

# MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

## DIBRUGARH PROVINCE

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EMT/06 Circular - Nov 08, 2020

**My dear Confreres,**

I wish you all a blessings-filled Sunday! Today's Gospel (Mt: 25:1-13) presents the parable of the ten virgins who came out to meet the bridegroom, five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The foolish ones came without sufficient oil with their lamps, whereas the wise ones came prepared with sufficient oil. The bridegroom came late at midnight, and when they were called to

welcome the bridegroom, they did not have sufficient oil in their lamps and could not enter into the banquet hall with the groom. So today, we are all exhorted to remain vigilant and to carry extra oil (by way of purposeful planning, prayerful preparation, and positive persistence) in our lamps to meet the bridegroom, who is Christ the Lord, when he comes.



We had been waiting for our Provincial Congress, which is a Divine-Human historical event in the life of a Province family. It can be a *Kairos* for the life and mission of the new Province. We are happy that, after having assessed the present situation in the Province, in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic, and to propose the way ahead for us as a newly established Province, we could finally discern and decide to reconvene our postponed Provincial Congress 2020 for the first week of December 2020.

## RE-CONVOCAION OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF DIBRUGARH PROVINCE 2020

In accordance with the Constitutions of the Congregation (*Con. 234ff and GD. 261ff*), with the prior approval of the Superior General, Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, (SG-AB2 20-19) and with the consent of the Provincial Council, I am glad to re-convoke the postponed **1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Provincial Congress of the MSFS Dibrugarh Province**, with the theme “**MSFS Dibrugarh Province: Rooted and Formed in Charism, Committed to Mission**”, from **December 01<sup>st</sup>** (at 08.30 a.m.) to **03<sup>rd</sup>** (at 08.00 p.m.) **2020**, to be held at **Christashram (Diocesan Pastoral Centre), Dibrugarh, Assam**, subject to the Covid-19 protocols. All the members of MSFS Dibrugarh Province with active voice are convoked to take part in the Congress (*Cf. GD 277*). If anyone is unable to take part in the Provincial Congress due to unavoidable circumstances, except those who are abroad and students, kindly take permission for absence from the Provincial at the earliest, latest by the 14<sup>th</sup> of November, 2020.

### Preparation for the Provincial Congress 2020

The Steering Committee, which is already constituted for the preparation and organisation of the Provincial Congress 2020, consisting of Fr. Jose Karipadathu (Convenor), Fr. Philip Mhonchumo, Fr. Vintu Augustine Avittapallil, Fr. George Vadakkepericherimannil, Fr. Varghese Paul Manickathan, Fr. Carlus Barowa and Fr. Sunny Panthanazhivadakkethil, have already held their meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2020 and chalked out the immediate course of actions. Since the Pastoral Centre has agreed to accommodate us subject to the following of Covid-19 protocols, I suggest the following: 1) only those who feel healthy attend the Congress, 2) as far as possible, use private vehicles to travel to the place of Congress, 3) wherever possible, you may undergo at least a RAT (Rapid Antigen Test) and have a Covid-19 negative certificate before you come for the Congress, 4) thermal scanning be done every day morning and 5) to use facial masks and keep social distance being at the centre. Thank you, dear confreres, for your understanding and collaboration!

### Prayer for the Success of the Provincial Congress 2020

Provincial Congress has to be a spiritual event in the life of a Province and a time when the members of the Congress learn to read collectively the signs of the time and discern the plan of God for the Province in the spirit of prayer and recollection. Therefore, I earnestly request you all to continue to pray for the success of our Provincial Congress personally and in Communities with the prayer, which is already sent to you earlier:

**Prayer in Preparation for the 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Provincial Congress 2020**  
**MSFS Dibrugarh Province**  
**(01 - 03 December, 2020)**

Loving and merciful God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we thank you and praise you for your infinite and gracious love, through which you have called us to be your missionaries in the Congregation of the MSFS and now to be the members of the newly established Dibrugarh Province.

