 **CAPUCHIN PROVINCE OF KRIST JYOTI**

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ NORTH INDIA \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Prot.No.03/09/KJP/17 10 Sept. 2017

Dear Brothers,

Greetings of peace and Joy!

The Provincial Council had its last meeting on 7th August 2017 at St. Francis Ashram Kartarpur, just previous day of the Perpetual Profession of three of our brothers. It was a day set apart for the province and we could discuss many matters concerning the province. Many of you had given suggestions and requests. We had discussed each of them very elaborately and some requests were taken into consideration while some others we have dropped or postponed to a later stage.

We took up for consideration the Provincial Chapter resolutions and their follow up and discussed ways and means to fulfill the needs of the province as far as possible. I would like to highlight some of them as they require your attention.

We will be revising the Provincial Statutes before the Extra Ordinary Chapter to be held immediately after the General Chapter in 2018. A five member commission is constituted with Br. Jacob Kaniyarasseril as Chairman and Bros. Xavier Vadakkekara, Dominic Thirunilath, P.A Joseph, Thomas Pullattu and Joseph Panthiruvelil as members.

Br. Arockia Alex is appointed the regency director. He will prepare in consultation with formation council proper guidelines for the regency programme for our province and arrange various formation programme for the brothers in formation during their holidays in consultation with their respective rectors.

We propose to arrange the ongoing formation for the friars in different levels. The programme will be systematic, dynamic and integrated one. As our constitution states that “it is the duty and right of each brother to apply himself to his own ongoing formation”. Thus, as we arrange the programme in the coming months your whole hearted cooperation is highly expected.

There will be a one day seminar for the Superiors, Economus, Principals, of our communities and institutions from the month of November onwards. Kindly make yourselves available for the seminar without fail. Exact date will be notified later.

The Provincial Council decided unanimously to hold the council meetings in different friaries. I am sure that it will enable the friars to interact with the Provincial and the Councilors in a healthy manner. Already we have completed two meetings and the next one will be held in the month of October at Alverna Friary, Dalhousie. (The Provincial Council will meet five times in a year: May, August, October, December and February)

I am happy to inform you that the construction work of the new friary at Bilaspur will start this month itself. The renovation and painting work of St. Antony’s Bhavan Suryanagar, Indian Currents Office Mayur Vihar, St. Francis Monastery Barlowganj, Kristraja Hostel Masuri, Kristjyoti and St. Jospeh’s School and Ashram Ratenpura will be taken up shortly. St. Francis Ashram Kartarpur community is permitted to do the rewiring of the house. All the works will be finalized only after the official visitation of the Land and Building Commission and its recommendation and approval of plan, estimate and blue print as required. When to start the work, who will supervise the work, who will provide the financial assistance etc will be told to the concerned communities. You are requested to cooperate with us in this regard because finance is a major concern for us as we are taking up different projects. Please note that no renovation works, addition/alteration etc. on existing structures in any of our stations shall be taken up with proper information and approval of the Provincial and his Council.

The following communities are granted permission to buy new vehicle. Shantiniketan Sahibabad (car), Jyotiniketan Seminary (Jeep Type), St. Francis Friary Batala (car), St.Fidelis Friary Mastkot (Bolero), Kristjyoti Provincialate (Bike), Alphonsa Bhavan Shoranur (car) and St. Pauls Gzb. (Bike) Before buying the vehicle all the concerned communities are requested to contact Br. Binu, our provincial procurator and clearly discuss about the financial arrangements, under whose name the vehicle has to be registered etc. Let us not go ahead with individual community decisions alone in this regard.

The commission has studied the proposal of the parish church at Dasna. We recommend putting up a separate structure in between the existing U shaped building. But the final plan is not yet made and passed.

It is approved the proposal to build a multi-purpose hall at St. Pauls Academy Shahbad.

Two of our schools, Kristraja School Masuri and St. Thomas School, Mastakot will be converted to English Medium by the next academic year. Most probably we will affiliate these schools with ICSE syllabus. Already the process and preparations are on. St. Joseph School Ratenpura and St. Paul’s academy Bilaspur(Uday Vidyalay) are trying to get the conversion of land- use, BSA approval and Minority Certificate without delay.

We have asked Mastkot community to look for the possibility of residential hostel at Mastkot/Kalanur. We will be opening the hostel by the next academic year if everything goes well. Jyotiniketan seminary will be provided Solar System as an alternative for the scarcity of electricity. It will be installed shortly.

