



FRANSALIAN

International

400th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Year of St Francis de Sales
2022 -2023

MEET

ARCHBISHOP JOHN MOOLACHIRA

Being more Missionary
and Pastorally oriented

A SPOONFUL OF HONEY

A series of Fransalian
Value Education Text Books





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COVER PHOTO: SFS Statue at Les Allinges from where SFS began his Chablais Mission. **Inset Photo:** Most Rev. Yves Boivineau, Bishop of Annecy and Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS, Superior General at the celebration of 400th Death Anniversary of SFS, inside the Visitation Church, Annecy.

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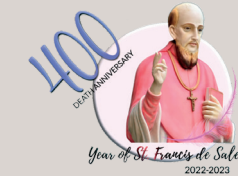
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PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

“Lord, I am Yours,
and I must belong to no one but You.
My soul is Yours,
and must live only by You.
My will is Yours,
and must love only for You.
I must love You as my first cause,
since I am from You.
I must love You as my end and rest,
since I am for You.
I must love You more than my own being,
since my being subsists by You.
I must love You more than myself,
since I am all Yours and all in You.
Amen.”

St. Francis de Sales , Pray for us

**YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
2022 - 2023**

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Every year, June comes freighted with possibilities and opportunities. June is both a month of escape and entry; escape from the school year in some parts of the world while an entry into a new academic year in other parts. In many MSFS Provinces, it is time for transfers to new communities and assuming responsibilities. It is also a time for travels, vacations, retreats, renewal programs and meetings.

Community life, with transfers and new appointments, offers new possibilities with opportunities for every confrere. Amid all the stress, anxiety, and uncertainties arising from the new situations, there is an emotional interlude where we all learn something about ourselves as we return to regular lives and move to new places.

FRANSALIAN INTERNATIONAL, JUNE 2022, also arrives freighted with news from the mission frontiers with updates, events, reports, interviews, initiatives, and interesting stories from within and without the MSFS family. This special issue on community life takes us to the original founding days to recapture the spirit and vitality of the founding times. Community life is a non-negotiable characteristic of MSFS's way of life. Our religious vocation as MSFS is to be lived among confreres in a community.

As we began the Year of St. Francis de Sales, we are invited to connect ourselves to the long chain of tradition of our spirituality and charism with a sense of belongingness. Insights from SFS and Thoughts from Father Mermier will draw us closer to each other and our MSFS family. It is said that one sees clearly with the heart. Anything essential is invisible to the eyes. I am sure that the readers of FRANSALIAN INTERNATIONAL will see with the heart as you read. We have then many reasons to thank the Lord and 'rejoice in God our Saviour'.

Live JESUS!
Father Abraham Vettuvellil, MSFS
Superior General



DRAWING INSPIRATION FROM SFS AND MERMIER

Having had an accomplished journey through the 'Year of Missions', we have entered another significant year, the 'Year of St Francis de Sales,' with the declaration of the year being opened by Rev Fr Dr Abraham Vettuvellil, the Superior General.

Being applauded by Archbishop John Moolachira (Interview, pg. 8) for our total commitment to responsibilities entrusted with us, in the background of St Clement Philosophical College Assam, Morning Star College Kolkatta, CBCI College of Medical Education Ranchi, etc., is indeed a matter of great credibility and strength for us. But his admonition for us 'to be more missionary and pastorally oriented and to recognize and honour pastors more than scholars to prove that we are really Missionaries of St Francis de Sales' should challenge us to continue much more vigorously in our mission endeavours in the spirit and spirituality of SFS and Mermier, letting no flame off from the observation of the 'Year of Missions'.

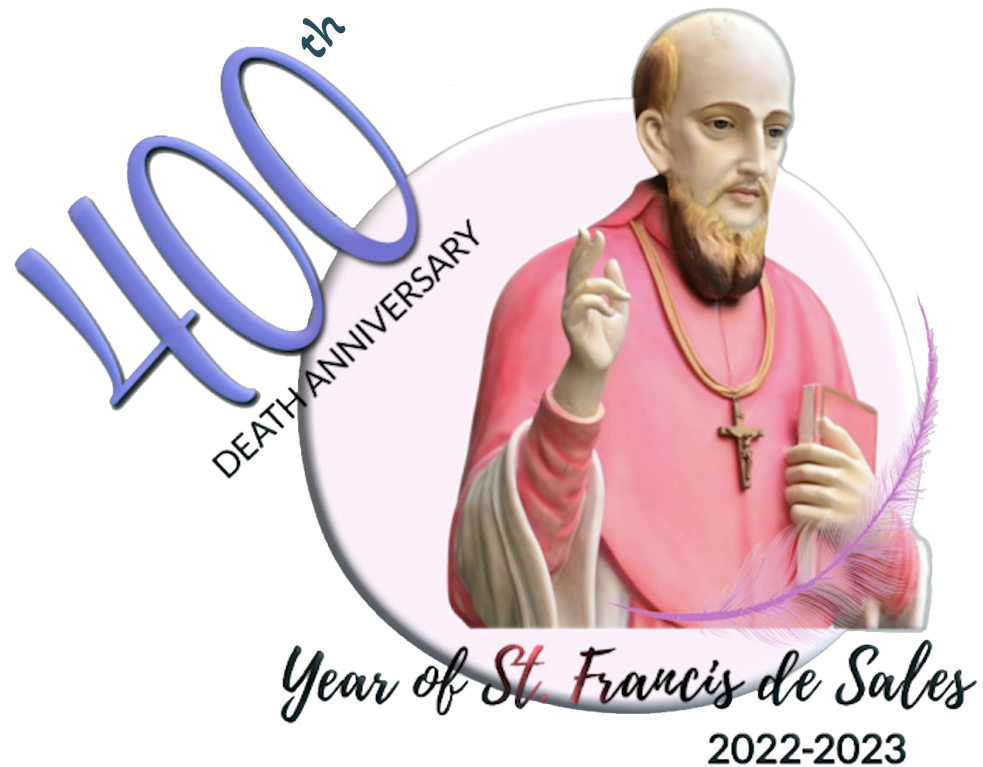
When Mrs Apoline Patrick D'Souza, whose narrative this issue of FI carries on Pg. 9, expresses her indebtedness to the MSFS fathers for her spiritual growth and for being able to live contentedly, we are yet again impelled to tread on the path of SFS, especially in the context of the significance of this year. This is where we need to strongly consider the urging words of our beloved Superior General to study St Francis de Sales, imitate his virtues and use his method of pastoral care with compassion and gentleness towards sinners during the year.

