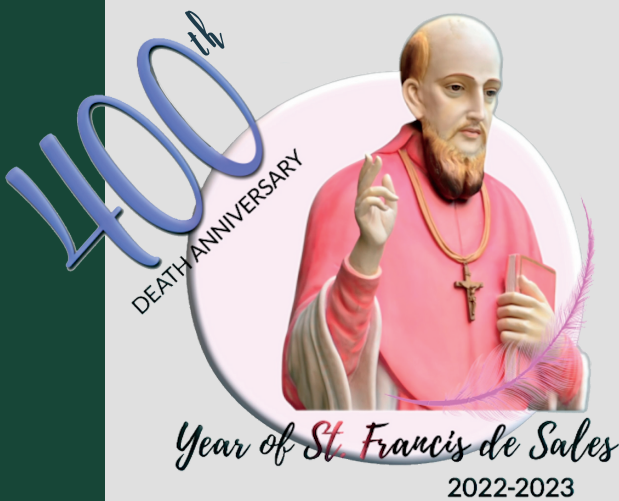
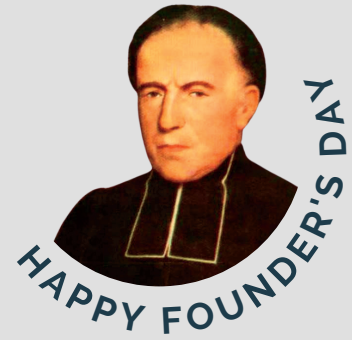


# MSFS

CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES  
OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



The ad hoc committee, constituted of members from all the Provinces, is doing a commendable job to keep the spirit and spirituality of SFS alive in all the Provinces. There is a growing enthusiasm today among confreres to mine the treasures hidden in the life and teachings of our Patron and Founder.

## 1. THE SECRET OF FRANCIS DE SALES' SPIRITUALITY

- I often wonder how could SFS offer such remarkable spiritual insights at a very young age. What was his source? What was the secret of his spirituality? He brought a fresh understanding of living one's spirituality in daily life.

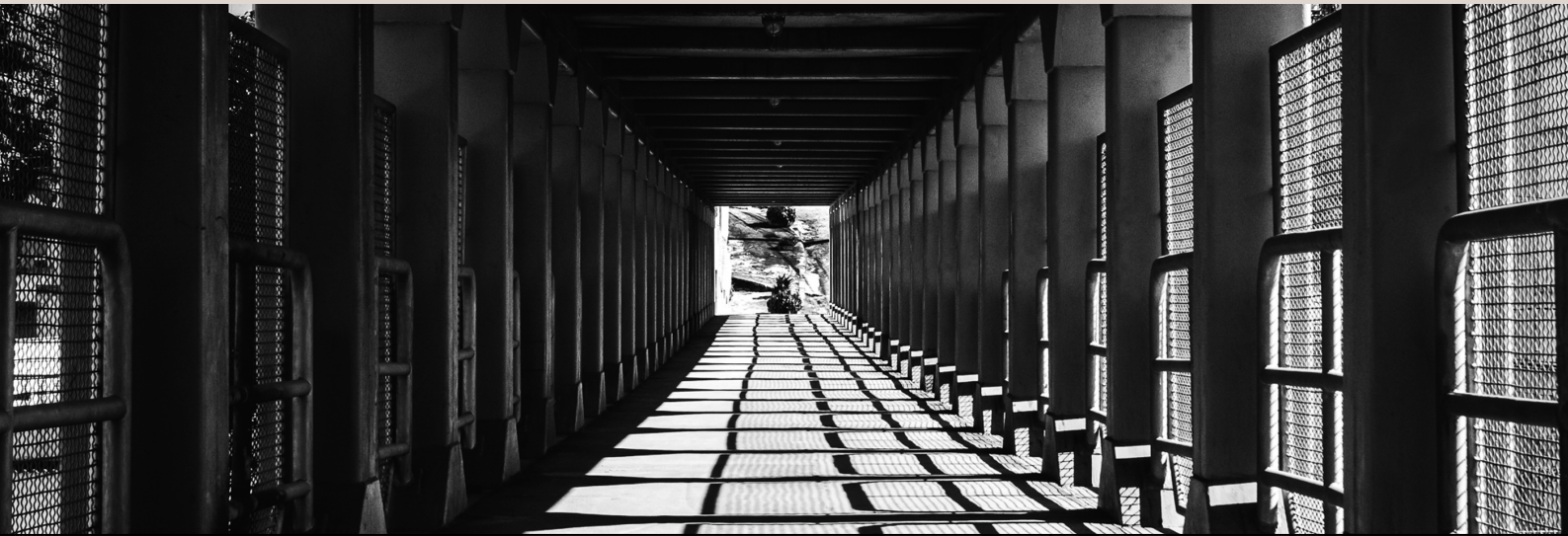
## SUPERIOR GENERAL TO ALL THE MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

