

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



NAGPUR PROVINCE

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CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

28.10.2016

Dear Confreres

Greetings of Peace and Joy of Christ to you!

Render to Caesar the things that are Caesars



The unusual auditing by a team of five auditors for one week in our Delhi school is an eye-opener to those of us who think that public funds in our legal bodies and institutions can be used, misused or invested wherever we want at will. As I reflected on the incident, the above words of Jesus came to my mind. Suddenly one is made to realize that the government departments have a larger say in our possessions. It is required to get permission

from Charity Commissioner in Maharashtra to lease a piece of land from one Society to another Society despite the same person being the president of both the Societies. It is true that institutions want to project itself living in a state of deficiency and wanting greater security. In such a situation, the law enforcing authority taking possession of our coffers is hard to digest and needs courage to stand our ground. Such courage will come only from our spirit of integrity with which we administer public goods. I am told a number of schools in Delhi back-tracked on the annual fee hike to avoid such inspection. It is not the usual practice and culture to make known to others one's financial potentials. In Provincial Chapters and Congress, we give information on the matter very discreetly with minimum possible details with no bad intentions but to avoid publicity of our actual status unmindful of the fact that they are already in the public domain. It is still for some of us to become aware that we are only custodians of the wealth of legal bodies and institutions. Every ill of religious living finally boils down to one's covert and overt intent to handle and administer temporal wealth or related matters. At times, it makes us doubt whether for some of us being the sole possessor, entitled to be the final deciding authority is all that bring fulfilment in life? In such environment, a religious community can be dissipated with the rest of the members becoming irrelevant. They will grow like small plants under a huge banyan tree. The administration of temporal goods at times endangers our personal, spiritual and community life if we are not on our guard.

In the above words of Jesus, he does not regard man as under two masters but he says that we owe duty to Caesar and duty to God. His words do not seem to indicate that there are some obligations as secular and

others as sacred. What one gives to the Government is not a gift but a legal due. While rendering to Caesar the coin, one may render his whole self to God. There is no clash between the two. One is not at the cost of the other. State polity is not opposed to religion nor is religion to state. The question raised by the Pharisees were meant to trap Jesus over which he raised himself far above the petty controversy of the time and affirmed the great principle of natural and religious obligation that belongs to all times, persons and places. It is amply clear that it is part of our religious obedience to be loyal citizens. Our obedience to rules is not to be compromised if we want to be good religious persons. Civil society too is God's creation. It is he who through earthly rulers demands our tribute. The order and progress of our society are his work. In the administration of temporal good, our knowledge of civil laws is paramount to be genuine religious persons. All of us should take pains to understand the working of institutions in accordance with the demands and norms of the state. The report of the five days of internal auditing of Delhi School was positive which underlines our credibility before the general public. The report suggested that the school deserved to hike the fees to the extent of 25%, though the inspection was ordered for hiking to 10%.

Provincials Meeting with General Curia at Vishakhapatnam



The Provincials of India, East Africa and the Vice Provincial of USA had meeting with the members of the General Curia from 6th to 8th October 2016 at Vishakhapatnam. At the very outset, Rev. Fr. Superior General stated the meeting is intended to introspect our relationship and collaboration, to discuss congregational matters, to strengthen and appreciate one another, to share our challenges, to ensure that we adhere to the Constitutions on matters of administration, to educate ourselves to be effective leaders and animators and to give priority to the spirit of our charism. A number of inter-

province concerns and province administrative matters were deliberated. They are draft agreement for the collaboration with the needy provinces, society matters in Germany, formulation of contextual formation guidelines, the common form to be signed by all confreres on Code of Ethics, preparing a final draft on guidelines for canonical visitation of the major superiors, the collation by provinces on documents such as Retreat Culture, Spiritual Directory, Associates of Fransalians in every province, Salesian Spiritual program at Annecy, parish preaching ministry, Congregational Retreats 2017 - 2018, De Sales Mermier Resource and Research Centre and personnel for the animation of the Centre, collaboration with De Sales University USA, the possibility of having a common house for the care of the aged confreres working outside India, appointment of Delegation Superiors in Germany, Ten Year policy for the members working in developed countries, and digital and mobile policy for scholastics in India. On 8th evening, all of us participated in the funeral services of Fr. Luke Cheruvil.

