

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



Tel. 080 23340379 Mob: 91 9448853187, Fax: 080 23341329

Website: [www.msfsouthwest.org](http://www.msfsouthwest.org) e-mail: [provincialsouthwestmsfs@gmail.com](mailto:provincialsouthwestmsfs@gmail.com)

VINAYALAYA, MSFS Provincial House P.B.No.5557, Malleswaram West P.O  
Bangalore 560 055, INDIA

**Circular JK/17**

**June 08, 2015**

**My dear Confreres,**



One of the Action Plan of our last Provincial Congress was to stabilize the Chad Cameroon Mission and to support it financially with sufficient infrastructure build up and also to provide the Mission with more members. This objective was considered by the

Administration as a priority and during my last visitation to the Franco Swiss Province and to the English Province I could present the need of the Chad-Cameroon Mission to our confreres there and organize help. We have certain clarity regarding the regular financial support of the mission now and according to the guidelines given by the Superior General we have decided to send two confreres each in the coming years to the Mission of Chad Cameroon. It is very encouraging to note that some of the scholastics have volunteered themselves to go to the Chad Cameroon Mission for their formation and future ministry there. Our Founder's vision and dream was to send missionaries to Africa. Today we can be proud that this dream is becoming a reality as there are many young and dynamic youth who are willing to join the MSFS from Chad and Cameroon. It is the fruit of the hard-work, sacrifice and daring missionary zeal of our confreres who have pioneered to Africa. I dedicate this circular to our Chad Cameroon Mission with all the details of the Canonical Visitation that I made together with Fr. Vinod Kanat, the Councillor in charge of Mission.

## **Visitation to Chad –Cameroon Mission**

The Canonical visitation of the confreres in the Chad- Cameroon Mission was done from the 20<sup>th</sup> February to 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2015. Fr. Vinod Kanat, Councillor in charge of Mission,

accompanied me in this visitation. We reached Nairobi International airport on 20<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00 am local time. Since there was no connecting flight to Yaoundé the same day, we spent the day at Mlolongo Parish Mission of the East Africa Province. Fr. Jacob Thekkekkara and Fr. Sijo Pendanath received us at the parish. I thank both of them for their Salesian hospitality and availability and pray for God's blessings upon both of them and the Mlolongo Mission.

### **Arrival at Yaoundé**

The flight to Yaoundé was at 8.00 am on 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2015 and we reached after 4 hours of flight to Yaoundé airport at 10.30 am local time (Cameroon time is 2 hours behind that of Kenya). Fr. Manoj Arackal, the Mission Superior, was waiting at the airport and he helped us in the visa stamping at the airport and we proceeded to the Chad Embassy from the airport to apply for Chad Visa.

### **Canonical Visitation of the Bishop of Obala to Ngoya Community**



Our arrival in La Feuillette Seminary at Ngoya coincided with the visitation of the Bishop of Obala Msgr. Sosthène Léopold Bayemi Matjei, who arrived at La Feuillette by 8 pm along with Fr. Marcel. He was coming after visiting the parish of Ekkekam where Fr. Marcel is the parish priest. We were given a joint welcome by the

fathers and brothers of La Feuillette community. Bishop was appreciative of the works of MSFS and particularly that of Fr. Marcel in the parish and said that he had many new plans to be executed in the parish along with Fr. Marcel. I assured him of our support to the diocese with more personnel in the coming years. During the dinner the brothers welcomed the Bishop and us with traditional cultural programs and dance. The bishop went back after the dinner.

### **Visitation to Buea University Parish**

MSFS' presence in the Anglophone area of Cameroon had been a long time vision from the time of the Previous Provincials and Fr. Thomas Cherukat as Mission Superior. This dream was materialized when the Bishop of Buea invited us to take up the University parish of Buea and establish ourselves in the Diocese. Anglophone area is quite different from the Francophone area in culture and in the mentality of the people. There are more plantations of rubber and bananas and more industrial growth is seen towards that part of Cameroon.



On 21<sup>st</sup> February, morning after the concelebrated community mass in the La Feuillette chapel, we travelled to Buea. We, Fr. Manoj, Fr. Vinod and I, reached Buea by 3.00 pm. Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal, the parish priest of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in the Buea University campus, was waiting for us at the presbytery. He welcomed us and we had tea together. He explained to us that the post of the Parish Priest of the University Parish is an important responsibility in the diocese and the Bishop has placed great confidence in the MSFS by giving us this Parish.

The Bishop has requested the services of one more confrere to assist Fr. Thomas and also to teach in the university. We noticed that the Parish community is very vibrant and active. We already have two vocations from the University parish and still a few more are interested in joining the MSFS.

### **Meeting with Msgr. Immanuel Bushu, Bishop of Buea**



Our appointment for meeting with the bishop of Buea, Msgr. Immanuel Bushu was at 5.00 pm. We had almost two hours meeting with the bishop. He was very appreciative of the work done by Fr. Thomas in the parish and his services as the Chaplain of the University students and he requested me to send one more priest who can teach at the university and also assist Fr. Thomas. We also proposed to the bishop the plan to purchase a piece

of property in Buea, near the University so that we can have a permanent presence and also start some ministry of our own. He welcomed the proposal and said that this was the right time to purchase property, as the price of the land is going up day by day.



