

# MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



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CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

03.09.2013

## My Dear Confreres

I greet you in the peace and joy of Christ

## Devotion to Mother of Compassion is to be closer to Jesus



This month is important for us because of Mother of Compassion. St John's Community is getting ready for the last day of Novena to celebrate this important Fiesta befitting of our tradition. When our founding fathers accepted Mother of Compassion as our special patroness they added to the devotion of the mother the most outstanding attributes of her endurance of sufferings, the pain of not only losing her only son but witnessing his tragic end. The spirit of this very act of asking us imbibe the principle of suffering is make us move closer to the crucified Christ, through a life of complete surrender like his mother and to be more ready to suffer the consequences of standing for the values of love, justice, peace and reconciliation. Our Constitutions underlines that through her closeness to Christ and by her perfect discipleship she becomes the model for our closeness to Christ and our discipleship. So the emphasis is our closeness to Christ and our discipleship. Our Constitutions elaborates it further that Mother of Sorrows remind us to be constantly compassionate so that our commitment to Christ, to His church and to the values of His Kingdom finds expression in our daring apostolic commitment even at the cost of our own lives. Only when we identify ourselves with the sufferings of Humanity do we share in the attributes of Mother Mary. Therefore, this devotion

should affect our closeness to Christ, our discipleship and our ministry in standing by those who need our love and care. My dear Confreres let us first and foremost understand what is expected of us by this special devotion to the Mother of Compassion. I wish each one of you all the joys of this feast. Happy Feast of Mother of Sorrows! I will be in Nagpur for the feast and shall concelebrate with the Archbishop at the Mass in St John's.



## Founder's Day, an occasion to imbibe his Missionary Zeal for Evangelization

This month is also marked for our Founder's Day. We honour on this day the tallest personality of our Congregation who gave us the direction and path of life for evangelisation, religious life and ministry. The most important word he ever uttered was **I want**

**Mission** in the true spirit of the Universal Missionary Church. The entire General Chapter was centred on that clarion call of our founder from which sprang into being all our missionary undertakings in the past and present. “God set his heart on fire with passion for Mission.” These are some of the phrases we often hear to evoke the missionary zeal among our members. He had given up his regular Parish Ministry for specialized renewal of faith. His ardent love for God and his Mission made him venture into new possibilities of Ministry. This is what he taught us. On Founder’s Day let us remember him by being true to his call to be Missionaries for the Church and Congregation. He has given us a model in the person of St Francis de Sales to imbibe his missionary spirit as well as his spirituality. As we approach Founder’s Day it will be more fitting if we deepen our knowledge of our founder and make attempts follow the path which he directed us in our Community living, ministry and very especially in the renewal of the faith of our people which was dear to his heart. I wish each one of you a happy Founder’s Day. Let this be an occasion to make attempts to strengthen our missionary zeal and commitment.

## **Woe to me if I don’t preach the Gospel**

The above quoted words of St. Paul the Apostle is fitting in the context of our General Chapter and our entry into the new missionary territory of Jharkhand State. “Go into the world and preach the Gospel to the whole creation”, is the mandate of the risen Lord to his disciples before returning to his Father. This commissioning of Jesus constitutes the essential mission of the church. Evangelical works is the grace and vocation of the church and has its identity from such works over the years. Our proclamation of the Good News not only by the preaching of the word received from the Lord but also by the witness of life drawn from the witness of disciples to faith, hope and love. “The purpose is transforming humanity from within and making it new.” “In and through the only son the relations of people with God, one another and the whole creation will be renewed.” The word of God will contribute to the interior transformation of all people of good will whose hearts are open to the Holy Spirit’s action. This is our faith; this is our apostolic tradition which gives us the mandate to go in to the world. Our founder was very receptive to this call of Christ which made him give up his parochial ministry for the proclamation of the word. This is the reason that we are in Mozambique and that we are in search of such evangelisation works in Jharkhand.

