

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



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Circular AB/05

December 18, 2011

My dear Confreres,



I wish each one of you a **Merry Christmas** and a **Blessed New Year**. Christmas is the feast we celebrate with our people, families, and our confreres in our communities with great energy. We exchange gifts and share meals with each other. In the midst of our gatherings for celebration and for eating together, we shall also keep in mind the disadvantaged, the suffering, the physically and mentally challenged, the broken-hearted, the powerless, the people going through crises, and the people dealing with addictions or sexual problems. They are the ones who come before each one of us holding a gift. It is the gift of those things we hate: insecurity, disability, not-so-smart-people, and a wound in the heart, a hole in the soul, a sexual problem or addiction. Often we tend to shun those who are not like us. We need to receive the gifts they bring to us and thereby must face our own failures and get converted ourselves. For us Christians, power is always hidden in powerlessness, just as God was hidden in a poor baby in the manger.

The incarnation of Jesus – Christmas – demonstrates that God meets us where we are. We do not have to leave the world or whatever place we are right now or give up our humanness in order to know God. Simply we must turn from evil. Redemption cannot happen apart from incarnation. Redemption is not experienced until the wound is received; sin is recognized and named exactly and specifically for what it is. God enters into our sin and redeems it. God meets us in our powerlessness and helplessness. God meets us in our wounded-ness and addiction. God meets us where we are right now. Christmas reminds us that in JESUS God achieved the perfect synthesis of divine and human. In the birth of Jesus, GOD – MAN, we are also sent to continue the saving pattern of embodiment. As we become more and more human like Jesus, we realize our divine nature. We are already spiritual and please do not get into breast beating and putting yourself down to be more spiritual. All what we need is to be a little more forgiving, kind, gentle, patient, compassionate, non-judgmental, understanding, loving, caring, accepting toward our people and community members. Be available to touch the

lives of the disadvantaged around us. In short, be a little more HUMAN because God became HUMAN. May God bless us to be more human like our Patron, St. Francis de Sales. We shall resolve to be a little more human in the coming year.

1. Ongoing Formation Program for the Provincial Curias

Under the guidance of the Superior General and the General Administration, an Ongoing Formation Program for all the Indian Provincials and East African Provincial and the Councilors and Bursars of the Provincial Administrations in India was conducted at Stella Maris, Visakhapatnam from November 1 – 4 , 2011. There were 37 participants (100%) and the members of the General Curia. There were five new Provincials and their teams in the group. The objective was to evolve a common orientation in administration in all the Provinces. The four day in- training program consisted of two parts. The first two days (in the first part) were animated by a resource person, Fr. Joe Arimpoor SDB, who highlighted the skills of facilitating groups. The input sessions stressed on:

1. Facilitating the upward movement from mediocre to committed religious life
2. Leading a good Province to a great Province

The second part of the program was animated by the Superior General and the Assistant General who stressed on the five points as the focus of the Ongoing Formation:

1. Understanding Leadership in Religious Life
2. Identifying skills we need to make collective decisions, like discernment, communication, and spiritual animation
3. Our resolve to change the leadership style – when and where it needs change
4. Knowledge and understanding of administrative procedures, according to the Constitutions, General Directory, and Canon Law
5. Financial Administration

The participants expressed their deep appreciation for the clarity and awareness on the new governance that the program provided.

2. Provincial Councillors and their Respective Forums

Fr. Parappillil Jose: Councillor In Charge (CIC) of Mission and Provincial Admonitor

Fr. Kumblolickal Jose: CIC of Innovative Ministries and Human Resources

Fr. Koottanal Benny: CIC of Formation

Fr. Kalariparambil Thomas: CIC of Education

3. Fr. Terry McGrath as the new Provincial Superior of English Province:

During the General Council Meeting held in Visakh, Rev. Fr. Superior General has appointed **Fr Terry McGrath** as the Provincial Superior of English Province. Fr Terry McGrath at present is the Retreat Director of Parkside House at Harrogate in North Yorkshire. He will assume charge of his responsibility from January 24, 2012.

4. Update on Fr. Benny Valiaveetil

Fr. Benny Valiaveetil is much better now. He is shifted to the normal ward on Friday (9th December) evening. Fr. Roji was with him on Saturday evening and found him without any tubes and support which is a welcome sign. Fr. Benny spoke with his parents over phone and now can eat normal food. We shall continue to pray for Fr. Benny's healing.

