

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES



Fransalians - Province of East Africa

Provincial House P. O. Box 12 Morogoro Tanzania

Tel: +255 787 766 555; +255 754 652 166

E-mail: msfsmoro@gmail.com johnsonmsfs@gmail.com

Provincial Circular JK.05

December 20, 2011

Beloved confreres!

The Savior is born! There is reason for us to rejoice for God has gifted Himself for us. Emmanuel - *the God with us* - left for us this message: *Do this in memory of me*. This text implies not only the institution of the Eucharist, but also a call TO BE whatever Jesus was and is. Just as God became a visible gift for me, I need to be a gift for the other. When we wish Merry Christmas to each other, when we exchange gifts, the true message that we communicate is that "I am ready to be a gift for you" Let us be ready to live a life that is really a gift – a blessing and not a curse for the other.

Beloved confreres and friends, as I wish you the joy and blessings of Christmas, it is my prayer that we become gifts to each other. Let us also recognize the OTHER as a precious gift from God. No matter how well or not so well the gift is packed, what matters is what is within. After all, God's gift for us in the person of Jesus was presented to us in dry grass in a manger!

Canonical visitation to Kenya

From November 26 to December 6, 2011, I conducted the canonical visitation to all our communities, institutions and parishes in Kenya. It was a very beautiful experience of staying in the communities, directly sharing in the concerns of life and ministry. One month prior to the scheduled dates of visitations, instructions were given to the communities regarding the preparations for the visitations. The confreres were very cooperative and spared no efforts to fulfill all the possible requirements in the given situation. I had also the chance to have meeting with the Local Ordinaries of Catholic dioceses of Machakose and Meru. Both of them were very much appreciative of the presence and works of our confreres. As part of the visitation there was also meeting with the parish leaders and sharing the fellowship meals with them. I also availed the opportunity to have some discussions with the authorities of some women religious congregations exploring the possibilities of collaboration with us in our apostolate. After the canonical visitation which is a process of collective discernment, every community is given an official post visitation report by the Provincial summarizing the inspirations with the instructions for the matters to be followed up. May I thank all the confreres in Kenya for their whole hearted cooperation and support in this event of visitation.

Conferring of ministries

On December 10, 2011 at Fransalian House in Kola, Morogoro, two of the scholastics namely Bro. A. Robert and Bro. Clement Sudhakar were given the ministries of Acolyte and Lector respectively. We congratulate them and wish them every grace to fulfill well their duties and responsibilities in the church.

General Chapter 2013

I would like to remind you that now it is time for the preparations for the draft of the working paper II for the General Chapter. The theme is: *Religious life: A prophetic vision*. At the apostolic community level, please study the paper given in the booklet and prepare the draft in our context and send to me as early as possible.

Initiation to Pre-novitiate

The Aspirants at Fransalian Seminary Ndagani will be initiated into the Pre- Novitiate on January 30, 2012. Fr. Pius Kochuparampil the Councilor in-charge of formation will officiate the mass and the worthy candidates will be received into the pre-novitiate formation program.

Appointments

Fr. Lawrence Thadathil is designated to be appointed as Chaplain to the University students at Chuka University Meru, Kenya. This is an additional responsibility on him while being the Rector of the Fransalian Seminary, Ndagani.

Fr. Antony George is appointed to be Assistant Manager of the Fransalian Mission School Mkuza. He continues to be the Assistant Parish Priest at St. Francis de Sales Parish Mkuza.

Fr. Sheejan Kallarakkal has assumed the office of the provincial bursar from December 15, 2011. He continues to assist at Fransalian School Mkuza.

Fr. Devadoss Francis is temporarily appointed to the MSFS Community of Mlologo, Kenya with effect from December 10, 2011.

Swahili language course

Our confreres **Fr. Antony Rajesh**, **Fr. Simon Raja** and **Fr. Joseph Vettukattil** are now attending an intensive Swahili learning program at Lumen Christi Institute Arusha. The course is scheduled to end on Dec.23 and we wish them more effective ministry in their respective places.

Out of Africa

The seventh issue of **Out of Africa** is already on the way to you. With a superb cover design, perfect color combination and a caption "TOGETHER TOWARDS TOMORROW, the news bulletin has a very attractive look. The content too is informative and inspiring disseminating the missionary vibrancy of the Fransalians in the African continent. Our sincere congratulations to **Fr. Gijo Panamattathil MSFS** the chief editor and all the associate editors on this remarkable achievement.

East Africa news bulletin

I would like to remind you that the news letter of our province is scheduled to be ready on March 1, 2012. Please send the information, news, photos and relevant articles to **Fr. Stephen Gerald** as early as possible. geraldin29@rediffmail.com . You are welcome to suggest an apt name for the news bulletin.

