

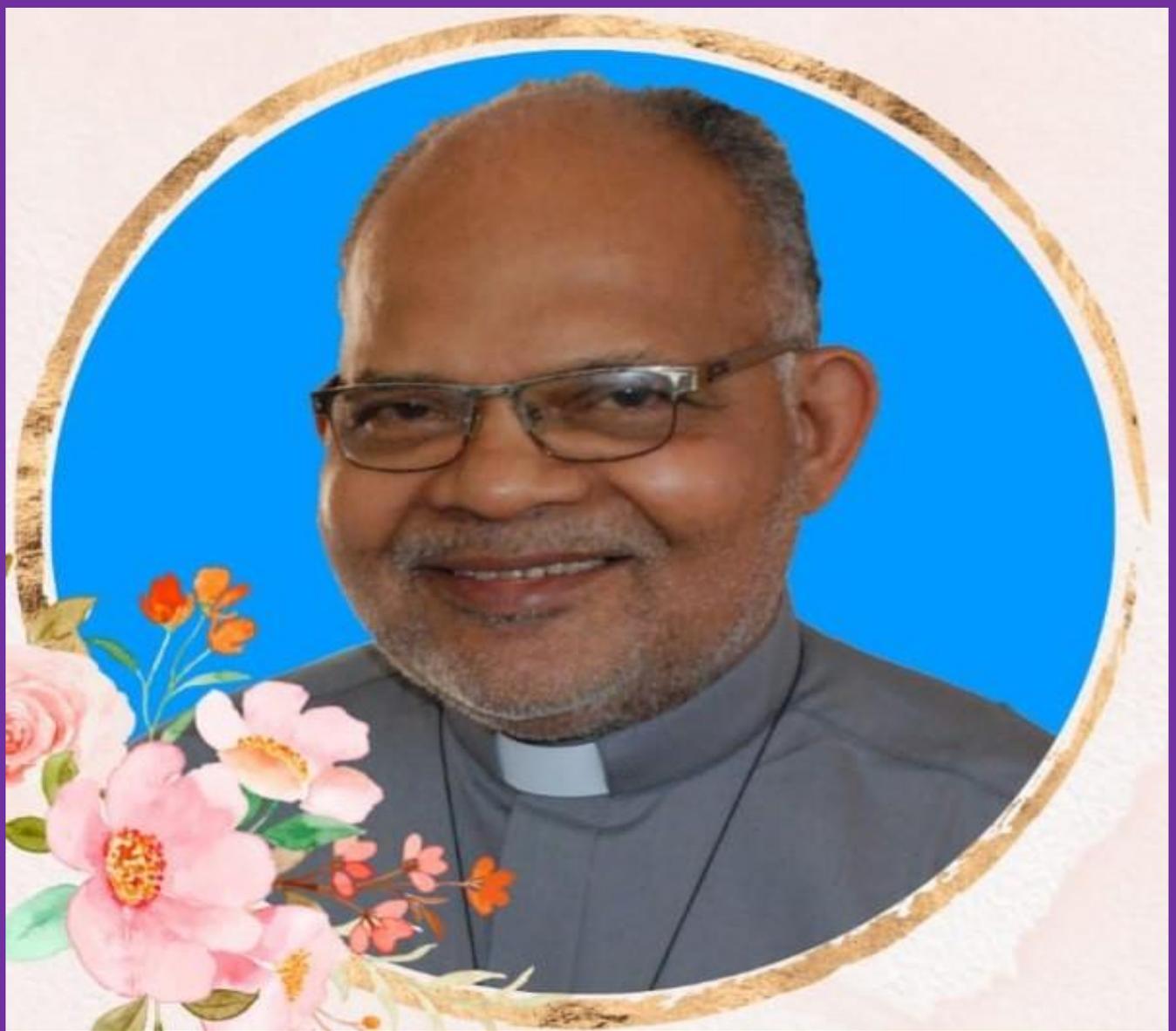
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BARAKA

ZA FRANSALIANAS

HALF YEARLY NEWS BULLETIN OF MSFS IN EAST AFRICA



*Called to Heaven:
Rev. Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil*

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Hearty Congratulations

to the new Provincial Curia of East Africa Province



**Fr. James Panthalanickal MSFS
(The provincial)**



**Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvatil MSFS
(Admonitor and PCIC Education)**



**Fr. Antonysamy Sebastian MSFS
(PCIC Mission)**



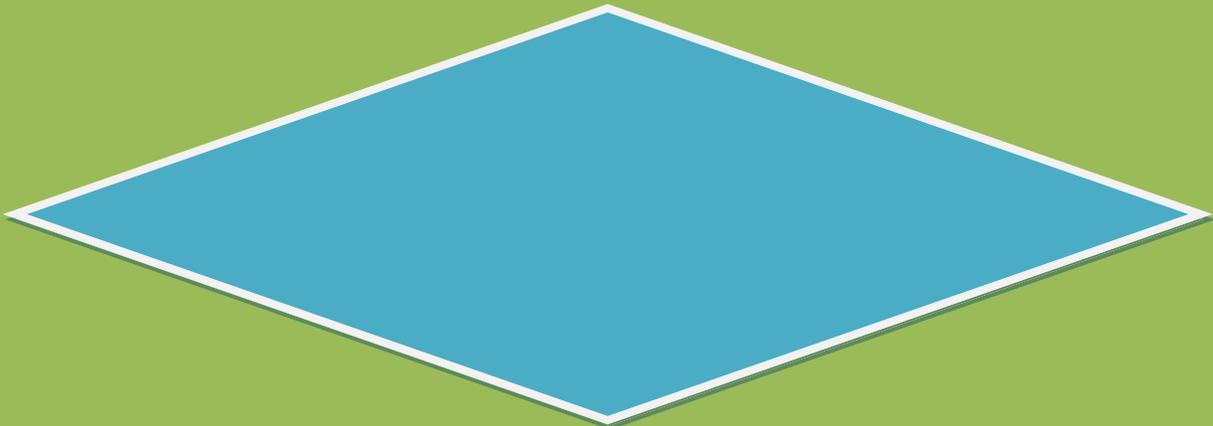
**Fr. Innocent Ngowi MSFS
(PCIC Social and Innovative Ministries)**



**Fr. Sunny Vettickal MSFS
(PCIC Education)**



**Fr. Reji Pendanath MSFS
(Provincial Bursar)**



FROM THE EDITOR

It is said that 'no man is an island'. Human beings are therefore interdependent of each other and naturally relational beings. We relate with others and our environment to ensure our existence and survival.¹ This is true about the Church as a community of believers. As pilgrims we need each other to keep on walking together towards our destination, heaven. The 'Journeying Together' requires us to listen to what God is telling us. He speaks to us through different people and different ways. The journey requires us to listen to each other. The Holy Spirit can speak through any of us, to help us journey together as children of God.

As missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, knowing about each other and the activities in the places of ministries would be also an aspect of unity. The half yearly magazine would let others know about some of the events and activities which have been taking place in our communities and the province at large. This also shows a sense of oneness which is an aspect of journeying together as Fransalians today. Therefore the 'Baraka' Magazine would be a forum to acknowledge and be grateful to God for the works the Lord is doing through the missionaries in the province. I am therefore grateful to all who cooperated with me to see that we continue to issue the magazine.

*Sincerely Yours in Christ
Fr. Moses Okoth MSFS*

Message from Fr. Provincial

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

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24.10.2023

Dear friends,

Greetings in the name of the Lord!

I am delighted to learn that BARAKA, the official newsletter of the province of East Africa is going to be published! I thank all those who have contributed news from their missions for the success of this endeavour. It has been a challenge for Fr. Moses Okoth MSFS to take up the responsibility of gathering news from various centres and to publish them for all of us to read. While I am grateful to him for his generous services, I wish all the blessings in his endeavours! I thank all those who have contributed their time and service for the publishing of this volume.

