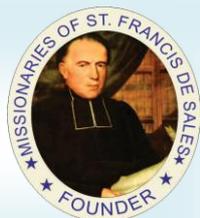


MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PUNE PROVINCE



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JS - 10

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

JULY 03, 2018

My dear Confreres,

Fraternal greetings to each of you.

In the Year of MSFS Local Community, I wish to recall the passionate call and the prayer of our Founder Fr. Peter Mermier, "Oh how I long to live in a community of brothers. Today, I embrace all those who like me will make their profession." Our Founder Fr. Peter Mermier, by his religious profession left his cozy and comfort zone of diocesan way of life and embraced the consecrated community life for missions. Community is the fertile soil where our religious vocation and consecration is lived, nurtured and fostered. Community life precedes all the apostolates and activities. There is no mission without community and our community life is lived and expressed through common prayer, common table-fellowship, and sensitivity to the needs of others.

Our constitutions demand that each confrere, while taking interest and responsibility to unfold his talents and abilities, must be eager to place his God-given gifts at the service of the mission of the Congregation and to work in harmony with his confreres in the community. Individual opinions, plans and personal preferences need to be set aside for the common good of the community. We strive to work together with our confreres fostering unity, brotherhood, harmony and team-work, giving witness to our togetherness and communion in the Lord.

Our communion in the Lord is well expressed in creating our communities into a home of love to share our joys and sorrows, plans and projects, and our cares and concerns. Openness and transparency on the part of each confrere will foster unity in the community as well as in the apostolate. Our communion is further nurtured and cherished when we grow in respecting our elder confreres with due dignity, understanding their needs in sickness and loneliness, and acknowledging their contributions in our growth and development. The younger confreres must be encouraged in their initiatives, accompanied in their struggles and advised in their trials. May our Patron St. Francis de Sales and our Founder Fr. Peter Mermier continue to guide us to Live Jesus individually and collectively as a Religious community.

PREPARATION FOR THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2019

During the last six months, having gone through the three study papers and Proposals from various units in the Apostolic Community Meetings, we are half a way through to the General Chapter 2019. Let us continue to pray for the success of the General Chapter in our personal and community prayers.

ELECTION OF THE DELEGATES

Our Superior General Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvelli MSFS has invited us through his circular SG-AB18-61 to initiate the process of election of the Delegates to the 20th General Chapter 2019 to be held from 01-13 February 2019 at the MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati, Assam. Our Pune Province is entitled to elect three Delegates. Accordingly on the 10th of June 2018, we have dispatched the ballot papers for the election of the delegates to the General Chapter 2019. All are requested to send back the votes to the Provincial's Office latest by 15th of July 2018 as it was informed in my circular JS 09.

ANIMATION SEMINAR FOR THE LOCAL BURSARS OF THE COMMUNITIES AND MANAGERS OF THE INSTITUTIONS BY THE GENERAL BURSAR

As it was discussed on the importance and the roles of the Local Bursars of the Communities in the Superiors Forum Meeting on 8th June 2018, the Administration would like to propose that those communities without the Local Bursars, the Superior of the community proposes a local bursar in consultation with the community for appointment to the Provincial Administration latest by July 30, 2018.

SEMINAR FOR THE LOCAL BURSARS AND MANAGERS: As a follow up in the year of Local Community, there will be an Evaluation cum Animation Seminar by the General Bursar Rev. Fr Augustine Mangatt MSFS for the local Bursars and Managers on 24th September 2018, at the Provincial house, Pune. Hence, all the local bursars and the Managers of the institutions are requested to participate in this important Seminar for effective accounting and financial transparency in the Province.

RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP SEMINAR

As informed in my last circular (JS-08), to mark the MSFS Year of Local Communities, a two days seminar has been envisaged and it will be animated by our beloved Assistant Superior General Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy MSFS for the confreres below ten years of Priesthood. The two-day seminar will be organized at the Provincial House, Pune on the 15th and 16th of October 2018. May I request all the confreres below ten years of Priesthood, ordained between 2009 to 2018 to participate in this important seminar on Religious Leadership.

