

MSFS - MISSIONARIES OF ST.FRANCIS DE SALES
SOUTH-WEST INDIA PROVINCE



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XXth GENERAL CHAPTER 2019



My dear Confreres,

Fraternal greetings to all of you from Fr Benny Koottanal. MSFS Congregation encountered one of the historical moments of its existence through the XXth General

The spirit of prayer and brotherhood was one of the epitome factors of the General Chapter XX. Hours spent together in interiorization, confession and adoration of the Eucharistic Lord brought before the Capitulants the awareness of the work of the Spirit amidst them. All the Acts of the General Chapter, including the elections of the General Administration, were conducted in an extremely spiritual manner. Inspiring inputs, fruitful discussion and consequent discernment were the hallmark of this chapter.



Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvilil – Superior General

Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil – General Councilor in charge of Mission

Rev. Fr. Suresh Babu – General Councilor incharge of Formation

Rev. Fr. J. Stephen – General Councilor in charge of Social & Innovative Ministries

Rev. Fr. Jose Cheriyanthara – General Bursar

One of the most outstanding and spelled out themes all through the General Chapter XX was **the importance of Returning to the Basics of our COMMUNITY LIFE**. It was so evidently expressed in every discussion that one could convincingly experience the impact of this discussion on Community Life in every discernment that was arrived at in the General Chapter for the further life of our Congregation in the years to come.

Here below you will find the call of the General Chapter 2019, the draft approved by the General Chapter, for the entire Congregation. I request you to go through it word by word and point by point and assimilate it into your life so that we can live it for the glory of God through the Congregation.

CALL OF GENERAL CHAPTER 2019

We, the members of the 20th Ordinary General Chapter of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS), assembled at MSFS Provincialate in Guwahati, Assam, India from February 1-13, 2019, greet all our confreres with fraternal love and affection.

The theme of our General Chapter, “MSFS, WAKE UP TO THE BASICS,” invited us to a deep soul- searching, a renewed fidelity to Jesus Christ, an attentive listening to the voice of the Spirit, and a zealous living of the Charism of our Congregation and the spirit of our Founder, Fr. Peter Mary Mermier. The General Chapter, the supreme legislative and teaching authority in the Congregation, reiterates the collective conviction of the confreres that it is a joy to be an MSFS, and firmly resolves to strengthen our community life and existing ministries.

Heeding the call of the Church, especially, the Second Vatican Council and the Exhortations of Pope Francis, we also resolve to continue to read the signs of the times and respond to the needs of the Universal Church in new ways. To commit ourselves to these resolutions, we hereby present the following Statement, Directives, Decisions, and Implementation Mechanisms.

STATEMENT

Gathered as one family by the Triune God with our unique identity as Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, we firmly believe that we are called to grow in communion with God and with one another through a life of prayer, participation in the mission of the Church, living the Salesian virtues, and through fraternal love and sharing.

Our Charism calls us to live the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in our community and mission as envisioned by our Founder, Fr. Peter Mary Mermier. The four basics of our Charism: Community Life, Mission, MSFS-ness, and Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, are to characterize our daily lives and apostolates. In living these basics, we follow the Holy Trinity as our model and reference point, and strive to live as brothers united in love, valuing the uniqueness of each member and remaining united as one family. The General Chapter upholds this family spirit and emphatically affirms the need for strengthening our communion with the Lord and with one another.

Jesus Christ being the source and summit of our mission, we re-affirm our commitment to Him by being effectively available for the apostolic activities of the Universal Church through our three foundational Apostolates of the Renewal of Christian Life, Overseas and Pioneering Evangelization, and Education and Formation, especially of the Young. Imbibing the vision and missionary spirit of our Founder and all other confreres who have gone before us, we resolve to continue the rich legacy of our Congregation in being missionaries who **Live Jesus** and thus make a difference in the life of the Church and the world.

DIRECTIVES, DECISIONS, AND IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISMS

OUR CONSECRATED LIFE IN COMMUNITY

1. 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.
Implementation: Local Superior & Provincial.
2. All communities will form themselves into disciplined and healthy communities with Local Superiors and the members remaining accountable to each other regarding their duties and responsibilities to the community. Provincials will ensure providing

orientation and training regarding the same to the Local Superiors and members.