On 22<sup>nd</sup> February, Sunday, at 8.30 am was the Mass at Sts. Peter and Paul University Church. I presided over the Sunday Mass and preached the homily. The parish church, which is very big, was full with more than 1000 people, mostly students of the university. The mass, which went on for more than two and a half hours, was with a lot of singing and dancing. At

the end of the mass the president of the Parish Pastoral Council officially welcomed me, Fr. Vinod and Fr. Manoj. There was also a meeting after the mass, during which some of



the students asked me questions regarding choosing and discerning vocation to religious life. After the mass we had lunch at the presbytery and then proceeded to see the proposed land for purchase. The land was on the way to the Bishop's house from the University, outside Buea town. Fr. Thomas is entrusted with the task of further negotiation and process of purchase. Fr

Thomas joined the return trip to Yaoundé. The Anglophone area and the University parish offer many possibilities for our confreres to engage in meaningful parish ministry and teaching ministry. The people are very welcoming and the bishop too has wholeheartedly welcomed us into his diocese. I appeal to the Province community for more volunteers to this fertile pastoral field. I place on record the vibrant ministry of Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal who is very cheerful and enthusiastic in his missionary commitment and he is well appreciated by the people.

### **Visa Appointment for Chad and Travel to Ngaoundéré**



On 23rd Monday morning mass was presided over by Fr. Vinod at the Seminary chapel in La Feuillette. After the mass I had personal meetings with Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal and Fr. Christophe and the brothers of La Feuillette. We got the Visa for Chad with great difficulty in the afternoon. In the evening at 5.00 pm five of us (I, Fr. Vinod, Fr. Thomas, Fr. Manoj and Fr.

Marcel) started from La Feuillette to go to Ngaoudéré by train. Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam joined us at the Railway Station. The journey was very comfortable. Although with some delay, we reached Ngaoudéré by 10. 30 am on Tuesday the 24th. Fr. Giridhari Lakra, the Parish Priest and University Chaplain of Ngaoundéré and Fr. Bipin Xess welcomed us at the Station.

### **Journey to Doba, Chad and the Difficulty at the Chad-Border**

When we reached the Chad border, we were told that there was a new rule promulgated on the previous day, which prohibits those having Cameroonian resident permit from entering Chad without a Visa. So it was decided that only I and Fr. Vinod, who had already the Chad Visa, would go to Chad with Fr. Sandeep Tirkey who had come from Bero. Others returned to Ngaoudéré in the second vehicle. Our original plan was to hold the Mission Colloquium at Doba, in Chad. It was decided that the mission colloquium



would be in Ngaoudéré; I, Fr. Vinod and the other fathers working in Chad would return to Ngaoundéré the following day. We reached Doba by 8.45 pm and Fr. Robin Thonikuzhiyil and Fr. Innocent Parfait Onomo Ayissi welcomed us at Doba community. We had dinner together and decided to meet the Apostolic Administrator Bishop of Doba and visit Bero mission on the following day.

### **Visitation of Doba Mission and Meeting with Msgr. Miguél Sebastián, Apostolic Administrator of Doba**



On the 25th morning at 5.30 am I presided over the French Mass in the Daniel Comboni Parish at Doba and Fr. Parfait preached the homily. In the message which I gave after the Mass, I thanked Doba community for the support and love given to our fathers who are working in Doba and particularly to Fr. Scaria who recently returned to India. We were welcomed by Fr. Robin. The message was translated to Ngumbi, the local language, so that it could be understood by all. After the mass we had a group photo with the parishioners.



At 7.00 am I had meeting with the Apostolic Administrator of Doba, Msgr. Miguel Sebastián in the Bishop's house. Later Frs. Vinod, Robin, Parfait, and Sandeep also joined for the meeting. We had decided to clarify the future concerning the School and the College we had started in the Comboni campus. Bishop told us that as he is the administrator and a religious bishop, he was not in a position to entrust the Daniel Comboni School and College of Doba to the MSFS permanently, as it would be negatively interpreted by the diocesan

clergy. The bishop added that the Diocese of Doba does not have many institutions and it would be unjust to entrust the school to us as it would impoverish the diocese. I told the bishop that we were happy to entrust the school and the College of the Doba mission to the Diocese as our contribution and requested bishop for permission to purchase some land in Doba by the MSFS Congregation. The bishop welcomed the idea and we arrived at the understanding of purchasing three hectares of land in Doba at a concessional price. It was decided that a final decision would be taken after the Mission Colloquium and the bishop too told us that he would also consult the matter with his Council.

