

MSFS - MISSIONARIES OF ST.FRANCIS DE SALES

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE



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

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

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

Circular BK/8

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My dear Confreres,



Fraternal greetings to you from Fr Benny. As we are entering into the **New Year 2017** I take this opportunity to wish each one of you a very prosperous and joy-filled New Year. May the blessings of the Lord accompany each one of you

throughout the New Year. I assure you my prayers, love and commitment to the growth of our province in the coming year. My dear Confreres, **2017 is A Mystery and a Possibility**. The greatest thrill of human life is that **we are not sure how long we will live or, rather bluntly to say, when we will die**. This gives us the possibility to look at the future with hope and confidence. Very often at the beginning of the New Year we make certain discernments and plans as to how we would live the New Year. But often we realize that by the middle of the year we ourselves have forgotten most of those plans and visions.

The greatest need of the modern time is to have a vision plan for the future. Let me suggest to you my dear Confreres, two necessary weapons that we could carry with us to live this new year in the most effective manner.

1. SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Spiritual Direction is a personal encounter I make about myself, my relationship with God and with others, through the medium of a guide or director. Therefore, it is a constant learning curve. We go for Spiritual Direction not only when we have some problems, but also to update ourselves regarding our own selves, about our progress or regress in life, the steadiness with which we handle our personal life, life-encounters. Sometimes we get caught up in life-situations without knowing how to manage the situation in which we are. When we encounter certain issues concerning persons, things or situations, we may not be able to turn to anyone trustworthy. Therefore, it is necessary to have a Guru in our life, who can understand us, guide us and at the same time who also can lovingly challenge us to understand our present situation and possible future. We must be able to trust the person whom we choose as spiritual guide. Therefore frankness, honesty and sincere relationship are necessary for spiritual direction. Otherwise it simply becomes an artificial gesture without meaning.

2. VISION PLAN

Let us enter into the New Year with a Vision Plan. The vision plan that we are envisaging in this context will enable our growth in a holistic manner. **A vision plan consists of the awareness of my past** (with all the success, failures and hurdles and positive thrusts that I have had in my life). It equally helps me to assess my person from the point of view of my talents, abilities, gifts as well as from the point of view of my limitations, struggles, hurt feelings, escapisms and so on.

THE VISION PLAN HELPS ME TO ASSESS MY PRESENT: In the given situation of my life, here and now, how do I envisage my life? Am I struggling under it? Am I able to see my chosen way of life with clarity, with a sense of purpose and joy? Majority of us have our own excuses and judgments about situations and people. Sometimes even when we have opted ourselves for this way of life, we try to see possibilities only from our subjective definitions and resist discipline (like, "I did not expect it to be in this way or that way" and so on); we resist consistency and regularity and fail to experience that which we want to achieve.

THE VISION PLAN HELPS ME TO PLAN OUT MY FUTURE: Having assessed my present moment with all its pros and cons **I must be able to plan out my future** and make my

target with certain clarity of thought. First of all consider your vision plan from the point of your aptitude to the chosen way of life. No vision regarding life is possible, when I am not sure of my way of life. Suppose if I struggle still about the chosen life, I must clarify my priorities and ask why am I here? Am I contributing sufficiently from my part to grow in this way of life? **Just like a plant needs water and manure to grow in full vigour, so too human beings need spiritual, physical, emotional, psychological and intellectual food to be joyful in life.** Take risk in life and find the depth of a meaningful relationship. Differentiate your relationship from emotionalism, subjectivity and possessiveness.

When we visualize our future we must equally realize that Religious life consists of spirituality (prayer life, discipline, community life, intellectual excellence, respectful and self-giving relationship and total commitment to Jesus, who is my everything. **If someone asks you the question, why are you a religious? You must be able to say spontaneously that it is because I love Jesus so much.**

My dear Confreres, **I wish each one of you a purpose-driven New Year 2017.** Let the mystery of the new year unfold before us the opportunities to discover the hidden possibilities of our life. **May God bless each one of you.**

Silver Jubilee Celebrations at SFS High School Malur



SFS High School Malur was established in the year 1992. The School has been providing quality education for last 25 years. The school started its saga of existence in a rented house given by Sri Akkoji Rao with 48 students and Mrs Bindhu as the first teacher at the time of its inception. Then Rev Fr Kurian

Aranjanil took the initiative to construct a new building and Fr George Puraidom completed the construction. Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod also contributed a lot to build up the school. Srs. Judy, Mary Joe, and Molly served as the headmistress of the school and brought up the academic excellence. They continued to collaborate with MSFS Fathers in the ministry of education. Frs Joshy Thazhathukunnel, Devasia Kalapura, Irudaya Raj, Saju Vilachirayil and Jijo Chemplany played their role to make SFS High School Malur as one of the best schools in Kolar District.

