

# MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES – MSFS

## SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE



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**Circular JK/12**

**December 22, 2014**

**My dear Confreres,**



Christmas is the season of spiritual renewal and rejuvenation. The season of Advent provides us the time for the conscious preparation for this annual renewal. Our recent General Chapter Retreat made a clarion call to all the members of the Congregation to renew ourselves personally by being faithful to the personal time-table in the spirit of the Spiritual Directory of our Patron

St. Francis de Sales. Spiritual growth is possible only when there is fidelity to our daily spiritual time-table by being punctual in prayers, attentive to the members of the community in their needs and by a passionate love for the ministry we are doing in a spirit of self-less service. Daily self-examination of conscience and monthly celebration of the sacrament of reconciliation are sure means of sustainable spiritual growth. The work-culture has to be balanced always with an equal emphasis on personal prayer and interior silence. Christmas, the birth of Jesus, becomes meaningful when our hearts are prepared sufficiently with the weeding of our personal vices and adorned with virtues of patience, sincerity and commitment. As we enter into the year dedicated to the Consecrated Life, let us individually and collectively take the resolution that we will make religious life attractive to the world, not by our structures or the visibility of our buildings, but by the personal commitment to the values of Christ and by being a witness of loving discipleship to Jesus. I wish you all the Joy and Peace of this Christmas and pray to God for a prosperous and grace-filled New Year!

### **Visitation to English Province, Confreres in GAH Delegation, Spain and Belgium**

My canonical visitation of the SW Province confreres working in the English Province, GAH Delegation, Spain and Belgium was done from 28<sup>th</sup> October to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2014. I met all the confreres working and studying in these countries and spent time with them. A detailed report of my visitation of the confreres in these countries is getting

ready with the personal plan of the confreres working and studying in these countries. It will be published in the next circular after the PIF meeting in January 2015. I sincerely thank Fr. Terry McGrath, the Provincial of English Province, for the cordial welcome extended to me and for accompanying me to meet the confreres. I thank Fr. Sunny Paul and all the confreres who work and study in the English Province who warmly received me and accompanied me during my visitation. I also thank sincerely Fr. Binod Puthenpurackal, the Delegation Superior of GAH and his council who meticulously planned my visitation to all the confreres in GAH and for organizing the Delegation Colloquium. I thank Fr. Thomas Thekkekarotte and Fr. Jeevan Prasad for arranging my visitation to them and for their hospitality. I thank Fr. Sibichen Kochuveedu, the local superior of Austria Community for organizing my visitation to the confreres in Austria and for facilitating the meeting with the Prelate and Fr. Leopold at Klosterneuburg.

### Internal Audit Team Visit to Communities

The Province' Internal Audit Team will visit the following communities for annual Internal Audit:

- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. SFS Schools, Parish and Community Chintamani | 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2015 |
| 2. SFS Schools, Parish and Community Koppal     | 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2015 |
| 3. SFS School, Mission and Community Kukknor    | 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2015 |
| 4. SFS School, Parish and Community Mundargi    | 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2015 |

### SW Province Annual Retreats

This year's Province Annual Retreat will be during the following dates and at the following venues:

**1<sup>st</sup> Retreat: from 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> July 2015 – Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Retreat: From 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 – Vinayalaya, Bangalore.**

We have the **Canonical Visitation of the Superior General** to our Province from **October 18<sup>th</sup> to November 14<sup>th</sup> 2015**. The dates for annual retreats are finalized taking into consideration his visitation of the Province. This is the year dedicated to Consecrated Life and Mission and the focus of the retreats will be on this theme. We have only two retreats and all the confreres should make sure that they participate in one or the other of these two annual retreats. All the confreres who have not participated yet in the **General Chapter Retreat** conducted at Province level, are expected to attend the retreat that are yet to be done at Suvidya in February and in the other Provinces. We had a plan to organize one more retreat at Inter-Province level in Bangalore, but since there is poor response, you are requested to attend the retreat at Suvidya or in the other Provinces where it is yet to take place.

### Local Superiors Forum Meeting and Young Priests Formation Program

As it was announced earlier we will be holding the **Local Superiors Forum Meeting** on **15<sup>th</sup> January 2015 from 9.00 am to 4.00 pm at Vinayalaya**. This is an obligatory gathering and formation program for Local Superiors and I request all the Local and NLC Superiors to participate in this program without fail. We are also organizing the **Young Priests' On-Going Formation Program** from **28<sup>th</sup> January 4.00 pm to 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015, 4.00 pm**. It is obligatory for all the junior priests in the Province who

have been ordained from 2008 December onwards to assist this program. Kindly inform the Provincial Secretary about your arrival and registration for this program.

### **Directives from the Joint Meeting of General Curia and PIF**

In the last PIF-General Curia meeting held at Vinayalaya in November 2014, the unanimous understanding was that the Province territory includes the Missions, Delegations and Regions and all the members should have the openness and the willingness to be transferred and appointed within the territory of the province irrespective of whether it is within India or outside India. It was also unanimously decided that from 2015 all the Indian Provinces will send at least two confreres to the African mission for the coming years to strengthen the Mission. Accordingly SW Province also will be sending at least two more confreres this year to Chad-Cameroon to strengthen the Mission.

