



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE

VINAYALAYA, MSFS Provincial House, P. B. No. 5557, Malleswaram West P. O, Bengaluru 560 055, INDIA

Tel: 080-23348041, Mob: 9797396800

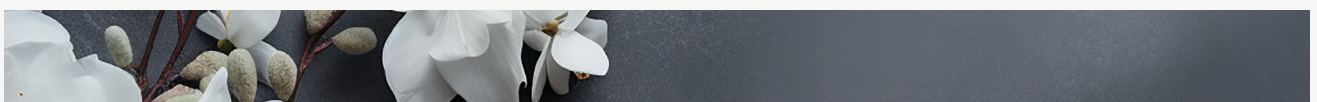
SWIP Circular TK/16

November 2023



My dear Confreres,

Fraternal and prayerful Greetings to all of you from Vinayalaya, our Provincial House. Several global and national events fall in the month of November that remind us of all the positivities in and around us. November is also an important month for every Christian in their spiritual journey as it invites each one of us to work in and with a certain type of consciousness and thus to make it a month of blessing for us. The feast of all saints right at the beginning of the month recalls to our mind our being part of the communion of saints and our own call to holiness. The commemoration of the memory of all the departed is not only an occasion to think of and pray for those departed, but is also a reminder of the end of our earthly life as a transition to the heavenly reality. The solemnity of Christ the King on the last Sunday of the liturgical year is not only a time to reassert the sovereignty of Christ, but also a reminder of the fact that the kingdom of God becomes a reality only through a repentance for one's sins and belief in the Gospel that translates into a life rooted in the kingdom values of truth, justice, peace and love for others. A life in and with such a consciousness prepares us truly for the advent of God's Grace into our daily life.



SUPERIOR GENERAL'S VISITATION TO THE SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE

South-West India Province had a special experience of God's blessing through the visitation of our beloved Superior General, Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, from the 10th of September to the 9th of October 2023. Fr General took special care to meet every individual and spend sufficient time with each one of them, address all as communities, celebrate Holy Eucharist and conduct Eucharistic Adoration. It was the special focus of Fr General to energize individual confreres and strengthen the religious spirit of the local communities, highlighting the pivotal constitutional role of the local superiors in the life of the local communities and in the community based Fransalian mission. It was indeed a time of special Grace, a time of personal and community renewal, a time of re-discovering our foundational spirit as Fransalian religious communities, and a time of strengthening our fraternal bond. On behalf of all the members of the South-West India Province, I take this opportunity to thank our beloved Superior General for the time he spent with us, for the personal concern he showed for our life and well-being as individuals and as a province, and for being a wonderful inspiration for us to give ourselves more fully to the demands of our religious call. The Report of the Superior General after the Visitation of the Province is attached as **Appendix I**.

MEETING OF THE PROVINCIAL CURIA WITH THE GENERAL CURIA

Towards the end of the canonical visitation of the Superior General, a meeting of the Provincial Curia with the General Curia was held at Vinayalaya on the 5th and 6th of October, 2023. All the councillors of the provincial curia along with the provincial bursar presented brief reports concerning their respective forums and the Provincial presented the report on the aspect of religious and community life in the entire province. The presentation of the reports was followed by specific clarifications and exchange of views concerning each area. The General Curia then gave their feedback to the reports. It was followed by a pointed workshop in order to come up with a draft of specific action plan for addressing the challenges and concerns of each area of life and ministry in tune with the reports as well as the Call of the General Chapter and Provincial Chapter. The following draft of the action plan was proposed and was unanimously approved by the Provincial Council in the presence of the General Curia for implementation in the province.

Action Plan for the Coming Years

Religious and Community Life:

1. Reorganize the local communities so that even those who are staying alone for pastoral reasons would be part of a local community and all are clear of their belongingness to a community.
2. Give periodical orientation to local communities conscientizing about monthly community meetings, recollections, the role and power of the local superior and the religious obligations.
3. Make it mandatory that all the communities use the obituary for prayer, and say all other congregational prayers.

● Formation Forum:

1. Intensify vocation promotion and set apart vocation promoters for the work of vocation promotion without other major responsibilities.
2. Ensure that as a priority only trained formators are appointed while at the same time availing the services of lay professional English trainers.
3. Test the proficiency of mission language prior to promoting the scholastics to perpetual profession/diaconate.
4. Organize on-going formation programs regularly.

● Mission Forum:

1. Exposure to parish ministry and preaching, starting from the initial stages of formation, in view of inculcating passion for mission and preaching.
2. Ensure that the deacons prepare and preach a 5-day retreat under the guidance of the Rector and the PCIC Mission.
3. Insist on reading and studying the Word of God during the formation and ensure that this habit is continued even later as priests.
4. Evolve a mechanism to monitor or evaluate the parish ministry in our parishes.

● Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries Forum:

1. Form Fransalian youth groups in all our parishes and mission stations.
2. Upgrade Kolar ITI by adding more trades and printing press.
3. Send couple of priests or scholastics for specialization in computer engineering.

● Education Forum:

1. Standardized way of disbursing scholarships at the province level.
2. Periodical evaluation of the centralized system and share the report with the concerned member.
3. Extend the work of providing home for the homeless as part of our social commitment.

