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Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales

Nagpur Province
Newsletter



Our Patron
St. Francis De Sales



Our Founder
Servant of God
Fr. Peter Mary Mermier

Mozambique Mission Is to Fulfil Church's Missionary Task

MSFS Missionary enterprise in Mozambique is not to be viewed as accidental or flawed decision but very much a well thought out venture as part of our service for the kingdom of God. Those who have the doubt on the same should ask the question: Can a missionary Congregation be indifferent to the missionary activities of the Universal Church? It is our participation in taking the Gospel among people and cultures where it is not known. Every MSFS has a soft corner for African countries, if a comparison is made with the other missionary landscapes in the world. At the back of our minds, we have the

intent of our founder who wanted to go to Africa for evangelisation works. Although it took over a century, the sons of Fr. Peter Mermier have done proud to the Missionary legacy of the parish mission preacher of Savoy. Our entry into Africa in big number and in different countries is to be understood against the backdrop of this intent of the Founder whom we hold in high esteem. We are not in Mozambique to be just conventional parish priests, attending to those who want to avail our pastoral services but to fulfil Church's Missionary task. At this juncture, my prayer would be for greater integration of our members into the culture of the place. Our missionary spirit should outlive language blues and cultural shocks for becoming part of the indigenous Church. First sign of our faith is our love for people in their living environment. If we look strangers to them there is a question mark on our integration without which we cannot be effective in ministry. We can hardly be called leaders as the faithful are far away from us and there is a strong but invisible wall between the people and the pastors.

Whatever may be the trend of the time or interpretation of evangelisation works of Christian missionaries, but there is no compromise on our Christocentric approach. The Christ event is the reason that we have decided to tread unknown paths, go into strange land and countries and learn languages of other nations. Anything without proclaiming the resurrected Christ is missionary work without any substance and depth.

The exhortations of the Church like proclamation of the Gospel, conversion and salvation of the souls and implantation of the Church, if side lined and not prioritized, our presence in Mozambique will not make much difference to the universal Church. Our participation in the universal mission of the Church will be peripheral and devoid of any impact.

Therefore, it is imperative for all of us to understand the purpose of our missionary undertaking in Mozambique, to understand what the missionary vocation of the Church is. Our founder has given us an alternative choice of renewal of faith which is nothing but preaching the word of God. When such preaching is done effectively and freely accepted by people, the Church in Mozambique will grow. Our entry into Mozambique is part of our missionary activity which flows from the very nature of the Church. Every one back home in the Province should be more passionate about Mozambique Mission more than those opted to work in Mozambique.

Our MSFS Mozambique Mission truly conducts its pastoral ministry in all simplicity. Our missionaries totally rely on the providence of God for everything. On the question of Institutionalisation for want of security, the religious culture prevalent in the place is contrary to Indian situation. Religious organisations are not considered to be people who will engage in lucrative projects. The Government with communist ideology can put us on notice. However, everyone has the right to earn their living. All ideologies permit it. As this issue of Tarang is dedicated to our Mozambique Mission, I want to remind all our Confreres that our Journey to Mozambique replicate our missionary journey from France to India. Their roots in France were so strong that sustained the mission in the strange land for more than a century. Those who sent them had a passion for the mission far away in India. This type of a passion for the mission is to be made concretely visible by all of us in the Province. I hope this special issue will strengthen our bonds with Confreres in Mozambique and enhance our work for God's Kingdom.



Rev. Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhiyil MSFS
Provincial, Nagpur Province



