



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

DIBRUGARH PROVINCE

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www.msfsdibrugarh.com



St. Francis De Sales
MSFS PATRON



Mother of Sorrows
MSFS PATRONESS



Fr. Peter Mary Mermier
MSFS FOUNDER

HAVE A
Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year

My dear Confreres,

I wish you all a blessings-filled Christmas and a grace-filled New Year 2022! We are celebrating Christmas at a time when the whole world is again under the threat of the Covid-19 virus, now a new variant called Omicron! But Christmas is a feast of joyful hope, for God has become one with us in the person of his

Son, true God and true man. He showed his love for us by becoming part of our world, with all its conflicts, its suffering and its poverty. Jesus is truly Emmanuel: a God with us!



Jesus' incarnation is the highest expression of God's deep love for us. So, Christmas is God's way of telling us that in spite of our infidelity, our shortcomings and sins, God still loves us. Since God loves us, he became man, became part our history, part of our pains and struggles, part of our dreams and aspirations. He simply joins our human life, takes on our flesh and all the sorrow and pain connected with our lives. He meets us human beings as human person and becomes one of us by his incarnation. So God can understand us and we can find support in him in our needs, trials, sufferings, temptations, anxieties, bitterness and sin. He comes in solidarity with us to give us hope, meaning and purpose in our lives. But how do we respond to that love of God?

By incarnation we also become God's children and true brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. But, are we aware of our basic identity that we all are God's children and that we are all brothers and sisters? And how do we give practical expression to this universal solidarity in our day today life? God by becoming man gives us the capacity to love others, because God himself is love. But we know that love is, at times, very hard. It crucifies and crowns, it prunes and makes us grow. All true love is self-emptying: accepting others as they are, wishing others well even when they harm us, forgiving others for their shortcomings – all these demand sacrifice from our part, because true love is a sacrificing love. Let our Christmas gift to God be a heart full of love and a strong and sincere resolution to share it generously with others!

CONGREGATIONAL MATTERS

Hearty Welcome

DEAR
VERY REV. FR. ABRAHAM VETTUVELIL

OUR SUPERIOR GENERAL
TO
MSFS DIBRUGARH PROVINCE



Canonical Visitation of Superior General

We are very happy that our Superior General, Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvil MSFS has already reached MSFS Provincial House, Silapathar for the first phase of his Canonical Visitation to our new Province from 23 December, 2021 to 09 January 2022. As we welcome him to our Province warmly, we shall continue to pray for the success of his visitation that it be an occasion for evaluation, renewal, and reinvigoration of the Province Life and Apostolate (Art. 201/vi), because through his visits, the Superior General enhances the quality of religious life, enlivens the apostolic zeal, and fosters love and teamwork among the confreres (Art. 201/v). Thank you, dear Fr. Abraham, for being with us at this Christmas time in our Mission Province, especially in this MSFS Year of Missions!





