



# MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

## South-East India Province

### SEIP Circular

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### Salesian Thought

**“We are not drawn to God  
By Iron Chains,  
But by Sweet Attractions  
And Holy Inspirations.”**

### Straight from the heart of Fr. Peter Marie Mermier

**“Before everything else  
Have Love for one another  
Which means Esteem, Respect,  
Loving Service, Sympathy,  
And Understanding.”**

### Prayer Intention of the Superior General for the Month of January

That we may be able to live Our Charism, which is “to continue the Mission of Christ and His Church by living the Spirit and Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in a religious community as Missionaries, lived and envisioned by our Founder.”  
We pray to the Lord.

## From the Provincial's Desk

“We observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage” (Mt 2:2). The love of God is available to all. The Feast of Epiphany is a sign of God’s love for all of us. The magi are not the first groups to visit the new born Jesus. It was already granted to the shepherds to visit the baby in the manger. These poor and socially weak people are invited before anyone else. The magi represent the wise, the rich, socially acknowledged people. With their visit to the crib, the circle is complete: Jesus is born both for the weak and the strong, the poor and the rich, the illiterate and the literate. The magi from the East are gentiles. East stands in contrast to Jerusalem, the holy city. The diligent observation and astute prediction of the magi stand in contrast to the inability and complacency of the religious leaders of the holy city and the royal court of Herod. It would mean that the invitees to witness the birth of Jesus need to be, not merely intelligent and rich, but seekers of God. The magi saw the light and the Light of the world.

In both these visits of the shepherds and the magi, God is the one who guides: the shepherds are led by the angels, and the Magi by the star. The disappearance and reappearance of the star indicate that when we wish to choose the right destination, God will help us find our way to it. The Magi needed to have openness to the direction shown by the star and certain humility to follow it. God belongs to all, and in a special manner to those who are open to read his ways. The Magi sought true God and found him. We acknowledge that the love of God is made available to all and his Light shines before those who seek him with a sincere heart. Let’s seek the Lord while he is available and move forward in the New Year 2024. Happy Feast of Epiphany.



## REPORT OF THE CANONICAL VISITATION

### Visitation in Italy, Austria and Germany

The canonical visitation to our confreres working / studying in Italy, Austria and Germany lasted about four weeks, spanning from 10<sup>th</sup> November to 8<sup>th</sup> December. These days helped us come closer to one another as members of the Family of South East India Province. We found sufficient time for personal meetings and sharing, community meetings, meetings at the level of mission and

delegation, and discussions on religious life, community life, communication with the Province and the possibility of finding sponsors for the projects of the Province both in Malawi and Tamilnadu.

## Italy

My visitation to Italy started with the meeting with Rt. Rev. Dr. Calogero Peri, the Bishop of Caltagirone, Sicily, Italy on 11<sup>th</sup> November. He is thankful for and positive about the pastoral ministry rendered by Fr. A. Jeyaseela Rajan, Fr. A. Jeyaraj, Fr. D. Britto and Fr. J. Packia Sathish

in the diocese of Caltagirone. We discussed about the places of our Fathers working there and the possibility of bringing more personnel to this diocese. Then, I visited all our Fathers in their respective places of ministry. In all three places, I took part in the Eucharistic Celebrations, during which either I preached the homily or gave a message on our Mission all over the world. All our Fathers engaged in Mission in Italy came together in Ramacca on 13<sup>th</sup> November for a meeting and discussion. I thank Fr. J. Packia Sathish for hosting the meeting.



In Italy:

1. Turin
2. Rome
3. Caltagirone

Cheriyanthara, the Superior of the House “Procura Generale dei MSFS.” Fr. Ajit Daimary, House Superior of the Generalate and Fr. Vinoy Valachathinakathu arranged my accommodation in Rome. I thank all of them sincerely for the wonderful hospitality.

My visit to our community in Turin was on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> November. Fr. S. Johnson and Fr. S. Ashir Johnson are offering their service in the parish. I visited both the churches in the Parish and concelebrated the mass in the main parish Church. We had a meeting of the confreres on 16<sup>th</sup> evening. Fr. S. Arockiam, who serves the parish in Bolzano was invited to the community at Turin for the meeting. We had the opportunity to meet Rev. Fr. Ugo Pozzoli, the diocesan Vicar General for Consecrated Life and discuss about various possibilities of collaboration between the province and the diocese.

## Austria



In Austria  
Oberpullendorf, Eisenstadt Diocese

parishioners in both these stations after the mass, as tea and snacks were arranged in their respective parish halls. We had a community meeting on 18<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Fr. Michael Wüger, the VG of the diocese was invited to the House on Sunday and I had a fruitful discussion with him.

