

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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GENERAL CHAPTER 2019

MISSIONARIES OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

XX ORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER

01-13 FEBRUARY 2019, GUWAHATI



My dear Confreres and Friends,

Greetings in the name of Lord Jesus!

The XXth General Chapter with the theme: **“MSFS, WAKE UP TO THE BASCIS”** was conducted from February 1 to 13, 2019 in Guwahati, India. There were 40 capitulants and 13 special invitees from various parts of the world. The General Chapter was a grace-filled time to experience unity and brotherhood as one Fransalian Global Family. The prayerful atmosphere of the Chapter was a God-given occasion for us to examine and to reiterate our commitment to the Mission of the Lord based on our Charism and foundational apostolates. The General Chapter re-affirmed that our consecrated life is to be lived and nurtured in the local communities and that all our apostolates are to be community oriented. It also challenged the Provinces to take up more missions in the peripheries and respond to the needs of the local Church. The General Chapter also invites us to foster MSFSness and our unique Fransalian identity by living daily the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and the missionary dynamism of our beloved founder Father Peter Mermier. I would like to thank and appreciate the General Curia, the North East India Province and the Pre-capitular Commission for the meticulous organization of the General Chapter.

The **CALL OF THE GENERAL CHAPTER 2019** (Statement, Decisions and Implementation Mechanisms) was sent you all by Email. It will be explained in the gatherings of every Apostolic community by the participants of the General Chapter.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW GENERAL CURIA



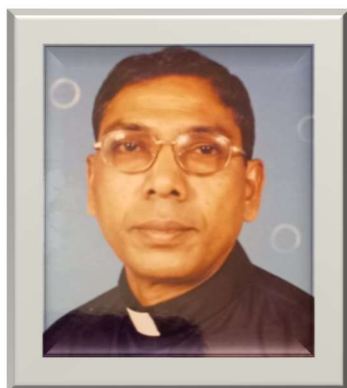
The XXth General Chapter re-elected Very. Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil as the Superior General and elected Rev. Fr. Yves Carron as Assistant Superior General, Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil (Mission), Rev. Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhiy (Education), Rev. Fr. J. Stephen (Social and Innovative Ministries) and Rev. Fr. Suresh Babu (Formation) as Councillors, and Rev. Fr. Jose Cherianthara as the General Bursar.

Hearty Congratulations!

GRATITUDE TO THE OUT-GOING CURIA

The Province of East Africa deeply appreciates and expresses our gratitude to the out-going General Administration. We are grateful to Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy, the Assistant Superior General, Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, Rev. Fr. Noel Rebello, Rev. Fr. George Parambukattil and Rev. Fr. Augustine Mangatt for the yeomen service they have rendered for the Congregation during the last twelve years. May God bless them and whatever ministry they will be undertaking in future.

A TRIBUTE TO REV. FR. JOSEPH KUNNAPILLY MSFS



Rev. Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly was born of Mr. Devasia and Mrs. Theresia Kunnappally on 15th December, 1945 and was baptized on 21st of December, 1945 at Kalayanthany, Kothamangalam diocese. He was confirmed on 22nd March, 1958 at Thiruvampady, Tellicherry diocese (At present Thamarassery diocese). He has five brothers and two sisters. He did his primary and secondary school studies at Sacred Heart School, Thiruvampady. He joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales for Brotherhood in 1969 and had his initial formation at Philip Nagar. He was admitted to Salesianum Novitiate at Visakhapatnam on 3rd May, 1971 and made his first profession on 4th May, 1972. He made his perpetual profession on 4th May, 1977. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Andhra University (1985). He did his Theological studies at JDV, Pune from 1994 to 1997. He was ordained a priest on 20th May, 1997 at St. Sebastian's Church, Vilakkamthode, Kerala, India.

Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly served the Church and the Congregation in various capacities. His first appointment was in SFS Printing Press, Visakhapatnam (1972 – 1982). Thereafter, he served as Bursar in Kotak School, Visakhapatnam from 1982 to 1992. He opted for Tanzanian Mission in 1993. After a year of stay in MSFS Regional House at Morogoro, he was sent to India to pursue his Theological studies. After his priestly Ordination in 1997, he was appointed as the Bursar of SFS Junior Seminary, Morogoro, Tanzania. From 1999 to 2000, he was the Bursar of Fransalian Scholasticate, Morogoro. From 2001 to 2008, he served as the assistant parish priest of St. Joseph's parish Mlolongo, Kenya. From 2008 to 2011, he was the bursar of SFS School Katani, Kenya. From 2011 to 2012, he was the assistant parish priest of St. Francis de Sales' parish at Dumila, Tanzania. Towards the end of 2012, he was appointed at SFS Bhavan, Angamaly, India. In 2014, he was in Vinayabhavan Seminary, Thamarassery for six months for rest and treatment. Since 2015, he was

undergoing treatment and dialysis at Lissa Hospital, Thiruvampady, Kerala, India. He left for his heavenly abode on 08th January 2019 at 00.30 hrs.

Fr. Joseph Kunnapilly was a committed religious and missionary. He dedicated his life as a Brother and later as a priest for God and his people. He was always a joyful person even amidst the many challenges of his missionary endeavours. He was a man of extra-ordinary faith and trust in God. He suffered from diabetes almost for forty years, but his zeal for the mission never diminished. He was also an epitome of Salesian virtues such as optimism, gentleness, patience, humility, simplicity and hospitality. He loved nature. He planted hundreds of trees, wherever he was placed. The trees in the Provincial house, Junior Seminary, Kola, Mlolongo and Katani will tell of his love for nature. Above all, he had a deep sense of love and compassion for his fellow human beings.

His funeral took place on 11th January, 2019, at 14.30 hrs in SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, India. The Holy Eucharistic celebration and funeral services were presided over by Rt. Rev. Mathew Vaniakizhakkal V.C, Bishop emeritus of Satna (Madya Pradesh, India). Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel delivered the eulogy. Fr. Jose Parapilly preached during the Holy Mass appreciating the person of Fr. Joseph Kunnapilly. A large number of MSFS priests and non-MSFS priests (about 50) sisters, brothers, relatives and friends of Fr. Joseph came to pay their last respects to him.

I am indeed grateful to Fr. Benny Kootanal, the Provincial and the entire South West India Province for granting us permission to bury our Confrere at SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor. Our fathers at SFS Seminary under the leadership of Fr. George Chirayil tirelessly and meticulously organized everything for the funeral services. I would to extend my gratitude to Fr. Thomas Olickal and Fr. Jose Eriyanickal for taking care of Fr. Joseph Kunnapilly, when he was sick as well as for organizing the funeral services. We also are grateful to the family of Fr. Joseph Kunnapilly for looking after him for a number of years. I thank everyone who one way or other helped us to give a fitting farewell to our beloved confrere. I also thank everyone who came to participate in the funeral services or who sent condolences and prayed for the repose of the soul of Fr. Joseph Kunnapilly.

Fransalians in East Africa will miss a committed missionary in the person of Fr. Joseph Kunnapilly. We are grateful to God for having given us a loving friend, brother and a priest in the person of Fr. Joseph Kunnapilly. Let us continue to pray for the repose of our beloved confrere.

KIKUNDE: OUR NEW MISSION IN MASAI KUSINI (ARUSHA)

The long cherished dream of our Congregation to work in Maasai Kusini (South Masai) area of the Archdiocese of Arusha was fulfilled, when our Fathers Mathew Chavely and Martin Pendanath reached Kikunde mission in Masasi Kusini on February 01, 2019 accompanied by Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil and Fr. Jose Eriyanickal. Masai Kusini is a remote area in the Archdiocese of Arusha consisting predominantly of people of Masai tribe.



However, the mission entrusted to us in Masai Kusini is at Kikunde in the Tanga Region and consists of people from various tribes. Kikunde is part of Kijunge Parish, which has 3,000 Catholics spread over in five sub-stations. This area was pastorally neglected due to lack of priests and its remoteness. It is 500 kms. from Arusha, but is only 140 kms. from Morogoro. During rainy season the area is cut off due to flooding in the rivers. The area lacks proper roads, schools and medical facilities. Kikunde has a small parish church, but it lacks presbytery and parish office. Our Fathers are staying in a two-room temporary house. We require in Kikunde a presbytery, bore-well and installation of solar panels.

On February 02, Very Rev. Fr. Simon Tenges, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Arusha presided over the Holy Eucharistic celebration and officially entrusted Kikunde Mission to the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. He thanked the Congregation for taking up the mission in Kikunde, which has a lot of potential for primary evangelization. Fr. Eustaki Tarimo, the Parish Priest of Kijunge introduced catechists, leaders of the parish and the office bearers of different pious associations and entrusted them to the new team. Rev. Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil, representing the Provincial thanked all the fathers, deacons, sisters, leaders and the faithful for the cordial reception, love and co-operation.

