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# MISSIONS



MISSIONARY INSPIRATIONS, ASPIRATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FRANSALIANS

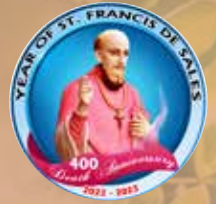


A mother and child at  
Holy Redeemer Renewal  
Centre  
Umroi, Shillong India

**As one whom his mother comforts, so I will  
comfort you. *Is.66:13***

**Pentecost 2022**

**Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales – Global Mission Bulletin**



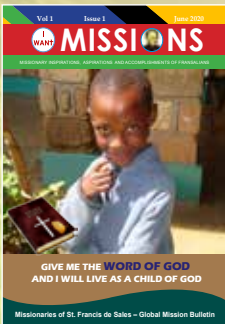
Dear respected Reader of *I want Missions*,  
*Shalom!*

May the peace of the Risen Lord, be with you!

Thank you for blessing this mission magazine by allowing it to be on your screen or holding it in your hands.

Now if you don't mind, please recite once this prayer

*Lord bless every missionary in this world. Amen*



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



**Editor:** Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS

**Design:** Mr. Sojan Joseph  
sojanjoseph@gmail.com

**Published by:**

MSFS General Secretariat for the Mission

**Contact:** [iwantmissions@gmail.com](mailto:iwantmissions@gmail.com)



Editorial .....	4
Message from the Superior General .....	5
How did we celebrate Year of Missions? ..	6
Mozambique Delegation.....	8
Nagpur Province .....	10
Brazil Province .....	12
Dibrugarh Province .....	14
Visakhapatnam Province .....	15
Guwahati Province .....	17
Pune Province .....	19
South West India Province .....	20
East African Province .....	22
USA Vice Province .....	25
Media for Mission – DeSiFMA.....	28
Know our missions – ONGHA.....	29
Homage to Father Mayoraz.....	32
MSFS moves to new dioceses.....	33
Qualities for a Missionary .....	35
On our Patron by our Founder .....	37
Firewood for the Lord? .....	38
Prayer of St. Francis de Sales.....	39

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed”

*Gen 12:1-3*

# Editorial...

## The **WHY** and **HOW** of being a Missionary of St. Francis de Sales

Once more the great day of Pentecost is at hand. The missionary mandate given by Jesus to the disciples, was an unresolved puzzle until the coming of the Holy Spirit. They knew they had a mission. But the why and how of it was made clear to them by the Holy Spirit. Every Missionary of St. Francis de Sales is a person who has received a mandate. The Spirit has a three-dimensional task with us.

- To reveal the mission to us,
- To empower us in implementing the mission,
- To accompany us in the implementation of the mission.

In all these three stages the powerful presence of the Holy Spirit is a must.

During the last year through the meaningful celebration of the Year of Missions, we were made aware of the non-negotiable missionary dimension of our congregation. When the Year of Missions is immediately followed by the Year of St. Francis de Sales, it has a specific connectivity. The Year of Missions told us about the WHY of the Mission. The Year of St. Francis de Sales tells us about the HOW of the mission for us as a religious family following the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales.

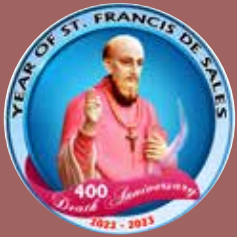
What Bishop Joseph Rey considered important for our religious life as missionaries while approving the Congregation, gives us an insight into how our Charism should unfold itself. He said, "Yours is a triple task: study St. Francis de Sales, imitate his virtues, form your method of guiding people on his: full of gentleness to sinners." (MSFS Constitutions n.9)

This triple task is nothing but the HOW of our mission. To be precise, our missionary approach should resemble that of St. Francis de Sales i.e., full of gentleness to sinners.

I wish you a very enriching time thumbing through the pages of this mission magazine.

**Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS**

**Editor**



## Message from the Superior General

### FROM 'YEAR OF MISSIONS' TO 'YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES'

Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales are journeying from the Year of Missions to the Year of St. Francis de Sales to mark his 400<sup>th</sup> death anniversary. The dream of Father Peter Mermier was a missionary congregation of men inspired and driven by the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. We celebrated the dream of our founder during the Year of Missions with various initiatives to deepen our missionary call.

In his message for World Mission Day 2022, Pope Francis expressed his dream to see a 'completely missionary Church' and a new era of missionary activity. The Church exists for the mission. It is not that the Church has mission but mission has the Church.

Young Father Francis de Sales, in his early years of priesthood, showed his missionary courage in the Calvinistic district of Chablais by his zealous preaching. His missionary dynamism, amidst hostility, brought Thonon and Chablais to the catholic faith. Our Founder, Father Mermier, was also conscious of the missionary identity of the Church. 'I want Missions' was his firm missionary zeal expressed in a clear slogan.

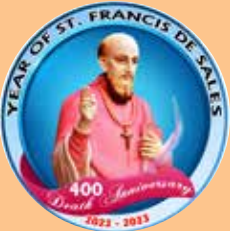
Deeply inspired and Influenced by the missionary life and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, Father Mermier wanted MSFS to become more like Christ after the example of SFS.

On April 24, 2022, the Year of St. Francis de Sales began. Celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> death anniversary of our Patron is not about the past. It is about the present and the future. It is an opportunity for renewal and rediscovery of our spiritual roots. It is to remind ourselves of our triple task: study St. Francis de Sales, imitate his virtues, and form your method of guiding people on his: full of gentleness to sinners."

I invite us to be inspired by the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and become more like Christ through the initiatives and events that take place across the globe.

**Live JESUS!**

**Father Abraham VETTUVELIL, MSFS**  
*Superior General*



# *Y*EAR OF *M*ISSIONS

*How did we  
celebrate it?*



**Year of Missions may fade into history  
But the Mission of the years to come  
would make my life a meaningful story  
carrying me to the eternal life to come !!!**

## **The purpose**

### **The purpose of the celebration of the Year of Missions included:**

To bring to the forefront the apostolate of Missions in the congregation.

For the renewal of the individuals and communities, in order that we can function more effectively with credibility as agents of renewal.

That we have life in abundance and share it with others.

To impart to our young formees and scholastics the correct orientation regarding the nature and purpose of being a member of a missionary congregation.

For the renewal and rejuvenation of our parishes.

