



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE (SWIP)

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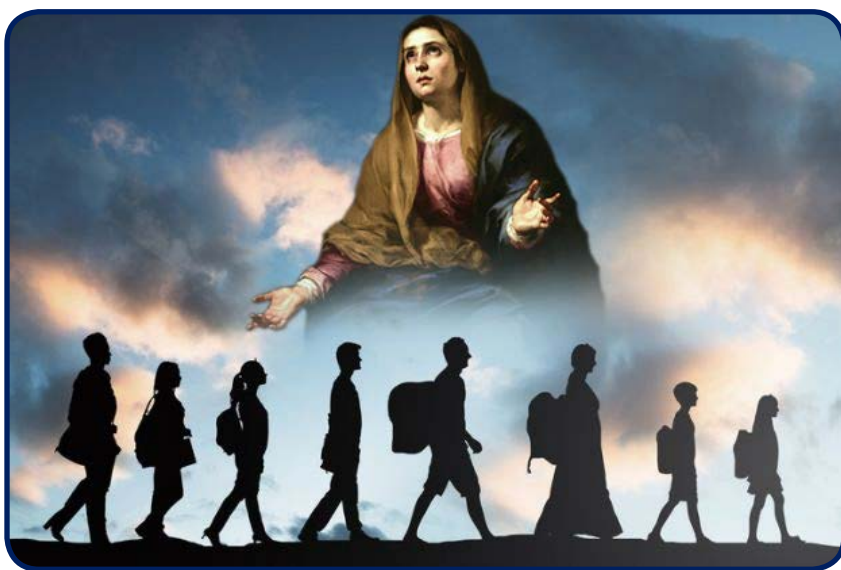


SWIP Circular BK/76

September 14, 2021

My dear Confreres, Fraternal greetings to you from Fr Benny Koottanal. On the eve of the Feast of the **Mother of Compassion**, I extend to each one of you the experience of our Mother's Heart, which was pierced by the Seven Sorrows. In all our experiences of sadness and joy let us take cue of our Beloved Mother's attitude to depend on the Providential Care of God.

Mother of Compassion in the New World Scenario



These days, I had been evaluating the changes that are happening in our world. We have gained a lot of strange experiences to talk about and to narrate to the coming generations. **The Pandemic Covid-19 has thrown the world into tantrums.** No one is sure about tomorrow. Everyone desperately hopes for the better. Many with whom we were well associated are suddenly no more. Above all, there exists a distrust in the other, whether the other will cause my downfall – **Social Distancing.**

On the other hand, the talk of the town is the surge of religious fanaticism. **The fascistic mentality of suppressing differing viewpoints is no more the privilege of the political goons; even religious leaders are mixing it intolerantly in their ideologies.** The recent rise of Taliban, with crystal clear religious fundamentalism, toppling a government of the people, is no sign of hope. The recent outcry that has emerged in Kerala when a Catholic Bishop talked to his Church regarding some concerns that the parents should be observant to take care of their children, so that they may not go astray by the pressure or persuasions of any group or sect, organized, branded or militant, are only protruding signs of decadent secularism.

In the midst of such devastating experience of debauchery in moral, religious, political and restorative arenas **we intensely need God without a doubt.** But to see the face of the true God who alone can give

direction to a rudderless world is not an easy job. This is where experience mingled with Faith, Hope and Charity can work miracles. **I see in Mary, the Mother of Sorrows the possibilities of my future.** “The Seven Sorrows of Mary” are the firm foundations to look at tomorrow with confidence. Let us see the outcome of those sorrows in Mary’s life:

- **The Prophecy of Simeon** that a “Sword will pierce your Soul” made Mary to be aware of her vulnerabilities; at the same time, that prophecy transformed her to become aware of the need to trust in the providence of God.
- **The flight into Egypt** made Mary and Joseph aware that God doesn’t always involve in human history to save the life of his own beloved ones. He instills in them courage to combat the contradictions with a sense of faith and prompt obedience. This is precisely the reason that the Church added one more prayer in the Litany: Solace of Migrants: Pray for us
- **The loss of Jesus in the Temple** caused overwhelming doubt, anxiety and sorrow in Mary. She truly felt the absence of God – a void that nothing can fill. Yet her faith, hope and charity made her seek unceasingly. Mary surely is the symbol of hope for the hopeless.
- **Mary meeting Jesus on the way to Calvary** is a true symbol of the silent, deep sorrow of many mothers in the modern world who suffer grief and humiliation at the sad plight of their children. In fact, this heartrending meeting of both the ‘Son and the Mother’ defines the love, tenderness, concern of each other. Yes, Mothers always make meaning even out of utmost suffering.
- **Death of Jesus on the Cross** makes Mary the Mother of Humanity. The most splintering aspect of a mother’s life is to see her child die. Perhaps the greatest desire of a mother is to die before her children die, because each time the dead body of a child is laid in the tomb, the mother buries her own very self in it. Yes, as St Teresa of Child Jesus says, My Sun shines behind the clouds.
- **Mary receiving the dead body of Jesus in her arms** is a sign of her open heart that is ready to receive the struggles of humanity. Mary’s open arms should be seen as one of the most relieving signs of support, accompaniment and intercession. The only one who has suffered can understand the suffering of others.
- **The body of Jesus that is laid in the tomb** is not the end of redemption; instead, it is the beginning of it. The greatest envoy of the redemption brought by Jesus is Mary herself. Who else knows the true meaning of redemption than the mother who went through every route that went before it? Death, where is your sting?

My dear Confreres, the celebration of the Feast of the Mother of Sorrows brings home to us the true meaning of Christian existence. We are not the ones to give up at the face of atrocities and struggles. We are here to define our role to make the world more conscious of the presence of God even in the midst of darkness and staggering silence. **We have a Mother who defined the meaning of her life through excruciating suffering;** despite all that, we never see her hopeless. **When we call Mary the MOTHER OF SORROWS,** it only means that she suffered excruciating pain; but it never means that she was desperate and hopeless in her suffering. **Mary’s meditative lifestyle and her hope in God’s Providence** helped her to see it through.

My dear Confreres, it is time that we bear the imprint of the Mother of Sorrows in our lives too and take her confidently to the frantic world that is settling for compromises without sacrifice. **HAPPY FEAST!**

Death of Fr Varghese Puthuparambil



My dear Confreres, as we continue to cherish the good memories of late Fr Varghese Puthuparambil, let us thank God for the gift of him to our Congregation and the Church at large. In spite of the pandemic, the funeral ceremonies were organized so meaningfully that a lot of Confreres and laypeople were able to participate in it actually and virtually. I would like to place on record my sincere gratitude to all who stood by us and supported us spiritually during this time of deep sorrow:

- I express my heartfelt gratitude to **Most Rev. Mathew Moolekat**, the Archbishop of Kottayam, for presiding over the funeral rites of Fr Varghese.
- I am ever grateful to **Most Rev Alex Vadakumthala**, the Bishop of Kannur for his personal communication of condolences at the sad demise of Fr Varghese Puthuparambil. Bishop Alex has specially appreciated his missionary dynamism and zeal.
- I express my heartfelt gratitude to **Fr Jose Parappillil and the Staff of SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor** for the benevolent accompaniment of Fr Varghese during the last one and half years of Fr Varghese. Special thanks to all of them for the meticulous organization of the funeral ceremony without any flaw.
- My heartfelt condolences and gratitude to all the **Family Members** of Fr Varghese.
- Thanks to all the people who gathered for the funeral ceremonies of Fr Varghese from different parishes where Fr Varghese worked.
- I express my heartfelt appreciation and thanks to **the Provincial Administration and especially to Fr Binu Edathumparambil** who presided over the funeral mass.

May Fr Varghese Rest in Peace with the Lord and may he continue to intercede for all of us.

Laying Foundation Stone for the New Community House in Mundargi



A community house in Mundargi was a dream of the province for many years. August 12, 2021 was a special day for Mundargi as this dream was initiated. On this day Fr Benny Kootanal, The Provincial had blessed and laid the foundation stone for the new Community House and Boys' Home in Mundargi. The prayers of blessing was held at 04:00 pm which was

witnessed by the teaching and non-teaching staff of SFS School, Mundargi and the Religious Sisters. The day was more graced as our Confrerers were present from the north Karnataka apostolic community. We also thank Fr Vinod Kanattu for his support and vision for the mission in Mundargi. Fr Erudayaraj, the Superior thanked the Provincial, his Administration and the Confreres for their support and love for the community in Mundargi.

