

# MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



NAGPUR PROVINCE

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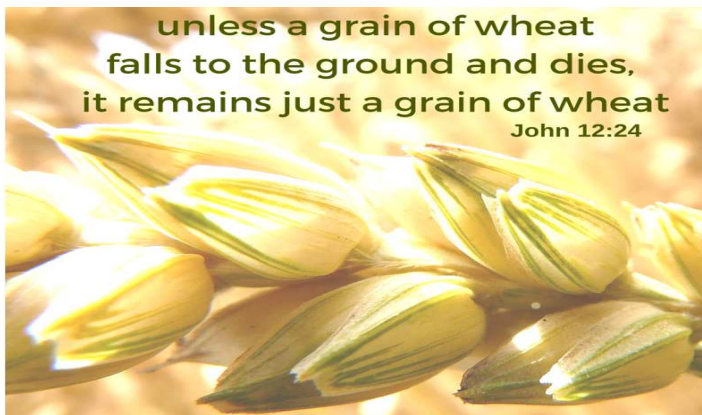
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CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

18.11.2015

**Dear Confreres**

## **Falling of the Corn of Wheat**



Diwali week is always special to MSFS Confreres of Nagpur Province. When the surrounding world plunges into the festival of light, we move into interior-exterior silence of our annual retreat. In the midst of thunderous noise and fire crackers, we remain detached, aloof and free from distractions for introspection of our life in relationship with our God. Fr. Jose Parappillil put us in right mood with the relevant theme of the time

“Consecrated Life in the Mission of Jesus.” He evoked love for Jesus in a tangible manner by ultimately narrowing down to simple illustration of life and death, and life triumphing over death. The corn of wheat when subjected to death and decomposition, the hidden faculty in the wheat brings forth life with an unimaginable and strange force. This lesson of Jesus is replicated in his own life to be an all-time source of inspiration for men and women in the consecrated life. Jesus declared himself to be “the life” and the source of life. His life giving power came from his death. A plentiful harvest is effected by his sacrifice of life. Every believing man is expected die to himself is crucified with Christ and is dead to the world to rise again in the newness of life. The death of Christ is signified by the falling of the corn of wheat into the ground to spring up again. We are reminded again; the relevance of consecrated life is in leading a life of sacrifice and self giving love just as shown by Christ. Through the image of the corn of wheat Christ illustrated very vividly what shape ultimately our life should take in living the consecrated life. Fr. Jose Parappillil reminded us of the same to be relevant in religious life as consecrated men of God.

## **First Annual Retreat and felicitation of the Jubilarians and New priests**

Nearly fifty Confreres of Nagpur Province arrived in the Provincial House on 9<sup>th</sup> November for the first Annual Retreat. As per the usual custom the first day was marked by felicitation of the Silver Jubilarians- Frs. Peter Dominic, Emil Tirkey, Sayu Cheruvil, Bendedict De Souza and George Kurickal; the Golden Jubilarian Fr. Micky D’Souza, and the New Priests - Frs. Henry Peter, Ramesh Damala, Cyprian Ddungdung, and Sandeep Tirkey. Fr. Anson and those in Mozambique were absent. The program was moderated by Fr Lajarus Soreng. Fr. Peter Dominic spoke for the silver jubilarians, Fr. Joseph Arulraj for the new priests and Fr. William Antony for Fr. Micky D’souza. Speaking on the occasion Fr. Provincial

appreciated these confreres for their services. He said the unconditional love of God is the unconditional



acceptance of all but not the unconditional acceptance of our deeds. He asked the new priests to understand their priorities and reminded them that catechizing, evangelizing and preaching the word of God is fundamental to their ministry as priest. Fr. Provincial felicitated them with bouquets, shawls and mementos. Fr. Jose Parappillil, the retreat preacher was present for the function. After the dinner on 9<sup>th</sup> November 2015 the introduction to the Retreat was given. The theme of the

Retreat was “Consecrated Life for the Mission of Jesus” was well presented during the talks on the following days. Referring to various scriptural texts and Church documents Fr. Jose built up the theme to the culmination of the ultimate demand of self-giving love of Jesus put on every consecrated person. Fr. Jose concluded the retreat conducting a very moving Holy Hour on the last day after the final Mass.

