



# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

**NORTHEAST INDIA PROVINCE, MSFS PROVINCIALATE**

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**GPA/20 - Circular - November 2016**

**Dear Confreres,**

## **WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY FEAST OF ALL SAINTS ON NOVEMBER 1 AND COMMEMORATION OF ALL SOULS ON NOVEMBER 2!**



The early Christians were accustomed to solemnize the anniversary of a martyr's death for Christ at the place of martyrdom. In the fourth century, neighbouring dioceses began to interchange feasts, to transfer relics, and to join in a common feast, as is seen from the invitation of St Basil of Caesarea (379) to the bishops of the province of Pontus. During the persecution of Diocletian the number of martyrs became so great that a separate day could not be assigned to each. But the Church, feeling that every martyr should be venerated, assigned a common day for all. The first instance of this we find in Antioch on the Sunday after Pentecost. We also find mention of a common day in a sermon of St Ephrem the Syrian (373), and in the 74th homily of St John Chrysostom (407). At first only martyrs and St John the Baptist were honoured by a special day. Other saints were added gradually. Pope Gregory III (731-741) consecrated a chapel in the Basilica of St Peter to all the saints and fixed the anniversary for November 1. Pope Gregory IV (827-844) extended the celebration on November 1 to the entire Church.

On this solemnity, we have the Lectionary-text from the gospel of Mathew (Mt 5: 3-11). In the Gospels of Mathew and Luke, the Inaugural Sermon of Jesus begins with a set of beatitudes or blessings, realized in the lives of "All Saints." Where Luke gives only three beatitudes, Mathew has eight beatitudes. There is also an extra beatitude in Mathew and Luke, probably added by the early Christian community when it was being persecuted. The original beatitudes in Luke are 'prophetic' beatitudes in which people are blessed for a situation of need. Those in Mathew are 'wisdom' beatitudes in which the blessing is related to the right attitudes.

Mathew gives us eight beatitudes in two sets of four each. The first set refers to our relationship with God and the second to our relationship with our fellow humans. Taken together, the beatitudes give us a portrait of the kind of person a follower of Jesus must be. Happiness, here, is not to be identified with contentment, which is often the outcome of mere sense gratification and material achievement, but here it is the joy and satisfaction that comes from true human fulfilment achieved with the help of God.

*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven:* Happiness is promised by the beatitude to those who are poor in spirit, i.e., those who place their trust in God alone. *Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted:* Happiness is promised to those who mourn, i.e., those who suffer because the kingdom has not yet come, but will surely experience the kingdom. *Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth:* Happiness is promised to those who are meek, i.e., those who are non-violent and non-aggressive in their disposition. *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied:* Happiness is promised to those who hunger for justice established by God. *Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy:* Happiness is promised to the merciful who forgive offences and show compassion to the needy. *Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God:* Happiness is promised to those who are transparently sincere, and not hypocrites who pretend to be what they are not. *Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God:* Happiness is promised to those who try to reconcile people in conflict with

one another. *Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven:* Happiness is promised to those who are persecuted for the cause of justice, yet remain faithful to their noble cause willed by God.

St Francis de Sales spoke of “All Saints” as unknown in this life but highly honoured by the Church. There have been many saints in caves, shops, factories, in good homes and religious houses, but died unknown. Today they are far higher in glory in heaven than those well-known and honoured on earth. “Don’t imagine for a moment that the blessed in heaven became saints through working miracles or following lofty callings. A vast multitude were unknown in this life, never worked any miracles, and so we never hear about them. Yet they are highly honoured in God’s Church....How many saints there have been in caves, in shops and factories, in good homes and religious houses, who died unknown. But they are at this moment far higher in glory than those who were well-known and honoured on earth. That is why the Church, in view of the feast celebrated in heaven, holds this one on earth to sing the praises of those with whom she is familiar and of those also whose names and lives were never known to her” (Vincent Kerns, ed., *Pulpit and Pew: A Study in Salesian Preaching*, Visakhapatnam: SFS Printing School, 1976, p. 254).

Fr Peter Mary Mermier, our beloved Founder, was convinced that we need to use our talents and graces properly in order to share the inheritance of the saints, to make spiritual progress, and to render our talents more productive. “It is, therefore, clear that it is not enough to receive graces in plenty, to listen to the Word of God, to read holy books, to receive the sacraments often, to follow spiritual exercises, to participate in jubilees, to be in a state of perfection. We must make good use of these benefits. We ought to render these talents fruitful. It is not enough to avoid sin; we must work for spiritual progress. Let us observe that the Holy Gospel while speaking about the condemnation of the wicked servant does not say that he lost his talent but indeed he did not render it productive. That is the cause of his lamentable misfortune (Cf. From Fr Mermier’s letter to Mother Claudine written on January 11, 1858, in *Selected Letters and Writings of Fr Peter-Marie Mermier 1790-1862*, Edited by Adrial Duval and Translated by Antony Mookenthottam, Bangalore: SFS Publications, 2007, pp. 119-120).

### **Gratitude to All**

I would like to thank Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvelil, our beloved Superior General, and the members of General Administration for appointing me Provincial for second consecutive term of three years beginning on January 23, 2017. May I thank also all confreres of Northeast India Province for placing your confidence in me and wholeheartedly cooperating with me in everything that is good for the Province and the Congregation. Please continue to pray that I always remain faithful to the task entrusted to me.

### **New Provincial for South East India Province**

I am very glad to inform you that our dear Superior General has appointed Rev. Fr Ignacimuthu as the Provincial of the South-East India Province for a term of three years beginning on January 24, 2017. On behalf of all confreres of Northeast India Province, may I extend to him our heartiest congratulations and prayerful wishes on his appointment as Provincial Superior. All of us, the confreres of Northeast India Province, remain ever grateful to the outgoing Provincial Rev. Fr Antony Dharmaraj for his sincere and active collaboration with us during his tenure as Provincial.

### **Transfers and Appointments**

- Fr Bamhingbe Joseph is appointed for the Pastoral Care of the migrants from Northeast in Calicut-Kalpatta Districts with effect from September 6, 2016.
- Fr Sebastian Neendukunnel is appointed Librarian of MSFS Provincialate with effect from September 09, 2016.
- Fr George Pekkadankuzhiyil is designated to be appointed as the Director of CBCI-SME-NI with effect from September 12, 2016.

