



Circular 5/2016

VINCENTIAN CONGREGATION
ST. JOSEPH PROVINCE

'Be Merciful just as your heavenly Father is merciful!'

Dear Rev. Fathers and Seminarians in Jesus Christ,

Prayerful and Loving Greetings from Provincial House, Kottayam!

1. **Feast of St. Vincent de Paul**



The Feast of St. Vincent is once again in the horizons. This is indeed another great opportunity to ponder over the greatness of our patron saint. I wish you cordially, dear Fathers and Seminarians, a happy Feast of **St. Vincent de Paul**.

St. Vincent de Paul was God's gift to the people of France and Europe in the 16th-17th century. St. Vincent's life and mission was God-oriented and he always looked on what he had to share with others. For he very well knew the spirit of God's Word: "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." (Eph. 2:10). The situation where I am should not be a matter of concern, rather what God demands from me gets priority in my religious call. This vision has to be a motivating factor in our life of commitment. Man always likes to say "if I were/ if I had..... I would be..." What Vincent teaches us, is that, we look at what we have, so that we can share it with others for the building up of His Kingdom. Just as Abraham was called to be a blessing for all others, we all are called to be God's blessings of mercy and love in our own life situations. In this Festal season may this conviction guide us to be true Vincentians and be apostles of mercy as Holy Father Pope Francis has exhorted.

Wish you all once again a very happy Feast of our heavenly Patron St. Vincent de Paul and pray that he would intercede for us and for our Congregation and our various ministries.

Please remember about our obligation to renew our vows on September 27th, on the Feast Day of St. Vincent de Paul. Let all the members of the House/community participate on that day in the Solemn concelebrated Mass in which all the priest members are to participate (even if they have other Masses).

2. Jubilee Celebrations

To be a priest of Christ is a gift and a mission. It is a matter of great joy for us to celebrate the Jubilee of our dear fathers who are completing 50 years and 25 years of their priestly ordination this year. We celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Rev. Fr. Joseph Thalanany and the Silver Jubilee of Rev. Frs. Arolichalil John, Chettoor Jose, Thundathikunnel Sebastian and Vettaparambil George on 11th September, 2016 at Vincentian Minor seminary Pala. There were also the Fathers from other Provinces who celebrate their Jubilee. Let's sincerely congratulate and thank them for what they have been to the Congregation and to the Province. Indeed their hard work and efforts contributed a lot to the Province for what it is today. Dear Fathers wish you all the blessings in your Jubilee year and may your continuing fruitful ministry contribute to the building up of His Kingdom. Let's continue to remember our Jubilarians in our prayers.

3. Blessing of Chopra Residential Block

Expansion of our Mission is a sign that we are progressing in the mission entrusted to us by the Lord. I am happy to inform you of the blessing and inauguration of the newly constructed residential block in the Divine Voice Retreat Centre, Chopra on Saturday, October 01, 2016 at 11.00 am. The block is named after the great saint of Kolkata, St. Theresa. His Excellency, Most Rev. Dr. Stephen Lepcha, Bishop of Darjeeling will bless the block and Very Rev. Fr. Varghese Parappuram VC, Superior General, Vincentian Congregation will inaugurate the building. May I cordially invite you to the ceremonies. Let's remember and pray for the retreat centre and the ministries there very specially in these days.

4. Annual Retreat

I would like to remind all our members to find time for the retreat in the community and plan the personal programs and the programs of the community accordingly. Two batches of annual retreats, organized by the Vincentian Generalate, are over. Let us please remember that it is mandatory to take part in the retreats in the community. Those who have not yet attended the retreat this year are requested to make arrangements to participate in the retreats with the community

The dates of the remaining retreats are:

Oct 02-07 : Jamshedpur: Fr. Anil Dev IMS

Nov 13-18 : Generalate, Edappally: Fr. Mathew Assariparambil

Dec 04-09 : Generalate, Edappally: Fr. Jacob Manjaly

If you want to make any changes regarding the date please inform Rev. Fr. Jojo Marippattu in Generalate. Kindly bring the personal Mass register when you come for the retreat. The Mass Register of the House shall be brought by the House superior or someone from the House.

5. Observance of the Day of V. Rev. Fr. Varkey Kattarath

We are observing our Founders' Day on 24th October, 2016 at Thottakom. Let us participate in the special programs scheduled for the Memorial Day organized from our Generalate (9.30 am - 4.00 pm). Details of the programs will be intimated to you from the Generalate. Let us earnestly pray for his intercession for our communities and various ministries. Let us also pray for his beatification.

6. Our Senior Members

I am happy to say that all our senior members – Rev. Frs. Sebastian Karikulam, John Maliyekal, Luke Nampiaparambil and Emmaunuel Paliyakunnel - are keeping fine. I would like to thank all of you on their behalf for spending time to visit them. They greatly appreciate your visits. Please keep them all in your prayers.

7. Conclusion

Once again wishing you all the blessings of the Feast of St. Vincent de Paul, our Heavenly Patron and praying for the special intercessions of V. Rev. Fr. Varkey Kattarath, our Founder,

Yours lovingly in St. Vincent de Paul,

Kottayam
September 17, 2016



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

Fr. George Arackal (Sr.) VC
Provincial Superior