

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



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**Circular BK/7**

**December 18, 2016**

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**My dear Confreres,**

Fraternal greetings to you from Fr. Benny. As we have entered the thick of the advent season, it is an occasion for us to evaluate our personal preparations for the forthcoming Christmas. The Church proposes December 17 as the beginning of the intensive time of the season of Advent, as one more chance for us to renew ourselves, reconstruct the bend paths and to straighten those areas, which are made crooked through our sins and failures. What leads us to Christmas in the most effective way is the 'hope' that our God is with us. I would like to look up to Mary and Joseph to give us this hope as they experienced in those expectant days of the birth of the Messiah.

**Christmas with Mary and Joseph**



The redemptive mission of God for the humanity began with the incarnation and birth of Jesus through Mother Mary. **Joseph and Mary are the ones who celebrated the first Christmas.** Apparently what might have been the nature of that first Christmas? I would like to see it in the following manner.

**a) Christmas with Mary: A Woman with Shattered Dreams**

According to the Jewish culture at that time the marital age of a woman was between 13 and 15 years of age. The process to marriage was first through an engagement followed

by the betrothal. From the time of betrothal the boy and the girl are allowed to be in contact with each other except in sexual intimacy. At the time when the angel Gabriel

appeared to Mary she was betrothed to a man called Joseph (Mt. 1/18). Therefore Mary was in contact with Joseph and had already begun to create a world of her own dreams: 'I will marry Joseph, I will love him, I will have children through him and I will live a wonderful family life with him.' **Mary dreamt all that a village girl could afford to dream.** It is into those dreams of hers that the angel Gabriel appeared and announced the birth of the Messiah through her, thus shattering all her human dreams.

My dear Confreres, the story of Mary should become the story of each one of us. **To possess the dream of God often we need to shatter our human dreams.** Today Jesus can be born again in the midst of the humanity through us who propose His dream for the world. Only those who have allowed their personal dreams to be shattered, those who have experienced the meaning of being at the Peripheries, those who have experientially understood the meaning of the beatitudes can speak of CHRISTMAS.

#### **b) Christmas with Joseph: A Man of Biblical Justice**

In accordance with the Jewish marital culture a young man married between the age of 22 and 24. Joseph, most probably was pretty young as he was betrothed to Mary. At the peak of his youth he dreamt like a young man would dream. He created a new world around Mary, visualised a future family with her and imagined the beautiful days he would spend with her. It is then that he hears the shocking news that Mary is pregnant. According to the Jewish law a woman who is pregnant before the marriage is considered a prostitute. The punishment that can be avenged on her is stoning to death. In this context Joseph is the one who has the right to throw the first stone at her, because he is the one who is cheated by her. But Joseph makes a decision to let Mary live: *He resolved to send her away quietly* (Mt 1/19). This is Biblical Justice. **There are two kinds of Justice. 1) Commutative Justice:** It means to give to someone what he/she deserves. This is the so called civil justice. **2) Biblical Justice: It comes from the Hebrew root MISPATH, which means to give to someone what he/she does not deserve.** Joseph gave Mary life, which apparently she did not deserve, because she is illegally found with a child.

My dear Confreres, **Christmas means to give life to those who are at the peripheries. It is a call to be compassionate and just even to those who do not deserve life.** Jesus gave us life, which we do not deserve, because we have destroyed the possibilities of life through our sins in spite of the opportunities that were given to us. Jesus learned this life-giving mission from his father. **What the father and mother are, so will the children be.** This is perhaps the greatest reason that Jesus began his ministries from the shore of the sea. Shore is the fringe of everything, it is the place where the lost, least and the last live and it is where the fertile land for the values of the kingdom flourishes.

My dear Confreres, I wish each one of you a wonderful celebration of Christmas: **Let it be a Christmas, where you shatter your own dreams to allow the dream of God to possess you. Let it be a Christmas where you throw yourself to the peripheries to give life to someone who apparently does not deserve it. Let it be a Christmas where you realise that unsolved questions of your life are also part of Christmas. POSSESS GOD'S DREAMS, GIVE LIFE AND CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS.**

## Canonical Visitation to the Philippines

Together with Fr. Roy Plathottathil, the Councilor in-charge of Education and Fr. Vinod Kanattu, the Provincial Bursar, I visited the Philippine Delegation from 20<sup>th</sup> October 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.



The annual visitation was envisaged in the context of the priestly ordination of Dn. Noel Suico Tatoy, the Perpetual Profession of Bro. Nathanael Masendo and the Delegation Colloquium and the meeting with the Friends of Fransalians.

### a) Priestly Ordination of Dn. Noel SuicoTatoy, the Second Filipino MSFS



It is the pride of the MSFS Philippine Delegation to reap the fruits of its hard labour. It was on the foundation day of our congregation and in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2016, the second Filipino MSFS, in the person of Rev. Fr. Noel SuicoTatoy, MSFS, was ordained to the Order of Presbyterate. He was ordained at the Holy Child Parish, in Bato, Leyte, in his

own home town parish, by Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, D.D. Bishop of Maasin. The witnessed dignitaries of the solemn ordination were; Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, the Provincial, Rev. Fr Ginu Pathiyakam, the Delegation Superior, Rev. Fr Roy Plathottathill, the Provincial Councillor, Rev. Fr Vinod Kanattu, the Bursar, and all the MSFS Fathers of the Delegation. A good number of priests from the Diocese of Imus, also witnessed the ordination.

