

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

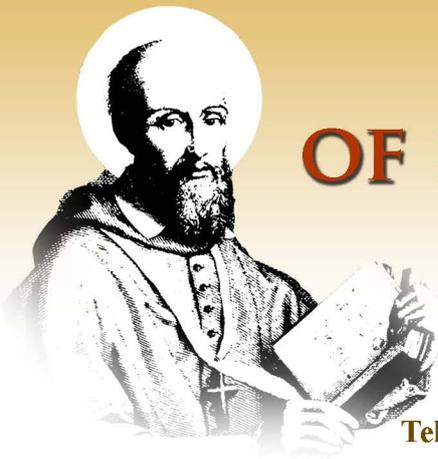
SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE (SWIP)

VINAYALAYA, MSFS Provincial House P.B.No.5557,
Malleswaram West P.O, Bengaluru 560 055, INDIA

Tel. 080 23340379 Mob: 91 9739010026, Fax: 080 23341329

E-mail: provincialsouthwestmsfs@gmail.com, secretaryprovincialsouthwest@gmail.com

Website: www.msfsouthwest.com



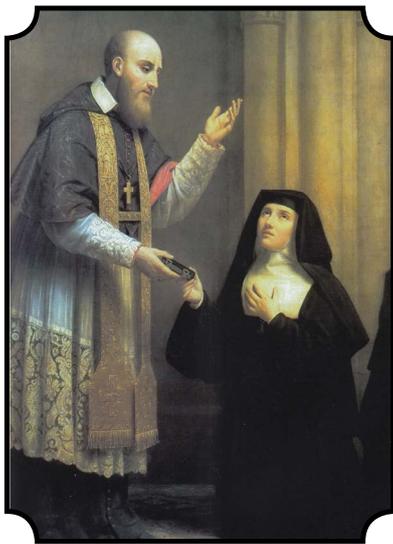
SWIP Circular BK/67

January 21, 2021

My dear Confreres, Fraternal greetings to you from Fr Benny Koottanal. As we are approaching the Feast of our beloved Patron, it is a great opportunity for us to dwell on **some of his deep insights on religious life**, in spite of the fact that he was a diocesan priest. Especially during these days of Novena, let us be more close to our Patron, listening attentively to the spirit-filled advice that he gives to us.

ST FRANCIS DE SALES – TRUE VISIONARY OF RELIGIOUS LIFE

Why Did You Become a Religious?



In one of his interactions with the Sisters of the Visitation St Francis de Sales (SFS) discusses with them about the topic, **why we become Religious?** Very often many of us are totally unaware of the reason for our choice to become religious. Looking back into our own entry into Seminary/Convent most of the time the reasons we insinuate are obviously peripheral and impulsive. It could perhaps be the 'good and sinuous' cassock of priests, their good looking and graceful faces, the opportunity they get for public performances and to display their talents, or even the interior delights and satisfaction they boast of. **Having journeyed by now through the different phases of religious life, are we today able to convincingly confess that our motives are now different than these trivial drives?**

The Need for Pure Motives

Taking cue out of the Gospel of Luke (Lk 14/18-30) SFS speaks how an architect plans to build a house. First of all, he would assess whether this house is for an ordinary person or for a Prince. **The very planning of the building depends on the person who is going to live in it.** Secondly, he assesses whether he has the means to undertake it. Thirdly, he has to decide to bring down the old building that is in the site of the new one he wishes to construct. **One becomes a religious to build the house for the Prince of his life.** *Therefore a religious should seriously reflect whether he has enough courage and determination to destroy his old self and rebuild the temple of His Majesty (1 Cor 3/16-17).* **Therefore our only motive in becoming religious should be to unite us with God and nothing else.**

What Does It Mean To Be A Religious?

According to the Salesian perspective **to be a Religious means to be bound to God by a continual mortification of our own selves and to live for God alone.** It is a total surrender of our whole being. Religious life provides us with all the appropriate means to reach this goal, such as prayer, spiritual reading, silence, interior recollection and continual stirring of the heart towards our Saviour. Therefore, to those in formation and going to make their first profession SFS says: **Reflect well more than once whether you are really determined to die to yourselves.** And to those of us who are already perpetually professed he says: **Keep in mind that religious life is nothing but a school of mortification and renouncement.**

Strict Observation of the Constitutions (Rule of Life)

