



The Confreres of South West India Province extend
Hearty Congratulations and Prayerful Wishes
TO
VERY REV. DR. ABRAHAM VETTUVELIL MSFS
THE NEWLY ELECTED SUPERIOR GENERAL

My Dear Confreres,

The 19th ordinary General Chapter 2013 of our Congregation has elected Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil as our 14th Superior General. Together with the entire Congregation we as a Province family rejoice at it. We thank God and pray, that God may strengthen him every moment to lead our Congregation in its life and mission. We shall assure him our constant support through prayer and fraternal collaboration.

Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil was installed as the Fourth Provincial of our Province on 11 June 2011. His appointment as the Provincial was received by the Province-community with much joy and hope. For the past 19 months he has been actively involved in the life and mission of the province enabling us to grow in our consecration and missionary commitment. He did exhort and inspire the confreres to live our life with clarity and deeper sense of commitment. His life was an inspiration for everyone. In the discharge of his responsibilities he was truly dialogical and collegial. He did make efforts and take steps to revamp our life and missionary commitment in the true spirit of our charism and legacy of our Founder and pioneering missionaries. His focus on community, communion of confreres and oneness of our mission in the midst of diversities of ministries in different centers and countries did begin to bear good fruits. It is at this historic, creative and reassuring moment in the sojourn of our province that he has been asked to take up a greater responsibility at the Universal mission of the Congregation. His consent to the expressed Will of God was born out of inner struggle coupled with incredible trust in the Lord. I did see it personally. The entire Congregation received the news of his election as the Superior General with great joy, and jubilation. Those confreres who knew Fr. Abraham well, especially the seniors as well as his Formators in other provinces did see the hand of God visibly at work in the life of our Congregation and thanked God aloud for the gift of Fr. Abraham as our new Superior General. His election was a clear expression of the working of the Spirit in and through the Capitulants for the life and Mission of the Congregation. It took some time for the province community to understand his election as the Superior General in the providential plan of God for the entire Congregation as the Province was gearing up its personnel, material and spiritual resources for greater commitment under his Leadership. I may not be misunderstood if I say that the members of South West India Province received the news of his selection with much joy and at the same time with a sense of loss, as he would not be our Provincial.

Dear Fr. Abraham, We thank you for leading us in our consecrated life and Mission as our Leader in Mission. You have deeply touched the life of the Province. We do now nurture within us the glimpse of our life as a Congregation under Your Leadership. On behalf of the South West India Province I extend to YOU Fr. Abraham, our hearty sentiments of congratulations, Prayerful wishes, Fraternal Collaboration, and Commitment. May God be Blessed and Praised through all what you are as our Superior General.

**Fr. Jose Parappillil msfs
Administrator**

(This is a Pre-fix to the last Circular of Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil – AB/15.)

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Circular AB/15

March 21, 2013

My dear Confreres:

Prayerful wishes and Warm greetings from Chad – Cameroon, Africa! Our confreres here are doing extremely well and they are fervently serving the people of God with the missionary fervor of Father Peter Mermier. It is a matter of great joy for me to be with them and experience the way they are addressing the pastoral needs of the people and touching the lives of thousands of people. We have gathered here in Lafeuillette, our Scholasticate in Yaounde (sixteen confreres) for two days of community experience and mission colloquium.

This is a belated newsletter as I was unsettled with my past and present office. However, please hold me excused for the delay. In this newsletter I would like to announce some information and decisions carried over from the last Provincial Council Meeting in January, 2013.

I write my last circular to the Province thanking you for your love, care, concern, friendship, and prayerful support during my 20 months of office as the Provincial of the South West India Province. It was a learning experience and growing experience for me to be with you and work with you. I am happy that I had an opportunity to be at your service in different ways. Please accept my sincere thanks for your collaboration and support in guiding our Province family. We shall continue to cherish the community feeling, religious spirit, friendship and closeness for the mission of the Province in the Congregation and the Church. Please pardon me if you felt hurt by my words or decisions or interventions in my official discharge of duties. I can honestly tell you that it was not meant to personally hurt you or inconvenience you (if you felt that way), but it was for the greater need of the Province and the mission of the Church in the true spirit of religious life.