For stabilizing our missions and pastoral presence through any activities and apostolate that are relevant to our times



**Ps. What follows is not an exhaustive list of all the Year of Mission activities. Due to the lack of space and lack of materials, not all the events and programs of the mission year are included here.**



# MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION



Abiding to the fraternal instruction of the General Administration, the Year of Missions in all MSFS communities and parishes of Mozambique Delegation was inaugurated on the Pentecost Sunday of 2021 (23<sup>rd</sup> May). Every community adopted its own feasible and respective way, without fail, to unveil the emblem of the Year of Missions, explaining its meaning and objectives. The faithful were exhorted to pray for the Missions and missionaries; they were also made aware through homilies, of the obligation, by virtue of their baptism, to partake in the mission of the Lord. Despite the restrictions of the ongoing pandemic, all the communities keenly planned a strategy to celebrate the Year of Missions meaningfully and made extra efforts to add more vibrancy to our Missionary life. A good number of activities were organized at various levels taking into account the proposals

and guidelines laid by the General and Province administration.

A circular from the Delegation Superior in Portuguese, dedicated to the year of the missions was published and was circulated among the confreres and parishioners, drafting and instilling about the importance of the Year of Missions. Taking into account the Year of St. Joseph and the Year of Family, a special emphasis and importance was given to the family apostolates. One of the parishes planned its pastoral activities around the theme “Each baptized, A Missionary of God”.

Activities that were concretely brought into reality during this Special Year:



- Holy Mass was offered on Wednesdays in honor of Saint Joseph
- Holy Mass on the first Saturday of the month in honor of the Holy Family.





- Adding the 'Prayer for the Year of Missions' part of our daily prayer
- A particular mission parish to pray for was chosen on a daily basis in the community prayers
- Monthly retreats were animated on topics related to Missions
- An annual retreat on the theme "Growing in our priestly identity and missionary call" was also conducted in our parishes.
- 'PMP Formation' for all confreres serving in Mozambique.
- Daily circulation of Portuguese posters of salesian quotes and liturgy on social media.
- Formation of teams of retreat preachers in parishes.
- Taking the parish census and introducing the Christian ID card.
- Distribution of Holy Rosary, Holy Pictures, Bibles and Prayer books.
- Distribution of food products, study

materials, uniforms, medical helps, cloths and aids to build houses for the destitute with the theme "Heart to Hand".

- Slum ministry was given a beginning
- Finding shelter for few homeless children to set a different orientation for their life.
- Visiting the sick in hospitals, spending time with the sick, praying for them and participating in blood donation.
- Solving water scarcity in the sub-stations.
- Seminars and Formations to different parish groups.
- Planting fruit trees with the campaign "Mermier Paradise".

During the Year of the Missions, the Delegation of Mozambique was blessed with the canonical visitation of Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS, the General Councillor for Missions.





# NAGPUR PROVINCE

Chapters 2 and 3 of Our Constitutions tell us that our mission is a sharing in the Mission of Christ and our consecrated life is for the Mission. The formal inauguration of the Year of Missions was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021, at the MSFS Provincialate. All the communities of the Province also had the inauguration in their own places. The celebration began with the Eucharistic celebration. The blessing of the Holy Spirit was prayed for, the traditional lamp was lit and the Logo with the mission objectives was unveiled. The Provincial dedicated a special circular for the Year of Missions. **JBM2-35** dated 7<sup>th</sup> July 2022 was sent to all the members of the Province. It outlined the Spirituality of Missions, gave a short report about the formal opening of the Year of Missions and the plan for the year to be held at various levels and apostolates. Outwitting the ever-present fear of the dreaded Covid-19 virus was the biggest challenge we faced during the Year of Missions. Programs were meticulous planned but due to the Pandemic, actualizing the plan was a big challenge. Some of actualized activities are as follows:

**AT THE PERSONAL LEVEL:** Efforts were made for personal renewal and love for the Word of God and Mission. Efforts were made to interiorize the missionary dynamism of our Patron, Founder and Pioneers.

**AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL:** Members of the communities prayed



every day for the success of the Year of Missions. Every Wednesday Holy Mass was offered in honour of St. Joseph. Every month one Mass was celebrated in honour of the Holy Family. The Logo of the Year of Missions was displayed at a prominent place. Monthly recollections focused on Mission and Missionary Life. Members prayed daily for the different missions of our Congregation.



**AT THE APOSTOLATE LEVEL:** In our Parishes/Missions confreres tried to identify broken families and made sincere efforts to unite the family members. They also tried to identify



those living in irregular union and rectify them as per the law. In one of our missions around 40 rectifications of marriage were held in 2 batches. Around 50 children of this mission from 5 sub-centres, who were not baptised due to Covid-19 lockdown were also baptised in 4 batches. Three families from other Christian denominations were received into the Catholic faith during the Year of Missions. A hostel for tribal girls is being constructed at a mission, but due to the Pandemic the construction is yet to be completed. Another remarkable event is the laying of the foundation stone for the construction of a Church at Bara Durgapur. In Raidihi parish two new village chapels were constructed at Gangpurgarh and Saraskhol. All our parishes ensured proper instruction to the children and administration of the sacraments of Reconciliation, first Holy Communion and Confirmation, which were pending due to the Pandemic. Some parishes organized programs that catered to those living at the periphery of society. For example some children from the remotest villages were given free education. People were catechized about the importance of the sacrament of Reconciliation and opportunities were given to them to make their confession. Bible Diaries were distributed and some parishes

organized PMP retreats. The cause of the Founder was promoted more passionately in our Parishes and Mission stations and people began to daily recite the prayer of devotion in honour of our Founder.

**AT THE PROVINCE LEVEL:** During this special year, it was decided to raise the Ambad mission in Aurangabad Diocese, Maharashtra, as an independent mission. It was also decided to take up a new mission in Dhumka Diocese, Jharkhand. The annual retreat was on the theme Year of Missions, in order to promote missionary dynamism among the members of the Province.

Despite the challenges we had to face on account of the dreaded Covid-19, we at Nagpur Province tried to fulfil the purpose of the celebration of the Year of Missions at various levels. Above all, the faithful were encouraged to pray for the missions and missionaries. They were also made conscious of their obligations by virtue of their baptism, to participate in the mission of the Lord through various means.





# BRAZIL PROVINCE

The Brazil Province (MSFS) in her zeal for missions is convinced that there is no salvation apart from Jesus Christ; therein attempts to proclaim this gospel message ardently: to every man, woman and child under the pastoral care of the province. She does this yeomen task diligently and creatively by reading the signs of the time and the contexts of the mission-places. The ultimate aim of the missionary endeavour of every individual member of the congregation of the missionaries of st. Francis de sales in Brazil is: *to communicate the message of Christ, through personal, community and institutional presence and activities in a way that the message of Christ touches and transforms the concrete life-situations of the people entrusted to the care.*

*The year of missions* that commenced on the feast of Pentecost 2021 was yet another significant opportunity for the members of the province in general: to communicate the mission of Christ even more creatively, certainly in fidelity to the mission mandate of Christ and that of the Congregation. Therein this report on the celebration of the year of missions in the life of the province shall be summed at three levels:

- a) the mission activities of the province at **parish levels**
- b) at **province- and congregational levels** and
- c) The **physical- structural symbols erected:** to mark the

significance of the year of missions in the province.

