



**MONTFORT BROTHERS OF ST. GABRIEL**  
PROVINCE OF YERCAUD

**PROVINCIAL'S CIRCULAR-30**

Ycd/Cir.30/2014

02.07.2014

Dear Brothers,

Fraternal Greetings to you all!

Our Schools and Colleges have just re-opened after the annual holidays. The academic results (Stds. X, XII & PUC) are very encouraging! My sincere appreciation to all the Brothers, members of the Staff and students who have done us proud through their excellent academic performances. We all know that 100% success or 100/100 in various subjects is not the ultimate end of our educational endeavours/objectives. There is something beyond the No.1 or the top spot in the “World of Education.” All of us know what exactly that realm is – yet, may I draw your attention to that area in this new academic year through the often repeated **brand** called ‘Montfortian Education.’



**Who is a Saint?**

Whenever I render a funeral oration of one of our Brothers, I am firmly convinced that the particular Brother is a Saint and he is in Heaven. However, I often ask a question to myself, “Who is a Saint?” Theologians and Spiritual writers will have their own answers to it...but I would like to fall back on an incident from the life of Saint Francis of Assisi to answer this question, so that we too can become modern day Saints!

One day, Francis was on a mission journey with his companion Leo. Leo asked him, “*Francis, who is a Saint?..*” Francis gave no answer! Leo continued, “*If a person can raise the dead, can we call him a Saint?*” Francis continued to be silent. Leo became a little annoyed and asked in a louder voice – “*If a person can multiply food and give it to the hungry, can he be termed as a Saint?*”

After some time, Francis turned to Leo and said, *“I am feeling hungry; shall we go and knock at the door of a certain rich man nearby and ask for some food to eat?”* Leo told him not to be foolish as that rich man had turned them back in their previous encounter for the same purpose! But Francis ignored Leo’s suggestion and knocked at the door of the rich man. The rich man opened the door and abused Francis and his companion and shut the door on their face! Leo looked at Francis with disappointment! After moving forward a little, Francis told Leo, *“Let us try once again! He might have changed his mind and heart.”* - In spite of Leo’s objection, Francis went and knocked at the door of the rich man again! The rich man opened the door, came out with a club and beat them up...Francis and Leo had to run for their lives!

Leo was upset but Francis had different ideas. Francis retraced his steps and went back to the rich man’s door again saying, *“This time, he will be different.”* Leo kept himself at a distance fearing further ill treatment! As Francis knocked again, the rich man opened the door – knelt down with tears and was continuously apologizing to Francis. He went in and came back with a basket full of food!

Now, Leo understood who was a Saint! Leo had no more doubt about the definition and qualities of a Saint. **‘A Saint always begets other Saints.’**

In this new academic year, there will be many Francises and Leos knocking at our doors, gates and hearts - Are we going to turn them back or accept them as Saints or as Christ Himself? Starting with our students- teachers, parents, the public and people of God will be coming to us - knocking at our doors...watch out and be on the lookout for Christ clothed as ordinary persons!

**“Let not the poor who knock at your door be turned back empty handed!”**

The story of Francis and Leo is too deep and has many more interpretations...you can make your own conclusions and interpretations..! ***In any case, make sure that you qualify to be a ‘Saint’!***

**1. Vocation Promotion activities:** This year we had organized a short Vocation Promotion Camp at Kolathur from 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 to 5<sup>th</sup> May 2014; 30 students attended the camp. From these, 11 students have joined the Juniorate. My sincere appreciation to Bro. Louis Alex and his team. With the help of Bro. Markose of Ranchi Province, we have managed to recruit twenty five, 10<sup>th</sup> Standard passed students from Odissa. Some of them had severe ‘homesick’ problems initially. Now they are out of that and are doing well. We thank and appreciate Bro. Markose K.J for all his sincere help towards recruiting of candidates from Odissa.

There are two candidates at Kombuthooki who have joined us after +2 studies. Bro. Lawrence Gabriel is looking after them.