On 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November, I was in our Community at Oberpullendorf in the diocese of Eisenstadt, Austria. Since June 2020, it is an established local community. Fr. S. Deiva Sahayaraj, Fr. M. Rayappan and Fr. S. Prem Kumar who are engaged in pastoral ministry in Oberpullendorf form this local community. I had the privilege of celebrating the Sunday Masses in St. Wenzel at Steinberg and St. Clemens Maria

Hofbauer at Oberpullendorf. I could interact with the



Chapel

## Germany

My visitation to our confreres in Germany began on 20<sup>th</sup> November. In the diocese of Passau, Fr. Amalraj, Fr. K. Martin Anand, Fr. S. Joseph, Fr. G. Visuvasam, Fr. G. David and Fr. P. Rex are doing commendable service. Msgr. Josef Ederer, the VG of the diocese was kind enough to allot sufficient time for a fruitful conversation and invite us for a lunch with him. Fr. M. Victor and Fr. P.S. Joseph discharge their responsibility effectively in the diocese of Regensburg. I met Rev. Dr. Franz Frühmorgan, the Dean, and D. Wolfgang Brandl, the Secretary to the VG. Fr. S. Antony has resumed his pastoral ministry in the diocese of Stuttgart with great impression. After visiting him, I attended the meeting convened by our Board Members of Friendly Home in Speicher, Trier. I also celebrated the Sunday mass in the parish. Fr. S. Arul Selvamani, too, has started his ministry in the Trier with a great enthusiasm. Fr. M. Anish Kumar who is pursuing his PhD in Paris was invited to the place of Fr. S. Arul Selvamani. I had a friendly meeting with Msgr. Dillenburg, the VG of the diocese of Trier.

I met Fr. M. Raj Kumar and Fr. S. David Vincent in the diocese of Münster and had the opportunity to meet their parish priests and Mrs. Renate Brunnett, the person in-charge of foreign priests. I also had the opportunity to visit the parish where I was working seven years back. Then, I moved to the diocese of Fulda, where Fr. S. Edward Xavier, Fr. S. Simon Raja, Fr. B. Francis Xavier and



- In Germany:*
1. Münster
  2. Fulda
  3. Trier
  4. Rottenburg – Stuttgart
  5. Regensburg
  6. Passau

parish priests. The parishioners are highly appreciative of their presence and pastoral care. I express my sincere thanks to all the local superiors. I am immensely thankful to Fr. A. Jeyaraj, the Coordinator of our Mission in Italy, and Fr. S. Simon Raja, the Superior of our Delegation in GA for making all the necessary arrangements, preparing my itinerary, taking appointments with the diocesan officials and accompanying me during the visitation. Many of our confreres in Germany are profuse in helping the Province financially through their personal contribution and by finding

donors for projects towards Formation, Mass Intentions, Fransalien Karangal, Malawi Mission, DeSIFMA, Education of Children, Solar Panels, Air Condition, Friendly Home and other Children’s Home. Some of them are very prompt in taking initiatives at the time of natural calamities like flood and cyclone. On behalf of the Province, I extend my sincere thanks to them all.

**Raja Shanmuga Nagar**

The canonical visit of Fr. Provincial was a blessing for the “All Saints Church” Parish at R.S. Nagar. It was consoling that the visit of the Provincial took place at the time, the entire city Chennai was fighting to come back to normalcy after it had been affected by the Cyclone Michaung. Our

Fr. P. Aloysius are working. On 4<sup>th</sup> December, we had an online meeting of our Delegation in GA. On 6<sup>th</sup> December, I visited Prof. Dr. Karlheinz Diez, the Auxiliary Bishop of Fulda and Prelate Christof Steinert, the VG and Dr. Florian Böth, the in-charge of Priests in their respective offices.

Dear Confreres, our fathers made it possible that I could meet some parish priests and benefactors. We had pleasant and fruitful conversations. All the parish priests are thankful to the Province for sending the confreres for pastoral service in their parishes. Most of our Fathers support the province with mass intentions and projects besides their salary. I thank all of them for their commitment to the Province and their dedicated service in the places of ministry. They maintain cordial relationship with the diocese and

parish was also under the water for five days, with no electricity and internet service. Fr. Provincial arrived here on 16<sup>th</sup> evening and was received by Fr. A. Selvaraj, Superior & Parish Priest, Fr. V. Yesuraja, Assistant Parish Priest and Dn. Regan. Fr. Provincial got to know about our ordeal during and after the cyclone. Then he met the confreres individually. The following day being Sunday, Fr. Provincial celebrated the Mass and preached a thoughtful homily. After the mass, he interacted with some of the parishioners, getting to know more of their traumatic experiences, and this sharing was really consoling moments for them.