The report contains naturally only few (among plenty of other activities) events that are sorted out to share with you our joy to mark the significance of the year of the missions in the province.

## A) **The mission activities of the province at parish levels:**

On heeding the call of the superior general; to dedicate this (2021-2022) as the year of missions, the members of the province made utmost care to communicate the message of Christ esp., in this year of mission. As Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, the confreres initiated interests in the hearts of the parish-people to hear the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis of Sales. In this context, the confreres attempted at various levels to preach about the person of SFS and Fr. Peter Mary Mermier therein communicated the original missionary zeal of SFS and the missionary thirst of the founder. The history of the congregation and universal presence of the Missionaries and the innumerable missionary-



and humanitarian works that the MSFS do, were communicated in due propriety. The confreres initiated a new culture of praying novena to SFS, therein empowered people to seek the powerful intercessions of the heavenly patron, which was well received by the people as well. In this year of mission, the missionaries in the region of Brazil province prayed rosaries with the families and participated in the life-situations of the people at spiritual realms, wherein their prayerful presence and praying with them made significant reception in the hearts of the people. In addition to that a lot of personal attempts were made by each confrere to celebrate this year of mission with the people of God at micro and macro levels. As a whole, the year of mission was meaningfully celebrated at pastoral level in the province.

#### **B) The year of mission at province- and congregational level**

To mark the significance of the year of mission, the members of the province had frequent discussions: on the essence of the subject-matter of the year of mission and further on planning the procedures to conduct spiritual renewal at province- and parish levels. The members of the province had very little opportunity to meet each other in person and enrich each other spiritually through physical presence due to covid restrictions; however the meetings mutual exchange of reflections took place digital forms. Through online-meetings community prayers and online-formation programmes on SFS were conducted and eventually mutual spiritual exchanges were done. This happened both at province- and congregational levels.

#### **C) New institutional presence to mark the year of Missions**

The province felt, to mark the significance

of the celebration of the year of missions in Brazil, it would be good to build even physical structures. In this regard, a grotto was constructed and dedicated to the honour of mother Mary in the parish of our lady of perpetual succour, Tangua, Brazil. In the parish of St. Teresa of Child Jesus a parish hall was erected. This hall will serve as multi-purpose hall for the people of the parish and those in the vicinities. These two physical structures entered into the hearts of the people as memorable gifts and the faithful were drenched with joy and gratitude toward the missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, for these initiatives.

#### **Conclusions:**

Thus the province of Brazil celebrated the year of mission very meaningfully with renewed zeal for mission and love for the mission of the congregation. This year of Mission was beneficial to the confreres to renew the charismatic- and missionary zeal of the founder and to deepen the faith in the spirituality of the heavenly patron. Consequently the confreres offered also significant spiritual, pastoral and structural contributions for the welfare of the shepherds entrusted to their care. The people are better informed of the congregational- and missionary activities and more of the spirituality and the intense intercessory powers of SFS. The the year of mission was fruitfully celebrated in the province of Brazil. The missionaries will continue to do the same even in the years to come .





# DIBRUGARH PROVINCE



## Highlights of the Year of Missions

### Formation of Fransalian Associates at St. Joseph's Parish Kaying

Fransalian Associates as friends of Fransalian was formed at St. Joseph's Parish Kaying and classes were also taken for the inducted members.

### Rectification of Marriages (85 couples)

Responding to the call of General Chapter in the apostolates of the Renewal of Christian Life, and implementing the action plan for preparation of the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, S.F.S. Parish Tato in Arunachal Pradesh prepared and conferred mass rectification of marriage for 85 families.

### Pastoral Ministries during Lockdown

Lockdown had affected every aspect of life and the common services in the Church came to a standstill. Pastoral activities were also disrupted and home visit and catering to the spiritual needs of the

faithful were practically nil, however this give opportunity to new method of ministries and Celebrating Holy Mass in honour of the Holy Family for each family of the parish was being carried out in various parishes and it is worth mentioning that Purul Parish was able to invite the families to the parish centre even during lockdown for mass.

### Youth camp organised at S.F.S. Parish Pasighat

Two days Youth camp with special focus on the student community studying in Pasighat from different parts of Arunachal was organised in S.F.S. Parish Pasighat under the leadership of Rev. Fr. Carlus the Youth Director of the Province. It was a huge turn out of about 170 students.

### Blessing of New Presbytery

S.F.S. Parish is blessed with a new house for Priests residence cum Pastoral Felicitation Centre. It was Blessed and Inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Emmanuel, Provincial of Dibrugarh





## VISAKHAPATNAM PROVINCE



In this Year of Missions, we have been considering the ways in which we can respond to the call of our beloved Superior General to become a more outward-facing Missionary Congregation. Keeping this in mind the year of missions was grandly inaugurated in the presence of many faithful during the celebration of the Holy Eucharist in the Parishes. We paid reverence to the Bible by incensing it and also displaying a flexi of the Year of Missions with its goals. From day one onwards many

Parish Priests intensified the mission activities much more than usual even though there was pandemic. In the year of missions, we involved the laity more than ever and conducted many programs throughout the year.

1. Bible quizzes were conducted across some of our parishes and there was overwhelming response to them.
2. Youth Meetings were conducted twice this year and two confreres were appointed as youth directors under the aegis of SAIM.
3. Regular Fasting and Praying Conventions were organised in some of the substations.
4. Whole night prayers were encouraged and some parishes conducted them with good response.
5. Number of the faithful receiving baptisms this year was 869 in our parishes. We blessed all the houses





twice this year during Christmas and Easter.

6. We had regular family rosaries. Legion of Mary groups gathered in good number for regular rosaries in the main centres also. The number of the legion of Mary groups also increased.

