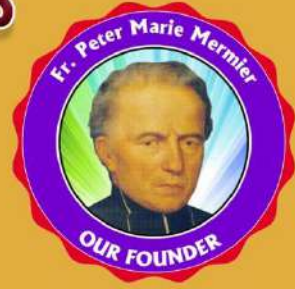


MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

DIBRUGARH PROVINCE

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EMT/03 Circular – May 31, 2020

My dear Confreres,

I wish you all a blessings-filled Pentecost! May the Risen Lord, through His Holy Spirit, strengthen us with His Gifts that we, as a new Province Community, become bearers of the fruits of the Spirit and powerful witnesses of God's Love in the world!



You might have heard the story of a little boy, who was taken to the Nursery School for the first time by the mother. Aware of his anxiety about being abandoned, the boy's mother leaned down, kissed him and said: "Good bye my love; No one is leaving." Each day, his mother would bid him farewell with those same words. The boy was too young to recognize the paradox. He embraced his new existence and quickly adjusted to the new and frightening surroundings. Day after day, week after week, his mother bid the same farewell: "Good bye my love; No one is leaving." As the boy grew into adulthood, there came a day when he had to shift his mother to a nursing home. She, now elderly and frail with advanced Alzheimer's disease, barely recognized him. As he departed from her, leaving her in her new and frightening surroundings, he remembered her words. He leaned down, kissed her and said: "Good bye my love; No one is leaving" – words his mother recognized, even though she no longer recognized him. A tear appeared in her eye, as she clasped his hand and repeated, "Good bye my love; No one is leaving."

Yes dear confreres, this was also Jesus' message to his disciples on his departure to the Father: "Good bye my love; No one is leaving." Jesus was departing from us, out of our sight. Yet Jesus assured us of his continued presence with us through His Holy Spirit.

Feast of Pentecost is the Feast of the Holy Spirit. Pentecost literally means 'the 50th day', a name which the Jews gave to the feast they celebrated after 50 days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Passover). This Jewish feast of Pentecost was one of the three major pilgrim festivals of Israel and it reminded them of three things: (1) The establishment of the covenant between Yahweh and His people on Mount Sinai, (2) Yahweh giving the 'Book of Law' to Moses at Mount Sinai and (3) The agricultural feast at the end of the grain harvest to thank God. As the Jews celebrated the 50th day after the Passover Feast, we celebrate the 50th day after the Easter, as the founding of the new covenant established by Jesus by bestowing the Holy Spirit on the Church. So, it is the Birthday of the Church. It was on this day the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples of Jesus and thus giving birth to a new community, the Church, entrusting it with the mission of spreading his kingdom on earth.

Just as at Pentecost, filled with the Spirit, the disciples were transformed into a band of fearless, faithful disciples, we are to be anointed and filled with the Spirit to carry out the mission that is entrusted to us, to transform the world into a kingdom of God. It is a mission that is rooted in the Triune God and embracing the struggle for liberation and justice, which we give expression in our different social, educational and pastoral apostolates.

Mahatma Gandhi once said: "A small band of persons completely committed to their mission can change the course of history". I think a small band of MSFS, who are completely committed to the mission of the Congregation, can transform the lives of many, can transform the Church in Northeast India and thus play our part in transforming our society into the kingdom of God.

Now the same Holy Spirit that is given to the Church at Pentecost is given to each one of us at our baptism and especially at our confirmation. But, the question is: Are we aware of the indwelling of the Spirit in us? Do we surrender ourselves to him, to be guided by him?

We often fail to seek God in our hearts; we do not become aware of the Spirit of God dwelling in us. But once we give ourselves to the Spirit of God, once we experience the infilling of the Holy Spirit, we become a new community transformed and empowered to carry out the mission that is entrusted to us.

Acts of the Apostles 2: 1-11 describes about the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and the effect it had on them.

First and foremost they started to speak in other languages and the devout Jews, who came for the pilgrim feast of Pentecost from different nations, heard in their native own languages. There seemed to have a miracle both in speaking and hearing. Some commentators consider it that it demonstrated the reversal of the fragmentation/division of the peoples that occurred when languages were confused, after the people attempted to construct the tower of Babel (cf. Gen 11:1-9). Yes dear friends! That is what happens in our life, when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. Then, we all start speaking languages that are understandable by all in the community – we all start speaking the language of love that will be understood by all in the community. Thus the community will be transformed into a community, united in love and service, which in turn will be a powerful witness to the people around.

