

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

DIBRUGARH PROVINCE

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EMT/09 Circular – April 04, 2021

My dear Confreres,

I wish you all a very Happy and Blessings-filled Easter! The affirmation, "Christ is risen!" reminds us that God is near, He is a 'God-with-us'. May the experience of His presence strengthen us in our daily life, giving us hope and a reason to live! May the Risen Lord accompany us in every moment of our life!



We know that the Egyptian pyramids are world-famous as one of the "seven Wonders" of the world. Actually, they are gigantic tombs containing the mummified bodies of Egyptian Pharaohs. Westminster Abby in London is very famous and thousands visit it because it entombs the dead bodies of famous writers, philosophers and politicians are entombed there. But there is a Shrine of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem, and pilgrims from all over the world visit a tomb there, which is empty, with a note at its entrance which says, "He is not here." It is famous because Jesus Christ who was once buried there rose from the dead, leaving an empty tomb, as he had told his disciples he would. Thus, he worked the most important miracle in his life, defying the laws of nature and proving that he is God.

Yes dear friends, today we rejoice at this great and unique event, as we celebrate Easter, the feast of the resurrection of Jesus. It is not only the most important event that has taken place in the history of the world, but also, we can say, that it is the very basis of our Christian faith. We can imagine what would happen to Christianity, if Christ is not risen from the dead: our faith in Jesus Christ, our hope for eternal life and the very meaning of our Christian life will crumple down. That's why St. Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians 15: 14 says that if Christ is not risen from the dead, then our preaching is without substance and our faith useless. In the case of Jesus, without the Resurrection, he would have remained forever in the history of humankind as a good person, may be a good teacher, who met with a tragic end. People would remember some of his teachings and a handful of people might even try to live according to them. But we know that our faith, our hope and our very Christian life is founded on Jesus' resurrection.

"Be not be afraid! Jesus is truly risen!" – That's the message announced by the angel at the Easter morning. And that is message for us too, at this moment. By his resurrection Jesus has overcome sin and death and thus opened the door of salvation for each one of us. Therefore, we can say that resurrection is both a promise given to us and resurrection is our hope. It is a promise that, if we go the way of Jesus, if we live according to the teachings of Jesus, especially, his teaching on 'love' and imitate Jesus in fulfilling the plan of God by doing the will of God always in our lives, then God will raise each one of us to a glory like that of Jesus – to a life with God, which is our resurrection. That's why Jesus says: "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me will live even though he dies" (Jn 11/25-26). Yes, dear friends, the resurrection of Jesus is thus the promise that God gives us that one day we will also be

with God. And this hope gives us a meaning for our life, a reason to live, a cause to commit ourselves to in different ministries that we engage ourselves to. If we look around we see many people who do not find meaning in their lives, they do not find a reason to live; therefore they want to take their life or they get addicted to alcohol, drugs, etc. They become shattered at the face of their difficulties, trials and problems in life. But the resurrection of Jesus tells us that these are not the end of the story of our lives. There is one more chapter – there is the resurrection; there is the new life with God, a life without problems, trials, temptations and difficulties, provided we live according to Jesus' ways. That will help us to go forward in our life with courage and strength. That will help us to tide over all our difficulties, failures, frustrations and disappointments that we may face in our personal lives, in our families and in our communities. I wish you all a very happy and Blessed Easter! May the Risen Lord bless all of us!

CONGREGATIONAL MATTERS

Extraordinary General Chapter 2022

Rev. Fr. Superior General by his circular on 17th February 2021 (SG-AB2-06) has announced that the Extraordinary General Chapter is re-scheduled to February 01-07, 2022, in Pune. Please continue to pray for the success of the Chapter.

Prayer Intention of the Superior General for April and May 2021

April: “For an increase of all vocations in the Universal Church and in particular way for religious vocation to the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales”, we pray: R/ Lord graciously hear us!

