



MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES USA VICE PROVINCE

Wellspring, P.O. Box 440, Whitehouse, Texas 75791, USA
Phone: 903-839-1280 Fax: 903-839-3486 Cell: 903-521-6492

Email: frgus@suddenlink.net

Website: www.wellspringcommunity.net
www.fransaliansusa.com

VPUSA-AT-11

May 4, 2016

Dear Confreres:

In another three days, we will celebrate the feast of the Ascension of the Lord and in ten days, we will celebrate the feast of Pentecost. On the feast of Ascension, we read from the Gospel of Luke (Luke 24:46-53) the amazing story of Jesus trusting his disciples and commissioning them to be witnesses of his suffering, death and resurrection and sending them with his mission of bringing good news to the world. With great wisdom, knowing the limitations and inadequacies of his men, Jesus asked them to wait “until you are clothed with power from on high”, to wait for the Holy Spirit to empower them.

After Jesus was taken up into heaven, the disciples returned to Jerusalem and were found praising God in the temple. They waited as their master had instructed them. This is an amazing story of an end and a beginning that was continuous, an end and a beginning that merged, an end that ran into a beginning and a beginning that grew out of an end. This is the story of the ascension of the Lord, which is the story of “continuity” and not a break from what they had come to know and experience. This is the story of the Church being called, sent and empowered to continue what Jesus began. It is the story of Jesus asking the disciples to wait to be filled so that they become more fully involved. It is the story of the disciples being empowered to live and to share the good news of Jesus. The feast of Ascension calls us to wait and remain open to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and be empowered to fulfill the mission of Jesus.

Today, we, with all our limitations and inadequacies, are trusted with the good news of Jesus and called to proclaim it to the world. Let us learn to wait patiently with arms and hearts and minds that are open to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit! May the Holy Spirit fill us with all the gifts we need to fulfill our mission in life!

Triennial Mandatory Meeting (TMM)

Triennial Mandatory Meeting will be held from May 14 – 18, 2016 at Lumen Christi Institute in Arusha. This is a triennial meeting of all the Major Superiors of our Congregation and General Curia. The objective of TMM is to evaluate the life of the Congregation in the light of the Directives and Decisions of General Chapter 2013. The four key thrusts of the General Chapter were: Frontier Mission; MSFS-ness; Religious Life and Community Life; and Salesian Spirituality. Major superiors are expected to present a report of the life and activities of their provinces in light of these major thrusts.

As I am unable to attend this meeting, I have requested Fr. Joseph Pottemmel to represent me at this meeting. I am grateful to him for accepting my request. He will present the report of the USA Vice Province in light of the major thrusts of General Chapter 2013 as described above. I will share with you a report of the meeting when Fr. Pottemmel returns.

I thank the Superior General for accepting my request to send a representative in my behalf. His kindness is much appreciated.

Please join me in praying for God's blessings on all participants of TMM and on their sharing and deliberations. Pray that the Holy Spirit guides them to discern what would be best for our life and mission as Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales. And pray for safe travels for all and an enjoyable and enriching stay in Arusha.

North American Salesian Network (NASN)

North American Salesian Network (NASN) was formed at the 2013 meeting of the "Salesian Initiatives". USA Vice Province has participated in the meetings of the Salesian Initiatives in 2012 and 2013 and became a member of this organization when it was formed in 2013. Fr. Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil represented USA Vice Province at the 2016 meeting of NASA, held at the Don Bosco Retreat Center at Stony Point, New York. The following is an unedited report of the meeting sent by Fr. Tomy.

The fifth meeting of North American Salesian Network was held on April 4-6, 2016 at Don Bosco Retreat Center Stony Point, NY. There were 19 participants representing different religious entities from the United States. The session was coordinated by Fr. Don Heet OSFS. The meeting was very productive with a lot of life and vitality bringing together different ideas and thoughts to work together as a Salesian Family in the United States to bring out the Salesian thoughts in the daily lives of the average Catholics in the United States.



The following are some of the high lights of the meeting: promoting NASN website which is Salesianspirituality.com; working towards publishing an apostolic letter by Holy Father in 2022 commemorating the 400th death anniversary St. Francis de Sales, which is also the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the North American Salesian Network; constituting a four

member planning committee for the future direction of NASN; starting Google Drop Box for easy communication; writing blogs on a weekly basis by different religious entities; studying the possibilities of NASN attending different regional conferences in different parts of the United States; exploring the possibilities of vocation promotion in different universities such as De Sales University, etc.

Members of the planning committee: Don Heet, OSFS (Coordinator); Fr. John Graden, OSFS; Fr. Tomy Joseph, MSFS; and Kathy Tierney belonging to De Sales Secular Institute.

Congratulations and Prayer Wishes

Hearty congratulations and prayerful wishes to the new administration of South West India Province and the New Dibrugarh Region from all of us in USA Vice Province! Our prayers accompany all who are assuming new responsibilities in South West India Province and Dibrugarh Region.