Canonical Visitation of Houses

Mermier Sadan, Nagpur is the most visited house by confreres in the Province. We see confreres hardly returning from Nagpur without paying a visit to senior confreres at Mermier Sadan. After the unexpected demise of some senior confreres, Fr. Micky D'Souza is the most outspoken senior member who speaks on any topic under the sun. He is in high spirit to be in the golden jubilee year and keeps himself busy with his computer and reading. Fr. Cyriac Velikkettel, young at heart as ever is always in and around St. John's

football ground, keeping a track on the annual tournaments and often giving a critical analysis of the matches. He was quite elated recently because St. John's School won Father Peter Mermier Football Tournament after a gap of two years. Mermier Public School construction is on. The school has a full time Principal and Administrator. Fr. George Kurickal is the Principal and Superior of the Community. It is time that the school should chalk out plans to make the school more visible in terms of publicity and academic quality. The whole surrounding is congested due to construction activities. This community is unique in the province in terms of members comprised of elders, and youngsters. NFC has planned to construct another eight rooms for the senior confreres, attached to the present building.

Badnera Community is paying greater attention to bring up the school, construction of which is nearing completion. Fr. Marcus Ruptake is the Superior, Fr. Issac John the Principal and Fr. Rijo Mechery the School Administrator. The Province is grateful to the community for the care they have been taking for late Fr. Sayu for the past two to three years. As of now, the main task of the community is to bring up the school in terms of implementing a better academic culture. The number of students is not proportionate to the infra-structure. There will be many vacant class rooms in the building once it is occupied. The school was constructed with the help of Delhi Fransalian Society. The new team has shown lots of enthusiasm to enhance its quality in varied dimensions. They have visited a number of prominent catholic schools in Nagpur to study and adopt better academic system. The community is also blessed with a small parish community of 40 families. Fr. Marcus Ruptake is the Parish Priest.

My visit to Nidadavole Minor Seminary

I was fortunate to visit Fransalian Vidyajothi, Nidadavole, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh, where our six students are in their +2 in SFS Junior College which is being run in the seminary building. Rev. Fr. Marneni Shantaiah is the Rector who is a senior priest recently returned from Australia and Rev. Fr. Kurella Vijay Shekhar is the Principal of the proposed Junior College. It was a wonderful experience speaking to this young priest who is visualizing the future college with its infra-structure and academic culture. Such challenging projects are usually not envisioned keeping all the required and qualified persons ready. The seminary has the best Fransalian ambience with a typical garden in front with statues of St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Peter Mermier. Our students are very happy here. They told me that now they are closer to Odisha than before.

Policy Decisions, Appointments, Information

The Province shall not send confreres to Germany beyond the existing number. There can be replacement of members while one returns to the Province but not adding to the present 11 members, working in GAH. The policy would be always to minimize the total number.

The maximum confreres to be sent to work for the Province and Mozambique Delegation in USA would be four. As of now we have three. The Province is open to send confreres to needy provinces in western countries and USA Vice Province. Request to join USA Vice Province by those who are already working in USA will be discouraged as new members from the province will be given the opportunity.

NFC Bamra School in Odisha after the establishment would give freeship to 50% of the total students. Criteria to select these students will be worked out by the Education Forum of the Province. The shortage of funds to implement free-ship will be met by the Principal Society which will pay the salary of 50% of the staff. This policy would assist the school to play a wider role in the education of tribal catholic

children in the area. Free-ship would mean only tuition fees which will not be applicable to Pre-primary classes. This will necessitate hostels for boys and girls in Bamra.

NFC School in Aurangabad after its establishment would give 25% free-ship to students from economically under-privileged background. Children from catholic village parishes will be given first preference. The shortage of funds to implement free-ship will be met by contributions by the three Educational Societies in turns which run prominent schools in Maharashtra. They will pay the salary of 25% of teachers. This will engage these societies to do charitable acts.

Mozambique Mission should be oriented towards self-sufficiency, steady progress in expansion to absorb more members from the Province to be part of the Delegation. More members should coincide with growth in terms of the Mission. The expansion process faced a set-back because the political violence in North Mozambique.

Those holding Bachelor of Education Degree (B.Ed) and appointed in schools must do their post-graduation degree either in education or in any other subject at the earliest. Our Principals cannot remain under-qualified in comparison to their teachers which will raise a question mark on their interest in the apostolate and continuity. If they lack the necessary qualification in spite of being in the school, it will show their poor introspection of the profession and failure to understand the demands of the time.

All original land documents such as sale deed registrations, mutation papers will have to be filed in the Provincial House. Centers will keep only the Xerox copies and they will be given original as and when required. Frequent transfers of members do not ensure safe keeping and attention to these original documents. At NFC Office Nagpur, there is proper filing system of land papers and we have a staff appointed for accounting and file maintenance. All local superiors are entrusted with this responsibility in consultation with the Provincial Bursar.

A committee constituted of **Frs. Shijumon Mangalath, Issac John and John Brito Muthuswamy** is appointed to plan for the curriculum and other internal infra-structure and learning facilities for Aurangabad School.

Fr. Benedict De Souza is appointed Province Vicar w.e.f. 02nd November 2016 to 22nd November 2016 during my absence from the province on account of visitation to Germany and Switzerland.

Frs. Issac John, Patras Tirkey and Antony Amaladoss will do their Doctorate in different universities. They should make efforts to complete their studies at the earliest.

Fr. Solomon Sahayaraj is appointed local superior of Rehau Local Community in Germany w.e.f. 01.10.2016. he is also delegated with the responsibility of Delegation Superior to animate Nagpur MSFS Province Delegation until the time new delegation superior is appointed.

Fr. Henry Peter is appointed to be the Staff of Prakash Bhavan Minor Seminary, Kerala w.e.f. 22.09.2016.

Fr. Issac John is appointed the Principal of St. Francis de Sales School, Badnera w.e.f. 01.09.2016.

Fr. Albin Joseph is appointed Asst Parish Priest in Ambapani Parish, Rourkela Diocese w.e.f. 01.10.2016.

Dn. Melky is appointed at Darkona Parish and **Dn. Anto Thomas** is appointed at Kandor Bhanji Parish for their diaconate ministry w.e.f. 01.10.2016. Both the deacons are expected to do cultural immersion program by staying in families for one month.

Fr. I Yesudass is appointed to be the Staff of St Mary's School, Kinwat w.e.f. 15.10.2016.

Fr. Bijay Kerketta is appointed Priest in-charge of developmental activities in Bamra Odisha which includes demarcation of the land, compound wall and other planning for the school construction in consultation with NFC.

Our sincere appreciations/thanks/congratulations to:

Fr. Anil George who withstood the specially ordered School Inspection by Delhi Government on financial transactions and administration headed by an auditing team of five members for one week. It is because of the annual fee hike of 10% of the tuition fees. Schools were asked to either go back on the fee hike or be subjected to the inspection. The school opted for inspection and was assisted by its own auditor and accountants. The Government inspection report recommended a higher fee hike beyond 10% as per the needs and norms.

Fr. Benedict De Souza who has organized two on-going formation program for two batches of confreres. The program was highly appreciated by members. He also during his visit to Germany promoted our Jharkhand Mission and collected certain funds which will be used for the construction of Bara Durgapur Church.

Fr. Anthony Amaladoss who headed the study team on starting professional education program in Nagpur, visited few institutions and submitted his recommendations. The report submitted requires fine tuning to arrive at conclusive decisions.

Fr. Christopher Lakra and **Fr. Cyprian Dungdung** who organized Father Peter Mermier Inter Parish Hockey Tournament at Pandripalli Parish. The tournament stole the lime light in the Diocese of Rourkela with sixty-four teams participating in the tournament.

Frs. Bijay Kerketta and Allan Gonsalves who jointly undertook the NA work of Bamra Land. There was a legal hitch in getting NA because the NFC land does not have accessibility to the road. Fortunately, forest land is attached to it which will be leased to us by the Collector who promised to give a road with an undertaking. Now, what they need to do is a proper demarcation of the property. We have three pieces of land not attached to each other. Two pieces have accessibility to the road but they are registered in personal names. Fr. Bijay has succeeded in getting one piece of land mutated after a long negotiation. The rest of the land was mutated at the time of purchase. This is what happens if we postpone or do not follow up and see to the end of a deal up to the mutation of the property at the time of purchase.

Nanded Community which has extended a helping hand by financially supporting the construction of St. John's Public School, Nagpur. They are also assisting to build the compound wall at Kandor, Jharkhand.

Fr. Cyriac Nellikunnel who has promised to help Khamgaon Community for the computer literacy program and Inter Religious Dialogue program.

Fr. Francis Venmenikattayil who made efforts as per our request and contributed for the construction of Bara Durgapur Church, Jharkhand. This makes it possible to start the church construction this year. However, it is not to be constructed as we construct schools. It is the parishioners who will construct with the support and assistance from the Parish Team. There should be 100% involvement of parishioners in the construction of the church.