## **Go out of city and go into the periphery of the society**

In the circular of Rev. Fr. Superior General (sgmsfs AB2), it is one of the four invitations given to us, reminding us the spirit of the clarion call of the General Chapter. It is reminding us of our missionary mandate to go into the outer limits of society, to go to the edge of society, to the people for whom our services are most needed. We are warned, cautioned against our pre-occupation with the governance of our schools, parishes, apostolic works, specialised ministry and institutions at the cost of our most important charism. “Your vocation is an essential charism for the journey of the church and it is not possible that a consecrated woman and consecrated man not feel along with the church” **Pope Francis**.

Fr. Peter Mermier’s passion for mission is very much in line with the missionary spirit of the universal church, which is handed over to us. Rev. Fr. Superior General suggests to relive our charism, to relive this passion for mission, to place our MSFSness at the centre of our apostolates. We are not meant to replace the state and its welfare schemes but we must be evangelical in our life and ministry. The vow of poverty in consecrated life must move us towards the periphery of society and embrace the cause of the poor “Theoretical poverty does not do anything. Poverty is learned by touching the flesh of the poor Christ in the humble, the poor, the sick and in children” **Pope Francis**.

Our reluctance to go to the periphery of society is our reluctance to be a missionary, reluctance to be in possession of our charism and reluctance to live the passion for the mission of our founder. I share these reflections in continuity of what we have been speaking on the orientation of General Chapter 2013 in the light of our missionary venture into the dioceses of Ranchi and Dumka.

## **Banji Kandor and Jaratoli Missions - MSFS attempt to go back to its roots**

It was my maiden trip to the new two mission centres in Jharkhand from 27<sup>th</sup> July to 1<sup>st</sup> August ever since four of our confreres started working there. Jharkhand is one of the most backward underdeveloped and poor state in India. The recent report issued by the World Bank has identified Jharkhand as one of the most poverty-stricken states in India. Banji Kandor Mission is in Sahibganj District, which has a railway junction, and Kolkata is just 6 hours away. The ministry of Panchayati Raj has named Sahibganj as one of the country's 250 most backward districts. It is receiving funds from the backward regions grant fund programme. As per 2011 census, this district has the population of 11,50,038 people. The distance between Dumka and Sahibganj is 115 km. However, it is a 3 hour journey by four-wheeler and twelve hour journey to the capital city of Ranchi by train. There is no public road transport system in the area but there are small vehicles plying short distances by private individuals owned mostly by migrants expanding their business of transport.

### **The receptivity of faith in Bhanji Kandor**

This mission station is nearly 24km away from the Sahibganj. The Parish Priest of Sahibganj extended his mission work to the nearby villages of Santals who welcomed him and accepted the faith. The regular visit of the priest, ultimately, gave birth to a new mission centre. The people donated a small piece of land where they built a hut and gathered there for Sunday mass. Being moved by the good



response of the Santals, a small piece of land was purchased for the church in 1983. In 2008, the Bishop of Dumka declared Banji Kandore to be a separate Mission Centre with a resident priest. After 4 years of work by diocesan priest, the mission is handed over to us for better development and effective evangelisation works. Fr. Shantwan Khutekar and Fr, Silbester Xalxo reached the mission on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2013.

Banji Kandore MSFS mission comprises of 84 villages in 6 sub-centres with 4,000 practicing Christians and with many catechumens. The receptivity of faith is the speciality of the place.

People moved by the love and care of the missionaries want to liberate themselves from the influence of belief in superstitions and evil spirit, etc. For 4000 practicing Christians in this parish, all what we have is a multipurpose hall of around 2000 sqft which overflows with people on Sundays. This multipurpose hall is also the school and the boarding. There are 71 children staying in the boarding out of which 23 are girls. So this new centre has a church, school and boarding without any structures worth mentioning. The existing school constructed by the diocese is seen on the photograph. However, the school is private and the fee charged per child is Rs. 30 per month. One will have to find sponsors for those who are not able to afford such fees. The boarding fee is 20-kilos of rice per month based on the principle that grain is provided which the parents of the child would have used at home to sustain the children. ( **the multipurpose hall is above in the photograph**)

