

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



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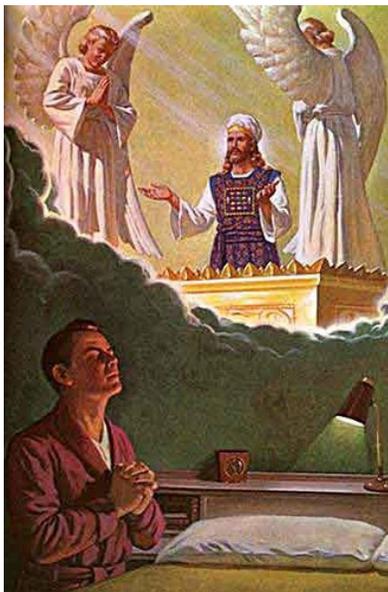
SWIP Circular BK/31

July 02, 2018

My dear Confreres,

Fraternal greetings to you from Fr. Benny. I wish each one of you God's abundant blessings and effectiveness in your entrusted ministries. As we are in the special year in which we are celebrating our community life as religious and priests, let us recommit ourselves to wake up to the Basics of our Call as MSFS. Let us reflect once more about our Priesthood and its impact in the Church today.

PRIESTS – CONFIGURATION OF CHRIST



St. John Paul II repeatedly said that **Priests are configured to Jesus Christ**. This configuring enables them to act in persona Christi, which means acting with Jesus' salvific love and taking up His cross. In his 1992 document on the priesthood, *Pastores Dabo Vobis* (I Will Give You Shepherds), the Pope said that priest's commitment to serve his people should be modelled on Christ, whose service to humanity reached fullest expression in "his death on the Cross...his total gift of self in humility and love."

My dear Confreres, as we would notice today in the concrete life-situation of the Church this concept of being configured to Christ and to be another Christ have become anomaly in itself. Although many of the publicized news

about priesthood and priests in the recent times are hype of the media, we are still wanting in necessary credibility to proclaim convincingly that we are on the right track. **What we need at the moment is not rhetoric proclamation of self-justification and analytical criticism of the so-called 'weak', instead a common 'good will' to evaluate ourselves in the wake of the recent litanies of the failures of priests.**

The Book of Exodus depicts before us two kinds of psyche that we normally notice in priests. They are **Aaronic Psyche** and **Mosaic Psyche**.

Priesthood Through the Aaronic Psyche

Aaron, the brother of Moses, is projected as the High Priest, the one who is to offer sacrifices at the altar of God. **From the ministerial dimension of his priesthood he is mostly in association with the people.** As a consequence he goes about doing things in accordance with the mind and desires of the people. This one-sided listening is the cause of the doom of his priesthood. We would notice as mentioned in the Book of Exodus 32/1-6 that Aaron listened to the people and to their wishes and as a consequence there emerged the golden calf and the consequent wrath of God.

We notice here certain specific natures of Aaronic Psyche of Priesthood: **First and foremost, Aaron never had personal encounter with God.** All through the book of Exodus we would notice that **Aaron always listened to Moses. He had no personal divine experience.** He was merely a mouthpiece of Moses. The noticeable result of such life-style is that the one who lacks personal experience becomes lazy in commitment and will go about doing things without any set principle.

The concrete outbreak of misuse in priesthood in the contemporary era challenges us with convincing results that **priests who lack God-experience would not mind even to substitute real God for golden calf.** His action and preaching do not emerge from his personal convictions nor affect his personal life. As St. Paul writes he would be *a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal* (1 Cor. 13/1). The eventuality of such *Aaronic psyche* is that **Priesthood becomes a matter of mere celebration around the golden calf. Rituals and ritualistic extremisms replace relationship and commitment.** The hunger for *power* (against Obedience), lusty thirst for *pleasure* (against Chastity) and the buying of people and things with *money* (against Poverty) are clear signs of Aaronic psyche.

