



PROVINCIAL'S CIRCULAR NO. – 16

Ycd/Cir./16/2012

09.02.2012

Dear Brothers,

Fraternal Greetings to you all!

The year 2012, has already advanced by 40 days and more. The aura of the New Year is slowly dying even as we are trying to follow and put to practice our new found resolutions of 2012. Our great expectations for the 'New Year' along with the changes we want to effect in our lives and in our Institutions may be waning and waxing with the flow of time. If we wait for tomorrow, yet another Year may pass over with nothing memorable to recall or to celebrate about! The other day, I was travelling by a night train in the general compartment as the New Year was rung in to the welcome chant of the people all around me. Though the compartment was packed beyond anyone's imagination, the young men enjoyed every moment of their long journey welcoming the 'New Year' with dance and songs. I asked one of them "What are you celebrating?" He gave me a strange look and retorted "Don't you know that it is the New Year?"... After a while when we reached the next Station, a few more young men jumped inside the compartment making our journey more difficult, but the celebrations continued... I asked my friend again "What is there to celebrate in the New Year?" This time he was further surprised and struggled to answer me. After a short pause he said, "Everybody is celebrating, so too am I"... Well, this journey of mine on 31st Dec. 2011 night, was an eye opener in my life... First of all, it gave me an insight into the sufferings of ordinary/poor people who convert their inconveniences into joyful experiences! More than that, I realized that we celebrate many events and occasions without even realizing the 'why' and 'what' of it! It is very important that we realize what we are celebrating... such as a Birthday, Anniversary, Jubilee, New Year, Annual day, Sports day, Feast day etc. Let there be 'meaning' and purpose in all our celebrations. Our celebrations should be 'joyful' but need not be soaked in mere pleasures that last for a moment or a day. They are beautiful opportunities to celebrate Montfortian values and Christian principles.

Recently I was struck by the wisdom of Bro. Wilfred during his advanced B'day celebrations. At the end of the celebrations, he said "I didn't want to celebrate my B'day as there are so many poor people around us who cannot afford to have a single square meal a day! For us every day is a B'day celebration..." I went back to my room sad but 'wiser', thinking about and repeating these golden

words of a living sage! The Holy Father has been speaking repeatedly about the new challenges faced by the church today. He has been lamenting about the 'practical atheism' creeping into our lives. If we don't

challenge ourselves about our expressions of faith and evaluate our lives as ‘true Montfortians’, we may also slip further into the black holes of ‘practical atheism’! Instead of getting stuck with petty and counter-witnessing atheistic tendencies, let us all ‘awake’ and ‘walk’ the path of commitment with Montfort our Father and Mary our Mother.

- 1. Admission to First Vows:** Novice Kalaimalar Prabu has been admitted to the First Profession. The First Profession will be organized in Sitagarha on 27th April 2012. Our advance congratulations to Novice Kalaimalar Prabu as we welcome him into our Province. Kindly pray for him and the other candidates and the formees who are preparing themselves to be part of us as true Montfortians.
- 2. The Third Councilor for SPD:** The Brothers of SPD, voted to elect a third councilor. The votes were counted and Bro Thomas Thottiyil was appointed as the 3rd Councilor by the Provincial Administration. Congratulations to Bro. Thomas Thottiyil.
- 3. Bro. Amalanathan:** Bro. Amalanathan returned from Tonga on 6th January 2012. For the time being, he will not be returning to SPD. He is placed in the community of St. Mary’s Agraharam as the Bursar in the place of Bro. Joseph Nirappil.
- 4. Bro Joseph Nirappil:** Bro. Joseph Nirappil is transferred to the community of Montfort School, Chinnakanal. I thank Bros. Amal & Joseph Nirappil for their generosity in accepting these changes at this part of the academic year.
- 5. Spiritual Rejuvenation Seminar for Junior Brothers:** A ‘Spiritual Rejuvenation Seminar’ was organized on 28th & 29th of January 2012, as part of our ongoing formation programme. This programme was organized by the Province Formation Director, Bro. George Padikara at Montfort College, Bangalore.
- 6. Synergy 2012:** Synergy 2012 organized by the Province at Lake Montfort School, Bangalore on 30th & 31st January 2012, was a great success. I must once again thank all the Communities, Local Superiors, Principals, the Students and Staff members who participated in this great event of unity and togetherness. My special word of appreciation to Bro. M.P Antony the Local Superior, Lake Montfort, Bro. Niju Thomas the Principal and the Brothers of Montfort College Community. Congratulations to Bro. Abraham A M who telecast the program live & also put it in YouTube (www.youtube.com/sgyercaud). The above team of Brothers have proved the dictum ‘working together works’. Synergy 2012 also demonstrated to the participants, Staff & Students, the Montfortian ‘lines of force’ that binds us all together as one family inspite of our cultural, religious and linguistic differences. The cultural programs were of high quality and demonstrated the inherent talents of students and the leadership qualities of our Brothers and members of Staff. As I have already announced, the Local Superiors and Principals will kindly provide an opportunity for the entire school community to view their Synergy Programme adding a few more thoughts and inspirational anecdotes on St. Montfort and the Chapter Theme “Authentic Leaders for a Greater Brotherhood”. All the participants will shortly receive special certificates from the Province. Synergy 2013 will be organized in Tamil Nadu, the venue will be announced later.