### **Formators Forum Meeting**

The Nagpur Province Formators Forum meeting was held on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in the Provincialate. Fr. Tomy Lukose SAC, the Rector of Pallotti Study House, Seminary Hills, animated the first session of the day on ‘Attitudinal Formation, the need of the hour’ – questions were raised, examples illustrated, research papers explained, experiences stated to bring home his message. The five-member forum in the presence of Fr. Jacob and Fr. Benedict discussed and deliberated upon the implementation of the proposals of the regional Formators’ Forum of November 2014 and the implementation of the Provincial Chapter 2014 and the action plan. Frs. Allan and Charles presented short reports of the minor seminaries followed by the detailed report of the Novitiate by the novice master. A brainstorming session led to the codification of action plan for the Fransalian Year of Formation 2016 (FYF 2016) in Nagpur Province. It was decided: 1. To formulate objective indicators as tools of evaluation for assessing the Intellectual, Human and Spiritual formation of minor seminaries and Novitiate; 2. To prepare questionnaire in detail based on the Formation Guidelines for admitting students to Minor Seminaries during Vocation Promotion, Personal Interview and written test; 3. That PCIC will animate and accompany the full time and part-time vocation promoters of the province and organize a meeting every year; 4. To finalize the syllabus of our three formation house systematically in black and white; 5. To celebrate ‘Language Week’ in formation houses; 6. To create and maintain an e-mail group of all the formators by the PCIC; 6. To send all the formators for up-date programmes, short or long, during the year of Formation. The meeting ended to resolve to follow the action plan for the year of formation with greater commitment and zeal.

- Fr. Issac John

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

The forum meeting began with a short prayer service conducted by Fr Allen Gonsalves. To begin the prayer service, the Provincial Fr Jacob and the 2 resource persons lit the lamp, invoking the presence of the Lord. Fr Joseph Kailamangalam introduced and welcomed the resource persons of the day, Rev Sr Heera SCC, Directress, Divya Sadan Social Service Center, Wadali, Amravati and Rev Sr Anjana FCC,

Co-ordinator of the Projects, Archdiocesan Pastoral Center, Nagpur. There were 12 participants including some Superiors/ representatives from different communities.



Sr Anjana FCC with the help of PowerPoint, shared with the participants “SAFP” (Save a Family Plan Scheme) supported by Canada and Kerala. Sr Heera SCC with her 20 years of experience in the social field, shared about organizing different program for children with the help of funding agencies from abroad and also

with the help of Government Schemes. During the general session after the presentation by the resource persons, the participants had opportunity to interact with the resource persons. In the afternoon general session the Forum met together in the presence of Fr Provincial to evaluate the Action Plan of the Provincial Chapter 2014 and Prioritized Action Plan by the joint meetings of Provincial Curia & General Curia, November 2014, and to make concrete proposals to be implemented soon. Fr Provincial encouraged everyone to be active in the forum and in the ministry. The PCIC thanked one and all for making it possible to attend the full day’s program.

- Fr. Joseph Kailamangalam

### **St Joseph Technical Institute refuses to die**

The 1898 established St. Joseph Technical School Nagpur had its many ups and downs, rise and falls. It was once Central India’s premier Institution of technical and professional education. However, it could not withstand the marketing strategies of nineties and German-made machines began to lie idle and rust. The Institution born to sustain the Province could not sustain itself and its four acre spread of godowns had to be raised to ground to start a CBSE School. On the realization that SJTI outlived its utility, such hard decision had to be taken. The remnant of this Institution is SJTI Complex at Sadar which is the shadow of its former glory and everyone thought SJTI computer department run in the complex would be its last breath in terms of educational activity. Ever since the second floor was built in the complex, we have been trying to rent it out but failed to strike a deal. Many who came for it wanted to take on rent for conducting coaching classes. Then the question arose why we can’t run such coaching centers. The inspiration and temptation to tread an unknown path took root in us.