### **Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Fr. Superior General at Province Level**

This is the Silver Jubilee Year of our Superior General Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil. In consultation with him the Provincial Council has taken the decision to have a Province level celebration of his Jubilee with a thanksgiving Holy Mass in September 2015 in Bangalore, when he returns to India next.

### **Directions from the Superior General for the Celebration of Year 2015 as Year of Consecrated Life and Year of Mission**

*I am glad to inform you once again that we celebrate the Year 2015 as Year of Consecrated Life and Year for Mission in our Congregation with a special thrust on Mission. I thank you for sending me the program that you have already designed in your own Province for a meaningful celebration of 2015.*

*In our General Council Meeting just concluded in Bangalore, we have decided to make the Year 2015 very special for all the MSFS all over the world. This is a year of renewal in our consecrated life with a thrust on recapturing the missionary spirit of Father Mermier in our decisions and policies and ministries.*

- The theme for the Year is: "OUR CONSECRATED LIFE FOR THE MISSION" (MSFS Constitutions: Chapter 3). Please make sure that the theme of the Year is displayed in all our communities and centres
- We inaugurate this Special Year in our Congregation with an hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament on January 23, 2015. Please advise the Local Superiors to animate the adoration with readings from our Constitutions Chapter 3 and praying for the Congregation and for our confreres all over the world. Have a formal inauguration of the Year in our communities
- Confreres who are not in living in communities be advised to spend one hour before the Blessed Sacrament, reading from Constitutions Chapter 3 and prayers for the entire Congregation (January 23, 2015)
- Be advised that every Community and Confrere will spend (during the year of Mission from January 24, 2015 – January 24, 2016) half hour in adoration before

the Blessed Sacrament preferably in the morning with the morning prayers/meditation or in the evening with evening prayers/rosary/salesian devotions.

## **Pointers for Celebration of Consecration and Mission Year 2015 in our Formation Houses**

(i) Each Province or PIF (Provincials of India Forum) with the General Secretary for Formation prepare a program of accompanied exposure of all the students at all formation stages. They also organize a training session for the Formators for such accompaniment.

(ii) Organize at PIF level, or Province level essay competition on Mission issues, mission history of the Congregation, our Founder, and the Missionary Beginnings of the Congregation in India at different stages of formation. Entrust this work to a group of formators.

(iii) Each formation house organizes various competitions like quiz competition, skit competition, drawing competition, declamation competition, song competition based on a given missionary data among the seminarians and gives them encouragement by giving prizes, especially books on salesian spirituality or life or sayings of Fr. Mermier

(iv) Each of our theologates conducts a symposium on mission and MSFS

(iv) Entrust each formation house to write lyrics on the missionary zeal of Fr. Mermier, and compose a song. Collate the songs from all the houses of formation in the Province and make a recorded tape

(v) Each PCIC for Formation supervises the Implementation in earnestness the Action Plan of the Provincial Congress/Chapter concerning Formation.

(vi) Each Formation house ensures all the recollection themes for the Year as sent by the Superior General are attended to with proper preparation for the same.

## **Policy decisions for study and discernment**

### **Appointment policies**

1. Appointment of some confreres with greater competencies and abilities (as needed in institutions), in some missions/parishes,

2. Rotation of appointments from institutions to missions /parishes and vice versa after a certain period of time in particular ministry.

3. The appointment of the newly ordained priests to missions for three years as part of their formation in mission. First three years is part of pastoral formation in the missions.

4. After completion of their terms in General or Provincial Administrations, their appointment for a certain period of time in mission centers before taking any other assignment.

5. Requirement of pastoral exposure and ministry as one of the requirements for those appointed /elected in General Administrations or as Rectors and Formators in formation houses.

### **Formation**

6. Compulsory adequate knowledge of one of the province pastoral languages, the standard of which is specified by the Province and evaluated by a competent body. Without clearance of the same, the administrations cannot promote the candidate to the next stage of formation

### **Year of Consecrated Life and Mission – SW Province’ Initiatives towards a Meaningful Celebration:**

In the Joint Meeting of PIF-PEA-General Curia, the directives were given to the Provincial Administrations to gather and to propose concrete plans for the meaningful celebration of the Year of Consecrated Life and Mission at Province level. Accordingly the SW Provincial Council that gathered on the 26th of November 2014, at VINAYALAYA at 9.15 pm made the following proposals for the celebration of the year of Mission in the Province.

1. It is decided to propose January 24, 2015 as the starting date of the Year of Mission, and January 24, 2016 as the concluding date of the Year of Mission.
2. It is decided to submit the plan of the South West India Province regarding the celebration of the Year of Mission to the General administration on the 27th of November 2014.

### **Province Level**

3. It is decided to have animated Apostolic Community meeting by the Provincial Curia for all the Apostolic Communities in the province in 2015. Province Council meetings will be held in each Apostolic Communities, along with such animated sessions.
4. It is decided to have a Mission Sangamam at Malur along with the annual youth meet, to increase mission awareness among the confreres.
5. Start and develop the following mission centres from January 2015, with initiatives and investments. a. Shimoga-Shiralkoppa. b. Gulbarga-Sedom. c. Chikamagluru-Anthoninagara.
6. Provincial will highlight the mission centres of the Province through focused write ups in each of his circulars in the Mission Year.

