

Evangelizare pauperibus misit me



Circular 4/2017

VINCENTIAN CONGREGATION ST. JOSEPH PROVINCE

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

Dear Rev. Fathers and Seminarians in Jesus Christ,

Prayerful Greetings to you all from Provincial House, Kottayam!

I am pretty sure that you are well informed of the new situations in the Province. On 3rd May, 2017, the 8th Provincial Synaxis of the St. Joseph Province of the Vincentian Congregation held at Adichira, Kottayam elected me to the office of the Provincial Superior. I surrendered to the will of God and to the loving call of my community and accepted the election. The next gathering of the honorable Provincial Synaxis elected the four Provincial Councillors and discerning the voice of the Holy Spirit they too accepted the election. The season of Synaxis was indeed a season of grace in our Vincentian Community. The fruits of our devout and prayerful preparation for the Synaxis were very evident and experiential. All our members joined together visibly and invisibly, in distance and in proxy with igniting inspirations and sanctifying introspections. Our Provincial Synaxis evaluated the life of our communities and missions, elected a new team to the service of leadership, and planned a blessed life ahead.

One of the major accents of the Synaxis fell on the need of renewal. 'Renewal', explained in our context is 'change'; this change is 'conversion' in the Biblical sense. This context reminds me of a Gospel scene where Jesus calls the first group of his disciples. "When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon 'put out in to the deep water and let down your nets for a catch'. Simon answered 'Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets'. When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were breaking (Lk.5:6-7)". Jesus moved them for a renewed attempt, but not in a

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and to one another”***



new sea, not with new boats and nets, but in the same space, same fishers and same instruments, but there was something new, a heavenly hallow of Jesus' companionship and living words, "put out in to the deep waters and let down your nets for a catch". Dear confreres, our Province has a precious history of twenty five years, our Lord has been gracious to us and our missionaries could reach the ends of the earth preaching even in foreign languages, literary fulfilling the commencing command of our Lord. We have anointed missionaries and great pastoral constituencies. Let us take up this Synaxis call of renewal, as letting our nets deep down in the same sea. Let us hunt the hidden treasures of our local communities and missions, re-discover the potentials of our gifts through sanctification and prayer and walk ahead.

WORDS OF GRATITUDE

St. Joseph Province community is very much indebted to the members of the outgoing administrative body. Rev. Fr. George Arackal (Sr.), our former Provincial Superior led us almost 16 years rendering his service of leadership in various capacities. Most of us are personally associated with him. Staying back in the Provincial House he and Fr. Samuel Kanathukadu were facilitating a serene and fraternal transition of responsibilities, meanwhile the other three had set themselves already on the wheels. Dear Fr. George, dear Frs. Jose Chettoor, Antony Thachethukudy, ebin Neeruvellil and Samuel Kanathukadu, knowing your services closer, we understand that living the virtues of patience, perseverance and charity, you did great things. We pray through the intercessions of Mother Mary, St. Joseph and St. Vincent de Paul that the good Lord may bless you with lasting peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

MEMBERS OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE BODY

Provincial Superior	Fr. Mathew Kakkattupillil VC
Asst. Provincial Superior	Fr. Augustine Mundeckattu VC (Popular Mission, Retreats & Pastoral Work)
Councillors	Fr. Joseph Kuppamtharamukalel (Education & Mass Media) Fr. Cyriac Kodamullil (Mission & Social Work) Fr. Innocent Puthentharayil (Finance and Construction)
Provincial Secretary	Fr. Joseph Kurupamtharamukalel VC

DEPARTMENT CELLS

Formation	Frs. George Arackal (Sr.)VC & Abraham Neerovelil VC
Retreats and Popular Mission	Frs. Varghese Kulathur VC & Raphael Kuthoor VC
Education & Mass Media	Frs. Thomas Mangalath VC & Sebastian Painapillil VC
Mission and Social Work	Frs. Joseph Kizhakkethottam VC & Alex Valliamthadam VC
Finance & Construction	Frs. Samuel Kanathukadu VC & John Punnolil VC

REPORT OF THE PROVINCIAL SYNAXIS

This circular has attached a brief report of the Provincial Synaxis. This report is an advisory device to the newly elected Provincial administrative team and to all members of our community. It is also a manuscript of concerns, observations and visions of our confreres. The capitulars of our Synaxis had sincerely involved in discussions and deliberations. These discussions were timely substantiated with scriptural insights, teachings and laws of the Church, statutes and practical norms of our community, and attempts of interpretations on account of experiences and signs of the time. I have to place on record the vigilant moderation of Rev.Fr. Abraham Kanjirakonam (moderator) and the precise and elaborate recording of the acts of the Synaxis by Frs. Thomas Mangalath (Secretary) and Joseph Kuruppamtharamukalel (Asst.Secretary). Thank you dear fathers. I hope each of us will find sufficient time to read and discuss this report in our communities. New inspirations in the light of this report will take us forward.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Very Rev. Fr. Sebastian Thundathikunnel is our new Superior General, Rev. Fr. Tony Moonnupeedikackal is our new General Councillor in charge of Finance and Construction. St. Joseph Province has gladly heard this news. Dear fathers, your absence is already felt in the province. But still we are proud of you. May God Almighty pour his graces on all endeavors that you undertake for the good of our community. Congratulations!

