MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



NAGPUR PROVINCE

MSFS PROVINCIALATE 23, 24 Residency Road, Sadar Nagpur 440001 INDIA

Ph: 91-712-2527805. Mobile: 09823567585

(off)provincialnagpurmsfs@gmail.com; (personal)jacobkmsfs@gmail.com (off)provincialbursarnagpur@gmail.com; wilsonmsfs@gmail.com (Off)Secretaryprovincialnagpur@gmail.com; arunpmsfs@gmail.com

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CIRCULAR TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

22.01.201

Dear Confreres Greetings of Peace and Joy of Christ to you! Feast Day an occasion to introspect our priestly life and Ministry



As we celebrate the feast of St. Francis de Sales, let us introspect as members of the Salesian family our priestly life and ministry which give us our identity. During his life, St. Francis de Sales held on to the spirituality of 'live Jesus', when it came to his priestly life and ministry. Ministering to his people as priest and Bishop of the diocese of Geneva, he modeled himself on Jesus of Nazareth. The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Apostle Paul were his great inspiration. It is amply clear from his writings that his attempts were always to conduct his ministry as disciple of Christ and pastor of the Church. In one years' time after his ordination, he had shown his love for his savior and flocks by accepting the most difficult mission of Chablais. This mission gave him the necessary impetus to lead the faithful in a bigger capacity as Bishop of Geneva. For twenty-years he ministered as the Bishop of Geneva for which he laid the

foundation in Chablais. It is a big lesson for present day's religious persons who may be reluctant to be groomed by undertaking hard and difficult tasks. This mission was never the choice of St. Francis de Sales but that of his ecclesial authority. His pastoral exposure in Chablais is not to be treated in isolation but be termed as that which matured his priestly ministry through prayer, study and experience that qualified him for the elevation of ministry as Bishop of Geneva.

Our Superiors have framed the policy to make religious members to first work in remote rural missions. The relevance of such appointment is justified from the Chablais experience of St. Francis de Sales. It is to make us more people-oriented and give us the basic orientation to our ministry emulating our own St. Francis de Sales who had a firm determination to serve God in the manner and place as per the discernment of his Superiors. Any overtures to settle down in institutions or waiting to complete the mandatory years in a rural mission without integrating in the culture and language of the people is not what our Patron St. Francis de Sales has shown us. St. Francis de Sales believed that "One's vocation is genuine only when one's aim should be to unite oneself to God just as our Lord united himself to the Father. Like Jesus, our heart should always be at the service of God's Majesty". Francis's understanding of his vocation is reflected in his life and ministry. Therefore, dear confreres, our refusal to give our services when asked by our legal superiors, our lips services to minister God's people and lethargy to enact Jesus on the altar to enhance and relive faith is not in Salesian spirit of "live Jesus". Therefore, let us

make our feast day an occasion to introspect our priestly life and ministry. Let the Chablais mission of St. Francis de Sales become an all-time inspiration to make our life effective in ministry and community. I wish everyone all the joys of the feast day of St. Francis de Sales. I wish you Happy Feast of our heavenly patron.

MSFS Nagpur Province Mission Sangamam 2017



It was first of its kind organized at MSFS Provincial House Nagpur on 17th & 18th January 2017 with the participation of

representatives from our parishes of different states where the MSFS is working. During the inaugural address Rev. Fr. Jacob, evoked the missionary legacy of MSFS in Central India and exhorted to the

members to revive the missionary spirit of the Congregation. He said that the renewal of faith and evangelization which is the charism of the Congregation is relevant in the Jharkhand Mission of the Province. Fr. Allan Gonsalves, the Councilor-in-charge of mission addressing the members said that Church is missionary by nature and the command of Jesus is to proclaim his word throughout the world. By baptism we are



missionaries and are duty bound to preach the message of Christ. Fr. Marcus Ruptake moderated the



inaugural session. Each delegate was given a floral welcome. Fr. Bijay Kerketta introduced the resource person Rev. Fr. Freddie SVD.