- Fr Biju Kanichery is appointed Local Superior and Local Bursar of MSFS Community and Principal of St Francis de Sales School, Bahalpur, with effect from September 19, 2016.
- Fr Albert Sahayaraj is designated to be appointed Parish Priest of St Jude's Parish and appointed Coordinator of FAsCE India Zonal Unit, Bahalpur, with effect from September 19, 2016.
- Fr Ngade Nakho Benjamin is appointed Vice- principal of St Francis de Sales School and Associate Priest at Dhemaji with effect from September 25, 2016.
- Fr Peter Parankimalil is appointed Local Superior of MSFS Community, Manager of Don Bosco School and St Francis de Sales School (CBSE), Silapathar, and Manager of St Paul School, Bijoypur, with effect from October 08, 2016.
- Fr Peter Peuhausuiding is appointed Local Bursar of MSFS Community at Silapathar with effect from October 08, 2016.
- Fr George Vadakkeperincherimannil is appointed Principal of St Francis de Sales School, Medziphema, and designated to be Associate Priest of St Francis de Sales Church, Medziphema, with effect from November 07, 2016.
- Fr Roy Muthedathu is appointed Principal of Don Bosco School and designated to be Parish Priest of St Francis de Sales Church, Silapathar, with effect from November 09, 2016.
- Fr Thomas Kollathuvayalil is appointed Manager of SFS School, Local Superior of MSFS Community at Medziphema and designated to be Parish Priest of St Francis de Sales Church, Medziphema, with effect from November 13, 2016.
- Fr Kurian Pattimackel is appointed to pioneer the process of establishing St Francis de Sales Community at Mangkolemba, Principal of St Andrews School, and designated to be Parish Priest of the Quasi Parish with effect from November 11, 2016.
- Fr Joseph Illickal is pursuing Masters in Hospital Administration (MHA) at St John's Medical College, Bangalore.

#### **Appointment of Deacons for Ministry**

- Dn Daimary Ajit – St Mary's Parish, Aalo
- Dn Kharumnuid Wanlambor – Holy Angels Parish, Tato
- Dn Thadathil Jaimon – SFS Church, Umwahlang
- Dn War Riawed Marcellinus (Mardona) – SFS Church, Kangpokpi
- Dn Puthuppallyil Bibin Martin – Holy Redeemer Renewal Centre, Tura

#### **Information of / Thanks / Congrats /Appreciation To:**

- The Provincials of India, East Africa and the Vice Provincial of USA had meeting with Superior General and other members of the General Curia from October 6 to 8, 2016, at Visakhapatnam. A number of inter-province concerns and province administrative matters were deliberated such as draft agreement for the collaboration with the needy provinces, society matters in Germany, formulation of contextual formation guidelines, the common form to be signed by all confreres on Code of Ethics, preparing a final draft on guidelines for canonical visitation of the major superiors, the collation by provinces on Retreat Culture, Spiritual Directory, Associates of Fransalians in every province, Salesian Spiritual programme at Annecy, parish preaching ministry, Congregational Retreats 2017 - 2018, De Sales Mermier Resource and Research Centre and personnel for the animation of the Centre, collaboration with De Sales University USA, the possibility of having a common house for the care of the aged confreres working outside India, appointment of Delegation Superiors in Germany, Ten Year policy for the members working in developed countries, and digital and mobile policy for scholastics in India.
- **400<sup>th</sup> Year of the Publication of the *Treaties of Love of God*:** We have an obligation to know and to live the richness of this spiritual classic. Our beloved Superior General wrote: "As we are on the 400<sup>th</sup> year of the publication of *Treatise on the Love of God*, I request all of us to spend some time during this year to brush up our knowledge on the Love of God. I suggest that this study material is used in the Apostolic Community Meeting. The conveners of Apostolic Community Meeting and the Rectors of Formation Houses can use this material for presentation. If you can make copies for all confreres and read and reflect together, it will be a wonderful way of our on-going formation in Salesian Spirituality."

- The Diocese of Kohima has created and entrusted the Mission Centre of Mangkolemba in Mokokchung district, Nagaland, with St Andrews School, to the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales of Northeast India Province for the next 15 years with the possibility of further renewals on mutual agreement, and the Province accepts its pastoral care according to the conditions laid down. Fr Kurian Pattimackel has accepted the responsibility of pioneering the Mission.
- Suvidya College, Bangalore, celebrated its annual Institute's Day on October 24, the Foundation Day of the MSFS Congregation. Most Rev. Dr S. Singaroyan, Bishop of Salem, presided over the Eucharistic celebration along with Rev. Dr Abraham Vettuvellil, the Superior General of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, and Rev. Fr A. Dharmaraj msfs, the Chairperson of Suvidya Governing Body, and in the presence of a number of priests, religious, well-wishers and friends. The Bishop, in his homily, reminded the gathering of the need to convert knowledge to wisdom. Wisdom is the art of making the right decision. Later in his message in the Auditorium, the Bishop also exhorted all that formation should motivate seminarians to be missionaries reaching out to the peripheries of the society where the majority of the people live. The Superior General, in his message, said that the academic programme offered at Suvidya caters to a holistic formation aimed at a life of holiness. During the cultural programme, which was well-organized without any hitch and flaw, *Suvidya – House Journal*, with the theme, "Formation for Mission," was released. Hearty congrats to Rev. Fr Joy Mampally, the Rector, the staff and students for their united MSFS witnessing in the year of Formation.
- Fr Athanas Kerketta, Councilor Incharge of Mission, for organizing the Annual Mission Forum meeting of the Province on August 31, 2016. Sincere thanks to Rev. Fr Agnelo Fernandes, the General Secretary for Mission for animating the meeting on the methodology and programme of the parish mission preaching of Fr Peter Marie Mermier, our beloved Founder.
- Fr Benoy Veliyathu, councillor Incharge of Formation, and Fr Johny Kuttikottayil, the Convenor and Secretary, for organizing the Annual Formation Forum Meeting on October 24, 2016.
- Fr Emmanuel Uppamthadathil, Councilor Incharge of Education, and Fr George Poovathunkal, Convenor and Secretary, for organizing the Annual Education Forum Meeting on October 23, 2016. Sincere thanks to Rev. Fr Paul Pudussery CSC, for animating the session.
- Fr Reji Kizhakethalackel, the Councilor Incharge of Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries Forum, for organizing the Annual Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries Forum meeting on October 25, 2016.
- Fr Joseph Kannamangalath, the Provincial Bursar, for organizing the Annual Stewardship Forum meeting on October 28, 2016. Sincere thanks and appreciation to Fr Augustine Mangatt, the General Bursar and Mr Madhusudhana Reddy for animating the programme.
- Rev. Fr George Parampukattil, the General Secretary for Education, for the new Issue of "Fransalian Edu Times" and "2017- Pocket Calendar."
- Fr George Panthanmackel for his election by the National CRI Executive to be the Chief Editor of a proposed "Encyclopedia of Religious in India."
- Fr Joby Kurikilamkattu, Fr Genes Shangpliang and Fr Mathew Muriyankariyil for organizing mothers' retreat on August 19-22, 2016, at Mother of Compassion Parish, Mawkhlam.
- Fr John Karondukadavil has been granted exclaustation for a period of three years beginning from November 1, 2016.
- Fr Lijeesh Kaduthanathu and Fr Daniel Lalmuanzela for organizing a two-day convention for the catechism students on September 24-25, 2016 and for celebrating the Parish Day on October 16, 2016. Most Rev. Bishop Stephen Rotluanga celebrated the Holy Mass and thanked fathers for the development of the centre and commendable service done to the people at Sateek.
- Fr Mathew Puthumana, Fr Philip Thomas Kizhakumpurath, Fr Jose Karipadam, Fr Athnas Kerketta, Fr Shaibu Ezhanikat and Fr Tomy Thekkel for their well-appreciated classes and programmes at different Faculties, Colleges and for different groups of people.
- Fr Kusum Toppo and Fr Philip Mhonchumo for organizing pilgrimage for the faithful to St Joseph's Church, Chumukedima, on September 28, 2016, and Christian Leadership Animation Programme, animated by Fr CP Anto and Fr Shaji of Kohima Diocese, on October 08, 2016, at St Paul Parish, Peren.