ADMISSIONS ,PROFESSIONS AND ORDINATIONS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Minor Seminary, Nedumkunnam

Thirty three candidates aspiring the Vincentian life were admitted to our minor seminary at Nedumkunnam. Spending an evening with them gave me a lot of hopes, they are vibrant and unique in their own ways. Let us pray for them and for the new team of formators at Nedumkunnam. We gratefully acknowledge the self-less service of the outgoing team of formators, Frs. Sonu Kulathur and Dony Vaz-havelickakathu and Thomas Ambattukuzhiyil. Very special appreciations to Fr. Tony Veliyathukunnel and all our confreres who helped him in promoting vocations.

Vincentian Novitiate, Padamugham

On 9th May, evening I could officiate the admission to the Vincentian Novitiate Padamugham. It was one of my best remembered evenings in the month of May. Twenty seven candidates were admitted to the novitiate and they have slowly begun to explore the graces of our immensely rich novitiate campus. All the best to our new 'Guruachan' and community members.

On 10th may, nineteen novices professed their vows of obedience, chastity and poverty for the first time in the congregation. They are the new born Vincentians. They have already joined the next stage of their priestly formation. We wish them all the best and assure them of our communion in the days ahead.

Perpetual Profession and Vestition

On 19th May 2017, nine brothers professed perpetually in the Vincentian Congregation. On the same day nine brothers received their religious habits. Very Rev. Fr. Superior General and Mar Mathew Vaniyakizhakel officiated the liturgical services respectively. This fast transforming world is full options for the new generations. But our youngsters have opted for the most sublime. St. Vincent and St. Joseph may intercede for them. Thank you brothers!

Perpetual Profession

Chamblangal Xavier
Erupulamkattil George (Sibil)
Kizhakkekara Kuruvila (Cryil)
Kozhuppathadathil Alex John
Kozhuppathadathil Alosi John
Kuthiramattathil Antony (Tony)
Mandapathil Mathew (Judish)
Pallickamyilil George
Vazhachalil Antony (Dino)

Vestition

Ambalamattathil Xavier (Rohit)
Daniel Lourdu Raj
Karinattu Christin
Muthukattil Mathew (Jithin)
Naduppadavil Mathew (Tony)
Onattu Joseph
Parakkunnel Joseph (Mittu)
Parayil Varghese (Littin)
Peedikayil Thomas (Amal)

Ordinations

On 24th May, Sub- deacon Rintu Vaniyapurackal received the order of Diaconate and Bros. George Pallickamyalil and Aloysius Kozhupathadathil received the minor order of Karoya from Bishop Mar Mathew Vaniyakizhakeel. Let us keep our brothers in our regular prayers. Congratulations to you dear brothers!

MY TRIP TO EUROPE

As you all may know, I was the Director of our retreat centre in Berlin. Because of the unforeseen situations, Berlin needs my special attention these days. So I am flying back to Berlin on 30th May and will be back on 28th June. I hope also to spend few days with our fathers and missions in Europe. **During my absence in India, Rev. Fr. Augustine Mundeckattu will discharge the functions of the Provincial Superior.** All Provincial Councillors and Rev. Fr. Jobin Koshackal will be at your disposal in case of any urgency. Rev. Fr. Jacob Athickal has taken charge as the Asst. Superior of the Provincial House. I request a thought of me in your prayers so that all my engagements be assisted by the Holy Spirit.

My Contact number in Berlin: 004917656994632

Fr. Augustine Mundeckattu : 09447403562

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

On behalf of our community, I thank and appreciate all the newly transferred or appointed confreres for their obedient willingness and genuine signals of co-operation. It gave the new Provincial Council such relaxation in the hectic of the initial weeks .Thank you!