My dear Confreres!  
Fraternal greetings and Happy Founder's day!

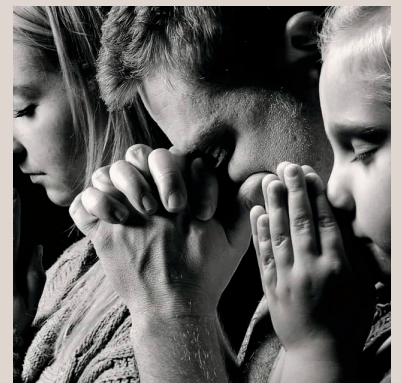
We are in the 'Year of St. Francis de Sales'. We are making efforts to deepen our understanding of St. Francis de Sales, his spirituality, virtues, missionary life, and method of compassionate pastoral care. This is what Fr. Mermier always wanted from the Missionaries. We can see that each Province/mission unit is promoting ways and means to imbibe the spirit of our Patron. De Sales and Mermier Resource and Animation Center together with the De Sales International Film and Media Academy continue to animate the entire Congregation through Salesian literature and media communication.



*Celebrating  
the Year of  
SFS  
in Arusha*



- I discovered that the insights that he garnered from his crisis in Paris and Padua, the physical illness he overcame, and the trauma of predestination that tormented him - turned out to be the foundation of Francis' spiritual journey.
- Our traumas and crisis can offer us spiritual insights that our intellectual minds cannot fathom. Francis underwent a profound crisis in reconciling his understanding with that of St. Thomas' and St. Augustine's teachings on predestination. Predestination became the core of his crisis. It led him to question himself about the eternal salvation that God had in store for him. He felt he was damned. The thought that he had no salvation paralyzed him.
- After going through many agonizing experiences, Francis finally resolved the issue and found peace in the radical and liberating truth of God's love. He found the secret hidden in the biblical texts that affirm God's wish to save all mankind. *Loving God without asking for anything in return and trusting in divine love was the secret of Francis' life.* He overcame the temptation by accepting unreservedly that God, revealed by Jesus, is a God of mercy and love. His appeal to everyone is to belong completely to God while being fully present in the world.
- *Francis de Sales shows us that our depressing, agonizing, and humbling moments in life can offer us spiritual insights in a way that the intellectual mind cannot.*



#### Prayer of St. Francis de Sales

"Lord, I am Yours,  
and I must belong to no one but  
You.  
My soul is Yours,  
and must live only by You.  
My will is Yours,  
and must love only for You.  
I must love You as my first cause,  
since I am from You.  
I must love You as my end and  
rest,  
since I am for You.  
I must love You more than my  
own being,  
since my being subsists by You.  
I must love You more than myself,  
since I am all Yours and all in You.  
Amen."

