



CASA GENERALIZIA
MISSIONARI DI S. FRANCESCO DI SALES,
VIA DELLE TESTUGGINI-21, 00134, ROMA, ITALIA
superiorgeneralmsfs@gmail.com



SG JK-01

FEBRUARY 15, 2025

SUPERIOR GENERAL TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE CONGREGATION

My beloved Confreres, Fraternal Greetings!

....Above all these, put on love, (cf. Col. 3:14). With these words serving as my motto and driving force, on February 2, 2025, on the second day of our XXI Ordinary General Chapter, I said yes to God's will and I surrendered myself to His call to bear the significant responsibility of being the 15th Superior General of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. That was on the World Day of Consecrated Life - A day I hold very dear to my life as a religious.

It was an overwhelming and humbling experience for me to assume this sacred office in the presence of the Capitulants and participants of the General Chapter, representing the entire Congregation. The spirit of our Patron, expressed through his own words, "when we abandon all to Him, He takes tender care of us, and His Providence for us is great or small according to the measure of our abandonment," served as a source of inspiration and comfort for me.



As a Congregation, we shall continue to serve the Mission of Christ and His Church in the renewed spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and the missionary fervour of Father Peter Mermier. February 2025 has been a month of grace and blessing for us Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. The General Chapter, composed of 43 Capitulants and four participants, gathered together from February 1 to 14 at Stella Maris, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India. With the theme: “... *I chose you*” (*John 15:16*): **MSFS, Live your Charism**, the General Chapter discussed, deliberated and discerned our obligations as Missionaries to re-commit to our Charism:

Our prayerful reflections, fraternal sharing, and Salesian community living constituted a synodal journey. Over the past 15 days, we engaged in healthy debates and exchanged news and views from different units, which aided us in discerning with greater clarity how we can live our Charism in a more meaningful manner within today’s context. Our synodal journey urged us to commit to personal sanctity, community life, and service. In this world of disconnection, the Chapter experience urged us to connect with one another, experiencing the connectivity to the global MSFS family.

The 21st Ordinary General Chapter, celebrated at the threshold of the great Jubilee Year, marks a historical moment in our congregation. From 1838 to 2025, MSFS has been in existence for 186 years—all by the grace of God, and only by the grace of God.

On behalf of the entire Chapter, I thank you, dear confreres, for your prayerful support during the preparation and the celebration of the Chapter. Ever since the convocation of the Chapter on January 24, 2023, it was a time of intense preparations at various levels, with various discernment processes of which we were all part.

THANK YOU... STELLA MARIS! THANK YOU, VIZAG PROVINCE

Organizing and managing the General Chapter of an international congregation is a herculean task. However, our tasks are simple, and our burden is light when we allow the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. This truth was evident when a team of young confreres of goodwill and dedication put their hearts and minds and work together with a deep sense of dedication and commitment.

At Stella Maris, with its rich history and missionary heritage intertwined with a spiritual ambiance, we celebrated the General Chapter in a serene environment that fostered reflection and community living. Our confreres provided us with a vibrant atmosphere for worship and reflections. Our heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Fr. Suresh Babu MSFS, the Provincial Superior of the Vizag Province, all the confreres in Stella Maris, the communities in Vizag and to the entire province.

THANK YOU... REV. FR. ABRAHAM VETTUVELIL MSFS
(Our Outgoing Superior General)



Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil has been recognised for his devoted leadership as the Superior General of the MSFS Congregation. On 2 February 2025, Father Abraham Vettuvellil laid down his office as the 14th Superior General after 12 years entirely dedicated to the mission of the Congregation. He served as Superior General for 12 years (2013-2019), guiding the MSFS Congregation through numerous challenges and opportunities. Father Abraham exemplifies the true spirit of the MSFS, infused with a genuine Salesian ethos.

In the context of the present culture marked by religious indifferentism, materialism and moral relativism, Fr. Abraham with his gentle yet firm determination spared no efforts to stabilise the Congregation's missionary and religious identity, along with his cheerful availability, patient listening to the confreres and simplicity of life.

As the spiritual leader, he has been a source of encouragement and inspiration to every confrere. Under his capable and steadfast leadership, the Congregation has experienced a deepening of spiritual renewal and a strengthening of its missionary identity. With gratitude to the Almighty, I urge us all to celebrate his contributions and positive impact. As man of positive disposition, he encouraged the members to grow and thrive.

