

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

NORTHEAST INDIA PROVINCE, MSFS PROVINCIALATE

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GPA/30–Circular – May 2018

Dear Confreres,



WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI!

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. (John 6:56). Jesus gave up his body for us on Calvary and gives up his body for us in every Mass so that we may receive him in Holy Communion. It is the one sacrifice on Calvary extended through time to us at Mass. Some misunderstand and think Catholics say Jesus is sacrificed again during every Mass. No, it is the one sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary which is extended through time to us in every Mass.

In the Gospel passage Jesus is really explaining what takes place during the Last Supper and every Mass. Those who were listening to Jesus knew he was not talking in symbols; they started arguing afterwards about what he had just said, “The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us (his) flesh to eat?” (John 6:52). It was clear to them that Jesus was talking about his flesh as bread and it would become clear for his listeners later that he really did mean that the bread of the Eucharist becomes his flesh. Why was there no room for confusion?

We have no idea how horrifying it would have been for Jesus’ Jewish listeners to hear him talking of consuming blood. Many times the Old Testament forbade consuming blood (Lev 3:17; 7:26; 19:26) because life was in the blood (Lev 17:14). In fact if someone consumed blood he was to be excommunicated from the Jewish people (Lev 17:10,14). For Jesus’ listeners to hear him talking of consuming blood it would have been so horrifying that they could not make the mistake of thinking that he was talking only in symbols. Jesus is leading his listeners from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant. In the Old Covenant the supreme dwelling place of God on earth was in the temple in Jerusalem, but in the New Covenant God is with us in Jesus anytime we celebrate the Eucharist and Jesus gives himself to us in the bread and wine changed into his Body and Blood during Mass. In the Old Covenant God fed his people with manna when they were wandering in the desert as we heard in our first reading (Deut 8) but in the New Covenant Jesus feeds us with his own Body and Blood through his Real Presence in the Eucharist.

When we read what Jesus said in the original language of the Gospel, Greek, we see that what Jesus said was very strong. In the original language Jesus didn’t just say “eat my flesh” (φαγεῖν) but something much stronger like “chew on my flesh” or “gnaw on my flesh” or “crunch my flesh with your teeth.” (τρώγειν) So in the original language of the Gospel the last line of today’s passage reads something like this, your ancestors ate (ἔφαγον) the bread that came down from heaven and died but whoever gnaws and crunches (τρώγων) on this bread will live forever. So reading the Gospel in its original language leaves no room for confusion, Jesus really did intend us to understand that the bread of the Eucharist is his flesh. Jesus really is present in the Eucharist, the Eucharist is the Real Presence of Jesus.

Because our faith is weak from time to time God sends us signs to remind us that the Eucharist really is food and drink for our souls. In the history of the Church a small number of people were given the grace to survive only on the Eucharist, eating no food except the Eucharist. Blessed Alexandrina of Portugal lived only on the Eucharist during the last thirteen years of her life. Marthe Robin in south eastern France did not consume anything except the Eucharist from 1928 until her death in 1981. (Marthe Robin: *The Cross and the Joy*). In the year 1263 a priest from Prague was on route to Rome making a pilgrimage asking God for help to strengthen his faith since he was having doubts about his vocation. Along the way he stopped in Bolsena 70 miles north of Rome. While celebrating Mass there, as he raised the host during the consecration, the bread turned into flesh and began to bleed. The drops of blood fell onto the small white cloth on the altar, called the corporal. The following year, 1264, Pope Urban IV instituted the feast of the Body and Blood of Jesus, *Corpus Christi*. The Pope asked St Thomas Aquinas, living at that time, to write hymns for the feast and he wrote two, known to us as *Tantum Ergo* and *O Salutaris*. That blood-stained corporal is still seen in the Basilica of Orvieto north of Rome.

Flesh in Monstrance and Blood in Glass Chalice: Although that is the eucharistic miracle that led to the institution of this feast, a more famous eucharistic miracle is the eucharistic miracle of Lanciano, also in Italy, which took place many centuries earlier, in the year 700. A monk who feared he was losing his vocation was celebrating Mass, and during the consecration the host turned into flesh and the wine turned into blood. Despite the fact that the miracle took place almost 1300 years ago, you may still see the flesh in a monstrance which is exposed every day and the blood in a glass chalice. (The glass chalice is beneath the monstrance on the right). In 1971 and 1981 a hospital laboratory tested the flesh and blood and discovered that the flesh is *myocardium*, which is heart muscular tissue. In 1978 NASA scientists tested the blood on the Turin Shroud and interestingly also discovered that it is of the blood group AB. Despite the fact that human flesh and blood should not have remained preserved for 1300 years the hospital lab tests found no trace of any preservatives. One final interesting point about the five blood clots in the chalice is that when you weigh one of them, it is the same weight as all five together, two of them together weigh the same as all five. In fact no matter what way you combine the blood clots individually or in a group to weigh them, they always weigh the same. (This shows that the entire Jesus is present in a particle of the Eucharist no matter how small.)

