



# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

NORTHEAST INDIA PROVINCE, MSFS PROVINCIALATE

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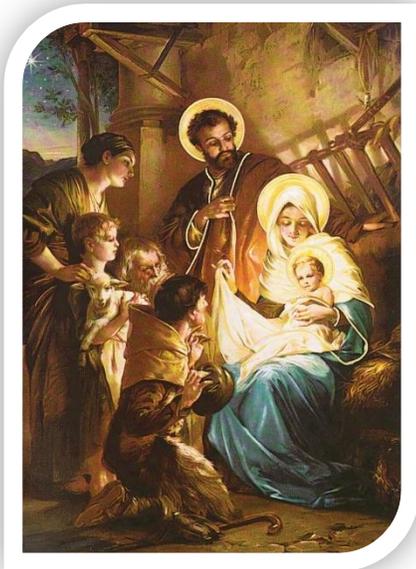
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**GPA/27-Circular-December 2017**

Dear Confreres,



**WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A BRIGHT NEW YEAR!**

“Once upon a time there was a man who looked upon Christmas as a lot of humbug. He was a kind and decent person, generous to his family, upright in all his dealings with other men. But he didn’t believe all that stuff about Incarnation which the Church proclaims at Christmas. And he was too honest to pretend that he did. “I am truly sorry to distress you,” he told his wife, who was a faithful churchgoer. “But I simply cannot understand this claim that God becomes man. It doesn’t make any sense to me.” On Christmas Eve his wife and children went to church for the midnight service. He declined to accompany them. “I’d feel like a hypocrite,” he explained. “I’d rather stay at home. But I’ll wait up for you.” Shortly after his family drove away in the car, snow began to fall. He went to the window and watched the flurries getting heavier and heavier. “If we must have Christmas,” he thought, “it’s nice to have a white one.” He went back

to his chair by the fireside and began to read his newspaper. A few minutes later he was startled by a thudding sound. It was quickly followed by another, then another. He thought that someone must be throwing snowballs at his living room window. When he went to the front door to investigate, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the storm. They had been caught in the storm and in a desperate search for shelter had tried to fly through his window. “I can’t let these poor creatures lie there and freeze,” he thought. “But how can I help them?” Then he remembered the barn where the children’s pony was stabled. It would provide a warm shelter.

He put on his coat and galoshes and tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the door wide and turned on a light. But the birds didn’t come in. “Food will lure them in,” he thought. So he hurried back to the house for bread crumbs, which he sprinkled on the snow to make a trail into the barn. To his dismay, the birds ignored the bread crumbs and continued to flop around helplessly in the snow. He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around and waving his arms. They scattered in every direction - except into the warm lighted barn. “They find me a strange and terrifying creature,” he said to himself, “and I can’t seem to think of any way to let them know they can trust me. If only I could be a bird myself for a few minutes, perhaps I could lead them to safety. . . .” Just at that moment the church bells began to ring. He stood silent for a while, listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas. Then he sank to his knees in the snow. “Now I do understand,” he whispered. “Now I see why You had to do it.”

That was A Christmas Parable written by Louis Cassels many years ago, one of the religion editors of *United Press International* and is a simple but beautiful way to explain the mystery of Christmas. Think of the many ways God has reached out to us to communicate with us since the beginning. The climax of God communicating with us in the Old Testament was when God formed the covenant with Moses on Mt. Sinai. God joined himself to us in a covenant and we were joined to God in a covenant. But we still sinned so God raised up prophets to call us back but only a small number of people paid heed to the prophets. Through one of the prophets, Hosea, God said that Israel has been like an unfaithful wife committing adultery by going after false gods. All through the centuries of the Old Testament God pursued us like a lover but we had broken the covenant and God had to make a new unbreakable covenant with us. For this new covenant, God would become flesh and bones like us, and shed his blood in the person of Jesus to convince us once and for all to accept his invitation to be his people. Jesus was the climax of God reaching out to us. “The Word was made flesh, he lived among us, and we saw his glory...”

In Jesus Christ, the reality of God entered into the reality of this world, the place where the questions about the reality of God and the reality of the world are answered at the same time. God and the world are enclosed in Jesus’ name. Jesus is God who risked things going very badly in order to create free creatures. He could draw to Himself those who might love Him freely. He desired intimacy with them by joining them within the boundaries of their world. He accepts responsibility for the chaos and evil such creatures commit. That work, assuming human flesh and submitting Himself to the limits of creatureliness, meant even accepting death as the proper limit of a created being. Living faithfully to the Godhead’s mission of loving reconciliation of creation to Himself, Jesus inflamed the idolatrous powers into protecting their moral, political, and religious order.

Jesus is God who was satisfied to reveal Himself through the Son and the Gospels repeatedly tell us that God was fully satisfied by the way Jesus represented Him and the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus behaved in every way as a human would, getting an education and learning a trade; eating and sleeping and growing weary; expressing joy, frustration, fear, astonishment, anger, compassion. Jesus is God who was satisfied to take human form and live a human life, in a time and place. The Incarnation is consistent with God’s dealings all along. He chose to reveal Himself through a particular regional people, ancient Israel, and the Hebrew Scriptures are full of proclamations that other nations will know Yahweh through this little band.

