

# MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



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JBM – 01

CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

25.08.2017

## Dear Confreres:



Fraternal and cordial greetings to each one of you from Nagpur Provincialate. You are all aware that I have assumed the office of the Provincial Superior of Nagpur. The General Council in its meeting in Rome, held on 7th July, 2017, decided to appointment me as the Provincial Superior for a term of three years, starting from 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. I accepted this challenging and demanding ministry of animation and leadership, fully conscious of both, my limitation and lack of experience; solely relying on the unconditional love of God and His grace; counting on your good will and trust. Accordingly, my installation as Provincial took place during the Solemn Eucharist presided over by His Grace Archbishop Abraham Virthukulankara, concelebrated by

provincials and priests and witnessed by friends and well-wishers. It was indeed a moving and humbling experience to begin this journey, to be at the service of the province.

## Acknowledgement:

I take this opportunity to place on record my deepest sense of appreciation and gratitude to our beloved Superior General and the General Curia for reposing their trust and faith in me. I specially thank Rev.Fr Abraham Vettuvellil for encouraging me to take up this ministry of animation and service for the Congregation and I will surely count on you Father for guidance, support and prayer to carry out the work. Thanks to Fr. K. Ignacimuthu, the Provincial of South-East India Province and Fr. Jayaseelan, the Provincial of Pune for sparing their valuable time to be present for the installation ceremony. May God bless you fathers abundantly as you also have assumed the office of the provincial superior of your respective provinces recently. Certainly the presence of former Provincials Frs. Dharmaraj and Vincent Lourduswamy added more grace to the ceremony and I thank them for their love and support.

Fr. Jacob, you had been our provincial superior for the last six years and indeed worked tirelessly for the personal growth of the confreres and development of our province. Your tenure was abuzz with manifold activities and dynamism .You infused more life into the province by starting number of institutions and missions stations. You not only believed in yourself but also made others to do the same .You were gentle; lighted hearted, kind, loving, generous, filled with good will and took keen interest in the welfare of the members. Your heavy responsibility never deterred you from indulging in enjoying the lighter side life. You were very receptive to the ideas of others, though at time you appeared to be rigid. You motivated the members to grow and become dedicated and committed religious. You were very unassuming although you had a style of your own. You were a great communicator; the number of circulars and personal letters is a clear proof of your forte. You took keen interest in the growth of the communities by your wise suggestions and plans. Your tenure as the

provincial was action packed, as you had a vision and plan for the province and worked round the clock to realise your dreams. You, indeed infused a sense of urgency among the confreres. You initiated many projects, stabilized many educational institutions by adding needed infrastructure and always looked for opportunities to establish more centres. You always had a soft corner for the young confreres; motivating them to do their best and drew the best out of them. You introduced discipline in financial planning and provided financial stability to the province.

Dear Fr. Jacob, I thank God for the gift of you to our province. You have been a blessing to the life of the province and through hard work you have added life and dynamism to the province. The province is indeed posed for a dynamic growth. On behalf the province I wish to thank you sincerely from the depth of my heart and pray that you be blessed with a long, healthy and contented life to spend many more years of ministry in the vineyard of the Lord. A special word of thanks to the Councillors Frs. Benedict D'Souza, Manoj Turkey, K.V Joseph (jr), Allan Gonsalves, Wilson Abraham (Bursar) and Arum P (Secretary) for your selfless service rendered as the members of outgoing provincial administration. Thank you so much confreres for your valuable contribution that made a difference to the life of the province. May God bless all of you with good health, peace and happiness for many more years of ministry.

Nagpur province will always remain grateful to its former provincial superiors viz, Fr. Joseph Pottommel, Fr.P.M Joseph and Fr.A.M.Sebastian, as the province is entering into its 22 years of existence after the division of erstwhile Maharashtra-Goa Province into Nagpur and Pune Provinces. It is your vision and service that transformed the province to what it is today. While acknowledging your contribution, we continue to look forward to learn from your experience and wisdom to add stimulus to the growth of the province.

