

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



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SWIP Circular BK/17

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My dear Confreres,

Fraternal greetings from Fr. Benny. Besieged by the sad demise of Fr. Sijo Olickal, we are struggling to garner the prowess to return to 'normalcy' of life. There is tremendous internal and external pressure to question the 'why' of it. But I would like to remind us the question of God to Job: **Who are you to question my righteousness?** (Job 40/2). When we are not able to answer some of the basic questions God asks us (Job Chs. 38-39), how can we challenge the unfathomable plans of God? **Our Constitution No. 8** invites us to take shelter under two intimate virtues practiced by St. Francis de Sales. They are: Alertness and Surrender to the Will of God.

Alertness and Surrender to the Will of God: Salesian Milestones



The word 'alertness' comes from the Italian root '*all'erta* which literally means **on the height/on the watch**. It is a state of active attention by high sensory awareness, such as watchful and prompt, to encounter danger of emergency or being quick to perceive and act. Lack of alertness can lead to mediocrity in personal life, spiritual life and below par performances in professional life. Great performances in human history have been accomplished through constant self-alertness and immediate and apt responses to ones'

experiences.

Yet another virtue that goes in line with the virtue of Alertness is 'surrender'. The word surrender, in its Christian meaning denotes **the act of abandoning oneself entirely to**

God, the higher being. This, in no way, is self-abasement; instead, it is the recognition of the higher possibilities beyond my subjective and limited self. One begins to see the hand of God in everything, including the negative experiences of one's life.

St. Francis de Sales, our beloved Patron, puts these two virtues as coherent and ingredient elements on the road to the spiritual perfection of a Christian. He says: **Christian Surrender is nothing else than perfect alertness to accept the events that come our way through the decree of divine Providence: to accept equally suffering and consolation, sickness and health, poverty, contempt and scorn as riches, honour and glory** (Spiritual Conferences, Vol. 1, p. 4). Francis de Sales calls it as the alertness and surrender to the **Permissive Will** of God. The Permissive Will of God consists of the events and circumstances in life, which we cannot foresee or which are beyond our apprehension and realistic handling.

As I was sitting in front of the coffin of Fr. Sijo I realized this truth in my life: **Who am I to question your righteousness, Lord?** I am merely a worm (Ps. 22/6); my life span is just seventy years (Ps 90/10). The unexpected death of our Confrere made me to realize once again that I need to lay my treasure in heaven.

My dear Confreres, as we console ourselves in God and His promises, let us take keenly these two virtues home with us. We need to be alert to situations around us, situations concerning our prayer life, our ministry and also to situations concerning our body and its well-being.

- **Let us be strict with our spiritual life:** Even if the Lord calls me this night I should be ready to go. Recital of the Divine Office, regular celebration of the Mass and other Salesian Devotions and regular experience of Forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation are not voluntary choices, instead obligations for us religious. Let us be equally keen to remain Chaste, Obedient and Poor like Jesus.
- **Let us be committed to the entrusted responsibilities:** We shall be faithful in God's work as a servant (Heb 3/5). Let us not procrastinate things for tomorrow, or wander around away from the places of our ministries. Let us be sincere in financial management, obedient to the superiors, respectful in handling the domestic helpers, just and impartial in our human relationships.
- **Let us handle our Bodies with respect:** Body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 6/19). Through sufficient rest, physical exercises, proper hygiene in our surroundings and attentive medical handling when we are sick, let us respectfully treat our bodies.

My dear Confreres Let these virtues of Alertness and Surrender to the Will of God help us to encounter the realities of human life with deep confidence and realistic commitment. Let not the death of Fr. Sijo go without bearing on our lives. Let us do justice to him by recommitting ourselves in deep alertness and total surrender to God.

Hearty Thanks to One and All



My dear Confreres, Many were the hearts and hands that were extended to us on the occasion of the sad demise of our Confrere Sijo Olickal. On behalf of South West India Province I place on record your love, affection and accompaniment at this difficult time of our life as a province.

