



## VINCENTIAN CONGREGATION ST. JOSEPH PROVINCE

Dear Rev. Fathers and Seminarians in Jesus Christ,

*Prayerful New Year Wishes to you all!*

### **1. Happy New Year!**

We have been privileged and blessed by the Lord to see the New Year 2017. A great gift from the Lord which many did not receive. Let us be thankful to the Lord for this great gift. At the same time it is a great mission too – to bear witness to the compassionate Love of Christ in our day to day life. Let us resolve to practice this mission as best as we can. Let us try to make God’s dream concerning us our own dream and lead a life trying to realize God’s dreams for us. Let there be thus an incarnation in our life too - God’s dream becomes incarnate in mine and your life! May I take this opportunity to wish you once again a very happy, fruitful and peaceful New Year 2017. May Lord God bless you and your ministries abundantly.

### **2. Reception to our New Priests and Golden Jubilarian**

As I had already informed you by SMS and e-mail, we are giving a reception to the new Priests of our Province and also of other Provinces of the Congregation, at **Vincentian Minor Seminary, Pala on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2017 (Sunday)** on behalf of our Province. We are also celebrating the Sacerdotal Golden Jubilee of Rev. Fr. Joseph Arackal, VC. The concelebrated **Holy Eucharist will be at 11.00 am** followed by dinner and congratulatory meeting. May I most cordially invite all of you once again to participate in the celebration and to congratulate them and to greet them personally.

### **3. Quinquennial Course for Junior Priests**

May I remind all our junior priests of our Province who were ordained in the last 5 years to take part in the Quinquennial Course according to the norms of Cannon Law and also of our Statutes. As the course would be held at Divine Retreat Ashram Faridabad from 16 to 18 February, 2017, may I request the members of the Houses to make it convenient for the junior priests to attend the Quinquennial course.

### **4. Annual Retreat**

Most of our members have attended the annual retreats organized by the Vincentian Generalate. Thank you dear Fathers! At the same time Very Rev. Fr Superior General has informed that some of our priests have not participated in the annual retreats organized by the Vincentian Generalate.

If someone was not able to participate in the community retreat let them please participate in a week-long retreat and kindly inform the Provincial/Superior General about it.

### **5.Regarding Fr. Thomas Mandapathil**

I regret to inform you that Fr. Thomas Mandapathil has been absent from the community for almost 3 years. He has informed that he has joined the Emperor Emmanuel Sect. He has further stated that he is not intending to come back to the community. In spite of our repeated requests he is not willing to come back. After considering his long absence from the community without permission, and also because he has joined the above mentioned Sect the Provincial Council has decided to suspend him formally from the priestly ministries. The following is the Decree of Suspension given to Fr. Thomas Mandapathil on December 26, 2016:

“I, Fr. George Arackal (Sr.) VC, the Provincial Superior of the St. Joseph Province of the Vincentian Congregation, hereby suspend you from the exercise of the Holy Orders with immediate effect. Besides, your active and passive voices in the Vincentian Congregation also are suspended with immediate effect. This will remain in effect until further orders from the Superior concerned modifying it.”

### **6. Health Corner**

Our senior Fathers in Adichira are all OK. Rev. Fr. John Maliyekal is recovering after brain surgery. Rev. Frs. Luke Nampiaparambil, and Paliyakunnel Emmanuel are all fine. Rev. Fr. Sebastian Karikulam is also keeping fine in Pala minor seminary. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

Wishing you all once again a happy and prosperous New Year 2017,

Yours lovingly in St. Vincent de Paul,



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



Kottayam  
30-12-2016