BARAKA not only informs but also inspires! It provides us with news from various centres in the province of East Africa! It motivates and inspires us to be apostles of the Kingdom of God in the places we are and with the duties we are assigned. God's Kingdom has come near us. It continues to grow amidst us. We share the responsibility of bringing peace and joy to all! May the reading of BARAKA bring peace and joy and let the Kingdom of God grow in our midst!

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

James

Father James Panthalanickel MSFS
Provincial – MSFS East Africa



THE MEMORIES OF FR. SEBASTIAN KUZHUPIL

“Great occasions for serving God come seldom, but little ones surround us daily.”

Fr. Mermier.

I knew Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil MSFS, for a long time. He was a close friend, companion, confrere and a comrade in mission for years. We both hail from the neighborhoods of Athirampuzha, Kerala. His devout parents and inspiration of his uncle, late Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil, encouraged him to be a missionary.

I just want to share only few of my fondest memories of Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil. We nicknamed him as “Kappiri” meaning ‘the curly haired’ one. As a young man in the seminary he was very jovial and cool. He did his studies well and without any worries. There was an incident which shows how cool he was. All the final year theology brothers were preparing for their comprehensive exam vigorously for months. All the more, when the exam day reached closer, brothers stopped evening games and concentrated more on preparing for their exams. Fr. Sebastian was not tensed at all. He was lonesome tripling the basketball to and fro in the basketball court. Then someone asked him; “why don’t you prepare for the comprehensive exam, are you not worried about the exam?” He answered, “I am not, do you know wh.? He continued, “As I triple back and forth, I am recollecting each thesis.”

From the very beginning of his priestly ministry, even from India, he had an aptitude and passion for healing the people. Natural remedies which has less side effects were his favorite. In the early 1990’s he initiated his healing ministry at Lububu, Tabora.

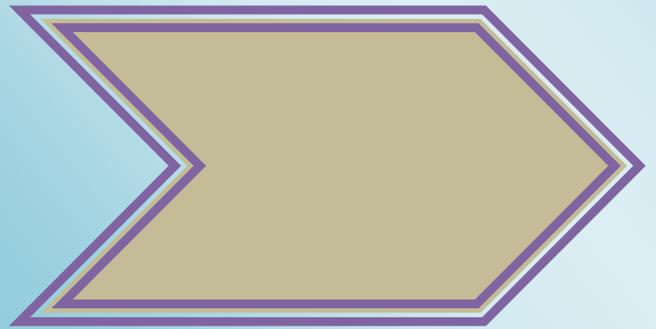
Just prayer and Holy water alone, he used in the beginnings of his healing ministry. People flocked from all parts of Tanzania to visit Fr. Sebastian and to be prayed over. From 1995 to 2021, he was stationed at Kihonda, Morogoro. Ministers, chiefs, priests, bishops, nuns, young and elderly, rich and poor, were his clientele. People came from near and far. Some even stayed in the lodges to reach him in the early hours of the day. There were mini buses bringing people from the town to his holistic healing center every hour. Unlike other physicians, he charged them nothing. Whatever they offered in kind or cash he accepted. Some even after months and years brought him gifts for his service. He was very compassionate and gentle, patient and kind. Morning till late in the evening, he spent for meeting the sick people and healed them. Evenings, after dinner, he ensured that he has read the newspaper or any new magazine which arrived. Just a random reading did not satisfy him, moreover, he had a pen always with him to scribble, mark and take note.

His center was known as the “Mermier Holistic Healing center.” In giving this name he had the opinion that the sick needed holistic healing. Just physical healing alone will not provide total healing to anyone, besides he or she needs, spiritual and mental healing. Besides using herbal medicines, he was also specialized in “Pranic” healing, acupressure, naturopathy, electromagnetic therapy, and meditation. There were many people who had been told by the doctors that their sickness had no treatment available, in their desperate need approached Fr. Sebastain and were healed. He was a true apothecary, who had remedy for all illnesses. He served the poor, being rich in his time, in his resources and willingness to share what he had. He was a true missionary, exemplified religious, faithful friend, and good motivator.

A new venture in to the unexplored mission possibilities in the continent of Africa, was not appealing to many confreres and superiors at that time. Their fear of insecurities, fear of life-threatening malaria and yellow fever diseases, difficulties in learning new language and encountering new culture didn't withhold Fr. Sebastian to embark upon the new African Mission of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in 1987. Fr. Sebastian was one among the pioneers who landed in Tabora, in 1987. The four pioneers, namely Fr. Sebastian, Fr. Augustin Mangatt, Fr. Thomas Kochuparambil and Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil, took up the mission in the archdiocese of Tabora, at Lububu. Their primary concern was to learn the language. There was no running water and electricity. They organized the people, and established the mission and soon set out to begin another mission. They worked hard, day in and day out, explored the possibilities, encouraged many more to join the mission, began the formation of the young and the mission spread out to various parts of Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda.

Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil's indomitable missionary spirit, his healing ministry, his great love and concern for confreres, his humble life style, and gentle approach will be always be missed but always remembered. So far, we couldn't replace anyone for him, he remains unique. Those special memories of Fr. Sebastian will always remain in my mind, but the fact that he is no longer here causes pain. Yet we take comfort in the consoling words of our patron St. Francis de Sales "We must live a dying life, and we must die a living death in the life of our Lord."

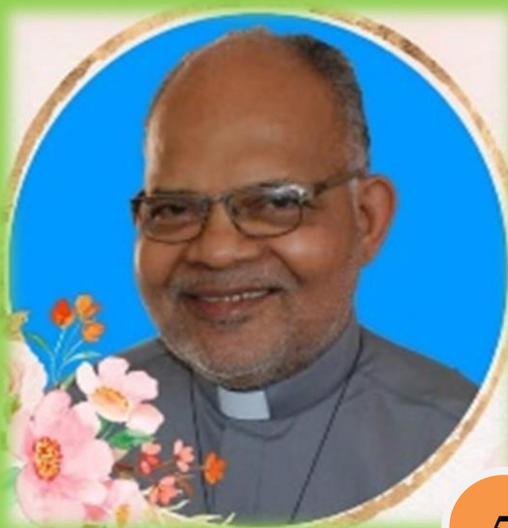
Fr. Augustine Mangatt.



HOLIDAY SAFARI TO HEAVEN

LOVING TRIBUTE TO LATE REV. FR. SEBASTIAN KUZHUPPIL - M.S.F.S

"... He is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to Him, all are alive". LK 20:38



By the phrase 'God of the living', Jesus means that our beginning is not in birth and our end is not in death. We were before our birth in God and we will be after the death in Him. And therefore it's so consoling to believe and to reaffirm that our beloved Fr. Sebastian is still with us, within the mansion of Eternal Heaven, alive in God!

Maisha Ni Safari.... Safari Ni Maisha; Life is a journey, an unending journey to the destiny of Eternity where we belong. Africa is the home of safari, as it is the quintessential safari territory. A safari is the most famous and sought after type of Holiday in Africa. A holiday becomes a Safari in Africa when we venture in adventurous trip into the nature and having a positive impact at the same time.

Well, initiated by the Lord Himself our beloved Fr. Sebastian, launched his safari in the home of Safari (Tanzania, East Africa) in the year 1987 . In the midst of hustle and bustle of life, amidst the healing process and preparation of herbals, the Sovereign God found Fr. Sebastian and desired most, to have him as His safari companion on His return journey to Heaven. He began this adventurous journey of Holiday Safari to heaven on 07th May 2022 as the Lord intended to reach him to a more perfect eternal nature of heavenly habitat, where he could find better remedies from ever fading herbals, for all sorts of human suffering, pertaining to all times and where one's soul could be in perfect peace.

