

Missionaries of St Francis de Sales

Dibrugarh Province

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TA/05-CIRCULAR

05 April 2023

EASTER MESSAGE

“Why do you look for the living among the dead?” (Lk 24:5b) was the question addressed to the fear-filled women who intended to pay homage to Jesus at his tomb early in the morning by the two divine men in dazzling garments. They reminded the women of the reliability of the words of Jesus regarding the necessity of he being handed over to sinful men, to be crucified, and on the third day to rise. In the face of human wickedness, the redeeming divine love manifests through excruciating suffering and the ultimate victory over death mark also the most profound manifestation of Divine Mercy. It is at the same time a turning point in human history by opening up the possibility of a new communion between God and humanity. New Life is at hand.

In Easter season, we celebrate the living presence of Jesus Christ in manifold ways in us and in our midst. As Christians we are buried with Christ and we have a share in his new life and glory through baptism (Rom 6:4), a new dignity, a new hope. The Divine Mercy Sunday provides us the opportunity to celebrate this new hope in a more intense way.

Through the liturgical celebration of this Paschal Mystery let us dispose ourselves to be embraced by the Divine Grace that is poured into us these days in abundance. May the Hope that Easter proclaims be the source of renewal and renovation for us and for the whole world.

Happy Easter

Fr Tomson Areathedathu MSFS



PARISH FEAST AT SFS PARISH, SILAPATHAR

To mark the 400th death anniversary of our Heavenly Patron, St. Francis De Sales Parish, Silapathar celebrated its Parish Feast Day on 24th January 2023 after nine days of intense preparation by prayers and novena. The solemn Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr Tomson Aerathedathu, the Provincial of Dibrugarh Province. It was concelebrated by ten MSFS Confreres and participated by a good number of parishioners and our novices. During the Holy Eucharistic celebration, eight children received the Holy Communion. After the Holy Mass, there was a veneration of the relic of SFS which was followed by a short felicitation programme. A quiz competition on the topic of SFS was organized for the Catechism students and the winners were awarded with prizes. On this day a photo album "Memorabilia" 2022 of the province was released by the Provincial. The Feast Day was solemnized with a fellowship dinner with fathers, sisters and novices. Congratulations to Fr Joseph Chakkalackal and the SFS campus community for organizing the feast day celebrations.



PARISH DAY CELEBRATION AT SFS CHURCH, MEDZIPHEMA

St. Francis De Sales Parish Medziphema celebrated its Parish Day (Parish Feast) on 29th Jan 2023. Rev. Fr. Benny Varghese, Pastoral Director cum Diocesan Youth Director, of Kohima Diocese was the main celebrant. It was concelebrated by six priests and participated by a good number of parishioners, novices, candidates and our seminarians. After the Holy Mass, there was a solemn Eucharistic Procession followed by fellowship meal.



ARRIVAL OF CMC SISTERS IN YINGKIONG

The Sisters of Congregation of Mount Carmel were welcomed to Divine Mercy Parish Yingkiang as collaborators in the mission of the Lord on 04 February 2023. On the same day the new convent building was blessed and inaugurated by Rev. Fr Jacob Mattathilany, the Vicar General of the diocese of Itanagar and Sr Agi CMC, the Vice Provincial of CMC Dimapur province respectively, in the presence of Rev. Fr Varghese Manickathan MSFS, Provincial Delegate cum Councillor in charge of Mission Dibrugarh Province, along with other fathers and parishners. There was a short felicitation programme and fellowship meal for all thereafter.



DEDICATION OF ST PAUL CHURCH, PEREN



On 5th of February, 2023 the Newly built church at St. Paul Parish, Peren was Blessed by Most Rev. Dr. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima. The celebration began with a call to worship by ringing the church Bell by Rev. Fr. Kurian Pattimakal, the first parish Priest of St. Paul Parish. After the blessing of the church door, Rev. Fr. Tomson Aerathedathu the Provincial of MSFS Dibrugarh Province, inaugurated the church by cutting the ribbon. The long-awaited moment for this great event was indeed solemnized by the presence of 35 Priests and many nuns and delegates from the neighboring parishes of the diocese.

The dedication of the church and the Altar was witnessed not only by the Catholics but also a lot of our separated brethren from other churches. On this very day 136 faithful received the sacrament of Confirmation and 22 children received the first Holy Communion. The celebration was culminated with a thanksgiving meal.



SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF SFS PARISH AT PASIGHAT

Silver Jubilee of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Pasighat, was celebrated on Sunday, 5th February 2023. The Solemn Eucharistic Celebration of Silver Jubilee was officiated by Rev Fr (Dr) George Parampukattil MSFS and Rev Fr Varghese Manickathan MSFS preached. During the Eucharistic Celebration 21 adults were baptized, 20 children were given first Holy Communion, 13 couples marriages were rectified and 51 members were given the Sacrament of Confirmation. This celebration was a culmination of a month-long programme of family renewal in the parish territory and sub stations of the Parish. The family renewal programme was concluded with three days of inner healing convention where hundreds of people received healing from various sicknesses.



The first day of the convention the Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Rev Fr Tomson Aerathedathu MSFS, Provincial MSFS Dibrugarh Province. After the Eucharistic celebration Silver Jubilee Magazine was released and the first copy was given to Rev Fr Thomas Kollathuvayalil MSFS, the first Parish Priest of St. Francis de Sales Parish Pasighat.



PARISH MISSION PREACHING AT HOLY ROSARY PARISH, BASAR

A parish Mission Preaching Program (PMP) was organized at Holy Rosary Parish Basar from the 12 to 14th of March 2023. The Mission preaching team from Holy Redeemer Retreat Center Kaying arrived at Holy Rosary Parish Basar on 11th Saturday evening consisting of Fr. Belo Francis the director Miss. Catherine, Mrs. Martha Pingam, Mrs. Yayir Yongam and Mrs. Juliatt Gerum. The team was welcomed by Rev. Fr. James Pattarakalayil the parish priest and the parish community on Sunday after the Eucharist. The Parish Mission program began with the Morning prayer on Sunday and ended with the adoration and Tea on Tuesday. The program was well attended by the also members from Dali, Kamdak, Angu, Lirimoba, Ligo and Nyorak, some of the substations of Holy Rosary Parish. Some of the participants were accommodated in De Sales and St. Marys Hostels. The participants thanked God for such a wonderful opportunity to be renewed in spirit during the season of Lent. The team was thanked profusely by the Parish council President Mr. Jarka Kamdak on Tuesday after the Adoration.



CELEBRATING THE 400TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF SFS AT TATO

Holy Angels' Parish, Tato Celebrated 400th death anniversary of St Francis De Sales from 10th to 12th February 2023. Fr Tomson Aerathedathu, the Provincial of Dibrugarh province was the chief guest of the programme. He thanked and exhorted the faithful for their help and cooperation. Fr Luke Tanti animated the three days' Triduum with SFS. Novena to SFS, Litany of SFS and SFS' Anthem were all translated and prayed in Hindi. The talks were based on Salesian themes like: Life and Mission of SFS, Prayer, SFS' method of Meditation and Contemplation, living in the Presence of God, Love of God, Universal call to Holiness, sin, confession, Mass and Salesian little virtues. For the First time thorough preaching on Salesian themes were given to the faithful. They came to know who SFS is and his spirituality.



There were competitions like: Volleyball for gents and ladies, group dance for ladies, mixed group song, Bible Quiz, Quiz on SFS, Mermier and MSFS Congregation. Cash prizes were given for the winners. Faithful generously contributed their services and means for the celebration. Meals were served for all on those three days.

PARISH FEAST CUM ANNUAL SOBHA AT SFS CHURCH, CHABUA

SFS parish feast cum 5th Annual sabha celebrations was held on 19th February in one of the village Church called Hathiali line 28. The celebration began by blessings of the renovated church which was build in 1936. It was followed by Holy Eucharistic Celebration. It was presided by Bishop Albert Hermom the bishop of Dibrugarh and concelebrated by 4 fathers namely Fr. Carlus Barowa the Provincial Delegate the councilor in charge of formation cum Director of FYM of Dibrugarh Province, Fr Francis Poovelil the Novice Master Fr. Ajimon and Fr. Mahimadas,



the rector of Vianney Home. There were 2 brothers, 10 sisters, and 15 formees. During the Holy Eucharistic celebration Bishop has administered sacraments, namely 28 people have received the sacrament of confirmation and 39 children received first communion. There was short felicitation and cultural program. The parish feast day cum 5th annual sobha came to an end with a fellowship meal.

