

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

NORTHEAST INDIA PROVINCE, MSFS PROVINCIALATE

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GPA/28–Circular–February 2018

Dear Confreres,

WISH YOU ALL A VERY FRUITFUL SEASON OF LENT!



At the beginning of the Lenten Season, the Church proclaims to us the inspired words of Saint Paul: “Behold, now is the acceptable time, behold now is the day of salvation.” His exhortation applies to every moment of our lives but, in a special way, to the Season of Lent, during which Our Lord provides us with strong grace for the faithful and generous living of our life in Christ. Pope Saint Leo the Great, in his Fourth Sermon for the Season of Lent, reminds us of the great importance of our annual time of prayer and penance in preparation for the celebration of the holiest days of the year,

the days on which God the Son Incarnate, Our Lord Jesus Christ, accomplished our eternal salvation. Let us listen to the words of his sermon:

“It is true that our devotion and reverence towards so great a mystery should be kept up during the whole year, and we ourselves should be at all times, in the eyes of God, the same as we are bound to be at the Easter solemnity. But this is an effort which only few among us have the courage to sustain. The weakness of the flesh induces us to relax our austerities; the various occupations of every-day life take up our thoughts; and thus even the virtuous find their hearts clogged by this world’s dust. Hence it is that our Lord has most providentially given us these forty days, whose holy exercises should be to us a remedy, whereby to regain our purity of soul.”

Making reference to the passage from the Letter to the Hebrews, regarding Christ’s high priesthood, he writes: “When the apostle speaks of the wonderful mercy shown us by our divine Saviour, who vouchsafed to make Himself like to us in all things save sin, he justly lays stress on His temptations. He, who is very God, humbled Himself even so low as this, to prove how tenderly He compassionated us. Here, then we have the Saint of saints allowing the wicked spirit to approach Him, in order that we might learn, from His example, how we are to gain victory under temptation.”

By our Lenten fasting, we restrain the satisfaction of our earthly desires. Fasting disposes us to express our love of God in pure and selfless love of our neighbor. Our Lenten prayer disposes us to the poverty of spirit by which we understand our total dependence upon God and, at the same time, are filled with confidence in His tender, all-generous, and never-failing love of us. Our Lenten almsgiving trains our heart to see the goods of this world as gifts given by God into our hands as His stewards for His glory and for the care of our brothers and sisters. The practice of almsgiving is a reminder of God’s primacy and turns our attention towards others, so that we may rediscover how good our Father is, and receive his mercy.

Fransalian Response

St Francis de Sales: St Francis de Sales exhorts us that our Lenten fast must be a complete one with body and soul involved in it. The body does penance when it mortifies our senses. The soul does penance when it mortifies our thoughts, memories and wills. “First of all, our Lenten fast must be a complete one. Body and soul have each played their part in sin; each must do penance. The body does penance when we mortify our eyes by retraining our curiosity, when we mortify our tongues by avoiding harmful conversation, when we mortify our ears by not listening to useless disturbing talk. The soul does penance when we mortify our minds by our efforts to keep them filled with good thoughts, when we mortify our memories by recalling our sins and the havoc they have wrought, when we mortify our wills by trying to keep them submissive to God’s will, holding ourselves in spirit at the foot of the cross. If we do that, our Lenten fast or penance will be a complete one, inside and out; we shall be mortifying both body and soul” ((Vincent Kerns, ed., *Pulpit and Pew: A Study in Salesian Preaching*, Visakhapatnam: SFS Printing School, 1976, p. 267).

Fr Peter Mary Mermier: Fr Peter Mary Mermier the Servant of God, our beloved Founder, was in the habit of abstaining himself and doing penance, especially from eating meat throughout Lent. It is clear from the letter he wrote to the Directoress of Chaumont: “If I dine with you, there will be no need to go to the butcher’s; I abstain from meat; I think the Sisters also. Some soup and a dish of vegetables; this is really solid food.” In the same letter he reminded them of the importance of Lent. He called it the most favourable time for penance, a Spring for the soul, a time for renewal and spiritual resurrection. “Here we are again at the most favourable time for penance, for piety. One of the Fathers of the Church calls the Lenten season ‘Spring for the soul.’ As in the countryside, everything seems to come to life again in us, everything must be renewed again during this time; we must seriously prepare ourselves for our spiritual resurrection, by fasting and abstinence for those who can and by a regular and mortified life for all” (Cf. From Fr Mermier’s Letter to Sisters Chaumont on February 24, 1858, in: *Family Annals: History of the Congregation of the Daughters of the Cross of Chavanod, France*, Tr. by Sisters Maria Goretti and Berchmans, Trichy: The Printing House, 4th Edition, p. 228).

Reform Programme of Holy Father Pope Francis

Pope Francis is seeking to foster a new mentality and attitude among the faithful. The Pope who chose the name of Poor Saint Francis of Assisi is calling on Catholics to be active witnesses of the Gospel, not simply passive believers. It is a hard job to lead a community of 1.3 billion men and women. Yet Francis is more dynamic than ever. The Synod on Youth in October this year is one of the most important topics on his agenda. In May, he is to welcome in Rome the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I. In August, a quick trip to Ireland is expected.

Looking at his papacy, we know that some impressive results have been achieved. The reform of the Curia continues, and the central government of the Church has become somewhat slimmer. This was one of the major issues that the cardinals raised during their official pre-conclave meetings prior to Francis’ election. Six former pontifical councils (Laity, Family, Justice and Peace, Cor Unum, Migrants, Health Care Workers) have been merged into two dicasteries: one for Laity, Family and Life, under Cardinal Kevin Farrell, and one for Promoting Integral Human Development, under Cardinal Peter Turkson.

Meanwhile, a cautious decentralisation has begun. Local bishops now have the right, under some circumstances, to declare a marriage null without needing the approval of Rome. Bishops’ conferences have the right to revise liturgical texts without waiting for the formal approval (recognitio) of Rome: a ratification (confirmatio) is enough. And, in the wake of the Jubilee of Mercy, priests all over the world – not just ones chosen by local bishops – are now authorised to grant absolution to those who confess to having procured an abortion: including even the schismatic clerics of the Pius X fraternity.

A few women have moved into the high ranks of the Curia. Gabriella Gambino, a professor of bioethics, and Judge Linfa Ghisoni were appointed last November as undersecretaries at the new Dicastery for Laity, the Family and Life. The academic and former US ambassador to the Holy See, Mary Ann Glendon, is a member of the board of the Vatican bank. The British social theorist, Margaret Archer, is president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences. The commission on women deacons has silently sent the Pope its conclusions; he is currently studying them.

The Church is not a “customs house”, Francis has said, but a field hospital. And the Eucharist is not for the perfect but for sinners in search of the right path. His words and gestures have refreshed the life of the people of God more effectively, and have taken the message of God’s mercy far beyond the boundaries of the Church.

Approval ratings for the Holy Father continue to be very high, and not only among Catholics. Far beyond confessional boundaries, he is recognised as a moral authority and geopolitical leader. His stand on migration, refugees, on the ever-growing inequality between rich and poor, on sex trafficking and the “new slavery” that exploits millions of workers, and his repeated emphasis on the tight link between environmental deterioration and growing social injustice, has made a broad impact on the public.

We, the Fransalians, shall pray for our Holy Father, especially during this Lent that God continues to strengthen him with untiring zeal in guiding the Church.

Local Superiors Animation Programme in Guwahati

As you are aware, Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, our beloved Superior General, has declared the year 2018 as the “Year of Local Community”. In connection with the theme of the Year, he has mandated the Provincial of convoking the Local Superiors for an animation programme. May I request you to participate in the programme, which will be held from April 3 to 4, 2018, starting at 9.00 am on April 3 and concluding on April 4 at 4 .00 pm at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati. Kindly inform the Provincial Secretary of your participation at the earliest without fail.

