



Congregazione dei Missionari di San Francesco di Sales

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Divine Mercy Sunday

Circular from the Superior General

To all the Members of the Congregation

My beloved confreres,

Warm Greetings of this Holy Season from the Pearl of Africa, and the Land of the Martyrs: **Uganda!** I am here for the canonical visitation to the East Africa Province.

1. Divine Mercy Sunday

On the occasion of Divine Mercy Sunday, we are invited to reflect deeply on what truly matters to God. God does not look first to our external achievements or failures, but to the depth of our hearts. He sees our intentions more than our perfection, our humility more than our accomplishments, and our repentance more than our sins. Even in our weakness and fragility, what touches the heart of God is our sincere turning back to Him with trust and openness.

In this light, we are reminded that God's mercy transcends every human measure of law. While the law has its place in guiding and shaping our lives, it is mercy that restores, heals, and renews. Divine Mercy does not abolish justice but fulfills and transcends it. God's desire is never to condemn but always to save. In Jesus, we see clearly that forgiveness precedes judgement and that love reaches out before correction. Mercy, therefore, is the highest expression of God's justice.

As missionaries, this truth must shape both our inner life and our pastoral ministry. We are not called to be mere guardians of rules, but living witnesses of God's compassion and tenderness. Our mission is to embody a listening heart, a forgiving spirit, and a welcoming presence, especially towards those who are wounded, lost, or burdened. In our communities too, mercy must become a concrete way of life, expressed through patience, understanding, and mutual forgiveness.

This occasion challenges each one of us to move beyond rigidity and legalism, and to embrace a spirit of compassion and love. We are called to see others not with judgment, but with understanding; not with strictness, but with mercy. In doing so, we become credible signs of God's presence in the world.

Mercy, however, should never be misunderstood as a license to live without discipline or responsibility. There are times when, within the structures and systems we belong to, authorities must uphold and follow the frameworks of law for the sake of order and justice. This should not be taken for granted or dismissed. It is important to recognise that there is a clear difference between condemning someone and correcting, or imposing corrective, punitive, and transformational measures on someone. While condemnation seeks to tear down, true correction is guided by care, aiming to uplift, guide, and restore.

Ultimately, in the eyes of God, mercy is not an exception to the law; it is its fulfillment. God does not measure us by the weight of our faults, but by the openness of our hearts to receive His mercy. As we celebrate this Divine Mercy Sunday, let us renew our trust in the Lord and commit ourselves to becoming true instruments of His mercy in our mission and in our daily lives. Let this be our constant prayer: Jesus, I trust in You.

2. Fransalian International – New Chief Editor

- **Fr. Vintu Augustine MSFS** headed the editorial team for the Fransalain International from 2019 to 2025. Under his leadership, FI came out with a new life and look, to the appreciation of all. We express our sincere appreciation for the wholehearted dedication and love with which he carried out his responsibilities.
- **Fr. Jomon Mathew MSFS** was identified as the new Chief Editor of the Fransalian International. We wish him all the blessings of God.
- **Fr. Thumma Mariadas MSFS**, the General Secretary for Mission, will serve as the liaison between the Editorial team and the General Administration.

3. Year of the Founder

As we continue our journey in the footsteps of our Founder, Servant of God Father Peter Mary Mermier, I am pleased to bring to your attention an important initiative that will engage our entire Congregation in the coming years. After prayerful reflection and consultations, we have come up with the decision to observe a **Year of the Founder** from **September 1, 2027 to October 24, 2028**, a period dedicated to deepening our understanding of the life, spirituality, and missionary vision that animate our MSFS identity.

In a spirit of fraternal collaboration, we will be celebrating the year of the Founder together with the **Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod**, with whom we share the precious heritage of Father Mermier. These common efforts are also an important factor as we advance towards the Cause of the Founder.

It is very important that as we are progressing with the **juridical dimensions of the Cause of the Founder**, we also give earnest attention to the **spiritual and missionary dimensions** of his legacy. We must promote the Cause within the parameters permitted by the Church, ensuring that our efforts remain faithful, prudent, and aligned with ecclesial guidance. At the same time, we are called to renew our commitment to making his spirituality known, appreciated, and lived more deeply.

The official Declaration for the year of the Founder will be issued in January 2027. More detailed guidelines and resources will be shared as planning progresses, along with opportunities for joint initiatives with the Holy Cross Sisters. This is the initial

communication in this regard. Meanwhile, everyone is welcome to share their thoughts, critiques, or ideas.

We are also in the process of appointing Promoters for the Cause anew from each Province and each administrative unit within the province.

