

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



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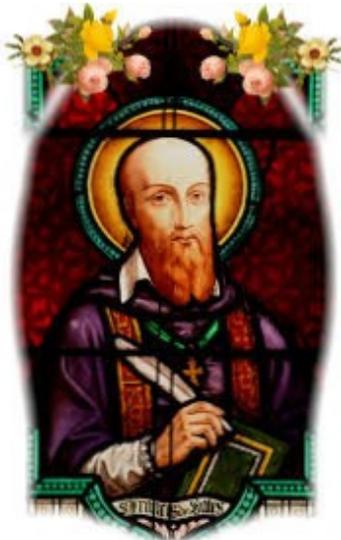
**January 23, 2017**

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**My dear Confreres,**

Fraternal greetings to you from Fr Benny. On the eve of the Feast of our beloved Patron, St. Francis de Sales, I extend to all of you my heartfelt festal greetings and love and affection. May our beloved patron intercede for each one of us and may we be able to live his spirit and Spirituality in our day to day life.

**St. Francis de Sales: The Gentleman Saint**



Venerated as one of the greatest saints history has ever seen, St. Francis de Sales, our beloved Patron, is the epitome of virtues. Various are the virtues that are attributed to him merely due to the loftiness with which he practiced them for the greater love of God. Through his virtuous life he proved that **Saints are the light of the one who said that 'I am the light of the world.'** In addition to the great honour of being declared as the 'Doctor of Love', the title '**Gentleman Saint**' is that which makes our Patron distinct from the galaxy of saints. On this festive occasion let us try to understand and live this great virtue proposed by our Patron.

The standard definition in English for Gentleness is that it is the quality of being considerate or kindly in disposition, amiable and tender, mild and soft, refined and polite. And the opposite of gentleness is harsh or severe. However, I'm always fascinated when I found out that biblically the word Gentleness means something different from what I thought it meant. We often forget the power that our words have because we take them for granted and tend to water down their true meaning.

**Biblically, the Greek word used to describe gentleness is *Prautes*.** This word is used to describe persons or things which have in them a certain soothing quality like having a humble and kind demeanour which can calm another person's anger. *Prautes* describes gentleness of conduct, especially on the part of a person who had it in their power to act otherwise. Most often the word was used to describe the character in which power and humble conduct were combined. **The Greek definition of Gentleness meant 'Power under Control.'**

A great illustration of this is elephants. Elephants are amazing creatures. They are so strong that they are used frequently in the logging industry to fell the tree and to carry the timber. But these giants are actually gentle, especially when they are trained and tamed from a young age. They become domesticated animals. **The trained elephant illustrates the great value of having both strength and careful gentleness.** Especially an elephant's trunk is a great example of strength coupled with precise control. The trunk has more than 40,000 individual muscles and it is strong enough to uproot trees and carry logs. But it is also sensitive and gentle enough to pick leaves from the tip of a branch. St. Francis de Sales says: **Consider God! He is all powerful, but He never misuses His power. He is gentle with His often unruly children and is the perfect Father who never overreacts.**

It is in this context we see the gentleness of our great patron. The sheer fact that he was blessed with the privilege of hailing from a noble family, the power and influence of the one who is born in a castle, and the ecclesiastical authority of the office of the bishop together with the intellectual calibre he possessed, could have made Francis de Sales a 'powerful person'. **But what differentiates him from the ordinary and makes him extraordinary is his willingness to be a domesticated animal for the glory of God.** Francis de Sales realised that arrogance and anger cannot heal the wounds of the humanity, but only patience and gentleness embalmed with the oil of true love of God. Gentleness is a grace-filled life wherein we surrender our present status of life as the gift of God and would live our life as child of God. History narrates that it took Francis twenty long years to master the venom of anger and to be tamed as a gentleman. This reflects in his incidental response to the query of Madam de Chantal: **My daughter, do you want me to lose the great virtue of gentleness, that I gained through twenty years of hard labour?**

**My dear Confreres,** as we venerate our great patron let us imbibe this great virtue of gentleness within ourselves. All of us are endowed with 'powerful positions' due to our apostolate and ministry. **But let us always remember that we are trained to be people whose character is combined by authority and humble conduct. We are called to be Gentlemen for our times.** I wish each of you a VERY HAPPY FEAST OF OUR HEAVENLY PATRON.

