



Circular 3/2017

**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 joyful Easter Greetings from Provincial House, Kottayam!

8th ordinary Provincial Synaxis of the Province

As it is already informed the 8th ordinary Provincial Synaxis of our Province is scheduled to be held from Monday, May 1st to 6th, 2017. **Once again I officially invite, with great joy, all the ex-officio and elected delegates of the Provincial Synaxis to participate in the Synaxis.** The venue of the Synaxis would be Vincentian House, Parithrana, Adichira. Recollection in preparation for the Synaxis starts at 9.30 pm on May 1st and ends by 4:00 pm on the following day under the guidance of V. Rev. Fr. Joseph Puthenpurackal, OFM Cap., the famous retreat preacher and the provincial superior of St. Joseph Capuchin Provincial House. On May 2nd at 6.30 pm the sessions of the Synaxis would begin officially.

The Elected Delegates

1. **Ambattukuzhiyil Thomas**
2. **Arackal George Jr.**
3. **Assariparambil George**
4. **Chiraparamben Varghese**
5. **Edattu Zacharias**
6. **Kaipadakunnel Joseph**
7. **Kakkattupillil Mathew**
8. **Kalayil Joseph**
9. **Kanjirakonam Abraham**
10. **Karikilamattathil Antony**
11. **Kizhakkethottam Joseph**
12. **Kodamullil Cyriac**
13. **Kuruppumtharamukalel Joseph**
14. **Mangalathu Thomas**
15. **Moonnupeedikackal Antony**
16. **Mundackatt Augustine**
17. **Nellinilkumthadathil Vincent**
18. **Parackal Varghese**
19. **Parekkattil Varghese**
20. **Plamparampil Philip**
21. **Poonattu George**
22. **Puthentharayil Innocent**
23. **Thundathikunnel Sebastian**
24. **Vettiyankal Jose**

The Ex-Officio Members

- 1. Fr. Arackal George (Sr.) (Provincial Superior)**
- 2. Fr. Chettoor Jose (Provincial Councillor)**
- 3. Fr. Kanathukadu Samuel (Provincial Councillor)**
- 4. Fr. Neeruvilil Ebin (Provincial Councillor)**
- 5. Fr. Thachethukudy Antony (Provincial Councillor)**

Dear Rev. confreres, may I request you to continue to pray ardently for the success of the Synaxis and also for the new Provincial and Administrative Team to be elected by the Synaxis members.

Preparatory Commission consisting of Rev. Frs. Thundathikkunnel Sebastian (Convener), Moonupedikackal Antony and Kuruppentharamugalel Joseph, had codified the suggestions and proposals received and the draft of the agenda was sent to all individuals and communities that they may discuss and reflect over them further and make additional as well as new suggestions. Kindly send your suggestions and proposals by email at the earliest, at least before April 5, because the fresh suggestions and the already received suggestions are to be codified and sent to each of the capitulars so that they can come prepared for the Synaxis.

Encounter with the Risen Lord! Hallelujah!

Once again we are close to Easter celebrations. It is the time to thank the Lord for the great act of salvation of humanity through the Paschal mystery. Each celebration of the Passover Feast is an invitation for us to experience the same in our personal lives. We are to pass over from the state of bondage – whatever this be – to the state of grace and redemption. The austere measures that we take in this period of Lent would help us for this transformation through Passover. This is especially true of priests as they celebrate the Maundy Thursday, the day of the Priests. Passover is an invitation for us to transform ourselves as best as we can and thus to remain close to the Lord. This transformation is possible only by passing through the sufferings and self-restraint of the Good Friday – a total self-denial and a re-dedication to the Lord. This total transformation would lead us to the joy of Easter – a total renewal and re-vitalization of our life commitment – and thus to bear witness to the joy of Christian life and religious commitment. Let us be the carriers of joy in this season of Easter. Wish you all, dear Fathers and seminarians, a very **HAPPY EASTER**, together with all its peace, joy and blessings.

The Paschal Mystery is the pledge and manifestation of God's steadfast love and compassion for us and it is this compassionate love that we acknowledge during the Feast of Divine Mercy. God's mercy and love are being poured out on us in spite of our unworthiness. It is at the same time a call to be merciful and compassionate as the Lord Himself has commanded us: be merciful as your heavenly Father is merciful (Lk 6,36). **Wish you all a happy Feast of Divine Mercy!**

Family Day Celebrations on Saturday May 6th 2017

This year we would be celebrating our **Family Day on Saturday, May 6th 2017**, together with the newly elected Provincial Superior and administrative Team. Invitation letter with program details has been sent to everyone. Let us come together and celebrate our Home Day concelebrating in the thanksgiving Mass and other programs. May I cordially invite you once again to our Family Day Celebrations.

