

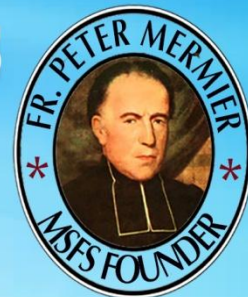
MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

GUWAHATI PROVINCE

MSFS Provincial House, Satgaon-Narengi, Udayan Vihar P.O

Guwahati - 781 001, Assam

Tel: 0361- 2972222, Email: provincialguwahatimsfs@gmail.com



GP-SF-01-2002010

February 10, 2020

My dear Confreres,

In humble submission to the will of God I have taken charge as the first provincial of our Guwahati Province. I am aware that it is difficult times and I hope and pray earnestly that the Lord will lead me with your blessings, commitment and cooperation to reach there, where he wants us to reach in proclaiming Christ and bearing witness to Jesus. Jesus is our vision and his Gospel values are our mission! I am committed to proclaiming Christ in the most befitting Fransalian way. I trust you my dear confreres more than I trust myself in achieving our missionary goal to bear witness to Christ. "I will forever remain humble because I know I could have less. I will always be grateful because I know I have had less. Your presence and prayers dear confreres mean lot to me. I know I can count on you. A heart full of gratitude I say THANK YOU. Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.

You deserve our THANKS

For the MSFS all over the world the 24th January 2020 was a day of praise and thanksgiving. The Northeast India Province was always the frontier Mission of the Congregation. It has a humble beginning with 6 priests in 1975. The rest is history. It will be told and retold again and again in every nook and corner of Northeast for the generations to come. For a province with two regions and with 196 priests and over 50 scholastics a bifurcation was imminent. The SFS Feast on 24th January 2020 witnessed birth of two new provinces: Guwahati and Dibrugarh (The 11th Province of our Congregation). In the name of every member of the new Guwahati Province I thank from the deep bottom of my heart the then administration of Visakhapatnam Province and the 6 pioneers who ventured into Northeast. What they sowed we are reaping today hundred fold. At this juncture I also remember the departed Members of our province who worked relentlessly for the honour of the province and glory of God. I want to thank our beloved Superior General Rev. Dr. Abraham Vettuvellil for the trust placed in the confreres and in me. I am humbled by the task entrusted to me. I thank Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, Most Rev. James Thoppil, Bishop of Kohima and Most Rev. Theodore Mascarenhas, Auxiliary Bishop of Ranchi, for gracing the occasion with their presence. The huge number of confreres, priests, religious and lay people who attended installation ceremony gives us a lot of strength and courage to march ahead proclaiming the Christ to all. I thank all fathers in MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati, who worked tirelessly for the inspiring and spiritual installation ceremony of the new provincials.

We trust in HIM, who has called us!

"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the LORD, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). We experience the plan of God in the growth and division of the Northeast Province. He gives us new hope, renews our commitment and revitalises our energy. "And I will give you a **new heart, and a new spirit** I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26). Let us move forward with a new heart that is created in the image of our saviour and master Jesus Christ. With absolute trust His Words, "Behold, I am making all things new" (Rev. 21:5), we go ahead.

A new Beginning

We, as a province, make a new beginning. *T.S. Eliot* has the saying “Every moment is a fresh beginning.” The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide we are not going to stay where we are. “We take the first step in faith. We don't have to see the whole staircase, just take the first step” (Martin Luther King Jr.). We begin a new journey. “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step” (Lao Tzu). With deep trust in God and with enough confidence in ourselves we go ahead. If we want something we have never had, then we have got to do something we have never done! Let us start all over again; –a new pattern of thought, –a new wave of emotions, –a new connection to Jesus and –a new faith in ourselves. Let us venture into new ways and make new approaches. Let us not spare anything to proclaim Christ. Let us not be afraid of the new beginnings. Let us not shy away from new people, new energy, and new surroundings. Let us embrace new chances with happiness.