## New Priests

We thank God for the gift of three more new priests to our congregation and particularly to our province. As we thank God for them, we welcome them wholeheartedly to our province family to share with us the ministerial priesthood of Jesus and to proclaim Him effectively to the humanity. **Hearty Congratulations my dear Fathers Sudeep, Prashant and Joby.**

### **Fr. Sudeep Andrews MSFS**



**Fr. Sudeep Andrews K** was born on 02.07.1989 at Begur, Bengaluru to Mr. Kanikaswamy and Mrs. Sahayamary. He joined SFS Minor Seminary, Ettumanoor in June 2005. He completed his Novitiate at Sannidhi, Mysore and made his First Profession on June 11, 2009. After completing his philosophical studies at Suvidya College he was sent for his regency to SFS Boy's Home, Hebbagodi, Bengaluru. He completed his Theological studies from Tejas Vidya Peetha during which he was sent to JDV, Pune for the Free Semester exposure and experience. He was ordained a priest on December 29, 2016 at St. Ignatius Church, Begur by Bishop

Francis Serrao, Bishop of Shimoga. He is designated for pastoral ministry in the diocese of Shimoga in Karnataka.

### **Fr. Prakash Prashanth Raj MSFS**



**Fr. Prakash Prashanth Raj** was born on 25.02.1989 at Harobele, Bengaluru to Mr. Sipoy Shanthappa and Mrs. Anthonamma. He joined SFS Minor Seminary, Ettumanoor in June 2005. He had his Novitiate at Sannidhi, Mysore and made his First Profession on June 11, 2009. After completing his philosophical studies at Suvidya College he was sent for his regency to Vinayalaya, Bengaluru. He completed his Theological studies from Tejas Vidya Peetha during which he was sent to Vidyajyothi, Delhi for the Free Semester exposure and experience. He was ordained a priest on December 30, 2016 at Our Lady of Holy Rosary Church, Harobele by Bishop Henry D'Souza, Bishop of Bellary. He is designated to render his

pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Gulbarga in Karnataka.

## Fr. Joby James Pulichamackal MSFS



**Fr. Joby James Pulichamackal** was born on 13.09.1989 at Charal, Iritty to Mr. James and Mrs. Daisy. He joined SFS Minor Seminary, Ettumanoor in June 2005. He had his Novitiate at Sannidhi, Mysore and made his First Profession on June 11, 2009. After completing his philosophical studies at Suvidya College he was sent for his regency to Vinayakumar Ashram, Nilambur. He completed his Theological studies from Tejas Vidya Peetha during which he was sent to Jeppu Seminary, Mangaluru for Free Semester exposure and experience. He was ordained a priest on January 07, 2017 at St. Sebastian's Church, Charal by Archbishop George Njaralakatt, Archbishop of Tellicherry. From the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2017 to the

10<sup>th</sup> of May 2017 he will be rendering his priestly services to the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly in Kerala.

### Visitation to Indian Institute of Spirituality

I had the opportunity to make the canonical visitation to Indian Institute of Spirituality on the 11<sup>th</sup> of December 2016. It was indeed a special occasion for me to personally experience the spiritual dynamism, academic excellence and the communitarian sharing in IIS. In addition I do admire the public relation that the institute holds high by uniting the neighbourhood families under the umbrella of IIS. As I congratulate our confreres, who are on the staff I assess the institute's functioning in the following manner.

#### **Appreciations**

- I appreciate very much the team spirit and unity of the staff, which has brought high quality to the demeanour of IIS.
- The staff has undertaken the formation policy of *accompaniment*, which is very conducive for the intensive formation offered by IIS.
- The conducive atmosphere of prayer created in the institute through the constant insistence and regular participation of the staff is one of the sterling factors of IIS formation.
- Students are provided with quality academic programs through accomplished and renowned resource persons.
- Academic programs are well planned and it accommodates all the subjects, which are within the purview of Spiritual Theology.
- The strict discipline and meticulous planning of the programs of the students render high standard to the institute.
- The regular monthly evaluation of the academic, spiritual, and administrative matters with the students helps the updating of the institute's functioning.

- The evaluation with the students about the institute's over-all functioning by the MSFS Provincial and the Major Superiors of the students is admirable and helpful for the further growth of the institute.
- Insistence on games and manual labour provides healthy ambience to the institute.
- By providing quality food and standard accommodation the institute guarantees high status of living.
- Facilities for extra-curricular activities, such as, ashram experience, study tours, social work exposures, institute day celebrations, inter-religious dialogues etc. are amply provided.
- The eco-friendly campus is very much suitable for the spiritual and physical enrichment of the students.
- The Institute has taken the SFS Publications to a new vista of existence through regular publications of books and sale of books through the bookstall.
- The Bible Diary *Joy of the Gospel* is bringing great laurels to the SFS Publications and the MSFS Congregation.

