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Sharing Life, Mission, and Joy

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Province News Letter



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Dear Confreres,
Greetings of peace and joy!

The teaching of Pope Leo XIV, through the encyclical “**Magnifica Humanitas**” invites us to rediscover our vocation and mission as disciples of Christ. In a world searching for hope, compassion and authentic witnesses of the Gospel, we are called not only to proclaim Christ but to make His presence visible through our lives. This call deeply resonates with our Fransalian spirituality. St. Francis de Sales taught that holiness is lived through love, gentleness, patience and kindness. Our mission becomes meaningful when people experience God’s tenderness through our words, attitudes and actions.

The life of our Founder, Fr. Peter Marie Mermier, reflects this spirit. Rooted in God and committed to the salvation of souls, he responded courageously to the needs of his time with faith, trust and availability. His life reminds us that true missionary zeal flows from a heart united with Christ. As MSFS confreres, we are invited to ask ourselves: Do our communities radiate fraternity? Do our ministries reveal the compassionate face of Christ? Do our lives reflect the spirit of St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Mermier?

The world needs not only our works but our witness. Our schools, parishes and ministries become truly missionary when they carry the spirit of Christ and become signs of hope, unity and love. As we continue our journey after the Provincial Chapter 2023 and prepare for the forthcoming Midterm Assembly, may the call to “**LIVE AND BE A VISIBLE SIGN OF OUR CHARISM**” become our daily commitment as we continue to implement the action plan of the Chapter. Let us renew our dedication to live the Fransalian values of humility, simplicity, compassion and availability.

May Mary, our Mother, guide us, and may the example of St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Mermier inspire us to become faithful witnesses of Christ in today’s world.

Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey MSFS
Provincial Superior, Nagpur Province



“*Be patient with all things,
but first of all with yourself.
Never confuse your mistakes
with your value as a
human being.*”





First Holy Communion, St. Peter's Church, Raidihi.



On Sunday, 17 May 2026 the First Holy Communion ceremony was solemnly celebrated at St. Peter's Church, Raidihi. Holy Mass began at 7:30 a.m. and was celebrated by the Parish Priest, Fr. Marianus Kujur. A total of thirty-nine children received the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist for the first time, marking an important milestone in their faith journey.

To prepare them for this sacred occasion, special catechetical classes were organized from 4 to 16 May 2026, during which the communicants were instructed on the significance of the Holy Eucharist, Christian living, and participation in the life of the Church.

As part of their spiritual preparation, the children also had the Sacrament of Reconciliation, enabling them to approach the Eucharistic table with pure hearts and renewed faith. The celebration was prayerful and joyful, with the participation of parents, family members, and parishioners who gathered to support and pray for the children as they received Jesus in the Holy Eucharist for the first time.



First Holy Communion and Sacrament of Confirmation



From 10th to 23rd May 2026 the Parish of Panderpali conducted catechism classes for the children who were preparing to receive their First Holy Communion. Fathers, sisters, brothers, and catechists were involved in teaching the children. They learned prayers, Bible stories, and moral values. Faith formation was given to them, through which they came to know more about Jesus. **On 24th May 2026**, the Parish had a joyful celebration as 80 candidates received First Holy Communion.

The day began with Holy Mass, presided over by Fr. Kamil Tete. It was a very solemn celebration, with neighbouring priests and nuns joining the Mass, and many parishioners participating in the event.

With the consent of the Bishop of Rourkela, Panderpali Parish organized the Sacrament of Confirmation. Catechism classes were arranged for adults, including some elderly men and women, from 30th May to 6th June 2026. They received instruction in basic catechism, faith formation, and the teachings of the Church to strengthen their faith and deepen their vocation. They came to know the teachings of Jesus, learning to become true followers of Christ and faithful members of the Church by resisting the temptations of Satan.



On 7th June 2026, a solemn celebration was held in which 196 candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation during Mass presided over by Rt. Rev. Kishore Kumar Kujur Bishop of Rourkela Diocese. After Mass a felicitation program was organized, during which the Bishop was warmly welcomed by the parishioners. This marked a historic event for the parish, as many candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation. It shows that the Church is growing day by day in faith.

Pastoral Visit, Sacrament of Confirmation and Feast of the MSFS

St. Francis de Sales Church, Nanded witnessed a day of grace and joy on 24th January 2026 as the parish community celebrated a dual occasion: the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Patronal Feast of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. The celebration coincided with the pastoral visit of Rt. Rev. Bernard Lancy Pinto, Bishop of Aurangabad Diocese. The Parish Priest Fr. Philip Maleparambil MSFS warmly welcomed the main celebrant, the clergy, religious, and the faithful gathered for the celebration. He expressed gratitude to God for the gift of the MSFS Congregation and for the candidates who are now entering a new phase of Christian maturity.



The solemn Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Bishop Bernard Lancy Pinto. In his homily, he reminded the faithful that the Holy Spirit received at Confirmation is not for personal comfort alone, but for mission. They are called to live and witness the Gospel with the gentleness and zeal of St. Francis de Sales. He urged all to choose the “narrow gate” of faithfulness and service in today’s world. Four candidates — Catherine, Jessica, Harry Joseph, and Clawin received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit their role is to be true witnesses of Jesus Christ.



The candidates were prayerfully prepared for the sacrament by Fr. Anson MSFS. He conducted regular sessions and practices. The Missionaries of Charity Sisters conducted catechism classes, forming the children in faith and prayer. Fr. Ignathi MSFS assisted in arranging the programmes and coordinating the liturgy. Fr. Anand Kullu, MSFS, supported the smooth conduct of the entire event.

Priests, sisters, parishioners, relatives of the candidates, friends, and well-wishers were invited for this celebration. The liturgy was marked by devout participation, a melodious choir, and a deep sense of communion. The altar and church were beautifully decorated by the SJSM Sisters thus creating a prayerful atmosphere fitting for the feast. After Holy Mass, a short felicitation programme was held to honour the newly confirmed, the clergy, and all who contributed to the success of the celebration.