Implementation: Local Superior & Provincial.

3. Confreres in multi-cultural communities in the Congregation will use a common language for communication. *Implementation: Local Superior.*
4. Without being extravagant, Local Superiors will organize and facilitate programs and events for the members to promote recreation, personal development, fraternal bonding, manual labor, sports and games, and family spirit. *Implementation: Local Superior.*
5. Provincials will ensure the establishment of more Local Communities in view of gradually reducing of "Neighborhood Local Communities." *Implementation: Provincial.*
6. Provincial Secretaries will ensure that all documents coming from the General and Provincial Administrations reach all confreres either electronically or by regular mail. *Implementation: Provincial.*
7. All our communities and places of ministry will display in their respective places the articulation of our Charism with its Four Basics, our three foundational Apostolates, our Vision, and our Mission. *Implementation: Provincial & Local Superior.*

MSFSNESS & SPIRITUALITY OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

1. Experiencing a sense of joy and pride in being MSFS, we will continue to strive to be true Fransalians in our presence and conduct wherever we are, and intensify the effort to disseminate our Congregational values and spirit through our writing, preaching, and animation of groups.
2. All confreres will promote the Cause of our Founder, Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, share in his spirit for missions, and pray for his beatification and canonization. *Implementation: Local Superior & Members.*
3. While the contributions of confreres need to be duly acknowledged, no living confrere will receive or demand undue prominence in terms of exhibiting their photos, naming projects and institutions in their names, or any other. *Implementation: Provincial.*

4. Every confrere has a right to privacy and protection of his good name. Therefore, all confreres will honor and promote the good reputation of other confreres. Any violation of it will be subject to the remedial measures laid down in the Code of Ethics. *Implementation: Provincial.*
5. Provincials will identify and send confreres who can do research and pursue higher education in theology, philosophy, and other disciplines, with a special focus on St. Francis de Sales, Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, our Constitutions, and the History of our Congregation. *Implementation: Provincial.*
6. All communities will make effort to promote the establishment of Fransalian Associates. *Implementation: Provincial.*
7. Provincials will ensure the promotion of Congregational undertakings such as Salesian Program Annecy (SPA), De Sales and Mermier Resource and Animation Center (DSM), Bible Diary (Joy of the Gospel), Congregational Retreat, Salesian Retreat, Salesian Seminar, and the Spiritual Directory. *Implementation: Provincial.*
8. The next revision of the General Directory will include a mention of the Cause of our Founder, Fransalian Associates, DSM, MDO, and JPIC. *Implementation: General Administration.*
9. Seven Dolours Rosaries and Wooden crosses for Perpetual Profession will be made at the Congregational level and distributed. *Implementation: General Administration.*

MISSION

1. Remaining ever committed to the mission of Christ, we will continue to be zealous missionaries through our lifestyle and apostolates.
2. All formees, at all stages of formation, will be helped to cultivate a missionary spirit and love for the missions by listening to the testimony of missionaries, reading the history of the Congregation, and exposure to our missions and ministries. *Implementation: Rectors.*
3. All newly ordained priests will serve in our missions as part of their pastoral formation for a minimum of 2 years, and they will be placed under the guidance of a

senior confrere. The mission units to which they are assigned could be across Provinces. *Implementation: Provincial & PCIC.*

4. All the existing and new missionary endeavors of the Congregation are to be treated and envisioned as community-based endeavors rather than as individual concerns, and Provincials will ensure establishing Local Communities where they are non-existent. *Implementation: Provincial.*
5. Adequate planning, preparation, and formation of personnel will be ensured before launching into any pioneering or overseas mission. *Implementation: The General and the Provincial Administrations.*
6. Heeding the exhortation of Pope Francis, all Provinces and mission units will initiate more ministries directed to families, and those on the periphery, rural areas, and economically poor. *Implementation: Provincial & PCIC.*
7. All Provinces will promote and take advantage of the services of the Parish Mission Preaching (PMP) team. *Implementation: Provincial.*
8. The General and the Provincial administrations will continue to strengthen our Provinces and communities in Africa, North America, Europe, and Oceania, and will open new missions in Latin America and South-East Asia in view of implanting the Congregation, with community- based apostolates, and promoting local vocations. *Implementation: The General and the Provincial Administrations.*

