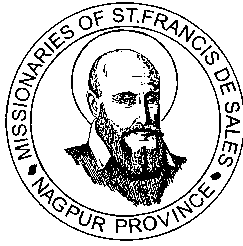


MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



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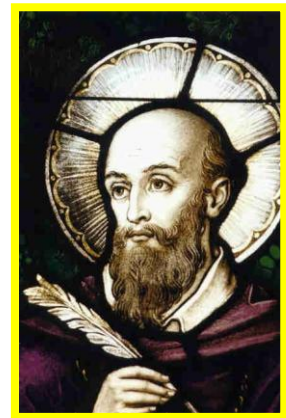
CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

20.01.2013

My Dear Confreres

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

We are not far from 24th January, the Feast Day of our heavenly Patron St Francis de Sales. We have been preparing spiritually for this day by our traditional Novena to our Saint as we believe that our spiritual preparations should precede all other celebrations. Having inherited this spirit of honouring our saint let us reiterate for ourselves and for all generations of Fransalians that remembering St Francis de Sales on this month is not just a ritual but our attempt to know him more deeply and to live in his spirituality. This is possible only with the knowledge of his life and literature. Any celebration devoid of fulfilling this purpose is like the noisy children playing in the street with no responsibility as referred in the scripture, may be, to experience some pleasure of senses. Remembering this great saint is not for the sake of the saint but for the living to draw inspiration to affect one's life and ministry. This emphasis is often overlooked while honouring persons of exemplary character. The celebration is on while the person honoured is forgotten in terms of his ideals and personal qualities as they find no concrete expression in the life those who hold him in highest esteem.



St. Francis wanted to restore Catholicism. When Catholic faith threatened by Calvinist, he in his own inimitable way brought back people to faith and, thus, became the Apostle of Chablais. Catholic faithful rose from 6,000 to 60,000. He revered the apostolic church and its unity and strength was given utmost priority. His zeal to bring people back to faith tells the tale of his missionary character in encountering adverse circumstances. He specially devised new methods of approaching people who were hostile to Papal authority indicates that he was passionate and focussed on his mission. This love for the Universal Church and the Roman Pontiff shown by our heavenly patron saint should be our guiding light for Mission and Evangelisation to win people for God. Let this be our prayer as we remember St Francis de Sales in this month and, especially, in the year of faith. I wish each one of you, dear Confreres, Benefactors and friends a happy feast of St Francis de Sales.

Our Mission Exploration Trip in the heart land of Santals

Fr Joe Denis and myself set out for the land of Santals in Dumka, one of the under-developed districts of the State of Jharkand on 7th January 2013 after the Ordination of Deacon Kuldeep Kiro from Orissa. On 7th night, we had the privilege of staying with Fr Mario D'Souza in Ranchi. We boarded the train on 8th January from Ranchi to our destination. Dumka Mission was started by Jesuits of the Sicilian Province in 1924 of which the island of Malta formed a part. Dumka Diocese was erected in the year 1962. Since then, it was divided twice to form Raiganj Diocese and Purnea Diocese. Presently it has 1, 41,000 Catholics with 50 parishes and quasi-parishes. Bishop Julius Marandi received us at Madhupur

Railway Station about 100 kilometers before Dumka. He took us to a church in Madhupur which is more than 100 years old. Madhupur is a reasonably good city with a Railway Junction almost halfway between Ranchi and Dumka. After the lunch at Carmel Sisters convent, we visited Chechali one of the mass-centres of Madhupur Church. The Bishop suggested that we start in Madhupur and move to Chechali in 6 years time. Pondering over his suggestion, we moved on in search of our mission destination as the Bishop had more than one option.



