

Missionaries of St Francis de Sales

Dibrugarh Province

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TA/10-CIRCULAR
MAY 31, 2024

MESSAGE

Dear confreres,

Today we celebrate the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary. She treads the mountainous terrain of Judea to share her joy with and to give a helping hand to Elizabeth in their joint celebration of motherhood. The joy of expectation and the pain involved in the realization of Motherhood both for Mary and for Elizabeth is picturesquely presented by the Evangelist Luke for our meditation on the divine Motherhood of Mary and its realization in the ambience of pure human love. The human formation of the children yet to be born already takes place in this encounter. The tangible sign of it for Elizabeth is the leaping of the child in her womb out of joy. **Joy proceeds from genuine love.** It stands in sharp contrast to superficial relationships of our times which take away real joy from the hearts of humans.

The exclamation of Elizabeth recognizing the unique privilege of Mary among all human beings i.e., her divine Motherhood is responded to by Our Blessed Mother joyfully in the form of a hymn giving glory to God for his wonderful deeds in the course of the history of her people, in her life, and for the humanity in the time to come. **The privileges that we receive are to be perceived from the perspective of grace.** Then we are really able to give glory to God. It is important to imitate Our Blessed Mother in this regard particularly in our time wherein Self-Glory rules the roost.

The perception of our privileges as grace of God helps us to grow in the virtue of fortitude. St. Paul has lived it in his life for he says: "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" (Phil 4:13). As Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales let us perceive our call in the perspective of the feast of today. **Our strength is our capability of trusting in the unfailing providence of God and giving glory to God for our individual and collective growth.** May our missionary fortitude flow out of the Glory that we give to God.

I wish each one of you a Happy Feast.

ANNUAL RETREAT AT AALO

The annual retreat at St. Mary's Church in Aalo was held from 4th March to 20th March in four different stations: Aalo, Darak, Yomcha, and Kamba. Parishners from near and far gathered for six days of spiritual rejuvenation, reflection, and fellowship. The retreat commenced with Holy Mass. Retreatants participated actively in various spiritual exercises throughout the retreat, including group prayers, holy hour, and meditation. There were insightful talks on faith, forgiveness, and love of God, led by Fr. Joseph from Gumto and Ellroy Prayer group from Kerala. Participants came together to reflect on their faith journeys and offer prayers for peace and unity in the community. The annual retreat served as a sacred time for the parishioners to deepen their faith, and forge meaningful relationships within the community. Many testified that they are returning home with a renewed sense of purpose and inspiration to live out their faith in their daily lives.



FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AT SFS CHURCH JONAI

On April 20, 2024, SFS Church in Jonai was filled with joy as 42 children received their First Holy Communion. This sacramental event marked a significant milestone in the spiritual journey of these children, as they received Jesus in the Eucharist for the first time.

As each child received the Body and Blood of Christ, it marked as a moment of spiritual nourishment. The First Holy Communion ceremony was a beautiful and meaningful celebration of faith. It is a reminder of the importance of spiritual growth and the enduring presence of God in the lives of His faithful.



The support and prayers of their families, along with the guidance of the fathers sisters, and catechists have played a significant role in preparing them for this sacred moment.

MISSION FORUM MEETING OF THE PROVINCE

The Mission forum meeting of the province was conducted in the provincial house Silapathar on 16th April 2024. The meeting started with Holy Mass at 6.30 am by Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS, General Secretary for Mission. The Session began at 9.am with an introduction by Fr. Varghese. Fr. Joseph Chakkalackal honored Fr. Johnson with a shawl. The session began with a hymn to the Holy Spirit and prayer led by Fr. Sudhir Hasda. Fr. Johnson began his inaugural address with a good and inspiring powerpoint presentation on Pastoral presence and said that Mission is what we receive from God and Ministry is what we do in the name of God. The Mission of God that we carry out depends on Our Quality, Our Identity, and Our Belongingness.



Fr. Johnson dwelt with the Letter of St. Paul to Corinthians Ch. 3 /12-16 and discussed the qualities of Salesian Spirituality such as Compassion, Kindness, humility, gentleness, patience forbearance, and forgiveness. There was also a group discussion and members shared their experience and challenges. The Mission forum meeting ended at 4.30 pm with a short prayer.

EDUCATION FORUM MEETING

The education forum meeting of the province began on April 20, 2024 with a short prayer led by Fr. Wanlambor. On behalf of the province and participants, Fr Philip Mhonchumo, Councilor for Education, Dibrugarh Province introduced the chief guest, Fr Jacob Karamakuzhyill and Fr Jacob Raising welcomed him with a Shawl. In his address, Fr Jacob elaborated on the theme 'Fransalian Education in Mermarian Perspectives'. He recalled the Foundational Charisms of MSFS and highlighted the importance of Community Life, Missionary Life, and Salesian Spirituality



Education Apostolate can enhance the other apostolates. Educational apostolate without a link to the renewal of faith becomes superficial. The last session of the day was animated by Mr Satish Valiveti, a Professional Speaker, Psychologist, & Success coach from Andhra Pradesh. He dwelt on World Class Mindset for World Class Teacher' with themes such as 'Success' and 'He-ch-Con-30'. The meeting also discussed some challenges and concerns of the education ministry.

