



# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE (SWIP)

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SWIP Circular BK/59

May 05, 2020

## QUARANTINE AND LOCKDOWN - TERMS WE NOW GRAPPLE WITH

**My dear Confreres**, honestly to say never before the pandemic Covid-19 have I used this word 'quarantine'. Today it has become a 'household word' to that extent we are struggling under it endlessly. The infectious pandemic Covid-19 has quarantined us from normal living for a while now. Perhaps it is time now to wrestle with it and discover the meaning of our life like **Job**, the biblical Figure.

### JOB - A MAN WHO DISCOVERED THE MEANING OF LIFE THROUGH QUARANTINE AND LOCKDOWN



Although I was blessed with a satisfying childhood and adulthood, I always loved to read the book of Job. Each time I read it there was a sense of vacuum surrounding me. Like the roots of the tree searching for the stream full of water, there is a natural inclination in the human hearts to dwell in the brook of melancholy. **Otherwise, why do we listen to melancholic songs when we are sad?**

The book of Job is the description of a quarantined man who struggles and survives the lockdown of his life. Everyone who carries certain profound reminiscences of one's life must encounter a quarantine phase. **The loneliness of humanity is as old as the book of Genesis** (Gen 1/18). One is lonely even in the luxury of the paradise. God decided to heal it with the medicine of friendship (Gen 1/18-23). But how long? Since the first couple was not satisfied with each other they sought after the fruits of the forbidden tree (Gen 3/1-7); thereafter they led the rest of their life accompanied by accusations and condemnations (Gen 3/12). **It looks as though the fate of the human being is to live in loneliness in the midst of people.**

**Have you the audacity to walk alone?** The world-famous drama "*Enemy of the People*" mentions about the courage of a man who dared to walk away from the crowd. This man tries to make people aware of the deadly virus found in the drinking water of a tourism spot. But since the truth would affect the business of a few people, they decided to oppose him. At the end, totally worn out, but with tenacity, the man tells his son: **The one who stands alone is the strongest man.** The strength of **Job** was that he dared to 'stand-alone' as even God (apparently) was not at his side.

'The book of Job' begins by keeping every thinker at suspense. **We see here a God who is very romantic.** He is never tired of praising his servant Job (Job 1/8). I feel that the Satan is a little more realistic. Can anyone love God without reason? You have given him everything (Job 1/9-10), argues the Satan. Now it has become God's responsibility to prove that there are people who stand by Him without any reason!

There are three struggles awaiting Job: They are, **material (external), personal (bodily) and spiritual (interior).** The first one is outside of him. One by one everything is destroyed or killed (Job 1/13-19). When one loses dearest things and persons in life, including one's children, one stands looking at oblivion and what comes next is wisdom: *Naked I came from my Mother's womb, and naked shall I return; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord* (Job 1/21). Yes: money, power, land and relations are the mantles God put on you to cover your nakedness. **To be poor means to stand naked under the light of the SUN without the disruptions of those external mantles.**

To some extent human beings get reconciled with the material struggles in the course of time. But now on suffering takes another level by striking with another arrow from its bow **by destroying the health of one's body.** The devil observes well this very susceptible area of human life. Satan knows that man will give up anything for life: *Skin for skin! All that a man has he will give for his life. But put forth thy hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face* (Job 2/4-5). **In good health we never become conscious of our body; but in ill health, we become its prisoners!** Sickness and poverty together can annihilate one's life. Even his wife persuades Job to reject God (2/9). But Job encounters his inner struggle as well as his wife with the fundamental question: *...Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?* (2/10)

The next level of Job's suffering is the worst of all. It happens when the sources that are expected to be fuel for his faith in God quivers. **We are not what we externally appear to be.** *Faith is unseen scaffolding.* Its supporting frames are falling down one by one. Evaluate some of those traditions and beliefs handed down through generations: God helps those who stand by Him; He hands over evil to those who do evil and so on! **Look at Job now:** Now he doesn't have even the slightest hope that God is with him. **Everything is like a mirage.**

Interestingly, **Job is not a submissive flop.** He is, in fact, a warrior! **The peak point of a person's freedom with the other is the right to disagree.** The grandeur of his personality is that he is able to do it even with God. He even bargains with God (Job 6). Job represents all those who are condemned without getting the opportunity of a trial.