After the Mass Fr. Provincial met the families those who were very badly affected by the Michaung Cyclone and gave flood relief materials like mats, blankets, towels, saris, grocery items etc. This relief work was organized by the local community with the help of the Province and the Diocese. Then he met the Parish Council, the Women Religious and Pious Associations that are very active in the Parish. We had the community meeting with the Provincial after the lunch. He appreciated us for praying together, having the meals together and living a good community life etc. He then further exhorted us on religious life. The next day, he along with the local community visited Most Rev. Dr. George Antonysamy, the Archbishop of Chennai- Mylapore. The discussion with the Archbishop was refreshing and fruitful. The visit of Fr. Provincial nourished the life of our MSFS community at R.S Nagar in all the ways. We, the local community together with our parishioners thank Fr. Provincial for his love and concern and pastoral support.

- Dn. Regan

### **Kelambakkam**

Fr. A. Patrick Jayaraj, the Provincial Superior, visited the community at Kelambakkam on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Fr. Provincial was accorded a grand welcome in the parish and he presided over the Holy Eucharistic celebration on Sunday evening. We had a meaningful celebration of the liturgy with the parishioners. The Provincial was felicitated by the parish community, the parish council, Pious Associations of the parish and the Bethlehemite sisters. He had a meeting with the parish council members. He visited the sites of the upcoming projects of Flag Mast and laying of Paver Block in the campus. Fr. A. Jeyaseelan, the parish priest and Fr. C. Britto Clindon, the assistant parish priest organized it along with the community members.

The Provincial was given a warm welcome and felicitation at SFS Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Kelambakkam, by Fr. S. Britto, the Principal, Fr. A. Luckas, Superior and Procurator, staffs and the students at the school assembly. He addressed the Teachers and students separately and visited the school especially the ongoing construction of the school building.

We met the Provincial both individually and as a community. The regular religious life of the confreres, the mission activities of the parish as well as the quality of education of the school were assessed and the ongoing and upcoming projects were discussed with the Provincial.

- Fr. A. Jeyaseelan

## SFS School, Pudukkottai

Fr. A. Patrick Jayaraj MSFS the Provincial of Southeast India Province reached our community at 12.30 pm on 19.12.2023. He addressed all the teachers in the evening and later paid a visit to the Parish Priest and VF of Pudukkottai.

On 20.12.2023, the Provincial joined the community for Morning Prayer and celebrated the mass in our community and preached homily for the season of Advent. In the morning, he began to meet the members of the community individually. The provincial was invited to the morning assembly at 9.30 am during which the principal introduced and welcomed him. He then gave a wonderful talk to the students making them aware of the importance of studies, carrying out one's own responsibilities, unity in diversity and hard work. Later he invited the non-teaching staff for a meeting with him. He, then, resumed the personal meeting with the confreres, after which, verification of documents related to the local community and the school was carried out by the Provincial. Thereafter, the Provincial met the community members together, during which, he made an assessment of the community and expressed his vision. He also facilitated the interaction of the members. He was appreciative of innovations undertaken by the school administration by way of free spoken-English classes for the students, special coaching for slow-learners, handwriting classes, introducing Artificial Intelligence, Coding and Robotic classes, Project Day, and programs for equipping the teachers. He, then, visited the entire school building and made his observations. It was wonderful speaking with the provincial and discussing the values of community life. We, local the community at SFS School Pudukkottai, thank the Provincial for the visit and the encouragement which it brought about.

- Fr. A. Nayaga Seelan

## From Kalai Ulagam

KRISTARPANA (கிருஸ்தார்பனா), the Bharatanatyam Arangetram / debut full length performance on stage (பரதநாட்டிய அரங்கேற்றம்) by senior students (Dr. Alan, Godfrey and Mr. Jerome Jesuraj) of MSFS Kalaiulagam took place on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at Vani Mahal, T. Nagar,

Chennai. The Chief Guests were Chevalier Kalaimamani V.G.

Santhosam, Chairman of VGP

Group of Companies, and Dr. A. Sumathi Sundar, Head of Department of Dance, Bridge Academy, and the Guest of Honour was Rev. Fr. A. Luckas, MSFS. The performers are the senior students of Fr. A. Jeyaseelan, MSFS, who trained them about 15 years in the art of Dance. The traditional and



classical event was witnessed by many dancers of Chennai and a good number of religious. The unique aspect of this arangetram is that all the dance recitals were based on Christian themes of Mother Mary, St. Joseph, and the life of Jesus. The live orchestra was supported by Fr. A. Jeyaseelan on Nattuvangam, Dr. Lalitha Jawahar on vocal, M. Hariharasudan on Mirdangam and Ganesh on violin. Mr. VG Santhosam appreciated and blessed the students and the Guru.

