

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



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CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

7th September 2011

My Dear Confreres

I greet you in the peace and love of Our Lord Jesus Christ.



September is a month special to Fransalians all over. Our Devotion to Mother of Compassion and celebrating Founder's Day this month is synonymous with our name and identity.

Devotion to Seven Sorrows of Our Lady is a Fransalian devotion passed on to us by our founding Fathers. The title "Our Lady of Sorrows" focuses on Mary's intense suffering during the passion and death of Christ. We are called to meditate upon her Seven Dolours, the Seven Swords, that pierced the heart of Mary. This feast is dedicated to Mother Mary to share in her sufferings that she experienced at the death of her divine son, Jesus. In her suffering as co-redeemer she reminds us of how she withstood the tremendous evil of sin. As we celebrate this feast may we strengthen our devotion and reverence to our Mother. Let us pray for the spirit of her perseverance and compassion. I wish all of you a happy feast of our Mother of Compassion.

Fr. Peter Mermier- The Fervent among the Fervent.



Life of Fr. Peter Mermier as a Seminarian in the House of Franciscan Friars is very inspiring. His superiors recognised in him a soul over which God had great designs. They honoured him with their confidence and gave him the charge of supervision of one of the study halls for he was 'fervent among the fervent.' The fervour of Fr. Mermier was interior and discreet as an animator of piety, work and behaviour from where blossomed his living faith in his love for his vocation and for God. Canon Bernex, a fellow student, recalled the edification he received in seeing Peter Mermier pouring out his soul before the sanctuary in an attitude of recollection and respect and with great expression of feeling. Fr. Guillet, his superior and spiritual director, exerted a decisive influence on Peter Mermier, not only for his deep and communicative piety, but also for his austerity in turning everything against self, poverty which is truly evangelical, perfect dignity and an exquisite goodness. It was from Fr. Guillet that Fr. Peter Mermier earnestly contemplated the beauty and grandeur of the priesthood. Thirty years later on 21st September 1842 on

the feast of St. Mathew, the Apostle, Fr Peter Mermier wrote: "I had the happiness and consolation of celebrating the sacred Mysteries in the chapel of major seminary of Chambéry, at the spot where the precious remains of Fr. Guillet, my former superior and director of the seminary rests. It is here that God of all goodness had offered and granted me so many graces. It is here that he gave me such wise

and good masters and the most Fervent and exemplary seminarists as friends.” Another formator admired was Fr Joseph Rey, a man with full of zeal and the wonderful talent of eloquence. The intimate contacts of these two souls were providential. It was in the plan of God that the fervent seminarist would become the founder of a congregation and the fervent preacher would become the Bishop of Annecy and give his canonical approbation for the newly founded Congregation. **(Fr Peter Mermier by Jean Rey MSFS)**

The life history, writings, vision statements of our first Superior General, Fr. Peter Mermier, should imbibe and move in us the spirit of his missionary intent, the historical plan for parish missions, overseas mission and the education of the young, particularly, at a time, when the General Administration is attempting to galvanize the whole congregation for an introspection of our vocation and a renewal of our missionary mandate appealing to each one of us to be mystics of God’s love in preparation for the 19th General Chapter. We owe our identity, charism and our ideals of community living to our beloved founder. Let us grow in deeper intimacy with Fr. Peter Mermier as we celebrate Founder’s Day on 30th September. I suggest celebrations on our Founder’s Day involving people thus making our founder known to our neighbourhood. I wish you all a meaningful spirit-filled happy Founder’s Day.

Preparations for the 6th Provincial Congress cum Retreat from 24th to 29th October 2011 is underway. The Steering Committee is constituted of all confreres of the three communities in Nagpur headed by Fr. Joe Denis as the Chief Co-ordinator. As per our practice, the last three days are kept apart for the Retreat. This year, we are having the Constitutional Retreat on Community which will be animated by Fr. John Karondukadavil, msfs and Fr. Regi, msfs of the North-East Province. It is imperative and our constitutional obligation to make our annual retreat in all earnestness for our spiritual renewal which will facilitate our personal growth, consequently the betterment of the mission entrusted to each one of us. May I request each confrere to make all efforts to stay until the last day of the retreat and not to plan for leaving early unless there is an extra-ordinary situation. The questionnaire-Answers will have to be sent by all the Apostolic Communities as per the date prescribed in the last circular. Confreres who are far off and can’t arrange meetings due to distance should individually send their reply to the Questionnaire. Prayer to the Holy Spirit is to be recited for the success of the 6th Provincial Congress.

Second Ballot for the delegates for General Chapter: Very Rev Fr Superior General has extended the time for the second ballot to ensure that all our confreres working in USA, Germany and Switzerland are fully involved in the election process. I request all the confreres to cast their votes and send the ballot to the Office of the Provincial immediately after receiving it.