### **Formation**

7. Scholastics in theology, as part of their study on Missiology, will visit the MSFS mission centres in the Province and prepare a detailed presentation about the history, ministry and mission of the centre. Such presentations will be used as a resource material in other formation houses for inspiration and reference.
8. Two update programs will be organized in 2015 for the young confreres of the province for their ongoing formation.
9. A mission symposium will be organized in our Theologate, Tejas in 2015.
10. All Recollection talks will be prepared for the monthly recollections with the theme of Mission.

### **Mission**

11. Mission preaching teams will be formed in Karnataka and Kerala for the year of Mission and they will conduct Parish Mission preaching in all our parishes at least for three days each.
12. Mission week will be organized in the Parishes with evening prayer gatherings and inspirational movies and presentations with the theme of Mission.

### **Education**

13. We will identify at least three poor and deserving students and sponsor their educational expenses in the Year of mission.
14. We organise Africa day in all our educational institutions and raise fund for the mission work in Africa.
15. The principals of our educational institutions will visit the families of the students, especially the final year students of the institutions.

### **Social Apostolate**

16. We will build at least one house for a poor family in the year of mission and support at least two domestic staffs financially to settle in life.
17. We will build a village chapel in a mission parish in the year of mission.

## **Indian Institute of Spirituality Celebrates Silver Jubilee**

It had been Silver Days in the annals of Indian Institute of Spirituality (IIS) from 16<sup>th</sup> October 2014 to 19<sup>th</sup> October 2014. IIS celebrated meaningfully its eventful existence since 25 years. All who came into the portals of IIS during these days of jubilee celebration experienced the joy of its effective existence.

### **16 & 17 October 2014: International Symposium on *Trends in Contemporary Spirituality*:**



The Jubilee celebration began with an International Symposium on the topic: “Trends in Contemporary Spirituality.” Various relevant topics in the field of Contemporary Spirituality and their impact in the lives of the people of the current society were discussed

elaborately during the symposium. Topics, such as, “Spirituality and the Rise and Death of Civilization”, “Contours of a Meaningful Spirituality after the Death of God”, “God-men and God-women: A Façade of Spirituality?”, “Development of Contemporary Catholic Spirituality: An Indian Perspective with an Emphasis on Blessed Mariam Thresia”, “Contemporary Trends of Protestant Spirituality in India: A Psycho-Spiritual

Perspective”, “Socio-Political Trends in Spirituality: Gandhi, the Trend Setter”, “Impact of Spirituality on Secular Movements: An Exploration of Fish-Workers Struggles in India” and “Spirituality of Inter-religious Dialogue” were presented by eminent resource persons who are experts in the topics allotted to them. The symposium culminated with an effective interactive panel discussion wherein the participants could clarify their doubts from the resource persons. More than 150 people attended the symposium. On the evening of 16 October, the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration was officiated by the **Archbishop of Bangalore, Most Rev. Bernard Moras**, with a fitting opening message to the celebration of the Jubilee. The presence of **Rev. Dr. A. Rayappan, the President of St. Peter’s Pontifical Institute** added further solemnity to the occasion. The Holy Eucharist on 17 October was presided over by the **Provincial of the South West India Province of the MSFS, Rev. Fr. Jose Kumbloickal MSFS**.

### **October 18, 2014: Alumni Gathering**



The celebration of the Silver Jubilee obtained further beauty and color with the arrival of our former students for an Alumni gathering. Conducted for the first time in the history of IIS, it was attended by more than 100 former students who belonged to the Diploma, MTh and Doctoral studies. The Alumni gathering began with the formal inaugural session for which **Rev.**

**Fr. Jose Kumbloickal MSFS, the Provincial, was the Chief Guest.** Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS, the Director, welcomed the alumni and appreciated their presence and contribution to the growth of the Institute. The peak event of the formal gathering was the keynote address given by **Rev. Dr. Xavier Terrence, Professor of Scripture and Patristic Theology at St. Paul’s Major Seminary, Trichy**, on the topic: **Discipleship Leading to Apostleship**. In the light of the topic, the Alumni were divided into different groups to discuss regarding their present day ministry and the impact of the education offered by IIS in their lives. In the afternoon, there was an incredibly motivating presentation of the reports of the discussion which stimulated an active interaction from the participants. Finally, an action plan for a visionary life-style as missionaries and as alumni of IIS was formulated. **Rev. Fr. Balavendra Jacob MSFS was the official observer for the Alumni gathering** who guided and animated the sessions effectively. The Alumni gathering came to an apt conclusion with the solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by **Most Rev. Peter Machado, the Bishop of Belgaum** followed by the dinner. On the beautiful occasion, the latest book by the SFS Publications, titled, **Trends in Contemporary Spirituality** was released by the bishop of Belgaum and the first copy was handed over to **Rev. Dr. A. Rayappan, the President of St. Peter’s Pontifical Institute**. All the Alumni were presented with the Jubilee memento and the gathering came to an end with a cultural fiesta by the IIS students.