During the first session Fr. Freddie said that the Church is not an institution headed by a

priest but a community of people who will live in relationship with one another and work for the salvation of all. He said that the Church was established for the mission of Jesus. During the second session, he spoke on various organizational structures of a parish such as Parish Pastoral Council, Small Christian Communities and Parish Finance Council. A Parish exists for the mission of the Church. All activities of the parish are to build up the community. Social and educational services are also for the fulfilment of the mission of the Church. The laity are not merely the members of the parish but parish itself. The third session was a panel discussion in which there were positive and negative observations. The laity should be encouraged and trained to participate actively and creatively in the devotional practices. The rural parishes also should have English Medium Schools. Priests of high profile school should celebrate mass in the parish church and encourage their children. Parish priests should show marked interest in the well-being of parishioners and children. The Eucharist should not be reduced to ritualistic performances but real devotional and spiritual celebrations, all priests should have the basic quality of mingling with the faithful and homilies should be in simple language with experiences of practical life. Priest should educate the laity on liturgical services, participation in the activities of the Church is unproportionate in terms of gender - women always outnumber men, there should be programs to bring greater motivation to men to actively participate as part of the faith community. Laity should be trained to take greater initiatives and

conduct programs in the Church. A question was raised as to why the laity is frightened to approach the Parish Priest. The answer was that it is due to the authoritative and inapproachable attitudes of the parish priests which is not fair to Christian principles of servant model of leadership. Then deliberations followed on the responses to the questionnaire sent to all parishes. The members opined that the laity and the priests are not living the spirituality expected of them to some extent. There is need for greater preparation by the priest to celebrate Eucharist. Parish community collectively should support those who are sick in parishes. There are problem of priests drinking alcohol in parishes. The evening was marked by veteran missionaries Fr. Cyriac Vellikettel and Fr. Emil Tirkey sharing their experiences. Fr. Cyriac shared his experience of Vaijapur Mission in Maharashtra where he worked for the poor and the landless. He pointed out the reluctance of younger generation missionaries to give sacramental services on silly excuses of health despite having all communication and transport facilities. He added that when friends and well-wishers make request to them they would go to give such services one day in advance. Fr. Emil Tirkey being the pioneer of Pandripalli mission said that he used to travel by bicycle the whole day without food and water.

The last session of the day was conducted by Fr. Freddie who asked questions on the benefit of the Mission Sangamam. After the dinner, there was a documentary on the life and mission of St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Peter Mermier. Next day morning session was conducted by an Advocate who dwelt on the need to obtain an affidavit when a person asks for baptism. He also spoke on domestic violence and legal remedies, and the manner of preparing the FIR. In the final evaluation meeting the members appreciated the Fransalian hospitality and stressed the need to have Mission Sangamam every year with more participants. There was one session for the priests to evaluate the Action Plan of the last Provincial Chapter 2014. The members thanked Frs. Alan Gonsalves and Arun P for organizing the Mission Sangamam and for all arrangements made for the same.

Dreams ...Never Ending Dreams!



The grand blessing and Inauguration ceremony of St. Francis De Sales Sr. Sec. School was held on 21st January 2017. Rt. Rev. Elias Gonsalves, the Bishop of Amravati was the President for the Programme who

officially blessed the Building and all within it. In his opening address, he reiterated the need for value education, education that fosters multi-dimensional growth, as he appreciated the Fransalians' presence in his diocese. Honourable Ravi Rana, the MLA of Badnera was the Guest of Honour for the Programme who cut the ribbon, released balloon and inaugurated the building; he praised the works of catholic missionaries in Amravati, appreciated the mighty works Christians have done in the field of Education and the help given to the Poorest of the Poor in different parts of the world. Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhiyl MSFS, the Provincial unveiled the Inauguration and Foundation stone and broke the coconut. He exhorted the school to mould the young minds like a gardener tends different plants in a garden. The ceremony was attended by priests and nuns of the diocese, Fransalian from far and wide graced occasion. Fransalians who served the Badnera mission were felicitated along with the architect and the builder. SFS Badnera is

poised to for a giant leap in Schooling as it embraces the new academic year 2017-2018. Parents hailed the hard work of Teachers and Management for training the students in compering and stage performance.

Fr. Issac John

Fr Solomon Sahayaraj Appointed Province Delegation Superior in Germany



In consultation with Nagpur Province members in Germany, the Provincial Administration with the approval of the Superior General has appointed Fr. Solomon Sahayaraj the Delegation Superior of Nagpur Province Delegation in Germany. Our Province delegation has two local communities in Germany. The Delegation Superior monitors and coordinates the religious life of the members and addresses various needs of the members. Fr. Solomon will be installed on 24th January 2017, in a simple ceremony organized by our Confreres. On behalf of the Province I extend to

Fr. Solomon our hearty congratulations and assure him our prayerful support.