● Stewardship Forum:

1. Systematize FAST in a professional way with the help of an expert.
2. Train and familiarize bursars and administrators on the new amendments of FCRA and 12 A as well as societies and trust.
3. Maintain accurate documentation of the activity of any project at each center.
4. Prepare and maintain appropriate documentation of all the matters related to the societies and trusts at the respective headquarters monitored by the provincial bursar.

PROVINCIAL'S VISITATION TO THE PHILIPPINES DELEGATION

As announced, the visitation of the Provincial to the Philippines Delegation took place from 11th to 20th October, 2023. The Provincial visited all the centres of the Delegation, met all

the confreres individually, and held a Delegation Colloquium in order to evaluate the life and mission of the Delegation, to give further orientations, and to make concrete plans for the future. The Philippines delegation consists at present of 12 members, 6 from India and 6 from the Philippines. The fraternal bond existing between the confreres, the zeal with which they carry out their ministries, the witnessing they give as MSFS in the places they work, and the loyalty they reflect in being members of the MSFS Congregation are all true and proud highlights of the MSFS presence in the Philippines. A detailed report about the specific concerns and the plan of action to address them is attached as **Appendix II**.

CHAD-CAMEROUN DELEGATION

We have some important updates and decisions from the Chad-Cameroun delegation.

1. Fr Manoj Arackal, the delegation Superior, informs that after a long and tedious struggle, they have succeeded in obtaining the title deed for the piece of land in Affanayo, Yavounde, where the delegation is planning to initiate a center for educational ministry, beginning right away with a “Kindergarten”.
2. On a piece of donated land in Ngaoundere we are planning to have our novitiate. The blessing and laying of the foundation stone for the building is already done. Fr Joshy Nellimalamattam is entrusted with the task of looking after the construction. Fr Sandeep Tirkey is proposed to be appointed as the Novice Master.
3. On the suggestion of the Provincial all the forums are constituted in the delegation. They will work in close collaboration with the respective forums in India under the animation of respective POCs. The list is attached below as **Appendix III**.
4. A core committee to look into matters of purchase of land and constructions is constituted. The core committee consists of: Fr Manoj Arackal (Convenor), Fr Zen Vellakkada, Fr Franky, Fr Prafait, and Fr Anniversaire.
5. The construction of boys’ home in Ngaoundere that can accommodate around 48 boys has begun. Fr Senghor is in charge of the construction. It is expected that the home becomes functional from the next academic year.
6. Deliberations are on to identify and send a few confreres for higher studies.
7. Serious thought is also being given to initiate some “self-financing projects” at the level of local communities.
8. Specific confreres are designated to be responsible for our existing lands at different places.



Preparation for the General Chapter 2025

As we have just begun the second phase of our preparations for the General Chapter 2025, Rev. Fr Superior General has instructed us to follow strictly the guidelines for monthly recollections, apostolic community meetings, discussions, and collation of reports. The four study materials are to be thoroughly reviewed according to the attached guidelines. The conveners of apostolic communities are urged to organize discussions subsequent to studying the materials. It is also expected that all local superiors take special care in conducting the monthly recollection for November and diligently follow the outlined programs. Kindly follow the guidelines and time lane given below as **Appendix IV**.

REMINDERS

- **Our Second Annual Retreat** will take place from Monday, January 8, to Friday, January 12, 2024. All those who have not participated in the first one, held at Vinayalaya, are requested to join for this second one. Please confirm your participation.
- **A Common Policy of Financial Management** had already been introduced for our ministry of education. Please follow the prescribed procedures without fail while fixing the fee structure, salary enhancements, school functions, etc.
- **Memorial Day:** On November 23, 2023, we celebrate Memorial Day in our Congregation. Therefore, all the local communities are requested to have Prayers and Holy Mass for the deceased confreres and family members.

INFORMATION

New Provincial Curia of Nagpur Province.

1. **Fr Agnelo Fernandes** (Admonitor & Councillor in-charge of Mission)
2. **Fr Sandeep Tirkey** (Councillor in-charge of Formation)
3. **Fr Joseph Kailamangalam** (Councillor in-charge of SAIM)
4. **Fr Allen Gonsalves** (Councillor in-charge of Education)
5. **Fr Selbestar Xalxo** (Provincial Bursar)

Congratulations to the newly elected Provincial Curia of Nagpur Province and wish them God's abundant blessings in leading the province to greater heights.



New Provincial Curia of Pune Province.

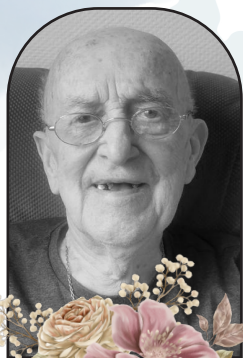
1. **Fr Ramesh George** (Admonitor & Councillor in-charge of Formation)
2. **Fr Austin Joy** (Councillor in-charge of Mission)
3. **Fr Roxy Fernandes** (Councillor in-charge of SAIM)
4. **Fr Daniel Paraste**(Councillor in-charge of Education)
5. **Fr Tony Premanand** (Provincial Bursar)

Our heartiest congratulations to the newly elected Provincial Curia of Pune Province and we offer them our prayers and best wishes.