The God of this story who experienced and expressed His joy in becoming one of His creatures in the flesh, is a God satisfied to be limited in the ways such creatures are limited and suffer. He grew from infancy to adulthood, experiencing the developmental stages of any other human. He permitted Himself to be bound culturally, linguistically, politically and socially. God in Christ lived out the psycho-logical and physical challenges of an impoverished Israel under an occupying army ruling through its ruthless if not cruel mouthpieces, the Near East monarchs. He submitted Himself to instruction and life in the context of Second Temple Judaism and the religious contest among factions in Palestinian Judaism. New Testament scholars have argued that Jesus is readily recognizable in the Gospels as a rabbinically trained Palestinian Jew, probably of the Pharisaic school. N. T Wright has argued that Jesus could not have known any more about science, geology, religion, or political life than was possible among contemporary Palestinians. Jesus’s faithfulness to the Father’s mission for Him and His people encouraged Him to be an enormously creative and provocative interpreter of Torah and as a Palestinian rabbi living and teaching among His people. Out of that creativity came the Good News of God’s fierce and reckless reconciliation of the world to Himself through Jesus Christ. This way of telling the story suggests that God’s risk-taking creativity meant He was willing to “work with” what creation gave Him.

### Fransalian Response

**St Francis de Sales** understands incarnation as a “passing-by” of the Lord. For him, there are three passing-bys of the Lord: Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. He considers Christmas as the origin of all these passing-bys. “Today’s feast of Christmas is in memory of our Lord’s first passing-by, when he came from heaven to

earth, from the godhead to humanity. We recall our Lord's second passing-by – from mortality to immortality – in the solemn ceremonies of Holy Week and Easter, when we commemorate his passion, death and resurrection. Pentecost is the third feast – the anniversary of the Gentiles' adoption into the family of God; this is our passing from paganism to the happiness of being God's favourite children, the happiness for which God made his Church. All these feasts, however, take their origin from the mystery of the Incarnation – the birth of our Lord at Bethlehem” (Vincent Kerns, ed., *Pulpit and Pew: A Study in Salesian Preaching*, Visakhapatnam: SFS Printing School, 1976, p. 159).

**Fr Peter Mary Mermier**, our holy Founder, understands the crib as a place to learn to proclaim Jesus as our God through the incense of prayer, the gold of almsgiving and the myrrh of mortifications. He invites us to go near to the eloquent holy crib and remain with Jesus covered with the swaddling clothes of perfect interior and exterior detachment. “Yes, may Jesus Christ and His Holy Mother make this star to rise over us in order to lead us also to His Holy crib, so that there we may learn to proclaim Him as our God by the incense of our prayer, as our King with the gold of our almsgiving and our zeal for our neighbor, as our Saviour and our model by the myrrh of our mortifications and by the faithful observance of our Rules. You see how eloquent is this holy crib; all other cribs will be mute without it; go ahead, remain there with the divine Jesus, but covered with the swaddling clothes of perfect interior and exterior detachment” (Cf. From Fr Mermier's Letter to Sisters Chaumont on January 6, 1852, in: *Family Annals: History of the Congregation of the Daughters of the Cross of Chavanod, France*, Tr. by Sisters Maria Goretti and Berchmans, Trichy: The Printing House, 4th Edition, p. 161).

## Two Congregational Province Retreats

**The first obligatory Congregational annual retreat is from July 9th evening to 14th evening 2018 at MSFS Study House, Shillong. The second obligatory Congregational annual retreat of the Province is from October 15th evening to 20th evening 2018 at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati. Please register for one of these retreats at the earliest. May I request your participation in the annual retreat without fail, and kindly do not organize any personal or community programme that prevents you from full participation in the retreat. You may avoid coming late and leaving the venue early before the conclusion of the retreat. Please bring with you the Mass-Register, the Bible, the Breviary, the Constitutions, the Province Statutes and the Action Plan of the Provincial Chapter 2017.**

## Year 2018 as the Year of Local Community

**Theme: 'Revitalising my Local Community: Space for Communion and Mission'**

Our beloved Superior General, Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, has declared Year 2018 as the YEAR OF LOCAL COMMUNITY with effect from January 24, 2018 through January 23, 2019. The theme of the Year 2018 highlights one of the four pillars of our MSFS way of life envisioned by Fr Mermier. In keeping with the theme of the General Chapter 2019: 'MSFS, WAKE-UP TO THE BASICS', we focus on communion in Local Community for mission (and apostolates). Every confrere in the community and the Local Superior should work on the following objectives: My role in revitalizing the local community, Various dimensions of community as “space”, Building Communion in community, and Community for Mission and Apostolates.

**Guidelines for celebrating the Year of Our Local Community:** Father Superior General has placed before us the following guidelines: 1. In the early part of 2018, the Provincials will convoke Local Superiors Forum Meeting. The meeting will be a day/days of animation and formation for the Local Superiors based on the Province statutes, Constitutions, General Directory, call of General Chapter 2013, and the Church documents on consecrated life. The meeting can also finalize the different ways of celebration of the year in the Province; 2. Ensure that half an hour adoration before the Blessed Sacrament becomes part of community life; 3. Each Province Forum/Local Community can also suggest to the Provincial the different ways of celebrating the theme at the level of the Forum/Community; 4. The Provincial Administration will finalize the

different ways of celebrating the Year of our Local Community and send a copy of the same to the Asst. General for information to be shared with the rest of the Congregation.