7. During this covid, on number of occasions the poor were distributed food and grocery.

8. Legion of Mary, Lay associates and the faithful visited hospitals, home for the aged during this year.

9. New churches are built and renovation of the old churches was done.

10. Continuous administration of various sacraments especially communion to the sick was efficiently carried out.

11. Regularly the priests visited the sick.

12. Three days, whole day Lenten convention at Parish was grandly accomplished with daily one time meal.

13. Conventions for two to three days were conducted in many parishes.

14. Rectification of the marriages in good number was done in many of our parishes.

15. A new presbytery was built in Pamidi, Kurnool Diocese and the construction of two parish churches was begun.

16. A new parish in the diocese of Srikakulam, Tekkalipatnam once a parish under our care is taken over by us.

17. Our missions were equipped with vehicles and means of conveyance.

18. Better infrastructure is provided in our houses.

### Challenges

In the initial days, it was a big challenge to implement the goals of the Year of Missions. Because of the corona, many were unwilling to come out to participate in any spiritual activities and charity works but as the time passed by there was good news that the corona variant is very weak and could not much affect the people. So, people started responding to the Parish Priests regarding the activities that we have mentioned above. Almost for 8 months the year of missions was a grand good success. It taught us in spite of the Pandemic or any other difficulty we can continue to look at ALL the means at our disposal to attract people to Christ and His message of peace and love for all of humankind.





## GUWAHATI PROVINCE

Along with the Congregation, the Guwahati Province too inaugurated the year of Mission 2021-2022, on May 23, 2021, the Pentecost Sunday. The pandemic Covid-19 could not dampen our spirit of having a spiritually enriching programme. The highlights of the online programme were the inspiring inaugural talk given by Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal, Provincial of South West India Province, on 'Mission,' and the address and the declaration of the beginning of the year of mission in Guwahati Province by Rev. Fr Sabu Francis, Provincial.

Based on the proposals from the Mission Secretariat, the province having gone through various discussions and deliberations, came up with action plans at various levels; as a Province, as communities and as individual confreres. And most of these proposals have been effectively carried out up to date.

A special circular was brought out in the month of July focusing on mission as proposed by Superior General, and also focusing the action plans at various levels; as a Province, as communities and as individual confreres. The prayer was printed and given to each



communities. A small flex was printed and was distributed to be displayed at a prominent place in the communities announcing the year of mission. The Prayer for the Missions 2021, was circulated to every community and was instructed to be prayed during community prayers. Every day special prayers were offered for a community of the Congregation. We had displayed the logo and objectives of the year of missions in some common places of the Provincial House. Set apart time for adoration and other devotional prayers, praying for missionaries and the mission. Online seminars were conducted by different forums on the occasion of the year of mission. On January 30, 2022 the Social and Innovative forum conducted a webinar on "Use and Abuse of Media", on March 26, 2022 the Mission forum conducted a webinar on "Challenges and Opportunities of Evangelization, on April 19, 2022 Formation Forum



conducted a Webinar on New book IV of the Code of Canon Law respectively. Every parish has planned out a pilgrimage to SFS Shrine, Narengi, but could not materialize due to the pandemic. One such first organized pilgrimage to St Francis de Sales Shrine, Narengi, was held on March 24, 2021. It was attended by Seminarians, Aspirants, Postulants and Novices belonging to different congregations in the Archdiocese of Guwahati. Leaflets on SFS in different languages were prepared to be distributed among the people. A few Parish Mission preaching programmes were conducted in Khasi and Garo parishes. First one was held from March 25 and 26 in

Mawryngkneng Village. St Francis de Sales Parish, Nongalbibra, organized a-four-day parish mission programme, from April 13 to 16, 2021. This was the first organized Parish Mission Preaching programme in Garo Hills. These were the first ever PMP programmes of the Province. Linguistic Parish Mission Preaching Teams are formed for renewal and faith formation of mission stations.



Extended educational financial help to 5 best Catholic students besides the helps now in practice. As part of the Plan we have built a House for one of the supporting staff of MSFS Provincialate Narengi, and it was inaugurated by Rev Fr Abraham Vettuvellil.





## PUNE PROVINCE

The Year of Mission was inaugurated on the feast of Pentecost, June 10, 2021 by Bishop Thomas Dabre, Bishop of Poona. The year was inaugurated in all the parishes with a solemn Eucharistic celebration with the theme "I want missions".

At the personal level, almost all priests drew up their personal plan for renewal by studying the lives of St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Peter Marie Mermier. Our life witness of holiness is important to inspire the parishioners to greater apostolic zeal. As priests we have grown in love of Jesus and give joyful witness to our people through our pastoral ministry. We have deepened our love for Jesus through Fransalian spirituality and the call to 'Live Jesus'.

During the Year of Mission, in our parishes we conducted missions in our churches, chapels and neighboring parishes through powerful proclamation of the Word of God in the spirit of St Francis de Sales. Movies were screened for the people. Monthly Bible study undertaken help the people grow in personal sanctification. The people were encouraged to memorize and learn by heart quotations from the Bible. As a result, they have grown in their love for the Word of God, the Bible. A Gospel quiz based on the mission of Jesus and the apostles was conducted for the Sunday School.

Efforts were made by parish teams to strengthen samudais (Small Christian Communities). Parish Priests took the initiative to spread the Good News and the saying of St. Francis de Sales through social media like WhatsApp. We also conducted formation sessions for the laity to empower them to contribute towards parish activities. Parish Pastoral Council (PPC) meetings sought to have

greater participation from the laity. Monthly Night Vigils were conducted to pray for the needs of the Church and for good vocations especially to our Congregation. Parishioners were invited to become lay associates and to witness to the cause for canonization of our Founder, Fr. Mermier. One lady gave her witness to his cause.

In the season of Lent, the Way of the Cross was conducted for the people and youth at Karjat hills and Vasai. Retreats were also conducted for the youth, families and couples.

At Christmas, a family meal was organized in the parish. The inaugural speech focused on St. Francis de Sales. A Christmas get together was organized for people of other religious traditions to promote communal harmony and spread the Good News. At Christmas, the parish Fathers visited families in the parish, irrespective of their religious tradition.



During the Year of Mission, the parishioners were encouraged to reach out to those families in need especially during the pandemic. The Parish Fathers also visited the sick on a regular basis. Ration was given to the poor, irrespective of religion, from the parish funds. Parishioners whose houses had collapsed during the floods were assisted to rebuild their homes.

We thank God for calling us to be Fransalians. We have, to the best of our ability, tried to personally celebrate the Year of Mission by personal renewal and the witness of our lives and also through the activities in the parish. To end the Year of Missions in our parishes, early next month, we shall have a solemn Eucharistic celebration. LIVE JESUS



# SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE

As God-given opportunity for us to revamp the depth of our commitment to the mission of God the South-West India province in the year of missions have taken up various programs. A few are ongoing and some completed.

## Province level:

1. A series of 12 recollections are organized, which would take place on every first Friday of the month, with specific talk related to our Mission, followed by reflection and Adoration. All the communities take part in it.
2. We resolve to take up a New Parishes to mark this special year of the Missions- the following parishes are taken up.

