

## **General Information and Frequently Asked Questions About the Formation Program of the Fransalian Associates for the USA Vice-Province!**

I would like to give you an update on the Formation Program of the Fransalian Associates of the USA Vice-Province. As per our Guidelines, the period of formation is for 2 years. Therefore, the Vice-Province has created a Formation Program consisting of 24 Modules meant for 2 years. As of now, our plan is to have 1 class of 90 minutes for each month. I am attaching the schema for the 2-year program. For each class, the instructor will develop the schema using the resources available and conduct a virtual class for those who are attending the Formation Program by Google Meets/Zoom. There will be only 1 instructor at a time facilitating class for all those who are participating from the USA Vice-Province no matter where they are located. Different modules will be taught by different Fransalian priests. The 2-year program will be divided into 4 semesters, which means each semester consists of 6 classes; and after each semester, there will be some assignment/examination/evaluation of the classes by the instructor.

### **Would You Like to Be an Instructor for the Fransalian Associates?**

I am inviting our priests who are interested in being instructors for the Fransalian Formation Program in the USA. If you are interested, please contact me at your earliest convenience. If we have 24 priests ready to teach classes, then each one will get 1 class; if 12 priests, each gets 2 classes within a span of 2 years.

### **What Happens Once You Become an Instructor?**

Once you sign up, you will be given the option to pick any module of your choice and develop the schema into a full-fledged class of 90 minutes using the resources available. Then a date will be given to you to facilitate the virtual class. We will have a Zoom or Google/Meet account which will be shared to you with the email addresses of all the participants. With these, you will be able to facilitate the class virtually.

### **Will There be a Training Session for the Instructors?**

There will be a virtual orientation for the instructors so as to make sure that we are all on the same page and the same standard is maintained throughout all the classes.

### **What is Specific for This Year?**

The original plan was to begin for Formation Program earlier this year on the Feast Day of St. Francis de Sales, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and make the consecration on the Feast Day of St. Francis de Sales, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022. However, due to the Covid pandemic we were not able to begin the program as planned in all the provinces. Our Assistant Superior General, Very Reverend Fr. Yves Carron MSFS asked if the Vice-Province can begin the Formation Program this year or not. As per his request, we are beginning this month and we have some constraints of time as of now, therefore, we are forced to complete 24 Modules within 16 months instead of 24 months during this Formation Program. This constraint will be only for this year, as we are initiating this program for the first time this year, and eventually we will fall back into our original schedule.

### **When Are We Launching the Program This Year?**

The official launching of the Fransalian Associates this year will be on **Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**, which is the **453rd birthday of St. Francis de Sales**. On the same day, our Superior General Very Reverend Dr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS will be conducting a webinar for the whole congregation on the topic: **St. Francis de Sales: His Influence and Relevance Today**. However, it may conflict with our time schedule here in the US, therefore, we may be able to watch it on You Tube at our convenient time.

### **How About the Class Schedule?**

The classes will be conducted on the **fourth Thursday** of every month beginning on **August 27, 2020 7:30pm to 9:00pm Eastern Time. (6:30pm Central Time)**. All that is required is your availability with a computer/phone/tablet or any other similar device.

### **Is Fransalian Associates Guidelines available?**

An E-book of *Fransalian Associates Guidelines* will be available soon and it will be e-mailed to you for your personal reference. A printed version of the same will also be available later on.

### **How About the Existing Study Classes?**

The existing study classes on the book, *Introduction to the Devout Life (IDL) Treaties on the Love of God*, will continue as they are being held now in individual parishes.

### **Do We Follow the same edition of *Introduction to the Devout Life (IDL)* for the existing study classes?**

We recommend the same edition copyrighted 2015 for all existing classes, so that it may be of help for the virtual formation class when references are required. The book we recommend is published by Ignatius Press/Augustine Institute ([augustineinstitute.org](http://augustineinstitute.org)).

### **Do We Have a You Tube Channel and Facebook Account?**

The USA Vice-Province is launching our own You Tube channel officially on August 21<sup>st</sup>, called ***Fransalian Media USA***. The content will be updated and enhanced as we go forward.

Copy and paste this link to access the channel on You Tube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2VIzGmmkUIE>

Our Facebook account is called ***Fransalian Missionaries USA***. The official launch date is August 21<sup>st</sup>.

Copy and paste this link to access on Facebook and add a Friend Request.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100053659505483>

These will also be useful resources in the process of disseminating the spirit and spirituality of our patron and the mission and charism of our congregation. When they are launched, please subscribe and encourage your parishioners/friends and family to do the same.

If you have any further questions or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me at your earliest convenience. I need your personal help in carrying out this mission especially in your capacity as instructors for the Formation Program. My special thanks to Fr. K. Rajasekar MSFS in the process of helping with this program.

Assuring you my prayers and support in this new venture of the Fransalian family.

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