



# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

## SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE

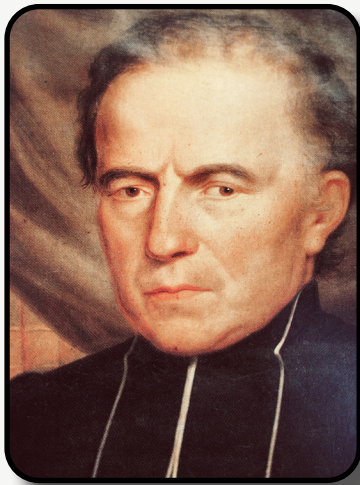
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SWIP Circular TK/06

OCTOBER, 2022

My dear Confreres,

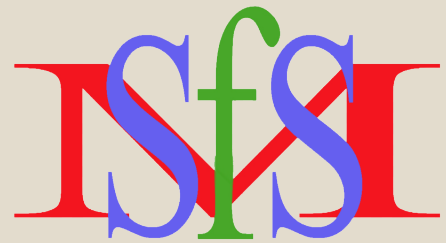


**F**raternal greetings and prayerful wishes to you all from Vinayalaya!

Months of September and October with three key celebrations --the feast of the Mother of Compassion, the patroness of our congregation, the death anniversary of our beloved Founder, Ser-

vant of God Fr Peter Mermier, and the very Foundation Day of our Congregation -- call our attention in a pointed way to our Congregation itself. It is definitely a time of Grace for our entire Congregation as well as an opportunity for us once again to return to those founding values that defined the very birth of our Congregation. Let us specifically focus on two of them during this time.

One of the pioneering characteristics of our Congregation was our Founder's insistence on a community-based ministry. It was a noble practice among our missionaries right from the beginning, that either at the end of a parish-mission or in other forms of ministries that evolved eventually, the members of the community gathered in sharing, discussing, evaluating matters pertaining to their respective ministries and systematically planned for the coming days. Transparency and sharing elicited brotherly support and encouragement. We have in our province several communities with multiple ministries and missionary undertakings. An unconscious



## HAPPY FOUNDATION DAY



tendency is gaining ground to manage the particular responsibility entrusted to each one without any serious involvement of the community. Would it not be more Fransalian, if, in this year of SFS, we all make a conscious and collective effort to recover that age-old practice of ours that all our ministries become truly community based, that we all make a real space for the “dialogue table” in each of our communities and that we come around it regularly under the animation of the local superior? Then, Fransalian communities are there for collective witness and not for internal competition or for out-smarting each other!

Secondly, our Congregation right from its inception as well as from its planting on Indian soil, remained faithful to its call to live and witness to a life of lived poverty at personal, community and institutional level. It is so wonderful that several of our confreres still cherish that noble legacy and live it. But the way some of us define for ourselves a life-style --be in terms of the standards of dining, recreational activities, outings, personal travels and use of common vehicles, gadgets and fittings that we acquire, etc., -- may not exactly be in sync with the commitment we have made. May the celebration of these congregational feasts be a reminder to us that by virtue of the vow of poverty made to God, we are just stewards of what rightfully belongs to the poor and the needy! It is good to hear once again the words of St Francis de Sales that Fr Mermier had taken as a binding directive: **“If we renounce everything to have whatever we wish; if we make ourselves poor by entering religious life and desire that we lack nothing; if we take the vow of poverty and do not want to feel any inconvenience; and what is worse, if we seek in religious life what we could not find in the world; and in spite of the vow of poverty, if we claim greater comforts and conveniences than those we had before we made ourselves poor; my God! What a blameworthy, ineffective and meaningless poverty that is!”**

## **PURCHASE OF LAND FOR RETIRING CONFRERES**

**A**s mandated by the Provincial Chapter 2022, we have been able to complete the first step in establishing a “Home” for our retiring confreres by purchasing a plot of land. A small plot of land -- measuring 2 acres 57 cents (255 sqms), situated in Pulluvattam, Kurianad, near Kuravilangad, surrounded by Catholic families, in close proximity to several hospitals, on the side of a road and 1 km away from the MC road -- was identified and all due process of Registration was completed on August 19, 2022. While thanking God for blessing us with this gift, I want to thank **Fr James Manjackal** most sincerely for his utmost generosity in arranging the entire cost of this land purchase. Knowing fully well that due to the pandemic induced situation Fr Manjackal had himself no resources, I approached him for whatever help he could give. His love and concern for the confreres of the province made him take a lot of trouble, re-work some of the plans he had made, and re-mobilized these funds that we could buy this land. We all remember with gratitude, pure and simple, how he has generously funded several of our other projects in the Province, from the construction of the first block of SFS College Hebbagodi to the purchase of the land in Kattappana. With all his physical ailments and moving around in a wheel chair, he proclaims the Good News of the Lord all around the world, always keeping the concerns of the mission of our Congregation and Province close to his heart, something that makes all of us proud as MSFS. On



behalf of all of us in the Province I thank him once again for his generosity. Our sincere thanks go to **Fr Jose Parapillil**, who spared no efforts in getting the land registered. Not only did he take several confreres to show the land to elicit their opinion, but also took upon himself on behalf of the Province to carry out the negotiations with the owner and then meticulously monitored the process of registration. Thank you, dear Fr Jose. I also thank **Fr Sijo Paul Kovilparambil**, the administrator of the KFES, in assisting Fr Jose in all the matters.