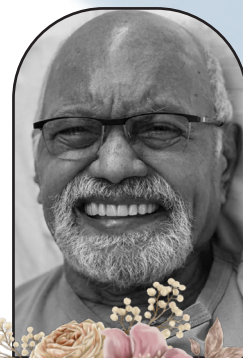
Thank You...

Our **Ordo for the year 2024** has been dispatched to all the communities in India. If anyone has not yet received it, kindly inform the provincial secretary. In this regard, I would like to thank very specially **Fr Thomas Kanat**, for the enormous time spent, and the meticulous care he has taken to bring out the Ordo 2024.

OBITUARY



FR LUCIEN GURLIAT MSFS
DIED ON: 27-10-2023
(FRANCE-SUISSE)



FR PEREGRINA DA'SILVA MSFS
DIED ON: 10-11-2023
(PUNE PROVINCE)



- Sr Mary Rose (86), Elder Sister Fr Jose Puthiyaparambil, passed away on October 06, 2023.
- Mr Eleme Wolfgang (85), Beloved Father of Bro. Ngoni Basile Arnold, died on October 08, 2023.
- Sr Boromeo CMC (83), Aunt of Fr Jose Kokkandathil, passed away on October 30, 2023.

MY SCHEDULE

November 2023 - January 2024

November 21 - 26 , 2023	Salesian Seminar, Superiors Forum Animation, Guwahati.
November 30 , 2023	Provincial Council Meeting at Vinayalaya, Bengaluru.
December 16, 2023	Annual Day - SFS School, Kuknoor
December 18, 2023	Annual Day - SFS School (State Syllabus), Koppal
December 19, 2023	Annual Day - SFS English Medium School, Hebbagodi.
December 22, 2023	Annual Day - SFS School, Ettumanoor.
December 28, 2023	Priestly Ordination of Dn Vinu Varghese Ponnor MSFS at St Joseph's Parish Shrine, Pavaratty.
December 30, 2023	Priestly Ordination of Dn Somi Illickal MSFS at St Thomas Church, Monippally (Cheenkallel).
December 31, 2023	Priestly Ordinations of Dn Jain Kaniyodickal MSFS and Dn Jilu Payattukandathil MSFS at Charis Bhavan Retreat Centre, Athirampuzha
January 01, 2024	Priestly Ordination of Dn Jefin Elivalankil MSFS at St Thomas Church, Kurichithanam.
January 02, 2024	Priestly Ordination of Dn Cyril Elakodical MSFS at St Sebastian's Church, Mangalaram, Kidangoor

VOICE OF SFS



"No one can be united with God unless he goes to Him. No one can go to Him unless he is attracted by Him"

TLG, Bk VII, Ch. 3

Fraternally,

Fr Thomas Kalariparambil MSFS
Provincial



CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

Casa Generalizia
MISSIONARI DI S. FRANCESCO DI SALES,
Via delle Testuggini 21,
00134 Roma, Italia.
Tel: (06) 99 70 91 47
Fax: (06) 99 70 69 57

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REPORT ON THE CANONICAL VISITATION OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL TO THE SOUTHWEST INDIA PROVINCE

(SEPTEMBER 10 – 19 and September 23 – October 09, 2023)

PRELIMINARY REMARKS

This report is also an evaluation and internal review that allows the Province and the Administration to understand the strengths and weaknesses and the opportunities and growing edges present in Religious life, Community life, Apostolates of Mission, Education, Formation, and Social and Innovative ministries. As per the new governance, the visitations of the Provincial and the Superior General call for an evaluation of the state of the Province and its renewal. This meeting of the Provincial Curia with the General Curia, we hope, will enable the Province to map out a revised plan to further implement the decisions of the General Chapter 2019 and Provincial Chapter 2022 in the spirit of our Charism and Constitutions.

In short, a Province that can evaluate itself and accept constructive self-criticism from within will be able to:

- Recognize its strengths and weaknesses
- Identify the opportunities and threats it faces
- Improve its efficiency
- Review the effectiveness of its strategic plan
- Promote a proactive attitude among members, and
- Establish a roadmap for self-improvement that will strengthen the Administration and animation of the Province community to achieve its goals

Before we start:

As the Synod on Synodality is taking place in Rome, we are also having a synodal journey with the sole purpose of listening to each other, dialoguing, discerning, and making decisions

Observations by the confreres and my call for your attention for a renewed effort should be viewed as goals to be achieved over time or as guidelines for pursuing excellence.

The roadmap this exercise will help you design is not intended as a list of commandments but rather a guidebook for a journey of improvement and renewal in the Province.

INTRODUCTION

As scheduled, the Superior General's visitation to the Southwest India Province began on September 10 and will be concluded on October 09, 2023. The visitation was centered around MSFS Local communities and Formation Houses, where confreres gathered. The Provincial or a Delegate of the Provincial was present with me in all the communities.