### Ordination to Priesthood



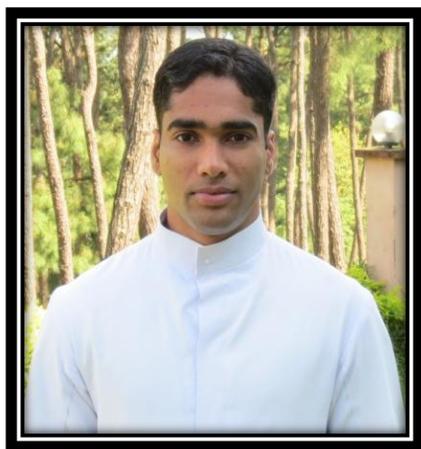
**Dn Anthony Baruah** was born on September 20, 1986, as the fourth child of Junash Baruah and Monica Lagun. He hails from Good Shepherd Church, Borgang, in the diocese of Tezpur, Assam. After completing his SSLC in 2004, he joined SFS Seminary, Medziphema, Nagaland. He made his first religious profession on June 07, 2008 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 Seminary, Medziphema. After the completion of Master of Arts from the University of Bangalore, in 2014, 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 a Deacon on June 17, 2017. Having successfully completed his theological formation and diaconate ministry,

Dn Anthony Baruah will be ordained a priest on January 21, 2018 by Most Rev. Michael Akasius Toppo, Bishop of Tezpur

**Dn Libin Varghese Pallattutharayil** was born on February 6, 1991, as the first child of Sabu George and Lovely. He hails from Bl. Chavara Kuriakose Church, Palchuram, in the diocese of Mananthavady, Kerala. After completing his SSLC in 2006, he joined Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamaraserry. He made his first religious profession on June 07, 2010 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 St Joseph's Church, Manikbond. In 2014, 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 a Deacon on June 17, 2017. Having successfully completed his theological formation and diaconate ministry,



Dn Libin Varghese Pallattutharayil will be ordained a priest on December 30, 2017 by Most Rev. Jacob Thoomkuzhy, Emeritus Archbishop of Trichur Archdiocese.



**Dn Lijo Scaria Thakidiyel** was born on March 6, 1991, as the first child of Philip and Lissy. He hails from St. Mary's Church Mangode, in the diocese of Tellichery, Kerala. After completing his SSLC in 2006, he joined Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamaraserry. He made his first religious profession on June 07, 2010 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 School, Aalo. In 2014, 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 a Deacon on June 17, 2017. Having successfully completed his theological formation and diaconate ministry, Dn Libin Varghese Pallattutharayil will be ordained a priest on December 27, 2017 by Most Rev. Joseph Pamplany, Auxiliary

Bishop of Thalassery Archdiocese.

**Dn Melvin Parambukattil** was born on April 17, 1991, as the first child of Kuriakose and Claramma. He hails from St. Mary's Church Edoor, in the diocese of Tellichery, Kerala. After completing his SSLC in 2006, he joined Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Tamaraserry. He made his first religious profession on June 07, 2010 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 St Joseph church, Manikbond. In 2014, 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 a Deacon on June 17, 2017. Having successfully completed his theological formation and diaconate ministry, Dn Melvin Parambukattil will be ordained a priest on December 29, 2017 from Most Rev. Kuriakose Bharanikulangara, Archbishop of Faridabad Archdiocese.



### Colloquium of MSFS-NE in GA

The proceedings of first Colloquium of MSFS-NE in GA began on November 7, 2017 at Seminar Hotel, Baumburg, with welcome address of the Delegation Superior, Rev. Fr. Sebastian Paredom. He welcomed Rev. Fr Provincial along with all the members of the delegation. All the 20 members of the GA Delegation of Northeast Province and Fr Sunny Panthanazhivadakethil from Switzerland were present. Fr Provincial in his address thanked everybody for making sincere effort to attend the Colloquium. The main focus of his address was on community life and its significance in the life of every member of the Congregation. "Fr Peter Mary Mermier," he said, "was a man who cherished community life. But, the sending of the missionaries to India resulted in the scattering of the members affecting community life, though the real motive was to spread the mission. Coming together was difficult in those days due to geographical distances. Vatican II gave a definite and significant view on religious life and that helped MSFS to make a better formulation of its constitution, focusing on the importance of community life and to wake up to its basics."

Fr Provincial warned the Delegation members "of the danger of losing our religious identity if we fail to understand the significance of community living. Members are to be committed to each other. Living the three evangelical counsels is a great difficulty if the community life is not cherished. Gentleness and humility are very important virtues and 'one should not consider oneself better than others.' Community spirit is significant, and it is a sign of one's loyalty to the Congregation. Regular community meetings are to be part of our very ministry itself. It is to be same with regard to annual retreat too. No one is permitted to exempt himself from annual retreat and other constitutionally obliged gatherings of confreres."

He also spoke of the need "to be faithful to the Lord in simple things and the necessity of speaking well of others to build up a solid community. Loneliness and individualism will plague us if we do not remain faithful to the Lord in prayer. Eucharist is a great help to face difficulties. Regular reception of the sacrament of confession and spiritual direction are inevitable for a true religious life. Jesus is not a distant reality as he walks with us, listening to and following him makes life meaningful. Give importance to community life, sacraments and reflective praying of Breviary." Fr Provincial concluded his address reminding, "colloquium is an occasion for self-renewal and for personal sharing." He called upon every member of the Delegation "to share their experiences and also requested to give a fair, attentive and respective listening to the views of others."

The members present for the Colloquium shared their concerns, of life and ministry in their respective places, and gave clarifications on various matters. Father Provincial again thanked everyone for coming to Colloquium without fail. Fr Sebastian Paredom, the Delegation Superior, also thanked everybody for the cooperation and support. After the meeting all the members gathered in the Church to conclude the Colloquium with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Mass.