- Fr George Pekkadankuzhiyil and Fr Albert Sahayaraj for organizing the School Annual Fest on August 26, 2016, at SFS School, Bahalpur.
- Fr Michael Chottakara and Fr Tomy Thekel for the construction of the newly inaugurated basket ball court by Mr Ronuj Pegu, the chief of Mising Autonomous Council, on September 20, 2016.
- Fr Saji Kaipallil for the construction of the residential house at Holy Redeemer Retreat Centre, Tura, which was blessed by Most Rev. Bishop Andrew R. Marak and inaugurated by Fr George Panthanmackel on September 19, 2016.
- Fr Antony Kattathara and Fr Firstar Shylla for organizing Parish Day on October 09, 2016, at St Francis de Sales Parish, Umwahlang.
- Fr Mathew Muriyankiriyil, Fr Genes Shangpliang and Fr Joby Kurikilamkattu for organizing the Parent's Day on October 22, 2016, at Don Bosco Secondary School, Mawkhlam.
- Fr Thomas Edakazhickal, Fr Thundathil Augustine, Fr Vettukattil George, Fr Solomon Tirkey and Community for organizing SFS College Week on October 10-15, 2016, at SFS College, Aalo. Congrats to them also for the well-organized programme at the inauguration of the newly constructed auditorium on October 29, 2016, inaugurated by Ms Yaman Bagra, Zilla Parishad Chairperson of Along, and blessed by Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, the Regional Superior.
- Fr Varghese Paul Manickathan and Fr Jojan Plathottam for the newly constructed church in Rani Village, which was blessed by Most Rev. John Thomas, the Bishop of Itanagar, on October 30, 2016.
- Fr James Adani and Fr Solomon Tirkey for organizing pilgrimage for the faithful to the Cathedral Church, Itanagar, on August 5-7, 2016. The programme in Cathedral was animated by Fr Bosco Kujur and Fr Marios Mosahary enabling the faithful to participate in the celebrations of the Sacraments of Confession and Holy Mass. The parish also organized the celebration of the Mothers' Day on August 28, 2016; the programme was animated by Sr Sherly MSMHC from St Mary's Convent, Basar.
- Fr Alois Borogaon was present for the Canonization Ceremony of St Teresa of Kolkata in Rome on September 4, 2016.
- Fr Varghese Vanisseril is doing his German Language course at Goethe- Zentrum, Trivandrum. The following is his present address: MSFS House, Vattiyoorkavu P O, Trivandrum 695 013, Kerala.
- Fr Joseph Kunjaparambil, Fr Saju Thalayinakandathil, Fr Lukose Perumannikalayil, Fr Jijesh Palatty, Fr Gracious Chirattolickal and Fr Thomas Kunnappallil were in India. Fr Sunny Panthanazhivadakethil visited MSFS Community at Basar together with Mrs Kathrin Ann Joye from Switzerland and monitored the progress of the Hostel-project there.

### **An Important Reminder**

Every school /College is requested to collect Rs 10 per student and contribute the amount to the Provincial Bursar, who will send Rs 5 per student (as decided by GC-PIF-PEA during TMM in Arusha) to the General Secretary for Education and the remaining amount Rs. 5 will form the scholarship fund of the Province.

### **Updates from Southern African Region**

- **Opening of the new mission in Swaziland and installation of Frs Augustine Parampuzha and Francis Huwn Reyland, the pioneers to Swaziland:** On September 25, 2016, the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales officially opened our first mission in Swaziland, the 10th country in the African continent. Certainly it's a matter of great joy and blessing for our Congregation. After having spent last 6 months in Swaziland learning the language and culture of the people, Frs Augustine and Francis were installed as parish priest and assistant priest respectively at St Philip's, Swaziland. Six Fransalian priests along with MSMHC and Cabrini sisters, the Bishop, his secretary and parishioners joined Frs Augustine and Francis as they took up the responsibility of the parish during the Holy Mass presided over by His Lordship Bishop Jose Luis, the Bishop of Manzini. After presenting the priests to the parishioners he surprised them with the gift of two vehicles for their pastoral activities in the parish. We hold intentions of our Swazi pioneers in prayer as they find their feet in the new environment of life and ministry. On behalf of the Region, I thank Frs

Augustine and Francis for accepting this challenging task of pioneering in Swaziland. I also wish to thank our superior General, general Councillor Rev Fr Agnelo, MSAF and Provincial and his council for their support and encouragement. We were also privileged to have the presence of our Frs Thomas Kochuparampil and Sebastian Kuzhupil for this important event in the life of the Congregation.

- **Congratulations to Rev. Father George Panthanmackel** as he assumes his second term in office as the provincial of North East India. On behalf of the Region, I wish our Provincial God's blessings and promise our continued support in carrying out his responsibilities.
- **Fr Noble Jose Nakathingal** has been in Kerala since mid-July to donate one of his kidneys to his dad. He has informed me that the kidney operation, after lengthy tests and formalities, went off very well. Currently Fr Noble is out of ICU and is resting in the ward while his father is still in the ICU. It is heartening to know that the donated kidney of Fr Noble is already operative in his dad's body. We raise our hearts to thank God for his special intervention during the whole procedure. Fr Noble and his family express their sincere thanks to all the members of the Region and the Province for the great support they received throughout this entire process. They request our continued prayers.
- **Holy Trinity Matroosfonetin:** Our first parish in Cape Town is without a resident priest since May 2016. I am grateful to Fr Job who assumed the responsibility of administering Holy Trinity parish in the interim while running his own full-fledged parish. We have been blessed with supply priests for weekends and weekdays. Fr Joseph Puliylakatt from LCI Arusha spent over three months looking after the parish. From October 24, 2016, Fr Nikseng will supply for a month taking up residence at the parish presbytery. We hope to have a resident priest before the end of December 2016. Kindly keep this intention in your prayer.
- **Fr Mathew Maliyil:** The application for his Namibian visa is in the process. Currently he stays at Vinya Bhavan, Thamarassery, and helps out in the seminary.
- **Fr Job Karikkampally** is currently in Rome representing the Archdiocese of Cape Town for the meeting of the Vicars of Religious from around the world. He had the rare privilege of meeting the Holy Father and shaking hands with him.
- **Fr Jijesh Palatty** will attend the upcoming training for Parish Mission Team in Visakhapatnam. On behalf of the Region, I thank him for undertaking this trip and availing himself along with rest of the team for parish mission endeavors in our region.
- **Jubilee for Prisoners:** I will be representing the Southern African Bishop's Conference in Rome for the Jubilee for Prisoners taking place at the Vatican, November 4-6, 2016. During my absence kindly approach Fr Job for anything of emergency.