My sincere thanks go to the team of Provincial Administration. I am so grateful to you for your team work and contribution to respective forums. I thank Fr. Jose Parappillil (my Admonitor and Provincial Councillor in Charge of Mission), Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil

(Education), Fr. Jose Kumbloickal (Innovative Ministries), Fr. Benny Koottanal (Formation) and Fr, Joshy Thazhathukunnel (Bursar). It was delightful to work with an efficient team of Councillors and Bursar who would never compromise with the responsibility entrusted to them. We were able to openly discuss debate, disagree, and then finally come to a consensus with regard to the important decisions concerning the Province and confreres. I thank you dear Fathers for the atmosphere of collegiality and collaboration that prevailed in our collective discernment. I thank you for whatever we could accomplish as a team with God's grace. I express my sincere and deep gratitude to you dear Fathers for your support and commitment in guiding our Province family. I thank Fr. Prince Cheriyaakavil, the Provincial Secretary, for his excellent job in doing the office work incredibly well. I appreciate your sense of dedication, hard work, professional and well organized discharge of various responsibilities as Secretary. You were so reliable with any workload and busy schedule. Thank you Fr. Prince.

1. 'Habemus Papam'!



With a puff of white smoke from the chimney of the Sistine Chapel and to the cheers of thousands of people in St. Peter's square and to the millions of people with their eyes glued to the Television screen, a gathering of 115 Catholic Cardinals picked a new Pope from among them – Cardinal Bergoglio of Argentina (Pope Francis). He is the first South American Pope and also the first non – European in more than 1000 years to ever lead the Catholic Church. We thank God and rejoice with entire Church for this wonderful gift in this Year of Faith and in

this year of our 175 Jubilee of our Foundation. Our Pope gives us the direction for our journey: *"I would like for us all, after these days of grace, to have courage, precisely the courage, to walk in the Lord's presence, with the cross of the Lord; to build the Church upon the blood of the Lord, which was poured out on the cross; and to confess the only glory there is: Christ crucified. And in this way the Church will go forward."*

(Pope Francis, homily during the "Pro Ecclesia" Mass)

2. Blessed Holy Week and Happy Easter

We are coming to the close of the Lenten season in preparation for the great feast of the Church. Let us have the person of Jesus clearly before us these days. These days, in the liturgy of the Word, we have a picture of Jesus standing alone not accepted and not

appreciated. Each of the four gospels presents Jesus finally standing alone; rejected, misunderstood, defeated, abandoned, betrayed, arrested and nailed to the cross, and then resurrected. How is it that Jesus is all alone toward the end without much support and understanding from the people? Where is the crowd? Where are the Apostles and the disciples?

Perhaps no one really comprehended what he was talking about when he taught with successive metaphors about the 'Rule of God'. Finally, Jesus realizes that he has to do the teaching visually and personally in his body, and not orally. That is the reason he stopped talking about his mission toward the end of the gospel and he then allowed it to happen. This is what we mean when we say that Jesus had to die for us. It was not that Jesus had to literally pay God some price by shedding blood and dying on the Cross to make God feel good. This has been the understanding of various religions for many years: We humans have to spill blood to get to God, but after the 'Christ event', we are able to know that God actually spills blood to get to us.



We are also challenged in our mission and ministries as MSFS to teach visually and personally through our body. Our willingness to work in challenging missions of the Province outside our own culture, our openness to embrace ministries that do not offer securities in life, our readiness to opt for pioneering and overseas missions, our missionary spirit in putting up with inconveniences and hardships in

places of our ministry are some of the ways we can proclaim 'Rule of God' visually and personally. Let us be more visual and personal in our missionary life. May the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus be the model in our missionary spirituality! Wish you all a happy Easter!

