



Casa Generalizia

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JANUARY 24, 2020

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

Benedictus Deus!

Mandated by the 20th General Chapter 2019 and with the consent of the General Council in its meeting held on February 12, 2019, I come to you with this important document of

CONVOCATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER OF OUR CONGREGATION 2021

**THE GENERAL CHAPTER WILL TAKE PLACE IN
MSFS Pune Provincial House,
Nagar Road, PUNE, INDIA**

From February 01 -07, 2021

On the theme

“MSFS, WAKE UP TO THE BASICS”
(Continued)



PARTICIPANTS OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER 2021

As this Extraordinary General Chapter takes place within two years after the Ordinary General Chapter 2019, the elected Delegates will be the same as those who took part in the 20th Ordinary General Chapter.

DELEGATES TO EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER

1. ANTHONYSAMY Benedict	Brazil Province
2. PANTHALANICKEL James	East Africa Province
3. COULON Jean-Patrice	England Province
4. KANNEZHATH Scaria Joseph	Franco-Swiss Province
5. KURICKAL George	Nagpur Province
6. TIRKEY Manoj	Nagpur Province
7. MUNDACKAL Baiju Kurian	North East India Province
8. PUTHIYAKULANGARA Saji George	North East India Province
9. DAIY Sebastian	Pune Province
10. GONSALVES Johnson	Pune Province
11. KULANGARATH Sunny Joseph	Pune Province
12. A. Arul Francis	Southeast India Province
13. D. Kanikkai Nathan	Southeast India Province
14. CHERUKAT Thomas	Southwest India Province
15. EDATHUMPARAMBIL Binu	Southwest India Province
16. KALARIPARAMBIL Thomas	Southwest India Province
17. CHAKKALAKKAL Jolly Joseph	Visakhapatnam Province
18. DOLA Velangani Rao	Visakhapatnam Province
19. CHACKALECKEL Davis	USA Vice-Province

CLARIFICATION

1. The ex-officio members will be those who are ex-officio as on the first day when the Extraordinary General Chapter takes place, February 01, 2021.
2. The elected substitutes will not take part automatically or on making their arrangement at the province level. The official delegate after consulting the Provincial has to seek permission from the Superior General, who after consulting the General Council, will give the permission to the concerned to be absent, and also nominate officially the next substitute, and inform the person concerned, the Provincial concerned and the entire Congregation.

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

a. GENERAL CURIA

1. Superior General
2. Assistant Superior General
3. General Councillor
4. General Councillor
5. General Councillor
6. General Councillor
7. General Bursar

b. PROVINCIALS AND VICE PROVINCIAL

8. Provincial of Brazil Province
9. Provincial of Dibrugarh Province
10. Provincial of East Africa Province
11. Provincial of England
12. Provincial of Franco-Suisse Province
13. Provincial of Guwahati Province
14. Provincial of Nagpur Province

15. Provincial of Pune Province
16. Provincial of Southeast India Province
17. Provincial of Southwest India Province
18. Provincial of Visakhapatnam Province
19. Vice Provincial of USA Vice Province

c. THE STEERING COMMITTEE

Fr. Saji George (Secretary General)
Fr. Manoj Tirkey
Fr. Suresh Babu (General Councilor)
Fr. J. Stephen (General Councilor), and
The Provincial of Pune Province

d. SPECIAL INVITEES (without the right to vote)

1. The members of the Previous General Administration
2. Ex Provincials who participated in the 20th General Chapter 2019,
3. Any other confrere invited with the consent of the General Council