### **Desirable Areas of Improvement**

- Regular updating of the library with the latest books in Spirituality is very important for the institute in order to maintain its high standard.
- There is a need to have innovative and creative approach to formation of the young ones. This is also in view of the competitions that the institute faces from similar institutions from inside and outside of the city.
- The high standard of spiritual formation given by the institute should be maintained. This is 'the' factor that gives IIS an edge over other similar institutions.
- Update programs of regular nature on spirituality and consecrated life could be provided for the students and their congregations, especially during the summer. This was a resolution that was during the alumni meeting. This in turn will keep the regular flow of students to our institute.
- Special attention has to be given to the post-graduate programs of our institute. IIS is one of the rare institutions of its kind because of the postgraduate degree we offer in MTh and Doctorate. We need to put every effort to maintain the number of students, especially that of the MTh.
- Regular maintenance of the physical structure of the institute is important as vulnerability can be noticed in some parts of the building.

My dear Fathers, who are on the staff in IIS, once again I place on record my high appreciation for your hard work and commitment for the growth of IIS. This institute of ours stands as the global face of our congregation as it renders faith formation and academic excellence to students from all over the world. As I thank you for your availability and commitment I wish you every success in the future and assure you of the support and encouragement of the provincial administration.

## Young Priests' Seminar and On-going Formation Program

We will be organizing the Young Priests' Seminar and on-going formation for those who have been ordained between 2008 December and 2016 January. It will be held at Vinayalaya from **22<sup>nd</sup> February to 24<sup>th</sup> February 2017**. The following confreres are to participate in the ongoing formation program:

- |                                       |                                  |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Fr. A. Mathias                     | 21. Fr. Mattathil Joby           |
| 2. Fr. Balavendra Jacob               | 22. Fr. Mundiyanickal Aneesh     |
| 3. Fr. Chakkiath Bijil                | 23. Fr. Olickal Sijo             |
| 4. Fr. Chemplanickal Jijo             | 24. Fr. Ouseparambil Joseph      |
| 5. Fr. Cheravelil Jikson              | 25. Fr. P. Maria Lawrence        |
| 6. Fr. Chirackalpuraidathil Anish     | 26. Fr. Palathadathil Aneesh     |
| 7. Fr. D. Robert                      | 27. Fr. Parakottil Timson        |
| 8. Fr. Ekka Anand                     | 28. Fr. Parayankunnel Shinto     |
| 9. Fr. Erniakulathil Tony             | 29. Fr. Paul Sudeep              |
| 10. Fr. Jabamalai Perianayagam        | 30. Fr. Pereira Santosh          |
| 11. Fr. Jeevan Prashanth              | 31. Fr. Puliklkalath Nirmal Jose |
| 12. Fr. Joseph Charles Perianayagam   | 32. Fr. Puthukary Jose           |
| 13. Fr. Kazhukanolickal Joji          | 33. Fr. Puzhakkara Subin         |
| 14. Fr. Kochuputhenpurayil<br>Josemon | 34. Fr. R. Bartholomew           |
| 15. Fr. Kollarayathu Jaison           | 35. Fr. S. Innaci Muthu          |
| 16. Fr. Kujur Prabhu Prakash          | 36. Fr. T.C. Jose Thottukadavil  |
| 17. Fr. Kulamkuthiyil Mijo            | 37. Fr. Thadathilankal Lalu      |
| 18. Fr. M. George                     | 38. Fr. Thunduparambil Abey      |
| 19. Fr. Manjackal Jijo                | 39. Fr. Vazheparambil Riju       |
| 20. Fr. Marottikudy Shalbin           | 40. Fr. Vallisserikettil Majish  |

This seminar and update program is in view of the ongoing-formation of confreres in the Province and for accompanying them in their consecrated and priestly life. **Participation in this gathering is mandatory for all the young confreres listed above and I request you to take part in the seminar without fail.**

## Visitation to Chad-Cameroon Mission

My dear Confreres, I would be visiting the Chad-Cameroon mission from the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 2017 to the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2017. Canonical visitation is an opportunity to meet our confreres in their contextual situations in order to assess with them the impact of their missionary commitment and to encourage them in their endeavours. I will be accompanied by Fr. Vinod Kanat, the Provincial Bursar and Fr. Joy Vazhappillil, the Provincial Councillor. Please do pray for the success of the visitation. In my absence Fr. Santhosh Kumar will be the Provincial Vicar.

## Meeting of Conveners and Secretaries of the Apostolic Communities

In order to update and to evaluate the functioning of our Apostolic Communities and to suggest ways and means of better functioning I convoke a meeting of all the Conveners and Secretaries of all our Apostolic Communities **in Vinayalaya on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2017**. The meeting shall commence at 9 am. I request all the Conveners and Secretaries to mark this date and be present for the meeting without fail.

