

PROVINCIAL'S CIRCULAR NO. – 23

Ycd/Cir./23/2013

16.2.13



Dear Brothers in Christ,

Fraternal Greetings to you all.

Once again we are entering a ‘floodgate’ of blessings as we embark on a Lenten journey with Christ our Lord leading us on a path of His passion and suffering.

‘Repent and believe in the Gospel’ is the ‘watchword’ we hear from the pulpit to the empty sepulcher. The magic number of this holy season is **‘forty’**... reminding us of the forty days of torrential rain in the days of Noah, the forty days of fasting and petition by Moses on Mount Sinai, forty days of painful journey to Mount Horeb by the prophet Elijah, forty years of wandering by the chosen people of God in the desert and the forty days of fasting and prayer of Jesus before his public ministry. All these experiences were followed by something ‘New and Transformative’ in the lives of the individuals and personalities concerned. All these personalities made a ‘U Turn’ in their lives and returned to the Lord only to experience His blessings

in abundance. Today the Church is inviting us to take the same route with **'three powerful weapons'** to protect ourselves from the onslaught of the 'Evil' who promises us the 'whole world' if only we fall down and worship him! **Prayer**, **Penance** and **Almsgiving** are the three invincible weapons which can outdo the most destructive weapons of the world!

Prayer will improve our relationship with God which is nothing but the best expression of our faith. Penance is the cleansing weapon which we can employ on ourselves so that we too have the privilege of carrying our crosses and follow our Saviour who conquered the world through His 'Cross'. Almsgiving is to be understood as the practice of our vow of poverty and its true expression in denouncing the negative tendencies of the world which are opposed to the Beatitudes of Christ. It should unfold to us the real meaning of His manifesto revolving around the poor, rich, blind and the oppressed. "Blessed are the poor, for theirs is the Kingdom of God". **Mat. 5/3**

Each one of us whether young, old, retired or active has enough opportunities to sharpen and use these Lenten weapons effectively in our daily lives during this season. Let us turn to Mary our Mother who accompanied her Son up to His cross and resurrection, to lead us in this privileged path of purification and grace along with St. Montfort who discovered wisdom in the folly of the Cross. We can be more innovative than Noah, Moses and Elijah in discovering something 'New and priceless' after the forty days of our Lenten sojourn.

Maybe, we could spend 40 minutes of extra time daily for prayer along with forty acts of kindness in terms of words and deeds. This could further be coloured by forty abnegations in taste and sensual pleasures at the table and before the TV along with the cell phones and computers. At the resurrection, when we recite "Joy to thee, O Queen of Heaven..." we

could also join our Mother in faith saying “Joy is mine, O mother as I have walked with your Son suffering and dying only to rise with Him from my infirmities and to share in His joy and peace”.

- 1. Late Rev. Bro. Anselm:** Once again I take this opportunity to recall with reverence and recommend to your prayers this great soul who has left us on 7.1.2013. I thank all the Brothers who attended the funeral and also sent me messages of condolence. I have shared some of my sincere feelings and reflections in my funeral oration. Hope you have gone through it. His life should teach us many a lessons. I thank the community of Montfort School for taking care of him during his healthy and sick days. If anyone would like to have a CD of his funeral, kindly write to me. Brothers are requested to send suitable articles/write-up on Bro. Anselm for the ‘Memoriam’. May his soul rest in peace.
- 2. Synergy 2013:** ‘Synergy 2013’ organized at Montfort A.I School, Yercaud from 29-30th of January 2013, was a success in every sense as it achieved most of the objectives with which it was initiated by the Province. All the Institutions came up with innovative and thought-provoking programmes which was appreciated by all. Most of the programmes were dignified and of high standards irrespective of the economic status of the Institutions. All the three areas allotted to the participants viz: a Tableau on St. Montfort demonstrating his faith in the providence of God, a Tableau on Bio-diversity and Ecological concerns and the songs written, composed and rendered by our own students brought out effectively St. Montfort’s deep faith and trust in God’s providence in a language that was digestible for the audience. The programmes also answered with sufficient practical suggestions and challenges for the ecological concerns. The Montfortian response to the ecological concerns was commendable. Once again ‘Synergy 2013’ focussed

very much on 'True devotion' to our Blessed Mother. It was a measuring yardstick of our devotion and love for Mary, our Mother. My appreciation to the Heads of all the Institutions and the members of Staff who prepared the students who in turn by their participation became part of our Montfortian heritage. I take this opportunity to thank and appreciate the community of Montfort school, especially the Local Superior, Bro. Ignatius and the Principal Bro. Varghese, who is also the convenor of the Education commission, for having taken the leadership role in organizing this programme effectively. The CDs with the entire programme is ready. Soon, each community will receive your CDs and the Albums. The next 'Time magazine' will bring out the salient features of Synergy 2013.

3. New Admissions, Fee Structures, and Collection of Fees etc: I have written separate letters to the Local Superiors, HMs, Principals and Bursars with clear instructions and guidelines based on the policy of the Provincial Administration regarding fee structure and collection of fees. Uniforms, Sports & games outfits, Text books and Note books must also be brought into the fee structure. All the fee structures must be approved by the Provincial Administration. Soon, the Province will work out a common format for fee structure. For further details, kindly go through the individual letters already sent to your communities.

