

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



NAGPUR PROVINCE

MSFS PROVINCIALATE

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CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

09.10.2012

My Dear Confreres

I greet you with peace and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ

Year of Faith from 11th October 2012 to November 24, 2013

The Apostolic letter entitled the Door of Faith released on October 17 2011 by his holiness Pope Benedict XVI is a call to renewed Conversion to the Lord. It is an invitation to the revelation of God's love which saves, heals, and redeems mankind. " Ever Since the start of my ministry as a successor of Peter, I have spoken of the need to rediscover the journey of faith" said his Holiness. It is the worst crisis of faith that has affected adversely the Christian Living that made the Pope to announce a year of Faith beginning on 11th October 2012, the fiftieth Anniversary of the opening of Vatican II which will end on the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Universal King on 24 November 2013. The starting date marks the twentieth anniversary of the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The test of this renewal is the witness offered by all of us. What is intended by this special year is to affect stronger ecclesial commitment to new evangelisation of communicating the faith and thus our missionary commitment shall attain the needed force and vigour. "Faith grows when it is lived as an experience of grace and Joy" the letter asks us to profess our faith with new conviction, and stand with the Lord to live with him. So we are called to arouse in every believer, the aspiration to profess faith, and to intensify the celebration of faith in Liturgy. All religious Parish Communities and ecclesial bodies are expected to make public profession of credo. However, it is also highlighted that Faith and Charity are inseparable. Faith in celebrating the love of God has to find its concrete manifestation in extending that love to those who live in want of it. My Dear Confreres let us not grow lazy in the faith but make it a lifelong companion. I hope we hear the invitation directed to each one of us intended to make us a living sign of the presence of the Risen Lord. I ask you to be educated on the apostolic letter of the Pope and affect renewed conversion of the faithful strengthening their Christian Living.



Sacred Heart Church, Bhusawal, desecrated

Fr Michael D'Souza MSFS

On 31st August 2012, I was ready to go to the convent for Mass. At 6.00 a.m. I told the sacristan to open the church. The sacristan and his companion came running to my room and informed that the church door has been broken. I rushed to the church and saw the terrible destruction done to the Tabernacle. Fortunately, the sacred species were not scattered but placed on the ground in one place. At once, I returned to my room, collected an empty-host container, rushed back to the church and carefully collected the broken pieces and brought the container to my room. Then, I instructed one of the helpers to go and inform a parishioner to come. In the meantime, I told the sacristan to ring the church bell. The parishioner, Mr. Thomas D'Souza, working in the railways, some influential people and I went to the police station to register the case. Meantime, the Sisters from Fatima Convent, four of them were then in the church. The police arrived in less than half an hour and the



investigation began. Photograph, finger print experts, police dogs were put into action. Meanwhile, lot of parishioners gathered, and I must say they were very, very co-operative as the police and some parishioners went round to search for cues. The money-box and the two ciboria were discovered but very much damaged. An F.I.R. was filed. The breaking of the door, and Tabernacle most probably took place after midnight. There was thunder and lightning and heavy rain. Since the presbytery is quite far from the Church I did not hear any sound nor did the sacristan and his companion who were sleeping in a room in the parish building did not hear any noise. The investigation is being carried on by the police department. So far two people were caught in this connection but no vivid proof that they were the robbers. The next day, 1st September, the representatives of Nashik Diocese, Fr. Ravi Tribhuvan (Vicar General of Nashik Diocese) and Fr. Suresh, expressed their solidarity and concern by paying a personal visit to the church. They informed the Asst. Parish Priest, Fr. Michael D'Souza, about the full co-operation from the District Superintendent of Police. On 31st, 1st, 2nd and 3rd September signatures from parishioners were collected on the memorandum. On 4th September ten representatives along with the advocate from the parish submitted the memorandum to the District Superintendent of Police, District Collector and the Commission for Minorities. The Tabernacle was repaired on the 2nd by a parishioner and the Blessed Sacrament was restored in a ceremonial way on the 4th September. On 7th, a day of reparation was organized by the Parish asking pardon for the sins of the robbers. May the good Lord forgive them for they did not know what they have done? -

