

# Missionaries of St Francis de Sales (MSFS)

## DIBRUGARH PROVINCE

EMT-11 Special Circular for the MSFS Year of Missions

July 12, 2021



# YEAR OF MISSIONS 2021-2022



*"I have come that they may have  
life, and have it to the full" (Jn 10:10)*

### THEME

**Towards our Life  
in Abundance**

MSFS Provincial House, SFS Campus, Likabali Road,  
Silapathar (P.O) - 787 059, Dhemaji (Dt.), Assam

Mob: +91 7086046455/+91 9436301324; Email: provincialdibrugarhmsfs@gmail.com  
provincialsecretarydibrugarh@gmail.com, www.msfsdibrugarh.com

**My dear Confreres,**

Fraternal greetings! I am very happy to come to you with this special circular dedicated to the MSFS 'Year of Missions' (2021-2022), which we have inaugurated on the last Pentecost Sunday, i.e., on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021. This is an opportunity for us as a Congregation to bring about the necessary renewal in our lives as Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and recommit ourselves to the Mission of God, appropriated through the Charism of our Congregation.



### **The Celebration of the MSFS Year of Missions: An Opportunity to be gripped by the Mission of our Congregation**

In Mt. 28: 19-20 we have the mission command of Jesus: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age.” The very word ‘mission’ means ‘sending’. It presupposes a sender (one who sends), someone who is sent by the sender and the purpose for which one is sent. So, in this mission text we see Jesus sending out his disciples to proclaim the Good News to all nations, teaching them and making them disciples by baptising them. Thus, Jesus invites all of us, his disciples, to be his missionaries, to be his messengers. In fact, in that sense, a deeper reflection will tell us that Jesus is the first missionary, the first one to be sent by the Father to save us from our sins and bring us back to the Father – to bring salvation to the whole world. So we can say that the mission belongs to God and we partake of the mission of Jesus – to lead people back to the Father, to bring salvation to the people around, to the whole world.

Vatican II in its Decree on Church’s missionary activity (*Ad Gentes*, No. 2) says that the Pilgrim Church by its very nature is missionary. So, as members of the Church all are called to be missionaries to partake in the mission of Christ to bring salvation to the whole world. So, every Christian has the responsibility to be a messenger of Jesus, who is commissioned to go forth and preach the Good News; to make Jesus and His message known to the people all over the world and lead them back to the Father.

Now as a religious Congregation, especially as a Missionary Congregation, we the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, partake in the mission of Jesus Christ through the Charism of our Congregation. So as a religious Congregation, to be vibrant and attractive, we must be clear about three things: our *identity, mission and community life*. When somebody lives all these, put into practice in his life and when he dies we may say that “he was truly a MSFS or he was really a committed Fransalian. And this is what mission is all about – that *we are gripped by something larger than ourselves, to which we are deeply and happily committed*. Since we are more than ready to make sacrifices, to adjust to people and situations, to collaborate with others – all for a mission we find worthwhile.

Now as individuals and communities, we should ask ourselves: What is my Mission? Or why does our Congregation exist, and why am I in it? Whom are we supposed to serve? What are we supposed to do for them? How are we supposed to do it? So, as a religious Congregation we should clarify repeatedly what our mission is, whether it is still relevant and meaningful to the present time and place, and whether the members still believe in it. That is what we do when the Congregation gathers in its General Chapter or as a Province in our Provincial Chapter or Congress.

Mahatma Gandhi once said: “A small band of persons completely committed to their mission can change the course of history”. A small band of MSFS confreres, who are completely committed to the mission of the Congregation, can transform the lives of many; can transform the Church in Northeast India or in the world at large. Let this celebration of the Year of Missions help us to understand the mission of our Congregation and commit ourselves to that whole-heartedly with a lot of enthusiasm, that we all can proclaim in unison that God loves all and that God wants all of us to be with him.

### **Objectives of the Year of Missions 2021-2022**

Taking into account the Year of St. Joseph, the Year of Family, the Devotion to Holy Family, and the directive of the General Chapter XX to initiate more ministries directed to families, the Superior General has formally declared the year 2021-2022 as Year of Missions in our Congregation starting from Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021, and concluding on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24, 2022. Its objectives are:

- Bring to the forefront the apostolate of Missions in the Congregation
- For the renewal of the individuals and communities so that we can function more effectively with credibility as agents of renewal
- To impart to our young Formees and Scholastics the correct orientation regarding the nature and purpose of being a member of a missionary congregation
- For the renewal and rejuvenation of our parishes through PMP (Parish Mission Preaching)
- Focused implementation of the directives of the General Chapter 2019 on MISSION
- To initiate ministries directed to families, to promote devotion to Holy Family, and to celebrate the Year of Family and Year of St. Joseph

### **The Opening of the Year of Missions in Dibrugarh Province**

The formal inauguration of the Year of Missions in Dibrugarh Province took place on May 23, 2021, (Pentecost Sunday) at St. Francis De Sales Church Silapathar, during the Holy Eucharist presided over by the Provincial, Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparambil. After the homily he gave a brief introduction to the Year of Missions in the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and declared the Year of Missions 2021-2022 opened in the Province by lighting a lamp along with representatives of confreres, sisters and lay faithful and explaining the logo with its theme.