On behalf of the newly confirmed, Catherine delivered a thanksgiving speech. She expressed deep gratitude to Bishop Bernard Lancy Pinto for conferring the Sacrament of Confirmation and for his inspiring words. She thanked Fr. Philip Maleparambil, Fr. Anand Kullu, Fr. Anson, and Fr. Ignathi for their guidance, prayers, and support. She thanked the Missionaries of Charity Sisters for preparing them by conducting catechism classes and the SJSM Sisters for the beautiful decoration. She extended sincere thanks to all the relatives, friends, parishioners, and well-wishers who prayed for them and joined in the celebration. She concluded by asking for continued prayers that they may remain faithful to the gifts of the Holy Spirit and live as true witnesses of Christ.

In his message during the felicitation, Bishop Bernard Lancy Pinto thanked the MSFS Fathers for their dedicated service in the diocese and for fostering the spirit of St. Francis de Sales in Nanded. He expressed his appreciation to Fr. Philip Maleparambil and the parish team for the warm welcome and meticulous arrangements. He also thanked the Missionaries of Charity Sisters, SJSM Sisters, catechism teachers, the choir, altar servers, parishioners, relatives, and friends of the candidates for their active participation and prayerful presence.





He encouraged everyone to continue supporting the newly confirmed in their journey of faith.

The dual celebration became a powerful witness of faith for the parish community by renewing devotion to St. Francis de Sales, and by empowering the newly confirmed to live as Spirit-filled disciples in the Church and in society.

Miss Jessica
SFS Church, Nanded

Receiving Christ in the Sacraments

On 24th May 2026 the parishioners of St. Francis de Sales Church, Kandor were filled with immense joy as they were blessed abundantly by the grace of God. From among their members 81 were Baptised, 61 received the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ for the first time, and 36 received the Sacrament of Confirmation. We have come to realize that year after year God is pouring His grace upon human beings, especially the poor and needy. As priests we all need to grow in faith and love to bring the faithful closer to God, as we have committed ourselves to work in His vineyard

As a parish team we prepared them to receive the sacraments worthily. We assisted them to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They were also taught various prayers and were enlightened by sharing of reflections on the Word of God. We were really joyful to see how the faithful responded to the call of God to follow Him more sincerely in their daily lives.

The light of Christ has reached far and wide and the Good News of Christ has made the people of God to walk on the path that He has prepared for them. We hope and pray that walking together as a community of fervent believers we may glorify His name by our words and actions. We pray that we may Live Jesus to Give Jesus.

Fr. LAMBERT EKKA MSFS

Priestly Ordination of Fr. Febin Tom MSFS

The sacred and grace-filled celebration of the priestly ordination of Deacon Febin Tom MSFS was held on 13 April 2026, at St. Sebastian's Church, Vakkad, Kottayam, Kerala. The ordination was conferred by Rt. Rev. Mar Joseph Kallarangatt, Bishop of Palai Diocese. On the occasion of this celebration the atmosphere was filled with prayer, thanksgiving, and joy. Fr. Joseph Kailamangalam, Provincial Councillor, was the Provincial Delegate for the ordination.

The solemn celebration began with a graceful entrance procession, followed by the beautiful and meaningful rite of ordination. It is one of the most profound celebrations in the life of the Church and was conducted with great solemnity. Through the laying on of hands and the Prayer of Consecration, the Bishop ordained Deacon Febin Tom to the sacred priesthood. He was entrusted with the noble mission of proclaiming the Gospel, celebrating the Sacraments, and Shepherding God's people.



After the ordination rite Fr. Febin expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Bishop, his fellow priests, religious, family members, friends, benefactors, and all who had accompanied and supported him on his vocation journey to the altar of God. He then celebrated his First Holy Mass (Holy Qurbana), making the occasion even more memorable for all who gathered to witness this blessed milestone.

After the Holy Mass, the parish community organized a warm and joyful felicitation programme to honour the newly ordained priest. As the faithful humbly sought his priestly blessings they partook of one of the most touching moments of the day; it was the traditional kissing of the hands of the newly ordained priest. This beautiful gesture symbolized reverence for the hands consecrated to celebrate the Holy Mysteries and administer the Sacraments.



The celebration was attended by a large number of MSFS confreres, priests, religious, family members, parishioners, friends, and well-wishers. Their presence reflected the love, support and prayers they have for the newly ordained priest. The celebration concluded with a photo session, allowing family members, clergy, religious, and friends to capture joyful memories of the occasion. A fellowship meal was then served to all, fostering a spirit of communion, gratitude and celebration.



Two New Mozambican Priests For Mozambique Region

The Mozambique Region of Nagpur Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales had another beautiful and grace-filled occasion on 27 June 2026. On this day Deacons João Xavier Fernando and Zito Américo Muirelia were ordained priests. The solemn ordination took place at São Pedro Claver Parish, Dómuè, in the Diocese of Tete, by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Diamantino Guapo Antunes I.M.C., Bishop of Tete. São Pedro Claver Parish, Dómuè, is the home parish of Fr. João Xavier.

The celebration began at 9:00 a.m. with a solemn entrance procession, accompanied by the Bishop, concelebrating priests, acolytes, readers and dancers. The Holy Mass was celebrated in an open area and was attended by a large congregation of faithful. The celebration was also graced by the presence of local authorities, including the Head of the Municipal Council of Vila Ulongué, the representative of the Head of the Administrative Post, and the traditional king of the Nguni people.



In his homily, Bishop Diamantino expressed his gratitude for the missionary presence and service of the MSFS in the Diocese of Tete, especially through their ministry in the two parishes of Dómuè and Chipindu. He also publicly requested the Regional Superior to send one more priest, so that the vast parish of Chipindu may eventually be bifurcated for better pastoral care.



