



MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

South-East India Province

SEIP Circular

January - February - 2025



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Salesian Thought

"When you encounter difficulties and contradictions, do not try to break them, but bend them with gentleness and time.. "

Straight from the heart of Fr. Peter Marie Mermier

"Humility and gentleness are all that required in an apostolic man."

Prayer Intention of the Superior General for the Month of January

That the participation, discussions, and decisions of the upcoming XXI General Chapter may renew to live the missionary charism of our Congregation through the intercession of Mary, the Mother of God, We pray to the Lord.

February

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 of missionaries, as lived and envisioned by our Founder." We pray to the Lord.

From the Provincial's Desk

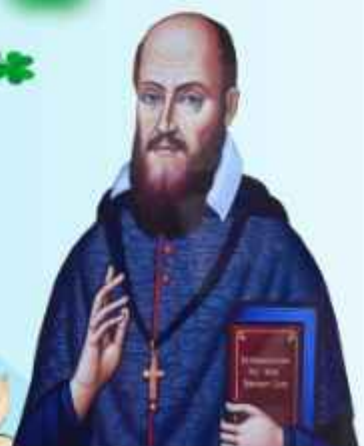
Francis de Sales is a co-pilgrim of Hope in our journey with Jesus. His spirituality pins hope in God and HIS salvific plan for all. He was convinced that the love of God is available to everyone, and that every person is called to Holiness. One of his most important sayings is: "It is a mistake, a heresy, to want to exclude devoutness of life from among soldiers, from shops and offices, from royal courts, from the homes of the married." Strengthened by the virtue of Hope, he, therefore, dedicated himself to preaching the Word of God to others with immense zeal and fortitude. His attitude was characterized by hope which was visible in his approach as a young priest: in the face of great physical danger and hostility, when the doors were slammed in his face and insults were hurled at him from every direction, he remained unfazed.

His episcopal motto "Non Excidet," meaning "HE shall not fail," is highly expressive of Hope. The motto does not put him at the center, but points to God: if we trust in God who is love, He will not fail us. He uses the image of a Compass, a navigation instrument, used to find out directions. It's needle always points to the north whether it is stormy, cloudy, rainy or sunny. It gives the sailor hope even in tough conditions. Likewise, our heart should look towards God and God alone, regardless of the happenings in life. A pilgrim of hope is not merely optimistic, which a secular person can very well be, but he fixes his trust in God in all circumstances. Hope would indicate the involvement of God in our life. It calls us to see the brighter side of a topsy-turvy life situation and have trust in God. It is an attitude that our God will not abandon us, despite our experience of tribulations.

A person of Hope is not a dreamer, but highly realistic. Our Patron was always realistic and human. He says, "I am human as anyone else." This realism is enlivened by hope in God. He says, "To be human is to be rooted in God, for it is God's nature in us that makes us really human." He sees God in everything, especially in all human beings. In one of his letters, St. Francis writes, "God leads the strong with his hand, but carries the weak in his arms." His optimistic approach in life makes him a saint of Hope.

As the Holy Father reminds us that we are all pilgrims of Hope, we move forward with the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, a saint of Hope, who teaches us to be filled with Hope, to set our hearts on God alone, and trust Him who never fails us. Happy Feast of our Heavenly Patron St. Francis de Sales.

Happy Patron's Day



Congratulations on Completion of Studies

Fr. Berdinand Sahaya Selvan PhD (Canon Law):

Fr. Berdinand Sahaya Selvan VARUVEL successfully defended his doctoral thesis "Leave of Absence in the Light of Can. 665: Challenges and Perspectives in the Religious Institute of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales" on 29th October 2024 at the Urbaniana University in Rome. On 17th January 2025, he published the thesis and completed the procedure. We appreciate and congratulate Rev. Dr. Fr. Berdinand on obtaining a doctorate in Canon Law.



Fr. Anantharaj M.Ed:

Fr. Anantharaj completed his Master of Education in Education Administration and Management with merits at DMI – St. Eugene University, Lusaka, Zambia. We appreciate and congratulate Rev. Fr. Anantharaj for this milestone

SPA - 2024

It was a heartfelt experience attending the SPA program in France, the place of the foundation of our congregation. The program was organized from 1.10.2024 to 12.11.2024. The program was truly an enriching opportunity to deepen the understanding of our mission, charism and spiritual heritage that our Patron and our Founder imparted to us. The program took place in the serene and prayerful environment at Annecy, a place that reminds the beginnings of our congregation.