## October 19, 2014: IIS Turns SILVER



The culmination of the Jubilee celebration took place on 19 October. At 4.20 pm, all the invited guests and the inmates of IIS gathered at the entrance of IIS to welcome the dignitaries of the day. **Very Rev. Fr.**

**Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS**, the Superior General, **Very Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy MSFS**, the Assistant Superior General, **Very Rev. Fr. Jose Kumblolickal MSFS**, the Provincial of South West India Province and **Very Rev. Fr. A. Dharmaraj MSFS**, the Provincial of South East India Province were welcomed with bouquet and melodious welcome song. The jubilee celebration began with the Inauguration and blessing of the **newly constructed Jubilee Memorial Adoration Chapel**. **Very Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy** inaugurated the Adoration Chapel and **Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil** blessed it. **Rev. Fr. Jose Kumblolickal** installed the Blessed Sacrament in the new chapel. The main minister of the solemn Eucharistic Celebration was **very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil**, which had more than 100 priests as concelebrants from Karnataka and Kerala. The melodious singing of the IIS choir was outstanding and exuberant. The public gathering began at 6.15 pm. The Superior General released the much-awaited **Bible Diary**, titled, **Joy of the Gospel 2015** during the occasion. He highlighted the celebration fittingly with the releasing of the Silver Jubilee Souvenir. It was followed by a spectacular musical drama by the Students of IIS under the efficient leadership of **Rev. Fr. A. Jayaseelan**, titled, **"Voice of the Mission"**. The whole event was attended by more than 450 people, including Superiors General, Provincials, Superiors and Directors of various communities and institutes, benefactors and friends of IIS and a great number of Laity from different walks of life. The celebration came to an end with the agape meal.

**Reported by Fr. Jikson Cheravelil MSFS**

## Charis Bhavan Silver Jubilee Celebrations



The one year long Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Charis Bhavan came to a Grand Finale on 13 December 2014. The Jubilee Year was inaugurated on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2013 by **Rev. Fr. Kurian Karickal**, the Director. It began with the lighting of the Jubilee Candle at the mass and the candle continued to be lit every day at the mass in the Jubilee Year. Every day intercessory

prayers were offered for Charis Bhavan and its continued ministry. The various service groups of Charis Bhavan were empowered spiritually.



The Concluding celebrations on 13<sup>th</sup> December were five-fold. (1) In the morning after the morning Mass the Silver Jubilee Gate of Charis Bhavan was inaugurated by the Provincial Rev. Fr. Jose Kumblolickal and blessed by the Superior General, Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil. It is a simple but imposing GATE to herald and welcome the future generations into Charis Bhavan. (2) The Silver Jubilee

Convention was conducted by Rev. Fr. James Manjackal, the Founder of Charis Bhavan. It started at the tomb of Fr. Devasia Kuzhuppil with memorial prayers. A large crowd of people hastened to this convention. Everyone marvelled at the miracle of healing being given to Fr. Manjackal as well as eagerly listened to his talks and participated in the healing service which lasted for three hours without any interruption. The entire campus of Charis Bhavan and everyone who came in felt anointed by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit through the instrumentality of Fr. Manjackal. (3) The peak experience of Jubilation was the Solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Rt. Rev. Dr. Sebastian Thekkethecheril, Bishop of Vijayapuram, assisted by the Superior General and Provincials Fr. Jose Kumblolickal and A. Dharmaraj and concelebrated by a large number of confreres and other priests. Thousands participated in the thanksgiving mass and the homily was preached by Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, Superior General. (4) The Thanksgiving Public Meeting was presided over by the Provincial and many dignitaries were present for the same. Everyone highlighted the historic Mission Charis Bhavan has been doing for the past 25 years. (5) The concluding phase of the celebration was The Family gathering of Charis Bhavan, with confreres, priests, sisters, close associates, benefactors, neighbours, who were almost one thousand in number. We had a touching ceremony of honoring the guests who came from Austria and Germany along with Fr. Manjackal, the dignitaries as well as those who rendered continued service to Charis Bhavan for the past twenty five years. The Family meal that followed added color, grace, joy and deepened our Communion with blessings galore for the future mission of Charis Bhavan. The Jubilee Candle lit by the Bishop symbolically heralded the Golden Era of the Future Mission of Charis Bhavan.

**Reported by Bro. Subin Palamattathil**

### **Silver Jubilee of SFS School, Chintamani**

On 9<sup>th</sup> December 2014, SFS High School, Chintamani celebrated the Silver Jubilee of its existence. Rev. Fr. Jose Kumblolickal, The Provincial, was the President for the function and Rev. Fr. Christopher Crasta and Mr. Md. Khaleel, The BEO of Chintamani were the Chief Guests. During the Felicitation, the former Managers and Principals were



felicitated. Mrs. Subashini, the senior teacher, who completed 25 years of wonderful service, was also felicitated on this occasion. This was followed by the Cultural Fiesta. The history of the school was enacted with dance by two hundred students and that was the major attraction of the programme. Fathers and sisters from far and near and around 4000 people witnessed this function.

### **'Mermier' Cup' - Inter SFS Meet**

To mark the Silver Jubilee of SFS School, Chintamani, the Management, Staff and the



Students organized an **Inter-SFS Volley Ball and Throw Ball Competitions** on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2014. Rev. Fr. A. Jabamalai was the Chief Guest. Our Students from Savanur, Hebbagodi, Kengeri, Kolar, Malur, Srinvaspur, Kadisenahalli and Chintamani took part in it. To

keep alive the spirit of Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, our founder, we had named the tournament in his honour – *The Mermier Cup*. In the volleyball event, Malur and Chintamani were the winners and runners respectively. In the throw ball event SFS School, Chintamani were the winners and Malur and Srinvaspur won the runners both seniors and juniors respectively. Our PU colleges also took part in the valley ball match and Kolar PU won winner's trophy while Hebbagodi team was runners. It was a memorable event for all the DeSalites as it was a get-together of SFS Family.

