



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-33

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Every day the Newspapers bring us so much of bad news that there seems little space in Print media for any good news. This New Year, particularly the Lenten season has been extremely painful to the Church across the globe, especially in Iraq, Syria and few other Countries. Reports indicate that the present degree of persecutions is more severe than that which the Church has experienced in the

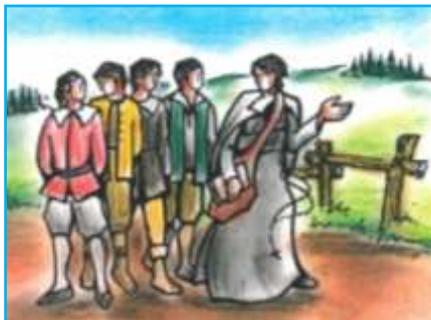
past. There are a good number of people all over the world who believe that evil increases directly proportionate to our distancing from God and His ways. The Hindu Philosophy accepts this belief and the Avatars are seen as God's intervention and response to end evil. While God is not sadistic and revengeful, indirectly, the Bible supports this concept with so many instances wherein He punishes and destroys. However, we also see Him changing His mind, whenever men turn back from their evil ways. The New Testament (particularly the Gospels) focuses heavily on the concept of reconciliation through penance and sufferings. **'Repent and turn to the Lord'** is the central message of this holy season of lent. 'God punishes but he is also merciful'-Num.14/18. As Pope Francis would repeatedly say, "God is never tired of forgiving". The Pope stresses the need for constant prayer and penance even for the sins and evil ways of others. "He died for our sins so that we may have eternal life..." 1 Pet. 2/24. In this Lenten season, we are called upon to share in the suffering and death of Christ - the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Instead of the narrow practice of reparation for our own personal sins, the Holy Mother Church invites us to do penance for others and thus become little lambs of God...

Given this background, how do we read the signs of time, especially the multiplication of evil and the persecutions against the innocent and the weak? Is our all powerful God hiding in the heavens or is He closing his eyes to the sufferings of the helpless victims here below? Another important question emerges as we attempt to answer these questions - 'What is the perception of penance and its quality and quantity in our personal lives?'

During this season of Lent, the Holy Father has been repeatedly calling for prolonged hours and days of constant prayer, fasting, penance and all night vigil before the Blessed Sacrament('24 hours for the Lord' - initiative around the World). He has been requesting all Christians particularly the Religious and Priests to confess their sins and pray unceasingly as reparation for the increasing wounds inflicted on the mystical body of Christ and the humanity at large!

Maybe, as we approach the Holy week, we Brothers of the Province could hearken to the call of the Vicar of Christ and think of some specific spiritual practices and programmes such as prolonged prayers, penance, abnegation and acts of Charity that will really touch us. We could organize adoration before the Blessed Sacrament that could vary from half an hour to a longer duration, either daily or at least on Fridays. We can also reduce the intake of at least 5% of the food items of our choice or any such sacrifices during the remaining days of lent. The stories of Prophet Jonas and Moses praying with outstretched hands during the battle with Amalekites are good models for us to emulate in order to counter the increasing evil and crimes on innocent people beyond our imagination. Ex.17/11

- 1. 7th Provincial Chapter:** A short report of the 7th Provincial Chapter organized from 20th to 22nd February 2015 was sent to all the Brothers of the Province. The final draft of the reflections and orientations are being studied by the Provincial Administration. When it is approved by the Central Administration, the same will be forwarded to all the Brothers of the Province for further reflection and to put them to practice. Once again, I take this opportunity to thank and appreciate all those who really worked for the success of the 7th Provincial Chapter (*for further details, visit the Province website*)
- 2. Two St.Michael's Brothers in SPD:** Bro.Antony Rex and Bro.Antony Raja were given a warm send off at the end of the 7th Provincial Chapter at Bangalore. These Brothers along with their Superior General, Rev.Bro.Cyril Devaraj and few other Brothers from their Congregation were introduced to the Chapter members. Bro.Cyril Devaraj and his Council of Brothers were specially thanked for the generosity and the availability of the above two Brothers to support us in our mission at SPD. On the same night they left for Fiji along with Bro.Gibi John, the District Superior. Bro.Antony Raja is placed in Suva. Bro.Antony Rex in Ba.
- 3. Tercentenary of the death of St.Montfort and our Origin:** In our recently concluded Provincial Chapter, we had discussed at length about the same. Shortly we will inform you about the various programmes to be organized at the Community, Institution and Province level. As part of our celebrations, a bookmark along with two mementoes (framed photos) have been distributed to all the Communities/Institutions to remind us constantly about these two important events in the history and life of our Congregation.