2. **Juniorate, Kolathur:** There are 89 Juniors at ‘Mary Mount’ Juniorate, Kolathur. Though we had planned to inaugurate the new Juniorate home in June 2014, it is being delayed as the Kitchen and electrical works are yet to be completed. We should be able to start the new Juniorate by the second week of August 2014.
3. **Candidates’ Camp at Kerala:** Eighteen of our candidates who completed the +2 course had a long camp at Montfort School, Anakkara from 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014 to 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014. My sincere thanks to Bros. Joe Moeison, Sunil, Kalaimalar Prabhu, Justin Selva Kumar and the Anakkara Community.
4. **Pre-Novices at Jabalpur:** There are 18 Pre-Novices from our Province at Jabalpur. On 13.06.2014, Bro. Justin Selva Kumar accompanied them to Jabalpur and returned on 19.06.2014.
5. **First Year & Second Year Novices:** There are two first year Novices (Postulants) at Sitagarha and four second year Novices at Eachinkadu. We also have two first year Novices and two Pre-Novices at Tanzania from SPD. The Province is ever grateful to our Formators at the Pre-Novitiate in Jabalpur, the Novitiates at Sitagarha, Eachinkadu and Tanzania for spiritually guiding and taking care of our formees in the houses of formation.
6. **Bro. Bosco:** After two years of separation from the Province, Bro. Bosco is back with us. All the formalities have been gone through as per the Canon law and Provincial’s Companion for re-admitting him to the Congregation/Province. On 27<sup>th</sup> April 2014, in the presence of the entire Provincial administration, Bro. Bosco took the Vows in a simple ceremony at St. Louis Villa Chapel. Welcome back dear Bro. Bosco! He has joined Vidhya Deep College, Bangalore for his three-year B.Th. course.
7. **Renewal of Vows by Junior Brothers:** After three days of renewal programme organized by Bro. Jacob Ezhanikatt, the Province Formation Director, 11 Junior Brothers renewed their Vows for one year on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at Lake Montfort, Bangalore. Bro. Joni Rajan, who has discontinued the B.Th. studies at KJC and joined the Sanyasa Course during this academic year, renewed his vows on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2014 at St. Louis Villa, Yercaud.
8. **Partnership and Associate activities in the Province- MGA:** Kindly inaugurate the ‘**Montfort Gabrieliete Associate**’ activities in all our Institutions for the year 2014-15 at the earliest. Make use of the Vexillum, medallions and the consecration prayer in all the meetings. If you need any support or help, you may contact

the Partnership Commission Convener, Bro. Thomas K.K or the Provincial Superior. Bro. Yvan Passebon, the Vicar General would like to meet the leaders of the MGA in our Province on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Yercaud. Hence, all the Heads of the Institutions and Local Superiors are requested to prepare the President or the Secretary of MGA from their Institutions for this meeting (only one member per Institution). They will give a brief report of the MGA activities in your Institution.

This meeting which will be organized at Montfort School, Yercaud, will start at 9.30 a.m. on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 and will get over at 1 p.m with Lunch.

- 9. Late Bro. Tarcisius Mary:** I take this opportunity to express our condolences to the Brothers of Trichy Province and the relatives of Bro. Tarcisius Mary, who passed away on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 at Trichy. The funeral was held at Thindivanam at 4 p.m. on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014. A large number of Brothers and friends attended the funeral.

Bro. Tarcisius spent/lived most of his days in the undivided Province of South India. By his beautiful life, he has taught us a lesson- that we can achieve greatness by doing small and ordinary things/works assigned to us by the Superiors. He loved to be with the Nature and ordinary people. May his soul rest in peace!

- 10. Late Bro. Oliver Ericatt:** Rev. Bro. Oliver Ericatt passed away on 13th June 2014 at 9.40 pm at St. Thomas Hospital, Chennai. He was suffering from Lymphatic Cancer for nearly 2 years. On 14th June, the mortal remains of Bro. Oliver Ericatt was shifted to Yercaud and kept in the Eachinkadu Novitiate Chapel till the next day morning. The Funeral Mass was organized on 15th June 2014 at Montfort School Chapel, Yercaud. Bro. George K.J, the Provincial Superior in his funeral oration described Bro. Oliver as a ‘soldier’ and highlighted his beautiful life and appreciated his life, lived for the poor and the marginalized. The solemn funeral was organized around the theme “If we die, it is for the Lord that we die” - Rom.14/8. The last rites were held at ‘**Heritage Park**’ and the body was laid to rest at about 2.00 p.m. A large gathering of Brothers from Yercaud Province and other Provinces, relatives, members of Staff, students, friends and well-wishers attended the funeral mass and the last journey of Bro. Oliver and paid their respect and homage to him. (\*)

