

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



NAGPUR PROVINCE

MSFS PROVINCIALATE

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JK-27

CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

07.04.2014

My Dear Confreres

I greet you in the spirit of Lenten observance of prayers, penance and reconciliation

It is in dying that we are born to Eternal life



Lent is the sorrowful journey to walk on the way of the cross for all Christians with the one whose body was broken and heart was pierced that we might have life, life in abundance. It is God's invitation to rise with the hope for resurrection from tombs of sinful attitudes. It is said that lent is the spring time of Christian life. So it is a journey towards new life. The end result of this journey of fasting, praying and good works, is nothing but resurrection. It is an occasion to intensely live Christ, to recall his words and deeds such as preaching the Good News to the Poor, giving sight to the blind, healing the sick, showing compassion to the marginalised and forgiving the enemies. His Message of peace and love did not go well with the influential elite class of Pharisees, High Priest and Scribes. The message of love above law was not accepted,

forgiveness of sins was not desirable, equality of human persons was not wanted, and freedom for the poor was not appreciated. The conflict resulted in conspiracy and finally the physical elimination. Thus Jesus of Nazareth was crucified by his own people. The Lenten season unfolds the mystery of that life perished and resurrected to give new life to all of us. It calls us for resurrection from unacceptable ways of life. On Lenten season Pope Francis said that Lent will teach us the wisdom of the cross to declare along with St Francis of Assisi "It is in giving that we receive. It is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal life" Let these words resonate within us and let us imbibe that spirit of Lenten observance and Easter as we are approaching the holy week. **I wish all of you my dear Confreres a spirit filled holy week services and Happy Easter**

The first ever Colloquium of our Mozambican Delegation

"It is mandatory that the Delegation Superior calls for a colloquium of all members at least once in three years to elicit their views and suggestions, and to ask for evaluation and recommendations as regards the delegation" (Gen Dir 295) It was a historic gathering of all professed members (except 3 from Arusha) of Mozambique Delegation to evaluate the past and to articulate future plans to be taken for the work of evangelisation by the MSFS in this part of the world to greater heights. The Colloquium began with a recollection talk given by Fr Silvio Sirico Francisco Anovo, Professor of St. Augustine Seminary, Matola, followed by Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Fr Jacob Karamakuzhyil who invoked the Spirit of God for assistance to make Mozambique Mission a vibrant one for the growth of the Church which he said necessitates commitment for mission from all. Soon after the Mass Fr Petrus Kullu, the Delegation Superior, warmly welcomed the members



and presented a paper on the animation of religious life of members and communities in the Delegation followed by interactions. All Parish Priests presented their reports on their pastoral experiences and activities and what parish mission work is actually taking place. Besides these reports, Fr Sebastian Annaikandathil presented a paper on formation of students and vocation promotion in Mozambique, Fr Paul Gonsalves on the prospects of educational apostolate in Mozambique, Fr Kailas Hiwale on the scope of innovative ministry in Mozambique and efforts made in this direction, and Fr Ranjit Tirkey updated the financial status of the delegation. The Delegation Assembly adopted a clear action-plan for time-bound implementation. The Provincial in consultation with the Delegation Superior is to specially constitute a team for the implementation of this action-plan. The Delegation Superior is duty-bound to submit a report on the implementation of this action-plan in the year 2017 at the end of his tenure. Two days Assembly ended on a pleasant note on a rainy day with lots of hopes and aspirations in the minds and hearts of the members. Most of them left the same afternoon to prepare themselves for Ash Wednesday.

Highlights of the Colloquium

Living and Dissemination of MSFSness



The first part of the deliberations dominated on the emphasis of the 19th General Chapter: The call to put on MSFSness. The very fact of our arrival from the distant mother land is the testimony of our missionary commitment inherited from the Founder himself. The call of 'I want Mission' is to be lived not merely existing as pious religious leading a regulated life alone but entering into prophetic ministry. Have we done it? A question was raised as to what is done to disseminate the spirituality special to MSFS among the faithful? Some members enumerated the steps taken to organize the faithful in this line by promoting popular devotion close to the heart of Fransalians. The MSFSness is nothing but the reiteration to live Salesian virtues. It is a reminder to go back to

our roots for evangelisation in the true charism of our Congregation. It is to live and make others live the faith as lived and desired by St. Francis de Sales, our dear Patron.