Confreres on home holidays:

Fr. Jomet Kollapallil (anticipated)	Dec 15, 2011 to Jan, 31, 2012
Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel	Dec 19, 2011 to Feb 20, 2012
Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil	Jan 17, 2012 to Mar 17, 2012
Fr. Kurian Kollappallil	Jan 03, 2012 to Jan 18, 2012

We wish them safe journey, happy time at home and the Christmas with the beloved ones !

Visit by Fr. Kurian Kollapallil

Fr. Kurian Kollapallil will be paying a short visit to Tanzania from December 27, 2011 to January 3, 2012 on his way from USA to India for the home holidays. He will be going to India further for short holidays. We extend to him a warm welcome and wish him safe flight and pleasant stay with us.

New Address

Fr. James Panthalanickal MSFS

Amerikaans College

Naamsestraat 100

3000 Leuven, Belgium Tel. Landline: +3216320057

Looking forward

I am very glad to inform you that from March 3 to 18, 2012 we will have the honor of welcoming 18 guests from Germany under the auspices of the long standing bond of friendship and collaboration between the **Fransalians in East Africa** and the **Rotarians of Karlstadt – Arnstein Germany**. The team is lead by Fr. Thomas Chozhithara and Mr. Peter Tiefentahler the president of the Rotary club. They will be visiting many of our stations in Tanzania. More details about their itinerary will be given later. We wish them good time in preparation of the trip and safe journey. *Karibuni Sana!*

Blessing of Grotto of Our Lady

On December 8, 2011 a newly constructed grotto of Our Lady was blessed at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Mkuza. The faithful expressed their great joy and gratitude as they were given this beautiful gift and promised that the place would be considered as a holy place used for prayers and meditations and they would make every effort to protect the sanctity the grotto and the surroundings. My sincere appreciation for our confreres, faithful and the religious of the Mkuza parish for this remarkable achievement.

Let us pray for the departed:

Mr. Thomachan Mloparambil, the maternal uncle of Fr. Sebastian Kuzhuppil, died on Dec.6, 2011. May the soul of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Welcome back Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal

After having completed the Training Modules as part of the course in **Mres** (Master of Research) - in Business and Management at the University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland, Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal has come back to Tanzania. We congratulate him and wish him all the best in his new assignment as the provincial bursar and in his further studies.

Filing the official documents from administration

I would like to remind you that every community should have files preserving the hard copy of the circular and other official documents from the Provincial and General Administration. It must be kept in a place accessible to all the members of the community.

My Programs

December 2011

- 11 – 15 Visit to all the communities in Tabora and Kahama
- 24 Visit to the communities in Mji Mpya, Mkuza and Novitiate
- 25 Christmas Mass with the Faithful in Dumila parish
- 26 to 31 Guiding a retreat in Morogoro

January 2012

- 8 Mass with the faithful Lukobe Mission
- 13 Travel to Tabora
- 14 to 15 Canonical Visitation MSFS Community Itaga, Tabora
- 15 Mass with the faithful Itaga Parish
- 15 Evening to Ipuli
- 16 to 18 Canonical Visitation MSFS Community Ipuli, Tabora
- 18 Evening to Bukene
- 19 Evening to Lububu
- 20 Evening to Mwakata
- 21 Opening of the academic year at SFS VTC Mwakata
- 21 Meeting with the Local ordinary Kahama Diocese
- 21 Evening to Isaka
- 22 Feast of St. Francis de Sales Isaka Parish, Mass with the faithful
- 23 Travel back to Morogoro
- 24 Feast of St. Francis de Sales - Morogoro
- 25 to 26 Council Meeting
- 27 to 28 Regents' half yearly Meeting Morogoro
- 29 Mass with the faithful Mkambarani Mission

February 2012

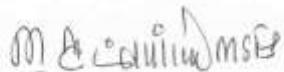
- 5 Mass with the Faithful in Mkuza Parish, Kibaha
- 6 to 10 Canonical Visitation and classes in the Novitiate
- 12 Mass with the Faithful Mji Mpya Parish, Dar es Salaam

Beloved Confreres!

May this Christmas be one of peace and true joy for you. In love and service let us be gifts to each other. In our celebrations let us never forget the pain and disgraceful experiences of our Mother Mary in giving birth to her in a manger. Let us remember the unfortunate ones who wish to celebrate as we do, but have no means. May the inspirations and joy that you receive at this Christmas remain with you throughout your life especially during the coming New Year 2012.

United with you in the person of Jesus our Savior,

Yours in the Eucharistic Lord



Fr. Johnson Kallidukil msfs
(Provincial Superior MSFS East Africa Province)

My brothers, fill your minds with everything that is true, everything that is noble, good and pure.

(cf. Phil. 4: 8)