We reached Dumka, unimpressive with dusty roads and, seemingly, a village developed into a town. However, we need to remember that it is the birth place of political heavy-weights like Shibu Soren, Stephen Marandi, Babulal Marandi and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha. Day two was marked by the real missionary exploration and journey with his Lordship Bishop Julius Marandi. We went to the remotest mission called Kandore in Sahibganj district, 4 hours drive from Dumka. A fertile land for evangelization! It has 4,000 baptized Catholics with no church worth the name, a school, a boarding and a hostel. It has just one resident priest for

such large population with 8 sub-centres. The situation is true to the scripture: “the harvest is plentiful but labourers are few.” In another hour’s time, we reached Badakbarpur, a sub-centre of a huge parish called Mundli. This sub-centre has a reasonable amount of land and a half-built school. The priest-in-charge had arranged lunch in one of the class rooms. A bifurcation of Mundli Parish is in the plan which was our third option. The half-built school is upto Std. 2 in over-crowded rooms and the medium of the instruction is Hindi. We returned to Bishop’s House at Dumka by 8.00 p.m. Next day at 9.00 a.m. we left for Kalkajor, an independent Mission Parish without a resident priest. This centre has around 200 Catholic families and a small prayer hall of tiled roof. It is only 15 kilometers from Dumka. Back in Dumka, we had to choose one from the four centres offered to us. Fr. Joe Denis and I had no difference of opinion as both of us assessed and zeroed the choice to Kantore Mission in Sahibganj District having 200 villages for social work and evangelisation.

It is unimaginable to realise that a country which has the capacity to produce the nuclear bomb and aircraft carriers has citizens living in such a state of deprivation. People who have no one to look up for support have found consolation for themselves in handful of religious people. Centres with sizable faithful are being run by just one priest. Poverty of infrastructure, lack of personnel and unattended faithful with shallow faith is the hallmark of some of the missions. We have come across a Parish which has 15 sub-centres and the priest has no 4-wheeler. Educating the tribal children is the most prioritized work of the Diocese and the Missionaries. Prayer halls are being used as hostels to study and to sleep. Some of the convents use even their corridors. Their willingness to sacrifice all comforts for God’s people and living perpetually in deprivation is very evident. We were very thankful to his Lordship Bishop Julius Marandi for accompanying us all the three days. His love for his people and the vision for their social and educational upliftment was evident in our conversations. God bless his efforts.

My dear confrere, our efforts to enter into this mission is nothing less than getting into our roots. A missionary congregation like ours cannot shy away from exploring the possibilities of taking the faith to people in this Year of Faith. The majority of Santals are the most deprived lot in social status due to educational backwardness and poverty. The Chairman of the Federation of Asian Bishop’s Conference Commission for Evangelisation said in Bangkok: “Even in an atmosphere of sturdy resistance to everything spiritual, if we have faith of the size of a mustard seed, we can whisper the Gospel and breathe a soul into the community nearest to us.” Therefore, we cannot sit back and relax thinking of our lack of personnel and financial resources but grab this opportunity as God’s gift to show the love of Jesus to people who needs to be cared most. Kandore Mission in Sahibganj District, Jharkhand, will become another Parish like Panderpalli. Now, it is like one of the sub centres of Bela Vista in Mozambique. Let us take up this challenging Mission in this Jubilee Year re-living the passion of our founder for Mission. Our success will not only depend on the missionaries who will

work there but the involvement of the whole Province in supporting it in all possible ways. Our confreres in Germany should facilitate the visit of friends and benefactors to this Mission and to bring it up as a special project in honour of the Year of Faith and in the 175th Jubilee Year of the Congregation.

Mission Sangamam at Ettumanoor



South-West India Province organized a mission Sangamam in loving memory of Fr. George Vayalil MSFS who was the first Syro-Malabar priest who dared to join a Latin Congregation for missionary work outside Kerala. The organizers recalled their association with Fr. George Vayalil as the most inspiring priest. Mar Joseph Powathil in his presidential address elaborated the historical struggle of the Mission of Syro-Malabar Church in catering to the spiritual needs of its people. Fr. Antony Mookenthottam called Fr. George Vayalil as the catalyst for missionary movement in the Syro-Malabar Church. Fr. Jacob Parapally presented the church's perception of mission after Vatican II. Speaking on the person and spirituality of Fr. George Vayalil, Fr. Jose Parapallil recalled and highlighted Fr Vayalil's patience, love for the poor and, above all, his cordial relationship with confreres. He said that Fr. Vayalil was a true Fransalian in character and had an inborn attribute that evoked reverence and love from all those who associated with him.

