

Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) South - East India Province

April

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Email: provincialsoutheastmsfs@gmail.com
provincialesecretarysoutheast@gmail.com
Phone: +91 94897 03006

Postal Address

Msfs Provincialate
Kunnathur Post
Pudukkottai (DT) - 621 316
Tamilnadu, S. India
Ph: 0431 – 2680521, 2680522

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Courier Address

Msfs Provincialate
Nagamangalam Post
Trichirapalli (DT) - 620 012
Tamilnadu, S. India
Ph: 0431 – 2680521, 2680522

Salesian Thought

"When God's will is shown clearly to us through divine ordinances and commandments, there is nothing further to deliberate on for we must simply do what has been ordained."

Straight from the heart of Fr. Peter Marie Mermier

"I hope that it will be so for the greater glory of God, for reparation of my past and improvement in the future, if it pleasing to Jesus, Mary and St. Francis de Sales".
34 [Personal notes, 18-08-1859]



HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!!!

“They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him” (Jn 20:2). This statement of Mary Magdalene to Simon Peter and the beloved disciple is expressive of her fear that someone has stolen the body of Jesus. She repeats the same statement to the angels in v.13. Between these two verses, we realize that the beloved disciples believed in the resurrection of the Lord. Yet, fear, now turned into frustration, continues to prevail over Mary Magdalene. Once again, she expresses her fear, now turned into suspicion and complaints to the Lord himself (v.15). There is a gradual increase in her fear: from “we do not know” to “I do not know” to “Tell me where you have laid him.” Our fear in desperation can lead to frustration and suspicion. Now comes the decisive moment: Jesus calls her by name (v.16). And now she knows that it is the Lord. She could probably remember that Jesus, the Good Shepherd would call his sheep by name (Jn 10:3). The voice of Jesus could heal her of her fear, anxiety and suspicion, grants her new life and makes her a bold missionary. The story of Magdalene in the post-resurrection narrative is a journey from fear to healing. In addition to the Easter joy, Jesus enables us to have this experience. The resurrected Lord, the Good Shepherd, calls us by our name. Seeking him and listening to his voice in the interiority of the heart and in the community can be moments of healing for us and the world. May we experience transforming moments through the Risen Lord.

Happy Easter!

Intention of the General for the Month of April

That many more committed young men join the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales following the exemplary and joyful life witnesses of Fransalians, we pray.

THE 6TH PROVINCIAL CONGRESS 2023

As already published in the circular APJ/01 the 6th Ordinary Provincial Congress of our South-East India Province as per the Constitutions and the General Directory, will be held from 17th April – 20th April 2023, with the theme “Living Fully the Fransalian Way: A Call for Renewal, Unity and Synodality” in Poondi Matha Retreat Centre at Poondi. The confreres are expected to arrive at the place before breakfast on 17th April.

Visitation of Fr. Superior General

Our Superior General will make his visitation to our Province from October 10 through November 01, 2023. It is an important occasion in the life of our Province, as it would be a time of spiritual enrichment, promoting Fransalian fraternity. Fr. Superior General wishes to spend more time with the confreres. May I request you to avoid organizing time consuming programs during his visitation, as he may have to visit two places on a single day. The particular details of his visitation will be announced soon.

Annual Day, SFS School, Virudhunagar



SFS School, Virudhunagar celebrated its Annual day on 03rd February, 2023 with pomp and grandeur. The Chief Guest Rev. Fr. A. Patrick Jayaraj, the Provincial of South-East India Province and the Guest of Honour, the Chief Educational Officer of Virudhunagar Mrs. Gnana Gowri, were welcomed with drums and Aarathi and the program started with a prayer song.

