

# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

## *Fransalians - Province of East Africa*

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Provincial Circular JK.2

August 1, 2011

### **Beloved Confreres,**

Greetings of peace and joy. This circular is dedicated exclusively for the matters of the forthcoming Provincial Congress and General Chapter. I communicate this, in view of preparing ourselves in the most appropriate manner for the forthcoming Provincial Congress scheduled to be held from September 23 to 28 at Fransalian House, Morogoro, Tanzania. After having convoked the congress with the due approval of our beloved Superior General Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, he responded in the following manner. I would like to quote from his letter dated, July 20, 2011.

“Dear Fr. Johnson,

I am glad to inform you that Fr Thomas Cherukat, the Assistant General and Coordinator on behalf of the Superior General for missions in Africa and a guide to MSAF , will be the Representative of the Superior General at the Provincial Congress of East Africa Province that you have convoked to take place at Study House, Kola Hills. Morogoro, from 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept to 28<sup>th</sup> Sept 2011.

In your programme for the provincial Congress/Chapter, please ensure two sessions to be given to the Representative:

**1st Session ( one hour and half ) before the Elections of the Provincial Congress/Chapter :** The representative will brief the members on the new governance and other relevant matters.

**2nd Session ( one and half hour) any time during the days of the Provincial Congress/Chapter :** The representative will give an animation input on the new MSFS Code of Ethics, its implications and adherence to it.

Through the presence of the Representative I wish to convey to you personally, dear Fr Johnson, and to each and every member of the Province my sincere esteem and respect for the committed work that you will do during the Provincial Congress with the guidance of the Holy Spirit. May God pour out in abundance His Holy Spirit on all the participants of the Provincial Congress”.

We thank very sincerely Rev. Frs. Agnelo Fernandes and the entire General Administration for this arrangement as the expression of their deep solidarity with us. We also extend our hearty and warm welcome to Rev. Fr. Thomas Cherukat as we are informed that Rev. Fr. Thomas Cherukat the Assistant Superior General is designated as the representative of the Superior General for our Provincial Congress

### **The steering committee meeting**

The steering committee held its first meeting at MSFS Provincial house Kihonda on July 27, 2011 made the following guidelines for the smooth organization of the Provincial Congress.

In the opening prayer and in the introductory discussions followed, the members made themselves aware of the sacred task entrusted to them to be of utmost assistance to the entire province, in preparations as well as in conducting the Provincial Congress which is to be the source and means of revival and revitalization of our very Missionary presence and Mission. Reflecting together on the theme of the Congress: "**Fransalians Called To Be Mystics: Enriched by Fraternal Love and Prophetic Zeal for the Mission of Christ in East Africa**" the committee formulated the themes upon which the papers are to be prepared and presented. The committee also took into due consideration the various suggestions and concerns shared by the confreres as responses to the consultation made by me during the recent past from the time of our annual retreat.

Taking into consideration the time available during the Congress, the committee decided to have the presentation of three papers covering the whole theme of the Congress. These papers are other than the usual mandatory reports and presentations. Please note also that this time we are not basing the presentations on the traditional "Forum Discussions" focusing on each Apostolate. On the other hand we are aiming at a deep and authentic study on the quality of our very life as consecrated persons, missionaries and priests.

The themes proposed for the papers:

1. **Our vocation to be mystics of God's love**
2. **Our vocation to enrich and to be enriched by fraternal love**
3. **Our vocation for prophetic mission in East Africa**

In order to facilitate further and deeper study of the theme, the following sub themes are suggested.