Transfers and Appointments

- Fr Salu Mathew Thattaparambil is designated to be Associate Priest of St Peter and Paul Church, Winterthur, Switzerland, with effect from February 19, 2018.
- Fr Nikseng Sangma is designated to be appointed Parish Priest of St Thomas Church, Vredendal, with effect from February 18, 2018.
- Fr Libin Pallattutharayil is designated to be appointed Associate Priest of St Thomas Church, Vredendal, upon his arrival in South Africa. Presently he is appointed to the staff of Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamaraserry, with effect from February 15, 2018, until he leaves for Southern African Region.
- Fr George Vettukattil is appointed Professor and Spiritual Director at SFS Seminary and Teacher at SFS School, Medziphema, with effect from April 12, 2018.
- Fr John Edacherryapuvath is appointed Chaplain to Holy Cross Sisters, Thingbakullen and Thingbakunou, with effect from March 22, 2018.
- Fr Shiji Poonthuruthil is appointed Local Superior and Local Bursar of SFS College and SFS School, Aalo, with effect from April 7, 2018.
- Fr Abraham Puthenpurackal is appointed Local Superior of MSFS Local Community, Local Bursar and is designated to be appointed Parish Priest of St Francis de Sales Parish, Nongalbibra, with effect from April 10, 2018
- Fr Mathew Muriankariyil is appointed Local Superior of MSFS Local Community and Principal of St Joseph’s School, Manikbond, with effect from April 5, 2018.

- Fr Clean Nongbak Areng is appointed Local Bursar of MSFS Community, Director of Social Work and Hospital and is designated to be appointed Parish Priest of St Joseph's Church, Manikbond, with effect from April 5, 2018.
- Fr Daniel Lalmuenzela is appointed Socius of MSFS Novitiate, Chabua, with effect from May 15, 2018.
- Fr Donsuk Lyngdoh is appointed Principal of St Francis de Sales School, Lengpui, with effect from May 1, 2018
- Fr Mathew Puthumana is appointed Local Superior, Local Bursar of MSFS Community and Principal of Don Bosco High School and is designated to be appointed Parish Priest of St Peter's Church, Chandrapur, with effect from March 1, 2018. Fr Mathew will continue the counselling ministry along with other works at Chandrapur.
- Fr Saji Tharayil is appointed Local Superior, Local Bursar of MSFS Community and Principal of Don Bosco School and is designated to be appointed Parish Priest of St Francis de Sales Church, Hamren, with effect from April 3, 2018.
- Fr Milkus Tirkey is appointed Local Superior of MSFS Community and designated to be appointed Parish Priest of St Francis de Sales Church, Chabua, with effect from March 4, 2018.
- Fr Belo Francis is appointed Director of Holy Redeemer Renewal Centre and is designated to be appointed Associate Priest of St Joseph's Church, Kaying, with effect from April 15, 2018.
- Fr Bernard Sangma is appointed to the Community of Holy redeemer Renewal Centre, Tura, with effect from April 20, 2018.
- Fr Jacob Mattathil is appointed Full Time Vocation Promoter of the Province residing at Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamaraserry, with effect from March 15, 2018.
- Fr Libin Augustine is appointed Principal of St Joseph's School and is designated to be appointed Associate Priest of St Joseph's Church, Kaying, with effect from March 1, 2018.
- Fr Antony Baruah is designated to be appointed Associate Priest of St Francis de Sales Church, Tening, with effect from February 23, 2018.
- Fr Lijo Scaria Thakadiyel is designated to be appointed Associate Priest to MSFS Community, Mawkhlam, with effect from February 15, 2018.
- Fr Melvin Parampukatil is designated to be appointed Associate Priest of Ka Syiem Jingsuk Church, Amlarem, with effect from February 15, 2018.
- Fr Thomas Nirappel is designated for Pastoral Ministry in USA.
- Fr Hrinii Mark is designated for German Course with effect from June 1, 2018.

Additional Responsibilities

- Fr Varghese Manickathan is appointed Local Superior and Local Bursar of MSFS Community, Kaying, with effect from March 1, 2018.
- Fr Genes Shangpliang is appointed Principal and Secretary of Don Bosco School, Mawkhlam, with effect from April 2, 2018.
- Fr Joby Kurikilamkattu is appointed Local Bursar of MSFS Community, Mawkhlam, with effect from February 15, 2018.
- Fr Philip Thomas Kizhakumpurath is appointed Director of Fransalian Communications with effect from April 2, 2018.
- Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara is appointed Coordinator of Province Mission Development Office with effect from January 1, 2018.
- Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara is appointed Coordinator of MSFS Provincial House Animation and Resource Programmes with effect from February 1, 2018.
- Fr George Vettukattil is appointed Vice Chairman of Province Justice and Peace Commission with effect from April 15, 2018.
- Fr George Thomas Poovathunkal is appointed Regional Coordinator of Fransalian Associates with effect from January 1, 2018.
- Fr Francis Peethuruthel is appointed Regional Animator of Fransalian Associates from January 1, 2018.

- Fr John Barman is appointed Local Coordinator of Fransalian Associates from January 1, 2018.

Regent

- Bro. Athiko Isaac is appointed to the MSFS Community at Chandrapur for Regency with effect from March 10, 2018.

Silver Jubilarians of the Year 2018

Fr Abraham Puthenpurackal was born at Pattithanam, Kerala, on September 21, 1965, as the third child of Augustine and Annakutty. His native parish is St Thomas Church, Ratnagiri, in the Diocese of Pala. After his matriculation, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, in 1981. In 1984, he was admitted to Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his first religious profession on December 15, 1985. Later, he pursued his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore. Before he joined St Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, for his theological studies in 1989, he did one year of regency at SFS Church, Dhemaji. He made his perpetual profession on December 08, 1991. He was ordained deacon at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, on May 31, 1993, by Most Rev. Alphonsus Mathias, Archbishop of Bangalore. After the completion of theological studies, he was ordained priest at St Thomas Church, Ratnagiri, by Most Rev. Joseph Pallickaparambil, Bishop of Pala, on April 12, 1994. He completed his Master's Degree in Social Work from Bangalore University (2007-2009). Fr Abraham will be completing the silver jubilee of his ordination on April 12, 2019.



<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Place of Appointment</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Period</i>
1	SFS Church, Dhemaji	Regent	1989 - 1990
2	SFS Church, Nangwalbibra	Deacon	1993 - 1994
3	SFS Church, Nangwalbibra	Associate Priest	1994 - 1998
4	SFS Church, Dhemaji	Associate Priest	1998 - 1999
5	St Joseph's School, Gorkha, Nepal	Principal	1999 - 2001
6	SFS Church, Siju, Garo Hills, Meghalaya	Parish Priest	2002 - 2006
7	Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamarassery	Bursar	2006 - 2007
8	MSW, Bangalore	Study	2007 - 2009
9	St. Joseph's Church, Manikbond, Assam	Dir. Social Service	2009 - 2010
10	St. Joseph's Church, Manikbond, Assam	Parish Priest	2010 -

Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil was born at Chamal, Kerala, on July 21, 1966, as the seventh child of late Thomas and late Elizabeth. His native parish is Holy Family Church, Venappara, Kerala, in the Diocese of Thamarassery. After his matriculation, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, in 1981. In 1984, he was admitted to Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his first religious profession on December 15, 1985. Later, he pursued his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore. Before he joined St Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, for his theological studies in 1989, he did one year of regency at Vinaya Bhavan, Thamarassery. He made his perpetual profession on December 08, 1991. He was ordained deacon at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, on May 31, 1993, by Most Rev. Alphonsus Mathias, Archbishop of Bangalore. After the completion of theological studies, he was ordained Priest at Holy Family Church, Venappara, by Most Rev. Sebastian Mankuzhikary, Bishop of Thamarassery, on April 21, 1994. He



completed his doctoral studies from Leopold-Franzens University, Innsbruck, Austria (1998 – 2004). He served the Province as Provincial councillor from 2005 to 2008 and also from 2011 to 2014. Fr. Emmanuel will be completing the silver jubilee of his ordination on April 21, 2019.

