

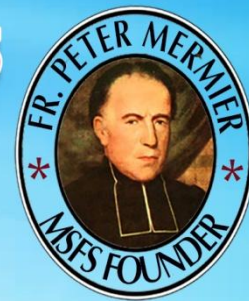
# MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

## GUWAHATI PROVINCE

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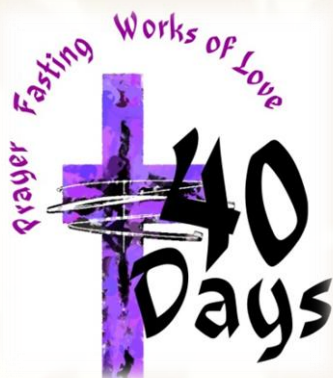


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March 08. 2020

Dear Confreres,

### LENT 2020



Lent is the time for renewal, reminder, re-examine and retrospection. The 40 days of Lent are to be an imitation of Jesus' 40 days in the desert. It is an inward journey for 40 days searching for an answer to the questions; *who am I, what am I and why am I*. Chapter 6 of Mark suggests Fasting, Prayer and Alms giving as means to achieve this end. They are the three pillars on which we build the holy season of Lent. These external acts are three dimensional; in relation to God (prayers), in relation to oneself (fasting) and in relation to neighbour (alms giving). It is chain of actions and reactions leading from one to another. Any One of them without the other is hypocrisy and any one

totally disproportional to other is pharisaic. The Lenten observances and traditions make us more reflective. All of these practices help to bear spiritual fruit in our lives. They bring us to a step closer to God.

**Prayer:** Prayer is communication with God on an interior level. In prayerful communication with God, we speak, talk, argue, plead and we suggest. But above all, we listen, hear, understand and respond. Communication is not a "One Way" traffic. With this understanding we take our prayer to another level of excellence. **Fasting:** Fasting is something more than controlling our digestive system. It is a matter of taking control over our five senses. Newspaper, Magazine and Radio are entertainment of the past. TV, Computer and Mobile have taken toll our ears and eyes. Our taste buds cannot be satiated with rice and curry but they need now fast-food and junk-food. The smell of an Agarbati may not invoke any sense of devotion in us today because our sense of smell is addicted to expensive scents and perfumes. **Almsgiving:** Mother Theresa often said "give until it pains you." Giving from affluence and excess is no real giving in Christian sense of the word. Giving should involve cross, suffering and sacrifice. Most of our benefactors are generous with us not because they have plenty but they deny themselves in life something or other so that they can help the needy. We give our five senses a 40 days' break from the soothing delights and delicacies of the world so as to turn to the deeper delights of a life of union with God.

Let us pray in Lent 2020: Lord, I give myself to You this Lent. I freely choose to enter into these 40 days of Lent and choose to pray, fast and give of myself to an extent I have never done before. I pray that this Lent will be a time in which I am transformed interiorly by You. Set me free, dear Lord, from all that keeps me from loving You and others with all my heart. Jesus, I trust in You. Amen

I wish you all a holy season of the Lent and God's rich blessings in all what you do and undertake for the Glory of God and salvation of men.

### EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER 2021

Our beloved Father Superior General Rev. Fr. Dr. Abraham Vettuvilil mandated by the 20<sup>th</sup> General Chapter 2019 and with the consent of the General Council in its meeting held on February 12, 2019, has convoked an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER on the theme "MSFS, WAKE UP TO THE

BASICS” (Continued). It takes place from February 01 to 07, 2021 at MSFS Pune Provincial House, Nagar Road, PUNE, INDIA.

### **PRAYER FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER 2021**

God of mercy and compassion, we praise and worship you. We thank you for your loving and caring presence in the life of our beloved Fransalian family. In spite of our unworthiness, you have entrusted to us the divine project of our congregation which you initiated through our holy founder, your humble servant Fr. Peter Mermier. We remember with gratitude, all those who guided the destiny of our congregation until this moment. We are ever grateful to you for blessing us and making us channels of blessings for many people all over the world.

