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# BARAKA

ZA FRANSALIANS

Half yearly news bulletin of MSFS in East Africa

13<sup>th</sup>  
Issue





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# Editorial

Dear Readers of Baraka,

I am indeed happy to reach you through this 13<sup>th</sup> issue of our Province Newsletter. We have received the greatest gift the Holy Spirit from God who guides and gives us the strength to do His will. We are all instruments of God and the Holy Spirit leads us. When Jesus promised the Holy Spirit we also received the Peace of Jesus. That peace does not come from the world, but from the Holy Spirit. It remains during the time of trial, and even gives us the courage to go forward with a smile in our hearts.

Pope Francis in his homily on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019 considered the question of how we can reconcile the “tribulations” and persecutions, which are suffered by Christians with the peace that Jesus promised to His disciples. The Holy Father encouraged us to face the greatest difficulties of life with this “gift promised by Jesus”, instead of that false peace that comes from the world. Pope Francis invited us to go forward in life with an even greater capacity, the ability to “make the heart smile”.

The peace of Jesus strengthens us to go forward in life. It enables us to endure. To endure: a word we don't understand well, a very Christian word, it means to carry a burden. To endure, to carry the burden of life, the difficulties, the labour, everything, without losing peace; but rather bearing the burden and having the courage to go forward. This can only be understood when there is the Holy Spirit within, who gives us the peace of Jesus. May the Lord grant us this peace that comes from the Holy Spirit, this peace that comes precisely from Him, and that helps us to endure, to carry, the many difficulties in life.

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to this edition of Baraka. I wish all the readers of Baraka God's Blessings.

Yours devotedly in Christ,  
**Fr. Martin John Pendanath MSFS**



# Message from the Provincial

My dear Confreres and Friends of Fransalians,

*Greetings of peace and joy from Tanzania!*

It was on 30th November 1919 that Pope Benedict XV promulgated the Apostolic Letter "Maximum Illud" on the activity of all the missionaries in the world. The context of the letter was different but the content of the letter is relevant to our times, as we are invited in it to fulfil the command of our Master (Mk. 16:15). Through this letter Pope exhorts the missionaries to undertake primary evangelization wherever the Gospel message of Christ has not yet reached. Pope Francis, in his letter to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of the promulgation of the Apostolic Letter "Maximum Illud" reminds us that the Church is "by its very nature missionary" (AG 2) and that missionary work is part of the "essential task" of the Church (AG 1). In "Evangelii Gaudium" Pope Francis calls Church as "a community of missionary disciples" (24). He tells us that "an evangelizing community gets involved by word and deed in people's daily lives; it bridges distances, it is willing to abase itself if necessary and it embraces human life, touching the suffering flesh of Christ in others. Evangelizers thus take on the "smell of the sheep" and the sheep are willing to hear their voice" (24). It is our sacred task to spread the joy of the Gospel in Africa.



Our Patron St. Francis de Sales and our Founder Venerable Father Peter Mermier are models for our missionary endeavour in Africa. The recent General Chapter exhorts us to be "committed and zealous missionaries on the periphery" following the charism of our Congregation.

Mission 'Ad Gentes' is not exhausted in this modern world. There are millions amidst us who have not heard the message of Christ. Although, the Word of God is sown in many parts of Africa, it has not taken its roots deeply and the message of Christ has not become a saving message for many who claim to be Christians. Therefore, our task is both primary evangelization as well as deepening the faith of the people by making the message of the Gospel relevant in all spheres of their life. It calls us to focus more on catechesis, family apostolate and reviving the Basic Christian Communities. We have to take the laity into confidence in fulfilling the missionary mandate of Christ.

The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in East Africa have opened recently five new missions where previously pastoral care was neglected due to the vastness of the parish territory. There is scope for primary evangelization, as many people have not come to know the Gospel. There is also a need for catechesis as their knowledge of the message of Christ is rudimentary. There are several sects and superstitious beliefs which prevent people from experiencing the Risen Lord. These missions on the periphery are both a challenge and an opportunity for us to spread the message of the Gospel.

This issue of Baraka focuses on "Kikunde Mission", one of the new parishes, which we have recently opened. I sincerely thank our Fathers who are actively engaged in pastoral ministry especially in the new Missions. I also gratefully acknowledge the generosity of all our benefactors and well-wishers who are helping us to spread the message of Christ in Africa.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus

**Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS**

Provincial, MSFS East Africa

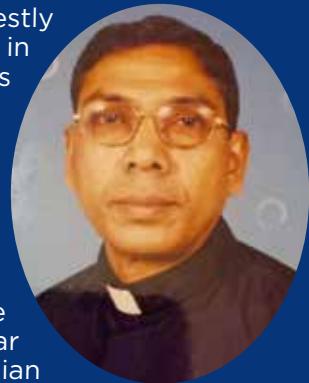


# A Tribute to Rev. Fr. Joseph Kunnapilly MSFS

Rev. Fr. Joseph Kunnapilly was born of Mr. Devasia and Mrs. Theresia Kunnapally on 15th December, 1945 and was baptized on 21st of December, 1945 at Kalayanthany, Kothamangalam diocese. He was confirmed on 22nd March, 1958 at Thiruvampady, Tellicherry diocese (At present Thamarassery diocese). He has five brothers and two sisters. He did his primary and secondary school studies at Sacred Heart School, Thiruvampady. He joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales for Brotherhood in 1969 and had his initial formation at Philip Nagar. He was admitted to Salesianum Novitiate at Visakhapatnam on 3rd May, 1971 and made his first profession on 4th May, 1972. He made his perpetual profession on 4th May, 1977. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from Andhra University (1985). He did his Theological studies at JDV, Pune from 1994 to 1997. He was ordained a priest on 20th May, 1997 at St. Sebastian's Church, Vilakkamthode, Kerala, India.

Fr. Joseph Kunnapilly served the Church and the Congregation in various capacities. His first appointment was in SFS Printing Press, Visakhapatnam (1972–1982). Thereafter, he served as Bursar in Kotak School, Visakhapatnam from 1982 to 1992. He opted for Tanzanian Mission in 1993. After a year of stay in MSFS Regional House at Morogoro, he was sent to India to pursue his Theological studies.

After his priestly Ordination in 1997, he was appointed as the Bursar of SFS Junior Seminary, Morogoro, Tanzania. From 1999 to 2000, he was the Bursar of Fransalian Scholasticate, Morogoro. From 2001 to 2008, he served as the assistant parish priest of St. Joseph's parish Mlolongo, Kenya. From 2008 to 2011, he was the bursar of SFS School Katani, Kenya. From 2011 to 2012, he was the assistant parish priest of St. Francis de Sales' parish at Dumila, Tanzania. Towards the end of 2012, he was appointed at SFS Bhavan, Angamaly, India. In 2014, he was in Vinayabhavan Seminary, Thamarassery for six months for rest and treatment. Since 2015, he was undergoing treatment and dialysis at Lissa Hospital, Thiruvampady, Kerala, India. He left for his heavenly abode on 08th January 2019 at 00.30 hrs.



Fr. Joseph Kunnapilly was a committed religious and missionary. He dedicated his life as a Brother and later as a priest for God and his people. He was always a joyful person even amidst the many challenges of his missionary endeavours. He was a man of extra-

ordinary faith and trust in God. He suffered from diabetes almost for forty years, but his zeal for the mission never diminished. He was also an epitome of Salesian virtues such as optimism, gentleness, patience, humility, simplicity and hospitality. He loved nature. He planted hundreds of trees, wherever he was placed. The trees in the Provincial house, Junior Seminary, Kola, Mlolongo and Katani will tell of his love for nature. Above all, he had a deep sense of love and compassion for his fellow human beings.

