



MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

South-East India Province



SEIP Circular

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Salesian Thought

“The Devout Person after this excersice of dismantling his heart, to review it well, must anoint it with the Sacrements of Cofession and Holy Eucharist”

Straight from the heart of Fr. Peter Marie Mermier

“The Love of God is a Practical Science which one acquires and one does not preach efficaciously except through works.”

Prayer Intention of the Superior General for the Month of November

That we may have the grace and strength to face every difficulty, trial, struggle, and temptation to live our evangelical counsels and thereby continue to witness the Gospel values, we pray

December

That all our benefactors and well-wishers who support us spiritually and materially may enjoy good health and their sacrifices bear fruit in our missions, we pray

From the Provincial's Desk

“The Lord will destroy the sheet that covers all nations; He will swallow up death forever” (Is 25:7). Though All Souls Day is observed on 2nd of November, traditionally the entire month is dedicated for special prayers for the dead. We commemorate all those who have gone before us and await their heavenly reward. During these days, we specially think of the deceased confreres and relatives and reflect upon the shortness of life. We are also consoled that the children of God will share the glory in the eternal life. Through Prophet Isaiah, God promised his people that he would make for all peoples a feast of rich food (Is 25:6). Eating sparingly was the practice of the time due to the financial and social issues. God’s promise of a lavish banquet is a symbol of His rule on earth. In his Kingdom, there is no hunger, no slavery, no death. He will swallow up death forever. In this way, our commemoration of the dead and prayers for them remind us of the glory of God which will be revealed to us. With this conviction and trust in the Lord, we pray in a special way for the departed confreres of our Congregation that they experience the beatified vision of God.



Report of the Annual Retreat -I

As the book of Ecclesiastes says that there is a time for everything under heaven (3:1), it was the time for us, the Priests under 15 years of ordination and some senior confreres, to pause from our routine ministerial activities and take time to reflect and re-treat ourselves. The retreat was arranged at Life Centre, Dindigul. We began the retreat on 24th September evening with the introductory talk. Fr. Provincial introduced the preacher, Rev. Dr. Tom Pannalakunnel, MSFS, from South-West India Province. Fr. Tom enlightened us with his inspiring thought. He focused upon how a priest can pray joyfully, how to handle the crisis faced in our religious vocation, and on the aspect of sin and its effect, etc. He ended his preaching with a meaningful reflection and exhortation on forgiveness. The retreat ended on 29th September noon with the thanksgiving Holy Eucharist and the fellowship meal. We thank Fr. Tom for guiding us to come closer to God and the Provincial administration for making the necessary arrangements during these days.



- Fr. Mahimai Arokia Raj

Blessing of Grotto at Pochampalli



On 8th October 2023, we had the joy of witnessing the blessing of the newly constructed Grotto, which consists of the three-floor Faith Tower in Pochampalli parish. It was blessed by Rt. Rev. Dr. Lawrence Pious D.D., the Bishop of Dharmapuri and was opened by our Provincial Rev. Fr. Patrick Jayaraj MSFS. The parishioners were very enthralled to meet the Bishop, our Provincial, a good number of



Fathers from MSFS as well as from the neighbouring parishes and sisters. The program began at 6.15 pm with a warm welcome to each and everyone, and then we had the solemn opening and blessing of the Faith Tower. After a joyful celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we had a small felicitation. All the donors of the Tower construction were present. The day was made colourful and joyful with the presence of lots of people from neighbourhood. Together with the parishioners, I wholeheartedly thank the Bishop, the Provincial, Fathers, Sisters and Well-wishers for their presence and prayers.

- Fr. S. Arockia Christu Raj

Blessing of New Church, Malawi Mission



Great indeed are your works, O Lord, now and forever. St. Martin de pores parish experienced God's favor and blessings as it was a day of triple joy as Bishop of Karonga Diocese blessed and inaugurated the church of St. Nicholas at Mwakasangila substation, parish curia office and bestowed the sacrament of Confirmation to the Christians in the parish. On 25th August 2023, Rt. Rev. Martin Anwel Mtumbuka, the Bishop of Karonga Diocese blessed and opened the new church which was built by the Christians of the substation up

to the beam level and due to financial difficulties could not complete it. With the support of the parish and help from Rev. Fr. Thomas Chozhithara the former MDO of MSFS Congregation and a prayer group from UK the church was completed. Seeing the enthusiasm of the Christians and their strength, the Bishop was very happy and raised it to the status of out-station. After this, the Bishop blessed the curia office of the parish and then began the Holy Eucharistic celebration and administered the sacrament of Confirmation. This joyous event was graced by many Christians from the parish, and the Bishop appreciated the good efforts of the parishioners and the parish Priest Rev. Fr. D. Nelson and the curate Rev. Fr. Nirmal. This event came to an end with the fellowship meal.



