

# Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, Nagpur Province



# CIRCULAR

To All the Members of the Province

MT-02,2023

15 September 2023



## Provincial's Itinerary

### September

- 15 - St. John's Mass Centre
- 18 - Province Retreat
- 27 - Seraikela
- 28 - Sini
- 29 - Badadurgapur
- 30 - Kandor

### October

- 02 - SAIM Meet at Nagpur
- 04 - Bano
- 06 - Panderpalli
- 07 - Bamra
- 09 - Latapara
- 11 - Ambapani
- 12 - Raidhi
- 14 - Jhajjar
- 15 - Mahima
- 16 - Vinay Sadan
- 18 - Neemuch
- 23 - PMP Programme at Nagpur
- 25 - Darkona

## Congregational Feasts



### Founder's Day

30-09-2023



### Mother of Compassion

15-09-2023

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# Mary

*Mother of  
Compassion*



**My Dear Confreres,**

The Latin root for the word compassion is pati, which means to suffer; the prefix com means with. Compassion, originating from compati, literally means to suffer with. The connection of suffering with another person brings compassion beyond sympathy into the realm of empathy. The Bible doesn't explain compassion like a dictionary does, simply telling us what the word means. Instead, the Bible defines compassion by showing us what compassion looks like and what is involved with being compassionate. It is in this context that we the Fransalians reflect and cogitate on the Seven Sorrows that Mother Mary had to go through because of her intimate relationship with Jesus. It is important for us to understand that like the Sorrowful Mysteries of the rosary, the Seven Sorrows highlight certain moments from Mary's life that are painful, precisely because of her deep love for Jesus. Sometimes we think of Mary as the celestial Queen of Heaven; sinless, perfect in every way, far above every normal human experience. She can be seen to represent a holiness so unattainable that we hardly dare try to be like her. The Sorrows by contrast, present her in her profound humanity, in relationship with the very human Jesus, her own Son. When we imagine her thoughts and feelings coming out of these moments with Christ, we are invited to see Him with her, with a deeply rooted human love. We are moved to compassion for both of them. Such a practice then invites us to experience graced compassion for our fellow humans. By love for our neighbour we are led to love God, and then are back again.

*I wish all of you  
A very Happy Feast of Mother of Compassion*





# Founder's Day

**Fr. Peter Mary Mermier**

Servant of God



“I end my letter in asking you dear Missionaries, to imitate the Holy Trinity, that all may be one - that they may be one as we are one.” (Letter to Fr. Cheminal, 10-06-1843; pgs. 35-36) “You will remain perfectly united, at all times showing a warm and cordial regard for one another like brothers who love each other and possess the true zeal of Jesus Christ and of Saint Francis de Sales our glorious and illustrious patron, and who wish to seek nothing else but the

greater glory of God, the salvation of souls as well as their own salvation.” (Letter to the MSFS of La Feuillette, 20-09-1842; pg. 36) The above extract is from the letters of Fr. Mermier our beloved Founder who exhorts us to keep the Holy Trinity as a role model for our religious and apostolic life. As we prepare ourselves to celebrate Founder's Day let us all be inspired and guided by his missionary zeal to work unitedly for the greater glory of God. We are moving towards participating in the historical event of the Provincial Chapter 2023, which calls for a collective witness to our Charism. Hence following the teachings of our Founder let us together foster greater unity in our Province and in our Communities, to be visible signs of our Charism to the people we serve.

*I Wish all of you  
A Very Happy Founder's Day*



## Theme Paper for The Provincial Chapter 2023

The theme of the Provincial Chapter is “LIVE AND BE A VISIBLE SIGN OF OUR CHARISM”. An orientation paper on the above theme with a questionnaire will help the Province to focus on various aspects of our life, mission and ministry as to how we are called upon to live and be a visible sign of our charism to the world. The paper will help the members to understand the theme and its relevance and provide deeper knowledge and understanding of our Charism. Members are encouraged to study, assess and evaluate our Province in the light of the study paper so that as a Province we all have a deeper knowledge of our Charism which will further lead us to live it in our life meaningfully. The Conveners of the Apostolic Communities will call for a common meeting, prepare a report and send the soft copy to the Provincial Secretary. They should plan well in advance and encourage all the members to be present for this important meeting. The soft copy of the approach paper and the questionnaire will be dispatched shortly to the Superiors of the Local Communities, who will supply hard copies to the members of the community.

### **The Study Paper Preparation Committee:**

Fr. Manoj Tirkey

Fr. Agnelo Fernandes

Fr. Wilson Abraham

Fr. Issac John (**CONVENER**)

A word gratitude to the committee for preparing a thought-provoking and very insightful study paper within a very short period of time.

