

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



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SWIP Circular BK/14

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My dear Confreres,

Fraternal greetings to you from Fr. Benny. I wish that these few days of free time for relaxation and renewal bring into us the much needed rest and rejuvenation. As we get ready for the next academic year in all the respective forums of our ministries be assured of my love, support and encouragement. As a preparation for our forthcoming ministries, let us reflect over one of the most proposed virtues by St. Francis de Sales: **The Virtue of Patience.**

The Virtue of Patience: The Genuine Way to Salesian Perfection



In the Spiritual Classic *Introduction to the Devout Life* (IDL, Part III, Ch. 3), St. Francis de Sales considers **patience as a total possession of oneself**. Accordingly, a patient person bears with equanimity the humiliating trials as well as the honourable.

The secular definition of Patience is to **wait without complaint**. In this sense 'patience' might seem to be a morally insignificant trait. **What's so virtuous about not complaining?** In itself, not complaining carries no particular virtue. Suppose a person awaits the arrival of a friend from out of town, and she spends the time happily reading or watching television, we wouldn't say that, simply because she's not complaining, she exhibits patience in this case. **What makes the 'waiting without complaint' virtuous is the discomfort that goes with it.** It's because a circumstance is uncomfortable for someone that we find the refusal to complain remarkable and thus making the person really patient. Therefore ***to be patient is to endure discomfort without complaint.***

The true practice of the virtue of patience demands also the practice of some other

virtues, such as, self-control, humility, and generosity. It means that patience is not a fundamental virtue so much as a complex of other virtues. **An example from the life of Christ illustrates this.** Jesus was very patient with his disciples. They were sometimes thick headed, lazy, selfish, and slow to believe. Even from a merely human standpoint, we can see how frustrating they must have been. How much more irritating it would be for God Incarnate to interact daily with these men. In spite of Jesus' miracles and words of wisdom, they were focused upon themselves and wavered in their belief about who he really was.

Yet do we find Jesus railing at his disciples over their foolishness and stupidity, or making fun of them when they make mistakes? Occasionally he does remark that his disciples are slow to believe, or he asks rhetorically how long they will fail to have faith in him. But these are always appropriate reminders about just what was at stake for them. These were fitting and useful rebukes, not petty venting.

Jesus' refusal to complain about his irritating disciples can be described as an exercise of self-control. Surely he would have been justified in blistering them with insults. It's worth noting that his omniscience guaranteed that every possible joke and embarrassing remark was at his disposal on any particular occasion. This makes his self-control even more admirable. **His refusal to complain also involves humility,** the conscious decision to lower himself by not exercising his right to judge and dismiss his friends because of their faults. Finally, **Jesus' refusal to complain about his disciples is generous.** In spite of their vice and thick-headedness, he remained no less committed to them and served them increasingly as their failures became more outstanding.

My dear Confreres, to be despised, criticized and accused by the wicked is entirely pleasant to a man of courage. But to be criticized, accused and ill treated by good people, by friends and by relations is a real test of virtue. St. Francis de Sales would say: Just as the stings of the bees are more painful than those of flies, so too the harm we receive from good people are more unbearable than others. Two good people can stir up a lot of struggles due to differences of opinions.

I wish that we take this spirit of St. Francis de Sales into our ministries and personal life and relationship. When we are rightly accused of some fault that we have committed, let us humble ourselves and acknowledge that we deserve the accusation brought against us. But if we are falsely accused, let us excuse ourselves gently denying the guilt because we owe this respect to the truth and to the edification of our neighbour. **But even if after our genuine and legitimate excuse, they continue to accuse us, let us not be at all troubled and do nothing to get our excuse accepted.** I wish each of you the genuine experience of the spirit of Jesus in your ministries by the practice of the Salesian Virtue of Patience.

The New Provincial Administration of South-East India Province

1. Fr. A. Santhiyagu :Admonitor cum Councillor in charge of Formation
2. Fr. J. B. John Thadews :Councillor in charge Education
3. Fr. D. Kanikkai Nathan :Councillor in charge of Mission
4. Fr. D. Amirtha Rajan :Councillor in charge of Social and Innovative Ministries
5. Fr. M. Nicholas :Provincial Bursar

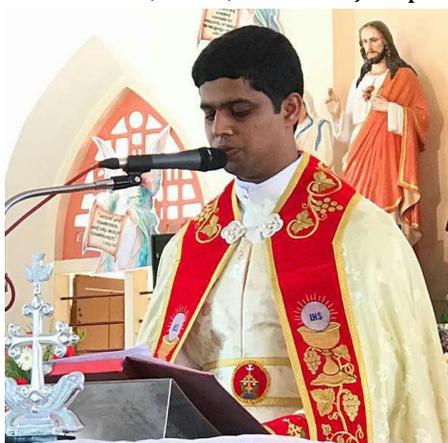
The New Provincial Administration of North-East India Province:

1. Fr. Philip Thomas Kizhakumpurath :Admonitor cum Councillor in charge of Mission
2. Fr. George Vettukattil : Councillor in charge of Formation
3. Fr. George Poovathunkal :Councillor in charge of Education
4. Fr. Saji Puthiyakulangara :Councillor in charge of Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries
5. Fr. Santhosh Chavaranal :Provincial Bursar

We wish the newly elected Provincial Curia of South-East India and North-East India Provinces all the best and invoke on each of them God's abundant blessings.

Priestly Ordination

Fr. Aneeshmon Joseph Kamukumthottathil was born on September 15, 1988 at Kozhuvanal, Pala, to Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Molly. He joined SFS Minor Seminary,



Ettumanoor in June 2004. He completed the Novitiate at Sannidhi, Mysore and made his First Profession on June 11, 2008. After completing his philosophical studies at Suvidya College he was sent for his regency to Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha. He pursued and successfully completed his Theological studies in the Philippines. He made his perpetual Profession on May 28, 2014 at Tejas Vidya Peetha Bangalore and was ordained a deacon on February 16, 2016 at St. Francis de Sales Theological Seminary, Marawoy, Lipa City, Philippines. He was ordained a priest on May 04, 2017 at St. Thomas Church, Kurichithanam by Most Rev. Jacob Murickan, the Auxiliary Bishop of Pala.

We extend Fr. Aneeshmon a hearty welcome to our priestly family and wish him all the best and God's blessings in his priestly ministry.

Blessing of the Foundation Stone for the New Block of SFS School (ICSE) Koppal



On 16th April 2017 the day of the Solemnity of the Risen lord, foundation stone was laid for the new block of SFS, ICSE School at Koppal. Fr. Sebastian Conrad the superior of the community blessed the foundation stone in the presence of the community members and also the apostolic community members and some of the non-teaching staff who were present during the blessing. This

new block is expected to provide ample facilities for quality education and holistic growth of the students.

Blessing and Inauguration of the New SFS School, Antoni Nagara

It is a dream come true for the province to have the first SFS School in Anthoni Nagara, in the diocese of Chikmagaluru. On May 15, 2017 in the presence of number of MSFS



confreres, Most Rev. Anthony Swamy, Bishop of Chikmagaluru, blessed the newly built school and the same was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, the Provincial. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Fr. Maria George for his extreme sense of commitment and hard work to attain this great feat of completing the work of the school building in record time in spite of the

many hurdles he had to encounter. Let this new community of our province be a shining example for the religious commitment of our Missionaries for the uplift of the poor. May God bless SFS Anthoninagara.

Gathering of the Associates of Fransalians at Charis Bhavan

On 5th May 2017, a gathering of the Associates of the Fransalians, especially those who sponsor the studies of our seminarians, was held at Charis Bhavan. The meeting was presided over by Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal, the Provincial, in the presence of Fr Vinod Kanattu, the Provincial Bursar, Fr Jose Parappillil, the Superior, and Fr Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil, the coordinator of the benefactors. Fr. Kurian Karickal, the Director of Charis Bhavan welcomed the gathering followed by self-introduction of the family members who were present for the gathering. Fr. Benny, the Provincial, in his message thanked in a very special way all the sponsors for their generosity in extending their



financial as well as spiritual support to the formation of the seminarians in our province. He exhorted them to continue and strengthen this bond of union and fellowship with the MSFS (Fransalians). There were around 60

persons including the family members of the sponsors. Some of the family members in their sharing expressed their gratitude of being part of this venture and promised to continue to support the formation of the seminarians. The meeting concluded with a photo session followed by a sumptuous dinner. We place on record our deep sense of appreciation and gratitude to Fr. Kurian Karickal, Fr Jose Parappillil and the Charis Bhavan Community for all the arrangements and meaningful organization.

Catechism Camp – 2017 in Kolar

Kolar Deanery Level Catechism Camp 2017 was held at SFS PU College, Tamaka, Kolar from 17th to 20th April, 2017. The theme of this year's camp was "Seven capital sins and their contrary virtues".



The Catechism classes were actively conducted with utmost care by Fathers in the Kolar Deanery, so that the infants and adolescents in the parish were given better understanding of 'sins and virtues' in life. There were number of activities, talks and competitions based on the

theme "Seven capital sins and their contrary virtues". There were 175 students and staff who participated in the programme. The camp was well organized by Fr. Jabamalai and team. On the final day the Archbishop of Bangalore Most. Rev. Dr. Bernard Moras addressed the gathering.