**The book of Job prompts us to have certain ultimate observations about human relationships.** The times of tribulations help us to discern true friends. Three friends came in search of Job (2/11ff). *They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him* (2/13). This is a virtue that one can practice to express the intensity of a relationship. Hold your hands together without uttering a word. **Those who speak too much do not say anything.** But after seven days when they begin to speak, they do not even show the consideration that one would show towards an enemy (Job ch. 4-11). Job doesn't get even the slightest advantage of a divine intervention. Above all, he had to suffer the great silence of God. There isn't anything worse than the silence of God. Scriptures reveal

that the silence of God is the forerunner of His anger: *When the lamb opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour* (Rev. 8/1).

**At the end, God speaks**(after thirty-seven chapters)! It can be categorized in three levels:

- a) **God has the Power and Authority:** The answer to the question, 'why does God permit suffering' is that *I am God. No pot should ask the potter why did you make me like this? Our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he pleases* (Ps 115/3).
- b) **God has a Reason:** For everything, there is a reason. **When we speak about happenings as accidental we are projecting the limits of our awareness.** All the reasons need not be revealed to us. BUT THERE IS ONE WHO HAS THE KEY OF EVERY LOCK. In front of Him, there is a meaning for my suffering. Therefore Job says: *Behold, I am of small account; what shall I answer thee? I lay my hand on my mouth. I have spoken once, and I will not answer twice, but I will proceed no further* (40/4-5).
- c) **God gives a Reward:** The book of Job ends with the reward of prosperity. The message is not about the material well-being. **One gets elevated to a new status of life, when one is prepared through the fire of suffering.** As Hemingway said: **You can kill a man, but you cannot defeat him.**

**My dear Confreres,** we have encountered a man who suffered pernicious effect of being quarantined and locked down in life. It was, at the same time, the well-defining moment of his life to understand himself, others and God above all. He endured material, physical and spiritual damages, but not without the rewards. God makes you and me aware in our life that He has the Power and Authority, that He has a Reason and that He gives a Reward. **Shall we take the positives out of this quarantine time and the consequent lockdown? WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED OUT OF IT?**

### **Covid-19 Pandemic: Necessity for Timely Preparations**

**My dear Confreres,** a lot of things have changed since the beginning of the pandemic Covid-19. All of us are struggling to adjust with the given situation. Meanwhile, a lot of matters regarding the future programs, especially concerning our ministries, are kept in suspense. **As I had already mentioned to you in my previous circular, please be prepared with your Plan B and Plan C to address the present scenario.** Please take note of the following:

- **Councilors in charge of each forum** are in constant contact with you. Please update them about the present situation and clarify the matter.
- **Provincial Councilors in consultation with the Core-committee** of their forums will update the Provincial matters concerning their particular forum
- **Each Superior is in charge of their particular community.** Please do evaluate with the members of the community regarding the future planning of the community and the ministries entrusted with the community and let the Provincial know about it

- **Those who are transferred and are assigned with the new appointments** please take charge at the first possibility as soon as the lockdown restrictions are relaxed.
- **Please involve yourself in relief activities** in support of people who are affected by Covid-19 pandemic.
- **Thousands of people are being helped daily by our Confreres throughout the Province** through various relief programs. We shall be bringing out a picturesque detail of it in the course of time.
- **Please do take care of your own health and life** through meaningful activities in the community, through manual labour, games, prayer, reading and ongoing formation.

I wish each of you God's abundant blessings and my constant accompaniment in this time of uncertainties and struggle. **Remain Safe!**

### **Prayer Intentions of the Superior General for the Month of May 2020**

"That all our sick and elderly confreres will experience powerfully the tenderness and compassion of the Risen Lord."