**Reported by Fr. A. Prashanth Kumar**

### **New Provincial Administration of Nagpur Province**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| Fr. Benedict D'Souza     | - Councilor in-charge of Formation & Admonitor        |
| Fr. Manoj Tirkey         | - Councilor in-charge of Education                    |
| Fr. Willie D'Silva       | - Councilor In-Charge of Mission                      |
| Fr. Joseph Kailamangalam | - Councilor In-Charge of Social & Innovative Ministry |
| Fr. Wilson Abrham        | - Provincial Bursar                                   |

South West Provincial Administration and the members of the Province congratulate the re-elected provincial of Nagpur Province Fr. Jacob and felicitate the newly elected administrative team! We assure you our prayers and we wish you God's abundant blessings for a fruitful tenure in service.

### **Transfers and Appointments**

**Fr. Jose Parappillil** is designated to be appointed as the Director of Charis Marian Maids with effect from January 1, 2015.

**Fr. Onayathumkuzhy Zacharias** is appointed as the Spiritual Father of Charis Marian Maids with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2015.

**Fr. Mijo Kulamkuthiyil** is appointed as the Parish Priest of St. George's Church, T.K Colony, Thelpara with effect from November 9, 2014.

**Fr. Salvador Fernandes** is appointed as the Director of our mission in Shiralakoppa, Shimoga with effect from 05<sup>th</sup> December, 2014.

**Fr. S. Arockiya Samy** is designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of SFS Church, Malur with effect from March 1, 2015.

**Fr. Regi Muthukattil** is appointed to the Parish of Kunnumpuram, Archdiocese of Ernakulam- Angamaly for a period of two months with effect from December 20, 2014.

**Fr. A. Jerome** is appointed on the permanent Faculty of St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, in the Department of Canon Law. He will reside in Vinayalaya and is appointed as the Program Coordinator of Vinayalaya from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

**Fr. M. Periyamayagam** is appointed by the Bishop as the Asst. Parish Priest of St. Johannes der Täufer, Diocese of Munster, with effect from December 20, 2014.

### Hearty Congratulations

**Fr. Roji Kuttivayalil** has successfully completed his PhD studies in Media and Communications in England and the title of his Doctoral Thesis is: "Televising Hindu Nationalism: A Comparative Study of Hindi and English Television News Channels". This study explores the ways of interaction between News Television and the Hindu Nationalist Movement in India. The research findings are drawn from the data collected through a number of research methods and case studies. This study, which uses contemporary media and political theories, is an attempt to make significant contributions to a largely underexplored area of research and scholarship. Hearty Congratulations to Fr. Roji on his achievement and we wish him God's abundant blessings.

**Fr. Binu Edathumparambil's** Doctoral Dissertation Presentation was held at Morrissey Hall, Room 1105 on December 19, 2014, at 12:00 p.m. The title of his doctoral dissertation presentation was *Strangers to Spouses: A Study of the Relationship, Quality in Arranged Marriages in India*. This mixed methods study explored the relationship quality in arranged marriages in India. Specifically, the study explored the level of marital satisfaction, quality of alternatives, investment of resources, intimacy, passion, and commitment in arranged marriages in India, and examined their association with relationship quality. The survey was composed of seven measures, and the qualitative interviews consisted of phenomenological interviews with the researcher. The survey of measures was completed by 287 participants. Fourteen of these respondents completed qualitative interviews. The study took place in India. Hearty Congratulations to you dear Fr. Binu for the successful completion of your studies!

## Change of Address

**Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam**  
Lumen Christi Institute  
P.O. Box 1187  
Arusha, Tanzania

**Fr. M. Periyamayagam**  
St. Johannes der Täufer  
St. Johannes 5  
46244 Bottrop- Kirchhellen

## SFS Milana 2014-15- Inter SFS School Gathering and Competitions at SFS PUC, Kolar

St. Francis de Sales PU College Tamaka, Kolar, organized a one-day gathering of the SFS High school students in Kolar and Chikkabalapura districts on the 1<sup>st</sup> of November, 2014. The gathering named as SFS MILANA 2014-15, was well attended by about 550 Desalites from Malur, Srinivaspura, Chinthamani and Kolar, along with their



respective School Staff. Designed as a 'Come-and-See' program for the potential students of SFS PU College, Kolar, Milana-2014 was also an opportunity for the Desalites to show forth their talents. The day's programs began with an inaugural function and cultural fiesta by the SFS PU College students. It was followed by inter school Dance competition and Quiz competition before a sumptuous lunch arranged for all. Volleyball and Throw-ball competitions were conducted in the afternoon. Prizes were given to the winners by Fr. Vinod Kanattu, the Manager of SFS PU College. Fr. Jabamalai, Principal of the SFS PU College who coordinated the Program thanked everyone especially the principals and the staff of the participating SFS Schools. Students were also given opportunity to see the labs and the facilities at SFS PUC, Kolar.