THANKS A LOT DEAR FR. GEORGE PANTHANMACKEL



Fr. George Panthanmackel, the outgoing provincial, has been an inspiration. He was an efficient administrator, a true Fransalian and a spiritual Guru! He has achieved a lot, effected many new ways, and raised the province to great realms. I thank him in the name of every confrere of the province for guiding the province so efficaciously for the last 6 years. We witnessed on 24th January 2020 not merely an installation ceremony but a historical moment; One province divided into two. Fr. George Panthanmackel spent more than a few sleepless nights, I am sure, to get us stand where we stand today. Your guidance and patience, dear Fr. George Panthanmackel, no matter how great or small, has helped develop the province into a versatile institution and its members into persons of great calibre. Thank you! You renewed the face of the province without even

trying, and we don't think we could ever tell you how much we owe you. We can't imagine what things would be like if you weren't in the office for the last six years. I also place on record and express my sincere thanks to all the councilors and provincials both past and present for their dedicated service to accomplish what we have and what we are today.

CONGRATULATION TO FR. EMMANUEL MAPPILAPARAMBIL

In the name of Guwahati Province and in my personal name I extend our hearty congratulations to Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparambil and all the confreres of the Dibrugarh Province. It is a great honour and a great challenge to be appointed as the first provincial of Dibrugarh province. It is a wonderful experience for all the confreres. It is good that Fr. Emmanuel is at the helm of affairs. His managerial skills and administrative talents, organizational capacities and leadership qualities stand in good stead for the new province. My wish for you is that the life becomes all that you want it to be. Your dreams stay big, your worries stay small and that you never need to carry more than you can hold. I extend my whole hearted cooperation together with all my confreres for the development and growth of both the provinces. Let us start from where we are. Let us use what we have. Let us do what we can and leave the rest to God.



RETREAT 2020

We have fixed the dates for the two retreats in 2020. Annual retreat is part of the religious life. Please register your name with Fr. Praveen, the secretary (provincialsecretaryguwahati@gmail.com, Mob. 9615 3070 31). I thank you in anticipation.

Please take note of the dates and make yourself free to participate in the retreat.

Ist Retreat: from July 20th evening to 25th evening 2020 at MSFS Study House, Shillong.

2nd Retreat: from October 22nd evening to 27th evening 2020, at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati.

CONVOCAION OF THE 1stORDINARY PROVINCIAL CONGRESS OF GUWAHATI PROVINCE 2020

Mandated by the Constitution and approved by our Superior General
Rev. Fr. Dr. Abraham Vettuvélil and with the Consent of the Existing Provincial Council I, Fr. Sabukuttan
Francis MSFS, in the name all the Confreres of Guwahati Province convoke:

The 1st Ordinary Provincial Congress 2020 of Guwahati Province

**THEME: KAIROS: AN ACCEPTABLE TIME TO REDEFINE AND RELIVE OUR CHARISMS
IN OUR MISSIONARY CONTEXT.**

Dates: Monday 30th March (at 10 AM) to Friday 3rd April (till 10.30 Am), 2020.

Venue: MSFS Provincialate, Satgaon-Narengi, Guwahati, Assam

All members the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales of the Guwahati Province with active voice are convoked to take part in the Congress.

If anyone is unable to take part in the Provincial Congress due to unavoidable circumstances, except those who are abroad, kindly take permission for absence from the Provincial at the earliest, the latest by 29th February 2020.

Steering Committee: (Frs). Saji George Puthiyakulangara (Convener), Emmanuel Uppamthadathil (member), Athnas Kerketta (member), George Thomas Poovathunkal (member) and Praveen Kumbattu (Secretary to Convener).

For more information please contact:

Fr. Saji George Puthiyakulangara, MSFS Provincialate, Satgaon-Narengi, Udayan Vihar P.O-781 171, Assam. E-mail: psajigeorgemsfs@gmail.com; Mobile: 0091. 87539 25266

