

Holy Spirit parish is served by the Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales. We had Fr. Ananda Prasad Maddineni MSFS, Fr. Anthony Bonela MSFS and now Fr. Amar Nath Nagothu MSFS. Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales are also known as Fransalian Missionaries (Fransalians).

Who are the Fransalians? The Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (M.S.F.S), known as “Fransalians”, is an international Congregation of Latin Rite, founded on October 24, 1838 in Annecy, France by Servant of God, Peter Marie Mermier. The primary patron of the Congregation is St. Francis de Sales and the secondary patroness is Mother of Compassion (Mother of Sorrows). The spirituality of our Congregation is “Salesian” and we belong to the Salesian family though our particular identity is as “Fransalians”. The apostolate of our Congregation is parish mission, foreign mission, education, evangelization and innovative ministries. The Congregation is currently involved actively in pastoral ministry in 33 Countries across 7 Continents of the world. The Generalate (headquarters) of our Congregation is in Rome, Italy.

The Fransalians have been serving the Church in the United States since 1969 beginning with the Archdiocese of Atlanta, Georgia. 72 Fransalian priests currently working in the United States in different capacities. Fransalians are currently engaged in pastoral ministry in different areas of apostolate in 23 Arch/Dioceses of 14 states of the US. Our Provincial House is located at 3887 Rosebud Road, Loganville-Atlanta, Georgia 30052-4656.

We have a lay association called “*Fransalian Associates*” who are men and women who wish to formally associate themselves with the mission and ministry of the religious Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. Fransalian Associates are lay Catholics in good standing above the age of 18, or any consecrated diocesan or religious clergy who wish to associate with the Fransalians by following the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, the Gentleman Saint.

Who is a Fransalian? : A Fransalian is a man called to be a missionary with a vision; an explorer of the unknown; a builder of communities; a sower of God’s words; an enlightened guide to his students; a formator for the unformed; a joyful herald of God’s reign on Earth in the spirit of St. Francis de Sales by following the 7 principal virtues of Salesian spirituality which are simplicity, humility, charity, optimism, gentleness, humanness, and resignation to the will of God in daily life.

Fransalian Mission: To Witness and Proclaim God’s Kingdom in a spirit of Service to Man. To be effective witness, a Fransalian needs to Read the Signs of Times, Equip himself with Ever Growing Knowledge, be Open to Live the Culture of his People, be Courageous to Respond to their Needs with Missionary Zeal in Solidarity with his Fellow Religious.

Fransalian Vision: Fransalian is a Man of Deep Faith which is Sustained by his Daily Experience of Communion with God and through Realization of God’s presence in his Life, in the Community and in the Events of History. He lives the Fransalian Charism of Joyful Holiness, Confident Optimism, Firm Gentleness, Cheerful Availability, Hospitality, Genuine Humanness and Positive Regard for the others.

Fransalian Prayer: Faith enough to seek You; Regard enough to admire you; Awareness enough to love You; Noble enough to share You; Strength enough to look into Oneself; Affection enough to forsake Oneself; Loyal enough to be honest with Oneself; Ideal enough to inspire the World; Able enough to transform the Community; and Nourishing grace enough to be All to All.

ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

St. Francis de Sales (1567 –1622) is noted for his deep faith and his gentle approach to the religious divisions resulting from the Protestant Reformation. A Doctor of the Church, he is known for his writings on the topic of spiritual direction and spiritual formation, particularly the *Introduction to the Devout Life* and *Treatise on the Love of God*.

Francis de Sales was convinced that God sees humanity as a great and varied garden, each person beautiful in his or her uniqueness. The various callings of life – soldier, prince, widow, married woman – are like the various flowers of the field; God loves them all. Through his or her own calling, each person can find a way to a deeper friendship with his or her creator. Francis approached people with genuine respect and gently guided them to recognize the unique path they would take in life. He made the journey to God joyful and possible for everyone to make. Above all, he advised against despair and the burden of fear.



Go courageously to do whatever you are called to do. If you have any fears, say to your soul: "The Lord will provide for us." If your weakness troubles you, cast yourselves on God, and trust in him. The apostles were mostly unlearned fishermen, but God gave them learning enough for the work they had to do. Trust in him, depend on his providence; fear nothing.

— St. Francis de Sales

Be Bold to Be a Fransalian.....

Join the "*Fransalian Associates*" - A Community for the Laity