### a) Bangalore Archdiocese

- Our Lady of Compassion Church, Mulbagal.



- Nithyadhara Mathe Church, Srinivaspura.
- Holy Rosary Church, Bidadi.
- St. Joseph Church Chintamani construction was completed and blessed on 10 October 2021. The church at Chintamani is raised to the status of a pilgrimage center.
- SFS Parish Church Savanur, foundation stone laid on 8 September 2021.

## b) Mysuru Diocese

- Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Polibetta, South – Coorg.

3. In the year of Mission we organize the ordination of Dn Subin Palamattathil in OLS Parish, Hebbagodi.

### Community Level:

- We pray every day for the success of the Year of Missions in our communities: Prayer is printed on a card form for the longer use.
- We offer Holy Mass in honor of St Joseph on every Wednesday and celebrate one Mass in honor of the Holy Family every month.



- Many communities displayed the Logo of the Year of Mission.
- On Gandhi Jayanthi schools observed environment day focusing on the year of the missions.
- Many of the community and personal programs are ongoing and we are at it.

**Seven Minutes with the Servant of God** is a good initiative. They were with many insights and reflections. Collaboration from various congregations also was good. Could not remain just to the topic 'Seven Minutes' as talks were longer.





## EAST AFRICA PROVINCE

The Year of Missions celebrated in the Global family of MSFS, marked also Silver Jubilee Year of the MSFS East Africa Province (1996 - 2021). There were many spiritual and pastoral activities planned at personal, community, parish and province levels to celebrate the Year of Missions and to mark the silver jubilee celebrations.

Some of such major activities included committing ourselves to take up some new parishes in the territory of East Africa. Today when we look at the several parishes run by the MSFS in East Africa it is noteworthy that most of these parishes were tiny outstations when they were entrusted to the MSFS.

Some of the major events during the

Year of Missions included but were not limited to:

### **Meeting of Friends of St Francis de Sales:**

In the Year of Missions, the Alumni Association of St Francis de Sales Junior Seminary in Morogoro had their annual meeting held from 25th - 27th November 2021 at Singida Cathedral, Tanzania. Among the participants were also priests who belonged to other congregations in the dioceses. Fr. Zachariah Burofero MSFS gave input on the relevance and importance of the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales.

### **Opening of the St. Francis de Sales Parish Lukobe, Diocese of Morogoro, Tanzania:**

This parish was inaugurated by Rt. Rev. Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe SDS, the Bishop of Morogoro diocese on November 21, 2021. Lukobe mission is very much intertwined with the history of the MSFS presence in Morogoro. From the time, when Fr. Augustine Mangatt MSFS stepped into the diocese or Morogoro three decades ago, many confreres have rendered their services in this mission. A new Fransalian Community was established on March 12, 2022. Fr. Sunny Mattathil and Fr. Simon Nabende MSFS are the confreres now serving this parish.



## **Blessing of St. Francis de Sales Church Ibihwa Parish, Archdiocese of Dodoma, Tanzania**

On February 20, 2022 Most Rev. Bishop Stephen Lameck Musomba OSA, the Auxiliary Bishop of Dar es Salaam blessed the newly constructed parish church. In the presence of the large number of people, the bishop confirmed more than 50 candidates for Confirmation. The bishop congratulated and appreciated the presence of MSFS. At present Fr. Sebastian Anthonysamy and Fr. Joseph Ambongo do serve in this mission.



## **Opening of St. Francis de Sales Kalagala Parish, Diocese of Lugazi, Uganda**

It was on February 20, 2022, Most Rev. Christopher Kakooza, the Bishop of Lugazi raised Kalagala sub Parish to become a full-fledged parish. The Parish is named under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales. Fr. Jose Eriyanickal was installed as the parish priest. Kalagala sub-parish was part of Malongwe Parish. At the moment the parish has ten substations within a radius of 20 km.



## **Blessing of the Presbytery at Kalamira, Diocese of Jinja, Uganda**

On March 19, 2022, Rev. Dr Charles Martin Wamike the Bishop of Jinja in Uganda made his pastoral visit to St. Francis de Sales Parish and blessed the newly constructed presbytery. On this day, the bishop administered the sacrament of confirmation to 168 candidates. On the same day, the bishop welcomed SMI sisters into the parish and installed Fr. Sunny Thomas Vettickal as the parish priest and Fr. Dennis Dindi as the assistant.



## **Blessing of the Presbytery in Kikunde, Archdiocese of Arusha, Tanzania**

The newly constructed presbytery in the St. Francis de Sales Parish Kikunde was blessed on August 15, 2021, by his Lordship Prosper Lymo the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Arusha. At present Fr. Patrick and Fr. Lubega are serving this parish.







## USA VICE-PROVINCE

In compliance with the Congregational celebration of the Year of Missions from Divine Mercy Sunday 2021 to 2022, the USA Vice-Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales conducted various activities and programs throughout the year in different locations in the Vice-Province. A formal inauguration and celebrations were held in the Provincial House on Tuesday, April 27, 2021 with the Eucharistic celebration. Fr. Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil, MSFS, the Vice-Provincial Superior, was the



main celebrant, and all the local community members concelebrated with him. After the Mass, a display board of the Action Plan was formally installed in the sitting room of the Fransalian House with a lighted lamp reminding everyone as Missionaries that we are called to be the light of the world by dispelling darkness and bringing positive energy and outlook by alleviating poverty, ignorance, poor quality of life, domination, subjugation, and oppression in the mission field even though the Fransalian Missionaries working in the US can only be present spiritually and emotionally. That is how the Fransalians become Missionaries beyond the mission field by having the heart of Jesus, the first missionary to this world.

After the solemn inauguration, dinner was served for all the priests from the neighboring parishes and some Fransalian Associates from the Atlanta area, and thereby, we officially declared the Year of Missions opened for the USA Vice-Province.

For the Year of Missions, we divided the action plan into four categories:

1. For the Vice-Province
2. For the Local Communities
3. For the Individual Confreres
4. For the Fransalian Associates of the USA-Province

The detailed action plan is given below.

### **As the USA Vice-Province:**

1. Unveiled the Mission Logo and displayed it with a lighted lamp in the Provincial House during the entire Year of Missions and prayed for the Fransalian Missionaries worldwide.
2. Held Special Mass intentions for the living and the deceased Fransalian missionaries.
3. Displayed the Logo of the Year of Missions in prominent places in our houses and communities.
4. Encouraged the Fransalian Confreres to take up classes, discussions, and dialogues in their local parishes about the Year of Mission, families, and devotion to St. Joseph.
5. Promoted Parish Mission Preaching (PMP) in our parishes and encouraged our Confreres in the US to be equipped for PMP Ministry.
6. Initiated Fransalian Associate Local Units in several parishes in different states.
7. Disseminated Salesian spirituality and our Mission through our homilies, writings, conversations, and mass media.
8. Promoted vocation to the priesthood and religious life in the Vice-Province by establishing a Fransalian Vocation Council in Atlanta, Georgia.
9. Supported overseas Missionary activities of our Confreres with financial support.

