

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES



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Provincial Circular EAP- JK.11

July 15, 2012

Beloved Confreres!

I am very glad to greet you in this circular today. It is exactly one year since I assumed the office as the Provincial in the ministry of servant leadership. We are also completing 16 years of our presence as MSFS East Africa Province. Throughout our missionary presence since 1987, we see the clear guiding hands of God in all that we do. Marvellous are the ways of God in our lives and ministry.

As a religious family of the Province today we are 78 professed members: 47 priests, one deacon and 30 temporary professed members. In East Africa we are present in 21 centres (communities) spread in 8 dioceses. Three of our priests are at the service of Lumen Christi Institute Arusha, one is at the service of the General Administration. Four are perusing higher studies. Three are working in developed countries and another two are designated for the same. We have now 34 of us working in 21 centres in East Africa and at our community in Angamaly, India.

Our area of apostolate today in the territory of East Africa and directly under the jurisdiction of East Africa Province include: 13 parishes (with an average of 20 outstations each) 2 semi-autonomous mission centres, one Chaplaincy at University, three formation houses, seven Nursery schools, six primary schools, three institutions of higher secondary learning, three vocational training centres, Hostels for students and several social, community development and healthcare facilitations to mention some of them: Mermier Holistic Healing/ Optical Centre, SFS Children Homes, *Furaha* Project for the visually impaired, NGO Foster-Africa, Fransalian Communications and the dispensaries under the management of the respective parishes. As we notice while the volume and the intensity of the Apostolate were on rapid increase, the increase in the number of confreres available for ministry was not so rapid.

However the volume and the intensity of work should never frighten us. If it is for the Lord that we work, He will never overburden us. Not that our works will be reduced but he is ever ready to provide us with the means needed for our works. The more we go to Jesus, the more He will come INTO us. *His being in us* is our power. Beloved confreres, I sincerely thank you for being together in our united efforts to do the mission of the Lord. I thank you for your support and encouragements. With deep sentiments of gratitude I acknowledge the good rapport from all ecclesiastical and civil authorities, our benefactors and donor organizations, our collaborators missionary partners in our being united in the one mission of the Lord.

Annual retreats 2012 in the Province

By the grace of God and with the cooperation of all concerned the annual retreats were conducted as planned in two sessions at Fransalian Scholasticate Kola, Morogoro and at Lumen Christi Institute Arusha. Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas availed himself for both retreats aiming at better understanding and imbibing the true spirit of our constitutions. The participation in the retreat was 100% as all the members of the Province present in East Africa made genuine efforts to free themselves from various engagements and participated in the retreat. I sincerely thank each of you dear confreres for your openness and docility to the directives given. Once again I avail myself of this opportunity to thank Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas for his very dedicated service by guiding us through the retreats throwing

enlightening us on the spirit of our hallowed Constitutions. I also thank the Fransalian community Kola and the LCI Community Arusha for the venue and for the very efficient organization of the retreats.

Admittance to Novitiate

In a simple ceremony held at Fransalianum novitiate, Kibaha, Tanzania on July 9, 2012 nine candidates from different mission units of MSAF were admitted to the canonical novitiate. Three of them are from Cameroon, four from Uganda one from Tanzania and one from Kenya. I also take this opportunity to thank and appreciate the efforts made by the vocation promoters and the Formator at Ndagani Seminary Fr. Lourance Thadathil. The new novices are:

East Africa Province

1. Ambongo Orengo Joseph
2. Kisseka Joseph Walugembe
3. Lubega Aloizio Gonzaga
4. Musugu Denis
5. Remijus Danda
6. Wasswa Brian

Chad-Cameroon Mission/South West India Province

1. Boris Nixon M
2. Etaba Emmanuel Cyrille
3. Nguimatio Peygres Senghor

We wish them a graceful time of discernment and strengthening of their vocation.

First Profession

On July 10, 2012 eight novices from different mission units of MSAF made their First Profession at Noviciate House, Kibaha during the solemn Eucharistic celebration officiated by His Eminence Polycarp Cardinal Pengo. I also take this opportunity to thank the Director of novices Fr. Antonysamy Sebastian and Fr. Zachariah Burrofero for their dedicated works of facilitating formation to them. The following made their first profession:

Province of East Africa

1. Gregory Mua Mutisya
2. John Dennis Dindi
3. Leonard Musembi Ngumbi
4. Michael Mwangi Mumbi
5. Ssentamu Ruthitical

Southern African Region / NE India Province

1. Kennedy Mwakio Mwamburi
2. Patropio Mutangili Mungala

Mozambique Mission / Nagpur Province

1. Moises Goma Supaida

On May 31, 2012 Novice Amal Neerolickal made his First Profession at Sneha Jyothi MSFS Novitiate house, Kerala India. On behalf of the Province of East Africa, I express sincere thanks to the Formators and the Provincial administration of South West India Province for the same.