Through its first colour green, our kids from

LKG showed our responsibility towards nature. The second colour Blue, presented by the UKG kids promoted plastic awareness. The yellow colour, presented by I and II class stars brought out various aspects of the Sun. Red, the fourth colour presented by III and IV class stars showed how the nature can be destructive and how it can be prevented. The story telling stars provoked us with social awareness and encouraged us to avoid over-usage of mobile phones. Next, the Indigo colour, which denotes



all the five elements of nature and its importance was presented by V and VI class stars. Nature got stunned by the dance performance of VII and VIII stars. All the colours of rainbow made the audience spell bound, while the stars through their colourful fashion show attracted everyone. The actors of Tamil drama insisted upon the values like responsibility and honesty. The act of Macbeth in English was a treat to the eyes of the audience. Finally, our SFS stars of VII, VIII & IX rocked the stage with different cultural dances which hailed our Tamil culture and language. The entire programme was wonderfully coordinated by the School Management and the Staff.

- Fr. C Martin Kumar

Annual Day, SFS School, Vaniyambadi

The SFS school family at Vaniyambadi was very much delighted to celebrate its GRAND ANNUAL DAY “HISTO VISTA”, a flow of musical feelings and glow of gorgeous recital at SFS Matriculation Higher Secondary School, Vaniyambadi, on 17th February 2023 in the presence of so many dignitaries, well-wishers, religious, parents and students. The chief guest of the day, Rev. Fr. A. Patrick Jayaraj, the Provincial of South-East India Province added colour to the day and his thought-provoking message inspired the young minds.



The day was also adorned with the presence of Mr. V. Ravichandran, the District Judge, Labour Court, Vellore and Mr. P. Veda Prakash, the District Educational Officer (DEO), Tirupattur. Their esteemed presence as guests of honour on the august occasion spread fragrance of knowledge to the students. Their visions and speeches revealed their concern for the reformation of the society in the field of social justice and education. All the programmes and events



were organized in line with the theme HISTO VISTA which invited all to revisit the history of Tamil Nadu and uphold our past rich heritage. And SFS family's joy was doubled by the silver jubilee celebration of priestly ordination of our beloved fathers J. B. John Thadews and X. Vincent. The SFS family along with the dignitaries and invited guests honoured them for their 25 years of faithful service in the vineyard of God.



A good number of MSFS fathers, religious fathers and sisters, parents and well-wishers participated in this Grand Annual Day and added colour to the occasion. The highlight of the day was the releasing of the life history of St. Francis de Sales in a digital form and the school magazine. As a whole, it was a spectacular show of revisiting our Tamil culture and our rich heritage which was directed by Rev. Fr. J. B. John Thadews, the principal and ably supported by Rev. Fr. X. Vincent, the procurator and Rev Fr. Santhanam, the correspondent.

- Fr. S. Santhanam

Celabration of the Year of SFS and Award Ceremony, SFS School, Alangayam



SFS Matric Hr. Sec. School, Alangayam was very happy to organize a cultural programme in honour of the year of SFS on 17th February 2023, during which prizes were distributed to the students. The aim of the event was to inculcate zeal in the students, impart the values of St. Francis de Sales and educate them to spread the fragrance of S.F.S. wherever they are. As many as 1100 students, 53 teaching and



non-teaching staff and the management participated in the event. The programme started off with the musical march-past led by the school captains at the entrance of the school followed by a prayer song rendered by the school choir. The principal accorded a special welcome to Fr. A. Patrick Jayaraj, the new Provincial of South-East India



Province on his maiden visit to the school.

Then the much-awaited events such as Speech on SFS, Quotes of SFS, Songs and Dances were performed by the students. The Provincial, the Chief Guest of the day delivered a valuable message highlighting the theme “Aim high for achieving a goal and chase after it every day”. In his speech, the provincial praised the endeavours of the school. Then the most awaited distribution of awards and certificates began. The prizes for the winners of the above-mentioned competitions and Awards for Academic Excellence were given away by the Chief Guest. The vote of thanks was proposed by D. Blessy Priyanka from IX standard. The programme ended with a song to SFS rendered by the staff choir.

