



Congregazione Clericale

MISSIONARI DELLA FEDE

Via Nulvi, 11 - 00148 ROMA, ITALIA

M.F. News Bulletin

No 14

April 2019

In side.....

- ♦ From the Editorial Desk P. 1
- ♦ Easter Message of Superior General P. 2
- ♦ Pope Francis on Priesthood P. 3

News from Major Organisms

Province of St. Paul (IND)

- ♦ Inauguration of the Bl. Deva Sagayam P.5
- ♦ Blessing of the new Chapel P. 5
- ♦ Healing Retreat at Longo P. 5

Province of St. Peter (IND)

- ♦ Visit of Sup. Gen., to the Province P.6
- ♦ Jubilee Celebration of Rev. Fr. Joseph Phan Trong Quang P.6
- ♦ Annual Feast of Allipalli Shrine P.7
- ♦ Annual Day at H.T.E.M School P.7
- ♦ Science Fair at H.T.E.M School P.8
- ♦ Lecture on the II Vatican Council P.9
- ♦ Visit of Pro. Superior to Austria P.9

Province of Vietnam

- ♦ Visit of Sup. Gen., to the Province P.9
- ♦ First Religious Profession P.10

Vice-province of Myanmar

- ♦ Retreat of Community Health and Development P.11
- ♦ Pilgrimage group from Yangon P.11
- ♦ Blessing of the New Church P.11
- ♦ Appointment of Youth Director P.11
- ♦ Laying of the foundation of the new Vice-Provincial House P.12
- ♦ On-going Formation Programme for the Priests P.12

Vice-province of Oceania

- ♦ Closing of the Mission P.12
- ♦ Opening of the New Parish P.12
- ♦ Demise of Mrs. Fuarosa P.14

Delegation of North America

- ♦ Graduation of Rev. Joseph Ton P.14



The Journey in the Lent towards the Resurrection is
the Journey in the Life towards the Liberation

From the Editorial Desk ...

With joy we bring out the 14th issue of our *News Letter* aimed at keeping all the members informed of the various activities, undertakings and events that are happening in the various parts of the Congregation. May we kindly remind everyone, especially the Provincial, Vice Provincial and Delegation Governance, to send us on time the news items to be published. Let us, as one family, share among ourselves all our achievements and our endeavours. We always welcome the corrections and suggestions for the betterment. We regret also for the errors and omissions if any. May the God grant us the grace to be courageous and joyful messengers of the Good News and a shining stars that lead others to the feet of the Lord. We wish everyone a *Very Happy Easter*. May the Risen Lord bless each one of us with His peace and joy in abundance.

EASTER MESSAGE FROM SUPERIOR GENERAL



Dear Confreres,

Now that all the Formation Centres of the Congregation in the Provinces of St. Peter (India), Vietnam and the Philippines, have been visited by me, I consider the canonical visit to the Formation Centres officially ended. I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to you for the preparations, the fraternal welcome and the various occasions of shared company that you organised so that we could be together, during our individual conversations, community meetings, and moments of celebration and festivity. It was truly a moment of grace and joy in our fraternal and spiritual growth in faith.

I hope that all the discussions regarding the specific formation of the Congregation during the canonical visit have been taken into consideration in the preparations for the first Provincial Chapter that will be celebrated this year. I would like to suggest that all the Major Organisms, not only those who have the formation centre, to elaborate a local plan of formation in order to facilitate the charismatic formation of all the members.

Together with the General Councillors, we would like to express our very affectionate best wishes for an Easter of Grace and Joy in Faith. We want to remember in a special way our seminarians too. May they find in our communities an environment that allows them to “explode with life” and “light a fire in the heart of the world” (EG 271).

Let us radiate Faith, first of all in our communities, urging one another to see the positive sides of different situations and to believe that every event, even the most insignificant, is part of salvation history.

Let us allow ourselves to be pervaded by the spell of the resurrection, by the allure of the risen Christ and let us exclaim with the Apostle Thomas, who touched his pierced side: “My Lord and my God!” (Jn. 20:28)

May the Resurrected Jesus grant us a new unity, stronger than before, invincible, because it is based not on human resources, but on divine mercy which makes us all feel loved and forgiven by him.

Happy Easter!