Fr. Paul Gonsalves who accepted to work for English Province on the request of the Provincial. He was all set and mentally prepared for a different transfer. However, after few days of reflection and prayer, he responded to the need of the Congregation to work for another Province. He had himself opted to work in frontier mission at a time when we had not many takers for the same. All other provinces are as important as one's own province when it comes to a crisis situation of a different nature. All our priests who joined to work in another province on long term or short term basis can return to their mother province as and when they desire and very specially at the time of retirement.

Frs. Issac John and Rijo Mechery who have been making lots of efforts to introduce best academic culture in Badnera School. They have visited number of good schools in Nagpur to evolve the best system for the school. Lots of planning is being done to install the basic infrastructure. The school has scope if greater publicity is done and teaching faculty is better animated.

Fr. Marcus Ruptake who for the initiatives shown to renovate the House in Badnera. It requires a lot of maintenance work. He has listed the important works to be carried out. The building has been leaking due to defective plumbing works.

Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy who has made lots of efforts to evolve the best academic culture, syllabus and infrastructure in Nimkheda School. Competitions and academic activities are introduced as required of a CBSE School. New initiatives are taken up to encourage sports.

Fr. Ranjith Tirkey and Delegation Administration which has taken the initiatives to construct another eight rooms for Matola Delegation House in Mozambique. It is being constructed as the first floor for the newly constructed pre-primary school, Matola.

Fr. Paul Varambinakam has done exceptionally well in promoting vocations to Prakash Bhavan this year. Prakash Bhavan is now listed for vocation scarcity minor seminary. Fr Paul managed to make 30 students to join Prakash Bhavan this year. However, six of them left after some time. Now, we have twenty-four of them which is a good number. The tremendous effort made by him to contact institutions, hostels etc., with the help of Bishops and other vocation promoters needs to be applauded. For next year, he has visited already nine schools and he is in touch with two hundred students or more.

Fr. Ignaci Muthu who has been appointed by the Superior General as the Provincial of South East Province. He will take charge on 24th January. Fr. Ignaci Muthu was a practicing lawyer in Madras High Court. He was part of the Provincial Curia more than once. We extend to him our prayerful support and greetings.

Fr. George Panthanmakkal who has been appointed by the Superior General as the Provincial of North East India Province for the second term. We wish him God's blessings and assure him our prayerful support in the administration of the Province.

Important Dates

01st November to 22nd November 2016 Fr. Benedict De Souza will be Province Vicar.

01st December 4th December 2016, Regents Meet at Latapara, Rourkela, Odisha

27th December 2016 to 01st January 2017: Second Group Retreat at Varanasi

17th to 18th January 2017 Mission Sangamam, at Nagpur (Mandatory for all Parish Priests to attend)

11th Feb 2017 Education Forum, at MSFS Provincialate, Nagpur.

Let us pray for:

Fr. Luke Cheruvil of Visakhapatnam Province, aged 74 died on 05th October 2016.

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

Fr. Richard Tirkey's father Mr. Michael Tirkey aged 85 died on 02nd October 2016

Fr. Thumma Mariadas' mother Thumma Chinnamma, aged 92, died on 03rd October 2016.

Fr. Selbester Xalxo's elder brother Mr. Premanus Xalxo aged 38 died on 11th October 2016.

Fr. Cyriac Velikkettel's sister-in-law Elizabeth aged 90 died on 12th October 2016.

Fr. Peter Dominic's aunty Mrs. Cicilia Das aged 65 died on 14th October 2016.

Fr. Christu Raja's grandfather Mr. Michael died on 16th October 2016.

Provincial's Itinerary:

November 2016

02.11.2016 Germany
18.11.2016 India
27.11.2016 Bhusawal
28.11.2016 Cidco
29.11.2016 FTI
30.11.2016 FTI

07.12.2016 Kinwat
08.12.2016 Nanded
09.12.2016 Nanded
10.12.2016 Jalna
11.12.2016 Jalna
12.12.2016 Nagpur
14.12.2016 PCM
15.12.2016 PCM
20.12.2016 Khamgaon
21.12.2016 Khamgaon
22.12.2016 Nagpur
23.12.2016 Varanasi

December 2016

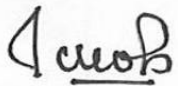
01.12.2016 Bangalore
04.12.2016 Nagpur
06.12.2016 Kinwat

Salesian Thought

Happy is the heart that loves God without pretense of any other pleasure than that it takes in pleasing God.

St. Francis de Sales

Yours Sincerely in Christ



Jacob Karamakuzhyil, MSFS
Provincial Superior