The soul took a swift flight in the vehicle of silent suffering of all realms. It was his spiritual Benz car that the Lord arranged for Him. He remained so composed with a pleasant disposition, gentle smile and even concerned of those who visited him. These were sparks of divine touch on him, despite the internal flames of suffering that made him speechless and voiceless. God's own language of Silence was the medium of communication , between the eyes met in loving glances, heart breaking sighs , suggestions, advises, comforting words that one might have intended to converse to him. God allowed us to see him through the safari unique to himself although there remained many unanswered queries. The hearts of loved ones relentlessly prayed on knees for the Mighty Healer God to work wonders and to restore his health.

After fifty days and nights the safari ended and the Lord confirmed, his safe arrival at the destination, as all the machines that supported his life on his safari came to a standstill at his very last, breath at 03.30pm on Sunday, 26th June 2022. His aching body laid painless, still and cold, peaceful and surrendered in loving sweet embrace with the Lord Divine .The Lord the maker was so determined and delighted to have him as His sole safari companion that made all human efforts in vain to rescue him and to prevent him from going so.Fr. Sebastian has left for a holiday safari to heaven. He is our safari guide to Eternity. And now the time is ours to prepare for such a safari so that we join him shortly. And then sighs of parting pain soon becomes hopes of meeting him again. "For those who are deemed worthy to attain to the coming age and to the resurrection of the dead.....

They can no longer die, for they are like angels; and they are the children of God because they are the ones who will rise".(Lk.20:35-36)Life is eternal, and love is immortal and death is only a horizon. And therefore those whom we love never leave us. They become our guardian angels, in the outfield. He had the heart that cared completely .He had the touch of healing that restored health and happiness. He had the smile that brought much pleasure .He had the love that brought joy beyond measure. In that resplendent will of God, he calmly rests; triumphantly he made it his, and counted it as best.

I admire Late Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil, for his devotion, promptness and keenness in administering the Holy Sacraments and his short and apt homilies. I admire the miracle of Divine Healing in his accurate diagnosis and prescription that never went wrong. He was Jesus' healing hands that could heal and restore health to many helpless poor people who besought him on impossible cases. He was well equipped with updated knowledge, current facts, events and experiences and taught us practical lessons on health and well-being. He was a visionary who was well prepared to meet the daily challenges and kept the mission on going towards progress and success. He was indeed a true shepherd in true terms, who knew the sheep, their wounds and ailments and carried the weak and the lost on his shoulders with love and compassion. Even when his physical strength failed to care for God's people, his heart still throbbed further to precede an extra mile in serving them till the last. He was passionately busy in loving God and serving the sick through his selfless sacrifice, commitment and dedication and kind service rendered from dawn to dusk with endurance and patience. His heart found its great pleasure and happiness in eliminating the pain and suffering of the wounded humanity. Thus brought forth to many, the blossoms of God's healing with love, care and compassion.

Beloved Fr. Sebastian, Indeed, You are alive in our hearts and memories as an inspiration and guiding light on our Holiday Safari to Heaven. ADIEU, till we meet again together with Jesus our Lord and the heavenly hosts!

By,

Sr. Jancy Paul, St. Ann

Golden Jubilee Celebration of St. Jude Catholic Parish Osia

St. Jude Catholic Parish Osia celebrated its golden jubilee on 13th of November 2022. Though the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales began to work in Osia only in 2002, the parish was established in 1972 and the Mill Hill Missionaries were rendering their service in the parish. Osia as a sub parish of Achillet parish was established in 1942. But the presence of Christianity in Osia can be traced back to the beginning years of 20th century. In 1922 the first sub parish was established in Mella, under Nagongera parish. Thus, we can rightly say that people of Osia received Catholic faith as soon as the missionaries brought Catholic faith to Uganda.



To mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the parish, various programs were organized. Prior to the jubilee celebration all faithful were prepared spiritually by visiting their families. A Jubilee Cross was blessed on 28th of August and was taken to each Catholic family within the parish. Before the jubilee day all the families were blessed with the jubilee cross – approximately 4156 families. Thanks to the commitment of catechists and leaders together with the priests who made this possible.





On the day of jubilee, the entire parish joined together with the invited guests for a long procession and the Holy Mass began at 11.00 am, which was presided over by the Archbishop Most Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Obbo AJ – the Archbishop of Tororo Archdiocese. The Archbishop also Confirmed 895 candidates and blessed one marriage during the solemn Eucharistic celebration. Many members of Parliament, the king of Ateso Tribe, the representative of the king of Adhola were among the many dignitaries who were present for the celebration. A good number of non-Catholics and many pastors of different churches also added joy to the celebration. The jubilee celebration ended in the evening with an Agape which was shared by all.

By Fr. Santhosh Paul

REPORT ON THE THREEFOLD SILVER JUBILEE

On 21st of April 2023, the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales under the Province of East Africa had a threefold Silver jubilee celebration, that of The Study house-Kola and of two Fathers, Rev. Fr. Matthew Thazhathukunnel msfs and Rev. Fr. Wilson Packiam msfs.

The silver jubilee celebration of Fransalian Study House- Kola in Morogoro was a momentous occasion that recognized and commemorated the significant achievements and contributions of this community over the past 25 years. Fransalian Study House is a community within the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales in East Africa, specifically established as a residence for Fransalian Brothers pursuing theological studies at Jordan University College.



The house serves as a center for prayer and intellectual growth in addition to Fransalian formation.

Throughout its existence, Fransalian Study House is an invaluable hub of spiritual development and educational endeavors for the Fransalian Brothers prior to priesthood. The silver jubilee celebration was a testament to the dedication and hard work put forth by the Fransalians, who have selflessly served the local community and beyond from the onset of the idea of this Kola community to the present moment of celebration. Their commitment to fostering faith, knowledge, and cultural exchange has left an indelible mark on those they touch. Thus Fransalian Study House is built on the legacy of great men.

Memorable Attendees and Conducted Programs:

Chinua Achebe writes, "When we gather together in the moonlit village ground it is not because of the moon. Every man can see it in his own compound. We come together because it is good for kinsmen to do so." in a similar line, the silver jubilee celebration drew a diverse group of attendees, including priests, religious individuals, and lay people coming together to honor and express their gratitude towards Fransalian Study House and to Rev. Fr. Matthew Thazhathukunnel msfs together with Rev. Fr. Wilson Packiam msfs. The presence of individuals from various backgrounds and roles underscored the wide-ranging impact of this community and the Fathers.

The programs conducted during the celebration were meticulously organized, resulting in an unforgettable experience for all participants. The organizers ensured

there was a perfect blend of cultural, spiritual, and educational elements, reflecting the holistic approach embraced by the Fransalians. From Holy Mass and captivating speeches to thought-provoking jokes, mimes, dances, poem among others. Thus every aspect of the event contributed to its overall success.

Exemplary Achievements:

Fransalian Study House's accomplishments over the past 25 years deserve recognition. Their pastoral support is remarkable in neighboring parishes, providing guidance, counseling, and spiritual nourishment to the faithful. The organization of seminars has facilitated the intellectual, moral and spiritual growth of university students and religious individuals, fostering a deeper understanding Christian values.



The intercultural competitions organized for primary schools have been a significant source of engagement and interaction among young learners, promoting unity and appreciation for diversity. These achievements exemplify the commitment of Fransalians in this Study House to nurturing both the spiritual, moral and academic development of the community, ultimately contributing to the betterment of society as a whole.

The silver jubilee of the Fransalian Study House was graced by other two fold silver jubilee celebrations of priesthood for Fr. Matthew Thazhathukunnel msfs and Fr. Wilson Packiam msfs. Fr. Matthew Thazhathukunnel, as the former provincial of East Africa, played a pivotal role in shaping the Fransalian Study House community and ensuring its growth and development. His commitment to ministerial duties, leadership, and mentorship earned him great respect worth celebrating.

