



# CIRCULAR

To All the Members of the Province

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Join the Mount of Peace in Celebrating Season of

## Advent

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign:  
Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son,  
and she will call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah: 7 : 14



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## From the Office of the Provincial

**My Dear Confreres,**

With the celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King, the ordinary time of the liturgical year comes to an end. We begin the Advent season and the Church exhorts us to prepare ourselves for a special feast; i.e. Christmas. So this season holds great significance in the liturgical calendar, as it marks the beginning of the new liturgical year and serves as a time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. The four weeks leading up to Christmas are rich with symbolism and spiritual themes.

**Candles:** The Advent wreath, typically adorned with four candles placed in our churches and chapels, symbolizes the four weeks of preparation. Each candle represents a specific virtue: hope, peace, joy, and love. Lighting these candles every Sunday helps to focus on these virtues.

**Anticipation and Reflection:** Advent is a period of expectation, mirroring the anticipation of the arrival of the Messiah. We are called to use this time for reflection, examining our lives in light of our Christian and Religious spiritual principles, and renewing our commitment to living our faith.

**Scripture and Prayer:** Reading relevant scriptural passages and engaging in prayer are central to Advent. It allows us to delve into the Biblical narratives or descriptions surrounding the Birth of Jesus, and fosters a deeper connection with the spiritual aspects of the season.

**Acts of Kindness:** Advent season encourages us to practice kindness and generosity. Acts of charity and goodwill towards others become tangible expressions of the love and joy associated with Christmas.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** This season particularly invites us to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation; i.e. making a good confession, thus seeking spiritual purification and renewal, as we prepare to celebrate the Birth of Jesus.

Dear confreres, in short, the significance of Advent season lies in the intentional and reflective approach to preparing one's heart and mind for the celebration of Christmas. At every Christmas we are reminded to celebrate the mystery of God's love. **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”** (Jn 4/16) In essence, celebrating the mystery of God's love at Christmas is a spiritual and meaningful observance that goes beyond the festive traditions. It calls for a contemplative reflection on the profound love of God as revealed in the Birth of Jesus and inspires all of us to live out that love in our own lives. Let us then make conscious efforts to spend time in prayer and reflection, so that we prepare ourselves spiritually to celebrate the Birth of Jesus in a more worthy manner.





# Provincial Chapter 2023

## STATEMENT



We, the participants of the Provincial Chapter of Nagpur Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, gathered at the MSFS Provincialate, Nagpur for the Ordinary Provincial Chapter from 09th to 13th November 2023. We are very grateful to the Extraordinary General Chapter 2022 of our Congregation for having redefined clearly and precisely the meaning of the Charism of our Congregation: Our Charism is to continue the mission of Christ and His Church by living the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in a religious community of missionaries, as lived and envisioned by our Founder. We realize, our apostolates are not our Charism. It is our Charism, the vital source, that makes our apostolates Fransalian. Our Charism is the soul of all our apostolates.

We, prayerfully reflected on the theme, “Live and Be a Visible Sign of Our Charism” and on the collated reports of the Apostolic Communities, and other reports presented in the Chapter, have arrived at the following conclusions:

### **1. Personal and Community life**

We live our Charism of community living, Fransalian and missionary identity, as persons and as communities. We resolve to be the salt and light of the earth with authenticity and sincerity. Each one of us will continue to strive to live in fraternal communion; by being compassionate, gentle, simple, reaching out with generosity, in the merciful mission of the Lord.

### **2. Apostolate of Education**

Despite all the challenges, we will strive diligently to educate the children and youth, giving witness in imparting the love of Jesus with our resourcefulness, tenderness and





firmness, holding aloft hope for a better human and humane world. The future of the earth depends on the care of environment and its sustainability. We are committed as educators to inspire and encourage our students to care for mother earth. Thus, we will be a visible sign of our Charism in education.

