

# MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



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JK – 63

CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

22.07.2017

**Dear Confreres**

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

**Fr John Britto Muthuswamy is appointed Provincial.**

**Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy** was born to Thirumalai Swamy and Kulandanmmal on 27.12.1960 at Vallakundapuram. He was baptized and confirmed on 15.02.1977 at St. Joseph's Church, Porlur, Tamil



Nadu. He did his elementary schooling at Valla Kundapuram and secondary education at Govt. Higher Secondary School, Dharapuram. He entered the novitiate at Visakhapatnam on 06.06.1981 and made his first profession on 10.06.1982. He did philosophy from 1982 – 1985 and theology from 1988 – 1991 at Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth. From 1982 to 1990 he did his regency at Kristu Niketan, Jalgaon and St. Mary's High School Jalna from 1985 to 1988. He made his final profession on 01.12.1990 at Kurla, Bombay. He was ordained a priest on 06.05.1992. He has worked at St Mary's high School Jalna, and at the initial stage of Gyana Matha Vidya Vihar, Nanded .

G.N.V.V School's present imposing structure and infrastructure is his vision. With bare minimum funds at his disposal, he slowly and steadily added to the school building to meet the rising demand for admissions in G.M.V.V. Thereafter he worked at St John's High School Nagpur for seven years, followed by St Francis de Sales School Seraikela in Jharkand as manager of the school for one year. At the time of his appointment as Provincial, he was the Principal of Province's Village School of Nimkheda Maharashtra. During his tenure, this school acquired good name in terms of academic organization, co-curricular activities and office administration. He installed necessary infrastructure and put up a better working system. His experience became handy to enhance the instructional system of Nimkheda School. He has a great passion for sports and games and promoted it in all schools he worked.

Fr Muthuswamy is known for his human approach in the administration of Institutions and in community living. He made no preferences in choosing to live with members. His response to the needs of the Province in giving his services at the request of the Provincial was always positive. He had no

difficulty in moving to Schools where necessary amenities are yet to be installed. He had a mostly smooth sailing while administering these Institutions, treating his staff, students, parents, confreres and collaborators with the dignity and respect they deserved. He was elected to the Provincial Council for three terms and worked as Councilor under three Provincials. His cordiality and relationship with Confreres is devoid of all cultural, and other considerations. Seeking any kind of prominence or winning over the esteem of others is never part of his personality and style. He will be installed as the 5<sup>th</sup> Provincial of the Nagpur Province on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2017 at 10.00 am during the Eucharist Celebration which will be presided over by the Arch Bishop of Nagpur. As he takes over this sacred office, let us pray for him that he may strive to be the instrument of God to animate his confreres. God bless him in this ministry of animation and leadership. May I request all the members of the Province to be present for the Installation Ceremony. It should not be difficult to take one day off by all Confreres working in Maharashtra.

### **This Province is our Province.**

As I write this 63<sup>rd</sup> and my last Provincial Circular, I am filled with contentment and express my sentiments of gratitude to God and all our Confreres. It is the ever-abiding grace of God that made me to walk to the end of my two tenures and complete the same. At times, it had looked a difficult possibility as I stumbled upon issues of various nature. Though I am impatient to go into oblivion from the day to today affairs of the Province, I wish to give my parting thoughts with no malice to anyone. The above caption made lots of sense to me as I took over as Provincial in 2011. We have observed life around us. What largely mattered to life and contentment is nothing but the matter which is money property and everything that has value. This is what is the picture of life in the outside world, the influences of which is very much creeping into religious living. Though religious persons are dispossessed, many of us have say on huge possessions more than that of hundred families put together. When I took over the Province, I noticed that we had twenty-two communities with seventeen societies in the Province. Having one's own society often marks total independence of that unit. The only society that did not have a single institution and related social clout was the Principal Society, NFC, on which the formation houses, dependent missions, frontier missions, upcoming schools and aged confreres heavily depended. They demanded their rightful share for sustenance and survival of life and mission.

This situation of having given everything to the units by the Principal Society must be taken positively on the province leadership of the past generation. They simply gave away everything for the growth of these centers. But the communities that secured the potential to grow on its own, after sailing through the struggles of dependence, is duty bound to care for the mother house. A Mother cannot die with the birth of a child. This was a prime insistence put upon each house by the Administration in the spirit of the Provincial Congress 2011. Prior to my appointment as Provincial, I was Councilor for two terms. At times, the session with the bursar was lengthier than the one with the Provincial. The assured income was not able to catch up with the assured expenditure. The Principal Society was not anymore Principal. There were many suggestions made by the Bursar and most of them were endorsed by the Council in record time. With this mind set, inherited problem and policy decision of the previous Provincial, we began our demand and insistence for sharing of common funds by all communities. This policy and its day to day follow up and evaluation with periodical information and report to members, delivered dividends for the new missions of the Province.