MSFS Spiritual Directory

The process of publishing a booklet on MSFS Personal Spiritual Directory is on, based on the one designed by St. Francis de Sales for himself when he was a student at Padua University. Fr. Angelo Fernandes has prepared a power-point presentation of this Spiritual Directory which is being sent to all members. Rev. Fr. Superior General in his mail dated 15th December 2016 wrote the following "Please share this beautiful presentation with all our confreres entrusted to your care and educate us all on this beautiful way of living our Salesian life as our Founder wanted. Kindly make use of it in the formation houses. Feel free to share this with Fransalian Associates wherever we have units. You may also share with friends and family and other groups who are interested in the spirituality of SFS. Let us disseminate Salesian Spirituality which is an essential part of our charism."

Canonical Visitation

Jalna: Fr. Scaria Kadamkulam is the Superior of the community and Parish Priest of St. Mary's Church Jalna. Fr. Shijumon Mangalath is the Principal of the School and Fr. Johnson Parikapilly is the school Office Administrator. Bro. Antony Chalakkal resides in the community assisting the kitchen staff in whatever little way possible besides taking care of the sacristy. Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Mark are collaborating in the school. Three sisters are assisting in the school and Church. St. Mary's Church has four sub-centers - Gundewadi, Gondhi, Revalgaon and Thadhathgaon which were formerly under the Jesuits. Few staff members headed by Fr. Johnson visit regularly these villages to take care of the spiritual needs of the people. St Mary's School Jalna has passed from difficult times because stiff competitions from central board affiliated schools. There used to be a drastic fall on the number of students in the higher classes. However, having experienced these schools, now parents are again moving back to St. Mary's School but their long pending request to make it CBSE affiliated school is yet to be fulfilled. Fr. Shijumon is working on this affiliation with lots of hope. But there are number of hitches. Let us hope and pray that we get CBSE affiliation. As of now students are more than the required number in classes. Another eight class rooms are under construction which is being built on the incomplete floor of the school. After Fr. Scaria came to the community, the community property looks clean and green. Entire plot of land is brought under cultivation.

Nanded Community is comprised of five members. Fr. Bosco is the Local Superior, Fr. Melroy is the Principal of Gyan Matha Vidya Vihar which is a CBSE School, Fr. John Carvalho is the school Office

Administrator and Fr. Ignatius D' Costa is the Parish Priest and Secretary to the Local Society and the Manager of the School. Fr. P C Paul in the community adds to the presence of a senior retired member who as of now is active and takes care of himself. Sisters of St. Joseph of St. Marc collaborate in the pastoral and educational apostolate in Nanded. There are two sisters working as section heads in the school. Our school is a premier educational institution and well known in the city. I was present for the annual day of the school. The programs of the parent's day marked the quality of the students and the staff. The school has submitted the file with city planning department for the regularization of the land and building. Fr. Melroy is perusing the matter with the help of certain parents of the school. It is required to construct a pre-primary school once the plan is sanctioned. There are some disputes regarding the implementation of the 6th pay commission with the staff resulting in litigations. Efforts are on to bring about a rapprochement for the smooth running of the school.

Dhyanashram Varanasi, I visited the novitiate from 24th December 2017 and celebrated Christmas with the Novices prior to joining the second province retreat. We have a good team of three member formators in the Novitiate. Fr. Benedict D' Souza is the novice master and Fr. Joseph Pullopillil and Fr. Daniel Bara are assisting him. While Fr. Daniel takes care of the temporal needs of the community, Fr. Joseph Pullopillil adds to the strength of the teaching faculty. There are all together thirteen novices, six from Pune Province and seven from Nagpur Province. Novitiate has evolved a perfect system of life and activities for the year. Everything is on paper and one will know what is going to happen in the next month or at the end of the year and can accordingly prepare for the same. Emphasis of liturgical services in local language is continued. A number of students are quite happy that now they know to read and write and can minimum converse in Hindi. There is a perfect ambiance for prayer and meditation. The system of agricultural works in the premises continued with great planning and follow up works. The house has the usual ambiance for prayerful discernment of one's vocation to religious life.