5. Expert Standing Committee for the Apostolate of Education

As decided in the Provincial Chapter 2011 and as highlighted in the Action Plan of the Chapter, we have constituted an Expert Standing Committee to plan, promote, and evaluate the functioning of all our education institutions. The members of the committee are:

Fr. Kalariparambil Thomas (CIC of Education)

Fr. Kurakalayil Binoy (Secretary of Education)

Fr. A. Anthony Swamy

Fr. Parappally Jacob and

Fr. A. Jabamalai

6. Provincial Vicar

I am making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from December 21st through 28th with a group of 72 pilgrims from Charis Bhavan including MSFS fathers from other Provinces. It has been my long cherished desire to make a retreat cum pilgrimage trip to the land where our Lord walked and preached the good news. Know that you and your intentions and intentions of our Province will be very close to me in my prayers. In my absence, Father Jose Parappillil, the Admonitor, will be the Provincial Vicar. Please contact him for any consultation or need.

7. Constitution Retreat on Community Living

The Retreats for the year 2012 are arranged already. Please make sure that every confrere in our Province attends the retreat without fail. I was disappointed that almost 30 confreres from our Province did not attend the Constitution Growth Retreat arranged in three places this year (2011). Annual Retreat is a constitutional requirement and attending the annual Province Retreat is to be highlighted in your priority list. Please mark your calendar today and contact Father Prince to register your name so that you attend the Constitution Retreat on Community Living as scheduled:

April 16 – 20, 2012: Sneha Jyothi, Makkiyad

May 07 – 11, 2012: Vinayalaya, Bangalore

October 22 – 26, 2012: Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha

8. Update and Renewal Programme of Group IV will be held at Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha from 10th to 16th January 2012. Those who did not attend the Update programs in Vinayalaya and Visakhapatnam in 2011 are also expected to attend this Update program which will be organized in **Charis Bhavan from January 10 – 16, 2012**. Please make sure that you contact Father Henry Jose at 09448819733 or henrymsfs@gmail.com on or before December 22, 2011.

9. Regents Meet for Mid-Evaluation

All the regents are requested to attend the mid-evaluation of regency to be conducted in Vinayalaya from January 8-11, 2012. Local Superiors please make arrangements for the regents to attend this programme.

10. Appointments

Fr. Arackal Manoj is appointed as the Mission Procurator of Chad-Cameroon Mission with effect from October 10, 2011

Fr. Amougou Amougou Emile is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest and Assistant Chaplain at Bini-Dang.

Fr. Thonikuzhiyil Robin is designated to be appointed as Assistant Parish Priest of Doba, Comboni Parish.

Fr. Elanjimattathil Boban is appointed as Superior and Procurator of MSFS Community at Ekoumdoum with effect from November 02, 2011

Fr. Sandeep Tirkey is appointed as Procurator and person in charge of the school at Bero with effect from November 07, 2011

Fr. Lakra Giridhari is appointed as the Director of aspirants at La Feuillette for a short duration starting from November 03, 2011

Fr. Jose Parappillil is appointed as the Assistant Director of Charis Marian Maids. Father Jose will assist Fr. O.V. Zacharias, the Director, in the spiritual animation of the Charis Marian Maids community through classes, monthly recollection, sacrament of reconciliation, and spiritual guidance.

Fr. S. Arokiasamy is appointed co-ordinator of the Social Apostolate of Fides India.

Fr. Joseph Kannadam is appointed Director and Administrator of Saumya Sadan, Mysore.

Fr. Kurakalayil Binoy is appointed the Secretary of Education

Fr. Herold Christopher Crasta is appointed co-ordinator from South West India Province in publishing **the History of our Congregation in India from 1920** in view of 175th anniversary of the Foundation of our Congregation.

11. Bon Voyage



Fr. Pezhathinal Jaison has left for pastoral ministry in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, USA on November 27, 2011. His Grace Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston has appointed him as parochial vicar of St. Anthony of Padua Church in the Woodlands with effect from December 15, 2011. Fr. Jaison was rendering his service as the programme coordinator of FIDESIndia and as a member of Tejas Vidya Peetha he was executing the construction of Tejas. Thank you for your committed service to TEJAS and Fides India. We wish you a fruitful ministry in the US.



