



Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales

Nagpur Province

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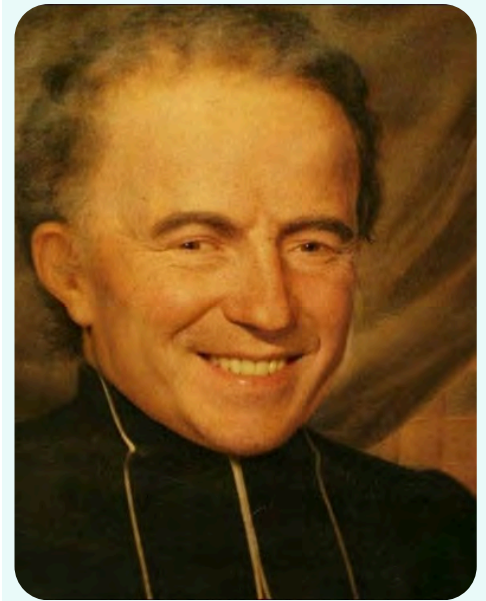
Circular to all the Members of the Province

MT/14

15 September 2024



HAPPY
Feast
Day
&
Founders
Day



Dear Confreres,

As we celebrate the Feast of the Mother of Compassion, our special Patroness, we are invited to reflect deeply on her example and the profound role she plays in our lives as Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS). The Mother of Compassion stands as a powerful symbol of deep faith, love, and compassion in the midst of suffering. On this occasion, let us draw inspiration from her life and the teachings of St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Peter Mermier, renewing our commitment to live out these virtues in our mission. Let us focus on the five key points for our reflection and inspiration:

1. Faithful Endurance in Suffering: "Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene." (John 19:25). The Mother of Compassion teaches us the virtue of patience and endurance in the face of great sorrow. Despite witnessing the agony and death of her Son, she remained steadfast in her faith. We too must carry our crosses with grace, trusting in God's providence even in moments of trial.

2. Compassionate Love: "When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, 'Woman, behold, your son!' Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother!'" (John 19:26-27). Mary's heart was pierced by sorrow, yet she never wavered in her compassion for others. As MSFS, we are called to emulate this compassionate love in our ministries, offering care and comfort to the broken-hearted, just as Mary stood beside her suffering Son.

3.Humility and Gentleness: “He has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate.” (Luke 1:52). St. Francis de Sales emphasized the importance of living with “hearts that are humble and gentle.” The Mother of Compassion embodies this spirit, showing humility before God’s will. We are called to embrace this humility in our own lives and work, serving others with gentleness and kindness.

4.Total Surrender to God's Will: “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” (Lk. 1:38) Fr. Peter Mermier often spoke about embracing God’s will in all things. Like the Mother of Compassion, who surrendered completely to the mystery of God’s plan, we are called to trust in God’s will, even when it is difficult or painful, knowing that our sufferings can lead to redemption and transformation.

5.Missionary Zeal in Times of Trial: "But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart." (Luke 2:19). Despite her compassion, Mary remained devoted to her role in salvation history. She was present at the birth of the Church and continues to intercede for us. As missionaries, we must carry forward this zeal, especially during challenging times, bringing hope to those in despair and faith to those in doubt.

As we honour the Mother of Compassion on this feast day, let us reflect on her deep faith, compassion, and perseverance. Let us integrate the teachings of St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Mermier, imitating her virtues in our ministry and daily lives. May she guide us as we continue our mission with humility, gentleness, and steadfast devotion.

May Our Lady, Mother of Compassion, intercede for us and strengthen us in our commitment to serve with faith and love.

I WISH YOU ALL A VERY HAPPY FEAST OF OUR MOTHER OF COMPASSION.

“I Want Mission”: Fr. Peter Mermier’s Legacy Today

Fr. Peter Mermier, our beloved Founder, was driven by his profound desire to bring the Gospel to those in need. His famous cry, “I Want Mission!” exemplifies his passion for evangelization, education, and service to the poor, providing valuable lessons for us today.