## Appointments

- **Fr Milkius Tirkey** is appointed to the SFS Parish Community, Chabua, with effect from December 10, 2017.
- The following are appointed Local Superiors of Local Communities of Germany-Austria Delegation of Northeast India Province at the designation of Delegation Superior Rev. Fr Sebastian Paredom with effect from January 1, 2018: 1. Hildesheim: **Fr Jacob Thaile**; 2. Bamberg: **Fr Binu Poothankunnel**; 3. Munich: **Fr John Kuttikottayil**. Austria will be a Local Community after receiving the approval of Superior General. Until then, the confreres in Austria will belong to Munich Local Community.

## Community Meeting and Apostolic Community Meeting Reports

The Superiors of Local Communities and Convenors of the Apostolic Communities in the Province are kindly requested to ensure that the reports of the meeting are sent to Provincial's Office without fail. The Provincial Admonitor will closely monitor the conducting of the mandatory meetings and receipt of the reports. In Regions and Delegation, the reports will be monitored by respective Regional Superiors and Delegation Superior. This arrangement comes into effect from January 1, 2018.

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

- Fr Mani Malana is appointed Coordinator of the MSFS Coordination in Australia by Superior General at the designation of PIF-PEA with effect from January 01, 2018.
- Fr Joseph Amalraj is appointed the Coordinator of MSFS Delegation Superiors in GAH by Superior General at the designation of PIF-PEA with effect from January 24, 2018.
- Fr Varghese Chettupuzhakaran and MSFS Provincialate community members for organising of Superiors Forum meeting on October 30 and Local Bursars' meeting on October 31, 2017 at MSFS Provincialate, Narengi. Thanks to Fr Joe Mannath SDB for animating the session for the Superiors Forum.
- Fr Varghese Chettupuzhakaran and the community of MSFS Provincialate for organizing a meeting of the Local Bursars of Northeast India Province, who came together on October 31, 2017 at MSFS Provincialate, Narengi. The meeting was animated by Mr Vittal Rao, a well-known Chartered Accountant from Bangalore, who conducted two sessions on the introduction to Goods and Tax Service (GST) and the new updates on Registered Societies. During the meeting, a new software, under the initiative of Fr Santhosh Chavaranal, the Provincial Bursar, for Financial Accountability System for Transparency (FAST), was launched by Rev. Fr George Panthamackel, Provincial. The new system was introduced to the confreres present by Provincial Bursar. He also guided the confreres to understand the basic principles of Tally-Programme.
- MSFS Provincialate Community for organizing Diamond Jubilee celebration of Fr Antony Mookenthottam and Fr Thomas Anikala on October 30, 2017 at MSFS Provincialate, Narengi.
- Fr Peter Marak and Fr Priyor Khongsit for organizing a one-day retreat at Rongsai Village, under St Paul's Church, Panishali, on November 11, 2017.
- Fr George Poovathunklal, Fr Jose Karipadathu and Fr John Barman for organizing the Inter SFS School Competition to mark the year of education in our Province on November 3 and 4, 2017 at MSFS Provincialate, Narengi. Sincere thanks to fathers, principals, sisters, teachers and students who actively participated in the programme.
- Fr George Poovathunkal and Fr Biju Kanicherry for organizing Teachers Training Programme for the teachers of Guwahati Region at MSFS Provincialate, Narengi, on November 10 and 11, 2017, under the resourcefulness of Mr Dinesh Lahoti.
- Fr Adani James, Fr Ajit Daimary and Fr Solomon Tirkey for organizing the Eucharistic Procession on November 19, 2017 at St Mary's Parish, Aalo.
- Fr Albert Sahayaraj and Fr Biju Kancherry for organizing retreat at Salkocha village under St Jude Church, Bahalpur, on November 18-19, 2017.
- Fr Nocholas Bara and Fr Silanand Soreng for organizing a one-day convention for women of Divine Mercy Parish, Mawryngkneng, on November 19, 2017, and also for organizing a one-day spiritual animation programme for the students of Green Hill Higher Secondary School, Sohryngkham, on December 2, 2017.