- Fr. D. Amirtha Rajan

400th Death Anniversary of SFS, Ruby Jubilee of the Seminary and Blessing of the Renovated Chapel, Pudukkottai



The triple program was held on 21st January, 2023. The occasion was graced by the Diocesan Administrator of Tanjore Msgr. L. Sahaya Raj and Rev. Dr. Devadass Ambrose, the Bishop Emeritus of Tanjore Diocese and Rev. Fr. A Patrick Jayaraj, our Provincial. The Provincial blessed the new gate and the main entrance elevation and Fr. Jose Puthiyaparambil



cut the ribbon. Msgr. L. Sahaya Raj blessed the portico elevation and the grotto of St. Francis de Sales. At the start of the Mass, Fr. Joseph Henry proposed the welcome



speech. The altar and pulpit and the tabernacle were blessed by the Bishop; the homily was preached by the Diocesan Administrator. The vote of thanks was proposed by Fr C. John Britto, the Rector. The choir comprising, brothers and Frs. Selvamani, Nayaga seelan and Jayakumar had rendered their beautiful voice to make it more solemn.

After the Mass, there was a short felicitation program in which the Souvenir, edited by Fr. Jerry Louis, marking the Ruby Jubilee was released. The Bishop, the Diocesan Administrator, our Provincial and the First Rector in their messages appreciated the works of the MSFS and the contribution of the Seminary to the Church. The dinner was arranged under the efficient leadership of Fr. Antony Christopher, the procurator. The regent, Bro. Augustus and the brothers were supportive in every way to make the day a grand success.

Rededication of St. Rose of Lima Church, Hastings, Michigan

On March 19, 2023, Most Reverend Bishop Paul J. Bradley of Kalamazoo, Michigan, rededicated the newly restored St. Rose of Lima Church in Hastings, Michigan. Bishop Bradley was assisted by the pastor of St. Rose of Lima Parish, Rev. Fr. Stephan Philip, MSFS. The ceremony was attended by approximately 400 people, including seven diocesan priests.

The celebration capped off some twenty months of work, restoring and renovating the church after a devastating fire on July 13, 2021. The church suffered significant damage from the fire, as well as the heat, soot, and water damage resulting from the fire and the efforts to put the fire out. Fr. Stephan supervised the work of many craftsmen, including carpenters, plasterers, electricians, and painters, as well as artists who restored the beautiful artwork in the ceilings and walls of the church. A new marble-topped altar, ambo, and shrines to the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph were added to the church. Hundred-year-old Stations of the Cross were artistically restored to look brand new. It was indeed a day of great joy to the family of St. Rose of Lima - Parish to come back to their home – the House of God.

Diaconate Ordination at Tejas



It was a day of profound joy and blessing for the Tejas family and the MSFS congregation, as seven of our brothers, belonging to three different provinces of whom Dn. R. Renold Regan of South-East India Province were ordained deacons with the theme “Totum Amoris Est” (Everything Pertains to Love) on 4th February 2023. Most. Rev. Henry D’Souza, the Bishop of Bellary, presided over the Holy Eucharistic Celebration and enlightened the deacons about the need to serve the people around them and be

filled with the Holy Spirit like the well-reputed deacons of early Church. We were blessed with the presence of many of our confreres especially Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil, the Provincial of South-West India Province, Fr. P. S. Joseph, the Councillor In-charge of Formation of South-East India Province and Fr. D. Jayakumar of South-East India Province and priests and sisters from various religious communities from far and near. Parents and relatives too came to witness this great occasion and that doubled our joy. The celebrations were capped off with the felicitation ceremony followed by a fellowship meal. The day became a memorable one under the guidance of Fr. Binu Edathumparambil, the Rector along with the staffs. We express our special gratitude to Provincials, formators and all who prepared us to serve at the Altar of the Almighty God.

- Dn. R. Renold Regan

Diaconate Ordination at Eluru



On 18th March, 2023 SFS Study house had a great joy of witnessing the Diaconate Ordination of 7 brothers of whom 6 are for Visakhapatnam Province and Dn. A. Renold Anand is for South-East India Province. This occasion was made very solemn by the gracious presence of Most. Rev. Rayarala Vijay Kumar PIME, Bishop of Srikakulam who conferred the Order of Diaconate upon our brothers, Rev. Fr. Baviri Suresh Babu MSFS, the Provincial of Visakhapatnam Province, Provincial curia, Rev. Fr. P.S. Joseph MSFS, the Councillor In-charge of For-

mation of South-East India Province, other MSFS fathers and other priests and religious from in and around Janampeta. As we thank the almighty God for making this great occasion a resounding success, I would like to express the deep sentiments of gratitude, on behalf of the newly ordained deacons, to all who played vital roles in our lives to reach up to this graceful event. At this juncture, we thank very specially Fr. Velangani, our Rector, Fr. George and Fr. Murali and for their support, vision, guidance and commitment. This occasion also marked the release of the House Journal titled, Visakha Jyothi. The articles are written on the topic “Synodality in Context: Scriptural, Salesian and Canonical”.

