

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

South-East India Province



MSFS Provincialate
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KIM/ 14

June

2018

My Dear Confreres,

Greetings of peace and love! We have earnestly begun the academic year of 2018 – 2019 with the same optimism of our heavenly Patron St. Francis De Sales and our venerable Founder Fr. Peter Mermier. This academic year of 2018 – 2019 is also a pivotal moment in the life of our Congregation, as the 20th General Chapter of our Congregation is to be held from 1st of February to 13th of February, 2019 at Msfs Provincial House, Guwahati, Assam, India during this academic year.

The General Chapter is a solemn occasion to deeply reflect the charism, apostolates and the life of the congregation and of its members. We are called upon to elect our delegates to represent us in the General Chapter. The Delegates are not mere participants. They have to be faithful to the root. They have to be committed to the charism and apostolates. They have to reflect actively and innovatively to express the charism, taking into consideration the signs of the time. Being faithful to our root, they have to determine the mission and ministry of the Congregation for the next 6 years. As such, election of delegates calls for dispassionate and objective voting.

Therefore I earnestly call upon all the confreres to listen to the voice of Holy Spirit and exercise the solemn duty to elect Delegates in the same spirit of our Patron and our venerable Founder, without any fear or favour.

PREPARATION FOR 20th GENERAL CHAPTER 2019

I. Delegate Election

Provisions under Canon Law, Constitutions, General Directory and Circulars

1. Canon Law

Can. 631 (1) states that General chapter is the supreme authority in the institute / congregation. It represents the entire congregation and is a sign of unity in love. Its duty is to protect the patrimony of the congregation. Its functions relate to renewal, election of supreme moderator and publish norms. The norms of the general chapter are to be obeyed by all.

Can. 631 (2) and (3) deals with composition, powers of the chapter to be defined in the constitution and the other matters relating to election and procedures.

2. Constitutional provision

The Constitutions of our Congregation in number of provisions from Art.191 to Art.198 deal with nature, scope, powers and functions of the General Chapter. However what is important for us is in respect of election of delegates. Art.197 (i) deals with ex-officio members of the Chapter. In respect of Delegates, Art.197 (ii) states as follows:

“The Delegates from the Provinces/Vice-Provinces: These delegates are to be at least equal in number to the above mentioned ex-officio members and have to be proportionate to the numerical strength of the perpetually professed members of the various Provinces/Vice Provinces.”

As such, each province, including our province is entitled to send delegate to the General Chapter

3. General Directory

General Directory of our Congregation also deals with General Chapter. There are number of sections dealing with convocation, nature, scope, powers, functions, elections, procedures etc., of the General Chapter. However certain sections are relevant regarding Delegates to the General Chapter, including election procedures of the Delegates. Sec. 220 (number of Delegates), Sec.221 (method of election of Delegates), Part 2 Chapter 3.2 (election procedure). Secs.273 & 274 are also relevant to some extent.

4. Circulars of the Superior General

Our Superior General, Fr. Abraham Vettuvilil has issued several circulars in respect of the upcoming General Chapter. However two circulars are very relevant in respect of election of Delegates.

- i.* Circular in SG-AB 18-39 dated 22.04.2018 under title '*Election Procedures in the Congregation of MSFS*'
- ii.* Circular in SG-AB 18-61 dated 24.05.2018 under title '*Election of Delegates to the General Chapter 2019*'

In the above circulars, our Superior General, after having referred to various provisions of the Constitutions and the General Directory, has issued certain directions in respect of election of Delegates, which are to be complied with.

II. Instructions to all the Confreres

In respect of the election of delegates to the General Chapter, 2019, the Provincial Council discussed various aspects and has decided to issue the following instructions for smooth and timely completion of the election process:

1. Number of Delegates

As per Sec.220 of the General Directory and the Circular in SG-AB 18-61 dated 24.05.2018, our South-east Province is entitled to send 3 Delegates to the General Chapter 2019, as we are having more than 100 perpetually professed members. We have 147 perpetually professed members. The provincial being an ex-officio member can neither vote nor be voted for. Those confreres who have been affiliated to other provinces and who exercise their active and passive voice in those provinces, cannot exercise their rights in our province. As such, 135 confreres are perpetually professed members for the purpose of election of delegates to the General Chapter, 2019. Therefore we are entitled to elect 3 Delegates.

