



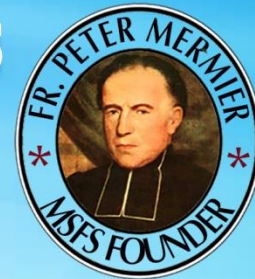
MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

GUWAHATI PROVINCE

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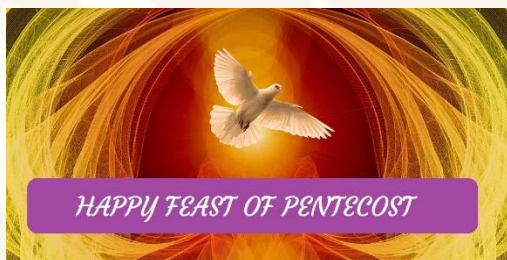


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May 30, 2020

Dear Confreres,

WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY FEAST OF PENTECOST!



Pentecost: The coming of the Paraclete

Saint Francis de Sales would say in his Introduction to the Devout Life that the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost was not an isolated event in the life of the Church. According to him, the Holy Spirit continually sanctifies the Church as well as each of her members. The Holy Spirit does this work through tugging on our individual hearts and by inspirations affecting the life of the Church. The effect of this work is “to strengthen our hearts of his blessings, with his care and fatherly love, to move us, impel us, and draw us to holy virtues, to heavenly love, to good resolutions...” I want to reflect with you, dear confreres, on the importance of Pentecost, presence of the Paraclete for and though the difficult times we are undergoing.

Our Present Predicament

On 31st December 2019 first signs of COVID 19 was reported from Wuhan, the epicentre of the global coronavirus pandemic. On 31st March 2020 the first patient tested positive with Coronavirus in Assam. It took three months for Coronavirus to travel almost 2500 Km to reach Assam. On 28th April, 2020 after four months of fight against the deadly virus, Wuhan, where coronavirus first emerged, cleared all COVID-19 cases. How many months do we need to declare Assam Corona Mukth? Looking at the present statistics in Northeast we know that we are at the beginning and not at the end of a big problem. In spite of the hardships of the present scenario feast of Pentecost has a lot to offer us. Pentecost enable us to do the following:

To Seek New Ways

Coronavirus has opened the humankind to new dimensions of life. The expressions like “good old days” is finding a revamp in these Corona times. Coronavirus has given us new challenges. Corona period forces humans to be seekers, to find new ways, to be adaptive, innovative, creative and inventive. What was impossible is made possible now. What was usual has become weird and what was normal has become abnormal. What was ordinary has become exceptional and what was common has become bizarre. There is a “New Normal” and the earlier one gets used to it the better it is for the proclamation of Christ. “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

To Witness Christ

Pentecost is that event where the impossible becomes possible and abnormal becomes normal. Pentecost is finding the new ways of experiencing God. Pentecost is that happening where God touches one in rare ways. Pentecost is that occurrence where one experience the presence of God massively, immensely and personally. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit in oneself is confirmed when one is innovative, creative and adaptive to witness Christ. “When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who

goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning" (John 15:26-27).

To Be Real You

A spirit filled person is less worried and is not unsure as to how to act and never undermined by fear. As humans there can be some tendencies in us to behave in a selfish or irrational way, but emotions should never override good decision-making process. That is the sign of a person touched by the Holy Spirit. Over spiritualisation of a problem, Coronavirus for example, as a divinely sent plague or simply believing that religious faith alone will protect them from contracting the virus etc. are contrary to the Spirit's ways. The Holy Spirit is the "advocate". "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth" (John 16:12-13a).

To Stay Connected

If Holy Spirit is the wireless connection between Father and the Son then the same Spirit is the internet connection between God and his people. He connects us to God. In Incarnation God communicates with us through Jesus. In Pentecost God communicates to us in his Spirit. This Spirit helps us to stay connected with God. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything that I have told you" (John 14:26).

To Begin a New Lifestyle

The experience of the coming of the Holy Spirit on fire tongues demands a metanoia; a change of lifestyle. It is a rebirth as it was said to Nicodemus (John 3:1-8). It is a new lifestyle of courage, new orientation and concentration, inspired by the Spirit of God. "Do not worry about how you will defend yourselves or what you will say, for the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say" (Luke 12:11b-12).

To Pray Earnestly

The Holy Spirit is the 'intercessor' and He will 'teach you to pray' is the promise of Jesus to his disciples. Pentecost is an invitation to pray more. One who does not pray, has to begin to pray and one who already prays, has to pray more. "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may be with you for ever" (John 14: 6).

To Author Good Decisions

Decision making is a process whereas decision taking an autocratic act. Collecting unbiased information is the foundation of a good decision. Sometimes the decision making becomes a very complex, challenging and vulnerable task. Openness to accept the right advice at the right time, seeking the opinions of learned and experienced people, and the personal ability to decide in freedom without being emotional but based on reason are the characteristics of pentecostal experience. The Holy Spirit is the counselor.