- Fr. A. Jeyaseelan

## **Annual Sports Day – SFS Matric Hr. Sec. School, Vaniyambadi**



We were very glad to have the presence of the honourable Chief Guest Fr. A. Patrick Jayaraj MSFS, the Provincial of South-East India Province, the Guest of Honour, Mr. A. Vijaya Kumar DSP, Vaniyambadi, and a good number of Fathers and dignitaries amidst us on the Annual Sports Meet at SFS School, Vaniyambadi.

The Annual Sports Meet was inaugurated with a prayer dance by our SFS School students which captivated graceful movements, spiritually inspired costumes, evoking a profound connection to the divine. As we gathered for the momentous occasion Rev. Fr. M. John Fernandes, the procurator welcomed the gathering while Fr. J. Savarimuthu, the Principal, Fr. P. Stephen, the Correspondent and Bro. Sebastian Robin, the Regent felicitated the distinguished guests.

The March-past articulated precision and pride, as teams marched in unison, showcasing discipline and unity. The Sports Day commenced with the flag hoisting ceremony. The Chief Guest hoisted our SFS School flag, while the Guest of Honour hoisted the Olympic Flag. It set the tone for the day of spirited competitions symbolizing unity, sportsmanship, and national pride. With great ceremony and symbolism, the Guest of Honor ignited the Olympic torch, illuminating the spirit of competition and sportsmanship following which, A. Sahana the SPL pledged to uphold the values of integrity, leadership, and sportsmanship through the solemn Oath Taking ceremony. Subsequently, the Chief Guest inaugurated the sports meet open, marking the commencement of the eagerly awaited competitions and festivities.

Following the inauguration, the spotlight shifted to the spirited competitions such as sprints, long distance running, long jump, high jump, shot put, javelin throw at the designated venue. After the athletic events, Rev. Fr. Dr. A. Patrick Jayaraj, MSFS, the Provincial of SEIP delivered a concise and impactful address and Mr. A. Vijaya Kumar DSP of Vaniyambadi delivered an eloquent and inspiring address, enriching the occasion with insightful words. Following the address by the Guest of honour the event featured an impressive mass drill by our young minds which demonstrated precision, coordination, and discipline among participants. Subsequent to the mass drill, the





eagerly awaited Prize Distribution ceremony commenced - Prizes for the group games and overall championship were distributed.

We were privileged to be guided by a dedicated team of individuals whose collective commitment has been instrumental in shaping the success of our institution. We sincerely acknowledge the key

pillars of our leadership - Rev. Fr. J. Savarimuthu, MSFS, the Principal, Rev. Fr. P. Stephen, MSFS, the Correspondent, Rev. Fr. M. John Feranandes, MSFS, the Procurator and Bro. Sebastian Robin, MSFS, the Regent. We thank all for the presence and blessings.

- Fr. J. Savarimuthu A

### Annual Day - SFS Matric Hr. Sec. School, Kelambakkam

“Blessed are those who live in peace and harmony with all of God’s creation.” **QUINDECENNIAL** Annual Day of SFS School, Kelambakkam was celebrated on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023. Fr. A. Jeyaseelan, the Correspondent extended a warm welcome to the dignitaries, the Chief Guest, the Guest of Honour and the gathering. Mr. Lionel, the Proprietor of Sennetta, Former Manager of Taj Hotel Chennai was the Chief Guest. He extorted the students with triple principles to be successful in life: Think before you Speak (Creative), Reflect before you



Act (Convinced) and Be Kind and Generous (Concentrated). Rev. Fr. C. Sebastin Raj, MSFS, the Councilor in-charge of Education of South-East India Province, was the Guest of Honour. He said, “Motivation plays a vital role in learning.” He then encouraged the students to cultivate three ‘C’s

in their lives: Concentration with Hard Work, Consistency with perseverance, and Connectivity with the world that leads to success. Fr. S. Britto, MSFS, the Principal presented a short report on the academic activities and achievements of the year 2023-24. “Harmony” was the theme of the **QUINDECENNIAL** Annual Day. The theme was introduced by the students with the fusion dance. The theme of the day was presented with cultural dances, one act plays in both English and



Tamil. Prizes were distributed to the students for the academic achievements and regular attendance by chief guest and guest of honour. Fr. A. Lucas, MSFS, the procurator, in his vote of thanks, thanked the chief guest, guest of honour, parents, well-wishers, teaching and non/teaching staffs and students. We remain grateful to all those who made this day a memorable one.

