

Vol 4

No. 1

Issue 7

June 2023



# MISSIONS



MISSIONARY INSPIRATIONS, ASPIRATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FRANSALIANS

*Excuse Me!  
Are  
you  
God's wife?*

*Read the story in Editorial*

I have called you by name, you are mine. (Is.43:1)

Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales – Global Mission Bulletin



# We ARE Missionnaires sans frontières



# TABLE OF CONTENTS



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**Published by:**

MSFS General Secretariat for the Mission

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Editorial .....	4
IIS At the Mission of the Church .....	6
Homage to Fr. Abba MSFS .....	9
Inspiration: St. Francis de Sales .....	14
Nalam: Healing Ministry.....	17
Appeal from Zimbabwe .....	21
Formation for the Mission .....	24
Know our missions .....	27
DeSIFMA – for the Mission.....	30
MSAF Annual Meeting .....	35
We are needed in Lucera, Italy .....	36
PMP reminders .....	37
Sky is our limit .....	38
MDO – Thanks and Welcome .....	39
Smile Please, it is your mission.....	40



Don't get upset with your imperfections. It's a great mistake because it leads nowhere - to get angry because you are angry, upset at being upset, depressed at being depressed, disappointed because you are disappointed. So don't fool yourself. Simply surrender to the Power of God's Love, which is always greater than our weakness.

St. Francis de Sales

## *Excuse Me! Are you God's wife?*



New York City: It's a cold day in December. A little boy about 10-year-old was standing before a shoe store on Broadway, barefooted, peering through the window, and shivering with cold. A lady approached the boy and said, "My little fellow, why are you looking so earnestly in that window?"

"I was asking God to give me a pair of shoes," was the boy's reply.

The lady took him by the hand and went into the store, and asked the clerk to get a half dozen pairs of socks for the boy. She then asked if he could give her a basin of water and a towel. He quickly brought them to her. She took the little fellow to the back part of the store and, removing her gloves, knelt down, washed his little feet, and dried them with a towel.

By this time the clerk had returned with the socks. Placing a pair upon the boy's feet, she then purchased him a pair of shoes, and tying up the remaining pairs of socks, gave them to him. She patted him on the head and said, "No doubt, my little fellow, you feel more comfortable now?"

As she turned to go, the astonished lad caught her by the hand, and looking up in her face, with tears in his eyes, answered the question with these words: *"Excuse Me! Are you God's wife?"*

**Dear reader, Shalom! Diverse are our ministries. But our mission is to be God's someone or something to the other. Are you God's wife? God's brother or sister? God's voice? God's love? God's compassion? God's wisdom? No matter what we do, but when we do it with the divine touch we become God's someone, God's something to the OTHER.**

*Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS*

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*General Secretary for the Mission*



**For whoever does the will of God,  
this is My brother, and sister,  
and mother.” Mk. 3: 35**



# INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SPIRITUALITY

## Bangalore, India

### Serving the Global Mission of the Church

**Indian Institute of Spirituality (IIS)** is a center envisaged for those seekers who wish to experience spiritual enlightenment by delving deep into the spiritual heritage of religions, cultures and traditions all over the world. The Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales owns and administers IIS, which was established in the year 1989 through the daring initiative of Rev Dr Antony Kolencherry MSFS.

Indian Institute of Spirituality aims to promote serious study and research in

the spiritualities of the East and West to bring about personal integration and holistic maturity in the lives of people on various levels such as spiritual, religious, psychological, physical, emotional and social. IIS follows an integrated approach to Spirituality. The institute fosters harmony of Devotion, Knowledge and Action. While striving hard to excel in serious study and research, every student is encouraged to do his or her best to excel in the realization of the harmony of loving devotion, wisdom and activity in a spirit of selfless service and covenantal love.





It is heartening and amazing to note that an institute that began its journey with eight students in the year 1991 has made great strides in all spheres of academic and spiritual life and trained more than 2,500 persons for the ministry of the Church and society till date. The programs of the Institute consist of Diploma in Spiritual Theology, Master's in Spiritual Theology and Doctorate in Spiritual Theology. **Indian Institute of Spirituality is incorporated to St Peter's Pontifical Institute.** It means that the department of Spiritual Theology of St Peter's Pontifical Institute is managed by the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales (MSFS).

**Diploma in Spiritual Theology** is aimed at the formation of the Religious Sisters who are primarily preparing for the Final Profession. At the same time the beneficiaries

of this program include those interested in self-formation as well as the formation of others. During the period of their training, the Sisters are well accompanied with spiritual animation programs, community living, Academic inputs, personal and common counseling programs and cultural and social immersion programs. It is a residential program with all the necessary facilities provided for the growth of every individual student.

**Licentiate in Spiritual Theology** helps those students who are in the field of Formation, Spiritual Direction, Renewal Programs and Personal Renewal. It is a serious academic program integrated with practical and spiritual orientation. Regular curriculum of the Licentiate consists of Lectures by professors of international repute, Memorial Lectures, Inter-religious Dialogue, research works and presentation of papers and culminates with the defense of a research thesis and comprehensive examinations. This program also consists of Study tour programs to some of the ancient spiritual centers of India. Students who qualify in this field will be able to pursue further studies in universities all over the world.

**Doctorate in Spiritual Theology** is oriented to assist the students to make personal contribution to scientific and theological research through the writing of a dissertation, which is to be accomplished under the guidance of a competent professor. The researcher study in depth and specialize in one



specific area of Spiritual Theology without neglecting the over-all comprehension and mastery of the vast field of Spirituality.

