



# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

NORTHEAST INDIA PROVINCE, MSFS PROVINCIALATE

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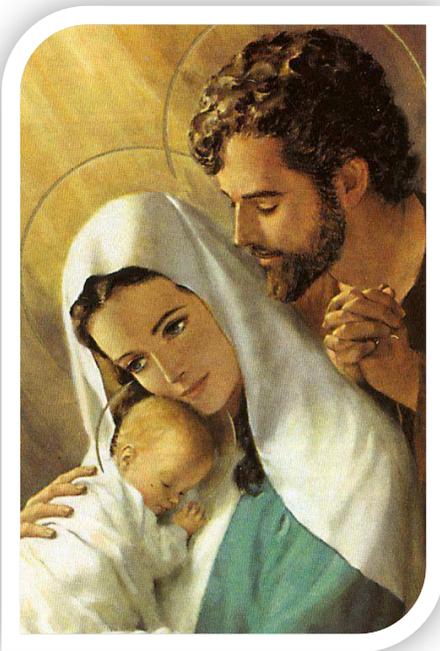
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**GPA/40–Circular–December2019**

**Dear Confreres,**

**WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A BRIGHT NEW YEAR!**



Isaiah 9:2-7 has been chosen for Christmas Eve because of its theme of light shining in the darkness and its reference to a child born for us who will usher in justice and righteousness. In 734-732 BC, facing attack from Israel and Syria, Ahaz, the king of Judah, considered ensuring the aid of Assyria. While this would neutralize the threats of his northern neighbours, it would also require entering into alliance with the Evil Empire of the day. Isaiah urged Ahaz to stand firm in faith, trust in God, and refuse coalitions with other countries whether it be Syria, Israel or Assyria (Is 7:3-9), thus reassuring the king that God would provide all the protection required and that the birth of a child would serve as a sign of this (Is 7:10-17).

However, as a weak and idolatrous king, Ahaz even made his son walk through the fire of Moloch, aping the abominable custom of the Phoenicians. Another son, Hezekiah, who was to become king after Ahaz, was saved from the flames of the idol by his mother.

Soon great troubles and misfortunes befell the land and the king. The Edomites revolted, and even made a successful invasion of Judah, carrying off many captives. Then the Philistines also broke into some western districts of the land which they annexed to their own territory. Finally, Rezin, the king of Syria, who had joined forces with King Pekah of Israel marched on Judea together with his associate.

Ahaz suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of Pekah. Many people of Judea were killed and numerous prisoners were brought to Samaria. Rezin, too, came away with spoils. Though Jerusalem had withstood the siege of the united armies, Rezin captured the important harbor of Elath and exiled its Jewish inhabitants. In their stead he brought in Syrian colonists.

Ahaz found himself hard-pressed by the united armies of Pekah and Rezin. The position of Jerusalem seemed very precarious. The Prophet Isaiah tried his best to encourage Ahaz and assure him that God would save the city from the hands of the enemies. But Ahaz had no trust in God. He sent a delegation of noblemen to Tiglath-Pileser, the powerful king of Assyria, with presents of gold and silver taken from the treasures of the Temple and his own palace. Tiglath-Pileser made use of this opportunity to subdue these two states and gain an outlet to the sea. He marched on Damascus and thus forced Rezin of Syria to abandon the siege of Jerusalem. Rezin himself was captured and killed by the Assyrians. Syria was incorporated into the Assyrian empire and Tiglath-Pileser also annexed part of the land of Israel. Delivered from his enemies, Ahaz traveled to Damascus to thank his liberator and patron, the victorious Tiglath-Pileser. He was accorded the usual

courtesy, but he was made aware of his status of dependence. Ahaz died in the sixteenth year of his most unfortunate rule. Both politically and spiritually he had been instrumental in undermining the foundations of the kingdom of Judea.

Chapter 8 of Isaiah ends in darkness and despair that will surely come with the foretold Assyrian invasion. Out of the depths of oppression, depression, war, and separation from God, all symbolized by the presence of darkness, comes assurance. Verses 2-7 signal the promise of a new king, one who will come from the royal Davidic line, who would bring light, life and hope to a suffering people.

God's unfolding plan of salvation to bring light, life and hope to suffering people who live in darkness is presented in terms of two appearances of Jesus in the Letter to Titus (Titus 2:11-13). Jesus' first appearance manifested God's grace, and his second coming will manifest God's glory, for "we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ." Jesus manifests God's grace to us in a most astounding way, precisely by the humility in which he first makes himself known to us – as a vulnerable infant born to poor parents, lying in a manger far from the comforts of home. Jesus is born into a poor family by material standards, but rich in joy. He is born in a stable, for there is no place for him in the inn (Lk 2:7). He is placed in a manger, for there is no cradle for him. He comes into the world completely helpless, without anyone's knowledge, and yet he is welcomed and recognized first by the shepherds, who hear from the angel the news of his birth.

The event conceals a mystery. It is revealed by the choirs of angels who sing of Jesus' birth and proclaim glory "to God in the highest and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased" (Lk 2:14). The Light from Light enters a darkened world in the middle of the night. The Only-Begotten Son of God takes on flesh and is born of the lowly Blessed Virgin Mary. The All-Powerful God becomes vulnerable, unable to move His limbs as He is wrapped in swaddling clothes. The Word through whom all things were made relies on the embrace of His mother to keep Him warm. The King of Kings and the Lord of Lords is now under the guardianship of a humble carpenter. Isaiah says, "a child is born to us, a son is given us; upon his shoulder dominion rests" (Is 9:5), but He sleeps this silent night in a manger — a trough for cattle. His glory is hidden under the veil of flesh, but not lost. His divine nature is perfectly united to human nature so that we might be able to see the living God face to face and be saved.

