



# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE (SWIP)

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](mailto:provincialsouthwestmsfs@gmail.com), [secretaryprovincialsouthwest@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryprovincialsouthwest@gmail.com)

Website: [www.msfsouthwest.com](http://www.msfsouthwest.com)



SWIP Circular BK/69

May 09, 2021

## THE PANDEMIC COVID-19

### WHAT CAN BE DONE? RIGHT HERE, RIGHT NOW?



**My dear Confreres**, the second wave of the pandemic Covid-19 and the surge in the disasters brought by it, to India in particular, is beyond imagination. Every one of us is feeling the heat of it. Is not the surging spike of 400,000 of covid-19 cases in a single day, which is double the height it had reached earlier, alarming to say the least? Hospitals are short of oxygen cylinders and beds, and people, both

poor and elite, are struggling to save lives. **The financial hollowness and economic depletion of the country stand exposed.** Leaders who beamed in vain glory of saving the nation and the world are nowhere to be seen. The country that was projected by illiterate and fanatic trailblazers as the pharmacy of the world is at the receiving end from all the pharmacies in the whole world including the ones from China and Pakistan. The whole world knows about the neglected persons in the hospitals, dead bodies piling up near funeral pyres. At our doorsteps we see death happening; burial grounds are full and respect for human bodies is reduced to nil.

**Perhaps one of the most devastating aspects of leadership is the absence of the realisation that complacency kills.** There needs to emerge a realisation that 'one man rule' cannot save a nation. When one is lost in self-importance amid national tragedies, the machinery under him collapses. Hubris has a price. As Arundhati Roy says: **"One must bring more of brains than boasts to pressing problems because this virus prospers in an atmosphere of fear and hatred and ignorance."**

As I write these few lines I am aware that when disasters take us by surprise, it is not the right time to find fault with one another. At the same time, we are now compelled not only to raise our voice but also our conscience to take care of ourselves so that we will be able to support others, lest we be destroyed altogether.

## Complacency Kills

My dear Confreres, let me now turn to ourselves. In the context of our life as Missionaries who are called to serve others, we are presented with a very responsible task of healing, soothing and alleviating desperation and pain from the lives of others. At the same time, **there is a first-hand responsibility for all of us to take care of ourselves that we will be able to rescue the lives of others by serving them.** It is high time for us, as educated and responsible citizens, to follow the directives proposed by the Doctors and agencies of the government. **None of us are used to a pandemic like this. In that sense, all of us, irrespective of our age and experience, are novices in handling this deadly virus.** Therefore, it is very important for us to encounter this unprecedented situation carefully.

**Unfortunately, with the surge of the second wave of the pandemic covid-19 sixteen of our Confreres had been affected by it. A few of them were hospitalised due to acute symptoms associated with it.** Some others were under observation for a while. Fortunately, all of them are recovering well and are out of danger. It was indeed a wake-up call to make us realise that it is high time for us to give up our complacency in countering this deadly virus. I request you to strictly follow measures to avoid it.

### Personal Responsibilities:

- Please do not travel anywhere including your homes and other communities except for very inevitable needs. It is possible that one or the other contracts the virus and become bearers of it, thus harming the lives of others including the Confreres and family members.
- Please use masks and sanitizer compulsorily
- As much as possible avoid public contacts even in places of ministry
- At the first indication of any symptom associated with covid, avail medical care immediately
- Do show special concern for the senior and sick members of our communities by attending to their needs regularly
- Both the States of Karnataka and Kerala have declared a Lockdown to curb the spread of the coronavirus. **Please make use of this precious time for personal growth by cultivating hobbies such as reading, gardening and involved presence in the community.** It is also a God-given time for specializing in our given responsibilities by learning the new vistas of administrative strategies and plans.