**Indian Institute of Spirituality** draws its inspiration for the Apostolate of Education from the Founder of the

Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, venerable Fr Peter Mermier, who said that **Education of the Heart is the Heart of Education**. IIS endeavors to promote studies and research in spiritualities of the East and the West with the aim of the enlightenment of mind and heart. The goal of IIS is to encourage transparent and creative thinking, following the teachings of the Church and the dictates of the Gospel, in the context of the Indian religious and spiritual traditions, conducive to an experience of the Supreme Truth through selfless service and loving commitment.

Fr Benny Grigoriose Koottanal MSFS

**Director. Indian Institute of Spirituality**

<https://www.iispirituality.org>



**More than three decades have passed since the inception of IIS and more than 2,500 persons passed through IIS attending various programs.**



# Our beloved Father Abba is gone to the heavenly

## ABBA FATHER !

Dear Readers of *I want Missions*,

I would like to share with you about the treasure that God has taken away from us in the person of Rev. Fr Abba M'TOUDJIEL MSFS. His unfortunate and untimely death was a shocking news for all of us. Fr. Abba left from his earthly abode to his heavenly dwelling place at the age of 33. Our hearts have been heavy ever since we were told that M'TOUDJIEL ABBA had an accident. We are all the more saddened by the passing away of this young priest from Chad on April 15, 2023. Fr Abba was the second Chadian priest in the MSFS Congregation. He had only been a priest for 76 days. He was a God-given treasure for us. Now the giver himself has taken away what belonged to him!

### The fatal accident

On April 13, 2023, around 10.30 pm, we received the shocking and extremely sad news of the accident of Fr Abba. He was on his way to Moundou from Doba for arranging his first Mass in his native village. He was ordained a priest on January 28, 2023 and had



not yet celebrated his first Mass in his native village. God called him to his eternal reward just after 76 days of his ordination. For the last few months fuel was not available in Chad. In the black market it costs around 4 dollars per litre. So, he preferred to travel by bike and on the way at Mbaikoro he had a fatal accident. He was brought to St Joseph Catholic hospital, at Bebedjia right away. They were only able to provide first aid assistance. The echography and scan were performed the next day. He was diagnosed with internal bleeding and many fractures following medical examinations. It was requested that he be transferred to Ndjamena immediately for an emergency procedure. Fathers Francis Ekka and Boris Nixon made the necessary arrangements for an ambulance to transport him to Ndjamena. The 600-kilometer distance and poor road conditions rendered it impossible to take him to Ndjamena by road. There was no possibility of an airlift either. So, hoping against hope he was operated in Moundou by a junior doctor. After the surgery, he succumbed to death around 11.00 p.m. on April 14, 2023.

### **A brief note on his life**

Fr. M'TOUDJIEL ABBA was born on September 11, 1990 at Tandjile, in a Catholic family of Geremie ABBA MEKONDION and Agnes MATINODJI. He has four brothers and two sisters. He joined the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales

**Fr. Abba lived as  
a priest for just  
76 days!**

(MSFS- Fransalians) in the year 2011. He did his minor seminary formation at La Feuillette - Cameroon (2011-2013). He completed his Pre-Novitiate at Ndagani, Kenya (2013), Novitiate in Kibaha, Tanzania (2013-2014), and made his first profession on July 14, 2014. He completed his philosophical studies at Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha, Tanzania in 2017 and did his regency in SFS seminary at Ngaoundere from 2017 to 2018. In 2018 he joined the Fransalian community at Fribourg in Switzerland and started his theological studies at a catholic university in Fribourg. In 2020, he returned to Cameroon and continued his theological studies in St Cyprian School of Theology (ETSC) at Ngoya. On January 28, 2023, he was ordained a Priest at Doba, Chad.

### **A Priest with Salesian Virtues**

FR M'TOUDJIEL ABBA was known to all as a friendly, jovial, and hardworking person. He was a person who always relied on the providence of God. Was a good artist and a talented tailor. He was a gifted and talented MSFS confrere. Fr. Abba stitched his vestment for his ordination. He showed a deep attachment to the Fransalian family

and radiated Salesian hospitality and warmth. We were looking forward to knowing how God would use this young priest in the congregation of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales. Now, we must all mourn his untimely departure from this world to his heavenly dwelling place. As we struggle to come to terms with this dreadful loss, our minds are being engulfed with memories, memories that remind us what a wonderful person Abba has been. We are indeed shocked and saddened by the death of Fr Abba . But for those of us who belong to the world to come, those of us who place our confidence in the Risen Lord, we know that by death, life is not destroyed but transformed.

Dear Fr Abba, we know for certain that, no words would suffice to pay our homage and gratitude to you. We raise our arms in gratitude to God for having gifted us



*Gone too Soon!!!*

with such a lovable person like you. Fr Abba, we continue to love you and you will remain forever in our hearts.

We share the grief of the Abba Family, the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, and in a special way the Gaki community and the fathers in Doba and Bero. We have lost a brother. MSFS Congregation lost a talented young priest. The Church has lost a dedicated and loyal son. At this juncture, as we are compelled to bid adieu to our beloved confrere Fr Abba, let us pray that the good Lord may grant him eternal rest.

