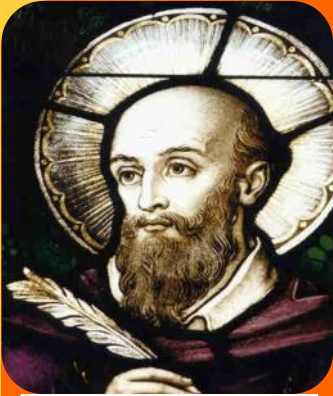


# FRONTIER FRANSALIANS

VOL. XVII

ISSUE I

16 APRIL 2017



*“Do not lo forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who care for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you un falling strength to bear it”.*

*- SFS*

## SNIPPETS

Visit of the Shepherd	2
A Beacon of Hope	2
Never more to ROAM	3
Mission Colloquium 2017	3
I baptize you ...	4
Joy of the Mission	5
Pompous celebration of SFS feast @ Béro	5
Beauty of Christian Love and Friendship	6
W-Day (March 8 with a DiFfErEnCe	7
Get Behind me Satan (Article by Bro. Ajish)	8

## Editorial



### Inebriating JOY of Easter

**S**ea<sup>S</sup>on of Joy has once again invaded and conquered our hearts. Yes! Christ is RISEN and He is RISEN in our hearts, inebriating us with his ‘divine-love’ for humanity. This is the season of Easter joy. Ours is not a joy that comes from possessions or pleasure or power. Our joy comes from having a personal encounter with God’s only begotten Son, a man like us in all things but sin, who suffered death and rose again for our sake! As we are at it again, Frontier Fransalians wishes you **HAPPY EASTER!**

Things are not awful. God has reached out to us and loved us. We are not doomed to a disastrous fate; Christ died for us and set us free. We are not alone in our life struggle; we are God’s people, the Church, united in Christ. We do not need to be afraid; he is with us always. Our sins have not damned and doomed us, but the grace of Christ has saved us. This is Easter joy—the Lord’s triumph over sin and death, the forgiveness of our sins, and the opening up of the gates of heaven to all God’s children, making us all worthy to sit at his table.

**M**ay this Easter season bring us lasting joy and confidence. May the joy of Easter invade our hearts, making us anew. “We accompany, we follow Jesus, but above all we know that he accompanies us and carries us on his shoulders. This is our joy; this is the hope that we must bring to this world of ours” (Pope Francis). May we share this joy generously with others during this Easter time and always! **Live Jesus!**



*Sujith John MSFS  
Chad-Cameroon*

## Visit of the Shepherd

Imagine the situation of a son (residing in a hostel), waiting for the arrival of his father/mother or loved ones! The confreres of Chad-Cameroon Mission wait for their beloved shepherd's annual visit, in such manner.

It was such a wonderful experience of sharing the 'Joy of the Mission' with Rev. Fr. Benny Kootanal, on his annual visit to the Mission. Unlike last year (which was a 10 short day visit), Fr. Benny and team (Frs. Joy and Vinod), took special care in visiting all the centers of the Mission, meeting the confreres in person and as a community and sharing the joy of community living by way of Adoration of Blessed Sacrament, games and sports, common meals etc. The visit was culminated with the Mission Colloquium, which was a wonderful flat form to meet all the confreres working in the Mission. The Mission is grateful to Fr. Benny, Joy and Vinod for the visit and fraternal love shared.

**Live Jesus!**



CHAD V/S REST OF THE WORLD

## A Beacon of Hope – SFS School @ Doba

**R**epublic of Chad is known for many infamous tags like – one of poverty-stricken countries, most backward nation, political instability, hub of Boko haram, strikes and protests, genocides and the list continues. Intellectuals, who know the thick and thin of it, say there is one single remedy for the redemption of Chad – **EDUCATION**.

