

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

South-East India Province

SEIP Circular



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Salesian Thought

Straight from the heart of Fr. Peter Marie Mermier

**“There is nothing so blessed
 as a Devout Religious,
 nothing so miserable
 as a Religious
 without Devotion.”**

**“Live entirely for God;
 do not think that
 God is further away from you
 when you are
 in the midst of the busyness
 to which your vocation calls you”**

Prayer Intention of the Superior General for the Month of September

That all the participants of Salesian Program Annecy (SPA) grow deeper in Salesian spirituality and Mermierian spirit and be an agent of renewal in their respective units, we pray

From the Provincial's Desk

Dear Confreres,

With profound joy, I greet you on the Feast of our Founder, Fr. Peter Marie Mermier, a genuine apostle and disciple of St. Francis de Sales. On his death anniversary, we commemorate the completion of the work of the mission which had been reserved for Fr. Mermier. Besides his zeal for the mission, he desired greatly to live in community. He wished that all the members lived together with unwavering love and zeal. For him, living with the Brothers in the community and zeal for the souls are inseparably related to each other. St Paul underlines the need for mutual help in staying faithful to the Lord: "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing" (1 Thess 5:11). We can draw our energy required for our mission from prayer, both personal and communitarian, and a healthy community living. Our zeal is sustained by the bonds of fraternal charity. Therefore, he considered the vow of stability so important.

After pronouncing the vow of stability for the first time, he said, "I desired only one thing and I asked it of the Lord that is to be able to live with brothers. The object of my prayer had been to form an apostolic society and it has been realized today. I embrace in anticipation all those who will follow and make the vow that I myself have just made and which you are going to make after me." When all had pronounced their vows, Fr. Mermier said aloud: *Deo Gratias*.

We, the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales belong to this family. Fr. Mermier embraced us already in anticipation. Our Founder left us a legacy, which calls for a loving approach in the community and an undying missionary zeal for the world. He exhorts us, "Among yourselves practice charity, charity, charity – and, outside, zeal for the salvation of souls." This two-fold approach would make us ardent disciples of Jesus through our Founder, happy religious and joyful evangelizers. I wish you all, dear confreres, a very Happy Founder's Day. May Fr. Mermier intercede for us! *Deo Gratias*.

Happy Founder's Day



Canonical Visitation to Malawi Mission

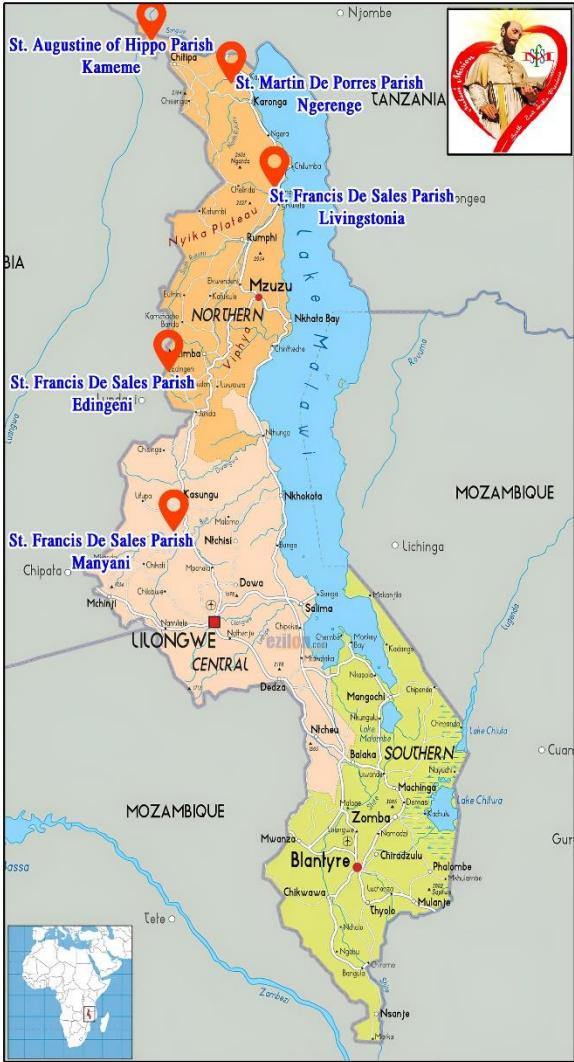
The Impressions gained from my Canonical Visit to Malawi



In October 2023, we will be completing five years of missionary journey in Malawi, a landlocked country in Southeastern Africa. Within this short span of time, we have made a remarkable impression in this region by the grace of God. Out of the 19 million people of Malawi, about 80% are Christians. Catholics are about 35% of the total population. The participation of the faithful at the liturgy and their cooperation in the administration of the parish are praiseworthy. 80% of the local people fall below poverty line.

