

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

NORTHEAST INDIA PROVINCE, MSFS PROVINCIALATE

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GPA/22 - Circular - February 2017

Dear Confreres,



WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY FEAST OF ST JOSEPHINE BAKHITA ON FEBRUARY 8!

St Josephine Bakhita was born around 1869 in Darfur in Sudan. At the age of nine, she was kidnapped by slave-traders, beaten till she bled, and sold five times in the slave-markets of Sudan. Eventually she found herself working as a slave for the mother and the wife of a general, and there she was flogged every day till she bled; as a result of this she bore 144 scars throughout her life. Finally, in 1882, she was bought by an Italian merchant for the Italian consul Callisto Legnani, who returned to Italy as the Mahdists advanced. Here, after the terrifying “masters” who had owned her up to that point, Bakhita came to know a totally different kind of “master”—in Venetian dialect, which she was now learning, she used the name “*paron*” for the living God, the God of Jesus Christ. Up to that time she had known only masters who despised and maltreated her, or at best considered her a useful slave. Now, however, she heard that there is a “*paron*” above all masters, the Lord of all lords, and that this Lord is good, goodness in person. She came to know that this Lord even knew her, that he had created her—that he actually loved her. She too was loved, and by none other than the supreme “*Paron*”, before whom all other masters are themselves no more than lowly servants. She was known and loved and she was awaited. What is more, this master had himself accepted the destiny of being flogged and now he was waiting for her “at the Father's right hand”. Now she had “hope” —no longer simply the modest hope of finding masters who would be less cruel, but the great hope: “I am definitively loved and whatever happens to me—I am awaited by this Love. And so my life is good.” Through the knowledge of this hope she was “redeemed”, no longer a slave, but a free child of God. She understood what Paul meant when he reminded the Ephesians that previously they were without hope and without God in the world—without hope *because* without God. Hence, when she was about to be taken back to Sudan, Bakhita refused; she did not wish to be separated again from her “*Paron*”. On January 9, 1890, she was baptized and confirmed and received her first Holy Communion from the hands of the Patriarch of Venice. On December 8, 1896, in Verona, she took her vows in the Congregation of the Canossian Sisters and from that time onwards, besides her work in the sacristy and in the porter's lodge at the convent, she made several journeys round Italy in order to promote the missions: the liberation that she had received through her encounter with the God of Jesus Christ, she felt she had to extend, it had to be handed on to others, to the greatest possible number of people. The hope born in her which had “redeemed” her she could not keep to herself; this hope had to reach many, to reach everybody (Cf. *Spe Salvi*, the Encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI).

When she was on duty at the door, she would gently lay her hands on the heads of the children who daily attended the Canossian schools and caress them. Her amicable voice, which had the infection and rhythm of music of her country, was pleasing to the little ones, comforting to the poor and suffering and encouraging to those who knocked at the institute's door. Her humility, simplicity and constant smile won the hearts of all the citizens. Her sisters in the community esteemed her for her constant sweet nature, exquisite goodness and deep desire to make the Lord known. "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know him. What a great grace it is to know God!", she said. As she grew older she experienced long, painful years of sickness. Mother Bakhita continued to witness to faith, goodness and Christian hope. To those who visited her and asked how she was, she would respond with a smile: "As the Master desires". During her agony, she relived the terrible days of her slavery and more than once begged the nurse who assisted her: "Please loosen the chains...they are heavy!". It was Blessed Virgin Mary who freed her from pain. Her last words were: "Our lady! Our Lady!", and her final smile testified to her encounter with the Lord's Mother. Mother Bakhita breathed her last on February 8, 1947 at the Canossian convent in Schio, surrounded by the sisters. A crowd quickly gathered at the convent to have a last look at their "Mother Moretta" and ask for her protection from heaven. The fame of her sanctity has spread to all the continents and many still receive graces through her intercession.

CONVOKING OF THE 5TH ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER OF NORTH EAST INDIA PROVINCE

In consultation with the Provincial Council and with the prior approval of the Superior General, and in accordance with the Constitutions of the Congregation (*Con. 234ff and GD. 261ff*), I am glad to convoke the **5th Ordinary Provincial Chapter of North East India Province**, which will be held at MSFS Provincialate, Satgaon-Narengi, Udayan Vihar, Guwahati – 781171, Assam, India, from **April 18 (at 10 am) to 22 (at 10 am), 2017**. A Steering Committee – consisting of Fr George Panthanmackel (Provincial and Chairman), Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil (Regional Superior and Vice Chairman) Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara (Convener), Fr Simon Thaikho (member) and Fr George Thomas Poovathunkal (member) - has also been constituted by the Provincial Council for the organizing of the Chapter. The theme of the Chapter is the following: **TO BE INNOVATIVE, MYSTICAL AND COMPASSIONATE WITNESSES IN MINISTRIES: MSFS OF NORTH EAST INDIA PROVINCE**. All delegates *and Ex officio* members are to take part in the Chapter (*Cf. GD 273-276*).

May I request every confrere of the Province to prepare for this event with special prayer, mortifications, study and focused discussion. The Chapter also envisages an updating of the Provincial Statutes, Regional Statutes and Delegation Statutes. The Steering Committee will send to you at the earliest a draft of the Statutes, Core Issues and Other details as soon as these are ready. Kindly study them personally and discuss them at the meetings of your Local Community, Apostolic Community, Delegation and Regions. The Superiors of the Local Communities, the Convenors of the Apostolic Communities, Superior of the Delegation, and Regional Superiors are requested to send reports of those discussions to Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara by March 15 in the following address: Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara, MSFS Provincialate, Satgaon-Narengi, Udayan Vihar, Guwahati – 781171, Assam, India; E-mail: psajigeorgemsfs@gmail.com; Mobile: 08753925266.