### Spiritual Responsibilities as a Province Family

**My dear Confreres,** it is very important for us at this exasperating phase faced by humanity to lift our hands and hearts to God for his saving help. **One of the important things that we are made aware of is that human technologies will not suffice to safeguard life.** Can a life insurance save us from death? God alone can safeguard our lives. It is time that we declare our vulnerabilities and trust in the providence of God. Shall we as a Province pray for God's grace on the whole humanity? **With the help of our Confreres, I have prepared a small prayer that we shall recite every day in our community.**

## Prayer for Protection from the Pandemic covid-19

O, Blessed Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Healer of the Sick and Comforter of the Distressed, extend your loving and divine hand to bless, touch and heal our brothers and sisters all over the world suffering from the pandemic covid-19. We surrender ourselves to your Holy Will and entrust the entire world to your loving care. We pray, God of Love and Compassion, that all who are affected by this virus and all who are in fear, anxiety and despair, may experience your healing touch through all the health-workers, doctors and nurses and all who reach out to them in this time of their suffering.

Be the comforter of the families who lost their beloved ones through this pandemic and give eternal rest to the departed. With firm faith and sure hope, we trust in you, Lord God, as we pray in the words of the Psalmist: *Even though I walk through the darkest valley I will fear no evil, for you are with me.* Receive, O Lord, we pray, our humble supplication and in your great mercy spare us and the whole humanity from the pandemic covid-19. Amen!

**NB: I request all the Superiors of our communities to implement the recitation of this prayer in the community every day at a chosen time. God bless us!**

## A Day of Prayer and Fasting

**My dear Confreres**, it is equally important that we, as Missionaries, observe a chosen day as a day of prayer and fasting. It is also a directive given by the Holy Father and the CBCI. As a Province-Family let us observe **14<sup>th</sup> May 2021 as a day of Prayer and Fasting. On the same day at 7 pm, all our communities shall conduct one hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** animated by the members of the community under the leadership of the Superior of the community. My dear Confreres, we need God; we need Him here and now more than any other time. As ministerial priests let us consciously invoke His blessings upon the whole world.

## Our Apostolic Commitment as MSFS to Alleviate the Sufferings of the Humanity

It is equally important that we as a family of Missionaries involve ourselves consciously to serve the humanity at this vexing time. **I invite each one of you to wake up from the comfort zones and extend your hands, in collaboration with the dioceses and social organisations, to support the grieving people in our society, especially in the surroundings of our communities and places of apostolates.** Together with my administration, I have chalked out certain strategies in collaboration with the Archdiocese of Bangalore and the Diocese of Mandya to extend our support to the suffering people affected by the pandemic. Following are the steps taken by us in this regard:

1. As per the need to **avail our Education Institutions, especially in the city, as isolation wards**
2. As per the need to **provide PPE Kits and Masks free of cost for the use of Doctors, Nurses and Volunteers who are serving the Covid Patients.** We will provide it through our Garment Mill at Karahalli
3. In case of emerging needs **we shall avail the services of a few of our school buses as Mobile Clinics and for the transportation of people in need**

4. **We shall admit children** (orphaned/semi-orphaned - only boys) who have lost their parents due to the pandemic covid-19 into our “**Prateeksha Boys’ Homes** and give them free education, accommodation and homely support.
5. **We shall avail the services of Eight of our Deacons as volunteers** (from May 15, 2021-July 15, 2021) **to serve the people who are affected by covid-19.**

Yes, My dear Confreres, at this moment of crisis and uncertainties the humanity needs support, understanding and availability from “Servant Leaders” like you and me. Let us be neither engrossed in self-glory nor affected by despondency; instead, let us lead by example, raising our hearts and minds in supplication and prayer and by plunging ourselves in selfless service to the needy people around us.