Kindly take note of the number of Delegates to be elected from our province.

2. Appointment of two perpetually professed members

As per Part 2 Chapter 3.2 (vii) of the General Directory, two perpetually professed members are to be appointed as witnesses to assist in the counting of votes. The Provincial Council in its meeting held on 03.06.2018, at Provincialate has appointed Fr. George Kootinal and Fr. Sebastin Raj as witnesses, who will assist in the counting of votes.

3. College of Electors

As per Sec.221, (ii) of the General Directory, there has to be a college of electors to elect the Delegates. As per Part 2 Chapter 3.2, (i) (ii), the college of electors consist of two lists, List – I and List – II. List – I contains names of perpetually professed confreres, who can vote and be voted for. List – II contains names of perpetually professed members, who can only vote. Both Lists are provided underneath in this circular.

It is our duty to go through the lists and become familiar with lists and names, as there are confreres, who have same or similar names.

4. Duration of election process

As per Circular in SG-AB 18-61 dated 24.05.2018, the election process starts on 10.06.2018 and ends 20.08.2018. This includes two rounds of voting, counting, preparation and sending the list of elected delegates to the Superior General. As such, the schedule/election process consists of two rounds.

5. First round

In respect of First round, the Administration will despatch the ballot and this circular on 10.06.2018. For all the confreres in India, ballot paper and this circular is despatched by registered speed post with acknowledgment. For all the confreres serving abroad, ballot papers and the circular will be despatched to the Delegate Superior / local superiors / senior confreres by registered speed post with acknowledgement. The Delegate Superior / local superiors / senior confreres will be intimated to distribute the ballot papers and the circular to each one personally without any delay.

6. Return of ballot papers to the Provincial House

The confreres after sufficient reflection, vote for the confreres of their choice at the earliest and post it on time to reach the provincial house on time. The last date for the ballot papers to reach provincial house is on or before 10.07.2018.

7. Counting of First round of voting

Counting of votes and preparing the lists for second round if needed will be done between 11.07.2018 to 14.07.2018. Counting of votes will be done during the Provincial Council meeting and in the presence of the two appointed confreres, who will be witness and will assist in the counting in accordance the provisions of the Constitutions and the General Directory. As per Sec. 221 (ii) and Sec. 273 of the General Directory, absolute majority is required to be elected in the first round.

8. Second round

In the First round, if no one gets elected or only one or two are elected, then necessarily second round has to be conducted for all or for the remaining vacancy. The provincial Council, in accordance with Sec.274 of the General Directory, has decided the maximum number of confreres in the list for the second round. If no one is elected in the first round, the list of those, who can be elected for the second round, will contain 8 names, who obtained most votes in the first rounding of voting. If one is elected and two more have to be elected, then the list for second round will contain 6 names, who obtained most votes. If two are elected and one more has to be elected, then the list will contain only 4 names, who obtained most votes.

For the second round, the ballot papers and lists will be despatched on 15.07.2018 to all the confreres. The mode of despatch is as done in the first round. The last date for the ballot papers to reach provincial house is on or before 15.08.2018.

I request all the confreres to take note of the dates for the First and Second rounds and send the ballot papers at the earliest so as to reach the provincial house on time, as indicated in each round.

9. Counting of Second round of voting

Counting of ballot papers in the second round will take place on 16.08.2018, during the Provincial Council meeting and in the presence of the two appointed confreres, who will be witness and will assist in counting. As per Sec. 221 (ii) and Sec. 273 of the General Directory, relative majority is sufficient to be elected.