### **Fransalian Response**

**St Francis de Sales:** For St Francis de Sales the Son is begotten of the Father, who proceeds from the Father and is inseparable from him. In heaven he is born without a human mother. The Father is the virginal principal of spiritual generation. On earth he is born of the Blessed Virgin Mary without a human father by the power of the Holy Spirit. "The Son, then, is begotten of the Father, proceeds from the Father, inseparable from the Father. In heaven he is born from his Father without a mother, from a Father who is the source of the Blessed Trinity, the virginal principle of spiritual generation. On earth he is born of his Mother, our Lady, without a human father. The Gospel tells us that the Word of God became flesh in the womb of the blessed Virgin when the angel told her: The Holy Spirit will come upon thee, and the power of the most High will overshadow thee" (Vincent Kerns, *Pulpit and Pew: A Study in Salesian Preaching*, Visakhapatnam: SFS Printing School, 1976, Pp.161-162).

**Servant of God Fr Peter Mary Mermier:** For FrMermier the great and principal teaching of Jesus Christ at incarnation is humility. Humility is the basis of spiritual edifice. No perfection and salvation is possible without humility. Humility teaches us to know ourselves with all our weaknesses and limitations. Only with humility faith, hope and charity are possible. The theological virtues will lack foundation without humility. "The great and principal teaching which Jesus Christ gives in his incarnation is humility....To teach us that humility with its degrees is the basis of the spiritual edifice. Without this first disposition there is neither beginning nor progress, nor perfection. Salvation is like a building cast in the air....Without this light which teaches us to know ourselves, which discloses our source, our dependence, our nothingness, our miseries, our ignorance, our weakness, our corruption, our malice, our crimes, there is no justice, no prudence, no fortitude, no fear, no moral virtues....Without humility and the feelings which this virtue inspires, there is no faith, no hope, no solid charity....Without this virtue of humility, the theological virtues lack foundation"(FrMermier's "Instruction on Incarnation: Humility," Cahiers du. P. Mermier, 5, Mission Et.

Retraites 1848-1855, Ch.3 p. 31-32, In: *Selected Letters and Writings of Fr Peter Marie Mermier (1790-1862)*, Edited by Adriel Duval and Translated by Antony Mookenthottam, Bangalore: SFS Publications, 2007, Pp. 173-174).

### HEARTY CONGRATS TO NEW PROVINCIALS OF DIBRUGARH PROVINCE AND GUWAHATI PROVINCE

Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil is appointed Provincial of Dibrugarh Province and Fr Sabu Francis Manasrayil is appointed Provincial of Guwahati Province. They can be sure that, along with their confreres, the Lord is with them to bless and guide them. Hearty congrats and prayerful wishes to the new Provincials! The members of Dibrugarh Province and Guwahati Province are grateful to the Lord for these confreres who are chosen to lead their Provinces. They are persons of integrity and maturity with deep sense of religious commitment. May the Lord accompany them throughout their ministry of leadership!



**Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil** was born at Chamal, Kerala, on July 21, 1966, as the seventh child of late Thomas and late Elizabeth. His native parish is Holy Family Church, Venappara, Kerala, in the Diocese of Thamarassery. After his matriculation, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, in 1981. In 1984, he was admitted to Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his first religious profession on December 15, 1985. Later, he pursued his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore. Before he joined St Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, for his theological studies in 1989, he did one year of regency at Vinaya Bhavan, Thamarassery. He made his perpetual profession on December 08, 1991. He was ordained deacon at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, on May 31, 1993 by Most Rev.

Alphonsus Mathias, Archbishop of Bangalore. After the completion of theological studies, he was ordained Priest at Holy Family Church, Venappara, by Most Rev. Sebastian Mankuzhikary, Bishop of Thamarassery, on April 21, 1994.

Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil served the Congregation in various capacities as an Associate Priest at SFS Church, Silapathar, from 1994 to 1996, Provincial Secretary from 1996 to 1998, Vice-Rector and later as Rector at MSFS Study House, Mawroh, Shillong, from 2005 to 2012, Director of FAsCE India from 2012 to 2016, and Regional Superior of Dibrugarh Region from 2016 to 2019. He completed his doctoral studies from Leopold-Franzens University, Innsbruck, Austria, in 2004. He also served the Northeast India Province for two terms as Provincial Councillor.

**Fr Sabu Francis Manasrayil** was born at Manjoor, Kerala, on July 18, 1965 as the seventh child of M.M. Francis and Mariakutty. His native Parish is St Xavier's Church, Mannarappara, Kuruppanthara, Kerala, in the Diocese of Pala. After his matriculation, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, in 1981. In 1984, he was admitted to Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his first religious profession on December 15, 1985. Later, he pursued his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore. Before he joined St Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, for his theological studies in 1989, he did one year of regency at SFS Seminary, Medziphema. He made his perpetual profession on December 08, 1991. He was ordained deacon at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, on May 31, 1993, by Most Rev. Alphonsus Mathias, Archbishop of Bangalore. After the completion of theological studies, he was ordained a Priest at St Xavier's Church, Mannarappara, Kuruppanthara, by Most Rev. Joseph Pallickaparambil, Bishop of Pala, on April 13, 1994.