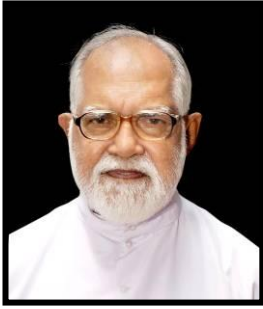
During the panel discussion on different apostolates, Fr. Thomas Anikala narrated his daily journey into villages on cycle carrying folding chair to teach catechism and to hear confessions. Fr. Varghese Elenjipuram recalled that during his visits to villages he initially faced resistance and opposition but won over people by his loving and amiable approach. He asked the present missionaries to love all without any discrimination. This veteran missionary was applauded in appreciation when he said that in the villages where he worked there are now seven parishes. Fr. Joseph Pullopillil speaking on the apostolate of education asked the participants to hold aloft the words of the founder: "Train the hearts of children and the hearts will train your children." The others who participated in the panel discussion were Fr. Joseph Kunjaparambil speaking on Evangelization in Africa and Fr. Shibu Thundathil spoke on innovative ministry in the midst of technological advancement.

On 17th January, His Eminence Mar George Alenchery spoke on the evangelization for missionaries and Fr. Kucheriapathil CMI spoke on the challenges to the church and its mission today. The final input session on new possibilities of the 'Mission of Evangelization in a globalized world' was conducted by Fr. Tom Kochery CSSR who challenged the missionaries to act for the marginalized rather than just speak about them. This well known social activist of Kerala elaborated with facts and figures, how systematically corporates and multinational companies attempt to destroy native environment and local industry for monetary gains at the cost of our culture, health and economic growth. He enquired as for whom are these theological perceptions are exhorted, for the speaker or the audience? He asked the audience not to waste time in listening to perceptions but act concretely for those being marginalized right in front of everyone. He opined that the real way of honouring Fr. George Vayalil would be to work for the poor and marginalized rather than enumerating his qualities. In his concluding message Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil thanked the organizers and the five Provincials and confreres who represented other provinces, Europe and Africa. He asked the members to imbibe the spirit of the Sangamam and take our ministry to a higher level in conformity with the objectives of the congregation in this 175th year of its foundation.

The Thanksgiving Eucharist was presided over by Rt. Rev. Dr. Sebastian Thekethecheril, Bishop of Vijayapuram. All appreciated Fr. Jacob Parappally and Fr. Jose Parappillil for organizing the

Sangamam which was a great exposure for all in understanding the perceptions and history of MSFS evangelization and ministry and showed the way for challenging orientations for different apostolates.

Fr. Devasia Kuzhuppil (89) passes away...



Fr. Devasia Kuzhuppil was given a grand and fitting farewell to his heavenly home on 16th January at 10.30 a.m. at Charis Bhavan in the presence of Bishops, Priests, Sisters, Family members and parishioners of Athirampuzha. The day's newspaper highlighted the contribution of this veteran missionary in kindling the faith in the hearts of people in Vishakhapatnam. Fr. Jose Parappillil in his homily highlighted that Fr. Devasia has been the exemplary priest for Athirampuzha Parish and for the congregation, a missionary par excellence, who was instrumental in making Visakhapatnam Province, the mother province, by his administrative dynamism resulting in the birth of many provinces and undertaking many pioneering missionary enterprises. Many prominent personalities of public life and church leaders sent their condolence messages acclaiming him as the proud son of the church who dedicated his life for the people of God. On behalf of Nagpur Province, I express my heartfelt condolences to the members of South-West India Province at the sad demise of Fr. Devasia Kuzhuppil. May his spirit of missionary dynamism and vision live to inspire all generations to come! May his soul rest in peace and intercede for those who continue to tread his path of Evangelization.