Please pray the following prayer daily in your communities:

Prayer in Preparation for the 5th Ordinary Provincial Chapter 2017

Loving and gracious God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit/ we come before you/ to ask your blessings/ upon the family of Fransalians of North East India Province/ as we assemble to discern your plan for us/ in the forthcoming Provincial Chapter.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd/ you showed us the way /to self-emptying love and humble service. You have chosen Fr Peter Mary Mermier/ to found the Congregation of the Missionaries of St Fancies de Sales/ to give your Church missionaries/ after your own heart. Fill our hearts with faith, hope and love/ that we may be daring in dreams/ and courageous in action/ knowing in the light of your presence/ the signs of our time. May we be innovative/ mystical/ and compassionate witnesses/ in our ministries. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen

Mary Mother of Compassion, Pray for us

St Francis de Sales, Pray for us,

Fr Peter Mary Mermier, Intercede for us

CONVOCATION OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER XX

Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, our beloved Superior General, convoked the 20th Ordinary General Chapter of our Congregation on January 24, 2017, with the theme, “**MSFS, WAKE UP TO THE BASICS**”, to be held at MSFS Provincialate, Satgaon-Narengi, Udayan Vihar, Guwahati – 781171, Assam, India, from February 1 to 13, 2019. In his Circular he has invited every confrere to look forward to the 20th General Chapter as a spiritual event in the Congregation, as the principal sign of unity in diversity of the Congregation, and as a special moment of grace, offered by the Divine Providence to the Congregation.

My Dear Confreres,

Benedictus Deus!

In this year of the 450th birth anniversary of St Francis de Sales and on this feast day of our heavenly Patron, so dear to us, I come to you with this very important letter of **CONVOCATION OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER XX**.

With the consent of the General Council at its Meeting held at MSFS House Hyderabad, India from October 11 – 18, 2016, and in accordance with Article 194 of our MSFS Constitutions, I **CONVOKE THE 20th ORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER OF OUR CONGREGATION**. The General Chapter will take place in our MSFS Northeast India Provincial House, Guwahati, INDIA, from February 01 – 13, 2019 On the theme “**MSFS, WAKE UP TO THE BASICS**”.

THE SPIRIT OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

“The General Chapter is the supreme legislative and teaching authority in the Congregation” (Art. 191). “The General Chapter invites individuals and communities to a serious reflection on and evaluation of their life and mission, in the light of our religious commitment and apostolate” (Art. 196/2).

I invite all my confreres to look forward to the 20 General Chapter:

- as a spiritual event in the Congregation,
- as the principal sign of unity in diversity of the Congregation, and
- as a special moment of grace, offered by the Divine Providence to the Congregation, so that we may focus on the following objectives

OBJECTIVES OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER XX

- To review the implementation of the directives and decisions of the General Chapter 2013 in the areas of Consecrated Life in the Community, Mission, MSFS – ness, and Salesian Spirituality

- To evaluate thoroughly the basics of consecrated life as lived in Local Communities and apostolates in the Congregation
- To reflect on the current challenges in religious life and apostolate of the different units in the Congregation
- To draw up necessary measures/solutions for the appropriate renewal of religious life of the members, and
- To give specific orientations and guidelines for the future

INTERCESSION OF MOTHER OF SORROWS, ST FRANCIS DE SALES, AND FATHER MERMIER

I entrust our General Chapter 2019 into the hands of Mary, Mother of Sorrows, and to the intercession of St Francis de Sales and Father Peter Mermier. We pray that they may, through their intercession, obtain for every MSFS an interior renewal of his consecrated and missionary life for the mission to the poor. Kindly recite the prayer in preparation for the General Chapter 2019 in every community and by every confrere.

OUR ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT

We have reached the 20th General Chapter at this time in the history of our Congregation. Each General Chapter is 'God's work' It gives guidelines and takes decisions, which influence the life, structure and future of the Congregation. I want to highlight that a General Chapter is not simply the business of a group of elected Delegates and ex officio members who are called Capitulants. Although the Capitulants exercise their function and role in the name of all the members in the Congregation, the Chapter is a community exercise of every confrere in the Congregation.

ORGANIZATION AND CALENDAR

The success of the General Chapter depends on the measure of clarity and the strength of determination we have, to make things happen by God's grace. This community exercise of General Chapter demands detailed and in-depth preparation. I do not refer to the technical and managerial preparation – which obviously is important – but to a long preparation of hearts and minds by every confrere. Hence, this 2 year period of preparation to prepare the hearts and minds of us all.

INITIAL PREPARATION OF GENERAL CHAPTER 2019

The Superior General, Assistant General, and the Four General Councilors will do the initial preparation of the General Chapter. The PRE-CAPITULAR commission will be constituted after the next General Council Meeting in May 2017.

ELECTION OF THE DELEGATES TO THE GENERAL CHAPTER

The election of the DELEGATES to the General Chapter will take place from June 15, 2018 to September 15, 2018 and the names of the Delegates are to be submitted to the Superior General on or before September 25, 2018. The Provincials will initiate the process of election of DELEGATES based on the appropriate articles of the Constitutions and the General Directory and as per the further guidance given to them by the Superior General on the advice of the General Council.