I. OBJECTIVES

- To meet our confreres personally and as a community to animate the community in the spirit of the General Chapter 2019 and the Constitutions
- To evaluate and refresh the apostolate and community life of confreres
- To encourage confreres for a renewed fidelity to the Charism of the Congregation
- To update confreres on the initiatives taken in the Congregation based on the Orientations of the General Chapter 2019

II. DYNAMICS OF THE VISITATION

- Local Superiors shared a brief reflective report with an evangelical critique on community life, religious life, and apostolic life of the confreres
- Personal meetings with confreres, community meetings, community prayers, adoration/mass
- Personal meetings with 135 confreres in ministry, 08 perpetually professed scholastics, 09 regents, and minor seminarians and novices in groups
- Community meetings in Local Communities with an agenda of deepening community life and religious life and half an hour of adoration with the members of the Local Communities,
- Meeting with the Fransalian Associates in Mysore to celebrate the Eucharist and release *Philothea* a publication of the Fransalian Associates
- Mass, prayers, and meals with the confreres in communities and, in some centers, mass with parishioners

III. STRENGTH OF THE PROVINCE (as shared by confreres during personal meetings)

- The majority of the Confreres expressed their satisfaction in their belongingness to the Province, appreciated the freedom and trust placed on them to take initiatives and strengthen the apostolates
- Confreres shared that most of the confreres are cordial, vibrant, active, innovative, focused, and engaging; Hospitality, concern, and care of the confreres are pretty visible and enjoyable

- Commitment and hard work of most of the confreres are seen in the apostolates entrusted to them.
- Confreres are generally cooperative and appreciative of the leadership of the senior confreres, occasionally with a bit of grumbling.
- Confreres show their interest in contributing to the growth of the Province's mission through their talents and good work culture.
- The province is blessed with many confreres who are competent, resourceful, and responsible for initiating new ministries.
- The strength of the Province is the number of committed confreres who contribute to the growth and development of the Province.
- Educational apostolate and institutionalized ministries are stabilizing, and the Province has well-furnished infrastructure and community houses.
- Several confreres are engaged in preaching ministry; and dioceses, religious congregations, and parishes invite them.
- Language Study Centers, Music academy, Note-book industry, ITI Malur, Prateeksha Boys Hostels, NEST, ITSSCAT, De CARE, Indian Institute of Spirituality, Charis Nikethan for older people, Retreat Centres like Charis Bhavan, Atma Jyothi, and Fransalian Tapasya Mission (PMP), Garment manufacturing industry are visible expressions of innovation of confreres to reach out to different sessions of people.

IV. CONCERNS AND CHALLENGES IN THE PROVINCE (as shared by the confreres)

1. COMMUNITY LIFE

- Some of the established Local communities in the Province need clarity; Confreres ministering in the parishes/confreres living alone in some places are not sure, or the Local Superiors are not sure about the composition of the community.
- The roles and functions of the Local Superior and members are to be constantly explained in the presence of the entire community, and implementation of the same has to be monitored.
- Monthly Local Community meetings are to be regularly organized. According to our Constitution, Local Superiors need to claim their *ordinary power* for the animation of communities in the spirit of Consecrated life.
- Discipline, order, and religious spirit in community life and apostolates do not match the growth and development of the Province.
- Religious spirit and spirit of prayer are to be integrated into Province communities. If not, Apostolates will be taken as a profession devoid of spiritual depth, sense of mission, and spirit of religious life.
- Growing generation gap and mindset gap, the senior-junior divisive tendency of confreres, etc., seem to make a few confreres feel neglected/unrecognized. Less and less coming together, province programs and less participation in apostolic community activities also contribute to this gap.

- There is a lack of seriousness in promoting the values and ideals of consecrated life as life is getting more mechanized and institutionalized, in some cases, more of a bachelor's life than religious community life.
- More comfortable with priestly ministries, and one's area of apostolate, and less regard and interest in community life.
- Personal care and accompaniment to junior confreres, newly ordained confreres, and other confreres who seem to be struggling with issues, and confreres dealing with community conflicts and problems need to be addressed regularly.
- Appointment of Local Superior: It is a constitutional office and needs local superiors capable of animating the community and the apostolate.

2. MISSION

- Dwindling of pastoral and missionary spirit, less willing to leave comfort zones and opt for missions.
- The present missions and parishes of the Provinces need evaluation and monitoring from the Administration to strengthen the mission apostolate.
- Education apostolate seems to eclipse mission apostolate, initiatives in pastoral ministry, and social apostolates.
- Balancing the education apostolate with the mission and social apostolate; if not, the future of the Province will not remain a missionary Province as per the charism and vision of the Founder.
- A few confreres expressed their lack of pastoral fulfillment as they have not worked in any mission or parish their whole life.
- PMP needs to be further strengthened and focused to become a substantial component of the Province ministry.
- Mission apostolate follows more of a “maintenance culture” rather than a “missionary culture”; they need more competent confreres in pastoral and missionary apostolates.
- Parish, missionary, and pastoral ministries need a boost; mission does not often get competent personnel; mediocrity can harm mission and pastoral care.
- Mission outside the Province territory is an urgent need in the context of limited opportunities for missionary involvement within the territory of the Province.
- Chad-Cameron and the Philippines Delegation need to be continually strengthened and monitored.

