

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE

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

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SWIP Circular TK/08

February, 2023



My dear Confreres,

We are already in the Season of Lent. The liturgy of making a sign of the cross with ashes on the forehead on Ash-Wednesday is a reminder of our own sinfulness and mortality on the one hand and the rising of the cross from the ashes as the guarantee of real life by the cross of Christ on the other. Death to our own sin and cravings for the attractions of this world (fasting) will definitely intensify our relationship with God (prayer) and openness in charity to fellow humans (almsgiving). That's what the season of Lent is all about! Let this season of Lent be a season of renewal and blessing for each one of us.

XXI ORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER

Our Beloved Superior General in his Circular (SG AB2 11) has officially convoked the XXI Ordinary General Chapter (OGC) of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales with the theme “... **I CHOSE YOU**” (JOHN 15: 16): **MSFS, LIVE YOUR CHARISM**. The XXI ordinary General Chapter will be held on February 1-4, 2025 at Stella Maris Visakhapatnam, India. The prayer for the success and blessings of our XXI General Chapter will be printed and sent to each community.

TOWARDS MAKING AN OVER-ALL PLAN OF THE PROVINCE FOR OUR MINISTRIES

The provincial administration felt it necessary that we as a Province look at all ministries of our Province, articulate an over-all plan for each of them. The Councillors in charge of each ministry has been working on each area of their respective ministries and some steps are already initiated in organizing our mission in Kolar region as well as in running the boys' homes in the province. The Council Meeting held on February 21, 2023 focussed specifically on the ministry of education. the various centres of our ministry of education, especially in the context of the changing scenario due to the forthcoming introduction of NEP, articulate specific plans for each of our centres and move ahead in a systematically planned manner. Towards this end the provincial administration has studied the cases of some of our centres that need our immediate attention, formulated some proposals and presented them to the education forum for their studied response. The provincial Council which met on February 21, 2023 has approved an over-all plan for the following centres.

1. MALUR

At present we are running a state syllabus school and our admissions are healthy. But in today's context the number of parents who want to send their children to a CBSE/ICSE syllabus school is increasing. Since the Malur town itself does not have such a standard facility, these children are going to another school a good distance away. Some serious studies were conducted on the scope of our starting a CBSE school in the same campus and the results are extremely encouraging. ***Therefore, decision is taken to begin a CBSE school from the coming academic year 2023-24 within the existing facilities. Eventually where the PSI house is located could become the campus for the CBSE school.***

2. TAMAKA, KOLAR

At present our PU College at Tamaka has established itself and is functioning excellently well. But due to the NEP, the whole situation has to be approached and addressed differently. The new system foresees the PU section to include classes 9-12. Just adding 9 and 10 may not necessarily address the issue and ensure sufficient number of students. Taking into consideration some of the recommendations made by the commission report during the last provincial chapter, as well as based on some studies conducted and suggestions made by the community at Tamaka, the Provincial Council has decided ***to re-start the Degree programme in Tamaka with two to three***



streams from the coming academic year 2023-24 along with the existing PU programme. We will continue to conduct the PU programme as it exists now for as long as it is viable and focus more on evolving the campus into a campus for higher education as originally intended. Additional infrastructure will have to be provided by further construction on the top of the existing building.

3. KOPPAL

Present situation: In Koppal we have a State syllabus English medium school up to 10th and a ICSE syllabus school also up to 10th. Although the province has been looking seriously at various options to upgrade the schools to the 12th, it could not be initiated so far. After considering various possibilities, the following decisions are made. The decision is made **to initiate the plus two for the ICSE school from the academic year 2024-25. We would not require much of additional infrastructure. With regards to the State Syllabus school, it is decided that we start the plus two from the academic year 2024-25. For the required additional infrastructure, we will construct a separate PU block in front of the existing State Syllabus school block. Such a block would give the much-needed face-lift to the school.**

4. KUKNOOR

SFS school Kuknoor is a fast growing and much promising school with already over 1000 pupils till the 10th grade. Since long parents have been requesting an upgradation of our school and additional necessary facilities. In response, the decision is made **to upgrade the school to the PU level from the academic year 2024-25. For this a new block will have to be built that will enclose the rear side of the building complex, providing also an enclosed quadrangle for ordinary school functions. There are some land issues have to be settled first.**

5. MUNDARGI

SFS School Mundargi also has a similar situation as Kuknoor school. The school lacks some essential facilities and requires restructuring of some of the existing spaces. At present, the children from the locality are forced to travel to faraway places for quality PU education. Looking into various possibilities and suggestions, it is decided that **we start the PU section from the academic year 2024-25. An additional annexure has to be built towards this purpose on the rear side of the school complex which will also provide an enclosed quadrangle for various school functions. Here too we have to address some land issues.**