We had the joy of thanking the Almighty for his abundant blessings upon our SFS High School Malur on 19th December 2016 as we celebrated its Silver Jubilee. It was a real moment of joy and blessings with the presence of great dignitaries, priests, sisters and parents. Rt. Rev Dr Francis Serrao, Bishop of Shimogga acknowledged and applauded our thrust in providing Fransalian education and making the students spiritually oriented, intellectually well equipped, physically fit and emotionally balanced. Rev Fr Benny Koottanal, the Provincial, Rev Fr Roy Plathottathil, Councillor in-charge of Education and Sri Subramanyam, BEO Malur also were present on this historical moment. As a sign of the growth of SFS High School Malur, we have also decided to construct a new jubilee block and increase divisions as the demand for admission is very high.

Blessing and opening of School's New Block-Ettumanoor



SFS Public School & Junior College, Ettumanoor, had a special occasion to celebrate the completion of its original building design as visualized 14 years ago when the School first began functioning in 2003. The new block was completed and blessed on

Thursday, 22 December 2016, by Rev Dr Benny Koottanal, Provincial Superior of SWIP. The state-of-the-art complex contains both academic and administrative wings. Mrs C A Latha, IAS, Kottayam District Collector, cut the ribbon at 4.30 pm and inaugurated the new building. Fr. Provincial conducted the prayer of blessing and dedication at the entrance of the new block in the presence of a large concourse of distinguished guests, including Mrs C A Latha, IAS, Kottayam District Collector; Shri K Suresh Kurup, Ettumanoor MLA; Shri Stephen Joseph, Director of Brilliant Study Centre, Pala; Dr Joji T Sebastian, PTA President; Rev Fr Jose Parappillil, School Manager; Rev Fr Roy Plathottathil, School Principal; Rev Fr Subin Puzhakkara, Vice Principal; Rev Fr Sibi Manickathan, School Administrator; Rev Fr Joby Mattathil, SFS Seminary Rector; Shri Kottayam Nazeer and Kumari Meenakshi, cine artistes, and a large gathering of parents, well-wishers, teachers and students. The blessing ceremony was clubbed with the 14th School Annual Day celebration, DeSaliteTalentia – Celebration of Talents, at the school's newly completed quadrangle. The function had all the traditional flavour and pomp that

mark such grand occasions. The variety entertainment staged by the students was the cynosure of all eyes.

Regent's Meet-2016

The midterm evaluation of regents was held on 27th & 28th December 2016 at Vinayalaya. Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal the Provincial, Fr Santhosh Kumar Provincial Admonitor and Councillor in charge of Formation, Fr. Tom Pannalakunnel and Fr. Balavendra Jacob were the resource persons who enlightened the regents with various topics inviting them to be responsible in all the aspects and also to be courageous in encountering and facing the challenges. The first day was a day dedicated for feeding the minds and the second day was set apart for feeding the Soul. The second day was set apart for the recollection by Fr. Arockianathan who really strengthened the spiritual life of the regents. It was a great time of coming together and getting rejuvenated for the future growth.

Canonical Visitation to Tejas Vidya Peetha

I had the great privilege of having the Canonical Visitation to Tejas from the 21-24 November 2016. I must gratefully say that it was a rare opportunity for me to learn the Tejas life-style and to suggest my humble opinions for its growth. I thank the staff and students for the meticulous organization of the canonical visitation, which gave a solid seriousness to the whole event from the religious, spiritual, administrative and academic perspectives. It was so edifying to see all the four staff members present in the community during the whole time of the visitation even sacrificing some personal programs. The approach and serious responses of the brothers had been very positive. Hereby I bring some of my observations regarding the Tejas life-style as I experienced during the visitation.