Jesus, you are our Savior, Master and Guide. As we prepare ourselves for our forthcoming Provincial Congress with the theme: "MSFS Dibrugarh Province: Rooted and Formed in Charism, Committed to Mission", we seek your blessings. Fill us with the spirit of our Founder and Patron, that following in their footsteps, remaining rooted in our charism, we may recommit ourselves to it in our daily lives and apostolates, and thus remain committed to our Mission as true MSFS.

Holy Spirit Lord, fill us with your spirit, that we may discern your plan for our Province and strengthen us to be committed, creative, effective and innovative missionaries by being 'gentle' as St. Francis de Sales, and 'zealous' as Fr. Peter Mermier.

We make this prayer through the intercession of our Patrons, St. Francis de Sales and Mother of Compassion, and through the prayers of your Servant Fr. Peter Mermier, our holy Founder. We surrender ourselves to your Holy Will, through Christ our Lord. Amen

**Mary, Mother of Compassion** - Pray for us!

**St. Francis De Sales** - Pray for us!

**Servant of God Fr. Peter Mary Mermier** - Intercede for us!

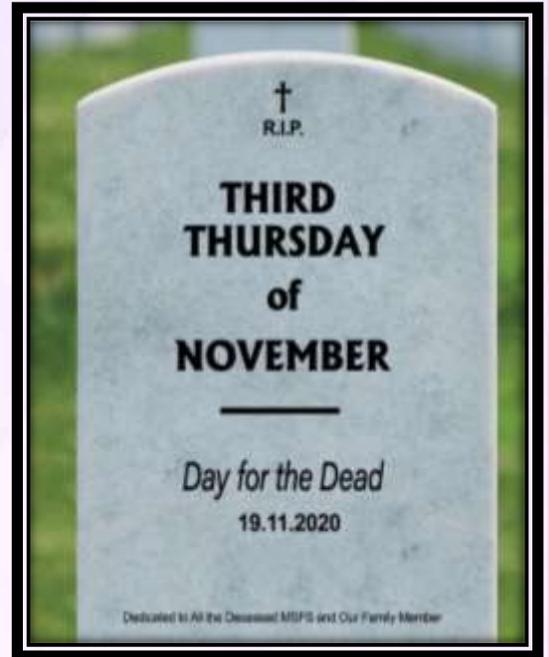
## CONGREGATIONAL MATTERS

### Prayer Intention of the Superior General: November and December 2020

- **November:** "That all our departed confreres enjoy eternal peace in heaven and that Fr. Peter Mermier be raised to the saintly status."
- **December:** "That those children, who are abused, underprivileged, discriminated and abandoned, and the unborn babies are well protected and nurtured with utmost love and care."

## Third Thursday in November – A Day for praying for the Deceased Confreres & Family Members

Our beloved Superior General wrote on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2020: “I am writing to you with a special request. The month of November is dedicated to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. The Church has always taught us to pray for her faithful children who have departed from this life but have not yet attained the joys of heaven. We remain united with our deceased confreres and family members by praying for them and seeking their intercessions. As a sign of our communion and love for them, we shall keep **THIRD THURSDAY of NOVEMBER (this year November 19)** as a day dedicated to our deceased confreres and family members at the Congregational level... We shall celebrate the day with Office for the Dead, mass for the dead and rosary of the seven dolours”.



We shall heed to the request of our Superior General, by keeping this year, on the 19<sup>th</sup> of this month, a day for praying for the deceased Confreres and family members, by celebrating the Office of the Dead, Mass for the Dead and praying the Rosary of the Seven Dolours.

### Provincial Chapter/Congress 2020

- Rev. Fr. Jayaseelan Selvaraj, the Provincial of Pune has convoked their Provincial Chapter from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at MSFS Provincial House, Shaanwadi, Pune, with the theme: “Renewed Life in the Holy Spirit for a Revitalized Community and Missionary Commitment in the Spirit of our MSFS Charism”.
- Rev. Fr. Sabu Francis, the Provincial of Guwahati Province is planning to re-convoke the postponed 1<sup>st</sup> Ordinary Provincial Congress from 08<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> December 2020 at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati with the theme: “Kairos: An Acceptable Time to redefine and relive our Charism in our Missionary Context”.

