

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



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

Tel. 080 23340379 Mob: 91 9739010026, Fax: 080 23341329

**E-mail:provincialsouthwestmsfs@gmail.com Website:www.msfsouthwest.com
secretaryprovincialsouthwest@gmail.com**

SWIP Circular BK/32

July 22, 2018

My dear Confreres,

Fraternal greetings to you from Fr. Benny. Amidst the bustles of the academic year and the thick and thin of life journey I would like to wish you the blessings of the Lord and His grace to protect you from all harm. Through this circular as I would like to update you about the latest news from our province I also would welcome you to reflect with me yet another sterling feature of Jesus' personality.

JESUS: THE TEACHER WITH AUTHORITY



The Gospel of Mathew makes this impressive statement about Jesus: **For He taught them as one having AUTHORITY and not as their Scribes** (Mt.7/29). This statement of the evangelist places Jesus a step high above the Pharisees and Sadducees.

According to the Jewish tradition every Rabbi is an authorized person to teach the Torah. The Pharisees and Sadducees, who were recognized as Rabbis, had the great responsibility to communicate the insights of the Torah to the ordinary people. It is here that Jesus makes a difference in the life of the people. The evangelist Mathew takes note of the reaction of the people regarding the teaching of Jesus. **The listeners are surprised not only because of the content of the teaching of Jesus, much more**

because of the authenticity of his teaching. The Jewish Rabbis, for their teaching, depended on the authority of their predecessors, whereas Jesus taught the people on his own authority (Mt. 5/21-48). This was something very strange and new to the people who listened to Jesus. Therefore, *they were astounded at his teaching* (Mt. 5/28).

What makes a person **Teacher**, in the real sense of the word, is the **Authority** with which one teaches. The word “Authority” originates from the Greek root *Exousia*. It means that which emerges from within. In short, it is a felt-experience and not mere bookish information or rhetoric expressions of someone else’ ideas. When a teacher teaches that which is his/her experience the communication of the content becomes more effective. In this process there is a personal immersion of oneself into that which one is teaching. It is no more an external communication of overstuffed learning, instead it is the interior conviction poured forth with credibility and integrity of life. **Yes, to be a person of authority one should possess the virtues of Credibility and Integrity.**

a) CREDIBILITY: The Latin root *credibilis* means the quality of being convincing or believable. It shows forth the reliability of the communicator. When one’s deeds and even interior dreams, in sum, one’s personal life, are coherent with one’s teaching, one is recognized as credible. In short, **credibility means to walk the talk.**

b) INTEGRITY: The French root *Integrite* or Latin *Integritas* means **Intact**. It is a quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. Such persons are in a state of being whole and undivided. This is one of the most important characteristics of Jesus as a Teacher: **Jesus was a man of Integrity**. If we go through the Gospels we would find that all through his public ministry he was never challenged about his integrity. In spite of the fact that he went against the currents and met with and dined with Tax Collectors, Sinners and Prostitutes, no one dared to raise a finger against his integrity. Yes, **Jesus developed a “Lotus Spirituality”: Being in the dirt, but never affected by the dirt.**

My dear Confreres, it is time that we make a self-evaluation of ourselves, of our credibility and integrity to be teachers and preachers. **Are we people with Authority?** Most of the time we evaluate our integrity in comparison with that of others, with a passing statement: I am better than him/her. How honestly can we say that our teaching, preaching and leadership emerge from inside, from personal assimilation and interior convictions? It is very important to know Jesus before we teach and preach about Jesus. **Like Jesus let us become people of AUTHORITY; Like Him let us be people of**

INTEGRITY and CREDIBILITY; Like Jesus let us teach from our personal AUTHENTICITY.

ONE DAY SEMINAR OF THE ASSOCIATES OF FRANSALIANS



A day long gathering of Fransalian Associates was held at Charis Bhavan on Sunday, July 8, 2018. The day commenced with a prayer service led by Fr. Kurian Karickal. In the inaugural address Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, the Provincial, emphasised about the role of Fransalian Associates. He urged them to understand the call of Fransalian Associates as a call within a call.

