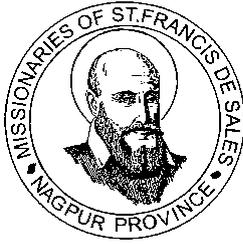


# MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



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CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

23.10.2013

## My Dear Confreres

### Pope Francis asks Church to shun worldliness



His Holiness Pope Francis made a pilgrimage to Assisi where his most revered Saint Francis of Assisi lived during the 12<sup>th</sup> century. He made a reference to the organisational structure of the church asking from priests to the Pontiff to emulate this Saint, whose simple values of poverty and love of nature have been acclaimed universally. Roman Catholic Church, from the lowliest to the pontiff himself, serve the poorest members of Society was his Mantra in Assisi. The appeal of the Pope, time and again, is the reiteration of the Christian principle of love for one's poor neighbour. It is an important demand put on us especially in a time when instances of financial and other abuses and scandals are confronted by the Church. "This is a good occasion to invite

the Church to strip itself of worldliness" he said in a room that marks the spot where Saint Francis stripped naked as a young man, renounced his wealthy family and set out to serve the poor. The heart of the matter, the bone of contention that conflicts with our religious identity is nothing but worldliness and Pope Francis comes out very clearly against it in all his utterances and speeches. He intended to inspire us. He said, "There is a danger that threatens everyone in the Church, all of us. The danger of worldliness. It leads us to vanity, arrogance and pride." Each one of us, as the members of the universal Church will have to sense this new emerging emphasis infused in us by the top most leader of the Church, mincing no words, urging in no uncertain terms, for all members of the clergy, regardless of rank, to spurn comforts and get out among the poor and needy. He has formed three committees to advise him on making the Vatican more transparent, particularly, in its financial dealings. False prophets always lead us to doom, false gods always make us change priorities and value system and conquer for itself a huge landscape by winning over many. Pope Francis is the light at the end of the tunnel, the hope of the dwindling religious spirit for revival, to discern our true identity as religious and priest, and to continue to live in the same spirit. Let the words of our beloved pope inspire us to live our lives in accordance with our religious call.

### Dhynashram, Varanasi: God's perfect abode

Dhynashram, Varanasi provides the ambience of God's natural environment with land yielding a hundredfold for the living. It is amazing to see and to refreshes one's mind and heart while taking a stroll in the limited two acre of ever-lush green land. There is someone who knows every plant, weed, creeper, livestock and birds by name, variety and their needs. He exhausts himself daily

tending these plants as per their needs. He is, none other, than the Novice Master whose passionate engagement with mother earth produces grains, vegetables, fruits, and pulses needed for the year. He is a rare species in the modern digital google world who silently tends every inch of this land making it productive and ever fertile in union with his novices connecting them with the earth, the creator God and conveying a powerful message to all of us. Learn to live by your own labour. Do not neglect and discard all that has the potential to produce. Indulgent world, please turn to mother earth for sustenance and source of life! Commitment in practical life is the first test to single-minded devotion to serve God. The eleven novices are cheerful and say proudly that prayer and work besides salesian studies have become an integral part of their life and enjoy it thoroughly. The well-planned rotation of crops makes the house self-sufficient in terms of food products for the whole year. The entire work is not done by novices alone. Certain neighbouring families are engaged for works like harvesting in exchange for cattle feed. Collective efforts to produce common assets are happening here. Every one works for everyone. It is, indeed, surprising that even in this season of incessant rain one would not spot a weed on the land. It is the miracle of the Novice Master, his assistant and the novices that is praiseworthy and merit the applause of all Fransalians. If one says, the head of the house matters, then the general culture of that house, orientations, etc. follows the head. Is it not true? A continuously cultivated land can suddenly become desolate and a wasteland with the change of person. We make things productive and we also make things unproductive. We are responsible for everything. Our Novitiate at Varanasi provides the all-needed environment required for a life of prayer, work and studies. They grow in the knowledge of the Congregation and its spirituality. The most striking emphasis is the integration in the vernacular, in terms of training in prayer, music and worship. Vernacular music and instruments adds greater serenity and environment to seek and be in the presence of God.