Fr. Wilson Packiam's silver jubilee also held immense significance, as he celebrated twenty-five years of dedicated service as a priest. Throughout his ministry, Fr. Wilson has been a source of inspiration and guidance, touching the lives of countless individuals through his spiritual teachings, pastoral care, and unwavering commitment to the Church particularly in Germany.

Conclusion:

The silver jubilee celebration of Fransalian Study House was an extraordinary event that acknowledged the exceptional contributions made by those who lived in this community over the last 25 years. By combining prayerful devotion, intellectual pursuit, and outreach efforts, the Fransalians have created a remarkable institution that positively impacts the lives of many. The attendees and participants of the silver jubilee celebration were witness to the fruits of this labor, experiencing the joy and inspiration that emanated from the programs conducted. Fransalian Study House stands as a testament to the power of faith, education, and compassion and its commitment to serve will undoubtedly continue for many years to come.

We wish Rev. Fr. Matthew Thazhathukunnel msfs and Rev. Fr. Wilson Packiam many more years ahead in their ministry and we express our special thanks for their past 25 years well lived and served.

Reported by Bro. Peter Eboyu.



FRANSALIANUM NOVITIATE KIBAHA

On 9th July 2023 was a great day, on this day, Rev. Fr. Patrick was installed as a new superior and director of the Fransalianum Novitiate and ten of our new Novices were installed into novitiate along with five novices from Chad-Cameroon delegation of South West India Province by Rev, Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel Msfs. Fr. Mathew in his relection encouraged the novices to discern their vocation through prayer, understand the meaning of Religious Life and vows. He further told them to grow in Fransalian Spirit through imitating the life example of our patron St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Peter Mermier our founder. They were also encourage to practice the little virtues.

THE FIRST RELIGIOUS PROFESSION AT MKUZA PARISH

On tenth of July 2023 was a great day of joy for the East Africa Province to witness the First Religious Profession of nine of our Novices together with four from Chad-Cameroon mission and one novice from Mozambique delegation of Nagpur Province at St. Francis de Sales Church Mkuza, Kibaha (Tanzania). The Holy Mass and the ceremony of receiving the vows was presided over by Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS, who was the provincial Superior of East Africa Province. A good number of MSFS confreres, priests from Dar es Salam Archdiocese, different congregations, sisters and laity were present to witness the event. After the Holy Mass there was a short felicitation program followed by fellowship meal.



ORDINATION OF FR. MOSES OKOTH MSFS EAST AFRICA PROVINCE

Fr. Moses Okoth MSFS, the son of Mr. Charles Oboth and Mrs. Geyunia Akech, was born on 8th of July 1988. He is the eighth born among the 12 children; 8 boys and 4 girls. He was brought up in a devout Catholic family, baptized on 17th of



December 1988, received First Holy Communion on 12 of April 2001 and Confirmation on 26th of October 2003, at Nagongera Parish, Tororo – Uganda. He did his primary education from 1998-2005 at Nagongera Boys’ primary School. Secondary school studies was from 2007-2010, ordinary level and from 2011-2012 advanced level, at Busolwe Students’ Center. In 2013-2014, he joined Fransalian Formation house from postulancy at Ndagani Chuka-Kenya. He did his canonical novitiate in 2014-2015 and had his First Religious profession at Bungo Fransalian Novitiate Kibaha – Tanzania. Thereafter he pursued his Philosophical studies from 2015-2018 at Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha – Tanzania affiliated to the De Sales University, Pennsylvania USA. After the Philosophical studies he was appointed for his regency in Iyolwa Fransalian parish and school, Tororo – Uganda (2018-2019). After his regency he joined the Fransalian Study House Kola for his Theological Studies at Jordan University College (2019-2023). He made his final religious profession on 21st of October 2022 and was ordained a deacon on 22nd of the same year at Jordan University College, Morogoro – Tanzania, by His Lordship Lazaua Vitalis Msimbe, SDS of the diocese of Morogoro. Fr. Moses Okoth was ordained on 29th of July 2023 in Lugazi by His Lordship Christopher Kakooza of Lugazi diocese.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEWLY ORDAINED PRIESTS FROM SOUTH EAST PROVINCE

Fr. Vimal Raj S. MSFS, was born on 15th February 1996. He hails from a devout catholic family of Mr. George Saravanan and Mrs. Prema Vinoliya in Kolar Gold Fields (KGF), Karnataka, India. He has one younger brother. He was baptized on 30th March 1997 and received the first Holy Communion on 12th October 2008. He was confirmed on 11th October 2009. Having completed his primary, high school studies and desiring to become a priest, he joined the Fransalian Congregation where he continued with his Higher school studies. Having undergone through religious and missionary formation and after philosophical studies, he opted to go for mission in Africa particularly in Malawi. This was actualized immediately after his pastoral year, however he had to first undergo the theological studied which he did in Tanzania. He joined the Fransalian study House Kola Community and studied Theology at Jordan University College (JUCO) from 2019 to 2023.



Fr. Vimal Raj made his perpetual Religious Profession in the Fransalian Study House chapel on 21st October 2022 and was ordained a deacon on 22nd at Jordan University Chapel by His Lordship Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe, SDS, the Bishop of Morogoro Diocese. He was ordained a priest on 12th August 2023 at St. Teresa's Parish, KGF, by His Lordship Arulselvam Rayappan, the Bishop of Salem Diocese, Tamil Nadu.

Hearty Welcome to Fr. Britto John to East Africa Province

Fr. Britto John MSFS hailing from Kallakuruchi Tamil Nadu He was born on 13 of July 1994 and baptized on 19 Feb. 1995. His Primary studies was in St. Joseph's Primary School. Thereafter he had his philosophical studies in St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School in Eraiyur. He pursued his philosophical studies in Suvidya, Bangalore and the Theological Studies in the Jordan University Morogoro. He made his Perpetual Religious Profession at Fransalian Study



House, Kola on 21st Oct. 2022. He was ordained deacon on 22nd Oct. 2022 by Rt. Rev. Bishop Vitalis Msimbe in the Jordan University College Chapel. And his Priestly ordination was held on 21st Aug. 2023 by Rt. Rev. Bishop Francis Kalist at Eriyur, Our Lady of Rosary. Fr. Britto John MSFS belonging to South East India Province has been appointed in Ibiwa as the assistant parish priest. Thanks to him and the province for sending him for mission in East Africa. We wish him all the best as he is already committed in his ministry in Ibiwa.

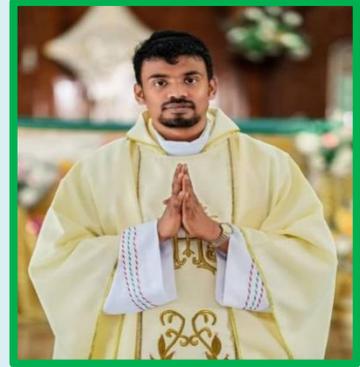
Fr. M. Adaikala Arul Raj MSFS was born on December 29, 1994 he grew up in a very devout catholic family of Late Mr. A. Mudiappan and Mrs. M. Lourthu Mary in Viriyur, Tamilnadu. He is the youngest of the three children. He was baptized on January 15, 1995 and received the Holy Communion on May 22, 2005, He was confirmed on June 07, 2005 at Our Lady of Assumption Church, Maiyanur. He did his primary and Higher secondary education from 1999 to 2012 in St. Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Pagandaikootu Road. Having the desire to become a priest. He joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and started formation at SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai in 2012, followed by a pre novitiate Program in Sudhivana, Bangalore in 2013-2014. In the subsequent year, he did the canonical Novitiate and made his First Religious Profession on May 31, 2015. Thereafter he pursued his Philosophical Studies at Suvidya College, and simultaneously he did his B.A in Psychology at SFS Collage, Bangalore from 2015-2018. After his completion of Philosophical studies, he was sent to SFS Community in Tabora for Regency 2018-2019. Later, he did his Theological Studies at the Jordan University College from 2019 until 2023. Fr. M. Adaikala Arul Raj made his perpetual Profession on October 21, 2022 at Fransalian Study House, Kola and on the following day, Diaconate Ordination was conferred by His Grace Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe, SDS of the Diocese of Morogoro. On 17th August was ordained a priest by Most Rev. Dr. S. Singarayan D.D, the Bishop Emeritus of Salem, in his home parish Our Lady of Assumption Church, Maiyanur. He belongs to the Malawi Mission of South East India Province.



