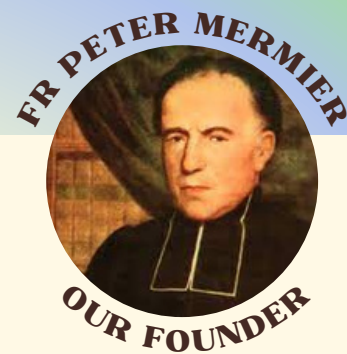




INTER SECRETARIAT



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NEWS LETTER

JANUARY 24, 2025

GENERAL CURIA

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(Superior General)**

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SUPERIOR GENERAL (Fr Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS)



My dear Confreres,

I wish you a **Happy Feast of our Patron, St. Francis de Sales!**

We are in the Jubilee Year, a Year of Grace. This is a Holy Year in the Catholic Church with the theme “Pilgrims of Hope.” This year is set apart to be a time of hope for the world amid war, poverty, climate change, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica and officially inaugurated the 2025 Jubilee of Hope. The Holy Door is considered ‘Holy’ because it calls all those who enter through it to walk in the holiness of life. It represents the journey from sin to grace for every Christian. Holy Mother, the Church invites people to ask for a plenary indulgence, which means forgiveness of their sins and those of their deceased loved ones.



We, the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, will celebrate our XXI General Chapter in this Jubilee Year. This is a Year of Grace for the Fransalians around the globe. We have prayed for this spiritual event since the convocation of the General Chapter. We hope for a new beginning, a Pentecost in our Congregation. We are challenged to be an outward-looking congregation free from all worldliness, sharing people’s lives and journeying with them. One of the greatest dangers facing the Congregation today is spiritual worldliness, as stated by Pope Francis. It reduces spirituality to appearances and external shows and disconnects spirituality from the Gospel and the norms of the evangelical counsels.

This is the last issue of the Inter-Secretariat News Letter published by the present General Administration. On behalf of all of us at the General Curia, I thank you for your excellent collaboration and understanding. Our journey has not been straight for the past six years. We have had moments of deep searching and uncertainties. But I can confidently say, together with the members of the General Curia, that we have reached a certain level of clarity and direction in our missionary journey as consecrated men. A special thanks to Fr. J. Stephen, General Secretary for SAIM, and Fr. Ajit Daimary, Secretary to the Superior General, for the outstanding presentation and the layout of the News Letter. They did a commendable job.

In 2024, we witnessed the consecration of Fransalina Associates, the initiation of the formation program for Fransalina Associates in more Provinces and mission units, online meditations with Father Mermier, online journeying with St. Francis de Sales, a more profound study of the Introduction to the Devour Life, Monthly Recollections on the core sourcebook of the MSFS in preparation for the General Chapter, studying and reflecting together on the theme of the General Chapter, the Mid-term Assembly in Visakhapatnam and Southwest India Provinces, etc. It was an eventful year for all the provinces and mission units.

A week away from the General Chapter, the Pre-Capitular Commission is working tirelessly to prepare for the XXI General Chapter. The Provincial House, Stella Maris, is waiting to welcome all the Chapter participants. The entire Congregation is looking forward to the outcome of the General Chapter and the new leadership team. Let me conclude by expressing my gratitude to you, dear confreres, for your love, concern, and understanding. We look forward with hope. Hope in the Bible is not a wish, a desire, an optimism, or a fantasy. Hope is absolute confidence in the person of Jesus Christ and the place he is preparing for you and me in heaven. Let us be advised by our Patron: Each day is a new opportunity for growing holiness.

Let us journey together this Year of Hope, knowing God loves us and wants the best for us.

Live JESUS!

Father Abraham VETTUVELIL, MSFS

Superior General



**ASSISTANT GENERAL CUM
GENERAL SECRETARIAT FOR THE MISSION
(Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS)**



ANNUAL PARISH MISSION PREACHING - GATHERING

The MSFS PMP National Gathering and Prayer Days were held from October 28 to November 1, 2024, at the MSFS Provincial House in Dibrugarh Province, Silapathar, Assam, India. 27 confreres from the seven MSFS Indian provinces attended.

Fr Varghese Paul Manickathan MSFS, the PCIC for Mission, Dibrugarh Province, welcomed all the participants and informed the day's schedule and guidelines. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil encouraged the members to take this chance to be together as brothers gathered in prayer and to strengthen one another in our preaching and healing ministry.