### **Appointment of the Steering Committee**

Some of the members of the Nagpur Apostolic Community are appointed as members of the Steering Committee to oversee the planning and preparation for the Provincial Chapter 2023. The Steering Committee will have its meeting within a fortnight to finalize the program. Various duties will be assigned to the members to ensure a successful Provincial Chapter.

### **Participants of the Chapter - 2023**

The participants of the Provincial Chapter are comprised of ex-officio members and elected delegates with the right to vote. (Const. 237) The ex-officio members are the out-going Provincial Administration, Rectors of Formation Houses, the Director of Novices, and Delegation Superiors of Germany and Mozambique. There will be two representatives from the Scholastics. For the election of delegates, all the confreres in India are divided into four Electoral Colleges, clubbing different Apostolic Communities. Each Electoral College will vote to elect delegates from their group. Mozambique mission will have one delegate besides the Delegation Superior. In the



election of delegates to the Provincial Chapter, the ex-officio members of the Chapter are not allowed to vote. To be elected as a delegate to the Chapter one should get absolute majority in the first ballot. If the result is inconclusive then there will be a second ballot for which only a relative majority is required. The process of elections will be done through E-Voting and the details of it will be communicated to the eligible members by mail. The E-Voting/ballot paper voting process will begin soon after the Feast of Our Lady of Compassion. I solicit your cooperation and support in completing the process of election to decide the Delegates of the Chapter. A committee consisting of Fr. Jnanamani, Fr. Vishwas Torne and Fr. Sylvester Xalxo is appointed to oversee the election of the Delegates for the Provincial Chapter 2023.

## Appointments

- Commission for Professional Standard  
Chairperson: Fr. Allan Gonsalves  
Members: Fr. Agnelo Fernandes  
Fr. Peter Kujur
- Fr. Agnelo Fernandes is appointed to the community of Latapara.
- Fr. Benedict De Souza is appointed by the Superior General as one of the members of the Pre-Capitular Commission of the XXI General Chapter 2025.

## Information

- 30th September**
- Fr. Lalji George will be leaving for Salesian Programme Annecy (SPA).
  - Fr. Sujit Minz will be going to France for Pastoral Ministry.
  - Fr. Melky will be going to Lyons, France to prepare for his PhD.

## Important Dates

- 18-23 September: Province Annual Retreat (Group-1)
- 30 September- Founder's Day
- 02-03 October - SAIM meeting at Nagpur with General Councillor for SAIM.
- 23-26 October - PMP Programme at Nagpur with General Councillor for the Mission
- 10-13 November - Provincial Chapter of Nagpur Province
- 23-25 November - Celebration of the Year of Fransalian Youth at the Provincialate



- **Fr. Narisetty Francis Xavier MSFS**, of Visakhapatnam Province, 61 years, passed away on 10/09/2023.
- **Mr. Xavier**, brother-in-law of Fr. George Kurikal, 62 years, passed away on 08/09/2023.



## Salesian

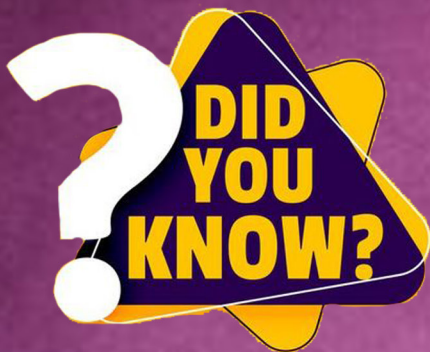
The chief exercise of prayer  
is to speak to God and to hear  
God speak in the bottom of our  
heart.

Thought

Yours Fraternally in Christ

**Fr. Manoj Tirkey MSFS**  
Provincial Superior





## Fransalian Corner

On 20<sup>th</sup> July 1835, Fr. Mermier requested Bishop Rey to obtain permission from Rome for a long period (literally for an unlimited time) to bless the scapulars of Our Lady of Compassion. On 19<sup>th</sup> April 1843, Fr. Mermier instructed the confreres at Notre Dame de la Gorge to conduct devotions in honour of Our Lady of Compassion every Friday and a Novena in preparation for one the feasts of our Lady of Compassion.

### Listen to our Founder



Mary taught me to be a different man, a man more humble, more gentle, more mortified. My new condition of health forces me to it. This Mother, since my return to the new condition, has obtained for me enough strength, enough light to recognize myself, to act in spite of my new state of health. (Personal notes of Fr. Mermier, 23 July 1859).

Servant of God

**Fr. Peter Mary Mermier**

Pray for us.