Prakash Bhavan Manarkkad, which is our Minor Seminary in Kerala has around thirty plus students of two batches. Students from Latapara after one year of formation join Prakash Bhavan for the second year before their senior secondary. They are divided between Neduthawal, Andhra and SFS Institute Bastora, Goa for their plus two studies before the Novitiate. Those who join after plus two will go to Pudukkottai Seminary in South East Province for their second-year Minor Seminary. Certain higher level programs are conducted for them in Pudukkottai. Fr. Charles Porimattathil is the Rector of the seminary supported by Fr. Nobit K who is the Vice Rector and Minister. Fr. Paul Varambinakam is the Vocation Promoter. Fr. Henry Peter is on the staff along with Fr. Barnabas Xalxo who is a senior face in the formation team. The house has got a better look with the recent painting. There is water shortage problem which is being tackled by rain water harvesting. There is an increase of local income which is generated through agriculture and animal rearing.

Visits of four formation houses

I had the opportunity of visiting four communities belonging to other Provinces. First, I went to Tejas where we have one student doing theology. Tejas has a good ambiance for study and stay. Then I visited Pudukkottai where we have two students doing orientation program meant for those who completed plus two and joined the minor seminary. They have a special curriculum and slightly different from regular first year minor seminarians. Their courses are well planned. The Rector is well experienced and long serving formator Rev. Fr. George Kootinal. Our two students are doing well. Both will go to Novitiate next year. Then I went to SFS Institute Bastora where our five students are doing plus two studies. Two of

them are in their final year studies and will go to Novitiate next year. The final visit was to Fransalian Seminary Pune. Fr. Johnson Gonsalves is the Rector. We have five students in Fransalian Seminary. Bro. Anil Pandit is going to be ordained deacon on 28th January 2017. Next year there will be only one ordination.

Ordinations for the Province 2017

Dn. Anto Mappilakunnel was born to Thomas MJ and Annakutty Thomas on 02nd February 1990 at



Cheppukulam, Kerala, baptized on 09th April 1990 and confirmed on 06th May 2000 at Cheppukulam, Idukki. He began his primary school from 1995-2002, and secondary schooling from 2002-2008 at Kurimannur and Pottassery. He did his propaedeutics at Prakash Bhavan, Palakkad from 2005-2008 and made his first profession on 08th June 2009 at Dhyanashram, Varanasi. He completed his BA from Bangalore University, BPh from Suvidya College, Bangalore in the year 2009-2012 and BTh from Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune, in 2016. He did a year regency from 2012-2013 at Fransalian

House, Pandripalli, Odisha. He made his final profession on 08th October 2015 and was ordained a Deacon on 30th December 2015 at Christ the King Church, Sainkwadi, Pune. His diaconate ministry is at Kandor, Dumka, Jharkhand. **He will be ordained Priest on 27th April 2017 at** St. Thomas church, Cheppukulam, to be conferred by Most. Rev. Mar. George Madathikandathil, Bishop of Kothamangalam, Kerala. I wish Deacon Anto all the joys of this great spiritual event on behalf of the entire Province. God bless him abundantly in his priestly life and ministry.

Dn. Simon Sekar Jnanamani was born to N. Simon Sekar and S. Anthoniyammal on 18th January 1991



at Vaniyambadi, Tamil Nadu, baptized on 20th April 2003 and confirmed on 28th March 2004 at Mary Help of Christians Church, Vaniyambadi. He began his primary school from 1995-2002 at Vaniyambadi and secondary schooling from 2002-2008 at Vaniyambadi and Pottassery. He did his propaedeutics at Prakash Bhavan, Palakkad from 2005-2008 and made his first profession on 08th June 2009 at Dhyanashram, Varanasi. He completed his BA from Bangalore University, BPh from Suvidya College, Bangalore in the year 2009-2012 and BTh from Oriens Theological College, Shillong in 2016. He did a year regency from 2012-2013 at St. Francis de Sales

School, Nimkheda, Nagpur. He made his final profession on 30th September 2015 and was ordained a Deacon on 17th June 2016 at MSFS Study House, Shillong. His diaconate ministry is at St. Francis de Sales Church, Pandripalli, Odisha. **He will be ordained Priest on 30th April 2017** at Mary Help of Christians Church, Vaniyambadi, to be conferred by Most. Rev. Bp. Soundaraj Periyanayagam, Bishop of Vellore. I wish Deacon Jnanamani all the joys of this great spiritual event on behalf of the entire Province. May he become a true instrument of God to work for His Kingdom and Mission.