SUPERIORS FORUM ANIMATION



At the beginning of the Academic year, the superiors of all the communities of our Pune Province gathered together on 8th June, 2018 for Superiors forum animation Programme at MSFS Provincial house. The theme for the day was “Religious Leadership in Animating the Local Communities”. Rev. Fr. Bhausahab Sansare, the Rector of Papal Seminary and the Former Provincial of Jesuit Pune Province was the resource person who inspired us on the essentials aspects of Religious Life and Leadership. On behalf of the Province, we thank Rev. Fr. Bhausahab Sansare for his inspiring presence and sessions.

LOCAL SUPERIOR: The articles of Our Constitutions: 258, 259, 261, 263 and of Directory: 300, 301 speak of the role of Superior in the community. It is the responsibility of the Local Superior to ensure that the life and activities of the

community truly follow the ways prescribed by our Constitutions. The local superior animates the spiritual life of the community, organizes the life within the community through regular community meetings, and fosters a spirit of brotherhood and coordinates the respective ministries. Accordingly, every superior owns up the responsibility of animating the local community and leads the community in the spirit of our Fransalian way of life in the context of the community and mission. Hence, as proposed in the Superiors Forum meeting and approved by the Provincial Council that the plans and projects of the various units of the mission and community mandatorily discussed in the community with its pros and cons and presented to the Provincial Administration for approval.

JUST WAGES FOR THE DOMESTIC STAFF

As a Province, it is our legal and religious obligation that we pay just wages to our domestic staff. It was accepted in the superior forum meeting that we evolve a common policy at the province level for the appointments, salaries and increments, remunerations, terms and conditions etc., of the domestic staff. Fr. Johnson Gonsalves the Councilor in charge for Social Apostolates and Innovative Ministries has been appointed to study the existing practices and propose new policies/agreements in consultation with the respective communities to the Provincial Administration for the approval. All the Superiors are requested to send the existing practices, appointments and service conditions of each employee in the community to Fr. Johnson Gonsalves. As proposed in the Superior Forum, the Provincial Administration endorses that all the agreements with the Domestic Staff and with the various agencies concerning our communities and institutions will be approved by the Provincial Administration in line with the common policies.

FIRST PROFESSION OF OUR NOVICES



31st May 2018 was a day of great joy and grace as God has blessed our Province with twelve more Novices who made their first profession along with four Novices of Nagpur Province at Dhyanashram, Varanasi.

Rt. Rev. Eugene Joseph, the Bishop of Varanasi was the main celebrant of the solemn Eucharistic celebration who inspired us to commit ourselves totally to serve the Lord and people through Religious Life. Rev. Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy, Provincial of

Nagpur Province in the presence of Fr. Jayaseelan Selvaraj, Provincial of Pune Province received their first vows on behalf of the Superior General. We wholeheartedly thank the Novice Master Fr. Benedict D'Souza msfs, Fr. Daniel Bara msfs the Socius and Fr. Barnabas Xalxo msfs for their dedication and personal accompaniment in the formation of the Novices and initiating them into the Religious Life. We thank Rev. Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy, Provincial and Nagpur Province confreres for all their assistance and support in the formation of the Novices.

THE FIRST CONGREGATION RETREAT 2018 AT FRANSALIAN ASHRAM, BELGAVI



The First Congregation Retreat 2018 for our Province was animated from 25th June to 30th June 2018 at Fransalian Ashram, Belagavi in view of preparing for the forthcoming General Chapter 2019. The Retreat was preached by Congregation Retreat team, namely Fr. Stephen Avilou msfs of NE Province and Fr. Suresh Babu msfs of Vizag Province who inspired us to walk the way of the Lord and live the Grace of the Lord in the footsteps of our Patron St. Francis de Sales and our Founder Fr. Peter Mermier. The Five days of the Retreat was a source of God's blessings and moment of spiritual renewal.

It was also a moment of grace and blessings as 33 days Perpetual Adoration commenced with the exposition of the Eucharistic Lord. An intercessory prayer team from Kerala was invited to lead the Perpetual Adoration. We thank the community of Fransalian Ashram for effectively organizing the Retreat and praying for all our missions and confreres during these 33 days of Perpetual Adoration.

MINISTRIES OF ACOLYTE AND LECTOR



The initiation ceremony into the Ministries of Acolyte for the second year theologians and Lector for the first year theologians was held in Fransalian Seminary on 2nd of July at 6.30 p.m. Rev. Fr. Jayaseelan MSFS the Provincial was the main celebrant of the Holy Mass. In the homily he preached to the acolytes and the lectors on the significance of the Holy Traditions in the Church and on the required sense of devotion and the spirit of holiness while exercising ministries such as Lectors and Acolytes.

