

# MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

## South - East India Province

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APJ -17

**My Dear Confreres,**

**T**he Feast of the Our Lady of Sorrows our Patroness intensifies our affinity for the Mother of God who reveals some of the significant characteristics of God. God is righteous and compassionate, and His Being is adorned with merciful love. God's mercy transcends all our weaknesses as He suffers with the vulnerable humans. Mary reveals this aspect so remarkably that her suffering is inextricably connected to the redemptive work of Jesus.

Her experience of a sword piercing through her heart from the time of presentation to crucifixion was also peak moments of

*Mary is a representative of all those who suffer for the sake of righteousness*

experiencing her call to be the Mother of God. In this way, she is a representative of all those who suffer for the sake of righteousness. She suffered with Jesus and was a constant witness to his forgiving love. It is significantly evident at the foot of the cross, where she is both a sharer in the suffering of Jesus and a witness to the boundless compassion of Jesus. Thus, Mary expressed her unwavering fidelity to her son.

This motherly love is to be transferred to the entire human race represented by John. Mary is our Model for compassion even in extreme suffering. It calls for a participation in the suffering of the innocent victims, and to instil in them faith in God and lead

them to healing, despite their bitter experiences of injustice. In

times of difficulties, one can embrace the vulnerabilities and discover the self deeply, which can foster an atmosphere of healing and growth. It would also enhance mindfulness of the self and others, promoting self-compassion and love of neighbour. As children of Mary, we too are called to live our call meaningfully and journey

with hope especially with those who are burdened with hurts and wounds, for God has strengthened us because he



considered us faithful and His grace overflowed for us with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. (cf. 1 Tim 1:12).

**Wish you a meaning preparation with the help of the  
novena and  
A very happy Feast of the Mother of Sorrows.**

## **Prayer Intention Of the Superior General**

### **September**

That we may be able to remain calm and steadfast in our life and mission amidst suffering, difficulties, trials and abandonment, surrendering everything to the Lord like Mary, Mother of Compassion. We pray to the Lord.

## **Mid – Term Assembly 2025**



### **A Journey of Reflection and Renewal**

The Mid-Term Assembly of the MSFS South-East India Province was held from 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025 at Poondi Madha Retreat House, Poondi. Centred on the theme, “United as Pilgrims of Hope: Committed to our Charism and Renewal”, the Assembly

was a profound moment of fraternal communion, spiritual discernment, and a sincere evaluation of the life and mission of the Province. It brought together our confreres to reflect prayerfully on our journey as a province family for the last two and of half years and realign our focus towards effective, faithful missionary engagement rooted in the Charism of our Congregation, the vision of our Founder Fr. Peter Mermier, and the spirituality of our Patron St. Francis de Sales.

The Assembly began on 28<sup>th</sup> July with the arrival and registration of the participants, followed by a spiritual recollection and the sacrament of reconciliation, which set a deeply prayerful and introspective tone. The recollection was meaningfully animated by His Excellency Rt. Rev. Dhaman Kumar MSFS, Bishop of Nalgonda, who also presided over the inaugural Eucharistic Celebration. The formal inauguration featured a keynote address by Rev. Dr. Robin S. Seelan SJ, along with inspiring messages from our Very Rev. Dr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS, our Superior General, Rev. Dr. Sabu Francis MSFS, the Provincial Superior of Guwahati Province and Rev. Dr. Anthony Swamy MSFS, the Delegate of the Superior General and General Secretary for Education, who also provided orientation to the participants.

The second and third days of the Mid-Term Assembly unfolded with spiritual depth and intellectual richness. Each day began with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist and concluded with the recitation of the Rosary, fostering a deeply prayerful atmosphere throughout the proceedings.

On 29<sup>th</sup> July, the Feast of SS. Martha, Mary and Lazarus, the Holy Mass was presided over by Rev. Dr. Anthony Swamy MSFS. The day featured three inspiring input sessions by distinguished speakers:

- Rev. Dr. Binu Edathumparambil MSFS on Religious Life and our Charism.
- Rev. Fr. Thanjai Domi MSFS on Pastoral Dynamics for our Times.
- Sr. Dr. Judy Gomes SCC on Emerging Trends in Education and our Response.

These insightful sessions set the tone for the presentation of reports by the respective Councillors-in-Charge, followed by engaged discussions from the participants. The report from Malawi by Fr. Soosai Raj, the Mission Superior enriched the Assembly with a renewed sense of global missionary solidarity. The presence and sharing of Fr. S. Johnson from Italy Mission added colour to it.

On 30<sup>th</sup> July, the Eucharistic celebration was led by Fr. Soosai Raj MSFS, the Mission Superior of Malawi, as sign of appreciation and recognition of the confreres in Malawi mission. The input session on the criminal laws in India by advocate Mr.

Christy, was highly informative. The day continued with further presentations of various reports, clarifications and suggestions. In the afternoon, an open session was facilitated by Fr. Provincial, allowing confreres to raise and discuss important concerns and aspirations in a spirit of fraternity and shared responsibility.

The day culminated in a synthesis session delivered by Rev. Fr. Anthony Swamy MSFS, which served as a crowning moment of appreciation for the vibrancy of the Province, its missionary commitment, and the meticulous planning that made the Assembly a meaningful experience.

The active presence and interventions of Rev. Dr. Anthony Swamy MSFS, Delegate of the Superior General and Rev. Fr. Patrick Jayaraj MSFS, Provincial Superior provided valuable orientation and encouragement, strengthening the unity and resolve of the Province.

On the final day, 31<sup>st</sup> July, the Assembly gathered for its concluding session, which was dedicated for tabling the proposals from the Mid-term Assembly. A solemn Eucharistic celebration, thereafter, at the Poondi Madha Basilica Church, presided over by Fr. Provincial and concelebrated by the Provincial Curia marked the conclusion of the Assembly. In a moment of gratitude and fraternity, Fr. Rayappan, the Convenor of the Steering Committee, offered a heartfelt vote of thanks, acknowledging the dedication and collaboration of all who contributed to the success of the Assembly.