### **SFS College receives 'Best Institution Award' for excellence in NCC activities**



St Francis de Sales College, Hebbagodi, Bangalore was awarded the Best Institution for the year 2020 by the National Cadet Corps, Karnataka and Goa Directorate during a ceremony at the Christ University, Bangalore on 6th February 2020. Air Commander Lalith Kumar Jain, Deputy Director General, NCC Karnataka and Goa Directorate handed over the trophy to Rev. Dr Roy Plathottam, the Principal of the college in the presence of Rev. Dr Abraham, Vice Chancellor, Christ University, Col. Sunil HR, Commanding officer of 1 Karnataka battalion, NCC, Bangalore A Group and ANO Lt. Sampath Kumar R. The award was given under the category of the Senior Wing (SW), NCC among the institutions of Karnataka and Goa. The NCC Unit of St Francis de Sales College is a part of 1 Karnataka Battalion and offers training under the Army, Navy and Air wings of the NCC for both boys and girls and is the only college that has NCC shooting range in all of Karnataka state.

### **Jubilarians**

**My dear Confreres**, we are celebrating the Silver Jubilee of **Rev. Fr Chirackalpurayidathil Tomy, Rev. Fr Elayadathumadathil Mathew, Rev. Fr Anchanickal Thomas and Rev. Fr Vilachirayil Saju**. Along with you, I take this opportunity to congratulate each one of them for their total surrender to the Lord through the MSFS Congregation and in particular through our Province. Dear Fathers, you are unique and through your own unique dynamism, you have brought in the flavour of love and commitment through the various ministries you have undertaken in the province until now. May this Jubilee year be a time of joy, fulfilment and motivation for further commitment.

# Congrats!

## Fr Chirackalpurayidathil Tomy

Date of Birth : 18-02-1964  
Place of Birth : Pravithanam  
Name of Father : Ulahannan  
Name of Mother : Thressia  
Parish : St Thomas Churach, Manikadavu  
Diocese : Archdiocese of Thalassery  
First Profession : 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1987, Salesianum, Visakkapattanam  
Perpetual Profession: 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1994, MSFS Study House, Shillong  
Diaconate : 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1995, Oriens Theological College, Shillong  
Ordination : 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1996, St Thomas Church, Manikadavu, Kannur



## Appointments

- 1996-2000: Assistant Parish Priest, Azhikodu, Jail ministry in Kannur and Parish Priest of St Ignatius Church, Kannadiparambu.
- 2000-2001: Assistant Manager of Vinayakumar Estate, Chokkad.
- 2001-2004: Parish Priest of St Thomas Church, Mangara.
- 2004-2006: Ministry in Germany.
- 2006-2008: Parish Priest of Little Flower Church, Kaprassery in the Archdiocese of Ernakulam.
- 2008-2011: Assistant Manager of Vinayakumar Estate, Chokkad.
- 2011-2013: Parish Priest of Guthigar and Nettana in the diocese of Belthangady.
- 2013-2014: Parish Priest of Adole and Shirady in the diocese of Belthangady.
- 2014-2017: Parish Priest of Devagiri in the diocese of Belthangady.
- 2017-2019: Manger of SFS School, Kannur.
- 2019-2020: Assistant Parish Priest at St Joseph's Church Twenty Acre & Mount Carmel Church Kozhimala and procurator of MSFS House, Kattapana.

# Congrats!

## Fr Elayadathumadathil Mathew

Date of Birth : 01-02-1969  
Place of Birth : Ambalavayal  
Name of Father : Varkey Elayadathumadathil  
Name of Mother : Annamma  
Parish : St Martin de Pores, Ambalavayal  
Diocese : Manathavady  
First Profession : 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1988, Salesianum, Visakapattanam  
Perpetual Profession: 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1994, MSFS Study House, Shillong  
Diaconate : 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1995, Oriens Theological College, Shillong  
Ordination : 08<sup>th</sup> May, 1996, St Martin de Pores, Ambalavayal