Escolinhas: a boon or bane?

It is the Portuguese name for the Pre Primary Schools run in all our Parishes and some sub-centres. There were contentions for and against establishing more of them. Some opined that Escolinhas will add to the liability of the Delegation. The stringent government rules make it all the more expensive to run. Lot of shopping is to be done. Fee culture is introduced only in two places which

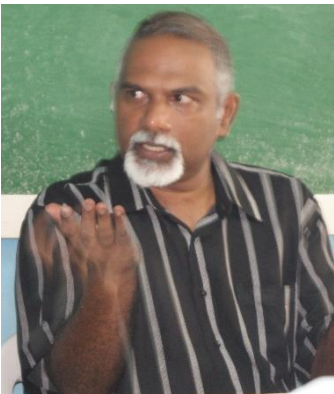


is not sufficient to run it. One member said that when he introduced 100 Mts Fee, number of students remained absent. Since then, he stopped insisting for any fees. The end result of starting so many of them will be huge strain on the mission to find resources as it is now totally dependent on the generosity of donors. However, some were of the opinion that it is the first stepping stone to acquire knowledge. Here the child learns the first alphabet. It orients parents to give education to their children. However, the general consensus was that it is the need of the hour and one cannot cry over the resources and deprive our children the most needed initiation for primary education. All parishes were encouraged to start Pre-Primary Schools in all sub-stations.

Sustenance of the Mission and the Missionaries.

On the question of developing the future Mission, majority were of the opinion that future undertakings should have the capability to sustain themselves and the missionaries. Some wondered how long we shall be dependent. How long will our Benefactors support us? Implantation of the Congregation shall be possible only if our centres have the potential to expand on its own. Is our time not running out for venturing into income generating programs? We are here also to work for our material needs. There were also counter arguments. Our presence is here for evangelisation. When we move towards institutions and resources for security, we are endangering our religious identity. We are not here to become corporates or to attain institutional clout. Institutional power shall make us less religious. Spirit of poverty and day-to-day insecurity in terms of material needs is the hall-mark of religious living. Citing many examples of other religious congregations and institutions most of the members were of the opinion that self-supporting institutions established with goodwill within the charism of the Congregation shall not do away with our religious identity and existence. It is in fact the need of the hour. There were suggestions like starting schools which we are very accustomed to do in India. Number of concrete suggestions were finalised at the end.

Who will bell the cat?



Any individual member becoming a fountainhead of ideas in a common meeting and doing nothing about it is the order of the day. Will the theoretical pronouncements be actualised? Many doubted if the action-plan to start institutions in a given time frame will find takers in the delegation for implementation. It requires expertise, resources and will the Province do something concretely for mobilisation in terms of human and material resource? To take up any major project as 'side business within the existing ministry will not do justice to the project. Members wanted to know why the orphanage project at Bela Vista is not moving forward. It requires great sense of vision, planning, sense of sacrifice and adventure to create something out of nothing. Who will do

it? Who are the right pioneers among us? Excuses and unending huddles are foreseen much before the first step is taken to start anything new. The fear of the unknown was palpable. It is much easier to inherit an institution than making one. One member asked who will bell the cat referring to the volunteers needed for many new undertakings. The bottom line is very clear that all want to do something but who will venture into it is the question.

Where are we at the Social Ministry?

Fr Kailas Hiwale gave a roadmap on scope and possibilities of social ministry. Opportunities are numerous for starting ministry like home for the street children, home for the aged, orphanages, etc. Land needs to be secured from the Government and mobilisation of the finance is to be done. Citing examples of such programs run by other denominations, a number of enquiries have been

made and many people approached to help us to start such ministry and to collect funds and needed plot of land from the Government. The emphasis for such ministry for the benefit of the people irrespective of any caste, creed and faith affiliations was reiterated by the assembly.

We are not the children of a lesser mother

The province members in the distant country of Mozambique for the mission of the province need better attention and care from the province. There should be tangible and convincing efforts from the part of the Province to bring up the delegation and take it to the next juridical status. They should not be left to devise their own methods for their survival. The Mission needs assistance in terms of personnel and finance. Although the present provincial administration was appreciated for the proactive stand to bring up the mission, there are times in the past, it was felt the mission in Mozambique was orphaned by the province. The number of confreres and students sent to Mozambique by the past administration cannot be overlooked at the same time.