Great number of people participated in the solemn blessed event. There were visitors from far and wide, especially the religious brothers and sisters, the Friends of Fransalians and parishioners from the parish ministered by MSFS. The Provincial, Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal expressed his words of thanks to God for the gift of the second

Filipino priest to the congregation and honoured the Bishop and congratulated the new priest in an Indian manner by vesting them with shawls. The solemn rite of ordination was concluded with the words of gratitude by the newly ordained priest and with the solemn agape.

On behalf of the Province I congratulate Fr. Noel SuicoTatoy for his wholehearted response to the Vocation to Priesthood in the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and wish him God's abundant blessings in his priestly ministry as MSFS.

### **b) Perpetual Profession of Bro. Nathanael Masendo**



The MSFS Philippine Delegation is blessed to have Bro. Nathaniel Masendo, the third perpetually professed MSFS from the Philippines. The solemn celebration was held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of October, 2016 at MSFS Formation House, Silang. The Holy Mass was presided by Rev. Fr.

Noel Suico Tatoy, MSFS, as it was his thanksgiving Eucharist for the Delegation as a newly ordained priest. Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, the provincial inspired the candidate and all the participants on the seriousness of the commitment one makes through the Perpetual Profession. He then received the vows of Bro. Nataniel Masendo. The celebration was coloured by the presence of all the MSFS fathers of the Philippine Delegation, Parents and relatives of the candidate, Friends of Fransalians, religious brothers and sisters from the neighbouring communities and representatives from the parish ministered by the MSFS fathers. At the end of the celebration Bro Nataniel Masendo, the newly perpetually professed member of the congregation expressed his words of gratitude for all those who enabled him to respond to the religious vocation with total dedication and all the participants in the solemn celebration. The common sharing of the sumptuous meal was its culmination.

### **c) Delegation Colloquium**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 all the members of the Delegation and provincial and Frs. Roy and Vinod came together for the Delegation Colloquium at Silang our minor seminary. The colloquium was a real soul searching into the different aspects of the Delegation's functioning. It took into consideration various themes such as the religious, formative, administrative aspect of the life of the confreres in the Philippines. There was an open discussion and sharing regarding various matters such as the possibilities of starting a school, social work ministry and spirituality centre. All these need to be

meticulously planned out. The provincial administration would stand by the Delegation in all its concerns.

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

More than 150 Friends of the Fransalians gathered together at Silang for the Salesian Seminar. Fr. Roy Plathottathil dwelt upon the topic of the concept of Prayer from a Salesian Perspective. Thereafter Fr. Benny Koottanal gave a talk on the problems in prayer. Both the talks were well appreciated and the participants expressed their real interest to have this kind of seminars in the future too.

#### **e) Canonical Visitation to the Philippines: Appreciation and Suggestions**

Hereby I assess the whole visitation in the following manner.

##### **Appreciation and Gratitude**

- There is a great sense of unity among the confreres and each one feels happy about their presence in the delegation.
- The leadership in the province under the guidance of Fr. Jinu is well appreciated and the confreres feel belonged and well animated.
- The sense of satisfaction shown by the confreres in living MSFS way of life in the Philippines is remarkable.
- The ministry in the parishes is bringing a great lot of appreciation and gratitude from the people.
- The ardent commitment in the parish ministry shown by our confreres are deriving fruits through spiritual renewal, through the animated groups of the Friends of Fransalians and great number of benefactors.
- Organization of Salesian Seminar for the laity is a very appreciable initiative. Please do keep it up.
- The diocesan authorities are of high regard and appreciation for the MSFS Confreres working in the diocese of Imus.
- All our Formation houses such as Scholasticate, Novitiate and Minor Seminary are deriving dividend fruits under the committed leadership of our Fathers.
- The increase in the number of Local priests for MSFS is a great sign of growth for the delegation. The possible number of ordinations coming up in the following years shows a rich future for the delegation.

##### **Areas of Concern to be taken note of:**

- Considering the need of the future there is an urgent need for making sure that efficient leadership in the delegation is nurtured.
- There should be extra care taken by individual confreres for personal prayer and participation in the community prayer and adoration.
- As per the decision made by our provincial chapter every community should conduct daily half hour adoration.

- We shall commit ourselves to the MSFS life-style by using the gadgets and never allowing them to use us and by keeping the strictness of our life in the parishes and communities.
- In all our communities common meals, prayer and recreation shall be insisted.
- Animation of the life of our formees is well taken care by our Fathers. But at least in the minor seminary two confreres would be desirable as staff.
- Our commitment to other areas of ministries other than pastoral and formation should be taken into serious consideration. Ministries such as a Spirituality centre, school and social work program should be given more attention. I believe that our land in Tanza and Molino can be well utilized for that. Focused attention could be given progressively to these areas.
- We should also begin to focus our attention to engage in ministries outside the diocese of Imus. It will give us more possibilities. I am sure that it will happen soon as we are already beginning our new minor seminary Cebu.

