

MISSIONARIES OF ST.FRANCIS DE SALES - MSFS

SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE



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Circular JK/15

March 26, 2015

My dear Confreres,



The Easter of 2015 has a special significance for the Church and in particular for our persecuted brothers and sisters in the Middle-Eastern Countries, in Pakistan, India and in Africa. The passion and death of Jesus is very much alive in the lives of many Christians as they see the death of their dear ones and experience the agony of torture and cruelty on account of their faith in the Risen Lord. Sometimes we feel proud of

our small voluntary privations and fast in preparation for Easter and at times we even feel it burdensome. For Jesus his passion was something very real and part of his very life for the salvation of us all. We need to feel united with the passion of our brothers and sisters to remain faithful to Jesus and bear witness to his resurrection. Consecrated life is an invitation to immerse in the struggle of the people and inspire them with our commitment and vitality of life. The invitation of Pope Francis to all the Religious in the Church this year is "To wake up the World". It is good to reflect personally and collectively as a community how we can respond to this call in one's own life and as a religious family. A meaningful celebration of Easter should be a "wake up" experience for us personally from our addictions, aberrations and laziness. May the Risen Christ rain in us! Live Jesus! I wish you all the Joy and Peace of the Easter!

Dates of the Apostolic Community Meeting with SW Provincial Council

One of the Action Plans for the SW Province in the Year of Mission is to have Apostolic Community Meeting with the Provincial Council in the respective area of the Apostolic Community. Accordingly the dates for the Council meetings in the respective Apostolic Communities are fixed. The Convenors kindly take note of the dates and inform the members to be present for the joint meeting.

5th May, 2015 - 4.00 pm – At IIS Rajajinagar - Bangalore North Apostolic Community Meeting together with the Provincial Council.

7th June, 2015 - 4.00 pm – At Mermier Bhavan - Bangalore South Apostolic Community meeting together with the Provincial Council.

6th July 2015 - 4.00 pm – At Sannidhi – Mysore Apostolic Community Meeting together with the Provincial Council.

5th August 2015 – 4.00 pm – At Koppal – North Karnataka Apostolic Community meeting together with the Provincial Council.

1st September 2015 - 4.00 pm– At TTI Kolar – Kolar Apostolic Community Meeting together with the Provincial Council.

10th October, 2015- 4.00 pm At SFS School Kannur – Kannur Apostolic Community Meeting together with the Provincial Council.

26th November 2015 - 4.00 pm At Aluva Vidyashram – Ettumanoor Apostolic Community Meeting together with the Provincial Council.

18th December 2015- 4.00 pm – At Vinayalaya – Bangalore North Apostolic Community Meeting and Christmas celebrations.

I request all the Convenors of the Apostolic communities to take note of the dates and give due information to the members to be present for the meeting. The Provincial Council will have its meeting in these places and will be interacting with the members of the apostolic community.

For the Special Attention of Apostolic Community Convenors

All the Convenors of the Apostolic Communities who have got transfer this year are to hold a meeting with due intimation to the members before your transfer and hold the election of the new Convenor and if there is change for the secretary for that post too. All the files and documents that you handle are to be handed- over to the new Convenor and the name of the new convenor has to be sent to the Provincial for approval in the Council according to the directives of our General Directory.

SW Province' Annual Retreats – Dates and Venues

Kindly take note of the change of dates of our Annual Retreat for 2015. The first Retreat will be held at **Charis Bhavan Athirmapuzha from 27-31st July 2015** preached by Rev. Fr. Vincent Antony CSSR. The second retreat will be held at **Vinayalaya from 12-16th October, 2015** and it will be guided by Rt. Rev. Dr. Francis Serrao, Bishop of Shimoga. AS I had mentioned in the previous circular, kindly register your names at the earliest. According to our Constitutions and General Directory all the members of the Province have the obligation to participate in the Annual retreat organized by the Province.

Transfers and Appointments

Fr. S. Arockiya Swamy is appointed as the Parish Priest of SFS Church, Malur from 1st March 2015.

Fr. Saji Eanthanankuzhiyil is designated as the Principal of SFS Pre-University College, Hebbagodi.

Fr. Binoy Kurakalayil is designated as the Principal of SFS ICSE School, Koppal.

Fr. Benny Marangolil is designated for PhD studies.

Fr. Christopher Crasta is designated as the Principal of SFS Degree College, Hebbagodi.

Fr. A.C Arokianathan is designated as Parish Priest and Boys' Home Director at SFS Parish and Boarding House, Gokunte.

