

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



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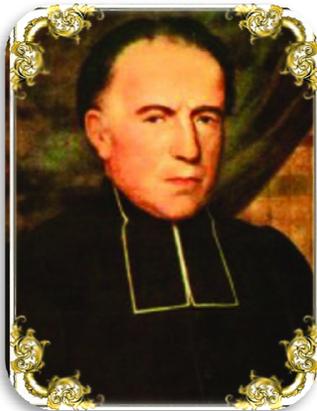
Circular BK/6

September 29, 2016

My dear Confreres,

Fraternal greetings to each one of you. With heart full of joy and gratitude to God I come to wish each one of you the joys and blessings of our **Founder's Day**. May the life and conviction of the Servant of God, Fr. Peter Mermier instil in us a true thirst for God and His Kingdom. Let the spirit and spirituality of our beloved Founder with that ardent cry "**I WANT MISSIONS**" inspire us to encounter the challenges of our priestly and missionary life with the Salesian hope and optimism. I wish each one of you **Happy Founder's Day**.

Fr. Peter Mary Mermier: Yardstick to MSFS Missionary Zeal



My dear Confreres, as we are celebrating the Founder's Day the reminiscences of the yesteryears of our Congregation come alive into our memories. The heroic discernment made by a single man in response to the inner conviction received through prayer and enlightenment is still creating undulations in the modern times. Fr. Peter Mermier, our beloved Founder, may not have gained the gigantic applause and appeal as his contemporaries mustered in the course of time. Whether it is due to the lethargic approach of his followers in propagating his commitment and missionary zeal is yet to be studied and discovered. But one thing is sure: More than ever Fr. Peter Mermier is endeared to the hearts of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales purely because of the irresistibility of the depth of his spirituality – **I want Missions.**

Classical Spirituality would teach us that **the Founder of a religious congregation is a person who acts and reacts in day-to-day life with a certain consistency according to the particular vision of the mystery of Christ they have under the guidance of**

the Holy Spirit. Thereafter in union with the Church they translate the mystery in their daily life.

Every founder is inspired by the context of the time in which he/she lived. Fr. Mermier, realizing the quest of the people for God, decided to discover within himself the movement of the spirit. The founders of each congregation are touched by one or the other aspects of the mystery of Christ. Some are moved by the compassion of Christ, others are moved by the sacraments instituted by the Lord and yet some others by the mystery of his passion. Accordingly they developed the spirituality of the congregation they founded. **Fr. Mermier was touched by the missionary dynamism of the person of Jesus.** Jesus who went about preaching the Gospel became the thrust point of our Founder's Spirituality. His desire to initiate the **Parish Mission Preaching**, an innovative concept of that time, emerged purely out of the in-depth desire to imitate the missionary Jesus *who went about doing good.*

Assembling people of like-mindedness and starting a community life to engage in the Parish Mission Preaching was something unheard about the diocesan clergy. Yet, **history produces unsung heroes who meddled with ordinariness in an extraordinary manner leading to unimaginable results.** The tender desire of an ordinary diocesan priest -**"I want Missions"**- has propelled mighty results in the foundation of two of world wide known congregations, namely, *Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales* and *Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod.* **The birth and growth of these congregations show forth that sincere desire to follow Jesus can never be thwarted due to inadequacies and inconveniences.** God makes His presence felt through simplest of initiatives; He sustains it when we are consistent in our commitment; He extends it when it is in union with the faith of the Holy Catholic Church.

My dear Confreres, today we possess what Fr. Mermier lacked: Personnel, money, modern technology and immense opportunities. **But do we lag behind when it comes to his persevering Faith and ardent commitment?** The celebration of the Founder's Day should emulate in us a new sense of purpose, so that like our Founder we too dare to cry: **I want Missions.**

[A new Language Lab at SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor](#)



To improve the effectiveness of communication among the minor seminarians in

formation, by use of modern skills in teaching, a new language lab was blessed and inaugurated at SFS seminary Ettumanoor by Provincial Fr. Benny Koottanal on 24 September 2016. Fr. A Jerome Councillor in charge of Mission, Fr. Vinod Kanat Provincial Bursar, and all the fathers and students from SFS seminary were present for the function. The lab at present can accommodate twenty-five students at a time with the provisions for audio and video learning. This is a step closer to a long cherished desire to integrate modern means of communication into the academic curriculum of the minor seminarians.

Reported by Fr. Joby Mattathil MSFS

Love finds a way to Help



SFS School Ettumanoor is forging ahead with its charitable projects by constructing and handing over a beautiful house for one of its non-teaching staff member. Ms Divya Joseph was living in a hovel which only had polythene covering for roof and no walls to enclose a house. When the school community came to know her situation, they took up the project to build a good house for her.

They raised necessary funds through the sale of vegetables they cultivated on the school campus, the food festival they conducted at the school, and raising a charity fund through voluntary donations. The silver jubilee “home for the poor project’ of the SWIP of MSFS also contributed their share. The new house costs around Rs 7 lakh.

Rev Dr Benny Koottanal, Provincial of SWIP of MSFS blessed the building while Rev Fr Jose Parappillil, School Manager, handed the keys to the would-be occupants, in the presence of the local MLA, Shri K Suresh Kurup, Rev. Fr. A Jerome, councillor in charge of Mission, Rev. Fr. Vinod Kanat, Provincial Bursar, Fathers and brother from the seminary, school staff, students and a small gathering of neighbours and relatives. The function was held on Tuesday, September 22, 2016. This is the third house constructed by the School for the destitute of the area. It comprises two bedrooms, a sitting room, and kitchen. The construction of the house was supervised by Rev. Fr. Sibi Manickathan, School administrator and the house is named as “Snehabhavanam”.

