

# MISSIONARIES OF ST.FRANCIS DE SALES – MSFS SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE



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P.B.No.5557, Malleswaram West P.O  
Bangalore 560 055, INDIA

Circular AB/12

October 6, 2012

My dear Confreres,



Fraternal greetings and prayerful wishes from Vinayalaya. We have just celebrated the 150<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of our Founder, Fr. Peter Mermier. I understand that our apostolic communities and local communities have taken special interest to celebrate the life of our Founder with great enthusiasm and planning. This is the time to renew our missionary energy after the example of our Patron. We have just begun the special Year of Faith. Pope Benedict XVI has announced this Special Year of Faith from October 11, 2012 (50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council) through November 24, 2013 (the Feast of Christ the King). Catholics cannot grow lazy and the year of Faith should help Catholics renew their missionary energy. Pope said: ‘the year of faith would give renewed energy to the mission of the Church to lead men and

women out of the desert to fullness of life in Christ in whom all the anguish and longing of human heart find fulfillment. We, MSFS, also cannot grow lazy and we need a renewal of our missionary zeal in our respective ministries. I invite all of us to enter this year of faith guarding our zeal and passion for the Lord and his mission. We need to watch out for the ‘danger signals’ in us and in our communities that tell us the flame is flickering and the passion is fading. Some of the common ‘danger signals’ that we need to be aware and guard ourselves against are: becoming too wrapped up in T.V., computer, internet, and cell phones, too many travels, too many dinners out and hot drinks, fleeing people entrusted to our care and our responsibilities, postponing obligations, and staying away from community prayers, meals and activities. The stimulations from outside are replacing stimulations from inside. This is one of the dangers in religious life today. These are just a few practical danger signals that tell us the flame is flickering and the passion is fading. “Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord” (Romans 12:11). We need to fan our missionary zeal by constantly cleansing our lives of whatever diminishes our missionary and pastoral effectiveness. Anything that makes us less a Missionary of St. Francis de Sales after the spirit and spirituality of our Patron and Founder has to be burnt away by the fire of passion that we have inherited from our first missionaries. Let us

join hands together and fight the enemy inside our ship (danger signals) as we celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of our Founder and 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of our Congregation.

## **1. Congratulations and Prayerful wishes!**

**The newly elected Provincial Councillors and Bursar of Visakhapatnam Province:**

### ***Provincial Councillors***

Fr. Karnam Dhaman Kumar  
Fr. Maddineni Anand Prasad  
Fr. Panthanmackel Mathew  
Fr. Chakkalakkal Jolly

***Admonitor:*** Fr. Panthanmackal Mathew

***Provincial Bursar:*** Fr. Mendem Bhasker

## **2. Core Committee for the Four Forums**

In view of better co-ordination and effective organization of the four Forums in the Province, we are setting up a Core Committee for all the Forums. The Core Committee will work with the Councillors-In-Charge of Forums (CIC) to address the emerging concerns and to implement the action plan of the Provincial Chapter and General Chapter. I thank the following confreres who have graciously accepted to be members in the Core Committee:

**Mission Forum:** Fr. Jose Parappillil (CIC), Fr. Balavendra Jacob (Secretary), Fr. Chacko Ottalankal, and Fr. C. Joseph

**Formation Forum:** Fr. Benny Koottanal (CIC), Fr. George Valliamthadathil (Secretary), Fr. R. Santhsoh Kumar, and Fr. Jose Puthukkary

**Education Forum:** Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil (CIC), Fr. BinoyKurakalayil (Secretary), Fr. Anthony Swamy, Fr. Jacob Parappally, and Fr. A. Jabamalai

**Innovative Ministry Forum:** Fr. Jose Kumblolickal (CIC), Fr. D. Jeevan Prasad (Secretary), Fr. Jose Karekkat, and Fr. Riju Vazhaparambil

The Core Committee will meet before November 30, 2012 to assess and evaluate the Forum and present a comprehensive report to the Provincial Administration. Thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

## **3. Appointments**

**Fr. A. Jerome** is appointed to the community at Malur (for parish ministry) with effect from August 27, 2012.

**Fr. Mijo Kulamkuthiyil** is appointed at Marian Retreat Centre in Anakkara in the Diocese of Kanjirappally with effect from September 10, 2012.