His funeral took place on 11th January, 2019, at 14.30 hrs in SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala, India. The Holy Eucharistic celebration and funeral services were presided over

by Rt. Rev. Mathew Vaniakizhakkel V.C, Bishop emeritus of Satna (Madya Pradesh, India). Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel delivered the eulogy. Fr. Jose Parapilly preached during the Holy Mass appreciating the person of Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly. A large number of MSFS priests and non-MSFS priests (about 50) sisters, brothers, relatives and friends of Fr. Joseph came to pay their last respects to him.

Fransalians in East Africa will miss a committed missionary in the person of Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly. We are grateful to God for having given us a loving friend, brother and a priest in the person of Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly. Let us continue to pray for the repose of our beloved confrere.

## Peace and Reconciliation

### Introduction

#### Peace & Reconciliation:

Reconciliation in Hebrew language is shalom, generally translated as ‘peace’. In another words reconciliation is leading to peacebuilding. Thus peace is intrinsically imbibing to reconciliation with oneself with others and the Almighty at large. It has to correspond to our gospel values: (Mt 6:21) Forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespasses against us.

Peace: absence of fear is peace. When the doors were shut where, the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace be with you” (John 20:19). First and fore most Jesus was ironically removing the fear which was prevailing the disciples. Then he strengthened them by giving the Holy Spirit to ‘be courageous and free’ (John 20:20, 21). It was seen when Peter was preaching in Jerusalem, in his first speech itself three thousand people were converted (Act 2:14-41). Mission



May all people here find inspiration and strength to build a future of reconciliation, justice and peace for all the children of this beloved land.

— Pope Francis —

AZ QUOTES

Christ through the ministry of Reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

Reconciliation involves forgiveness. However forgiveness and reconciliation is

not one and same. Reconciliation needs two parties to make peace within themselves in another words both parties need to forgive each other; whereas forgiveness does not need both parties to do the same. However one party may forgive and make himself peace of mind and heart and the other may continue to have grudge and resentment with oneself without forgiving.

A Campaign for Forgiveness at Virginia, there were forty eight research were conducted whereby they found; a person who has an attitude of forgiveness has good health of mind and body furthermore their duration of life span is high. And there are also many researches were done in different university giving information that people those who have the attitude of forgiving will have less feasibility of getting diseases, besides immunity power of one's health is increased.

Peace with others: each one has to realize that no one is perfect on this earth as Jesus say, "God alone is perfect" (Mk 10:18). Hence we have to acknowledge that he/she is

"We ought not to become overly disturbed with ourselves because of our imperfections"

- St. Francis de Sales

sinner. In (John 8:1-11) we see, Jesus' mission that he made even the Pharisees to realize and to accept that not only the woman caught up the very act of adultery was a sinner but they were also sinners and they left the woman without stoning her. The only one question which made them to realize was (John 8:7) "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." Moreover one has to realize before pointing out or finding out faults with others that we place ourselves in their situation. What made them to commit this mistakes or which situation caused them to be in that way or we were in their situation; do we find any alternatives or worse than that? Thus we are feel pity for the sinners and find ways and means to help themselves.

We are partially responsible for others salvation, however you persuade our brethren to correct himself (Ezk 33:8). If I announce that some wicked people are sure to die and you fail to tell them to change their ways, then they will die in their sins, and I will hold you responsible for their deaths (Ezk 33:9). But if you warn them to repent and they don't repent, they will die in their sins, but you will have saved yourself.

Peace with God: every day we pray the Lord's Prayer knowingly or unknowingly "forgive our trespasses as we forgive those who trespasses against us"; but the question is really we mean it. First and foremost

we do not get forgiveness if we do not forgive those who do wrong against us (Mt: 6:15). Furthermore our offering will not be accepted even if we have any grudge against our own brethren (Mt 5:24) "leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift".

Nelson Mandela remained 27 years in the jail, whereby the jailer mistreated him vehemently and even he did not allow Nelson Mandela to see his son who died of car accident. Later Nelson Mandela became the President of South Africa the major support of the People. One day Nelson Mandela invited all the major officers for felicitation including the same jailer too. In that function the jailer felt ashamed to see Nelson Mandela, he was trying to avoid to see in the function. However Nelson Mandala himself voluntarily intervened him saying, "You did your duty, I did not have any resentment towards you, and come let us work together". Error is human but forgiving is divine.

As a conclusion peace is not absence of troubles but rather it is a presence of God. So when we forgive others we feel the divine presence in us by reconciling with the Almighty which leads to inner peace with myself.

By

**Fr. Sebastian Williams MSFS**

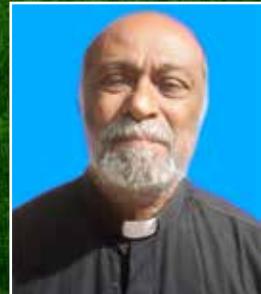
# Kikunde Mission

The long-cherished dream of Fransalins in East Africa to start a Mission in the South of Maasai land was fulfilled on 2nd February 2019 when we took up Kikunde Mission. When the Provincial Administration met the then Archbishop of Arusha Most Rev. Josephat Louis Lebulu to get his permission to start Lumen Christi Institute he requested to start a parish in the south of Maasai land. Four years ago, both Archbishop Josephat Louis Lebulu and the Auxiliary Bishop Prosper Baltazar Lyimo repeated the request in black and white. During the last Provincial Congress, we discussed the matter and decided to take up a parish in the south of Maasai land. Fr. Mathew Chavely MSFS and the newly ordained priest Fr. Martin John Pendanath MSFS who were appointed as the priest-in-charge of the Kikunde Mission were present on the occasion.

A grand reception was given by



the people of Kikunde on 1<sup>st</sup> February in the evening. Vicar General Very Rev. Fr. Simon Tenges, Very Rev. Fr. Flbert, Dean of the Deanery of Kiteto, Rev.



Fr. Tarimo, the priest who had been looking after Kikunde Mission for three years, all the priests from Kiteto Deanery and two Deacons joined the people to receive us. They came down to the road almost 2 km away from the Parish Center. Rev. Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil MSFS and Rev. Fr. Jose Eriyanickal MSFS from Morogoro joined us in our journey. At that time the Provincial Very Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS was attending the General Chapter in India. So he could not come for this occasion. Rev. Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil represented the Provincial on the occasion. The Vicar General, the Priests and the Deacons from the Deanery stayed back for the following day for the Holy Eucharist, of handing over the Parish.

The following day the Holy Eucharist was celebrated, led by the Vicar General. All the Priests and Deacons who were present for the previous day joined for the



Holy Mass. The Parish Priest of Dumila Rev. Fr. Joseph Poikunnel MSFS and St. Joseph Sisters from Dumila Hospital were also present for the Holy Eucharist. During the Holy Mass, Vicar General declared Kikunde as the New Parish in Arusha Archdiocese. Rev. Fr. Martin, the new priest celebrated the Holy Eucharist on Sunday and gave his blessing to the people as a new priest.