Rev. Fr. Jesus Dajac, mf
Fr. Jesus Dajac, mf
Superior General

As part of the Editorial we would like to present to you few thoughts of Pope Francis on Priesthood



Pope Francis and the Seven 'Pillars' of Priesthood

What is Pope Francis' vision for the priesthood – how are our priests and future priests to serve their people most faithfully and fruitfully? Here are seven key concerns which have emerged from both Pope Francis's spoken words and also the witness of his own priestly ministry.

- 1) ***The strength of a priest depends on his relationship with Christ.*** Pope Francis has said that the touchstone of how deeply a priest is living his vocation is the extent to which he seeks Christ in his daily life. In a typically direct question, Pope Francis asked a gathering of Rome's priests at the beginning of Lent, "At night, how does your day end? With God, or with television?" At the heart of any priest's ministry must be a living relationship with Christ, so that the priest sees as Christ sees and loves as he loves. It took the disciples time to really "become Christ" to others. For this to happen, the priest needs to continue to grow in union with Christ through prayer and intimacy.
- 2) Just as he must be close to Christ so the ***priest must be close to the people he serves.*** In his first Chrism Mass homily, Pope Francis spoke of how priests must be "shepherds living with the 'smell of the sheep'". If priests truly are to be pastors rather than administrators they need to "go out to meet the people," especially the lost sheep. The pastor who stays behind his computer in the presbytery, is not an "authentic pastor." Pope Francis praised a priest for knowing his parishioners so well that he knew not only their names, but also their pets' names! In an age in which so many priests, bishops and curial officials are enslaved by administrative tasks, Pope Francis is summoning them to reprioritize toward the Church's evangelical mission.
- 3) ***A priest's authority must be linked to service,*** especially to the care and protection of the poorest, weakest, the least important and most easily forgotten. This means that priests have to leave their comfort zone and have "real contact with the poor and the marginalized." Francis, who was known as the "slum bishop" in Argentina because of his work among the poor, has said reaching out to those on the margins of society was "the most concrete way of imitating Jesus".
- 4) ***The priest must be a minister of mercy.*** Pope Francis told a group of ten newly-ordained priests that the most important advice he could give them was simply, "Be merciful." His motto *Miserando Atque Eligendo* ("Chosen Through the Eyes of Mercy") highlights that his own vocation was born in an experience of God's mercy. Pope Francis' reminder in his first Angelus address that God never tires of forgiving us is a clear call to priests never to tire in faithfully dispensing that mercy, both sacramentally and in their daily living.
- 5) ***The priest is called to a simplicity of life.*** Pope Francis has repeatedly criticised priests who give in to vanity and worldly ambition. During his years in Buenos Aires, Cardinal

Bergoglio's life was a clear challenge to his fellow priests to examine the sincerity and authenticity of their own spiritual poverty.

6) *The priest must be a model of integrity.* There can be no place in priests for a haughty clericalism, any kind of abuse of their position or a concern to climb the ecclesial career ladder – Priests have to understand that their authority derives not from worldly power but from personal integrity and humility in imitation of Christ. No priest should consider himself exempt from the demands of ordinary accountability. Otherwise priests can “become wolves not shepherds”.

7) Finally, *the priest is to be a source of blessing for his people.* The anointing which he receives at his ordination is not meant just for himself – it is to flow through him to those he serves. As Pope Francis said the priest is “anointed with the oil of gladness so as to anoint others with the oil of gladness.” In his preaching, in his prayer, through being truly present to his flock in the realities of their everyday lives, the priest is to help them “feel that the fragrance of the Anointed One, Christ, has come to them through the priest.”

Let us pray that we may be always be shepherds according to God's heart and that we may respond to this call with humility and joy. May God the Father renew in us the Spirit of holiness with which we have been anointed. May he renew his spirit in our hearts so that this anointing may spread to everyone, especially to those “outskirts” where our lay faithful people most look for it and most appreciate it. May our people sense that we are the Lord's disciples; and may they receive through our words and deeds the oil of gladness which Jesus, the Anointed One, came to bring us.

NEWS FROM MAJOR ORGANISM

Province of St. Paul, India

Inauguration of the Bl. Deva Sagayam Block

A new wing, *Bl. Deva Sagayam Block*, of the minor seminary at Dindigul was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Martin Alukaputhussery, the Provincial Superior, on 15 January 2019, the day of local harvest festival

called *Pongal*. Number of priests of the Province participated in this inaugural ceremony. This block

will serve as the dormitory, having attached to it eight washrooms for the seminarians in the formation.



