



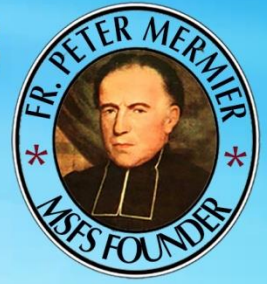
MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

GUWAHATI PROVINCE

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200716 SF 07

July 16, 2020

Dear Confreres,

THREE NEW INVOCATIONS TO THE LITANY OF LORETO



It sounds a bit naïve to write to a theologically updating and devotionally assembling group about the Litany of Loreto. The more naïve it appears the more important in the matter discussed here. Pope Francis has approved the inclusion of three additional invocations in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, also called the Litany of Loreto: **Mother of mercy**, **Mother of hope** and **Solace of migrants**. Litany is probably one of the most interculturally integrated interreligious prayers. All the major world religions do have Litanies in some form. The word Litany comes from the Greek *Litaneia*, which means *SUPPLICATION*. It is a series of petitions and exhortations and it consists of short dialogue prayers between the celebrant and the faithful. When it is chanted, it evokes a deep sense devotion and emotion. “The Litany of All Saints” when chanted

in the ordination ceremony gives us a foretaste of heavenly Jerusalem. Christian Litany has its origin in the Eastern tradition of the Divine Liturgy services. The nine-fold Kyrie eleison in the form of Litany from the Eastern Church was introduced into the Roman Mass already in the fifth century.

There are a number of Litanies. The Marian Litanies possess a central role in the Catholic Devotions. The most popular of all the Marian Litanies is the Litany of Loreto, which is in fact an integral part of our personal piety. Loreto is a small town in Italy, three hours from Rome, where the shrine of Our Lady of Loreto is located. It is the third largest shrine of Mary in Europe, next to Lourdes and Fatima. According to a fifteenth-century legend, when the Virgin Mary's house in Nazareth came under threat by invading Saracen armies, it was miraculously transported in 1291 from the Holy Land to Loreto. This small house in a grand basilica is believed to be the house where the Virgin Mary lived and raised Jesus. The Litany chanted in the sanctuary of Loreto in devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary round about the year 1500 came to be known as Litany of Loreto.

The advocations in the Litany of Loreto highlight **Mary's Holiness**, **Mary-the Mother**, **Mary-the Virgin**, **Symbols of Mary**, **Mary-the Helper** and **Mary-the Queen**. Every one of them reflects a particular dimension of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The phrases are ordered according to the principal Marian truths. The original praises of the Marian Litany stem from popular expressions of loving admiration which accrued over time. Many come from the writings of the Eastern Fathers of the Church. **This Litany** was officially approved in 1587 by Pope Sixtus V. The 1587 version of the Litany of Loreto was subsequently enriched with new advocations.

- 1675 Queen of the most Holy Rosary
- 1883 Queen Conceived without Original Sin (Leo XIII)
- 1903 Mother of Good Counsel (Leo XIII)
- 1917 Queen of Peace (Benedict XV)
- 1950 Queen Assumed into Heaven (Pius XII)
- 1980 Mother of the Church (John Paul II)

- 1995 Queen of Families (John Paul II)
- 2020 Mother of mercy (Pope Francis)
- 2020 Mother of hope (Pope Francis)
- 2020 Solace of migrants (Pope Francis)

Let us add these new advocations to our Litany. Some of the old version of the Litany does not contain the avocation **Queen of Families**. Please add it to the Litany. Through the Litany let us pray vehemently to Jesus by placing ourselves under the care and protection of our Blessed Mother. When we pray the Litany let us remember and pray particularly in this difficult time of COVID-19 for the patients, for the medical personnel, for the researchers and for those who take common decision to contain the spread of the Coronavirus.

THE LORETO LITANIES

Holy Mary, Holy Mother of God, Holy Virgin of virgins, Mother of Christ, Mother of the Church, Mother of mercy, Mother of divine grace, Mother of hope, Mother most pure, Mother most chaste, Mother inviolate, Mother undefiled, Mother most amiable, Mother most admirable, Mother of good counsel, Mother of our Creator, Mother of our Saviour, Virgin most prudent,	Virgin most venerable, Virgin most renowned, Virgin most powerful, Virgin most merciful, Virgin most faithful, Mirror of justice, Seat of wisdom, Cause of our joy, Spiritual vessel, Vessel of honour, Singular vessel of devotion, Mystical rose, Tower of David, Tower of ivory, House of gold, Ark of the covenant, Gate of heaven, Morning star, Health of the sick,	Refuge of sinners, Solace of Migrants, Comforter of the afflicted, Help of Christians, Queen of Angels, Queen of Patriarchs, Queen of Prophets, Queen of Apostles, Queen of Martyrs, Queen of Confessors, Queen of Virgins, Queen of all Saints, Queen conceived without original sin, Queen assumed into heaven, Queen of the most holy Rosary, Queen of Families, Queen of Peace,
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CORONA-TIMES