### **Seraikela School grows in Prominence**

ICSE School as desired by the Province is in the making in the much under-developed district town of Seraikela in Jharkhand State. Fr Shijumon Mangalath with his Regent, Bro Anil Pandit is the Principal of the School. There are around six hundred students on the role. The new school building construction is in progress, thanks to Delhi Fransalian Society. The much appreciated collaboration of the Sisters of the Daughters of St Francis de Sales is adding to the name and popularity of the school. The Sister's continuity is imperative for making Christian education more relevant and to launch out into various other welfare programs for the local population. There are, at the moment, three Sisters rendering their services to the school. They intend to have a hostel in the premises. The Fransalians have decided to lease out a certain amount of land to Sisters for residential and other purposes. This school has long back crossed its danger level and have risen to prominence. Now, it is required to evolve proper administrative and academic culture and to settle for the years to come. Affiliation is the pending problem to be achieved. With the construction of the new building, it will become easy to get such affiliation. The school has already obtained NOC from the State Government. There is a bright future for the school at Seraikela. Sini School is only at the primary level and once when students complete their classes at 5, they are expected to join Seraikela School. Fr. Arun Baby John is presently taking care of the academic supervision and Fr Richard Tirkey is the Parish Priest. The community is making efforts to get recognition for the primary school from the Government Department. The School has a good name and enthusiastic teachers and students.

## Rev Kishore Kumar Kujur installed as Bishop of Rourkela



The Episcopal Consecration of Most Rev Kishore Kumar Kujur as Bishop of Rourkela was held at the Cathedral Parish of Hamirpur on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2013. Priests, religious and faithful of the diocese were waiting for this gracious occasion for the last two and half years. The whole diocese was very jubilant at the announcement of the new Bishop which was evident by the participation of people at the installation. The Cathedral premises was filled with its capacity with 30 Bishops, 500 Priests, Religious Sisters and Brothers and more than one and half lac faithful. It was a grace-filled occasion of God's presence and bore testimony to the faith of people. His

Eminence Cardinal Telesphore Toppo, Archbishop of Ranchi, was the main celebrant on this auspicious occasion. A good number of parishioners and all MSFS priests working in Rourkela Diocese took part in the installation ceremony.

- Fr. BijayKerketta MSFS

## Annual Retreat: First Batch



Retreat 2013 took place in the Sahyadris amidst monsoon clouds and the Word of God for the first batch of Nagpur Province at Igatpuri, Maharashtra, from 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept to 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 2013 at the Dominican Retreat House aptly named Satyagiri, villa of truth. On the first day of retreat Bro Anthony Chalackal, the golden jubilarian and Frs. Kuldeep Kiro, Ashok Anthony, Paul Varambinakam and Sudhir Kujur newly ordained priests were

felicitated. Fr. Emmanuel Vattamattam profiled the life of Bro. Antony and his contribution to the Fransalian Family. Fr. Kulandai Raj on behalf of the Province felicitated our new priests. The ambience of Satyagiri and its surroundings were conducive to spend quality time in prayer and reflection for the 30-even participants. For most of us it was an experience similar to that of the Israelites at the foot of Mt. Sinai. Our sincere thanks goes to Fr. Justus Paul OP who exhorted the participants to remain close to the Word of God.

William Antony

## Province Forum Meetings

As per the schedule, all Province Forum Meetings were organized in the Provincialate. The meeting was chaired by the respective Councilor-in-charges. These meetings were held in preparation for the meetings to be held in February 2014 with the General Councilors in charge of the respective forums. Following are the brief reports of the same.