IMPORTANT DATES TO BE NOTED

- **Election of the Delegates:** June 15 2018 to September 15, 2018.
- **Names of the Delegates submitted to the Superior General:** latest by September 25, 2018.
- **Capitulants report to the Venue:** February 01, 2019.
- **Opening Day of General Chapter XX:** February 02, 2019.
- **Free Day for the Capitulants:** February 07, 2019.
- **Closing day of General Chapter XX:** February 12, 2019.
- **Departure:** Any time on and from February 13, 2019.

EXPLANATION OF THE THEME: 'MSFS, WAKE UP TO THE BASICS'

The theme, "MSFS, WAKE UP TO THE BASICS", expresses our resolve to reinforce our missionary and religious identity as MSFS. Basics/Essentials of MSFS life are the four pillars of Consecrated Life in Community, Mission, MSFSness, and Salesian Spirituality that define our identity and purpose. These pillars should enhance the entire structure/system of our MSFS family in the spirit of our charism handed over to us by Father Peter Mermier. This is a journey we have already started with General Chapter 2013 (which clarified these basics to us) and we must now continue this journey and bring it to completion.

Hence, there is a 'Wake Up' call through General Chapter 2019 to look at the present system/structure of our Congregation and ask tough questions that will help us to bring a systemic change. The focus here is on Consecrated Life in Community, Mission, MSFSness and Salesian Spirituality rather than on any specific issue. The focus is on the bigger picture of the Congregation that should alter structures and support mechanisms, which will make the system operate in a particular way, with thrust on the 4 pillars. The focus is on inter-personal relationship and collaboration within the different units in the system. Congregation is a living system composed of members and Provinces who do not function independently of one another but as a unified whole.

My experience of the Congregation in the past 4 years tells me that in the midst of fast growth and expansion of our Congregation all over the world with almost 1500 professed members in 28 countries, 10 Provinces, 1 Vice Province, 2 Regions, 2 Delegations, 2 missions in Africa, and confreres scattered in different units, we face challenges from within and without. We thank God for all what we have accomplished by God's grace and by our committed service to the People of God. However, in our Congregational system, we have developed certain patterns of functioning, without thrust on the 4 pillars, that seem to produce serious challenges today.

THE CHALLENGES TO BE ADDRESSED ARE:

- Increasing number of exclaustation, departures, allegations and scandals.
- 'Heightened individualism, crisis of identity, and cooling of fervor'.
- Addictions and addictive behaviors.
- Technology taking over theology.
- Lack of integration of prayer and spirituality with apostolate.
- Lack of animation of religious life and more of administration and business tendencies.
- Campaigning on the basis of Caste, Region, and Language at the time of election of Provincial and Provincial Councillors.
- Growing number of dysfunctional members and communities.
- Deteriorating spirit of religious life and missionary spirit.
- Family and needs of family taking over community life and needs of the community.
- Money laundering, stealing, and embezzlements.
- Personal preference only for institutions and institutionalized ministries.
- Craze for ministries in developed countries and less interest in the poor and mission countries and frontier missions.
- Reluctance to honor the personal plan and directive of the Major Superior after serving in the developed countries.
- Driven by personal projects and interests rather than sharing the vision, charism, and mission of the Congregation/Province.

To address these challenges and to bring in a renewal of consecrated life in the Congregation through the General Chapter 2019, nothing less than a systemic change - with focus on commitment to Consecrated Life in Community, Mission, MSFS-ness, and Salesian Spirituality - is necessary. A renewal will only happen when we engage in a tough and important conversation about what we visualize for the Congregation for the next 6 years and next 25 years. A renewal of religious life that leads to renewal of apostolate will definitely contribute to the renewal of the Church.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS:

- How can we purposefully intervene to bring in a systemic and paradigmatic change instead of a piecemeal change? (Our paradigm is Consecrated Life in Community, Mission, MSFSness, and Salesian Spirituality)
- How can we use all our available human and material resources in the Congregation to strengthen these FOUR thrusts of the Congregation?
- How can we bring in PARADIGM SHIFT that will help the Congregation and our confreres reach their potential for the mission of the Church?
- How can we bring in a systemic change that will take into account and address the serious challenges (listed above) we face today?

PREPARATION BY THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION

Further preparation of our hearts and minds for the General Chapter 2019 will be done with the help of **Three Reflection Papers** on the theme, prepared by competent members, mandated by the General Council. These Reflection Papers with questions will be studied personally and collectively by confreres.

1. Understanding the 4 Basics of MSFS life (focusing on the essentials or the new paradigm – consecrated life in community, mission, msfsness, and Salesian spirituality to address the current challenges in the Congregation)

2. Outstanding Contradictions of our MSFS Life today that negate our basics and are to be uprooted, in order to return to the basics (mention predominant ones)

3. A New Paradigm: MSFS, wake up to the basics: Visible expressions for commitment in view of addressing the challenges (A few will be prioritized in importance)

A three-to-four-page reflection material, with pointed questions, will be sent to you for your study and reflection.

Live Jesus!

