



Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales

NAGPUR PROVINCE

CIRCULAR

To all the members of the Province

MT-20 2025

20th May 2025

From the office of the Provincial



Dear Confreres,

Greetings of peace and joy to each of you in this special month of May – the month dedicated to our Heavenly Mother, Mary!

At the outset, I wish to place on record my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all of you who have accepted the transfers and appointments announced recently with wholehearted willingness, docility of heart, and a true spirit of obedience. Your readiness to respond to the needs of the Province, Congregation, and the Church, often with personal sacrifice, is a visible sign of your deep commitment to your religious vocation and missionary calling.

As we honour and reflect on Mother Mary during this month, we are reminded of her profound response to God's call: **"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38)**. Mary's fiat was not just a one-time "yes," but a lifelong surrender to the divine will, even in uncertainty, hardship, and sorrow. Her availability to God's plan, her silent strength, and unwavering trust serve as a model for us, religious and missionaries. In accepting your appointments, you too have said a generous yes to God. Like Mary, may we continue to walk in faith, serve in humility, and trust in God's providence, wherever we are placed.

St. Francis de Sales reminds us, **"God requires a faithful heart more than great deeds."** Let us remember that what matters most is not where we serve, but how we serve – with love, gentleness, and perseverance. Our beloved Founder, Fr. Peter Mermier, also exhorted us, **"The Missionary must be ready for any work, at any time, and in any place."** This spirit of availability and detachment is what gives strength and meaning to our obedience. When we embrace changes with openness, we allow God to lead us beyond ourselves.

I take this opportunity to wish all our confreres a fruitful and fulfilling ministry as they move to their new places of assignment. May the Spirit of the Risen Lord empower us, and may Mother Mary accompany us in our ministry and mission. Inspired by our Founder and Patron, let us journey forward in faith, fraternity, and fidelity. Let us continue to **Live Jesus, Love Jesus, and Give Jesus** in season and out of season.



MSFS PROVINCIALATE
23,24 Residency Road, Sadar, Nagpur 440001
Ph: +91 9050589925, +91 9448463781



provincialnagpurmsfs@gmail.com; mtmanojmsfs@gmail.com
provincialbursarnagpur@gmail.com; xalxomsfs@gmail.com
secretaryprovincialnagpur@gmail.com

GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR HANDING OVER



Handing Over is a formal and careful transfer of the responsibilities, traditions, and customs of a certain place/mission/institution. Your Handing Over must ensure that there is continuity with fidelity and growth in a system that you have developed over the past many years. Ensure that your Handing Over does not put a full stop to any system or custom. Ensure that your Handing Over of an office brings growth and vitality to the place. There are certain vital elements to be taken care of while Handing Over. The vital elements are:

1) Handing over forms appropriate to the office and files:

- a. Land papers and Land Map
- b. Building papers and Building Plan
- c. School Affiliation papers
- d. School Recognition papers
- e. School NOC papers
- f. Vehicle Keys, R.C. papers, and Insurance papers
- g. Passbooks, Cheque books, and Audit reports
- h. Society/Trust Papers
- i. Legal cases
- j. Project/Construction papers
- k. Circulars
- l. One can add to the list as per the requirements.



2) List of daily duties of the new office-bearer.

3) List of cut-off dates for important and urgent works or upcoming events.

4) Signature of the confrere handing over, the signature of the confrere taking over, and the signature of the Provincial Delegate. There should be three copies of the Handing Over form. After the forms are duly signed, one copy is retained by the confrere handing over, and one is retained by the confrere taking over.

The Provincial's copy is retained by the Delegate, who sends it to the Provincial's Office at his earliest convenience. The purpose is to strengthen institutional offices for a better future and smoother functioning. The above-mentioned is just a minimum requirement. If there is any scope to go beyond the mentioned areas, the person is free to do so.

Preparation before Handing Over:

1) Make sure that the day is fixed well in advance with mutual consent and that the same is communicated to the Provincial's Delegate in charge of handing over.

2) Make sure that both the one handing over and the one taking over go through the duties of their respective offices as given in the Province Statutes.

3) Provide in writing (Handing Over form) the files, work, pending work, daily duties, etc.

4) Provide in writing your general observations or what is lacking in the office, so that the work you have done continues with new vigor and vitality by the new office-bearer.