3. The New General Administration

Superior General	Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil
Assistant Superior General:	Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy
General Councillors:	Rev. Fr. Noel Rebello
	Rev. Fr. George Parampukattil
	Rev. Fr. Jose Kumbloickal
	Rev. Fr. S. Jayaseelan
General Bursar:	Rev. Fr. Augustine Mangatt

Hearty Congratulations and prayerful wishes to our beloved Superior General, General Curia and the General Bursar!

4. Annual Retreat 2013

The Retreats for the year 2013 are arranged in three places. Please make sure that every confrere in our Province attends the retreat without fail. Annual Retreat is a constitutional requirement and therefore please register your name latest by March 30, 2013.

April 15-19 **Sneha Jyothi Ashram, Makkiyad**
July 8-12 **Vinayalaya, Bangalore**
October 14-18 **Vinayalaya, Bangalore**

5. Transfers and Appointments

Fr. Johnny Puthiapampil is appointed as Superior and Director of Jyothi Nilaya Community with effect from February 21, 2013

Fr. Jeevan Prashanth is appointed Assistant Director to Holy Cross Mission, Santhpur in the diocese of Gulbarga with effect from February 9, 2013

Fr. A. Anthony Sathiya Seelan is appointed Assistant Parish Priest of St. Joseph's Church, Hubli in the diocese of Belgaum with effect from February 1, 2013

Frs. Roy Plathottathil and Vinod Kanat are back in India after completing their studies at De Sales University, Philadelphia - USA

6. Congratulations to our New Priests



Fr. A. Anthony Sathiya Seelan was born on June 30, 1985 at Savariyar Pattanam, Tamil Nadu to Mr. S. Arockia Swamy and Mrs. A. Soosai Mary. He joined the SFS minor seminary at Pudukkottai on June 3, 2001. He made his First Profession on June 11, 2005 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, he had his regency at Saumya Sadan, Mysore. He did his theological studies at Tejas Vidya Peetha and was ordained priest on December 3, 2012 at St. Francis Xavier's Church, Saveriyarpattanam by his Lordship J. Susaimanikkam of Sivagangai Diocese.



Fr. Jijo Manjackal was born on November 28, 1983 at W. Rly, Mumbai to Mr. M.C Jose and Mrs. Saramma. After completing his Higher Secondary Education he joined the SFS Seminary at Ettumanoor. He made his First Profession on June 11, 2003 at Sannidhi, Mysore. He has completed his Bsc. from St. Joseph's College, Bangalore. After his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, he did his regency at SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor. He had his theological studies at Tejas Vidya Peetha and was ordained priest on December 28, 2012 at St. Thomas Church, Borivali by his Lordship Thomas Elavanal of Kalyan Diocese.



Fr. Anish Chirackalpurayidathil was born on October 26, 1984 at Manikadavu, Kerala to Mr. Abraham and Mrs. Annamma. After one year of orientation at Sudhirvana he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in the year 2002. He made his First Profession on June 11, 2005 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, he did his regency at Charis Bhavan Athirampuzha. He had his theological studies at Tejas Vidya Peetha and was ordained priest on December 31, 2012 at St. Thomas Church, Manikadavu, by his Lordship Lawrence Mukkuzhy of Belthangady diocese.



Fr. Sijo Olickal was born on July 20, 1986 at Thuruthipally, Pala to Mr. Jose and Mrs. Thresiamma. After one year of orientation at Sudhirvana he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in the year 2001. He had his Novitiate at Sannidhi, Mysore and made his First Profession on June 11, 2005. After completing his philosophical studies at Suvidya College he was sent for his regency at SFS School, Kannur. He completed his Theological studies from Tejas Vidya Peetha, Bangalore and was ordained priest on January 3, 2013 at St. John the Baptist Church, Thuruthipally.



