

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



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SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER

My dear Confreres,

By the grace of God we conducted successfully the 6th Regional Assembly of the Southern African Region of the North East India Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales from 14th to 16th August 2018 at Padre Pio Retreat Centre, Pretoria, South Africa, under the theme: ***Joyfully Committed to the Mission of Christ: Recapturing the Legacy of the Fransalians*** in line with the theme of 20th General Chapter: ***“MSFS, wake up to the basics”***. Fr. Jijeesh Palatty, Fr. Joseph Puliylakat and Fr. Noble Nakathingal were the steering committee members and they did a sterling job in organizing the Assembly. Fr. Libin Chirapambil assisted the steering committee with his digital and technical expertise. As decided by the confreres and the steering committee, it was a ***“paperless”*** Regional Assembly. The Assembly was attended by 25 members, including Fr. George Panthanmackel, Provincial of the North East India Province of the MSFS and Fr. Philip Thomas Kizhakumputath, Provincial Councillor and Admonitor. Bro. Ventino Mutume, who will be ordained a deacon on the 27th of October this year, representing our scholastics in formation was also present at the Assembly.

We thank God for every blessing and grace received during the days of the Assembly. We are much indebted to our beloved Superior General, Fr. Abraham Vettuvilil for his prayerful support and best wishes during the days of the Assembly. We thank Fr. George Panthanmackel, our Provincial and Fr. Philip Thomas, Provincial Councillor and Admonitor for their valuable presence and encouragement. We gratefully remember Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the Provincial of East Africa and Convenor of the MSAF for his concern and support. We express our sentiments of gratitude to Fr. Emmanuel Mappilapambil, the Regional Superior of Dibrugarh Region of the North East Province and to all confreres of the Region, the Province and the whole Congregation who accompanied us with prayers and support during the days of our Regional Assembly. All confreres of the Southern African Region deserve special words of appreciation for their active participation, showing their deep concern and love for the Region.

With the approval of the Provincial Administration, I am happy to present to you the Mission Statement and the Action plan of the Regional Assembly. I would like to thank Fr. Joseph Kunjapambil, Fr. Jose Mamalassaryil and Fr. James Madapally for being the Statement and the Action Plan committee members. Thanks to Fr. Augustine Parampuzha and Fr. Bibin Martin for taking down the minutes at the Regional Assembly.

STATEMENT

We, the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales of the Southern African Region, under the Province of North-east India, gathered at Padre Pio Retreat Centre, Pretoria, South Africa, for our sixth Regional Assembly from 14 to 16 August 2018, with the theme, JOYFULLY COMMITTED TO THE MISSION OF CHRIST: RECAPTURING THE LEGACY OF THE FRANSALIANS.

After having prayerfully reflected on the theme of the Assembly, we resolve to commit ourselves more joyfully to the pastoral ministry, particularly the Parish ministry, in Southern Africa through a deeper understanding and acquaintance of the history of the Congregation, Salesian spirituality and literature, by walking closely in the footsteps of our Founder and drawing inspiration from the missionary fervour of our pioneering missionaries. Responding to the particular pastoral situation in the Region, we shall intensify our efforts in reaching out to the poor and the vulnerable in the society and accompanying the young in their journey of faith.

As Fransalians in Southern African Region, we shall recommit ourselves to the mission of Christ by being faithful to the missionary legacy of our Congregation.

ACTION PLAN

LIVING THE LEGACY OF THE CONGREGATION

1. Deepen the study of Salesian spirituality by personal efforts, Salesian recollections and annual Salesian seminars.
2. Commit to the renewal of spiritual life through community and personal prayer.
3. Make St. Francis de Sales known in our parishes through dissemination of Salesian literature, celebration of the feast of St. Francis de Sales, and distribution of printed materials (e.g., pictures of St. Francis de Sales, prayer to St. Francis de Sales, etc.).
4. Arrange 'a day with the pioneers' as part of the induction programme.

COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION OF CHRIST

1. Evolve an effective format for ministry to the young people, in order to strengthen their faith and to engage them actively in evangelization.
2. Renew the parish communities through regular/frequent parish Missions with the help of the Parish Mission Preaching Team.
3. Equip the members with specialisation to cater to the different needs in the Region (with special attention to catechetical training and youth ministry)
4. Initiate the process of starting a music school in Swaziland.

THE 6TH REGIONAL ASSEMBLY THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHS





Congratulations to Fr. Francis Hawn and Fr. Alwyn Zothansanga for beautifully arranging and organising the Parish feast day celebrations at St. Philips, Swaziland.



