



PROVINCIAL

MISSIONARIES OF SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE

MSFS PROVINCIAL HOUSE

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My dear Confreres,

August 16, 2018

Fraternal greetings from Fr Benny. Once again I come to you with the update regarding the flood-situation in Kerala. It is really grim and the situation of the people is very pathetic and drastic. As informed by some of our confreres in many places people are stranded in the buildings and rescue operations are no more happening. There is a frantic run for food all around.

Our Community, SFS Vidyashram, in Aluva is also under great threat. The river Periyar is overflowing through our land and it has come rather close to our house. At present more than 200 people, who are evacuated from different places are camping in our house in Aluva. I am in touch with Fr. Thomas Kalary. The whole of Aluva town is submerged in water. Please pray for the safety of our Fathers as well as the people.

My dear Confreres, in this devastating situation in Kerala there is a religious and moral responsibility for us to stand by the suffering people. As I had mentioned, many of our communities are extending helping hand to the people who are suffering. Charis Bhavan and SFS School Ettumanoor are very much at it.

*** Although it might look like a drop in the mighty water the Provincial Administration has decided to send Rs. 1 Lakh to Charis Bhavan as an immediate aid for those affected by flood.**

My personal appeal to you my dear Confreres:

*** Please spent some time together as community praying for the people of Kerala**

*** I request all the communities to make a sacrifice of at least one meal tomorrow, the 17th of August, and contribute that amount saved from your sacrifice for the people of Kerala through the Medium of Charis Bhavan**

*** All the principals of our education institutions are already requested by the Councilor in charge to request the students to contribute for the suffering people. Please do that at the earliest and forward that amount to the Provincial Bursar, who in turn shall forward it to Charis Bhavan**

*** I request all of you to stop for a while all kinds of trips and private programs and be available for any service of help to the needy people**

* All of us who are in Parishes and other institutions in Kerala shall show extra commitment in joining hands with the people in their sufferings by serving them

* As much as possible all our seminarians and novices, especially in Kerala, shall be made to involve in flood-relief programs even sacrificing their holidays. It will in turn teach them to be compassionate to the people in need.

My dear Confreres, let us join our hearts and hands together to support the people in need. Let us really become God-bearers to them in this devastating situation of their lives.

Praying with you and united with the suffering people of Kerala
Fraternally,



Fr Benny Koottanal MSFS
Provincial
South West India Province