The Eucharist is a celebration of the love of Jesus for us, his blood shed for us in love and his body scourged, crowned with thorns and crucified for us. The wine poured and the bread broken is the love of Jesus for us, body and blood given for us. Because the Eucharist is the love of Jesus for us we always approach Jesus in the Eucharist with great respect and asking pardon for our sins. That's why it is so necessary at the start of every Mass to ask Jesus for mercy because we are so unworthy of his love, and again before receiving Jesus we express our unworthiness, "Lord I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word and I shall be healed." Think of how precious a moment in our Mass it is when we receive Jesus in Holy Communion. When we receive Jesus, Jesus is in us and we are with Jesus. It is like what Genesis says about the marriage of man and woman, no longer two but one (Gen 2:24). It is the same when we receive Jesus. We are no longer two but one. "He who eats my flesh abides in me and I in him." (John 6:57).

May Jesus in the Eucharist always be the very centre and heart of our church, the centre and heart of our faith, the centre and heart of our parish, and the centre and heart of the lives of each of us. "O Sacrament most holy, O Sacrament divine, All praise and all thanksgiving, Be every moment thine."

Fransalian Response

St Francis de Sales: Ordinary bread supports the life it receives, but the bread from heaven gives life to the soul. The spark of that life is charity and the breath of that life is grace. Ordinary bread is changed into us when we eat it, but the bread from heaven changes us into itself. "Ordinary bread supports life by being changed from something dead into something living by the man who eats it; the bread supports the life it receives. But the bread from heaven does not receive a share in the life of the man who eats it. It gives life – life to the soul – it preserves life, because it is living: I myself am the living bread that has come down from heaven. The spark of that life in the soul, which is charity, and the breath of that life, which is grace, need restoring from time to time. This is the purpose of the heavenly banquet. Ordinary bread is changed into us when we eat it; the bread from heaven changes us into itself – not that we actually become the living bread,

but that we become more like him whose life, whose flesh it is.” (Vincent Kerns, ed., *Pulpit and Pew: A Study in Salesian Preaching*, Visakhapatnam: SFS Printing School, 1976, pp. 206-207).

Fr Peter Mary Mermier: For our beloved Founder, it was a joy to celebrate Holy Mass. Towards the end of his life, he was not able to do things the way he wanted to because of infirmities. He resigned himself to the will of God in doing little things that he could. “In spite of my discomfort, I consider myself satisfied and happy to be a little useful to our good scholastics and our good Brothers. I have the happiness of being able to be a little quiet, to celebrate holy Mass, to hear the confessions of our Sisters, to follow all the little exercises of our little community” (From Fr Mermier’s Letter to Sister Marie Peclet on November 30, 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. 239).

Reflection of Superior General on Holiness (From his Circular dated May 20, 2018)

1. FRANCIS AND FRANCIS: 'CALL TO HOLINESS IN TODAY'S WORLD'

Pope Francis, often called as a man of Vatican II, offers us inspirations on how to live our call to holiness in his apostolic exhortation, “Gaudete et Exsultate” (Rejoice and be Glad): On the Call to Holiness in Today's World. St. Francis de Sales, in many ways, is said to have anticipated the deliberations and decisions of Second Vatican Council, with keen and progressive insights. He had taught that everyone, without exception, is called to be holy. As we read through Gaudete et Exsultate (GE), we will see several connections and intersections between the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and the five chapters of GE. Both 'FRANCIS AND FRANCIS' offer us an opportunity to renew our efforts at growing in holiness in order to serve others. I invite us to spend some time to read and study GE in the context of our spirituality and our growth in holiness.

2. 'HOLINESS DOES NOT MAKE YOU LESS HUMAN'

Pope Francis: The mission of every Christian is to grow in holiness in his or her own way. 'Holiness is the most attractive face of the Church. We are frequently tempted to think that holiness is only for those who can withdraw from ordinary affairs to spend much time in prayer. This is not the case. We are called to be holy by living our lives with love and by bearing witness in everything we do, wherever we find ourselves'. “Holiness does not make you less human, since it is an encounter between your weakness and the power of God's grace” (GE 34). “This holiness to which the Lord calls you will grow through small gestures” (GE 16). SFS: In his Introduction to the Devout Life offers profound guidance for the person living in the midst of the world and wishing to pursue a holy life. De Sales felt that all people, in all walks of life, are called by God to a devout life. He taught that living a devout and holy life was not only possible but practical. The genius of SFS was to realize that all are called to holiness (to grow in communion with God), each of us according to our individual position and state of life. The central theme of De Sales spirituality is devout humanism, spirituality of the heart, always respectful of humanity. The small gestures of holiness mentioned by Pope Francis mirror what SFS speaks about our own spiritual life 'as simply doing all we do out of the love of God'.

3. TWO ENEMIES TO HOLINESS

Holy Father speaks of two enemies to holiness; they are the modern manifestations of two old heresies – Gnosticism and Pelagianism. The temptation to reduce Christian holiness to a set of abstract ideas detached from the flesh (modern Gnosticism) makes individuals “incapable of touching Christ's suffering flesh in other, locked up as they are in an encyclopedia of abstraction” (GE. 37). The temptation to reduce salvation and holiness to our own power, success, and outward actions (modern Pelagianism) which lead individuals to feel “superior to others because they observe certain rules or remain intransigently faithful to a particular Catholic style” (GE. 49). GE alerts us of the dangers of these two temptations stating that knowledge and intellectual accomplishments should not eclipse our devotion (on the Gnostic side), and holiness must always be rooted in the Divine Life/Grace and not on our merits (on the Pelagian side). SFS speaks of an exterior display of spirituality without inner transformation as an enemy of holiness. The pursuit of holiness should transform our attitudes. This inner transformation of heart should ultimately point us toward being holy in the sense that God alone is sufficient for me and that I belong to Him completely and exclusively. When we discover that we belong to no one except to God and that only God's love can satisfy the deepest longings of our heart, we are on the road to holiness. SFS once wrote a letter to an exasperated and depressed soul who sought his holy counsel: ‘God wants your misery to be the throne of His mercy. He desires that your powerlessness be the seat of His omnipotence’.