### **Primary Education by Hook or Crook**

In this interior part of Jharkhand State, catholic schools have no visibility in terms of name and fame compared to similar institutions in urban and semi-urban areas for quality education. It is the question of primary education to first generation learners. No one is waiting for big infra-structures to start schools but whatever is available is simply made use. In one of the schools I visited being run by Jesuits, the principal told me that they have around two hundred boarders most of them Santal boys irrespective of any faith, accommodated with no separate building but they sleep in the classrooms at night. They have the freedom to sleep in the classroom or in the corridor or anywhere within the



school building. In another centre, the boarders use the parish church as study and sleeping rooms. No admission is denied on any reason. This school I visited has average 150 students in a classroom. Students are comparatively over-aged. This school has 180 students in the pre-primary class. Here the education is all about reading, writing and arithmetic. If anyone happens to see this classroom situation, it may be termed as child right violation. One missionary priest who is running an NGO of local people said he is running seven schools in seven villages. Classes are conducted in make shifts tents or temporary building erected by local people on their own land. Administration of the schools are in the hands of people themselves. It is amazing to see Catholics with its microscopic presence in the country in a big way leading the educational scenario with no assistance from the state in any form. Primary education is conducted in a war footing manner. Therefore, education has to be given utmost priority by our Missionaries at Bhanji Kandore Mission. We cannot wait for facilities like internet and all other structures to start our work. All centres and institutions have a humble origin. These centres at Jharkhand take us to our roots and they are our Jubilee gift to our congregation. ( **The new MSFS school in Banji Kandor Mission in the photograph**)

## Jaratoli Mission in Ranchi Diocese



The credit to venture into Jaratoli mission under Ranchi Archdiocese goes to Fr. Mario D'Souza who took up our case with Cardinal Telesphor Toppo. I express our gratitude not only for facilitating our entry in the archdiocese, but the initial help of setting up the house and making it possible for our members to stay there. It was the sub-centre of Ulhatu Parish around 27 kilometres away from Ranchi City. Ulhatu Parish is around 12 kilometres from Jaratoli. This centre has a spacious church already built with a brand new

presbytery like a formation house. During my meeting with the cardinal, he said Jaratoli needed a resident priest in view of possible evangelisation and education. Although Ulhatu has a catholic Hindi Medium school, it is too far for little children. A primary school is to be started. What is most striking is the handful of family at Jaratoli who treat the newly appointed missionaries with great love and reverence. Their loyalty to the church and love for people in consecrated life is commendable. Fr. Pradeep and Dn. Hilarus are staying in Jaratoli from the month of July. The centre is about 20 Kilometres away from public road transport. Electricity supply is yet to be properly stabilised. Mobile networks are available. Tuition classes are already being conducted for some occupation and work. Primary school is to be started.



Classes can be conducted in the church and presbytery. Having visited our new centres and stayed with our confreres, I have certain suggestions not only to them but all of us missionaries. (**the church and the presbytery is in the photograph**)

**Get acquainted with the faithful** Faith implantation and renewal of faith needs to be emphasised. First and foremost, get acquainted with our people who will be the source of our support in all the days to come. Know them by their names, visit them frequently and encourage them to continue with all their devotional practices already prevalent or introduce them to more such practices to strengthen their faith. Only when we know them, we will know where they stand in terms of their economic conditions, other difficulties, and the level of their faith. Jaratoli parishioners will soon be separated from their mother parish. It is required to inculcate in them a sense of unity as members of a new parish; so my advice to you is to go out of your way. Get acquainted with our people, know them and study them.

**To have mind-set of a missionary** We have heard many a time ‘when in Rome be a Roman’ we cannot desire to build a school like our Delhi school in Kandor mission. Our mindset should be that of a pioneering mission and who will have to study thoroughly the prevalent practices of evangelisation and the mode of conducting the educational programs. If there is a will, there is a way for everything. First and foremost, have the disposition of love for the poor and a strong desire for their upliftment, then, everything will fall in place.