## Province Superiors Forum Meeting



The Local Superiors' Forum Meeting was on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2013 at MSFS Provincialate in which superiors of all 24 communities were present. The meeting began at 8.45 a.m. with a short prayer service led by Fr. KV Joseph. Fr. Wilson welcomed and introduced, Sr. Lorraine Delaney CSJ, Provincial Superior of Sisters of St. Joseph of Chambéry, as the resource person. She emphasised on the animation of groups by spiritual leaders. There were 2 sessions in the morning discussing in detail on various aspects of leadership in a religious community. A number of experiences on animation problems and difficulties were narrated. There were interactive session in which the Superiors expressed themselves on various difficulties and problems faced by them. The afternoon session was conducted by the Provincial. The day's program concluded with Mass presided by the Provincial and Fr Francs Venmanikattayil preached the homily. - **Fr Wilson**

## Province Mission Forum Meeting

The members of the Mission Forum met on Monday, 14th October 2013 at the Provincialate for their annual meeting. It consisted of 3 sessions – 9.00 to 10.30; 11.00 to 12.30 and 3.00 to 4.30 and concluded with Mass. The councilor-in-charge, Fr. Melroy Almeida, welcomed the members. The Provincial, Fr Jacob Karamakuzhiyil gave his introductory remarks.

Deacon Arun Kumar Ekka agreed to be the Secretary. By way of inspiration, the introduction of the Mission Policy was read. Then, the matter sent by Fr Agnelo Fernandes, General Councillor-in-charge of Mission, was discussed in view of the meeting to be held with the General Councillor on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> February 2014. All the members were actively involved in the deliberations. Fr Melroy Almeida was thanked for animating the sessions. He reiterated the same and hoped that all would be present for the next meeting and wished them God's blessings in the mission work undertaken by them. **By Fr Melroy**

## Province Education Forum Meeting

Education Forum Meeting was held on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at 9.00 a.m. at the MSFS Provincialate, Nagpur, with the opening remark by Fr. Provincial and the sessions were moderated by Fr. Manoj Turkey. The sessions were oriented towards discussion, discernment and evaluation of the implementation of the decisions taken in the joint meeting of the Provincial Curia with the General Curia in 2009. This was followed by discussion on the Statement and Action Plans of the Provincial Congress 2011 and the Directives on the Apostolate by the 19<sup>th</sup> General Chapter. Some key issues pertinent to our ministry of education were taken up and a few important decisions were made

keeping in mind the relevance of educational apostolate in the changing scenario in India. 18 confreres attended this meeting and through their active participation they have shown keen interest in implementing the guidelines laid down by the Congregation.

### **Province Formation Forum Meeting**



Formation Forum Meeting was held on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at the Provinciate Nagpur. There were nine participants. Basically, this meeting was a preparatory one for the meeting of the Formation Forum with the General Councillor scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> of Feb., 2014. The meeting were more of interactive one discussing various proposals and action plans made and finalized in the past. Several recommendations were made based on the personal experiences of the

members engaged in formation, which, if implemented, would make the formation programme more student centered and practical and vocation promotion more fruitful. The most urgent need of the hour is trained and committed Formators who must also be teachers. The meeting was well organized and the members participated wholeheartedly. The meeting ended with the solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Rev Fr. Provincial Jacob Karamakuzhyil. **Fr Paul V**

### **Province Social and Innovative Forum Meeting**



Innovative and Social Ministry forum meeting was held on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2013 at the Provinciate. Fr John Britto Muthuswamy, the councilor in charge welcomed Fr Provincial and all present in the meeting. He said that the coming together of all members once a year will always help us to motivate ourselves to do our ministry meaningfully and creatively according to the directives of the congregation. Fr Jacob addressing the members said that it is important to understand the expectations, we have made enough proposals to be

implemented. The sessions were jointly moderated by Fr Joseph Kailamangalam and Fr John Birtto Muthuswamy. The directives and action plans of the General Chapter and Provincial Congress was discussed. The suggestion of the last meeting to concentrate on two centres namely Himayat Nagar and Kamgaon was evaluated. Himayat Nagar is still to be achieved. The Chart prepared five years ago for all communities were evaluated and decided to update. The Meeting concluded at 04.00 pm, proposing the vote of thanks to the Chair by Fr John Brito Muthuswamy. **Fr. KV Joseph**

### **Promotion to Priesthood and Diaconate**

Having studied the application, confidential Reports of the Rector and the self-evaluations by the applicants the Provincial Administration has promoted Deacons Joseph Arulraj and Arun Kumar Ekka for priest hood.