Extraordinary General Chapter 2022 Postponed

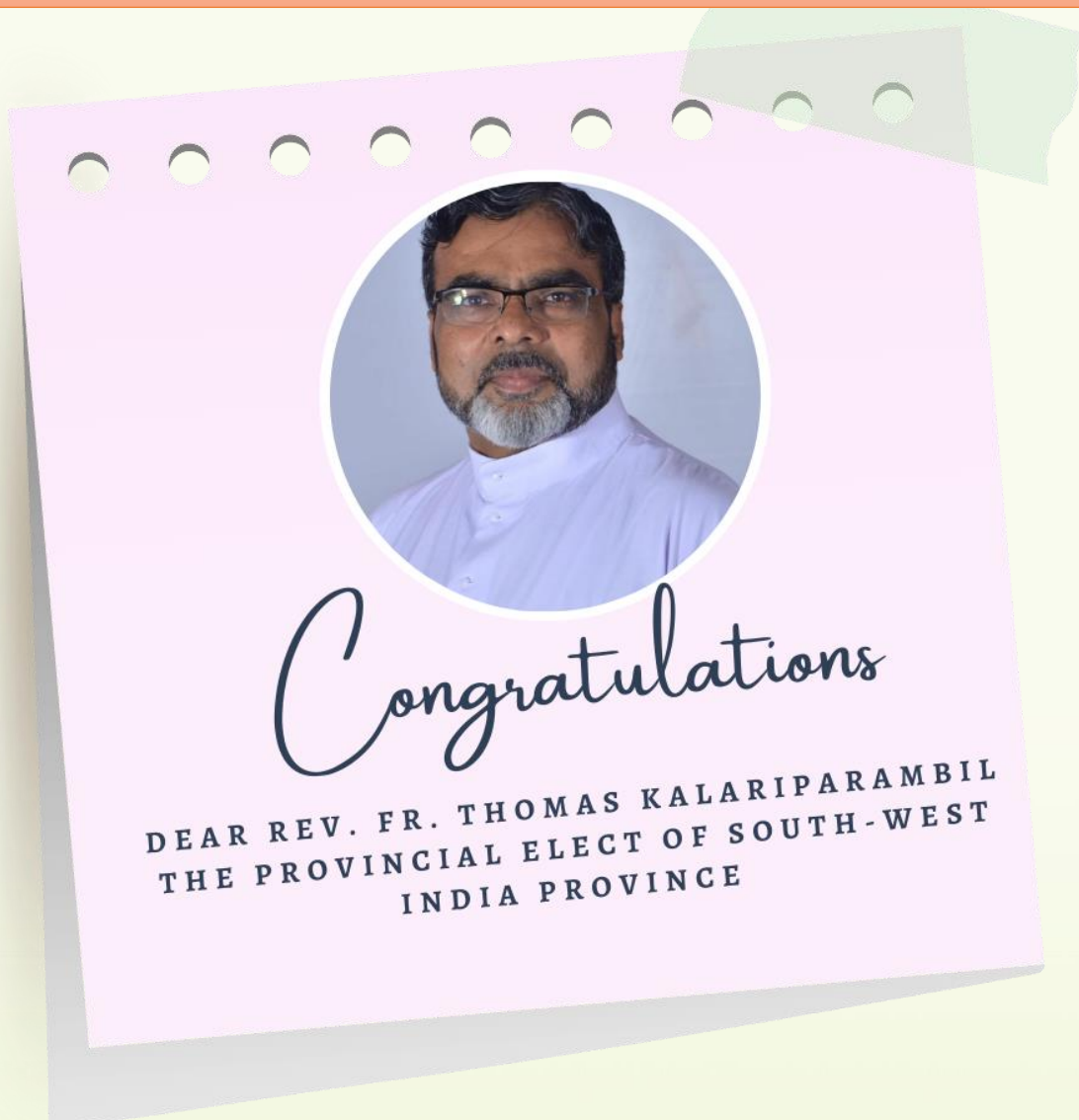
The Secretary General of the EGC 2022, Rev. Fr. Saji George Puthiyakulangara MSFS informs us that the celebration of the Extraordinary General Chapter 2022, announced to be held from February 01-07, 2022 at Fransalian Seminary, Pune, Maharashtra, will not take place as scheduled, due to uncertainties regarding international travel and gatherings in the wake of the new variant (Omicron) of COVID 19.

Prayer Intention of the Superior General for January 2022

“That the Extraordinary General Chapter may be a spirit-filled experience in the life of our Congregation and that we may walk in the path of our Patron and Founder with a renewed commitment to our charism, we pray to the Lord”.

Congratulations to the new Provincial Elect of SWIP

MSFS Dibrugarh Province extends Heartiest Congratulations to Rev. Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil, the new Provincial elect of the South West India Province. We wish him God’s abundant blessings in his ministry of leadership in the Province to take it to greater heights!



PROVINCE MATTERS

Catholic Youth Convention at SFS Parish Pasighat

In collaboration with the SFS Parish Pasighat, Fransalian Youth Mission (FYM) of Dibrugarh Province had conducted a two-day Youth Animation Programme at SFS Parish Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh on 13 and 14 November 2021. The Youth Convention was organised in view of bringing together the Students/Youth of different parishes studying/residing in Pasighat. This was a first of its kind convention and the response was indeed overwhelming.