**Fr. Aneesh Mundiyanickal** is appointed to the community at Charis Bhavan with effect from September 10, 2012

**Fr. D. Robert** is appointed as Assistant Parish Priest of St. Xavier's Church, Gokunte with effect from September 24, 2012.

**Fr. A.C Arokianathan** is appointed to our community at Chintamani (focus on the parish ministry) with effect from October 4, 2012.

**Fr. Tito Puthuparambil** is designated to be on the staff of Suvidya College with effect from October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Fr. R. Santhosh Kumar** is appointed as the Controller of Examination in Suvidya College, Bangalore.

**Fr. Bipin Xess** is appointed as the Episcopal Vicar of the zone of VINA in the diocese of Ngaoundere with effect from August 2012

**Fr. Dung Dung Marcel** has left for Yaounde, Cameroon on October 1, 2012. Although he missed his connecting flight at Nairobi, Kenya he reached Yaounde safe on October 3, 2012. Fr. Marcel is appointed the Director of the aspirants and will continue with his French language course in La Feuillette. We wish Fr. Marcel all the best and God's blessings in his new Ministry.

**Fr. Antony Valiyaparambil and Fr. Thadeus Lakra**

Fathers Antony and Thadeus wrote from France that they have spent two months visiting with different communities and acquainting themselves with the Franco – Swiss Province and the members of the Province. They have now begun an intense language and pastoral course at Bosoncon organized by the diocese. We wish them well and the best in learning the language well for their future ministry.

**Fr. George Chirayil**, after having completed his ministry in Germany, is back in India. We welcome Fr. George back to India after almost 12 years in Germany. He had a great ministry in Germany where the people of the parish and the priests of the diocese appreciated his contribution to the development of the parishes entrusted to him. He had a good command over the language which endeared him to the people of the parishes where he served. I thank Fr. George for his contribution to the mission of the Province through mass intention and support from benefactors.

**Fr. Sibi Manickathan** and **Fr. Tomy Mullasseril** are expected to be in India by the end of October. We cordially welcome our confreres.

**Confreres leaving for Ministry in the diocese of Muenster, Germany**

Fathers Justin Chirackal, Joseph Mannukuzhumpil, Arokia Jayaraj, and Louis Parappuram will be leaving for pastoral ministry in the diocese of Muenster, Germany on October 19, 2012. They will be attending an advanced language and pastoral course in the diocese as an immediate

preparation for ministry there. We wish our confreres a wonderful and blessed ministry there. We assure them of our prayerful support.

#### **4. Congratulations!**

**Fr. Tito Puthuparampil** has completed M.Sc. in Psychology with distinction from the University of De La Salle Philippines. We congratulate Fr. Tito for his academic excellence. He has served our Philippines delegation for the past 12 years with his pastoral leadership and contribution to formation of seminarians. We welcome him back to the Province.

#### **5. New Local Community of Prateeksha Boys Home, Hebbagodi**

With the permission of Rev. Fr. Superior General, we have constituted a new Local Community at Prateeksha Boys Home, Hebbagodi, with effect from October 7, 2012. This is to organize the community life of our confreres and to strengthen their ministries at the Boys Home and in the educational institutions. Congratulations to the new Superior, Fr. Timson and to the members of the new community, Fr. M. George and Bro. Sudeep.

**6. Mysore Apostolic Community:** Convener: Fr. Joseph Pulpara, Secretary: Fr. J. Pangi Raj

**7. SFS School, Kannur** has obtained NOC from the State government of Kerala. Sincere thanks to our confreres in SFS School, Kannur (Fr. Jose Edassery, the Manager, Fr. Jose Vechuvettickal, the Principal, and Fr. Majish, the Administrator) for their tireless efforts, determination, and hard work in obtaining the NOC. We are now ready to go for affiliation to CBSE.

