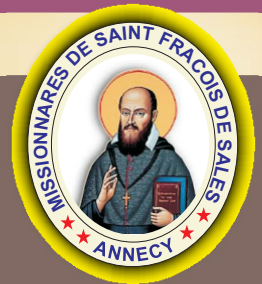




Casa Generalizia

MISSIONARI DI S. FRANCESCO DI SALES,
Via delle Testuggini 21, 00143 Roma, Italia.
Tel: (06) 99 70 91 47
Fax: (06) 99 70 69 57
superiorgeneralmsfs@gmail.com



SG-AB2-02

SEPTEMBER 30, 2019

SUPERIOR GENERAL TO ALL THE MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

My dear Confreres:

Fraternal greetings! Happy Feast and Prayerful Wishes to you as we celebrate our Founder's day! Let me reflect with you on the spirit and vision of our General Chapter 2019 as we celebrate Founder's Day.

1. RELIVING THE GENERAL CHAPTER EXPERIENCE

- Seven months after the General Chapter 2019, I invite us all to relive the experience of the Chapter to commit ourselves to work with fidelity to the call of the Chapter. The entire Congregation has, by now, been oriented to the call of the General Chapter to wake up and live up to the basics of our MSFS way of life. What now remains is its spirit, directives, and reflections as reproduced in the Call of the General Chapter. What remains for us are the challenges to be accepted and the path to be walked.
- During the General Chapter, we seriously reflected upon a monitored follow up to the call of the Chapter. Our reflections convinced us that the General Chapter is and should continue to be a significant grace for the Congregation. The Chapter has reminded us to move forward in and through our community life, lived in a disciplined Physical Local Community, for our mission to become greater signs of communion. Each MSFS should explore deeply the richness of his call to be a Fransalian in his Local Community.
- The General Chapter also reminded us that the proper way of living religious life requires a disciplined community life. There must be norms, directives, and conditions for observing the discipline in the spirit of our evangelical counsels. As Pope Paul VI reminds us: *The principal task of the General Chapter is, as time goes on, to keep intact those norms of the Religious family, which were set up by its Founder and Lawgiver. Therefore, it is your responsibility to firmly shut the door against all those modes of conduct which gradually devitalize the strength of religious discipline, namely, practices which are dangerous to religious life, unnecessary dispensations, and privileges not properly approved. (Pope Paul VI, 23 May 1964).*

2. FOLLOW UP TO THE GENERAL CHAPTER

Let me request all our Local Superiors and Provincial Superiors to monitor consistently and specifically the implementation of the following directives and decisions of the General Chapter 2019 from October 2019 through October 2020.

OUR FOCUS FOR NEXT ONE YEAR

COMMUNITY LIFE

- a) *Strengthening our community life by participation in daily community prayer, Eucharistic celebration, Eucharistic adoration, the common meal, monthly recollections, and annual retreats*
- b) *Ensuring disciplined and healthy communities with Local Superiors and the community members remaining accountable to each other regarding their duties and responsibilities to the community*

MISSION

- a) *Promoting the Cause of our Founder and share in his spirit of mission and pray for his beatification and canonization*
- b) *Making efforts to promote the establishment, animation, and Formation of Fransalian Associates at least two units in every Province*
- c) *Ensuring that all newly ordained priests will serve in our missions as part of their pastoral formation for a minimum of two years, under the guidance of a senior MSFS confrere*
- d) *Promote and engage the Parish Mission Preaching Teams with a specific focus on mission preaching in the model of Father Mermier*

FORMATION

- a) *Implementing the newly introduced Graded Integral Formation program and providing our seminarians at all stages with mission awareness and exposure programs to missions and ministries of the Congregation*
- b) *Ensuring that all our Formators get opportunities for training themselves for formation with a specific program in Psychology, Counseling, and Spiritual direction*

EDUCATION

- a) *Creating a Catholic culture and ambiance in our schools and colleges and ensuring that Managers/Correspondents/Principals of our Schools and Colleges will involve in the educational apostolate in a greater way by way of teaching, spending time with School community of Staff and Students*
- b) *Strengthening the Alumni Associations by the annual meeting of the Alumni and establishing a student wing of Friends of Fransalians in all our educational institutions*

