



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE

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SWIP Circular TK/22

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SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE MID-TERM ASSEMBLY

DVK ANNEX, S. G. PALYA
22-24 JULY 2024



HEARTS ON FIRE FEET ON THE MOVE



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Dear Confreres,

Fraternal Greetings and prayerful wishes to all of you! As you all are well aware, the first ever Mid-term Assembly of the South-West India Province was held from July 22-24, 2024, at DVK Annex, under the theme, "Hearts on Fire, Feet on the move." The Mid-term Assembly, mandated due the changed tenure of the Provincial Administration, was to celebrate that enviable legacy of the South-West India Province that is being created for the past 33 years with the fusion together of God's abundant grace and the whole-hearted co-operation of all the members of our Province. At regular intervals we have come together in a Provincial Congress or Chapter and this time in a Mid-term Assembly to reflect honestly, and evaluate dispassionately and objectively our life in common and missionary undertakings, in order to clarify our vision, set time-bound targets, and work out practical ways for their effective implementation.

By selecting for our Mid-term Province Assembly the theme "**Hearts on Fire, Feet on the Move**", the same theme Pope Francis chose for his message on the World Mission Sunday on October 22, 2023, we tried to articulate our collective desire to situate, understand, and revisit the missionary journey of our province within the two larger movements, namely, the synodal journey that the mother church is trying to re-capture and the Fransalian missionary journey that our congregation is trying to re-visit and re-invent through the coming 21st General Chapter. In a thought provoking and inspiring message, our beloved Superior General had given a thoroughly insightful elucidation of the theme for our reflection. The backdrop imagery is too powerful to be missed. The two disciples were walking away from Jerusalem, the place their dreams and aspirations were crucified, to Emmaus, a place of escape. It is at this juncture that their encounter with the person of Christ took place. The effect was dramatic: their eyes were opened; hearts were set on fire: they could embrace the same Christ of humiliation and crucifixion and set their feet immediately on the move to share with everyone their unique experience of meeting the Risen Lord. To quote from Fr. General's message, this "Mid-term Assembly of the Province should help every confrere to crucify his vision of faith, Christ, Church, religious life, and missionary life as MSFS to be a place of escape. This Assembly should help us to integrate humiliation, death, and resurrection in our journey as consecrated men. It should help us to restructure our minds and hearts with fire and return to Jerusalem (missionary life) on our feet."

The Mid-term Assembly was indeed a grace-filled moment as ninety-three of our confreres gathered to evaluate and assess our apostolate, community life, religious life, effectiveness in ministry, and administration of the institutions. The time scheduled for the Assembly was very effectively managed. The insightful keynote address followed by Provincial's report on the overall life and mission of the province was followed by an evaluative discussion on the religious and community life in the province. The reports on each forum were followed by apt in-put sessions by carefully chosen experts on the field and concluding it with pointed discussions on each. Both Delegation Superiors presented their reports on the current status of their lives, missions, and ministries in their respective delegations. All the participants took it upon themselves as their responsibility to make it another milestone in the province's history for its overall growth—spiritually, formatively, and professionally—in order to bloom where we are planted. First and foremost, I must acknowledge and thank the almighty god for his continued blessings, protection, guidance, and inspiration throughout the assembly. I take a moment also to

thank all of you who have offered your valuable prayers, contributed your time and effort for the success of this Mid-Term Assembly. I thank our beloved Superior General for his inspiring message and for accompanying us all through with his prayers. I thank Fr. J. Stephen, the General Councillor and the Delegate of the General to the Mid-term Assembly for his gracious presence and for his generous words of appreciation of the life and work of the Province. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the provincials, especially Rev. Fr. B. Suresh Babu MSFS (Visakhapatnam Province), Rev. Fr. Sabukuttan Francis MSFS (Guwahati Province), and Rev. Fr. Patrick Jayaraj MSFS (South East India Province), for their physical presence and solidarity with our province. I also thank the other provincials for their valuable messages and wishes for the success of this Mid-Term Assembly. Sincere gratitude and appreciation are due to the Steering committee, consisting of Fr. Jose Kannanaikkal, Fr. Balavendra Jacob, and Fr. Staney Rodrigues as well as all the members on various committees and groups for the systematic planning and meticulous execution of this event in an exemplary and professional way. A special word of thanks and appreciation is due to all the participants for the seriousness of purpose they manifested, the depth and maturity of their interactions, as well as the bond of unity they lived all through.

