



CIRCULAR

To All the Memembers of the Province



Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales

Nagpur Province

23 January 2024



"Faith is like a bright ray
of sunlight. It enables us to see
God in all things as well as
all things in God." - **STFS**

Contents.....

1. From the Office of the Provincial
2. Annual Retreat
3. National Fransalian Youth Conference
4. Canonical Visitation of Our Superior General to Mozambique
5. Priestly Ordination of Deacon Aneesh Devassykutty
6. Diaconate Ordination-Pune

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

Dear Confreres,
Joyful greetings on this happy occasion of the Feast of our Patron St. Francis de Sales! As we celebrate the life and teachings of our beloved Patron St. Francis de Sales, let us delve into the profound wisdom that he has bequeathed to us. His teachings encapsulated in the spirit of Salesian spirituality, continue to resonate in our hearts and bear immense relevance in today's challenging world. St. Francis de Sales,



MSFS PROVINCIALATE

23, 24 Residency Road, Sadar, Nagpur 440001

Ph: 91-712-2527805. Mobile: 08825671090

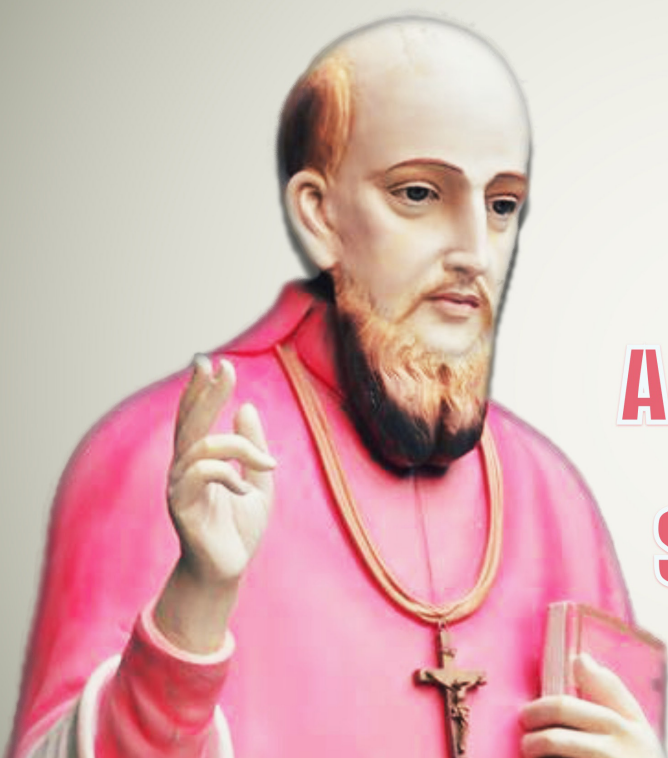
provincialnagpurmsfs@gmail.com; mtmanojmsfs@gmail.com

provincialbursarnagpur@gmail.com; xalxomsfs@gmail.com

secretaryprovincialnagpur@gmail.com; manimsfs@gmail.com

known for his gentle approach to spirituality, invites us to embrace the “Little Virtues”. They are those small everyday acts of love and kindness that lead us on the path to holiness. In a world often marked by haste and complexity, St. Francis reminds us of the transformative power of simplicity and love in our daily interactions. His emphasis on gentleness and patience remain a guiding light for us in understanding the complexities of modern life. In a society that sometimes echoes with harshness, let us adopt the spirit of St. Francis de Sales. Let us approach one another and even our own selves with kindness, understanding, and a heart open to the beauty of each person’s journey.

Living in the present, a key tenet of Salesian spirituality, calls us to trust in God’s providence and find the sacred in the ordinary. St. Francis’ teachings encourage us to cultivate mindfulness and to appreciate the Divine presence in the simplicity of each moment. As we celebrate the Feast of St. Francis de Sales, let us rekindle our commitment to his teachings. May we strive to infuse joy into our faith, find delight in our relationship with God and spread that joy to those around us. May the gentle spirit of St. Francis de Sales guide us in our daily lives, inspiring us to live out our faith with love, patience, and a deep sense of joy. Wishing all of you a Very Happy Feast of St. Francis de Sales.