The Bishop also highlighted the social commitment of the Fransalians, especially in the field of education and the formation of children.

Reflecting on priestly vocation, the Bishop emphasized that a priest is called to serve the Church with total dedication and to offer himself as a living sacrifice in union with Christ. He invited the newly ordained priests to remain faithful, humble and generous in their ministry. Before the final blessing, the Bishop presented by name all the priests and religious sisters present for the celebration, mentioning their congregations and places of ministry. This gesture became a beautiful moment of vocation promotion and an expression of communion among the different religious and diocesan presence.





Altogether twelve MSFS priests and three Fransalian Lay Associates were present for the celebration. The ordination ceremony concluded with the cutting of the cake and a sumptuous lunch served in the preschool hall, where the faithful, guests, religious and clergy shared the joy of the day. With the ordination of Fr. João Xavier and Fr. Zito Américo, the number of Mozambican MSFS priest confreres has now risen to six. This is an occasion of great joy and thanksgiving for Mozambique Region, for Nagpur Province, and for the entire Fransalian family. May God bless the newly ordained priests and make them faithful shepherds after the heart of Christ.

First Profession at Dhyanashram Novitiate, Varanasi

On 31st May 2026 sixteen young men eight from Nagpur Province and eight from Pune Province made their first religious profession at Dhyanashram MSFS Novitiate, Varanasi. The theme was “Rooted in Christ, Radiating His Mission.” The solemn celebration began at 5:30 p.m., and religious from the Diocese of Varanasi and the faithful joined the Eucharist.



Rt. Rev. Eugene Joseph, Bishop of Varanasi, presided at the Mass. In his remarks and during the celebration, Bishop Eugene spoke about religious profession as a call to deeper communion with Christ and generous service to the Church, especially to the poor and marginalized. He encouraged the newly professed to live their consecration not as an escape from the world but as a committed presence in it, witnessing Christ’s love through simplicity and humility.

The homily was delivered by Fr. Johnson Gonsalves MSFS, Provincial Superior of Pune Province. Reflecting on the theme “Abide in me, and I in you,” he highlighted three aspects of the vine image: root, life, and fruit. He reminded the new professed that the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience are not just rules but means to remain rooted in Christ through prayer, community life, and the sacraments. After the homily the rite of profession took place, the sixteen brothers publicly pronounced their vows before the Provincial Superior and the faithful. The ceremony was heart touching and deeply moving.



In a warm felicitation, Fr. Manoj Tirkey MSFS, Provincial Superior of Nagpur Province, reflected on Matthew 14:30, the story of Peter walking on water. He used the passage to stress the importance of trust and vigilance, urging the brothers to keep their eyes on Christ amid life's storms. He assured them of the loving support of their provinces and invited everyone to continue accompanying the brothers with prayer and encouragement.

The novitiate community, led by Fr. Wilson Abraham, Novice Master, with Fr. Roshan Tigga MSFS (Socius) and Fr. Vinsent Minz, organized the event with careful attention to liturgical detail. Fathers from both Nagpur and Pune Provinces attended, showing the Congregation's interprovincial unity. After cutting the cake and a photo session, priests, religious, and others offered their best wishes and spiritual support to the newly professed. The celebration ended with a fellowship meal.



Fr. Sandeep Tirkey MSFS
Director of Novices

50 Years of Priestly Service

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which means, God with us.” (Mt 1:23)

On 18 April 2026 the MSFS community, along with the apostolic community members, and invited guests, gathered with joy in the quadrangle of Fransalian School of Excellence, Aurangabad, to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of priesthood of Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Vattamattam MSFS. Born on 15th March 1950 at Muthalakodam, Kerala, to Mathai and Aleykutty, and baptised at St. George Forane Church, he was named Emmanuel. “He is Emmanuel, why worry?” is a line many have heard him say. **If God is with us, who can be against us?** As given in Romans 8:31 has been his anchor for 50 years.

Raised in Neyyassery, St. Sebastian's Parish, as one of eight siblings, his call came early. After schooling at St. Sebastian U.P. School and St. Joseph H.S., Karimannoor, he joined Mount Mary Seminary, Arumanoor in 1966, then SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor. He made his First Profession on 4th May 1969 at Salesianum, Vizagapatnam. He studied Philosophy, 1969–1971, and Theology, 1973–1976, at Papal Seminary, Pune. His regency at St. Joseph Technical Institute, Nagpur, 1971–1973, shaped his dual vocation: building machines and character. He made his Perpetual Profession on 11th June 1975 at Fransalian Seminary, Pune, and was ordained on 15th May 1976 at Holy Family Church, Nazareth Hill, Kuravilangad, Diocese of Kothamangalam.

Like St. Paul the tentmaker, Fr. Emmanuel became a toolmaker, completing ITI training at Nagpur, 1976–1978, and a Polytechnic Diploma at Alleppey, 1983–1986. For 25 years he served as Principal at St. Joseph Technical Institute, Nagpur, 1986–1996, and at FTI, Aurangabad, 1996–2010, thus forming generations of skilled, upright young men. His ministry includes Parish Priest, Headmaster, Superior, and Manager. Known for cheerful discipline, he begins each day with an hour's walk at dawn and closes with half an hour at dusk. "Enoch walked with God, but Emmanuel makes sure he gets his 10,000 steps," say his community members.



The solemn Jubilee celebration began with the Thanksgiving Eucharist. The main celebrant Fr. Emmanuel, main concelebrants, Fr. Manoj Tirkey, Provincial Superior of Nagpur Province, Fr. Austin Vattamattam V.C, and two relatives lit the Golden Jubilee lamp. Present on this joyful occasion were 30 priests, 35 nuns, 14 family members, and 25 close friends of FTI. A meaningful homily was given by Fr. Manoj connecting the Word of God with the qualities of the jubilarian. The liturgy featured a melodious choir of the Holy Cross Sisters, and the stage and altar were also tastefully decorated by them.