Students seeking admissions for IIT, APMT and JEE are in need of quality coaching centers. The hub of such centers in North India is in Kota, Rajasthan. Such space keeping unused in the city would be unwise. Thus, the concept of this Institution was christened as St. Joseph Technical Institute of Excellence (SJTIE). We are signing the memorandum of understanding with two individuals under the designation of Director and Curriculum Coordinator Appointees of NFC. The Manager of this Institution would be the Province Bursar. They will work on a regular salary besides incentives. Availability of buildings and classrooms in strategic locations of Maharashtra and Haryana tagged with quality schools will make it possible to open branches with ease. The Provincial Council has also decided to demarcate certain amount of land for a professional college at St. John’s Compound under the name St. Joseph College of Professional Education. We have a good number of catholic schools in the city which would become the feed ground for such an institution. I do not refer to the birth of an institution but the writing on the wall for the same.



It is a challenge and an opportunity for the future and present administration to actualize this vision to recapture our past legacy in professional education.

### **Mid-Year Evaluation Meeting of Province Animators: CLM 2015, Visakhapatnam**



The mid-year evaluation meeting of province animators for CLM 2015 was held from 19<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> October in Visakhapatnam. Fr. Noel, the General Councilor-in-charge of the Year of Mission was the chief organizer of the event. Fr. Chinnappa Reddy, the host Provincial, and Fr. Dharmaraj were present for animating and inspiring the gathering during different sessions. This was a follow-up meeting held

at the exhortation of Fr. General with a specific orientation and tasked with the evaluation of Mission Year action plans in different provinces and planning for the Year of Formation 2016. The sessions of the first day were focused on presentations of the evaluations of the action plans from all the Indian Provinces, Suvidya and Tejas, its critique and follow-up. The second day was devoted for a pilgrimage to heritage sites of MSFS pioneering missions in Visakhapatnam – we journeyed from the shores of Godavari to Yanam where our pioneers started the mission of the Lord, Kakinada, Jaggampet and Pithampura; tried to rediscover the mission exploits and stratagems of our pioneers as we were inspired and fueled with an undying passion for the Church in India. At St. Anne's Church, Yanam, rebuilt in 1846 by Fr. Jacob Martin, Frs. Noel, Chinnappa Reddy and Dharmaraj along with the animators celebrated the Eucharist, thanked God for the vocation as MSFS Missionary and paid tribute to the legacy and heroism of our pioneers. Brain-storming sessions were held during the third and fourth day, arriving at concrete proposals for the rest of the mission year and for the celebration of the Year of Formation 2016 and a new action plan was finalized for the consideration of the General administration for perusal and implementation. Fr. Jacob, the Provincial of Nagpur Province along with Fr. Vincent Lourduswamy, the Provincial of Pune Province and Fr. Athanas Kerketta, Provincial-delegate of North-East Province and all other animators celebrated the Foundation Day Eucharist at the Ross Hill Chapel with great fervor. The meeting brought forth missionary consciousness in each of the animators and the assessment of action plan of the Provinces reiterated the fact that nothing should go unevaluated in the congregational level as it resulted in chalking out concrete proposals for the Year of Formation 2016 (FYF 2016) as mandated by the Superior General.