3. FORMATION

- Formation Houses do not have sufficient trained confreres in the apostolate of formation; Prioritize the formation of formation personnel in the coming years.
- Academic training and training in formation apostolate (teaching and involvement in formation) is essential for human formation.

- Do not compromise on the quality of candidates in the frantic run for more numbers. The Province needs to get used to working with small groups of seminarians in the different stages of formation.
- Scholastics need to be challenged and made serious about religious life and its challenges more than priestly ministries; it is sad to see them leaving a week or a month after the renewal of vows.
- Formation in multi-linguistic and multi-cultural setting in the formation houses are to be stressed for future confreres to work in international and intercultural communities.
- Scholastics in theology must be sufficiently prepared with the mission language to celebrate mass in the mission language after ordination.
- After equipping and qualifying confreres in one specialized area, they do not work in the same area of specialization; personnel planning for different ministries with mission exposure is needed.
- The need for ongoing formation and refreshment courses for confreres after many years of ministry is urgent;
- TEJAS Theology Institute needs attention and facilities; a decision to settle its future is inevitable.
- Young confreres need more challenges to give their best to the mission of the Congregation, especially opting for the frontier mission.

4. EDUCATION

- Education Apostolate is quite visible, progressing, innovative, and moving to greater heights
- The general feeling is that other apostolates like mission, formation, and social and innovative ministries do not get much attention and competence.
- The tendency for income-generating educational apostolate does not match the pastoral and missionary involvement of the Province.
- Other apostolates deserve equal attention as education; if not, MSFS in Karnataka can slowly lose its missionary face. There is a general feeling that MSFS ‘means’ education.
- Financial transparency and streamlining are concerns, though the Administration is taking bold steps to create a system within the Province.
- Education apostolate is to be a community-based apostolate; the Local community members are to participate in the school activities.
- Does education carry a mission? This is a question raised by a few confreres.
- The following decisions of the General Chapter 2019 need to be continually followed:

*To establish a culture of excellence and competence in our educational institutions, Provincials will ensure that those who have obtained degrees through private studies, correspondence courses, and honorary conferral and do not have professional degrees obtained through regular College programs are not appointed as Principals.
Implementation: Provincial.*

Academic programs being the primary responsibility of Principals, the Office of Principal will be delinked from the management of temporal goods of our schools and colleges. Implementation: Provincial & Provincial Bursar.

Managers/Correspondents of schools and colleges will be involved in the functioning of those institutions in a greater way by teaching, spending a day during the week with the school community, or any other. Implementation: Provincial & PCIC.

5. SOCIAL APOSTOLATES AND INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES

- Fides India, PSI, and other well-managed initiatives in the Province require attention as they are almost giving way to or overshadowed by other ministries
- How do we focus on our missionary and pastoral image and heritage? This is a question raised by several confreres.
- There is a general feeling that social apostolate and innovative ministries are almost dying out
- Social ministries reflect our missionary identity and image to society; we need to give more attention to social causes and the disadvantaged sections of society
- Revive social work centers to empower the poor and the marginalized without any other motive

V. FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE ADMINISTRATION

- A Balanced approach to all the apostolates in the Province. A strong foundation, planning, and monitoring system for education apostolate exists. The other apostolates, like mission, formation, and social and innovative ministries, also need adequate planning and monitoring. The Provincial-Councillor-In-Charge of each Apostolate should visit each center twice during their five-year term of office: once before the General Assembly and then after the General Assembly of the Province.
- Clarity about the members of the Local Community. It is important to publish the list of all the Local communities in the Province with the names of members and Local Superiors. The Local Superior's role and functions and the community members' responsibilities are to be indicated to all. Formal community meetings are to become a regular exercise in the community.
- Using the congregational obituary for prayer, praying for the cause of the Founder, the success of the XXI General Chapter 2019, and the Intentions of the Superior General are to be integrated into community prayers in all the communities.
- Prepare a few confreres for the apostolate of formation so that every formation house should have at least one confrere trained in personal and professional skills in formation.
- The Formed Communities in the Province: Do they function as Formed Communities with the required administrative structure?
- The mind of the Provincial Chapter 2022 to conduct consultation on the division of the SWI Province is to be followed up.

- There are several irregular cases in the Province: exclaustation, absconding, departures without juridical closure, etc. Some are almost ten years old cases. Need immediate attention.
- The Youth Ministry, Fransalian Associates, Cause of the Founder, PMP, and Social Apostolates need constant guidance and monitoring to take deep roots in the Province.
- A few confreres from North India expressed their desire to have missions in Northern India for pastoral fulfillment and better dissemination of our charism and spirituality in their language and culture.
- Extending personal care for the senior and sick confreres by healthy confreres as the number of the sick is increasing
- Organize gatherings for confreres from different forums to come together on various occasions to know and to connect.

CONCLUSION


I take this opportunity to thank Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil, the Provincial; Fr. Kurian Karickal, the Admonitor; Fr. Mathew Elayadathumadam, the Bursar; and Fr. George Vattappara, PCIC of SAIM, and the Local Superiors, for their cordial accompaniment, and the warm welcome and hospitality throughout my visitation. The confreres made themselves available for the meetings, adjusting to any changes and inconveniences caused. I thank Father Thomas Kalary for arranging the visitation well with all the scheduled meetings and exercises during the visitation. I enjoyed the hospitality and care of the confreres. I was glad to hear good things from the people, the Bishop, and the local people about the good pastoral care and ministries being extended to them by our confreres.