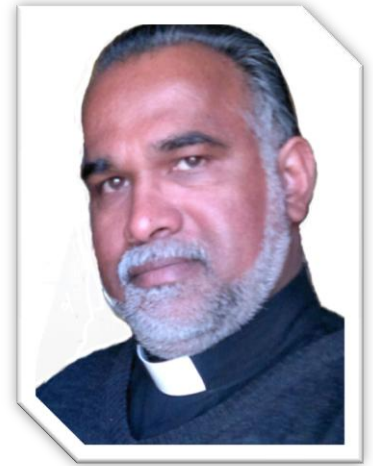
<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Place of Appointment</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Period</i>
1	Vinaya Bhavan, Thamarassery	Regent	1989 - 1990
2	SFS Church, Hamren	Deacon	1993 - 1994
3	SFS Church, Silapathar	Assistant Priest	1994 - 1996
4	SFS Bhavan, Guwahati	Prov. Secretary	1996 - 1998
5	Collegium Canisianum, Innsbruck, Austria	Studies	1998 - 2004
6	MSFS Study House, Mawroh, Shillong	V.Rector & Procurator	2005 - 2008
7	MSFS Study House, Mawroh, Shillong	Rector	2008 - 2012
8	MSFS Provincialate Narengi	Director, FAScE India	2012 - 2016
9	Regional Superior of Dibrugarh Region of MSFS NEP	Dibrugarh Region	2016 -

Fr Jose Karipadathu was born at Adivaram, Kerala, on March 25, 1965, as the fourth child of Late Scaria and Aley. His native parish is St Mary's Church, Adivaram, in the Diocese of Pala. After his matriculation, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, in 1982. In 1984, he was admitted to Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his first religious profession on December 15, 1985. Later, he pursued his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore. Before he joined St Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, for his theological studies in 1989, he did one year of regency at SFS Church, Silapathar. He made his perpetual profession on December 08, 1992. He was ordained deacon at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, on May 31, 1993, by Most Rev. Alphonsus Mathias, Archbishop of Bangalore. After the completion of theological studies, he was ordained Priest at St George's Church, Mutholy, by Most Joseph Pallickaparambil, Bishop of Pala on April 18, 1994. He completed his doctoral studies from Don Bosco University, Guwahati, in 2016. Fr Jose will be completing the silver jubilee of his ordination on April 18, 2019.



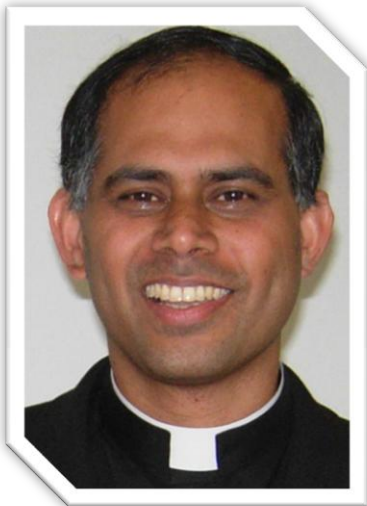
<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Place of Appointment</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Period</i>
1	SFS Church, Silapathar	Regent	1989 - 1990
2	St Xavier's Church, Chima-Impel	Deacon	1993 - 1994
3	Christ King Church, Gogamukh	Associate Priest	1994 - 1997
4	SFS School, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh	Associate Priest	1997 – 1998
5	SFS School, Pasighat	Priest-in-Charge	1998 – 2002
6	St Peter's Church, Gaucharan, Sikkim	Study Language	2004 - 2004
7	MSFS Provincialate, Narangi, Guwahati	Director, FAsCE INDIA	2005 – 2008
8	SFS College, Aalo, Arunachal Pradesh	Principal	2008 – 2011
9	Don Bosco University, Assam	Lecturer	2011-2014
10	MSFS Provincialate, Narengi	Updated and Compiled history of MSFS of NEP	04/ 2016 - 2017
11	MSFS Provincialate, Narengi	Secretary to CRI – Encyclopedia	2017-

Fr Joseph Kunjaparambil was born at Kuravilangad, Kerala, on February 7, 1966, as the third child of Late V.K. Pailo and Mariakutty Pailo. His native parish is Fathima Matha Church, Kappumthala, Kerala, in the Diocese of Pala. After his matriculation, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, in 1981. In 1984, he was admitted to Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his first religious profession on December 15, 1985. Later, he pursued his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore. Before he joined Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune, for his theological studies in 1989, he did one year of regency at S.F.S. Bhavan, Guwahati, SFS Church, Medziphema, and Sacred Heart Church, Bhandari. He made his perpetual profession on December 01, 1991. He was ordained deacon at S.F.S. Church, Shaanwadi, Pune on February 13, 1993, by Most Rev. Valerian D'Souza, Bishop of Pune. After the completion of theological studies, he was ordained priest at Fathima Matha Church, Kappumthala, by Most Rev. Joseph Pallickaparambil, Bishop of Pala, on October 13, 1993. He completed his Masters Degree in Philosophy from Dharmaram Vidya Kshetram, Bangalore (1994-1997). He served the Southern African Region as Regional Superior from 2006 to 2012. Fr Joseph Kunjaparambil will be completing the silver jubilee of his ordination on October 13, 2018.



<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Place of Appointment</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Period</i>
1	SFS Bhavan, Guwahati	Regent	1989
2	SFS Church, Medziphema	Regent	1989
3	Sacred Heart Church, Bhandari	Regent	1989-1990
4	St Paul's Church, Peren	Deacon	1993-1993
5	St Paul's Church, Peren	Associate Priest	1993 – 1994
6	Suvidya College	Staff Member	1994 – 1997
7	R C Mission, Lüderitz, Namibia	Language course	1998
8	St Peter Claver Church, Bethanie, Namibia	Associate Priest	1998 – 2002
9	R C Mission, Lüderitz, Namibia	Parish Priest	2002 – 2007
10	St Augustine's Catholic Church, Soweto	Parish Priest	2007 – 2014
11	Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Keetmanshoop, Namibia	Parish Priest	2014-

Fr Sabukuttan Francis (George) Manasrayil was born at Manjoor, Kerala, on July 18, 1965, as the seventh child of M.M. Francis and Mariakutty. His native Parish is St Xavier's Church, Mannarappara, Kuruppanthara, Kerala, in the Diocese of Pala. After his matriculation, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, in 1981. In 1984, he was admitted to Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his first religious profession on December 15, 1985. Later, he pursued his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore. Before he joined St Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, for his theological studies in 1989, he did one year of regency at SFS Seminary, Medziphema. He made his perpetual profession on December 08, 1991. He was ordained deacon at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, on May 31, 1993, by Most Rev. Alphonsus Mathias, Archbishop of Bangalore. After the completion of theological studies, he was ordained Priest at St Xavier's Church, Mannarappara, Kuruppanthara, by Most Rev. Joseph Pallickaparambil, Bishop of Pala, on April 13, 1994. He completed his doctoral studies from Salzburg, Austria (2000-2006). Fr Sabukuttan will be completing the silver jubilee of his ordination on April 13, 2019.



