



MONTFORT BROTHERS OF ST. GABRIEL

PROVINCE OF YERCAUD

PROVINCIAL'S CIRCULAR NO. - 28

YCD/Cir./28/2014

03.03.2014

Dear Brothers,

Fraternal Greetings!

When we are confronted with the question on what we hope to achieve in life, our answer would be as simple as **"I want to be holy."** That is what God needs of us and what God wants of us.

"To be a saint is not a luxury. It is necessary for the salvation of the world," Pope Francis said on Sunday, 23rd February 2014 at the meeting of the Cardinals in Rome.

Beginning on Wednesday, March 05, 2014, the Journey begins ... the journey that asks us to examine the deepest parts of our being, to recognize our need for change, to recognize that we cannot achieve that change ourselves and to recognize the One who can... a journey in answer to the invitation to **'come home'** to Him, who continually calls each of us to become a **'new person in Christ.'**

The season of Lent offers us a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, rooted in our baptism. This is the special time of the year set apart inviting us to look deeply into every relationship and situation that burdens us; to look beyond our own world; to see things and people as He sees them; to trust the Lord to work wonders according to His plan and wisdom and not according to ours.

In our busy world, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we've done and failed to do and to be generous to those in need. We are created for relationships. **We cannot be right with God and wrong with others.** We come across Brothers who are very faithful to their prayer life, but cannot live in harmony with the Brothers of their Community! In fact, our relationships with others reflect our own personal relationship with God.

During this season, let us reach up to Jesus and let the ***fire from the altar*** touch us and set the dying embers ablaze with His cleansing Spirit.

Creativity goes beyond producing art, paintings, sculpture, music, poetry or even flower arrangements and handicrafts. It could be defined as that which can take the painful, ordinary or ugly; the unfair and the chaotic to produce healing, beauty, justice and order.

We need to be shaken out of our inertia, ignorance and blindness, into the action of reaching out in Jesus' Name. We need to plead before God to help us overcome our inertia, our unbelief that God can minister through the likes of us.

Allow the Spirit of God to help us to look around ... what do we see? .. dowry deaths.. . honour killing divorce ... child abuse ... rape... prostitution...trafficking ... abortions ... gay marriages drug addiction ... terrorism ... homicide ... suicide ... depression ... loneliness ... sickness ... povertythe list is endless - encroaching into our own lives in communities!

How have we responded to the world around us? Like an ostrich? Hiding our heads in the sands of our religion, religious ideals and ministry, refusing even to see or accept the upheavals and pain around us? Or using filters to respond to those that do not make us feel uncomfortable? Have we sensed the needs around us; felt the pain of those who suffer around us? **Lent** is the opportune time to answer all the above questions and straighten our lives. If we have responded so far with indifference and despair, here is the right time to put things right and spearhead our lives towards Him.

Jesus stands at the door and asks: “**Open to me..., Will you be made whole?**” Trembling? Fearful? Reach out and touch Him in faith and feel His power through His Spirit surging through our veins once more.

John 7: 37 – 38: “***If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.***”

1. Visit to SPD

Along with Rev. Bro. K.M Joseph, the Asst. General, I had visited SPD from 13th February to 24th February 2014. Though rather hectic, it was a very useful visit. We met all the Brothers in the district and also had a Council meeting with the District administration. Without sufficient personnel, Brothers at SPD are struggling hard to carry on the mission over there. In Suva, Bro. Shaji is alone with a Candidate. In Xavier College, Bro. Francis is alone and at St. Thomas School, Lautoka, Bro. Sahayaraj is alone. However, they form one Community at Ba. At Savu Savu, Bros. Gibi John and M.P John have to manage the ITI and the Hostel. In spite of so many difficulties, the Brothers are faithful to their spiritual life and carrying out the Montfortian mission with joy, commitment and courage. Once again, I appeal to Brothers of the Province to come forward to work in SPD as missionaries at least for 2 years.

2. Annual Retreat

The Second Annual Retreat for this academic year was organized at Precious Blood Fathers' House, Thambu Chetty Palaya in Bangalore from 26th December 2013 to 1st January 2014. Twenty eight Brothers attended the Retreat.