Fr. Kannanaikkal Jose is designated for doctoral studies in the Academy for Philosophy at Munich in Germany. He will leave for Germany on December 19, 2011. He has been a member of the staff of Suvidya College from June 01, 2007 and was rendering his service as formator and professor. We appreciate your dedicated service in the ministry of Formation in Suvidya College. Herzogliches Georgianum has kindly consented to provide accommodation to him during his studies. The Archdiocese of Munich has agreed to support his studies with a scholarship. We wish you all the best in your studies.

12. Promotion to Priesthood.

Nine of our Deacons are promoted to priesthood. The dates of their ordinations are as follows:

Name	Date	Time	Place
Dn. Chemplanickal Jijo	26-12-2011	9.00 a.m.	St. Joseph's Church, Radamkadavu
Dn. Kazhukanolickal Joji	27-12-2011	9.30 a.m.	St. George Church, Kulathuvayal
Dn. Kuldeep Kujur	31-12-2011	7.30 a.m.	St. Joseph's Church, Ekamba
Dn. Cheravelil Jikson	31-12-2011	9.30 a.m.	St. George Church, Vayala
Dn. Kulamkuthiyil Mijo	02-01-2012	9.00 a.m.	St. Mary's Forane Church, Athirampuzha
Dn. A. Mathias	09-01-2012		St. Xavier's Church, Gokunte
Dn. D.Robert	11-01-2012	10.00 a.m.	St. Ignatius Church, Gadenahalli, Hassan
Dn. Prabhu Prakash	13-01-2012	9.00 a.m.	St. Joseph Catholic Ashram, Manpur
Dn. Marcel Dungdung	21-01-2012	8.00 a.m.	Our Lady of Assumption Church, Kusumdegi

13. Updates from Our Students Abroad

Fr. Roji Kuttivayalil has completed two years of Ph. D in media and started his third year in October 2011. Besides being a full time research student he is also a full time priest of a large parish that demands a lot of pastoral ministry. Congratulations to you Father Roji for your success in studies and we thank you for taking care of Father Benny. All the best for the rest of your studies.

Fr. Binu Edathumparambil is pursuing his Ph. D in Psychotherapy/Family Therapy at St. Louis University, one of the best universities in the US. His program has five components: Course work, Comprehensive exams, Clinical and Supervision Practicum, Internship and Dissertation. He has started his course work in August 2009 and will be finishing it by this December. Since he has already passed his comprehensive exams in September, he is starting his internship in January. He got accepted for internship at St. Louis Psychoanalytic Institute. He hopes to finish his studies in another two and a half to three years. Besides his studies he is the Associate Pastor of a parish with 3500 families. Congratulations to you Father Binu for your accomplishment!

Fr. Tom Pannalakunnel has completed the course work for the Doctor of Education in Counselor Education and Supervision. He has also completed his internship and practicum. Now he is starting his dissertation which is a research on Substance abuse (Drug addiction and alcoholism), other related issues and the role of spirituality.

He hopes to finish his research within 18 months.

Congrats Father Tom for your efforts and successful accomplishments!

Fr. Sibichan Panthanmakkal has completed his Licentiate in Sacred Scripture at Gregorianum University and he has started his doctoral studies at the Urbaniana University. Congratulations to you Father Sibichan for your success in studies and your hard work!

14. South west India Province: We shall call our Province hereafter “**South West India Province**” instead of South West Province as this new name gives more clarity to its geographical location with reference to India.

15. New Address of Fr. Jaison Pezhathinal

St. Anthony of Padua Church, 7801 Bay Branch Drive
The Woodlands, Texas 77382-5359

16. From Fr. Sudeep Paul

Just a li'l note to say a big 'Thank You' to all of you, dear Confreres, for your whole-hearted co-operation when I approached you with the documentary project about our Province. I approached it with trepidation at heart as I was charting a new terrain. Now that the project has been completed, in hindsight I realize how much your support mattered at that time. Making the documentary has been a new and enriching experience. Meeting confreres in their work stations and interacting with them in existential situations was deeply satisfying. I could fathom the struggles and difficulties our Fathers face in their daily businesses and with what determination they face the future.

Let me add a special word of thanks to Fr Jiji Konthananickal from the North East India Province who closely collaborated in producing the DVD. He was all eyes and ears as we plodded along ... Thank you, Fr Jiji. Thank you, friends and Fathers!