- Fr. Issac John

### **Nagpur Province Response to the Year of Consecration and Mission**

In response to the Directives of the 13<sup>th</sup> General Chapter and the Superior General, that the General Secretary for Missions should visit at least two strategic mission centers of each Province during 6 years, **to understand the ground realities of mission in each Province**, I undertook this task in Nagpur Province in the year 2015. In the company of the PCIC for Missions, Fr. Willie D' Silva and I visited Jaratoli Mission (in Ranchi Archdiocese) from 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and Kandore and Baradurgapur Missions (in Dumka Diocese ) from 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015. I am sincerely grateful to the Provincial, Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhyil and PCIC Fr. Willie D' Silva and our Fathers in the missions, Frs. Anand, Hilarus, Kulandai Raj, Anson, Sylvester Xalxo and Rakesh Kerketta for the careful, and detailed planning of the visit.

## Observations in General and Proposals

1. The ground realities of Nagpur Province and its mission with the conscious acceptance of mission centers in Ambikapur Diocese (not visited) in Orissa (not visited) in Ranchi Diocese and in Dumka Diocese (visited) are fast changing. I believe, it is a conscious effort on the part of the Province to respond to the call of the Holy Father to go to the periphery and that of the 13<sup>th</sup> General Chapter and the theme of this year: ***Religious Consecration for Mission***. These efforts of the Province are highly commendable and in the right direction and a generous and wholehearted response to the call of the



Holy Spirit through its superiors. I also believe that the Province in doing so is slowly arriving at a balance of institutions and vibrant missions and the necessity of support, financial and otherwise by the institutions to the missions.

2. This new thrust places great challenges to the members of the Province, by way of:
  - (i) Formation of the young to shoulder the responsibilities of the new missions, especially in learning Hindi, Sadri and Santali, their humane and humanizing culture and traditions which we experienced.
  - (ii) By way of evolving a mission vision for each centre, the seeds of which are already there in the Province directives in each of the centers, in the members working in this missions, and in their expectations and people's expectations.

The plan and vision for each centre for the next 20 years could be by way of well-equipped and trained missionaries; functional structures; progressive catechetical and faith

formation programmes for the people; extensive primary education and where possible secondary education to the people of the missions; poverty alleviation and developmental programmes; health education; de-addiction parish cells.

- (iii) Building up of a collective ownership and emotional involvement by the entire Province in the new thrust for missions by way of solidarity in prayer, sharing of information, financial contribution where possible.
- (iv) In the light of the fact that the Congregation cannot own tribal land, the Province could evolve a consensus understanding that when, and if it leaves the Mission, the investment made by the Congregation will be a contribution made to the Mission.
- (v) The core planning of each mission center with main place of worship at one center, a primary school and where feasible secondary schools; and a boarding for the students; a number of small village chapels, de-addiction parish cells, remain ever relevant and effective vision for these mission centers. Education in the context of mission and as an evangelizing tool is still a basic and powerful tool for the missionary. What is important is to ensure quality education and faith-formation and in attentive care of all those entrusted to our care in the mission.

- (vi) With a view of a long term presence of the Congregation in the tribal belt to foster vocations and monitor their quality and also continue to contribute to the growth of the tribals, the Province should also envision purchase of land on its own and offer more stable service through our religious community. The Province can discern the type of service it can give as it grows in its understanding of the mission in Orissa-Chottanagpur area and Santal areas.
- (vii) Presence of women congregation to work with us in the missions will be very useful as they could attend more to the concerns of women and the very elderly and the girl children in the boarding's and schools.
- (viii) Teacher's quarters in our mission centers could prove beneficial to the school, by way of attracting talented teachers from far to give their service to the school; to give part-time service in the boarding and in the parish. However, there needs to be contract by which they vacate the quarters once they retire or are no more employed by the mission.
- (ix) The need for Nagpur Province students to have serious and deep study of the tribal people, their culture, language and traditions at all stages of formation in graded manner.

## Conclusion

A visit is irreplaceable education in knowing and understanding a mission centre. I am now more enlightened and strengthened in the knowledge and experience of mission life of our Congregation through Nagpur Province. Marvellous are God's ways in which He leads us to His people whom we are called to serve in His name. Sincere gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to the Provincial administration and the members for their daring launching out into these missions in response to the Holy Father's Call to go to the periphery, and to the call of 19<sup>th</sup> General Chapter to recapture the original missionary spirit of our Founder, Fr. Mermier. God bless Nagpur Province! God bless our MSFS Congregation!

Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, MSFS  
General Secretary for Missions

## Appointments

**Fr. Bernabas Xalxo** is appointed and delegated to meet the Bishop of Sambalpur on behalf of the Provincial to deliberate proposals of Orissa Apostolic community for the development of Bamra Land for possible pastoral educational collaboration. He is also appointed full time vocation promoter of Divya Jyoti Ashram Latapara.

**Fr. Cyriac Velikettel** and **Fr. Kurian Champalakunnel** are appointed to the Community of Mermier Sadan, Nagpur.

**Dn. Lijohn Kachapillil** is appointed to Fransalian Community Darkona, **Dn. Albin Joseph**, to the Parish of Kanchannagar, **Dn. I Yesudoss** to the Parish of Larangi in the diocese of in Ambikapur, **Dn. Lalji Pattathil** to Fransalian Community Baradurgapur, **Dn. John Peter** to Bhanji-Kandore Mission, **Dn. Jomon Mathew** to Little Flower Catholic Church, Torai, **Dn. Gijo Francis** to Our Lady of Assumption Church, Assamwani in the Diocese of Dumka, **Dn. Anto Thuruthikara** to Divyajoti Ashram, **Dn. Yesudas Lucas** to Bhusawal Parish and **Dn. John Ruptake** to St Mary's Church, Jalna.

## Our Sincere appreciations/thanks/congratulations to:

**Bro. Ashok Minj** who made his perpetual profession on 13<sup>th</sup> November in Lar Mermier, Mozambique and **Bro. Jinoy Kopy** along with **Bro. Ashok Minj** will be ordained deacons on 14<sup>th</sup> November in Mozambique

**Fr. Ranjit Tirkey** who has managed to get the accounts of the Mozambican Delegation audited through professional auditing company from the year 2014.

**Fr. Bijay Kerketta** who has taken initiatives for many developmental programs in Ambapani and have written number of projects for this purpose.

**Fr. Sandeep Tirkey** who has written two projects for Darkona Mission and has shifted his residence to a rented house in Darkona.

**Fr. Anson Kaliyath**, who has written one project for the construction of the new school and low cost toilets for children.

**Fr. Arun P** who has succeeded in getting the files of dispensation from clerical status for Marshal Jadhav and Mathew Ubale and sending it to Rome.

**Frs. Petrus Kullu and Ranjit Tirkey** for the initiatives taken to start a (Escholinha) well equipped Pre-Primary School at Matola land, adjacent to Casa Fransaliana, Matola, Mozambique. They have constituted a committee to look into the establishment of the first school at Ponta Do Ouro.

**Fr. Wilson Adakaparayil** who has managed to get a customer for the sale of Gorewada land and taking an advance for the same. This is to implement the relocation of Gorewada land at Hingna, Nagpur, where we foresee a huge MSFS campus developing as big as St. John's Compound. He has also completed the first phase of internal auditing and given the report and feed back to the Council.

**Fr. Henry Peter** for designing the MSFS Banner for the exhibition of all religious congregations working in the Archdiocese of Nagpur to mark the conclusion of the Year of Consecrated Life and two pages of History of the Congregation for the booklet prepared by the Diocese. He has also assisted other Congregation to prepare the banners.

**Fr. Jose Mudavankunnel** who is going to take charge as Superior of FTI Aurangabad after completing 15 years of pastoral ministry in U.S. His austere life, unassuming nature has always been an inspiration and the province monetarily benefited much from his selfless ministry in U.S.

**Fr. Rajesh Lugun** who has been appointed Parish Priest of Waischenfeld, Nankendorf with a quasi-Parish of Poppendorf, Bamberg Diocese in Germany.

