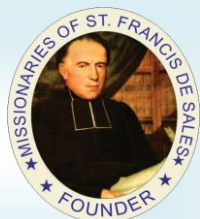


MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PUNE PROVINCE



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TO THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

October 07, 2018

My dear Confreres,

Fraternal greetings to each of you on the feast of the Holy Rosary.

The Holy Mother Church has always urged the faithful to pray the Rosary, a crown of roses, a spiritual bouquet given to the Blessed Mother. It is a form of contemplative prayer which brings down God's blessing on the Church. It is a biblically inspired prayer centered on meditation on the salvific mysteries of Christ in union with Mary, who was so closely associated with her Son in his redeeming activity. Meditation on this cycle of Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious and Luminous Mysteries makes the Rosary not only "a breviary or summary of the Gospel and of Christian life but also a compendium of the Liturgical Year. The Rosary stands revealed as a dynamic teacher and nurturer of Christian faith, morality, and spiritual perfection, fostering in various ways faith, hope, charity, and the other virtues, and mediating special graces, all to the end that we may become more and more like unto Christ.



Let us continue to pray the Holy Rosary and receive all the spiritual blessings through the intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary. Hail Mary, full of grace!

PREPARATION FOR THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2019

Intention: Bless us with an interior Spiritual Renewal of every MSFS in his Consecrated and Missionary Life and to Give a New Direction to our Congregation.

We are just a few months away from the most awaited General Chapter 2019. During the last six months, having gone through the three study papers and Proposals from various units in the Apostolic Community Meetings, let us continue to pray ardently for the success of the General Chapter in our personal and community prayers. The theme of the General Chapter 2019, "MSFS Wake up to the Basics" invites us once

again to be faithful to the essentials, roots, and basics of our missionary charism of our Congregation, viz., (i) Consecrated life in the Community, (ii) our Mission, (iii) our Unique Identity as MSFS in our MSFS-ness and (iv) the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. It is also a time for us to reorient ourselves towards our Lord Jesus Christ and His Gospel, consciously becoming a renewed person and communities thus to give a new direction to the Congregation being faithful to its roots. *Let us continue to pray more intensively the Prayer in preparation for the General Chapter 2018 personally and collectively in all our communities.*

ELECTION OF THE DELEGATES

We had two rounds of elections for the election of the delegates to the General Chapter 2019. Since no one received the absolute majority in the first round of voting, we went for the second round of voting and accordingly the three elected delegates through the relative majority from our Province are Fr. Daiy Sebastian msfs, Fr Johnson Gonsalves msfs and Fr Sunny Kulangarath msfs. The three substitute delegates are Fr. K. Thomas msfs, Fr. Mario D'souza msfs and Fr. Albert Fernandes msfs.

DE SALES AND MERMIER RESOURCE AND ANIMATION CENTRE

Fr. Joseph Thazhathukunnel msfs, Director and Fr. Baviri Suresh Babu msfs, Co-Director have been playing a vital role in the dissemination of the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, our Patron and Fr. Peter Mermier, our Founder through their life of inspiration and writings. Our formation houses, parishes and institutions are requested to invite them for talks and seminars on the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales.

INFORMATION BY DSM: My dear Confreres, a new whatsApp group is started by DSM Resource and Animation Centre, Hyderabad in order to promote the Salesian Spirituality. The posts to this group must be exclusively Salesian in character. We humbly request you to give the DSM Bulletins to all those who follow the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and all those who work in collaboration with us in your Mission Centers and Institutions, including the Fransalian Associates. - Directors of DSM, Hyd.

CAUSE OF OUR FOUNDER AND FRANSALIAN ASSOCIATES

In recent times, a lot of efforts have been made at the Congregation and Province level to promote the cause of our Founder Fr. Peter Mermier and the animation of the Fransalian Associates. Fr Mario D'souza msfs is the vice postulator and the Province Coordinator for the Fransalian Associates. The Fransalian Associate Unit in Pune has already been well established and we have to work on more to constitute one each in Goa and Mumbai to live and disseminate the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. May I request to promote the cause of our Founder through the establishment of Mermier Intercessory Prayer Groups and by daily praying the special prayer for the Cause of our Founder Fr Peter Mermier in our communities, parishes and missions.