Over 60% live on a less than a dollar per day, and earn their living through subsistence farming. They work during the rainy season and are jobless at other times. In the months of January, February, and March, they experience acute food shortages. Most of them live in huts. In spite of poverty, people are generous towards the growth of the Church. They contribute their energy and time. They bake bricks for the construction of common projects; they support the priests with special collections; the faithful bring rice, grocery and at times chicken as offertory; they are ready to do the household works at the Church, in the Parish offices and in the presbytery, whenever required. There is scarcity of fuel for vehicles these days. We see long queues at the filling stations. There is also a fear of devaluation of Kowcha, the local currency. Amidst the challenging situations, our confrères are carrying out their pastoral and developmental works very efficiently.

The local clergy appreciate us for our method of pastoral ministry, especially for visiting the families, insisting upon praying rosary regularly and for sharing their food with them. The faithful experience a positive change in their lives after the visit of the priests their homes and praying for them. Another area for appreciation for our ministry is our focus on developing the substations. Our Confrères constantly visit the outstations and substations and give due importance to their pastoral needs, too. Our Fathers also learn from the local clergy to pray the breviary more earnestly. Some of our communities cultivate maze or paddy and use the returns for the



maintenance of the community. They are taking efforts to support the community with activities connected to agriculture.

Our Fathers in the mission are making positive strides in the process of mastering the local language. In the dioceses of Karonga and Mzuzu, the local language is Tumbuka, and in Lilongwe, and in the rest of the country, it is Chichewa, which is also the national language. The bishops are more than happy with the contribution of the Fransalian missionaries in Malawi and are inviting more priests to work as missionaries. and to make richer contribution.



In General, there is a great expectation on us from the Bishops. Their assessment is that education can bring a lot of changes in the next generation, in both faith and social life. Therefore, the bishops request us to build primary school in three of our parishes.

Construction and Renovation of the Priests' Houses

Livingstonia: Fr. Anandaraj and Fr. Infant are living in a temporary house without much facility. This house was built by the parishioners for the catechist and was renovated in 2019. The house is very small and equipped with minimum facilities for the daily use.



Ngerenge and Kameme: These two parishes have well-furnished rectories, which is a result of the joint venture by the diocese and our province.

Edingeni: They, too, are living in a temporary house, which was formerly the parish office, and so not self-contained. There is neither water supply nor electricity. The fathers have to fetch water from neighboring public hand borehole for daily use with the help of the workers, Portable solar bulbs are used for light. Fathers have to go to the church and charge electronic gadgets. With the help of the bishop, the project for the construction of a new presbytery is sanctioned and the work will begin soon.

Manyani: On 30th July, a new presbytery (temporary house) was inaugurated in Manyani. The house has not yet received the electricity and water connection. Water is to be fetched from the nearby well and stored in the house. The parishioners render their assistance for such works. In the future, when a presbytery is built, the present house will be used as the house of the catechist.



Future Projects

- (i) The Bishop of Mzuzu has promised to entrust to us an established town parish at Mzuzu next year. Mzuzu is strategically located in the middle of the country and so it would serve us as a transit place too.
- (ii) We have purchased a land at Lufita (Karonga Diocese) in 2022. The registration is not yet complete, as the procedure is slow and complicated. The intention is to build a secondary school there.
- (iii) The Archbishop of Lilongwe (the capital city) requests us to start an Institute for On-Going Formation for the Clergy and Religious, and a secondary school which could financially support this institute. This proposal is to be studied further.
- (iv) All the parishes own good pieces of land, which could be utilized for our purpose as long as we are serving the parish.

Dear Confreres, I had a fruitful visit to Malawi. It was an opportunity to meet our confreres engaged in this historical and frontier mission of the Province, come in contact with them more closely and to know the mission personally; to meet all the bishops of the dioceses where we are working, to know their appreciation for us as well as their expectations upon us. I could also meet the new auxiliary bishop of Mzuzu, who was a student of Lumen Christi, our institute in Arusha, Tanzania. I thank very sincerely Fr. Susairaj, the Mission Superior who planned out my programs systematically and accompanied me during most part of my travel. I too express my gratitude to Fr. Anantharaj, the Mission Procurator who arranged all that was the needful for my visit and all the Superiors and other Fathers who made sure that I had a comfortable stay and safe travel. They ensured that I felt at home with them, even sacrificing their own comfort. I thank all of them for their love towards our mission, for their commitment and dedication in the responsibility entrusted to them. Due their hard work and passion for mission, the bishops appreciate us profusely and welcome us to take up more responsibilities in the mission. The presence of the Fransalians is making big waves in Malawi.

