



29/09/25

CIRCULAR

To All the Members of the Province

Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales Nagpur Province

CONTENTS.....

1. From the office of the Provincial.
2. Annual Retreat.
3. Mission Forum Meeting
4. Local Superior's Meeting.
5. Badnera new hall blessing and inauguration.
6. Foundation of new block at MSFS Provincial House, Nagpur.
7. Installation of the statue of our Lady in the grotto at Baradurgapur.
8. Feast Day Celebration at St. Mary's Church, Jalna
9. Canonical visitation of the superior General.



MSFS PROVINCIALATE

23,24 RESIDENCYROAD,SADAR,
NAGPUR440001
PH: +91 9050589925,
+91 9448463781



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

WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY FOUNDER'S DAY



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PROVINCIAL

**Dear Confreres,
Greetings of peace and missionary joy!**



The month of September holds special meaning for us as members of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, as we celebrate two deeply significant feasts. **On 15th September**, we honour **Our Lady of Sorrows**, our special Patroness, and on **30th September**, we joyfully celebrate **Founder's Day** in memory of our beloved Founder, **Fr. Peter Mary Mermier**. These celebrations are not mere commemorations, but moments of grace that invite us to pause, reflect, and draw strength and inspiration from the lives of these two holy figures who continue to shape our spiritual and missionary identity.

The feast of Our Lady of Sorrows reminds us of Mary's quiet strength, her unshakable faith, and her deep courage. She did not resist or complain in the face of suffering; rather, she discerned God's will in the most painful and confusing moments of her life. Standing at the foot of the Cross, she bore her sorrow with a heart full of love and surrender. She teaches us how to endure pain with dignity and hope, never losing faith in God's plan. The Church invites us to see in Mary not just a grieving mother, but a model disciple who, even in sorrow, took delight in doing the will of God. As Pope **St. John Paul II** once said, **"Mary's sorrow was not passive—it was a sorrow that cooperated in the mystery of redemption."** For us, her sons in mission, this means living our vocation with interior strength, faith-filled surrender, and an openness to God's will, even when it comes through suffering, disappointment, or uncertainty. Like Mary, we are called to remain at the foot of the Cross—not to escape it, but to transform it into a place of love, hope, and silent witness.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (No. 2825) tells us: **"He desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. He is patient toward us, not wishing that any should perish."** Thus, doing God's will is not just about personal growth, but about bringing others into the embrace of God's mercy. St. Francis de Sales offers us a path of daily holiness: **"Do not wish to be anything but what you are, and try to be that perfectly."** In our daily mission, our simple fidelity to duty, gentleness in correction, and quiet perseverance in prayer and service become powerful signs of God's will in action.

As we celebrate these two feasts, may we allow ourselves to be renewed in our missionary identity and Salesian spirit. Let us take inspiration from Mother Mary's sorrow and surrender, and from Fr. Mermier's courage and zeal, to become visible signs of God's love in today's world. May our lives be marked by a constant desire to say like Mary, **"Let it be done to me according to Your word"**, and like Fr. Mermier, **"I want missions."** Let us continue our journey as faithful, joyful, and prophetic missionaries, living and doing God's will with love and courage.

Wishing you all a grace-filled feast of our Lady of Sorrows and blessed Founder's Day!

ANNUAL RETREAT AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME



The annual retreat of the fathers began on the morning of the 19th with a Capacity Building Programme led by Rev. Fr. Jose Parapully, SDB. Drawing from his rich pastoral and psychological experience, he guided the participants through key themes such as silent struggles, loneliness, burnout, crisis of identity, temptations, boundary issues in relationships, spiritual dryness, routine in prayer life, handling criticism, financial stress, transparency in administration, and the challenges of adapting to cultural and technological changes. These reflections offered the fathers an opportunity for personal growth and pastoral renewal.

That same evening, the community gathered with joy to celebrate the New Priests' Day, and to honour the Silver and Golden Jubilees of our confreres. It was a grace-filled moment of thanksgiving and fraternal appreciation, as the newly ordained priests Frs. Bimal, Anup, Sainjin, Lambert, Bimal Lakra and Clement and jubilarians Fr. Kulandairaj, Fr. Lalit Tigga and Fr. Vishwas Torne for Silver and Fr. Emmanuel and Fr. Thomas K for Golden Jubilee — were felicitated for their faithful and dedicated service to the Lord and His Church.