Annual Salesian Seminar 2017

The 34th Salesian Seminar, organized by the Indian Institute of Spirituality, was inaugurated on the 23rd of April 2017, by Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas, the Assistant Superior General of the MSFS Congregation with the solemn Inaugural Eucharistic celebration. The keynote address given by Rev. Fr. Thumma highlighted the relevance and application of the theme and the spiritual classic 'Love of God' today for all those who follow the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. The whole seminar was filled with



talks on the various themes, which are dealt in the 'Treatise on the Love of God.' These programmes were attended by Fathers and Brothers from MSFS and OSFS, Sisters from DSFS, SSS and SMMI. The resource personnel comprising of Salesian experts and Scholars from various fields of ministry, were so excellent

in enriching the participants with Salesian spirituality pertaining to the 'Treatise on the Love of God.' The concluding day (28th April 2017) was animated by Fr. Benny G. Koottanal, the Provincial. The provincial exhorted the participants through the talk and Eucharistic celebration to become aware of the richness of this particular spirituality, which can concretely enrich, empower and authenticate each one of us, in our daily Salesian way of Living.

Permanent Affiliation to the CBSE Board

SFS CBSE School Hebbagodi is permanently affiliated to CBSE Board with effect from 11th April 2017. I thank and congratulate the Principal, Fr. Soby Maroor and school management for the hard work and successful affiliation.

Appointments

Fr. Jeevan Prashant is appointed to take up Masters' Study in Spiritual Theology at Indian Institute of Spirituality, Bangalore with effect from 30th June 2017. He is affiliated to the community of IIS during his studies.

The following Brothers are promoted to Renewal of Vows and next stage of Formation in the Chad-Cameroon Mission

1. Bro. Ajish Antony Cheeramban (II Year Theology)
2. Bro. John Joseph Belavendran (II Year Theology)
3. Bro. Emmanuel Cyrille Bivina (II Year Theology)
4. Bro. Arun Cyriac Valliara (I Year Theology)
5. Bro. Peygres Senghor (I Year Theology)
6. Bro. Jeorge Tomy Kezhakthottam (LCI ARUSHA 3rd year Philosophy)
7. Bro. Nyamsi Panteun Yves Cyrille (LCI ARUSHA 3rd year Philosophy)
8. Bro. Robin Joy Karumathy (LCI ARUSHA 3rd year Philosophy)

9. Bro. Toussaint Ndeialdongar (LCI ARUSHA 3rd year Philosophy)
10. Bro. Vinu Varghese Ponnor (LCI ARUSHA 3rd year Philosophy)
11. Bro. Eyeya Amot Aloys Jean Baptist (LCI ARUSHA 2nd year Philosophy)
12. Bro. Guifo Totso Gael Baudoin (LCI ARUSHA 2nd year Philosophy)
13. Bro. Temgoua Jacques Clovis (LCI ARUSHA 2nd year Philosophy)
14. Bro. Israil Lakra (Tejas, Bangalore)

Appointment for Regency in the Chad-Cameroon Mission

1. Bro. Chiabi Titus Tosam (Buea, Cameroon)
2. Bro. Leandre Francky Senguena (Doba, Chad)
3. Bro. Madjita Tanibe Anniversaire (Binidang, Cameroon)
4. Bro. Mtoudjiel Abba (Mabanga Galingo, Cameroon)
5. Bro. Philip Roland Menounga Mbolo (Bero, Chad)

Promoted for First profession and 1st Year Philosophy in the Chad-Cameroon Mission

1. Adzaba Evang William Henri
2. Mbinkar Melchisedek
3. Nga Modo Engelbert
4. Nzesseu Chimi Valentin
5. Yibongha David Shinyuy
6. Yongabi Macdonald Bemsii

Bon Voyage

Fr. Jikson Cheravelil will be leaving for Philippines on June 5, 2017. He would undertake a study at the Masters' level in Counselling and Formation. During his stay in the Philippines he will be part of the Philippine Delegation. We wish Fr. Jikson Bon Voyage and God's blessings in all his endeavours.

Let us Pray for the Faithful Departed

- **Mrs. Lourdmery**, aged 65, Mother of Fr. A. Johnson, passed away on April 19, 2017.

- **Mrs. Aely**, aged 93, Mother of Fr. Thomas Moongamackel, passed away on April 20, 2017.
- **Mrs. Pushpa Abraham**, aged 60, Sister of Fr. Jaison Pezhathinal, passed away on April 29, 2017.
- **Mr. Joseph Pezhathinal Thomas**, aged 75, eldest brother of Fr. Jaison Pezhathinal, passed away on May 16, 2017.

