

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



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CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

20th August 2011

My Dear Confreres

“I am the vine and you are the branches. As long as you remain in me and I in you, you bear much fruit, but apart from me you can do nothing.”

With a genuine desire of deepening my commitment to God, in the true spirit of St Francis de Sales and Fr Peter Mermier, I write this first circular to you, my dear Confreres. After a brief telephonic conversation on the possible appointment of the Provincial of the Nagpur Province on 16.05.2011, our Superior General, Very Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, msfs, wrote in his email: “I feel God asks you this service for the good of the confreres and I am sure you will say yes to this appointment.” I did an introspection of this proposed ministry of leadership and animation to confreres, evaluating my many deficiencies and limitations and, ultimately, answered in the affirmative perceiving it as God’s plan for me and for our Province. The Scriptural quotation above gives a powerful image of Christ giving life and fruitfulness to the branches and, without whom, the branches cannot sustain itself. The mystery of this image reverberates within me as assume this new responsibility with a great deal of apprehension, but trusting in the providence of God I am determined to go ahead. It emphasises a simple truth that the communion of each member with Christ and the communion of each member with one another will make us stand out as God’s chosen people.

I am grateful.....

May I express my heart felt gratitude to all of you, my dear confreres, for the trust, and belief you have bestowed upon me. Thank you for your congratulatory notes, messages through SMS and telephone calls. I thank very specially Rev Fr Superior General and the General Council for their confidence and faith in me for shouldering this great responsibility. I gratefully remember my predecessors who left us a missionary heritage to further enhance it and carry on, very specially our first Provincial, Fr Joseph Pottemmel, who left no stone unturned in expanding the ministry to many North Indian States; to his successor, Fr Joseph Pullopillil, who not only consolidated existing centres but took decision to expand in the National Capital Region and in Madhya Pradesh; to Fr Sebastian Annaikandathil, for trying to stabilize the financial situation of the Province by activating all possible contacts in India and abroad. He did his best to inculcate in all of us ‘a Province community feeling’ for greater goals of the Province and the congregation.

Our Gratitude to Fr Sebastian Annaikandathil



We are immensely indebted to Rev. Fr. Sebastian Annaikandathil who shouldered the leadership of the Province for the last three years. He is known for his single-minded devotion to any task entrusted to him. His indomitable courage to work in adverse situations made him a man for all seasons. His unique and daring missionary spirit was manifested in Mozambique and his apostolate there gave our Province an international

dimension. His resolve and ability to exercise austerity in all areas of life be it travelling, food habits or purchase of goods is unparalleled. He resists the emerging complexities of worldly pursuits. He is passionate on visiting confreres and communities irrespective of territorial and province affiliations. He is a true missionary at heart and a valuable asset to the Congregation. He has great love for the poor in missions especially in the third world countries. Mozambique is very close to his heart. On behalf of the entire Province I acknowledge and place on record his yeomen service to the Congregation as a Pastor, Missionary, Educator and Provincial. Thank you, Fr. Sebastian, for your guidance, support and corrections. We wish you God's choicest blessings.

Installation of the new Provincial.



15th August 2011 witnessed a five-fold celebrations; 64th Independence Day, Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady, Installation of the new Provincial, Birthday of Fr. Sebastian Annaikandathil and the 15th Birthday of Nagpur Province. 35 Confrere Priests concelebrated the Eucharist at the installation of Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhil, msfs, as the new provincial. Fr. Jacob in his homily said that one should not lose sight of the original goal of the mission entrusted. We tend to deviate from the entrusted task due to preoccupation in useless things. He asked the members to pray for him so as to be empowered by the spirit of God to love and serve and to assist others to do the same. Rev. Fr. Vincent Lourduswamy, the new provincial of Pune Province, Fr. Sunny Kulangarath and Fr. Timothy Raj, Fr Jacob's ordination companion, graced the occasion. The meaningful liturgy and installation ceremony was planned by Fr. David Paul. The felicitation programme was organized by the Nagpur Apostolic Community. Fr. Peter Dominic welcomed the Provincials of Nagpur and Pune, the outgoing Provincial and all the confreres. The programme began with a prayer dance. The new provincials cut the cake and were felicitated with the presentation of a coconut and draped with a shawl. Fr. Sebastian was felicitated on his birthday. Fr. Sebastian Annaikandathil thanked all confreres for their support and cooperation for the past three years and asked the confreres to support the new provincial. Fr. Muthuswamy in his felicitation highlighted experiences he had with Fr. Jacob from the time of regency to his elevation as the Provincial of Nagpur Province. Fr. Jacob released the book *"Joy of serving at Eucharist: A guide to*