***There will be a special Memorial Mass on 12<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at 11 a.m in Eachinkadu (Month’s mind). All are welcome!***

- 11. Diamond and Golden Jubilee Celebrations:** The Diamond and Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Religious Profession of our Brothers Lawrence Joseph, Mathew Panathanath and Jacob Pynadath was held on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 at Montfort School Chapel, Yercaud with solemnity and fervor. A number of Brothers from our Province and also from other Provinces along with the relatives, friends and



well-wishers of the Jubilarians participated in the Holy Eucharist, felicitation and lunch thereafter. Bro. Ignatius officiated the Jubilee Mass and gave an appropriate reflection during the Homily. Bros. Lawrence Joseph and Mathew Panathanath renewed their Vows in the presence of the entire faithful present for the occasion. During the felicitation programme at Eugene hall, Bro. George K.J, the Provincial Superior felicitated the Jubilarians with a special multimedia presentation. He also highlighted the theme chosen for the entire celebration- “Called unto liberty...”Gal 5/13. The Jubilarians also shared their jubilee memoirs with the guests. They were honoured with specially designed Souvenirs, Ponnadais, bookmarks and flower bouquets.

Amidst the celebrations and thanksgiving, there was also as in the past, a jarring note of disappointment and sadness. When it comes to common celebrations, Brothers of the Province look forward to the presence of all the Jubilarians. The Jubilarians have no choice to keep away from such common celebrations, as it is not in tune with their long religious commitment of the three Vows, especially the Vow of obedience! The entire local Church and the Brothers of the Province are gathering around the Jubilarians to celebrate this event as commanded by Yahweh in Leviticus 25/1f. ***“The highest form of freedom carries with it the greatest measure of discipline and humility.” - Gandhiji. (\*\*)***

**12. Final Commitment:** The Final Commitment of Brothers Packianathan, Peter Rajan and Christuraj was held on 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2014 at Montfort School Chapel, Yercaud. His Excellency Rt.Rev.Dr.S.Singaroyan, Bishop of Salem presided over the solemn Eucharistic Celebration and Bro. George K. J, the Provincial Superior received their Vows. During the felicitation programme, the Provincial Superior welcomed the gathering and felicitated the three perpetually committed Brothers with beautiful reflections and highlighted their unique qualities. A large number of Brothers from Yercaud and Trichy Provinces along with the relatives of the newly committed Brothers, friends and well-wishers attended the programme. (\*\*\*)

(\*,\*\*, \*\*\*) - *For a detailed versions, refer Ycd/ TIME June 2014*

**13. Bro. Hubert Nakouzebi:** Bro. Hubert Nakouzebi from Brazzaville will be soon leaving for Suva, Fiji. Welcome dear Bro. Hubert to SPD! Once again, our sincere thanks to Bro. Jean-Baptise Mossoumo, the Provincial Superior of Brazzaville.

**14. Collaboration with St. Michael Brothers:** We are exploring the possibilities of collaboration with St. Michael Brothers for our SPD mission. I had two meetings with the Superior General of St. Michael Brothers regarding this mission collaboration. They have agreed in principle to render the services of one or two Brothers from December 2014.

**15. Bros. Paul K.A & George Vazhayil:** Bro. Paul K.A will be leaving for Tonga soon. His papers are getting ready. Bro. George Vazhayil has returned from St. Anselm, Kent, UK for good. As informed earlier, Bro. Vazhayil has opted to work in SPD as a missionary. His papers are also getting ready. We wish them well in their new mission at SPD.

**16. The Visit of the Vicar General, Bro. Yvan Passebon and the Asst. General, Bro. Joseph K.M, to our Province:** Bro. Yvan Passebon will visit our Province from 7<sup>th</sup> July to 29<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Bro. Joseph K.M will visit the Province from 16<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> August 2014. Their visit schedule is included below from 16<sup>th</sup> July 2014.

Bro. Yvan Passebon will be at Eachinkadu Novitiate from 9<sup>th</sup> July to 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Hearty welcome to Bro. Yvan Passebon and Bro. Joseph K.M.