Appreciation

- There is a sense of belongingness among the members of the community, both the staff and the students, which brings into my mind the memoirs of Tejas' origin and its vision.
- There is a wonderful teamwork among the staff, mutual appreciation and respectful acceptance or rejection of views and opinions.

- Our Brothers invariably show a new sense of purpose and their heartfelt pride in being members of Tejas family. The consequence of such belongingness is shown through their extra commitment in every activity of Tejas.
- I have noticed a sense of personal motivation in the behavioural style of our brothers. They show more interest in prayer, academics and extra-curricular activities.
- One of the sterling aspects of Tejas is the re-strengthened bond of love and relationship between Tejas-Nest-FidesIndia- movements. I am very happy to see the original spirit of Tejas being relived through the participatory formation given to our brothers through these movements. The functions of Tejas and FidesIndia Movement have taken a new orientation under the able leadership of Frs. Henry and Joy. Our brothers are now so well integrated with the social work ministry of FidesIndia and it is giving them the feel of our missionary commitment.
- I do appreciate the quality of the Tejas Staff to animate the brothers. As it stands now the teamwork is very palpable. Now we get the impressions of a holistic formation given to the students through the accompanying style of the staff.
- The newly adopted restrictions on the use of mobile phones and gadgets are bringing dividend fruits through concentration in prayer, studies and other co-curricular activities.

Desirable Areas of Improvement

- The still existing issues concerning the land and its registration give a kind of ambiguity in the minds of the members of the community regarding the surety and effectiveness of their functioning. The administration wishes the best and it is giving its best to solve this issue at the earliest.
- Due to the issues concerning the registration of the land some of the major concerns like, residential facilities, proper classrooms and library, auditorium and chapel are still wanting. It gives a lot of psychological and mental pressure as well.
- There should be extra measures and if necessary stringent measures taken to improve the interest of the students regarding the academic matters. Visiting the library, writing serious dissertations and submitting them in time should be made mandatory. The methodology of academic excellence should be ongoing. Students should be regularly interested in academic matters and not just before

the examinations. Daily reading of the class notes, enriching the classes through extra reading, conducting seminars and debates on studied subjects could be encouraged. Our formation policy should be firm yet gentle.

- Studies on the latest documents of the church, the encyclical and apostolic letters and exhortations of the Pope/s and latest theological trends should become mandatory part our brothers' learning system. Of course, they do exist in bits and parts, but they should become a life-style.
- Orientations on life-vision plans should be encouraged. If necessary more guidance towards personal counselling, inner healing etc. should be encouraged. They should be reconciled with their past, enjoying their 'present' and confident about their future.
- Our brothers should be helped to have clear orientation as to why they become priests and why they become MSFS Priests. They should be joyful priests. The basic vision of Tejas is to develop the MSFSness of our confreres.
- Spiritual Direction of the brothers should be made more impactful and the effect of the spiritual direction should be vivid in their life-style. The staff can meaningfully involve in the selection of the spiritual directors by the brothers. Meaningful encounter of the sacraments, especially of confession and Eucharist should be insisted.

I am absolutely proud of the new shape Tejas is taking under the able guidance of the staff who give generously their time and commitment. I wish Tejas further growth and bright future.

Year 2017 as Year of Education and Social Apostolate (Social Empowerment through Education and Innovative Ministries)

Our Beloved Superior General, with the consent of the General Council, announces the Year 2017 as the **Year of Education and Social Apostolate** with the theme **Social Empowerment through Education and Innovative Ministries**. The Superior General instructs us that the General Secretaries of Education and Social Apostolate will prepare the respective forums through PCISs for a meaningful celebration of Year 2017 with various programs.

In this context I would like to place before the province certain projects and programs already envisaged and a few which are still being envisaged by the provincial administration. I would like to update the province that we are aiming at a number of

projects and programs, which would endear us in our commitment to the people of God. It would also help us to respond to the proposed Year of Education and Social Apostolate in the year 2017. Following are the programs and projects we have undertaken in this administrative period.