10. Submission of list of elected delegates to the Superior General

After completing all the formalities, the list of elected delegates will be sent to Superior General on or before 20.08.2018.

11. Mode of voting

As per Part 2 Chapter 3.2 (v) of the General Directory, in the first round, the confreres have to write required number of names. In our case, we will have to write three names out of the list –I. The word used is ‘will’ and so implies mandatory compliance. If any ballot paper contains one or two names only, such ballot paper will be rejected as invalid.

In the second round, as per Sec.274 of the General Directory, if the ballot papers contain more names than required to be elected, then such vote is not invalid, but only the names up to the required number will be taken into account.

I request the confreres to read carefully and reflectively all the details and instructions and understand them. Thereafter participate in the election process as per the instructions in the right spirit.

III. Other Matters

1. Congratulations to Rev.Fr. P. Chinnappa Reddy

Our Superior General, Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, has appointed Rev. Fr. P. Chinnappa Reddy as Provincial of our mother province of Visakhapatnam, for a second term of three years. On behalf of our South-East India province, I congratulate him wholeheartedly. We wish him all the success and pray for God's abundant blessings upon him and all the members of the Visakhapatnam province.

2. Reflection Paper PART 3: May – June 2018

I request the Apostolic Community Convener to facilitate the study of **REFLECTION PAPER 3** and submit the report on or before 30th of June, 2018.

LISTS – I THOSE WHO CAN VOTE AND BE VOTED FOR

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|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Fr. Kootinal George | 26. Fr. X. Vincent |
| 2. Fr. S. Joseph Henry | 27. Fr. A. Michael |
| 3. Fr. A. Dharmaraj | 28. Fr. J. Stephen |
| 4. Fr. S. Alexander | 29. Fr. M. Sahaya Raj |
| 5. Fr. A. Lawrence | 30. Fr. S. Amirthanathan |
| 6. Fr. Jerry Louis | 31. Fr. A. Christu Raj |
| 7. Fr. C. Sebastin Raj | 32. Fr. A. Joseph Amal Raj |
| 8. Fr. D. Robert | 33. Fr. C. Sebastin Robert |
| 9. Fr. S. Antony (Tony) | 34. Fr. D. Kanikkai |
| 10. Fr. A. Arockiam | 35. Fr. G. Sebastin |
| 11. Fr. R. Mathias | 36. Fr. N. Arokiaselvam |
| 12. Fr. F. Emmanuel | 37. Fr. S. Deivasakayaraj |
| 13. Fr. A. Santhiyagu | 38. Fr. B. Francis Xavier |
| 14. Fr. M. Victor | 39. Fr. S. Antony (Jr) |
| 15. Fr. S. Joseph Xavier | 40. Fr. P. S. Joseph |
| 16. Fr. S. Edward Xavier | 41. Fr. S. Arul Selvamani |
| 17. Fr. A. Luckas | 42. Fr. S. Joseph |
| 18. Fr. C. John Britto | 43. Fr. S. Alphonse |
| 19. Fr. P. Maria Pushpam | 44. Fr. M. John De Britto |
| 20. Fr. G. Viswasam | 45. Fr. A. Arul Francis |
| 21. Fr. A. Jayaseela Rajan | 46. Fr. M. Nicholas |
| 22. Fr. A. John Peter (Sr) | 47. Fr. A. Jeya Kumar |
| 23. Fr. P. Stephan | 48. Fr. A. Patrick |
| 24. Fr. J. B. John Thadews | 49. Fr. I. S. Jesu Raj |
| 25. Fr. P. Johnson Jeyabal | 50. Fr. S. A. Christu Raj |