Fr. Michael smm preached the second Retreat also with renewed enthusiasm. I appreciate the participants for going through this spiritual event seriously. Local Superiors will write to me giving the list of Brothers of their Community who failed to attend either of these retreats and details of the Annual Retreat for them before April 2014.

3. Synergy – 2014

'Synergy – 2014', organized at Montfort School, Anakara was a great success. The programmes from all our Institutions were scintillating and inspiring. As I mentioned in my concluding remarks, **'Synergy – 2014'** crossed the boundaries of mere cultural programmes, taking us to an atmosphere charged with Gospel values and Spiritual flavour. Congratulations to the participants and all the Heads of Institutions for preparing and motivating their students to come up with very innovative performances.

Once again I take this opportunity to thank and appreciate Bro. Augustine Novello, the Local Superior, Bro. Binu Mathew and all the staff members of Anakara for organizing such an event with perfection and precision. They had looked into every detail meticulously and took good care of the participants and Brothers.

4. Implementation of the New Pay Scale

Some Communities/Institutions have not yet implemented the New Pay Scale giving some reason or other. Kindly make sure that the New Pay Scale is implemented in totality with retrospective effect from June 2013. The arrears must be paid. Those who have not paid the X'mas bonus also are requested to do so immediately.

5. New fee Structure

In continuation of my letter dated 11.02.2014, kindly work out the new fee Structure for the next academic year and get the same approved. An approved copy will be sent back to you. When you work out the New Fee Structure, please keep in mind the New Pay Scale and possible improvements on the same in addition to the D.A increase.

6. The inauguration of Provincial House Hyderabad and MSI

The New Provincial House of the Province of Hyderabad was inaugurated by Bro. John Kallarackal, Superior General and blessed by Most. Rev. Vincent M.Concessao, Archbishop Emeritus of Delhi on 02.02.2014. A large number of Brothers from various Provinces attended the function. The New Provincial House has a number of living rooms, conference halls, a Chapel and other facilities for various services. Our congratulations to Bro. Pratap Reddy, the Provincial Superior and the Provincial administration of Hyderabad Province.

The Montfort Social Institute (MSI) and the new premises were inaugurated by Bro. John Kallarackal, Superior General and blessed by Most. Rev. Vincent M.Concessao, Archbishop Emeritus of Delhi. Justice Shri Cyriac Joseph, Member of National Human Rights Commission, Delhi was the Chief Guest. The programme of MSI is under the preview of the National Council and the property belongs to the Province of Hyderabad. We appreciate Bro. Varghese Theckanath who had initially mooted the idea of MSI and envisioned its growth and sustainability with the support of the Province of Hyderabad.

7. First batch of Students from St. Joseph's Susaigiri and Deshayes Mount appearing for Board Exams

The first batch of 68 students from St. Joseph's Susaigiri are appearing for +2 exams beginning on 3rd March 2014. Though we have obtained recognition for +2 exams at Susaigiri after a lot of hurdles, the first batch had to be tied up with Montfort Community School, Kombuthooki for their +2 board exams in 2014. The next batch will write the +2 exams as regular St. Joseph's students.

This year, the first batch of 29 Students of Std X, will appear for the ICSE board exams from Deshayes Mount. Deshayes Mount has been accorded a Centre.

We wish the students of both these Schools all success in their exams. I also take this opportunity to wish all our students from various Institutions appearing for Stds X & XII (PUC) board exams. May your hard work along with that of our students bear much fruits.

8. Diamond, Golden and Silver Jubilees

The Diamond Jubilee of Bro. Lawrence Joseph and the Golden Jubilee of Bros. Mathew Pananthnath and Jacob Pynadath will be celebrated at the Province level during the month of May 2014. Meanwhile, the Golden Jubilarians are organizing a Spiritual Renewal Journey programme at Bangalore and Eachinkadu. We wish to accompany them with our prayers and good wishes.

I also take this opportunity to wish and congratulate all the Golden and Silver Jubilarians of other Indian Provinces.

