

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



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Circular AB/07

March 09, 2012

My dear Confreres,



Fraternal and Warm Greetings from Vinayalaya.

We are spiritually journeying through the season of Lent. This season is meant to take us deeper into our hearts, into the hidden sanctuary of our souls, and into the subtle place of our conscience. Heart is the place of our deepest secrets and also the place of greatest deception. The Bible teaches us: “Who can understand the human heart? There is nothing else so deceitful; it is too sick to be healed” (Jeremiah 17: 9). Lent gives us an opportunity to receive a ‘new heart’, to become what we could never become on our own strength.

The first Sunday of Lent has already put us into the right perspective. God sent the great flood to wash away sin and evil from the earth. God then made a covenant with Noah and his descendants that God will never again send such a flood on the earth. The letter of St. Peter reminds us that when we pass through the waters of baptism, all that is sinful in us is washed away and we enter into a new covenant relationship with God. Though we are completely cleansed at our baptism we continue to fall into sin. We are still weak. We all have personal weaknesses and failures. Even the great men and women of the Bible made mistakes. They had their shortcomings, but that did not stop God from loving them, blessing them, and using them to accomplish great things. We need to be continually cleansed and healed by God’s grace.

The gospel reminds us that Jesus stayed for forty days in the desert being tempted by Satan. Desert or wilderness is a good description of our human nature and condition damaged by sin. Our human nature without God is a barren place, a desert, a wilderness, an unproductive space, a dry and a desolate place where not much can grow. Just as Jesus entered the wilderness and encountered wild beasts, the season of Lent invites us to enter into our sinful, helpless, and human condition and encounter the wild and sinful tendencies in us. The wild beast is a good description of our own selfish motivation and private agendas that distract us from serving God and our neighbor.

May this season of Lent give us an opportunity to sit honestly and quietly before God individually and as a community. We ask the Holy Spirit to show us more clearly our human condition. This in itself is an entry into the desert. This entry is also a call to act with a higher motivation than that of pleasure, satisfaction, power, position, name, fame, and reputation. The higher motivation is the motivation of Jesus himself who wanted nothing but obedience to the will of the Father for the mission. Have a blessed Lenten journey!

1. Adhoc committee on MSFS Constitution and General Directory

Rev. Fr. Superior General has constituted an Adhoc Committee on MSFS Constitution and General Directory consisting of **Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil, Fr. Ignaci Muthu, Fr. George Koottinal and Fr. A. Jerome.** **Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil** is appointed as the Convener and the Co-ordinator of this Committee.

2. Expert Standing Committee for the Apostolate of Education in the Province

The Expert Committee met in Vinayalaya on March 7 – 8 to draw up a common policy of education for all the educational institutions in the Province. In the light of the Action Plan of the Provincial Chapter, the committee is working on the roles of the Manager/Correspondent, Principal, Vice – Principal, and Administrator with their job description for effective, efficient, and transparent functioning of the Educational Institutions. I thank the Committee for the excellent job they are doing.

3. Forum meetings and Dates

Innovative Ministry Forum: April 27 – 28, 2012 at Vinayalaya, Bangalore

Education Forum: May 14, 2012 at Vinayalaya, Bangalore

Formation Forum: May 22 – 23, 2012 at Vinayalaya, Bangalore

Members of the respective Forums please make sure that you take note of the dates and attend the Forum Meetings.

4. Budget Proposal for 2012-13

Annual Budget forms are already dispatched. This budgeting is very important as it helps planning of the Province resources. Treat this as important and submit your budget proposals to the Bursar's office latest by March 25, 2012

5. Reminder to Register for the Constitution Retreat - 2012

The Retreats for the year 2012 are arranged in three places Makkiyad, Vinayalaya and Aluva. Please hurry up with your registration for better organization of the retreats. The retreat is mandatory for all the confreres. Let me remind all of us that we should not repeat history of last year where a good number of confreres did not seriously plan out to attend the retreat.

