

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



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**SWIP Circular BK/25**

**January 24, 2018**

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**My dear Confreres,**

Fraternal greetings to you from Fr. Benny. On this day of the great Feast of our beloved Patron St. Francis de Sales I come to each one of you with a heart full of festal greetings to wish you **Happy Feast** and the blessings of the Lord through the intercession of our heavenly Patron. Coincidentally Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our Superior General, has declared the coming one year as the **Year of Community Life**. Throughout the coming one year I would like to reflect with you regarding the teaching of St. Francis de Sales on Community life and its impact on our congregational life.

**MSFS – CALLED TO COMMUNITY OF THE “PRAISE OF GOD”**



My dear Confreres, the title that I have given above is that of St. Francis de Sales: **A Christian Community is the place of the PRAISE OF GOD**. As we are all well aware there is no magic formula to form a perfect human community. Human imperfections, which remain incorrigible to the end of one’s life directly or indirectly, affect life in community. So there is always need for constant vigilance and greater understanding. If the community we try to form does not reach that ideal of perfection, we are not to be dismayed. God is still at

work from Adam's time trying to form an eternal, loving, ideal, divine-human community. God is not tired-He is not disappointed-He continues to labour.

**Christian Spirituality** brings home to us the awareness that **the very source of Community is God himself.** *God is always One – One without a second.* But God is not only Being (*esse*) but Being-together (*co-esse*). We already have a glimpse of it in the book of Genesis, when God says: "Let us make man in our image" (Gen 1/26). The use of plural "let us" indicates 'Being together'. Our God is not only one without a second, but also Trinitarian, *Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

**Communitarian co-habitation is vivid in the nature itself.** Creation is a being together of galaxies of stars, planets and all they hold. Steep rocks, hills and valleys together form a mountain system. Plants and trees, animals and birds, springs and flowing streams together make a forest. A body is a being together of molecules and atoms in a certain order. **Yes, beauty arises from the harmony of being together.** Therefore the vocation of human beings to be in communion with God and one another is ingredient here.

St. Francis de Sales, who experienced vividly the hard realities of the division and disunity in the Church caused through the Protestant Movements, especially Calvinism, laid a strong foundation to the importance of community life particularly in his teachings and instructions. Therefore, he says: "**Community is the sacrament of the love of God.**" It is the symbol, witness, expression, proclamation and the strengthening of the fact, that people who love each other find this love in the love they have for God. **Such a community is the 'community of the praise of God.'** He comes to this understanding of the community from the reality of the mystery of the Trinity. **God is a mysterious community, a unity of three persons, which wonderfully constitutes the God-head. Therefore He is never lonely.**

Human beings, who are the image of God, receive a social dimension of this communitarian life. This is expressed in their communication with the other members of the community. For St. Francis de Sales **the foundation of a community is its actual communication, exchange, familiarity and intimacy.** The word 'communication' in French has a much larger sense than in English. Communicating, for Francis de Sales, is not merely exchanging ideas. It signifies everything two persons are able to exchange: a common work, a shared purpose and a participation in the goodness of each other. In short, **it is a common focus based on the love of God that binds people together.**

**My dear Confreres**, what a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the Feast of our Patron St. Francis de Sales involving deeply in his inundating thoughts on the beauty of Community Life. Fransalian Communities are places where one emerges from 'loneliness' to the freedom of 'Solitariness'; it is a place of resurrection from the clutches of 'individualism' to the freedom of 'joyful co-habitation'. Yes, it is the sanctuary where one discerns to move from 'self-praise' to the 'Praise of God'.

**I wish each one of you HAPPY FEAST and A BLESSED YEAR AHEAD CHERISHING THE MEANING OF OUR COMMUNITY LIFE.**

## **VISITATION TO CHAD & CAMEROON**

**My dear Confreres**, I had the great joy of visiting our Chad-Cameroon Mission from the 8<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 to the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2018. Two of the Councilors, Frs. Roy Plathottathil and A. Jerome accompanied me. Frs. Aneesh Palathadathil and Innaci Muthu, who joined the mission in Chad and Cameroon, also travelled with us. We thank God for the wonderful experience of the missionary journey of a fortnight, which revealed to us the true joy of involving in challenging missionary commitment.