**Funeral details**

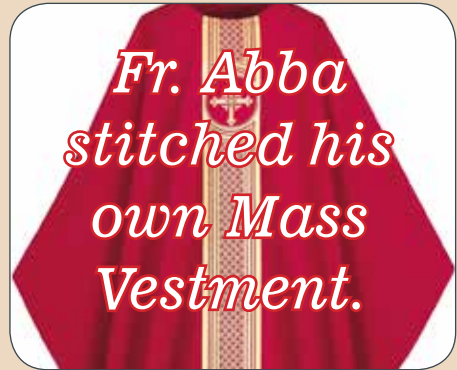
The funeral rite of Fr. Abba was attended by Rt. Rev. Matin BANI Bishop of Doba. Mgr. Jochin Bishop of

Moundou, together with 60 priests con-celebrated. During the homily and later during the messages, all the speakers enumerated the goodness of Fr. ABBA. His cheerful availability and willingness to work hard was highlighted by many. I would say, Fr. ABBA is an embodiment of goodness, sense of commitment and dedication to duty! Though he was a priest only for 76 days he could influence the lives of many. More than 5000 people were present for his burial. Bishop of Moundou made a remark that it is for the first time he is seeing such a big crowd for a burial. Presence of such a big crowd was a sign of recognition for the great service done by MSFS Congregation in this parish for the last 14 years.

### **A great loss**

We would now miss Fr Abba in our life and communities, yet we can be

***Imagine! A priest going to celebrate the First Thanksgiving Eucharist in one's home village and dying on the way!!!***



sure he is in the company of saints in heaven. Yes, dear friends, let us accept this as a reality. Let us also thank God. Yes, it is a great loss for us. Beloved Confreres and friends, I am sure you have prayed for us. Fr Abba touched the humanity by being Human-like St Francis de Sales his role model. The body was intact and his face had a serene look. Even in the coffin he remained smiling.

Let us continue to pray for the departed ones. The Bantu concept of Life is that it a circle Life leads to death and death leads to life.... The Christian concept of life is that through death life is not destroyed but transformed. This is the entire truth about our life! Let us continue to thank God for the gift of life of Fr. Abba and to each one of us.

**Fr. Manoj Arackal MSFS**  
**Delegation Superior**



## **Chad requires our prayers and support: An Appeal**

At this juncture it is worth reflecting on the importance of good governing. Though Chad is a petroleum producing country for the last one year petroleum products are not available in the open market. It is hard to believe that in even this 5Gs and Artificial Intelligence, one has to travel 600 kms by road to undergo a major operation. The conditions of the national highways are unimaginably bad. There is no possibility for an airlift. Chad as a country never knew peace from the time of its independence. Socio-economically, despite the enormous potential that abounds in the country, all analyses regularly rank Chad among the bottom three poorest nations in the world. The two sides of the Chadian economy, agriculture and animal husbandry, are not productive and competitive. It has remained in the subsistence economy. The few industries in the country, are struggling because of the appointment of officials out of complacency and mismanagement. Oil, which had raised high hopes among Chadians, is a prime example of the economic sector that has disappointed them. We dare to ask the international community to listen to the cries and the deep aspirations of the Chadian people who want to achieve their full political and economic sovereignty.



# Qualities of a Missionary Inspiration from St. Francis de Sales



Series  
No. 5

## Fransalian Missionary: A Man of the Confessional

The Church has an enormous task of healing the sick. We have all over the world numerous hospitals built, most of them highly complex and income-fetching to the different congregations within the Church. Although they were all aimed at serving the sick and the marginalized, and to bring healing and good health, unfortunately, some of them turn out to be money-making machines for the owners.

But Church has another field of healing ministry which had created a wide and healing impact in the heart of the faithful through the sacrament of reconciliation. But sad to say in many parts of the world the confessional is being transformed into trash bins and storerooms for the broken furniture of the church. It is the place where broken souls are mended and not the place to store broken furniture.

As a missionary of St. Francis de Sales, it is the bounden duty of each priest to promote this sacrament of healing wherever we work. It is one sacrament which our Patron St. Francis de Sales loved and promoted. According to him: "Our Saviour gave the sacrament of penance and confession to his Church so that we may be cleansed from all our iniquities no matter how often and how greatly we have been defiled by them."

The sacrament of reconciliation is the sacrament that extends the mercy of God to the rest of humanity. It is the best place where one can immerse oneself in the ocean of God's mercy. It is the sacrament which brings healing to both the body and soul. It heals our spiritual paralysis and makes us walk with renewed strength.



*If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (John 20:23).*

Francis de Sales himself was a person who promoted the sacrament of confession soon after his ordination. He used to spend hours and hours at the confessional to help those who came to him. Also, his personality helped him greatly to make the penitents comfortable and be consoled in their agony of being tortured by their sins.

"A significant trait was his dedication to the confessional. Bishop de Granier had named him the "penitentiary" of the diocese, which meant he had given him the most extensive powers of absolving. Francis had a confessional built for hearing penitents' confessions

in the cathedral church very close to the door on the Gospel side. There he would remain sometimes from dawn to almost noon, surrounded by a great number of faithful of both sexes and without any discrimination."

This shows the great ardour with which he ministered the sacrament of confession. He had built the confessional close to the door so that the penitents who are elderly and lame might find it easy to approach without difficulty this great throne of mercy.

For Francis de Sales, Confessors were "Angels whom God sends us to

reconcile with his goodness. And not only this, and we are to consider them as God's representatives on earth."

Every missionary of St. Francis de Sales is to assume this state of the angel sent by God to reconcile the sinners with the goodness of God. Besides this role of being angels of reconciliation, we are also God's representatives on earth to bring forgiveness and pardon from God to the people who come to us to receive the sacrament of confession.

For Francis de Sales, the sacrament of penance is the best and the easy remedy to make use of for one's spiritual ailment. And he adds; "Why should we die a spiritual death when we have this sovereign remedy at hand?"