May: “For all our Novices who are completing their canonical novitiate in preparation for First Religious Profession, that they may be strengthened by the Lord to live faithfully and joyfully what they profess as young FRANSALIANS”, we pray: R/Lord graciously hear us!

Evaluation of the Implementation of the Directives of General Chapter 2019

Our Consecrated Life in Community: It is important that we evaluate the implementation of the directives and decisions of the General Chapter 2019 in our Province. At this time, I would like to propose “The Call of the General Chapter 2019, Our Consecrated Life in Community, Art. 2 & 3” for our reflection and evaluation: **“All Communities will form themselves into disciplined and healthy communities with Local Superiors and the Members remaining accountable to each other regarding their duties and responsibilities to the community.** Provincials will ensure providing orientation and training regarding the same to the Local Superiors and members” **(Art. 2). “Confreres in multi-cultural communities in the Congregation will use a common language for communication” (Art. 3).**

These invitations of General Chapter 2019 are very important aspects of our Fransalian way of life to be lived in our Religious Communities. The question that we need to address ourselves is: Are our communities disciplined and healthy ones, in which both the Local Superior and the Members remain accountable to each other, regarding their duties and responsibilities to the Community? The Local Superiors play an important role in the community, being the animator, organiser and coordinator of the community. They are called upon to exercise effectively the Ordinary Powers entrusted to them in the most religious and humane spirit. First and foremost, they need to become aware of their call to leadership. So whenever one is appointed as a Local Community Superior, along with the appointment letter I give him also the document: **ROLE OF THE LOCAL SUPERIOR ACCORDING TO THE MSFS CONSTITUTIONS**, in order to facilitate the proper orientation to their new assignment. By this, they are called upon to remain responsible in spite of the difficulties involved in animation, especially their unwillingness to exercise their ‘authority’ due to fear of criticism and prejudice. In the coming months we also look forward to the empowerment of both the Superiors and the Members of the communities

with adequate animation and training to be responsible members of a community under a Local Superior.

Another specific guideline of the General Chapter 2019 regarding community life is that the confreres in multi-cultural communities are to use a common language for communication. In order to facilitate Team work in the communities, mutual respect for another is to be cultivated. And we give expression to this mutual respect by recognising each one's uniqueness and our missionary vocation, by using a common language for communication in our communities. Our tradition is that we speak the common language of English in our communities so that unity and religiosity will be fostered in our communities.

Year of Mission 2021 - 2022

Taking into account the Year of St. Joseph, the Year of Family, the Devotion to Holy Family, and the directive of the General Chapter XX to initiate more ministries directed to families, with the consent of the General Council, the Superior General has formally declared **the year 2021-2022 as Year of Mission in our Congregation** starting from Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021, and concluding on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24, 2022.

Objectives of the Mission Year 2021 - 2022:

- Bring to the forefront the apostolate of Missions in the Congregation
- For the renewal of the individuals and communities so that we can function more effectively with credibility as agents of renewal
- To impart to our young Formees and Scholastics the correct orientation regarding the nature and purpose of being a member of a missionary congregation
- For the renewal and rejuvenation of our parishes through PMP (Parish Mission Preaching)
- Focused implementation of the directives of the General Chapter 2019 on MISSION
- To initiate ministries directed to families, to promote devotion to Holy Family, and to celebrate the Year of Family and Year of St. Joseph

Fr. Johnson KALLIDUKIL, General Secretary for Mission, in consultation with Provincial Councillors In-Charge of Mission will work on a detailed program for the Mission Year in the coming weeks and months. Let us collaborate with the Mission Forums and Mission Secretariat in this noble cause of Mission.

Devotion to Holy Family: The love of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are unconditional and faithful. Without love, the holiness of life is impossible. Jesus, Mary, and Joseph are perfect models of pure love that requires sacrifice and forgiveness. The Holy Family is a model of love for families and communities. 'Devotion enhances every calling' (St. Francis de Sales). Honoring the proposal of Fr. Emile Mayoraz, former Superior General of MSFS and valuing his spiritual insight and wisdom for the renewal of the Congregation, the Superior General invites us to cultivate devotion to Holy Family in the Congregation.

