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COVER PHOTO:

Statue of SFS at the Castles of Allinges, France
(Francis de Sales made the fortress of Allinges his headquarters during his mission from 1594 to 1598.).



Emptying Ourselves in Love

Dear Readers,

The present issue of Fransalian International unfolds as a quiet yet compelling testimony to one central truth: the life of the Church and the vitality of our Congregation are sustained not by power or numbers, but by self-emptying love – lived gently, faithfully, and courageously.

At the heart of this issue stands Mary, Mother of God, contemplated through the lived spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Peter Mary Mermier. For SFS, Mary was a living school of surrender. His own crisis of despair found healing only in abandonment, entrusting himself unconditionally to God's love. Fr. Mermier, formed by the faith of his own mother and strengthened by Marian devotion, translated this surrender into action – sacrifice, perseverance, and tenderness for a suffering world.

This same Marian-Fransalian spirit continues to echo in the life of the Congregation today. The interview with Archbishop Elias Gonsalves recalls the courageous missionary beginnings of the MSFS in Nagpur and beyond, affirming that what endures is not structures alone, but a spirituality of closeness, gentleness, and pastoral fidelity. Equally compelling is the lay narrative that gives flesh to our charism: "Bloom where you are planted" becomes a lived vocation, guiding people to discover God's will in the present moment.

The many reports gathered in this issue are not isolated achievements. Together, they form a single narrative of a Congregation on pilgrimage: rooted in Christ, shaped by Mary's surrender, inspired by Francis de Sales' gentleness, and propelled by Mermier's apostolic daring.

As we turn these pages, we are invited to the question that shaped our Patron and Founder: how much are we willing to give for love? In a restless world, the Fransalian answer remains clear – All by love, nothing by force. May this issue renew our courage to empty ourselves, so that God's love may continue to find a home in the world.

Fr Vintu Augustine, MSFS
Chief Editor
Fransalian International



Dear Readers of Fransalian International,

As you turn these pages, you will encounter a living tapestry of our Congregation's life and mission, woven from diverse cultures, ministries, and continents, yet united by the gentle and zealous spirit of St. Francis de Sales and the Servant of God Father Peter Mary Mermier.

This issue bears eloquent witness to the vitality and maturity of our global mission. Moments such as the erection of the MSFS Mozambique Region, jubilee celebrations in Africa, India, and Europe, milestones in formation, vibrant educational initiatives, and the deepening collaboration with lay Fransalian Associates all speak of a Congregation that is alive, missionary, and forward-looking. They remind us that the seed sown by our Founder, Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, continues to bear fruit wherever we serve with humility, patience, and pastoral charity.

I am particularly moved by the strong sense of communion that runs through this issue. Whether in the witness of our pioneers, the faith stories of our Associates, the reflections on Marian spirituality, or the voices of the young, we see a shared journey of hope, responsibility, and trust in God's providence. In a rapidly changing world, these testimonies encourage us to remain rooted in Christ and attentive to the signs of the times, carrying out our mission with renewed creativity and fidelity.

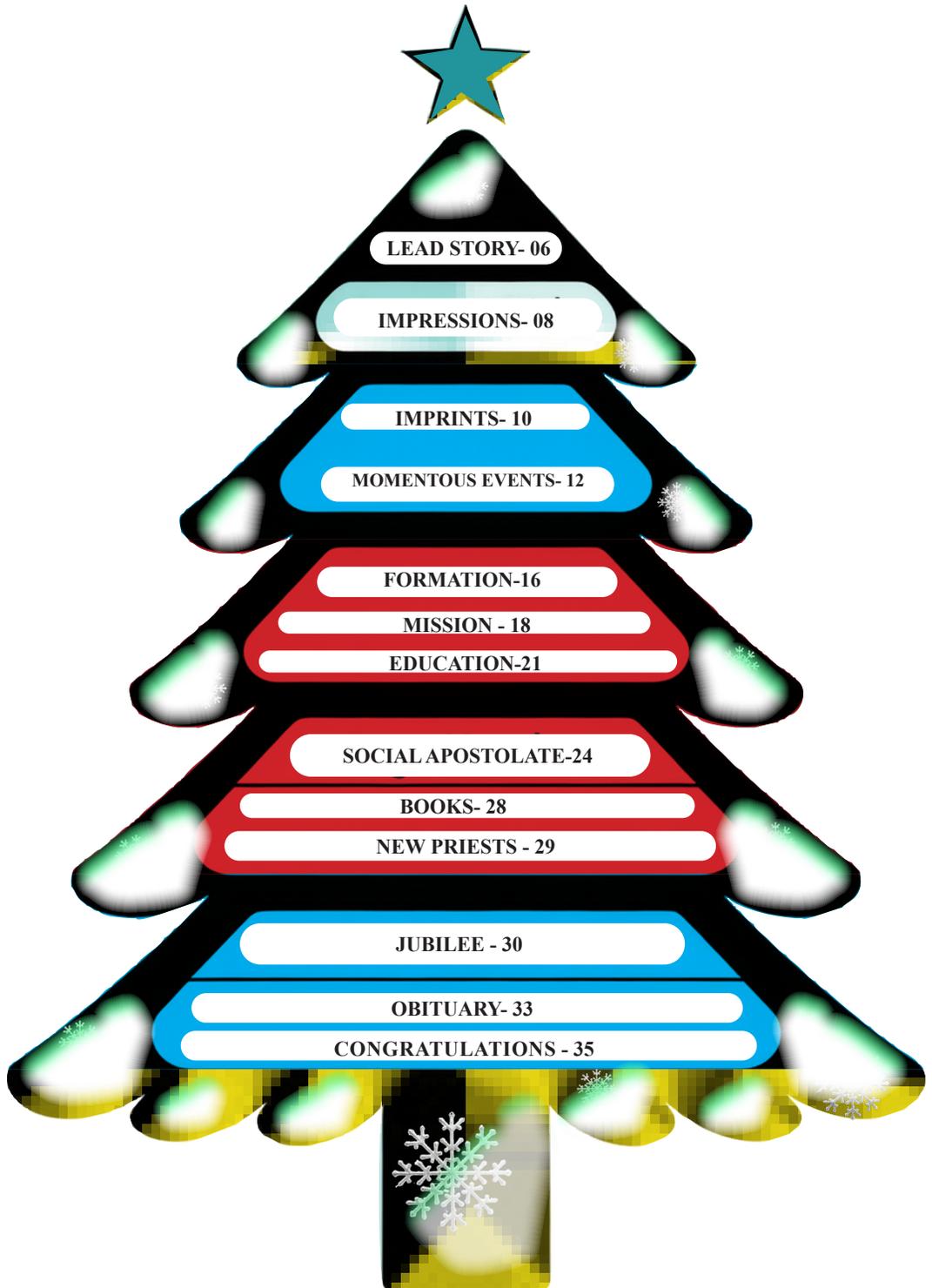
I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation of **Rev. Fr. Vintu Augustine MSFS**, the outgoing Editor of **Fransalian International**, for his committed leadership and tireless effort in giving voice to the life of the Congregation via FI. My heartfelt thanks also go to the **associate editors, advisors, designers, correspondents, and all contributors**, who have worked together with dedication and fraternal spirit to make this issue both rich in content and attractive in presentation.