Reported By Fr. Vinod Kanattu

## Annual Day, SFS English Medium School, Kannur



We, the Desalites of SFS English Medium School, Kannur, had celebrated our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Day with the official declaration of C.B.S.E Affiliation, on December 15, 2014. We began our celebrations at 5:30 pm by a warm welcoming to our honourable guests from the School Junction. His Excellency Rt. Rev. Dr. Alex Vadakumthala, Bishop of Kannur inaugurated

the new School Stage. Sri. K. Sudhakaran, the former M.P. of Kannur, inaugurated the function by lighting the lamp, followed by his inspiring speech. The official declaration of C.B.S.E. Affiliation (Affiliation No: 931202, School Code: 42742 and N.O.C. No: G.O. (M.S) No: 249/2012 (G.Edn.) and the Key Note address was delivered by the Provincial of South West India Province Rev. Dr. Jose Kumbloickal MSFS. He thanked and appreciated the hard works of all the people, the former Managers, Principals, Vice Principals, staff and students for achieving this happy moment. Principal Fr. Jose Vechuvettickal presented the Annual Report to the Public. The felicitation speeches were delivered by Smt. Roshni Khalidh, Municipal Chairperson of Kannur, Mr. Muhammed Ali, Ward Councillor, and Mr. Sunil Kumar, PTA President. The presence of Bishop and other dignitaries made the Dias blessed. Wonderful and thought provoking messages were given by the invited guests. Later the guests were given memento. The various performances of our little Desalites made the evening a colourful one. The students with their energetic and colourful steps filled the hearts of thousands who gathered to witness the event. The varieties of programmes ended with the National Anthem.

We sincerely thank the confreres, priests and religious from Kannur, Thalassery and Kottayam and the entire pupil those who came over here and helped us. And also congrats to the Principal, Vice Principal, staff and students of S.F.S. School, Kannur, for making this day a memorable one.

**Reported by Bro. Puthenpurackal Dhanoop Sebastian**

## Cameroun- Buea

Catching a view of the historic relics of Buea, capital of the South West Region, from one of its nearby hills unveils marvelous scenery. Structures reminiscent of the era of colonialism; constructed by Germans and the British, such as the Schloss, Buea Mountain Club, the Gendamerie Legion and the Old Presidency will fascinate you. These structures have survived the abrasive work of time. Buea has a benign climate, with an atmosphere which is cold and congenial. One is struck by the sudden change and held spellbound by the picturesque landscape. The town is blessed with iridescent



vegetation, inhabited by hospitable people and characterized with unique weather, moderate temperatures ranging from 20-28 degrees Celsius annually.

Today, the beautiful town of Buea is one of the fastest growing municipalities in Cameroun, witnessing unprecedented infrastructural and socio-economic changes. The town is known for its receptive population living in a cosmopolitan setting with a constellation of 85 villages. The population of Buea is estimated at about 200,000. Buea may be small, in term of size, but it is an incredibly beautiful and historic town. It varies from the hues of historic German monuments' juxtaposition with modern structures, extending to the evergreen forest at the foot of Mount Cameroun, 4,100 m above the sea level, slopping into the black beaches of the Atlantic Ocean.

Buea has a booming economy, with the agricultural, administrative, business, tourism and the financial sectors taking the central stage. The rich volcanic soil, equatorial climate and an almost all-year-round rainfall make Buea a fertile land for agriculture. Buea has always been tagged as a town of academic excellence. The town has a blend of English and French institutions of learning- lending credence to the bilingual nature of the country. Buea is the abode of the first Anglo-Saxon University in the country. Since 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2014 the South West Province of our Congregation has initiated pastoral services in this prestigious university in the diocese of Buea by taking up the position of the Chaplaincy. On 1<sup>st</sup> of July 2014 Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal was appointed as the university chaplain and was also installed as the parish priest of SS. Peter and Paul University parish, Beua.

It is really surprising and encouraging that Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Bushu, the Bishop of Buea entrusted this most coveted and prestigious parish in the diocese of Buea to MSFS. SS. Peter and Paul university parish church, with a seating capacity of ca. 2000 people, is one of the largest, latest and beautiful churches in the diocese. The parish has also a modern presbytery which can accommodate 4 priests. At present, along with Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal, 2 diocesan priests are staying in the parish house. As the parish is entrusted to the pastoral care of MSFS, the bishop expects that a team of at least 3 MSFS priests stay in the presbytery taking care of the spiritual needs of the university students, of SS Peter and Paul parish, of the 2 convents in the parish, and also some of the surrounding parishes. The diocese has been demanding one more priest at least by year 2015 to help Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal.

SS Peter and Paul University Parish Buea was inaugurated in 2004 by His Lordship Bishop Pius S. Awa and became fuctional in 2006 under the leadership and patronage of Rev. Fr. Murphy, a Mill Hill missionary from Ireland. SS Peter and Paul University Parish comprises catholic students from all over the nation and abroad studying in the University of Beua and other higher institutions of learning around the University. This parish is very unique in its activities as a greater percentage of the population comprises of students. The dynamism of the community is experienced in the ever increasing number of groups in the parish and the participating members. As of date, groups in the parish include: 4 Choirs of best quality, Prayer groups, Apostolic groups, Youth groups from the Anglophone and Francophone communities, i.e. made up of our English and French speaking brothers and sisters and a host of Ex-student associations.