Altar Servers” by Fr. Alphonse Arokiaswamy and presented the first copy to Fr. Sebastian to whom it is dedicated. Fr. Jacob in his address thanked one and all and very specially Fr. Sebastian as he highlighted his administrative and missionary qualities.

Message from Rev Fr Agnelo Fernandes “Today I join all the confreres of our Nagpur Province in invoking the gift of God's Spirit on you to empower you to serve the confreres and guide the Mission of the Lord Jesus in His Light and His Grace . This service of animation and administration is what God asks of you at this moment and I thank you for accepting it as God's Will for you. May this faith and courage sustain you in all the challenges of your new responsibility (Fr Amalraju Bandanadam, msfs)

6th Nagpur Provincial Congress

Provincial Congress is to be convoked by the Provincial within three months of assuming office. As per our Constitutions it is symbol of fraternal union and a forum of collective discernment and accountability for the life and the mission of the entire province. It is an occasion for thorough evaluation, discovery of greater inner strength and a joint attempt to find ways and means to make the spiritual life and the mission of the Province. The Provincial Council in its meeting held on 15th August decided to conduct the Provincial Congress from 24th to 29th October 2011. In consultation with Rev Fr Superior General as per the provisions of the Constitutions, I hereby convoke the 6th Provincial Congress of Nagpur Province from 24th to 29th October 2011. The following is the theme of the Congress:

“IMBUED WITH THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST, FOR COMMUNITY- CENTERED LIFE AND MISSION AS PROPHECY”

Who will participate in the Congress

All perpetually professed members are duty bound to attend the Provincial Congress. Although it is desirable that Confreres abroad take part in the Provincial Congress it may not be feasible for them. Since they are not able to take part, they should present a report about their life and ministry. Since Mozambique mission is a major mission undertaking of the Province, at least, a delegate from there should attend the Provincial Congress. The delegate should present a report on their life and mission to the Congress. A representative of the Philosophers + Regents, and another representative of the theologians should attend the Provincial Congress. They will present their views at the Congress in the form of a joint Report. It is a time to evaluate and give new direction and orientations to our life and the mission of the Province.

Our Preparation for the Congress

I joyfully invite all perpetually professed members to this spiritual event for which the participation is your right. Kindly make all the necessary arrangement to take care of your mission early enough and bring your cassock, and your personal copy of Constitutions and the General Directory. It is imperative that we prepare ourselves intensely for this great spiritual event. It is the spirit of God that should help us discern our life and ministry for the future. There will be an approach paper on the theme of the Congress to facilitate your reflection prayer and renewal in addition to a questionnaire related to our major apostolates. The report of the Apostolic community should be sent to the office of the Provincial as per the date prescribed. Before the Congress I intend to visit all Apostolic Communities. It is my earnest desire to be acquainted with you and your living and mission environment. No ceremonies and formal functions should be organised as it is a visit meant to meet confreres and to highlight the dynamics of the theme of the Provincial Congress. It will be an additional Apostolic Committee meeting. It will be the responsibility of the Secretary to convene the meeting of the apostolic communities in consultation with the Convenor.