- Dn. A. Renold Anand

Congratulations

Hearty Congratulations to Rev. Fr. S. Antony Raj (Jr), who successfully completed M.Th in Biblical Theology at JD, Pune. He defended his thesis, “Paul, a Model for Christian Leaders – an Exegetical and Rhetorical Analysis of Phil 3:12-4:1” successfully on 21st March 2023. We congratulate him wholeheartedly.

Appointments

1. Fr. D. Sheen Prisal Singh - In charge of Vocation Camp, 2023
2. Dn. R. Regan Ronald - Mariapuram

Separation from the Congregation

It is declared that Fr. Arulappan Jeganathan of our province ceases to be a member of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and so of our South-East India Province.

Important Days

- 24th to 25th June -Animation for Procurators. Resource Person: Rev. Fr. Williams MSFS
28th to 29th June - Animation & Meeting of Superiors’ Forum. Resource Person: Rev. Dr. Athnas Kerketta MSFS
24th to 29th Sep -At Life Centre, Dindigul to be preached by Rev. Dr. Tom Pannalakun nel MSFS, for the confreres ordained in & after 2009

26th to 27th Sept	-Regional Mission Forum, Pune
27th to 28th Sep	- Regional Education Forum with General Secretary at Provincialate, Trichy
03rd to 04th Oct	- Regional Stewardship Forum with General Bursar at Provincialate, Trichy
23rd to 26th Oct	- National PMP annual gathering at MSFS Provincialate, Nagpur
30th Sep to 01st Oct	- Regional Formation Forum with General Secretary in Vizag
02nd to 03rd Oct	- Regional Social Apostolate Forum with General Secretary in Nagpur
10th Oct to 01st Nov	- Visitation of Rev. Fr. Superior General to South-East India Province
14th to 19th Jan 2024	- At Cluny Prashanth Vanam, Pondicherry to be preached by Fr. Suresh OFM for the confreres ordained in & before 2008

My Tentative Program

17th to 20th April	- Provincial Congress, Poondi
26th April	- Annual Day, SFS CBSE School, Trichy
28th April	- Ordination of Dn. Anto Prabin, Nagacode.
25th to 27th April	- Council Meeting
06th May	- Feast of Puthugai Pudumai Matha, Thirugokarnam
07th May	- Silver Jubilee of SFS Seminary, Salem
08th May	- Feast of Infant Jesus Church, Kolli Hills
23rd May	- Blessing of a new church, Anbil Nagar, Othaiyal
24th May	- Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Vaniyambadi
25th May	- Blessing of Grotto, Pochampally
29th May	- First Profession, Holy Cross, Trichy

Month of April

Birthdays

03 - Fr. M. Sahaya Raj	24 - Fr. F. Justin
14 - Fr. S. Jerry Louis	27 - Fr. S. Johnson
18 - Fr. D. Robert	28 - Fr. D. Johnson Sagayaraj
20 - Fr. A. Jayaseela Rajan	28 - Fr. V. Vedha Raj
20 - Fr. K. Joseph Xavier	29 - Fr. S. Desas
23 - Fr. S. Alphonse	29 - Fr. M. John De Britto