**Give priority to Primary Education** One can see the great interest shown by the local church for education. No catholic institution is found anywhere without a boarding or an educational programme. Education is what matters in this part of Jharkhand. Do not wait for constructions immediately. However, the administration has taken various steps to support the mission with infrastructure. We will definitely build a reasonable school boarding and parish church. The bishop has promised to send invitations to sisters congregations for managing the boarding for girls. We have also requested him to send the draft agreement with regard to our collaboration in his diocese.

**Mobilize funds** Although financial aids are not forthcoming substantially like in the past, certain amount of help shall definitely come as Jharkhand is still considered to be backward and not developed in terms of education by funding agencies. Therefore, certain hours will have to be spent daily for project writing. We have appointed a project coordinator in the person of Fr. Ashok Antony who was called to the Provincialate and got trained to write projects. Avail his services to work for the poor in whatever way possible.

## **Installation of Fr. Petrus Kullu as Delegate Superior**

19<sup>th</sup> August was marked as Fransalian Day as the whole day was planned for different meetings and ending with the Installation of the Delegation Superior. At 09.00 am the orientations of the General Chapter was conducted jointly by Fr Sebastian and Provincial Fr Jacob Karamakuzhyil which ended by 04.00 pm in the evening. At 06.30 pm began the installation ceremony. It was a great moment of joy and pride for all Fransalians in Mozambique and for all those who are associated with us here to witness the installation of our first Delegation Superior. It was an occasion that gave the mission of the Lord a new identity in terms of juridical status. Rev. Fr. Petrus Kullu was installed as the first MSFS Delegation Superior of



Mozambique by Rev. Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhiyil, Provincial of Nagpur Province. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Provincial himself and concelebrated by all the MSFS priests working in Mozambique. In an emotionally charged atmosphere, true to the MSFS tradition the

installation ceremony was conducted. The religious communities of the neighbourhood and the Friends of Fransalians were invited for the function. The outgoing Mission Superior, Fr. Paul Gonsalves, in his homily, emphasized on the importance of allowing the Lord to wash/touch us so that we may be instruments of his service and become partakers and bearers in his ministry of leadership in total fidelity to him by service to our fellow brothers. After the homily Fr. Petrus Kullu professed his faith in God before his Major Superior and was installed as the Delegation Superior. A small felicitation ceremony was followed by the Eucharistic Celebration in which Fr. Provincial thanked Fr. Paul for shouldering the responsibility for three years as the Mission Superior of Mozambique. He congratulated Fr. Petrus and reminded the members that all of us need to respect our system of governance and mode of appointing our leaders because God has selected us. Speaking on the occasion Fr.



Petrus thanked all the benefactors for their fraternal affection and union. Fr Provincial was appreciated for his availability and love for Mozambique Mission. The short felicitation program was followed by dinner.

- **Jins Karakaadayil MSFS**

## **Rhythm of Leadership**



SFS School, Neemuch celebrated 67<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of our country with great gaiety. “Rhythm of Leadership” was the theme of the day, based on which speeches were made, cut-outs displayed, painting and colouring competitions held. The theme was befitting to the occasion since the school has already in place the SLS squad (Students’ Leadership Squad.) Students dressed up in House-Colour T-shirts represented Einstein House, Darwin House, Newton House and Galileo House

respectively, created an ambience of celebration and discipline. The students underwent a hectic two-week practice before their drill and cultural events’ display. The heavy downpour in the early hours of the day did not stop the Fransalians from standing erect to salute the National Flag. On the eve of Independence Day, the school conducted Fancy Dress Competition on freedom fighters to strengthen social awareness and instil the feeling of patriotism in the toddlers – the slogans ‘give me blood and I will give you freedom,’ and ‘Freedom is my birth right’ reverberated the memories of freedom fighters. The celebration started with unfurling the National Flag by Mr. V K Jain CA, former president, Lions Club, Neemuch, and followed by a display of motor skills in drill display. The Chief Guest in his address reiterated that India has come a long way since independence, has made Progress in Education and Technology rapidly. Students of Class IV who danced to the tune of patriotic songs and delivering fiery speeches on patriotism stunned the august gathering and especially teachers who trained them. Floral tributes by the honourable guests marked a finest expression of our respect for the freedom fighters who sacrificed their lives for the country. Students were awarded with prizes and certificates for competitions held from April in various curricular and non-curricular activities. The first issue of our annual magazine, ‘SFS SPANDAN’ on the theme, ‘Children, Light of the world’ was released on the same occasion.