May this issue strengthen our bonds, inspire gratitude for what the Lord has accomplished among us, and renew our courage to go forth as missionaries of hope. Entrusting our Congregation and its mission to Mary, Mother of God and Mother of Beautiful Love, I pray that we may continue to serve the Church and the world with gentleness of heart and apostolic zeal.

With fraternal greetings and blessings,

Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, MSFS
Superior General
Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales
Rome

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MSFS Mozambique Enters a New Missionary Chapter

By Fr. Henry Nedumkallel, MSFS

Maputo, Mozambique, September 30, 2025 — The year 2025 marks a watershed moment for the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) in Mozambique, as the Congregation celebrated historic milestones that signal maturity, growth, and renewed missionary commitment. On September 30, the Founder’s Day, the MSFS officially erected the Mozambique Region, installed its first Regional Superior, and witnessed the consecration of the first Unit of Fransalian Associates in the country.

The landmark celebration took place at Nossa Senhora das Mercês Parish in Katembe, during a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Most Rev. Luis Miguel Muñoz Cárdbaba, Apostolic Nuncio to Mozambique. During the liturgy, Fr. Manoj Tirkey, MSFS, Provincial, Nagpur Province, formally proclaimed the decree issued on June 29, 2025, by Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, MSFS, Superior General, officially erecting the MSFS Mozambique Region. He then presided over the installation of Fr. Henry Clemant Nedumkallel, MSFS, as the first Regional Superior.

The day was further graced by the consecration of twenty-one Fransalian Associates, a long-cherished dream for the local Church. Their formation journey began in January 2024 during the canonical visitation of Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, MSFS, then Superior General. The newly consecrated Associates include eight members from São Francisco de Sales Parish, Bela Vista, and thirteen from Nossa Senhora das Mercês Parish, Katembe.

These developments reflect the deepening roots of the MSFS mission in Mozambique and highlight the growing collaboration between consecrated missionaries and committed lay faithful. The erection of the Region and the emergence of Fransalian Associates stand as powerful signs of hope, continuity, and shared responsibility in the Church’s mission, ushering the MSFS presence in Mozambique into a promising new phase of evangelisation and service.





PILGRIMS OF HOPE: The newly erected MSFS Mozambique Region held its First Regional Assembly, from November 7–10, 2025, reflecting, discerning, and planning together. Rooted in Christ and inspired by St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Mermier, the gathering renewed commitment to mission, healing, and growth in Mozambique.



CONSECRATED COMMITMENT: The twenty-one Fransalian Associates from Bela Vista and Katembe, consecrated themselves, marking a new chapter of lay commitment and mission.





Pioneers of Faith, Builders of the Church

Founded in 1838 in Annecy, France, the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) were entrusted with the vast Vicariate of Visakhapatnam in 1845, which included the Nagpur region. From this pioneering mission emerged the Dioceses of Visakhapatnam, Nagpur, and later Amravati. **Most Rev. Elias Gonsalves, the Archbishop of Nagpur**, through decades of pastoral association with the MSFS, offers a lived and informed perspective on their enduring contribution.

How would you describe your experience of MSFS's life and mission in the Archdiocese of Nagpur?

It gives me immense joy to share my experience of journeying with the MSFS, whom I have known closely over many years. Even before I became Archbishop of Nagpur, during my pastoral ministry as Bishop of Amravati, I witnessed firsthand their deep commitment, pastoral zeal, and missionary spirit. The MSFS hold a unique and cherished place in our Archdiocese's history. As pioneer missionaries in this region, they were among the first to till its spiritual soil, building strong foundations of faith through dedication, sacrifice, and a profound trust in God. Their simple life and closeness to people reflect a genuine Fransalian charism. The churches, institutions, and thriving communities today stand as living testimony to their prayerful vision and unwavering service. Their missionary example continues to inspire successive generations within the Archdiocese.

What would you say is the contribution of the MSFS to the Church and society here?

The contribution of the MSFS to both the Church and society has been profound and far-reaching. I have observed their ministry in diverse pastoral contexts over the years and can attest to the depth and sincerity of their service. Through parish ministry, educational institutions, formation houses, and social outreach programmes, they have made an enduring impact on the Church's mission and on the broader society. Their commitment to holistic evangelisation – addressing spiritual, educational, and social needs – has strengthened the local Church and uplifted countless individuals, especially the poor and marginalised. Their presence has helped shape communities rooted in faith, human dignity, and social responsibility.

How has the Fransalian spirituality lived by the MSFS influenced the people of the Archdiocese?

The spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, embodied by the MSFS, has deeply influenced the faithful in our Diocese. The virtues of gentleness, humility, patience, and pastoral closeness, which are hallmarks of Salesian spirituality, are evident in their approach to ministry. This spirit of gentleness has helped cultivate a welcoming and compassionate Church. Through their witness and service, both in Amravati and Nagpur, the MSFS have encouraged the faithful to live the Gospel with joy, simplicity, and fidelity. They have nurtured vocations, strengthened families, and inspired many to serve Christ with generosity and commitment in everyday life.

NARRATIVE



Rooted in Grace, Blooming in Trust

By Mr. Joseph Lucio Agnelo Pinto

Life is God's first and greatest gift to us. He entrusts it to our care – not only for our own growth, but also for the good of all those around us – so that we may become instruments of His love in the world. Each of us is sent with a purpose known fully only to God, and we become truly fruitful when we allow His grace to flow through our lives.

From my earliest years, my parents nurtured in me a deep love for God. Though I did not yet understand His plan, I allowed myself to be guided by their faith-filled hands. My twelve years in boarding school became a quiet journey of listening – learning to recognise God's voice amid challenges, setbacks, and small victories. Even at a young age, God granted me the courage to rise after each struggle and to continue seeking the path He had prepared for me.

Between 1969 and 1975, I went through a period of uncertainty, wandering in search of direction and purpose. It was during this unsettled phase that God, in His tenderness, placed me on the path of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. Through their kindness, encouragement, and generosity, they offered me not only support but also a renewed sense of mission. Teaching in their schools became more than a profession; it became a sacred space where I learned to listen more deeply to God and to discover meaning in the very circumstances He placed before me.

On April 1, 1975, the Lord opened a new chapter in my life. For the next fifty blessed years, He entrusted me with work in a travel agency – a space that gradually became my everyday mission field. Serving people from all walks of life taught me the importance of surrender, patience, and trust. Each day ended with the quiet awareness of God's abundant blessings, His tender mercy, and his unfailing love at work in my life.

The words of St. Paul deeply sustained me during this time: "Let each of you lead the life the Lord has assigned, to which God has called you" (1 Cor 7:17, 20). They reminded me that God, who created me with a purpose, would never abandon me, and that my calling was unfolding in the present moment. The spirituality of SFS beautifully echoed this truth. His gentle counsel to accept one's situation with trust and courage – to "bloom where we are planted" – became a guiding light in times of uncertainty and continues to shape my life even today.