- Fr Antony Avittapallil and Fr Philip Mhonchumo for organizing a Four-day winter camp on Science and Mathematics at SFS School, Dhemaji, from December 7 to 10, 2017.
- Fr George Poovathunkal, teachers and students of SFS School, Narengi, for winning the SFS Challenger Basketball Tournament in boys and girls categories.
- Fr John Barman, Director of Fransalian Youtyh Mission, for organizing the First Regional Fransalian Youth Forum 2017 in collaboration with FAsCE India at MSFS Provincialate, Narengi, on December 8-10, 2017. The event was really a success and truly a communion of Fransalians from various parishes in Northeast India.
- Fr Saji Kaipallil and Fr Philip Kurisumootil for organizing the first Annual Charismatic convention at Holy Redeemer Renewal Centre, Tura, from November 7 to 10, 2017, with inaugural Holy Mass presided over by Most Rev. Andrew R. Marak, Bishop of Tura, and concelebrated by Fr George Poovathunkal, Councillor Incharge of Education.
- Fr Andrew Ashihe and Fr Donsuk Lyngdoh for organizing a three-day Children's retreat from December 2 to 4, 2017 at Ka Syiem Jingsuk Church, Amlarem. Thanks to Dn Ambrose Lamin, Sr Ugina Kharkongor and Sr Sooki Nongrum for animating the retreat for the children.
- Fr Genes Shnagpliang, Fr Joby Kurikilamkattu and Fr Mathew Muriyankariyil for organizing the annual Eucharistic Procession of Mother of Compassion Parish, Mawkhlam at Mawpon village on December 3, 2017, and also for organizing the Annual Mega Convention by Charis Bhavan team Fr Kurian Karickal, Fr Bijil Chackiath and Fr Aneesh Mundiyanickal at Holy Redeemer Renewal Centre, Mawkhlam, from December 12, 2017. On this occasion a hymn book for Fransalian Renewal Ministry in Khasi Hills "Sing His Glory" by Fr Joby Kurikilamkatt was released by Fr Kurian Karickal.
- Fr John Barman and the FAsCE India team for organizing the All Siang District Fransalian Youth Convention at SFS College, Aalo, from November 17 to 19, 2017.
- Fr Varghese Paul Manickathan, Fr Barnard Sangma, Fr John Barman and Fr Ajit Daimari for organizing a training programme in collaboration with FAsCE India for the catechists of MSFS Missions in Arunachal Pradesh from November 20 to 24, 2017 at St Joseph Church, Kaying.
- FAsCE India in collaboration with Christ King Parish, Gogamukh, distributed flood relief support to 88 flood affected families at Bordoibam village, Gogamukh on December 9, 2017. Thanks to Fr Cornelius Bara, Parish Priest of Gogamukh Parish, for facilitated the same.
- The Staff and Students of SFS Higher Secondary School, Narengi, for the generous contribution towards the construction of a house for a needy family in Hatisila village.
- Fr Stephen Marayikulam and Fr Sudhir John Kullu for organizing the Eucharistic Procession in the Archdiocese of Guwahati on November 26, 2017, at Christ the Bearer of Good News Cathedral, Rukminigaon.
- Dn Luke Tanti was ordained Deacon on November 13, 2017 at MSFS Study house, Shillong, by Most. Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, Bishop of Jowai. Thanks to Fr Athnas Kerketta and Fr Sebastian Kuzhupil for organizing this grace-filled event at MSFS Study House, Shillong.
- Fr Lijeesh Kaduthanathu and Fr Jaimon Thadathil for obtaining the permission for the opening and the establishment of High School affiliated to Mizoram Board of Education.
- Fr Joseph Thazhathuknnel and Fr Suresh Babu are designated to present the Spiritual Directory and guidelines for Fransalian Associates in the Formation Houses, novitiates and Apostolic Communities and at Province Gatherings.
- Fransalian Agency for Social Care and Education in India [FAsCE India] inaugurated its sixth FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre in Ekrabari village in Panikhaiti area under Narengi parish on 12 November 2017. The new FAsCE Supplementary Education Centre was inaugurated by Fr Saji George, Executive Director of FAsCE India.
- Fr Abraham Puthenpurackal and Fr Stephen Sawma for the publication of the Parish Directory 2017.
- Fr George Vettukattil, Fr Augustine Thundathil, Fr Thomas Edakazhy and Fr Solomon Tirkey for organizing the inauguration and blessing of the Administrative Block of SFS School and inauguration and blessing of the SFS Boys Hostel, Aalo, and Parents Day celebrations of the SFS School on November 26, 2017. The Administrative Block was inaugurated and blessed by Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel, Provincial, in the presence of Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, the Regional Superior of Dibrugarh Region,

and of members of Provincial and Regional Curia. The occasion was solemnized by the presence of confreres, Religious Sisters, staff and students, well-wishers and friends. The new SFS Boys Hostel was also blessed by Provincial and inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner of Aalo, Mrs Swethika Sachan, on the same day. It was followed by Parents Day celebrations of SFS School in the SFS College Auditorium. Fr Augustine Thundathil deserves special appreciation for constructing both SFS Hostel and Administrative Block.

- Fr Thomas Kochuparathanath and Fr Jacob Raising for organizing the blessing and dedication of St Peter's Church, Rajakhana, under Jonai Parish, by Most Rev. Michael Akkasius, Bishop of Tezpur, on December 16, 2017.
- Fr Kurian Ovelil and Fr Praveen Pasala for organizing the Ordination of Dn Elow Lawrence Basena SDB by Most Rev. Dominic Lumon, Archbishop of Imphal, at SFS Parish, Kangpokpi, on December 22, 2017.
- Fr Mathew Vazheparambil for resolving land issues at Amarapur and legally securing all documents concerning land.
- Fr Shaibu Ezhanikat for the documentary on churches of antiquity, especially the well-researched and visualized documentary on Edappally Church.

### Superiors' Forum Meeting

A meeting of the Superiors' Forum of MSFS Northeast India Province in India was held on October 30, 2017 at MSFS Provincialate, Narengi.

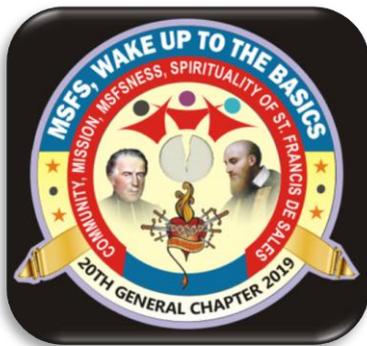
**Session I (09.00 to 10.30 am):** The first session of the meeting began with a prayer led Fr John Barman, Director of Fransalian Youth Mission. After the prayer Fr Philip Thomas, Admonitor and Provincial Councillor In-charge of Mission, accorded a very cordial welcome to the superiors from various mission centres across Northeast India. Calling superiors as 'cream of the Province', he highlighted the role of superiors as servant leader, shepherd leader and steward leader. Fr Philip Thomas then introduced Rev. Fr Joe Mannath SDB, the resource person, for the first session and accorded him a very hearty welcome. Fr Joe Mannath, belonging to the Salesians of Don Bosco, Chennai Province, currently the National Secretary of CRI, is an academician, professor, formator and a renowned and well sought-out resource person both nationally and internationally. He has authored many articles and books. The resource person opened his discourse by requesting the participants to draw a picture, depicting their community. Analysing the pictures, he remarked that no human being is alone. We need a support system. The CRI National Secretary then enlightened the participants on the topic, "Superiors as Leaders". He spoke of 10 key roles of a Leader: 1. Leader has a vision; 2. He has a mission; 3. He does the Right Things; 4. He accepts changes as part of his life; 5. He looks at problems as opportunities; 6. He encourages Loyalty to Mission; 7. He affirms; 8. He apologizes for his mistakes; 9. He confronts; and 10. He studies the situation and acts accordingly. Fr Joe emphasised that "Our Mission is to bring God's love to the people and we should treat the people in such a way that they experience God's Love." He also explained Mission as values lived by the leadership. He exhorted the superiors to accept changes and do not live in the past, lamenting the present. In the second part of his talk, the renowned scholar, spoke of the specifics of Religious Leadership: 1. A leader lives a God-centred Life, 2. He lives the values of Jesus and 3. He trusts in God. Finally, he spoke about 1. Radicality of Religion 2. Globalization 3. Culture and Multi-Cultures. Fr Joe concluded his well prepared and systematic talk by exhorting everyone to "speak like Jesus, think like Jesus and act like Jesus.". At the end of the first session Fr George Panthanmackel, Provincial, thanked the resource person for sharing his religious and spiritual convictions and enriching the superiors. Fr Provincial also mentioned about his long term association with Fr Joe Mannath.