I take this opportunity to thank Fr. Jinu, the Delegation Superior, his advisors in the delegation Frs. Jundie and Jiji and all Fathers for the great sense of hospitality and welcome extended to me and to Frs. Roy and Vinod as we visited you. It was a great time of coming together, planning and visualizing our future as a Delegation under the South West India Province. I was immensely happy to see the fruit of the good work began by our pioneers being continued through each one of our Confreres. I experienced equally the joy of religious life and sense of purpose shown by each one of them in their respective ministries. Our delegation is taking a new shape and I wish each one of the members that you further the good works you have already began.

## Canonical Visitation to Australia



From the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 together with Frs. Roy Plathottathil and Vinod Kanattu I had the great privilege of visiting our Confreres who are working in the Archdiocese of Adelaide, Australia. It was a very personal experience to be with Frs. Shibu, Manu and Jossey. Fr. Manu is the parish priest, Fr. Shibu is an assistant parish priest and Fr. Jossey, at the moment assists in the Cathedral Church, residing in the Bishop's house. I had the opportunity to celebrate mass

in the parishes of each of them, to meet the parishners and the benefactors. We had the special opportunity to dine with the Archbishop and the Priest in charge of coordinating the ministry of our confreres and also to have a special meeting with them. In the meeting the bishop was extremely positive about the commitment of our Fathers and appreciated their qualities and qualifications. I have also very clearly mentioned to the Bishop regarding our intention of our priests sent to work there, that is, along with

the ministry they should be equipped through further studies to be more effective back in the province. I would assess my visitation to Australia in the following manner.

In this context I would like to assess my visitation in the following manner:

#### Positive Aspects

- a) All the three of our confreres have made a wonderful impact in the parishes they do ministry through affable relationship with the people.
- b) The diocesan authorities are strongly impressed by their personal commitment to the entrusted responsibilities and about the effective involvement in the parish and diocesan activities.
- c) It is nice to know that Fr. Shibu is appointed as the member of the finance committee of the diocese, a first time happening in the Archdiocese of Adelaide that a religious is appointed to that post.
- d) I am very much impressed about the simple life our confreres lead which has a witnessing value.
- e) I also appreciate our confreres for the initiatives they take to uphold our MSFS religious life style by coming together once in a while and spending some quality time together in the company of each other.

#### Points to be taken into consideration

- a) Together with the pastoral ministry, our Fathers are sent to the arch-diocese of Adelaide specifically with the purpose of fulfilling their studies. We have made it clear to the diocese with the stipulated time frame. I request the Fathers to consider this aspect in the most effective way
- b) I request Fr. Jossey too to begin now onwards the procedures regarding his studies and clarify the progress of it to me.
- c) In the context of our presence in the arch-diocese of Adelaide we shall promote our presence in the most befitting Salesian life-style.
- d) It is very important that a regular community meeting (minimum once in a month) is held for at least half a day. The community meeting should include sharing of experiences, concerns and suggestions, a time of at least half hour adoration, visiting the sacrament of confession and minimum a meal together.
- e) Confreres shall be in regular touch with the provincial.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Frs. Shibu, Manu and Jossey for the loving hospitality, which we cherished very much during our stay in Adelaide. It had been a time of personal interaction, community life and sharing of our visions and plans for our life as MSFS in the Archdiocese of Adelaide. It was equally nice to experience the impact of their pastoral ministries by participating with each of them in the celebration of the holy Eucharist in their respective parishes. I thank them for holding high the good name of our congregation through the right exercise of their priestly and religious life. I am also grateful to them for the extreme personal and common commitment shown to us and for the meticulous planning of the visitation.

## New Provincials



### Rev. Fr. K. Ignaci Muthu

Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our Superior General has appointed Rev. Fr. K. Ignaci Muthu, MSFS to be the **new provincial of South East India Province**. He will assume his responsibilities on 24th January 2017. In the name of the South West India Province, I extend to Fr. Ignaci Muthu God's abundant blessings in his new responsibility as the provincial.



### Rev. Fr. George Panthanmackel

Our Superior General Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil has appointed Rev. Fr. George Panthanmackel as **provincial of North East India Province for the second term**. South West India Province congratulates Fr. George on his reappointment and wishes him God's abundant blessings in his endeavours.

## Silver Jubilarians

My dear Confreres, I am very happy to announce that two of our Confreres are turning Silver. Our former Provincial, Rev. Fr. Jose Kumblolickal and the former Provincial Bursar, Rev. Fr. Joshy Thazhathukunnel have entered the Silver Jubilee Year. On this special occasion as we thank God for them we appreciate their generous commitment as integrated, selfless and ardent MSFS. We thank you dear Fathers for your simple and genuine missionary life-style. You have been models for the younger generations to look upto the future with hope. We wish you God's abundant blessings. **Ad multos Annos.**

### Rev. Fr. Jose Kumblolickal



Fr. Jose Kumblolickal was born on 11- 08 -1964 at IDUKI, KERALA as the youngest son of late Augustine and Clara. He had his Primary School education at GHS, Malom from 1970-1977 and High School education at St. Mary's HS, Kaliyar from 1977-1980. He joined the Minor Seminary at Ettumanoor in 1980. On December 8, 1985 he made his First Profession at Visakhapatnam. After his philosophical studies at Suvidya College Bangalore (1985-1988) he was appointed for regency at SFS Seminary Ettumanoor (1988-1989). He completed his Theological studies from JDV Pune (1989-1992). He made his Perpetual Profession in 1991 and was ordained a deacon in 1992. He was ordained a priest on October 26, 1992 at Edakom, Kerala.

