

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



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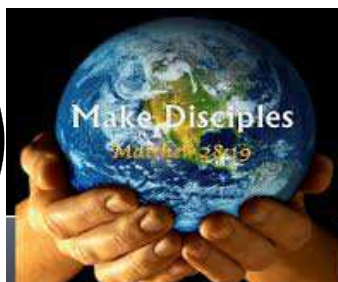
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CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

10.10.2015

Dear Confreres

Make Disciples of all Nations



I greet you with peace and joy of Christ and special blessings of Mother Mary in this month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. I want to dedicate this circular for our two parish missions in Chhattisgarh and Jharkhand and, not forgetting the third one, St. John's

Mass Centre in Nagpur, which I feel will emerge into a strong community sooner or later. Laying hand on three missions in a year is not biting more than what we can chew given the number of ordinations this year? It is neither an audacity of risk nor an attempt for provincial or territorial expansion but springs from the spirit of God's call in Mt 28.18-20, **"Make disciples of all nations baptizing them in the name of Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I am with you to the end of world"**. This call is to all of us to bring mankind into fellowship and relationship with God. Whether in Chhattisgarh or Jharkhand we are there for people who are lost and bring them to the knowledge of truth for **"God, our Savior, who will have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of truth"** (1Tim 2.3-4). The heart of God has always been a heart to reach all people in the world. This call is transmitted to us from the remnant of people gathered in the hillside of Galilee and the essence of that call is **"make disciples"** reaching out to all people, all ethnic groups, all tribes and races. People are the focus and not our living conveniences.

Fr. Thomas Anikala, the veteran missionary of Vizag Mission, shared his missionary life at the Mission Sangamam in Etumanoor. As a young missionary, he ventured out daily by cycling to the villages. The focus was people in the villages. He added that the fruits of his visits are the establishment of six to seven churches. This setting was a repetition of the Apostles whose simple journey to people was the essence of missionary activity to announce the good news either in an open air meeting or in small groups or in one-to-one conversation. Their needs were minimal and their life was marked by simplicity. They imbibed the spirit of Jesus' instruction **"take nothing for the journey, neither staffs nor bag nor bread nor an extra tunic."** Too much baggage will come in the way of executing the primary task of preaching the message or not engaging in any other business than serving the Lord. Such a state of being dispossessed would make them dependent upon God. They had to trust in the Lord for everything. If the preacher himself did not trust in the Lord then how can he tell others to trust him? Their work was to present the

message and just leave those who did not receive them: **“shake the dust from your feet and leave the place.”**

The priority is the message and people and not conveniences like who will cook the food, wash the clothes and amenities like TV, computers, internet etc. Although, these will have to be addressed in the course of time, they cannot be the primary concerns. If the villagers say that priests do not visit them in spite of two or three being in the presbytery, the mission journey of faith formation and community development will not take place. The person from whom we can draw inspiration is Jesus who directed his disciples. We must pray for our pioneers that they understand the call of Jesus and do not lose sight of people and the message of the kingdom. The difference of our presence in the new mission is to be felt by our involvement with people to make them into a strong community of God’s People. We should not get drowned in putting up structures. May the good Lord help our pioneers with the spirit of his wisdom to bring up our two missions in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh!

Our Pioneers in the midst of the people in Darkona



Darkona Parish Mission in the Diocese of Ambikapur is one of the two Mission Year gift to our Congregation. This is our first Mission in the State of Chhattisgarh. It was important that I make a visitation at the earliest to assess the ground realities of life and mission in this new centre which is only 25 kilometers away from Ambikapur City. Fr. Sandeep Tirkey and Bro. Ajay Lakra stay with Mr. Ashok Ekka and his wife Mrs. Munni Ekka, parishioners of Darkona. Fr. Sandeep and Br. Ajay are happy and comfortable with their stay as any one of us in an institutional set up. They have become part and parcel of this house. If I had I not visited, this perfect integration would not have been disturbed.

Mr. Ashok took early retirement from BSF to become a committed farmer and his equally oriented spouse is more a farmer’s wife than a government school teacher. Their faith and love in God and readiness to serve religious people made them host to Bishop, Priests and Sisters who visited Darkona occasionally to attend to the faithful. The sub-centre church is adjacent to their house and in the land donated by them. The permanent stay of the two confreres made cooking of breakfast, lunch and supper time-bound and menu-conscious which otherwise was done only for a pressing need and the availability of time or very often compromised with the balance of the previous meal. The time-table of the religious community must have been a new experience and taxing to the simple couple. Bro. Ajay rose to occasion brushing up his cooking skills learnt in the Novitiate and extending a helping hand to Mrs. Munni whom he fondly calls Mummy. Marketing, cooking, and kitchen management looked to be a matter between mummy