Fr. A. Prashanth Kumar is designated as Principal of SFS School, Kuknoor.

Fr. Cyriac Ummikuzhiyil is designated as the Community Superior, Parish Priest and Boy's Home director of SFS Parish and School Community, Chintamani.

Fr. Victor Kujur is designated as the Principal of SFS Schools Chintamani.

Fr. D. Doraiswamy is designated as the Director of SFS Boys Home and Superior of the Community Kammasandra, Hebbagodi and he will be designated as the Priest in charge of Singasandra Parish.

Fr. Jeevan Prashanth is designated as the Asst. Director and Procurator of SFS Boys Home, Kammsandra, Hebbagodi.

Fr. Josey Ponnambel is designated for Pastoral Ministry and studies in Australia.

Fr. Timson Parakotttil will continue as the Vice Principal of the SFS College and he will shift his residence from the Boys Home to Mermier Bhavan, Hebbagodi.

Fr. Biju Palamkunnel got his visa for the U.S and will be leaving for the U.S soon.

Fr. Saji Vadakkedath is designated as the Parish Priest of St. George's Church, TK Colony, Thelpara.

All these transfers are to be effected by first week of May 2015 or latest by 15th May 2015 as it will be indicated in the Transfer-Appointment letters. Those who are handing over the responsibility of finance have to consult the Provincial Bursar for the convenient date for entrusting the account. The new local superiors will follow the procedure prescribe in our directory for the installation on an appropriate day after their taking charge. I wish all the confreres with transfer, God's blessings and fruitful ministry in their new assignments.

Scholastics to Africa for Formation

In this Year of Mission some of our SW Province Scholastics from India who are in formation have opted to go to the Chad Cameroon Mission for Philosophy, Regency and Theology. I thank them for their generosity, for the voluntary proposal and willingness to work in the missions and I hope and pray that this good missionary trend inspire more confreres and scholastics in the future.

Bro. John Joseph B. Regent at NEST Children's Home has volunteered to go to Chad Cameroon for Theological Studies.

Bro. Ajish C. Antony, third year Philosophy student at Suvidya has volunteered to go to Chad Cameroon Mission for Regency and Theology.

Bro. Robin Joy Karumathy, Bro. Vinu Varghese Ponnor and Bro. Antony K. J who are novices, have opted to go to African Mission and to have the rest of their formation there. Accordingly the Provincial administration has taken the decision to send these three brothers to LCI Arusha for the Philosophy from the coming academic year, after their first profession. I congratulate these brothers for their missionary zeal and for their availability to the mission of the Congregation

New Local Community in Adelaide – Australia and the Local Superior

Very Rev. Fr. Superior General through his official letter February 18, 2015 has approved the erection of the first local community of the South West India Province in Australia. Fr. Shibu Thundathil is appointed as the Local Superior of this community with effect from 1st April, 2015. I wish our fathers in Australia God's blessings on this occasion.

Reflections on Consecrated Life – by Fr. Peter Marie Mermier

The new booklet titled *Reflections on Consecrated Life* by Fr. Peter Marie Mermier which was edited by Fr. Antony Mookenthottam is ready for circulation. A copy of the new booklet will be sent to each member of the Province. Kindly use this booklet for meditation, animation of monthly recollection and for personal prayer. Fr. Tom Kanat and Fr. Joji Kazhukanolickal are entrusted with the circulation of this booklet in our Province.

Medical Insurance for the Confreres in the Province

South West Province has insurance coverage for almost all the perpetually professed confreres and for the scholastics in formation. Some of the senior confreres could not be included in the scheme as the insurance company puts a condition of the age limit. Kindly verify with the Provincial Bursar about your medical insurance situation and of the insurance card and ensure that when you go for treatment or getting admitted in the hospital that you consult with the Provincial Bursar for the steps needed for reimbursement of money spent for treatment from the insurance company. In order to

claim the insurance, the patient has to be admitted in the hospital for at least twenty four hours and your name should be given correctly with the ID proof at the time of admission in the hospital and the name should match with the name in the insurance card. Any anomaly in this matter will be considered as fraud and we will not get the reimbursement of money. Kindly take note of these regulations and cooperate with the Provincial Bursar in getting the insurance claim.

