

# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

NORTHEAST INDIA PROVINCE, MSFS PROVINCIALATE

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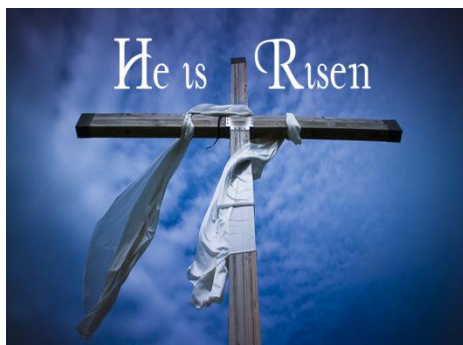
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**GPA/29–Circular–April 2018**

**Dear Confreres,**

**WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY EASTER!**



St Paul, in his first letter to Corinthian community, teaches that there are six things that would be in shambles if Christ did not rise from the dead. Then verse 20 reverses the whole paragraph: But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead.

*“Now if Christ is preached as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the*

*dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep (1 Cor 15:12–20).”*

Verse 14: "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain." But since Christ has been raised, our preaching is not in vain. Verse 14b: ". . . and your faith is in vain." But since Christ has been raised, our faith is not in vain. Verse 15: If Christ has not been raised, "we are found to be misrepresenting God [literally: we are false witnesses], because we testified of God that he raised Christ." But since Christ has been raised, the apostles are not false witnesses about the work of God. Verse 17: "If Christ has not been raised then your faith is futile and you are still in your sins." But since Christ has been raised, we are not still in our sins. Verse 18: If Christ has not been raised, then "those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished." But since Christ has been raised, the dead in Christ have not perished. Verse 19: If Christ has not been raised, then "we are of all men most to be pitied." But since Christ has been raised, we are not to be pitied.

There are also six fruits that we receive from Jesus' resurrection: 1. **We are forgiven from our sins:** If God holds our sins against, then there is no hope of anything else from God. The foundation for every other blessing from God is that God won't hold our sins against us. The connection of forgiveness with the resurrection is very important. Romans 4:25 puts it like this: "He was handed over [to death] on account of our transgressions, and he was raised on account of our justification." This means that by his death he paid the penalty for our sins and purchased our acquittal, our justification, our forgiveness. And since the achievement of the cross was so complete and the work of our justification so decisive, God raised Jesus from the dead to validate our forgiveness and to vindicate his Son's righteousness and to celebrate the work of justification. 2. **Our faith is well-founded:** Deep in the heart of every person is a longing for someone that you can count on through thick and thin; someone who is absolutely trustworthy; someone who won't let you down. The death of Jesus proves his love for us, and the resurrection proves his power over every enemy of life. And so there is

someone you can count on; someone absolutely trustworthy; someone who will never let you down. Jesus is alive to be trusted. "The life I live I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20). 3. **The apostles preach what is true:** Without the conviction that there are absolutes that can be shared and made the basis for society, the only end will be anarchy where everyone does what is right in one's own eyes. Therefore, the need for truth is a deep need of the human soul and human society. And Jesus came into the world to say, "I am the way, the truth, and the life" (Jn 14:6). And then he rose from the dead to vindicate his claim. Jesus has a right to tell us what is absolutely true because in the resurrection God proved him to be absolutely true. 4 and 5. **We are to be envied:** If Christ is not raised, then living for him, doing what he says, following his will is a great delusion. We should be pitied like insane people who live by hallucinations. But since he has been raised and is alive and reigns as king forever, all our obedience, all our love, all our self-denial is not just not-to-be-pitied, but is positively enviable. Christ is risen and everything done in his name is not in vain. It is enviable, significant, valuable and eternal. 6. **Those who have fallen asleep are alive:** Finally, there is the longing that we shall live forever in joy; that we have not come to an empty end after a full and valuable life; that we have not become a zero, or worse, damned. And so Paul says in verse 18 that because Christ is raised those who have fallen asleep in him have not perished. They are alive. They will live forever. They live the way Christ lives. They will enter into the joy of their Master.

In raising Jesus from the dead, God the Father gave us forgiveness and glorified Jesus as the all-sufficient forgiver; he gave us a friend to count on and glorified Jesus as utterly reliable; he gave us guidance and unchanging truth and glorified Jesus as the absolute foundation for truth and righteousness; he gave us a life that is not pitiable but enviable, a ministry that is not in vain but fruitful, and glorified Jesus as the source and goal of all life and all ministry; and he gave us everlasting joy that will not be ended by death, and glorified Jesus as the author of life, the victor over death, and the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. Hence, 'worthy is the Lamb that was slain and hath redeemed us to God by his blood to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing.'