Assets and liabilities



The Delegation Bursar presented the Financial Report of the Delegation acknowledging the assistance received from the Province, Germany, Switzerland, USA, foreign and local benefactors. He said since such assistance came forth, it was possible for him to pay the first instalment of the loan taken from Mozambique Holdings. Acknowledging his gratitude to Mr Jose Parayankan for the loan, he said that another 4 million meticaís is yet to be paid in next two years' time that he would take full responsibility to pay back the entire loan. The bursar said that the financial position has slightly improved from the situation at the time of purchasing the land and building. On the question of venturing into new centre in north Mozambique, the majority was of the opinion that unless one or two houses become self-supporting, it is not advisable to start another new centre. As it stands, the delegation is completely depending on donors, outside and local support.

Sincere Appreciation to the born Pioneer



The Colloquium in unanimity applauded the efforts of Fr Sebastian Annaikandathil who has pioneered yet another parish at Ponta de Ouro. This is the new addition to Mozambique Mission. It was one of the sub-Centres of Bela Vista Parish, visited once in a while due to long distance, sandy and jungle tracks. Now, he is the resident priest of this Mission. The one and only Fr Sebastian Annaikandathil pioneered most of the houses in Mozambique. The members generously showered upon him their words of praise and gratitude. If his enduring will and commitment to the mission,

the moral and material always-strong-and-dependable-support from 'Mozambique Holdings' were not there, perhaps, the MSFS presence in Mozambique would have been a forlorn conclusion.

Obrigado, Senhor Yesu

It was indeed a family gathering of the members in full. It looked that two days were too less for the presentations, discussions, deliberations and interaction, etc. At the conclusion, as a united family the members thanked and praised the Lord and prayed for His continued assistance in all the days to come and very specially to achieve the action plan in the best interest of the Congregation and the Mission of the Church in Mozambique. In great cordiality and fraternal communion the members interceded for the help of the compassionate Mother Mary. The following resolutions and action- plan were unanimously passed by the Delegation Members.

MSFS Delegation of Mozambique Mission Nagpur Province, Mozambique First Colloquium at Matola on 3rd and 4th March, 2014

We, the Fransalians of Mozambique Delegation of Nagpur Province came together for the first ever colloquium as brothers to remind ourselves to live in the spirit and spirituality of St Francis de Sales, to disseminate our Fransalian identity and spirituality among the faithful, to affect the spiritual and social transformation of the people, to work for the sustenance of our mission and progress of the juridical status, to activate our parish missions in creative manner for faith formation and re-evangelization in accordance with the directives of the Mozambican Church, adopt the following action plan.

Religious Life

1. All confreres are encouraged to pray the Rosary of our Mother of Sorrows daily or once a week in Community and once a month in the Parish.
2. All confreres are to prepare two input sessions on Salesian and Mermierian literature to be presented at Apostolic Community level and local community (Parish) levels.
3. Make Introduction to Devout Life available to the Parishioners in Portuguese language.

Pastoral Ministry

1. Fence the Zandamela land and appoint a care-taker for the land. In three years' time initiate Human Development Projects in Zandamela beneficial to the parishioners of Mavila and neighbouring parishes.
2. Establish Orphanage with immediate effect in "Boys Town" land at Belavista using the available resources offered by our confreres beneficial to all communities under different parishes.
3. Make it a practice to conduct retreats in Advent and Lent seasons in our Parishes and all Mass centres.

Education Apostolate

1. All Parishes are encouraged to start Escolinhas in every Mass centre without giving financial strain to the Delegation.
2. Establish standard Educational Institutions (Primary and Secondary and Higher Secondary) at Katembe, Belavista and Ponta de Ouro.
3. Establish within 3 years an English Medium school at Katembe.

Innovative Ministry

1. Establish in 3 years' time a Home for the Aged at Belavista (/Boane).
2. Establish in 3 years' time Home for Street Children in (Boane/) Maputo.

Finance

All Accounts are to be audited by recognised auditing company (from 2014 onwards).