THE RATIONALE OF THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER 2021

- The 20th General Chapter 2019 called us to look closely at our Charism until we see our apostolates and consecrated life through the prism of our Charism. Our Charism calls us to live the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in our community and mission envisioned by our Founder, Fr. Peter Mary Mermier (Statement of the Call of the General Chapter 2019).
- Fidelity to our Charism and the spirit of the Founder requires of us an honest look at our past: Charism, traditions, missionary dynamism, heritage, and history. There is a difference between being in a canoe and a rowboat. In a canoe, we look forward as we row, but in a rowboat, we look back as we go forward. “MSFS, Wake up to the Basics” is a call to look back as we go forward.
- Just as we critique the negatives of the Congregation, we should celebrate the positives. We need to mine the fields of our history, spiritual traditions and wealth, Charism, and missionary dynamism of the past, and find the treasures, the positives, and the gems. In today's challenging context, we need to reclaim the best of our Congregation from the time of Fr. Mermier and see that God is doing something ancient and new.
- In the context of the numerical growth and geographical expansion of the Congregation and based on the individual proposals, proposals from the Provincials, and the proposals from the General Administration before the 20th General Chapter 2019, an urgent need was felt to have an eventual amendment of the Constitutions and the General Directory of the Congregation, specifically on juridical matters.
- There are certain situations, as identified and articulated in the Call of the General Chapter 2019 (pp. 36-37), where the Administration and Confreres, in general, felt the need to make some changes in the Constitution and the General Directory for effectively addressing certain unforeseen situations. Certain policies and decisions can be made at the administrative level only with the amendment of the Constitution.
- He (The Superior General) with the consent of his Council convokes the Ordinary or Extraordinary General Chapter. He ensures that the General Chapter becomes a renewing and transforming experience for the whole Congregation. ...” (Constitutions 201/viii).

Hence, the rationale of convoking an Extraordinary General Chapter:

1. *Changes in the MSFS Constitutions and General Directory as indicated by the Ordinary General Chapter 2019 for study, reflection and final decision by the EGC 2021 and other concomitant*

changes that may be required to align the MSFS Constitutions and General Directory, if the changes are adopted by the EGC 2021

The preliminary work of the in-depth study of the proposals made to the 20th General Chapter on constitutional and general directory changes has been entrusted to an Expert Commission, which will forward its draft to the Superior General. The Superior General and his Council will decide to circulate it to all the members of the Congregation who are to give their feedback to the Superior General before the EGC 2021.

2. *Clarity and articulation of the Charism, Vision, and Mission of the Congregation, its missionary history, and traditions, its founder, Fr. Peter Mermier, and his legacy and missionary spirit.*

The preliminary work of an in-depth study of the above themes has been entrusted to another Expert Commission, which will forward its draft to the Superior General. The Superior General and his Council will decide to circulate it to all the members of the Congregation who are to give their feedback to the Superior General before the EGC 2021.

3. *'MSFS, Wake up to the Basics*

This calls for an in-depth study and education on the BASICS of MSFS' way of life. To live the four pillars of our Charism - Mission, Community Life, MSFS-ness, and the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales – we need to return to our historical sources and connect with these sources to discern the meaning of our missionary Charism in today's context.

DECISIONS, NEWS, AND EVENTS

1. GUWAHATI PROVINCE

Fr. SABU FRANCIS MANASRAYIL is appointed Provincial of the newly established Guwahati Province for three years with effect from January 24, 2020.

2. DIBRUGARH PROVINCE

Fr. EMMANUEL MAPPILAPARAMBIL is appointed Provincial of the newly established Dibrugarh Province for three years with effect from January 24, 2020.

3. PROVINCE OF ENGLAND

Fr. BENNY JOSEPH VALIYAVEETIL is appointed Provincial of the Province of England for a term of three years with effect from January 24, 2020.

4. SOUTHEAST INDIA PROVINCE

Fr. K. IGNACI MUTHU is appointed Provincial of Southeast India Province for the second term of three years with effect from January 24, 2020.

5. Fr. GEORGE PANTHANMACKEL

On behalf of the General Administration of the past and the present, I sincerely thank Fr. Panthanmackel for his able and excellent leadership as Major Superior of Northeast India Province and the Chairman of the Provincials of India and East Africa Forum.

