



NAGPUR PROVINCE

CIRCULAR

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

TO ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE PROVINCE

MT - 27 2025

30/11/2025

HOPE

PEACE

JOY

LOVE



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FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

“THE LORD IS NEAR. LET US PREPARE OUR HEARTS TO RECEIVE HIM.”

ST. CHARLES BORROMEO

DEAR CONFRERES,

As we enter the sacred season of Advent, the Church calls us once again into a time of grace-filled preparation. Advent is not merely the prelude to Christmas but a spiritual journey of expectation, awakening, and renewal. Through the liturgy and teachings of the Church, we are invited to wait in hope, watch with attentive hearts, and prepare for the coming of the Lord—who has come in history, comes daily in mystery, and will come again in glory.



This season opens before us a gentle yet powerful invitation to interior transformation. St. Francis de Sales reminds us that “true progress is made when the heart turns fully toward God.” Advent is precisely such a moment—a time to reorient our lives, to slow down, and to allow God’s quiet presence to shape our thoughts, desires, and choices. It calls us to spiritual vigilance, heartfelt repentance, and renewed commitment to prayer, charity, and communion with God.

The saints guide us on this journey. St. Bernard describes the threefold coming of Christ—past, present, and future—helping us recognize that Advent is not passive waiting but active engagement with God’s ongoing work in our lives. Pope Benedict XVI emphasizes that Advent is “the season of presence and expectation,” drawing our attention to the nearness of God who walks with us even when unnoticed. These insights remind us that the deepest longing of the human heart is fulfilled only in Christ.

For us as MSFS confreres, Advent becomes a privileged opportunity to deepen our relationship with God, which is the foundation of all authentic missionary service. Our Founder invites us to cultivate gentleness, humility, and a heart attuned to God’s will. When we embrace Advent with sincerity, our ministries become more Christ-centred, our communities more fraternal, and our witness more credible.

As we journey through these weeks of holy anticipation, may we allow the Lord to renew our hearts and rekindle our missionary zeal. Let our communities be places of prayer, hope, and spiritual freshness. May this Advent lead us to a joyful and transformative encounter with the Lord who comes to make all things new. And as we prepare to celebrate His birth, may Christ find in each of us a heart ready, welcoming, and radiant with His light.

**"Advent is a journey
towards Bethlehem.
May we let ourselves be drawn
by the light of God made man."**

Pope Francis

CANONICAL VISITATION TO THE MOZAMBIQUE REGION – 2025



Ever since assuming office on 15 August 2023, I desired to visit our Mozambique Mission. After unavoidable delays, 2025 became a providential moment, coinciding with the Silver Jubilee of MSFS presence in Mozambique and the elevation of the Delegation into a Region on 29 June 2025. With gratitude and missionary enthusiasm, I undertook this canonical visitation to strengthen our confreres and to understand the pastoral realities of this growing mission. The first phase of the visitation took place from 28 September to 11 October 2025, during which I visited and stayed in the communities of Lar Mermier, Katembe, Bela Vista and Ponto do Ouro. On 30 September, as marked for the Fransalians as the Founder, Rev. Fr. Henry Nedumkallel MSFS was installed as the first Regional Superior in the presence of His Excellency Luis Miguel, the Apostolic Nuncio to Mozambique. The Fransalian Associates for the Region were also installed on this occasion.

The second phase of the visitation, from 8 to 25 November 2025, began with my participation in the First Regional Assembly held from 7 to 10 November. From 11 to 24 November, the visitation continued in the remaining communities. A significant moment of this phase was the closing celebration of the Silver Jubilee of MSFS presence in Mozambique on 16 November, graced by Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS, our Superior General, Rev. Fr. James Panthalanickel MSFS, Provincial of Tanzania, many MSFS confreres, clergy, religious and benefactors. Despite challenging weather, the faithful participated in large numbers. Before the Jubilee Mass, the new Minor Seminary at Ka Ellisa was blessed by His Excellency Luis Miguel the Apostolic Nuncio to Mozambique and inaugurated by the Superior General and myself, marking an important step in nurturing local vocations.



Following the Jubilee, I travelled with Fr. James Panthalanickel and Fr. Sebastian Annaikandathil to Northern Mozambique, visiting the missions in Muliquela, Domue and Chipendo. The long and difficult journey revealed the stark realities faced by the people: inadequate infrastructure, limited healthcare and education, poverty and isolation. Yet, amid these challenges, our confreres serve with commendable dedication and simplicity, living the spirit of our Founder, Fr. Peter Mermier, who said, “I want missions.”



This visitation was spiritually enriching and reaffirmed our commitment to accompany this mission with greater attention and support. I express my deep appreciation to all our confreres who continue to serve with zeal in demanding contexts. Trusting in the Lord’s promise, “I am with you always” (Mt 28:20), we look to the future of the Mozambique Region with hope. May St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Peter Mermier continue to guide and bless this mission in its journey forward.

