-12	Congregation Retreat at Poondy, Tamil Nadu, with the General Administration and all the Provincials
October 9-13	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Retreat in IIS, Bangalore
October 14-16	Meeting of the General Curia with the Provincials in Trichy, TN
October 17	Visiting the Postulants in Pudukottai, Tamilnadu
October 19	Provincial Council Meeting
October 21-23	Provincial Congress of Pune Province
October 24	*Blessing and Inauguration of the new Block of the SFS ICSE School, Hebbagodi *MSFS Foundation Day and Institute Day Celebrations at Suvidya College
October 28	Comprehensive Examination at Tejas
October 28-29	Visitation to the MSFS Community at Shiralakoppa and the Parish at Thandagunda and Shimoga Apostolic community Meeting

### **NOVEMBER 2017**

November 1	Visitation to Ulickal Parish, Boy's Home
November 2	Visitation to Parish of Kannadiparamba, Kannur Community
November 3	Visitation to Mattannur Community, Apostolic Community Meeting
November 4	Visiting Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal in Srambickal, Fr. Paul Aranjani in Madackal

November 5-6	Visitation to Charis Bhavan
November 6	Visiting Fr. Francis Kizhakethazhe in Thavalappara
November 7	Visitation to Atmajyothi Community, Pattikad
November 8	Participating in the Consecration of Msgr. Joseph Pamplany as Bishop
November 11-12	Recollection for the Diploma Students of IIS
November 12-14	Visitation to Sedam
November 16-18	Meeting of the Confreres in Vinayalaya who are ordained between 2000-2008
November 19	Council Meeting
November 21-22	Visitation to Tejas
November 24	Inauguration and Blessing of the New Building of SFS School, Kengeri
November 25-26	Orientation program for the General Chapter & New Provincial Teams of CSST Congregation, Generalate, Bangalore
November 28-30	Visitation to Snehajyothi, MSFS Novitiate Makkiad

### **DECEMBER 2017**

December 1-2	PIF & Governing Body Meeting at Suvidya College
December 3	Meeting the Brothers of South West India Province in Suvidya
December 5-6	Mid-year evaluation of the Regents in Vinayalaya
December 8	Rev. Fr. Gabriel Memorial Lectures in Suvidya College
December 9	Recollection for the Diploma Students of IIS
December 10	Visitation to IIS, Meeting the Associates of Fransalians, Evaluation with the Students and Staff
December 13	Blessing and Inauguration of the New Block of SFS School Mundargi
December 16	School Annual Day – SFS School (State Syllabus), Hebbagodi
December 17	Council Meeting, Apostolic Community Meeting, Bangalore North
December 19	Keynote Address at the Graduation Day of St. Peter's Pontifical Institute
December 22	School Annual Day – SFS Public School (ICSE) Hebbagodi
December 24-25	Visitation to MSFS House, Kattappana and Christmas with Fr. Jacob Thudipara, Mass at Twenty Acre Parish
December 26	Visitation to Adoor – Fr. Babychan and Fr. Kavithazhe
December 27	Ordination of Dn. Sanoj Plamthottathil
December 28	Ordination of Dn. Noby Kottuppallil
December 30	Ordination of Dn. Justin Panachickal

### **January 2018**

January 2	Ordination of Dn. Simil Devasia
January 3	Ordination of Dn. Jose Simon
January 4	Ordination of Dn. Abhishek
January 6	Ordination of Dn. Sijo Kovilparambil
January 8-22	Visitation to Chad-Cameroon, Arusha (MSFS Philosophate) and Kibaha (MSFS Novitiate) in Tanzania

January 23	Council Meeting
January 24	Feast of St. Francis de Sales at Vinayalaya, MSFS Provincial House
January 25	Keynote Address at the Graduation Day of Cluny School Malleswaram
January 27-28	Silver Jubilee Celebrations of SFS Church, Vattiyoorkavu
January 31	School Annual Day – SFS School, Kannur

### **February 2018**

February 2-3	Recollection for the Diploma Students of IIS
February 3	School Annual Day – De Sales Academy (CBSE), Hebbagodi
February 4	Sunday Mass at Chintamani Church, Blessing and Inauguration of the New Community House
February 5-10	Classes for the Post-Graduate Students of IIS
February 13-15	Visitation to Sannidhi, MSFS Minor Seminary Mysore, Meeting the Brothers, Evaluation of the Academic Year with the Staff, visiting other MSFS communities in Mysore
February 18	Council Meeting
February 19	Diaconate Ordination at Tejas
February 21-22	Visitation to SFS Seminary Ettumanoor, Meeting the Brothers, Evaluation of the Academic Year with the Staff
February 23	Mission Forum Meeting at Charis Bhavan

### **MARCH 2018**

March 3	Graduation Day at Suvidya College
March 18	Council Meeting
March 25	Palm Sunday
March 29	Maundy Thursday Liturgy at Gauribidanur Mission
March 30	Good Friday Liturgy at Gauribidanur Mission
March 31	Holy Saturday at Gauribidanur Mission

### **Salesian Thought**

**“Excessive fear of losing a good name indicates a great distrust of its foundation, which is the truth of a good life.” - SFS**

**Fraternally,**



**Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS  
Provincial**