Now that the land is bought, we have to put up the necessary infrastructure. We have approached an architect to draw up some plans for the building and the campus. Once a sketch is ready, a brochure will be made with which we can approach some agencies and well-wishers to generate the necessary funds. My dear Confreres, it is here that your wholehearted cooperation is very important. It is a house for our senior confreres to live with dignity and necessary comfort. Please take this matter personally, introduce it to whoever can help us, so that within a year or so we can materialize this urgent need of ours. I am so happy that some confreres have already taken this cause to their heart and initiated some serious measures to generate funds towards this project.

## PROVINCE FORUM MEETINGS

**A**fter a gap of two years, we could once again hold all the Forum meetings between 9<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> September 2022. The meetings were well attended, interactions were serious, and we could give some concrete focus to our respective ministries for the days ahead. I thank all the Councillors-in-charge for convoking and efficiently conducting the respective Forum meetings and all of you for taking the trouble of coming together and participating in them actively and whole-heartedly. The details of the Forum meetings will be published in the SWIP News.

## INTERNAL AUDITING

**O**ur provincial Bursar, Fr Mathew Elayadathumadam, will be conducting the mandatory internal auditing in this November with professional assistance. He will intimate the respective communities the precise dates as well as what all documents and information should be kept ready for the same. At the end of this exercise, he is requested to present to the Provincial a written assessment of each of our communities as well as other undertakings. Please remember that internal auditing is not just about checking the balance sheet, but an auditing of all matters of administration as well as execution of projects and plans. I am sure that all of you will cooperate with him wholeheartedly.

## EXTENSION OF DATA TO KATTAPPANA

**D**ATA has achieved another milestone by opening its first away campus in our MSFS house, Kattappana with the beginning of first batch of German students on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September 2022. Some necessary restructuring of the first and second floors of the existing house was carried out, required faculty were recruited, and the program has taken off with 11 students. The entire Province thanks Fr Jino Plathottathil, the director of DATA, for his passionate commitment



and untiring efforts that has made DATA already a highly sought-after brand in and outside Kerala. Along with Fr Joshy Mangalathu and Fr Jaison Kollarayathu, who spared no efforts in getting everything ready in record time, he has made another major leap in this particular ministry of ours. Congrats and thanks to all three of them.

## FIRST PROVINCE ANNUAL RETREAT 2022

The first annual retreat of the Province was held in Vinayalaya from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October 2022, animated by Fr Jose Nandikkara CMI. 52 Confreres participated in the retreat very actively and fruitfully. Others will join the second retreat scheduled in Charis Bhavan from 16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> January 2023.

## EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER

The twice postponed extraordinary General Chapter will take place in Pune from 8<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022. We all know that this General Chapter is convoked to decide over some very important juridical matters that pertain to the life and administration of our congregation. Therefore, please keep this event specially in your prayers.

## PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF DIBRUGARH PROVINCE

The news about Fr Tomson Aerathedam being appointed as the second Provincial of Dibrugarh Province was already communicated to you. Fr Tomson has convoked the **2<sup>nd</sup> Provincial Congress of the Dibrugarh Province** from the **29<sup>th</sup> of November to 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2022 in Christashram - Dibrugarh** with the theme: "MSFS Dibrugarh Province: Journeying together in Mission as Fransalains". We keep the entire Province and its missionary intentions in our prayers that the forthcoming Chapter may be a time of blessing and effective planning for the Province.

## THE NEW ADMINISTRATION OF FRANCE-SUISSE PROVINCE

The newly elected Curia Members of France-Suisse Province are:

- Jean-Yves Le Tué - Provincial
- John Hepuni - Admonitor
- Scaria Joseph - Councillor
- Jose Thomas Puthiyapampil - Councillor
- Samuel Thomas Devaraj - Bursar

Congratulations to the newly elected provincial curia of France-Suisse province and wish them God's abundant blessings in leading the Province to greater heights.



## INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

The year 2022 is an important one for us, the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales. This year we celebrate the 400<sup>th</sup> year of the death of our Patron St Francis de Sales. To mark this occasion, Indian Institute of Spirituality will host on behalf of the Province an International Symposium in honour of our Patron St Francis de Sales, from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2022, at Indian Institute of Spirituality (IIS). The theme is “**ST FRANCIS DE SALES: A SAINT OF SYNODALITY, RELEVANCE AND IMPACT FOR TODAY’S WORLD**”. As Fransalians and Missionaries of St Francis de Sales let's make every effort possible to make it a memorable one. We look forward to the support and participation of as many confreres as possible in this symposium.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Fr C. Joseph is elected as a member of the Senate of Bangalore Archdiocese in the Category of Religious Priest's working as Parish Priest and Asst. Parish Priest. Congratulations dear father.

## MY SCHEDULE

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|--------------------------------|--|
| October 09-14, 2022            | Retreat for the Priests of Khandwa Diocese                             |
| October 15, 2022               | Jubilee of Fr A. Jerome, Sannidhi, Mysore                              |
| November 02, 2022              | Council Meeting, Vinayalaya  |
| November 03, 2022              | Meeting of the Provincial Administration with General Administration   |
| November 08-14, 2022           | Extraordinary General Chapter, Pune                                    |
| November 16, 2022              | Meeting of the General Administration with all the Provincials in Pune |
| November 29 - December 03 2022 | Provincial Congress of the Dibrugarh Province                          |

## VOICE OF SFS

**“My heart should either be torn from my body or that if remains with me it should hold nothing but this holy love ”**

**Fraternally,**



**Fr Thomas Kalariparambil MSFS**  
**Provincial**