During their visit, kindly make sure that:

- 1) Every Brother will meet them individually - this is the first priority
- 2) They will address the School assembly (If there is more than one Institution, assemblies may be combined)
- 3) They will also address the members of staff over a cup of tea in the evening. Kindly avoid other functions, especially if it interferes with the regular visit programme of the Superiors.
- 4) In the evening, before supper, there will be a Community meeting!
- 5) Copies of the Community time table & the Community project must be kept on the tables of the Superiors during their visit.

## VISIT SCHEDULE OF BRO. YVAN PASSEBON & BRO. K.M JOSEPH

Date	Name of the Institution
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Lake Montfort, Bangalore
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Montfort College, Bangalore
18 <sup>th</sup> July	CRI / Sanyasa / Deepahalli
19 <sup>th</sup> & 20 <sup>th</sup> July	GNWS, Kalghathi
21 <sup>st</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> July	Montfort Vidhya Sagar, Belagola
22 <sup>nd</sup> July (AN)	Leave for Salem
23 <sup>rd</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> July	Montfort School, Yercaud
	Deshayes Mount School, Yercaud
25 <sup>th</sup> July	St. Joseph's School, Yercaud
27 <sup>th</sup> July	Eachinkadu, Honey Rock
28 <sup>th</sup> July	Community School, Kombuthooki & Pappireddypatty Farm
29 <sup>th</sup> July & 30 <sup>th</sup> July till lunch (1 pm)	St. Mary's School, AN Mangalam
31 <sup>st</sup> July & 1 <sup>st</sup> August (4 pm)	Nirmala School, Montfort Matric School & Juniorate, Kolathur
2 <sup>nd</sup> August (10.30 am)	Leave for Anakkara from St. Louis Villa
2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	Anakkara
4 <sup>th</sup> August	Murickumthotty
5 <sup>th</sup> August	Chinnakannal (Leave for St. Louis Villa in the evening @ 4 pm)
6 <sup>th</sup> August	Leave for St. Thomas Mount in the afternoon
7 <sup>th</sup> August	St. Thomas Mount, Chennai
8 <sup>th</sup> August	Council Meeting

You are also requested to avoid banners and other external superfluous decorations. Kindly keep the welcome procedures dignified and becoming of us!

Once again, may I request the Local Superiors to make sure that the rooms are clean and have sufficient toilet facilities. The rooms must be kept mosquito free. Also ensure that simple food without much spice and chilly is served.

- Kindly check with me if you would like to include any other programme during our visit.

**17.Revision of DA:** The Provincial Council that met on St. Louis Villa on 25/06/2014 has revised the present DA of 20% to 25% with effect from June 2014. Kindly make sure that all the staff and employees are given the revised pay as per the guidelines of the Provincial administration. During the last Pay Scale revision (June 2013) some Communities delayed even the regular salaries!

**18.Bursars' and Accountants' Meeting:** The annual meeting of the Accountants and Bursars will be organized at Montfort College, Bangalore on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2014. The meeting will start at 9.30 a.m. The internal audit team will take up the individual budgets (2014-15) of each Community/Institution and will also study the way in which the Community adhered to and followed the budget of the previous year (2013-14). Hence, the bursars and accountants will come prepared with all the data to support the budgets of 2013-14 and 2014-15.

**19.Meeting of the LS, Heads of the Institutions and Bursars:** It will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> July 2014 at Montfort College, Bangalore. The meeting will start at 9.30 a.m and will get over at 4.30 p.m. All the Local Superiors, Heads of the Institutions and Bursars are expected to attend.

**20.Permissions, Journeys and visits:** In recent months, there is an anomalous increase in the visits and journeys by some of our Brothers. Kindly avoid the visits and journeys that are not very important. Even when it is unavoidable, one question can be asked for our introspection, "Will my absence from the Community affect the mission/work in the Community/School?" Sometimes, Brothers avoid taking permissions before leaving the Communities and set bad examples, especially to the younger ones. Some Local Superiors keep quiet about it. In some cases, permissions are sought for silly reasons too! Some of the visits are not positive nor do they build up healthy Community/ Religious life! In all these cases the amount of money spent is another important factor.

*\*Refer Page nos. 43+83, V & VI Provincial Chapters' booklet*

**21.Catechism:** As per the Provincial Chapter decisions all the Brothers must teach either Catechism or Moral Science even if they are retired. Local Superiors and Heads of the Institutions will make sure that the decision is strictly implemented in all our Institutions.