a) Parish Church in ADOOR, Punalur Diocese



Since thirty years we had been rendering services in the parish of Adoor, which is entrusted to us permanently. One of the most important needs of this parish has been to have a good church and it has been a dream of the parishioners of St John of the cross church to build a church in Adoor. There had been lot of struggle to start the construction either due to financial scarcity or due to the difficulty in gaining government permission. At the same time it was necessary for us to dare to begin the construction of the Church and now we have commenced the construction of the church with due permissions. We have been creatively giving our services for the parish through our own committed Confreres for the last 30years. We, MSFS, have a great responsibility in this parish to respond to the needs of the local Church and to involve creatively in the ministry entrusted to us by the diocese. We take it as a serious responsibility to construct the Church in Adoor. Now we have initiated the construction. We are planning to build a church with multipurpose hall below. The measurement of the church alone constitutes almost 500sq m. The province shall be providing partial financial support to construct the Church. We set a target of one year to complete the construction of the Church. I congratulate and appreciate the strenuous effort put by **Fr. Baby Elanjimattathil** and wish him all the best in this endeavour.

b) De Sales Academy for Talent Assistance (DATA) in Aluva

Ever since our scholasticate has been shifted from SFS Vidyashram Aluva, the province has been on the lookout to initiate certain meaningful ministries at SFS Vidyashram. After a long process of consultations and deliberations the Administration has decided, as was announced earlier, to initiate the process of providing professional assistance to the youth of the vicinity in acquiring required employability skills. Towards this end,

the province has decided to open **De Sales Academy for Talent Assistance (DATA)** as a centre of excellence, initiating programmes for the comprehensive leadership development of youth. What is envisioned is that the De Sales Academy focuses on three areas under three departments:

- 1. Department for International Languages**
- 2. Department for Professional Development**
- 3. Department for Psychological and Personal Empowerment**

The Department for International Languages will focus on foreign language capability building in English, German and French. The academy is expected to begin with training in IELTS only. But as soon as possible this department will initiate training in other foreign languages like German. **The Department for professional development** will focus on competency training for youth, short term training programmes for teachers and professionals, HR consultancy services and comprehensive leadership development programmes. **The Department for psychological and personal empowerment** will focus on long-term and short-term training programmes for the religious and lay faithful in counseling skills. We are still identifying which courses will be initiated in the second and third departments immediately. It is also envisioned that De Sales Academy initiates as soon as possible university-affiliated programs in psychology, management and mass media.

c) FIRE - Fransalian Initiative for Renewal and Empowerment: Assistance for Priests, Religious and Seminarians in distress or with dysfunctional behaviours

In close collaboration with the Arch-Diocese of Angamaly-Ernakulam MSFS congregation has started a residential treatment program for the clergy and religious in SFS Vidyashram Aluva. Fr. Tom Pannalakunnel, MSFS, who finished his doctorate in Psychology from USA is appointed as the director of the program. He has been working as the Clinical Director of Shalom Center in Texas, USA which is a residential treatment center for the clergy and religious after completing his doctoral studies.

During the last Synod meeting, Major Archbishop shared with all the bishops in Kerala about the possibility of a centre coming up near Aluva to assist priests, religious or seminarians who are in distress or in dysfunctional behaviours. Fr. Tom Pannalakunnel has been in constant contact with the major arch bishop as well as Bishop Sebastian Adayanthrath to discuss about the program. This program is meant to help the priests and religious who are going through crisis in vocation or in life, dealing with addictive

problems such as addiction to alcohol, drugs, internet, pornography, eating disorder, self injury, relationship problems, boundary violations etc.

The whole movement is in its initial stages. In the course of time we will work out the whole process of its structural existence.

d) Envisioned Plan to start ICSE School in Mattannur

The 5-acre plus property that we have in Mattannur in the arch-diocese of Thalassery is envisioned to be a proper place for starting an educational institution, preferably an ICSE school. The plans for the same are being made and the soil test is already done. Our Fathers in the campus are doing good preparation to start the school. Permission from the Municipality is being sought. I wish and pray that this initiative of ours will give a certain Christian ambience to the area.

