

# MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



## NAGPUR PROVINCE

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CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

14.05.2016

**Dear Confreres**

**Greetings of Peace and Joy of Christ to you**

**The Virtue lies in the middle**



I write this Circular on the eve of my departure for Triennial Mandatory Meeting at Arusha. It is the congregation's effort to take a pause to look back on life after 19<sup>th</sup> General Chapter. The last two months were trying times for Nagpur Province, losing three members at short intervals as if we are a vulnerable group in health and susceptible to nothing less than death. At Phoenix, USA, I learnt about the sad demise of Fr Joseph TP. Have we leapt into a world of uncertainty of life? How many more deaths will come unannounced?

Whose funeral will I preside over next? Have we lived next door without knowing the health woes of others or not being able to know and relieve their pains? Are we forsaken by the Lord of Love? Where have we gone wrong and what are the immediate measures for further damage control? I asked these questions to myself. On my return from this trip, I was declared officially a diabetic patient by the doctor.

My grandfather died at the age of 86 but none of his sons crossed 75 who lived relatively a prosperous life. Krishnan Nambiar was the known rich land lord in our village, who had number of wives and children but a diabetic patient and died in his fifties. On a query, my grandfather told me that diabetes is rich man's sickness. It was a popular concept that those who engage in physically exhausting works will be spared from diabetes. The present generation would argue such a concept is out of ignorance for one who does not understand human metabolism, etc. But there is a larger question to be asked and verified. Is the younger generation life expectancy shorter than their older counterpart? "The United Nations reported that in the year 2000 the number of people suffering from over-nutrition had surpassed the number of people suffering from malnutrition. It calls for a reality check on our life style. Today we are born to party culture of all kind of celebrations which is very much inevitable in the social context. It is not just confined to religious houses but the outside world too. Our house superiors ensure that members are honored on their birth days, anniversaries of various kinds besides feast days, farewell days, etc. In religious communities there is not much difference on the menu of party and non-party days especially in

India. Our notice boards are full of such invitation cards, which cannot be ignored, given the social tie-up and relationship. There is so much of good will and religious spirit in organizing such parties that possibly, the one directive of the Province Statutes fully implemented. All of us should approach this situation with caution especially the youngsters who are just out of formation houses where they had opportunity for physical exertion and of playing games. My advice is the philosophical maxim, "Virtue lies in the middle." Let us exercise moderation in life without going into extremes leading a life of maintaining our body system rather than causing imbalances. However, whatever precautionary measures of health care we take, nothing guarantees our life for tomorrow. When Jesus said "I am resurrection and the life" he claimed to be the source of both. There is no resurrection apart from Christ and there is no life apart from Christ. Jesus added another statement to the first one, "Those who believe in me will live and will never die" This is a call to faith. Resurrection and life is offered to those who live in faith. Let us be partakers of the spiritual life conferred on us by Jesus by a life of faith. Let us resist getting engaged in doing things that are harmful to our body system. Our life and service is important for the mission of Jesus.

### **My Canonical Visitation to USA**



I made a short trip to USA as part of my plan of visiting confreres in USA once in my tenure. I arrived at Phoenix, Arizona. Fr. Alex Tigga was waiting for me at the airport. He is the Pastor for two parishes in the diocese of Tucson. It is mostly comprised of employees of copper mining which is very common in that area. I had the privilege of celebrating mass in his Church and visited a few parishioners and had lunch with one of them. Fr.

Mathew Thayil is also working in the same diocese and we met at the Bishop's House and were together for some time. I thanked Fr Mathew for his various assistance and support to the Province. Although Arizona is a known desert state, Fr Alex has grown a beautiful flower garden with transported soil in front of the presbytery. All appreciate him for developing this garden. Fr. Stephen Soares is in the diocese of Alexandria in the State of Louisiana. He is the Asst Pastor for a big parish called Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception. He is quite busy with pastoral ministry in different places besides the regular parish Church. I had the joy of celebrating Sunday Mass in his Parish and got acquainted with his Parish Priest and few parishioners. As per prior appointment, I visited the Vicar General of Shreveport diocese on the way to Tyler in Texas. I spent two nights with Fr. Augustine Tharappel at Wellspring, the Salesian Spirituality Centre of the USA Vice Province. It is a lovely and serene place where one would love to stay more days. Small groups of people keep visiting for various spiritual orientation programs and Fr. Augustine besides being a full time pastor in a nearby Church animates such groups. The last two days I spent with Fr. Joseph Pottommel who had well planned my stay with him at Atlanta in the State of Georgia. We had the meeting of confreres of Indian Provinces one night. The Province is thankful to Fr. Joseph Pottommel for his continued assistance and help to the Province in whatever little way possible. I

also had the joy of meeting Fr. Joe Mendes who is now retired but still continues to work as chaplain at the request of his Bishop. He enquired about the Province and about number of elderly confreres and was very positive about various developments in the Province known to him through Circulars. On the way back, I took a short break in London where my two brothers are settled and a number of neighbors. It was, indeed, a useful trip to have personal acquaintance with confreres, their ministry and living environment and also meeting the diocesan administrators. It is imperative that we make our confreres feel integrated and one with the Province with such visits when they are sent to distant places away from the Province Territory.