Fr. Jacob Parapally, the resource person of the day, stressed on **Growth in Faith** in a very lucid way interspersed with current examples, thoughts and anecdotes. He elaborated on three levels of faith – Infantile faith, Reasoning faith and Adult faith and urged the members to grow up to the level of Adult faith. The Eucharistic celebration was presided by Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal and Fr. Kurian in his homily stressed on the pre-requisites needed to be a disciple of Christ.

In the afternoon session Fr. Kurian Karickal shared information regarding the formation, the expenses involved in training students for priesthood and presented the details of their financial contribution. All were presented with a souvenir of the students whom they were sponsoring. Fr. Vinod Kanat, Fr. Henry Kodukuthiyil and Fr. Sudeep Paul were present on the occasion.

CONGREGATIONAL RETREAT IN CHARIS BHAVAN

From the 9th of July 2018 to the 13th July we organized the first of the two Congregational retreats of our province. There were Seventy Five Confreres who participated in it. The retreat was animated by Frs. Mario D'Souza and Binu Edathumparambil. It had been a wonderful experience of inputs, personal assimilation



through personal prayer and meditation and community experience of praying and sharing life together. I thank both the preachers for imparting their personal convictions through well studied and well prepared talks and articulated presentation of the same. I thank the Charis Bhavan community for the meticulous organization of the retreat. I also thank all the participants of the retreat for maintaining the true spirit of retreat through silence and personal availability. After the retreat I had the opportunity to update the Confreres of the life, direction and possibilities of the province.

The next Congregational retreat will be conducted in **Indian Institute of Spirituality** from the **15th to the 19th of October 2018**.

RESULTS OF THE FIRST ROUND OF ELECTION FOR THE DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CHAPTER

My dear Confreres, the counting of the first round of voting has been done. I thank all those who participated in this election and nobly exercised their rights and responsibilities for the good of the congregation. As shown below, no one has received an absolute majority in the first round of voting.

Total number of ballots Returned: **156**

Total number of ballots Valid: **155**

Total number of ballots Invalid: **01**

Total number of Votes required for Absolute Majority: **79**

Number of Votes Received by the individual confreres:

1. Fr. Kalariparambil Thomas	55	30. Fr. Eanthanamkuzhiyil Saji	03
2. Fr. Cherukat Thomas	50	31. Fr. Karickal Kurian	03
3. Fr. R. Santosh Kumar	23	32. Fr. Punnakuzhy Sunny	03
4. Fr. Edathumparambil Binu	22	33. Fr. Kozhupakalam Mathew	03
5. Fr. Vazhappillil Joy	19	34. Fr. Amougou Emile Paulin	03
6. Fr. Koottanal Benny	17	35. Fr. Panthanmackel Sibichen	03
7. Fr. Parapillil Jose	17	36. Fr. Ponnambel Josey	03
8. Fr. Kodikuthiyil Henry Jose	16	37. Fr. Valachathinakath Vinoy	03
9. Fr. Cherolickal Joe	16	38. Fr. A.C. Arokianathan	03
10. Fr. Kumblolickal Jose	14	39. Fr. Pulinthanam Tomy	02
11. Fr. A. Anthony Swamy	13	40. Fr. A. Mathias	02
12. Fr. Arackal Manoj	11	41. Fr. Kizhakkethazhe Francis	02
13. Fr. Plathotathil Roy	10	42. Fr. Thottiyil Mathew	02
14. Fr. Parapally Jacob	10	43. Fr. Thundathil Shibu	02
15. Fr. A. Jabamalai	10	44. Fr. Ottalankal Chacko	02
16. Fr. Crasta Christopher	07	45. Fr. Mukalel James	02
17. Fr. Vazheparambil Riju	06	46. Fr. Kalathungal Mathew	02
18. Fr. Thunduparambil Abey	06	47. Fr. Manjackal James	02
19. Fr. Kanattu Vinod	06	48. Fr. Thazhathukunnel Joshy	02
20. Fr. E. Erudaya Raja	06	49. Fr. Kolencherry Antony	02
21. Fr. Pulpara Joseph	05	50. Fr. Jundie Sumagaysay	02
22. Fr. Manjackal Jijo	05	51. Fr. Puthuparambil Tito	02
23. Fr. Vadakkedath Saji	04	52. Fr. Balavendra Jacob	01
24. Fr. Marangolil Benny	04	53. Fr. Kanat Thomas	01
25. Fr. Chirayil George	04	54. Fr. Chemplanickal Jijo	01
26. Fr. Pathiyakam Ginu	04	55. Fr. Jabamalai Peranayagam	01
27. Fr. Puthenpurackal Binod	03	56. Fr. Kanjiramparambil Johny	01
28. Fr. Vilachirayil Saju	03	57. Fr. Puzhakkara Subin	01
29. Fr. Kurakalayil Binoy	03	58. Fr. Thadathilankal Lalu	01