As we look at the world around us, it's hard not to feel weighed down, fearful and depressed. It sometimes seems that mad men lead us, and that greed, oppression, violence and injustice are the norm. And yet, as the snow melts and the spring bulbs poke their noses out of the ground we see around us signs of new life and rebirth. As we make the transition from our days of preparation in Lent to celebrating the glorious mystery of Easter, it's time to take stock. There are good people all around us; people filled with hope and determination, struggling to create a world of compassion and fairness. The amazing example of young people determined to change the gun culture in the USA must surely hearten us. Let us join our efforts with those of good people everywhere, to make this a world of compassion and fairness, whether we are working on a global stage or simply interacting with those who are part of our daily lives.

### **Fransalian Response**

**St Francis de Sales:** After Jesus' resurrection, as he appeared to the disciples, the latter experienced a holy and welcome peace resulting from human's reconciliation with God through Jesus's passion, death and resurrection. It was expressed in the joy, jubilation and gaiety of the enraptured apostles. "But think of the joy, the jubilation, the gaiety that enraptured the band of apostles as they beheld the blessed manhood of the Redeemer, when he reappeared among them after his resurrection! He brought the olive-branch of a holy and welcome peace: Peace be upon you, were the words that fell from his lips. He showed his followers the unquestionable marks and signs of man's reconciliation with God; and he showed them his hands and his feet. Surely a great happiness flooded in upon their souls: The disciples saw the Lord and were glad"(Vincent Kerns, ed., *Pulpit and Pew: A Study in Salesian Preaching*, Visakhapatnam: SFS Printing School, 1976, p. 75).

**Fr Peter Mary Mermier:** For our beloved Founder, Easter was an occasion of great joy. He was always happy to join for Easter celebrations. However, he was very careful not to limit Easter joy to mere external celebrations. For him, it was an opportunity to grow in perfection through the practice of virtues, producing good fruits. "I accept with joy your invitation to join you for the nearing Easter celebrations (Alleluia)...It is

quite true that virtue does not consist in the external ceremonies if these are not imbued with a spirit of faith and devotion. Even frequently approaching the sacrament of reconciliation and receiving holy communion are not enough to make persons perfect. We can abuse them. These must lead to good works. We know that a tree is good from the fruits and not from the flowers” (From Letter to Mother Claudine on April 9, 1852, In *Selected Letters and Writings of Fr. Peter-Marie Mermier-1790-1862*, Edited by Adrian Duval and Translated by Antony Mookenthottam, Bangalore: SFS Publications, 2007, p. 122).

### **Inspiring Homily of Holy Father Pope Francis on Maundy Thursday 2018**

In keeping with his practice each year of his Pontificate, Pope Francis on Holy Thursday, March 29, 2018, washed the feet of prison inmates during the Mass of the Lord’s Supper. This year, the Holy Father visited Regina Coeli Prison, perhaps the best-known of Rome’s prisons, located very close to the Vatican. It was built in Rome’s Trastevere neighborhood in 1654 as a Catholic Convent, converted to a prison in 1881. The prison holds detainees from more than 60 nations, holding up to 900 inmates. It has received attention in the media due to overcrowding and high suicide rates. The inmates chosen for the ritual of the washing of the feet were 12 men from seven countries: four Italians, two Filipinos, two Moroccans, one Moldovan, one Colombian, one Nigerian and 1 from Sierra Leone. Eight were Catholics; two were Muslims; an Orthodox and a Buddhist. Here is a ZENIT translation of the transcription of the homily that Pope Francis gave off-the-cuff after the proclamation of the Holy Gospel, as well as the words at the end of his visit:

Jesus ends His discourse saying: “I have given you an example that you also should do as I have done to you (John 13:15) — wash the feet. At that time, slaves washed the feet: it was a slave’s task. People walked on the street, there wasn’t any pavement; there weren’t any cobblestones. At that time there was the dust of the street and people got their feet dirty. And, at the entrance of a home, there were slaves that washed the feet. And Jesus wished to do this service, to give us an example of how we must serve one another.

