



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

St. Louis Villa, Yercaud 636 601, Salem Dt., Tamil Nadu, India



*Authentic Leaders of Greater Brotherhood*

## PROVINCIAL'S CIRCULAR-31

Ycd/Cir.31/2014

10.11.2014

One fine evening, I met a beggar who was sitting in the front corridor of a closed shop. He was carefully counting his earnings of the day. To my surprise, I found the beggar though totally blind, was very brisk in his act of counting the coins! After contributing a small amount from my pocket, I asked him quietly, "How do you manage to count the coins of various denominations so fast without error?"



He smiled and demonstrated to me the trick! The coins are differentiated by their markings on the outer rim, the thickness and the size!

Very often, we evaluate people by their external features and outward qualities. As a result, they get the immediate attention of the world around them. These days we find a whole lot of Schools of Architecture and Beauty Parlours coming up everywhere! Cities, Towns, Institutions and flat builders are competing with each other to create more beautiful infrastructure. Schools and Colleges are going for more attractive buildings in order to lure in more admissions! They also create media hype for publicity and to get the attention of the public! While all these are commendable and required to some extent, Jesus has another parameter for 'beauty' and 'elegance', as we read in Mk. 7/20-23 & Matt. 15/17-20.

Pope Francis has proclaimed 2015, as '**Year of Consecrated Life,**' starting on the first Sunday of Advent, the weekend of November 29,2014 and ending on 2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2016, the World Day of Consecrated Life. Though we feign to know and even live this way of life, it is an opportunity for us to deepen our call to discipleship as consecrated men within the framework of our Montfortian family. We should exploit this opportunity to look deep into our personal life and mission as men who are set apart for the Kingdom. It is a 'time' for us to reflect and introspect seriously our level of commitment and its effectiveness as His 'witnesses' in a world where values are at the **superficial and external levels.**

Our reflections should lead us to question ourselves if we too are busy counting blindly only our 'coins of externals' instead of the internals! Consecrated men and women are busy with things of the Lord rather than worldly issues, dissensions, divisions and in-fights. (1 Cor:7/32f&Rom.16/17) St.Paul in his letter to Rom.12/9-12, enumerates some basic qualities of consecrated men and women. *"Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honour one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."* Maybe in our next Provincial Chapter, we should dwell deeply on this theme in order to discover the degree of our commitment as consecrated men and the image we project through our lives as individuals and collectively as a Province.

1. **'Advent', the time to prepare for His coming:** We are always busy preparing something for others- However, we often fail to prepare in spirit for 'great events of God's blessings', such as Christmas and Easter! The season of Advent is fast approaching- let us welcome and prepare for the same. We should go through it with the same experience of Mother Mary, the faithful Virgin who received the Word, growing in the expectation of the Promise and living its fulfillment in her Son.

The Advent Sector recollection details and schedule have already been posted to all the Communities. Kindly make this season of Advent and celebration of His birth an interior experience rather than yet another routine celebration.

**Christmas Celebrations:** The Sector leaders are also requested to organize sector-wise Christmas Celebrations either in the same venue or in any of the Communities of the sector. The mode of celebrations must be keeping in mind, the established good practices and traditions of the Province.

2. **Second Annual Retreat:** The second Annual Retreat will be held at Montfort Spirituality Centre, Bangalore from **26<sup>th</sup> December evening 2014 to 01<sup>st</sup> January noon 2015**. All the Brothers of the Province (in India) who have not done the first Annual Retreat at Pillar, Madurai are expected to attend the same. This is yet another reminder that private retreats are not substitutes for Annual Retreats. (RL:S118)
3. **Late Rev.Bro.Abraham Pralel:** Once again, I take this opportunity to express my condolences and shock at the sad and sudden demise of our beloved 'Bro. Thatha.' The details of his death and his funeral along with the photos have been published in the **TIME-News Bulletin (October 2014)**. It has also been posted on the Province website. My funeral oration includes his beautiful life of commitment as a Montfort Brother of St.Gabriel for the last 64 years and his noble qualities that made him exceptional! The obituary cards have also been posted to all the Brothers of the Indian Provinces. May his soul rest in peace!

I thank Bro.Niju Thomas and the Community of Kalghatgi for taking care of him and also all those who helped us in bringing his mortal remains to Yercaud. We thank all the Brothers who assisted us for the funeral service at Montfort School Chapel and the final rites at Heritage Park, Eachinkadu.