e) Boys' Hostel at Ettumanoor

The proposed boys' hostel attached to SFS Public School & Junior College marks another milestone in the annals of the institution. The need for such a hostel for students of the higher secondary section had been felt right from the time this section began at the school some years ago. This was also a requirement pointed out by the authorities of Brilliant Study Centre, Pala. They have a tie-up with the school for conducting entrance coaching for students of Classes XI and XII. The proposed boys' hostel has all the facilities to accommodate 100 students on the campus, while an equal number of girl students are being accommodated in a hostel under the care of the Charis Maids Sisters, a couple of kilometres away. The construction and management of the Boys' Hostel have become necessary in view of the heavy workload on the students who go in for the entrance coaching. We have students from all over the State of Kerala pursuing the higher secondary course here. Classes start early in the morning every day and go on till late in the evening. The hostels form part and parcel of the original plan of the school. In fact, all our students in the entrance coaching classes are heavy-laden with a syllabus that demands much from them. Hence these students and their parents demand a separate hostel for boys and girls in the campus. We hope to complete the construction of the hostel by the beginning of the next academic year.

f) Construction of School at Anthoninagara, in the Diocese of Chikmagalur

We have entered in to a 30 years lease agreement with the diocese of Chikkamagaluru regarding five acres of property and the Parish at Anthoninagara. We have envisaged a primary school in this property, which will be a feeder institution to the School we are planning at our newly purchased property at Halekote, Holenarasipura. We have already applied for obtaining permission from the educational department. The building plan for the school is approved by the civil authorities and the Construction has begun. A small temporary residence is also made ready near the parish church. We acknowledge the pioneering zeal of Fr. Maria George and the hard work he puts in getting things done despite all hardships and inconveniences.

g) Envisioned School at Holenarasipura, Hassan Dt.

We have registered six acres of land we purchased at Halekote, Holenarasipura Taluk , Hassan Dt. in the name of Karnataka Fransalian Society. The property is on Channarayapatana-Holenarasipura Road and is five Kilometres from Anthoninagara Church/School. It is envisaged that we begin a Central Syllabus School in this property as an extension and expansion of the School at Anthoninagara.

h) Mission Initiative in Sedam, in the Diocese of Gulbarga

Our mission presence in the diocese of Gulbarga had been until now restricted to the parish at Sedam. We had been trying to buy land in the nearby place but did not find success. Now the bishop of Gulbarga has offered us two-acre plus land. In the given context of Gulbarga, which is typically a mission diocese, we envision first of all simple missionary endeavors, such as, tuition for the poor children, certain social work initiatives and so on. The core-committee of the Social and Innovative Ministries will make an immediate study of the situation and plan out our future ministry.

i) School Construction, Shiralakoppa, in the Diocese of Shimoga

At Shiralakoppa the land conversion process is completed. The plan for the school building is ready for the government approval. The construction of the school building will begin as soon as the plans are approved. In the course of time we wish to associate apt social work ministry along the ministry of Education. I thank Fr. Salvador for the wonderful commitment he shows for the accomplishment of our plans.

j) Construction – Building Extension at SFS ICSE School, Hebbagodi

The administration has decided to complete the building construction of the SFS ICSE School at Hebbagodi. The Construction of the top two floors of the building is underway and is expected to complete this academic year.

k) Extension of the Building at SFS School Malur

The foundation stone of the extension of the School building at Malur was blessed on 19th December 2016. It is expected to be completed by the end of this academic year. It would facilitate sufficient infrastructure for the school and for its well-being.

l) Extension of the Building at SFS School Srinivaspura

The administration has approved the extension of the building SFS School, Srinivaspura, so that the facilities and functioning of the school will be in accordance with the need and standard demanded of the school. The construction will begin as soon as the government authorities approve the building plan.

My dear Confreres, I have placed before you the administrative initiatives taken by the province in order to fulfil the plans and visions we have envisaged. All these our plans should go hand in hand with the declared **Year of Education and Social Apostolate**. Our commitment should be to give quality education to our children not only through the academic but also through overall development of their personality. I would like to give a special emphasis to the Social and Innovative ministries of our province. In my meeting with the councillor and the core-committee I have emphasized this aspect that we begin to go into the lives of the unfortunate people and try to bring them the needed social and strategic liberation. Let us recommit ourselves to these noble endeavours especially in this year of Education and Social Apostolate.

Cause of Fr. Mermier

My dear Confreres, our Superior General has recently communicated to us the good news about the Cause of Father Peter Mermier. The Superior General informs us that through the intervention of Fr. Yves Carron the cause of our Founder is re-opened. Following are the recent developments:

1. Cardinal Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints, has given 'nihil obstat' to re-open the Process of the cause of Father Peter Mermier, by a letter sent to the Bishop of Annecy.