<i>Sl.no</i>	<i>PLACE OF APPOINTMENTS</i>	<i>DESIGNATION</i>	<i>PERIOD</i>
1.	SFS Seminary, Medziphema	Regent	1989-1990

2.	Ka Syiem Jingsuk Church, Amlarem	Deacon	1993-1994
3.	Ka Syiem Jingsuk Church, Amlarem	Associate Priest	1994 – 1995
4.	MSFS Study House, Shillong	Procurator	1995 – 1997
5.	Ka Syiem Jingsuk Church, Amlarem	Parish Priest	1997 – 1999
6.	Pune	Studies	1999 – 2000
7.	Priesterseminar, Salzburg, Austria	Studies	2000 – 2006
8.	Pfarrei Frieden Christi, Munich, Germany	Parish Priest	2006 – 2007
9.	St. Josef, Gronau, Hildesheim, Germany	Associate Priest	2008 – 2009
10.	St. Ingbert-Strasse 90, Braunschweig, Germany	Parish Priest	2009 –
11.	Delegate of Superior General in GAH	Delegate in GAH	2011 - 2014
12.	Delegation Superior Germany-Austria Delegation of MSFS Northeast India province	GA Delegation Superior	2014 – 2017

Fr Tomy (Joseph) Thekkel was born at Kozhuvanal, Kottayam, Kerala, on June 01, 1964, as the Second child of Joseph and Mariamma. His native parish is St John Nepuntiance Church, Kozhuvanal, Kerala, in the Diocese of Palai. After his matriculation, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, in 1981. In 1984, he was admitted to Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his first religious profession on December 15, 1985. Later, he pursued his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore. Before he joined Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune, for his theological studies in 1989, he did one year of regency at SFS Church, Kangpokpi. He made his perpetual profession on December 01, 1992. He was ordained deacon at S.F.S. Church, Shaanwadi, Pune on February 13, 1993, by Most Rev. Valerian D’Souza, Bishop of Pune. After the completion of theological studies, he was ordained Priest at St John Nepuntiance Church, Kozhuvanal, by Most Rev. Joseph Pallickaparampil, Bishop of Palai, on October 11, 1993. He completed his Master’s Degree in Social Work from Don Bosco University, Assam (2013-2015). Fr Tomy will be completing the silver jubilee of his ordination on October 11, 2018.



Sl. No.	Place of Appointment	Designation	Period
1	SFS Church, Kangpokpi	Regent	1989 - 1990
2	SFS Church, Tening, Nagaland	Associate Priest	1993 – 1996
3	SFS Seminary, Thamarassery, Kerala	Procurator	1996 – 1997
4	SFS Church, Narengi, Assam	Parish Priest	1997 – 1999
5	SFS Church, Tening, Nagaland	Parish Priest	1999 – 2000
6	SFS Seminary, Ghaspani, Nagaland	Vic-Rector	2001 – 2002
7	SFS Church, Jonai, Assam	Principal	2003 – 2005
8	SFS Church, Jonai, Assam	Parish Priest	2005 – 2009
9	SFS School, Sindukpathar	Parish Priest	2009- 2013
10	Assam Don Bosco University (Study)	MSW	2013-2015
11	Christ King Church, Gogamukh	Parish Priest	2015

We wish them blessings of almighty God. Let us also accompany them with our prayers and encouragement in their onward spiritual journey as priests. **Hearty Congratulations to you, dear fathers, in this year of Jubilee!**

Information of / Thanks / Congrats /Appreciation To:

- St Francis de Sales Shrine, Narengi: The first Shrine of St Francis de Sales in Northeast was blessed and dedicated on January 24, 2018 at Narengi, Guwahati. The Shrine was inaugurated by Rev Fr George Panthanmackel MSFS, the Provincial of the Northeast India Province. The Shrine was then blessed and dedicated by Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, in the presence of a large number of priests, religious and members of the parish community, for whom it was a 20-year old dream come true, and answer to a long-felt need of the Catholics around. The felicitation function that followed was addressed by Mr Atul Bora, the Local MLA of Dispur Constituency, and attended among others by Captain Robin Bordoloi, Ex-MLA and a former Minister of Assam. On the occasion Father Provincial thanked all those who contributed, in various ways, to the completion of the project, especially Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, Most Rev. Thomas Menamparambil, Archbishop Emeritus of Guwahati, Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvelil, Superior General, and members of General Administration, Rev. Fr Babychan Arackathara and confreres of Southern African Region (the first ones to make contribution for the Church construction), Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil and confreres of Dibrugarh Region, Rev. Fr Yves Carron and confreres of Franco-Swiss Province, Rev. Fr Sebastian Paredom and confreres of Germany-Austria Delegation, Rev. Fr Sabukuttan Francis and benefactors, Rev. Fr Sunny Panthanazhy and benefactors, Rev. Fr Joseph Thazhathukunnel and benefactors, Rev. Fr Johny Kuttikottayil and benefactors, Rev. Fr Vijoy Velickakathu and benefactors, Rev. Fr Jojo Pazheveetil and benefactors, confreres in USA, all confreres in India, all benefactors (specially Gabi, Elizabeth and Rev. Fr Michael Joham, Rev. Fr James Mukalel and Rev. Fr Tomy Puliyanampattayil), all confreres of Provincial House community under the leadership of Rev. Fr Varghese Chettupuzhakaran, members of present and previous Provincial Administrations and Regional Administration, former Provincials, present and former Parish Priests, Reverend Sisters of Venereni Community, all parishners, local leaders, architect, engineer, designers, contractor, all labourers, invitees, well-wishers and friends.
- Fr Antony Kattathara and Fr Firstar Shylla for organizing the Blessing and Inauguration of the newly built Presbytery and Boys Hostel at Umwahlang. Most Rev. Dominic Jala, Archbishop of Shillong and Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Nongstoin, blessed the newly constructed buildings while Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel MSFS, Provincial of MSFS Northeast India Province, inaugurated the same in the presence of Miss Sylvia Prieth from Austria, the benefactress of the boys hostel. Fr Provincial thanked everyone present, also Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Rev. Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara who supported the project. He also thanked Rev. Fr Mathew Ottappally for the financial contribution.
- Fr Roy Parayaniyil, who completed M. Sc Counselling from Mangalore University with an award of excellence.
- Fr Genes Shangpliang, Joby Kurikilamkattu and Fr Mathew Muriyankariyil for the meaningful celebration of Golden Jubilee of faith in Reiangpoit village of Mary Mother of Compassion Parish, Mawkhlam, on January 28, 2018. Rev. Fr Wiilbert Marwein, Vicar General of Nongston Diocese, presided over the Holy Mass and Rev. Fr Santhosh Chavaranal, Provincial Bursar, represented the Provincial Administration. The community also organized the first ever residential retreat for children at Holy Redeemer renewal Centre, Mawkhlam.
- Fr Peter Marak and Fr Priyor Khongsit for organizing Annual Sobha at Rongsali village of St Paul's Church, Panishali, from February 2-4, 2018. Most Rev. Thomas Menamparambil, Archbishop Emeritus of Guwahati, presided over the Holy Mass on the concluding day of the Annual Sobha.
- Fr Thomas Nirappel and Fr Sibi Mattappallil for organizing the Blessing and inauguration of the newly constructed Hostel for boys on February 10, 2018. Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel, Provincial of MSFS Northeast India Province blessed and inaugurated the Hostel building in the presence of several fathers, sisters and the people of God. Also Fr Thomas Nirappel and Fr Sibi Mattappallil for organizing the blessing of St mother Theresa Church at Chankalgittim village of SFS Parish, Nongalbibra, on January 18, 2018. The newly built church was blessed by Most Rev. Andrew R. Marak, Bishop of Tura Diocese, in the presence of Fr Sabu Francis Mansrayil, representatives from the sponsor parish in Germany,

religious and the faithful. St Francis de Sales Parish, Nongalbibra, had its Annual Sobha at Nongalbibra from January 26 to 28, 2018.