Fr Sabu Francis Manasrayil served the province as an Associate Priest and later as Parish Priest at Ka Syiem Jingsuk Church, Amlarem, from 1994 to 1999. He completed his doctoral studies from Paris Lodron University, Salzburg, Austria, in 2006 and continued to serve the church in Germany from 2006 to 2019. He was appointed Coordinator of Delegation Superiors of GAH from 2011 to 2014 and Delegation Superior of

Gemany-Austria Delegation of Northeast India Province from 2014 to 2017. He was appointed Rector and President of Suvidya College, Bangalore, on September 30, 2019.

### **HEARTY CONGRATS TO FR K. IGNACIMUTHU AND FR BENNY VALIYAVEETIL**

Rev. Fr Benny Joseph Valiyaveetil MSFS is appointed Provincial of England from 24th January 2020 and Rev. Fr K. Ignacimuthu MSFS is appointed as Provincial of South East Province for a second term of three years. Hearty congrats and prayerful wishes to Rev. Fr Benny Joseph Valiyaveetil and Rev. Fr K. Ignacimuthu for their ministry of leadership in the Congregation!

### **HEARTY CONGRATS TO FR K. IGNACIMUTHU, CHAIRMAN OF PROVINCIALS OF INDIA FORUM (PIF) AND FR CHINNAPPA REDDY, CHAIRMAN OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF SUVIDYA COLLEGE**

Rev. Fr K. Ignacimuthu is appointed new Chairman of the Provincials of India Forum (PIF) and Rev. Fr Chinnaappa Reddy is appointed Chairman of the Governing Body and Major Superior of Suvidya College by our beloved Superior General with effect from January 24, 2020. Hearty congrats and prayerful wishes to Fr Ignacimuthu and Fr Chinnappa Reddy. Sincere thanks to the outgoing Chairman of Governing Body of Suvidya College Rev. Fr Benny Koottanal for his loyal, efficient and committed service as Chairman and Major Superior of Suvidya College.

### **TEACHING OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2019 OF THE MSFS CONGREGATION ON "MISSION" (Cf. *Call of the General Chapter 2019*, pp. 15-17)**

1. Remaining ever committed to the mission of Christ, we shall continue to be zealous missionaries, through our lifestyle and apostolates.
2. All formees, at all stages of formation, will be helped to cultivate a missionary spirit and love for the missions by listening to the testimony of missionaries, reading the history of the Congregation, and through exposure to our missions and ministries. *Implementation: Rectors.*
3. All newly ordained priests will serve in our missions, as part of their pastoral formation, for a minimum of 2 years, and they will be placed under the guidance of a senior confrere. The mission units to which they are assigned could be across Provinces. *Implementation: Provincial & PCIC.*
4. All the existing and new missionary endeavors of the Congregation are to be treated and envisioned as community-based endeavors, rather than as individual concerns, and Provincials will ensure establishing Local Communities where they are non-existent. *Implementation: Provincial.*
5. Adequate planning, preparation, and formation of personnel must precede the launching into any pioneering or overseas mission. *Implementation: The General and the Provincial Administrations.*
6. Heeding to the exhortation of Pope Francis, all Provinces and mission units will initiate more ministries directed to families, and those on the periphery, rural areas, and the economically poor. *Implementation: Provincial & PCIC.*
7. All Provinces will promote and take advantage of the services of the Parish Mission Preaching (PMP) team. *Implementation: Provincial.*
8. The General and the Provincial administrations will continue to strengthen our Provinces and communities in Africa, North America, Europe, and Oceania, and will open new missions in Latin America and South-East Asia, in view of implanting the Congregation, with community-based apostolates, and promoting local vocations. *Implementation: The General and the Provincial Administrations.*

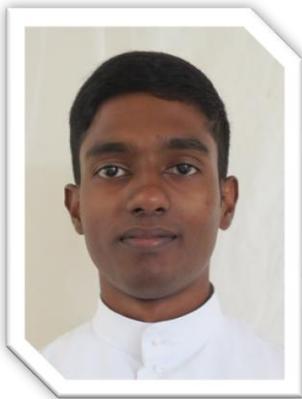
### **Visitation to Confreres in Europe**

I visited the confreres of Northeast India Province in Europe from November 12 to 28, 2019. I met the confreres personally and community-wise. The Local Superiors paid personal attention to the organizing of the meetings – personal meeting and community meeting – and took personal care of me and arranged meticulously my travel from one place to another. The meetings were cordial, affectionate, frank, free and prayerful – with half an hour adoration as an invariable item of the agenda. It was also an opportunity for me

to animate the Local Communities on the Directives of the General Chapter 2019. I sincerely thank Rev. Fr Sebastian Paredom, the Delegation Superior of Germany-Austria Delegation (GA) of Northeast India Province, for his committed leadership to confreres there. All confreres support the Province in different ways, as best as each can. Some of them help Province sparing from their pocket money. Many of them send mass-intentions to the Province; some find benefactors for the Province; some get funding agencies for projects; some organize help through groups of generous friends of their own parishes; some help through sponsors for scholastics; some take up extra pastoral work and send the amount to Province account. All our confreres are specially appreciated by Bishops and people everywhere.

On this occasion, I visited Fr Emile Mayoraz, our former Superior General, who was extremely happy to hear of the growth of Northeast India Province and its recent division into two Provinces. I met also Fr James Manjackal and could personally see the miraculous cure he received through the intercession of Fr Mermier. The Northeast India Province remains grateful to him for supporting the Province with his prayers and Mass intentions.