BOUNDLESS MERCY FOR BEAUTIFUL MOZAMBIQUE IN MERCY YEAR

On Friday, 10th April 2015 while celebrating a penitential service in Saint Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis announced an extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy, saying he wants to make it evident that the Church's mission is to be a witness of compassion. "Let us not forget that God forgives and God forgives always," Francis said. "Let us never tire of asking for forgiveness." The Pope continued, "I am convinced that the whole Church- which has much need to receive mercy, because we are sinners -will find in this jubilee the joy to rediscover and render fruitful the mercy of God, with which we are all called to give consolation to every man and woman of our time." Our mission is a mission of compassion and mercy. The missionaries of St. Francis de Sales rooted in Mozambique since 2000, resonate God's compassion and mercy on this foreign soil. Past 16 years of our missionary existence has been a credible witness to this fact. The Year of Mercy invites the Mission to appreciate our achievements and to look forward with hope for the future. As missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, we incarnate this Mission of Mercy by faith formation and renewal of Christian life. Our pioneering missionaries by their sweat and blood labored hard despite the odd circumstances. Their challenges were enormous. The reachability constrained by remoteness, scarcity of basic needs, foreign food habits; deadly sickness like Malaria often curtailed their advancement. Yet their missionary enthusiasm endured everything with patience and consistency, resulting in further expansion of mission. We salute those dedicated missionaries who opened new avenues for the mission in Mozambique. Mission in Mozambique is unique with diverse aspects. It cannot be explained with mere words. One must come and experience it. It is a land of God's mercy flowing to every sphere of life. Our call to be a missionary is to serve the people by assuming a servant model leadership. We need to live Jesus and give Jesus. The mission of Mozambique calls us to manifest God's profound mercy. Let's love our mission. May God bless us all!



Fr. Petrus Kullu MSFS
Delegation Superior, Mozambique

INTERVIEW WITH THE GREAT GRANDNIECE OF FR. PETER MARY MERMIER

• From where did you hear about Fr. Mermier first? What did you mostly hear about him?

I heard about Fr. Mermier through my father who admired Fr. Mermier and went to Annecy for any event concerning Fr. Mermier. In 1960, when the vault was opened my father stood along with the authorities to see the exceptional preservation of his body. On 28th August 1990, they celebrated the bicentenary of the birth of Fr. Mermier at Chaumont Church in Vovray, the native hamlet. I mostly heard that he was a great missionary and had sent Priests to Visakhapatnam where the first MSFS Bishop Fr. Theophile Neyret MSFS was installed. La Feuillette and Proupeine are famous MSFS places in Annecy, also the Castle of Allinges and Notre Dame de la Gorge shrines in Haute Savoie.

• Is Fr. Mermier's family quite big? Are there many members? Any memorial service is held in honour of him?

I am giving you the genealogical tree of the Mermier's Family. It's in folder Pauline. We have had prayer services in his memory at the 200th anniversary of his birth in August 1990; then in October 2007, during the transfer of his remains and those of Msgr Rey at the Visitation. A presentation on the life of Father Mermier was attended by Msgr Boivineau, the family of Msgr de Thiollaz, Lay people and religious in July 2010, during the Feast at Chaumont. We had Mass in October 2013 at Chaumont to celebrate 175 years of MSFS and in October 2014 at Chaumont celebrating the anniversary of the foundation of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod. In April 2015, during the year of consecrated life, Fr. Yves Carron the Provincial of France-Switzerland, gave a conference in the Church of Frangy parish about the Missionary Legacy of Fr. Mermier on which Chaumont now depends, at the request of Fr. Tocboulga, the Parish Priest who wished to make Fr. Mermier better known in the new Parish which was followed by a solemn concelebrated Mass.

• Would the family be able to contribute to the cause of Fr. Mermier to make him a saint?

The other members of the family are not very interested in Fr. Mermier or to his proclamation as Saint by Rome. But for the family, he is a Saint and a great man who has gone beyond the limits of his little native village. I personally would contribute and know that we need lot of money for this procedure and some pompous celebrations but that is not the spirit of Fr. Mermier. In 2015, I had come to India, risking my health as I was not keeping good health since 2014. It was my hope and belief that this pilgrimage would advance the cause of his beatification and wanted to render homage to my great great grand uncle as I bear the name of Mermier till the end of my life. For me, Fr. Mermier is a Saint. He has given birth to two religious congregations: MSFS and Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod to spread His word in the world. He contributed towards the empowerment of women in the countryside, built a Convent school at Chaumont in 1848 so that the girls would not be servants in their homes or elsewhere, that they may educate their children as worthy as the daughters of the nobility of Annecy.

• There are many Institutions in India and Africa and more than one thousand five hundred members in the Congregation started by Fr. Mermier. What do you feel about it?

From Chaumont, I used to admire via internet all the works of the 1500 spiritual sons of Fr. Mermier in the world. It is a great joy and an honour that they make Fr. Mermier's teachings eternal.