### Prayer Requests:

- The beloved father of Fr Alex George Varickamanthottiyil is diagnosed with bone cancer. Kindly keep Fr Alex's father in your valuable prayers.
- Fr Philip Mangatt will undergo a hernia surgery on October 31, 2016, at UCT Private Hospital in Cape Town. Kindly remember him in your prayers.

### Province Forum Meetings 2016

#### Mission Forum Meeting

The Annual Mission Forum Meeting was held on August 31, 2016. The day began with Holy Mass officiated by Fr Agnelo Fernandes msfs, the General Secretary for Mission. During the homily, Fr Agnelo Fernandes highlighted the methodology employed by Jesus and the apostles, while preaching the Word of God and working for the mission. Fr Peter Mermier, our founder, and the early missionaries too engaged themselves in the mission of the Church. They too had their own unique mission-methodology.

The Meeting began at 9 a.m. with prayer and words of welcome by Fr Athnas Kerketa, the Councillor Incharge of Mission. It was followed by a message from Fr George Panthanmackel, the Provincial. In his message, he spoke of Fr Mermier's most basic method as the method of doing the will of God in everything. If a pastor is to be fruitful and effective in his ministry, he should be committed to do the will of God, and not his own will.

Fr Agnelo highlighted the following elements in Fr Mermier's methodology and programme of parish mission:

- 1) Visit to the families prior to the mission;
- 2) Motivating people to attend the mission and creating spirit of

expectancy and eagerness and longing for parish mission experience; 3) Programme is intense and dense to create the appropriate spiritual climate; 4) Let people see the missionaries at prayer as a religious community that preaches to them the mission; 5) The missionaries prepared for the mission preaching of the day by taking part in “The Comment”; 6) Main service was in the morning highlighting certain popular devotions; 7) Evening service consists of: a) Half –hour of catechism, b) Visit to the Blessed Sacrament, or visit to the Altar of our Lady or visit to a saint’s shrine and c) Sermon. 8) Special sermon for special groups like families, young men and women, children etc; 9) Getting people involved in devotion and active participation in spiritual journey; 10) Counselling, Confession and Reconciliation; 11) Revitalization of confraternities of the parish; 12) The missionaries served as arbitrators of various disputes; 13) Respect and centrality for the Word of God in parish mission preaching; 14) A week of rest and disengagement from another immediate parish mission preaching; 15) Evaluation and critique of the sermons and parish mission; 16) Parish mission preaching must be a witness of personal sanctity and striving for personal integrity and to the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis De Sales; 17) A lasting concern for the people whom the missionaries had administered.

After explaining the above mentioned points, Fr Agnelo Fernandes suggested some of the creative outlines for the module of parish mission preaching in the context of Northeast province. Taking the lesson from above, Fr Athnas Kerketta, Councilor Incharge of mission, spoke and emphasized the importance of visit to the families and villages. He also requested the participants to have a systematic and detailed information about each of the families in the parish, for it gives instant information on spiritual as well as socio-political situation of the parish. Various associations in the parish render valuable service in the work of apostolate or mission. In the afternoon session, all the participants were given opportunity to share success-failure stories of their own particular mission centres. They too highlighted the methods that have proved to be very effective in the mission.

Reported by Fr Athnas Kerketta msfs  
Councilor Incharge of Mission

### **Education Forum Meeting**

The Meeting of the Education Forum of the North East India Province of the MSFS was held on October 23, 2016, at MSFS Provincialate, Narengi, Guwahati. The meeting began with words of welcome by Fr Emmanuel Uppamthadathil, the Councilor Incharge of Education. Fr Emmanuel heartily welcomed Rev. Fr Paul Pudusseril, the resource person of the day, Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel msfs, the Provincial, and Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparampil msfs, the Regional Superior, and all other participants to the Meeting.

After the words of welcome by Fr Emmanuel Uppamthadathil, Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel gave a short message to the participants based on the MSFS Constitutions. He spoke of educators as those called to be prophets. The prophets think with God, and say and do what God wants of them. A prophet is a critical thinker, a fighter who fights against all kinds of evil and sin and liberates people from evil. A Fransalian educationist is a prophet who fights against the evil of ignorance and orients people to seek truth (Con. Art. 36); who forms integrated persons conscious of their responsibility to build a just society; who enlightens and empowers students; who liberates people from all social, economic and gender inequalities and from the evils of communalism, regionalism, casteism, racism, tribalism, consumerism and environmental degradation (Con. Art. 37); and who provides means of God-experience for the students through sincere commitment to Gospel values (Con. Art. 38).

Rev. Dr Paul Pudusseril, the resource person of the day, spoke on the theme, “Reimagining and Reimaging Education.” He presented a comprehensive view of education-scenario in our country and more especially in the context of North East India. He reminded the audience of the following: 1) The Church has a large number of educational institutions, both formal and informal; 2) The Church has a long history of running educational institutions and is a pioneer in this field throughout the world; 3) Our contribution to North East and to the

whole country is immeasurable; 4) Today, we are being pushed back by the corporate schools; 5) We are not recognized in proportion to the contributions we have made in the field of education; 6) Our schools, irrespective of dioceses and congregations, have become average and not able to take it to the next level; 7) Leadership for the future and the qualities expected of an educational leader.

Rev. Fr Paul Pudussery created a huge impact on the participants. He truly revealed that he is an educator par excellence. At the end of his sessions, a few questions were raised by the participants. Fr Philip Mhonchumo, the Councilor Incharge of Education of the Dibrugarh Region, proposed the vote of thanks.

After the presentation of Rev. Fr Paul Pudusseril, Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparampil, the Regional Superior, was invited to share his thoughts on the education scenario. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparampil, appreciated the works of the members in the Province in the field of education. At the same time, he was quick to remind the gathering about the need for doing more, especially in evaluating the viability of certain schools that are already existing and the mechanism to be followed for the future expansion.

The next session was chaired by Fr Emmanuel Uppamthadatil, the Councilor Incharge of Education of the province. Fr Emmanuel thanked all the members for their contribution and hard work in improving the quality of education in our schools. He placed the following points for further reflection:

1) Discipline by the administration and management is a key factor in taking our schools to the next level as well as to maintain status quo. There are certainly external factors beyond our control. But there are also serious mismanagement and lack of timely action from the part of the local school administrations too. 2) The importance of maintaining good relationship with teachers and parents is a very important factor. We need our teachers as well as our parents. We need their support and cooperation all the time. So it is vital to maintain the contact with those stake-holders. 3) We are not just professionals. We have certain values and ethics in life. It is important to maintain those while we take important decisions. 4) Result is important for our schools. But result shall not be the only criteria on which we judge the quality of a school. 5) There is a sense of individualism that is creeping in our functioning. It is detrimental for our institutions as well as for our life-style as religious too. 6) Why we fail in some centers is because we do not depend upon others and do not take the suggestions and advice of people who really matter. Therefore, it is always advisable to seek the suggestions and opinions of others who are part of us.

The Forum was thrown open for further discussion on issues that concern the various centres. Accordingly, each participant presented in nutshell the existing scenario of education in his own school. Each participant presented in brief, the existing facilities, infrastructure, quality of education, the opportunities as well as the challenges that all face in each centre. The participants also presented their own initiatives and new ideas and enterprises which they are implementing in their own centres.