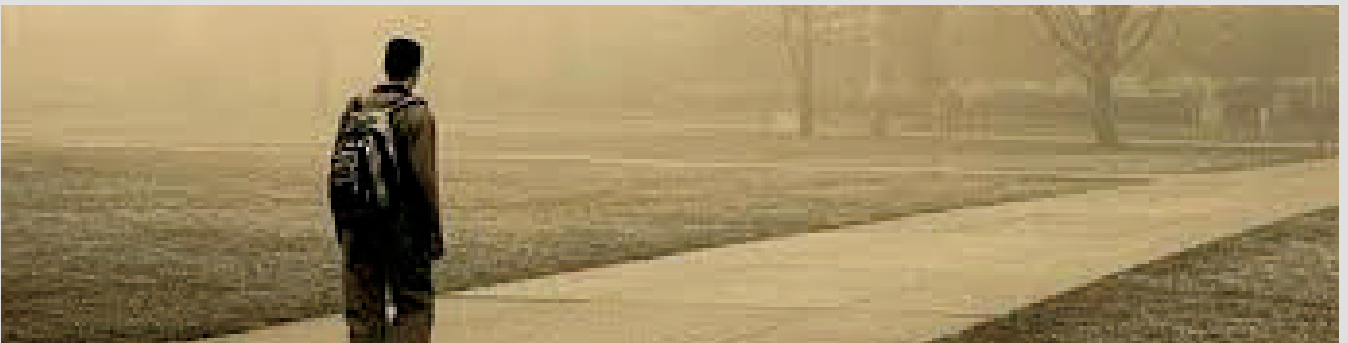
St. Francis de Sales  
Pray for us.

## 2. AN ILLUSTRATION

- I read a famous story about Russian Orthodox Archbishop Anthony Bloom. A young man came to him for spiritual guidance. He was angry and distressed because he could not make any sense of his Christianity. The dogma and theology seemed like garbage to him. The creeds made him furious. He yearned for a life of faith. After listening to the young man, Archbishop made a rather surprising suggestion. *That the young man should go home and make one hundred full prostrations a day for a month.* In the orthodox practice, a 'full prostration' would mean to go flat on the floor, face down, with arms outstretched, and remain in that position for a long time. Only then one can rise to one's feet.
- When the young man returned a month later, his eyes were glowing with faith. The creeds no longer made him angry. The archbishop

knew the reason full well. Through the deep, rhythmic gestures of bowing and emptying himself, the young man came to understand something that could not be found by the mind. In connecting with his body, frustration, and anger, he reconnected with the wellsprings of his faith.

- *Young Francis journeyed through deepest depression into theological optimism. In connecting with his bodily suffering and spiritual suffering, he reconnected with a loving God. The realization that the love of God does not reside in good feelings but resides in conformity with the will of God is the core of Salesian spirituality. We grow spiritually much more by going through physical, spiritual, and emotional suffering than by doing everything right. We grow spiritually much more by doing it wrong than by doing it right. Nothing in us wants to believe it. But that might just be the central message of how spiritual growth happens.*



## 3. ST. FRANCIS DE SALES AND FATHER MERMIER

- Our models to follow Christ are our Patron and Founder. Both of them had the mission of Christ at the center of their hearts. We see their missionary enthusiasm in Chablais and the Parish Mission Preaching ministry. Both of them had to go through the pattern of suffering and renewal. They accepted the same pattern of Christ himself. Bible teaches us that the wrestling and wounding of Jacob were necessary for Jacob to become Israel. The death and resurrection of Jesus were necessary to give birth to Christianity. The suffering and crises of Francis and Mermier were necessary for the birth of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales.

*The fruitfulness of the mission of SFS and Mermier is to be measured neither by their successes nor by failures according to our human standards and evaluations today. Their mission in the most troubled times in human history is to be measured by their conformity to do the will of God by confining themselves to the logic of the cross of Jesus.*

*May our Patron and Founder intercede for a renewal of every confrere in this Year of St. Francis de Sales!*



# NEWS - DECISIONS - EVENTS

## 1. EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER 2022

- The Extraordinary General Chapter (that was postponed due to the pandemic with the Indult from the Holy See) will take place from November 08 through 15, 2022 at Fransalian Seminary, Pune. Arrival on November 07 and departure on November 15.
- On November 16, there is a meeting of Provincials with the General Curia after the EGC.