### **As Local Communities:**

1. Prayed the special prayer for the Year of Missions daily.
2. Offered Holy Mass in honor of St. Joseph monthly.
3. Strengthened the community members' mutual relationship through frequent interactions and visits.

### **As Individual Confreres:**

1. Prayed the special Prayer for the Year of Mission and our daily prayers.
2. Reminded ourselves that we are Missionaries by profession, irrespective of the country and culture we serve.
3. Made personal sacrifices from our pocket money to support overseas Missions of the Fransalians.
4. Preached and taught our Congregation's missions and missionary activities from the pulpit and other forums.

5. Talked to several people from our parish/friends throughout the year about Fransalian Mission and Ministry.

### **As the Fransalian Associates of the USA Vice-Province:**

1. Prayed the special Prayer for Missions every day and offered prayers for our Missions.
2. Financially supported the missionary activities of the Fransalians overseas by making some personal sacrifices and modifications.
3. Offered our hardships, difficulties, and challenges daily for the Mission and the Missionaries overseas.
4. Fransalian Associates prepared themselves for their ministry of passion within the structure of Fransalian Charism and Apostolate when they became consecrated members on January 24, 2022, on the Feast Day of St. Francis de Sales.
5. The most exciting achievement of the USA Vice-Province was the first time consecration of 36 Fransalian Associates in the USA Vice-Province, which is the first act of consecration of Fransalian Associates in the entire Congregation.

The impact of this special call of the Year of Missions was a wake-up call reminding all of us that we are missionaries by Baptism and profession, irrespective of the country and culture where we serve. Our orientation and focus should always remain as missionaries, especially as Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales following the spirituality of the Gentleman Saint.

**Man proposes and God disposes. We are in the hands of God. He is a good Father. We can be better nowhere else than in the arms of divine will. I say, therefore: May this most holy and most lovable will be done.**

**Servant of God Fr. Peter Marie Mermier.  
Founder of the Congregation of the Missionaries  
of St. Francis de Sales and the Co-Founder of  
the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod.**

**Letter to Fr. Cheminal. January 29, 1843**

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# Know Our Missions

*In this issue we would like to introduce to you one of the challenging MSFS Missions in Northern Namibia namely St. Teresa of Child Jesus Roman Catholic Mission, Ongha, Ohangwena region.*

## **St. Teresa of Child Jesus Roman Catholic Mission Ongha**

The MSFS pioneers from India arrived in Namibia in the year 1998 at the invitation of the then bishop of Keetmanshoop to work in his diocese in the south of Namibia. In 2002 the missionaries were also invited by the Archbishop of Windhoek Rt. Rev. Bonifatius Hausiku to work in his archdiocese and to take up the new mission in Ongha in the Ohangwena Region of Northern Namibia. Till we took up this mission, it was a substation of Okathana pastoral region which is 60kms away from Ongha. So in 2002 two MSFS priests namely Frs. Lukose Perumannikkala and Baiju Mundakal were appointed as the parish priest and assistant respectively and took up residence here. Till date the MSFS fathers continue to render the pastoral and spiritual care of the people entrusted to our care.

This mission is situated in the north western part of Namibia



sharing the boarder with Angola the neighbouring country. The people of this area belong to a tribe called Kwanyama a subsidiary of Owambo tribe. They speak their tribal dialect namely Oshikwanyama. The economic condition of the people is generally very poor due to unfertile land and due to lack of sufficient rainfall. It is a semi-arid region of Namibia, people are mostly herdsmen and agriculturists. Ongha Catholic mission is large with 18 Outstation Churches far in the villages (in the bush). We have more than 10300 Catholics spread around in these 18 outstation communities. Once a month we reach out to all this communities to offer holy mass and other spiritual help and sacraments. We have a working knowledge of the local language



and conduct the pastoral, spiritual and social activities without any difficulty.

Our Primary Apostolates here are regular pastoral ministry, family apostolate preaching ministry, youth animation, catechesis and faith formation of all age groups of people. We also reach out to the poor and marginalised through social service. Besides the afore mentioned apostolates we render our services to the hospitals and homes visiting the sick, assisting the school dropouts and poor children to continue their education, helping the youth and women with self- help projects etc. Finally, as a congregation inspired by the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and following the courageous examples of our holy Founder Father Mermier, we also have programmes for fostering prayer and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales.



[ongharc@gmail.com](mailto:ongharc@gmail.com)



**Fr. Mamalassery  
Jose MSFS,  
Associate Priest**



**Fr. Plakoottathil  
Sanish MSFS,  
Parish Priest**

# A bird's eye view of the Ongha Mission

1. Full name of the parish: St. Teresa of child Jesus Roman Catholic Mission Ongha.
2. Name of the diocese: Archdiocese of Windhoek, Namibia
3. Country: Namibia
4. Area of the parish: 60 Kms Radius
5. Total population of the area: Ohangwena region. Population 245446
6. Number of Catholics: 10300
7. Number of substations: 18
8. Distance to the farthest substation from parish center: 60kms
9. Distance to the nearest MSFS community: 725 kms
10. Distance from Diocesan center to Parish 735kms
11. Local language spoken in the area: Oshikwanyama
12. Number of baptism during last one year: 171
13. Number of marriages during last one year: 20
14. Number of Priests serving in this parish : 2
15. Number of Catechists in this parish : Every community has one
16. Women religious in parish: Two Ccongregations namely Benedictines of Tutzing and Missionary Sisters of Immaculate Conception



**Namibia is one of the least densely populated nations in the world, with just 3 persons per sq.km.**

# OUR REVERENTIAL HOMAGE



## Fr. Emile MAYORAZ MSFS

(MARCH 1, 1928 - JAN 30, 2022)

**Superior General of the MSFS Congregation (1977 – 2001)**

**Fr. Emile MAYORAZ MSFS** after completing his earthly mission, has returned with honor to our heavenly home. We miss him. His wisdom and goodness have blessed the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and several others for many years. He steered the Congregation as its 12<sup>th</sup> Superior General at a challenging time after Vatican II. Faced with challenges from within and without the Congregation, he did not pull back but rather stepped up to handle the situation with a new purpose and vision for the Congregation. He touched the lives of many people from all walks of life. For the MSFS, his leadership as the Superior General for 24 years was an

encouraging sign of hope. He was a man with no guile. He was an extraordinarily humble spiritual leader who lived the spirit of servant leadership.

