



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

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MSFS

Year of

MISSIONS

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE (SWIP)

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SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE SPECIAL CIRCULAR FOR THE MSFS YEAR OF MISSIONS



My dear Confreres, Fraternal greetings to you from Fr Benny Koottanal. I am very happy to publish this **special circular** dedicated to the **YEAR OF MISSIONS**. As proposed and announced by the Superior General, in all our communities we inaugurated the 'Year of Missions' on the day of Pentecost 2021. This is a special year reminding us of the necessity to realize and thus to rededicate ourselves to the 'Action of the Spirit' in our personal, communitarian, Province and Congregational lifestyle. **As Members of the South West India Province** the "Year of Missions" is a God-given opportunity for us to revamp the depth of our commitment to the **Mission of God**.

MSFS

Year of

MISSIONS

TOWARDS LIFE IN ABUNDANCE

2021-22

MSFS

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE



WITH A MISSION TO THE MISSIONS

MISSION – The Initiative of God

My dear Confreres, As I had already mentioned in my talk on the “Year of Missions” (published online on the day of Pentecost) **Mission belongs to God. Mission puts us in closer contact with God. What we are undertaking in our lives is the Mission of God actualized through our ministries.** In order to understand the Mission of God, we should be in the close vicinity of God, sitting in His presence like a disciple seeking His Will. **Therefore it is very important for us to understand the Mission of God first and foremost at a personal level, Secondly at the level of our Communities and finally at the level of our Province.**

MISSIONS – Human Collaboration with God in Ministry

Fr Peter Marie Mermier, our Venerable Founder, said: I have totally dedicated myself to the works of the Missions, to the sublime Ministry of Jesus Christ who is the first Missionary and the leader in every Mission. The famous statement of Fr Mermier to Fr Gaidon, **I WANT MISSIONS**, of course is a reference to the PARISH MISSION PREACHING.

Christian Spirituality clearly teaches that every Founder:

- ✘ 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 and in union with the Church

✘ Translating the Mystery in their daily life
Fr Mermier, in this sense, was so much impelled by the ‘**Missionary Jesus**’ who went about preaching the Good News. Just as Jesus went about preaching the Good News to people of every stratum by living with them, dining with them and moving with them, Fr Mermier accomplished the Parish Missions in the same manner. **Ministry is always time-bound, space-bound and people-oriented.** Later when the First MSFS Missionaries landed in India they were tested with uncertainties of life, such as, culture, language, weather, food, manner-

ism, extreme poverty and dependency on others. Many of them died in their young age. In spite of all those obstacles, they followed the MISSIONARY JESUS in and through their Apostolic Activities with indomitable spirit and invincible courage. The question is: **Are we living this Missionary Charism in our lives and in our time?** What does it mean to be a Missionary in the contemporary era?

MISSIONARY

We are thus the Disciples of Christ who are sent by Him into the Missions. **The sevenfold qualities required of us to become Missionaries are mentioned in the Letter to the Romans 1/1: Paul, a Slave of Jesus Christ, Called to be an Apostle, Set Apart for the Gospel of God:** 1) **PAUL** = Small/Short (before Christ), 2) **Doulos** = Slave (belonging to Him, sharing His identity, enjoying His protection), 3) **Jesus Christ** = The Anointed ONE who Saves us (YESHUA = The One who Saves; CHRISTOS = The Anointed One), 4) **Called** = the Vocation to be a Disciple (the One who sits at the Foot of the Master), 5) **Apostle** = The One who is Sent, 6) **Set Apart** = Consecrated (uprooted from one place and planted in another soil), 7) **Gospel** = Good News. In order to understand the Mission of God and to become effective Missionaries in our times, we need to be imbued by these sevenfold qualities. Therefore, My dear Confreres, in this 'Year of Missions' let us resolve to get back to that **First Love** by renewing our lives primarily and then immersing ourselves in the apostolic ministries entrusted to us. **Wish you a Joyful, committed and involved YEAR OF MISSIONS.**

SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE IN THE YEAR OF MISSIONS

AT THE PERSONAL LEVEL

- Every Confrere shall make effort for personal renewal and love for the Word of God through our Sacramental life and Fraternal life in the Community
- No effort shall be spared to develop a deep love for the Missionary Activities of the Church
- Shall pray ardently for everyone entrusted to our care as Missionaries

AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL

- Throughout the Year of Missions we shall pray every day for the success of the Year of Missions in our communities (please use the intercessory prayer used at the end of this circular).
- We shall offer Holy Mass in honour of St Joseph on every Wednesday
- Celebrate one Mass in honour of the Holy Family every month
- Display the Logo of the Year of Missions at a prominent place in our communities.