### **Visitation to Saint Daniel Comboni Parish and History of the Mission:**



Saint Daniel Comboni Mission is one among the twelve parishes in the Diocese of Doba in Chad. It has a history of 17 years as a parish and 38 years as a sector. This is the third parish that the Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales have taken up in Chad after Maybombay and Bero parishes. It's also one among the three city parishes in Doba namely St. Theresa of

Child Jesus (Cathedral) Parish, St. Daniel Comboni Parish and St. Dominic Savio Parish. This parish, from its very inception in 1997, was entrusted to the Combonian fathers. It was given to the MSFS congregation on 11 October 2009 with Fr. Scaria Kannezhathu as the parish priest and Giridhari Lakra as deacon and later as Assistant parish priest. In the same year Fr. Boban Elanjimattathil also joined the parish as assistant parish priest for some time along with Fr. Giridhari. During the tenure of Fr. Scaria as the parish priest a lot of commendable works were done in the building up of the infrastructure of the school and the Lycée. I place on record the dedicated works of Fr. Scaria for the Doba Mission. From 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011 Fr. Robin Thonikuzhiyil took up the charge as assistant parish priest replacing Fr. Giridhari. From 12<sup>th</sup> October 2014, with the departure of Fr. Scaria to India, Fr. Robin is the parish priest with an assistant parish priest in the person of Fr. Onomo Ayissi Innocent Parfait.

The Town of Doba is strategically situated for future expansion and growth of MSFS in Chad. Our plan is to start a community house and a school in the new land we will be purchasing shortly in Doba. We have already four scholastics who are in formation from Chad and MSFS is recognized in Chad as an official Congregation and we have the right to purchase and own land in Chad. In Cameroon we are waiting still for this permission. All the land we possess in Cameroon are in the name of other Congregations. I place on record the dedicated works of Fr. Robin and Fr. Parfait to animate the parish community and to educate the children in our Schools with Salesian values. With all the

limitations that are present in the Mission, they radiate the Salesian missionary zeal and their cheerful availability to the Mission of the Church and the Congregation.

### **Visitation to Bero Mission – History of the Mission**



Bero community is the First Community of MSFS in Chad – Cameroun Mission. Frs. Jose Puthiyaparambil, Saji Vadakkedath and Reji Narikunnel and Thomas Payattukandathil were the first community members of this house. On 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2003, Bero Parish called “Paroisse Ste. Josephine Bakhita de Bero” was erected and given to Missionaries of St. Francis

de Sales by His Lordship Right Reverend Michel Russo. Fr. Jose Puthiyaparambil was the first Parish Priest and Local Superior of this Community. During this period, many of our confreres (Frs. Saji Vadakkedath, Reji Narikunnel, Jaison Pezhathinal ) passed through this house and did initiation course in the Diocese of Doba. In the following year (in 2004), Fr. Saji was installed as the second Parish Priest and the Local Superior of this community. This time Frs. Saji Vadakkedath and Johny Cheruvil were the members of this community in Bero.

In the year 2006, Fr. Joshy Mangalathu was installed as the third Parish Priest and local superior of this community. Fr. Joshy and Bro. Emile Amougou (Regent) formed the community. On 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2006, we opened S.F.S. Primary School (ECA). In the Following year, in 2007, our community of Bero received three new fathers (Frs. Paul Raj, Scaria Kannezhathu and Manoj Arackal). This time Frs. Joshy Mangalathu, Paul Raj, Scaria, Manoj and Bro. Ayissi Parfait (Regent) formed the community. During those days, Frs. Paul Raj, Scaria and Manoj did their initiation course in the diocese of Doba. After one year, Fr. Manoj was called back to Yaoundé. In 2008, MSFS started a new apostolate in Bero, Diocese of Doba by opening a Boys’ Town and it was blessed on 10<sup>th</sup> November 2008 by His Lordship Michel Russo, Bishop of Doba. In 2008, Bero received again two new priests Frs. M. Perianayagam and Gijo Panamattam. They too did initiation course in the Diocese of Doba. After one year, Fr. Gijo Panamattam was called back to Yaoundé and Fr. M. Perianayagam was transferred to Ngaoundéré. In the year 2009, we were asked to take up a new parish in Doba called “Paroisse St. Daniel Comboni” and Fr. Scaria was installed as Parish Priest of this parish. In the year 2010, Fr. Paul Raj was installed as the fourth Parish Priest and was made local superior of the Bero community. At that time Fr. Paul Raj, Fr. Boban and Dn. Sandeep Tirkey formed the community.

On 20<sup>th</sup> September 2013, Fr. Sandeep Tirkey was installed as a fifth Parish Priest and Local Superior of the community. Fr. Christophe as Asst. Parish Priest and Bro. Boris

Nixon (Regent) were the other members of the community. Since 1<sup>st</sup> of August 2014 to 19<sup>th</sup> of January 2015, Fr. Sandeep Tirkey remained all alone in the community due to lack of personnel. It was on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2015, Bro. William Favier, a Regent, was sent to strengthen the community of Bero. Recently a new Grotto of Our Lady is built by us and it is blessed by the Bishop and a lot of parishioners come regularly for Rosary. Fr. Sandeep and Bro. William are fully engaged in the pastoral care of the mission of Bero and the true missionary spirit of MSFS is given witness here. I appreciate the hard-work put in by Fr. Sandeep and also the hard work of all the previous Parish Priests and community members of Bero. Our Bero Mission remains as the landmark of MSFS pioneering into Chad. Most of our SW fathers who went to the African Mission have served this mission. I sincerely thank all the pioneers of this mission and I place on record the dedicated works of all the fathers who served this mission in the past.