Key Takeaways of the Mid-term Assembly

- 1. Health Insurance Fund Instead of Taking Insurance Policies:** The Province was experiencing a problematic situation as our annual insurance premiums for health-care was amounting to over 29 lakhs rupees and our claims were totalling below 15 lakhs, resulting in around 50% loss every year. Moreover, the insurance companies try their best not to sanction cashless service and once claims are made post-treatment, they were refusing payment of 100%. Obtaining the insurance amount was becoming an absolute struggle. Thus, the question was put before the Assembly for discernment: Should we continue with the present system of taking health insurance coverage with some companies and suffer a loss of around 15 lakhs of rupees every year, or should we start a dedicated account with an initial amount of Rs. 40 lakhs or so to which what we pay as annual insurance premium could be added every year, and from which all the medical expenses of the confreres can be met. Following a thorough discussion of the advantages and disadvantages, it was **unanimously agreed** that the funds allocated for insurance premiums should instead be deposited into a dedicated account for covering the medical expenses of the confreres.
- 2. Our theological formation in Tejas Vidya Peetha** has been a cause of worry for several years now. Although it had a wonderful vision, right from the beginning it had been bogged down with a number of practical difficulties. Insufficient infrastructure, sufficient number of qualified and competent staff, unsettled land-issues, and added to the last, inhumanly polluted atmosphere have all made its continuation at the spot almost an impossibility. For lack of viable alternatives, the administration was forced to take a provisional decision, with the approval of the General Administration, not to send this year's first year Theologians to Tejas and send them to other seminaries instead. **It was left to the Mid-term Assembly to give a definite orientation to the Administration as to whether we need to continue with our Tejas Programme or not.** After a serious discussion, the

moderator initiated a voice vote to find out the mind of the assembly as whether to close or continue with the Tejas Theological Program. The results were:

➔ **For closing: 71 votes**

➔ For continuing: 0 votes

➔ Abstained from voting for either of the alternatives: 17 votes

3. **Vocation Promotion and Minor Seminaries:** Not only that it has become extremely difficult to get sufficient number of quality vocations, the drop out ratio in the minor seminaries is unprecedentedly and alarmingly too high. Both the formators as well as the administration is really at a loss as to how to respond to this situation effectively. The Assembly discussed the matter in depth and suggested some measures that could be adopted in addressing the issue. Due to the alarming rate of dropouts right from the initial days of their joining to the novitiate is such that year after year we are left with hardly any novices. The establishment of two separate minor seminaries was to ensure adequate number of seminarians from both the states. Although we have two seminaries, where 9 priests and 2 regents, along with all other teaching and non-teaching staff, are at the service of minor seminary formation, those entering novitiate, leave alone the fact of completing it, has become negligible. Against this scenario a serious discussion was held on the question: Are we still justified in persisting with this experiment of two minor seminaries? The Assembly was rather sharply divided on the question and the mind of the Assembly was that the matter could be revisited at the next Provincial Chapter.
4. **Text of Enlightenment towards conducting a Referendum on a Possible Division of the SWIP.** The last Provincial Chapter had entrusted the Provincial the task of consulting the Superior General on the matter of conducting a referendum in the Province to find out the mind of the members regarding a possible division of the SWI Province. On consulting the Superior General, he directed the Provincial to constitute a Preliminary Committee to prepare a text to enlighten the members, highlighting the pros and cons of a possible division as well as proposing possible models of a possible division. Accordingly, a committee was constituted with Fr. Thomas Cherukat (convenor), Fr. Jacob Parappally (member), and Fr. A. Anthony Swamy (member). They prepared a text, which was studied and modified by the Provincial Administration and was forwarded to the General Administration for its approval. While approving this text, Fr. Superior General has given a letter of orientation and enlightenment as to how to conduct the referendum. As the first step, he had directed the members of the Mid-term Assembly to study the text. Then the text has to be studied both at the level of the local community and the apostolic community wherever the members of the Province live and work. In the mid-term Assembly, we have completed the first step. The text that spells out the pros and cons of a possible division with some possible models will be made available to all of you through email and Provincial's office WhatsApp portal. May I request all the local superiors as well as apostolic convenors to take this responsibility with utmost seriousness, convene meetings and read first the full text of both the letter of Fr. Superior General as well as the approved text, study and discuss the matter, and send me the minutes of these meetings without fail,

before October 15, 2024. Once this second step is completed the date for the online referendum will be announced.

5. **Annual Fund for the Poor:** A commitment made by the present administration at the last Provincial Chapter was **to set apart every year a specific amount for the poor by way of scholarship or for building houses**. The Assembly was informed that measures were already initiated in putting this decision into practice. We have decided to sponsor every year some children of poor catholic families for a skilled training that would fetch them a job in India or abroad that would ensure the financial stability of that family. Already three girls are being trained in German in DATA as part of this programme who would be helped to pursue their career in Germany. **We have also set apart Rs. 30 lakhs under a dedicated account as scholarship for poor children**. This amount is apart from the scholarships each institution is granting by way of concessions already. There will be a single window for the dispersal of these funds. Deserving candidates can apply to the central office through the principal or the parish priest and a committee will disperse the funds by scrutinizing the merit and the availability of funds.
6. **Statement and Action Plan:** all other key thrusts of the discussion are reflected in the Statement and Action Plan that is given below:

STATEMENT AND ACTION PLAN

STATEMENT:

We, the Fransalians of the South-West India Province, gathered at DVK Annex (*Dharmaram Campus*) in Bengaluru for its first Mid-term Assembly from July 22-24, 2024, discussed, reflected and discerned our religious life and mission in the light of the theme: **“Hearts on fire, Feet on the Move”**.

