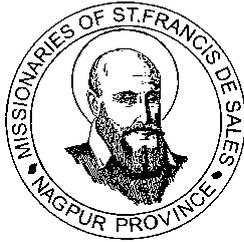


# MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



**NAGPUR PROVINCE**

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CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

16.12.2011

My Dear Confreres

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

**God wants his people to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly in his presence during this Christmas!**

Is there anything the Lord would like from us this Christmas? He left his wish-list for everyone to read in Micah 6:6-8. A sketch of Micah shows him a prophet of social reform who is blunt, direct, terse, plain-spoken and a no-nonsense person. He loved the common man and hated the corrupt. Micah lived in days not much different from ours. He condemned sin and hypocrisy that was rampant. He warned people of God's judgment. Micah tells us that God did not want from his people to offer sacrifices to please him. God wanted his people to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly *in his presence!*



For us at Christmastime means doing right to the less fortunate in our midst. It means that as God has been merciful to us, we also need to be merciful to those around us. It means that pride is not given a place in our lives. To have a large view of ourselves is to have a small view of God. In having a large and bigger view of God first and foremost we should have a right view of ourselves. To be modest and careful is to be humble and we begin to acknowledge that every good thing is a gift from Him. Some have more, some have less. We continuously thank God for what we have. Humility enables us to be true Christians in Christ for Jesus humbled himself unto death even to death on a cross!!

I know that our Communities and Institutions are gearing up to celebrate Christmas in the coming weeks. Let our celebrations give a powerful message of love mercy and charity, May the external joy characteristic of this feast manifested in variety of forms bear testimony to our inner joy of freedom from all sorts of blocks of sins, bad habits addictions and all that is negative and adversely affect our intimacy with God. With a joyful heart I wish each one of you a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

## **My first phase of Canonical Visitation**

My first phase of canonical visitation of our communities began with Divya Jyoti Ashram, Latapara, on 21<sup>st</sup> November and ended with Neemuch Community, Madhya Pradesh, on 7<sup>th</sup> December. This first experience of visitation made me realize that a religious community or institution run by it is much more than what it appears to be in visibility and reports. Certain centres tend to define its destiny on the priorities precious to the personnels administering it more than what is demanded in terms of principles and directives by the Congregation. However, I recall my visitation with great contentment of heart. It was only partially successful due to lack of time. One or two days were not sufficient for centres like Orissa Parishes, Neemuch and Jhajjar. The visitation went on very smoothly, more or less, as per the schedule communicated to the communities. Confreres were very cooperative, affable, ready and willing to affect changes and streamline the administration as demanded of them. Most of the communities conducted ceremonial functions and felicitated me befitting to the simple manner expected. I have sent my suggestions and observations to all the communities for better administration as per the teaching of our constitutions, directives and management of temporal goods in conformity with the civic rules. The house superior is expected to take up this letter addressed to him for discussion in one of the community meetings. Again, this same letter will be taken up by the Provincial himself during his next visitation. Once the visitation of the entire Province is complete, I shall communicate to each member through a personal letter the detailed feedback on my visitation. I feel it is imperative to make such an assessment of our life and management of the institutions and communicate it to all as it is my first visitation and I hope to find time to do so. Having completed the visitation of nine Communities I feel more experienced and look forward for the visitation of the rest of the communities with great confidence.

## **Provincial Bursar's visit to the communities.**

The Provincial Bursar, Fr Wilson Abraham, will visit communities from the month of February 2012 with the Province Accountant. The schedule of this program will be published in the next Provincial Circular. The common accounting package of customized Tally program will be installed in all communities and institutions. In the case of institutions that are audited properly, whether such a program is required to be installed will be checked in advance with the Auditors. If the already existing program serves our purpose, then, it may not be required to install again a similar program. It will be the responsibility of the house superiors to get their computers ready. If any financial assistance is required for computers and internet connections, kindly make your request in writing. As far as I know only Raidihi and Ambapani do not have Internet Connections. Accounting of communities and institutions that are not able to do their work properly will be taken over by the province accountant. He will visit such communities from time to time and do the accounting until the time such communities are able to do on their own in the installed program.

## **Ongoing formation of the Provincial Curia**

Provincial Curias of all Indian Provinces gathered in Visakhapatnam from the 1<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2011 for a common orientation in administration. It was meant to highlight correct leadership in religious life, to facilitate correct skills for collective discernment, decision making, spiritual animation and to understand administrative procedures according to the constitutions and canon law. Fr Joe Arimboor SDB was the resource person for the input sessions. Quoting the report of the meeting attended by 850 major superiors in Rome 2004 he said that great many of our religious today are tired, lazy, lethargic, indifferent and mediocre and the prescribed treatment is instilling in them a passion for Christ and a passion for humanity. He asked the administrators to facilitate members and institutions to come out of a façade creation which represents false images to hoodwink the general public and is against the culture of religious discipline and, instead, confront the brutal facts that one would like to avoid and speak about. Collect the quantitative and qualitative data of the functioning of the system its impacts, lapses and merits and present them before all. Conduct autopsies with no malice towards anyone. The orientation program was, indeed, very beneficial and fruitful. All were very thankful to Rev Fr Superior General for providing such a forum, not only, for this input session, but also, for clarifying many doubts on the administration of the Province pertaining to many issues related to the new governance.