### Ordination to Priesthood



**Dn Pulluvayalil Nibin James** was born on March 7, 1992 as the first child of James and Mary. He hails from St Mary's Forane Church, Kodenchery, in the Diocese of Thamarassery, Kerala. After completing his SSLC in 2008, he joined Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamaraserry. He made his first religious profession on May 31, 2012 at MSFS Novitiate, Chabua, Assam. After the completion of Philosophy at Suvidya College and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Bangalore, he was sent for Regency to Mary Mother of Compassion Parish, Panbari. In 2016, he was promoted to pursue theological formation at MSFS Study House, Shillong. He completed his theological studies at Oriens Theological College, Shillong, and was ordained a deacon on June 15, 2019. Having successfully completed his theological formation and diaconate ministry, Dn Pulluvayalil Nibin James will be ordained a priest on December 28, 2019 by

Most Rev. Remigiose Inchananiyil, Bishop of Thamarassery.

**Dn Mark Napoleon L.** was born on October 25, 1989 as the fifth child of Lokho James and Kasii Lily. He hails from Holy Rosary Parish, Purul, in the Archdiocese of Imphal, Manipur. After completing his SSLC in 2008, he joined SFS Seminary, Medziphema. He made his first religious profession on May 31, 2012 at MSFS Novitiate, Chabua, Assam. After the completion of Philosophy at Suvidya College and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Bangalore, he was sent for Regency to Vinaya Bhavan, Thamarassery. In 2016, he was promoted to pursue theological formation at MSFS Study House, Shillong. He completed his theological studies at Oriens Theological College, Shillong, and was ordained a deacon on June 15, 2019. Having successfully completed his theological formation and diaconate ministry, Dn Mark Napoleon L will be ordained a priest on January 03, 2020 by Most Rev. Dominic Lumon, Archbishop of Imphal.



**Dn Marak Romilson** was born on May 05, 1992 as the fifth child of Emonsing B. Sangma and Prosalin Marak. He hails from St Paul's Church, Panishali, in the Archdiocese of Guwahati, Assam. After completing his SSLC in 2008, he joined SFS Seminary, Medziphema. He made his first religious profession on May 31, 2012 at MSFS Novitiate, Chabua, Assam. After the completion of Philosophy at Suvidya College and Bachelor of Arts from the University of Bangalore, he was sent for Regency to Mary Mother of Compassion Parish, Somonpara. In 2016, he was promoted to pursue theological formation at MSFS Study House, Shillong. He completed his theological studies at Oriens Theological College, Shillong, and was ordained a deacon on June 15, 2019. Having successfully completed his theological formation and diaconate ministry, Dn Marak Romilson will be ordained a priest on

February 22, 2020 by Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati.

### Silver Jubilarian of the Year 2020

**Fr Kullu Sudhir John** was born at Jampani, Jharkhand, on February 18, 1962, as the first child of Alois Kullu and Mary Rosalia. His native parish is St Therese of Child Jesus, Bhukumunda, in the Diocese of Simdega. After his matriculation, he joined Minor Seminary at Fransalian Vidyajyothi, Nidadavole, in 1984. In 1985, he was admitted to Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam, and made his first religious profession on July 16, 1988. Later, he pursued his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore. Before he joined St.Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, for his theological studies in 1992, he did one year of regency at SFS Church, Tening. He made his perpetual profession on May 30, 1994. He was ordained deacon at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, on June 22, 1995 by Most Rev. Joseph Rey, Bishop of Mysore. After the completion of theological studies, he was ordained a priest at Bhukumunda Parish by Most Rev. Joseph Minj, Bishop of Simdega, on April 18, 1996. Fr Kullu Sudhir John will be completing the silver jubilee of his ordination on April 18, 2021.



<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Place of Appointment</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Period</i>
1	SFS Church, Tening	Regent	1991-1992
2	SFS Church, Hamren	Asst P.P.	1996-1998
3	Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamarassery	On the Staff	2000-2003
4	Khristu Janyanti, Galsi, West Bengal	Parish Priest	2003-2005
5	Christ the Bearer of Good News Cathedral, Rukminigaon	Asst Priest	2005-2006
6	Catholic Mission, Basar, Arunachal Pradesh	Asst Priest	2006-2007
7	St. Joseph's Church, Along, Arunachal Pradesh	Asst Priest & Parish Priest	2007-2009 2009-2015
8	Holy Angels Parish, Tato	Parish Priest	2015-2016
9	SFS Church, Narengi	Asst Priest	2016-2017
10	Christ the Bearer of Good News Cathedral, Rukminigaon	Asst Priest	2017-2019
11	SFS Parish, Chabua	Asst Priest	2019-

We wish him blessings of almighty God. Let us also accompany him with our prayers and encouragement in his onward spiritual journey as priest. *Hearty Congratulations to you, dear father, in this year of Jubilee!*

### Mission Forum Core Committee Meeting Calls for a Review of Methodology

Mission Forum Core Committee Meeting of Northeast India Province was held on December 10, 2019 at MSFS Provincialate. The meeting began with a prayer led by Fr Joby Kurikilamkatt. Fr Philip Thomas Kizhakumpurath, the Vice Chairman of Mission Forum, welcomed everyone and appreciated their presence. Fr George Panthanmackel, Provincial and Chairman, emphasized on the need of community remaining united with one another at the level of Local Community and with the Province Community in order to accomplish the objectives of being a missionary. No one can be a missionary on one's own unless one is sent. Just as Jesus was sent by the Father, we should allow ourselves to be sent by the legitimate authorities / superiors, and remain in hierarchical communion with them. Exercising our mission in obedience to authorities is essential to accomplish the objectives of the mission. At the same time, the hierarchy should not lead to authoritarianism and bureaucracy but to communion, fellowship and responsible obedience. There must be a spiritual communion, centred around Christ, which will bring about a sense of belongingness while remaining committed to His Mission.