At the end of the interaction a few valuable suggestions came up. They are the following: 1) The drafting of a common programme and policy guidelines which would be helpful in revamping the educational ministry of the Province. 2) The school management software called Desalite Connect was felt to be a good concept. 3) A committee was formed to formulate certain policy guidelines for the schools under the province and Rev. Fr Provincial has requested the committee to submit the first draft at the earliest, the latest by December 31, 2016. 4) The members of the committee are the following: Fr Emmanuel Uppamthadathil, the Councilor Incharge of Education, Fr George Thomas Poovathunkal (Convener), Fr Vintu Avittapilly and Fr Philip Mhonchumo.

At the end of the meeting Fr George Poovathunkal proposed vote of thanks and the meeting came to an end at 3 pm.

Reported by Fr George Poovathunkal mfs  
Convener and Secretary

## **Formation Forum Meeting**

The annual Formation Forum Meeting held on October 24, 2016, at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati. The meeting began at 9.00 a. m. with a prayer by Fr Mark Hrinii. Fr John Kuttikottayil, the Convenor and Secretary, welcomed all the members present for the meeting.

Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel addressed the gathering. In his message he said that formation is taken seriously in our province. He appreciated Fr Benoy Veliyathu, the Councilor Incharge of Formation, and all the formators for their integrity. He brought out the examples of two great saints of our times, Sts Teresa of Kolkata and Pope John Paul II. They were deeply rooted in their catholic culture and radically open to other cultures. He exhorted the formators to be deeply rooted in the catholic culture and MSFS culture with an openness that does not hinder them to embrace the good in any culture. He quoted from the Constitution Nos. 120-163, which give sufficient importance to the catholic culture along with openness, integrity, competence, genuine witness and service to the congregation. Once again he appreciated all the formators and their work.

Reports from different formation houses were presented and discussed thereafter:

SFS Seminary, Medziphema, aims at imparting holistic formation emphasizing emotional maturity, unfolding talents, intellectual development and spiritual growth. Pastoral exposures as well as various courses enable the candidates to be mature. Negative influences from outside and minimalism hinder the formation to a great extent. Vinaya Bhavan, Thamarassery: The programme is divided into 3 terms with many courses. Novitiate at Chabua provides a very comprehensive formation to the novices. Spiritual, human, and character formation are taken care of with a close accompaniment of the Novice Master and Socius. The novices are also involved, in a limited way, in exposure programmes like ministry with the Missionaries of Charity, Village Ministry, different courses and so on.

St Clement's College, Nagaon, is an inter-diocesan philosophate where MSFS fathers form and teach those studying philosophy. The first batch with 16 students is very enthusiastic and co-operative.

The following suggestions were made to improve vocation promotion in the Province: 1) Vocation promotion and promoters are to be monitored by the provincial administration. Vocation promoters are to ascertain the complete family background of the candidates prior to the recruitment. A report of the same is to be submitted to the councillor Incharge of formation. A format for the same shall be prepared by the provincial administration to be made use by the vocation promoters. An orientation programme for the vocation promoters shall be arranged by the provincial administration. Appoint a full-time vocation promoter for Northeast and Kerala. Financial situation of the students from poor families is to be taken care of by the vocation promoters and the provincial administration. Very poor students with good character have to be supported. However, the financial background of the candidates must be assessed and informed to the provincial administration. Vocation promoters are to visit the families of the candidates and prepare a write-up about the candidates and their families. It is better to have more candidates and every confrere should involve in vocation promotion. It was suggested that a personal letter be sent to every parish priest of our province asking him to promote vocations. When a candidate discontinues, his vocation promoter has to be informed, so that he can in turn inform the parish priest of the candidate. 2) Ongoing Formation is necessary for the communities to help the animation better. 3) Proposed Programmes of the Year of Mercy for Formation, which are not yet completed, are to be completed. 4) A seminar on 'Love of God' on the occasion of its 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary is to be conducted in Umroi. Fr Benoy Veliyathu will work out the themes for the same. 5) The Church documents are to be made available to every confrere. 6) A show-case in the Provincial house displaying Salesian books will be informative to the guests and helpful to the members in many ways. 7) Emphasize interiorization of the formative values and practices. 8) Revive the work-culture among the formees.

At the end of the meeting Fr Benoy Veliyathu thanked all the participants for taking time and effort to attend this meeting. The meeting was concluded at 3.45 p.m. with a prayer by Fr. Augustine Vellaramkuzhy.

Reported by Fr Johny Kuttikottayil MSFS  
Formation Forum Convenor and Secretary

## **Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries Forum**

Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries Forum meeting was held on October 25, 2016, at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati. The meeting began with a prayer led by Fr Joby Kurikilamkattu. After the prayer Fr Reji Kizhakethalackel, the Councilor Incharge of Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries, accorded a cordial welcome to all the participants. He welcomed in a very special way Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel, the Provincial, Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparmbil, the Regional Superior of MSFS Dibrugarh Region, and Fr Francis Thadathil, the former Provincial.

**Exhortation from Provincial:** At the very outset of his exhortation, Fr George Panthanmackel, acknowledged the presence of all the participants with gratitude. He acknowledged the enriching presence of Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparmbil and appreciated his commitment in leading the Dibrugarh Region with dedication and love. He also appreciated the gracious presence of the former Provincial, Fr Francis Thadathil, who has given a great push to the Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministry during his tenure as the Provincial of Northeast India.

Fr Provincial started his exhortation with the creation story from the book of Genesis. God started his creation saying "Let there be..." When it came to the creation of human, the crown of all creation, there was innovation in God's Words. He said, "Let us make man in our image, according to our likeness..." (Gen 1:26). In the same way we have to reflect and ask ourselves "How can we make our ministry more innovative and effective as it deals with humans?" We can make our ministry effective and innovative by seeing God's image in others and by seeing my own image in the poor, the needy and the marginalized. Each one has to see the difficulty and the agony of others. Although the Greek Philosophy termed God as the "unmoved mover." We see in the Old Testament God as a 'moving mover', moving with compassion, he was moved by the cry of His people. The question is am I a loving and compassionate person? He cited the example of St Teresa of Kolkata, Gandhiji and Nelson Mandela and exhorted the participants to imbibe their spirit and include the self-sacrificing love and service in their apostolates.

Fr Provincial spelled out the following components as the requirements in order to be more effective and innovative in the various ministries: 1) Imaginative Thinking, 2) Realistic planning, 3) Passionate commitment to mission, 4) Immortal (undying) gentleness and patience, 5) Inseparable union with Lord in prayer, 6) Constant communion with the confreres. He concluded his thought-provoking and inspiring exhortation with an invitation to the confreres to be more innovative and creative in the various ministries, trusting in God.