On the evening of the 20th, the spiritual retreat was formally inaugurated with the theme "Priestly Holiness." The retreat was preached by Rev. Fr. George K., OP, who led the participants through profound reflections on living a holy and authentic priestly life. On the 24th evening, after the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the fathers visited the cemetery to pray for the departed confreres. The retreat concluded with the solemn celebration of the Holy Eucharist on the afternoon of the 25th, leaving the participants spiritually refreshed and renewed in their priestly vocation.



MISSION FORUM MEETING



The Mission Forum Meeting 2025 brought together eighteen confreres on **16th and 17th August 2025** for two days of prayer, reflection, sharing, and planning. The focus was on living **Synodality – Communion, Participation, and Mission** – in our pastoral ministry.

The sessions began with a prayer by **Fr. Mathew John** followed by meaningful guidelines by **Fr. Agnelo Fernandes (PCIC)**. **Fr. Joseph Pollishetty** then explained in detail about the Final Document of the Synod (2024).

He spoke of Seven Takeaways

- 1) Listening
- 2) Seeing into the faces of others
- 3) Clericalism
- 4) Comfort Zone
- 5) Holding on to the Truth
- 6) Transparency and Accountability
- 7) Character and Values



Reports from various missions were read and discussed, with the focus on highlighting the synodal activities in the parish life. In the evening session **Fr. Ranjit Rodrigues** clarified Church norms on **Mass Intentions**, drawing inspiration from official Church documents - *Mos Iugiter* of 1991 and *Secundum Prabatum* of 2025

On Day 2, **Fr. Manoj Tirkey**, Provincial Superior, offered practical insights on pastoral challenges – drawn from The Final Document, and what we can implement.

- 1) Working Together
- 2) Listening
- 3) Opportunities and Challenges – like resistance to change, groupism, lack of transparency, and the need for spiritual presence. He emphasized unity, discretion, and being visible, prayerful leaders.

Important suggestions included:

- Strengthening **pastoral planning area-wise**
- Promoting **Salesian spirituality**
- Encouraging **youth engagement** during holidays
- Ensuring proper **record keeping** and **liturgical decorum**
- Making **Hindi learning compulsory** in seminary

The PMP report by Fr. KV Joseph was appreciated, with suggestions made for future collaboration. Fr. Agnelo proposed certain takeaways – Prepare Pastoral Plans area wise; Build up the spirit of Synodality by giving inputs and animate the people; Develop Fransalian reflexes especially as shared by the Provincial; Organize summer camps for children.

The meeting ended with the Vote of Thanks by Fr. Melroy. He expressed his gratitude to all the contributors and encouraged the members to implement the synodal spirit in every parish.

LOCAL SUPERIOR'S MEETING.

The Superiors' Forum Meeting was held at the Nagpur Provincialate on **19th August 2025**. The gathering brought together twenty-seven local superiors of the communities of the Province for a day of evaluation, reflection, sharing and learning. The meeting was enriched by the presence of the resource person, Rev. Fr. Roger Godinho O.P. He is currently serving as a spiritual director and counsellor at St. Charles Seminary, Nagpur.



Session I: The Role of a Superior – The Lighthouse Example

The first session began with a bhajan and prayer invoking the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Fr. Roger Godinho animated this session with a powerful input on the role of a superior, drawing inspiration from the image of a lighthouse. Just as a lighthouse provides direction, safety, and guidance for ships navigating turbulent seas, so too a superior is called to be a point of reference, a beacon of hope, and a guide for the community. A lighthouse, firmly rooted on solid ground, symbolizes the superior's need for stability and deep-rootedness in faith and values. Just as the lighthouse often stands alone, a superior too is called to embrace moments of solitude and responsibility in order to guide the community with clarity and strength.

The image further highlighted that a superior should lead with clarity, consistency, and compassion while remaining firmly rooted in Gospel values. This session invited the participants to recognize the noble yet challenging responsibility entrusted to the community animators, and to view their role not merely as administrative but as a spiritual and pastoral ministry of guidance and inspiration. The session ended on a cheerful note with the participants coming together for a group photo.

Session II: Challenges of Local Community Superiors

The second session was an interactive one that encouraged open dialogue and active participation. Through guided discussions, the participants reflected on the practical challenges of community leadership, particularly in fostering fraternal life, addressing generational differences, and motivating members for mission.

The deliberations also highlighted pressing concerns such as the growing tendency toward individualistic and self-centred living, the pervasive impact of social media, and the widening generational gap within communities. It was further observed that, unlike in the past when leaders were perceived as role models, today many individuals are more strongly influenced by external “influencers,” which presents new challenges in the guidance of younger members.

The session emphasized the need to overcome criticism and gossip by cultivating a culture of openness through regular meetings, sincere sharing, and the nurturing of mutual trust within the community. Attention was also drawn to the importance of transparency, accountability, and confidence in leadership.