Conclusion

Mozambique Mission is in a historic moment for Missionary activities. The juridical status added to the group of missionaries shall provide greater impetus for evangelisation and implantation of the Congregation in this part of the world in an organised manner in the true spirit of our Congregation. The entire Province needs to consider it as the integral part of the Province affecting frequent transfers and visits in the best interest of our mission. The policy now is very liberal that no one will get confined to the delegation. More students should go to Mozambique from India for exposure program like diaconate ministry in non MSFS Parishes etc. Delegation Administration should go out of their way to support Arusha Lumen Christi Institute by providing personnel assistance in whichever way possible. On the whole it was a beautiful experience to be with all our Confreres. Their life of simplicity and living with minimum amenities is heartening. I wish them God's blessings on behalf of all Province Members. I also had the opportunity to visit our four

students, three of them in Arusha doing their philosophical studies and one in the Novitiate. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Provincial of East Africa, Fr Johnson, for the best arrangement he made for my stay in different houses. The hospitality of the confreres is indeed commendable. Being with them is a matter of great joy and inspiration.

Amravati Diocesan Synod

Bishop Elias Gonsalves organized a Diocesan Synod for the first time in the History of the Diocese which was formed 59 years ago. The Synod was held from 15th to 17th March 2014 at the Bishop's House, Amravati. The theme of the Synod was "RECONCILE AND UNITE ALL THINGS IN CHRIST." 176 members participated in the Synod, 108 were Priests and Nuns and 58 Lay-persons. The Synod was witnessed by 10 Provincials. Nagpur Province was represented by Fr. Joseph Denis as the Provincial's Delegate. Fr. Mario D'Souza msfs, the former Pune Provincial too was present as an Observer.

The Diocese had been preparing for this maiden Synod for the last eight months under various resource persons like Fr. Tony SJ, Mr. Lourdes Baptista and Fr. Joe Xavier SJ on the eight thrust area. These sessions gave an impetus to the Synod participants to discuss in freedom and openness which led to the formulation of a very practical Vision/Mission Statement as well as a strong Plan of Action. Fr. Mario D'Souza msfs shared his insights as an Observer which was appreciated by one and all.

The first ever Synod concluded successfully with the solemn Eucharistic Celebration by the Archbishop Abraham Viruthakulangara and concelebrated by Bishop Elias along with other Priests. The Archbishop appreciated the efforts of Bishop Elias and paid rich tributes to the MSFS Congregation for their pioneering work done in Nagpur, Amravati, and Aurangabad, etc.

Fr Joe Denis msfs

Academic Year Inauguration at Neemuch

The inauguration of the academic year 2014-15 was held on 26-03-2014 at SFS School, Neemuch. With great hope and enthusiasm to embrace the academic pursuits of the new session, students and teachers invoked the presence of the almighty as they sang '*tumihomata pita*' while the traditional lamp was lit. The theme of the year, '**Leadership**' was unveiled by Fr. Manger as he expounded and motivated the teachers to be role models in and outside the classroom. Students with 100% attendance were honoured and the newly appointed teachers were welcomed during the ceremony. The investiture ceremony of the new students' leadership squad was held on the same day. As the students were installed with the badges and name tags, Fr. Principal and Sr. Headmistress exhorted them to follow the footsteps of great leaders of our country. The ceremony was concluded by expressing hope in the installed SLS squad by the mentor.

Province Retreat 2014

This year our usual retreat is replaced by the Congregational Retreat. The one in Mozambique is scheduled for April. In our Province two retreats are being scheduled in the months of November and December. It is going to be held at the Provincialate, Nagpur. The first one is scheduled in November on 18, 19,20,21,22 and the participants are those engaged in pastoral ministry. The second Retreat is scheduled in December on 27,28,29,30, 31. The Retreat begins at 08.00 am on the first day and ends with the supper on the last day. All are expected to make their Congregational Retreat without fail. Members are free to join retreats in other provinces if not able to participate in our Province. This year's Igatpuri group will come for the November Retreat and Faridabad group will go for the December Retreat. More details and information will be sent in due course of time.

Province Statute Review Committee Constituted

Each Province is to have Province Statutes. It is required to be renewed, if needed, every three years and a draft is to be prepared for study by the members and approved by the Provincial Congress/ Chapter. It is good to know what the Province Statutes are. They are norms, specific rules and regulations that govern the life of the members of the Province with greatest clarity and without room for interpretations and ambiguity. They are framed in such a way that they are very specific and to be monitored.