AT THE PROVINCE LEVEL

- In this Year of Missions, we shall take up a New Parish to mark this special year
- We shall ensure that all our newly ordained Priests will serve in our missions as part of their pastoral formation for a minimum of TWO YEARS. The mission units to which they can be assigned could be across the provinces (General Chapter 2019).
- We shall launch a new YouTube Channel of the Province in order to spread the mission-commitment of the Province more vibrantly through Social Media.
- Throughout this Year of Missions, we shall conduct Monthly Recollections at the Province Level. It shall be conducted in the Following Manner:

MONTHLY RECOLLECTION

- The Recollection shall be for a time span of Two Hours starting at 6 pm
- The Recollection Talks shall be aired online through our YouTube Channel which shall be launched on the 17th June 2021
- The duration of the talk will be for 20-25 Minutes
- It will be followed by personal reflection and prayer
- At 7 pm Common Adoration of the Eucharist which shall be concluded until 8 pm.
- The First Recollection of the Year of Missions shall be on June 18, 2021
- Thereafter it will be conducted on **every First Friday of the Month**
- Following are the topics of the Monthly Recollection and the Resource Persons who will deliver them:

General Theme: Renewing Passion for Christ's Mission (Art. 21)

Theme for Each Month:

1. **Sharing in the Mission of Christ** - Fr Jacob Parappally – June 18, 2021
2. **St Francis de Sales: Burning with Zeal for Mission** - Fr Joe Cherolickal – July 2, 2021
3. **Fr Mermier's unshakable Resolution: "I Want Missions"** - Fr Thomas Kalariparambil – August 6, 2021
4. **Early MSFS Missionaries: Witnesses of Resilient Mission Commitment** - Fr Thomas Cherukat – September 3, 2021

5. **Our Consecrated Life & Mission** - Fr Emile Amougou – October 1, 2021
6. **Mission – Living & Proclaiming the Word** - Fr Jijo Manjackal –November 5, 2021
7. **Mission: Building the Christian Community** - Fr Christopher Crasta – December 3, 2021
8. **Mission: Promoting Communion Beyond Borders** – Fr Philip Valakodiyil – January 7, 2022
9. **Mission: Commitment to Creation** – Fr Jose Kumbloickal – February 4, 2022
10. **Mission: Contextual and Prophetic Involvement** – Fr R. Santhosh Kumar – March 4, 2022
11. **Nurturing and Sustaining the Mission of Christ (Formation & Ongoing Formation)** – Fr Binu Edathumparambil – April 1, 2022
12. **Mission and Ministry: An Integration** – Fr Kurian Karickal – May 6, 2022

My dear Confreres, Let us make it a golden opportunity of our life to know the Mission of God envisaged in and through the Charism and Spirituality of our beloved Congregation.



MISSION FORUM

1. Setting up of Social Media at the Province level in spreading the Salesian spirituality & the missionary dimension of the Congregation.
2. Involving parish communities in the missionary life of the Congregation by teaching the people about the history and the spirituality of the Congregation and the teachings of the Patron and the Founder.
3. Effectively spreading the 'Cause of the Founder' Fr Peter Mermier to the MSFS Parish Communities throughout the Province including the three Delegations
4. Establishing more of the guild of the "Fransalian Associates" in our Mission Centers
5. Preparing a Souvenir of the various Mission Centres of the Province, especially the History, Activities, statistics concerning the Missionaries who worked there.
6. Celebrating November 2, as a day of remembrance by specially commemorating the Departed Missionaries and honouring their graves.
7. Bringing out SFS Life-history (Pictorial booklet in Kannada) for the Mission stations especially for educating children.
8. Organizing PMP retreats in all possible Mission stations with the thrust of 'Year of Missions', as the Covid-related situations turn better.
9. Set apart some funds for the distribution of the Holy Bible and Christian Literature at a subsidized price in our parishes.
10. Be in regular touch with every family in the Parish. Due to Covid-related situations, these meetings could be conducted online.



SOCIAL AND INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES FORUM

1. In collaboration with the PSI, FIDESIndia Society, Subhodana Trust and MDO make every effort to provide better living conditions for the people.
2. Initiating at least a few Tuition Centres for poor children in our community premises.
3. Conscientising the Seminarians about Social Apostolates and Innovative ministries in order to generate in them the interest to stand for the gospel value of 'going to the peripheries'.
4. Organizing more Youth Programs at the Province/Zonal level making them aware of the need to utilize their possibilities for the good of the people and thus motivating them to be collaborators in our mission.
5. Identifying and supporting the poor, especially those who lost employment, with income-generating activities through Self Help Groups, in order to provide regular income for livelihood
6. Understanding the importance to safeguard Nature, make our campuses eco-friendly and instruct that all the children in our Schools and Boys' Homes develop respect for Nature by planting trees and nurturing gardens.
7. Supporting poor children for higher education and professional learning with the help of PSI, FIDESIndia Society, Subhodana Trust and MDO.
8. All our Social Work Centres shall be made available to be at the service of the Society especially in this time of the pandemic.