Renewal of vows and promotion to further stages of formation

The scholastics who made their first profession or those who renewed their vows in May-June this year are promoted for the various stages of formation/ studies.

First Year Philosophy

1. Gregory Mua Mutisya
2. John Dennis Dindi
3. Leonard Musembi Ngumbi
4. Michael Mwangi Mumbi
5. Ssentamu Ruthitical

Second year Philosophy

1. Richard Tamaro Gitono
2. Paul Onyango
3. Julius Alex Woniala

Third year Philosophy

1. Francis Kyule Mwovi
2. Gabriel Ashindu Away
3. Gerald Mabiriizi Ssekalembe
4. Ibrahim Kiseegerwa Musajja
5. Jonathan Muema Mutunga
6. Lawrence Sebowa
7. Martin Pendanath
8. Patrick Titus Musyimi
9. Simon Peter Nabende

Regency

1. Amal Paul Neerolickal

Designated for further studies (M.Ph.)

1. Francis Ndimuli Aloo
2. Kenneth Maina

First Year Theology

1. Aristedis Danda
2. Jobin Karottukambadathil
3. Stephen Mutisya
4. Thomas Njue

Second Year Theology

1. Charles Ondiek
2. Japhet Kirimi
3. Joseph Kayanja
4. Siljo Aupadan

Third Year Theology

1. Clement Sudhakar

Fourth Year Theology

1. Robert Antonysamy

Appointments/ transfers/assignments

Fr. James Nedungatt is designated to be appointed as the parish priest (*priest in-charge* according to the ecclesiastical usage in Kenya) of St. Michael's Catholic Parish Chera, Meru Diocese, Kenya with effect from September 30, 2012. He is also appointed to render assistance in formation at Fransalian Seminary Ndagani.

Deacon Innocent Ngowi – God willing - expected to be ordained priest on July 28, 2012 would be designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of Our Lady of Compassion Parish Mji Mpya Relini, Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with effect from July 28, 2012.

Fr. Zachariah Burrofero: With effect from June 27, 2012 Fr. Zachariah is relieved from all until then given responsibilities and is designated to pursue his doctoral studies in Catechesis and Youth Ministry at Salesian University in Rome.

Fr. Thomas Olickal: As Fr. Thomas is awaiting the visa for the pastoral works in USA, from August 1, 2012, he will join the MSFS Community at Ndagani and render his services in formation until the time of departure to USA or until further arrangements are made.

Fr. Sebastian Palakudy: From September 2012 he will do the MA in Counselling and Family Studies at the Pontifical John Paul II Institute, at Changanassery, Kerala India. He will continue to be the member of the MSFS Community at Angamaly.

Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly: With effect from June 30, 2012 Fr. Joseph is relieved from all the responsibilities at Dumila Parish and is transferred to MSFS Provincial House Community.

Fr. Stephen Gerald: With effect from August 1, 2012 Fr. Gerald is relieved from the present responsibilities at Mji Mpya Relini Parish Dar es Salaam. In the month of August he will render his services at the Provincial House/other communities as and when required. He is designated for pastoral ministry in the Diocese of Eissenstadt, Austria. From October 20 he will be learning German language at Goethe Institute Pune, India.

Bro. Francis Ndimuli Aloo is appointed to the MSFS Community at SFS Seminary Kihonda from September 5, 2012 in order to share in the responsibilities of the community and to pursue the MA Philosophy studies at Jordan University College, Morogoro.

Bro. Kenneth Maina is appointed to MSFS Provincial House Community, Kihonda from September 15, 2012 in order to share in the responsibilities of the community and to pursue the MA Philosophy studies at Jordan University College, Morogoro.

Bro. Amal Paul Neerolickal is appointed to do the regency in MSFS Community Ipuli Tabora, Tanzania. He is to report to Ipuli on August 12, 2012.

Vocation Promoter: With effect from July 1, 2012 Deacon Innocent Ngowi is appointed as the Vocation Promoter in Tanzania and as the General coordinator of vocation Promotion of the Province.

Final Profession: In his letter dated June 23, 2012 Fr. Agnelo Fernandes has given the approval for the promotion to the final profession of Bro. Robert Antonysamy. We thank Fr. Agnelo and the General Administration for the same and express our heartfelt congratulations to Bro. Robert Antonysamy.