Once, when they were walking, two of the disciples who wanted to get ahead, asked Jesus if they could occupy important posts, one at his right and the other on the left (Cf. Mark 10:35-45). And Jesus looked at them with love — Jesus always looked with love — and He said: “You do not know what you are asking” (v. 38). The rulers of nations — Jesus says— command, have themselves served and are well (Cf. v. 42). We think of that time of kings, of very cruel emperors, who had themselves served by slaves . . . But among you — says Jesus — it must not be so: he who commands must serve. Your ruler must be your servant (Cf. v. 43). Jesus turns upside down the historical, cultural habit of that time — also that of today –, he who commands, to be a good ruler, wherever he may be, must serve. I often think — not of this time because everyone is still alive and has the opportunity to change his life and we can’t judge, but we think of history, of many kings, emperors, Heads of State had understood this teaching of Jesus and instead of commanding, of being cruel, of killing people had done this, how many wars would not have happened! Service: there are, truly, people that don’t make this attitude easy, arrogant people, odious people, people that perhaps wish one evil, but we are called to serve them even more. And there are also people that suffer, that are discarded by society, at least for a period, and Jesus goes there to say to them: You are important for me. Jesus comes to serve us, and the sign that Jesus serves us here today, in the Regina Coeli prison, is that He wished to choose 12 of you, as the 12 Apostles, to wash the feet. Jesus takes risks with each one of us. Know this: Jesus is called Jesus; He’s not called Pontius Pilate. Jesus knows nothing about washing his hands: He only knows how to risk. Look at this very beautiful image: Jesus bending down among the thorns, risking getting wounded, to pick up the lost sheep.

Today I, who am a sinner like you, but I represent Jesus, I am Jesus’ ambassador. Today, when I bend down before each one of you, think: “Jesus has risked in this man, a sinner, to come to me and tell me that He loves me.” This is service; this is Jesus: He never abandons us; He never tires of forgiving us. He loves us so much. Look how Jesus risks!

And so, with these sentiments, we go on with this ceremony, which is symbolic. Before giving His Body and His Blood, Jesus takes risks for each one of us, and He risks in service because He loves us so much.”

At the gesture of the exchange of peace, the Holy Father pronounced these words:

“And now, all of us — I’m certain that all of us – have the desire to be in peace with all. However, in our heart there are often contrasting sentiments. It’s easy to be in peace with those whom we love and with those that do us good; but it’s not easy to be in peace with those who have done us wrong, who don’t love us, with whom we are in enmity. In silence, for a second, each one think of those that love us and those that we don’t love, and also each one of us think of those that don’t love us and also those that we don’t love and also — rather — of those on which we wish to vindicate ourselves. And, in silence, let’s ask the Lord for the grace to give all, the good and the bad, the gift of peace.”

Here are the Holy Father’s words, in response to the greeting of the Directress of the prison and of an inmate, at the end of the Visit to the Regina Coeli prison:

“You have spoken of a new look: of renewing the look . . . This does one good because, at my age, for example, one gets cataracts, and one doesn’t see well the reality: next year we’ll have to undergo an intervention. However it happens so with the soul: life’s work, exhaustion, mistakes, disappointments darken the look, the look of the soul. Therefore, what you said is true: take advantage of opportunities to renew the look. And as I said in St. Peter’s Square [at yesterday’s General Audience] in so many countries, but also in my land, when the bells of the Lord’s Resurrection are heard, mothers, grandmothers take the children to wash their eyes so that they have the look of hope of the Risen Christ. Never tire of renewing your look, of doing that cataract intervention to the soul, daily, but always renew your look. It’s a good effort.

You all know the half-full wine bottle: if I look at the empty half, life is awful, it’s awful, but if a look at the full half, I still have something> to drink. The look that opens to hope, a word that you said and also you [the Directress] said; and you repeated it several times. One can’t conceive a prison such as this one without hope. Guests are here to learn, or to have the “sowing of hope” grow: there is no just sentence — just sentence! — without it being open to hope; a sentence that isn’t open to hope isn’t Christian, it’s not human!

There are difficulties in life, awful things, sadness — one thinks of one’s own, of one’s mother, father, wife, husband, children . . . that sadness is awful. But don’t let yourselves get down: no, no. I’m here but to be reinserted, renewed. And this is hope; sow hope — always, always. This is your work: to help to sow the hope of reinsertion and this will do everyone good — always. Every sentence must be open to the horizon of hope. Therefore, the death penalty is neither human nor Christian. Every sentence must be open to hope; it must be open to reinsertion, also to share the experience lived for the good of other persons.

Water of resurrection, new look, hope: I wish this for you. I know that your hosts have worked a lot to prepare this visit, even whitewashing the walls. I thank you. It’s for me a sign of benevolence and hospitality and I thank you very much. I’m close to you, I pray for you, and you pray for me and don’t forget: the water that makes the look new, and hope.”

### **Regional SAIM Forum Meeting**

The Regional Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries Forum Meeting was held on March 20-21, 2018, at Stella Maris, Visakhapatnam. It was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. P. Chinnappa Reddy, the Provincial of Visakhapatnam. The General Secretary for SAIM, Rev. Fr Agnelo Fernandes, moderated the sessions. Rev. Fr Jeyaseelan, the Provincial of Pune, made the members aware of the need of Social Apostolate to be strengthened in the Congregation. The meeting was well-attended by members from all Indian Provinces. The highlights of the Meeting are the following: 1. Looked into the possibility of publishing social directory of the Congregation; 2. Deliberated on strengthening and updating social ministries in the provinces; 3. Proposed



to hold biennial social training programme for the Innovative Forum Members; and 4. Discussed on publishing a common social magazine for the Congregation.