## **Sharing of the Activities**

During the sharing session, Fr Joby Kurikilamkattu, the Director of Retreats, briefed the activities of the Holy Redeemer Renewal Centre at Mawkhlam. He said that since 2011 there are some regular activities at the centre. The Director also observed that after he is relieved from the responsibility of the Parish Priest in June 2016, he is now fully committed to the activities of the Retreat Centre. He is in a position to take up more outreach programmes. Since then 8 retreats were conducted in different parishes of the dioceses, conducted animation programme at SFS College, Aalo, preached recollections for Religious in the diocese of Nongstoin. With the blessing of the new Church the number of participants in the conventions increased. The centre also caters to the needs of the pilgrims in this year of mercy as the church is declared as "Door of Mercy". There is daily adoration lasting 8 hours. Since the SABS Sisters have the same ministry, one sister is always available for the adoration. Every Friday people also pray rosary walking around the compound. Retreat for men and women are conducted at the centre. He informed that the centre is ready to organize a mega convention for all the parishes of the diocese in the month of November. A team from Kerala will animate the same.

Fr Jude Poovakulath gave a detailed description of the activities of Holy Redeemer Renewal Centre, Umroi. The centre has 7 fathers, 3 sisters and a number of volunteers and intercessors to help in the ministries. One of the deacons from study house also comes to help. Fathers from Mawryngneng and MSFS Study House assist in administering the sacrament of confession. The following programmes are organized at the centre: 1) Residential Retreats: Inner healing retreat, Children's Retreat, Passion Retreat, Divine Mercy Retreat, Youth

Retreat, Priest's Retreat, Deliverance Retreat and Catechist's Retreat. 2) Guided Retreat for Religious, Priests and lay people. 3) Conventions and one day programme: Monthly Convention, Youth Convention, Couple's Day, and Saturday Healing Service. 4) Daily Healing Prayer. 5) Daily Counselling and Confessions. 6) Outreach Programme: Parish Retreats and conventions, Priest's and Religious' Retreat. The centre conducted 17 parish retreats and conventions and 20 retreats for the priests and religious as outreach programmes. Besides, every first Friday there is night vigil for the volunteers of the centre. The centre is organizing all Northeast India convention in December 16-18 by Bro. Thomas Paul.

Fr Saji Kaipallil, the Director of retreats at Holy Redeemer Renewal Centre, Tura, informed that the new house was blessed on September 19, 2016. Since then a couple from Fiat Mission stays at the centre for the intercessory prayers. Regular convention is held on 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays. Besides, there are invitations for conducting retreat from different places. He said that the new centre is getting ready to organize conventions from November 2016. He is also looking forward to holding one-day recollection for the religious sisters at the centre.

Fr George Pekadankuzhiyil, the Director of the CBCI Medical College Project, Ranchi, gave a brief information of the project from its time of inception till date, highlighting the difficulties, hardships, setbacks, the donation of the land and hospital by the Medical Mission Sisters, taking over by the CBCI Society for Medical Education North India, the MoU between the CBCI and the MSFS and the MoU between the CBCI and the MMS and the present status of the project. He observed that as of now the project is in good shape and on the right track. Fr George also communicated that at present there are 150 employees and six doctors. Currently Sr Juliana MMS is the director of the Hospital. From November 1, 2016, Fr George Pekadankuzhiyil will take over as the Director of the Hospital too.

Fr Varghese Chkalamuriyil, the Director of SFS Technical School, Diphu, informed that there are five trades running: Driving, Welding, Carpentry, Press and Hospitality Course by BoscoTech. He acknowledged the investment made by the Province and FAsCE India at Diphu. He noted that the plan of printing the note-book in large scale was not materialized so far. He has to go from door to door to get the order and deliver the materials. To print note-books in large scale requires supporting machinery and financial investment. It is a serious concern that has to be addressed at the earliest.

Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara, the Director of FAsCE India, began his sharing highlighting the running projects: CBR Project at Basar, Children's Club in all the parishes of Arunachal Pradesh, Children's Parliament at Jonai, Telam and Hamren, Project for the Improved Livelihood at Somanpara, Training programme for the youth and catechist in the different parishes, FAsCE India Education Assistance Fund and the Construction of FAsCE Facilitation Centre at Silapathar and Boy's Hostel at Umbhalang. FAsCE India in collaboration with Mission forum is organizing leadership training for the catechist in Arunachal Pradesh programme on November 15,16 and 17, at Kaying; Students retreat cum Training programme at Aalo on October 26-28; Children's Day Celebration at Various Centres and World Disability Day on December 3, 2016. The MSW students of the North East Institute of Social Science and Research will be coming for an observational visit on November 7, 2016. He spoke about some of the new initiatives of FAsCE India such as: a) A Supplementary Education Centre was opened at Bongaon: 30 Children benefit from this centre. b) Free Health Camp was conducted for Inmates of Central Jail Lohra: 250 inmates of the Central Jail benefited from this camp. c) Free Homeopathic Medical Camp was organized at Amsing Jorabat: 300 people received help in various medical departments like Pediatrics, Dental Care, Gynecology, Dermatology and ENT. d) Supporting the construction of a house for a poor man at Panishali. e) Helping to make a house for a blind man at Basar. f) Supporting the education in professional course MBA (Justine from Phaibung Khullen, in Chennai). g) Assisting the schooling of two children in Sateek, Mizoram.

#### **Suggestions for improving our Social and Innovative Ministries**

Social Apostolate: 1) FAsCE India Zonal Directors could participate in the SA & IM Forum. 2) Clarity should be given to the role of Zonal Directors. 3) Have a Regional Director for FAsCE India for the Dibrugarh

Region. Such a Regional Director (Coordinator) could coordinate the social Activity of the Region under the guidance of the Executive Director. 4) The meeting suggested to do away with the post of FAsCE India zonal directors. 5) Appoint Local Directors at different project centres.

SFS Technical Institute, Diphu: a) Study the possibility of initiating a Notebook unit at Diphu. b) Reiterated the need and importance of all our centers ordering the notebooks from Diphu. c) Provincial administration could instruct all our schools to buy books from Diphu to sustain the centre. d) Equip SFS Technical School with more machinery to sustain the centre. e) To remedy the problem of huge expenses incurred in transportation, more centres of the same region could come together and order the books (eg. Lower Assam, Upper Assam etc). f) Schools could advance stationery money to Diphu to buy materials. g) The matter could be taken up at the apostolic community meetings and again in the forthcoming Provincial Chapter/Congress. h) Owning up the centre as the province's centre and a collective will to place the order. i) In order to improve the situation, install Automatic Cutting machine and pinning machine. j) Order should be placed well in advance to supply the material on time. k) Equip the centre with more personnel.

Fr Provincial appointed a two-member-committee: Fr Jose Karipadathu and Fr Saji George, to study the situation in Diphu and make proposals to the administration. The objectives are: 1) To study the benefits and contributions of the Institute to poor Youth. 2) To Identify the problems /difficulties faced by the institution. 3) To identify the impact of the services of the institution: Positive/Negative. 4) Reasons for the financial viability/ lack of it? 5) To propose a workable mechanism for management for the coming years.

Preaching Ministry: 1) Prepare personnel for preaching ministry. 2) Prepare the local persons and train them well in their theology time. 3) A team (not only one alone) should go for the preaching ministry to different parishes. 4) Make the preaching ministry as part of the mission forum. 5) Appoint young priests at retreat centres, considering the fact of learning the language. 6) Give the right orientation during the theological studies and strictly follow up the same. 7) Strengthen the preaching ministry with personnel and financial resources.