### **Chad-Cameroon Mission: Land of Joyful Missionary Commitment**



One of the most enchanting aspects of my visitation to Chad-Cameroon Mission is the joyful service rendered by our Confreres in the mission. From the time of our arrival to the moment of our departure we were constantly accompanied

and supported by the loving presence and cheerful availability of **Fr. Manoj Arackal**, the mission superior. So too all the members of our mission, namely, **Frs. Sen Vellakada, Innocent Parfait, Emile Amougou, Giridhari Lakra, Marcel Dung Dung, Robin Thonikuzhy, Francis Ekka, Sujith Pallassery, Joshy Nellimalamattam and**

**Abessiuguie Christoph**, gave us the feel of the loving bond between Confreres through their affable warmth of relationship.

Together with the Mission Superior and the Provincial Councillors I had the great privilege of visiting all our communities where our Confreres are rendering great service to the Church at large. I had the joy of meeting all our Fathers, regents and scholastics personally as well as in common.

- **At Buea**, the Anglophone part of Cameroon, **Fr. Christoph**, is the Chaplain of the University parish of Sts. Peter and Paul. He is ably assisted by **Bro. Titus**, who is doing regency there.
- **At La Feuillette**, the Mother House of our Mission in Chad and Cameroon, in Ngoya, in the diocese of Obala, we have now the Scholasticate community. **Frs. Sen Vellakada** (the Rector and Superior) **Manoj Arackal** (the Mission Superior), **Parfait and Bibin Xess** form the community along with eight of our Scholastics. **Frs. Aneesh and Innaci Muthu** also belong to this community at the moment.
- **At Bini-Dang**, in the diocese of Ngaoundere, **Fr. Giridhari Lakra** the Parish Priest of the University Parish of St. Thomas More. He is assisted by **Bro. Anniversaire**, the regent.
- **At Djalingo Mabanga**, in the diocese of Ngaoundere, we have the new MSFS Seminary constructed. **Fr. Emile Amougou** (Rector and Superior), **Fr. Marcel Dung Dung** (the administrator) and **Bro. Abba** (the regent) form the community along with 14 postulants.
- **In Chad, at Doba**, we have the MSFS Community animating the Parish of St. Daniel Comboni and the newly constructed SFS School. **Frs. Robin Thonikuzhy** (Superior and Parish Priest), **Francis Ekka and Bro. Franky** (the regent) form the community.
- **In Bero** (also in Chad), we have the MSFS Community animating Parish of St. Josephine Bakhitha, School and SFS Boys' Home. **Fr. Sujith Pallassery** (Superior, Parish Priest and Director of the Boys' Home) and **Bro. Philip** (the regent).

In the Chad-Cameroon Mission we are engaged in Pastoral, Education, Formation and Social and Innovative Ministries. At present we have two formation houses, 8 parishes with various substations, two Boys' Homes (one in the process of being accomplished) and two schools. The veracity of the work is immeasurable, which raises the need for constant support through personnel and finance.

## **Mission Colloquium**



On the 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2018 all the Confreres of the Chad Cameroon gathered together in Djalingo Mabanga, in the MSFS Seminary, for a day of colloquium. The colloquium was mainly focused on the evaluation of our religious and ministerial life. In the colloquium a thorough evaluation of the Action of the past year was made. The colloquium once again re-asserted its intent to raise the mission into a delegation. The colloquium also made a new action plan for the year 2018. Following are the Action Plan for the year 2018.

### **Action plan of Chad-Cameroon Mission 2018**

1. Raise Chad-Cameroon mission into a delegation.
2. Being the year of Local communities in the Congregation revive our communities by personal meetings, monthly community meetings presenting of accounts, Community Picnic etc.
3. Make a vision and mission plan for every community
4. Make a brief history of the origin and development of each community.
5. Send an annual budget of every community to the mission bursar before 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018.
6. Revive apostolic communities in the mission by having apostolic community meetings at least 3 times a year.
7. Continue the mission circular once in four months and ensure every centre sends news materials.
8. Ensure the construction of at least two class rooms, sanitation facilities and drinking water for the Ngaoundere School before the end of august 2018.