Golden Jubilarians	Silver Jubilarians
1. Bro. Herbert (D) 2. Bro. Francis MM (HYD) 3. Bro. Davis Vadassery(P) 4. Bro. Jacob Mathalikunnel(P) 5. Bro. Jose Daniel(P) 6. Bro. Joesph Regis(R) 7. Bro. Linus Kerketta(R) 8. Bro. Selvanathan(T)	1. Bro. Mathew KM (D) 2. Bro. James KC (D) 3. Bro. Monachan KK (D) 4. Bro. Chinnaap Reddy (HYD) 5. Bro. Monson Kuriakose(HYD) 6. Bro. Mike Jatrom (R) 7. Bro. Placy Kandulna(R)

9. TIME - News Bulletin

The last two issues of the 'TIME – News Bulletin' were published as '**e-bulletins**'. The second issue did not have enough contributions from Communities. Kindly do send News items, articles and photographs to my mail address without waiting for reminders. When the bulletin is published late, the News items become stale and outdated! I appreciate and thank all the Brothers who take the trouble of sending News items and articles regularly. The next issue will be published in March 2014.

10. Lifetime Achievement Award to Bro. Patrick

In a well attended function organized by the Christuva Nallenna Iyakkam at Chennai during the Annual Christmas Celebrations on 18th December 2013, Bro. Patrick was honoured with the **Lifetime Achievement Award** for his services to humanity along with 2 other recipients. We congratulate and appreciate Bro. Patrick for the award and the work he is doing among the marginalized, persons with disabilities, and the slum dwellers.

11. Final Vows

The Provincial Council Meeting held on 19.01.2014 has decided to invite the following Brothers with temporary vows to apply for the Final Commitment. This year, the Preparatory Programme for Final Commitment will be organized by Bro. P T George(R) at the Provincial House, Pune from 10th April to 25th May 2014.

1. Bro. Pakiyanathan
2. Bro. Christu raj
3. Bro. Peter Rajan

12. Internal Inspection and Internal Audit

- The Internal Inspection of our Schools in Tamil Nadu and Kerala has been completed.
- The Internal audit of our Institutions is in progress .The audit team has completed the work in four of our Institutions.

13. Tercentenary

The Tercentenary of the Profession of the First Brothers and the death of St. Montfort is being celebrated from 2015-16. The larger Montfortian family of Brothers, Fathers and Sisters are planning to have a number of joint celebrations to mark this occasion. Copy of a joint letter by the three Superior Generals, Sr. *Louise Madore DW*, Bro. *John Kallarackal sg*, Fr. *Santino Brembilla smm* is enclosed separately with this circular for your perusal, reflection and follow up.

Events organized by the 3 Generalates

24 May 2015: Inauguration of the Tricentennial in St-Laurent-sur-Sèvre

2-3 June 2016: Symposium at the Institut Catholique of Angers

11 September 2016: Closing of the Tricentennial in Pontchâteau

Important events in the Life of Montfort

1673

31 January: birth at Montfort-sur-Meu

1st February: Baptism in the Church of St-Jean

1699

During summer: Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Chartres

1700

5 June: ordination to priesthood in Paris

1701

November: Arrival at the General Hospital in Poitiers; meeting with Marie-Louise Trichet

1703

2 February: Marie-Louise takes the habit.

Summer-Fall: stay at rue du Pot-de-Fer, Paris

1704

?? Montfort finishes writing *Love of Eternal Wisdom*

1705

End of summer: Encounter with Mathurin Rängeard

1706 (310th anniversary)

Spring: Pilgrimage to Rome via Loretto

6 June: audience with Pope Clement XI

29 September: Pilgrimage at Mount St-Michel

1707

September: stay at St-Lazare

1710

14 September: inauguration of the Calvary at Pontchâteau

Fall: interdiction of ministry; help to the victims of the flood in Nantes; creation of the Hospital in Nantes; writing of the *Letter to the Friends of the Cross*

10 November: admission in the Dominican Third Order

1712

?? Probable year of the writing of the *True Devotion Treatise*, at St-Éloi hermitage

1715

September-October: stay at the Grotto of Mervent

1716

March: Pilgrimage of the 33 Penitents at Our Lady of Ardilliers at Saumur

5 April: beginning of the mission at St-Laurent

28 April: death at St-Laurent



14. New forms of LINKS: Secular Montfortians

The 31st General Chapter has invited all the Provinces to open up the possibility of initiating new forms of links to our Montfortian family such as the 'Secular Montfortians'. Kindly refer the pages from 16 - 17 of the 31st General Chapter message and pages 34 – 35 & 96 - 98 of the V & VI Provincial Chapter document. If you come across any Catholic adults, coming from different backgrounds, who feel a call for a deeper Christian commitment according to Montfortian spirituality and willing to make a private commitment in Link with the Congregation, kindly encourage them and guide them to me. This is the right time for initiating such a process, as we are getting ready with the Tercentenary.