Reported by Fr. Roy Plathottathil

MEETINGS OF THE VARIOUS FORUMS OF THE PROVINCE-2016

My dear Confreres, in the past couple of weeks the province organized the meetings of all the forums in Vinayalaya, the Provincial House. It had been a time of evaluation, assessment and orientation for all of us. I would like to present the nutshell of the happenings of each forum meeting so that the whole province is aware of the direction that we are taking as the province family. I thank the Councillors, Provincial Bursar and the core-committee members for the meticulous organization of the forum meetings. I

thank the Vinayalaya Community under the leadership of Fr. Mathew Kalathungal for the systematic organization of the food and accommodation of all the confreres.

<p style="text-align: center;">SWIP - Mission Forum Meeting August 29, 2016</p>

The mission forum meeting was held on 29th August 2016. The meeting began at 9.00 am with a prayer. Fr. Jerome, the Councillor in-charge of Mission extended the words of welcome to the Provincial, Fr. Benny Koottanal and all the Confreres who had gathered for the meeting. 28 Confreres participated in the meeting.

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Message by the Provincial

My dear Confreres, First and foremost I wish to thank each one of you for your valuable presence for this important meeting. I thank you personally and collectively for your availability to the Mission of the Church through the province and for your commitment in the respective ministry entrusted to your care. Having visited and celebrated Holy Mass in all the parishes of our province in India and abroad I admire the wonderful work done by our Confreres in the ministry of evangelization. Article No. 22 of our Constitution paragraph 1 and 2 mention about the concrete expression of our charism:

- Apostolate for the renewal of Christian life
- Apostolate overseas and pioneering evangelization

Through the parish ministry, preaching ministry and specifically the **Parish Mission Preaching** we implement the spirit and spirituality of our Founder in the most effective manner in concrete context of our province.

My dear Confreres, Mission always belongs to God. It is God's mission that we undertake through our ministry. Ministry belongs to us. Mission puts us in closer intimacy with God and ministry puts us in closer intimacy with the people. Therefore, the foundational aspect of our ministry should be the intimacy that we have with the Lord whose mission that we are accomplishing. We need to challenge ourselves by asking the question: **Am I a joyful missionary? Do I have the personal satisfaction and sense of fulfilment in the ministry that I am engaged in?** If the answer is affirmative, it will be reflected in the ministry that we undertake.

One of the basic charisms of our Congregation is **Parish Mission Preaching (PMP)**. PMP is different from other methods of preaching retreat. As envisaged by our Founder Mermier, PMP consists in visiting the families, listening to their woes and concerns, reconciling conflicts, forgiving sins through the sacrament of reconciliation, invoking devotion in them through preaching and celebrating life through the sacrament of the Eucharist. This is the specific identity of the MSFS. Let us take this vocation to Parish Mission Preaching very seriously and implement it in all the parishes of our province and wherever our Confreres are working.

Our ministry in the parishes and retreat centers should be animated and enlivened by credibility of character. In our centers and parishes, we should be real **FATHERS** for the

people. **It is not enough that we are priests, we should be 'good priests'. It is not enough that we pray, people should see that we pray. It is not enough that we are parish priests, people should experience our PRESENCE.** Our vocation to be evangelizers should be manifested through our witnessing way of life. **To be effective missionaries update yourself with the latest teachings of the Church, the Encyclicals and Apostolic Letters and Exhortations of the Holy Father.** Remember the great saying of our beloved Patron: *Knowledge is the eighth Sacrament for a Priest.* **We shall never forget to frequent the sacrament of reconciliation.** Let us become healed healers.

My dear Confreres, let us pool together our talents and possibilities and realize the meaning of our priesthood by becoming committed missionaries in our times. I do assure you my love, prayers and accompaniment.

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Input Session:

Resource Person: Fr. Varghese Koluthara CMI

The speaker of the day, Fr. Varghese Koluthara CMI began by explaining a Tamil word 'Pangu Thande': This is what makes us to know what we are as priests. We are to fulfill the Father's mission. We have to act as a real father. Priest is a connecting link between God and His people. He also called the forum members to find out what difference are we making as Fransalians in our mission centers. He also gave some practical advises, like, never to be partial, but give lending ears to all, to support the marginalized, downtrodden and to get identified with them. Finally, we had some time to clarify and seek canonical suggestions and clarifications from the resource person.

Evaluation of the Action Plan for Mission derived from the Second Ordinary Provincial Chapter

The next session after the tea break began with Fr. Provincial reading the action plan of the Second Ordinary Provincial chapter 2016 and making an evaluation how far we are on the progress to implement the same. The Provincial also invited the attention of the Core Committee Team of the Mission Forum on the following matters:

- To make a study on positive and critical aspect of sending young confreres into the mission territories including established parishes at least for three years.
- The provincial invited the Councilor in-charge of mission to look into the better organization of the units of 'Friends of Fransalians' in the near future.
- It was resolved that the "Friends of Fransalians" units would be strengthened and regularly updated during the coming year.
- It was also resolved that the Parish Mission Preaching will be initiated and effectively implemented in all our parishes.

After going though the action plan of the provincial Chapter, everyone was invited to critically evaluate the ministry by individual sharing. Finally the meeting came to an end with a short prayer and hymn to Mother Mary at 4pm.