59. Fr. Kulangarathotiyil Sebastian	01	76. Fr. Chirackalpuraidathil Anish	01
60. Fr. S. Prakash Prashant Raj	01	77. Fr. Kochupurackal Santy	01
61. Fr. Koikkara Dijo	01	78. Fr. Ekka Anand	01
62. Fr. Pannalakunnel Tom	01	79. Fr. A. Johnson	01
63. Fr. Koottarapally Devasia	01	80. Fr. Elayidathumadam Mathew	01
64. Fr. Paul Sudeep	01	81. Fr. Vechuvettickal Jose	01
65. Fr. Lawrence	01	82. Fr. Puliklkalath Nirmal Jose	01
66. Fr. Kuzhuppil Binoy	01	83. Fr. Pereira Santosh	01
67. Fr. Nellimalamattam Joshy	01	84. Fr. Mundiyanickal Aneesh	01
68. Fr. Fernandis Roni	01	85. Fr. Puthiaparambil Jose (Sr.)	01
69. Fr. Lakra Giridhari	01	86. Fr. Anchanickal Thomas	01
70. Fr. Thonikuzhiyil Robin	01	87. Fr. Kuzhipallil Aloysius	01
71. Fr. Vellakada Sen	01	88. Fr. Mamala Mathew	01
72. Fr. Narikunnel Regi	01	89. Fr. Tigga Praful	01
73. Fr. Kokkandathil Jose	01	90. Fr. Manjackal Jiji	01
74. Fr. D. Jeevan Prasad	01	91. Fr. A. Jerome	01
75. Fr. S. Innaci Muthu	01	92. Fr. S. Arockiya Samy	01

Since no one has received the absolute majority we are conducting the second round of voting. This time a relative majority is enough for the delegates to be elected. **The last date for the ballots to reach the office of the Provincial is 26th August 2018.** Therefore, there is a necessity to speed up the procedures. I request all the Superiors to take personal initiative to distribute the ballots to the Confreres as soon as you receive it and get the duly filled ballot within a day's time and return it to the provincial's office. To foreign countries we are using the fastest postal methods. Those who are abroad, please return the duly filled ballots in the same way to the provincial's office. **I request all the confreres to participate in the election of the delegates without fail and fulfil your responsibilities as members of the Congregation.**

PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF FR. BORIS NIXON MSFS

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20

14th July 2018 is a memorable day in the life of Fr. Boris Nixon and Chad Cameroon Mission. On this day Mgr. Christophe Zoa , Bishop of Sangmalima ordained Dn. Boris



Nixon to the priesthood. Presence of Fr. Santhosh Kumar, councillor in charge of formation, together with good many MSFS confreres of Chad Cameroon Mission at the ordination was a powerful witness of support and a testimony to our unity and brotherhood. Ordination was held in St. Joseph's Cathedral church Sangmelima, Cameroon together with the ordinations from the diocese of Sangmalima. In his homily bishop insisted that ordination is never earned. It is a gift and a sign from God. "You keep your relationship with Jesus strong, and you will be a good minister."

Dear Fr. Boris Nixon we wish you a very fruitful ministry in the vineyard of God.