Session III: Sharing by the Provincial Superior

The final session was animated by Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey, the Provincial Superior, who appreciated the active participation of all the local superiors and emphasized their vital role as animators, spiritual guides, and administrators. Along with his personal reflections, he also shared some important matters concerning the Province at three levels, personal life, community life and various apostolates. He encouraged the local superiors to walk closely with their confreres, nurture missionary zeal, and remain faithful to the spirit of the Congregation.

Conclusion

The meeting concluded with words of gratitude during the lunch. Fr. Sandeep who proposed the vote of thanks acknowledged and appreciated the valuable inputs of Fr. Roger Godinho, the leadership of Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey, the Provincial Superior, the active participation of all the local superiors and the meticulous arrangements by the Provincialate community.

INAUGURATION OF THE AUDITORIUM OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES SR. SEC. SCHOOL, BADNERA



The inauguration ceremony of the newly built School Auditorium at St. Francis de Sales Sr. Sec. School, Badnera, was held with great joy and enthusiasm. The event was graced by the presence of distinguished guests. **Rt. Rev. Malcom Sequeira**, Bishop of Amravati Diocese was the Guest of Honour. He blessed the auditorium at the very beginning of the program. **Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey**, Provincial Superior of Nagpur Province was the Chief Guest. The solemn blessing ceremony was followed by melodious Prayer Songs sung by the teachers and non-teaching staff, which created a serene and spiritual atmosphere.

The formal program then commenced with an Introduction, setting the tone for the day. A soulful Prayer Dance invoked divine blessings, followed by the Lighting of the Lamp, symbolizing knowledge and enlightenment. The vibrant Welcome Dance enthralled the audience. It was followed by the formal Welcome of the Guests with tokens of love and gratitude. Young students then presented a lively Action Song, which filled the atmosphere with cheerfulness.

To highlight the institution's glorious journey, the students performed a Skit on the History of the School, depicting milestones and achievements over the years. This was followed by a graceful Classical Dance and a humorous Comedy Skit, adding a blend of art and entertainment to the ceremony. The much-awaited address by the Chief Guest, **Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey**, inspired the gathering with words of encouragement and appreciation for the institution's vision. A thought-provoking Mime Act by the students showcased creative expression on social issues.



The Guest of Honour, Rev. Bishop Malcom Sequeira, in his message, emphasized the importance of holistic education and the significance of the new auditorium as a space for nurturing talent and creativity. A lively Western Dance added rhythm and energy to the atmosphere, keeping the audience engaged till the end. The event concluded with a formal Vote of Thanks, followed by the rendition of the School Anthem, filling the auditorium with pride and unity. The inauguration ceremony was a memorable occasion, marking a significant milestone in the school's history and setting the stage for future growth, creativity, and excellence.

FOUNDATION STONE LAID FOR THE NEW BLOCK AT THE PROVINCIAL HOUSE

On the **23rd of September 2025**, a significant milestone was marked at the Provincial House with the laying of the foundation stone for the much-anticipated New Administrative Block. The solemn ceremony was graced by the presence of Rev. Fr. Provincial, **Fr. Manoj Tirkey MSFS**, who also blessed the site and laid the foundation stone.



This new block is a step forward in our collective journey towards better administration and service, keeping in mind the growing needs of the Province and its mission. The event was held in the presence of the architect, the contractor, and members of the community, symbolizing our shared vision and commitment.

We entrust this project to the providence of God and the intercession of our heavenly patrons, praying for the successful and timely completion of the construction. May this new structure serve as a centre of coordination, collaboration, and communion for the greater glory of God.



INTALLATION OF THE STATUE AT BARADURGAPUR

September 14th, 2025, was truly a day of triple blessings for us, the Fransalians of Baradurgapur.

First, we rejoiced in celebrating the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Then, as our parish is dedicated to the Mother of Sorrows, we, along with our parish family, celebrated the feast of our patroness with deep joy and enthusiasm. After nine days of prayerful novena, our parish priest, Rev. Fr. Deepak Baa, MSFS, celebrated the Holy Eucharist and shared a heart-touching homily on the life and virtues of the Mother of Compassion

The third blessing of the day was the most awaited moment the installation of the statue of Our Lady in the grotto. For over a year, our parishioners had been waiting for this, and when the moment finally came, their hearts overflowed with joy and gratitude.

