

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

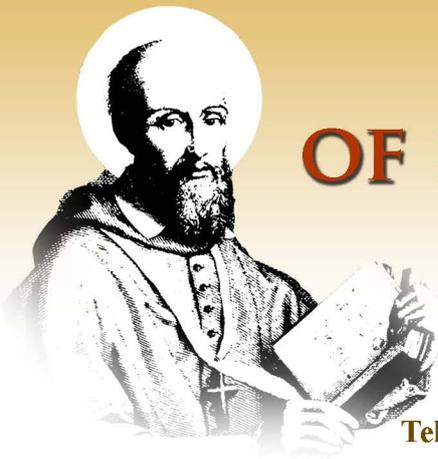
SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE (SWIP)

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SWIP Circular BK/77

October 13, 2021

My dear Confreres, Fraternal greetings to you from Fr Benny Koottanal. As I extend to you the peace and joy of the Lord, I wish you, in this month of October, which is dedicated to Mother Mary, God's abundant blessings through the intercession of our Blessed Mother. The Motherhood of Mary welcomes us to become Mothers in our time through a generous emptying of ourselves and thus permitting us to be filled by the grace of God.

Our Vocation to Become Mothers after the Example of Mary, the Mother of God



My dear Confreres, even in the midst of poignant experiences, as in the case of the Pandemic Covid-19, there are moments that trigger a sense of hope in the lives of humanity. It could be perhaps a person, an event or even the memories of someone who hold a special place in our lives. In the month of October, we reverentially honour our Blessed Mother as our own Mother. The intimacy that the Mother of God holds in our lives after her Son is something very deep. Every day we say a minimum of fifty times

Hail Mary, Full of Grace. Each time it brings along the memories of the Motherhood that has given us personal warmth, nearness and vibrating presence of the Mother.

My dear Confreres, the remembrance of Mother Mary is an occasion for us to remember our own Mothers at home. I am very sure, whether she is alive or dead, the Mother has imprinted on your heart an irremovable impact of tenderness and belongingness. Retrospect your holidays when she was there at home and by chance when she is not there at home. What an emptiness we experience in the physical absence of our Mothers? Why so? I believe it is basically because of that outstanding character of her life: **Her Self-giving!**

One of the most interesting aspects of our relationship with our Mothers is that we never think that our Mothers were once upon a time little girls with pony hair, little feet and little teeth. We always consider them as grown ups without childhood. It is due to the place where we meet her almost 90% of her life, which is within the four walls of the Kitchen. That is the place where we experienced our Mothers as

persons who constantly offer **YAGA** or **SACRIFICE** for our sake. When she is breaking the coconut, she is breaking her ego; when she is cutting the vegetables, she is cutting short her own possibilities and when she is cooking the food, she is sending up the spirit of sacrifice just like the smoke that goes up. **Abnegation, renunciation and service are the qualities of a Mother.** It's only after serving everyone else that she serves herself. That's why we say: The quality of the food does not depend on the quantity. **Mother is the strongest person in the world.**

My dear Confreres, one of the strange things that we do often is to limit Motherhood to a particular gender. I believe that the one who imbibes the characteristics of a mother automatically becomes a mother in turn irrespective of gender. **A man, by birth, in whom I see the true replica of a Mother, is Jesus.** As we mentioned above, the greatest characteristic of a mother is Self-giving. It is most vividly exemplified in the embodied Motherhood of Jesus. By giving up the possibilities of heaven, by sacrificing the joys of family life and by shutting himself out from the privileges of Jewish Religion with its age-old traditions Jesus begins a new philosophy of Motherhood proper.

The Gospels elaborately mention about the **Philosophy of Motherhood** lived by Jesus. Through various miracles and also by the perfect sacrificial gift of his body and blood in the Eucharist, Jesus sets the standard and nobility of Motherhood for his disciples to experience. That is why the original manuscripts of the Bible describes that *John leaned on the 'breast' of Jesus.* There he experienced the warmth of a true Mother. Yet, there was one more giving that was expected of Jesus. He does that on the Cross: **On the cross he gave his Mother to John.** Yes, it's accomplished - The perfect accomplishment of the grandeur of a Mother.