4. ROAD MAP TO HOLINESS

Pope Francis: Holiness does not just involve prayer, but also by how much our life has been transformed and lived out in the light of mercy. “Mercy is the beating heart of the Gospel” (GE 97). Holiness therefore is 'being poor at heart, reacting with meekness and humility, knowing how to mourn with others, hungering and thirsting for righteousness, keeping a heart free of all that tarnishes love, sowing peace all round us, accepting daily the path of the Gospel, even though it may cause us problems'. SFS is known for his pastoral method of compassion toward sinners. The 'little virtues' of patience, humility, gentleness, simplicity, honesty, and hospitality are powerful Salesian means to grow in holiness. Humility, which SFS acclaimed as the virtue of all virtues, seems to be taken up by Pope Francis with great importance when he says: “If you are unable to suffer and offer up a few humiliations, you are not humble and you are not on the path to holiness. The holiness that God bestows on his Church comes through the humiliation of his Son. He is the way. Humiliation makes you resemble Jesus; it is an unavoidable aspect of the imitation of Christ” (GE 118).

5. OUR JOURNEY IN COMMUNITY AS AN EXPRESSION OF HOLINESS

Pope Francis, while speaking of different expressions of holiness, mentions community life. In this Year of Local Community 2018, we are making conscious efforts to renew our sense of community life. Saint John of the Cross told one of his followers: “You are living with others in order to be fashioned and tried”. Let me share with you what a Provincial once shared with me about the state of a religious community. He visited a religious community that had little life. It lacked energy in its liturgy. There was no common meal, no common prayer, and no common re-creation. Each one seemed to be busy with his own gadgets and engaged in his own 'ministry'. Ministries were not growing in that community. Apostolate maintained their status quo. Common meeting was practically non-existent. What to do with such a religious community? Was the frustration of the Provincial? Where there is no striving for holiness, there is destruction, deterioration, and eventually spiritual death. The road to holiness is challenging.

Fire Destroying Fathers' Residence and Hostel Building

On May 25, 2018, at night around 10.30 in Tato a devastating fire, probably due to some short circuit, gutted down the entire Fathers' residence and Boys' Hostel, which was constructed of wood. One of the domestic staffs saw it first and alerted the Fathers, who were asleep and they could save themselves running out. Both Fr Joseph Chakkalackal and Fr Xavier Daimari are safe, saving some things, although they could not take out much of their personal belongings. We need to be grateful to God that the hostellers were not there as they were on holiday. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Fr Saji Puthiakulangara, Fr Santosh Chavaranal and other confreres are making every effort to reach out to the confreres. We are hopeful that GREF will soon restore and make the rode ready for vehicle movement. Please continue to pray for our confreres and people in Tato.

Transfers and Appointments

- Fr Jose Mundoly is appointed Local Superior, Local Bursar of MSFS Community and is designated to be appointed Parish Priest of SFS Parish, Telam, with effect from June 5, 2018
- Fr Francis Poovelil is appointed Novice Master of MSFS Novitiate, Chabua, with effect from June 1, 2018.
- Fr Jiji Konthananickal is appointed to MSFS Provincial House, Narengi (on Media Team), with effect from June 12, 2018.
- Fr Sawma Stephen is appointed Associate Director of SFS Technical Institute, Diphu, with effect from June 5, 2018.
- Fr Sabin Kavunkal is designated to be appointed Associate Priest of SFS Church, Hamren, with effect from June 10, 2018.
- Fr Jose Karipadathu is appointed Local Superior, Principal of Don Bosco High School and designated to be appointed Parish Priest of St Peter's Church, Chandrapur, with effect from August 1, 2018.
- Fr Xavier Daimari is appointed Local Bursar, Hostel Warden of SFS Boys Hostel, and designated to be appointed Associate Parish Priest of St Peter's Church, Chandrapur, and B.Ed Studies, with effect from August 1, 2018.

- Fr Abraham Ponvelil is appointed Hostel Warden of SFS Boys Hostel and designated to be appointed Parish Priest of Mary, Mother of Compassion Parish, Somonpara, with effect from August 3, 2018.
- Fr D. Britto (MSFS Southeast Province) is designated to be appointed Associate Priest of SFS Parish, Chabua, with effect from June 5, 2018
- Fr Nicholas Bara is designated to be appointed Parish Priest of SFS Parish, Galsi, with effect from July 22, 2018.
- Fr Antony Kattathara is appointed Local Superior, Local Bursar of MSFS Community, Principal of St Francis de Sales Sec. School and designated to be appointed Parish Priest of Divine Mercy Parish, Mawryngkneng, with effect from July 17, 2018
- Fr Soreng Silanand is appointed Principal of SFS High School and designated to be appointed Associate Priest of St Francis de Sales Parish, Umwahlang, with effect from July 7, 2018.
- Fr Varghese Prakuzhy is designated to be appointed Priest Incharge of Panagarh, the Sub-station of SFS Church, Galsi, with effect from July 22, 2018, and continues to be Local Bursar of MSFS Community, Galsi.
- Fr Firstar Shylla is appointed Local Superior, Local Bursar of MSFS Community and designated to be appointed Parish Priest of St Francis de Sales Church, Umwahlang, with effect from July 7, 2018.
- Fr Luke Tanti is designated to be appointed Associate Priest of Divine Mercy Parish, Mawryngkneng, with effect from June 14, 2018.
- Fr Swarna Anil (MSFS Visakhapatnam Province) is designated to be appointed Associate Priest of Mary Mother of Compassion Parish, Panbari, with effect from June 5, 2018.
- Fr Tom Jose (MSFS Visakhapatnam Province) is designated to be appointed Associate Priest of SFS Church, Kangpokpi, with effect from June 5, 2018.
- Fr Sudhir Hasda is designated to be appointed Associate Priest of St Mary's Parish, Aalo, with effect from July 20, 2018.
- Fr Ajit Daimary is designated to be appointed Associate Priest and Principal of SFS School, Tato, with effect from July 22, 2018.