**Wishing You
A Very Happy Feast of
St. Francis de Sales**

ANNUAL RETREAT: ABIDE IN JESUS AND BEAR FRUIT - Fr. Jnanamani



The Annual Retreat of Nagpur Province for group two was from 26th to 31st December 2023. Rev. Fr. David Jesuraj CSSR was the retreat preacher. The theme for the retreat was “Abide in Jesus and Bear Fruit”. Fifty-two confreres participated. The retreat was very dynamic and an enriching experience for all the participants, as the preacher animated the retreat through life examples and experiences. He also preached about the teachings of St. Francis de Sales in relation to our religious life in this present world. We extend our gratitude to Rev. Fr. David Jesuraj for this wonderful experience of Jesus through this retreat.



NATIONAL FRANSALIAN YOUTH CONFERENCE VISAKHAPATNAM

Fr. Jnanamani



For the first time in the history of the MSFS Congregation a National Fransalian Youth Conference was held at SFS School, Seethammadhara, Visakhapatnam, from 11 to 13 January 2024. The participants were from different parishes of the seven Indian Provinces. Almost four hundred youth delegates participated in the conference. On the first day, the Inaugural Ceremony began with a procession by the delegates followed by the hoisting of the flag. Thereafter the Holy Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, the Assistant Superior General, and was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. J. Stephen, the General Secretary of SAIM, Rev. Fr. Carlus Barowa, Rev. Fr. Jaddu Joseph, Rev. Fr. John Barman and all the Youth Directors and Animators of the Provinces.



The three days of the Youth Conference were well planned. It consisted of animation by the groups, sessions by different resource persons, group activities and cultural events.



Present for the conference were Rev. Fr. Johnson Gonsalves, Provincial Superior of Pune Province and Rev. Fr. Suresh Babu, Provincial Superior of Visakhapatnam Province. At the end of the conference a General Body Meeting was conducted. The purpose was to get feedback and suggestions in order to plan and organize future youth conferences.

Youth from different Provinces were chosen for their best performance during the conference and they were awarded with the National Fransalian Youth Awardee 2024. This year the award was bagged by Mr. Deepak Minj of SFS Church, Delhi, and Ms. Manisha Kullu of St. Joseph Church, Ambapani. It was the meticulous planning and execution of the whole conference that helped the youth of our parishes to really gain a lot. We hope that what they have received will help them to animate the youth of their parishes and beyond. Special thanks to the youth animators of the different Provinces for all the trouble they took and especially to the Vishakhapatnam Province for hosting the conference.



CANONICAL VISITATION OF OUR SUPERIOR GENERAL AND INAUGURATION OF THE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE

Fr. Henry Nedumkallel



After a prolonged and eagerly anticipated wait of seven years, our beloved Superior General, Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS, undertook his Canonical Visitation to the Mozambique Delegation from 20 December 2023 to 15 January 2024. It was indeed a significant

event in the life of the Delegation. Throughout his visitation, Father General diligently toured all the MSFS communities and parishes, and personally met each confrere.

As part of the visitation, Father General had meetings with the Bishops of the Dioceses where the MSFS confreres are engaged in pastoral work. He also had meetings with the

Fransalian Associates, the local benefactors, as well as with all members of the Delegation, both personally and collectively. He officially inaugurated the Silver Jubilee Year marking Twenty-Five years of MSFS presence in Mozambique and laid the foundation stone for a new SFS Minor Seminary.



14 January 2024 was a day of great joy for the Mozambique Delegation. As the day unfolded the Delegation witnessed a series of significant events:

- Inauguration of the Silver Jubilee Year - celebrating 25 years of MSFS presence in Mozambique.
- Opening of the Silver Jubilee celebration of the establishment of São Francisco de Sales Parish in Bela-Vista, as well as the Parish Feast.
- Blessing and laying of the foundation stone for the construction of a new Church in Bela-Vista.
- Launch of the book titled “Vida de São Francisco de Sales.”