Counselling Ministry at Lengpui: It is a very important and relevant ministry. We need more personnel to undertake this ministry. At Lengpui the expectation of diocese of Aizawl is not only counselling centre but a pastoral centre where all other needs are met, e.g., programme for the teachers and other capacity building programmes for different session. Therefore, it was suggested that we need to identify and send personnel for short term courses and train even lay people for professional counseling.

Fransalian Communication: 1) Appoint a full time Director for communication. 2) Prepare catechetical lessons in different language. 3) Make illustrated work of some passages from the Old Testament. 4) Make illustrated catechism book for the children. 5) Explain creatively sacraments in simple forms. 6) Make documentaries of different centres

At the end of the meeting Fr Reji thanked the participants for their active participation, sharing and suggestions. The meeting came to an end at 3.45. p.m with a prayer led by Fr Saji Mathew Kaipallil.

Reported by Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara MSFS  
Executive Director of FAsCE India

### **Stewardship Forum Meeting**

The annual Stewardship Forum Meeting was held on October 28, 2016, MSFS Provincial House, Guwahati. The Meeting began with a Hymn to the Holy Spirit after which Fr K.P. Joseph, the Provincial Bursar, accorded a cordial wellcome to all, appreciating and thanking them for the trouble each one has taken for attending the meeting. Fr K. P Joseph welcomed specially Rev. Fr Augustine Mangatt, General Bursar and Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel, Provincial.

The resource person of first session was Mr Madhusudhana Reddy CA, RSM & Associates, Hyderabad. Mr Reddy encouraged the participants to keep the account properly and meticulously. Maintain regular accounts, cash and ledger book. Keep the account every day. He highlighted the importance of maintaining the voucher and then explained the FCRA account, common heads of account (Payments/Expenditure) for the houses and schools, loans and advances, income tax proceeds and guidelines and good practices for maintaining the account.

Exhortation by Rev. Fr Augustine Mangatt, General Bursar: Fr Augustine Mangatt began by saying “I am glad to be with you on the occasion of the Northeast Province Stewardship Forum Meeting. It is an important occasion to take stock of our commitment to the tasks entrusted to us in the field of stewardship of the material and financial resource of the Province and the Congregation. Stewardship is an important ministry of administration that enable all other ministries to function realistically and within the boundaries of the available resources”. The General Bursar then expressed his gratitude to Fr. Provincial and the Provincial Bursar for inviting him to be part of the meeting.

Fr Augustine said that the call of the last three Chapters has been consistent in asking all for more effective participation, communion, collaboration, responsibility and joint-responsibility and accountability in all matters that affect the life and mission of the Congregation. The New Governance set-up is geared to helping the members to realize the ideals that the Chapters have placed before us. In his talk he stressed the need for financial transparency: “It is the quality of transparency of each and every community that enhances the quality of transparency of the entire province family. It is the quality of transparency of each province that enhances the quality of transparency in the entire congregation.” He observed that it is not an easy mission to accomplish. But as religious we have every reason to believe that it can be done and realize.

There was also a demand of the Holy See to present the entire financial situation of the congregation, along with the six-yearly report of the Superior General to the Holy See. Fr Augustine brought to the notice that there has been an erroneous notion that Financial and Material resource situation to the congregation is the financial situation of the Generalate, which is not true. The Holy See in the year 2007 made a comment on the Superior General’s Report submitted to the Holy See, that the financial situation of the entire Congregation is not clearly reflected. To respond positively to this observation of the Holy See, the Congregation along with the provincials got into a serious dialogue and study to find out a mechanism that could provide the General Administration the total picture of the financial situation of the entire Congregation and also the break-up of the expenditure of the entire Congregation under certain heads. The outcome of this is FAST (Financial Accountability System for Transparency). It is a comprehensive system approved by the Congregation. Therefore it has to be carefully studied and meticulously implemented. Fr Augustine also added that the General Bursar has given clear directives and guidelines to the Provincial Bursars of the way FAST should be followed and used in monitoring the financial health of the Provinces and the Congregation.

The General Bursar stressed on the importance of knowing the province and congregational statutes of financial accountability and implementing them with the greatest zeal and prudence. He also encouraged everyone to cooperate with the Provincial Bursar and to know the modalities of accountability and act accordingly. Stewardship Forum invites the province to live joyfully and more radically the Evangelical Counsel of Poverty.

Fr Augustine then stressed the importance of writing the account daily, presenting it to the community every month, maintaining the account records systematically, obtaining proper receipts rather than making receipts, doing the internal auditing and keeping total transparency of the money. He also emphasized the need to seek permissions and approvals as per the Province Statutes and Congregation’s Directory and keeping the record of the same in the Provincial Bursar’s file. The General Bursar advised everyone to keep a target date of submission of account for the whole year and strive diligently to honour those target dates. He meant that the bursars are not only confreres who keep accounts and financial books but they have also duty to make

suggestions and proposals concerning finances in keeping with the directives of the Provincial, Superior General and in the spirit of our constitutions.

The General Bursar concluded his words of exhortation by reminding each one that our work as stewards of the finances and material resources of the Congregation is a ministry that challenges us to put into practice what we profess and what we believe.

Words of Exhortation from Fr Provincial: Fr Provincial acknowledged with gratitude the gracious presence of Rev. Fr Augustine Mangatt. He said that Fr Augustine has tremendous love for the Congregation and for the confreres. He was one of the pioneers of the mission in Africa and the African mission is what it is today because of him and many others. Fr George then thanked the General Bursar for willingly accepting the invitation to come to Northeast to animate the session. Fr. Provincial also took the opportunity to thank Fr K. P. Joseph for his service as the Provincial Bursar. He thanked all the participants and observed that most of us are taking the account seriously and are very cooperative. After these preliminary remarks Fr Provincial began his reflection.

Fr Provincial stressed the importance of having a right attitude in keeping the account meticulously. He mentioned that God may understand your sincerity but not the government; therefore, there is a need to keep the proper records of the account. Fr George then quoted the Article 272 of the Constitution: “The administration of temporal goods calls for a spirit of poverty, simplicity and detachment particularly while requiring, alienating and mortgaging property and assuming debts. It should be animated by the principle of justice, the spirit of service, requirement of Canon 638, and true love for the Congregation and its mission.” He further enlightened the participants on the two underlying principles in the article: principle of justice and the principle of true love. What distinguishes Christian management is that it depends on love and compassion. All speak of justice but not much on love. The principle of true love is specifically Christian. The principle of Mosaic Law is: “Eye for Eye and Tooth for Tooth”. Many of the international codes of law have their basis in mosaic law. Jesus had a different approach; his approach was based on *agapeic* love (forgiving and merciful love). This is seen in the parable of the prodigal son. Fr Provincial then spoke of three types of love: 1. *Eros* – erotic love 2. *Philia*- love of friendship and 3. *Agape*- unconditional love of God. A Fransalian should possess the *agapeic* love: self sacrificing and unconditional love. The *agapeic* love includes and surpasses justice. We should cultivate a true love for our community, Province and the Congregation. A true confrere should be moved by true love and not by force (“Everything by love and nothing by force” > SFS). A loving person will keep the account accurately and he will be transparent. He will be sincere and genuine in his dealings. There are many poor people living around us and practically nothing to eat. Fr Provincial exhorted everyone to avoid greed, self-complacency, arrogance and spending extravagantly on anything. He invited everyone to recommit himself and follow the guidelines and directives of FAST introduced in the Congregation.

