

# M.S.T

## THE MISSIONARY SOCIETY OF ST THOMAS THE APOSTLE (MST)

The Missionary Society of St Thomas the Apostle (MST) is a Catholic missionary Society of Apostolic Life founded on 22 February 1968 by Bishop Sebastian Vayalil, the then Bishop of Palai, Kerala, India. The headquarters of MST is located in Bharananganam, Kerala, India, the sacred place where the tomb of St. Alphonsa, the first woman saint of India, is situated.

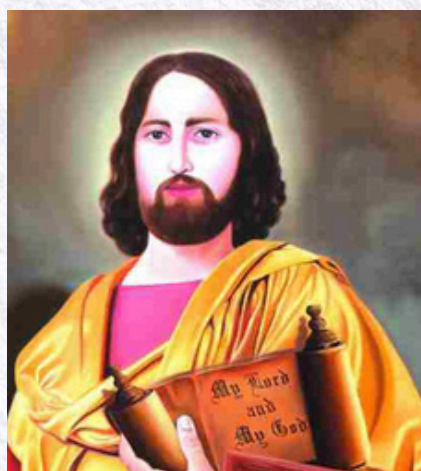
As a Society of Apostolic Life, MST is governed by a Director General and his Council.

MST is dedicated to proclaiming the Gospel beyond cultural and geographical boundaries. Today, it has grown into an international missionary family with around 400 priests and 40 Lay Associate Missionaries. The Society currently serves in 14 countries across the world. MST priests are sent to various dioceses, especially where there is a shortage of clergy.

The Lay Associate Missionaries actively support the mission of MST through prayer, volunteer service, and financial assistance for missionary activities.

At present, there are about 150 seminarians in different stages of formation. The formation of seminarians is carried out in the Society's own seminaries. The expenses for priestly formation are met through sponsorships and the generous contributions of benefactors.

In 2025, eight deacons were ordained to the priesthood, continuing the missionary commitment and apostolic vision of the Society.



**St Thomas the Apostle  
Patron**



**Bishop Sebastian Vayalil  
Founder**



**Very Rev. Dr. Vinson Joseph  
Director General**



# FORMATION



**Minor Seminary**  
**3 Years**  
**Deepti Seminary, Melampara**



**MOC: Mission Orientation Course**  
**1 Year**  
**Jeevan Jyoti Srirangapatana**



**Philosophy**  
**3 Years**  
**Ruhalaya Major Seminary**  
**Ujjain**



**Regency**  
**1 Year**  
**Expeirecne in the missions**



**Theology**  
**4 Years**  
**Ruhalaya Major Seminary**  
**Ujjain**





The missionary mandate of the Missionary Society of St. Thomas the Apostle (MST) is carried out by its members through various apostolic activities, which also serve as means of their own sanctification. United with Jesus, they strive to bring the fullness of life to all those around them, in the spirit of His words: “I have come that they may have life, and have it in abundance” (John 10:10).

Mission ad gentes—the mission to the nations, especially to those who have not yet heard of Jesus Christ—is the primary objective of MST. A large number of MST missionaries serve in regions where Christians are few or where Christ is not yet known. Their work is directed particularly toward proclaiming the Gospel in such mission territories.

MST carries out its mission through its four mission regions in India, each with its own administration:

- St. Paul’s Region – Central India
- St. Thomas Region – South India
- St. Alphonsa Region – Western India
- Mary Queen of Missions Region – North India

Over the years, MST has made significant contributions in various fields, including pastoral care, preaching retreats and missions, general and special education, healthcare, women’s empowerment, empowerment of the differently abled and marginalized, care and rehabilitation of people affected by HIV/AIDS, vocational training, disaster management, rehabilitation initiatives, and eco-friendly projects.

Through these diverse apostolic activities, MST seeks to build a harmonious and value-based society, working toward the transformation of society in order to establish the Kingdom of God.

Recognizing that missionary responsibility belongs to every baptized Christian, many lay faithful actively participate in the missionary endeavors of MST through prayer, financial support, and collaboration in various forms of service.

## INSTITUTIONS

Centres of Evangelization & Pastoral Care: **35**

Centres for Prayer and Preaching: **6**

Centres of Mission Promotion: **5**

Interfaith Ministry: **1**

Counselling & Guidance Centres: **2**

Formal Schools: **28**

Special Schools & Centres for the Differently  
Able: **12**

Hostels: **2**

Vocational Training Centres: **5**

Centres of Social Apostolate: **33**

Healing & Health Care Centres: **6**

HIV/AIDS Care Centres: **8**

Old Age Homes: **1**

Communication & Mission Animation: **1**

Printing Press: **1**

Music Academies: **2**

Language Academies: **3**



# APOSTALATES



## Evangelisation Community Formation

### Education



### Social Work



## Women and Children

## Non-Formal Education