To Paraclete: to Intercede

Paraclete, the Greek word refers to a person who came alongside during a time of legal difficulty. The Holy Spirit also acts as comforter or Paraclete, one who intercedes, or supports or acts as an advocate, particularly in times of trial. The Holy Spirit speaks through the prophets (Acts 1:16), He corrects (John 16:8), He comforts (Acts 9:31), He helps us in our infirmities (Romans 8:26), He teaches (1 Corinthians 12:3), He guides (John 16:13), He sanctifies (Romans 15:16) and He empowers (Romans 15:13). The Spirit sees in every Christian the seeds of prophetic words and righteous living to do miracles and testimony through prayer and discipleship.

Call for Special Prayers at 12 noon on 'Pentecost Sunday'

His Eminence Oswald Cardinal Gracias, President of CBCI, has called for a special prayer service to be conducted by all Catholics on Pentecost Sunday, 31st May 2020 at 12 noon. It is to express our solidarity with all Christian denominations for Coronavirus victims and all COVID 19 fighters, medical personals, social

workers, decision making bodies. Let us pray from 12.00 to 12.20 as a sign of our solidarity with the Church in India.

Establishment of Delegation of Guwahati Province in Germany-Austria (GA)

Our Beloved Superior General Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil by the decree issued on 13th May 2020 on the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima has erected the Delegation of the Guwahati Province in Germany-Austria (GA). We commend the Delegation of Guwahati Province to the care and protection of our Lady of Fatima. Fr. Benoy Veliyathu is appointed as the Delegation Superior. I thank sincerely all the outgoing office bearers for their commendable job. I thank particularly the outgoing Delegation Superior Fr. Sebastian Paredom. I appreciate his leadership. Under his capable guidance the Delegation has achieved and accomplished a lot of community-oriented objectives and has grown to new realms.

The new Office Bearers in GA

Delegation Superior: Fr. Benoy Veliyathu

Delegation Bursar: Fr. John Kuttikottayil

Advisors: Fr. Sebastian Paredom and Fr. Jimmy Mathirmapuzha

Superiors of the Local Communities in GA

Hildesheim: Fr. Alex Varickamanthottil

Bamberg: Fr. Binu James Puthenkunnel

Munich: Fr. Gracious Chirattolickal

Austria: Fr. Johnson Mathew Kunnumpurath

The Road Less Travelled

In his book “The Road Less Travelled” M. Scott Peck tells the readers that life is a journey that must be travelled no matter how bad the roads and accommodations are. ‘Direction is more important than speed’ COVID 19 has taught us. Every journey undertaken always includes the path not taken, which is filled with difficulties, the crossroads of indecision and the longing to reach home back. It is very true of the pandemic COVID 19. According to the expert opinion June to July will be the worst time of COVID 19 in our country. Interestingly, they do not speak of a second wave of Coronavirus but they speak of a peak of the COVID 19. As far as Northeast is concerned in June-July we will have the highest number of COVID 19 patients. We have to follow strict measures to prevent the spread. Therefore, I urge you dear confreres please take the road less travelled. Be different in giving and receiving hospitality. Take the road we are not used to, the roads that were not ours. As far as possible confine yourself to home. Travel only in absolutely unavoidable circumstances. As far as possible do not make any stopover in other religious houses. They may not feel free to tell that you are **not** welcome. Let us follow the golden principle; “**Do to others as you would have them do to you**” (Lk 6: 31). Please be kind enough **NOT** to visit anybody. Please do not encourage guests to visit your place. We have a triple responsibility, **do not get, do not give, and do not be a carrier** of Corona Virus.

Congratulations to New MSFS Provincials

Our Beloved Father Superior General, Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, has appointed:

Fr. Jaganathan Gnanadurai as the new Provincial of the Brazil Province

Fr. Benny Joseph Valiyaveetil as new Provincial of England

He has re-appointed:

Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel as the Provincial of East Africa Province.

Fr. Jayaseelan Selvaraj as the Provincial of Pune Province

Fr. Muthusamy as the Provincial of Nagpur Province.

On behalf of every confrere of Guwahati Province and on my own personal name, I congratulate them and wish them best of everything. We promise them our wholehearted support in all the endeavours of the congregation. We pray as a province that every prayer they say may be heard, every decision they take may foster community life, every endeavour they take may be successful and every witness they give may be effective.

