

**MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES**  
**South-East India Province**



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**KIM / 06**

**August**

**2017**

**My Dear Confreres,**

Greetings of peace and joy to all of you my dear confreres!

The month of August is very special for us both as Christians and Indian citizens. August 15<sup>th</sup> is a very special occasion, because we have twin celebration of Assumption of Mary and Independence day of our country. Both give us one message, the message of liberation. The cumulative understanding of both celebrations gives the message of total liberation – spiritual liberation (assumption of Mary) signifying hope, joy and glory and political liberation (Independence) signifying freedom, equality, progress and growth.

Mary, mother of our Lord Jesus was honoured to be the first human person to enter into promised heavenly glory. This honour was given to her for her total surrender to God's will and her service to humanity. She gives the message that all those who surrender to God's will and serve the humanity will enter the same glory.

Independence day gives the message that liberation is a result of long struggles, persecution and sacrifice. In order to strengthen this liberation and the country with its diversity, we need to root out all the evil of the society. We as Christians and citizens of India, have a responsibility of accompanying the people to the path of total liberation by our life in accordance the values of Jesus Christ, our saviour and in accordance with the values of the Constitution of India.

Let us be proud to celebrate the Assumption of Mary our Mother and Independence Day of India!

**THE SIXTH BISHOP OF KOTTAR DIOCESE**  
**MOST. REV. NAZARENE SOOSAI**

Date of birth : 13.04.1963  
Date of ordination : 02.04.1989  
Place of birth : Rajakkalamngalamthurai, diocese of Kottar  
Academic studies : A Master's degree in political sciences from the University of Madurai.  
Ecclesiastical studies : Philosophy and theology at the Sacred Heart Seminary in Poonamalle, Chennai.  
A licentiate in theology from the Catholic University of Leuven Belgium.  
And a doctorate from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome.



**Pastoral Ministry**

1989- 1990 Asst. Parish Priest Our Lady of Presentation church, Colachel.  
1990- 1992 Prefect of studies at the Tamil Nadu Xavier Mission Home, Nagercoil.  
Secretary of the diocesan Commission for vocations  
1992- 1998 Parish priest of St. Helen's parish, Enayam  
Ecclesiastical assistant of the Christian Life Community  
And secretary of the Diocesan Priests Personal Board  
1998- 2000 Specialized studies in theology in Leuven, Belgium  
2000- 2003 Studied for a doctorate in Rome  
2003- 2011 Dean and professor of theology at the Sacred Heart seminary in Poonamalle, Chennai  
From 2012 Parish priest of the Shrine of Our Lady of Ransom, Kanyakumari and Vicar Forane of the vicariate of Kanyakumari

20.05.2017 Election as the Bishop of Kottar Diocese.  
29.06.2017 Consecration as the Bishop of Kottar Diocese.

*In the name of the whole Province, I wish God's choicest blessings in his pastoral ministry and I assure him of our continued prayerful support. May the good Lord guide him all throughout his lifetime!!!*