All the sessions of the program were very spiritual and reflective, focussing on the life of St. Francis de Sales, his spirituality and the root of our congregation. We reflected on the Salesian spiritual path, focusing particularly on his 'Love of God' and 'Introduction to the Devout Life'. As part of the spiritual program, we had the privilege of meditating on the founding vision of our congregation. Our shared prayers, reflections and discussions created an atmosphere of unity and support. One of the most powerful aspects of this program was the opportunity to visit places deeply connected to the history of our congregation and to our Patron. The program also included a tour to Rome, Padua, Venice and Assisi. I



am grateful for this opportunity to walk in the footsteps of our Patron, to deepen my understanding of our charism and to renew my commitment to our congregation.

- Fr. L. Jayaraj

Scholastic Meet 2024 - 2025

It was indeed a joyful and memorable scholastic meet for all our regents and the brothers doing Theology. It was held at SFS Parish, Thirugokarnam, Pudukkottai from 26th to 28th December 2024. The scholastics arrived at the venue on Dec 26, 2024. Fr. Henry, the parish priest warmly expressed his words of welcome to all the scholastics. After the Eucharistic adoration, we had three sessions, starting at 09.00 am., on various themes. In the first session, Sr. Dr. Diana Matthew SCC spoke on the theme "Health and Hygiene". The 2nd session was animated by Sr. Jayaseeli Priya SCC who spoke on addiction and drugs. The third session was conducted by Fr. M. Britto MSFS enlightening us about the prudent use of mobile phones during the formation. Thereafter, we had a friendly basketball match at SFS Minor Seminary. In the evening, after the holy Eucharistic celebration celebrated by Fr. Charles Michael, PCIC – Formation, we had the opportunity to evaluate the day and share our personal experience in various theologates. On



28th December Fr. Provincial presided over the Holy Eucharist. After the mass, he also addressed us and brought out the concerns of formation and formees. The rest of the day was made colourful with a picnic to Sengipatti. In the evening brothers left to their respective communities. We thank Fr. Charles Michael, the councillor incharge of Formation and Fr. Joseph Henry, the host for organizing the Scholastics Meet very meaningfully and colourfully.

- Bro. A. Selva Prakash

Projects in Malawi Mission

Our community at Livingstonia (Fr. Anantharaj and Fr. Jerald) has constructed a Maize Mill in view of making the community self-reliant. The machineries are already fixed in the new building. We are yet to get the electricity connection, after which the mill will begin to function. The local people contributed to this project through their labour. As of now, the people have to

walk/travel about 25 km in order to grind maize. The new mill in Livingstonia will reduce their burden considerably. We whole-heartedly thank Fr. A. Amalraj who mobilized fund for this project, and the provincial administration for the support.

- Fr. Anantharaj

Our community at Ngerenge (Fr. Nelson and Fr. Marshal) has completed the project of the construction of a store room for the community. Since Ngerenge is a fertile area, conducive to cultivate rice, many farmers are engaged in cultivation of rice and groundnuts. Therefore, newly constructed storeroom will be utilized to store such cereal grains and legumes, which could be later sold with minimum profit. It will support the local community and the parish needs. We thank the provincial administration for the financial support and encouragement. During the construction of the store house, the faithful of St. Martin De Porres parish were very cooperative and they have put in a lot of effort by way of contributing bricks and sand. I thank them, too, for their generosity.

- Fr. Nelson Arockiasamy

Tumbuka Translation of Novena, Litany and Votive Mass of SFS

We constantly improvise our liturgical celebrations in our mission in Malawi. We are also committed to spread the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, our Patron in our parishes. Now Fr. Vimal Raj has translated the novena to and the litany of St. Francis de Sales and the votive Mass into Tumbuka, the liturgical language of the diocese of Karonga and Mzuzu, where 5 our parishes are situated. The texts have been distributed to the parishioners and they are already in use. I do appreciate Fr. Vimal Raj for his initiative and others who helped him in this great effort.