(Reported by Fr. Martin Pendanath MSFS)

BISSIL: OUR NEW MISSION IN KENYA



23rd February 2019 was a joyful day for the Fransalians in East Africa as Rt. Rev. John Oballa, Bishop of Ngong blessed the new Fransalian House at Bissil, in the presence of a large number of priests, religious, parishioners and our benefactors. The Sub-parish Bissil of the Kajiyado Parish of Ngong Diocese is located between Namanga and Nairobi. The Sub-parish has 15 sub-stations spread over 80sq kms. The people of this area

are predominantly members of the Masai tribe. People of other tribes too occupy the area. Bissil is a semi-arid area where people are mostly engaged in keeping livestock. Fr. C. Arockiasamy was staying at Kajiyado parish since May 2017 and was looking after the construction. On behalf of the entire Province family, I would like to congratulate and appreciate Fr. Samy for completing the project and other necessary infrastructure amidst various challenges. He also was/is keen in planting trees and keeping the environment green. I would like to thank Fr. Patrick Ngai, the parish priest of Kajiyado for his love and concern for Fr. Samy and the mission at Bissil.

We are very grateful to Mr. George Shinnars and the Living Waters International for helping us to realize our dream of having a house at Bissil. May God bless their love and generosity for our missions in East Africa.

BLESSING OF THE NEW LIBRARY AND CLASSROOMS AT SFS JUNIOR SEMINARY, KIHONDA, MOROGORO

The SFS Junior seminary community celebrated the feast of Epiphany of the Lord on 06th January 2019. On this special day, the community had the privilege of having the presence of Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the Provincial of East Africa Province of the MSFS. He blessed the new wing of the seminary which consists of classrooms and a Library and presided over the celebration of the Eucharist in the presence of a large number of seminarians, sisters and fathers. Rev. Fr. Sheejan Kallarakal, the former Rector of SFS Junior Seminary was also present on the occasion. In his message, Fr. Mathew, thanked sincerely and whole heartedly, Rev. Fr. Sheejan and the entire staff of the Seminary for the initiative taken for completing the work. He also thanked various agencies and benefactors who contributed generously for the project.



(Reported by Fr. Zachariah Burofero MSFS)

BLESSING OF THE NEW CHURCH AT LUKOBE



The newly constructed Church for St. Francis de Sales sub-station at Lukobe, Morogoro was blessed by his Lordship Rt. Rev. Telesphor R. Mkude, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Morogoro, on January 27, 2019.

Lukobe mission was opened in the year 1977 when a small group of nomadic people came and settled there. The spiritual care of the mission was under the jurisdiction of St. Patrick cathedral parish, Morogoro. In the year 1992 this small mission station was entrusted to the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and was

taken care by Fr. Augustine Mangatt. It then took the name of Fransalian Mission Lukobe. Lukobe is now under the jurisdiction of St. Monika Parish, Kihonda. The construction of the newly blessed Church was started in the year 2015 by Rev. Fr. Joseph Poikunnel, who was the then Priest-in-Charge of the Mission. We thank the almighty God for having given us a Church. We thank sincerely His Lordship Rt. Rev. Telesphor R. Mkude, Bishop of Morogoro, for supporting our pastoral endeavours. A big thank you to Rev. Fr. Octavian Msimbe, the parish priest of St. Monica, to Rev. Fr. Joseph Poikunnel and to all our benefactors especially, The Little way Association, UK, Archdiocese of Cologne, Germany, Mr. George Shinnors of Living Waters International USA, and to all of our dear Christians. May God reward their generosity.

(Reported by Fr. Nelson Vijayakumar MSFS)

BLESSING OF THE PARISH HALL AT MLOLONGO

The newly constructed Parish Hall was blessed on January 13, 2019 by Rev. Fr. Kurian Kollapally, the Priest-in-Charge of Mlolongo Parish. The new parish hall can accommodate 600 people. It also has three offices, kitchen, store rooms and wash rooms. The project was entirely supported by the people of Mlolongo Parish. The construction was done by Philpson Builders Limited in a record time of eight months. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Kurian Kollapally, Fr. Lawrence Sebowa and the Parishioners for realizing the dream of having a parish hall at Mlolongo.