SOCIAL APOSTOLATE AND INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES

- a) *Prioritizing specialized ministries in the social apostolate, media and communication, youth ministry and training confreres for these ministries*
- b) *Strengthening the Province level units of the Mission Development Office and extending its service to the social apostolate and innovative ministries*

STEWARDSHIP

- a) *Implementing Financial Accountability System for Transparency (FAST) with a realistic approach*

3. COMMITMENT OF THE GENERAL ADMINISTRATION TO THE IMPLEMENTATION - MECHANISMS OF THE DECISIONS OF GENERAL CHAPTER 2019

- During the next six years, we (General Administration) want to be as close as possible to each one of you in implementing the spirit and experience of the XX General Chapter. We shall work in a spirit of teamwork and collegiality, meaning that the role of those in Administration (whether Province level or Congregation level) is not to represent any Province/Region/Mission/Secretariat but to channel the missionary energies and human resources so as to guarantee, as best as we can, the overall growth and welfare of the Congregation.
- In our day-to-day functioning, as General Curia, we will give a special place to mutual trust, accurate reporting of implementation, and active listening with respect for one another. We will integrate the dimensions of prayer, Eucharistic adoration, the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, and missionary dynamism of Father Mermier, sharing responsibilities, and arriving at decisions through consensus. We request the Provincials and Superiors of Delegations and Missions to reflect the implementation of the decisions of the Chapter and its challenges in the Circulars.
- In response to the expectations of the members of the General Chapter, the General Administration will seek to give a new thrust on implementing the directives and decisions of the Chapter. During the visitation of the Superior General, the Assistant Superior General, and visit of the General Secretaries and General Bursar to the Provinces, we will provide animation and guidance to the confreres and the Provincial Curia. Visitation is one of the finest opportunities for the animation of the Province/Delegation/Mission/Local Community by the members of the General Curia. As the Provincial has a huge responsibility to shoulder, we will listen to him not only in his leadership role but also as a brother and offer individual attention to each confrere.
- We will study the possibility of opening new missions in mission territories and peripheries of the society where implantation of the Congregation and possibilities of vocation promotion are feasible. We will work on renewing the missionary spirit of the Congregation with its primordial apostolate of Parish Mission Preaching, inviting every confrere to present the Charism of the Congregation to the universal Church in the spirit of the XX General Chapter.
- We will soon initiate the process of preparing the entire Congregation to study and prepare “proposals for voting” on juridical matters (cf. Call of the General Chapter, pp. 35 – 38) for amendments in the Constitutions and General Directory. We will also appoint an Expert Commission for Juridical matters and another Expert Commission to educate the entire Congregation on the spirit of our Constitutions, Founder, Charism, and History and legacy of the Congregation.

4. SHARPEN YOUR SPIRITUAL RADAR FOR A HEALTHY COMMUNITY LIFE

- During the General Chapter, we experienced that the spiritual radar on community life was often on high alert by way of interventions and proposals. *“The General Chapter, the supreme legislative and teaching authority in the Congregation, reiterates the collective conviction of the confreres that it is a*

joy to be an MSFS, and firmly resolves to strengthen our community life and existing ministries”. Our MSFS Charism calls us to live the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in our community and mission.

- For Fr. Mermier, religious life is communion with others in community and community life is indispensable for a religious. He always longed to be a religious for the reason that he was convinced of community life as a means to progress in personal sanctification and dedication to the mission. He wrote to Mother Claudine: *Devotion consists, not in the number of external practices, such as long devotional exercises, attendance at Mass, at instructions, frequent communion, etc.. These are good. But they are not devotion. It is not a religious life. True devotion is Charity.*
- For Pope Francis, community life is the first and most believable Gospel we can preach. *Someone who is not capable of community life is not fit for the religious life. ... Even in the best families, some members go through a rough time. Community conflicts are necessary: we cannot dream of a community or any human group, which is free of conflicts, and we must tolerate them not by eliminating or ignoring them but by facing them (Pope Francis).*
- We read that the first band of missionaries at La Roche resided as a religious community striving to create a tradition in keeping with the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. Fr. Mermier writes: *Community is where the religious spirit should reign, where all the members are so many brothers, where we tend towards the same goal, where we employ the same means, where perfect harmony reigns, where the prayer of the Divine Saviour is accomplished —That they may be one like us* [Let. to Fr. Jean Thevenet, 14-06-1848]

5. YEAR OF FRANSALIAN ASSOCIATES

We have already constituted units of Fransalian Associates in our Provinces. Some units are actively functioning with frequent gatherings and study of the works of St. Francis de Sales. It is encouraging to note the deep interest of our Associates to partner with us in our missionary and spiritual journey.