We reaffirm and reinforce our missionary zeal and creative commitment as Fransalians. Anointed by the Holy Spirit and centered on the Eucharist we live Jesus and give Jesus through our prayer and ministry. Our hearts are set on fire to proclaim his merciful and steadfast love to all. We resolve to reignite our passion for mission and ministry after the example of our beloved founder, the servant of God, Fr. Peter Mermier.

ACTION PLAN:

Religious and Community Life:

1. Deepen the religious life in our communities through at least two community prayers and meals, common recreation and regular monthly community meetings. The local superior will ensure its implementation.

Mission:

1. Revamp our missionary work by focusing on the proclamation of the Gospel, the formation of Christian communities and witnessing Christ.
2. Adopt the missionary method of persuasion and attraction as envisaged by St Francis de Sales.
3. Maintain parochial Registers and Documents up-to-date.

Formation:

1. Intensify the efforts for vocation promotion by adopting innovative and creative methods as well as by involving every confrere.
2. Qualify and equip the formators for the holistic formation at all levels.
3. Mobilize steady resources for the formation for the Chad-Cameroon and the Philippines Delegations.
4. Take adequate measures to ensure the quality of the candidates promoted at every stage of our formation.

Education:

1. Establish coaching centre for competitive and professional exams in Karnataka.
2. Promote lay leadership in our educational institutions.
3. Train and equip confreres for our educational ministry.
4. Establish educational institutions in the Philippines and Chad-Cameroon Delegations.
5. Revive the Africa Day collection to support the Chad-Cameroon Delegation.
6. Utilize the services of our Subhodhana Company in all our institutions.

Social and Innovative Ministry (SAIM):

1. Reinvent our SAIM apostolate in response to the changing times of sociopolitical-economic-cultural and environmental scenario.
2. Focus and work on sustainable development goals as demanded by the UN Charter.
3. Emphasize more on providing job-oriented education for the rural youth especially for the marginalized and the less-privileged.

Stewardship:

1. Set apart a dedicated account for the healthcare of our confreres and ensure annual inflow of funds instead of the usual premium paid to the health Insurance.
2. File the income tax returns of salaried confreres if required.
3. Complete the accounts by the administrators every month and submit the same to the provincial bursar.

TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. **Fr. John Joseph** is appointed to the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Kolar to assist Fr. Santy Kurian.
2. **Fr. S. Innaci Muthu** is designated to pursue a Licentiate in Missiology from St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, residing at Vinayalaya, MSFS Provincial House Community, Bengaluru.

Chad-Cameroon Delegation

3. **Fr. Francis Ekka** is appointed as the Superior of Doba Community along with his current responsibilities.

4. **Fr. Leandre Francky Senguena** is appointed as the Director of SFS School and College, as well as the Director of SFS Boy's Home in Ngaoundere.
5. **Fr. Madjita Tanibe Anniversaire** is appointed to the MSFS Community at Doba and designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of St Daniel Comboni Parish, Doba.
6. **Fr. Marcel Dung Dung** is appointed as the Dean of Studies and Procurator at SFS Seminary, Ngaoundere.
7. **Fr. Ndeialdongar Toussaint** is designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of Saint Charles Lwanga Parish, Berem and appointed as the Procurator of MSFS Community, Bini-Dang.
8. **Fr. Robin Joy Karumathy** is appointed as the Superior of the MSFS Community at Gaki.
9. **Fr. Sandeep Tirkey** is appointed as the Novice Master and Superior of the MSFS Novitiate House in Mawi.
10. **Fr. Senghor Peygres Nguimatio** is designated for language studies and appointed to St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, Ekoundoum for weekend ministries.
11. **Fr. Temgoua Jacques Clovis** is appointed to the MSFS community at Bero as its Bursar, in charge of SFS School and designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest at Bero.
12. **Dn. Adzaba Evang William Favier Henri** is appointed to the staff of the SFS Seminary in Ngaoundere and for weekend parish ministry at Saint Thomas More Parish, Bini-Dang.