All the Local Superiors are requested to send me copies of their Synergy programme (Soft copy & a print out)

- 7. 31st General Chapter:** The General Chapter will commence at Casa, Rome on March 25th evening & will conclude on 20th April 2012. There will be ‘17’ capitulants from Indian Provinces.

- 8. Golden Jubilee of Casa (Generalate House):** Built in 1962, Casa completes 50 years of its construction this year. Our prayerful Jubilee greetings to all who live in Casa especially to Bro. Superior General and the members of his council. May the Lord continue to use this 'house' as a power house of leadership, inspiration & blessings.
- 9. New History Book by Bro. Lawrence Joseph:** Bro. Lawrence Joseph has updated and re-edited his earlier work "A 100 year History of Indian Mission 1903-2003", as "**History of Montfort Brothers of St. Gabriel 1715 – 2010**". He has taken care to present the history of our congregation as well as the history of our Indian Provinces in a compact form using very simple and lucid language. My sincere appreciation and thanks to Bro. Lawrence for this useful and historical work. The Province is proud of him!

Following the example of Bro. Lawrence Joseph, I invite Brothers to take up such initiatives & projects even if it is of lesser magnitude. Brothers who are retired or those who do not have sufficient academic or other clerical works must fill their days and vacant hours with some useful productive work which will help them to be busy and also leave positive tracks in their lives as well as in the history of our Province. Everyone cannot write history of the Province, but we can create history by taking up fresh initiatives such as gardening, extending our supportive arms to the poor around, taking up Marian devotional mission, active participation in 'Associate' activities, or just be an apostle of love, peace, joy, harmony and encouragement. Some times I get a feeling that some of us excel in the art of doing nothing and are causing much damage & destruction among ourselves -2 *Thess 3: 10-13*

- 10. Admissions and Appointments:** In some of our schools there is great demand for admissions while in others we are on the look out for more students. In either of these cases & in the appointment of staff, kindly follow the Chapter guidelines and instructions given periodically by the Administration and the Provincial Superior. The church is very particular that we admit all the Catholics irrespective of their background. We should consider it as a privilege to admit all of them. The 'RTE' guidelines must be respected & followed carefully to avoid disciplinary problems. Even if we are not able to admit all those who have applied, let us treat the parents with respect and dignity. If there is a revision of fees and other payments at various levels, the permission for the same must be obtained from the Provincial Administration.
- 11. Fees Collection:** All the fees must be collected through the Banks only. Some Institutions are yet to follow this guideline giving various excuses and are involving office staff to collect fees in cash. Amounts collected under various 'heads' including the amount for picnics, excursions, additional coaching, uniforms etc...must be accounted through the Banks.
- 12. Annual Budget:** As informed earlier, the Annual Budgets must be prepared carefully & submitted by the end of February 2012. (Following the guidelines already given last year) If you need any clarification or help, kindly contact Bro. George Padikara, the Convener of Finance Commission or Bro. Biju, the Provincial Bursar. In the case of projects & extraordinary expenses, the permission must be separately obtained from the Provincial Administration even if these projects are mentioned in the Budget. Please send the budgets to Bro. Oliver Ericatt, the Provincial Secretary.
- 13. Jubilee Celebrations:** The Jubilees of the Religious Profession of the following Brothers will be celebrated at the Province level during the month of May 2012.

