



Circular 1/2015

**VINCENTIAN CONGREGATION
ST. JOSEPH PROVINCE**

Blessings of the Risen Lord be with us all!

Dear Rev. Fathers and Seminarians in Jesus Christ,

Prayerful and Loving Easter Greetings from Provincial House, Kottayam!

He is Risen! Hallelujah!

When we go through the book of second Isaiah we find the concept of the Suffering Servant of Yahweh (*Ebed Yahweh*). He is the beloved servant who is supported by Yahweh and who will execute justice without the use of force (Is. 42,1-4). His mission is to bring about universal salvation (Is. 49,1-6) and his way of accomplishing his mission is to hear the Word of God daily and to imbibe its spirit without rebellion even at the moment of unjust persecution (Is. 50,4-9). And then we find that all his suffering is the plan of God for the salvation of humanity and that Yahweh has put upon him the sins and iniquities of the people and he has been made a sin offering! (Is. 52,13-53,12). This is the real meaning of the paschal mystery, we know, because Christ is the suffering Servant of the Father by par excellence. Hence it brings upon us, his disciples of today, the obligation to do the same as our Master has done. That is, to imbibe the spirit of vicarious suffering - to suffer with Christ for the sake of the salvation of ourselves and of others, to make our own lives a sin offering together with that of Christ through the activities of penance, contrition, and prayer. The celebration of the paschal mystery, especially the mystery of the resurrection of Christ, would become all the more meaningful if are ready to accept this great challenge of today. This is our special mission of today! Thus let us try to create an alternative world (this is the goal of religious life!) by being different from others, from the currents and trends of this world, and bear witness to Christ's self-sacrificing love in our own living situations and circumstances.

I am very happy to wish you all the joy, glory and peace of the Risen Lord. May the Risen Lord shower upon us His many blessings so that we can be the real suffering servants of today, and thus be the sign posts leading to Christ, the risen Lord. **HAPPY EASTER!!**

Family Day Celebrations

As usual, we are celebrating our Family Day on 1st of May, 2015, at Vincentian Provincial House, Kottayam. The program begins by 9.30 am and will be over by tea at 4.00 pm. May I cordially invite all the members of the St. Joseph Province to the Provincial House for the Family Day Celebrations. It is a nice opportunity for us to meet one another and also to foster

our communion and to appreciate and encourage one another. The invitation letter for the Family Day celebration is being sent separately by post too.

Superiors' Meet at the Generalate

There will be a meeting of the superiors of all our Houses at the Vincentian Generalate on May 18, 2015 from 9.00 am to 4.30 pm. All the superiors are kindly requested to participate in the meeting. The details of the program of the day will be intimated to them from the Generalate as mentioned in the recent circular letter of the Superior General.

Candidates entering the Novitiate

This year the entry into novitiate will be on 10th May 2014. There are 11 candidates who are getting ready to enter the Novitiate. Let us wish all of them God's blessings and pray earnestly that they may realize and esteem their call and adhere to the way of Vincentian life God has meant for them.

First Profession of our Novices

The First Profession of our novices will be held in Murickasserry Novitiate House on 11th May 2015. This year we have 11 novices who are making their First profession. May I kindly request you to pray for our Novices that they may become good and holy Vincentians following the life-example of St. Vincent de Paul and inspired by the life of our venerable Founder Rev. Fr. Varkey Kattarath. The Mass will be at 6.30 am. May I cordially invite you to take part in the first Profession. Dear Novices, hearty congratulations and prayerful greetings to you all!

Vestition and Perpetual Vows on May 19, 2015

There are 7 seminarians, who would make their perpetual commitment to the Lord this year on May 19th, and become full-fledged members of the Vincentian Congregation in St. Joseph Province. They will commit themselves to the Lord fully and life-long, during the Holy Mass at 10.30 am at the Vincentian Generalate, Edappally. All are cordially invited to participate in the function. Let us keep them in our prayers and wish them the best of God's blessings. Dear brothers, hearty congratulations to you!

The seminarians who have successfully completed the regency **will receive the clerical dress** and renew their vows on May 19th, at the Vincentian Generalate. Congratulations to you dear brothers!

Vocation camp and admissions to Minor seminary

The process of admissions to our minor seminary is going on. There is a vocation camp held at Pala minor seminary to discern vocations to our community on March 24-26 and the camp is successful. If there are good candidates whom you personally know, kindly contact the vocation promoter Rev. Fr. Sam Koonamplackil, VC. I would like to appreciate Fr. Sam and the Asst. Vocation Promoters for their great efforts to recruit good candidates for our community. Let us pray with gratitude, that God may bless us with good vocations this year too.

Blessing of the New House in Chicago

I am happy to share the glad news that we have bought a plot with a building in the suburbs of Chicago city in USA for the Vincentian House, Chicago, with partial bank loan. It is a plot of about 6500 sq. ft land with a building with a total of 3500 sq. ft built up area. **The address is Vincentian House, 1027 Twin Oaks St., Bensenville, IL 60106, USA.**

The House will be blessed on April 20, 2015 at 6.00 p.m. by His Excellency Mar Jacob Angadiyath, Bishop of Chicago Syro-Malabar Diocese, in USA and inaugurated by the Provincial Superior. May I invite you all to participate spiritually in the blessing ceremony and pray for the new center.

Visit to USA

I am planning to go to USA to participate in the blessing ceremony of our Chicago House for 20 days. I will be visiting our members working in USA. During my absence (from April 7 to 28, 2015), the Asst. Provincial Superior Rev. Fr. Jose Chettoor, VC will discharge the duties of the Provincial Superior. Anyone can contact me through the Superior of St. Cloud House, Rev. Fr. Joseph Arackal, VC while in USA. May I request you to kindly pray for me. Thank you!

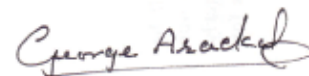
About Our Senior Members

I am happy to say that all our senior members in different Ashrams are keeping fine. Please continue to visit them once in a while. I would like to thank all of you on their behalf for your kind visit and valuable prayers for them. Special thanks to His Excellency Mar Mathew Vaniyakizhakkal, and V. Rev. Fr. Superior General who found time to visit them and also to other members of the Congregation.

Wishing you once again a happy and blessed Easter and praying that the Risen Lord may bless us all and our communities through his Holy Spirit,

Yours lovingly in St. Vincent de Paul,

Kottayam
March 25, 2015



Fr. George Arackal (Sr.) VC
Provincial Superior



HAPPY EASTER