9. Start the construction of Boys' Home in Doba.
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 and from different parts of Cameroon.
12. Find sponsors for all professed scholastics.
13. Create mission Corpus fund for emergency needs.
14. Seek the possibilities of mission support through personal contacts in USA and strengthen our collaboration with Franco-Swiss province.
15. Make a plan for the Novitiate House in Buea and approach the funding agencies.
16. Get electrical connection / Solar panel for the MSFS seminary at Ngaoundere.
17. Address the water issue MSFS seminary at Ngaoundere and at La Feuillette.
18. Have a common formation policy at every level of formation.

### **To Provincial Administration**

1. Strengthen the mission by sending more personnel.
2. Ensure the financial stability of the mission.
3. Start a bank account for the mission in India.
4. Revive the African day in all educational institutions of the province and transfer the amount received to the mission account in India.

### **Inauguration and Blessing of the MSFS Seminary**

Fr. Emile Amougou gives us a report of the inauguration and blessing: More than thousand faithful and a local population gathered at the new home of MSFS Seminary (Postulancy) Djalingo-Mabanga on Tuesday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate the blessing of the recently built formation house. Along with Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal, the Provincial, Fr Jerome and Fr Roy the Provincial councillors, Rev Fr Achille, Procurator of the diocese and personal representative of Mgr Emmanuel Abbo, bishop of Ngaoundere, dozens of diocesans and religious priests, all the MSFS priests working in the Chad-Cameroon Mission, several religious sisters and brothers, political and traditional authorities, other guests, honoured the threefold articulations of the joyful event: The Blessing and inauguration of the Seminary, the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist and the fellowship meal.

**The Blessing and inauguration** was done at 4pm during a prayer session presided over by Rev Fr Benny, the Provincial. The Provincial invoked the Holy Spirit and



implored the motherly intercession of Mary, Mother of Compassion and Saint Francis de Sales in his Spirit of Compassion to befriend all on the way to salvation.

**The Holy Mass** was presided over by Rev. Fr Achille Pande, who represented Mgr Emmanuel Abbo, bishop of Ngaoundere. On behalf of the bishop, the main-celebrant thanked the MSFS congregation for their wonderful presence and missionary work in the diocese since 2003 and pleaded for more MSFS priests in the diocese. In the sermon,



Rev Fr Benny, the Provincial, after thanking all those who made this beautiful building a reality, explained how important it is for the formation of the future priests from Chad-Cameroon. He addressed the seminarians exhorting them to prayer and service.

Fr Giridhari Lakra gave vote of thanks on behalf of the Mission. Special gratitude and thunders of applause were raised for **Rev. Fr James Manjackal msfs** who financially supported the whole construction of the Seminary at Ngaoundere. The New Seminary stands as another great achievement of the MSFS Congregation blooming in the African soil.

In the name of the whole province I too take this opportunity to thank Rev. Fr. James Manjackal for the yeomen financial support rendered for the construction of the seminary. God bless you Fr. James.

### **The Blessing and Inauguration of SFS School at Doba, Chad.**



The missionaries of St. Francis de sales working in the Chad Cameroon mission have achieved a golden mile stone in its pursuit to educational development. To make the presence of MSFS more concrete in the Diocese of Doba and to cater educational needs to the society, the very first SFS School in Chad was blessed and was inaugurated on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018.

The programme commenced at 4 pm with the Eucharistic celebration which was presided over by Rt. Rev. Martin WAINGUE BANI who blessed the newly constructed school. Rev Fr. Benny Koottanal, the provincial of the South west India Province inaugurated the newly constructed school building. The Bishop in his sermon emphasized that the education is one of the most required weapons that can help to eradicate ignorance and can help to transform one as better human person and would

bring changes in the society. He thanked MSFS Fathers working in his diocese and placed on record the whole hearted service that is being rendered in his diocese.