## Ordination to Priesthood



**Dn Sukhiram (Luke) Tanti** was born on August 15, 1987, as the fourth child of Dhaniram Tanti (Abraham) and Sumandhari Tanti (Martha). He hails from Yingkiong in the diocese of Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh. After completing his SSLC in 2005, he joined SFS Seminary, Medziphema, Nagaland. 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 Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamarassery. 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 November 13, 2017. Having successfully completed his theological formation and diaconate ministry, Dn Sukhiram (Luke) Tanti will be ordained a priest on May 13, 2018, at Yingkiong by Most Rev. John Katrukudiyil, Bishop of Itanagar.

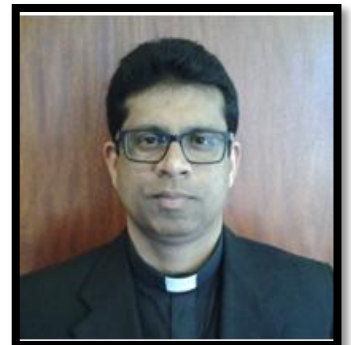
## Transfers and Appointments

### Additional Responsibilities

- Fr John Barman is appointed House Councillor of MSFS Provincialate Formed Community, Narengi, with effect from April 6, 2018.
- Fr Jose Thekkel is appointed Associate Local Bursar of MSFS Provincialate Community, Narengi, with effect from March 28, 2018.

## New Regional Superior for the Southern African Region of Northeast India Province of MSFS

**Rev. Fr Baiju Kurian Mundackal** is appointed Regional Superior of the Southern African Region of Northeast India Province of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales by Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, our beloved Superior General, with effect from May 28, 2018, at the designation of the Provincial of Northeast India Province with the consent of the Provincial Council and after due consultation with the confreres of the Region. He will be installed Regional Superior on May 28, 2018.



Fr Baiju Kurian Mundackal was born on September 06, 1973 as the first child of Kurian and Aleyamma. He hails from St Augustine's Church, Nellikutty, in the Diocese of Tellicherry, Kerala. He had his High School Education at St Augustine's High School, Nellikutty, and joined Vinaya Bhavan Minor Seminary, Thamarassery, in 1989. He completed his Minor Seminary course and PDC in 1992 and was promoted to Novitiate at MSFS Novitiate, Medziphema. He made his First Profession on July 07, 1993. He had his Philosophical studies at Suvidya College from 1993 to 1996. After his Philosophical studies he was appointed to St Francis de Sales Church, Dhemaji, for his Regency. He completed his Theological studies at Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune, in 2000. He made his Perpetual Profession on November 4, 1999, and was Ordained Deacon on February 04, 2000. He was ordained a Priest on January 15, 2001. After the Ordination he was appointed Associate Parish Priest at St Paul's Parish, Peren, Nagaland, in 2001. He served as Associate Parish Priest at RC Mission, Ongha, Namibia, from December 2001 to January 2003 and at St Peter Canisiu's Parish, Anamulenge, from 2003 to 2007. He was appointed Parish Priest of Holy Trinity, Matroosfontein, Cape Town, South Africa, from 2007 to 2013. In 2013 he was appointed Parish priest of the Our Lady, Queen of Peace Church, Grassy Park, Cape Town. He served on the Regional Administration as a Councillor from 2012 to 2015. The entire Province wishes him all the best in carrying out his new responsibility while invoking God's choicest blessings upon him. May Our Lady of Compassion, the Patroness of the Congregation, St Francis de Sales, our dear Patron, and Fr Peter Mary Mermier, our beloved Founder, assist him in his new ministry of leadership.

## **Thanks to Rev. Fr Babychan Arackathara the Outgoing Regional Superior of Southern African Region**

Fr Babychan Arackathara completed his term of office as the Regional Superior of Southern African Region of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, Northeast India Province. He served the region as regional Superior for two consecutive terms (6 Years). His zeal and missionary spirit has led the Region to new heights. Sincere thanks to Fr Babychan Arackathara for his exemplary leadership as Regional Superior of Southern African Region.