Dn. Yobu Melkie Sadhek S was born to G. Selvaraj and S. Stella Sahayamon 05th October 1990 at



Adanur, Tamil Nadu, baptized on 28th October 1990 and confirmed on 06th May 2006 at Holy Trinity Church, Adanur. He began his primary school from 1995-2002, and secondary schooling from 2002-2008 at Anniyur and Pottassery. He did his propaedeutics at Prakash Bhavan, Palakkad from 2005-2008 and made his first profession on 08th June 2009 at Dhyanashram, Varanasi. He completed his BA from Bangalore University, BPh from Suvidya College, Bangalore in the year 2009-2012 and BTh from Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune, in 2016. He did a year regency from

2012-2013 at Fransalian House, Seraikella, Jharkhand. He made his final profession on 08th October 2015 and was ordained a Deacon on 30th December 2015 at Christ the King Church, Sainkwadi, Pune. His diaconate ministry is at Darknoa, Ambikapur, Chhattisgarh. **He will be ordained Priest on 03rd May 2017** at Immaculate Conception Cathedral, Pondicherry, to be conferred by Rt. Rev. Antony Anandarayar, Archbishop of Pondicherry-Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu. I wish Deacon Melkie all the joys of this great spiritual event on behalf of the entire Province. May he be priest of God and his mission.

Information/Transfers

- Fr. Selbester Xalxo is appointed the office administrator of SFS School Neemuch w.e.f. 30.01.2017.
- **Fr. Cyprian Dungdung** is appointed priest-in-charge of Baradurgapur Mission Jharkhand w.e.f 25.01.2017.
- **Fr. Rakesh Kerketta** is appointed the office administrator of St. Mary's School, Jalna and Asst Parish Priest of St. Mary's Church with the additional responsibility of the sub-centers w.e.f. 25.01.2017.
- **Fr. Johsnon Parikkapilly** is appointed the local Superior of Fransalian Community, Cidco, Aurangabad and Asst Parish Priest of St. John the Evangelist Church, Aurangabad w.e.f. 25.01.2017. He will be the Secretary to the Local Society.
- **Bro.** Aneesh Devassykutty reached Annecy on 1st January 2017. He was due for his first-year theology studies but we decided to send him to serve Franco- Swiss Province. It is part of the collective decision arrived at Arusha to collaborate with needy provinces by supplying members. Bro. Aneesh wrote the following: "I landed in Geneva on 1st January where I was welcomed by Fr. Yves Carron, the Provincial of Franco-Swiss Province. Then, we came to the community in Annecy. I started my language studies at Jacob Bellecombette (ISEFE), on January 4th January 2017. During the weekdays, I stay in Maison, diocesan house in Chambery (where the aged diocesan priests stay) and for weekends I go back to the community in Annecy. So far everything is going on well and I request for your prayers."
- **Fr. Issac Mankulathil** is appointed the Vice Promoter of the Cause of Fr. Peter Mermier in place of Fr. Paul Varambinakam.
- **Fr. Mathew Kodamullil** has been given the permission to return to the Province after seventeen years of Missionary work in Mozambique. Fr. Mathew was one of the pioneers of Mozambique Mission as he was among the first batch of missionaries and was attacked by thieves three times during his stay in Mozambique. The province is very much indebted to him for his generous service and availability for the mission of the Province. We welcome him back to the Province with great joy.
- Fr. John Dive is appointed the provincial delegate for the handing over of the local superior in CIDCO
- **Fr. Kamil Tete** is appointed the provincial delegate for the handing over of the local superior and project in-charge in Baradurgapur.

Our sincere appreciations/thanks/congratulations to:

Fr. Wilson Abraham who finally managed to do the Registry of our entire land at Hingna. This is the extra four acres that we bought the adjoining twelve acres which we have already purchased. With this registration, the relocation of Gorewada land is complete and we have total 16 acres of land after selling 6 acres of land. The future administration and confreres should come up with concrete and creative plans for diverse ministry on this land.

