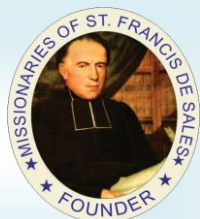


MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PUNE PROVINCE



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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

MAY 03, 2018

My dear Confreres,

Fraternal greetings to each of you. We are in the MSFS Year of Local Community in the Congregation with the theme "Revitalizing My Local Community: Space for Communion and Mission" declared by our beloved Superior General. During this year the envisaged four objectives to strive at are: (1) My role in revitalizing the local community (2) Various dimensions of community as "space" (3) Building Communion in community, and (4) Community for Mission and apostolates.

Our Constitution no: 256 emphasizes the fact that the basic unit of our Fransalian family is the Local Community. In community, we strive to live together as brothers in order to become all things to all. We share a common vision and commit ourselves as the members of Spirit-filled and Spirit-led self-emptying community. Our life becomes a witnessing value in the community with Salesian virtues. We strive to discern collectively the will of God in whatever community activities we have. The life in community means life in the Spirit. We see how early Christians lived in the Spirit and their life becomes an outstanding life for all of us. In Jesus, who lived a life of love, the Spirit lives on powerfully as the Risen One, as the inner voice and the inner eye that leads to community. When we are empty and open to the Spirit, there can be transformation in the community. The Spirit drives us to all people and brings us joy in living and working for one another and our life becomes a witnessing value in community. Community life is possible only in this all-embracing Spirit and in those things it brings with it: a deepened spirituality and the ability to experience life more keenly and intensely.

As our Founder, Servant of God Fr. Mermier envisaged, we must strive to become a Spirit filled members in the community because the spirit of joy and love gives us such an urge to reach out to others that we wish to be united with them for all time. Thus, our community life becomes Spirit filled self-emptying life. Any mission work derives from the community, any deliberations and actions derives from the community. As the Psalmist rightly says in Ps 133:1, "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity and harmony", it is indeed very pleasant to live as brothers in the community. Let us live and lead our life of missionary consecration in truth and holiness.

FOLLOW UP FOR THE MSFS YEAR OF LOCAL COMMUNITY

1. SPIRITUAL ANIMATOR FOR EACH COMMUNITY

One of the directives of our Provincial Congress 2018 is committing ourselves to have a Animator/Director for our spiritual and holistic growth. The effectiveness of our religious life and ministry largely depend on how we allow ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit especially in and through our spiritual animators/directors in our day today life. May I request each superior of the community to arrange by June 2018 in consultation with the community for a regular spiritual Animator/Director who could guide us individually and collectively as community in our ongoing formation.

2. SUPERIORS FORUM ANIMATION

In the recent appointments, conscious efforts are made to keep the superiors of the communities sufficiently free to animate the local community, to collectively plan and implement the plans and projects of every unit/apostolate of the mission of the community and to present the proposals to the administration for follow up. At least three animation meetings are envisaged in the coming academic year for the animation of the Superiors Forum. The first superiors Forum meeting will be held on 8th June 2018.

3. COMMUNITY BASED APOSTOLATES

Our religious life demands that we are called to be collectively faithful to our community life and community based apostolates. We strive to commit ourselves to the essential elements of the community prayers, daily Eucharist, table fellowship, regular community meetings with the tabling of accounts and maintain records. Let us all ensure that during this Year of MSFS Local Community, we have our monthly community meeting on regular basis for our celebration of Fransalian Fraternity and participatory Mission.

4. MONTHLY RECOLLECTIONS

Confreres have expressed the need to resume the practice of the monthly recollections at the Community/Apostolic Community level. It will certainly be a grace-filled occasion of coming together and experiencing the spiritual stirrings of our religious vocation required for our effectiveness in our ministries. May I request every community/Apostolic Community to set a day apart every month for the monthly recollection and spiritual renewal.