**Session II (11.00 am to 12.45 pm):** The second session of the day was animated by Rev Fr Suresh Babu, Co-director of De Sales and Mermier Research (DSM) Centre, Hyderabad. Fr Suresh expounded the topic "Consecrated Obedience: A Perfect Way to Religious Perfection". He began with the prayer, "Lord I offer my life to You". In his introduction, the resource person stated that "All human beings in the world are bound to obey according to his or her situation and state of life. Not only the relationship between God and human but also the relationship between humans and human authority come within the limits of obedience. He made the

concept of obedience clear by analyzing the etymology of the word, quoting from the scripture, constitutions of the Congregation and church documents. In his talk, Fr Suresh highlighted the kinds of obedience: obedience at personal and community level, obedience for mission, obedience as counsel and Jesus as the embodiment of obedience. He also differentiated three types of Holy Obedience: Ordinary, Religious and Obedience of Love. Fr Suresh also presented the Do's and Don'ts of Superiors. The resource person exhorted his hearers to avoid criticizing authorities in the public and focus on the contribution one can make to the Church. Know that God chooses what is best suited for us. Never compromise on values and virtues. Don't be judgmental. Avoid complaining and be role models to others. Be more gentle with others and firm with yourselves. Quoting SFS, he said, "All by love, nothing by force. Love obedience more than fear disobedience". Fr Suresh's talk was well based on the Holy Scripture, church documents, fathers of the Church and the writings of St. Francis de Sales. It was a blend of his personal conviction and experience. He concluded the session quoting SFS, "All is safe in Obedience; all is suspect outside Obedience". Fr Philip Monchchumo thanked Fr Suresh Babu on behalf of the assembly for his resourcefulness, valuable presentation and epitomizing Salesian optimism radiated through obedience.

**Session III (02.00 to 03.00 pm):** The third session of the meeting consisted of group discussion. The superiors were divided into four groups. Each group was animated by one of the Provincial Councillors. Each superior had to present a report about his community in the group and the secretaries of the group collated the same.

**Session IV (03.00 to 04.00 pm):** In the fourth session, the secretary of each group presented the collated reports before the assembly. At the end of the presentation by the four secretaries, time was given for clarification and discussion. Fr Provincial thanked and congratulated the superiors for focusing on the mission of Christ in spite of all the difficulties and inconveniences in their respective missions. He also thanked his administration and Bursar. Fr Provincial reminded the superiors of their role as leaders and animators of their communities. Fr Provincial highlighted the importance of praying for each other, intensifying one's own prayer life and being regular in the community prayer. He reminded the superiors about the need of having regular community meeting and sending the report of the same to Provincial's Office. Fr Provincial also encouraged the fathers to subscribe some useful theological journals and magazines (e.g. 'Magnet' by CRI). The day-long Superiors' Forum meeting came to an end at 4.30 pm. with a prayer and vote of thanks proposed by Fr Philip Thomas. (Reported by Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara msfs)



### Official Logo for the General Chapter 2019

Our Beloved Superior General has presented to the Congregation the Logo for the General Chapter 2019. The LOGO, that includes all the fundamentals of our MSFS life, is designed by Fr Albert Fernandes MSFS. This Logo will be used for all our official use regarding the General Chapter 2019. As requested by Superior General the LOGO should be displayed in our Provincial House, Formation Houses, and Local Communities.

### General Chapter Schedule for Preparation

1. Study the Reflection Papers personally;
2. Study the Reflection Paper in the Local Community under the guidance of the Local Superior;
3. Based on what is approved in the Local Community, discuss in the Apostolic Community;
4. The convener and secretary of the Apostolic Community submits the report to the Provincial;
5. The provincial submits all the collated findings from the Apostolic Communities to the Secretary of the Superior General by the Stipulated date (August 31, 2018).

## **The MSFS Personal Spiritual Directory**

The MSFS Personal Spiritual Directory is an initiative of our former Superior General Rev. Fr Agnelo Fernandes to lead each one of us in the spirit and spirituality of St Francis de Sales on our journey towards holiness. This small booklet will definitely help us in applying the wisdom of St Francis de Sales to our varied life situations and grow in Fransalian virtues.

