



MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES USA VICE PROVINCE

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VPUSA-AT-6

July 3, 2014

Dear Confreres:

Today is the first anniversary of the establishment of MSFS USA Vice Province. I begin this letter with a deep sense of gratitude to God for the many blessings that He has sent us through the past year and to all of you for your support for the ongoing development of our Vice Province. Our God has been good to us and send us many blessings. Fr. Arulanantham Yagappan, Fr. Joseph Kuzhupil and Fr. Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil have joined us as permanent members and we are now 13 permanent members. We have one MSFS parish in the diocese of Tyler, Texas and another in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, Texas. The administration and the pastoral care of these parishes are now entrusted to us. Wellspring has expanded its facilities to include 13 additional rooms for retreat guests, larger meetings space and a new chapel under construction. The month of July has always been important for us in USA and has brought many blessings. We became MSFS USA Region on July 3, 2007 and MSFS USA Vice Province on July 3, 2013.

The month of July calls us to celebrate many ordinary events and remember many ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives of faith and hope and love. On July first, we remember Blessed Junipero Serra who walked hundreds of miles as a missionary, founded the many missions of California, baptized and confirmed thousands of people and brought the Native Americans not only the gift of faith but also a decent standard of living. On July second, we remember Oliver Plunkett, the great Irish Martyr who was condemned, hanged, drawn and quartered for defending the faith in his native Ireland during a period of severe persecution. Thomas the Apostle blesses us on July third. He had doubts and was not ready to accept other's experience of his master after the resurrection, but he was ready to go and die with his master, gave himself fully to Him and brought the good news of Jesus to India. Bridget was married as a teenager, arranged by her father, raised eight children and with all the concerns of her family, lived an amazing spiritual life and gave generous service to her people. Ignatius was a man, once disinterested in education and ambitious to be a military officer, but inspired by the lives of saints, gave up all his ambitions and surrendered everything "for the greater glory of God".

In July, we also remember Elizabeth of Portugal, Antony Mary Zachariah, Maria Goretti, Benedict, Kateri Tekakwitha, Bonaventure, Mary Magdalene, James, Anne, Joachim, Martha and many others who were simple and ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives of holiness. Let us draw inspiration from these simple and ordinary men and women and learn to live out our spiritual life where we are as we go about doing our daily chores and fulfilling the mission God has entrusted to us.

Congregational Retreat 2014

The following congregational retreats have been announced. Our Superior General, Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil will be our retreat director. I thank him for his readiness to join us for the retreat.

First Group: Monday evening, August 25, 2014 to Friday Noon, August 29, 2014.

Second Group: Monday evening, September 1, 2014 to Friday Noon, September 5, 2014

These two retreats will be held at Wellspring, Fransalian Center for Spirituality, in Whitehouse, Texas.

40 confreres have registered for the first retreat and 7 for the second retreat and 5 have informed me that they will participate in the retreat in their provinces and so will not be joining us. We are 52 confreres in USA.

If you are travelling by air, please book your ticket to Tyler, Texas (TYR – airport Code) and let me know and I will make arrangements to pick you up at the airport on arrival.

You or your province will not be charged for accommodation, food and other retreat expenses, unless you require a private room. Please let me know if you need private accommodation with the understanding that you will have to pay for this facility.

New Permanent Members for MSFS USA Region

Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our Superior General has informed me of the following decisions of the General Council:

Fr. Joseph Kuzhupil of South West India Province will be a fully affiliated member of MSFS USA Vice Province with all rights, privileges and obligations, effective July 1, 2014. Fr. Joseph Kuzhupil is now obliged to follow all the general and specific policies of USA Vice Province and is under the authority of the Vice Provincial.

Fr. Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil of Visakhapatnam India Province will be a fully affiliated member of MFS USA Vice Province with all rights, privileges and obligations, effective July 1, 2014. Fr. Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil is now obliged to follow all the general and specific policies of USA Vice Province and is under the authority of the Vice Provincial.

Dear Fr. Joseph and Fr. Tomy, in behalf of MSFS USA Vice Province, I welcome you to our Vice Province as permanent members. We look forward to your being fully involved in our ministry as Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales in USA.

I thank Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our Superior General and Fr. Simon Paicatt, Provincial of Visakhapatnam India Province and Fr. Jose Kumbloickal, Provincial of South West India Province for their generosity in allowing Fr. Tomy and Fr. Joseph to join MSFS USA Vice

Province. We will continue to nurture cordial and collaborative relationship between our Provinces.