Additional Responsibilities

- Fr George Vettukattil is appointed Local Bursar of SFS Seminary, Medziphema, with effect from July 6, 2018.
- Fr Sijo Kunnel is appointed one of the two Auditor Generals of the Province with effect from June 1, 2018.
- Fr Philip Kurisummoottil is appointed Coordinator of Retreat Programme at Holy Redeemer Renewal Centre, Tura, with effect from June 5, 2018
- Fr Barnard Sangma is appointed Spiritual Director and Confessor of Holy Redeemer Renewal Centre, Tura, with effect from June 5, 2018.

Appointment of Regents

- Isamding Kevin – Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamaraserry
- Manbhalang Nongspung – SFS Seminary, Medziphema
- Ngaoveinii Hiinii Bosco – MSFS Community, Yingkiang
- Bilesstar Mawthoh – MSFS Community, Basar
- Benancius Barla – MSFS Community, Kangpokpi
- Biliam Kandulna – MSFS Community, Imphal
- Aristo June Maiong – MSFS Community, Aalo

PROMOTIONS

The Provincial Council, which met on March 22-23, 2018, approved the promotions of the following scholastics:

Promotion to Diaconate

Tigga Alock, Vemballykunnel Sibin and Pullattuvaliyaparambil Rojin are promoted to the Order of Diaconate. The ordination to diaconate for the brothers will be officiated by Most Rev. Dominic Jala, Archbishop of Shillong, on June 23, 2018 at St Dominic Savio Church, Mawlai.

Promotion to the Ministry of Acolyte

Romilson Chambugong Marak, Lokho Mark Napoleon and Pulluvayalil Nibin James are promoted to the ministry of Acolyte. Fr Provincial will confer the ministry of Acolyte on June 7, 2018 at MSFS Study House, Shillong.

Promotion to the Ministry of Lectorate

Aloysius Lalduhawma, Andreas Syngkli, Elvis Kharkongor, Gaichungdai Anthony Kameih, Jimal Johny Painapally, Standfort Stephen, Thomas R Mark and David Lalthanmawia Khiangte are promoted to the ministry of Lectorate. Fr Provincial will confer the ministry of Lectorate on June 7, 2018 at MSFS Study House, Shillong.

Promotion to First Profession

Bibin Thekkekutt, Aristo June Maiong, Emlus Barla, Wanphrangngi Soshang, Bilam Kandulana and Ateet Minj are promoted to First Profession of vows at MSFS Novitiate on May 31, 2018.

Promotion to Renewal of Vows

At MSFS Study House, Shillong (14): Marak Romilson, Mark Napoleon, Pullattuvaliyaparambil Rojin, Pulluvayalil Nibin James, Tigga Alock, Vemballykunnel Sibin, Aloysius Lalduhawma, Andreas Syngkli, Elvis Kharkongor, Gaichungdai Anthony Kameih, Jimal Johny Painapally, Standfort Stephen S, Thomas R Mark and David Lalthanmawia Khiangte. Rev. Fr Athnas Kerketta is delegated to receive the vows.

At Suvidya College, Bangalore (29): Bilmon D Marak, David Nongrum, Jacob Islary, Kasim Ampang Sangma, Leju Birth Nengsrang Marak, Lewis D. Sangma, Martin Haram, Mathias Khongkhlad, Rinto Symon, Tinto Thomas Puliyanikattu, Tom Joseph Poykayil, Sylbrius Barla, Dominic Souvei, Francis Vengra, John Korungin Maring, Jwngfung Narzary, Melbin Roji Mundackal, Moses Mukto Murmu, Nirmal Benny Arackal, Manbahlang Nongspung, Isamding Kevin, Hiinii Ngaoveinii (Bosco), Benecius Barla, Bilesstar Mawthoth, James K. Kachipomai and Edringson Lawai. Rev. Fr Joy Mampally, Rector of Suvidya College, is delegated to receive the vows.

At Mary Mother of Compassion Church, Panbari: Chithung Horam Joel. Rev. Fr Ronesh Narzary is delegated to receive the vows.

At SFS College, Aalo: Sanjuel Sangma. Rev. Fr Poonthuruthil Shiji is delegated to receive the vows.

At MSFS Provincial House, Guwahati: Athiko Isaac. Rev. Fr Varghese Chettupuzhakaren is delegated to receive the vows.