6. COORDINATOR OF DELEGATION SUPERIORS IN GAH

Fr. DHAMAN KUMAR is appointed Coordinator of Delegation Superiors of GAH for a term of three years with effect from January 24, 2020.

7. Fr. JOSEPH AMALRAJ

On behalf of the General Administration, I thank Fr. Amalraj with great appreciation for his initiatives and leadership in animating the Delegation Superiors of GAH.

8. RECTOR, PRESIDENT, AND LOCAL SUPERIOR OF SUVIDYA COLLEGE

Fr. PHILIP THOMAS is appointed PRESIDENT, RECTOR, and LOCAL SUPERIOR of Suvidya College for three years with effect from January 20, 2020.

I sincerely thank **Fr. Sabu Francis** for his joyful service and leadership to Suvidya College for a very short time.

9. LUMEN CHRISTI INSTITUTE, ARUSHA

LCI is celebrating the decennial year of its foundation in 2020. On the occasion, LCI is organizing an International Conference from September 14 – 17, 2020 in collaboration with KU LEUVEN, BELGIUM, and DE SALES UNIVERSITY, the USA on the theme, 'RELIGION AND ETHICS: A CROSS-CULTURAL APPROACH TOWARDS NEW PARADIGM

10. FRANSALIAN ASSOCIATES

With the consent of the General Council, I gladly announce the YEAR 2020 (January 24, 2020 – January 24, 2021) as the YEAR of FFRANSALIAN ASSOCIATES (FA). We have the guidelines for the FA and we will begin the formation program for the Associates from April 2020. Fr. Yves Carron, the Assistant General, and Fr. Suresh Babu, the General Secretary for Formation are in the process of preparing a Formation Program. At the end of the formation program, the Associates are encouraged to consecrate themselves as Fransalian Associates.

All the Provinces will organize a Province level Conference of the FA during this year. We will organize a National level conference of the FA in the year 2022. An International Conference is envisaged in the year 2024 in Annecy.

I request all the Province level Directors of Fransalian Associates to organize the formation program and the Province level conference during the year of the Fransalian Associates.

11. SPIRITUALITY PROGRAM ANNECY (SPA)

SPA 2020 will begin from **May 25– July 02** this year with Pre-SPA Program in Nagpur Provincial House from March 31 – April 07. We will have a Post-Spa gathering on November 21, 2020, in Trichy. We continue to insist that Provinces send confreres who, after SPA, will be available to disseminate Salesian spirituality and the missionary spirit of Fr. Peter Mermier in their respective Provinces and places of ministries.

12. MISSION SECRETARIAT

Mission Secretariat is organizing prayer days and annual gathering of the Province PMP teams in India from November 27 – December 02, 2020, in Poondi, near Trichy, India. PMP teams plan to integrate scholastics (interested in mission preaching) to the team. Steps are being taken in collaboration with Formation Secretariat to instill missionary spirit in our young confreres from the time of initial formation. Mission animation program in the Indian Provinces and East Africa Province will take place this year.

13. FORMATION SECRETARIAT

An on-going formation program for Formators is envisaged during the year 2020-2021. Fransalian Graded Integral Syllabus is already implemented in the initial stages of orientation and Postulancy in the minor seminaries. Graded Syllabus for Pre – Novitiate, and Novitiate are being prepared by a team of formators.

14. EDUCATION SECRETARIAT

To ensure a critical self-evaluation of the management of our school system, the Secretariat of Education is

initiating the process of annual school evaluation based on a scientific format, in agreement with the guidelines and spirit of the General Chapter, prepared by the Secretariat. A team is working on the publication of Value Education Books based on the MSFS philosophy of education.