Fr. Jude Poovakulathu, MSFS, was the main resource person for the program. The key theme was **DELIVERANCE AND HEALING**. In his talk, the preacher, totally depending on the Word of God, spoke with authority about the origin of the devil, the seven capital sins with their heads, the activities of the devil, both ordinary and extraordinary, the reason for satanic activities, deliverance through the last seven words of Jesus on the cross, Divine justice and Divine mercy and concluded with the twelve virtues of Mother Mary.

The sessions were lively, as the participants actively interacted with the guide through their questions and viewpoints. The preacher kept everyone spellbound by quoting the scripture thoroughly and clarifying every doubt with utmost satisfaction.



The program was concluded with the solemn Eucharistic celebration by Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS and all the participants. After the program, we also visited some of the mission centres in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

Coming soon !!!

I want Missions – the 10th Issue.

The tenth issue of the MSFS Global Mission Magazine will soon be available. In it, you can savour the experiences of being a missionary and being with missionaries.



The magazine cover features a vibrant design with a red, orange, and blue header. The text 'Vol 5 No. 2 Issue 10 Dec 2024' is displayed in the top right. The title 'I WANT MISSIONS' is prominently shown in large yellow letters, with a circular portrait of a man integrated into the word 'MISSIONS'. Below the title, a yellow banner reads 'MISSIONARY INSPIRATIONS, ASPIRATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FRANSALIANS'. The main image is a photograph of a young girl, Angel Goretti, smiling and making a peace sign. She is wearing a colorful patterned vest over a white shirt and a blue beaded necklace. A text box on the right side of the photo contains a testimonial and a call to action. At the bottom, a yellow banner features a biblical quote and the magazine's title.

I WANT MISSIONS

MISSIONARY INSPIRATIONS, ASPIRATIONS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF FRANSALIANS

Angel Goretti

I am a miracle child by the grace of God through the MSFS Fathers and their friends. Please read my story on page 33

Praise the Lord all you nations; extol him, all you peoples.
Ps. 117:1

Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales – Global Mission Bulletin

VISITATION TO MALAWI: A MISSION ALIVE 24X7

As mandated by the Superior General, I conducted the canonical visitation in our MSFS Mission in Malawi from September 19 to 30, 2024. I could meet all the confreres in a personal meeting and have a community meeting in each community. By God's grace, the visitation went well. I am grateful to all the confreres who welcomed me cordially and cared for me well.



Some highlights include these observations:

- Numerically, the MSFS Malawi Mission has grown from zero to 15 confreres in the last six years.
- We are now in three dioceses and six communities, serving eight parishes.
- There are six parishes entrusted to the MSFS.
- Three of the new parishes are named after St. Francis de Sales.
- Every MSFS Community is named after saints.
- In Malawi, pastoral ministry is a 24/7 affair and is not restricted to the prescribed office hours or timetable.
- The Fransalian pastoral approach, which blends Salesian and Mermierian spirituality, makes the pastoral style of our confreres unique.
- The willingness of the confreres to live with the minimum conveniences and facilities.
- Confreres are ready to undergo many sacrifices for the sake of the mission.
- Genuine efforts are made to learn the local languages.
- The simplicity of life and the people who make our confreres more approachable.
- In all cases, the Local Ordinaries greatly appreciate the apostolate of the MSFS.
- Many confreres are very creative and are very active in Media Evangelization.

May God bless our humble efforts.

Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS

(Assistant General cum General Secretary for Mission)

FORMATION APOSTOLATE (Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara MSFS)



FORMATION TOWARDS SYNODALITY

The concept of synodality has been gaining momentum in the Catholic Church, particularly since the Synod on Synodality (2021-2024). Synodality is a way of being Church, characterized by communion, participation, and mission. As the Church embarks on this synodal journey, formation towards synodality becomes essential for religious, clergy, and laity alike. Formation towards synodality for the MSFS in the context of our religious formation would mean a walking together of the formators and formees towards a holistic integral formation, which implies a sound human formation, a profound spiritual formation, an integrated intellectual training, apostolic and missionary formation. It calls for social awareness, personal transformation, inculturation, and ecumenism, coupled with dialogue. Formation towards Synodality also implies learning to listen to the Holy Spirit and one another and discerning the will of God and one's vocation amid diversity and complexity. This can be best achieved by fostering a culture of participation, where all community members are valued and empowered to contribute their gifts and perspectives, building a sense of shared responsibility and collaboration among the community members, formators and formees. It is imperative to recognize that synodality is a collective effort that embraces a willingness to adapt and change and a dynamic and interactive process that envisages an inclusive approach to discussion, deliberation, discernment, and decision-making. By fostering a deeper understanding of synodality and its implications, we can create a culture of communion, participation, and mission in our journey as Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales.