Please note the change of venue. The venue for the Constitution retreat No.3 from October 22-26, 2012 is changed from Charis Bhavan to **SFS Vidyashram, Aluva** due to Charis Bhavan Convention-2012. The number of participants for Retreat No. 3 at Aluva is limited to 25 confreres only due to accommodation problem. Please make sure that most of us will attend Retreat 1 and Retreat 2. **The Local Superiors of all the Local Communities in the Province please make sure to participate in Retreat 2 from May 07-11, 2012 in Vinavalaya which is primarily meant for them. Others may also attend the same retreat.** Please register your name with Fr. Prince latest by March 20, 2012.

6. Discussion on the third working paper of General Chapter 2013

Conveners of all the Apostolic communities are requested to arrange an Apostolic Community meeting to discuss the Third Working paper of the General Chapter 2013. The **last date** for submitting the report to the Provincial's office is **March 20, 2012**

7. Congratulations and Prayerful Wishes to Rev. Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil as he turns Diamond



Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil is celebrating his 60th Ordination Anniversary on March 16, 2012. He was ordained a priest on March 16, 1952 at St. Mary's Church, Athirampuzha. The Charis Bhavan Community is celebrating the day to honor and to felicitate Fr. Kuzhupil. On behalf of our Province family, I congratulate the diamond Jubilarian and acknowledge his contributions to the Congregation in India and his inspiring life, hard work, commitment and vision.

8. New Minor Seminary in Mysore

A Minor Seminary in Karnataka has been a long cherished dream of the Province. Action Plan of the Provincial Chapter also clearly mandates the Province to do the same. I am happy to announce that we will be opening the new three years Minor Seminary Formation Program in Sannidhi, Mysore from June 2012. The present group of seminarians in Sannidhi who are promoted will continue the Formation Program at S.F.S. Seminary Ettumanoor from this June. The candidates who join the Minor Seminary from this June will complete the three year course in Sannidhi.

9. Secretaries of the Different Forums

Fr. D. Jeevan Prasad: Secretary to Innovative Ministry Forum

Fr. Balavendra Jacob: Secretary to Mission Forum

Fr. Binoy Kurakalayil: Secretary to the Education Forum

Fr. George Valliamthadathil: Secretary to the Formation Forum

New MSFS Governance explains the role of the Secretary of the Forum: As Convenor and Secretary, the Secretary of the Forum prepares the meeting, the agenda, convokes it and conducts the meeting, with the Provincial Councillor in Charge or Provincial as the Chairman.

10. Appointments

Fr. Maliekal Jose is appointed as Rector and Superior of SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor and the Manager of SFS Public School and Junior College, Ettumanoor with effect from June 1, 2012

Fr. Anchanickal Thomas is appointed as Novice Master and Superior of Sneha Jyothi Ashram, Makkiyad with effect from May 28, 2012

Fr. Kumbloickal Jose is appointed Rector of Tejas Vidya Peetha (Theologate) and Superior of the community with effect from June 1, 2012.

Fr. Jose Kokkandathil is appointed Administrator of S.F.S. group of Institutions and Parish Priest of Our Lady of Sorrows Syro Malabar Parish at Hebbagodi, Bangalore with effect from June 1, 2012.

Fr. Saji Vadakedathu is appointed as Manager of Vinayakumar Estate and Superior of MSFS community in Nilambur with effect from June 1, 2012

Fr. Valliamthadathil George is appointed on the staff at Tejas Vidya Peetha with effect from June 1, 2012

Fr. Mattathil Joby is appointed procurator of SFS Seminary Ettumanoor and administrator of SFS Public School and Junior College with effect from June 10, 2012

Fr. Balavendra Jacob is appointed Rector of the New Minor Seminary at Sannidhi, Mysore with effect from May 20, 2012

Fr. Plathottathil Jino is appointed as Principal of S. F. S. Degree College, Hebbagodi with effect from May 5, 2012

Fr. Christopher Crasta is appointed Principal of S.F.S. P.U. College, Hebbagodi with effect from April 15, 2012

Fr. Thekkekarottu Thomas is designated for doctoral studies in Missiology in the University of Burgos, Spain

Fr. Valachathinakathu Vinoy is designated for doctorate in Biblical Theology.