St. Paul in 1 Cor 12: 3-7, 12-13 tells us: "No one can 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit. Yes dear friends! Once we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are able to accept Jesus as our Lord/Kyrios. It is to accept him as our Saviour and God; it is to accept Jesus as the Leader and centre of our community. Thus, the community, whose centre will be Jesus himself, will be a transformed community, ready to touch the lives of the people around, ready to bring Jesus to the people around.

St. Paul then continues to speak about the diversity found within the community, just as the complexity of the human body. Each part has its own unique function, but all parts work for the good of the whole. In the same way, we need to

learn to appreciate in the community the unity in diversity. Unity is not uniformity. All the members have their own part to play in the community. All have to share their own talents for the benefit of the community. In that way all are equal in their contribution, even when one engages himself in an insignificant work. Whether one works in the garden or in the office, in the school or in the parish, all work for the mission of the community, sharing in the mission of the Lord. There is no competition among the members, except for love and service in the community. Such a community will be a transformed community, touching the lives of the people around through their social, educational and pastoral apostolates.

Let us this Feast of Pentecost become an occasion for us that we all experience an outpouring of the Holy Spirit on us that as a new Province Community, we become a transformed and empowered community to carry out the mission that is entrusted to us.

Fulton J. Sheen once said about the Church: “Even though we are God’s *chosen people*, we often behave more like God’s *frozen people* – frozen in our prayer life, frozen in the way we relate with one another, frozen in the way we celebrate our faith.” Today we shall ask the Holy Spirit to rekindle in us the spirit of new life and enthusiasm, the fire of God’s love. Let us repeat Cardinal Newman’s favourite prayer: “*Come Holy Spirit, make our ears to hear, make our eyes to see, make our mouth to speak, make our hearts to seek, make our hands to reach out and touch the world with Your Love!*”

May God bless us all with His Holy Spirit!

Constitution of Interim Provincial Administration

Our Superior General, Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS, by his letter, dated on the 20th April 2020, has made a provision for the proper functioning of the Province with an Interim Provincial Curia in the context of the lock-down and restrictions due to COVID-19. He writes:

“In the context of the prevailing lockdown due to COVID -19, we are still uncertain about the immediate possibility of holding the convoked Provincial Congress of the Dibrugarh Province as per the constitutional requirement. Hence, applying the special provision/directive announced by Congregation for the Institutes of Consecrated Life and the Societies of Apostolic Life in the context of the pandemic emergency caused by COVID-19, I would like to communicate to you, with the consent of the General Council, that... the mandate of the Regional Councillors and Bursar are extended as Provincial Councillors and Bursar until the next celebration of the Provincial Congress. They will serve as Provincial Councillors in Charge of their respective apostolates:

- Fr. Kurian Pattimackel: Provincial Councillor for Mission
- Fr. Philip Mhonchumo : Provincial Councillor for Education
- Fr. Augustine Thundathil: Provincial Councillor for Social Apostolate /SAIM
- Fr. Peter Parankimalil: Provincial Bursar

As there was no Councillor in-charge of the Apostolate for Formation in the Regional Administration, the Provincial Superior himself will cover the responsibilities and functions related to the Formation

Apostolate. This new provisional Provincial Administration is constituted until the celebration of the postponed Provincial Congress with due elections.”

It is a confirming of the already functioning interim Provincial Administration. We thank all the members of the Interim Provincial Curia for their generous service and collaboration as well as we look forward to greater, effective functioning of the Provincial Administration. May the Risen Lord bless us, the new Province!

Relief to the Neekest in times of COVID-19

Joining hands with the Government Machinery, social work organizations, religious congregations and other provinces of the MSFS, Dibrugarh Province reached out to over ten thousand poor people affected by COVID-19 lockdown by distributing provision kits and sanitary items, and making available infrastructures for quarantine purposes.

Confreres of the Province working in different mission centres, parishes and schools reached out to the poor people in their respective areas by dispensing provision kits containing rice, dal, potatoes, cooking oil and salt.

They also provided sanitary kits to the people having rendered awareness regarding the pandemic and the need and measures to stay safe.

Being precise, to this day (31.05.2020), the reach-out benefitted circa 12,075 persons belonging to 2,381 families from around 63 villages of the various mission centres of the MSFS Dibrugarh Province.

In addition, the Province has also made available as quarantine centres most of its mission infrastructures, namely, Hostels and Schools, especially in the States of Arunachal Pradesh (Aalo, Basar, Kaying, Tato and Yingkiong), Manipur (Kangpokpi), Nagaland (Peren) and Assam (Jonai), placing them at the disposal of the respective district administrations. (Report by Fr. Vintu Augustine MSFS)

Prayer Intention of the Superior General for the Month of June 2020

“That we will re-commit ourselves to the basics of our religious life as MSFS by faithfully living community life, missionary calling, MSFS-ness, and the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales.”

