

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE

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SWIP Circular TK/17

February 2024



My dear Confreres,

Cordial and prayerful greetings to all of you! Coming as we are from the grace of Christmas, the joy of welcoming six new priests into our Province communion, and the revitalizing inspiration from celebrating the feast of our heavenly patron St. Francis de Sales, we are fast approaching the beginning of the season of Lent. In his message for Lent 2024, Pope Francis warns us that "too often we are dominated by an inexplicable longing for slavery," a desire to cling to idols that paralyze us, as Israel was paralyzed in the desert. Lent, however, is a "season of grace, a time of conversion," where the desert can become "a place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery," where "we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken." The Lenten journey is thus both a time for action as well as a time "to pause" in prayer and to pause "in the presence of a wounded brother or sister" letting thereby "the contemplative dimension" of Lent to "release new energies," in us in order to be "more sensitive to one another." May Lent 2024 have such a transforming effect in each one of us!

ONGOING FORMATION AT THE CONGREGATIONAL LEVEL

The General Secretariat for Formation is resuming ongoing formation programmes for all the confreres at the Congregational level. The first of it in the series will be a three days programme with the theme, "Ongoing Formation: A Call to Transformation," for the priests ordained from 2017 through 2022. It will be conducted at two different venues:

- **1. At MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati, Assam,** for the Provinces of **Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Nagpur and Pune** from **February 28 through March 1, 2024** (Arrival on February 27 and Departure on March 2, 2024).
- **2. At Stella Maris, Visakhapatnam**, for the Provinces of **South East India, South West India and Visakhapatnam** from **March 13 through 15, 2024** (Arrival on March 12 and Departure on March 16, 2024).

If a confrere is not able to attend the programme in the prescribed place allotted to his province due to unavoidable reasons, he may make arrangement to participate in the alternative place with the due permission of his Provincial Superior. Participation in this programme is obligatory and Fr. Santhosh Kumar, our Councillor-in-charge of Formation will get in touch with the concerned confreres and assist you to make all the necessary arrangements.

A COMMON SOFTWARE FOR ACCOUNTING

Due to the non-familiarity of majority of the confreres in using the complex tools adopted by professional accounting, majority of us are overdependent on the province accountants in book keeping and accounting. **Our Province will be taking the help of an easy-to-use common software**, widely used by several religious congregations and dioceses, which is not only easy-to-use for anyone without the need for any technical training, but would also ensure timely compliance with maintaining accurate accounts. On a trial basis it will be used in a few units of ours and if found to be addressing all our accounting needs, it will be introduced in all units of our province from the next financial year.

SUBODHANA PVT. LTD. COMPANY

Ever since the introduction of GST legislation in our country on the taxable income and the concerns raised by the department of education, we have been deliberating with the experts in the field as to how we could effectively and efficiently manage our production units at Karahalli and Kolar and the way to organize the transactions on books, uniforms and stationery in our educational institutions. We have been advised to register a private Firm under the Indian Companies Act which could effectively address our concerns.

Accordingly, we have registered a Firm already with the name SUBODHANA PVT. LTD with Frs. Balavendra Jacob, Jijo Chemplanickal and Benny Marangolil on the Board of Directors. The Board of directors will remain as the Officials of the company, whereas **Fr George Vattappara is designated by the Provincial Administration to be appointed by the board of Directors as the Manager** who will effectively spearhead all its activities. Fr George Vattappara, the Manager, will organize the affairs at the respective areas of concern both at the production units and the purchase deals at every educational Institution in the Province. I thank Fr George Vattappara for accepting this assignment and bring out the best with his expertise in the field.

COMMON POLICIES FOR THE STAFF AND SERVICE RULES FOR THE RETIRED EMPLOYEES

The Provincial Council in its meeting on the 23rd of January 2024 has approved common policies for the staff in all our educational institutions that specify among others the age of retirement and service rules for further employing retired employees. These policies will soon be published in the portal of education forum and will come into effect from the academic year 2024-25.

CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO OUR CHAD-CAMEROON MISSION

Chad-Cameroon delegation is in urgent need of the services of at least two confreres. Indeed, there are a good number of scholastics in formation in our delegation and in a few years the delegation would have sufficient number of confreres for its mission. But to weather the immediate need, both in the mission and formation, it needs strengthening it from India. With two confreres, even for a short period, the delegation could breathe easy.

PERMANENT DELEGATE OF THE PROVINCIAL

Article 233 of our Constitutions as amended by the Extraordinary General Chapter 2023 and subsequently approved by Rome reads: "Once the provincial administration is in place, in consultation with his council, the Provincial nominates one of his councillors, other than the Admonitor as his permanent delegate who will act on his behalf, in case of his absence or prolonged incapacity." Art. 253/iii of General Directory as modified by the extraordinary General Chapter 2023 reads "The permanent delegate of the Provincial/Vice-Provincial will act only in the absence or incapacity of the Provincial/Vice-Provincial in terms of those delegated functions specified by the Provincial/Vice-Provincial and made known to the province." As mandated by these norms, in consultation with the Provincial Council and with the approval of our Superior General, I appoint hereby Rev. Fr George Vattappara as the Permanent Delegate of the Provincial.

MID-TERM PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLY

Whith the amendment of the term of a Provincial to be of a single non-renewable term of 5 years, our constitutions make it mandatory to have a mid-term Provincial Assembly. Article 236/i of our constitutions reads: "In addition to the ordinary provincial chapter/congress, a mandatory mid-term assembly is convoked by the provincial to review the implementations of the orientations and action plans of the preceding ordinary provincial chapter/congress." Accordingly, with the approval of our Superior General I convoke hereby a mid-term assembly of our Province to be held from Monday, July 22nd, 2024, starting with breakfast and concluding on Wednesday, July 24th, 2024, with lunch. Since it is a provincial assembly, not an ordinary provincial Chapter/Congress, it will not have the ordinary powers of a provincial chapter or congress. Yet all the perpetually professed members are to participate in it. For practical reasons, members working abroad will be present through representatives, the mechanism for which will be worked out. Due to the large number of possible participants, we will have to seek a facility other than ours. We are in the process of identifying a convenient facility. Please block these dates in your calendar to ensure the participation of all. More details of the Assembly will be communicated in due time.

PRELIMINARY STUDY COMMITTEE FOR DIVISION OF THE PROVINCE

The Provincial Chapter of 2022 had as one of its action plans to "apprise the General Administration of the mind of the Provincial Chapter to conduct a consultation on the Division of the Province." Accordingly, our Superior General was intimated about this and he had asked the Provincial Administration to appoint a committee for conducting a preliminary study to know the mind of members of the province regarding whether and how of a possible division. With the approval of the Superior General the Provincial Administration has constituted a committee with the following members: Fr Thomas Cherukat (convenor), Fr Jacob Parappally (member), and Fr A. Anthony Swamy (Member).

In setting the terms of reference for this committee, the following may be taken into account: A Province is divided "for greater missionary effectiveness and better administrative efficiency." (Const. 222). "In fixing or redefining the territorial boundaries and in determining membership, the guiding principles should be apostolic and administrative efficacy, and our commitment to global mission, and to transcultural community living." (Const.223) "With the consent of the Superior General the Provincial ascertains [the need for it] through a mechanism preferably an opinion poll. About two-third perpetually professed members of the Province need to endorse the proposal for the process of the Division of the Province to be pursued further." (GD on Division of Provinces 2.2.1/1).

In a detailed directive by our Superior General in setting the modalities for conducting the opinion pool, he has highlighted the following: "the division is not on linguistic and cultural lines;" and "we, the General administration, want to insist on the Committee providing at least two or three models/plans that ensure division across states and cultures." The proposed models need not be "diocese-wise and state-wise, but according to missions and institutions." It could also be diocese-wise. The models presented for the referendum should also take into account continued support for the two delegations, taking up foreign missions, as well as the reality of two rites. Thus, it would be the first task of the committee to articulate two or three models, the rationale for each, and pros and cons of each of them, and present them to the provincial administration. The provincial administration, after studying the models, will forward them with modifications, if necessary, to the General Administration for approval. Once the General Administration gives the approval, the committee will carry out the consultation process and the findings will be forwarded to the General Administration by the Provincial. If the General Administration is convinced that the mind of the majority of the members is for a division of the province for reasons mentioned in the constitutions and the General Directory, it will initiate seriously the process of division by appointing a study-commission as prescribed by our General Directory on the Division of Provinces 2.3. and follow further steps as prescribed.