FOCUS AREAS OF GENERAL SECRETARIATE FOR FORMATION IN 2024

The focus areas of the General Secretariat for Formation in the year 2024 were:

1. to guide and accompany the process of Formation in our Congregation,
2. to animate Province Formation Forums,
3. to initiate, implement, monitor, and evaluate various policies, and directives of Formation,
4. to organize ongoing formation programme at the congregational level for different batches based on the year of ordination, and
5. to facilitate the formation and consecration of Fransalian Associates.

ONGOING FORMATION FOR TRANSFORMATION

Formation is an ongoing process in our fast-changing world, and constant updating in various areas of our lives becomes necessary to keep abreast of new developments and remain relevant, effective, and creative in our ministries. Remaining faithful to the Directives of General Chapter 2019, the General Secretariat for Formation, in collaboration with the Guwahati, Visakhapatnam, and Southeast India provinces, conducted three congregational-level ongoing formation programmes under the theme “A Call to Transformation.”



Ongoing Formation at Guwahati

The first seminar on ongoing formation was held for the priests ordained from 2017 to 2022 in two locations, targeting different provinces in India. The first session occurred at the MSFS Provincialate in Guwahati, Assam, from February 28 to March 1, 2024. Participants from the Dibrugarh, Guwahati, Nagpur, and Pune provinces attended this session. Fr Sabu Francis, the Provincial of Guwahati Province, officiated the inaugural Mass, and Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, delivered the keynote address. The themes discussed included Redefining Priestly and Religious Formation Today, New Trends in Pastoral Ministry,” and Psychosexual Integration for Effective Priestly Ministry. The session had the participation of 50 priests.



Ongoing Formation at Vizag

The second session was held at Stella Maris in Visakhapatnam from March 13 to 15, 2024. This session catered to the South-East India, South-West India, and Visakhapatnam provinces. Fr Suresh Babu, the Provincial of Visakhapatnam, delivered the inaugural address. Topics included Formation to Affective Maturity, New Trends in Pastoral Ministry, Building Relationships, and Revisioning Religious Identity and Mission in Context. A total of 58 priests attended the session. The sessions aimed to redefine and enhance the participants’ understanding of their priestly and religious roles, integrating modern pastoral needs with traditional values.

ONGOING FORMATION FOR PRIESTS ORDAINED FROM 2014 THROUGH 2016



Ongoing Formation at Trichy

For the priests ordained from 2014 through 2016, an ongoing Formation was held at the Provincial House of the Cluny Sisters in Trichy from November 12 to 14, 2024. The event brought together 40 MSFS priests from seven Indian provinces. The seminar opened with an inaugural mass and address by Rev. Fr Patrick Jayaraj, Provincial of the South-East India Province. The themes discussed during the 3 days were Psychosexual Integration & Self Care, an Update on Book VI of the Code of Canon Law & Safeguarding Initiatives, POCSO Act and safeguarding mechanisms, Pastoral Leadership, Inclusive pastoral approaches, emphasizing the vital role of women in ministry. The seminar concluded with reflections by Fr. Saji George, the General Councillor for Formation, and evaluation by Fr Ramesh George, Provincial Councillor for Formation, Pune Province. On November 15, the participants made a transformative pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Velankanni. Special thanks to Fr Patrick Jayaraj and Fr Ramesh George for their assistance in organizing the ongoing formation programmes at the congregational level.

IMPLEMENTED ACTIVITIES BY THE GENERAL SECRETARY FOR FORMATION THROUGH 2024

- 1) Province Formation Forum Meeting with Nagpur, South-East India, Dibrugarh and Guwahati Provinces.
- 2) Conducted ongoing formation programmes for priests ordained from 2014-2016 and 2017-2022 in 3 batches in different venues.