The Mid-Term Assembly 2025 stands out as a pivotal moment in the life of South-East India Province. It provided a space for sincere evaluation, reaffirmation of our commitments and a renewed orientation of our goals with clarity and conviction. We express our deep gratitude to our beloved Superior General for his encouraging message, unwavering support and guidance, and to Rev. Dr. Anthony Swamy MSFS, Delegate of the Superior General, for his inspiring presence and guidance throughout the Assembly.

We gratefully acknowledge the valuable contributions of the resource persons, especially His Excellency Rt. Rev. Dhaman Kumar MSFS, Bishop of Nalgonda, the special invitees from different provinces, the Councillors, the organizing committees, especially the Steering Committee for their meticulous planning and effective coordination. Above all, we thank every confrere for the active, prayerful, and fraternal participation, which made the Assembly a vibrant witness to our unity as missionaries of hope.



As we move forward, may the Lord, who accompanies us constantly, inspire us through the outcome of this Assembly and continue to guide us in our shared mission, rooted in our charism, communion and commitment.



### **Plans and Proposals from the Mid-Term Assembly**

#### **Religious and Community Life**

1. Regular community meetings every month with the submitting of the accounts.
2. Regular participation in the daily community prayers.
3. Recollections:           At the Community level: bi-monthly  
  At the Apostolic community Level: once in three months
4. Proposal to increase the pocket money and allowance for priests' maintenance

#### **Mission**

5. Financial Support to the deserving Parishes
6. Promote the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales by using his quotes and teachings in our preaching and by displaying the quotes of SFS and Mermier at our centres
7. Strengthen the Missions at Malawi, St. Lucia and Italy.

#### **Formation**

8. To promote vocations, identify the promising candidates from our parishes at the earlier stage (8<sup>th</sup> Std) and have a regular follow-up.
9. Candidates from Odisha could be sent to SFS School at Pudukkottai for Higher Secondary Schooling.
10. Fransalian Associates are to be established in all our parishes within two years.
11. Establishing a Formation House at Malawi.

#### **Education**

12. Establish a CBSE/ICSE School at Kelambakkam.
13. Retirement age for our fathers in educational ministry is fixed, as per the Government Norms, as 60 for Principals. However, one can work in other responsibilities without drawing Salary.

14. All the stationery items in our schools could be distributed by a Registered company established by the Province.

### **Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries**

15. MDO could organize evening tuition centres, computer centres and medical camps in our parishes.
16. Offer more scholarship to the needy children from our parishes.
17. Make efforts to tap the local resources, CSR Funds and Government Projects.
18. St. Thomas Mount – take efforts to develop the infrastructure of the Family Animation Centre.

### **Stewardship**

19. Property in-charge could be appointed to assist the Provincial Bursar, who could help him to safeguard the property and look into the legal affairs of the properties.
20. Appoint a study committee to assess the unutilized lands of the province and dispose if needed and invest it in the appropriate place, respecting the intention of the original purchase.

### **Common Proposals for the Province**

21. Study the possibility of establishing a heritage home in Pondicherry.
22. Change the date of Jubilee Celebrations at the Province level from 24<sup>th</sup> January to another convenient date.
23. Assembly is positive about the proposal of taking loans by the Provincial Administration for establishing educational institutions.
24. Province Family Day could be celebrated every year for two days. Regular assessments would be better.



## Visit of the General Secretary for Formation

### The Visitor Brings Blessings

It was a joyful and grace-filled moment when Rev. Fr. Benedict De Souza, General Councillor and General Secretary for Formation, visited SFS Minor Seminary from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025. His visit was heart-warming and encouraging, as he felt very much at home with the staff, the students, and the serene atmosphere of our seminary.



He joyfully participated in the seminary timetable, joining in prayer, work, games, and other activities. His celebration of the Eucharist was particularly memorable and deeply cherished.

In his homily and interactions, Fr. Benedict reinforced the message of the General Chapter 2025. He emphasized the need for building strong relationships with one another and encouraged everyone to put this into practice.

The visit not only boosted our morale but also provided valuable direction and renewed commitment to excellence in our formation journey. We, the members of SFS Minor Seminary, express our heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Fr. Benedict De Souza for his presence, encouragement and availability. We pray for his good health and God's abundant blessings. His visit was truly an honour and has left a lasting impression in our hearts and motivated us all to strive for greater achievements.



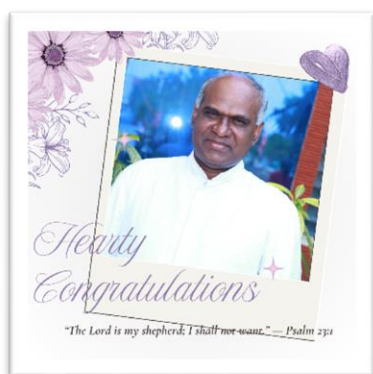
A word of thanks is also due to all the staff and students of the SFS Seminary for their wholehearted cooperation in making this visit a memorable one.



# Congratulations!

## Silver Jubilarians

### Rev. Fr. A. Christu Raj, MSFS



Rev. Fr. A. Christu Raj was born on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1971 in Chinnavappampet, Madha Kovil, and belongs to the parish of Our Lady of Victory Church, Jolarpet. He is the son of Mr. S. Arockia Das and Mrs. Theresa, who nurtured in him the values of faith, discipline and service from an early age.

