



MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE

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

CIRCULAR XI/12/2023-2028

February 15, 2025

Your Excellencies, Reverend Fathers and Brothers,

Warmest Foundation Day and Jubilee Year greetings from the MST Generalate!

1. Foundation Day 2025

The MST Foundation Day is at our door steps. The MST can be proud of 57 years of her meaningful existence. In tune with the spirit of the Constitutions, you are exhorted to celebrate the Foundation Day meaningfully giving due importance. I wish you all the greetings of the Foundation Day and invoke God's blessing in abundance on the Society and her Missions.

2. Fr Thuruthel Memorial Scholarship

It is a matter of great joy that two scholarships have been instituted in memory of late Fr Sebastian Thuruthel, one by the MST and the other by the students of the First Batch (1969-70) of Deepti Minor Seminary.

- ❖ Fr Sebastian Thuruthel has set apart a Burse to institute scholarships for the students of Deepti Minor seminary. As per his wish, one student, from all the three batches, who score the highest total marks in the examinations held during the year will be given a cash award every year.
- ❖ The students of the first batch (1969-1970) of Deepti Minor seminary, both ordained priests and those who discontinued, expressed their desire to cherish the memory of their Rector, Rev. Fr Sebastian Thuruthel. Accordingly, they have instituted a Burse in his memory to: 1) sponsor a theology student for priesthood continually and 2) give cash awards to three MST theologians who score the highest aggregate of marks for the B.Th. examinations.

The Society is very grateful to all the students of the first batch of Deepti Minor Seminary, especially to Mr Cherian Karinthakara for his initiative in this regard.

3. New Leader for African Mission

There was an online meeting of the African missionaries with the members of the General Administration on 10th February, 2025 at 6.00 p.m. The missionaries in Tanzania shared their views and concerns regarding the Mission with the Administration as well as shared matters related to the Society and the Members. Rev.Fr Kizhakkekureethadathil Joseph (Shaiju) was proposed as the leader of the Missionaries working in Tanzania and it was confirmed by the Director General with the consent of the Council. The Society is very much indebted to Rev.Fr Varghese (Biju) Pullappillil who had been heading the missionaries in Tanzania for the last 12 years.

4. On-going Programmes

The following on-going programmes are organised for the members of the Missionary Society in the months listed below. You may please save the dates of the programmes and attend the respective meeting without fail if you are expected to participate. The list of the participants for the inter-regional meetings will be communicated at the earliest.

Date	Ongoing Programme	Venue
May 12-16, 2025	Senior Priests' Meet (1964 to 1982-83)	Generalate
August 26-29, 2025	Inter-regional meeting	Mandya
September 23-26, 2025	Inter-regional meeting	Ujjain
September 30-October 3, 2025	Young Priests' Meet	Generalate



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October	21-24, 2025	Inter-regional meeting	Delhi
October	28-31, 2025	Batchwise Meet (1999-00 to 2009-10)	Generalate
February	03-06, 2026	Inter-regional meeting	Sangli
May	05-08, 2026	Inter-regional Meeting	Generalate

5. The First Appointment of MST New Priests

The new priests are sent to various dioceses for four months from February 1 to May 31, 2025, for gaining pastoral experience.

Name	Place
Fr Chacko (Amal) Makkiyil	Assistant Parish priest from 30-01-2025 at St Joseph's Church, Poovathussery, Eparchy of Irinjalakuda
Fr Joseph (Ajith) Thadathil	Assistant Parish priest from 30-01-2025 at Little Flower Church, Potta, 680 307, Eparchy of Irinjalakuda
Fr Sebastian (Abin) Kanjirathamkunel	Assistant Parish priest from 01-02-2025 at St Xaviers Church, Chemmanar, Eparchy of Idukki
Fr Mathew (Gintumon) Velloor	Assistant Parish priest from 01-02-2025 at St George Forane Church, Vellayamkudy, Eparchy of Idukki
Fr Simon (Binil) Paruthickal	Assistant Parish priest from 01-02-2025 at Christ the King Forane Church, Rajakkad, Eparchy of Idukki
Fr Joseph Vembenickal	Assistant Parish priest from 13-02-2025 at St George Forane Church Edathua, Archeparchy of Changanachery
Fr Michael Vettukallel	Assistant Parish priest from 13-02-2025 at Mar Sleeva Forane Church, Alapuzha, Archeparchy of Changanachery

6. Vocation Promotion

The Church in general and the MST in particular, is facing shortage of vocations in an alarming manner. Pope Francis said on Jan. 16, 2014: "No vocation is born of itself or lives for itself. A vocation flows from the heart of God and blossoms in the good soil of faithful people. Did not Jesus say: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn 13:35)". Of all the ways we can work toward the increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life, prayer is undoubtedly the most essential. Jesus exhorts us "to beg the master of the harvest to send labourers into the vineyard." (Mt 9:38). The MST Constitutions and Directives, clearly envisages that promoting vocations is one of the primary duties of every member of the Society (C34). Therefore I request you to do everything possible to promote vocations to the MST from your home parishes and contacts in the coming days.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr Vinson Joseph
Director General MST



Fr Lonappan Arangassery
Secretary General MST