Forum Meetings: As planned the Superiors' Forum and the Pastoral Forum had the due meetings on June 23, 2012. I thank all the participants, convenors and the secretaries for the sharing and the good participation in making the meetings to bring to our attentions many matters that we need to look into as religious and pastors.

Please note that the Education Forum Meeting will be on August 21, 2012 at MSFS Provincial House, Morogoro. Please contact Fr. Santhosh for further information.

Change of Province: Fr. KVS Prasad

As I had already communicated to you in email on July, 2012, at the formal written request of Rev. Fr. KVS Prasad MSFS for the change of Province, after the due process of legal formalities and prayerful discernment, in consultations with the Provincials concerned and with the consent of the General Council, Fr. Agnelo Fernandes the Superior General in his communique dated June 24, 2012 officially declares that from July 1, 2012 Fr. KVS Prasad will be a member of Visakhapatnam, India Province and hence ceases to be a member in the Province of East Africa Province from the said date.

At this juncture, on behalf all the confreres of East Africa, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rev. Fr. KVS Prasad MSFS for the time he spent in East Africa as a seminarian and later as a priest and for all the valuable services rendered by him. With grateful hearts we cherish the good memories of his companionship and cheerful availability at the service of the Congregation in various ways. We also wish him the choicest blessings for his priestly ministry under the jurisdiction of Visakhapatnam Province. Let us pray that through his instrumentality the Good News may reach many more hearts.

I would also like to thank Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes MSFS the Superior General, the General Councillors, Fr. Simon Paicatt MSFS the Provincial of Visakhapatnam Province, Fr. Thomas Perumalil MSFS the former Provincial of same Province, Fr. Thomas Olickal the former Provincial of East Africa Province and all the councillors and all others who were part of this discernment process.

Departure from the Congregation

The following scholastics: Joji Joseph Vechukunnel (I Yr Theology) and Desmond Tutu (Regency) cease to be the members of the congregation and they have discontinued their formation. We thank them for their kind services and wish them every blessing in their lives in the days to come.

Pilgrimage to Holy Land

Fr. Francis Kallikattu and **Fr. Jacob Thekkekara** are visiting the Holy Land from July 16 to August 4, 2012 and will attend the spiritual renewal course for the priests organized by the Pontifical Institute Notre Dame of Jerusalem Centre. We wish them a safe trip and refreshing and graceful time in the Holy Land.

Home Holidays

Our Confreres on home holidays			
No.	Name	From	To
1	Innocent Ngowi	July 30	August 29
2	Robert Susai Raj	August 2	October 1
3	Nelson Antony	July 31	August 30
4	Stephen Gerald	September 10	October 20

We wish them a good time with their dear and near ones.

For Treatment and recuperation

- Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly will be leaving for India on July 15 for treatments.
- Fr. Francis Devadoss will be going to Nairobi on August 9 for the operation on his right leg.
- Fr. Sony Kochumalayil will be going to India on August 19 for treatments.

Let us pray that the good Lord will restore to them good health.

Gone to eternal glory!

Rev. Fr. Jacob Pathupallil MSFS (85) , Visakhapatnam Province died on June 4, 2012 in Vizag.

Mr. Appachan Kochuparambil - the maternal uncle of Fr. Sunny Vettickal - died on June 6, 2012.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

Prayers requested:

Mr. Chacko Kattikanayil - the paternal uncle of Fr. Tomy Kattikanayil - is critically ill and is in ICU, Calicut, India. Let us pray for him.

Word of gratitude

On behalf of the Province may I express our sincere gratitude to the MSFS Communities in Rome for the facilitation of the visa for Fr. Zachariah and for the initial stay during the language study. I really appreciate the prompt and clear communications and joyful service from Fr. Varghese Chettupuzhakaren the Superior of the Community along with Fr. Thomas Cherukat and Fr. Augustine Mangatt for the good coordination and efficient services.

Seminar for the Formators

Fr. Johnson Napoleon and **Fr. Antonysamy Sebastian** will be participating in a seminar for the Formators organized at Mbagala spiritual centre, Dar es Salaam from July 29, August 4. We wish them a good time of enriching their skills in formation.

RSAT Meeting

I could participate in the RSAT(Religious Superiors' Association Tanzania) annual meeting on June 21& 22 at Mbagala Spiritual Centre Dar es Salaam. It was an enriching time of sharing and to get new information on various matters. There was the opportunity for me to present and an appraisal of the LCI Programs in Arusha and to introduce the matter of the Silver Jubilee of the MSFS in the Continent of Africa specially pertaining to Tanzania.