FORTHCOMING PROGRAMMES DURING THE YEAR

- 1. Superiors Forum Meeting:** At the beginning of the new Academic Year, 8th June 2018 has been set apart for the animation of the Superior Forum meeting.
- 2. Congregation Retreat:** For our Province, the first Congregation Retreat will be held at Harmony, Belgaum from **25-30 June 2018**. The second Congregation Retreat will be animated from **13-17 November 2018** at Harmony, Belgaum. Kindly ensure that every member participates in either of these two Retreats and no prior commitment or undertaking is to be made during those days of the Retreat. By 15th May 2018, every member of the Province is expected to enroll for either of the retreats.
- 3. Visit of the Superior General for Animation of the Provincial Curia:** Our Province is going to be blessed by the visit of our beloved Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil msfs on 27th and 28th September 2018. He will have the sacred task of animating the Provincial Curia and guide us to march ahead in the spirit of our constitutions. We joyfully look forward to his gracious presence, guidance and inspiration.
- 4. Visit of the Assistant Superior General for the Community Leadership Training Programme:** Our Province is going to be graced once again by the visit of the Assistant Superior General Rev Fr Thumma Mariadas Reddy msfs in the month of October 2018. We are going to be enriched by his animation sessions on Community Leadership. The details of the programme will be published at the earliest. It will be an opportunity to prepare the personnel for the second line Community Leadership.
- 5. Visit of the General Bursar for Animation and Evaluation:** Rev Fr Augustine Mangatt msfs the General Bursar of our Congregation will be visiting our Province on 24th September 2018 for animation and evaluation of the Stewardship Forum. With his varied international experience in finance and project related matters, his presence is going to be a moment of fraternal joy and enrichment. The updated list of Stewardship Forum will be published in June 2018.
- 6. Celebration of the Community Day:** October 24, 2018 the day of the Foundation of our Congregation will be celebrated as the Community Day marked with prayer and consecration of the Local Community. Let us all join our hands in prayer and prepare along with the Fransalian Associates to make this day a day of re-consecration and re-commitment to our Religious and Missionary Vocation as envisaged by our Holy Founder Fr Peter Mermier.

DEVELOPMENTAL PLANS AND PROJECTS

In view of effectively implementing the action plan of the Provincial Congress 2017 and in order to prepare the personnel and financial plans for mission, the Provincial Administration presents the following plans, proposals, projects, decisions for each apostolic community. Each and every confrere is requested to go through the following plans and projects in the spirit of fraternity and solidarity so that every mission is given adequate attention for development. Besides the above, every Apostolic Community will have an approved committee along with the convenor and the designated councilor in charge to plan for various meetings and animation programmes, to support and strengthen the sustainability of the missions, to propose various developmental programmes and activities to the Provincial Administration and implement the approved plans, programmes and projects with periodic evaluation and follow up.

DESIGNATION OF THE COUNCILOR IN CHARGES FOR APOSTOLIC COMMUNITIES

1. Fr Santosh Salve msfs - Animator and Programme coordinator for Mumbai and Belgaum Apostolic Communities
2. Fr Tony Prem Anand msfs - Animator and Programme Coordinator for Nallasopara and Salem Apostolic Communities
3. Fr Johnson Gonsalves msfs - Animator and Coordinator for Pune and Rajasthan Apostolic Communities
4. Fr Valerian Carvalho msfs - Animator and Coordinator for Goa Apostolic Communities

1. GOA APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

It consists of six communities at Aldona, Bastora, Siolim, Cotto Fatorpa, Valpoi and Kalambist. 1). A study committee, constituted by Goa Apostolic Community, has recommended to buy a piece of land for multi-ministries at Adoni, Dodamarg. We are in the process of obtaining a search report through a lawyer for further follow up. 2). The administration has approved to initiate the project of Salesian Spirituality cum Hospitality Center at SFS Institute, Bastora and Fr Joe Mendes msfs has assured us to assist in this initiative. 3). The Administration has approved the Project of the Fransalian Pre-primary and Music Academy at Aldona and we thank Fr Thomas

Fernandes msfs who has assured us to support this project. 4). The construction of the Chapel at our Kalambist mission is on progress and at Davadki the existing school project needs our adequate attention. 5). The construction work of the Cotto Hall with catechism class rooms is on progress with the assistance of Fr Thomas Fernandes msfs.