## **Silver Jubilee Celebration of MSFS Novitiate, Chabua**

The Missionaries of St Francis de Sales of Northeast India Province has every reason to rejoice and praise the Almighty as MSFS Novitiate, Chabua, celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of MSFS Novitiate on February 18, 2018. The concluding celebration of the Silver Jubilee year began at 9:15 am with Eucharistic celebration. Fr Jose Mundoly, the Novice Master, welcomed everyone to the celebrations. The holy Eucharist was presided over by Most Rev. Joseph Aind, Bishop of Dibrugarh, and concelebrated by Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, the Superior General, Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel, the Provincial, Rev. Fr George Parampukattil, General Secretary for Education, Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Regional Superior, Rev. Fr Joseph Thazhathukunnel and Rev. Fr Jose Mundoly in the presence of large number of priests, religious, well wishers and friends. After the Eucharistic celebration a short felicitation programme was organized to mark the importance of the occasion by honouring the dignitaries, former and present Novice Masters and Sociuses and the Jubilee batch of fathers, the invited guests, Brothers and Sisters by presenting them the Jubilee memento and the Gamosha. The well-synchronised cultural show performed by different neighbouring communities left the audience spell-bound for over two hours. Fr Simon Thaiko proposed votes of thanks. Congratulations to Rev. Fr Jose Mundoly, Fr Mark Hrinii, Fr Belo Francis, Novices, Viyani Home fathers, Maria Bhavan sisters, CST and Montfort brothers for their hard work in making the day a memorable one.

## **Silver Jubilee Celebration of MSFS Study House, Shillong**

MSFS Study House, Shillong, celebrated its Silver Jubilee on February 21, 2018. The day's celebration began at 10 a.m. with the alumini gathering and sharing. Fr Kuriakose Poovathumkudy, Rector of Oriens theological College, and Fr Thomas Manjaly, Professor of Oriens theological College, Shillong, animated the session. The foundation for the construction of a Jubilee Memorial Grotto was laid by Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, Superior General of the MSFS, at 3.30 p.m. A thanksgiving Holy Eucharist, in the evening, was presided over by Most Rev. Dominic Jala, Archbishop of Shillong, and was concelebrated by Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, Superior General, Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel, Provincial, Rev. Fr George Parampukattil, General Secretary for Education, and Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Regional Superior of Dibrugarh Region, in the presence of some 73 priests, several religious, neighbours, well-wishes and friends. During the short felicitation programme that followed the Holy Mass, all dignitaries, former rectors and administrators of MSFS Study House were specially honoured. Thanks to Fr Athnas Kerketta, Rector, Fr Sebastian Kuzhuppil, Local Bursar, scholastics and domestic staff of MSFS Study House, sisters and students of Stephen Memorial High School, Mawroh, for their hard work to make the day a success.

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

- Fr George Pekkadankuziyil, Director of Ranchi Medical College Project, and Fr Sijo Kunnel, Associate Director, for the exemplary commitment to the Medical College Project, Ranchi. Special congrats to them for settling all outstanding labour cases.
- Fr Varghese Manickathan, Fr Jacob Mattathil and Fr Bernard Sangma for organizing Eucharistic Procession at St Joseph Church, Kaying, on March 18, 2018. Most Rev. John Kattrukudiyil, Bishop of Itanagar, was the Chief-celebrant of the Eucharistic celebration.
- Fr Philip Mhonchumo and Fr Antony Avittapallil for preparing 23 children for the Sacrament of Confirmation and 21 of them for the sacrament of First Holy Communion at SFS Church, Dhemaji, on March 11, 2018. The sacraments were administrated by Most Rev. Michael Akasius Toppo, Bishop of Tezpur, in the presence of Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Regional Superior of Dibrugarh Region, and other confreres from Silapathar and Gogamukh.

- Fr Antony Kattathara and Fr Firstar Shylla for organizing Nongstoin Diocese Men Association Convention of the year 2018 at SFS Church, Umwahlang, on March 10-11, 2018.
- Fr Lukose Kavunkal and Fr Stephen Pou for organizing the laying of the foundation for the Boys Hostel at SFS School, Basar, on March 17, 2018. Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, the Regional Superior of Dibrugarh Region, blessed and laid the foundation for the new hostel building.
- Fr Nicholas Bara and Fr Silanand Soreng for organizing the annual convention of Fathers' association at Divine Mercy Parish, Mawryngkneng, from March 17 to 18, 2018. Fr Roland Kharkharang animated the first day's session and the Holy Mass was presided over by Fr Festus, the Parish Priest of Laitkor Parish, on Sunday.
- Fr Milkus Tirkey and Fr John Barman for organizing and animating the first Fransalian Youth Mission programme on March 18, 2018 at SFS Parish, Chabua, with the theme, "TOUCHED BY JESUS WALKING HIS WAYS."
- Fr Jacob Puthiyadathuchalil for taking initiative in building houses for three poor families in Sacred Heart Parish, TV Puram, Kerala.
- Fr Siby Mattapailil and Fr Thomas Nirappel for conducting a one-day teachers training and students animation programme for the teachers and students of SFS School, Nonganbira, on March 23, 2018.
- Fr Antony Avittapallil, Fr Philip Mhonchumo, the staff and students of SFS School, Dhemaji, for celebrating National Science Day on March 7, 2018, and bagging the First and Second Prize in the science model Competition, and Second and Third prize in the drawing Competition.
- Fr Varghese Chettupuzhakaren and MSFS Provincialate community for organizing the blessing of the new floor of the Provincial House, Narengi, on February 22, 2018. Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuveli, MSFS Superior General, blessed the newly constructed floor. The new floor has 21 self-contained rooms, a store room and conference hall.
- Fr Francis Thadathil and Fr Daniel Lalmuanzela for overseeing the construction and organizing the blessing and inauguration of the MSFS House at Lengpui on March 27, 2018. Most Rev. Stephen Rotluanga, Bishop of Aizawl, blessed and Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara, Councilor Incharge of Social and Innovative Ministries, inaugurated the new House in the presence of Fr Santhosh Chavaranal, Provincial Bursar, several fathers, sisters and friends of MSFS. Sincere thanks to Fr Francis Thadathil for his untiring hard work in realizing the completion of the House while staying in a rented house owned by the MSMHC Sisters.

