

## Father Amarnath Nagothu, MSFS *Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales*



BRANDON DUNCAN

Father Amar grew up in India and attended the Cathedral Parish, where he interacted with many priests and brothers, which strengthened his aspirations for priesthood. He chose to join the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales Order when he was 14 years old.

“The simple way of life of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and my association with them from my childhood is what made me to choose this way of life,” he says.

Today, Father Amar serves as pastor at St. Monica Parish in Palatka and also pastor at St. John the Evangelist in Interlachen.

**What is your overall philosophy of ministry?** To know Him, love Him, serve Him and to be with Him forever.

**Who is the person you admire most?** My father inspired me a lot, as he always use to work with diocesan youth and parishes to strengthen faith and improve community living. He was the diocesan youth coordinator, and I had an opportunity to observe all his activities with youth, and that inspired me to live a good Christian life.

**Most memorable spiritual experience?** Ordination to the priesthood, and celebrating the Most Holy Eucharist. Holding the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ our Lord.

**What is the most important thing you have ever learned?** Do good and you will be happy.

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**F**rom as early as Father Amarnath “Amar” Nagothu can remember, he always knew he belonged to God.

“All the days of my schooling, I was really waiting for the moment to join the seminary and to totally commit myself to the Lord,” he says. “The gift of life that I received has always called me for a religious vocation.”

Father Amar was an unexpected blessing. After his mother had two children and became sick, she had a surgery to prevent future pregnancies. But three years later, Father Amar was born, proving the operation to be unsuccessful.

“From my childhood, I heard everyone narrating about my birth and saying that I was brought to this world in a special way and for a special purpose and the life that I enjoy is God’s,” Father Amar says.