AFRICA DAY

All our educational institutions used to observe "Africa Day" and send the proceedings to our mission. This practice got interrupted with the outbreak of Covid 19. I request all our principals to re-start this noble practice, which was indeed a great help for our mission.

HERITAGE RETREAT AND SPA PROGRAMME

rom our Province **Fr. Sebastian Kulangarathottiyil** will participate in this year's Heritage Retreat and **Fr. L. Selvaraj** will participate in the SPA programme.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW PRIESTS

- **1. Fr Cyril Elakodical** is appointed as the Assistant Vicar of Fathima Matha Episcopal Church, Mariyapuram in the diocese of Thamarassery with effect from February 01, 2024.
- **2. Fr Jain George Kaniyodickal** is appointed as the Assistant Vicar of Christuraj Forane Church, Rajakad in the diocese of Idukki with effect from February 01, 2024.

- **3. Fr Jefin Elivalankil** is appointed as the Assistant Vicar of Devamatha Church, Rajakumari in the diocese of Idukki with effect from February 01, 2024
- **4. Fr Jilu Payattukandathil** is appointed as the Assistant Vicar of St. Antony's Church, Anakkallu in the diocese of Kanjirapally with effect from February 14, 2024.
- **5. Fr Somi Illickal** is appointed as the Assistant Vicar of St Joseph's Church, Peravur in the Archdiocese of Thalassery with effect from February 04, 2024.
- **6. Fr Vinu Varghese Ponnor** is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of Paroisse Ste. Familie d' Ebang and appointed as the Procurator to La Feuillette community with effect from February 01, 2024.

PROMOTION OF THE SCHOLASTICS

Promoted to the Order of Diaconate

- Bro. Asher Kochuparambil
- Bro. George Karottukizhakel
- Bro. Jerin Ponmalakunnel

- Bro. Jerry Balthasar
- Bro. Joachim Anthonyswamy
- Bro. Jostro Muthipeedika

Promoted to Perpetual Profession in the Philippines Delegation

- Bro. Aldren C. Mondigo
- Bro. Alex J. Estancia

- Bro. Robert Roy Paulo Sotomil
- The following Scholastic ceases to be the Member of the Congregation
 - Bro. Ravi Kumar

CANONICAL VISITATION OF THE PROVINCIAL

The annual canonical visitation of the provincial will commence on February 5, 2024. The schedule is given below. A note will be sent to all the superiors detailing what needs to be done in preparation for the visitation. It is a time of blessing and growth as we revitalize the life and mission of our province at the grass-root level through honest sharing, assessment, and drawing realistic plans for the future. Let us all therefore pray for its success, prepare well, and participate wholeheartedly.





- ➤ Mr Tsasse Maurice (67), the Beloved Father of Bro. Christian Tsasse, passed away on November 25, 2023.
- ➤ Mr Felix Fernandes, the Beloved Father of Fr Rony Fernandes, died on November 28, 2023.
- Mr. Anthony Abraham Kaniyodickal (89), the Paternal Grandfather of Fr Jain Kaniyodickal, passed away on December 16, 2023.
- ➤ Mr. Joseph Aranjaniyil, the Beloved Father of Bro. Sebastian (Jomy) Aranjaniyil, passed away on December 19, 2023.
- ➤ Mr P. T. Joseph (93), the Beloved Father of Fr George Choorapuzha, passed away on December 21, 2023.
- ➤ Mr Jose Vettuvelil (72), the Brother of Fr Abraham Vettuvelil, passed away on December 22, 2023.
- ➤ Mr George Thekkekara (84), the Brother- in- law of Fr. George Chirayil, passed away on January 06, 2024.
- > Sr Saveria CFMSS (93), the Aunt of Fr. Tom Kanat, passed away on January 06, 2024.
- ➤ Mr Antony Pappu Chakkiath (71), the Beloved Father of Fr Bijil Chakkiath, passed away on January 20, 2024.
- Mrs. Philomena (68), the Maternal Aunt of Fr. Roy Plathottathil, passed away on January 20, 2024.
- Mr Joseph Conrad (70), the Brother of Fr Sebastian Conrad, passed away on January 26, 2024.
- Mrs. Thresia (99), the Aunt of Fr Tom Kanat, passed away on January 28, 2024.