As the write-ups by Frs Joseph Pullopillil and Mariadas Sesetti in and through the columns on 'Insights from the Patron' and 'Thoughts from the Founder's Heart' invite us to be challenged and enlightened by the understanding and concept of 'Community Life' as spoken and lived by SFS and Mermier, let us be impelled to move forward ever fervently in our mission drawing inspiration from them and strength from our own communities.

On behalf of the Editorial Team, I am glad to present before you Fransalian International, Vol 34, No.1. I place on record a word of heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all the contributors.

Wish you all a pleasant reading!!!

Fr. Vintu Augustine, MSFS
Chief Editor
Fransalian International



Year of St. Francis de Sales Inaugurated

Rev. Fr. Dr. Abraham Vettuvellil, the Superior General of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, declared the year 2022 – 23 as ‘Year of St Francis de Sales’ for the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and the Fransalian Associates on April 21, 2022, through a video message online.

He had announced the year as “Year of St Francis de Sales” for the Congregation and the Fransalian Associates through his circular dated April 16, 2022, starting from Divine Mercy Sunday on April 24, 2022 and concluding on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 16, 2023.

“The year – 2022 – is a significant year for the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and the Fransalian Associates. We are celebrating the 400th death anniversary of our spiritual master and patron... This year, we will study St Francis de Sales, imitate his virtues and use his method of pastoral care with compassion and gentleness towards sinners...” said Fr. Vettuvellil, declaring the Year of St Francis de Sales 2022 – 23 opened.

The General Administration has constituted an ad hoc committee with members from the provinces and administrative units to organize, facilitate, implement and monitor the programs in the year of St Francis de Sales.

Following the Superior General’s declaration, different Provinces and the Vice Province of the Congregation inaugurated the ‘Year of St Francis de Sales’ in their own way on April 24, the Divine Mercy Sunday.

'Being More Missionary and Pastorally Oriented'



Most Rev John Moolachira, Archbishop, Archdiocese of Guwahati, Assam

The MSFS works in the Archdiocese of Guwahati, Assam, since its inception and Most Rev John Moolachira, the Archbishop of Guwahati, knows the MSFS ever since their arrival in Northeast India in 1975. The Archbishop shared his impressions on the MSFS with Fr Vintu Augustine, editor-in-chief of Fransalian International, over the email. Here are the excerpts;

What are your impressions and experience with the mission and life of MSFS?

The MSFS lives humble lives and readily mixes with priests, religious and people. Like any other priests or religious they are engaged in ministries such as pastoral work, education, social service, preaching retreats, formation programmes, etc.

They are respectful and obedient to the hierarchy of the Church. Many of them are academically highly qualified in different areas and use their knowledge for the good of the Church. The provincials were always ready to assist the archdiocese when it needed personnel badly and sometimes at short notice. And they were gracious enough to withdraw quietly when the diocese had its own personnel to manage the parish or institutions.

How do you assess the contribution of the MSFS to the Church and society?

MSFS came to Northeast India to help in missionary activities. Initially, they were assisting in parish ministry and later on they were given parishes to run on their own. I know that they are working in distant and almost unapproachable areas in Arunachal Pradesh and are working in backward regions of the African

continent. They have also turned out to be good educationalists and run schools and institutions well.

We have the MSFS running St Clement Philosophical College for the dioceses of Assam, Morning Star College at Barrackpore for the Bengal Regional Bishop's Conference, CBCI College of Medical Education at Ranchi, etc. They are totally committed to their responsibilities.

Do you recall any particular experience with MSFS that has made an impact on the lives of people?

I can think of the contribution of the MSFS in rendering service to a large number of poor people especially around Guwahati through FAsCE India during Covid times and flood. Many of the victims would have been starving if not for their help.

The service of the MSFS at St Clement College in the archdiocese of Guwahati, developing it into a premier philosophate, is a great and generous achievement. They are good formators of youngsters at that stage of formation. The College has good reputation for the

quality and knowledge of its students.

What is your message to the MSFS especially the younger ones?

I would want them to be more missionary and pastorally oriented. Reach out to people, tribes and communities that are or will be open to Catholic faith; work with their existing communities to launch out to others who have not yet known Christ. Every MSFS should prove that he is indeed a missionary. The leadership should recognize and honour pastors more than the scholars to prove that they are really "Missionaries" of St Francis de Sales.