Our Tribute to Fr Anthony Fernandes (92)



Fr Anthony Fernandes, aged 92, passed away on 3rd December due to old age. He is not a strange person to the confreres of Nagpur Province especially the members of the erstwhile MG Province. Many of us who have received formation at Bastora, Goa, are very familiar with his meticulous teaching of English Grammar and pronunciation. Fr Anthony Fernandes served our Province in various capacities before the bifurcation as Pune and Nagpur. He was the Principal of St John's High School, Nagpur, prior to his appointment in the Minor Seminary at Bastora, Goa. The whole Province was very sad to hear of Fr Anthony's return to his heavenly home, though he was ailing for some time. The Nagpur Province gratefully remembers this pious and learned educationist who contributed immensely through the Apostolate of Education. Although I could not participate in the funeral due to preoccupation, the Members of Nagpur Province were united with the Confreres of Pune Province in prayer and spirit in honour of the departed soul. As I place on record his contributions to our Province, I offer my heartfelt condolences to the members of the Province of Pune. May his goodness inspire all fransalins. May his soul rest in peace!

Sini: St. Xavier's School



The Annual Sports' Day of St. Xavier's School was held on 8th November 2012. The Chief Guest was Smt. Roslin Toppo, Principal of SE Railway Inter College, Sini, who declared the Sports' Meet open. The highlight of the meet was the drill formation of the National Flower, the Lotus, along with other events that brought applause from one and all. A sports' day in a small town is a big event that has all the makings of a 'mela' and a 'melava' for one and all.

- Fr Vinsent Minj MSFS

Khamgaon: Pastoral Visit of Bishop Elias Gonsalves

Fransalian Vidya Niketan, Khamgaon was, indeed, happy by the maiden visit of Most Rev Elias Gonsalves of Amravati on 18th November 2012. He made a pastoral visit to our community and enquired about the activities of the house. He was happy with the ministry we are doing and also gave some ideas to improve our ministry. He offered Holy Mass in the parish and addressed the parishioners.

On the same day, FVNK celebrated Deepavali holding its first Inter-Religious Meet of the academic year. Bishop Elias was the chief guest and spoke on the theme '**Sarva Dharma Sambhant**' along with speakers from various religions and each highlighted one point that all religions are to come together and work as one family.

Nanded: Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Gyan Mata Vidya Vihar



On 24th November, 2012 the ambience at Gyan Mata Vidya Vihar was filled with joy of celebration. It was not only our 'Annual Parents Day' but also an accomplishment of 25 years of Gyan Mata Vidya Vihar, Nanded. It was a unique celebration as the Founder Principal, Rev. Fr. K. Joseph MSFS, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Rt. Rev. Bishop Edwin Colaco of Aurangabad Diocese presided over the function. The Guests of Honour were former Principals and Managers whose contribution has taken this institution to greater heights. A 'Power-Point Presentation' showed glimpses of magnificent journey of the school taking the audience down memory lane and followed by

the cultural extravaganza '*EUPHORIA*' performed by students and musical drama on the theme '*To The Stars Through Difficulties*' to the applause of over 2000 parents, ex-students and well-wishers. Fr. K. Joseph MSFS and Rt. Rev. Bishop Edwin Colaco addressed the gathering. Fr. Melroy Almeida MSFS, the Principal, was felicitated on his silver jubilee of priestly ordination. His devotion to this mission was appreciated by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Edwin who presented a bouquet as a token of love and affection on behalf of the GMVV family.

- **Mrs Manthalkar**



Sisters of Helpers of Mary in Ambapani

On 16th December 2012, the Sisters of the Helpers of Mary were cordially welcomed to the Ambapani by Rev. Fr. Pradeep Kujur (Chancellor of the Rourkela Diocese) and Fr Bijay Kerketta MSFS Parish Priest, at the Thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration in the presence of Sr. Superior General, Sr. Provincial and their Council team.