FORMATION

1. Formation being the responsibility of the whole Congregation, we, under the direction of the Provincials, will continue to provide encouragement and support to our formators and formees. *Implementation: Provincial.*
2. Recognizing the importance of having quality candidates, we will intensify our efforts in identifying and assisting our Vocation Promoters in promoting good Vocations to our Congregation. *Implementation: Provincial & Vocation Promoter.*
3. All Provinces will implement the newly introduced Graded Integral Formation program, giving special focus to the study of the Word of God, Teachings of the Church, Sacred Liturgy, Life and Works of St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Peter Mary

Mermier, the History of the Congregation, and the Constitutions and the General Directory. *Implementation: Rector & PCIC.*

4. All formees, at all stages of formation, will be provided with opportunities for mission awareness and exposure to the missions and ministries of the Congregation. During Philosophical or Theological formation, this mission exposure could be conceived as a 2-credit course that the formees are required to complete. *Implementation: PCIC & Rector.*
5. The formation program will specifically focus on inculcating moral consciousness, loyalty to the Congregation, missionary zeal, and accountability. *Implementation: PCIC & Rector.*
6. A pool of confreres from various ministries will be constituted at the Province level to function as non-resident formation team. Every month, Rectors of seminaries will ensure a presentation or sharing by one of them on their specific ministry. *Implementation: PCIC & Rector.*
7. All formees, during their Philosophical and Theological formation, will gain proficiency in one mission language of their respective Provinces and a basic knowledge of French and Latin. *Implementation: Provincial & Rector.*
8. All formators will complete a Formators' training program, including some basic training in Psychology and Counseling prior to their appointment. *Implementation: Provincial.*
9. A background check of the formators will be completed before their appointment to ensure that confreres with integrity become formators. *Implementation: Provincial.*
10. Provincials will organize update and renewal programs annually for formators. *Implementation: Provincial, PCIC, & Rector.*
11. Provincials will organize ongoing formation programs for all confreres at least once a year. *Implementation: Provincial.*
12. Provincials will encourage all confreres to use the Spiritual Directory as part of their ongoing formation. *Implementation: Provincial.*

13. In the background of declining number of vocations and lack of formation personnel, Provincials will promote inter-province formation houses and pooling of formators. *Implementation: Provincials.*
14. All Provincials will make effort to strengthen the faculty and staff of Suvidya College and Lumen Christi Institute (LCI) by making available the services of a greater number of competent confreres, especially Spiritual Directors. *Implementation: Provincials.*

EDUCATION

1. Education of the young being one of the prime apostolates of our Congregation, and considering it as a sacred call for evangelization, we will continue to provide encouragement and support to our confreres who are involved in the apostolate of education. *Implementation: Provincial.*
2. Recognizing the educational and formational value of our presence as priests and religious, Managers/Correspondents and Principals will make every effort to create a Catholic culture and ambience in our schools and colleges by their conduct and appearance. *Implementation: Principals and Managers/Correspondents.*
3. Principals of schools and colleges will ensure the display of Biblical verses and quotes from St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Mermier in our educational institutions through banners and wall hangings. *Implementation: Principals & PCIC.*
4. Only those who have completed a minimum of two years of teaching experience and a minimum of one year as Vice Principal will be appointed as Principals of High Schools, Higher Secondary Schools, and Institutions of Higher Education. *Implementation: Provincial.*
5. To establish a culture of excellence and competence in our educational institutions, Provincials will ensure that those who have obtained degrees through private studies, correspondence courses, and honorary conferral, and do not have professional degrees obtained through regular College programs are not appointed as Principals. *Implementation: Provincial.*