## **Ministry and Specialisation**

Assistant Parish Priest St. Xavier's, Thrickodithanam:	1992-1993
On the Staff at SFS Seminary ,Ettumanoor:	1993-1995
Licentiate in Dogmatic Theology, Salamanca, Spain:	1995-1998
Doctorate in Spiritual Theology, Burgos, Spain:	1999-2002
Director,Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha:	2002-2005
Director, Indian Institute of Spirituality, Rajajinagar:	2005-2009
On the Staff at Tejas (Theologate):	2009-2012
Provincial Councillor:	2009-2011
Province Administrator:	2011
Provincial Councillor:	2011-2013
Rector ,Tejas Vidya Peetha (Theologate):	2012-2013
General Councillor:	2013
Provincial:	2013 April – January 2016
Sabbatical Leave:	2016

## **Fr. Joshy Philip Thazhathukunnel**



Fr. Joshy Philip Thazhathukunnel was born on March 20, 1964 at Kongadoor, Kottayam, Kerala to Mr. Philip and Mrs. Kathri. He has one brother and five sisters. He had his schooling from St. Joseph's High School, Punnathura. He joined the Minor Seminary at Ettumanoor in 1980. On December 15, 1984 he made his First Profession at Visakhapatnam. After his philosophical studies at Suviday Collage Bangalore he was appointed for regency at Vinayalaya, Bangalore. He completed his Theological studies from JDV Pune (1989-1992). He made his Perpetual Profession in 1990 and was

ordained a deacon in 1992. He was ordained a priest on October 31, 1992.

## **Ministry**

Pastoral Sociology Institute, Malur:	1992-1995
Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Church, Chintamani:	1995-1999
Parish Priest of SFS Church, Procurator of Mermier Bhavan Community, Director of SFS Boy's Home at Hebbagodi:	1999-2001
Parish Priest of SFS Church, Superior of SFS Community & Correspondent of SFS School, Koppal:	2001-2004
Parish Priest of SFS Church, Superior of SFS Community, Correspondent of SFS School & Executive Director of SFS Pastoral Sociology Institute at Malur:	2004-2006
Correspondent of SFS Schools at Chintamani & Srinivaspur:	2006-2009
Parish Priest of St. Mary's Church, Kolar:	2009-2011
Provincial Bursar:	2011-2016
Parish Priest of SFS Parish, Hebbagodi, Bengaluru:	2016

## **Second Annual Retreat at Indian Institute of Spirituality (IIS), Bengaluru**

My dear Confreres, I thank all those who attended the second annual retreat conducted at IIS from the 10th to the 14th of October 2016. Altogether there were 64 participants. The retreat was a great experience for all the participants. Everyone appreciated the wonderful and in-depth preaching of Rev. Fr. Jose Pamplany. The effect of the retreat was reflected specially through the silent, prayerful atmosphere maintained by the participants. The active involvement of participators through singing, conducting adoration, spending time in personal prayer etc. made the retreat very effective. I thank the IIS & Vinayalaya community for all the preparations for the success of the retreat. I also thank Rev Fr. Jose Pamplany for his guidance and thought provoking and heart touching talks. Except 5 confreres all other confreres in India, belonging to our Province, have participated in the annual retreat. I request all those who did not participate in the annual retreat organised by the province to participate in any other retreat and report it to the provincial's office.

## **Laying of Foundation Stone at Anthoninagara**



November 9, 2016 was a historic day for the MSFS South-West India Province as it witnessed the laying of the foundation stone for the School Building at Anthoninagar in the diocese of Chickmagalur. The event began with an hour of adoration. The foundation stone for the school building was blessed and laid by Fr. Benny Koottanal, the Provincial in the presence of our confreres, diocesan priests, parishners, and friends. The event came to an end

with a short message of the Provincial to a small gathering of the parishners.

## **Laying of Foundation Stone at Shiralakoppa**



The Mission entrusted to us at Shiralakoppa in the diocese of Shimoga has reached a new phase. After many years of hard work, on November 30, 2016, Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, our Beloved Provincial blessed and laid the foundation stone for the school in the presence of Fr. Vinod Kanattu, the Provincial Bursar, Shimoga Apostolic Community

members and a few priests and well-wishers from nearby vicinity.

**My dear Confreres,** It is a dream come true for our maiden missions at Anthoninagar in the diocese of Chickmagalur and Shiralakoppa in the diocese of Shimoga. I sincerely thank all the pioneers in these missions and very specially Fr Salvador Fernandes and Fr. Maria George for their hard work and commitment in fulfilling the dream.