Fr. Arokia Marcel, came to continue with his religious and priestly formation in Tanzania in view of working in African, particularly in Malawi mission. In 2018 to 2019, he did his regency in Kihonda minor Seminary Morogoro. There after he joined the Fransalaian Study House, for his Theological Studies. He made his perpetual Religious profession in the Fransalian study house Chapel at Kola on 21st October 2022. On the next day 22nd October 2022, he was ordained a deacon at Jordan University Chapel by Rt. Rev. Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe SDS, the bishop of Morogoro diocese, Tanzania. And finally he was ordained a priest on 22nd of August 2022 in Pondicherry India.



Fr. Arun Raj C. MSFS was born on 18th July, 1996, he grew up in a very devout catholic family of Mr. T. Christuraj and Mrs. T. Thereseemmal in Tamilnadu, India. He is the last born of the three children, he has two sisters. His baptism was on 25th July 1998, received the first Holy communion on 7th July 2006. He was confirmed on 19th, October 2008, at Sacred Heart Church, Kadayal. He did his Primary education at Sacred Heart Middle School, Kadayal, 2001-2009 and high school at St. Mary's Higher Secondary School, Kalayal, 2009-2011. Upon realizing his vocation to be a priest, he decided to join the congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in the year 2011 and began his minor seminary life at SFS minor seminary, Pudukkottai. There he also pursued his higher secondary education in private, 2012-2014. His canonical novitiate was in 2014-2015, and made his first profession on 31ST 2015 at Salesianum, Visakhapatnam. Thereafter he pursued his Philosophical Studies at Suvidya College Bangalore (2015-2018) affiliated to the De Sales University, Pennsylvania USA, simultaneously he did his Bachelors of Arts in Psychology at SFS College, Bangalore, affiliated to Bangalore University. After the completion of the Philosophical studies he was appointed for his reidency in Betty Boys' Home, Kollihills. In 2019, he opted for Malawi mission and in view of it, went to Tanzania where he joined the Fransalian Study House Kola for his Theological Studies in the Jordan University College, Morogoro, Tanzania.



Fr. Arun Raj made his Perpetual Profession on 21st Oct. 2022 and was ordained deacon on 22nd Oct. 2022 at Jordan University College Chapel by Rt. Rev. Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe, SDS, Bishop of the DIOCES OF Morogoro. He was ordained a priest on 30TH August 2023. By by His Lordship Peter Remigius, the Bishop of Kottar, in his home parish Sacred Heart Church, Kadayal.

Graduation of Class VII, St. Francis De Sales Mission School Ipuli, Tabora

The St. Francis De Sales Mission Primary School Ipuli, Tabora celebrated its 13th graduation ceremony of the seventh grade on 15th September, 2023. In this celebration 149 students were graduated.

The celebration began with the Holy mass which was attended by the whole St. Francis De Sales Mission Primary school board members, grade seven parents as well as invited guests. The chief guest, Rev.Fr. James Pathalanickal MSFS the Provincial Superior of East Africa Province presided over the Holy Mass con-celebrated by Rev. Frs. Joseph Poikunnel (School Manger) and Nelson Vijayakumar.



After the Holy mass, the second part of the graduation began after a small break. The school children entertained the guests with their charming cultural programs. The class seven students were awarded their graduation certificates and those who performed academically well were offered special flagships. The event came to an end with a splendid meal provided for all those who attended the ceremony

Reported by Sr. Vimala Martin SJA, Head Teacher

The Graduation at Fransalian School Mkuza

On 12 of August 2023 there was a graduation in Fransalian Mission School in Mkuza. There were entertainments performed by the pupils and speeches given by different people, appreciating the good services offered to their children. The celebration was indeed wonderful and was graced with the presence of Rev. Fr. James Panthalanickal, the provincial of East Africa who was the chief guest that day. The graduation was well arranged under the management of Fr. Japhet Kirimi and the Sisters collaborating with the Fransalians in Mkuza School. The school is progressing well; a sign of commitment in the ministry of education.



CONGRATULATIONS TO KALAGALA COMMUNITY FOR THE INITIATIVE TO DIGGING A BOREHOLE

The work of digging a borehole began on 6th August 2023 and was completed on 24th August 2023. As we can see in the photo below the work has been hard but due to much need of water of water for the parish, they had to dig it manually as we can men working on it. It has a depth of eighty seven miters. Electrical water pump is used to pump the water. It has a capacity of pumping ten thousand liters in a day. We thank God and appreciate the works of the Kalagala community for the success in digging a borehole. In fact as a newly established parish, there is still need to equip it with such of necessities for running it.



BLESSING OF THE NEWLY COMPLETED CHURCH OF THE OUTSTATION OF KUPALIZWA BIKIRA MARIA – MAJI YA CHAI



The Parish of St. Stephen the Martyr – Maji ya Chai, Arusha was entrusted to Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales (MSFS) in the year 2010. Since then the Mission was steadily growing in number of Christian families moving in the adjacent areas that led to begin a new outstation in the year 2014. The Christians succeeded in acquiring a new plot of land for the church six kilometers away from the parish center. People were so enthusiastic to begin the new center, they built a small church with tin sheets where they could come together to pray on Sundays. And the church was dedicated to the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Kupalizwa Mbinguni Bikira Maria). Initially the center had 5 Basic Christian communities with a total number of 128 families. Within a short time of two years the number continued to grow and the community felt the need to construct a bigger and permanent structure, so by the end of 2016 they began the construction of the new church. Currently the outstation has 11 basic Christian Communities with a number of 214 families and 1,089 Christians. The construction of the church went smoothly with the generous contribution from the Christians, well-wishers and benefactors.





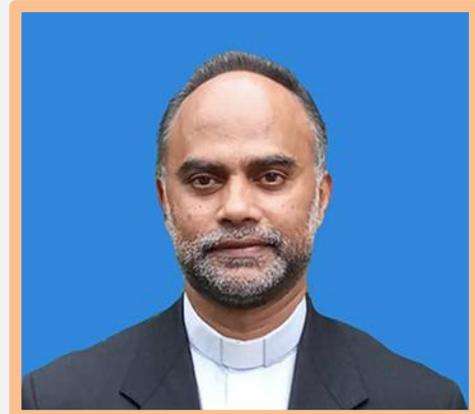
13th August 2023 was a day of joy and jubilation for all the people of God in the Parish of Majiya Chai and in particular the outstation of KupalizwaBikira Maria – Majiya Chai as priests, religious brothers and sisters, government dignitaries and a large number of Parishioners, gathered together to

experience the abundant blessings of the Lord, as His Lordship Prosper Baltazary Lyimo the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Arusha graced the occasion of blessing and opening of the newly completed church and the parish office. In his homily the Bishop thanked the Provincial Superior of the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales and the entire family of Fransalians for taking up the mission in Majiya Chai in the Archdiocese of Arusha. The church was a long-cherished dream of the Christians of the place and they worked hard towards the realization of this dream through their generous contributions and co-operation. Our sincere thanks to the well-wishers, benefactors and Christians for their generous contributions and hard work towards the completion of this noble task of building the house of the Lord. We appreciate and thank specially Fr. Johnson Kallidukkil MSFS, Fr. Nelson Anthony MSFS, late Fr. Mathew Chavely MSFS, Fr. TomichanPerumanoor MSFS, Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil, Fr. Sebastian Palakudy MSFS, Fr. JaphetKirimi MSFS, Fr. Jacob Thekkekara MSFS, Fr. Clement Sudhakar MSFS and the entire community of Lumen Christi Institute who collaborated towards the realization of this project. May God bless them abundantly!