Fr. Jeevan Prashanth was born on April 17, 1983 to Mr. M. Joseph and Mrs. Josephine Rani at Doddagajanur. He joined the SFS Seminary at Ettumanoor on June, 2004. He was admitted to the Novitiate in the year 2004 and made his First Profession on June 11, 2005 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his Philosophical studies at Suvidya College, for his Regency he was at MSFS House, Mundargi. After his Theological Studies at Tejas Vidya Peetha he was ordained priest on January 6, 2013 by his Lordship Thomas Vazhapilly of Mysore diocese at Infant Jesus Church, Nanjangud.

7. Mission Sangamam



On January 16th and 17th, 2013, Ettumanoor Apostolic Community organized Mission Sangamam, in honour of late Rev. Fr. George Vayalil MSFS, the pioneer and promoter of missionary movement from Syro-Malabar Church in Kerala. The Sangamam was attended by Fransalian missionaries from all over the world. It was a fitting tribute to the man who envisioned something new and adventurous for the Lord, broke the boundaries of culture, language, and rite to respond to the challenging call of missions.

The Sangamam that began at the tomb of Fr. George Vayalil with prayers, intercessions and symbolic lighting of lamp progressed through thought provoking and scholarly presentations from distinguished speakers. Eminent Guests who graced the occasion were Mar George Cardinal Alenchery, Major Archbishop of Syro- Malabar Church, Mar Joseph Powathil, president of Inter-Church Council of Kerala, Rt. Rev. Dr. Sebastian Thekkethecheril, Bishop of Vijayapuram, Provincials, Regional Superiors, and former Provincials. Archbishop Mar Joseph Powathil inaugurated the Mission Sangamam. In the inaugural address, Archbishop Powathil explored the missionary contributions of Syro-Malabar Church to the global church. Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, the provincial of South West Province delivered the keynote address. Scholarly presentations interlaced with missionary and personal experiences of veteran missionaries who were associated with Rev. Fr. George Vayalil of happy memory, kept the participants spellbound. Presentations by Rev. Frs. Antony Mookenthottam MSFS, Jacob Parappally MSFS, Jose Parappillil MSFS, Kuncheria Pathil CMI, Tom Kochery CSSR and panel discussion highlighted the magnitude of difficulties and struggles faced by the veteran missionaries of the past and the present challenges to missionaries to be effective in their missions. Message of Mar George Cardinal Alenchery, Major Archbishop of Syro-Malabar Church was on the challenges of new evangelization for missionaries in the context of the growing realities of materialism that depletes missionary fervour and single minded devotion to missionary activities. The Mission Sangamam concluded with thanksgiving Eucharist presided over by Rt. Rev. Sebastian Thekkethecheril, Bishop of Vijayapuram. It was an opportune time for all the participants to fan the flame of missionary zeal and enthusiasm and move in the right direction and focus on new evangelization to be effective in the missions. It was an extraordinarily well-organized event with meticulous planning and careful execution.

Fr. Jino Plathottathil



8. De Sales Bhavan, ITSSCAT-India



Institute of Talent Search for Social Change and Transformation of India (ITSSCAT-India) at Trivandrum, which has already completed two years of ministry in a rented house with 9 boys on the roll, was formally declared open in a simple function on January 22, 2013. The ceremony started with the Eucharistic celebration at 10 am, presided over by His Grace **Rt. Rev. Dr. Soosa Pakiam** the Archbishop of the Latin Archdiocese of Trivandrum together with **Rev. Dr. Abraham Vettuvellil** the provincial and **Rev. Dr. Jose Kumblolickal** the