Bros. Augustine Novello
Irudaya Michael
Jacob Ezhanikatt
Jose Pallattumadathil
Joseph Louis

Golden Jubilee

Bro. Joseph Thomas

Silver Jubilee

14. Anakkara: There was an incident in which a student was punished physically by the Principal. The reaction by the parents was a bit serious. In order to reduce the tension in the school Bro. Paul is advised to be away from the School for some time. Meanwhile, Bro. Jacob Ezhanikatt, the Local Superior is appointed as Correspondent and Principal in-charge. Kindly pray for the peaceful settlement of the problem.

15. Permissions: The following permissions are given by the Provincial Administration:

- a) St Mary's School, A N Mangalam - to take up the construction of the Toilet Block for the Primary School.
- b) Nirmala Higher Sec. School - to expand the existing School Office at a cost of ` .200000
- c) St. Joseph's H. S. Soosaigiri - to sell the old Scooter and buy a Motor Bike.
- d) Montfort School, Anakkara - to build a new Toilet Block for the Boys.
- e) GNWS, Kalghatgi - to extend the lease agreement with the Indian Overseas Bank for our property at Tumarikoppa.
- to buy a Bolero Jeep at a cost of ` . 700246
- f) Lake Montfort School, Bangalore - to deepen the Bore well in the disputed land as well as to dig a new bore well in the small plot of land outside the School Compound near the entrance.
- to pave with cement block the square in front of the Primary School and the road leading to the Main School.
- to sell the Old Bolero & to buy a New Bolero Pick up.
- to install a New water filter of capacity 250 Liters.
- g) St. Thomas Mount Community - to construct additional rooms above the existing Brothers Quarters.
- to upgrade the Matriculation School Computer Lab at a cost of ` .125000.
- to paint all the buildings of Montfort Technical School.

- h) Montfort Valley School, Murickumthotty- to complete one part of the 2nd floor, above the class rooms.
- i) Montfort School, Yercaud
 - to do the false ceiling for the Girls' Study Hall.
 - to take up the external cleaning work of the School Chapel.
 - to buy Musical Instruments at a cost of ` . 114260
 - to avail a short term Bank loan to tide over the immediate financial constraints before the New Admissions.
- j) Bro M P John
 - to visit Botswana on a personal mission.
- k) Bro V L Thomas
 - to buy a laptop to facilitate conducting Seminars and programs for Schools and Institutions.

16. New Constructions: The extension work of the Provincial House and the construction work for the New Juniorate Home at Kolathur in our land outside the school compound are in progress.

17. Maps of the African Provinces: Along with this circular I am including **a map** for every community indicating the geographical boundaries of the African Provinces. These maps were supplied by Bro. Robert Thiaw, the Asst. General. Our thanks & appreciation for the same.

18. Request for Our Prayers: The elder sister of Bro. John P J has undergone a surgery to remove a 'blood clot' in the brain. Kindly pray for her speedy recovery.

19. Obituary: a) Mr. Antonyswamy, 92, grandfather of Bro. Prabu passed away on 26.01.12.
 b) Mr. Mani, 79, elder brother of Bro. Joseph Louis passed away on 31.01.12.

Our prayerful condolences to the families of the above deceased persons. May their souls rest in peace.

Provincial's Itinerary

Feb. 4	: Chinnakanal.
Feb. 5	: Murickumthotty, Anakkara
Feb. 6 - 8	: Louis Villa.
Feb. 9 -12	: Formators Meeting & National Council Meeting @Montfort Spirituality Centre,
Feb.13	: Louis Villa
Feb.15 – 17	: St. Thomas Mount, Chennai
Feb.18 – 19	: Nirmala, Kolathur
Feb. 20	: Louis Villa
Feb. 21	: Provincial Council Meeting
Feb. 22	: St. Mary's Agraharam
Feb. 24	: Lake Montfort, Bangalore
Feb. 25-26	: Kalghatgi
Feb. 27	: Mysore
Feb. 28 - 29	: Louis Villa
March 2	: Murickumthotty
March 3	: Anakkara
March 5	: Louis Villa (evening leaving for Chennai)
March 6	: Chennai Dr. Rajarm's son's wedding
March 7	: Community School (Morning)& Deshayes Mount – Annual day (evening)
March 8&9	: Montfort Yercaud
March 10&11	: Montfort College & Managing Council Meeting @CRI, Bangalore & Deepahalli
March 12	: St. Joseph's Yercaud
March 13	: Canara Bank function (2.30 – 3.00)
March14&15	: Provincial Council Meeting
March 22	: Leaving for Rome
April 27	: Returning back to India

With regards,

Yours fraternally,

B. George K. J.

(Bro. George Kalangod)
Provincial Superior