Salesian Retreat 2024 at Makkiyad

- 3) Visit to various Formation Houses of the Congregation coupled with personal meeting with the staff and seminarians.
- 4) Following up the Syllabus for Perpetual Profession.
- 5) Organizing Salesian Retreat for the scholastics preparing for Perpetual Profession at Makkiyad.



Province Formation Forum Meeting
Dibrugarh & Guwahati



Province Formation Forum Meeting
Nagpur

- 6) Personal meeting and assessment with Scholastics for the Perpetual Profession.
- 7) Classes on MSFS Personal Spiritual Directory for the novices in our four novitiates in India.
- 8) Meeting with the PCIC of Formation in various provinces.
- 9) Assessing the implementation of the Call of the GC 2019, and Integrated Graded Syllabus
- 10) Interacting with the Coordinators of the Fransalian Associates in various provinces.
- 11) Following up the formation and consecration of Fransalian Associates.
- 12) Visiting the affected areas of Manipur and project area in Soorampatty (Tamil Nadu).
- 13) Organizing MDO Directors (India) Meet.

Tejas Vidya Peetha, Bangalore



MSFS Novitiate, Chabua, Assam



SFS Study House, Janampet

CHALLENGES / AREAS TO IMPROVE

- 1) Setting apart vocation promoters exclusively for the work of quality vocation promotion without assigning multiple responsibilities. Vocation promoters should have sufficient time to visit parishes, families, schools, and vocational camps.
- 2) Identifying and appointing trained and suitable formators and spiritual directors in all the stages of formation.
- 3) Accompanying the formee and mentoring them to discern the will of God and their vocation in a synodal way amid diversity and complexity.
- 4) Effectively implementing the graded syllabus for the scholastics preparing for the perpetual profession.
- 5) Update and renewal programmes for the formators.



Novices, Chad-Cameroon Delegation

GRATITUDE

I am happy to note the efforts made by our provinces in implementing an integrated syllabus and the policies relating to the formation, the Call of General Chapter 2019, and the Action Plans of the Provincial Chapter/Congress of the respective Provinces. I thank Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, our beloved Superior General, for his continuous guidance, support, orientations, directions and encouragement in planning and implementing various programmes, policies, and directives on formation in our congregation. I place on record the constant support and encouragement of the General Curia members.

Minor Seminarians
Mozambique Delegation



LCI Students 2024

I am profoundly grateful to all the Provincials, Regional, Delegation, and Mission Superiors, Provincial Councillors in charge of Formation, Rectors, Novice Masters, Formators, Spiritual Directors, Vocation Promoters, and all the MSFS Confreres for their sincere cooperation, commitment, hard work and dedication to promoting vocation, forming, guiding, directing and accompanying our formees in different stages of formation.



Minor Seminarians Philippines Delegation 2024



MSFS Novitiate, Varanasi

CONCLUSION

A sound, systematic, human, holistic, and integrated formation is the backbone of any Congregation. The quality of the vocation depends on the quality of formation. As Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, our Formation aims to become Christ-like and share in his mission by following the spirit and spirituality of St Francis de Sales as envisioned by our Founder. It is a formation of the heart that leads to a transformation of the total person. As we embark on our journey as pilgrims of hope in this Jubilee Year 2025, let us commit ourselves more fervently to seminary and ongoing formation, discernment, and prayer. May this journey enable us to become a community, a congregation, and a Church that genuinely walks together in synodality by disseminating the spirituality of our beloved patron by living Jesus every moment of our lives. Live Jesus!

Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara MSFS
(General Secretary for Formation)

EDUCATION APOSTOLATE (Fr. Jacob Karamaluzhyil MSFS)



‘A SPOONFUL OF HONEY’ SECOND EDITION PUBLISHED

MSFS Value Education books from classes 1 to 10 emphasized values at five levels. They are values at personal, interpersonal, social, national and global levels. Ever since our books were released on 1st March 2022, they were in circulation. However, the MSFS Education forum regional was under doubt whether our books have really met the expectations of the schools. It was felt in 2024 March the need to have an evaluation of the books through a written down format to get opinions on the quality of content, language style, relevance of topics, exercises and content length etc. Proposals were also asked for new topics and the kind of exercises to be given. Around forty MSFS schools responded to our evaluation and gave their valuable suggestions. Considering the suggestions and observations, we have come out with the second edition of the books for classes 1 to 9 by October 2024. In the new edition we have simplified the language of all lessons and made the content age-appropriate, old lessons replaced with new ones, reduced the total number of lessons for all classes, abstract ideas and concepts are explained through examples and narratives, added new topics as suggested by teachers, pictorial illustrations were added in lower classes, entire exercises were totally changed for all lessons, made the exercises simple and objective type which could be done in the textbooks itself and teachers manual was prepared for each class to avoid confusion regarding the answers of the exercise. The new edition books are going to be in circulation for the academic year 2025-2026.