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4. **16th Council of the Institute:** The sixteenth Council of the Institute will be held from 11th to 22nd May, 2015 at St.Laurent-sur-Sèvre. The inauguration of the 300th Anniversaries will take place on 24th May, 2015.

5. **Excursions, tours and care of our children:** Many of our Schools are organizing tours and excursions. Kindly make sure that every care and safety measures are taken during such programmes. At the end of the programme, the account should be settled with the Bursar of the Community. The balance money if any, should be returned to their parents or should be properly accounted for.

Once again all the Heads of Institutions and individual Brothers are requested to be very alert and vigilant regarding the security measures and precautions to be taken for the safety of our children in our Institutions and Hostels. Our past experience suggests that many of the accidents and unfortunate incidents can be avoided if we are around the place supervising the children, especially during the recreation, intervals and at night (in the case of boarding schools).

Child right and protection of children and girl-students are other areas of concern. If they are out on excursions, camps and similar programmes, kindly make sure that you depute only persons with good and tested character and integrity to accompany them. We are responsible to their parents, public and above all, to their Angels in heaven!

6. **Budgets:** We have already sent a communication to the Local Superiors, Bursars and Headmasters to prepare the Budgets of the Communities and the Institutions before 10th April 2015. The Institutions have been given clear instructions regarding the preparation and submission of the Budgets through my letter dated 18.03.2015. A model copy of the budget format also was included along with it. Kindly work on this, instead of waiting for reminders and leaving this important work to the Accountants.

7. **Uniforms, notebooks and other stock items:** Reports from the auditors, Bursar and the Finance Commission suggest that a lot of stock items are accumulated in some of our School stores. Kindly place new orders only after taking note of the stock position in hand.

8. **Bro.Wilfrid & Bro.Augustine Novello:** Bro.Wilfrid who had a fall and fractured his 'Patella' is recovering fast after the surgery at Vidhya Hospital, Salem on 04.03.2015. Bro.Augustine Novello also is recovering after a minor surgery at St.Mary's Hospital, Salem on 05.03.2015. Please pray for them and other sick Brothers of the Province.

9. **Provincial's visit of the Communities:** I have already started my official visit of the Communities. From Monday 23rd March, I am visiting Kerala Sector followed by Karnataka and Yercaud Sector Communities. I will be informing the Communities in advance regarding my visit. This visit is mainly to meet the Brothers.

10. First Profession: At Eachinkadu, we have 5 Second Year Novices. These Novices have been well formed with right disposition by the Novice Master and his team. They will make their first commitment on 25th April 2015 at Montfort School Chapel, Yercaud.

+ At *Sitagarha*, we have two first year Novices. I met them recently during the National Council Meeting and the Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Ranchi Province.

+ At *Jabalpur*, we have 19 Pre-Novices, of whom 8 are from Odissa. I visited them on 10th and 11th of March 2015. They too are doing well and are well focused under the guidance of the Pre-Novitiate Director and his assistant.

+ At *Kombuthooki*, there are 3 candidates accompanied by Bro. Lawrence Gabriel.

+ At *Kolathur*, there are 35 Plus Two Students who are presently taking the Board exams. Seven of them are from Odissa. They are also doing well under the guidance of the Director and Juniorate Master.

Kindly include all of them in your daily prayers.

11. Permissions:

1. **Lake Montfort School, Bangalore:** Permitted to fix safety grills in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floor of the School building.
2. **Wisdom Montfort School, Bangalore:** Permitted to purchase a new School bus



*I wish you all a Happy Feast of
Annunciation !*

*I also take this opportunity to wish you a
grace-filled Holy week and a joyful Easter
to rejuvenate our lives
as consecrated Religious Brothers!*



Yours in Christ,

Bro. George Kalangod

Bro. George Kalangod
Provincial Superior

‘God forgives all our sins, always and without exception and He rejoices when somebody asks him for pardon’. - Pope Francis