The growing disparity between missions and income generating Institutions should not become the order of the day just as in the outside world. It is amply clear that excess income if not shared will lead to self-cantered growth of Institutions, as they cannot accumulate but spend it? In such an eventuality, the Provincial House can slowly get relegated for the works of coordinating the annual retreat, forum meetings and other animation programs, not knowing how to find means for the same. We did not want this to happen. Slowly a culture of independence by communities to decide its course of action and manage its resources should not emerge in as a travesty of religious principles, which can lead to misuse of resources and enable individuals to monopolize decisions and plans without collective consent and deliberations. The Provincial Administration will be made responsible for affecting this new culture of life? If we Lack knowledge on the administration of the units, its financial potentials, its projects and management, it will give only greater fillip to the emerging system. By and large, most members will fall in line with the directives, policies and programs of the Province and Congregation provided the administration has the will to act. Whatever may be the opposition by a microscopic group which may make the house look like on fire, but in the final analysis, we will see the majority to be on the side of the Constitutional norms and the general good of the Province. They will support the Provincial for anything in the larger interest of the Province.

It is not in the best of religious tradition and practice that the Major Superior dwell on financial data, bank balance, previous balance, closing balance, etc, as his duty is religious animation and not dwelling on mammon. It will be nothing less than devilish for some to hear such language from him specially those who have an axe to grind in dealings. No one likes to be touched where it hurts most. Our insistence on sharing of resources is not the orientation to mammon worship. It brings to the fore a fundamental question whether to maintain the spiritual demeanor of the provincial which will result in being non-committal to issues that plague and make our life stagnant and make communities unguided and animated and leads to a discriminative living environment among communities. I used to wonder why an affluent community has no vision to bring up a poor neighboring mission station. Why only the Provincial should feel responsible for them?

Most of the times the ills of our religious living boils down to the management of temporal goods. Collective decisions of the Congress/ Chapter must become our support and defense. They are not mere pronouncements only meant to be prepared for that occasion but strong resolutions to be lived for the next three years. I am aware that a Provincial can do only very little as every policy implementation has a limit. Rules are made for men not men for rules. One will always have the tendency to quit when he or she fails to bring another person to a stage of realization of the established principles and guidelines. The onus is always on the local superior who has very few members under his command. His understanding of the demands and principles of religious life and other directives of the Congregation matter much in the smooth running of the Province.

Whatever may be the organization of our resources for our sustenance, it cannot go against the spirit of Mt 6:19-21. They are not meant to be stored up for moth and thieves or our own comfortable and luxurious living but for the mission of Jesus as indicated in Lk 3: 10-11. It is meant to be shared and given away. The issue is not that possessions are bad but a higher priority demands our resources for the sake of our mission and people. This is possible only if we value what our Lord valued, rather than what our society values. He demands that we meet the basic needs of people lacking adequate resources

before we seek to accumulate beyond our basic needs. Jesus warned us if we choose possessions, we will end up in doing away with God and his Mission. He warned us against one of the greatest temptations which is the idolatry of materialism. Therefore, our system of transparent management of resources, accountability and sharing is meant to make us better religious and more Province conscious. In this context, I would say that the above caption should be internalized by all members to be a better MSFS.

As I lay down the office of the Provincial, I am thankful to all the province members for their good will and support to all my initiatives, as the head of the Provincial Administration. If the communities lacked religious spirit, nothing would have been achieved. May the good Lord make us grow as a united province family in true Salesian spirit. I am thankful to the General Administration for their guidance, and support, to all the Provincials for their collaboration and fraternal union. I am indebted to the Councilors of my two tenures, for their support to every initiative of the Administration. Their loyalty to the Province and respect to the Constitution and Directory, programs and policies, action plans of the Province made administering very smooth and easy. I express my gratitude to many Congregations of sisters in different centers and to their Provincials for their assistance and collaboration in our apostolates. I am sincerely grateful to our confreres in Mozambique, Germany, USA and other countries for their dedicated work in the best interest of the Province. Finally, I thank the provincial house community members, Fr Wilson, Fr John Carvalho, Fr Peter Paul, Fr Joseph Plathottam, Fr Rijo and Fr Arun who served the community and the Province in different roles at different times. Whatever we achieved is because of their services. They have gone out of their way to strengthen the hands of the Provincial and in organizing various animation programs and meetings in the Provincial House. Though I was not worthy and fit person for this office, it was indeed a challenge which I accepted willingly and did whatever I thought was the best for the province. Introspecting on the office of the provincial I wrote the following thoughts sometime back. I am happy to share it with all my confreres. Thank you and God bless you all.

