



NAGPUR PROVINCE

CIRCULAR

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

To All The Members Of The Province



SEPTEMBER – A MONTH OF COMPASSION AND MISSION

Dear Confreres,

The month of September holds a special place in the spiritual journey of every Missionary of St. Francis de Sales. During this month, we celebrate two significant feasts that are deeply connected with our identity and mission: the Feast of Our Lady of Compassion and Founder's Day, commemorating the life and legacy of our beloved Founder, Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier. These celebrations are not merely occasions of devotion and remembrance; they invite us to renew our vocation and rediscover the spirit in which we are called to live and serve.

Mary, Our Mother of Compassion, teaches us to remain close to those who suffer. At the foot of the Cross, Mary stood with courage, silence and compassion. She did not run away from human suffering; she entered into it with a mother's heart. Her life reminds us that compassion begins with presence—being willing to stand with people in their pain, struggles and uncertainties.

As missionaries, we are often called to be present where people experience poverty, loneliness, rejection, sickness and hopelessness. Mary invites us to ask ourselves: **Do people experience the compassionate face of Christ through our presence?** Our pastoral ministry, communities, schools and missions become truly meaningful when they are animated by a heart that sees, listens and responds with compassion.

The month of September also calls us to remember Fr. Peter Mermier, whose missionary vision gave birth to our Congregation. His life was marked by a deep love for Christ, the Church and the people entrusted to his care. His missionary spirit can be summed up in his well-known exhortation: “All for God, nothing for self.” This was not merely a motto for him; it was a way of life.

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Fr. Mermier also insisted on the importance of “going where the Church needs us.” His missionary zeal challenges us today not to become comfortable or self-centred in our ministry. A missionary is one who is ready to go beyond personal preferences and conveniences in order to respond to the needs of God's people.

The spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, which shaped the life of Fr. Mermier, teaches us that holiness is lived in ordinary circumstances through extraordinary love. Our mission is therefore not measured only by the number of activities we undertake, but by the love, gentleness, patience and pastoral charity with which we serve.

As we celebrate these two important occasions, may Mary, Mother of Compassion, teach us to have a compassionate heart, and may Fr. Peter Mermier inspire us with his missionary zeal and generous self-giving. Let us allow these celebrations to become a moment of renewal: renewal of our prayer, our community life, our missionary commitment and our love for the people we serve.

May we continue to be missionaries with compassionate hearts, humble spirits and generous hands, faithfully living our Salesian spirit and becoming, in the words of our Provincial thrust, a visible sign of our charism wherever we are sent.

May Mary, Mother of Compassion, accompany us, and may the missionary spirit of Fr. Peter Mermier continue to inspire us to give ourselves generously for God and His people.

MID-TERM ASSEMBLY 2026: A JOURNEY OF RENEWAL AND MISSION

The Mid-Term Assembly 2026 of the Nagpur Province was held from **17–20 August 2026** under the theme **“Live and Be a Visible Sign of Our Charism.”** The Assembly began in an atmosphere of prayer, recollection, fraternity and renewal. A spiritual recollection led by Rev. Fr. Antony Herald Rowsan, SAC, invited the confreres to deepen their spiritual lives and rediscover their commitment to vocation and charism. Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the inaugural Eucharistic Celebration prepared the participants spiritually for the days ahead.

The formal inauguration included the welcome of the dignitaries and participants, lighting of the lamp, honouring of the portraits of St. Francis de Sales, Fr. Peter Mermier and Mother of Sorrows, enthronement of the Bible, Constitutions and Directory, remembrance of departed confreres, and the formal declaration of the Assembly by Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey, Provincial. The keynote address by Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, MSFS, encouraged the confreres to examine their personal and communal commitment to the Gospel, vocation, charism and mission.

Over the following days, the Assembly prayerfully and openly reflected on the life and mission of the Province. Reports on the **Province, Pastoral Apostolate, Formation, Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries, Education, Mozambique Region, Overseas Missions, Scholastics, MDO, Fransalian Youth and Associates, the Cause of the Founder, finances and various Province matters** were presented and discussed. The sessions were marked by clarifications, observations, constructive criticism and suggestions aimed at strengthening the life, mission and administration of the Province.