I remain deeply grateful to the Fransalian community around Nagpur, whose prayerful support and guidance helped me rediscover God's hand at work in my life. They were God's gentle instruments, leading me forward. Today, my hope is that my life – imperfect yet sustained by grace – may encourage others to trust God's timing, surrender to His will, and blossom faithfully where He has lovingly planted them.

(The writer is a Fransalian Associate belonging to Nagpur Archdiocese, who is a good friend of the MSFS over there.)



Insights from the Patron Mary, Mother of God and Unconditional Surrender

By Fr. Nirmal Kumar, MSFS

In his recent doctrinal note on Marian titles (November 5, 2025), Pope Leo XIV beautifully reaffirmed Mary as *Mater Populi Fidelis* – the mother of the Faithful People of God. This insight resonates deeply with the spiritual vision of St. Francis de Sales, for whom Mary’s divine motherhood and total surrender to God stood at the very heart of Christian love. Drawing especially from “The Treatise on the Love of God” (Books II and III) and his formative life experiences, we gain insight into how Mary influenced Francis’s own journey of faith.

Between December 1586 and January 1587, the young Francis de Sales endured a profound spiritual crisis centred on the doctrine of predestination. Plunged into despair, physical illness, and interior darkness, he feared that he was eternally rejected by God. It was before an image of Our Lady at Saint-Etienne-des-Gres that grace broke through. Kneeling in prayer, Francis made a radical and unconditional surrender: “O God, just Judge and merciful Father, at least in this life will I love You, if I am not to love You in life everlasting.”

This act of abandonment became the turning point of his life. Freed from fear, Francis began to contemplate the inexhaustible goodness of God, which shone throughout creation. In this renewed vision, Mary appeared to him as the supreme masterpiece of divine love. God, who is all-wise, all-powerful, and all-good, willed that His Mother be preserved from the torrent of original sin – a “preventive medicine,” Francis writes, so that the grace flowing into the world through Christ might first overflow in her.

St. Francis is careful to affirm that Mary’s privilege never diminished her freedom or reason. Like Solomon – who, even in a dream, freely asked for wisdom – Mary, the mother of the true Solomon, consciously received and faithfully preserved God’s gift. At the Annunciation, her *Fiat*, “Let it be done to me according to your word,” expressed not a momentary consent but a lifelong attitude of loving surrender.

Francis employs the striking image of asbestos, a stone that burns without being consumed, to describe Mary’s heart – perpetually inflamed by holy love. This divine fire enabled her to remain undistracted by the world and wholly devoted to God’s will, becoming not only the mother of Christ but the mother of all believers.

For St. Francis de Sales, Mary’s life mirrors our own calling. Washed from original sin through Baptism, we too are invited to live in unconditional trust and loving abandonment. From Mary, the mother of Beautiful Love, we learn to surrender without fear and to love without measure – until Christ is fully formed in us.

Thoughts from the Founder's Heart

Devotion to Mary Lived in Action



By Fr. Sateesh Kumar, MSFS

Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, Founder of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, was not only a passionate preacher of the Word of God but also a man whose Marian devotion was deeply lived, embodied, and expressed in concrete action. For him, love for Mary, the mother of God, was never sentimental or merely devotional; it shaped his faith, sustained his missionary courage, and guided his response to suffering and adversity.

The roots of Fr. Mermier's Marian spirituality can be traced to his childhood. He himself acknowledged that the most enduring impression on his heart and mind was the lively faith of his mother and her deep love for God. This maternal witness became the foundation of his own spiritual journey. As his biographers note in his own words: "What really made an impression on his spirit and heart most was the lively faith of his mother and her love for God, the two sources of her zeal at the service of her family and religion." This early experience nurtured in him a faith that endured until the end of his life.

The turbulent years of the French Revolution further intensified this Marian devotion. Witnessing persecution, suffering Christians, and the heroic fidelity of believers – including his own mother – Fr. Mermier learned to contemplate faith through the lens of the Cross. For him, suffering was not meaningless; it was redemptive. He wrote with conviction, "It is necessary that we suffer in one way or another, without which we never reach." In Mary, standing faithfully at the foot of the Cross, he found the perfect model of compassionate endurance and silent strength.

This interior devotion found visible expression in action. When Fr. Mermier built the first MSFS house, his priorities revealed the heart of his spirituality. His biographer records: "His first concern was to erect the Way of the Cross in the chapel and to enthrone Our Lady of Seven Dolours in a private chapel prepared for her." These were not secondary devotions but the very pillars of his spiritual life – Christ crucified and Mary, the Sorrowful Mother.

The ecclesial recognition of the Congregation also reflected this Marian orientation. Bishop Peter Joseph of Annecy, in formally erecting the Congregation, invoked the holy names of Jesus, Mary, the Guardian Angels, and St. Francis de Sales, situating the mission firmly under the protection of Mary. For Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, Mary was never distant. She was a constant companion, a guiding presence, and a protecting Mother who stood by him in trials and triumphs alike. His life reminds us that true devotion to Mary leads us not away from mission, but deeper into it – strengthening us to serve, suffer, and love with unwavering trust in God.

St. Aldhelm's, Malmesbury, Celebrates 150 Years

By Fr. Thomas Kulandaisamy, MSFS



St. Aldhelm's Catholic Church, Malmesbury, celebrated a landmark moment on July 11–12, 2025, marking the 150th Jubilee of its dedication, a profound milestone for the parish and the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) alike. After over a year of heartfelt preparation, parishioners and friends gathered to honour 150 years of prayer, perseverance, and pastoral service.

Malmesbury holds a singular place in the history of the MSFS as it is the first mission of the Congregation in England, the cradle of the English Province, and deeply woven into its founding story. The Catholic faith was reestablished in the town in the 1860s through the zeal of Captain Dewell and Fr. Larive, culminating in the church's dedication in 1875. Since then, St. Aldhelm's has stood as a living witness to missionary faith, hospitality, and endurance.

The celebrations began with an Ecumenical Evening Prayer led by Deacon Steve, enriched by the voices of children from St. Joseph's School. Canon Colin Mason, Cathedral Dean, preached the homily linking the legacy of St. Aldhelm with the gentle wisdom of St. Francis de Sales.

The following morning's Jubilee Mass was presided over by Mgr. Liam Slattery, Vicar General, representing Bishop Bosco, whose message was read at the outset. The Superior General, Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, preached a stirring homily on the missionary vocation, joined by Fr. Benny Joseph, Provincial of the English Province, MSFS confreres, and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy. The Jubilee Hymn was sung, a commemorative book was released, and a Papal Blessing from Pope Francis was read aloud.

More than a festivity, the Jubilee was a renewal of gratitude, a tribute to those early missionaries whose labours made this place a beacon of faith. As Bishop Clifford wrote to Captain Dewell in 1860, "... we must sow, leaving the harvest to those who come after." Indeed, 150 years later, the harvest still flourishes, built on faith, blessed by time.