SILVER JUBILEE OF ST. JOSEPH CHURCH, KAYING

Silver Jubilee of St. Joseph Church, Kaying was celebrated from 17th to 19th of February, 2023. The parish priest Fr. Varghese Manickathan, MSFS welcomed the gathering and gave a grand entry to all three days' celebration. The first day programme was conducted by all the villages of the parish namely, Bogu, Hiyo, Molo, Dupu, Sirum, Pame /Reying, Gaming, Payum, Ruo, Keak, Gate, Bogne, Gacheng, Mega, Gemo-Tali, Tumbin, and Kerang. The programme began with prayer led by Fr. James Chapao MSFS. The chief guest of the day was Mr. Taw Tabin, the president of APCA and the other dignitaries of APCA. There were many cultural programmes performed by the people from various villages. The programme ended with a fellowship meal. The second day programme was conducted by the people of Kaying. The programme began with prayer led by Fr. Martin, CMI. The chief guest of the day was Talem Taboh, MLA of 32 Rungong Constituency. There were also many other special guests present for the same. There were many cultural events performed by the people of Kaying. The Programme ended with a grand meal.



The third day's celebration was specially dedicated to all the priests and religious who worked as missionaries in Kaying. The solemn Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Tomson Aerathedathu MSFS, Provincial of Dibrugarh Province. The solemn festive meal was served soon after the Mass followed by a grand felicitation to all the chief guests present and all the religious worked at St. Joseph Church, Kaying in the last 25 years. A good number of people were present for all three days of celebration. People especially from every unit gave their best for the success of the celebration making it a memorable one. The programme ended with a thanksgiving speech given by the Parish Priest, Fr. Varghese Manickathan, MSFS,

STUDENT CUM CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME, AT SFS COLLEGE, AALO



Under an MoU between SFS College Aalo and Assam Don Bosco University, Guwahati, a Student cum Cultural exchange programme was organized between Feb 15 to 24, 2023. A team of 30 students and two faculty members of ADBU, Department of Social Work were received at Aalo on Feb 15, 2023. Every night they were transported to the college campus for sleep. The student exchange programme consisted of 10 days village outreach programmes. The visitors engaged themselves in a village named 'Darkha', a few kms away from the college, where they involved in different activities and learnings. On the 24th February, there was a display of cultural expressions of dance, dress and songs where the students of both institutions matched each other with their cultural uniqueness. The program gave the students a rare opportunity to come in contact with different cultures, people and food habits of North-East. The cultural extravaganza was presided over by Rev Dr. James Pattarkalayil, MSFS, Councilor for Missions, Dibrugarh Province and Superior cum Parish Priest, Basar. He in his consolidation speech and final remark appreciated the efforts and the results while highlighting the learning and benefits involved in the whole process of exchange. He insisted that 'differences of people and culture are not for indifference and irreverence to each other', rather 'to celebrate and cherish the uniqueness'. He also admired the number of co-curricular events taking place in SFS college and appealed to all concerned to benefit from these varieties of opportunities. In the evening, there was a football match between SFS College Aalo and ADBU Students.



Fr George Poovathumkal
Councillor for Education



Fr Sabu Francis
Provincial



Fr Joby Kurikilamkattu
Councillor for Mission



Fr John Barman
Councilor for Social & Innovative Ministires



Fr Alois Boragaon
Councilor for Formation



Fr Santhosh Chavaranal
Provincial Bursar

Congratulations!

ONE DAY MEDICAL CAMP AT KANGOPI

One day free Medical Camp was conducted at Daili Village in Kangpokpi District on 4th March 2023 in order to spread awareness about health check-up and maintaining a healthy life style.. It was organized by the Catholic Medical Centre (CMC Hospital) Koirengei, Imphal. The medical team consisted of 6 Doctors, 4 Nurses, few Pharmacists, one priest and two nuns. People from far and wide benefitted from the camp. The people expressed their deep sentiment of gratitude to Fr. Roy Muthedathu the Parish Priest and the coordinators for their love and concern. The people were very receptive and happy.



BLESSING AND INAUGURATION OF THE COUNSELLING AT DIBRUGARH

In collaboration with the Dibrugarh diocese a new counselling center is opened at Dibrugarh Bishop's House Campus, and Fr. Mathew Puthumana is appointed Director of the Counselling center. The center was blessed by Bishop Rt. Rev. Albert Hemrom, the Bishop of Dibrugarh on 28th February in the presence of many priests and nuns. The inauguration program was held on 18th March. The main objective of the centre is to impart knowledge of theoretical and practical aspects of counselling increase self-awareness, sharpen listening skills to improve performance in various life roles. The centre will be offering certificate course in counselling and personal growth as well. We thank Fr. Mathew Puthumana for venturing into this new ministry and rendering his valuable service in the diocese of Dibrugarh. Wishing you a fulfilling and fruitful ministry ahead.