Superiors and heads of Institutions/ Societies are here by reminded to send your accounts/ audited statements latest by 15th September to the office of the Provincial Bursar. The Province Account is to be collated to be sent to the General Bursar.

Regensburg, Germany: Frs. Anish and Michael are keeping well and getting used to the German way of life. They are open to changes and corrections, so it is going on rather well. Every day I have arranged for them different practices with different people in different families and it helps them to be fluent in language and, also, it is the best method of getting to know their culture and traditions. Both of them are already able to celebrate Mass in my parish. They will be with me till 15.09.2011 and they will move to their respective parishes. We visited the Parish where Fr. Anish will be appointed. He is lucky to get a very good parish priest from the diocese of Kottar. He has got also a very good apartment. I am still waiting to get an appointment with the parish priest of Fr. Michael. Since he is on holidays it will take some more days. I am happy that they are here with me and it is also a good time for me to live again in a MSFS Community. - **Fr. Thomas Chozhithara, msfs**

Neemuch: A seminar for women on ‘Health and Hygiene’ was organised on the occasion of the Independence Day of our nation at SFS School. The resource person, Dr. Sr. Ancy, SABS empowered

them to cultivate habits that can make women healthier and vibrant with topics on, “a healthy diet, upbringing of children, dos’ and don’ts in personal hygiene.” They raised questions regarding health, find solutions for problems which otherwise would have been misguided and do away with wrong ways of handling new born, etc. The seminar gave women an opportunity to come out of homes to meet and interact with other women. The seminar gave the school a name they can bank on social issues and as children themselves said, ‘Home outside Home.’ ‘Plant Trees, Save Mother Earth’ was the motto of this year’s ‘*Hariyali Diwas*,’ which was celebrated on August 5th. SFS school campus was beautified by planting three hundred and more plants. The children were encouraged to cultivate love for mother earth and they planted saplings . The enthusiasm of the children was infectious as the school staff became ‘persons with green hands’ encouraging all to handle Mother Earth and her resources with care. - **Fr. Issac John, MSFS**

Nanded: SFS Church, Nanded, was in festive mood on 21st August 2011 as it was the Silver Jubilee Celebration of Rev. Fr. Jose Parampukattil, the Parish Priest. Bishop Edwin Colaco presided over the Eucharistic Celebration along with the Jubilarian Fr. Jose and the concelebrants were Rev. Fr. George Parampukattil (General Councillor for Education), Rev.Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhiyil (Provincial, Nagpur Province) and priest confreres from Nagpur, Aurangabad, Jalna, Himayatnagar, Kinwat and Nanded in the presence of Religious Sisters, Brothers, parishioners and friends of Fr. Jose. Holy Mass was offered for the well-being of the Jubilarian and the choir helped one to feel the presence of God intimately. Bishop Edwin spoke of the good qualities of Fr. Jose and thanked God for the gift of Fr. Jose especially for his service in the diocese of Aurangabad. At the felicitation programme all the distinguished guests were honoured with a bouquet and shawl. A short biography of Rev. Fr. Jose Parampukattil read out by one of the parishioners and brought out the good work done by him at various mission stations. Fr. Jacob, the Provincial recalled his experiences as he felicitated Fr. Jose. Fr. Jose thanked God for his blessings and prayed to continue to protect and guide him in all his endeavours. He thanked all who were present and very specially the parishioners of Nanded for making this day a memorable one. - **Fr. Anthony Amaldoss, msfs**

Nagpur: On 29th August 2011 evening the Nagpur Apostolic Community had a very beautiful and meaningful Month’s Mind Prayer Service of our dear departed Bro. Rana Pratap Minj. The prayer service was held in the Provincialate Chapel. It was well organized by the Provincialate Community. The service began with brief life history of Bro. Rana Pratap, followed by the Office for the Dead, prayers of the faithful, paying homage by offering flowers and concluded with a prayer by Fr. Provincial. On the 30th August 2011, the month’s mind mass was celebrated in each community and we visited his grave to offer floral tributes and prayers. **Fr Ranjit Tirkey**

Amravati: On 31st August 2011 at 11.00 a.m. the Month’s Mind Mass for Bishop Joe was celebrated at St. Francis Xavier Cathedral, Amravati, with Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhiyil, msfs, as the main celebrant together with 30 priests of Amravati Diocese and Fransalians from Nagpur, Badnera, Khamgaon and Buldana. The Cathedral was full with religious and faithful of the diocese gathering to pay their respects to their beloved late Bishop Joe Rosario. **Fr Ranjit Tirkey**