Truly, it was a day of grace, made possible by the dedication of our parish team and the wholehearted support of the Baradurgapur community



FEAST DAY CELEBRATION AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH, JALNA

The Novena in preparation for the Feast of the Nativity of Mother Mary commenced on 30th August 2025. The theme for the opening day was "Mary – Model of Vocation." **Rt. Rev. Bernard Lancy Pinto**, the Bishop of Aurangabad Diocese was given a warm welcome with a shower of flowers. He then blessed and hoisted the festal flag and released the Rosary balloons, officially inaugurating the novena. After praying of the Rosary in front of the grotto the faithful moved to the Church for the celebration of the Holy Mass. In his homily, the Bishop encouraged the faithful to remain strong in their faith and to listen attentively to the voice of God deep within their hearts, following the example of Mary our Mother.

Each day of the novena had a particular theme. The fathers of our Parish and the neighbouring MSFS fathers celebrated the Eucharist and preached on the day's theme. They were - Mary, Model of Faith; Mary, Model of Obedience; Mary, Model of Perseverance; Mary, Model of Seeking the Lost; Mary, Model of Accompaniment; Mary, Model of Service; Mary, Model of Sacrifice; Mary, Model of Purity. The faithful actively and joyfully participated in these days of prayer and devotion as they prepared themselves spiritually for the grand celebration of the Nativity of Mother Mary.



On 8th the main celebrant was **Rev. Fr. Benedict D Souza**, a General Councilor of the MSFS Congregation. Before the Mass there was a procession with the statue of Mother Mary to the school. The faithful prayed the Rosary and sang devotional hymns. In his homily Fr. Benedict stressed on the importance of prayer and fasting for the growth of the family. The choir led by Fr. John Peter added a celestial beauty to the liturgy.

The continuous flow of people who came to pay their devotion to Mother Mary at the grotto was awe inspiring. All the devotees were treated to a meal which they all enjoyed as a family. The air was filled with joy. It was the cooperation of all the faithful of the Parish, guided by the meticulous planning of the Parish Priest Fr. Melroy Almeida, and the cooperation of the Parish Fathers, that made the Feast Day of Mother Mary a grand success. May God continue to bless of us through thr intercession of Mary our Mother.

CONGRATULATIONS TO REV. FR. ISSAC ON THE COMPLETION OF HIS DOCTORAL STUDIES

We joyfully extend our heartfelt congratulations to **Rev. Fr. Issac** on the successful completion of his Doctorate in the **Theology of Marriage and Family** at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Family and Marriage, under the **Pontifical Lateran University, Rome**.

Fr. Issac began his academic journey in October 2020, initially through online classes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and later continued his studies in Rome from February 2021. His doctoral thesis, titled "The Complex History of Jacob and Joseph: A Biblical Approach to the Emotional Life of Families in the Pastoral Context of India," was formally approved on 22nd September 2022.



This scholarly work is a remarkable interdisciplinary study that explores emotions in the Hebrew Bible (Genesis 25:21–50:26) and their relevance to the challenges faced by contemporary families in India. Using the lens of Psychological Biblical Criticism, Fr. Issac's research introduces a novel integration of psychology and sacred scripture, offering deep insights into the pastoral care of families. His thesis, comprising 372 pages, was completed under the guidance of esteemed professors: Prof. Luca Pedroli, Prof.ssa Donatella Scaiola, Prof.ssa Milena Santerini, and Prof.ssa Claudia Leal Luna.

Fr. Issac submitted and successfully defended his thesis on 26th September 2025, marking the culmination of years of dedicated study, prayer, and reflection. We commend him for this outstanding achievement and pray that his work bears much fruit in the service of the Church, particularly in the pastoral accompaniment of families.



SUPERIOR GENERAL'S ITINERARY – NAGPUR PROVINCE VISIT

(January 2 to February 10, 2026)

S.No	Date	Day	Community	Meeting, Visits & Departure
1	2 & 3 Jan 2026	Saturday	Prakash Bhavan, Kerala	(Canonical Visit)
2	5 Jan 2026	Monday	Provincialate	Meetings and Visit to the Archbishop
3	6 Jan 2026	Tuesday	St. John's, Nagpur	5 th evening by Road – Departure 6 th evening (Canonical Visit)
4	7 Jan 2026	Wednesday	Mermier Sadan, Nagpur/SJPS	6 th evening by Road– Departure 7 th evening (Canonical Visit)
5	8 Jan 2026	Thursday	Nimkheda /SFS School	Only Day program - Departure to Nagpur 8 th evening(Canonical Visit)