The members of the new community 'Samarapan Bhavan' are Sr. Manisha, Superior, Sr. Swati and Sr. Poonam.



SFS Youth Gathering in Ambapani

Under the Co-ordinatorship of Fr. Lazarus Soreng MSFS, St. Joseph's Church, Ambapani, organized Fransalian Youth Gathering of the three MSFS parishes of Ambapani, Raidihi and Panderpalli with 150 participants besides the parishioners giving their help for the success of the event. The gathering was splendid and Superb and with lots of activities and programmes. The day was begun with the

Holy Eucharist followed with various programmes that included Carol Singing and Dance competitions.

- **Dn. Paul Varambinakam MSFS**

Bhumi Pujan in the Inter- Religious Colony, Khamgaon

Fransalian Vidya Niketan Khamgaon was glad by the visit of our Rev. Fr. Jacob, Provincial Superior, on 2nd December 2012. The Fransalian Social Centre has an Inter-Religious colony near Jaipur Lande Village. Some 40 houses were made by the founder late Fr P.V. Joseph for the poor and homeless belonging to all religious traditions. For a long time our colony did not have a proper shelter for the children for their supervised evening study, inter-religious prayers, meetings and to attend Holy Mass. On the occasion of Provincial's visit, he laid the foundation stone for a big shed as well as for the Grotto. Thanks to our donors and benefactors for this project. **- Fr. Christuraja, MSFS**

Christmas with Prisoners and Non-Christians in Khamgaon

Fransalian Vidya Niketan Khamgaon, a center for Inter-religious Dialogue and Social work celebrated Christmas in an innovative way. On 23/12/2012 in collaboration with Missionaries of Charity Akola, St Ann's Akola, St Ursulines' Akola, celebrated Christmas with 550 prisoners in Akola Central Jail. For the prisoners it was, indeed, a day of joy and happiness. Most of them for few hours forgot that they were prisoners. Some of them cried when we embraced and wished them. Even the authorities in the Jail too had the experience of God and shared the joy with us. They said "Aap logone sach much Ishwar ko prithwipar laya aur hum ko Dikaya". Praise the Lord!



Regent's Meet 2012

Regent's Meet was held in Divya Jyothi Ashram, Latapara, from 5th – 6th December 2012 guided by Fr. Noel Rebello, General Councilor-in-charge of formation, Fr. Joe Denis, Councilor-in-charge of formation, and Fr. Lazarus Soreng, the resource person. Regents shared their experiences. Inputs were given to overcome negative relationships and to develop them into positive ones through: Knowing one's way of life; Knowing one's identity with God; Removing all the superficial factors; Feeling the importance of human life; Living for others; Following Christ, the Perfect and Master Artisan; and by focussing on the 3 Ds: Discovery, Discernment and Development. **- Br. Melchie Sadek MSFS**

585 students stage Parents' Day at SFS School, Seraikella

Annual Parents' Day was celebrated on 22nd December with great pomp and felicity. Mr. Upendra Kumar, IPS, SP of Seraikella-Kharswan was the Chief Guest, Mrs. Manu Jha, the First Lady of the district was our Guest of Honour. Students performed variety of items on the stage that enthralled the audience. All the 585 students of the school were on the stage. English drama, South Indian fusion dance and Mime were the attractions of the day. Prizes were given to students excelled in academics in 2011-12. No other event in Seraikella pulls crowd of such magnitude than SFS Annual Day.



Foundation Stone laid at SFS School, Seraikella



The foundation of the new school building of St. Francis De Sales School, Seraikella, Jharkhand was blessed on 26th December 2012 by Fr. Edwin Coelho, Dean of Chaibasa and the foundation was laid by Rev. Sr. Alzira AC, Principal, Carmel School, Ranchi. Fr. Richard, the Manager of the School, Fr. Vincent, Fathers and Sisters from

nearby communities, SFS staff and students were present at the occasion. The new building will consist of ten class rooms, three science laboratories, an examination hall, a computer lab, two staff rooms and a school office. Taking into consideration the dire need for the infrastructural development of the school, the Provincial administration permitted the school to go in for the construction of a school building with financial help from DFS, Delhi. The plan has been approved and the contract was given to 'Azores Infrastructure (Pvt) Ltd.' Ranchi.