My Beautiful Journey with the MSFS

By Mrs Apoline Patrick D'Souza



My journey with MSFS started in 1979 when I met Fr Alphonse, a simple and down-to-earth priest (then a brother.) Appointed a librarian at Ishwani Kendra, Pune, and working there for 10 years (1979 – 1989), I got to meet and interact with many priests, religious, professors and students, who were studying and teaching in Jnana Deep (Papal Seminary). I consider it a blessing to have got to work there with late Fr Anthony Mookenthottam MSFS, who was a great scholar but a humble person. Being a parishioner of St Francis de Sales Church, Pune, I have been associated with the MSFS fathers for over 40 years. Also, I am proud that I was one of the first teachers of St Francis de Sales School, Pune, from 1989 till my retirement in 2019. I was trained for a secretarial job and would have been working in some company. But God had greater plans for me. The teachings and virtues of St Francis de Sales inspired me in numerous ways to grow and get closer to God. My prayer life, the attachment I have towards Church and my association with the MSFS fathers over the years won me lifetime friends in them and I feel humbled and blessed to be a benefactor to many of them. This has further helped me in spreading God's love through various activities in the church,

School and also among all my near and dear ones. I was also inspired by Fr Peter Mermier's teachings, who was enlightened by the vision and mission of Jesus and SFS. He was a kind, tireless and hardworking priest. He always had the opinion that one has to be a mother to the pupil with a kind and tender heart and have a nurturing personality. His humble teachings and approach towards children made me practice these values during my teaching tenure. When the invitation came to me from Fr Johnson Gonsalves to join the Fransalian Associates in 2018, I attended the meeting and decided to become one with them. Fr Jayaseelan Selvaraj, the provincial, Fr Johnson and Fr Mario D'souza had some sessions with a few lay people like me. I found their talks to be very inspiring and was happy to know more about St Francis de Sales and Fr Mermier. The purpose of me in being a Fransalian Associate is to love and serve God by loving and serving people around with a kind and compassionate heart. I am grateful to God for the gift of my association with the MSFS fathers through which I have been able to grow in many ways and am able to live a happy and contented life.

Love and live Jesus.



INSIGHTS FROM THE PATRON

Getting Rooted in Little Virtues

By Fr Joseph Pullopillil MSFS

The importance and relevance of Community for a happy and meaningful life is acknowledged by people of all walks of life.

St Francis de Sales gave a list of virtues that he called 'little virtues', which grow beneath the foot of the Cross watered with the blood of the Son of God. The list includes; humility, patience, gentleness, kindness, forbearance, calmness, good temper, heartiness, forgiveness, simplicity, frankness and the like. "Such virtues are like violets growing in a shady nook, fed by the dew of Heaven, and shedding forth a sweet and precious odour." (The Spirit of St. Francis de Sales, By Jean Pierre Camus)

To the question, what else can we find on the top of the Cross? he replied "Plenty" and went on to explain; "There you will find bright, shining graces – such as prudence, justice, magnificence, zeal, liberality, almsgiving, strength, charity, bodily mortification, obedience, contemplation, constancy, contempt of riches and honours, and the like." He further added: "Men are keen after such virtues because they win esteem and praise; but in truth we ought only to value them in so far as we can please God by their means, and find fresh ways of

proving our love for Him therein." (Ibid, 58-59). From the above, it is easy to understand the true nature of community life, in the vision of SFS who was himself the founder of the congregation of the Sisters of the Visitation. "Little things done in a spirit of fervent love are infinitely more precious than much greater works done with less love," said St Francis de Sales. "I know that little troubles are often more vexatious than greater matters, because of their multiplicity and their importunate pressure just as home trials are harder to bear than such as some from without; but I know this too, that victory over these is often more acceptable to God than many things which seem more important to the world's sight." I shall end with yet another quote from Francis, "Most assuredly, loving we obey as in obeying we love; but if such obedience is excellent and amiable, it is because it tends to love, and its perfection depends rather upon the fact that while obeying we love, than because loving we obey."

In the light of this enlightening and challenging understanding of 'community', let's assess the quality of our communities and take necessary steps to improve the same.

Effective Ways of Community Life

THOUGHTS FROM THE FOUNDER'S HEART

By Fr Mariadas Sesetti, MSFS

Holy Trinity is a communion of self-emptying. The Church is a mirror of that communion. A religious Community lives that through the mystique of living together.

Servant of God, Fr. Mermier loved to live in the community. At La Roche, the first community, "there reigned between members sincere cordiality, simplicity and modesty cementing their unity. Their spirit of zeal animated their activities and they shared all their experiences, in the art of preaching and in being all to all. They made their meditation together, as well as their examen and spiritual reading. Every Friday they attended a conference given by Fr. Mermier..." (Jean Rey, p.38). The recreations took place in good kindlier spirit, they all played, including Fr. Mermier, marbles, had recreations in the garden, went for long walks, refreshed and relaxed before setting off to missions. "Fr. Mermier was most austere of them all and yet cheerful. He put everyone at ease. Strict with himself, he was most accommodating towards others." (Duval, p. 52). He was the rock of that community, as said by Fr. Gaiddon, and its soul. He exhorted his confreres in effective ways of living in a community. First, he insisted that we esteem our Vocation and work seriously, carefully, constantly on our own sanctification for it is the will of God (Letters, No. 132, p. 211). He also emphasised that we bind ourselves to the Congregation, loving and esteeming it as our unique treasure. (Ibid No. 219, p. 135).

