

Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales

MSFS - Fransalians USA Vice Province

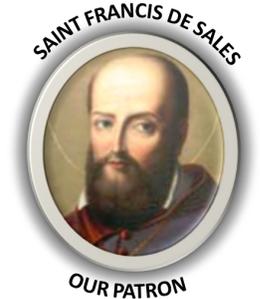
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www.wellspringcommunity.net

www.fransaliantimesusa.org

www.msfstoday.org

YOU ARE A BLESSING!

My Beloved Brother Priests/Confreres,

This is my first opportunity to address every one of you together after assuming the office as the second Vice Provincial of the USA Vice Province. I am writing you to convey the message that “YOU ARE A BLESSING TO THIS VICE PROVINCE AND I AM PROUD OF BEING ONE AMONG YOU.” You are important! Your person, ideas, thoughts, recommendations, attitude, actions are all important to this Vice Province. It does not matter if you are here on a long term basis or short term basis. You are an MSFS and you shall be an MSFS wherever you are! It is not important where you come from but it is important who you are, where you are and where you are headed. It is you who make it or break it! Our Vice Province is the baby province of our Congregation, just completed three years. It needs care, attention, direction, guidance, growth and development. It is just like a lump of clay in the hands of the potter. You are the potter of this Vice Province for its growth and development; and you are an instrument in the hands of God at this time in the life of our Congregation.

You are valuable and important to this Vice Province. It is hard for this Vice Province to function without your commitment and participation. The greatest strength of this Province is not the bank account and other assets that it has, but you; you are the greatest asset of this Vice Province. The Province wants you to “*Bloom where you are planted*” as our heavenly patron Saint Francis de Sales wants us to be. You are capable of creating a new culture, new tradition, new world and I want to challenge you to explore the possibilities and opportunities within the frame work and structure of our religious community to help build people and communities. I assure you of my support and cooperation. I am wanting and willing to be a part of your daily struggles, challenges, confusions, fears and apprehensions. You can trust me, I am with you. The divisions as Provinces, Vice Provinces and Regions are all administrative units and it shall not create division, dissension and disunity in our religious life and take away the joy of committed men living together following the Salesian Spirituality. Our Congregation, your families, the Church and the World needs you. Our community needs you today more than ever in the past, because you can make a difference. You are special and valuable not only in the eyes of the Lord but also in the eyes of the Vice Province, Congregation and the World today. Remember that God has not created a substitute for you and only you can perform what you are meant to perform today. Let us grow together as Brother Religious; pray together as Brother Priests; love one another as Jesus would love; and spread the fragrance of the “Fransalian way of life.”

With prayers in His love Your brother,

Fr Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil MSFS, Vice Provincial, USA Vice Province

Introducing the New

Vice Provincial!

Fr. Tomy Joseph Puliyampattayil, was born as the 5th of seven children to the late Joseph and Rosamma at Kanhirapuzha, (Near Prakash Bhavan Minor Seminary of Nagpur Province Mannarkad) Palakkad district, Kerala, India. After his elementary and high school education he joined SFS Seminary Ettumanoor, and completed his Novitiate at Salesianum and became a religious on December 15, 1986. He pursued his Philosophy at Suvidya College, Regency at St. Aloysius high school Vizag, and Theology in St. Peters Bangalore (Vinayalaya) and was ordained a Priest for the Visakhapatnam Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales on December 27, 1994.

After his ordination he worked as an Associate Pastor at MSFS Parish Elkathurthy, and Principal and Superior of SFS School, Koratla, Karimnagar AP, Rector and Superior of MSFS Seminary Vadakumchery, Kerala.

He came to the United States on September 30, 2003. He served as an Associate Pastor at Our lady of the Lake Parish Hendersonville, Pastor of Sacred Heart Church and School Loretto, and Pastor of St. Joseph Church and School Madison, in the Diocese of Nashville, Tennessee, where he is currently working. He also serves as the Mission Director of Blessed Mother Teresa Syro-Malabar Mission Church in Nashville, Tennessee, USA.

Fr. Tomy is a Religious for nearly 30 years and a Priest for nearly twenty-two years. He has a Masters in Education and Political Science from Indian Universities and a Masters in Counseling Psychology from Nashville, Tennessee, USA. He is also currently pursuing his Ph.D. in Psychology in the United States. He served as an Advisor to the USA Vice Provincial for a short time, and served as the Director of Formation for the Vice Province.