6. A background check of the confreres working in our educational institutions will be completed prior to their appointment to ensure that confreres with integrity are in our schools and colleges. *Implementation: Provincial.*
7. The office space of Principals and Vice Principals in our educational institutions will be simple, devoid of luxury and extravagance. *Implementation: Provincial Bursar.*
8. Academic programs being the main responsibility of Principals, the Office of Principal will be delinked from the management of temporal goods of our schools and colleges. *Implementation: Provincial & Provincial Bursar.*
9. Managers/Correspondents of schools and colleges will be involved in the functioning of those institutions in a greater way by way of teaching, spending a day during the week with the school community, or any other. *Implementation: Provincial & PCIC.*
10. Integrating, the Christian, Salesian, and Mermierian values and teachings, the Education Forum at the Congregational level will explore the possibility of preparing a Moral Science Book. *Implementation: General Secretary for Education & PCICs.*
11. Our school and college buildings and other facilities will be used after the regular working hours for the education and formation of less privileged children and people in the neighborhood. *Implementation: Provincial & Principal.*
12. Social awareness programs will be part of our school and college curriculums, and Provincials will ensure an increase in the concessions and scholarships given to poor children in our schools and colleges. *Implementation: Provincial & PCIC.*
13. All our educational institutions will constitute Crisis Management Teams and Redressal Forums as per the Education Policy of the Congregation. *Implementation: PCIC.*
14. All our educational institutions will strengthen the Alumni Associations as per the Education Policy of the Congregation. *Implementation: PCIC.*
15. All our educational institutions will establish a student wing of Friends of Fransalians (FoF) as per the Education Policy of the Congregation. *Implementation: PCIC & SAIM.*

16. The Principals/Head Masters of the established and aided educational institutions are to be given a period of break after a tenure of 9 years for mission service.
Implementation: Provincial & PCIC.

SOCIAL AND INNOVATIVE MINISTRIES (SAIM)

1. Reading the signs of the time and responding to the needs of the Church in new and creative ways, we will continue to promote social and innovative ministries in our Provinces and mission units, and adequately train confreres for the same.
Implementation: Provincial & SAIM.
2. All Provinces and mission units will give adequate attention to specialized ministries such as Social Work, Media and Communication, and Youth Ministry, and train confreres for the same. *Implementation: Provincial & SAIM.*
3. The General Administration will establish a Global Media Center under the General Secretariat for SAIM, to assist and enhance the Media and Communication ministries of individual Provinces and mission units. *Implementation: General Secretary for SAIM.*
4. Provinces will establish Province-level units of the Mission Development Office (MDO), and make use of its services to further our social and innovative ministries.
Implementation: Provincial.
5. Wherever necessary, Provinces and mission units will initiate ministries in the area of health care such as, establishing clinics and hospitals, and train confreres for the same. *Implementation: Provincial.*
6. Provinces and mission units will initiate ministries for the care of the physically and mentally challenged, especially the special-needs-children. Considering the unique nature of such ministries, those confreres who have an aptitude for and are involved in such ministries could be given extended terms of appointment. *Implementation: Provincial.*
7. Provinces and mission units will strengthen the functioning of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Commission. Confreres will be trained in Law and other related disciplines to enhance its functioning. *Implementation: Provincial.*

8. In collaboration with the SFS Publications, Bangalore, India, Provinces and mission units outside India will explore the possibility of printing and distributing the Bible Diary (Joy of the Gospel) in their own countries. *Implementation: General Administration & SFS Publications, Bangalore, India.*

STEWARDSHIP

1. Aware that we are stewards and not owners of what God has entrusted to us, we will continue to foster a sense and culture of stewardship, accountability, transparency, and simplicity in our Provinces and mission units. *Implementation: Provincial.*
2. The formation program in our seminaries will include stage-appropriate training in accounting and finance management, and legal and civil matters of the respective countries. During Philosophical or Theological formation, these programs could be offered as 1 credit course that the formees are required to complete. *Implementation: Provincial Bursar & Rectors.*
3. Every community will prepare an annual budget and get it approved by the Provincial Administration. *Implementation: Provincial, Provincial Bursar, & Local Superior.*
4. All our communities will ensure the implementation of Financial Accountability System for Transparency (FAST) and the presentation of the statement of accounts in monthly community meetings. *Implementation: Provincial, Provincial Bursar, & Local Superior.*
5. Provincials will ensure that all confreres follow the Provincial Statutes with regard to ownership of vehicles, property, and other matters concerning temporal goods. *Implementation: Provincial, Provincial Bursar, & Local Superior.*
6. Every Province and mission unit will constitute a Land and Building Committee with experts in Engineering, Architecture, Accounting, Business Administration, and Law, who will oversee all the major projects of the Province such as purchase and sale of lands, construction of buildings, and concerns regarding Trusts and Registered Societies. *Implementation: Provincial & Provincial Bursar.*