**Reported by Fr. Balavendra
Secretary to the Mission Forum**

SWIP-Formation Forum Meeting
August 30, 2016

The general body meeting of the Formation Forum of South West India Province was held on 30 August 2016 from 9am to 4pm. There were 17 participants. The prayer was followed by observing one minute of silence praying for Bro. Gerogre Clement of Pune province, who had passed away the previous day. Fr. Santhosh Kumar, the Councilor in-charge of formation welcomed everyone to the meeting, very specially Fr. Noel Rebello, the General Councilor in-charge of formation and Fr. Benny Koottanal, the Provincial and all the Confreres for an active participation in this time of sharing and discussions.

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Message by the Provincial

My dear Confreres, it is a great joy for me to address you all on this auspicious occasion. I take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your personal and collective commitment in forming the future MSFS in the most effective manner. Very often the ministry of formation remains as a unappreciated job. The results of rewards of the ministry are not immediate and very often not visible. Therefore it is very trying to remain focused on the commitment as a Formator. I thank you for growing beyond these difficulties and showing a magnanimous sign of your presence in our formation houses.

Scriptural and Salesian Understanding of Our Role as Formators

Formation is a period of preparation to be sent. **It is a time wherein a disciple is helped to become effective apostle.** The inspiration for our formation program is the person of Christ Himself. We look at Jesus who went up to the mountains and called to Himself those whom He wanted in order to be with Him and to be sent out (Mk 3/13-15). **The highlight of the formation policy of Jesus is ACCOMPANIMENT.**

Jesus was sent by the Father (Jn 20/21-22) and in His turn He sends His disciples (Jn 7/16, 28) in order to fulfil the mission of the one who sent Him. **St. Francis de Sales would speak of two kinds of sending.** On the one hand there is *Ordinary Sending* which is made through the calling of names and their succession in the office entrusted to them by the laying of the hand and anointing with the oil (2 Chro. 19/11; Dt. 17/12; 1 Tim 3/15; Mt 18/17); On the other hand there are *Extraordinary Sending* which take place through miracles (Jn 12/28, 14/10, 15/24; 2 Cor 12/12). These occur through the power of God. Francis de Sales says that every extraordinary sending has to be ratified through an ordinary sending. This is clear from the experience of St. Paul, who through the imposition of hands by Ananias received the eye-sight and was filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 9/7, 13/2-3).

According to Salesian Spirituality **Priesthood is an extraordinary sending which is ratified by the ordinary sending that is through the laying on of hand by the bishop.** What an amazing approach by Francis de Sales regarding the loftiness of the divine call that we receive from God to become His priests. *Vocation to Priesthood and Religious Life is not human made; instead it is the result of the direct intervention of God in*

the life of a person. The responsibility of a Formator is to emulate in the candidates the sense of the extraordinary sending that they have received through constant accompaniment. Formators need to teach our brothers that they can never become apostles until they become disciples.

Requirements to be an effective Formator

My dear Fathers, who are engaged in the apostolate of Formation, let me just bring to your perusal certain aspects that can make our MSFS Formation more effective.

- **Every Formator must be a Role Model and Witness:** Today more than ever your *Being* is more important than your deeds and words.
- **A person of Self-Discipline:** One of the most vivid traits of a disciplined person is consistency and regularity. In short, a formator should be reliable. The virtues of *punctuality, propriety in dress and use of gadgets, good manner in behavior and communication* and above all *the spiritual power that you possess* will tell volumes about the effectiveness of our formation.
- **A person of team work and reliable collaboration:** Availability in common endeavours is the foundation for religious formation. As our Constitution No. 8 says, Salesian virtues of *firm gentleness, confident optimism, patient charity, intense love of God and humans, open-mindedness and fellow-feeling, profound humility and simplicity and joyful holiness* can create lasting impact in the life the formees.
- **A person who is capable of achieving unity and reconciliation** even when there are differences of opinion. He must be a person who can see beyond the barriers of language, caste and region. English must be the common medium of communication and every formator must be strict in practicing it. In short, he must be a man with *minus ego*.
- **A person of conviction:** Common policies of education have to be valued and upheld by the formator. He should be available in the community regularly. Academic excellence has to be strictly implemented and extra-curricular activities that support the holistic growth of the formee has to be initiated and supported.

My dear Confreres, as I thank you for your loving availability to build up the edifice of tomorrow's MSFS, I assure you my love fraternal accompaniment. May God bless all of us.

Sharing from the formation houses

The representatives from each house shared about the life and happenings in their respective formation house.

Sharing on Graded Formation and Updates from Regional Formation Forum

Fr. Noel Rebello, the General Councillor in-charge of formation enlightened the gathering on the concept of graded formation. What is meant by this concept is that we have constituted a committee consisting of one each member from all the six Indian provinces who will draw up a syllabus of formation to be followed in all the formation houses in different stages. The decision to have this graded formation is the fruit of the

decisions in the general chapter 2013 which came up again for the discussion in the TMM meeting in Arusha 2016. The members of the committee are Fr. Joseph Pulloppillil (Nagpur), Jolly Chakkalackal (Vizag), Sibichan Panthanmackal (South West), Kanikkai Nathan (South East), A Lawrence (Pune) and Santhosh Chavaranal (North East).

Regional Formation Forum Meeting

Fr. Santhosh Kumar the Councillor in charge of formation gave few updates about the recently concluded Regional Formation Forum Meeting in Hyderabad. He narrated that all the councillors from different provinces of India together with Fr. Noel participated in the meeting which also was an orientation to all the provinces to go ahead with the project of graded formation.

Review of the Action Plans for the Year of Formation

The formation forum looked into the action plans that we have formulated for the year of formation. Most of us expressed satisfaction over the programs that we have been able to complete within the stipulated time. Some of the action plans that needed clarification and further perusal are clarified.