After the mass Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal also addressed the gathering and acknowledged the deep sense of gratitude towards Bishop for having welcomed us to work in his diocese. To share the joy of this event Rev. Fr. Jerome the counsellor in charge of mission and Rev Fr. Roy Plathottathil the counsellor in charge of education were present. Rev Fr. Manoj Arackal, the mission superior, also addressed the gathering and thanked whole heartedly for the cooperation that was extended by different persons to make this event successful. In a special way he extended his heartfelt thanks to Rev. Fr. Robin Thonikuzhiyil along with the msfs communities of Doba and Bero, who toiled together day in and day out to make this dream come true.

There were many of our confreres working in Chad-Cameroon who were present for this event. There were dignitaries who were also present, such as the representative of Governor of the State Mr. ADAM ADAMI Yousouf, Educational minister Mr. Raphael, Member of Parliament Mme. AYMADJI Opportune and the Mayor of the city of Doba Mr. NELDE Esaie. There were around two thousand people who witnessed this event. Rev Fr. Robin thanked all the sponsors who contributed for this project especially Fr.Sen who was one of the channels in finding out the financial resources.

### **Meeting with Bishop Martin Waingue Bani of Doba Diocese**



Together with the Councillors and Mission Superior and a few of our Fathers in the Mission I had the opportunity to have a meeting with Bishop Martin, the Bishop of Doba.

In addition to the sincere appreciation he has for our Missionaries, he also entered into a new contract with us in the pastoral ministries regarding the parish of Doba. We were invited for a lunch together with all the diocesan priests and the religious priests working in the diocese of Doba.

### **Gratitude**

My dear Confreres, my personal experience of being with our Confreres in the Chad-Cameroon Mission is a great feeling of **joy**. There is a great difference between happiness and joy. If happiness is the result of an external achievement with a short lived span, joy is the aftermath of an interior conviction and experience with lasting impact. I would reverberate this feeling of joy as the outcome of my visitation to the Chad-Cameroon mission.

I thank Fr. Manoj Arackal, the Mission Superior, and his councillors for their meticulous planning and application of the schedule of the visitation. I thank all the confreres in the mission for their wonderful hospitality and deep commitment to the entrusted ministries. My appreciation to the scholastics and postulants for their joyful presence in the mission. **God bless Chad-Cameroon Mission.**

### **APPOINTMENTS**

**Fr. Sanoj Plamthottathil:** Appointed as Assistant Parish Priest at St. Joseph's Church Kattapana & Mount Carmel Church Kozhimala with effect from 01 February 2018. He will be a member of the MSFS Community at Kattappana

**Fr. Noby Kottuppallil:** Designated to the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly with effect from 01 February 2018

**Fr. Justin Panachickal:** Designated to the Diocese of Kanjirappally with effect from 01 February, 2018

**Fr. Simil Karuvelil:** Designated to the Archdiocese of Thalassery with effect from 01 February 2018

**Fr. Jose Thuruthipallil:** Appointed to the Chad-Cameroon Mission with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> March 2018

**Fr. Abhishek Joseph:** Designated to the Diocese of Shimoga with effect from 01 February 2018

**Fr. Sijo Paul Kovilparambil:** Appointed as Assistant Parish Priest of St. John of the Cross Church, Adoor with effect from 01 February 2018

## OBITUARY



➤ **Fr. Andre Kieffer** of France-Suisse Province, aged 95, died on January 08, 2018.  
**I request all the Confreres to fulfil the suffrages as prescribed by MSFS Constitutions.**

- **Mr. Abraham Thykkaduppil**, aged 80, Brother in law of Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal, died on January 21, 2018.
- **Mr. Anthony Kulangarathottiyil**, aged 48, Twin brother of Fr. Sebastian Kulangarathottiyil, died on January 23, 2018.

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

## MY SCHEDULE

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.