Fr Philip Thomas, the Convenor of the Mission Forum, exhorted on, 'New Evangelization,' which is the new challenge for us. He stressed the need for a renewed missionary commitment in re- evangelization. There is a

need to review our methodology and approaches of evangelization in the present situation. There must be both discipling and perfecting the faithful. It is the love of God that compels us to act. When we lack the Love of God, our enthusiasm in evangelization can slacken and wane. He also challenged us to see if there are any symptoms of stagnation and fatigue in our missionary thrust and evangelization dynamism. He provoked our thoughts by posing a few questions to reflect: Are we lagging behind in our missionary enthusiasm, compared to other denominations? Do we revive the religious quest of the faithful through various devotional activities? We are making amazing progress in increasing the literacy rate through our educational institutions, but is there a concomitant growth in the Spiritual and religious literacy?

After the talk by Fr Philip Thomas, there was a discussion and sharing by the members on some topics like the methodology we use in evangelization, the different ways to strengthen the Catholic community and to make our parishes more active. One of the important points that everyone strongly stressed was the necessity of visiting catholic families in our villages, especially when someone is sick or dead. Staying overnight in a village would be a good way of building up a strong rapport with the Catholics.

An Action plan was proposed for all the fathers working in the parishes:

- 1) Introduce Parish Mission Preaching (PMP) in every parish.
- 2) Encourage Devotional practices like novenas, pilgrimages, adoration etc.
- 3) Have regular meetings of the Pious Associations with a Priest animating it.
- 3) When we go for Holy Mass in the villages, spend time with people, listening, instructing, visiting families and blessing them rather than rushing to have another Mass.

The meeting ended at 4 pm.

*(Reported by: Fr Joby Kurikilamkatt MSFS)*

### **Information of / Thanks / Congrats /Appreciation To:**

- Fr George Pekkadankuzhiyil, Fr Benoy Illickal and Fr Sijo Kunnel for organizing the 74th Graduation of the Constant Lievens School of Nursing and the Hospital Day on October 30, 2019. 18 Nursing students graduated after 3 years of studies. The Archbishop of Ranchi, Most Rev. Felix Toppo SJ, was the chief guest. Fr George Pekkadankuzhiyil, the Director of CLHRC, welcomed all the guests with bouquet and shawl. The chief guest inaugurated the graduation ceremony by lighting the lamp. Thereafter, the Archbishop handed over the diploma certificate and mementos to all the graduates. In his message to the graduates he emphasized on the theme of the day, 'Love and service.' The Hospital Day was also celebrated by honouring the employees for their dedicated service with certificate and mementoes.
- Salesian Seminar 2019 was held at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati, from November 4 to 6, 2019. The theme of the Seminar was, "ST FRANCIS DE SALES AND RELIGIOUS LIFE," with twelve scholarly papers presented by Salesian scholars. The seminar well began with the inaugural message from Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, keynote address from Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS, Superior General, and message by Rev. Fr George Panthnamckel MSFS, Provincial of Northeast India Province. The papers presented during the seminar were giving light to the relevance of the religious life in the contemporary context. The seminar was well organized by Fr Carlus Barowa, Fr Jose Karipadathu and Fr Jose Thekkel under the guidance of Rev. Fr George Panthnamckel MSFS, and attended by 80 members from different Congregations and Salesian families.
- Fr John Barman, Director of Fransalian Youth Mission Northeast Region, organized a three-day Regional Fransalian Youth Conference at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati, from November 15 to 17, 2019, in collaboration with FAsCE India. The events were based on the theme, 'Youth Power 2019...it all begins with you!' The conference was attended by 140 youth representatives from MSFS parishes of Northeast and Odisha. The primary goal of the conference was to foster cross-cultural exchange and friendship, to develop leadership, team building and entrepreneurial skills among participants and empowering them to take leadership in sustainable development goals, and providing challenging learning experience for young people, the power of youth and giving them an opportunity to network among young peoples and discuss the challenges the world is facing currently. During the conference the Fransalian Youth Awards were

distributed to young achievers in recognition of their ongoing commitment, dedicated service and fine leadership. Various competitions and activities were organized for the participants on different themes to realize the importance of youth power. And also the 8<sup>th</sup> All Siang District Catholic Youth Convention was organized by Fransalian Youth Mission in collaboration with FAsCE India from December 6 to 8, 2019 at SFS College, Aalo, with the theme, "I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