Ordination

- 06 - Fr. S. Arockia Charles
07 - Fr. A. Jeyaraj
07 - Fr. S. Johnson
07 - Fr. F. Justin
08 - Fr. S. Sahaya Wilson
09 - Fr. S. Vanathaiyan
10 - Fr. C. Berin
11 - Fr. S. Clement Prem Kumar
13 - Fr. M. Maria Francis Britto
14 - Fr. P. Maria Pushpam
14 - Fr. S. Amirthanathan
14 - Fr. J. Stephen
14 - Fr. S. Soosai Raj
14 - Fr. S. Simon Raja
14 - Fr. B. Philomin Raj
16 - Fr. D. Antony Sagaya Tharcus
16 - Fr. A. Innaci Muthu
16 - Fr. D. Johnson Sahayaraj
16 - Fr. J. Savarimuthu
16 - Fr. S. Antony Raj (Sr)
16 - Fr. V. Yesuraja
17 - Fr. L. Arul Sundaram
18 - Fr. S. Antony (Jr)
18 - Fr. A. Edward
19 - Fr. A. Santhiyagu
19 - Fr. A. Michael
19 - Fr. B. Francis Xavier
19 - Fr. A. Arul Francis
19 - Fr. S. Britto
19 - Fr. H. Ebin Christopher
19 - Fr. A. Maria Selvan
19 - Fr. M. Michael Selvans
19 - Fr. K. Domnic Savio
19 - Fr. D. Nelson Arockiasamy
20 - Fr. S. Joseph
20 - Fr. P. Anantha Raj
20 - Fr. L. Jayaraj
21 - Fr. F. Eugene Earnest Raj
22 - Fr. G. Viswasam
22 - Fr. M. Nicholas
22 - Fr. V. Berdinand Sahaya Selvan
22 - Fr. G. Arockia Samy
22 - Fr. S. Antony Rajesh
23 - Fr. M. Victor
23 - Fr. I. S. Jesuraj
23 - Fr. A. William
23 - Fr. A. Mothcha Richard
24 - Fr. J. Stephen Dass
25 - Fr. C. Martin Kumar
25 - Fr. S. Joseph Henry
25 - Fr. D. Arockiaraj
25 - Fr. A. Vincent Sahaya Raj
25 - Fr. F. Daniel Raj
25 - Fr. R. Anbu Stalin
26 - Fr. D. Robert
26 - Fr. M. Sahaya Raj
26 - Fr. S. Deivasakayaraj
26 - Fr. A. Yesuraj
27 - Fr. C. Rajasekar
27 - Fr. G. David
27 - Fr. L. John Peter
27 - Fr. C. Britto Clinton
28 - Fr. S. Antony (Sr)
28 - Fr. A. Arockiasamy
28 - Fr. A. Arockiam
28 - Fr. R. Mathias
28 - Fr. S. Edward Xavier
28 - Fr. AJR. Benedict
28 - Fr. S. Eldin Bernard
28 - Fr. S. John Milton
28 - Fr. K. Joseph Xavier
28 - Fr. M. Rajkumar
28 - Fr. A. Selvaraj
28 - Fr. V. Vedha Raj
28 - Fr. K. Martin Anand
28 - Fr. A. Jerome

29 - Fr. A. John Peter (Jr)
29 - Fr. S. David Vincent
29 - Fr. A. Edmand
29 - Fr. A. Nayaga Seelan
30 - Fr. C. John Britto

30 - Fr. I. Jone Gragori
30 - Fr. A. Maria John Franklin
30 - Fr. K. Nirmal Kumar
30 - Fr. A. Infant Jesus
30 - Fr. A. Michael Raja (Jr)

Obituary

01 Bro. Pierre CARTON,
01 Fr. Francois TORNIER,
02 Fr. Alphonse BERTHET,
02 Fr. Leon FOL,
02 Fr. Kuriakose VADACHERRY-
KUNNEL,
03 Fr. Joseph BUTTAY,
03 Fr. Cyrille AILLOUD,
03 Fr. THALACHIRAKUZHIYIL. P.
Joseph,
04 Fr. Gerson ROWLAND,
05 Fr. Marin PISSARD,
05 Fr. Hyppolite MOENNE LOCCOZ,
05 Fr. Joseph BAKER,
05 Fr. Xavier SOMA-REDDY,
07 Bro. George KUZHUPIL,
07 Fr. Jean REY
07 Fr. Paul THAYIL,
07 Fr. Ivo CARNEIRO,
07 Bro. Joseph VELLAMATTAM,
08 Fr. Leon FILLON,
08 Fr. Paul LORENZ,
09 Fr. Pierre BOZON-BONTEMPS,
09 Fr. Marius MONTVUAGNARD,
09 Vizag Bro. Jacob VATTACHIRA,
10 Fr. Louis BONNEVIE,
10 Fr. Pierre GROROD
11 Fr. Claude MONTAGNOUX,
11 Bro. Konrad HARTBERGER
12 Fr. Philippe RICHARD-CUGNET,
15 Fr. Michel FOREL,