### Fransalian Animation of Communities

Fr Philip Kurisummoottil and Fr Francis Peethuruthel will visit every community and confrere in the Province, in India, and animate them with inputs in Fransalian Spirituality as taught and lived by St Francis de Sales and Fr Peter Mary Mermier, the servant of God. They are expected to complete one-round of animation by December 31, 2018. Kindly help these animators to stay with you overnight, celebrate the Holy Eucharist in your community and share with you their short reflections. Kindly take care of reaching them to the next community once their programme in your community is over. May they experience your warm and loving hospitality without fail. You will also facilitate their meeting with Fransalian Associates at your Centre.

### Updates from Southern African Region by Regional Superior

**New Regional Superior:** On 02nd March 2018 our superior general after having received the designation letter from our provincial appointed **Rev Fr Baiju Mundackal** as the new regional superior of Southern African Region. On behalf of the region, I extend to him sentiments of congratulations and gratitude for taking up the responsibility of leading and animating the MSFS in Southern African region and wish him every blessing in the work ahead. I take this opportunity to thank our superior general and provincial and his curia for their support in conducting the consultation in view of the appointment. Rev Fr Baiju Mundackal will be installed as regional superior on 28th May 2018. May the Holy Spirit guide and bless our region and all its members.

**Updates on our upcoming regional retreat:** Rev Fr Mario D' Souza from the Pune Province will animate the congregational retreat for us this year. On half of the region, I welcome him to the region. Please find the updated programme for our annual gathering:

28 May 2018: Installation of the Regional Superior at OLPH, Keetmanshoop, 18h00

29 May 2018 - 02 June 2018: Annual Retreat, pastoral center, Keetmanshoop

02 June 2018- Annual General Meeting, 09h00 -11h30 Pastoral Center, OLPH Keetmanshoop  
13h30 - Leave for Windhoek

18h30 - Rosary, Dinner; Academia, Windhoek

03 June 2018: Jubilee Celebrations, Frs. KP Joseph Kunjaparambil, Lukose Perumannikala, Jose Mamalassery and Philip Mangatt

18h30 Dinner at Soweto Parish, Windhoek

04 June 2018: Community Outing, Windhoek

18h30 Rosary, Dinner/Recreation at Academia

05 June 2018: Departure

In July 2018, we will also be celebrating our 20th year of arrival in Southern Africa. We could celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving on 4th June 2018 to thank God for all the blessings of the two decades. May I request everyone to take note of the above dates and time. Please make sure that those travelling from Swaziland, South Africa and Tanzania have valid visitors' visa in advance.

**New Candidates for the Region:** Bros. Joseph Lule and Anthony Kabagambe from Kibaha novitiate, in Tanzania, have opted to work in SA region. Two novices from Chabua are expected to come to LCI Arush for their philosophy. On behalf of the region, I thank them for opting to work in Southern Africa, welcome them to the region and wish them God's blessings.

**Fr Joseph Puliylakat:** will attend a Bibliolog conference in Germany from 03 -10 June 2018. We wish him well in this important conference where he will gain knowledge and experience.

**Further Studies:** **Fr Shiju Poomarathingal** will undertake Masters in Canon Law at St. Augustine's Catholic College in South Africa. **Frs Noble Jose and Libin Chiraparambil** have begun their Masters Programme in Scripture from Alpha Theological College, under Tellichery diocese, India. We wish them well in their studies.