Priesthood Through Mosaic Psyche

We would notice the essence of true priesthood in and through the psyche displayed by Moses in the redemptive act of God. From the time of the incident of encountering God in the burning bush (Ex. 3/2-6) we see Moses in constant contact with God. He consults God in all that he does. He becomes a true mouthpiece of God. As we travel through the book of Exodus we would notice that from a mere casual relationship with God like that of a businessman, Moses enters into a relationship of familiarity with God. God becomes the goal of his life. As a consequence he spends time with God in deep personal dialogue (Dt. 9/9).

My dear Confreres, all of us, as priests, are called to be mouthpiece of God. We are called to go with the mind of God in our commitment. St. Alphonse Ligouri says that **the tabernacle is the mouthpiece of God.** We need to dialogue with our God regularly and consistently. Unfortunately, the failure in our priestly life is equally causing the absence of God-experience in the life of the people. Let us resolve to be priests with integrity and authentic commitment to God. **In short, let us share the mind of God through the Mosaic Psyche.**

VISITATION TO THE PHILIPPINES DELEGATION



From the 1st of June to the 9th of June 2018 I had the great privilege of visiting our Philippines Delegation. The visitation coincided with the First Profession of seven of our Novices, Installation of the New Delegation Superior and the meeting with the Confreres, Local Ordinary and the Benefactors. It was a great time of sharing the

successes as well as the challenges of our Delegation. I am happy to notice a sense of satisfaction in the missionary commitment of our Confreres.

a) First Profession of Our Novices

On the 3rd of July 2018 Seven of our Novices made their First Profession and thus received temporary membership in our Congregation. I had the great privilege of



receiving their vows during the solemn Eucharistic Celebration and giving them the necessary advises to follow genuinely the Salesian way of life. The ceremony of the first profession was attended by more than two hundred people consisting of priests and religious and our benefactors. I specially take this opportunity to thank Fr. Praful Tigga, the Novice Master, for his total commitment in forming these novices and accompanying them during their life in the novitiate.

b) Installation of the New Delegation Superior



Rev. Fr. Jose Kumbloickal was installed as the new Delegation Superior of the Philippines Delegation during the solemn Eucharistic Celebration on the 3rd of June 2018. Fr. Jose takes over the office of the Delegation Superior after Fr. Jinu Pathiyakam completed his stipulated term. I thank Fr. Jose for his generosity to be at

the helm of affairs in leading the Philippines Delegation to further heights and wish him

God's abundant blessings. At present Fr. Jose is in India as he has to procure the stamped tourist visa in order to secure the religious visa in the Philippines. The procedures are completed and he will be returning to the Philippines on the 30th of July 2018.

c) Delegation Colloquium

All the perpetually professed members of the Philippines Delegation gathered together on the 4th of July at Silang, in our Seminary for a day of recollection, discussion and discernment. I had the honour of animating the Delegation colloquium. During this



colloquium Fr. Jose Kumbloickal welcomed the gathering, thereafter, Fr. Jinu Pathiyakam, the outgoing Delegation Superior, presented a comprehensive report of the functioning of the Delegation during his tenure. Fr. Jiji Manjackal, the Delegation Bursar presented the comprehensive financial report of the Delegation. The colloquium was a great opportunity for the members to dialogue, discuss and clarify matters concerning the challenges and future prospects of the Delegation.

ACTION PLAN OF THE PHILIPPINES DELEGATION 2018-2019

Formation

- Immediately appoint a team of Vocation Promoters who will recruit minimum of 10 students for the forthcoming academic year 2018 - 19, with the deadline of mid of July
- Construction of the new seminary in Cebu with a target of one year for the students to be accommodated in the year 2019

- Create a formators forum for the constant updates, to learn skills in formation especially with a specific Salesian way of formation

Pastoral Ministry

- Expansion of MSFS presence to other one or two dioceses in the Philippines within the time frame of three years

Educational Ministry

- To solve the issue of right of way in Tanza for the purpose of building a school
- To begin an educational institute within three years, identify persons and train them in the field of education

Social and Innovative Ministry

- A project to uplift the poor and the dropout children by making use of the land in San Miguel II
- To begin a renewal and spirituality center within three years in the MSFS Formation House, Silang campus

During this visitation I had also the opportunity to pay a friendly visit to the Bishop of Imus Rt. Rev. Reynaldo Evangelista and Fr. George, the Vicar General of the Diocese. I also met with many of our benefactors and friends who are the Associates of the Fransalians in the Philippines. Personal meeting with all our scholastics and evaluation of their religious life and Fransalians was yet another joyful experience I had during this visitation.