15 Fr. Gaston PONCELLE,
16 Mgr. Francois PHILIPPE,
16 Fr. Jeremie SERVAGE,
17 Fr. Hyppolite DIACQUENOD,
18 Fr. Claude PETITJEAN,
18 Fr. Henri BRELAT,
18 Fr. Raymond BOSSON
18 Fr Abraham CHIRAYIL.
19 Bro. Joseph ITEN,
21 Fr. Mathew KUDAKACHERRY
21 Fr. Francis Xavier FONSECA,
23 Fr. Jean PRUNIER,
23 Fr. Alexander DALEY
24 Fr. Jean Marie DESCOMBES,
25 Bro. Jean DURET,
25 Fr. Celestin ANTHONIOZ,
25 Fr. Joseph ANTHONIOZ,
25 Fr. Assisi VAZ,
25 Fr. S. Arockiasamy,
26 Fr. Peter Joachim MENDES,
26 Fr. Britto Francis JOSEPH,
27 Fr. Joseph Marie CHEMINAL,
27 Fr. Joseph MESSELOD,
28 Fr. Joan Marie RASSAT,
28 Fr. Jean MEYNET,
29 Fr. Joseph CHAUMONTET
29 Bro. Jules MELQUIOT
29 Fr Joseph Karuppannan,
30 Bro. Philip PETERS,
30 Bro. Joseph CARVALHO

Let us Pray for the Departed

1. Fr. Bernard Caszo, aged 90, of Visakhapatnam Province passed on 11th March, 2023
2. Fr. Aloysius Kuzhippally aged 57, of South-West Province passed on 24th April, 2023
3. Fr. Cyriac Vellikettel, aged 83, of Nagpur Province, passed away on 24th March, 2023
4. Bro. George Ettackakunnel, aged 87, passed away on 29th March, 2023
5. Mrs. Catharinal aged 99, the mother of Fr. John de Britto, passed away on 03rd February, 2023
6. Mr. Alexander, the brother-in-law of Fr. P. Felix, passed away on 19th March, 2023
7. Mrs. Sandana Mary, aged 49, the sister of Fr. Johnson Jeyabal passed away on 27th March, 2023
8. Mr. Antony Maria Soosai, aged 46, the younger brother of Fr. D. Kanikkai Nathan, passed away on 10th April, 2023

May I request those who have not fulfilled the suffrages to do the same at the earliest
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May their souls rest in peace!

Yours Fraternally in Christ



Fr. A. Patrick Jayaraj, MSFS
Provincial Superior

Thought for Reflection

“Christ Came to save us, to show us the way, the only way out of the quicksand of sin, and this is mercy”

-Pope Francis

Bible Quote

“Do to others whatever you would have them do to you. This is the Law and the Prophets. “Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and those who enter through it are many. How narrow the gate and constricted the road that leads to life. And those who find it are few.” (Mt. 7:12-14)

Thought from the Poet Thiruvalluvar

**ஊழையும் உப்பக்கம் காண்பர் உலைவின்றித்
தாழாது உஞற்று பவர்**

-திருவள்ளுவர்

சோர்வு இல்லாமல் முயற்சியில் குறைவு இல்லாமல் முயல்கின்றவர்,
(செயலுக்கு இடையூறாக வரும்) ஊழையும் ஒரு காலத்தில் தோல்வியுறச்
செய்வர்.

*oolaiyum uppakkam kaanpar ulaivinrith
thaalaathu ugnyatrru pavar*

-Thiruvalluvar