The guiding philosophy of Community life is the Rule (The Constitutions). It is the key to paradise, now and later (Ibid.), and hence everyone without any exception is to be faithful and follow it in letter and spirit. Then the Confreres are to be animated by a sense of belongingness. (Letters 233, p. 142). Physical health and wellness are of paramount importance. So, he suggested 'more health than less' (Letter 271, p.164) and seven hours of sleep (Letter 233).

They are to be charitable, never saying harsh words but be gentle and reasonable, esteem, respect, love, assist in mutual love, oblige, bear with one another. (Counsels given on 19.6.1848). They are to have warm and cordial regard, appreciate and support each other (Letter 223, p.137).

Listen respectfully and never minimize the other's feelings. Be generous with smiles and restrained in anger! Negativity like criticism, gossip, envy, jealousy, hostility have no place; Community life needs a big joyful heart and smiling face! Such a community becomes a place of growth and energizes for the mission and a witness to the Gospel!



Diocese of Annecy Celebrates 400th Death Anniversary of St. Francis de Sales at the Visitation



400th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF SFS IN FRANCO-SWISS PROVINCE
 Franco-Swiss Province invites confreres from Europe to celebrate the 400th Death Anniversary of SFS in Annecy from October 03 through October 04, 2022. Fr. Viju Mathew is the contact person for your pilgrimage to Annecy.

CENTENARY JUBILEE

Celebrated

Fr. Michael Raj MSFS

St. John the Baptist Parish, Mellersdorf, Germany, celebrated the 100th anniversary of its foundation on Oct 17, 2021.

Rt Rev Josef Graf, the Auxiliary Bishop of Regensburg Diocese, officiated the occasion in the presence of many political leaders.

Commemorating the centenary, the parish

community under the leadership of Fr Michael Raj, organised several programmes that brought together all the parishioners.

The parish published a souvenir, which contained the glorious memories of its past, and held a musical concert on May 6, 2022.



Blessing of New Provincial House



The newly-built provincial house of Visakhapatnam Province, 'Stella Maris', was blessed and inaugurated by Fr Suresh Babu, the provincial, on April 28, 2022, in the presence of Most Rev Mallavarapu Prakash, the Archbishop of Visakhapatnam, and Rt Rev Rayarala Vijaya Kumar PIME, the Bishop of Srikakulam, several priests, religious, friends and well-wishers of the Province.

The new house is built in the same location

of the former one, donated by Mrs L F Kotak many decades ago. Gratitude filled the atmosphere during the thanksgiving mass and the whole program. Friends, benefactors and confreres working abroad who contributed towards the materialization of the long-felt need of the Province were gratefully remembered and those who assisted in the construction were felicitated.



Snehalaya



At the completion of 25 years of service to the cause of differently abled children, Snehalaya, Pune, organized Silver Jubilee programme on March 26, 2022. The occasion was graced Rt Rev Bishop Thomas Dabre, the Bishop of Pune, Rev Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, Superior General, Fr Carron Yves, Assistant, Fr Jayaseelan, Provincial of Pune, Fr John Britto Muttuwamy, Provincial of Nagpur, former directors, benefactors, dignitaries and parents. The celebrations were well organised under the leadership of Fr Sunny Joseph, the director. (Fransalian International had carried the story, "Snehalaya enters Silver Jubilee Year" in Vol 33, No. 1.)

St. Joseph Parish



St Joseph's Parish, Manikbond, Assam, celebrated the silver jubilee of its founding on Feb 13, 2022. Most Rev Stephen Rotluanga, the bishop of Aizawl, Mizoram, presided over the Holy Eucharist in the presence of Fr Sabu Francis, the provincial of Guwahati Province, MSFS fathers, and other fathers from the Barak Valley region.

With 112 first communions, 125 confirmations, and 28 marriage rectifications, the celebration was marked by a mix of spiritual and cultural heights.

The occasion also witnessed the laying of foundation stones for School Building, Calvary Grotto, and Jubilee Memorial.

DIVYA JYOTI ASHRAM TURNS SILVER



Divya Jyoti Ashram – Minor Seminary of Nagpur Province at Latapara, Orissa, India – witnessed grand gathering of priests, religious and lay faithful, as it turned silver on April 28, 2022. Rt Rev Kishore Kumar Kujur, Bishop of Rourkela, officiated the solemn Eucharistic celebration in the presence of Fr J B Muthuswamy, the provincial and other MSFS priests from near and far communities. About 31 priests and a huge number of faithful participated in the celebration and the Eucharist, sharing the joy.

100 YEARS TRADITION OF LEONHARDIRITT

Fr Maria Prakash MSFS

One hundred years after the first Leonhardiritt (St. Leonhard horseback procession), Leonhard Chapel, Germany, celebrated the anniversary on Nov 7, 2021.

The Bavarian festival, one of the most noted pilgrimages in Germany, is a celebration dedicated to St. Leonhard von Limoges, the patron saint of livestock, particularly of horses.

Before the procession with the festively decorated horses, Fr. Maria Prakash MSFS, the parish priest, blessed the participants, riders and the horses in a solemn service held in the village square in front of the Leonhard Chapel in Börwang.