Fraternaly in Christ,

Father Abraham Vettuvilil, MSFS

Superior General

January 24, 2017

❖ **Re-Installation of Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel as Provincial of North East India Province of the MSFS**

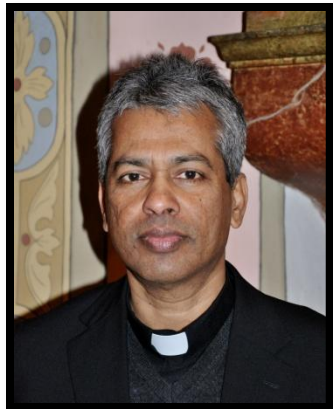
Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel was reinstalled as Provincial of Missionaries of St Francis de Sales of Northeast India Province for a second term by Most Rev. John Moolachira, the Archbishop of Guwahati, during the solemn occasion of the Feast-day celebration of our Heavenly Patron on January 23, 2017, at MSFS Provincialate, Narengi.

❖ **Intallation of Rev. Fr Sebastian Paredom as the New Delegation Superior of Germany-Austria Delegation of North East India Province of the MSFS**

After consulting the confreres of Germany-Austria Delegation of the North East India Province of the MSFS, with the consent of the Provincial Council of North East India Province and with the approval of Superior General, Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel, the Provincial of North East India Province of the MSFS, appointed Rev. Fr Sebastian Paredom the Delegation Superior of Germany-Austria Delegation of North East India Province of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales for a term of three years, beginning on January 24, 2017. He was installed as Delegation Superior on January 24, 2017, by Most Rev. Remigiose Inchananiyil, Bishop of Thamarassery, at Vinaya Bhavan, Thamaraserry. Hearty congrats and prayerful wishes to Fr Sebastian as he begins his ministry of leadership as Delegation Superior.

❖ **Thanks to Rev. Fr Sabu Manasrayil the Outgoing Delegation Superior:** Sincere thanks to Fr Sabu Manasrayil for his excellent leadership as Delegation Superior of Germany-Austria Delegation of the North East India Province of the MSFS for the last three years. He served the Delegation and the Province with single-minded dedication. He also helped the Province to get several financial projects which have helped the needy mission centres and poor people.

Silver Jubilarians of the Year 2017



Fr Jimmy Mathirampuzha was born at Athirampuzha, Kottayam, Kerala, on May 19, 1964, as the fourth child of Sebastian and Achamma. His native parish is St Mary's Church, Athirampuzha, Kerala, in the Diocese of Changanachery. After his matriculation, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, in 1980. In 1983, he was admitted to Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his first religious profession on December 15, 1984. 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, 1990. He was ordained deacon at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, on July 03, 1992, by Most Rev. Alphonsus Mathias, Archbishop of

Bangalore. After the completion of theological studies, he was ordained Priest at St Mary's Church, Athirampuzha, by Most Rev. Mathew Vattakuzhy, Bishop of Kanjirapally, on April 21, 1993. Fr Jimmy will be completing the silver jubilee of his ordination on April 21, 2018.

Fr Jimmy's assignments and the centers of work:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Place of Appointment</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Period</i>
1	SFS Seminary, Medziphema	Regency	1988-1989
2	Vinaya Bhavan, Thamarassery	Deacon	1993
3	Sacred Heart Church, Bhandari	Associate Priest	1993-1995
4	SFS Seminary, Medziphema, Nagaland	Youth Director	1995-1998
5	SFS Bhavan, Guwahati (Regional Chaplain)	YCS/YSM	1998-2001
6	MSFS Provincialate, do	YCS/YSM	2002-2004
7	St. Paul's Catechetical Centre, Rangia	Director	2004-2009
8	St. Martin, Grolandstrasse 71 , Nürnberg, Germany	Associate Priest	2009-2012
9	St. Bonifatius, Hauptstrasse 15, 91367 Weissenhohe, Germany.	Pfaarvikar	2012-

Fr Jose Chettaniyil was born at Mutholapuram, Kerala, on November 21, 1963, as the fourth child of Mathew and Mary. His native parish is St Sebastian's Church, Pazhayarikandam, Kerala, in the Diocese of Kothamangalam. After his matriculation, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, in 1980. In 1983, he was admitted to Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his first religious profession on December 15, 1984. 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 Christ King Church, Gogamukh. He made his perpetual profession on December 08, 1990. He was ordained deacon at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, on July 03, 1992, by



Most Rev. Alphonsus Mathias, Archbishop of Bangalore. After the completion of theological studies, he was ordained Priest at St. Sebastian's Church, Pazhayarikandam, by Most Rev. George Punnakottil, Bishop of Kothamangalam, on April 25, 1993. Fr Jose will be completing the silver jubilee of his ordination on April 25, 2018.

Fr Jose's assignments and the centers of work:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Place of Appointment</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Period</i>
1	Christ King Church, Gogamukh	Regent	1988-1989
2	SFS Church, Nangalbibra	Deacon	1992-1993
3	St. Xavier's Church, Chima-impel	Associate Priest	1993-1995
4	SFS Technical School, Imphal	Director	1997-2000
5	SFS Church, Tening	Parish Priest	2000-2003
6	SFS Technical Institute, Diphu, Assam	Director	2003-2009
7	SFS Church, Nongalbibra, Garo Hills	Parish Priest	2009-2011
8	JDV, Pune	MPM studies	2011-2013
9	SFS Church, Pasighat and Study M. Com under Pune University	Associate Priest	2013-2014
10	Christ the Bearer of Good News Cathedral, Guwahati and Doing Phd under ADBU	Associate Priest	2015-



Fr Jose Mamalasseril was born at Madhuravelly, Kottayam, Kerala, on June 10, 1964, as the sixth child of Thomas and Annamma. His native parish is St Alphonsa's Church, Madhuravelly, Kerala, in the Diocese of Pala. After his matriculation, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, in 1980. In 1983, he was admitted to Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his first religious profession on December 15, 1984. 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, 1990. He was ordained deacon at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, on July 03, 1992, by Most Rev. Alphonsus Mathias, Archbishop of Bangalore. After the completion of

theological studies, he was ordained Priest at St Theresa's Church, Malappuram, Ayamkudy, by Most Rev. Joseph Pallickaparambil, Bishop of Pala, on April 20, 1993. Fr Jose will be completing the silver jubilee of his ordination on April 20, 2018.