4. Biography of Fr. Gabriel Deshayes: The latest work of Bro. Lawrence Joseph is a beautiful biography of Fr. Gabriel Deshayes our re-founder. It is well written in simple language. Copies have already been sent to all the communities. Our appreciation to Bro. Lawrence Joseph.

5. Disturbances and Problems in some of our Institutions: During the last few months some of our Institutions have gone through or are facing some problems due to a variety of issues. While the Administration is aware of it and is following up wherever it is required, may I request the Local

Superiors and Heads of the Institutions to be extremely careful and cautious about the highly inflammable situation prevailing outside our Institutions all over India. We are accountable to what happens inside our institutions. Instead of finding fault and blaming each other, let us get back to the Lord and our Blessed Mother in Prayer.

- 6. First Vows:** This year the First Profession at Eachinkadu will take place on 27.4.2013. We have one Novice, Joseph A, who will be professed along with 29 Novices. Let us pray specially for Joseph A, so that God will give him the strength and courage to say 'yes' to His call and to face the challenges ahead of him as a true Montfortian.
- 7. New Provincial Administration:** The New Provincial Administration will take over responsibilities on 28th April 2013. Prior to that, the election process of the Provincial Councilors will commence from 15th March 2013 to April 15th 2013. Separate intimation will reach you regarding this matter around 15th March 2013.
- 8. Province level meeting of the MGA office bearers:** The Partnership Commission will meet on 28th of February 2013 at St. Louis Villa to plan out the Province Level Meeting of the MGA office bearers from all our Institutions. The details of this programme will be intimated to you soon after the meeting on 28th of Feb. 2013.
- 9. Internal Inspection of our Institutions:** The Internal Inspection of all our institutions in Tamilnadu, Kerala & Karnataka will be organized from 20.2.13 to 19.3.13. Though it is rather late, I request all the Local Superiors & Heads of the Institutions to co-operate with the Internal Inspection team. We have already forwarded the modified format of the Internal Inspection to all the Local Superiors and Heads of the Institutions. Once again, I would like to remind you all that there is no need for any reception to the Internal Inspection team (*refer my letter dated 14.1.13 to all the Local Superiors and Heads of the Institutions*).

10. Preparation of the Budget, 2013-14: I hope you all have received the Internal Audit Report(s) from the Provincial Bursar. Kindly go through the report(s) and discuss the same during the Community Meeting. Meanwhile, you are requested to start preparing the Budget(s) for 2013-14 as per the guidelines given during the last two years. The Budget(s) should reach the Provincial Bursar by the 1st week of March 2013. If you have any doubt regarding the budget preparation, kindly contact me.

11. Jubilees: The Province is proud to celebrate the Diamond and Golden Jubilees of the following Brothers:

Diamond Jubilee : Bro. Wilfrid, Bro. Oliver Ericatt & Bro. Gerald Mary

Golden Jubilee : Bro. Antony M P & Bro. Thomas Montfort

The Province level celebrations will be organized during the month of May 2013. The venue and date will be announced later. Let us pray in a special way throughout the year 2013 for these Brothers.

12. Permissions:

- 1) **Montfort School Chinnakanal:** To purchase a new school bus.
- 2) **Montfort School Yercaud:** To purchase a new Xerox machine.
- 3) **Anakkara:** To Fence the school property with barbed wires and the play ground with chain links.
- 4) **Lake Montfort:** To purchase an Inverter.

13. Obituary:

We deeply mourn the demise of:

- (1) Mr. Jose, 66, nephew of Bro. Oliver.
- (2) Bro. Antony Thumullil, Province of Ranchi.
- (3) Mrs. Mariam, 91, Aunty of Bro. Paul K P.

May their souls rest in peace.

My Itinerary

- 14 – 21st Feb. : National Council at Guwahati and visit to North East
- 25th Feb. : Visit to St. Mary's Agraharam
- 27th Feb. : Visit to Deshayes Mount, Yercaud
- 28th Feb. : Partnership commission meeting at St. Louis Villa
- 1st March : Vocation Promotion commission meeting at St. Louis Villa
- 4th March : Visit to Lake Montfort
- 9th March : Provincial Council meeting
- 12th March : Visit of Communities in India begins...
- 18- 28th March : Visit to SPD for the official taking over of St. Thomas Lautoka from the Parish/Diocese (yet to be confirmed)
- From 2nd April 2013 : Visit of Communities in India continues...

Yours affectionately in Christ,



Bro George Kalangod
Provincial Superior

Dear brothers, in this season of Lent, as we prepare to celebrate the event of the Cross and Resurrection – in which the love of God redeemed the world and shone its light upon history – I express my wish that all of you may spend this precious time rekindling your faith in Jesus Christ, so as to enter with him into the dynamic of love for the Father and for every brother and sister that we encounter in our lives.

– Pope Benedict XVI