Online Recollection

We are all confined to our own parishes and missions ever since the Lockdown started on 23rd March 2020. Since religious gatherings are not permissible, we suffer greatly spiritually because we are incapacitated in giving and receiving the sacraments, spiritual animation, recollection, confession etc. We are bereft of direct spiritual inputs. Often when you think you're at the end of something, you're at the beginning of something else. Coronavirus has taught us to be creative and to look for new ways of Evangelization. I am very glad that our retreat centres in Umroi and Mawkhlam are doing a lot of online Evangelization. From Province level we have organized an "Online Recollection" in May. It was well accepted. We will continue to have "Online Recollection Talks" on every second Saturday of the Month. This temporary arrangement is only till Bishops begin to arrange the normal monthly recollections in the dioceses. You are free to arrange your own timetable depending on your local situation. You are also free to invite the sisters of the mission to 'Online Recollection Talk' if a common viewing is possible in the mission. You may also share the link with them. The link will be sent through WhatsApp and Email 15 minutes before the 'Recollection Talk' i.e. at 18.15 Hrs. The next Recollection will be on Saturday 13th of June 2020. Taking into consideration our confreres working abroad I suggest the following programme:

Date: Every Second Saturday

(If you are able to arrange confessions please do it before the Talk)

18.30 Hrs: Recollection Talk

19-20 Hrs: Adoration (do it in your own Chapel)

20.00 Hrs: Dinner

20.30 Hrs: Silence

Sunday morning: End the Recollection with Holy Mass

First Profession

Paulmester Pyruth and Samuel Lalrautfela are promoted to First Profession of vows at MSFS Novitiate on June 01, 2020, vows will be received by Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Provincial of Dibrugarh province. I take this opportunity to congratulate these two novices who take this bold step in their life. Guwahati Province, as a family, feels happy to welcome these new members into it. I also thank Frs. Francis Poovelil and Daniel Lalmuanzela who prepared these novices to enter into the Congregation of the MSFS.

PROMOTIONS

The Provincial Council, which met on April 20, 2020, approved the promotions of the following scholastics:

Promotion to Diaconate

Aloysius Lalduhauma, Elvis Kharkongor and Thomas R. Marak are promoted to the Order of Diaconate. The ordination to diaconate for the brothers will be officiated by Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, on June 17, 2020 at Oriens Theological College, Shillong.

Promotion to the Ministry of Acolyte

Athikho Isaac and Rivaldo Kurbah are promoted to the ministry of Acolyte. Fr. Provincial will confer the ministry of Acolyte on June 18, 2020 at MSFS Study House, Shillong.

Promotion to the Ministry of Lectorate

Edrington Lawai is promoted to the ministry of Lectorate. Fr. Provincial will confer the ministry of Lectorate on June 18, 2020 at MSFS Study House, Shillong.

Promotion to Renewal of Vows on May 31, 2020

At MSFS Study House, Shillong: Athikho Isaac, Rivaldo Kurbah and Edrington Lawai . Rev. Fr. Athnas Kerketta, Rector of MSFS Study House, Mawroh, is delegated to receive the vows.

At Suvidya College, Bangalore: Mathias Khongkhlad, Martin Halam and Isamding Kevin (pursuing M Ph at Dharmaram College). Rev. Fr. Philip Thomas Kizhakumpurath, Rector of Suvidya College, is delegated to receive the vows.

At Vinaya Bhavan, Thamaraserry: Tom Joseph Poykayil and Moses Mukto Murmu. Rev. Fr. Joseph Kannamangalath is delegated to receive the vows.

At MSFS Community, East Harina: Sylbrius Barla. Rev. Fr. James Pezhathumoottil is delegated to receive the vows.

At MSFS Community, Imphal: Nirmal Benny Arackal. Rev. Fr. Tomy Anakallil is delegated to receive the vows.

At MSFS Community, Gogamukh: Emlus Barla and Biliam Kandulna. Rev. Fr. tomy Thekkel is delegated to receive the vows.

At MSFS Community, Umroi: Frankie John Sawkmie and Aristo June Maiong. Rev. Fr. Reji Kizhakkethalackel is delegated to receive the vows.

At MSFS Community, Narengi: Peter Lalnunsiam. Rev. Fr. Sabu Francis will receive the vows.

At MSFS Community, Kannur: Rinto Symon. Rev. Fr. Jais Mecheril (South West Province) is delegated to receive the vows.

Promotion to the Next Stage of Formation

After having examined the reports of those responsible for the formation of the scholastics, the Provincial Council has approved the promotion of the following scholastics to the next stage of Formation:

Promotion to Fourth Year Theology (3): Aloysius Lalduhauma, Elvis Kharkongor and Thomas R. Marak

Promotion to Third Year Theology (2): Athikho Isaac and Rivaldo Kurbah

Promotion to Second Year Theology (1): Edringson Lawai

Promotion to First Year Theology (2): Sylbrius Barla and Nirmal Benny Arackal

Promotion to Third Year Philosophy (1): Emlus Barla

Promotion to Second Year Philosophy (4): Frankie John Sawkmie, Peter Lalnunsiam, Aristo June Maiong and Biliam Kandulna.