**Religious Formation:** Fr. Christu Raj began his priestly journey at S.F.S. Minor Seminary in Pudukkottai.

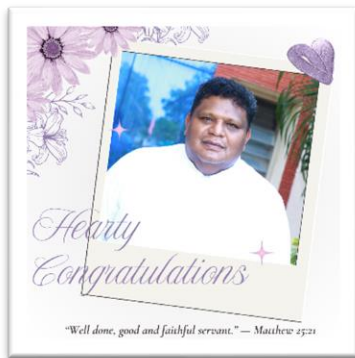
He entered the novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his First Religious Profession on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1993. He pursued Philosophy and B.A. at Suvidya College and Bangalore University, Bangalore (1993–1995), followed by a year of regency at SFS Study House, Janampet (1995–1996). He completed his theological studies at JDV (now JD), Pune, while residing at Fransalian Seminary (1996–2000). He his Final Profession on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2000 in Pune. He served as deacon in Vaniyambadi in 2000 and was ordained a priest on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2000 at SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai.

**Pastoral and Missionary Appointments:** Over the years, Fr. A. Christu Raj has faithfully served the Church in a wide range of pastoral, educational and leadership capacities, with a special emphasis on youth and family ministry. His early ministry included serving as Seminary Staff at the Minor Seminary in Kerala (2000–2002), followed by his role as Assistant Parish Priest and Fransalian Youth Coordinator (2004–2005). From 2005 to 2012, he held the position of Fransalian Youth Director for South-East India Province, during which he also served as Superior of the MSFS House at St. Thomas Mount (2008–2009). Fr. Christu Raj played a pioneering role in initiating ministries for families and became the First Director of the Family Animation Centre at St. Thomas Mount. He also served as the DCRI President of



Chinglepet (2009–2012). In 2012, he took up pastoral responsibility as the Interim Parish Priest at All Saints' Church in Chennai. From 2017 to 2025, he resumed his role as Fransalian Youth Director while also acting as a Guide and Spiritual Counsellor at a De-addiction Home, Dharmapuri. He obtained a Licentiate in Youth Ministry from Kristu Jyoti College Bangalore (2002 – 2004). He completed his PhD at Periyar University, Salem. His leadership responsibilities grew further when, from 2024 to 2025, he served as Superior of the Provincial House in Trichy, Director of Fransalian Media for the Province and Correspondent of the SFS CBSE School in Trichy. Now, he serves the congregation as the General Councillor and General Secretary for SAIM and contributes to the global mission and governance of the congregation.

### **Rev. Fr. D. Kanikkai Nathan, MSFS**



Rev. Fr. D. Kanikkai Nathan was born on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1974 in Orathanadu, Thanjavur District, Tamil Nadu, to Mr. S. Daniel and Mrs. D. Philomene. He belongs to Our Lady of Assumption Church, Orathanadu in the Diocese of Thanjavur.

**Religious Formation:** He began his religious formation at the SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai (1990–1992) and pursued his Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam (1993–1994), where he made his First Profession on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1994. After completing Philosophy and B.A. studies at Suvidya College and Bangalore University, Bangalore (1994–1997), he continued his Theological studies at JDV, Pune (1997–2000). He made his Final Profession on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2000 at Fransalian Seminary, Pune, and was ordained a priest on 27<sup>th</sup> December 2000 at SFS Seminary, Pudukkottai, after doing his diaconate ministry in Kadappakkam.

**Pastoral and Missionary Appointments:** From 2001 to 2002, Fr. Kanikkai Nathan served as the Assistant Parish Priest at the Votive Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Kilpauk, Chennai. He then pursued his Master's in Philosophy at JDV, Pune from 2002 to 2004. In 2005, he was appointed Parish Priest of St. Nikolaus, Wackersheim, in the Diocese of Trier, Germany, a ministry which he carried out until 2011. Following this, from 2011 to 2016, he served as Parish Priest of St. Margaretha, Heimbach-Weis, Trier, while also holding the additional responsibility of Administrator of clustered parishes of Heimbach-Engers, Trier. Returning to India, he

was appointed Dean of SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai from 2016 to 2018, and later served as its Rector from 2018 to 2021. During this period, he was also elected as a Provincial Councillor of the MSFS South-East India Province (2017–2020). He is pursuing his doctoral studies in Philosophy at Sathya Nilayam, Chennai. Since 2023, Fr. Kanikkai Nathan has been serving as the Superior of the MSFS House, St. Thomas Mount, Chennai, where he continues his pastoral, spiritual, and formative ministry.

### **Rev. Fr. N. Arockia Selvam, MSFS**



Rev. Fr. Arokiaselvam Nithiyaselvam was born on December 4, 1972, in Arasadipatti, to Mr. S. Nithiyaselvam and Mrs. N. Kuzhanthai Therasu. Nurtured in faith at his home parish of Arasadipatti in the diocese of Thanjavur.

**Religious Formation:** Responding to God's call and began his formative journey at the Minor Seminary in Pudukkottai. He pursued his Novitiate at Vizag, making

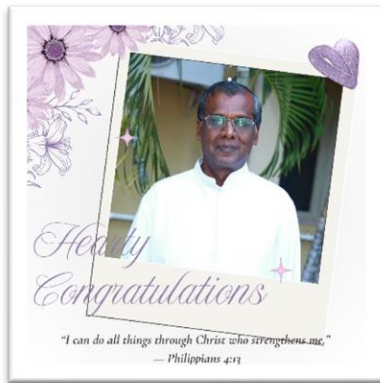
his First Profession on June 10, 1993. He studied Philosophy and B.A. at Suvidya College and Bangalore University, Bangalore (1993–1996), followed by his Regency at the Printing Press, Vizag (1996–1997). He continued his theological formation at Vijnananilayam, Eluru (1997–2000), and made his Final Profession on June 10, 1998. He was ordained a priest on December 27, 2000 at SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai.