#### **1. Our vocation to be mystics of God's love**

1. *Self realization as a child of God who is LOVE*
  - a. Means for this realization
  - b. Obstacles to this self-realization
2. *Implications of this realization*
  - a. Deep sense of esteem for one's call
  - b. Strong convictions of one' call
3. *Challenges for Self transformation*
  - a. Challenges from within
  - b. Challenges from outside
4. *Orientations for Self transformation*

- a. Source and means of self-transformation
  - b. Transformation as basic obligation
5. *The role of initial and ongoing formation*
- a. *Quality and Challenges of formation*
  - b. *Possibilities of ongoing formation in the given situation*

## **2. Our vocation to enrich and to be enriched by fraternal love**

1. *Legitimate demands on us in matters of fraternal love*
- a. *As in the Christian doctrines*
  - b. *As in our Fransalian rule of life*
2. *Objective evaluation of our fraternal love*
- a. Achievements, strengths and weaknesses, challenges
  - b. Role of superiors to foster fraternal love in community
3. *New orientations proposed*
- a. At community level
  - b. At apostolic community level
  - c. At province level

## **3. Our vocation for prophetic mission in East Africa**

1. *Characteristics of prophetic mission*
- a. As envisaged in our rule of life
  - b. Examples from our Patron and Founder
  - c. Examples from the missionary heritage of Africa
2. *Challenges for prophetic mission*
- a. Demands in the present world scenario
  - b. Challenges from within and from the system of our functioning
3. *Requirements, ways and means for prophetic presence*
- a. Evangelical counsels as prophetic expressions
  - b. Identification with the marginalized

c. New areas of prophetic ministry

### **Guidelines for the preparation of paper**

In order to facilitate more realistic sharing and discussions, nearby communities are clubbed together for the initial preparations of the drafts. The drafts are then sent to the steering committee who in turn organizes the further study and collating the papers through three committees assigned for the same work. Each committee will concentrate on one of the papers. Then the second draft is sent to the steering committee which finalizes and approves the paper as a working document for the provincial congress.

It is a must that the discussions are sharing as part of the preparations of the papers must be accompanied by true spirit of discernment. We are seekers of truth and wisdom. In authenticity and with utmost objectivity let everyone share aiming solely at the self realization and self transformation of every one and helping one another to attain true missionary and prophetic zeal.

### **Time frame**

Taking into consideration the available time, we shall have the following time frame in accomplishing every stage.

August 1	The sub themes and the guidelines reach every confrere.
August 25	First draft reaches the steering committee.
August 30	The collated papers are sent to the subcommittees.
September 15	The second draft reaches the steering committee.
September 20	The steering committee finalizes the working document.

### **The communities clubbed together**

<b>Names of Communities</b>	<b>Coordinator</b>
Osia and Agururu	Fr. Sebastian Nirappel
Chera and Ndagani	Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil
Katani and Mlolongo	Fr. Jacob Thekkekara
Ngurdoto and Maji ya Chai LCI	Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil
Mkuza, Noviciate, Mji Mpya	Fr. Sebastian Antonysamy
Provincial House, Dumila	Fr. Jose Eriyanickal
Junior Seminary and Fransalian House	Fr. Sunny Vettickal
Itaga and Ipuli	Fr. C. Arockia Samy
Bukene and Lububu	Fr. Williams Sebastian
Isaka and Mwakata	Fr. Joseph Poikunnel
Germany Austria	Fr. Wilson Packiam

### **Confreres from other Provinces and Scholastics**

In this phase of preparation of the Provincial Congress, all the confreres from other provinces working in East Africa and all the scholastics of East Africa Province as well as of those from other missions now undergoing formation in East Africa are to be also fully involved in the process of preparations for the Congress although they do not participate in the actual congress.

The confreres who are right now on holidays and the confreres / scholastics working / studying in India, USA can send the papers / reflections directly to the office of the Provincial.

### **The scholastics in East Africa**

The scholastics in East Africa are grouped together in the following manner. The coordinator in consultation their respective superiors are to organize the meeting at the venue proposed.