After the homily Fr. Provincial formally initiated the nine scholastics to the Sacred Ministry of Lector by handing over the Word of God to them and six scholastics into the Sacred Ministry of Acolyte by handing over the Chalice to them.

THE FINAL CONGREGATION RETREAT FOR THIS YEAR

It is a normal custom that the members of the same community take turns to participate in the common province programmes for the smooth continuity of the Apostolates. However, it is a matter of concern to note that from few of the communities no one has participated in the first Retreat.

Kindly note that the second Congregation Retreat will be animated at Fransalian Ashram, Belagavi from the evening of 12th to 17th November 2018. May I request you to kindly ensure the mandatory participation of those who did not participate in the second and final Congregation Retreat.

COUNCIL MEETING CUM VISITS TO OUR MISSIONS IN RAJASTHAN

The Provincial Administration has planned to have the forthcoming council meetings in our missions combined with visitations to our missions. Accordingly, the next Council Meeting will be held from 03-09 September 2018 in Rajasthan with visits to our communities at Gangapur City, Ajmer and Hindaun City.

ECUADOR MISSION

With the abundant blessings of God, we, Fr. Melky Fernandes MSFS, Fr. John Kennedy MSFS and the Provincial will be making the first exploratory visit to Ecuador in Esmeraldas Diocese with the blessings of the Superior General Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvélil MSFS and the General Council.

Gratitude to Fr. Joe Mendes MSFS: I sincerely thank Rev. Fr. Joe Mendes MSFS who has joyfully come forward to assist the Mission Ecuador. He has already assisted us with USD Ten Thousand Dollars for the initial visits and plans for the missions. God bless him and all of you for your prayers.

We also gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Rev. Fr. Joseph Mullakkara MSFS from USA. Along with the Superior General, he has been guiding joyfully in all our plans and preparations. May we request you to pray for this mission and in all our initiatives in renewing the faith of the people in Ecuador. In a special way we thank Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes MSFS, the General Councilor, who has oriented us in the right spirit to launch into the Mission Ecuador with adequate preparations and guidance.

INFORMATIONS

1. We wholeheartedly congratulate Rev. Fr. Chinnappa Reddy the Provincial of Vizag our Mother Province on his appointment for a second term. We assure him of our prayers.
2. Fr. Elvis Rodrigues MSFS, who is doing his studies in Civil Engineering, will assist the Provincial Administration in plans and preparations for the smooth implementation of the Projects in the Province.

3. Fr. Johnson Gonsalves will be the Provincial Vicar in my absence from the 5th of July to 21st of August 2018.
4. Fr. Thomas K. MSFS, under the guidance of the Superior General, has been in the process of collecting the data on the institutions/centres/communities bearing the name of our Founder Fr. Peter Mermier and activities/events organized in memory him for the Cause of our Founder. Hence, may I request you to send all the data concerning our Founder Fr. Peter Mermier to the Provincial Secretary Fr. Pradeep Kumar msfs at the earliest.

MY PROGRAMME

06 -18 July 2018 -Visa Renewal and Meetings in Germany & France

21-28 July 2018 - Ecuador

01-20 August 2018 - Cinisello, Italy

22-24 August 2018 - Pune

25-26 August 2018 - Justice and Peace Commission Seminar, Trichy

03-09 September 2018 -Council Meeting and Visitation, Rajasthan

10-14 September 2018 - PIF-PEA-GC Meetings, Hyderabad

15-20 September 2018 - preparations for the forthcoming Meetings, Pune.

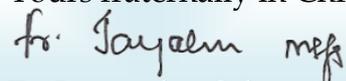
24 September 2018 - Seminar for the Local Bursars and Managers

27-28 September 2018 - Provincial Curia Animation by the Superior General

SALESIAN THOUGHT

To be a religious means essentially to be a prophet in being and action. Hence, our religious consecration requires that we as a community and as individuals become witness to the Gospel values and a counter-witness to the worldly values. Our religious vows when lived, free our hearts from obstacles, which could hinder us in the fervour of charity, in the perfection of divine worship, and in the total availability for the Mission of the Church. (MSFS Const. 48)

Yours fraternally in Christ Jesus,



Fr. Jayaseelan Selvaraj msfs
Provincial Superior