As we prepare ourselves for the extra-ordinary General Chapter - 2021, we seek your blessings. Inspire every one of us to be actively part of this sacred event through our prayers and by way of having genuine interest in all the concerns of our MSFS family. Fill each one of us with your Spirit of wisdom and courage that we may discern and what is right and just and make decisions solely for your glory. Help us to live the spirit of our hallowed constitutions and to be living witnesses to your love.

In deep humility and trust, we bring to you these prayers through the intercessions of our patrons St. Francis de Sales and Mother of Compassion and through prayers of your servant Fr. Peter Mermier our holy Founder. We offer ourselves and our entire Fransalian family to your holy will, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Remember, O Most gracious Virgin Mary.....  
St. Francis de Sales, Pray for us  
Mother of Compassion, Pray for us  
Fr. Peter Mermier, Pray for us.

Let us recite daily the prayer for the success of EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER 2021.

### **175<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE FIRST MSFS IN INDIA (1845-2020)**

Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our beloved Superior General, in his letter dated February 9, 2020, requests all Provinces to have a meaningful celebration of the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the arrival of the MSFS Priests in India on September 08, 2020. Moreover, General Administration has a special event planned for the 175th-anniversary celebration at the National/International level in Visakhapatnam, India on October 23 and 24, 2020. The committee for organizing this Event in VIZAG on October 23 and 24, 2020 is:

Rev. Fr. P. Chinnappa Reddy, the Provincial of Visakhapatnam (Convener)

Rev. Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy, the Provincial of Nagpur, and

Rev. Fr. K. Ignaci Muthu, the Provincial of Southeast India

Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, General Secretary for Mission, will assist the Organizing Committee, representing the General Administration.

Let us pray for the success of this event and organize the programme the best way possible in our province.

### **TRANSFER AND APPOINTMENTS**

- Fr. Sabu Francis is appointed to be the ‘first’ Chairman and Major Superior of the Formation Houses of both Provinces (Guwahati and Dibrugarh) that come under the jurisdiction of the Governing Body consisting of the Provincial Councils of both Provinces for a term of three years with effect from January 24, 2020.



- Fr. Shaibu Mathew Ezhanikattu is designated to be at the service of General Administration for the Global Media Centre in Chennai with effect from February 01, 2020.
- Fr. John Barman is designated to be at the service of General Administration as the National Director of Fransalian Youth Ministry in the Congregational level.
- Fr. Nibin James Pulluvayalil is designated to be appointed Associate Priest at Mary, Mother of Compassion Parish, Panbari, with effect from February 16, 2020.
- Fr. Romilson Ch. Marak is designated to be appointed Associate Priest at Mother of Compassion Parish, Sateek, with effect from March 24, 2020.
- Fr. Joby Kurikilamkattu is designated for the Salesian Programme Annecy (SPA) from May 25 to July 2, 2020.

## REPRESENTATIVES OF SCHOLASTICS TO PROVINCIAL CONGRESS 2020

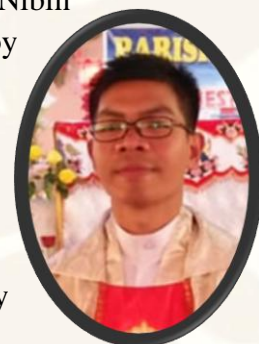
- Bro. Athiko Isaac and Bro. Moses Mukto Murmu will be representing the scholastics in the first Provincial Congress of Guwahati Province from March 30 to April 3, 2020.

## PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS



On behalf of the confreres of Guwahati Province I congratulate our new priests, Fr. Nibin James Pulluvayalil and Fr. Romilson Ch. Marak, who are ordained priests on December 28, 2019 and February 22, 2020 respectively. As planned the ordinations of these two confreres were held in their own respective home parishes. Fr. Nibin James Pulluvayalil was ordained a priest on December 28, 2019 by Most Rev. Remigiose Inchananiyil, Bishop of Tamarassery, at St. Mary's Forane Church, Kodenchery, and Fr. Romilson Ch. Marak was ordained a priest on February 22, 2020 by Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, at St. Paul's Church,

Panishali. Well organised liturgy, melodious choir, solemn felicitations and sumptuous meals were part of the event. Let us warmly welcome them to our midst as well as pray that their presence and ministry will be a blessing to people.