Hearty welcome to Fr. Libin Pallattutharayil: Fr. Libin arrived in Cape Town, South Africa on 12th September 2018. He will stay with the confreres for a few days in Cape Town for an induction programme and acclimatisation and will then travel to Vredendal, to the place of his appointment as Assistant Parish Priest. By the end of October he will be moving to Keimoes, the place where the bishop will arrange for his study of Afrikaans language. As we welcome Fr. Libin to the Region, we wish him all the best and offer him our prayerful support. May God grant him the heart of a true missionary and may he find happiness and fulfilment in his ministry as a priest in the Region.



Regional Councillor in charge of Mission Preaching Team: I am very happy to announce that Fr. Joseph Puliylakat will be the Regional Councillor assigned to co-ordinate the Mission Preaching Team of the Region. May I request that all those parishes/missions that would like to organise mission preaching for 2019 to contact Fr. Joseph Puliylakat. Kindly email him with your preferred month and dates to plan well ahead for next year. **The New Mission Preaching Team of the Region:** Fr. Joseph Puliylakat, Fr. Noble Nakathingal, Fr. Joseph Kunjaparambil, Fr. Saju Thalayinakandathil, Fr. Philip Mangatt, Fr. Alwyn Zothansanga, Fr. Francis Hawn, Fr. Augustine Parampuzha, Fr. Jijesh Palatty and Fr. Nikseng Sangma.

Kerala Flood Disaster Fund: Thank you to everyone who positively responded to my request. Those who still like to make a donation/contribution kindly do so. From Southern African Region a donation is made to the FASCE India Kerala Relief Fund of the North East India Province. We thank Fr. Joseph Kunjaparambil for negotiating with the Bank in Namibia for the transfer of donation to the FASCE India Relief Fund on behalf of the Regional Bursar, Fr. Lukose Perumannikala.

Renaming the Apostolic Communities of Southern African Region: At the Regional Assembly following a request and much discussion it was agreed to re-name the existing Apostolic Communities to avoid the communities being called by names of towns or country. From now on the Apostolic Communities of the Region will be known as follows:

Cape Town and Vredendal Apostolic Community - De Sales Apostolic Community

Ermelo, Midrand and Swaziland Apostolic Community - Mermier Apostolic Community, and

Namibian Apostolic Community - Mother of Compassion Apostolic Community

Salesian Literature: Fr. Joseph Kunjaparambil has made available the web link: salesianliterature.wixsite.com/spirituality for anyone looking for Salesian literature. Thank you Fr. Joseph for making the Salesian literature available on the website. Congratulations for the great work!

From the Superior General: Our beloved Superior General, Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil has asked to forward to him photographs with news from the mission and from the ministries of our confreres in the Region and he would upload them on the web site. He also requests to share the web site address with the Fransalian Associates, friends, and confreres and make the mission of the Congregation available to all. Please check our web site at www.msfstoday.org

Thanks and gratitude: I express my sincere gratitude and thanks to Fr. Albert Fernandes MSFS for designing the Newsletter for the Region. Thank you very much dear Fr. Albert.

Higher Studies: The Southern African Regional Council, with the consent of the Provincial and his Council of North East India Province, has given permission to Fr Babychan Arackathara to pursue his higher studies in the USA. He will begin his studies in the USA sometime in the middle of 2019. We wish Fr. Babychan all the best and God's blessings.

Holidays:

1. **Fr. Joseph Kunjaparambil** will be on his home leave from 18th September to 22nd October.
2. **Fr. Thomas Vanderkunnel** will be on his home leave from 08th November 2018 to 08th January 2019.
3. **Bro. Ventino Mutume:** After having spent a few weeks in the Region for his holiday ministry Bro. Ventino has gone home (Uganda) for his holidays. He will return to the Seminary in early October to prepare for his diaconate. He is scheduled to be ordained a Deacon on the 27th of October 2018, in Morogoro, Tanzania. Kindly keep him in prayer. Fr. Jijesh Palatty and I will be representing the Region at his diaconate ordination.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS DEAR CONFRERES!

I wish everyone a very happy and blessed feast of Mother of Sorrows. May she continue to intercede and pray for us! Let her Sorrows comfort, encourage and motivate us as priests and missionaries in our own daily struggles, challenges, difficulties and disappointments.

Fraternally,

Baiju Mundackal MSFS

Regional Superior – MSFS Southern African Region

“Do not become upset when difficulty comes your way. Laugh in its face and know that you are in the hands of God.” St. Francis de Sales