FIRST PROFESSION AT CHAD-CAMEROON DELEGATION



21st July was a memorable day for the Chad-Cameroon Mission as five our novices made their first profession together with East Africa South Africa province novices at Mukuza. The Eucharist was Presided over by Arch Bishop Mark Solczynski. The Archbishop in his homily instructed Brothers that they are making vows not to the Provincial or to any Human

Persons but to God. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the Provincial Superior of East Africa Province, received the vows; Fr. Binu Edathumparambil and Fr. Santhosh Paul were witnesses. On behalf of the Province I congratulate our brothers on their first profession and sincerely thank Fr. Anthonysamy Sebastian the Director of Novices and Santhosh Paul, the Socius, for their committed service in guiding our novices.

FORUM MEETINGS IN THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2018

My dear Confreres, the meetings of the respective Forums of the province, such as, Education (20th August), Social and Innovative Ministries (22nd August) Mission (24th

August), Formation (26th August), and Stewardship (28th August) will be conducted in the month of August 2018. The participation of every member in the respective forum is compulsory and any exception shall be with the permission of the Provincial. **I request the councilors to initiate the meetings with their respective core committees and present the agenda of the meeting to the Provincial at least two weeks ahead.**

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE AT ITSSCAT-INDIA



Within the short historical span of 8 years, since its meek commencement in a rented house in 2011, ITSSCAT-India has made a great leap both in academic as well as non-academic arena. It has been turned into a movement, also being placed in the international

realm in the field of education and formation of the highly talented students from the economically and other marginalized families in order to create another movement in the society for a better service to the poor and needy. 19th July 2018 is chronicled as another day of a remarkable dive when Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, the Provincial Superior, during his visitation to ITSSCAT laid the foundation stone in the presence of Fr. Varghese Puthuparmbil, Fr. Binod Puthenpurackal, the staff and students of ITSSCAT family, for the construction of a new building for ITSSCAT to provide the students better living rooms, class rooms and other required facilities. Thereafter was the celebration of the Eucharist officiated by the provincial.

BON VOYAGE

Fr. Bobby Puthenparambil will be leaving to Vienna, Austria on 25th of July 2018 to take up the pastoral ministry at the behest of Kloster Neuburg, Austria. Through Fr. Bobby we undertake this ministry in Support of the Augustinian Chor-Herren, who had been a great source of support for our province at various levels. I wish Fr. Bobby God's abundant blessings in his ministries as MSFS in Austria. All the best dear Fr. Bobby.

APPOINTMENTS

- **Fr. Sandeep Tirkey** is designated for studies in Indian Institute of Spirituality, Bangalore with effect from 1st July 2018.
- **Fr. Boris Nixon** is appointed Assistant Parish Priest of St. Daniel Comboni Church and director of the SFS school and boys' home in Doba.

MY SCHEDULE

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.

August 2018

July25-August2	Visitation to our Confreres in Adelaide, Australia
August 3-4	KRCR Major Superiors' Meeting in Mysore
August 4-5	Recollection for the Diploma Students of IIS
August 7-8	Visitation to Chintamani, *Meeting with the 10 th Standard Students; *Visitation to Sidlghatta and Kadisanahalli
August 8-9	Visitation to Srinivaspura, Meeting with 10 th Std. Students
August 9-10	Visitation to Community at Tamaka,Kolar Parish, ITI
August 13-18	Classes in IIS
August 17	Council Meeting
August 19	Suvidya College – Community Day
August 20	Education Forum Meeting
August 22	Social & Innovative Ministry Forum Meeting
August 24	Mission Forum Meeting
August 25	Meeting of the Superior General with the Major Superior and Staff of Suvidya College
August 26	Formation Forum Meeting
August 28	Stewardship Forum Meeting
August 29	Meeting of the Superior General with the Provincial and the Curia
August 30	Visitation to MSFS Community and school at Anthoninagara

September 2018

September 1	Recollection – IIS
September 3-4	Visitation to the MSFS CommunityMalur, *Meeting with the 10 th Std. Students of SFS Malur
September 4-5	Visitation to Gokunte
September 6	Council Meeting
September7	Nativity of Our Lady – Festal Kannada Mass at SFS Church,