Thus assuring us that we need to have constant recourse to this great sacrament in order to be healed of our spiritual infirmities. Added to the above, Francis de Sales would say that the sacrament of confession is the best place to practice many virtues at a time. "You would also practice the virtues of

humility, obedience, simplicity, and charity. In the single act of confession, you will exercise more virtues than in any other act whatsoever."

As a minister of the Church, each one is entitled to promote this sacrament. But one is also encouraged to make this sacrament available to the people. Great saints like John Maria Vianney, and Padre Pio were the great ministers of the sacrament of confession. Whenever and wherever it is possible we should avail ourselves to administer this great sacrament of healing. Let us be angels and representatives of God here on earth by bringing forgiveness and healing to the souls that long for God.

**Fr. Johnson Pathiyil MSFS**



*God is never tired of forgiving us our sins; Only we are hesitating to seek his mercy....*

- Pope Francis

08.09.2020  
To  
04.06.2023

# 1000 Days of 2 Minutes of Eucharistic Adoration



As part of the healing ministry, our confreres at Nalam initiated the daily 2 minutes of live Eucharistic adoration online, serving thousands who intensively participate in this adoration from different parts of the world and in different time zones. Initiated on September 8, 2020, now on June 4, 2023 the project has completed 1000 days without any interruption. Congratulations to all those who were instrumental in this mission of evangelization and healing.

**The 2 Minutes of Adoration** was conceived to address the spiritual and emotional aridity during the peak of Covid-19 restrictions. Many were getting frustrated due to the isolation

and the lack of hope. People were in the hospital due to Covid-19, many lost their loved ones, thus people suffered due to deep depression. Masses and liturgies in the Churches were completely cancelled. In this context, the Nalam community felt the need to reach out to the spiritual needs of the faithful.

It was at this situation, feeling the need of the time, the community initiated the Two minutes of adoration on September 8th 2020, the Birthday of Our Blessed Mother. 2 minutes Adoration consists few lines of song, Reflection of Day's Readings, prayer, and saint of the day's quotation or life event of the saint – all done before the







Blessed Sacrament. From the day one, many felt healing from their sickness, experienced miracles, felt consoled through the Word of God and through his presence in Blessed Sacrament.

**The confreres share that:**

After starting the adoration channel many began to send request for prayers that led us to keep them deeply in our prayer before Blessed Sacraments every day. We also requested them to pray in 2 minutes of adoration at the same time. As Jesus says in Luke 1: 37 "For nothing will be impossible with God," many started to experience miracles in their life. Many contacted us to witness saying that the Lord had done great things through adorations. Some even have given testimonies through our channel.

**Gratitude**

We have completed 1000 days of adorations without a break which was

only possible through unfailing grace of God. So, we thank God for giving us such a wonderful house of prayer and healing to minister the addicted and afflicted through prayer and worship.

We are very grateful to every confrere, our authorities at the province level and the congregational level, our well wishes and benefactors. Above all we thank immensely for all those who pray for us and pray with us. We also thank those who render us technical assistance in the preparation of each episode. The 2 Minutes of Adoration requires at least 2 hours of preparations – including spiritual, material, organizational and technical aspects.

We are grateful to each and every one who pray and share the adoration with others every day. May God bless everyone and may we continue to walk and grow in the grace and blessings of the Lord Jesus Christ, ever present in the Most Holy and Blessed Sacrament.





### **Nalam : A home to be for the hopeless**

“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders” (Lk.15:4-5).

MSFS Institute of Wellness, at Dharmapuri, Tamil Nadu, India is christened as “**Nalam**”. ‘Nalam’ in Tamil means “Keeping Good”. This center is a light house to the lost sheep of addicted people, giving life to the lifeless, hopeless, neglected, marginalized - persons and families who are at the edge of their life. Nalam is a home counseling for addicted persons and their co-dependents. A home of seeking the lost sheep like Jesus our master and Good Shepherd.

Nalam facilitates de-addiction therapies, counselling, family

apostolate, retreats and youth Animation. The confreres also make themselves as resource persons for various similar programs wherever they are needed such as parishes, educational institutions, and renewal centers. Nalam also serves as Youth Animation Centre.

Nalam house has two YouTube Channels: NALAM HEALING CHANNEL- MSFS DHARMAPURI & SFS Youth 2020 - Dharmapuri

For that we were and we are and we would be by the grace of God, with deep sentiments of gratitude, we pray:

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen!**

**Live Jesus**

We are very pleased to present few of the testimonies as follows:

- Mrs. Christina from USA prayed for gift a child, her prayer was heard and she has twins now.
- Mr. Vinod from Bangalore suffered from depression due to sickness and was not able to sleep in the night and Jesus healed and got a wonderful job.
- Mrs. Nirmala from Chennai received three favours - property sold, job for husband and son in USA, and for good health of her father- in law.
- Mrs. Neil Angeline from Bangalore prayed for the financial constrains to be solved and her prayer was answered.
- Ms. Janifer from Tamil Nadu got job in Saudi as Nurse.
- Mrs. J. Rajevenceltha from Holland prayed to complete PhD which was impossible in human ways and the Lord answered her prayer to complete the Ph.D.



*Fr. A. Christu Raj MSFS*



*Fr. C. Sebastian Raj MSFS*



# An Appeal from Zimbabwe



**The Republic of Zimbabwe**, is a landlocked country in Southern Africa, bordered by South Africa to the south, Botswana to the southwest, Zambia to the north, and Mozambique to the east. The capital and largest city is Harare, and the second largest is Bulawayo. A country of roughly 16 million people, Zimbabwe's largest and dominant ethnic group are the Shona, who make up 82% of the population. Zimbabwe has 16 official languages, with English, Shona, and Ndebele the most common.