- **What do you feel after visiting India and seeing the works of Missionaries from Savoy?**

I feel great joy, pride and enthusiasm, discovering the great modern works of the Fathers adapted to the needs of our times, in the spirit of their Founder. A big thank you to all his spiritual sons!

- **What is your message to members of MSFS congregation?**

Dear MSFS fathers, continue this beautiful journey with all. My sincere wishes to realize new works in particular the education of youth and care of aged fathers. Keep the Salesian traits of smile and joy Alive.



- **What was your profession and how did you conduct yourself in the profession chosen by you?**

By chance, I discovered that there were jobs in the French Army for women as nurses, secretaries and instructors. I applied to be a secretary and instructor as teaching profession was always my passion. I developed a strong professional conscience and received great joy in forming those entrusted to me and seeing their success in life. I also worked as a helper to the Chaplain for Christmas celebrations and other functions; always practiced the motto of the Officers of the French Army: "Let work be your Law and Honour be your guide," the military motto is not "Go to war for the sake of war." They pick up arms only in defence of their country respecting the Geneva Conventions. Our first mission is the defence of the motherland and not the attack against other countries.

- **Do the people know about Mermier? How can we create awareness among people on Mermier as a great missionary and saintly priest?**

Since 2000, there are not many Parish Priests in Alas at Chaumont and in the new Parish of St. Jacques of Val des Usses at Frangy who are interested in Fr. Mermier and his spirituality. My father told me that I should continue to make the memory of Fr. Mermier alive. I have read the writings and reflected with the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod around Annecy and prepared some videos. Fr. Eric Traboulga is interested and says that Fr. Mermier is the Saint of Vovray (hamlet and birthplace) of Fr. Mermier. MSFS Fr. Claude Morel and Fr. Samuel, Fr. Richard Martin, Parish Priest of Bon-en-Chablais and Fr. Viju are some of the priests who show great interest in his spirituality. We can make Father Mermier known not by grand traditional masses, but with conferences followed by prayer, meditations, hymns, vocal and instrumental music programmes according to the schedule which suits the younger generations; through internet and emails etc. The youth in our parish do not heed me as they are too busy with their personal concerns. An MSFS must come to my place and speak to people of the parish which would have great impact. Young MSFS priests could do wonders and the youth would communicate better with someone nearer to them in age. There are halls available in Chaumont and Frangy at the Parishes.

- **What was the most outstanding quality of Mermier according to you?**

His most shining virtue was his great Faith, his convincing fervour, his charism of a brilliant preaching; he knew how to captivate the parishioners, as he could use the language which touched the people without having to run into high theology. "Do what God wills...where God wills", Fr. Mermier; "Bloom where you are planted", St. Francis de Sales.

- **What made you take keen interest in the works of Mermier and visit places where his missionaries worked?**

When I was a child, my father Mr. Mark Mermier spoke with admiration about Fr. Mermier and about the works in Visakhapatnam. When he died, I continued to make his memory alive around me as my father wished, especially in the native place of Fr. Mermier. When I retired, I found time to read and reread books on Fr. Mermier and I discovered the richness of his deep spirituality. When the sisters of the Cross came to Chaumont and Vovray on simple but organized visits along with MSFS Fathers, I followed with great interest the moments of meditation organized at Vovray by Sr. Odile Vaudaux. I discovered the rich personality of Fr. Mermier. I also followed him on internet. When my mother expired in 2013, I found more free time to discover him further and come to India to see for myself all the works of the MSFS congregation. Divine Providence has allowed that I should come this year 2015, dedicated to Consecrated Life by Pope Francis.

- **Tell us more about Fr. Mermier's birth place, village etc.**

Fr. Mermier was born on 29th August, 1790 in the family house belonging to the Mermier's since 1770. Baptized on the same day in the Church of Chaumont, his father, Francois-Marie was the owner of the largest property of the village. His mother Antoinette Bastian came from the family of notaries of Frangy. She had the chance of studying with the Sisters of the Visitation at Annecy. She taught the little poor children of the village. She wished that her son Peter possess a good Christian education as he himself wanted. She arranged clandestine Masses in her farm house and managed to hide priests, who did not take the oath and were considered outcasts, in the forest behind the house during the French Revolutions and its effects. Undoubtedly, Fr. Mermier lived this difficult situation. The water font inside their house bears witness to this. He has written that he owes his vocation to his mother. Fr. Leon Buffet mentions it in his biography of Fr. Mermier as well.