Thank you Dear Father Augustine Tharappel and the Administration!

On behalf of the USA Vice Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, we would like to thank Fr. Augustine for his leadership and guidance as the former Vice Provincial of the USA Vice Province. MSFS (Fransalians) have been in the United States for the past five decades. Several Priests have worked in this Country in the pastoral ministry and leadership positions. But Father Augustine has worked in different capacities as the Coordinator, Regional Superior, and Vice Provincial. He has done a great job in establishing the MSFS identity in the United States by serving as Regional Superior and Vice Provincial. He has left his impression in forming and shaping the Vice Province and taking us to the level where we are today.

Dear Fr. Augustine, all the confreres from the Vice Province would like to express our sincere appreciation for your commitment and love to the Congregation and its mission. We do appreciate all that you have done in guiding and leading the confreres and the Vice Province in the past. We assure you of our prayers, support and love. We wish you good health and joy in your continued ministry.

Our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Provincial Administration for their great service to the Vice Province in different capacities.

Thanks to the Provincial Council Members, Fr. Luke Kalarickal, Fr. Joseph Mullakkara, Fr. Santy Kurian, and Fr. Santhiyagu Arokiam for their guidance and leadership in the past. Thanks to Father Joseph Pottemmel for serving as the Provincial Bursar for the past three years.

Thanks also to the Superiors of different Fransalian Communities for their selfless service and commitment to their local communities and the Vice Province.

In conclusion dear fathers, we would like to say:

THANK YOU ALL AND MAY THE LORD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU IN ALL THAT YOU DO IN YOUR DAILY LIFE AND MINISTRY. PRAYERS FOR EACH OF YOU!



A Brief History of the MSFS in the United States of America!

The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, known as Fransalian Fathers, have been serving in the United States for about 50 years. The Priests who came from mainland Europe, England and India have been serving in the United States. There were attempts made to establish some sort of formal set up of our presence in the USA in 1935 but it was unsuccessful. In 1949 Fr. Basil Luyet MSFS and Fr. Grorod MSFS visited 7 Bishops in the USA without success.

In 1968, Fr. Adrian Duval, then Superior General of the Congregation, decided to initiate actively the process of establishing a mission in the USA. He commissioned Fr. Pat Waldron, the Provincial of the English Province, to proceed to the United States to contact some Bishops. Fr. Waldron arrived in the USA on December 6, 1968. However, he faced failures in this initial attempt. Finally, in 1969, Fr. Waldron was able to secure a favorable response from the Arch Bishop of Atlanta, Georgia and Fr. Gill MSFS was assigned to St. Joseph Parish in Athens, Georgia. In February, 1970, the Council of the English Province decided that Atlanta would be the most favorable location for establishing the foundation of the MSFS in the USA. The Arch Bishop of Atlanta, Most Reverend Thomas Donnellan, entrusted the care of St. Patrick's Church Norcross to the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales on April 24, 1972. He also entrusted the MSFS the pastoral care of St. Lawrenceville Church Lawrenceville on July 3, 1974. However, the MSFS handed over St. Lawrence to the Arch Diocese in 1994 and St. Patrick in 2001 due to lack of personnel. In 1975 the MSFS was offered a house in a secluded woods by the widow of Ed Barton, a parishioner of St. Lawrence Parish. It was named Villa Luyet in honor of Fr. Basil Luyet MSFS, a well known scientist in Cryogenics, who died in 1968 in Madison, Wisconsin. This house was also used as a Novitiate House for the formation of Fransalian Priests in the United States. This house still continues to exist as the home of the Fransalians in Atlanta at a different location.

The second phase of our growth and development occurred with the arrival of the Indian MSFS to the United States more than twenty years ago. Fr Augustine Tharappel was assigned with the job of raising the American Mission to a Region of our Congregation. At that time, there were only five confreres in ministry in the USA. Many things have happened since then, including the arrival of many confreres for ministry/study to the USA from several Provinces; the establishment of Wellspring Spirituality Center at Tyler, Texas; and organizing the confreres into different local communities in different parts of the United States. Father Augustine Tharappel served as Coordinator of Fransalians in the United States for seven years, and helped to raise the American Mission to USA Region and served as Regional Superior for six years. Afterwards, the Region was raised to the status of a Vice Province and Father Augustine served as the Vice Provincial for three years.

The Current Status of the MSFS in the United States!