Although the language used in the Anglophone area is Pigin (English mixed with local dialects) the so called "Grammar English", i.e. Standard English is used in the university parish. The activities in the community are geared towards fostering spiritual growth, intellectual development, academic success and helping members to live and grow in the catholic faith; all these done with great love as stipulated in the motto: " Love one another". SS Peter and Paul University Parish is truly a formation ground and have proven to be as a nursery for priests within a short span of time, both for the diocese of Buea and surprisingly also for Religious especially for the Congregation of MSFS.

**Reported by Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal**

## **Priestly Ordination of Dn. Jundie Sumagaysay – Christmas Gift for SW Province and Philippines Delegation**

Dn. Jundie Sumagaysay will be ordained a priest on 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2014 in his home parish. He is the first Philippino priest for MSFS Congregation to be ordained. We thank God for the first fruits of our missionary labour in the Philippines. I take this opportunity to thank his parents and family, also all his formators and the former superiors of the Mission/Delegation for having guided him. Dear Dn. Jundie, our prayers are with you and in anticipation we wish you hearty congratulations and God's blessings. Fr. Henry and I will be assisting the Ordination Ceremony along with the confreres from the Philippines Delegation.

## **Provincial Vicar**

From 23<sup>rd</sup> December to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2015 I will be away from India for the visitation of the Philippines Delegation. Fr. Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil is also accompanying me. Fr. Benny Koottanal will be the Provincial Vicar during my absence from India.

## **News about Sick Confreres**

**Fr. James Manjackal:** He was present for the Charis Bhavan Silver Jubilee and his health has improved considerably. Still his legs and hands are not strong enough to support himself. The doctors say that in the GBS affected people the last organs to be strengthened are the hands and legs. We continue our prayers for Fr. James that God grants him complete recovery for his renewed ministry for the Lord.

**Fr. Thomas Mattakarathundiyl:** Fr. Thomaskutty is steady. I had spent some time with him during the Jubilee celebrations of Charis Bhavan. He tries to be part of the community activities whenever he can. He prays for the province, the Congregation and the Church from his bed. We continue to pray for him and entrust him to the care of our Blessed Mother to strengthen him.

**Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil:** After the heart surgery he is recovering steadily. He is able to continue with his normal activities. Doctors advise him enough rest and balanced meal for his complete recovery. Let us intensify our prayers for his complete recovery.

**Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhiyl:** Fr. Jacob, the Provincial of Nagpur province fell sick when he came to Bangalore for the PIF-General Curia meeting. He was admitted at St.

Philomena's hospital and was detected with liver infection caused by Hepatitis A. After many days of treatment and rest he has now gone home for a few more days of rest and recovery. South-West Province family assure you dear father our continued prayers for your speedy and complete recovery.

### **Loving Tribute to Fr. Raison Kaduvakuzhickal MSFS(1978-2014)**

May God grant you Eternal Rest !



Fr. Raison Kaduvakuzhickal was born on June 8, 1978 at Marangoly, Kerala. (Parents: Sebastian and Aleyamma, Parish: St. Mary's Church, Marangoly). He is the youngest among six children. Soon after his SSLC he joined the SFS Seminary at Ettuamanoor. Having successfully completed his three years of minor seminary formation, he was admitted to the Novitiate on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June 1997 at Chabua, Assam. He made his first profession on 7<sup>th</sup> June 1998. He did his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore from 1998-2001. After his philosophical studies at Suvidya College he was sent to Vinayakumar Ashram, Chokkad for his regency. He completed his theological studies at St. Joseph's Pontifical Seminary, Alwaye. His perpetual Profession was on 30 May, 2004 at Vinayalaya, Bangalore. He was conferred the order of Diaconate on 22 December, 2004. He was ordained a priest on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2006 at St. Mary's Church, Marangoly by Mar Joseph Kallarangattu, Bishop of Palai.

He was first appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest at St. Francis Xavier's Church, Veloor from 2006-2007 in the Archdiocese of Thrichur. He was appointed as Procurator and Formator at Tejas Vidya Peetha, Kengeri from 2007-2010. He did his post graduate studies in Masters in Business Administration at St. Joseph's College of Business Administration, Bangalore from 2010-2012. From 2010 to 2012 he was a member of Vinayalaya Community. After the completion of his post graduate studies he was appointed as the Asst. Parish Priest of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Vice Principal of SFS PU College and the House Procurator of Mermier Bhavan Community, Hebbagodi. In December 2012 he was also appointed as the Director of SFS Boys' Hostel, Hebbagodi.

In the middle of January, 2013 Fr. Raison had a stroke following which he was admitted in the hospital. After a series of scanning and the micro surgery conducted on his head, the doctors asserted brain tumour as the cause of the stroke. After the biopsy of the tumour in the brain, the doctors confirmed 3<sup>rd</sup> degree of cancer in the affected area of the brain. Since then he underwent many sessions of chemotherapy and radiation for many months. He also underwent a special session of chemo- therapy which was the costliest and the best available in the country. The scanning and the check-up thereafter revealed that the tumour was spreading. Since the cancer was very aggressive and the treatment very intensive, Fr. Raison had put on weight and suffered from the coordination of his vision and body balance. Then the doctors went for another cycle of treatment which was not for the cure but to contain the tumour. His health condition

deteriorated steadily and the doctors advised to stop further treatment as his condition was not improving after all the specialized treatments. During the last months of his sickness he was under palliative care under the advise of the expert committee of doctors. His systems started to fail and he suffered severely in the last few days and finally, on 28<sup>th</sup> October at 12.30 p.m he breathed last and went to his heavenly home. The funeral service was held at at SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor on October 30<sup>th</sup> at 2.30 pm.