There are 1.5 Million Catholics in the country, making it about 10% of the total population. There are eight dioceses, including two archdioceses.



Upon the invitation from the Bishop of Mutare Diocese, Most Rev. Bishop Paul Horan O. Carm, Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, the General Secretary for the Missions, visited the Diocese of Mutare in Zimbabwe from March 7 to 10, 2023. The pastoral situation is really challenging. The diocese is in need of missionaries. At present the parishes are vast and distant.



Almost all the dioceses are looking for missionaries to strengthen evangelization and to do pastoral work. One of the main means of evangelization is through the apostolate of education. According to the diocesan sources, there are many non-Catholic students in the Catholic schools. Holy Masses are celebrated regularly in the schools and all the students and the staff – irrespective of their confessions - participate in the Holy Mass and other Catholic prayers. It is not surprising that many a student and a few staff embrace the Catholic faith due to their long and close association with the Catholic atmosphere. Religion is a matter of personal choice and conviction.

According to Bishop Horan, the diocese is in need of priests who can preach the missions and bring back the lost folk. As of now, the priests who are there are already fully burdened with the normal pastoral work.

### **Economy – Inflation – emigration**

When it was still under British rulership, it was called Rhodesia. In 1980, when it gained independence, it was

officially recognized as the Republic of Zimbabwe.

In the 2000s Zimbabwe's economy began to deteriorate due to various factors, including the imposition of economic sanctions by Western countries led by the United Kingdom and widespread corruption in government. Economic instability caused many Zimbabweans to emigrate.

The Zimbabwean dollar was introduced in 1980 to directly replace the Rhodesian dollar (which had been introduced in 1970 at par (1:1), at a similar value to the US dollar. In the 20th century the dollar functioned as a normal currency, but in the early 21st century hyperinflation in Zimbabwe reduced the Zimbabwean dollar to one of the lowest-valued currency units in the world, so much so there were denominations up to a \$100 trillion banknote issued.



***What could you buy for \$100 trillion in Zimbabwe? Not even a candy bar!***

On 24 June 2019, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe introduced the new Zimbabwe dollar with



the revised value. However, today along with Zimbabwean Dollar, US Dollar and other major world currencies are used for daily transactions.

### Lend me your ears...

Dear Confrère and our friends,

Invitation to the MSFS is an appeal from a people who need the Word of God and the Bread of Life; from a people whose future looks bleak; who experience political and economic instability. This is the cry of the people to listen to the Word and to nourish themselves with the sacraments.

It is always easy to be a missionary

when everything is in place. But the following statements would give us the motivation to venture into a world of uncertainties.

- **When the apostles went to different parts of the world, they carried only Jesus with them and not even the printed Bible!**
- **When a missionary carries everything except Jesus, the mission would fail.**
- **When we equip ourselves with all the possible academic degrees and pastoral techniques and communication skills and if fail to have the compassion of Christ, our mission would fail.**



*It is here, the Diocese would like to build a shrine as a pilgrimage centre.*



# Formation for Mission

Fr Peter Mermier, our beloved founder, was a man of profound faith, strong conviction and exemplary missionary zeal. He was inspired and enlightened by the vision and mission of Jesus. His vision got incorporated with the mission of Jesus and so his heart longed for spreading the Kingdom. His passion for spreading the Good News culminated in founding of the Congregations of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and Sisters of the Holy Cross of Chavanod. Fr Mermier assimilated the liberating mission of Jesus, and translated into action in his Congregation, by liberating people from spiritual stagnation through preaching parish missions, liberating them from wrong ideologies through evangelization and emancipating them from ignorance through education. His firm missionary zeal was amply clear in his inspired assertion: “I want missions”.

Being a missionary Congregation, the formation of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales is for mission and as far as possible in the mission. The aim of our formation is to become Christ-like and share in his mission. Formation is a process by which one becomes closely acquainted with Christ, the ultimate

formator, through the reflective reading of the Bible and through a prayerful consideration of its message. Christ as the chief formator calls everyone “to be with Him and to be sent out” (Mk 3:14). This formation for mission is “a fulfilment of what Christ has called us for” (Phil 3:12). It is “self-emptying in order to be filled with Christ” (Phil 2: 6-11). The formation for mission should enable us to discover personally who Jesus is for us. It calls for an authentic self-discovery.

The Constitutions of the MSFS in its articles on formation (120-130) very distinctly and evidently states the goals of Fransalian formation: a) Imitation of Christ, who was poor, chaste and obedient, b) Growing into a complete man loving God, dedicated to the Church after the example of St. Francis de Sales c) Deepening of consecration, participation in the sacraments and the sense of belonging to the Church, d) Intimacy with Christ nourished by the study of the Holy Scripture and prayer, e) Response to God’s call and development of talents with docility, f) Acquisition of knowledge of peoples, cultures and religions, and the promotion of values in social life, g) Sound intellectual pursuits





leading to emotional and spiritual growth, h) Acquisition of religious discipline and learning of community living.

Formation for mission calls us forth to know, grow, live and witness Christ who through the indwelling Spirit is constantly revealing, manifesting and embracing each person as the beloved and the chosen one. Therefore, the focus of our religious formation is guiding, animating, accompanying and enabling a person called to be a mature religious, to grow in personal intimacy with Jesus and thus be transformed into God's beloved. This "transformation into God's beloved" is manifested in one's passionate engagement in and commitment to the mission of Jesus and mission of the Church especially among the poor, the marginalized, the needy and the underprivileged. This call to transformation unfolds gradually and blossoms into being fruitful in the mission of Jesus.