### **3. Apostolate of Mission**

Our Congregation was born in the context of Fr. Mermier renewing the faith of the people of Chatelard. We commit ourselves to revive Parish Mission Preaching (PMP) and other forms of renewal in our highly secularised world. We shall 'Live Jesus' and be good shepherds of His sheep wherever we are sent. We are resolved to strengthen our Mozambique Delegation into a more effective and self-reliant unit in our Congregation. We shall exercise our priestly ministry with grace and power in a synodal way. Thus, we will be a visible sign of our Charism in our mission.

### **4. Apostolate of Formation**

Formation of our members is a priority to understand and live our Charism. We resolve to promote good and genuine vocations through focused efforts in vocation promotion and accompanying them in the Fransalian way, to be effective and integrated missionaries. Education of the formators is of paramount importance. We are committed to equip our formators with the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed to accompany the formees. To be effective and relevant, we will periodically organise ongoing formation programmes for our confreres. Thus, we will be a visible sign of our Charism in our formation.

### **5. Apostolate of SAIM (Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries)**

Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries are integral part of the mission of the Lord. We will identify, coordinate and strengthen innovative ways in which our communities respond to the social needs of the people. At the same time, we will evolve a structured approach of the Registered Societies to galvanise social work apostolate in our Province. We also resolve to use all the temporal goods of the Province by being more transparent and accountable to share the resources with the people in need. Thus, we will be a visible sign of our Charism in our Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries. By living our Charism authentically God will infuse our apostolates with divine grace and make us visible signs as Fransalians.

## **ACTION PLAN**

### **PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY LIFE**

- 1) Each of us shall make special effort to be regular and punctual for all the spiritual exercises and community activities.
- 2) We shall keep away all electronic gadgets during the community prayers and meals.
- 3) Every community shall display the Charism statement in a prominent place.



- 4) We shall live our fraternal communion with compassion, gentleness, simplicity and by reaching out to each other.

## **MISSION**

- 1) Without any exemption, we shall send all the newly ordained priests to the missions at least for the first two years.
- 2) All the required parish registers shall be kept ready for the Provincial or Councillor In-charge of Mission to check during the visits.
- 3) As far as possible new mission stations shall be taken up, particularly in Ambikapur, Dumka and Simdega Dioceses.
- 4) All our parishes without fail shall start Basic Ecclesial Community (BEC) or its equivalent.
- 5) Special care shall be taken to keep the places of worship clean and tidy; and observe the decorum as expected by the liturgical norms.

## **FORMATION**

- 1) We shall equip our formators by sending them for nine months formation course.
- 2) We shall appoint more regional vocation promoters whose work will be co-ordinated by the Councillor In-charge of Formation.
- 3) The Councillor In-charge of Formation shall find the modalities of improving the students' proficiency in English and Hindi and implement them.
- 4) We shall establish language labs in all our minor seminaries.
- 5) The Councillor In-charge of Formation shall take extra care to continue to organize ongoing formation.
- 6) The Councillor In-charge of Formation shall explore the possibility of bringing the professed scholastics together in the Province once in two years.

## **EDUCATION**

- 1) Every year, two confreres shall be sent for regular B.Ed., who are proficient in language and who have good academic background.
- 2) We shall appoint a committee for professional evaluation of our educational institutions.
- 3) Before appointing a confrere as office administrator, he shall be provided with professional training.
- 4) The Councillor In-charge of Education shall make sure of the implementation of the Code of Ethics/Conduct in all our educational institutions.

## **SOCIAL APOSTOLATE AND INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES**

- 1) We shall initiate and promote Fransalian Associates in our Province.
- 2) MDO shall coordinate the social projects in all our missions.
- 3) Cause of our Founder shall be enthusiastically promoted.
- 4) We shall explore the possibility of starting a retreat and animation centre.
- 5) We shall continue to organise youth gatherings once a year in our parishes and once in three years at the Province level.