Fr Jose's assignments and the centers of work:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Place of Appointment</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Period</i>
1	Don Bosco School, Silapathar	Regent	1988-1989
2	Christ King Church, Gogamukh	Deacon	1992-1993
3	Holy Rosary Church, Purul	Associate Priest	1993 -1996
4	St Paul's Church, Peren	Parish Priest	1996 -2000
5	Don Bosco School, Silapathar	Parish priest	2000 -2004
6	St Peter Canisius' Parish, Ombalantu, Namibia	Parish Priest	2004 - 2012
7	Academia Study House, Namibia and Soweto, Windhoek	Rector and Associate Priest	2013-

Fr Lukose Perumannikala was born at Thellakom, Kottayam, Kerala, on February 06, 1962, as the seventh child of Alexander and Thresiamma. His native parish is St Sebastian's Church, Chervandoor, Kerala, in the Diocese of Changanassery. After his matriculation, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, in 1980. In 1983, he was admitted to Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his first religious profession on December 15, 1984. 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, Kangpokpi, Manipur. He made his perpetual profession on December 08, 1990. He was ordained deacon at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, on July 03, 1992, by Most Rev. Alphonsus Mathias, Archbishop of Bangalore. After the completion of theological studies, he was ordained Priest at St Sebastian's Church, Cheruvandoor, Kerala, by Most Rev. Mathew Vattakuzhy, Bishop of Kanjirappally, on April 17, 1993. Fr Lukose will be completing the silver jubilee of his ordination on April 17, 2018.



Fr Lukose's assignments and the centers of work:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Place of Appointment</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Period</i>
1	SFS Church, Kangpokpi, Manipur	Regency	1988-1989
2	Holy Rosary Church, Purul, Manipur	Diaconate	1992-1993
3	SFS Church, Kangpokpi, Manipur	Associate Priest	1993-1994
4	SFS Church, Medziphema, Nagaland	Associate Priest	1994-1997
5	Christ King Church, Gogamukh	Parish Priest	1997-2001
6	R. C. Mission, Ongha, Namibia	Parish Priest	2001-2006
7	St Mathew's Catholic Church, Bonteheuwel SA	Parish Priest	2006-2008
8	St Peter Claver Church, Okahandja and St Augustine's Church, Soweto, Windhoek, Namibia	Associate Priest	2008-2009
9	R. C. Mission, Ongha, Namibia	Parish Priest	2009 -



Fr Stephen Marayikulam (Jr) was born at Choatty, Kottayam Dt, Kerala, on September 04, 1962, as the eighth child of Antony and Rosa. He was baptised in his native parish, St George's Church, Velichiyani, Kerala, in the Diocese of Kanjirappally. After his matriculation, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, in 1980. In 1983, he was admitted to Pre-Novitiate at Philipnagar, Andhra Pradesh for six months. He was admitted to Novitiate in December 1983 in Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his first religious profession on December 15, 1984. Later, he pursued his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore from 1985 to 1988. Before he joined St Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, for his theological studies in 1989, he did one year of regency at SFS School, Dhemaji. He made his perpetual profession on December 08, 1990. He was ordained deacon at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, on July 03, 1992, by Most Rev. Alphonsus Mathias, Archbishop of Bangalore. After the completion of theological studies, he was ordained Priest at St George's Church, Koruthodu, Mundakayam, by most Rev. Mathew Vattakuzhy, Bishop of Kanjirappally, on April 24, 1993. Fr Stephen will be completing the silver jubilee of his ordination on April 24, 2018.

Fr Stephen's assignments and the centers of work:

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Place of Appointment</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Period</i>
1	SFS School, Dhemaji	Regent	1988-1989
2	SFS Church, Jonai	Associate Priest	1993-1995
3	SFS Church, Dhemaji	Associate Priest	1995-1996
4	Vinaya Bhavan, Thamarassery	Vocation Promoter	1996-1997
5	MSFS Seminary, Umroi, Meghalaya	Rector	1997-2000
6	Christ King Church, Gogamukh	Associate Priest	2000-2001
7	Christ King Church, Gogamukh	Parish Priest	2001-2006
8	St.Mary's Church/SFS College, Aalo	Parish Priest/Lecturer	2007-2008
9	St Joseph's Church, Manikbond	Parish Priest	2008-2009
10	Goethe Institute, Trivandrum, Kerala	Language Course	2010-2010
11	St John's Parish Siju	Associate Priest	2010
12	Max Mueller Bhavan, Pune	German course	2011
13	Designated for Pastoral ministry in Eisenstadt diocese, Austria	PfarrModerator/ PfarrVikar	2011-

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!*

Ordination to Priesthood



Fr Puthuppaliyil Bibin was born on June 01, 1989, as the second child of Martin and Alice. He hails from St Joseph Church, Kuppayakode, in the Diocese of Thamarassery, Kerala. After completing his HSLC in 2005, he joined Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamaraserry. He made his first religious profession on June 07, 2009 at MSFS Novitiate, Chabua, Assam. After the completion of philosophy course at Suvidya College and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Bangalore, he was sent for Regency to SFS Church, Tening. In 2013, he was promoted to pursue theological formation at MSFS Study House, Shillong. He completed his theological studies at Oriens Theological College, Shillong, and was ordained Deacon on June 06, 2016. Having successfully completed his theological formation and diaconate ministry, Fr Puthuppaliyil Bibin was

ordained a priest on January 02, 2017 by Most Rev. Remigiose Inchananiyil, the Bishop of Thamarassery Diocese. Fr Puthuppaliyil Bibin is designated to work in Southern African Region of Northeast India Province of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales.