Fr. Mermier’s passion for evangelization was evident in his tireless work to revive the faith in post-Revolution France. He declared, “The love of God impels us to go out, to work, to make Jesus Christ known and loved.” His commitment to parish missions, focusing on rural areas, challenges us today to engage with those spiritually detached, offering faith and hope.

His commitment to education and renewal was central to his vision, as he believed education could transform both individuals and society. His saying, “The heart of education is the education of the heart,” encourages us today to focus on holistic education. He also exhorts us to focus on educating, especially the underprivileged and the marginalized.

Fr. Mermier’s service to the needy reflected Christ’s compassion. His care for the poor and sick was essential to his mission, as he wrote, “To serve the poor is to serve Jesus Christ Himself.” His life inspires us to respond to the needs of the vulnerable with empathy and action, embodying his mission today.

Through his writings and life, Fr. Peter Mermier calls us to live out the mission by evangelizing, educating, and serving with love and dedication. I Wish you all a very Happy Founder’s Day.

Local Superiors' Meeting



The Local Superiors meeting was held on 19th August 2024 at St. John's High School, Nagpur. The meeting began with opening words of welcome by Fr. Nobit Kombanathottathil. The session started after the lighting of the lamp. Fr. Naveen Saldhana OP conducted the morning sessions. The vote of thanks was given by Fr. Albin and the day ended with tea in the evening.

Here is a summary of the two talks given by Fr. Naveen Saldhana OP

Talk 1: The Role of the Local Superior

The Superior's role is a call within a call, helping members to answer questions like "Where is God calling us?" and "What am I doing for God?" The Superior must animate and delegate authority, providing the right information, listening deeply, and encouraging sincerely. Five matters that should not be delegated: rituals, confidential matters, policy matters, crisis of members, and personal matters. The Superior should enable members to be Christlike by building them up, creating a community, and developing communities beyond their own institutions. Evils to be avoided by the Superior include abuse, speaking ill of confreres, betraying confidentiality, lying, being partial, spying, and encouraging tale-bearing.

Qualities of a Superior include mission awareness, commitment, credibility, faithfulness to Gospel values, joy, confidence, human maturity, consistency, optimism, and enthusiasm.

Talk 2: Strategies to Strengthen Local Communities

Building communities linked in communion with Christ and the Mission of Christ is essential. Communities have become fragile, with 2000 professed members leaving every year due to loss of faith and lack of genuine community life. Strategies to strengthen relationships among members include: Building community linked in communion with Christ and the Mission of Christ. Regularity of prayer life at the community and personal levels, forming relationships that are cross-cultural, cross-lingual, and transnational. Personal deepening of faith: Realizing that members have made a free choice to work with people who are given to them to serve

Characteristics of an Ideal Community Include:

Constant desire to live in a community, sense of belongingness, fulfillment, and rejoicing in each other's successes, happiness with their work and willingness to move to another assignment when needed.

Regular collective and personal assessment is necessary to keep the tone of community life healthy. Relationships are important in communities, and it is good to gauge which type of relationship one belongs to - Brick, Bird, Bee, or Butterfly. The Butterfly model of relationship is ideal for a religious community.

Local Bursars' Meeting



On August 26th, Fr. Sylbester Xalxo the Provincial Bursar hosted a one-day meeting of Office Administrators and Local Bursars from all communities of Nagpur Province at St. John's High School. The event brought together 35 members for a session led by Mr. Abhay Upadhya, an expert in accounting.

The morning session began with a prayer led by Fr. Sanjay Lakra. This was followed by a warm welcome by Fr. Silbester Xalxo to Mr. Abhay, the resource person of the day, as well as to Fr. Manoj Tirkey, Provincial Superior. Mr. Abhay Upadhya, Fr. Manoj Tirkey, Fr. Silbester, Fr. Bosco P, and Fr. Vinayanand, lit the lamp.