6. KARAHALLI:

The property at Karahalli was purchased for educational purposes. The Social ministry of “Rural Employment generation” for the cause of the rural poor that has already been initiated there is getting stabilized, gaining popularity and is moving towards sustainability. Permission for the new Garment factory- Training Centre building is being kept on hold as the primary purpose for which the land conversion is done is not respected. Having established credible contact with the local Community, the community at Karahalli feels confident that it is the right time to launch

into the educational arena further. Having studied the demographic composition, the existing educational institutions around, and the signs of growth all around, the prospects for an effective educational ministry seem very bright. Therefore, it is decided ***to begin a CBSE school in the academic year 2024-25, beginning just with the KG section. We need to plan and put up the infra-structure gradually.***

7. SFS PU COLLEGE, HEBBAGODI

SFS PU College, Hebbagodi, has not only stabilized itself, it is becoming a much sought after institution. For lack of infrastructure, it could not introduce some key streams in the College. The provincial administration has decided in principle to permit the introduction of a few more key streams by adding some required infrastructure. The details will be worked out soon.

The administration will definitely look at the needs of other centres as well and articulate a plan of the province for each one of them. We have to prioritize our steps considering various contingencies as well as the financial implications.

SUGGESTION FOR A CHANGED MODUS OPERANDI FOR OUR KOLAR MISSION

So far, our Fathers working in the Kolar Mission received their *congrua* and certain other expenses from the Arch-diocese of Bangalore. Only Kolar Parish had some regular income by way of the rent received from the shops around. Initially this rent was used to meet the expense of our boys' homes in Chintamani and Kadisenahalli. At the time of the re-construction of the Kolar parish church, this income was directed to the diocese. Ever since the diocese was taking this rent and the Congregation was finding the resources for running the boys' homes. Now the Arch-diocese is insisting that we run all the missions in the Kolar Region without any financial assistance from the diocese. We are told that we can not only avail the rent, make use of the existing land for agricultural purposes, etc. but also suggest any additional ways that can generate further income, for which the diocese will make the initial investment. The Provincial Administration conducted a two-day study of the entire Kolar Mission on 26th and 27th of January 2023 could not identify any such serious additional possibilities, except may be in Malur. The fact now is that the Arch-diocese is insisting on this model and we may not have much choice, if we want to work there.

A MAJOR CHANGE IN OUR FORMATION PROGRAMME IN SUVIDYA COLLEGE

The stage of philosophical formation in India has so far been 3-year programme, conducted in Suvidya College, where our formees were doing a BA in philosophy from De Sales University, USA and a regular BA from SFS College Bangalore under Bangalore University. For some years now we are running into serious difficulties with this model of doing two BAs in three years. The first one is the problem with the Bangalore University. It introduced semester system but has been functioning so chaotically that their exam schedule is not only unpredictable, but gets delayed beyond any humanly foreseeable limits. This has made the planning and functioning of Suvidya College almost impossible. The second and probably more significant problem pertains to the quality of studies. Although the BA from the Bangalore University is a regular one,



the classes are conducted privately and as a crash course. As a result, knowledge, skills and competence of the students do not improve much. The problem was first presented to the General Administration, which was then taken up by the General Administration in its meeting with the Provincials, and was then seriously studied by the Suvidya Governing Body for a final solution. After serious reflection and study, the Governing Body of Suvidya College has decided to split the two studies and make them independent. The students will first study philosophy for two years, then they will go to the college as regular students for their 3-year BA. It is left to each Province to decide whether the Regency should be after the two years of philosophical studies or after five years of completing both the studies. Suvidya College will continue to be the common place of formation during these five years. In case a Province wants to send one or other of its students to another college for some specialized graduate studies, it is free to do so. This new arrangement will come into effect already from the coming academic year 2023-24.

FRANSALIAN ASSOCIATES

General Administration has been working on systematically organizing and training the Fransalian Associates all over the world. As the first step, one unit in each Province will be trained this year. Fr Sudeep Paul has been functioning as the Director of Fransalian Associates in our Province. Fr Thomas Cherukat has not only agreed to make De Sales Bhavan at Mysore as the Headquarters for the Fransalian Associates of the South-West province, but also volunteered to be the mentor. Fr S. Arockiya Jayaraj has agreed to be the assistant to Fr Sudeep Paul in coordinating the activities of the Fransalian associates. We wish all the best and God's abundant blessings to the new team and their initiatives.