St. Francis de Sales Parish, Livingstonia



We wholeheartedly thank Rev. Fr. Patrick Jayaraj, the Provincial Superior of South-East India Province, for his visit to our community in Livingstonia. He visited the parish at St. Francis de Sales parish, Livingstonia from 26th to 27th of July where Fr. Anantharaj serves as the parish priest and Fr. A. Infant Jesus as the Curate. On 27th he presided over the holy Eucharistic celebration and preached an inspiring homily.

The mass was concelebrated by Fr. Anantharaj msfs, the parish priest and Fr. A. Infant Jesus msfs, the curate. The people of Livingstonia were very happy to meet and share with him their experiences about the MSFS. They showed their gratitude towards him by way of welcoming,

singing and dancing. After the holy mass, Fr. Anantharaj the parish priest extended cordial welcome and expressed his words of gratitude to Fr. Provincial and our Vice-Chairperson of our Parish Council also thanked him. As a sign of gratitude, they felicitated him with gifts. Fr. Provincial also congratulated and thanked us for our good works and thanked the people for the care and support towards our priests. He also exhorted the people to continue to collaborate with them and support our priests in all the ways. Then Fr. Provincial had personal meeting with both of us, which was followed by community meeting, during which he appreciated us for the way we live our community life. He urged us to have an hour of Eucharistic Adoration every day.

- Fr. A. Infant Jesus MSFS

St. Francis de Sales Parish, Edingeni



Our provincial visited our community on 28th and 29th July, where Fr. Soosai Raj serves as the Parish Priest and Fr. Eugene and Fr. Jerald serve as curates. He met the community members in person and then convened a community meeting. Since there isn't sufficient place in the presbytery, the meeting was held at the sacristy. On the next morning,

Fr. Provincial attended the parish council meeting, to which representatives from all the substations were invited. Such a meeting happens twice a year. Fr. Provincial was greeted with flowers and shawl. Fr. Provincial also appreciated them for their support to our priests working in the parish. He was appreciative of our adaptability and willingness to accept the lack of facilities in the house. His coming to our community enhanced our joy both in the presbytery and in the parish.

- Fr. S. Jerald MSFS

St Martin de Pores Parish, Ngerenge



On 3rd and 4th August, Fr. Provincial was with us in Ngerenge for the canonical visit and for sharing in our daily life. We had the opportunity to meet him personally and then as a community. He was appreciative of our life, especially the communication between the members in the community. He concelebrated at the holy mass, which was celebrated by Fr. Nelson, the Parish Priest. The pious associations participated very actively in the mass. Fr. Nirmal, the curate preached a

meaningful homily. The parishioners greeted the Provincial with gifts. After the mass, he met the parish council, during which the history of the parish was narrated and words of mutual appreciation were exchanged. In the context of the visit of the Provincial and the birthday of Fr. Nelson, we hosted the common meeting of the confreres in Malawi mission with the Provincial. It was a joy to be with our confreres and experience the fellowship in a meaningful way.

- Fr. Nirmal Kumar MSFS

St. Augustine of Hippo Parish, Kameme



Our Provincial arrived on 5th August in Kameme and his presence in our community was enriching. Our Provincial laid the foundation stone for the construction of St. Francis de Sales Church in one of the substations. He administered baptism and gave first Holy Communion to the

children and a few grown-ups. He met the community members personally and had a community meeting. On 6th August, the parish faithful warmly welcomed Fr. Provincial at the Sunday Mass, which was presided over by the Vicar General of diocese of Karonga. The VG was full of appreciation for the MSFS and for their unrelenting service in the diocese of Karonga. The Provincial in turn thanked the Bishop, the diocesan authorities and the parishioners for their trust and support to the MSFS. The faithful expressed their gratitude and joy by bringing several gifts to both for the VG and the Provincial.

- Fr. Maria Arockiam MSFS

St. Francis de Sales Parish, Manyani



Fr. Provincial was with us for three days, during which he invited us for personal meetings and community meeting. He encouraged us to go on working for the people with the same vigour. On 30th July, the newly constructed presbytery was inaugurated by Fr. Provincial. It was followed by a solemn mass during which our Provincial was given a traditional

welcome. Fr. C. Sebastin Robert presided over the mass and Fr. Winner preached a lively homily. Hundreds of parishioners gathered together after the mass at the cultural event. Dinner

was arranged for the guests in the new presbytery. Fr. Provincial met the representatives of the Parish Council and thanked them for their cooperation.

- Fr. Level Winner MSFS

Canonical Visitation in Tamilnadu

SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai

On 15th August 2023, Fr. Provincial began his visitation to our Communities in Tamilnadu with the visit to our Minor Seminary in Pudukkottai. The day began with the Morning Prayer and the Eucharistic celebration which Fr. Provincial presided over. In the morning, he addressed the brothers and highlighted the transition which takes place in life as one moves from one stage to another. He exhorted the brothers to be aware of this process and train them accordingly. He also welcomed suggestions from them.