Information of / Thanks / Congrats /Appreciation To:

- **New Book: Karipadathu, Jose: A Concise History of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales of North East India Province (1975-2016). Bangalore: ATC Publication, 2017 (pp. 1-438), ISBN-978-81-9065-407-4, \$ 35, ₹ 350.00:** The Book is a narrative historical accounting of the activities and experiences of the MSFS missionaries in North East India between 1975 and 2016. The book tells of the life and activities, struggles and pains, anxieties and achievements over a period of 40 years. The events and incidents narrated are mostly accounted and narrated by the actors themselves. The book throws light upon the life and activities of hundreds of MSFS missionaries who have dedicated their life for social well being and religious upbringing of generations of people in the North East India spread across tribes, culture and states. This book scripts a unique journey of God's grace and providence, and human's courage and

conviction, fits and falls, anxieties and achievements. For copies of the book, please contact Provincial's Office, MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati. Email: provincialssecretarynortheast@gmail.com, Ph. No: 0361-2648507, Mob: 09401755724

- Fr George Pekkadankuzhiyil and Fr Sijo Kunnel for their dedicated service to the growth of the medical College Project of CBCI in North India (Constant Lievens Hospital and Research Centre). Happy to know that the first phase of the project, infra-structure for a 500 bed hospital and the Medical College, Nursing College, Hostel Facilities and the construction of other ancillary units, are progressing well. The project has really taken a new shape and is now on a fast track.
- Fr Pratap Kerketta and Fr Joy Kaniyanmattel for organizing the inauguration and the blessing of new school building and the presbytery at Amarpur on December 22, 2017. Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, Bishop of Agarthala, blessed and Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel inaugurated the new building in the presence of local leaders and the faithful from St Joseph Vaz Church, Amarpur.
- Fr Joy Kaniyammattel, Fr Nicholas Maiong and James Pezhathummoottil for the construction of the extension building of SFS School, Sindukpathar. The newly constructed building was blessed by Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, Bishop of Agarthala, and Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel, the Provincial of North East India Province, and inaugurated by Mr Jiten Chaudhary, the Honourable Member of Parliament.
- Fr John Kelamkuzhakkal and Fr Saji Kaippallil for the construction of a new school building at Somonpara. The New school building was blessed by Most Rev. Andrew R. Marak and inaugurated by Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel on January 05, 2017 in the presence of Mr Shaji Adathala, the President of "Light in Life" organisation and Mr Stephen Braddock, a Member of the same organisation. Thanks to "Light in Life" Organisation for making a dream of people at Somonpara a reality. Sincere thanks to Fr Joseph Kannamangalath, the Provincial Bursar and Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara who took enormous trouble in getting the project completed.
- Rev. Fr George Pathanmackel laid the foundation stone and blessed the site of the construction of Church at Bahalpur on January 07, 2017 in the presence of Fr Sabu Manasrayil, Fr Biju Kanicherry and Fr Albert Shayaraj, Mr Joachim and Mrs Chritine Klose from Germany, Sisters of Sacred Heart Convent and the faithful of the Parish. Thanks to Mr Joachim and Mrs Chritine Klose for representing Heliger Geist Parish, Braunschweig, that sponsors the project.
- Fr Varghese Chettupuzhakaran, Fr Jose Karipadathu (Convenor of the Organizing Committee) and the members of the Provincialate Community for making all the arrangements for the Superiors Forum Meeting and meaningful celebration of the feast of St Francis de Sales on January 23, 2017. Rev. Fr V.M. Thomas SDB, the Salesian Provincial, for animating the Superiors Forum Meeting on the theme, "Leadership Spirituality", on January 23, 2017 at MSFS Provincial House, Narengi.
- Fr Jose Thekkel and Bro. Thomas R Marak for organising Sobha from January 13-16, 2017 at St Paul's Church, Panishali.
- Fr Lukose Kavunkal, the President, and Fr Jojan Plathottathil, the Secretary of SFS School Board, Siang Region, organised Inter-SFS Schools competition at SFS School, Basar, on December 16 and 18, 2016.
- Fr Lukose Kavunkal and Fr Stephen Pou for facilitating the construction of Sacred Heart Church at Dali village under Holy Rosary Church, Basar. The Church was blessed by Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, the Regional Superior of Dibrugarh Region, on December 27, 2016. Thanks to Mrs Irene R. Sequera, a friend of Fransalians from Bangalore, who helped in the construction of this church at Dali.
- Fr Francis Belo for organising the blessing of the building site for the presbytery at Chabua on January 09, 2017. The site was blessed by Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, the Regional Superior.