6	09 Jan 2026	Friday	Arrival 11:30 am Badnera	(Canonical Visit)
7	10 Jan	Saturday	SFS School, Badnera	Courtesy Visit- Bp. Malcom and Holy Cross mother house Departure to Khamgoan 04:30 pm
8	10 th 11 th Jan 2026	Sat & Sun	Khamgaon/Buldana	(Canonical Visit) Deaprture to Bhusawal 04:30 pm
9	11&12 Jan 2026	Sun & Mon	Bhusawal	(Canonical Visit) 12 th after lunch to FTI
10	12&13 Jan 2026	Mon & Tue	CIDCO & FTI (combined visit)	(Canonical Visit)
11	14&15 Jan 2026	Wed- Thu	FSE School, FTI & CIDCO	Courtesy Visit to Bishop (Canonical Visit) Departure 04:00 pm to Jalna
12	16 & 17 Jan 2026	Fri & Sat	Jalna / Ambad/SMS school	(Canonical Visit) 17 th After lunch departure to Nanded
13	18 Jan 2026	Sun	Sunday Mass at Nanded	(Canonical Visit)
14	18 Jan 2026	Sun	Nanded/GMVV	(Canonical Visit) 18 th evening Departure to Kinwat 04:30 pm
15	19 Jan 2026	Mon	Kinwat/St. Mary's school	(Canonical Visit) Departure to Nagpur 04:30 pm
16	20 Jan 2026	Tuesday	Nagpur	Rest and departure to Darkona
17	21 st and 22 nd Jan 2026	Wed & Thu	Darkona	(Canonical Visit) 22 nd morning departure to Latapara
18	22 Jan 2026	Thursday	Latapara	(Canonical Visit) 23 rd Morning to Ambapani

19	23 Jan 2026	Friday	Ambapani	(Canonical Visit) Departure to Raidihi 04:30 pm
20	24 Jan 2026	Saturday	Raidihi	(Canonical Visit) Departure to Panderpalli: 04:30 pm
21	25 Jan 2026	Sunday	Panderpalli	(Canonical Visit) Feast Day Mass Departure to Bamra 03:00 pm
22	26 Jan 2026	Monday	Bamra	(Canonical Visit) departure to Bano on 27 th Morning
23	27&28 Jan 2026	Tue & Wed	Bano	Arrival – 05:30 pm(Canonical Visit)28 th Afternoon Departure to Sini
24	28&29 Jan 2026	Wed & Thu	Sini	(Canonical Visit) 29 th evening departure to Seraikella
25	30 th Jan 2026	Friday	Seraikella	(Canonical Visit)
26	31 Jan 2026	Saturday	Departure to Delhi from Ranchi	
27	01 Feb 2026	Sunday	Mahima	(Canonical Visit) Golden Jubilee celebration
28	02 Feb 2026	Monday	Vinay Sadan & SFS School	(Canonical Visit) Departure to Jhajjar evening 04:30 pm
29	03 Feb 2026	Tuesday	SFS School Jhajjar	(Canonical Visit) Departure to Delhi 04:30 pm
30	04 Feb 2026	Wednesday	A day of rest in Delhi	(Canonical Visit) Departure to Nimach -07:00 pm

31	05 Feb 2026	Thursday	Nimach	(Canonical Visit) Departure to Varanasi on 6 th Morning from Udaipur
32	06 & 07 Feb 2026	Fri & Sat	Varanasi	(Canonical Visit) and Meeting Bishop- Departure to Sahibganj evening
33	08 Feb 2026	Sunday	Kandore	(Canonical Visit) Departure to Baradurgapur 04:30 pm
34	09 Feb	Monday	Baradurgapur	(Canonical Visit) departure to Nagpur 09:00 pm
35	10 Feb 2026	Tuesday	Nagpur	Canonical visitation Ends

INFORMATION

- The Final Profession of **Sourav Topno** will be held on 30th September at MSFS study house, Shillong.
- **Bro. Rustum Tirkey**, who completed one year of Philosophy, has discontinued from the congregation.

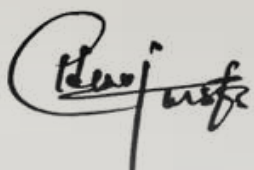
OBITUARY

- Mr. Sudhir Kindo, 47 years, Cousin of Fr. Deepak Kindo, passed away on 25th August 2025.
- Bro. Paul Thomas CMI, 86 years, Cousin of Fr. Joseph Plathottam, passed away on 7th September 2025.
- Mr. Basil Lakra, 55 years, Father of Fr. Amrit Lakra, passed away on 24th September 2025.

“To give alms and to forgive insults are both acts of charity. The first is honoured by everyone but second is despised by the world.”

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

YOURS FRATENALLY IN CHRIST



FR. MANOJ TIRKEY MSFS
PROVINCIAL SUPERIOR
NAGPUR PROVINCE