MSFS MISSION IN MOZAMBIQUE AS I SEE IT



Since January 2000, MSFS priests have been doing a commendable mission work in Mozambique. From the first house in Bela-vista, the mission has grown not only in the number of houses, but also in the number of priests and seminarians. Five seminarians completed their course here, got ordained and are serving as dedicated priests. It is amazing to see the young priests and seminarians master Portuguese as well as the various dialects and become extremely effective in a short span of time. The endeavour to train the local aspirants to become missionaries is highly appreciated. Several schools for small kids are operational in Katembe, Bela vista, Mudada, Ponta do Ouro and Matola which help to inculcate moral values in the children of working/single mothers, right from their tender age.

Many inactive churches were taken up and services made available for the faithful. The transformation of the people is so evident that the parishioners have become more confident and hopeful. The love and trust shown by the people reveal their satisfaction in the work of MSFS here in Mozambique. Their mission statement, "Bloom where you are planted" is visible in their existence in Mozambique. The consecrated MSFS are models to many in religious life too. The friendly and loving nature of the priests and seminarians touch the hearts of all who are in contact with them. Mavila, Matola, Katembe, Belevista and Ponta do Ouro are the places benefitted by the MSFS. Hope to see more MSFS presence in Mozambique.

Mrs. Jessie Sevi George, Friend of Fransalians

LONG LIVE THE FRANSALIANS IN MOZAMBIQUE

Talking about the Fransalians in Mozambique, is like watching a tiny sparkle floating around in the air and suddenly causing a small heap of dry grass flares up into a small flame which spreads around in the space. Similarly, Fransalians took hold of the situation in Mozambique, uncontrolled by any human force, transforming the community where it happened in such a radical way that an altogether new society springs up. I am a language teacher and that is how I made my entry into this new emerging missionary society. It was in 2000, when their dynamic director Fr. Sebastian sought my services to teach him the Portuguese language. I continue as their language teacher ever since, I have accompanied them in their growth step by step and I can proudly say:

Congratulations!

Long live the Fransalians in Mozambique.

May the Lord Jesus be with you always.

And help you reach unimaginable heights
in your all round humanitarian mission!



Prof. Leonor Maria Rodrigues, Friend of Fransalians

UNTIRING EFFORTS OF FRANSALIANS



My first interaction with the MSFS priests in Mozambique in 2004 when Fr. Sebastian along with Fr. Mathew were in a religious gathering at a common friend's house. Thereafter, we had regular interaction with them and a number of priests who followed like Fr. Ignatius, Fr. Alphonse, Fr. Steven Soares and until more recently Fr. Alex Tigga and Fr. Rajesh. It was between 2005 and 2007, while I was on a project in Salamanga that I used to visit their house at Bela-vista often. I would admire how these young priests and brothers would travel to the interiors of Matutuine district to assist the local Christian communities. We appreciate the good works being done in Mozambique, especially in communities like Mavila, Bela Vista and surroundings. The present team of young MSFS priests and Brothers under the leadership of Fr. Petrus Kullu have done and continue to do a lot of good with local communities. The most important is the spreading of spiritual

awareness amongst our local Christian brothers and sisters. Fr. Petrus is well assisted by Fr. Paul, Fr. Raju, Fr. George and others. I wish to pray in a special way that God gives these young men from the MSFS Congregation the strength to complete their mission and protection in a land far away from their home.

Mrs. Audrey and Leroy Misquitta, Friends of Fransalians



GOD OF HISTORY LIVES THROUGH FRANSALIANS HISTORY OF MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION

Mozambique is an African country situated in the southern part of the African Continent with a diverse culture, with Portuguese as its official language, with a Christian background having 12 Dioceses. Due to the civil war, their faith became shallow and the Church became weak. Knowing well the background and dwindling faith of Christian population, the then Superior General asked the Nagpur Province to take up the Mission in Mozambique for all works of Evangelization.

4th January 2000: Pioneers Frs. Sebastian Annaikandathil, Melroy Almeida and Mathews Kodamullil landed in Maputo, Mozambique.

5th May 2000: Fr. Sebastian as Parish Priest and Fr. Mathews as Assistant Parish Priest in Bela-Vista Parish.