Love, Sudeep Paul, msfs

17. May the faithful departed through the mercy of God Rest In Peace!

Mrs. Annamma Mathew, maternal mother of Fr. Reji Muthukattil passed away on November 13, 2011. She was 99 years old.

Mr. K.J. Devasia, father of Fr. Wilson Kottam passed away on November 19, 2011. He was 91 years old.

Mrs. Mariam, sister of Fr. K.V. Joseph passed away on December 13, 2011. She was 76 years old.

Salesian Thought:

"In order to pray well we must acknowledge that we are poor, and we must greatly humble ourselves When we wish our prayer to reach Heaven we must lower ourselves by the awareness of our nothingness" St. Francis de Sales

Wishing you once again a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year,

Fraternally in Christ,



Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS
Provincial





CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

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15th November 2011

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LETTER FROM THE SUPERIOR GENERAL TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Ref : 19th Ordinary General Chapter ,2013

My Dear Confreres

I greet you in the Peace and Joy of Jesus!

In this letter I want to share with you decisions and information concerning the Preparation for the 19th Ordinary General Chapter,2013 (19GC, 2013). As material and administrative preparations are in progress for this significant event in the life of the Congregation, I urge you to sustain and intensify the spiritual preparation. Only open and empty hearts can be filled by the riches of God's love and of His spirit. May this spiritual preparation influence our thoughts and entire being to respond to what God asks of us through our collective discernment and decisions

THE CAPITULANTS OF THE 19TH ORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER

The process of election of delegates from the Provinces to the General Chapter is completed and I have the joy to announce to you the capitulants of 19th General Chapter:

Ex-officio members

- 1The Superior General
- 2The Assistant General
- 3The General Councillor
- 4The General Councillor
- 5The General Councillor
- 6The General Bursar

- 7The Provincial of Brasil
- 8The Provincial of East Africa
- 9The Provincial of England
- 10The Provincial of Franco Swiss
- 11The Provincial of Nagpur
- 12The Provincial of North-East India
- 13The Provincial of Pune
- 14The Provincial of South-East India
- 15The Provincial of South-West India

- 16The Provincial of Visakhapatnam
17The Regional Superior of USA Region

Delegates

- 18 Delegate from Brasil, Fr Thomas Aerathedathu
19Delegate from East Africa, Fr Sunny Vettickal
20Delegate from England, Jean-Patrice Coulon
21Delegate from Franco-Swiss Fr Jean Paul Fournier
22Delegate from Nagpur Province Fr David Paul,
23Delegate from Nagpur Fr Sebastian Annaikandathil
24Delegate from Nagpur, Fr Joseph Pulloppillil
25Delegate from North-East India, Fr. Joseph Thazhathukunnel
26Delegate from the North-East India, Fr. Emmanuel Uppamthadathil
27Delegate from the North-East India, Fr George Panthanmackel
28Delegate from Pune, Fr Paul Sagayam
29Delegate from Pune, Fr Jayseelan
30Delegate from South-East India, Fr George Kootinal
31Delegate from South-East India, Ignaci Muthu
32Delegate from South-East India, Edward A
33Delegate from South-West India, Jose Kumblolickal
34Delegate from South-West India, Jose Parappillil
35Delegate from South-West India, Thomas Kalariparambil
36Delegate from Visakapatnam, Jolly Chakkalackal
37Delegate from Visakhapatnam, Alappat George
38Delegate from Visakhapatnam, Sesetty Mariadas.

Invitees:

- 39 Superior Delegate of the Superior General in GAH
40 Fr Emile Mayoraz

DATES AND VENUE OF THE 19TH ORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER

As informed in the letter of convocation of the 19th General Chapter ,it will take place from **1st February 2013 to 15th February 2013 at Nirmala Dhyana Sadan, Athavelly, Medchal (near Hyderabad, India) followed by a pilgrimage to Vishakhapatnam and Yanam to mark the 175 years of the foundation of our Congregation from 16th to 17th February 2013 (both days inclusive)**

APPOINTMENT OF THE PRE-CAPITULAR COMMISSION

In the General Council Meeting of Nov 2011, the Superior General with the consent of the General Council constituted the full Pre-Capitular Commission of the 19th GC. The members of the PreCapitular Commission are :

- The Provincial of Visakh Province
Fr Noel Rebello
Fr George Parampukkattil
Fr Thumma Mariadas Reddy
Fr Edward A
Fr Jose Kumblolickal

The Pre-capitular Commission under the chairmanship of the Superior General and the Vice-Chairmanship of the Secretary General of the General Chapter will attend to the task of the entire preparation of the General Chapter in detail. It will monitor and regulate and collate Reports, suggestions, proposals, etc from the Provincials/Regional Superior, members, and communities, prepare a dossier of documents to be sent to each of the capitulants.