Due to the prevailing Covid-19 protocol, all the Local Communities and Parishes had their own inauguration of the Year of Missions in their own places at various time with meaningful celebrations.

Meanwhile all the Province Forums had their General Body/Core Team Meetings and suggested how they would like to celebrate the Year of the Missions. Their proposals were taken up in the ensuing Provincial Council Meeting and approved the following action plan to be implemented by Dibrugarh Province for the Year of Missions 2021-2022:

## **ACTION PLAN OF MSFS DIBRUGARH PROVINCE FOR THE YEAR OF MISSIONS (2021-2022)**

### **AT THE PERSONAL LEVEL**

We resolve:

- to revitalise our missionary life after the spirit and commitment of St Francis de Sales, our Patron and Servant of God Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, our Founder
- to develop a deep love for the missionary activities of the Church
- to pray ardently for everyone entrusted to our care as Missionaries
- to make every effort for personal renewal and love for the Word of God through our sacramental life and fraternal life in the community
- to make personal efforts to make known the missionary activities of our Congregation in our private and public communications

### **AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL**

We resolve:

- to pray for the success of the Year of Missions every day during our community prayers by making use of the intercessory prayer that is made available from the Gen. Adm.
- to display the Logo of the Year of Missions at a prominent place in our communities
- to offer Holy Mass in honour of St. Joseph every Wednesday
- to celebrate one Holy Mass in honour of the Holy Family every month
- to emphasise team work in the communities (Prov. Congress 2020)

### **AT THE PROVINCE LEVEL**

We resolve:

- to explore the possibility of opening a mission in Dibrugarh Diocese or wherever necessity arises (Prov. Congress 2020) to mark the Year of Missions
- to ensure that all our newly ordained priests will serve in our missions as part of their pastoral formation for a minimum of TWO years (Gen. Chapter 2019)
- to expedite the completion and the launching of the new Province website for the communication of the news of the Year of Missions
- to organise the Annual Province Retreat with the theme: Consecrated for Mission
- to consolidate the existing mission centres (Prov. Congress 2020)
- to help the family of one of the poor, longstanding support staff mission collaborators (like cooks, drivers, etc.) with a house

## MISSION FORUM

We resolve:

- to organise/preach Parish Missions wherever possible in our Parishes with special attention to the renewal of the families once the Covid-19 pandemic respites
- to celebrate one Holy Mass in honour of the Holy Family in every unit/village of the Parish, inviting every family to participate in it and specially praying for the families of that unit/village
- to conduct parish level preparation for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony, paying special attention on families whose union are not rectified
- to recite the 'Prayer of devotion in honour of Fr. Peter Mary Mermier' in every Parish with the Faithful on Sundays to promote the Cause of Our Founder
- to establish unit of Fransalian Associates in every Mission centre possible and initiate their formation programme through the Coordinator of the FA in the Province
- to ensure that each family in the Parish has a Bible in the regional language that suits to them (Parish Level)
- to ensure the supply of the picture of the Holy Family to every needed family (Parish Level)
- to offer capacity-building programs for the catechists of Arunachal Missions if the pandemic situation improves

## FORMATION FORUM

We resolve:

- to pray for a mission/community of the Congregation each day of the Year of Missions according to the calendar prepared by Fransalian Seminary, Pune
- to organise classes, seminars, quiz competition, etc. on Missions in each of the Formation House
- to arrange Mission Experience Sharing of the MSFS Fathers (veteran and present missionaries) to the Seminarians
- to initiate a short study on the History of our Congregation as a Missionary Congregation, and also to introduce each centre of Dibrugarh-Guwahati Provinces to the Novices in Chabua to generate more interest in them for Mission
- to organise seminar for the Theologians of MSFS Study House, Shillong on the Mission Documents: *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (Dec. 8, 1975) and *Verbum Domini* (Sep. 30, 2010)

### (Ongoing Formation)

Under the auspice of **Mission Forum** and as a part of our **Ongoing Formation Programme**, we shall have monthly reflection and study sessions for all the confreres on Mission, especially in the context of our Dibrugarh Province.

- The animation talk will be for 20-25 minutes, with another 5 minutes for responses, clarifications, etc.
- The proposed online programme will be organised via Google Meet on the scheduled days (2<sup>nd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> Saturdays) at 08.45 p.m. (IST) with a view to facilitate the participation of our confreres working/studying abroad.