### **Golden Jubilee Inauguration of SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor**



SFS Seminary Ettumanoor turns Golden. We are delighted to inform you that SFS seminary Ettumanoor is celebrating its Golden Jubilee. The Jubilee celebration was inaugurated on 29 October 2016 by Msgr. Dr. Sebastian Poovathumkal (Vicar General of the Diocese of Vijayapuram). Some of the former Rectors, staff, MSFS confreres from Ettumanoor Apostolic Community, religious

men and women and well wishers gathered together to participate in the inaugural celebration. During the Holy Mass Msgr. Dr. Sebastian Poovathumkal inspired the community to move up higher to the company of saints and holy men of the great catholic tradition leaving aside our selfish motives and petty interests. He reminded the gathering that this jubilee year should be an occasion to thank the Lord and to revitalize our missionary dynamism. The inaugural ceremony included releasing of Golden Jubilee Logo, a new website for the seminary, releasing of 'Snehasparsham' a Malayalam translation of the book 'Walking with Saint Francis De Sales' written by Rev. Dr. Henry Kodikuthiyil translated by Br. Tony Munduchalil, our scholastic who is a former student of SFS Seminary. The theme for the Jubilee year is '**Honouring our Past, Forming Missionaries for A Renewed World**'.

Dear Fathers and brothers I am glad to inform you that SFS seminary Ettumanoor is celebrating its golden Jubilee. It is a golden opportunity for us to thank God for His blessings on us for the last 50 years. I am sure that at some time of your life this noble institution has played a significant role in forming you. All of you, in turn, have contributed your share in making SFS seminary for what it has become today. To refresh the good old memories the staff and students of the seminary will be delighted to have you for a two-day celebration. As you plan your programs for the year 2017 please be kind enough to set free the following dates for the jubilee celebrations.

**On 4 October (Wednesday) 2017** at 5 PM Alumni meeting (MSFS Priests and brothers)  
Felicitation program followed by Dinner

**October 5 (Thursday) 2017** at 10.30am Thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration followed by Fellowship meal.

## St. Francis de Sales Church at Jakkur, Bengaluru



December 4, 2016 is a day to remember for the South–West India Province as the Syro Malabar Rite Mission Station at Jakkur, was formally raised to the status of a Parish. It's the second Syrian Parish we have in the diocese of Mandya. To mark the blessing and inauguration there was a well-organized gathering before the mass wherein the Bishop of Mandya diocese, priests, nuns, and lay faithful were present and eminent political leaders were present. Mr Krishna Byre Gowda, Honourable Minister for Agriculture, Government of Karnataka, delivered a powerful and supportive message. It was followed by the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration celebrated by Most. Rev. Dr. Antony Kariyil, the Bishop of Mandya Diocese, which was concelebrated by Fr. Benny Koottanal, the Provincial and a large number of MSFS and other priests. During the mass the formal decree of raising the mission station to a parish was read out and Fr. Joseph Kannadom who was priest in charge for the past one and half years was installed as the first Parish Priest of the newly erected parish. The day's programme came to an end with the fellowship meal.

My dear Confreres, the provincial administration has taken keenly the suggestion of the provincial chapter to discern the erection of the new Syrian parish under our animation. Sufficient studies regarding the pros and cons of it have been done by the administration together with Fr. Joseph Kannadom, the newly appointed parish priest. I sincerely thank Fr. Joseph Kannadom for his tireless efforts in seeing this project through. He has left no stone unturned to make this dream come true. His prayerfulness, sincerity and hard work have attracted the people too to stand by him in moments of difficulties and struggles. I wish Fr. Joseph Kannadom and the new parish God's abundant blessings.

### Vocation Promoters' Meeting

My dear Confreres, recognising the fact that the future of our Congregation and the Province depends on the quality of our priests and that there is a dire need to promote quality vocations, Vocation Promoters' Meeting was called upon on November 16, 2016. It was attended by 10 of our vocation promoters both in Karnataka and Kerala.

### **Provincial's Message to the Vocation Promoters:**

We promote the vocations to our Congregation/province in order to sustain the work of the proclamation of the Gospel through our ministries. Therefore as our constitutions would demand vocation promotion is everyone's responsibility. But for a co-ordinated effort we have appointed 12 confreres in our province for regular vocation promotion.

#### **a) Method of Promotion**

Our Directory Nos. 105-107 speaks of the kind of method to follow in the vocation promotion:

- We need to begin earlier the vocation promotion
- We need to visit the parishes, celebrate mass for the children, give them good homilies and instructions
- We need to visit the families, encourage the parents
- We need to keep in touch with the children from high school level
- We need to create a sense of team work among our vocation promoters
- We need to organise vocation camps (especially in Karnataka)

#### **b) Our Witnessing Credibility**

Our Directory No. 103 mentions about it:

- Vocation Promoter must be a man of prayer and visit the sacraments regularly. The sanctity of our life is the greatest weapon for us to stand for Christ. We should be people who are contented with the minimum.
- We need to have great propriety in the use of gadgets and the use of vehicles. Simple life-style will attract young ones to Jesus more ardently
- Our dress style will tell volumes about our life-style. Wear cassock whenever we go for vocation promotion.

#### **c) It is not enough to Promote Vocations, We Need to Sustain Them**

- We need to handle our brothers lovingly after they join the seminary
- We should not defeat their dreams and expectations of a priest through our unbecoming behavioural styles
- We should teach them to balance their emotional immaturity and attachments through gentle corrections and admonitions
- We should keep constant contact with their families, especially by arranging parents' day gathering.

