

# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES



Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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Beloved Confreres

Greetings of peace and joy as we join our fellow consecrated persons all over the world in celebrating the **Day of consecrated life**. Since 1997 the Feast of the presentation of the Lord is celebrated as the *Day of Consecrated Life*. It is a reminder for us that our intentions and efforts to live our consecrated life would bear the best fruit in the contest of the life of the Church, in the context of the consecration of the others. None of us can fruitfully our consecrated life if we live in isolation.

The historical event of the **presentation of the Lord**, reminds that we have a God who was like us in every respect. The event also reminds us that after the example of Jesus, we can be to the Father totally consecrated beings in love and gratitude. But this demands that we are purified and sanctified at the hands of Lord. Let us submit ourselves totally to the hands of the Lord that he may guide our destiny; he may take us to the pastures unknown and the paths still new.

As a congregation as we are in the General Chapter, let us earnestly pray that every one of us would grow more and more in deep love for the Lord enabling us to be totally consecrated persons emanating the joy and peace of our *Being in the Lord and for the Lord*.

## Inevitable; untimely and unexpected deaths

How should we describe the deaths of our beloved confreres **Fr. James Nedungatt MSFS (56)** and **Fr. Lourance Thadathil MSFS (34)**? I know that all of us were shaken to such an extent that at times we fail to understand and accept these things happening in this manner. Almost four months ago when my own father died after a short period of illness, I could accept it joyfully with gratitude to God for giving me such a father here on earth. Many of our parents are no more and it is something natural. In one of the sharing I had stated that *I had fallen in love with the reality of death*. At that time it was not difficult for me to accept the death of my own father in the light of faith. With the death of Fr. James Nedungatt on December 18, 2012, I was shocked. Still I could with conviction say that the *safest place here on earth is the will of God*. Still worse, with the departure of Fr. Lourance Thadathil on January 7, 2013 I was shaken. I found no good reasoning or logic that would keep my heart calm. In those moments the Lord whispered into my heart: **You are only a steward; I am the Master**. Yes dear friends, if we love and accept Him as our Master we need to accept whatever he does too. He has done only what was in his right. His rights do not seems to be right for us, yet let us accept the power and authority of our Master. May our departed confreres Rest in the Peace of Jesus.

## FR. JAMES NEDUNGATT MSFS

Fr. James was born as the 4<sup>th</sup> child of Mr. Sebastian and Mrs. Mariyakutty, on July 10, 1955 at Karimpani, Kottayam Dt, Kerala, India. After his primary school studies at St. Alosius primary school, Manalunkal, he joined K.E. College, Mannanam for his secondary school studies. In 1973 he joined SFS Seminary for his seminary studies and made his first profession in 1977 and became a member of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales. After his Philosophical and Theological studies he made his final Profession in 1983 and was ordained priest on December 29, 1984, as a member of the Vizagapatam Province. He was then sent to the Shrine of Our Lady of Grace at Rose

Hill, Vizag as an assistant in 1985. Later in the same year, he was appointed to the Thanuku Mission in Andhra Pradesh as assistant Parish Priest. He was also assisting in St. Mary's Church Govindapuram, Andhra. From 1986 to 1990 He served the Penugonda Mission as assistant and from 1990 to 1993 he worked as parish priest of SFS Church at Chinna Waltair, Vizagapatam. In 1993 he was appointed as Parish priest of Sacred heart Church, Soldierpet, Vizagapatam. From 1998 to 2000 he served the Shabad Mission Hyderabad as Parish Priest.

In the year 2000 he was sent to the East African Mission and later became a member of the Province of East Africa, of the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales. He served the East Africa Mission till his death, first in Lububu, Tabora, Tanzania. Later he worked as the staff of MSFS MINOR Seminary at Morogoro, in Tanzania. Then he was sent to Angamaly, in Kerala as the Superior of the Mission house of East Africa Province. He worked six years in this capacity. After that on September 16, 2012, he returned to East Africa and was appointed as Parish Priest of Chera Mission in Kenya. It was here that he became sick and was taken to Nairobi, in Kenya for better treatment. After the medical investigations there showed symptoms of Leukemia, On December 12, he was rushed to India was admitted at Amala Cancer Institute, Trichur, India, where he was tested and confirmed as having Acute Leukemia and on December 16 he was taken to Lake Shore Hospital in Ernakulum for further investigation and observation. On December 18, 2012 at 01.30 hours (IST) he was called to Eternal rest.