## JUBILEE AMLAREM

It was a great day of joy and personal thanksgiving for me as Ka Syiem Jingsuk Parish, Amlarem, celebrated on Sunday February 2, 2020 the conclusion of Silver Jubilee of the Parish. I was pleased to see the great geographical, numerical and demographical developments in Amlarem. Fr. Johnny Kuttikottayil as parish priest and I as deacon were the pioneers in Amlarem. I came back to Amlarem as Assistant and later I was appointed as the parish priest. The more I think of the initial difficulties and problems we faced back in 1993 in Amlarem, the more I appreciate and place on record the working of all our fathers in remote places of our province. The inclement weather, financial difficulties, language problems, the road conditions, all these we will overcome though HIM who has called us to serve him "No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Rom 8.37). Bishop Victor Lyndoh presided over the celebration. Fr. Genes Shangpliang, the parish priest, and Fr. Jacob Puthiyidathuchalil, the assistant parish priest, organized the programme with at most care. The presence of the huge number of faithful was a real witness and the Fransalians have become a blessing for Amlarem. God be praised!

## JUBILEE PANISHALI

The year 2020 marks the end of the silver jubilee of the establishment of St. Paul Parish and school at Panishali. With the sacrifices of many and cooperation of everyone, Panishali mission, which began in 1995, has made great strides within the past twenty five years. A two-day impressive celebration on Feb 21 and 22, 2020, with the climax of a thanksgiving mass presided over by his grace Most Rev. John

Moolachira, the Archbishop of Guwahati. To mark the memory of this jubilee year a beautiful Calvary Grotto was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Sabu Francis, Provincial of MSFS Guwahati Province, and Most Rev. John Moolachira blessed it in the presence of priests, religious, and the faithful. Fr. Paul Parekattil MST, one of the pioneer missionaries to Panishali in his address to the people encouraged them to keep their faith firm and thanked all those who worked hard for the growth of the mission. The celebration made meaning with the Priestly Ordination of Dn. Romilson Ch. Marak MSFS, the first priest from the parish. During the short felicitation programme the first school magazine and the parish directory were released. Thanks to Fr. Peter Marak, Fr. Priyor Khongsit, MSMHC Sisters, staff, students and the faithful for organizing a meaningful celebration of the Silver Jubilee.

### NEW SCHOOL BUILDING AT KSEHPYNGDENG VILLAGE, MAWRYNGKNENG

On February 16, 2020 a new school Building was blessed and inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Sabu Francis, Provincial of MSFS Guwahati Province, at Ksehpyngdeng village under the Divine Mercy Parish, Mawryngkneng, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Silvanus Nongkynrih, the Rector of St Paul Seminary, Upper Shillong, who was the main celebrant of the Holy Mass, along with Fr. Anthony Kattatara, the Parish



Priest and Fr. Luke Tanti, the Associate Priest. People thanked and appreciated fathers for the great effort taken for making their dream come true by bringing better facilities to their children in the field of education. The inauguration programme ended with a short felicitation and cultural programme organised by the villagers.

### VOCATION PROMOTION

Vocation promotion to priesthood and religious life is a serious concern, particularly in the changing scenario of our north-eastern context. I want to thank all the fathers working in all our parishes and institutions for the commendable service they do in promoting vocations. Vocation promotion is the duty of every member of the province. I thank each one of you for taking vocation promotion seriously. “I was inspired by the then parish priest Fr. ....”, I owe my vocation to Fr. ...” how nice it is to hear these words when the new priest delivers his thanksgiving after the ordination. Let us promote vocations by preaching about vocations in our Sunday sermons, by sharing our own vocation story, by recognizing vocations of altar servers, by spending time with youth, by extending an invitation to young people, by praying for vocations, by creating a “Vocation Bulletin Board” in the school, by sending children to the vocation camps and by conducting “Vocation Awareness Week” in the parish.