Laying Foundation Stone for ITSSCAT-India, Unit 2 in Perinthalmanna



The foundation stone for the construction of the proposed building for ITSSCAT-India, Unit – 2, in the site donated by the former DIG of prisons Mr Joseph Thomas, was laid by Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal MSFS, the provincial of the South-West India Province, at 10 am, on August 25, 2021. Rev. Fr Sebastian Pattassery, the Vicar of St Mary's Church, Paloorkotta said a prayer of blessing over the land and blessed it. The sisters from Karunyasadhan convent and the immediate neighbours participated in the function. Rev. Fr Vinod Kanattu, the provincial bursar, Fr Mathew Mamala, Fr Bibin Sebastian, Fr Jose Karekatt and a few students of ITSSCAT were also present on the occasion. Everyone gathered thereafter for the tea at our rented house.

Laying the Foundation Stone for the New Church in Savanur



On September 8, 2021 Rev. Dr Benny Koottanal, the Provincial of South-West India Province, along with Rev. Fr Vinod Kanattu, the Provincial Bursar joined St Francis de Sales Mission Church, Savanur, the Faithful, North Karnataka Apostolic Community, Shimoga Apostolic Community, Nuns of Daughters of the Church, Teachers and the Community fathers to Bless the Foundation Stone of SFS Parish Church on the occasion of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the 175 Anniversary of MSFS arrival in India which is celebrated as the Year of Missions in the Congregation. The Provincial in his homily at the Holy Eucharist prior to the Blessing stressed the importance of personal witness to the society with the purity of heart like Blessed Mother.

Fr A. Johnson thanked Rev. Dr Benny Koottanal, Rev. Fr Vinod Kanattu and the Provincial Administration for their service to Savanur Mission, Rev. Fr Thomas Cherukkat for his resourceful initiative and everyone present. The Holy Eucharist and the Blessing ceremony were followed by Fraternal Agape.

Results of the Schools

My dear Confreres, with lots of joy and pride I am happy to announce to you the 10th and 12th standard results of all our schools in India. Our institutions, keeping the good reputation we always held, have come out colourfully in the academic performance of the academic year 2020-2021. This goes in line with the overall performance of our schools in its multi-dimensional efforts to build the future of our country with quality citizens. As I thank **Fr Jabamalai**, the Councilor in charge of Education **I take this opportunity to congratulate the Management of all our schools, all the teachers and non-teaching staff** for their total commitment to the holistic growth of our children. **Hearty Congratulations.**

Sl No.	Name of School	10th / 12th	Appeared	Passed	Pass Percent-age	Above 60%	Above 80%	Highest Percent-age
1.	SFS Public School, ICSE & ISC Hebbagodi	X	76	76	100%	2	74	98.4%
		XII	9	9	100%	-	9	95.3%
2.	SFS School, Koppal, ICSE	X	43	43	100%		43	98.4%
3.	SFS Academy, Hebbagodi, CBSE	X	47	47	100 %	2	45	97.40 %
4.	SFS School, Kengeri, CBSE,	X	07	07	100%	6	1	80%
5.	SFS High School, Hebbagodi (Eng Medium)	X	146	146	100%	83	59	98.24%
6.	SFS High School, Hebbagodi (Kannada Medium)	X	27	27	100%	13	3	87.84%
7.	SFS High School, Malur (State Board)	X	107	107	100%	29	77	99.68%
8.	SFS School, Chintamani, (Eng Medium)	X	94	94	100%	11	83	96.48%
9.	SFS School, Chintamani, (Kannada Medium)	X	35	35	100%	04	31	96.48%
10.	SFS School, Srinivasapur, (State Board)	X	99	99	100%	33	63	98.08%
11.	SFS School, Savanur, (State Board)	X	103	103	100%	51	44	98%
12.	SFS School, Mundargi, (State Board)	X	43	43	100%	02	41	96.8%
13.	SFS School, Koppal, (State Board)	X	98	98	100%	26	72	98.24%
14	SFS School, Kukkanoor, (State Board)	X	63	63	100%	18	43	97.92%

15.	SFS PU College, Hebbagodi	XII	503	503	100%	367	97	100%
16.	SFS PU College, Tamaka, Kolar	XII	155	155	100%	89	54	100%
17.	SFS School, Kannur, CBSE	X	16	16	100%	10	06	95.20%
18.	SFS School CBSE & College, Ettumanoor	X	123	123	100%	36	87	98.8%
		XII	209	209	100%	27	182	97.8%

Annual Retreats in Apostolic Communities

My dear Confreres, as I have already informed you through my previous circulars, this year too we are conducting our annual retreat in Apostolic Communities. I thank all the Conveners of the Apostolic Communities for fixing the dates of the Retreat. I request all the Confreres to consider it as a constitutional obligation and participate in the retreat without fail. Please conduct the retreat keeping silence, punctuality and observing the scheduled timetable. May the Spirit of God guide and animate us during these days of retreat. Following are dates and venues of the retreats in Apostolic Communities.