News from Thedal



During the second week of December 2024, six solar streetlights were installed across the campus, along with three solar focus lights in and around the house, effectively brightening the surroundings. Our sincere gratitude goes to the dedicated team of solar and electrical engineers who executed the project with great professionalism and efficiency. This project not only enhances the functionality and sustainability of our campus but also reflects our shared commitment to environmental stewardship. We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Rev. Fr. C. John Britto and Rev. Fr. A. John Peter who mobilized finance for this purpose. May God bless their good efforts.

Besides this, major part of the Thedal campus is now secured with a newly constructed compound wall, ensuring better safety and security for the premises. A new laundry facility and drying shed have been constructed to cater to the needs of course participants, providing a convenient and efficient space for their use. Our sincere thanks to the provincial administration for their financial support and guidance.

- Fr. Johnson Jeyabal



Annual Day at SFS School, Vaniyambadi



SFS Matric. Hr. Sec. School, Vaniyambadi, celebrated its 30th Annual Day and Pearl Jubilee Celebrations with a vibrant ceremony held in the school premises. Rev. Fr. S. Anthony, the Correspondent, welcomed the gathering. Rev. Dr. A. Patrick Jayaraj MSFS, the Provincial, presided over the function and delivered the presidential address. In his address, he encouraged the students to strive for excellence, congratulated them for their achievements and thanked the parents for their collaboration. Rev. Fr. J. Savarimuthu, the Principal, presented a comprehensive Annual Report, highlighting the achievements and developments of the school.

The esteemed Chief Guest, Thiru K. Tharpakaraj IAS, District Collector, Tirupattur, graced the occasion. In his inspiring address, the District Collector, motivated the students and the gathering with his words of encouragement and wisdom. He also presented prizes to the school toppers who excelled in the 10th and 12th standard Government public examinations, recognizing their outstanding academic performance. Furthermore, the teachers, who accompanied students in their pursuit for academic excellence, were appreciated and acknowledged for their contribution.

The students presented an impressive and well performed skit based on the theme 'Service of SFS School in the Locality' in the form of "The Life of a Student", around which a dazzling series of performances



such as dance, music, speech, yoga, skating, karate and silambam were showcased. The cultural program, which was meticulously planned, choreographed and performed by the talented students, captivated the audience. This significant milestone marked 30 years of our unwavering commitment in providing quality education to our students and fostering a conducive environment for their holistic growth. Rev. Fr. M. Rayappan John Britto, helped the students to prepare and practice for the grant event. Rev. Fr. D. Jayakumar, the Procurator, proposed the vote of thanks and expressed his sincere gratitude to the staff and to everyone who contributed to the success of the memorable event.

- Fr. J. Savarimuthu

Foundation Stone for Animation Center in Manakudy

On 19th January 2025, the foundation stone for our Animation Center in Manakudy was laid by Fr. Patrick Jayaraj, the Provincial Superior in the presence of Rev. Fr. Santhanam, the Provincial Bursar, Rev. Fr. S. P. Johnson, the VF, Rev. Fr. Ajan Raj, the parish priest of Manakudy and a good number of MSFS Fathers. This institute will be a place for counselling the youth, training the lay collaborators in the Church, and various types of animation and retreats for the clergy, religious and lay people.



Office bearers in Malawi Mission

Mission Superior	- Fr. Susai Raj
Mission Bursar	- Fr. Charles Berin
Project Coordinator	- Fr. Nelson

My sincere thanks to Fr. Anantharaj, the out-going Mission Bursar for his sincere, efficient and committed service in handling the finance of the Mission and maintaining its account. I wish the new office bearers all the best and God's guidance.

Transfers and Appointments - Malawi

Name	Designation	Place
Fr. P. Anantharaj	Parish Priest & Superior	Manyani, Malawi
Fr. S. Jerald	Parish Priest & Superior	Livingstonia, Malawi
Fr. M. Adaikala Arul Raj	Curate	Livingstonia, Malawi
Fr. A. John Britto	Curate	Ngerenge, Malawi
Fr. P. Arockia Marshal	Curate	Kameme, Malawi
Fr. Infant	Superior (additional)	Masasa, Malawi

Appointment – USA

Fr. R. Mathias – Contact Person of the Provincial

Upcoming Programs

- 24th Jan 2025 – Feast of our Patron & Jubilee Celebrations at 10.30 am
- 01st to 14th Feb 2025 – General Chapter at Visakhapatnam
- 26th Feb 2025 – Meeting of the Catechists of our Parishes
- 02nd May 2025 – Priestly Ordinations at the Provincialate