SFS Students Orientation Programme in Janakpuri

SFS Janakpuri organized an orientation programme for the Christian students of Classes XI and XII and their parents on 10th August 2012 for the first time. The programme started at 8.00 a.m. with Fr. Anil George, our Principal, welcoming Fr. Franklin D'Souza, Executive Secretary for CBCI Office for Youth and National Youth Director of ICYM, and highlighting the importance of the event. Fr. Franklin started by showing the video clip of a great motivational speaker Nick Vujiev, with no limbs, whose extra-ordinary will power and hope tugged our heart strings and drove us to tears which moved every single person in the auditorium. It was followed by praise and worship led by Mr. Lijo and his team. Children and parents alike danced to the hymns to God. Fr. Franklin and Mr. Lijo gave thought-provoking talks on the problems faced by students and how to find its solution. Fr. Franklin being such an amazing priest has changed the viewpoint of children in the eyes of their parents. After a 10 minutes break, Mass was offered and Fr. Franklin prayed for the children and their parents. During the Mass Fr. Franklin fascinated us with his old tales of the youth. The programme attended by about 75 students and their parents was a success. **By Joseph Sebastian**

SFS Seraikella Goes Global



Markgraf-Friedrich School, Rehau, Germany, through Fr. Francis Venmenikattayil, expressed its desire to have a long term school partnership programme with our school. The aim of this programme is to help students to understand people of other countries, appreciate foreign cultures and to network as global citizens. To realize it the following steps are to be undertaken a) exchange of information and educational experience, b) personal meeting of the students and teachers of both the schools by letter or visits and c) realization of various projects. Looking at the long term advantages that the institution and

our students will have, the school decided to go ahead with this exchange programme. Under the guidance of Mr. Christian Reischl, a teacher of Rehau and Sr. Anu DSFS, an interaction of students through letters were encouraged. Now, a number of our students have friends in Germany. The school authority of Markgraf-Friedrich School wanted the Principal of St. Francis De Sales School to visit their school to interact with the school administration, staff and students to give a feel of our school and the country and to have an official inauguration of our Partnership Programme. I left for Germany on 16th July. Enjoying the hospitality of Fr. Lalit Tigga at his parish residence, I had number of interactions and sessions with the staff and students of the school. It was wonderful to have well accepted and appreciated by the community there. The inaugural ceremony of

exchange programme and signing of partnership agreement, held on 23rd July, was attended by Mr. Hausknecht of the ministry of secondary schools, Mr. Michael Abraham, Mayor of Rehau, Frs. Francis and Lalit, the school authorities, staff and students.

After the school programme, I had the opportunity to make a quick visit to number of our confreres in Germany, Austria, France, Switzerland and Italy. I was happy to visit Geneva, Annecy & other places of importance for us Missionaries. I had the opportunity to visit Lourdes, Assisi, Rome, etc. I thank the Provincial and the Confreres in Germany for making this trip a grand success.

Teachers' Day Celebrations, Nanded

“A teacher is for eternity, as no one knows where his/her influence stops.” With these words of gratitude towards their teachers began the Teachers' Day celebrations in Gyan Mata Vidya Vihar Senior Secondary School. Rev Fr Melroy Almeida garlanded the portrait of Dr. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan. Students organized a cultural program of songs and dances. The Std. X students took charge as 'Student Teachers'.

To honour the teachers' contribution towards shaping the career of students and truly guiding them on the path of virtues, the 'Best Teacher Trophy' was given to Mrs. Bhadra Rathod by the Innerwheel Club of Nanded. Her mission to transform students has helped many to reach the peak of glory.

Later a short get together was arranged for the staff during which a few entertaining games were organized and gifts were distributed. In his inspiring message, the principal, Rev. Fr. Melroy Almeida urged the teachers to continue to lead the students on the path of knowledge and wisdom.

- Mrs. Ashwini Manthalkar

News from Kinwat

St Mary's School, Kinwat, earned the rare distinction of participating in the Maharashtra State Level Football Tournament for Girls at Mumbai. Having breezed through taluka-level and district-level tournaments, the girls of St Mary's, gave a brilliant display of their skills only to be stopped at the finals. Congratulations to the girls of St Mary's and to their coach, Bro. Michael Toppo MSFS and the Principal, Fr Marcus Ruptake MSFS

News from Neemuch



'Arise and Awake' was the theme of this year's Independence Day celebration at SFS School, Neemuch. The rains could not stop the spirit of Fransalians from hoisting and saluting the National Flag with pride. The 'Jai Ho' shouts of Students from LKG to Standard 3 who were dressed up in colorful house uniforms united us with the ceremonies held in different parts of the country. The Chief Guest during his patriotic speech aroused the feelings of kindness, care and the need to cultivate a culture of love for the environment. A colorful cultural programme

marked the end of the day's celebration. It was the second canonical visit of Fr. Jacob as Provincial. The faithful at Singoli had the privilege of meeting a major superior after years of wait. His visitation to 'Manasa Mission' has helped us finalize a master plan for the place and work on the immense possibilities therein. The parish councilors of Holy Redeemer Church had the privilege of talking and expressing their concerns with him after the Eucharistic Celebration on 15th August.