#### **8. Promotion to Priesthood:**

**Our deacons at TEJAS are promoted to priesthood. Please pray for them as they are preparing for their comprehensive exam, diaconate ministry, retreat, and ordination. We wish them our prayerful support at this important time in their life.**

1. A. Antony Sathiya Seelan: **date of ordination**, December 3, 2012
2. Chirackalpurayidathil Anish: December 31, 2012
3. Jeevan Prashant: January 6, 2013
4. Manjackal Jijo: December 28, 2012
5. Olickal Sijo: January 3, 2013

#### **9. Perpetual Profession and Diaconate Ordination; Chad-Cameroon**



Congratulations to Bros. Abesouggie Christophe Bertrand and Ayissi Innocent Parfait who have made their Perpetual Profession on September 21, 2012. They were ordained as deacons on September 22, 2012 at Nkobisson by his excellence Mgr. Victor Tonyé Bakot metropolitan Archbishop of Yaoundé.

**10. Charis Bhavan Convention:** The 22<sup>nd</sup> Charis Bhavan Bible Convention led by Rev. Fr. James Manjackal and his team will be held at Convention Nagar from October 20 – 24, 2012. Fr. James is preaching a Convention in Charis Bhavan after 16 years. He is assisted by a group of preachers and collaborators from his Global Preaching ministry. We welcome Fr. James and his team to the Convention and to the Province. You are specially invited to join the convention and accommodation is available for the MSFS. Please bring your parishioners, friends, and family members to this great anointing event.

**11. Help African Children:** All the schools in our Province will hold a Help African Children Fund Raiser for our children in Chad Cameroon mission. Please announce this fund raiser in your respective schools and send your contribution to the Provincial Bursar by December 29, 2012

**12. Mission Sangamam:**

“A Mission Sangamam’ in honor of Fr. George Vayalil is in the process. The Mission Forum of the Province together with SFS Ettumanoor Apostolic Community will take up the leadership to organize this great event to honor the missionary work initiated by Fr. George Vayalil, the first missionary and a leader to many missionaries from Kerala. We will also place this event in the context of the 150<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of Fr. Mermier and 175<sup>th</sup> year of the foundation of our Congregation and the Year of Faith. We plan to have 2 gatherings, first one inviting all the MSFS in India and the second one inviting all the priests and religious of Kerala. We also plan to have an Inter-Provincial Sangamam in Bangalore inviting men and women religious from different congregations sometime after the General Chapter. I invite all of us to work together for the success of the Mission Sangamam.

**13. CRI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY: “Leadership Conference – 2012”**

India has around 1, 30, 000 men and women religious, which is a dynamic and powerful force. Our institutions train a large section of the educated of India and our health care system has made an impact around the country. It is revealing to know that one third of religious in India, numbering about 40,000, have moved to social sector with skills and competence to change the society with projects and movements. If we are able to stand together with unity of hearts and minds, we can become more effective messengers of the Kingdom of joy, peace, justice, and righteousness: the new way of being religious for our times. The Indian Church has become the biggest mission sending Church in the world with religious missionaries being present in 166 countries.

865 Major Superiors of religious in India are invited for the “Leadership Conference 2012” at a Convention Center called Leonia Holistic Destination in Hyderabad from October 28 – 31, 2012. Apart from current issues of importance and organizational matters, the Conference will work on the theme: “Innovations in Consecrated Life for Greater Effectiveness”. This is an important moment in the history of religious life. India being a land of religions and religious can nurture a vibrant consecrated life.

#### 14. JE VEUX LES MISSIONS - A soul on fire (One act Play in English – by TEJAS VIDYA PEETHA)



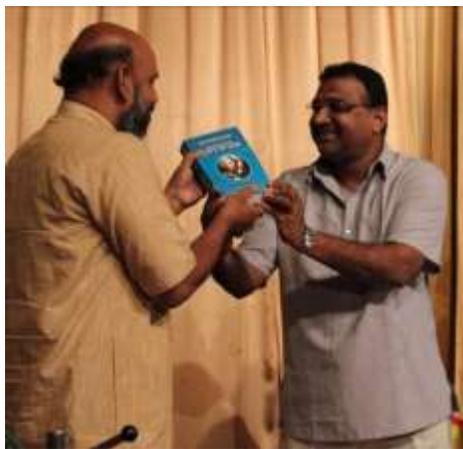
To mark the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Congregation and the 150<sup>th</sup> death Anniversary of our Founder, venerable Fr. Peter Marie Mermier, TEJAS (The Mission Oriented Contextual Theologate) took up the pleasant task of paying homage to the founder and the first French missionaries of MSFS in India, with the dramatic presentation of the Founder's unwavering zeal for mission in spite of the hard hurdles that he had to face even all