My dear Confreres, as we celebrate the Mother of God in this month of October, we are very specially invited in turn to become Mothers. Our Motherhood needs to be explicated irrespective of gender in the context of our communities, our ministries and our relationships. **Is it not possible for us to be a bit more loving, caring, giving and surrendering in the context of the disparities and differences of others?** Do meditate on this point and give a chance for the mother in you to deliver children of love and compassion. **Mary the Mother of Jesus intercedes for you and me.**

CONGREGATIONAL MATTERS

Extraordinary General Chapter 2022

As mandated by the General Chapter XX, Very Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, our Superior General, in his circular SG AB-2 – 07-3 has convoked the Extraordinary General Chapter to be held from 1st to 7th February 2022 at Fransalian Seminary, Pune. Let us specially keep the intentions of the Extraordinary General Chapter in our prayers and pray for the success of it.

Our Immediate Preparations for the Extraordinary General Chapter

The Superior General has invited the whole Congregation for an immediate preparation for the extraordinary General Chapter by reflecting together on **Four Study Papers** to educate, enrich and enlighten us on the basics of our Congregation (MSFS, Wake Up to the Basics). These study papers will be sent to us one each in the forthcoming months from October 2021 – January 2022. [The Study Paper for the Month](#)

of October 2021 shall be sent to you soon through Email as well as WhatsApp. I request all the Superiors, Rectors and Novice Masters to make these Study Papers available for all our Confreres, Seminarians and Novices for their perusal and reflection. It shall be studied in our Community Meetings by discussing and mutually sharing the nuances of it.

Triennial Mandatory Meeting (TMM) 2022

The Triennial Mandatory Meeting that was originally scheduled to take place in LCI, Arusha, Tanzania, is re-scheduled to take place in Fransalian Seminary Pune from 10th to 12th February 2022.

Synod-Synodality: Teaching of Pope Francis

My dear Confreres, as recommended by our Superior General I would like to invite your attention to the latest teaching of Pope Francis on Church and its Mission. Through an inspiring homily, Pope Francis opened on October 10 the Synod of Synodality. It is a two-year process starting from October 10, 2021 to October 2023. The word Synod contains the essence of the Church, its form, its style and its mission. Synod-Synodality is an ecclesial Moment. We're walking together with the people and the community. it's not a parliamentary style of functioning, or an investigation into different opinions and the rule of the majority. The leading character in synodality is the Holy Spirit.

The homily of Pope Francis on this topic shall be sent to you through your Email as well as WhatsApp. Do read it and enlighten yourself to become inspired people to share the mission of Christ.

October 24 – The Foundation Day of MSFS Congregation: Planting 12 Trees

As we are preparing for the Foundation Day of our Congregation we are specially invited by our Superior General to celebrate it in a meaningful manner. Therefore, in accordance with the recommendations made by our Superior General, I invite each Community of our Province **to plant 12 Plants (Trees) representing 12 Provinces of our Congregation (including the Vice-Province)**. The symbolic meaning thereby is that each community in the Province can be connected to every other Province in the Congregation through this gesture of planting and caring for the trees. Let us promote this gesture in our Province, Delegations, Mission, Communities and Formation Houses. If planting the Trees is not viable in the context of a particular community, please take the initiative to plant Pot Plants.

New Provincial Curia of Vishakhapatnam Province

The Vishakhapatnam Province has elected a new team of Administration under the leadership of the Provincial **Rev. Fr Baviri Suresh Babu MSFS**. They are:

- **Rev. Fr Pathuppallil Manoj** (Provincial Councillor for Formation)
- **Rev. Fr Kurella Vijaya Sekhar** (Provincial Councillor for Mission)
- **Rev. Fr Mallela Joji** (Provincial Councillor for Education)
- **Rev. Fr Jaddu Joseph** (Admonitor and Provincial Councillor for Social and Innovative Ministries - SAIM)

- **Rev. Fr Gade Bhaskar Reddy** (Provincial Bursar)

We wish the new team of Administration of the Vishakhapatnam Province God's abundant blessings in their endeavour to build the edifice of the Church through their committed involvement in the ministries.

New Provincial Curia of England Province

The Province of England has elected a new team of Administration under the leadership of the Provincial **Rev. Fr Benny Joseph Valiyaveetil MSFS**. They are:

- **Rev. Fr Paul GONSALVES** (Provincial Councillor and Admonitor)
- **Rev. Fr Thomas KULANDAISAMY** (Provincial Councillor)
- **Rev. Fr Terry McGRATH** (Provincial Bursar)

In the name of the South-West India Province, we Congratulate the Administration of England Province God's abundant blessings in their missionary commitment.

LIFE IN THE PROVINCE

Delegation Superior of Chad-Cameroon Delegation



My dear Confreres, after due consultation with the Members of the Chad-Cameroon Delegation, with the unanimous consent of my Council and with the approval of the Superior General, **Rev. Fr Manoj Arackal MSFS** is appointed as the Delegation Superior of the Chad-Cameroon Delegation of the South-West India Province for the second term of Three Years with effect from November 01, 2021. On behalf of the South-West India Province, I extend to him very sincere congratulations and God's blessings to lead the Delegation to further Missionary heights.