*Dear Father Emile, You are in our hearts! You will not be forgotten! You embodied the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and the missionary courage of Father Peter Mermier. You encouraged the progress and expansion of missions beyond the boundaries. As a leader, you listened to us with paternal and maternal concern. As our elder brother you were always friendly and approachable. We seek your heavenly intercession for us your missionary children.*





# **M**EN FOR **S**ERVICE **F**IRM AND **S**TEADFAST

**Our congregation has again extended its presence  
to two new dioceses.**

## **Diocese of Mzuzu in Malawi, Africa**

Ever since MSFS landed in Karonga, Malawi, it was a long-cherished dream of our confreres in Malawi to extend our presence to the neighbouring diocese of Mzuzu. It was realized on May 14, 2022.

The Catholic Mission Edingeni, Mzuzu Diocese, Malawi was established in the year 1962 by the Patrician Missionaries. After fifty years Edingeni mission was raised to a parish on May 14, 2022 by Rt. Rev. Dr. John Ryan, the Bishop of Mzuzu.

The new parish is under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales. The event was witnessed by the auspicious presence of the Paramount Chief of Mzimba, former Vice President of Malawi and the

local member of the Parliament, Fr. J Stephen one of the General councillors, Fr Igancimuthu the Provincial of South East India Province, Fr. Wilson Sahaya MSFS, the Provincial Bursar and several priests and religious and a large number of faithful. Fr S. Susairaj MSFS was installed the first parish priest and Fr. Sebastian Robert MSFS the Curate. The total population of Catholic faithful is 15000 spread in four zones and in 25 Substations.

*During the last four years, The Lord has blessed the MSFS Malawi Mission with four parishes in two Dioceses namely Karonga and Mzuzu. Our sincere congratulations to our confreres who have initiated this.*



# Archdiocese of Arequipa, PERÚ



On the 6th of May 2022, we, the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales of Pune Province, were overwhelmed with joy and filled with God's blessings to launch out on another pioneering mission in collaboration with the Franco-Suisse Province in the Archdiocese of Arequipa, Peru, to proclaim the good news of our Lord Jesus Christ in the footsteps of our Patron St. Francis de Sales and Founder Fr. Peter Mermier under the Patronage of our Lady of Sorrows.

The Pioneering team consisting of Fr Maria Anand Pathi Lourdu Samy MSFS, Fr Marco Sanhueza MSFS of Franco-Suisse Province and Fr Anbarasu Anthony MSFS were officially installed in the Parish on May 22, 2022 by Most Rev. Javier Augusto Del Rio Alba, the Archbishop of Arequipa and the Parish of San Isidro Labrador De La Curva was entrusted to the pastoral care of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in the presence of a large gathering of the faithful.



The catholic community is consisting of over five thousand Catholic faithful. Our immediate mission involves in building a vibrant Catholic Community of faith and love through re-evangelization and faith formation in the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales amidst the influence of the various denominations.

The dream of Peru Mission was realized through the constant guidance and encouragement of our beloved Superior General Very Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS and the Assistant Superior General Rev. Fr. Yves Carron MSFS and the General Councillor Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukkil MSFS along with the General Administration and Fr. Jayaseelan Selvaraj MSFS, the Provincial of Pune Province and his Curia.

We gratefully acknowledge the support of Rev. Fr. Jean-Yves Le Tue' the Provincial of Franco-Suisse Province and Fr. Samuel Devaraj the Provincial Bursar for facilitating this smooth collaboration. We seek your prayers and blessings upon this new MSFS mission of Peru.



# Qualities required for a Missionary today

## Inspirations from St. Francis de Sales

### Missionary with Patience

We often see people who have given up in their life and live a very disappointed and dissatisfied life. Very often this is caused by the absence of the virtue of patience.

Says St. Francis de Sales; "It is man's greatest happiness to possess his own soul, Philothea, and the more perfect our patience, the more completely do we possess our souls."<sup>1</sup> The outstanding virtue during the passion of our Lord is his patience. The sufferings that come to the life of a person is the test of his patience. The more capable he is to endure the suffering, the more patient he becomes.



Fr. Johnson Pathiyil MSFS

Our Lord endured all the suffering and afflictions with utmost patience. No one who tortured him could see a negative reaction from Him. He kept his calm and remained unmoved by the blows of the soldiers and the insults of the crowd. Every act of violence he endured with patience. The thief hanging on the left, abused him, provoked him to show his power as the son of God. The excruciating pain of the nails in his hands and feet and the piercing pain of the crown of thorns could not destroy his patience. That's how our Saviour won salvation for the whole sinful mankind.

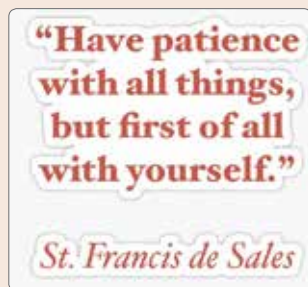
Our Lord's Patience was in its highest degree. But it is not for an ordinary Christian to follow. And no one will be given that degree of pain and no one can bear patiently such an excruciating suffering and affliction. But every child of God is given various opportunities to practice the virtue of patience. However, there could be also temptations for them to choose what to suffer. Francis de Sales urges the Christians not to be selective in their patience to particular injury or affliction. According to him, some wait only for honourable occasions to suffer such as for the religious persecution or being caught as prisoner of war. They are in the danger of loving the honour that goes along the suffering but not the sufferings and tribulations themselves.

PATIENCE IS NOT  
THE ABILITY TO WAIT,  
BUT THE ABILITY TO  
KEEP A GOOD ATTITUDE  
WHILE WAITING.

If you have a glance at the life of Francis de Sales, you would be surprised that he was a champion of patience. The

success of his mission in Chablais was primarily the fruit of his patient endurance for the four years in that land torn down by the hatred and the violence of the Huguenots. The first sermon he preached on September 18, 1594 in Chablais was like a thunderbolt to the Protestant ministers. It aroused the fury of the people who were ready to stone him. But later he avoided the attacking tone in his sermons and focused on teaching them the Catholic faith. This approach made him a peace-loving preacher and thus, he made the situation more amicable. Still the resistance from the part of the authorities was strong. "We are absolutely determined to work without ceasing in any way, to leave no stone unturned, to implore, to reprove with as much patience and science as will give us."<sup>2</sup> Were he not patient enough, the mission in Chablais would have become one of the greatest failures for the Catholics in Geneva, and this also would have ruined the future of Francis de Sales.