- Ms. B. Beena, Teacher

### Parents' Day at SFS Minor Seminary



26<sup>th</sup> November 2023 was marked in the calendar of SFS Seminary as a special day as we celebrated the “Parents Day”. The presence of all the parents of our brothers made the day even more special. The early arrival of a few of them showed their interest in the participation and there were more than 30 of them. We had invited two special speakers for the day, namely, Sr. James from St. Anne’s of Trichy, and Fr. P. Johnson Jayabal, MSFS, the Parish Priest of SFS Church Thirugokarnam, who exhorted and guided the parents to encourage and strengthen the vocation of their children. We had the festal Mass of Christ

the King and delicious meal thereafter. Later, the seminarians entertained their parents with group songs, dance, mime, speeches in both English and Tamil. Fr. C. John Britto, MSFS, the Rector addressed the parents during the colourful cultural program thanking them, expressing the progress made by the students and requesting their continuous cooperation for their holistic improvement. One of the parents came forward to express the gratitude on behalf of all the parents, saying, that they were very happy to see their children’s growth being in the seminary. The “Parents Day” came to an end with the tea at 4.00 pm after which the parents began slowly to move back to their respective destinations. Overall, the program was a very much enriching and rejuvenating one - for the staffs, the seminarians and the parents. Thanks to everyone who made the day wonderful, fruitful and joyous.



- Fr. S. Antony Raj

## Perpetual Profession and Diaconate Ordination



On December 27, 2023, the Fransalian Seminary community held the Perpetual Profession ceremony for nine brothers. Rev. Fr. Johnson Gonsalves, MSFS the Provincial of Pune Province officiated the Maas along with Rev. Fr. Manoj Trikey, MSFS, the Provincial of Nagpur Province and other fathers from the neighborhood.

The brothers who made their perpetual profession are Bro. Dony (South East Province), Bros. Ajay, Infant, Nelson, Anthony and Arockiam (Pune Province), Bros. Bimal, Anup and Sainjin (Nagpur province). This significant occasion marked their solemn and perpetual commitment to a life of dedication and service. Both the Provincials received the Vows in the presence of many Religious Fathers and Sisters.

The celebration in the campus continued to the next day, 28<sup>th</sup> December, as we received the Sacred Order of Diaconate conferred by Most Rev. John Rodrigues, Bishop of Pune diocese. The presence of both the Provincials of Pune and Nagpur, Fr. A. Charles Michael Raj, the delegate of the Provincial of South-East India Province boosted the joy of the occasion. Nine of us entered the clerical world reflecting on the theme "Rooted in Christ, Committed to Serve." These events underscored the Ordained Deacons' unwavering dedication to the core principles of St. Francis de Sales, our Patron.



- Dn. A. Dony Diamond raj

## Regents Meet - 2023

The Regents' Meet 2023-24 was held at Divine Mercy Parish, Kelambakkam, Chennai. We were glad to have our meeting this year away from the regency paces and had the opportunity to experience the missionary dynamism of our Fathers. Fr. A Lucas, the superior, extended a warm welcome to all of us and cheerfully accommodated us. Fr. A. Jeyaseelan, the Parish Priest, beautifully arranged the sessions and gave us the overview of the program. Fr. Reagan, the resource person, a prominent professor in Sacred Heart Seminary, enlightened us by his thought-provoking talk on holiness. He split the theme into three dimension and they are a) Purpose, b)



Aim, and c) Goal. Fr. C. Britto Clindon, the Assistant Parish Priest, provided us with delicious food and accompanied us the following day for a short picnic. As we look back, we are grateful to God the Almighty for gathering us during the Christmas Octave! It is indeed a memorable day in our life journey. We thank Fr. S. Britto, the Principal of SFS School, for his guidance and for supporting us with the transport. We sincerely acknowledge the contribution of Fr. A. Charles

Michael Raj, PCIC for Formation, who planned out things meticulously and executed the plan perfectly.