People gathered in large numbers, all dressed up in colourful traditional costumes, for the procession that consisted of more than 90 decorated horses and several beautifully bedecked carriages with First Holy Communion children in traditional costumes.





General Curia had an audience with Pope Francis on June 15, 2022.

Four MSFS Priests, who are Missionaries of Mercy, had the privilege of meeting the Holy Father, Pope Francis personally and concelebrating with him in the Divine Mercy Feast Mass at St Peter's Basilica, Rome.

Fr James Manjackal, Fr Mario Dsouza, Fr Dijo Koikkara and Fr Jijo Manjackal were attending the third International Meeting of the Missionaries of Mercy at the Vatican, Rome, through April 23-25, 2022.

The confreres were appointed Missionaries of Mercy in the Year 2016 – the Year of Mercy. As Missionaries of Mercy, they are entrusted with the duty of dispensing God's Mercy more emphatically through their ministries, especially the Sacrament of Reconciliation and preaching the Divine Mercy.

MSFS Missionaries of Mercy Meet Pope Francis



Maiden Venture of the MSFS in Peru

The MSFS have extended our missionary presence to yet another Latin American country other than Ecuador by venturing into Peru on the occasion of the 400th death anniversary of St Francis de Sales.

Most Rev Javier Augusto Del Río Alba, the Archbishop of Arequipa, Peru, entrusted the Parish 'San Isidro Labrador De La Curva' to the MSFS on May 22, 2022, through a solemn ceremony during the Holy Eucharist in the presence of some fathers, brothers and faithful.

Frs Maria Anand, Ambarasu Antony and Marco Sanhueza – Superior, Local Bursar and Parish Priest respectively – from Pune and Franco-Swiz Provinces form one community to serve the parish. Frs Maria and Ambarasu from Pune Province and Fr Sanhueza from Franco-Swiz Province share the mission in the collaborative venture of Pune and Franco-Swiz Provinces.

The parish consists of over 30,000 Catholics with four substations. The task of Fransalians in Peru consists in building and strengthening catholic communities.

The mission is located near the Pacific Ocean, 146 kms south west of the city of Arequipa, in the protected area of Lagunas de Mejia National sanctuary on the coastal plain of Peru, in Islay Province.



Fransalian Home in Daman and Diu Opened

Pune Province of the MSFS opened a new mission at Morkhal, Silvassa, in the Union Territory of Daman and Diu under the Diocese of Goa and Daman. Rev Fr Jayaseelan, the provincial of Pune, blessed and inaugurated Fransalian Home at Morkhal on April 19, 2022, in the presence of many Fransalians and other Priests.

Consisting of 40 families at present, the new mission holds great scope given that most of the people around are daily wage earners and illiterate. The mission offers tuition classes for children who study in government schools and do not receive proper education at present.

The Parish Church and the city of Mejia, Arequipa





WITH THE FLOCK: Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS, the Superior General, with the women of Holy Angels' Parish, Tato, Arunachal Pradesh, on his visitation to the place. The ladies, dressed in their traditional attire, performed a welcome dance for Fr Vettuvellil.

Third Parish entrusted with the MSFS in Malawi

Ngerenge Parish in the diocese of Karonga, Malawi, East Africa has been entrusted with the MSFS for mission work – the third mission to be opened by the Missionaries in the short span of three years of our arrival in Malawi. Rt Rev Martin Tumbuka, the Bishop of Karonga, installed Fr Nelson Arokiasamy as the parish priest of St Martin de Porres Parish, Ngerenge, in the presence of MSFS fathers of the Mission Unit and faithful on March 13, 2022. Presiding over the Holy Eucharist, the bishop welcomed

the Missionaries and exhorted them to be committed and be one with the people. He exhorted the faithful to collaborate with and support the priests in all the ways. The members of the parish council greeted the new parish priest and thanked His Lordship and all the priests present. The fast and sustainable growth of Malawi Mission speaks in volume about the dynamism and commitment displayed by the young Malawi Missionaries.



Newly-built SFS Church Inaugurated

The resounding joy as the ribbon fell apart reflected the fulfillment of a long-standing dream of the faithful to have had a well built church at Darkona, Chattisgarh. Most Rev Antonis Bara, the Bishop of Ambikapur, blessed and inaugurated the newly-built church in the presence of huge number of priests and lay faithful on April 23, 2022. The liturgical services have been taking place in an old chapel since the beginning of the Mission in 2014. After the inauguration and blessing, the faithful of Darkona Parish were in jubilant motion and dance around the new church. The event came to end with a shared meal.



Baptism and Confirmation at Florimont Institute

The Institute of Florimont had the joy of celebrating confirmation of 21 students and baptism of seven students on May 14, 2022. With the special delegation from the local ordinary, Fr. Jean-Yves LE TUE, the provincial of France-Switzerland Province, conferred the sacrament of confirmation to the 21 high school students of the institute in the church of Saint-Martin at Onex, in Geneva. Fr. Thadeus Lakra, the chaplain of the school, conducted baptism of the seven students in the chapel of the school in the presence of

parents and relatives. Institute of Florimont is an international school in the city of Geneva, founded in 1905 by the MSFS fathers and since 1995 it is directed by the lay association. The religious education of the school is continued to be directed by MSFS fathers in association with catechists. The sacramental celebrations bore witness to the institute as a catholic school. The event provided also an occasion to meet and share the gospel with students and parents and relatives. - Fr. Thadeus Lakra MSFS



The long-cherished dream of the faithful of Ibihwa parish in Tanzania came true on Feb 20, 2022, when Rt Rev Stephano Musomba OSA, the Auxiliary Bishop of Dar es Salaam, blessed the newly constructed St. Francis de Sales Parish Church at Ibihwa, in the Archdiocese of Dodoma. A large number of faithful, religious and priests bore witness to the blessing ceremony. The Bishop also administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 175 faithful on the occasion. Ibihwa is a fast growing community and already has about 8,000 Catholics spread over five sub-stations.