**Pastoral and Missionary Appointments:** Fr. Arokiaselvam Nithiyaselvam was ordained a priest on December 27, 2000, and since then has faithfully served the People of God in various pastoral and missionary assignments across India and abroad. His first appointment was as Assistant Director of the Hill Chapel (2001), after which he was entrusted with the responsibility of Parish Priest at Thirugokarnam (2001–2007), where he shepherded the faithful with zeal and dedication.

Responding to the call of missionary service, he moved to the United States, where he served as Associate Pastor at St. Thomas Aquinas Church, East Lansing, Michigan (2007–2008), and later at St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan (2008–2014). On returning to India, he continued his pastoral ministry as Parish Priest of Thavasimedai (2014–2015) and Pandian Nagar (2015–2018), enriching parish life through his pastoral care and missionary commitment.

Once again extending his service to the Church abroad, he served as Chaplain to Alexian Village in Signal Mountain, Tennessee (2018–2019) and then as Associate Pastor at St. Marguerite Church, Lawrenceville, Georgia (2019–2020). Since 2020, Fr. Arokiaselvam has been serving as the Pastor of St. Ephrem Church, continuing his mission of guiding the faithful in faith and service. In addition, since 2022, he has been the Moderator of the “Saints among the Saints” Family, animating the community with spiritual leadership and pastoral care.

### **Rev. Fr. A. Edward Antony, MSFS**



Rev. Fr. Edward was born on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1971 in T. Sindalacherry, a vibrant parish community where his early faith was nurtured. He is the son of Mr. Antony and Mrs. Santhammal, who supported his vocation to the priesthood with deep faith and love.

**Religious Formation:** Fr. Edward began his priestly formation at SFS Minor Seminary in Pudukkottai, followed by his novitiate at Salesianum,

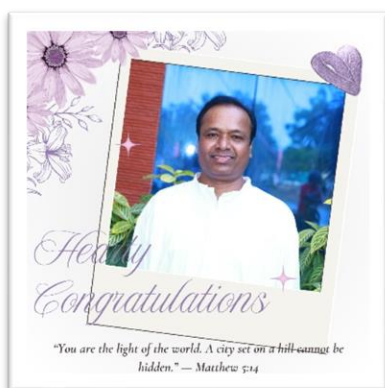
Visakhapatnam, where he made his First Religious Profession on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1990. He pursued Philosophy and B.A. studies at Suvidya College and Bangalore University, Bangalore, and completed his regency at the SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai. He did his theology at Vijnananilayam, Eluru, while residing at SFS Study House, and made his Final Religious Profession in 2000. He carried out his diaconate ministry in Kelambakkam Parish. He was ordained a priest on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2001 in his home parish, T. Sindalacherry.

**Pastoral and Missionary Appointments:** Over the years, Fr. A. Edward has faithfully served the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and the wider Church in various pastoral and administrative capacities, marked by a spirit of dedication, leadership, and pastoral care. He began his leadership service as Provincial Secretary of the Visakhapatnam Province. He then served as the Parish Priest of Christ the Redeemer Parish, Kelambakkam, ministering to the spiritual needs of the local community. He was instrumental in starting SFS School at Kelambakkam. His commitment to education and formation was evident in his role as Superior and Principal of S.F.S. School, Virudhunagar. During this period, he was elected as one of the Provincial Councillors. He was later appointed as the Parish Priest and Director of



Boys Home in Kolli Hills. Fr. Edward also broadened his pastoral horizons through ministry in England, where he engaged in pastoral outreach among diaspora communities. Returning to India, he took up the role of Correspondent of SFS School, Pudukkottai, combining administrative responsibility with educational oversight. Now he serves as the Parish Priest of Natchiyarkoil, continuing his lifelong commitment to pastoral ministry and faith formation, while serving the Province as Councilor incharge of SAIM.

### **Rev. Fr. B. Francis Xavier, MSFS**



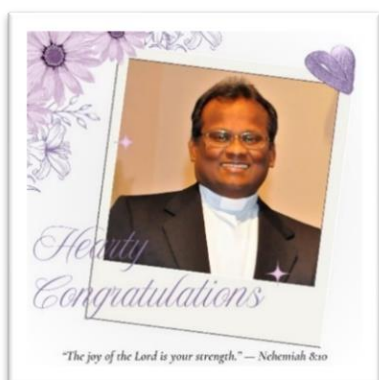
Rev. Fr. B. Francis Xavier was born on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1972 in Sesurajapuram to Mr. R. Belevendiran and Mrs. A. Mariammal. He hails from Sesurajapuram Parish, where his faith and vocation first took root.

**Religious Formation:** Responding to God's call, he joined the SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai for his initial formation, and later entered the Salesianum Novitiate, where he professed his First Religious Vows

on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1993. His higher studies took him to Suvidya College and Bangalore University, Bengaluru, where he pursued Philosophy and a B.A. degree. For his regency, he rendered his service at Stella Maris, Vizag, before proceeding to St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bengaluru for his Theological studies. He made his Final Profession on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2000, and was ordained a Deacon on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2000. The crowning moment of his priestly journey came on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2001, when he was ordained a priest.

**Pastoral and Missionary Appointments:** In his ministerial journey, Fr. Francis Xavier has served the People of God with dedication and commitment in different pastoral responsibilities. He began his ministry as Assistant Parish Priest at Kalladithidal, and later as Assistant at Ambattur, Chennai. He then rendered his service as Procurator at the MSFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai, and subsequently took up the role of Parish Priest at Kanangadu. In every ministry entrusted to him, he has carried out his duties with humility, zeal, and pastoral concern. At present, he continues his missionary service in Germany, faithfully living the Fransalian spirit of service, simplicity, and commitment to the Gospel.

## Rev. Fr. S. Antony, MSFS



Rev. Fr. S. Antony was born on 15<sup>th</sup> November 1972 in T. Bomminayakkanpatty. He belongs to the Sacred Heart Church, T. Sindalacherry. He is the son of Mr. C. Savarimuthu and Mrs. S. Maria Pushpam, who laid a strong foundation of faith and values in his life.