Preparation for the Extraordinary General Chapter 2021

Very Rev. Fr. Superior General, Abraham Vettuvellil informs us that as we are preparing for the Extraordinary General Chapter 2021, we have an important task to complete in view of the Chapter: Nine Juridical Matters (referred to the Expert Commission by GC 2019) are to be studied at the Congregational level!

I shall send you all soon the draft document to be studied as well as the guidelines to aid us in our study. Each Province has to study it at various levels and send the collated report to the Expert Commission by middle of July 2020.

In the present scenario of Covid-19 pandemic, I do not see any possibility of coming together as an Apostolic Community in the month of June 2020. Therefore, I would like to request every confrere to study it individually and then discuss it at every Local Community level and send the report to the Provincial Office, latest by June 30, 2020. I humbly request every Community Local Superior to convoke a

meeting for the study of this draft document and send the report to the Provincial Office by the end of next month, June 2020. Thank you dear confreres for your understanding and cooperation!

Appointment of Provincials

Our Superior General, Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvelil MSFS, has appointed the following confreres as Provincials for the respective Provinces:

- ✓ Fr. Jaganathan Gnanadurai: MSFS Brazil Province (First Term)
- ✓ Fr. J.B. Muthuswamy: MSFS Nagpur Province (Second Term)
- ✓ Fr. S. Jayaseelen: MSFS Pune Province (Second Term)
- ✓ Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel: MSFS East Africa Province (Second Term)

On behalf of MSFS Dibrugarh Province, we congratulate them all and wish them God's blessings! May the Risen Lord continue to assist them through His Holy Spirit in their ministry of leadership in their respective Provinces! We assure them of our prayerful support and collaboration!

Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee

Fr. Sudhir John Kullu MSFS

- Date of Birth: 18.02.1962
- Place of Birth: Jampani, Jharkand
- Name of Father: Alois Kullu
- Name of Mother: Mary Rosalia
- Parish: St. Therese of Child Jesus, Bhukumunda
- Diocese: Simdega
- Minor Seminary: Fransalian Vidyajothi, Nidadavole
- First Profession: 16th July, 1988, Salesianum, Visakhapatnam
- Philosophy: Suvidya College, Bangalore
- Theology: St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore
- Perpetual Profession: 30th May, 1994, Vinayalaya, Bangalore
- Diaconate: 22nd June, 1995, Vinayalaya, Bangalore
- Ordination: 18th April, 1996, St. Therese of Child Jesus, Bhukumunda



Appointments:

- 1991-1992: Regent, SFS Parish, Tening, Nagaland
- 1996-1998: Asst. Priest, SFS Parish, Hamren, Assam
- 2000-2003: On the staff, Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamarassery, Kerala
- 2003-2005: Parish Priest, Khristu Janyanti Parish, Galsi, West Bengal
- 2005-2006: Asst. Priest, Christ the Bearer of Good News Cathedral, Rukminigaon, Assam
- 2006-2007: Asst. Priest, Holy Rosary Parish, Basar, Arunachal Pradesh
- 2007-2009: Asst. Priest, St. Mary's Parish, Aalo, Arunachal Pradesh
- 2009-2015: Parish Priest, St. Mary's Parish, Aalo, Arunachal Pradesh
- 2015-2016: Parish Priest, Holy Angels' Parish, Tato, Arunachal Pradesh

- 2016-2017: Asst. Priest, SFS Parish, Narengi, Guwahati, Assam
- 2017-2019: Asst. Priest, Christ the Bearer of Good News Cathedral, Rukminigaon, Assam
- 2019- : Asst. Priest, SFS Parish, Chabua, Assam

We wish him God's abundant blessings! Let us accompany him, in a special way this year, with our prayers and encouragement in his priestly life and ministry. Hearty Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to you, dear Fr. Sudhir John in this year of Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee!

Hearty Congratulations to:

- **Fr. George Panthamackel**, the former Provincial of the erstwhile Northeast India Province, on his appointment as the Rector of Morning Star College, Kolkata (at the request and on behalf of Provincials India Forum - PIF)!
- **Fr. George Parampukattil, Fr. Jose Mundoly and Fr. Kurian Pattimackel**, who have entered into the Golden Jubilee Year of their Religious Profession on 04.05.2020!
- **Fr. Daniel Chennala, Fr. George Vadakkeperichermannil, Fr. Joseph Kannamangalath, Fr. Mark Hrinii and Thomas Kochuparathanath**, who will complete their Silver Jubilee Year of their Religious Profession on 07.06.2020!
- **Fr. Jiji Konthananickal (05.01.2020), Fr. Sunny Panthannazhivadakkethil (07.01.2020), Fr. Jacob Mattathil (12.01.2020) and Fr. Kusumkant Samir Toppo (18.05.2020)**, who have completed their Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee celebration this year!
- **All our Schools**, who have already initiated online classes in the context of the countrywide lock-down due to Covid-19 pandemic!
- **The Staff, Students, Parents and Management of our Schools**, whose SSLC/HSSLC results are out, for their excellent results!
- **MSFS Scholastics**, who have renewed their vows today (31.05.2020) for their continued loyalty and commitment!
- **Our four MSFS Novices**, who will make their First Religious Profession tomorrow (01.06.2020) in MSFS Novitiate Chabua for the bold step they take in their life!