2. PUNE APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

1). It consists of three communities at Shaanwadi, Fransalian Seminary, Snehalaya and an extended community at Lohegaon. On the land opposite to the Fransalian Seminary, the Provincial Administration has approved to implement the project of a few commercial buildings such as for the use of Banks, Health Care units, Medical stores in view of generating fund for Formation needs. 2) There is a need to build a makeshift hall for the children of SFS School, Shaanwadi. It will also facilitate to organize various programmes for the Province, Parish and for the People. 3). The administration has approved to start a community at Keshnand in the coming year and study the possibilities of initiating Social and Educational apostolates on the existing land.

3. BELGAUM APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

1). It consists of five communities at Frasaliam Ashram, Uchgaon Parish, Nippani, Kadgaon and Gauthan. 1). There is a proposal to construct a community house on the Nippani land. 2). The administration has approved the proposals of the Apostolic Community to initiate the multi-ministry projects on the existing 10 acres of Frasaliam Ashram Land and accordingly we start a pre-primary school in the coming academic year and the demarcation of the land for various ministries will be done in the coming year. 3). Harmony is to function directly under the Provincialate to conduct various programmes for the Province. The place will continue to be available for the confreres and for groups to organize various Spiritual, Renewal and Pastoral programmes. 3). The construction of the Uchgaon Parish Church is expected to be completed by October 2018. 4) There is a proposal to start another community for the sub-centres of Shengaon and Gargoti in the coming year.

4. MUMBAI APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

It consists of Four Communities at Khopoli, Koperkhairane (2) and Kurla. 1). There is a proposal to invest on a piece of land in and around Mumbai for future expansion of our apostolates. 2.) We are also looking forward to initiate the prison ministry project in and around Mumbai which could be attached to Jan Vikas Society for stability and continuity. As soon as we get a confrere exclusively for this prison ministry project, we shall initiate the project.

5. NALLASOPARA APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

It consists of four communities at Nallasopara, Dhanu and in Daman and Gujarat. 1). The immediate need of the Apostolic Community is the construction of a new Church/Community Hall at the Nallasopara East. With due permissions, the present residence will be rebuilt into a worship Hall/Church along with the residence for the Community. 2). To strengthen our community and mission in Daman, there is a proposal to begin another community at Silvasa. It will be a source of support for the lone community in Daman. 4). There is also a proposal to purchase a piece of land for the expansion of our missionary initiatives in the same region of the Apostolic Community.

6. RAJASTHAN APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

It consists of four Communities at Gangapur city (2), Hindaun and Ajmer. 1). The construction work of the School at Hindaun is on progress. 2). Since the Ajmer community is about an overnight journey, there is a proposal to start another community between Gangapur city and Ajmer towards Kota or Jaipur. It will help the confreres to come together periodically and to support one another in those missions. The Bishop of Ajmer has invited us to start another community to assist the mission diocese with missionary presence and mission activities.

ECUADOR MISSION

As our response to the Global mission of the Congregation, Ecuador Mission has been entrusted to our care for the renewal of Christian life. Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes msfs the General Councilor for Mission and Social Apostolates and Innovative Ministries guided the exploratory team on 30th April 2018. We thank him for his constant support and inspiration to our Province. The team consisting of Fr Melky Fernandes, Fr Adaikala Rajan and the Provincial have planned to undertake the exploratory visit and study during the third week of July 2018. Let us entrust this mission initiative to the loving intercession of our Mother of Compassion.

We are grateful to the pioneering team of our missionaries namely Fr Melky Fernandes, Fr John Kennedy and Fr Adaikala Rajan who have committed themselves to launch into the mission Ecuador. Bishop Eugenio Arellano the Apostolic Vicar of Esmeraldas has been joyfully looking forward to the presence of our confreres and their missionary initiatives to renew the lives of the people in the Diocese of Esmeraldas. God bless our confreres in their preparations!

