



## PROVINCIAL'S CIRCULAR NO. – 27

Ycd/Cir./27/2013

26.09.2013

Dear Brothers,

Fraternal Greetings to you all!

During the month of August, our Muslim brethren celebrated Ramzan. Their strict adherence to the fasting and the intensity of prayers prior to this feast and also during their 'Haj pilgrimage' surpasses in many ways our own practices of piety and penance. Similarly, during the month of September, our Hindu brothers and sisters celebrated 'Vinayaga Chaturthi'. The enthusiasm with which this festival is celebrated raises the eyebrows of many, especially the so called orthodox and the puritan believers, who think that God is exclusively their "Private Possession"! More than in the South, this festival has an amplified religious atmosphere in the Northern part of our country. These celebrations are beautiful external expressions of the "God experience" of the people of India, especially the Non-Christians.

Again, during the same month of September, we celebrated the great feast of the 'Birthday' of our Blessed Mother. While travelling from Chennai and also from Bangalore, I noticed thousands of kavi clad men and women walking all the way to Vailankani with piety and reverence. Most of these pilgrims were barefooted and carried very little belongings, trusting the words of Christ in Mat.10:9-10. Some of the pilgrims who walked all the way to Vailankani, told me they took 12 days to reach the Shrine from Yercaud! Those who cycled their way to the Shrine, took four to five days. Year after year, their numbers are increasing and are following a pattern followed by the devotees to Palani, Melmaruvathur and Sabarimalai. I find in these pilgrims a 'Montfort' walking all the way to Paris and later to Rome. At one end of life's spectrum, across the globe we find an increase in crimes, corruption and a loss of sense of sin, while on the other end, we find an increasing quest for God and a search for a spiritual path and enlightenment.

I wonder if we have a message from these external devotional flavours exhibited by our Muslim, Hindu and Christian brothers and sisters, inspite of their limitations in terms of Spiritual knowledge, lesser righteousness and ignorance of Bliss! Can we also join these ordinary people and merit the title, 'People of God'? In other words, do we have sufficient 'expressions' of God experience in our lives, beyond the observances of our Rules and spiritual practices often kept to a minimum? In this '**Year of Faith**', the pilgrims in our neighbourhood are true models of Faith and absolute trust in His Providence. The 'MGA' and confraternities like the "Legion of Mary" are wonderful forums for us to match the devotional exuberance of the ordinary people who are meriting the vision of God through their simple life-related beliefs and practices. Even if we have not understood so far, the purpose and raison d'être of our Association and Partnership with laity, have a closer look at the pilgrims of our country, irrespective of their destination and Religious colours. Walk with them in spirit and we will learn and understand the need for 'Partnership' and "Collaboration" with them. We will also discover easy means and paths to reach Him without the satiety of religiosity and getting stuck with insignificant matters that reduce us to dwarfs. I hope that our Brothers will read the signs of the times and take a leaf out of these modern pilgrims' book of life, instead of distancing ourselves from the visible paths that lead to the abode of the Lord. Authentic leaders don't distance themselves from their brothers and sisters.

#### **1. Visit of Bro. Superior General:**

Rev. Bro. John Kallarackal, Superior General visited our Province from July 11 to August 12, 2013. He started his visit from Bangalore sector and came to Yercaud sector. Later he visited Chennai and moved on to Kerala Sector. He took time off to meet every Brother of the Province in India and also addressed the students and members of the Staff in all our Institutions. His addresses and reflections were inspiring and educative. We organized three Special public receptions in his honour at Bangalore, Yercaud and Chennai. These receptions were well attended by the Religious, Brothers, Associates and friends. During these receptions, the Superior General was introduced and well focussed through Power Point Programs.

At the end of his visit, he had a Special Provincial Council meeting on August 11<sup>th</sup> at St. Louis Villa. The Superior General, spent quality time sharing and reflecting with the Council his observations, about the mission of the Brothers in the Province. He drew the attention of the Council to the 31<sup>st</sup> General Chapter Message and Orientations. He suggested ways and means to implement the same effectively in the Province for the next 5 years. While appreciating the reflections and decisions centered around the 'Province concerns' highlighted by the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapters, he wanted the administration to implement the same in the backdrop of the

31<sup>st</sup> General Chapter Message and Orientations. He appreciated the Provincial administration for the efforts taken in Vocation Promotion and Finance Management areas. He wanted the Brothers of the Province to sustain and take forward the efforts taken so far. He advised the administration and the Brothers of the Province to think big and act proactively instead of getting pre-occupied with small and trivial issues such as orphan letters and gossips.

He thanked the Provincial and the Brothers, particularly the Local Superiors and Heads of the Institutions for the warm welcome, hospitality and reception accorded to him. He commented on the good work of the members of the staff and the students who are highly talented and disciplined.

Bro. Superior General's visit to our Province at this juncture of our history was very significant and a source of blessing. Accompanying him was a pleasure and was a moment of grace, enlightenment and learning. The effects of his visit will be seen in the days to come. Once again, I take this opportunity to thank him sincerely in the name of the Province Administration along with the Brothers, Members of the Staff, Students, Collaborators and Associates.