**Religious Formation:** Fr. Antony began his journey to priesthood at the SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai, and completed his novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam,

where he made his First Religious Profession on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1993. He pursued Philosophy and B.A. studies at Suvidya College and Bangalore University, Bangalore. He did his regency at SFS School, Alangayam, and studied theology at Vijnananilayam, Janampet, Eluru. He made his Final Profession on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1999, and served as a deacon at Infant Jesus Church, Othaiyal. Fr. Antony was ordained a priest on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2001, entering fully into the service of the Church.

**Pastoral and Missionary Appointments:** Fr. S. Antony has rendered faithful and dedicated service in both India and Germany, undertaking a range of pastoral and educational roles with a spirit of commitment and missionary zeal. He began his priestly ministry as Assistant Parish Priest at Our Lady of Presentation Church, Neyveli (2001–2002), followed by a similar role at St. Andrew Church, Choolai (2002–2003). His pastoral leadership came to the forefront when he served as the Parish Priest of Sahaya Matha Church, Nallatin Puthur (2003–2006), where he shepherded the local faith community with dedication. In 2007, Fr. Antony was sent to Germany, where he served for a decade in pastoral ministry, providing pastoral care and spiritual support to diaspora communities, particularly in culturally diverse settings. After returning to India, from 2018 to 2023, he served at SFS School, Aalangayam, where he actively contributed to education and the formation of young minds. In 2023, Fr. Antony once again responded to the call of mission and returned to the diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, Germany, where he currently continues his pastoral service, ministering to the faithful and living out the missionary charism of our Congregation.

## Rev. Fr. P. S. Joseph, MSFS



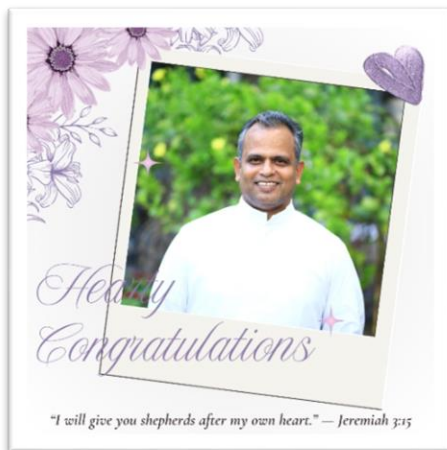
Rev. Fr. P. S. Joseph was born on 27<sup>th</sup> January 1974 in Irudayampattu, a village blessed with a strong Catholic tradition. He belongs to the parish of Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Irudayampattu. He is the son of Mr. Santhappan and Mrs. Lourdu Mary, who instilled in him the values of faith and service from a young age.

**Religious Formation:** Responding to God's call, he entered the SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai in 1989. After completing his pre-novitiate at S.F.S. Institute, Philip Nagar, he joined the novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his First Religious Profession on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1993. He pursued Philosophy and B.A. at Suvidya College and Bangalore University, Bangalore (1993–1996), and completed his regency at SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai (1996–1997). He then studied Theology at Vijnananilayam, Eluru (1997–2001). He made his Final Profession in 1999 at the SFS Study House, Eluru, and was ordained a deacon in 2000. His diaconate ministry was in Kanankadu from December 2000 to April 2001. Fr. Joseph was ordained a priest on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2001 at his native parish by Rt. Rev. Lawrence Pius, then Auxiliary Bishop of Chennai.

**Pastoral and Missionary Appointments:** Fr. Joseph began his priestly ministry as the Assistant Parish Priest at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Minjur in the Archdiocese of Chennai (2001–2003). He was then appointed Parish Priest of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, Manavala Nagar (2003–2006), where he shepherded the faithful with dedication. In 2007, he was sent on mission to Germany, where he served until August 2018. Returning to India, he took on a leadership role in education as Correspondent and Procurator of S.F.S. School, Perumbakkam (May 2018 – May 2023). During this time, he also served as the Provincial Councillor for Formation (April 2020 – April 2023), contributing significantly to the formation of future priests. In June 2023, Fr. Joseph once again responded to the call to missionary service and returned to the diocese of Regensburg, Germany, where he continues his ministry.



## Rev. Fr. S. Arul Selvamani, MSFS

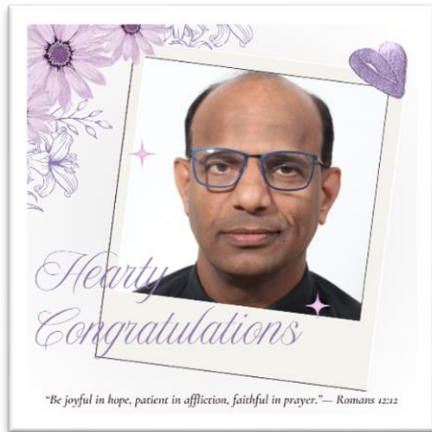


Rev. Fr. S. Arul Selvamani was born on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1974 in Irudayampattu, a village known for its deep-rooted Catholic faith. He belongs to the parish of Our Lady Queen of Heaven, Irudayampattu. He is the son of Mr. K. A. Selvanayagam and Mrs. S. Lourdu Mary, who nurtured his vocation and guided him in his early spiritual journey.

**Religious Formation:** Responding to the call of God, Fr. Arul Selvamani began his priestly formation at the SFS Minor Seminary in Pudukkottai. He entered the novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his First Religious Profession on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1993 as a member of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. He then pursued his Philosophical studies and Bachelor of Arts at Suvidya College and Bangalore University, Bangalore. As part of his formation, he undertook his regency at Fransalian Vidya Jothi in Nidadavole, Andhra Pradesh, followed by his theological studies at St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, while residing at Vinayalaya. He made his Final Profession on 24<sup>th</sup> January 1999 at Vinayalaya, Bangalore. His diaconate ministry was carried out at Our Lady of Miracles Church, Kadappakkam, leading up to his Priestly Ordination on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2001 in his home parish of Irudayampattu.