Councilor in-charge of Innovative Ministries, at the altar. A good number of priests concelebrated. The inaugural function commenced at 11.30 am with **Fr. Jose Karekatt** the director of ITSSCAT-India welcoming the gathering. His Grace **Rt. Rev. Dr. Soosa Pakiam**, after a brief inaugural message officially declared the ministry opened in the archdiocese with the lighting of the lamp. **Rev. Dr. Abraham Vettuvellil msfs** made the presidential address. **Mrs. Lida Jacob IAS** the former chief Secretary of the department of Education Govt. of Kerala, the Chairperson of Nirbhaya, Govt of Kerala and chief consultant and advisor of ITSSCAT-India was the chief Guest. **Mr. Somarajan IPS** the former DGP of Prisons and Vigilance govt. of Kerala was the Guest of Honour. **Adv. Vincent Panikulangara** High Court of Kerala, **Mr. Joseph Thomas**, former DIG of prisons Govt. of Kerala, **Rev. Dr. Jose Kumbloickal msfs** and **Mr. Denny Thomas** Member ITSSCAT-India team felicitated the new initiative. The programme was over with the fellowship meal at 12.45 pm. There were above 100 guests and invitees.

Fr. Jose Karekat msfs

9. Service in Serving (Diaconate 2013) February 24, 2013 was a grace filled



Sunday for Tejas Vidya Peetha as five of us: Jabamalai J. Periyannayagam, Parayankunnel Shinto, Pallassery Sujith, Periera Santhosh and R.Bartholomew were ordained deacons by His Grace Bernard Moras, the Arch Bishop of Bangalore. The celebration was attended by more than hundred priests and religious. The ceremony began with the Holy Eucharist. During the Eucharist His Grace Bernard Moras exhorted the assembled congregation to listen to the voice of God and discern

his plan. His Grace also congratulated the MSFS as the congregation is celebrating the 175 years of its birth and also the 150th death anniversary of Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier. The spiritual celebration was followed by felicitation of the deacons, the Arch Bishop, and the new Superior General of the MSFS. A fellowship meal followed the felicitation and the whole celebration proved to be a grace filled one.

Dn. Sujith Pallasseril

10. Continue to pray for Father James Manjackal:

Here is a letter from Gabi, updating us with the present condition of Father Manjackal. Let us continue to pray for him.

Dear Fr. Abraham,

I am writing to you to let you know about the situation of Fr. James. First of all thank you very much for allowing Jijo to come to see his uncle. Fr. James was very happy with his visit. Now at the moment we are in Spain, Pamplona in the Opus Dei clinic. We flew by an air ambulance this last Monday, direct from Salzburg. Here Fr. James is in the ICU and he is improving slowly, now he is eating, that means he can swallow; he is moving his hands and fingers a bit more and he is talking again.

We don't know exactly when he will be transfer to the normal station in the clinic but we hope soon and we would like for him to celebrate mass on his priestly anniversary, I pray

that the Lord will grant him that. I hope you are ok by the grace of God. Congratulations for your appointment. May the Lord Jesus give you the strength and the grace you would need for this work. May God bless you. Gaby

11. Congratulations to Fr. Mathew Kalathil MSFS

On January 22, 2013, ***Vive Jesus*** a book written by **Rev. Fr. Mathew Kalathil** msfs was released by His Grace Rt. Rev. Dr. Soosa Pakiam the Archbishop of Trivandrum Latin Archdiocese and the first copy was handed over to Mrs. Lida Jacob IAS during the inaugural meet of the ITSSCAT-India, Trivandurm.

12. Fr. Antony Sagaya Tharcus

Rev. Fr. Superior General with his letter dated December 20, 2012 declared that “from 1st January 2013 Fr. D. Antony Sagaya Tharcus will belong to South – East India Province with all his rights and obligations in the Province of South East India Province.” We wish you all the best in your ministry and assure you of our prayerful support.