According to SFS, mortification and renunciation are possible only through death. **Yes, you must die!** These are hard words. But the nectar of divine love cannot be distilled into a heart where the **Old Self** reigns (Mt. 9/17). **You should strictly observe the CONSTITUTIONS.** The strict observation of the Constitutions is not the letter of the rule, but its SPIRIT. **“You acquire the spirit of the rules only by faithfully keeping the Rule. I say the same regarding HUMILITY and GENTLENESS, which are the foundations of this Congregation.”** One will be able to practice sincerely the rule of life only when one is clothed by these two great virtues: *“How happy we will be, if, just a quarter of an hour before our death, we find ourselves clothed with a dress woven with these two virtues!”*

This sort of an understanding of the practice of virtues in no way undermines our human inclinations to passions. But we need to understand that *sin is such a willful act that there can be no sin without the consent of our will.* Humans are given the power to resist sin through the positive orientation of the will to practice the counter virtue that resists the alluring sin.

The Role of a Superior

Most often to cover up our failures we blame the Superiors who often tell us to follow the rules. **The ROLE OF A SUPERIOR in religious life is “like that of a Sailor, who always seeing the pole star, know that they are following the right direction and informs the people on board: **Courage, you are on the right way!**” By chance, if they do not follow the right way, to tell them that they need to change the route.** When a person in an office of leadership makes an incision, it cannot be without causing pain to the one who is incised, but also to the one who makes the incision. Therefore in Religious life Superiors need to be conscious of the fact that there is nothing noble in being superior to someone else. True nobility lies therein when you are able to become superior to your own self. Leadership in religious communities has to be lived with the motivation of giving glory to God through a passion for humanity.

My dear Confreres, our beloved Patron gives us true insights into the meaning of our religious life by insisting on the need for pure motives, sustained by the virtues of **Humility** and **Gentleness** and sincere adherence to the Constitutions of our Congregation. The Superiors of our Communities, Provinces and Congregation are called to be leaders who are like sailors who direct us to the pole star. They are sometimes like Surgeons who at times incise us, though with the right intention of healing us and motivating us to reach our goal.

As we celebrate the Feast of our great Patron, St Francis de Sales, let us make a conscious effort to evaluate our religious life that we lived until now, so that we will be able to tread the rest of our life with pure intention of loving God and fellow beings. I wish each one of you **A HAPPY FEAST OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES.**

CONGREGATIONAL MATTERS

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER

My dear Confreres, the call of the General Chapter 2019 brings home to us certain important aspects of our religious life and apostolic activities. Let us take some extra time to evaluate the impact of the General Chapter in our own personal and communitarian life. Now on let us take some time to reflect on our Community Life.

OUR CONSECRATED LIFE IN COMMUNITY

Our General Chapter in its Decisions, Directives and implementations bring home to us the message that: **Our Community being our family and support, we will continue to strengthen our community life by participation in daily community prayer, Eucharistic celebration, Eucharistic adoration, common meal, monthly recollections, and annual retreats.**

The above-mentioned decision of our General Chapter is in line with the teaching of our beloved Patron: **“Religious are strictly to follow community life and never to stray away from it.”** Participation in community activities as mentioned above is the life-style of a Fransalian. These common facets of our life help us to feel with one another in each others’ life-journey. Only the one who lives community life has the right to speak about the other person in the community. **Let us make a special effort to evaluate under the leadership of the Superior of the Community, whether we have watered down the importance of community life** by diluting the importance of the fundamentals of community life, such as, community prayer, common Eucharistic Celebration, daily Eucharistic Adoration, participation in common meal, conducting of monthly recollections and involving in annual retreats. **Let us make firm resolve to adhere to these fundamentals of our religious life.**

NEW PROVINCIAL CURIA OF NAGPUR PROVINCE

The Nagpur Province has elected a new team of Administration under the leadership of the Provincial **Rev. Fr John Britto Muthuswamy.** They are:

Fr Benedict De Souza (Councillor of Formation and Admonitor)

Fr Lajarus Soreng (Councillor of Social and Innovative Ministries)

Fr Domy Vallomkunnel (Councillor of Mission)

Fr Ignathi Kshirsagar (Councillor of Education)

Fr Selbestar Xalxo (Provincial Bursar)

We wish the new team of Administration of the Nagpur Province all the very- best and blessings of Almighty God in their ministries.

LIFE IN THE PROVINCE

ORDINATION TO PRIESTHOOD

The MSFS Congregation and the South-West India Province, in particular, are blessed to have ten more new priests who are ordained during this December and January. We as a province family congratulate the new priests for their courageous decision to respond to the call of Jesus to consecrate themselves as holy priests in the Congregation of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales and wish them God's abundant blessings upon their priestly and missionary ministries.