Promotion to First Year Philosophy (2): Paulmester Pyruth (at Morning Star Regional Seminary, Barrackpore, Kolkata) and Samuel Lalrautfela (at Suvidya College, Bangalore)

Promotion to Novitiate (10): From SFS Seminary, Medziphema (6): Bonanza Sangma, Febin Siby Vattamattathil, Jonah Halam, Luckyson Poumai, Samuel Xalxo and Tolly John. **From Vinaya Bhavan, Thamarassery(4):** Reivei Abraham, Simon Myrman, Tengrak N Sangma and Wilbirth A Marak.

Promotion to Regency (4): Mathias Khongkhlad, Martin Halam, Rinto Symon and Tom Joseph Poykayil.

Promotion to SFS Seminary, Medziphema(12) : Ashok Lakra, Bibandor Mawblei, Deepak Toppo, Francis Suamringril Halam, George Tanti, James Steven Field Wankhar, Hraveilou Peter, Polituush D Sangma, Thuanthaipou Phaomei (Reuben), Shibin Kolanchery, Wandemi Pohlong and Wansalan Tariang.

Promoted to 2nd Year of formation at Thamarassery (12): Abhishak Soreng, Banjoplang Lyngdoh Marshillong, Bunus M Sangma, Edwin Kharjana, James Kerketta, Menutuolie James Yhome, Joshua D. Shira, Julius Matlai, Jwngshar Narzary, Raimonlang Rynshon, Sengsrang S Sangma and Saimon Kerketta

Promotion of Scholastics of Southern African Region:

Diaconate Ordination: Fabian Wasonga Wawi is promoted to the Order of Diaconate. He will be ordained a deacon on August 15, 2020 at Mkuza Parish, Kibaha, by Most Rev. Jude Thaddaeus Ruwa'ichi, O.F.M. Cap., The Archbishop of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Renewal of Vows and Promotion

The following scholastics are granted permission to renew their religious vows in the congregation and promoted to the next stage of formation:

At Fransalian Seminary Ndagani: Ivan Mubbo (Regent).

At SFS Seminary, Tanzania: Abraham Mutoro Wambuchi (Regent).

At Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha: Joseph Lule (Second year Philosophy), Anthony Kabagambe (Second year Philosophy) and Julius Onaga (First year Philosophy).

Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, Provincial of East Africa Province, is delegated to receive the vows.

Transfers and Appointments

The following Transfers and appointments are to take place when the free inter-state travel facilities are reopened.

- Fr. George Panthanmackel is appointed Rector of Morning Star Regional Seminary, Barrackpore, Kolkata.
- Fr. Marcelinus War Riawed is appointed Socius of MSFS Novitiate, Chabua.
- Fr. Roshan Kanjirathinkal is appointed Media Incharge at Holy Redeemer Renewal Centre, Umroi.
- Fr. Binoy Illikkal is appointed Local Bursar at Holy Redeemer Renewal Centre, Tura.
- Fr. George Thayilkuzhithottu is designated for the pastoral ministry in USA.
- Fr. Antony Baruah is appointed on the staff of St Clement College, Nagaon, as Professor and Finance Officer.
- Fr. Benjamin Nakho is appointed at SFS Seminary, Medziphema.
- Fr. Siby Mattapallil is granted permission for treatment in Kerala.

Designated for Studies

- Fr. Marcelinus Riawed War is designated for B. Ed. Studies.
- Fr. Nicholas Maiong is designated for B. Ed. Studies in Agartala.
- Fr. Binoy Illikkal is designated for B. Ed. Studies in Tura.
- Fr. Daniel Lalmuanzela is designated for B. Ed. Studies in Guwahati.

Promotion of Vocations

Since we are not able to go around for vocation promotion, I request every confrere of the Province to encourage worthy candidates to religious life and priesthood. Kindly make use of the Vocation promotion Video prepared by Fr. John Barman and Fr. Roshan Kanjirathinkal. We believe that potential vocations are all around us – in our schools, in our institutions, in our parish families. Let us support with prayers, encouragement, and cooperation that each of us contributes to promote good vocations. Please be in touch with Fr. John Barman (Mob No: 9954706597) for contacting the candidates.

Change of Address:

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Let Us Pray for the Depart

- Mrs. Mariamma (81), mother of Fr. Tomy Thekkel, who passed away on May 16, 2020.
- Mrs. Carmela Soreng (63), eldest sister of Fr. Corbinus Soreng, who passed away on May 20, 2020.
- Mr. Anthony (31), younger brother of Fr. Stephen Sawma, who passed away on May 28, 2020.
- Mrs. Philomena Kerketta (76), mother of Fr. Milkus Tirkey, who passed away on May 28, 2020.

I wish you a fruitful celebration of the Pentecost. May God bless you all.

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Sabu Francis MSFS
Provincial, Guwahati Province