The USA Vice Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (Fransalians) came to its formal existence as a Vice Province on July 3, 2013. Fr. Augustine Tharappel was appointed and installed as the first Vice Provincial of the Vice Province at Wellspring, White House, Texas. Fr. Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil was installed as the second Vice Provincial of the USA Vice Province on July 3, 2016. Currently there are 56 MSFS Priests working in 22 Dioceses spread out in 15 States of the United States of America. There are two types of membership status for the confreres working here in the United States. They are short term members and long term members. Short term members are primarily members of the Province of origin and their major Superiors are Provincials from their Province of origin. They work here for a certain number of years and go back to their Province of origin as per the direction of their respective Provincials. The long term members are those who work here until retirement and their major Superior is the Vice Provincial of the USA Vice Province. When they retire they have the option to go back to India and live out the rest of their lives or live the rest of their lives in the United States of America.

Convoking the Vice Provincial Congress!

My Dear Beloved Brother Priests/Confreres,

In compliance with the Constitution and General Directory of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales with the approval of the Superior General and in consultation with the current Provincial Administration, as the Vice Provincial of the USA Vice Province I convoke the Second Vice Provincial Congress of our Vice Province, from Monday August 22 evening through Friday August 26, 2016 afternoon at Montserrat Retreat House Lake Dallas, Texas United States.

The theme for the Vice Provincial Chapter is “**FRANSALIANS FORWARD FRONTIERS: MEN OF MISSION AND VISION WITH COMPASSION.**” The theme is chosen in the spirit of the General Chapter 2013 of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and the spirit of the Universal Church for the current year. It is a challenging invitation for us as Fransalians to go beyond our own ghettos and reach out to the needy around and think outside our own little boxes to vision for a better, brighter, greater future for our Vice Province, Congregation and the Universal Church.

Every Chapter/Congress is a spiritual event in the life of a Province/Vice Province. Let us make it a spiritual experience, a spiritual banquet where we can muster energy and strength for our journey for the upcoming three years as committed missionaries. It is also an opportunity for us to plan and program our life and ministry as Fransalians in the United States.

I request you all to pray for the success of this spiritual event that we can make it a personal experience of living together and caring for each other as Fransalians.

Steering Committee for Upcoming Vice Provincial Congress!

In consultation with the current Provincial Administration, I appoint the following Confreres as members of the Steering Committee for the organization and implementation of the process and procedures of the upcoming Vice Provincial Congress.

Convener: Fr. Tomy Puliyanampattayil -Vice Provincial

Members: Fr. Antony Bonela

Fr. Alex Tigga

Fr. Davis Chackaleckel

Fr. John Peter Arul

Fr. Joseph Mullakkara

Fr. Mathew Elayadathamadam

Different Sub-Committees!

Transportation : Wellspring Community, Tyler TX

Hospitality : Sunny Punnakuzy **Cap** - George Thayilkuzithottu, Mariadas Sesetti, Joseph Xavier

Liturgy : Jaison Pezhathinal **Cap** - Augustine Mannaparambil, Alphonse Savarimuthu, Antony Swamy

Choir : John Britto Chinnappa **Cap** - George Valliamthadathil, P Stephen, John Peter Ambrose

Photography : Jacob Dio **Cap** - Stephen Soares

My thanks and appreciation to these confreres for their willingness to work as a team to plan for this major spiritual event of our Vice Province.

Please Note!

As we are aware that most of us are working with different diocese, having different systems, programs and policies, it is not easy to be away from the parish. But my humble request is to make an honest effort to be part of this community experience as it is an opportunity that we get only every three years. It is also a forum of collective discernment and accountability for the life and mission of our Vice Province here in the United States. Thanks for making the arrangements for your participation. Hope to see you all soon. Fr. Tomy

Report on the Installation of the New Vice Provincial!

Fr. Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil was installed as the second Vice Provincial of USA Vice Province of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, during the Holy Eucharist celebrated at 5 p.m. on July 3, 2016 at the Mother of Compassion Shrine at Wellspring, Tyler, Texas. Fr. Augustine Tharappel, the outgoing Vice Provincial celebrated the Mass and preached the homily. A few MSFS Priests from Texas and Tuscan joined in concelebrating the Eucharist. The ceremony of the installation took place right after the homily. Fr. Tomy gave a vote of thanks after the communion where he introduced the Congregation to the participants explaining the mission and ministry of the Fransalians in the United States. The ceremony was attended by staff and members of Wellspring Community, faithful from the Prince of Peace Parish, White House, along with some friends and family members of Fr. Tomy from Texas. There was food and fellowship after the installation.

