

SERVANT OF GOD PETER MERMER



OUR FOUNDER

Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales

Fransalians - USA Vice Province

MSFS Vice Provincial House
3887 Rosebud Road
Loganville - Atlanta, GA 30052-4656 USA

Email: viceprovincialusamsfs@gmail.com,

Website: www.fransaliansusa.com

Cell: 615-943-8706; Office: 770-776-6781 Fax: 615-868-4900

SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES



OUR PATRON

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Keep Christ in Christmas!

Christmas is here again and the most popular Slogan of the Season is to “**KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS**”. Certainly this is an important message of Christmas that we should keep Christ in Christmas! Because it the celebration of His coming to be with us as one of us; not a celebration for the sale of goods and stuff as we see today. It sounds simple to keep Christ in Christmas, it is indeed a hard task to keep Him with us in this consumeristic culture. It is here that we become the prophets of the time by holding Christ in Christmas, above all in our hearts, homes, lives, especially in the world!

A Merry Christmas and Grace filled Happy New Year to all!

Thanks to Superior General for his Canonical Visitation!

Our beloved Superior General was on his Canonical Visitation from November 14, 2016 to December 8, 2016. He has covered all the 12 Fransalian Communities spread out in 15 States and 23 Dioceses of the United States. We are 55 confreres working currently here. It was his first canonical visitation to the USA Vice Province. He met almost every confrere working in the United States with the exception of a couple of them who were out of the country. He was well pleased with his visitation. He had the opportunity to be with every confrere working in this country, listening to them and spending some quality time with them as individuals and in the communities. He expressed his thankfulness to every confrere working in the United States. He also had an evaluation session with the Vice Provincial and the Councilors. He will be sending us a written report about the evaluation which will be sent out to you when it is available. **My special thanks to the Superiors of all the 12 Fransalian Communities for arranging his visitation the best way possible. Certainly his visitation to this Vice Province was an occasion of joy and rejuvenation for the Vice Province.** Thanks and God bless each and everyone of you!

Father John DeVore, MSFS!

Born to this Life

On August 22, 1925

Born to Eternal Life

On November 22, 2016

May His Soul Rest in Peace



Father John DeVore was born on August 22, 1925 in Detroit, MI, the son of Ulysses Stanton DeVore and Mae Quinn DeVore. John had only one sibling, an older brother, Deacon Robert DeVore, who died in 2015. He was baptized on the September 20, 1925 at the Church of the visitation, Detroit. He graduated from Arthur Dixon Elementary School. Sadly, his father died at the young age of 52 while John was still in elementary school. John graduated in 1943 from Hyde park High School.

During World War II, at the age of 17, John served in the U.S. Army Infantry Division and was stationed in Europe. He was assigned to the 66th Signal Repair Co. to repair damaged radios and transmitters. He was honorably discharged from military service of the United States on April 13, 1946.

While pursuing a job in Atlanta, GA, John answered God's call to serve Him in a different way. He discovered his vocation to religious life and the priesthood at the age of 55. He later joined the Religious Order of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) and entered the Novitiate on the August 14, 1981. He pronounced his first Religious Profession on August 15, 1983. John was ordained a priest on January 24, 1986 at St. Patrick's Church, Norcross, GA.

Fr. John also earned a Master of Theology from The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He also earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois.

Fr. John DeVore breathed his last on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. at a nursing care facility in Lawrenceville, GA. Some of his MSFS Confreres and friends who took care of him during the last years of his life at a nursing care facility were at his bedside as he bade farewell to this world peacefully to join his Heavenly Father's presence in Heaven.

The Visitation was held on December 1, 2016 in St. Lawrence Catholic Church Lawrenceville, Georgia. The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated on December 2, 2016 11:00 a.m. by Most Reverend Wilton Gregory, Archbishop of Atlanta, Georgia with 15 Fransalian Priests from different parts of the country and several Priests and Deacons from the Archdiocese of Atlanta. His body was laid to rest at Arlington Cemetery Atlanta, Georgia beside the tomb of Fr. Martin Kopchick, MSFS.