### **Inauguration and Blessing of the New Library at Doba**



After our visit to Bero, we went back to Doba and we had the Inauguration and blessing of the newly furnished library of the Doba Mission school. Fr. Vinod Kanat inaugurated the Library and I blessed it. After lunch we proceeded to Ngaoundéré and reached there for dinner.

### **Mission Colloquium of Chad Cameroon 2015**

On 26<sup>th</sup> February, Thursday all of us gathered at the community house of Ngaoundéré and at 8.30 am the Mission Colloquium was convened.

#### **Mission Colloquium:**

Members Present:

- Fr. Jose Kumbolickal (Provincial)
- Fr. Vinod Kanattu (Councillor in charge of Mission)
- Fr. Manoj Arackal (Mission Superior)
- Fr. Robin Thonikuzhiyil (Mission Councillor)
- Fr. Giridhari Lakra (Mission Councillor)
- Fr. Marcel Dung Dung (Mission Procurator)
- Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal
- Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam
- Fr. Bipin Kishor Xess
- Fr. Sandeep Tirkey
- Fr. Christophe Bertrand Abessouguie
- Fr. Onamo Ayissi Innocent Parfait

The meeting began with a prayer lead by Fr. Provincial. The meeting was moderated by Fr. Vinod. Fr Manoj welcomed all the fathers present for the colloquium. Two secretaries were elected: Fr. Parfait and Fr. Christophe. Action Plan and Mission Statement committee members were Frs. Manoj, Joshy and Robin.

## **Inaugural Address and Orientation talk by Fr. Provincial:**



In his address Fr. Provincial spoke about the passion and missionary spirit we have to develop in this Year of Mission in line with the call of Pope Francis for the Year of Consecrated Life. He also shared with the members the main orientation given by our Superior General for this Year of Mission. We need to look forward with hope and

optimism at the future, be joyful and generous in our religious life. We are called to “*Wake Up the World*” in this year of consecrated life, through our life together and our apostolate. *Our Consecrated Life for the Mission* is the theme for us the MSFS in this year. Fr. Provincial exhorted all to live our consecrated life meaningfully following the directives of the Superior General for the Year of Mission. He also explained the plans and proposals the Province administration has for the Chad Cameroon Mission, including additional personnel in the coming years and the financial support for the infrastructure buildup. A coordinator for the benefactors of the seminarians for the mission was proposed. He exhorted all in the Mission to be optimistic and to communicate the positive things that are happening in the mission centers through mission News Magazine and thus to make known to all the wonderful works that are happening in the Chad Cameroon Mission.

The message of the Superior general to the mission colloquium was read out by Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal. Fr General exhorted the members of Chad Cameroon Mission to be inspired by the Chablais experience of SFS, the Chambéry experience of Fr. Mermier and the example our pioneering fathers. He also insisted in his message to give importance to community based mission.

### **Presentation of Reports**

Fr. Manoj, the Mission superior presented a consolidated report of the entire mission. He presented the strength and challenges of the Mission. The constant returning of the members to India from the Mission was pointed out as a weakening factor in the Mission. The increasing number of vocations, the enthusiasm among the members and the new vision emerging were the positive factors.

### **On Buea Mission**

Fr. Thomas Moongamakkal presented a report of the SS Peter and Paul University Parish in Buea. He suggested that two more priests could be sent to the University



Parish so that a community of ours can be in place. He was asked to find out the possibility of getting teaching post in the state university if we send a qualified confrere. All supported the proposal to purchase a plot of land at Buea. It was also decided to make Fr. Thomas M. the coordinator for the benefactors visiting the Mission. It was proposed that we should plan for a Novitiate house of our

own in the future, which could be in the Buea area. A Spirituality and Counseling Center of our own also could be envisaged at Ngyoya in the future for the Mission.

### **Report of the Ekekam Mission by Fr .Marcel Dung Dung**



Fr. Marcel began the presentation with the clarification that we are not having a contract with the diocese although the parish is given permanently to the MSFS. A draft for the agreement is given to the bishop for study and approval. The parish of St. Francis de Sales Ekekam was established on 24 January 2004 by his Lordship Jerome OWONO MIMBOE, the first Bishop of the diocese

of Obala. On 30<sup>th</sup> April 2006 it was entrusted to the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales under the name of our beloved Patron Saint Francis de Sales. The strength of the parish is 1500 Catholics. This is a rural parish. Fr. Marcel Dung Dung is the present parish priest of this parish. April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Fr. Richard Martin was installed as the first parish priest of St. Francis de Sales, Ekekam by his Lordship Jerome OWONO MIMBOE. On July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Fr. Richard Martin was replaced by Fr. Xavier Manoj Arackal. On May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Fr. Xavier Manoj Arackal was replaced by Fr. Kuldeep Kujur. On September 21<sup>st</sup> 2013, Fr. Kuldeep Kujur was replaced by Fr. Marcel Dung Dung.

