

# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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Provincial Circular EAP- JK.17

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Beloved confreres,

Greetings of the peace and joy in Jesus ! Happy Feast of the Birthday of our Blessed Mother!

The month of September has its own significance for us as we celebrate the Feast of Mother of compassion our patroness and as we remember our holy Founder Servant God Fr. Peter Mermier and his journey into eternal life.

**The Feast of Mother of Compassion** is an invitation to place ourselves in the holy will of God. The safest place in our life is the will of God. When we place ourselves into this hallowed space, no matter what happens to us, we are at ease and in peace. Placing ourselves in the holy will of God does not guarantee us in any way a life and ministry free from troubles and tribulations. In our Mother Mary we have the best example of submission to the will of God; but the same Mother is subject to witness many embarrassing situations and is allowed to experience many excruciating moments in her life. Our Mother of compassion teaches us to stick to the Lord; to believe that nothing happens in our life without God allowing it to happen; to know that everything in our life – events, persons, circumstances, opportunities, challenges – has something to tell us, something to bless us, something to draw us closer to God. In spite of all the challenging situations in our lives, do we feel secure in the holy will of God?

Besides, Mother of compassion is our inspiration to share in her mission and the mission of her son Jesus to be compassionate to the other. We can be sure that Mother Mary also shared in the same prayer when Jesus prayed: *Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing.* It is her compassionate heart that impels her to intercede for the situations of need, it is this heart that gives us confidence to pray through her intercession as we pray, *Holy Mary, pray for us sinners...*

## The Founder's Day

As we remember our holy founder Servant of God Fr Mermier in this year of Jubilees, may I place before you a few words from him: Imbued with Salesian doctrine of the primacy of the love of God Fr. Mermier taught: *To love God with one's whole heart, with one's whole soul, with one's whole strength and one's neighbour as oneself – that is the one thing necessary, there you have the missionary, the apostle ... and that is happiness.* According to Fr. Mermier the value and influence of an action depends on the motive of love which inspires it and on the purity of intention. He tells us today: *God does not ask miracles from us; they are not within our power. He wants activity or least our good will. How great a soul is when it wills only what God wills! Obedience and love of God change everything into good. We do a lot by doing a little, if we do it for God when and as he wills.* According to our beloved Founder, true happiness is: *To be where God wants, with the job he asks of each one,*

*suffering the evils which he sends us, obedient to what pleases him – there you have true wisdom. (cfr Monsiuer Mermier By Adrien Dual pp. 112-113).*

In our times when religiosity seems to be declining from religious life, the words of our holy founder should give us new perspectives and proper direction in life. The tribulations our Founder had to undergo in order to start and establish our Fransalian Family should not be conveniently pushed to the world of oblivion. The hard past should give us strength us for a challenging future. As we honour our holy founder Fr. Mermier let us brace ourselves with Love i.e., that is God himself in our lives to meet strong demands to live a life of witness.

### **Priestly and Diaconate Ordinations**

On July 18, 2013 at St. Charles Luangwa and his Companions Parish, Bukene, Tabora, Tanzania, **Fr. Antonysamy Robert MSFS** was ordained priest and **Dn Sylvester Clement Sudhakar MSFS** was ordained Deacon by His Grace Paul Ruzoka, the Archbishop of Tabora Archdiocese. It was a very solemn occasion graced by the presence of many priests, religious and faithful. The function was beautifully organized in the open air with specially prepared stage and other arrangements. It was a real feast for entire Bukene and surrounding villages – attended by many people including those of other denominations and faiths.

Hearty Congratulations to Fr. Robert and Dn Clement for being ordained. We wish them every blessing they need in their consecrated life and ministry. We also express our sincere thanks to His Grace Paul Ruzoka, the Archbishop of Tabora Archdiocese for his willingness to ordain our candidates. The presence and collaboration from the diocesan clergy in the organization of the event is very much appreciated. It was a very challenging and demanding task of the MSFS Community Bukene and the parish of Bukene to see to the entire organization. We appreciate our confreres Fr. Santhosh Prakshbhavan and Fr. Sijo Pendanath, our collaborators the FCC Sisters, the parish leaders and the entire parish community for the meticulous planning and organization of the liturgy and the events of the day. Be blessed!