Fr. Raison will remain in our hearts as a person who is very friendly, willing to help anyone and for his cheerful availability to the mission of the Church and to the Congregation. He made the community lively by his presence. He was very affable; he radiated the salesian hospitality and assimilated the salesian gentleness in his character. He was very sociable and was loved by the people who knew him. Through his life he brought joy and happiness in the lives of the people with whom he lived. Dear Fr. Raison, as you leave us for your eternal reward, you will always live in our hearts with your cheerful smile and amiable nature! We miss you and we pray that the Good Lord may grant you eternal peace and joy by His side. May you rest in Peace!

### Confreres on Home-Visit

We extend a hearty welcome to our confreres who are abroad and will be visiting India in December-January-February: Fr. Shibu Thundathil and Fr. Manu Kumbidiamakkal from Australia, Fr. A. Anthony Swamy, Fr. John Melukunnel, Fr. Sunny Punnakuzhiyil and Fr. Mathew Elayidathumadam from the U.S.A. We wish you safe journey and warm welcome to India!

### Bourn Voyage

Fr. Gerge Valliamathadathil is leaving for the U.S to teach at the De Sales University, Allentown PA on 7th January 2015. He will teach for two years at De Sales University and he will also pursue his PhD studies. We wish you dear Fathers, safe journey and success in your mission!

### Let us pray for the Departed

1. **Fr. Mathew Mundamattathil**, belonging to Visakhapatnam Province, who passed away on December 9, 2014.
2. **Fr. P. Paul Samy**, belonging to South East Province, who passed away on December 21, 2014.
3. **Bro. John Maruthikuzhiyil**, belonging to Nagpur Province, who passed away on December 9, 2014.

**Kindly favour our departed confreres with the suffrages prescribed in our Constitutions.**

4. **Mrs. Swapna Lakra**, Mother of Fr. Lakra Giridhari, left for her eternal reward on the 20th of October 2014.

5. **Mrs. Mariamma (99)** mother of Fr. Paul Aranjanil passed away on 30.11.2014.

6. **Mr. Mani**, grandfather of Fr. Joe Cherolickal passed away on 30.11. 2014.

We extend our sincere condolences to our confreres and share their grief as we continue to pray for the eternal repose of these departed members.

## My Programme

### December 2014

- 05 Canonical Visitation of Confreres and Scholastics at Suvidya College
- 07 Annual Visitation of Confreres and students at IIS Rajajinagar
- 10 Visitation to Atmajyothi, Pattikad, Aluva SFS Vidyashram
- 11 Visitation to Little Flower Church, Thalayazham (Fr. Mathew Kavithazhe); St. Joseph's Church, Manjapra (Fr. Francis Kizhakkethazhe)
- 13 Charis Bhavan Silver Jubilee, Athirampuzha
- 15 SFS School Kannur, Annual Day, Declaration of CBSE Affiliation
- 18 SFS PU College Inauguration, Kolar; SFS ICSE School Annual Day Hebbagodi
- 21 Council Meeting, Vinayalaya, Bangalore
- 22 KRCCR Executive Committee Meeting, Vinayalaya
- 22 Visitation to the Philippines Delegation
- 29 Ordination of Dn. Jundie Sumagaysay

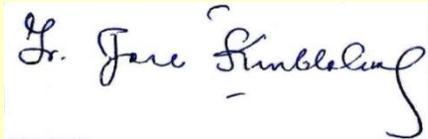
### January 2015

- 08 Return to Bangalore from the Philippines
- 10 Council Meeting, Vinayalaya
- 11 PIF Meeting, Vinayalaya
- 12 Channarayapatna
- 13 Regents Meet, Vinayalaya
- 15 Local Superiors Forum Meeting, Vinayalaya
- 17 SFS School Annual Day, Mundargi
- 20-21 PSI Trust Meeting, Visitation of Malur Community
- 22 Visitation – Chitamani Community
- 26 KRCCR Executive Body Meeting, Ashirvad, Bangalore
- 27-28 Tejas Vidya Peetha, Visitation, Minor Orders
- 28-30 Junior Priests Gathering and Formation, Vinayalaya

***In the Footsteps of our Patron, St. Francis de Sales:***

“It is a maxim that *good comes from an entirely perfect cause, evil from one that is defective*. For an act of charity to be genuine, it must come from a love that is entire, general and universal, that extends to all God’s commandments. If we are wanting in love in any one commandment, our love is neither entire nor universal. And the heart in which it is, cannot be called truly loving, nor consequently truly good”. (SFS, Treatise on the Love of God, Bk X, Ch 9).

**Fraternally in Christ,**



**Rev. Fr. Jose Kumblokal MSFS  
Provincial Superior**