Therefore, we resolve:

- to have online monthly reflection and study sessions on Mission, in the context of our Province with the following themes and animators:

- 1) Mission in the Bible – Fr. Tomson Aerathedathu (24.07.2021)
- 2) Mission in the History of the Church- Fr. Carlus Barowa (28.08.2021)

- 3) Mission according to Patron and Patroness of Mission (St Francis Xavier and St. Teresa of Child Jesus) - Fr. Stephen Avilhou Metha (25.09.2021)
- 4) Mission in the Life and Works of St Francis de Sales - Fr. Benjamin Nakho (30.10.2021)
- 5) Mission in the Life and Works of Fr. Peter Mary Mermier - Fr. Francis Poovelil (27.11.2021)
- 6) Mission in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vatican Council - Joseph Kannamangalath (11.12.2021)
- 7) Mission in the recent Church Documents (Evangelii Gaudium) - Fr. Antony Baruah (22.01.2022)
- 8) Mission in the 21<sup>st</sup> century - Fr. James Pattarakalayil (12.02.2022)
- 9) Mission in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh - Fr. Mathew Puthumana (26.02.2022)
- 10) Mission in Nagaland and Manipur - Fr. Joseph Bamhingbe (12.03.2022)
- 11) Mission Sharing of a Pioneer Missionary - Fr. George Parampukattil (26.03.2022)
- 12) Mission of MSFS Dibrugarh Province (Consecrated Life & Mission) – Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparambil (09.04.2022)

### **EDUCATION FORUM**

We resolve:

- to install the pictures of St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Peter Mary Mermier in all our Educational Institutions
- to display of quotations from SFS, PMM and Bible in prominent places of our Educational Institutions (GC 2019)
- to make efforts to establish a student wing of 'Friends of Fransalians' (FoF) wherever possible in our Educational Institutions (GC 2019)
- to create a Mutual Support Team (MST) for our schools on Forum level, and in this Year of Missions to identify and support a Child's Education/a Needy Family at Local level as well as to identify and support an Interior Mission at the Province level.

### **SAIM FORUM**

We resolve:

- to make every effort through our Social Work Organisation and MDO to provide better living conditions for the people around our Mission Centres
- to make our parish and institution campuses eco-friendly by caring for the nature, especially by planting trees and nurturing gardens
- to organise retreat/programme for Children and Youth in every possible Parish on Mission related themes (FYM)
- to ensure collaboration of Fransalian Youth, Fransalian Associates and Educated (Committed) Laity for the 'Gospel Tour' in Parishes

### **MISSION DEVELOPMENT OFFICE (MDO)**

- to provide relief to the victims of Covid-19 pandemic, especially to those whom we are called to serve in our Mission Centres
- to initiate Supplementary Education Centres/Tuition Centres for poor children wherever possible in our parish/institution premises and villages
- to provide financial support (scholarship) for at least 50 poor Catholic children and youth of our Mission Centres in this Year of Missions for their school and higher education
- to support the families who are affected by Covid-19 pandemic financially or through income generating programme
- to support with building materials at least 10 homeless people for making low cost houses

- to restart the Tailoring Training Centre at Gogamukh for the school dropout girls and poor women to enhance their income for the support of their families

### **Prayer for the Year of Missions 2021-2022**

Merciful God, out of compassion for us, You sent Your only Son Jesus to this world as the First Missionary and Leader in every Mission.

We thank you for the Good News of salvation lived and preached by Jesus. We thank you for the missionary call rooted in our baptism.

We thank you for entrusting with us the missionary heritage as the Members/Associates of the Fransalian Family. Thank you for the inspirations we receive from Mother Mary, St. Francis de Sales and Father Peter Mermier.

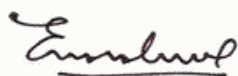
As we celebrate this year of Missions, we offer ourselves and all you have entrusted to us into your kind hands. Help us to be compassionate to ourselves, to others and to nature. Instil in our hearts genuine interest to look for the lost sheep. Heal and restore our world from the pandemic of sins and sicknesses. Enable us to be joyful, courageous and zealous missionaries despite the present adverse situation.

God of life, we humbly ask you to fill us with your divine life and help us be agents of life in abundance for the whole world. Amen

**My dear confreres**, I place before you the above-mentioned Action Plan for the Year of Missions to be implemented in our Province to revamp the spirit of our missionary commitment. I wish that all of us **LIVE JESUS**, giving life in abundance for the whole world!

Live Jesus!

Fraternally yours in Christ Jesus,



**Fr Emmanuel Mappilaparambil MSFS**  
(Provincial, MSFS Dibrugarh Province)

### **TREADING THE PATH OF OUR PATRON SFS...**

The Lord expects of you nothing else than that you share in His mission, and what he demanded of the Apostles when he sent them into the world: to give life in its fullness to all men (Jn.10:10) (AE VI 89, Conf. 6, SC II, p.101)