The Provincial Administration has promoted Brothers Peter Thomas, Henry Peter, Sandeep Tirkey, and Anson K Abraham for the Order of Diaconate scheduled on 26<sup>th</sup> October 2013.

## **Quartoseptcentennial Jubilee Celebration.**

All Conferes are hereby reminded that our 175<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Celebration is being organized in Nagpur on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2013. A number of bishops from Central India are expected to participate in the celebrations. The Eucharistic Celebration will be at the SFS Cathedral followed by cultural program at St John's High School and dinner at Mermier Sadan. It is important that all our members participate in this Jubilee Celebration, kindly book your tickets on time.

## **The Stewardship Forum is reconstituted.**

The stewardship forum is reconstituted with the following members. Wilson Abraham (Convenor) John Carvalho, Johnson Parikappally, Saiju Vettukallel, Issac Mankulathil, William Anthony, Ignathi Kshirsagar, Peter Kujur, Nobit Kombanathottathil, Hilarius Tirkey, Bernabas Xalxo, Kuldeep Kiro, Anand Kullu, Bosco P. Ambros Minj The Province Stewardship forum meeting is scheduled on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2014.

## **The Vice Provincial Administration, USA**

The first Vice Provincial Congress of MSFS Vice Province USA was held from 26<sup>th</sup> August to 30<sup>th</sup> August at Fransalian Centre for Spirituality, Wellspring, Texas. The Congress was well attended by most of the permanent Members and the attached members. Fr Joseph Mullakkara and Fr Luke Kalarickal are elected Councillors and Fr Joseph Pottemmel the Bursar. Fr Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil and Fr Santy Kurian Kochupurackal were elected as Advisors from the attached members. On behalf of Nagpur Province, I wish the USA Vice Provincial Administration God's blessings in their ministry and efforts to strengthen the Congregation.

## **Hearty Congratulations to**

Rev Fr Antony Dharmaraj who is reappointed for a second term as the Provincial of South East India Province for a term of 3 years with effect from January 24, 2014.

Rev Fr George Panthanmackal who is appointed as the Provincial of North East India Province for a term of 3 years with effect from January 2014.

## **Please note the corrections**

### **Province Forum Meeting with General Secretaries before TMM**

Mission Forum	13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup> February 2014
Education Forum	15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> February 2014
Formation Forum	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> February 2014
Social & Innovative Forum	19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2014

## **Let us pray for**

Fr. Ignatius Puthur (Vishakapatanam Province) passed away at Mermier Bhavan, Vadakumcherry on October 2, 2013 at the age of 69.

Mr Dadarao Rauba Parkhe age 72, brother of Bro. John Parkhe who died on 28.09.2013

Mrs Virginina Kujur, age 82 years, mother of Fr. Sudhir Kujur who passed away on 18.10.2013

Mrs. Mariakutty sister-in-law of Fr. Kurian Chempalakunnel

## **Provincial's Itinerary**

### **November**

5<sup>th</sup>

Guwahati, CRI Seminar

11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup>	Shillong
13 <sup>th</sup> & 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mahima
15 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>	Janakpuri
17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>	Jhajjar
20 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>	Neemuch
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Nagpur
26 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup>	Kinwat
28 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	Nanded

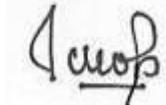
### **December**

1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Jalna
3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	FTI, Aurangabad
5 <sup>th</sup>	CIDCO, Aurangabad
7 <sup>th</sup>	Bhusawal
8 <sup>th</sup> & 9 <sup>th</sup>	Khamgaon
10 <sup>th</sup>	Nagpur
16 <sup>th</sup>	175 years celebration in Nagpur
18 <sup>th</sup> & 19 <sup>th</sup>	PCM, Nagpur
21 <sup>st</sup>	Seraikela

### **Salesian Thought**

Be careful and diligent in your affairs of which you are in charge, since God who entrusted them to you, desires that you take great care of them. But if it is possible, be not solicitous or anxious about them, that is, do not undertake them with restlessness, anxiety and eagerness.

Yours Fraternally



Fr Jacob Karamakuzhyil MSFS  
Provincial Superior