My dear Confreres, Philippines Delegation is a growing delegation with lots of possibilities for further growth. We do not deny some of the concerns that we need to address especially in the field of formation by inculcating the right spirit in the young minds to become committed Fransalians. If everything goes well, we would have regular ordinations of local priests from the Philippines from 2020. Let us hope and pray that through the spirit-filled leadership of the animators of the Delegation and the genuine commitment of the Confreres, our missionaries will be able to proclaim the values of the Gospel in the spirit of St. Francis de Sales.

AFFILIATION TO FRANCO-SWISS PROVINCE

My dear Confreres, in response to the call of the TMM (Trienniel Mandatory Meeting) to support the needy provinces, and at the common congregational awareness that we need to enter into further inter-provincial collaborative ministries, the South West India Province has entered into a contract to affiliate four of the members of our Province to the Franco-Swiss Province. They are **Fr. Viju Mathew Kunnathottel, Fr. Jose Puthiyaparambil (Jr.), Fr. Binoy Kidangathukarottu and Fr. Johny Cheruvil.**



This agreement of affiliation comes into effect after seeking the consent of the individual Confreres, after entering into a written contract with the Franco-Swiss province and with the decree of the Superior General. The decree reads as follows: On the request of Fr. Yves Carron, the Provincial of Franco-Swiss Province, with the consent of his council and following due procedures and due consultation with Fr. Benny Koottanal, the Provincial of South West India Province, and his council, **Fr. Viju Mathew Kunnathottel, Fr. Jose Puthiyaparambil (Jr.), Fr. Binoy Kidangathukarottu and Fr. Johny Cheruvil** are detached from South West India Province and **affiliated to Franco-Swiss Province** with rights and obligations in the Franco-Swiss Province with effect from June 12, 2018.

I wish our Confreres who are affiliated to the Franco-Swiss Province God's abundant blessings and joy and satisfaction in their priestly and missionary commitment. I thank Fr. Yves Carron, the Provincial of the Franco-Swiss Province and his Council for all the collaborative engagements with the South West India Province.

ORDINATION OF DN. BORIS NIXON



I am very happy to inform you that **Dn. Boris Nixon Mengame Ebale** from Cameroon will be ordained a Priest on the 14th of July 2018 at St. Joseph's Cathedral, Sangmelima, Cameroon. He will be the fourth person to be ordained Priest for MSFS from Chad-

Cameroon Mission. We wish Dn. Boris God's abundant blessings as he tread the altar of God and assure of him of our continued prayers and blessings. **Fr. R. Santhosh Kumar**, Councilor in charge of Formation, will represent the Province for the ordination of Dn. Boris Nixon.

CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT – JULY 9-13, 2018

My dear Confreres, as announced already, we are beginning the first of the Congregational retreats from the 9th to the 13th of July 2018. This retreat will be conducted in **Charis Bhavan**. Seventy Five Confreres have registered their names for this retreat. The retreat begins exactly at 9am on the 9th of July. **Fr. Mario D'Souza** (Pune Province) and **Fr. Binu Edathumparambil** (South West India Province) will animate the retreat. Let us pray that this retreat will make great difference in our Missionary Commitments and will be a revitalizing medium for an effective participation in the General Chapter of our Congregation.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF FR. SIJO OLICKAL

It is already one year since Fr. Sijo Olickal has left us for his eternal reward. His first death anniversary is on the 13th of July 2018. In order to remember and thank God for our Confrere and pray for his eternal rest with the Lord, a memorial mass shall be celebrated at 2.30pm on the 13th of July 2018 in the Chapel at SFS Seminary Ettumanoor. All of us are welcome to participate in it and pray for our departed Confrere.