### **MINISTRY OF EDUCATION – THINK DIFFERENT, PLAN EFFECTIVELY**

My dear Confreres, seemingly, one of the ministries that is acutely affected by the pandemic covid-19, is the ministry of education. At the same time, it would amount to mere lassitude if we fail to plan to address the concerns at hand. As Pitmen says: A well-arranged time is the surest mark of a well-arranged mind. At the emergence of the pandemic and the consequent uncertainties, we are precariously placed at a stage of ‘do or die.’ I would say that **we will do and not die.** Learning from the experiences of the past one year of the pandemic no one in the field of education is a novice to challenges posed by it. Therefore I request all those who are engaged in the ministry of education, especially the Principals and Managers, to take note of the need to **think different and plan effectively for a new mode of education**

Planning is one of the most important attributes of educational management. To achieve the aims and objectives of education, effective planning with organizing, staffing, directing and controlling are required. In the light of the pandemic covid-19 and in consultation with experts in the field of education, the **Councilor in charge of Education, Fr Jabamalai** has drafted two model plans suiting for schools both in the villages and cities. These plans are sent in two files to all the Confreres who are engaged in the ministry of education. I request all of you, as we are going to hold the zonal meeting of the Forum of Education on the 13, 14 & 15 of May 2021, to study these plans and come out with your suggestions and views without fail. Dear Confreres, let us not forget that **THE ONLY WAY IS THE WAY AHEAD.** Let us tread it confidently.

### **VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE DELEGATION ADMINISTRATION OF GERMANY-AUSTRIA (GA)**

The Virtual Meeting of the GA Delegation Administration with Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal, the Provincial, was held On April 25, 2021 at 5 pm. The members present were Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal, Provincial, Fr Sibi Manickathan, Fr Joseph Pazhayattil, Fr Tomy Mullasseril and Fr S. Arockiya Jayaraj. The meeting began with a prayer by Fr Tomy Mullasseril and then Fr Sibi Manickathan, the delegation Superior, welcomed the Provincial and all the Fathers to the meeting. Provincial, in His Address, thanked the Delegation and its members for the service and the help that each one is extending to our missions in India and abroad. He also thanked, for the good collaboration and coordination with the province and requested all to continue to grow as a family, and making our presence felt as Missionaries in GA. Members working in GA are away from the family and friends and psychologically affected because of the Pandemic

situation. He assured his prayers and support to all at this time of Pandemic. Thereafter there was a meaningful and fruitful discussion on different matters concerning the delegation, such as the future plans for the Delegation, the effectiveness of the Missionary activities, the initiation of a community in GA and the various measures to be taken for the individual needs of the Confreres as well as for the common good of the province. Fr Sibi Manickathan, the Delegation Superior, thanked Fr Benny Koottanal, the Provincial, and all Fathers for taking part in the meeting.

### **VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE DELEGATION ADMINISTRATION OF THE PHILIPPINES**

The online meeting of the Philippines Delegation Administration together with the South West India Provincial, Rev Fr Benny Koottanal, took place on April 27, 2021 at 9.00 am. The participants were, Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal, Provincial, Fr Jose Kumbloickal, Delegation Superior, Fr Binoy Kuzhuppil, Fr Nathaniel Masendo and Fr Jiji Manjackal, the Delegation Bursar. Fr Benny, greeted the participants and welcomed them to the online joint meeting. He appreciated the different ministries that are going on in the Delegation. Fr Jiji Manjackal, the Delegation Bursar presented an overall situation of the finance in the Delegation and gave a balance sheet of the present economic scenario. There was an effective discussion on different matters concerning the delegation. Fr Jose Kumblickal, the Delegation Superior, nuanced the need to visualise the future of the Delegation through financial stability, variant ministries, such as social work and education in addition to the pastoral ministry and ministry of formation we are already engaged in. He also thanked the Provincial and the members of the team for their constant support and active participation and concluded the meeting with a prayer.

### **ITSSCAT – A NEW DREAM ENVISIONED**



**ITSSCAT** (Institute for Talent Search for Social Change and Transformation) envisages profound and quality education based on the right values, culture, customs, traditions and beliefs is making scin-

tillating efforts to create an ameliorate society where everyone can feel equal, free, accepted and live in harmony without discrimination. Education of the young is the essential principle on which ITSSCAT functions in order to bring about a positive change in society, which will last for centuries.

**ITSSCAT aims at educating the less privileged and unfortunate but talented and highly intelligent students to play a catalyst in the administrative system and the society for positive growth and change.** Through the able leadership of Fr Jose Karekatt and our Confreres, it envisions to bring forth a group of world-class personnel to be scientists, executives and leaders emerging from the marginalized and downtrodden strata of the society in order to motivate them to make their own indelible contributions and services to the growth and welfare of the society, nation and the world at large.