Fr. K.V Joseph is appointed as the Director of Prateeksha Boy's Home at Ulickal with effect from June 1, 2012.

Fr. Thondampallil Anil is appointed as Director of Charis Nikethan and member of the Retreat Team at Charis Bhavan with effect from June 1, 2012

Fr. J. Pangiraj is appointed as Socius and Procurator of Snehajyothi Ashram, Makkiyad with effect from May 28, 2012.

Fr. Kollarayath Jaison is appointed as Programme Co-ordinator and Manager of the Farm at Snehajyothi Ashram, Makkiyad with effect from May 28, 2012

Fr. Parappuram Louis is designated for pastoral ministry in Germany

Fr. S. Arokiya Jayaraj is designated for pastoral ministry in Germany

Fr. Mannukuzhumpil Joseph is designated for pastoral ministry in Germany

Fr. Chirackal Justin is designated for pastoral ministry in Germany

Fr. Valiyaparambil Antony is designated for pastoral ministry in the Franco-Swiss Province

Fr. Lakra Thadeus is designated for pastoral ministry in Franco-Swiss Province

Fr. Parappally Jacob is on sabbatical leave from June 1, 2012 to June 1, 2013. During this period he will have his residence at SFS Vidyashram, Aluva.

Fr. Koottarappallil Devasia is appointed by Mar Andrews Thazhath as Counsellor at Marriage Reconciliation Office of the Archdiocese of Trichur with effect from February 8, 2012.

Those who are on the transfer list will please make sure that you visit and consult with your respective predecessor and learn about your responsibilities during the months of April and May. This will help you to function better as you move into the new apostolate.

11. Report on the Canonical visit of Rev. Fr. Provincial to the Philippine Delegation

Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, the Provincial, arrived in the Philippine Delegation on February 10, 2012 for his canonical visit to all the confreres. On February 12, he visited Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Molino in the diocese of Imus, which is entrusted to the Congregation of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales. Fr Provincial addressed the Fransalian Youth and inspired them with the virtues and spirituality of St Francis de Sales. He celebrated the holy Eucharist and thanked all the parishioners and pastoral council members for their cordiality love and affection to MSFS Fathers and brothers.

Fr Provincial preached the Constitutional growth retreat for the confreres from February 13 to 15. He enlightened and inspired the confreres through his talks, adoration, and homilies. He reminded us that the Constitutions of the Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales is what constitutes us as MSFS. We are called to live in the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and the missionary dynamism of Fr. Peter Mary Mermier. Fr.

Provincial also gave conferences to the 17 aspirants and 10 philosophers in MSFS Formation House Silang and personally met the 4 professed members in MSFS Scholasticate. He inspired them through his talks, reflections and homilies. Brothers welcomed Fr. Provincial by staging a colorful



cultural program. Fr. Provincial appreciated and encouraged them for their variety of talents. There was a one day picnic with the confreres on Feb 16.



The apostolic community meeting of the Delegation was held on Feb 17th where everyone shared about their community life and their particular assignments in the delegation. Fr Provincial also shared with the confreres the importance of community life, common meals, and common prayers. He also shared with us various apostolates of the Province and some of the challenges of the Province. On February 18 Confreres and many friends of the Fransalians gathered

together for the ground-breaking ceremony of the MSFS Scholasticate, a study house for the professed members. Fr. Provincial presided over the ceremony and prayed for all the formators and all those who will undergo formation in the study house. He thanked all the friends and benefactors for their generosity and support in the growth of Philippine delegation.

Fr. Provincial met Rev. Fr Sharkey Brown the administrator of the Diocese of Imus on Feb 18, evening. Thereafter he had a dinner with the first friends of MSFS in the Philippines.