### A Short History of the Kikunde Parish

Kikunde parish is a unique parish in the Province of East Africa. It is in the Archdiocese of Arusha. It is in Tanga Region and geographically it is close to Morogoro. It is 500 km far away from the headquarters of the Archdiocese. Though it is located in the South of Maasai land there are no Maasai people in Kikunde. The Diocese of Tanga, in the beginning, served Kikunde from 1982 to 1986. Then from 1986 to 1996 Morogoro Diocese took up the responsibility of looking after the pastoral needs of Kikunde. Then for three years, it was left without any service. From

1999 to 2007 again Diocese of Tanga took up the responsibility of giving pastoral service to Kikunde. Again Diocese of Morogoro served it from 2007 to 2013. But the Mission was neglected for three years again. In 2016 the then leader of the Kikunde Mission Mr. Edward Botto went to Dar-es-Salaam to explain to Polycarp Cardinal Pengo about the sad situation of Kikunde. Then the Cardinal called both Bishops, both Morogoro and Tanga and asked them about Kikunde Mission. The Catechist Ruben Nasari from the neighbouring parish came to Kikunde searching for some spare



parts for his tractor. He understood the pitiful situation of Kikunde.

The catechist Ruben met the Archbishop Josephat Louis Lebulu and explained to him about Kikunde. Archbishop Lebulu took interest in Kukunde and visited the Mission and discussed the matter with both the Bishops of Morogoro and Tanga. Both the Bishops of Morogoro and Tanga gave the mission to Arusha Archdiocese. Archbishop Lebulu entrusted the Mission of Kikunde with Fr. Tarimo, the parish priest of Kijungu. Fr. Tarimo faithfully rendered his service to Kikunde for three years from Kijungu Parish.

## **The Present Condition of Kikunde Mission**

When we took up the parish it had four outstations including Kikunde. We added two more outstations. There is a possibility of adding more outstations. There are 41 Small Christian Communities. There are 820 families spread throughout the outstations. We started house-visit and blessing the houses. People are very happy to receive blessings for houses. Even many Non-Catholic Christians and Muslims ask for blessing their houses. Kikunde Parish is dedicated to St. Francis de Sales, the Patron Saint of our Congregation.

By

***Fr. Mathew Chavely MSFS***



“Whatever we see our neighbor do we must strive to interpret it in the best manner possible”- *St. Francis de Sales*

# 25 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD

## SACERDOTAL SILVER JUBILARIANS

On April 22nd, 2019, the MSFS Confreres and friends gathered together at Fransalian Study House, Morogoro, to thank God for the gift Priesthood that God granted to our beloved Fathers Jacob Thekkekara, Johnson Kallidukil, Jose Eriyani and Tomichan Perumanoor, who were ordained as priests in 1994. The celebration began with a solemn jubilee Mass presided by Fr. Jose Eriyani. It was concelebrated by the other jubilarians, Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, Provincial, Fr. Thomas Kochuparambil, Rector, Fransalian House at Kola and 20 other priests from the religious and diocesan fraternity. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil gave a heart-touching homily that filled the ambience of the Church with a spirit of thanksgiving and love to the Almighty. After the Holy Mass, the jubilarians were felicitated in an atmosphere of joy and gaiety. The Provincial congratulated and thanked jubilarians for their faithful ministry in Africa for 25 years. A large number of the people present conveyed their greetings and good wishes by showering gifts upon the jubilarians. The programme was concluded with a sumptuous dinner.

**Fr. Joseph Eriyanickal** was born on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1965 at Mutholy, Kerala, India. His parents are Mr. Abraham Mathew and Elizabeth Abraham. He joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in 1981. He did his Novitiate in Salesianum, Visakapatnam and made his First Vows on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1985. He pursued his philosophical Studies in Suvidya College from 1986-1989. He did his theological studies at St. Peter's Pontifical Institute for Philosophy and Theology, Bangalore, and made his Final Vows in the year 1992. He was ordained a priest on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1994 for the Province of Visakapatnam. After his ordination, he opted to join the Tanzanian Mission and came to Tanzania on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1994. After his arrival, he did his language course in Lutheran Language Center for four months. In 1995 he was appointed at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Itaga as Assistant Parish Priest. In 1997 he was appointed as the Parish Priest of Mbulu Catholic Parish in Kahama Diocese. He was



appointed to start St. Francis de Sales Vocational Training Centre, Mwakata in 2000 and served as the Director. In the year 2005, he was elected as the Provincial Bursar of the MSFS East Africa Province, an office which he held until 2011. Upon completion of his service as Provincial Bursar for two terms, he was appointed at Angamaly Community. He was appointed as the Priest-in-Charge of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and manager of St. Joseph's Vocational training Centre and St. Francis de Sales Secondary School, Mlolongo in Machakos Diocese, Kenya in 2015. In the year 2017, he was once again elected as Provincial Bursar of MSFS East Africa Province.

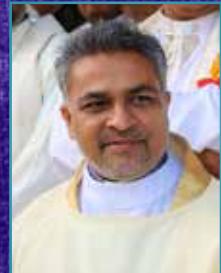
**Fr. Johnson Michael Kallidukil** was born on 18<sup>th</sup> April 1966 at Venappara, Kerala, India. He is the son of Mr. Micheal Kallidukil and Mrs. Annakutty. He finished his Primary education at Little Flower Primary School, Venappara from 1971 to 1978, and Secondary School at Sacred Heart High School, Thiruvampady from 1978 to 1981. Upon completion of his secondary schooling, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in 1981. He did his canonical year of Novitiate in 1985 and made his First Vows on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1985 in Salesianum, Visakapatnam. He pursued his Philosophical Studies in Suvidya College, Bangalore from 1986-1989. He did his regency 1990 in SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor and Theological studies at St. Peter's Pontifical Institute for Philosophy and Theology, Bangalore, and made his Final Vows in the year 1992. He was ordained a priest on 21<sup>st</sup> April 1994 for the Province of Visakapatnam. After his ordination, he volunteered to join the Tanzanian Mission and came to Tanzania on 29<sup>th</sup> June 1994.



After his ordination, he was appointed at Lububu Mission as Assistant Parish Priest and formator from 1994 to 1998. He was sent to Germany for his doctoral studies at the Maximilian University of Wurzburg in 1998. Upon completing his studies with flying colors he returned to Tanzania in 2002 and was appointed as a formator at Fransalianum MSFS Novitiate in Kibaha, Dar es Salaam. He was appointed as the Rector and superior of Fransalian Study House, Director of Fransalian Communications and Priest-in-Charge of Mkambarani Mission. In 2010 he was appointed as Director and program in charge of Lumen Christi Institute and Parish Priest of Maji ya Chai and Ngurdotto parishes. He was appointed as the third Provincial Superior of the Province of East Africa in 2011 and led the province for six years until 2017. Currently, he is serving as the formator in Fransalianum MSFS Novitiate at Kibaha.

"As long as we are determined to take no pleasure in temptations we can never offend God"- *St. Francis de Sales*

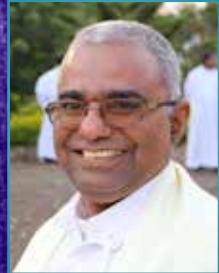
**Fr. Jacob Thekkakara Chacko** was born on 4<sup>th</sup> March 1965 at Kodikulam, Kerala, India. His Parents are Chacko Varkey and Anna Chacko. He was baptized on 11<sup>th</sup> March 1965 and received Confirmation on 10<sup>th</sup> May 1976. He finished his Primary and Secondary studies at St. Mary's Primary and Secondary School respectively in his native. He joined the Congregation at SFS Minor Seminary, Ettumanoor, Kerala in 1981. After having completed his Novitiate at Salesianum, Visakapatnam, he received his First Profession on 15<sup>th</sup> December 1985. He completed his Philosophical studies at Suvidya College from 1986-1989. He did regency from 1989-1990 in Thelpara, Kerala. After the regency, he opted to join the Tanzanian Mission and came to Tanzania in 1990.