Silver Jubilee celebrations of our minor Seminary at Chethimattom, Pala

It is indeed a happy moment that Vincentian Minor Seminary, Chethimattom, Pala, celebrates its Silver Jubilee this year. The seminary serves as the cradle of our Province for the past 25 years and let us join together to thank the Lord for the many blessings we have received. The Jubilee celebrations will take place on Thursday, 20th April, 2017. The thanksgiving Mass will be offered by Mar Jacob Murickan, Auxiliary Bishop of Pala at 10.00 am and it will be followed by the public meeting chaired by Very Rev. Fr. Varghese Parappuram VC our Superior General and Agape. Invitations with details of programs have been sent separately. Please do come and join in this thanksgiving celebrations.

Programs during the Summer Months of April and May

You will be officially invited for the following programs by the newly elected provincial superior later. Kindly take note of these programs and the respective dates.

Candidates for Novitiate entering the Novitiate on May 10

This year about 25 candidates, God willing, will officially **enter into the canonical novitiate for our Province on 10th May 2017**. 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 on May 11

The First Profession of our 19 novices, God willing, will be held at Padamugham Novitiate House **on 11th May 2017**. Let us all kindly pray for them that they may become good zealous Vincentians following the example of St. Vincent de Paul and inspired by the life of our venerable Founder Rev. Fr. Varkey Kattarith.

Perpetual Vows on May 19th, 2017

9 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 have a month-long preparatory course from April 19th onwards.

Reception of the Clerical Dress on May 19, 2017

The seminarians who have successfully completed the regency **will receive the clerical dress** and renew their vows on May 19th, after a preparation course for 1 month from April 20th onwards, at the Vincentian Generalate.

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 April 3-5 and April 17-19. Let us pray that the camp would be successful. If you personally know some good candidates, kindly direct them to the vocation promoter Rev. Fr. Tony Veliyathukunnel, VC in Pala Minor seminary (cell: 7736369554) or inform him in this number. 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.

New Vincentian House and Retreat Center in Melbourne

I had informed you about the official blessing and inauguration of the House and retreat center in the Archdiocese of Melbourne, Australia will take place on the 1st of April 2017. We have taken

in rent a hall for the retreat purposes and after the Holy Mass the Archbishop will officially inaugurate the retreat center. We have taken in rent a building as the residence of the Fathers too and **the address of the House is 94 Mary Avenue, Wheelers Hill, Victoria 3150, Australia.** The house will be blessed on April 1st. Our Address in Melbourne will be Vincentian House, 94 Mary Avenue, Wheelers Hill, Victoria 3150, Australia. Kindly remember in your prayers the new House and the new retreat center.

Visit to Australia

I am planning to go to Australia for the ceremony of blessing by the end of the month, if I get the visa. I will be returning on 12th April. Anyone can contact me through the Superior of Melbourne House, Rev. Fr. Rojan Poonattu, while in Australia (cell: 61421963601). May I request you to kindly pray for the success of my visit. Thank you! **During my absence the Asst. Provincial Superior Rev. Fr. Jose Chettoor, VC will discharge the duties of the Provincial Superior.**

Our Senior 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.

Heartfelt Thanks

It is a time to thank the Lord God Almighty for the wonderful blessings he has showered upon us during the last four years. I gratefully acknowledge God's guiding hand and divine providence in the growth of the Province, and also for the intercession of St. Joseph and St Vincent de Paul and our Founder V. Rev. Fr. Varkey Kattarith. I thank very specially V. Rev. Fr. Varghese Parappuram, the Superior General, and his Councilors too for their whole-hearted support and guidance. I would like to thank the Provincial Superiors of Mary Matha Province and St. Thomas Province namely V. Rev. Fr. Paul Puthuva and V. Rev. Fr. John Kandathinkara and their teams for their cooperation. I greatly appreciate the team work and support and collaboration from the Councilors of St. Joseph Province. I thank most sincerely Rev. Fr. Chettoor Jose the asst. Provincial Superior, and The Councilors Rev. Frs. Kanathukadu Samuel (Provincial Councilor for Finance, Fr. Neeruvellil Ebin (Provincial Councillor for Social Work and Mission) and Fr. Thachethukudy Antony (Provincial Councillor for Retreats). They have been doing their maximum in the respective fields of their departments. I do remember the great contributions and services of the former Regional Superior of St. Xavier's Region Rev. Fr. Cyriac Kodamullil and the present Regional Superior Rev. Fr. Sebastian Padinjarekuttu and their teams.

I remember with gratitude the selfless and wholehearted services rendered by the private secretaries to the provincial - Rev. Frs. Mathew Ponneduthkallel and Jose Koshackal.

I am happy to state that the Province is progressing steadily and all the members are very cooperative and contributing their maximum to the common cause. I thank all of you from the depth of my heart for the wonderful support you had extended to me and to the provincial administrative team these last 4 years.

Looking back I can say, with joy and satisfaction, that we have been able to grow further with the support and dedication of all, within the given limitations, and all our members have extended their loving and supporting hands. I also acknowledge the short comings and

limitations in realizing the expectations of all. Yet by God's grace we have been able to move forward to achieve the vision, and mission of the Vincentian Congregation.

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

Yours lovingly in St. Vincent de Paul,

Kottayam
March 25, 2017



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

Fr. George Arackal (Sr.) VC
Provincial Superior