As I write this note India stands at the fourth position of the most COVID-19 infected nations. When you get to read this, I am certain, we jump to 3rd position in the world. In spite of all the measures taken by the civil authorities, the virus is spreading massively. COVID-19 has taught us to be creatively different. We are learning to cope with Coronavirus. Some even have begun to speak of “living with Coronavirus” in the same way we in Northeast India are used to “live with Malaria”. As far as the present predicament is concerned there are always two pandemics. The first and most obvious is the worldwide spread Coronavirus. The second is FEAR. It causes just as much damage as the first; The fear of getting infected with COVID-19 and the fear of being a carrier of the virus. A gradual development of a “Fear phobia” is seen everywhere. Anxiety determines our daily routine. Fear is good if it helps us to protect ourselves, if it makes us alert to danger and prepares us to deal with it. We shall not take any risk during the Lockdown period. But at the same time, we shall be CAREFUL and not fearful. The year 2020 is the 200th birth centenary of the mother of modern nursing Florence Nightingale. The

year 2020 is declared and celebrated as the year of nursing. Florence Nightingale said “How very little can be done under the spirit of fear”. We need to overcome our over anxiety and our fear phobia.

ONLINE RECOLLECTION

The online recollection for the month of July 2020 remains cancelled due to the upcoming online annual retreat from July 20-25. From August we will resume the online recollection on every second Saturday. We will continue with online recollections till normalcy returns and the dioceses begin to conduct recollections in the dioceses.

ONLINE RETREAT JULY 2020

As Missionaries we are known to make the best out of any given difficult situation. We have proved it many a times in Northeast India. COVID-19 presents us a difficult situation and we forfeit the joy of coming together for the Annual Retreat in July 2020 at MSFS Study House, Shillong. It was a pleasure every year to enjoy the cool weather of Shillong in July. It was always a meditative experience to spend some time in the cemetery under the shade of the pine trees in MSFS Study House. It was pleasant to go for a reflective evening-walk to Golf Links. We miss all these and many other good things. We have to limit ourselves to do an online retreat in July 2020. The retreat starts on Monday July 20th evening to Friday 25th evening 2020. Fr. Arockiaswamy from Amaravati diocese has consented to preach the retreat. Please register your name with Fr. Praveen:

Email: provincialsecretaryguwahati@gmail.com

WhatsApp/ Mo: 96153 07031

Details of the retreat will be sent to you by Email and WhatsApp. As you know it is mandatory to participate in the yearly retreat, without exemption. May I request you to register your name for the retreat. Wherever it is possible please do the retreat as a community. Taking into consideration those who are abroad I suggest the following time table for the retreat. You are free to organise it in accordance with what is most suiting to your situation. The link for the talks will be sent 15 minutes prior to talks via WhatsApp and Email.

Monday, 20th July:

18.30: Introductory talk

19.00: Holy Hour

20.00: Dinner

Night Prayers: Private

Tuesday morning to Friday Evening

06.00: Rising

06.30: Morning Prayer

07.15: Holy Mass

08.00: Breakfast

10.00: Talk

12.00: Rosary

12.30: Lunch

16.00: Tea

17.30: Talk

19.00: Holy Hour

20.00: Dinner

Night Prayers: Private

NOVITATE 2020-21 BATCH

The Lockdown due to the pandemic COVID 19 has taken a toll in the schedule of the formation houses. It was a herculean task to bring back the students to their respective formation houses after the holidays. I thank all the confreres who cooperated with Fr. John Barman to reach our brothers to the seminaries. We had to take a quick decision with regard to the novices. This year we have 12 novices (for Guwahati and Dibrugarh provinces) of whom 5 will do their novitiate in Makkiyad, Kerala and the rest will do as usual in Chabua. I thank our beloved Superior General Fr. Dr. Abraham Vettuvellil, for giving us the necessary permission to make this adjustment for the year 2020-21 and I thank Fr. Dr. Benny Kootanal, [Provincial of Southwest Province](#), for allowing our novices to do the novitiate in Makkiyad.

MINOR SEMINARY 2020-21

Unlike in the last years, we are unable to take our candidates to minor seminary to Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamarassery due to the prevailing Lockdown situations. The Provincial Council has decided to send our candidates to SFS Seminary, Medzhiphema for the year 2020-21. I thank the Rector Fr. George Parambukatttil and the staff of the seminary for doing the extra adjustment to accommodate our candidates in SFS Seminary, Medizhiphema.

THE YEAR OF FRANSALIAN ASSOCIATES

Rev. Dr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our beloved Father Superior General has declared the year 2020 as the year of the “Fransalian Associates”. In our province the following confreres will take care of the “Fransalian Associates”. They need your support in winning more Fransalian Associates for the Province and Congregation. May I request you to give your whole hearted cooperation to them because “Fransalian Associates” is the duty of every confrere of the Province. I thank them for accepting this extra responsibility.