51. Fr. A. Jeyaseelan
52. Fr. M. Rayappan
53. Fr. P. Felix
54. Fr. S. Wilson Fernando
55. Fr. S. Soosai Raj
56. Fr. V. Ferdinand
57. Fr. G. Arockia Samy
58. Fr. S. Sahaya Wilson
59. Fr. A. Selvaraj
60. Fr. M. Darline Joseph
61. Fr. M. Rajkumar
62. Fr. S. John Milton
63. Fr. V. Vedharaj
64. Fr. K. Joseph Xavier
65. Fr. D. Tharcus
66. Fr. A. Innaci Muthu
67. Fr. A. Maria Selvan
68. Fr. D. Johnson
69. Fr. H. Ebin Christopher
70. Fr. J. Savarimuthu
71. Fr. M. Michael Selvans
72. Fr. S. Britto
73. Fr. D. Amirtha Rajan
74. Fr. L. Arul Sundaram
75. Fr. S. Vanathaiyan
76. Fr. A. Christopher
77. Fr. A. Vincent
78. Fr. K. Rajasekar
79. Fr. S. Stephen Xavier
80. Fr. S. Antony Raj
81. Fr. A. Jayaraj
82. Fr. P. Aloysius
83. Fr. S. Rajesh
84. Fr. S. Arockia Charles
85. Fr. S. Johnson
86. Fr. S. Abin
87. Fr. S. Simon Raja
88. Fr. M. Maria F. Britto
89. Fr. A. Charles
90. Fr. A. Doss
91. Fr. A. Jeganathan
92. Fr. D. Sheen
93. Fr. G. David
94. Fr. L. Sahaya Basker
95. Fr. M. Benjamin
96. Fr. P. Rex
97. Fr. S. David Vincent
98. Fr. Z. Philomin Raj
99. Fr. S. Prem Kumar
100. Fr. V. Yesuraja
101. Fr. P. Anantha Raj
102. Fr. X. George Navin
103. Fr. A. Edmand
104. Fr. M. Simon Prabhu
105. Fr. I. Jone Gragori
106. Fr. K. Martin Anand
107. Fr. A. Nayaga Seelan
108. Fr. A. Maria John Franklin
109. Fr. S. Santhanam
110. Fr. A. Chinnasamy Yesuraj
111. Fr. A. William Joe Xavier
112. Fr. C. Martin Kumar
113. Fr. K. Dominic Savio
114. Fr. L. Jaya Raj
115. Fr. M. Joseph Anish Kumar
116. Fr. S. Arockiam
117. Fr. S. Antony Raj (Jr)
118. Fr. D. Jaya Kumar
119. Fr. L. John Peter
120. Fr. S. Ashir Johnson
121. Fr. A. Jerome
122. Fr. M. John Fernandez
123. Fr. G. Merry Benzer
124. Fr. J.Packia SathishKumar
125. Fr.D. Britto
126. Fr. C. Berin
127. Fr. B. Philomin Raj
128. Fr. D. Nelson
129. Fr. S. Arockia Doss

LISTS – II THOSE WHO CAN ONLY VOTE

130.	Bro. S. Anantha Prabu	133.	Bro. J.JeniVimal Naveen
131.	Bro. A. Motcha Richard	134.	Bro. S. Desus
132.	Bro. J. Arul Justin	135.	Bro. J. Michael Raja

MY PROGRAMME

June 2018

09 th	-	New Priest's Day, Msfs Provincialate, Trichy
10 th	-	Animation Programme by Rev. Fr. Agnelo, Msfs Provincialate, Trichy
16 th	-	Education Forum Meeting, Msfs Provincialate, Trichy
	-	Stewardship Forum Meeting, Msfs Provincialate, Trichy
24 th	-	Innovative Forum Meeting, Msfs Provincialate, Trichy
27 th	-	Mission Forum Meeting, Msfs Provincialate, Trichy
29 th	-	Formation Forum Meeting, Msfs Provincialate, Trichy

**Yours Fraternally in Christ,
Rev. Fr. K. Ignacimuthu, Msfs
Provincial Superior**

SALESIAN THOUGHT

“Our Life is no longer ours but belongs to the one who gained it for us by His death. We should live no longer for ourselves but to Him: not in ourselves, but in Him; not for ourselves but for Him.”

(TLG, Book - VII, Ch - 8)