7. Every Province and mission unit will enhance their resource mobilization efforts to identify benefactors and raise local funds. *Implementation: Provincial & Provincial Bursar.*
8. Provinces will explore the possibility of constituting inter-Province internal auditing teams. The internal auditing team will audit accounts, property documents, and other matters concerning temporal goods. *Implementation: Provincial & Provincial Bursar.*

ADMINISTRATION AND GOVERNANCE

USA VICE PROVINCE

1. The General Chapter reaffirms the Congregation's commitment to strengthen the USA Vice- Province, especially with regard to personnel.
2. The USA Vice-Provincial will ensure to establish Local Communities both among the permanent members and temporary members.
3. The request of the USA Vice Province will specify to the Assistant Superior General certain essential components such as:
 - i. Number of confreres required
 - ii. The type of the ministry for which the personnel are required
 - iii. The type of competence/experience needed
 - iv. The suitable age group
 - v. The type of the training required
 - vi. The duration of the training
 - vii. The expenditure for the training etc.
4. Upon the request of the Vice-provincial concerning the needs of the vice-province, the concerned provincial will identify confreres to be designated, whether they are from outside USA or from those who are already in ministry in USA.
5. A confrere who is designated for USA Vice Province will go with an initial mandate for a term of 3 years, and he enjoys both active and passive voice in USA Vice Province from the beginning.

6. Following due procedures, within 3 years, the Vice Provincial and the concerned Provincial will complete the process of the designated confrere's full integration into the Vice Province.
7. Regarding the salary of the designated members who join afresh, it will be equally divided (50-50) between the Vice Province and the Province of Origin for the first three years. After that, the Vice Province will pay 10% of the confrere's salary for another five years.
8. The temporary members in USA Vice-Province enjoy both the active and passive voice in their respective Provinces of origin. The "10-year policy" is applicable for the temporary members.
9. The Vice-Provincial curia comprises of confreres only from the permanent members.
10. Two representatives from the short-term members will be elected from amongst them, whom the Vice-Provincial will consult at least twice a year on matters concerning them.

GERMANY, AUSTRIA, & HOLLAND (GAH)

1. General Chapter 2013 mandated the General Administration to constitute Delegations (Neighbourhood Local Communities in case of Provinces with insufficient number of confreres for a Delegation) under the Provinces in view of establishing Local Communities.
2. General Chapter 2019 mandates each province to ensure the establishment of Local Communities consisting of at least 2 confreres through its respective Delegation as early as possible and latest by the next General Chapter.
3. For those who are integrated into these communities, the 10-year policy will not apply. The Provincials are authorized to give a period of three years to those confreres who have completed eight years or more of ministry in view of integrating them into a Local Community.
4. The Local Communities are to function as per the norms of the Constitutions and according to the specific modalities provided by Provincials' Forum with the approval of the General Administration.

5. Until the Local Communities are established, the existing Neighbourhood Local Communities are to be strengthened with measures that foster fraternal communion.
6. Any new confrere sent to GAH is sent in view of integrating into Local Communities.
7. It is mandatory for a confrere who is sent a second time for ministry in GAH to be part of a Local Community.

PROVINCE OF ENGLAND

1. Considering the historical significance and contribution of the English Province, as well as the present crisis that the Province faces, the General Chapter affirms the urgent need to strengthen the Province of England.
2. The General Chapter is convinced that the immediate concern of the English Province is to establish strong leadership and appropriate structure at the earliest possible opportunity.
3. Towards the realization of this end, the Chapter authorizes the General Administration to propose to the members of the Province a list of 4 names, which may be from within and outside the province, for the consultation and appointment of the Provincial.
4. Therefore, with good leadership, backed up effectively by the General Administration, provinces are asked to send confreres to help. These confreres should be initially vetted to ensure that they have the aptitude to thrive in the context of English Province.

DIVISION OF PROVINCES

1. The General Chapter recognizes and affirms the legitimate right of the Provinces to seek division of the Province in accordance with the norms of the MSFS Constitutions for administrative feasibility and missionary effectiveness.
2. The General Chapter approves the request of the North East India Province for the division of North-East India Province into two Provinces.
 - i. The General Chapter authorizes the General Administration to initiate the process as prescribed by the Constitutions and the General Directory.