Blessing of the New Chapel at Ayyoth

The new prayer house, *Little Flower Chapel*, at Ayyoth, in the parish of Kattakulam, Diocese of Kannur was blessed on 31 January 2019, by his Excellency, Msgr. Alex Vadakumthala, the Local Ordinary, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Martin Alukaputhussery, the Provincial Superior, Rev. Fr. Devassy Erathara, the Vicar General of the Diocese of Kannur. Many other priests, women religious and faithful were present for the blessing. Rev. Fr. Joseph Velikkath, the parish priest thanked the bishop, provincial, benefactors and the faithful for their presence and their contribution at various levels.



Healing Retreat at St. Mary's Parish, Longo.

St. Mary's Parish at Longo in the diocese of Miao, Arunachal Pradesh, is the tribal mission under the pastoral care of the Missionaries of Faith since 2007. The *Healing Retreat* was conducted for 5 days, from the 6th to the 10th of February 2019. It was led by the team from Divine Retreat Centre, Margareta, in Assam. More than 500 people coming from the 7 villages of the parish, and the nearby parishes attended it. It was the first experience for the people of this area.



*Fr. Shijo Simon mf
Parish Priest*

Province of St. Peter, India

The Visit of the Superior General to the Province of St. Peter, India

The Superior General, Rev. Fr. Jesus Dajac, visited the Province in the month of February 2019. He visited Queen of Confessors Minor Seminary on the 4th and the 5th of February and the major seminarians at Holy Trinity Major Seminary on the 8th to the 10th of February. On this occasion he met all the formators and also had common and personal meeting with all the seminarians. He insisted on the need to have local formation plan both at Major Seminary and Minor Seminary level. The local Provincial Governance assured Superior General that soon they will prepare the local formation plan. The visit was concluded with the colourful cultural evening put up by major and minor seminarians together at Nadipalli.

On 12 February 2019 the Province conducted a gathering of all the priests of the Province and the Superior General, Rev. Fr. Jesus Dajac, in the provincial house at NTR colony, Eluru. It was also a day of recollection. The Superior General gave an enriching talk in which he highlighted on the three identities of a Missionary of Faith: a good shepherd who takes care of his sheep, a good pastor in the parish and being a spiritual person in order to accompany our priests and support them in their difficulties. It was a very fruitful day.

Sacerdotal Silver jubilee celebrations of Rev Fr. Joseph Phan Trong Quang

The Province celebrated the Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Rev. Fr. Joseph Phan Trong Quang, the General Councillor, at Allipalli on 15 February 2019. Rev. Fr. Maria Joji Rai, the Provincial Superior, felicitated the jubilarian and thanked him for his 25 years of dedication and commitment to the Lord and the Congregation of the Missionaries of Faith. The Superior General and priests from both the Provinces in India were present for the event. Number of priests from the diocese of Eluru also participated in the celebration. On this occasion there were different cultural programmes put up by the students of Holy Trinity English Medium high school and the children of Allipalli Mary Matha Boarding Home.



Annual Feast of Allipalli Mary Matha Shrine

The Annual Feast of Allipalli Mary Matha Shrine was celebrated with great devotion and piety from 31 January to 2 February 2019. Thousands of faithful from the different villages near by participated in the different liturgical celebrations and paid homage to the Blessed Mother. Even people from different religions come to this shrine all through the year and seek the protection and the blessing of the holy Virgin Mary. The Provincial superior and his council and all the members of the Province played a great role in the success of the feast. The Superior General was also present for the festival and appreciated the priests of the Province who worked hard for the success of this annual event.



Annual day celebrations at Holy Trinity English medium high school



Holy Trinity English medium high school at Dharmajigudem, Andhra Pradesh, celebrated its 23rd annual day on 5 February 2019. The presence of the Local Ordinary, His Excellency, Msgr. Jayarao Polimera, the Superior General, Rev. Fr. Jesus Dajac, the Provincial Superior, Rev. Fr. Maria Joji Rai and many other priests and women religious added colour to the day. All the dignitaries and the audience appreciated the programmes very much. On this occasion, the Local Ordinary delivered a



short message on the importance of education and exhorted all the students to study well in order to become responsible citizens of India.



