

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE (SWIP)

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My Dear Confreres!

Just days after we have celebrated the XXV World Day of Consecrated life and right at the beginning of the synodal journey of the whole people of God, inaugurated by Pope Francis on October 10, 2021, I am happy to extend to you, my dear Fathers and Brothers, my fraternal and prayerful greetings. Our journey as a Province family, started in the year 1991, has already completed 30 illustrious years in the service of Christ's Mission in the footsteps of and after the example of our beloved Founder, Fr Peter Mermier. The strength of our South-West India province has been the quality of its members with generosity, competence and initiative as well as that of its visionary and eminently exemplary leadership. That's the legacy that all of us can be genuinely proud of.

A WORD OF APPRECIATION AND GRATITUDE TO FR BENNY KOOTTANAL



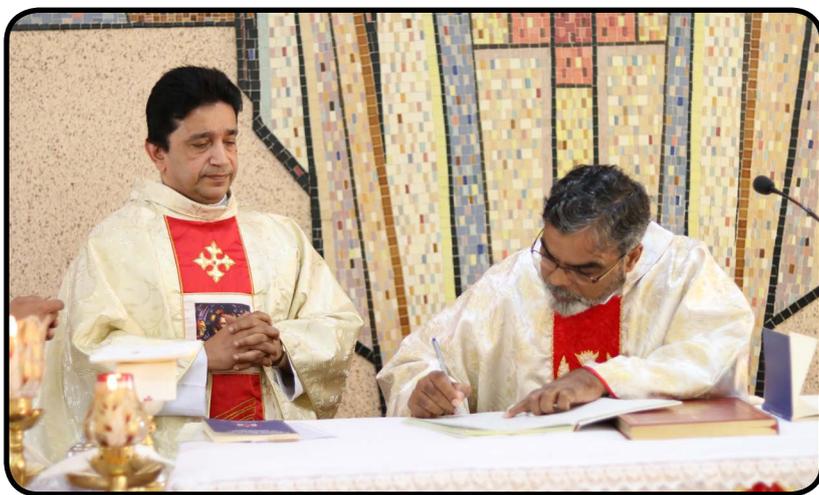
On behalf of the entire Province family, I place on record our most sincere thanks to Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal, the outgoing Provincial. The Province's indebtedness to Fr Benny was aptly summed up by Rev. Fr Jacob Parappally in his felicitation speech on January 24, 2022. Let me borrow some of his thoughts: We all are leaders by our religious commitment and ordination. Each one has his style of leadership. But every leadership in the Church is the extension and reliving of the servant-leadership of Jesus who came to serve and not be served and give his life as a ransom for many (Mk 10:45). Rev. Fr Benny had been animating it with total dedication to the cause of Jesus and his Kingdom, living the spirit and spirituality of St Francis de Sales in the ministry of leadership, with a clear vision of the mission of our province in India, Chad-Cameroon, Philippines and Germany-Austria and executing the decisions taken for the good of the members and the progress of the

mission of the province with Salesian optimism and Mermerian skill. In all the departments of administration both in infrastructure building as well as in the training of personnel to manage them, there was visible progress. Above all, Fr Benny took much effort to improve the quality of our community life. He has taken the province together with its members to great heights of spiritual development, com-

munity living, missionary commitment, and structural improvement. He kept the province together by his constant accompaniment, infused life into it through his dynamic self, his vision and animation knit the province focused on the goal and led it to new vistas. Indeed, Fr Benny's clarity of vision, quality of leadership, unparalleled energy and enthusiasm, his determination to take the province to greater effectiveness in its presence and ministries, his concern for every confrere and personal accompaniment, the new initiatives he took in the context of unforeseen obstacles in the areas of spiritual and personal animation -- all these and much more marked the time of his leadership and animation.

Dear Fr Benny, the **real greatness of your legacy will be clear** when we are all able to look at your tenure from a temporal distance when our minds are clearer and objective. You can be truly proud of what you have been able to initiate and achieve. For all of us, your time has been a lesson in true leadership, companionship, personal accompaniment, meticulous planning and execution. All of us are indeed proud of you and bow before God and before you in gratitude and appreciation!