Our Date with His Eminence Cardinal Telesphore Toppo



His Eminence Cardinal Telesphore Toppo, Vice President of CBCI, had made a request to the MSFS in 2010 to collaborate with his project of Medical College in North India with the objectives to provide Medical, Nursing, and Para Medical Education to the Local Population in North India. The Provincials of India Forum decided to take up this Project in Ranchi in the State of Jharkand and the names of Fr Mario D'Souza and David Paul was suggested to the CBCI and were appointed as the Director and the Financial Administrator respectively. Fr Mario D'Souza joined duty on 1st November 2011 and Fr David Paul on January 17th 2012. Since then the Project Office is functional. I had the joy of visiting them and staying with them for two days. Rev Fr Simon Paicatt joined me on 19th and we had a long meeting with Cardinal Telesphore Toppo who discussed with us in details his vision for this project. Although 130 acres of land is purchased and registered, the mutation is yet to be done. The Cardinal is, indeed, concerned about the delay of mutation process. However, he is full of optimism that the project will soon take off. In honor of our visitation the Cardinal joined us for lunch on 19th September. As of now our Fathers keep themselves busy by assisting in Pastoral Ministry.

Fr Elias Gonsalves installed Bishop of Amravati



Fr Elias Gonsalves (51) hailing from Vasai, has been appointed as the new Bishop of Amravati Diocese by Pope Benedict XVI. Fr Elias Gonsalves is of the Archdiocese of Bombay. This announcement was made in Rome on Wednesday, July 11, 2012. Born to Joseph and Paulina Gonsalves on July 4, 1961, he was ordained priest on April 1, 1990. After completing his schooling from Sandor in Vasai, he joined the Archdiocesan seminary of St Pius College, Goregaon, in 1983. He has specialized in Community Building from the Cody Institute of St Francis Xavier University in Canada.

Episcopal Ordination and Solemn Installation of Fr. Elias Gonsalves (Bishop-Elect of the Diocese of Amravati) was held at Bishop's House, Gyanmata School Pavilion, Amravati, on September 29, 2012, at 10.30 am. His Eminence, Oswald Cardinal Gracias (Archbishop of Bombay) was the Principal Consecrator. His Excellency, Most. Rev. Salvatore Pennacchio, (Apostolic Nuncio) and Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara of Nagpur were the Co-Consecrating Bishops. The function was blessed by the presence of five Archbishops, 15 Bishops and a good number of Priests and Sisters along with a large gathering of lay people.

Speaking on the occasion Bishop Gonsalves declared his seven point programme for the overall development of Amravati Diocese. A perspective plan of the diocese will be designed and he will work for the spiritual growth of the Christians, to bring excellence in the fields of education, health and social work in the diocese of Amravati. The members of the Congregation rejoice with the Diocesan Clergy and share in the joy of having blessed with a new Bishop. On behalf of the Province I extend hearty congratulations to the New Bishop and wish him God's abundant blessings in his Ministry as Bishop of Amravati. - **Fr Sayu Cheruvil MSFS**

FTI, Aurangabad, takes up Government project

FTI, Aurangabad, in collaboration with Maharashtra Government (MCED: Maharashtra Centre for Entrepreneurship Development) has undertaken a project to train 30 youth of 20 to 35 years in book binding and offset printing technology beginning from Saturday the 15th Sept 2012 on a NON-Formal basis.

Regional Formation Forum Meeting at Visakhapatnam

The Regional Formation Forum meeting was held in Stella Maris, Vishakhapatnam, from 2nd to 4th September 2012. The Indian provincials along with the councillors-in-charge of formation and the secretary of formation of the respective provinces were present for the meeting. Rev. Fr. Noel Rebello, General Councillor-in-charge of formation animated and moderated the meeting. All the members shared about their life, concerns, difficulties and problems they face in their respective formation houses. Matters concerning vocation promotion, minor seminary, Sudhirvana program, pre-novitiate, Suvidya, regency, theology, diaconate, new priests appointment's, etc. were the main topics for discussion and sharing. We also discussed about some of the common undertakings of our congregation. The meeting suggested a number of additions, deletions and reconsiderations of many guidelines where formation is concerned. Rev Fr. Noel said that the report and deliberations of the meeting will form a major part in his report and recommendations to the General Chapter.