Formation for mission is a work of love and it implies a sound human formation, a profound spiritual formation, an integrated intellectual formation, apostolic and missionary formation. Besides it fosters social awareness, calls for a critical inculturation and interculturalism, ecumenism and dialogue, personal transformation and conversion

and envisages on-going formation. It includes our commitment to inspire and support our fellow Christians to become authentic followers of Jesus by their commitment to build a society based on justice, love, peace and reconciliation by collaborating with all humans, without any distinction of class, cast, creed, race, tribe, gender and language.

In religious context, formation is a life-long process marked by an intense preparation of a person to consecrate himself to the Mission of Jesus in the way of the particular life which he has been called, rather he has chosen, to follow, or within the local Church. Formation should call forth the deepening of God experience, rooting in faith and trust, growing in the compassionate love of the poor, strengthening convictions and commitments that stir one to continuous conversion for an ever new response to the Gospel in the spirit of Jesus. Formation prepares a person to be daring and heroic, for a radical following of Jesus even in uncertainty, failure and adverse situations moving out of comfort zones and personal preferences and getting immersed in the lives of poor and marginalized people,



who open one to the Mystery of Love. Formation prepares persons to be the ‘Good News’ of compassionate justice participating in the struggles of the poor, hearing their anguish and cries and holding their hopes and dreams as daily endeavours. It is also a commitment to sustainable living, care of the earth and preservation of the integrity of creation.

Our formation for mission inculcates the spirit of preparedness to hold community as mission respecting and approving the other, celebrating the diversities, building right relationships to live as a parable of communion in stillness and contemplation through continuous dialogue, reconciliation and the experience of inter-connectedness. Formation continues to shape one in mission where he gets clarity in uncertainty; joy in service and fulfilment in the unfolding of the reign of God among the people made poor. The context of the mission unfolds the new consciousness of inter-connectedness and inter-dependence leading to a spirituality of communion.

Religious life is a Christological reality in the sense, that it is a life lived by Christ himself while he lived on earth. As Christ lived totally to do the will of God and to offer himself for the salvation of the others, religious life presents itself as the total donation or oblation to God the Father and to others. This life is inspired by the Spirit and is born in the Church and for the Church. The mission of Christ is also the mission of a consecrated people: bringing salvation to each and every one. The religious keep the memory of Christ alive in the Church and in the world. Our vocation is to increase holiness in the Church. The quality of the vocation and the quality of our missionary commitment depend on the quality of formation for mission.

May this issue of our Global Mission Bulletin “I want Missions” be yet another occasion to rejuvenate and revitalize our missionary zeal and live our clarion call, “I want Missions.” May God bless each one of us to continue the mission of Christ and His Church by living the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in our communities as missionaries, lived and envisioned by our Founder, Fr Peter Mermier.” Live Jesus!

**Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara MSFS**

General Secretary for Formation



*The purpose of Formation is Formation and not ordination or profession. -Pope Francis*



# Know our Mission

## Caribbean Islands

### 25 Years of MSFS Presence

Fr. G. Arockia Samy MSFS

The Caribbean is home to thirteen sovereign island nations: Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Cuba, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, St Vincent and the Grenadines, and Trinidad and Tobago.

The entire geographical region is also called West Indies. This name is more known in the world of international cricket.

The Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, Visakhapatnam province initiated the mission in St.





Lucia (West Indies), in the Archdiocese of Castries, in the year 1998 under the leadership of Fr. Thomas Perumalil. Frs. George Kottam and Ananda Prasad Maddineni are the pioneers of the mission. The missionaries were invited and entrusted with two parishes namely Choiseul (Our Lady of Lourdes) and Saltibus (St. Theresa of Child Jesus) by His Eminence Cardinal Kelvin Felix, the then Archbishop of Castries.

Our outstanding ministry welcomed more confreres to the mission with addition of a pastoral area namely Soufriere (Our Lady of Assumption and Fond St. Jacques (St. Philip and James) under the guidance of Fr. K.P. Mathew, the superior, supported by Frs. C. John Britto, John Peter (Jn) and Benjamin Dante.

Mission in Caribbean opened the door to other islands, and Visakhapatnam province could establish in Trinidad, and entrusted St. Lucia to South East Province. Since then, our mission according to the spirit of our founder servant of God Fr. Peter Marie Mermier "I want Missions" is well embraced to serve the people in the Island of St. Lucia.

Our Mission in St. Lucia from Choiseul in the south, we were moved to East Coast to serve in five parishes



St. Ann's, Monrepos; St. Lucy, National Shrine, Micoud; Holy Cross, Desruisseaux; St. Isidore, Belvue; and Our Lady of Fathima, Laclery for a decade. We are now serving in three parishes St. Benedict in Morn Fortune, St. Peter's in Dennery, Our Lady of Assumption, in Soufriere and Sts. Philip and James in Fond St. Jacques. Our mission consists of parish animation and administration of sacraments, empowerment of laity, youth animation and evangelization.