ANNUAL RETREAT AT SFS CHURCH, JONAI

Annual Retreat: SFS church Jonai conducted the annual retreat of the parish from 8 to 10th of March 2023. A good number of parishners from all the villages came to attend the retreat. People from faraway villages were accommodated in the parish. Fr. Ajith Daimari MSFS animated the retreat. The semi charismatic retreat was conducted in Assamese. It was a wonderful opportunity for the faithful to have a God experience in their lives. The retreat has helped many to rebuild their relationship with God. People were very happy and expressed their gratitude to Fr. Thomas Kollathuvayalill for arranging the retreat and thanked Fr. Ajit for animating the retreat and nourishing them spiritually



YOUTH CAMP AT YINGKIONG

Divine Mercy Parish Yingkiong had organized five days of youth camp at SFS School campus Yingkiong. It was attended by 42 youth from Yingkiong Parish. The camp was conducted from the evening of March 22, until the morning of Sunday, March 26, 2023. The youths, both boys and girls were accommodated in the Mermier's hostel Yingkiong. Fr. Luke Tanti, Sr Rosina CMC, Sr Rita CMC, and two of the parishners namely Mrs. Mary Paron and Mr. Joseph Tada were the animators of the camp. Thanks to Fr Kusum, the former parish priest, Fr Peter Peuhausuiding and Fr Jimal Johny for organizing the programme



A NEW CHURCH FOR THE GARO COMMUNITY AT RAJAKHANA

Foundation stone for a new church at Rajakhana village, under Jonai parish was laid by Fr. Joseph Thazhathukunnel on March 28th 2023 at 10 am, in the presence of the villagers. It was their long-cherished desire to have good church in their village. Sincere thanks to Fr. Joseph. Thazhathukunnel who has raised the fund for this new church.

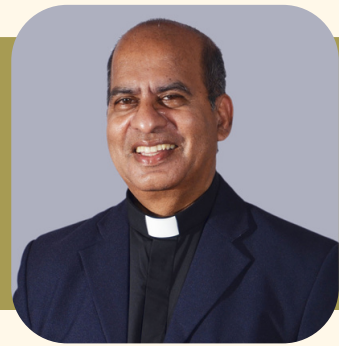


HEARTY CONGRATS

Hearty Congratulations to Rev. Fr. Francis Poovelil for successfully defending his doctoral thesis on "Fransalian charism and missionary apostolate an exploratory study on the charism of the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales" at IIS Bangalore.

HEARTY CONGRATS

Congratulations to **Rev.Fr Angelo Fernandes** as he is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of his priestly Ordination. We thank you for your selfless service to the congregation and the church at large.



SINCERE THANKS

Rev. Fr. Jaimon Thadathil, for the enormous service to the Dibrugarh Province as the Provincial secretary. Your commitment dedication and passion for your work are really appreciated

INFORMATION

Fr Joseph Thazathukunnel has returned to India after having completed his ministry in Italy. He is a member of Provincialate community until he is given a new assignment.

THANKS /CONGRATULATIONS TO:

- Fr Woodrow H. Pace, Fr Francis Thadathil, and Fr Augustine Kulangara, for visiting the Provincialate community at Silapathar on 28th Jan 2023
- Fr. Thomas Kollathuvayalil and Fr. Joseph K.P for organizing the parish retreat at SFS Church Jonai
- Fr. Francis Belo for conducting the Lenten preparation retreat at Holy Redeemer Renewal Center Kaying.
- Fr. Kusumkant Toppno and Fr. Jimal Johny for conducting the Annual Inner Healing Retreat and youth retreat at Divine Mercy Parish Yingkiang
- Fr. Milkus Tirkey and Fr. Alock Tigga for extending timely help and assistance to the victims of hailstorm under Chabua Parish.
- Fr. Jose Karippadathu, staff and students of SFS College Aalo for conducting student exchange program in collaboration with Assam Don Bosco University.
- Congratulations to Fr. Kurian Ovelill and Fr. Andreas Syngkli for Conducting Retreat cum Catholic Women's Seminar in Purul.
- Fr Milkus Tirkey for successfully completing the formator's course.

- **Fr. Peter Peuhausuiding** is appointed Parish Priest and Principal of Divine Mercy Parish and SFS School Yingkiong with the effect from 14th March 2023
- **Fr. Libin Vattekkattukandam** is appointed new Provincial Secretary with the effect from 16th March 2023. Additional Responsibility: Associate Director of FAST & MDO
- **Fr. Jaimon Thadathil** is appointed Manager and Administrator of the SFS College campus community Aalo with the effect from 16th March 2023.
- **Fr. Kusumkant Samir Toppo** is appointed Local Superior and Parish Priest of SFS Church Chabua with the effect from 27th March 2023
- **Fr. Jacob Mattathil** is appointed principal and Associate Priest of SFS School and Parish, Pasighat with effect from 19th March 2023
- **Fr. Joseph Bamhimbe** is appointed principal of St. Joseph's School and Associate Priest of St. Joseph's Church Kaying with the effect from 13th April 2023.
- **Fr. Simon Thaikho** is appointed Local Superior and Parish Priest of Sacred Heart Church, Likabali with the effect from 14th April 2023.
- **Fr. Mathew Puthumana** is appointed Director of Counselling Center at Dibrugarh with the effect from 09th March 2023.