Science Fair in Holy Trinity English Medium School



On 03 March 2019 a *Science fair* was conducted in Holy Trinity English Medium School. It is the first time ever since the inception of the School that such an event be organized here. The day was colourful and all the students participated in the event presenting their scientific ideas and they prepared different projects like blowing the street lights with salty water, modern method of cultivation, controlling the pollution etc. The chief guest of the day was Rev. Fr. Bala Pacimala, Paris Priest of Jubilee Nagar parish. Rev. Fr. Paul Palipe, Rector of Holy Trinity Major Seminary appreciated the students and congratulated them for their brilliant ideas. At the end of the event Fr. Ramesh Eachu, the correspondent, thanked the guests, and all the teaching staff and students for this remarkable achievement.



Lecture on the Second Vatican Council

A lecture on the theology of the Second Vatican Council was presented by the Administrator of the Diocese of Gurk (Austria), Dr. Mgr. Engelbert Guggenberger, on 9 November 2018 at Kolbnitz Parish. This parish is under the pastoral care of the Missionaries of Faith and Rev. Fr. Vijaya Kumar Madanu is the parish priest.



Visit of the Provincial Superior to Austria



Rev. Fr. Maria Joji Rai, mf, the Provincial Superior of St. Peter's Province, India, visited the Mission of Austria on 6 December 2018. Rev. Fr. Vijaya Kumar Madanu, mf, welcomed him in the parish of Kolbnitz. The Holy Eucharist was celebrated with First Holy Communion Children and with Choir of St. Jacob. On this occasion a breakfast was organized by the Association of Legion of Mary of the Parish.

*Fr. Vijaya Kumar MADANU, mf
Parish Priest, Kolbnitz, Austria*

Province of Vietnam

Canonical visit of the Superior General to the formation Centres



The Superior General, Rev. Fr. Jesus Dajac, made a canonical visit to the formation centres of the Province from 18 to 26 February 2019. He was accompanied by Rev. Fr. Joseph Phan Trong Quang, General Councillor. The theme chosen for this visit is: *"It was not you chose me, but I who chose you"* (Jn 15, 16). The visitation was an

opportune time for the Missionaries of Faith in Vietnam to review the process of formation.

At the very beginning of the visitation the Superior General had a meeting with the Provincial Administration, wherein he emphasized the purpose and contents of the canonical visit in 5 verbs: **Verify**, according to our Charism; **Discern** all things that can help us in Viet Nam according to our Spirituality; **Decide**, the final things to put in practice;



Act, put into practice; **Celebrate**, celebrate in our life.

During the visitation the Superior General had a meeting with the formators and professors in order to analyse the formation plan of the Province of Vietnam. He also had personal meetings with the Rector and other formators. He also visited the study house (also called Sao Mai House) in the Archdiocese of Ho Chi Minh City and had a common meeting with the seminarians of the Province. Later he also had individual meeting with the seminarians.



On Tuesday, February 26, he left Vietnam to continue the canonical visit to the formation houses in the Philippines.

First Religious Profession

Three novices of the Province, Joseph Tran Van Nghiep, Peter Hoang Duc Nang, Dominic Than Hoang Phi, made their first religious profession on 10 March 2019.

Rev. Fr. Thomas Dinh Ngoc Loc, the Provincial Superior, presided over the Eucharistic Celebration and received their vows.

Rev. Fr. Joseph Nguyen Van Thanh, the Novice Master, and other priests belonging to the communities of Ba Lua, Ba Tra, Cay Truong, Da Bac, Dau Tieng joined the concelebration. Other confreres and family members of the newly professed religious also were present for the function.



After the Holy Mass, all those present, around 200, mostly confreres, family members and relatives, and friends joined for the fellowship lunch. After the short summer vacation, the three neo-professed will be sent to the Seminary of the Diocese of Yokohama, Japan to continue their studies.

Vice Province of Myanmar

Retreat of Community Health and Development (CHAD)

The retreat for the staff of CHAD was held in our vice provincial house, *Domus Mater Fidei* from 22 to 26 December 2018. Fr. Nicholas Phone Myint, mf, lead this retreat. The aims of CHAD are to help the families in difficulty for the education and health of the children, to support the nutrition programme for poor families in the villages etc.