4. **MSFS 190 YEARS: *MSFS@CXC***

Preparing for a 190-year Jubilee of our Congregation is not just about marking time—it is about renewing identity, deepening conviction, and rekindling missionary fire. As our Congregation approaches this grace-filled moment, especially in the context of the Year of the Founder, the focus naturally must turn from celebration to conversion.

This jubilee celebration can be considered as a “threshold jubilee” — preparing the Congregation for its 200-year celebration.

5. **Programmes of General Curia 2026**

Visit of General Curia members to Mission Units

June 08-20, 2026: General Secretary for MISSION to Zambia Mission

June 08-17, 2026: General Secretary for EDUCATION to Mozambique Region

June 08-21, 2026: General Secretary for FORMATION to East Africa Province (Formation Houses)

June 09-20, 2026: Assistant Superior General to Malawi Mission

June 22-July 05, 2026: General Secretary for FORMATION to Chad and Cameroon Delegation

Forthcoming General Curia Meeting

June 01-07, 2026

GC Meeting at LCI, Arusha

November 9-15, 2026

GC Meeting in Hyderabad

USG: Union of Superiors General Meeting

May 27-29, 2026: Union of Superiors General Assembly, Rome

November 25-27, 2026: USG-UISG Assembly, Rome

6. **Other Major Events**

- **De Sales and Mermier Heritage Retreat (DSMHR)** and Animation Programme is scheduled from 25 May to 15 June 2026. The programme will begin in Annecy from 25 May to 9 June and will conclude with a pilgrimage to Rome from 10 June to 14 June 2026.
- **Salesian Program Annecy (SPA) 2026** is from 1 September 2026 to 6 October 2026. The retreat and animation programme will take place in Annecy from 1-30 September, and the pilgrimage in Rome from 1-5 October 2026.
- **Mermerian Parish Mission Preaching (MPMP)** National Gathering & Prayer Days at Rose Hill, Visakhapatnam, October 5-9, 2026 (also open to all Provinces outside India).

7. **Canonical Visitation to Nagpur Province**

From January 2, 2026, to February 12, 2026, over a period of 43 days, accompanied by the Provincial Superior of Nagpur Province, we undertook an intensive visitation program covering 29 Local Communities of the Nagpur Province, spread across eight

states in India, from South to North. It was a demanding mission that involved extensive travel, numerous personal and community interactions, and careful attention to the life and ministry of our confreres.

In addition to meeting personally with 111 out of 116 confreres in India and visiting 29 Local Communities (and some centres), I had the opportunity to spend meaningful time with the formees in two minor seminaries and in the novitiate. This was a grace-filled experience, allowing for deeper insight into the formative journey of our young confreres.

The visitation focused on evaluating the life and apostolic activities of each Local Community of the Province in India. This was carried out through personal meetings with the confreres, community meetings in the presence of the Provincial, moments of Eucharistic adoration, and, in some communities, Eucharistic celebrations with the confreres, religious collaborators and the faithful.

I could also meet a few Local Ordinaries, collaborators, and representatives of the lay faithful who were genuinely appreciating the life and ministry of our confreres. A detailed report was submitted to the Provincial Administration and the entire Province, based on the observations, sharing experiences from the visitation.

A joint on-site meeting of the General Curia and the Provincial Curia of Nagpur Province was held at Nagpur Provincial House on February 10 and 11, 2026.

I extend my warm and heartfelt thanks to Fr. Manoj Tirkey MSFS, the Provincial Superior, the Curia, and all the members and collaborators of the Nagpur Province for making the canonical visitation a gracious one.

8. New Guidelines for the Official Provincial Circulars and Newsletters

You may have noticed that most Provincial Circulars are now published in black and white, in a different format and style from before. There was a need to differentiate between the Official Provincial Circulars and the Provincial News Letters. Circulars are juridical in nature and carry the sanctity and dignity attached to the office of a Major Superior. Not everything that is happening in and around the province needs to be announced through a Provincial Circular. Certain matters find their appropriate place in the News Letters rather than in the official circular from a Major Superior. Already, the Provincial Superiors and the secretaries have been given instructions and guidelines regarding the nature and style of publishing the circular from a Major Superior.

9. MSFS – E-Voting System

The MSFS E-Voting System, developed by De Sales Technologies, has been in use since the XX General Chapter. The E-Voting Programme is christened **Choix** (/ʃwa/ "shwah"), a French word meaning *choice, discernment, preference*, etc. Soon you will receive an official communication from the administration regarding the formalities to be followed when using this programme.