Fr Provincial visited our Parish in Bagong Silang on February 19. He celebrated the Holy Eucharist at 6 pm and gave a beautiful and inspiring homily. After the Eucharistic celebration the Parishioners had prepared a welcome program, during which Fr Abraham had the chance of witnessing the rich cultural traditions of the Filipino people. The program ended with a fellowship meal.

On February 20, Fr Provincial met Fr. George Morales from the Diocese of Imus who is a friend and benefactor of the Congregation. Fr Provincial left for India on Feb 21. The visit of Fr Provincial enriched each confrere in the Philippines. He personally met all the confreres and encouraged them to live according to the spirituality of St Francis de Sales.

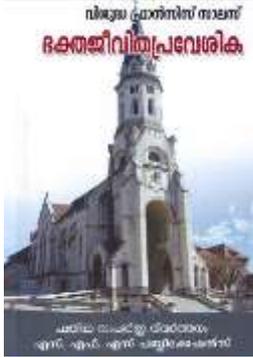
By Fr. Ginu Pathiyakam, Delegation Superior

12. Visit of the Provincial Admonitor to Chad-Cameroon

On behalf of the Provincial Administration, Fr. Jose Parappillil made a visit to our Chad Cameroon Mission (February 28 – March 10) in view of exploring the possibilities of opening a new mission in the Anglophone region of Cameroon. Fr. Jose also visited all our confreres and Missions in Chad - Cameroon. The report will follow.

13. Provincial Vicar

Fr. Jose Parappillil will be the Provincial Vicar from March 15 – April 4, 2012 as I will be away in the U.S. Please contact the Provincial Vicar in case of urgent consultation and other needs.



14. Introduction to the Devout Life in Malayalam

New and complete translation of the Introduction to the Devout Life into Malayalam (**Bhakta Jeevitha Pravesika**) was released on January 24, 2012 on the occasion of the feast day of our Patron at Vinayalaya, Bangalore. **Fr. A. Rayappan**, president of St. Peters Pontifical Seminary released the book and the first copy was given to Fr.A.M Joseph. Congratulations to **Fr. Antony Mookenthottam**, the general editor of this book for his excellent work and to all other fathers who have co-operated with him. Special thanks to SFS Publications, Bangalore for publishing it.

15. Change of Address

Fr. Chacko Ottalankal

St. Joseph's Church
Vaipur New, Thakkalakkunnu
Kulathuprayar P.O.,
Kangazha Via, Kerala 686 541

Fr. A. Mathias

Holy Redeemer Church
Nilanga Road, Bhalki
Bidar Dt. Karnataka 585 328
Mobile: 08970589568

Fr. Jijo Chemplanickal

ORBIT, N.H. No. 09,
Humnabad, Bidar Dist
Karnataka, 585 330
Mobile: 09035364752

Fr. Joji Kazhukanolickal

Our Lady of Health Shrine
Post Box No. 19, Harihar,
Davangere Dt. Karnataka 577 601
Mobile: 08050566290

Fr. Jikson Cheravelil

St. Thomas Church
P.J. Extension, P.B.No. 211
Davangere Dt. Karnataka 577 002
Mobile: 09483714572

Fr. D. Robert

St. John the Baptist Church
Sivam Nagar. New Church Road.
Ganeshpur, Hindalga Post
Belgaum Dt. Karnataka 591 108
Mobile: 09480566743

Fr. Prabhu Prakash

Bellary Arogya Mathe Shrine
Cantonment, Bellary Dt.
Karnataka 583 104
Mobile: 08722055038

16. Diaconate 2012 "In His Service."



February 17, 2012 was indeed a joyful day for the Tejas family as five of our brothers, namely, Anish Chirackalpurayidathil, Antony Sathyaseelan, Jeevan Prashanth, Jijo Manjackal and Sijo Olickal were ordained Deacons. His Lordship Rev. Dr. Peter Machado, the Bishop

of Belgaum graced the occasion with his presence and conferred the order of Diaconate to the candidates. The celebration began with the Holy Eucharist in which His Lordship exhorted the newly ordained to be always at His service, following the evangelical counsels and facing the challenges of the world. This was followed by the felicitation of the Deacons and a sumptuous dinner. The presence of the Apostolic Community Members, the close religious neighbours and the choir by the NEST children added colour to the celebration. The deacons in turn expressed their deep sense of gratitude to all those who guided them to this stage of life especially the Provincial, the Councillers, the Rector and all the formators and friends.