May Fr. John DeVore's soul rest in the peaceful hands of the Lord!

*Eulogy delivered by Bill and Elenore Lashley on behalf of the
Friends of the Frasalians from Atlanta!*

As Frasalian friends, we wish to say a few words regarding Father John and the impact his grace-filled life has had in us and on the team of people who were blessed to care for him over the years. When you think of Father John, you see a Godly priest filled with great faith, humor, gentleness and humility. As evidenced by his faith, one might say we are made with two hearts. The heart of our body is a physical muscle of flesh that weakens and sputters as we grow old. But the heart of our soul, where the LORD resides in grace, if we are blessed, grows stronger and more perfect as we age. Within Father John, there was no weariness or sputtering. His heart was both strong and bold.

I remember watching him in his wheelchair, celebrating Mass with Father Ted at Garden Plaza. At the Consecration, he would raise a frail and shaky hand, a telling sign of his physical weakness. But, if you looked at his eyes, you experienced a different kind of strength. You saw his inner, grace-filled heart beating a strong and perfect rhythm, in synch with the LORD. His faith shone through to all who witnessed him. This same steady, strong faith carried him over the hills and valleys, both with the same brilliant light.

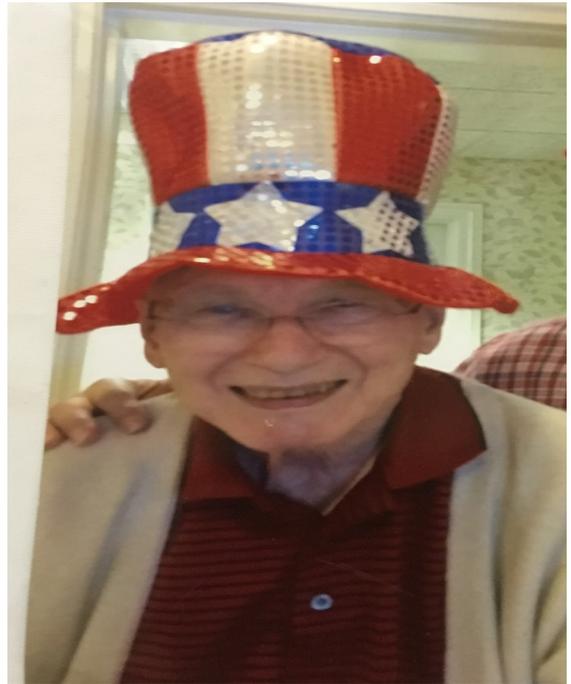
When thinking of Father John, one cannot separate him from his humor. Even in very “not funny” circumstances, he still saw the lighter side. A dry humor quip followed not just easy situations, but also difficult ones. He was a “lettered professor” when it came to teaching us how to find humor in all circumstances. No matter how ill and weak he became, no matter what indignity he suffered, instead of complaint, you got a twinkle in his eye and a priceless quip. We will continue to smile at his “one-liners” for years to come.

One thing we also admired and learned from Father John is to never complain. In all the years, we never heard a single grumble. Nothing! Not even a “Boy, getting old is tough!” His worst reaction, usually reserved for a trip to the hospital, was a small, silent grimace, followed by peaceful compliance. This was an amazing side of Father’s nature and it made caring for him a gift.

Regarding his gentleness and humility, two Beatitudes come to mind. The first is “Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.” One never felt agitation or stress in his presence. A quiet serenity and peace just enveloped him. This coupled beautifully with his genuine humility. He required little and asked for nothing.

The other beatitude is “Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth.” In today’s society, a quiet, gentle, retiring person might often find himself cast aside as unimportant, yet Father John became the center of attention because he *was* so meek, gentle and kind. The nursing and general staff, so accustomed to being treated abruptly, responded with love to Father’s innate nature. No matter the circumstance, he maintained an unwavering attitude in his respect for others, his patience, his humility and his kind gentleness. How many, many times we heard the words, “Oh, he’s so sweet, so kind, so gentle. He’s so funny.” Father was an example of Godliness in all situations. Like a true apostle, even in infirmity, he drew people close to him by his Christ-like manner.