### **Installation of New Provincial:**



“The Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many. (Mt. 20:28 )

15<sup>th</sup> August 2017 is a day to be written in the archives of the Nagpur Province as it saw the installation of the 4<sup>th</sup> Provincial Superior Rev. Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy, while also celebrating 21 years of its existence. The installation began with the Holy Eucharist presided over by His Grace Abraham

Viruthakulangara, Arch-Bishop of Nagpur and concelebrated by Provincials and former provincials. Fr. Jacob, the outgoing Provincial, at the beginning read the letter of appointment by the Superior General. This was followed by the Profession of Faith by the new provincial Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy. The ceremony was witnessed by Fr. Ignacimuthu, Provincial of South East India Province, Fr. Jayaseelan, Provincial of Pune Province, Fr. Vincent Lourduswamy Fr. Dharma Raj, former Provincials of Pune and South East India Province, Fr. Jeyaraj SJ, the Provincial of Calcutta Province, Sr. Jolly, the Provincial of SCC, Amravati Province, the Superiors of Nagpur Fransalian Communities, Conferers and well-wishers.

All the dignitaries expressed their wishes and greetings for the New Provincial, as well as appreciated the service of the former Provincial. Fr. Arun spoke in appreciation of Fr. Jacob and Fr. Philip

highlighted the qualities of Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy. Fr. Jayaseelan on behalf of all the Provincials of India greeted and appreciated the new Provincial. Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy in his address stated that God has a definite purpose and plan for everyone, and it is He who leads us. The vote of thanks was proposed by Fr. Melroy; Frs. Gijo and Melky were the M.Cs. The entire programme was well planned and executed by the Provincialate Community. It was indeed a day to be remembered and cherished by all the confreres of Nagpur Province.

**Fr. Melky msfs**

### **Superior's Forum Animation Programme:**



The animator of the seminar was Fr. Savio De Sales, who is an expert in liturgy. The members assembled in the conference hall at 8.45 am. Fr. Melroy formally welcomed and introduced the resource person. Fr. Muthuswamy presented him a bouquet. First session was on the topic ways to enhance the liturgy based on the instructions given in the new Roman Missal. He, with the help of PPT, clearly dealt with the different parts of the liturgy, the changes that have been brought about,

the common mistakes that are committed and things we need to take care of when celebrating mass. The resource person clarified all the doubts and queries raised by the participants. The second session focused on leadership skills and the top ten skill that make a strong leader in the work places. The session was more practical and interactive as to how one can assist the growth and progress of the other. Fr. Muthuswamy also shared a few of his thoughts and observations. Fr. KV Joseph proposed the vote of thanks.

After tea began the session with the Provincial. Fr. Provincial shared his thoughts and what is expected of superiors as the Superiors' Forum is the most important forum, that revitalizes community life. Superiors are to be role models therefore we need to work together. He also shared certain information about the Provincial Congress study paper, theme of the congress, participants of the congress and reminded the members to send the survey questionnaire without fail. Information about the celebration on 21<sup>st</sup> August 450<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of St. Francis De Sales, was shared.

Fr. Wilson, then shared certain important points regarding financial management, submission of audited statements as per the company act format. Fr. Provincial insisted that we need to be at the service of the community and the church; to read the province statutes for guidelines; to share important issues of concern to the Provincial. The day ended with the Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Fr. Melroy and concelebrated by Frs. Muthuswamy and Lalit.

**Fr. Melroy msfs**

### **Convocation of the Ordinary Provincial Congress 2017:**

As per the requirement of our Constitution, the newly appointed Provincial Superior is to convoke the provincial chapter/congress within three month of his appointment, with the explicit consent of the Superior General (*article 228*). I, hereby convoke the Provincial Congress, to be held at the MSFS Provincialate, Nagpur, from October 17<sup>th</sup> at 4.00pm - 21<sup>st</sup> October 1.00pm. The theme of the Congress is **“Rooted in the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales for Renewed Zeal in Community and Mission”**. Every perpetually professed confrere is obliged to attend the Congress as the Provincial

Congress is a symbol of fraternal union; a forum of collective discernment and accountability for the life and mission of the province. It is an occasion for a thorough evaluation, discovery of inner strength; a joint attempt to find ways and means to make the spirituality and mission of the province more vibrant and effective. It is obligatory to participate whole heartedly and prepare for it. The Provincial Council has constituted a steering committee to plan and organize the forthcoming Congress 2017

### **The Steering Committee:**

*Chairperson:* Fr. JB Muthuswamy

*Convenor:* Fr. Melroy Almeida

*Members:* Fr. Issac John,  
Fr. Peter Dominic,  
Fr. Patras Tirkey,  
Fr. George Kurickal,  
Fr. Gijo Francis,  
Fr. Amalraju

### **Prayer in Preparation for the Provincial Congress:**

O spirit of God, we welcome you in our hearts in our communities and mission.