2. Mgr. Yves Boivineau, Bishop of Annecy, will announce the re-opening of the Cause of Fr. Mermier on January 24, 2017. It will be published in the diocesan bulletin of January. The General informs that we shall have special prayers in our communities to mark the reopening of the Cause. Please arrange appropriate prayer services.

3. Bishop Boivineau has also appointed Fr. Pierre-Marie MASSON as the Delegate priest to conduct the procedures at the diocesan level in view of beatification and canonization of Fr. Mermier

4. The Prayer for the cause of Father Mermier is approved by the Bishop of Annecy with a minor correction.

My dear Confreres, Let us thank God for our Founder and intensify our prayers for the glorification of our Founder. The approved prayers shall be printed in Kannada, Malayalam and English and shall be distributed to our communities and to all our parishes, which belong to us. We have a great saint in our Founder. Let us perpetuate the devotion to our Founder through our personal prayers and the motivation we give to our people.

Congratulations

- **Our ICSE School in Hebbagodi has received from the CISE Affiliation Department permanent affiliation and affiliation upgrade.** With this status our school is permitted officially to admit students for ISC examinations to be conducted from 2019 onwards. On behalf of the province I congratulate Fr. Johnson, the Principal and the school management for the commendable efforts and hard work. Let it be a motivating factor for us to work further for the glory of God.
- Congratulations to **Fr. Roy Plathottathil** who is awarded an Honorary Doctorate (D.Litt.) Degree Certificate by the University of South America, for the educational services done for the past 10 years. He was recommended by Dr. Radhakrishnan Teacher's Welfare Association.

Hearty Welcome

I take this opportunity to extend a hearty welcome to **Fr. George Vattappara** to our Province in India. Fr. George had been rendering wonderful pastoral ministry in the USA for the past 11 years. He had been well appreciated and accepted by the people as a

good pastor, animator and spiritual guide. At the completion of his term of ministry he has returned to the province. Fr. George has also put a lot of effort to support our mission and ministry in India through financial contributions for various projects. As I welcome Fr. George back to India, I thank him for his generosity to be at the service of the province and wish him God's abundant blessings in his new endeavours.

Bon Voyage

I would like to express my deep felt gratitude to our Confreres **Fr. Sen Vellakada, Bro. Arun Valliara and Bro. Israil Lakra** who have opted to go the Chad-Cameroon missions. It is indeed a courageous decision from the part of Fr. Sen to work in Africa immediately after his doctoral studies. Both our young brothers Arun and Israil have shown the magnanimity of true Missionaries by daring to listen to their inner voice. I thank them for their generosity to work in our missions in Africa. In the name of the whole province I assure them our prayers, support and love. They will leave for Cameroon on the 29th of January 2017. I shall be accompanying them to Africa. **Bon Voyage my dear Fr. Sen and my dear Brothers Arun and Israil.**

Special Meeting of the Education Forum

My dear Confreres, there will be a **special meeting of all the members of the Education Forum in Vinayalaya on the 15th of January 2017 from 9am to 3.30pm.** In this meeting we would be discussing and finalizing certain policies on the distribution of uniforms, textbooks, notebooks etc. The meeting will also address matters about the collection of admission fees, scholarships, salary increment, online transaction and cashless financial transactions in our institutions in the light of the recent government orders. Some of these things are to be clarified and finalized before we plan for the coming academic year. Kindly mark the date and be present for the meeting. I will be attending the whole meeting along the provincial bursar and the councillor in charge of education. Please consider it as a **mandatory meeting.**

Cessation of Ministry in the Parish of Chapath

At the request of the Bishop of Vijayapuram we will be returning the parish of Chapath in the diocese of Vijayapuram, in Kerala, back to the diocese in the month of April 2017. Through the hard work and personal effort of Fr. Reji Muthukatt we have built a beautiful church in the Parish of Chapath. Thereafter Fr. Jaison Kollarayath has rendered a wonderful pastoral ministry in the parish. As per our missionary dynamism we return

the parish to the diocese with a sense of obedience and gratitude to God and with a sense of satisfaction that we as missionaries were able to bring the Good News to the people of God in the most effective way. **God bless the parish of Chapath in the future too.**

Cessation of Ministry from the Diocese of Belthangady

For the past many years our Fathers had been rendering yeomen service to the diocese of Belthangady in South Canara. During the past six years Fr. Tomychan Chirackalpuraidom had been rendering pastoral services in the diocese as parish priest in various parishes. Now the time has come for us to discontinue our ministry there as per the decision of the bishop, as the diocese has sufficient number of priests to handle various ministries. The Bishop of the diocese of Belthangady, Mar Lawrence Mukuzhy, has expressed his heartfelt thanks for the committed services of our missionaries. May God bless the diocese of Belthangady. In the month of February 2017 Fr. Tomychan Chirackalpuraidom will return to the province to take up an apt ministry.