By Dn.Jijo Manjackal

17. A New Church in Chintamani

Just received the good news that we have the permission from the Municipality to start the construction of the new Church and presbytery at Chintamani. We will begin the construction shortly. I thank Fr. Joseph Thoppil, Fr. Jojo Kolarickal, all their predecessors and the parishioners who worked hard to obtain this permission.

18. Parents' day Celebration at SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor

On February 26, 2012, SFS Seminary celebrated the parents' day in a grant manner. It was attended by more than 75 parents. The programme began with the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Fr. George Valliamthadathil, the Rector. The theme of the day was "Family is the Cradle of Vocation." Fr. Benny Koottanal, the Councillor in Charge of Formation was the guest of honour and in his message he emphasized the role of family in fostering good vocations. After the lunch, parents were given the opportunity to meet the rector and the staff to discuss about the wellbeing of their children. The seminarians presented a beautiful cultural programme. Parents were full of appreciation for the whole programme. Congratulations to the Rector and Staff at SFS for their commitment and dedication in the formation of young seminarians!

19. Fr. Martin Elayidathumadam

We were shocked to hear that Fr. Martin met with a car accident on his way home where he lost control of the vehicle and hit a tree near Bandipur, Karnataka on February 26 at 6 p.m. He was rushed to the Assumption hospital, Bethery by a group of young men who

passed the accident spot by another car, where he received first aid. Fr. Johny Kanjiramparambil and Martin's brothers met him at the hospital and he was taken to Baby Memorial Hospital Calicut for immediate surgery for his broken left leg and injured face. Thanks be to God, Fr. Martin is safe after a serious accident and he is discharged from the hospital. Right now he is on the road to recovery at Jyothi Nilaya Community at Calicut under the care of Fr. Joseph Pulpara and Community. I thank Fr. Martin's family and Fr. Pulpara and Bro. Innaci Muthu for their care and support to Fr. Martin at the hospital and at the community.

20. Update from our student Priests

Fr. S.Arockiya Jayaraj is doing MA in Liturgy in San Beda College Manila. He has finished his comprehensive exams. To secure the degree in MA he needs to write a thesis which he has already begun on the topic "The liturgical Formation for the Seminarians."

Fr. Ginu Pathiyakam is completing his Master's degree in Religious Education with Specialization in Formative Counseling and Spiritual Direction at De Lasalle University-Manila. He has written his thesis on the theme "*Identification of Stressors and Coping skills among the Wives of Filipino Migrants of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Molino, Cavite: A Proposed Pastoral Program.*" He will graduate in the month of June 2012.

21. Let us Pray for the departed member of our Congregation

Fr.Thomas Thoomkuzhy, known as Fr.TT, of Pune Province passed away on March 6, 2012 in a Home for Senior Citizens in Switzerland. He was 71 years old. He was born on 8.7.1941 and was ordained on 15.5.1970.

22. My Programme:

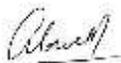
March 15 – April 4	Visit to the U.S.
April 6	Our lady of Vailankanni Church, Yelahanka
April 14	Provincial Council Meeting in Vinayalaya
April 17 -18	Mission Congress in Dharmaram (CRI)

Salesian Thought:

“We must be sorry for our faults, but in calm, settled, firm way. ...We correct ourselves much better by calm, steady repentance than by that which is harsh, turbulent, and passionate”

St. Francis de Sales

Fraternally in Christ,



**Fr. Abraham Vettuvilil MSFS
Provincial**