Blessing of Church at Ibihwa



Church at Tadhagaon Blessed



Located in Ambad about 45 kms from Jalna, Maharashtra, St Francis de Sales Church Tadhagaon, is pastorally catered by the MSFS priests since 2015.

Efforts invested in to build a church since the beginning has now been realized with the help of Pontificum Opus and Propoganda Fide along with contribution from Roman Catholic Trust – Jalna.

Rt Rev Ambrose Rebello, Bishop of Aurangabad, blessed the Church and inaugurated the priests' residence in the presence of Fr. Ignatius D'Costa, the priest in charge, a few local Government Officers, MSFS confreres from Aurangabad and Jalna, the sisters and faithful of the parish.



Ashes to Glory: New Presbytery at Tato

Rev Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, the Superior General, blessed and inaugurated the newly-built presbytery at Tato, Arunachal Pradesh, India, on Feb 5, 2022, on the occasion of his canonical visitation.

The presbytery which was reduced to ashes with a fire accident in 2018 was rebuilt thanks to the help of many. The much-awaited blessing of Fathers' Residence took place in the presence of many fathers, sisters and the parishioners.

Speaking on the occasion, Fr General appreciated the hard work that Fathers and Sisters do in remote places of Arunachal Pradesh. He thanked the Fathers who worked earlier and who are working at present in the Mission.

It was Fr. General who upon the intimation of the fire accident in Tato initiated the fund-raising for the project through MDO Rome, General Administration, Franco-Swiss Province and other Administrative Units in the Congregation.



DeSalite TaeKwonDo Championship 4th Edition

Over 500 players from 217 schools across nine districts of Assam participated in the fourth edition of DeSalite Interschool TaeKwonDo Championship organized by St Francis de Sales Sr Sec School, Dhemaji, Assam, India, through April 08 – 10, 2022.

The three-day event witnessed students, parents and public turning out in huge numbers to view the game that was being played over electronic scoring system – first time to be done so in North Zone, Assam.

Begun in 2017 as an intra-district tournament, the championship had become a state level



event in its fourth edition, hosting over 500 players from around 200 schools across nine districts of Assam.

Several news dailies and channels covered the event, highlighting the special features of the tournament and benefits of the game.

SFS Dhemaji, the host school, emerged the Champions in the close contest with 14 gold, four silver and five bronze.

Conference Block Inaugurated

Rev Fr Benny Kootanal, the Provincial of South West India, blessed and inaugurated the newly-built conference block at St Francis de Sales College, Bengaluru, along with its added facilities such as boardroom, classrooms, prayer rooms, staffrooms, Labs, NCC room, and Lift on Jan



18, 2022. The Provincial thanked and felicitated everyone who worked for the new building. Fathers from Mermier Bhavan and Vinayalaya, Staff Members of the College, Parents, and Students were present on the occasion.



MINOR SEMINARY IN UGANDA BLESSED

February 20, 2022, was a remarkable day in the history of Fransalians in East Africa as Rt Rev Christopher Kakooza, the Bishop of Lugazi, officially blessed and opened St. Francis de Sales Minor Seminary (for Aspirants and Postulants) at Buwooya, Lugazi Diocese, Uganda.

A large number of faithful from Malongwe and Kalagala parishes, priests, and religious blessed the occasion with their presence. Equipped to accommodate 40 seminarians, the seminary provides an impetus to the missionary vocations for Fransalians in Africa and beyond.

The seminary is blessed with a bountiful harvest of 12 aspirants and 12 postulants in the first batch with Fr Charles Ouma and Fr Amal Paul Neerolickal as the formators.



Consecration of Fransalian Associates

The USA Vice-Province held the ceremony of consecration of the Fransalian Associates for the first time on Jan 24, 2022 – the feast day of St Francis de Sales, the heavenly patron of the MSFS. Thirty-three people who completed two years of learning about the life and spirituality of St Francis de Sales made their consecration at St Marguerite d'Youville Church, Lawrenceville, Georgia, and

promised to practice the little virtues of patience, humility, gentleness, simplicity, honesty and hospitality that were so dear to the heart of SFS.

The two years of training and formation covered 24 modules in 4 semesters. All the modules were delivered by MSFS priests working in different parts of the United States.

Juvenile Ministry

Initiated

The Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministry Forum of Visakhapatnam Province initiated the reach-out program to boys under 18 age-group held up in the State Juvenile Home in Visakhapatnam with the invitation from the Civil Authorities on Jan 30, 2022.

The program included motivational sessions, counselling and training in skills for life. Mr Shanmukha Rao, Superintendent of Boys Home, welcomed the missionaries in the



inaugural function attended by 78 boys. Fr B Suresh Babu, the provincial, and Fr. Jaddu Joseph, councillor in charge of SAIM, attended. The ministry intends to motivate boys to go through the attitudinal change and cultivate positive outlook to dream of bright future, be good citizens of the country and channelize their energy in the right path.