Fifty Years of Faith in the Northeast

By Fr. Sabin Vemballykunnel, MSFS



Guwahati, Assam, India, October 24, 2025 – The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) marked the Golden Jubilee of their mission in Northeast India, celebrating fifty years of dedicated pastoral, educational, and social service in the region, on October 24, 2025, at the MSFS Provincialate in Guwahati, Assam. The milestone was commemorated with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by His Eminence Cardinal Anthony Poola, Archbishop of Hyderabad, who praised the MSFS for their missionary zeal and enduring commitment to holistic human development.

The Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, MSFS, Superior General, alongside ten bishops from North Eastern dioceses, MSFS provincials from across India, and numerous priests. Provincials from various men's and women's religious congregations joined the celebration, underscoring ecclesial solidarity and gratitude for the MSFS contribution.

Nearly 700 participants, including priests, religious, educators, social workers, alumni, students, and well-wishers, gathered to thank God for five decades of mission that began in 1975, when pioneering missionaries courageously entered the region's remote terrains. Over the years, the MSFS have played a vital role in education, social upliftment, and pastoral care, transforming communities through compassionate service inspired by the spirit of St. Francis de Sales.

The jubilee concluded with a vibrant cultural programme reflecting the rich diversity of the Northeast. Beyond remembrance, the celebration renewed the Congregation's commitment to continue its mission with gentleness, humility, and apostolic zeal for the years ahead.

Silver Jubilee of Grace in Mozambique

By Fr. Henry Nedumkallel, MSFS



Maputo, Mozambique, September 30, 2025 — The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) marked 25 years of missionary presence in Mozambique with a solemn and joy-filled celebration on 16 November 2025. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Archbishop Luis Miguel, Apostolic Nuncio to Mozambique, marking two historic milestones: the blessing and inauguration of the new Fransalian Minor Seminary at Ka-Elisa and the perpetual profession of Brothers João, Luís, and Zito.

Provincial of Nagpur; Fr. James Panthalanickel, Provincial of East Africa; Fr. Thomas Vanderkunnel, Regional Superior of Southern Africa; and Shri Robert Shetkintong, Ambassador of India to Mozambique. MSFS pioneers, confreres from around the globe, clergy, religious, civil authorities, benefactors, and the faithful joined in a time of thanksgiving.

This jubilee moment celebrated God’s fidelity, honoured the pioneers’ sacrifices, and renewed the MSFS commitment to evangelisation, formation, and hope-filled service in Mozambique.

The celebration was attended by Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, Superior General; Fr. Manoj Turkey,

Silang Formation House Marks Silver Jubilee

By Bro. Robert Sotomil, MSFS

Silang, Philippines, October 24, 2025 – The MSFS Formation House for Scholastics, Silang, Philippines, joyfully celebrated its 25th Foundation Anniversary with a Thanksgiving Eucharist on October 24, 2025. Presided over by Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil, MSFS, Provincial Superior, the celebration marked a quarter-century of grace, formation, and missionary commitment.

Concelebrated by MSFS, diocesan, and religious priests, the Mass became a moment of deep gratitude for the many lives shaped in the spirit of St. Francis de Sales. Pioneers and missionaries who served the formation house were gratefully remembered, while seminarians’ choral singing enriched the liturgy. Joined by sisters, benefactors, and friends, the community renewed its resolve to continue forming missionaries after the heart of Christ.



Mariapuram at 75 Years: Faith Lived, Mission Renewed

By Dn. J. Jestin Richard, MSFS

Mariapuram, Tamil Nadu, India, August 31, 2025 – Mariapuram, a rural mission parish of the Coimbatore Diocese, marked 75 years of faith-filled service (1951–2025). Established in 1951 and entrusted to the MSFS, the parish has served agrarian communities across the state with an enduring commitment. Comprising three pastoral centres – Mariapuram (the parish centre), and the substations of Kunnathur and Konapuram – and united in sacramental life, catechesis, and shared pastoral planning, the Platinum Jubilee Year was inaugurated through three solemn celebrations across the centres.

The Jubilee celebrations unfolded across all three centres on August 17, 24, and 31, respectively. At Kunnathur, Msgr. S. John Joseph, Vicar General of Coimbatore, and Fr. A. Patrick Jeyaraj, MSFS, Provincial of South-East Province blessed the new parish structures. At Konapuram, Bishop Thomas Aquinas blessed the newly built church on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima. The celebrations concluded at Mariapuram (31 August) with the blessing of the Jubilee Memorial Arch and the conferral of First Holy Communion and Confirmation on 79 children.



For the MSFS, Mariapuram remains a significant early rural mission, embodying the Fransalian charism of gentle pastoral care, strong lay participation, and long-term accompaniment. The jubilee celebrations became a moment of renewed missionary commitment.

Abhishekaniravu 2025: A Tide of Grace

By Fr. Jain Kaniyodickal, MSFS

Athirampuzha, Kerala, India, October 5, 2025 – Abhishekaniravu 2025, the flagship annual gathering at Charis Bhavan, Athirampuzha, Kerala, unfolded as a powerful experience of spiritual renewal from October 1 to 5, 2025. Thousands of faithful converged at the retreat centre, drawn by an intense atmosphere of prayer, vibrant worship, and profound moments of healing and deliverance.

The convention's reach extended far beyond its physical setting, with nearly 15,000 participants joining online from across the world. United as one spiritual family, participants testified to an extraordinary outpouring of grace, reaffirming Abhishekaniravu's growing impact as a beacon of hope, healing, and renewed faith.



A Milestone for MSFS in Chad-Cameroon

By Fr. Manoj Arackal, MSFS

Ngaoundéré, Cameroon, Africa, July 2, 2025 – The St. James MSFS Novitiate in Ngaoundéré, Cameroon, marked a historic moment on July 2, 2025, with the first religious profession of 11 novices, the first-ever profession held there. The event marks a significant step toward self-sustained local formation, as novices were previously sent to Tanzania.



The Eucharist was presided over by Fr. Manoj Arackal, Delegation Superior with Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil Provincial of South-West India Province delivering a moving homily and receiving the vows. The participation of numerous religious members and the faithful enriched the festive spirit, while the melodious hymns of the Ngaoundéré University choir lent beauty and solemnity to the celebration.

MSRS Convocation Celebrates Excellence and Mission

By Dr Mary DCruz



Kolkata, West Bengal, India, October 31, 2025 – Thirty-three final-year theology students marked a significant academic and formative milestone as the Morning Star Institute of Theology celebrated its solemn

convocation on October 31, 2025. Representing 10 dioceses and seven religious congregations, the graduates completed four years of integral formation encompassing spiritual, intellectual, pastoral, and human dimensions of priestly and religious life.

Academic performance was exceptional, with eight students securing distinctions, 15 achieving high first-class honours, and 10 obtaining first-class honours. Dn. A. Selva Prakash, MSFS secured first rank, followed by Dn. Jayanta Tudu (second) and Dn. Suriya Anthony (third).

