

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



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Circular AB/03

07 October, 2011

My dear Confreres,

Cordial Greetings from Vinayalaya, Bangalore! The month of October this year is a significant month for us in the South West India Province. Our First Provincial Chapter is going to be a milestone in the life of the Province. Immediately after our Constitution Growth Retreat (October 10 – 14) which will be attended by almost 70 confreres, we will begin our First Provincial Chapter 2011. The Chapter, I believe, will provide an orientation which empowers the new Administration to move on with a clear focus and direction. I thank you sincerely for your enthusiastic response to the Reflection Paper through clear suggestions and proposals. All our Apostolic Communities positively responded to the directives and sent the reports on time. Your prompt response, I believe, is a sign of prayerful preparation and ardent fervor for the success of the upcoming Chapter.

October is the month of Rosary and we will use this powerful prayer to seek the intercession of our Blessed Mother to keep us ever faithful to her Son and His mission. St. Francis de Sales reminds us: “If we want to ask her Son to change the water of our tepidity into the wine of His love, we must do whatever He tells us” (Sermons). If we are to experience God’s best, we must be willing to do whatever He tells us. Just because something worked five years ago does not mean that it will work today. We have to stay open to changes and challenges. We can’t get so set in our ways that we won’t try anything new. God wants us to start fresh. We shall use our God-given talents and resources for the right purposes. We shall not get stuck with the mind-set that ‘this is all I know how to do for the rest of my life.’ We shall stretch ourselves and stir up the missionary dynamism of our Founder on the inside. We shall light up the



fire of passion for God and God's people on the inside of us. We shall continue to pray that the Provincial Chapter will help us re-invent ourselves and get a renewed vision of life in the Province with the spirit of our Patron and Founder.

1. Constitution Growth - Retreat

We have almost 70 participants registered for the Constitution Growth retreat starting from October 10 - 14, 2011, in Vinayalaya. This is the annual retreat of the Province for our confreres. It is a blessing that we have such a large number of confreres coming together for retreat just a week before the Provincial Chapter. The retreat week will also serve as a great time of spiritual preparation for the Chapter. The retreat begins at 11:00 a.m. on October 10, Monday with the Eucharistic celebration. During the retreat, we will have a special session on the changes in the liturgy that is to be integrated in the celebration of the Eucharist starting from the First Sunday of Advent this year. The retreat ends on Friday 14th with lunch.

2. The preparations for the First Provincial Chapter are going on in Vinayalaya. We have 45 participants (both ex – officio and elected) along with special invitees who will be present for this spiritual event in the Province. I extend a hearty welcome to all the delegates and invitees to the Provincial Chapter. The whole Province has been actively preparing for this Chapter through group study, discussion, sharing, and intercessory prayers. I thank you sincerely for your co-operation and participation in the preparation process through the valuable suggestions and reports. Rev. Fr. Noel Rebello, the General Secretary for Formation, will be the delegate of the Superior General for the Chapter. Our Chapter begins on October 17th at 10:00 a.m. and ends on October 21st at 1:00 p. m. with lunch. We will have a prayer group here in Vinayalaya interceding for the success of the Chapter before the Eucharistic Lord during Chapter days. I request all of us to continue our prayers in our own communities and parishes for a spirit filled Chapter.

3. Provincial Statutes of South West India Province

Thank you for your group study and reports on the Provincial Statutes of the Province. We will take up the Provincial Statutes for the approval of the Chapter after incorporating your suggestions and comments.

4. General Chapter 2013

The second round of ballot paper for the election of Delegates to the General Chapter 2013 has been sent to you. Make sure that you post your votes of the second ballot as early as possible. Please do not delay in sending your vote. The Superior General has allowed us to have more time for the election process in view of receiving votes from outside India. The last date for the votes to reach the Provincial's Office is October 24th. Your participation in electing the Delegates is valuable and significant.

5. Let us pray for the success of the Provincial Congress of **Nagpur Province** from 24th to 29th October and the Provincial Congress of **Pune Province** from 24th to 28th October.

6. Congratulations!

Fr. Thonikuzhiyil Robin was born on 25.04.1984 at Chandanakampara, Kannur to Late



Mr. Mathew and Mrs. Eliyamma. He joined the minor seminary at Ettumanoor in 1999 and made his First Profession on 11.06.2003 at Sannidhi, Mysore. After his Philosophical studies at Suvidya College, he was sent to Chad-Cameroon Mission for Regency. He completed his theological studies in St. Cyprain's Institute, Yaounde, Cameroon. He was ordained Priest by His Grace Mar George Valiyamattam, Archbishop of Thalasserry on 10th September, 2011 at Cherupushpa Church, Chandanackampara.