Some of Our visitors

We were honoured with the visits of Mr Burchard Schlömer from Missio Aachen, Mr Werner Mueller the President of Salesan e.V. Mrs Eileen Hartl and co from USA (in Uganda), Rev. Fr. Joseph Giefing and Rev. Fr. John Judie and co. and many more! Dear Friends we are honoured with your visits to our missions and communities. We thank you for the continued support and encouragement you give to us.

Messages from the Superior General

I have forwarded to you two letters from our beloved Superior General Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes. One letter is addressed specifically to the confreres of East Africa on the occasion of our Province family gathered in prayer during the annual retreats. The second one is the letter addressed to all the confreres highlighting the significance of the jubilee celebrations ahead of us. Much of the letter is dedicated to our holy Founder the servant of God **Fr. Peter Mary Mermier** whose 150th death anniversary we celebrate on September 30, 2012. I request each of you to read and reflect on the very inspiring narration given by Fr. Agnelo on the personality and the zeal for mission from the part of Fr. Mermier. On behalf of the Province I thank Fr. Agnelo for his inspirational writings.

News Bulletin of the Province - BARAKA

The first issue of the biannual (half yearly JAN-JUN-2012) news bulletin of the East Africa Province christened as **Baraka za Fransalians** (means: Blessings of Fransalians or Blessings from Fransalians) is getting its final touches under the leadership of Fr. Stephen Gerald. The official release will be done on July 28, by His Eminence Polycarp Cardinal Pengo during the Eucharistic celebrations in Mji Mpya Parish, Dar es Salaam.

News from the Generalate

Fr Varghese Chettupuzhakaren as the local superior of MSFS Local Community in Rome for the second term of 3 years beginning from 1st July 2012

Fr Harris Ebin Christopher as the Secretary of the Superior General for the second term of 3 years beginning from 1st July 2012 and belonging to the MSFS Local Community in Rome.

Call from Malawi! Malawi the “heart of Africa”

Responding to the plea of the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Karonga Malawi, Our Superior General Fr. Agnelo Fernandes has officially mandated the South East India Province to venture into this new mission. Here is the excerpt from the letter of Fr. Superior General dated May 21, 2012 addressed to Rev. Fr. Antony Dharmaraj MSFS the Provincial of South East Province.

..... I am very grateful to you for your sensitivity to the needs of the Mission of Christ and for placing a number of confreres at the service of the Congregation specially at the service of the Province of Brazil.

Blessed as you are with many vocations and with young confreres with enthusiasm for mission work, this letter comes to you with a proposal for acceptance of responsibility by South-East Province of a mission in Malawi, Africa. The Provincial of East Africa, Fr Johnson Kallidukil, had visited Malawi on an exploratory visit and his report is positive and he recommends that the Mission of Malawi be entrusted to one of the Provinces of India for planning and development. A copy of the letter from Fr. Johnson Kallidukil is attached herewith.

Therefore, through this letter and with the consent of the General Council, I invite you to accept the mission of Malawi on behalf of the Congregation, keeping the following parameters into consideration in starting the mission, planning and in implementation. (end of quote)

My dear Fathers and Brothers, I request your earnest prayers that we get many zealous missionaries to venture into this mission in Malawi in Karonga Diocese where so far no missionary priests are working. It is a unique call for us Fransalians to be the part of the history of the Karonga Diocese and the Church in Malawi!

Collaborative efforts – Archdiocese of Tabora

As an expression of the close collaboration between the Archdiocese of Tabora and the MSFS in East Africa, in this year of Jubilee we are facilitating and sponsoring the study of MA in Spirituality for one of the priests from the Archdiocese of Tabora. **Rev. Fr. Josephat Bududu** of the Archdiocese of Tabora has already joined the **Indian Institute of Spirituality**, Bangalore on June 28, for the same program. I sincerely thank Fr. Benny Koottanal the Director of IIS and Fr. Philip Valakodiyil the Dean of Studies for facilitating the admission and other formalities. We wish Fr. Bududu a great time at IIS in India.

Ngurdoto Dispensary, Arusha

The blessing of the newly constructed building for the Catholic Dispensary in Ngurdoto parish took place on July 14, 2012. His Grace Archbishop Josephat Lebulu did the official blessing in the presence of civil dignitaries, officers from Ministry of Health and large number of faithful. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Nelson the parish priest for this remarkable step in the development of the mission in Ngurdoto.