The convocation was presided over by Rt. Rev. Shyamal Bose, Bishop of Baruipur and Chairman of the Governing Board, with Dr Tomson Aerathedathu, MSFS, Provincial of Dibrugarh Province as Guest of Honour. Eminent theologian Dr D. John Romus, former Dean of Theology, graced the occasion. Dr George Panthamackel, MSFS, Rector of MSRS, and Dr K. Henry Jose, Director of Theology, warmly welcomed the gathering.

In their addresses, the dignitaries exhorted the graduates to become compassionate shepherds, guided by the seminary motto, “Let Your Light Shine,” as they move toward priestly ordination and pastoral ministry.

SPA 2025: Renewed at the Salesian Source

By Fr. Ramesh George, MSFS

Anney, France, October 2, 2025 – The eighth edition of the Salesian Program of Anney (SPA) 2025 took place in Anney, France, from August 31 to October 2, 2025. The programme opened with a week-long guided retreat, led by Fr. Samuel Devaraj Provincial of France-Swiss Province and Fr. Avilhou Stephen, which set the tone for the event.



Organised by the France-Swiss Province, SPA 2025 brought together seven confreres from different Provinces; namely, Fr. Jaimon Thadathil (Dibrugarh), Fr. Rijesh Thomas (Guwahati), Fr. Santhosh Kumar Bandi (Vizag), Fr. Ramesh George (Pune), Fr. Roshan Tigga (Nagpur), Fr. Edward Mgagi (East Africa), and Eugene Earnest Raj (South East).

The programme featured rich and structured inputs on the writings and missions of St. Francis de Sales, Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, and the Congregation. Sessions were animated by experienced formators, including Fr. Saji George, Fr. Samuel Devaraj, Fr. John Hepunni, Fr. Avilhou Stephen, Fr. K. Thomas, and Fr. Yobu Melkie. The academic and spiritual inputs were enriched by pilgrimages to significant Salesian sites in and around Anney, guided by Mr Guy Rouat, a knowledgeable lay historian.

Institute's Day held at Suvidya College

By Bro. Karpin Sangma, MSFS

Bangalore, India, October 24, 2025 – Suvidya College, Bangalore, the inter-provincial philosophical institute of the MSFS, celebrated its Institute Day on October 24, 2025,



with Rev. Dr Arulselvam Rayappan, Bishop of Salem, Tamil Nadu, presiding over the Holy Eucharist. Around 30 concelebrating priests, numerous religious sisters, friends, and the student community joined in the celebration. In his welcome address, Fr. Philip Thomas, Rector, expressed gratitude for the presence and support of all gathered.

Bishop Rayappan delivered an inspiring homily, acknowledging the missionary zeal of the MSFS and encouraging the seminarians to remain steadfast in their vocation. He urged them to cultivate clarity of purpose, fidelity to the Lord, and a spirit of missionary enthusiasm. Following the Eucharistic celebration, the cultural evening featured a variety of entertainment programs, including colourful dances from India and Africa, as well as a musical concert.

United for the Gospel: National PMP Meet 2025

By Fr. Austin Joy, MSFS

Belagavi, Karnataka, India, Oct 31, 2025 – The MSFS Pune Province successfully hosted the National Parish Mission Preachers (PMP) Meet 2025 at Fransalian Ashram – Harmony, Belagavi, Karnataka, from October 27 to 31, 2025. Centred on the theme “*United in the Gospel, Ignited for PMP,*” the meet brought together 28 active parish mission preachers from seven Indian provinces of the MSFS.



The programme offered an intense and enriching blend of prayer, reflection, and formation. Each day began with morning prayer and the Holy Eucharist, followed by focused input sessions and concluding with Eucharistic Adoration. Resource persons included Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy, Fr. Benedict DeSouza, Fr. A. Christuraj (General Councillors), and Fr. Xavier Irudayaraj, CSSR, who addressed missionary methods, challenges, and pastoral effectiveness.

A key highlight was the reading of the message of the Superior General, Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukkil MSFS, outlining vision, methodology, and future directions for the PMP ministry. Province-wise sharing and deliberations fostered collective learning and strategic planning. The fraternal atmosphere strengthened inter-provincial bonds and renewed missionary zeal, with heartfelt appreciation expressed to the host community for their generous hospitality.

Honouring Lives Given in Mission



By Fr. Nirmal Benny, MSFS

Shillong, Meghalaya, India, November 20, 2025

–A Memorial Day was solemnly observed on November 20, 2025, at the MSFS Study House, Mawroh, commemorating departed confreres who devoted their lives to the Church’s mission, especially in North East India. Held as part of the Jubilee Year marking the arrival of MSFS missionaries in the region, the celebration carried deep spiritual significance.

The day began with a prayer service, followed by a solemn Eucharistic celebration in which candles were lit in memory of the deceased. Relatives of the confreres, MSFS priests from the Guwahati and Dibrugarh Provinces, and neighbouring communities joined in prayer and fraternity. The observance concluded with a fellowship meal, honouring a legacy of faith, sacrifice, and service that continues to inspire future generations.

Rooted in Fransalian Brotherhood

By Fr. A. Jeyaseelan, MSFS

Trichy, Tamil Nadu, India, October 2, 2025 – The South East India Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales celebrated Family Day 2025 on October 1–2 at the MSFS Provincialate, Trichy, drawing confreres together under the theme “From the Same Root.” The two-day gathering became a grace-filled experience of prayer, fraternity, and renewed Fransalian identity.



The celebration opened with the Holy Eucharist, followed by an inaugural session in which Rev. Fr. A. Patrick Jayaraj, Provincial Superior, unveiled the theme and invited the confreres to deepen their sense of belonging as one family. Insightful reflections by Fr. Rayappan and an orientation by Fr. A. Jeyaseelan further strengthened the spirit of communion.

Community-building activities and a lively cultural evening fostered joy and collaboration. The Thanksgiving Eucharist on the second day, presided over by the convenors with Fr. Johnson Jayapal as main celebrant, marked the spiritual climax. The event concluded with reflection, gratitude, and a fellowship meal, renewing the confreres’ commitment to the mission.

A New Parish Is Born: St. John Bosco, Boscobari

By Fr. Alock Tigga, MSFS

Dibrugarh, Assam, India, October 19, 2025 – A historic moment of grace unfolded at St. John Bosco Church, Boscobari, as it was solemnly blessed and officially erected as a parish on Oct 19, 2025, by Most Rev. Albert Hemrom, Bishop of Dibrugarh, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Tomson Aerathedathu, MSFS, Provincial Superior of the Dibrugarh Province. During the Eucharistic celebration, Fr. Alock Tigga, MSFS, was installed as the first Parish Priest, ushering in a new pastoral chapter for the community.



The newly erected parish becomes the second parish entrusted to the MSFS in the Diocese of Dibrugarh for an indefinite period, further strengthening the Congregation’s missionary presence in the region. Set against the wider backdrop of the MSFS’ enduring contribution to the Northeast, particularly in Assam, through parish foundations, education, and sustained pastoral outreach, the event signifies a renewed phase of evangelisation and service.