At the felicitation program the Provincial, a community member, a relative, and a religious nun shared their thoughts on the jubilarian. The invitees then enjoyed a sumptuous dinner.

Fifty years of "Emmanuel for others" - from Muthalakodam to Nagpur, classroom to confessional, workshop to seminary. We thank God for this grace-filled journey. Praise the Lord.



Fr. Joseph Kailamangalam MSFS



Spiritual Animation for Teachers with a Fransalian Touch



With the dawn of the new academic year 2026-2027, a one-day Orientation cum Spiritual Animation was conducted for the teaching staff of three schools - SFS High School, Badnera, St Joseph's High School, Newasa, Little Flower High School, Aurangabad. Each school began with an inter-religious hymn of thanksgiving for God's wonderful creation and people, set to beautiful visuals and meaningful words.

Rooted in the core Fransalian vision of our Founder, Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier, the sessions were centered on the theme: "The heart of education is the education of the heart."



The animation invited teachers to pause and look beyond textbooks, timetables, exams and results. They were reminded that they are not merely transmitters of knowledge, but custodians of young hearts. In the spirit of Fr. Mermier, each teacher was called to see herself/himself as a "mother/father in the school"- one who nurtures, forms, forgives, and believes in every child entrusted to her/his care. Through reflections, Scripture, short film clips, shared dialogue, and personal experiences, the teachers explored the depth of their vocation. A key insight that touched many hearts was: If our students grow up to become teachers, engineers, doctors, pilots, lawyers, and scientists, the credit belongs to us. In the same measure, if they become criminals, the responsibility is ours too. This was not spoken to burden, but to awaken.

It called every educator to embrace the seriousness and sacredness of their mission - to form minds, but first to form hearts. "Love the children and make them feel that they are loved." said Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier. By the end of the day, there was a profound sense of renewal. The teachers expressed their gratitude for being reminded of the dignity of their calling. Many shared that they left the hall not just better prepared for the year, but more committed to teach with love, patience, kindness and faith. May this year be one where every classroom becomes a home, every lesson an act of love, and every teacher a true "mother/father of hearts" in the Fransalian tradition. "Education is not filling a vessel, but lighting a fire." May that fire burn bright in all our schools this year.

Fr. Joseph Kailamangalam MSFS
PCIC-Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries

Celebrating Faithful Service and New Beginnings



As many of you know, Archbishop Vazquez has assigned Fr. Kailas Hivale MSFS to serve at Epiphany of the Lord Parish beginning July 1. While we are saddened to see him leave, we are deeply grateful for the years he has spent serving the parish family of Saints Simon and Jude.

Fr. Kailas' journey to our parish has been remarkable. Raised in a small village in the Indian state of Maharashtra, he discovered his vocation at a young age after witnessing the dedication of religious sisters who had left everything behind to serve God. Inspired by their example, he joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and entered seminary formation.



Following his ordination, Fr. Kailas served in northern India and later spent several years ministering in Mozambique. His desire to continue serving in an English-speaking community eventually led him to the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and ultimately to Saints Simon and Jude.

Throughout his years here, Fr. Kailas has brought a global perspective to our parish while remaining deeply rooted in personal relationships and pastoral care. Parishioners have come to know him through his reverent celebration of the sacraments, his willingness to listen, and the kindness he showed to everyone he encountered. Whether celebrating Mass, visiting the sick, or offering words of encouragement after a parish event, Fr. Kailas has faithfully reflected Christ's love and reminded us of the universal nature of the Church.

We thank Fr. Kailas for his priestly witness and for the many ways he has enriched our parish family. While we will miss him greatly, we know that God has wonderful plans for him in this new assignment.



Thank you, Fr. Kailas. You will always have a home at Saints Simon and Jude!

Challenges and Growth of Ambad Mission

On 14th January 2026 our beloved Superior General Rev. Fr. Johnson K. who was on his Canonical Visitation to Jalna community, and Fr. Manoj Tirkey, our loving Provincial were joyfully welcomed to the mission of Ambad. He blessed the newly constructed Community Hall, Church and Priest's Residence. He interacted with the village people and requested them to give their support to Fr. John Ruptake who had come to reside in their midst, to assist them in the best possible way.

1st March 2026 was a red letter day for the mission of Ambad. On this day Fr. Manoj Tirkey, blessed the newly constructed Community Hall, Church and Priest's Residence. Also present on the occasion was Fr. Melroy Almeida along with the Jalna community members, sisters and teachers. Confreres from Aurangabad, Nanded, and Nagpur, the Jesuits from Gevrai, and friends and well-wishers. After the blessing the priests and sisters were felicitated by the people and they put up a short entertainment program. Then all were treated to a delicious lunch. In the evening there was a prayer service with the people of the village and all enjoyed some tasty snacks.



False Accusations: On 10th May 2026 at around 7.30 pm, just before Sunday mass, something unexpected happened. Some anti-Christian persons came to attack the Church and the resident priest. Since we had a whiff of some upcoming trouble the previous day, the people were informed and they took control of the situation, not allowing it to spin out of control. They dealt in their own way with the anti-social persons and chased them out of the village. In this intervention and protection of the people, I understood how God in His own way intervenes in our lives and protects us from the evil ones. After all, we are involved in His mission. The police were informed of the situation and till about 10.30 pm they made various inquiries but found nothing wrong in the work that I was doing.

Those so called RSS, Dharm Jagran and Bajrang Dal had made false allegations against me, accusing me of converting the people and the Church is built on Government land. To prove that these were false allegations all the relevant land papers were submitted to the police station as well as Panchayat Samiti, Ambad. So far I have not received any letter from the Government officials. Despite all clarifications given, still those anti-Christian persons have not stopped troubling me. On 12th June they filed an RTI application once again inquiring about the Church being built on Government land. I went to the Panchayat Samiti and submitted all the land papers. On examining the same they did not have any problem and the officer assured me that those people have no right to demolish the Church.