- I gratefully express my heartfelt gratitude to the Auxiliary Bishop of Palai, **Bishop Jacob Murickan** for his magnanimous availability to preside over the funeral ceremony. Incidentally he is the bishop who ordained Fr. Sijo
- I am thankful to **Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil**, our Superior General for his loving message of condolences and assurance to accompany us with his prayer.
- I express my gratitude to **all the Provincials of various MSFS Provinces, Regional Superiors, Delegation and Mission Superiors** in India and abroad for their messages of condolences through mail and over the phone.
- I am very grateful to the **Apostolic Nuncio to India, Archbishop Giambattista Diquattro**, and also **Bishop Francis Serrao** (Shimoga) and **Bishop Robert Miranda** (Gulberga) for personally expressing their condolences at the sad demise of Fr. Sijo.
- My heartfelt thanks to all the **Major Superiors of various Religious Congregations** who extended their condolences and hearts' affection to us at the demise of Fr. Sijo.
- I owe my gratitude to the **communities of Charis Bhavan and SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor** for the meticulous arrangements for the funeral ceremony of Fr. Sijo
- I thank all the priests, especially MSFS Fathers from other provinces and religious and the people of God who came to pay homage to Fr. Sijo.
- Last but not least, I am extremely grateful to **the Parents and Siblings of Fr. Sijo** who gracefully accepted God's Plan in their lives. May God continue to bless them abundantly.

Blessing of the New House built by the Province for the Family of late Fr. Georgekutty MSFS



On the 3rd of July, together with a few Confreres of our Province, I had the privilege of blessing the new house built by the Province for the family of late Fr. Georgekutty, at Josegiri in the Archdiocese of Thalassery, Kerala. This project to build the house for this poor family is part of the housing project we have undertaken on the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of our Province. I thank our Confreres who were engaged in ministry and studies in Austria who contributed the bulk of the amount for the completion of the construction. In a very special way I thank Fr. Vinod Kanattu for availing the finance in time and Fr. Jose Vechuvettickal for constant supervision of the project until its completion. May God bless the family of Fr. Georgekutty.

Blessing of the presbytery in Chad-Cameroon Mission



On 18th June 2017 a dream came through for the Holy Family Church, Ebang as the inauguration and blessing of parochial house of the Church came through. The event also marked the canonical visit of the Bishop to the parish. More than a 1000 people witnessed the event. The celebration began with the Eucharistic procession administered by the parish priest Rev. Fr Manoj Xavier Arackal. After

the prayerful procession, the Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Mgr. Jean Mbarga Metropolitan Arch Bishop of Yaounde along with Mgr Athanase Bala CSSp, Bishop Emeritus of Bafia, Fr Manoj Xavier Arackal, the parish priest and other clergy. 238 faithful received Sacrament of confirmation during the celebration. The program concluded with a fellowship meal for all. Congratulations to Fr. Manoj Arackal, the Mission Superior and our Confreres in the Mission.

First Profession at Fransalianum Novitiate, Kibaha, Tanzania!



July 10, 2017 was a memorable day for the Chad- Cameroon mission of our Province as 6 of our novices made the first profession. The holy Mass was officiated by Rev. Fr. Petrus Kullu msfs the superior of Mozambique delegation who also received the vows of the 13 novices. Let us rejoice before God for the blessing of these

brothers and continue to support them with prayers and care. On behalf of the province I congratulate the newly professed and sincerely thank the Director of the Novices Fr. Antonsamy Sebastian and the Socius Fr. Prakashbhavan Santhosh Paul.

On-going Formation Program

We will be organizing the Seminar and on-going formation for those who have been ordained between 2000 and 2008. It will be held at Vinayalaya from **07th to 09th November 2017**. All those who are enlisted in this program are expected to take note of these dates and make themselves free for it. **It is a mandatory gathering for renewal and study**. The following confreres are to participate in the ongoing formation program:

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| 1. Fr. A. Jabamalai | 17. Fr. Joseph Thoppil |
| 2. Fr. A. Johnson | 18. Fr. L. Selvaraj |
| 3. Fr. A. Prashant Kumar | 19. Fr. R. Santhosh Kumar |
| 4. Fr. A.C. Arogyanathan | 20. Fr. Regi Narikunnel |
| 5. Fr. Anil Thondampallil | 21. Fr. Roy Plathottathil |
| 6. Fr. Binoy Kurakalayil | 22. Fr. S. Arokia Samy |
| 7. Fr. Binu Edathumparambil | 23. Fr. Saji Eanthanamkuzhiyil |
| 8. Fr. C. Joeph | 24. Fr. Saji Vadakedath |
| 9. Fr. Christopher Crasta | 25. Fr. Salvador Fernandes |
| 10. Fr. D. Dorai Swamy | 26. Fr. Shalbin Marotikudiyil |
| 11. Fr. J. Pangi Raj | 27. Fr. Shino Puthussery |
| 12. Fr. Jais Mecheril | 28. Fr. Sibichan Panthammackal |
| 13. Fr. Jaison Kollarayath | 29. Fr. Sibichen Kochuveedu |
| 14. Fr. Jino Plathottathil | 30. Fr. Soby Maroor |
| 15. Fr. Joe Cherolickal | 31. Fr. Victor Kujur |
| 16. Fr. Jojo Kolarickal | 32. Fr. Vinod Kanat |