A significant part of the Assembly was the reflection on the challenges facing the Province, particularly in the areas of **community life, prayer, formation, pastoral ministry, leadership, accountability, financial transparency, personnel, education and missionary commitment**. The discussions also highlighted the responsibility of the Province towards the Mozambique Region and the need to strengthen its various apostolates.

The final day focused especially on **being a visible sign of the charism through our apostolates**. Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy, Delegate of the Superior General, reminded the Assembly that our charism is our missionary identity and that its most convincing expression is a life of witness. The Assembly then finalized its **Key Takeaways**, with the unanimous agreement that responsibilities arising from these takeaways would be entrusted to members and overseen by the Provincial Administration.

In his concluding message, Fr. Manoj Tirkey, Provincial, invited all the confreres not merely to evaluate the Province but to discern the voice of God, renew community life, give priority to prayer, remain available for the apostolate, strengthen Mozambique, promote financial transparency and take the decisions of the Assembly seriously. He called everyone to carry forward the renewed spirit of the Assembly and to live the charism of St. Francis de Sales with greater commitment.

The Assembly concluded with a **Thanksgiving Eucharist**, bringing to completion four days of prayer, reflection, evaluation, dialogue and fraternity. It was truly an occasion to look back with gratitude, recognize areas for renewal, and move forward with a renewed commitment to **live and be a visible sign of our Fransalian charism**.

MID-TERM ASSEMBLY 2026 : KEY TAKEAWAYS

Live and Be a Visible Sign of Our Charism

The Mid-Term Assembly calls us to move from reflection to renewal, from renewal to commitment, and from commitment to action.

A. Mission Apostolate

1. We commit to foster a synodal approach in parish life through active lay participation in pastoral planning and renewal.
2. We commit to revitalize youth ministry in every parish.
3. We commit to strengthen the functioning of Parish Pastoral Council.
4. We commit to adhere to the approved liturgical norms of our respective dioceses.
5. We commit to establish Fransalian Associates in all our parishes.

B. Formation Apostolate

1. We commit to provide a distinct post-novitiate formation programme for students who opt for the Mozambique Region, adapted to their pastoral, cultural, and missionary requirement.
2. We commit to foster a culture of fraternal care through attentive listening, accompaniment and respectful guidance of our formees in their journey of maturation.

C. Education Apostolate

1. We commit to follow a gradational and competence-based policy to train confreres as heads of institutions, through experience as a teacher.
2. We commit to make our confreres engaged in schools, to be more pastorally involved.
3. We commit to establish 'Friends of Fransalians' (FoF) in all our schools as a means of nurturing a lasting connection with our charism and mission.
4. We commit to conduct a thorough feasibility study before establishing any new school.

D. SAIM Apostolate

1. We commit to develop sustainable institutional structures that strengthen and support our social apostolate like the Mission Development Office (MDO), the Jharkhand Fransalian Society, and the envisaged Janbikas Seva Sangh (JSS) Society in Odisha.
2. We commit to coordinate our social outreach initiatives by integrating parish-based social activities with SAIM.
3. We commit to document annual reports of all social actions to measure their effectiveness.

E. Stewardship Apostolate

1. We commit to ensure financial transparency by presenting Trial Balance during the monthly community meetings and sending the same to the Provincial's Office.
2. We commit to maintain complete and organised records of our legal entities, properties, civil regulations, employee service records, Provident Fund documentation, statutory tax records, and audit reports.

F. Mozambique Region

1. We commit to continue to accompany and support the Mozambique Region in implementing the action plan of its Regional Assembly.

NOVENA AND FEAST OF OUR LADY OF COMPASSION

The Novena in Honour of Our Lady of Compassion will be observed from **6 to 14 September 2026**, leading to the Feast of Our Lady of Compassion on **15 September 2026**.

I request **all Local Superiors** to ensure the prayerful observance of the Novena and the proper celebration of the Feast in all our communities.