Pilgrimage group from Yangon in Domus Mater Fidei - MF



Blessing of the New Church, Mailone Parish



The new church of the parish of Mailone, dedicated to St. Louis, will be blessed on 15 March 2019. This Church is the fruits of the solidarity of the parishioners of Mailone.



Appointment of Youth Director at Diocesan Level

Fr. Maurice Thi Ha Htwe, mf, is appointed as the Youth Director of Loikaw Diocese.



Laying of the foundation for the new Vice-Provincial House

Rev. Fr. Louis Gabriel, Superior of the Vice-province, laid the foundation for the new Vice-Provincial House of Myanmar, in Mailone on 14 February 2019.



On-going Formation Programme for the priests

The MF priests, along with the Diocesan clergy, participated in the on-going Formation programme from 27 February to 01 March 2019, conducted in the Pastoral Centre of the diocese of Loikaw.



Vice Province of Oceania

Closing of the mission at Malotau

The Mission at Malotau Parish was closed, by the end of 2018, due to health issues of our confreres. Frs. Nicholas Douglas Fido, mf, Fr. Tuli Paulo, mf and Fr. Peniamina Sitagata, mf have moved to our Residence at Vaitele awaiting their next mission.

Opening of the parish in the archdiocese of Wellington



On 3 February 2019, the Missionaries of Faith opened their first mission in the archdiocese of Wellington, Holy Family Parish, Porirua East. It was a historic day for the parishioners of Porirua, as they got a new Parish Priest for the first time in 21 years.



It was also a historic day for the Missionaries of Faith in Oceania as it marked the beginning of their mission in another diocese of New Zealand. At the beginning of the Mass of Installation, Cardinal John Dew welcomed the newcomers to the Archdiocese of Wellington and in particular to Holy Family Parish, Porirua. Rev. Fr. Andrew Atonio, the parish priest and Rev. Fr. Tuli Paulo, parochial vicar, were formally welcomed in the parish. They were accompanied by other members of the Missionaries of Faith – Rev. Fr. Talipope Vaifale, Superior of the Vice-province, Rev. Fr. Joseph Thirumala and Rev. Fr. Vijay Kumar Palle. In an impressive ceremony of Installation Fr. Andrew Atonio was presented to the parishioners by Peter Setefano, chairperson of the Parish Pastoral Council. The keys of the Church were handed over by the previous Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Penehe Patelehio, and Cardinal John, then, gave them to Fr. Andrew, the new parish priest, reciting the following formula: “Receive the keys of this church. Welcome your people into the house of God; unlock for them the treasures of God’s kingdom.” At the end of the various rites, the new parish priest, Fr. Andrew, was made to sit on the presider’s chair and asked to generously fulfil his tasks of serving the people of this parish. The Cardinal then presented Fr. Andrew to the people asking them to accept him, pray for him, support him and love him.

A gathering after the Holy Mass gave the parishioners the opportunity to meet the Missionaries of Faith and also meet the people from Onehunga who had accompanied Fr. Andrew to Porirua. After a shared meal a parish representative spoke on behalf of “the wonderfully diverse parish” to endorse the welcome, to pledge support and

to express the hope that we would mutually guide one another. Several of the leaders of the parish groups then came forward to further endorse the welcome and to offer their service for the growth.

Demise of Mrs. Fuarosa Tuiofea Timoteo

Mother of Sem. Taufasau Peter Laupapa, from American Samoa, Mrs. Fuarosa Tuiofea Timoteo peacefully passed away on 20 March 2019. She had been suffering from various health problems. Let us all pray for the bereaved family and for the departed soul.

**Delegation of North America****Graduation of Rev. Joseph Ton Huu Dang**

Deacon Joseph Ton Huu Dang, will graduate from Notre Dame School of Theology in New Orleans on Thursday, 9 May 2019. Congratulations and best wishes for the future ministry.




Happy Easter

MF NEWS BULLETIN
 Drafting: Via Nulvi, 11 – 00148 Roma
 Tel: + 39.06.45493990
 e-mail: tomedasserymf@gmail.com
 or
missionaridellafede@gmail.com
 Visit @ www.missionaridellafede.org