Our Good Work: The main focus is on educating the youth who have no skill training. Thus they can secure jobs, enhance the family income, and rise above the poverty line. Seven boys from the village will be completing their ITI training this year. They have been assured of jobs in the nearby factories. One girl will be finishing dress design course from ITI. Three girls will be completing their GNM and ANM courses in the coming year. This year one girl got admission for Diploma in Medical Lab Technician (DMLT). Children are being taught basic prayers and the response of the mass prayers. Their other spiritual needs are also taken care of. Students of various classes are given daily tuitions in various subjects. People have understood the value of education. Once or twice a month get-togethers are organized for the gents and ladies of the village. Talks are given to them on various helpful topics connected with their lives. Then some fancy games are held and the winners are given gifts. They are indeed very happy because never before did they get these types of opportunities.

Gratitude: I am indeed grateful to the Provincial Administration and the Jalna community members who give full support and financial help for my work with the people. I request your prayers for the good and growth of our work and activities for the good of the people. Under the protection of God's Providential care we go ahead with boldness, overcoming all obstacles and do what is pleasing to God and for the good of the people we are sent to serve. Live Jesus.

Fr. John Ruptake MSFS



Silver Jubilee Memorial Building Blessed and Inaugurated at Seraikella



The Seraikella mission witnessed a historic and grace-filled moment on **16 May 2026** with the blessing and inauguration of the Silver Jubilee Memorial Building, marking a significant milestone in the journey of the mission. The foundation stone for this noble venture had earlier been laid on 22 November 2024 by Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey MSFS, Provincial Superior of the Nagpur Province. Constructed as a residence for collaborators and as a teachers' hostel, the new building stands as a symbol of the mission's commitment to hospitality, collaboration, and educational ministry.

The thoughtfully designed structure will serve the growing needs of the mission and provide a conducive environment for those engaged in the apostolate of education and pastoral care.



The solemn inauguration ceremony was graced by Rt. Rev. Telesphore Bilung SVD, Bishop of Jamshedpur Diocese, who formally inaugurated the building. Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey MSFS blessed the new edifice, invoking God's abundant blessings upon all who would reside and serve there. A deeply spiritual highlight of the occasion was the Eucharistic celebration presided over by Bishop Telesphore Bilung SVD in the newly blessed chapel. During the celebration, the Bishop also blessed the tabernacle, dedicating the sacred space for prayer, worship, and spiritual nourishment.

In his message, Bishop Telesphore Bilung expressed his heartfelt appreciation to the MSFS Congregation, especially to Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey MSFS, for the remarkable educational and pastoral services rendered in the Diocese of Jamshedpur over the years. He warmly welcomed the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy to the Diocese and expressed his joy at their collaboration with the MSFS Fathers in the mission of Seraikella. The joyful gathering was further enriched by the gracious presence of Rev. Sr. Gitanjali Senapati, Provincial Superior of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy, Sr. Shubhashree, confreres from the Sini community, and the staff members of SFS School, Seraikella.

As the Seraikella mission celebrates twenty-five years of God's providence and guidance, the occasion became a moment of gratitude and remembrance for the dedicated services of the MSFS Fathers who have tirelessly laboured in the mission during these years. With hearts filled with thanksgiving, the community entrusted the future of the mission into the loving and protecting hands of God, praying that His blessings may continue to guide every endeavour in the years to come.

Fr. Albin Joseph MSFS

A Remarkable and Memorable Academic Year at Fransalian Technical Institute (2025–2026)

The 2025–2026 academic year at Fransalian Technical Institute (FTI) was marked by significant growth, infrastructure development, and community engagement. We remained committed to providing quality technical education while ensuring a vibrant campus life. We extend our deepest gratitude to the Fransalian community, our dedicated Principal Fr. Lalji, the staff, instructors, and the students who made this year a resounding success.

Academics and Industrial Exposure: Our technical training programs, particularly in the Fitter and Turner trades, continued to bridge the gap between academic learning and industry requirements, aligning perfectly with the "Make in India" initiative. To enhance practical, hands-on knowledge, FTI organized several vital industrial visits. Students gained real-world insights into plastic processing at CIPET, heavy vehicle maintenance at the S.T. Workshop, and advanced CNC operations and die-making at IGTR. Additionally, attending the 9th MASSIA Maha Expo allowed students to explore cutting-edge technologies across diverse manufacturing and automation sectors.

Skill Development Workshops: To further boost technical competence and employability, we hosted specialized training programs. The GTT Group conducted a forward-looking workshop on electric vehicles and battery technology. IGTR provided crucial hands-on training in CNC machine programming and precision manufacturing. Recognizing the importance of soft skills, the Unnati Foundation trained students in communication, personality development, resume writing, and interview techniques.



Campus Events and Infrastructure: A major highlight was the utilization of our newly constructed multi-purpose terrace shed, which provided a highly versatile shaded venue for campus gatherings. Most notably, it hosted our successful Parents' Day celebration, an event that strengthened the bond between the institution and our students' families. Honored guests, including Priests and Sisters were treated to a spectacular cultural program featuring dances, musical performances, and thought-provoking dramas that showcased our students' holistic development.

Sports and Community Engagement: Thanks to a generous donation of sport equipment from St. Francis de Sales School, Badnera; our Annual Sports Day was a tremendous success. Students displayed excellent sportsmanship in cricket, basketball, volleyball, badminton, and hockey. Throughout the year, FTI observed important days to foster social responsibility. The highlights included a W.H.O. Day health rally, powerful Anti-Tobacco campaign, and cleanliness drives for Gandhi Jayanti. A deeply moving initiative occurred on Anti-Leprosy Day, when students visited the Missionaries of Charity in Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar, offering food, comfort, and compassion to the residents. We also proudly celebrated our heritage and national pride through Independence Day, Hindi Diwas, and Marathi Bhasha Diwas.