SAIM FORUM MEETING

The SAIM Forum meeting of the MSFS Dibrugarh Province with the General Councilor for Innovative Ministries was held on 27th April 2024. The meeting aimed at discussing and highlighting the various activities the social wing has been involved in and planning for future activities. During the meeting, the members shared their experiences and achievements from the past year, including providing education and healthcare to underprivileged communities, organizing awareness campaigns, providing relief in times of natural disasters, conducting Youth Camps, etc. The meeting also discussed the challenges that this ministry is facing and brainstormed ideas for improvement.



An action plan was drafted to guide the social wing's efforts in the upcoming year, which included setting specific goals, allocating resources, and assigning responsibilities. The meeting served as a platform for the members to come together, reflect on their work, and strategize for a better future. With their dedication and determination, it is evident that the social wing of MSFS Dibrugarh Province will continue to make a positive impact on society.

FORMATION FORUM MEETING

On April 27, 2024, the Guwahati – Dibrugarh provinces held a formation forum meeting at Msfs Provincial House Narengi, Guwahati. Fr Standfort led a hymn to the Holy Spirit to start the meeting, followed by a short prayer from Fr Francis Poovelil. Fr Carlus Barowa welcomed everyone, and Fr Sabu Francis gave words of exhortation emphasizing the importance of formators spending quality time with formees. Fr Athanas Kerketta spoke about Fransalian formation, focusing on the four pillars of formation: Human, spiritual, intellectual, social, apostolic, and missionary. The meeting also discussed the need to address the negative impact of mobile phones on seminarians' academic performance and the importance of language learning for confidence building.



BLESSING AND INAUGURATION OF A VILLAGE CHURCH, RAJAKHANA- JONAI

On 22nd April 2024 the village of Rajakhana, under SFS Parish Jonai gathered to celebrate the blessing and inauguration of their newly constructed church. Most Rev. Michael Akasius, Bishop of Tezpur, graced the ceremony with his presence and blessed the newly constructed church. Rev Fr Tomson Aerathedathu, the Provincial Superior of the MSFS Dibrugarh Province, inaugurated and opened the church for the faithful.

The dedication of the church means not only a place to worship but it signifies also the unity and strength of the community. During the Holy Mass 155 youth and adults received the sacrament of Confirmation.



NEW CHURCH IN SIMONG VILLAGE: YINGKIONG

St. Joseph's Church Simong, a village church under Divine Mercy Parish Yingking was blessed and inaugurated by Most.Rev. Benny Varghese, the Bishop of Itanagar on April 25, 2024. Many priests, religious, and parishioners gathered to be part of the celebration. The church was a long-cherished dream of the faithful in the village and they worked hard to fulfill their dream through their contributions and labour. The MSFS Dibrugarh Province partially funded the church building. The blessing ceremony was followed by a common meal. We thank Fr. Peter Peuhausuiding and Fr. Peter Parankimalil for their painstaking efforts.



SOLACE TO THE DISPLACED FAMILIES IN MANIPUR

In response to the plight of the displaced population in Manipur due to the ethnic violence, the Mission Development Officer (MDO) Rome initiated a project aimed at providing shelter and comfort to those affected. The endeavor resulted in the construction of two houses, offering a ray of hope amidst challenging circumstances. Two families, from Kangpokpi Parish in Manipur who had been enduring the hardship of displacement, found hope in the form of a new home. Sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. Saji George Puthiyakulangara MSFS (MDO Rome) for the generous funding and timely initiative. The Project was executed Under the leadership of Fr. Jose Chettaniyil, MDO of Dibrugarh Province, and Fr. Roy Muthedathu, the Parish Priest of SFS Church Kangpokpi.



The collaborative effort ensured the timely completion of the construction, addressing the immediate housing needs of the displaced individuals. On April 26, 2024, the newly built houses were blessed by Rev. Fr. Saji Puthiyakulangara MSFS, MDO Rome, and Fr. Jose Chettaniyil MSFS, MDO Dibrugarh Province. The successful execution of this project was made possible through the diligent efforts of the Social Service Wing - FAST of Dibrugarh Province.

BLESSING OF MERMIER STAFF QUARTER AT LIKABALI



On 7th May 2024, a new house for the staff was blessed and inaugurated at the Sacred Heart Parish in Likabali by Most. Rev. Benny Varghese, the Bishop of Itanagar. The event was attended by priests from neighboring parishes and parishioners. The program was concluded with a delicious lunch, bringing together the community in a spirit of unity and celebration. We thank our friends from St. Gallen for their financial support.

FIRST PROFESSION

May 31, 2024, was a day of great joy and celebration as 14 novices made their first profession at MSFS Novitiate House in Chabua. Rev. Fr. Tomson Aerathedathu, the Provincial Superior of MSFS Dibrugarh Province, officiated the Mass and received their vows. The retreat was preached by Rev. Fr. Lijo Scaria MSFS. It is indeed a moment of pride and happiness for the Dibrugarh Province to welcome six of our newly professed members into the province family. We congratulate each one for courageously responding to God's call and offering themselves wholeheartedly to His service. Our sincere thanks and appreciation to Fr. Milkius and Fr. Ajimon for their dedicated accompaniment of these 14 young men for the past one year.