Fr. Adappoor Jose	: Pastoral Work, Austria
Fr. Adappoor Joseph	: B.Ed. Studies, Bangalore
Fr. Ambattukuzhiyil Thomas	: Superior, V. H. Thodupuzha
Fr. Arackal George Jr.	: Relieved from the office of the Superior, V. H. Jalakhalli
Fr. Arackal George Sr.	: Superior and Novice Master, V. H. Padamugham
Fr. Assariparambil George	: Superior, V. H. Jalakhalli
Fr. Athickal Jacob	: Asst. Superior, Vincentian Provincial House, Kottayam
Fr. Chavarananickal Robert	: Higher Studies, St. Thomas Apostolic Seminary, Vadavathoor
Fr. Kaipadakkunnel Joseph	: Higher Studies, DVK Bangalore
Fr. Kanathukadu Samuel	: In charge of Elanthoor Project, V. H. Elanthoor
Fr. Kanjirakonam Abraham	: Superior, V. H. Adichira
Fr. Kodakallil Thomas	: Bursar, De Paul School Rajamudy
Fr. Konnamplackil Abraham	: Acting-director, Logos Retreat Centre, Bangalore
Fr. Koshackal Jose	: Reappointed, Secretary to the Provincial Superior
Fr. Kulathinkal Jimmichen	: Vice Rector and Finance Officer, V. H. Nedumkunnam
Fr. Kulathur Varghese	: Director, Popular Mission Retreats (Malayalam)
Fr. Kuncherakkattu John	: Member, V. H. Kaloor (for Pastoral Work in Germany)
Fr. Kuruvanthanath Mathew	: Director, Prayer Centre, V. H. Chembur
Fr. Malieckal Thomas	: Superior, Finance Officer and Parish Priest, V. H. Chembur

Fr. Matheickal Jose	: Asst. Novice Master, V. H. Padamugham
Fr. Moolecherry Joseph	: Relieved from the office of Bursar, De Paul Public School, Thodupuzha, Internal Auditor of the Province
Fr. Neerovelil Abraham	: Rector and Superior, V. H. Pala
Fr. Nellinilkumthadathil Vincent	: Higher Studies, Rome, Italy
Fr. Panthackal Jacob	: Finance Officer, V. H. Chopra
Fr. Parekattil Varghese	: Acting-Superior, V. H. Elavur
Fr. Peruvelil Kurian	: Asst. Director, Retreat Centre, Berlin, Germany
Fr. Poonattu George	: Higher Studies, Rome, Italy
Fr. Pulickakandathil Sebastian	: Bursar, De Paul School, Ron
Fr. Punnolil John	: Spiritual Father, Minor Seminary, Nedumkunnam
Fr. Thoyalil Thomas	: Pastoral Work, Australia
Fr. Vallath Joseph	: Administrator, Logos, Bangalore
Fr. Vallomkunnel John	: Finance Officer and Chaplain, V. H. Hubli
Fr. Vattamthottiyil Mathew	: Superior, Rector, Director of Home for the Aged, V. H. Nedumkunnam
Fr. Vazhavelickakathu Thomas	: Bursar, De Paul Public School, Thodupuzha
Fr. Velickakathu Thomas	: Asst. Director of Popular Mission Retreats (Malayalam)
Fr. Vettaparmbil George	: Service under Generalate, De Paul Bangalore
Fr. Vettiyankal Jose	: Temporarily relieved from the office for studies and treatment.
Fr. Vilakkunnel Sebastian	: Finance Officer, V. H. Jalalkhalli

HEALTH CORNER

Rev. Fr. Mathew Arackathottam is hospitalized for the burning sensation in lumbar region and it is not yet diagnosed. Remember him specially in our prayers. Our senior Fathers at Adichira, Rev. Frs. John Maliyekal, Luke Nampiaparambil, and Paliyakunnel Emmanuel are all fine. Rev. Fr. Sebastian Karikulam at Pala Minor Seminary and Rev. Fr. Chandy Kalappurayil at Kothamangalam are also keeping fine. Please continue to keep them in your prayers.

CONCLUSION

Dear confreres, the newly elected Provincial Administrative Team in the limited time tried to reach out to many of our members and situations of life in the Province. We experienced great hospitality and fraternity from all of them. All occasions of meeting with our confreres were great learnings for us. *“Charity is the cement that binds communities to God and to one another”* (St. Vincent De Paul). Cementing our bonds with love is the secret of Christian communion and Vincentian Koinonia. *“and hope does not disappoint because the love of God has been poured in to our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us”*(Rom.5:5). May this divine charity conquer our human nature and make us diligent in loving others. Let us consecrate ourselves to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the month of June. Requesting once again your prayers on behalf of the newly elected Provincial Council and relying on the intercessions of St. Vincent de Paul and St. Joseph our heavenly patrons,

Lovingly yours in the service of the Lord and Our Community,



Kottayam
30/5/2017

A handwritten signature in blue ink on a light grey rectangular background.

Fr. Mathew Kakkattupillil VC
Provincial Superior