He is someone who trusts others and consistently thinks positively about them. We are proud of Father Abraham, who identified himself with the mission of the Congregation, and we are ever grateful for his leadership. We look forward to his expertise and inspiration as we continue with renewed fervour and trust in the Lord. On behalf of the entire Congregation, I sincerely thank Father Abraham for his unwavering commitment to the Administration and Animation of the Congregation during the last 12 years.

Working with him was a source of joy for us in the former General Curia team. He possesses the ability to listen attentively and patiently.

During his tenure, the MSFS mission expanded globally, with increased involvement in pastoral care, social, religious formation, and educational initiatives.

God bless you, Father, and grant you even more strength to spread the Good News.

As he steps down, we wish him well in his future endeavours. We are confident that his legacy will continue to inspire and guide the MSFS Congregation.

**THANK YOU ... FR. JOSE CHERIYANTHARA MSFS,
(The Outgoing General Bursar)**



Fr. Jose served the congregation as the General Bursar from 2019 to 2024. A man of deep faith and sincere commitment, Fr. Jose accomplished his tasks with utmost clarity and transparency. His simplicity and integrity inspire us all. He also served as the Local Superior of the MSFS Community in Rome.

On behalf of the entire Congregation and the General Curia, I would like to thank Fr. Jose Cheriyanthara for his dedicated service to the entire congregation. I wish you all the blessings of God, in your future ministry.

**THANK YOU ... FR. J. STEPHEN MSFS,
(The outgoing General Councillor and General Secretary for SAIM)**



Fr. Stephen served the congregation as the General Councillor and General Secretary for the Social and Innovative Ministries (SAIM) from 2019 to 2024. During his tenure, he made tremendous contributions to the entire congregation by taking initiatives such as DeSIFMA and De Sales Technologies. Due to these initiatives, we now have E-Voting, MSFS Software for managing our institutions, MSFS App, etc.

On behalf of the entire Congregation and the General Curia, I would like to thank Fr. J Stephen for his dedicated service to the entire congregation as a member of the General Curia. I wish you all the blessings of God in your future ministry.

**THANK YOU... FR. JACOB KARMAKUZHIYIL MSFS,
(Our outgoing General Councillor and General Secretary for Education)**



Fr. Jacob served the congregation as the General Councillor and General Secretary for Education from 2019 to 2024. During his tenure, besides his works as the General Secretary for Education, he made significant contributions to the entire congregation by taking the initiative to introduce MSFS Value Education books for use in our educational institutions. The books are much appreciated and used widely in many MSFS and non-MSFS educational institutions. Under his leadership, the congregation

focused education apostolate, aligning with the foundational goals of the MSFS.

On behalf of the entire Congregation and the General Curia, I would like to extend my gratitude to Fr. Jacob for his dedicated service to the whole congregation as a member of the General Curia and as the Local Superior of the General Secretariate House in Hyderabad. I wish him all the blessings of God in his future ministry.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION THE PRE-CAPITULAR COMMISSION WHO ALSO SERVED AS THE STEERING COMMITTEE

On behalf of the entire Congregation, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Fr. VELANKANNI Dola, the Secretary General of the Pre-capitular Commission and his team, Fr. POOVATHUNKAL Shibu, Fr. DE SOUZA Benedict and Fr. A. Anthony Samy, for faithfully doing the tasks entrusted to them. I deeply appreciate the ground work they have done for the success of the XXI General Chapter 2025. I acknowledge the sacrifices they have made in formulating the themes for reflections and discussions based on the four study papers; analysing, synthesising, summarising the collated responses from the provinces and presenting the final document to the General Chapter for discussions and deliberations. Thank you dear Fathers for steering the Chapter efficiently and smoothly facilitating a systematic and Spirit-filled celebration of the Chapter. May God bless you all.

THE NEW GENERAL TEAM 2025

It is my honour and pleasure to introduce the members of the new General Curia.



FR. SAJI GEORGE PUTHIYAKULANGARA MSFS



I am Fr. Saji George Puthiyakulangara MSFS, born on 26 February 1975 in Kalluvayal, Kannur District, Kerala. I belong to St. Antony's Parish in Kalluvayal, Thalassery Archdiocese. After completing my secondary education, I joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales at Vinaya Bhavan Minor Seminary in Thamarassery in 1990; I later completed my Novitiate at the MSFS Novitiate in Chabua, Assam; studied

Philosophy at Suvidya College in Bangalore and Theology at Oriens Theological College in Shillong, Meghalaya. I made my first profession on 7 June 1994, my perpetual profession on 30 September 2000, and was ordained a priest on January 7, 2002.