Bifurcated from its mother parish, St. Joseph’s Ambapani, the elevation of Boscobari holds special significance as it coincides with the Golden Jubilee of the MSFS’ arrival in Northeast India (1975–2025), marking five decades of faith-filled missionary commitment, community building, and Gospel witness in Assam and beyond.

Founder's Day Celebrated at Annecy Basilica

By Fr. Aneesh Devassykutty, MSFS



Annecy, France, September 29, 2025 – The France–Swiss Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales joyfully celebrated Founder's Day on September 29, 2025, at the Visitation Basilica, Annecy, honouring Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, Founder of the Congregation. The celebration began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Bishop Yves Le Saux of Annecy. Fr. Samuvel Devaraj, MSFS, Provincial Superior, welcomed the assembly at the outset.

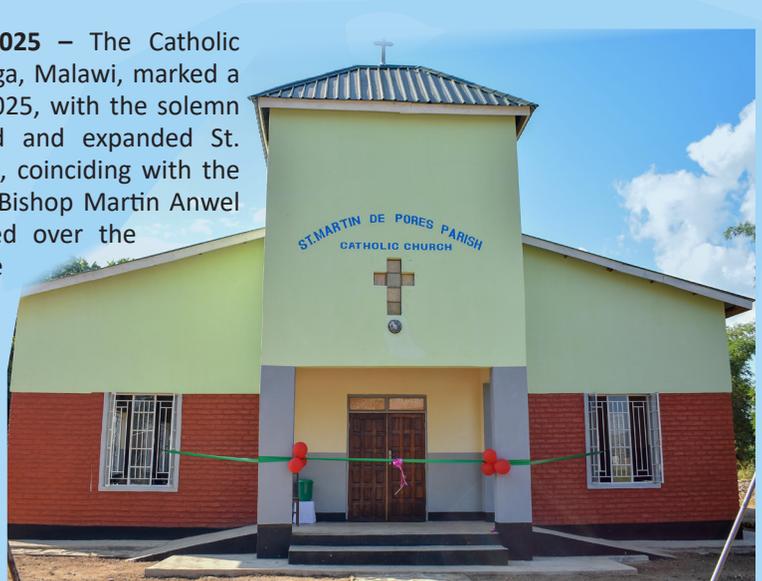
In his homily, Bishop Le Saux highlighted Fr. Mermier's deep missionary zeal and acknowledged the enduring contribution of the MSFS within the Diocese of Annecy. The presence of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod and the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy added grace to the occasion. Following Mass, the community processed to the crypt, where they prayed at the tomb of Fr. Mermier for his glorification. The celebration concluded with fraternal fellowship at La Puya – Maison du Diocèse.

Church Renewed for a Growing Faith

By Fr. A. John Britto, MSFS

Karonga, Malawi, June 29, 2025 – The Catholic community of Ngerenge, Karonga, Malawi, marked a historic moment on June 29, 2025, with the solemn consecration of the renovated and expanded St. Martin de Porres Parish Church, coinciding with the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. Bishop Martin Anwel Mtumbuka of Karonga presided over the dedication Mass, calling the faithful to lives of self-giving service and deeper commitment to the Gospel.

Initiated in October 2024 at the Bishop's directive, the renovation addressed the pastoral needs of a rapidly growing community of 4,228 faithful across seven out-



stations, thirteen sub-stations, and three zones. The renewed church now stands as a visible sign of spiritual vitality and pastoral foresight.

The project was realised through the generous support of the Archdiocese of Cologne, the MSFS South East India Province, and the dedicated parishioners of Ngerenge.

Inter-Province Debate and Quiz Competitions

By Fr. Allan Gonsalves, MSFS

New Delhi, India, October 6, 2025 – St. Francis de Sales Senior Secondary School, Janakpuri, New Delhi, hosted the MSFS Inter-Province Debate and Quiz Competition on October 6, 2025, bringing together young talents from seven MSFS provinces across India. The national-level event showcased intellectual rigour, teamwork, and the vibrant Desalite spirit.



The programme opened with a Guard of Honour by NCC cadets, followed by lamp lighting and a prayer dance. Dr Fr. Maria Charles SDB, the Chief Guest, inspired participants to root learning in values, alongside Fr. Allan Gonsalves, Education Councillor of Nagpur Province, and Fr. Saiju Thomas, Principal of SFS Delhi.

The debate on *“Your Root Determines Your Route”* featured six teams and was judged by

eminent educators and professionals. SFS Delhi emerged as the Best Debating Team, while individual honours went to students from Pune, Nagpur, and the South-West Provinces. The quiz, conducted by Mr Surya Narayanan, was won by SFS Pudukkottai (South-East Province), which also secured the Best Province Award.

With over ₹2 lakh in prizes, cultural performances, and heartfelt felicitation of mentors, the event concluded with a vote of thanks, marking a memorable celebration of academic excellence.

DeSalite Fiesta 2025: Talent in Full Bloom

By Fr. Melvin Parambukattil, MSFS



Guwahati, Assam, India, October 28, 2025 – DeSalite Fiesta 2025 brought together SFS schools of the Guwahati Province for a vibrant celebration of talent and teamwork on October 28, 2025, at SFS School, Guwahati. Ten schools participated, showcasing their skills and DeSalite spirit across various events, including singing, public speaking, debate, painting, quiz, and dance. The group dance competition was also conducted online on the same day.

The programme commenced at 9.30 a.m. with an inaugural ceremony, where Rev. Fr. George Thomas, MSFS, Councillor in charge of Education, Guwahati Province, warmly welcomed the participants. The day unfolded with energetic and creative competitions, reflecting the holistic vision of DeSalite education.

The Fiesta concluded at 1.30 p.m. with a closing ceremony and prize distribution, graced by Rev. Fr. Sabu Francis, MSFS, Provincial of the Guwahati Province, as Chief Guest. The event stood as a joyful testament to collaboration, creativity, and the enduring DeSalite ethos.

Upper Assam Literary & Cultural Meet 2025 Held

By Fr. Augustine Thundathil, MSFS

Dibrugarh, Assam, India, August 9, 2025 – Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Silapathar, came alive with creativity and intellect on August 9, 2025, as it hosted the Upper Assam Desalite Inter-School Literary and Cultural Competition 2025–26. Students from SFS Silapathar, SFS Dhemaji, Fransalian School Jonai, Christ King School Gogamukh, SFS Telam, and DBHSS Silapathar participated enthusiastically, accompanied by their principals, sisters, and teachers.



Welcoming the gathering, Fr. Augustine, Principal of DBHSS, set a warm tone for the event. The Chief Guest, Rev. Fr. Tomson Aerathedathu, MSFS, Provincial of Dibrugarh Province, inspired the participants with a thought-provoking message. He highlighted the historic contribution of the MSFS to the region's development and described the Desalite competition as a milestone that would continue to enrich Upper Assam's educational legacy.