- **Fr. Issac**

**Mankulathil MSFS**

### **Transfers:**

Fr Ranjit Tirky is appointed as the Delegation Bursar of Mozambique.

Fr Vincent Minj is appointed as the Office In charge of Mermier School Nagpur.  
Fr Johnson Parikkapally is appointed as the local Superior of Mermier Sadan Community Nagpur.  
Fr Rajesh Jayaseelan is appointed as the Parish Priest Bela Vista  
Fr Sebastian Annaikandathil is appointed as the Priest in charge of Ponte de Ouro  
Bro Melito Kalikokhame is appointed as the Regent of Ponte de Ouro, Bela Vista Parish.  
Fr Petrus Kullu is appointed as the Rector of Casa Fransalianum Matola, Mozambique.  
Fr Raju Minj is appointed as the Parish Priest of Mavila Parish Mozambique.  
Fr Ashok Antony is appointed as the Project writing Coordinator for the Province.

### **Change in the address**

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### **Congratulations to**

Fr. Manoj Tirkey and School Management for obtaining the recognition of SFS Jhajjar from the Department of Education, Haryana  
Fr. Wilson Adakkaparayil for all his efforts and success in getting the SJTI Complex regularised  
Fr Rijo Mechery, Fr William Antony and the Editorial Team for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Issue of 'Tarang'  
Fr Issac Mankulathil for the 1<sup>st</sup> issue of SFS SPANDAN from SFS School, Neemuch.

### **Hearty Welcome to**

Fr William D'Silva who served in Switzerland as a Pastor for ten years and is back in India and appointed Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church, Bhusawal.

### **Let us pray for**

**Fr. Prabhudas Kujur MSFS** who is undergoing treatment in Midas Hospital, Nagpur  
**Fr. George O'Sullivan MSFS** aged 83 of English Province passed away on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2013.  
**Mr PVAbraham**, the father of Fr Austin Pookkattuchalil passed away on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013.

### **Provincial's Itinerary**

#### **September**

03<sup>rd</sup> to 05<sup>th</sup> Sini-Seraikela

06<sup>th</sup> & 07<sup>th</sup> Dhyanashram, Varanasi  
09<sup>th</sup> Nagpur  
14<sup>th</sup> Tuman  
23<sup>rd</sup> Suvidya College, Bangalore  
24<sup>th</sup> Igatpuri for Province Retreat  
28<sup>th</sup> Nagpur

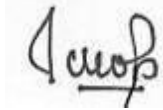
### October

02<sup>nd</sup> Superiors Forum Meeting, Nagpur  
06<sup>th</sup> Khamgaon  
08<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> Trichy, PIF  
11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> PCM, Nagpur  
14<sup>th</sup> Mission Forum Meeting  
16<sup>th</sup> Education Forum Meeting, Nagpur  
18<sup>th</sup> Formation Forum Meeting, Nagpur  
20<sup>th</sup> Innovative Forum Meeting, Nagpur  
21<sup>st</sup> & 22 Khamgaon  
23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> Bhusawal  
26<sup>th</sup> Pune - Diaconate  
28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> FTI, Aurangabad  
30<sup>th</sup> CIDCO, Aurangabad  
31<sup>st</sup> & 1<sup>st</sup> Jalna

### Salesian Thought

Make use of the virtue of prudence, because it is good, but make good use of it. Employ it only rarely, with simplicity, solely for the glory of God.

Yours Fraternally



Fr Jacob Karamakuzhyil MSFS  
Provincial Superior