	Hebbagodi
September 9	Institute's Day at IIS
Sept. 10-14	PIF-PEA-GC Meeting in Hyderabad
Sept. 15-16	Visitation to the MSFS Community, Savanur, *Meeting with the 10 th Std. Students
Sept. 16-17	Visitation to the MSFS Community Mundargi, *Meeting with the 10 th Std. Students
Sept. 17-18	Visitation to the MSFS Community Kuknoor, *Meeting with the 10 th Std. Students
Sept. 18-19	Visitation to the MSFS Community, Koppal, *Meeting with the 10 th Std. Students of SFS Schools
Sept. 22-28	Retreat for the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod at Yercaud
September 30	Founder's Day - with the Novices in MSFS Novitiate Makkiad

October 2018

October 1-4	Visitation to the MSFS Novitiate Makkiad, Classes for the Novices
October 5-6	Visitation to MSFS Community, Batheri
October 6-7	Visitation to Vinayakumar Ashram, Sunday Mass in T.K. Colony Parish
October 11	Visitation to PSI, Kengeri
October 12	Council Meeting
October 13	Meeting the 3 rd Year Philosophers of South West India Province
October 15-19	2 nd Annual Retreat at IIS
October 18	Annual Charismatic Convention at CharisBhavan: Holy Mass and Talk
October 21-22	Visitation to Sedam Mission, visiting Fr. D. Robert
October 24	MSFS Foundation Day and Institute's Day at Suvidya College, Bangalore
Oct.26-Nov. 15	Visitation to Germany, Austria and Confreres who are studying in different Universities in Europe

November 2018

Nov. 1-15	Visitation to Germany, Austria and Confreres who are studying in different Universities in Europe
Nov. 16-17	Recollection - IIS
Nov. 18-19	Visitation to St. Joseph's Parish and SFS Boys' Home, Ulickal
Nov. 19-20	Visitation to MSFS Community & SFS School Mattannur
Nov.20	Visiting Fr. Simil in Panathadi, Visitation to Kannadiparamba Parish
Nov. 20-21	Visitation to MSFS Community & SFS School Kannur, Meeting the 10 th Standard Students
Nov. 23	Council Meeting
Nov. 24-25	Visiting the Shimoga Mission
Nov. 27-29	On-going Formation for all those ordained before 1990

Nov. 30	Personal Meeting with the Confreres of Vinayalaya Community
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December 2018

December 2	1 st Sunday of Advent – Holy Eucharist at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Hebbagodi
December 4-5	Regents’ Meeting – Mid-Year Evaluation
December 7-8	Recollection – IIS
December 9	2 nd Sunday of Advent: Visitation to IIS –Holy Mass and Meeting with the Staff and Students and the Associates of Fransalians
December 11-12	PIF Meeting, Governing Body Meeting and Rev. Fr. Gabriel Memorial Lectures at Suvidya College
December 13-23	Visitation to Chad-Cameroon Delegation
December 25	Christmas
December 27	Ordination of Dn. Staney Rodrigues , Infant Jesus Church, Prabhat Nagar, Honnavar, Karnataka
December 28	Council Meeting

January 2019

January 1	New Year
January 2	Ordinations of Deacons Tony Munduchalil and Joshy Thumpechirayil , St. Mary’s Basilica, Champakulam, Kerala
January 3	Ordination of Dn. Zacharias Peter Cherackal , St. Mary’s Basilica, Ernakulam, Kerala
January 5	Ordination of Dn. Antony Selvam , Lourdu Matha Church, Elanthaikulam, Singamparai, Tamil Nadu
January 9	Ordination of Dn. Petrus Kerketta , St. Joseph’s Church, Kanchanagar, Balarampur Dt., Chattisgarh
January 11	Ordination of Dn. Rakesh Ekka , St. Joseph’s Church, Chiringa, Ambikapur Dt., Chattisgarh
January 18	Council Meeting
January 24	Feast of SFS at Vinayalaya, Installation of the Provincial

SALESIAN THOUGHT

“A genuine excuse has much more grace and strength as an apology than a lie”

Saint Francis de Sales.

Fraternally,



Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS

Provincial