- ii. The General Chapter also authorizes the General Administration to implement the decision as early as possible.

OTHER JURIDICAL MATTERS

1. General Chapter 2019 authorizes the General Administration to appoint an expert commission to study and present the following matters at the Congregational level and bring clear proposals and possibilities to be voted for in the next General Chapter and for eventual amendments in the MSFS Constitutions and/or the General Directory:
 - i. Election of Provincial
 - ii. Election of Provincial Councilors
 - iii. Age & Eligibility for all the above offices
 - iv. The need for the office of Provincial Vicar
 - v. Election of Provincial Bursar
 - vi. Provincial's term of office
 - vii. All Regional Superiors as Ex-Officio members of the General Chapter
 - viii. The choice between Provincial Congress and Chapter based on the number of confreres in the Province.
 - ix. The active and passive voice of General Councilors.
 - x. Any other matter pertaining to the Constitutions and the General Directory.
2. General Chapter 2019 authorizes the General Administration to appoint an expert commission to study the following matters:
 - i. The MSFS Constitutions and the General Directory
 - ii. The Spirit of our Founder
 - iii. Our Charism
 - iv. The History of the Congregation
3. Regarding the extension of the term of office of the Provincial, the General Chapter voted to delete GD 236 i & ii, and retain only GD 236 iii.

4. With regard to cases of low turnout in voting, the General Chapter decided to leave the matter to the General Administration. The General Chapter exhorts the Local Superiors to enlighten the members to vote.
5. With regard to the reasons for the removal of Provincial, the General Chapter affirms that there is no need to specify the reasons for the removal of the Provincial.
6. With regard to the appointment of Local Superiors, the General Chapter directs that the appointment needs to be done according to the Norms in the Constitutions.
7. With regard to the substitutes for General Councilors in case of vacancy of office, the General Chapter decided to add a clause in the General Directory regarding the election of two substitutes.
8. With regard to E-Voting, the General Chapter approves it in principle, and authorizes the General Administration to work out its modalities.

**DIRECTIVES CONCERNING CONFRERES WORKING OUTSIDE THE PROVINCE
TERRITORY SEEKING EXCLAUSTRATION IN VIEW OF INCARDINATION**

1. There is no automatic, direct, or immediate approval of application for Exclaustration or Incardination. Confreres are to respect their personnel plans.
2. Anyone, who wants to leave the Congregation and join a diocese, must return to his Provincialate for an appointment for the discernment process for one year.
3. It is the direction and the mind of the Congregation that any process of discernment be done within the Province or any other territory or situation that is allocated by the Major Superior.
4. The immediacy of the presence and animation of his Major Superior, fraternal communion with the confreres in the province, and being situated within the domain of the ministries of the province can provide better opportunities to discern his vocation or reinforce his religious and apostolic commitment.
5. It is the policy of the Congregation as reconfirmed by General Chapter 2019 that a non-compliance to this directive from the part of an individual confrere concerned amounts to:

- i. Failing and defeating the very purpose of the mission outside the Province territory.
 - ii. Disloyalty to the policies of the Congregation in the context of its life and ministry.
 - iii. A breach of the Consecrated Vow of Obedience - Disobedience to the legitimate mandate of the Major Superior who urges him to discern his religious vocation in close vicinity with the confreres and the ministry in his Province.
6. In case of refusal and defiance by the concerned confrere, despite the patient and persistent efforts at persuasion by the Provincial, the Provincial in all good conscience, can initiate the due process as prescribed in Canon 6961, Const. 284, 3.
 7. The Superior General will write a letter to the concerned dioceses regarding these policies of the Congregation.

My dear Confreres, let us all make special effort to go through all these discernments and directives of the General Chapter and put into practice in the context of our religious life in our province.