The DBHSS auditorium resonated with energy through graceful group and solo dances, as well as harmonious group songs, while SFS Silapathar hosted intellectually stimulating events, including a quiz, extempore speeches, and drawing competitions. Beyond competition, the event celebrated the Desalite vision of holistic excellence, creativity, and unity.

DeSalite Inter-School Quiz & Debate

By Fr. Justin Thanikkal, MSFS

Bangalore, India, September 10, 2025 – The South-West India Province hosted the Desalite Inter-School Quiz and Debate Competition on September 10, 2025, bringing together 15 schools from Kerala and Karnataka for a vibrant celebration of knowledge and eloquence.

The competition was meticulously organised under the leadership of Fr. Benny Marangolil, Councillor in charge of Education, with the dedicated support of the Hebbagodi campus Fathers led by Fr. A. Johnson.

The event provided students with a dynamic platform to sharpen critical thinking, deepen general awareness, and engage meaningfully with the legacy and values of the Fransalian tradition. Through spirited debates and thought-provoking quiz rounds, participants displayed confidence, clarity, and intellectual curiosity.



Fransalian Nursery School Opens Doors in Buwooya

By Fr. Robert Raju, MSFS

Buwooya, Uganda, Africa – February 2025 marked a significant milestone for the village of Buwooya with the inauguration of the Fransalian Nursery School, bringing structured early childhood education to the local community for the first time. The new institution received an overwhelming response, enrolling 110 children in its baby classes – an encouraging sign of the community’s trust and a testament to the urgent need for quality foundational education.

The school aims to provide a nurturing and stimulating learning environment for young children, laying strong educational and value-based foundations at an early age. The initiative reflects the Fransalian commitment to holistic education and community development, especially in underserved areas.

The establishment of the nursery school was made possible through the dedicated efforts and leadership of Fr. Thomas Chozhithara, whose vision and perseverance transformed a long-cherished dream into reality. With the Fransalian Nursery School now in operation, Buwooya takes a hopeful step toward a future shaped by learning, opportunity, and growth for its youngest generation.



New Fransalian Associates Consecrated in Florida

By Margaret B. Pope



Jacksonville, Florida, USA, Sept 30 – Holy Spirit Catholic Church, Jacksonville, Florida, witnessed a joyful and grace-filled celebration on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, as seven new candidates were consecrated as Fransalian Associates after two years of formation. Deacon David Belanger, Chris and Larry Freeman, Laura Hall, Corrine Munn, and Judy and Bob Newman formally committed themselves to the Fransalian charism during a solemn Eucharistic celebration.

The Mass was presided over by Rev. Fr. Anthony Bonela, MSFS, Provincial Superior of the USA

Vice Province, and was offered both as a consecration ceremony and in observance of Founder’s Day, commemorating Servant of God Fr. Peter Marie Mermier. In his reflections, the Founder’s missionary spirit and enduring global legacy were recalled with gratitude.

Following the liturgy, the Holy Spirit Hospitality Committee hosted a festive Italian lunch, embodying the warmth, generosity, and hospitality that characterise the Fransalian family.

Faith in Action: FYM Summer Camp



By Fr. Joseph Chakkalackal, MSFS

Silapathar, Assam, India, July 27, 2025 – The FYM (Fransalian Youth Mission) Summer Camp 2025, held from July 25–27 at St. Paul’s Catholic Church, Bijoypur, under SFS Parish, Silapathar, Assam, brought together over 80 vibrant youth from parishes around for a joyful and grace-filled experience. Centred on the theme “Faith in Action – Building the Church through Youth,” the camp offered dynamic sessions on faith, leadership, friendship, and life balance, helping young participants connect belief with daily living.

The programme blended spiritual depth with youthful energy through the Holy Eucharist, Eucharistic Adoration, cultural performances, group discussions, and interactive activities. These moments created a nurturing space for prayer, reflection, and fellowship, strengthening bonds among participants.

The camp inspired the youth to grow in unity and confidence, renewing their commitment to serve the Church and society with faith-filled enthusiasm and a sense of shared mission.

Fransalians Renew Mission in Dallas Retreat

By Margaret B. Pope



Dallas, Texas, USA, August 28 – The Fransalian Annual Retreat in the USA was held from August 22 to 28, 2025, at the Montserrat Retreat Centre in Dallas, bringing together 76 confreres for a week of prayer, reflection, and renewal.

Led by Fr. Dr Tom Thomas, MSFS – renowned preacher and psychologist – the retreat invited participants to rediscover their Fransalian identity and deepen their relationship with God. Through reflections on the capital sins, cardinal virtues, and essentials of religious life, Fr. Tom

encouraged personal holiness, strong community life, and joyful missionary commitment.

The retreat included daily Eucharist, common meditations, the Liturgy of the Hours, Adoration, and a reconciliation service, all marked by active participation and fraternal spirit. Special prayers were offered for the Congregation and its leadership. The retreat concluded with renewed zeal, strengthened bonds, and heartfelt gratitude to the retreat preacher and Rev. Fr. Anthony Bonela, MSFS, Provincial Superior.

Young Voices Unite for Peace



By Fr. Joseph Kailamangalam, MSFS

Nagpur, Maharashtra, India, September 21, 2025 – Schools across the province marked the International Day of Peace on September 21 with student-centred initiatives organised by the SAIM Apostolate, promoting peace as a lived commitment rather than a distant ideal. The programme encouraged children to become voices of unity, transcending the boundaries of caste, creed, colour, or religion.

Five schools actively participated in essay writing and drawing competitions held in junior and senior categories. Around 80 entries were shortlisted from over 100 student participants and evaluated by teachers from three different schools in Aurangabad. Winners received cash prizes and certificates, while all participants were awarded certificates of participation.

More than a competition, the initiative sparked meaningful conversations on peace within classrooms, families, and school communities, demonstrating how schools can effectively nurture dialogue, understanding, and a culture of harmony among young minds.

Church Communicators Trained in AI Journalism



By Fr. Sabin Sebastian, MSFS

Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India, May 24 – A two-day workshop on AI-Powered News Reporting and Content Creation was held at MSFS Dhyanashram, Visakhapatnam, on May 23–24, 2025, gathering 25 priests and religious sisters from various congregations. Welcoming the participants, Fr. Sabin Sebastian, MSFS, Director of Dhyanashram, highlighted the growing relevance of artificial intelligence in pastoral ministry and Church communication.

The sessions were led by Fr. C. M. Paul, SDB, who introduced practical AI tools for news

writing, content creation, and digital outreach. Participants described the workshop as highly engaging and eye-opening. Each participant produced a human-interest story, several of which were later published on major online platforms.

Certificates were distributed by Fr. B. Suresh Babu, MSFS, Provincial Superior, who encouraged responsible and ethical use of AI while emphasising the need for critical verification.