Book Release: இறையன்பு (Treatise on the Love of God by SFS)



It was indeed a momentous occasion for the South-East India Province, for the translated version of the Treatise on the Love of God was released in Tamil by Rev. Fr. Superior General and the first copy was received by our Provincial on 03rd November 2023 at our Provincialate. The title of the book is “இறையன்பு - Iraiyanbu”. The entire work of translation has been done by Fr. Edward. We

congratulate him for this effort. The first volume contains the books 1-7 from the Spiritual classic,

‘The Love of God,’ written by our patron St. Francis de Sales. The second volume is expected to be released on the feast of SFS on 24th January 2024.

Visitation of our Superior General

The official visitation of our beloved Superior General during these days (9th to 31st October 2023) was indeed invaluable moments of grace and spiritual enlivening for the entire province family. All of us have taken part in this momentous journey of love, faith, fraternal sharing and evaluation. The Superior General was warmly received by the Provincial Curia and the confreres of our community at St. Thomas Mount on 9th October 2023. His visitation to the length and breadth of the Province was meticulously chalked out. He spent a lot of time with the confreres, visited the places of our ministry, prayed with us, celebrated Eucharist, addressed the collaborators like teachers, students and parishioners, and shared his thoughts. He exhorted the confreres in common meetings arranged in a few places to fervently live our religious commitment through ardent spiritual and meaningful community life. It is no exaggeration to state that his presence and interactions have motivated us to be tireless ministers of the Word, rejuvenated our spirit of religious living and inspired us to widen the horizons of our ministry. We are grateful to God for this time of grace. We thank our Superior General for his love for our Province, expressed through the valuable time with us. On behalf of the Province, we do express our heartfelt appreciations and gratitude to our Superior General. I thank all our confreres for their availability, hospitality, expression of love and solidarity and cooperation.



GC-PC Meeting

After the Visitation of our Superior General, Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, the General Curia and the Provincial Curia had their joint meeting on 2nd and 3rd November at our Provincialate. It was a time of spiritual union, mutual sharing, and objective evaluation of the life and activities of the Province and above all helped us to arrive at a focused plan of action for the future. The Provincial Curia presented reports on their respective areas of ministries. Superior



General presented his report after the visitation. Finally, a focused plan of action for the future was drawn with detailed discussions and deliberations. We express our immense thanks to our Superior General and General administration of their availability and dedicated service.

- Fr. A. Edward

Focused Plan for the Province

The focused plan is the result of Superior General's visitation, aspirations of the confreres, elaborate discussion and deliberation of the General Curia and Provincial Curia. This provides the road-map for the future course of action of the Province. Therefore, I request you earnestly dear confreres, to treat this plan as priority and take every required effort to implement it.

FOCUSED PLAN OF ACTION (SOUTH-EAST INDIA PROVINCE 2023)

➤ **RELIGIOS AND COMMUNITY LIFE**

- (1) Praying the Divine Office together as a community with the Blessed Sacrament exposed and celebration of the Eucharist are to be strictly observed every day.
- (2) Monthly community meetings are to be conducted without fail. The following agenda is to be included: (i) Evaluation of community life (ii) Evaluation of the Apostolates (iii) Presentation the monthly statement of accounts. The Minutes of the monthly meeting and the statements of the accounts are to be sent to the Provincial's office by the local superior within two weeks of the meeting.
- (3) Monthly recollections are to be regularized by the local superior. Wherever needed, two or more local communities can come together for monthly recollections.

➤ **MISSION**

- (1) Activate team- based PMP and the formation of Fransalian Associates in the province.
- (2) Train personnel for Parish Mission Preaching and Salesian Retreats.
- (3) Balance parochial ministries with other ministries related to our charism and strengthen the networking of these ministries.
- (4) Work on starting a Retreat centre within three years.