I begin to question myself at the end  
Have I run the race around every bend?  
Has the weight of error left a negative trace?  
Of uneasy ties and foes to my disgrace

I sensed no invisible fumes around  
Which have not ignited my face  
The work done has not made me lick the ground  
But suited my spirit to be in God's grace

I am sincerely grateful to God for all His grace  
In to my elation of freedom of faith and hope  
For inner thoughtfulness of how much I am blessed  
By the one who formed me in my mother's womb

Fate did not treat me badly nor the cup offered was bitter  
I made it over rocky and steep ground; I did not dither  
Keeping my eyes focused on what lay ahead  
searching for foot soldiers who for God would tread

## Blessing of Newly Built Kindergarten at Mavila



On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 the newly built kindergarten at Mavila was blessed by Rev.Fr. Petrus Kullu, the Delegation Superior of Mozambique and inaugurated by Mr.Isaías Alberto Matavale, the District Collector of Zavala constituency. MSFS confreres, parents, local leaders, parishioners and specially invited guests participated in the event. The program began with a traditional dance of welcome performed by the hostel children. It was followed by the blessing of the building by Rev. Fr. Petrus

Kullu. In his inaugural speech, the District Collector appreciated the fathers' effort to build a kindergarten which opens new dimensions of education for the little ones of the locality. He also pleaded with the local community to collaborate with the fathers in order to get the maximum benefit of the kindergarten and to give their assistance for the fruitful running and development of this new venture. Addressing the gathering, Fr. Petrus Kullu said that the education apostolate is one of the foundational visions of the Congregation and starting a kindergarten is a very significant way of implementation of that vision.

More colour was added to the program as the children from the kindergarten performed a few items for the guests. At the end of the program gifts were presented to all the children and those who worked hard to build the kindergarten. A fellowship meal was served to all as a sign of our joy and achievement. We thank all our benefactors who helped make our dream a reality. *Fr. Vineesh C*

## Participants for the First Retreat

**Group-1: 25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017:** Anto Thomas, Bijay Kerketta, Melky, Arun Kumar Ekka, Henry Peter, Shantwan Khuteker, Pius Gonsalves, William Antony, Cyriac Velikettel, Shijumon Mangalath, Rijo Mechery, Anand Kullu, Christu Raj, John Carvalho, Lalji George, Jomon Mathew, Ambrose Minz, Kulandai Raj, Joseph Arulraj, Michael Toppo, Barnabas Xalxo, Anil George Mathew Kodamillil, Sudhir Kujur, Charles Porimattathil, Thomas Vadakumpadam, Kamil Tete, I Yesu, Jose Paramukkattil, George Kurickal, Mickey D'Souza, Paul Varambinakam, Bosco P, Philip Malaparambil, Christopher Lakra, Cyprian Dungdung, Emile Tirkey, Issac Mankulathil, John Britto Muthuswamy, Gijo Francis, Telesphor Lakra, Antony Amaladoss, Richard Tirkey, Johnson Parikkapally, Peter Dominic, Benedict De Souza, Austin Correia.

## Participants for the Second Retreat

**Group-2: 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017:** Sylbester Xalxo, Oscar Kujur, Peter Kujur, John Dive, Hilarus Tirkey, Marcus Ruptake, Jnanamani, Manoj Tirkey, Rakesh Kerketta, Scaria Kadamkulam, Deepak Kindo, PM Joseph, John Parkhe, Allan Gonsalves, Ramesh Damala, Lazarus Soreng, Lalit Tigga, Lijohn K, Anson Kaliyath, David Paul, Emmanuel Vattamattam. Ignatius D'Costa, Jose Mudavankunnel, Joseph Kalekattil, Joseph Kailamangalam, Jacob Karamakuzhyil, Joseph Plathottam, Nobit Kombanathottathil, Melroy Almeida, Amal Raju Bandanadam, Ignati Kshirsagar, Vishwas Torne, Joe Denis, Wilson Abraham, Arun P, Albin, PC Paul, Vinsent Minj, John Peter, John Ruptake,

Silbester Kullu, Patras Tirkey, Raphael Xalxo, Sandeep Tirkey, Saiju Vettukallel, Daniel Bara, Peter Paul.