We have 8 hectors of land at Ekkekam. The Bishop is asking for a priest to stay in the parish. It was observed that in the given situation this is not practical. We will have to invest further on the presbytery. A non-formal / technical institution is proposed by the Colloquium for the centre. I thank all the previous parish priests who rendered their services in this Mission. This Mission is very challenging as the access road to the churches is in very bad condition. The fathers take high risk in driving the vehicle to reach the place of ministry. I thank Fr. Kuldeep the previous Parish Priest and Fr. Marcel the present Parish Priest for their keen interest in this mission. Fr. Marcel is also rendering his services as formator and as the Mission Bursar.

## **Report on Ekoundoum Mission by Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam**



Fr. Joshy began the report with a brief history of the Mission of Ekoundoum. In the past, Ekoundoum was a small village situated on the peripheries of Yaoundé city. There was only a small population. In the recent years, a lot of developments have taken place. It is already part of the city and the population is very high. The Ekoundoum Mission was just a Christian Community until 2005 which was depending on its mother parish. In 2005, it was erected as the Parish of Sinte Joséphine Bakhita and then entrusted to the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales. Fr. Thomas Cherukat, the then Mission Superior, took the pain of arranging three confreres for the community. Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam was appointed as Superior of the MSFS community and as Parish Priest. Fr. Thomas Payattukandathil was appointed as Procurator of the community. Fr. Georgekutty Puthiyidom had just joined the Cad-Cameroon mission and so during the week days, he stayed in the La Feuillette community for doing the French course and on week-ends, he joined the parish community for the pastoral service. They stayed in a rented house in Ekoundoum.

Nine months later, Fr. Payattukandathil was transferred to another mission and so he left the community. Fr Georgekutty Puthiyidom had finished the French course and he became a full time member of the mission. He assumed the responsibility of Procurator in the community. Certain MSFS seminarians who were doing the theology in the formation house in Ngoya joined the community on week-ends. In 2009, Fr. Georgekutty was appointed as the Superior and Rector of La Feuillette community. Fr. Gijo Panamattathil replaced him. He took over the charge of the procurator as well as the responsibility of Assistant Parish Priest. In 2010, the parish community started the construction works of the parish church.

In December 2011, Fr. Boban Elanjimattathil was appointed as the Procurator and Assistant Parish priest. Fr. Gijo was appointed to the Lumen Christi Institute in Arusha. Later in 2012, Fr. Boban Elanjimattathil was appointed as the Superior of the Community. In 2012, the Parish community constructed the presbytery and the MSFS community was installed there. In 2014, Fr. Boban returned to India after completing 5 years of ministry in the Chad Cameroon mission. Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam was appointed as Superior and Procurator of the community.

The church construction is still in the process. It may take another two years for completion. The issue of one man communities was raised and Fr. Provincial explained

the situational problem we are facing due to members returning untimely to India. As a Province we have to remove the negative impressions we have about the Chad Cameroon Mission. We are looking into the possibilities to address the issue, but preparing new personal will take some time. In Ekoundoum we have half an acre of land and there was a suggestion to sell it and buy elsewhere. But the forum decided to retain the land in view of the Mission/Delegation House there in the future, as it is close to the airport. I place on record the great services rendered by Fr. Boban in this mission and for his availability. I thank sincerely Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam for his dedicated services as the Parish Priest of Ekoundoum and for all the hard work he is putting in for the completion of the construction of the Parish Church.

### **Report on the Doba Mission by Fr. Robin**



Fr. Robin informed the forum that the Apostolic Administrator Bishop was asking us to start some institution of our own as he is not in a position to entrust the existing mission and school in his capacity as Administrator. After the report on Doba, it was decided that we would wait for a year to know who will be the next bishop to start the school; however we go ahead with the purchase of three hectors of land. It was pointed out that we do not have the contact address of the benefactors who helped us in the building of the Comboni School at

Doba. It was suggested that Fr Provincial will get the contact details of the Korean group who has helped in building the Doba School from Fr. Scaria who was the priest in-charge of the project, so that we can continue the contact with the benefactors. We will also dialogue with the Bishop regarding some minimum remuneration for running the school of the diocese. At 12.15 pm all the fathers joined for the Holy Mass in the Bini Dang Parish Church presided by Fr. Provincial. The meeting continued after lunch at 2 pm.

### **Report on Saint Thomas More Parish Bini-Dang and Berem, Karna-Mbé Missions by Fr. Giridhari Lakra and Fr. Bipin Xess**

Responding to the kind invitation of Most Rev. Joseph DJIDA, Bishop of Ngaoundéré the Fransalians established a community on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002. This new community was formed by three priests: Frs. Binoy Kidangathkarot, Jaison Pezhathinal and Joshy Nellimalamattam. Since then, our fathers were working in collaboration with the diocesan priests in different Parishes. On December 2004, Bishop of Ngaoundéré entrusted three of his Parishes to our Congregation: St. Thomas More Parish of Bini-Dang, St. Charles Lwanga of Berem and St. Andrew of Karna-Mbé. Fr. Binoy Kidangathkarot was appointed as the first MSFS Parish Priest of Bini-Dang and Chaplain

of the university students. Together with the St. Thomas More parish, he was given charge of the parish of St. Charles Lwanga of Berem. Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam was appointed as assistant Parish Priest of both the parishes Bini-Dang and Berem. Fr. Jaison Pezhathinal was appointed as the parish priest of St. Andrew Parish of Karna-Mbé with his residence in the community of Bini-Dang. After Fr. Binoy Kidangathkarot, Fr. Arogyanathan was appointed as the Parish Priest and the Chaplain of the catholic students of the University of Ngaoundere in 2006. In April 2012, Fr. Lakra Giridhari succeeded Fr. Arogyanathan as Parish Priest and Chaplain of the university students. This year is the silver jubilee year for the parish of Bini-Dang since it is created in the year 1990 according to the given sources.