They are applicable to all confreres unless specified. Members are accountable for their faithful observance. The Statutes address the specific situation and context of a particular Province while respecting the MSFS Constitutions and the General Directory and other directives given by the competent superiors from time to time. It has to take care of the different apostolates. Responsibilities are divided between different Confreres. The Core Committee will meet quite often. A date schedule is given for the completion of the work. The following is the Committee constituted.

Coordinator: George Kurickal

Members: William Anthony, Manoj Tirkey, Melroy Almeida, Sebastian Annaikandathil, Alan Gonsalves, Robin Parappuram, Antony Amaldoss, Vincent Chettiar.

Core Committee: George Kurickal, William Anthony, Melroy Almeida.

Scholastics approved for Renewal of Vows and promoted to the next stage of formation by the Provincial Administration for the year 2014- 2015

3rd Year Theologians promoted to 4th Year Theology and to Priesthood

Anson Kalliath, Henry Peter, Peter Kanakkan, Sandeep Tirkey, Cyprian Dungdung, Ramesh Damala, Vinesh Chempakasserry, Jinoy Kopyly, Ashok Minj

2ndYear Theologians promoted to3rd Year Theology: AlbinVettukalamkuzhilyil, Jomon Viripil, Anto Thuruthikara, Gijo Oomaiveedu, I MutharYesudas, Lalji George Pattathil, Lucas Yesudas, Lijohn Kachappilly, Peter John Perianayagam, Ranjit Lakra, John Ruptake

1st Year Theologians promoted to 2nd Year Theology

Anto Mappilakunnel, Yobu Melchie Sadek, Jnanamani Simon

Regents promoted for 1st year Theology

Anil Pandit, Vinayanand Katru, Jimmy Kallarackal, Melito Kalikhokha, Aneesh Praveen, Ejius Dungdung, Sijo Vettukallel

3rd Year Philosophers promoted for Regency

Anto Deepak, Manu Joseph, RoshanTigga, Ranjit Soreng, RajendraToppo, (Augusto Antonio & Pedro Languitone - yet to complete the course of study,)

2nd Year Philosophers promoted to 3rd Year Philosophy

Ajai Lakra, Amit Baa, Anish Devasikutty, Ashok Tigga, Deepak Baa, Raju Kosanam, Dony Parakkal, Santosh Soreng, Santosh Kumar, Linus Kodikulam, S Poomagan, (Moises Goma - yet to complete the course of study)

1st Year Philosophers promoted to 2nd Year Philosophy

Amit Tirkey, Devasish Barla, Robin Augustine, Sanjay Lakra, Udit Kujur, Vishal Barse

Novices promoted for First Profession and 1st Year Philosophy

Sunil Xess, Sebastian Minz, Gollapudi Joseph, Biraj Barla, Battula Kalyan, Ruban Gilbert, Sameer Minz, Rajat Digal, Romi Roy.

Candidates approved to join the Novitiate 2014-2015

Akash V Thomas, Alohious John, Amrit Kujur, Anoop Francis, Anuranjan Chirmaxo, Benedic John, Emmanuel Mullick, Pramod Kerketta, Sajan Ekka, Sebastian K, Sebastian Varghese, Suraj Ekka, Theodore Ekka

Transfers and Appointments 2014

My Dear Confreres, some of you are on transfer. I want to draw your attention to the spirit of our Constitutions. Our exercise of authority shall reflect the spirit of self-emptying love and service, as

well as, the principles of fairness, openness, transparency, brotherly concern and patience (Const 165). I thank each one of you wholeheartedly for your joyful availability in the service of the Province. May you enjoy good health, May you be filled with the spirit of God always.