**Pastoral and Missionary Journey:** Fr. Arul Selvamani began his priestly ministry in 2001 as Assistant Parish Priest in Venkidakulam in the Diocese of Tanjore. The following year, he served in Ammapatti in the Archdiocese of Madurai. From 2003 to 2006, he served as Vocation Promoter and Dean of Studies at the SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai, nurturing young seminarians in their journey to priesthood. In 2007, Fr. Arul was sent as a missionary to Germany, where he ministered to the faithful in Heilbronn in the Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart, for over a decade. In 2018, he returned to India and resumed his formative role as Dean of Studies at SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai till 2023. Once again embracing the missionary spirit, Fr. Arul returned to Germany in 2023, where he currently serves in Dillingen in the Diocese of Trier.

## Rev. Fr. S. Joseph, MSFS



Rev. Fr. S. Joseph was born on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1974 at Ammapettai in Trichy Diocese, to devout Catholic parents Mr. Y. Sebastian and Mrs. Adaikalamary Sebastian. He belongs to St. James Parish, Ammapettai.

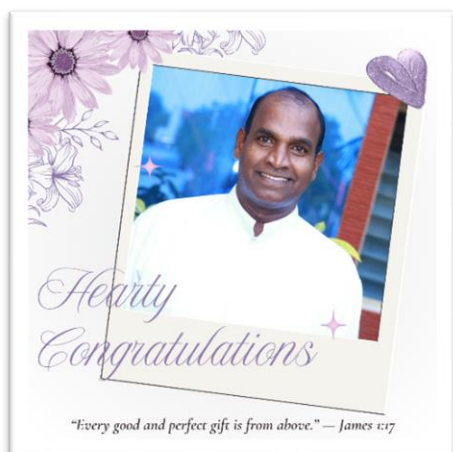
**Religious Formation:** Responding to God's call to religious life, he began his formation at our Minor Seminary in Pudukkottai, and entered the Novitiate at Salesianum, Vizag, where he made his First

Profession. He pursued his philosophical studies and B.A. at Suvidya College and Bangalore University, Bangalore, completed his Regency at Ananthapur in Andhra Pradesh, and later did his theological studies at Vijnananilayam, Eluru. He made his Final Profession in SFS Study House, Janampet, Eluru. His first assignment was his Diaconate Ministry at Kodungal Parish in the Archdiocese of Pondicherry. He was then ordained a priest on 20<sup>th</sup> April 2001 at St. James Church, Ammapettai, by the Bishop of Trichy, Rt. Rev. Dr. Antony Devotta.

**Pastoral and Missionary Journey:** He served in multiple capacities across India and abroad. In India, he ministered as Assistant Parish Priest at St. Theresa's Church, Kasimedu, Chennai and as Director of SFS Boarding at St. Aloysius School, Vizag. He was later appointed as the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Ransom Church, Elapakkam in the Diocese of Chingleput. His missionary zeal led him to Europe, where he pursued a French language course at Séminaire de Bonlieu in Fribourg, Switzerland, before taking up pastoral ministry in France and later in Germany. From 2006 to 2009, he served as Assistant Parish Priest in SFS Church, Thorons Gliers, in the Diocese of Annecy, France. From 2009 onwards, he served the Church in Germany —first at Maria Himmelfahrt Parish, Fryung in the Diocese of Passau, and later at Heilig Geist Parish, Bad Füssing, where he continues to serve as the Assistant Parish Priest.

Alongside his pastoral responsibilities, Fr. S. Joseph also rendered valuable service as Delegation Bursar for the South-East Province in Germany from 2017 to 2022. Known for his dedication, simplicity, and pastoral commitment, Fr. S. Joseph continues to be a zealous missionary, joyfully serving the people of God in the spirit of St. Francis de Sales.

## Rev. Fr. S. Alphonse, MSFS



Rev. Fr. Alphonse, son of Mr. Savarimuthu and Mrs. Arokia Mary, was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1973 in Nurolai, and belongs to Our Lady of Assumption Church, Maiyanur.

**Religious Formation:** He began his priestly formation at SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai (1989–1992), followed by his Novitiate at Salesianum, Vizag (1992–1993), where he made his First Profession on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1993. He pursued

Philosophy and B.A. (1993–1996) at Suvidya College and Bangalore University, Bangalore. After his Regency in Pudukkottai (1996–1997), he continued his Theological studies (1997–2001) in Vijnananilayam, Eluru. He made his Final Profession in June 2000 in SFS Study House, Eluru. He was ordained a priest on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2001 at St. Francis Xavier's Church, Nurolai, after doing his Diaconate Ministry at Kaladithidal (2000–2001).

**Pastoral and Missionary Journey:** After his ordination in 2001, Fr. Alphonse began his priestly ministry as the Dean of Studies and Formator at MSFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai (2001–2004), guiding young seminarians in their formation. He, then, served as the Assistant Parish Priest at St. Joseph's Church, Erukkancherry in the Archdiocese of Chennai (2004–2005), where he was actively engaged in parish life and pastoral ministry. Thereafter, he completed his Master's in Philosophy at JDV, Pune (2005–2007), equipping himself further for intellectual and pastoral service. From 2007 to 2009, he took up the responsibility of Parish Priest at Our Lady of Assumption Church, Vaniyambadi, shepherding the faithful with dedication. For over a decade, from 2009 to 2021, he rendered committed pastoral ministry in the diocese of Kalamazoo in the United States, serving the People of God with missionary zeal. At present, Fr. Alphonse continues his pursuit of knowledge, undertaking a Ph.D. in Philosophy, while remaining deeply rooted in his vocation to serve both the Church and society.