Diaconate of Dn. Roni Fernandis MSFS in the Philippines



Bro. Roni Fernandis, MSFS, was ordained Deacon by Most Rev. Reynaldo Evangelista, D.D, bishop of Imus, at Our Lady of Pillar Parish, Imus Cathedral, Imus City, Philippines, on Monday 22nd February 2015. The celebration started at 2:00 PM. Deacon Roni was ordained together with two Diocesan seminarians who belong to the Diocese of Imus. A good number of Diocesan priests, Religious and

hundreds of faithful were present at the occasion. Bishop Rey was very enthusiastic in his address to the new Deacons that they have to spend much of their service to the poor as they are ordained in the year of the poor.

(The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) declared **2015** as the "Year of the Poor" as the country was blessed by the visit of Pope Francis, who has been dubbed the champion of the poor.) On behalf of the Province we felicitate Dn. Roni and wish him God's abundant blessings!

Reported by Fr. Binoy Kuzhuppil

Regarding the Recruitment and Appointment of Teaching Faculty in our Schools

I bring to the notice of the Principals and Managers of our Schools that there is a clear policy in our Guidelines for the recruitment and appointment of teaching faculty in our Schools. I came across instances where this norm is not followed by the concerned persons. For the strict implementation of this norm, I am giving below once again the guidelines from our Education Policy:

2. THE ACADEMIC DIMENSION: This includes:

3.1 Policies regarding staff:

- 3.1.1 Every institution should have a formally appointed panel for recruiting the staff consisting of the Manager, Principal, a Senior staff and, if desirable, a Subject expert from outside the institution

- 3.1.2 The Procedure for recruitment and selection: invite the applications through advertisement, shortlist the selected candidates for the vacant post, checking the eligibility, demo class, and interview. The standing committee scrutinizes the assessment of the selection panel and selects the candidate. Manager gives the letter of appointment according to the decision of the standing committee.
- 3.1.3 The newly recruited are to be initiated into the Fransalian philosophy and culture of education. Some written handout could be prepared and given to them, specifying our educational culture and our expectations from the recruited.
- 3.1.4 Each institution should work out and meticulously follow clear-cut measures and criteria for personal and professional enhancement of the staff.
- 3.1.5 On a yearly basis all the teachers should be objectively assessed on the basis of performance, results, relationship with the students, colleagues and management. The outcome should be made known to the teachers. Loyalty to the institution and management, and commitment to the Fransalian Vision of Education should be ensured.
- 3.1.6 There should be clearly articulated criteria for promotion, increments of salary, appointment as heads, etc. it should be made known to the staff and strictly adhered to.
- 3.1.7 A clear mechanism to address the grievances of the staff is to be evolved, made known to the staff and implemented in every institution. The grievances are to be addressed to the manager through the principal and if the management does not address the issue the employee must be given an opportunity to take up the issue with the higher authority (Councillor in Charge of Education/ Secretary for Education).
- 3.1.8 The Principal should conduct personal meeting with the staff at least once a year.
- 3.1.9 Each institution is to work out clear-cut measures to maintain high level relationship among staff, parents, students and the educational department/board.

This is a serious matter that we ensure the quality of our teaching faculty and their formation. **There should not be any nepotism or malpractices in this regard.** It will ensure our moral credibility and efficient management of our institutions.

Celebrating Mass for the Province – Instruction to not receive Mass Intentions from other Sources

Taking into consideration the financial support given by the province to the dependent communities and formation houses, I remind all the confreres to receive mass intentions from the Provincial Bursar. Even if you are in the parish, at least a few masses

have to be celebrated for the intention of the Province. It is with this support that the Province is able to help the dependent communities. Kindly avoid accepting mass intentions from other sources as this will destabilize the good tradition of exonerating masses for the intentions of the Province.

On Personal Gifts and Loan to Teachers and Staff – in our Institutions

The Internal Audit Team of our Province has brought to my notice that there is prevailing practise in some of our schools to give personal expensive gifts to teachers on special occasions from the institution's fund or from the community money. This is not a healthy practise and such traditions should not be continued. Any such gifting has to be discussed in the community and with the consent of the community the matter has to be referred to the provincial administration for approval. Some of the managers or principals also give big amount of personal loan to the employees without the knowledge of the community and without the approval of the Provincial administration. This is strictly forbidden and such practises should not be done in our institutions.

On Expensive Gifts given to Confreres upon Transfer

It has been noticed that some of the communities with more income have a tendency to give very expensive gifts to confreres upon their transfer. This is to be strictly discouraged and any gift or cash given, going beyond Rs. 10000 (Ten thousand) needs the approval of the Provincial. In the spirit of religious poverty we need to maintain simplicity of life and should not burden the communities by demand of expensive gifts. I request all the confreres to take this regulation in the true spirit of religious life.