15. SOCIAL APOSTOLATE AND INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES

The Secretariat of SAIM will work with the following ministries:

- a. Mission Development Office (MDO)
- b. Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC)
- c. Friends of Fransalians (FoF in Schools)
- d. Fransalian Youth Ministry (FYM)
- e. Fransalian Media World (FMW)
- f. The joy of the Gospel (Bible Diary: JOG)
- g. Inter-Religious Dialogue (IRD)

- **Fransalian Youth Ministry** is already active in a few Provinces. FYM will work under the leadership of Fr. John Barman as National Director. We hope to have a new line of leadership for the Fransalian Youth Ministry soon.
- **Fransalian Media World**, as directed by the General Chapter 2019, is an initiative of SAIM. The General Administration has decided to go ahead with the opening of **De Sales International Film and Media Academy** from June 2020 in Kodampakkam, Chennai. We request your cooperation and support in this new venture of the Congregation. We also look into the possibility of **the IT Training and Development Centre** for designing and developing Management Software for various ministries.

16. MISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

MDO Conference, organized by MDO Rome and the General Secretariat for SAIM, has come up with programs in Mission Animation, Integral Human Development, and Resource Mobilization for the missions. MDO is already supporting our various missions through donors. The next MDO Conference of the Directors of MDO in India will be in Pune on October 02, 2020.

17. 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST MSFS IN INDIA

The Year 2020 marks the 175th anniversary of the arrival of the First MSFS in India. The first missionaries were: Fr. Jacques Martin, Fr. Joseph Lavorel, Fr. Jean-Marie Tissot, Fr. Jean Thevernet, Brother Pierre Carton, and Brother Sulpice Fontanel.

'On September 08, 1845, after crossing of 88 days, the Missionaries disembarked at Pondicherry and were able to celebrate the Mass of Our lady's Nativity on land'.

- Each Province in India can organize the celebration of this historic event at the Province level on September 08, 2020
- We plan to have a common celebration of all the Provinces in India in Visakhapatnam on October 24, 2020. The details will be announced later.

18. TRANSLATING THE WRITINGS OF FATHER MERMIER

We plan to translate the writings of Father Peter Mermier and regularly publish them. With the consent of the General Council, I request the following confreres to be in the translation team:

Fr. Yves Carron (convener)
Fr. Noel Rebello
Fr. Henry Kodukuthiyil
Fr. Suresh Babu
Fr. Gijo Panamattathil, and
Fr. Emile Amougou Amougou

19. PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

I request that we as a congregation regularly pray for the various intentions of the Congregation. The

intentions will be shared with all the Local Superiors and Superiors of Formation Houses so that the intentions are honored in all our communities.

20. PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER

Please print the prayer in preparation for the Extraordinary General Chapter 2021 and use it regularly in our communities and formation houses.

21. STATUS 2020

The electronic copy of the STATUS will be available shortly. However, the printed copy will be made available after the Provincial Congresses and first profession of the novices by mid-2020.

22. DEPARTURES FROM THE CONGREGATION

- **Varghese Vanissery** is laicized and ceases to be a member of the Congregation.
- **Fr. Thomas Kunnappallilis** incardinated to the diocese of Salzburg and ceases to be a member of the Congregation.

We thank them for all the blessings they brought to the Congregation and wish them God's blessings in their new life.

23. PRAYERFUL TRIBUTE TO OUR BELOVED CONFRERES

- **Fr. Wilson Kottam**, Southwest India Province, died on Nov. 07, 2019
- **Fr. Michael D'Souza**, Nagpur Province, died on November 21, 2019
- **Fr. Mathew Kalathungal**, Southwest India Province, died on Nov. 22
- **Fr. Antony Mookenthottam**, SWI Province died on January 03, 2020

Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord!

I wish you a Happy Feast of our heavenly Patron!

*“Doing little things with a great desire to please God makes them really great”
St. Francis de Sales*

Fraternally in Christ,



Father Abraham Vettuvilil, MSFS
Superior General



St. Francis de Sales

Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations, and say continually: 'The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart has trusted in Him and I am helped. He is not only with me but in me and I in Him.'