There were about 200 youths who took part in this two-day Youth Convention. In both days, the programme began with Holy Eucharist and followed by different group activities, group games and input sessions. On the first day, the Holy Eucharist was presided over by Fr Martin CMI and on the second day (Sunday) by Fr Varghese Paul MSFS, the Dean of Aalo Deanery, and it was concelebrated by several other priests. The sessions were jointly animated by Fr Carlus Barowa MSFS, Fr Luke Tanti MSFS, Fr John Barman MSFS, Fr Melvin CMI, Fr Wanlambor MSFS and Sr Justina SCC.

All the participants were very appreciative of the well organised Youth Programme and requested the organisers to hold such programmes at regular intervals. The Fransalian Youth Mission sincerely thank Fr Jose Chettaniyil MSFS, the Parish Priest of SFS Church Pasighat, as well as Fr Joseph Bamhingbe MSFS, Fr Daniel Lalmuanzela MSFS and all the sisters for the meticulous planning and well organised Catholic Youth Convention at Pasighat (Reported by Fr Carlus Barowa MSFS).





Reception of the First Holy Communion in Holy Rosary Parish Purul

31st October 2021 was a day of blessing for the Holy Rosary Parish Purul, Manipur. On this concluding day of the October devotion of the Holy Rosary, His Grace Most Rev. Dominic Lumon, the Archbishop of Imphal, officiated the Holy Eucharist, during which 32 children received their First Holy Communion.

Later on, for the convenience of Koide villages, another day of First Holy Communion was organised on 19th December 2021. There were 42 communicants from Koide Lower, Koide Besho, Koide Zho and Koide Upper. Fr Kurian Ovelil, the Parish priest officiated the Holy Eucharist, during which they received the Holy Communion.

Thanks to the pain staking efforts of the sisters who trained the communicants! Congratulations to Fr. Kurian Ovelil, Fr. Andreas Syngkli, Sisters and the whole Parish Team! May God be praised for the gift of these children, who received Jesus for the first time, and are on their way of a witnessing Christian life! (With inputs from Fr. Kurian Ovelil MSFS)



Blessing of the Foundation for Priests' Residence at SFS Campus, Aalo

The foundation for the proposed new 'Residence for the Priests' (cum Guest Room Facilities for the Campus) was blessed by Rev Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, the Provincial of Dibrugarh Province on Saturday, 4th December 2021 at SFS Campus, Yeggo, Aalo. The service was attended by Fr Varghese M., the Dean of the area and Parish Priest of St Joseph's Parish, Kaying, Fr Carlus B., the Director of Fransalian Youth Mission Dibrugarh Province, Fr Luke T., the Asst. PP of St. Mary's Parish Aalo, the confreres, sisters, students, staff and collaborators from the Desalite Family, Aalo.



Congratulations to the Superior and Community for initiating this project and Thanks to all the confreres who raise funds (through the generous benefactors) for the materialisation of this much-needed and long-awaited project for the all-round development of the centre as well as for the benefit of the student community of Arunachal Pradesh! May God be praised for all his blessings and may He bless this project and every stakeholder of this noble venture! (With inputs from Fr Joy Velickakathu MSFS)

Blessing of a New Residence Facility at St. Joseph Church Campus Kaying

The 5th of December 2021 marked another grace-filled day for St. Joseph Mission at Kaying. On this day a new residence facility for the priests at St. Joseph Church Campus was inaugurated and blessed by Rev. Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil, Provincial of Dibrugarh Province in the presence of Fathers, Sisters and Parishioners of Kaying. It was a long-awaited need of the mission being fulfilled to have a residential house adjacent to the parish church. This new house will help the priests to attend to



the various needs of the people who come to the Church Campus. The presence of the priests will also enable the people to approach the priests for their spiritual needs. We thank God for his blessings in our ministry and we thank the erstwhile Northeast India Provincial Administration and the present Dibrugarh Provincial Administration for their efforts in completing the project. Special word of thanks to the Superior and Community for initiating and implementing this project very well! (With inputs from Fr. Varghese Paul Manickathan MSFS)