THE GENERAL SECRETARY OF 19TH GC

With the consent of the General Council, I am glad to appoint Fr **Thumma Mariadas Reddy** as the General Secretary of the 19th GC.

The General Secretary will be the ex-officio vice-chairman of the Pre-capitular Commission and the General Secretary of the 19th GC.

As the Vice-Chairman he is authorized to convoke meetings of the Pre Capitular Commission in the absence of the Superior General and attend to all matters concerning the 19th GC and after endorsement by the Superior General, he will communicate the same to the Provincials, the capitulants and to the members of the Congregation.

As the General Secretary of the General Chapter, he will superintend all the arrangements for the General Chapter, organize its dynamics and be responsible for the smooth functioning of the General Chapter.

Please note the **office address and other details of the General Secretary**

Fr Thumma Mariadas Reddy, MSFS
General Secretary, 19th GC
Mermier Bhavan MSFS House
Dayanand Nagar, Malkajgiri
Hyderabad 500 047, Andhra Pradesh, India

House Phone number: 040- 27060504

Cell Number: +919440114705

Email id: marthumm@yahoo.com

All Reports, Proposals to be submitted by Provincials, Regional Superior, the General Secretariats of Apostolates, as per the Time-Frame Schedule in the Preparation Booklet and as informed should reach the General Secretary in time.

POWER OF PRAYER

On an occasion like the General Chapter, the Congregation is called to rediscover the power of prayer which merited to Fr Mermier the gift of the charism of our Congregation. Prayer changes our hearts. It gets us back to the basics. It reignites fires of zeal that are extinguishing. It makes us singly and undividedly simple in our focus on what really matters for religious. It sharpens our reflexes to mission urgencies of today. It transforms us into joy filled and passionate disciples of Jesus and of His Mission. May all your preparation and discernments of suggestions and proposals for the good of the Congregation be through the power of prayer. I reiterate my appeal to each confrere and each local community to recite in earnest the Prayer to the Holy Spirit. It is a token

gesture of our unity in prayer. A prayer Card with prayer on one side and lyrics of a hymn on the other side are sent to each one of you along with the Booklet on Preparation for the 19th GC. Soon the Provincial will give each community a CD with a tune of the Song. In the western provinces and units it will be sent as an attachment to email .It contains the song as well as the music that can be prayerfully enjoyed or learnt and sung. The copy of notations for those who can read music is available with the Provincial. You may request his office to send you a copy. Do make use of it. Let the confreres, the people under your care, your parishioners, wherever it is possible, learn this hymn. Let the people whom we serve also pray for us. Cultivate the awareness of the peace-filled, joy filled presence of the Holy Spirit, the climate of our preparation towards the General Chapter not only among ourselves but also among our people. Please ask all the people whom we serve to pray for the General Chapter. Indeed in prayer we have our strength and wisdom.

GRATITUDE

The General Council and I are immensely grateful and appreciative of the services that several of our confreres have rendered in helping us prepare the initial phase of the Preparation Inputs for the General Chapter. They have been prompt in accepting my request and have been generous with their talents and abilities to give this fraternal service to the confreres. Undoubtedly you will join me in saying Thank You to each of them.

Fr Yves Carron, Fr Martin Griffin
and Fr Thomas Aerathedathu : Preparation of the Draft of Working Paper 1 of 19th
GC

Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil and
Fr Jose Kumblolickal: Preparation of the Draft of Working Paper 2 of 19th GC

Fr KP Joseph and
Fr Johnson Kalludikil Preparation of the Draft of Working Paper 3 of 19th GC

Fr Denis Lemos and his musicians Lyrics based on the Prayer to the Holy
Spirit and Music and the recording of the
CD

Fr Philip Valakodiyil
and Fr Ebin Christopher for supervising the printing and publishing
of the Booklet of Preparation to 19th GC and
in its dispatch to the distribution centers.

With cordial fraternal greetings and wishing you a fruitful advent season
Yours devotedly



Fr Agnelo Fernandes, MSFS
Superior General