**Church Construction at Soweto, Windhoek:** Certainly it is a great joy and a big relief to know that the parish of Soweto can now begin the work on the long cherished dream of building a new church. Congratulations to Fr Saju Joseph and the team. Indeed, it was a patient, painful and persevering effort to get all the paper work done to obtain the green signal from the authorities. I thank Frs Saju Joseph and Jose Mamalassery for their efforts and wish them every success and pray that God may bless them to complete the project in time.

### **Change of Address and Contact Number**

Fr. Salu Mathew msfs,

St. Peter and Paul Church

Tellstrasse 7

Winterthur 8400

New Cell No: 0041 788 372737

New Tel No: 0041 52 269 03 75

Email: salumsfs@gmx.ch / salumsfs@gmail.com

MSFS Community, Tato: 08993821188

Thomas Paul: 08259865718



Simon Thaikho: 09383222590

### Let Us Pray For:

- Mr Joseph Madappallil, father of Fr James Madappallil, who met with a motor accident. Currently he is receiving treatment in Manglore.
- Mr Abraham Moonnanappillil (89), father of Fr Tomy Moonanapillil, who is recovering from a serious heart attack
- Father of Fr Alex George who is currently recovering after hospitalization.

### Let Us Pray For the Departed:

- Most Rev. Kagithapu Mariadas MSFS (82), Archbishop Emeritus of the Archdiocese of Visakhapatnam, who passed away on February 26, 2018.
- Fr. S. Pilavendran, MSFS (42), belonging to South East Province, who passed away on March 22, 2018.
- Fr Thomas Illikkattil (73), belonging to South West India Province, who passed away on March 24, 2018. Mrs Annakutti Thomas (79), aunty of Fr Francis Peethuruthel, who passed away on February 23, 2018.
- Mr Augustine Parampuzhayil (74), father of Fr Augustine Parampuzhayil, who passed away on February 23, 2018.
- Mrs Surojmoni Murmu (86), grandmother of Bro. Mukto Murmu, who passed away on March 19, 2018.
- Mrs Annamma Mani (78), sister-in-law of Fr Joseph Thazhathukunnel, who passed away on March 8, 2018.

### Special Communications

INSTITUTION	PROGRAMME	CONTACT DETAILES
NAVJIVAN RENEWAL CENTRE(NRC)	1. Retreat: In the spirit of the beatitudes(For Priests & Religious)-Date: May 23(pm)-31(noon), 2018(8 days) 2. Training programme in basic counseling skills (For Priests/Religious/Teachers/ Social Workers, etc.)-Date: June 10(pm)-20(noon), 2018(10 days) 3. Audio Visual Retreat-Date: Nov 1 <sup>st</sup> (pm)-9(noon), 2018(8 days)	Director(Fr. George Peter, SJ) Navjivan Renewal Centre 4-Raj Niwas Marg, Delhi-110054 Email: directornrc@gmail.com Mob: 08447144890/ 09868588747 Tel: (011)2399-0097
NATIONAL VOCATION SERVICE CENTRE PUNE(NVSC)	Training for skills in counseling(TSC-II)-Date: Oct 22- Nov 12, 2018	The Director N.V.S.C Near Christ the King Church Sainikwadi, Wadgaonsheri Road, Pune 41014 Tel: 020/27030918/27036125 Mob: 07350378287 Email: nvscpune@yahoo.com Website: www.nvscpune.com
DIVINE RETREAT CENTRE	Priests' and Sisters' Retreat Date: July 2 <sup>nd</sup> -7 <sup>th</sup> , 2018	Contact: 08752089127, 09818787709 Email Id: vcdivine@gmail.com, frthomasevc@gmail.com
NISCORT MEDIA COLLEGE	1. Web Designing- Date: May 21-31, 2018 2. Digital Media Skills for Church	NISCORT A-2, Setor 1, Vaishali, Ghaziabad-201012, U.P

	Leadership(Only for Religious Junior Sisters) Date: June 4-16, 2018	Phone: 01202771050 Mobile: 08130496971, 63/813024176 www.niscort.com Email: niscortindia@gmail.com/ niscortadmissions@gmail.com
SANYASA Institute of consecrated Life	1. Three-weeks Intensive Course on New Testament Date: April 05-26,2018 2. One month Intensive Course on Consecrated life Date: April 29- May 30, 2018	Secretary, Sanyasa Institute, Carmelaram, Bengaluru-560035 Tel: 08028439259, 28439944 Mob: 09964161332 Email: sanyasac@gmail.com, sanyasa.in@gmail.com Web: www.sanyasa.com
Satyodayam - Jesuit Retreat Centre	1. Counselling Course for Counsellors 23 <sup>rd</sup> May - 6 <sup>th</sup> June, 2018 (15 full days) 2. Self-counselling Skills 8 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> (six full days) June 2018 3. Diploma in Counselling Psychology 2 <sup>nd</sup> July to 29 <sup>th</sup> September, 2018(3 full months)	Satyodayam (Jesuit Retreat Centre), 12-5-33, Vijaypuri Colony, Secunderabad 500 017. Contact: Mobile: 09177594562, 09133255690. Email IDs: mkrajsj@rediffmail.com, mkrajsjap@gmail.com (personal)
Abhishekagni Centre, Thavalam, Palakkad	English Retreats for priests May 20-25, 2018 July 8-13, 2018 September 16-21, 2018 November 18-23, 2018	abhishekagnicenter@gmail.com Ph: 8086624482, 04924227051