Philippines Delegation

13. **Fr. Anishmon Kamukuthottathil** is appointed to the MSFS Formation House at Silang as in charge of the Seminarians in Ministry, Vocation Director for the Delegation and Vocation Director for Luzon Provinces.
14. **Fr. Nathaniel Masendo** is designated for pastoral ministry in the diocese of Imus.
15. **Fr. Jibin Pathil** is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish, Molino as well as the community bursar and bursar of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Parish.

16. Fr. Praful Tigga is designated for pastoral work and to be appointed as the mission in Charge of the Apostolic Vicariate in Taytay, Palawan along with his present responsibilities as the Delegation bursar.

17. Fr. Roberto Batohinog is designated for pastoral work in the Apostolic Vicariate of Taytay, Palawan.

18. Fr. Romnick S. Civico is designated to pursue an MA in Education, Priest in Charge of St Joseph Pastoral Sub-Station at Georgetown Heights Subdivision, Molino.

19. Fr. Jeson Ly Berdida is appointed to the MSFS Formation House at Silang as Vice-Rector, Disciplinarian and Bursar of the Community.

APPOINTMENT OF THE REGENTS, CHAD-CAMEROON DELEGATION

1. **Bro. Allahadjim Christian** : SFS School and Boys home, Ngaoundere
2. **Bro. Bello Bouba Kaina** : Boys' Home, Bero
3. **Bro. Dehezo Tsasse Christian** : SFS Minor seminary, Ngaoundere
4. **Bro. Djorkef Valdo Timene** : La Feuillette, Cameroon
5. **Bro. Jude Limnyuy** : Buwooya Seminary, Uganda (East Africa)
6. **Bro. Konlack Moffo Cardin** : Agururu Parish, Uganda (East Africa)
7. **Bro. Ndjie Ndongo Nyebe Jean Rene** : SFS School, Doba
8. **Bro. Tatah Synesius Felimshofola** : SFS Boys' Home, Doba
9. **Bro. Yada Bakari Abel** : SFS School, Katani, Kenya (East Africa)



OBITUARY



- Mr. Thomas Muthukattil, the Paternal Uncle of Fr Reji Muthukattil, passed away on April 15, 2024.
- Mr. Jose Pulinthanam (82), the beloved Father of Fr Tomy Pulinthanam, passed away on April 20, 2024.
- Mr. Anand Raj (50), Cousin of Frs. Anthony Swamy and Prashanth Kumar, passed away on April 29, 2024.
- Mr. Jairaj (57), Cousin Brother of Fr Selvaraj, passed away on May 12, 2024.
- Mr. Saji Mathew (56), Cousin of Fr. Biju Palamkunnel, passed away on May 18, 2024.
- Miss Usha (34), Cousin Sister of Fr. Arun Kumar, passed away on May 31, 2024
- Mr. Kostan Tirkey (70) the beloved Father of Fr. Sandeep Tirkey, passed away on June 02, 2024.
- Mr. Varkey Pannalakunnel (86), the Paternal Uncle Fr. Tom Pannalakunnel, passed away on June 05, 2024.
- Mr. Sajimon Emmanuel Cherolickal (52), the beloved Brother of Fr. Joe Cherolickal, passed away on June 16, 2024.
- Dr. Joseph C. D (92), Brother-in-law of Fr. Mathew Kavithazha, passed away on July 01, 2024.
- Mr. Augustine K. O (55), the beloved Father of Bro. Bristo Augustine, passed away on July 05, 2024.
- Mrs. Theyyamma (82), the Paternal Aunt of Fr Binoy Kurakalayil, passed away on July 07, 2024.
- Mrs. Mary Mullasseril (82), the Paternal Aunt of Fr Tomy Mullasseril, passed away on July 23, 2024.

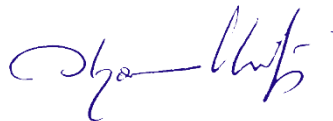
- Mr. K. M. Sebastian (82), Father of Fr. Raison Kaduvakuzhickal (late), passed away on July 26, 2024.
- Mrs. Jessy Augustin Aranjani (76), Sister-in-Law of Fr. Paul Aranjani, passed away on August 05, 2024.
- Mr. George Thomas (Varkey) (87), the beloved Father of Frs. Joseph and James Pattarakalayil, passed away on August 05, 2024.
- Mrs. Thresiamma Kochuparambil (83), Maternal Grandmother of Fr. Subin Palamattathil, passed away on August 07, 2024.
- Mr. Joseph Kolarickal (92), the beloved Father of Fr Jojo Kolarickal, passed away on August 11, 2024.
- Mr. Che Francis (65), the beloved Father of Bro. Bertrand Ching, passed away on August 17, 2024.

VOICE OF SFS



The first practice of love chiefly consists in prayer

Fraternally,



**Fr Thomas Kalariparambil, MSFS
Provincial Superior**