Conclusion: The 2025–2026 academic year was a journey of shared success. Enhanced facilities and student-focused programs created a supportive environment where learners excelled academically, socially, and personally. Through the combination of quality education, practical exposure, and the constant support of our Principal and instructors, FTI is proud for its mission of shaping responsible, skilled, and confident youth.

Sushil S Brahmane (F.T.I. Instructor)

The Journey Beyond the Horizon: A Fransalian at IIT Madras

Some journeys begin with ambition; mine began with healing.

When I entered the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, I carried a heart burdened with uncertainty, fear, and fragile hope. The doctoral path appeared daunting, yet grace quietly transformed every challenge into an opportunity for growth. A defining moment came when I was awarded the prestigious IIE Fellowship to spend six months as a visiting researcher at TU Darmstadt, Germany. Living with a chronic respiratory condition, I feared the European winter and almost declined the opportunity. Yet what I anticipated as an ordeal became a blessing. In Germany's crisp winter air, I experienced the simple miracle of breathing freely and sleeping peacefully without medically induced steroids. It was a season not only of academic discovery but also of personal restoration.



My research flourished through a joint-supervision programme as my supervisors encouraged me to explore uncharted philosophical terrain. I remain deeply grateful for the stimulating discussions at the Über-Seminar of the University of Duisburg-Essen, especially with Professor Andreas, whose insights enriched my work. This intellectual journey culminated in the privilege of presenting my research before distinguished philosophers at the World Congress of Philosophy in Rome.



Behind every academic milestone stood an even deeper source of strength: faith and community. I thank the Almighty, whose providence guided every step of this pilgrimage. My heartfelt gratitude goes to my supervisors, Doctoral Committee, colleagues, and confrères in Germany for their unwavering encouragement. At IIT Madras, the Genesis Catholic Community became my spiritual home; the daily celebration of the Holy Mass renewed my strength amid the demands of research. I am deeply indebted to Rev. Fr. Provincial, the Regional Superior of Mozambique, and their councils, whose constant prayers and support made this journey possible. Thanks to all the confreres in being part of this journey in one way or the other.

On 24 June 2026, exactly four years after completing my comprehensive examinations, I successfully defended my doctoral dissertation: *Otherwise than Shared Common: The Paradoxical Intertwining of Ethics and Politics in the Traces of Community in Levinas*.

As one chapter closes, another begins. With gratitude in my heart and hope on the horizon, I embrace the future, inspired by Robert Frost's timeless words: "The woods are lovely, dark and deep, but I have promises to keep, and miles to go before I sleep."

Fr. Anto Varghese MSFS

A NEW MISSION OF THE MSFS IN IRELAND

The first mission of the MSFS Congregation in Ireland under the auspices of the Nagpur Province was established on 31 March 2026 in the Diocese of Waterford and Lismore, marking a significant milestone in the Province's missionary history. The Congregation had previously maintained a pastoral presence in Ireland through the English Province. Fr. Martin Griffin MSFS, served as Chaplain at Nazareth House, Dublin, until 2016, followed by Fr. Sean Fleury MSFS, who continued this ministry until his death in 2021. Since 2023, Fr. Issac John MSFS, has been serving as Chaplain at the International Eucharistic and Marian Shrine at Knock while pursuing his doctoral studies in Rome. The establishment of this new mission is a moment of thanksgiving as the missionary charism of the Congregation takes deeper root in Ireland. The Nagpur Province has identified three principal pastoral priorities for the mission: the formation and accompaniment of families; the preaching of Silent inner-healing, growth, and Eucharistic renewal retreats, together with parish preaching missions; and the promotion of the Divine Mercy devotion. To date, six silent inner healing retreats have already been conducted at Knock, and preparations are underway for an extensive programme of parish mission preaching in 2027.





The present assignment is at Holy Cross Parish, Tramore, a picturesque coastal parish in County Waterford. The ministry includes pastoral care in four churches during the week and assistance in six additional churches for the Saturday Vigil and Sunday Eucharistic celebrations. The shortage of priests in this region presents both challenges and opportunities. Through this mission, the MSFS Congregation seeks to proclaim the Word of God, strengthen families, conduct retreats and parish missions, and spread the message of Divine Mercy with renewed zeal. We pray that this new mission will bear abundant spiritual fruit for the Church in Ireland and for the Congregation. With the establishment of the new MSFS religious community and the arrival of the second missionary, Fr. Lalji Pattathil MSFS, the mission enters a new phase of growth and commitment, strengthening the Congregation's presence and service to the local Church.

Fr. Issac John MSFS

CORRELATION BETWEEN AI USAGE AND CRITICAL THINKING AMONG THE INDIAN METROPOLITAN YOUTH

ABSTRACT

Artificial Intelligence (AI) has emerged as a transformative force in higher education, reshaping how students access, process, and apply knowledge. This study examines the relationship between AI usage and critical thinking among Indian metropolitan youth. Drawing on existing literature and Cognitive Load Theory, it explores whether AI functions as a catalyst for intellectual growth or a source of cognitive dependency.



The findings suggest that AI tools such as ChatGPT and Gemini can enhance critical thinking by providing immediate feedback, diverse perspectives, and personalized learning support. However, these benefits are realized only when students engage with AI critically and reflectively. Excessive reliance on AI may encourage cognitive offloading, weaken independent reasoning, and reduce analytical engagement. The study concludes that AI should complement rather than replace human cognition. Educational institutions must promote AI literacy, ethical use, and critical evaluation skills to ensure that technology strengthens intellectual autonomy and informed decision-making.

Keywords: Artificial Intelligence, Critical Thinking, Higher Education, Cognitive Development, AI Literacy.

INTRODUCTION

The rapid integration of Artificial Intelligence into education has transformed traditional learning environments. AI-powered platforms now assist students in research, writing, problem-solving, and content creation, offering unprecedented access to information and personalized support. For Indian metropolitan youth, who are highly connected to digital technologies, AI has become an integral part of academic life.