Fr. Jacob Thekkekara MSF

The Installation of the New Provincial

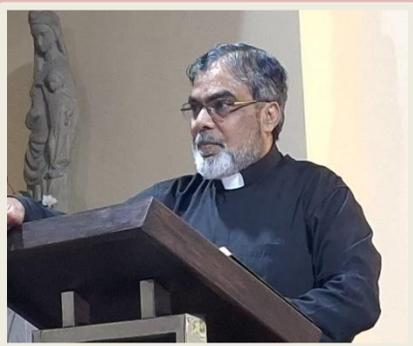
On 15th of July 2023, Rev. Fr. James Panthalanickal was installed to lead the Province of East African Province. The installation ceremony took place in the provincial house Kihonda Morogoro, Tanzania. The ceremony began with the Eucharistic celebration presided over by the new provincial. Quite a considerable number of the MSFS Fathers in the province, the neighbouring religious communities together with the Brothers from Kola Study House attended the event. It was a joyful occasion as the members were happy to have a new leader who would continue to walk together with them in East Africa. According to the new amendment of the constitutions of MSFS, he would lead the province for the next five years. He would be the first to actualize this amendment in the province. It was also a time of acknowledging the great works and achievements made by the previous Provincial Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel as he handed over to the new Provincial.



THE 10TH PROVINCIAL CONGRESS 2023

The tenth provincial congress of East African Province was held from 2nd to 6th of September 2023 with the theme “Journeying Together as Fransalians in East Africa Today”. This took place in Carolus retreat centre, Tengeru- Arusha Tanzania. The congress began with the Holy Eucharistic Celebration as the members invoked the Holy Spirit to guide them. The new provincial of East Africa Province Fr. James Panthalanickal welcomed the member in the 10th

Provincial congress and wished all the participants a fruitful



sharing. It was followed by the inaugural recollection talk animated by Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil MSFS from South East Province of India.

Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhy participated, as the delegate of the Superior General and the observer, of which he was. Sixty three Missionaries from East Africa Province attended the congress. During the congress the members expressed their love for the province through the active participation as they discussed several matters concerning their

lives as missionaries. Some of the members



remarked that this 10th Congress was one of the most peaceful one, the province ever had so far. This probably signifies a sense of respect to one another and maturity among the members, without ignoring the divine intervention in such a sacred gathering. It was a moment of evaluating their performance in the various apostolate, encouraging one another and identifying the better ways of becoming more effective in serving the people of God.





It was also a moment of acknowledging the many blessings the province have encountered so far. The province has been steadily growing and expanding; within the last three years the province had more six priestly ordinations. However there is still a need to promote vocations to ensure further expansion and offer services to more people especially in places where there is more need of priests. There was also a peaceful and successful election of the ad monitor, provincial bursar and the councilors. The members concluded the congress with the holy Eucharistic celebration presided over by the new provincial and the councilors including the ad monitor as concelebrants.

THE INAUGURATION OF THE 14TH ACADEMIC YEAR 2023-2024 LCI, MAJI YA CHAI ARUSHA

On the first of September 2023, the 14th academic year was inaugurated. We were blessed to have the president and vice president of De Sales University, Fr Jim Greenfield OSFS and Fr. Kevin Nadolski OSFS. The inaugural celebration began with a Holy Mass presided over by Fr. Kevin followed by some felicitation and a Talk given by Fr. Jim Greenfield OSFS. There have been considerable growth and development in Lumen Christi Institute as it celebrates its 14th year of existence as an institute. The number of students particularly in Philosophy kept



on increasing. This 14th academic year began with a number of sixty three seminarians in total. Some of them are diocesans and some are Fransalian Brothers from East Africa Province, Chad-Cameroon mission and Mozambique Delegation of Nagpur Province. The Seminarians under the direction of the new Rector Fr. Johnson Pathiyil, are ready to be accompanied by him in their vocation Journey.



Beside the Philosophical studies, the Formators' Course program of one year is still going on well under the direction of Fr. Devasia Manalel MSFS. There are nineteen students attending the course this academic year. There are three Priests and sixteen Religious Sisters from different congregations. Among the three Priests, one of them is Fr. Edward Mgagi MSFS.

The catechetical training which is one of the ministries being done in LCI is still effective as the number of the students attending the course kept on increasing. The training is meant for three months. However there are rooms for the students to study according to their convenience by studying for one month per year until he or she completes the Three-Months Course. This year forty seven of them began in the first month, forty in the second month and forty two of them in the third month. Thus, forty two of them are looking forward to graduate at the end of the third month which will be ending by 18th of November 2023.

Solar Project at Lumen Christi Institute

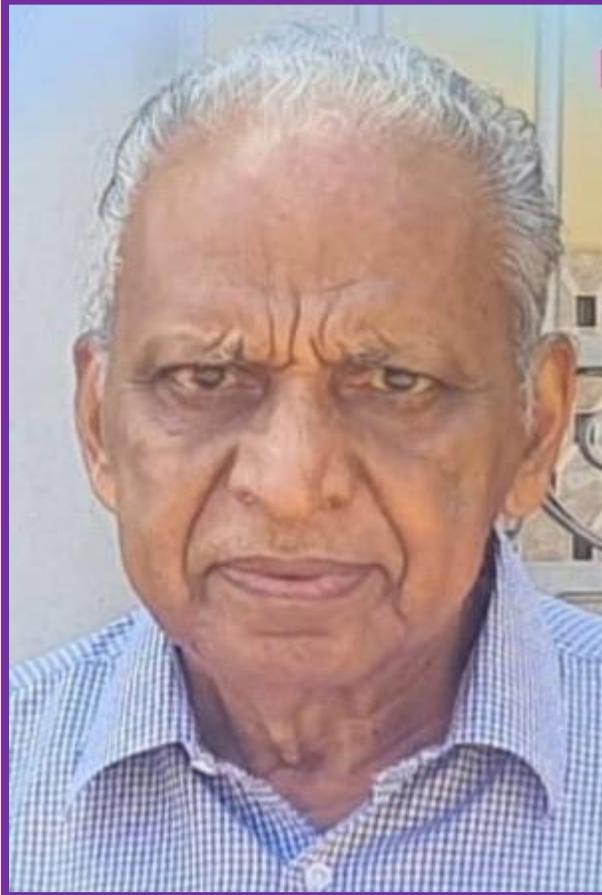
The Humasol project is a nonprofit Organization from Belgium which aims at providing access to renewable energy, water and sustainable technology for everyone. After thorough training to the students or volunteers, they are sent to go and offer the services to different parts of the world especially in Africa, Asia and South America. This organization offers services in Africa, Asia and it is mainly by Students and Volunteers. Fr. Tomas Kochalumchuvatil MSFS got into contact with some of them who came and installed solar energy in Lumen Christi Institute within a period of approximately a month. The solar energy is used mainly for providing light. This is very helpful for the students and lecturers who would do some studies when it is dark.



The five of the students from Belgium belonging to Humasol Company namely, Julian, Julie, Emmanuel, Rhani and Stef, worked tirelessly to establish a solar system in the LCI Compass. The installation of the Solar system in LCI was to avoid inconveniences which occurs due to the fluctuation of the electricity. The system is used mainly for giving light especially at night.

THE DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATION OF REV. FR. ABRAHAM MULLENKUZHY

The Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Rev. Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhy at Lumen Christi Institute has been one of the most remarkable events in the institute and in the Congregation at large since it is a rare occasion to celebrate sixty years of Priesthood. Many priests hardly celebrate twenty five



years of priesthood. Then what a treasure Fr. Abraham is to the Congregation and the Church at large! It was worth joining him to celebrate together with him as we did. The celebration began in the morning itself as he inaugurated the new football field. The entire community members were present during the blessing of the Court and thereafter, there was a football match among Brothers. The day was colorful from morning itself.