(Reported by Fr. Lawrence Sebowa MSFS)

BLESSING OF MERMIER GIRLS' HOSTEL AT SFS SCHOOL, KATANI



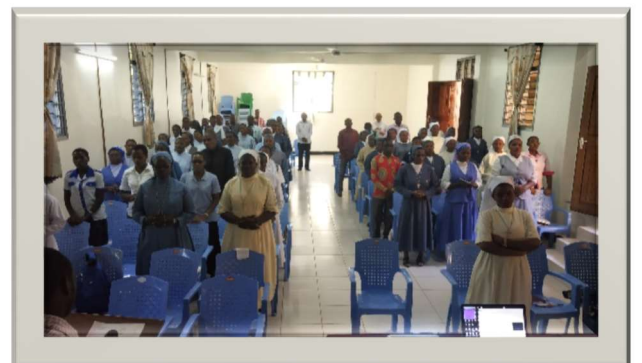
The newly constructed Mermier Girls' hostel at SFS Primary School, Katani, Kenya took place on January 28, 2019. The hostel was blessed by Fr. Simon Nabende MSFS and opened by Hon. Joyce Kamene, MP (Women Representative) of Machakos in the presence of Mr. Juma, County Deputy Commissioner of Machakos, children, parents, teachers, sisters, parishioners and friends of SFS School. Honourable MP and the Deputy Commissioner thanked the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales for the commendable work done in the field of education in Machakos county. The guests were

entertained with various cultural programmes. We thank Manos Unidas and our benefactors for helping us to construct the hostel. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Sunny Vettickal and Fr. Simon Nabende!

(Reported by Fr. Sunny Vettickal MSFS)

BIBLICAL SEMINAR

Fransalian Scholastics of Kola, Morogoro organized a Biblical Seminar from 27th to 30th December 2018 for religious and priests. The theme of the Seminar was ***"Selfless Sacrifice: The Religious as Partners in Pastoral care - Bringing the Light of Christ in the World in the Name of the Church."*** It started with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. Zachariah MSFS.



Eighty religious men and women including novices and postulants from 17 different Religious Congregations participated in the Seminar. The Seminar was conducted in Kiswahili. The event ended with a solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by Rev. Fr. Patrick Kung'alo, the Vicar General of Morogoro Diocese. Hearty congratulations to the Rector and scholastics of Fransalian House, Morogoro.

(Reported by Bro. Lubega Gonzaga MSFS)

BLESSING OF THE CONVENT AT DUMILA



Rt. Rev. Telesphore Mkude, the Bishop of Morogoro blessed the new convent building for the FCC sisters at the Fransalian Dumila Primary School Campus on March 5, 2019. The convent was opened by Mr. George Shinnars, who made substantial contributions for the construction of the Pre-Primary school and Convent. We are indebted to Mr. George Shinnars and the Living Waters

International for their constant support for educating the youth. FCC sisters are administering Fransalian Pre-and Primary School at Dumila, Tanzania.

(Reported by Fr. Amal Neerolickal MSFS)

BLESSING OF NEW CLASS ROOMS AT SFS PRIMARY SCHOOL, IPULI

Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS, the Provincial of East Africa, blessed the new classrooms of SFS School, Ipuli on 4th of March, 2019. It was opened by Mr. Brian and Mrs. Karen Prunty from Living Waters International. With the additional classrooms the school can have four sections for each standard. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Reji Pendanath and Fr. Francis Kyule for providing more infrastructures for the school.

(Reported by Bro. A. Arul MSFS)



VISITATION OF MEMBERS FROM LIVING WATERS INTERNATIONAL



Mr. George Shinnars, Mrs. Karen and Mr. Brian Prunty, the members of Living Waters International are visiting the Province since February 22, 2019. We thank and appreciate the visiting team for taking their time to visit our communities and projects in Kenya and Tanzania. Living Waters International was founded in USA (Wisconsin) to support MSFS Missions in East Africa in 1994 under the leadership of Mrs. Mary and Mr. Stephen Zimmerman.

They now support other MSFS missions and various other religious organizations in Africa. All our missions have experienced the good will and generosity of Living Waters for our pastoral, educational, social, healthcare, water, sanitary projects. We are ever indebted to Living Waters International for supporting our missionary endeavours in East Africa. May God bless them for their generosity.