#### **d) From the part of the Administration**

- The administration would stand in full support of the endeavours of the vocation promoters
- In this academic year we have 55 first year minor seminarians. They are of good quality. I thank the vocation promoters Fr. Shinto Jacob and Santhosh Pereira and all the collaborators in vocation promotion.
- The target for the next year is already set and we need to intensify our vocation promotion now onward.

### **Co-Ordinators of Vocation Promotion**

- Fr. Charles Periyannayagam – Karnataka and North India
- Fr. Shinto Jacob – Kerala

### **e) Team of Vocation Promoters for Karnataka & North India**

#### Dioceses:

- **Mysore & Chikmagalur:** Fr. Charles Periyannayagam and Fr. Johny Kanjiramparambil
- **Shimoga & Karwar:** Fr. Salvador Fernandes
- **Belgaum, Bellary & Gulbarga:** Fr. J. Periyannayagam
- **Belthangadi:** Fr. Joseph Thoppil & Fr. Tony Erniakulathil
- **Bangalore:** Fr. Selvaraj
- **Mangalore & Udupi:** Fr. Christopher Crasta & Fr. Santosh Pereira
- **North India:** Fr. Francis Ekka & Fr. Anand Ekka

### **f) Team of Vocation Promoters for Kerala**

#### Dioceses:

- **Thalassery & Kannur:** Fr. Jose Vechuvettickal & Fr. Mathew Mamala
- **Thamarassery & Mananthavady:** Fr. Shajan Manickathan & Aneesh Chirackalpuraidom
- **Central Kerala:** Fr. Mijo Kulamkuthiyil & Jino Plathottathil
- **South Kerala:** Fr. Johny Puthiyaparambil & Fr. Reji Narikunnel & Fr. Jose Karekatt

My dear Confreres, **I request all our Confreres who are working in the parishes to promote at least one vocation each for our province in the coming academic year.** It is a constitutional responsibility that all the confreres should seriously commit in promoting the vocations to our province, especially by encouraging our own relatives and family members to join our congregation. The future of our congregation can be built up only through quality vocations. **Let us promote good vocations to our province.**

### **Superior's Forum Meeting**



December 6, 2016 was a day set apart for the superior's. All the superiors of our communities gathered at Vinayalaya, Provincial House, Bengaluru. The meeting began at

9am with a hymn to the Holy Spirit followed by a well prepared input session with power point presentation by Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal, the Provincial.

The discussion and sharing were conducted under the limelight of the following points:

- The Leadership Role of the Superior
- Builder of Relationships
- Functions of the Local Superior
- Organizer of the Local Community Meetings
- Organizer of the Mission entrusted to the Community
- Monitors the Financial Administration of the Community
- Co-ordinator of the Community with the Diocesan Authorities and CRI
- Co-ordinator of the Community with the Civil Authorities
- Organizer of the common programs of the Community
- Formator to those who are under Formation (Regent)

The meeting also emphasised the importance of the Canonical Visitation of the Provincial and its relevance and the necessity to have adequate preparation for the same. It was an interactive session wherein everyone was given an opportunity to respond and to assimilate their personal and collective responsibilities. The meeting concluded with a sumptuous meal.

### **Pratheeksha 2016: “Together Towards Tomorrow”**



Pratheeksha 2016: “TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMMOROW” was the theme of the one day gathering of the children of Pratheeksha Homes in Kerala and Karnataka. The great and memorable day which took place in the NEST Home, was organized by the Social and Innovative forum of the south-west India province of the MSFS under the able leadership of Fr. Joy Vazhapillil, the provincial

Councilor in charge of Social and Innovative mission forum and Fathers and brothers of NEST and Tejas Vidya Peetha made the meeting a reality. Fr. Benny Koottanal, the provincial of South west India Province visited and gave a short message. About 150 children from all our Boys’ Homes gathered for the program. Group animation, talent search, community building among the children, various arts and sports competitions were the main attractions of the day.

The resource person of the day was Mr. Ragunathan Kumar, from the faculty of mechanical Engineering, Christ University. The event was made more colourful by the presence and dedicated service of the Staff and students of Tejas Vidya Peetha. The forum is thankful to all the Directors of Pratheeksha Homes and staff for taking effort to make the children available for the programme.

## Congratulations to the New 'Doctors in Theology'

My dear Confreres, it is said: **The more you know, the better you love.** It had been a positive trend of our province to equip as many members of our province as possible in theology, philosophy and social sciences. I am very happy that it is bringing dividend fruits through their wonderful commitment in various fields. Our province has Theologians, Philosophers and Psychologists of worldwide fame. To that list we add two more of our newly crowned Doctors in Theology.