BON VOYAGE

Fr. Prakash Prashant has left for Tanzania on the 2nd of July 2018 to take up his new assignment in the East Africa Province. In continuation with our collaborative ministries with the East Africa Province, Fr. Prashant will be appointed as the Socius in the MSFS Novitiate at Kibaha, Tanzania. Our Novices from Chad-Cameroon Mission too are undergoing formation there. I thank Fr. Prashant for his good will to be part of the missionary thrust of our province and wish him God's abundant blessings.

HEARTY WELCOME

Fr. Jundie Sumagaysay from Philippines delegation has reached Indian Institute of Spirituality, Bangalore on the 1st of July 2018 to pursue MTh. in Spiritual Theology. Hearty welcome and all the best Fr. Jundie.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Fr. Jiji Manjackal** is appointed the Delegation Bursar of the Philippines Delegation for another term of Three Years with effect from 26th June 2018
- **Fr. Binoy Kuzhuppil** is appointed the Delegation Councillor of the Philippines Delegation with effect from 26th June 2018.
- **Fr. Nathaniel Masendo** is appointed the Delegation Councillor of the Philippines Delegation with effect from 26th June 2018.
- **Fr. E. Erudayaraj** is appointed the Convener of the North Karnataka Apostolic Community with effect from 26th June 2018.
- **Fr. Shajan Manickathan** is appointed the Convener of the Mysore Apostolic Community with effect from 26th June 2018
- **Fr. Jais Mecheril** is appointed the Convener of the Kannur Apostolic Community with effect from 26th June 2018
- **Fr. Arockianathan** is appointed the Convener of the Kolar Apostolic Community with effect from 26th June 2018
- **Fr. Binod Puthenpurackal** is appointed the Convener of the Trivandrum Apostolic Community with effect from 26th June 2018
- **Fr. Dijo Thomas Koikkara** is appointed pastor of Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish and Saint Bernadette Mission in Duncannon, USA
- **Fr. Augustine Mannaparambil** is appointed parochial vicar of St. Joseph parish in Danville, Chaplain to Geisinger and state Hospital, Danville, USA.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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OBITUARY

- **Mr. Thomas Padikara**, aged 89, Grand Father of Fr. Nelson Manuvel Padikara, died on June 29, 2018.

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

July 2018

July 1	Orientation and Recollection for the MTh in IIS
July 2	Addressing the Scholastics of Suvidya College
July 3	Meeting the 2 nd Year Philosophers of South West India Province
July 4	Travelling to Kerala
July 5-6	Visitation to SFS Seminary Ettumanoor: Meeting the Staff and Brothers; Visiting SFS School: Meeting with the 10 th Std. Students; visiting Fr. Justin Panachickal in Chengalam
July 7	Visitation to Charis Bhavan
July 8	One Day Seminar of the Associates of the Fransalians at Charis Bhavan
July 9-13	1 st Annual Retreat at Charis Bhavan
July 14-17	Visitation to Aluva and Pattikad; Visiting Frs. Noby, Chacko Ottalankal and Paul Aranjanil, Visitation to MSFS House Kattappana, Visiting Fr. Jacob Thudipara
July 18-20	Visitation to Adoor, Vattiyoorkavu, ITSCAAT, visiting Frs. Varghese Puthuparambil and Mathew Kavithazhe
July 23	Blessing of the Community House at Karehalli
July 24	Council Meeting
July 26-Aug. 2	Visitation to our Confreres in Adelaide, Australia

August 2018

August 1-2	Visitation to our Confreres in Adelaide, Australia
August 3-4	KRCR Major Superiors' Meeting in Mysore
August 4-5	Recollection for the Diploma Students of IIS
August 6	Visitation to Chintamani, *Meeting with the 10 th Standard Students; *Visitation to Sidlghatta
August 7	Visitation to Kadisenahalli
August 7-8	Visitation to Srinivasapura, Meeting with 10 th Std. Students
August 8-9	Visitation to Community at Tamaka and Kolar Parish
August 9-10	Visitation to MSFS Community at ITI
August 13-18	Classes in IIS
August 17	Council Meeting