He was sent to St. Paul's Major Seminary at Kipalapala for his theology. He made his Final Vows on 08<sup>th</sup> December 1992 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Itaga. A year later he was ordained a deacon by Most Rev. Mario Mgulunde on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1993 at Lububu.

He was ordained a Priest on 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1994 at Kodikulam, India by Rt. Rev. George Punnakkottil, the Bishop of Kothamangalam. His first appointment was as an Assistant Parish Priest of Mbulu Parish in Kahama diocese till 1996. He was appointed as Rector of Aspirant House in Lububu from 1996-1997. From 1998-1999 he served as Vice-Rector and Vice-Principal at St. Francis de Sales Junior Seminary, Kihonda. Later on from 2000 to 2005, he served as Rector and Principal of the same institute in Kihonda. He was appointed in 2005 at St. Michael Church, Chera in the diocese of Meru, Kenya as Parish Priest and manager of the primary school. In 2007 he was appointed as Priest-in-Charge of St. Joseph's Catholic Church and manager of St. Francis de Sales Secondary School and St. Joseph's Vocational Training Centre. In Mlolongo he undertook the construction of the Secondary School, a Marian Grotto and the extension of the Parish Church. In the year 2015, he was appointed as the parish Priest of Mary, Mother of Compassion Church at Mji Mpya in the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam.

**Fr. Thomas Tomychan Perumanoor**, was born on 7<sup>th</sup> March 1966 at Chempilavu, Kerala, India. He is the son of Mr. Chacko and Rosamma. He was baptized on 14th March 1966 and christened as Thomas. He hails from Palai Diocese. He completed his schooling at Holy Cross UP School, Cheruppunkal, Kerala. He joined SFS Minor Seminary, Ettumanoor in 1981. He underwent Novitiate training at Salesianum, Visakapatnam and made his First Vows on 15-12-1986 and pursued his philosophical studies at Suvidya College from 1987-1990. After Completing his philosophical studies he opted to join Tanzanian Mission and reached Tanzania in 1990. He was sent to St. Paul's Major Seminary at Kipalapala for his theology. He made his Final Vows on 08<sup>th</sup> December 1992 at St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Itaga. A year later he was ordained a deacon by Most Rev. Mario Mgulunde on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1993 at Lububu.

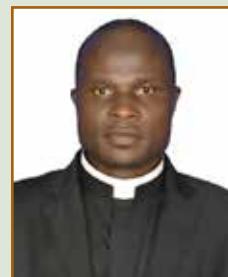


After completing his theological studies he went to India to be ordained a Priest. He was ordained a priest on 16<sup>th</sup> July 1994. After his ordination, he was appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of Itaga. A year later he was appointed as Local Bursar of St. Francis de Sales Junior Seminary, Kihonda. In the year when the Tanzanian Region became a Province, he was elected as the first Provincial Bursar, an office which he held for six years up to 2002. While being a Provincial Bursar in 2000 he was also entrusted with the responsibility of providing spiritual assistance to Dumila - a substation, which later would become St. Francis de Sales Parish, Dumila. In the year 2002, he was appointed as the Local Bursar of Fransalian Study House, Kola and continued to be the Parish Priest of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Dumila up to 2007. He was appointed as the Parish Priest of St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Itaga in 2007 and he served the people of God up-to 2014. After a short Spirituality Course in Philippines in 2015, he was appointed as the Administrator of Lumen Christi Institute, Maji ya Chai, Arusha and served St. Stephen, the Martyr Parish, Maji ya Chai as Assistant Parish Priest. In 2016 he was appointed as the Parish Priest of Maji ya Chai and continues to serve both as Administrator of LCI and Parish Priest of Maji ya Chai.

# INTRODUCING NEW PRIESTS 2018

***The Fransalians of East Africa are blessed to have four new priests. We are grateful to God for blessing us with these four new priests. We thank their parents who gave them for the service of God and His people.***

**Fr. Nabende Simon Peter MSFS** was born on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1983 at Masira Sub County Mbale District - Uganda. He is the son of Mr. Paskali Fungo and Mrs. Nakayenze Beatrice. He joined the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in 2008. He did his Aspirancy and Pre novitiate in Ndagani - Kenya. He entered Novitiate in 2009 and made his first profession on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2010 at Kibaha - Tanzania. His Philosophical studies were in Lumen Christi Institute Arusha - Tanzania from 2010 to 2013 and Regency in SFS Primary School Katani – Kenya.



He had his theological studies at Jordan University College Morogoro - Tanzania from 2014 to 2018. He made his Final Commitment on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017 and was ordained a deacon on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017. He was ordained a Priest on 7<sup>th</sup> July 2018 by His Grace Emmanuel Obbo, the Archbishop of Tororo, Uganda. He is appointed in the Fransalian community Katani, Kenya.

**Fr. Patrick Titus Musyimi MSFS** was born on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1975 in Makueni County, Kenya. He is the firstborn of late Mr. Jackson Mwania Nzioki and Mrs. Scholastica Grace Kamene. He completed his primary education at Kitikyumu Pre/Primary School from 1980-1991 and his secondary school studies at Pope Paul VI Junior Seminary between 2004 and 2007. He joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in 2008, and had his Aspirancy and Pre-novitiate in Fransalian Seminary, Ndagani. He made his First Profession on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2010.



His Philosophical studies were at Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha (2010 - 2013). He did his Regency at Ipuli Children's Home, Tabora, Tanzania, and had his Theological studies at Jordan University College, Morogoro, Tanzania (2014 - 2018). On 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017, he made his Perpetual Profession at Fransalian Study House, Morogoro. He was ordained a deacon at Jordan University Chapel by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Anthony Banzi, Bishop of the

Catholic Diocese of Tanga on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017. He was ordained a Priest by His Grace Rt. Rev. Anthony Muheria, the Archbishop of Nyeri on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018. He is appointed in the Fransalian community Mji mpya, Dar es Salaam.

**Fr. Francis Kyule MSFS** is the son of Mr. Christopher Muasya and Mrs. Jacqueline Muthini. He attended Mutendeu Primary school from 1993-2003, after which he joined Pope Paul VI Junior Seminary Machakos from 2004-2007 for his Secondary education. He joined the Fransalians in 2008 and began his formation at Fransalian Seminary Ndagani. He made his first profession on 10th July 2010. He completed his Philosophy course at Lumen Christi Institute from 2010 to 2014. After the completion of his philosophical studies, he was appointed at Fransalian Seminary Ndagani for his regency. He did his Theological studies at Jordan University College, Morogoro from 2014 to 2018. He made his perpetual profession at Fransalian Study House Kola on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017. He received Diaconate at Jordan University College Morogoro on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2017 and was ordained a Priest by His Grace Rt. Rev. Anthony Muheria, the Archbishop of Nyeri on 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018. He is appointed in the Fransalian community Ipuli, Tabora.



