

# Fransaliam

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Missionari di San Francesco di Sales

International



# Contents

VOL 37 ISSUE 01 Jan – June 2025

Editorial	3
Message	4
Lead Story	5
Snapshots From The General Chapter	6
Cause of the Founder Moves to Rome	8
IMPRESSIONS: Shepherd's Reflections: MSFS' Mission in Caltagirone	10
IMPRESSIONS: Doing Much with a Little: Nurturing Lives in the Mission	11
Fransalian Imprints	12
Fransalian Imprints	13
Formation	14
Mission	17
Snapshots From The General Chapter	20
Education	22
Social Apostolate & Innovative Ministries	24
Newly Ordained	26
Books by MSFS	28
Golden Jubilee	29
Silver Jubilee	30
Obituary	32
THANK YOU & HEARTY WELCOME TO THE GENERAL TEAM	33

**COVER PHOTO:** The chapel at the birth place of St Francis de Sales, Thorens, France.

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## Echoing the heartbeat of Our Founder's Vision

Dear Readers of Fransalian International,  
 Warm greetings of peace and joy! It is with deep gratitude and renewed enthusiasm that we present this June 2025 edition of Fransalian International. This issue captures a moment of grace and responsibility in our Congregation's journey, as we draw inspiration from the recently concluded 21st General Chapter and the joyful progress of the Cause of our Founder, Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier.

The theme of this edition – Self-Emptying Love – challenges us to reflect deeply on the kenotic mystery of Christ and its unfolding in our personal, communal, and missionary lives. In a world that often rewards self-promotion and instant gratification, we are reminded of our Salesian identity that values humility, gentleness, inner freedom, and loving service. Our charism, as lived and taught by St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Mermier, is not a relic of the past but a living flame that continues to illumine paths of faith, fraternity, and fidelity.

This issue of Fransalian International brings to light the fraternal spirit and visionary decisions of the 21st General Chapter, the historic movement of the Cause of our Founder to the Roman phase, powerful impressions from bishops, lay collaborators, and young missionaries, and thoughtful reflections on our contemporary calling to live kenotic love in digital, pastoral, and missionary landscapes.

As we trace these stories, we also witness the quiet heroism of our confreres serving in remote villages, urban peripheries, and cultural frontiers – doing much with little, living simply, and loving deeply. Their lives echo the very heartbeat of our founder's vision: "I want missions."

May this edition not only inform but also inspire, challenge, and renew each one of us to rediscover our Salesian roots and rekindle the passion for mission wherever we are sent.

With warm regards,

**Fr Vintu Augustine, MSFS**  
**Chief Editor**  
**Fransalian International**





## Kenosis – The Foundation of Our Identity

Dear Confreres, Fransalian Associates, and Friends in Christ,  
Warm greetings from the Generalate in Rome!

As we reflect on the theme of Self-Emptying Love, we are led to the core of our Christian vocation and the spiritual heritage of our beloved patron, St. Francis de Sales. The mystery of kenosis—Christ's self-emptying in love—remains the foundation of our identity as Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales.

Our Lord Jesus Christ, "though He was in the form of God... emptied Himself, taking the form of a servant" (Phil 2:6-7). This radical humility is not merely an ideal for contemplation, but a path we are called to walk daily. In a world often driven by power, comfort, and self-assertion, we are invited to reflect the love of Christ through humility, sacrifice, and servant leadership.

A radiant example of this kenotic love is found in the life of our Founder, Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier. When he witnessed the spiritual neglect and apathy of his people, he responded not with judgment but with compassion. Leaving behind the comfort of his parish, he ventured into forgotten regions to preach missions—facing hardship, walking long distances, enduring opposition, and embracing poverty.

The founding of our Congregation in 1838 was itself an act of self-emptying love. Fr. Mermier's mission was not motivated by personal ambition, but by a desire to rekindle the flame of faith. He gave his time, energy, and health completely to this cause, entrusting everything to Divine Providence. Even in his final years—misunderstood, ignored, and frail—he remained faithful and serene, a true witness to Salesian humility and abandonment to God's will.

Dear friends, Fr. Mermier's life continues to challenge and inspire us. In our ministries—pastoral, educational, missionary, or communal—we are called to live out this self-giving love in the spirit of St. Francis de Sales: gently, patiently, and joyfully. As our patron reminds us, "The measure of love is to love without measure." May this issue of Fransalian International renew our commitment to this path—a joyful participation in Christ's redemptive mission.

With deep gratitude for your witness and with fraternal affection,

**Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, MSFS**  
**Superior General**

Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales  
Rome, June 2025

## 21<sup>st</sup> Ordinary General Chapter of the MSFS Held



By Fr. Vintu Augustine, MSFS

**Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India | February 14, 2025** – The 21<sup>st</sup> Ordinary General Chapter of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) was held from February 1–14, 2025, at Stella Maris, the Provincialate of the Visakhapatnam Province. Themed "*I chose you, MSFS: Live your Charism*" (cf. Jn 15:16), the Chapter brought together members for reflection, discussion, and discernment.

The Chapter opened with a warm welcome by Fr. Suresh Babu, the Provincial of Visakhapatnam, and his curia on the evening of January 31. The first day was set apart for spiritual preparation, with a recollection preached by Fr. Agnelo Fernandes. His reflection focused on the Chapter theme, exploring the Charism of the MSFS from three angles: What it is, why it matters, and how it is to be lived.

The Eucharistic Celebration was presided over by Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, the outgoing Superior General, with the General Curia as concelebrants. In his homily, he invited members to reflect on their identity, mission, and purpose, reminding them of God's call to live their Charism with sacrificial love and holy indifference.

The inaugural session on February 1 began at 2:30 p.m., marked by the singing of *Veni Creator Spiritus*, lamp lighting, and the enthronement of the Bible and the Constitution. Archbishop Thomas Tharayil of Changanacherry delivered the keynote address, offering insights into missionary identity, evangelisation, and the challenges of faith in today's secular world.

The Chapter comprised 47 members, including 24 elected delegates, 19 ex-officio members, and 4 special invitees. The proceedings featured active participation, in-depth discussions, and juridical decisions that culminated in the official *Statement and Decisions of the General Chapter 2025*.

The Chapter elected Fr. Johnson Kallidukil as Superior General, Fr. Saji Puthiyakulangara as Assistant General, Frs. Thumma Mariadas, A. Christu Raj, Benedict De Souza, and A. Anthony Swamy as General Councillors, and Fr. Jose Karickal as General Bursar. The new team took office through a solemn installation and oath-taking ceremony.

