

Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, Nagpur Province



CIRCULAR

To All the Members of the Province

MT-07,2023

01 November 2023



*And the dust returns to the earth
as it was,
and the spirit returns to God who gave it.
Ecclesiastes 12:7*

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Pray for the
DEPARTED



MSFS PROVINCIALATE

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From the Office of the Provincial



My Dear Confreres,

Fraternal and loving greetings to each of you from the Provincial House, Nagpur!

We have just concluded the Month of the Rosary. The feast day of Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary was established by Pope Saint Pius V on the anniversary of the victory at Lepanto on 7th October 1571. The naval victory was attributed to the Virgin Mary, whose intercession was entreated by the recitation of the Holy Rosary. The Church dedicated the entire month of October to the Holy Rosary so that individuals, families, and communities would pray the Holy Rosary on a daily basis for peace in the world. I'm sure all of us have experienced the abundant blessings of God by devoutly praying the Rosary daily. "As you struggle through the stormy sea of life, do not turn away from Mary the Star of the Sea." (St. Bernard of Clairvaux)

The month of November reminds us of the Communion of Saints. We the Church Militant rejoice with the Church Triumphant on 1st November. We recall the many known and unknown saints who have attained heaven, as a reward of the virtuous life that they lived here on earth. It is a good occasion to remind ourselves to daily pray the prayer for the cause of our Founder, Fr. Peter Mermier. Encourage our faithful to also pray the prayer and report any favours they may have received through his intercession.

On 2nd November we the Church Militant remember the Church Suffering. Our dear departed confreres and family members who have gone before us to the Father, may not have fully attained beatific vision. On account of their sins they may be in purgatory in the process of purification, before they can be present before the throne of God. In faith we visit the cemetery, pray for the departed and light candles at their tombs. As we do all these pious acts it is also good to take note of the life that they lived and draw inspiration from them. It is also a good practise to read the obituary and realize the fact they on account of the hard work of our confreres we have a glorious history and tradition to cherish. It is now our duty to carry forward the mission entrusted to our care with dedication and zeal.

As the days for our Provincial Chapter draw closer let us keep this intention in our daily prayers, so that all the delegates may make a significant contribution during the Chapter days and we may draw up a good Statement and Guidelines for the proper orientation of the members in living their life of commitment. That by God's blessings we may elect the right Councillors who will assist the Provincial in his work of making the right decisions, in animating the communities and guiding the Province in the right direction. God bless all of you.

Regional SAIM Forum Meet at Nagpur



Fr. Anto Thomas

On 2nd and 3rd October 2023, the Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministry (SAIM) Forum meeting at the Inter-Province level, was held at the MSFS Provincialate, Nagpur, Maharashtra. The forum consisted of the members of the PCIC, Secretaries of PCIC, MDOs, and Youth Directors of all Indian Provinces. Fr. J. Stephen MSFS, General Councillor and Secretary for SAIM spearheaded the two days forum meet. Rev. Dr. Pollishetti of Nagpur Archdiocese was the resource person. He elaborated on the present challenges and the strategies of Youth Ministry in India. Reports were presented by the PCICs of all the Indian Provinces. They included the activities of SAIM, Youth Ministry and MDO at the Province level. Suggestions by the members were noted by the SAIM General Secretary on how to maximise the engagement of MDO and Youth Ministry. There was an open discussion on how SAIM could coordinate Youth Ministry and MDO. The second day of the meeting emphasized on the need to strengthen the “Fransalian Youth” in our Provinces and Missions. Fr. Carlus Barwa MSFS was elected as the new National Youth Coordinator. Innovative and creative ways were identified and discussed to promote qualified and effective youth animators. The meeting concluded with a tentative plan to celebrate the Year of the Youth at the Inter-Province level in 2024 at Visakhapatnam. The meeting also discussed the future of SAIM at the Generalate level and for Provinces especially to build up the Youth Ministry and Social Apostolate.



PERPETUAL PROFESSION AT MSFS STUDY HOUSE, SHILLONG



Bro. Amrit Lakra



On **30th September 2023**, seven brothers from different Provinces made their Final Commitment to the Lord during the Eucharistic celebration at MSFS Study House, Shillong. Rev. Fr. Tomson Aerathedathu, the Provincial of Dibrugarh Province, presided over the Eucharistic celebration and received the vows of Bro. Isamding Kevin (Dibrugarh Province), Bro. Amrit Lakra (Nagpur Province), Bro. M. Arockia Charles Benny (South East India Province), Bro. Martin Halam, Bro. Mukto Murmu, Bro. David Nongrum and Bro. Tom P. Joseph (Guwahati Province). Present for the occasion were many Fransalians, priests, religious and well-wishers. Fr. Tomson Aerathedathu in his homily highlighted the importance of being a witness of Jesus in these changing times. He also urged the brothers to commit their life wholly to the Lord. He congratulated the brothers for reaching an important stage in their vocational journey and welcomed them as permanent members of the MSFS family. After the Eucharist there was a short felicitation program and then all partook of the fellowship meal.