### **Fr. Allan Gonsalves is appointed Provincial Councilor**



Due to the sad and untimely demise of Fr. William D’Silva, the post of one councilor fell vacant. **Article 191 of MSFS General Directory** says, “**When the office of the Provincial Councilor becomes vacant the Provincial in consultation with his council appoints a successor. The term of the newly appointed councilor is the same as that of the existing council.**” Usually when such occasions arise, the person who gets the highest vote after the last elected person is chosen. In our case, there was a tie between two confreres. Both of them had equal votes in the last scrutiny of votes. In such situation, the person is deemed to be appointed who is senior by age, when it is not possible to have the election again (**CIC, Canon 119, 1°**). Respecting these

norms, Fr. Alan Gonsalves stands qualified to replace late Fr. William D’Silva. After having deliberated with my Councilors, the matter was referred to Rev. Fr. Superior General. In his letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016, he has approved the recommendation of the Provincial and his Council to appoint Fr. Allan Gonsalves as the fourth Provincial Councilor. Fr. Allan has given his consent honoring the will of the Province members who chose him to be next Councilor in their order of preference. I heartily welcome him to the team of Provincial Councilors.

### **Blessing of Tilaimal Church**



Pandripalli Parish’s sub-centre Tilaimal is blessed with a new chapel, after many years of financial struggle. It was inaugurated and blessed by Most Rev. Kishor Kumar Kujur, Bishop of Rourkela on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016, in the presence of many eminent personalities. The Bishop, priests and sisters from the diocese and MSFS fathers and collaborating sisters, were all given a floral welcome by the

local people and were led to the altar of God through a very inspiring devotional dance for the Holy Eucharistic celebration. The local MLA Dr. Prafulla Majhi, former MLA Mr. Gregory Minz and religious fathers and sisters from far and wide while appreciating whole-hearted effort of MSFS fathers, said it is really a heavenly blessing upon Tilaimal people who had to walk long distance to reach Pandripalli Church for their spiritual needs. Fr. Christopher Lakra, Parish Priest of Pandripalli on behalf of the MSFS

fathers and parishioners thanked Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhyil, MSFS Provincial Superior for his constant support and encouragement which made the blessing of the Chapel a reality and Sisters of St. Peter Claver of Rome for their generous contribution which assisted us to actualize our dream come true. A special thanks was expressed to Frs. Lalit Tigga, Thomas Vadakumpadam, Lajarus Soreng and Bijay Kerketta for their efforts to build chapel in the past during their tenure in Panderpalli. It is also good to mention such massive structure (100/45ft) was built substantially with shramadan (free labour from faithful). May our Divine and Merciful Lord bless all those who will enter this place of prayer. May it be a place of God experience and symbol of unity and Christian worship of faithful in Tilaimal.

**Fr. Christopher Lakra**

### **Fransalian Youth Convention - 2016**



St. Francis de Sales said, “Bloom where you are planted”. The same principle was used to enhance and motivate the youth to bloom in their respective fields of interest and specialization in the Fransalian Youth Convention from 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> April at SFS Church, Pandripalli, in which about 240 youths participated.

The convention began with inauguration and welcome ceremony led by the youths of Pandripalli parish. Fr. Kamil Tete msfs was the chief guest for the convention. He spoke about the role of youth in the society. Mr. Vimal Jojo was the chief speaker. He spoke about the power and strength of youths. Fr. Christopher Lakra gave a talk on the virtues of St. Francis de Sales and the role of Fransalian youth. There was bible quiz, cultural dance, nagpuri dance and some funny games competitions. Youth from all the parishes participated in the program actively. Frs. Bijay Kerketta, Ramesh Damala and Telesfor Lakra were present to encourage participants from their parishes. The Director thanked all the parish priests, youth animators and youth for making the youth convention a success and ended with an evaluation and farewell dance.

**Fr. Cyprian Ddung**

## Mermier Hostel at Baradurgapur



In Jharkand, one will not find a Parish without a boarding for children. From distant villages, there is a big rush by parents to put their little children in the boarding to avail primary education. Baradurgapur also followed the culture of starting the boarding without a building. There are 34 children in the Hostel, in which 21 are boys and 13 are girls. They stay in one of the school classrooms. All what we need is a box room besides the regular class rooms. Initially, we were thinking that we will not be able to start this year, but providentially our school floor is complete and we managed to build a small box room. We are very thankful to the Provincial administration for their prompt guidance and financial assistance. Our apostolic school is yet to take shape. It is heartening to see our children all around in the class rooms. These children are very dear to us and their parents. Their presence brings life to the Mission and give so much of joy and contentment. The main reason that these children to take admission in the boarding because they have no access to schools and transport facility to travel to distant schools. We are only now few months in Bara Durgapur. We hope to get more students next year. We are also happy to learn that Holy Cross Sisters of Calcutta Province will joining our Mission next year.