The Chapter was well-organised by the Pre-capitular Commission, also serving as the Steering Committee, comprising Fr. Dola Velankanni (Secretary General), Frs. Shibu Poovathunkal, Benedict De Souza, and A. Anthony Swamy, with whole-hearted, generous support from Fr. Suresh Babu and the Stella Maris community.



# SNAPSHOTS FROM THE GENERAL CHAPTER



Inaugural Ceremony



Chapter Members with Most Rev. Bp. Jaya Rao Polimera



New General Curia



Visit by the General Chapter members to Yanam, the first Mission of the MSFS in India



Steering Committee



Minutes Secretaries



Visit to Jnanapuram Cemetery by Chapter Members





# Cause of the Founder Moves to Rome

By Fr. Thomas Kulandaisamy, MSFS

**Annecy, France | May 6, 2025** – The significant event of the Closing Session of the Diocesan Inquiry into the life, virtues, and holiness of Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier, the founder of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS), took place on May 6, 2025, at Annecy. Rev. Charles Bouvard, the Episcopal Delegate, presided over the tribunal in the presence of Mgr Yves Le Saux, Bishop of Annecy, and Rev. Alain Fournier-Bidoz, Promoter of Justice.

Also in attendance were Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, Superior General of the MSFS; Fr. Jean Yves Le Tue MSFS, Franco-Swiss Provincial; Sr. Maryline Darbellay, Assistant Superior General of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod; and many MSFS confreres, sisters, and guests from the diocese.

Fr. Samuel Thomas, MSFS, vice-postulator, welcomed the assembly and led the proceedings. Officials affirmed their faithful service with a solemn oath recorded by the Notary. Bishop Le

Saux emphasised the spiritual importance of the process, calling it a return to the charism and “first love” of the Congregation. Fr. Kallidukil hailed the event as a milestone in a journey begun in 1988, reaffirming the Congregation’s fervent support to the cause as it enters its Roman phase. Fr. Le Tue expressed gratitude for the shared work of love and hope for recognition of Fr. Mermier’s heroic life.

After validating the documents and affirming no objections, Rev. Bouvard ordered the sealing and archival of the originals, and the transmission of authenticated copies to the

Dicastery for the Causes of Saints. Fr. Thomas Kulandaisamy MSFS, the postulator, took oath to deliver the dossier faithfully to the Dicastery. The session ended with a prayer and hymn, marking a historic step toward Fr. Mermier’s beatification.

Fr. Thomas Kulandaisamy, MSFS, the postulator of the diocesan phase, Fr Samuel Thomas, MSFS, the vice-postulator, and Fr Yobu Melkie Sadhek Selvaraj, MSFS, the copyist, contributed their best toward the meticulous completion of the diocesan phase.







## Shepherd's Reflections: MSFS' Mission in Caltagirone

The Missionaries of St Francis de Sales (MSFS) have been actively involved in the Diocese of Caltagirone, Italy, for several years. Their missionary presence, rooted in the charism of St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Mermier, has touched lives in quiet but profound ways. In this conversation, **Monsignor Calogero Pero, OFM**, the Bishop of Caltagirone, Sicily, Italy, shared with **Fr. Arockia Jeyaraj, MSFS**, his insights on the missionary life, contributions, and challenges of the MSFS in the local Church.

### How would you describe the mission and presence of the MSFS in your Diocese?

The mission of the MSFS in our Diocese can be characterised by three key qualities: availability, commitment, and adaptability. Their availability is remarkable. Many of the missionaries are very young, yet they willingly embrace a completely new experience—starting from scratch, not only in a different location but in an entirely different cultural context. Their commitment is deep. They do not perform their duties superficially but with wholehearted dedication, giving their best in everything entrusted to them. Their adaptability is especially evident in their ability to respond effectively to the needs of our people, respecting the culture and history of our communities. This shows a genuine spirit of inculturation—integrating themselves into the lives of the people they serve.

### In your view, what has been the broader contribution of the MSFS to the Church and society?

They have inspired us deeply. These men, having left their homeland, culture, and comfort, bear witness to the Gospel in our midst. Their presence challenges us to ask ourselves: Are we truly ready to give our lives for the Gospel—not in theory, but in reality? Their lives echo the Lord's mandate: "Go into all the world and proclaim the Good News."

### Can you share an example of how the MSFS have impacted local communities?

In many communities, the MSFS have become more than just priests—they are sons, brothers, friends, and even father figures. Their presence has helped people understand the Gospel not merely as something to preach to others, but as a personal call to respond: "Here I am."

### What message would you like to share with the MSFS?

Let your charism shine clearly through the witness of relationships rooted in Christ. The Church observes and needs this witness today. The missionary zeal in the West has grown dormant; vocations have declined, and missionaries now often come here instead of going out. I urge the MSFS to rekindle missionary awareness among the faithful—to awaken the Church to her universal call. I thank you sincerely for your faith, service, and sacrifices. May the peace of the Risen Lord be with you always.



## Doing Much with a Little: Nurturing Lives in the Mission

*By Mr. Viji Fernandes*

In the true spirit of St. Francis de Sales' timeless counsel, "Bloom where you are planted," the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) have sown seeds of faith, service, and community life in the humble soil of Pochampalli. Since the mission's inception on July 7, 2021, under the Diocese of Dharmapuri, the MSFS Fathers of the South East India Province have been nurturing it with prayer, commitment, and vision.

What began as an empty stretch of land has been transformed into a living space of grace. The MSFS community, despite residing in a modest rented house at the outset, undertook the bold task of constructing a presbytery, a chapel above it, and a striking 53-foot faith tower—symbols of resilience and divine presence. These structures now stand not only as landmarks but as testimonies to a missionary spirit that dares to dream with faith.

The Fathers have remained close to the people—visiting homes, ministering to the sick, fostering regular participation in the Holy Eucharist, and animating Basic Christian Communities. They continue to deepen our spiritual lives by promoting daily Scripture reading and introducing us to the rich spiritual legacy of St. Francis de Sales, the patron of the MSFS, and Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, the founder.

Their ministry extends beyond the sanctuary. Through the support of the Congregation and the Diocese, educational assistance reaches deserving students, offering them a future filled with promise. The faithful, young and old, are encouraged to take part in competitions and initiatives at both diocesan and congregational levels, instilling a sense of belonging and joyful engagement.