- Fr Biju Kanicherry and Fr Albert Sahayaraj for organizing the blessing and inauguration of newly built St Jude's Church, Bahalpur on January 16, 2018. The Church building was blessed by Most Rev. Thomas Pullopallil, Bishop of Bongaigaon, and inaugurated by Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel, Provincial of MSFS Northeast India Province, in the presence of the benefactors from the parish of St Gereon, Vechelde, Germany. Fr Provincial thanked everyone present, especially Fr Sabukuttan Francis and benefactors. He also acknowledged with gratitude the hard work put in by Fr Biju Kanicherry.
- Fr Peter Parankimalil, Fr Roy Muthadathu, Fr Thomas Arackal and Peter Peuhausuiding for organizing the blessing and inauguration of the extension of school building of Don Bosco School, Silapathar, on January 22, 2018. It was inaugurated by Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel, Provincial, and blessed by Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Regional Superior. Fr Provincial appreciated the Regional Administration, Rev. Fr Peter Parankimalil and members of Silapathar community for executing the project with commitment and fidelity.
- Fr Antony Avittapallil and Fr Philip Mhunchumo for organizing one-day digital class training for the teachers of St Francis de Sales School, Dhemaji, on January 27, 2018.
- Fr Francis Peethuruthel, Fr John Barman, Fr Francis Thadathil, Fr George Poovathunkal and Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara for animating one-day seminar for the Fransalian Associates at MSFS Provincialate Community, Narengi, on January 28, 2018.
- Students of St Francis de Sales School, Dhemaji, for winning the Best Music Band Award and second prize in both the boys and girls March-past in the District level Republic Day celebration.
- Fr Andrew Ashihe and Fr Donsuk Lyngdoh for organizing Diamond Jubilee of the catholic faith at Dawki village, Priestly ordination of Dn Ambrose Laminand and Parish Procession on January 7, 2018 and also for conducting the 24th Annual Youth Convention of the Parish at Ka Syiem Jingsuk Parish, Amlarem, from January 19 to 21, 2018. Fr Augustine Lamin animated the convention and Fr Polycarpus Shylla presided over the Holy Mass and conducted Benediction on the final day of the Convention. Over 200 parish youth attended the convention.
- ATL Students from St Francis de Sales School, Pasighat, for the participation in National Buildathon Robotics Cup Competition at Goa on January 19, 2018.
- Fr Shiji Poonthuruthil, Fr Abraham Ponvelil and FCC Sisters for preparing and organizing the First Holy Communion of Garo community at St Francis de Sales Church, Hamren, on February 4, 2018.
- A mid-year animation and evaluation programme for the brothers in Regency was conducted from January 4 to 6, 2018 at MSFS Provincialate, Narengi, Guwahati. The programme began with a day of recollection animated by Fr Milkus Tirkey. Fr George panthanmackel, Fr George Vettukattil and Fr Philip Thomas Kizakumpurath were the resource persons for the programme.
- Fr Kerketta Athanas, Fr George Poovathunkal and Fr Varghese Chettupuzhakaren, for arranging a ten-day intensive Hindi course for the first year Theology students of MSFS Study House, Shillong, from January 22 to February 3, 2018 at MSFS Provincial House, Guwahati.
- Fr Thomas Edakazhy and SFS College Community, Aalo, for securing UGC Recognition and Permanent Affiliation to Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh.
- The following were ordained to priesthood: Fr Lijo Scaria Thakidiyel (December 27, 2017), Fr Melvin Parambukattil (December 29, 2017), Fr Libin Pallattutharayil (December 30, 2017) and Fr Antony Baruah (January 21, 2018). May God assist them as they begin their ministry.
- Fr Roy Parayaniyil, who completed M. Sc Counselling from Roshni Nilaya, School of Social Work affiliated to Mangalore University, with an award of excellence (for Highest Marks in M.Sc Counselling Examinations, Best outgoing Counsellor in internship in M.Sc Counselling, etc.)
- Heartfelt sympathy and prayerful wishes to Fr Lukose Kavungal, Fr Stephen Pou, Bro. Eugene, MSMHC Sisters and Parish Community of Holy Rosary Parish, Basar, who lost one of their hostellers (John Rinya) in an accident. Sincere appreciation and thanks to Fr Varghese Manickathan, Fr Bashena Adani James and the Members of the Parish Community of Kaying for their genuine help and solidarity in taking the mortal remains of John Rinya from Kaying to his native village in Tato and to Fr Joseph

Chackaleckal , Fr Xavier Daimari and MSMHC Sisters who conducted/attended the funeral of John Rinya in Tato.

- Frs Gracious Chirattolickal, Sabu Francis Manasrayil, Jojo Pazheveetil, Sanish Plakoottathil, Jose Mamalasseril, Job Karikkampally, Perumannikala lukose, Augustine Parampuzha, Jijesh Palatty, Libin Chiraparambil, Nikseng Sangma, Francis Huwn, D.R. Paul, D.D. Jacob, Thaile Jacob, Hepuni John, Carlus Barowa Johnson Kunnumpurathu, Jimmy Mathirampuzha, Lukose Permannikala, Stephen Marayikulam, George Kunnel, Samuel Patton, Augustine Kulangara, were in India for holiday. Most of them came also to our Provincial House, Guwahati.

FORUM MEETINGS FROM FEBRUARY 1 TO 8, 2018

Mission Forum Meeting from February 1 to 2

The Mission Forum of the Province was held at MSFS Provincialate from February 1 to 2, 2018. The meeting began with a short adoration in the chapel. Later Fr Philip Thomas welcomed everybody and appreciated their presence. The secretary of the Forum, Fr Jose Chettany, presented the previous meeting's report.

In his inaugural address Fr George Pathenmackel highlighted the Trinitarian model of missionary activity in which there is both hierarchy and communion. The Father who sends the Son is in eternal communion with the Son and the Holy Spirit. In all their salvific activities they are in communion with each other. In the same way, the ministry of a missionary becomes fruitful when one is communion with God and one another, when we respect hierarchy while promoting communion.

Fr Agenelo Fernandes was the main resource person for the first session of the day. In his lecture he focused on the "Theology of Religious Leadership in Apostolates". He stressed that the missionary leadership is a call to be a participative leader and a servant leader. The service should be technically perfect and formally personal. The service of charity promotes growth, confers dignity on giver and receiver. He concluded saying, "be rooted in the values of the Gospel, imbued with the mission spirit of the Trinity and with the readiness to provide an alternative way of exercising leadership." Fr Philip Thomas, Councillor Incharge of Mission, gave the input session on "Pastoral and Leadership Skills" sharing his views on pastoral leadership skills required in every pastor. It was followed by sharing session during which the members presented reports of their activities, made suggestions and expressed their main concerns.

1. Report of Activities

The priests who attended the meeting shared that they are regular in administering sacraments in the parish as well as in sub- station villages. The regular catechist and parish council meetings are conducted to evaluate as well as to choke out parish activities. All unanimously stated that they conduct regular village tours, especially during the season of advent and lent to catechize the community and to administer sacraments. Many parishes have various programmes like Couples for Christ and Youth for Christ to deepen the faith of the community. We do have associations like youth for Christ, Marian sodality and St. Joseph's sodality to keep the community vibrant. Every parish has annual sabhas in villages or Parish, conventions for men, women, children, youth and Marriage instructions for the couples to catechize the community.