ELECTION OF PROVINCIAL COUNCILLORS

Dear Confreres,

We are preparing for our forthcoming Provincial Chapter to be held from 9th to 13th November 2023. We have to elect our Provincial Councillors during the Chapter. Kindly take note of the election procedure to choose the panel of candidates to be elected as Provincial Councillors.

1. As per the newly amended Constitutions article 179, to be a Provincial Councillor or Provincial Bursar, one should have completed 35 years of age and 10 years in perpetual profession.
2. The confreres who are eligible to vote will be asked to choose **FOUR CANDIDATES** of their choice for the panel of candidates to be voted as Provincial Councillors.
3. The E-Voting will begin on **2nd November and end on 4th November 2023.**
4. If the candidate for Provincial Councillor is from outside the elected delegates, then he will have only a passive voice. It means that he cannot vote but he can be voted for.
5. The names of eligible candidates to be voted for the post of Provincial Councillors will be declared by the General Delegate during the Provincial Chapter.
6. There will be only one round of voting.
7. Those who do not have access to E-voting will vote either by the use of ballot papers or through an ordinary text message to Fr. Stephan, who is in charge of the E-voting process.
8. All of you are requested to exercise your right to vote to choose right and suitable candidates to be Provincial Councillors.

Please Note:

1. ***The Amendments to the Constitutions by the Extra-Ordinary General Chapter 2022*** is enclosed with circular MT-07, 2023.

Reference:

A. GENERAL DIRECTORY (Amended) Article 253.

- i. The Provincial/Vice-Provincial is assisted by a team of four councillors except in the case of Provinces/Vice-Provinces with less than forty perpetually professed active members. These Provinces, however, should have at least two councillors.
- ii. The election of the councillors takes place in the following manner:
 - a. Consultation at the Province/Vice-Province level: All eligible members suggest their preferences of as many names as the required number of councilors to the General Administration. It may be done either through E-voting or paper ballot.
 - b. General administration counts the votes, assesses the formal eligibility and religious suitability of the candidates, and prepares a panel of names double the number of the required number of councilors. An additional panel of names is also prepared by the General Administration, to meet any unforeseen situation.
 - c. The Delegate of the Superior General to the Chapter/Congress opens the envelope containing the panel of names at the time of the election.
 - d. The capitulants elect the required number of councilors only from the panel of names provided.
 - e. The election results have to be ratified by the Superior General before they come into effect.

B. THE CONSTITUTION (Amended)

Constitutions 179.

In addition to the above-mentioned norms, to be Superior General or Assistant General, one should have completed 40 years of age and 12 years in the perpetual profession; to be Provincial, Vice-Provincial, Regional Superior, General Councillors, General Bursar, Provincial Councillors, Provincial Bursar, Regional Councillors, Regional Bursar, Rectors of Major Seminaries, or Director of Novices, one should have completed 35 years of age and 10 years in the perpetual profession, and to be Superiors of Delegations and Local Community, Rectors of Minor Seminaries one should have completed 30 years of age and 5 years in the perpetual profession. No one has a right to any office, and no one should refuse any office unless there are valid reasons against accepting it.

LIST OF CONFRERES WHO CAN VOTE AND BE VOTED FOR

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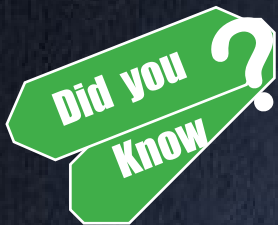
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1. Provincial Chapter will commence on 09th November at 6.00 pm. and end on 13th November at 01.00.pm.
2. Fransalian Youth Conference will take place from 22nd to 25th November 2023.
3. Annual Retreat (Group-2) will be from 26th-31st December 2023.

Yours Fraternally in Christ

Fr. Manoj Tirkey
Provincial Superior



Fransalian Corner

Fr. Mermeir had composed a little “Book of Visits”-a fairly short prayer in front of the Blessed Sacrament altar or Our Lady’s altar or a saint’s shrine.

- *Monsieur Mermier by Adrien Duval pg.141*



Listen to Our Founder

Following the example of the Divine Master (LK 18: 1) I must tell you that we must pray always. For each one of us, prayer is a need, a duty, a means of obtaining grace and all the graces proper to our vocation.

- *Circular to the Confreres of India, 17 April 1852.*