**Fr. Martin John Pendanath MSFS** was born of Mr. and Mrs. P.V. John at Kanhangad, Kerala, India on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1990. He did his early schooling at GHSS Maloth Kasaba from 1996-2006 and had his secondary education at GVHSS Thamarassery from 2007-2009. He joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and began his Seminary formation at Vinaya Bhavan, Thamarassery from 2006 to 2009. He made the first profession on June 11, 2010. He studied philosophy in Suvidya College Bangalore from 2010 and 2013. During this time he also completed BA from St. Francis de Sales College Bangalore. He did his Regency at MSFS Provincial House, Morogoro. His theological Studies were at Jordan University College, Morogoro from 2014 to 2018. He made his perpetual profession on March 4, 2017. He was ordained a deacon on October 28, 2017, at Jordan University College by his Lordship Anthony Banzi, the Bishop of Tanga. He was ordained a priest on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at Paduppu Kerala, India by His Grace Rt. Rev. George Valiamattam, the Archbishop Emeritus of Tellicherry Archdiocese. He is appointed in the Fransalian Community Kikunde.



# **“For God and Country”**

## **25 years of Education and Religious Formation**

St. Francis de Sales (SFS) Junior Seminary was a potential idea 25 years ago. That became a reality and continues to be actualized further. The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (Fransaliens) began the SFS junior seminary to promote vocation to the Catholic priesthood in the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales.

SFS Junior Seminary is a secondary school cum Catholic Junior Seminary where young men pursue their secondary school education while receiving seminary formation. For the Academic year 2019, we have 323 students enrolled. Established in 1993, the first class of students graduated from the SFS Junior Seminary in 1997. Over the past two decades, more than one thousand young men have received a quality secondary school education, life-skill formation and spiritual guidance from the school. Many of these graduates are now employed with accredited professional companies both in Tanzania and internationally. Others serve as Catholic priests in the congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, in other religious Orders and in Catholic dioceses in Tanzania. The motto of the Seminary is “for God and Country”.

### **The Silver Jubilee**

*The LORD is my strength and my shield; My heart trusts in Him, and I am helped; Therefore, my heart exults, And with my song, I shall thank Him.*  
(Psalm 28:7)

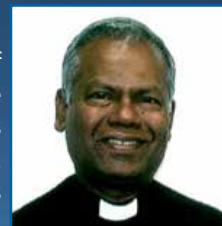
25 years on, and as the Palmist acclaims, we realize that our help comes from the Lord. We are grateful for His abundant blessings. God makes his plans accomplished through persons and events. We have indeed received Lord’s consent, protection, and guidance through people and events for the past twenty-five years. Many fathers, brothers, sisters, and volunteers worked for the Seminary; promoted and supported its developments and growth passionately. As we enjoy the fruits of their labor, we are grateful to them. We pray that the good Lord reward them for their generosity. Our sincere thanks and appreciation goes as well to our benefactors, friends, teachers and non-teaching staff who are all part of this endeavour. God bless them all.

## **The Pioneers of the East Africa Mission of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales**

We gratefully remember and thank our fathers who were pioneers in Tanzania to begin the missionary works of the congregation in Africa. The MSFS started their first mission in Lububu, in the Archdiocese of Tabora. From the Archdiocese of Tabora, the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, moved to other parts of Tanzania and later to Kenya and Uganda. We thank Fr. Augustine Mangatt MSFS, Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil MSFS and Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil MSFS, our pioneers who still guide and motivate with their hard work, fatherly presence and untiring zeal for the missions. We also gratefully remember the late Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil MSFS who led pioneering team in Tanzania.

### **Fr. Augustine Mangatt MSFS**

St. Francis de Sales Junior Seminary is the brainchild of Fr. Augustine Mangatt, the then Mission Superior of the Tanzanian mission. As we celebrate the 25th year of its existence, we thank this Missionary for his great vision, determination and the spirit of commitment. God bless him for his generosity and goodness.



### **Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil MSFS**

Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil, one of the pioneering missionaries of the East Africa Mission and the first Provincial Superior of the Province of East Africa, has contributed immensely to the growth and development of St. Francis de Sales Junior Seminary. During his leadership as the provincial, the Seminary made great strides of growth and expansion. A man of great vision, firmness of decision and simplicity, has spent a great deal of his time and talent for the Seminary. We sincerely thank Fr. Thomas.



### **Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil MSFS**

Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil has been instrumental in establishing the Seminary. He facilitated the purchasing of the land for the Seminary with assistance from the sisters of the Holy cross of Chavanod. Fr. Kuzhupil is rendering his holistic healing ministry adjacent to the Seminary and still continues to be part of the seminary community.



## **The Diocese of Morogoro**

The local Church and the clergy welcomed the missionaries warmly when they arrived in Mrogoro. The support from the local Church and its solidarity with the Fransaliens is praiseworthy. Rt. Rev. Telesphore Mkude,

the bishop of Morogoro, has been a keen supporter of St. Francis de Sales Junior Seminary. The blessing of the first wing of the Seminary was done by his Lordship Telesphore Mkude in the presence of Very Rev. Fr. Emile Mayoraz MSFS the former Superior General of the Fransalians and Fr. Augustine Mangatt in 1993. As we celebrate the Silver Jubilee year of the Seminary, the occasion was graced by the presence of his Lordship with us. We are sincerely grateful to his Lordship Telesphore Mkude, the bishop of Morogoro, the diocesan clergy and other religious congregations of men and women.

### **The local Governments and Political leaders**

The leaders of the local community of Kihonda-Magorafani is hand in hand with the Missionaries from the very beginning to support the endeavours of the missionaries. From allocating land for the Seminary to its present day-to-day programs, the local support that we receive is great.

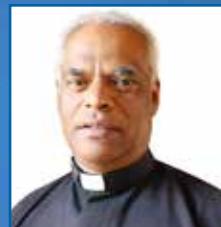
### **The Catholic Communities in Kihonda and Lukobe**

When the Seminary was first established, it was under the jurisdiction of St. Monica Parish, Kihonda. Presently this parish territory has grown and is divided into a few parishes and outstations. We always benefited from the spiritual support and services of the parish priests. We sincerely thank the parish priest and council of St. Monica Parish, Kihonda, the Parish of Modeko and Mt. Carmel Parish, Kihonda for their services and support.

### **Rectors and Principals**

For the past twenty-five years, many MSFS confreres worked as rectors, principals, administrators and formators in the Seminary. They contributed generously to the formation of the young boys entrusted to our care. We thank God for their missionary spirit, selfless service and commitment to supporting education and formation for the future leaders of the Church and the country.

**Fr. Thomas Olickal MSFS** served as the first Rector of the St. Francis de Sales Junior Seminary, Kihonda, Morogoro. He began the Seminary with 20 Students in January 1993. Fr. Thomas served the Seminary as the Rector from 1993 to 1998. A man of great vision and commitment, we owe much to Fr. Thomas Olickal for the great strides of development that he brought into the Seminary.



**Fr. Jacob Thekkakara MSFS** was the second Rector of the Seminary. Fr. Jacob came to the East African Mission as a theology student, studied Theology at Kipalapala seminary, Tabora, Tanzania. Fr. Jacob served the SFS Junior Seminary as the Rector from 1998 to 2004. We are indeed grateful to Fr. Jacob for streamlining the seminary academic programs, adding new infrastructures and



keeping up to the momentum of steady growth for the Seminary. Fr. Jacob Thekkekara serves now at the parish priest of Mother of Compassion Parish, Mji Mpya in the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam. Fr. Jacob also supports the Seminary in his capacity as the councilor in charge of education apostolate in the Province of East Africa.