2001: Frs. Alex Tigga and Ignatius da Costa joined the mission.

2003: Catembe Parish was entrusted with Frs. Alex and Ignatius. Brothers started to come from India for theological studies.

2005: Late Fr. Prabhudas Kujur joined and was with Fr. Alex in Catembe Parish. Began the Minor Seminary at Matola.

2006: Fr. Kailash Hilwale joined

2007: Began the reconstruction of the Mavila Mission Parish, Fr. Sebastian as Parish Priest and Fr. Kailash as Assistant Parish Priest. Frs. Petrus Kullu and Stephen Soares joined.

2009: A house (Lar Mermier) was bought for the Theology students in the city.

2010: Fr. Anish George reached for mission experience.

2011: Frs. Raju Minj and Ranjit Tirkey joined.

2012: Mozambique Mission was elevated to the position of Mozambique Delegation.

2013: Fr. Georgekutty Arackal joined. Began a new community at Ponta do Ouro with Fr. Sebastian.

2015: Frs. Vineesh Chempakassery and Peter Thomas joined.

· We pay homage to late Fr. Prabhudas Kujur for his great works.

· **Priests who stayed for a short period of time:** Frs. Alphonse and Thomas Kuttiyankal.

· **Priests who worked for the mission but in India at present:** Frs. Melroy, Ignatius, Kailas and Sebastian.

· **Priests working abroad for Mozambique Delegation:** Frs. Alex, Stephen, Anish and Rajesh.

· **Priests who did their theological studies in Mozambique:** Fr. Rajesh Jayaseelan ordained in 2011, Fr. Henry Nedumkallel ordained in 2013, Frs. Aajo Therully, Jijo Punchayil, Jins Devasia ordained in 2014.

· **Deacons of the Delegation:** Dn. Ashok Minj to be ordained in 2016, Dn. Jinoy Kopyly to be ordained in 2016.

· **Brothers doing Theology:** Bros. Ranjit Lakra, Rajendra Toppo, Linus Kodikulam, Moises Stupadia and Poomagan Sensuslass.

Fr. Aajo Joy MSFS



INTERVIEW WITH PIONEERING MISSIONARY, FR. MATHEWS JOHN MSFS



➤ What were your motivating factors and insightful challenges on your way to pioneering evangelization?

There were many factors motivating me to opt for Mozambique Mission. I had a great desire to work in Tanzania mission because I had many scholastics friends from India working over there and I was inspired by them to go and work there. With this strong desire, deep within my heart, I wrote letters to Superior General and the Provincial. The provincial asked me, "Why don't you opt to work in Mozambique?" I willingly and joyously accepted the option and was the first one to volunteer for Mozambique Mission. Another factor that motivated and inspired me was the writings of Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, 'I want Mission.' He wanted mission in Africa but could not. Then I decided why not I fulfil the desire of my founder? The desire to see new places and countries and to work with the new people also motivated me to opt for Mozambique mission. Challenges on the way to pioneering evangelization were: There were cultural and language barriers. The return of one of the three pioneers was a disappointing factor. Accidents, sickness, and lack of proper food were other challenges that we had to overcome. On the other side, there were many blessings such as good climate, loving and simple people etc.

➤ Life then and life now, how do you assess it?

When we were new, there were lots of problems with the learning of language. Few months we could not communicate properly and again, we had to learn another local dialect. And we were only two of us. Thoughts about India, parents, relatives, province, friends and confreres disturbed us. We were missing all of them. But now, life is far better and comfortable and many things have changed. There are many confreres, there is more moral support and we have frequent meetings and gatherings etc. There are many friends and well wishers from India around us to support and encourage.

➤ What is your vision of Mozambique in its silver Jubilee Year?

There is always a problem with regard to finance all over the world, same is the case in Mozambique mission. We have to start one or two schools to generate some local income. Members are increasing, so within one or two year's time, we should think of taking one or two more parishes.