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW PROVINCIAL



During the jubilant celebration on the feast of our Heavenly Patron, St Francis de Sales, January 24, 2022, at 11 am, Rev. Fr Thomas Kalariparambil was installed as the 7th Provincial of the South-West India Province. Rev. Fr Jino Plathottathil, called in to replace Fr Jose Parappillil due to a last-minute cancellation of the trip, pointed out in his inspiring homily, quoting Fr Jose Parapillil, that, over 31 years of its life, the South-West India province has grown

in magnitude in terms of mission extensions, members, infrastructures, institutions and so on. From a small group of 53 priests and 2 brothers in 1991, we are today 243 priests and one brother, out of which one hundred plus confreres are working outside India. There is abundance of life in the province, the passion to live the mission is still strong in all of us, and the avalanche of the resourcefulness of the young confreres is one of our strengths. The homily also touched upon the type of leadership Jesus and the Church expects of us.

After the homily Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal read the appointment of Fr Thomas Kalariparambil. Committing oneself to the responsibilities entrusted to him, Rev. Fr Thomas Kalariparambil solemnly recited the credo by placing his hand on the Holy Bible. As a sign of handing over the office, Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal, the outgoing provincial handed over the Constitutions of our Congregation, the Directory, and the Introduction to the Devote Life to the new provincial. The celebration came to its culmination with Fr Jacob Parappilly felicitating both the out-going Provincial as well as the newly installed one, paying glowing tributes to both of them. Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal expressed his profound gratitude to God as well as to all the members for journeying with him all these past six years. In conclusion, Fr Thomas Kalariparambil placed on record the legacy that Fr Benny's leadership has created in the province, something that the entire Province and Congregation can be proud of. Immediately thereafter, 'Reflection Capsules-Vol-

ume 2' written by Rev. Fr Jijo Manjackal, was released. The celebrations concluded with a fellowship meal. The occasion was blessed with the presence of many confreres from far and near, restricted as it was due to the prevailing pandemic situation. We gratefully remember fathers and brothers from Tejas Vidya Peetha for helping us to have a meaningful celebration with their melodious choir and beautiful decoration.

CONVOCATION OF THE 4TH ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

With the formal approval of our Superior General and with the consent of the Provincial Administration I hereby convoke **the 4th Ordinary Provincial Chapter** of our South-West India Province as per the prescriptions of our Constitutions and General Directory to be held from Tuesday, April 19, 2022 to Saturday, April 23, 2022. The decision in favour of a four-day Provincial Chapter was taken considering the existential, geographical, and numerical state of our Province. The theme of this 4th Provincial Chapter will be: **“AN EMPOWERED PROVINCE FAMILY FOR AN EFFECTIVE FRANSALIAN MISSION”** in tune with the theme of the last General Chapter as well as the year of Missions that our Congregation is specifically celebrating. As mentioned at the beginning, we as a province is part of the just inaugurated synodal journey of the whole people of God. Synodality, etymologically speaking, means **walking together on the same path with the same purpose**. This also forms the heart of consecrated life. Therefore, the key thrusts of “communion, participation, and mission” need to be concretely articulated in our Fransalian way of living and serving. The chosen theme is a reminder of the fact that, as Pope Francis says, “we are on the same boat, all of us, fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to grow together.” The focus would be to re-discover the spirit of self-discipline and family spirit, empowering ourselves thereby for nurturing a collective consciousness as members of one province family for effectively carrying out our Fransalian Mission as envisioned by Fr Peter Mermier. Let us take these days of preparation as an invitation from God to revisit our “vocational call” in order to “rediscover the enthusiasm, amazement and joy of feeling and being part of [that shared] project of love” initiated by our beloved Founder, Fr Mermier.

Pre-Capitular Committee

To plan out, prepare and organize the Provincial Chapter, the Provincial Council has also decided to constitute a pre-Capitular committee with the following members:

Fr Thomas Kalariparambil (President)

Fr Santhosh Kumar R. (Convener)