#### Vocation Promoters in Guwahati Province:

Fr. John Barman (Coordinator) - Mob. No: 9954706597  
Fr. Saji Mathew Kaippallil (Garo Hills) - Mob. No: 9402170776  
Fr. Firstar Shylla (Khasi Hills) - Mob. No: 7005596727  
Fr. Prior Khongsit (Lower Assam) - Mob. No: 6900397021  
Fr. Saji Tharayil (Central Assam/ Karbi Anglong) - Mob. No: 7086664224  
Fr. Lijeesh Kaduthanathu (Mizoram) - Mob. No: 8787613101  
Fr. Pratap Kerketta (Tripura) - Mob. No: 8787814967  
Fr. Sijo Kunnel (Jharkhand/Chotanagpur) - Mob. No: 7896567652  
Fr. Nicholas Bara (West Bengal/ Chotanagpur) - Mob. No: 7005589210  
Fr. Jobin Kallakulam (Kerala) – Mob. No: 9048187708

### HOLIDAYS

Welcome to Fr. Binu Puthankunnel and Fr. Nikseng Sangma who are on holidays in India.



## NEWS FROM SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION

1. Requesting your prayers for **Fr. Ventino Mutume**, who had undergone surgery to rectify his hernia complications on February 18, 2020. He is recovering well. Kindly continue to pray for him.
2. **The annual retreat** will take place from May 5, 2020 to May 10, 2020 at Mater Dei Pastoral Centre, Polokwane, Limpopo, South Africa. Kindly arrive at the venue by lunch time on May 4th to have our Annual General Meeting in the afternoon. Fr. Reji K Mani will be the animator of the retreat. The Community outing will be on May 11, and May 12th all are free to travel back to their parishes.
3. **General Councillors' visit to the Region:** Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, General Councillor, Secretary for Mission and Fr. Baviri Suresh Babu, General Councillor, Secretary for Formation will be visiting the Region from April 8 to 24, 2020.
4. **A New Pastoral Plan for Southern Africa:** The highlight of the January 2020 Southern African Catholic Bishops Conference (SACBC) Plenary was the launch of the new Pastoral Plan at Regina Mundi in Soweto on Sunday, January 26, 2020. The new Plan can be considered to be a response to the needs and challenges of our time and ought to be embraced at all levels of Church - mainly the Parish but also including the family. The Pastoral Plan incorporates eight focal areas. It is a Pastoral tool meant to enrich our Christian lives and to make the presence of Christ more real and tangible in our daily lives and relationships. **The eight focal areas are Evangelization, Laity Formation and Empowerment, Life and Ministry of Priests and Deacons, Marriage and Family, Youth, Justice, Peace and Non-Violence, Healing and Reconciliation and Care of Creation and the Environment.** There is literally something for everybody in the Plan, or to put it in another way, no one is an outsider of this Plan. *(Excerpts from the article written by Bishop Sylvester David OMI, the Auxiliary Bishop of Cape Town in the Archdiocesan News)*

## LET US PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED

- Mrs Annamma Thomas (94), mother of Fr Philip Thomas Kizhakumpurath, who passed away on February 29, 2020.

## PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

### March 2020

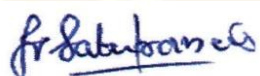
Mar. 01: Harina  
Mar. 02: Amarpur  
Mar. 03: Agartala  
Mar. 04: Guwahati  
Mar. 08-10: Provincial Congress  
of Southeast Province  
Mar. 11: Galsi  
Mar. 12: Ranchi  
Mar. 13: Governing Body Meeting, Ranchi  
Mar. 14: Guwahati  
Mar. 16: Chapar  
Mar. 17-18: Panbari

Mar. 19-20: Nongalbribra  
Mar. 21: Village Church blessing, Nongalbribra  
Mar. 22-23: Sateek  
Mar. 23-24: Lengpui  
Mar. 26: Guwahati  
Mar. 30 – April. 03: Provincial Congress  
of Guwahati Province

### April 2020

Apr. 06-08: Somonpara  
Apr. 09-11: Tura  
Apr. 13-17: Provincial Congress  
of Dibrugarh Province

Yours in Christ the Lord



Fr. Sabu Francis MSFS  
Provincial, Guwahati Province

WALKING ON THE PATH OF THE PATRON

*The pursuit of holiness must be practical, must transform your attitude, attributes and actions. SFS*