### **An Important Communication**

The First meeting of the Fransalian Associates of the North-East India Province will be held on Sunday, January 28, 2018, from 09 AM to 4 PM, at MSFS Provincialate Narengi, Guwahati. So, may I request the Local Superiors of each centre, after having deliberated in your Local Community, to depute one Catholic who is committed, loyal, strong in faith and sufficiently educated with good leadership qualities for this important meeting. Your cooperation and collaboration is highly essential in identifying the right person who will be a friend to the Fransalian, defend us and stand by us, cooperate and collaborate with us at all moments. So may I request each member of the province to take this responsibility very seriously and depute the right person to be part of this new venture. Kindly inform Fr George Poovathunkal, the Councillor Incharge of Fransalian Associates,/Provincial Secretary, the name of the participant at the earliest, the latest by January 10, 2018.

## **Updates from Southern African Region by Regional Superior**

**Junior Priests Workshop:** Eight of our junior priests who attended the workshop found it enriching and memorable. On behalf of the Region, I thank Fr Job Karikkampally for organizing the workshop meticulously by putting a lot of effort and time. Thank you also to the Cape Town and Vredendal local communities for hosting our priests and offering transport. By now all the participants have arrived back to their mission.

**Mini-World Youth Day - Dec 2017:** At the request of the bishop of Keimoes –Upington, Fr Nikseng Sangma attended the conference which was held in Durban South Africa, organized by the Catholic Bishops Conference of Southern Africa. We thank Fr Nikseng for his involvement and leadership role in the youth ministry of the diocese. The Mini world youth day was attended by almost 4000 young people from Swaziland, Botswana and South Africa.

**Omutumi 2017:** Once again Fr Libin Chiraparambil with the help of Fr Noble Nakathungal brought out the 2017 Omutumi. Congratulations to Fr Libin for bringing yet another inspiring and well designed news letter. On behalf the Region, I wish to thank Frs Libin and Noble for their hard work and dedication to publish the news letter well ahead of time.

**Joy of the Gospel 2018:** I am told that the Bible Diaries will arrive in South Africa towards the first week of Jan 2018. Meanwhile, may I request you to take the orders from your parishioners.

**Mission Development Office/ Distance Adoption Programme** to support poor children's education went off well in 2017. Thank you confreres who facilitated the support for 71 children. The contribution for 2018 is already in your parish or MSFS account. On behalf of the Region, I wish to thank the outgoing Director Rev Fr Thomas Cherukat for his dedication and commitment to this project and wish Rev Fr Thomas Chozithara, the new director, God's blessings as he assumes office.

**Consultation Ballot to appoint the new Regional Superior:** The ballot paper along with the letter and instructions regarding the process by our Provincial is sent to each one of you. May I request you to send the ballot to the Provincial as soon as possible.

**Apostolic Community Meetings 2018:** May I request the Apostolic Community animators to finalize the dates for 2018 Apostolic Community meeting and send it to me. Please plan ahead to include the topics and

directions given by Superior General regarding the upcoming General chapter for our Apostolic Community meetings of 2018.

**Holidays:** Frs James Madapally and Paul Dotaomai will be on holiday during January 2018. We wish them a relaxing holiday.

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

Milkius Tirkey: Mobile: 0091-7086757039

Email ID: milkiusmsfs@gmail.com

Skype ID: milkius.tirkey

**Change of Address:**

Fr Joseph Kizhakeveedu  
Guadalupe Matha Church  
Pala (PO), P. P Road  
Kottayam - 686575  
Kerala, India

**Special Communications**

**Forum Meetings in February 2018:**

1st and 2nd February: Mission Forum, North East with the General Secretary, Mission

3rd and 4th February: Social and Innovative Ministries Forum with the General Secretary, SAIM

5th and 6th February: Education Forum with the General Secretary, Education

7th and 8th February: Formation Forum with General Secretary, Formation

**Priests Renewl Retreat** is organized by Fransalians from February 19 to 23, 2018 at Animation and Renewal Centre. Kolke, Panvel, New Mumbai, Maharashtra. Contact Person: Bro. Jaison MSFS: 9920158228, Email: brjaison1969@yahoo.com

**Let us pray for the Departed**

- Rev. Fr Martin Tschurtschenthaler (90), a great benefactor and friend of the MSFS from Innsbruck, Austria, who passed away on October 20, 2017.
- Mr Joseph Kerketta (90), father of Fr Athnas Kerketta, who passed away on December 9, 2017.

**Provincial's Programme**

**December**

Dec. 27: Ordination of Dn Lijo Scaria Thakadiyel

Dec. 28: EACM of Thamaraserry

Dec. 29: Ordination of Dn Melvin P.K.Parampukattil

Dec. 30: Ordination of Dn Libin Varghese Pallattutharayil

**January 2018**

Jan. 2: Umwahlang

Jan. 4-6: Regents Meet

Jan. 4-31: Editing of CRI Encyclopedia

Jan. 12: Purul

Jan. 15: Inauguration of MSMHC General Chapter

Jan. 16: Inauguration and Blessing of Bahalpur Church

Jan. 18: Holy Mass for MSMHC General Chapter Capitulants

Jan. 21: Ordination of Dn Antony Baruah

Jan. 22: Inauguration and Blessing of Silapathar School-extension

Jan. 24: Feast of St Francis de Sales and blessing of Narengi Church  
Jan. 25: Provincial Council Meeting  
Jan. 28: Meeting of Fransalian Associates  
Jan. 29: Inauguration and Blessing of Somonpara School-extension  
Jan. 30: Archdiocesan Recollection