At Vinaya Bhavan, Thamaraserry: Albin Antony Ottackal. Rev. Fr Kannamangalath Joseph is delegated to receive the vows.

At Divine Mercy Church, Yingkiong: Pakon Narzary. Rev. Fr Kusumkant Toppo is delegated to receive the vows.

At SFS Church, Kangpokpi: Rivaldo Kurbah. Rev. Fr Kurian Ovelil is delegated to receive the vows.

Promotion to the Next Stage of Formation

After having examined the reports of those responsible for the formation of the scholastics, the Provincial Council has approved the promotion of the following scholastics to the next stage of Formation:

Promotion to Fourth Year Theology (3): Vemballykunnel Sibin, Pullattuvaliyaparambil Rojin and Tigga Alock.

Promotion to Third Year Theology (3): Nibin James Pulluvayalil, Marak Romilson and Mark Napoleon L.

Promotion to Second Year Theology (8): Aloysius Lalduhawma, Andreas Syngkli, David Lalthanmawia Kiangte, Elvis Kharkongor, Gaichungdai Anthony Kameih, Jimal Johny Painapally, Standfort Stephen S and Thomas R Marak.

Promotion to First Year Theology (4): Pakon Narzary, Rivaldo Kurbah, Athiko Isaac, and Chitung Horam Joel.

Promotion to Third Year Philosophy (8): Dominic Souvei, Francis Vengra, John Korungin Maring, Jwngfung Narzary, Melbin Roji Mundackal, Moses Mukto Murmu, Nirmal Benny Arackal and Sylbrius Barla.

Promotion to Second Year Philosophy(11): Bilmon D Marak, David Nongrum, Jacob Islary, Kasim Ampang Sangma, Leju Birth Nengsrang Marak, Lewis D. Sangma, Martin Halam, Mathias Khongkhlad, Rinto Symon, Tinto Thomas Puliyanikattu and Tom Joseph Poykayil.

Promotion to First Year Philosophy(7): Bibin Thekkekkutt, Emlus Barla, Wanphrangsngi Soshang and Ateet Minj (Suvidya College, Bangalore) and Sanjuel Sangma (Dharmaram College, Bangalore).

Promotion to Regency (7): Manbahlang Nongspung, Isaming Kevin, Hiinii Nagaoveinii (Bosco), Benecius Barla, Bilesstar Mawthoth, Aristo June Maiong and Bilam Kandulana.

Designated to MPh at Dharmaram College: Albin Antony Ottackal

Promotion to Novitiate (6): From Thamarassery: Frankie John Sawkmie, Jibrus Tappo and Zhavirietuo Miasalhou James. **From SFS Seminary Medziphema:** Johnson Sangma, Michael Haksing Shimray and Peter Lalnunsiana.

Promotion to SFS Seminary, Medziphema(17) : Tolly John Thongni, Tinu Eattikkattil, Samuel Xalxo, Michael Tada, Luckryson Mepoumai, Litush B. Marak, Johna Halam, Jerome B. Marak, James Mepumai, Fernando Lawai, Febin Sibi Vattamattathil, Elpidius Kharmaw, Chesrang A Sangma, Bonanza Sangma, Alwin Biji Kokkattu, Sagar Nayak and Alan Joseph Puthenpurackal.

Promoted for 2nd Year of formation at Thamarassery: Samuel Lalruatfela, Philip Minj, Paul Chije, Sabin Maliyakkal Rakesh Minj, Sibram Sabar and Albin U Peter Uppidupara.

Promotion of Scholastics of Southern African Region:

Renewal of Vows: Patropio Mutangili Mungala, Fabian Wasonga Wawi, Ivan Mubbo, and Abraham Mutoro Wambuchi.

Acolyte: Patropio Muntangili Mungala

Lectorate: Fabian Wasonga Wawi

First Profession: Anthony Kabagambe and Joseph Lule

Information of / Thanks / Congrats /Appreciation To:

- Sincere thanks to Rev. Fr K. Ignacimuthu, Provincial of Southeast Province, and Rev. Fr Pentareddy Chinappa Reddy, Provincial of Visakhapatnam Province, for sending new priests and Regents to work in Northeast. We acknowledge with gratitude the service of Fr Chinnasamy Jesuraj (Southeast Province) at Mary Mother of Compassion Parish, Panbari, and Fr Pasala Praveen (Visakhapatnam Province) at SFS Church, Kangpokpi. Thank you for the commendable work you have done in these missions of Northeast India province. Thanks to Bros Eugene Earnest Raj (at Basar), Anto Prabin (at Somonpara), Britto Clinton (at Kangpokpi) of Southeast Province and Bros Uppu James (at Tening), Kiran Gorremuchu (at Purul) of

Visakhapatnam Province for their hard work, commitment and dedication shown during the Regency period of formation. Thanks for extending the service of Fr Sabin Kavunkal of Visakhapatnam Province for one more year in Northeast India Province.