A Word of Appreciation and Thanks

- On behalf of the South West India Province I thank our beloved Superior General, Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, for animating the General Chapter XX with such spiritual depth, inculcated by the divine wisdom and personal intimacy with God and his confreres. He was a symbol of unity throughout the Chapter.
- We thank the Outgoing General Administration, namely, **Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy, Rev. Fr. Noel Rebello, Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, Rev. Fr. George Parampukattil and Rev. Fr. Augustine Mangatt**, for their extreme commitment and selfless services for the growth of the Congregation.
- We express our heartfelt congratulations and appreciation to the Steering Committee of the General Chapter under the able leadership of Fr. Saji Puthiakulangara and his team. They have done a yeomen service to the whole Congregation through the meticulous implementation of the acts of the General Chapter.

- Our heartfelt gratitude to the North East India Province for the generous expression of Salesian hospitality through their presence, availability and accompaniment. It had been truly Salesian hospitality in its versatility.

3RD ORDINARY PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

“MSFS COMMUNITIES IN MISSION:

SOUTH WEST PROVINCE RETURNING TO THE BASICS”

My dear Confreres,

Soon after my installation as the provincial I had to go for the General Chapter in Guwahati. The General Chapter had been a time of inspiration and a spirit-filled event. I was waiting for the completion of the Chapter and the permission of the Superior General to convoke Provincial Chapter. I know that I am a bit delayed in communicating this announcement due to the above-mentioned factors. Dear Confreres, It was a common feel in the General Chapter that it is better to conduct Chapters in the provinces, especially in those provinces where the number is exceeding more than a hundred. In the spirit of true prayer and discernment when I reflected upon this matter personally and with the provincial administration there was a unanimous feel that in a province like ours where more than hundred confreres are outside the country, proper representation of them will not be possible in a Congress. Therefore elected representatives from them with objective reports of their particular ministries will be more effective in a context like ours. Therefore, with the Consent of the Superior General and with the approval of the Provincial Administration and in the true spirit of prayer and discernment and in accordance with the Constitutions and Directory of our Congregation I would like to convoke a Provincial Chapter. The discernment to convoke a provincial chapter is also from the inspiration given by the General chapter, which ensured quality exchange and active participation of everyone.

As we are conducting this Provincial Chapter it shall be made sure that a forum shall be foreseen where every member can seriously share his concerns. In fact all members will have their participation albeit indirectly in the process of election and decision-making.

THEME OF THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER 2019

In the light of the inspirations that have been drawn from the General Chapter that insisted so much on the necessity to return to one of the Basics of our religious life, that is, Community Life, we, as a province, shall aim at highlighting the importance of community based apostolate. Therefore, in consultation with the Provincial Administration, I have chosen the theme: **MSFS Communities in Mission: South West India Province Returning to the Basics**. This theme shall further be directed to the various spectrums of the four Pillars of our Charism, such as Consecrated Life in Community, Mission, MSFSness and Salesian Spirituality.

VENUE AND DATES OF THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

The 3rd Ordinary Provincial Chapter shall be conducted in **Vinayalaya, the MSFS Provincial House, Malleswaram, Bangalore**. Considering the vast preparations needed to organize a provincial chapter by way of election of the Delegates of the Chapter and further discussions and discernments, in accordance with the permission granted by the Superior General for an extension of time, we have decided to conduct the Provincial Chapter from the **29th of April 2019** to the **3rd of May 2019**.

STEERING COMMITTEE FOR THE PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

With the approval of the Provincial Administration and with the consent of the respective Confreres I am happy to appoint the following Confreres as the members of the Steering Committee for the organization and the implementation of the procedures of the Provincial Chapter

Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal, Provincial (Convener)

Fr. Binu Edathumparambil (Chairman)

Fr. A. Jabamalai (Member)

Fr. Joe Cherolickal (Member)

Fr. Jijo Manjackal (Member)

I thank these Confreres for their readiness to be at the service of the province for this important act of our province. Within a short while, the steering committee shall prepare and communicate the procedures for the election of the chapter members and

send the ballots to the respective Conveners of the Apostolic Communities to be distributed among the members. In consultation with the Provincial they shall also be preparing the procedures of the Chapter.

EXTRAORDINARY APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY MEETINGS

As I have sent to you the draft of the General Chapter I request all the members to take a printed copy of it. These drafts, statements and juridical discernments shall be explained by one of the Capitulants of the General Chapter in the Apostolic Meeting. Thereafter the same points shall be discussed in the context of the theme of the Provincial Chapter. You are welcome to suggest means and ways as well as put forward points for further study in the Provincial Chapter in the practical context of the life and ministries of our province. I request the Conveners of the Apostolic Communities to convoke an extraordinary Apostolic Community Meeting between the 25th of February 2019 and the 15th of March 2019 and submit the collated report to the Provincial Secretary latest by the 20th of March 2019. As this is one of the forums in which we can express our province concerns the participation of all the members is mandatory.