COMMUNITY DAY: OCTOBER 24, 2018

October 24, 2018 is the Foundation Day of our Congregation and our Superior General has declared this day as the 'Day of our Community Life'. We are invited to celebrate this day in prayer and adoration in the presence of the Fransalian Associates. It is also a day of re-consecration and re-commitment to our Religious and Missionary Vocation as envisaged by our Holy Founder Fr Peter Mermier. May I request all the Superiors of the Local Communities to adequately prepare for this special day with special prayer and consecration for our personal and community renewal in the Congregation.

THE CONGREGATION RETREAT

This is to kindly inform those who have not yet attended the mandatory Congregation Retreat in our Province that there are Retreats being organized during the months of October and November 2018 in the following Provinces. If any of you foresee any difficulties to attend the Retreat in our Province during 12-17 November 2018 at Fransalian Ashram, Belgaum you are requested to attend any of the following Retreats. Kindly also request and confirm with those concerned Provincials in case you would like to participate in any of the following Retreats.

FORTHCOMING RETREAT SCHEDULES: 1. South West Province: Retreat (15-19th Oct), 2. Nagpur Province retreat-1 (6-11 Nov 2018) and 3. Pune Province Retreat (12-17 Nov 2018).

FRANSALIAN ASSOCIATES MEET, PUNE

The Pune Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales organized the second Fransalian Associate Meeting for the local unit of Pune, inviting seven lay members who are chosen to collaborate permanently with our Congregation as Fransalian associates. The members are Mr. Robert Mendes, Mr. Michael Lobo, Mr. Col. Thomas Kuruvilla. Mr. Pramod Shelke, Mr. Mercy Rodrique, Mr. Irudaya Swamy, Mr. Apoline D'souza, Mr. Mary Joseph.



Fr. Mario D'Souza, the Local Animator of Pune Local unit of Fransalian Associate started the meeting with a prayer and animated the session on the theme "the Basics of Fransalian Associates" and followed a clarification session on "the Identity and Membership of the Fransalian Associates" by Fr. Adaikkalarajan Finally, Fr. Johnson Gonsalves, the Local coordinator gave his talk on the theme "the Formation and Commitment of the Fransalian Associates". At 6.15 pm summing up the future course of actions the meeting ended with a high tea and prayer to St. Francis de Sales. (Fr. Adaikkala Rajan msfs).

ANIMATION VISIT OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

26-28 September 2018 were the days of joy and blessings to the Province of Pune as Fr. Abraham Vettuvilil msfs, the Superior General visited the Provincialate for the animation and evaluation of the Provincial Curia. On 26th Sep, he was warmly



welcomed by Fr. Provincial along with the community members of Provincial house. Later in the evening he visited Fransalian Seminary and inspired the scholastics on the topic "Formation for Mission". Following day, he animated the Provincial Curia at the Provincialate. The Pune Apostolic community was invited for a short felicitation gathering to honour Rev. Fr. Abraham. In the evening, he visited Snehalaya - the home of love and interacted with the confreres, sisters and the children. A short felicitation and cultural program was organized by the Snehalaya

students. I thank sincerely the Pune Apostolic Community confreres for cordially welcoming and honouring our beloved Superior General.

On 30th September, Fr. General visited our communities at Koparkhairane. He presided over the solemn Eucharistic celebration at SFS Church and preached the homily on the life of Fr. Mermier on the occasion of our Founder's day. He expressed his happiness to be part of this programme organized by Mermier Bal Ashram. He was touched by the active participation and appreciated the display of talents by the ashram children and also by the former students of the Ashram who are also well settled in life.



SUPERIOR GENERAL'S VISIT TO FRANSALIAN SEMINARY



Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuveill MSFS, Superior General, made a short visit to Fransalian seminary, Pune on 26th September and was warmly welcomed by Fr, Johnson Gonsalves the Rector on behalf of the community members. Thereafter, Fr. General invited us to focus our attention on the Missionary Charism of our Congregation on the topic "**formation for mission**". He also quoted the saying of Pope Francis "*if a religious has no taste for community life then he is not fit for religious life.*"

He invited us to be aware of the two main dysfunctional behavior patterns that has been affecting the Priests and Religious of today, they are: 1). *Low grade depression*, like low self-esteem, low energy, performing below one's ability, satisfied with minimum, and giving up when difficulty arises. These are the characteristics of low grade depression. And 2). *Passive Aggressive Behaviors* revealed in chronically complaining against the others and indirectly expressing negative feelings, disconnect between what a person says and what he does. And the only possibility to come out of it is to transform my mind, that is to brake some of our old ways of looking and then to start to look at everything new. After the conference, he celebrated the Holy Mass along with Pune Provincial, Councilors, Fathers and brothers and followed by a fellowship meal.