Knowledge and piety are the two eyes of a Priest

Fraternally,

Fr Thomas Kalariparambil, MSFS

Provincial Superior

SCHEDULE FOR THE VISITATION OF THE PROVINCIAL - 2024

COMMUNITY	DATE	PROGRAMME
MSFS House Malur	05/02/2024 Monday	 Reaches around 4.00 PM Personal and community meetings Prayer Stay at Malur House
	06/02/2024 Tuesday	 Holy Eucharist Visit to convent (Optional) Departure to Kolar around 10.00 AM
St Mary's Church Kolar	06/02/2024	 Visits Fr. Santy Kurian Meeting of Confreres in Kolar Visit to Tamaka College and Meetings
De Sales College Tamaka	Tuesday	 Returns to ITI Stay at ITI Community
ITI Community Kolar	07/02/2024 Wednesday	 Holy Eucharist Meetings with the Confreres (ITI) Departure for Mulbagal at 10.00 AM
Mulbagal	07/02/2024 Wednesday	 Meeting with Fr Cyriac Ummikuzhiyil and proceeds to Gokunte
St Francis Xavier's Church Gokunte	07/02/2024 Wednesday	 Lunch at Gokunte Meetings Leaves for Srinivaspur at 5.30 PM
MSFS House Srinivaspur	07/02/2024 Wednesday	 Reaches in the Evening Personal and community meetings Prayer Dinner and stay
	08/02/2024 Thursday	Holy EucharistLeaves at 9.30 AM to Chintamani

COMMUNITY	DATE	PROGRAMME
MSFS House Chintamani Sacred Heart Church Sidlaghatta	08/02/2024 Thursday	 Reaches around 10.00 AM Meetings Lunch Visits Sidlaghatta at 3.00 PM, Meeting with Fr Jeevan Prashanth Returns to Chintamani Prayer Dinner and Stay at Chintamani
	09/02/2024 Friday	 Holy Eucharist Proceeds to Kadisenahalli at 10.00 AM
Kadisenahalli	09/02/2024 Friday	Meeting with Fr SelvarajLunchProceeds to Karahalli
MSFS House and Garment Factory Karahalli	09/02/2024 Friday	 Reaches by 4.00 PM Personal and Community Meetings Prayer Dinner and stay at Karahalli
Karanani	10/02/2024 Saturday 11/02/2024	Holy EucharistDeparture to Vinayalaya
SFS Seminary Ettumanoor	12/02/2024 Monday	 Reaches in the evening Meetings till noon (Fr Rony Madathiparambil, Fr Jibin Anithottathil) Consecration of the Auxiliary Bishop of Vijayapuram diocese Stay at SFS Seminary
	13/02/2024 Tuesday	 Holy Eucharist Meeting with the confreres, seminarians Lunch Departure to Charis Bhavan
Charis Bhavan Retreat Centre Athirampuzha	13/02/2024 Tuesday	 Meetings from 6.00 PM Prayer Dinner and stay at Charis Bhavan
	14/02/2024 Wednesday	 Holy Eucharist (Ash Wednesday) Meetings Departure to Trivandrum at 2.00 PM
MSFS House Vattiyoorkaavu	14/02/2024 Wednesday	 Reaches around 7.00 PM Meetings Prayer Dinner and Stay
	15/02/2024 Thursday	 Holy Eucharist Departure to ITSSCAT at 10.00 AM
ITSSCAT-India De Sales Bhavan	15/02/2024 Thursday	 Meetings Lunch and departure for Adoor at 4.00 PM
Sales Bhavan Adoor	16/02/2024 Friday	 Arrival 6. 30 pm Meeting Prayer Dinner and stay
	17/02/2024 Saturday	 Holy Eucharist Meeting with the Bishop (If possible) Departure for Koottickal