- Psycho sexual integration classes could be conducted in all the formation houses. This year we have the services of Fr. Tom Pannalakunnel. The rectors of each of the houses could contact him and arrange for the classes.
- It was also suggested that in the minor seminary and novitiate, for the table reading, instead of the imitation of Christ we could make use of the Introduction to the devout life and the book on the Formative Biography of St. Francis de Sales.
- An update program for the junior priests, from 1-5 years of ordination, will be organized in Vinayalaya from 20-24 February 2017. The councilor in-charge of formation will organize it.
- Language proficiency of the Formees: The common language in all the formation houses should be English. In the minor seminary more emphasis has to be given for the language proficiency of the students. It was noticed that the students coming to Suvidya college after the novitiate struggle to cop up with the demands of the institute because of the insufficient language. Realizing the need to improve the language of the students, SFS seminary Ettumanoor is setting up a language lab where the students will have facility to take practice with the help of modern gadgets.
- It was also suggested that if the students are good in character but very poor in language they should be given repetition in the minor seminary to improve the language. If they do not learn proper language in the early age it will be difficult for them in the later times.
- Human Formation and the Etiquette: In the minor seminaries greater emphasis should be given on human formation and the etiquette. It was brought to the notice of the Forum that many of our formees and later as young priests fail to behave with manners in public. The values in behavior and self discipline should be taught in the minor seminary, and it should be insisted upon through the other stages of formation.

- Personnel for Formation houses: It was suggested that same person should not be appointed as rector and procurator. In the same way the disciplinarian and Vocation Promoter should not be the same person. However, Provincial encouraged the members to adjust among themselves these various responsibilities and when there are more priests it will be considered.
- It was also recommended that in view of theology formation someone could be sent for studies to specialize in Church History and Patristics.

The members were conscientized that we are an international province and our province has formation houses in other countries. In our policy makings we should take their views too into consideration and we should support them in different ways, especially through personnel and prayers.

The Meeting came to an end at 4.00 pm with a short prayer.

**Reported by Fr Sibichan Panthanmackal
Secretary to the Formation Forum**

**SWIP - Stewardship Forum Meeting
August 31, 2016**



The general body meeting of the Stewardship Forum was held on August 31, 2016 in Vinayalaya. The Meeting began by 9 am with a prayer. A cordial welcome was accorded to the Provincial and all the members of the forum. 34 Confreres participated in the meeting.

Message by the Provincial

My dear Confreres, I extend a very cordial welcome to each one of you, especially to those of you who are new members of the Stewardship Forum. I wish each one of you God’s abundant blessings in your ministry as bursars of the local communities of our province.

The responsibility entrusted to the Bursar/Administrator of temporal goods is Biblical, Ecclesial and Religious. Throughout the Old Testament we see the ministries of the various persons and groups like that of Joshua and the tribe of Levy and many others as

fulfilling administrative needs of the community. In the New Testament we see Judas as the official bursar of the band of the Apostles. Later in the apostolic period we see that the apostles appointing deacons to carry out the temporal needs of the community. The distinguishing trade mark of those in administration as exposed by the Bible is integrity of character. **It is not enough to know the trick of the trade like Judas, but one should be equipped with character and fear of God in handling administrative goods, because material goods are the gift of God.** What is holy is to be handled in the most divine manner.

Art. No. 270 of our Constitution mentions that the Congregation, provinces, vice provinces, regions, delegations and local communities are juridical persons. These juridical persons have the right to acquire, own, administer and alienate temporal goods in accordance with the norms of the universal law and our own proper law. The bursars are the managers of such temporal goods. **Art. No. 271** complements the former article and would clearly explain the qualities to be possessed by the bursars. He should be **Competent** (that means capable, updated and creative), **Honest** (that is transparent, accountable and with a spirit of poverty) and **Committed** (that is fore-sighted, available and hard-working). I wish my dear Confreres, that you possess these virtues to handle the administrative goods of our province in the most befitting manner.

Competency is not an inborn talent. Competency is something one must develop for oneself looking at the need of the time and need of the occasion. Competency demands capability. One must be capable enough to handle any situation. Competency demands creativity. One must be creative and one must have their own innovativeness in addressing issues in accordance with the need of the particular community. Our Constitution demands that bursars should be honest people and honesty demands transparency. One should be transparent in all the matters. **Honesty also demands accountability and bursars are accountable before God as well as before the authorities.** Constitutions also demands spirit of poverty. Always remember **there is a danger in handling money: it is like hearing the confession, a priest who regularly hears confession has the risk of losing the sense of sin; similarly one who handles the financial matters can be at the risk of losing the sense of poverty.**

Normally the ministry of a bursar enjoined with a lot of mental and physical pressures. It is not an easy task to meet both ends, especially when it comes about constructions and management of big institutions. It involves a lot of corporeal tasks. I request you in this regard to be gentle in handling the individual confreres, but be firm in fulfilling your responsibilities.

I would request you to take note of the following aspects in your ministry as bursars:

- Be regular in recording the income and the expenditure
- Present regularly the cash book in the community meeting
- Every financial transaction in the community should be with the prior permission of the local superior
- Avoid the tendency to fall into luxury or accumulating things for oneself
- Manage effectively the temporal goods of the community

- Provide moderate food to the community and avoid tendencies of extravagance
- Maintain our houses well.
- When renovations or repair are necessary do it in consultation with the local superior and the provincial bursar
- Handle the domestic servants, especially women, respectfully and cordially. Never demand from them any special services.

I wish each one of you God's blessings in your service to the province as bursars of our local communities.