STEWARDSHIP FORUM SEMINAR FOR THE LOCAL BURSARS AND THE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATORS IN THE PROVINCE

The Stewardship Forum Meeting was organized and animated by Rev. Fr. Augustine Mangatt msfs, the General Bursar. It was also an honour to have Fr. Thomas Chozhithara, the Director of the Mission Development Office (MDO), Rome who spelled out the objectives of the MDO in the context of our Province.



At the beginning of the sessions, the Provincial welcomed Fr Augustine Mangatt msfs and focused our attention on the theme “*Spirituality of Money*”. In the keynote address Fr. Augustine emphasized the call of last General Chapter and Provincial Congress “the call that urges to be at the service of development, spiritual and missionary qualities of the Congregation.” As the meeting progressed few queries were raised by the members of the forum and were clarified by General Bursar and the Provincial.

The financial report of the Province was presented for better transparency and accountability. He appreciated the fact that there is a greater financial transparency in the province and among the members, and the momentum must be kept up by constant update programs in finance and taxation and bringing the members together on regular basis.

Fr. Thomas Chozhithara msfs, MDO director, expressed the possibilities of 10 modes of functioning and resource mobilization (locally). He exalted the strategies that are being created and implemented in our province and urged us to be more committed and action oriented. Fr. Nelson specially thanked Frs. Augustine, Thomas and all the forum members for their guidance and support. Fr. Provincial also thanked all the participants for the presence and wished them the very best.

PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION IN RAJASTHAN

3rd September, 2018 was indeed a happy day for the confreres in Rajasthan as Rev Fr Jayaseelan the Provincial and his councilors came for the visitation and for the council meeting in the land of deserts. They were welcomed by Fr. Lourduswamy,

the mission superior. Next day the Provincial and his council met the Bishop of Ajmer, Rt. Rev. Pius Thomas D'Souza. After a discussion with the Bishop on the mission and the possible extension of the mission, they too met Fr Soosai Manikam, the Principal of St Anselm School, Ajmer, and Fr. Lourdu Joseph, the principal of St Paul School, Ajmer. The next day 5th September, the Provincial and the councilors had a meeting with the Bishop of Jaipur Rt. Rev Oswald Lewis and discussed with him about our service in his diocese.

On 6th and 7th of September, there was council meeting. They visited St. Francis de Sales School, Gangapur and Teacher's Day programme of the school was held. On September 8th, there was blessing and inauguration of the new school building. The solemn blessing and inauguration, was followed by a cultural programme by the students and lunch for all.

The Parish of Gangapur City was very happy to celebrate the feast of Our Lady, in the presence of the Provincial and his Council. The Eucharist was celebrated by the Provincial and the homily was preached by Fr Johnson Gonsalves. They were all welcomed and felicitated with the shawl, garland and flower. After the mass, there was a prayerful procession, which ended with the final blessing. - Fr. Lourdu Swamy
msfs

BLESSING AND INAUGURATION

We were indeed glad to experience the blessing of God on the inauguration of our new school building at Kanchroli on September 08, 2018. The auspicious day started with the short procession led by the students dressed in traditional attire from old building to the newly constructed school building.



The dignitaries were given traditional welcome by the staff and students of St. Francis de Sales School according to the local culture. The newly constructed SFS school building was blessed and inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Jayaseelan Selvaraj, MSFS, the Provincial Superior of Pune Province in the presence of the provincial council, and Rev. Fr. Lawrence, Principal of St. Anselm School, Sawaimadhopur, the delegate of Most Rev. Oswald J Lewis the Bishop of Jaipur graced the occasion. MSFS confreres of Gangapur City and Ajmer, FMCK Sisters, FSJ Sisters, special invitees Shri Raja Ram Beniwal, the Principal of Bhagwan Mahaveer teacher training college, Kanchroli, and Mr. Chandrapal Singh Beniwal the surpanch of the village and the parents teachers and non-teaching staff of SFS school were present and added more joy to our celebration.