We shall accompany them with our prayers, especially during the days of their Provincial Chapter/Congress.

## PROVINCE MATTERS

### Celebration of the Foundation Day and 175 Years of MSFS Presence in India



MSFS Dibrugarh Province celebrated the 182<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day of the Congregation and the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the first MSFS in India on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2020 at SFS Campus Silapathar, with the confreres and sisters of all nearby MSFS Centres. The day was solemnized by Rev. Bp. Albert Hemrom the Coadjutor Bishop of Dibrugarh Diocese who presided over the Thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration for the Evangelisation of Peoples. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, the Provincial of MSFS Dibrugarh Province welcomed the Bishop and everyone present for the Eucharistic Assembly introducing the importance of the occasion. The Bishop highlighted in his homily that the Consecrated Life when it is lived well automatically makes us evangelisers. After the Holy Eucharist a short felicitation programme was arranged in honour of Fr. Sudhir John Kullu, who celebrates his Sacerdotal Silver

Jubilee this year. He was felicitated with a shawl by the Bishop and a memento by the Provincial. The event was organised following the Covid-19 protocols and was attended by 26 priests, 1 deacon, 12 sisters, and 7 novices. To mark the arrival of our pioneers, the confreres in MSFS community Silapathar along with the Sisters in the campus, also planted six trees in honour of our six heroic pioneers. (Report: Fr. Jaimon Thadathil, Provincial Secretary)

### Priestly Ordination of our Deacons

We are happy that we are blessed with the following four (4) Deacons to be ordained Priests in their respective home parishes/dioceses for our Congregation and the Church at large. Please do attend their ordinations, wherever possible and accompany them with your prayers during this challenging time of Covid-19 pandemic.

**Dn. Standfort Stephen Souba** was born on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1993 as the third child of Mr. Souba Kh and Mary Magdalene. He hails from Holy Rosary Parish, Purul (Good shepherd Church Purul, Atongba) from the Archdiocese of Imphal, Manipur. After completing his HSLC in Holy Rosary School Purul in 2009, he joined SFS Seminary Medziphema. He made his First Religious Profession on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1994 at MSFS Novitiate, Chabua, Assam. After the completion of



philosophy course at Suvidya College Bangalore, he was sent for Regency to SFS Parish Kangpokpi from 2016-2017 after which he was promoted to pursue theological formation at MSFS Study House, Shillong. He completed his theological studies at Oriens Theological College, Shillong, and was ordained deacon on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Having successfully completed his theological formation and diaconate ministry (Kangpokpi), he will be ordained priest on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in Imphal by Most Rev. Dominic Lumon, the Archbishop of Imphal.

**Dn. Gaichungdai Anthony Kameih** was born on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1994 as the second youngest child of Giangchalung Kameih and

Mukhuanliu Kameih. He hails from St. John's Parish Nungba, from the Archdiocese of Imphal, Manipur. After completing his HSLC in SFS School Kangpokpi in 2009, he joined SFS Seminary Medziphema. He made his First Religious Profession on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1994 at MSFS Novitiate, Chabua, Assam. After the completion of philosophy course at Suvidya College Bangalore, he was sent for Regency to SFS Parish, Nongalibra from 2016-2017 after which he was promoted to pursue theological formation at MSFS Study House, Shillong. He completed his theological studies at Oriens Theological College, Shillong, and was ordained deacon on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Having successfully completed his theological formation and diaconate ministry (Purul) he will be ordained priest on 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020 in Imphal by Most Rev. Dominic Lumon, the Archbishop of Imphal.