NEW DELEGATION SUPERIOR FOR GERMANY-AUSTRIA

In consultation with the members and with the approval of the Superior General, **Fr Joy Vazhappillil** is appointed as the Delegation Superior of our Delegation in Germany-Austria. On behalf of the entire South-West Province I extend to him our heartiest congratulations and wish him God's blessings for the new responsibility.

Fr Reji Muthukattil and **Fr Joby Mattathil** are appointed as the Advisors to the Delegation Superior. Congratulations to them too. May they form a good team to plan out and conduct our ministry in Germany-Austria in an effective manner.

TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS

- **Fr Lalu Thadathilankal** is appointed to the community of Charis Bhavan as a member of the preaching team with effect from March 01, 2023.
- **Fr Chacko Ottalankal** is appointed to the MSFS Community at Vattiyoorkavu with effect from February 10, 2023.
- **Fr Devasia Koottarapally** is appointed as the local Superior of the community in Münster.
- **Fr James Panickerveetil** is appointed as the local superior of our Community in Meunich - Augsburg: (Augsburg, Eichstätt, München& Regensburg).



- **Fr A. Antony Sathyaseelan** is appointed as Superior of our Community in Austria.
- **Fr John Gannot** is appointed to the MSFS Community at Karahalli as Assistant to Fr Benny Marangolil in the management of the Garment Mill with effect from February 20, 2023.
- **Fr Robin Pereira** is appointed as the Asst. Parish priest of St Joseph Church, Bidar in the diocese of Gulbarga with effect from February 17, 2023.
- **Fr Rony Thomas Madathiparambil** is appointed as the Asst. Parish priest of Holy Cross Church, Kappadu in the diocese of Kanjirapally with effect from February 15, 2023.
- **Fr Jibin Anithottathil** is appointed as the Asst. Parish priest of St Mary's Forane Church, Bharanganam in the diocese of Palai with effect from February 11, 2023.
- **Fr Arun Cyraic Valliara** is transferred to St Mary's Church Moozhoor as the Asst. Vicar with effect from February 11, 2023.
- **Fr Staney Rodrigues** is appointed the Youth Coordinator of the South-West India Province.
- **Fr S. Arockiya Jayaraj** is appointed as assistant Director of the Fransalian Associates in our Province.

PROMOTION OF THE SCOLASTICS

Promotion to Priesthood in the Philippines Delegation

- Dn Joelvin N. Tahitit
- Dn Roberto G. Batohinog

INFORMATION

1. Canonical Visitation

Canonical visitation of the Provincial will begin by the end of first week of March. The detailed schedule will be published in a separate communication. Letters also will be sent to the superiors of each community informing them of the exact dates as well as what needs to be done for the visitation as mandated by the General Administration, which is published in the Reference Book of 2019.

2. Sisters of Providence at NEST, Kengeri

Sr Gracy Sebastian, the Provincial of Sisters of Providence has communicated through a letter dated January 15, 2023 that they have decided not to renew the MOU with FIDES India Society to collaborate with our NEST Children's village in taking care of the children and teaching in the school. They have been collaborating with us since June 2019. They will discontinue their service from the end of this academic year. We thank the Sisters of Providence for their close collaboration with our Fides India Society and the wonderful service they rendered both to our children's village as well as to the school.



3. DSS Sisters in Chintamani

The DSS Sisters had opened a convent in Chintamani on 17th of January 2011 in view of starting some social projects for the empowerment of women. So far they could not start any meaningful project as such. Two sisters have been rendering their service in our School. The land belongs to us and most of the infrastructure was funded through projects presented by us. The sisters had spent some money to renovate as well as restructure the existing building to make it suitable for an old age home. Now, through mutual consent the sisters are terminating their contract and closing their convent, Ashanilayam by May 2023. We will have to compensate for the investments they have made. South-West India Province is very grateful to the DSS Administration for facilitating such a collaboration and to the sisters who rendered selfless service to our School. We wish them God's blessings!

4. **Fr Shajan Manickathan** is nominated to participate in the Heritage Retreat that is to take place at Annecy this year.
5. **Fr K. Sudeep Andrews** is nominated to participate in the SPA programme conducted from September -October 2023

VOICE OF SFS

“Love passes beyond and above knowledge and goes forward with greater force. So, in this mortal life we can have more love than knowledge of God”

TLG, Bk VI, Ch. 4

Fraternally,



Fr Thomas Kalariparambil MSFS
Provincial