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While AI enhances efficiency and learning opportunities, it also raises concerns about declining independent thought and overreliance on automated solutions. Critical thinking—the ability to analyse, evaluate, and make reasoned judgments—remains essential for academic success and lifelong learning. As AI becomes increasingly embedded in educational practices, understanding its influence on these cognitive abilities is crucial.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Research indicates that AI can positively influence learning by providing personalized feedback, adaptive learning experiences, and access to diverse sources of information. Students who use AI as a learning aid often demonstrate improved analytical and problem-solving skills. However, scholars caution that excessive dependence on AI may lead to cognitive offloading, where learners outsource intellectual effort to technology.

Critical thinking involves interpretation, analysis, evaluation, inference, and self-regulation. AI can support these processes by exposing students to multiple viewpoints and facilitating deeper exploration of complex topics. Yet, the quality of these outcomes depends on the learner's willingness to question, verify, and reflect upon AI-generated information. Without such engagement, AI risks becoming a substitute for independent reasoning rather than a tool that enhances it.

Current research therefore emphasizes the importance of AI literacy, metacognitive awareness, and epistemic vigilance. Students who critically evaluate AI outputs are more likely to benefit from the technology, while those who accept information uncritically may experience reduced cognitive engagement and originality.

CONCLUSION

The relationship between AI usage and critical thinking is shaped not by the technology itself but by how it is used. AI has the potential to strengthen learning, creativity, and analytical reasoning when employed as a cognitive support system. However, overdependence can diminish independent inquiry and critical reflection.

For Indian metropolitan youth, the challenge lies in balancing technological convenience with intellectual responsibility. Educational institutions must foster AI literacy, ethical awareness, and critical evaluation skills to ensure that students remain active thinkers rather than passive consumers of AI-generated knowledge. Ultimately, the future of education depends on creating a productive partnership between human intelligence and artificial intelligence, where technology enhances learning while preserving the central role of human judgment, creativity, and critical thought.

Fr. Santhosh Kumar MSFS



PILGRIMAGE TO ANNECY

Human beings are always curious to know and see new things. People travel from one place to another for various purposes. Some travel for business, some travel to see new places, some travel for education, and some travel to know and learn, and understand things better. There are many advantages of travelling from one place to another place as travelling broadens our mind. We see new places and meet new people. We learn about cultures, customs and traditions of the people. We make new friends, visit historical places and see things with our own eyes.

My first experience of flying to Europe was a memorable, fruitful and enriching one. We were seven of us who participated in De Sales and Mermier Heritage Retreat (DSMHR) which started on 25th May 2026 and ended on 31st May 2026. I had the opportunity to visit France where our Patron St Francis de Sales was born, grew up, died and became a Saint.



It was the opportunity to express my personal devotion to St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal at the Visitation Basilica in Annecy. It was a great experience in spending time at the birth place of our Founder Fr. Peter Mary Mermier. Travelling with six confreres from different Indian Provinces was a pleasant experience. We had a lot of interaction and spent an enriching time-together.

We were guided by Fr. Samuel Devaraj MSFS, the Provincial Superior of Franco-Swiss Province and Fr. A. Stephen Metha MSFS. The retreat preachers presented in brief the Life and Spirituality of our Patron and Founder and focussed on “SFS Meditation: A Deliberate Choice of the Devout Life”. It was a wonderful and enriching experience. Visiting the birth place of SFS, the place where he was baptised and the places where he preached, etc. strengthened my conviction of being a Missionary of St. Francis de Sales and my belongingness to the Congregation. We have also had the good fortune to visit Switzerland, Lourdes. and Paris. In Rome we visited various places - St. John Mary Vianney, St. Peter’s Basilica and St. John the Evangelist Church; the Catacombs where 45000 Christians and Bishops who were persecuted are buried.

My sincere thanks to Fr. Manoj Tirkey, the Provincial for sending me for this programme. I am grateful to all our confreres especially Fr. Jose Karickal (General Bursar), Fr. Hepuni John (Bursar, Franco -Swiss Province), and all those who assisted us, and for their kind hospitality. Special thanks to the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy for our accommodation and food in Anency. Fr. William (General Secretary) and Fr. Saji George (Assistant General) who made all the arrangements for our stay in Rome. On 15th June we flew back to India.

Fr. Kulandai Raj MSFS

Report of Local Bursars Meeting

The Local Bursars Meeting was held on 6th and 7th June 2026. It commenced with a warm welcome and an inspiring introduction by Fr. Manoj Tirkey, Provincial Superior. He encouraged all the participants by his motivating address. His words inspired everyone to actively participate and make the best use of the meeting. Although only 10 members were able to attend, as others could not come due to personal reasons, the meeting proved to be highly fruitful and successful. The main purpose of the meeting was to train the local bursars in maintaining accounts efficiently, especially through the use of Tally Software and Microsoft Excel. By the end of the sessions, all participants had gained valuable knowledge and practical skills in maintaining the accounts using Tally.



The resource person for the meeting was Fr. Wilson MSFS, who organized the entire session in a very systematic and effective manner. He explained the concept and importance of Tally in great detail, making it easy for everyone to understand. He also taught the participants how to use Excel effectively, demonstrating how many accounting tasks can be completed more easily and accurately through Excel files.



The first session on the first day was mainly theoretical. Fr. Wilson provided a clear explanation of accounting principles, Tally software, and Excel operations. The second session, as well as the entire second day, was fully dedicated to practical training. The practical sessions were conducted at SJTI Complex, where participants received hands-on experience in using the software. On the second day, test and audit exercises were conducted to evaluate the participants' understanding and practical skills. All the participants performed well and successfully completed the test, showing that they had understood the lessons thoroughly.

