



Circular 1/2017

**VINCENTIAN CONGREGATION  
ST. JOSEPH PROVINCE**

May the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all!

Dear Rev. Fathers and Seminarians in Jesus Christ,

*Prayerful Greetings to you all from Provincial House, Kottayam!*

**Convocation of the PROVINCIAL SYNAXIS - May 2017**

The term of the present provincial administration, as you know, ends in April 2017. Hence it is time to begin the process of next Provincial Synaxis. According to Statutes No. 169a “Ordinary Synaxis is the one held every fourth year to conduct the election and to discuss the important affairs of the Congregation/Province”. And according to Practical Norms No. 164 the convocation of the Synaxis is to be made at least three months before the date fixed for its opening. In accordance with these norms of our “Statutes and Practical Norms” I, as the Provincial Superior, am happy **to convoke hereby the 8<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Provincial Synaxis of St. Joseph Province of the Vincentian Congregation. It is scheduled to be held from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2017. The venue of the Synaxis will be Parithrana Retreat Center, attached to Vincentian House, Adichira.** Recollection in preparation for the Synaxis begins at 9.30 pm on the same day and ends by 4 pm on 2<sup>nd</sup> May. And then the first official session of the Synaxis will begin by 6.30 pm. This Ordinary Provincial Synaxis will conduct the election of the new provincial Superior and his Council and discuss important matters concerning the Province and its members. The duration of the Synaxis may be lengthened or reduced according to the mind of the Synaxis.

**Election of the Delegates to the Provincial Synaxis**

The Provincial Synaxis is composed of the ex-officio members and the elected delegates. (Stat. No. 189) The ex-officio members are the outgoing and incoming Provincial Superiors, and the Councilors (Stat. No. 190). The number of the elected delegates for the Provincial Synaxis 2017 was fixed to be 24 by the last Synaxis. Hence we are to elect 24 delegates to the coming Synaxis. The qualities needed for the delegates are mentioned in Stat. No. 172. Please read this and other relevant articles of our Statutes and Practical Norms and then exercise your right to elect the delegates after prayerful reflections. Please remember that the right to elect is a grave responsibility of all the members. Please be not influenced by what others say or write. Do not allow others to dictate for you destroying your own freedom to choose.

The **light rose colored ballot paper** containing the list of the members who are eligible to be elected to the Synaxis is enclosed herewith. Please **underline exactly 24 names** from among them (otherwise the ballot will be considered invalid) and place it in the enclosed **white envelope with the caption “Ballot paper for electing the delegates to the Provincial Synaxis”**. Return this cover sealed so as to reach here at the Provincial House, **before March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017**.

### **Formation of the Panel for the Election of the Provincial Superior**

All members of the Province who have active voice have to form a panel of 5 members eligible to be elected as the Provincial Superior. However, the provision for the right of the Synaxis to elect one to be the Provincial Superior from outside the elected panel remains intact. The **green colored ballot paper** containing the names of all eligible members for the panel (members who have completed 35 years of age and have completed 10 years after first profession) is also enclosed herewith. **Please underline exactly 3 names from among them** (otherwise the ballot will be considered invalid) and place it in the enclosed **cream coloured envelope with the caption “panel for the election of the Provincial Superior”**. Return this cover sealed so as to reach here at the Provincial House, **before March 1, 2017**. This envelope will be opened only in the Synaxis Hall. Hence please take care not to mix up the ballot papers. (If the ballots are mixed up, i.e., placed in the wrong cover, both ballots will become in effect invalid).

### **Returning of the Ballot Papers**

**Please put both the sealed envelopes with ballot papers [cream and white envelopes] in the bigger light green envelope provided**, addressed to the Provincial Superior, Vincentian Provincial House, Kottayam. Return this cover sealed so as to reach here at the Provincial House, **before March 1, 2017**. Please take care to send the ballot papers as early as possible. It may be good if you send back the bigger envelope by speed post.

### **Acknowledgment of the Receipt of the Ballot Papers**

Please acknowledge the receipt of these ballot papers either by e-mail or by returning the acknowledgement card enclosed.

### **Suggestions and Proposals to the Provincial Synaxis**

Please note that our *Statutes & Practical Norms* have asserted that “It is the right and duty of all the members to submit their opinions and suggestions to the Synaxis” (Stat. 171). Hence the proposals for discussion in the Synaxis are to be sent by individual members and House communities. On receipt of this circular, let the House

Superior convene the domestic meeting to discuss about the suggestions and proposals to be sent to the Provincial Synaxis. Let your suggestions be in accordance with our *Statutes & Practical Norms*. To send the proposals kindly make use of the white printed sheet with the caption Provincial Synaxis, May 2017. Please write on only one side of the paper (These sheets are to be kept in the Archives after the Synaxis). If you need more sheets you can ask for it from the Provincial House or you may make a photocopy of the sheet and use it. Please give also the reference to the Statutes Nos. for easy processing and codifying. Kindly also write the theme or subject of the proposal submitted. You have to place your name and signature too. Please send your suggestions and proposals to the Provincial House in a cover addressed to “**The Preparatory Commission, Vincentian Provincial House, S.H. Mount P.O., Kottayam 686 006**” so as to reach here by **March 1, 2017**.

### **Prayer for the Success of our Synaxes**

From now on let us in a special way pray for the grace to elect worthy members as delegates to the Synaxes and also as members of the Administrative Bodies. A special prayer for the success of our General and Provincial Synaxes is prepared from Vincentian Generalate and sent to you with the circular letter of the Superior General. Kindly recite this prayer everyday in our Houses in common.

### **Decree regarding Fr. Paul Pulickathadam**

This is to inform you all that Fr. Paul Pulickathadam, belonging to the Lorethu Matha Parish Chakkampuzha, Diocese of Pala, has been absent from the community for almost 3 months without due permission. He has informed me with documents that he has registered marriage on December 16, 2016. According to Statues 146 (CCEO 497.1) “A member shall be held dismissed from the Congregation by the Law itself, who has publicly rejected the Catholic Faith or has contracted or attempted marriage, even if only a civil one”. Hence **Paul Pulickathadam is automatically dismissed from the Congregation by his very act.**

As he has contracted civil marriage, the Provincial Council has decided to suspend him from the exercise of priestly ministries. The following is the **Decree of Suspension given to Fr. Paul Pulickathadam, on January 26, 2017:**

**“I, Fr. George Arackal (Sr.) VC, the Provincial Superior of the St. Joseph Province of the Vincentian Congregation, having verified the fact of the civil marriage, hereby suspend you from the exercise of any function of the Holy Orders with immediate effect. This will remain in effect until further orders from the Superior concerned modifying it. Besides, you are held dismissed from the Vincentian Congregation as per the above cited rule given in the ‘Statues of the Vincentian Congregation’ and you are no more a member of the St. Joseph Province of the Vincentian Congregation.”**

## **Conclusion**

Let us pray that the Holy Spirit may shower upon us His fruits and gifts in abundance so that we can elect worthy capitulars to the Synaxis and worthy members to the Provincial Administrative Body. Let us prayerfully hope that the Synaxis would be a great success and that it would guide the Province and its animators as well as members according to God's plan.

United in mutual prayers and thanking you all,



Kottayam  
27-01-2017

Sincerely yours in St. Vincent de Paul,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "George Arackal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Fr. George Arackal VC  
Provincial Superior