We have Christmas carol and Christmas candle procession during Christmas season. The months of May and October we conduct rosary in the families and parish concluded with solemn rosary week and rosary procession. The Parish priest along with parish councils and village catechists choke out monthly and yearly programme of the parish. The Vice Promoter of Mermier's Cause in the Province informed the members that the prayer for the canonization of Fr Peter Mermier is translated into Garo, Khasi and Assamese. In the retreat centres, there are programmes like monthly Retreat and yearly retreat, Guided retreat, monthly convention, inner healing retreat, youth retreat, children's retreat, passion retreat, divine mercy retreat, Saturday healing service, perpetual adoration for the public and religious.

2. Suggestions

The members suggested the following to improve the pastoral and preaching mission: divide parish into zones or Basic Christian Communities; The village tours to be restarted; laity has to be empowered to take care of the parish activities;charism retreat to be started soon; appoint more priests who knows the local language; attend local language courses arranged in various places; appoint people who are already working in that locality; prepare parish directory; promote vocation from every parish; include all the parish priests in the mission forum; improve the basic facilities; form friends of Fransalians in every parish who will later become Fransalian associates; inculcate in every parish the spirituality of St Francis de Sales; equip the pastors with counseling skill put as well as practical sessions required for counseling sessions; encourage everyone to learn at least one local language before the ordination; appoint persons as far as possible to the area where he is proficient in a particular language; prepare the map of the parish with its boundaries; in the update programmes, familiarize the confreres with mission documents of the church; every parish prepares an annual plan; parish mission preaching manual to be given to preaching team; encourage charismatic movement to include the concept of mission preaching to have a better acceptance; annual meeting of the mission forum to be mandatory for all the members; provide ongoing formation to all the priests; update programme every year according to the year of ordination; canon law class to be taken on moral issues; update programme could be conducted in two batches; give pastors pastoral skills to be proactive; leadership skills to be given to the new priests specially; employ proper resource persons for the update programme; make use of our own resource persons if they are qualified; those who are in the formation and schools are advised to help in the mission stations and parishes during Christmas and Easter; taking holiday during Christmas and Easter is to be discouraged; arrange sabhas and convention in every parish; Meeting of apostolic community members along with provincial administration and Bishop of the area; and inform the Bishop if any major construction is initiated at a centre or sub-centre.

3. Concerns

Eviction threat to a few villages of Narengi parish; presence of various linguistic groups in many parishes which is difficult to handle;problem of various dialects in the same parish which hamper missionary activity;many communities are new and unsteady in faith; relief services during flood are required; lack of participants for retreat in some retreat centers; many are leaving catholic faith and joining different denominations; men and youth (boys) are not attending the services in the church; less personal who are well versed in local language for confession, counseling, healing service; people who come to retreat centers seek only physical healing and continued prayer life is lacking; healing ministry does not make them deeper in faith; dropping school enrollment in many schools; and less number of priests' in the near future for the province

Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries Forum Meeting from February 3 to 4

The annual meeting of the Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries Forum of the North East India province of the MSFS was held on 3-4 February, 2018 (Saturday-Sunday) at Provincial house Guwahati.

Welcome Session: The day began with a prayer led by Fr John Barman, Director of Fransalian Youth Ministry. Fr Saji George, welcomed all the participants, especially Fr Agnelo Fernandes, Fr George Pantanmackel and Fr Christudas. After this Fr Provincial spoke about the significance and importance of social ministry. Input sessions: After the simple inaugural session, the participants were engaged by the Resource person in three sessions until evening. Fr Yesudas, dwelt on the theme of 'Social Apostolate' in the church in General under four sub titles: The rationale for Church's engagement in social ministry / Apostolate: Dignity of Human Persons. The Context: research based information about the place of operation. The Process: Inclusive, Integrated and Sustainable development; Organizational process- The Power of Appreciative Inquiry; Outcome and Impact – Focus on Indigenous solutions over imported solutions; and Focus on building Human, Natural, Economic & Social Capital. The session came to an end at 4.30 pm and Fr Jose Karipadathu, secretary to the forum proposed the vote of thanks.

The second day's programme began with a Prayer led by Fr Kurien Pattimackel, Councilor for mission of Dibrugarh region. Fr Agnelo Fernands animated the participants from 9 to 10 am with the use power points. The core of the presentation was "*Towards Activating Fransalian Spirituality of Action: Six pillars and basis of its Spirituality*". The six pillars of Salesian spirituality of Action were identified as: Imitation of Jesus Christ in His Ministry; faith without deed is dead; ultimate Evaluation of our Life will be based on Deeds; Deeds that matter are born of the Evangelical Spirit, Biblical Spirit and Salesian Spirituality; Persons are social and Individual; and Salesian Spirituality is an Invitation to Social Action rooted in Contemplation. The second part of the Presentation was titled: '*Pastoral Spiral*' (PS), based on the socio theological ideas of Fr Joe Holland SJ and Peter Henriot SJ. According to PS: Theology and Social Philosophy are integrated. Pastoral spiral is a method of pastoral theology as a framework for responding to issues and situations.

At the end of the presentation the members discussed on the proposed document on justice and peace commission and suggested the following: The scope of the document could be limited- the activities proposed are so many and hence it was suggested to trim them down; and the said body - justice and peace commission- could function as a branch of the social ministry, rather than develop an independent entity to avoid multiplicity of forums and commissions. Evaluation session: The gathering dispersed for tea Break at 10.45. At 11.15 am, the participants returned for reporting, evaluation and planning for future. The session was animated by Fr Augustine Thundathil, the councilor in charge of social and innovative ministries in Dibrugarh Region. Fr Saji George read out a detailed report on the activities of FAsCE India with special attention to the activities during the 'year of Education and Social Apostolate' in the Congregation. It was followed by reports from Frs John Barman, Director- Fransalian Youth Mission (FYM)- and Fr Clean Arengh, Director of Fransalian Communications. After the completion of these Fr Saji George, presented 'the Implementation Report of Action plans of the Provincial chapter-2017' in relation to Social and Innovative Ministries and discussed 'To Do List of TMM-2016' of the General Chapter.

Proposals: At the final stage, the following were accepted as proposals for immediate future Action in the field of Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries in the Province:

Look into the possibility of: Generating a contingency fund for Relief and Natural calamities under the aegis of FAsCE India to be able to respond to emergency situations; Youth Centre at Umroi with financial Assistance from NEC, Shillong, for youth ministry; One-week Social Orientation workshop for scholastics in theology in coming years; social work camps for theologians: Theologians could be provided a week- long exposure programme in rural villages; steps to be taken to ensure regular youth meetings at parish level to rejuvenate the youth of the parish; Frequent Social Orientation programme be arranged for priests; and make efforts to extend 'Italia Solidale' (presently Gogamukh parish) to more parishes.

The meeting came to an end by 1.30 pm with a formal vote of thanks by Fr Saji George, the councilor in charge of the Forum. All were appreciated and thanked by Fr Provincial.

Education Forum Meeting from February 5 to 6

The Education Forum Meeting of Northeast India Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales was held on Feb 05 & 06, 2018, at MSFS Provincialate, Narengi, Guwahati. Twenty members of the province, including Rev Fr George Panthanmackel, the Provincial and Rev Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, the Regional Superior, along with Rev Fr George Parampukattil, General Secretary for Education, participated in the meeting.

The gathering commenced with the inaugural session that began with a prayer. Fr Vintu Avittappallil, the Secretary cum Convenor of the Forum, anchored the ceremony. Fr George Poovathunkal, the Provincial Councillor In-charge of Education and the Vice-chairman of the Forum, introduced the agenda, proceedings and Resource Persons to the assembly and welcomed everyone into the gathering. Rev Fr Provincial, addressing the gathering, thanked all the confreres in Educational Ministry for their sacrifices in contributing to the lives of young minds and enlightened them on the underpinnings of Fransalian Education. He also

invited them to have a sound reflection on the changing political and social scenario of present time and render a prudent and positive response.