On July 18, 2017, we published the Guidelines for Fransalian Associates. These guidelines provide inputs on the Identity of a Fransalian Associate, Membership, Formation, Apostolic Commitment, and Organization and Administration of the units. Formation of the Associates with a program is important to prepare those who are called to make their formal consecration as Associates. Focusing on the formation program for the Associates, with the consent of the General Council,

I AM GLAD TO DECLARE THE YEAR 2020 AS THE YEAR OF FRANSALIAN ASSOCIATES

Beginning from January 24, 2020, through January 23, 2021, we will celebrate the gift of Fransalian Associates to us. During this year of Fransalian Associates, we will:

- *Initiate formation program for the Associates in preparation for their consecration (those who aspire to consecrate themselves)*
- *Study St. Francis de Sales and his spirituality for daily living*
- *Living our call to holiness with the help of the Spiritual Directory and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales*

DECISIONS, NEWS, AND EVENTS

1. FRANCO SWISS PROVINCIAL

Fr. Jean-Yves Le Tue is appointed Provincial of Franco-Swiss Province for a term of three years with effect from August 01, 2019.

2. USA VICE-PROVINCIAL CURIA

Fr. Tomy Puliyanampattayil is appointed Vice-Provincial of USA Vice Province for a second term of three years with effect from July 03, 2019. The other elected members of the Curia are

Fr. Luke Kalarickal - Admonitor & Councilor

Fr. Anthony Bonela – Councilor, and

Fr. Noble Ambalathuruthel – Bursar

Two Representatives of the Short-term members are:

Fr. John Peter (Sr.), and

Fr. JAISON Pezhathinal

3. PROVINCIAL CURIA OF SOUTHWEST INDIA PROVINCE

Fr. Binu Edathumparambil: Provincial Admonitor and PCIC Formation

Fr. Joe CHEROLICKAL: PCIC, Mission

Fr. A. Jabamalai: PCIC, Education

Fr. Riju Vazheparambil: PCIC, SAIM

Fr. Vinod Kanatt: Provincial Bursar

4. DELEGATION SUPERIOR FOR MOZAMBIQUE

Fr. Henry Nedumkallel is appointed the Delegation Superior of Mozambique Delegation for a term of three years with effect from August 17, 2019. Our appreciation and gratitude go to **Fr. Petrus** for his leadership and animation of the Delegation for the past 6 years.

5. GERMAN SPEAKING SWITZERLAND INTERPROVINCIAL LOCAL COMMUNITY SUPERIOR

Fr. Salu Thattaparambil is appointed the Local Superior of the Interprovincial MSFS Community in German-Speaking Switzerland with effect from August 01, 2019.

6. RECTOR AND SUPERIOR OF LCI

Fr. James Panthalanickel Is appointed Rector of Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha and Local Superior of the LCI Community for a term of three years with effect from August 01, 2019.

7. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes is appointed to be on the teaching staff and formation team of LCI with effect from September 01, 2019

8. RECTOR OF SUVIDYA COLLEGE

Fr. Sabukuttan Manasrayil is appointed the President of the Inter-Provincial Fransalian Institute of

Philosophy and Social Sciences, Rector of Suvidya College, and Local Superior of Suvidya Community for a term of three years with effect from September 30, 2019

9. NEWLY PROFESSED CONFRES

We welcome 39 of our newly professed members including Brother Dimitri DELMAS of Franco-Swiss Province in the current year to our MSFS family

10. MSFS GENERALATE, ROME

Fr. Mark Hriinii is appointed House Superior and Administrator of MSFS Generalate and the Personal Secretary of Superior General for a term of three years with effect from July 29, 2019

Fr. Jose Cheriyanthara is appointed the Local Superior of the MSFS Local Community in Rome with his residence at Via Del Mascherino 46/2 (Vatican House) for a term of three years with effect from September 27, 2019.