Though the mission is only four years old, it has the vibrancy and character of a well-rooted parish. This remarkable growth is the fruit of the collective labour of the MSFS Fathers, who serve with humility and zeal, especially Fr. S. Arockia Christu Raj, the Priest-in-charge. Their presence is a blessing, their ministry a beacon, and their efforts a witness to doing much with very little.

We remain grateful to the Provincial and all the MSFS Fathers whose prayers, guidance, and support continue to nurture the life of this young but flourishing mission.

(The writer is the catechist of Pochampalli Mission, Tamil Nadu, India)





## Insights from the Patron

### SELF-EMPTYING LOVE: Moving beyond Self-Interest

By Fr. Kenneth Maina, MSFS

In a world dominated by speed, digital noise, and individualism, the teachings of St. Francis de Sales offer a profound invitation to return to what truly matters—love rooted in humility and self-gift. His vision of self-emptying love, marked by gentleness, empathy, and generosity, speaks urgently to a society distracted by superficial connections and self-promotion.

**Defining Self-Emptying Love:** St. Francis famously said, “The measure of love is to love without measure.” This captures the essence of self-emptying love—a boundless, sacrificial love that moves beyond self-interest. In an era obsessed with likes, followers, and personal branding, his words challenge us to shift from performance to presence, from selfish gain to sincere service.

**Social Media and Human Disconnection:** While social media promises connection, it often breeds isolation, envy, and comparison. Curated lives online can distort self-worth and alienate us from authentic community. St. Francis reminds us: “The greatest service we can do to God is to love one another.” His call to humility invites us to see beyond digital facades and nurture relationships marked by compassion, empathy, and honesty.

**Technology and the Loss of Presence:** Despite its advantages, technology can diminish the depth of human connection. St. Francis’ insight— “We must sow the seeds of love in the hearts of others”—urges us to reclaim face-to-face interactions and genuine encounters. By setting boundaries with screens and prioritizing presence, we make space for love that listens, accompanies, and heals.

**Healing Divisions through Love:** In a fragmented world, self-emptying love becomes a path to reconciliation. “A heart that is empty of self is a heart that is full of God,” he writes. Letting go of pride and choosing forgiveness over argument opens doors to healing within families, communities, and even within ourselves.

**Union with God and Others:** St. Francis teaches that love of neighbor leads us to God: “Where there is love, there is God.” Every act of selfless love becomes an opportunity for divine encounter. When we serve others with sincerity, we participate in God’s love and presence in the world.

Self-emptying love, as lived and taught by St. Francis de Sales, offers a powerful response to today’s cultural shallowness. In choosing humility over ego, presence over distraction, and service over self, we not only renew our relationships but also deepen our communion with God. This love remains the cornerstone of true human and spiritual flourishing.



## Thoughts from the Founder's Heart

### Self-Emptying Love as Revealed in Mermier's Letters

By Fr. Thomas Kulandaisamy, MSFS

The Letters of Fr. Mermier were published in 1987 by the Florimont Institute after years of meticulous research and transcription led by Fr. Adrien Duval, MSFS, the 11th Superior General. This French edition comprises over 850 typewritten pages and includes approximately 400 letters. Many were preserved by early Missionaries and are now housed in the central archives of the MSFS in Rome. Fr. Mermier began keeping drafts and copies from 1842 onwards, a practice mirrored by the Daughters of the Cross, who in 1886 published 70 of his letters in *Les Annales de famille* (Family Annals). Additional letters are stored in Annecy’s diocesan archives.

#### A Treasure for Canonisation and Reflection

This rich collection has proven vital for the canonisation process. Fr. Duval’s tireless work allowed both original manuscripts and typewritten versions to be studied and preserved systematically. A striking feature of these letters is Fr. Mermier’s signature: “your humble and obedient servant”—not a formality, but a profound expression of servant leadership and humility.

#### Guidance to Mother Claudine: Gentle Yet Firm Love

In his letter to Mother Claudine (April 27, 1855), he responds to concerns about the Sisters’ lack of virtue with compassion and realism. He reminds her that growth in holiness takes time, requiring humility, patience, and kindness: “We must be firm, but sensible and kind... if you are too harsh, the Sisters will feel caught between a hammer and an anvil.”

#### Letters to Sr. Jeanne Belleville: Embracing Sacrifice

Writing to Sr. Jeanne Belleville (June 17, 1856), Fr. Mermier encourages her to embrace illness with Christ-like resignation: “Refuse Him nothing... say: Yes, my Jesus, as You will.” In another letter (Dec 13, 1843), he acknowledges the pain of leaving family behind for religious life, affirming it as a “generous and beautiful sacrifice.”

#### To Abbé Petitjean: The Spirit of Missionary Life

In a letter to Abbé Petitjean (Dec 5, 1844), Fr. Mermier affirms missionary simplicity and fidelity to the spirit of the Rule: “Renunciation of self... becoming all things to all people.” In his letter to Abbé Cheminal (May 14, 1845), he praises the swift, obedient departure of missionaries to India, writing, “The joy they felt made them stronger than any of us.”

Fr. Mermier’s letters embody a personal and pastoral wisdom. His words reflect not rigid doctrine, but a tender, discerning love—self-emptying, yet uniquely shaped by the needs of each recipient. These letters continue to inspire us toward attentive and sacrificial love in our own lives.



## 35<sup>th</sup> Convocation at Indian Institute of Spirituality

**Bangalore, Karnataka, India**

**| March 10, 2025** – The Indian Institute of Spirituality (IIS) held its 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Convocation on March 10, 2025, awarding Diplomas in Spiritual Theology to 79 graduates. The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Dr. Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil MSFS, Provincial of the South West India Province and Chief Guest.

Themed “*Bridges of Hope – Pilgrims on Mission*,” the event featured a resonant homily by the main celebrant and a keynote address by Dr. Fr. Antony Lawrence, President of St. Peter’s Pontifical Institute. Highlights included the students’ pledge to Gospel values, a theme presentation, a report by the Dean, and expressions of gratitude. The convocation concluded joyfully with a vote of thanks, anthem, group photo, and fellowship meal.



By Fr. Benny Koottanal, MSFS

## Symposium on Pope Francis’ Vision for Marriage and Family



and Doctrine, the event drew nearly 500 delegates, including clergy, religious, and lay faithful. Dr. George Panthanmackel MSFS delivered an insightful address highlighting Pope Francis’ holistic view of marriage in the contemporary world. Archbishop Thomas D’Souza of Calcutta called on families to embody unity and fidelity, while Bishop Shyamal Bose emphasised the family’s vital role in preserving moral values. Dr. Stanislaus Alla SJ explored the Pope’s Thomistic grounding and pastoral openness—especially his focus on mercy, simplified annulments, and outreach to non-traditional families.