It was followed by personal meetings with the confrères and then finally the community meeting. Fr. Provincial started the meeting with the words of St. Francis de Sales, “Philothea, the King of Glory does not reward his servants according to the dignity of their office, but

according to the love and humility with which they carry it out.”

He thanked the staff for their willingness to accept this noble and sacred responsibility of guiding our younger brothers. He appreciated them for their availability and vision. He made a special mention about the financial contribution of the staff which has resulted in a lot of structural developments, like renovation of the chapel, laying of interlocking paver blocks, fish pond, poultry and horticulture and landscaping. The involvement of the staff in education and formation in the seminary and pastoral ministry in the nearby parishes was appreciated. The challenges in relation with



sending the brothers to the school for higher

secondary schooling were discussed. The Provincial stressed the need for integral formation and for better academic performance from the brothers. Along with the staff, Fr. Provincial visited the entire campus and got to know the ongoing projects and the future-plans for the seminary campus. He also made a few observations on the proposals. There was a basketball

match in the evening in which the brothers and the fathers took part enthusiastically. This visit was helpful to foster our belongingness to the Congregation and encouraged us to go forward with a renewed commitment.

- Fr. Antony Raj (Jr) MSFS

Our Lady of Assumption Church, Kanankadu



The visitation of the parish began with the celebration of the Eucharist in Kanankadu on 18th August. After the mass, the administrative body of the sub-station at Puthur met the Provincial and updated about the construction of the Church in Puthur. Thereafter, a meeting with the parish administration of Kanankadu was held at the parish office. The parish council was also

appreciative of the yeoman service rendered by the MSFS Fathers, especially in the areas of spiritual life. The Provincial, along with Fr. Antony Raj and Fr. Alphonse visited the ongoing constructions of the Church in Puthur and the other sub-stations.

During the visit to the convent of the Sacred Heart Sisters, the sisters explained their involvement in the pastoral, educational and medical ministry. They expressed their gratitude to the MSFS for the friendly collaboration. Then, Fr. Provincial visited the school and addressed the students and teachers separately. The students performed a few cultural programs in honour of the visit of the Provincial. In the evening, Fr. Provincial met the confrères individually and concluded it with a community meeting. He appreciated the community for their dedication and commitment in offering pastoral and spiritual service to the parish and strengthening it with the help of nine BCCs, Legion of Mary, Youth, Altar Servers, Choir and several Self-Help Groups. The visit to the sub-stations was then continued. In some places, the Provincial interacted with the parishioners, who were already gathered at the Church premises.

- Fr. S Antony Raj (Sr)

Holy Trinity Church, Adhanur



On 19th of August, Fr. Patrick Jayaraj, our Provincial made his official visit to the Holy Trinity Church, Adhanur. As he arrived, he was received by Fr. Vedharaj, the parish priest and Dn. Sesu Prabhakaran. He joined the community to recite the Morning Prayer in the Church.

Before noon, he as a leader and guide met us individually and as a community. We shared

about our religious life (Prayer and Community life), the needs of the community, matters concerning the parish and the faithful. Fr. Provincial appreciated us for nurturing the community life with the help of common prayers, manual labour and common meal. And then, he made it a point to visit all our substations (Vinayakapuram, Venganthur and Soorapattu). As he visited the substations, he spent quality time with the people, listening to their concerns and problems, and praying for them. The faithful expressed their gratitude for the work, which our Fathers are doing for the last 25 years.

In the evening at 6.45 pm, he officiated the Holy Mass and preached the homily as well. After the Mass, we had a short cultural program during which Fr. Vedharaj and the faithful felicitated him, and our children performed beautiful dances. After the program, he interacted with the Legion of Mary, BCC members, and Kothu Leaders. As a Whole, his visitation to our Parish brought joy to us and the faithful. And his message for us can be put in the words of St. Francis de Sales: Be Like the bees that do not leave a flower as long as they find honey to gather there (IDL, II, Ch. 14).

-Dn. A. Sese Prabhakaran

Our Lady of Fatima Church, Kondungal



The official visit of Fr. Patrick Jayaraj MSFS, the Provincial to Kodungal, on 20th August 2023, was marked by a number of events. Father Provincial arrived Kodungal at 7.00 am on Sunday. Fr. Provincial blessed the newly erected Altar, the compound wall and the Sacristy at the Grotto to St. Antony just half a kilometer away from the parish church. At 8.30, he presided over the Sunday Eucharistic celebration and preached an inspiring

homily on the faith of the Canaanite woman, who received the highest appreciation from Jesus himself, and insisted on having the humility to seek help when one is helpless. The faithful were touched by his presence and prayers.