## **February**

Feb. 1-2: Mission Forum Meeting  
Feb. 3-4: Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries Forum Meeting  
Feb. 5-6: Education Forum Meeting  
Feb. 7-8: Formation Forum Meeting  
Feb. 10: EACM of Galsi  
Feb. 12-Mar.12: Classes at Nagaon  
Feb. 15: CRI Encyclopedia Editorial Board Meeting  
Feb. 17-22: Superior General in Guwahati  
Feb. 18: Jubilee of MSFS Novitiate, Chabua  
Feb. 20: Provincial Council Meeting with Superior General  
Feb. 21: Jubilee of MSFS Study House, Shillong  
Feb. 22-25: Budget Scrutiny by Finance Committee

## **March**

Mar. 15: Ranchi  
Mar. 18: Canonical Visitation to Panbari  
Mar. 19: Canonical Visitation to Bahalpur  
Mar. 20: Canonical Visitation to Panishali  
Mar. 22-24: Provincial Council Meeting (Budget Approvals and Promotion of Candidates)

## **April**

April 4: DSFS Sisters' Profession at Barapani  
April 5: Canonical Visitation to Manikbond  
April 8: Canonical Visitation to Gogamukh  
April 9: Canonical Visitation to Dhemaji  
April 10: Canonical Visitation to Silapathar  
April 11: Canonical Visitation to Telam  
April 12: Canonical Visitation to Jonai  
April 13: Canonical Visitation to Pasighat  
April 15: Canonical Visitation to Umroi  
April 16: Canonical Visitation to Amlarem  
April 17: Canonical Visitation to Mawrynkneng  
April 18: Canonical Visitation to Mawkhlam  
April 19: Canonical Visitation to Umwahlang  
April 27-29: CRI-CBCI Meeting, Bangalore

## **May**

May 2: Canonical Visitation to Medziphema  
May 3: Canonical Visitation to Peren  
May 4: Canonical Visitation to Tening  
May 5: Canonical Visitation to Kangpokpi  
May 6-7: Canonical Visitation to Purul  
May 8: Canonical Visitation to Imphal  
May 13-14: Ordination and Canonical Visitation to Yinkiong  
May 15-16: Canonical Visitation to Aalo

May 17: Canonical Visitation to Kaying  
May 18: Canonical Visitation to Tato  
May 19: Canonical Visitation to Basar  
May 22: Provincial Council Meeting  
May 24-25: Canonical Visitation to Amarpur, Sindukpathar, Harina  
May 30: Canonical Visitation to Mangkolemba  
May 31: Novitiate, Chabua

## **June**

June 2-3: Canonical Visitation to Sateek, Lengpui  
June 6: Canonical Visitation to Rukminigaon  
June 7-8: Canonical Visitation to MSFS Study House, Shillong  
June 9: Canonical Visitation to Chandrapur  
June 10-11: Canonical Visitation at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati  
June 13-19: Suvidya College, Bangalore

## **July**

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

## **August**

Aug. 1-20: Southern African Region

## **September**

Sept. 8-13: Northeastern CRI Meeting and Pastoral Conference  
Sept. 17-20: GC-PIF-PEA Meeting in Hyderabad  
Sept. 30: Perpetual Profession, Shillong

## **October**

Oct. 15-20: Province Annual Retreat II (From 15th evening to 20th evening)  
Oct. 20-23: ACPI Meeting, Kozhikode  
Oct. 24-25: Canonical Visitation to Vinaya Bhavan, Thamaraserry

## **December**

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

## **A Concluding Thought: Energy, Synergy and Theoenergy**

Energy is the ability to do work. Energy comes in different forms: Heat (thermal), Light (radiant), Motion (kinetic), Electrical, Chemical, Nuclear and Gravitational. People use energy for everything from making a jump shot to sending astronauts into space. There are two types of energy: Stored (potential) energy and working (kinetic) energy. For example, the food a person eats contains chemical energy, and a person's body stores this energy until he or she uses it as kinetic energy during work or play. Energy sources can be categorized as renewable and nonrenewable. When people use electricity in their homes, the electrical power was probably generated by burning coal, by a nuclear reaction, or by a hydroelectric plant, to name just a few sources. Therefore, coal, nuclear, and hydro are called energy sources. Energy sources are divided into two groups: Renewable (an energy source that can be easily replenished). Non-renewable (an energy source that cannot be easily replenished). Renewable and nonrenewable energy sources can be used as primary energy sources to produce useful energy such as heat or used to produce secondary energy sources such as electricity.

Synergy is the combined power of a group of things when they are working together that is greater than the total power achieved by each working separately. Team work at its best results in a synergy that can be very productive. Synergy means a state in which two or more things work together in a particularly fruitful way

that produces an effect greater than the sum of their individual effects. Expressed also as "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts." A synergetic person enjoys living and working together with others as a team.

Theoenergy is the power to do things inspired by the Spirit of God. Theoenergetic person is never tired of doing what is right, as the person is motivated by the spirit of God. The person derives this energy from deep communion with God and from right and orderly relationship with others. Theoenergetic person is always energetic and synergetic, enjoying divine bliss in all what one does. The person finds oneself joyful even amidst suffering. The incarnate Jesus is a theoenergetic person. Every priest and religious, all of us, should strive towards theoenergy, influenced by the power of the Spirit of God. And then we will never get tired of doing what is right and proper, will be energetic and synergetic.

Fraternally  
Yours in the Lord,



**Fr George Panthammackel MSFS**  
Provincial of Northeast India Province

### WALKING ON THE PATH OF THE PATRON

**“Charity and devotion are not more different from each other than the flame from the fire, all the more so because charity is a spiritual fire which when it burns with intense flame is called devotion”. SFS**