- **Fr. Joy Mampally** who is reappointed for another term of three years by Rev. Fr. Superior General as the Rector of Suvidya College. His name is proposed to Superior General by the Provincials of Indian Forum. Let us thank him for accepting this difficult task.
- **Fr. Sunny Panthanazhivadakethil** who belonged to the Province of North East India and working in Switzerland is appointed the Superior of the newly constituted Inter-Province local community in Switzerland. This community will function under the animation of the Asst Superior General.
- **Fr. Benny Kootanal** the Provincial of South West India Province is appointed the Chairman of Suvidya College by the Superior General. By this office, Fr. Benny becomes the Major Superior for Suvidya Staff and contact person for Superior General in the administration of Suvidya College. Fr. Benny in consultation with the Rector and other Provincials decide on the staff appointment and higher studies.
- Frs. Alan Gonsalves and Arun P who organized the historic mission Sangamam in the Province. It is conducted in fulfillment of one of the action plans of the last Provincial Chapter. It marked the coming together of all missionaries present and past.
- Frs. Daniel Bara and Benedict Dsouza who organized the second province retreat at Nav Sadhana Pastoral Center at Varanasi.
- **Fr. Vineesh Chempakassery** who managed to get financial assistance and support through friends and well-wishers in UK to start a kindergarten at Mavila, Mozambique.
- **Fr. Nobit K** who streamlined a better management of the farm land in Prakash Bhavan, Mannarkad. It has added to the local income of the house substantially. Now the house is implementing the water harvesting system as a precaution to prevent possible water shortage.

Confreres who have promptly responded to the first set of questionnaire on the professional evaluation of the Province. May I ask the rest of the members to do it at the earliest.

Fr. Bijay Kerketta who managed to get the non-agricultural status for the NFC land in Bamra. We have submitted the file for the approach road from the forest department. Site planning is being done for the land. Tender is given to different contractors for rates to construct the compound wall. Negotiations are going on to purchase little more land adjacent to site 3. The land is in three pieces not attached to each other. Planning for the school is going on in consultation with the NFC architect.

House Superiors who have planned better and animated the local bursars and those in charge of the accounts of Institutions and Community for the second phase of the internal auditing conducted by the Province Bursar. Some communities have taken exceptional pain to rectify the errors of the past. What is to be prepared is specified in the internal auditing format which is sent in advance.

Communities that are very regular and meticulous in sending the contribution to the Province and responding to the letter of the Provincial and the collective decision of the Province.

Bro. Anil Pandit who will be ordained deacon on 28th January 2017. We wish him God' blessings.

Important Dates

11th Feb 2017 Education Forum, at MSFS Provincialate, Nagpur.

Let us pray for:

Fr. Simon Rodrigues of Pune Province, aged 61 died on 17th January 2017.

May I request all those who have not fulfilled the suffrages to do the same at the earliest (Const. No. 118; General Directory No 98).

Provincial's Itinerary:

January 20	17	22.02.2016	Mahima
27.01.2017	Latapara	23.02.2017 24.02.2017	Mahima Jhajjar
28.01.2017	Latapara	25.02.2017	Jhajjar
29.01.2017 30.01.2017	Ambapani Raidihi	26.02.2017	Vinay Sadan
31.01.2017	Pandripalli	27.02.2017 28.02.2017	Vinay Sadan Sini-Seraikella
		20.02.2017	Sim Sciaikcha

February 2017

February 2017		March 2017		
01.02.2017 02.02.2017 03.02.2017 06.02.2017 08.02.2017 11.02.2017 14.02.2017 19.02.2017 20.02.2017	Pandripalli Nagpur Delhi Pune Kinwat Education Forum Khamgaon Neemach Neemach	01.03.2017 15.03.2017 16.03.2017 17.03.2017 27.03.2017 30.03.2017	Nagpur PCM PCM PCM Trichy Nagpur	
20.02.201/	INCCINACII			

Salesian Thought

Generous devotion does not wish to have companions in all that it does, but only in its aim, which is the glory of God and the advancement of our neighbor in divine love.

St. Francis de Sales

Yours Sincerely in Christ

Jacob Karamakuzhyil, MSFS **Provincial Superior**