Mr. Abhay's interactive sessions covered crucial topics such as accounting, internal controls, and tax basics. At 12:15 pm, Fr. Manoj Tirkey celebrated the holy eucharist. He gave an inspiring homily that emphasized the importance of faith and fidelity, as exemplified by St. Paul in his works.

The hospitality of St. John's High School was evident in the delicious lunch provided. In the afternoon, Fr. Manoj engaged the participants in a thought-provoking discussion, highlighting key aspects such as accountability, transparency, resource stewardship, policy adherence, budgeting, collaboration, ethical practices, timely audits, and a commitment to lifelong learning.

The program concluded at 4:30 pm with high tea. All the participants were enriched by the sessions and the discussions.

Having Struck Gold, But Still Not Old St. Mary's Moves Ahead with Novel Developments



6th September 2024 will be remembered as a red-letter day in the history of St. Mary's High School, Jalna. Having reached a milestone in the field of education, this renowned Fransalian Educational Institution in Jalna, added another feather to its cap. It was the day when the Golden Jubilee Memorial Building was inaugurated and blessed. It was indeed a proud day for the school community as well as for Nagpur Province. On this day the Feast of Mother Mary, the school patroness was also celebrated. The Chief Guest was Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey MSFS, Provincial Superior of Nagpur Province. The Guests of Honour were the Fathers of the School Management, SJSM Sisters, MSFS Fathers from neighboring communities, Holy Cross Sisters the Architects, Contractors, Engineers, Teachers, Students, Esteemed Guests, and Well- Wishers.

Having realized the need for the growing demand for education in St. Mary's, Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey, the former Principal took the initiative to plan and start the construction of the building. On 8th June 2022, the foundation stone was blessed and laid by Rt. Rev. Ambrose Rebello D.D. the Bishop of Aurangabad Diocese.

The Blessing and Inauguration Ceremony began with a prayer. It was followed by the cutting of the ribbon by Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey. Then the MSFS Fathers blessed the entire building with holy water. The school choir sang melodious hymns calling down God's blessing. The guests were then served some light refreshments while the teachers and students got ready for the cultural program to celebrate the Feast Day of Mother Mary, the Patroness of the School. The new building is a state-of-the-art infrastructure designed to provide a conducive learning environment for the students. It has bright and well-ventilated classrooms with the latest technology, to enhance the teaching and learning process. It also has well-equipped laboratories, recreational facilities, and many other amenities.

Guided by their teachers the students of class 8th presented a wonderful program of songs, dances, and a play on the joyful occasions in the life of Mother Mary. The special guests were honored for their contribution to the construction and other aspects of the building. Speaking on the occasion, Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey, expressed his gratitude to the special guests and well-wishers for their support and guidance. He said, "This new building is a testament to our commitment to providing quality education and a nurturing environment for our students." He also praised the Members of the Management for regularly checking on the progress of the work and ensuring that quality is maintained. He exhorted the teachers and students to work hard so that St. Mary's School can always be proud of giving to society and the world persons of character, knowledge and wisdom, to make our world a better place. In his message Fr. Melroy Almeida, the School Manager highlighted important virtues from the life of Mother Mary. He said that practice of these virtues will certainly help to improve the quality of our own lives.

After the program the students went home and the invited guests, the fathers, sisters and staff members enjoyed a delicious lunch. All expressed their joy at the progress that St. Mary's High School is making and wished it all the best for the future.

ST FRANCIS DE SALES SCHOOL, KHAMGAON



Construction Update, Recognition and Permission Details

It is the duty of everyone to cultivate the best values of life which will enable him/her to live a worthwhile life. Faith in God, concern for the welfare of others, and where education is concerned 'Education of the Human Heart.' These have formed the foundation on which the Fransalian Mission has set its goals. Out of this came '**Knowledge, Service, Charity,**' which is not only the motto of our school but the firm goals it has set for itself. Besides achieving the aim of any good education to discover and develop to the full, the finest qualities in a human being, the institution tries its best to inculcate in every student the true spirit of social awareness. We are blessed with 60 children from Nursery to Std II. In the academic year 2024-25 the school was very active with various activities like training programs for teachers and parents. We also had various competitions like, Poem competition, Fancy dress competition, Rhyme competition and so on. We are facing various challenges and difficulties which we hope to overcome next academic year when we move to the new building which is under construction.

We have been working to get the Education Department's permission and we got 'Iraada Patra' on 18th July 2022. After getting the Iraada Patra we need to put up the infrastructure for starting the school within 18 months. By the grace of God, we got permission from the Maharashtra Government on 4th July 2024 and we also received permission from the Deputy Director of Education on 13th July 2024. The first permission the Khaate Manyata from the primary education office was received on 14th July 2024. On 4th September 2024, we received the UDISE code for our school. At present SFS School Khamgaon has permission to run the school. The FVNK community is grateful to the Provincial and his Councilors for all the support and encouragement.

Annual Retreats

Group -1

Date: 7th to 12th October

Venue: Anucampa Bhavan,

Good Shepherd Provincialate,

Mankapur, Nagpur

Animator: Fr. Xavier CSsR

Group -2

Date: 30th October to 4th November

Venue: MSFS Provincialate,

Residency Road, Sadar, Nagpur.

Animator: Fr. David CSsR

Note: Please note that there are few changes in the names of the participants in the Retreat groups .

1st Annual Retreat: 07th-12th October 2024

Sebastian Annaikandathil, Simplicio Rocha, Pius Gonsalves, Joseph Plathottam, Joseph Pullopillil, Agnelo Fernandes, Emmanuel Vattamattam, John Carvalho, Jose Parampukkatil, Barnabas Xalxo, Melroy Almeida, Ignatius D Costa, Peter Dominic, Emile Tirkey, Shantwan Khutekar, John Britto Muthuswamy, Philip Maleparampil, David Paul, Austin Correia, Oscar Kujur, Joseph Kailamangalam, John Dive, Marcus Ruptake, Manoj Tireky, Kulandai Raj, Petrus Kullu, Domy Vallomkunnel, Deepak Kindo, Anand Kullu, Kamil Tete Arun Ekka, Ramesh Damala, Cyprian Dungdung, Lalji Pattathil, Rakesh Kerketta, Fr. Ranjit Lakra, Jinoy Kopy, Gijo Francis, Anto Thomas, Anil Pandit Ratan, Vinayanand Katru, Roshan Tigga, Santhosh Kumar, Michael Toppo, John Parkhe, Ambrose Minj, Deepak Baa, Joseph Gollapudi, Abin Baby, Biraj Minj, Jagadish Tete, Roshan Minj, Nevin Tete, Sameer Minj.

2nd Annual Retreat: 30th October to 04th November 2024

Thomas Kuttiankal, Scaria Kadamkulam, Jose Mudavankunnel, Mathew Thayil, Joseph Kalekattil, Peter Paul, George Joseph Kurickal, Benedict De Souza, Lalit Tigga, Bijay Kerketta, Peter Kujur, Mathews Kodamullil, Richard Tirkey, Vishwas Torne, Anil George, Wilson Abraham, Alphonse Arockiaswamy, Solomon Sahayaraj, Marianus Kujur, Johnson Parikkapilly, Shijumon Mangalath, Vinsent Minj, Anthony Amaladoss, Patras Tirkey, William Anthony, Allan Gonsalves, Silbester Kullu, Selbestar Xalxo, Bosco P, Amal Raju Bandanadam, Saiju Vettukallel, Ignathi Kshirsagar, Christhu Raja, Arun P, Nobit Kombanathottathil, Sudhir Kujur, Hilarus Tirkey, Telesfor Lakra, Peter Thomas, Sandeep Tirkey, John Ruptake, Albin Joseph, Anto Varghese, Jomon Mathew, Lijohn Kachappilly, John Peter, Jnanamani, Anto Deepak, Anoop Francis, Santosh Soreng, Battula kalyan, Rajat Kumar Digal, Amrit Kujur, Amit Tirkey, Sanjay Lakra.