FAST Empowers Educators: Teachers' Training Programme



By Dr Fr. Jose Chettany, MSFS

Dibrugarh, Assam, India, October 19, 2025 – The Fransalian Association for Social Transformation (FAST), in collaboration with the ASHA Foundation, Bangalore, organised a Teacher Training Workshop from October 11 to 13, 2025, at Don Bosco School, Silapathar, Assam. Approximately 120 teachers from Fransalian schools in Upper Assam and neighbouring institutions participated in the programme, marking a significant milestone in FAST's ongoing educational outreach.

The workshop aimed to equip educators with practical skills to support adolescents amid today's complex social and emotional challenges. Key themes included life skills, character formation, emotional well-being, effective communication, counselling, peer pressure, decision-making, and gender sensitivity, enabling teachers to guide students with greater confidence and empathy.

Fr. Sunny Panthanazhyvadakethil, MSFS, inaugurated the programme in the presence of Dr Fr. Jose Chettany, MSFS, Director of FAST; Fr. Augustine, MSFS, Principal of Don Bosco School; and Fr. Libin Augustine, MSFS, Associate Director of FAST. Expert resource persons from the ASHA Foundation facilitated engaging and interactive sessions. The three-day programme reaffirmed FAST's sustained commitment to empowering educators as key agents of holistic adolescent development and social transformation.

Young Voices, Sacred Notes at Ross Hill



By Fr. Kondala Joseph, MSFS

Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India, May 30 – As part of its Summer Camp initiative, the Ross Hill Community organised music classes for children from May 1 to 30, 2025, nurturing future musicians for liturgical service. Fr. Harish, MSFS, served as the music trainer, guiding children in instrumental basics and vocal training, with support from experienced musicians Kassireddy Chinna Rao and Mr Christy.

Held daily in a conducive, well-equipped environment with meals provided, the classes saw enthusiastic participation. The young trainees led the liturgy on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima on May 13 and concluded the course with a devotional concert on May 30 in the presence of Fr. B. Suresh Babu, MSFS, Provincial Superior. Parents appreciated the meaningful engagement and requested the programme's continuation.

A promotional graphic for the release of books in Assamese, Garo, and Mizo languages. The background is a solid light blue. On the left, there is a vertical stack of three book covers. The top cover is titled 'আধ্যাত্মিক জীবনের পূর্বদ্বার' (Spiritual Gateway) and features a portrait of St. Francis de Sales and a church. The middle cover is titled 'TUMU LANGU LANGUNA KU PUYUDHANG' and features a portrait of St. Francis de Sales. The bottom cover is titled 'INPUMPEKHA NUN HMAGHUIAI' and features a portrait of St. Francis de Sales. To the right of the book covers, the text reads: 'INTRODUCTION TO THE DVOUT LIFE BY ST. FRANCIS DE SALES TO THREE NORTHEASTERN LANGUAGES ASSAMESE GARO MIZO'. The word 'DVOUT' is in a larger, bold font. The text 'BOOKS RELEASE' is written in a stylized, blue, outlined font at the top left.

NEWLY ORDAINED



Fr. Nga Modo Engelbert

Chad-Cameroon



Fr. Adzaba Evang William Favier Henri



Fr. Valentin Nzesseu Chimi



Fr. Yibongha David

Pune



Fr. Joherman Anthony Fernandes

South East



Fr. Mathew Devoda



Silver Jubilee



Dibrugarh



Fr. Philip Mhonchumo



Fr. Roy Muthedathu



Fr. Simon Thaikho



Fr. Stephen Pou



Fr. Varghese Manickathan

Guwahati



Fr. Dio D. Jacob



Fr. George Poovathunkal



Fr. Kuriakose Kaippallil



Fr. Michael Jacob



Fr. Saji George



Fr. Varghese Chakalamuriyil





South East



Fr. A. Christu Raj



Fr. A. Edward Antony



Fr. B. Francis Xavier



Fr. D. Kanikkai Nathan



Fr. N. Arockia Selvam



Fr. P. S. Joseph



Fr. S. Alphonse



Fr. S. Antony



Fr. S. Arul Selvamani



Fr. S. Joseph

Pune



Fr. Lourduswamy A



GOLDEN JUBILEE



Fr. George Kunnel

Dibrugarh



Fr. John Edacherryapuvath

Guwahati



Fr. Sebastian Paredom



South West



Fr. Mathew Kozhuppakalam

Pune



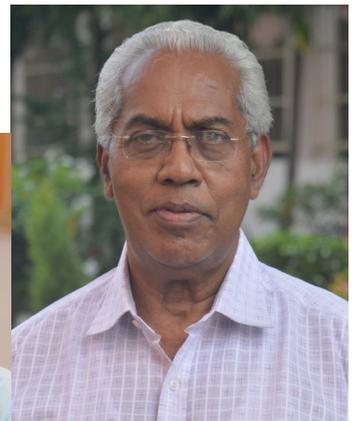
Fr. Joseph Malayil



Fr. Mathew Kavithazha



Fr. Thomas Kuttiankal



Fr. Emmanuel Vattamattam

Nagpur

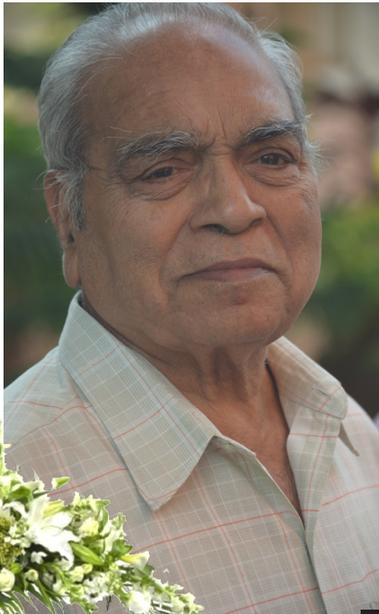
OBITUARY



Fr. Jacob Puthiyidathuchalil



Fr. John Vadakkampambal



Fr. Pius Gonsalves



Bro. Joseph Pindipuzha





Superior General with Pope Leo on November 26, 2025



Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, Superior General, at the tomb of Fr. Alwyn Zothansanga, in Eswatini, Swaziland, on November 18, 2025

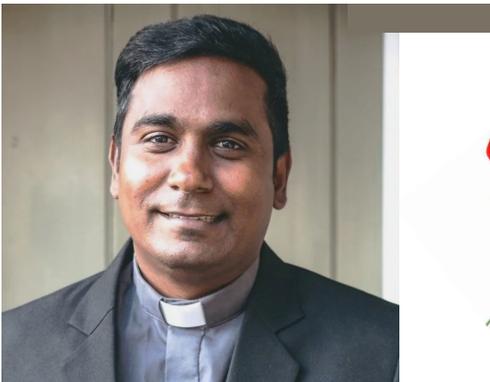
CONGRATULATIONS...



Fr. Henry Nedumkallel (Regional Superior, Mozambique)



Fr. George Thomas Poovathunkal (Provincial, Guwahati Province)



Fr. Thomas Kulandaisamy (Provincial of the English Province)



Fr. Samuel Devaraj Thomas (Provincial, France-Swiss) 35



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