Fr. Emile AMOUGOU is the first priest from our Chad-Cameroon Mission. He was



born on 31.08.1980 at Yaounde, Cameroon to Mr. Amougou Essama Emile and Late Mrs. Mbarga Pauline as their third child. He made his First Profession on 16.07.2004 at Fransalianum, KIBAHA. He completed his theological studies in St. Cyprain's Institute, Yaounde, Cameroon. He was ordained Priest by Most Rev. Dr. Victor TONYE BAKOT, Archbishop of Yaounde on 17th September, 2011 at St. John Mary-Vianney Parish, Nkongoa and celebrated his First Holy Eucharist on 18th September, 2011.

7. Update and Renewal Programme of Group IV will be held at Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha from 10th to 16th January 2012. The following is the list of participants from our province. All the participants are requested to fill in and send back the registration form which will reach you soon by email, to Fr. Henry Jose.

1. Arackal Shaju
2. Balavendra Jacob
3. Cheriyaakavil Prince Kurian
4. Ekka Anand
5. Ekka Francis
6. Ekka Sunil Kumar
7. Elanjimattathil Boban
8. Erniakulathil Tony
9. K.George Rosario
10. Kollarayath Jaison
11. Kujur Victor
12. Lakra Giridhari
13. Lakra Thadeus
14. Marottikudy Shalbin
15. Mattathil Joby Abraham
16. Muthukattil Reji
17. Palathadathil Aneesh
18. Panamattathil Gijo
19. Parakotttil Timson
20. Pattarakalayil Joseph
21. Paul Sudeep
22. Pezhathinal Jaison
23. Plathottathil Jino
24. Plathottathil Roy
25. Puthenparambil Bobby
26. Puthenpurackal Binod
27. Puthukary Jose
28. Puthussery Shino
29. S. Rajkumar
30. S.Arockia Samy (jr.)
31. S.Arockia Jayaraj
32. T. Paul Raj
33. Thekkekarottu Thomas
34. Thondampallil Anil

35. Thoppil Joseph
36. Thundathil Shibu
37. Tigga Praful
38. Vadakkedath Saji
39. Valachathinakathu Vinoy
40. Valiapampil Antony

41. Vallisserikettil Majish
42. Vazhaparambil Riju
43. Vellakada Sen
44. Vellaramkunnel Sathish
45. Xess Bipin Kishore

8. Inauguration and Blessing of the Books and Media centre of SFS Publications

On the 21st of September, a new Books and Media Centre of the SFS Publications was blessed and inaugurated at the Indian Institute of Spirituality. Mr. Nigel Fernandes of Asian Trading Corporation inaugurated the centre, while Dr. Abraham Vettuvellil, the Provincial of South west India province blessed it in the presence of more than 300 priests and religious and lay people. The centre works in close collaboration with the leading Christian Publications of India, such as, Asian Trading Corporation (ATC), St. Pauls Publications, Claretian Publications and Biblia Publications. At present the centre boasts of more than 1500 titles, ready for sale. These books comprise various themes such as Scripture, Theology, Psychology, Spirituality, Sociology, Homiletics, Salesian etc. There are various other titles dealing with Children, Youth, Married Couples, Better Yourself Books, Bibles from different versions and traditions, bible diaries etc. Some of the latest hits in the media, such as Youcat (Youth Catechism) and Jesus of Nazareth, Vol 2 by Pope Benedict XVI are ready for sale in the centre.



9. Releasing the second volume of 'Love of God': On the same day, the much-awaited second volume of 'the Treatise on the Love of God' was officially released by the Provincial of South West Province, Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil. All present at the function were of high admiration and praise for the wonderful work of translation done by Rev. Dr. Antony Mookenthottam, Rev. Fr. Armind Nazareth and Rev. Dr. Henry Jose.

10. Twenty First Charis Bhavan Annual Bible Convention was held from September 20th to 24th under the title *Abhishekhagni Convention*, conducted by



Rev. Fr. Xavier Khan Vattayil from **Sehion Retreat Centre in Attappadi, Palakkad**. The Convention Nagar was packed to its capacity from the very first day and we had to extend the 'panthal' on the second day. Many occupied the neighbouring rubber

plantation and houses adjacent to the convention nagar. On the last day there was no place for people to sit, many had to stand almost full day. Charis Bhavan never witnessed such a big crowd before. Rt. Rev. Dr. Sebastian Thekkethecheril bishop of Vijayapuram blessed the convention with his inaugural address, inviting thousands gathered to journey through life with the power of the Word. The concluding message was given by our Provincial Rev Fr Abraham Vettuvellil who celebrated Eucharist together with the Charis Bhavan Community Members. Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Pandarassery, the Auxilliary Bishop of Kottayam Arch-Diocese celebrated the Eucharist on Friday 23rd and gave away the prizes and certificates to the Charis Bhavan Evangelization School Students.

Special arrangements were made for the bedridden and sick people to attend the convention. Charis Bhavan experienced a great boost, for it saw a great crowd in its premises and a big support from the local people and the neighbours who whole heartedly welcomed and supported the convention and also opened their gates to accommodate the vehicles which could not be contained on the road. The convention was a huge success touching the lives of thousands of people, and bringing blessings. Charis Bhavan Team organized the event with the support of different lay ministers.