- Blessing and laying of the foundation stone for the construction of a Minor Seminary in Ka-Elisa.

Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvelil MSFS solemnly inaugurated the Silver Jubilee Year by unveiling the Jubilee Logo to the accompaniment of the Jubilee Hymn. His Grace João Carlos, the Archbishop of Maputo, presided over the Eucharistic celebration and blessed and laid the foundation stone for a new Church.

After the Mass Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes MSFS, the former Superior General, released the book on the Life of St. Francis de Sales in Portuguese written by Fr. Vishal Barse MSFS. The day was graced by the presence of the District Collector of Matutuine, Mrs. Juliana Mwituu, as well as other civil authorities and invitees.

The day concluded in Ka-Elisa, at the proposed site for a new Minor Seminary. Here in the presence of the MSFS confreres, the civil authorities and the local people, Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvelil blessed and laid the foundation stone for a SFS Minor Seminary. As the day ended we thanked God for His abundant blessings and for all the significant happenings of the day.

“YOU DID NOT CHOOSE ME BUT I CHOSE YOU.” Jn 15:16

Fr. Santhosh Kumar Joe

On Sunday, 14 January 2024 Fr. Aneesh Velutheppilly MSFS was ordained a priest at Infant Jesus Church, Kizhakumbagam, Angamaly, Kerala. He was ordained by His Lordship Mar Jose Puthenveetil, Auxiliary Bishop of Delhi-Faridabad Diocese. Bishop Jose encouraged the newly ordained to be a holy priest of God. His Lordship very beautifully shared his reflections in German, French, English and Malayalam as the congregation attending the ordination was multilingual.



in Germany, who were on a tour to India.

Present for the ordination were Rev. Fr. Manoj Turkey, Provincial Superior of Nagpur Province, Rev. Fr. Jean-Yves Letue, Provincial Superior of Franco-Swiss Province, Rev. Fr. Robin Parappuram MSFS the Delegation Superior of Germany, many MSFS confreres, priests, nuns, relatives and well-wishers of Fr. Aneesh. Also present were a large number of persons from France, Switzerland and Germany. There were 40 parishioners from Fr. Robin's parish

The melodious choir helped everyone to meaningfully participate in the celebration of the Holy Mass. After the ordination and the first Holy Eucharist the joy of having a new priest was shared by everyone through a fellowship meal. Nagpur Province is blessed to have another new priest to lead the faithful closer to God. We wish Fr. Aneesh a joyful and fruitful priestly ministry in the vineyard of the Lord.



ROOTED IN CHRIST AND COMMITTED TO SERVE

The Diaconate ordination of nine brothers of Fransalian Seminary was held at St. Francis de Sales Church, Shaanwadi, Pune on 28-12-2023. “Rooted in Christ and Committed to Serve” was the theme chosen for the liturgy of the day. It was indeed an auspicious day for the MSFS Congregation. The nine brothers to be ordained deacons were from three different Provinces: Nagpur-3; Pune - 5; South-East - 1. Brothers Anup Pillai, Bimal Tirkey and Sainjin Benny were of Nagpur Province. His Lordship Rt. Rev. John Rodrigues, Bishop of Pune Diocese presided over the Eucharistic celebration. Also present were Fr. Manoj Tirkey, Provincial Superior of Nagpur Province, Fr. Johnson Gonsalves, Provincial Superior of Pune Province, Fr. Ramesh George and Fr. Daniel Pareste, Councilors of Pune Province, Fr. Tony Prem, Provincial Bursar of Pune Province, Fr. Charles Michael Raj, Councilor of South-East India Province, and Fr. Roxy Fernandez, Rector of Fransalian Seminary. Around 200 people including priests, religious, parishioners and relatives of the brothers to be ordained also attended the liturgical celebration. Bishop John congratulated the newly ordained deacons and in his homily he



shared his reflections on the theme of the liturgy. He spoke on how we can be rooted in Christ and committed to service. He especially stressed on the importance of being service-minded in our ministries like Jesus. He clearly stated that only if we become persons who are rooted in Christ will others experience Christ through our lives. At the end of the Mass, Fr. Manoj and Fr. Johnson heartily congratulated the nine deacons and shared their insights on how they can be exemplary MSFS. All the nine of us were really thrilled as many of our near and dear ones could attend the celebration and make it a truly memorable one. The festive atmosphere concluded with a felicitation program and an enjoyable fellowship meal.