My Tentative Program

- 24th Jan 2025 – Feast of our Patron & Jubilee Celebrations, Provincialate
- 24th Jan 2025 – Annual Day, SFS School, Virudhunagar
- 25th Jan 2025 – Parish Feast, Adhanur
- 30th Jan 2025 – Blessing of the new Block, Kelambakkam
- 31st Jan to 16th Feb 2025 – General Chapter, Visakhapatnam
- 22nd Feb – Council Meeting
- 14th March – Annual Day and Blessing of the new Block, Perumbakkam

Obituary

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| 25 th January | - Bro. Anthony NEDUNGATT | - Fr. Francis DOUGOUD, |
| 26 th January | - Fr. Hyppolite GAYDON | 03 rd February - Bro. Michel BEAUQUIS, |
| | - Fr. Alphonse FAVRAT | 04 th February - Bro. Lucio BORGES |
| | - Bro. Francis THEKKAMILADIYIL | 05 th February - Fr. Roger SALLAZ |
| | - Fr. Nellikunnel GEORGE | 07 th February - Fr. Crispin D'SOUZA |
| | - Fr. Mannukuzumpil ZACHARIAS | 08 th February - Fr. Patrick WALL |
| 27 th January | - Bro. Joseph PUTTUR | - Bro. Raphael SCHNEIDER |
| | - Bro. Madanu JOJI | - Bro. Eugen OPPOLD |
| | - Fr. François COFFY | 09 th February - Fr. Joseph DUCREST |
| 28 th January | - Bro. Maurice COSTER | 11 th February - Fr. Joseph CURRAT |
| 29 th January | - Bro. Philip MONZEL | - Fr. Francis HAMILTON |
| | - Fr. Ephrem VELAMPARAMPIL | 12 th February - Fr. Régis MANIOULOUX |
| 30 th January | - Fr. Francois ROSNOBLET | 13 th February - Bro. Ignatius D'SOUZA |
| 31 st January | - Msgr. Peter Joseph REY | 14 th February - Fr. François SAGE |
| 01 st February | - Bro. Jean-Marie PAYRAUD, | - Fr. Henri Jules COMERSON |
| 02 nd February | - Bro. Emile MAILLARD, | - Fr. Joseph Charles Pednekar |
| | | 15 th February - Fr. Jean THEVENET |
| | | - Fr. François COUTURIER |
| | | 16 th February - Fr. Henri FOURNIER |
| | | - Fr. John |

KURANDIARKUNNEL
 - Bro. Louis BRUNIER,
 18th February - Bro. Alexandre DRUZ,
 - Bro. Innaiah GALI,
 19th February - Fr. François LONGEREY,
 - Fr. Emile CHAITEMPS,
 - Fr. Anselme REY,
 20th February - Fr. Louis VALLUET,
 - Bro. Eugène DEBONS,
 - Fr. James H. LAHIFF,
 - Fr. Adolphe DUVAL,
 - Fr. Ernest LAVOREL,
 21st February - Bro. Joseph Sebastian
 DEVARAJ

- P.C. Paul Chakunny
 Pallikunneth,
 22nd February - Fr. Varkey PANTHALANY
 24th February - Fr. Jean ANTHONIOZ,
 - Fr. Joseph CHARRIERE
 - Fr. Stephen MARAYIKULAM
 25th February - Fr. Ferdinand MILLION,
 - Fr. Alexis MARROLIAT
 - Fr. François GAY
 26th February - Fr. Alan BLACKFORD
 - Fr. Joseph MEYNET,
 - Fr. James H. LAHIFF,
 - Mgr. Mariadas KAGITHAPU

Yours Fraternally in Christ,



Fr. A. Patrick Jayaraj, MSFS

Provincial Superior

To Reflect

“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all the in house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” Mt 5:14-16



திருக்குறள் - Thirukkural

வருவிரந்து வைகலும் ஒம்புவான் வாழ்க்கை
 புருவந்து பாழ்படுதல் தீன்று.

Translation

varuvirundhu vaikalum Ompuvaan vaazhkkai
 paruvandhu paazhpatudhal indru

Explanation

The day-to-day life of a man that daily receives joyfully the guests who come to him shall not be laid waste by poverty