## STEWARDSHIP

- 1) Local bursars shall be taught account keeping and related programmes like Tally.
- 2) All the mission units shall enhance their resource mobilisation by raising local funds.
- 3) Tabling of the accounts shall be done at the monthly community meetings.
- 4) Provincial Bursar shall monitor all the Societies/Trusts with regard to keeping the minutes and updating Schedule-I.
- 5) Just salaries and all needed emoluments shall be paid to all our employees.

## MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION

We reaffirm our commitment to support our MSFS Mission in Mozambique.

- 1) We shall strengthen our MSFS Mission in Mozambique with regard to finance and personnel.
- 2) Three confreres from Mozambique shall be sent for higher studies during the next five years.
- 3) A well-equipped minor seminary shall be constructed in Mozambique.

## New Provincial Curia



Following the new amended clauses in the Constitutions and in the General Directory, the Assembly at the Provincial Chapter 2023 elected the following members as Provincial Councilors and Provincial Bursar to work with the Provincial for the next five years.

**Fr. Agnelo Fernandes-Provincial Councillor in-charge of Mission cum Admonitor**

**Fr. Joseph Kailamangalam-Provincial Councillor in-charge of SAIM**

**Fr. Allan Gonsalves-Provincial Councillor in-charge of Education**

**Fr. Sandeep Tirkey-Provincial Councillor in-charge of Formation**

**Fr. Sylbester Xalxo-Provincial Bursar**





## National Annual PMP Gathering at Nagpur

The Parish Mission Preaching Teams from all the Indian Provinces had the annual gathering in the MSFS Provincialate, Nagpur from 23rd to 26th October 2023. Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, the General Secretary in charge of Missions very meticulously organized the program of three days. Only 29 participants from the 7 Indian Provinces took part in the programme, though 35 were supposed to attend. Fr. Melroy Almeida, Fr. Peter Dominic, Fr. Telesfor Lakra, Fr. Sandeep Tirkey, Fr. Lalit Tigga and Fr. K.V. Joseph of Nagpur Province, participated in the programme. Most of the participants had reached the Provincialate on 23/10/23. As some of the participants could not reach on the 23rd we had to reschedule the inaugural session to the following day. On 24/10/23 the session began with the lighting of the lamp by the Provincial, Fr. Manoj Tirkey, the Assistant General and the General Secretary for Mission, Fr. Johnson Kallidikkal, and the resource person Rev. Sr. Elsy. Fr. Manoj Tirkey, the Provincial in his welcome speech, briefed us on the origin of Parish Mission Preaching, on Fr. Peter Mermier's role in this mission during his time, and its relevance today. The dignitaries and all the participants from each province were welcomed with a shawl and a flower by Fr. Manoj. Each confrere came forward and introduced himself as he was welcomed. This was followed by a very encouraging voice message from our Superior General, Rev. Fr. Abraham. The inaugural session concluded with the introducing and welcoming of the resource person Rev. Sr. Elsy by Fr. Johnson Kallidukil. On the 24th and 25th the resource person Sr. Elsy

guided the PMP team members by meaningful talks and exercises on the Charisms, i.e. the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit. We the preachers of God's Word were made aware of the power and the value of the priesthood that each one has been blessed with. The Holy Hour, Meditations, various prayers of the day, the practical spiritual exercises and the Holy Eucharist on these prayer days helped us to get energised in the Holy Spirit to continue the PMP ministry in a powerful way. On 26th for two sessions the coordinators of the Provinces shared about the PMP ministry in their Provinces. The programme also included a short visit to Kamptee Mission, Seminary Hills Cemetery and to the SMMI Provincialate, where a museum of their Founder, Mother Gertrude is prepared with her personal items. The Provincial, Fr. Manoj Tirkey, the Superior of the community Fr. Sylbester Xalxo and all the community members of the Provincialate were thanked for their wonderful hospitality. The PMP National Gathering was well organised and the members were very happy to have had the program in Nagpur, a historical place of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales.