13. Let us pray

Rev. Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil MSFS (25.07.1924 – 12.01.2013)



Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil was born on July 25, 1924 at Athirampuzha, Kerala. After his primary schooling at St. Aloysius School, Athirampuzha (1930-1934) and High School at St. Ephrem’s High School, Mannanam (1934-1942), he joined the St. Joseph’s Mission Home, Vijayapuralayam, Thiruvalla (1942-44). He had his philosophical studies at St. Joseph’s Apostolic Seminary, Mangalapuzha (1944-47) and made his first profession on May 5, 1948 at St. Anne’s Cathedral, Visakhapatnam. After the Novitiate he came back to St. Joseph’s Apostolic Seminary, Mangalapuzha for his theological studies. He made his Final Vows on May 5, 1951. He was ordained priest on March 16, 1952 at St. Mary’s Forane Church, Athirampuzha by Bishop Dr. Ambrose Absolo of Vijayapuram. He was the Assistant Vicar of Salur Mission and later Parish Priest of Salur Makkuwa Mission. He was appointed as Regional Superior of Visakhapatnam from 1962-65 and later as Provincial from 1965-70. From 1971-78 he was the Superior of Anantpur Mission. He was Novice Master for one year. From 1979-81 he was the Regional Superior of North East India Province. He was superior of SFS Press, Visakhapatnam (1981-83) and was in Palasa Mission (1983-90). During his stay in Charis Bhavan (1991-2013) as Superior he remained a constant source of inspiration for the Congregation as well as the people around.

Demise of Rev. Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil is a loss for the Congregation especially for the South West India Province and for Chairs Bhavan Retreat centre. On 15th afternoon the body of Fr. kuzhupil was brought to St. Mary’s Forane church Athirampuzha, his home parish and was kept there from 3pm to 4 pm for the public to pay homage and prayers. By 4.30 pm the body was brought to Charis Bhavan and was kept in the convention hall, which was specially prepared for the funeral of the co- founder of Charis Bhavan. From then thousands came to pay their last homage to their dear ‘Valiachan’. The funeral service of Fr. KUZHUPIL was on 16th January 10. 30 a.m. Rt. Rev. Dr. Sebastian Thekethecheril presided over the Eucharistic Celebration and Mar Mathew Moolakkatt,

the Archbishop of Kottayam led the funeral rites. Confreres from various Provinces, great number of other priests and religious and a large crowd attended the funeral of Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil. He was laid to rest at Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha.

Fr. Aneesh Mundiyanickal

Rev. Fr. Lourance Thadathil of East Africa Province passed away on January 8, 2013. He was 34 years old.

Rev. Fr. François COFFY, born on February 2, 1921 of Franco Swiss Province passed away on January 27, 2013, at Thonon hospital. He was a religious and a priest for 65 years. His ministries led him to Bourogne (teacher minor seminary 1949-1959), Philippeville parish in Algeria (1959-1978), Paris (1978-1995) in different parishes and Les Allinges (local superior, assistant parish priest 1996-2005). He was then admitted in a nursing home for senior citizens at Thonon.

Rev. Fr. Alan Blackford of English Province passed away on February 25, 2013. He was 85 years old.

Rev. Bro. Joseph Thekkumthottam of Visakhapatnam Province passed away on March 11, 2013. He was 84 years old.

Rev. Fr. Nicolas DESBOEUF of Franco Swiss Province born on November 2, 1939 passed away on March 19, 2013. He was a religious since 1960 and a priest since 1966. He was very active in diverse youth movements, especially the JEC (Catholic Christian Students); he has been world chaplain of this Movement 1991-1994. At Geneva, he was chaplain of the main prison of the city for about 10 years.

Mr. Nellimalamattam Mathew father of Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam, passed away on January 30, 2013.

Mr. Kunnathottel Mathew, father of Fr. Viju Kunnathottel passed away on March 15, 2013.

May I request all those who have not fulfilled the suffrages to do the same at the earliest. (Const. No.118; General Directory No.98).

14. Ceases to be member of the Congregation

Sojan Theruvapuzha (I year Theology, Tejas Vidya Peetha) ceases to be a member of the Congregation

Salesian Thought:

"We must never undervalue any person. The workman loves not that his work should be despised in his presence. Now God is present everywhere, and every person is His work." St. Francis de Sales

Fraternally in Christ,



Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS
Superior General