The mortal remains of Fr. James were brought to SFS Bhavan Angamaly on December 20 at 6.30 am. Hundreds of people came there to pay him homage and to pray for him. There were also large number of priests and sisters for he was very much known in all the parishes and retreat centers around because of his ministry. Later the body was taken to SFS Seminary Ettumanoor where he was laid to rest. As the provincial I officiated the Eucharistic Celebration accompanied by more than 50 priests. The funeral service was conducted by His Lordship Jacob Murikan the Auxiliary Bishop of Pala.

If I am to write to about Fr. James Nedungatt, I can enumerate many things that are worthy of a true religious and priest. There are many good qualities in him that are worth learning and imbibing. Here, with the presumed permission of Fr. Johnson Pathiyil may I attach what he has prepared about Fr. James Nedungatt. My personal experiences too do not differ.

**From the sharing of Fr. Johnson Pathiyil MSFS  
on Fr. James Nedungatt MSFS**

*My acquaintance with Fr. James Nedungatt began in 2001 in Kola Hills Morogoro. But before that in 1992-1993 he used to come to our Novitiate in Visakhapatnam for hearing confession of the Novices. But I had not personal contact with him at that time.*

*But it is from 2001 that I came to know him better. He stayed with the Fransalian Community Kola while he was doing his Swahili language course in Lutheran Junior seminary. At that time I was in my final year theology in Salvatorian seminary.*

*I admired him for his eagerness to learn the language and the enthusiasm he showed to celebrate Holy Mass in Swahili even when he was not very thorough with the Swahili Language. It was indeed an inspiration for me. When he goes to the village for Mass he used to take the scholastics and make them translate what he was preaching. In short he never found excuses for not preaching the Word but each chance he took up as an opportunity to improve his language skill and to preach to the people.*

*After the course Fr. James was appointed in Lububu Parish as assistant parish priest with Fr. Sunny Vettickal the then Parish Priest. After my ordination I was appointed Asst. parish priest in Lububu Parish. So we met again in Lububu. We were five priests and one regent in the community of Lububu at the time I joined in the year 2001.*

*Fr. James was a strict person not only to others but much more than that he was strict to himself. He never missed his personal prayer. Even the preparation of the Sunday sermons he used to do it in front of the Eucharistic Lord in the Tabernacle.*

*In 2002 Bukene Parish was bifurcated from Lububu Parish. Fr. Sunny Vettickal became the Parish priest of Bukene and Fr. James Nedungatt was appointed priest in charge of Lububu parish. By the middle of 2002 only Fr. James and I remained in the parish. All the rest was transferred to different mission.*

*Fr. James was a man with rich in missionary experience as he had served as parish priest in many missions in Andhrapradesh India.*

*I learned to be a missionary through Fr. James Nedungatt. In the evenings we used to sit and share lot of things. He used to share with me all his past missionary experiences both bitter and pleasant. I was more a listener to him and I enjoyed listening to his stories. A man who underwent lot of painful experiences in life but those experiences could never put him down.*

*In the parish he was fully committed to his duties. Be it rainy season, be it summer season nothing would prevent him from going to far away villages. There were days he came back home limping due to the fall from the motorbike on the way to the villages. And that was the missionary spirit of Fr. James. Later he began to visit the faithful in their homes. From morning till evening he used to walk around the village visiting the houses which are located in distant places. This was indeed a blessing for the people. And the people of Lububu still cherish him in their hearts for what he did to them.*

*Fr. James never missed a chance to preach. Wherever he got a chance to preach he did so with full heart. He never celebrated Eucharist without breaking the Word to the faithful. He never celebrated mass without at least giving an introduction.*

*He connected everything in life to the Word of God. And the Word of God was his reference point at every moment of his life. When I was transferred from Lububu as I went to say good bye to him he took the Bible and read out a passage for me from ACTS 2:17-18. After reading the passage he interpreted it and told me "the Lord is going to make use of you, the Holy Spirit will be working in you..." And then he prayed over me and sent me off. The effect of that blessing I could feel it although my mission in Mkuza parish and other mission places.*

*Fr. James Nedungatt was a missionary who never thought about himself except for the mission entrusted to him. He was a man who was never attached to wealth or money but a faithful steward of what was entrusted to him. He is the most accountable person I have ever seen. He could eat anything provided to him. He had no complaint about food.*

*Another inspiring thing in his life I found was his submissiveness to the authority. However young the superior is to him, Fr. James was obedient to the superior in all his missionary life. Even though we find him expressing his dislike about the things but he would never defy the superior in whatever way.*

*Today Fr. James has left us with lot of precious memories to cherish. Let us imitate his missionary zeal, his enthusiasm to save the souls. Let us pray to the Lord that the good Lord may reward him with eternal life unending happiness in his heavenly Kingdom.*

*May his soul rest in peace... Amen.*

**Fr. Johnson Pathiyil MSFS**

## **FR. LOURANCE THADATHIL MSFS**

Fr. Lawrence Antony Thadathil was born on July 3, 1978 at Ayarkunnam, Kerala, India. He was the third child of Mr and Mrs Antony Thadathil. He joined the MSFS, for the province of East Africa in 1998, after completing his Pre Degree course at Baselius College, Kottayam. After a year of Candidacy at Prakash Bhavan, Mannarkad, he did his novitiate at Sannidhi, Mysore. He made his first religious profession on June 11, 2001. He completed his philosophical studies at Suvidya College, Bangalore in 2004 and came to Tanzania to do his regency.

He made his perpetual profession on August 30, 2008. He did his theological studies at Salvatorian Institute of Philosophy and Theology, Morogoro and was ordained a deacon on October 25, 2008 by the Bishop of Morogoro, Rev. Telesphore Mkude. He was ordained a priest on May 14, 2009 by the Archbishop of Changanacherry, Most Rev. Joseph Perumthottam. His first appointment was as the assistant parish priest of Lububu Parish, in the archdiocese of Tabora. He was appointed as the rector of the aspirancy house Ndagani, in 2011. He took charge as the Rector on July 5, 2011 and continued to serve in that position until the Lord called him to his eternal abode.

By nature Fr. Lourance had a weak heart – but fully functional. Even as a seminarian he was spared of the obligations to do physically exerting jobs. However he had no problem in participating in normal games, cycling etc. Later as a priest too he never mentioned about any physical difficulties in his ministry. However off late it seems he was often telling that he was getting tired. In such a situation in the context of our mission in East Africa one would think of Malaria or Typhoid.

But this time it was something very different. Medical reports stated Cardio Pulmonary Arrest as the cause of death. This arrest is presumed to be due to Pneumonia whose symptoms were in the lungs. Presumably the death took place in the morning hours on January 7, 2013.

The news of the demise of Fr. Lourance reached me in Europe without any delay as Fr. Sheejan telephoned to me. I could reach back to Kenya on January 10 morning hours. On January 11, there was the requiem Mass at 10.00 am (East African Time) in Fransalian Seminary Ndagani, Chuka, Meru, officiated by Most Rev. Salesius Mugambi Bishop of Catholic Diocese Meru. The mass was attend by hundreds – priests, religious, parishioners, university students, civil and political leaders who all with one mind and heart mourned the departure of our beloved brother Lourance.

Later the mortal remains of Fr. Lourance was transported to India. Due to the IT related errors from the part of the Airline the human remains was delayed by one day and the funeral was held on January 14 at SFS Seminary Ettumanoor. Prior to that the body was taken to his home parish Parampuzha and on the way back to his own home for a short time in order that the people could pay homage to him. As in the case of Fr. James, it was with much pain and sorrow I officiated the Holy Eucharist. His Lordship Joseph Perunthottam the Archbishop of Changanassery officiated the funeral service.

(It was the same bishop who ordained Fr. Lourance as a priest)

The personality of Fr. Lourance reminds of the New Testament character of Nathaniel – a man without guile. In many messages that I received, most of the confreres and friends described him as simple, unassuming, spiritual, loving and caring, committed and disciplined! What else a Fransalian priest needs to be? He was a man of cheerful availability and service. I appreciated in him the very dignified manner of dealing with people and situation. He had the heart of respect and true love for every human being.

Within the short span of his priestly ministry he touched the hearts of many. With the presumed permission from Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil may I place for you in this circular the Tribute prepared by him for Fr. Lourance.

**From Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil MSFS  
on Fr. Lourance Thadathil MSFS**

*Fr. Lourance as a person...  
Your heart was set in gold like a jewel rare  
Your heart was Love untold, beautiful and fair.*

*As a Fransalian you were, always...  
Gentle, kind, generous, sweet,  
hand outstretched to reach, Sharing, caring, loving to meet helping to mold and to teach.*

*As a Shepherd and Pastor...  
You saw Christ in the poor  
man's face children were angles true Serving them with smiling grace.*

*As a Formator...  
Calmly, tirelessly, and oh ! so quietly duties you performed  
Zealously surrendering and humble to God's Will you conformed.*

*As a brother and confrere ...  
Your love was strong and gracious  
your goodness sincere Your friendship was precious to us, my dear*

*How sudden was your departure,  
from all your friends on earth  
Into a glorious heavenly pasture To your heavenly reward*

*May Jesus on you bestow  
Profound bliss in eternity  
As you shine with supernal glow Pray to Jesus and Mary for us all.*

**Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil MSFS**

### **Notes of thanks and appreciation**

During the last 25 years MSFS in East Africa had never confronted the reality of the death of a confrere. Innumerable were the road accidents that we had; sometimes even sicknesses seemed to be fatal; many times we experienced the anguish of armed robbery. Yet the reality of death was spared from us. But now death has visited us with unpleasant surprises. In those moments of pain and sense of loss we were not left alone. As we thank God for giving us strength and sense of purpose in going through such situations, I must thank very specially all those who in many ways shared our concern.

#### [South West India Province](#)

Our sincere thanks to Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS the Provincial Superior of the South West India Province, Fr. Jose Maliekal MSFS the Superior of the MSFS Community at SFS Seminary Ettumanoor, other staff members, other MSFS Confreres around and the students of SFS who assisted us from A to Z in organizing both the funerals. I do really appreciate the collaborative and very understanding approach from every one at SFS Seminary Ettumanoor. In spite of the various inconveniences there was joyful acceptance of these very demanding tasks of organizing the funeral.



### Local Ordinaries

May I thank beginning with the His Lordship Most Rev. Salesius Mugambi Bishop of Catholic Diocese Meru, Kenya who was with us every moment sharing our agony and anxiety. It was on January 6, 2013 he came to Chera Parish to offer Mass in memory of Fr. James Nedungatt MSFS. That was the last Holy Mass in which Fr. Lourance took part. From the moment the death of Fr. Lourance was known, our dear Bishop was accompanying us in every step we took. On January 11, he also officiated the requiem mass at Ndagani for Fr. Lourance.

Also our sincere thanks to the Auxiliary Bishop of Pala Most Rev Jacob Murikan and The Archbishop of Changanassery Most Rev Joseph Perunthottam who officiated the funerals of Fr. James and Fr. Lourance respectively.

### Family People

As we know the natural families of the deceased confreres have the great pain and sense of loss especially when the confreres die young and unexpected. We thank the family members of Fr. James and Fr. Lourance for their great understanding and very sincere collaboration in all the matters and in the plans of the Congregation in matters of funeral. Magnanimous was the courage and composure manifested by the dear and near ones. In the case of the family and relatives of Fr. Lourance it was a big challenge for them for various reasons. Yet the grace of God was so abundantly up on them that they accepted the painful reality and cooperated with the plan of God.

### Our Confreres in Kenya

With the sudden illness of Fr. James Nedungatt in the last week of November 2012 and later with the death of Fr. Lourance our dear confreres in Kenya have experienced ordeals that challenged them. But I must appreciate the manner in which our dear confreres Fr. Samy, Fr. Jacob, Fr. Jomet and Fr. Sunny handled the matter. Our seminarians at Ndagani, were also part of this. With united mind and serene heart our confreres did the best in their ability in order to respond to these kinds of unprecedented situations taking the right steps at the right time. I really thank them for the same.

### Fr. Jose Eriyanickal and team in India

It was for Fr. Jose Eriyanickal and other confreres around a series of crisis management. His works involved lot of coordination, communication and organization and planning. Yet without getting tired and confused he along with Fr. Jose Parapillil, Fr. Sebastian Palakudy and other confreres did everything so well. Everything gives me more and more conviction that when the need comes *the Lord provides* and he would guide every step of ours.

### Other priests, religious and all our friends

Our confreres in Kenya and India were really supported and strengthened by many priests and sisters and friends in Kenya and in India. I was really touched by the sentiments of those who were associated with our departed confreres. They felt the loss of one of them. I must also acknowledge the support given to us by the civil and political leaders, the officers, the hospital staff etc. May God bless your generosity.

### You My beloved Confreres

These two events of death have touched every one of us. With the death of Fr. Lourance it was probably the most challenging situation that we have faced in our mission in East Africa. But in resolving this critical situation we were together. We all shared the great task of navigating our family vessel through very turbulent seas. *Thank You* for this togetherness. Our short meeting of all the confreres at Ndagani on January 11 after the mass, gave me really more confidence and better direction. Let us continue to be united in our very life and mission.

## **Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil MSFS RIP**

On January 12, 2013 Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil was called to eternal glory. As he was one of the pioneers in East Africa we have the special reason to thank God for this great missionary and visionary leader. He was buried at Charisbhavan, Athirampuzha in the presence of large number of faithful including over 200 priests. As an expression of solidarity from our part in this jubilee year Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil could spend some quality time with Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil during his last days.

Father Devasia Kuzhupil is acclaimed for his administrative dynamism and was instrumental in the growth of the Congregation / MSFS mission establishing the identity of the congregation. He was a visionary and dreamt of the growth of the MSFS in India and abroad and spearheaded several initiatives and undertook many pioneering missionary enterprises.

We thank this great missionary and pray that we may be able to imbibe his missionary zeal and courage. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.

### **Mission exploration visit to Zambia**

From November 28 to December 7, 2012 together with Fr. Vincent Lourduswamy MSFS we had study visit to some of the dioceses in Zambia. The schedule was organized by Fr. George Chalissery SDB the provincial superior in Zambia. The visit was very informative and enriching. Please read below excerpts from the report by Fr. Vincent after our visit.

### **A TRIP TO ZAMBIA (A short report)**

Zambia is one of the central African countries with a population of about 14 million people. It is combined by 10 civil provinces and 11 dioceses. Lusaka is the Capital town. The main towns are very far from each other. During this preliminary visit, with the help of Fr. Johnson Kallidukil msfs, the provincial of East Africa, we were able to visit about 4 bishops of Lusaka, Livingstone, Kasama and Kabwe, within these 8 to 10 days.

All the bishops are very warm, enthusiastic and welcoming. They need the assistance of religious congregations for the growth of the church, in various ministries, like Pastoral, Education and social apostolates. They are willing to entrust to us these ministries. The majority of the people are Catholics, besides hundreds of Protestants and sectarian groups, growing like mushrooms. There are various congregations working in different parts of dioceses. We have a few Indian religious working in some part of the country. It is quite heartening and encouraging to witness many young religious from India working in this part of the world very courageously and actively.

KWATCHA is the Zambian currency which will have its denomination value changed from 2013. At present one US dollar is equal to about 5000 Kwatcha. Well then you can guess its value in Rupees!!!

Victoria Falls, the second largest Waterfall in the world is flowing on the borders of Zambia-Zimbabwe. It will be a sight to watch in Feb-March, so they say. There are a few small National parks too.

Can you believe this? We were very pleasantly surprised to visit a MOTHER CHURCH OF LUSAKA CHURCHES in the diocese of Lusaka, which is in down- town of Lusaka and named after our dear Patron St. Francis De Sales. This was built in 1924. So Blessed is our Patron and so are we. Is he not ahead of us to welcome us!!!

English is the language widely spoken and understood mostly in the townships and generally in other parts too. However each province or diocese has its own language with roman script spoken and used in liturgical services.

It is a developing country, in fact like in India, towns are filled with Mall-culture, mobile in everyone's hand, with well built roads between the towns, with no toll fees!!! Things are, like in other African Countries, are bit expensive. Most of the things are imported. The presence of our neighbours, Chinese, is easily felt everywhere. There are good number of Indians too, running business and working in various offices and companies. Copper- Mining is a big industry, for there is a province named as 'COPPER-BELT'. Like in India Agriculture is the main occupation of the people.

Every one speaks of this country being very peaceful, people being very responsible, respectful and supportive. Parishes are being trained to be self-supportive. People, though poor, are very religious and generous to the church. People are longing for residential priests in their centres. We could read in their eyes a sincere love for having priests in their churches. Most of the parishes have got huge number of Catholics. The bishops are very willing to divide the parishes if we are willing to take up.

Here is a chance to expand our congregation, during this 175 years of Jubilee celebration, into yet another African country, and further fulfill the Founder's foundational longing of venturing into Africa already in his time. Shall we and should we not? Why not?

Let us desire and discern, as Missionaries of St. Francis De sales, to venture into the unknown mission land following the footsteps of our pioneer missionaries to India. With the media today which makes the world a tiny village in the computer, we are much informed of any part of the world, unlike our courageous missionaries, who did not know where they were going or landing, what type of people or culture or language or who and what they were going to encounter, without any preparation!!!. Let us just imagine and ponder over those times and missionaries.

Our sincere thanks to our Big nephews, the Salesians of Don Bosco, very specially to Fr. George Chalissery SDB the provincial of Zambia, for their hospitality in accommodating us in their house and for getting the appointments with the bishops and taking us around to all these far long places by their vehicles. In the name of the Congregation and the province I offer our sincere gratitude and prayerful wishes to all in their community.

Our gratitude to all the Bishops of various dioceses for welcoming us and being very enthusiastic about receiving us to work in their missions.

To our own dynamic confrere Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, Millions of thanks to him, for all his efforts in getting us connected to Zambia, making arrangement with the help of the Salesians of Don Bosco, accompanying me all through the journeys and giving valuable suggestions. He had to leave behind his work in the province for the sake of the growth of the Congregation and our Province. May God bless you our dear beloved confrere.

Now my dear confreres, it is our chance to respond to the invitation of Jesus through these bishops and people of Zambia, 'THE HARVEST IS PLENTY BUT THE LABOURERS ARE FEW. THEREFORE PRAY TO THE LORD OF THE HARVEST TO SEND MANY MORE LABOURERS' and to the clarion call of our beloved founder 'I WANT MISSION' in Africa.

***Fr. Vincent Lourduswamy MSFS Provincial Pune Province***

### **On Mass Intentions**

I would like to remind you about the new policy in our province regarding the celebration of the Holy Masses for the intentions of Province. On January 1, 2013 I had sent to you two documents concerning the worthy and faithful celebration of Holy Eucharist as well as regarding the honoring of mass intentions. I request you to send to the required information without delay. My sincere thanks to you for your understanding and care.



## Official email IDs for all official communications

As it was already communicated you that at the instruction of the General administration, every province has taken the steps to have a set of email IDs for all those who hold offices in the Province administration and other units. For all official matters, the confreres are requested to contact the respective person only through the official IDs. And those hold the offices shall also use the official IDs for all the official communications. Personal IDs are used for solely personal communications. Although these new IDs were to become fully operational from January 2013 you may continue to use the personal IDs till the end of March. After that msfsmoro@gmail.com will no more be used. I look forward to your collaboration.

The purpose is to preserve the communication that has taken place between the particular office and the confreres of the province concerning the respective forum and its works. The General administration as well as other provinces also have created similar common email IDs for all the official communication. Please find final list of these common IDs and the instruction from the Superior General in this regard in the documents I had already sent in January.

### The new IDs for Provincial Administration East Africa Province (excerpts from Sup. Gen Ltr)

Name of the Office	Official email id	Name of persons	Personal Email id
Provincial ,East Africa	provincialeastafricamsfs@gmail.com	Kallidukil Johnson	johnsonmsfs@gmail.com
Provincial Secretary,East Africa			
Provincial Bursar,East Africa	provincialbursareastafrica@gmail.com	Kallarackal Sheejan	sheejanmsfs@gmail.com
Councillor in-charge Mission,East Africa	pcicmissioneastafrica@gmail.com	Thekkekara Jacob	thekkekara.jacob@yahoo.com
Councillor in-charge Formation,	pcicformationeastfrica@gmail.com	Kochuparampil Pius	frpiusmsfs@gmail.com
Councillor in-charge Education,EastAfrica	pciceducationeastfrica@gmail.com	Prakshbhavan Santhosh	paulprakashbhavan@gmail.com
Councillor in-charge of Social M.	pcicsocialeastafrica@gmail.com	Mattathil Sunny	mattathilsunny@yahoo.com

### Prayers requested: Sick and suffering:

- **Fr. James Manjackal MSFS** who is undergoing treatment in Austria due to the paralysis of the muscles.
- **Sr. Jessina FCC (Iduki Province)** from Ifakara Mission in Tanzania is undergoing treatment in India due to kidney failure. She was expected to be among the initial team in Bukene.

### Prayers requested: Gone to eternal life:

- **Mr. Sylvester Onyango Okech**, 67 the father of Bro. Paul Onyango, (second year Philosophy at LCI) died at the end of November , 2012 in Kenya.
- **Fr. Anthony Fernandes MSFS** of Pune Province passed away on December 3, 2012 at Bastora, Goa. He was 94 years old.

- **Fr. James Nedungatt MSFS** of East Africa Province died on December 18, 2012 in Kerala at the age of 56.
- **Fr. Lourance Thadathil MSFS** East Africa Province died on January 7, 2013 in Kenya at the age of 34.
- **Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil MSFS** of South West India Province died on January 12, 2013 in Kerala at the age of 89.
- **Fr. François COFFY MSFS** of Franco-Swiss Province died on January 27, 2013 at Thonon hospital at the age of 92.

*May the souls of faithful departed through the mercy God REST IN PEACE!*

May I request all those who have not received the earlier information sent, and not fulfilled the suffrages, to fulfill the suffrages prescribed. (Const. No 118; General Directory No. 98)

### **Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly MSFS**

As it was informed earlier, he is still under treatment and rest. In the recent past he was admitted twice in the hospital due to various complications. As it stands now he is not in a position to come to Africa for the time being. At present he is at home. We wish Fr. Joseph a speedy recovery.

### **Mission Sangamam 2013: at SFS Seminary Ettumanoor**

*On Jan 16 after the funeral of Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil I had the privilege of attending the Mission Sangamam (mega mission gathering) in honour of the late Fr. George Vayalil MSFS a great missionary who launched the great missionary movement from Kerala. The name Vayalilachan is well known to most of our confreres in the Province. Twenty five years ago he left for his eternal reward. Most of our senior members fondly cherish their memories of Fr. Vayalil. The Sangamam was organized by SW province in order to highlight the person of Fr Vayalil and his daring missionary steps. The function was held at SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor from January 16-17, 2013. Congratulations to the organizers of this mega event, consisting of various sharing, panel discussions and Holy Mass.*

### **The New volume of *The Love of God* – a special gift on Salesian spirituality**

The classical spiritual masterpiece *The love of God*, has been published in a single volume by SFS Publications, Bangalore. The scholarly efforts by our veteran missionaries- Fr. Anthony Mookenthottam and Armind Nazareth are remarkable. Congratulations! We also congratulate the SFS publications for their relentless effort in the promotion of Salesian Literature. I encourage you to procure the copies and to make them available to those seek to deepen their knowledge of Salesian Spirituality.

### **Administrator of the Province of Brazil**

The Provincial of Brazil Province, Fr Gilberto Bugnon, due to illness had to come to Switzerland to undergo a prolonged treatment the duration of which is not certain. In consultation with all concerned and with the consent of the General Council, the Superior General has appointed Fr Tomson Aerathedathu as the Administrator of the Province of Brazil till the appointment is revoked. His advisors are Fr Ladir Joao Brodini, Fr Joao Inacio Rodrigues and Fr Bruno Rodrigues .The appointment has come into effect from 12th December 2012. We wish Fr. Tomson all the best.

### **New Collaborators in Bukene Mission**

After having made strenuous efforts for more than a year, to get women religious as collaborators at MSFS Mission in Bukene, Fransiscan Clarist Sisters from Nirmalarani Iduki Province have arrived in Bukene. At present there are two sisters and one more is expected to join the team. They would be rendering their service in the education and pastoral apostolate. We wish **Sr. Stella Rose FCC** and **Sr. Smitha Jose FCC** for their daring to be missionaries in this remote part of the world. We also thank His

Grace the Archbishop Paul Ruzoka for giving the necessary consent for the sisters to work in Bukene. As Fransalians we also thank Rev. Sr. Suguna FCC the Provincial Superior for facilitating the presence of the sisters in Bukene Mission. May their works bear fruit for the glory of God and for the benefit of His people.

### **Ndagani Seminary: New beginning**

With the death of Fr. James Nedungatt and Fr. Lourance Thadathil we were really confronted with a situation where we had to make a firm decision on the future of the Aspirancy House at Ndagani. Although it was in mind in the beginning to shift the formation to Fransalianum, Novitiate Tanzania, later for various reasons we thought it would be wise and feasible to continue with the formation at Ndagani. I sincerely thank our confreres Fr. Simon Raja, Fr. Stephen Ubadesi and Fr. Francis Kallikat who volunteered stay back for a few days to assist Fr. Samy in Chera and to settle the matters concerning formation.