### **Saint Thomas Parish of Bin-Dang**

Saint Thomas More Parish, Bini-Dang is a Parish and Chaplaincy of the University Students of Ngaoundéré. This Parish was founded by the Mill Hill Missionaries in the year 1990 and it was handed over to us, MSFS, in 2004. The faithful residing within the parish are very few and so it is formed mostly by the students of the University of Ngaoundéré. The number of the students and the faithful participating regularly the Sunday masses are around three thousand.

### **Bini-Dang Community, Ngaoundere**



The Bini-Dang community of Ngaoundere is composed of Fr. Lakra Giridhari as superior and Fr. Bipin Kishore Xess as the Procurator. Both the fathers are very much involved in the spiritual growth of the three parishes Bini-Dang, Berem and Karna-Mbé. The Bini Dang University Parish and Berem and Karna-Mbe Parishes are under the 10 year contract MSFS

has made with the Diocese which will expire in 2016. It was felt that considering the vastness of the mission and the increasing number of diocesan clergy we can return to the Diocese one of the stations. There is also water scarcity in the Parish of Berem. The Parishes are not self supportive. The land acquired for the construction of school and seminary in Ngoundéré is ready and it was decided to lay the foundation stone on Saturday. Fr. Provincial advised the Mission Council to have specific financial planning for the school project and start with only the lower primary schools in the beginning. It is evaluated that there is good scope for Upper Primary and Middle School later and the school can support the seminary. The plan and sketch of the school were brought to the Colloquium and after detailed discussion with some modifications they were approved. The modified plan will be implemented in the construction.

## **The report of the Bero mission by Fr Sandeep.**



In the beginning of his report, Fr. Sandeep presented the difficulty he faces with the scarcity of confreres in the Mission of Bero to support him. After Fr. Christophe left, the Mission of Bero became a single member community. Now there is a regent Bro. William. The lack of personal is the main issue in running the centre. The mission is also

partly financed from the Mission funds. After the presentation of the report there were some clarifications. As conclusion, Fr. Provincial insisted on the need for the Chad Cameroon Mission to have annual budgeting and internal auditing as a compulsory practice in the Mission.

## **Report from Scholastics in LCI Arusha**

The report from the Chad-Cameroon Scholastics now in formation at Arusha was read. The scholastics expressed their satisfaction with the formation given at LCI. They also pointed out some of the academic facilities they lack such as sufficient number of computers, internet access, books in the library and facility to call home to Chad or Cameroon. The brothers opine that the six month Pre-novitiate program at Ndagani, Kenya was not very useful. Many courses were repeated and they consider this program could be shortened. The members of the Colloquium also mostly felt the same. It was decided to take up this matter by the Provincial to the East Africa Provincial and arrive at a solution. The proposal is to have only one month intensive Pre-novitiate course before the Novitiate in Tanzania and not in Kenya. So the aspirants and postulants will be together for two years in the Minor Seminary of the Chad-Cameroon Mission. The urgency in the construction of the Minor Seminary and the need for a full time formator/Rector at the minor seminary were also stressed by the scholastics.

## **Observations by Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam, former Mission Superior**

As Fr. Joshy Nellimalamattam had to travel back to Yaoundé that night, he shared his ideas and suggestions. He appreciated the present system of animation of Chad Cameroon Mission by the Provincial Administration. He also appreciated the financial help of € 10,000 given tri-monthly to the Mission. He explained that the initial rejection of the proposal of raising Chad Cameroon into a Delegation was only a reaction to the uncertainties that existed in the Mission at that time and he was sorry that if it had hurt the Provincial Administration. He proposed that it could be reconsidered to raise the Mission into a Delegation if all the members are for it again. It was explained by Fr. Provincial that Delegation was proposed for better administration and for stability in planning in the Mission and if the members are not confident about it, the matter will not be forced upon by the Administration. Now we have already a stable structure of

Mission Superior and his Advisory Council for animating the Mission. When the time is ripe and members are confident we will consider the status of Delegation for the Chad Cameroon Mission. It was decided that the members will put to vote this matter in the final session of the Colloquium. There was a photo session and the meeting was concluded for the day by 7.00 pm.

After dinner the Mission Council had a meeting with the Provincial and Councilor in Charge of Mission. The meeting came to an end by 10.30 pm. On 27th Friday we had a mission picnic to a volcanic lake nearby and on the way back we visited the Ngaoundéré Cathedral. In the afternoon at 2.15 pm the mission colloquium resumed.