**Fr. Shantwan Khutekar** who has revived Karanji farm in terms of restoring all the basic infrastructure such as wells, water pipelines, electricity connection and repairs of the house. He has brought this year the entire land under cultivation and faces huge setback like other farmers due to insufficient rain. Fr. Shantwan's contingency plan like drip irrigation too did not work as there is no water in the well even for such irrigation.

**Frs. Issac John, Amaladoss Antony and George Kurickal** for representing the Province for the Heritage Week in Visakhapatnam and having contributed to the effort of Rev. Fr. Noel Rebelo in gathering source material on the founder. Fr. Issac is nominated to the Pastoral Council of Rourkela Diocese by the Bishop.

**Fr. Francis Venmanikattayil** who has been elected Parish Priest by the parishioners to be appointed by the Bishop of Chur in Switzerland. It is the practice in Switzerland that Parish Priest is elected by the parishioners after certain number of years of work. Fr. Francis received 97.3% of the votes polled.

**Newly elected Members of Visakhapatnam Provincial Curia** comprised of **Rev. Frs. Mandagiri Jojaiah** (Admonitor), **J. Lourdu Ravi Kumar**, **P. Bala Sundar Rao**, **G. Sandeep Reddy** for being elected as the Provincial Councilors and to **Rev. Fr. B. Anil Kumar**, the Bursar of the Province.

### **Hearty Welcome to:**

**Fr. Ranjit, Bro. Ranjit and Fr. Jijo Punchayil** who will come to India for their holidays from Mozambique in the month of December.



**Fr. Jose Mudavankunnel** who has come back from USA as per the personal plan of working in USA for the last 10 years. He will join the community of FTI with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

**Fr. Francis Venmanikattayil** who arrived on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2015 for his annual holidays and will go back in second week of November.

**Approved for Ordination of Diaconate:** Anto Thomas Mappilakunnel and Yobu Melchizedech

**Let us pray for:**

Fr. Arun P's father Mr. Poulouse who is suffering from liver cancer.

Fr. Sayu Cheruvil's father Mr. Scaria Cheruvil who is hospitalized and ailing.

Fr. A. Antony Savary Raj, msfs of South East India Province, 32 year, died on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2015 due brain haemorrhage.

Fr. Vinsent Minj's grandfather Johan Minj aged 90 died on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

Fr. Thomas Vadakumpadam's eldest sister Mary Mathew, aged 80 died on 07<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Fr. Rijo Mechery's uncle aged 70 died on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

Fr. Richard Tirkey's uncle Alexuis Tirkey expired on 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015.

May I request all those who have not fulfilled the suffrages to do the same at the earliest for the deceased confreres of the Congregation. (Const. No. 118; General Directory No. 98).

**Provincial's Itinerary**

**November**

		17-12-2015	PCM
23-11-2015	Bangalore (Governing Body)	18-12-2015	PCM
24-11-2015	Goa (Bastora)	26-12-2015	2 <sup>nd</sup> Annual Retreat
26-11-2015	Nagpur		
28-11-2015	Mission Forum Meeting		
29-11-2015	Mermier Sadan		

**January 2016**

**December**

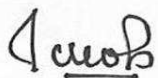
02-12-2015	Simdega	02.01.2016	Nimkheda
04-12-2015	Nagpur	06.01.2016	Jalna
07-12-2015	Bangalore (Fr. Gabriel Memorial Symposium)	08.01.2016	Nanded
08-12-2015	Palakkad / Mannarkad	10.01.2016	Kinwat
12-12-2015	Home Visit	13.01.2016	Nagpur
15-12-2015	Nagpur	25.01.2016	Kottayam
		27.01.2016	Nagpur
		29.01.2016	Latapara
		31.01.2016	Raidihi

**Salesian Thought**

We leave charity for moment, and this imperfect habit of human love is thrust upon us, and we content ourselves with it as if it were true charity, till some clear light shows us that we have been deceived.

St. Francis de Sales

Yours Sincerely in Christ



Jacob Karamakuzhyil, MSFS  
Provincial Superior