Changed Office Bearers of the Apostolic Communities

<u>Place</u>	<u>Convenor</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
NAGPUR	Joe Denis	Peter Dominic
DELHI	Anil George	Issac Mankulathil
AURANGABAD	John Dive	Manoj Tirkey
BHUSAWAL	Philip Maleparambil	Joseph Kailamangalam
NANDED	Sayu Cheruvil	Amalraju Bandanadam
LATAPARA	Kulandai Raj	Lajarus Soreng
MANNARKAD	Joseph Plathottam	Robin Parappuram
PUNE	Ashok Anthony	Henry Peter
VARANASI	Scaria Kadamkulam	Domy Vallomkunel
BANGALORE	Joseph Pullopillil	P Bosco
EUROPE	Benedict D'Souza	Austin Pookaattuchalil
U.S.A.	Jose Mudavankunel	Stephen Soares
MOZAMBIQUE	Paul Gonsalves	Henry Nedumkallel

Dates of Visit and Meeting of the Apostolic Communities

20.09.2011: Divya Jyoti Ashram, Latapara, of Orissa Apostolic Community
22.09.2011: Dhyanaashram of Varanasi Apostolic Community
24.09.2011: Vinay Sadan of Delhi Apostolic Community
26.09.2011: Fransalian House, Bhusawal.
27.09.2011: Fransalian Technical Institute, Aurangabad
28.09.2011: Fransalian Sadan, Visawa Nagar, Nanded.

Re-Arranged Schedule of Apostolic Community Meetings

A time frame schedule for preparation of the General Chapter is already sent to communities. It is meant for the Apostolic Communities to arrange their meetings for the preparation of the General Chapter. Kindly notify the changes made on the same time frame schedule in the light of the Provincial Congress. All Apostolic Communities are expected to hold their meetings as per the date schedule given below and send their reports to the Office of the Provincial.

Meeting of the Apostolic Community	Purpose	Submission of Report to Provincial	Submission of Report to Superior General
25 th Aug. to 20 th Sep.2011	Provincial Congress Questionnaire	30 th Sep. 2011	5 th Oct. 2011
1 st Oct. to 25 th Nov.2011	Paper I of General Chapter	30 th Nov. 2011	5 th Dec. 2011
1 st Dec. to 20 th Dec.2011	Paper II of General Chapter	30 th Dec.2011	5 th Jan. 2012
1 st Jan. to 30 th Jan.2012	Paper III of General Chapter	28 th Feb.2012	31 st Mar. 2012

Installation of Fr. Vincent Lourduswamy as Provincial of Pune Province

Fr. Vincent Lourduswamy was installed as the Provincial of Pune Province on 10th August 2011 at Shaanwadi Parish at the Eucharistic Celebration concelebrated by fifty priests in the presence of parishioners, benefactors, Sister Collaborators and relatives of Fr. Vincent Lourduswamy. Fr Jacob Karamakuzhyil, the Provincial-designate of Nagpur Province preached the homily. Fr. Noel Rebello, General Councillor addressed the gathering at the felicitation programme. Fr. Johnson Gonsalves recalled the contribution of Fr. Mario D'souza, the out-going Provincial, and expressed the gratitude of the Province for the marvellous work done by him. He wished God's abundant blessings upon Fr. Vincent, the new Provincial.

Election of Delegates to the 19th General Chapter

VOTES RECEIVED ON FIRST BALLOT FOR DELEGATES			
Name of Confreres	Votes	Name of Confreres	Votes
Adackapparayil Wilson	3	Kullu Silbester	1
Almeida Melroy	10	Kurickal George	1
Annaikandathil Sebastian	27	Lugun Rajesh	1
Anthony Amaladoss	2	Mangalath Shijumon	7
Anthony William	2	Mankulathil Issac	1
Carvalho John	2	Mudavankunnel Jose	1
Cheruvil Sayu	4	Muthuswamy John	12
Chettiar Vincent	2	Ozhakanakuzhiyil Anil	1
Correia Austin	9	Parampukattil Jose	1
D'Silva William	1	Paul David	25
D'Souza Benedict	11	Plathottam Joseph	1
Dalgado Melchiades	1	Pulloppillil Joseph	13
Denis Joseph	5	Ruptake Marcus	1
Dive John	1	Soreng Lajarus	1
Dominic Peter	4	Thalachirakuzhiyil Joseph	2
Gomes Valerian	1	Tigga Alex	2
Gonsalves Allan	1	Tirkey Manoj	5
Gonsalves Paul	2	Tirkey Pradeep	2
Gonsalves Pius	1	Torne Vishwas	1
Kadamkulam Scaria	2	Vallomkunnel Domy	2
Kailamangalam Joseph	1	Vattamattam Emmanuel	2
Kalekattil Joseph	1	Velikkettel Cyriac	1
Kerketta Bijay	1	Venmenikattayil Francis	12
Khutekar Shantwan	1	Xalxo Barnabas	1
Kujur Oscar	1		

The second ballot for delegates is relative majority. Please find enclosed the stamped envelope addressed to the 'Office of the Provincial' containing the ballot paper. Write the 3 names on the ballot paper and send the ballot immediately as you receive it.