MSFS INTER-SCHOOL NATIONAL QUIZ COMPETITION ORGANISED

On November 13, 2024, St. Francis De Sales School, Guwahati, played host to an extraordinary event, the first-ever MSFS Inter-School National Quiz Competition. This event brought together bright minds from MSFS institutions across the country, making it a memorable celebration of knowledge, teamwork, and cultural diversity.

The day began around 8.00 am with a solemn Prayer Dance, setting a serene tone for the day. Rev. Fr. George Thomas, the Principal of the School in his welcome address emphasized the importance of intellectual curiosity and collaborative learning. The distinguished guests and participants who came all the way from different provinces of India, were felicitated. There were participants (two from each) from a total 7 provinces across India who came along with their Teacher-In charges. Quiz master Mr. Surya Narayan Prabhakaran, a veteran with over 500 quiz shows to his credit was introduced and welcomed. He has hosted prestigious quizzes for organizations like ONGC, Amul, and the Government of the Netherlands.



The Quiz Competition kicked off around 9.30 am. The competition was a test of the general knowledge, quick thinking, problem solving skills and teamwork of the participants. After several rounds, the quiz competition came to an end at around 12.30pm. The closing ceremony was a vibrant and celebratory affair. Traditional Assamese Bhortal dance captivated the audience which reflected the rich cultural heritage of the host state. This was followed by the stunning performance by the school's Girl's Band with their melodies and disciplined display of the band. The event was marked by the presence of Mr. Sandeep Tandon, Regional Head of CBSE Guwahati Region as the Chief Guest. In his address, he congratulated the school administration for hosting such excellent academically relevant competition which will enhance and foster the culture of excellence among students.

The much-awaited prize distribution took place in the presence of students and staff from the host school. The following schools were the prize winners.

Champion: St. Francis De Sales Public School, ICSE, Bengaluru, South West Province (Rs. 50,000, trophy, medals, and certificates)

1st Runner-up: St. Francis De Sales School, Bahalpur, Guwahati Province (Rs. 25,000, trophy, medals, and certificates)

2nd Runner-up: St. Mary's English School, Kinwat, Nagpur Province (Rs. 15,000, trophy, medals, and certificates)

3rd Runner-up: St. Francis De Sales School, Gajuwaka, Visakhapatnam Province (Rs. 10,000, trophy, medals, and certificates)



All participants received mementos as a token of appreciation for their enthusiasm and hard work.

The MSFS Inter-School National Quiz Competition 2024 was not merely a contest but a platform to inspire young minds to embrace learning beyond textbooks. It reinforced the importance of intellectual challenges, connected MSFS Schools in India and gave the participants our sense of commitment to the cause of education. MSFS Regional Forum is very grateful to SFS Guwahati for hosting this competition. We thank Fr. George Thomas for organising it so meticulously. God Bless him and SFS Guwahati.

Fr. Jacob Karamaluzhyil MSFS
(General Secretary for Education)

SECRETARIAT OF SOCIAL APOSTOLATE AND INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES (Fr. J. Stephen MSFS)



The General Secretariat for SAIM conducted an animation session for the SAIM Forum members in the provinces of Dibrugarh, South East India, and South West India to enhance their understanding of innovative approaches in social apostolate work. The session focused on contemporary challenges and the mission of the Fransalians, strengthening the members' commitment to serving marginalized communities.

Topics such as youth ministry, community outreach, and innovative pastoral strategies were discussed. The General Secretariat encouraged integrating new methods while maintaining the Salesian charism, helping participants develop effective solutions and fostering unity across the provinces for impactful social and pastoral initiatives.