As a priest, I have served the congregation in various capacities, including Assistant Priest at SFS Parish and School in Dhemaji, Assam; Vice Rector, Administrator, and Vocation Promoter at SFS Seminary in Medziphema, Nagaland; Assistant Priest at St. Paul's Parish and All Saints School in Peren, Nagaland; Associate Director of the Catholic Bishop Conference of India (CBCI) Medical College Project in Ranchi; and Executive Director of the Fransaliam Agency for Social Care and Education in India (FASCE India) in Guwahati, Assam. I completed my doctoral studies in theology at Paris Lodron University in Salzburg, Austria and served as Associate Priest at Friedburg-Lengau-Schneegattern, Austria, during that period.

I served the congregation as the Provincial Councillor for Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries (SAIM) in the Northeast India Province from 2017 to 2020. From 2020 to 2021, I held the position of Admonitor and Provincial Councillor for SAIM in the Guwahati Province. Additionally, from 2018 to 2021, I was the Director of the Mission Development Office and JPIC in both the Northeast and Guwahati Provinces. From 2021 to 2024, I served as General Councillor and General Secretary for Formation. Beginning in 2023, I assumed the role of Director of the Mission Development Office in Rome.

With utmost humility, I accept the role of Assistant Superior General of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and express my gratitude to my confreres for their trust and confidence in me. As Assistant Superior General, I pledge to fulfil all responsibilities entrusted to me in a synodal manner, demonstrating diligence and perseverance in partnership with the Superior General and the General Curia. I will work for our beloved congregation's integrity, unity, and growth under the motto 'to love and serve,' embodying our charism as envisioned and lived by our founder, Fr. Peter Marie Mermier. I sincerely request your cooperation, collaboration, and continued prayers.

Live Jesus!

Fr. Saji George Puthiyakulangara MSFS

Assistant Superior General

assistantgeneralmsfs@gmail.com; psajigeorgemsfs@gmail.com

Mob: +91 87539 25266

FR. THUMMA MARIADAS REDDY, MSFS



I am Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy, MSFS, born on 22 July 1966, at Ramachandrapuram, Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh State, India. I belong to our one MSFS family in the Province of Visakhapatnam. Date of First Profession: 15 December 1983; Date of Final Profession: 07 February 1990. Date of priestly ordination: 10 AUGUST 1990; I am fluent in Telugu, English, Italian and Hindi. Educational Qualifications: B.Ed. (Kakatiya University.);

Ph.D. in Philosophy; Licentiate in Biblical Theology (Urban University, Rome).

Assignment at the time of Election: Director of Philosophy, Morning Star Regional Seminary, Kolkata. My areas of experience include Pastoral, Renewal, Education, Formation, and Administration.

My dear confreres, I am profoundly grateful to all my fellow Capitulants of the 21st General Chapter 2025 for placing their immense trust in me and electing me to the sacred duty of General Councillor. I also wish to thank you, my beloved confreres of the entire Congregation, at whose service God places me in His gracious plan.

As I have been appointed General Secretary for the Missions, I humbly and sincerely assure all of you, particularly those involved in the mission forums, that I will always strive to remain faithful to all my responsibilities with singular focus and fervour. I also earnestly seek your fraternal support and cooperation.

I promise to accompany you with my fraternal prayers.

Let us remain blessed always!

Yours Fraternally,

Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy MSFS,

General Secretary for Mission

Official Email: gensecmmissionmsfs@gmail.com; thummamsfs@gmail.com

Mob.: +91 950 2680 437

FR. BENEDICT PIUS DE SOUZA MSFS



I am Fr. Benedict Pius De Souza, born on the 21st of March 1962 in Manama, Bahrain, and raised in Goa, India. After completing my 10th year at St. Thomas Boys' School, Aldona, Goa, I joined SFS Seminary in Bastora, Goa. I made my First Profession on the 10th of June 1981 at Salesianum in Visakhapatnam. I made my Final Profession on the 31st of May 1986 at Fransalian Seminary in Pune. I was ordained to the priesthood on the 12th of May 1991

at St. Thomas Church, Aldona, Goa, India.

I have served the province/congregation in various capacities and in different apostolates. I was a formator for the minor seminarians and scholastics, and I was a novice master for nine years. I have pastoral experience in Germany for 14 years. At the time of the election, I am a parish priest at Sacred Heart Church in Bhusawal, Maharashtra, India.