11. Celebration of the feast and Blessing of the Statue of Mother of Sorrows.

This year the celebration of the Feast of Mother of Sorrows in Charis Bhavan was something unique and special. A 16 feet colourful **Statue of Mother Sorrows**, probably the biggest one of its kind, was blessed on the **15th September 2011** by **Rt. Rev. Dr. Sebastian Thekkethecheril** bishop of **Vijayapuram**, on the **feast of Mother Sorrows at 5 pm**. It was an initiative from Fr Devassia kuzhuppil msfs, who conceived the idea and found the sponsor for it. A Rosary of 7 dollars each was given freely to all who attended the blessing. This Statue a masterpiece of the human creative spirit, is really an amazing landmark and would become the most celebrated symbol of Charis Bhavan.



12. S F S Youth Meet



was held at Srinivasapur on 27.09.2011 at 9.am. 154 youths from ten parishes in Karnataka took part in it. The theme of the day was 'Yes, we need a Change'. Fr.Jabamalai in his introductory talk explained the theme. Fr. Christopher Crasta offered the Holy Mass and preached the homily. Fr.Perianayagam gave a talk on the topic 'Yes, we need a change'. All the youths took part actively in the Dance and Bible skit competitions. Lunch was provided to all the youths at 1.30 pm. Frs. Joshy,

Joseph Thoppil and Jojo inaugurated the volley ball and throw ball matches. The programme ended with the concluding ceremony and prize distribution by Fr. Irudayaraj and Fr. Joshy. Fr. Jabamalai thanked everyone who helped for the success of the meet.

13. ICSE School, Koppal has received the Certificate of affiliation from the ICSE Council, New Delhi. The school is now affiliated to the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examination (New Delhi) that administers ICSE Public Examinations. We thank and congratulate Frs. Eanthanamkuzhyil Saji, Kurakalayil Binoy, Thoppil Joseph, MSFS Community at Koppal and all those who are involved in the process of securing the affiliation.

14. Institute Day Celebrations at IIS

The institute day of the Indian Institute of Spirituality was celebrated on 21 September 2011. The solemn Eucharist was presided over by the president of the Institute, Rev. Dr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS, the Provincial of the South West province. Confreres, other Priests and religious, friends and well wishers of the Institute were present for the Eucharistic celebration and for the cultural events. The cultural evening was very distinct by the presence of many distinguished guests including the central figures of Catholic Publications in India, many provincials and superiors of various religious congregations. The chief guest Dr. J. Alexander, Former chief secretary and Former cabinet Minister of Government of Karnataka, gave an inspiring message. The cultural evening excellently portrayed the professional and qualitative performance of IIS students, mirroring the life and activities at IIS.

15. News from Shimoga Mission

Based on the decisions of the provincial administration in taking up new missions in Shimoga Diocese, we are in Honnali, a town in Davangere district of Karnataka, since July 2011. As per the directions given by the provincial, we are making an exploratory study in starting new missions here and in other possible places in the diocese. Meanwhile, we are also engaged in giving some tuition for the children in the village schools. We are also visiting the mission stations of the other religious congregations and the diocese for exploratory reasons in view of establishing our mission.

Frs. Timson & Tony

16. "Role of Women in Media" a book Edited by **Fr. Sudeep Paul**, was released on 24th September 2011. The book contains detailed reports of a national seminar organised at SFS College on the topic of women's place in the phantasmagoric world of journalism: what role they play there; how they are represented in different media; what can be done to rectify the imbalance. The book tries to answer the following questions: the attractions, opportunities, dangers etc. of journalism and the monetary compensation sufficient to warrant the risks associated with danger zone reporting. Congratulations to Fr. Sudeep for his excellent work.

17. Let us pray for the Departed

Fr. Placide DAYER of Franco-Swiss Province who breathed his last at the age of 84 on 14th September 2011 ; he was a religious for 63 years, and a priest for 58 years. Fr. Dayer was born at Hérémente, Valais, Switzerland. For almost 40 years he was a Professor of Science at Florimont (also many times Superior of the community). He was very fond of photography, and from his pictures we have now the Power Point on the life of SFS and Fr. MERMIER. His last ministry was that of Chaplain in hospital and clinic at Sierre; then he retired at Bonlieu, Fribourg. He spent his last year at the Home for the aged at St Sylve near Hérémente.

Mr. Joy Mecheril, the father of Fr. Jais Mecheril passed away on October 04, 2011. He was 65 years old.

Mrs. Mariamma, the paternal grandmother of Fr. Abey Thunduparampil passed away on October 03, 2011. She was 89 years old.

Salesian Thoughts

“In all dangers, in all tempests...look at this star of the sea (Mary) and invoke her. With her favour your ship will arrive at port without disaster and without shipwreck.” (Sermons 2 22)

God Bless you
Yours Fraternally



Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS
Provincial