➤ **FORMATION**

- (1) Intensify a scientific English Training in the Minor Seminary. Strictly adhere to the guidelines and criteria of Vocation Promotion by the Province.
- (2) Create opportunities for confreres to come together for update programs and ongoing formation. The groups could be based on the apostolates, apostolic communities, year of ordination, etc.
- (3) Identify and send confreres for formators training programs.

➤ **EDUCATION**

- (1) Implement the financial budgeting system in the schools with the approval of the Provincial Council.

- (2) Strictly observe the Province Statutes regarding the roles of the Correspondent, Principal and Procurator.
- (3) Start the Friends of Fransalians in all the schools within the next three years.
- (4) Start alumni associations in all our schools.
- (5) School buildings and other facilities are to be used for the promotion of education of the less privileged children of the locality. It has to be started in at least two of our schools decided by the education forum.

➤ **SOCIAL AND INNOVATIVE MINISTRY**

- (1) Initiate some sustainable programs such as Evening Schools in the parishes and schools, self-help groups for women, and rehabilitation of street children wherever possible within two years.
- (2) Province MDO has to be strengthened with social and welfare programs. Students who receive scholarship through MDO could be gathered once a year for a seminar or a similar program.
- (3) Social service activities in the province are to be structured.
- (4) Start Fransalian youth units and Friends of Fransalians in our parishes and schools.
- (5) Train confreres for the continuity of the innovative ministries.

➤ **STEWARDSHIP**

- (1) Implement FAST (*Financial Accountability System for Transparency*) in the Province.
- (2) Prepare proper and focused yearly budgeting of all our centres (parishes, schools and communities) and they are to be submitted to the Provincial for approval.
- (3) Internal auditing will be done twice a year in our schools, parishes and all the centres.
- (4) Stewardship Forum meeting will be held at least twice a year (*January and June*) and one of such meetings will have professional financial management training program for the forum members.

Establishment of Local Communities

Dear Confreres, with the approval of the Superior General, the following Local Communities are established:

- i. Kullarayanpalayam in the Diocese of Sultanpet, India;
- ii. Manyani in the Archdiocese of Lilongwe, Malawi;
- iii. Edingeni in the Diocese of Mzuzu, Malawi;
- iv. Ngerenge in the Diocese of Karonga, Malawi;
- v. Livingstonia in the Diocese of Karonga, Malawi; and
- vi. Kameme in the Diocese of Karonga, Malawi.

Establishing them as MSFS Local Communities is part of the process of organization and animation of the Consecrated Life of the community members as per our Constitutions. The directives of the General Chapter 2019 and the Province Statutes are to be strictly followed in the functioning of the Local Community and the role of the Local Superior.

Apostolic Communities in Malawi

It was decided to create two apostolic communities in Malawi for a better functioning. The confreres working in the diocese of Karonga will form one apostolic community, and the confreres working in the archdiocese of Lilongwe and the diocese of Mzuzu will form another. It will come into effect from 15th December onwards.

Apostolic Community 1: Fr. C. Sebastin Robert, Fr. S. Susairaj, Fr. A. Infant Jesus, Fr. M. Level Winner Raj, Fr. F. Eugene Earnest Raj, Fr. S. Maria Arockiam, Fr. S. Vimal Raj and Fr. C. Arun Raj

Apostolic Community 2: Fr. P. Anantharaj, Fr. D. Nelson Arockia Samy, Fr. C. Berin, Fr. K. Nirmal Kumar, Fr. S. Jerald, Fr. P. Arokia Marcel and Fr. M. Adaikala Arul Raj

Priestly Ordinations 2024

At the request of the deacons, it is decided to organize group ordinations at the Provincial House on 12th April 2024. Rt. Rev. Dr. Arockiaraj, the Bishop of Trichy has consented to ordain our deacons to Priesthood.

Visit to Europe

I will be visiting our confreres in Italy, Austria and Germany from 10th November to 08th December 2023. Fr. C. Sebastin Raj will be the Provincial Vicar. In case of urgent need, kindly contact him. I will be also available through WhatsApp.

