

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



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CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

21.01.2016

Dear Confreres

Live Jesus as shown by St. Francis de Sales



We are on the eve of the feast day of the Congregation. As of now we are in spiritual preparation for 24th January. At this moment of time, it is imperative that we make attempts to understand the essence of the spirituality of our heavenly patron. “Live Jesus” is the significant feature of our spirituality. The words of Francis “love seeks that which it has found, not to have it but to have it always” highlight that only closeness to the one loved will move us forward to live and transmit that love. Francis was very much affected by the deep union of St Paul and Christ. “I live now, not I, but Christ lives in me.” Francis took St. Paul as model for ‘Live Jesus’. He had drawn inspiration from Jesus, Mother Mary and Apostle Paul.

It needs to be studied how Francis lived his pastoral ministry, very specially as priest of Chablais and later as Bishop. For him vocation to priesthood was one’s determination to unite oneself with Jesus who too was similarly united with God the father. Francis says on his vocation to

Priesthood “As soon as I received the grace of knowing something about the fruit of the cross, a desire of priesthood entered in my heart. It never left me.” When he celebrated his first mass on 21st December 1593, he recalls his experience “in the first sacrifice, God took possession of my soul in an inexplicable manner.” He loved and honored his priestly state very much, and understood that Church could become holy only through holy priests. His priestly sanctity stood out in his daily communion with Christ. He embraced his vocation to priesthood for the love and glory of God, renouncing worldly honors, riches and possessions, giving his whole being and powers to “live Jesus.”

Francis was a man of prayer and he used it to unite himself with God. He never missed his daily spiritual exercises. When under pressure of work, he would rise before day break to balance the extra time. His dearest spiritual daughter testifies it in the following words “Our blessed founder’s life was an uninterrupted prayer because he had only a single aim in all he did.” Francis celebrated holy mass with a re-collective mind and great devotion. Jane de Chantal testifies to it: “He told me that the moment he turned to face the altar, every distraction left him. I know people who were deeply moved when they saw him at his communion.” Francis made confessions two or three times in a week, kneeling down at the public confessional in the Cathedral as the humblest penitent to emphasize the importance of the sacrament of reconciliation.

As priest and Bishop, Francis made use of every opportunity to preach to small and big groups, to the learned and the ignorant and the lowly, to those in religious orders, to Catholics and non-Catholics. St Jane de Chantal says, “What most people admired in his preaching was his easy and clear ways of expressing the meaning,” thus he lived the command of Jesus ‘go into the entire world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation.” Teaching catechism to children and adolescents made him a catechist par excellence. His pursuit of transforming the faithful into devout persons made him stand out as a great spiritual director of all times. In St Francis de Sales we have a model pastor to emulate in ministry and religious life. His whole spiritual life can be summarized in the words ‘Live Jesus’. May his feast day be an opportunity for us to enhance our knowledge of him and of the finer points of his ministry. I wish all of you, dear Confreres, Happy Feast of our heavenly patron Saint.

MSFS Year of Formation for the Mission of Mercy and Compassion

Rev. Fr. Superior General, with the consent of his Council, announced the year 2016 as MSFS year of Formation for Mission of Mercy and Compassion. The year of Mercy is combined with the year of Formation. He has directed all the Community Superiors to inaugurate the year with one-hour adoration before 24th January, 2016. All houses are expected to display this theme of the year. Monthly recollections for the year of consecrated life for Mission are to be continued, if not completed. There was an extraordinary meeting of Regional Formators Forum at Bangalore in view of orienting houses, communities and members for the celebration of the year of Mercy and Formation. Four confreres from our Province participated in this meeting. At our Province level there will be an ongoing formation program for all its members in the year 2016. Bangalore meeting has assessed the formation program at every stage of MSFS formation and proposed many additional activities and programs. There is a final corrected draft of scheduled activities for the year of Formation 2016. The chart specifies the activities, the participants, the places where they will be conducted and by whom they will be conducted. Provinces are asked to prepare the yearly calander keeping these guidelines in mind. Rev. Fr. Superior General has activated the entire Congregation to celebrate this New Year giving due emphasis to the formative dimension of life in each one of us. May the efforts of the administration strengthen us in our faith for the merciful love of God and his Mission in this world.