1) Bangalore North Apostolic Community:

- September 19, 2021 onwards in **Vinayalaya**
- October 25, 2021 onwards in **NEST**

2) Hebbagodi Apostolic Community

- November 2, 2021 onwards in **Mermier Bhavan**

3) Mysore Apostolic Community

- October 12, 2021 onwards in **Sannidhi**

4) Kolar Apostolic Community

- September 28, 2021 onwards in **MSFS House, Malur**

5) Shimoga Apostolic Community

- September 13, 2021 onwards in **MSFS House, Shiralakoppa**

6) Koppal Apostolic Community

- October 10, 2021 onwards in **MSFS Community, Belgaum**

7) Kannur and Batheri Apostolic Communities

- October 4, 2021 onwards in **Snehajyothi Ashram, Makkiyad**

8) Ettumanoor Apostolic Community

- November 8, 2021 onwards in **Charis Bhavan**

9) Trivandrum Apostolic Community

- November 15, 2021 onwards in **Mount Carmel House, Trivandrum**

Bon Voyage

- On August 11, 2021 **Fr Roji Kuttivayalil** has left for Pastoral Ministry in the England Province of our Congregation. He will be engaged in Pastoral Ministry in the Nottingham Diocese. During his stay and ministry in England Fr Roji is entitled with passive and active voice in the England Province. We wish him God's abundant blessings in the ministries at the service of the Church and our Congregation.
- On September 16, 2021 **Fr Prince Cheriyaakavil** will be leaving for Studies and Pastoral Ministries in the England Province of our Congregation. He will be assigned with the pastoral ministry in the Nottingham diocese. During his stay, ministry and studies Fr Prince will enjoy passive and active voice in the South West India Province. We wish Fr Prince God's abundant blessings and success in the ministries and studies.

Hearty Welcome

I am very happy to extend very hearty welcome to **Fr Joshy Mangalathu** to our Province in India. Fr Joshy has served five years Chad-Cameroon Delegation and thereafter a long stint of eleven years of pastoral ministry in Germany in the Archdiocese of Münster. After a few weeks of holidays, Fr Joshy will take up a ministry in the Province. Hearty welcome dear Fr Joshy.

Appointments

Fr Sebastian Kulangarathottiyil is appointed to the MSFS Community of PSI Sevagram with effect from August 11, 2021

Obituary

Rev. Fr Sean Fleury (91), belonging to English Province passed away on August 6, 2021. We thank God for this great veteran missionary. May God bless him with the eternal reward.



Rev. Fr Devasia Ayalukkunnel (70), belonging to Visakhapatnam Province passed away on August 30, 2021. God has blessed our congregation through this great missionary. May God give him eternal rest.



NB: For a deceased Confrere, who is a professed member, each one of us is obliged to celebrate a Holy Mass irrespective of the Province. I request all of you to do the necessary suffrages for the departed Confreres.

➤ **Mr Sabu Sebastian (48)**, Brother of Fr Josey Ponnambel, died on August 19, 2021.

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

My Schedule

My dear Confreres, please do take note of the schedule of my program. Different from the previous circular, each new circular would bring in additional changes in my programs as per the need. Please do organize the visitation and other common meetings/programs according to the latest communication.

September 2021

Aug. 30-Sept. 4	Classes in IIS
September 8	Laying the Foundation Stone for the Construction of New Church in Savanur
Sept. 15-17	In Kerala for various administrative matters
September 19	Council Meeting
Sept. 19-23	Retreat in Apostolic Community (in Vinayalaya)
Sept. 27-29	Provincial Chapter of Visakhapatnam Province, Preaching Recollection to the Chapter Members
September 30	Founder's Day

October 2021

October 4-5	Visitation to Sidlghatta, Kadasinahalli, Chintamani
October 5-6	Visitation to Srinivaspura, MSFS Community Tamaka, St Mary's Parish Kolar, MSFS Community ITI
October 7	Holy Mass and Blessing of the New Grotto at DeCare & Sneha Jyothi Ashram Makkiad
October 10	Inauguration and Blessing of the New Church in Chintamani

VOICE OF SFS

"Always remain very humble, for humility is the most perfect virtue; but let your humility be peaceful, calm, generous and noble."

Fraternally,



Fr Benny Koottanal MSFS
Provincial