New Parish for MSFS USA Vice Province

After much dialogue, discussion and prayerful discernment between the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and MSFS USA Vice Province, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, Daniel Cardinal DiNardo and MSFS USA Vice Provincial, Fr. Augustine Tharappel, msfs signed an agreement regarding St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Sugarland, Texas. Beginning July 1, 2014, the administration and pastoral care of St. Thomas Aquinas parish will be entrusted to the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales, USA Vice Province. Fr. Santy Kurian Kochupurackal is appointed the first pastor of our new parish. Thanks to Fr. Santy Kurian for accepting this awesome responsibility. More details about the parish will be shared in the next circular of the Vice Provincial.

New Provincials:

Congratulations and prayerful wishes to the following Provincials as they assume their new responsibilities...

Fr. Tomson Aerathedathu: Brazil Province for the first term

Fr. Vincent Lourduswamy: Pune Province for a second term

Fr. Johnson Kallidukil: East Africa Province for a second term

Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhy: Nagpur Province for a second term

New Assignments:

Fr. Santy Kurian Kochupurackal is appointed the first MSFS Pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church, the first MSFS parish in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

Fr. Santy Kurian Kochupurackal (SWP)	832-715-9361 (Cell)
St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church	281-240-6721 (Office)
12627 W Bellfort Ave.	281-240-6733 (Fax)
Sugar Land, TX 77478-1844	santykoch@yahoo.com

Fr. Jaison Pezhathinal is appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Laurence Church in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Fr. Jaison Pezhathinal, (SWP)	281-883-8670 (Cell)
St. Laurence Church	281-980-9812 (Office)
3100 Sweetwater Blvd.	281-980-0686 (Fax)
Sugar Land, TX 77479-2630	jaisonmsfs@rediffmail.com

Fr. Emil Tirkey who recently arrived from Nagpur India Province is appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Frances Cabrini parish in the diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana.

Fr. Emil Tirkey (NGP)
St. Frances Cabrini
2211 E. Texas Ave.
Alexandria, Louisiana 71301

(318) 445-4588 (Office)
(318) 443-7156 (Fax)
emiltirkey@yahoo.com

Fr. Kurian Kollapallil is appointed Parochial Vicar at St. John the Evangelist Church in the diocese of Lansing, Michigan

Fr. Kurian Kollapallil (EAP)
St. John the Evangelist Church
711 N. Francis St,
Jackson, MI 49201

734-276-0118 (Cell)
517-784-0553 (Church)
517-788-5381 (Fax)
kjpallil@gmail.com

Fr. Stephen Soares is appointed Parochial Vicar at Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in the diocese of Alexandria, Louisiana,

Fr. Stephen Soares (NGP)
Minor Basilica of the Immaculate Conception
145 Church St.
Natchitoches, Louisiana 71457

318-730-8114 (Cell)
318-352-3422 (Office)
318-352-3822 (Fax)
ssoaresmsfs@yahoo.com

Fr. Alphonse Savarimuthu is appointment pastor of St. Mary Parish in Niles Michigan effective from July 16, 2014

Fr. Alphonse Savarimuthu (SEP)
St. Mary Parish
219 S. State Street,
Niles, MI, 49120 USA

269 625 4220 (Cell)
269 683 5087 (Church)
269-683-5089 (Fax)
alphosavari@gmail.com

Hearty congratulations and prayerful wishes to all the confreres who received new assignments. I request you to keep them in your prayer as they begin their ministry in situations.

Congratulations

Fr. Mathew Elayadathamadam is appointed one of the Proto-presbyter (Forane Vicar) and one of the Eparchial Consulters of St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Diocese of Chicago by Mar Jacob Angadiath, Bishop of St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Diocese of Chicago. Hearty congratulations and prayerful wishes to Fr. Mathew. It is an honor for Fr. Mathew and for us Fransalians.

Let us pray for our confreres....

Fr. Paul Iyramana of Visakhapatnam Province passed away on June 14, 2014 at the age of 89.

Fr. Gilbert Bugnon François, former provincial of Brazil province passed away on June 29, 2014 at the age of 72.

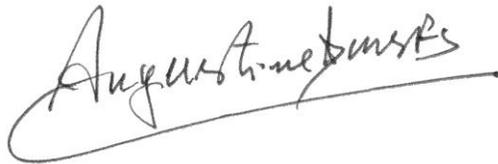
Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and perpetual light shine upon them.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Augustine Tharappel" with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Augustine Tharappel, msfs
Vice Provincial,
Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales, USA Vice Province

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Bursar: msfsbursarusa@gmail.com

Personal: frgus@suddenlink.net

When you have done wrong, rebuke your heart gently and calmly with more compassion for it than passion against it and encourage it to make amendment. (SFS)