On-going formation CPE Program and Leadership at LCI

I would like to remind you about the planned and already announced program in October: Seminar on Clinical Pastoral Education and on Leadership. Soon you will be asked to do the registration and I request you avail yourself for the same. **Program 1** from Oct 1 evening to Oct 19 evening: Meant for priests ordained from 2002 to 2012. **Program 2 /3** From Oct 21 evening till Oct 26 Evening **OR** from Oct 28 evening to Nov 2 evening: Meant for all other priests and non-MSFS participants.

Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal the Provincial Bursar will be visiting the communities for the purpose of internal auditing and to render assistance for the effective and efficient finance management. The tentative program of his visit is as follows:

The proposed schedule for the visit of the Provincial Bursar.

July

21- 25 Mkuza: School, Parish, Noviciate
30 Mji Mpya

August

4-5 Mlolongo
6-7 Katani
8-9 Chera
10-11 Ndagani
22-25 Ipuli Tabora
26 Itaga
27-28 Bukene
29 Lububu
30-31 Mwakata, Isaka, Kagongwa

September

3-5 Osia – Agururu
7 Maji ya Chai, Ngurdoto
9-15 Dumila, Junior seminary, Holistic Healing, Scholasticate Kola,
Fransalian School, Fransalian Communications

Things required for internal auditing of the half yearly account 2012

- Copy of the account summary submitted for the year 2011
- All the required accounting books update till June 30, 2012
- Supporting bills up to June 30, 2012
- Bank statements of all the accounts from January 1, 2012 to July 1, 2012
- Details of all existing Fixed deposits and its maturation date
- Details of debts, liabilities if any.

During the auditing of the educational institutions we will also be making an assets register for each institution. For this purpose please prepare a list of all major assets and its present market value. Major assets that we intend to register include:

- Land holdings of the community/institutions
- Motor Vehicles
- Existing buildings
- All major equipment and furnishings (such as photocopy machines, equipment used in the schools, furniture like tables and chairs etc that needs a periodical replacement.).

I request the whole hearted cooperation from all the confreres in making this internal auditing a very beneficial one. Please prepare the needed matters in advance and clearly and make yourself available for this auditing. I ask you to pay special care to those communities with land issues, to gather the initial document and reports for the further following up.

My Tentative Programs

July

- 16 Meeting with Apostolic Nuncio Dar es Salaam
- 21 Spiritual services Holy Cross Morogoro
- 27 To Dar es Salaam
- 28 Priestly Ordination, Deacon Innocent Ngowi MSFS, Mji Mpya Dar es Salaam
- 29–31 Visit and Classes in the Novitiate

August

- 1-2 Visit and Classes in the Novitiate
- 3 Travel to Ifakara
- 4 Thanksgiving Mass with new priest in Ifakara
- 13/14 Travel to Isaka
- 15 Priestly Ordination in Mwanza
- 16-17 Spiritual services to Cloistered Carmel Bunda
- 21 Education Forum Meeting, Morogoro

September

- 1-2 Canonical Visitations to Dumila Mission
- 7 Travel to Arusha
- 8 Official Opening of the academic year 2012-2013 LCI, Arusha
- 9 Mass with faithful, Maji ya Chai parish
- 10 LCI Meeting with Local Administrative Council
- 11 Travel to Isaka
- 12-13 Provincial Council Meeting in Isaka
- 14 *Hija Takatifu* Lububu, Official Opening of the Silver Jubilee Year of MSFS Presence in Africa
- 15 Feast of Our Mother of Compassion, Lububu
- 16 Mass with faithful, Bukene - Confirmation
- 20 Final Profession and opening of Jubilee in Junior Seminary Morogoro
- 22 Diaconate Ordination at Jordan University College, Kola
- 25 Spiritual Conference to Fransalian Community Kola
- 30 150 years of the death of our Holy Founder Fr. Mermier, Mass in Morogoro

Beloved confreres, I wish you a very grace-filled time in the days to come. As we are going to enter the time of Jubilee celebration, I will be soon giving you in another writing the matters on Jubilee celebrations. Let us entrust every one of us to the loving and caring hands of our loving Father and Blessed Mother. May our Founder Fr. Peter Mermier intercede for us.

Requesting your prayers

United with you in the Eucharistic Lord,



Fr. Johnson Kallidukil msfs

(Provincial Superior MSFS East Africa Province)

“Be compassionate as your Father is compassionate. Do not judge, and you will not be judged yourselves; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned yourselves; grant pardon, and you will be pardoned. Give, and there will be gifts for you: a full measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over, will be poured into your lap; because the amount you measure out is the amount you will be given back.”

Jesus of Nazareth