- Fr Lukose Kavunkal and Fr Stephen Pou for organizing the Arunachal Fransalian Interschool Cultural Competitions at SFS School, Basar, on November 7, 2019.
- The 3rd Inter School Desalite Fiesta cum Olympiad 2019 was held on November 09, 2018 at SFS School, Narengi, for Students and Teachers of SFS Schools in Northeast India. The items of the event were Prepared Speech, Solo Singing, Pencil Drawing, Quiz and Group Dance. It gave a platform for the Desalite students to come together and display their talents. This Inter School Desalite Fiesta cum Olympiad held for the students and teachers of our schools help us to assess their standard and recognise them as part of a larger family. The various events and competitions were conducted with the help *EduGenie*, an Educational Services firm based in Guwahati. Thanks to the organizers Fr George Poovathunkal, Fr Jose Karipadathu, Fr Biju Kanicherry and Fr John Barman.
- Fr George Poovathunkal, staff and students of SFS Higher Secondary School, Narengi, for organizing the SFS Challengers Interschool Basketball Tournament from November 7 to 10, 2019. Mr Biswajit Pegu, Deputy Commissioner of Camrup Metro, inaugurated the meet. He also released the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of school newsletter, 'Desalite News and More.' There were 33 teams participating in the tournament.
- FAsCE India Community Facilitation Centre was inaugurated and blessed on November 10, 2019 at Silapathar. Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel, Provincial of MSFS North East Province officially inaugurated the building and Most Rev. Michael AkasiusToppo, Bishop of Tezpur, blessed the centre in the presence of Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Regional Superior of Dibrugarh Region, FrSaji George, Executive Director of FAsCEIndia, Fr Sunny Thomas the Associate Director of FAsCE India, Fr Peter Parankimalil, Local Supeior of Silapathar Community and In-charge of the construction, fathers from the Upper Assam and Arunachal Apostolic Communities, invited guests, sisters and faithful. This Community Facilitation Centre will be of great help and service for the Self Help Groups, Disabled Peoples Organizations, Children, youth and Mission Stations in Dhemaji District and Arunachal Pradesh as well as to other NGOs and the Church as a whole. It will empower the target groups and FAsCE India to be recipients and provider of quality services that will result in the overall sustainable development. The organizers thanked and congratulated Fr George Panthanmackel, Provincial, Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Regional Superior, Fr Saji George, Executive Director of FAsCE India, Fr Santhosh Chavaranal, Provincial Bursar, and Fr Peter Parankimalil, Regional Bursar for the planning and execution of the project.
- Fr Jose Thekkel, Parish Priest of SFS Church, Narengi, and the faithful of Amsing Jorahbat village for organizing the meaningful celebration of the silver jubilee of the Catholic church in Amsing Jorahbat under SFS Church, Narengi, on November 10, 2019. Most Rev. John Moolachira, Archbishop of Guwahati, fathers from MSFS Provincialate Community and Sisters from Venereni Convent and the SFS Parish community were present for the celebration of the day.
- Fr James Pezhathumoottil, Fr Varghese Chackalamuriyil, Fr Nicholas Maiong and Bro. Sylbrius Barla for organizing the blessing and inauguration of the presbytery and class rooms at East Harina on November 18, 2019. Most Rev. Lumen Monteiro, Bishop of Agarthala, blessed the presbytery and class rooms, and Rev. Fr Saji Puthiyakulangara, Provincial Councillor, inaugurated the same in the presence of Fr Santhosh Chavaranal, Provincial Bursar, FCC Sisters and the faithful.
- Fr Mathew Muriankariyil, Fr Clean Areng, staff and students of St Joseph's School, Manikbond, for bagging the two first prizes and a second prize in the Block level extemporary speech and drawing competition organized by Aryabhata Science Centre Lowairpoa Block.
- Fr Genes Shangpliang and Fr Jacob Puthiyadathuchalil for organizing a two-day seminar for the youth in the Sub-district Jong u Chen in preparing for the Parish Jubilee Year on November 23 and 24, 2019, Liturgy training programme to 45 altar boys for serving at the Eucharistic table on December 1, 2019, and Children's Retreat on December 6 and 7, 2019 at Ka Syiem Jingsuk Parish, Amlarem.

- Fr Tomy Thekkel, Fr Rojin Pullattuvaliyaparambil and the faithful of Christ the King Parish, Gogamukh, for organizing the celebration of the parish feast with Eucharistic Procession, Holy Eucharist, cultural programme and fellowship meal on November 24, 2019.
- Fr Augustine Thundathil, Fr Joy Velicakathu, Fr Thomas Edakazhy and Fr Solomon Tirkey for organizing the Parents' Day cum School Annual Day Celebrations at SFS School, Aalo, on November 17, 2019. Shri Jummar Basar, Superintendent of Police, West Siang Dt., and Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Regional Superior, were the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour respectively. Congratulations to the Principal, Staff and Students of the school for the very colourful, enriching and commendable celebration of the Parents' Day cum School Annual Day.
- Fr Sabu Francis Manasrayil, the Rector, Fr James Pattarkalayil, the Dean staff and students of Suvidya College, Bangalore, for organizing, "Fr Gabriel Memorial Lectures 2019," on December 03, 2019. A series of lectures, focusing on the common theme, "Human Good", were delivered on the day by Dr Jose Kannanaikkal, Dr Shaji Abraham Kochupurayil and Dr Sony Pellissery.
- Fr John Karondukadavil and Fr Thomas Kunnappallil cease to be members of the MSFS Congregation.
- Congratulations to FAsCE India team for installing ten tube wells with hand pumps as part of the flood relief programme in Bordoibam village, a sub-station of Christ King Parish Gogamukh. The installation of the bore wells were supervised by our fathers in Christ King Parish. The newly installed bore wells were inaugurated on December 3, 2019 by Saji George, Director of FAsCE India, in the presence of Fr Sunny Thomas, Associate Director, Fr Tomy Thekkel, Parish Priest, Gogamukh Parish, Fr Rojin, Associate Parish Priest, Fr Anto Thomas, Staff of FAcCE India, Sisters, representatives from the villages and Tea garden and villagers. These bore wells are also a great help for the villagers all through the year as the few bore wells that the tea company had made for them years ago were in a dilapidated condition.
- Congratulations to Fr Roshan Kanjirathinkal, who has successfully completed B. Ed with first class from Adikavi Nannaya University, Rajamandri, Andhra Pradesh, MA Political Science from IGNOU with second class, and Multimedia Master Plus from ADMEC Institute, Rohini, Delhi, with first class.
- Congratulations to Fr Benjamine Nakho for successfully completing the Italian Language Course from St Peter's Pontifical Institute of Theology, Bangalore, with first class and three months course on Counselling Psychology with Theoretical inputs and Intense Practice from Loyola Academy Degree and PG College, Secundarabad.