INTERNAL AUDITING

As per decision of the Provincial Congress, the Provincial Administration wishes to introduce Internal Auditing in the Province. Provincial Bursar and the Stewardship Committee of the Province will be responsible for internal auditing. They will visit communities, parishes and institutions from 24th April 2019 as per schedule given below. Please keep ready the following documents for them to check.

1. Audited report of the previous year
2. Budget proposal of the financial year 2018
3. Updated statements of all bank accounts
4. Cash book
5. Receipt books
6. Bills and vouchers
7. Salary Register of Domestic Staff
8. Pocket money register
9. Hostel register of inmates
10. Fee register book and receipts
11. Salary register of teaching and non-teaching staff
12. Admission register
13. Receipt books of all other income fetching projects like sale of uniforms, stationary, canteen, bus etc.
14. Documents:
 - a. All documents concerning land
 - b. Documents of any sale or purchase of movable and immovable assets
 - c. Updated inventory of movable and immovable assets.
 - d. Documents of registration
 - e. Documents of legal cases if any
 - f. Documents of taxes and insurance, NHIF, NSSF, etc.
 - g. Documents of fixed deposits, if any
 - h. Documents of society registration, if any
 - i. All Contracts
 - j. Documents of Construction
 - k. Clearance Certificates of Employees

Proposed schedule for the visit of the Internal Auditing Team

NO.	PLACE	DATE	TEAM
01	Kahama – Mwakata, Isaka, Kagongwa	24/4 – 27/4	Bursar, Fr.Clement,
02	Tororo – Iyolwa, Osia, Agururu, Kalamira	29/4 – 03/5	Bursar, Fr.Clement,Fr.Lawrence
03	Meru – Ndagani, Chera	05/5 – 07/5	Bursar, Fr.Clement, Fr.Robert S.
05	Nairobi - Kattani, Mlolongo, Bisil	07/5 - 11/5	Bursar, Fr.Clement, Fr.Robert S.
06	Arusha – Ngurudotto, Maji ya Chai	12/5 – 14/5	Bursar, Fr.Robert S., Fr.Lawrence
07	Dar Es Salaam – Mji Mpya, Kibaha	16/5 – 18/5	Bursar, Fr.Robert S., Fr.Lawrence
08	Morogoro – Kola,Kigurunyembe,Junior Se	20/5 – 24/5	Bursar, Fr.Robert S. Fr.Lawrence
09	Dumila	25/5 – 26/5	Bursar, Fr.Robert S. Fr.Lawrence
10	Tabora – Ipuli, Kashishi, Lububu	27/5 – 30/5	Bursar, Fr.Robert S., Fr.Lawrence

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

Rev. Fr. Superior General has appointed Rev. Fr. Jean-Yves Le Tue as the Administrator of Franco-Swiss Province with the effect from March 04, 2019, as Rev. Fr. Yves Carron is elected as the Assistant Superior General. He will administer the Province until the new Provincial assumes the office.

OBITUARY

Rev. Fr. Joseph Kunnappally (74) of East Africa Province passed away on 08.01.2019.

Rev. Fr. Abraham Puthussery (74) of South West India Province passed away on 29.02.2019

Rev. Fr. P.C. Paul (81) of Nagpur Province passed away on 21.02.2019.

Rev.Fr. Stephen Marayikulam (56) of North East India Province passed away on 24.02.2019.

Mrs. Mariakutty (85) the paternal aunt of Fr. Sunny Mattathil passed away on 21.02.2019.

May they rest in peace!

MY TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Date	Programme
Mar 01	Mwanza
Mar 02	Mwkata/Lububu
Mar 03	Bukene
Mar 04	Ipuli
Mar 05	Blessing of the convent at Dumila
Mar 06	Mkuza
Mar 07	Novitiate
Mar 08/09	Morogoro: Apostolic Community Meeting
Mar 11/12	Dar: Apostolic Community Meeting
Mar 13	Kikunde
Mar 14	Ibihwa
Mar 15/16	Fransalian House, Kola
Mar 17	Arusha: Apostolic Community Meeting
Mar 19	Nairobi: Apostolic Community Meeting
Mar 20	Meeting with Ngong Bishop
Mar 22	Uganda: Apostolic Community Meeting
Mar 25	Meeting with Meru Bishop
Mar 26/27	LCI
Mar 29	Blessing of the New Wing of Fransalian School, Kigurunyembe
April 01	TAKA Apostolic Community Meeting
Apr 03 - 05	Council Meeting

My dear confreres, I wish you all a grace-filled season of Lent.