Land Acquisition

This is to bring to your notice that two pieces of our land in Chatram, namely (i) no: 290/5A 0.00.50 Hecter and (ii) 290/5A 1.22.50 Hecter (3.05 acres in total) fall under land acquisition for Cavery, Vaigai & Gundaru Water Project. The government will take these pieces of land in the course of time. We are offered some amount as compensation for this portion of the land.

Transfers and Appointments

Fr. Jerry – Principal, SFS School, Nallatinputhur
Fr. Kanikkainathan – Superior, St. Thomas Mount Community
Fr. Arockia Charles – Procurator, SFS Seminary, Pudukkottai
Fr. Michael Selvans – SFS Printing Press Community, Pudukkottai
Zonal Vocation Promotors – Fr. S. Christuraj, Fr. Sheen and Fr. L. John Peter
Coordinators for Fransalian Associates: Fr. Johnson Jayabal, Fr. Amirthanathan and Fr. Sheen
Coordinators for Friends of Fransalians: Fr. Selvaraj and Fr. Feranandes

Monthly Recollections

As part of our preparations for the XXI General Chapter 2025, the Congregation has prepared reflection-materials for the monthly recollections starting in November 2023. The materials are already sent by email. I request the local superiors to ensure that monthly recollections are conducted in our communities. Those who are living alone are requested to join the neighboring communities for monthly recollections. It is encouraged that two or more smaller communities come together for these recollections. The concerned local superiors can organize them.

Important Days

- 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**
- 24th January - SFS Feast & Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee Celebration at the Provincialate
- 12th April - Priestly Ordinations at the Provincialate

My Tentative Programme

- 09th November - Annual Sports Day at SFS School Vaniyambadi
- 10th November - Visitation to Confreres in Italy, Australia and Germany
- 09th December - Return from the Visit
- 16th to 18th December - Canonical Visit to Communities in Chennai
- 19th December - Canonical Visit to SFS School, Pudukkottai
- 21st December - Canonical Visit to Provincialate Community
- 24th & 25th December - Christmas Mass at Sendurai
- 31st December - New Year Mass at Othaiyal
- 09th & 10th January - Governing Body Meeting, Suvidya
- 14th to 19th January - Retreat, Pondicherry
- 24th January - SFS Feast & Silver Jubilee Celebration at Provincialate
- 26th January **2024** - Canonical Visit to Vayalogam
- 27th January - Canonical Visit to SFS Printing Press
- 28th January - Canonical Visit to SFS Parish, Thirugokarnam
- 29th January - Canonical Visit to Natchiyarkoil
- 30th January - Canonical Visit to Ravusapatty

Obituary

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| 09 th November - Bro. Jacob CHEMBAKASSERY | 11 th November - Fr. Edouard PARAVY |
| 09 th November - Fr. Bernard MORET | 12 th November - Fr. Francois MARULLAZ |
| 10 th November - Fr. Michael PERISSIIN-FABER | 12 th November - Fr. Jules ROUX |
| 10 th November - Fr. Pierre SALLANSONNET | 12 th November - Fr. Philip KUDAKACHIRA |
| 11 th November - Fr. James GEBERT | 12 th November - Fr. Marcel GAYDON |
| 11 th November - Fr. Philip AGUIAR | 12 th November - Fr. Francis Xavier BIRRAUX |
| | 12 th November - Fr. Andre GENOUD |
| | 12 th November - Fr. Joseph THEVENET |