The **Local Community Superior** is requested to send a few good photographs of the Feast Day celebration on the very next day, **16 September 2026**, to the Provincial Secretary's email: **secretaryprovincialnagpur@gmail.com**. These photographs will be used for inclusion in the Province Newsletter.

I kindly request all the Local Superiors to ensure that these instructions are followed and that the celebration of the feast is given due importance in every community.

NOVENA AND FOUNDER'S DAY

The Novena in Honour of our Founder, Servant of God Fr. Peter Marie Mermier, will be observed from **21 to 29 September 2026**, leading to Founder's Day on **30 September 2026**.

I request all **Local Superiors** to ensure the prayerful observance of the Novena and the proper celebration of Founder's Day in your communities.

Kindly send a few photographs of the celebration on **1 October 2026** to **secretaryprovincialnagpur@gmail.com** for inclusion in the Province Newsletter.

INFORMATION

1. Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy

Two Sisters of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy (SSJA), Bhubaneswar Province, have joined St. Francis de Sales School, Seraikella, as teachers. Their collaboration began on 17 May 2026.

2. Withdrawal of SABS from Nimach

The Sisters of the Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament (SABS) have withdrawn from their collaboration at Nimach. We sincerely thank the Sisters for their dedicated service and valuable contribution to our mission and wish them God's blessings in their future ministry.

3. Fr. Jnanamani MSFS – B.Ed.

Fr. Jnanamani MSFS has successfully completed his B.Ed. with 74% marks. We congratulate him on this achievement and appreciate his dedication and hard work. We wish him God's abundant blessings in his future ministry and service in education.

4. Fr. Santhosh Kumar J. MSFS – M.Sc.

Fr. Santhosh Kumar J. has successfully completed his M.Sc. in Visual Communication, securing **1340 out of 1500 marks (90%)**. We congratulate him on this excellent achievement and appreciate his dedication and hard work. We wish him God's blessings and every success in his ongoing Ph.D. studies in Visual Communication.

ANNUAL RETREAT GROUPS 2026-27

ANNUAL RETREAT GROUP: 1 07 OCTOBER - 12 OCTOBER 2026

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|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. ABHIJIT BHENGRA | 27. JOSE MUDAVANKUNNEL |
| 2. AGNELO FERNANDES | 28. JOSEPH PLATHOTTAM |
| 3. AMALRAJU BANDANADAM | 29. KAMIL TETE |
| 4. AMBROSE MINJ | 30. KULANDAI RAJ |
| 5. AMRIT LAKRA | 31. LALJI PATTATHIL |
| 6. ANAND KULLU | 32. LAMBERT EKKA |
| 7. ANIL PANDIT | 33. LIJOHN KACHAPILLY |
| 8. ANOOP FRANCIS | 34. MARCUS RUPTAKE |
| 9. ANTO DEEPAK | 35. MATHEW THAYIL |
| 10. ANTO THOMAS | 36. MATHEWS KODAMULLIL |
| 11. ARUN EKKA | 37. MELROY ALMEIDA |
| 12. BARNABAS XALXO | 38. MICHAEL TOPPO |
| 13. BATTULA KALYAN | 39. OSCAR KUJUR |
| 14. BIJAY KERKETTA | 40. PETER DOMINIC |
| 15. BIMAL TOPNO | 41. PETER KUJUR |
| 16. DAVID PAUL | 42. PETRUS KULLU |
| 17. DOMY THOMAS | 43. PHILIP MALEPARAMBIL |
| 18. EMMANUEL VATTAMATTAM | 44. RAKESH KERKETTA |
| 19. FEBIN TOM | 45. RANJIT LAKRA |
| 20. GOLLAPUDI JOSEPH | 46. RICHARD TIRKEY |
| 21. HILARUS TIRKEY | 47. SANDEEP TIRKEY |
| 22. IGNATIUS D COSTA | 48. SANTHOSH KUMAR |
| 23. JOHN BRITTO MUTTUSWAMY | 49. SEBASTIAN A |
| 24. JOHN CARVALHO | 50. SHANTWAN KHUTEKAR |
| 25. JOHN DIVE | 51. SOLOMON SAHAYARAJ |
| 26. JOHN PETER | 52. TELESFOR LAKRA |
| | 53. THOMAS KUTTIANCKAL |
| | 54. VISHAL BARSE |
| | 55. WILLIAM ANTONY |