- Fr Lijeesh Kaduthanathu and Fr Daniel Lalmuanzela for organising the Ruby Jubilee of the Catholic Youth Organisation at St Mathew's Catholic Church, South Sabual, a sub-station of Mary Mother of Compassion Parish, Sateek, on January 23, 2017.
- Fr Joseph Thazhathukunnel and his guests Mr Andreas and Mrs Christine Schlund from Germany for their visit to some of our centres in Northeast India.
- Fr Benoy Veliyath and Fr George Poovathunkal for arranging a ten-day intensive Hindi Course for the first year theology students of MSFS Study House, Shillong, at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati, from January 21 to 31, 2017.
- Fr John Kuttikottayil for his holiday ministry in Germany from December 2016 to January 2017 at the request of the Provincial. Thank him sincerely for his honest and committed attitude in helping the province as best as he can.
- Fr Emmanuel Uppamthadathil was in USA in December 2016 for preaching retreat, and he used the occasion to visit most of our confreres there.
- Fr Varghese Chakkalamuriyil and Fr Roshan Kanjirathinkal for facilitating Driving training for brothers from MSFS Study House, Shillong, at SFS Technical Institute, Diphu. The certificates for the successful completion of driving course were given by Fr Kurian Pattimackel on January 31, 2017.
- Fr Jobins Vengathadathil, Secretary to Archbishop of Guwahati, and the editorial team under the patronage of Most Rev. John Moolachira, the Archbishop of Guwahati, for the excellent work done in compiling and editing the Guwahati Archdiocesan Souvenir, *Living the Beatitudes*, released on January 21, 2017, on the occasion of the concluding programme of the Archdiocesan Silver Jubilee Celebrations.
- A massive fire broke out in SFS School, Aalo, Arunachal Pradesh, on January 30, 2017, around 3 am. The fire gutted down the administrative building of the school completely together with valuable documents, office furniture and electronic equipments. Fr Solomon Tirkey, who was sleeping in the same block, had a providential escape that he could alert others of the accident. It did not spread to the other blocks of the school due to the timely intervention of the fire department. The cause of the fire seems to be short circuit.
- Frs Sabu Manasrayil, Babychan Arackathara, Carlus Barowa, DD Jacob, DR Paul, Daniel Chennai, Sebastian Paredom, Jacob Thaile, John Hepuni, Samuel Patton, Cherian Marottickathadathil, James Madpallil and Thomas Vanderkunnel were in India. Most of them came also to our Provincial House, Guwahati.

Updates from Southern African Region

- **Feast of St Francis de Sales:** All parishes under our care celebrated the feast day of our patron St Francis de Sales. Francis de Sales was drawn to the words of Christ, "Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart". We honored St Francis as the Gentleman Saint, who struggled for almost 20 years to conquer his quick temper. He knew his weakness and made conscious efforts to overcome with virtues of meekness and Christian disposition. As we celebrate the life of this great soul, let us also strive to imitate him.
- **Fr Noble** and his Father have recovered well after the operation and lengthy recuperation period. They spent over three months at Lakeshore hospital in Kerala, India and currently they are at their home (Kannur, Kerala). Fr Noble will return to Namibia towards the end of February 2017. He and his family express their gratitude to all of you for your prayers and support during the treatment.
- **Annual Retreat 2017:** as planned our annual retreat will take place at Mokopane Pastoral Center, 6- 11 June 2017. **Arrival: 17h00, Tuesday 6th June 2017; Retreat begins on Wednesday, 7th June and end on 11th June; Departure: Monday, 12th June 2017.** If you intend to stay further at the center, please let me know via email as soon as possible. The distance from Mokopane (retreat Center) to our parish in Ermelo, is about 315 km and the distance from Mokopane (retreat Center) to St Philips, Swaziland, is about

475 km. If you intend to visit our mission stations please arrange it personally early enough; remember you need a visa to visit Swaziland.

- **Fr Lukose Perumannikala** arrived in Cape Town on January 28, 2017. He has taken charge of the Parish of Holy Trinity Parish at Matroosfontein, South Africa. Fr Lukose spent 12 years (2002 - 2006 and 2009 - Jan 2017) as the Parish Priest at Ongha Parish in Namibia. His commendable service at this rural Parish has brought about renewal and integral development to the Parish. His dedication to the Parish and community life was greatly appreciated by the Archbishop and the laity of the Parish. On behalf of the region, I wish to thank Fr Lukose for his commitment and dedication to the pastoral region of Ongha and his loyalty as MSFS. May you be blessed in every way in your new assignment.
- **Fr Sanish Plakoottathil** is designated to be appointed as the parish priest of Ongha Parish and Pastoral region with effect from January 14, 2017. On behalf of the Region, I thank Fr Sanish for his keen interest in the local language and his dedicated service as the associate priest. We wish Fr Sanish every blessing as he assumes the responsibility of Ongha Parish and pastoral region.
- **Fr Bibin Martin Puthuppaliyil**, designated to work in Southern African Region, was ordained on January 2, 2017. I was privileged to be part of the ordination liturgy and the first Holy Mass along with numerous MSFS priests at his home parish in Kuppayakode, Thamarassery diocese, India. On behalf of the Region, I congratulate Fr Bibin and wish him well as he prepares himself for his assignment in the African continent.
- **Holy Trinity Matroosfontein**: Since May 2016 the parish of Matroosfontein relied on supply of priests with Fr Job as the Administrator. Fr Joseph Puliyilkat had spent considerable amount of time at Holy Trinity since May 2016. He left for Tanzania on Friday, January 20, 2017. Fr Lukose Perumannikala was installed Parish Priest of Matroosfontein on January 29, 2017.
- **Bro. Ventino Peter Mutume**, currently doing his second year Theology in Morgoro, will make his perpetual profession on March 04, 2017 at the study house at Kola Morogoro. Let us keep Bro Ventino as he prepares himself for this important step in his journey as a religious. We remain grateful to Fr Thomas Kochuparampil, the Rector, and Rev. Fr Johnson Kallidukil, the Provincial, for their support for Bro. Ventino.
- **Bros Ivan Mubbo and Abraham Muttono**, the two scholastics from East Africa, have opted for Southern African region. Currently they are doing their first year philosophy at LCI, Arusha. While we thank the East African province for assisting us with the vocations, I welcome both Brothers to the Southern African Region and wish them well in their formation and studies at LCI.
- **Distance Student Adoption Programme**, supported by Mission Development Office run by Rev Fr Thomas Cherukat, has contributed Euro 8520.00 towards the education of 71 children from South Africa and Namibia for 2017. We remain grateful for this support and on behalf of the Region I thank Fr Cherukat for his keen interest in promoting education of children in poorer countries through this project.
- **Prison Ministry Travel**: Representing the International Commission of Prison Pastoral Care - Africa Link, I will be travelling to Panama City for the world congress of Catholic Prison Chaplains on February 5, 2017 and will return to Cape Town on February 16, 2017. During my absence, kindly contact Fr Job Karikkampally for any emergency.