## News from Malawi

### The Renovation and Extension of St. Martin De Porres Church



Joy filled the hearts of the faithful in Ngerenge, Karonga, as the newly constructed St. Martin De Porres Parish Church was officially consecrated and dedicated on June 29, 2025, coinciding with the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul. His Lordship Bishop Martin Anwel Mtumbuka of the

Diocese of Karonga presided over the dedication and consecration Mass, delivering an inspiring homily that emphasized the profound value of offering one's life in service to the Catholic faith.

The construction of the new Church began in October 2024, following a directive from Bishop Mtumbuka and the diocesan clergy. Recognizing the growing Catholic population in Ngerenge, there was a pressing need for a larger worship space to meet the pastoral and spiritual needs of the faithful. Today, the renovated St. Martin De Porres Parish Church stands as a testament to both structural and spiritual growth in the Diocese of Karonga. The parish currently serves 4,228 faithful across seven out-stations, thirteen sub-stations and three zones.

This accomplishment was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the Archdiocese of Cologne, the South East India Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales, and the parishioners themselves. It is a remarkable example of partnership, faith in action and shared mission.



We extend our sincere gratitude to our Provincial and his Council for their unwavering support and guidance throughout the renovation and extension of St. Martin De Porres Parish Church.

- MSFS Community, Ngerenge

*The province family appreciates Fr. Nelson Arockiasamy, the parish priest, Fr. John Britto, the curate, and Fr. Adaikalaraj the former curate for their commitment and missionary zeal.*

### **Solar Power Project**

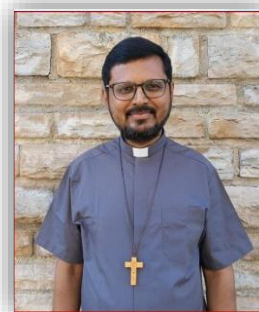
In today's world, it is hard to imagine living in darkness, yet this was the reality faced by our community. Electricity had long been a major concern, as we do not receive any government power supply. For some time, we managed with a small solar panel and battery, but it was insufficient, allowing us to use electricity only for a few hours at night. By God's grace and with generous support, we have now installed a new 6.2 KW solar power system. This system fully meets our electricity needs and even allows us to run essential household appliances such as a refrigerator. The project was blessed in the presence of the faithful in the month of August. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Rev. Fr. Ebin Christopher, MSFS, whose support and guidance made this project possible.



- MSFS Community, Manyani

### **Congratulations**

**New Provincial:** Rev. Fr. Samuel Devaraj, MSFS assumed the office as the Provincial of the Franco-Swiss Province on August 1, 2025. We congratulate him, assure him of our prayerful support, and extend our heartfelt wishes. May God's abundant blessings guide him and the Province in the mission ahead.



### **Deaconate Ordinations:**



- Dn. Jestin was ordained a deacon along with 28 candidates from various dioceses and congregations on 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at Oriens Theologate, Shillong.

- Dn. Thomas Ambrose was ordained a deacon on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2025 at Vinayalaya, MSFS Provincial House, Bangalore, along with two deacons from South West India Province.



*We wish both of them a fruitful and enriching diaconate ministry.*

### Priestly Ordination:

Fr. Mathew Devoda was ordained to priesthood on August 22, 2025 by Most Rev. Dr. Arulselvam Rayappan, Bishop of Salem, at Sacred Heart Church, Railway Colony, Erode. We extend our hearty congratulations to him and pray that the Lord blesses his priestly journey with grace and joy, and wish him a fruitful ministry in the service of God and His people.



### Completion of Studies:

We congratulate Fr. D. Jaya Kumar, who has successfully completed his Master's Degree.

### Appointments

**Parish Priest, Vaniyambadi** - Fr. A. Innaci Muthu

**Designated to be appointed in (Uthamapalayam) Madurai Archdiocese**

- Fr. F. Mathew Devoda

**Vayalur, Thanjavur Diocese** - Dn. D. Carmel

**St. Mary's Church, Mariapuram** - Dn. J. Jestin Richard

**Infant Jesus Church, Othaiyal** - Dn. J. Thomas Ambrose

**St. Jame's Church, Ravusapatty** - Bro. A. Selva Prakash

**Contact Person in USA** - Fr. N. Arockia Selvam

**Property Incharge (additional)** - Fr. S. Sahaya Wilson

**Justice - Peace – Integrity Commission:** Fr. V. Berdinand (Coordinator),

Fr. K. Ignacimuthu, Fr. K. Dominic Savio, Fr. D. Emmanuvel Sathish

**Youth Directors** – Fr. S. Anantha Prabu (Coordinator), Fr. C. Martin Kumar,

Fr. A. Nayaga Seelan, Fr. A. Sesu Prabhakaran

**Study Committee for the Establishment of a Company:**

Fr. A. Edward, Fr. M. Simon Prabu, Fr. D. Jaya Kumar

**Internal Auditing Committee:** Fr. S. Santhanam, Fr. X. Vincent,

Fr. S. Sahaya Wilson, Fr. A. Franklin, Fr. L. Jaya Raj.



## Information

### Annual Retreat 1

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> (evening) to 26<sup>th</sup> (evening) September 2025

**Place:** At Sacred Heart College (Jesuits' House) Shembagnur, Kodaikanal.

**Preacher:** Rev. Dr. Stanley Alex OFM, Director, Fountain Institute of Counselling and Psychotherapy and Research, Sundampatti.

### Annual Retreat 2

**Date:** 09<sup>th</sup> (evening) to 14<sup>th</sup> (evening) November 2025

**Place:** At Velankanni Shrine Retreat Centre, Velankanni.

**Preacher:** Rev. Dr. M. Pavulraj SJ, Rector, St. Joseph's Institutions, Trichy.

### Province Family Day 2025

**Date:** 1<sup>st</sup> to 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2025

**Place:** MSFS Provincialate, Trichy

**Organizers:** Fr. A. Jayaseelan (Coordinator), Fr. M. Sagayaraj, Fr. S. Christu raj,  
Fr. A. Jerome, Fr. S. Desas, Fr. J. Naveen.