SAIM REGIONAL FORUM MEETING

The Regional SAIM Forum Meeting, held at the MSFS Provincialate in Nagpur, brought together confreres from various provinces, including PCICs, secretaries, MDOs, and youth directors. The first day featured a session by Dr. Pollishetty on the mental health challenges faced by youth, with a focus on pastoral counselling and innovative strategies. The discussion also covered the role of depression in spiritual growth and the need for priests to develop psychological skills. The session was followed by an outline of SAIM's responsibilities and initiatives, with reports from seven provinces highlighting ongoing efforts in youth ministry and social work.



Participants discussed concerns regarding social ministry investments, with suggestions to create a separate society for social work and establish a regional legal cell. Additionally, the MDO faced challenges with unclear roles and lack of cooperation, with calls for clearer directives from the General Administration and stronger coordination with Rome. The meeting concluded with productive exchanges, highlighting areas for improvement and collaboration across ministries.

MDO DIRECTORS' MEET 2024

The Mission Development Office (MDO) Directors' Meet was held on November 30, 2024. It began with a welcome from Fr. Antony Kattathara and an introduction to resource person Fr. Walter SJ, who discussed mission development, tax contributions, and auditing. He covered the evolution of social action, ecological conservation, youth engagement, and challenges like funding and CSR limitations. Fr. J. Stephen emphasized the need for clear MDO structures and unified programs in social work, housing, education, and women's empowerment. He stressed collaboration and integration of social action into the congregation's mission.



Fr. Saji George expanded on MDO objectives, focusing on mission animation, human development, and resource mobilization, while highlighting confusion in some provinces. He urged building mission funds and improving coordination. The third session presented provincial reports on relief work, educational initiatives, and social ministries, addressing challenges like unclear MDO roles and lack of collaboration. Suggestions included centralizing project approval, ensuring transparency, and fostering cooperation among provinces.

The meeting concluded with Fr. Saji George and Fr. J. Stephen expressing gratitude and emphasizing the importance of focusing on human development rather than financial concerns. They encouraged leveraging MDO's potential to advance mission and congregational growth.

SALESIAN PROGRAM ANNECY (SPA) 2024

The Salesian Program Anncy (SPA) 2024, held in Anncy, France, from September 28 to November 8, 2024, the birthplace of St. Francis de Sales, focused on the theme "Living the Salesian Spirit in Contemporary Times." The program brought together eight members of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) from various provinces. It was mainly animated by Fr. Samuel Devaraj Thomas, the director of SPA, and assisted by Fr. Hepuni John. Through spiritual reflections, workshops, and cultural exchanges, participants explored the relevance of Salesian spirituality in addressing modern pastoral and missionary challenges. Pilgrimages to key Salesian landmarks, such as the Basilica of the Visitation, deepened the participants' spiritual journey, strengthening their connection to the congregation's roots.



The program emphasized renewing commitment to the Salesian charism and fostering unity among members. Participants also discussed strategies for integrating Salesian values into ministries like youth outreach, education, and social work. The event provided a platform for participants to reflect on their mission, develop new insights, and gain a shared vision for carrying forward the legacy of St. Francis de Sales. SPA 2024 proved to be an inspiring experience, equipping the members to adapt to contemporary challenges while staying deeply rooted in their spiritual heritage.

FRANSALIAN YOUTH COORDINATORS' MEETING 2024

The Youth Coordinators meeting with the General was held on November 13, 2024, at the MSFS Generalate in Hyderabad. The meeting began with a warm welcome from Fr Carlus Barowa, who also expressed gratitude towards Fr. J. Stephen for his ongoing support in developing the Fransalian Youth Ministry. Fr. Abraham Vettuvilil the Superior General addressed the participants, focusing on key aspects of youth ministry, such as forming disciples, leadership challenges, and the role of new evangelization. He emphasized the importance of awakening a hunger for God in youth and the need for youth ministry to reflect the Church's missionary identity. The day also included reports from youth coordinators, a Holy Mass, and a fellowship meal.



In the afternoon, discussions revolved around the challenges faced in youth ministry, including discouragement among confreres, financial difficulties, and the need for clear guidelines. Proposals were made to create a documentary for awareness and fundraising, organize an international online carol singing competition, and appoint full-time youth directors. An action plan was outlined, including establishing a common logo and mission for the Fransalian youth ministry, creating youth units in every parish, and promoting a shared social media platform. The plan also proposed organizing a National Fransalian Youth Conference every year, a Fransalian Youth Retreat every alternate year, and an International Fransalian Youth Conference once every three years. The meeting concluded with clear assignments for various responsibilities, a focus on making the youth ministry financially self-sufficient, and a commitment to strengthen collaboration and sustainability across provinces.