Evaluation of the Action Plans of the Provincial Chapter

After the Provincials address the participants discussed about the action plans of the provincial chapter which has to be implemented in coming three years. It was found that the actions plans are in the course of being implemented. The provincial bursar updated the members of the means and ways through which these action plans have to be fulfilled in the stipulated time of three years.

Sharing of Experiences by the Bursars

After the short coffee break all the members of the forum shared their experience and concerns from each community. Areas of concerns were discussed in detail and the possible solutions were suggested.

Session with the Province Auditor

After the lunch break there was a session with Mr. Miranda the chartered accountant. He pointed out some of the common mistakes and errors which occur often in the accounting of the local communities. He suggested ways and means to handle some of the difficulties in accounting.

Decision to be implemented during the current financial year

At the request of members gathered it is decided to organise an accountancy course during the current financial year.

The meeting came to an end at around 4 pm with the Vote of Thanks.

**Reported by Fr Jikson Cheravellil
Secretary to the Stewardship Forum**

**SWIP-Education Forum Meeting
September 10, 2016**

The General Body Meeting of SWIP-Education Forum for the year 2016-17 was held at Vinayalaya, Bangalore on 10th September 2016. 31 educationists from our schools serving as Principals, Managers/Correspondents and administrators took active part in the meeting. The meeting began at around 9 am with a prayer and followed by the words of welcome.



Message by the Provincial

My dear Confreres, I take this opportunity to congratulate each one of you who are engaged in the ministry of education for the stupendous commitment and love that you show in implementing the charism of our congregation. Art. 22/3 of our Constitution exposes the concrete expression of our missionary commitment through **the apostolate of education and formation, especially of the young**. Manning our educational institutions in the province is one of the most strenuous tasks, despite the external pomp and glory surround this ministry. You are constantly challenged as an individual and as management because you are public figures holding public responsibilities.

South West India Province has 25 Educational Institutions spread through Kerala, Karnataka and Cameroon. I have had the privilege of visiting all these institutions with the Councillor in-charge of Education, Provincial Bursar, Managers, Principals and Administrators.

- **Meetings with the students** of our schools and colleges revealed to me the immense potentialities and possibilities they possess. Our students are proud to be DeSalites. It is great to see that our educational institutions provide ample facilities for our children to be effective citizens of our country.
- **Meetings with the Staff** of our educational institutions had been very cherishing moments. They are very grateful to the management given to them to serve our institutions. Envisioning the good of the institutions many of them suggested various ways and means to improve the quality of our education. Of course, a few of them raised issues concerning their personal advantages too.
- **Meeting with the Management:** After the meetings with the staff and students we took enough time to meet the management. The responses and reactions of the students and staff were critically assessed. There were many immediate suggestions to rectify matters of urgent concerns. All the concerns of the institute were discussed and ways and means to handle them were suggested.

My General Impressions

- I feel a great sense of satisfaction after visiting our educational institutions.
- Generally there is a very good discipline in all our institutions.
- Our institutions enjoy the presence of resourceful staff which leads to the excellent performances of our students in curricular and extracurricular activities.
- There is a well-knit collaboration and network between the management and the staff.
- Some of our schools struggle because of the lack of proper infrastructure. This matter is taken seriously by the provincial administration.

Let me at the same time bring to your notice the danger that we as educationists can face with. There is a growing tendency of **Workaholism** which can in the course of time betray our missionary commitment. We even tend to neglect our spiritual life at the cost of ministries that we undertake. As Pope Francis would say, there is a tendency of Spiritual Alzheimer creeping into our personal and communitarian life-style. Such a tendency for a long time will give way to lack of orientation and as a consequence **authority will give way to power.** Let us always remember the fact that **above everything else we are priests and missionaries.** We should participate in the regular community spiritual activities. I wish that **all our Fathers who are ministering the educational institutions should also associate themselves with pastoral ministries, especially on Sundays.** *Your students and their parents will be happy to see you first as priests and then only as their principal and teacher.* We need to check out the tendency of *Bourgeois mentality* when we handle influential positions. The administration of our official responsibilities should be with the spirit of **Servant Leadership.**

Suggestions and Recommendations

- The managements of all our schools and Colleges should be in regular contact with the provincial administration.
- Every financial matter has to be discussed with the provincial administration
- Constructions and renovations have to be undertaken only with the prior permission of the Provincial Administration.
- Regular staff meeting and management meeting are strongly recommended.
- Enter into respectful relationship with the staff and students. The management should never become friends with the staff. Treat every staff equally. We should be Father-figure for them.

I wish each one of you, my dear Confreres, God's abundant blessings, my prayers and fraternal affection.

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Action Plan for the Education Forum

The action plan envisaged by the Second Ordinary Provincial Chapter-2016 was discussed in the forum meeting. The provincial, together with the councilor in-charge of education and the members of the forum evaluated each action plan and responded to it. It is noticed that the province is achieving the target set by the provincial chapter.

National Policy on Education 2016: Fr. Roy Plathottathil

Fr. Roy Plathottahil, the councilor in charge of Education made a beautiful PPT presentation, critically analyzing the “National Policy on Education 2016” (Govt. of India: Ministry on Human Resource Development). In summary, it can be said that, the New National Policy on Education 2016 is highly advocating,

- a) entralization with very little democracy and academic freedom.
- b) It is divisive highly by categorizing from the class 10 itself.
- c) It promotes communalization by the introduction of New Language policy.
- d) It speaks of regulating system for promotion of its own Agenda.