Br. Joseph Panthiruvelil and Br. Alex are appointed Moga and Kalanur project incharges. They will make the study (Master Plan) and give their recommendations and suggestions to the Provincial Council. We hope that we can start the project without much delay.

I am glad to inform you that we have agreed to take up the mission in Jaipur Diocese. Certain arrangements are yet to be made. To begin with, one of the friars will take up a parish in the above diocese and look for other possibilities.

Br. Thomas Pullatt, in charge of Kishangarh Project in Ajmer has started pastoral work in the area. We have suggested the bishop to give him necessary appointment in this regard.

Br. Jose M.J will be joining his community at Kausambi by 10th October 2017. His mother is recovering slowly and his brother is continuing his treatment.

Br. Jacob Kaniyarasseril is appointed as the Formation Secretary and Br. Josemon Eluvathingal is appointed as Mission secretary of the Province.

Br. Binu A.M, our Provincial Procurator is appointed also as the Project Manager of the province.

It was decided to appoint Mr. Titus as the accountant for our friaries at Bilaspur, Rampur and Shahbad. He will be paid from St. Paul’s Academy Shahbad.

We had not constituted a Pastoral & Youth Commission for our Province. Hereby I announce the commission with following members. Bros. John Paul Gill, Thomas Menappattu, Freddie, Niamat and Bellarmine.

I would request to all of you, especially the guardians in consultation with the Local Chapter to make a plan for your respective communities for the triennium and kindly share it with us during the forthcoming Superiors Meeting. We will try to implement them for the betterment of the province according to the priority.

Monthly Recollection is a time for all of us to renew ourselves in the spirit of God. In the busy schedule of our life let us not forget to live our religious life. Often it happens that we become “Marthas” in our lives. But we need to be “Marys” in order to experience our Lord. I strongly recommend to all of you to participate in the monthly recollection arranged in your respective region like Rajastan, Punjab, Ghaziabad, and Rampur. You may choose a brother who can be the in charge for the concerned regions whose duty is to convene the Monthly recollection without fail.

Policy concerning the protection of minors and vulnerable adults for conference of Capuchin Major Superiors of India is ready. Every professed friar shall be provided a printed copy and a declaration is to be made. You will be getting the copy during our annual retreat.

Supporting the same policy of the CCMSI and the Government of India on Protection of Minors, our province too has brought out a Child Protection Protocol for our institutions. It will be made available as early as possible.

Two of our regents, Br. Sandeep Masih, and Br. Ranjan Dung Dung have decided not to continue in the Order due to some personal reasons.

Br. Joban Mathew has left to Kerala for his Licentiate in Theology of family and marriage in Pope John Paul II Institute (CANA). It’s a two years course affiliated to Pontifical Lateran University, Rome.

Br. Jose Vattathotty will attend the Heritage Course at Assisi from 05 October to 05 November 2017.

Br. Sebastian Ullathottam will attend the Ongoing Formative Pilgrimage at Holy Land from 15 September to 15 October 2017.

Br. Biju Choorapadath is transferred from Milwaukee, Chikago to Michigan, Washington. Br. Binoy Augustine is expected to join him in the same community by the middle of October 2017.

I am attaching the recently concluded CCMSI Meeting Recommendations and Resolutions for your perusal.

Dear Brothers, a valid tool to motivate and support the path of the friars is the constitution of a project of life and activity of the Province. The Gospel and the Constitutions must be the criterion of the instructions contained in the project. Very often we read provincial plans that are very broad and detailed, but that do not find application in the life of the local fraternities. Let us ask ourselves what are the essential elements that contribute to the editing of a provincial plan of life and activity?

There are certain points to highlight.

* The relationship with the person of Jesus Christ.
* The centrality of the common prayer that must have a privileged and adequate space in the schedule of the fraternity.
* The quality of fraternal relationships that are supported and valued by meeting the Word of God, by Local Chapters, by sharing meals in peace, by moments of recreation experienced together.

As we are preparing to celebrate the Feast of our Father Francis, let us strengthen ourselves in the spirit of our Lord to be a true friar minor. Wishing all the happiness and blessings of the Feast of Our Father and Patron, St. Francis of Assisi,

With Fraternal Love,



 

Br. Benoy Joseph

Minister Provincial.