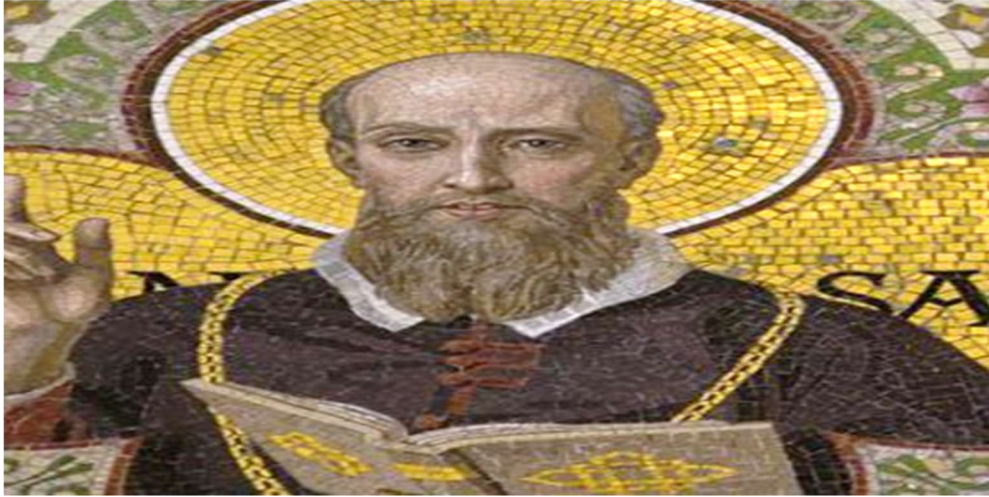
Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,



Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS
Provincial - East Africa Province

Not Quite Ready for Lent?

St. Francis de Sales Offers Perfect Assistance



So, it's Ash Wednesday, and Lent is come. You've read a dozen articles suggesting what you might do, or *not* do; what you might remove from your life for 40 days or what discipline you could add. You've pondered age-appropriate disciplines and how to get quiet. You've read so many suggestions and commentaries that you're beginning to panic. What if you do it wrong? What if your Lenten discipline isn't meaningful enough, or creative enough, or merciful enough?

Lent is here, but your head isn't — not really, not yet. You know that if you haven't come up with some social-media-approved scheme by which you might spiritually rebuild yourself top to bottom, you're just going to end up giving up chocolate, again, and feeling like you're beginning a season of penance with an inspiration-deficit.

Enter Saint Francis de Sales, who was in many ways rather like you and me, struggling to learn patience, wanting to vault the spiritual heights but consigned to the baby steps. This is a man who knows better than to grab at the high shelf before he has grown enough to reach it, or to settle for the low one out of laziness. And so he writes:

God takes pleasure to see you take your little steps; and like a good father who holds his child by the hand, he will accommodate his steps to yours and will be content to go no faster than you. Why do you worry?

Baby steps ...

You learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to run by running, to work by working; and just so, you learn to love by loving. All those who think to learn in any other way deceive themselves.

Don't panic if you don't have your Lenten season "all settled" today:

Never be hurried in anything. Do all things calmly and in a spirit of repose. Do not lose your inward peace, even if everything seems to be going wrong. What is anything in life compared to peace of soul?

First identify what is fundamental:

Examine your heart often to see if it is such toward your neighbour as you would like his to be toward you were you in his place. This is the touchstone of true reason.

And don't kid yourself. (Maybe the first rule of Lent is "don't kid yourself.")

We all colour devotion according to our own likings and dispositions. One man sets great value on fasting, and believes himself to be leading a very devout life, so long as he fasts rigorously, although the while his heart is full of bitterness — and while he will not moisten his lips with wine, perhaps not even with water, in his great abstinence, he does not scruple to steep them in his neighbour's blood through slander and detraction.

All of these quotes are taken from *The Introduction to the Devout Life*, which — even if your Lent seems unpromising today — cannot help but change your thinking for the better over the course of these forty days. Consider reading it as something to “do” in anticipation of Easter.

(An Article by Elizabeth Scalia)

