



Circular 2/2016

**VINCENTIAN CONGREGATION
ST. JOSEPH PROVINCE**

Love, Compassion and Mercy 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!

➤ **Easter Greetings and Blessings!**

The period of Lent, that we observe now, is a season to practice self-denial like our Lord. We usually omit and abstain from certain habits, practices and food items in this season for this purpose. Unless and until these omissions lead us to omission of the negative dimensions and aspects of our life that are unbecoming to Christian life, and love of God and neighbor, and religious commitment, this observance loses its meaning and relevance. It should in fact give us the internal spiritual strength to be our own masters, with His blessings. So let us pray to the Lord so that we may be worthy to imbibe the spirit of this season.

The central message of Christian faith, the Resurrection of Christ, once again invites us to the hope of eternal life. May this hope bring us all the many blessings of this Easter season filled with peace and joy with which resurrected Christ Himself blessed His Apostles. **HAPPY EASTER!!**

➤ **Paschal Mystery and Divine Mercy**

We see from prophet Isaiah that the suffering Servant is the hope about the new messiah to come. In the fullness of time the Son of God took flesh and became a man and he suffered for our sake fulfilling the words of God proclaimed by prophet Isaiah in the suffering servant songs.

The real meaning of the paschal mystery is that Christ made himself a sin offering for our sake in accordance with the will of the Father. This spirit of total and perfect obedience of Christ is the model for us as St. Paul exhorts in Phil 2,5 ('let the mind of Christ be in you'). This paschal gift is the greatest blessing of Father's Mercy, a Mercy that surpasses all our understanding and thought. The Feast of Divine Mercy is a commemoration of this mercy of God shown towards the mankind. As Pope Francis reminds us we are to be the messengers of Divine Mercy in today's world. Let us be merciful as the heavenly Father is merciful (Lk 6,36). Wish you, all the blessings for the approaching Feast of Divine Mercy too!

➤ **Family Day Celebrations on May 1st, 2016**

By the grace of God we get another opportunity to meet one another and also to foster our communion and to appreciate and encourage one another and that is the occasion of the Family Day. As usual, we

will be celebrating our Family Day on 1st of May, 2016, at Vincentian Provincial House, Kottayam. The program begins by 9.30 am and will be over by tea at 4.00 pm. There will be the concelebrated Mass at 11.00 a.m. May I cordially invite all of you to the Provincial House for the Family Day Celebrations. Kindly arrange your programs in such a way that you can be free to attend the Family Day celebrations.

➤ **Reception of the Order of Diaconate**

I am happy to inform you that Bros. Davies Kanayinkal, and Philip Kochutharayil who have finished the third year of their theology studies in Vadavathur Seminary, Kottayam, received the holy Order of Diaconate, **on March 18th 2016, at Changanacherry Cathedral, at 6.30 am.** Dear brothers, on behalf of all the members of St. Joseph Province, I extend to you both, hearty congratulations and prayers. Dear Fathers and seminarians, kindly remember them in your prayers.

➤ **Candidates entering the Novitiate**

This year the **entry into novitiate will be on 10th May 2016.** There are about 20 candidates, God willing, who are getting ready to enter the Novitiate. They will have a retreat for a week in preparation for the entry. Let us wish all of them God's blessings.

➤ **First Profession of our Novices**

The First Profession of our novices will be held in Murickasserry Novitiate House **on 11th May 2016.** God willing, 9 novices from our Province will be making their First profession. Let us all kindly pray for them that they all may become good and committed Vincentians following 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 in advance!

➤ **Perpetual Vows on May 19th, 2016**

Three seminarians, God willing, would be making 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.** You are cordially invited to participate in the function. Please keep them all in your prayers. Dear brothers, hearty congratulations to you!

➤ **Reception of the Clerical Dress**

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**

It is the time of admitting new candidates into our minor seminary. There is a vocation camp at Pala minor seminary to discern good vocations to our community on March 29-30. Let us pray that the camp would be successful. If you know some good candidate whom you personally know, kindly contact the vocation promoter Rev. Fr. Tony Veliyathukunnel, VC in Pala Minor seminary (cell: 7736369554). And send him to the camp. I would like to appreciate Fr. Tony and the Asst. Vocation Promoters for their great efforts to recruit good candidates for our community. Let us pray that God may bless us with good vocations this year too.

➤ **About Our Senior Members and sick Members**

I am happy to say that all our senior members in different Ashrams are keeping fine. Please continue to pray for them and visit them once in a while. Rev. Fr. Abraham Orathel has finished the course of 25 radiations. He has now recovered a lot. Rev. Fr. Jerish Kunnackattu is undergoing chemotherapy (he has finished 4 double units of chemotherapy). May I request very specially your kind prayers for both of them.

Wishing you once again a happy Easter and praying that the Risen Lord may shower upon us his love, compassion and mercy in this Year of Mercy,

Yours lovingly in St. Vincent de Paul,

**Kottayam
March 2016**



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "George Arackal".

**Fr. George Arackal (Sr.) VC
Provincial Superior**

WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY EASTER!!!