Fr. Joseph Kailamangalam

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## Fransalian Youth Conference: Live Jesus! Give Jesus!

This year is chosen by our Congregation as the YEAR OF FRANSALIAN YOUTH. In the history of our Province it was for the first time that the Province conducted a Fransalian Youth Conference for the youth from all our Parishes. The Conference was from 22nd to 25th November 2023 at the MSFS Provincialate, Nagpur. The theme was “Live Jesus! Give Jesus! There were youth from 8 parishes of Nagpur Province. The resource persons were Fr. Carlus Barowa MSFS, National Fransalian Youth Director and Ms. Shilpa Ekka, Indian Youth Congress spokesperson.

On the first day at 11.30 am the inaugural Mass was presided over by Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, the Archbishop of Nagpur. In the evening the inaugural ceremony was graced by Rev. Fr. Manoj Turkey, the Provincial of Nagpur Province, Rev. Fr. Carlus Barowa, Ms. Shilpa Ekka, Rev. Fr. Jnanamani, Province Youth Director, Parish Youth Animators and the Youth. The focus of the Conference was to train the youth on Skill Development and Leadership. The youth were given various tasks to perform: animating the group, group activities, animation of the Liturgy, cultural activities, etc. which they performed very well. During the Conference election of the office-bearers of the Fransalian Youth Mission, Nagpur Province was held. The Conference was concluded with a Thanksgiving Mass, followed by evaluation of the Conference and felicitation of the resource persons. The participants were very satisfied with the planning and the input sessions and they proposed that in future such programs should be held which will bring them together and help them to grow in life. The Provincialate community and organizers were thanked for their hospitality and generosity.

**Fr. Jnanamani Simon**





## Silver jubilee Celebration of St. Joseph's Church Ambapani



Every jubilee is an occasion to recall the graciousness of God and the cooperation of the people with God's plan of salvation. The Silver Jubilee of St. Joseph's Church, Ambapani, was celebrated on 29th Oct 2023. The much awaited festive day was blessed with the presence of many dignitaries. The jubilee began with the celebration of Eucharist by Rt. Rev. Kishore Kumar Kujur DD, Bishop of Rourkela. Also present were Fr. Manoj Tirkey MSFS, Provincial Superior of Nagpur Province, MSFS confreres from Nagpur, Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, and priests and religious of the diocese. The entrance dances by each village and associations of the parish added more festivity to the celebration. After the blessing of the Silver Jubilee stone by Bishop Kishore Kumar, Fr. Oscar Kujur, the parish priest extended a warm welcome to the august gathering.

In his homily Bishop Kishore Kumar appreciated the wonderful works done by the MSFS in Ambapani. A new Grotto was blessed by Bishop Kishore Kumar and Fr. Manoj Tirkey inaugurated the grotto. After the Eucharistic celebration the nine villages and associations of the parish put up an entertaining cultural programme. During the programme the dignitaries, MSFS priests who served in the parish, priests and nuns from the parish, as well as those who gave the land for the Church were honoured. Then the Bishop, Provincial and previous parish priests shared their messages and thanked Fr. Oscar and the parishioners for the grand celebration. A sumptuous meal prepared by the parishioners was served to all who were present. Everyone experienced the taste of Fransalian hospitality. They appreciated the Fransalian way of life which is the secret of the success story of the parish jubilee celebration.

### Deacon Abin Baby





## FINAL PROFESSION AND DIACONATE ORDINATION



On 24th November 2023, the Final Profession of Bro. Desidério João Devariasse was held at Our Lady of Fatima out-station in Ponta d'Ouro, Mozambique. Fr Henry Nedumkallel, the Delegation Superior, presided over the Mass and received the vows, as delegated by Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey, Provincial Superior of Nagpur Province. Bro. Desidério's mother, siblings, and relatives were present at the occasion. The event concluded with a small felicitation program.