**Fr. Sylbester Xalxo**

### **Our sincere appreciations/thanks/congratulations to:**

**Fr. Manoj Tirkey** who has planned for the much awaited CBSE School inspection of Jhajjar School that happened on 24<sup>th</sup> April. I am told the whole community went to sleep only at 1 o'clock the previous night. The Inspection was a big success. The school this year will have the additional Senior Secondary section which will have lots of teething problem in terms of stability of the staff and lack of established curriculum. Much will depend on our planning, staff recruitment and other curriculum transaction plans, considering the entrance test coaching programs.

**Fr. George Kurickal** who has helped Nanded School salary related calculation problem and court case which is now being monitored from Nagpur as Nanded does not have proper skilled lawyers. The calculation error caused excess salary going into the staff accounts, the recovery of the same was resisted by them and challenged in the court. Another group of teachers have filed a similar case. They want salary scale with retrospective effect of at the time of confirmation when the fees were much lower. Fr. George was instrumental in finalizing the pay scale in Nanded, and, therefore, could guide the accountant and detect the errors and propose corrective measure with prompt coordination and support from Fr. Melroy Almeida and Fr John Carvalho.

**Frs. Alan Gonsalves** and **Charles Porimattathil** who completed their three months Formator's Course at Navjyoti Niketan, Patna, administered by the Society of Jesus. Both of them appreciated the programs meant only 20 participants.

**Frs. Daniel Bara** and **Arun Kumar Ekka** who attended one-year Formation Course at Ishwani Kendra Pune. It is the policy now that all formators involved in formation ministry will have to do the formators course.

**Fr. Wilson Abraham** who conducted certain useful short duration computers courses for priests and nuns for three days at SJTI Nagpur. The relocation of Gorewada Property is complete with the registration of 10.35 Acres of land at Hingna Nagpur on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2016. As part of the tenant rehabilitation plan at St. John's Compound, the NMC approved building construction was objected by the tenants opposed to such a move more than once. Women and men came forward and chased away the construction workers from our own land. In consultation with certain good lawyers, Fr. Wilson has managed to get an injunction from the court against such acts. Now it is binding on the Police Department to proceed against such criminal intimidation during the course of Construction.

**Fr. Christopher Lakra** who completed the construction of Tillaimal Church which is the sub-centre of Panderpali Parish. Tillaimal Church was under construction for a number of years. Due to lack of funds, it was lying incomplete.

**Fr. Joseph Pullopillil** who is ever available for any works any time especially in the formation ministry. He uses his time to the maximum to instruct our novices which makes the work of others lighter in the novitiate. He was engaged in animating the pre-novices at the Provincial House for a few days besides taking up masses wherever he is asked. He travelled with them to Nagpur in the hot summer like any other ordinary person. He finds time to do proof readings of literary works without making it known to anyone. He is appreciated for immense contribution to the Province in varied dimensions in spite of his many age-related ailments. May the Good Lord bless him with good health.

**Fr. Alphonse Arockiaswamy** has written a book titled **DECODING BERGOGLIO: THE MAN, THE PASTOR AND THE MISSIONARY** throws light into the life of Pope Francis with his spirituality of joy and concept and Vision of the Church as people of God at the service of humanity. His Passion for Service and compassionate attributes are illustrated.

**South West Province** has got their team of Provincial Administration comprising of **Fr. R. Santosh Kumar** (Admonitor) **Fr. A. Jerome**, **Fr. Roy Plathottathil**, **Fr. Joy Vazhappillil** (Councilors) and **Fr. Vinod Kanattu** (Provincial Bursar).

**DIBRUGARH REGION** is the newly established region of North East India Province and the Regional Curia members are **Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparambil** (Regional Superior), **Fr. Kurian Pattimackel**, **Fr. Augustine Thundathil** and **Fr. Philip Mhonchumo** (Regional Councillors), and **Fr. Peter Parankimalil** (Regional Bursar).

**Asst General Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy** who visited our seven Province Apostolic Communities for evaluation and assessment of our community, religious and apostolic life. He undertook a hectic travelling and had a concluding meeting with the Provincial Curia on 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016.

**Frs. Vineesh Thomas** and **Peter Thomas** completed Portuguese language course and have taken up parish ministry in Mozambique. **Bros. Amit Baa, Santosh Soreng** and **Anish Praveen** also completed their language course in Mozambique.