- Thanks to Rev. Fr V.M. Thomas SDB, the outgoing Salesian Provincial of Guwahati Province, for all the help extended to the MSFS of Northeast India Province and congratulations to Rev. Fr Januarius S. Sangma SDB, the new Provincial of Salesian Province of Guwahati. We wish both of them God's blessings.
- Fr Joseph Chakkalackal and Fr Xavier Daimari for organizing the first Fransalian Youth convention with the assistance of FAsCE India at Holy Angels Parish, Tato, from April 12 to 16, 2018. Fr John Barman, the Director of Fransalian Youth Mission animated the convention.
- Fr Milkus Tirkey for organizing a Family Renewal Programme at St Francis De Sales Parish, Chabua, from April 19 to 22, 2018. The programme was animated by a team from the Pastoral Centre Mancotta, Dibrugarh, headed by Rev. Fr Timothy Saldanha. Most Rev. Joseph Aind, Bishop of Dibrugarh, presided over the concluding Holy Mass on April 22, 2018.
- Fr Jose Thekkel and Fr Abraham Ponvelil for organizing St Joseph sodality meeting of Guwahati Zone at St Francis De Sales Parish, Narengi, on April 22, 2018.
- Fr Kusumkant Toppo and Fr Wanlambor Kharumnuid for organizing the Priestly ordination of Fr Luke Tanti on May 13, 2018 at Divine Mercy Church, Yingkiang. Congratulations to Fr Luke Tanti, the newly ordained MSFS Priest from Arunachal Pradesh.
- Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel, our Provincial, was elected National President of CRI section for priests, during its General Assembly at SRM University, Chennai, on May 27-30, 2018.

Communications from Superior General (From his Circular dated May 20, 2018):

Year of Local Community – 2018

In this Year of Local Community, all the Provinces and administrative units in the Congregation have prepared a calendar of events for various programs to strengthen community life. All the Local Communities are to celebrate October 24, 2018, the Day of the Foundation of the Congregation, as Community Day. The day is to be marked with consecration of the community and other meaningful celebrations. Units of Fransalian Associates in all the Provinces should be instructed to organize their community day either separately or in collaboration with the religious community of the MSFS

Fransalian Education Policy and Guidelines – 2018

The new Fransalian Education Policy and Guidelines 2018 was released at the conclusion of the Year of Education 2017 – 2018 in Hyderabad at the MSFS Education Conference organized by Fransalian Education Forum - Regional. I appreciate the hard work of Fr. George Parampukattil, the General Secretary for Education, and his team for preparing a common education policy and guidelines for the apostolate of education.

Fransalian Graded and Integral Formation

The new document, Fransalian Formation: Program of Studies, Syllabus, Curriculum, is ready for use in the formation houses at different stages of formation. This Program aims at graded and integral formation (focus on formation of the heart) for the successive stages of formation beginning with vocation promotion. The detailed syllabus and curriculum for the orientation stage will be introduced in all the Formation Houses from this academic year 2018 – 2019. I thank Fr Noel Rebello, the General Secretary for Formation, and his entire team for the enormous mission accomplished.

Salesian Program Ancecy (SPA) 2018

SPA 2018 begins from September 15 – October 31, 2018 in Ancecy and we have seven confreres participating from seven Provinces. After attending the Salesian Seminar in IIS Bangalore, confreres will have ten-day intensive orientation program animated by the participants of SPA 2017 and coordinated by Fr. Isaac John at Nagpur Provincial House. I thank Fr. Thumma Mariadas, the Assistant General, for

coordinating the dynamics of the Program and Fr. Yves Carron and his team for their inspiring ministry to our confreres

Updates from Southern African Region by Regional Superior

Installation of the New Regional Superior: Fr Baiju Mundackal was installed as the 4th Regional Superior of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, Southern Africa under the NE Province on 28th May 2018 at Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Church at Keetmanshoop, Namibia. The special installation Mass prepared by the community of OLPH under the direction of Frs Joseph Kunjaparambil and Libin Chiraparambil and it was attended by 25 Fransalian priests from the region and beyond. Fr Babychan Arackathara, the outgoing regional superior read out the letter of appointment and the new regional was installed thereafter. Priests, religious and lay people who participated in the Holy Mass wished Fr Baiju Mundackal God's blessings in his new responsibility.

Thank you: As I complete my second term in office as the regional superior, I thank God for His guidance and blessings. I thank our Superior General Rev Fr Abraham Vettuvellil and his Curia for the support and guidance. I could not have done my duties without the support of our provincials, Rev Frs Francis Thadathil and George Panthanmackel. Thank you Rev Fathers and the provincial curia for your generous support to me and the region for the past six years. I worked under Rev Fr George Panthanmackel for most of my term, his guidance and advice helped me immensely in animating the region. Thank you dear Father. The activities of MSAF (Mission Superiors Africa Forum) is a great sign of MSFS unity in Africa; I thank all the MSAF members for the support and guidance that you gave to me and to the region. I sincerely thank Frs Job Karikkampally and Thomas Vanderkunnel for their dedicated service as Regional Councillors and Fr Lukose Perumannikala as the regional bursar coordinating the financial transactions in Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland. I thank you dear confreres of the region working in Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Austria, Germany, Switzerland and USA for your love, care and understanding for the past years. Your support and co-operation motivated me to carry out my duties. I also remember and thank our scholastics in Kola, Morogoro and LCI Arusha, Tanzania, for their dedication and love for the region. May the good Lord guide you in your journey. I thank our local archbishops, Liborius Ndumbukuti Nashenda (Windhoek), Stephen Brislin (Cape Town), William Slattery (Pretoria), Bishops Phillip Politzer / Bishop Willem Christaans (Keetmanshoop), Edward Risi (Keimoes-Upington), Graham Rose (Dundee) and Jose Luis (Manzini) for their encouragement and guidance. I also express my deep gratitude to our benefactors in Namibia, South Africa, Germany, USA and our FOF members for their generosity and commitment to the concerns of the region.