### **UPDATES FROM SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION BY REGIONAL SUPERIOR REV. FR BAIJU MUNDACKAL**

Fr Ventino Mutume is given a temporary appointment as Associate Priest at Ermelo and its outstations with effect from December 1, 2019. We thank Most Rev. Graham Rose, Bishop of Dundee Diocese, for appointing him in his Diocese.

#### **Change of Address and Contact Number**

Fr Joshy Mathew MSFS  
 Queen of Peace Friary  
 1289 Lafond Avenue  
 St.Paul, MN 55104  
 USA

Cell: 0006513523678

#### **Let us Pray for the Departed**

- Fr Wilson Kottam MSFS, belonging to South West Province, who passed away on November 7, 2019.
- Fr Mathew Kalathungal MSFS, belonging to South West Province, who passed away on November 22, 2019.
- Sr Mary George C.M.C. (68), one of the first cousins of Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, who passed away on November 6, 2019.
- MrKhole L. (24), nephew of FrPaniiPaul, who passed away on November 22, 2019.

➤ Mr Joseph Eattikattil (86), father of Fr Antony Eattikattil, who passed away on November 23, 2019.

### Pray for the Sick

➤ Mr Joseph Kelamkuzhackal, father of Fr John Kelamkuzhackal, who suffered a stroke and is partially paralyzed. Let us pray for his speedy recovery.

### Special Communication

INSTITUTION	PROGRAMMES	DATES & DETAILS	CONTACT
Cenacle Ashram Bilaspur	40 days of Contemplative prayer experience for Priests, Sisters and Religious	March 22-April 30, 2020 May 03-June 11, 2020 July 26-Sept 03, 2020 Nove 08-Dece 17, 2020	E-Mail: <a href="mailto:cenaclesrs@gmail.com">cenaclesrs@gmail.com</a> 09713294037; 09713724768.

### Invitation to all Confreres

May I invite all confreres of Northeast India Province for the upcoming inauguration of the Provinces and installation of the Provincials of Dibrugarh and Guwahati Provinces on January 24, 2020 at 4.30 p.m., at MSFS Provincialate, Guwahati.

### Gratitude to All: I Give Thanks to my God Always

The Holy Mass is a sacrament of thanksgiving, where we are trained to give thanks to God always and everywhere as the right thing to do and as the path to salvation. The first Christians called it the Eucharist, from the Greek word, *eucaristein*, which means thanksgiving. Every time they came together for Mass, it was a thanksgiving day. It was thanksgiving during the times of peace. It was also thanksgiving during the times of persecution. The Holy Mass was the greatest way possible for them to thank God for the gift of life, for so many blessings of family and friends, for the gift of the Christian faith and the new life and family they had received in baptism, and for the gift of salvation. Jesus's own prayers were always marked by gratitude. He thanked the Father before the multiplication of the loaves and fish. He thanked the Father for revealing his wisdom to mere children. He thanked the Father before raising Lazarus. The Lord has done far more for us than he ever did for the ten lepers. No matter what hardships we are still enduring, God comes into our world, to accompany us, to strengthen us, to heal us, to help us. He comes down here to save us. And so we can say with St Paul, "I give thanks to my God always..." (I Cor 1:4).

"I give thanks to my God each time I remember you, and when I pray for you, I pray with joy. I cannot forget the ways in which you helped me in the service of the Gospel, from the first day until now. Since God began such a good work in you, I am certain that he will complete it on the day of Christ Jesus" (Phil 1: 3-6).

As I complete my assignment as Provincial of Northeast India Province, may I join St Paul in thanking God and all the confreres of Northeast India Province for their generosity in dedicating themselves to accomplish the mission entrusted to their care. May I always remain grateful to Rev. Fr Abraham Vettuvilil and to all members of the General Curia, of the past and the present, for their encouragement and support, timely interventions and assistance given to Provincial Curia through their respective forums.

Sincere gratitude to all Archbishops, Bishops and Major Superiors for their collaborative support and encouragement. I do remain grateful to National CRI with whom I associated two terms as National Vice President and National President of Priests' Section. Also indebted to the National CRI Executive for confidently entrusting to me the CRI Encyclopedia project, electing me as its Chief Editor.

I wish to acknowledge the sacrifices made by the Councillors of my first term: Fr Emmanuel Uppamthadathil (Councilor Incharge of Education and Admonitor), Fr Athnas Kerketta (Councilor Incharge of Mission), Fr BenoyVeliyathu (Councilor Incharge of Formation) and Fr Reji Kizhakethalackal (Councilor Incharge of Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries). I would like to thank the Councillors of my second term for their unfailing and total availability to the work of the Province: Fr Philip Thomas Kizhakumpurath (Councilor Incharge of Mission and Admonitor), Fr George Vettukatil (Councilor Incharge of Formation), Fr George Thomas Poovathunkal (Councilor Incharge of Education) and Fr Saji George Puthiyakulangara (Councilor Incharge of Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries). Their keen interest in the growth of the

province, sharing of views and opinions, active participation in Council meetings, timely advices coupled with critical thinking and evaluation have been invaluable, personally to me, and to my ministry of leadership in the Province.