Regarding the Use of Vehicle

There are instances in our communities and institutions of using the community vehicle for personal purposes such as tours and home visits. According to the need of the mission, the administration has been keen in equipping the communities with necessary vehicles. But they are not to be misused for personal purposes. I bring this matter for the serious consideration of the local superiors that there should be clear regulation given to community members regarding the correct use of vehicles for the community purpose and discourage the use of them for home visits and personal purposes. This regulation is also applicable to local superiors.

Meeting of Fr. Augustine Tharappel, U.S.A Vice Provincial with the SW Provincial Administration

There was a meeting held with the USA Vice-Provincial and SW Provincial and Council Members on 4th February 2015, at Vinayalaya. This meeting was a follow up of my visitation to the confreres of SW in the U.S.A Vice Province and to further clarify some collaborative ventures between the Vice Province and SW Province. The following concerns were discussed and clarified.

- a. Possibility of a Joint Retirement Home for the Confreres of SW Province and U.S.A Vice Province
- b. Sponsorship for confreres from SW Province to work in the U.S
- c. Policy matter on the Transfer and Appointment of the Short-Term members in the U.S. Vice Province
- d. Medical Insurance of the Short-Term members of SW in the Vice Province
- e. Annual second collection for specific mission projects in the parishes where the Short Term members are working
- f. Joint Ministries of SW and Vice Province in the U.S. – such as Retreat or Counselling Centres
- g. Regarding Tri-monthly financial report on Province fund available with the Vice Province Account
- h. On the possibility of having a contact person of SW Province in the U.S Vice Province
- i. On the retirement fund of the short-term members
- j. On the sponsorship of seminarians by the Vice Province

Further clarification and confirmation will be done on these matters after the respective Major superiors meet with their Council. I thank sincerely Fr. Augustine Tharappel for the time he set aside to come for the meeting and the openness for dialogue and collaboration. I place on record the dedicated services of Fr. Augustine Tharappel in keeping the accounts of the short-term members working and studying in the U.S and also looking into their spiritual and other necessities. We gratefully acknowledge the financial support given by the Vice Province for the study of the scholastics and for the missions of the SW Province. We look forward to greater collaboration and joint-ventures between these two Provinces in the future.

NAAC Accreditation Inspection at SFS Degree College, Hebbagodi



The NAAC Peer Team visit to SFS Degree College at Electronics City in connection with the Accreditation of the college took place for three full days - 10-12th March 2015. The team members were from Goa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. The entire College, both the faculty and students were fully involved in

the preparation of the same for the last 20 months. Further, the immediate preparation and the meticulous planning bore fruit finally to the satisfaction of all, when the team

rated the College with high standing and we received the report of High Quality Institution, which will be officially certified from the NAAC Office within a few weeks' time. The leadership at the college at this juncture places on record the concerted efforts of everyone connected with this process and the success achieved.

Reported by Fr. Timson Parakottil

Let us pray for the Departed

Let us pray for **Mr. V. V Joseph**, father of Fr. George Valliamthadathil who passed away on 24.03.2015. We express our deep-felt sympathy and assurance of prayers to Fr. George and his family.

My Programme

March 2015

- 9 Return from Chad-Cameroon
- 10 SFS College, NAAC Accreditation Inspection, meeting with Officials
- 13-14 Council Meeting Vinayalaya
- 17 Meeting with Innovative Forum members on CSC discussion, Vinayalaya
- 23 Council meeting – follow up of the previous one
- 26 Convocation – Suvidya College
- 27 KRRCR Executive Meeting, Ashirvad, Bangalore
- 28-31 In Kerala

April 2015

- 4 Easter Vigil Mass, OLS Church, Hebbagodi
- 6-7 Council Meeting, Vinayalaya
- 15-16 Visitation to Srinivaspur, Gokunte and Kolar communities
- 18 Jubilee celebrations of Fr. Thomas Illikattil, Marika, Kerala
- 20-30 Visitation of Confreres in Australia, meeting with the Bishop of Adelaide

Mermierian Thought:

“Consecrated life teaches us to sacrifice everything. In the world, it is an apparent religion. There it is a religion for the sake of whom (Jesus Christ), I consider all as loss.... that I may gain Christ (Phil 3:8). The choice God makes of the religious is that the religious may be his special people – that they may be simple, without blame and that they may become a model for Christians” (Fr. Peter Marie Mermier – *Reflections on Consecrated Life*, Ed. Fr. Antony Mookenthottam, pp. 8-9).

Fraternally in Christ,



Rev. Fr. Jose Kumblickal MSFS
Provincial Superior