Inauguration and blessing of the Grotto at SFS Parish, Chabua

On the 16th of December, a Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes at SFS Parish, Chabua was inaugurated by Rev. Fr. Peter Parankimalil MSFS, the Provincial Bursar of Dibrugarh Province, and blessed by Rev. Fr. Joseph Muloparampil Vicar General of Dibrugarh Diocese. The blessing was preceded by a short welcome program. The grotto and the road leading to it were well decorated. Fathers from Silapathar, MSFS Novitiate Chabua, Vianney Home, CST Brothers, Monfort Brothers, Maria Bhavan Sisters and Parishioners attended the program. The Vicar General gave an inspiring talk on Mother Mary. At the end of the blessing there was a short felicitation program for the guests. Fr. Milkus Tirkey, the Parish Priest thanked everyone for their valuable presence and expressed his gratitude to all the members of the Province, especially to the Provincial Administration, for their financial support, encouragement and the keen interest shown for the development of the Parish. (Reported by Deacon Pakon Narzary)





Inauguration and Blessing of Village Church in Ngopi under Sacred Heart Parish, Likabali

On 18th December 2021 the newly constructed church in Ngopi Village, under the Sacred Heart Parish Likabali, was inaugurated and blessed by Most Rev. John Thomas, the Bishop of Itanagar. Thereafter the Bishop presided over the first Holy Eucharist in the church, which was concelebrated by all the MSFS Fathers present from the nearby parishes. He instructed the faithful that church is not a building, but a community of faithful and church is built is on the faith of the faithful. The Holy Mass was followed by a short felicitation programme and fellowship meal with the faithful. The event was attended



by seven priests, and a large number of faithful. Sacred Heart Parish Community Likabali is grateful to the Bishop and all the Benefactors, (especially to the Brennan Family from the USA, through Fr. Francis Thadathil MSFS), whose contributions have made it possible to construct this new church for the faithful of Ngopi village. Thanks to Fr. Peter Parankimalil, the Provincial Bursar of Dibrugarh Province, who along with Fr. Peter Peuhausuiding, the Parish Priest and Fr Jimal Johny, the Asst. Priest, who supervised the construction of this village church! (Reported by Fr. Jaimon Thadathil)

Advent Retreat at SFS Parish Jonai

SFS Parish Jonai organized a two-day retreat at Rajakhana village in preparation for the Christmas. Fr Carlus Barowa, the Youth Director of MSFS Dibrugarh Province, animated the retreat on 18th and 19th December. A good number of people attended the retreat. Congratulations to Fr



Thomas Kollathuvayalil and Fr Jacob Raising for organizing it and preparing the people for the celebration of Christmas! (With inputs from Fr. Thomas Kollathuvayalil MSFS)



Obituary

- ✠ Mr. Shibu Joseph (43), the younger brother of Fr. Abraham Ponvelil, passed away on 4th November 2021
- ✠ Mrs. Anna Kuriakose Velickakathu (98), the mother of Fr. Joy Velickakathu, passed away on 20th November 2021
- ✠ Rev. Fr. Augustine Olickal, (80) belonging to Visakapatnam Province, passed away on 27th November 2021
- ✠ Mrs. Ancy (50), the niece (daughter of elder brother) of Fr. George Parampukattil, passed away on 29th November 2021
- ✠ Rev. Bro. Michael Olickal (86) belonging to Visakapatnam Province, passed away on 12th December 2021
- ✠ Mrs. Mary Kurian Kuzhuppil (87), the mother of Fr. Sebastian Kuzhuppil, passed away on 13th December 2021
- ✠ Mr. Joseph Purayidam (81) the uncle of Fr. Philip Purayidam, passed away on 15th December 2021



Rev. Fr. Augustine Olickal

27th November 2021



Rev. Bro. Michael Olickal

12th December 2021

May they rest in peace!

My dear confreres, once again I wish you all the joy and peace of Christmas and a grace-filled New Year 2022!

Fraternally yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil MSFS

(Provincial, MSFS Dibrugarh Province)

TREADING THE PATH OF OUR PATRON SFS...

In the Incarnation, God made us see what the human mind could hardly have imagined or understood. So great was God's love for humanity that in becoming human, God desired to fill us with divinity. God wished to crown us with divine goodness and dignity. God wanted us to be children of God, for we are formed in God's image. (Adapted from the writings of St. Francis de Sales)