I take this opportunity to wish **Fr Baiju Mundackal**, our new regional superior, God's blessings and pledge my support during the transition period and beyond. May the Lord guide him and lead you in your new responsibility.

New Bishop Willem Christiaans: was consecrated as the bishop of Keetmanshoop on 5th May 2018, in the presence of several dignitaries, religious leaders, bishops, priests, religious and lay people from across Namibia. Fr Philip Mangatt represented us along with all our priests who are working in Keetmanshoop diocese and other dioceses of Namibia. Fr Joesph Kunjaparmabil, the Vicar General of Keetmanshoop diocese coordinated this important event efficiently. We extend the new bishop every good wish and blessing.

Fr Bibin Martin Puthupaliyil is currently doing an intensive Afrikaans language course at Gabis. We wish him well in his efforts. I thank Fr Jijesh for the efforts in this regard.

Fr Augustine Parampuzha obtained his visa for South Africa and arrived in Ermelo on 21st May 2018. On behalf of the region I thank Fr Shiju Poomarathingal for managing the parish for the past several months single handedly. I wish both our priests God's blessings as they begin to journey together serving the parish of Ermelo.

Prayer requests:

Let us continue to pray for the father of Fr Alex George and Fr James Madapally. May God grant healing and comfort to them.

Change of Address and Contact Number

Fr Sibi Mattapallil: 8787416776

Let Us Pray For the Departed:

- Bro. Jacob Vattachira MSFS (84), belonging to Visakhapatnam Province, who passed away on April 9, 2018.
- Sr Jaya (73), cousin sister of Fr Kurian Pattimackel, who passed away on April 20, 2018.
- Mr P. M Varghese (83), uncle of Fr Philip Purayidathil, who passed away on April 22, 2018.
- Mrs Mariamma Mani (89), Mother of Fr Reji K. Mani, who passed away on May 15, 2018.
- Mr Paul Rapi (71) and Mrs Kinai (69), brother-in-law and aunty of Fr Stephen Pou, who passed away on May 17, 2018.
- Mrs Ani Jackson (53), younger sister of Fr Thomas Kollathuvayalil, who passed away on May 27, 2018.

Animation Programme in the Province

June 28 to 29 – Social Work Animation

July 9-14: Retreat

August 27-30: Media and Journalism

September 25-27: Salesian Seminar

October 15-20: Retreat

November 13-16: Counselling/Communication Skills (1-10 Years)

December (9-10): Accountancy

February 1-13: General Chapter

March 1-30: Forum Meetings

April 8-11: Counselling/Communication Skills (11-25 Years)

May 6-9: Counselling/Communication Skills (25 Years above)

Action Plan for Year of Community 2018

1. Common rosary at an appropriate time
2. Half an hour adoration daily
3. Community day on October 24
4. Recollections with community meetings (4times a year)
5. Apostolic Community Picnic

Special Communications

INSTITUTION	PROGRAMMES	DATE	CONTACT
NAVJIVAN RENEWAL CENTRE (N R C)	Retreat: Intimacy with Jesus	Apr 21-29	Fr. George Peter, SJ DIRECTOR-NRC Email: directornc@gmail.com Mob: 08447144890
	Course: Life- Centered Spirituality in St. John's Gospel	June 3-10	
	Training Programme in Basic Counselling Skills	June 10-20	
	Retreat: Living out of Essence	June 22-30	

	Retreat: Cost of Discipleship of Jesus	Aug 4-12	
	Course: Psycho-Sexual Integration and Celibacy	Aug 15-20	
	Course: Self- Care for Care- Givers	Aug 31- Sep 2 nd	
	Retreat: Intimacy with Jesus	Sept 13-21	
	Course: Colloquium on Ignatian Spirituality	Sept 23-30	
	Retreat: Cost of Discipleship	Oct 13-21	
	Audio -Visual Retreat: The Ignatian Way	Nov 1 st – 9	
	Integral Training for Early Formators (for in-charge of Formation of Religious & Clergy) (35- Days)	Nov 13-16	
TABOR DIVINE RETREAT ASHRAM	Retreat for priests and religious	May 20 th – 25 th May Time: 7 pm- 8.30 am	Tabor ashram Tel: (0251)2280605/686, 09167740412 Email: taborministry@gmail.com

Provincial's Programme

June

- June 1: Canonical Visitation to Mangkolemba
- June 4: Canonical Visitation to Hamren
- June 6: Canonical Visitation to Rukminigaon
- June 7: Canonical Visitation to MSFS Study House, Shillong
- June 8: Canonical Visitation to Amlarem
- June 9: Canonical Visitation to Mawryngkneng
- June 10-11: Canonical Visitation at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati
- June 13-18: Suvidya College, Bangalore
- June 23: Diaconate Ordination in Shillong
- June 24: Canonical Visitation to Mawkhlam
- June 25: Canonical Visitation to Umwahlang
- June 25-27: Social Work Animation Programme for Scholastics in Theology
- June 28-29: Social Work Animation Programme for Priests
- June 30: Provincial Council Meeting

July

- July 3: Canonical Visitation to Telem
- July 4: Canonical Visitation to Jonai
- July 1-7: Auditing by Province Auditor Generals
- July 7: CRI Encyclopedia Board Meeting at 11.30 am
- July 9: Academic Inauguration of St Clement College, Nagaon
- 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
- July 19-20: Classes at St Clement College, Nagaon
- July 21: Canonical Visitation to Umroi (11 am Holy Mass, Convention)