- Fr Robin Parappuram MSFS

Sad demise of a promising Missionary



On 26th September I was in Shillong to receive the perpetual vows of the Brothers at the request of Fr. Francis Thadathil. On 27th morning when all preparations were afoot for this spiritual event, the news broke of the tragic end of Fr Shijo Paul which made a pall of gloom descend on all the Confreres of North East Province. This painful loss of one of the youngest Priests in the Congregation in a road accident speaks volumes on our missionary journey and related struggles in hostile environment of inaccessible mountain terrains of Arunachal Pradesh. It took 18 hours to trace the body of this beloved brother and the vehicle was not traceable initially. It took more than 24 hours to get proper facilities to save the body from decomposing. This incident tells the tale of hardships encountered by our Missionaries in North East India. Let us share in the grief of those who

choose to walk and live through death traps for the Mission of our Lord Jesus and, at times, pay a heavy price with their very life. I extend our heart-felt condolences to all the Confreres of North East Province on behalf of the Nagpur Province Members. May this tragic incident also make all of us resolve to take maximum care of ourselves as slightest misjudgment or a bad foggy weather can cost one's precious life if not extremely careful. May God reward eternal rest to Fr Shijo Paul.

Celebration of Founder's Day and the Perpetual Profession in Mozambique

At 09.00.A.M. on Sunday 30th September 2012 all the parishioners of Belavista, and its nine sub centres along with distinguished members of the various departments of the district administration, pastors of various denominations, representatives from the neighbouring parishes like KaTembe, special invitees from Maputo, the capital city of the country and Matola, the capital city of the Province of Maputo made the colourful procession from one end of the township through the commercial, institutional and residential areas to reach the parish church at the centre of the township. The Band (conducted by the religious congregation 'Arautos') played the music and the people sang and prayed. The devotional event was very impressive and proclaimed, loud and clear, the great event of the Perpetual Profession of four young Fransalians on their Congregation's Founder's Day.



The solemn con-celebration by all the MSFS priest-confreres, diocesan and other religious priests was presided over by the MSFS Mozambique Mission Superior Fr. Paul Gonsalves. The singers, the dancers, and the choir were strongly and enthusiastically supported by the 600 strong worshippers of nuns, brothers, seminarians and all the people. The touching and heart-throbbing inculturated rite was heart-warming and tears-rolling. The four-hour long ceremony was concluded by honouring in multifarious ways by various groups and representatives, the four brothers, Jijo Thomas Punchayil, Jins Devasya Karakadayil Jinoy Kopyl

and Aajo Joy Theruly for their decision to dedicate themselves totally and unconditionally for their entire life-span. By late evening all returned home after a simple but nutritious and sumptuous meal, thanking one another and singing the praises of the Lord for giving them four more dedicated youngsters.

Annual Pilgrimage to Holy Cross Hill, Santa Maria, Mozambique on 14th September 2012

On 13th afternoon Fr. Prabhudas, the parish priest, along with Frs. Rajesh & Sebastian and Sr. Joanna along with the youth of the parish started the long and strenuous journey through the jungle tracks and sand dunes of the special reserved forest for elephants. The trip took more than 3 hrs to cover 110 kms. Picking up the pilgrims from N'delane, another community, we arrived at Santa Maria only at night. Even then the faithful were praying and waiting for us. They received us singing welcome-hymns and thanksgiving prayers. After introductions and detailed planning for the next day's programs, we prayed and sang. All of us enjoyed the tasty-country-style supper they had prepared for us. Sleep overtook us in no time.

Getting up at 4 o'clock we enjoyed the morning fresh air at the sea coast. In no time the mini-breakfast was ready. As planned, falling into two lines, praying and singing we followed the cross-bearer and banner-holders. The procession, zig-zagged through village lanes, and more pilgrims continued to join the ranks. After about three kms we could already see the Cross on the far hill-top guiding and calling us. The sandy lanes gave way to sandier tracks as we trudged along the hilly routes. The elderly and the sick found walking sticks to help their walk to be less strenuous for them.

