

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

Casa Generalizia



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**SUPERIOR GENERAL TO ALL
THE MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES**

GENERAL CHAPTER XX

(FEBRUARY 01 – 13, 2019)



ONE DAY TO GO

**at MSFS PROVINCIAL HOUSE,
GUWAHATI, INDIA**

My dear Confreres:

I greet you with a grateful heart for journeying together as one MSFS family during the past years. On behalf of the General Administration, I thank you for your understanding, collaboration, support, and participation in living the spirit of the General Chapter 2013. We continue our journey with an awareness of our strength and weakness as a missionary Congregation. May God be praised! As we begin our 20th General Chapter, let us look forward to with hope for a new Pentecost that will renew our missionary energy according to the charism and vision of our Founder.

May I request all confreres to have **half hour adoration in every Local Community and pray for the success of the Chapter!** I request all the **Local Superiors** to take note of this request and guide confreres under your care for half hour adoration.

1. WE ARE ALL SET FOR THE GREAT EVENT

Let me review the road we traveled so far in preparation for the General Chapter 2019

- On January 24, 2017 - in the year of 450th birth anniversary of St. Francis de Sales and on the feast day of our Patron - with the consent of the General Council and in accordance with Article 194 of our MSFS Constitutions, I convoked the General Chapter XX (GC)
- The chosen theme of the General Chapter is “MSFS, Wake Up to the Basics” and the chosen venue is MSFS Provincial House, Guwahati
- The theme expresses our resolve to reinforce our missionary and religious identity as MSFS. The basics of MSFS life are the four pillars of Consecrated Life in the Local Community, Mission, MSFS ness, and the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. These four pillars should enhance our entire MSFS family system in the spirit of our charism handed over to us Father Peter Mermier
- Objectives of the General Chapter XX
 - ✓ To review the implementation of the directives and decisions of GC 2013 in the areas corresponding to the four pillars
 - ✓ To evaluate thoroughly the basics of consecrated life as lived in Local Communities and apostolates in the Congregation
 - ✓ To reflect on the current challenges in religious life and apostolates in the different units in the Congregation
 - ✓ To draw up necessary measures for the renewal of religious life of the members
 - ✓ To give specific orientations and guidelines for a renewal of apostolates based on our charism and spirituality
- We studied THREE REFLECTION PAPERS: *Understanding the 4 Basics of MSFS life, Outstanding Contradictions of our MSFS Life Today, and New Paradigm: MSFS, Wake up to the Basics*
- The three Reflection Papers, prepared by our own confreres from different Provinces and apostolates, were reflected upon individually, in Local Community, and in Apostolic Communities. Based on the Reflection Papers we invited proposals from individuals and from Apostolic communities for consideration in the General Chapter

- Besides Proposals from individual confreres and Province Communities, we have also Proposals from the General Administration and Provincial Administration and the Proposal from the General Chapter 2013 for our further study and reflection
- All the reports were collated with the help of Preparatory Committee for General Chapter (PCGC) consisting of Fr. James Pattarkalayil, Fr. Dola Velangani, and Fr. Daiy Sebastian. These proposals will be taken up for further study and deliberation during the different sessions in the GC 2019
- Authority of the General Chapter: “The General Chapter is the supreme legislative and teaching authority in the Congregation” (Const. no. 191)
- We have 40 Delegates and 13 Invitees participating in the General Chapter representing various apostolates in the Congregation
- The Pre-Capitular Commission, consisting of Fr. Saji George, Fr. Suresh Babu, Fr. J. Stephen, and Fr. Manoj Tirkey, is doing a commendable job to organize GC 2019
- I cordially welcome all our DELEGATES and INVITEES to Guwahati for this great event in the history of our Congregation

2. THRUST OF GENERAL CHAPTER 2019

In this General Chapter, we look closely at the whole Congregation in the context of our CHARISM and VISION of the Founder. Fidelity to the evangelical intention of the Founder (in founding the Congregation) is the criterion of authenticity in religious life. If we don't know where we are coming from how will we appreciate where we are going?

Let us keep THREE QUESTIONS at the back of our minds as the following questions reflect the thrust of the General Chapter 2019:

- How consistent is my life with the spirit of consecrated life and the charism of my Congregation?
- How does the present state of my Congregation express its founding charism and its primordial apostolate?
- What is my contribution to keep alive and update the charism of my Congregation?

DECISIONS – NEWS – EVENTS

1. Fr. EMMANUEL MAPPILAPARAMBIL

After having consulted with the confreres of Dibrugarh Region, with the approval and recommendation of the Provincial Council, and with the consent of the General Council, I am glad to appoint Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparambil as the Regional Superior of Dibrugarh Region for a second term with effect from January 20, 2019. Good wishes and prayers!

2. Fr. JOSEPH KUNJAPARAMBIL

Fr. K.P. Joseph is re-appointed as the Vicar General of the Diocese of Keetmanshoop in Namibia from January 01, 2019 by the Bishop. Congratulations and prayerful wishes to Fr. K.P Joseph for a successful ministry!

3. MANY THANKS

I appreciate and thank all the Provinces, educational institutions, MDOs, and individual confreres for your generous support and solidarity with the devastating fire accident in Tato mission in Arunachal Pradesh, the victims of Flood and Landslide victims in Kerala, and victims of Gaja Cyclone in Tamilnadu. Your support indeed is an expression of solidarity at the time of loss and pain.

4. PRAYERFUL TRIBUTE TO A GREAT MISSIONARY

Fr. Joseph Kunnappally, 74 years, East Africa Province, died on January 08, 2019

Wish you a Happy Feast of St. John Bosco!

Fraternally in Christ,



Father Abraham Vettuvellil, MSFS
Superior General



“The many troubles in your household will tend to your edification, if you strive to bear them all in gentleness, patience, and kindness. Keep this ever before you, and remember constantly that God's loving eyes are upon you amid all these little worries and vexations, watching whether you take them as He would desire. Offer up all such occasions to Him, and if sometimes you are put out, and give way to impatience, do not be discouraged, but make haste to regain your lost composure.”

St. Francis De Sales