



## MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES USA VICE PROVINCE

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VPUSA-AT-10

August 10, 2015

Dear Confreres:

In a few days, on August 15, we celebrate the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The feast of the Assumption is the greatest of the many feasts of Mary. It is her "Passover" feast. After the horrors of the Second World War, after death camps and after the first use of nuclear weapons, we needed to remind ourselves of the dignity of man and the holiness of all creation. In 1951, Pope Pius XII declared that God raised Mary, after her death and she lives with God for ever. On Assumption day, we rejoice and we hope that our broken world will be made whole again. The Gospel excerpt (Luke 1:39-56) on the feast of Assumption is the Magnificat, the song of Mary which is one of the greatest hymns of the Church. This Gospel canticle is prayed at the evening prayer of the Church every day.

The Magnificat is revolutionary in its content and spirit. Mary sings her dream of a time when the barren, the poor, the unloved, the marginalized and the dead will be raised to glory. This beautiful song speaks of an economic, social, moral and spiritual revolution that will create a truly just and peace-filled world. This song carries the vision of a society where the hungry are filled, where no one dares to have too much while others have too little, where the world's standards are turned upside down, where the humble are raised up, where the proud and the arrogant are confused and scattered, where the mighty are going to come down and the humble raised up, where real change of heart will take place and greatness will come to the humble spirit. This song is truly a song of conversion and transformation of the world as we know it.

Just a few days ago, on August 6, we celebrated the feast of the transfiguration of the Lord. On the same day, we remembered the destruction of Hiroshima and on August 9, the destruction of Nagasaki. We remembered transfigured glory on the mountain and the destruction down below. The disciples of Jesus wanted to stay on the mountain where they found glory, peace, freedom and security. Jesus told them that they had to go down the mountain where real life happens. We live in a world where there is life and death, creation and destruction, peace and war, harmony and conflict and many other similar paradoxes. It is up to us to choose where we want to live and how we want our world to be transformed.

Let us share Mary's dream and work toward the transformation of our world in Christ. Let us strive to work toward an economic, social, moral and spiritual revolution that will create a truly just and peace-filled world. Let us join Mary in singing the "Magnificat", "My soul magnifies the Lord", because.....(complete it in your own way)

## **Retreat 2015 on Consecrated Life and Mission**

Retreat 2015 on Consecrated Life and Mission will be held from Monday evening, September 14, 2015 to Friday noon, September 18, 2015 at Montserrat Retreat Center in Dallas.

Fr. Jose Kumbloickal, Provincial of South West India Province will direct our retreat. Many thanks to Fr. Jose for accept my request to preach the retreat.

**Please register for this retreat by August 20, 2015. I need to reserve your rooms.**

**Those of you who are flying to Dallas, please book your ticket to Dallas-Ft. Worth (DFW) and let me know so that I can arrange for your pick up from the airport.**

**If you are driving, the address of the retreat center is: Montserrat Retreat Center, 600 North Shady Shores Drive, Lake Dallas, TX 75065, Phone (940) 321-6020.**

## **Vocation and Formation Council:**

The newly formed Vocation and Formation Council had its first meeting from May 18-20 at St. Joseph's Church, Madison, TN. Thanks to Fr. Tomy Puliyanampattayil for hosting this meeting in his parish. The council has prepared a program of Vocation and Formation for USA Vice Province. Fr. Tomy the Director has send the program to all confreres in USA for their input. I request you to send your comments, recommendations, suggestions, etc. to Fr. Tomy. After revising the document with your input, it will be submitted to the Vice Provincial Council for further action.

## **New property for Vice Province:**

After a long search, the Vice Province has purchased a new 6.68 acre property with a farm house in Loganville, Georgia for the establishment of the Vice Provincial Offices and for our ministry in the Archdiocese of Atlanta. This is a follow up on the decision made at the Vice Provincial Congress in 2013 to establish adequate facilities and offices for the Vice Province. Fr. Joseph Pottemmel is now attending to the urgent needs of this property. Thanks to Fr. Joseph Pottemmel and Fr. Joseph Mullakkara for all they have done for the purchase of this property.

## **Meeting of WUG in France**

A meeting of the major superiors and coordinators of WUG - Western Provinces, USA and GAH (Germany, Austria and Holland) - with the General Curia was held from May 11-16, 2015 in Annecy. Fr. Luke Kalarickal, Councilor and Admonitor represented the Vice Province as I was unable to attend the meeting. I am grateful to him for accepting my request. He presented the report of the Vice Province since its establishment and shared our vision with the group in Annecy. An unedited report of this meeting, prepared by Fr. Luke Kalarickal who participated in the meeting, is attached.

## Collaboration with South West India province:

The councilors of the Vice Province have suggested that I respond to the inquiry of some of the confreres regarding collaboration with South West Province. This news was announced in my circular dated May 17, 2015 as well in the circular of the Provincial of South West Province. The question was “Why South West Province?” I wish to share with you the following in response.

Number 7 of the resolutions of the Provincial Congress in 2013 states, “to continue to dialogue with the Provincials to nurture a spirit of collaboration in all matters pertaining to the Vice Province, especially in caring for the needs of the confreres in ministry in USA”

I had also announced that we will work toward “Developing a concrete, detailed, meaningful and viable process of collaboration in ministry between the Vice Province and other Provinces”, as one of the ways of honoring consecrated life (Page 3, Circular VPUSA-AT-7, dated November 27, 2014, #3, under Year dedicated to Consecrated life).

This dialogue had been in progress since the establishment of MSFS USA Region. The Vice Provincial Congress resolved to continue it. I am just following this mandate and it is my plan to dialogue with all the provincials regarding our collaboration in ministry in USA.