South West India Province

Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS, Provincial
Fr. R. Santhosh Kumar - Councilor and Admonitor
Fr. A. Jerome - Councilor
Fr. Roy Plathottathil - Councilor
Fr. Joy Vazhappillil - Councilor
Fr. Vinod Kanattu - Provincial Bursar

New Dibrugarh Region

Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparambil (Regional Superior),
Fr. Kurian Pattimackel, (Regional Councillor)
Fr. Augustine Thundathil (Regional Councillor)
Fr. Philip Mhonchumo (Regional Councillor)
Fr. Peter Parankimalil (Regional Bursar).

New Arrivals:

Fr. Joshy Mathew Kulangara, from North East India Province has come for ministry in USA. He is appointed as chaplain at Sacred Heart Hospital in Eau Claire, in the diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin. His address follows:

Fr. Joshy Mathew, msfs
Sacred Heart Hospital
Pastoral Care Department
900 W. Claremont Ave
Eau Claire, WI 54701

715-456-5623 (Cell)

joshymathewkmsfs@gmail.com

New Assignments:

Fr. Arulanantham Yagappan is appointed administrator of St. Paul's Catholic Church (River Side) in the diocese of St. Augustine, Florida. Congratulations to Fr. Arul and prayerful wishes for a meaningful and rewarding ministry in the new parish.

Yagappan Arulanantham, msfs
St. Paul's Catholic Church (River Side)
2609 Park Street,
Jacksonville, FL.32204.

904-729-5706 (Cell)
904 387 2554 (Office)
yarulmsfs@gmail.com

Fr. Mathias Rajansebastian is appointed administrator of Sacred Heart Church in Palestine in the diocese of Tyler, Texas. Congratulations to Fr. Mathias and prayerful wishes for a meaningful and rewarding ministry in the new parish.

Fr. Mathias Rajansebastian, msfs
Sacred Heart Church
503 N. Queen Street
Palestine, Texas 75801

903-372-5906 (Cell)
903-729-2463 (Office)
903-723-9799
mathiasmsfs@gmail.com

Change of address:

Fr. George Kunnel (NEP)
Our Lady of Grace Church
40291 W. Art Pl.
Maricopa, AZ 85138.

520-440-8854 (cell)
520-568-4605 (Office)
520-568-0861 (Fax)
frgeokunnel@gmail.com

Fr. Augustine Joseph Mannaparmpil (SWP)
Holy Trinity Church
409 Cherry St
Columbia PA.17512

470-585-0803 (Cell)
717-684-2711 (Residence)
fraugustine2000@yahoo.com

Return to province:

Fr. Tom Thomas Pannalakunnel, Fr. Mathew Thottiyil and Fr. George Vattappara will soon be returning to their Province, South West India Province, after their term of ministry in USA. They will receive their new assignments on their return.

Dear confreres, Fr. Tom, Fr. Mathew and Fr. George, we, your confreres in USA, pray for you as your return to your Province, especially that you have a safe journey and a smooth and gentle transition from ministry in USA to ministry in India, in your province of origin. May God bless you with fulfilling and meaningful ministries!

Let us pray for our confreres:

Fr. Kurian Chempalakunnel – December 1, 1938 to March 16, 2016)

Rev. Fr. William John D' Silva – January 31, 1953 to March 21, 2016

Fr. Joseph T.P. Thalachirakuzhiyil January 15, 1947 to April 3, 2016

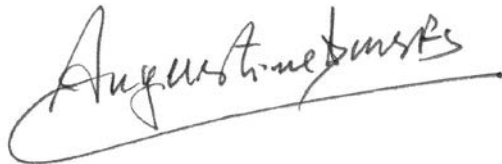
Let us remember in prayer these confreres of Nagpur Province, their families and their Province. We thank God for their dedication and generous love for the congregation. We accompany their families and their province as they grieve their great loss.

Conclusion:

Dear confreres, thank you for your ongoing support. Be courageous and learn to walk faithfully and joyfully! We are Fransalian Missionaries. We must learn to live a lifestyle that is uniquely Fransalian, different from that of the world around us. The only measure of our faith is how we live, not what we profess! Let us walk faithfully, for faithfulness is the mark of a man of God.

Be faithful to your calling! All you do may not be successful in your eyes or in the eyes of others. The real success lies in your fidelity to who you are and what you have come to know as your calling. Just be faithful and be joyful!

You are in my daily prayer. God bless you and all you do for God's people and keep you safe in the center of His Love.



Augustine Tharappel, msfs
Vice Provincial,
Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales, USA Vice Province
Vice Provincial: viceprovincialusa@gmail.com
Bursar: msfsbursarusa@gmail.com
Personal: frgus@suddenlink.net
Office: 903-839-1280
Fax: 903-839-3486
Cell: 903-521-6492

**“Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself.
Do not lose courage in considering your own imperfections,
but instantly set about remedying them,
every day begin the task anew.”
St. Francis DE Sales**