## **2. New District Administration for SPD:**

During the Provincial Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2013 in the presence of Rev. Bro. John Kallarackal, the Superior General, votes for the consultation for the appointment of the District Superior and the Councillors for SPD were counted.

Bro. Gibi has been appointed as the District Superior along with Bro. Francis Abraham, Bro. Shaji & Bro. Sahayaraj as District Councillors. The new District Administration assumed responsibility from August 2013. Their term of office is till 27<sup>th</sup> April 2016. I appreciate the availability and willingness of the Bros. Gibi, Francis Abraham, Shaji & Sahayaraj to take up this responsibility. I am sure they will assume their responsibility and discharge their duties in the light of the theme and message of the 31<sup>st</sup> General Chapter viz. '**Authentic Leaders for a Greater Brotherhood.**' They will always strive to be servant leaders like Christ and brothers of Christ. The Lord who has called us will give us the strength and courage to carry out the Mission entrusted to us. I wish the new team a successful tenure as leaders of our South Pacific District Mission.

I also take this opportunity to thank sincerely and place on record the effective contribution by the previous SPD Administration under the leadership of Bro. Francis Abraham. Bro. Francis deserves my special words of appreciation for his able leadership and good work for the growth and development of SPD.

With the same breath, I thank the Councillors of the previous administration, Bros. V.U Thomas, Shaji and Thomas Thottiyil for their contribution to the South Pacific District.

### **3. A Revised statute for SPD:**

The original statute of SPD was formulated by Bro. Ignatius in 1998, the then Provincial Superior. The statutes were revised recently by the Province administration to take care of the various changes and needs of the District. The revised statutes were approved by the Superior General in Council.

### **4. Annual Budgets:**

The Community, Institutional and the Province Budgets were seriously studied by the Finance Commission and the Provincial Administration. Most of the Budgets were passed by the Provincial Council which met at St.Louis Villa on 08/09/2013. The approved budgets will soon reach the Communities with observations and suggestions. In spite of the training for the Bursars, Accountants and appeal to the Local Superiors and Headmasters, a lot of discrepancies were noticed in many of the budgets. A new tendency in most of the Institutions is to increase the 'Capital investments' and to increase the spending. Individual expenses are also on the increase. Quite a few Bursars are either not doing their duty or are not allowed to carry out their responsibilities as per the Chapter Decisions and Guidelines. One major observation is that many of the Communities are not following/respecting the approved budgets till the end of the financial year. The monthly and quarterly returns clearly indicate that the expenses are not based on the approved budgets.

### **5. The New Pay Scale for Staff and Domestic workers:**

The new pay scale proposed by the Finance Commission and improved further by the Provincial Administration is ready. The Kerala High Court order and the 'CBSE Board' directives were kept in mind while working out this new pay scale. This pay scale is separately sent to the Local Superiors, H.Ms and Bursars. **They will take care not to publish the same or announce the proposals to the members of staff and domestic workers.** They will work out the salary for the staff and domestic workers based on the instructions given in the newly prepared pay scale following the format included and forward the same to me on or before 12<sup>h</sup> Oct. 2013. The Provincial Bursar will verify the calculations in the worksheet along with the Province Accountant and make the corrections if any. Thereafter, I will send back the approved copy of the worksheet to the Local Superior with suggestions for immediate implementation.

**Only after the receipt of the approved copies, you are expected to implement/announce the new scale in your respective Institutions. This pay scale must be implemented from June 2013, with retrospective effect. The difference must be paid for the months of June, July, August and September along with October Salary.**

**6. Golden Jubilee:**

Brothers Jacob Pynadath & Mathew Panathanath are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of their Religious Profession this year. We congratulate them and will specially pray for them throughout this Jubilee year. We shall have the Province Level celebrations during the month of April/May 2014. The venue and the date will be announced later.

**7. 'Time', the Province News bulletin:**

Hereafter, kindly send the news items from your Communities to me directly. Make sure they are well edited without grammatical flaws. Send me the content through e-mail and also through a C.D **in word format**. The Local Superiors are responsible for this work. In this academic year, we have not yet brought out even one issue of the 'TIME'. You are requested to send me a brief write-up on major happenings in your Institutions with suitable photographs latest by 5<sup>th</sup> October 2013. Kindly include in the report the inauguration and activities of MGA in your Institution for this academic year.

**8. Annual Retreats:**

The first Annual Retreat was held at Montfort Spirituality Centre, Bangalore, from Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> evening to 28<sup>th</sup> September noon. The second Retreat also will be held at the same venue from Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> evening to 1<sup>st</sup> January noon 2014. I am happy to note that all the Brothers of the Province in India, except the student Brothers are attending either of the retreats. However, I must say, that we are yet to learn the art of the doing annual retreats and spiritual exercises by ourselves with responsibility and a sense of "**I need it**" attitude.

**9. Bro. Jim Thekken:**

Bro. Jim Thekken reached Tanzania (**Dar es Salaam**) safely on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2013. He is busy getting ready the documents and other infrastructures required to start a Business College over there. We wish his mission in Tanzania all success.