INTERVIEW WITH PIONEERING MISSIONARY, FR. SEBASTIAN MSFS CALLED TO LOVE THE PEOPLE OF MOZAMBIQUE

Ø **What were your motivating factors and insightful challenges on your way to “Pioneering evangelization?”**



I got into the first (pioneering) group to Mozambique very suddenly and surprisingly substituting another confrere who was in great perplexity. We landed in Mozambique on 4th January 2000, but had no house to stay. The Cardinal Archbishop of Maputo when asked about what was his intention in inviting us, he simply replied: “To make Christ known all over the district of Matutuine”. In 2002, we were also given the responsibility of the adjacent district: Katembe with an area of about 3,000 sq. kms. In 2004, we started the minor seminary at Matola, and in 2007 we took up the abandoned old Mission of Mavila in the State (Province) of Inhambane with its 1,200 sq kms of area. In 2009, we opened the scholasticate in Maputo, the national capital. The immediate needs in 2000 for the people were: conduct services, Mass and sacraments in the local languages; get priests from Maputo who were well-versed in local languages to conduct programs, courses and seminars for the animators as well as for the faithful in general and to make sure that all the children go to school.

Ø **Life then and life now, ' how do you assess it?**

Good percentage of people have become educated by now. Bridges and roads are under construction. Economy grew on a good pace. If not for the long civil-war (1975-1992) and the great flood of 2000, the country would have been better paced. Corruption is rampant. Facilities and conveniences are far better but essential features of 'Mission' and 'Formation' need to be given better attention. The accompaniment of the 'Friends of Fransalians' played / plays a vital role in our ministry.

Ø **What is your vision of Mozambique in its silver Jubilee Year?**

Right from now, as we are blessed with young confreres, dare to start / enter into more Missions to make Christ known in more areas, especially in interior villages and inspire more people to imitate Christ in their daily lives. We should contact Congregations of Sisters and support them fully to establish themselves in interior villages. Start in every centre/'dehat' an '*anganwadi*'/ pre-primary-centre, where the child feels wanted, appreciated, inspired, loved and guided. Be with the youth and find placement for their livelihood. Restart the lay-retreat-animation-groups in the mother-tongue of the particular area. Accompany the people. Avoid at all cost: institutionalism and clericalism. Continue with loving care and great earnestness the construction of the 'invisible' Church, a fully participative and vibrant Church, facilitating simple life-style and praising God, taking full responsibility of 'our common home', experiencing and sharing the 'Joy of the Gospel'.

VISION MOZAMBIQUE 2020

YOUR KINGDOM COME, YOUR WILL BE DONE, HERE IN MOZAMBIQUE AS IT IS IN HEAVEN



I have been asked to write Vision Mozambique 2020, in 2016. It's a tall order. Three years is too short a time, given the normal pace of Africa, expecting miracles to happen. So I prayed... “**What is your vision, O Lord, for us Fransalians of the Nagpur Province? Why have you sent us here to this land of Mozambique?**” I appealed to our Patroness, she replied, with the same words she spoke to the servants in Cana, “**Do whatever He tells you to do**” and miracles will happen: FRANSALIANS AT PRAYER; Our Patron had this to say “**Be what you are and be that at its best**”. You are a Fransalian. Discover the riches of your FRANSALIAN HERITAGE. Be Fransalian, be just that, no more no less, but be that at its best: MSFSness; Our Founder counselled, “**It is not for us to do extraordinary things but to do ordinary things extraordinarily well**”. The simple little fidelities, CULTIVATING THE LITTLE VIRTUES, the routine and sometime boring responsibilities of daily living and serving God's people under our care, and small projects which touch the lives of our people, done with love and care, that really matter. Loving our people means helping them to grow. It means being available 24 X 7 for them with a smile on our face and a ready prayer in our hearts.

VISION: I see SIMPLE, PRAYERFUL, JOYFUL, LOVING AND LOVABLE MISSIONARIES, WORKING TOGETHER AS A FAMILY, MEN sent by God, on the Mission of service to: The **Country**, the **Church** and the **Congregation**.

Country: I see projects which have to do with education, empowerment, emancipation of the young and especially of women and children, community leadership, fight against poverty - projects for potable water and community farming, etc, is service to society and the nation.

Church: I see projects which have to do with faith formation, church leadership, seminars, retreats, pilgrimages, repairs to and construction of religious structures like chapels and halls for seminars /Catechetics, etc. is service to the church of God.

Congregation: I see all efforts to promote the good name of our congregation by dedicated selfless service. I see efforts for getting more personnel - vocation promotion and training of lay collaborators. All projects geared towards self-sufficiency and the procuring of benefactors, local and foreign. Our effort to update ourselves intellectually and spiritually is in itself a great service to the congregation.