## Provincial's Programme

### April

- April 3-4: Animation Programme of Local Superiors
- April 4: DSFS Sisters' Profession at Barapani
- April 6: Special PCGF Meeting in Guwahati
- April 8: Canonical Visitation to Gogamukh
- April 9: Canonical Visitation to Dhemaji
- April 10: Canonical Visitation to Silapathar-Likabali
- April 11: Canonical Visitation to Telam
- April 12: Canonical Visitation to Jonai
- April 13: Canonical Visitation to Pasighat
- April 15: Canonical Visitation to Mawkhlam
- April 16: Canonical Visitation to Umwahlang
- April 17: Canonical Visitation to Mawrynkneng
- April 18: Canonical Visitation to Amalarem
- April 19: Umroi
- April 20: Apostolic Community Meeting of Guwahati
- April 22: Provincial Council Meeting
- April 24: Canonical Visitation to Amarpur
- April 25: Canonical Visitation to Sindukpathar and East Harina
- April 30: CRI Editorial Board Meeting

**May**

May 1: Canonical Visitation to Mangkolemba  
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: Canonical Visitation to Imphal  
May 7: Canonical Visitation to Purul  
May 8: Canonical Visitation to Tingbakhullen, Tingbakhunou  
May 9: Canonical Visitation to Diphu  
May 13: Ordination and Canonical Visitation to Yingkiong  
May 14: Canonical Visitation to Aalo College-School Campus  
May 15: Canonical Visitation to Aalo Parish Community  
May 16: Canonical Visitation to Kaying  
May 17: Canonical Visitation to Tato  
May 18: Canonical Visitation to Basar  
May 22: Provincial Council Meeting  
May 25-30: CRI National Assembly, Chennai  
May 31: Novitiate, Chabua

**June**

June 4: Canonical Visitation to Hamren  
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  
June 30: Provincial Council Meeting

**July**

July 1-7: Auditing by Province Auditor Generals  
July 9: Academic Inauguration of St Clement College, Nagaon  
July 9-14: Province Annual Retreat I (From 9th evening to 14th evening)  
July 15: Provincial Council Meeting  
July 16: Inauguration of the Provincial Chapter of Holy Cross of Chavanod  
July 19-20: Classes at St Clement College, Nagaon, and Canonical Visitation  
July 25: Ranchi

**August**

Aug. 3-4: General Bursar in Guwahati  
Aug. 5-25: Southern African Region  
Aug. 30: Provincial Council Meeting

**September**

Sept. 8-13: Northeastern CRI Meeting and Pastoral Conference  
Sept. 17-20: GC-PIF-PEA Meeting in Hyderabad  
Sept. 23: Provincial Council Meeting  
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  
Oct. 28: Canonical Visitation to Manikbond  
Oct. 30: Provincial Council Meeting

## December

Dec. 5: Somonpara

Dec. 6: Panbari

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

## 2019

### January

Jan. 24: Feast of St Francis de Sales

### February

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

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

### March

Mar. 6: Ash Wednesday

### April

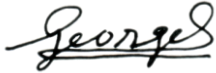
Apr. 21: Easter

## A Concluding Thought

We are called to be pilgrims and not tourists. Tourists rush around from one place to another making sure that they cram everything in. They constantly buy souvenirs, and many of which they look at when they get home. They get upset if there are delays. They demand prompt attention to their every need. They focus on themselves. They go sightseeing and count the cost. Pilgrims are very different. They look for signs. They are aware of the needs of others and help them as much as they can. They look for meaning and count their blessings and thank God. They journey with God and towards God. Jesus' resurrection reminds us that God is our meaning and hope. We have to make pilgrimage of our life with the risen Christ and he will guide us to our final destination.

Fraternally

Yours in the Lord



Fr George Panthanmackel MSFS  
Provincial of Northeast India Province

## WALKING ON THE PATH OF THE PATRON

**“God acts by Himself; the virtue of the cross flows from the power of God. God is the source and author of every action, the Cross is but his tool.” SFS**