It is not possible for me to enter into concrete and specific dialogue with all the provincials at the same time. Distances are prohibitive for me to meet with all the provincials in a short period of time. I must begin somewhere. I began with South West Province because the South West Provincial during his visit to confreres in USA visited me at Wellspring and we struck up a serious dialogue about collaboration in ministry among other things. We continue to follow up on this conversation.

I will continue to reach out to all the Provincials for dialogue regarding our ministry in USA. I am also hoping to meet them at the next PIF meeting. It is my hope that our collaborative efforts will strengthen our mission and give stability to our presence in USA and will benefit the mission of all the provinces involved in ministry in USA.

It will be good for you to know that similar dialogues are in progress with the Bishops and agreement regarding collaboration has been signed with three of the bishops of the dioceses where our confreres are in ministry. This dialogue will continue and I believe that it will give more stability to our presence in USA

## New Appointment:

**Fr. Babychan Arackathara MSFS** is reappointed Regional Superior of the Southern African Region for a second term of three years. Let us pray for him as he begins again to guide and lead the Region. Hearty congratulations and prayerful wishes to Fr. Babychan from all the confreres in USA Vice Province. .

## **New Arrivals:**

Fr. Joy Thomas Kochupoovathumoottil from South West India province has come for pastoral ministry in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. He was in the Philippines for 14 years. He is now at Wellspring for orientation before he goes to his place of ministry.

Let us welcome him and keep him in prayer as he begins his ministry in new situations with new people.

### **Fr. Joy Thomas, MSFS**

St. Angela Merici  
9009 Sienna Ranch Rd  
Missouri City, Texas 77459  
Phone: 281-778-0400  
Fax: 281-778-0401

## **Change of address:**

The following confreres have new assignments:

### **Fr. Matthew Thayil, MSFS is appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Bisbee in the diocese of Tucson, Arizona**

St. Patrick Church  
100 Quality Hill  
P.O. Box 164  
Bisbee, AZ 85603  
Tel: 520 432 5753; Fax 520 432 5477

### **Fr. Antony Rajesh, MSFS is appointed pastor of Immaculate Conception church in Three Rivers in the diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan**

Immaculate conception church,  
645 South Douglas Ave  
Three Rivers, MI 49093  
Phone: 269-273-8953; Fax: 269-273-2114

### **Fr. Paul Kunnumpuram, MSFS is appointed pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Ferriday in the diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana.**

St. Patrick Church  
P. O. Box 369  
Ferriday LA 71334  
Phone: (318) 757-3834

### **Fr. George Vattappara, MSFS is appointed parochial vicar at Prince of Peace Catholic Community in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Texas**

Prince of Peace Catholic Community,  
19222 Tomball Parkway,  
Houston, TX 77070-3510,  
Ph.281 469 2686; Fax 281469 8418

**Fr. George Kunnel, MSFS is appointed parochial vicar at Our Lady of Grace Church in Maricopa in the diocese of Tucson, Arizona**

Our Lady of Grace Church  
18284 N. Jameson Ct.  
Maricopa, AZ - 85139.  
Telephone: 520-568-4605; Fax: 520-568-0861

**Fr. Aneesh Thomas, MSFS is appointed parochial vicar at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the diocese of Dodge City, Kansas**

Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
3231 N. 14th St  
PO Box 670  
Dodge City 67801 KS.  
620-385-0987

**Fr. Biju Chennala, MSFS is appointed Chaplain at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire, in the diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin.**

Sacred Heart Hospital  
Pastoral Care Department  
900 W. Claremont Ave  
Eau Claire, WI 54701  
715-271-0156

**Fr. Augustine Mannaparampil** will soon receive an assignment in the diocese of Harrisburg, PA He may be reached at 470-585-0803 (Cell) [fraugustine2000@yahoo.com](mailto:fraugustine2000@yahoo.com)

**Return to province:**

Fr. Jose Mudavankunnel returns to his province of origin, Nagpur on October 28, 2015

Fr. Emil Tirkey has returned to his province of origin, Nagpur.

We are now 55 in ministry in USA.

**New Communities:**

Reorganization of some of the communities and organization of new communities have become necessary for us since some of the confreres have returned to their provinces of origin and others

have received new assignments. The process of reorganization is in progress. I will soon send you the details after due consultations and appointment of superiors. I request all superiors to make an effort to meet as a community as frequently as possible. Let us continue to focus on community based mission and ministry.

### **New Book:**

**Fr. Binu Kuriachen Edathumparambil** has published a new book, “THE ACCENT”, Exploring the Path to a Rejuvenating Life. “Accent” refers to the way in which words and phrases are spoken in different part of the world. Just as there are accentual differences in speech and in language, there are “accentual”- marked, pronounced, outstanding - differences between people and cultures. Some of those differences are so radical that it becomes difficult for us to understand and appreciate each other and each other’s culture. It is this “Accent” that Fr. Binu explores in his book. However, the book carries much more than I can say in a few words. You need to read to understand. **Hearty congratulations, Fr. Binu, from all of us in USA!**

### **Conclusion:**

Dear confreres, thank you for your ongoing support. Be courageous and learn to walk faithfully and joyfully! We are Fransalian Missionaries. We must learn to live a lifestyle that is uniquely Fransalian, different from that of the world around us. The only measure of our faith is how we live, not what we profess! Let us walk faithfully, for faithfulness is the mark of a man of God.

Be faithful to your calling! All you do may not be successful in your eyes or in the eyes of others. The real success lies in your fidelity to who you are and what you have come to know as your calling. Just be faithful and be joyful!

You are in my daily prayer. God bless you and all you do for God’s people and keep you safe in the center of His Love.



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**Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections. (SFS)**