During the Interaction and clarification, Fr Augustine Mangatt said that the budget should first be prepared in the Local Community. It should be realistic and not just following or copying of the previous year. Set priorities and see the real necessities of the centre and prepare the budget meticulously. He also said that spending more than what we have is a violation of the law. Therefore, we need to follow strictly the guidelines and statutes of the Province.

The members of the Forum expressed anguish over certain unhealthy trend of some persons taking things, construction materials, books and stationary items from shopkeepers / publishers without making the payment and creating debts for the centres. Even after the transfer of individuals, the debts are not cleared. It is a glaring violation of the Province Statutes. Strict sanctions are to be imposed on such individuals.

After clarifications and suggestions Fr Provincial once again appreciated and thanked everyone especially Fr Augustine Mangatt, the General Bursar, Fr K.P Joseph, the Provincial Bursar, Fr Joseph Thekkel, the Secretary and Convenor of the Forum, and Fr Praveen Kumbattu, the Provincial Secretary, for organizing the meeting.

Fr Augustine, the General Bursar, in his concluding observation was full of appreciation and praise for the Northeast India Province. He cherished his association with confreres especially the pioneers, who are his own companions. He appreciated the tremendous growth the Province has achieved in 40 years' time. He exhorted the confreres to continue the missionary dynamism and tread forward with same the spirit and enthusiasm. The General Bursar also congratulated Fr George Panthanmackel on his appointment for a second term as the Provincial of Northeast India Province.

The meeting came to an end at 3. 30 pm with a prayer led by Fr Stephen Marayikulam, Senior.

Reported by Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara MSFS  
The Executive Director of FAsCE India

### **Let us pray for the Departed**

- Fr Alexander Kottam MSFS (85), belonging to Visakhapatnam Province, passed away on August 08, 2016.
- Fr Luke Cheruvil MSFS (74), belonging to Visakhapatnam Province, passed away on October 5, 2016.
- Sr Lilly Kuriakose of St Charles Borromeo sisters, the elder sister of Fr Vijoy (Joy Velickakathu), passed away on August 8, 2016.
- Mrs Mariamma Savier (83), the paternal grandmother of Fr Roshan Kanjirathinkal, passed away today on August 28, 2016.
- Bro. George Clement Anthony MSFS (23), belonging to Pune Province, passed away on August 29, 2016.
- Fr Annem Joji Reddy MSFS (33), belonging to Visakhapatnam Province, passed away due to electric shock. August 31.
- Fr Sayu Cheruvil MSFS (52), belonging to Nagpur Province, passed away on August 31, 2016.
- Mrs Mariamma Chacko (89), the beloved mother of Fr Joy Mampally, the Rector of Suvidya College, passed away on August 27. 2016.
- Mr Philip Toppo (70), paternal uncle of Fr Kusumkant, passed away on September 26, 2016.
- Mrs Thumma Chinnamma (92), the mother of Fr Thumma Mariadas Reddy, our Assistant General, passed away on October 3, 2016.
- Mrs Thangamma Daniel (93), the paternal grandmother of Fr Shaju Ambiyil, who passed away on October 10, 2016.
- Mrs Rosamma Joseph Arumakkal (52), sister of Fr Thomas Kunnappallil, passed away on October 12, 2016.

### **Please note the new mobile numbers and email Ids of the following confreres:**

- Fr Jose Mundoly: 8486599409
- Fr Cornelius Bara : 8259936780
- Fr Jacob Matathil: 9774431787
- Fr Bernard Sangma: 8730955108
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## Provincial's Programme

### November

- Nov. 1: Archdiocesan Recollection
- Nov. 4: Dhemaji
- Nov. 9-10: Aizawl-Sateek
- Nov. 12-13: Amarpur-Sindukpathar-Harina
- Nov. 15: Ranchi
- Nov. 20: Provincial Council Meeting
- Nov. 21: Canonical Visitation to Hamren
- Nov. 22: Canonical Visitation to Diphu
- Nov. 24: Canonical Visitation to Novitiate
- Nov. 26: SFS School, Narengi
- Nov. 30: Canonical Visitation to Galsi

### December

- Dec. 2: PIF Meeting at Suvidya College
- Dec. 3: Suvidya General Body and Governing Body Meetings
- Dec. 7: Nongalbibra
- Dec. 10: Canonical Visitation to Manikbond
- Dec. 14: Archdiocesan Recollection and Christmas Gathering
- Dec. 19: FAsCE India Staff Meeting
- Dec. 31-Jan. 1: Canonical Visitation to Vinaya Bhavan

### January

- Jan. 2: Ordination of Dn Bibin Martin Puthupallyil
- Jan. 5: Somonpara
- From Jan. 9: Classes at St Clement College, Nagaon
- Jan. 23: Superiors Forum Meeting, Celebration of the Feast of SFS, Re-installation of the Provincial and Provincial Council Meeting
- Jan. 28: Steering Committee Meeting

## A Concluding Thought

Fransalian spirituality is cemented with *agapeic* (self-giving) love founded on humility, gentleness, patience and holy indifference, the four pillars of Fransalian Spirituality practised by both St Francis de Sales and Fr Peter Mary Mermier the Servant of God. For Francis de Sales, among these four virtues, the most important one is humility. In an age that promotes assertive attitude, humility is often regarded as outmoded. At the same time, nobody welcomes the opposite of the same: pride, which is a major obstacle to genuine community living and team-work. Fransalian humility encourages us to be honest about ourselves and our abilities. It reminds us also to be realistic: we have some talents, but not others; we have some answers, but not all. If we can pool together all talents and gifts, the community life becomes more productive. Humility also welcomes every form of humiliation and insult willed by God without murmuring and complaining. Humility that is not willing to suffer humiliation and insult willed by God is superficial. In fact, suffering of humiliation and insult willed by God is the hallmark of genuine humility. God may not approve anyone as a saint, canonized or uncanonized,

who has not suffered humiliation and insult willed by Him, and thus lived a life of humility. For St Francis de Sales, loving and desiring humiliation is the fourth and fifth degree of humility. It is the height of perfection. “The fifth degree of humility, which is the last and the most perfect of all the degrees of humility is not only to love contempt [humiliation] but to desire it, go in search of it, and find our delight in it, out of love for God. Those who arrive at it are happy, indeed! But their number is very small” (St Francis de Sales, *Spiritual Conferences*, Vol.I, Bangalore: SFS Publications, 1995, p.76).

Fraternally,

Yours in the Lord,



Fr George Panthanmackel, msfs

Provincial of Northeast India Province

**WALKING ON THE PATH OF THE PATRON**

**A noble, real, deep-rooted, solid humility makes us open to correction, flexible and prompt in obeying.  
(TLG, Book VIII, Ch.13)**