Fr. John Berman (India)

Fr. Jimmy Sebastian Mathirampuzha (Germany-Austria)

Fr. Baiju Kurian Mundackal (Southern African Region)

CAUSE OF SERVANT OF GOD PETER MERMIER

Fr. Joby Kurikilamkattu is appointed as the priest in charge in our Province for the Cause of Beatification of our beloved Founder Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier. It is our ardent desire that we see him raised to the sainthood. There is a long way to go. But we are confident. Let me urge you to spread the message of our beloved Founder to every member of our parishes and all whom we meet. Please contact Fr. Joby for any help.

FIRST PROFESSION

Congratulations to Paulmester Pyruth and Samuel Lalrautfela, the newly professed religious of MSFS Guwahati Province. On behalf of the MSFS Guwahati Province I extend a very hearty welcome to these two young members to the family of MSFS. Fr. Francis Poovelil and Fr. Daniel Lalmuanzela organized the First Profession of Novices on June 01, 2020 at MSFS Novitiate House, Chabua. Sincere thanks to Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Provincial of MSFS Dibrugarh Province, for receiving the vows.

NEW DEACONS

Congratulations to Aloysius Lalduhauma, Elvis Kharkongor and Thomas R. Marak, our newly ordained deacons. These three brothers were raised to the order of deacons on June 17, 2020 at Oriens Theological College, Shillong, during the Holy Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Most Rev. Victor Lyngdoh, Bishop of Jowai Diocese.

CONGREGATIONAL MATTERS

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF SUPERIOR GENERAL FROM JULY TO DECEMBER 2020

July 2020: That each confrere and every MSFS community be more faithful to the consecrated poverty, and thus be sensitive to the needs of the poor, the marginalized and the oppressed, in thoughts and deeds, we pray to the Lord! Lord graciously hear us

August 2020: That following the spirituality of the heart, after the example of St. Francis de Sales, every MSFS confrere be a compassionate missionary with a genuine and sincere love for the people, we pray to the Lord! Lord graciously hear us

September 2020: That reading the signs of the time, we may be inspired to reach out to our brothers and sisters who are deprived of their human rights and dignity through our social ministries, we pray to the Lord! Lord graciously hear us

October 2020: In this month of the Foundation Day of the Congregation, let us pray that the two newly established Provinces of Dibrugarh and Guwahati will take the Congregation to greater heights in pursuing its apostolic and missionary goals as desired by our founder Fr. Peter Mermier, we pray to the Lord! Lord graciously hear us

November 2020: That all our departed confreres enjoy eternal peace in heaven and that Fr. Peter Mermier be raised to the saintly status, we pray to the Lord, Lord graciously hear us

December 2020: That those children, who are abused, underprivileged, discriminated and abandoned, and the unborn babies are well protected and nurtured with utmost love and care, we pray to the Lord! Lord graciously hear us

PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR THE EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER 2021

(Please say daily the following prayer in preparation for the Extra Ordinary 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...

Mother of Compassion, Pray for us

St. Francis de Sales, Pray for us

Fr. Peter Mermier, Pray for us

NEWLY APPOINTED

Our beloved Superior General has reappointed Fr. Suresh Babu MSFS and appointed Fr. Johnson Pathiyil MSFS as Director and Co-director of De Sales & Mermier Resource and Animation Centre (DSM), Hyderabad respectively. Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS is reappointed as the Director of Mission Development Office in Rome. Many Congratulations!

APPOINTMENT

Fr. Binoy Illickal is appointed as the Principal of SFS School, Sateek w.e.f. 01. 08. 2020

BOARD EXAM RESULTS 2019-20

The result of the Board Exam is already published in most of the schools of our province except the schools in Meghalaya. All our schools have done extremely well. My hearty congratulations to all the principals and hardworking staff for the wonderful result you have produced in the school. May God bless all your efforts.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Fr. Pius Nelliyaniyil
St. Thomas Forane Church
Koorachunde, Kozhikode Dt, 673527
Kerala

Fr. Binu James Puthekunnel
Katholisches Pfarramt St. Michael
Wilhelm-Marx-Straße 38,
90419 - Nürnberg
Germany

DEPARTURE FROM THE CONGREGATION

❖ Riwaldo Kurbah ceases to be member of the Congregation.

PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED

- ❖ Miss. Shalet Sebastian (19), niece of Fr. Johnson Kunnumpurathu, who passed away on June 17, 2020.
- ❖ Mrs. Paulina Kindo (67), sister-in-law of Fr. Cornelius Bara, who passed away on July 04, 2020.

I wish you, your parishioners and all your loved ones health and safety. May God bless you; Mother of compassion protect you, St. Francis de Sales guide you and Servant of God Peter Mary Mermier inspire you!

Wish you best of everything

Yours in Christ,



Fr. Sabu Francis MSFS
Provincial, Guwahati Province

VIVE JESUS

WALKING ON THE PATH OF THE PATRON

“Let us run to Mary, and, as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence” SFS