We have left indelible mark in the parishes we served through our dedicated pastoral service. We took





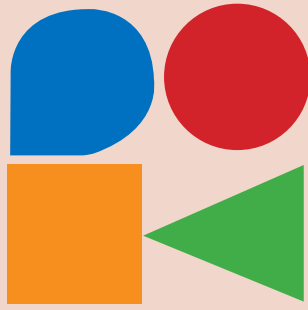
up some construction, like that of an Adoration Chapel at Laclery in the parish of Our Lady of Fathima, and renovation of church at Morn Fortune in the parish of St. Benedict and construction of new presbytery at Micoud, St. Lucy, the National Shrine. These are the projects as the outcome of our ministry in our mission for spiritual growth and family life. We are the collaborators in Mission of the Church in the Archdiocese of Castries, under the spiritual guidance of Most.

Rev. Gabriel Malzaire, the Archbishop of Castries, St. Lucia. We are well appreciated and encouraged.

**From 1998 to 2023 – during the past 25 years 17 MSFS priests have rendered their short or long term services to the Catholic Church in the Caribbean Islands. As of now there are only three MSFS priests working in this part of the world. They are. Fr. G. Arockia Samy, Fr. Wilson Fernando and Fr. Vincent Sagayaraj.**



**Altar boys and girls  
MSFS Parish  
St. Theresa of Child Jesus, Londrina, Brazil**



D e S i F M A

M e d i a

f o r t h e

M i s s i o n s

# Media for the Missions

De Sales International Film and Media Academy

– An institute with a difference!

Kodambakkam is known as 'Kollywood' in India as it is the hub of film production in South India. Studios such as AVM, Vijaya Vahini, LV Prasad, etc. are located in and around Kodambakkam. The famous Arcot road is the main connecting road to these studios for all film personalities like, Shivaji Ganesan, MGR, NTR, MS Viswanathan, Ilayarajaa and so on. In this context, our Academy gains more significance as it is located along the Arcot road.

'We were searching for a suitable place in different parts of the

world to establish this institute as it is a global initiative of MSFS society. Our search finally brought us to this historical place that has inspired hundreds of film personalities in the country' said Fr. J. Stephen, the founder and the director of DeSIFMA during the first convocation held at the academy on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

## The courses offered here

DeSIFMA is a unique international institution for media studies established by the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) in 2019. It is founded on a path-breaking



education scheme designed by renowned media experts and distinguished film personalities. The DeSIFMA research team offers a systematically structured course that enables the student to excel in various fundamentals of media and film production within a short time.

The three major courses offered in the academy are:

- 1) **Script writing and Film Direction**
- 2) **Photography and Cinematography**
- 3) **Editing and Post Production.**

These courses are offered both through regular and weekend streams. The regular courses are run for a year whereas the weekend courses, for six months.

Besides these, three-month weekend certificate courses on Photography, Editing and Acting are also offered here.

### **A different academy by Nature and Characteristics!**

‘I have never seen in any part of the world where students make a feature film while studying’. When you join a unit as an assistant cameraman, it takes nearly five to seven years even to touch a movie camera. But here, the students handle all gadgets and engage in filmmaking. This is something extraordinary’ said, Mr. Vijay Milton, a noted cinematographer

who has won several national and international awards for his films, during the first convocation of DeSIFMA.

*‘Creating a platform for young people coming from economically backward section of the society but with deep aspiration to make films is a noble gesture by MSFS fathers. May their goal yield fruits’* said the noted scriptwriter and actor from the Tamil film industry, Mr. Kavitha Bharathi during the convocation.

‘I came into this institute without any knowledge about filmmaking. But the atmosphere, facilities, teaching and the continuous project works created much interest in me and sharpened my knowledge and skills. Today, I walk out as a skillful filmmaker, thanks to DeSIFMA’, said Nihal, hailing from Kerala who just completed his diploma course here.

### **DeSIFMA makes history!**

During the first half of the course, students are engaged with nearly 20 exercises to hone their artistic and creative skills. During the second half, they will make a full-length feature film which will hit the theatres in the state. It is this feature of this course that make the academy totally different from the others.

The students with the support of faculties, will discuss, write the script, plan the schedule, shoot, edit and finally reach it to the masses. This offers the students a 360





degree of exposure to filmmaking. 'Attrai Thingal Annilavil' is a two hour feature film made by the first batch of DeSIFMA waiting for its release.

### **The student- friendly culture**

The student friendly approach and flexibility adopted by the management makes the students feel at home to learn the maximum from the academy.

DeSIFMA trains students to be the next generation of film, television and video contend producers, professionals who are able to write, produce, direct, shoot, edit and sound mix content of their own creation.

### **DeSIFMA's infrastructure**

Covering around 2,000 square feet space in the heart of the city, DeSIFMA has a well-equipped preview theatre, a well-equipped editing studio to learn movie

editing using all latest software such as AVID, Adobe Premiere, FCP and Davinci, a cinematography studio with latest cameras and lighting equipment, a dubbing theatre, Blue matte studios etc., The students will have internship in well-known production centres in the city, besides study tours and industrial visits.

### **At an affordable cost !**

As the soul aim of DeSIFMA is to generate value-based film makers to provide meaningful entertainment with relevant message, DeSIFMA's fee for all these courses have been fixed far below the fees charged by the other institutes in the country. This is truly a challenging mission by MSFS fathers to create quality film makers without compromising the quality at an affordable price

Any institution of this nature, usually takes around eight to

10 years for establishing itself amidst severe competition and profit-oriented establishments. In spite of the hardships posed by the COVID 19, two batches have passed through our academy and a feature film has been completed.

Challenges make people to go stronger and deeper. DeSIFMA has determined to walk ahead with renewed hope and spirit.

The new academic courses begin during the first week of August 2023 for the third batch and the academy is in full swing to welcome the new batch for a meaningful and eventful learning. Students from different states of

India and from African countries have enrolled their names. We look forward to a vibrant batch of students for this new academic year!