4. **Internal Inspection:** The Internal Inspections of our Institutions have been going on in our Province since the last three years. Every year, we learnt fresh lessons and tried to improve upon them. In the last Provincial Council Meeting held at St.Louis Villa on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2014, the Council discussed about the Internal Inspections and decided to start the same during the second term itself and to allot more days in each School for the inspection. The Province Education Commission which met at St.Louis Villa on 06<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 also studied the various input and output elements of the internal inspection. It has suggested a few changes which will be implemented during this year's Internal Inspection. One of the Education Commission members accompanying the inspection team will be actively involved in the 'inspection' process and coordinate the work with the Head of the Institution. The Headmasters should facilitate the 'inspecting team' to carry out their work seriously and submit their unbiased reports, so that we can improve and move forward.
5. **Synergy-2015:** The 'Synergy' programme organized by our Province for the last four years has been one of the most exciting events benefitting students and teachers of all our Institutions. Every year, we see remarkable improvements in terms of the quality of the programmes and also in the organizational set up! This academic year, it will be held in Karnataka @ Lake Montfort School, Bangalore from 29<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2015. The details and guidelines have been already forwarded to all the Communities. Kindly get ready for the same in all earnestness.
6. **Provincial Chapter:** It is mandatory to have a Provincial Chapter during the term of every Provincial Administration. We are planning to organize the same in February 2015. The exact date and venue will be decided later. Shortly, you will receive more information about the same.
7. **TIME:** All the Local Superiors and Headmasters are requested to send news items from Communities/Institutions with appropriate photographs to my e-mail address. In spite of repeated reminders, I am unable to get news items from some Communities on time. If you fail to send in news item for a particular issue of the TIME, kindly avoid sending reports of events and happenings that have taken place during the time frame of a back dated issue of Time, already published. The next issue of the TIME will be published by the 1<sup>st</sup> week of December, 2014.

- 8. Collaboration with Brothers of St.Michael for SPD mission:** After a lot of discussions with the Superiors of Brothers of St.Michael, they have agreed to collaborate with us in our SPD mission. Two Brothers of St.Michael are getting ready to leave for SPD shortly. One of them, Bro.Antony Raja is a technician and the other-Bro.Antony Rex, is an academician. Their papers have been submitted for work permit/visa. We are grateful to their Superior General, Bro.Cyril Devaraj and his Council for their generosity and support. One or two Brothers presently working in SPD may be returning to India for good. Hence or otherwise, we urgently need two more Brothers from our Province for SPD mission. If there is a spark of missionary dynamism deep within you, please volunteer.
- 9. Community Budgets:** Once again all the Communities, particularly Local Superiors, Heads of the Institutions, Bursars and Procurators are requested to adhere to the approved budgets without deviations.
- 10. Internal Audit:** The Provincial Bursar along with the Convener of the Province Finance Commission and Mr. Charles Fernando, the Auditor have completed one quick round of visits to all our Communities. Their reports will reach you within a couple of days! Kindly take note of these observations and make the required changes wherever required. The observations vary from personal expenses to certain income and sales details not brought into the accounts. At this point, I would like to remind particularly the Heads of the Institutions to be **moderate** in celebrations and spending on School magazines and Calendars. Also make sure that extra copies are not printed and wasted.
- 11. Visit of Bros. Bernard Guesdon & Rene Delorme:** The Province was privileged to have Bro.Rene Delorme, the previous Superior General in our midst from 17<sup>th</sup> October to 26<sup>th</sup> October 2014. We were also blessed with the visit of Bro.Bernard Guesdon from the Generalate in Rome. I thank the Brothers for welcoming these Brothers to our Communities.
- 12. Juniorate building at Kolathur:** The ‘Mary Mount’ Juniorate building at Kolathur is almost completed. We are waiting for the permanent electricity connections and also equipping the Kitchen. Once it is ready the Juniors will move in. Please continue to pray for more genuine vocations during your morning/evening prayers. At present, there are 86 juniors at Kolathur.
- 13. Provincial’s itinerary:** Though I made a few short visits to some of the Communities, I will be visiting all our Communities in a phased manner before Christmas 2014.

12.11.2014	CRI, Bangalore
13.11.2014	Montfort College, Bangalore
14.11.2014	Lake Montfort School, Bangalore
17.11.2014	St.Mary's School, AN Mangalam
19.11.2014	Montfort School, Anakkara
20.11.2014	Montfort Vally School, Murickumthotty
21.11.2014	Montfort School, Chinnakannal
25.11.2014	St.Joseph's School, Susaigiri
27.11.2014	Montfort Vidya Sagar, Belagola
28.11.2014	GNWS, Kalghatgi
1.12.2014 & 2.12.2014	Montfort School, Yercaud
4.12.2014	St.Thomas Mount, Chennai
7.12.2014 & 8.12.2014	Nirmala, Kolathur

#### **14.Permissions:**

##### **1. Montfort School, Yercaud:**

- a. Repairing the two existing basketball courts and to have a new one at MLT
- b. Black topping the existing roads in the campus
- c. Purchase of a new bus for the school

##### **2. Montfort School for the Disabled,Belagola :** To purchase a four wheel vehicle.

##### **3. Montfort College, Bangalore:** To purchase a photo copying machine.

##### **4. Nirmala School, Kolathur:** Black topping 500mtrs with the help of old students

#### **15.Obituary:**

We deeply mourn the demise of:

1. Mrs.Chinnamma(68), eldest sister of Bro.KK Thomas
2. Mr. PV Francis, eldest brother-in-law of Bro.Joy Thekkanath
3. Mr. PA Jacob(88), maternal uncle of Bro.Patrick
4. Mr. Mani(94), uncle of Bro.Ignatius

May their souls rest in peace!

Yours in Christ,



Bro.George Kalangod  
Provincial Superior

*"If you see goodness in someone, then explain it to others...  
If you see a bad thing in someone, there comes the test of your goodness!"*