- Bro. Prashanth

## Flood Relief

### 1. RS Nagar

Loving greetings hail from RS Nagar community, Thiruvootiyur, Chennai. The city of Chennai once again had very bitter experience because of the heavy flood caused by the Michaung Cyclone. After the cyclone the whole city of Chennai was floating on the water. The RS Nagar Parish is situated in a low-lying area, due to which the whole parish locality was flooded very soon. As a result, we were surrounded by the water for 4 days without electricity and internet. Even though we had the challenges, we could accommodate nearly 40 to 50 of the affected people in our community hall and provide them with food and shelter. After four days, we reached out to



people and identified the immediate needs and supported them. The help that is rendered by the Province at this time of crisis was a great support for the people of RS Nagar. We thank Fr. Provincial and the Administration for the great and timely support rendered to our parish. On 17<sup>th</sup> December Fr. Provincial, during his canonical visit, along with the local



community members distributed the relief materials for the affected people. Nearly 250 families benefited from the relief materials supported by the province and a few well-wishers.

- Fr. A. Selvaraj

## 2. Kelambakkam



The Michaung Cyclone devastated the whole of Chennai, Chengalpattu, Thiruvallur districts on 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 causing a very pathetic situation and leaving the surface of land flooded. The outpouring of heavy rain caused a heavy flood in



Kelambakkam too. The roads were broken, there was no power supply, no means of communication and no way of getting any food. Even floors of apartments were submerged into rain water. Therefore, the Divine Mercy Church took immediate steps with the help of Parish Youth to save the lives of the people, and supplied basic food packets, bread, milk, rice, candle so on. The Relief materials i.e., Mats, Bed sheets, clothes were distributed to the affected people. The relief work was supported by the Province without much delay.

- Fr. A. Jeyaseelan

## Salesian Program Annecy - SPA 2023

We, the participants of SPA 2023, from the Seven Indian Provinces and East-Africa Province were delighted to be together to enrich our experience in the footsteps of our Patron St. Francis de Sales and our Founder, Fr. Mermier at Annecy, France. The Salesian Programme began with the spiritual experience at Chavanod in reflecting with our Patron SFS on 30th September 2023 on our Founder's day with guided retreat animated by Fr. Samuel and Fr. Stephen Avelu, in which the retreat focused mainly on the Meditations of Our Patron in reference to the Introduction to the Devout Life. After the spiritual journey, the Salesian Program Annecy took a turn from Chavanod to Annecy, France.

We, the eight confreres were blessed to have an experience at such a hallowed place where our Patron is highly honored for his attributes of simple living and above all his love for God which is portrayed in his two Masterpieces written for the whole humanity namely, Introduction to the

Devout Life and Treatise on the Love of God. The life of St. Francis de Sales and his teachings on the love of God have now actually inspired us to be more connected with the Divine to do the best in our mission in keeping with our Patron's words, "Everything by Love, nothing by force. "

We, too, were blessed to get our missionary vigor kindled through our visits to Fr. Mermier's homeland and to the place where our founder worked to establish Parish Missions during the aftermath of French Revolution in order to renew the Christian faith. The immense love which Fr. Mermier had for the missions and his confreres was truly witnessed during our visits. The whole SPA program along with our visits to our MSFS heritage sites and the course offered made us to be aware of the importance and richness of the history of our Congregation. We deem this program as an opportunity to write down the good moments stirred by our visits to the sacred places of our Patron and Founder after much reflection and study on the courses offered during our stay in France. Our Salesian program ended on 11<sup>th</sup> November 2023 at Maison Du Diocese Annecy at France from there we all proceeded to visit Rome.

All of us were blessed to be participants of this great venture. We thank God and raise our hearts in profound gratitude to all the organizers of the SPA Program namely, Rev. Fr. Jean Yves LE TUE MSFS (Provincial Superior of Franco-Swiss Province), the Superior and Community members of Propeine House, Fr. J. Stephen (Co-coordinator of the SPA Program), Fr. Samuel

Devraj (Director of SPA Programme), Fr. John Hepuni (Asst. Director of SPA Programme), the Collaborators of SPA Programme: Fr. Stephen Avelu MSFS, Fr. Martin Richard MSFS & Fr. K. Thomas MSFS for their constant support during our stay at Annecy. We are glad to acknowledge the good works rendered to us by the staff of Maison Du Diocese Annecy. We raise our hearts in gratitude to all those who have made our stay in France and Rome an



enriching and memorable one as we move back to our mission areas to 'Live Jesus' imbued with the zeal of our Founder, "I want Missions."

- Fr. A. Motcha Richard

## **Seminarians Fund**

Formation is one of the areas which need constant support from the confreres and benefactors. It is also a great means of perpetuating our congregation for many more years. I request all of you to make your own contributions towards this noble cause. It would be meaningful, if we are able to make some contribution especially during the visits of the Provincial. It could be mobilized through special collections or some other creative means. Two of our parishes have already initiated this project.

All Saints Church, R.S.Nagar – Rs. 10,000/-

Divine Mercy Church, Kelambakkam – Rs. 10,000/-

I thank both the communities for their contribution to Seminarians Fund.