We adore you, for you are the sanctifier of consecrated life

We love you, for you are the unifier of souls

We thank you, for you are the consolation in despair

We surrender to you the MSFS Congregation,

Come upon all the Fransalians of Nagpur Province

As we discern your plan for us in the forthcoming provincial congress 2017.

O Holy Spirit, our guiding light, giver of all gifts

We humbly ask you to fill us with your fruits, gifts and charisms

To help us read the signs of times

And respond to the challenges of our Mission, Community Life and Institutions

To accompany us, to guide us in our discernment,

To be pastors after the heart of Jesus Christ.

Give us the charisms of the Congregation.

The spirit of our founder, Fr. Mermier

The method and approach of St. Francis De Sales

Fortitude of our Mother of Compassion.

Eternal God, look kindly upon us and increase your mercy in us,

That in difficult moments we may not despair nor become despondent,

But with great confidence, submit us to your holy will. Amen.

**N.B** Members of the province are reminded to pray for the success of the forth-coming Provincial Congress-2017. Kindly recite the special prayer during your common community prayer.

### **Preparation for the Provincial Congress:**

A study paper and a questionnaire focussing on various aspects of our life, mission and ministry has been prepared to help the members to understand the theme and its relevance. Members are encouraged to study, assess and evaluate. The convenors of various apostolic communities will call for a common meeting to prepare a report and send the soft copy to the Provincial Secretary before 20<sup>th</sup> September.

The soft copy of the approach paper and the questionnaire will be despatched shortly to the superiors of the local communities, who will in turn supply hard copies to the members of the community. The convenors of the apostolic community should plan well in advance and encourage all the members to be present for this important meeting.

### **Releasing of the Hindi Translation of The Introduction to the Devout Life:**



*St. Francis de Sales said, "My purpose is to instruct those who live in towns, within families, or at court, and are obliged to live an ordinary life as to outward appearances. Wherever we may be, we can and should aspire to the perfect life"*

It was a proud moment for the Nagpur Fransalians to have achieved the dream of bringing out the Hindi Version of the Introduction to the Devout Life, a Catholic spiritual direction for the people of North India, very specially this year as we celebrate the 450<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of our patron, St. Francis de Sales, a gentleman saint. The translation of the Introduction to the Devout Life in Hindi was initiated by the then Provincial Fr. Sebastian Annaikanthathil and the book was translated by Fr. Mathias Ddungdung SJ. Sr. Clare Agnes SMMI ensured that the translated classic had the flavour of Salesian Touch. Fr. Arun P coordinated all these tasks to fulfilment. Thanks to Fr. Jacob for his keen interest in materialising this dream project of Nagpur Province. The book was released by Fr. Jacob, and the first copy was handed over to Fr. Muthuswamy, the new provincial. Fr. Muthuswamy then handed over a copy each to Fr. Jacob and all the other dignitaries.

### **Releasing of Tarang – Province Magazine:**

Creating ripples of change, enkindling the light of Christ's love and reinventing the spirit of Catholicism has been the hallmark of our pastoral apostolate. And a visible sign of this is Tarang – Waves. The reports of our confreres and the works of the editorial team has actualized the 14<sup>th</sup> issue of Tarang –Fr. Muthuswamy released the magazine and handed over a copy each to all the dignitaries. Thanks to the editorial team, especially Frs. Melroy and Gijo for the hard work they put in.

### **Fr. Jayaseelan Assumes Office:**



In an impressive ceremony, Fr. Jayaseelan was installed as the new Provincial Superior of Pune Province. He assumed office during the solemn Eucharist attended by many confreres, family members and well wishes. Nagpur Province was represented by Frs. Jacob and Muthuswamy. Let us continue to pray for him.