At 6:30pm, about thirty priests joined Fr. Abraham the Jubilerian, in the Eucharistic celebration along with Religious Sisters, Seminarians and Catechists making an approximate number of over one hundred sixty people who attended the evening celebrations. After the Holy Mass there was felicitations performed by the Seminarians, students of Formators' course, and Catechists. The speeches and messages were delivered by some of the MSFS fathers including the provincial of East Africa Province who were so grateful towards the person of Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhy. Many

who spoke about him bore witness that he is a treasure to the Church but especially to Fransalians, basing on his quality as an excellent teacher, formator who is fatherly to the people around him and under his care. St. Francis of Aziz would recommend preaching by ones' life and preaching by word would be done only when necessary; here is a Fransalian in the person of Fr. Abraham who teaches both through his life and few words. His few jokes and words are always meaningful and educative.

As he celebrates his diamond jubilee year he acknowledged the love and blessings of God upon his life. He remarked that probably he has lived longer because of his commitment in the daily routine and making a proper use of time. He has been a hardworking person and faithful to his daily schedules throughout his life. The celebration was climaxed with the agape meal in the community refectory.



We continue to thank God for the gift Fr. Abraham in our congregation and the great works he has done in the congregation as a priest for these many years. Completing sixty years as a priest is a great blessing which is worth celebrating. As Fransalians in East Africa we acknowledge and appreciate him for the great work and contributions he has been rendering in Lumen Christi Institute especially as a lecturer. He belongs to Guhawati Province in India but as a missionary and a very resourceful person, he continues to serve in East Africa. May God bless Fr. Abraham, may God bless our congregation and may God Bless His Church.

St. Francis de Sales: A courageous missionary in changing times

Introduction



St. Francis de Sales was a diocesan priest and bishop who was a missionary par excellence. His ability to seek God in charity and to lead the people of God in gentleness in an era of great changes is noteworthy. Despite the absence of all accessories to communicate with the flock entrusted to him, his thirst for the Word of God opened him up to new horizons and opportunities. It enhanced the optimal and effective use of his new methods in the course of making Christ known to the faithful. All his focus was centered on God marked with simplicity. Hence, in all situations of Christian life, St. Francis de Sales continues to exert his exemplary values and directions.

A Missionary in Epochal Shifts of Chablais

Throughout the history of the Church, persecution, challenges, and changes could be traced. However, these challenges in the changing times were always concealed with the blessings from God. The 16th and early 17th century were marked with lot of changes and difficulties within the Church especially the advent of the protestant reformation and Calvinism. Hence, the Church realized the need for renewal within the Church. Perhaps, (as Fr. Johnson Pathiyil, MSFS, notes in his Doctoral thesis, *St. Francis de Sales and New Evangelization*) the entry of St. Francis de Sales into history, fifty years after the Reformation, was a turning point in the life of the Church. He brought new

vigor and life in Chablais mission with flexibility and farsightedness for his flock. In a time of division, St. Francis de Sales concentrated on spreading the teachings of the Council of Trent faithfully and remained a missionary of unity. He had his own ways of embarking his desire to let people understand the love of God by slipping letters under the closed doors of Chablais and would not rest until the faithful accept God's love fully in it. Hence, John Paul II would call him 'Doctor of divine love,' who tuned the hearts of all the faithful of Chablais to God, uniting themselves to Him (John Paul II on the Fourth centenary of the Episcopal Ordination of St. Francis de Sales, 23rd November 2002).

A Perfect Interpreter for our Times

St. Francis de Sales remains to be a source of light for our contemporaries as he was in his time. Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter, *Totum Amorís est*, notes that, St. Francis de Sales is a fine interpreter of his time, who in a new way had a thirst for God and in an extraordinary way directed souls to God. He identified himself to be the instrument of God for the people. In fact, St. Francis de Sales himself would state that, "God took me out of myself... to give me back to my people."¹ Because, his missionary works witness his extraordinary zeal for the faithful. He never succumbed to any changes or indifferent attitudes of the Calvinist influence in Chablais. Perhaps his method (Salesian) characterized with gentleness, simplicity, exemplary lifestyle, small pieces of writings attracted numerous faithful to Christ.

In fact, for all times, St. Francis de Sales has left a legacy of his courageous ventures he had undertaken amidst tiring challenges. He opted for an *Epochal shift* in the way of transmitting faith to the people. Pope Francis would say, "we are challenged to be a Church that is

outward-looking and free of all worldliness... share people's lives and journey with them in attentive listening and acceptance," as in *Totum Amorís Est*. The Church of 21st century is undergoing an even increased level of epochal shifts and changes in times in which St. Francis' flexible new ways of evangelizing is entrusted to each of the faithful of the modern society.

Conclusion

St. Francis de Sales made a drastic impact on Europe of his own times and years after, through his renewed vision and courageous new methods opposed with great challenges. Marking the fourth centenary of the death of St. Francis de Sales, Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvélil, the superior General of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, announced the year 2022 - 2023 as the 'Year of St. Francis de Sales' beginning from Divine Mercy Sunday on 24th April 2022 to the Divine Mercy Sunday on 16th April 2023. Perhaps, his courage, missionary zeal, and thirst for leading people to God through novel means are to be sources of inspiration for the today's Church facing a society which is much more technologically advanced than that of the time of St. Francis de Sales.

By, Fr. Vimal Raj. S, MSFS

PRACTICING THE LITTLE VIRTUES

As Christians, we ought to live our lives focusing on Christ as our model. We are called to live a life of imitation of Christ. In the Gospel of Matt 11: 29 Jesus says that, “take my Yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart and you will find rest for your souls.” The yoke of Christ is so heavy that no one can easily succeed in lifting it or taking it. However, there is no doubt that those who may have the joy of carrying or taking this yoke, have to live a certain kind of life, and this life is nothing but a virtuous life. When we imitate Christ who is the fullness of all the virtues, the yoke that is too heavy becomes light.

St. Francis De Sales; invites us to exercise virtues. The practice of virtues is also a means for correcting the imperfections and therefore there is no doubt that one can come up with a conclusion that a virtuous life is a perfect life. In our daily life, we make different mistakes; these mistakes should not be hindrance for practicing virtues. The daily mistakes are the imperfections which are being talked about by our patron. St. Francis De Sales tells us that, always we must have a good opinion of those who practice virtues although with imperfections and he tells us that saints struggled with the imperfections in practicing virtues, however he warns that one should not simply imitate the way these saints struggled with imperfections, he tells us to be careful in exercising these virtues not only faithfully but also prudently.

People must be able to distinguish between virtues and non-virtues, there are some things which seem to be virtues but in fact they are not, some are habits. St. Francis De Sales calls them ecstasies, experiences of insensibility, impassability, deific unions and others. They seem to be perfections and seem to raise our souls to the purely intellectual contemplation but they are in fact not virtues but they are actually rewards which God gives for virtues.

A person who realizes his/her imperfections and begins to exercise some virtues in order to come out of these imperfections is a Christian or a person who has understood how a Christian should live. Human beings normally are imperfect beings, but that does not mean that one should take it for granted that he/she is imperfect and there are different imperfections and remain in these imperfections. There is a possibility of becoming perfect; there is a possibility of coming out of our imperfections. The most reliable possibility is the practice of virtues.