Fr Romnick S. Civico MSFS

Date of Birth : January 26, 1992
Place of Birth : Trento, Agusan del Sur, Mindanao, Philippines
Name of Parents : Narciso Civico and Rosana Civico
Parish : St Francis of Assisi, Trento
Diocese : Diocese of Butuan
First Profession : June 3, 2014
Perpetual Profession : January 25, 2020
Ordination : December 5, 2020



Fr John Joseph MSFS

Date of Birth : May 16, 1986
Place of Birth : Annai Nagar, Kollegal, Karnataka
Name of Parents : Belavendran and Savariammal
Parish : Arogyamatha Church, Annai Nagar
Diocese : Diocese of Mysore
First Profession : June 9, 2011
Perpetual Profession : September 29, 2018
Ordination : December 14, 2020



Fr Thanikkal Justin MSFS

Date of Birth : November 26, 1993
Place of Birth : Thrissur, Kerala
Name of Parents : Sunny T. V. and Gracy K. A.
Parish : St Antony's Church, Puthenpeedika
Diocese : Arch-diocese of Trichur
First Profession : May 31, 2013
Perpetual Profession : May 28, 2019
Ordination : December 27, 2020



Fr Cheeramban Ajish MSFS

Date of Birth : September 16, 1992
Place of Birth : Trivandrum, Kerala
Name of Parents : C. O. Antony and Alice Antony
Parish : St Francis de Sales Church, Vattiyoorkavu
Diocese : Arch-diocese of Changanassery
First Profession : May 31, 2012
Perpetual Profession: September 29, 2018
Ordination : December 28, 2020



Fr Puthenveetil Albin MSFS

Date of Birth : May 05, 1993
Place of Birth : Koothattukulam, Kerala
Name of Parents : Mathew Jacob and Joshy Mathew
Parish : St Sebastian's Church, Ayarkunnam
Diocese : Arch-diocese of Changanassery
First Profession : May 31, 2013
Perpetual Profession: May 28, 2019
Ordination : December 29, 2020



Fr Paraparambil Jibin MSFS

Date of Birth : October 26, 1986
Place of Birth : Nilambur, Kerala
Name of Parents : Joy Thomas and Gracy Joy
Parish : Our Lady of Hope Chulliyode
Diocese : Diocese of Kottayam
First Profession : May 31, 2014
Perpetual Profession: May 28, 2019
Ordination : December 30, 2020



Fr Kottoor Vijin MSFS

Date of Birth : November 11, 1992
Place of Birth : Changanassery, Kerala
Name of Parents : James Kottoor and Valsamma James
Parish : Mar Sleva Forane Church, Cherpungal



Diocese : Diocese of Palai

First Profession : May 31, 2013

Perpetual Profession: May 28, 2019

Ordination : January 02, 2021

Fr Panackappally Shince MSFS

Date of Birth : April 11, 1989

Place of Birth : Cherupuzha, Kerala

Name of Parents : Tomy P. J. and Mary Tomy

Parish : St Mary's Forane Church, Cherupuzha

Diocese : Arch-diocese of Thalasherry

First Profession : June 9, 2011

Perpetual Profession: May 28, 2019

Ordination : January 05, 2020



Fr Anil Kiran C. Buddini MSFS

Date of Birth : February 28, 1993

Place of Birth : Gadag, Karnataka

Name of Parents : Chaurappa D. Buddini and Margret C. Buddini

Parish : Holy Rosary Church, Thumarikoppa

Diocese : Diocese of Belgaum

First Profession : May 31, 2013

Perpetual Profession: May 28, 2019

Ordination : January 08, 2021



Fr David S. Buddini MSFS

Date of Birth : March 14, 1994

Place of Birth : Dandeli, Karnataka

Name of Parents : Shanthappa A. Buddini and Rozy S. Buddini

Parish : Holy Rosary Church, Thumarikoppa

Diocese : Diocese of Belgaum

First Profession : May 31, 2013

Perpetual Profession: May 28, 2019

Ordination : January 08, 2021



FEAST OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

My dear Confreres, on the 24th of January we are celebrating solemnly the Feast of St Francis de Sales, our beloved Patron. Unfortunately, the solemnity cannot be externally expressed through public gathering and celebration of the Eucharist with many of our friends and benefactors due to the Pandemic. Therefore, I make this request to all the Confreres in the Province: **This year (2021) let us celebrate the Feast of St Francis de Sales in our own Local Communities in a very special way. It would be very nice that you invite only those who are associated with your community in one way or the other. Do celebrate the Eucharist in a very solemn way in your communities with the close-knit extended family of friends and well-wishers.** I REQUEST ALL THE CONFRERES TO BE IN YOUR COMMUNITIES TO CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF OUR PATRON WITHOUT FAIL. Let us enjoy the spirit of our living together as we celebrate our Patron St Francis de Sales who motivates us to live in communities.