Down through the last ten years, with the limited facilities, this movement has so far helped 42 students. ITSSCAT aims to form, educate and train as many children as possible. Towards the realization of this

goal, the Provincial Administration has permitted Fr Jose Karekatt to start **ITSSCAT-India UNIT 2 at Palachode, Perinthalmanna, Kerala.**

The plan is to start the second unit at Perinthalmanna this academic year in a rented house. We plan to construct a new house in the piece of land donated to the MSFS through the contact of Fr Jose Karekatt by Mr Joseph Thomas, the Retired DIG of Prisons, Kerala. The new building will be adequate enough to accommodate and educate more students. We wish and pray that this new venture of the Province through the passionate involvement of our Confreres will be materialised soon through the blessing of God.

### **SFS COLLEGE HEBBAGODI - CONGRATULATIONS**



St Francis de Sales College and Postgraduate Centre has secured **B++ grade** in the latest assessment by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in its second cycle of assessment. The College was assessed for a period of five years starting from

2015 to 2019 on seven criteria such as Curricular Aspects, Teaching-Learning, and Evaluation, Research and Extensions, Infrastructure and Learning Resources, Student Support and Progression, Governance-Leadership and Management, and Institutional Values & Best Practices. I place on record the ardent commitment of the management of the past and present for their profound commitment. A special word of appreciation and congratulations to **Fr Roy Plathottam**, the Principal, **Fr Jijo Manjackal**, the Vice Principal, **Fr Santhosh Kumar**, Manage, and **Fr Tony Erniakulathil**, the Administrator for their immeasurable dedication to take the college to new heights. Sincere congratulation to the Management, Administration, Staff and all those who made this achievement possible.

### **CBSE SCHOOL HEBBAGODI – A NEW LAUREL**



It is fascinating to notice that SFS Academy (CBSE) Hebbagodi is shortlisted as one of the top 10 CBSE schools in Bangalore by the **Academic Insights** a well-known independent Education Magazine and News Portal, that aims at helping schools, colleges and other educational establishments to display their proficiency and competence. This shortlisting is done on the basis of certain yardsticks, such as, the academic and

learning environment - promoting inclusivity; the ease at which the campus was shifted online during the pandemic; infrastructure, accommodations, and amenities; Faculty excellence; Promoting creative thinking and thinkers; Strong industry-academia collaborations; Scholarships & concession facilities; Holistic development of everyone present on the campus and Location & feasibility of access. Congratu-

lations to the School Management under the able leadership of **Fr A. Lawrence**, the Principal, **Fr Joshy Thazhathukunnel**, the Manager, and **Fr Tony Erniakulathil**, the Administrator for this encouraging achievement, especially at this time of the pandemic.

## **BON VOYAGE**

- **Fr Sujith Pallassery:** After commendable services in the Chad-Cameroon Delegation and in NEST Children's Village, Fr Sujith Pallassery has left for England on April 07, 2021 for Pastoral ministry and studies. He would be rendering pastoral services in the diocese of Northampton, England.
- **Fr Ginu Pathiyakam:** After having served the Philippines delegation for many years in different capacities as Parish Priest, Delegation Superior and Student, Fr Ginu Pathiyakam is leaving to the US on May 09, 2021 for pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Lansing, Michigan, USA.

We wish them God's abundant blessings in their new stint of ministries. **Bon Voyage and Best Wishes dear Fathers.**

## **TRANSFERS**

**My dear Confreres**, at the wake of the second wave of the pandemic and the surge in the number of affected people the governments of Kerala and Karnataka have imposed strict measures of Lockdown in both these states causing travels absolutely impossible. Therefore, the dates proposed for effecting the transfers have to be mutually arranged by the concerned Confreres in consultation with the Provincial, Provincial Bursar, Local Superiors and also the Local Ordinary. Please handle these unexpected situations patiently and with mutual consultation.