11. EXPERT COMMISSION FOR JURIDICAL MATTERS

As authorized by the General Chapter 2019, the following confreres are appointed to be on the team to present clear proposals to be voted for amendment of the Constitutions and/or the General Directory in the extra-ordinary General Chapter 2021.

Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil (Convener)

Fr. Thomas Cherukat

Fr. James Panthalanickel

Fr. Velangani Dola, and

Fr. K. Thomas

Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, General Councilor and Secretary for Mission, will serve as the contact person to help you prepare the module and strategy.

12. EXPERT COMMISSION TO STUDY THE CONSTITUTIONS, THE SPIRIT AND CHARISM OF THE FOUNDER, AND HISTORY AND HERITAGE OF THE CONGREGATION

Fr. Agnelo Fernandes (Convener)

Fr. Jean-Paul Fournier

Fr. Jacob Parappally, and

Fr. Mariadas Sesetty

Fr. Suresh Babu, General Councilor and Secretary for Formation, will serve as the contact person to help you prepare the module and strategy.

I thank our confreres on both Commissions for accepting this responsibility to be at the service of the Congregation with their expertise and availability

13. MDO SECOND CONFERENCE

To creatively strengthen Social Apostolates and Innovative Ministries and to maximize the services of Mission Development Office for our missionary endeavors, MDO in collaboration with SAIM is organizing an Intensive Training Program in Vinayalaya, Bangalore from November 05 – 08, 2019. All PCICs of SAIM, MDO Province Representatives, JPIC Directors, and those actively engaged in Social Apostolates are requested to attend the Conference.

14. CALL OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER AND SIX-YEAR CO-ORDINATION PLAN OF GENERAL CURIA WITH PROVINCES

Please ensure that you have access to the copies of these two documents.

15. OBITUARY

A revised edition of OBITUARY (1838-2018) is already published for our daily use in communities. Kindly use the obituary at the daily mass or community prayers. **I thank the Pune Province for the excellent presentation of the Obituary and for sponsoring the Project.**

16. MSFS CROSSES

MSFS wooden crosses are available at DSM Resource and Animation Center. **I thank Southeast India Province for taking the initiative to get crosses ready for the entire Congregation and for sponsoring the Project.**

17. SPIRITUALITY PROGRAM ANNECY (SPA 2019)

Eight of our Confreres from 8 Provinces (**Fathers Andrew NE, Patrick EAP, Britto Michael PN, Jijo Thomas NGP, Prashanth SWI, Jesuraj SEI, Thambi Raj VZG, and Eldin BRA**) are attending the Program in Annecy. Many thanks to **Fr. Yves Carron and Fr. Samuel Thomas** for organizing the program!

18. PARISH MISSION PREACHING TRAINING

Under the General Secretariat of Mission, a meeting of all the Parish Mission Preachers is organized in **Charis Bhavan from October 09 – 12, 2019**. All our PMP team members are expected to join these training sessions on Preaching as a Team, Preaching in the Power of the Spirit, Personal and Spiritual Formation for Preachers, and insights into the preaching of St. Francis de Sales, Father Peter Mermier, and instructions of Pope Francis to Preachers.

19. POSTULANCY PROGRAM

Postulancy Program, the third stage of formation as designed by Graded Formation, is being offered to a group of Postulants from different Provinces in **MSFS Minor Seminary, Vadakkencherry, Kerala**, under the guidance of **Fr. Jose Karickal**, the Rector.

20. EDUCATION REGIONAL FORUM (INDIA) MEETING

To respond to the directives of the General Chapter on the Apostolate of Education, Regional Forum met together in Delhi on September 15, 2019, at the invitation and guidance of the General Secretary for Education.

21. FORMATION PROGRAM FOR FORMATORS

General Secretariat of Formation is offering a training Program for Formators in response to the directive of the General Chapter 2019. The Program is arranged in two locations for better participation:

- **October 29 – November 01, 2019 MSFS Provincial House, Guwahati**
- **January 28 – 31, 2020, MSFS Provincial House, Trichy**

22. MSFS APP

MSFS app was launched on September 15, 2019, as a handy tool available globally connecting our confreres, anytime and anywhere, as one family. This is a very comprehensive app exclusively for the use of MSFS confreres. Please do not share this app with anyone as it contains confidential information of and for our confreres.