We assure you, dear Confreres, the remembrance of your dear ones in our Holy Mass and Prayers.

My Program

My dear Confreres, please do take note of my program schedule. Different from the previous circular, each new circular would bring in additional changes in my programs as per the need. Please do organize the visitation and other common meetings/programs according to the latest communication.

MAY 2017

May 16-25	Visitation to our Confreres in England
May 28	Perpetual profession and Renewal of Vows at Tejas
May 29	60 th Ordination Anniversary of Frs. Antony Mookenthottam and Thomas Anikala at Suvidya College
May 30	Initiation to Novitiate at Makkiyad
May 31	First Profession at Makkiyad

JUNE 2017

June 1	Inauguration of "Rev. Fr. S.L. Paul Memorial SFS Hostel" at Ettumanoor
June 3-5	Orientation course for the Diploma Students of IIS
June 7	Inauguration of the Academic Year in Tejas, Recollection and interaction with the Staff and Students
June 8	Visitation to the Community at Nest and Fides India
June 9	Visitation to PSI Sevagram, Kengeri
June 10	Officiating the First Profession Ceremony of St. Joseph of Cluny, Bangalore Province
June 12-14	Visitation to Suvidya College, Inauguration of the Academic Year, PIF Meeting and Governing Body Meeting
June 16	Council Meeting
June 18	Visitation to MSFS House, Kuvempunagar
June 19-20	Visitation to Sannidhi
June 21	Visitation to Soumya Sadan
June 23-24	Visitation to Mermier Bhavan Community and SFS Institutions

June 25	Visitation to St. Francis de Sales Church, Hebbagodi
June 26	Visitation to Prateeksha Boys' Home, Hebbagodi
June 28	Visitation to SFS School and Community, Anthonynagara, Chikmagaluru
June 29	Feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore

JULY 2017

July 1	Orientation Course for the Post Graduate Students of IIS
July 2	Recollection for the Diploma Students of IIS
July 4	Council Meeting
July 7-8	Visitation to SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor
July 9	Visitation to Charis Bhavan
July 10-14	Annual Retreat in Charis Bhavan
July 17-August 5	Visitation to our Confreres in GAH and France-Suisse Province

AUGUST 2017

August 1-5	Visitation to our Confreres in GAH and France-Suisse Province
August 6	Recollection for the Students of IIS
August 8	Council Meeting
August 13	Visitation to St. Mary's Church, Kolar
August 13-14	Visitation to ITI Kolar, Visitation to SFS PU College, Tamaka
August 15	Visitation to the Community and School at Srinivasapura
August 16	Visitation to the Community and Schools at Chintamani
August 17	Visitation to communities of Kadisenahalli, Sidlghatta
August 20-21	Visitation to SFS Church and Community, Malur
August 21-22	Visitation to the Community and Parish, Gokunte
August 24-25	Meeting the Community Members of Vinayalaya
August 28-Sept. 2	Classes in IIS

SEPTEMBER 2017

September 1-2	Classes in IIS
September 3	Recollection for the Students of IIS
September 4-15	Visitation to the Philippine Delegation (together with the Superior General), Ordination of Dn. Nathanael
September 17	Institute Day at IIS
September 19	Council Meeting, Vinayalaya
September 21	Visitation to the Community and School, Savanur
September 22	Visitation to the community and school, Mundargi
September 23	Visitation to the Community and School, Kuknoor
September 24-25	Visitation to the Community, Parish and Schools, Koppal
September 27	Meeting of the Mission Forum (for those in Karnataka)
September 28	Meeting of the Formation Forum

September 30	Founder's Day Celebration at Tejas
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OCTOBER 2017

October 3-5	Golden Jubilee Celebrations of SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor
October 9-13	2 nd Annual Retreat in IIS, Bangalore
October 14-16	Meeting of the General Curia with the Provincials in Poondy, Tamilnadu
October 21	Meeting of the Education Forum
October 22	Provincial Council Meeting
October 23	Meeting of the Social & Innovative Ministry Forum
October 24	MSFS Foundation Day and Institute Day Celebrations at Suvidya College
October 26	Meeting of the Stewardship Forum
October 29-30	Visitation of the MSFS Community at Shiralakoppa and Shimoga Apostolic community Meeting

Salesian Thought

"God wants you wholly and without reserve, and He wants you to the very utmost stripped and denuded of self." - SFS

Fraternally,



**Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS
Provincial**