**Dn. Jimal Johny Painapally**, was born on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1994, as the first child of Mr. Johny P.J and Mrs. Shiny Johny. He hails from Christ the King Parish Muthukad, from the Diocese of Thamarassery, Kerala. After completing his HSLC in 2009 he joined Vinaya Bhavan Seminary,



Thamarassery. He made his First Religious Profession on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1994 at MSFS Novitiate, Chabua, Assam. After the completion of philosophy course at Suvidya College Bangalore, he was sent for Regency to SFS Parish Tening in 2016, after which he was promoted to pursue theological formation at MSFS Study House, Shillong. He completed his theological studies at Oriens Theological College, Shillong, and was ordained deacon on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Having successfully completed his theological formation and diaconate ministry

(Likabali), Dn. Jimal Johny Painapally, will be ordained priest on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 in his home parish by Most Rev. Remigios Inchananiyil the Bishop of Thamarassery.

**Dn. Andreas Synkli** was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1992 as the sixth child of nine children of Mr. Paulus Kiri Makri (Late) and Mrs. Cecilia Syngkli. He hails from St. Luke's Church Nongkrah, Nongpoh Parish, from the Archdiocese of Shillong, Meghalaya. After completing his HSLC in 2009 from St. Paul's Higher Secondary school Nongpoh, he joined SFS Seminary Medziphema. He made his first Religious profession on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1994 at MSFS Novitiate, Chabua, Assam. After the completion of philosophy course at Suvidya College, he was sent for Regency to Holy Rosary Parish, Purul, from 2016-2017 after which he was promoted to pursue theological formation at MSFS Study House, Shillong.

He completed his theological studies at Oriens Theological College, Shillong, and was ordained deacon on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2020. Having successfully completed his theological formation and diaconate ministry he will be ordained priest on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2021 by Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, the Bishop of Jowai.



#### **Hearty Congratulations/Thanks to:**

- **Rev. Fr. Jose Chettaniyil** for successfully defending his Ph.D. thesis on "Social Entrepreneurship and Social value creation by A'king Nokmas among the Garos of Meghalaya" from Assam Don Bosco University, Guwahati and thereby completing his Doctoral Studies. We are proud of you Fr. Dr. Jose Chettaniyil for your achievement! May it enhance your life and ministry for the benefit of others!
- **All the Participants** of the Second Annual Retreat of the Province held online from 19<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020. Thanks to **Rev. Fr. Arockiaswamy** of Amaravati Diocese for animating us during these days of retreat with his spirit-filled, anointing, and challenging messages. Thanks also to **Fr. Roshan Kanjirathinkal** and both the Provincial Secretaries: **Fr. Praveen Kumbattu** (GP) and **Fr. Jaimon Thadathil** (DP) for all their technical support for this online retreat.
- **Rev. Fr. Sunny Panthanazhivadakkethil**, Director of Social Work and **all our Confreres in every Mission Centre of our Province** for executing the **Project Covid-19 Relief: MSFS Pioneers' Survival Kit**, in honour of six heroic MSFS Pioneers, who came to India 175 years ago, to implant our Congregation in India!

## Transfers and Appointments

- ✓ **Fr. Jiji Konthananickal:** Principal, Christ King High School, Gogamukh, Assam.
- ✓ **Fr. Thomas/Tomson Aerathedathu:** made available to the Teaching Faculty of Oriens Theological College (OTC) at the request of the North East Regional Bishop Council (Governing Board of OTC).
- ✓ **Fr. Corbinus Soreng:** Relieved from HRRC Umroi for holidays, treatment and renewal programmes.

## Obituary

- † **Ms. Aimee Carron**, the Mother of Rev. Fr. Yves Carron, died on 30.10.2020.
- † **Fr. Paul-Ernest Vullioud** (95), belonging to Franco-Swiss Province, died on 04.11.2020.



**May they rest in peace!**

My dear Confreres please do continue to pray for the successful conduct of our Provincial Congress despite of our trying time of Covid-19 pandemic. May Mary, our Compassionate Mother keep us all under her protection and care! May St. Francis de Sales and Servant of God Fr. Peter Mary Mermier intercede for us!

Fraternally yours in Christ Jesus,

**Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil MSFS**

(Provincial, MSFS Dibrugarh Province)

TREADING THE PATH OF OUR PATRON SFS...

*To die in the state and habit of love and charity is sufficient to obtain eternal life. (TLG, Book VII, Ch. 9)*