### **Presentation of the report on La Feuillette and Ebang Parish by Fr. Manoj**



Fr. Manoj presented the situation of La Feuillette Seminary and the need for expansion of the same. Some projects are submitted for funds for the expansion of the seminary and in principle the Forum approved the proposal. The work will be taken up according to the availability of funds. Regarding Ebang Parish there is no agreement or contract with the Diocese. Bishop is of the opinion that

there is need for a resident priest. The Mission is not in a position to send a resident priest at present. Fr. Provincial suggested strongly that Fr. Manoj need to be free from Parish responsibility to animate the Mission and plan for its growth.

### **Presentation of the Mission Financial Situation**

Fr. Marcel presented the financial position of the Mission, from the time he took charge. There were a few clarifications raised by the participants. Fr. Provincial stressed on the need for preparing the annual budget for each mission unit and also on the need for internal audit. It is important that we do not mix project money with money for the regular maintenance of centers. The mission is asked to prepare the mission budget and financial report of the mission at the beginning and end of the financial year respectively and get it approved by the Provincial Council. All the communities will prepare budgets by 20th of March for this financial year. Province budget format will be sent to the Mission to customize the accounting. Fr. Provincial also reminded the Forum about the need to be accountable with the mass intentions received by the Mission. Projects are to be applied only through the Mission superior and the Provincial.

The Messages of Assistant Superior General Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas, Fr. Thomas Cherukat, Fr. Emile Mayoraz and Fr. Emile Amougou were read.

### **Concluding Address by Provincial**

Fr. Provincial stressed on the need to have comprehensive and long term planning for the Mission, especially, personal plan of confreres. He emphasized on the need for the

Mission to work on constitutional structures like Delegation for the implementation of the policies. The Mission superior also has to be freed from parochial ministry to attend to the supervisory role and animation of the Mission more efficiently.

Fr. Provincial exhorted all to have constant communication among the members to ensure mutual support and unity. A Mission news letter should be published, which will help in creating a positive image of the Mission and all the mission centers should contribute news and information for the magazine. Members should be made aware of the happenings and decisions of the Mission Council. The action plan and mission statements should be finalized and approved by the Colloquium. We should revive the Friends of Fransalians in all the mission centers and there should be an animator for it in the Mission. The Colloquium should prioritize the urgent needs of the mission in all the deliberations so that real focus on the development of the Mission can be achieved.

### **Proposal for Delegation**

The members of the Mission Colloquium gathered again to finalize the Action Plan of the colloquium and to discuss if the Mission has to be raised to the status of a Delegation. Of the 9 fathers present 6 were for raising the Mission to a Delegation, while 3 were of the opinion to wait till there was more financial stability in the Mission. It was also proposed that if the Mission were to be raised as a Delegation, the members should be given freedom to return to India after 5 years in the Delegation if they prefer so. It was also proposed that in case of the division of the Province, freedom to choose the Province should be given to the Delegation members. The new priests will be placed in Chad after their language study, as it was the practice of the Mission from the beginning.

### **Action plan of the Mission Colloquium**

The following Action Plan was unanimously approved by the Mission Colloquium:

- 1. To start a School and Minor seminary at Ngaoundéré.**
- 2. To buy 3 hectors of land at Buea and start a ministry of our own.**
- 3. To buy 3 hectors of land at Doba for a School**
- 4. To intensify vocation promotion**
- 5. To appoint a Coordinator for benefactors**
- 6. To publish Mission News Letter once in every three month.**
- 7. To begin Annual Budgeting and internal audit in the Mission Units.**
- 8. To have more common meetings and more communication among the members of the Mission for strengthening unity.**
- 9. To begin groups of Friends of Fransalians in all the Mission Units and to have an animator for it.**

### **Laying of the Foundation Stone for Minor Seminary and SFS School**

On 28th Saturday, Foundation Stones for the School and Seminary were blessed at Ngaoundéré and laid by Fr. Provincial together with the Village Chief and



Representatives from the local government authorities. A group of local people from the neighboring places were present. Students from the University at Bini Dang made the blessing a solemn ceremony by their presence and music. Lunch was arranged for all those who were present for the function.

In the evening all the fathers with the Provincial had a visit to the residence of the Lamido, the Local King who donated us the land in Ngaoundéré, to thank him for his generosity and also to assure him that we will respect his intention in donating the land, that is to build a school and dispensary.

On the 1st of March, Sunday Fr. Provincial presided over the solemn concelebrated mass at St. Thomas More University Parish of Bini Dang. In the evening we took the train back to Yaoundé. We reached La Feuillette on 2nd of March.

### **Visitation and Holy Mass at Ekoundoum Parish**

On 3rd March we had mass together at the Parish Church of Ekoundoum. The Church, which is under construction, has its full structure ready, but it may take one - two years for completion according to Fr. Joshy. Our flight to Nairobi was at 10. 30 am and we reached our community at Mololongo Kenya by 7.30 in the evening. Fr. Joseph Vettukattil received us at the airport. I had meeting with Fr. Joseph and on the following day he accompanied us to Ndagani.

