



## 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](mailto:frgus@suddenlink.net)

Website: [www.wellspringcommunity.net](http://www.wellspringcommunity.net)  
[www.fransaliansusa.com](http://www.fransaliansusa.com)

VPUSA-AT-4

January 1, 2014

Dear Confreres:

We have just crossed the threshold of our New Year 2014. We will walk into the New Year not knowing what awaits us, not knowing what the days and months will bring us or how we will face the future. Let us pray that we welcome all who come our way; that we deepen our faith to see all of life as God's wonderful gift; that we live and move with hope and abiding trust in the provident care of our God, who is Emmanuel, "God-with-us", God dwelling in us amidst all our joys and sorrows.

Before we walk further into the New Year 2014, let us resolve to deepen our faith in God, to live and move in hope, to rise each day with desire and decision to love life, love people, love creation and love our God.....one day at a time, day by day, moment by moment.....Many hours of our days are waiting to be filled a hundred ways with a hundred prayers. But, right now, at this very moment, let us resolve to be the best we can be, to give the best we can, to do the best we can and to bring our best to the world.

I pray for you that only blessings will come your way and that you will be a blessing to all who come your way! May God bless you with "good counsel" and "gentle wisdom" to help you discern your choices, with courage to fulfill your God-given mission and generosity to give yourself fully to those you are sent to serve. May God bless you and keep you in the center of His Will and the circle of His Love, now and always!

### **General Chapter Retreat 2014**

One of the decisions of General Chapter 2013 was to organize retreat for all the members of our religious Congregation on the spirit of the General Chapter. The Superior General has asked all the provincials to make plans for this retreat. It is mandatory for all the members to attend the retreat on the spirit of the constitutions. The dates of the retreat will be sent to you shortly.

### **Wellspring Expansion:**

We are in the process of expanding our facilities at Wellspring. Recently, we had purchased our neighbor's house and 12 acre property. The house is being renovated to provide us six rooms for our retreat guests. We are also adding seven rooms to our present house, extending our conference hall to accommodate 150 people and constructing a chapel to seat 60 people. Prayer trails through the pine woods and prayer gardens are also being renovated to create better

atmosphere and provide better facility for meditations and retreats. Funds for all the new developments and expansion come from the generosity of Wellspring Community and the friends and well-wishers of Wellspring.

## Reflection Theme 2014: Courage

Each year, I have been choosing a virtue to study, reflect, meditate and pray with Wellspring community. It has become a wonderful tradition that continues to help us grow in virtue and become virtuous people. We reflected on “Gracefulness” as our theme of reflection in 2013. Our theme for Reflection in 2014 will be the gift of “Courage”. We want to explore and reflect on “Being Courageous” as our way of being, of living and acting and learning to walk with courage no matter what life may bring as we continue our journey.

The word “courage” comes from the Latin “cor” and French “Coeur”, both meaning “heart”. This refers to the inner, the mental, the moral and the spiritual strength that enables a person to face difficult, fearful, uncertain, dangerous or threatening situations. Words such as resoluteness and tenacity also describe the meaning of the word “Courage”. It is the quality of a person to hang on to or hold on to who and what he is even when the odds are not in his favor. It involves standing firm in hope against all kinds of pressures, even pain, suffering and death.

St. Francis De Sales advises us to “Go courageously to do whatever you are called to do”. Let us strive to become courageous in doing all that we are called to do. I pray for you and I pray for all, who, at this moment, are welcoming the gift of this New Year with all its uncertainties. May God bless you with the courage that only He can give and enable you to walk into the mystery of 2014 with confidence in His provident care. May God’s gift of courage empower you to be resolute, steadfast and tenacious as you try to fulfill your God-given purpose, especially when things are not working out as planned. May God’s gift of courage enable you to hold your head high even in the midst of disappointing, testing and trying times.

May the year 2014 be God’s wonderful gift to you and I pray that you will make it a gracious and joyful gift to all you meet on your journey. May God bless you with the richest and finest of his blessings and keep you safe in the center of His Love!

*Virtue is nothing without the trial of temptation,  
for there is no conflict without an enemy, no victory without strife.  
(Pope St. Leo the Great)*

## Congratulations:

**Fr. Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil** has completed his studies and received his Master’s degree in clinical counseling from Argosy University Nashville, Tennessee. He has worked hard along with many pastoral responsibilities and has successfully completed his studies. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Tomy.

**Fr. Kurian Kollapallil** has published a new book “Through the Year with St. Francis de Sales”. He draws inspiration from the Scripture readings of each day’s liturgy and offers us a thought from St. Francis de Sales for further reflection. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Kurian.

## New Assignments:

**Fr. Augustine Tharappel** is appointed Pastor of Prince of Peace Church in Whitehouse in the diocese of Tyler, Texas, effective December 1, 2013. This assignment became necessary as Fr. Thomas Olickal, who was administrator of the parish, is advised to take chemotherapy for six months. Since the parish is only five minutes driving distance from Wellspring, there will be no change of address or residence or other contact information.

**Fr. John Britto Chinnappa is appointed** Associate pastor for St. Charles Borromeo at Newport and St. Anne Church at Monroe Michigan. New address follows:

St. Anne Church  
2420 North Dixie Hwy  
Monroe, MI 48162, USA

**Fr. George Panthanmackel** is appointed fifth Provincial of Northeast India Province. The installation of Fr George as Provincial will take place on January 23, 2014, at MSFS Provincialate, Narengi.

**Fr Joseph Kunjaparambil** is appointed Vicar General of the diocese of Keetmanshoop, Namibia.

**Fr Jolly Chackalakkal** is appointed chief editor of Fransalian International, the newsletter of the Congregation, which from now on will be published from Indian Institute of Spirituality, Bangalore.

**Fr. Thomas Cherukat** is appointed Director of the Mission Development Office of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in Rome for a term of three years with effect from November 15, 2013. He will reside at the community of Via del Mascherino, in Rome.

**Fr. Ginu Pathiyakam** is appointed Superior of the Philippines Delegation with effect from December 8, 2013 for a second term of three years.

Hearty congratulations and prayerful wishes to all confreres who have received new assignments. May God bless them as they assume new responsibilities.

## Change of Address:

Fr. Jacob Dio has the following new address. This is not a change of assignment, only a change of mailing address.

Fr. Jacob Dio  
St. Luke Church  
10682 Old Nashville Hwy.,  
Smyrna, TN 37167

## **Please Pray:**

**Fr. Thomas Olickal** is advised to take six months of chemotherapy. He takes two weeks of treatment followed by a break of one week and the regimen continues. During this period of treatment, he is staying with his brother in Edamaruku, Kerala. Please keep him in your prayer.

## **Your prayers are requested also for:**

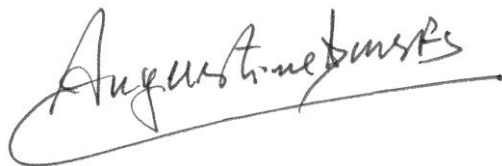
- Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly
- Fr. James Manjackal
- Fr. Raison Kaduvakuzhiyil
- Fr. Mathew Kavithazhe
- Fr. Thomas Mattakarathundiyl

## **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

## **Official email addresses:**

Vice Provincial: [viceprovincialusa@gmail.com](mailto:viceprovincialusa@gmail.com)

Bursar: [msfsbursarusa@gmail.com](mailto:msfsbursarusa@gmail.com)

Personal: [frgus@suddenlink.net](mailto:frgus@suddenlink.net)

**It is necessary that you renew and repeat very often  
the deliberate decisions you have made to serve God. (SFS)**