Fr Parambukattil animated the gathering for an hour after the inaugural session. Enumerating the history of Fransalians in education and the present status, he briefed the gathering regarding some of the necessities and requirements that we need to be up-to-date with as educators. After the tea-break, the sessions were handed over to Fr Christudas, one of the resource persons. Dwelling on the theme of 'Organizational Culture and Behaviour,' he updated the confreres from within his experience and exposure to be effective and efficient educators in the given situation. Terming 'education as a complex and demanding profession,' he urged the members present to be aware of the nuances involved in running institutions and stand worthy of meeting the demands and expectations. The day's sessions came to an end with an hour-long reading and discussion on the updated version of "Fransalian Educational Institutions – Staff Service Manual". The Forum proposed the Manual to be approved by Provincial Administration and agreed to start implementing it with care and caution in our schools at the earliest.

Mr Anjan Chowdhury, the founder director of 'Indian Skills Academy', Guwahati, and a renowned Soft Skills Trainer, animated the fathers through the sessions on the second day. Dwelling on 'Interview Skills and Phenomenal Approach in School Administration', he stressed on the need to recruit quality teachers as they affect the lives of students and institutions for eternity. Fr Daniel Lalmuanzela proposed the vote of thanks to Mr Anjan Chowdhury for his inspiring and enlightening sessions. The Forum Meeting came to a close with the final session of discussion and clarification regarding the implementation of the Action Plan of the last Provincial Chapter, chaired by Rev Fr George Panthanmackel, the Provincial. Fr Poovathunkal read out the Action Plan of the Provincial Chapter 2017 one by one and updated the assembly concerning their implementation. Rev Fr Provincial sought the mind of assembly regarding the letter circulated by him concerning the construction of School and College buildings in Narengi campus by entering into an agreement with a construction company (Ref// Letter by Fr Provincial). After some clarifications and suggestions, the matter was left to the Provincial Administration to decide. Fr Provincial thanked the confreres for their sharing and reminded them to do the discussion on the first reflection paper of the General Chapter at the Apostolic Community Meetings at the earliest and send the reports. The Forum Meeting was concluded at 1 pm with the Angelus.

Formation Forum Meeting from February 7 to 8

The meeting of the formation forum began at 9.15 a.m. on February 7, 2018, with a hymn to the Holy Spirit. Rev. Fr. George Vettukattil, the councillor in charge for formation welcomed the members present and requested Rev. Fr. George Panthanmackel, Provincial, to address the gathering. He cited the example of Moses from the Old Testament to highlight the point. Moses did not want to go where God wanted him to go but finally he obeyed God, though it was hard to do. God formed Moses for a difficult task through patience and perseverance. In the same way, the formators are to accompany the formees with patience and perseverance. He thanked Fr. Noel, the General Secretary for Formation for his presence and willingness to animate the session.

Fr Noel acknowledged the missionary dynamism and growth of Northeast India province. He said that he discovered Northeast only 10 years ago. He gratefully appreciated the contribution of Fr Santosh Chavarnal and Fr Philip Thomas towards making the syllabus of the graded formation in the Congregation. Further Fr. Noel gave the reason of his presence in the formation forum meeting, saying that New Governance policy mandates to evaluate the action plan of the Provincial Chapter, Statutes of the Province as well as that of the General Chapter directives, just a year before the next General Chapter in 2019. He highlighted the work of MSFS as keeping up the tradition, and continuing with creativity. Creativity is based on continuity, inspired by past (tradition). Today the crisis and challenges in the life of religious is of credibility, transparency and collegiality. In order to meet these crisis and challenges effectively, Fr Noel presented the gradual development that are found in the documents of the Church, especially Vatican II and Constitution, General Directory and General Chapters of our Congregation. General Chapter 2013 focused on the implementation of its action plans. To achieve the desired effect spiritual animation at community, apostolic community and

province was undertaken. To enhance the spiritual growth of confreres, the constitutional and Congregational retreats were organized. To highlight the importance of different forums of the Congregation, Superior General declared the year 2013-14 as Year of Consecrated Life and Mission, 2015-16 as Year of Formation, 2017-18 as Year of Education and Innovation and Year 2018-19 as Year of Local Community. With regard to the graded formation of formees, the Formation Forum went through the Draft of Graded Formation word by word and made valuable suggestions and necessary corrections.

On February 8, the meeting began at 9.00 a.m. Fr George Panthanmackel shared his reflection. Fr Provincial spoke on how St Francis de Sales was formed in spirituality, especially in humility, which was at the core of his spirituality. He grew up in humility through humiliations as Jesus was. St. Francis De Sales welcomed and desired humiliation and said that the highest form of humility is to desire for humiliation. Provincial further said that crucifixion of Christ, in John's Gospel, is the moment of his glorification. Fr Provincial also spoke of long suffering, humiliation and offer of forgiveness of St Josephine Bakhita, the African saint. He exhorted the members that we are not to humiliate anyone, but when we are humiliated, we need to have a Christ-like approach to the same and enable the formees to understand its significance in their ministry as they would meet with several occasions of suffering humiliations. We grow in self-confidence only when we have God-confidence.

After the exhortation by Fr. Provincial, we had a sharing session. Fr Athnas Kerketta shared on the life and activities of MSFS study house, Shillong, Fr Mark Hrinii on Novitiate life, Fr Joseph B. on SFS Seminary, Gashpani, Fr. Augustine Vellaramkuzhy on Vinay Bhavan Seminary, Thamarassery, and Fr George Vettukattil on regents. Fr George Vettukattil said that regents are satisfied and inspired by the fathers. However it was brought to the attention of forum members that some of them feel that they are let down and not supported in maintaining the discipline in the boarding by the fathers. There is also lack of proper accompaniment from the part of local superior (formator).

Fr Provincial advised the Rectors that report of seminarians should not be written in haste, but formators should make frequent notes on brothers based on personal observations. It should be written with total honesty and sincerity. The Rector should take into confidence the staff. In writing the report, the format that is in "Fransalian Formation" be followed. The formation forum members are of the unanimous opinion that the summary report on seminarians must be passed on to the next stage of formation (that is from minor seminary to novitiate, novitiate to philosophy, philosophy to regency and from regency to theology) so that the Rectors (formators) can accompany the seminarians well. However caution should be taken that formators are not prejudiced or biased by it.

At the end of the sharing session, Fr Noel made a few helpful remarks: There is no fixed curriculum for theology. Hence, during theology, Salesian aspects must be brought in and incorporated. The Local Superior is formator for the regents during the regency period, and therefore proper relationship should be maintained between regent and Local Superior. The Local Superior has to be an exemplary formator. Regular spiritual direction should be encouraged. All of us must follow "the MSFS Personal Spiritual Directory" prepared by Rev. Fr Agnelo Fernandes. At the end of the meeting Fr Athnas Kerketta thanked all the participants and expressed his gratitude on behalf of Formation Forum of Northeast India Province. It was concluded on February 8, 2018 at 12.30 p.m.

Updates from Southern African Region by Regional Superior



New Bishop for Keetmanshoop, Namibia: The Holy Father has appointed Rev Fr Willem Christiaans OSFS as the new bishop of Keetmanshoop diocese, Namibia, where the MSFS pioneers of Southern Africa began their pastoral ministry. Rev. Fr Willem Christiaans was born on February 12, 1961, in Gabis, Karas district of Namibia. Besides being a pastor, he served as the Provincial of the OSFS in Namibia and worked as the national director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Namibia. Rev Fr Christiaans, the bishop elect, is a dedicated missionary priest who has wide experience in pastoral ministry and long years of experience in leadership. He is a close friend of many MSFS

working in Namibia and South Africa. The MSFS in Southern Africa is certainly upbeat about his appointment, and express our congratulations to him. May God grant him wisdom and strength to carry out his responsibilities as the shepherd of Keetmanshoop Diocese.