Scholarly presentations by Dr. Alex Ancheles CMF (A Biblical Perspective on Amoris Laetitia), Dr. Gigesh Thomas TOR (Tradition and Innovation: Pope Francis’ Moral Teaching and Pastoral Accompaniment in Marriage), Dr. George Panthanmackel MSFS (Theological Foundations of Marriage), Dr. Adikant Nayak (Bioethics and Family Life), Dr. D. Isaac Devadoss (Marriage, LGBTQ, and Reformed Church Teachings), and Dr. Joe Thannickal SDB (Amoris Laetitia Through a Psychologist’s Lens) enriched the discussion.

A panel discussion moderated by Dr. Fr. Thumma addressed complex family issues, including fertility, divorce, and AI in healthcare. Coordinated by Fr. Gigesh Thomas TOR and Fr. Henry Jose MSFS, the event encouraged informed pastoral engagement with Pope Francis’ compassionate vision.

By Fr. Henry Kodikuthiyil, MSFS

**Barrackpore, Kolkata, India | March 15, 2025** – Morning Star Regional Seminary, Barrackpore, Kolkata, hosted a symposium titled “Pope Francis on Marriage and Family: An Integrated Perspective” on March 15, 2025. Jointly organised by the Morning Star Institute of Theology and the BRBC Commission for Theology

## Fr. Gabriel Memorial Lectures 2025 Held

By Bro. Bosco Suanlamthang, MSFS



Organised in honour of the late Rev. Dr. Amirthanayagam Gabriel MSFS, the event featured two powerful lectures. Rev. Dr. Jeff Shawn Jose CMI of Dharmaram College, Bengaluru, opened with “Constructing the People: Global and Indian Perspectives on Populism.” This was followed by Rev. Dr. Selvaraj Arulnathan SJ, Director of Indian Social

**Bangalore, India | Jan 10, 2025** – Fr. Gabriel Memorial Lectures 2025, held on January 10, 2025, at Suvidya College, Bangalore, the inter-province philosophate of the MSFS, gathered scholars, clergy, religious, and students to reflect on the theme: “Autocratic Democracy: Growing Trends in World Politics.”

Institute, who spoke on “Social Political Take on Today’s World Democracy.” Both talks offered profound insights into modern democratic shifts, encouraging critical engagement with today’s political landscape.

## 15<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony Held at LCI

By Fr. Ajish C. Antony, MSFS

**Arusha, Tanzania, Africa | May 24, 2025** – The Lumen Christi Institute (LCI) conducted its 15<sup>th</sup> Graduation Ceremony for scholastics and formation program students on May 24, 2025. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, MSFS, the Superior General of the MSFS and the Chancellor of LCI,



presided over the event as the chief guest. The celebration began with the Holy Eucharist and was followed by the awarding of certificates, marking a joyful and meaningful milestone in the academic and spiritual journey of the graduates.





## Salesian Retreat at Fransalian Ashram

By Naveen Nirmal, MSFS

**Belgaum, Karnataka, India | May 4, 2025** – Eighteen brothers from five Indian provinces—Nagpur, Pune, South-East, South-West, and Visakhapatnam—participated in the three-week Salesian Retreat at Fransalian Ashram, Belgaum, from May 4, 2025.

Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, the coordinator and chief animator, meticulously planned the retreat, ably assisted by Fr. Naveen Nirmal. Nine animators from different provinces enriched the participants with deep insights into Salesian spirituality. The active and prayerful participation of the retreatants in the liturgy and community life was commendable.

Fr. Benedict De Souza, General Councillor for Formation, enriched the brothers through input sessions on religious life, community life, and Salesian devotions. Fr. Johnson Gonsalves, Provincial of Pune, presided over the concluding Eucharist on May 25 and shared an inspiring message.



**UNITED IN PRAYER:** Members of the General Chapter' 2025 gathered together in the chapel of Stella Maris, the MSFS Provincialate, Visakhapatnam.

## A New Dawn at Maria Hilf: MSFS Begins Ministry in Vilsbiburg

By Fr. Robin Xavier, MSFS

**Vilsbiburg, Germany | Feb 23, 2025** – A new chapter began at the Maria Hilf Pilgrimage Church as Fr. Robin Xavier MSFS and Fr. Manu Joseph MSFS were officially installed during a solemn Pontifical Mass presided over by Bishop Dr. Rudolf Voderholzer of Regensburg. With 45 priests and a full congregation in attendance, the bishop read the appointment decree, designating Fr. Robin as Rector Ecclesiae and Pilgrimage Director.

The bishop welcomed the MSFS fathers warmly, highlighting the shrine's vital role in guiding people to Christ and offering pastoral care. He encouraged the new ministers to lead pilgrims with the gentleness of Mary and the love of Christ.

Fr. Manoj Tirkey, Provincial of the MSFS Nagpur Province, was present and expressed joy at this historic opportunity, assuring the congregation that the MSFS fathers would serve with humility, love, and missionary zeal.

Mayor Sybille Entwistle acknowledged their multifaceted mission and assured them of the city's support. The celebration concluded with heartfelt singing and a grand procession, marking the start of a vibrant new mission of faith and service at Maria Hilf.



## MSFS in Italy: Faithful Presence

By Fr. A. Jeyaraj, MSFS

The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) have been actively serving in Italy since 2007, beginning in the historic Diocese of Caltagirone, Sicily, renowned for its rich Catholic heritage and artistic traditions. Fathers A. Jayasela Rajan, A. Jeyaraj (Mission Coordinator), D. Britto, and J. Packia Sathish Kumar are dedicated to pastoral care in this region.



The mission expanded to the Diocese of Turin in February 2023, with Fathers S. Johnson, Ashir Johnson, and J. Raja ministering in the parishes of Saint Maurizio and Ceretta.

At the heart of their mission is parish evangelisation through the Eucharist, catechesis, youth ministry, and spiritual associations. Social outreach via Caritas uplifts families, orphans, the elderly, and the sick, blending faith with

compassionate service.

Despite facing challenges such as youth migration and cultural integration, the MSFS remain inspired by the resilience of the Catholic communities and their openness to dialogue and renewal. The mission envisions deeper youth engagement, stronger catechetical efforts, and a broader MSFS presence across Italy.



## 'Snehalayam' Inaugurated at Bodireddipalli

By Fr. M. Sandeep, MSFS



**Bodireddipalli, Andhra Pradesh, India | Nov 26, 2024** – The long-awaited dream of a presbytery and social animation centre in Bodireddipalli, Kunta, was fulfilled with the blessing and inauguration of 'Snehalayam' on November 26, 2024.

Rev. Dr. M. D. Prakasham, Bishop of Nellore, blessed the new centre, and Fr. B. Suresh Babu MSFS, Provincial Superior of Visakhapatnam Province, inaugurated it. Fr. Abraham Vettukattil MSFS, Parish Priest, warmly welcomed the gathering. The event saw the participation of priests, religious, and the faithful, who joined for a fellowship meal. Bodireddipalli is the fifth parish established from the Dornala Mission, marking a new chapter of growth and service.

## New Presbytery Inaugurated at Edingeni, Malawi

By Fr. Vimal Raj, MSFS



**Edingeni, Malawi, Africa | March 1, 2025** – St. Francis de Sales Parish, Edingeni, marked a historic moment with the blessing and opening of its new presbytery on March 1, 2025.

The occasion was graced by Rev. Bp. John A. Ryan, who officially inaugurated the priest's residence, followed by the opening of the newly established FCC Seraphic Convent. The event culminated in a solemn Eucharistic celebration led by the bishop.

The joyful gathering included MSFS confreres, diocesan clergy, FCC and CMC Sisters, Capuchin Brothers, and many lay faithful.

## Thorens Celebrates Feast of Saint Francis de Sales

By Fr. Aneesh Devassykutty, MSFS

**Thorens, France | Jan 26, 2025** – The parish of Thorens—birthplace of Saint Francis de Sales—came alive with joy as over 250 faithful gathered to celebrate his feast on January 26, 2025. Youth and children actively participated through music, readings, and processions, adding youthful energy to the prayerful atmosphere.

The Eucharistic celebration highlighted the saint's gentleness, missionary zeal, and unwavering faith. The homily encouraged all to follow his example by living their faith with joy, simplicity, and love. Following the Mass, the celebration continued with a shared parish meal, fostering fellowship among people of all ages. It was a day of faith, communion, and joyful remembrance.



## Renovated Chapel Blessed

**Bangalore, Karnataka, India | Jan 24, 2025** – The blessing of the newly renovated chapel at Vinayalaya, the Provincial House of the South East India Province, was officiated by Rt. Rev. Karnam Dhaman Kumar, MSFS, who presided over the festal Mass and blessing. Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil's visionary leadership, philosophical depth, and theological insight transformed the chapel into a sacred sanctuary, radiating spiritual beauty and inviting profound prayer and reflection.





SNAPSHOTS FROM THE GENERAL CHAPTER





## Fransalian National Education Seminar Held

*By Fr. Anthony Swamy, MSFS (General Secretary for Education)*

**Bangalore, Karnataka, India | May 4, 2025** –The 14th Fransalian National Education Seminar, EDUMISSION 2040, was held from May 1–4, 2025, at St. John's Medical College, Bangalore. Hosted by the South-West India Province, the event brought together 112 educators from all seven Indian provinces of the MSFS.

Eminent educators and thought leaders from across India addressed the evolving global and Indian educational landscapes. They emphasised the need for Fransalian institutions to remain innovative, relevant, and rooted in the core educational philosophy: "Education of the Heart is the Heart of Education."

The central focus was on developing Institutional Development Plans (IDPs) for both individual institutions and provinces. In his video address, Superior General Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS reiterated that education is a sacred ministry and a vital arm of the congregation's mission.

Fr. Thomas Kalariparabil, Provincial of the hosting province, in his keynote address, urged educators to rise to present challenges without compromising Fransalian values. Expert speakers—Dr. N. Jayasankaran, Justice Kurian Joseph, Dr. Angela Mathew, Dr. Joseph Emmanuel, and Dr. Thimmappa Hegde—focused on education for holistic human formation in the age of AI.

Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore presided over the Eucharist on May 2, while Archbishop Elias Gonsalves of Nagpur and CBCI Chair for Education and Culture celebrated the concluding Mass and emphasised education as a tool for social transformation.



## Celebrating 145 Years of Impact

*By Fr. Vishwas Torne, MSFS*



**Nagpur, Maharashtra, India | April 25, 2025** – As St. John's High School, Nagpur, marked its 145th anniversary, the year was filled with celebration, gratitude, and reflection. Events like inter-school drawing competitions, carol singing, rangoli, and a football tournament for alumni brought together students, teachers, parents, and ex-students in joyful unity.

A major highlight was the installation of the majestic statue of St. Francis de Sales, unveiled by Archbishop Elias Gonsalves on January 25, 2025. The anniversary culminated in a solemn Thanksgiving Eucharist on April 25, 2025, presided over by the Archbishop. The celebration was a powerful tribute to the school's legacy of compassion, wisdom, and service.

## Professional Development Program for Teachers Organised

*By Fr. Jose Karipadathu, MSFS*



**Aalo, Arunachal Pradesh, India | Jan 27-29, 2025** – The Education Forum of Dibrugarh Province, in collaboration with SFS College, Aalo, Arunachal Pradesh, and ASHA Foundation, Bangalore, organised a three-day Professional Development Program for teachers from January 27 to 29, 2025. The program brought together 133 teachers from 35 schools across six districts of Arunachal Pradesh to strengthen teaching practices and promote professional growth.

Led by six expert trainers from ASHA Foundation, the sessions focused on innovative pedagogy, classroom management, adolescent development, technology integration, and pressing social issues like bullying and mental health. The Shri Tumme Amo, IPS, DIGP, who inaugurated the event, highlighted the evolving role of educators in shaping the next generation.

Participants appreciated the relevance of the content, the structured sessions, and the warm hospitality of SFS College. The initiative reflected a strong commitment to educational excellence and underscored the power of collaboration between institutions.



## First FYM National Retreat Held at HRRC Umroi

By Fr. Marcellinus War, MSFS



**Umroi, Shillong, India | March 8, 2025** – The first-ever National Fransalian Youth Movement (FYM) Retreat was held from March 5 to 8, 2025, at the Holy Redeemer Retreat Centre (HRRC), Umroi. Over 150 youth from across India, accompanied by five Youth Directors from various provinces of the Congregation, participated in the spiritually enriching event.

The retreat began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Fr. Carlus Barowa, National Youth Director. In his homily, he encouraged participants to embrace their faith with courage and conviction. On the second day,

Fr. Sabu Francis, Provincial of Guwahati Province, celebrated the Holy Eucharist and offered pastoral insights that inspired the gathering. The retreat was marked by vibrant sessions, prayer, and fellowship. Five Youth Directors from South East, Visakhapatnam, Pune, Guwahati, and Dibrugarh Provinces provided spiritual accompaniment throughout. The presence of Fr. Christu Raj, General Councillor for SAIM, added significance to the occasion.

The retreat concluded as a memorable journey of faith and renewal, encouraging the youth to live as bold witnesses of Christ.

## DSM Heritage Trip: Visiting the Spiritual Roots

By Fr. P. Inna Reddy, MSFS



**Annecy, France | May 27, 2025** – Eight confreres from seven Indian provinces and the East Africa Province undertook the De Sales and Mermier (DSM) Heritage and Pilgrimage Trip to Annecy, France, and Rome, Italy, from May 11 to 27, 2025. Participants included Frs. P. Inna Reddy, Sebastian Nerappil, Ignatius de Costa, Tomy, John De Britto, Santo John, Michael Jacob, and Augustine Thundathil.

The journey deepened their connection to Salesian spirituality through visits to significant sites associated with St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Peter Mary Mermier. A spiritually moving

moment was experienced at the Basilica of the Visitation, which houses the relics of St. Francis de Sales, St. Jane de Chantal, and Fr. Mermier. Pilgrims reflected on the significance of visiting the birthplaces of these spiritual pioneers. Stops at La Feuillette, Thorens, Chaumont, Les Allinges, Thonon, Ville-la-Grand, and Magland highlighted the enduring relevance of humility, zeal, and pastoral renewal.

The second leg of the journey included pilgrimages to Rome, Assisi, and Padua, offering profound spiritual experiences through Italy's rich Christian heritage and sacred architecture.

## FYM Conference' 2025 Held

By Fr. Marcellinus War, MSFS



**Guwahati, Assam, India | May 8, 2024** – The fifth Regional Conference of the Fransalian Youth Mission (FYM), Guwahati Province, was held from January 11 to 13, 2025, at the MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati, bringing together young participants in a vibrant celebration of faith, leadership, and fellowship.

The event was inaugurated by Mr. Joshua T. Sharon, Senior Business Manager, National Insurance Policy Ltd., who delivered an inspiring address. The program began with a solemn prayer dance, and welcome speech, including an address by Fr. Antony K., MSFS, Director of FAsCE India. Khrawbok Shylla, Vice President of FYM Guwahati Province, delivered the vote of thanks. Participants engaged in enriching sessions on liturgy, sacraments, the Bible, leadership, and social media, fostering growth as Christ-like

leaders. Evening devotions, including Taizé prayer, rosary, healing adoration, and a Bible quiz, deepened spiritual experience. A vibrant cultural night showcased the talents and unity of the youth.

## Skilling Women for a Brighter Future

By Fr. Jaddu Joseph, MSFS



**Shantinagar, Hyderabad, India | Dec 13, 2024** – Fransalian Vocational Training Center, Shantinagar, celebrated the successful completion of training by 120 women in tailoring, embroidery, crafts, and pot painting on Dec 13, 2024. The event featured the distribution of certificates and 64 sewing machines to deserving trainees.

Fr. Baviri Suresh Babu, MSFS, Provincial Superior,

served as the Chief Guest and highlighted the importance of skill development in women's empowerment. Four trainees shared testimonies on the program's impact, while two others showcased their handmade projects. The gathering celebrated creativity, self-reliance, and the mission's commitment to transforming lives through practical, life-sustaining education.





# Newly ordained

## Dibrugarh



Fr. Isamdin Kevin Diswang

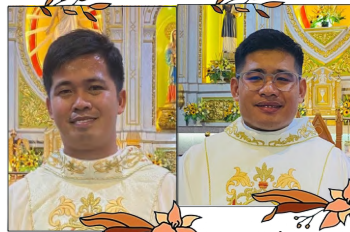
## Mozambique



Fr. Lona Christian

Fr. Egídio Abel

## Philippines



Fr. Aldren C. Mondigo

Fr. Alex J. Estancia

## Nagpur



Fr. Amrit Lakra



Fr. Bimal Tirkey



Fr. Sainjin Benny



Fr. Clement Leonard



Fr. Lambert Ekka



Fr. Anup Pillai

## Pune



Fr. A. Infant Jerald



Fr. Ajay Kindo



Fr. Anthony Arockia Raj



Fr. Anthony Raj



Fr. S. Nelson

## South West



Fr. Jerin Ponmalakunnel



Fr. Joachim Anthonyswamy



Fr. Jerry Balthasar



Fr. Asher Kochuparambil



Fr. Jostro Muthipeedika



Fr. George Karottukizhakel

## South East



Fr. I. Joseph Manicka Raj



Fr. M. Arockia Clarles Benny



Fr. A. Dony Diamond Raj

## Visakhapatnam



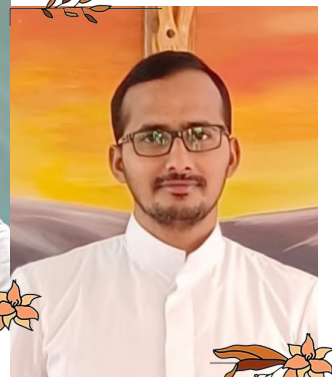
Fr. Banoth Sekhar



Fr. Mendem Lawrence



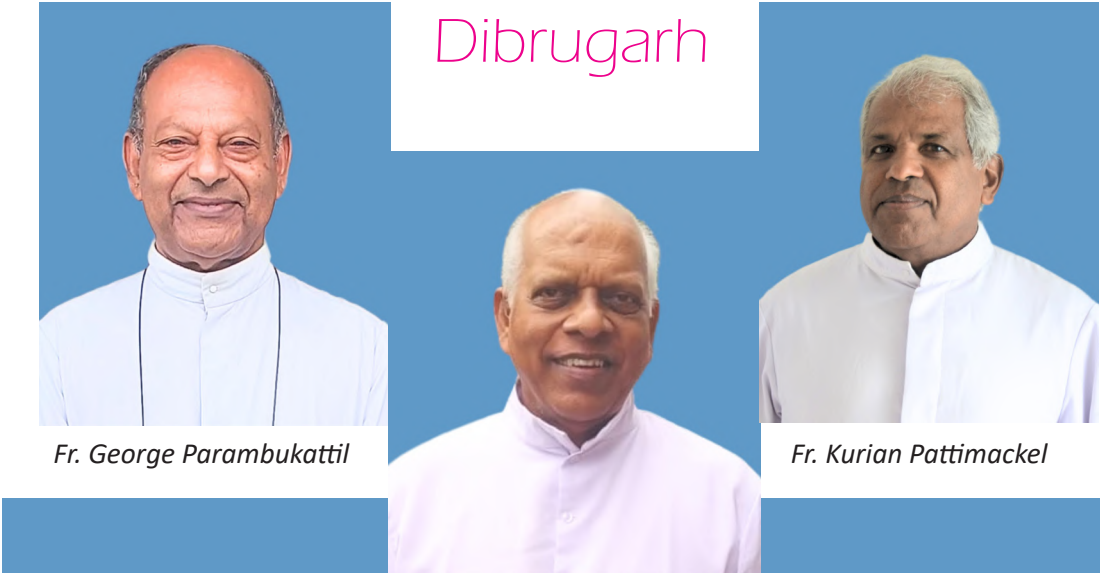
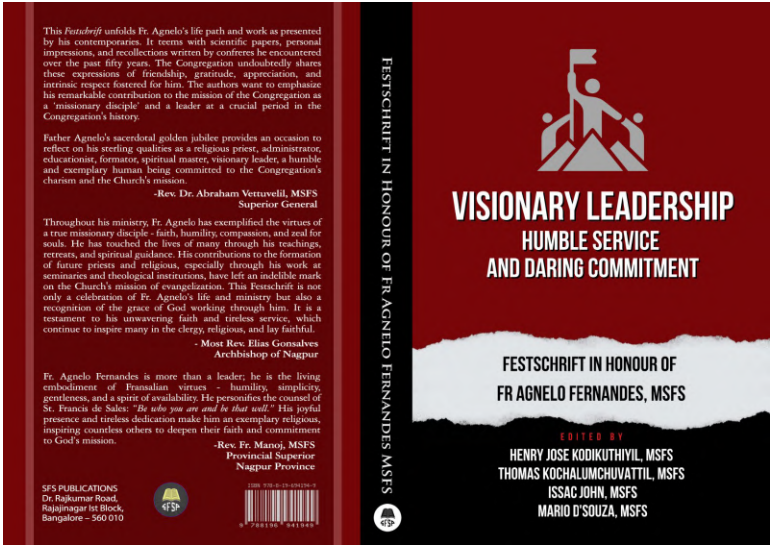
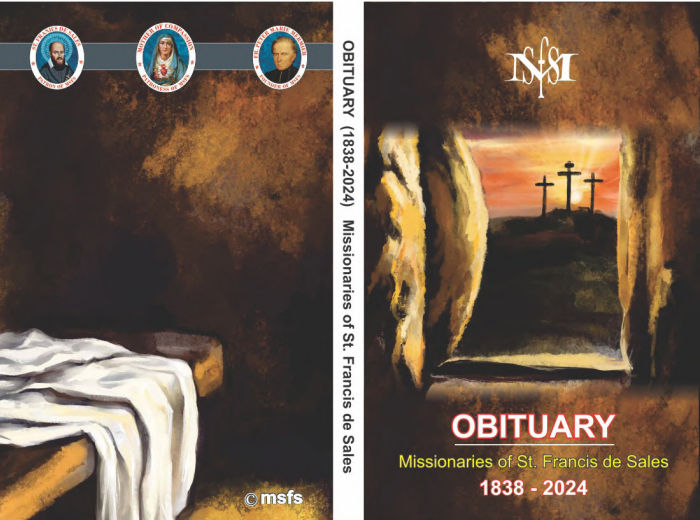
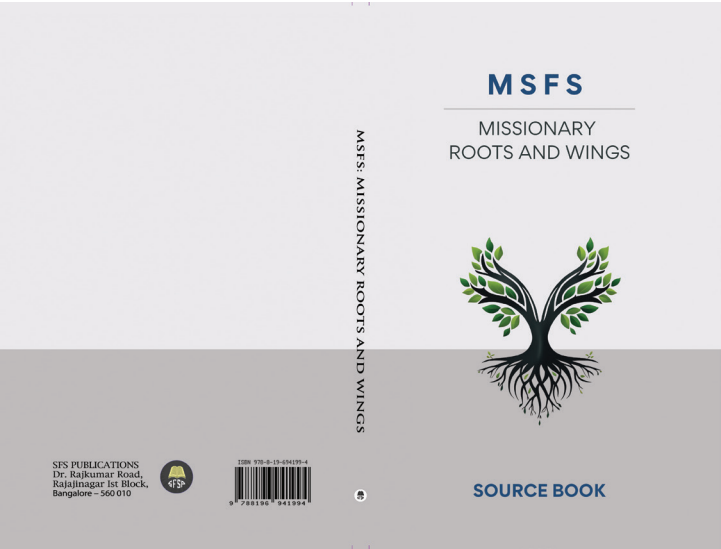
Fr. Thamarakandi Francis



Fr. Yeruva Balaraju

*Congratulations*





Fr. Jose Mundoly

Guwahati



Fr. Joseph Kizhakeveedu

South East



Fr. George Koottinal





# Silver Jubilee



South West



Fr. Anil Thondampallil



Fr. Binod Puthenpurackal



Fr. Binoy Kurakalayil



Fr. Bobby Puthenparambil



Fr. C. Joseph



Fr. D. Doraiswamy



Fr. Joy Kochupoovathummuttil



Fr. R. Santhosh Kumar



Fr. Roy Plathottathil



Fr. Shibu Thundathil



Fr. Baiju Mundackal



Fr. Cornelius Bara



Fr. Joby Kurikilamkattu



Fr. Saju Thalayinakandathil



Fr. Shaibu Ezhaniikkattu



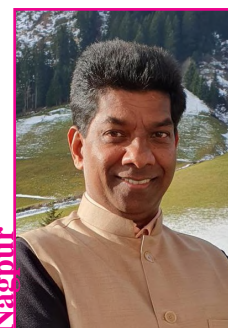
Fr. Thomas Vanderkunne

Guwahati

Nagpur



Fr. Thomas Varapadavil



Fr. Charles Porimattathil



Fr. Lalit Tigga



Fr. R. Kulandairaj



Fr. Vishwas Torne



Fr. Ajimon Mathirampallil



Fr. Augustine Thundathil



Fr. Biju Kanichery

Dibrugarh



Fr. Shiji Poonthuruthil



Fr. Prabhakar Chakranarayan



Fr. A. Joseph Amalraj



Fr. C. Sebastin Robert

South East

Pune



Fr. S. Deiva Shayaraj



Fr. M. Anand Prakash



Fr. P. Inna Reddy



Fr. Pinninti Babu Rao

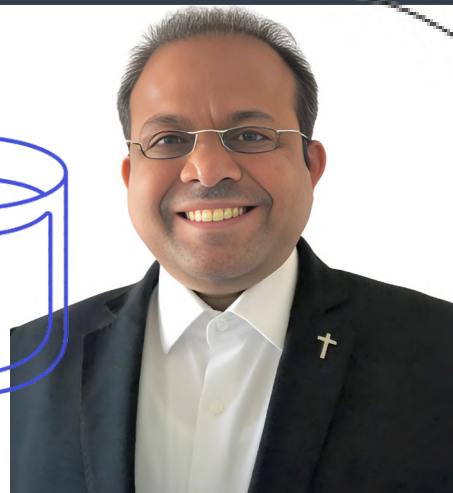
Visakhapatnam



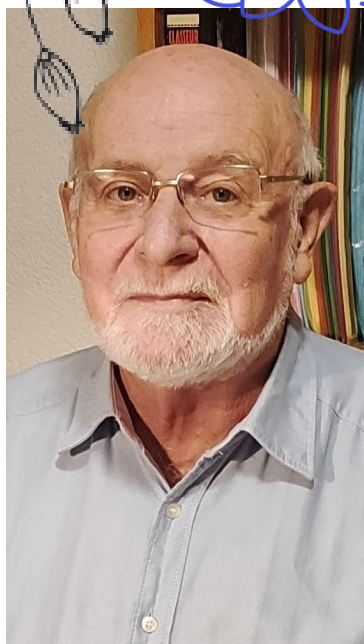
# Congratulations



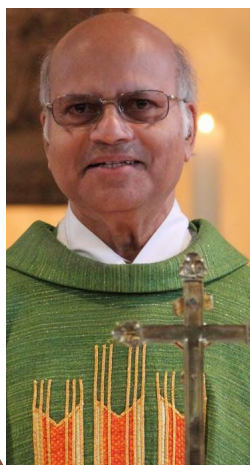
# OBITUARY



Fr. Siby Manickathan



P. Jean Paul Fournier



Fr. Thomas Fernandes



Fr. Joseph Karachira



Fr. Jose Parampukattil

Eternal rest  
grant unto  
them, O  
Lord, and  
let perpetual  
light shine  
upon them.

## LAUNCHING NOW MSFS APP

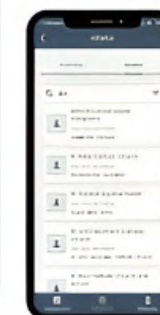
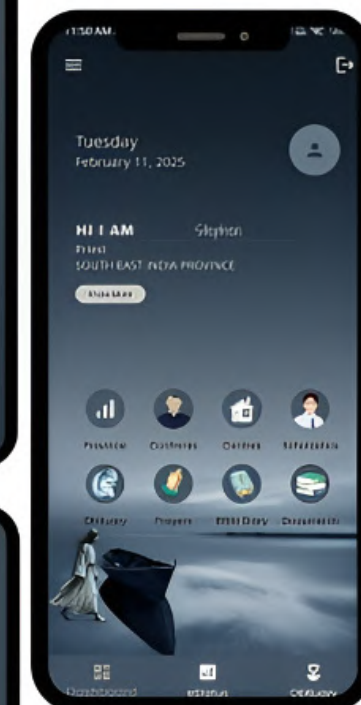
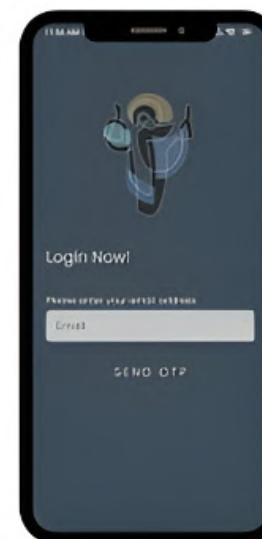
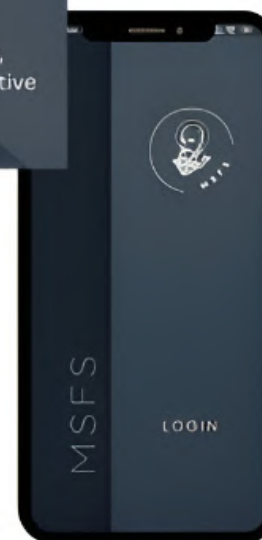
We are pleased to announce the launch of the MSFS APP, a comprehensive mobile application designed to enhance connectivity, streamline communication, and support the spiritual and administrative needs of MSFS congregation.

### How to Download & Access the MSFS APP

- 1 Go to the Play Store and search **com.estatus.adminpro**
- 2 Look for the **MSFS APP** logo and download the app.
- 3 Login using your registered email.
- 4 Enter the OTP received in your **INBOX/SPAM** folder.
- 5 Before opening the app, don't forget to rate it 5 stars and leave a positive review to help bring the MSFS APP to the top!



**com.estatus.adminpro**



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Adieu...



"The world tells us to seek success, power and money; God tells us to seek humility, service and love."  
Pope Francis

Greetings...



THANK YOU...




**FORMER GENERAL CURIA:** (From L to R) Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhiyil, Fr. J. Stephen, Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, Fr. Saji Puthiyakulangara, & Fr. Jose Cheriyanthara)

HEARTY WELCOME & BEST WISHES...



**NEW GENERAL CURIA:** (From L to R) Fr. Jose Karickal, Fr. Benedict De Souza, Fr. A. Anthony Swamy, Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, Fr. Saji Puthiyakulangara, Fr. Thumma Mariadas, & Fr. A. Christu Raj.





ARCIS. SALESIE. HIC. LOCUS. SACELLI  
QUO. BEATO. FRANCISCO. ORANTI. DEUS  
ORDINIS. VISITATIONIS. VISIONEM. TRIBUIT

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