All these four characters are qualities of pseudo capitalism and it is not poor-oriented; it is bureaucratic and less of Principle of subsidiarity: Hence it is not to be accepted; it calls for wider consultation or total review.

It was an eye opener to many of the forum members as they were made aware of the implication of the New National Policy on Education 2016. Fr. Roy also said that online discussions were going on about it, from 26th January 2015 onwards in the website: www.MyGov.in Recently, HRD Minister: PRAKASH JAVADEKAR has asked the public to submit our feedbacks on New Policy on Education before 30th September 2016. Web address is: http://www.mhrd.gov.in/sites/upload_file/mhrd/files/Input_Draft_NEP_2016. Fr. Roy requested the forum remembers to send their feedback on the new National Policy on Education-2016 to the Govt. of India in the above given web address.

Karnataka Regional Commission for Education (KRCE): Fr. A. Jabamalai

Fr. A. Jabamalai, the secretary of education for the Karnataka Regional commission presented before the forum a brief report from KRCE and made members aware of the latest updates and happenings.

- There is a ban on selling of text books, ties, belts, note books etc., in the educational institutions or in their campuses.
- DDPU has recommended that the fee structure for the coming academic year has to be ready by December and it should be displayed on the notice board of the institutions.
- Minority aid granted by Government is mostly benefited by Muslims.
- The application for the scholarship is made online.

Discussions and clarifications

The following topics were taken up for discussions and clarifications:

- Roles and Functions of Conferences in the Apostolate of Education
- A Common Policy of Education for all the Schools in the South-West India Province
- Mandate for the core Committee on Education

- Academic features
- Infrastructural aspects and School transportation facilities
- Financial Management and Transparency
- Scholarships/concessions
- Teamwork-Community Initiative / format for handing over the office
- Compulsory fortnight management meetings
- Understanding on staff recruitment
- Stricter implementation of the educational policies along with pastoral concerns
- Updating documents on renewals/ recognition/permission

The forum discussed the above topics which were detailed by Fr. Provincial and the council in charge of education.

Some of the suggestions and clarifications were

- The need and necessity of sending Rs 5/- per student to FEF-R? Fr. Provincial said that he will request a clarification from the general administration on this query.
- Meaning and significance of the word “MSFS-ness”
- The word DeSalite: The query was whether the letters D and S of DeSalite have to be capital letters or only D has to be capital letter? The house came to a consensus that the word DeSalite will be using both D and S as capital letters.
- Why such disparities in taking care of the children of NEST and Boys’ Homes?
- As a policy, concession/free-ship/scholarship etc., given to the staff’s children is 30% of the tuitions fees of the institution where the student is currently studying. But the existing policies will continue. Any additional concession/free-ship/scholarship etc., can be given only with the permission of the administration.
- All our educational institutions will be provided with the basic infrastructural facilities such as library, labs, toilets etc.
- Any requirement or new projects for the coming academic year should be included in the coming budget and presented to the provincial administration.
- Get the approval from the provincial administration before starting any new undertaking or projects.
- Specific Christian themes should be used on Annual Day or other important programs and events.
- Regularly update and ensure maintenance of records/renewals/permissions etc. in the school.
- Some of the institutions had queries on the mode of disbursement of salary, purchasing of new busses etc. Fr. Provincial assured the members that these issues will be looked into by the provincial bursar and the councilor in charge of education.

Resolution of the Education Forum Meeting

A committee was constituted and entrusted with the task of bringing out the Moral Science Text Book for class eight for the coming academic year and in the subsequent years for classes Nine and Ten. A team of Fathers volunteered to form the committee. They are Frs. Jijo Manjakal (convener), A. Johnson, Tony Erniyakulathil, Jais Mecheril

and Subin Puzhakara. Fr. Roy Plathottathil, the Councilor In-charge of Education will be the over-all in-charge of the committee.

The meeting came to an end with the vote of thanks at 4.15 pm.

Reported by Fr. A. Jabamalai
Secretary to the Education Forum

SWIP: The Social And Innovative Ministries Forum Meeting
September 19, 2016

The social and innovative ministries forum meeting was held at Vinayalaya on 19/09/2016. The meeting began at 9.15am. There were 20 participants. The meeting commenced with a short prayer followed by the words of Welcome by Fr. Joy Vazhappillil, the councillor in-charge of Social and Innovative Ministries Forum.



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Message by the Provincial

My dear Confreres, first and foremost let me extend a very hearty welcome to all of you to this important meeting of the Social and Innovative ministry Forum. **The innovative ministry forum is the direct base through which we have a concrete touch with the poor and the downtrodden of our society.** The people who are involved in this ministry may not get any pomp and glory as in other ministries and this may lead many people to lose interest in this ministry. In spite of the many inconveniences and limitations encountered by those engaged in these ministries you have shown the courage and interest to pursue the values of the Gospel and I admire you and place on record my heartfelt gratitude and congratulations.

In fact there isn't any article in our constitution that specifically refers to the innovative ministries. We need to derive the spirit of it as envisaged in the charism of our congregation as mentioned in article 22. Article 23 of our constitution inculcates in us the spirit of these ministries in a little more concrete way. It reads: *While being faithful to the original apostolates, we have the openness to discern what God's Spirit is asking us to be at a given historical moment and in a particular cultural context. By listening to the Spirit and discerning His purposes, we commit ourselves to new and creative apostolates according to the needs of the Church in the changing situations of the world...* (Cfr. also

Directory, Art. Nos. 9,10). Let us discern the movements of the Spirit in the context of our Province.