### **Visitation of Scholastics in Kenya**



On 4th March Fr. Jacob Tekkekara took us by his car to Ndagani Fransalian Seminary. We were received by Fr. Stephen Upadeshi, the Rector and 14 brothers. Three brothers at the seminary are for Chad Cameroon mission. I and Fr. Vinod addressed the brothers, and I also met the three brothers and Fr. Stephen personally. After that we visited Chera mission of the

East Africa Province and met Fr. Chinnappa Arockiaswamy and Fr. David Soosai, working in the mission. We were back at Mololongo mission in the evening. Since it was the birthday of Fr Jacob, we concelebrated mass with him and there was a celebration for which all the confreres in Kenya were present. I thank sincerely all our MSFS confreres in Kenya for the support and love they gave to us during our visitation and

also I thank the Provincial and the Province of East Africa for forming our Scholastics in their formation houses.

### **Visitation to Confreres and Scholastics at LCI Arusha, Tanzania**



On 5th March morning we travelled by bus to Arusha in Tanzania. Fr Rajesh from Mozambique mission who was joining LCI community also accompanied us. Our bus reached Magi ya Chai, Arusha, LCI by 10 30 am. I had meeting with Fr. Johnson, Provincial of East Africa Province, Fr Mathew Kozhuppakkalam, Fr. Jijo Panamattathil, Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil - Rector, and

seven brothers of the Chad Cameroon mission personally. In the evening I and Fr. Vinod addressed all 25 scholastics.

On 6th March, Fr. Mathew and Fr. Jijo accompanied us for a visit to the National Park in Arusha.

### **Visitation to the Novitiate and Scholastics at Kibaha, Tanzania**



On 7th March, morning we flew to Dar es Salam from Kilimanjaro airport. Fr. Kuldeep Kujur received us at the airport and drove us to the Novitiate. We reached MSFS Novitiate, Kibaha by 12 pm. Fr. Antonyswamy Sebastian - Novice Master, and five novices welcomed us to Fransalianum, the Novitiate. In the afternoon Fr. Vinod visited the Morogoro mission of the

East Africa Province, the Provincial house and the Apostolic School in the mission. I met the Novice Master Fr. Antonyswamy, the Socius Fr. Kuldeep and the two novices of Chad-Cameroon Mission personally. In the evening we had supper at the parish of Mkuza, with Fr. Mathew Chavelil, Fr. Pious Kochuparambil and Fr. William.

We celebrated mass with the Novices on March 8<sup>th</sup> in the morning at 5. 30 am and Fr. Kuldeep drove us to Dar Es Salam airport. I thank Fr. Kuldeep for the services rendered at the Novitiate and for his willingness to be part of the Mission of the Province. Our flight to Nairobi was at 10. 30 am. We reached Nairobi by 12 pm and the flight to Mumbai was at 5 pm. We reached Mumbai at 12.30 am and from there on 9<sup>th</sup> March we reached back in Bangalore.

## **Return of Fr. Christophe Bertrand Abessouguie to the Province and Mission of Chad Cameroon**

One of our new priests, Fr. Christophe Bertrand Abessouguie had requested the Provincial administration for one year of Exclaustration from the Congregation. After the completion of the one year of his study, he has requested for his re-entry into the Province and the Provincial administration, in consultation with the Mission Superior and Mission Advisory Council has accepted him back into the Province and he will be assigned to our Buea Mission from August 2015 for ministry and for the completion of his studies he had started. I wish Fr. Christophe God's abundant blessings.

### **Conclusion**

Chad Cameroon Mission of the MSFS is steadily progressing with more vocations and also with clarity of vision concerning the future. As a Province family we need to embrace this mission with love, care and concern and encourage members with missionary zeal to venture out to this Mission land. Our fathers and brothers in Africa radiate the true missionary face of MSFS. They are realizing one of the important dreams of our Founder, Fr. Mermier, who wanted to send the missionaries to Africa and implant the Fransalians there. In this year of Consecrated Life for Mission, let us earnestly pray that we, as a Missionary Family, continue to nurture the zeal for missions, both in our attitudes and in our actions. I thank sincerely the Previous Provincials and Mission Superiors, all the confreres who served the Chad-Cameroon Mission and all our benefactors and supporters for contributing for the growth of this Mission. I thank Fr. Manoj, the present Mission Superior and his Advisory Council for the meticulous planning of the visitation, organization of the Mission Colloquium and for the bold leadership they are giving to the Mission. I thank Fr. Johnson Kallidukil and the confreres of East Africa Province for their love and support to our confreres and to the Chad-Cameroon Mission. I also thank Fr. Vinod Kanattu, the Councillor in charge of Mission for accompanying me in this visitation and for his personal interest in the Missions of the Province. I assure all the members of Chad Cameroon Mission, on behalf of the Province and the Administration, that we are with you and that you can count on our support, love and cooperation. May our Patron, St. Francis de Sales and our beloved Founder, Fr. Peter Marie Mermier continue to intercede and bless our Chad-Cameroon Mission!

**Fraternally in Christ,**



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