## Annual Retreat 2017

My dear Confreres, I am happy to announce to you the time-schedule of the forthcoming Annual Retreats of our Province. The Retreats for the year 2017 are arranged in two places. The first retreat will be held at **Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha from July 10-14, 2017**. The second Retreat will be held at **IIS, Bengaluru from October 09-13, 2017**. The Directory of our Congregation in its number 80 clearly mentions about the obligatory nature of the Annual Retreat: *Every Confrere is to attend the annual retreat of at least five days, arranged for the confreres of the province. (...) the annual retreat is to be considered an obligatory province-community exercise.* The annual retreat shall be conducted for five full days. Therefore, I request every one of you to **register your name with the Provincial Secretary latest by 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017**. The Superiors of each community must ensure that the members have registered themselves for either of these retreats.

## Promotion to Diaconate Ordination

The Provincial Council which met on 23rd January 2017 has promoted the following scholastics to the Order of Diaconate which will take place at Tejas Vidya Peetha, Bengaluru on 18th February, 2017. The Archbishop of Bangalore **Bernard Moras** will ordain them Deacons.

1. **Abhishek J**
2. **Kottuppallil Noby Varghese**
3. **Kovilparambil Sijo Paul**
4. **Panachickal Justin**
5. **Plamthottathil Sanoj**
6. **Simil Deavasia**

I congratulate them in anticipation and pray that God continues to guide them in the vocation they have received.

## Appointments

**Fr. Joseph Pattarkalayil** is appointed by the Superior General as the Delegation Superior of the South West India Province' Delegation in GAH (Germany-Austria-Holland) for a term of three years. His term begins on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2017.

**Fr. Jinu Pathiyakam** is reappointed by the Superior General as the Delegation Superior of the Philippine Delegation until May 2018.

**Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal** is appointed to the Little Flower Church, Elamkulam, in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly for a short term until 11 March 2017. Thereafter he will be given a new assignment by the Archdiocese.

**Fr. Prakash Prashant** designated to be appointed in the diocese of Gulbarga with effect from February 1, 2017.

**Fr. Sudeep Andrews** is designated to be appointed in the diocese of Shimoga with effect from February 1, 2017

**Fr. Joby James Pulichmackal** is designated to be appointed in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam-Angamaly with effect from February 1, 2017

### [New Address](#)

**Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal**

Little Flower Church,  
Sahodaran Ayyappan Rd,  
ELAMKULAM, Kochi, Kerala- 682020

### [Let us Pray for the Departed](#)

**Fr. Joseph Palladan** of Kurnool Diocese, aged 82, maternal uncle of Fr. Joseph Kannadom, died on January 02, 2017.

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

**Fr. Simon William Rodrigues**, of Pune Province, aged 62, died on 17 January 2017.



**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.

### **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 15	Meeting of all the Principals, Administrators and Managers of our Schools at Vinayalaya
January 16-19	Visiting the communities at Koppal, Kuknoor and Mundargi
January 19	School Day Celebrations at SFS School, Kengeri
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	Laying the Foundation stone for the new school building at Kengeri
	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 16	Blessing the Marriage of Mr. Stany, Provincial's Driver, at Belthangady
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 21	Conferring Minor Orders to the 1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Year Theologians in Tejas
February 22-24	Gathering of the Young Priests at Vinayalaya
February 25	Council Meeting
February 26	Parish Day celebration in the Mother of Sorrows Church, Hebbagodi
February 27-28	Input sessions for the Diploma Students of IIS on Life-Vision and Task Orientation

### March 2017

March 2-18	Visitation to our Confreres in the USA
March 26-27	Recollection and Keynote Address for the Provincial Congress/Chapter of the South East Province
March 29	Examination on Eucharist for the Theology Students of Tejas
March 30	Meeting of the Conveners and Secretaries of all the Apostolic Communities at Vinayalaya

### April 2017

April 3	Council Meeting in Vinayalaya
April 4-5	Recollection for the Priests of the Diocese of Shimoga
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 21	Visitation to Bathery Community
April 23	Parish Feast of T.K. Colony Parish, Nilambur, Chokad
April 28	Talk and Mass for the Salesian Seminar at IIS

### May 2017

May 4	Ordination of Dn. Aneeshmon at Kurichithanam, Palai
May 5-6	Council Meeting in SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor
May 6	Silver Jubilee Celebration of Fr. Kurian Karickal at Charis Bhavan
May 7-13	Animating Salesian Retreat for our Brothers and Fathers at Makkiyad
May 16-23	Visitation to our Confreres in England
May 28	Perpetual profession and Renewal of Vows at Tejas
May 30	Initiation to Novitiate at Makkiyad
May 31	First Profession at Makkiyad

### Salesian Thought

**“When you encounter difficulties and contradictions, do not try to break them, but bend them with gentleness and time.” - SFS**

**Fraternally,**



**Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS**  
**Provincial**