Village Visit that makes me Small

It’s my joy to share with you few of my mission experiences as a deacon in the new mission parish of Baradurgapur, in the diocese of Dumka. Baradurgapur parish has about 410 families most of whom belong to the farming class. The mission team comprises of Fr. Selbester, Fr. Rakesh and me. We go to visit the houses in the villages regularly along with a Mahasoy (catechist) to interact with the people and to know them and their life personally and to take a survey. Often we choose to walk rather than use the motor vehicle, as it is found to be the easier method to reach some places. Their mud houses have no partition, therefore they can call it kitchen when they cook, dining room when they eat, chapel when they pray and sleeping room when they sleep. At dusk everyone (people, birds and animals) enters the home to rest; its then we reach the welcoming houses. After wishing “Jisu Maran,” they welcome us to their homes and make us sit; then, as a custom, either they wash our feet and apply oil or keep a basin of water before us (this is done in respect to the guest). The eldest to the youngest come forward to welcome. The eldest one greets us with a blessing and we bow before them, then the younger ones receive blessings from us. While Frs. Sylvester and Rakesh talk to the family, I keep myself busy with the children and animals in the house, because they understand my broken Santali better. It is impolite to say no to the family when

they invite us to join for the dinner with tasty country chicken. We seldom come back home without nourishing our heart and body. We find that the people are very happy when we visit them. Even the non-Christians also make us feel at home. The experiences in the village make me very small. They live without complaint and are very rich in their hearts. It is there we really understand the difference between needs and wants.

Dn. Lalji Pattathil msfs

Departure from the Congregation

Bro. Robin Augustine, a third year philosophy student, is asked to leave from Suvidya College, on account of certain undesirable tendencies.

Bro. Melito Armando Kalikhokha, a third year student of theology, is asked to take break for two years for greater discernment of religious life and vocation to priesthood. He will be taken back only if the established norms and directives on the same is fulfilled. Superior General will have the final say on the matter.

Our Sincere appreciations/thanks/congratulations to:

Fr. Cyriac Nellikunnel whose **Franz von Sales foundation** established by himself sponsored five class rooms for Baradurgapur Mission School in Jharkhand and also a bore well for the same mission. The existing school was in a dilapidated condition.

Fr. Thomas Cherukat, the mission procure of the Congregation, has found sponsors for the education of 11 poor children in Kandor, Bhanji Mission, Jharkhand, besides sponsoring Children in Mozambique Mission. If we have the patience and commitment to do our homework, there are people who are able to help us for the most deserving cases. Many funding agencies are looking for good and genuine partners.

Fr. William Antony who has managed to clear the long pending NA tax issue of Aurangabad FTI land, with the assistance of the local contacts and the Contractor who is supposed to execute the school project. This will help us secure the sanction of our plan for the school construction from the Municipal Authority. Fr. John Dive will coordinate with Nanded Community and will see to the execution of this project.

Fr. Jose Kumbloical who will be laying down the office as the Provincial of South West Province. He has contributed with his valuable suggestions and ideas in many capacities at the inter province level in the best interest of the Congregation.

Fr. Alan Gonsalves who visited the Bishop of Saambalpur and had a meeting with the Bishop to deliberate on the possible collaboration and development of Bamra Land. He has made a proposal to the Provincial, on behalf of the Apostolic Community, on the possible utilization of the land at Bamra.

Fr. Wilson Adakkaparayil for having succeeded in visiting many schools, organizing career guidance program and meeting the potential candidates for SJTIE professional coaching Centre which was inaugurated on 18th January 2016. This institute requires constant monitoring on the system of curriculum transaction, tools of evaluation and quality of the faculty. The Institute cannot copy other corporate ones with a lucrative mind set but make it beneficial to those who cannot afford such institutes. We have put it in the memorandum of understanding that every catholic child will be given 10% Concession in fees, irrespective of their economic background.