Ex-officio, Capitulants and Special Invitees of the General Chapter XX who would animate the Extraordinary Apostolic Community Meeting

- **Ettumanoor Apostolic Community** – Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil
- **Trivandrum Apostolic Community** – Fr. Benny Koottanal
- **Kannur Apostolic Community** – Fr. Thomas Cherukatt
- **Hebbagodi Apostolic Community** – Fr. Binu Edathumparambil
- **Bangalore North Apostolic Community** – Fr. Benny Koottanal
- **Mysore Apostolic Community** – Fr. Thomas Cherukatt
- **Kolar Apostolic Community** – Fr. Binu Edathumparambil
- **Koppal Apostolic Community Meeting** – Fr. Thomas Cherukatt
- **Shimoga Apostolic Community** – Fr. Benny Koottanal
- **Philippines Delegation** – Fr. Jose Kumbolickal
- **Ngaoundere Apostolic Community** – Fr. Manoj Arackal/Fr. Christophe
- **Ngoya Apostolic Community** – Fr. Manoj Arackal/Fr. Christophe

NB: May I request the other delegations and units which are not directly represented in the General Chapter, such as GA Delegation, communities in the US, England and Australia to come together in their respective communities to study the statement-draft of the General Chapter and suggest their opinions, points and views for the Provincial Chapter within the stipulated time.

GOOD WISHES DEAR FR. MATHEW THOTTIYIL

My dear Confreres, I am happy to inform you that Fr. Mathew Thottiyil has reached USA for pastoral ministry. He will be rendering pastoral ministry in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. We wish Fr. Mathew God's abundant blessings in all endeavours in serving the people of God. May God bless you, dear Fr. Mathew Thottiyil.

OBITUARY

- **Mr. Augustine Aranjanil** aged 82, brother of Fr. Paul Aranjanil, died on January 27, 2019.
- **Mr. Xavier Pereira** aged 66, uncle of Bro. Robin Pereira, died on January 27, 2019.
- **Mr. P.C. Joseph** aged 51, brother of Fr. Shinto Parayankunnel, died on February 06, 2019.
- **Mrs. Esther Rosalinde** aged 35, niece of Fr. Martin, died on February 08, 2019.
- **Mr. Puttiaya** aged 70, uncle of Fr. C. Joseph, died on February 17, 2019.

MY SCHEDULE

My dear Confreres, please do take note of the schedule of my program. Different from the previous circular, each new circular would bring in additional changes in my programs as per the need. Please do organize the visitation and other common meetings/programs according to the latest communication.

February 2019

February 23	*Meeting the third year Seminarists of SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor
February 25	Apostolic Community Meeting of Trivandrum Apostolic Community
February 26	* Executive meeting of VikasJyothi (in the afternoon)
February 27	* Meeting of all the Directors of Prateeksha Boys' Homes

March 2019

March 1	Council Meeting
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March 2	Suvidya-Tejas Academic Convocation in Suvidya College
March 3	Major Superiors' Meeting with the Archbishop of Bangalore
March 5	Visit to Anthonynagara
March 7	Visit to Chintamani and Srinivasapura
March 12	Council Meeting
March 14	One day with Tejas Community
March 20-27	Visitation to our Confreres in England and meeting with the Bishop of Northampton

April 2019

April 16	Mass and Talk for the General Chapter of St. Anne of Bangalore
April 18	Maundy Thursday in MSFS Novitiate Makkiad
April 19	Good Friday in St. Joseph's Parish Ulickal
April 21	Easter Mass in St. Sebastian's Parish, Charal
April 22-28	Immediate preparation for the Provincial Chapter
April 25	Mass and talk for the Provincial Assembly of the RNDM
April 29-May 3	3 rd Ordinary Provincial Chapter

VOICE OF SFS

"If we walk steadily and faithfully....God will lift us up to greater things."

Fraternally,



Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS

Provincial