The blessing and Inauguration was followed by cultural programme and felicitation. The dignitaries, special invitees, the contractor Mr. Sanjay Mehra, and his supervisors were felicitated on this occasion. God also blessed us with showers of rain during the blessing and inauguration. The felicitation and cultural programme were followed by fellowship meal. Sincere thanks to Rev. Fr Vincent Lourdusamy msfs, the former Provincial and the Provincial curia and our confreres who worked very hard to realize this project. We also thank Fr. Michael Prem msfs, Fr Naveen msfs and Fr. Lourduswamy the mission superior in a special way for their on the spot supervision and dedication to complete this project. The gracious presence and support of Gangapur community members Fr Santow George, Fr Jesudas and Fr Romeo Louis and Fr. Alphonse have always been a source of strength and encouragement. - Fr. Michael Prem MSFS.

Laying of Foundation Stone: It was a day of joy and celebration for our St. Thomas Community at Aldona as it took the first step to begin the Fransalian Pre-Primary and Music Academy in the serene and picturesque village of Aldona. The foundation stone was laid on 7th August 2018 in the august presence of Fr. Thomas Fernandes msfs the Project sponsor and Shri Glenn Souza Ticlo, the honourable MLA of Aldona, along with the architect, engineer, M.S.F.S fathers, religious priests and nuns, students, teachers, benefactors and friends who witnessed this grand occasion.



The celebration continued with a cultural programme of dance and music, felicitating and appreciating all those who made this journey possible. God bless the efforts of Fr Thomas Fernandes msfs, Fr Valerian Carvalho msfs, our Community at Aldona and all our well-wishers to realize this innovative project. - Tr. Evette Alvares.

JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSION TRAINING SEMINAR

Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, the General Secretary, SAIM inaugurated and initiated the JPC forum meet which commenced on 25th August 2018 at MSFS Provincialate, Trichy and oriented the members to focus on the aims and objectives of JPC. Rev. Fr. Jayaseelan, Provincial of Pune Province and Rev. Fr. Ignaci Muthu, Provincial of South East India Province moderated the scheduled sessions. The members representing 7 provinces participated the seminar, and a commissioner each from respective province presented the report on justice and peace concerns of the

people, socio-economic matters, challenges and strategies. The vision of Justice and Peace Commission- MSFS Congregation is to protect and promote human dignity and ecology with a special focus on the poor, the oppressed and the marginalized. The commission through its programmes strives to build an inclusive society wherein the target groups are provided enlightenment, and adequate support for their growth and development. It was highly informative and an enriching seminar that empowered us in knowledge and enhanced our commitment to serve the people in a better way and thus work for the Kingdom of God here and now in this world.. - Fr. John Paul msfs.



MERMIER DAY CELEBRATIONS

30th September was a day of joy and blessing as we celebrated our Founder's day throughout our Congregation and in our Province. It was also a day of joy and celebration for the communities of Mermier Bal Ashram, Koparkhairane, Mermier Ashraya, Dahanu and Mermier Bhavan as the missions bear the name our Founder Fr Peter Mermier.



Mermier Bal Asharam, Koperkahirane: 30th September was a memorable and blessed day for Mermier Bal Ashram as Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil msfs the Superior General and Rev. Fr. Jayaseelan, the Provincial graced the occasion by their presence. The children put up a colourful show and they were appreciated by Superior General for giving a beautiful message through skit and dance. The confreres from Mumbai Apostolic community, the provincial councilors and benefactors were present for the celebration. The program ended with fellowship meal.

Mermier Ashraya, Dahanu: Mermier Ashraya celebrated the Founder's day at deanery level in the presence of the local Clergy, the Religious Sisters, the Parishioners of Dahanu Church and the local tribal people. On this grace-filled day, the thirty day perpetual adoration commenced by the community. Many



local tribals from nearby places came in large numbers to participate in this divine celebration and we could see a sign of deep devotion and new evangelization among them. It was also certainly a moment of God's grace and blessing to see a number of people, children and youth of different faiths coming voluntarily to worship the Lord and praying the Rosary. We assure them of our special prayers and God's blessings to all those visit the Eucharistic Lord in faith and thanksgiving.