alone. It was staged on September 26, 2012 at 6 pm in the Suvidya College auditorium before a large gathering of both MSFS and other religious congregations from Bangalore. Fr. Mermier's passion for mission despite the difficulties that stood on the way, the challenges he and the new Congregation faced in its infancy etc. were dramatically presented in the Play. Fr. Mermier's conviction for mission, his prayerful zeal to discern the will of God and the courage to actualize the same in his daily life, his trust in the Divine Providence amidst the challenges he faced and the sacrifices he made etc. were the core aspects of the play. The length of the play was an hour and a half.

The coordinator of the play was Rev Fr Jose Kumbloickal, the Rector. The play was directed by the able guidance of Rev. Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil, and co-directed by Frs. George Valliamthadathil and Shibu Thundathil. The script writing is to the credit of the deacons Jijo Manjackal, Sijo Olickal and Sathya Seelan. The host was Suvidya College. The success of the play was: in the dramatic presentation of the founder's **PASSION FOR MISSION. TEJAS** family gratefully remembers all those who played a significant role in making this pioneering attempt a successful one. The play is also available in video form in compact discs so as to make the same available to all those missed to watch the play on our founder.

*Dn A.S.A. Sathya Seelan MSFS.*

#### 15. Treatise on the love of God: SFS Publication has released a complete and



abridged version of the spiritual classic of our Patron (as a single book) for the first time in English. The combined volume of the "Treatise on the Love of God" was released on September 26, 2012 at Suvidya College Auditorium, Bangalore. Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil released the new volume and the first copy was given to Rev. Fr. A. Rayappan, the President of St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore. Our sincere thanks and appreciation go to Fathers Antony Mookenthottam, Armind Nazareth, Henry Kodukuthiyil, and Tom Kanat. We appreciate the great contribution of the translators and the technical manager. We also congratulate Fr. Benny Koottanal and IIS team for their initiative in implementing this project.

**16. “Servant of God”: Fr. Peter Mary Mermier:** On the occasion of the 150<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of our Founder, a few reflections are published “with a view to help us return to our roots and to re-generate the strength that is needed for required renewal that each of us stands in need of”. You will receive the copies of the same shortly. Please make sure that you get a copy and also share copies with our friends and parishioners to make our Founder known. We appreciate the hard work of Rev. Fr. Noel Rebello who has translated and arranged the materials for reflection.

**17. Silver Jubilee of St. Francis De Sales Higher Primary School, Kadisenahalli (1987-2012)**



SFS School, Kadisenahalli celebrated its 25 years of existence on September 6, 2012 in a grand scale. The celebrations started with the Holy Eucharistic at 4:30 pm. Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our Provincial was the main celebrant and he very beautifully celebrated the Eucharist in Kannada. Fr. James Thomas welcomed the gathering which was attended by 21 priests, number of sisters and faithful. After the mass the cultural event took

place and Fr. James Thomas felicitated all the dignitaries and the priests who served the institution. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil released the souvenir “Belli Chukki” and handed over the copies to the dignitaries. The cultural programme was witnessed by nearly 1000 people. After the programme a fellowship meal was arranged for the guests and the people.

*Fr. James Thomas*

**18. Rev. Fr. George Vayalil MSFS Memorial Lectures at IIS**



On the 1<sup>st</sup>& 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2012 Indian Institute of Spirituality organized **Rev. Fr. George Vayalil MSFS Memorial Lectures**, the 7<sup>th</sup> of its kind, based on the topic “**Faith in God: Challenges and Responsibilities.**” Eminent Scholars, **Rev. Dr. T. Xavier Terence**, **Rev. Dr. Vincent Kundukulam** and **Rev. Dr. Augustine Pamplany CST** addressed the gathering through a series of data-based, practical and experience-based lectures. They dealt on

various topics, such as, *Faith in God: Old Testament Perspective with a Special Reference to the Pentateuch; Relevance and Challenges of Faith in the Post Modern Era and Faith and Science: Opposing or Converging Forces?*

The goal of these memorial lectures was to help everyone understand that the greatest challenge facing Christians as we are treading the third millennium is not finding answers to specific questions or solutions to specific problems, but making clear to our culture that the Christian faith is relevant to all questions and all problems. More than 120 people, including the doctoral students, MTh students and Diploma Students of IIS and a good number of Lay Persons participated in the Seminar.