Innovative ministry: A Biblical approach

The Gospels always speak about Jesus *who went about doing good*. **Jesus began His public ministry from the shore of the sea. 'Shore' is the fringe or the border of the society.** Symbolically it is the border of money, power, position, knowledge, conveniences and so on. The fishermen who are found at the shore are the ones' who seek for mercy and compassion of the humanity around them, because they are at the fringe of everything. It is to them that Jesus extends his compassionate ministry. **The person of Jesus depicts the nearness of God to those who are at the fringe of the society.** We who represent Jesus in the world today are called to go to the peripheries of the society to show the compassionate mercy of the Father.

Our vocation today is to show the compassionate face of the Father to the humanity around us. Even the very theology of incarnation from the Catholic perspective is that *God so loved the world...* This love of God is manifested through the ministry of Jesus. Jesus depicts the mercy and justice of God: Mercy to the sick, marginalized and the sinners and Justice to the Pharisees and the Scribes and to the Sinners with the command – *do not sin anymore...*

For the South West India Province Social and Innovative Ministries are opportunities for the specific option for the poor and marginalized. Our Directory No. 9/2,3 challenges us to have preferential option for the poor.

Certain Concerns regarding Social and Innovative Ministries

In spite of the giant leaps and big waves we made at a particular time of the growth of our province, we need to admit that there exists a certain impasse which can further lead to a kind of lethargy and uncertainty if not addressed immediately. It is perhaps

- Due to lack of trained and skilled persons
- Due to lack of aptitude to a particular ministry
- Due to lack of clarity and innovativeness
- Due to the absence of Fatherly and compassionate approach
- Due to financial constraints

Therefore, we need to address these issues in the most fitting manner. I request the core-committee together with the Councilor in-charge of innovative ministries to assess and evaluate our ministries and suggest to the administration ways and means to overcome these situations.

I wish each one of you God's abundant blessings.

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Review of our Ministries in the Province

After the talk of the Provincial a short depiction of all the centers of our innovative ministry places, both in Kerala and Karnataka were presented through power point. The forum also discussed and evaluated the action plan of social and innovative ministry in the spirit of the second ordinary provincial chapter.

The key note address: Fr.George Kannanthanam

Fr. George Kannanthanam CMF, a great social worker and founder of Many Movements was the resource person for the day. Fr. Jijo Chemplany introduced and welcomed him. His entire talk was centered on the theme 'Globalizing compassion through the movement models'. Depicting the pathetic realities of the people of our country Fr. George spoke about different Movement Models. He gave the example of many people who adopted this movement models.

- The Movement of Kailash Satyadri 'Bachpan Bachao Andolan'
- Jesus Fraternity movement was started by two MCBS brothers, namely Varghese and Francis. It was started as small movement in Kerala but today it covers all the 850 prisons in the country. Through their instrumentality many people work for the bright future of prisoners.
- 'Saif Karmachri Adolan' Movement started by Mr. Wilson Bezwada changed the lives of lakhs of people who belong to the lower sections of the society.
- HIV centers, 'Snehadan' by Fr. Mathew Perumpil, started 20 HIV centers across Karnataka..
- Mother Theresa of Kolkata: compassion as global movement
- Jesus Christ; The master of Globalizing Compassion and Movement Model.

Therefore everyone who involves in the social reformation should possess

1. **Knowledge:** I cannot love what I do not know. The knowledge of the social issues should provoke us to action.
2. **Experience:** knowledge leads us to experience. The true experience of the plight of the poor will challenge us.
3. **Commitment:** once we have the knowledge and experience that will lead us to a total commitment to the cause.

Study of the By-laws of the Boys' Homes

After the key note address the IM team made an assessment and study on By-law of our boys' homes. Many of the doubts were discussed and cleared.

Evaluation of the activities and ministries of each center in the province

After the lunch break the members gathered once again to discuss about the life and the ministry. The representatives from each house shared their ministry and the challenges they face in their respective places.

Resolution by the Forum

After the sharing from different centers, as a concrete decision for the coming year The Social and Innovative Forum Meeting took the decision to Register all the boys' homes, hostels and music academy before April 2017.

The meeting came to an end at 4 pm with the vote of thanks and a short prayer.

Fr. Jijo Chemplany

Secretary to the Innovative and Social Ministries

Provincial Statutes

My dear Fathers, the printed copies of the Statutes are ready and it will be dispatched soon. The Provincial Secretary will be sending the copies to the Superiors and I request all the Superiors to distribute the copies to the community members. If any one doesn't get a copy of the statutes by October 15th 2016, then kindly contact the Provincial Secretary for the same. Once again I thank sincerely Rev. Frs. Thomas Chennakattukunnel and A. Jerome for the hard work.

Change of Address

Xess Bipin Kishore

Ngoya
La Feuillette
B.P. 185.(C.287)
Yaounde
Cameroon, Africa

Let us Pray for the Departed

- **Mr. K.V. Thomas**, younger brother of Fr. K.V. Joseph, aged 75 died on September 17, 2016.

We assure you, dear Fr. K.V. Joseph, the remembrance of your dear brother in our Holy Mass and Prayers.

My Program

My dear Confreres, please do take note of my program schedule. In difference to 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.