New Candidates for Southern African Region: Two candidates for the Southern African Region from St Francis de Sales Parish, Liteta, Zambia, has been interviewed and recommended by Fr Jude msfs, the Mission Superior of Zambia. They will spend 6 months with the MSFS community in Zambia and join the Orientation cum pre-novitiate programme in Ndagani, Kenya. On behalf of the Region, I thank MSFS Fathers in Zambia for their support in recruiting vocations for the Region.

Change of Address and Contact Number










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Let Us Pray for:

Mr Joseph Madappallil, father of Fr James Madappallil, met with a motor accident and is hospitalized. Let us pray for his speedy recovery.

Let Us Pray For the Departed:

-  Rev. Fr. O. V. Zacharias MSFS (92), member of South-West India Province, who passed away on January 6, 2018.
-  Sr Elizabeth Packumala, the Superior General (1988 to 2000) of the Congregation of MSMHC, who passed away on November 27, 2017.
-  Mr Chacko Thayilkuzhithottu (77), uncle of Fr George Thayilkuzhithottu, who passed away on December 24, 2017.
-  Mrs Mini Benny (43), sister-in-law of Fr Saju Thalayinakandathil, who passed away on December 30, 2017.
-  Mr Pathrose Kuttikottayil (97), father of Fr Johny Kuttikottayil, who passed away on January 15, 2018.
-  Fr James Poonthuruthil SDB (63), brother of Fr Shiji Poonthuruthil, who passed away on January 21, 2018.
-  Mrs Achamma (70), aunty of Fr Saji Kaippallil, who passed away on January 22, 2018.
-  Mr Joseph Sebastian Vazhayil (75), cousin of Fr Augustine Vellaramkuzhy, who passed away on February 1, 2018.
-  Fr Antony Abong B. Marak, SDB, (50), cousin of Fr Peter Marak, who passed away on February 13, 2018.

Provincial's Programme

February

Feb. 15: CRI Encyclopedia Board Meeting
Feb. 16: Sobha at Narengi Parish Sub-station

Feb. 17-22: Superior General in Guwahati
Feb. 18: Jubilee of MSFS Novitiate, Chabua
Feb. 20: Provincial Council Meeting with Superior General
Feb. 21: Jubilee of MSFS Study House, Shillong
Feb. 22-25: Budget Scrutiny by Finance Committee

March

Mar. 6: Archdiocesan Recollection
Mar. 15: Ranchi
Mar. 18: Canonical Visitation to Panbari
Mar. 19: Canonical Visitation to Bahalpur
Mar. 20: Canonical Visitation to Panishali
Mar. 22-24: Provincial Council Meeting (Budget Approvals and Promotion of Candidates)
Mar. 26: EACM of Galsi-Ranchi at Galsi
Mar. 27: Archdiocesan Recollection and Chrism Mass

April

April 3-4: Animation Programme for Local Superiors
April 4: DSFS Sisters' Profession at Barapani
April 8: Canonical Visitation to Gogamukh
April 9: Canonical Visitation to Dhemaji
April 10: Canonical Visitation to Silapathar-Likavali
April 11: Canonical Visitation to Telam
April 12: Canonical Visitation to Jonai
April 13: Canonical Visitation to Pasighat
April 15: Canonical Visitation to Umroi
April 16: Canonical Visitation to Amlarem
April 17: Canonical Visitation to Mawrynkneng
April 18: Canonical Visitation to Mawkhlam
April 19: Canonical Visitation to Umwahlang
April 22: Provincial Council Meeting
April 24-25: Canonical Visitation to Amarpur, Sindukpathar, East Harina
April 28: Canonical Visitation to Manikbond

May

May 1: Canonical Visitation to Mangkolemba
May 2: Canonical Visitation to Medziphema
May 3: Canonical Visitation to Peren
May 4: Canonical Visitation to Tening
May 5: Canonical Visitation to Kangpokpi
May 6: Canonical Visitation to Imphal
May 7-8: Canonical Visitation to Purul, Tingbakhullen, Tingbakhunou
May 9: Canonical Visitation to Diphu
May 13-14: Ordination and Canonical Visitation to Yinkiong
May 15-16: Canonical Visitation to Aalo
May 17: Canonical Visitation to Kaying
May 18: Canonical Visitation to Tato
May 19: Canonical Visitation to Basar
May 22: Provincial Council Meeting
May 25-30: CRI National Assembly, Chennai
May 31: Novitiate, Chabua

June

June 4: Canonical Visitation to Hamren

June 6: Canonical Visitation to Rukminigaon

June 7-8: Canonical Visitation to MSFS Study House, Shillong

June 9: Canonical Visitation to Chandrapur

June 10-11: Canonical Visitation at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati

June 13-19: Suvidya College, Bangalore

June 30: Provincial Council Meeting

July

July 9-14: Province Annual Retreat I (From 9th evening to 14th evening)

July 15: Provincial Council Meeting

July 16: Inauguration of the Provincial Chapter of Holy Cross of Chavanod

August

Aug. 1-25: Southern African Region

Aug. 30: Provincial Council Meeting

September

Sept. 8-13: Northeastern CRI Meeting and Pastoral Conference

Sept. 17-20: GC-PIF-PEA Meeting in Hyderabad

Sept. 23: Provincial Council Meeting

Sept. 30: Perpetual Profession, Shillong

October

Oct. 15-20: Province Annual Retreat II (From 15th evening to 20th evening)

Oct. 20-23: ACPI Meeting, Kozhikode

Oct. 24-25: Canonical Visitation to Vinaya Bhavan, Thamaraserry

Oct. 30: Provincial Council Meeting

December

Dec. 10-12: PIF-GB Meeting cum Gabriel Memorial Lectures, Suvidya College

2019

January

Jan. 24: Feast of St Francis de Sales

February

Feb. 1-13: MSFS General Chapter at MSFS Provincial House, Narengi, Guwahati

A Concluding Thought

Nothing in life is random. God sends suffering to accomplish a specific purpose. We must realize that there are reasons for our difficulties. By working to uncover the reasons, we will grow from and transcend our challenges. Frequently, people respond to suffering by putting all their efforts into material strategies to alleviate their difficulties. For example, in a power shortage, they look for batteries, flashlights and other emergency supplies; in a health crisis, they go from doctor to doctor in search of a cure; or, in a financial crisis, they think of ways to save and earn more money. While material efforts are important, clearly, the reason God sends adversity is not to cause people to wait on long lines for scarce supplies, frequent doctors or worry over their finances. Ignoring the underlying spiritual cause of our difficulties is an exercise in futility; we cannot override God's purpose in sending us challenges. When we also focus on the spiritual, we give our

material efforts much-needed potency. There are 4 Possible Reasons why we Suffer: 1.To strengthen our faith and acceptance of God's will; 2. To help us grow and improve. Generally, we learn more from our failures and challenges than we do from our successes; 3. To help others, by giving them the opportunity to be kind and appreciate their blessings; 4. To send us a spiritual wake-up call and to cleanse unrepentant sins. When we feel pain in our bodies, it is a sign something is not right and needs to be addressed. Similarly, when we experience the pain of suffering, it can be a message from our Father in Heaven that something is not right and needs to be addressed.

Fraternally
Yours in the Lord,

George

Fr George Panthanmackel MSFS
Provincial of Northeast India Province

WALKING ON THE PATH OF THE PATRON

“Fasting fortifies the spirit, mortifying the flesh and its sensuality; it raises the spirit to God; it fights concuiscence and gives power to conquer and deaden its passions; in short, it disposes the heart to seek to please only god with great purity of heart.” SFS