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

PROVINCE SECOND ANNUAL RETREAT & CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMME

The Province held its Second Annual Retreat and Capacity-Building Programme from 16th to 22nd October 2025, a week marked by renewal, fraternity, and spiritual enrichment.



The programme began on 16 October with the Capacity-Building sessions animated by Fr. Sebastian, OFM. Over two days, he led five insightful sessions addressing the psycho-spiritual and pastoral challenges faced by clergy today. The themes included silent struggles such as depression, addictions, and midlife crisis; loneliness in ministry; burnout and healthy living; crisis of identity; and contemporary challenges related to relationships, spiritual dryness, criticism, financial transparency, and adapting to social and technological changes. The enriching discussions concluded on 17 October with lunch.

The Annual Retreat commenced on the evening of 17 October with an introductory talk by Fr. Justus Paul OP, who guided the confreres in days of deep reflection, prayer, and spiritual renewal. A meaningful moment of the retreat was on 21 October, when all the fathers visited the cemetery to pray for the departed confreres, honouring their memory with gratitude.



The week-long spiritual journey came to a close on 22 October with a concluding lunch, leaving the participants refreshed and strengthened in their commitment to their vocation and ministry.

MSFS INTER-PROVINCE DEBATE AND QUIZ COMPETITION

The MSFS Inter-Province Debate and Quiz Competition was organized by St. Francis de Sales, Sr. Sec. School, Janakpuri, New Delhi. It was an honour to host this grand national-level event on October 6, 2025.



The event witnessed participation from seven Provinces across India (Guwahati, Dibrugarh, Visakhapatnam, Pune, South-West, South-East, and Nagpur). The event was graced by esteemed guests, Rev. Dr. Maria Charles SDB, National Secretary for the Office for Education and Culture and Executive Body Member of the International Office for Catholic Education, Rome. He was joined by Rev. Fr. Allan Gonsalves, Councillor In charge of Education, Nagpur Province, and Rev. Fr. Saiju Thomas, Principal of SFS Sr. Sec. School, Delhi.

The program began with a Guard of Honour by the NCC Cadets, followed by the Lighting of the Lamp and a Prayer Dance. Mr. Yacob P. C., senior teacher at SFS Delhi, delivered the welcome address, after which the Chief Guest shared his inspiring thoughts.

The Debate Competition on the topic **YOUR ROOT DETERMINES YOUR ROUTE** was judged by eminent personalities like Ms. Lucy Kurian, a retired teacher, Mr. R. Prasannan, a journalist from Malayala Manorama and Col. Navneet Kotnala, an ex-student of SFS, Delhi. Six teams of three students each from across India showcased their argumentative skills.

The prize for the Best Speaker for the motion was bagged by Evana Rohington Kaka of SFS School, Nallaspora East, Pune Province. Against the motion the Best Speaker prize was bagged by Arihant Mukherjee of SFS, Delhi, Nagpur Province. Shreya Anoop of SFS High School, Bengaluru, of South West India Province was judged as the Best Interjector. SFS, Delhi secured the Best Debating Team Prize.

The Quiz Competition featured seven teams of two students each, testing their knowledge and quick thinking. The quiz was conducted by the well-known quiz master from Tamil Nadu, Mr. Surya Narayanan. In the Inter-Provinces Quiz SFS Matriculation Hr. Sec. School, Pudukkottai, South East India Province, represented by Charuhasini V R and Vijay Athithyan were the winners.

Considering the overall performance in Quiz and Debate, the Best Province Award was backed by South-East India Province. A total of over two lakh rupees was given in cash prizes, apart from trophies and certificates. All the priests and teachers who had accompanied the competing teams were felicitated with a token of appreciation.

To add colour to the competition, few dances and music performances were also staged. The competition concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Fr. Allan, the Councillor of Education, Nagpur Province.



CELEBRATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE



Peace is not only a noble vision for humanity; it is a call to action. Each of us can heal divisions and embrace peace and understanding. We can call on our families, neighbours, friends, and communities to do the same. In today's divided world, our clarion call for peace should echo louder than ever.

There are many ways to speak up for peace, and everyone, starting with children, can be part of the conversation. One effective way to raise awareness among growing children is by providing them with platforms and opportunities to unite with everyone, irrespective of caste, creed, colour, or religion.



The International Day of Peace is celebrated annually on September 21st. Various programs to promote peace and harmony are organized around the world on this day. On behalf of the SAIM Apostolate in our Province, all the schools in our Province were invited and encouraged to mark the day by taking part in various activities. Some of our schools were very enthusiastic about participating and making the event a successful one.