## Appointments

- 1996-1997: Assistant Parish Priest, St Mary's Church, Cherupuzha, Thalassery Archdiocese.
- 1997: Assistant Parish Priest, St Sebastian's Church, Kanichar, Kannur, Arch Diocese of Tellicherry.
- 1997-1998: Assistant Parish Priest, Little Flower Church, Vellarikkundu, Arch Diocese of Tellicherry.
- 1998-2001: Administrator SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor.
- 2001-2006: Parish Priest, St Xavier's Church, Vattappara.
- 2001: MA Sociology, University of Kerala.
- Master of Science in Psychology, University of Madras, 2005.
- 2006-2012: Hospital Chaplain and Resident Priest of Queen of the Rosary, Alexian Brother's Hospital, USA.
- 2007: Clinical Pastoral Education, USA.
- 2013 (till date): Parish Priest, St Alphonsa Church, Atlanta, USA.

# Congrats!



## Fr Anchanickal Thomas

Date of Birth : 09-07-1969  
Place of Birth : Pazhayidam  
Name of Father : Joseph  
Name of Mother : Mary  
Parish : St James Church, Karikkattoor  
Diocese : Changanassery  
First Profession : 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1988, Salesianum, Visakapattanam  
Perpetual Profession: 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1994, MSFS Study House, Shillong  
Diaconate : 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 1995, Oriens Theological College, Shillong  
Ordination : 14<sup>th</sup> May, 1996, St James Church, Karikkattoor

## Appointments

- 1996-1997: Assistant Parish Priest, Vattiyoorkavu, in the Archdiocese of Changanacherry.
- 1977-2000: Vice-Rector and Vocation Promotor, Latapara, Orissa.
- 2000-2001: Parish Priest, Mangara, Kannur Diocese.
- 2001-2006: Associate Pastor, USA, St Leo the Great Catholic Church, Demopolis and St Peter the Apostle Church, Hoover, Birmingham Diocese.
- 2006-2009: Parish Priest, Pappinissery, Kannur Diocese.
- 2009-2012: Parish Priest, Mundaje, Belthangadi Diocese.
- 2012-2018: Novice Master, MSFS Novitiate, Makkiyad.
- 2018-2020: Administrator, MSFS Community and SFS School, Kuknoor.

# Congrats!

## Fr Vilachirayil Saju

Date of Birth : 28-02-1969  
Place of Birth : Kalathoor  
Name of Father : V.D. Jose  
Name of Mother : Pennamma  
Parish : St Mary's Forane Church, Kuravilangadu.  
Diocese : Pala  
First Profession : 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1988, Salesianum, Visakkapattanam.  
Perpetual Profession: 30<sup>th</sup> May, 1994, Vinayalaya, Bangalore.  
Diaconate : 5<sup>th</sup> January, 1995, SFS Vidyashram, Aluva.  
Ordination : 20<sup>th</sup> July, 1996, St Mary's Forane Church, Kuravilangadu.



## Appointments

- 1996-1997: Assistant Parish Priest, St Mary's Forane Church, Pattikad.
- 1998: Parish Priest, St Mary's Church, Chirackalkode.
- 1998-2004: Parish Priest, St Francis De Sales Church, Vattiyoorkavu, Trivandrum.
- 2004-2005: B. ed. Studies St John the Baptist College of Education, Nedumkunnam.
- 2004-2009: Principal of SFS School Kannur and Superior MSFS Community.
- 2009-2013: Administrator, SFS Vidyashram, Aluva and Legal practice in High Court of Kerala.
- 2013-2016: Principal and Superior, SFS High School, Malur.
- 2016 (till date): Principal SFS High School, Hebbagdi, Electronics City, Bangalore.
- 2017 (till date): Superior, Mermier Bhavan, Hebbagodi.

## Promotions of Scholastics to Perpetual Profession, First Profession, Regency and Renewal

My dear Confreres, Formation is a formidable task. Our Confreres who are engaged in the ministry of Formation do commit themselves for the future of our congregation through their ardent dedication

and total availability in serving the formees under their care. I thank each and every one of them for their generous services and collaboration. Hereby I announce the list of promotion of our seminarians.