Reported by Fr. Luke Kalarickal, MSFS

Dear Brothers,

Let us speak the language of the heart, enjoy an open door policy with a sense of confidentiality, rise above the differences of color, regions and provinces to see beyond the hills and valleys and drive through the clouds on a daily basis to get to the moon at the end of the day.

With love your brother, Tomy Puliyanampattayil

Your attention please!

Taking into consideration our life style and distance here in the United States, it is not easy for us to get together and pool our ideas, thoughts, suggestions, recommendations, views and concerns in preparation for the upcoming Vice Provincial Congress. Therefore, it may be better to put out a survey wherein you can express yourself at your leisure. You will soon receive notification to participate in a survey through [surveymonkey.com](https://www.surveymonkey.com). Please take some time and go over it prayerfully and reflectively when you receive the survey. It may help us to set right priorities and move in the right direction for the future of our Vice Province. Please participate and speak your mind for the good of the Vice Province, Congregation and the glory of God.

Thank you!



God Bless You!

New Arrivals

Dear Confreres,

I am pleased to welcome the newly arrived confreres from Vizag and East Africa Provinces. You have more details below about Fr. Sekhar and Fr. Bob from Vizag Province. Fr. Tomy Kattikanayil from East Africa has just arrived and staying with Fr. Kurian and waiting to receive his assignment. More details to follow later about Fr. Tomy's assignments.

On behalf of the USA Vice Province, I extend all three of them a very hearty welcome. I pray and wish that they will have a fruitful, productive and enjoyable ministry in the United States. Please keep them in your prayers.

Fr. Chandra Sekhar Potnuru MSFS
(Known as Father Sekhar)
Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church
109 E 9th St. P.O. Box 214
Pittsburg, KS 66762

Fr. Babu Pinninti MSFS
(Known as Father Bob)
Holy Cross Church,
2631 Independence Rd.
Hutchinson, KS- 67501

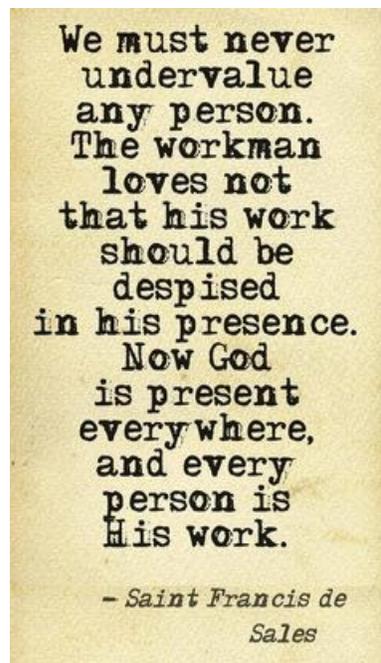
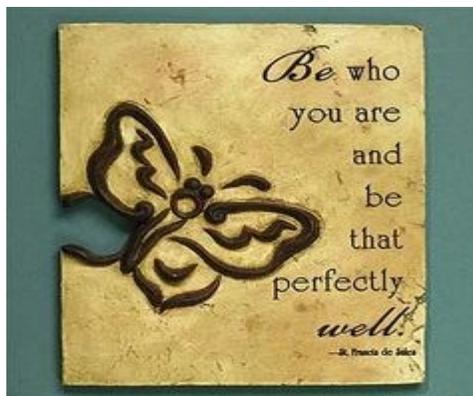
Fr. Tomy Kattikanayil MSFS
arrived & waiting for
the assignment.

Prayer for the Repose of the Souls!

1. Rev. Fr Jose Thenganakunnel 66 years of age belonging to North East India Province passed away on July 16, 2016
Kindly favor our dear departed confrere with the suffrages prescribed in our constitution.
2. Mr. Chacko 84 years of age, the maternal uncle of Fr. Joshy Mathew, passed away on July 14, 2016.

Let us be with our confreres and their families in their time of grief and pain and walk with them always an extra mile especially with our prayers and support. May their souls rest in peace.

Salesian Thoughts.....



In His Love your brother,

Handwritten signature of Fr. Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil.

Fr. Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil MSFS
Vice Provincial - USA Vice Province