July 23: Ranchi

August

Aug. 3-4: General Bursar in Guwahati

Aug. 5-25: Southern African Region

Aug. 27-30: Course on Media and Journalism

Aug. 30: Provincial Council Meeting

September

Sept. 8-10: Northeastern CRI Meeting

Sept. 10: Presiding over Eucharistic celebration at CRI Regional Assembly (6.45 am)

Sept. 10-14: GC-PIF-PEA Meeting in Hyderabad (10th arrival and 14th departure)

Sept. 22: Canonical Visitation to Lengpui

Sept. 23: Canonical Visitation to Sateek

Sept. 25-27: Seminar on Salesian Spirituality

Sept. 28: Provincial Council Meeting

Sept. 30: Perpetual Profession, Shillong

October

Oct. 2: Canonical Visitation to Manikbond

Oct. 5: Canonical Visitation to Imphal

Oct. 6: Canonical Visitation to Kangpokpi

Oct. 7: Canonical Visitation to Purul, Tingbakhullen, Tingbakhunou

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

November

Nov. 1-30: CRI Encyclopedia Editing

Nov. 13-16: Counselling and Communication Skills (Priests from 1 to 10 years)

Nov. 30: Provincial Council Meeting

December

Dec. 9-10: Accountancy Course

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

2019

January

Jan. 17: Somonpara

Jan. 18: Panbari

Jan. 20: Installation of the Regional Superior of Dibrugarh Region

Jan. 24: Feast of St Francis de Sales

Jan. 25: Provincial Council Meeting

February

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

Feb. 18-Mar. 15: Classes at St Clement College, Nagaon

March

Mar. 1: Local Superiors Forum Meeting

Mar. 2: Stewardship Forum Meeting

Mar. 3-6: Budget scrutiny by Finance Committee

Mar. 6: Ash Wednesday

Mar. 8: Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries Forum Meeting

Mar. 23: Education Forum Meeting

Mar. 24-26: Provincial Council Meeting (Budget Approvals and Promotion of Candidates)

Mar. 29: Mission Forum Meeting

April

Apr. 3: EACM of Upper Assam and Pastoral meeting with Diocesan Authorities

Apr. 5: EACM Arunachal Pradesh and Pastoral meeting with Diocesan Authorities
Apr. 8-11: Counselling/ Communication Skills (For Priests from 11 to 25 years)
Apr. 21: Easter
Apr. 27: Provincial Council Meeting
Apr. 29: EACM of Guwahati and Pastoral meeting with Archdiocesan and Diocesan Authorities

May

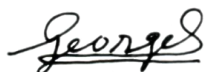
May 1: EACM of Lower Assam and Pastoral meeting with Diocesan Authorities
May 3: EACM of Garo Hills and Pastoral meeting with Diocesan Authorities
May 6-9: Counselling/ Communication Skills (For Priests from 25 years and above)
May 11: EACM of Khasi Hills and Pastoral meeting with Archdiocesan and Diocesan Authorities
May 14: EACM of Mizoram and Pastoral meeting with Diocesan Authorities
May 17: EACM of Tripura and Pastoral meeting with Diocesan Authorities
May 20: EACM of Galsi-Ranchi and Pastoral meeting with Diocesan Authorities
May 24: Provincial Council Meeting
May 25: EACM of Nagaland and Pastoral meeting with Diocesan Authorities
May 26: EACM of Manipur and Pastoral meeting with Archdiocesan Authorities

A Concluding Thought

Les Brown, a renowned motivational speaker, once said, "Shoot for the moon. Even if a person misses, he will land among the stars". In reality, we have many dreams, but we may not achieve all our goals because of certain constraints. So, it is important to dream big so that even if we don't achieve our goal, we will fall somewhere near our goal. When one dreams big, he does not put any restriction on himself or herself. There are no limits to one's dreams. Dreams are what differentiate great people from ordinary people. Ordinary people only dream about what they can achieve. Hence, they can never carry out extraordinary tasks. Mahatma Gandhi dreamt big about an independent India. At that time, people did not believe in his dream because it seemed unachievable. However, he was determined and never gave up. Because he dreamt big, he managed to reach his goal. Even though the world may laugh at people who dream big, it is not an excuse for staying within one's comfort zone. To be faithful to our big dreams, we need to move out of the comfort zone. Only when the stakes are high do we work tirelessly to make our dreams a reality.

In fact, God "dreams" big about us. He has designed us for great and specific missions, which we alone are expected to fulfill. Sure, others will help us but we have to take initiative and responsibility to complete the mission entrusted to us by the Lord. Traditionally, people called this divine dream, "the will of God." Both in the Bible and in the history of the Church we come across extraordinary personalities who recognized God's dream for them and responded to him positively. We need to join this great galaxy of men and women in order to recognize and fulfill the dream that the Lord has for us, as Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, with Eucharistic, *agapeic* (self-giving) attitude.

Fraternally
Yours in the Lord



Fr George Panthanmackel MSFS
Provincial of Northeast India Province

WALKING ON THE PATH OF THE PATRON

"Let us all belong to God in the midst of so much busyness brought on by the diversity of worldly things. Where could we give better witness to our fidelity than in the midst of things going wrong?" SFS