PUBLICATION OF NEW BOOKS BY OUR CONFRERES

REFLECTIONS CAPSULES, by **Fr Jijo Jose Manjackal MSFS** is an 840 page book consisting of 400 Reflections (Homilies) based on the Word of God. The book is published under SFS Publications, Rajajinagar. The Reflections are arranged based on the Gospels of Sundays Cycle B and Gospels of all the Weekdays. A Gospel Reference Index and a Thematic (topical) Index gives easy and ready access to the content. There are over 225 themes and nearly 500 anecdotes/stories/illustrations. The book is resourceful in understanding the Word of God (Gospels) and in preparing sermons, recollections, talks, community and family prayers and motivational sessions. It is also a great aid for Lectio Divina – the ancient method of praying with the Scriptures. REFLECTION CAPSULES is dedicated to all the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales and in particular to Rev Fr Antony Mookenthottam MSFS and Fr Sijo Olickal MSFS.

The MRP of the book is Rs 895/-. For the MSFS, the book is made available at a 40% discounted rate at Rs 500/- For orders, kindly contact SFS Publications (or email to reflectioncapsules@gmail.com)

We congratulate Fr Manjackal Jijo for the painstaking efforts that he has put in to bring out this book.

ITHENGANE SAMBAVICHU! (HOW DID IT HAPPEN!) is the vocation story of **Rev. Fr Tottukadavil Jose**. It could be an eye-opener for many who have not discovered their true vocation. In the name of the province, we extend our hearty congratulations to Fr Thottukadavil Jose for his gracious step.

PRAYER REQUEST

My dear Confreres, I would like to inform you that **Fr Joseph Pulpara** has undergone an operation for the kneecap replacement of his right leg. The operation was done in Amala hospital, Thrissur, Kerala. Now he is back in our community in Pattikad. At the moment a Bystander assists him for movement and other needs. Please continue to pray for his speedy recovery.

APPOINTMENTS OF NEW PRIESTS

Fr Anil Kiran C. Buddini is designated to be appointed in the **Diocese of Gulbarga** from 1st February 2021

Fr David S. Buddini is designated to be appointed in the **Diocese of Shimoga** from 1st February 2021

Fr Kottoor Vijin is designated to be appointed in the **Diocese of Kanjirappally** from 10th February 2021

Fr Panackappally Shince is designated to be appointed in the **Diocese of Idukki** from 1st February 2021

Fr Paraparambil Jibin is designated to be appointed in the **Diocese of Kanjirappally** from 10th February 2021

Fr Puthenveetil Albin is designated to be appointed in the **Archdiocese of Thalassery** from 1st February 2021

Fr Romnic S. Civico is appointed to the MSFS Formation House, Silang, as Formator, Vocation Promoter for Mindanao region and Bursar of the Community with effect from January 1, 2021.

Fr Thanickal Justin is designated to be appointed in the **Archdiocese of Changanacherry** from 1st February 2021

OBITUARY



Rev. Bro. Raphael Xalxo (85), of Nagpur Province, expired on January 4, 2021. We thank God for all the good things that He has showered upon our Congregation through the instrumentality of **Bro. Raphael Xalxo**. May God bless him and give him eternal rest.

NB: For a deceased Confrere, who is perpetually professed, each one of us is obliged to celebrate a Holy Mass irrespective of the Province. I request all of you to do the necessary suffrages for the departed Confreres.

MY SCHEDULE

January 2021

January 24	Feast of St Francis de Sales
January 25-26	Visiting our Communities in Kolar Deanery
January 27-29	Classes in IIS

February 2021

February 2	Classes in St Peter's Pontifical Institute
February 3-4	Visiting our communities in Mysore
February 9	Classes in St Peter's Pontifical Institute

February 10-13	Visiting our Communities of Novitiate, DeCare, Bathery and Vinayakumar Ashram; meeting with the Bishop of Calicut
February 16	Classes in St Peter's Pontifical Institute
February 21	Council Meeting
February 23	Classes in St Peter's Pontifical Institute
February 24-26	Classes in IIS

VOICE OF SFS

"Do not sow crops of good intentions in your neighbour's garden; rather, cultivate your own with diligence."

Fraternally,



**Fr Benny Kootanal MSFS
Provincial**