CONVOCATION CEREMONY AT DESIFMA

The convocation ceremony at DeSIFMA (De Sales International Film and Media Academy) was held on October 12, 2024. It was graced by esteemed chief guests, including renowned Director and Actor SA Chandrasekar, acclaimed Editor B. Lenin, and celebrated Director Venkat Prabhu, along with several other prominent personalities from the Tamil film industry. Their presence added a significant touch of glamour and recognition to the event.



I my extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Superior General and his Curia, all the Provincials, PCICs of SAIM, MDO Directors, Directors of SPA, Provincial Secretaries, and Fransalian Youth Directors for their invaluable support and cooperation. Your visionary leadership, dedication, and collaborative efforts have been instrumental in fostering growth, unity, and the vibrant expression of the Salesian charism. Your encouragement and contributions have significantly strengthened our shared mission of serving the Church and society with purpose and compassion. Thank you for your tireless commitment to our collective endeavours.

Fr. J. Stephen MSFS

(General Secretary for Social Apostolates and Innovative Ministries)

STEWARDSHIP FORUM (Fr. Jose Cheriyanthara MSFS)



Our Patron St. Francis de Sales inspires us to re-live the Mission, Vision and *Spirituality*, lived by Our Founder, Fr. Peter Marie Mermier. Our re-commitment to the spiritual patrimony of our founder assures us to become true members of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. I wish you the festal greetings and blessings of the Lord.

This great event of our General Chapter 2025, with the theme **‘I Chose You: MSFS, Live Your Charism’** challenges us to explore new ways and means to re-dedicate and re-live Our Charism and Mission in a renewed spirit. It helps us to be committed persons for our ministries and also re-plan in managing and sharing our resources with others, especially with the poor and the needy in the frontiers of our communities and societies. We are called to be ‘Good stewards responsible for all these various graces of God’ (1 Pet 4:10).

In this world of economic competition, as religious, we make decisions to build economic structures on par with our charism and mission. While addressing at the symposium for the General Bursars Pope Francis emphasised guarding against the material idols which blur the authentic meaning of life. ‘If economic structures are an instrument, if money must serve and not govern, then it is necessary to look at the charism, at the management, the aims, the meaning, and the social and ecclesial implications of the economic choices made by the institutes of consecrated life and societies of apostolic life’ (*cf. economy at the service of the Charism and Mission pp 24-25*).

The Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life states that the responsibility of all the members of a religious institute is ‘to see that the utmost attention is given to the administration of economic resources is always essentially at the service of the expressed purpose of the proper charism’.

As stewards, all the financial administrators of the religious institutes in different capacities have to take into consideration for an effective *formation for economic matters*.

Such formation capacitates us to enter into an explicit process of discernment, purification, and reforms in concrete situations of financial administration.

Implementing financial decisions of the Institute according to the charism is challenged by the rapid global changes taking place in economic, social, political, and legislative areas. They are visible in the complexity of problems in all the fields of management.

Therefore, it is necessary to define and implement the plans to correspond to today's needs in full fidelity to the charism.

As we reflect upon living our charism, our economic planning should not contradict it. There should be no contradiction between charism and management of goods; rather, it should help us achieve the objectives of the institute's Charism. The important components of successful management are responsibility, transparency, and accountability. The stewards are called to ensure that they implement a system that will help the institute continue to expand its mission according to the patrimony of our Charism.

The economy is an essential dimension of human life, so, through many parables, Jesus also speaks about the proper and prudent use of earthly goods to attain eternal life. The parables such as: *The buried treasure* (Mt.13: 44-46), *Calculate before building a tower* (Lk. 14:28), *to employ the talents to bear fruit* (Mt 25:14-30; Rev. 22:12) *the contract and salary due to the tenants* (Mt. 20:1-16) *Settling the accounts with the servants* (Mt 18: 23-35) provides good inspiration for better functioning. The Church from the beginning has taken seriously the aspect of taking care of the Temporal goods.