Education is at the heart of Fransalian spirituality. Providing quality education is not only the manifestation of our love for the youth, but it is also a clear way of transmitting Salesian virtues and MSFS identity; thus indirectly contributing to the growth of

the nation. Keeping in mind the intention of Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, our founder, who firmly believed that education – “opens up the heart of the young: making them grow in knowledge, wisdom and discipline”, the MSFS in Chad-Cameroon mission plunged into the starting of a School in Doba (Chad). During the annual visit, on 6 February 2017 Fr. Benny Kootanal, provincial of SWI province, laid the foundation stone of the school. Soon the construction would

begin, and the structure would be ready to house the first batch of student for the next academic year 2017-18. Kudos and thanks to 'Agape Foundation' (founded by Fr. Sen MSFS), other funding agencies and all other magnanimous hearts! **Thank you Jesus**



## ...Never more to ROAM



**C**hristianity in the Republic of Chad is known for its unique practices. One such is the practice of 'Lenten Retreat' arranged in a deserted place. First and foremost, the Church in Chad chooses a theme for the year, then experts prepare a text for retreat, at the diocese/regional level the text is again translated into local languages, then a formation is organised for the animators of retreat (mostly catechists and elders) at the diocese level first and then at the

parish level, and finally retreats are held at sector level in the parishes. The faithful are quite serious about the Lenten retreat as a preparation for Easter. Young and old, leaving their houses go to a deserted area (usually beside a river or a stream) as decided by the parish and council and participate in the retreat for 4 days. It is a remembrance of Jesus' 'desert-experience'. Usually the retreat begins on a Thursday and concludes with the Sunday Mass. The faithful return home only after the completion of the retreat. The Parish priest accompanies the faithful in their spiritual preparation with the sacrament of Confession, Adoration and Holy Mass. Sometime confessions last from morning till night.

Saint Daniel Comboni's Parish, Doba and St. Josephine Bakhita Parish, Béro (2 MSFS parishes in Chad), as usual organised 'Lenten-retreats', in different sectors and communities on the theme: **"Faith and Tradition"**. All the faithful took active part in the spiritual exercise and prepared themselves for the greatest feast of Christian faith – Easter. Indeed, those were moments of Grace and great spiritual rejuvenation.

### Mission Colloquium - 2016 of Chad-Cameroon Mission

**M**ission Colloquium - 2017 of the Chad-Cameroon Mission was held at St. Thomas More Parish Community, Ngaoundéré from 8-10 February 2017. The decisions and the action plan deriving out of the colloquium are the following:

1. Raise Chad-Cameroon mission into a delegation.
2. Ensure half an hour of adoration in every community in the mission every day.
3. Have monthly community meetings and present accounts in the communities.
4. Send annual budget of every community to the mission bursar before 28th February 2017 and ensure annual auditing.
5. Revive apostolic communities in the mission by having apostolic community meetings 4 times a year.
6. Continue the mission circular once in four months and ensure every centre sends news materials.
7. In the year of Education, social and innovative apostolate, start the construction of the school in Doba latest by 15 March 2017 and extend at least one class room for the Ngaoundéré school before the end of August 2017.
8. In the year of Education, social and innovative apostolate strengthen the Child Scholarship Programme by approaching more agencies and finding more worthy candidates.
9. Supervise the Minor Seminary construction and finish it before 31 July 2017.
10. Secure our properties and have a master plan for all our land in the mission.
11. Intensify the Vocation promotion to have at least 10 candidates for next year. Make sure that every year candidates are recruited also from Chad.
12. Find sponsors for all professed members.
13. Have Mission Corpus Fund for emergency needs.
14. Seek the possibilities of Mission appeal in USA and strengthen our collaboration with Franco-Swiss province.
15. Complete the extension of La Feuillette by July 2017.

#### To Provincial administration

1. Strengthen the mission by sending more personnel.
2. Ensure the financial stability of the mission.
3. Revive the Africa-day in all educational institutions of the province.