COMMUNITY	DATE	PROGRAMME
Koottickal	17/02/2024	Lunch and meeting Fr. Tomichan ChirackalpuraidathilLeaves for Kattappana at 4.00 PM
MSFS House Kattappana	17/02/2024 Saturday 18/02/2024 Sunday	 Meeting with the Confreres Prayer Dinner and Stay at Kattappana Holy Eucharist
SFS Vidyashram Aluva	18/02/2024 Sunday	 Departure to Aluva 9.00 AM. Reaches by Noon Lunch Meetings in the evening Prayer Dinner and Stay at Aluva
	19/02/2024 Monday	Holy Eucharist and BreakfastDeparture to Pattikkad
MSFS House Pattikkad	19/02/2024 Monday	 Meeting with the confreres, community meeting, prayer Departure to Perinthalmanna at 4.00 PM
ITSSCAT India De Sales Bhavan Perinthalmanna	19/02/2024 Monday	 Reaches in the evening Meetings and prayer Stay at Perinthalmanna
	20/02/2024 Tuesday	 Holy Eucharist and Breakfast Meeting with the Bishop of Thamarassery Diocese (If Posiible)
Vinayakumar Ashram Nilambur	20/02/2024 Tuesday	 Meeting with the confreres Personal and Community meetings Prayer Dinner and Stay at Nilambur
	21/02/2024 Wednesday	Holy Eucharist and BreakfastDeparture to Sulthan Bathery
MSFS House (Divya Jyothi Ashram) Sulthan Bathery	21/02/2024 Wednesday	Personal and Community MeetingsPrayerStay at Sulthan Bathery
	22/02/2024 Thursday	Holy Eucharist and BreakfastDeparture to Makkiyad
Sneha Jyothi Ashram MSFS Novitiate House Makkiyad	22/02/2024 Thursday	 Meeting with the confreres Lunch Meeting at De Care Community Meeting Addressing the Novices Prayer Dinner and Stay at Makkiyad
	23/02/2024 Friday	Holy EucharistMeeting with Mananthavady Bishop (If Possible)Departure to Ulikkal
Pratheeksha Boys Home Ulikkal	23/02/2024 Friday	MeetingsPrayerDinner and Stay at Ulikkal
	24/02/2024 Saturday	 Holy Eucharist Departure to Kannur, Meeting with Bishop of Kannur Diocese
(Divya Jyothi Ashram) Sulthan Bathery Sneha Jyothi Ashram MSFS Novitiate House Makkiyad Pratheeksha Boys Home	21/02/2024 Wednesday 22/02/2024 Thursday 22/02/2024 Thursday 23/02/2024 Friday 23/02/2024 Friday	 Personal and Community Meetings Prayer Stay at Sulthan Bathery Holy Eucharist and Breakfast Departure to Makkiyad Meeting with the confreres Lunch Meeting at De Care Community Meeting Addressing the Novices Prayer Dinner and Stay at Makkiyad Holy Eucharist Meeting with Mananthavady Bishop (If Possible) Departure to Ulikkal Meetings Prayer Dinner and Stay at Ulikkal Holy Eucharist Departure to Kannur, Meeting with Bishop of Kannu