Inauguration and Blessing of the New Church in Chintamani

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage! (Psalm 33:12)

August 10, 2021 is a red-letter day in the history of St Joseph's Church, Chintamani. The day dawned with grandeur and wonder which no eyes have seen so far, the Great edifice, the new church. It stands as a bride with its beauty to be adorned for the palace of the great king the only Lord our Savior. As God planned eternally in His divine plan the Catholic Christian flock, the chosen race of the St Joseph Church gathered together in the land of God's presence to greet and welcome Most Rt. Rev. Peter Machado the Archbishop of Bangalore, Rev. Dr Benny Koottanal, the Provincial Superior of South West India Province and the host of MSFS Fathers from Kolar Deanery, Priests and reverend Sisters who added beauty to the day's celebration. The SFS school band escorted the eminent guests to the dais for the investiture; there-



after the Host of Priests along with their shepherd marched towards to the main entrance while the tiny tots showered the rose petals. The Archbishop accompanied by he MSFS Provincial Superior blessed the Church bell and the grotto of Mother Mary followed by the unveiling of the plaque. The Bishop, the priests and the people of God entered gloriously into the place of worship for the consecration and dedication directed by the master of the ceremony Rev. Fr A. Jabamalai MSFS, Councilor in-charge of Education. It was followed by the solemn thanksgiving mass and felicitation. Glory and praise to the Trinitarian God.

Blessing of the New Grotto in Makiyad



The healing garden and the grotto of Our Lady of Medjugorje at DeCare Makiyad was blessed by Rev. Dr Benny Gregorioso Koottanal MSFS, the Provincial Superior of South West India Province on October 7, 2021, the Feast day of Our Lady of Rosary. Members of the Bathery Apostolic community and the Kannur Apostolic community were present for the blessing.

The provincial graced the occasion with a solemn Eucharistic celebration at the DeCare chapel. During the homily, he emphasized the importance of having a loving relationship with our own mothers as well as the Mother of God. He said if Jesus is your friend and brother, his mother should be your mother too. At the grotto Rev. Dr. Tom Pannalakunnel, MSFS, the Director of De-

Care (De Sales Center for accompanied Renewal and empowerment) in his thanksgiving speech spoke about the importance of the holy rosary in our daily life.

The beautiful grotto at the entrance of DeCare and Sneha Jyothi Ashram is the result of the hard work and generosity of many people. Rev. Dr Thomas Kalariparambil, MSFS came up with the



wonderful concept of Our lady standing above the broken pots. The broken pots symbolize the brokenness of human beings. The water that flows from one pot to the other symbolizes the sharing of grace even in our brokenness. Sneha Jyothi Ashram community, Makkiyad has worked together to accomplish this project. The grotto is a blessing for all those who come to DeCare for retreat, counseling, guidance and therapy.

DeCare website: decare.org

South-West India Province of MSFS has ventured into a unique ministry under the leadership of Fr Tom Pannalakunnel by starting DeCare at Makkiyad and Aluva to cater to the needs of the priests and religious who are experiencing challenges and struggles in life due to vocation crisis, emotional disturbance or behavioral problems. The center has launched a new website: decare.org. If you know priests and religious facing difficulties in life please share with them the following website so that they can contact Fr Tom.

Blessing of the Newly Extended Building of SFS PU College, Tamaka



On September 23, 2021 Rev. Dr Benny Koottanal, the Provincial of South-West India Province, blessed and inaugurated the new kitchen, community room for the priests and a refectory for the hostel boys at SFS PU COLLEGE, TAMAKA, Kolar in the presence of Rev. Fr Vinod Kanat, the

Provincial Bursar and Rev. Fr A. Jabamalai, the Councillor in-charge of Education. All the members of the Kolar apostolic community and the Boys of the SFS Hostel were present for the program. Fr Charles Periyamayagam thanked Rev. Dr Benny, Rev. Fr Vinod and Rev. Fr Jabamalai for their constant support towards the growth of SFS PU COLLEGE, TAMAKA, KOLAR.

New Ventures in Social Work Ministry in the Philippines



It has been a long dream of the MSFS Philippine Delegation to start a social work program. With this dream Rev. Fr Jiji Manjackal was appointed to find out the possibility of starting a social work program within the communities in the parish of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Molino. Upon assessment of

the conditions of the communities in the parish, a particular concern on “nutrition and education” has been an imperative option.