**Frs. PM Joseph, Arun Ekka and Ramesh** (Pune Province) conducted the pre-novitiate program for fourteen novices - eight belong to Nagpur Province and six to Pune Province.

**Fr. Henry Peter** organized the family get together of St. John's Mass Centre with support from the MSFS communities of Nagpur. There were around three hundred participants.

**Fr. Sylbester Xalxo** who is in charge of Baradurgapur Mission and instrumental in getting lots of things done in short time. We started residing there only last October. One more floor of the School is constructed. Thirty-five children have taken admission in the boarding. The community has shifted to the school from the rented accommodation. Now all of them stay in the school classrooms. Apostolic school will be in place from 2017 academic year.

**Fr. Cyprian Dungdung** who is the chief coordinator of Fransalian youth Orissa and organized the youth gathering in Panderpalli. It is through the effort **Fr. Bijay Kerketta** that we mobilized certain funds for this purpose through a project which is being made use annually. Efforts should be made to add to that fund so that our youth animation continues.

**Fr. Jins Devasia Karakadayil** was the chief editor for MSAF (Mission Superiors of African Forum) annual news Magazine OUT OF AFRICA, published in India with the assistance of FTI Community and got it circulated to the Mission units and Provinces.

**Fr. John Dive** who has finally seen to the end of the property ownership case Jalna community residence. This land was gifted to Roman Catholic Church Trust by British Government but relevant documents were not available. Another person also had got mutated this property in his name, the case was going on for long time but it is concluded in our favor, the property being mutated to Roman Catholic Trust.

**Sr. Cessy Scaria (SCC)** who is the Provincial of Holy Cross Calcutta Province had visited Baradurgapur and has given a positive answer to collaborate with us from 2017. However, the decision is subject to the approval of their Superior General. Collaboration for pastoral educational ministry is imperative in Baradurgapur.

## **Appointments**

**Fr. Kailash Hiwale** is attached to Provincial House Community and appointed to Divya Jyoti Ashram Latapara until his paper works are complete for ministry in USA.

**Fr. Vineesh Thomas** is appointed as Assistant Parish Priest and Local Bursar in St. Antony Parish, Mavila, Mozambique.

**Fr. Peter Thomas** is appointed as Assistant Chaplain and Local Bursar at Our Lady of Fatima in Ponto Do Ouro - SFS Parish, Bela Vista.

**Fr. Aajo Therully** is appointed as Assistant Parish Priest, Local Bursar and Project co-ordinator of Printing Press at SFS Parish, Bela Vista.

**Fr. Pradeep Tirkey** is attached to the Provincial House until he is given a full time appointment.

**Fr. Bijay Kerketta** is appointed in charge of Bamra Land at Orissa for its proper demarcation as per registry and securing of NA, (Non Agricultural Status)

**Provincial's Itinerary:**

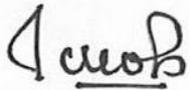
<b>May 2016</b>		03.07.2016	CRI	04.08.2016	Nagpur
08.05.2016	Arusha	07.07.2016	CRI	04.08.2016	On going Formation
24.05.2016	Mozambique	06.07.2016	Nagpur	05.08.2016	On going Formation
<b>June 2016</b>		15.07.2016	Nimkheda	06.08.2016	On going Formation
01.06.2016	Nagpur	16.07.2016	Nimkheda	19.08.2016	Mermier Sadan
14.06.2016	10 <sup>th</sup> Death Anniversary of Bro. ET Joseph	17.07.2016	St. John's Community	20.08.2016	Mermier Sadan
06.06.2016	Delhi	18.07.2016	St. John's Community	21.08.2016	Badnera
08.06.2016	Nagpur	24.07.2016	Darkona	22.08.2016	Badnera
11.06.2016	Bangalore	25.07.2016	Darkona	23.08.2016	Khamgaon
14.06.2016	Home Visit	26.07.2016	Pabura	24.08.2016	Khamgaon
26.06.2016	Nagpur	27.07.2016	Pabura	25.08.2016	Bhusawal
29.06.2016	PCM	30.07.2016	Kandore	26.08.2016	Bhusawal
30.06.2016	PCM	31.07.2016	Kandore	27.08.2016	FTI
<b>July 2016</b>		<b>August 2016</b>		28.08.2016	FTI
02.07.2016	Bombay	01.08.2016	Baradurgapur	29.08.2016	CIDCO
		02.08.2016	Baradurgapur	30.08.2016	CIDCO
				31.08.2016	Jalna

**Salesian Thought**

One ounce of sanctifying grace is worth more than a hundred pounds of those graces which theologians call "gratuitous" of which the gift of miracles is one.

**St. Francis de Sales**

Yours Sincerely in Christ



Jacob Karamakuzhyil, MSFS  
Provincial Superior