August 19	Suvidya College – Community Day
August 20	Education Forum Meeting
August 22	Social & Innovative Ministry Forum Meeting
August 24	Mission Forum Meeting
August 25	Meeting of the Superior General with the Major Superior and Staff of Suvidya College
August 26	Formation Forum Meeting
August 28	Stewardship Forum Meeting
August 29	Meeting of the Superior General with the Provincial and the Curia
August 30	Visitation to MSFS Community and school at Anthoninagara

September 2018

September 1	Recollection – IIS
September 3-4	Visitation to the MSFS Community Malur, *Meeting with the 10 th Std. Students of SFS Malur
September 4-5	Visitation to Gokunte
September 7	Council Meeting
September 9	Institute’s Day at IIS
Sept. 10-14	PIF-PEA-GC Meeting in Hyderabad
Sept. 15-16	Visitation to the MSFS Community, Savanur, *Meeting with the 10 th Std. Students
Sept. 16-17	Visitation to the MSFS Community Mundargi, *Meeting with the 10 th Std. Students
Sept. 17-18	Visitation to the MSFS Community Kuknoor, *Meeting with the 10 th Std. Students
Sept. 18-19	Visitation to the MSFS Community, Koppal, *Meeting with the 10 th Std. Students of SFS Schools
Sept. 22-28	Retreat for the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod at Yercaud
September 30	Founder’s Day – with the Novices in MSFS Novitiate Makkiad

October 2018

October 1-4	Visitation to the MSFS Novitiate Makkiad, Classes for the Novices
October 5-6	Visitation to MSFS Community, Batheri
October 6-7	Visitation to Vinayakumar Ashram, Sunday Mass in T.K. Colony Parish
October 11	Visitation to PSI, Kengeri
October 12	Council Meeting
October 13	Meeting the 3 rd Year Philosophers of South West India Province
October 15-19	2 nd Annual Retreat at IIS
October 18	Annual Charismatic Convention at Charis Bhavan: Holy Mass and Talk
October 21-22	Visitation to Sedam Mission, visiting Fr. D. Robert
October 24	MSFS Foundation Day and Institute’s Day at Suvidya College

	Bangalore
Oct.26-Nov. 15	Visitation to Germany, Austria and Confreres who are studying in different Universities in Europe

November 2018

Nov. 1-15	Visitation to Germany, Austria and Confreres who are studying in different Universities in Europe
Nov. 16-17	Recollection – IIS
Nov. 18-19	Visitation to St. Joseph’s Parish and SFS Boys’ Home, Ulickal
Nov. 19-20	Visitation to MSFS Community & SFS School Mattannur
Nov.20	Visiting Fr. Simil in Panathur, Visitation to Kannadiparamba Parish
Nov. 20-21	Visitation to MSFS Community & SFS School Kannur, Meeting the 10 th Standard Students
Nov. 23	Council Meeting
Nov. 24-25	Visiting the Shimoga Mission
Nov. 27-29	On-going Formation for all those ordained before 1990
Nov. 30	Personal Meeting with the Confreres of Vinayalaya Community

December 2018

December 2	1 st Sunday of Advent – Holy Eucharist at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Hebbagodi
December 4-5	Regents’ Meeting – Mid-Year Evaluation
December 7-8	Recollection – IIS
December 9	2 nd Sunday of Advent: Visitation to IIS –Holy Mass and Meeting with the Staff and Students and the Associates of Fransalians
December 11-12	PIF Meeting, Governing Body Meeting and Rev. Fr. Gabriel Memorial Lectures at Suvidya College
Dece.13-23	Visitation to Chad-Cameroon Delegation
December 25	Christmas
December 27	Ordination of Dn. Staney Rodrigues , Infant Jesus Church, Prabhat Nagar, Honavar, Karnataka
December 28	Council Meeting

SALESIAN THOUGHT

“Every Vocation becomes more agreeable to God when united with devotion.”

Saint Francis de Sales.

Fraternally,



Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS

Provincial