Transfers and Appointments

- Fr. Jaimon Thadathil: Provincial Secretary, MSFS Provincial House, Silapathar
- Fr. Ngade Benjamin Nakho: Dean of Studies, SFS Seminary and on the Staff of SFS Hr. Sec. School, Medziphema
- Fr. Anthony Baruah: Designated to be appointed on the Staff of St. Clement College, Nagaon
- Fr. Napoleon Mark: Designated to be appointed as the Associate Priest, SFS Parish, Tening
- Fr. Marcellinus War: Relieved to be appointed in his Province (Guwahati)

Promotion of our Seminarians

Formation is a sacred duty of a Province/Congregation for the future of our Congregation. In the present day situation it is really a challenging task, especially for our confreres who are engaged in the ministry of Formation. We would like to thank all our Formators for their sincere commitment and total availability in accompanying our Formees at different stages of their formation. Normally during the months of April – May, the evaluation reports of the Postulants/ Novices/Scholastics by their respective Formators, in

view of their promotion to their next stage of formation/renewal of vows/conferring of Ministry are taken up in the Provincial Council. The following promotions are approved by the Provincial Administration:

Promotion to Fourth Year Theology and Diaconate

(1) Gaichungdai Anthony Kameih, (2) Painapally Jimal Johny, (3) Souba Standfort Stephen and (4) Synkli Andreas

Promotion to Third Year Theology, Renewal of Vows and Ministry of Acolyte

(1) Chithung Horam Joel and (2) Pakon Narzary

Promotion to Second Year Theology, Renewal of Vows and Ministry of Lector

(1) K. Kachiipomai James and (2) Ngaoveinii Hiinii Bosco

Promotion to First Year Theology and Renewal of Vows

(1) B. Sangma Sanjuel, (2) Korungin Maring John, (3) Ottackal Albin Antony, (4) Souvei Dominic and (5) Vengra Francis

Leaves for good on his own: (1) Ampang Sangma Kasim

We wish him God's abundant blessings in his future life-endeavours!

Promotion to Regency and Renewal of Vows

(1) Nongrum David

Promotion to Third Year Philosophy and Renewal of Vows

(1) Minj Ateet, (2) Thekkekkutt Bibin, and (3) Wanphrangngi Soshang,

Promotion to Second Year Philosophy and Renewal of Vows

(1) Miasalhou Zhavirietuo James, (2) Shimray Michael H. and (3) Toppo Jibrus

Promotion to First Profession and First Year of Philosophy

(1) Marbaniang Biljakson and (2) Tigga Bimal

Promotion to Novitiate from SFS Seminary, Medziphema

(1) A. Sangma Chesrang, (2) Lawai Fernando (3) Poumai James (H. Kaovei) and (4) Tada Michael (Badak)

Obituary

Mr. Thomas Varkey Pathuppallil (64), First Cousin of Fr. Joseph Thazhathukunnel, died after a road accident on 25.04.2020.

Mrs. Mariamma Joseph Thekkel (83), Mother of Fr. Tomy Thekkel, died on 16.05.2020.

Mrs. Carmela Soreng (63), Sister of Fr. Corbinus Soreng, died after prolonged illness on 20.05.2020

Mrs. Philomena Kerketta (76), Mother of Fr. Milkus Tirkey, died on 28.05.2020



May they rest in peace!

My dear confreres, I wish you all once again the peace and joy of the Holy Spirit!

Fraternally yours in the Risen Lord,

Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil MSFS
(Provincial, MSFS Dibrugarh Province)

TREADING THE PATH OF OUR PATRON SFS...

A spring may be overflowing with water. However, its water cannot enter the garden in full flow but according to the narrowness or largeness of the canal through which it flows into it. The Holy Spirit as a spring of living water flows into all the sides of our heart to spread his grace in it. Yet he does not wish to enter in us except through the free consent of our will. He will pour out his grace only in the measure of his good pleasure and our attitude and cooperation. (TLG, Book II, Ch. 11)