Fr Joseph Kannamangalath, the Provincial Bursar of the first term and Fr Santhosh Chavaranal, the current Provincial Bursar, have been fully involved in the works assigned to them. They have risen to the demands of the role of Bursar and taken a keen interest in putting order into our financial system and management. Today, more than ever before, we have in the Province a better perspective on financial matters. Thanks to their patient follow up of the directives and plans.

I am really thankful to Rev. Fr Babychan Arackathara, former Regional Superior, Rev. Fr Baiju Mundackal, present Regional Superior, and the members of the Regional Curia of Southern African Region, to Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Regional Superior, and the Members of Regional Curia of Dibrugarh Region, to Rev. Fr Sabu Francis, the former Delegation Superior, and his Delegation Curia, to Rev. Fr Sebastian Paredom, the present Delegation Superior, and his Delegation Curia of Germany-Austria (GA) Delegation of Northeast India Province.

The service of the Provincial Secretaries, Fr Shaju Ambiyil and Fr Praveen Kumbattu, who have been totally available to the works of the Provincial Administration. Thanks to Fr Praveen Kumbattu, for his meticulous care in filing the available records, letters, reports in the respective files, updating of the personal files of the confreres, digitalizing of the records and certificates of the confreres, maintenance of website – to mention a few – were done along with a multitude of daily correspondences and communication to the confreres. He did all these works with exemplary commitment: with patience, gentleness, humility, honesty and total availability to the assigned duties.

On this occasion I remain deeply grateful to my predecessors Rev. Frs Abraham Mullenkuzhy, Jose Thenganakunnel of happy memory, George Parampukattil and Francis Thadathil who have built up the Province with the cooperation of all confreres, with undivided loyalty towards the Congregation and the Province.

I am deeply indebted to Fr Varghese Chettupuzhakaren, former Local Superior, and Fr Jose Thekkel, the present Local Superior, and members of the Provincialate community for their generous collaboration and unstinted support to me, and for their selfless dedication to the province.

To the Local Superiors and Apostolic community conveners in the Province, I offer my sincerest gratitude for their leadership in the Province. Through their service of leadership, they have contributed greatly to the accomplishment of many things in the province. Their active collaboration will continue to strengthen the arms of the provincial administration.

The Province owes a special gratitude to all our confreres in the missions outside India – in Southern Africa, GA, and USA, those serving in other Provinces. In several ways, their ministry has been a blessing to the Province.

I cannot but acknowledge the commitment and sacrifices of our confreres in the missions, especially in the remote missions. Every one of them continues to manifest commitment, love and the spirit of generosity and availability in the missions. And the missions have grown because of their countless sacrifices.

Our confreres in Europe and USA (especially the confreres in GA under the leadership of Fr Sabu Francis, till January 24, 2017, and of Fr Sebastian Paredom, since January 24, have been fully committed to the Mission of the Province and the Congregation. May I thank all confreres in Europe and USA for their love for the Province and Congregation. They keep the confreres in India close to their heart in their prayer and ministry. Several of them also try to help the Province monetarily even sparing money from their pocket money. Some of them take a lot of trouble to get mission-projects from agencies and benefactors. Some others get Mass-intentions for the Province.

May I recall with sincere gratitude all our benefactors (especially **Gabriele Natzer**) and friends, the living and the departed, and funding agencies who have steadily supported the Province to the best of their ability by way of their generous contributions.

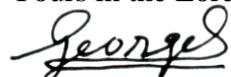
It is a joy for me to recall with gratitude the sincere cooperation of all Provincials and their Administrations, especially the members of Provincials of India Forum (PIF), Provincial of East Africa Province (PEA) and Provincial of Franco-Swiss Province who are very sincere in helping the Province whenever required making the services of their confreres available to the Province, especially to Rev. Fr Chinnappa Reddy, Provincial of Visakhapatnam Province, and to Rev. Fr K. Ignacimuthu, Provincial of Southeast Province.

I am always indebted to Rev. Fr Augustine Tharappel, the former Vice Provincial of USA, Rev. Fr Tomy Puliyanampattayil, the present Vice Provincial of USA, Rev. Fr Joe Pottemmeland Rev. Fr James Mukalel, who have meticulously taken care of Province purses in USA and Germany respectively with a sense of mission solidarity.

There should be nothing in this world that gives us more joy than Jesus Christ and his Gospel, the Holy Catholic Church and our beloved Congregation with all its confreres – every confrere is an excellent gift of the Lord whatever may be his shortcoming. Even a person with numerous defects is a sign, a warning signal and a challenge to us to live our religious life with utmost care and concern. Kindly pray that all of us remain united and faithful to the Lord, to our religious commitment in particular, wherever we are. For, 'eternal vigilance is the price of religious life.' 'Let us never grow tired of doing what is right.' Let us continue to make a relentless and indefatigable effort towards a life of holiness rooted in charity and manifest in true devout life after the example of St Francis de Sales and Fr Peter Mary Mermier. Let us firmly resolve to wake up to the basics of our religious consecration and missionary commitment as envisioned by the General Chapter 2019.

Fraternally

Yours in the Lord,



Fr George Panthanmackel MSFS  
Provincial of Northeast India Province

**WALKING ON THE PATH OF THE PATRON**

*“Moderation is always good in all exercises, except in that of loving God.”*

SFS

**Wish you all once again a happy CHRISTMAS and prosperous  
NEW YEAR! May the blessings and joys of CHRIST'S BIRTH fill  
your heart throughout the coming year 2020!**