Deacon Sainjin

Ongoing Formation-2024

General Secretariat for Formation is organizing a Congregational **G**level ongoing formation programme (3 days) with the theme, “**Ongoing Formation: A Call to Transformation,**” for the priests ordained from 2017 through 2022. The programme will be conducted at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati, Assam, for the Provinces of Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Nagpur and Pune from February 28 through March 1, 2024 (Arrival on February 27 and Departure on March 2, 2024). Following are the priests who will be participating in the programme:

Anto Thomas, Jnanamani Simon, Ranjit Lakra, Anil Pandit, Vinayand Katru, Manu Joseph, Anto Deepak, Roshan Tigga, Deepak Baa, Santhosh Kumar, Amit Tirkey, Sanjay Lakra, Amit Baa, Anoop Franics, Santhosh Soreng, Batula Kalyan, Joseph Gollapudy, Rajat Kumar Digal.

Kindly book your tickets.

Forum Meetings-2024

The General Curia has decided to conduct the Forum Meetings in our Province on the following dates mentioned below. Kindly take note and book your tickets.

May 01-02	Mission Forum
May 04-05	Education Forum
May 07-08	Formation Forum
May 11-12	SAIM Forum

SECOND STAGE PREPARATION FOR XXI ORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER
RECOLLECTIONS & STUDY PAPERS

- 01-02-2024 Recollection Talk (Material + Video Record) is sent to Provincial
- 05-02-2024 Study Paper – II & Questionnaire are sent to Provincial
- 25-02-2024 Completion of Community Reading of the Study paper – II in the Local Community and prepares for discussions in the Apostolic Community Meeting
- 15-03-2024 Completion of Discussions on Study Paper – II in the Apostolic Community Meeting
- 20-03-2024 Convenors / Councillors in charge of Apostolic Community send the Reports to Provincial
- 21-03-2024 Provincial forwards to the Chapter Delegates the Reports of Apostolic Communities for collation
- 30-03-2024 Chapter Delegates submit the Province Report to the Provincial
- 01-04-2024 Recollection Talk (Material + Video Record) is sent to the Provincial
- 03-04-2024 Provincial / Vice-Provincial Council finalizes the Province Report on Study Paper – II
- 05-04-2024 Provincial sends the Province Report to SGGC 2025

PCC collates all Reports by 25th April & submits it to Superior General by 29th April 2024 -----

Visitation of Assistant Superior General

As per the Circular of the Superior General (SG-AB2 23-219) dated 14/12/2023, Visitation of Assistant Superior General to Nagpur Province in Apostolic Communities, scheduled to take place from October 16, 2024, to October 30, 2024. More details of the visitation will be shared through the Provincial Circular prior to the visitation.



OBITUARY



Rev. Fr. Sesetti Mariadas

Visakhapatnam Province

He passed away on 12.01.2024
at the aged of 60

May He Rest in Peace

Diaconate Ordination

Brothers Clement Rajesh Leonard and Lambert Ekka will be ordained deacons on 02 February 2024 at Tejas, Bangalore. Kindly keep them in your prayers.



"Our Ministry demands that we offer ourselves to the people, to the society, like other St. Francis de Sales, totally disinterested, burning with zeal for the salvation of the people, full of compassion at the sight of evils which make the people desolate without amusing ourselves to lose our time in useless oratory, with a legitimate mission, an irreproachable doctrine and above all, a good life".

Letter of Fr. Mermier to Fr. Gaidon, Les Allinges, 24 February 1849

Yours Fraternally in Christ

Fr. Manoj Tirkey

Provincial Superior