*\*Refer Page no. 91, V & VI Provincial Chapters' booklet*

**22.Legion of Mary:** Legion of Mary is a worldwide spiritual association that came into existence by the inspiration of St. Louis Grignion de Montfort. Hence, it must be considered as our spiritual heritage and we must make sure that it is initiated and its activities maintained in all our Institutions. One of the Brothers must be in-charge of it and could be the spiritual Father.



**23. Monthly Recollections:** Monthly Recollections and Community dialogues are not optional. As per the Community time table, they must be organized on a regular basis. Regularity and punctuality for morning and evening prayers is the need of the hour. When there is no morning Holy Eucharist in the Parish or in the Community, make sure that daily Eucharist celebration is not a casualty.

*\*1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Provincial Chapters' decisions*

**24. Community Project:** Local Superiors are requested to prepare the Community projects for the year 2014-15 and send a report to me before 15<sup>th</sup> July 2014. Community Project is not merely doing some charity or helping the poor financially. (Refer the Province Directory)

A Community project is an 'action plan' that embraces the entire 'life of the Community.' It should include the following areas:

1. Prayer life and spiritual culture
2. Its mission and Apostolate
3. An outreach programme that will include the prayer life and its mission or at least one of them.

The third part should have definite and active participation from all the Community members and the expenses if any must be met from the amount saved by the Community of Brothers by their personal abnegation and sacrifice.

**25. Agreements and contracts with outsiders:** We have come across some embarrassing situations wherein individual Brothers (HM/LS) enter into agreements with private companies and agencies, particularly Computer based organizations. When they are transferred or after the lapse of an year or two, the conditions and situations change – often the companies under the shade of the agreement carry away large amount of collections/money from us leading to huge liabilities! The Provincial administration has decided that henceforth, no individual will enter into such agreements without the written permission of the Provincial Superior. We also have some cases where the School properties and materials have been given away or outsiders were allowed to trespass/occupy the school premises without any proper authorization.

**26. Appointments or terminations:** As already instructed earlier, please check with the Provincial Superior before appointing staff/teachers **particularly in Government posts**. When we don't follow these and other Chapter guidelines, we are only betraying the interest of the Province with small temporary gains.

**27. Budget adherence:** Expenses or spending must be based on the approved budgets. Even if projects are included in the budget, separate permission must be obtained from the administration. Monthly and quarterly returns must be sent to the Province Bursar. The new budget prepared must be based on the trial balance of the previous year. We need not spend money even if we have surplus funds.

**28. MPCE-CoE:** Brothers who are interested to make use of the Counseling skills of Bro. Thomas Velimattam, may contact him regarding programmes for Students and teachers. Whenever various Seminars are organized in our Schools, it is advised that the Heads of the Institution and other Brothers of the Community are also present for these programmes. They may draw inspiration – lessons from it or also could chip in with some input sessions.

### **29. Permissions**

**a. Lake Montfort, Bangalore:**

- i. To purchase a RICOH Xerox machine and install 10 KVA UPS

**b. Montfort School, Yercaud:**

- i. To install a CCTV camera along with other peripherals at Deshayes Mount ICSE School

**c. Montfort College, Bangalore:**

- i. To avail a loan of Rs.1 Crore to complete the School building project at Thirumenahalli, Bangalore
- ii. To put up a basement, a Chapel and few living rooms for Brothers
- iii. Permitted to renovate and extend the College Canteen

**d. St. Mary's School, AN Mangalam:** To purchase 10 computers and furniture

**e. Montfort School, Anakkara:**

- i. To install a CCTV Camera and to purchase a Projector
- ii. To purchase an Ashok Leyland bus chassis

**f. Nirmala School, Kolathur**

- i. Re-floor the damaged areas
- ii. To purchase a LCD Projector & play materials for KG

### **30. Obituary:**

We deeply mourn the demise of:

- i. Mrs. Mariakutty(88), elder sister of Bro. P.J John
- ii. Mrs. Mariakutty(84), mother of Bro. Francis Abraham
- iii. Mr. Raphel, elder brother of Bro. Lawrence Gabriel
- iv. Mr. Joseph(76), father of Bro. Antony P.J
- v. Mrs. Lizzy(60), cousin of Bro. Paul Kachappilly

May their souls rest in peace!

Yours in Christ,



Bro. George Kalangod  
Provincial Superior