We are called to serve as stewards of the entire temporal goods of the Institute. It is an ecclesiastical office with a divine nature and this noble office binds us to follow canonical rules and particular instructions of the Church from time to time (Can. 634-640 and 1259-1310).

The MSFS constitution (270-273) and the General directory (Ch. 7, 314-365) give proper guidelines for the efficient functioning of the office of the provincial bursar.

The office of the Provincial bursar demands better management of the goods or assets for achieving the charism and mission of the congregation. It calls for oversight which means the budget forecasting and planning. The Provincial Bursar oversees the implementation of budgets. He has to provide professional assistance and legal guidance to the local bursars to implement the plans and projects.

He arranges input sessions with expertise in financial management from time to time and educates the local bursars on the implications of the new legal developments in financial management.

The responsibility of the Provincial bursar is to implement the call of the General Chapter and the Provincial Chapter / Congress.

THE REGIONAL STEWARDSHIP FORUM

All the Indian Provincial Bursars met at the Provincial House in Visakhapatnam on May 28-29, 2024.

Mr. V. Govardhan Reddy (Nataraja Iyer & Co) and his team were the resource persons for this meeting. During the sessions, they briefed the current amendment to financial rules and regulations of Income Tax and FCRA relating to Charitable Societies and Trusts in the country. They have given instructions and guidelines for the Maintenance of accounting & financial management in the Province. They created a deep awareness of the need to be cautious with the new regulations on charitable societies and FCRA.

We, the Regional Stewardship Forum, express our gratitude to Rev. Fr. Suresh Babu, the Provincial Superior of Visakhapatnam Province, for his inspiring message and to the Provincial community for assistance. We wholeheartedly thank Rev. Fr. G. Bhaskar Reddy, the Provincial Bursar of Visakhapatnam Province, who meticulously arranged the meeting schedules and resource persons.



The General Bursar has indicated the purposes of the Regional Stewardship Forum meeting such as:

- To evaluate the functioning of the stewardship forum in the life of the Province (through the presentation of your reports and sharing);
- to enrich us with new developments in the financial management system from the Resource persons;
- and to make a focused action plan for provinces for the coming years.

THE ACTION PLANS

1. A common Software for accounting in all the MSFS Indian Provinces by the end of 2024 and give training to Provincial bursars and local Bursars.
2. To give due attention to planning, budgeting, scrutinizing, approval, execution with supervision, from time to time evaluation, Final Reporting after the completion of the project
3. Stay focused - to the call of the General Chapter and Provincial Chapter/ Congress
4. Work in Collaboration: General Bursar and Provincial Bursar: Provincial Bursar and Local Bursar and with the accountants and auditors – time-to-time interaction
5. Empowering and training in the field of management of temporal goods.
6. Update the current financial and taxation acts on financial accounting, filing of returns, and taxation, as well as FCRA, Societies, Trust, etc.
7. Prioritize matters of importance to the office of the Bursar
8. Adhere to the natural principle of Responsibility, Transparency and Accountability in the office of management of the Temporal goods.
9. To manage the temporal goods take in mind the founding Charism of the Institute and mission of the Church – embedded with charity and humanism
10. Give suggestions for the General Chapter 2025;

The Regional Stewardship Forum gave the following suggestions:

- a) Appoint a Financial committee with trained confreres in all the provinces
- b) Send the confreres for training in finance management courses. (the outgoing provincial bursar should remain sufficiently with the in-coming provincial bursar).

All the Provinces have regularly conducted Stewardship Forum meetings and arranged effective sessions with resource persons in the financial and accounting field.

I want to express my immense appreciation to all the Stewardship Form members, under the guidance of the Provincial bursars, for their perseverance and hard work in managing the provincial temporal goods and solving many economic issues in the Provinces. I am also very grateful to our Congregation Provincial Curia members for their financial support of the Generalate and the Curia members.

My special word of appreciation to all the past and present Provincial Bursars of our Congregation for their cooperation and generosity in attending to the financial and clerical assistance as and when required by the General administration for the last six years.

I wish you a Happy Feast of St. Francis de Sales and many blessings of God!

MSFS Live Your Charism!

Fr. Jose Cheriyanthara MSFS
(General Bursar)

General Curia



Wish You



*Happy Feast
of
Our Heavenly Patron
St. Francis De Sales!*