### **Promoted to Fourth Year Theology, in the Philippines Delegation**

Bro. Marc Edward B. Malihan

### **Promoted to Third Year Theology and Perpetual Profession, at Tejas Vidya Peetha, Bengaluru**

1. Bro. Arun Kumar
2. Bro. John B. Gannot
3. Bro. Outhuppacherry Bibin Kuriakose
4. Bro. Valliara Arun Cyriac

### **Promoted to Third Year Theology and Perpetual Profession, La Feuillette, in the Chad-Cameroon Delegation**

1. Bro. Leandre Francky Senguena
2. Bro. Madjita Tanibe Anniversaire
3. Bro. Nguimatio Etrudem Peygres Senghor

### **Promoted to Third Year Theology and Renewal of Vows, La Feuillette, in the Chad-Cameroon Delegation**

Philippe Ronald Menounga Mbolo

### **Promoted to Third Year Theology, in the Philippines Delegation**

1. Bro. Jeson Ly S. Berdida
2. Bro. Orlan Abequibel

### **Promoted to Third Year Theology, in Bonlieu, Fribourg, Switzerland**

1. Bro. Mtoudjiel Abba
2. Bro. Chiabi Titus

### **Promoted to Second Year Theology, at Tejas Vidya Peetha, Bengaluru**

1. Bro. Jibin George Anithottathil
2. Bro. Nitesh Minj
3. Bro. Rony Thomas Madathiparambil
4. Bro. Robin Salvadore Pereira

### **Promoted to Second Year Theology, in the Philippines Delegation**

1. Bro. Aldren C. Mondigo
2. Bro. Alex J. Estancia Jr.
3. Bro. Michael Ray L. Diaz
4. Bro. Stihl Magandam

### **Promoted to First Year Theology, at Tejas Vidya Peetha, Bengaluru**

1. Bro. Andrews Mascrene
2. Bro. Cherackal Kuriakose
3. Bro. Jefin Devasia
4. Bro. Kaniyodickal Jain George

5. Bro. Elackodickal Cyril

7. Bro. Payattukandathil Jilu

6. Bro. Illickal Somi

### **Promoted to First Year Theology, in the Philippines Delegation**

1. Bro. Antony Varghese

2. Bro. Pathil Jibin

### **Promoted to First Year Theology, in La Feuillette, in the Chad-Cameroon Delegation**

1. Bro. Aloys Jean Baptiste

3. Bro. Jacques Clovis Temgoua

2. Bro. Engelbert

### **Promoted to Regency in India**

1. Bro. Asher Mathew

- SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor

2. Bro. Ponmalakunnel Jerin

- SFS School, Mattannur

3. Bro. Pottackal Ameer

- MSFS House, Karahalli

4. Bro. Pazhukkathara Devasia

- Charis Bhavan

5. Bro. Joachim Antony

- SFS School, Kannur

6. Bro. Maliaeckal Jose kutty

- SFS Boys Home, Hebbagodi

7. Bro. Jerry B.

- Sannidhi, Mysore

8. Bro. Jostro M. B.

- P U College, Kolar

9. Bro. Karottukizhakel George

- MSFS Community, Anthoninagara

### **Promoted to Regency in the Philippines Delegation**

1. Bro. Joelvin N. Tahitit

2. Bro. Roberto G. Batohinog

### **Promoted to Regency in the Chad-Cameroon Delegation**

1. Bro. Adzaba Evang William Favier Henry

3. Bro. Valentin Nzesseu Chimi

2. Bro. Melchisedek Nsoyuka Mbinkar

4. Bro. Yibongha David Shinyuy

### **Promoted to the Renewal of Vows**

1. Bro. Anthony Rosario

2. Bro. Avinash Kumar

3. Bro. Kadaparambil Albin Saju

### **Promoted to Third Year Philosophy, Suvidya College, Bangalore**

1. Bro. A. Samuel
2. Bro. John Joseph Victor

### **Promoted to Third Year Philosophy, LCI, Arusha, Tanzania**

1. Bro. Chidjo Djoko Armand Bertrand
2. Bro. Djointanan Paulin
3. Bro. Nkong Tchoupe Erick
4. Bro. Takogoum Frankvart Ahmed

### **Promoted to Second Year Philosophy, Suvidya College, Bangalore**

1. Bro. Abhishek Ekka
2. Bro. Akash Tirkey
3. Bro. Kaniyaparambil Sebastian Tomy
4. Bro. Kidangayil Christin Tom
5. Bro. Poomarathil Sibi Jose
6. Bro. Probin Tirkey
7. Bro. Ranjith Panna
8. Bro. Rechin Deepak
9. Bro. Sebastian Joseph A.