**Fr. Pius Kochuparmapil MSFS** was the Rector of the Seminary from 2004 to 2009. A man of wisdom and commitment led the Seminary with his fatherly affection and care. Presently, Fr. Pius is the parish priest of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Mkuza, in the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam.



**Fr. Johnson Pathiyil MSFS** was the Rector of the Seminary from 2009 to 2014. Keeping up the traditions of the school, moving forward the spirit of Fransalian formation and education, Fr. Johnson Pathiyil guided the students and the staff with a true Franslian spirit of generosity. Presently Fr. Johnson Pathiyil is pursuing his PhD in Rome in Salesian spirituality.



**Fr. William Sebastian MSFS** was the interim Rector of the Seminary in the year in 2014. We thank Fr. William Sebastian for leading the Seminary though for a short time, but diligently and with significant commitment. Fr. William presently serves as the assistant Parish priest of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Mkuza and the Manager of Fransalian Mission School, Kibaha.



**Fr. Sheejan Kallarakkal MSFS** took the mantle of leadership of the Seminary from 2014 to 2018. Fr. Sheejan, in preparation for the jubilee year together with Fr. Nelson, Fr. Sebastian Annaikandathil and the entire Fransalian Fraternity at the Seminary, renovated many of the old infrastructures, developed additional classrooms, toilet facilities, set up a new library, computer and Audio-Visual lab for the Seminary. These renovations and new facilities will help the Seminary to move forward to its next stage of growth and expansion.



**Fr. Zachariah Burofero MSFS** is the first priest from Tanzania to the congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. He was in the first batch of the seminarians that joined St. Francis de Sales junior seminary in 1993. After completing his PhD., Fr. Zachariah is appointed as the Rector of SFS Seminary from December 2018 and



continues to lead the Seminary with vigour and enthusiasm.

**Fr. Sunny Vettikal MSFS** who served as the principal of the St. Francis de Sales Junior Seminary from 2005 to 2012, a man of planning with attention to the details.

There are also many administrators and formators who gave their time and talent to the Seminary, making it what it is today. We sincerely thank Fr. Francis Kallikatt, Fr. Mathew Chavely, Fr. James Panthanickal, Fr. Reji Pendarath, Fr. Tomy Kattikanayil, Fr. Tomichan Perumanoor, Fr. Johnson Nepolian, Fr. Joseph Poikunnel, late Fr. Joseph Kunnappally, and late Fr. James Nedungatt for their significant contribution to the Seminary. There are also many brothers who did their regency at the Seminary. They all have worked hard to make our formation programs bear fruits.



### **Missionary Collaborators**

St. Francis de Sales Junior Seminary benefited from the hard work and dedication of many Religious missionary collaborators. The Holy Cross Sisters of Chavanod and the Sisters of St. Anns of Luzen were our first missionary collaborators in SFS Junior Seminary. Later the CMC Sisters came to assist us in the Seminary. While we gratefully remember and thank all those sisters we would like to specially mention Sr. Francine Sebastian, (Holy Cross) Sr. Dolorous (Holy Cross) Sr. Mercy (Sr. Ann) Sr. Denis (St. Ann), and others. We have immensely benefited from their presence with us. We have grown and established due to their hard work, encouragement and excellent service to the Seminary.

### **Sisters of Franciscan Clarist Congregation**

Sisters of The Franciscan Clarist congregation from the St. Paul Province, of New Delhi, India is presently assisting us in the Seminary as missionary collaborators. We thank God for their dedication, commitment and generosity in providing formation, guidance and education to our young students.

### **Benefactors and Friends**

We are indebted to many persons, especially to our friends and benefactors for what we have achieved so far at St. Francis de Sales Junior seminary, Morogoro. There are so many of our friends and benefactors who supported us financially and spiritually in our works. Many funding agencies financed the constructions of the Seminary. Others made personal sacrifices to provide financial support to the school. If not for their generosity, we could not have made it.



We would like to remember gratefully, Mr. George Shiners and family, Mr. Stephen Zimmerman, Mr. and Mrs. Werner Muller, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Prunty, Mrs. Eileen Heartel, Fr. John Judie, Fr. Joseph Geifing, and others for their support and solidarity with us. We thank God for these persons in our lives.

### **Messages and Wishes from Friends and Benefactors**

#### **Karen and Brian Prunty**

“Congratulations to the staff and students of St. Frances de Sales Junior Seminary on your 25th anniversary. Living Waters International and its benefactors are happy to be a partner in forming future leaders. May, the united efforts of all bear fruit in making our world a better place to live.”



Karen and Brian Prunty, Secretary/Treasurer of Living Waters International, Inc.

#### **Eileen Hartl**

My first visit to the SFS Junior Seminary was in March of 2004. I'd been a volunteer for Living Waters International for two years, and I wanted a firsthand experience of what my role was in support of the MSFS in East Africa. I'll never forget the day we toured the grounds; later that evening we received a hearty welcome and some lively entertainment by the students. The whole experience was very edifying and uplifting.



I've often pondered the MSFS's relentless task of advocating and begging for the poor and the needy. They're not afraid to ask, and welcome even the smallest donation. To paraphrase St. Francis de Sales, the king of glory, does not reward his servants according to the office with which they hold, rather it is the humility with which they serve.

My sincere congratulations to the MSFS, staff, and students for your SFS Junior Seminary's Silver Jubilee. You serve the Lord so faithfully. “God will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people.” (Hebrews 6:10)

#### **Eileen Hartl, OCDS**

Board Member  
Living Waters International, Inc

#### **Stephen Zimmerman**

Best Wishes to the MSFS priests, staff, and students of St. Frances de Sales Junior Seminary upon reaching this milestone, the Seminary's 25th anniversary.

I recall when my wife, Mary, and I first visited the compound in March and December of 1994. It was the Seminary's first year with only Form I students present. Father Thomas Olickal was the Rector and Father Augustine Mangatt, the MSFS Mission Superior, residing at the Mission House across the street. As I recall, they were the only MSFS priests residing there on a permanent basis in 1994.

Father Zachariah Claudio Burofero was a first-year minor seminarian, and at Christmas time 1994 the house was blessed with the scholastics who'd arrived fresh from India.

Pleasant memories for me, indeed, but just as rewarding are the major advances that have been made at the Seminary in forming young candidates for the priesthood over these past 25 years!

It has been our honour at Living Waters International to play a small part in the continued work of the MSFS in its evangelisation of the peoples of East Africa.

### **Stephen Zimmerman**

Executive Director

Living Waters International, Inc.

### **Fr. John Judie Ministries**

A longtime friend and Benefactor of St. Francis de Sales Seminary, Fr. John Judie from the USA continues to help the students at the Seminary. Besides finding sponsors for students coming from families with a difficult financial background, Father John actively involves himself in providing counselling for students to realise and grow in their vocation. We sincerely thank Fr. John Judie for his generosity, availability and goodness.



### **Friends of Fransalians and Alumni**

Friends of Fransalians are the alumnae of the Seminary. The former students have organised themselves into a registered society under the name of Friends of Fransalians. Friends of Fransalians keep up the spirit of Fransalian formation and education. They are an integral part of the Fransalian family. The motto of the Seminary "For God and for Country" have been realised through the friends of Fransalians to a great extent. Where the students who recognised their vocation to the priesthood have become Catholic priests in the congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, in other congregations or diocese, while others have found their vocations in different walks of life. But they all belong to the extended family of Fransalians. They actively contribute to the building of

the society, spreading the kingdom of God where ever they are.