Congratulations to the New Editorial Team of Fransalian International

Rev. Fr. Superior General, by his letter dated on 30th March 2021 (SG-AB2 21- 40), with the consent of the General Council, has appointed, Fr. VINTU AUGUSTINE, as the Editor-In-Chief and Frs. P.M. JOSEPH, JIJO MANJACKAL, KENNETH MAINA, JOHNSON PANTHALANICKAL and MARIA PRAKASH, as Members of the Editorial Board of Fransalian International, an illustrated Newsletter published biannually by the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, for a period of Five Years with effect from March 30, 2021, to March 30, 2026. We congratulate them and wish them God's blessings in their ministry, at the service of the Congregation!

PROVINCE MATTERS

Establishment of a new MSFS Local Community at MSFS Provincial House, Silapathar

After having taken charge as the Provincial of the newly established Province of Dibrugarh on the 24th of January, 2020, and as per the Guidelines given at the division of the erstwhile Northeast India Province, I moved to FASCE India Community Facilitation Centre, Silapathar – the proposed temporary Provincial House of Dibrugarh Province – on the 3rd of March 2020 as part of the already established MSFS Local Community of SFS Parish, Silapathar. Now, after having elected a new Team of Provincial Councillors and Bursar in our Provincial Congress held from 01st to 03rd December, 2020, it was necessitated to establish constitutionally another new MSFS Local Community, comprising of the members of the MSFS Provincial House, Silapathar. Now with the consent of both the General (Cf. SG-AB2 21 – 11) and Provincial Administrations, I have established constitutionally a new MSFS Local Community, comprising of the members of the MSFS Provincial House, in SFS Campus, Silapathar. Accordingly on 18th March 2021, Rev. Fr. Sunny Panthanazhivadakethil was installed as the Local Superior of the newly erected MSFS Provincial House Community at Silapathar. Hearty Congratulations and Thanks to you dear Fr. Sunny for your ministry at the service of the Province!

Hearty Congratulations to SFS College, Aalo, for being NAAC accredited Higher Education Institute!

We are glad that the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), after having completed the Assessment and Accreditation (A&A) exercise of our SFS College, Aalo, Arunachal Pradesh, has

finally declared the accreditation results. SFS College has been **accredited** with a **CGPA of 2.8 at B++ Grade** valid for a period of **5 years** from 16 - 03 - 2021 (Cycle: 1).



Prior to that, a three-member peer team appointed by the NAAC, Bangalore visited SFS College, Aalo, on 8th and 9th March. The peer team comprised of Dr. Gopa Kumar, Former Vice-Chancellor of the Central University of Kerala, as the chairperson, Dr. Rama Nand Rai, retired Professor of English of Banaras Hindu University and Dr. Hiren Saikia, the Principal of Mariani

College, Jorhat, Assam.

The peer team interacted with the various departments, members of the committees, support services, faculty, staff, students, and other stakeholders of the college. Document verification and visits to the facilities of the college like the classrooms, offices, library, canteen, hostel, laboratory, gymnasium, and others were also done. On the first day, the team had a meeting and interaction with the Principal and all the heads of the department and evaluated the college concerning areas like curriculum, learning and evaluation, research, innovation, and extension. On the same day, they had interacted with members of various committees, IQAC members, Governing Body as well as State Government and University representatives.