### **Fr. Antonysamy Robert MSFS - our new priest**

Fr. Antonysamy Robert was born on March 25, 1985 at Michalepuram, in the Archdiocese of Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu, India. He was the first born to parents Mr. Antonysamy and Mrs. Motchamary. As a young child he was baptised on April 17, 1985 and he received first communion and was confirmed on May 6, 1996.

After his primary education he joined the SFS Seminary Pudukottai. He did his canonical novitiate at Sannidi, Mysore and made the first profession on June 5, 2005. Then he completed his Philosophical studies at Suvidya and came to East Africa in the year 2008. He did his regency at SFS Children's Home at Ipuli in 2008-2009. Thereafter he did his Theological studies and formation at Fransalian House, Kola and JUCO Morogoro. He was ordained deacon on September 22, 2012 by His Lordship Most Reverend Telesphore Mkude the Bishop of Morogoro Diocese, Tanzania. After completing his theological studies and after short period of diaconate ministry in Bukene, he was ordained priest on July 18, 2013 at Bukene. We wish Fr. Robert a very good start in his priestly ministry and all the blessings in order to bless and to be blessing for the people of God.

## **Transfers and Appointments**

**Fr. Antonysamy Robert** is appointed to the MSFS Community at Itaga and is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of Itaga Parish, Archdiocese of Tabora, with effect from October 20, 2013.

**Fr. Maruthomalayil Joby** is transferred from Itaga, Tanzania and is designated to be appointed as Parish Priest of Osia Parish, Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda with effect from November 3, 2013. He will be also the Superior of the MSFS Osia-Augururu Community.

**Fr. Kollapallil Jomat** is transferred from MSFS Community Mlolongo, Kenya to MSFS Community Bukene. He is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest at Bukene Parish, Archdiocese of Tabora, Tanzania. He is also appointed to be the Manager of SFS School Bukene. These are effective from November 1, 2013.

**Fr. Pendanath Reji** is transferred from Fransalian Scholasticate and Fransalian School Morogoro and is transferred to the MSFS community at Ipuli, Tabora. He will be the Superior of the community and Manager of the SFS Schools. This takes effect from December 1, 2013.

**Fr. Nirappel Sebastian** is transferred from Osia, Uganda to MSFS Scholasticate Kola, Morogoro, Tanzania. With effect from November 23, 2013 he will be the Rector of the Scholasticate, Superior and Bursar of the Community, Manager of Fransalian School Morogoro, Director of Fransalian Communications and the Priest in-charge of Mkambarani Mission.

**Fr. Ngowi Innocent** is transferred from MSFS Community Mji Mpya, Dar es Salaam to MSFS Community Ipuli with effect from December 1, 2013. He will be also the Director of SFS Boys' Home, Mermier Girls' Home and the Furaha project for the visually impaired.

**Fr. Sebastian Williams** is transferred from MSFS Community Lububu to MSFS Community SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda, Morogoro with effect from December 27, 2013. He is appointed as Vice Rector, Vice Principal, recruitment and in-charge of Aspirants.

**Fr. Peter Johnson Napoleon** is transferred from SFS Junior Seminary and is appointed to the MSFS Community Mwakata as the Superior of the Community, Director of SFS VTC and Manager of De Sales Primary School Isaka with effect from November 1, 2013.

**Fr. Kallikattu Francis** is transferred from Augururu, Uganda to MSFS community Mji Mpya, Tanzania with effect from November 23, 2013. He is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest at Mji Mpya Relini. He is also given the responsibility to start the proposed SFS Primary School Bomba Mbili, Dar es Salaam.

**Fr. Vettukattil Joseph** is transferred from MSFS Community Mkuza and is designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of St. Bruno Catholic Parish, Augururu, Tororo, Uganda with effect from November 1, 2013.

**Fr. Pendanath Sijo** is transferred from MSFS Community Bukene, Tanzania to MSFS Community Mlolongo, Kenya. He is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest and as Principal of St. Joseph VTC with effect from November 1, 2013.

**Fr. Kochuparampil Pius** is appointed to the MSFS Community Mkuza and is designated to be appointed as the as the Assistant Parish Priest. He will also render formation assistance at MSFS Novitiate, Kibaha with effect from October 2, 2013.

**Fr. Kuldeep Kujur** is appointed as Socius at MSFS Novitiate Kibaha with effect from September 16, 2013.

**Fr. Vellachalil Jomon** is transferred from MSFS Community Ipuli to MSFS Community Lububu. He is appointed as the Superior of the community and is designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of Lububu with effect from December 20, 2013.

### **Hearty welcome to Fr. Kuldeep Kujur**

As part of our collaborative efforts in formation, Fr. Kuldeep Kujur MSFS from South West India Province – currently in Chad-Cameroon - would join our MSFS Noviciate Community from September 15, 2013. We extend a very hearty welcome to him and wish him a very fruitful ministry here in East Africa. *Karibu sana!*

### **New Staff at LCI, Arusha**

**Fr. Joseph Puliylakatt MSFS** from Southern African Region / North East India Province would soon join the LCI staff very soon. This is the jubilee Year of his priestly Ordination and our hearty congratulations to him. We extend to him a very warm welcome and pleasant ministry. *Karibu sana!*

**Fr. Mathew Kozhupakalam MSFS** from South West India Province has already joined the LCI community and he would be rendering his services on a regular basis. We appreciate his readiness and availability and wish him very fruitful ministry at LCI. *Karibu sana!*

### **New Arrival- Young Missionary**

**Bro. Pendanath Martin MSFS** has arrived in Tanzania on August 25, 2013. Right now he is in Mkuza Parish and doing the language course under the guidance of Fr. Mathew Chavely. We appreciate his daring decision to opt for African Mission and we extend a warm welcome to Bro. Martin and good time of regency and further formation and ministry in Africa.

### **Land in Bissil, Kenya**

The Provincial Administration has requested **Fr. Chinnappan Arockiasamy** to take care and to do the environmental planning of our land in Bissil. This is in addition to his present responsibilities in Chera mission. We thank Fr. Samy for his generosity in accepting this very demanding task.

### **USA Vice Province – New Administration**

In the recently held Vice-Provincial Congress of USA Vice Province the following were elected:

- Fr. Luke Kalarickal as Councilor and Admonitor
- Fr. Joseph Mullakkara as Councilor
  
- Fr. Santy Kurian Kochupurackal as Advisor
- Fr. Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil as Advisor
  
- Fr. Joseph Pottemmel as Bursar

Together with Fr. Augustine Tharappel the Vice Provincial they now form the Provincial Administration of the new USA Vice Province. Let us wish them every blessing they are in need of in their ministry of leadership and support them with our prayers. Congratulations and good wishes!

## **Baraka News bulletin**

The third issue of Baraka is already in our hands. This issue mainly focusing on the apostolate of education has come out in a very appealing manner. My sincere congratulations to Fr. Francis Devadoss, Fr. Johnson Pathiyil and Fr. Robert the editorial team and for Fr. Jose Eriyanickal for organizing the printing.

### **Baraka new Editorial Team**

**Fr. Pathiyil Johnson** is appointed as the chief editor and **Fr. Pendanath Sijo** will join the team. We wish them all the best. You are welcome to send news and articles of interest and significance to the editorial team.

### **Pilgrimage to Holy Land**

Our confreres **Fr. Chinnappan Arockiasamy** and **Fr. Peter Johnson Napoleon** had the opportunity to visit the Holy and do the renewal program from July 17 to August 3. We thank the Almighty God for this grace and for all those who made this opportunity possible for us.

### **Zambian Mission – New MSFS Venture**

MSFS The pioneers in Zambia Mission Fr. Amal Arockia Swamy, Fr. Britto Michael Selvam and Fr. Jude Thadeus Augustine were with us from August 1 to 20. On August 21, 2013 accompanied by Fr. Vincent Lourduswamy the Provincial of Pune Province they left for Lusaka, Zambia. They are now in the Diocese of Kabwe attending language course. It was a great joy to receive them in our mission and they had the opportunity to visit almost our communities and missions in East Africa. We appreciate their missionary enthusiasm and the readiness to venture into the unknown with deep trust in the Lord. I believe Zambian Mission of the MSFS is the right decision at the right time with the right people.

### **Mozambique Mission: raised to the Status of Delegation**

From August 19, 2013 the Mozambique mission was raised to the juridical status of Delegation of Mozambique and it has **Fr. Petrus Kullu MSFS** as the first Delegation Superior. Our congratulations to Fr. Petrus and all the members in the Delegation and to the entire Nagpur Province. We also thank Fr. Paul Gonsalves MSFS the former mission Superior for his efforts to lead the mission and for the good collaboration with East Africa and in MSAF.

### **Prayers requested:**

#### **For the sick and suffering :**

- Fr. Thomas Olickal
- Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly
- Fr. James Manjackal
- Fr. Raison Kauduavakuzhy
- Fr. Joseph Thayyil
- Fr. Prabhudas Kujur

May the Lord of compassion and power send his healing touch up on each one of them.

### **For the departed ones:**

- **Fr. George O'Sullivan MSFS** of English Province passed away on August 22, 2013 at the age of 83.
- **Fr. Philip D'silva MSFS** of Nagpur Province passed away on August 14, 2013 at the age of 82.
- **Mrs. Savariammal**, the beloved mother of our confrere Fr. David Soosai, passed away on July 30, 2013 due to old age related illnesses. She was 70 years old.
- **Mr. Kavin Yesu**, one of the nephews of Fr. Chinnappan Arockiasamy, passed away on September 5, 2013 due to an accident at the age of 21.

Our sincere condolences to our dear confreres and their family members in their moments of pain and loss. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

### **News of Apostolate**

#### **SFS IPS School Day 2013 at Katani, Kenya**

On August 3, 2013 the SFS Integrated Primary School at Katani, Kenya celebrated the "School Day 2013" with colorful events. Mr. Raj Mohan Resident Manager of Clips Ltd was the guest of Honor who officially opened the newly constructed approach road to the Institution. In his message he insisted on the need of Education as a source opening the heart and mind to the new realities and possibilities. It was followed by the cultural programs performed by the children - which took the school to its heights in terms of organization and performance. The students were awarded for their academic performance and Sport Competitions. The Chairperson of the PTA generously congratulated and appreciated the work of the Missionaries of St Francis De Sales. It was attended by all the parents, the pioneers of Zambian Mission, priests and religious from the surroundings and number of dignitaries from the government administration.

*Report from Fr. Sunny Vettickal MSFS*

#### **HIJA TAKATIFU – Holy Pilgrimage KATEGILE 2013, Tanzania**

Under the leadership of Fr. Tomychan Perumanoor the parish priest of Itaga, this year the Annual Hija at Kategille was celebrated on August 11, 2013. It was preceded by nine days of novena, Holy Rosary and Holy Mass. Fr. Reji Joseph MSFS officiated the opening day of the novena with the Holy Mass on August 2, and thereafter we had Eucharistic celebration every day in the Church. On August 9, sixty children were baptized. On August 11, on the day of pilgrimage, we had the Holy Eucharistic Celebration celebrated by Fr. Provincial, Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS on the hill-top and we had number of our confreres who solemnized the occasion by their presence. We sincerely thank our Provincial for his wonderful heart-touching homily and for giving First Holy Communion to 25 children. It is worth mentioning that there were so many religious sisters and brothers from Tabora for the entire celebration. As in the past years, more than 1500 faithful from different parishes came to seek the blessings of our Lady. After the Eucharistic Celebration, we had the long procession around the hill, led by the choirs from different stations of the parish which added more colour to the procession and helped people to experience the Grace of God.

*Report from Dn. Clement Sudhakar MSFS*

## **LIFE IN THE SPIRIT – Retreat in Chera Parish, Kenya**

From August 17 to 23, there was Charismatic retreat organized in Chera Parish, Meru Kenya. The theme of the retreat was "LIFE IN THE SPIRIT". Based on Matthew 5:6 *Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied.* The Facilitators of the Charismatic group was from Nairobi belonging to different Dioceses. The topics covered included but not limited to. *Love of God; Jesus our Saviour and sets free; Salvation and freedom; Healing of the family tree; Sins, repentance and forgiveness; Lordship; Discipleship; Holy Spirit and Witnesses* etc. There were almost 450 regular participants from 10 parishes. The retreat consisted of several input sessions, daily Mass, Eucharistic adoration, Confession counselling and healing services. Most the resource persons were laity.

