



MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

Deepti Bhavan, Melampara - 686 578, Kottayam Dt. Kerala, India

Circular XI/5/2023-2028

December 17, 2023

Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers and brothers,

Warmest greetings of the Season from the MST Generalate!

The fifth circular comes to you when we are on the threshold of the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord. May the memory and celebrations of the birth of Our Lord bring us joy and happiness that nobody can deprive us of.

Prayer in view of Election of Major Archbishop

The MST being a Society of Apostolic Life of Major Archiepiscopal Status has the responsibility in a special way to pray for the Major Archbishop Emeritus Mar George Cardinal Alencherry who guided the Syro-Malabar Church to new heights during the past 12 years since 2011. He had been very considerate towards us by giving due recognition and acceptance to the MST in the Church. Let us pray earnestly that God may provide a worthy pastor as the Father and head of the Syro-Malabar Church. You are requested to pray for unity and peace in the Mother Church and say in every house/ mission centre, the prayer for the election of the new Major Archbishop circulated by the Major Archiepiscopal Curia.

Committee for Planning Renewal Programmes

The Renewal of the Society has been one of the concerns of the delegates to the 11th Ordinary General Assembly. Therefore, a committee is formed consisting of Rev.Fr Palakkeel Jose (Convener), Rev. Fr Siju Azhakath, Rev. Fr Zacharias Thamarakkattu, Rev. Fr Joice Pulianmakkal, Rev. Fr Saju Thuppalanjyil and Rev.Fr Joseph Thekkekarottu (Ex-Officio) to prepare a long term plan to organise Renewal Programmes. The committee is asked to submit the report latest by January 31, 2024. You are most welcome to give your suggestions to the committee regarding the renewal needed in the society.

Visit to Mission Regions and Other Missions

Visitation of the four Mission Regions of MST and other mission areas in India was a very enriching experience. I thank most sincerely all the Regional Directors and Councillors as well as the Co-ordinator of Odisha mission, for arranging my visit in a very systematic way. Going through the different Mission Regions and mission stations, I realized the enormity of the hard work the MST priests do in India. I am convinced that our missionaries are doing excellent ministries in the places of their apostolate. We can proudly say that through our various apostolates and direct proclamation, the Society does bear witness to Christ the Redeemer. Education Institutions, Special schools, Formation of new Christian communities, Preaching ministry, Social empowerment programmes, Pastoral care of the migrants etc., are some of the areas where we do our best. Efforts were made to meet every priest personally and understand the members better. In a special way I thank each and every member of the Society for the trust they placed in me and their openness to share their joys and sorrows.

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Sacred Orders of Priesthood

We are blessed with two priestly ordinations this year which will be after Christmas.

- M'samsana Michael (Shalgin) Arackaparampil will be ordained priest at Sacred Heart Church, Peringulam, (Diocese of Pala) on 28th December 2023 at 09.15 am.
- M'samsana Joseph (Ashil) Kizhakekara will be ordained at his home parish St George Forane Church, Vilangad (Diocese of Thamarassery) on 30th December 2023 at 09.15 am.

All are cordially invited to be present on the occasion and remember the deacons in our prayers!

Perpetual Promise of Incorporation and Sacred Order of M'Samsanusa

I am happy announce that five temporary members of the Society will be taking the **Perpetual Promise of Incorporation** to the Director General on December 19, 2023 at Ruhahaya Major Seminary, Ujjain. On the same day, the Sacred Order of *M'samsanausa* and other Minor Orders will be conferred by Mar Sebastian Vadakel on the following candidates of MST at Ruhahaya Major Seminary, Ujjain.

1. Perpetual Promise of Incorporation and Sacred Order of M'samsanusa

1. Kanjirathamkunnel Sebastian (Abin Sunny), Manikadavu, Tellichery
2. Makkiyil Chacko (Amal Sebastian), Parathanam, Pala
3. Paruthickal Simon (Binil Varghese), Manackachira, Changanacherry
4. Thadathil Joseph (Ajith Joseph), Angadikadavu, Tellichery
5. Velloor Mathew (Gintumon James), Azhangadu, Kanjirappally

2. Sacred Order of Heupadyaknusa

1. Ammanath Jospheh (Joyal), Anackampoil, Thamarassery
2. Kaithackal George (Maneesh Mathew), Mattathipara, Pala
3. Kanjiramattathil Jacob (Alan K Augustin), Palavayal, Tellichery
4. Kavunnukattil Joseph, Areekamala, Tellicherry.
5. Kizhakkumkarayil Sebastian (Alan), Neriamangalam, Kothamangalam
6. Kottavila Benedict (Blesson Francis), Chiplun, Kalyan.
7. Mannarath Sebastian (Akhil Jose), Kottody, Tellichery
8. Mundamattam James (Noble Thomas), Palakadu, Pala
9. Pengattu George (Amal Chacko), Chavaragiri, Tellichery
10. Pullolil Joseph (Tom Dominic), Kalathukadavu, Pala
11. Puthenpurackal Thomas (Siby), Seethathodu, Kanjirappally

3. Sacred Order of Karoyusa

1. Ambattu Sebastian (Justin Jose), Teekoy, Pala
2. Kaithickathadathil Sebastian (Jobit Michael), Vimalagiri, Idukki
3. Kalathil Sebastian (Denny Tomy), Maniamkunnu, Pala
4. Kochumannoor Jestin James, Valiathovala, Kanjirappally
5. Mandapathikunnel Francis (Abin Benny), Yendayar, Pala
6. Nelluvelil Xavier (Georgekutty), Plassanal, Pala
7. Parachalil Thomas (Shinto), Punnakunnu, Tellichery
8. Thannickal Jerin Mathew, Melukavumattam, Pala
9. Uruppankattil Philip (Philip George), Perumpadave, Tellichery
10. Valliparambil Joseph (Jomin Antony), Peravoor, Tellichery

Invitation to Serve in the Estates

Rev. Fr Antony Pedikattukunnel, the Convener of the Committee appointed to study the feasibility of the Estate at Mullas in Maharashtra, has submitted the report. Special thanks are due to Fr Antony and the team for their excellent and well-studied report. As per one of the suggestions given by the committee, I would request the members, who are interested in Agriculture and Estate management, to give me their names to be appointed in the Estates of MST.

Kripa Sadan, Kuttikanam

As you are aware, the prayer house- ***Kripa Sadan*** at Kuttikanam Kerala was inaugurated and blessed on September 3, 2023. You are encouraged to make use of the facility at Kripa Sadan for prayer and spiritual renewal for a few days according to your convenience. Only twelve people can be accommodated at a time in rooms. The atmosphere and climate are very much conducive for prayer. You may please contact Fr. Peter Vattappara (Mob. +91 9137662435) for more details and to reserve rooms in advance.

Accounts of Holy Qurbana for the Society and *Communion*

The priest members of the Society are earnestly requested to respond to the letter of the Treasurer General requesting to give the number of Holy Qurbana celebrated in the intention of the Director General and *Communion* as well as binations if any, at the earliest. If anybody has not received the communication from the Treasurer General, they may please contact him and furnish the details.

May the message of love, hope, peace, good will and happiness that comes with the Nativity of Our Lord, bring you lasting peace and joy during the Holy season of Christmas and throughout the New year 2024!

Yours in Christ Jesus,



Fr Vincent Kadalikattilputhenpura
Director General, MST




Fr Lonappan Arangassery
Secretary General, MST