## School Results 2017 -2018

S. No.	Name of the School	10th and / or 12th	Appeared	Passed	Passed %age	Above 60%	Above 80%	Highest % in School
1	SFS School, Seraikella	10 <sup>th</sup> ICSE	32	31	96.8%	90.6% NO.29	34.41% NO.11	91%
2	SFS School, Delhi							
	- Higher Secondary	12	182	181	99.45	75 (41.20%)	102 (56%)	97.2
	- Secondary (Morning)	10	185	181	97.84	71 (38.37%)	99 (53.51%)	10(CGPA)
z	- Secondary (Afternoon)	10	44	34	77.27	16 (36.36%)	6 (13.63%)	9.4(CGPA)
3	SFS-Jhajjar	10	41	41	100	24 (58.53%)	11 (26.82%)	10(CGPA)
4	GMVV, Nanded	10 <sup>th</sup> CBSE	197	197	100	83	55	36students got 10 CGPA
5	St. John's, Nagpur							
	- English Medium	10 <sup>th</sup> Board	211	207	98.10	95	40	92%
	- Hindi Medium	10 <sup>th</sup> Board	33	32	96.96	09	02	88%
6	St. Mary's, Jalna	10 <sup>th</sup> Board	148	147	99.32	48.65	44.59	97.00
7	SFS School, Nimkheda	10 <sup>th</sup> CBSE	09	09	100.00	08	04	91%
8	St. Mary's, Kinwat	10 <sup>th</sup> Board	20	20	100.00	19.00	11.00	96.80%

## Change of Address

Fr Stephen Soares  
11730 Old St. Augustine Rd,  
Jacksonville, Florida 32258.

## Transfers and Appointments

**Fr Amal Raju Bandanadam** is appointed the Principal of St Francis de Sales School Nimkheda with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

**Fr Nobit Kombanathottathil** is appointed, the local Superior of Fransalian Community Jhajjar, the Vice Principal of St Francis de Sales Sr Secondary School, Jhajjar and the Chaplain of the Mass Centre, with effect from 24 th July 2017.

**Fr Philip Maleparambil** is appointed, the local Superior of Fransalian Community Nimkheda, with effect from 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

## Important Dates

**15<sup>th</sup> August 2017:** Installation of the new Provincial.

**15<sup>th</sup> August 2017:** Provincial Council Meeting with the new Provincial.

**16<sup>th</sup> August 2017:** Superiors Forum Animation Programme.

**25<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017:** First Province Retreat at Provincial House, Nagpur.

**7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** Congregational Retreat for General Curia and Major Superiors in Poondi Retreat House near Velankanni, Tamil Nadu.

**14<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017:** PIF, PIE Meeting at MSFS Provincial House Trichy (Ends by noon).

**17<sup>th</sup> (Evening) to 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017:** Provincial Congress or Chapter, at MSFS Provincial House, Nagpur. (Rescheduled at the request of Superior General)

**26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017:** Second Province Retreat at Provincial House, Nagpur

## Our sincere appreciations/thanks/congratulations to:

**Sr Philomine CSE**, the Provincial of the Congregation of Sisters of Charity, Ghaziabad Province who accepted our invitation to collaborate with our Baradurgapur Mission. Initially three sisters would come to work with us in the school and in the parish. Sisters arrived on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

**Sr Philo Pichapilly SJC**, the Provincial of the Sisters of St Joseph of Chambery, Nagpur Province, who have agreed to collaborate with our school in Badenra. Three Sisters have joined the Community already from 1<sup>st</sup> July. As of now they stay in the school building. Plans have been to renovate the old primary building to accommodate them. Special thanks to Badnera community for their efforts to find collaborators for the school apostolate.

**Arch bishop Abraham Viruthakulangara** who celebrates his ruby jubilee of episcopal ordination this year. There was a felicitation program organized for him on 13<sup>th</sup> July by the archdiocese. Thirty Bishops and many major superiors came from different parts of India to participate in the celebration.

## Let us Pray

**Bro. Emmanuel Mullick's mother Rina Mullick**, expired on 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017.

**Fr. Sijo Olickal MSFS of South West Province aged 31**, expired on 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

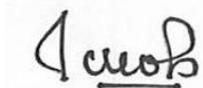
May I request all those who have not fulfilled the suffrages to do the same at the earliest (Const. No. 118; General Directory No 98).

May their souls Rest in Peace.

## Salesian Thought

“Those who wishes to be esteemed by all, loses the esteem of all.” **St. Francis de Sales.**

Yours Sincerely in Christ



Jacob Karamakuzhyil, MSFS  
Provincial Superior