**ESTAMOS JUNTOS: Together, Let us make something beautiful for God.
Vive Jesus!**

Fr. Paul Gonsalves MSFS



FR. PRABHUDAS MSFS, THE MISSIONARY PAR EXCELLENCE



Fr. Prabhudas was born on 16th March 1966. He made his first Profession on 31st May 1993 and was ordained a Priest on 3rd of May 1998. True to his name (Servant of God), he willingly accepted to work in Mozambique and in September 2004, he landed in this beautiful country of Africa. Fr. Prabhudas served the people of Mozambique as Assistant Parish Priest and later as Parish Priest in the parishes of Katembe and Belavista respectively. He exercised his priestly ministry with lot of dedication and commitment; bringing the love and compassion of God to the people he was entrusted with. He was loved by everyone because of his down to earth life style. He had a special love for nature and animals and because of these qualities Rev. Dom Francisco Chimoio, the



Archbishop of Maputo liked him so much. Fr. Prabhudas' life was not a bed of roses - he had to face many hardships right from his childhood till he breathed his last. He had a narrow escape during the Bhopal gas tragedy, he suffered at the hand of robbers, while he was still nursing the wounds, he met with a car accident. While he was serving as the Parish Priest of Bela Vista, he started to have severe pain in the stomach and other discomforts. He was brought to India for better treatment but was diagnosed with cancer in its final stages and on 29th of September 2013, he left for his eternal reward. Fr. Prabhudas was really a missionary; ready to live a difficult and adventurous life. He had many difficulties in his life but endured all these difficulties with so much patience and trust in God. Through his life of endurance and patience, he still lives in the hearts of all the people who knew him.

Fr. Raju Minj MSFS

FUTURE OF MOZAMBIQUE MISSION - SCHOLASTICS' PERSPECTIVES

The Year 2000 saw another milestone in the history of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales as Nagpur Province embarked on another challenging mission in Mozambique, Africa. Initially, three priests volunteered for this challenging task. Today, the mission has taken new strides of growth as every year new missionaries venture into this remote part of the world. Today, we have three parishes and two study houses in two provinces of Mozambique. The Mozambique mission has flourished in its 16 years of existence. And at present, there are 12 priests, 2 deacons, 10 temporarily professed members and 12 minor seminarians. The mission has a long way to go. The future of this mission lies in the hands of the young scholastics as they will be assuming tomorrow's leadership. In view of this, adequate training is given in areas of learning the culture and the language of the people. The theological formation in the local language helps the scholastics to acquire better knowledge of the people and the culture.

We have still a lot to accomplish in Mozambique. Faith formation and education need special attention. The sluggish faith of people can be reactivated through regular and constant care of the communities. Education will help them to be enlightened. Launching schools in the remote areas will bring about a change with a lasting impact. The aimless youth should be offered help to discover their vocation. The need of the hour is to promote more vocations, especially the local ones. It will surge the possibilities of the mission for more effectiveness. It has the advantage of scholastics already familiar with the nuances in the given context.

Bro. Ranjit Minj MSFS





For us with God

Rev. Fr. Kurian Chempalakunnel MSFS



Born
01.12.1938
Ordained a Priest
23.10.1971
Back to the Creator
16.03.2016



Rev. Fr. William John D' Silva MSFS

Born
31.01.1953
Ordained a Priest
18.05.1984
Back to the Creator
21.03.2016

Rev. Fr. Joseph P Thalachirakuzhiyil MSFS



Born
15.01.1947
Ordained a Priest
03.05.1977
Back to the Creator
03.04.2016

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Celebrating Silver Jubilee of Ordination to Priesthood



Fr. Correia Austin Xavier
23.04.1992



Fr. Francis Venmenikattayil
12.05.1992



Fr. John Britto Muthuswamy
06.05.1992



Fr. Khutekar Daniel Shantwan
04.04.1992



Fr. Philip Malaparambil
08.05.1992

Congratulations, Dear Fathers!



DO YOU LIKE TO HAVE A PRIEST IN YOUR FAMILY?

Support and accompany him with your prayers and financial assistance. Participate in the formation of a priest. Lead him to the altar of God.

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**To live the Gospel
To Make a difference
Is God calling you
to the Priesthood?**

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