



**Meet Fr. James Singarayar, HGN:** I asked Fr. James to offer a brief biography to introduce himself to you. Here is what he would like to tell you about himself.

I was born to Catholic parents in Tamil Nadu, India. I am the third and youngest child in my family. My parents and brothers still live in India. My brothers are married and I have two nieces and two nephews. Primary and high school education took place at Catholic schools. The priests and religious sisters who worked in those schools inspired me to become a priest through their witness and support. I entered the seminary in 1999 in the state of Andhra Pradesh, south India, and was ordained in 2009 for the Heralds of Good News (HGN), a missionary society of apostolic life founded in India in 1984 to promote vocations to the priesthood, to train seminarians, and to send missionaries to dioceses throughout the world where there is a need.

After ordination, I served as a parochial vicar for one year and then was sent for advanced studies for two years. After completing a master's degree in philosophy, I taught in our major seminary for four years where I also served as Dean of philosophy for three years. Then I was sent as a missionary to the United States in 2016 where I served as parochial vicar, administrator, and pastor in the Archdiocese of Mobile, AL and the Diocese of Baton Rouge, LA.

Though some people may perceive me as a very serious person, in reality I am not. I am a fun loving person who enjoys the friendship and company of others and also likes to play badminton. When none of the above are possible, I enjoy listening to music (though I am not a good singer), reading, and playing with my toys (electronic gadgets), exploring their functions and operations.

The Lord has assisted me in touching the lives of the people with His love and compassion in the past. Now I am here amidst you, called to serve, and feel blessed. Trusting in Divine Providence and in God's graces, I look forward to serving you as your parochial vicar. I request your prayers and assure you of mine always.


**Parish Library Update:** I am happy to report that approximately 800 books from our library were donated to CLI Prison Alliance. Their acknowledgement is worth noting verbatim: *Thank you for allowing God to use you through your gift of Christian books and Bibles. Please know that every time you choose to sow faithfully into this ministry, your gift is directly impacting the lives of those imprisoned. Each gift provides hope, healing, and transformation for someone who needs the love of Christ.*  
Fr. Michael



During their most recent meeting, the Bishops of the Province of Atlanta (including the Dioceses of Atlanta, Charleston, Charlotte, Raleigh and Savannah) signed a letter calling on federal and state officials within the province to implement meaningful legislation addressing the "plague of gun violence" nationwide and locally.

"The Gospel calls us in a particular way to protect the most vulnerable among us," read the statement. "The ready accessibility of firearms presents an immediate threat to the wellbeing of children, families impacted by domestic violence and individuals experiencing mental illness. Our first priority must therefore be to prevent firearms from falling into the hands of those who would carry out violent acts against children in schools, against their families or against themselves."

You are encouraged to read more about the statement [here](#).

A click away  If you are receiving a paper copy, visit the parish website at [www.stfrancisraleigh.org](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org).

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**July 8/9 Franciscan Garden Campaign** [Click here](#) for a special video message from Fr. Michael about our Franciscan Garden. [\(Click here to donate\)](#)



**Camp Francis**

**July 10-14, July 17-21, July 24-28** Camp Francis has opportunities in athletics, technologies, arts and enrichment areas! Half-day or full-day camps based on age for the 2023-2024 school year. (Rising K-Rising 12th grade) Contact [Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:Ashley.Watson@stfrancisraleigh.org), 919-847-8205x444 [Registration](#)

**July 15-July 30: Back-to-School Supplies Drive:**

Please drop your supplies in the bins in the Stewardship Center in the church. For More information on how to volunteer, donate financially, or to view the supply list visit [click here](#).

**July 16 - Welcoming Fr. James Singarayar, HGN**

We will welcome our new priest, Fr. James, after 9 am Mass. Please join us and the Knights of Columbus in Clare Fellowship Hall and welcome/introduce yourself to Fr. James and enjoy some coffee and donuts. Contact Chris Damico, [chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:chris.damico@stfrancisraleigh.org).



**A Franciscan Story Continues**

St. Francis of Assisi's founding was parishioner-driven, and even though our first pastor was a Jesuit, St. Francis and the Franciscan Mission have been the moving forces in our parish since its inception. Even the naming of the parish seemed to be a divine event. [Read more](#)



While in Rome recently, Monsignor Clay had the incredible experience of meeting his holiness Pope Francis

### **Pope: The Holy Spirit is our guide on the path to Christian Unity**

(Click image to read article)

#### **July 16 - Migrant Ministry Fiestas**

Our Migrant Ministry needs your help offering hope and extending hospitality to the men who have left their homes and families to work on our NC farms. Every month we throw a fiesta to celebrate and break bread together. Become a part of the party in any way you can! Contact MaryLou Holloway, [mlholly10@gmail.com](mailto:mlholly10@gmail.com). [Register here](#)

#### **July 19 - RCIA Inquiry Session, Founders Room, 6:30pm-8:30pm**

Interested in Exploring a Possible Call to be a Catholic? Consider joining our Inquiry Sessions held in Anthony Hall Founders Room, down the hall from the church bathrooms. Begin your faith journey in our community. Contact Jeanne M. Lewin, [jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:jeanne.lewin@stfrancisraleigh.org)  
Link: [www.stfrancisraleigh.org/rcia](http://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/rcia)

#### **July 22 - Women's Ministry Yoga & Breakfast, 9:00am, in Clare Fellowship Hall**

Join the SFA Women's Ministry for a morning of yoga, breakfast and community! This event will begin with 45 minutes of beginner yoga followed by a prayerful meditation. Afterwards, we'll build community by sharing food & fellowship! [Register in Realm](#).  
Fee: \$5.00. Need help with registration? Contact Janie Hebert, [janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:janie.hebert@stfrancisraleigh.org), 919-847-8205.

#### **Parishioner Owned Businesses Ad Page**

Support our local parishioner-owned businesses  
To advertise email: [diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:diogenes.ruiz@stfrancisraleigh.org)  
Link: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/parishioner-businesses/>

#### **July 27-30 Recovering Our Soul Connections**

A retreat for women who have been sexually abused.  
Contact: [soulconnection366@gmail.com](mailto:soulconnection366@gmail.com)

#### **October 28 - The Heart of Matter: Encountering Christ in all Creation | 2023 Convocation, 8:30am**

Save the Date! Join us on Saturday, October 28, 2023 for the 3rd annual Franciscan Spirit and Life Convocation "The Heart of Matter: Encountering Christ in all Creation". Sister Ilia Delio will be joining us as our keynote speaker for the day. Registration will open on Realm in September. Contact Kathy Sales, [kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:kathy.sales@stfrancisraleigh.org).

#### **Through September 10: Cross Step (Preschool-Aged Faith Formation) Registration Open for 2023-2024**

2023-2024 Cross Step (Preschool-Aged Faith Formation) Registration Open in Realm through September 10. Cross Step provides weekly liturgical lessons during the 9:00am Mass for preschool-aged children, ages one (and walking) through age five, who are not enrolled in kindergarten. [Click here](#) for more information. Contact Andrea Javier, [andrea.javier@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:andrea.javier@stfrancisraleigh.org). [Register here](#)

#### **Employment Opportunities**

The Franciscan School for the 2023-2024 Academic Year: Teacher (Gr. 4), Preschool Lead Teacher (2yo), Coordinator of Liturgy and Sacraments, Coordinator of Middle School Formation, Director of Pastoral Care. Substitute Teachers for the 23-24 school year. See our website: <https://www.stfrancisraleigh.org/jobs/>  
Contact Trish Adamkowski, [trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org](mailto:trish.adamkowski@stfrancisraleigh.org)