At the end of the meeting, Fr. Sainjin proposed the vote of thanks. He expressed gratitude to Fr. Provincial Superior, Fr. Wilson, and all the participants for their presence, guidance, and active participation. The meeting was concluded successfully, leaving everyone enriched with new knowledge and practical skills for their present and future responsibilities.

Fr. Amrit Lakra MSFS



Society Secretaries' Meeting

The meeting of the Society Secretaries began at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Hall with a short prayer led by Fr. Bijay Kerketta, MSFS. This was followed by the welcome address delivered by Fr. Sylvester Xalxo, MSFS, who warmly welcomed the resource person, Dr. Vilas Shende, and Fr. Manoj Tirkey, MSFS. As a gesture of appreciation flower bouquets were presented the dignitaries.

The morning session consisted of two presentations: the first from 9:15 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., followed by the second from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Both sessions were conducted by Dr. Vilas Shende, who delivered well-organized, informative, and thoroughly prepared presentations. His insightful inputs on the subject were highly appreciated by all the participants. At the conclusion of the sessions, ample time was provided for clarification of doubts and an interactive question-and-answer session.

The morning programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Fr. Anson Kaliyath, MSFS, who expressed sincere gratitude to Dr. Vilas Shende for his enriching sessions and thanked all the participants for their active presence and participation.



The afternoon session began at 3:00 p.m. and was conducted by Fr. Wilson, MSFS, on the topic “Institutional Stewardship and Legal Compliance.” Through a well-prepared PowerPoint presentation, he clearly explained the importance of responsible institutional administration, legal compliance, and stewardship.

At the end of the afternoon session, Fr. Manoj Tirkey, MSFS, Provincial Superior expressed his heartfelt appreciation to Fr. Wilson, MSFS, for his excellent presentation and insightful guidance. He also thanked all the Society Secretaries for their participation and encouraged everyone to be responsible and committed stewards in carrying out their respective responsibilities.

The meeting concluded with a short prayer, marking the successful completion of a fruitful day of learning, interaction, and reflection.

Fr. Bimal Tirkey MSFS

ORIENTATION PROGRAMME FOR REGENTS



Nagpur Province had an orientation programme on 1st and 2nd April at the Provincialate for the brothers who were going to start their Regency. This programme mainly focused on providing orientations about how to be an effective, useful and good regent. There were six sessions, three sessions per day.

Day 1:

The first two sessions were taken by Fr. Agnelo Fernandes. He shared about the meaning of Regency, and what objectives we should have during our Regency. He told us that this is the time for practical experience of pastoral and missionary life. It helps us to be confident in the future. After that he spoke about how to develop the skill of communication especially with superiors, strangers and guests. The attitude we should have during our communication with others. He said that Regency is the time for checking the pastoral and missionary reflexes of a person. We should have a deep passion for Christ and for his mission and develop our affection for Salesian spirituality.

The third session was taken by Fr. Yesudas. He shared three things about community living - how much do we know about the other, placing our trust in the other and loving the other. He said that we are under formation while living in community. To inspire us more he shared about his experience in the Mozambique Mission.

Day 2:

The first session was taken by Fr. Navin Tete. He spoke about discernment between good and bad. He said the word Regent comes from the Latin word Regere, meaning to govern or rule. He also shared about his experience of priestly life. The last two sessions were taken by the Provincial. He spoke about maturity. It is not to speak about big things but about how we are able to understand small things. He made us to understand that Regency is the best time to grow in human maturity. Finally he gave us ten points about how to be an effective and responsible person during our Regency.

After lunch each of us personally met the Provincial. He told us the places where we have been appointed for Regency. In the evening some of us left for our home holidays and the others left on the following day.

Bro. Pawan Xess MSFS



SFS School, Khamgaon: A New Chapter of Growth and Excellence

A New Milestone in Our Journey of Excellence

We are delighted to share the joy of the inauguration of the new School Ground Wing at SFS School, Khamgaon. The auspicious ceremony was graciously led by our Provincial, Rev. Fr. Manoj Turkey, in the esteemed presence of our Manager, Rev. Fr. Shantwan, Principal, Rev. Fr. Anson, and Rev. Fr. Anup Pillai.

The ceremony was attended by the teaching staff and students, making it a joyful and memorable occasion for the entire school community. This new addition reflects our commitment to providing better facilities and a holistic learning environment for our students.



Growing Together

SFS School, Khamgaon, continues to progress steadily. We are happy to share that our student strength has increased from 78 to 120. This encouraging growth is a testament to the trust placed in us by parents and the unwavering dedication of our school family.

We firmly believe that hard work, perseverance, and faith always bear fruit, and we remain committed to moving forward with renewed enthusiasm.

Investing in Quality Education

At SFS School, our mission is to provide quality education that nurtures both academic excellence and character formation. To strengthen our teaching standards, we have initiated Spoken English training classes for our teachers. This professional development programme aims to enhance their communication skills, enabling them to become confident educators and true beacons of hope and inspiration for every student entrusted to our care.

Together, we strive to build a learning community where every child is empowered to dream, learn, and succeed.



Looking Ahead

With God's blessings and the continued support of staff, parents, and students, SFS School, Khamgaon, looks forward to achieving even greater milestones in the years ahead.

"Together We Grow, Together We Excel."



Fr. Anup Pillai MSFS

Congratulations and Prayerful Wishes to the new Provincial of the Visakhapatnam Province



We joyfully congratulate Rev. Fr. Jaddu Joseph, MSFS on his appointment as the next Provincial Superior of the Visakhapatnam Province.

May the Lord bless him abundantly with wisdom, strength, and good health as he assumes this new responsibility. We assure him of our prayers and fraternal support in his ministry.

Yours Fraternally in Christ

Fr. Manoj Tirkey MSFS
Provincial Superior
Nagpur Province

**"DO NOT WISH TO BE ANYTHING BUT WHAT
YOU ARE, AND TRY TO BE THAT PERFECTLY."**

St. Francis de Sales