COMMUNITY	DATE	PROGRAMME
MSFS House Kannur	24/02/2024 Saturday	 Meetings with the confreres Prayer Dinner and stay at Kannur
	25/02/2024 Sunday	Holy EucharistDeparture to Mattannur
MSFS House Mattannur	25/02/2024 Sunday	 Personal and community Meetings Prayer Dinner and stay at Mattannur
	26/02/2024 Monday	 Holy Eucharist Meeting with Bishop of Thalassery Diocese (If Possible) Stay at Mattannur
	27/02/2024 Tuesday	Early Morning to Coorg
Gonikoppa Coorg	27/02/2024 Tuesday	Meeting with Fr M. George
De Sales Bhavan MSFS Community, Kuvempunagar	27/02/2024 Tuesday	 Reaches around 11.30 AM Meetings, Lunch, Departure to Sannidhi at 7.00 PM
Sannidhi MSFS Community	27/02/2024 Tuesday	MeetingsPrayerDinner and stay
	28/02/2024 Wednesday	 Holy Eucharist Meetings Departure For Saumya Sadan At 11.00 AM
Saumya Sadan Community	28/02/2024 Wednesday	MeetingsLunchDeparture for Vinayalaya at 4.00 PM
Nest Children's	01/03/2024 Friday	Reaches in the eveningPrayer, Dinner and stay
Village Kengeri	02/03/2024 Saturday	Holy EucharistMeetings
Tejas Vidya Peetha Kengeri	02/03/2024 Saturday	 Arrives at Noon Meetings, Prayer Dinner and Stay at Thejas Vidya Peetha
	03/03/2024 Sunday	Holy Eucharist, proceeds to PSI
PSI Sevagram Kengeri	03/03 2024 Sunday	 Meetings Holy Eucharist in the evening Dinner, departure for Vinayalaya
Indian Institute of Spirituality	04/03/2024 Monday	EucharistMeetings, lunch, departure to Suvidya
Suvidya College	4/03/2024 Monday	 Suvidya College Meetings confreres and students
	05/03/2024 Tuesday	Eucharist in SuvidyaMeetingsLeaves for Mermier Bhavan at 11.00 AM
Mermier Bhavan, SFS Parish, OLS Parish, Educational institutions in the Campus,	5-7 /03/2024 Tuesday to Thursday	 Detailed programme to be worked out by the Superior of Mermier Bhavan Community Leaves for St. John's at 6.00 PM on 7/03/2023.

COMMUNITY	DATE	PROGRAMME
Prateeksha Boys' Home,		
St John's Hospital	07/03/2024 Thursday	Meeting with Fr Tony at 6.30 PM, leaves for Vinayalaya
MSFS House Koppal	9/03/2024 Saturday	 Reaches in the afternoon Personal and Community Meetings Prayer Dinner and stay
	10/03/2024 Sunday	Holy EucharistLeaves for Kuknoor at 9.00 AM
MSFS House Kuknoor	10/03/2024 Sunday	 Reaches by 10 am Personal and Community Meetings, prayer Leaves for Mundargi in the evening
MSES House	10/03/2024 Sunday	PrayerDinner and Stay
MSFS House Mundargi	11/03/2024 Monday	Holy EucharistMeetingsLeaves for Savanur in the afternoon
Kristunivas-MSFS	11/03/2024 Monday	Personal and community meetingsPrayerDinner and stay
Community Savanur	12/03/2024 Tuesday	Holy EucharistLeaves for Shiralakoppa
MSFS House Shiralakoppa	12/03/2024 Tuesday	Personal and Community MeetingsPrayerDinner and Stay
	13/03/2024 Wednesday	 Holy Eucharist Visits Fr. D. Robert at Thandagunda Leaves for Anthoninagara
MSFS House Anthoninagara	13/03/2024 Wednesday	Reaches in the eveningPrayerDinner and rest
	14/03/2024 Thursday	Holy EucharistMeetingsLeaves for Vinayalaya
Sedam	16/03/ 2024 Saturday	 Reaches in the morning by flight Meeting with the bishop Visits Fr Antony Selvam and Fr Robin Pereira Dinner and stay at Sedam
	17/03/2024 Sunday	EucharistReturns to Vinayalaya

Personal arrangements will be made to Visit Fr Jose Kokkandathil at Holy Spirit Church Pallikara and Fr Sudeep Paul at Sandesha Foundation