### **Promoted Second Year Philosophy, LCI, Arusha, Tanzania**

1. Bro. Ngueyou Yves Martial
2. Bro. Ning Stanley Kang
3. Bro. VonoVono Emmanuel Claude
4. Bro. Wiysahnyuy Nelson Fonyuy

### **Promoted to First Profession and First Year Philosophy, Suvidya College, Bangalore**

1. Bro. Disuja Lakra
2. Bro. Ellickmuriyil Abin Abraham
3. Bro. Jerome Christy S.
4. Bro. Kozhikadan Joseph Francis
5. Bro. Manish Tigga
6. Bro. Marwari Lal Tirkey
7. Bro. Panachikal Jerin Shaji
8. Bro. Parakkalayil Jaison Jaimon
9. Bro. Pavan Linith P.
10. Bro. Ravi Kumar
11. Bro. Rohit Kujur
12. Bro. Thurutheparannolil Akshay T. M.
13. Bro. Karottukizhakel George (Promoted to Regency)

### **Promotion to Renewal of Vows and First Year Philosophy in Suvidya College, Bangalore**

1. Bro. Mookenthottam Ajo
2. Bro. Kunnumpurathuputhenveedu Antony
3. Bro. Kolamkuthiyil Jerin James

### Promotion to Novitiate from Sannidhi, Mysore

1. Bro. Amul Arogyaswamy
2. Bro. Ankit Toppo
3. Bro. Nikhil Raj
4. Bro. Prabhudeva Dandavathi
5. Bro. Pradeep J.
6. Bro. Vinod Kumar

### Promotion to Novitiate from Postulancy, Vadakancherry

1. Bro. Anugraha Ekka
2. Bro. Salvin Jose Karottu

### Promotion to Novitiate from SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor

1. Bro. Alphin George
2. Bro. Amal Jacob
3. Bro. Arun George
4. Bro. Bibin Jose
5. Bro. Bristo Augustine
6. Bro. Jerin Joy
7. Bro. Martin V. Benny

### Promotion to Novitiate from Chad-Cameroon Delegation

1. Bro. Azegue Azegue Olivier Gilles
2. Bro. Bello Boubou Kaina Armand Jules
3. Bro. Bipan Manga Valere Julien
4. Bro. Christian Allahadjim
5. Bro. Dehezo Tsasse Christian
6. Bro. Djorkef Valdo Timene
7. Bro. Jean Rene Ndjie Ndongo Nyebe
8. Bro. Jude Limnyuy
9. Bro. Konlack Moffo Cardin
10. Bro. Menye Alexandre Stephane
11. Bro. Seka Divine Kongnyuy
12. Bro. Sofeu Dagssi Florent
13. Bro. Tatah Synesius Felim Shofola
14. Bro. Yada Bakari Abel

### The Following scholastics are asked to leave the congregation or have chosen to leave the Congregation

1. Anush Antony P.
2. Edmond M. Agang-ang

We wish them God's abundant blessings in their future life-endeavours

### Obituary

- **Mr Thanikkal Vareed (86)**, Grand Father of Dn Justin Thanikkal, died on 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

- **Mr Jacob (84)**, Father of Fr Balavendra Jacob, died on 26<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.
- **Mr Paul Pereira (71)**, Father of Fr Santhosh Pereira, died on 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2020.

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

**VOICE OF SFS**

**“Arrogance is opposed to all the virtues. It causes the utter destruction of devotion.”**

**Fraternally,**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Benny Koottanal', written in a cursive style.

**Fr Benny Koottanal MSFS**  
**Provincial**