September 2016

September 1	Registration of the land at Shiralakoppa, Shimoga
September 2	Visitation to our Community at PSI Seva Gram, Kengeri
September 3	Monthly Recollection for the Diploma Students of IIS
September 5-7	Visiting Fr. A. Mathias in Hiriur, Visiting Fr. Jeevan Prashant in Sirwar, Visitation to Sedam (Fr.Balavendra), *Meeting with the Bishop of Gulbarga, Visiting Fr. Nirmal
September 10	Education Forum Meeting
September 10-11	Council Meeting at Vinayalaya
September 11	Institute Day in IIS
September 12	Meeting with the Archbishop of Thalassery Archdiocese, Meeting our Confreres in Mattannur
September 13-15	Visitation to Sannidhi, Classes for the Brothers, Celebration of the

	Feast of Mother of Compassion at Sannidhi Meeting with the Bishop of Mysore Visitation to Soumya Sadhan and De Sales Bhavan & Parish, Mysore
September 16-17	Visitation to SFS Vidyashram, Aluva
September 19	Forum Meeting of Social and Innovative Ministries at Vinayalaya
September 21	Visitation to Atmajyothi Pattikad, SFS Vidyashram Aluva, Visiting Fr. Francis Kizhakethazhe at Thavalappara
September 22-23	Visitation to Charis Bhavan
September 23-24	Visitation to MSFS House, Kattappana, Kozhimala, Chapath, SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor
September 25	Holy Mass at Madackal Parish, Ernakulam Archdiocese, with Fr. Paul Aranjanjy
September 27	Spiritual Animation Program for the Superiors of the Claretians, Bangalore Province
September 29- October 1	Visitation to the Novitiate, Classes for the Novices at Makiad, Personal meeting with the Novices, Meeting the Staff, Community Meeting, Founder's Day Celebration with the Novices

October 2016

October 1	Visitation to Makiyad
October 3-5	Visiting our Scholastics from Tejas doing Free Semester in JDV Pune (staying in SVD House), visiting Fr. Timson in NVSC, visiting Bro. John Ganot doing Mph in JDV (staying in Fransalianum)
October 6-8	PIF-PEA Meeting, Meeting with the General Curia at Visakhapatnam
October 10-14	Annual Retreat at IIS
October 12	Mass and message at the Annual Charismatic Convention of Charis Bhavan
October 14	Mass and Message for the International Major Superiors' gathering of the Sisters of the Holy Spirit (SSpS) at Bennarghatta, Bangalore.
October 15-16	Council Meeting
October 17	Visitation – SFS School, Kengeri, Meeting with the Students, Staff and the Management
October 19-31	Visitation to the Philippines Delegation – Ordination of Dn. Noel Tatoy and Perpetual Profession of Bro. Nathanael, Meeting the Confreres, Meeting with the Delegation Superior and the Councilors, Mission Colloquium

November 2016

November 1-7	Visitation to the Diocese of Adelaide, Australia – Meeting with the Bishop, Meeting the Confreres (Shibu, Manu and Jossy) and the Benefactors
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November 9-10	Visitation of our Boys' Homes in Kolar Deanery
November 11-12	Recollection for the Diploma Students of IIS
November 12-13	Council Meeting
November 15	Animation Talk for the members of Parish Mission Preaching (PMP) Team in Visakhapatnam
November 17	Vocation Promoters' Meeting in Vinayalaya
November 18-19	Recollection for the Post-Graduate Students of IIS
November 19	Home Day Celebrations at NEST-Kengeri
November 21-25	Visitation to Tejas: Classes for the Brothers, Meeting the Brothers, Personal Meeting with the Staff, Community Meeting with the Staff and Students
November 27	Holy Mass at Mary Immaculate Church, Veendassery with Fr. Mijo Kulamkuthy
November 29	Moderating the Doctoral Defense of Rev. Santhosh John at St. Peter's Pontifical Institute
November 30 to December 1	Visiting our Confreres working in the diocese of Shimoga and our Mission in Shiralakoppa

December 2016

December 2-3	PIF & Governing Body Meeting in Suvidya College
December 3-4	Monthly Recollection for the Diploma Sisters of IIS
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 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 13	Meeting with the Core-Committees and Councilors of Innovative and Formation Forums: Evaluation and Planning
December 14	Meeting with the Core-Committees and Councilors of Stewardship and Mission Forums: Evaluation and Planning
December 17	Annual Day Celebrations at De Sales Music Academy, Hebbagodi
December 18	Meeting with the Core-Committee and Councilor of Education Forum: Evaluation and Planning
December 19	Silver Jubilee Celebrations – SFS School, Malur
December 19-20	Council Meeting
December 20	Apostolic Community Meeting at Vinayalaya, Christmas Celebration
December 22	Inauguration of the newly constructed block at SFS Public School & Junior College at Ettumanoor and School Annual Day
December 24	Visiting Fr. Varghese Puthuparambil, at Pathanavila, in the

	diocese of Neyyatinkara
December 25	Christmas Mass with Fr. Chacko Ottalankal, 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. Prashanth at Harobale, Bangalore

January 2017

January 4	Recollection for the Diploma Sisters of IIS
January 7	Ordination of Dn. Joby Pulichamakkal at Charal, Iritty
January 9-14	Retreat for the Confreres of Visakhapatnam Province
January 16-18	Visitation to Koppal, Kuknoor, Mundargi and Savanur
January 20-21	Recollection for the Post-Graduate 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 Councilors, Mission Colloquium

February 2017

February 1-15	Visitation to Chad-Cameroon
February 17-18	Recollection for the Post-Graduate Students of IIS
February 20-22	Visitation to SFS Seminary Ettumanoor, Meeting the Students, Assessment with the Staff regarding the Academic Year and the Formation
February 25-26	Council Meeting
February 27-28	Input sessions for the Diploma Students of IIS on Life-Vision and Task Orientation

Salesian Thought

“Let us not be troubled at finding ourselves always novices in the exercise of virtues, for in the monastery of a devout life everyone considers himself always a novice.” - SFS

Fraternally,



**Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS
Provincial**