I firmly believe that the Southwest India Province has sufficient and competent human resources to fulfill the vision and charism of our Founder. There are ample opportunities to express MSFS Charism of renewal of faith through the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales as envisioned and lived by Father Peter Mermier.

May the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and the missionary dynamism of Father Peter Mermier continue to inspire our confreres.

May Mary, Mother of Compassion, intercede for us.

Live JESUS!



Father Abraham VETTUVELIL, MSFS
Superior General

October 05, 2023

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A SHORT REPORT ON PROVINCIAL'S VISITATION TO THE PHILIPPINES DELEGATION

Some of the key concerns and needs of the Delegation that were crystalized during various interactions as well as the Colloquium along with the concrete plans made in response are listed below.

Pastoral Ministry

Current scenario

At present the MSFS is taking the pastoral care of one parish, Our Lady of Sacred Heart Parish in the diocese of Imus as well as its Sub-station, St. Joseph the Worker in Georgetown, which is a vast and vibrant parish where all our nearby confreres help out especially on weekends with over a dozen masses. It is through this parish that the MSFS have become well known throughout the diocese of Imus. We have a large number of benefactors from this parish and it also provides around 300,000/- pesos to the delegation monthly. But, our contract with the diocese for this parish will be over in another 7 years. The bishop has agreed to make the Sub-station in Georgetown into a parish if we can construct a proper Church there. The main challenge is to acquire the land title the land where a small church is housed at present, measuring around 2000m². The church building is situated in a space of the subdivision that is non-alienable, and non-buildable as per the approved plans. And any favourable settlement requires an alteration of the approved plan of the subdivision. With the support of the local government, homeowners' association, developer, and pastoral officers, it may be possible, but may take another year. Besides this parish and its sub-station, two of our confreres are working as guest priests in two other parishes.

Proposals and decisions

1. Take every possible effort to settle the land issue at Georgetown on a time-bound manner. If the task proves insoluble, we could situate the Church building in the land nearby that we are in possession of and where the building for our social centre is going to be built. Such a step will have the added advantage that the Church will be on land owned by us and therefore the parish may not easily be taken away from us.
2. It is high time that we take our pastoral ministry to other dioceses. Both of our priests working as guest priests are capable of taking up independent parishes and therefore it is decided that we should request some other dioceses for two more parishes to be taken up at the earliest. The Delegation Superior will initiate immediate measures towards this.

Ministry of Education

Background

It has been the long-felt need of the Philippines Delegation to initiate the ministry of quality education, which is part of our Fransalian Foundational Apostolate. For lack of qualified personnel as well as adequate funds this need could not yet be addressed. There are a number of compelling reasons why such a step needs to be initiated at the earliest, namely: (1) education is one of the

ways we the Fransalians can make a distinctive difference in the Philippines, (2) as a Delegation we need some income-fetching ministries to become relatively financially self-reliant, and (3) we also need some such ministries to make our presence stable and visible.

Proposals and Decisions

1. We have identified two young confreres who are to be sent at the earliest for advanced studies in education in view of providing leadership in the ministry of education. Once they complete their studies, they could be provided practical exposure in some of our schools in India to get first-hand experience of running quality educational institutions. Since there is the possibility of roping-in the services of lay people, it is not necessary that we wait till these confreres complete their studies to initiate the ministry of education.
2. The delegation has identified a piece of land at Tanza, Cavite, donated by Fr. George, a great benefactor of our Delegation, for constructing our first school. The delegation superior is entrusted with constituting a team who will look into all the immediate practical aspects of initiating the project, like ensuring that there is proper broad road access, necessary permissions, the time-frame required to get all the concerns addressed, plans for the structure, stages of construction, costs involved, etc.
3. Meanwhile, the delegation Superior will present the project to some funding agencies, especially with the help of our MDO in Rome, to avail at least part of the required costs. The Province Administration, on its part, will definitely assist the delegation financially in materializing this project at the earliest.

Formation

The Current scenario

At present we have 4 theologians in the MSFS Scholasticate Amadeo, two of whom are deacons, 2 Regents, 10 students in the MSFS Formation House in Silang, some whom are doing PU and others their philosophical studies, and 22 aspirants in the newly opened seminary in Cebu. We have no novices. Two of the scholastics are just ordained deacons. Thus, the number of new priests being added to the delegation in the coming few years is pretty limited.

Proposals and decisions

1. The former building at Cebu that housed the aspirants is to be rented out and the proceedings could be used towards the running expenses of the seminary at Cebu.
2. There is a need to integrate the handbook on graded formation in the Delegation. The Councillor-in-charge of Formation will initiate steps towards it.
3. A cost estimate is to be made for completing what is immediately required for the Seminary building in Cebu as well as for the repair works urgently needed of the seminary building at Silang and is to be presented to the Provincial Administration.