70TH BIRTHDAY OF FR. JERSON D'SOUZA MSFS

The community of Fransalian Seminary was blessed to celebrate the 70th Birthday of Fr. Jerson D'Souza msfs on September 23, 2018. The day was filled with a lot of activities beginning from Solemn Eucharistic celebration, singing of birthday songs, visit of the friends of Fr Jerson from far and wide and the "Youth Hangama" The speaker of the day was Fr. Jijo John msfs on the topic "*Love your selfie and Face the book*". In the evening, there was cultural program organized.



Rev. Fr. Jayaseelan and Rev. Fr. Augustine Mangatt, the General Bursar and the confreres from Apostolic Community graced the occasion with their valuable presence. The 70 years of inspiring life and ministry of Fr Jerson D'souza was presented through a short film. Fr Jerson filled with the tears of joy glorified God and thanked one and all. God continue to bless you dearest Fr Jerson. (Fr. Adaikkala Rajan MSFS)

INFORMATIONS

1. The scheduled Religious Leadership Seminar for the confreres below 10 years of priesthood has been postponed to January 2019.
2. Fr Jesuraja msfs has reached USA for Pastoral Ministry. We wish him God's blessings.

3. Fr Ravi Gali msfs has been affiliated to the community of the Rose hill Chapel, Viskhapatnam for his pastoral ministry and personal study. We wish him all the best.
4. Fr David Ranjit Kumar msfs is at Annecy for training programmes in Salesian Retreats and Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. We wish him all the best.
5. Fr. Daniel Pareste msfs has successfully completed his studies in Education. Hearty congrats to him.
6. Fr. Anthonysamy (Sr), Fr. Silvian Benedict and Fr Andrew have successfully completed their first year of Studies in B.Ed. We wish them all the best for their second year of studies.

LET US PRAY

1. For the soul of Mr. Manuel, the cousin brother of Fr. Francis Mulackal who died during Kerala floods. May his soul rest in peace.
2. For the soul of Mrs. Philo, the mother of Fr. Terrie Pinto died on 26th August 2018. May her soul rest in peace.
3. For the soul of Mrs. Louiza Lopez, the sister in law of (late) Bro. Boniface Lopez expired on 29th August 2018. May her soul rest in peace.

MY PROGRAMME

VISITS, MEETINGS AND CANONICAL VISITATIONS

October 2018

20 Oct-05 November: Zambia, Canonical Visitation

November 2018

09-10 November: Council Meeting, Pune

16 November: Nippani, Canonical Visitation

17-18 November: Belgaum Ashram, Canonical Visitation

19 November: Valpoi, Canonical Visitation

20-21 November: Cotto Fatorpa, Canonical Visitation

22-23 November: Siolim, Canonical Visitation

24-25 November: Bastora, Canonical Visitation

26 November: Kalambist, Canonical Visitation

27-29 November: Gauthan-Kadgon, Canonical Visitation

December 2018

01-03 November: Fransalian Seminary, Pune Canonical Visitation

04-05 November: Snehalaya, Canonical Visitation

08-09 December: Uchgaon, Canonical Visitation

10-13 December: PIF and Governing Body Meeting, Bangalore

15-17 December: Jyothi Darshan Seminary and Parish, Canonical Visitation

27-28 December: Shaanwadi, Canonical Visitation

29-30 December: Council Meeting, Pune

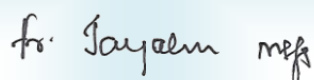
Canonical visitation to be continued...

FRANSALIAN THOUGHT

Being a religious and a spiritual son of Fr. Peter Mermier, who said "Oh how I long to live in a community of brothers" a confrere in a Parish/Formation/Education/Social and Innovative center strives passionately to build communion of hearts, minds and of spirit which he experiences in his religious community and which he wants to see in his Parish/Formation/Education/Social and Innovative centers/Community as well.

(MSFS Profiles: Core Identity of a Fransalian in Ministry, p.6)

Yours Fraternally in Jesus,



Fr Jayaseelan Selvaraj msfs,

Provincial Superior, MSFS Pune Province