15. Formators' Session

Bro. Jacob Ezhanikatt and Bro. Jenny Kuriakose will attend the Formators' programme organized at Rome and France from 10th March 2014 to 4th April 2014. They will leave India on 8th March 2014. We wish them a fruitful formation experience through this Programme.

16. Sector Meetings

There will be 2 Sector meetings as per the following schedule:

1st Sector Meeting @ Montfort School, Yercaud on 15.03.2014

2nd Sector Meeting @ Montfort College, Bangalore on 16.03.2014

Both the meetings will commence at 9.30 am and will be over by 5 pm in the evening. As far as possible, all the Brothers are requested to attend one of the meetings. The purpose of the Sector Meetings is to discuss the implementation of the decisions, reflections and orientations of the 31st General Chapter and V & VI Provincial Chapters.

The Communities were requested to study the message of the 31st General Chapter and the document of the V & VI Provincial Chapters. The findings of the same have not yet reached me. However, each Community (Local Superior or the member from that Community) will bring their '**discussion reports**' for the meeting. All are requested to bring their personal copies of the 31st General Chapter message and V & VI Provincial Chapter document.

- *The Local Superiors are requested to inform me about the Brother(s) attending either of the meetings.*

17. Sector - wise Lenten Recollections

As I have already communicated to all the Local Superiors through my letter dated 19.02.2014, the Sector - wise Lenten Recollections will be organized on 9th March 2014 at Montfort School, Yercaud, Monfort School, Anakara and Montfort College, Bangalore with the following suggested themes.

1. Walking the way of the Cross with Christ
2. Lenten observances -a means for purification and abundance of God's blessings
3. Lent, a season of a fasting and penance – a practical approach
4. Forgiveness and reconciliation– best and sure means of Lenten observances

18. Bro. Mathew Panathanath:

Due to health reasons, Bro. Mathew Panathanath has returned back from St. Anselm, Kent. He will not be going back. At present, he is helping to start the new School at Thirumanhalli, Bangalore

19. Acting Provincial Superior

I will be away at St. Anselm, Kent to attend the Annual Trustees Meeting from 4th March to 9th March 2014. Bro. Thomas K.K will be the Acting Provincial Superior during my absence.

20. Permissions

- 1. St. Thomas Mount, Chennai:** To purchase play materials for KG School, 13 KVA UPS & 23 KVA daylight solar power units
- 2. Montfort School, Murickumthotty:** To purchase a School bus & to dig a bore well
- 3. Kalghathi:** To renovate the bank building at Thumarikoppe & to purchase equipment and furniture for the degree college.
- 4. Montfort College :** To install CCTV surveillance Cameras
- 5. Montfort School, Kolathur:** To dig a bore well
- 6. Montfort A I School, Yercaud:** To organize an Educational tour to Europe during summer holidays, 2014
 - a. Deshayes Mount School, Yercaud: To construct 10 classrooms with light roofing
 - b. Community School, Kombuthooki: To construct 6 classrooms with light roofing
- 7. A N Mangalam:** To dig a bore well

21. Obituary

We deeply mourn the demise of:

1. Mrs. Mary Chacko (65), sister of Bro. Joseph Louis
2. Mr. Mathew (86), cousin of Bro. Mathew Panathanath
3. Mr. Kuruvila (75), uncle of Bro. Abraham A.M
4. Mr. Michael (73), cousin of Bro. Sebastian Olickal
5. Mrs. Devaki (50), aunt of Bro. Kalaimalar Prabu
6. Ex.Bro- P C Thomas(65)
7. Mr. Paul (91), father of Bro. M.P Antony

May their souls rest in peace!

Yours in Christ,



Bro. George Kalangod,
Provincial Superior

Life is an echo. What you send out comes back. What you sow, you reap. What you give, you get. What you see in others exists in you. Remember, life is an echo. It always gets back to you. So give goodness.