**Rev. Fr. Joe Cherolickal** has completed the Doctoral studies in Theology by successfully defending his thesis from the University of Vienna on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October 2016. The title of his doctoral dissertation is: **The Relationship between Spirituality and Morality in Salesian Perspective and its Practical Applications for life with Reflections on Indian Spirituality.**



**Rev. Fr. Johny Puthiapampil** has completed the Doctoral Studies in Spiritual Theology from St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bengaluru on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2016. He completed his doctoral studies under the Department of Spiritual Theology in association with Indian Institute of Spirituality. The title of his doctoral dissertation is: **Becoming Eucharist: A Eucharist Centered Marital Spirituality.**

I congratulate both Fathers for the great achievement and pray that their studies make them sufficiently equipped to teach the values of the Gospel more effectively through their respective ministries and Commitment. **Congratulations, Dear Fathers.**

## New Publications by Our Confreres

\* **Rev. Dr. Jacob Parappally** has published a new book titled **The Meaning of Jesus Christ: An Introduction to Christology.** This book is approved by the CBCI as the textbook for Christology in India. It is published by the Theological Publications in India (TPI) in the year 2016. I take this opportunity specially to congratulate Fr. Jacob Parappally through whose commitment to Theology and theological publications a great laurel is accorded to our congregation too. Thank you Fr. Jacob for your committed service to the Church and we are proud of you.

\* **Rev. Dr. Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil** has published a new book in Malayalam, titled **Snehasparsham**. This is a translation of the book **Walking with St. Francis de Sales** by the same author. Both the versions of the book are well sought after. I congratulate Fr. Henry for his commitment to literary works and thank him for holding the flag of MSFS high. I also congratulate **Bro. Tony Munduchalil**, one of our scholastics in Tejas, who translated the work from English into Malayalam.

## Ordination to Priesthood

Following Confreres will be ordained priests in their own parishes after the Christmas

- **Dn. Sudeep Andrews** will be ordained priest by **Bishop Francis Serrao**, Bishop of Shimoga on **29<sup>th</sup> December 2016** in Begur, Bengaluru.
- **Dn. Prakash Prashant** will be ordained priest by **Bishop Henry D'Souza**, Bishop of Bellary on **30<sup>th</sup> December 2016** in Harobale, Bengaluru.
- **Dn. Joby Pulichamakkal** will be ordained priest by **Archbishop Njaralakatt**, Archbishop of Thalassery on **7<sup>th</sup> January 2017** in Charal, Iritty.

As we pray for these our young confreres who commit themselves to serve at the altar of the Lord we shall also accompany them through our presence on the days of their ordinations. I request as many confreres as possible to participate in the priestly ordinations of our confreres and assure them of our love and prayers. Our public presence together on occasions of this sort will be a great witness to the people around.

## Welcome Back to India

I am very happy to extend a hearty welcome to **Fr Thomas Moongamakkal** after the good services he rendered to our mission in Chad-Cameroon. Fr. Thomas was the Parish Priest and Chaplain of the University Church at Buea, in the Anglophone sector of Cameroon. He was well appreciated and acknowledged by the Bishop, priests, laity and the university students. As I thank him for the great service he rendered to our mission in Chad and Cameroon I extend to him a hearty welcome to India. After a short time of holidays Fr. Thomas will take up his next appointment in the province.

## Request to all the Confreres of South West India Province

In accordance with the decision of the General Curia and the TMM I have forwarded to you a form to be signed by all the perpetually professed members of our Congregation/province. This form is to ensure safety to those entrusted to our care and to make us responsible for our behaviour and conduct. I have sent the form to all the communities either through the local superiors or through the post. I request all the superiors to make sure that the members of your community sign this form. Confreres who are abroad will get the form at the earliest. The superiors can send the forms together to the provincial house **latest by the 31<sup>st</sup> of December 2016**.

## Appointments

- **Fr. Jose Kumbolickal** is designated to teach in the De Sales University Philadelphia for one Semester, from January 2017 to May 2017.
- **Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal** is designated to be appointed to the Arch-diocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly for pastoral ministry.
- **Fr. Jose Puthukary** is designated to go to Germany for Pastoral Ministry. He will undertake German Language Course in Goethe Institute, Trivandrum from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017. He is affiliated to our community at Vattiyoorkavu.
- **Fr. Francis Ekka** is designated to go to Chad-Cameroon Mission for pastoral ministry. He will undertake French Language Course in Trivandrum from 4<sup>th</sup> January 2017. He is affiliated to our community at Vattiyoorkavu.

## Change of Address & Phone Number

- **Fr. Siluvai Raj Arockiyajayaraj**  
KarolingerStr-- 17  
46395 Bocholt  
Germany  
Telephone Number - 2871 2183770  
HanyNummer 015166576387  
Email ID frjjsfs@gmail.com
- **Fr. Vinoy George**  
'Missionari di S. Francesco di Sales',  
Via del Mascherino,  
46\2, I-00193, Roma, Italia  
Telephone Number - 00393272431287

## Let us Pray for the Departed

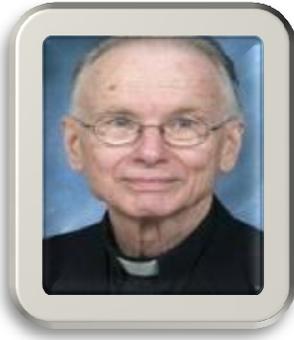
- **Mrs.Valsa Jayes Kandathil**, Maternal aunt of Fr. Sen Vellakada, aged 55, died on September 30, 2016.
- **Mrs. Alekutty Alappattukunnel**, Maternal grandmother of Fr. Gijo Panamattathil, aged 93, died on October 8, 2016.
- **Mr. Sebastian Chennukkattukunnel**, Father of Fr. Thomas Chennukkattukunnel, aged 94, died on October 10, 2016.
- **Mr. Augusty**, elder brother of Fr. Jacob Parappally, aged 79, died on November 12, 2016.
- **Mrs. Betsy**, aged 48, niece of Fr. Wilson Kottam and **Mr. Dominick**, her husband, aged 53, died in a car accident on November 20, 2016.