Fr. Lalit Tigga for having contributed certain amount of money to Pandripalli Community for buying a Church Bell.

Fr. Deepak Kindo for having executed Kinwat School construction which gives them 12 new class rooms with two staff rooms, and toilets for children. The new extended wing was blessed and inaugurated on 11th January 2016, by Bishop Ambrose Rebello of Aurangabad. Now the school has above 600 students.

Fr. Manoj Tirkey who has carried out the construction of the extended wing of Jhajjar School which is the third school building constructed in the campus in the last eight years' time which shows the growth and scope of the school in Jhajjar. Fransalian Education Society Delhi, Delhi Fransalian Society and SFS School, Jhajjar, contributed to the cost of construction incurred in excess of the permissible bank loan.

Fr. Selbester Xalxo who managed to get electricity connection for the School Building in Baradurgapur. This will serve the purpose of power supply to MSFS Mission in the school campus where the Church, boarding and presbytery will be constructed in the days to come.

Fr. Henry Peter who had written a project for Ambikapur Mission during his diaconate ministry last year for two wheelers. The project is sanctioned for the Mission and the needed bikes are purchased. Fr Henry also organized the first gathering of children and youth of St John's Mass Centre as part of New Year celebration. Arch Bishop of Nagpur appointed him the assistant director of basic Christian Community.

Fr. Anand Kullu who had written a project for Raidihi Mission before his transfer for two wheelers. This project is also sanctioned and being implemented by Fr. Vincent Minj.

Fr. Benedict De Souza, with the assistance of Fr. PM Joseph, has prepared the first draft of the Province Calendar for our three formation houses. He has structured various activities and formation programs as per the formation guidelines and directives of the meeting held at Bangalore chaired by Fr. Noel the General Councilor in charge of formation.

Appointments

Fr. Sebastian Annaikandathil who has volunteered to give his service to East Africa Province for two years at the request of East African Provincial. He will be appointed in Morogoro Apostolic School and hostel.

Let us pray for:

Fr. Varghes Elanjipuram, msfs, of Visakhapatnam Province, aged 84, who died on 10th January 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). May his soul Rest in Peace.

Fr. Sayu Cheruvil's father, Mr. C.A. Scaria, aged 85, died on 12th January 2016

Bro. Anish Praveen's grandmother, Thressia aged 76, expired on 05th January 2016.

Bro. Ashok Minj's aunty, Silbiya Xaxo, died on 31st December 2015

Bro. Augusto Antonio's uncle, Tonito Arnaldo, died on 14th January 2016

Fr. Jose Parampukkattil is in Kerala undergoing ayurvedic treatment for his backache.

Bro. Sebastian, first year philosophy student, is suffering from frontal hemorrhage and epilepsy. He is at home for rest and further treatment.

Provincial's Itinerary

January 2016

25.01.2016 Kottayam
27.01.2016 Nagpur
29.01.2016 Latapara
31.01.2016 Pandripalli

February 2016

01.02.2016 Ambapani
02.02.2016 Raidihi
03.02.2016 Sini
04.02.2016 Seraikela
06.02.2016 Nagpur
13.02.2016 Education Forum
21.02.2016 Nimuch
23.02.2016 Mahima

25.02.2016 Jhajjar
27.02.2016 Vinaysadan

March 2016

01.03.2016 Varanasi
03.03.2016 Nagpur
16.03.2016 PCM
17.03.2016 PCM
18.03.2016 PCM

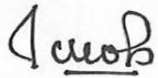
April 2016

03.04.2016 USA
15.04.2016 England
24.04.2016 India

Salesian Thought

Do much for God, and do nothing without love: refer everything to this love; eat and drink with it in mind.
St. Francis de Sales

Yours Sincerely in Christ



Jacob Karamakuzhyil, MSFS
Provincial Superior