New Provincial for the Nagpur Province



My dear Confreres, Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our beloved Superior General has appointed **Rev. Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy** the new provincial of Nagpur Province. We extend to him our heartfelt congratulations and God's abundant blessings in his ministry in the service of the Congregation. I take this opportunity to thank **Rev. Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhy** for his selfless service and commitment to the Nagpur province during the past six years. It was a wonderful

experience of sharing and motivation that I had with him especially during the PIF and Governing Body Meetings. Thank you Fr. Jacob.

New Doctor in Theology: Dr. Sibichen Thomas Kochuveedu MSFS



My dear Confreres, I am very proud to inform you that Fr. Sibichen Thomas Kochuveedu has successfully defended his doctoral thesis in the University of Vienna on the 3rd of July 2017 and is accorded with the title of Doctor in Theology. The title of his thesis is: **The Liturgical Year with Reference to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours in the Syro-Malabar Church.** On behalf of the whole province I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Fr. Sibichen and wish him God's abundant

blessings in his future ministries.

An Earnest Request Regarding the Updating of the Mass Diary

My dear Confreres, I come to you with an earnest request and reminder regarding the obligations to keep your mass diaries updated. **At the time of my visitation to your respective communities I would like to see your mass diaries with the latest updates.** In this regard I would like to inform you that **all the dependent communities of the province, especially the formation houses and also other communities which are not directly associated with parish ministry are expected to celebrate mass for the intention of the province. At present we have mass intentions available in the province and I request you to contact the Provincial Bursar, Fr. Vinod Kanattu, and take the mass intentions from him.**

Hearty Welcome

My dear Confreres, I am very happy to extend a very hearty welcome to **Bro. Boris Nixon MSFS** from **Cameroon**, who is on an exposure experience in India. It is our practice that our brothers from Chad-Cameroon and the Philippines, who are perpetually professed, get an opportunity to visit and have a personal experience of the province in India. Bro. Boris will be visiting many of our communities, especially the formation houses and mission centers, both in Karnataka and Kerala. The Provincial Secretary, **Fr. Santosh Pereira**, will inform the respective Superiors about his arrival. Please do extend to him cordial Salesian Hospitality in your communities and take good care of him.

Bon Voyage

Fr. Jimmy Joseph Parayankuzhy will be flying to Germany on the 17th of July 2017 for pastoral ministry in the diocese of Regensburg in the state of Bavaria. I extend to Fr. Jimmy my heartfelt wishes for the new ministry in Germany at the service of the Province. May God continue to bless him abundantly. **Bon Voyage my dear Fr. Jimmy.**

My Visitation to GA (Germany-Austria) and Visit to the France-Suisse Province

My dear Confreres, I am leaving for Germany, Austria, Switzerland and France on the 17th of July 2017 for the visitation of our Confreres working and studying in these countries. The visitation consists of personal meeting, Delegation colloquium, meeting the Parish Priests and Bishops, wherever appointments are fixed. Please keep me and our Confreres in your valuable prayers that the visitation may bear fruits for the well-being of our province. I will be back in India on the 5th of August 2017. During the time of this visitation **Fr. Santhosh Kumar will be the Province Vicar.**

Transfers and Appointments

- **Fr. Subin Puzhakara** is appointed the **Principal of SFS School Kengeri** with effect from 24 July 2017
- **Fr. MijoKulamkuthiyil** is appointed the **Vice Principal of SFS School Ettumanoor** with effect from 24 July 2017
- **Fr. Kuldeep Kujur** is appointed to the **community of Sedam, Gulbarga** as the member of the community with effect from 25 July 2017

Let us Pray for the Faithful Departed

- **Fr. Sijo Olickal MSFS**, aged 31, breathed his last on 13 July, 2017.