The mission in Chablais was not a sweet cake to be swallowed. They had to walk everyday six miles to Thonon and back to Allinges the same distance. The indifference of the Huguenots coupled with their antagonistic approach was really disheartening. But he never gave up his zeal for the souls. His burning heart, full of love for the souls, brought warmth of God's grace on the people that were living with a frigid heart. It was only after one year of toil that he could see some signs of hope in his mission.



Patience is a virtue most important in our life as missionaries. There are no easy ways as it is vivid in the teachings of the Bible as well as from the life example of the saints. The following quotation from Francis de Sales is something inspiring for each of us. "When any evil happens to you, apply whatever remedies you can and do this in a way agreeable to God... having done this, wait with resignation, wait for the results it may please God to send. If it is his will that the remedies overcome the evil, then humbly return him thanks. If

it is his will that the evils overcome the remedies, then bless him with patience."<sup>3</sup>

Let us follow the example of our patron St. Francis de Sales to practice the virtue of patience that our patient endurance may bring glory to God.

- 
1. St. Francis de Sales, *Introduction to the Devout Life*, trans. John K. Ryan (New York: Image Books, 2014).117.
  2. E.J. Lajeunie, *Saint Francis de Sales: The Man, the Thinker, His Influence*, trans. Rory O.S.F.S O'Sullivan, vol. 1 (Bangalore: S. F. S. Publications, 1987). 190.
  3. Sales, *Introduction to the Devout Life*.118.

# Our holy Founder Servant of God Father Peter Marie Mermier wrote on the **Spirit of St. Francis de Sales**

The name of the amiable St. Francis de Sales is so renowned. Wherever he is known, his luminous writings full of the fire of divine love which was consuming him are so widespread and so esteemed. His memory and his cult are so universally held in honour that all the faithful children of the Catholic Church who honour the cult of the saints and in particular that of St. Francis de Sales, the Bishop of Geneva, the glorious apostle of Chablais, all will be happy to learn that a Congregation under the title, "the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales," is coming into existence in Savoy. The philanthropists themselves, the so-called friends of humanity and perhaps also, many among the Protestants would praise this undertaking.

If not because it is a work of religion, it will be because of the homage and the tribute of gratitude

which we pay through this institution to the virtue of a man who was the greatest friend of his fellow men and the most sensitive to all their distress.



The house of the Congregation is at Annecy close to the tomb and relics of its illustrious and glorious protector patron. It is from there, as from a centre, that the Congregation hopes to extend itself in the diocese even further if it pleases the sovereign Master of the Harvest to bless it and give it growth.

*The Spirit of St. Francis de Sales  
The Name and the Memory of St.  
Francis de Sales*

***Memoir of 1839, title VIII***

**A moment of patience in  
a moment of anger saves  
a thousand moments of  
regret.**

# Firewood for the Lord?

*Silver or gold I do not have,  
but what I do have I give you.  
(ref. Act 3:6)*



You may wonder, why this woman is carrying firewood. She brought it as offering for the Mass in our parish in Kalamira, Jinja Uganda. It may look silly, but it means a lot to her and to the Lord. She gives not from her abundance, but from the goodness of her heart.

For they gave a tiny part of their surplus, but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on." (Mk. 12:44).

The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." (1Samuel 16:7)



**With Fr. Sunny Vettickal MSFS,  
The parish priest**

## **Prayer of St. Francis de Sales**

**“Lord, I am Yours,**

*and I must belong to no one but You.*

**My soul is Yours,**

*and must live only by You.*

**My will is Yours,**

*and must love only for You.*

**I must love You as my first cause,**

*since I am from You.*

**I must love You as my end and rest,**

*since I am for You.*

**I must love You more than my own being,**

*since my being subsists by You.*

**I must love You more than myself,**

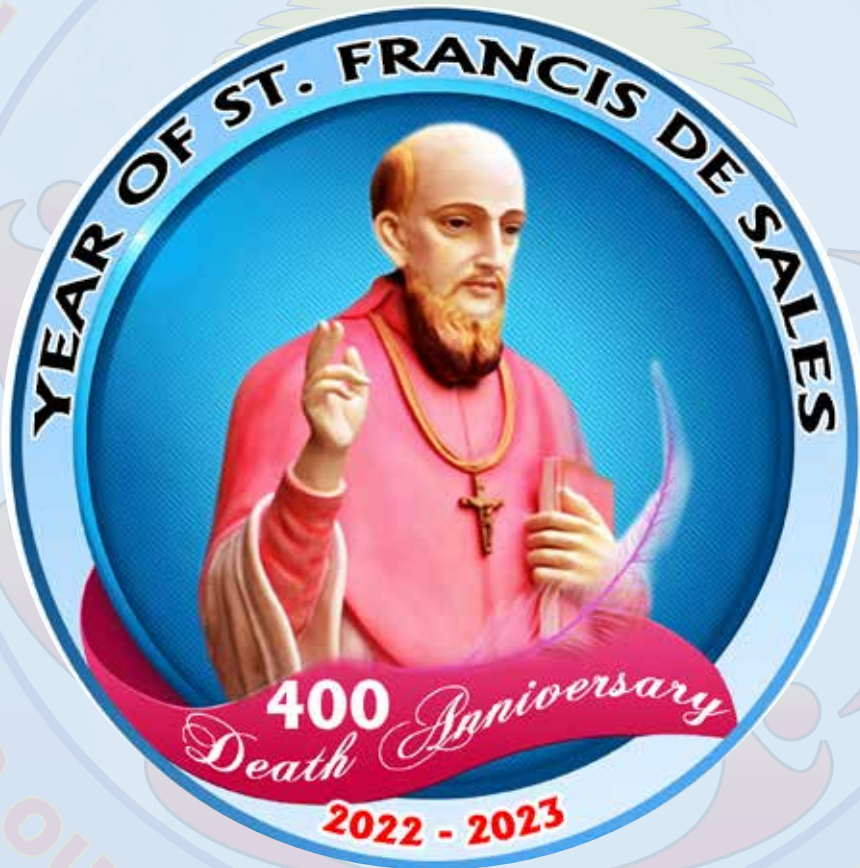
*since I am all Yours and all in You.*

**Amen.”**



**I want Missions** is the global missionary bulletin of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales - Fransalians, published in June and December every year. It is meant for free distribution for all those who are interested in the mission of Jesus Christ. If you wish to have copies please contact us via:

**email: [iwantmissions@gmail.com](mailto:iwantmissions@gmail.com)**



It is a fact that people are always well aware of what is due to them. Unfortunately, they remain oblivious of what they owe to others.

***St. Francis de Sales***