With the hope of reaching out to every poor child in the parish, and after a long discussion and planning, it was decided to start a feeding and learning program for the underprivileged children in one of the economically poor communities in the parish, particularly the Sto. Niño Pastoral Area located in Pasong

Buaya 2. Initially, we shall use the chapel as a venue for our mission—since this place is the closest place to our beneficiaries. In general, our program’s objective is to improve the nutritional health of our children beneficiaries by providing them palatable and nutritious foods while enhancing their faith and spiritual understanding including basic academic skills.

On September 8, 2021 on the birthday of the Virgin Mary, the program kicked off with twenty-five (25) children; and later on thirty-five (35) more children were added. The program is scheduled on lunch-time from Monday to Friday. Since they cannot gather together for a meal due to the health restrictions of the pandemic, meals are packed in a lunch box so that they can take them home. Likewise, learning materials are also distributed so the children can work on them at home.

On September 30, on the MSFS Founder’s Day, during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided by Rev. Fr Jundie Sumagaysay, the Delegation Superior, inaugurated the social work program titled “Mermier Children’s Welfare Mission” and also the Fund Raising Program called “My little penny for little tummy” in the presence of Rev. Fr Jiji Manjackal, Director of the Social Work Program and other MSFS Confreres and Seminarians.

Purchase of Land in Makiyad

We have purchased and registered a plot of land adjacent to our Novitiate property at Makkiyad. This plot, measuring 63 cents (50 cents documented), is the source of water for the Novitiate. On October 7, 2021 the land is registered in the name of ‘Kerala Fransalian Educational Society.’

Registration of the Land for the Our Lady of Sorrows Parish

We have registered and donated half an acre of land to Our Lady of Sorrows Church Trust, Hebbagodi for the construction of the Parish Church. The donated land is part of one and half acres of property purchased by the Province at Gottamaranahalli Village, near Fruit market for the same purpose of building a church for ‘Our Lady of Sorrows Parish’ Hebbagodi. The Parish has paid for the settlement of the legal dispute on the land. The land was registered and given to the Parish Trust on July 13, 2021.

Transfers & Appointments

- **Fr Subin Puzhakkara** is Designated for MSC in Psychology in Anugraha Institute of Social Sciences, Dindigal, Tamil Nadu with effect from September 26, 2021.
- **Fr Jose Kumbolickal** is appointed as the Principal of SFS School, Mattannur with effect from August 23, 2021.
- **Fr Joshy Mangalathu** is Appointed as the Superior and Administrator of Atma Jyothi Ashram, Pattikad with effect from November 01, 2021

Promotions

Promoted to Diaconate

- Bro. Anithottathil Jibin
- Bro. Nitesh Minj
- Bro. Madathiparambil Rony
- Bro. Robin Pereira

Promoted to Priesthood

- Dn Arun Kumar
- Dn John Gannot
- Dn Marc Edward B. Malihan
- Dn Outhuppacherry Bibin
- Dn Palamattathil Subin
- Dn Valliara Arun

Obituary

- **Mr Joseph Madathikunnel (82)**, Maternal Uncle of Fr Binoy Kurakalayil, died on September 17, 2021.
- **Mr P. V. Mathew (Panachickal Varkey Mathew-88)**, Paternal Grandfather of Fr Justin Panachickal, died on September 30, 2021.
- **Mrs. Annamma Varghese (87)**, Grandmother of Fr Joby Pulichumackal, died on October 5, 2021.

We assure you, dear Confreres, the remembrance of your dear ones 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.

October-November 2021

Oct. 15 – Nov. 6	Visitation to Germany-Austria Delegation
November 7	Council Meeting
November 12	Visitation to Parish & Community at Pollibetta, Coorg
November 13	Visitation to MSFS Minor Seminary, Sannidhi
November 14	Visitation to MSFS Community Soumya Sadan
November 15	Visitation to MSFS Community, De Sales Bhavan, Mysore
November 19	Visitation to MSFS Community, NEST, Kengeri
November 20	Diaconate Ordination at Tejas Vidya Peetha, Kengeri
November 22	Visitation to MSFS Parishes Mulbagal & Gokunte
November 23	Visitation to MSFS Community Malur
Nov. 25-26	Visitation to Mermier Bhavan, SFS Parish and SFS Boys' Home, Hebbagodi
Nov. 29-Dec. 3	Classes for the Post Graduate Students of IIS

VOICE OF SFS

“We ought to hope in the midst of trials, and fear in the midst of prosperity; in either situation we must remain humble”

Fraternally,



Fr Benny Koottanal MSFS
Provincial