#### **Group 1**

- 1) Chrles Ouma Ondiek (coordinator) Venue Bukene
- 2) Siljo Cherian Aaupadan
- 3) Robert Raj
- 4) Francis Aloo Indimuli
- 5) Japhet Bernard Kirimi
- 6) Kenneth Mwangi Maina

#### **Group 2**

- 1) Joseph Kayanja (coordinator) Venue Fransalian House, Morogoro
- 2) Desmond Tutu Anjuru
- 3) Joji Joseph Vechukunnel
- 4) Sylvester Clement Sudhakar
- 5) John Mbogo

#### **Group 3**

- 1) Thomas Njue (coordinator) Venue LCI Formation house
- 2) Innocent Ngowi
- 3) Aristedes Ndanda
- 4) Stephen Mutisya

#### **Group 4**

All the Philosophy students of LCI Scholasticate Coordinator: Francis Kyule Mwovi

### **The core committee for the preparation of the second draft**

#### **Paper ONE : *Our vocation to be mystics of God's love***

##### **Fr. Jomat Kollapillil (co-ordinator)**

Fr. Sebastian Nirappel  
Fr. Thomas Olickal  
Fr. Joby Maruthomalaiyl

#### **Paper TWO : *Our vocation to enrich and to be enriched by fraternal love***

##### **Fr. Sunny Vettickal (coordinator)**

Fr. Zachariah Burrofero  
Fr. Tomy Kattikanayil  
Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil

## **Paper THREE: *Our vocation for prophetic mission in East Africa***

### **Fr. Santhosh Paul (coordinator)**

Fr. Joseph Poikunnel  
Fr. Sebastian Williams  
Fr. Tomychan Perumanoor

### **Responsibilities shared**

As part of the sharing of the responsibilities of our family gathering of the Provincial Congress, your generous hands are needed as follows:

#### **Liturgy**

Fr. Sunny Mattam (leader)  
Fr. Robert Raj  
Fr. Antony Samy Sebastian

#### **Choir**

Francis Kallikatt (leader)  
Bro. Innocent Ngowi  
Fr. Stephen Ubadesi  
Fr. Pius Kochuparampil

#### **Mess**

Fr. Jose Eriyanickal (leader)  
Fr. Reji & Scholastics

#### **Filing and computerizing**

Fr. Stephen Gerald (leader)  
Fr. Antony George

**Time keeper:** Fr. Lourance Thadam

**Hall** Fr. Reji and the Fransalian community

#### **Notice board**

Fr. Johnson Napoleon (leader)  
Fr. Sijo Pendanath

**Video** Fr. David Soosai

**Photography** Fr. Sunny Vettickal

#### **Transportation and accommodation**

Fr Jose Eriyanickal  
Fr. Reji Pendanath

#### **MC**

Fr. Johnson Pathiyil  
Fr. Jomet Kollapallil

## General Chapter 2013

Meanwhile you may have already received the Ballots with the instructions for the election of the delegate for the General Chapter – 2013. The booklet named *Preparation for the 19th General Chapter* is also being dispatched to each one of you. The document is self-explanatory and I request every confrere to commit oneself for the same. From now on the entire congregation is called up on to be actively involved in this process of discernment. I also request the conveners of Apostolic Communities to organize the necessary discussions and to send the reports on time.

Since the themes and the subthemes of our Provincial Congress are in line with the themes of the General Chapter all our deliberations now in preparation for the Congress as well the Congress itself will assist us to prepare well for the General Chapter.

Beloved Confreres,

Although the actual sessions of the Congress and Chapter are yet to come, let us remind ourselves that we are already participating in the Congress and Chapter. As true members of our Fransalian Family, we have the bounden duty to commit ourselves whole heartedly to this noble and sacred task. Let us continue to pray fervently for the forthcoming meetings. There are also already formulated prayers given along with the booklet *Preparation for the 19th General Chapter*. Please pray them as individuals and as communities. In every Eucharist we celebrate, let us also offer our beloved Fransalian family for the healing and enriching touch of the Eucharistic Lord.

I wish you every blessing and grace needed. May Mother Mary guard and guide us in everything we do in preparation for our Provincial Congress and General Chapter. May the intercession of our Holy Founder Servant of God Fr. Peter Mary Mermier whose “African Vision” we wish to live, intercede for us.

Yours in the Lord,



Fr. Johnson Kallidukil msfs  
Provincial East Africa Province

And so, from the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. Col.1:9-10