The proposed activities were as follows:

- **Peace Poster Competition:** Students could create posters reflecting their vision of peace and a harmonious society.
- **Interfaith Dialogue Session:** Encourage students to engage in meaningful conversations about different faiths and cultures to promote understanding.
- **Peace March/Solidarity Walk:** Organize a short walk within the school campus with banners and signs carrying messages of peace.
- **Creative Writing:** Students could write essays, poems, or stories on the theme of peace and conflict resolution.
- **Collaborative Art Project:** Work with students to create a "Peace Mural" that represents the coming together of different communities/religions.



Five of our schools participated in the Essay Writing and Drawing competitions, which were conducted separately for junior and senior categories. The best entries were received and thoroughly evaluated and judged by three teachers from three different schools in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar. In both categories, participants from all the schools received cash prizes for first and second positions, as well as Certificates of Appreciation for their efforts. All students who participated from all the schools were given a Certificate of Participation.

Around 80 students' entries were selected and sent to us from the five participating schools. More than 100 students participated in the competitions. These students may have likely discussed the competition topic with their parents. The students too irrespective of caste, creed colour and religion must have had discussions and received suggestions. Hence, the dialogue promoting peace certainly would have been a topic of discussion in the classrooms, schools and families for some time. All the received entries will be displayed for exhibition in the schools when we give them inputs for creating an atmosphere for promoting peace and harmony. This demonstrates how schools can effectively create platforms for meaningful dialogue promoting peace and harmony.



Fr. Joseph Kailamangalam MSFS

RADIANCE 2K25 – REFLECTING GRACE, GRATITUDE AND GROWTH

St. Francis de Sales School, Seraikella, celebrated its 25th Silver Jubilee with great fervor and enthusiasm, marking a milestone in its journey of providing quality education and holistic development to its students. The theme for this momentous occasion was "Radiance 2K25", Reflecting Grace, Gratitude and Growth, and the event lived up to its promise of showcasing the talents and spirit of the school community. One of the highlights of the celebration was a captivating dance skit presented by the students, depicting the flight experience of life and the lessons learned along the way, depicting the experiences of life, replete with its trials and triumphs. The performance was met with thunderous applause and cheers from the audience, comprising distinguished guests, parents, benefactors and well-wishers.



The Chief Guest, **Rev. Dr. Telesphore Bilung SVD**, the Bishop of Jamshedpur Diocese and the Guest of Honor, **Rev. Fr. K.V. Joseph**, graced the occasion and addressed the gathering, lauding the school's achievements and inspiring the students to strive for excellence. The event was a testament to the school's commitment to excellence and its dedication to nurturing young minds.

The school had the distinct honour of welcoming several of its former Managers, Principals, Vice Principals, and Administrators, whose presence added immense grace to the occasion. We were privileged to have with us Fr. Philip Maleparambil, Fr. Anil George, Fr. Anthony Amaladoss, Fr. Deepak Kindo, and Fr. Peter Kujur, along with many of our confreres from the Odisha and Jharkhand Apostolic Communities. The religious from neighbouring communities and schools also blessed the occasion with their presence. Their participation not only enriched the celebration but also reaffirmed the deep bonds of commitment, service, and fraternity that have shaped the legacy of our institution.



The presence of numerous past students and faculty members added a touching nostalgic dimension to the celebration. The occasion also honored the Std 10 toppers, recognizing their outstanding academic accomplishments. The celebration was attended by parents who showed their appreciation and support for the school, making it a truly memorable day for all. The Silver Jubilee celebration was a grand success, thanks to the tireless efforts of teachers, and students, and will be etched in the memories of all who attended. The grand finale, marked by the rendition of the national anthem, brought the curtains down on a truly memorable event, leaving all in attendance with a profound sense of pride and unity.

INFORMATION



Midterm Assembly Update:

Due to unavoidable circumstances, the Midterm Assembly has been rescheduled to **August 2026**. The exact date will be communicated in due course. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation.



The Visitation of the Superior General

The visitation of the Superior General to all the communities in the Province will take place from **2 January to 10 February 2026**.



Bro. **Abul Baliarsingh** studying in Suvidya College has left the Congregation. We wish him God's blessings and best wishes for his future.

OBITUARY



Bro. Joseph Pindipuzha MSFS, 73 years, of South West India Province, passed away on 05th November 2025.



Mrs. Felicia Afonso, 94 years, the aunt of Fr. Benedict De Souza, passed away on 12th November 2025.



Fr. John Vadakkamparambil MSFS, 73 years, of Visakhapatnam Province, passed away on 13th November 2025.



Fr. Jose Bruno Valentino Juliano Rodrigues MSFS, 93 years, of Brazil Province, passed away on 20th November 2025

SALESIAN THOUGHT

"ACCEPT WILLINGLY WHAT IS OFFERED TO YOU
AND
ASK NOTHING THAT ONE DOES NOT WANT TO GIVE YOU"

St. Francis de Sales

Yours Fraternally in Christ

Fr. Manoj Tirkey MSFS
Provincial Superior
Nagpur Province
Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales