Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales

MSFS - Fransalians USA Vice Province

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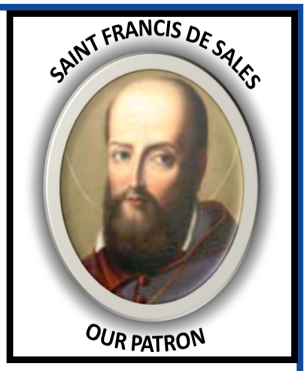

Circular: TJP-6 June 2017

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For More Info:

www.welspringcommunity.net

www.fransaliantimesusa.org

www.msfstoday.org

Updates on the USA Vice Province!

- **Purchase of Property**:

The USA Vice Province has just purchased another piece of property of 6.20 acres with a house just adjacent to the existing property where the Provincial House operates. Now we have a total of 13 acres of land as a single piece of property for our future use. My thanks and appreciation to the Atlanta Fransalian Community for all their interest and initiatives. Thank you very much and May God Bless You!

- **New Arrivals to the USA Vice Province on a long term basis:**

Fr. Lazar Arul Sundaram and Fr. Lopez Sahaya Basker from South East India Province has joined the USA Vice Province on a long term basis and they are assigned to the Diocese of Kalamazoo, MI. Congratulations and prayerful wishes as they begin their pastoral ministry in the United States. Please keep them in your prayers.

Fr. Arul Sundaram Lazar, Parochial Vicar St. Joseph Parish
211 Church Street, St. Joseph, MI 49085, USA
Office: 269 983 1575; Cell : 269 501 7324
Email: sundarammsfs@gmail.com

Fr. Sahaya Basker Lopez, Parochial Vicar St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church
1150 W. Centre Ave, Portage, MI 49024, USA
Office: 269 327 5165 Cell: 269 501 7409
Email: baskermsfs@gmail.com

Fr. Noble from Vizag Province, Fr. Jesu Raja from Pune Province and Fr. Panki Raj from Southwest Province will also be joining the USA Vice Province on a long term basis in the near future.

"The greatest method of praying is to pray the Rosary."

St. Francis de Sales

- **New Parish for the USA Vice Province:** Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory of Atlanta Archdiocese has given a parish on a long term basis to the USA Vice Province. The name of the parish is St. Marguerite d'Youville Catholic Church located at 85 Gloster Rd. NW, Lawrenceville, GA 30044. This is a parish of 850 registered families where Fr. Joe Mendez, MSFS is currently serving as the Associate Pastor. It is 12 miles away from the Provincial House.

  I will be moving out to Atlanta in the first week of July and begin serving as the Pastor of this parish along with taking care of the administration of the USA Vice Province.

- **New Offers:** Bishops from the Dioceses of Kalamazoo, Michigan; Nashville, Tennessee; and Toledo, Ohio; are willing to give parishes to the USA Vice Province on a long term basis and establish Fransalian Communities for the pastoral care of the faithful in their dioceses. We have initiated the process and if God willing we will be able to begin our communities in the near future.

- **Establishment of the Mission Office in Atlanta:** The new Mission Office for the USA Vice Province is established in Atlanta, Georgia and Fr. Joseph Mullakkara will be the Director and Deacon John Puetz of the Atlanta Archdiocese will be the Associate Director. The Office will begin to function from July 1st of this year in the same facility where the Provincial House functions.

Some recent decisions of the USA Vice Provincial Council

* Establishing a Local Superiors Forum and creating a manual for better functioning.
* Establishing a Pastoral Forum and creating a manual based on "*Pillars of Salesians Spirituality"* for the pastoral care of the parishes entrusted to the Fransalians.
* Starting a new publication called, *"**Fransalian Connect**,"* (oriented towards the laity connecting all the Fransalian Parishes in the United States) in the near future.
* Creating new brochures for Vocation promotion and Mission Appeal
* 50 years of age is made the cut off age for those seeking to join the USA Vice Province on a Long Term basis.
* American Accent Training and some basic courses in Spanish is made mandatory for those seeking to work in the United States.

New Appointment

Fr. Amarnath Nagoth is appointed as the Pastor of Holy Spirit Catholic Church located at 11665 Fort Caroline Road, Jacksonville, FL 32225 (This is where Fr. Anthony Bonela was previously assigned). He will take charge July, 2017. Congratulations and prayerful wishes!

Confreres returning to their Mother Provinces

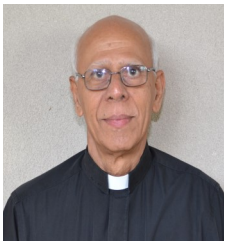
The following confreres are returning to their Mother Provinces: Fr. Anthony Bonela, Fr. Johnbritto Chinnappa and Fr. Kurian Kollapallil returning in the month of July 2017 and Fr. Binu Edathumparambil returning in the month of September. On behalf of the USA Vice Province and all the confreres in the United States, I would like to thank every one of them for their presence, ministry and various types of contributions in building up the Fransalian Family in the United States. I wish them God's Blessings along with peace and joy in the new assignments that they will take up in their Mother Provinces. May God bless you Fathers!

"Leadership is not domination but a way of bringing the best from others lives to create a living, loving and vibrant world! " Anonymous

Congratulations and prayerful wishes to the Jubilarians of 2017

Fr. Mathew Thayil is celebrating the 50th Anniversary of his Priestly ordination and Fr. Mariadas Sesetti is celebrating the 25th Anniversary of his Priestly ordination. We will celebrate this occasion of joy and jubilation as a community when we get together for our annual retreat in the last week of August this year. The Vice Province and all the Fransalian Confreres in the United States assure our prayers and support to these two Jubilarians as they are making some mile markers in their priestly journey. We are so happy for both of you, and you both are blessings to our Fransalian Family and to this Vice Province. May God bless you and your ministries!

Profile of Fr. Mathew Thayil…..



For Fr. Mathew Thayil, MSFS 56 years of Religious life and 50 years of priestly ministry can be summarized in two maxims of our heavenly Patron St. Francis de Sales. "Ask for nothing, refuse nothing" and "Bloom where you are planted" As a new priest he was asked to continue studies. He had a short experience of vocational teaching. This was followed by helping in the formation house as Minister, Vice Rector and Rector of the Study House. He was given the opportunity of being a chaplain of a cloistered community of contemplative nuns. This was followed by a course of counseling as well as a mini "Sadhana." He completed a Bachelor of Education which was followed by a teaching opportunity in four different schools in Nagpur, New Delhi and Goa until his retirement from a Hindi Medium School of the Archdiocese of Nagpur. During this period he was a Teacher, Supervisor, Manager, Vice Principal and Principal of Secondary and Higher Secondary schools. He was also given opportunities to be a Provincial Councilor and Bursar of the undivided Maharashtra Goa Province and then of Nagpur Province.

Fr. Mathew has been blessed with opportunities of serving in Parishes belonging to different dioceses in India and in the United States. He wishes to express his gratitude to all his confreres, Superiors and Bishops who have helped and trusted him with various ministries such as caring for boys and young men in boarding school, college hostel, Seminaries, Spirituality center and finally now all age groups in Parishes in the United States of America for the past ten years.

Profile of Fr. Mariadas Sesetti……..

Deo Gratius! It is the silver Jubilee year of Fr. Mariadas Sesetti's Sacerdotal Ordination. He was baptized on August 1, 1963, at Gnanapuram, Visakhapatnam, AP-India. After hearing the whispers of God, to be a missionary religious, discerning religious missionary vocation with the guidance of Rev. Fr. Mathew Alapatt, MSFS Fr. Mariadas Sesetti, entered St. John's Minor Seminary (1980-1982), completed minor seminary at Fransalian Vidya Jyothy (1983), both in Nidadavole and professed religious vows to be a member of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, MSFS (1984) after the novitiate at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam. He was introduced to Philosophical studies in Suvidya (1985-1988) and studied Theology (1989-1992), in Jnana Deepa Vidhya Peet, Pune, with a period of pastoral experience at Tanuku. He was ordained on November 4, 1992. He has spent the past 24 years in the Parishes and Schools, at Palasa - Tekkalipatnam mission (1992-1997), at Shanthinagar, Secunderabad (1997-2004), Parchur (2004-2007), Sabbatical (2008), Korutla (2009-2012) and at Leawood and Onaga, Kansas, USA(2013-2017). Fr. Mariadas states that the Holy Eucharist has inspired him to model himself after the example of Jesus. He states that his past experiences serving as a priest has been a great experience of being available to God and his people through the congregation. As he reflects on the thought of God reaching out to His people with compassion and care through his priesthood; he gives thanks to God for this great blessing and for His mercy.

Hearty congratulations & prayerful wishes to the Jubilarians!

From the Fransalian Family

A Report of the meeting of the North American Salesian Network (NASN)

The NASN Meeting of 2017 was held on April 24-26th at Camp DeSales located 1124 Ventura Drive, Brooklyn, MI 49230. There were 18 participants representing different religious congregations and associations following the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in the United States. It was a wonderful time of men and women who follow the same path of spirituality coming together to share their life experiences and plan for the future to share the same spirituality to more people in the country.

Retreat & Meeting of Major Superiors & General Curia in India

There will be a Congregational Retreat for the members of the PIF & PEA beginning from October 7 - 12, 2017 in Poondi, Tamil Nadu and meeting from October 14 - 16, 2016 at MSFS Provincial House in Trichy, TN. General Curia Meeting October 19 –24, 2016 in Hyderabad. Please keep all the Major Superiors in your prayers.

Inauguration of De Sales and Mermier Resource Center-Hyderabad

The Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales has began a new ministry by blessing the De Sales and Mermier Resource Center in Hyderabad, India on May 17, 2017.

- **New Arrivals to the USA Vice Province on a short term basis:**

Fr. Dijo Koikkara, from Southwest India Province has arrived in the USA for Ministry on a short term basis. He is appointed as the Chaplain of Hershey Medical Center, Hershey, PA in the Diocese Harrisburg, Pennsylvania effective on June 19th. He will be residing at St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church, 359 West Areba Avenue, Hershey, PA 17033; Phone: 717-533-7168

Congratulations to Fr. Luke Kalarickal!

Fr. Luke Kalarickal has completed his Doctorate in Ministry program from Barry University. The graduation took place on May 6, 2017. The thesis presented was titled "Alcoholism, Recovery Process and Ministerial Accompaniment: A Hermeneutic of the Twelve Steps in Relation to Virtue Ethics and Imago Dei," with a concentration on Healthcare Ethics with moral perspective. Congratulations to Fr. Luke on his great achievement! Hats off to you Fr. Luke it is a mile marker in your life!

Congratulations and prayerful wishes

The New Provincial Administration of South-East India Province:

1. Fr. A. Santhiyagu: Admonitor cum Councillor in charge of Formation
2. Fr. J. B. John Thadews: Councillor in charge Education
3. Fr. D. Kanikkai Nathan: Councillor in charge of Mission
4. Fr. D. Amirtha Rajan: Councillor in charge of Social and Innovative Ministries
5. Fr. M. Nicholas: Provincial Bursar

The New Provincial Administration of North-East India Province:

1. Fr. Philip Thomas Kizhakumpurath: Admonitor cum Councillor in charge of Mission
2. Fr. George Vettukattil: Councillor in charge of Formation
3. Fr. George Poovathunkal: Councillor in charge of Education
4. Fr. Saji Puthiyakulangara: Councillor in charge of Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministries
5. Fr. Santhosh Chavaranal: Provincial Bursar

Congratulations and prayerful wishes to the newly elected Provincial Curia of South-East India and North-East India Provinces!

USA Fransalians Annual Retreat 2017

Our annual retreat 2017 will be held at Ignatius House Jesuit Retreat Center 6700 Riverside Drive NW, Atlanta, GA 30328. Their website is: www.ignatiushouse.org.

The retreat begins on Monday August 28, 2017 evening at 6:00 p.m. and ends on Friday morning September 1, 2017 with breakfast. Please make your travel plans to arrive before the retreat and leave only after the formal conclusion of the retreat. The retreat master will be Fr. George Panthanmackel, MSFS.

This retreat is mandatory for all the confreres working in the United States, therefore please make it a point not to ask any exceptions, instead make it a community week for us to join together and celebrate our life as religious priests. Exceptions will be allowed only in case of emergencies and illness.

Prayer of St. Francis de Sales

Lord, I am Yours,
and I must belong to no one but You.
My Soul is Yours,
and must live only by You.
My will is Yours,
And must love only for You.
I must love You as my first cause,
Since I am from You.
I must love You as my end and rest,
Since I am for You.
I must love You more than my own being,
Since my being subsists by You.
I must love You more than myself,
Since I am all Yours and all in You.

AMEN

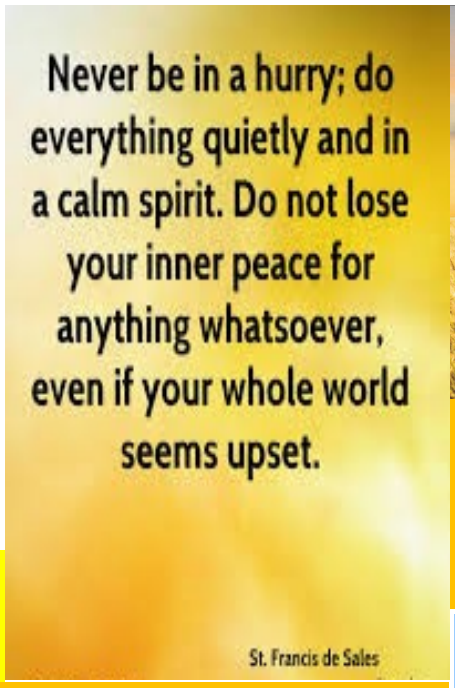
Treatise on the Love of God
St. Francis de Sales

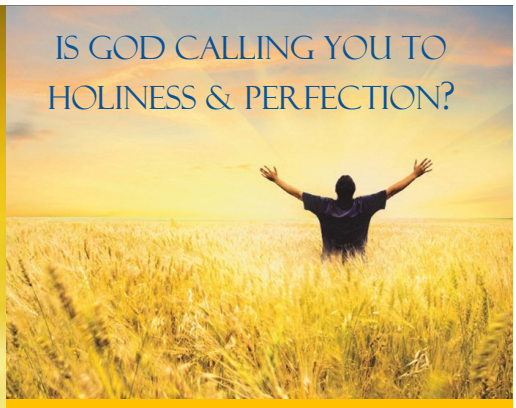
Official start of the Fransalian Associates!

The USA Vice Province will officially begin to function the Fransalian Associates as a lay association of The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in the United States on September 15, 2017 as it is the Feast Day of our Heavenly Patroness, Our Lady of Compassion. Please pray for the success of this ministry (More information available on pages 6 and 7).

"Bloom where you are planted."

St. Francis de Sales





Be Holy as your Heavenly Father is Holy

1 Peter 1: 15-16

CONDITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- Being a Catholic in good standing
- Either married or single, a clergy or religious
- At least 18 years of age
- Deep desire and aspiration to embrace the spirituality and mission of the Fransalians

Fransalian Associates

We meet once a month for prayer, reflections and group sharing on the book, "Introduction to Devout Life," followed by food and fellowship.....

PRE-REQUISITES/CONDITIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- Deep trust and surrender to God
- Eucharist Centered
- Profound openness to the Holy Spirit
- Filial devotion to Mary
- Loyalty to the Magisterium
- Love for St. Francis de Sales and his spirituality
- Love for the Fransalians and their mission of evangelization

For more information please contact

Fr. Tomy P. Joseph, MSFS at

viceprovincialusamsfs@gmail.com

The Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales is a "spirituality of the heart," relevant today as in the time of St. Francis de Sales himself. It is an all embracing, down to earth spirituality for everyone. Fransalians focus on living this spirituality of simplicity, hospitality, gentleness, joyful optimism, compassion, wisdom, tradition, contemplative presence and prayerful ministry for all in their daily life.

Fransalian Associates

A Lay Order of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS)- Fransalian Fathers

A Lay Order for Catholic singles or married men and women who desire to live a devout Christian life.

St. Francis de Sales

Born: August 21, 1567

Ordained: December 28, 1593

Death: December 28, 1622

Canonized: April 19 1665

Doctor of the Church: July 7, 1877

Feast: January 24

Fr. Peter Marie Mermier,

Founder of The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross of Chavanod.

Born: August 28, 1790

Ordained: March 21, 1813

Death: September 30, 1862

Founded MSFS: October 24, 1838

WHO ARE THE FRANSALIANS?

Fransalians is a religious congregation officially called The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, founded on October 24, 1838 in Annecy, France, by Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales. Currently Fransalians are working in 28 countries in the World focusing on Parish Mission, Foreign Mission, Education and Formation of Youth and Global Evangelization. There are about 1500 Fransalians working all over the World committed to the cause of Evangelization and improving the quality of human life.