5) While handing over, the office must be respected formally and not casually:

- a) The office of an Administrator is respected and should be given the charge.
- b) The office of a Local Bursar is respected and should be given the charge.
- c) The office of a Parish Priest is respected and should be given the charge.
- d) The office of a Principal is respected and should be given the charge.
- e) Continuity with fidelity to carry forward.

There should not be any mixing of duties that would affect the functioning of the other office-bearers.



ORDINATIONS

Fr. Clement Leonard MSFS

Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you and sanctified you to be the prophet to the nations
(Jer 1:5).

On **26/04/2025**, the historical event was marked in the memories of the parishioners of St. Martin de Porres Church, Nagpur, as the first priest, **Dn. Clement Leonard**, was ordained from the parish. The solemn liturgical event was held at St. Martin de Porres Church. **Elias Gonsalves, the Archbishop of Nagpur**, ordained Dn. Clement to the Order of Priesthood. The Archbishop emphasized how God chooses, protects, and gives strength to those whom God has called to be the servants of all in order to work in the vineyard.

Along with the Archbishop, the church was filled with grace by the presence of Fr. Manoj Tirkey, the Provincial, MSFS Fathers, and the diocesan priests, making a total of more than 40. The church was filled with religious sisters from various congregations, family members, friends, relatives, and the parishioners of St. Martin Parish.

After the liturgical celebration, there was a short felicitation where the Archbishop, Provincial, newly ordained priests, parish priest, and family members were honored, and Father Clement thanked each and everyone who played an important role in his life to reach the altar. He also thanked Fr. Johnson, the General, and his Curia, as well as Fr. Provincial and his Curia.



On 27 April, the very next day, Father Clement Leonard celebrated his first thanksgiving Mass in the presence of MSFS confreres and a few other priests. It was a good celebration as the church was full of the faithful. After the solemn Eucharistic celebration, there was a short felicitation from the family members to the fathers and guests present. At last, Fr. Clement expressed his heartfelt gratitude to everyone who played an important role in his vocation.

“It's not I who chose Him, but it's Jesus who chose me.”



Fr. Lona Christian

On **May 1, 2025**, on the occasion of the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, I, **Dn. Lona Christian**, and **Dn. Benedict (Diocesan of Sultanpet)** were ordained priests. We were ordained in my diocese's Cathedral by **His Lordship Most Rev. Antonyswamy Peter Abir, the Bishop of the Sultanpet diocese**. The ceremony began at 5:30 PM at the Cathedral of St. Sebastian, Sultanpet, with a solemn procession of all priests, along with my parents, followed by the Bishop. The ordination was attended by a large congregation as it coincided with Workers' Day and the feast of St. Joseph the Worker.

During the ceremony, the Bishop emphasized the priest's role of serving the Church and offering himself as a living sacrifice after the example of Christ. The celebration was meticulously planned and orderly conducted. The following day, Friday, May 2, 2025, I celebrated my first Mass in my home parish, St. James' Church, Sayathurai, thanking all MSFS priests and diocesan priests who concelebrated with me at my first Mass. The event was organized solemnly with the profession, dance, and Arathi, and so on. The Eucharistic Celebration began at 10:00 AM and was followed by a fellowship meal. I thank the Lord for the gift of the priesthood. I request that all of you may ask the Lord to help me to be a faithful and effective Fransalian in the service of the people.



DIACONATE ORDINATION

BRO. BIMAL TOPNO

As the day of my diaconate ordination approaches, I am filled with joy, excitement, and gratitude. I was born into a devout Catholic family to the late Peter Topno and Sushila Lugun on 17th September 1995, during the paddy field weeding season, in a small village called Brahmanmara, which falls under St. Paul's Catholic Church, Birmitrapur. From an early age, I was taught basic catechism and moral values. I was baptized on 12th December 1995 at St. Paul's Catholic Church, Birmitrapur. I received my First Holy Communion on 18th May 2008, and to strengthen my faith, I received the Sacrament of Confirmation on 17th October 2010 in my parish.



I began my early education at Banki Mission Primary School, Banki (2001-2007). I was then sent to Don Bosco Upper Primary School, Birmitrapur (2007-2009), where I was inspired to become a priest and began serving as an altar boy. I continued my education at New Orissa High School, Gaibira, while residing at the Apostolic School (2009-2012).