LENTEN PILGRIMAGE AT SFS SHRINE

St Francis de Sales Shrine, Guwahati held the annual Lenten Pilgrimage for religious and aspirants of various formation houses within the Archdiocese on March 18 and 19, 2022. Rev Fr Sabu Francis MSFS, the Provincial of Guwahati, officially inaugurated the Lenten Pilgrimage 2022 in the presence of several priests and religious from around. Around 200 persons made the pilgrimage on the first day. Fathers from the provincialate community enlightened the pilgrims on various topics. The participants were spiritually renewed and rejuvenated through the Holy Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The Lenten Pilgrimage was an occasion for the Seminarians, Aspirants, Postulants, Novices and religious of various formations houses in and around the Archdioceses of Guwahati to learn more about St Francis de Sales and to seek blessings from God through the intercession of him.

COUNSELLING CENTER AT BATHERI INAUGURATED

Divya Jyothi Renewal Centre, Bathery, Kerala, was blessed and inaugurated by Fr Benny Kootanal, the Provincial of South-West India, on January 20, 2022. In his message, Fr Kootanal expressed the need to make this Centre a blessing for everyone through various ministries. The Emblem of the Centre was released by Fr James, the Forane Vicar of Assumption Church, Bathery, and handed over to Fr Shinto Jacob, the director. The presence of Fr Thomas Moon-gamakal, the project supporter, fathers from Bathery and Kannur Apostolic communities, neighbours and friends made the event more graceful.



JUBILEE HOME BLESSED

Rev Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, the Superior General, blessed the Jubilee Home of Pune Province on March 26, 2022, in the presence of Fr Yves Carron, the Assistant General, Fr Jayaseelan, the Provincial, Fr Jacob Karamakuzhiyil, General Councillor in-charge of Education, Fr John Britto Muthuswamy, the Provincial of Nagpur, Fr Malcom Sequira the Vicar General of Pune Diocese, Members of Pune Provincial Curia, confreres from Pune Apostolic Community and Guests. The home, dedicated to St. Francis de Sales on his 400th death anniversary, will serve the province as a resource centre for animation programmes and activities.

DDU-GKY PROGRAM LAUNCHED AT ANANTHAPUR



St. Aloysius Industrial Training Institute,

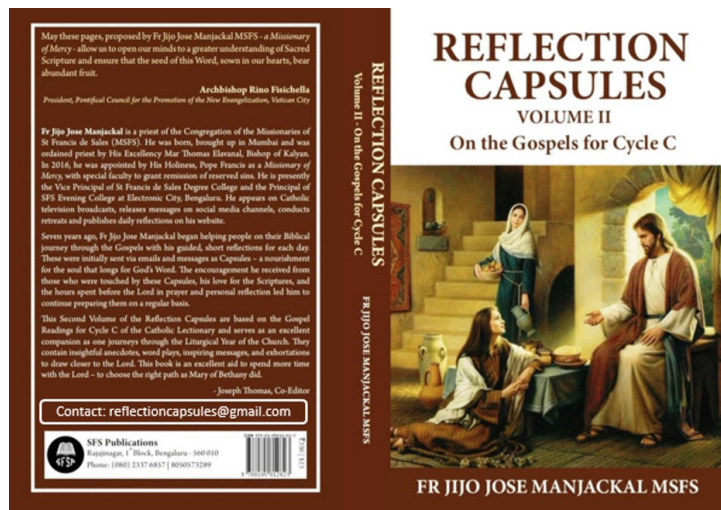
Visakhapatnam, with due permission from the State Government, initiated the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana program in LRG High School premises in Ananthapur district under the umbrella of SAIM. DDU-GKY is a nationwide program introduced by the government to provide skill training to the youth, rooted in the slogan, 'Skill India for the future India'. St Aloysius Industrial Training Institute is granted permission by the State Government to train up 2000 youth in the civil districts of Chittoor, Ananthapur, Kadapa and Kurnool of Andhrapradesh. Through the program, warehouse supervisors, medical records and health information technicians, field technicians, junior software developers and soft skill and interview trainers are trained. The program is geared towards the empowerment of the rural youth in the backward districts of the State.

BOOKS BY MSFS

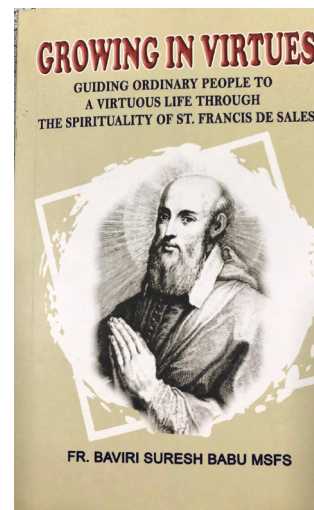
NEWLY ORDAINED



A SPOONFUL OF HONEY: A series of Fransalian Value Education text Books for school students had been the long-time desire of the MSFS to effectively realize our educational goal of forming the hearts of young students than training their minds. Congratulations to the General Secretary for Education, Rev. Fr. Jacob Karamkuzhiyil, for his initiative in organizing and publishing the books. The books were released in the General Secretariat by His Grace Antony Poola, the Archbishop of Hyderabad. Congratulations to the Editorial team!



By Fr. Jijo Manjackal



By Fr. Suresh Babu Baviri

DIBRUGARH



Fr Joel Chithung Horam



Fr Pakon Narzary

GUWAHATI



Fr K Athikho Isaac Penamei

NAGPUR



Fr Amit Baa



Fr Anish Praveen



Fr Anoop Francis Kooliyattayil



Fr Joseph Gollapudi



Fr Kalyan Battula



Fr Rajat Kumar Digal



Fr Ruben Gilbert



Fr Santosh Kumar Soreng

SOUTH EAST



Fr A Mahimai Arokia Raj



Fr A Michael Raja



Fr C Britto Clindon



Fr D Emmanuvel Sathish



Fr F Eugene Earnest Raj



Fr R Anbu Stalin



Fr S Maria Arockiam

SOUTH WEST



Fr Arun Kumar



Fr John B Gannot



Fr Palamattathil Subin



Fr Uthuppassery Bibin



Fr Valliara Arun

VISAKHAPATNAM



Fr. Bathina Solomon Raju



Fr. Duggimpudi Ranjith Kumar



Fr. Gorremuchu Kiran



Fr. Katru Pradeep Kumar



Fr. Kokkirigadda Kumar Rao



Fr. Komma Reddy Manohar Reddy



Fr. Marisetti Manoj Kumar



Fr. Pagelli Thambi Joseph



Fr. Pilli Bala Showry



Fr. Saketi Satish Kumar

SILVER JUBILARIANS

NAGPUR

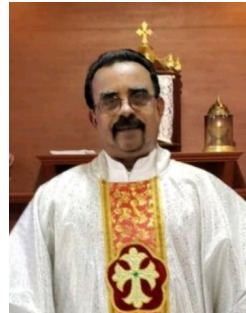


Fr John Dive



Fr Marcus Ruptake

PUNE



Fr Jerard Sahayaraj



Fr Johnson Gonsalves

VISAKHAPATNAM



Fr J L Ravi Kumar



Fr Kondala Joseph

SOUTH WEST



Fr A Jerome



Fr Kannadom Joseph



Fr Kulangarathottiyil Sebastian



Fr Mannukuzhumpil Joseph



Fr Mullasseril Tomy



Fr Pannalakunnel Tom



Fr Valliamthadathil George



Fr. Johny Puthiyarambil



GOLDEN JUBILARIANS



Fr Joseph Pullopillil
Nagpur province



Fr Joseph Plathottam
Nagpur Province



Fr James Manjackal
South West Province



Fr. Mathew Kalapurackal - Vizag



Fr. George Kottam
Vizag

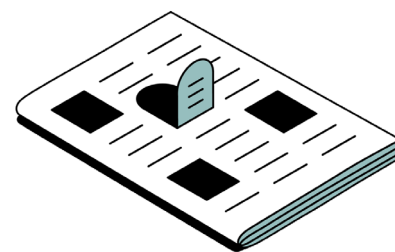
OBITUARY



Fr Claude Morel



Fr Emile Mayoraz



Fr Mathew Alapatt



Fr Philip Souriamkuzhy

Fr Sebastian Kuzhupil



Fr Sushant Mantri



Fr Sudhir John Kullu

Congratulations



Fr Anthony Bonela, MSFS
Vice-Provincial, USA Vice-Province



Fr John Barman, MSFS

On being appointed as the Regional Youth Director of North Eastern Regional Youth Commission (NERYC), Northeast India.



Fr Tony Erniakulathil, MSFS

On being appointed by the CBCI as the Associate Director – Finance of St John's National Academy of Health Sciences, Bangalore

IN LOVING MEMORY OF FR EMILE MAYORAZ (1928 – 2022)

Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, MSFS
Superior General

Fr Emile Mayoraz, after completing his mortal mission, is returning with honor to our heavenly home. We will miss him. His wisdom and goodness have blessed the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales for many years. He steered the Congregation as its 12th Superior General at a challenging time after Vatican II. As he once wrote, "This was the time when most difficult decisions had to be taken, and even with some inevitable mistakes." Faced with challenges from within and without the Congregation, he did not pull back but rather stepped up to handle the situation with a new purpose and vision for the Congregation.

The outpouring of love, sadness, and prayer, since his death on January 30, 2022, from all over the world, has been touching, beautiful, overwhelming, and comforting to all those who mourn the loss of Fr Mayoraz. He touched the lives of many people from all walks of life. For the MSFS, his leadership as the Superior General for 24 years was an encouraging sign of hope and light. He was always friendly. He was a man with no guile. I consider him an extraordinarily humble spiritual leader. He will be missed but not forgotten.

He embodied the spirit and spirituality of St.



Francis de Sales and the missionary courage of Father Peter Mermier. He encouraged progress and expansion of mission, not by pushing his ideas, but by listening to every confrere and partnering with every missionary project. I knew him from 1978 – '79, when I was a novice in Salesianum, Visakhapatnam. We maintained our close contact ever since. He was one of the greatest men in my life, a role model, and a true religious missionary priest who demonstrated to me the faces of St. Francis de Sales and Father Mermier. I remember his words: "It is our responsibility today to continue to build up our MSFS Tradition, firmly rooted in Annecy through St Francis de Sales and Fr Peter-Mary Mermier." Remembering is a very powerful and wonderful gift we have. We cannot help but to often remember him and tell the stories – eulogizing.

I join my confreres and family of Father Mayoraz in mourning his death and celebrating his life. We take peace and comfort in knowing that his service for the Congregation continues on the other side. We pray that he may come to enjoy the vision of God face to face!

Live JESUS!





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