I request all the Confreres to fulfil the suffrages as prescribed by MSFS Constitutions.

- **Mr. V.U. Thomas**, aged 95, Father of Fr. Jose Vechuvettikal died on June 28, 2017
- **Mrs. Annakutty**, aged 98, Aunt of Fr. Jose Vechuvettikal died on July 10, 2017

We assure you, dear Confere, 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.

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 10-14	Annual Retreat in Charis Bhavan
July 17-August 5	Visitation to our Confreres in GA and France-Suisse Province

AUGUST 2017

August 1-5	Visitation to our Confreres in GA and France-Suisse Province
August 6	Recollection for the Students of IIS
August 8-9	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 Srinivaspura
August 16	Visitation to the Community and School at Chintamani
August 17	Visitation to communities of Kadisanahalli, 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 17	Formation Forum Meeting with the General Councilor
September 19	Education Forum Meeting with the General Councilor
September 20	Council Meeting
September 21	Mission Forum Meeting with the General Councilor
September 23-24	Social & Innovative Ministry Forum Meeting with the General Councilor
September 24-25	Visitation to the Community, Parish and Schools, Koppal
September 25-26	Visitation to the community and school, Mundargi
September 26-27	Visitation to the Community and School, Kuknoor
September 27-28	Visitation to the Community and School, Savanur
September 30	Founder's Day Celebration at Tejas

OCTOBER 2017

October 1	Holy Mass and Talk at the Charis Bhavan Convention
October 2	Blessing and Inauguration of the New MSFS House in Kattappana
October 4-5	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 Trichy, TN
October 17	Visiting the Postulants in Pudukottai, Tamilnadu
October 19-21	Visitation to Sedam Mission
October 22	Provincial Council Meeting
October 24	MSFS Foundation Day and Institute Day Celebrations at Suvidya College
October 28-29	Visitation of the MSFS Community at Shiralakoppa and Shimoga Apostolic community Meeting

NOVEMBER 2017

November 1	Visitation to Ulickal Parish, Boy's Home
November 2	Visitation to Parish of Kannadiparamba, Kannur Community
November 3	Visitation to Mattannur Community, Apostolic Community Meeting
November 4-5	Recollection for the Diploma Students of IIS
November 7-9	Meeting of the Confreres from 8-15 years of Ordination in Vinayalaya
November 11	Visiting Fr. Paul Aranjani in Madackal
November 11-12	Visiting Fr. Thomas Moongamakal in Srambickal, Sunday Mass in the Parish
November 12	Visiting Fr. Francis Kizhakethazhe in Thavalappara
November 12-13	Visitation to the MSFS Community, Pattikad
November 13-14	Visitation to Aluva Community
November 14	Overnight stay in Ettumanoor
November 15-16	Visitation to Kattappana Community, Kozhimala Parish
November 16-17	Visitation to Charis Bhavan
November 19	Council Meeting
November 21-22	Visitation to Tejas
November 25-26	Orientation program for the General Chapter & New Provincial Teams of CSST Congregation, Generalate, Bangalore
November 28-30	Visitation to Snehajyothi, MSFS Novitiate Makkiad

DECEMBER 2017

December 1-2	PIF & Governing Body Meeting at Suvidya College
December 3	Meeting the Brothers of South West India Province in Suvidya
December 5-6	Mid-year evaluation of the Regents in Vinayalaya
December 8	Rev. Fr. Gabriel Memorial Lectures in Suvidya College
December 9	Recollection for the Diploma Students of IIS
December 10	Visitation to IIS, Meeting the Associates of Fransalians, Evaluation with the Students and Staff
December 16	School Annual Day – State Syllabus, Hebbagodi
December 17	Council Meeting, Apostolic Community Meeting
December 21	School Annual Day – SFS School Ettumanoor

December 22	Visitation to Adoor – Fr. Babychan and Fr. Kavithazhe
December 24	Christmas with Fr. Jacob Thudipara, Mass at Kozhimala Parish
December 27	Ordination of Dn. Sanoj Plathottathil
December 28	Ordination of Dn. NobybKottuppallil
December 30	Ordination of Dn. Justin Panachickal

Salesian Thought

“It is a vice to be rude and unsociable as to allow no kind of relaxation either for oneself or for others.” - SFS

Fraternally,



**Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS
Provincial**