Motivated by a deep desire to serve the Lord, I joined the Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales (MSFS) for the Nagpur Province at Divya Jyoti Ashram, Latapara, in 2012, where I completed my orientation program. I pursued my higher secondary education (+1 and +2) at Prakash Bhavan, Palakkad, Kerala (2014-2016). I then entered the canonical novitiate at Dhyanashram, Varanasi (2016-2017) and made my first profession on 31st May 2017.

Following this, I was sent for philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore, and simultaneously pursued a Bachelor of Arts degree from Annamalai University (2017-2020). I completed my regency at Jeevan Jyoti Bhavan, Bamra (2020-2021), and later concluded my philosophy studies at St. Charles Seminary, Nagpur, in 2022. I then continued with my theological formation at Tejas Vidya Peetha, Bangalore (2022-2025). In full surrender to God's call, I made my perpetual profession on 28th May 2024 at Tejas Vidya Peetha, Bangalore.

CELEBRATIONS DURING THE 145TH JUBILEE YEAR.

Honoring the Past, Embracing the Future

As the curtains draw to a close on St. John's High School's 145th jubilee year celebrations, we reflect on the incredible journey that has brought us to this moment. The past year has been a testament to the school's enduring legacy, its commitment to excellence, and its unwavering dedication to shaping the minds of future generations.

The 145th jubilee year celebrations were a meticulously crafted tapestry of events such as the Inter-School Drawing Competition for the students, the Carol Singing Competition for the teachers, the Rangoli Competition for the parents, and a Football Tournament for the ex-students; each event was woven with precision and passion.

The installation of the majestic statue of St. Francis de Sales this year on the 25th of January 2025 by our principal, Rev. Fr. Vishwas Torney, along with the management, and the unveiling of the statue by Most Rev. Archbishop Elias Gonsalves is a reminder of the school's commitment to the values of compassion, wisdom, and service.



The 145th jubilee year celebrations came to a spiritual conclusion with a solemn thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration by Archbishop Rev. Elias Gonsalves on the 25th of April 2025. The Eucharistic celebration was a fitting finale to the year-long festivities, providing an opportunity for the school community to come together in prayer and thanksgiving.

The cherry added to the cake of this celebration was the two jubilarians, Rev. Fr. Vishwas and Rev. Fr. Kulandai Raj, who have entered into their 25th year of priestly ordination. They were felicitated by the Archbishop on this auspicious occasion.

As the Holy Mass came to a close, the celebrant imparted a final blessing upon the school community, invoking God's protection, wisdom, and grace upon all. The event was attended by distinguished dignitaries and guests. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who made the 145th jubilee year celebrations a resounding success.



**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF FAITHFULNESS, LOVE, AND SERVICE TO
THE LORD IS A TESTAMENT TO GOD'S GRACE.**

Silver Jubilee Celebrations of Brother Ambrose

Jubilees in religious life mark a significant milestone that certainly needs to be celebrated. The Silver Jubilee of Rev. **Brother Ambrose MSFS**, the Supervisor of St. Francis De Sales Sr. Sec. School, was celebrated with a solemn thanksgiving Holy Eucharist. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by **Rev. Father Manoj Tirkey, the Provincial Superior of MSFS Nagpur Province**, assisted by co-celebrants Rev. Fr. Domy, Rev. Father Saiju Thomas, and Rev. Father Allen Gonsalves. The priests, sisters, and the faithful of Jhajjar, Haryana, also graced the occasion. It was a grand celebration. Father Manoj, the main celebrant, thanked the Almighty for the numerous blessings Brother Ambrose has received during the last 25 years of his life. He preached the homily, which was related to Brother Ambrose's life, and shared his experiences of the times he spent with Brother in Jhajjar. The choir of school teachers made this Eucharistic celebration more meaningful with their melodious singing.

After the Mass, there was a grand reception. It started with an entrance dance, followed by Arti and the cutting of the ribbon. Nearly 150 people, including fathers and sisters from various religious communities in Delhi, Rohtak, and Jhajjar, as well as many other faithful, were present.



The celebration started with a prayer, followed by a wishing song and the cutting of the cake. A beautiful dance performance was presented by the hostel teachers residing on the campus. Many of the fathers shared their experiences of the times they spent with Brother. There was a special wishing song by the sisters and fathers from Janakpuri, Delhi.

Everyone extended their best wishes to Brother by presenting gifts and cards. At the end of the celebration, there was a slideshow presentation depicting Brother's sweet memories, followed by a grand dinner. Father Allen thanked the guests for their valuable presence.





After the general vocation camp conducted at the Rourkela diocese, the Specific Vocation Camp for those interested in joining the MSFS congregation was held from the 23rd to the 25th of April 2025 at Latapara Seminary. There were 33 students who participated in the camp. The primary aim of the vocation camp was to provide students with insight into the life and mission of the MSFS congregation, the charism of the congregation, and to help students discern their calling.

The camp commenced with an opening prayer and the lighting of the lamp by all the MSFS fathers, a prayer song led by Bro. Abhijeet and the students, followed by an orientation session by Fr. Lalit Tigga MSFS, who explained the purpose of the camp and the schedule of activities.

Frs. Lalit Tigga, Santosh Soreng, and Bro. Abhijeet Tigga delivered engaging talks on various aspects of life, focusing on the charism of the MSFS congregation and the importance of skill development. Interactive workshops focused on topics such as discernment, life skills, and the value of disciplined living. To foster connection among participants, recreational activities such as team games and group dynamics were organized.



The camp concluded with a cultural evening ceremony presenting cultural dances and chain dances. The specific vocation camp was a successful initiative aimed at enlightening and preparing young boys for a probable calling into the MSFS community at Latapara.



FIRST PROFESSION AT DHYANASHRAM

First Profession at Dhyanashram, on 31st May 2025 In a spirit of deep faith, joy, and gratitude, Dhyanashram MSFS Novitiate, Varanasi, is preparing to celebrate a momentous occasion of twenty newcomers entering the Novitiate officially on 30th May 2025, and the **First Religious Profession of twelve novices** (Abul Baliarsing, Akash Baliarsing, Anand Toppo, Asish Kerketta, Elias Ekka, Immanuel, Jyotin Digal, Libin Tigga, Manish Sanga, Prabin Xess, Rohit Toppo, and Rustum Tirkey) **on 31st May 2025**, at 5:30 PM at Dhyanashram. Under the theme **“Led by Hope, Living My Call,”** these twelve young men will take their first vows, formally committing themselves to the Lord and embracing the life and mission of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. This significant milestone marks the culmination of an intense year of novitiate formation—a time of discernment, prayer, spiritual growth, and deepening of their vocational commitment. The Solemn Eucharistic Celebration will be presided over by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Eugene Joseph, Bishop of Varanasi, whose presence will add grace and spiritual depth to the occasion. Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey, MSFS, Provincial of the Nagpur Province, will receive the vows on behalf of the Congregation, representing the community’s collective joy in welcoming these new members into vowed religious life.

This celebration is not only a personal milestone for the novices but also a moment of great joy and renewal for the entire Fransalian family, especially the Nagpur Province. It is a powerful reminder of the continued vibrancy of vocations and the faithful response of young men to God's call in the spirit of St. Francis de Sales. **Fr. Wilson MSFS, the Novice Master**, along with the entire Dhyanaashram community, requests your prayers and accompaniment for these young men, as they begin their journey of consecrated life, committed to the service of the Church and the mission of Christ. May this event renew in all of us the joy of our own vocation and inspire many more to say "yes" to the Lord with courage and hope.

IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE

With profound sorrow and Christian hope, we announce the passing of Rev. Fr. Jose Parampukattil, MSFS, who was called to eternal rest on May 10, 2025. Born on September 18, 1953, in Anickadu, Kerala, Fr. Jose served the Congregation with deep faith and dedication for nearly four decades in India and East Africa, touching countless lives through his pastoral care, missionary zeal, and humble service. We thank the Lord for the gift of his life and commend his soul to God's eternal embrace.