**APOSTOLIC COMMUNITIES OF SOUTHEAST INDIA PROVINCE – 2017  
CONVENERS AND SECRETARIES**

**I. ST. JOHN DE BRITTO APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY, PUDUKKOTTAI**

**Convener:** Fr. A. Selvaraj  
**Secretary:** Fr. A. Nayaga Seelan

**II. FR. PETER MERMIER APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY, KUNNATHUR**

**Convener:** Fr. P. Anantha Raj  
**Secretary:** Fr. C. Martin Kumar

**III. ST. THOMAS APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY, CHENNAI**

**Convener:** Fr. P. Felix  
**Secretary:** Fr. M. Simon Prabu

**IV. SFS APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY, VANIAMBADI**

**Convener:** Fr. C. Sebastin Raj  
**Secretary:** Fr. S. Arockia Christu Raj

**V. ST. MARY'S APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY, VILLUPURAM & PONDICHERRY**

**Convener:** Fr. D. Robert  
**Secretary:** Fr. S. Ashir Johnson

**VI. FR. JOHN BOSCO APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY, VIRUDUNAGAR**

**Convener:** Fr. M. John De Britto  
**Secretary:** Fr. S. Antony Raj

## **FORUMS OF SOUTHEAST INDIA PROVINCE – 2017**

### **CONVENERS, SECRETARIES AND CORE COMMITTEE**

#### **I. FORMATION FORUM**

**Convener** : Fr. A. Santhiyagu

**Secretary** : Fr. D. Sheen

**Core Committee** : Frs. A. Santhiyagu, George Kootinal, D. Kanikkai Nathan, H. Ebin Christopher & D. Sheen

#### **II. EDUCATION FORUM**

**Convener** : Fr. J. B. John Thadews

**Secretary** : Fr. M. Simon Prabu

**Core Committee** : Frs. J. B. John Thadews, A. Lawrence, A. Arul Francis, J. Stephen, A. Doss & M. Simon Prabu

#### **III. INNOVATIVE FORUM**

**Convener** : Fr. D. Amirtharajan

**Secretary** : Fr. X. George Navin

**Core Committee** : Frs. D. Amirtharajan, A. Alexander, C. Sebastin Raj, A. Jeyaseelan, A. Selvaraj & X. George Navin

#### **IV. MISSION FORUM**

**Convener** : Fr. D. Kanikkai Nathan

**Secretary** : Fr. S. Stephen Xavier

**Core Committee** : Frs. D. Kanikkai Nathan, S. Tony, P. Johnson Jeyabal, N. Arokiaselvam, I. S. Yesu Raj, S. Sahaya Wilson & S. Stephen Xavier

## **THE EDUCATION AND STEWARDSHIP FORUM MEETING**

**Date & Time:** 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017; 9 am to 2:30 pm

**Venue:** Conference Hall, MSFS Provincialate, Trichy

The members of the Forums arrived on time and having refreshed and relished themselves with breakfast and tea, we sought the blessings of God for the day's agenda. We praised and worshipped the Eucharistic Lord for half an hour and began our meeting with an opening prayer prayed by Fr. Martin Anand followed by words of welcome extended by Fr. Thadews, Counselor in charge of Education Forum. After thanking Fr. Amirtha Rajan (Present Counselor in charge of Innovative & Social Ministry Forum) and the outgoing secretary for his hard work and dedication, the members selected Fr. M. Simon Prabu as the new secretary. The Forum had the participation of all its members in the presence of Very Rev. Fr .K. Ignacimuthu, the Provincial of South-East India Province. Rev. Fr. Thadews, the Counselor in charge of Education Forum appreciated all conferrers working in SFS Schools for achieving splendid results in both 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> standard. And he thanked Fr. Savari Muthu for his tireless effort for obtaining the Government Approval for SFS School land in Perumbakkam.

Concerns and Goals for the new academic year 2017-18 were taken for the meeting as follows: All our SFS Students should speak good and correct English fluently. The priority is to develop linguistic skills and right knowledge expansion. We have a unique identity and commonality in our choices of study materials and academic endeavours. We have already accomplished in perusing a common Textbooks, Grammar Books and Note-books including stationary from our SFS Printing Press, Technical School, Pudukottai. Concession for the Catholic Children and preparing a Common Concession Form and Concession for Deserving Children were discussed. While discussing on Budget, we arrived at providing Equal pocket money for all the confreres, Confreres salary is to be used only for their welfare and not for any construction. Concept of Co-coordinators is to be practiced. Appointment of Teachers and Selection is to be done in accordance with the academic qualification and Teaching Experience.

For the event of the 450<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of our Patron St. Francis de Sales, we had the selection of the organizing committee. The members are Fr. Savari Muthu, Fr. Charles, Fr. Benjamin & Fr. Jayaraj. And the core-committee Members for Education Forum are Fr. Thadews, Fr. Arul Francis, Fr. J. Stephen, Fr. A. Lawrence, Fr. Doss, and Fr. Simon Prabu. The encouraging presence of the Provincial Rev. Fr. Ignacimuthu and fruitful discussion with the members of the Forum was actually a good start for the new academic year. After the final deliberations, we continued with the Stewardship Forum Meeting and then with gratitude we dispersed for Lunch.

*Fr. Simon Prabu*

## **THE MISSION FORUM MEETING**

The first mission forum meeting was held at the MSFS Provincialate, Nagamangalam on 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2017. After half an hour of Eucharistic adoration led by Fr. William, the meeting commenced at 9.30 am. The councillor in charge of mission Fr. Kanikkai Nathan began the meeting with a prayer and welcomed all the members of the mission forum at the very outset. First of all, the election of secretary was done and Fr. S. Stephen Xavier was elected unanimously as the secretary of the mission forum after which a group of five members were elected as the Core Committee Members of the mission forum, namely; Fr. Tony, Fr. Arockia Selvam, Fr. Johnson Jeyabal, Fr. I. S. Yesuraj and Fr. Stephen Xavier the secretary.