and son. Fortunately, her two sons are away in the boarding school and, thus, avoiding a possible sibling rivalry between real sons and the foster one. The room assigned to the religious souls looked clean, neat and tidy and in contrast to the surrounding reality of other rooms filled with farm products, equipments, pump sets, pesticides and bags of fertilizers, etc. I had the honor of staying with them in the same room for two nights. Having felt the need for a house, Fr. Sandeep had found one which would be the first presbytery of the mission. This farm house belonged to a parishioner which is opposite to the land proposed to be purchased for the Church. It is made of mud and twigs which will soon become the nerve center of Darkona Parish Mission. In a month's time, our pioneers will shift to the new house. Darkona lacks no basic amenities. There is uninterrupted power supply and mobile internet accessibility and we don't need inverters and generators as in cities like Delhi. Even in September I had to use a blanket at night. The hilly terrain with trees and greenery is paradise for those who love nature and originality of life. It is God given opportunity of MSFS to make ourselves accessible to people who otherwise are starved for priests to meet their spiritual needs. Darkona is a sub-centre of Rai Parish, 18 kilometers away. Hilly terrain and improper roads prevented people from active participation in the parish activities. There are over hundred practicing families besides many in dormant state. Forming them into a strong community is the test for the MSFS Missionaries.

Darcona's Show of strength

I arrived in Darkona on 8th September on the Birthday of Mother Mary and to a solemn celebration. When



priests from Ambikapur and from Rai Parish arrived in the evening I realized the depth of planning for the occasion. The official welcome of MSFS to Darkona was organized by the parishioners on this important day dedicated to Mother Mary. Representatives from different villages arrived and the chapel was fully packed by 5.30 pm. After the initial and traditional welcome accorded to the guests the concelebrated Eucharist began and was presided over by

the Provincial. The Eucharist had all the inspiring moments of any other established church like bible procession accompanied by dance and unending offertory procession where the faithful poured out their Christian charity by offering all kinds of agricultural products in thanksgiving to God for having brought priests to their village to be with them forever. After the Eucharist, there was a cultural program put up by different villages in colorful costumes as though we were watching some parents' day program of a premier educational institution. There were more than ten items. Priests were welcomed with flowers, garlands, shawls, etc. by representatives of villages and associations. Speaking on the occasion, the village representatives thanked the Bishop and the MSFS Congregation for having shown their sympathies to Darkona by sending a resident priest. Fr Martin of Rai Parish gave a message and also the Provincial. Fr. Sandeep Tirkey proposed the vote of thanks. The entire cultural program was moderated by Bro Ajay. The cultural program was followed by a special dinner for priests cooked by the parishioners.

Calvary and Capernaum in Darkona Mission

Darkona has six sub-centres. They are Rata, Basa, Jamdi, Udari, Kkurrima and Dakai. Mother Mary's Birthday celebration was to be repeated in Basa about ten kilometers from Darkona on 9th September. One would wonder at the scenic beauty of the place as if you are at the foothills of the Himalayas. Basa village is almost in the valley and the chapel is in the middle. At the top of the hill is a huge wooden cross erected

by the Belgium Jesuits like the one at Padrihana, Nagpur, erected by MSFS. It was done many years ago to give people the experience of Jesus on Calvary so as to relive his death and sufferings. Now, it has become the symbol of negligence and human refusal to tread the path shown by missionaries to grow in devotion to the cross of Christ. When a desire was expressed to walk up to the cross, we were informed that thick jungle, thorny bushes and shrubs makes it inaccessible. In other words, there is no way to reach the Cross. There is a large water body in the valley of hills with a dam built between two hills by the government as part of the drinking water scheme for Ambikapur City. Basa is one among a cluster of fishing villages – a parallel to the fishing village of Capernaum where Jesus did most his works and chose his disciples which makes one think and feel the living environment of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Many make their living by fishing which the government encourages by adding seedlings of fish. Parishioners asked if we would like to have their fishing net when we went to the lake side. After the Mass, cultural dances and felicitations, and festal lunch, we left for Darkona by 4.00 pm.



Baradurgapur Mission is a Parish without Church, School without Building, Priests without Presbytery and Children without Hostel



In Dumka Diocese, Jharkhand, we have been given 450 to 500 catholic families to look after their spiritual needs in a few acres of land with not much construction worth mentioning. This is our new Baradurgapur Mission. But there is a good school in terms of numeric strength of students in some kind of a building. There are 200+ students up to Class 3. There is one incomplete constructed floor with four class rooms without staircase roofing. There are no toilets for children. This is the style in Jharkhand. They do not wait for all facilities to start due to financial difficulty. The diocese was not able to expand or maintain the mission which prompted them to hand over Baradurgapur to MSFS. Our Fathers have rented a 2-room house in the village for accommodation. Our community will have three members in Baradurgapur. The Bishop is happy that we have taken up a second mission in two years’ time. This was one of the places offered to MSFS when we first opted to work in Dumka Diocese. Jesuits have a school and college in Tinpahar about 10 kilometers away. We also have permission to start an apostolic school. Boarding is a practice for all schools to extend educational facilities to those from remote villages.