On 25th November 2023, he was ordained a Deacon by Rt. Rev. Januário Machaze Nhangumbe, Emeritus Bishop of Pemba, during the Eucharistic celebration. The Delegation Superior, MSFS confreres of SFS and Mermier Apostolic Communities, priests, religious, relatives, benefactors, and friends attended the joyous occasion. After the Eucharist, there was a small felicitation program. All those present took part in the fraternal meal.

I express my gratitude to the Superior General and our dear Provincial for granting me the permission to make my Final Commitment. Special thanks to Fr Henry, my Rector and the Delegation Superior, for his paternal care and guidance, and to all my confreres for their prayerful support.

**Bro. Desidério João Devariasse**





## **INFORMATION**

**Fr. Amit Baa is slowly recuperating from his leg surgery. Considering his health condition and his request he will continue his ministry in India. At present he is appointed in Divya Jyoti Ashram, Latapara, to assist the formation team.**

**Fr. Anto Varghese is pursuing his doctoral studies in IIT Madras. As part of his PhD program he has to undertake research in his area of specialization in a foreign university. He has been invited by the Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany to do research under the supervision of Prof. Sophie Loidolt in the Department of Philosophy. At present he is in Germany and has begun his research. We wish him all the best for his studies.**

**Annual Retreat for Group-2 is from 26<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023.**

**Annual Retreat for confreres in Mozambique is from 15<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2024. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes will be preaching the retreat.**

**National Fransalian Youth Conference 2024 will be held in Visakhapatnam from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> of January 2024.**

### **Forum Meetings**

- 1. Education Forum - 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> February 2024**
- 2. Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministry (SAIM) – 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024**
- 3. Mission Forum - 13<sup>th</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024**
- 4. Formation Forum - 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024**



## Approval for Perpetual Profession & Diaconate

Our Superior General with the consent of his Council has approved the following scholastics to make their Perpetual Profession and to be ordained Deacons. They are Bro. Anupkumar Vijay Pillai, Bro. Bimal Tirkey and Bro. Sainjin Benny. They will make their Final Commitment on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2023, and will be ordained Deacons on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2023, at Fransalian Seminary, Pune.

### Congratulations to the New Provincial Curia: Pune Province



Fr. Ramesh George - PCIC- Formation cum Admonitor

Fr. Austin Joy - PCIC -Mission

Fr. - Roxy Fernandes PCIC- SAIM

Fr. Daniel Paraste - PCIC - Education

Fr .Tony Premanand- Provincial Bursar



## Let us Pray for the Departed

Mrs. Esther Kujur, 55 years, the elder sister of Fr. Marianus Kujur, who passed away on 07<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

Mr. P J Joseph, 75 years, the brother in law of Fr. Philip Malaparambil, who passed away on 08<sup>th</sup> November 2023.

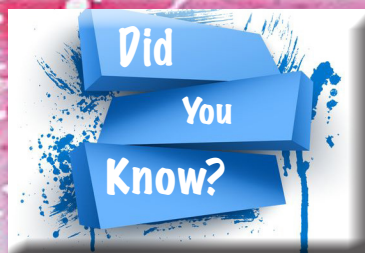
Mr. Remis Tirkey, 64 years, the father of Fr. Sandeep Tirkey, who passed away on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2023.

Yours Fraternally in Christ



**Fr. Manoj Tirkey**

Provincial Superior



**Fransalian Corner**

Monsieur Mermier was appointed as the spiritual director at the Major Seminary in 1823 at a young age. But he was not convinced as his first wish was to work in the missions. After sharing his thoughts with his friend through a letter, Monsieur Mermier sought the permission to devote himself entirely to mission work. Mgr de Thiollaz granted his request which he took to be a call from God.



### Listen to Our Founder

Man proposes and God disposes, we are in the hands of God: He is a good Father. We can be better nowhere else than in the arms of his Divine Will. I say therefore: May His most Holy and most lovable will be done.

*Letter to Fr. Cheminal, 29 January 1843.*