The forum discussed various matters such as; The necessity of evolving a uniform core identity as MSFS in the mission stations, Areas of revival (Friends of Fransalian, Fransalian Associates, parish renewal with the help of MSFS mission preaching team, mission Sangamam, etc.), Creating a realistic Parish Social Survey, distribution of Scholarship Fund for the Poor Students, Promotion of Local Resources to ensure the basic education for all the catholic students within the parishes, Urgency and the Consolidation of the Frontier Mission and the Mission Abroad etc. Many such agenda were actively discussed and after the final prayer led by Fr. Kanikkai Nathan the meeting came to an end at 1.30 pm.

*Fr. Stephen Xavier*

## **THE INNOVATIVE FORUM MEETING**

**Date & Time:** 10<sup>th</sup> July 2017; 1:00 pm onwards

**Venue:** Conference Hall, MSFS Provincialate, Trichy

**Number of Participants:** 14

Before the formal meeting began we had half an hour of adoration which was animated by Frs. Jeya Kumar and Christu Raj. Then we began the meeting officially at 2:00 pm. At the very outset Fr. Amirtha Rajan, the new councillor in charge of innovative forum officially welcomed all the members along with the Provincial and Provincial Bursar. After the welcome address, the new secretary for the innovative forum for this year was proposed and elected. The new secretary's responsibility was accepted by Fr. X. George Navin.

**The following points were taken for discussion:** The action plan report of the provincial congress 2017 regarding innovative forum, full time project co-coordinator: Members strongly opined that we appoint a few persons to do the work of writing the projects. It was decided that Frs. Santhiyagu and Selva Raj will be the members to the work of writing the project along with the project holder of the individual project. Corpus fund for the education of the poor, to raise

collection for formation, Mermerian retreat in all our parishes, re- vitalizing the Justice and peace forum, the specialization of confreres, Prayer and spirituality centre, Tamil magazine, Corpus fund for the medical insurance of our confreres and some common issues were also taken up for discussions.

**Proposal to form a core committee:** the core committee consists of following members: Frs. Alexander, Sebastin Raj, Jeya Kumar, A. Selvaraj and Navin. The duty of the core committee is to have as many meetings as possible in order to take any major decisions for the growth and development of innovative ministries.

Fr. Amirtha Rajan requested the director of various centres to give a short history of each centres latest by 30<sup>th</sup> July 2017. The next forum meeting which is scheduled on 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> September 2017 is a mandatory meeting. It will be organized by General Secretary in-charge for innovative and social ministry. Finally Fr. Amirtha Rajan thanked all the participants. The meeting came to an end at 5pm.

*Fr. X. George Navin*

## **FORMATION FORUM**

### **“Formation for consecrated life is a work of art.” Pope Francis**

In order to add more beauty to the art of formation we convoked the first formation meeting of this academic year 2017 & 2018 on July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 9 am with a half an hour of adoration. Majority of the members of the formation forum turned up for the meeting. The issues that were discussed in the meeting are;

- Recruitment of the Vocations from the neighbouring states (Esp., from north)
- Devising of plans for the school going brothers.
- Looking into the various possibilities of bringing back the old system of the minor seminary.
- Looking into the possibilities of opening up new rooms for our minor seminary brothers to do their class 11 and 12 in our own schools.
- An overall evaluation was done about the Pre- Novitiate programme that was held in Alangayam in May.
- Graded formation
- Postulancy programme that is going on in our minor seminary.
- An evaluation was done about the actualization of the action plans of the congress.
- Presentation of the income and the expenses of the province.

Fr. A. Santhiyagu, the councilor in-charge of formation thanked all the participants of the meeting and we concluded the meeting at 1:15 pm by glorifying the name of the trinity.

*Fr. D. Sheen*

## **ST. ANTONY OF DESERT'S PARISH FEAST AT AMMAPATTY**

The 101<sup>st</sup> parish feast to St. Antony the hermit at Ammapatty in the Arch Diocese of Madurai began with the flag hoisting on 4<sup>th</sup> July at 6.00pm. It's very first parish priest Fr. A. Santiago MSFS, the Provincial Admonitor and the councilor in-charge of formation hoisted the flag and officiated the Eucharist emphasizing in the homily on "exemplary family life." On 5<sup>th</sup> the native priests of Ammapatty celebrated the novena mass. On 6<sup>th</sup> all the MSFS new priests of 2017 solemnized the event during which the new priests were welcomed and felicitated by the parish priest and the parishioners. On 7<sup>th</sup> Fr. Selvaraj MSFS solemnized the event with a special Eucharist Adoration and holy mass. The feast mass on 8<sup>th</sup> July was solemnized by Fr. M. Santiago, the diocesan procurator of Sivagangai. He preached on the "family values of poverty and humility" referring to the life of St. Antony. The village feast was celebrated with devotion, grandeur and pomp. Many of our MSFS priests from neighboring communities and vicariate priests and sisters from neighborhood participated in the feast.

*Fr. D. Jaya Kumar*

## **BLESSING AND INAUGURATION OF THE NEW CHURCH AT KOTHANGUDI, THE SUBSTATION OF NACHIYARKOIL PARISH**

*"Let them construct a sanctuary for Me, that I may dwell among them." (Exodus 25:8)*

19<sup>th</sup> July 2017 marks an important day in the parish of Nachiyarkoil, as there was Blessing and Inauguration of the New Church in one of the sub-stations called Kothangudi. The function began at 6:30 pm. Very Rev. Fr. Amirtha Samy, the VG of Kumbakonam diocese blessed and opened the New Church dedicated to St. Anne, popularly called as Santhana Madha. Very Rev. Fr. Ignacimuthu, the provincial opened the memorial stone. The holy mass was celebrated by Fr. Amirtha Samy along with Fr. Ignacimuthu, Fr. Devadass, the VF of Kumbakonam diocese, Fr. Nicholas, Fr. Kanikkai, Fr. Santhanam, Fr. Nayaga Seelan and fathers from Kumbakonam diocese. The faithful participated in large numbers and made this event a very special one.

*Dn. S. Arockia Doss*

## **NEW PRIESTS' ANIMATION DAY, 2017**

The first Animation Program for the new priests for the year 2017 in our province was organized by Rev. Dr. A. Santhiyagu, the Councilor in-charge of formation on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of July in the MSFS Provincial house, Nagamangalam. The program started on the eve of 19<sup>th</sup> July with prayer and welcome by Fr. Santhiyagu. He then oriented the participants by explaining the thrust of the program viz., "*Purpose- Oriented Priests.*" He emphasized on the aspects of *Ministry, focusing on personal talents and Fixing Proper Goal* as the focal points of departure in



priestly life. It was then followed by an open sharing session in which each one of the participants shared his own ministerial and community experiences in the mission station.

On the following day three input sessions were organized. The resource person for the first session was Rev. Dr. A. S. John Peter, a renowned priest from the Diocese of Thanjavur. He presented his reflections on the theme: New Horizons and the challenges in the ministry of the priests, namely he explained the 15 diseases of leadership and seven pillars of priesthood from the teachings of Pope Francis. He encouraged everyone to be sincere and authentic leaders. He inspired everyone by his words and way of life. The second session was animated by Fr. K. Ignaci Muthu, the Provincial, on the theme: “Legal Perspectives of Parish Administration and Sacraments.” It was indeed a great learning and sharing experience. The third session was animated by Fr. Santhiyagu on the theme: “*Claiming my priestly identity: A pastoral Approach.*” With various practical examples he motivated the participants to focus on the core values of priesthood and celebrating the sacraments meaningfully. The program came to an end at 3.45pm with the words of gratitude from the new priests and a prayer led by Fr. Santhiyagu. We had a great time together and it was a motivating experience which would be very much helpful to us to face the ministerial challenges with a positive approach.

*Fr. D. Jayakumar*

## **INFORMATION**

### **➤ FORUM MEETINGS WITH GENERAL SECRETARIES**

Formation Forum Meeting	-	9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017
Education Forum Meeting	-	11 <sup>th</sup> and 12 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017
Mission Forum Meeting	-	13 <sup>th</sup> and 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017
Social and Innovative Ministry Forum Meeting	-	15 <sup>th</sup> and 16 <sup>th</sup> Sept 2017

### **➤ REGIONAL FORUMS MEETINGS**

**Sept 26<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>:** Regional Forum (India) Mission Forum with General Secretary in Bangalore

**Sept 28<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>:** Regional Forum (India) Education Forum with General Secretary in Trichy

**Oct 4<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>:** Regional (India) Stewardship Forum with General Bursar

**Nov 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup>:** Regional (India) Social Apostolate in Vizag

**Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>:** Regional (India) formation Apostolate in Nagpur

### **➤ RETREAT FOR GENERAL CURIA, PROVINCIALS AND THE ANIMATORS**

Oct 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> – Poondi Madha Basilica, Thanjavur (DT)

➤ **PIF - PEA MEETING WITH THE GENERAL CURIA**

Oct 14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> – Msfs Provincialate, Kunnathur, Pudukkottai

➤ **COMMUNITY MEETING**

There must be community meeting every month. And a copy of the minutes of the Community meeting has to be sent to the provincial on or before 5<sup>th</sup> of the following month.