St. John’s Primary School Nagpur: Inauguration Function of the New Computer Lab and Library: As the world is developing at a rapid speed at the click of a button through technology, isn’t it a challenge to us all to equip the future generation? Yes, the students of today are the future leaders of tomorrow. Thus on 29th Aug’ 2011, a new computer lab with 30 computers and a library with an

addition of around 1000 new books were inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Jacob the Provincial and the new President of the Fransalian Education Society. In the presence of our honoured guests the program began by lighting the traditional lamp followed by a prayer service. During the blessing the students sang the hymns 'Ashish dena hey Prabh' and 'Showers of blessing'. The provincial Fr. Jacob in his inaugural address emphasized that the students are not just bare articles or vessels to be filled but buds blooming who have to be nurtured with the latest techniques and information. The Management was highly appreciated with love gratitude for the keen interest that they always show towards the benefit of the students. The management was thanked by the students for their gesture of love and concern. The function was held in the presence of Principal Fr. Muthuswamy, Manager Fr. Joe Denis, Rev. Fr. Sebastian the former Provincial, Headmistress Sr. Elvira, well wishers, teachers and students. –

Ms. Shamim I. Jordan

Catembe, Mozambique:

On 10th August 2011 Archbishop Francisco Ximoio with his Auxiliary Joao Carlos Nunes installed Fr. Paul Gonsalves and Raju Minj as Parish Priest and Asst. Parish Priest during the evening Eucharistic Service. The church was full and the liturgy was lively. Parishioners brought various dishes and we had a great feast. The Bishops had to leave early but not before cutting a huge cake prepared by the parishioners.

On 18th August the Legion of Mary Movement in the Parish officially adopted Fr. Raju and me as their sons. It was a symbolic gesture to help us get over our homesickness.

On 18th August the District Administrator visited CHALI our Bairro (Ward). He was impressed with our (Fathers') work and our participation in the progress of the Ward, our work with the youth and especially with the Escholinha (preschool/Nursery/creche) we run in the Church Campus was noted and appreciated.

On 20th August the Secretary of our ward promised to offer a land to the Congregation to start an Orphanage for Boys.

On 28th August after a span of 35 years the Feast of Our Lady of Health was celebrated. Mr Jose Cunha, a veteran Portuguese was warmly felicitated as he was responsible for the construction of the church. Fr Domingos who did his pastoral work as a theologian celebrated his first mass in Catembe, solemnizing the feast day.

The Parish Youth have responded well to the guidance and direction. They have participated in vigils and processions and now are voluntarily repairing the roof of the Presbytery and will also paint it. On 4th September Fr. Raju has taken over as spiritual director of the youth of the Parish. - **Paul G, msfs**

Fr. Francis Venmenikattayil arrived back in India on 27th August 2011. He returned after 10 years of pastoral ministry, mandatory to all those who are working in the 1st world countries. He is appointed to the Community at Badnera. Nagpur Province is immensely indebted to him for his great assistance. Besides his salary, he mobilized resources in numerous ways for our various projects in India and Mozambique by his persistent efforts, personal charisma and, above all, his love for the province, confreres and mission. The Provincial Administration expresses its heartfelt gratitude to him for taking care of the confreres, their needs especially at the initial stage of their work in Germany. We extend a hearty welcome to Fr. Francis and wish him God's blessings.

Fr Sebastian Annaikandathil will return to our Mozambique mission. His appointment is changed considering the shortage of priests and demand of the mission in Mozambique.

Congratulations to:

- Fr. Emil Tirkey for his thesis "Tribal Spirituality - A Salesian Perspective" from IIS, Bangalore. Fr Emil secured 81.5 % marks.
- Fr. Stephen Soares for starting his pastoral works as Asst Pastor in the Diocese of Louisiana, USA
- Fr. Thomas Kuttiankal for reviving his skills in counselling at Montfort, Bangalore

- Fr. Anish George and Fr. Michael Raj for their appointment as Asst Pastors in the Diocese of Regensburg, Germany
- Fr. Ranjit Tirkey and Br. Ranjit Lakra to be at the service of the faithful of Mozambique.

Pray for:

Fr. Ignatius Anthony of Nagpur Archdiocese who went to his heavenly home 14th August 2011
 Fr. Thomas Vadakumpadam who restored his circulation through angioplasty surgery
 Fr Jose Parampukattil who will have to undergo surgery for prostate gland
 Bro Rajendra Toppo's mother who is unwell.

Please Note: Change in telephone number and addresses

Fr. Allen Gonsalves, msfs, new contact number is 08826882729.

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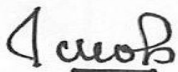
Ashishi Jails Lakra a second year Theologian from Shillong and Udaykumar Kalangi a student of third year Philisophy have decided to leave the Congregation

Salesian Thoughts:

The correction meted out to a child by his father in a gentle and loving manner will have a more beneficial results than correction made in a fit of frenzy and anger.

- Pg. 140, Sourcebook-Salesian Spirituality, Fr. Noel Rebello, msfs

Yours devotedly in Christ,



Fr.Jacob Karamakuzhiyil, msfs
 Provincial Superior