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

- **Rev. Fr. Luke Cheruvil** of Vizag province, aged 74, died due to Cardiac Arrest on October 5, 2016.



- **Rev. Fr. John DeVore** of USA Vice province died on November 22, 2016.



- **Rev. Bro. Job Poovathumootil** of Vizag Province, aged 86, died on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2016



- **Rev. Fr. Louis BRUGGER** of France-Suisse Province, aged 96, died on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016



**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.

### December 2016

December 2-3	PIF & Governing Body Meeting in Suvidya College
December 3-4	Monthly Recollection for the Diploma Sisters of IIS
December 4	Inauguration and Blessing of the Syro-Malabar Parish at Jakur, Bangalore
December 6	Superiors' Meeting at Vinayalaya
December 7	Visiting the Scholastics of South West India Province in Suvidya College
December 8	Rev. Fr. A. Gabriel Memorial Lectures at Suvidya College
December 9	Ecclesiastical Agreement with the Diocese of Chikmagaluru regarding the Land and Ministry in Anthonynagara. Registration of the Land in Channarayapatna
December 10	Holy Eucharist and message at the Chapter Preparation seminar of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit (SSpS).
December 11	Visitation to IIS: Holy Mass, Meeting the Friends of Fransalians, Evaluation with the Students, Personal Meeting and Community Meeting with the Staff
December 11-12	Recollection for the Post-Graduate Students of IIS
December 12	Meeting of the Core Committee of the Mission Forum
December 13	Meeting with the Core-Committees and Councilors of Innovative and Stewardship Forums: Evaluation and Planning
December 14-15	Visiting the community at Mattannur, discussions on the Project
December 18	Meeting with the Core-Committee and Councilor of Education Forum: Evaluation and Planning
December 18	Annual Day Celebrations at De Sales Music Academy, Hebbagodi
December 19	Silver Jubilee Celebrations – SFS School, Malur
December 19-20	Council Meeting
December 20	Apostolic Community Meeting at Vinayalaya, Christmas Celebration
December 21	Visiting Vinayakumar Ashram, Chokad
December 22	Inauguration of the newly constructed block at SFS Public School & Junior College at Ettumanoor and School Annual Day
December 23	Visiting the communities at Adoor and Vattiyoorkavu
December 24	Visiting Fr. Varghese Puthuparambil, at Pathanavila, in the diocese of Neyyatinkara
December 25	Christmas Mass with Fr. ChackoOttalankal, at Mayam in the Arch-diocese of Changanassery

December 27-28	Regents Meet at Vinayalaya, Bangalore
December 29	Ordination of Dn. Sudeep Andrews at Begur, Bangalore
December 30	Ordination of Dn. Prakash Prashanth at Harobale, Bangalore

### January 2017

January 4	Recollection for the Diploma Students of IIS
January 7	Ordination of Dn. Joby Pulichamakkal at Charal, Iritty
January 9-14	Retreat for the Confreres of Visakhapatnam Province
January 16-19	Visiting the communities at Koppal, Kuknoor and Mundargi
January 21	Moderating the Doctoral Defense of Sr. Abhaya Rose CHF
January 21-22	Recollection for the postgraduate students of IIS
January 23	Council Meeting
January 24	Celebration of the Feast of St. Francis de Sales at Vinayalaya
Jan 25to Feb 15	Visitation to Chad-Cameroon, blessing of the new Seminary At Ngaoundere, personal and community meetings with the Confreres, Meeting the Mission Superior with the Councillors, Mission Colloquium, Visiting the Novices and Scholastics in Tanzania

### February 2017

February 1-15	Visitation to Chad-Cameroon
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 22-24	Gathering of the Young Priests at Vinayalaya: 1-7 Years
February 25-26	Council Meeting
February 27-28	Input sessions for the Diploma Students of IIS on Life-Vision and Task Orientation

### March 2017

March 2-16	Visitation of our Confreres in USA
March 17-23	Visitation of our Confreres in England
March 26-27	Recollection and Keynote Address for the Provincial Congress/Chapter of the South East Province

### April 2017

April 3-4	Council Meeting in Vinayalaya
April 8-10	Sedam Mission – Palm Sunday Celebration and visitation of the Confreres
April 13	Maundy Thursday Celebration in the Mother of Sorrows Parish, Hebbagodi
April 14	Good Friday Liturgy at St. Francis de Sales Church, Jakkur
April 15	Easter Vigil at IIS

April 28	Talk and Mass for the Salesian Seminar at IIS
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### **May 2017**

May 4	Ordination of Dn. Aneeshmon at Kurichithanam, Palai
May 6-13	Animating Salesian Retreat for our Brothers and Fathers at Makkiyad
May 19-20	Council Meeting
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**

**“Vocation to religious life is a call to seek after the perfection of holiness, which is nothing but seeking God’s love in all things and to belong entirely to Him and to find your joy in living in His presence.” - SFS**

**Fraternally,**



**Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS  
Provincial**