## **News from the Province**

**Khamgaon:** On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2011, 30 families of Jaipur Lande (Fransalian Inter- religious Colony) celebrated the festival of Diwali with the lighting of diyas followed by prayers and a get-together.

On 12<sup>th</sup> November 2011 - World Communications Day - a Seminar was organized for 320 students of 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> classes from St Ann's High School Khamgaon, on the topic "Students and Communications". They were made aware of the consequences of the misuse of Mobile, Internet, T.V, useless magazines, etc.with the help of power point and a short film.

- **Bro John Peter Perianayagam, msfs**

## **From the land of our hearts' desire**

We, Fr. Ranjit and Bro. Ranjit, arrived at Maputo Mozambique on 29<sup>th</sup> Sept. 2011. Our hearts were filled with joy because we were going to the land of our hearts' desire, for which we were awaiting for a long time. At the same time, we were anxious thinking whether we would cope up with the weather, language, food, and the flight itself. It was the first experience for both of us. Much to our amazement, we found the weather much soothing. On the next day, we witnessed the Final Profession of Bro Henry Nedumkallel at Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Katembe. We were carried away with the devout singing, the graceful dancing, the whole-hearted participation people in the liturgy. Our spirits were uplifted although we understood not a word! We were fascinated to hear our confreres speaking and interacting freely with all. This inspired and filled us with hope and courage to accept whole-heartedly the Mission of Mozambique. It's no turning back for **Ranjit square/ Ranjit double.**

## **Mozambique Mission is grateful to Fr. Alex Tigga**

Fr Alex, right from minor seminary days has always come across as an enthusiastic and energetic person, ever eager to learn. There was always an aura of unexpected calm confidence around him. People tend to trust and confide in him easily. It is therefore, not surprising, that he finds himself in leadership positions.

His spirit of sacrifice and love for the congregation was clearly manifested when he opted for Mozambique on the threshold of becoming the Principal of Hartman School, Varanasi, India. He is remembered as a gentle and a generous priest, in Belavista and Katembe parishes where he had served as Parish Priest till he assumed the responsibility of the Mission Superior and moved to Matola as Rector.

As a rector, he accompanied his wards everywhere: in work games and in all the fun activities. As mission superior he went about his work in his characteristic cool, calm confident manner with unassuming humility, gentleness and simplicity: a true Fransalian indeed.

As he takes up his mission in the United States of America, separated from us by thousands of miles we remember and strive to emulate his qualities

His youthfulness: he walks so fast, he plays football or basketball for hours; he swims in the river or in the sea like a fish. He can drive all over the country without feeling tired. He is healthy and never falls sick. He seems to be in his early thirties when actually he is approaching fifty.

His coolness: He does not blow his top or lose his head. Even in moments of stress or anger he never shouts or uses unkind words. He manages to balance his concern and care with cucumber like calmness and serenity.

His green fingers: He has planted trees here which he brought from Kenya and Tanzania. Whatever he plants grows and gives fruit. And he plants a lot: flowers, vegetables, fruit trees. One marvels how he plants so many trees in places so small.

In the end, all these qualities are only an external manifestation, an overflow of something very hidden but true. Fr Alex, a man of prayer, in touch with his creator. He is a man of God and a true Fransalian.

- **Fr. Paulo Gonsalves, msfs**

## **Back in Mozambique**

Frs. Sebastian Annaikandathil and Mathews Kodamullil reached Mozambique on 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov and were received by Fr. Paul Gonsalves and Bro Henry Nedumkallel at the airport. Mr Sevi and Mr Jimmy helped with immigration clearances. Fr. Sebastian is at Lar Mermier, Maputo, and Fr. Mathews is proceeding to Mavila. Keep them in your prayers.

## **SJSM Convent blessed in Nanded**

‘We always think God never comes on time when we call Him, but the truth is He is always on time and we are always in a hurry’. On November 6, 2011 God the Almighty filled our hearts with joy as He has blessed us with a beautiful, long awaited convent for us to live in. God’s plan has come into realization to the Sisters of SJSM at Nanded through MSFS Fathers. Our sincere appreciation and gratitude to Rt. Rev Bishop Edwin Colaco for gracing the occasion with his enlightening message and giving a spiritual flavour to this day. For two and a half years we were accommodated in a small house. The Fransalians of Nanded always made sure our needs were met. May this home ‘ZION’ be God’s dwelling place.