Solemn Entry into our Karmabhoomi



Fr. Selbester Xalxo and Fr. Rakesh Kerketta are the pioneers for Baradurgapur under Mundli Parish Church where Fr. Selbester stayed for two months. Residents of Baradurgapur

were of the opinion that the duo make an official entry into Baradurgapur only as and when a decree came from the Bishop. They were politely dissuaded from making overtures before time. Fr. Selbester Xalxo had to wait until 28th August for the decree of bifurcation of the parish to be given by the Bishop and until 16th September for the arrival of the Provincial to enter Baradurgapur Mission karmabhoomi in a traditional ceremonial manner. The parishioners wanted to make it a historic day and they kept planning for it. On 16th September, the scheduled red letter day arrived and we reached the school premises at 11.00 am which gave the look as if preparation for a temple festival was under way. Music from loud speakers went on and on in high volume. A tent was put up for the Eucharistic celebration. As a matter of usual practice the program was delayed by one hour or more. There was more than one welcome arches decorated with tree branches and shrubs for the dignitaries and very specially for the new Parish Priest. At the entrance, we were stopped and made to sit on chairs for the traditional welcome of washing of feet and anointing with oil. In true Santali tradition, the dignitaries were welcomed by different age group and representatives of the sub-centres. Then began the procession with ladies dancing in Santali costumes who led the dignitaries to the erected tent where the Holy Mass was going to take place. Fr. Selbester Xalxo celebrated Mass and preached in Santali Language with ease. At the end of the mass, there was a cultural program followed by felicitation of all special guests in which every priest was asked to give message. The Parish Priest of Mundli officially handed over the keys of the school to Fr. Selbester and said that a new parish is born with more human resources for animation and better personal attention of the faithful. Fr. Provincial asked the parishioners to take good care of their priests and reminded the priests to give greater attention to nurture the faith of people. Fr. Selbester thanked them for their love and affection and hoped to get their cooperation in all areas of Parish Administration. A festal lunch was arranged in one of the houses of parishioners for fathers and sisters.

Pastoral Visit to Jaratoli by Bishop Telesphore Bilung

It was the first ever pastoral visit of a Bishop to Jaratoli on 13th September which otherwise was always relegated and looked upon as the sub centre of Ulhatur Parish. There was a fresh enthusiasm among the faithful for they felt that they were truly honored by his presence. His Lordship Bp. Telesphore Bilung, Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi, arrived before time to be received at the village gate by the parishioners. Preparations began a week before. Youth and mahila groups were very much involved in the planning and supported by Dn. John Ruptake who came from Ranchi Seminary on weekends. This pastoral visit was coincided with the canonical visitation of the Provincial which was a blessing in disguise. Both could deliberate on the animation of the catholic community in terms of faith formation and education. The Bishop was welcomed by the parishioners along with the priests and the Provincial in a grand ceremonial manner of hand washing, garlanding and dance procession. The Church was packed to the capacity. The Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by the Bishop followed by a short welcome program in which, Bishop, Provincial and Fr. Anand Kullu, the priest-in-charge were welcomed by parishioners from different mass centers. This program was followed by a general meeting of parishioners which was moderated by Fr. Hilarus Tirkey. Many of the parishioners wanted to know why Jaratoli is not yet declared a Parish. Bishop Bilung threw some light on the various requirements as per Canon Law for a Mission Centre to be declared Parish. Fr. Anand Kullu addressed the faithful and said that lay associations of the parish will be strengthened in preparation to make it a strong community to be eligible to become a parish. Fr. Jacob thanked the Bishop and parishioners for the opportunity given to MSFS Congregation to animate the catholic community in Jaratoli. Many of the parish representatives spoke on the occasion

which was concluded with the blessing and prayer by His Lordship Bishop Telesphor Bilung. Parishioners were very happy to have got a chance to air their grievances and expectations.

- Fr. Hilarus Tirkey

Our Sincere appreciations/ thanks/ congratulations to:

Fr Wilson Adackaparayil who gave advance for the purchase of 11.25 acres of land in Hingna in his effort for the relocation 5.83 acres of Gorewada Property. Hingna land is exactly 21 Km away from Provincial House. It is an industrial area. Efforts are on to implement the decision of the Council and subsequent permission from Superior General to relocate Gorewada property by the sale of the same.

Fr. Alan Gonsalves who has been elected as the Vice President of the Vocation Promoters Board of the Rourkela Diocese.