Dear Confreres, I would like to sincerely thank all the Capitulants of the General Chapter 2025, and through them, the entire Congregation, for entrusting me with the responsibility to serve as the General Councilor and General Secretary for Formation. With the help of Almighty God and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I will do my utmost to honour the office of General Secretary for Formation. I kindly request and greatly appreciate the support and

cooperation of all members of the Congregation, especially the Formators, along with the Province Formators Forum, in implementing the Plan of Action from your recent Provincial Chapter/Congress and the Plan of Action from General Chapter 2025. Implementing these decisions may be challenging and demanding, requiring significant sacrifice. I ask Almighty God to assist me in my duty and responsibility to fulfil this role, and I seek the inspiration of the Spirit of the Lord.

May God bless you all.

Thank you !

**Fr. Benedict De Souza MSFS,
General Secretary for Formation**

gensecformation@gmail.com; benedict_msfs@hotmail.com

Mob: +91 91253 66851

FR. A. CHRISTU RAJ MSFS



I am Fr. A. Christu Raj MSFS, born on December 14, 1971 at Vaniyambadi, Tamil Nadu. I made my first profession on June 10, 1993 in Vishakapatnam, and I was ordained on October 27, 2000, in Pudukkottai.

I have worked in the following capacities: On the staff in the Minor Seminary Kerala; Superior St. Thomas Mount MSFS House; CRI President of Chenglepattu Diocese; Founder and

First Director of Family Animation Centre St. Thomas Mount; Interim Parish Priest, Chennai; Member of the Province Professional Committee.

At the time of election, I was Superior of MSFS Provincialate, Trichy; Director of Fransalian Youth; Director of Fransalian Media and Correspondent of CBSE School, Trichy.

I firmly believe in the spiritual presence of our Mother of Compassion, the Venerable Founder, Fr. Peter Mermier, and our beloved Patron, St. Francis de Sales.

I sincerely thank all the delegates of the General Chapter who prayed for and elected me to this noble task of being a General Councillor. I also express my heartfelt gratitude to all the members of our beloved Congregation who accompanied us throughout this General Chapter with their powerful prayers and spiritual presence.

With the grace and guidance of God, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, I vow to devote myself wholly to the responsibilities of the General Councillor and General Secretary for Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries (SAIM), for the glory of God and the betterment of humanity.

I kindly request my dear confreres' prayers, support, and cooperation as I exercise my ministry. I particularly seek the generosity and collaboration of the SAIM Forum members to fulfil the mandate and mission of the General Chapter 2025.

Once again, I sincerely thank all of you, dear confreres. Kindly keep me in your daily prayers. I promise you all my humble prayers.

May God bless us all.

Live Jesus!

Fr. A. Christu Raj MSFS, General Secretary for SAIM

generalsecretarysaim@yahoo.com; christu_msfs@yahoo.com

Mob: +91 94435 69355

FR. ANTHONY SWAMY MSFS



I am Fr. Anthony Swamy A., MSFS, from Chickaballapur, Karnataka. I was born on 10 June 1966 to my parents, Anthappa and Papamma. I completed my primary and secondary education in Chickaballapur and Bangalore, subsequently joining the SFS Minor Seminary in Ettumanur, Kerala. I made my first profession on 16 July 1988 at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and my final commitment on 14 June 1994 at Fransalian Seminary in Pune. I

was ordained to the priesthood on 17 October 1995 at my home parish, St. Francis Xavier Church, Chickaballapur, Karnataka. I hold a doctorate in Folklore from Mysore University. I have served the province and congregation in various capacities, including pastor, educator, formator, provincial councillor, and in innovative ministries. I am the founding principal of SFS College, Bangalore. I am privileged to have served the Diocese of Harrisburg, USA, for eight years as procurator vicar and pastor, as well as Dean for two years. Currently, I am at Saumya Sadan, Mysore, working to initiate a ministry, Shanthi Dham, a home for the dying destitute and the poor.

Dear Confreres, I sincerely thank my brother-priests of the South West India province for the mandate to represent the province at the 21st General Chapter. I also extend my gratitude to all the capitulants of the Chapter for the trust and confidence they have placed in me by electing me to the General Curia as a General Councillor. I promise to dedicate myself to serving the congregation to the best of my ability as a General Councillor and General Secretary for Education. Please keep me in your prayers.

Thank you.

God bless us all.