Appointments:

- **Fr Lukose Perumannikala** is appointed as the parish priest of Holy Trinity, Matroosfontein, South Africa with effect from January 29, 2017.
- **Fr Sanish Plakoottathil** is appointed as the parish priest of St Theresa of Child Jesus' Church, Ongha, with effect from January 14, 2017.

Annual Retreat-2017 in Germany-Austria

The annual retreat for the confreres working in Germany-Austria will be held from June 18-23, 2017 at the Marian Pilgrimage Centre, Kevelaer in Germany.

Change of Contact Numbers and Address

- ❖ Fr Thomas Varapadavil – 0940013827
- ❖ Fr Mathew Vazheparambil- 07423887787, 08731899337
- ❖ Fr Tomichan Moonnanappillil, MSFS
Assumption Seminary
2600 W. Woodlawn Ave
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Office: 001 210 734 5137
Fax: 011 210 734 2324

Let Us Pray for the Sick

- ✚ Mr Manoj Narzary, the maternal uncle of Dn Ajit Daimary, who is suffering from stroke that left him partly paralysed.
- ✚ Mr Joseph Thadathil, father of Dn Jaimon Thadathil, who is diagnosed with some symptoms of blood cancer.
- ✚ Sr Jessy Ambiyil FMA, cousin of Fr Shaju Ambiyil, who is diagnosed with a block in the brain.

Let Us Pray for the Departed

- ✚ Fr Simon William Rodrigue (61), belonging to Pune Province, who passed away on January 18, 2017.
- ✚ Fr Camille MEYNET (82), belonging to Franco-Suisse Province, who passed away on January 23, 2017.
- ✚ Fr George Nellikunnel (97), belonging to Visakhapatnam Province, who passed away on January 26, 2017.
- ✚ Fr Zacharias Mannukuzhumbil (93), belonging to Visakhapatnam Province, who passed away on January 26, 2017.
- ✚ Fr Ephrem Velamparambil (79), belonging to Visakhapatnam Province, who passed away on January 29, 2017.
- ✚ Mr Peter Chalissery (68), brother in-law of Fr Varghese Chettupuzhakaran, who passed away on January 30, 2017.

Provincial's Programme

February

- Feb. 1-17: St Clement College, Nagaon
- Feb. 20-22: Symbiosis University, Pune
- Feb. 25: Basar

March

- Mar. 3: Ranchi
- Mar. 18: Canonical Visitation to Novitiate
- Mar. 23-24: Provincial Council Meeting (with Budget Evaluation)
- Mar. 27-30: Trichy

April

- Apr. 3-5: Update Programme for Formators, Medziphema
- Apr. 18-22: Provincial Chapter
- Apr. 23: Ordination of Dn Ajit Daimary, Gogamukh
- Apr. 26: Ordination of Dn Jaimon Thadathil

May

- May 5-6: National CRI Executive-CBCI Meeting, Bangalore
- May 20: Ordination of Dn Wanlambor Kharumnuid
- May 21: Ordination of Dn Marcellinus (Mardona) War Riawed
- May 31: Novitiate, Chabua

June

- June 13-16: Suvidya College, Bangalore

July

- July 10-15: Province Annual Retreat I, MSFS Study House, Shillong

A Concluding Thought

There is nothing to compare with reading a good book if you want to nourish yourself. There is a place for TV and movies, of course, but most of our TV and movie watching is the result of a fixed habit. Reading requires us to become engaged with the printed word, to interact with what we are reading, to think. Nourish yourself by reading a good book. Each time you read a good book, at each stage of life, you will find different insights that touch your heart and nourish you. It is especially true of reading the Bible. Read the Bible daily. Know that its pages carry the divine for those who read it not with the intellect only but with the heart. At their deepest level, the “Old” and “New” Testaments connect and nourish you with the life of the divine. These sacred writings bear a God who is not just an impersonal deity, but a compassionate, forgiving, guiding love who is interested in you as a unique and irreplaceable person.

WALKING ON THE PATH OF THE PATRON

He who only wishes to merit for himself does nothing for God and merits nothing for himself: but, on the other hand, he who does everything for God and for His honour merits much for himself. *SFS*