On the second day they took stock of institutional values and best practices and interacted with the alumni, parents, and students. Later there was a cultural program organized by the students highlighting the five core values of the college. Dr. Gopa Kumar, Chairperson lauded the college for applying for accreditation despite it being a young institution. He also pointed out the various areas where the college can improve and urged all the stakeholders to continue to give their best. The chairperson later handed over the peer team report to the principal. Fr. Vipin George, Principal, thanked the peer team for their entire exercise. He also thanked the teaching and non-teaching staff, all the

students, SWO members, members of the civil society, and all stakeholders for their active support in the entire process of accreditation. Finally, on 16th March 2021, the NACC, after having completed the Assessment and Accreditation exercise of SFS College Aalo, declared the results, accrediting SFS College with a CGPA of 2.8 at B++ Grade.

Hearty Congratulations to Fr. Vipin George, the Principal and the committed SFS College Team for the great achievement! May God be praised! We are grateful to the College Fraternity (Past and Present) – the Staff, Management, Students, Alumni, and Parents for their hard work and collaboration in this quality assessment and assurance exercise! We have reached a milestone in the history of our Higher Education Ministry in Northeast India, in spite of the interior, far-flung location of our college. We wish all the stakeholders the very best and God's blessings for the further growth of our institution! May God bless SFS College! (Report by Provincial Office with input from SFS College, Aalo)

Blessing of St. Mary's Church, Ruksin, Pasighat

On 8th February 2021, St. Mary's Church, Ruksin, under SFS Parish, Pasighat, (Arunachal Pradesh), was blessed and inaugurated by Most Rev. Bishop John Thomas, Bishop of Itanagar, and Rev. Fr. Emmanuel



Mappilaparambil MSFS, Provincial of Dibrugarh Province, respectively, in the presence of many Priests, Religious, Church Leaders and Faithful. The dignitaries were welcomed by the Parish Priest, Rev Fr. Jose Chettany MSFS and felicitated by the G.P.P.C. President Mr. Naloh Padung. During the first Eucharist celebrated in the newly built Church by Bishop John Thomas, 44 community members were administered the Sacrament of Confirmation and 11 children received their first Holy Communion. Thanks to

all the benefactors, who contributed towards the materialization of this new church building, and to Fr. Jose Chettaniyil, who supervised the construction of the same! May God be praised for His abundant blessings! (Report by Provincial Office with input from SFS Parish, Pasighat)

Blessing and Dedication of the Sacred Heart Church, Mayangkhou, Kangpokpi

Sacred Heart Church, Mayangkhou, under SFS Parish, Kangpokpi, (Manipur), was blessed and



dedicated on 14th February 2021 by Most Reverend Dominic Lumon, Archbishop of Imphal. It was also the 59th anniversary of the arrival of the Catholic faith in Mayangkhou. The programme began with a grand welcome given by the villagers to Most Reverend Archbishop Dominic Lumon and to Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Provincial of MSFS Dibrugarh Province as well as to the other dignitaries. The women society of Sacred Heart Church, Mayangkhou welcomed them with a melodious song. The celebration was marked

with the blessing and unveiling of a Monolith, in which the historical event of the day was inscribed. It was followed by the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, concelebrated by many Priests, during which 30 community members were administered the Sacrament of Confirmation. Soon after the Mass, there was a small felicitation programme, in which the Catholic Community expressed their gratefulness to the benefactors and well-wishers by presenting them with Mao shawls. A large number people from

neighbouring Catholic Communities were present for the event. Finally, the Community served a sumptuous meal to the people, who were present. Thanks to all, who contributed towards the construction of this new church building, and to Fr. Kurian Ovelil, the Parish Priest, who initiated and completed the same successfully! May God be praised for His abundant blessings! (Report by Provincial Office with input from SFS Parish, Kangpokpi)

Parish Mission Preaching (PMP) launched in the Province!