**Fr George Vattappara** is designated to be appointed as Parish Priest of Holy Spirit Parish at Pallikara, Bekal Fort, in the diocese of Kannur, with effect from May 15, 2021.

**Fr Aloysius Kuzhipillil** is appointed to the MSFS Community at Chintamani with effect from May 05, 2021.

**Fr Jose Kumbloickal** is temporarily appointed (as he is pursuing to get visa to the Philippines) to the community at Mattannur with effect from June 01, 2021.

**Fr Anthony Swamy** is appointed to the community of Soumya Sadan with effect from August 01, 2021

**Fr Arockiyasamy** is appointed as the Principal of SFS School, Kengeri with effect from May 25, 2021

**Fr Riju Vazheparambil**, along with his present responsibilities, is appointed as the Administrator of NEST Children's Village and SFS School, Kengeri with effect from May 25, 2021

**Fr Jeevan Prashanth** is designated to be appointed as Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church, Sidlaghatta with effect from May 25, 2021

**Bro. Ameer Pottackal** is designated for the studies in Apparel Technology and Management in Bangalore with effect from June 1, 2021. He will continue to be a member of the MSFS community, Karahalli

## OBITUARY



**Rev. Fr Joseph Salvador Denis MSFS (66)**, belonging to Nagpur Province Passed away on March 27, 2021. We thank God for all the good things that He has showered upon our Congregation through the instrumentality of Rev. Fr Joseph Salvador Denis. May God bless him and give him eternal rest.



**Bro. Mathew Thudianplackal (79)**, belonging to Visakhapatnam Province passed away on April 1, 2021. We thank God for this great missionary. May God bless him with the eternal reward.

**NB: For a deceased Confrere, who is a professed member, each one of us is obliged to celebrate a Holy Mass irrespective of the Province. I request all of you to do the necessary suffrages for the departed Confreres.**

- **Mr Deepak Xess (35)**, Brother-in-law of Fr Sandeep Tirkey, died on March 13, 2021.
- **Mrs Mary Jose Pulinthanam (74)**, Mother of Fr Tomy Pulinthanam, died on March 15, 2021.
- **Mrs Thresiamma (95)**, Maternal Grandmother of Fr Jijo Chemplanickal, died on April 1, 2021.
- **Mrs Michael Mary (60)**, Mother of Fr Innaci Muthu, died on April 18, 2021.
- **Mr Joseph Mundathanathu (92)**, Maternal Uncle of Fr Robin Thonikuzhy, died on April 20, 2021.
- **Mr Abraham Mundiyanickal (67)**, Father of Fr Anish Mundiyanickal, died on May 7, 2021.
- **Mrs Philomina Alphonse (70)**, Paternal Aunt of Fr M. Lawrence, died on May 8, 2021.

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

## My Schedule

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

### MAY 2021

May 3	*Governing Body Meeting of Suvidya College
	*PIF Meeting
May 4	Meeting with the Archbishop of Bangalore regarding the Covid Care Measures
May 5	Core-Committee Meeting of the Education Forum
May 6	Provincial Council Meeting
May 8	Core-Committee Meeting of the Formation Forum
May 10	*Core-Committee Meeting of the Social & Innovative Ministries Forum
	*Meeting with the Administration of the Chad-Cameroon Delegation
May 12	Core-Committee Meeting of the Mission Forum
May 13	Zonal Meeting of the Education Forum – Koppal Zone
May 14	Zonal Meeting of the Education Forum – Bangalore-Kolar Zone
May 15	Zonal Meeting of the Education Forum – Kerala Zone
May 17	Meeting with the Members of the Community in Austria
May 18	Meeting with the Members of the Community in Muenster, Germany
May 26	Regent's Meet
May 28	Perpetual Profession at Tejas
May 30	Initiation of the Postulants into the Novitiate
May 31	First Profession of the Novices

### VOICE OF SFS

**“Goodness is that which delights when we possess it. Beauty is that which pleases us when we know it.”**

**Fraternally,**



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