**10. SPD candidates for the Novitiate in Tanzania:**

Two of our candidates Vilimone Lasaga & Iowane Nabuli from SPD, bound for the Novitiate in Tanzania were late by 5 months due to the delay in obtaining their entry permit (visa) and hence they are placed in the Pre-Novitiate at Morogoro for 6 months. They will start their novitiate in January 2014. I appreciate the efforts of Bros. Francis & Sahayaraj for recruiting & preparing them for Pre-Novitiate at Tanzania. I also thank the Provincial Superior of Hyderabad Province, DS, and the Novice Master of Tanzania for accepting them. Two more candidates from SPD will leave for Tanzania shortly.

**11. Province Commissions:**

May I request the new Commissions of the Province to take up the responsibilities seriously and contribute effectively for the growth of the Province. The Commissions will meet in Louis Villa at the earliest and plan out their action plans and strategies.

**12. The New Personnel:**

The new 'Personnel' for 2013-14, will soon reach your Communities. I thank the Province of Hyderabad, particularly Bro. Devassy, the LS and Principal of Boys Town, Jahanuma for printing the same beautifully.

**13. Vocation Promotion and Formation:**

The Vocation Promotion and Formation team met at St. Louis Villa along with the Provincial Superior on 2.9.2013. The team discussed at length the various strategies and steps to be taken for the Vocation Promotion activities in the Province for this academic year. Based on the discussion, Bro. Louis Alex, the Convener was asked to prepare an action plan and an elaborate schedule along with Bro. Irudaya Michael who will take up the field work of recruiting. I appreciate the team for their initiative and generosity in spending their time and energy for this mission. All the Brothers who are included in the Vocation Promotion schedule for 2013-14 are requested to collaborate with the Convener and the Province Recruiter. I have already sent copies of the 'meeting report' and 'action plans' to all concerned. May the Lord of harvest send more workers to His harvest. Kindly continue to recite daily the prayers for Vocation

**14. Visit of Bro. Ambroise:**

Bro. Ambroise, the Executive Secretary of GSJP visited our Province from 13.8.13 to 17.8.13. He visited the MCDS, St. Joseph's Susaigiri, Eachinkadu Novitiate, Nirmala Kolathur, St. Mary's A.N Mangalam and Community School, Kombuthooki in addition to a few other Communities. We thank him for his encouraging visit.

**15. Visit of French Students along with Bro. Maurice:**

26 students and 3 staff members from Saint Gabriel, Saint Michel, Saint-Laurent-sur-Sèvre, along with Bro. Maurice Herault will be visiting our Province from 15<sup>th</sup> Oct to 23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2013. We welcome them to our Province and wish them a fruitful visit and interaction with our Students, Staff and Brothers. They will reach Salem on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2013. Bro. Jacob Ezhanikatt will accompany them while they are in our Province. I thank him for his availability and generosity. The Communities of Montfort School, Yercaud; Montfort College and Montfort Spirituality Centre will take the responsibility of accommodating them and organizing various interactive sessions.

**16. Decisions of the 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapters:**

The 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapters' Booklet has been sent to you long ago. Brothers were asked to study this document individually and together as a Community. Kindly send me a brief report of the same with the decisions you have taken exclusively for the Community, based on the Chapter decisions.

**17. Acting Provincial Superior:**

I will be away in Rome from 6<sup>th</sup> Oct to 18<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2013 to participate in the Provincials' Formation Programme. Kindly pray for its success. Bro. K K Thomas will be the acting Provincial during my absence.

**18. Permissions:**

1. **Montfort College:** To dig a bore well in Thirumenahalli.
2. **Montfort School, Yercaud:** To purchase a cooking mixer, 1000 plastic chairs, 9 Desktop Computers with accessories & a Piano
3. **Deshayes Mount School:** To purchase 8 Desktop Computers with accessories
4. **Lake Montfort School:** To purchase two buses & to construct a Hu methane gas plant.
5. **Matriculation School, Kolathur:** To purchase a new bus

6. **St. Thomas Mount:** To purchase a car, to install 40 computers & UPS, play materials for K.G & to install a Solar power unit

7. **Murickumthotty:** To avail a bank loan to purchase a new bus

**19. Recommended for your prayers:**

Bro. Joseph Nirappil was admitted in St. Mary's Hospital, Salem on September 10 with an infected diabetic foot. Two minor surgeries were done on his swollen foot and he is slowly recovering. Kindly pray for his speedy recovery.

**20. Obituary:**

We deeply mourn the demise of:

1. Bro. Paul Chalil, Pune Province
2. Mrs. Eliza, Aunty of Bro. V LThomas
3. Augusty, father of Late Bro. Jose Kanampuza
4. Mr. Chacko, 74, elder brother of Bro. K.K Thomas

May their souls rest in peace!

Yours in Christ,



Bro. George Kalangod

Provincial Superior

Jesus teaches us another way: Go out. Go out and share your testimony, go out and interact with your brothers, go out and share, go out and ask. Become the Word in body as well as spirit.

Pope Francis I