One of the objectives of the declaration of the year 2021-2022 as the Year of Missions in the



Congregation is for the renewal and rejuvenation of our parishes through Parish Mission Preaching (PMP). As a follow-up to that, the newly constituted PMP Team of the Province (Fr. Manickathan Varghese Paul (Convenor & Secretary), Fr. Belo Francis, Fr. Daimary Ajit, Fr. Kharmanuid Wanlambore, Fr. Mathirampallil Aji Cherian, Fr. Standfort Stephen Souba, Fr. Soreng Corbinus and Fr. Tanti Luke) came together on virtual forum for an initial meeting on 26th February 2021 and planned how to roll out this important ministry in the Province. Accordingly,

they chalked out a Parish Mission Preaching programme in Divine Mercy Parish, Yingkiong on 09th to 14th March 2021 to be animated by Fathers Varghese Paul Manickathan, Francis Belo and Wanlambore Kharmanuid.

Renewal in a parish implies the renewal of the individuals and families. Our primordial charism, which is Mission Preaching, will lead to the renewal of the individual, families and communities in the context of the life of sacraments. Accordingly, the PMP program in Yingkiong Parish comprised of house visits, praise and worship, talks on various topics (proposed by the PMP Manual adapted to the local situation), Holy Eucharist, Holy Hour and inner healing sessions. Towards the end of the PMP program, some of the faithful shared their experiences how it benefitted to them and gave their testimonies. Finally both the Parish and PMP Teams evaluated the first ever PMP programme in the Province and made suggestions for further improvements. Congratulations to Divine Mercy Parish Yingkiong and to our PMP Team for their initiative and commitment to the primordial Charism of our Congregation! (Report by Provincial Office with input from D.M. Parish, Yingkiong)

At this occasion, let me also request every parish in the Province, in collaboration with PMP Team, to organise such Parish Mission Preaching programme, in this Year of Missions. Please do contact Fr. Varghese Paul Manickathan, the Convenor of PMP Team (7641028745) for the same.

Each one, catch one! The Need to promote Vocations to the Province...

The future of any Congregation/Province depends on the quality of the Vocations they promote. In the context of the division of the erstwhile Northeast India Province and the establishment of our new Province as well as the decision of the Governing Body of Dibrugarh and Guwahati Provinces to go for province-wise vocation promotion (*ad experimentum* in this current year), calls for our immediate action. Responding to this, I am happy that the Formation Forum, especially the Vocation Promoters' Team, held a virtual meeting on 14th March 2021, to chalk out strategies and guidelines for the recruitment of candidates to the Province.

Our Constitutions No. 131 says: "Each confrere and every community also have the duty to make known the life and mission of the Congregation so that we are able to inspire young men to opt for our way of life. All of us are called to promote vocations through our prayer and by being witnesses of a genuine religious life lived in joy and in fidelity to the Lord according to the spirit of St. Francis de Sales." In the present scenario of vocation promotion in the province, this call addressed to every confrere to be a

vocation promoter, is a relevant one calling for our immediate action. It is all the more pertinent to us, as most of the vocations are promoted often through our personal witness and contacts.

So, let me urge every confrere and parish/mission centre to exercise this bounden duty (Con. 131 & GD 103) and to promote vocations to our Province by identifying prospective candidates, accompanying them, supporting them and directing them to the Vocation Promoters of the area. Please see that the candidates have valid photo IDs (like Aadhar Card, PAN Card, Voter ID, etc.) and necessary certificates needed (to know contact the V. Promoter of the area) for their admission to the seminary. I thank everyone for your genuine efforts, especially Fr. Benjamin Nakho, our Vocation Coordinator and the Team of Vocation Promoters, for their hard work and invoke God's blessings on their ministry of Vocation Promotion!

Thank you, dear Most Reverend Bishop Joseph Aind!

His Holiness Pope Francis has accepted the resignation of Most Rev. Joseph Aind, SDB (75) from pastoral governance of the Diocese of Dibrugarh. He was succeeded by Most Rev. Albert Hemrom (till then Coadjutor Bishop of Dibrugarh), as the Bishop of Dibrugarh with effect from 15th February, 2021.