- Sr.Shobha sjsm

## **Blessing of the new Church in Sini**

On 18<sup>th</sup> December 2011, the new St. Francis Xavier Church will be blessed by Rt. Rev. Felix Toppo, Bishop of Jamshedpur. On behalf of the Province I thank Fr. Barnabas Xalxo, the Parish Priest, and Fr. Shijumon Mangalath for the good work done. I also thank the facilitators of yesteryears in the persons of Frs. Bilavendran, Cyriac Velikettel, Philip Maleparambil, George Kurickal and Shantwan Khutekar.

## **Fr. Alex Tigga writes from Tucson, Arizona, USA**

I arrived in Tucson on 17th November 2011. I had a very pleasant trip from Maputo, Mozambique, to Tucson. From the time Fr. Mathew Thayil picked me up at the airport he has been taking care of all my needs. He has taken me around to familiarise me with things around and helped me in official paper matters. It is very nice to have someone like him at the beginning especially when everything is new. At present, I am put up in the Parish of Sts. Peter and Paul. I may have to be in this parish for some time as the parish residence of St. Thomas the Apostle where I am going to work is under construction. So far, my experience has been good. I have to get used to the place, situation and the change of time and atmosphere which, of course, will take some time. Working in Mozambique was a time of grace, good experience and a moment of growth. I enjoyed working in Africa and will cherish and treasure those days.

### My Temporary Address: (for 5 months)

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Email: [fralexth@hotmail.com](mailto:fralexth@hotmail.com)

### My Permanent Address:

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish  
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Tucson, AZ 85718, USA  
520-820-5655 (cell Phone)  
520-577-8780 (Office)  
520-577-0441 (Fax)  
Email: [fralexth@hotmail.com](mailto:fralexth@hotmail.com)

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

**New Provincial for Province of England:** Rev Fr Terry McGrath, msfs, is appointed the new Provincial of the Province of England with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> January 2012. On behalf of the Province I warmly congratulate Fr. Terry on his appointment.

**Ordination of Dn. Rajesh Jeyaseelan:** Deacon Rajesh Jeyaseelan will be ordained to the Priesthood on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at his home village of Sayathurai. It is a milestone in the history of Nagpur Province and, in particular, that of the Mission of Mozambique as Deacon Rajesh is the first priest to be ordained for the Mission. On behalf of the Province I warmly congratulate him and wish him the best in the service of the Lord’s Vineyard.

**Silvear Jubilarian Fr. Alphonse:** Fr Alphonse Irudayaraj celebrates his Silver Jubilee as a Priest. His companion is Fr. Jose Parampukattil. We wish him every blessing as he embarks towards a golden in his pastoral service of the Church.

**Perpetual Profession and Diaconate:** Bros. Georgekutty Arackaparampil, Rakesh Kerketta, Nobit Kombanathottathil, Sudhir Kujur, M Ashok Anthony, Rijo Machery, Paul Varambinakam, P Baby John and Hilarus Tirkey who have been approved by Very Rev Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, msfs, our Superior General, will make their perpetual vows on 26<sup>th</sup> December 2011 at Fransalian Seminary, Pune. On 27<sup>th</sup> December 2011, they will receive the Order of Diaconate at the hands of Rt Rev Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Pune. I warmly welcome them to the Fransalian Family and to be at the service of the Lord as Deacons to the Church of Christ.

**Love of God and God of Love:** Publication of the Treatise on the **love o God** Volume II translated and edited by Fr Antony Mookenthottam, Fr Armind Nazareth and Fr Henry Kodikuthiyil is complete and the books are sent to the provincialate for distribution. The second book **God of love** is an investigation into transcendent love in the spirituality of St Francis de Sales authored by Fr George Panthanmackal MSFS was released by Fr Francis Thadathil the Chairman of PIF on 12th December at Suvidya College. Le us acknowledge our profound gratitude and appreciation to these confreres for their marvellous literary works to educate us in the spirituality of St Francis de Sales, the Doctor of Love.

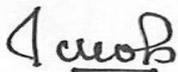
**Provincial's Itinerary:**

21 Dec	Tuman Mission	28 Jan	Pastoral Council Meeting
28 Dec	Prakash Bhavan	28 Jan	Parents' Day - Nimkheda
30 Dec	Ordination	30 Jan	Jalna
31 Dec	Silver Jubilee of Fr Alphonse	01 Feb	CIDCO
7 & 8 Jan	Regent's Meet - Nagpur	02 Feb	FTI
10 & 11 Jan	Mermier Sadan	03 Feb	Nanded
12 & 13 Jan	St. John's	05 Feb	Himayatnagar
14 Jan	Khamgaon	07 Feb	Kinwat
16 Jan	Buldana	09 Feb	Nagpur
18 Jan	Bhusawal	11 Feb	Formation Forum – Nagpur
20 Jan	Badnera	19 Feb	Education Forum- Seraikella
22 Jan	Nagpur		

**Salesian Thoughts:** When you encounter difficulties, do not try to break them but bend them with gentleness and time.

**St Francis de Sales**

Yours devotedly in Christ,



Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhiyil, msfs  
Provincial Superior