Fr. Anthony Swamy A., MSFS,

General Secretary for Education

educationsecretariatmsfs@gmail.com; fr.aswamymsfs@gmail.com

Mob: +91 94482 13403

FR. JOSE THOMAS KARICKAL MSFS



I, Fr. Jose Thomas Karickal MSFS, was born on April 25, 1959, in Paravanthuruth (Kottayam, Kerala). I completed my early education in my hometown before joining the MSFS Minor Seminary in Ettumanoor in 1975. After finishing my intermediate studies at Trivandrum University, I pursued philosophy and a B.A. at St. Charles Seminary in Nagpur. This was followed by my novitiate in Visakhapatnam, where I made my first profession in 1982.

I completed a B.Ed. in Mannanam, Kerala, which prepared me for my regency in the Tanuku mission, where I was actively engaged in educational and parish work. My theological studies at St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary in Bangalore culminated in my final profession in 1987, the diaconate, and my priestly ordination in 1988. My first assignment was in Parachur, Nellore Diocese, as Principal of SFS School and assistant pastor.

In 1992, I was transferred to Shantinagar, Secunderabad, before pursuing doctoral studies in pastoral theology at Julius Maximilian University in Würzburg, Germany. While in Germany, I served as a parish priest and held leadership roles in the Diocese of Würzburg and MSFS, GAH. Upon returning to India in 2016, I took on the role of Rector and Superior of the MSFS Seminary in Vadakkencherry.

Now, having been elected as General Bursar of the MSFS Congregation at the XXI General Chapter in 2025, I express my sincere gratitude for the trust placed in me. I pledge to fulfil my duties with dedication and integrity and seek the support and cooperation of my confreres.

Fraternally,

Fr. Jose Karickal MSFS,

General Bursar

generalbursarmsfs@gmail.com; josekarickal1@gmail.com;

Mob: +91 70348 68210



I, Fr. Johnson Kallidukil was born on April 18, 1966 in Kerala, India. After completing primary school, I joined the MSFS formation at SFS Seminary Ettumanoor in 1981. In December 1985, I made my first profession at Salesianum Novitiate in Vizag, followed by Philosophy at Suvidya College, Regency at SFS Ettumanoor, and Theology at St. Peter's, as well as Diaconate Ministry in what was then North East India. I was ordained on 21 April 1994. Thereafter, I went to East Africa as a missionary. From

1998 to 2002, I pursued doctoral studies in Theology at the University of Würzburg in Germany. I then continued to work in East Africa in various capacities, including pastor, teacher, and formator. I also served as the first Director of Lumen Christi in Arusha, Tanzania, and as the Provincial Superior of East Africa for two terms. From February 2019 to the present, I have been serving the Congregation as General Councillor and General Secretary for Mission. Since November 2023, I have also served as the Assistant Superior General.

As stated earlier, it is a humbling experience for me to serve you all as the Superior General of the Congregation. Trusting in God and in the goodwill of all of you and in deep humility, I have accepted this noble and sacred task.

I thank all the members of Fransalian Family for your love and care. Thank you for the trust placed in me.

Thanking you

Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS, Superior General

superiorgeneralmsfs@gmail.com; Johnsonmsfs@gmail.com

Mob: +225 626 607 152; +39 351 651 1239

My beloved Confreres,

The General Chapter 2025 was an anointing experience of synodal journey, fraternal communion, and collective discernment. The outcome of the General Chapter will soon be available in the form of the CALL OF THE CHAPTER.

Once again, thank you for your fervent prayers and support. Let us be united in prayer and move forward as Pilgrims of Hope, living our Charism fully and more meaningfully. Let St. Francis de Sales, our Patron and Servant of God, and Father Peter Mary Mermier, our Founder, be alive and visible in our lives and works.

I wish you the blessings of God in all your endeavours.

Live Jesus!

Fraternally in Christ,

Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS



Superior General,

Missionaries of St Francis De Sales,

Via Delle Testuggini 21, 00134, Roma, Italia.

“Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.” Col. 3:12-14

“Let us strive to be kind, meek and humble with everyone, but especially so with those whom God has destined to be our companions.” St. Francis de Sales

Thanks to the Former General Curia



[Left to right: Fr Jacob Karamaluzhyil , Fr J. Stephen, Fr Abraham Vettuvellil, Fr Johnson Kallidukil, Fr Saji George, & Fr Jose Cheriyanthara]

Congratulations to the New General Curia



[Left to Right: Fr Jose Karickal, Fr Benedict De Souza, Fr Anthony Swamy A., Fr Johnson Michael Kallidukil, Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara, Fr Thumma Mariadas Reddy, & Fr Christu Raj A.]