OBITURARY

- Let us pray for the departed soul of Mr Manuel Kizhakkekara(74), the brother in law of Fr George Kunnel who died on 2nd February 2023
- Let us pray for the departed soul of Mr. Nichodim Kujur (73) the cousin of Fr .Milkius Tirkey, who died on 06th February 2023
- Let us pray for the departed soul of Mrs. Valsamma Joy the sister-in-law of Fr George Parampukattil, who died on 12th February 2023
- Let us pray for the departed soul of Mr. Ngaorai the brother in law of Fr. Panii Paul, who died on 03rd March 2023
- Let us pray for the departed soul of Mr. Devan Islary, the father of Lt. Bro. Lucas Islary who died on 11th March 2023





OBITUARY



Our departed confreres

May they rest in peace



Fr Bernard Caszo
Vishakpatnam Province



Fr Cyriac Vellikettel
Nagpur Province



Rev. Bro. George Ettackakunnel
Vishakpatnam Province



Fr Aloysius Kuzhippally
South-West Province



Fr Joseph Reddy
Vizak Province

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR XXI GENERAL CHAPTER

Most Holy Trinity, Father – Son – and Holy Spirit,
We thank you for all the blessings showered on our Congregation.
We thank you for the Charism gifted to us through our Founder Father Peter Mermier

Our hearts are filled with hope as we prepare for our XXI General Chapter.
We desire to live our charism in our communities for the mission of the church.
Strengthen our resolve to be in communion with you,
with one another, and with our broken world.
Open our eyes, to discern the deeper meaning of our charism to which you call us.
Open our ears, to hear the voices of those who suffer on the peripheries of society.

Open our lips to proclaim your love and mercy to all people
Send your Holy Spirit
To all the participants of the 21st General Chapter and
guide them in their deliberations and implementation of decisions.

We offer this prayer to you, the One and Triune God,
through the intercession of Mary, mother of Compassion,
St. Francis de Sales, and Fr. Peter Mermier, Amen

(1 Our Father, 1 Hail Mary, and 1 Glory be)

REGIONAL FORUM MEETINGS

Sep: 26-27	Regional (India) Mission Forum with GS in Pune
Sep 28-29	Regional (India) Education Forum with GS in TRICHY
Sep 30- Oct 01	Regional (India) Forum Forum with GS in VIZAK
Oct 02-03	Regional (India) Social Apostolate Forum with GS in Nagpur
Oct 03-04	Regional (India) Mission Forum with GB in TRICHY

NB: All the forum members are requested to take note of the dates and make themselves available for the meetings.

INFORMATION ON ANNUAL RETREAT 2023

The first Annual Retreat will be in Kohima from July 03, 2023 Monday (Evening) to July 8, 2023 Saturday (Morning). Fr. Kurian Karickal msfs will be animating the retreat. May I request all the confreres to confirm your participation with provincial secretary.

Please register your name with Fr Libin

WhatsApp: Mob 8848195857

Email provincalsecretarydibrugarh@gmail.com

REQUEST

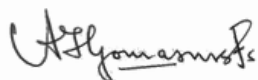
Confreres are requested to send all official documents through E-mails. Kindly refrain from sharing any official documents though whatsapp.

EDUCATION SEMINAR

The Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, Secretariat of Education is organising an education seminar "Upskilling to scale up" from 1st - 4th May 2023 at Shillong. All the forum members are requested to participate in the seminar.

My dear confreres, it is my pleasure to share my Easter joy with all of you. Wishing you all a holy season of Easter! May the risen Lord bless our congregation and all her members with his peace and joy. HAPPY EASTER

Yours sincerely,



Fr. Tomson Aerathedathu MSFS



MSFS Dibrugarh Province



DEAR CONFRERES

**WISHING YOU ALL
A GRACE FILLED
EASTER**



YEAR OF SFS 2022-23

**HOLY
INSIGHTS FROM
OUR PATRON**

“Consider that after a deluge of sorrow, of torments, and of anguish, Our Savior rose from the tomb by His own power; He came forth by His own might.

St Francis de Sales