MAY HIS SOUL REST IN PEACE



PROVINCE ANNUAL RETREAT GROUPS 2025-2026

GROUP-1 19TH TO 25TH SEPTEMBER (TILL NOON)

Agnelo Fernande, Ambrose Minj, Amirt Kujur, Amit Tirkey, Amrit Lakra, Anand Kullu, Anil Pandit Ratan, Anson Kaliyath, Anto Deepak, Anto Thomas, Anup Pillai, Arun Ekka, Austin Correia, Barnabas Xalxo, Bimal Tirkey, Biraj Minz, Bosco P, Clement Leonard, David Paul, Deepak Baa, Emil Tirkey, Emmanuel Vattamattam, Jacob Karamkuzhiyil, John Britto Muthuswamy, John Carvalho, John Dive, John Parkhe, Jomon Mathew, Joseph Gollapudi, Joseph Kailamangalam, Joseph Kalekattil, Kamil Tete, Kulandai Raj, Lalit Tigga, Lalji Pattathil, Lambert Ekka, Manoj Tirkey, Marianus Kujur, Mathews Kodamullil, Melroy Almeida, Michael Toppo, Nevin Tete, Oscar Kujur, Peter Thomas, Rakesh Kerketta, Ramesh Damala, Ranjit Lakra, Richard Tirkey, Roshan Minj, Sainjin Benny, Sandeep Tirkey, Santhosh Kumar, Scaria Kadamkulam, Thomas Kuttiankal, Vincent Minj, William Anthony, Wilson Abraham

GROUP-2 16TH TO 22ND OCTOBER (TILL NOON)

Abin Baby, Albin Joseph, Allan Gonsalves, Amal Raju Bandanadam, Amit Baa, Anil George, Anoop Francis, Anthony Amaladoss, Arun P, Battula Kalyan, Bijay Kerketta, Christhu Raja, Cyprian Dungdung, Deepak Kindo, Domy Vallomkunnel, Hilarus Tirkey, Ignathi Kshirsagar, Ignatius D Costa, Jagadish Tete, Jinoy Koply, Jnanamani Simon, John Peter, John Ruptake, Johnson Parikkapilly, Jose Mudavankunnel, Joseph Plathottam, Joseph Pullopillil, Lijohn K jose, Marcus Ruptake, Nobit Kombanathottathil, Patras Tirkey, Peter Dominic, Peter Kujur, Peter Paul, Petrus Kullu, Philip Meleparambil, Pius Gonsalves, Rajat Kumar Digal, Roshan Tigga, Saiju Vettukallel, Sameer Minj, Sanjay Lakra, Santhosh Soreng, Sebastian Annaikandathil, Selbestar Xalxo, Shantwan Khutekar, Silbester Kullu, Solomon Sahayaraj, Telesfor Lakra, Vinayanand Katru, Vishwas Torne, Barse Vishal yakub, Yesudoss L

S. No	Name of Confreres	Place	Designation	w.e.f
1	Fr. Hilarus Tirkey	Ambapani	Assist. PP/ Local Bursar	01st Jul 2025
2	Fr. Richard Tirkey	Vailankanni Shrine, Nagapattinam, TN	Confessor in Hindi	01st Jul 2025
3	Fr. Deepak Baa	Baradurgapur	Parish Priest and Manager	01st Jul 2025
4	Fr. Amalraju B	Attached to Provincialate community	Spirituality Course	01st Jul 2025
5	Fr. Vincent Minj	Attached to the Provincialate Community	Spirituality Course	01st Jul 2025
6	Fr. Vineesh Thomas	Attached to the Provincialate Community	Spirituality Course	01st Jul 2025
7	Fr. Sanjay Lakra	SFS, Jhajjar	Office Administrator	01st Jul 2025

OBITUARY

Mr. Alois Lakra, 80 yeras, the Father of Fr. Ranjit Lakra, who passed away on 02/05/2025

INFORMATION

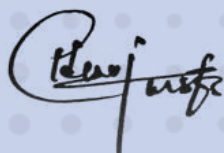
Bro. Sameer Xess will be making his Final Profession on 28th May 2025, and Bro. Saurav Topno will be making his Final Profession on 30th September 2025.

Let us keep them in our prayers as they prepare to dedicate their lives fully to the service of the Lord and His people through their perpetual commitment.

**“YOU MUST ACT ACCORDING TO
REASON, NOT ACCORDING TO YOUR
INCLINATION.”**

-St. Francis de Sales

**YOURS FRATENALLY IN CHRIST
FR. MANOJ TIRKEY**



**PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR
NAGPUR PROVINCE**