## *I baptize you, in the name of the ...*

Imagine the joy of a farmer at harvest. In Chad Easter season is the 'spiritual harvest season'. After having prepared the catechumens 4 years for the sacrament of Baptism & first Holy Communion and 6 months for Marriage, the candidates are admitted for a week-long intensive preparation of retreat and spiritual accompaniment to receive the sacraments. At the end of the formation, the catechumens are eligible for the sacrament of Baptism and Eucharist. Adult baptisms are common and encouraged in Chad. Thus the candidates are prepared accordingly, keeping in mind various pastoral requirements of the Diocese. Interestingly most of them are married couples, who are married according to the tradition. Thus the Church makes use of the occasion to regularize their 'marital union' in the Church.

This year, the long awaited event was celebrated with pomp and glamour at Madjo (Béro Parish) and at St. Daniel Comboni Parish, Doba. 146 catechumens (at Béro and 253 at Doba) were

prepared for this year's 'spiritual harvest', who were received into the Church by way of 'baptism of immersion' in Pende River and at the same time 15 marriages were blessed and regularized. Newly baptized faithful were well dressed in white

clothes as a symbol of holiness and purity, who were of the age limit between 10-75. There were around 2000 faithful, who added vibration into the festal mode. Interestingly, many children and grand children of the newly married and baptized parents were the direct participants and witnesses of the celebration of the sacraments. Holy Eucharistic celebration lasted 5 hours. After the mass, the newly

baptized and married faithful were felicitated and welcomed back to their respective communities/villages in a festive mood by singing and dancing. We rejoice at the grand 'harvest'.

**Fr. Sandeep Tirkey MSFS**



## Joy of the Mission!

*I am ready and willing - these are more of religiously significant words than secular. They are high-voltage religious commitment declarations, expressing the readiness of a person, who commits himself/herself to Jesus Christ radically.*

*Chad-Cameroon Mission, together with the whole rejoicing congregation at St. Thomas More Parish (Ngaoundéré), said 'Thanks be to God', to the perpetual profession of 3 of the brothers of MSFS congregation.*

*On 9 February 2017, **Bros. Boris Nixon** (South West Province), **Francis Indumuli** and **Richard Tamaro** (East-Africa Province) made their final commitment in the congregation of the MSFS. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Abbo (Bishop of Ngaoundéré Diocese). Fr. Benny Kootanal (Provincial of South West India Province) broke the Word of God, received the Vows and welcomed the brothers into the congregation. All the members of the Chad-Cameroon Mission, who had gathered for the Mission colloquium, were present to witness this glorious event. The heavenly choir was animated by the university students of the Parish. It was a historical event, which would be marked in the annals of the Mission. We say – **Merci Seigneur!***



## Pompous celebration of SFS feast @ Béro

**T**hough situated in a village setting, St. Josephine Bakhita Parish at Béro is no stranger to pompous celebrations. Béro Mission witnessed a solemn celebration of the Parish Feast of St. Josephine Bakhita. It was a 3-day celebration, which culminated on 5 February 2017. The faithful from far-away villages reached the center on the evening of 3 February, who were shown a film based on the life-story of St. Bakhita. A big screen projection of the film is a rare sight in the history of Béro, which was liked and appreciated by the faithful. The next morning an exposition on the life of the saint was given by Fr. Sandeep. In the afternoon the village witnessed an electrifying atmosphere, because of the concert organized by the Parish. A



procession, with the decorated image of St. Bakhita was held around the villages of Béro. 5 March witnessed the culmination of the festal celebration. The celebration began at 8.30 AM with the solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Sandip Tirkey (Parish Priest). Rev. Fr. Benny Kootanal (Provincial) preached the homily, which was translated into French and Ngambaye. The presence of Frs. Joy Vazhappilly and Vinod Kannattu added glamour to the festal mode. All

*the parishioners were present with their colorful uniform bubbling with joy. The parish choir well animated the liturgy with lots of traditional music, which electrified the whole atmosphere into singing and dancing. Though the formal celebration came to a close with a fellowship meal was served to all, the joy of celebration could be heard until the midnight. We rejoice at the blessings received. **Live Jesus***

## Beauty of Christian Love and Friendship



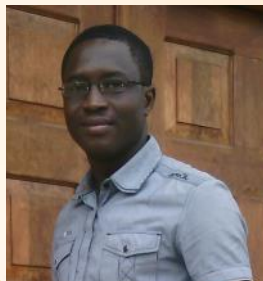
There is plenty of LOVE in the air! a teenager confided to me. Love and friendship seems to be the breath-line of the world. Deprived of them, people go weird and crazy, resulting in untold consequences. I wonder, if Love is so necessary an element for happy life, could we ever get 'IT' straight and avoid 'love-deprived' catastrophes. In this context, I propose the beauty of 'Christian Love and Friendship'.

Christ is the model par excellence of a true and pure love that we are called to imitate. Jesus says, "I give you a new commandment: love one another just as I have loved you" (John 13: 34). Jesus loved unconditionally, not counting the cost of it. It cost Jesus – His life. Thus in giving ourselves selflessly (Agape Love), we find the beauty of Christian Love and Friendship. To love is the basic characteristic of our call and should remain our Christian and human identity.

Through selfless Christian love, we can gain pearl-like friends in the world and radiate the beauty of Christian love to others. This could be a major boost for our successful mission and ministry.

Some avoid 'loving' and also 'being loved', for fear of risk involved in loving and failure in love. St. Francis de Sales would say "perfection does not consist in having no friends at all, but in having those which are good, holy, and sacred". The onus from our part is to get the basics straight. That is to say, taste the beauty of true Christian love/friendship and there would be no regrets in a true Christian love and friendship.

Christ's death on the cross is the highest point of His love for us and Easter is the culmination of that 'divine love'. God madly loved/loves us, so He came down in our form as a human, to teach us to love and being loved.



Thus, let us take up the challenge to love as Christ loved us. Be Christ like and send positive vibrations to the world. There is no room for pessimism, hatred and sadness. Not setting our minds on the negative experiences of life, let us show the world that – We can Love, as Christ loves us.  
LIVE JESUS!

**Bro. Abba Mtoudjiel MSFS (3<sup>rd</sup> year Philosophy—LCI, Arusha)**

## *W-Day (March 8) with a DiFFErEnCe*

**M**arch 8... The women of St. Daniel Comboni's Parish (Doba, Chad) just cannot wait for this day. It is **International Women's Day**. The women of the parish celebrate Women's day with a difference. The focus



is placed not much on external festal activities, but on education and awareness. This year the celebration began with a concert on 5 March organized by the women, which was followed by three conferences and workshops on 6 and 7 March, wherein doctors and specialists were invited to talk on pertinent themes, such as - Mother and infant mortality, cause & prevention of the birth of handicapped children, methods of birth-regulation, problems caused by menopause, abortion & its ill-effects, importance of education of girl children in the growth of the society...

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, the women went in procession through the main-streets of Doba raising slogans, who were joined by the women of other associations and parishes.



A common celebration was held at the Independence Square, Doba. At around 4 PM, the women gathered in the parish premises, prepared the meals and shared it among them with joy. There were more than 500 women, who took active part in the celebration.

The conclusion and the spiritual face of the Women's day was held on 12 March, wherein the liturgy was animated by the women of the Parish, who presented themselves with colourful uniform. In fine, it was a beautiful celebration of **W-Day** with a difference.

## Get Behind me Satan!

**S**ometimes we wonder as to what to do, when life experiences stop us just in front of the portals of 'temptations'. We are tempted on many fronts – spiritual, physical, psychological, emotional... Temptations are part of human life. To be tempted is normal, but not to yield to and convert it into positive energy is Divine. A small reflection into the pericope of Mathew 4:1-11 would help us in this regard.



Jesus was led into the desert by the 'Spirit', meaning that Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert. Sometimes, temptations are willed by God that we are strengthened in conviction and faith. The 3 temptations of – sensual satisfaction, glory and power are experienced in our daily lives too. Sensual Satisfaction includes the satisfaction for food, sex and drink – a basic instinctual level temptation. Satan asks Jesus to change stones into bread. It is true that physical nourishment is a need but for a believer not the center of life.

Then, Jesus is taken to the pinnacle of the temple, where everyone could see him. He becomes the pinnacle of the center of attraction (temple was at the heart of Jewish society). Often, we like to be glorified, honored, praised and value. This is the second level temptation which is comparatively difficult to resist.

Then Jesus was taken to a very high mountain, from where he could see all the kingdoms of the world and its splendor – Temptation for power and authority. The lure attached to it are irresistible. Thus, we see many who fall prey to it. The power to manipulate others is the greatest of the worldly power – a sure Satan's way. As the gospel says that Satan tempted Jesus by offering him all the worldly kingdoms, in return to worship him.

Proverb 23:7 says "For as one thinks within his heart so is he" which means thoughts define man. If we are eager to attain power, happiness, glory and honor, then it presupposes that they define our being. Jesus could resist the temptations as he was well prepared for it with the Scripture, fasting and prayer. Let this season of lent help us to resist our temptations to sin and help us in our endeavor to follow Jesus ardently.

**Bro. Ajish Antony MSFS**  
(1 Year Theology, Chad-Cameroon Mission)

## Congratulations & Welcome to the Fransalian Family



**Bro. Richard MSFS**



**Bro. Boris MSFS**



**Bro. Francis MSFS**



## Hearty Welcome

*Hearty welcome to Rev. Fr. Sen Vellakada MSFS, who after having successfully defended the thesis, "Pastoral Counselling in the Spirit of St. Francis de Sales", has recently joined the Chad-Cameroon Mission. It's a moment of joy for the Mission. Congratulation and Prayerful wishes dear Fr. Sen.*



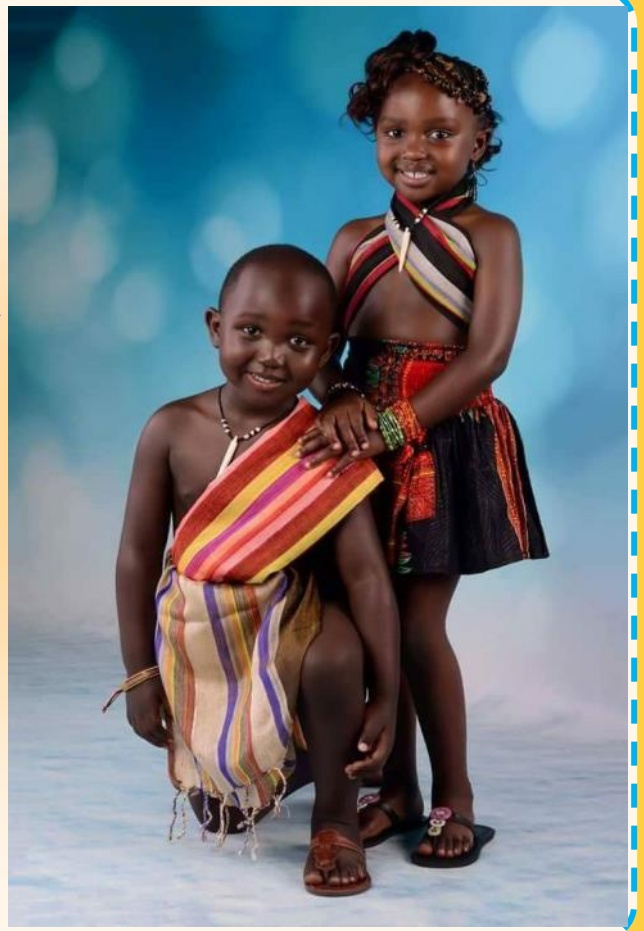
**Welcome to the Mission  
Dear Bros. Israel Lakra  
& Arun Cyriac**



*Chad-Cameroon  
Mission wishes you all  
HAPPY EASTER!*



*Let's live  
the joy of  
Easter*



**Publisher : Fr. Manoj Xavier Arackal MSFS**

**Editor : Fr. Sujith John MSFS**

**Translation to French : Bro. Senghor MSFS**

**Contact: [sujithmsfs@gmail.com](mailto:sujithmsfs@gmail.com)/[arackalmanoj@yahoo.com](mailto:arackalmanoj@yahoo.com)**