This is the initial version of the app 1.1.0, which contains Prayer for daily living, Novena, Prayer Intentions for the month, Mass Order, Daily Readings and Reflections from the Joy of the Gospel, Six-Year Plan of the General Curia, Obituary, MSFS Constitutions, General Directory, Call of General Chapter, Hymns, links to each Province, and more. New features like Chat Room will also be added.

As of now, the App is only available on Android devices. A new version for iOS devices is under development and will be released shortly.

To install the app:

- Make sure you have registered your email id with 'fransalian iTech' through your Province or Region
- Download and install the **MSFS** app from the Play store
- Open the app and follow the instructions to log in
- For assistance with installation, please contact msfsapp@gmail.com

I thank **Fr. J. Stephen**, General Councilor and General Secretary for SAIM and his team for this innovative step to globally connect us.

23. DIGITAL EVANGELIZATION

Training Institute in Digital Evangelization (TIDE) is a training institute which conducts course in Tally, Graphics Designing and Videography. Digital Evangelization runs the **W2W TV MSFS** YouTube Channel, regularly releasing homilies by Pune Province Confreres. It has begun introducing talks by confreres on the book "Introduction to the Devout Life" as IDL 4 PPL. The first video is released on 25th September 2019.

Every Wednesday there will be a video on IDL 4 PPL. It will help us all to watch introduction to the devout life in the form of talks given by various confreres. W2W TV MSFS intends to bring out video clips on 'Salesian Themes' from various sources available. Make the best use of this media and share the link with all your friends so that it reaches to all. **The link is on YouTube W2W TV MSFS. Congratulations to Fr. Albert Fernandes and his Team for this new venture in Evangelization!**

24. PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

As a Congregation, we begin to pray for one special intention every month from October 2019. I request you to include this special intention in every community and formation house. The prayer intention of the month will be sent to you as Intention of the Superior General for the Congregation. Let us use the power of prayer for God's continued blessings and graces for us. Please note:

INTENTION FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER 2019

We pray: that our confreres working in the new missions of Ecuador, Malawi, and Indonesia may experience the merciful protection and care of the Lord in their missionary challenges and for an even greater commitment of the MSFS to the global Mission of Christ in the periphery of the society ... we pray to the Lord

25. MSFS STATUS 2020

The STATUS of the Congregation will be published by the middle of next year as we expect major changes in the addresses and offices in the coming six months.

26. PRAYERFUL TRIBUTE TO OUR BELOVED MISSIONARIES

Bro. Emmanuel Cyrille Etaba Bivina, 30 years, from Chad-Cameroon Delegation, died on March 26, 2019

Fr. Anthony D'Souza (Sr.), 75 years, of Pune Province, died on April 21, 2019

Fr. Armind Nazareth, 92 years, of Pune Province, died on May 02, 2019

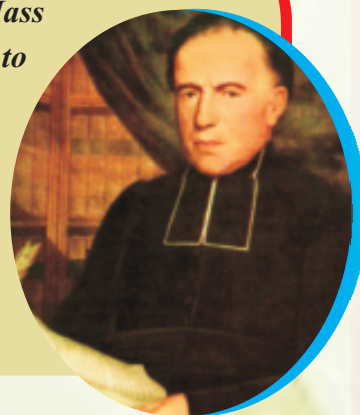
Fr. Xavier Michael, 65 years, of Vizag Province, died on May 25, 2019

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord!

A MISSIONARY WHOSE LIFE REVOLVED AROUND THE EUCHARIST

Blindness deprived Fr. Mermier of the comfort of celebrating Holy Mass (during the last two years of his life). ... He resigned himself, and went to the communion each day. Fr. Gaiddon writes: "Always the first at the spiritual exercises made in common, Father Mermier continued to get up at 4 in the morning. He attended two masses every day. Generally with a smile on his lips, he presented a serene and radiant face to everyone"

- (Fr. Duval, Monsieur Mermier – 276)



Wishing you a very Happy Feast of our Founder!

Live Jesus!

Fraternally in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'Abraham'.

Father Abraham Vettuvellil, MSFS

Superior General