Social Apostolate

Background

The Philippines with their multitude of extremely poor people challenge us to serious action.

in terms of different social apostolate. In response, the delegation kicked off its formal social apostolate under the leadership and initiative of Fr. Jiji Manjackal. Under the banner “Mermier Children’s Welfare Mission” various social action programs for the children like feeding the children, giving them tuitions, teaching catechism, etc. have already been initiated – all with the help and financial assistance of friends and benefactors from our parishes. One immediate necessity was to have a small house to co-ordinate such programmes. This centre could act as a catalyst for a chain of social action centres in the Philippines.

Proposals and Decisions

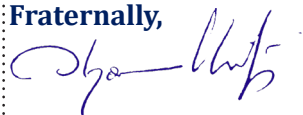
1. The Delegation decided to build a social action centre and requested the Provincial Administration for 50% of its construction cost which was approved and an initial amount was already transferred to the Delegation. The blessing of the foundation stone and the groundbreaking was done during the visitation of the provincial. The construction is due to commence very soon.
2. One of the soon to be ordained priests would join the team of Fr Jiji so that the social apostolate can take a proper shape.
3. We need to systematically plan and spread out to other parts our social action programmes.

General Orientations to the Delegation

1. There is a need to be totally conscious that we are primarily a religious congregation and it is from a disciplined community life that all our ministries have to flow out. Mere socialization should not be confused with being pastorally available to the people all the time. All our ministries should be based on the witness of a truly lived community life, adhering faithfully to the community prayers, and common schedule.
2. A formal Delegation Colloquium is to be held every year to evaluate and plan out the life and mission of the Delegation in all details.
3. The Delegation Council is to meet at least four times a year and the minutes of the meetings are to be sent to the Provincial
4. Various forums are to be activated in contact with the POCs and the respective members could virtually participate in all the Forum Meetings held in India.
5. The Delegation Bursar is to conduct internal auditing at least 3 times a year and a copy of the audit report is to be sent to the Provincial Bursar.

In conclusion, my sincere and heartfelt thanks to Fr Jundie Sumagaysay, the Delegation Superior, for planning and organizing the visitation meticulously, and to all the members of the Delegation for the wonderful welcome and hospitality they extended to me and much more for the joyful Fransalian way they live and carry out their ministries in the Philippines that auger well for the future of the Philippines Delegation.

Fraternally,



Fr Thomas Kalariparambil MSFS
Provincial

PROPOSED FORUMS OF THE CHAD-CAMEROUN DELEGATION**Superiors' Forum**

1. Fr Arackal Manoj (Convenor)
2. Fr Nyamsi Yves (Secretary)
3. Fr Innaci Muthu
4. Fr Innocent Parfait
5. Fr Nellimalamattam Joshy
6. Fr Palathadathil Aneesh
7. Fr Tirkey Sandeep
8. Fr Vellakada Sen

Education Forum

1. Fr Senghor Peygres (Convenor)
2. Fr Leandre Francky (Secretary)
3. Fr George Keyzhakthottam
4. Fr Nyamsi Yves
5. Fr Madjita Anniversaire
6. Fr Robin Joy
7. Fr Francis Ekka

Mission Forum

1. Fr Innocent Parfait (Convenor)
2. Fr Dung Dung Marcel (Secretary)
3. Fr Abessouguie Christophe
4. Fr Ajish Antony
5. Fr Arackal Manoj
6. Fr Boris Nixon
7. Fr Emile Amougou Amougou
8. Fr Francis Ekka
9. Fr George Keyzhakthottam
10. Fr Gijo Panamattam
11. Fr Innaci Muthu
12. Fr Lakra Giridhari
13. Fr Leandre Francky
14. Fr Madjita Anniversaire
15. Fr Nellimalamattam Joshy
16. Fr Nyamsi Yves
17. Fr Palathadathil Aneesh
18. Fr Rakesh Ekka
19. Fr Robin Joy
20. Fr Senghor Peygres
21. Fr Tirkey Sandeep
22. Fr Toussaint Ndeialdongar
23. Fr Vellakada Sen
24. Fr Xess Bipin Kishore
25. Dn Vinu Varghese

Formation Forum

1. Fr Tirkey Sandeep (Convenor)
2. Fr Palathadathil Aneesh (Secretary)
3. Fr Ajish Antony
4. Fr Arackal Manoj
5. Fr Lakra Giridhari
6. Fr Rakesh Ekka
7. Fr Senghor Peygres
8. Fr Vellakada Sen
9. Fr Xess Bipin Kishore

Stewardship Forum

1. Fr Vellakada Sen (Convenor)
2. Fr Robin Joy (Secretary)
3. Fr Francis Ekka
4. Fr Innaci Muthu
5. Fr Leandre Francky
6. Fr Madjita Anniversaire
7. Fr Nyamsi Yves
8. Fr Senghor Peygres
9. Fr Xess Bipin Kishore

Appendix IV

SECOND STAGE PREPARATION FOR XXI ORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER

STUDY PAPER I – GUIDELINES FOR PREPARATION OF THE REPORT

FOR PROVINCES / VICE PROVINCE

- 15-11-2023 Study Paper I & Questionnaire are sent to Province / Vice Province
- 30-11-2023 Completion of Community Reading of the Study paper – I in the Local Community & prepares for discussions in the Apostolic Community Meeting
- 15-12-2013 Completion of Discussions on Study Paper – I in the Apostolic Community Meeting
- 20-12-2023 Convenors / Councillors in charge of Apostolic Community send the Reports to Provincial
- 21-12-2023 Provincial forwards to the Chapter Delegates the Reports of Apostolic Communities for collation
- 31-12-2023 Chapter Delegates submit the Province Report to the Provincial
- 03-01-2024 Provincial/Vice-Provincial Council finalizes the Province Report on Study Paper I
- 05-01-2024 Provincial sends the Province Report to SGGC 2025 (Secretary General of General Chapter 2025) by email: secretarygeneralgc2025

Time Lane

SECOND STAGE PREPARATION FOR XXI ORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER

RECOLLECTIONS & STUDY PAPERS

PROVINCE / VICE-PROVINCE

- 01-11-2023 Recollection Talk (Material + Video Record) is sent to the Provincial
- 15-11-2023 Study Paper I & Questionnaire are sent to Province / Vice Province
- 30-11-2023 Completion of Community Reading of the Study paper-1 in the Local Community & preparing for discussions in the Apostolic Community Meeting
- 01-12-2023 Recollection Talk (Material + Video Record) is sent to the Provincial
- 15-12-2013 Completion of Discussions on Study Paper – I in the Apostolic Community Meeting

- 20-12-2023 Convenors / Councillors in charge of Apostolic Community send the Reports to Provincial
- 21-12-2023 Provincial forwards to the Chapter Delegates the Reports of Apostolic Communities for collation
- 31-12-2023 Chapter Delegates submit the Province Report to the Provincial
- 01-01-2024 Recollection Talk (Material + Video Record) is sent to the Provincial
- 03-01-2024 Provincial / Vice-Provincial Council finalizes the Province Report on Study Paper – I
- 05-01-2024 Provincial sends the Province Report to SGGC 2025 (Secretary General 2025)

PCC collates all Reports by 25th January & submits them to Superior General by January 29, 2024

- 01-02-2024 Recollection Talk (Material + Video Record) is sent to Provincial
- 05-02-2024 Study Paper – II & Questionnaire are sent to Provincial
- 25-02-2024 Completion of Community Reading of the Study paper – II in the Local Community and prepares for discussions in the Apostolic Community Meeting
- 15-03-2024 Completion of Discussions on Study Paper – I in the Apostolic Community Meeting
- 20-03-2024 Convenors / Councillors in charge of Apostolic Community send the Reports to Provincial
- 21-03-2024 Provincial forwards to the Chapter Delegates the Reports of Apostolic Communities for collation
- 30-03-2024 Chapter Delegates submit the Province Report to the Provincial
- 01-04-2024 Recollection Talk (Material + Video Record) is sent to the Provincial
- 03-04-2024 Provincial / Vice-Provincial Council finalizes the Province Report on Study Paper – II
- 05-04-2024 Provincial sends the Province Report to SGGC 2025

PCC collates all Reports by 25th April & submits it to Superior General by 29th April 2024

- 01-05-2024 Recollection Talk (Material + Video Record) is sent to Provincial
- 05-05-2024 Study Paper – III & Questionnaire are sent to Provincial
- 25-05-2024 Completion of Community Reading of the Study paper – III in the Local Community and prepares for discussions in the Apostolic Community Meeting
- 15-06-2024 Completion of Discussions on Study Paper – III in the Apostolic Community Meeting
- 20-06-2024 Convenors / Councillors in charge of Apostolic Community send the Reports to Provincial
- 21-06-2024 Provincial forwards to the Chapter Delegates the Reports of Apostolic Communities for collation
- 30-06-2024 Chapter Delegates submit the Province Report to the Provincial
- 01-07-2024 Recollection Talk (Material + Video Record) is sent to the Provincial
- 03-07-2024 Provincial / Vice-Provincial Council finalizes the Province Report on Study Paper – II
- 05-07-2024 Provincial sends the Province Report to SGGC 2025

PCC collates all Reports by 25th July & submits it to Superior General by 29th July 2024

- 01-08-2024 Recollection Talk (Material + Video Record) is sent to Provincial
- 05-08-2024 Study Paper – IV & Questionnaire are sent to Provincial
- 25-08-2024 Completion of Community Reading of the Study paper – IV in the Local Community & Prepares for discussions in the Apostolic Community Meeting
- 15-09-2024 Completion of Discussions on Study Paper – IV in the Apostolic Community Meeting
- 20-09-2024 Convenors / Councillors in charge of Apostolic Community send the Reports to Provincial
- 21-09-2024 Provincial forwards to the Chapter Delegates the Reports of Apostolic Communities for collation
- 29-09-2024 Chapter Delegates submit the Province Report to the Provincial
- 01-10-2024 Recollection Talk (Material + Video Record) is sent to the Provincial
- 03-10-2024 Provincial / Vice-Provincial Council finalizes the Province Report on Study Paper – IV
- 05-10-2024 Provincial sends the Province Report to SGGC 2025

PCC collates all Reports by 25th October & submits it to Superior General by 29th October 2024