CANONICAL VISIT TO SFS MISSION PASIGHAT
ON MAY 19-20, 2024



CANONICAL VISIT TO SFS MISSION TENING
ON MAY 23, 24 2024



CANONICAL VISIT TO SFS MISSION PEREN ON MAY- 25, 26 2024

CANONICAL VISIT TO FR. STEPHEN POU GLOBAL HOLOSTIC HEALTH CENTRE JALUKIE ON MAY 26,2024



INAUGURATION AND BLESSING OF THE NEWLY BUILT PRESBYTERY AT DIVINE MERCY PARISH IN YINGKIONG

The inauguration and blessing of the newly built Presbytery at Divine Mercy Parish in Yingkiong, Arunachal Pradesh, marked a significant milestone in the journey of the local community. With the esteemed presence of Most Rev. Benny Varghese, Bishop of Itanagar, and the inaugural ceremony led by Rev Fr. Tomson Aerathedathu, Provincial Superior of MSFS Dibrugarh Province, the occasion was filled with joy. This event not only celebrates the completion of a construction project but also embodies the unwavering commitment of the Church to nurture and support its flock. We thank Fr. Peter Peuhausuiding and Fr. Peter Parankimalil for their meticulous planning and implementation.



APPOINTMENTS

- **Fr. Carlus Barowa** is appointed Associate Priest of SFS Church Medziphema on April 23, 2024.
- **Fr. Anthony Eattikattil**, is appointed member of MSFS Provincial House Community at Silapathar on April 29, 2024.
- **Fr. Ajimon Mathirampallil** is appointed member of the MSFS Provincial House Community at Silapathar with effect from June 1, 2024
- **Fr. Jimal Johny Painapally**, is appointed Socius of the MSFS novitiate house Chabua with effect from June 1, 2024

REGENCY

- **Bro. Junason Indwar** is appointed in Vinayabhavan Seminary Thamarassery
- **Bro. Michael Tada** is appointed in St. Josephs Parish Kaying
- **Bro. S. Adam** is appointed in SFS Parish Basar.

INFORMATION

ANNUAL RETREAT

The first annual retreat of the province will commence from 8th July to 13th July 2024 in Kohima at Mount Tabor Retreat Center. The retreat will be preached by Rev.Fr. Tom Pannalakunnel MSFS (South West Province)

HERITAGE RETREAT AT ANNECY

Fr. Philip Mhonchumo is attending the Heritage retreat at Annecy in France.

CONGRATULATIONS/ THANKS

- SFS College for organizing the 7th Commencement program
- Holy Redeemer Renewal Center, Kaying for organizing the Youth Retreat.
- Fr Francis Poovelil, for publishing his doctrinal Thesis, titled “Fransalian Charism and Missionary Apostolate”.

ANNUAL NATIONAL GATHERING OF PMP

Annual national gathering and prayer days for the confreres who are engaged in preaching Ministry in India to be held in Silapathar from **October 28 to November 1, 2024.**

GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION IN 2024

Golden Jubilee of the Arrival of MSFS Missionaries in Northeast India

As you already know that the year 2024 marks the 50th year of the Arrival of MSFS Pioneers in Northeast India. Our Congregation's history records that a group of five missionaries embarked on a journey in 1975 from Visakhapatnam to spread love, compassion, and the message of faith to the vibrant communities of Northeast India. Their arrival marked the beginning of a transformative chapter in our region's history, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts and souls of countless individuals. Certainly, this significant milestone calls for a great celebration of thanksgiving to God and to the local Church. The Golden Jubilee Committee is charting the programs and I hope to share the comprehensive plan shortly. However, the **Golden Jubilee Year will be inaugurated with the Jubilee Mass on 24 October 2024 at Saint Francis De Sales Church, Silapathar at 04.30 PM and will be concluded on 24 October 2025 at MSFS Provincial House, Narengi.**

DIACONATE ORDINATION

Bro. isamding Kevin Diswan will be ordained a deacon on June 22, 2024 by Most Rev. Linus Neli, Archbishop of Imphal. Let us support him with our Prayers.

DEPARTURE FROM THE CONGREGATION

- Biljackson Marbiniang cease to be the member of our congregation.

LET US PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED

Let us Pray for the departed soul of **Fr Jose Puthiaparambil MSFS (76)**, belonging to south-west India Province.

Let us Pray for the departed soul of **Mr. Cherian Mathirampallil (80)**, father of Fr. Aji Cherian Mathirampallil,

“True devotion does us no harm whatsoever, but instead perfects everything we do; it makes all our cares lighter, makes our labors easier, and it makes our joys more pure and sincere.” - Saint Francis De Sales



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Tomson Aerathedathu MSFS'.

FR TOMSON AERATHEDATHU MSFS
(PROVINCIAL, MSFS DIBRUGARH PROVINCE)