Bishop Joseph Aind was born on 5th November 1945, in Nahorani in Dibrugarh Diocese (Assam). He was ordained priest on 27th November 1976, in the Congregation of Salesians of Don Bosco. He was appointed

Bishop of Dibrugarh on 11th November 1994, and was consecrated as Bishop on 19th March, 1995. He was the Chairman of Social Communication Commission in the North Eastern Regions Bishops' Council. He is a priest for 44 years and Bishop for 25 years. It was during his time that SFS Parish Chabua was entrusted to the MSFS permanently and invited the MSFS to establish their Regional/Provincial House in Dibrugarh. Recently on 27th of March he had paid a visit to the Provincial House from Teok, where he presently resides. We thank our dear Bishop Joseph Aind wholeheartedly for his love, support and collaboration with the MSFS in Northeast India!

Thank you dear Confreres Marcellenius, Tomy, Rijesh and Joe of Guwahati Province!

We are happy that we are in the process of implementing our personnel plan for the Province as per the schedule, facilitating also the relief of the confreres belonging to Guwahati Province, namely Fr. Marcellenius Riawad War, Fr. Tomy Anakallil, Fr. Rijesh Thalayinakandathil and Fr. Joe Varghese Nellissery Chethalan, during the course of this month April 2021. All of them have done very well and contributed to the growth of the centres, they were entrusted with. We are grateful to you dear confreres for your committed service! I, on behalf of the MSFS Dibrugarh Province, would like to say big THANK YOU dear confreres for your selfless, dedicated and commendable service rendered to the Province and wish you all the very best in your future ministry in your Province!

Thanks/Congratulations to...

- ✓ To our four newly ordained priests: Frs. Andreas Syngkli, Anthony Kamei, Jimal Johny and Standfort Stephen, who came together on 16th February 2021 to celebrate their first mass at MSFS Provincial House, Silapathar. After the mass the newly ordained priests were congratulated and felicitated with shawls. They received their first appointments and left for their respective places on the next day. We thank God for the gift of these young and dynamic new priests to our province!

- ✓ To Fr. Rijesh T and Community of St. Andrew's Centre Mangkolemba for initiating the construction of a new school building there with the financial support from the diocese. We are grateful to Most Reverend James Thoppil, the Bishop of Kohima, who blessed the site for the construction and laid the foundation on 20th February 2021 as well as for his great support of the mission.
- ✓ To Fr. Jose M and Community of SFS Parish, Telam for initiating the construction of the proposed extension of the school there. Reverend Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, the Provincial of MSFS Dibrugarh Province blessed the site for the construction and laid the foundation on 3rd March 2021, in the presence of the staff, students and the management.
- ✓ To all our confreres, who have followed the proposed schedule of the transfer and have taken charge in their respective places of appointments! May the Risen Lord accompany you in your new assignments!

Obituary

- ✠ **Mr. P.T. Thomas Pazheveetil** (76), the Father of Fr. Jojo Pazheveetil, died on 30.01.2021.
- ✠ **Mrs. Marykutty Devasia Perumattikunnel** (91), the Maternal Aunt of Fr. Joy Velickakathu, died on 22.02.2021.
- ✠ **Mrs. Annamma Paily Marottickathadathil** (85), the Mother of Fr. Cherian Marottickathadathil, died on 18.03.2021.
- ✠ **Fr. Joseph Salvador Denis** (66), belonging to MSFS Nagpur Province, died on 27.03.2021
- ✠ **Bro. Mathew Thudianplackal** (79), belonging to MSFS Visakhapatnam Province, died on 01.04.2021.



May they rest in peace!

My dear confreres, once again I wish you all a very Happy and Blessing-filled Easter Time! LIVE JESUS!

Fraternally yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil MSFS
(Provincial, MSFS Dibrugarh Province)

TREADING THE PATH OF OUR PATRON SFS...

Look at afflictions in themselves, and they are dreadful; behold them in the will of God, and they are love and delights. (TLG, Book 9, Chapter 2)