**Dr. Magimai Pragasam**

Dean of Studies, DeSIFMA



**Today Media is one of the powerful and very practical means of evangelization. Let us encourage and support our young people to grab this opportunity to learn all that they need to learn about producing movies.**

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# MSAF Annual Meeting

Pretoria, South Africa



**M**SAF is the Forum of Superiors of the various MSFS Administrative units in Africa. As of now MSFS is present in 10 countries in Africa. Administratively there are two Missions, two Delegations, one Region and one Province in the African continent.

The annual meeting of the Mission Superiors Africa Forum (MSAF) took place on June 7, 2023, at Pretoria in South Africa. Fr. Soosai Raj, Mission Superior of Malawi; Fr. Jude Thadeus, Mission Superior of Zambia; Fr. Henry Nedumkallel, Delegation Superior of Mozambique; Fr. Manoj Arackal, Delegation Superior of Chad-Cameroon; Fr. Baiju Mundackal, Regional Superior of Southern Africa; and Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, Provincial of East Africa, participated in the meeting. The meeting discussed and evaluated pastoral ministry, formation,

and consecrated life in Africa. There has been tremendous growth in all our missions in Africa, and the number of vocations is increasing. The meeting appreciated the collaboration among the various mission units in Africa, especially in regards to formation, particularly at the novitiate in Kibaha and LCI, Arusha. The new mission units are also preparing to promote vocations in their respective countries. The meeting also expressed the desire to open up new missions in existing territories as well as in other countries. Furthermore, the meeting discussed various challenges, particularly the lack of sufficient personnel in missions and the scarcity of financial support for various mission development projects in their respective countries. There was also a suggestion to publish a book on the history of MSFS in the African continent. The MSAF members also visited various missions of Southern African Region.



# Our Missionary Presence sought after again in Italy

## Diocese of Lucera-Troia

**His Lordship Most Rev. Giuseppe Giuliano** the Bishop of the diocese of Lucera-Troia, in Southern Italy, has requested the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales to take up two parishes. The diocese has 33 parishes as of now with a Catholic population of over 60,000 which constitutes over 96% of the total population of the area.

These are the two parishes that the bishop wants to entrust to the MSFS. He needs immediately two priests who will form a religious community, staying in one of the presbyteries and working in two parishes as parish priests. The existing presbyteries do have sufficient rooms and facilities.

### The proposed parishes are:

1. *Chiesa Santissima Annunziata, Church of the Annunciation, Carlantino*
2. *Chiesa Santa Croce, Church of the Holy Cross, Celenza Valfortore*

Both these parishes are close to each other.

From Rome to Foggia is around three hours by the Express train and then around 20 minute's drive to Lucera the diocesan centre. From Lucera it is 30 km to the proposed parishes. The whole area is dedicated to large-scale farming. The scenic beauty of the area is astounding.

Faith is still alive, and the people are traditionally Catholics. Other than the administration of the sacraments, there are regular faith-based activities in the parishes for the adults and the young ones.

**Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS** the General Secretary for the Missions visited the Diocese and the two proposed parishes on June 23, 2023. The bishop as well as the other diocesan authorities do expect that we extend our helping hands to this diocese which has no religious or missionary priests from outside Europe. Let us pray that the holy will of God be done.





# ***PMP***



## **PMP Annual National (India) Meeting and Prayer days**

The Annual meeting of the confreres engaged in the parish mission and retreat preaching, will be held from **October 23 to 26, 2023 at MSFS Provincial House, Nagpur**. From every Indian province five confreres who are engaged in the preaching ministry are expected to participate.

## **Training in Preaching Retreats and Missions for the young priests**

A training session in preaching retreats and missions, is planned for the young confreres of our congregation. From every Province, five confreres are expected to participate. The program is from **November 18 to 28, 2023 at Charis Bhavan, Kerala, India**. Along with other experienced retreat preachers, Fr. James Manjackal MSFS the veteran retreat preacher in our congregation will lead the program along with others who are experienced preachers. .

# SKY is Our limit

**A newly founded Catholic community by MSFS in Diocese of Ngong, Kenya.**



**T**hey are here to celebrate the Most Holy Eucharist. Very hearty and simple. There is no church building, no boundary walls, no majestic throne of the high priest, no golden vessels, no red carpets and no awe-inspiring sanctuaries. The altar is the dining table from a neighboring house; the benches made of waste wood fixed to the ground.

**But there is true joy of coming together to celebrate the faith.**



## ***MDO Rome: New Leadership***

***Thank you  
dear Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS***

***Welcome you  
dear Fr. Saji George MSFS***



We thank Fr. Thomas Chozhithara, who served as the Director of MDO Rome for the past six years and through his strenuous efforts provided a global visibility to MDO. Welcome to Fr. Saji George to the new office as the Director. With your expertise and deep commitment, you will spare no efforts to serve the global mission of the Church and the Congregation.

*The Mission Development Offices* of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales which are present in all the provinces and mission unites of the congregation empower the missionaries through its two-dimensional ministries. Primarily, MDOs provide holistic support to missionaries in their work of evangelization, by assisting in establishing mission stations and parishes; by procuring materials and vehicles for evangelization, etc. Secondly, they assist the missionaries in their works of charity to help our brothers and sisters who live in vulnerable situations. Through these two basic functions, the MDOs not only help the people to live their call to holiness but also by assisting them to recognize their very nature of being images of God, thus empowering them to live a dignified life.

***Contact:***

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**Can you smile please?  
It is your MISSION right now!**