Code of Ethics for the Congregation

The copy of the Code of Ethics for the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, was sent to every confrere. Holy See being concerned about the recent happenings of child abuse and sexual misconduct of Priests had asked all Congregations to have their own code of ethics for its members. This booklet is the result of a long study of codes of ethics of other congregations and dioceses undertaken by the General Administration and approved by the Triennial Mandatory Meeting of Provincials held in November 2010. May I request all confreres to read this booklet and grasp the spirit of it as consecrated people are expected to inculcate great love and respect for others and it prepares to safeguard our already eroded credibility?

Recollections with St Francis de Sales

The copy of the Eighth set of recollections is sent to every member of the province. It is to make every member strive for deeper knowledge in the life and mission of St. Francis de Sales. The Salesian Recollections will have to be animated by one of the members who will have to prepare one month in advance, as per the recommendations of the commission. These recollections as for the month mentioned in the booklet, should be conducted either community-wise or apostolic community-wise. Let us show our gratitude to our veteran confreres who have devotedly prepared it to motivate us to grow in salesian spirituality by making us more genuine through our monthly recollections.

Congratulations

Fr. Alphonse Arokiaswamy is the author of two books:” **A New Paradigm for Youth Ministry Today**” and “**The Joy of Serving at Eucharist**” – A Guide to Altar Servers. We congratulate Fr. Alphonse and wish him to scale greater and newer heights at the Georginum, Munich.

Fr. Wilson Abraham for preparing the Approach Paper on the Provincial Congress Theme

Appointments and Transfers

Fr Sebastian Annaikandathil is appointed to be on the staff of Divya Jyoti Ashram Latapara with effect from 16th September.

Fr. Paul Gonsalves to be Mission Superior of Mozambique, Superior of Catembe Community and designated to be Parish Priest of **A Paroquia De Nossa Senhora Das Mercês.**

Fr. Raju Minj to the Community at Catembe and designated to be Asst Parish Priest of **A Paroquia De Nossa Senhora Das Mercês.**

Fr Prabhudas Kujur is appointed as the superior of Fransalian House Bela vista and designated to be appointed as Parish Priest of Paroquia de Sao Francisco de Sales.

Fr. Richard Tirkey to the Community at Kinwat to be on the staff of the school.

Fr. Amalraju Bandanadam to be Priest-in-charge of Himayatnagar and attached to Nanded Community

Audited Statements/ Accounts. All the communities/Institutions are hereby requested to send their Audited Statements/ Accounts to the Provincial Bursar latest **by 15th September.**

Conclusion

Dear Confreres, the call to be the Provincial was, indeed, a disturbing one for my mind and heart. I was immersed in the Mission of Jhajar establishing Christian identity in a land not much heard of Christ and was always hostile towards other faiths. This displacement from my people and mission was hard to accept initially. But now, I feel the inner joy to be available to all of you. What bothers me most is the precarious financial situation. Our centres cannot be dependent on the mother house eternally. Our mission works should not be at the cost of our economic rights. Our houses that have the means will have to share it with others. Let us pray that our younger generation may imbibe our great missionary legacy and take our congregation to great heights in terms of challenging mission endeavours and safeguard our identity as a missionary congregation.

Salesian Thoughts: No one can obstruct the Will of God. Nothing, except sin, is possible outside the positive or permissive Will of God.

- Pg. 42, Sourcebook-Salesian Spirituality, Fr. Noel Rebello, msfs

Yours Devotedly in Christ,



Fr. Jacob Karamakuzyil, msfs

Enclosures: for Nagpur Province only

1. Envelopes for Second Ballot
2. Questionnaires
3. Approach Paper on Provincial Congress Theme