10. New Provincial Administrations

English Province

Fr. Thomas Kulandaisamy (Provincial Superior)

Fr. Kasireddy Vijayasatya Prasad (Provincial Councillor and Admonitor)

Fr. Maria Selvan Alexander (Provincial Councillor)

Fr. Benjamin Sundar (Provincial Bursar)

Guwahati Province

Fr. George Thomas Poovathunkal (Provincial Superior)

Fr. Athnas Kerketta (Provincial Councillor for Formation & Admonitor)

Fr. George Pekkadankuzhiyil (Provincial Councillor for Mission & Permanent Delegate of the Provincial)

Fr. Joe Varghese Nellissery Chethalan (Provincial Councillor for Education)

Fr. War Riawed Marcellinus (Provincial Councillor for Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries)

Fr. Lijeesh Kaduthanathu (Provincial Bursar)

On behalf of the entire congregation, I would like to express our sincere Congratulations and appreciation for the new teams, and we wish them all the best.

11. *Procuratore Generale* to the Holy See

The office of the *Procuratore Generale* in Rome is handling all temporal affairs of the congregation in relation to the Italian Government and the State of the Vatican. From January 13, 2026, the Vatican has accepted the designation of Fr. Saji George MSFS, the Assistant Superior General, as the *Procuratore Generale* of our congregation. Henceforth, he will be the authorised person to prepare the letter of invitation for visa processing for the confreres who come for visits, studies, etc. In case any such needs arise, please contact Fr. Saji George MSFS with the explicit permission from the respective Major Superior.

12. Ownership of Personal Motor Vehicles

It has been a concern in some parts of our congregation, where some confreres own cars personally, contrary to the spirit of the Constitutions. This matter has been raised repeatedly over the last three General Chapters and treated as a serious concern, yet it has not received concrete follow-up at the practical level.

In the spirit of the Chapter deliberations, and in fidelity to the vow of poverty that each of us has professed, it is important that we reflect once again on this issue with clarity and responsibility. Our vow calls us to a common witness of evangelical simplicity, transparency, and detachment.

In my recent communications to the Provincial Superiors, I have asked them to follow up on this matter and ensure the reports are sent. I request that every confrere concerned cooperate in this matter and abide by the spirit of our consecrated life as defined in our rules. This is not intended to make your life difficult. **Our aim is that all of us may live our consecrated life with authenticity, coherence, justice and truthfulness.**

13. Messages for the Magazines/events etc

It is customary to request messages from the authorities in the congregation on occasions such as jubilees, annual magazines, and special events. Please note that it is not necessary that on all occasions the messages should come from the Superior General. You are also welcome to request messages from the Assistant Superior General and/or from the Members of the General Curia, depending on the apostolate. When requesting any message from the General Curia, please follow the protocol already provided. For more information, please contact the Secretary to the Superior General

14. Please note the official email IDs of the General Curia since March 2025

Despite the reminders, some communications are still being sent to the old email addresses. Please note that, from now on, the former email addresses will no longer be in use, unless necessary by circumstances.

superiorgeneral@msfs.org	(Superior General)
assistantsuperiorgeneral@msfs.org	(Assistant Superior General)
generalsecretarymission@msfs.org	(General Secretary for the Mission)
generalsecretaryeducation@msfs.org	(General Secretary for Education)
generalsecretarysaim@msfs.org	(General Secretary for SAIM)
generalsecretaryformation@msfs.org	(General Secretary for Formation)
generalbursar@msfs.org	(General Bursar)
procuragenerale@msfs.org	(Procurator to the Holy See)
secretaryrome@msfs.org	(Secretary to the Superior General)
mdoglobal@msfs.org	(MDO Office in Rome)

15. Conclusion

As I bring this Circular to a close, I invite each one of you to renew, with one heart and one spirit, our commitment to our Congregation and to the mission entrusted to us. Rooted in the inexhaustible mercy of God, may we strive each day to become authentic witnesses of compassion, reconciliation, and hope. Let Divine Mercy not remain merely a devotion we celebrate, but a living reality that shapes our attitudes, our relationships, and our pastoral service. In fidelity to our charism, may we walk together with humility and courage, supporting one another in our weaknesses and encouraging one another towards holiness. Entrusting ourselves to the merciful Heart of Jesus, let us go forward with renewed zeal, confident that the Lord who has called us will continue to guide and sustain us. Jesus, I trust in You.

Yours Fraternally in Christ



Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS,

Lugazi, Uganda, April 12, 2026

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. Luke 6:36