S No	Name of Confreres	Community	Responsibilities Assigned	W.E.F.
1	Telesphor Lakra	Raidihi	Assistant Parish Priest	NA
2	Daniel Bara	Novitiate	Socius	01.05.2014
3	Christopher Lakra	Panderpalli	Parish Priest, Boarding Director.	01.06.2014
4	Nobit Kombanathottathil	Prakash Bhavan	Vice Rector	01.06.2014
5	Arunkumar Ekka	Ambapani	Assistant Parish Priest	01.06.2014
7	Kuldeep Kiro	Neemuch	Office Administrator and local Bursar	01.06.2014
8	Ignati Kshirsagar	Neemuch	Principal	01.06.2014
9	HilarusTurkey	Jaratoli	Priest-in-Charge	15.04.2014
10	David Paul	Mermier Sadan	Assistance in regular ministry	01.06.2014
11	Silbester Kullu	Sini	School Administrator	01.06.2014
12	Amal Raju	Kinwat	Staff	01.06.2014
13	Christu Raja	Jhajjar	Staff	01.06.2014
14	Shantwan Khutekar	Karanji	Farm Development- Karanji, Bhusawal, Bidkin	NA
15	Sudhir Kujur	Badnera	Office Administrator, Assistant Parish Priest.	01.06.2014
16	Benedict D'Souza	Mahima	Parish Priest	01.11.2014
17	Charles Porimattathil	Prakash Bhavan	Rector	01.08.2014
18	T P Joseph	Prakash Bhavan	Staff	01.11.2014
19	Lajarus Soreng	Mahima	Asst Parish Priest/ Legal Cell	01.10.2014
20	Rijo Mechery	FTI	Printing Department/ Fabrication	01.06.2014
21	Arun P	Provincialate	Provincial Secretary, Asst. Dir. - Computer Section, SJTI	01.06.2014
22	Jose Parampukattil	Khamgaon	Priest-in-Charge, Buldana	01.06.2014
24	Ambrose Minj	Vinay Sadan	Community Member	01.10.2014
25	Joseph Arulraj	Seraikella	Office Administrator/ Staff	01.06.2014
26	Issac Mankulathil	Latapara	Director, BEd College/ Staff	01.06.2014
27	Bosco P	Jagdapur	BEd Studies	01.06.2014
28	Wilson Abraham	Provincialate	Manager, St John's Public School, Mermier Sadan	01.06.2014
29	Jins Karakadayil	Katembe	Assistant Parish Priest	01.06.2014
30	Aajo Therully	Cochin	Computer Course	01.06.2014
31	Jijo Punchayil	Ponta de Ouro	Asst Parish Priest	01.06.2014
Regents				
32	Manu Joseph	Mannarkkad		01.06.2014
33	Roshan Tigga	Jaratoli		01.06.2014
34	Anto Deepak	Nimkheda		01.06.2014
35	Ranjit Soreng	Panderpalli		01.06.2014
36	Augusto Antonio	Yet to complete studies	Mozambique	NA
37	Pedro Languitone,	Yet to complete studies	Mozambique	NA
38	Rajendra Toppo	Ponta de Ouro	Mozambique	Joined
Community Experience				
39	Clement Leonard	Jhajjar		01.06.2014
40	Febin Tom	Provincialate		01.06.2014

Hearty Congratulations to

Fr. Rajesh Jayaseelan for completing his Licentiate degree in Administration and Gestation of Schools.

Fr. Bosco and Bro. Anto who successfully completed their M.A Philosophy with high percentage.

Fr. Thomas Kuttiankal who secured 94.98% marks in his two years course on M. SC Counselling Psychology.

South East Province for successfully organizing Third Ordinary Provincial Congress and for the new Provincial Administration

Fr. C. Sebastian Raj	- Admonitor cum Councillor in charge of Education
Fr. A. Jeyakumar	- Councillor in charge of Social and Innovative Ministries
Fr. A. Edward	- Councillor in charge of Mission
Fr. S. Deivasakayaraj	- Councillor in charge of Formation
Fr. M. Nicholas	- Provincial Bursar

Let us pray for

Fr. Ranjit Tirkey's uncle Blasius Tirkey who passed away last month.

Fr. Wilson's maternal uncle Mr. Mathew K.M aged 80 who died on 09.03.2014

Fr. John Dive's Sister Mrs. Sophia Rannavare aged 46, passed away on 02.04.2014

Provincial's Itinerary

April

28th Kerala

May

1st Kottayam, Dn. Jijo P's Ordination

3rd Ernakulam, Dn. Aajo's Ordination

6th Kannur, Dn. Jins' Ordination

12th Palakkad, Dn. Joseph's Ordination

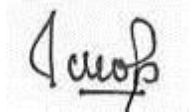
22nd Nagpur

31st Varanasi, First Profession

Salesian Thought

“To be criticized and accused by the wicked, this is entirely pleasant to a man of courage. But to be criticized, accused and ill-treated by good people, by friends, by relations is a real test of patience.”

Yours fraternally



Fr Jacob Karamakuzhyil MSFS

Provincial Superior