The last lap proved a herculean task as we had to walk on fours since the climb was very steep. But then as the track was very narrow we could catch on the extending branches of the bushes that were growing entrenched on the sandy terrain. It was really exhilarating with the chanting and singing pausing frequently to catch our breaths. The moment we left the bushes and the trees on both sides we saw, once again, the Cross beckoning us. The children ran and embraced the base of the three-metre-tall-concrete Cross. Some cried in joy, while others lay down on the pure white sand due to sheer exhaustion. We sat. We knelt down and venerated the Cross. We sang. We prayed; prayed for all. Then we saw the world around us and beneath us – so breath-taking was the panorama, beautiful flora and fauna, the extensive and clean beach, the increasing number of tourist bungalows, the bay, the far away Costa do Sol of Maputo City, the Inhaca island, the boats, the ferry, the large ships anchored and on the move, the sky real blue on the horizon – what a reward!

The return procession with halleluiahs took less time. After a cup of golden tea we relaxed for a while, to prepare for the holy Mass. The solemn Mass simply animated everyone. Then, the simple lunch, the touching fare-wells and the return trip watching the stags and the elephants. The land-cruiser reverberated in the jungles and the lakes with praises to our dear Mother Mary. **A Report from Mozambique**

Servant of God Fr Peter Mary Mermier

There is a small booklet on Fr. Peter Mermier, about 16 pages compiled by Fr Noel Rebello sent to all communities. The booklet prepared is translated from the articles of Fr Claude Morel in French, Circular sgmsfs-2af-20 and notes of Frs. Francis Moget, Anthony Mookenthottam and Armind Nazareth. It is prepared not only for the members of the Province but for parishioners, collaborators, staff of the schools, friends and well wishers. The booklet should help us promote the cause of Fr. Mermier. House Superiors, Parish Priests and Heads of Institutions should take special interest in popularising this book which highlights the various aspects of his life and Mission. With sentiments of gratitude I appreciate Fr Noel for the trouble taken to prepare this booklet. God bless his efforts to help us imbibe the needed Salesian spirituality through his literary works.

Perpetual Vows in North East

I had the honour of receiving the perpetual vows of Bros Daniel Bara and Telesphor Toppo of our Province on 27th September 2012 at a solemn Eucharistic Celebration in the evening at 6.30 pm at Shillong in the presence of priests, religious and relatives of the brothers. Three Brothers, one from South East Province and two from North East Province also made their perpetual **vows**. I was happy to see the parents and relatives of our brothers who made it for this spiritual event all the way from Orissa. I congratulated our brothers on behalf of the members of the Province and welcomed them to the Province as permanent members of the Congregation.



Hearty Congratulations to the newly-elected Provincial Curia of Vishakapatnam Province

The Councillors are Frs. Darnam Dhaman Kumar, Maddineni Anand Prasad, Panthanmackal Mathew and Chakkalakkal Jolly. The Admonitor is Panthanmackal Mathew and the Bursar is Mendem Bhasker.

Congratulations to FTI Aurangabad Community for launching their website ftiaurangabad.com

Let us pray for the departed Souls and Bereaved Families of


- **Fr. Chappuis Joseph Victor** aged 93, of Brazil Province, passed away on 30.07.2012
- **Mrs. Cicilea Tirkey**, grand-mother of Fr Ranjit Tirkey, passed away on 29.08.2012
- **Fr. Lindsay Francis Hendricks**, aged 60, of Brazil Province, passed away on 29.08.2012
- **Mrs Annamma**, aged 83, mother of Fr. Philip Maleparambil, passed away on 01.09.2012
- **Mr Sebastian Vettukallel**, aged 82, grandfather of Fr Saiju Vettukallel, passed away on 26.09.2012

Provincial's Itinerary

October 11	Superior's Meeting, Nagpur
12 & 13	Evaluatory Meeting of the Action Plan with Superior General.
14 & 15	Provincial Council Meeting
20 to 22	Fransalian Seminary, Pune
23 to 26	Provincials of India Forum Meeting, Pune
28 to 31	CRI National Assembly, Hyderabad
November 5 & 6	Badnera
7 & 8	Khamgaon
12 to 16	Province Retreat
23 & 24	Nagpur Diocese Jubilee Celebration Conclusion
27 & 28	Mermier Sadan
29 & 30	St John's
December 1 & 2	Provincialate
3 & 4	Shivajinagar
10 & 11	Bhusawal
12 & 13	FTI, Aurangabad
14	CIDCO
16 & 17	Kinwat

Salesain Thought: There are no galley –slaves in the royal vessel of divine love-every man works his oar voluntarily. SFS

With every good wish and Prayers
Yours Fraternally



Fr Jacob Karamakuzhyil
Provincial Superior