## 2. CONGREGATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE YEAR OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

### A. IN GENERAL

- Beginning the formation program for Fransalian Associates in all the Provinces in view of their consecration on January 24, 2024
- Pilgrimage of SFS Relic to all our Communities and Centers in the Province
- Wednesdays with St. Francis de Sales (every Wednesday from April 27, 2022) Nearly 13 congregations and lay associates are participating in giving a 5-minutes reflection on SFS spirituality which is streamed on DSM MSFS YouTube Channel
- Creative Competitions for all the scholastics conducted by Formation Secretariat and SAIM Secretariate
- Celebrations in Annecy (organized by Franco-Swiss Province) inviting confreres from all over Europe
- A Congregational Event by PIF at the National level in India
- A short documentary on SFS and a special calendar for 2023
- Constructing one to three houses for the poor and needy in each Province

### B. OCTOBER 24: FOUNDATION DAY

#### ***Community Level Celebration***

- Installation of SFS Statue in all our communities and centers
- Community Solemn Mass. (SFS Liturgy Leaflet is to be used)
- Wherever it is possible, the community is encouraged to invite SCC Sisters or any order/congregation that share the Salesian Spirituality.
- Planting Trees
- Any Other





**B. DECEMBER 28,  
400th DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF SFS  
Province/Region/Delegation/Mission Level  
or Apostolic Community Level Celebration**

**Purpose:** Disseminating the life and spirituality of SFS and the Life and mission of the Congregation in the Global Church

- Solemn Mass headed by the Provincial or Local Ordinary. (SFS Liturgy Leaflet is to be used)
- Invite Representatives from all our parishes and centers
- Cultural Program
- Any Release (*publications, literature, hand out, brochures, prayer cards, etc*)
- Distribution of SFS Awards and Scholarships (*Province/Region/Delegation/Mission Level or Apostolic Community Level*)
- Distribution of SFS Calendar

**C. JANUARY 24: FEAST OF SFS  
Center/parish Level celebration**

**Purpose:** Disseminating the life and spirituality of SFS and the Life and mission of the Congregation in the Global Church

- Salesian Spiritual Renewal Program in the parish on any day before January 24, 2023 (Feast Day)
- Writing an article on SFS and the MSFS or dedicating a local popular religious magazine/newspaper for the same
- SFS Novena in all the community centers and parishes

**On January 24:**

- Solemn Procession with SFS Statue and Solemn Mass headed by the Community Superior or Any VIP. (SFS Liturgy Leaflet is to be used)
- Inviting all the vicariate or neighbouring priests and religious, collaborators, Well-Wishers, and any other
- Cultural Program
- Distribution of SFS Awards and Scholarships (center/parish level)
- Distribution of SFS Pictures with Prayer of SFS or Year Calendar with SFS Picture to all our parishioners, associates, and any other (Note: quotations with the saint's picture to avoid any issues in schools)
- Special Assembly with a meaningful celebration in Schools

**SPA 2022**

The fifth batch of SPA (Salesian Programme, Annecy) reached Europe at the end of August. After one week of personally guided retreat (Salesian Retreat), they moved on with classes and visits on site. On Sundays, they participate in the parish liturgies where MSFS are working under Franco-Swiss Province. The 8 participants are sent by their respective Provinces, and they are expected to animate and disseminate Salesian and Mermierian spirituality once back in the Province. At the end of the program, they will present one assignment each, and they will be granted a certificate.

Namely, they are Frs. John (South-East), Sanoj (South-West), Jerard (Pune), Japhet (East-Africa), Sandeep (Nagpur), Joby (Guwahati), Bijupaul (Dibrugarh) and Joseph (Visakh). Some of them were already designated for SPA in 2020, and again in 2021, but the Covid-19 crisis prevented them to join. Next week, they will also be part of the pilgrimage organized by FS Province for the Jubilee Year of SFS.



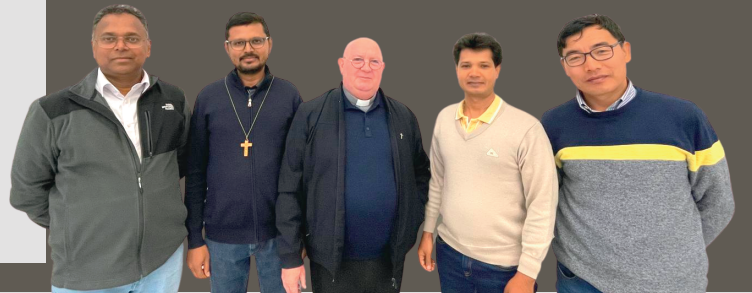
*Let us celebrate October 24. December 28. and January 24*

### 3. PROVINCIAL OF FRANCO-SWISS PROVINCE

Fr. Jean-Yves LE TUE is appointed Provincial for a second term of three years with effect from August 01, 2022. The newly elected Curia members are

Fr. John Hepuni (Admonitor), Fr. Scaria Joseph (Councilor), Fr. Jose Puthiyaparampil (Councilor), and Fr. Samuel Devaraj (Bursar).