## **Conclusion**

The Silver Jubilee year is definitely a year of thanksgiving for the whole Fransalian community in East Africa. We only pray and ask ourselves 'What shall we render to the LORD For all His benefits toward me (us)?' (Psalm 116). We have nothing to give the Lord in return, other than our gratitude, dedication to continuing determination to work with Him and for Him. We can only bless the LORD, and can never forget all of His benefits (Psalm 103). God Bless SFS Junior Seminary, God Bless Tanzania.

By,

***Fr. Sheejan Kallarakkal MSFS***

# **OUR MISSION IN MALAWI**

**With this vast experience and living for almost 10 months in Tanzania, I started along with Fr. Anantha Raj MSFS and Fr. D. Nelson MSFS accompanied by Fr. K. Innacimuthu MSFS, Provincial Southeast India, Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS, Provincial of East Africa Province and Fr. Nicholas M. MSFS the Bursar of Fransalins Southeast India Province to Malawi on the 16th of October from Morogoro. I took this time of 10 months as a time of spiritual experience and living with great people of our Congregation such as Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhy MSFS, Fr. Mathew Chavely(my superior) in my life. On the 17th of October, we reached Karonga Diocese in Malawi and we were warmly welcomed by Rt. Rev. Martin Mtumbuka, the Bishop, the priests and faithful of the Diocese.**

## **1. Beginning of a New Chapter, as Missionaries in Malawi, our Mission Country**

Indeed it is a great joy that we reached the Mission country

Malawi, the land given by God for missionary endeavors. After a short visit to some places in Malawi, we started our preliminary language course taught by Rev. Sr. Agnes for one and a half months. By the

middle of December, we were assigned to three parishes for further learning of the language and knowing the nuances of the pastoral administration of the parish. Great indeed the expected day arrived at last for us to open the new mission in Malawi.

On the history of the South East-India Province, the 5<sup>th</sup> of May would be a great and memorable day. Livingstonia, the New Mission was inaugurated by Bishop Martin Mtumbuka in the august presence of Very. Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvelil MSFS, Superior General, Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS, General Councilor for Mission, Rev. Fr. Innacimuthu MSFS, Provincial of South East-India Province, Rev. Fr. D. Amirtharajathan MSFS, the Councilor Incharge of Innovative Ministries and few priests and Sisters of the Rosary from the diocese.

As we started our life in Malawi, we experienced the warmth of the people and the priests. Malawi is the warm heart of Africa and it is, in fact, true to its saying. Generally, people are very open, kind and welcoming. They accepted us so well. The respect and kind gesture

to the new band of missionaries are heartwarming and overwhelming. The people are open to the Word of God and it is really encouraging to work among them because they are cooperative. The Eucharistic celebration is lively and active because of their singing and dancing. The whole Congregation is involved in any celebration in the Church.

The people take care of their priests by way of 'self-support' by giving us groceries, vegetables,



and other things. Even though the parish is poor, they try to look after the needs of us well.

A very unique experience in Karonga diocese is that 30% of the population of the Catholic is children, so there is a lot of opportunities that we can concentrate on evangelization and formation of the children in the Catholic faith. There are lots of activities for the children in



great challenge to re-evangelize the Christians to Catholic fold. We have 7 outstations and 14 sub-stations under our care. We will surely accept all the hurdles which come across our way to serve the Lord and His people.

the Diocese like Sunday school, motivational programme, quiz competition, various sports competitions and catechism on weekdays. They are fed with maize porridge to encourage more children to participate in these activities.

## **2.Livingstonia**

Livingstonia, the first mission is entrusted to us and it is the heart of missionary work. Livingstonia is in the district of Rumphi and 130 km south of Karonga there is a strong presence of Presbyterian Church (CCAP), which goes back to the time of Dr. David Livingstone who came to Malawi 1859. Livingstonia was founded in 1894 and they run a University, Technical College and Hospital. So we have a

## **Conclusion**

Participating in the mission of the Lord is the vocation that we have received from the Lord Jesus. Indeed we are very fortunate to become part of the mission mandate of Jesus. Living and working in this part of the world is yet added reason to rejoice. Relying on the power of God, we have begun our missionary endeavor in Malawi. We entrust ourselves to God through the intercession of Mother of Compassion and St. Francis de Sales our heavenly Patron and Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, our Founder.

By

**Fr. S. Susairaj**

# **Our Mission at AGURURU PARISH**

## **WHOLISTIC DEVELOPMENT**

***John 10:10 - “I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.”***

Background of Agururu Parish:

Agururu Parish (St. Bruno Sserunkuma Catholic Church) is located in Tororo, Agururu along Nagongera Road, in the Archdiocese of Tororo, UGANDA, East Africa. This Parish gained prominence because of the murder of Angelina Lyaka who was believed by some people including Fr. Willemen, to be the “Maria Goretti of Tororo.” Agururu has gradually grown into the church it is today (Agururu Parish has 5 sub centers-Zones, 54 Basic Christian Communities and over 2500 Catholics) by the great Missionary work of Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, East Africa Province, In a special way under the shepherding of the following Parish Priests: Rev. Frs. Joby A. Maruthomayil MSFS (2003-2007), Fr. Devadas Francis MSFS (2007-2008), Fr. Francis Kullikatt MSFS (2008-2013), Fr. Joseph Vettukattil MSFS (2013-2015) and Fr. Sunny Mattathil MSFS (2015 – Present).

Wholistic Development (Balancing Material prosperity with Spiritual growth for effective Christian Community) in Agururu Parish:

Holistic Development is all about transforming the world and the lives

of people so that relationships with God, others and the environment are restored as God intended. So the church must first of all be a model of the kingdom of God in every part of life. Loving one another should result in social justice, righteousness and economic prosperity.’

With this in mind, WE, the Agururu Parish community under the guidance of our Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Sunny Mattathil MSFS, focusing on Financial and Social aspects in our parish community along with the Spiritual aspects (evangelization, teaching and discipleship) to bring a ‘wholeness’ about development in people and community.



**Financial Development through different PROJECTS:** This is especially so in our local and national context of Uganda, growing in poverty. Some Women and Youth from different villages (sub-centers) are the first beneficiaries

and then the Parish community at large. Because majority of the most active members of the parish and the zone are Women and Youth. So with the Financial help of my family members along with the partial support from Caritas small grants, on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018, we have started few projects in our Agururu Parish.

**Projects for Women:** Encouraging women to form groups to become mutually supporting to enhance spiritual and material growth. Empowering women to contribute meaningfully to the welfare of society is part of Christian citizenship.

Young Mother's Hand Crafts (with beads) Project:



Young Mothers consists of young women within the ages of 20-35 coming from Rubongi. This Rubongi villagers are themost active members of the zone. But

the whole village is financially very poor. Due to different reasons, they became mothers at their very young age and have many number of children. Some of these ladies are house wives, some single mothers. So the responsibility of the educating children is on these women only, which they find very challenging due to their poverty. So these project are a big boost for their lives.



Young Mother's Cultivation (Vegetables) Project:



Young Mother's from Chamwinula village are doing Vegetable farming in 3 acres of land which is given freely for lease by Little Sisters of St. Francis convent.

In those 3 acres, women are cultivating Vegetables like Sukuma, dodo, egg plants, green pepper, Green Peas and Pop corn.

## Women Brick Making Project:



Another Women Group from Chamwinula village are doing Brick Making.



## Projects for YOUTH:

Another top priority now is to offer financial support to the youth who are struggling directly or indirectly to meet their needs majorly education. Most of the youths in Agururu community are students, and not from well to do families so they are always asking for an extra hand to help pay their school dues in fear of dropping out.