FORMATION FORUM

1. Weekly introduction and familiarization of and praying for MSFS missions in our seminaries, beginning with the missions in the South West India Province.
2. Inviting MSFS priests from various missions to talk to the seminarians.
3. Classes and seminars on Missions in each of the Formation Houses.
4. Conscientising the seminarians about the Missionary Culture of MSFS through Quiz competition and learning of the Life history of St Francis de Sales and Fr Peter Marie Mermier.
5. Sending Seminarians for community service/Mission experience during semester/summer break.
6. Involvement of seminarians in voluntary mission services like Covid care or any other such involvement among the down trodden people.
7. Exploring the possibility of involving Tejas/theology students in PMP program.



EDUCATION FORUM

1. Granting Scholarship for poor children
2. Giving admission to all Catholic Children in our Schools irrespective of their financial situation
3. Depending on the situation organize a life orientation program with moral lessons for the parents, students, teachers and non-teaching staff
4. Give programs/seminar to enrich the family life of parents especially on nurturing the life of Children
5. Organising online webinar on the spiritual classic “Introduction to the Devout Life” which aims at family life. Each education institution will organize online webinars or send newsletters or videos to the parents and teachers in this regard.
6. Webinar/Online meeting for all the Confreres in the field of education to update themselves with the Salesian/Fransalian Education methodology.
7. Special efforts shall be taken to update and enlighten students about the importance of the biological learning process, self-preparation to face the pandemic with futuristic vision and to sustain oneself in this present scenario with virtual mode of education



MISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (MDO) – VIKASJYOTHI

1. Intensifying and expanding the ongoing program of “sponsor a child in need” and reach out primarily to the poorest of the poor in our own missions.
2. Continuing and expanding the ongoing Covid Care Livelihood Support chiefly to the poor families in distress in our own missions as long as the Covid Crisis continues.
3. Expanding and extending the above two programs to the poor and vulnerable sections of people in the neighborhood of our missions, institutions and communities without any distinction of caste or creed.
4. Intensifying the program of “help the homeless” by reaching out to many more families in distress who are faced with lack of sufficient means to pay their house rents in times of financial crisis and serious illnesses.
5. Intensifying the program of “emergency medical help” to the poor who have no other means to pay their medical bills.
6. Conducting a general survey of all the missions or parishes entrusted to the province on short-term or long-term agreements with the dioceses in a professional manner and ascertaining the social development indicators of each of the missions.
7. As per an evaluation based on the findings of the general survey MDO proposes to identify and highlight particular areas and segments of each Mission and initiate concrete programs of support for the socio-economic, health care and educational development of each Mission. Concrete implementation will be done with the approval of the Provincial Administration.
8. Assisting the Provincial Administration in mobilizing funds to construct small chapels in our Mission Centers. At least one of them could be materialized during the year of Mission with the consent of the Provincial Administration.
9. Continue to animate the PMP (Tapasya) Executive Committee and support all its programs with timely guidance and financial assistance. Tapasya will highlight the Year of Mission giving a special focus to the Year of Family and of St. Joseph.
10. Collaborating with the Fransalian Lay Associates and initiate some joint ventures highlighting the MSFS year of Missions.
11. Continue to support the Chad-Cameroon Mission in mobilizing funds for the ongoing scholarship program and the drinking water projects.

My dear Confreres, the above-mentioned action plan for the Year of Missions should alert us once again to revamp the spirit of our commitment. I welcome each one of you to involve yourself well in our missionary option to LIVE JESUS for giving light to the humanity. The Provincial along with his Councilors shall monitor the implementation of the action plans. I wish each one of you a fruitful **YEAR OF MISSIONS**.

PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF MISSIONS 2021-2022

Merciful God, out of compassion for us, you sent your only Son Jesus to this world as the first missionary and leader in every mission.

We thank you for the Good News of salvation lived and preached by Jesus. We thank you for the missionary call rooted in our baptism.

We thank you for entrusting with us the missionary heritage as the Members / Associates of the Fransalian Family. Thank you for the inspirations we receive from Mother Mary, St. Francis de Sales and Father Peter Mermier.

As we celebrate this year of Missions, we offer ourselves and all you have entrusted to us into your kind hands. Help us to be compassionate to ourselves, to others and to nature. Instil in our hearts genuine interest to look for the lost sheep. Heal and restore our world from the pandemic of sins and sicknesses. Enable us to be joyful, courageous and zealous missionaries despite the present adverse situation.

God of life, we humbly ask you to fill us with your divine life and help us be agents of life in abundance for the whole world. Amen

“Do not become upset when difficulty comes your way. Laugh in its face and know that you are in the hands of God.”

St Francis de Sales

Fraternally



**Fr Benny Koottanal MSFS
Provincial**