**A WORD OF APPRECIATIONS AND CONGRATULATIONS**

- **New Provincial for the Nagpur Province:** Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvelil, our beloved Superior General has appointed **Rev. Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy**, as the new provincial of Nagpur Province.

*In the name of the province I extend my heartiest congratulations to him and God's abundant blessings in his ministry in the service of the Congregation.*

- **A word of thanks to Rev. Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhy**, the outgoing provincial of Nagpur province for his fruitful & successful guidance of the province for the past six years with his selfless service and commitment.

*In the name of the province I thank Dear Fr. Jacob for his wonderful commitment and dedication for the progress of the Nagpur province.*

- Fr. A. Christu Raj has become **the life member in Indian Sociological Society**. His membership number is: 4274.

*In the name of the province I extend my heartiest congratulations to him.*

**ON HOME HOLIDAYS FROM ABROAD**

Fr. P. S. Joseph (Germany) - From 08<sup>th</sup> August to 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2017.

*We wish him a good time with his dear and near ones.*

## **MONTH OF AUGUST**

### **BIRTHDAYS OF OUR CONFRES**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Names</b>
02	Fr. Kootinal George
06	Fr. M. Simon Prabhu
07	Fr. K. Dominic Savio
14	Fr. A. Jeyakumar
14	Fr. B. Francis Xavier
17	Fr. G. Sebastin
18	Fr. G. Arockia Samy
20	Fr. A. Antony Christopher
23	Fr. S. Sahaya Wilson
24	Fr. A. Chinnasamy Yesuraj
24	Fr. L. Jaya Raj
27	Fr. S. Joseph Xavier

*We wish them Happy Birthday and God's Abundant Blessings upon them*

### **ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES OF OUR CONFRES**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Names</b>
12	Fr. A. Lawrence
25	Fr. C. Sebastin Raj

*We Congratulate and Pray For Them*

**REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THE DEAD**  
**MSFS OBITUARY – AUGUST**

01	Fr. Cecil Cutlack
	Fr. Alphonse Bosson
	Fr. Adrien Duval
	Fr. Patrick Waldron
02	Bro. Louis Evraz
	Fr. Joseph Tissot
	Mgr. Ignatius Gopu
04	Fr. Henri Mudry
05	Fr. Bernard Carron
	Fr. Marius Vagnat
	Fr. James Grmble
	Fr. Joseph Vulliez
07	Fr. Santana Pereira
9	Fr. Thomas Marian
10	Fr. Carlo C. Fernandes
11	Fr. Basil Harrison
12	Fr. Chacko Varapadavil
13	Fr. Maurice Monnard
15	Bro. Corbinian Neumaier
16	Bro. Jean Marie Raphoz
	Fr. Laurent Mugnier
	Bro. Bernard Vaz
17	Fr. Oliver Moix
18	Fr. Ambroise Allaed
	Fr. Paul Kizhakeparambil
20	Fr. Alphonse Menthon
21	Fr. John Charles Lord
	Fr. George Vayalil
22	Fr. Aime Trosset
	Fr. Petrus Descombes
23	Bro. Joseph Depollier
25	Fr. Joseph Bansode
	Fr. Henri Rime
	Fr. Joseph Oravanamthadam
26	Mgr. Louis Francis Gayet
27	Bro. Joseph Leduc
28	Fr. Pierre Mollier
29	Bro. Hubert Guebey
30	Fr. Michel Ticon
	Fr. Henri Bourquin
31	Bro. Francois Ruffier

*Let Us Continue To Pray For the Deceased Members of Our Congregation*

## **LET US PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED**

- Rev. Fr. Sijo Olickal of Southwest India Province, aged 31, expired on 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.

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

***May his soul rest in peace***

## **MY PROGRAMME**

### **August**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> and 5 <sup>th</sup>        | - | CRI Meeting, Tindivanam                   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> Aug to 5 <sup>th</sup> Sep | - | Canonical Visitation to USA & West Indies |

**Yours Fraternally in Christ,  
Rev. Fr. K. Ignacimuthu, Msfs  
Provincial Superior**

### **SALESIAN THOUGHT**

“Religious life is not the place to look for a position of honour and esteem as one does when one chooses to follow a profession at the courts. To hanker after dignity and distinction in religious life is a sign that we have not yet arrived at a state of detachment that is required.”

- Saint Francis de Sales