## **Meeting of Superiors ' Forum and Parish Priests: with a focus on Strategic Planning**

In view of identifying the required and possible project for our centers, especially in our parishes, one-day seminar is arranged for all the superiors and parish priests on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Mr. John, an expert in this field will animate the sessions and will enlighten us about the possible avenues for projects. He will be able to offer us guidance to be more effective in our apostolate of mission and social ministry.

## **Welcome for Holidays**

In January – February 2024, Fr. D. Britto, Fr. A. Jeyaseela Rajan, and Fr. J. Packiam Sathish (all from Italy), Fr. S. Deiva Sahayaraj (Austria), Fr. A. Arul Francis, Fr. R. Mathias, Fr. L. Basker, Fr. F. Emmanuel, Fr. A. John Peter and Fr. H. Ebin Christopher (all from USA), Fr. M. Rajkumar, Fr. A. Amalraj, Fr. G. David, Fr. B. Francis Xavier and Fr. S. Edward Xavier (all from Germany) will be in India for holidays. We wish them all pleasant and happy moments with us and with their respective families.

## **Welcome Back**

Fr. S. Antony Rajesh has returned back to the province after the completion of 10 years in United States and has consented to work in Arusha, Tanzania, at the request of our Assistant General. He is designated to the East-Africa Province temporarily. We thank him for his commendable service in USA and wish him God's Blessings and best of luck for his future ministry.



## **Appointments:**

Fr. S. Antony Rajesh

- Designated to the East Africa, Arusha

Dn. A. Arockia Renold Anand

- Diaconate Ministry, Infant Jesus Church, Othaiyal

## Important days

- 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> Jan 2024 - Retreat at Prashanth Vanam, Cluny, Pondicherry for the confreres ordained in & before 2008 and those who could not participate in the first retreat
- 24<sup>th</sup> January - **SFS Feast & Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee Celebration at the Provincialate**
- 25<sup>th</sup> January - Council Meeting at the Provincialate
- 8<sup>th</sup> March - Meeting of Superiors ' Forum and Parish Priests: with a focus on Strategic Planning
- 12<sup>th</sup> April - Priestly Ordinations at the Provincialate
- 08<sup>th</sup> –09<sup>th</sup> May - Mission Forum Meeting with the General Secretary
- 14<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> May - Formation Forum Meeting with the General Secretary
- 18<sup>th</sup> –19<sup>th</sup> May - SAIM Forum Meeting with the General Secretary
- 08<sup>th</sup> –09<sup>th</sup> June - Education Forum Meeting with the General Secretary

## My Tentative Programme

- 09<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup> January - Governing Body Meeting, Suvidya
- 14<sup>th</sup> January - First Holy Communion, Kelambakkam
- 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> January - Retreat, Pondicherry
- 24<sup>th</sup> January - SFS Feast & Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee Celebration at the Provincialate
- 25<sup>th</sup> January - Council Meeting at the Provincialate
- 26<sup>th</sup> January - Canonical Visit to Vayalogam
- 27<sup>th</sup> January - Canonical Visit to ITI
- 28<sup>th</sup> January - Canonical Visit to SFS Parish, Thirugokarnam
- 29<sup>th</sup> January - Canonical Visit to Natchiyarkoil
- 30<sup>th</sup> January - Canonical Visit to Ravusapatty
- 09<sup>th</sup> February - Annual Day, SFS School, Alangayam
- 10<sup>th</sup> February - Canonical Visit to Vaniyambadi
- 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> February - Classes at IIS
- 22<sup>nd</sup> February - Canonical Visit to Virudhunagar
- 23<sup>rd</sup> February - Canonical Visit to Othaiyal
- 24<sup>th</sup> February - Canonical Visit to Nallatinputhur

## Obituary

- |            |                         |                                |
|------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 01 January | - Fr. Antoine BESSON    | - Fr. Bernard RUFFIEUX         |
|            | - Fr. Jean Marie BERGER | - Bro. Isaac ENAMATTAM         |
|            | - Bro. Jacob TRUNIGER   | 04 January - Fr. Louis COLLOMB |
| 02 January | - Fr. Joseph FAVRAT     | - Fr. Jules BRUGGER            |
| 03 January | - Fr. Francois AVRILLON | 06 January - Fr. John LAWRENCE |
|            | - Fr. Adolphe SOUCHON   |                                |