Even with the indignities necessitated by age and ill health, Father never lost his sense of humor, his gentle nature or his brilliant faith. These were the essence of the man. His Christ-like example and unique light never dimmed and the lessons we learned from him will never be extinguished!



Appointment!

Fr. Mathew Thayil is appointed as the Vicepromoter of the cause of the Beatification of Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier effective from January 24, 2017.

Announcement!

All money matters relating to the Short Term Members will be transferred to the Vice Provincial's House in Atlanta effective from January 1, 2017. A special word of thanks to Fr. Gus for taking care of the money matters in the past. He has done a great job and the administration appreciates all his help and service. Thank you Fr. Gus! May God Bless

Congratulations and prayers to the new Provincial of the Southeast Province!



Very Rev. Fr. K. Ignacimuthu, MSFS was born in Kottaikadu, a small village in the District and Diocese of Thanjavur, Tamilnadu on 20th September 1968. His Parents are Mr. Kulandaisamy and Mrs. Madalaimal. He had an elder brother who passed away in the year 1995. He is the second child in his loving family. He was baptized at St. Joseph's Church, Kottaikadu on 28th September, 1968. He received the Sacrament of Confirmation on 3rd July, 1977. He had his initial education at St. Joseph Middle School, Kottaikadu and high school at St. Arockia Annai Hr. Sec. School, Punalvasal. And he had his higher secondary education in T.E.L.C. Hr. Sec. School, Pudukkottai.

Responding to the divine call, he joined S.F.S. Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai, Tamilnadu. After his Minor Seminary studies he was sent to Philipnagar, Andhra for his Pre-Novitiate and the Novitiate at Salesianum, Vizag, Andhra in 1987. He made his First Religious Profession on 16th July, 1988. He pursued his Philosophical Studies in Suvidya College, Bangalore, Karnataka from 1988 to 1991. He did his Regency at St. Mary, Help of Christian church, Tamilnadu in 1991-1992. For his theological studies, he was sent to Fransalian Seminary, Pune, Maharashtra in 1992. He made his Perpetual Profession in the year 1994. He was ordained a Deacon in January 1995. He was ordained a Priest on 10th December, 1995.

After his ordination, his first appointment was as the principal of SFS School, Alangayam in the year 1996. In 1997, he was appointed as the correspondent of SFS School, Alangayam. He was appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of St. Mary, Help of Christian church in 1997. He was appointed as principal and correspondent of SFS School, Vaniyambadi in the year 2001. Taking his personal interest into consideration, he was sent to study law in the year 2005. On completing his LLB studies in 2008 he was appointed as the convenor, the secretary and the vice chairman of the justice and peace commission forum. In 2010, he was appointed as the superior of St. Thomas mount, Chennai. In 2011, he was appointed as the member of the board for the code of ethics. After having been relieved of the responsibility as the superior St. Thomas mount community he moved his legal ministry to Madurai in 2016.

Appointments and Responsibilities held in the local and national Church

1. *Advocate in the Legal Cell madras high court*
2. *Legal Advisor for education for Arch-diocese of Pondicherry – Cuddalore*
3. *Legal consultant to various dioceses and congregations in Tamil Nadu*

Special Administrative posts held

1. *Councilor of composite Vizag Province*
2. *Councilor of South-East India Province from 2011 to 2014.*

Fr. Ignacimuthu is taking charge as the Provincial on January 24, 2017. The USA Vice Province offers him prayers, support, and congratulations on his new responsibility.

Thanks to Fr. A. Dharmaraj, the outgoing Provincial of the Southeast India Province, for all the support and cooperation to the USA Vice Province! God Bless you.

Congratulations and prayerful wishes!

Fr. George Panthanmackel who is re-elected as the Provincial of the North East India Province for the second time! He is taking charge on January 24, 2017.

Fr. Benny Koottanal who is appointed as the Chairperson of the Governing Body of the Suvidya College Bangalore, India.

Fr. Joy Mampally who is re-appointed as the Rector and President of the Suvidya College Bangalore, India.