There should be an understanding that, even though there are different imperfections and weakness, you will agree with me that there is something good in you, there is a given virtue in each one of us although we may have not realized it. And the realization of this virtue and perfecting it, makes other virtues perfect in us and they become part of us. On that note, St. Francis De Sales says that, a virtuous person

undertaking to perfect oneself in that virtue of which he stands most in need for his perfection, should perfect it through exercising other virtues and so, by refining it. All other virtues become more excellent and quite complete. People have different vices, as Christians we should not be comfortable with our vices or imperfections but we must struggle against these vices and as is in as far as it is possible, we must see the contrary of our vices and practice a virtue which may diminish a given vice realized in you.

Practice of virtue is not a simple thing. It is a struggle and a very big task. St. Francis De Sales our Patron struggled in his life while trying to perfect himself in practicing different virtues, Fr. Johnson writes in the small book “I want missions, about meekness he says, that St. Francis De Sales acquired the virtue of meekness as a result of constant struggle and cooperation with the grace of God, that it was not an easy task for our patron to practice meekness, for he struggled with his hot temperedness as a vice and also anger even at a slightest provocation.” But he fought it courageously until he became a perfect example of all virtuous persons to imitate. Therefore although it is not easy we should fight our vices courageously. St. Francis De Sales give us an example that if one is attacked by pride or anger as a vice, one should in all circumstances incline and direct oneself to the practice of humility and gentleness and make use of the practices such as prayer, the sacraments, prudence,

constancy and temperance in order to come out of these vices.

In the practice of virtues, there is a risk of pretence and hypocrisy, one cannot reach anywhere as far as the practice of virtues is concerned if there is pretense in practicing virtues rather, one increase vices and instead of becoming virtuous one becomes vicious. One should practice virtues genuinely in order that he/she may get a profit out of it. Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales and are called to imitate Saint Francis de Sales who graduated in living a life of virtues and died a virtuous person. He drew these virtues from nowhere other than from Christ himself. Hence it is a call to all Christians to also draw these virtues from Saint Francis de sales and live them not only the Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales. With this there is no doubt that we can enjoy the necessary graces in our lives and Sacraments are there to guide us so that we can gain our goal of becoming virtuous. As St. Francis de sales says in spiritual conferences vol. 2 that, virtues are extremely necessary if we are to receive abundantly the graces which flow through the channels of the sacraments.

Conclusively, St. Francis tells us that, we ought indeed to resist the evil and restrain the vices of those in our charge constantly and courageously but gently, humbly and peacefully. With this we become perfect towards God and towards our neighbor and also a means for drawing more souls towards God.

By Dn. Godwin Nanalo

THE PARISH OF JOHANNES DON BOSCO IN GRAZ

The Parish of Johannes Don Bosco in Graz, Austria belongs to the large pastoral care area of Graz-Southwest parish federation, which comprises of a total of 8 parishes.



This parish was established by the salesians in the year 1935. They rendered their service till 2019. Since then the parish took the status of diocesan parish. Even the bus and railway stations here are named after Don bosco.

Our parish Don Bosco at present consists of 9,000 catholics, of which around 120 faithful come for the Holy Mass on Sunday and around 15 faithful on week days. It is a very active

parish with a lot of pastoral activities and by God's grace there are around 120 volunteers who help us out in various activities in the parish. In five years time the parish is expected to have 9000 more faithful as this area is getting developed.

In the parish compass there is also a kindergarten of which the daily running is taken care of by us and for the administration we are helped by the Diocese. It has also a youth Centre with the possibilities of Basketball, football, Volleyball, Tennis, Music learning, Tuition for the students. The youth who come here are with immigration background hence here lies the great challenge for us to bring the local Austrian youth to the centre.

Since 1st of September 2023 the parish is entrusted to the pastoral care of us, the Missionaries of St. Francis de sales. On 10th of September 2023 was the installation of Fr. Stephen Gerald as the Parish Priest and Fr. Francis joined the community on 22nd of September 22. Fr. Francis is engaging himself with the language class.

We are trying our best to get into the system of the parish and to render to the faithful to their pastoral needs.

LUBUBU – ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE

On 16th of September 2023 the annual pilgrimage to the Salvation Hill at Lububu, In the Archdiocese of Tabora was held. Hija Takatifu (Holy pilgrimage) to the Salvation Hill invites hundreds of devotees, the event has been celebrated magnificently ever since its inception in the year 1990, this practice continues every year on the occasion of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.



The Holy Pilgrimage to the Salvation Hill at Lububu was started by late Fr. Mathew Chavely in the year 1990, the first service was held on Good Friday accompanied by the erection of a Cross on the mountain, later Fr. Pius Kochuparampil the parish priest of that time managed to build a small chapel on the top of the hill. The first pilgrimage took place on 14.09.1991.



The chapel at the hill was blessed by the late Archbishop Mario Mgulunde and opened by late Fr. Emili Mayorazi the superior General of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales congregation of that time. So until now the holy Pilgrimage in salvation Hill has reached 32 years.

The entire parish community started the preparation with a nine day Novena. During these nine days of Novena various spiritual activities were held, Adoration, Sacrament of Confession, Retreats, Seminars, revived the spiritual life of faithful. The Novena began with the flag hoisting ceremony on 8th of September, all the Catechists from the outstations and faithful from across the parish participated in the event.

Blessed Sacrament was held. Fr. Martin Pendanath MSFS led the faithful in procession to the salvation hill. This Eucharistic procession reminded the faithful of their spiritual journey toward eternal life with God. More than 1,200 people participated in holy pilgrimage to the salvation hill. During the solemn procession a four kilometer walk to the hill people recited rosaries, sang hymns. Pilgrimage to the Salvation Hill was



Every day novena began at 9.00am followed by Holy Mass, each day mass was offered for the special intentions of the faithful and each day of the novena choir from different outstations sang for the mass. On 16th of September prior to the procession to the salvation hill, Adoration of the

graced by the presence of Fr. James Panthalanickal the provincial superior of East Africa province who presided over the Eucharistic celebration. During the sermon emphasized about the importance of the cross in the christen life, the Cross cancels the record of debt that stood against

humanity. The presence of many MSFS priests from Dar es Salaam, Kahama and Tabora Diocese and many religious sisters from various congregations added beauty and splendor to the entire event. Those who took part in the whole celebration, were delighted to see the vibrant congregation and the excellent celebration. The vibrant presence and melodious singing of the Choir from Ikina center helped the pilgrims to participate in the Holy mass gracefully. Sincere congratulations to Fr. Charles Ouma MSFS the Parish priest and Fr. Avil Veigas MSFS the assistant parish priest who took the pain of organizing the events, contributing very much to the revival of the faith. The annual pilgrimage concluded with sumptuous lunch which was prepared for all the pilgrims.

The feast of the parish was celebrated on the following day. Lububu Church is dedicated to its patron saint our Lady of Grace. On 17th September, the feast day celebration began with blessing of the renovated grotto and blessing of the new statue of Our Lady of Grace by Fr. James Panthalanickal the provincial superior of East Africa province. After blessing the grotto he said “this grotto will truly be a place of welcome, a place of hope, a place of healing and a place of reconciliation.”

There after a solemn procession to the Church started, the Church was tastefully decorated and a strong choir rose to the occasion to make the day’s liturgy more prayerful and exuberant. Fr. James crowned his homily with the significant role played by Mary as a powerful interceder, and exhorted the congregation to emulate our Lady



Of Grace, in his sermon he also said that “the Virgin Mary, greeted by the angel as “full of grace” became, from that moment, the Mother of Grace. As Mother of the



One and only mediator Jesus, she is Mother of the Author of Grace and dispenser of Grace. Fr. Charles Ouma thanked Fr. James panthalanickal for gracing the occasion. He thanked all the lay faithful for participating in the festal mass. After the Eucharist celebration lunch was served for all and in the evening many games were organized for the parishioners. This event united the faithful and brought all the parishioners closer to walk in the footsteps of Christ.

Hearty Welcome to our dear Visitors



Mr. Mihnea Turcanu and Mrs. Annemie from Belgium, are known to Fr. James the provincial the time when he was studying in Louvain.