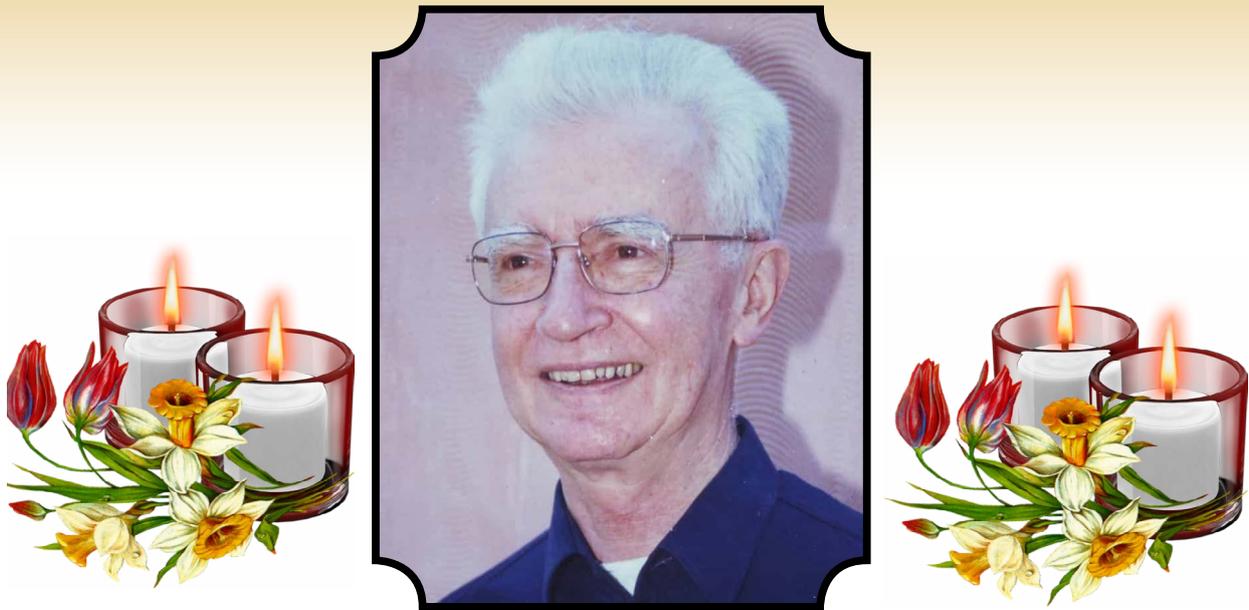
Fr Jijo Manjackal (Member)

Fr Thomas Thekkekarottu (Member)

Fr Jeevan Prasad (Member)

Once the committee has worked out the exact dynamism of conducting the Provincial Chapter, the details will be made available to you. The election of delegates from India will take place in terms of the four forums (mission, education, social and innovative, and formation). Before specific electoral colleges are created, a list of members in different forums will be published for your perusal and correction, if needed. The elections will be conducted electronically.

'A DIEU DEAR REV. FR EMILE MAYORAZ



With shock, we received the sad news of the demise of Rev. Fr Emile Mayoraz and with heartbroken grief we mourn his death. Glowing tributes have been pouring in from all over the world ever since the news of his death was announced. Anyone who has had the privilege of meeting and interacting with Fr Mayoraz would never have been left untouched by his mesmerizing personality. He was the first one from whom MSFS confreres learned the human face of supreme authority. It is from him that generations of MSFS received invaluable lessons in authority and leadership that true leadership consists in being a living witness to personal simplicity, ability to authentic listening, and preparedness to journey along. If Fr Mermier was known as the “missionary with the red-leather bag,” Fr Mayoraz has been a humble and simple missionary leader always on the move, journeying to all remote corners of the world, taking all the necessary pains to master the English language, knowing each individual confrere by name and maintaining a relationship at the personal level, journeying with all the individual missionary confreres in all their struggles and agonies, and that too with a small black valise of absolutely necessary personal belonging. He envisioned and authored the contemporary missionary history of our Congregation. He lived and died as a true missionary of St Francis de Sales, keeping the missionary cause of the Congregation always deeply engraved in his heart. Our Province too owes immensely to Fr Mayoraz and as we enclose him in our prayers, we bow to God as well as to him with those great words in our lips, “a Dieu Fr Mayoraz!”

My dear Confreres, as we continue our shared journey as one province family in mission, let us pray for each other, and let us pray in a special way for a fruitful Provincial Chapter. May God bless all of us!

VOICE OF SFS

'Happy the hearts that are felxible, they shall never be broken.'

Fraternally,

Fr Thomas Kalariparambil MSFS
Provincial