The people who attended the seminar got a chance to get God experience more closely and also to renew their family life. . They were happy to see that were healed physically, spiritually and psychologically. During this one week seminar Fr. Stephen Ubadesi, and Fr. Mati from Embu Diocese were helping the parish for daily confession. On closing day Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, the Provincial was present and presided over the concluding Eucharistic celebration. As a whole the Charismatic retreat for Chera parish was a grace filled one this year as we continue to celebrate 'The Year of Faith'.

*Report by Fr. Chinnappan Arockiasamy MSFS*

## **LCI – New academic Year**

The inauguration of the fourth academic year (2013-14) of Lumen Christi Institute was held on September 7, 2013. The inaugural Mass of the Holy Spirit was presided over by Rev. Fr. Luke Mbefo from Spiritian Seminary Njero. The 'lectio Brevis' also was given by Dr. Luke Mbefo on the theme: "The Challenge of Chinua Achebe." In the inaugural function Fr. Abraham gave the welcome address and Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil gave a brief report about the academic activities of 2012-13 and the inaugural function came to an end with *Ngoma* by the new comers.

*Report by Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil MSFS*

## **My Tentative Programs:**

### **September**

- 8 Mji Mpya Relini Parish Dar es Salaam
- 10-11 Ifakara
- 13-15 Hija Lububu, Tabora
- 19 to Oct 18 In India Jubilee Celebrations and Provincials Forum Meeting

### **October**

- 19 Fransalian School Morogoro – School day
- 20 Lukobe Mission, Jubilee celebration
- 26 Final Jubilee celebrations in East Africa – Morogoro
- 27 To LCI Arusha
- 28 MSAF Meeting at LCI
- 29- 30 Council Meeting at LCI

## **November**

8 -10 Conclusion of Year of Faith , national level, Bagamoyo

17-23 Formators Training Program at LCI

Beloved Confreres,

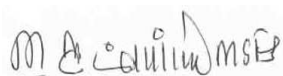
We are in the jubilee year of our mission in the continent of Africa and we are looking forward to the concluding jubilee celebration. Let us be convinced that Jubilee celebration is not a mega show or a gala party. It is not a proclamation of what we have done. But it is an acknowledgement of what God has done for us and in and through *the other*. If not for the grace of God and if not for *the other* we MSFS would not have been in Africa – that too all these 25 years in the way we are!

**Who is *the other*?** The so called *other* is the people with whom we live and for whom we minister; *the other* is the rest of the Fransalian family whose encouragement and support we constantly enjoyed; the other is the ecclesiastical and civil authorities under whose guidance and protection we live and move; *the other* is our every benefactor and organization whose generosity we enjoy; *the other* is every child whose smile and playfulness – at times even being naughty - enlivened our dispirited hearts; *the other* is everyone who taking our hands in theirs and said to us with gentle smile, *Karibu....feel at home!*; *the other* is everyone who took care of us when we were just flat with sickness and accidents; *the other* is several committed persons who served us in our communities – domestic servants, staff etc - all these years; *the other* is all those who silently pray for us even though far from us and even though sometimes we do not know them. *The other* includes every needy person who knocked at our door and who gave us the chance to practice patience and generosity; *The other* includes even the robbers and thieves – whose atrocities taught us to depend more on God and to lead a life of better discipline.

We find God sending *the other* to us each time we were in need of them – in times of problems, sickness, deaths, hardships, the angel of God was sent to us as *the other*. Hence let our jubilee celebration be an act of thanksgiving to God and to *the other*. May *the other* be blessed more and more through our further life of consecration and committed missionary life. Let our prayer be: Lord bless *the other* for you have blessed us through them.

I wish each one of you grace filled time of preparation for the jubilee.

*We have done all things in Him who gives us strength (cfr. Phil.4:13)*



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

*Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another;  
for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. Rom. 13:8*