Thereafter, the renovated church dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help at Melakondur was blessed and opened by Fr. Provincial. He presided over the Mass and Fr. Edward, the Rector and parish priest of Mahimai Madha shrine preached the homily. After the mass was over, Fr. Felix expressed his gratitude to the Archbishop Francis Kalist and all who contributed to the successful renovation. On behalf of the South-East India province, Fr. Provincial expressed his words of appreciation for the service rendered by Fr Felix, the parish priest and Fr A. Doss, and honored them with a shawl.

At 3.30 pm, Fr. Provincial visited the Sisters of Charity at Kodungal, who render pastoral, medical, educational and social assistance in the parish. It was followed by a meeting with the pious Associations at 5.30 pm namely, Legion of Mary and Vincent de Paul. Addressing them Fr. Provincial highlighted the strong friendship of St. Francis de Sales and St. Vincent de Paul

and their devotion to Our Lady, and exhorted the members to serve the needy with humility. He then recommended that the number of members must keep growing.

Fr. Provincial met the village elders and addressed them highlighting the role of the laity. He also thanked and appreciated the Parish elders and Youth for the visible structural developments and exhorted to continue strengthening the spiritual life of the parish which is often invisible. Then he patiently listened to their suggestions, wishes and desires and encouraged their active spirit to grow further.

Meeting the Confrères: Fr. Provincial met Fr. P. Felix the parish priest and Fr. Doss personally and made a brotherly enquiry about the well-being, the scope and challenges that are pertaining to the ministry. He took note of everything that concerns to both the Confrères. Fr. Provincial officially went through the important registers, documents and records, appreciated the works and suggested areas of improvements for a better record keeping. After the meeting was over, he had dinner along with the Confrères and stayed the night to experience the life of his brothers.

- Fr. Doss MSFS

SFS School, Perumbakkam



On 21st August, Fr. Provincial made his official visit to our School in Perumbakkam. At the assembly, he was accorded a warm welcome and he felicitated the students who topped at the class level and gave away prizes for those who excelled in different fields. Citing a simile from the Introduction to the Devout Life, he exhorted the students to be laborious like the bees which gather sweet honey even from the bitter herbs. He appreciated Fr. Charles Michael, the Principal and Correspondent, Fr. Antony Christopher, the Procurator and the entire staff for their love for the institute. He had a word of praise for the students who performed the cultural programs and in particular he

congratulated the staff and students for the appreciable spoken- English. After the personal meeting with Fr. Christopher, the Superior and Fr Charles, he took part in the community meeting. He appreciated the community for making the community timetable and for following it. He also addressed the non-teaching staff and the teaching staff separately. Fr. Provincial along with the local community discussed with the engineer about the impending constructions. Spending a day with the Provincial was a matter of encouragement and inspiration for us.

- Fr. A. Charles Michael

St Francis Xavier Church, Mankuzhy

Fr. Patrick Jayaraj MSFS, our Provincial made the canonical visit to St. Francis Xavier Church, Mankuzhy on 29th August 2023. We are rendering our service in this parish for the last two

years. It has a beautiful Church and an aided school. Mankuzhy has a sub-station, namely, St Antony's Church, Vadivilai. Fr Alexander, the Parish Priest is also the correspondent for two more schools in the neighbouring parish. The personal meeting with the confrères Fr. S. Alexander, the Parish Priest and Fr S. Vanathaiyan, the Co-Paster was done in the morning. He also checked all the documents related to the parish and the community, Schedules and Accounts of the community.



After the meeting, we went on a pilgrimage to St. Mary's Malankara Orthodox Church (Arappally), Thiruvithamcode, which is believed to have been built by St Thomas. In the evening, Fr Provincial paid a visit to St. Anne's Convent. Fr. Provincial met the sisters and got to know about their ministry in the school and in the parish life. They are engaged in the apostolates of education and pastoral assistance like teaching catechism and taking care of the liturgy. Fr. Provincial also met the parish council of Mankuzhy and discussed about the parish situations, developments, challenges and plans for the future. At 6.30 pm, Fr. Provincial presided over the mass in Vadivilai. He was accorded a warm welcome by the parishioners at the start of the mass. After the mass, he met parish council, the choir, various pious associations and the youth who shared their concerns with the Provincial. They appreciated the works done by MSFS Fathers in Mankuzhy and Vadivilai. After the meeting, he interacted with the parishioners at the Church premises. Upon his return to the presbytery, Fr. Provincial held a common meeting with the community members. We discussed about the contract for the parish and he encouraged us to continue the good mission. The visit, the meeting and the interactions were fruitful and encouraging.

- Fr. S. Vanathaiyan MSFS

Forum Meetings



We, the South-East India Province of Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales gathered under different forums to evaluate and better our apostolates. We had the Mission Forum meeting on 4th September, Innovative Forum meeting on 5th, Education and Stewardship Forums meeting on 6th, and Formation Forum meeting on 7th September. The meetings took place at the Provincialate. Every day the meetings began with half hour of adoration to receive the spiritual strength from the Eucharist Lord. In the gathering the Fathers shared their experience in their fields and after the sharing there were discussions on new undertakings to develop the missions/institutes. There was an active participation in sharing the details of their ministry and many came up with new ideas to develop the apostolates. Rev. Fr. Provincial and his Curia arranged the meetings well. It was a happy moment to come together and share the experience just like the apostles did.

- Fr. A. Michael Raja MSFS

Year of Fransalian Youth

We gathered at St. James's Church, Kullarayanpalayam on 6th August with the help of Fr. D. Sheen, the Parish Priest and Fr. A. Michael Raja, the Assistant Parish Priest who organized the youth for a wonderful liturgical celebration. Following this we went on 10th August to St. Mary's Church, Mariapuarm, where, Fr. D. Robert, the Parish Priest, welcomed us and helped us to have a well-organized celebration. We continued our mission of animating the youth in St. James's Church, Ravusapatty and in its substations. Fr. D. Tharcus had taken all possible efforts to gather the youth for a meaningful celebration.



We had a blissful celebration not only in our Parishes but also in our institutions. We had the celebration of Year of Fransalian Youth at our Minor Seminary in Pudukkottai on 20th August. Fr. C. John Britto, the Rector, guided the seminarians along with other staff that we could have a memorable day. We also had conducted one day seminar in view of the Year of Fransalian Youth at SFS School, Vaniyambadi on 09th September and at SFS CBSE School, Nagamangalam on 13th September. The respective Principals Frs. S. Savaraimuthu and S. Abin, the respective Correspondents Frs. P. Stephen and S. Amirthanathan and the respective procurators Frs.

M. John Feranades and C. Martin Kumar were so much interested and took every possible effort to organize the days well. The seminar was mostly focused on guiding the students, with topics like proper usage of mobile and time management.

I remain grateful to God and our confreres for cooperating, showing interest and organizing the programmes well. The youth also showed interest for an active participation. I also specially thank Frs. C. Martin Kumar, A. Nayaga Seelan S. Santhanam and A. Franklin for accompanying me time to time. I record that in this joint venture with the support of the provincial administration, we were able to release a Prayer Booklet for the year of Fransalian Youth in Tamil on 5th September 2023. I make an earnest appeal to you dear fathers to continue to support us through your special prayers.

- Fr. A. Christu Raj MSFS

Annual Day at SFS School, Pudukkottai

Life isn't about the final destination or the accomplishments and accolades at the end; it's about the journey and the opportunities for learning to grow each day. With an absolute dedication and desire to flaunt the flawless execution of the talents of our Pupil, the Annual Day – Desalite Jubilates was organized on 26th August 2023 in our S.F.S. School,



Pudukkottai for the classes from VIII to XII. The theme of our Annual Day Jubilation threw light on the sacrifices and contributions of the women freedom fighters for India's Independence.

Our honorable district collector Mrs. I. Mercy Ramya IAS genially accepted our invitation and presided over the event to make the day complete. Rev. Fr. Dr. A. Patrick Jayaraj, the Provincial of South-East India Province and all other invitees were led to their assigned seats. Rev. Fr. Maria Pushpam, the correspondent, extended a warm welcome to all the dignitaries of the day, well-wishers, parents and all the guests. The Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour were duly felicitated with bouquets and shawls. The accomplishment and advancement of the school was aptly presented as an Annual Report by Rev. Fr. Principal as a video clip. The school magazine, the miniature representation of the school was published by the Chief Guest.

The skit on the valour and prowess of the woman freedom fighter Velunatchiyar was displayed accurately which made the audience enthralled and glued to their seats. The variety cultural program including different types of dances, powerful messages and heart melting melodious singing added colour to the day. The Chief Guest and Guest of Honor honored the best students of the month of July with awards. Our Desalites had proved their potential and latent talents. Finally, it was the team work which prevailed on Desalite Jubilates and it was the secret of its success!

- Mr. Clement (School Teacher)



New Priests' Day



Dear Confreres, we the New Priests of 2023 are happy and delighted to express our gratitude in words. We, namely, Frs. S. Vimal Raj, M. Adaikala Arul Raj, A. John Britto, P. Arokia Marcel and C. Arun Raj, had completed our Theological studies in Morogoro, Tanzania. In spite of some initial difficulties in fixing the dates and arranging for the Ordinations, we were able to successfully get ordained with the guidance and help from

our confreres. Though we had arranged our Ordinations on different dates in August, many fathers joined us to make the day a special one for each of us. We, as new priests, were more than happy to step into our mother house, the Provincialate, on 4th September along with Fr. T. Anto Prabin, who was also ordained this year, to celebrate our Thanksgiving Mass. No words would express our joy and our gratitude to you dear Fathers. I, on behalf of my companions, take this opportunity to thank everyone for your prayerful support. A special thanks to Rev. Fr. A. Patrick Jayaraj, the Provincial Superior and his team of administration and our sincere thanks to the previous Provincial administration, for helping and guiding us to this day. Thank you one and all.

- Fr. S. Vimal Raj MSFS

Recollection for the Regents



Monthly recollection for the regents was held on 06.09.2023 at Thedal Institute of Spirituality centre, Ammapatty. As we reached the centre Fr. A. Santhiyagu, the Director of the centre, cordially welcomed us. The recollection preacher was Fr. Justin Diraviam MSFS. We began the recollection with a session at 9.00 am. After the recollection talk, we had Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation followed by the Holy Eucharist. Fr. A. Justin Diraviam and Fr. Arockia Samy celebrated the Mass. With Rosary in the afternoon, we had concluded our Recollection. In the evening we went to our parish community in Ammapatti where we received a warm welcome from Fr. Sagaya Raj, the Parish Priest, and Fr. Arockia Samy, the Co-Pastor. Coming together and having the recollection together was indeed an enriching and empowering one. We sincerely express our gratitude to Fr. Charles, the Councillor in charge of Formation for the commendable efforts put in for the success of this recollection.

- Bro. Mahesh Prathan

Conveners of the Apostolic Communities

St. John Bosco Apostolic Community

Convener: Fr. A. Santhiyagu

Secretary: Fr. D. Emmanuvel Sathish

Fr. Peter Mermier Apostolic Community

Convener: Fr. A. Michael

Secretary: Fr. T. Anto Prabin

St. John de Britto Apostolic Community

Convener: Fr. P. Maria Pushpam

Secretary: Fr. S. Antony Raj (Jr)

St. Mary's Apostolic Community

Convener: Fr. P. Felix

Secretary: Fr. S. Antony Raj (Sr)

SFS Apostolic Community

Convener: Fr. D. Robert

Secretary: Fr. M. John Feranandes

St. Thomas Apostolic Community

Convener: Fr. A. Luckas

Secretary: Fr. A. Motcha Richard

Election of the Delegates to the General Chapter -2025

The second round of the election to elect the Delegates to the General Chapter was held from 25th to 28th July 2023. Given below are the results of the Second round of election pooled through e-voting.

Names	No. of Votes obtained
Fr. S. Antony Rajesh	88
Fr. D. Kanikkai Nathan	78
Fr. A. Christu Raj	76
Fr. A. Selvaraj	38
Fr. K. Ignacimuthu	37
Fr. A. Santhiyagu	37

Eligible to vote: 144

Votes casted in the Second Round: 118

The Delegates to the General Chapter 2025

After obtaining the consent of the respective candidates, I am happy to announce the following conferees as the Delegates of the South-East India Province to the General Chapter:

1. Fr. S. Antony Rajesh
2. Fr. D. Kanikkai Nathan
3. Fr. A. Christu Raj

The Substitutes

Having 3 delegates to the General Chapter, we are to name 2 substitutes, who would eventually substitute any one of the elected delegates, if one is unable to participate. They are:

1. Fr. A. Selvaraj
2. Fr. K. Ignacimuthu

Visitation of our Superior General

The visitation of our beloved Superior General is a very significant spiritual event in the life of our Province. He arrives at Chennai on 9th October and visits us up to 31st October. His schedule

is quite busy and, on a few days, he may have to visit more than one community. I request the Superiors of the concerned communities to discuss among themselves and arrange the program as convenient as possible. Fr Superior General has instructed us to avoid extravagancy and pomp. Kindly prepare for the visitation with utmost care so that the confreres have sufficient time to spend with him and that it can strengthen our religious life. The itinerary has been already published. The details will be once again sent to you by email and WhatsApp.

Welcome Back

Fr. M. Michael Selvans, who served in the diocese of Regensburg, Germany, for the last 10 years has returned to the Province. We thank him for his commendable service in Germany and wish God's abundant blessings upon him and a successful ministry here.

SPA 2023

SPA 2023 begins from September 30 to November 10, 2023. Fr Motcha Richard will be attending it. We wish him all the best and God's blessings.

Appointments and Transfers in Malawi Mission

	<i>Diocese of Karonga</i>	
1.	Fr. P. Arokia Marcel	Assistant Parish Priest, Ngerenge
2.	Fr. M. Adaikala Arul Raj	Assistant Parish Priest, Kameme
3.	Fr. S. Jerald	Assistant Parish Priest, Livingstonia
4.	Fr. K. Nirmal Kumar	Priest In-Charge, Lufita
	<i>Diocese of Mzuzu</i>	
5.	Fr. S. Maria Arockiam	Assistant Parish Priests, Edingeni
6.	Fr. S Vimal Raj	
7.	Fr. A. Infant	Assistant Parish Priests Katate (With Malawian Priests - for One Year)
8.	Fr. F. Eugene Earnest Raj	
	<i>Archdiocese of Lilongwe</i>	
9.	Fr. M. Level Winner Raj	Designated to be Assistant Parish Priest
10.	Fr. C. Arun Raj	Assistant Parish Priest
	<i>Tanzania</i>	
11.	Fr. A. John Britto	Designated To East Africa Province

Important Days

- 10th Oct to 01st Nov - Visitation of Rev. Fr. Superior General to South-East India Province
- 23rd to 26th Oct - National PMP annual gathering at MSFS Provincialate, Nagpur
- 2nd to 3rd Nov - Meeting of General Curia with Provincial Curia
- 5th to 7th Nov - Internal Auditing by the General Bursar

14th to 19th Jan 2024 - Retreat at Cluny Prashanth Vanam, Pondicherry to be preached by Fr. Suresh OFM for the confreres ordained **in & before 2008**

My Tentative Programme

07th October - PIF meeting with General Curia
08th October - Council Meeting at Nalam
08th October - Inauguration of Grotto at Pochampally
02nd to 03rd November - Provincial Curia and General Curia Meeting

Obituary

01 st October	-Bro. Joseph CHERADICKAL	13 th October	- Fr. Francis DECARRE
02 nd October	-Bro. Raymond BOCCARD		- Fr. Francois BERARD
	- Fr. Ignatius PUTHUR		- Fr. A. Antony Savari Raj
03 rd October	- Fr. Georges VODOZ	14 th October	- Fr. Raymond CARVALHO
	- Fr. Louis LATTHUILLE	15 th October	- Fr. Alexandre BOCCARD
05 th October	- Fr. Luke CHERUVIL	16 th October	- Bro. Henry A CRUZ
06 th October	- Fr. Theophile MUGNIER	17 th October	- Fr. Jean Marie GIRARD
	- Fr. Gilbert VOLERY		- Fr. Fernand ANTHONIOZ
08 th October	- Bro. John AROKIUM	18 th October	-Fr. Ambroise
	- Fr. Gilbert CURTY		MUFFATMERIDOL
09 th October	- Bro. Jean Baptiste DALLE		- Fr. Devasia KALAPURA
	- Fr. William POWER	20 th October	- Bro. Manikya Rao TINGA
10 th October	- Fr. Gérard van HOOREN	21 st October	- Fr. Francois FAVRAT
11 th October	- Fr. Anselme CHELVUM		- Fr. Joseph DOSTERT
12 th October	- Fr. Karl FREITAG	23 rd October	- Fr. Xavier DIAS
	- Fr. Howard Francis FORD		- Fr. Andre DUPERTHUY
	- Fr. Théodore VANNAY		- Bro. Georges BOSSON
24 th October	- Bro. Antoine CROCHET		- Fr. Damian FERNANDES
	- Fr. Peter M. FERNANDES		
25 th October	- Fr. Eugene GOJON	29 th October	- Fr. Eugene CHEVALLET
	- Fr. Joseph THAYIL		- Bro. Marius AVRILLON
27 th October	- Fr. Joseph ULLIEL	30 th October	- Fr. Charles JOLY
	- Fr. Eugene DECISIER		- Fr. Antony Mc CABE
	- Bro. Theotonio		- Fr. Pierre FRONTIN
	MASCARENHAS		- Fr. Denis BREEN
	- Fr. Thomas PIETERS	31 st October	- Fr. Alex MANIGLIER
28 th October	- Fr. Alphonse BARRIL		- Fr. George D'SOUZA
	-Fr. Raison		
	KADUVAKUZHICKAL		

Let us pray for the Departed

- Fr. Joseph Pulickal, aged 91, of Visakhapatnam Province, passed away on 15th August.
- Fr. Saji Tharayil, aged 57, of Guwahati Province, passed away on 18th August.
- Fr. Narisetty Francis Xavier, aged 61, of Visakhapatnam Province, passed away on 10th September.
- Mr. D. Arockia Raj, aged 57, the uncle of Bro. Selva Prakash (Theologian) passed away on 12th September.
- Mr. Utharium (76 years), the paternal Uncle of Fr. K. Joseph Xavier, passed away on 20th September.

May their Souls Rest in Peace!

Yours Fraternally in Christ



Fr. A. Patrick Jayaraj MSFS
Provincial Superior

To Reflect

John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.”

- Mark 9: 38-41

“Things have a Price and can be for Sale, but People have a Dignity that is Priceless and Worth far more than Things”

– Pope Francis

திருக்குறள் - Thirukkural

அறன்றிந்து மூத்த அறிவுடையார் கேண்மை
திறன்றிந்து தேர்ந்து கொளல்

Translation

Aranirunthu Mootha Arivutaiyaar Kenmai
Thiranirunthu Therndhu Kolal

Explanation

Value and secure the friendship of the virtuous, mature and wise