07 January	- Fr. Lourance Antony THADATHIL		- Fr. Cherian KARUKAPARAMBIL
	- Fr. Elanjipuram VARGHESE	18 January	- Fr. Simon Rodrigues
08 January	- Fr. André KIEFFER	19 January	- Fr. Joseph MABBOUX
	- Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly	20 January	- Fr. Jean Marie CROCHET
09 January	- Fr. Kenneth FRANKS	23 January	- Fr. Francois CONUS
10 January	- Fr. Gabriel AMIRTHANAYAGAM	25 January	- Fr. Eugene GOUX
	- Bro. Antoine BELLEVILLE	26 January	- Fr. Camille MEYNET
	- Fr. Aloysius MORET		- Bro. Anthony NEDUNGATT
11 January	- Fr. Constant BOUVARD		- Fr. Hyppolite GAYDON
12 January	- Fr. Devasia KUZHUPPIL		- Fr. Alphonse FAVRAT
13 January	- Bro. Antoine GAVET		- Bro. Francis THEKKAMILADIYIL
	- Fr. Leon BOUVIER	27 January	- Fr. Nellikunnel GEORGE
	- Fr. Antony Mary NAZARETH		- Fr. Mannukuzumpil ZACHARIAS
14 January	- Fr. Bernard SCHNECK		- Bro. Joseph PUTTUR
	- Fr. Marcel BAECHLER	28 January	- Bro. Madanu JOJI
15 January	- Fr. Camille DUBASSAT	29 January	- Fr. François COFFY
	- Fr. Henri WIDER		- Bro. Maurice COSTER
16 January	- Fr. Alphonse LARRIVAZ	30 January	- Bro. Philip MONZEL
17 January	- Fr. Marius REY	31 January	- Fr. Velamparable EPHREM
			- Fr. Francois ROSNOBLET
			- Mgr. Peter Joseph REY

**Let us Pray for the Departed**

- Mr. S. George, 62, the elder brother of Fr. S. Alexander (PP, Manguzhi). He passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> November
- Mr Jose Vettuvellil, the brother of Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, the Superior General. He passed away on 23<sup>rd</sup> December.
- Mr. Sathanantham, 67, the father of Fr. S. Arockia Doss (studies). He passed away on 03<sup>rd</sup> December.

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

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Yours in Christ



Fr. A. Patrick Jayaraj  
Provincial Superior

## Congratulations



### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CURIA MEMBERS OF NAGPUR PROVINCE

1. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes - PCIC - Mission Forum cum Admonitor
2. Fr. Sandeep Tirkey - PCIC - Formation Forum
3. Fr. Joseph Kailamangalam - PCIC - SAIM
4. Fr. Allen Gonsalves - PCIC - Education
5. Provincial Bursar - Fr. Selbestar Xalxo



### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CURIA MEMBERS OF PUNE PROVINCE

1. Fr. Austin Joy - PCIC - Mission
2. Fr. - Roxy Fernandes PCIC- SAIM
3. Fr. Ramesh George - PCIC- Formation cum Admonitor
4. Fr. Daniel Paraste - PCIC - Education
5. Fr Tony Premanand- Provincial Bursar

## To Reflect

“Salt is good; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is fit neither for the soil nor for the manure pile; they throw it away” (Luke 14: 34-35)

“I would like to ask all those who have positions of responsibility in economic, political and social life, and all men and women of goodwill: let us be 'protectors' of creation, protectors of God's plan inscribed in nature, protectors of one another and of the environment.”

-Pope Francis

## திருக்குறள் - Thirukkural

படைகுடி கூழ்அமைச்சு நட்பரண் ஆறும்  
உடையான் அரசருள் ஏறு.

### Transliteration:

padaikuti koozh-amaichchu natparan aarum  
utaiyaan arasarul eru

### English Explanation:

A powerful army, an intelligent citizenry, inexhaustible resources, an impeccable ministry, an unbreakable friendship and an impregnable bulwark are the six characteristics of a state like a male lion among states.

# *Invitation*

## **FEAST OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES & SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

*Dear.....,*

*We,  
the Fransalian family  
cordially invite you  
to the Feast of our heavenly Patron,  
St. Francis de Sales  
&  
the Silver Jubilee celebrations  
of our confreres:*

**FR. S. JERRY LOUIS, MSFS**

**FR. M. SAGAYARAJ, MSFS**

**FR. S. AMIRTHANATHAN, MSFS**

**FR. A. MICHAEL, MSFS**

*Date: 24th Wednesday, January 2024*

*Time: 05.30 p.m. – Holy Eucharist*

*Followed by  
Felicitation & Fellowship Meal.*

*Place: MSFS Provincialate, Nagamangalam*

*Looking forward  
to your esteemed presence.*

**Fransalians,  
South-East India Province.**