May I request every community to recite daily in the community the “Prayer for the Provincial Congress 2020”. I beg every confrere of the Province to prepare for this event with special prayer, mortifications, study and focused discussions. The Congress also envisages new Provincial Statutes. We are adopting Provincial Statutes of the undivided Northeast India Province as it is. We can update the old Statutes according to our needs. The Steering Committee will send to you at the earliest the draft of the Statutes, Core Issues and Other details as soon as these are ready. Kindly study them personally and discuss them at the meetings of your Local Community, Apostolic Community, Delegation and Region. The Superiors of the Local Communities, the Convenors of the Apostolic Communities, Superior of the Delegation, and Regional Superior are requested to send reports of those discussions to Fr. Saji George Puthiyakulangara by March 15, 2020, in the following address: Fr. Saji George Puthiyakulangara, MSFS Provincialate, Satgaon-Narengi, Udayan Vihar P.O-781 171, Assam. E-mail: psajigeorgemsfs@gmail.com; Mobile: 0091. 87539 25266

Logo of the First Ordinary Provincial Congress 2020, Guwahati Province



Prayer in Preparation for the 1st Ordinary Provincial Congress 2020

God our Father,
We thank You for the renewal
Of the Fransalian missionary spirit,
Taking place in our Congregation
And in our Province.

We praise You for calling us to follow Jesus Christ
in the Poor and the Marginalized.
We beg you to awake and strengthen in us
the inner attitudes of Jesus, Your Son.
May everything begin with You, so that we will desire
what You desire for our Province in the coming years.

Make us docile to the Spirit's creative freshness:
to listen, to discern and to respond with courage,
as we journey with the people in our care and with the Church.

Help us to redefine and relive our CHARISM
In the light of the Gospel in the context of our mission.
Enlighten us to understand the challenges of our times.
And may the Provincial Congress
enable us to lead the Fransalian way of Gentleness and Compassion
now and in the future. Amen.

Mary Mother of compassion

St. Francis De Sales

Servant of God, Fr. Peter Marie Mermier

– Pray for us

-- Pray of us

-- Intercede for us

Special Invitees:

Rev. Fr. Suresh Babu, General Councillor
Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Provincial of Dibrugarh Province
Rev. Fr. Chinnappa Reddy, Provincial of Visakhapatnam Province
Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, Provincial of South West Province
Rev. Fr. Innaci Muthu, Provincial of South East Province
Rev. Fr. Jayaseelan Selvaraj, Provincial of Pune Province
Rev. Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy, Provincial of Nagpur Province
Rev. Fr. George Parampukattil, former Provincial and Rector SFS Seminary, Medziphema
Rev. Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhy, former Provincial
Rev. Fr. Francis Thadathil, former Provincial
Rev. Fr. Philip Thomas, Rector and President of Suvidya College
Rev. Fr. Athnas Kerketta, Rector, MSFS Study House, Shillong
Rev. Fr. Francis Poovelil, Novice Master, MSFS Novitiate, Chabua
Rev. Fr. Joseph Kannamangalath, Rector, Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamarassery

Representatives of Scholastics

One Representative of Scholastics in Theology
One Representative of Scholastics in Philosophy and Regency

NEW ADDRESSES AND EMAIL IDS

Guwahati Province

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PROVINCIAL'S PROGRAMME

February

Feb. 15: Mawrykneng

Feb. 16: Umroi

Feb. 21-22: Ordination of Dn Romilson Marak at Panishali

Feb. 29: Amarapur

March

Mar. 1: Sindukpathar & Harina

Mar. 12: Ranchi (Governing Body Meeting at Ranchi on March 13, 2020)

Mar. 14: Galsi

Mar. 16: Chapar

Mar. 17: Panbari

Mar. 18: Panishali


CONCLUSION

I want to place our Province and all the confreres under His Care and I want to conclude with Psalmist (Psalm 121).

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
² My help comes from the LORD,
the Maker of heaven and earth.
³ He will not let your foot slip—
he who watches over you will not slumber;
⁴ indeed, he who watches over Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.
⁵ The LORD watches over you—
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
⁶ the sun will not harm you by day,
nor the moon by night.
⁷ The LORD will keep you from all harm—
he will watch over your life;
⁸ the LORD will watch over your coming and going
both now and forevermore.

May Mary our Mother and our Founder Servant of God Fr. Peter Merie Mermier intercede for us.

Yours in Christ the Lord



Fr. Sabu Francis MSFS
Provincial, Guwahati Province

WALKING ON THE PATH OF THE PATRON

The longest life is not always the best. The best is that which has been best spent in the service of God. SFS