ZAMBIA MISSION

As of now, there are two communities at Liteta and Ndeke. Our confreres Fr Jude Thadeus, Fr Amal, Fr Britto Michel Selvam and Fr Sagayaraj have already been making our MSFS presence more visible through their missionary initiatives in the renewal of Christian life through new-evangelization activities, construction of Churches and animation of faith formation programmes and catechetical activities. The commitment and the hard work of the confreres are already visible in the form of young boys coming forward to join the Congregation. As a province, we are in the process of planning for personnel and finance to support and sustain the mission.

TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS LIST – 2

	Name	Responsibility	Community
1.	Jayaraj	Associate Priest	Kadgaon Community
2.	Lawrence	On the staff and Preparation for P.hd	Bastora Community
3.	Naveen Nirmal	Associate Priest	Hindaun Community
4.	Paul Raj	Associate Priest	Balashram Community
5.	Rosario	Primary in Charge, SFS School	Shaanwadi Community
6.	Veda Manikkam	Associate Priest	Ajmer Community
7.	Winston Barboza	To assist the Diocese of Belgaum	Affiliated to Fransalian Ashram Community
8.	Xavier	Associate Priest	Nippani Community
9.	Albert Fernandes	Associate Priest	Valpoi Community w.e.f. 1 st November 2018
10.	Anish	Regency	Bastora Community
11.	Antony Arockaraj	Regency	Salem Community
12.	Arockia Raj	Regency	Aldona Community
13.	Arokia Sathish	Community Experience	Shaanwadi Community

Handing over: As some of us get ready to take up the new responsibilities with the new appointments, one of the important obligations that all of us have to go through is the process of handing over the charge. The format for handing over the charge has been appended along with this circular. All those who are on transfer, kindly

handover all the required documents and informations for familiarization and clarification to the confreres who are going to take over at least five days before latest by 25th May 2018. The councilor in charge mentioned below will facilitate on a particular date and time and approve the process of handing over the Charge with the needed clarifications and remarks before 1st June 2018.

1. Fr Santosh Salve msfs will oversee the process of handing over the charge in Nallasopara and Belgaum Apostolic Communities.
2. Fr Tony Prem Anand msfs will oversee the process of handing over the charge in Kurla and Salem Apostolic Communities.
3. Fr Johnson Gonsalves will oversee the process of handing over the charge in Pune and Rajasthan Apostolic Communities.
4. Fr Valerian Carvalho msfs will oversee the process of handing over the charge in Goa Apostolic Community.

COMMON PLANS AND POLICIES FOR OUR SCHOOLS

The administration recommends the Province Education Forum to prepare a common system of managing our educational institutions in line with the Fransalian Education Policy of the Congregation in matters of Redressal Mechanisms, selection, salary and the appointments of the staff, common agreements with the respective agencies, infrastructural repairs and renovations, personnel and financial planning

PROVINCE ASSISTANCE COMMITTEE UNDER THE FORUMS

As a follow up of the Action Plan of the Provincial Congress 2017, the respective Councilor in Charges and Secretaries in consultation with the respective forum members are requested to send the proposed names of the Province Assistance Committee for approval and follow up. The committee could consist of five members of the Forum including the respective Councilor in Charge and the Secretary.

INFORMATION

1. Fr Valerian Carvalho msfs the Councillor in Charge for Education will be the Provincial Vicar in my absence from 03-15 May 2018. You are requested to contact Fr Valerian Carvalho msfs in case of any emergencies.
2. Fr Tony Prem Anand msfs will represent the Provincial for the Ordinations of Dn. Naveen Nirmal msfs, Dn. Jayaraj msfs, Dn. Xavier msfs and Dn. Paulraj msfs.
3. Bro Arockia Sathish has been permitted to allow his vows and will do a year of community experience.
4. Fr Balu Devanathan msfs was granted three years of exclaustation beginning from November 02, 2017.

MISSIONARIES OF MERCY

Our Congregation is blessed to have Fr Mario D'souza msfs of Pune Province and Frs James Manjekal, Jijo Manjekal and Dijo of South West India Province among the 600 priests worldwide as the Missionary of Mercy to the Universal Church. Pope Francis invited all the Missionaries of Mercy to Rome for a few days of sharing and formation from April 8 to 11th 2018.