FRANSALIANS IN THE USA! (MSFS)

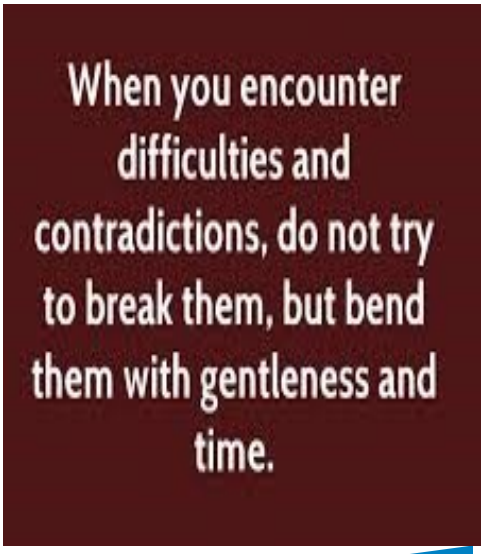
Pastoral Ministry in the United States began in the year 1969. Currently ministering to 24 dioceses in 15 states. More than 60 priests serving in the USA Vice Province, living the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales while serving God's people. Fransalians bring simplicity, wisdom, optimism, joy, gentleness and compassion into ministry.

Our charism:

* *Parish Mission,*
* *Foreign Mission,*
* *Education and Evangelization*

OBJECTIVES OF A FRANSALIAN ASSOCIATES!

- Leading a life of personal holiness by following the Salesian Spirituality
- Profound knowledge of St. Francis de Sales
- Imitation of St. Francis de Sales – his virtues and practices
- Dissemination of his spirit and spirituality, through life and literature
- Allegiance, loyalty and collaboration with Fransalians (Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales-MSFS)



"There is nothing small in the service to God."

St. Francis de Sales

Purpose of Fransalian Associates

- Personal holiness
- *To love God*
- *Pray to God*
- *Serve the Lord in their given state of life*

Condolences and Prayers

The Fransalian Family of the USA express hearty condolences and prayerful wishes to Fr. Jaison Thomas Pezhathinal and his family who experienced two losses in their family, namely Mrs. Pushpa Abraham, age 60, older sister of Fr. Jaison Thomas Pezhathinal, passed away on April 29, 2017 and Mr. Joseph Thomas Pezhathinal, age 75, oldest brother of Fr. Jaison Thomas Pezhathinal, passed away on May 16, 2017. The funeral for Fr. Jaison's brother was held at St. Patrick Church located at 9086 Hutchins Road, White Lake, MI 48386, USA on May 25, 2017. Thanks to MSFS confreres who participated in the wake and Funeral Mass; especially to Fr. John Peter Arul, in whose parish the funeral was held.

Servant of God

Fr. Peter Marie Mermier (1790 - 1862)

Founder of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales

&

Co-Founder of The Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross of Chavanod

Servant of God, Peter Mermier Intercede for us.

Prayer of Devotion in Honor of Servant of God!

God of love, You care for us and You guide us in numerous ways. We thank You for inflaming the heart of Fr. Peter Mermier with an intense love for You and a zeal for the salvation of souls. You blessed him with a total trust in You and in humble surrender to Your Holy Will. It was your will that he should found the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, and with Mother Claudine Echernier, the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross of Chavanod, to spread your mercy and compassion to all, by witnessing to Your love and through their prophetic ministries. His life of holiness was his supreme act of glory to You.

Loving Father, while he was on earth, You blessed many through him, especially in the renewal of Christian faith and family through the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. You raised him to the saintly state of Servant of God. Thereby, You testify that he is Your highly favored son for whom You refuse nothing. So we pray that through his holy intercession, You bless us now with the favor we request and pray for…..*(silence)*

We make this prayer through Christ Your Son who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

One Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father Amen.

Please pray this prayer for the beatification whenever we gather for Community Meetings and at the meetings of the Fransalian Associates. Thank you!

As we are entering into summer, a season of outdoor activities let us also look at life from a broader perspective and see the plan of God being worked out in a personal way in own lives. Let us be thankful and joyful people everyday as good Fransalians. God bless every one of you for doing what you do for the good of the church and glory of God. May God be praised today and always!

In His Love,

Fr. Tomy Puliyanampattayil, MSFS
Vice Provincial—USA Vice Province