### JANUARY 2018

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
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February 3	School Annual Day – De Sales Academy (CBSE), Hebbagodi
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 16	Balasangama at FidesIndia, Kengeri
February 17	Council Meeting
February 19	Diaconate Ordination at Tejas
February 20	Meeting with Msgr. David Cappo, the Chancellor of the Diocese of Adelaide, Australia
February 21-22	Visitation to SFS Seminary Ettumanoor, Meeting the Brothers, Evaluation of the Academic Year with the Staff
February 24	Graduation Ceremony at SFS PU College, Hebbagodi
February 25-26	Visiting the Postulants of SWIP in Pudukottai
February 27	Goal setting for the Future – IIS Diploma Group

### **MARCH 2018**

March 3	Graduation Day at Suvidya College
March 4	Meeting with Confreres ordained in the year 2016-2017
March 6-8	On-going Formation Program for those ordained between 1990-1999
March 9	Council Meeting
March 12	Meeting with Confreres Ordained in the year 2015-2016
March 14	Comprehensive Examination for the Post-graduate students of IIS
March 16	Meeting with Confreres Ordained in the year 2014-2015
March 18	Meeting with Confreres Ordained in the year 2013-2014
March 20	Meeting with Confreres ordained in the year 2012-2013
March 21	Superiors' Meeting
March 22	Recollection & Spiritual Animation for the priests & religious of the Diocese of Gulbarga
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

### **APRIL 2018**

April 1	Easter Sunday – Mass at Gauribidanur Mission
April 8	Council Meeting
April 21-26	Animating Retreat for the RNDM Congregation, Bangalore Province
April 27	Talk and Mass for the participants of Salesian Seminar at IIS

### **MAY 2018**

May 4-5	Keynote address & Mass on the occasion of 'MSFS Education Seminar' at Hyderabad
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May 6-11	Preaching Salesian Retreat for the Second Year Theologians of all the Provinces at Makkiad
May 12	Officiating the Perpetual Profession Ceremony of the DSFS Sisters, Hebbagodi.
May 20	Council Meeting
May 26	Inauguration & Blessing of SFS School, Mattanur
May 28	Perpetual Profession at Tejas
May 30	Initiation of the Postulants into the Novitiate at Makkiad
May 31	First Profession of the Novices at Makkiad

### **JUNE 2018**

June 1-10	Visitation to the Philippines *First Profession of the Novices; *Installation of the Delegation Superior; *Meeting the Confreres, Seminarians and the Associates of the Fransalians
June 13	PIF Meeting at Suvidya College
June 14	Inauguration of the new academic year in Suvidya College, Inaugural Mass; *Governing Body Meeting, Meeting with the Staff and Students
June 15-16	Visitation to Tejas Vidya Peetha, NEST
June 17	Council Meeting
June 18-19	Spiritual Orientation for the new batch of students at IIS
June 22-23	Visitation to Sannidhi, MSFS Minor Seminary Mysore
June 23-24	Visitation to MSFS House, Mysore, Sunday Mass at St. Alphonsa's Parish
June 24-25	Soumya Sadan Community, Mysore
June 27-29	Visitation to Hebbagodi: *Mermier Bhavan Community, *Meeting the 10 <sup>th</sup> Std. Students of all the SFS Schools in the campus *SFS Parish Community, *Prateeksha Boys' Home Community
June 29-30	Recollection - IIS

### **JULY 2018**

July 1	Orientation and Recollection for the MTh in IIS
July 6-7	Visitation to SFS Seminary Ettumanoor: Meeting the Staff and Brothers; Visiting SFS School: Meeting with the 10 <sup>th</sup> Std. Students
July 8	One Day Meeting of the Associates of the Fransalians at Charis Bhavan
July 9-13	1 <sup>st</sup> Annual Retreat at Charis Bhavan
July 14	Council Meeting in SFS Seminary Ettumanoor
July 15-18	Visitation to Aluva, Visitation to Pattikad; visiting Frs. Chacko Ottalankal and Paul Aranjanil, Visitation to MSFS House Kattappana, Visiting Fr. Jacob Thudipara
July 19-21	Visitation to Vattiyoor kavu, ITSCAAT, visiting Frs. Varghese

	Puthuparambil and Mathew Kavithazhe
July 22	Blessing and Inauguration of the new Church in Adoor
July 28-30	Visitation to Shiralakoppa, Sunday Mass in Thandagunda, Meeting with the Bishop of Shimoga, Meeting Fr. Justin Chirackal and Fr. Abhishek Joseph

## **SALESIAN THOUGHT**

**“One should not live in shame at the sight of one’s weakness but in love and confidence in God.” SFS**

**Fraternally,**



**Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS**

**Provincial**