*Fr. Benny G. Koottanal MSFS*

## 19. Change of address

### **Fr. Mijo Kulamkuthiyil**

Marian Retreat Centre  
Anakkara P.O., Idukki Dt.  
Kerala – 685512

### **Fr. VinoyValachathinakathu**

Fr. Vinoy has successfully completed his 3 month language course (Italian) and has reached Jerusalem, Israel. He has enrolled himself at the University “Studium Biblicum Franciscanum” for his licentiate program in Sacred Scripture and Archeology. We wish him all the best in his studies. Please note his new address:

Fr. Vinoy George msfs  
Terra Sancta College,  
KerenHayesod Str. 2  
P. O. B. 871, 91008 Jerusalem, Israel  
Tel: 00972 2 5398341  
Mobile: 00972 542578371

**Fr. Benny Valiyaveettil:** Fr. Benny informs that his old email id is hacked. Please use the new one: [bjmsfs@yahoo.com](mailto:bjmsfs@yahoo.com)

## 20. Pray for Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil:

Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil has been going through a difficult time during the past two months. He wanted to be back in his room at Charis Bhavan, and not in the hospital anymore. He asked for the anointing of the sick and he is administered the sacrament. He is confined to bed. It is sad to see a very active and dynamic confrere up until his late 80s, suddenly laid up. Please keep our dear Valyachan (Fr. Devasia) in your prayers and visit with him when you get a chance.

## 21. Let us pray for the Departed

**Fr. Lindsay Francis Hendricks**, aged 60, of Brazil Province, passed away on August 29, 2012.

**Fr. Valerian Gomes**, of Nagpur Province passed away on September 8, 2012. He was 57 years old.

**Fr. Shijo Paul Mannachamkuzhiyil**, 29 years old, of North East India Province passed away, in a road accident on 26th September 2012. “Fr. Shijo Paul was returning along with a boarding boy to Tato after dropping few catechists from Karo village. On the way back, the Jeep went down in to a gorge from the road which is on the mountain. Incident took place at Karo, around 45 Kilometers away from Tato town the last mission station of India bordering China. Taking in to consideration the views of the villagers of Karo and the place of accident, it might have taken place between 5.15 to 5.30 pm of 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012. Fr. Lukose Kavungal, the Parish Priest could reach the spot of accident only on the next day i.e 27<sup>th</sup> September 2012, at 10 am. Fr. Lukose, together with the villagers could trace the body of Fr. Shijo 70mts. down while the Jeep together with the body of the boarding boy was found 100mts. down in the valley.

The funeral service was held at MSFS study House, Mawroh on Sunday, 30th September 2012, at 2.30 pm.” We share the grief and sorrow of the North East India Province in the loss of a young confrere. May God grant him eternal rest!

**Mr. M P Philip** father of Fr. Joseph Mannukuzhumpil passed away on September 6, 2012. Please pray for him and offer our support to Fr. Mannukuzhumpil.

### **My Program:**

October 7 – 14: Bangalore

October 15-16: SFS Vidyashram, Aluva

October 17-22: SFS Seminary and Charis Bhavan Convention

October 23: Pune for the PIF meeting with the General Administration

October 28 – November 1: National CRI Meeting in Hyderabad

November 2 – 10: Bangalore

Nov. 11 – 16: Chennai

November 17 – 20: Bangalore

November 21 – 24: Sneha Jyothi in Makkiyad and Divya Jyothi in Bathery

November 25 – 29: Bangalore

November 30 – December 1: Provincial Council Meeting

### **Salesian Thought:**

**“Every mother shows her love to her baby in three ways: feeding, cleaning, and correcting, and thus did the risen Savior impart to Mother Church the mandate to cleanse in baptism, feed in Eucharist, and correct in penance ”**

*St. Francis de Sales*

**Fraternally in Christ,**



**Fr. Abraham Vettuvil MSFS  
Provincial Superior**