- Fr. Shijumon

Mangalath MSFS

Final Profession and Diaconate

The final profession of Bros. Arulraj Joseph and Arun Ekka was held on 28th December 2012 at 6 p.m.



at Fransalian Seminary, Pune. The celebrants were Fr. Vincent Lourdusamy MSFS, Provincial of Pune, Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhiyil MSFS, Provincial of Nagpur, Fr. Daiy Sebastian MSFS, Rector of Fransalian Seminary and priest confreres from Pune Apostolic Community. Twelve scholastics made their final commitment and Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhiyil received them. The parents and relatives of all the finally professed members were also present for the occasion. The event concluded with a short felicitation programme.

The Diaconate Ordination was held on 29th December 2012 at 11 a.m. in Christ King Church, Sainikwadi, Pune. The main celebrant was Rt. Rev. Dr. Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Pune. The provincials of Pune and Nagpur Provinces, Priests and Religious from the JDV campus and nearby communities along with parents, relatives and friends graced the occasion. After the Holy Eucharist there was a short felicitation for the Bishop, the two Provincials, the Rector and the newly ordained with their parents. Along with Dn. Arulraj Joseph MSFS I thank Fr. Jacob for his presence and for all confreres for your prayerful support.

- Dn. Arun Ekka MSFS

Transfers & Appointments

Fr David Paul is appointed to the Fransalian Community, Panderpalli.

Fr Pradeep Tirkey is designated to be appointed as Finance Administrator at Ranchi Medical College Project w.e.f 30.01. 2013

Fr Kuldeep Kiro is appointed to the Fransalian Community, Panderpalli and designated to be appointed as Asst Parish Priest of St Francis de Sales Church, Panderpalli w.e.f 30.01. 2013

Dn Hilarus Tirkey is appointed to the Fransalian Community, Latapara as Minister at Divya Jyoti Ashram, Latapara and Diaconate Ministry at SFS Church, Panderpalli w.e.f 30.01. 2013

We Pray For

Mary Chettiar, age 88 years, mother of Fr Vincent Chettiar, passed away on 24.11.2012

Mathew Chalil, age 80, brother-in-law of Fr Thomas Vadakumpadam, passed away on 01.12.2012

Peter Pandit, age 55, uncle of Br. Anil Pandit, passed away on 01.12.2012

Fr. Anthony Fernandes aged 94 of Pune Province, passed away on 03.12.2012

Marianus Xalxo, elder brother of Fr Barnabas Xalxo and brother-in-law of Fr Alex Tigga, passed away on 15.12.2012

Fr James Nedungatt MSFS, age 57, East Africa Province, passed away on 17.12.2012

Mrs Annamma, age 80, sister of Fr Cyriac Velikettel, passed away on 28.12.2012

Fr Lourance Thadathil, age 34, East Africa Province, passed away on 08.01.2013

Fr Devasia Kuzhuppil, age 88, South Wes India Province, passed away on 12.01.2013

Provincial's Itinerary:

19th – 24th January Nagpur

25 th January	Visitation of Provinciate
26 th January	Visitation of Tuman Mission
01 st – 16 th February	General Chapter at Hyderabad
17 th & 18 th February	Pilgrimage to Yanam and Vizag
19 th February	Visa Formalities
28 th February	General Body Meeting at Janakpuri
04 th – 16 th March	Mozambique
17 th March	Nagpur
21 st – 22 nd March	PCM

Salesian Thought

We should really live in this world as though our spirit were already in heaven.

- St. Francis de Sales

Yours Fraternally



Fr Jacob Karamakuzhyil MSFS
Provincial Superior