### **First Thanksgiving Mass of Fr. Ranjit Lakra:**



On 7th July 2017, Fr. Ranjit Lakra celebrated his first Eucharist at Matola in the presence of Fr. Petrus Kullu, all MSFS confreres, benefactors, friends, well-wishers and guests. The choir sang melodiously during the celebration. After the mass, all kissed the anointed hands of Fr. Ranjit. During the felicitation programme Fr. Petrus Kullu gave a beautiful message. Some benefactors and friends congratulated Fr. Ranjit by singing and dancing. Fr. Ranjit

expressed his sincere thanks to all present. Then Fr. Ranjit and his godparents cut the cake and a sumptuous meal was served to all. The Mozambique Delegation is happy to have one more priest to work in the Lord's vineyard. We pray for Fr. Ranjit that like St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Mermier he may work with zeal for the Lord and His people. **Bro. Vishal Barse msfs**

### **Last reminder for the Participants of First Retreat:**

As announced earlier (*ref.* JK 63 Dated 19/9/2017) the Province Retreat for the Group I, will be held at MSFS Provincialate, Nagpur, from 25<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> September. The retreat begins in the morning and ends in the evening of the dates given above. All the members should attend the annual retreat as per the list given below unless you have received prior permission from the Provincial to be absent.

**Group-1: 25<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017:** Anto Thomas, Vijay Kerketta, Melky, Arum Kumar Ekka, Henry Peter, Shantwan Khutekar, Pius Gonzalves, William Antony, Austin Correia, Cyriac Velikettel, Shijumon Mangalath, Rijo Mechery, Anand Kullu, Christu Raj, John Carvalho, Lalji George, Jomon Mathew, Ambrose Minz, Kulandai Raj, Joseph Arulraj, Michael Toppo, Barnabas Xalxo, Albin, Mathew Kodamullil, Sudhir Kujur, Charles Porimattathil, Joseph Pullopillil, Oscar Kujur, Thomas Vadakumpadam, Kamil Tete, I Yesu, Jose Parampukkattil, George Kurickal, Mickey D'Souza, Paul Varambinakam, Bosco P, Philip Malaparambil, Christopher Lakra, Cyprian Dungdung, Emile Tirkey, Issac Mankulathil, John Britto Muthuswamy, Gijo Francis, Telesphor Lakra, Antony Amaladoss, Richard Tirkey, Johnson Parikkapally, Peter Dominic, Joseph Plathottam, Benedict De Souza.

### **Feasts in September:**

8<sup>th</sup>-Nativity of Blessed Mother, 15<sup>th</sup>-Feast of Mother of Compassion, 30<sup>th</sup>-Founder's Day. Let's prepare ourselves by conducting novenas. Communities can celebrate in the manner that best suits them.

### **My Programme:**

#### **August 2017.**

- 22<sup>nd</sup> : Aurangabad-Jalna Apostolic Community Meeting at Jalna.
- 24<sup>th</sup> : Nanded-Kinwat Apostolic Community Meeting at Nanded
- 27<sup>th</sup> : Delhi Apostolic Community Meeting at New Delhi
- 31<sup>st</sup> : Bhusawal Apostolic Community Meeting at Badnera

#### **September--2017**

- 6<sup>th</sup> : Odisha- Apostolic Community Meeting at Latapara
- 7<sup>th</sup> : Sini-Seraikella Apostolic Community Meeting at Seraikella
- 9<sup>th</sup> : Kandore Apostolic Community Meeting at Kandore
- 15<sup>th</sup> : Mannarkad Apostolic Community Meeting at Mannarkad
- 25<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>: First Province Retreat at Provincialate, Nagpur.

#### **October--2017**

- 07<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup>: Congregational Retreat for General Curia and Major Superiors, Poondi, Tamil Nadu
- 14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>: PIF Meeting at MSFS Provincial House-Trichy
- 17<sup>th</sup> -21<sup>st</sup>: Provincial Congress 2017, Provincialate, Nagpur

#### **December--2017**

- 26<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>: Second Province Retreat at Provincialate, Nagpur

### **My Contact Details:**

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### **Let us Pray for:**

**Fr. Telesfor Lakra's** youngest sister **Asha Lakra**, 25 years, who is suffering from cancer (advanced stage).

**Fr. Shantwan Khutekar's** elder sister **Mrs. Kausallya**, 69 years, who expired on 29<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

May her soul rest in peace.

### **Salesian Thought:**

*“God desires from us more fidelity to the little things that He places in our power than ardour for great things that do not depend upon us”.*

Yours sincerely,

Fr. J.B. Muthuswamy msfs

Provincial Superior