ANNUAL RETREAT II
06 NOV - 11 NOVEMBER 2026

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. ABIN BABY | 28. JOSEPH KAILAMANGALAM |
| 2. ALBIN JOSEPH | 29. JOSEPH KALEKATTIL |
| 3. ALLAN GONSALVES | 30. JOSEPH PULLOPILLIL |
| 4. AMIT BAA | 31. LALIT TIGGA |
| 5. AMIT TIRKEY | 32. MANOJ TIRKEY |
| 6. AMRIT KUJUR | 33. MARIANUS KUJUR |
| 7. ANIL GEORGE | 34. NEVIN TETE |
| 8. ANSON KALIYATH | 35. NOBIT BABY |
| 9. ANTHONY AMALDOSS | 36. PATRAS TIRKEY |
| 10. ANUP PILLAI | 37. PETER THOMAS |
| 11. ARUN P | 38. RAJAT KUMAR DIGAL |
| 12. AUSTIN CORREIA | 39. RAMESH DAMALA |
| 13. BIMAL TIRKEY | 40. ROSHAN MINJ |
| 14. BIRAJ MINJ | 41. ROSHAN T |
| 15. BOSCO P | 42. RUBEN GUILBERT |
| 16. CHRISTU RAJA | 43. SAIJU V |
| 17. CYPRIAN DUNG DUNG | 44. SAINJIN BENNY |
| 18. DEEPAK BAA | 45. SANJAY LAKRA |
| 19. DEEPAK KINDO | 46. SANTHOSH SORENG |
| 20. GNANAMANI SIMON | 47. SCARIA KADAMKULAM |
| 21. JACOB KARAMAKUZHIYIL | 48. SILVEASTER KULLU |
| 22. JAGADEESH TETE | 49. SYLBESTAR XALXO |
| 23. JOHN PARKHE | 50. VINAYANAND KATRU |
| 24. JOHN RUPTAKE | 51. VINCENT MINJ |
| 25. JOHNSON P | 52. VISHWAS TORNE |
| 26. JOMON MATHEW | 53. WILSON A |
| 27. JINOY KOPLY | 54. YESUDOSS |

OBITUARY

Confreres

1. Fr. Thomas Fernandes, 84 years, belonging to Pune Province, who passed away on 14th June 2025.
2. Bro. C.D Michael MSFS, 92 years, belonging to Vishakhapatnam Province, who passed away on 14th July 2026.
3. Fr. Paul thenet MSFS, 72 years, belonging to Vishakhapatnam Province, who passed away on 19th July 2026.
4. Fr. Thomas Anikala MSFS, 95 years, belonging to Vishakhapatnam Province, who passed away on 20th July 2026

5. Fr. Emile Tirkey MSFS, 67 years, belonging to Nagpur Province, who passed away on 26th July 2026.
6. Fr. Silanand Soreng MSFS, 47 years, belonging to Guwahati Province, who passed away on 18th August 2026.

Family Members of the Confreres

1. Mrs. Sagaya Mary, 58 years, Maternal aunt of Fr. Christu Raja MSFS, who passed away on 18th June 2026.
2. Mrs. Kulandai Theresa, 68 years, paternal aunt of Fr. John Peter MSFS, who passed away on 02nd July 2026.
3. Mrs. Serophina Tirkey, 84 years, mother of Fr. Lalit Tigga MSFS, who passed away on 8th August 2026.
4. Miss Sushmita Tirkey, 23 years, younger sister of Bro. Sachin Tirkey MSFS, who passed away on 23rd August 2026.
5. Mrs. Gracy Joseph, 74 years, younger sister of Fr. Scaria MSFS, who passed away on 29th August 2026.

**“Great works do not always come our way,
but every moment presents us with opportunities
to do little ones with excellence.”**

— St. Francis de Sales

Rev. Fr. Manoj Tirkey MSFS



**Provincial Superior
Nagpur Province**