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| 13 th November - Fr. Zacharias KAROTHUPARA | ONAYATHUMKUZHY |
| 14 th November - Fr. Mathew KATCHIRA | 07 th December - Bro. Anton BETZ |
| 14 th November - Fr. Xavier SCHMADERER | 07 th December - Bro. Laurentius HEIN |
| 15 th November - Fr. Maurice BRECHES | 08 th December - Fr. Antoine GUILLERMIN |
| 16 th November - Bro. Emile DEPOLLIER | 08 th December - Bro. Anthony MONICUM |
| 17 th November - Fr. Mathew THUDIANKLACKAL | 08 th December - Fr. Mathew MUNDAMATTAM |
| 19 th November - Bro. Alphonse ROULLER | 09 th December - Bro. M. J. John |
| 19 th November - Fr. Mariadas MIDATHADA | 12 th December - Fr. Vincent COFFY |
| 20 th November - Fr. Mani THARAPPEL | 12 th December - Fr. Charles POLAMARACHETTY |
| 21 st November - Fr. Joseph DECOMPLOIX | 13 th December - Fr. Henri GRANDJACQUES |
| 21 st November - Fr. Francois LONGEREY | 14 th December - Fr. Sebastian PUTHUTUNDIYIL |
| 22 nd November - Fr. Joseph BRAND | 16 th December - Fr. Jerome RIBEIRA |
| 23 rd November - Bro. Peter Paul FERNANDES | 17 th December - Fr. Francois GRANDJUX |
| 23 rd November - Fr. Louis CHIRACKAL | 18 th December - Fr. Louis ORSIER |
| 23 rd November - Fr. John Carnegie DeVORE | 18 th December - Bro. Francis |
| 24 th November - Bro. Harold D'SILVA | 18 th December - Fr. Francois GUENARD |
| 24 th November - Fr. Frank ROSARIO | 18 th December - Bro. Nicholas APPAO |
| 26 th November - Bro. Job POOVATHUMOOTIL | 18 th December - Bro. Paul CHAUFFAT |
| 28 th November - Fr. Pierre CHEVALIER | 18 th December - Fr. James NEDUNGATT |
| 29 th November - Fr. Francois FLEURX | 19 th December - Bro. John COSGROVE |
| 29 th November - Fr. Otto REITMAYER | 20 th December - Fr. Ernest THEVENET |
| 30 th November - Bro. Siegfried FRAITZL | 21 st December - Bro. Lawrence BOTHA |
| 30 th November - Bro. John SUDARSANAM | 21 st December - Fr. Maria John Bosco |
| 30 th November - Fr. Louis BRUGGER | 21 st December - Fr. P. Paul Samy |
| 01 st December - Bro. Joseph RANNARD | 23 rd December - Fr. Jacques FULPIN |
| 01 st December - Fr. Albert DANGELMAIER | 23 rd December - Fr. Jean EXARTIER |
| 03 rd December - Bro. Jean Pierre PICCOT | 24 th December - Bro. Joseph D'SANTOS |
| 03 rd December - Fr. Blaise DELEVAL | 24 th December - Fr. Jean Baptiste SALOMON |
| 03 rd December - Fr. Mathew NADACKAL | 26 th December - Bro. Augustine VAS |
| 03 rd December - Fr. Anthony FERNANDES | 26 th December - Fr. Kurian ARANJANIYIL |
| 05 th December - Fr. Joseph LAVOREL | 26 th December - Fr. George PAKUMALA |
| 05 th December - Fr. Jules REY | 29 th December - Fr. Jules CONTAT |
| 05 th December - Bro. Maxime GENDRE | 29 th December - Fr. Johann Paul UTZ |
| 06 th December - Fr. Francois DECOMPOIX | 30 th December - Fr. Alphonse GROROD |
| 06 th December - Fr. Jean GROSFORT | 31 st December - Fr. Antoine MORDASINI |
| 06 th December - Fr. Zacharias | 31 st December - Fr. Elie MEYNET |

Let us pray for the Departed

- Fr. Lucien GURLIAT, MSFS, belonging to France-Suisse Province. He passed away on 27th October 2023
- Mr. V C Arockia Doss (67), father of Bro. Peter Clement, scholastic. He passed away on 28th October 2023

- Mrs. Madhalai (67), the paternal aunty of Fr. Susairaj (Malawi Mission). She passed away on 01st November 2023
- Mr. Arockiam, the brother-in-law of Fr. S. Tony (Alangayam). He passed away on 01st November 2023

**Let us Pray for the repose of the departed souls
and for their bereaved family members.**

May their souls rest in Peace.

Yours in Christ



Fr. A. Patrick Jayaraj
Provincial Superior

To Reflect

“People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them. (Mk 10:13-16)

“A Little bit of Mercy makes the World more Cold and More Just.”

-Pope Francis

திருக்குறள் - Thirukkural

சிறப்புஈனும் செல்வமும் ஈனும் அறத்தினூஉங்கு
ஆக்கம் எவனோ உயிர்க்கு.

Transliteration:

Sirappueenum selvamum eenum araththinoongu
aakkam evanoe uyirkku.

English Explanation:

It yields distinction, yields prosperity; what gain
Greater than virtue can a living man obtain.