Appointments

Fr. George Vattappara is appointed to the community of SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor with effect from 1st January 2017. He would take charge as the Administrator of SFS School and Junior College Ettumanoor on the 15th May 2017

Fr. Sen Vellakada is designated to go to the Mission of Chad-Cameroon on the 29th of January 2017. He would be given an apt appointment once he reaches there.

Bro. Arun Valliara is designated to go to Chad-Cameroon Mission on the 29th of January 2017. He will pursue his theological studies in Cameroon.

Bro. Israil Lakra is designated to go to Chad-Cameroon Mission on the 29th of January 2017. He will pursue his theological studies in Cameroon.

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.

January 2017

January 4	Recollection for the Diploma Students of IIS
January 7	Ordination of Dn. Joby Pulichamakkal at Charal, Iritty
January 9-14	Retreat for the Confreres of Visakhapatnam Province
January 15	Meeting of all the Principals, Administrators and Managers of our Schools at Vinayalaya
January 16-19	Visiting the communities at Koppal, Kuknoor and Mundargi
January 21	Moderating the Doctoral Defense of Sr. Abhaya Rose CHF
January 21-22	Recollection for the postgraduate students of IIS
January 23	Council Meeting
January 24	Celebration of the Feast of St. Francis de Sales at Vinayalaya
Jan 25to Feb 15	Visitation to Chad-Cameroon, blessing of the new Seminary At Ngaoundere, personal and community meetings with the Confreres, Meeting the Mission Superior with the Councillors, Mission Colloquium, Visiting the Novices and Scholastics in Tanzania

February 2017

February 1-15	Visitation to Chad-Cameroon
February 16	Blessing the Marriage of Mr. Stany, Provincial's Driver, at Belthangady
February 17-18	Recollection for the Post-Graduate Students of IIS
February 18	Diaconate Ordination of our Brothers in Tejas
February 19-20	Visitation to SFS Seminary Ettumanoor, Meeting the Students, Assessment with the Staff regarding the Academic Year and the Formation
February 22-24	Gathering of the Young Priests at Vinayalaya: 1-7 Years
February 25-26	Council Meeting
February 27-28	Input sessions for the Diploma Students of IIS on Life-Vision and Task Orientation

March 2017

March 2-16	Visitation of our Confreres in the USA
March 17-23	Visitation of our Confreres in England

March 26-27	Recollection and Keynote Address for the Provincial Congress/Chapter of the South East Province
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April 2017

April 3-4	Council Meeting in Vinayalaya
April 8-10	Sedam Mission – Palm Sunday Celebration and visitation of the Confreres
April 13	Maundy Thursday Celebration in the Mother of Sorrows Parish, Hebbagodi
April 14	Good Friday Liturgy at St. Francis de Sales Church, Jakkur
April 15	Easter Vigil at IIS
April 21	Visitation to Bathery Community
April 23	Parish Feast of T.K. Colony Parish, Nilambur, Chokad
April 28	Talk and Mass for the Salesian Seminar at IIS

May 2017

May 4	Ordination of Dn. Aneeshmon at Kurichithanam, Palai
May 5-6	Council Meeting in Ettumanoor
May 6	Silver Jubilee Celebration of Fr. Kurian Karickal at Charis Bhavan
May 7-13	Animating Salesian Retreat for our Brothers and Fathers at Makkiyad
May 28	Perpetual profession and Renewal of Vows at Tejas
May 30	Initiation to Novitiate at Makkiyad
May 31	First Profession at Makkiyad

Salesian Thought

“Never be in a hurry; do everything quietly and in a calm spirit. Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever, even if your whole world seems upset.” - SFS

Fraternally,



Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS

Provincial