Assistant General's Visit

16th and 17th October	19th and 20th October	22nd and 23rd October	24th and 25th October
Venue: MSFS Provincialate 1. MSFS Provincialate 2. St. John's 3. Mermier Sadan 4. Badnera 5. Prakash Bhavan	Venue: FTI- Aurangabad 1. FTI 2. CIDCO 3. Jalna 4. Nanded 5. Kinwat 6. Bhusawal 7. Khamgaon	Venue: Divya Jyoti Ashram 1. Divya Jyoti Ashram 2. Panderpalli 3. Ambapani 4. Raidhi 5. Bamra 6. Sini 7. Saraikella 8. Kandore 9. Baradurgapur 10. Bano 11. Darkona	Venue: Vinay Sadan, New Delhi 1. Vinay Sadan 2. Mahima 3. Jhajjar 4. Dhyanashram 5. Neemuch

Note:

- The above clubbed communities are requested to be present on the given dates in the respective places for the meeting. In case all the community members cannot be present, at least one member is requested to attend the meeting.
- Each community is kindly requested to present a concise report, detailing their community life and Ministries.

Mozambique Delegation

PASTORAL VISIT TO CHIPINDU AND DOMUÈ PARISHES



Bishop and Missionary Team with Newly Installed Ministers of Communion



Bishop Conducting Catechesis

From September 3rd to 8th, Rt. Rev. Diamantino Guapo Antunes I.M.C., Bishop of Tete, made his pastoral visit to the parishes of St. Francis de Sales in Chipindu and St. Peter Claver in Domuè. These two parishes, administered by the Fransalians, encompass a large geographic area: Chipindu with 67 Christian communities across 15 pastoral zones, and Domuè with 37 Christian communities spread over 15 pastoral zones. This visit marked a historic moment as it was the first pastoral visit for the newly established parish of Chipindu, created on September 4, 2023, and the third visit by Dom Diamantino to the Domuè parish.

During his visit, the Bishop covered various pastoral zones, celebrated Masses, conducted catechesis, and conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on 181 faithful. In Chipindu, he celebrated Mass in the large parish church, which is nearing completion, with only painting and glazing remaining, where he also installed 21 Extraordinary Ministers of Distribution of Holy Communion. The Bishop's evaluation of the first year of the newly established Chipindu Parish was highly positive.

He also blessed and laid the foundation stone for a new chapel at the residence of the Congregation of the Little Missionary Sisters of Mary Immaculate in Domuè, who collaborate with the Fransalians in these two parishes. Furthermore, he held meetings with the Missionary Team and the Pastoral Councils of both parishes.

The pastoral visit concluded on September 8 with a Solemn Eucharist at St. Peter Claver Parish in Domuè, where Fr. Ashok Minj MSFS was officially installed as the new PP, and Friar Joaquim Floriano José, OFM, a native of Domuè parish, was ordained to the priesthood.

Congratulations to Fathers Ashok Minj, Linus Kudikulam, and Vishal Barse for the tremendous work they do in these parishes.

Appointments

- Fr. Jomon Mathew is appointed as the Rector of the Minor Seminary, Prakash Bhavan, Mannarkkad with effect from 15th September 2024
- Fr. George Kurickal is appointed as the Office Administrator of SFS School, Saraikkela with effect from 15th September 2024.
- Fr. Jnanamani is appointed as Coordinator of (DeSIFMA) De Sales International Film and Media Academy, Chennai.
- Fr. Manu Joseph is appointed as the Parish Vikar, at St. Johannes Katholische Kirche, Regensburg Diocese, Germany.

Note:

Due to ongoing treatment and health issues of Fr. George Kurickal, Fr. Jomon Mathew is appointed as the Superior and Rector of the Minor Seminary at Mannarkkad.

“No one can be united with God unless he goes to Him.” SFS

Treatise on the Love of God, Chapter:3



Yours Fraternally in Christ

Fr. Manoj Tirkey

Provincial Superior