Pope Francis at this programme said “I thank every Missionary of Mercy for this valuable service aimed at rendering effective the grace of forgiveness. This extraordinary ministry does not end with the closing of the Holy Door. I wish it to continue until further notice as a concrete sign that the grace of the Jubilee remains alive and effective the world over. At this celebration the Missionaries of Mercy received the mandate to be signs and instruments of God’s forgiveness. We are called to help to open the doors of hearts, to overcome shame, not to avoid the light. Through these Missionaries of Mercy, may the gaze and the hands of God rest on his children and heal them of their wounds!

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION ST JOSEPH PARISH, KURLA

St Joseph Parish, Kurla, the sapling handed over to the Fransalians in the year 1968 was well manured, nurtured, watered, pruned and developed during the past 50 years by the many Fransalians who served in the parish. The parish continues to be an epitome of



evangelization in the midst of the din and bustle of daily life and living. The parish has offered 5 priests and two nuns to the universal church. The Solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Most Reverend Bishop Bosco Penha, the Emeritus Auxiliary Bishop of Bombay. In his homily the Bishop highlighted the need to cultivate a grateful heart. The mass was concelebrated by the Provincial Fr. Jayaseelan, Fr. Robert and two sons of the soil - Fr. Godwin and Fr. Marcellus Crasto and many Fransalian priests. After the Mass, the Golden Jubilee Souvenir was released by the Provincial. Fr. Denis Lemos, the present Parish Priest, cut the Jubilee cake and all the priests and nuns were felicitated. It was a family celebration with the parish teenagers playing the Josephite band, foot tapping music played by Fr. Alban and his group and a sumptuous dinner. We came this far by faith and with faith we march on to the centenary!

CONGREGATION MATTERS

1. ELECTION PROCEDURES IN THE CONGREGATION OF MSFS

Our Superior General Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvilil msfs through his circular SG-AB-19-39 has presented the revised text of Chapter 3 of Part II, of the General Directory on norms and procedures concerning Elections in the MSFS Congregation, which was approved by XIXth Ordinary General Chapter 2013 (Cf: General Directory, pp. 285-295). As we get ready for the General Chapter and the election of Delegates of General Chapter, I request all the Superiors of the respective communities to ensure that every member of the community receives a printed copy of the amended version attached in this circular.

2. OFFICE OF THE LOCAL SUPERIOR

In the spirit of our constitutions, our beloved Superior General exhorts that when a Local Superior takes charge of his office, he takes an oath of office (as prescribed) in the presence of the members of the Local Community and of neighboring religious communities/Parish Priest (recommended). May I request the respective communities to plan for the solemn ceremony on 1st June 2018 as the Local Superior takes charge with the oath of office in a solemn Eucharistic celebration. We are also called to follow MSFS Constitutions article no. 180 in the appointment of Local Superior; He holds the office for a maximum of two consecutive terms only. A person who has held the office of Local Superior for a maximum of two consecutive terms is eligible to assume the same office only after a gap of one term.

MY PROGRAMME

03-15 May 2018	-	Holy Land Pilgrimage
26-30 May 2018	-	Major Superiors Meet, Chennai
31 May 2018	-	1 st Profession, Varanasi
06 June 2018	-	Renewal of Vows at Fransalian Seminary, Pune
08 June 2018	-	Superiors Forum Meeting, Pune
13-14 June 2018	-	Governing Body Meeting, Bangalore
25-30 June 2018	-	Province Retreat, Belgum

SALESIAN THOUGHT

The meaning of our religious consecration is our life in Christ. He is the beginning and end of our life and apostolate. He called us 'to be with Him and to be sent out' (Mk3:13). Encountering the Lord in His Word and Sacraments, in others especially the poor and the needy, in various events of our life, and in our activities leading to a deep and constant communion with Him makes us His authentic disciples and effective apostles (Constitution No. 102).

Yours fraternally in Christ Jesus,

Fr. Jayaseelan msfs

Fr Jayaseelan Selvaraj msfs
Provincial Superior