### Silver Jubilee Celebrations

**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Place:** MSFS Provincialate, Trichy

### Seminarians Fund

**Vaniyambadi Parish** – Rs. 2,000

**Pochampally Parish** – Rs. 2,000

I thank them for their contribution to the welfare of our seminarians. Kindly encourage our parishioners to support our seminarians.

## My Tentative Program

01st September – Canonical Visit to Alangayam School Community

02nd September – Canonical Visit to Vaniyambadi Parish

03rd September – Canonical Visit to Janathapuram School Community

04th September – Canonical Visit to Nalam Community

05th September – Canonical Visit to Pochampalli Parish  
 10th September – Council Meeting  
 14th September – Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, Manikandam  
 15th September – Feast of the Mother of Sorrows, Provincialate  
 16th – 25th September – Classes at Morning Star Seminary  
 27th September – Silver Jubilee of Fr. Amalraj at R.S. Mangalam  
 30th September – Founder's Day, Provincialate  
 1st and 2nd October – Province Family Day  
 3rd October – Blessing of Grotto at Ravusapatty

## Obituary

### September

<b>01-09-1984</b> - Fr. Mathew NADUVILEKOOT - Fr. Kevin O'NEILL	<b>12-09-1997</b> - Fr. Pierre VERMOT
<b>01-09-2017</b> - Fr. Anthony LOPEZ	<b>12-09-2017</b> - Fr. Théodore VANNAY
<b>04-09-1933</b> - Fr. Lucien FAVRAT	<b>13-09-1881</b> - Fr. Jean-Baptiste BENISTRAND
<b>05-09-2020</b> - Fr. Mathew CHAVELY	<b>13-09-1947</b> - Bro. Herbert SHEEHAN
<b>05-09-2021</b> - Fr. Varghese Puthuparambil	<b>14-09-2011</b> - Fr. Placide DAYER
<b>06-09-1933</b> - Bro. Justin AMOUDRY	<b>16-09-1932</b> - Fr. François MEYNET - Fr. Eugène COUTIN
<b>07-09-1983</b> - Fr. Abraham PUTHENKALAM	<b>16-09-1998</b> - Fr. Patrick KINOULTY
<b>07-09-1990</b> - Fr. Joseph PARAPALLY	<b>17-09-1898</b> - Fr. Marc MUFFAT-JOLY - Fr. Joseph-Horace MORET
<b>08-09-1892</b> - Mgr. Alexis RICCAZ	<b>17-09-1941</b> - Fr. Charles SEMELLAZ
<b>08-09-1952</b> - Fr. André DEGRAVE	<b>17-09-2005</b> - Fr. Francis MOGET
<b>08-09-2012</b> - Fr. Valerian GOMES	<b>18-09-1991</b> - Fr. Thomas MALAPRAVANAL
<b>09-09-2014</b> - Fr. François MERCIER	<b>20-09-1929</b> - Bro. Alfred DEMANUELLI
<b>10-09-1928</b> - Bro. Guérin VANAEFTEN	<b>21-09-1945</b> - Bro. Ambrose XAVIER
<b>10-09-1995</b> - Fr. Marius VIGNOUD	<b>21-09-1992</b> - Bro. Jean CHARLES
<b>10-09-2023</b> - Fr. Francis Xavier NARISSETTY	<b>23-09-1887</b> - Fr. Etienne BLANC
<b>11-09-1908</b> - Fr. Henri PETITJEAN	<b>23-09-2014</b> - Fr. Varkey KOOVAKAL
<b>11-09-1982</b> - Fr. Joseph CHAMOT	<b>24-09-1981</b> - Fr. Raymond STERN
<b>11-09-1992</b> - Fr. Henri GREPILLAT	<b>25-09-1969</b> - Bro. James STOTT
<b>12-09-1850</b> - Fr. François SERMET	<b>26-09-2011</b> - Br. Lucas ISLARY
<b>12-09-1897</b> - Bro. Joseph-Marie BUINOUD	<b>26-09-2012</b> - Fr Shijo Paul MANNACHAMKUZHYYIL,
<b>12-09-1899</b> - Bro. Joseph HYVERT	
<b>12-09-1918</b> - Fr. Alexandre SUIFFET	

27-09-1890 - Mgr. Jean-Marie TISSOT

27-09-1910 - Fr. Victor GANGLOFF

27-09-1993 - Fr. Kenneth W. BAYER

29-09-1972 - Fr. Felix GONSALVES

29-09-1984 - Fr. Martin CLERC

29-09-2009 - Fr. Georgekutty PUTHIYIDOM

29-09-2013 - Fr. Prabhudas KUJUR

30-09-1862 - Fr. Pierre-Marie MERMIER

Yours Fraternally in Christ,



Fr. A. Patrick Jayaraj, MSFS

Provincial Superior

## Salesian Thought

A sign that we love truly love God is that we love Him the same in all occasions.

## Straight from the heart of Mermier

In all works, the less there is of us, there is more of God.

### தருக்குறள் - Thirukkural

குறள் - 981

கடன்என்ப நல்லவை எல்லாம் கடன்அறிந்து  
சுரன்றரன்மை மேற்கொள் பவர்க்கு.

விளக்கம்:

ஆற்ற வேண்டிய கடமைகளை உணர்ந்து,  
அவற்றைப் பண்புறந்த முறையில் நிறைவேற்ற மேற்கொள்ளப்படும்  
முயற்சிகள் அனைத்தும் நல்ல கடமைகள் என்றே கொள்ளப்படும்.

**Couplet - 981**

All goodly things are duties to the men, they say  
Who set themselves to walk in virtue's perfect way.