Congratulations and prayerful wishes to the Provincial and new Curia!



### 4. PROVINCIAL OF THE USA VICE-PROVINCE

Fr. Anthony BONELA is appointed the Provincial of the USA Vice Province for a term of three years with effect from July 03, 2022. The newly elected Provincial Curia are Fr. Augustine Tharappel (Admonitor), Fr. Reji Narikunnel, and Fr. Noble Dominic Ambalathuruthel (Bursar). The Consultors are Fr. Jose Kumbloickal and Fr. Antony Rajesh. Congratulations and prayerful wishes to the new team!



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### FR. TOMY PULIYANAMPATTAYIL

On behalf of the entire Congregation, I thank Fr. Tomy PULIYANAMPATTAYIL for his initiatives and committed service to the USA Vice-Province and the Congregation.

### 5. PROVINCIAL OF DIBRUGARH PROVINCE

Fr. Tomson AERATHEDATHU is appointed Provincial of Dibrugarh Province for a term of three years with effect from September 15, 2022. Congratulations and prayerful wishes!



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### FR. EMMANUEL MAPPILAPARAMBIL

*Fr. Emmanuel laid down his office as the Provincial of MSFS Dibrugarh Province due to his precarious health condition and inability to attend to the administration and animation of the Province.* On behalf of the entire Congregation, I place on record Fr. Emmanuel's valuable contribution to the new Province of Dibrugarh as its first Provincial. I wish him a speedy recovery and good health. We pray for you.







## FR. HENRY NEDUMKALLEL

Fr. Henry NEDUMKALLEL is appointed Delegation Superior of Mozambique Delegation for the second term of three years with effect from August 17, 2022. The new team of administration (Advisors) in the Delegation: **Fr. Raju Minj**, **Fr. Georgekutty Arackaparambil**, and **Fr. Jins Karakadayil** (Advisor and Bursar).

## 7. 400TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF SFS IN ANNECY

Franco-Swiss Province is organizing *Mission Rencontre Annecy 2022* inviting all our confreres from Europe to walk in the footsteps of St. Francis de Sales and Father Peter Mermier, Servant of God. The event takes place from October 02 – 04, 2022.

### SEPARATION FROM THE CONGREGATION

**Fr. Yesudass Irudhayasamy** Mariyamuthar is dispensed from the obligations of the clerical state and religious vows by the Holy Father.

**Gompa Hrudaya Babu** ceases to be a MSFS with dispensation from religious vows

**Fr. G. Sebastian** is incardinated to the Archdiocese of Utrecht, Netherlands

### Confreres under exclaustation:

**Fr. Thomas Njue**

**Fr. Siju Philip Kurisummoottil**

**Fr. Jean-Patrice Coulon**

**Fr. Thomas Muttam**

**Fr. Christopher Crasta** on leave of Absence

## 8. FORMATION PROGRAM FOR FRANSALIAN ASSOCIATES

Provinces and Mission units (that have not started the formation Program for Fransalian Associates) are requested to start the program latest from October 2022. Please ensure that you will complete the program by January 2024 to be able for those who wish to consecrate themselves can consecrate themselves on January 24, 2024. I request all the Provincials and Superiors of Mission units to contact Assistant General and General Secretary for Formation for details.

### PRAYERFUL TRIBUTE TO OUR BELOVED CONFRERES

**Fr Sudhir John Kullu** (60), Dibrugarh Province, died on 18/05/2022

**Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil** (71) East Africa, died on 26/06/2022

**Fr. Mathew Mannukuzhumpil** (72), Visakh Province died on 08/08/2022

*Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord!*

*Never confuse your mistakes with your value as a human being. You are a perfectly valuable, creative, worthwhile person simply because you exist. And no amount of triumphs or tribulations can change that (St. Francis de Sales).*

Have a wonderful Founder's day!

Servant of God Father Peter Mermier, Intercede for your sons and daughters

Live JESUS!

Father Abraham VETTUVELIL, MSFS  
Superior General