Youth's Chair Project (Event Management):



Youth's Another problem is unemployment. Some of the youth have no jobs and are idle, this Event Management will occupy them for some time and also earn them something with time, hence reducing crime.

## Youth's Cassava Cultivation Project:



Cassava farming in particular NaroCassava 1, has registered success and still is due to its high demand in the market. Rubongi Village youth ventured into this project, is out of their passion and knowledge of farming. We have a 2acre piece of land besides Mama Kevina Secondary School where they are using for this project. They are intercropping cassava with maize.

Through this project we are not only giving them financial aid but also skill them with a way of making money in the future. They also be solving the problem of hunger in some families that we have already

rendered help to in our charity works, since we are having cassava as food from our own garden instead of buying it.

These above Projects objectives:

To train the Women and Youth into entrepreneurs through instilling hands on skills.

To skill the Women and Youth with farming, marketing and sales skills.

To help the financially needy Women and Youth with financial aid.

To create unity among the Women and Youth through working together.

To form and revive a strong Women and Youth group in Agururu.

Keeping 50% of project profit for re-investment.

Continue recruiting and training young mothers and Youth as a way of continuity after the pioneers have gone.

**SOCIAL Development:**

### **CHARITY WORKS:**

Charity to many is thought of as a rich man's duty, not knowing that it's humane for society to take care of its own. Agururu Parish Youth and Women followed the saying, "If you can't feed one hundred, feed one."



Visiting the sick, elderly and poor:

We started our charity works on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018 that is "World's Sick Day". That day we went along with almost 50 youths to share the food, prayer and little chat with the sick, elderly and the poor in Chamwinula and Rubongi villages. Charity has since then become an exciting activity for us.

### **RENOVATION & CONSTRUCTING HOUSES FOR THE POOR:**



Our parish Youth and Women have constructed 3 houses for three old ladies. Among three, one we have fully constructed the little house, whose house was burnt at Maguria Village. And other two we have renovated, one hut at Rubongi and one house at Maguria.

We have visited and helped a number of needy persons sharing the little we have and soliciting from the Agururuparishners and local politicians.



There are still many other social and spiritual activities done by our Agururu Parish community which will see in next edition.

**(To be continued.....)**

**Fr. Prasad R.P.V.**  
Asst. Parish Priest,  
Agururu, Uganda.

## FRANSALIAN DUMILA MISSION PRE & PRIMARY SCHOOL

Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, Province of East Africa, started Dumila Mission in the year 2000. As the years went on the Congregation found the locality has less development in matters of the parish mission, health, and education. Consequently, with the assistance of the funding agencies, the support of the locals and with the help of the congregation of St. Joseph Sisters, we established the parish mission and a health center in Dumila. Today it has tremendously improved providing services to the people of Dumila and to the neighbors. Due to such facilities, the population of Dumila has improved tremendous year by year.

According to the census of 2014, there are more than five thousand



children living in this locality. Even though the government has established three primary schools with a shift system many of the children are left without quality education. This scenario has given a thought to the province of East Africa to establish an English medium primary school that can provide quality education and enable the students to be

transformed to be better and responsible citizens of the country.

Initially, the thought of establishing school began by buying a land around one kilometer away from the parish. Rev. Fr. Yves Carron MSFS the Provincial of Franco-Swiss Province blessed the proposed site for the construction of school on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2016. Due to some problems we could not start the construction. But we started the school within the parish premises with limited facilities. Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS, the Provincial of South West India Province blessed it on 27th January 2017. People responded positively to these initiatives and within a short period of time, the strength of the students reached up to 75. Inspired by this encouraging response, Fransaliens of East Africa Province decided to construct a school at the proposed land. Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy MSFS the former Asst. Superior General of Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales laid the foundation stone on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2017. Construction of the school started in September 2017 and School construction finished as it was planned. This school has nine classrooms, a manager's office, a staff room, toilets for students and teachers, stores, and other officers. Another attracting feature of this school is the availability of an Auditorium within the school itself which can accommodate more than 3000 persons at a time. Moreover, it

provides many facilities for all the students like pure drinking water, quality English medium education, and extra curriculum activities and so on. On 24<sup>th</sup> January 2018 all students were shifted to the new school premises and the number of students reached 147.

On 27<sup>th</sup> August 2018, was a memorable day for Fransalian Community at Dumila. Rt. Rev. Telesphore Mkude, the Bishop of Morogoro blessed the newly constructed school in the presence of Rev. Fr. Mathew Thahzathukunel, Provincial of East Africa Province, dignitaries, priest and religious from the different part of East Africa. Through this grand opening of the school, it became a symbol of unity and sharing, for accommodating all students irrespective of any religion, gender, rich and poor.

After the completion of the school and being functioning a year ahead, our Congregation could get the assistance from the Congregation of the Franciscan Clarist Sisters (FCC). St Paul FCC province of Delhi, India, positively responded to the invitation and they agreed to send two sisters to have collaboration in Fransalian Dumila Mission Pre & Primary School. In view of this, we decided to construct a convent in the School campus. Rev. Fr. Jose Eriyanickal MSFS, the Provincial Bursar of East Africa province, laid the foundation stone on 14<sup>th</sup>

August 2018. The construction of the convent was completed by the first week of December 2018. On 8<sup>th</sup> December 2018, two FCC Sisters arrived in Dumila to involve themselves in the Fransalian Dumila Mission Pre & Primary School. 5<sup>th</sup> March 2019 was a remarkable day for Fransalian Community at Dumila. Rt. Rev. Telesphore Mkude, the Bishop of Morogoro blessed the newly built convent and it is named as St. Clare Convent. During this significant celebration, we were blessed with the presence of Rev. Fr. Mathew MSFS, Provincial Superior of the Province of East Africa. Mr. George Shinners, who officially opened the convent, and we were blessed by the presence of members of Living Waters International such as Mr. Brian and Mrs. Karren Prunty. Moreover, this convent is dedicated in memory of Mrs. Colleen Krivoshein who was our benefactor.

This year 2019 we have already 194 students getting education in Baby class, Pre Primary I and II and Primary Standard I. We have two sisters assisting in administration, and there are six teachers and five non-teaching staff. The school has been recognized very highly within the district of Kilosa, Morogoro region due to the quality standard of construction, facilities, and quality education. Students from Dumila, Dakawa Center, Magole and nearby places get quality education from this school. We thank God for what He has given to us within the short span of time. Moreover, we appreciate everyone who has contributed financially and supported us in all the ways. May God bless them all.

By  
**Fr. Amal Paul Neerolickal MSFS**

## Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (Fransalians)



Our Patron  
St. Francis de Sales



Our Patroness  
Mother of Compassion



Our Founder  
Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier

### ***Do you like to join our Congregation?***

#### **Qualifications required to be a Fransalian Missionary Priest:**

- Catholic young man of deep faith
- Have good morals and sound catholic family background
- A person of good reputation in the local church and society
- Should have finished higher secondary education and eligible for bachelor studies or above in East Africa / Eligible for Plus Two or bachelor studies or above in India
- Age not more than 23 years unless you have higher educational qualifications, Capacity to live in community
- A man of self-discipline, good character, and right motivation
- Good health of mind and body, Balanced, sociable, generous nature
- Sincere desire to become a missionary religious priest
- Readiness to work anywhere in the world, even in challenging conditions

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# The Superiors General of our Fransalian Family