Fr Rijo Mechery who with the support of Fr. William Antony and Fr. John Dive took initiatives and risk to buy two machines - one for exercise book production and the other for printing jobs - in his effort to bring up the Printing Department of FTI.

Fr. Anil George and **Fr. Emmanuel Vattamattam** of SFS School Delhi Community which sponsored a mini offset printing machine for FTI Aurangabad.

Fr. William Antony for starting beautician course for village girls in FTI Aurangabad. The cost of the course is borne by Godrej, Bombay. This effort is to equip poor girls with professional skill is very much within the objectives of FTI.

Fr. Anson Kaliyath who managed to get a children's park sanctioned for Kandore School children from World Vision, a USA based social work organization. They have installed 9 play equipment for children.

Fr Kulandai Raj with his persistent effort got sanctioned half the amount needed to construct toilets for girls of the boarding and school in Kandore from District Collector of Sahibganj.

Fr. Hilarus Tirkey who started a good pre-primary school at the request of the parishioners in Jaratoli adopting the curriculum from a good school. He himself is teaching and the response from the neighboring villages is overwhelming. The fees to be charged are to be decided by the parishioners.

Fr. Selbester Xalxo who was officially installed priest-in-charge for Baradurgapur Mission in Jharkhand. By the decree of Bishop of Dumka, Baradurgapur is made Quasi Parish, bifurcated from Mundli Parish in Sahibganj District, Jharkhand. The parish has around 450 catholic families and 29 villages for education and evangelization.

Fr. Antony Amaladoss who has prepared a documentary on Fr. Peter Mary Mermier to commemorate the Year of Mission and Year of Consecrated Life.

Our third year theologians **Bro Jnanamani Simon** at Shillong who made his final profession on 30th September and **Bros. Anto Mappilakunnel and Yobu Melkie** who made their final vows on 9th October.

Fr. Jijo Punchayil for having succeeded in getting four hectares of land in Ponta De Ouro, Mozambique, allotted for a school project from local government authorities. Now, the onus is on the Delegation Administration to plan out the school and do the immediate follow up like making the master plan and taking possession of the land.

Fr. Vineesh Chempakassery, Fr. Peter Thomas, Bro. Amit Baa, Bro. Santhosh Soreng and Bro. Anish Praveen who have reached Mozambique in the months of August and September have started their language course. The three brothers will do their theology in Mozambique after their language course.

Fr Joe Denis who has taken initiatives to raise funds from local friends, benefactors, parishioners and school staff to bring up Panderpalli boarding and improve the amenities in the boarding.

Fr. Joseph Kailamangalam who has completed conducting the third basic computer course for 15 village children. The project is being sponsored by Manos Unidas.

Let us pray for:

Fr. Issac Mankulathil's father Mr. John Francis who suffered from heart ailments.

Fr. Petrus Kullu's niece Amrita Kullu aged 14, passed away on 07th September 2015 due to Jaundice.

Fr. Vineesh Thomas's grandfather, Mr. Joseph, aged 90 died on 06th October 2015.

Provincial's Itinerary

October

13-10-2015 Mermier Sadan
17-10-2015 Badnera
19-10-2015 Khamgaon
20-10-2015 Bhusawal
23-10-2015 Visakhapatnam
25-10-2015 Nagpur
29-10-2015 PCM
30-10-2015 PCM

November

05-11-2015 Regional Stewardship Forum Meeting
09-11-2015 Annual Retreat
15-11-2015 Formation Forum Meeting
17-11-2015 Innovative Forum Meeting
18-11-2015 Belgaum
(PIF & PEA Meeting with General Curia)
23-11-2015 Bangalore (Governing Body)
24-11-2015 Goa (Bastora)
26-11-2015 Nagpur
28-11-2015 Mission Forum Meeting

December

07-12-2015 Bangalore (Fr. Gabriel Memorial Symposium)
08-12-2015 Palakkad / Mannarkad
12-12-2015 Home Visit
15-12-2015 Nagpur
17-12-2015 PCM
18-12-2015 PCM
26-12-2015 2nd Annual Retreat
30-12-2015 Pune (Dioconate)

January 2016

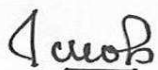
02.01.2016 Nimkheda
06.01.2016 Jalna
08.01.2016 Nanded
10.01.2016 Kinwat
13.01.2016 Nagpur
25.01.2016 Kottayam
27.01.2016 Nagpur
29.01.2016 Latapara
31.01.2016 Raidihi

Salesian Thought

To live according to the spirit is to think, speak and act according to the virtues that are in the spirit and not according to the sense and sentiments which are in the flesh.

St. Francis de Sales

Yours Sincerely in Christ



Jacob Karamakuzhyil, MSFS
Provincial Superior