### **Temporary Appointments**

- Fr. Stephen Ubadesi as in-charge of Aspirants at Ndagani
- Fr. Soosai David as assistant to Fr. Samy in Chera Mission
- Fr. Devadoss Francis as assistant to Fr. Sebastian in the Novitiate community.
- Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil to work at Katani as Fr. Sunny Vettickal is away for the General Chapter.
- Bro. Kenneth Maina as staff to Ndagani Formation House.

I sincerely thank these confreres as well as the confreres of the community of their origin for their willingness to take up these new tasks and to spare the confreres for the same. Dear Confreres you have done great. May God bless your generosity.

### **MSFS Mission at Isaka**

After much deliberations over the past years and with due reflections and prayers, the provincial administration has decided not to renew the contract with the Diocese of Kahama, Tanzania with regard to our pastoral work in Isaka Parish. The three year contract would end on April 30, 2013. To this effect I had communicated our decision to the Local Ordinary Most Rev. Ludovic Minde. However the MSFS Community at Mwakata would continue to exist and look after the apostolate of education in our three institutions. Please pray that this handing over process would take place in the best way in accordance with the holy will of God.

### **Editors, News-coordinators**

**Fr. Devadoss Francis** is appointed as the Chief Editor of Baraka News Letter

**Fr. Johnson Pathiyil** is appointed as one of the Associate Editors of Baraka News Letter.

**Fr. Susai David** is appointed as the news coordinator from East Africa for Fransalian International

I thank them very sincerely for accepting these additional tasks. May God bless your generosity.

### **Salesan 20 Years of SERVICE**

On January 27, 2013 Salesan e.V celebrated 20 graceful and glorious years of its existence. Ever since it was founded, the organization of Salesan has committed itself for the service in Africa as well as in India. Connecting continents and cultures, Salesan has made very remarkable contributions to our mission in East Africa. On behalf of all the Fransalians and all the beneficiaries of Salesan's work in East Africa I congratulate and thank **Mr. Werner Mueller** and the team. May God bless you much more to be blessings for others. Long live Salesan!

## Armed Robbery attempts

With deep regret we notice that robbers are again emerging targeting religious house and institutions. In the recent times we are also victims of such attempts as recently in our novitiate house in Kibaha and SFS Mission School in Tabora, robbers broke in. It was really a frightening experience for the novices and the confreres concerned. Some of the novices were physically assaulted too although not very seriously. Many valuables and cash were taken. Thanks to the presence of mind of the novices and confreres further calamities were avoided. Let us thank God for the courage and protection given to us. Through our life of intense prayer and holiness let us radiate the powerful presence of God where we live and work so that the evil forces would not dare to approach us.

## My visit to Europe

As you know my planned visit to Europe was cut short due to the unexpected death of our beloved confrere Fr. Lourance. During the one week of my stay there, I could visit Fr. James Panthalany and Fr. Zachariah Burrofero. Both of them are doing very well. Fr. James in Leuven has completed his advanced Masters last year and this year he is expecting to complete the M.Phil. Fr. Zachariah is staying at the OMI Hostel which would be almost one hour of bus journey to the Salesian University. Both of them have survived the initial struggles and are doing their best in the given responsibilities. Let us accompany them with our prayers. I also visited our Generalate House in Rome for the first time and enjoyed the hospitality of our beloved Superior General who cooked the meals for me.

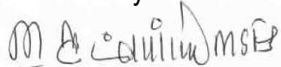
I also regret the inconveniences caused due to the cancellation of many appointments and programs. However I believe that everything has a divine purpose. No matter revealed or not revealed, he guides our destiny.

## Conclusion

Beloved confreres,

As we celebrate the day of consecrated life, may the power of the Spirit of God guide the way we think, act and live. Let every moment of our life be the movement of the Spirit at work in us. Please continue to pray very intensively for the General Chapter, for every one of you although not present in the chapter you are a participant in the chapter by your graceful and inspiring spiritual presence.

United with you in the Eucharistic Lord,



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

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My Program:

### February

1 to 15 Hyderabad General Chapter

16 to 17 Yanaam, Vizag, Pilgrimage and Jubilee with the Capitulants

18 Evening in Suvidya College

20 to 23 At Home

24 Angamaly

25 Ettumanoor

26 Departure for Nairobi

27 to March 2 in Kenya (details to be planned)

### March

3 to Morogoro

13 – 14 Council meeting in Morogoro

*Guard me Lord as the apple of your eye.  
Hide me in the shadow of your wings*

Ps. 16: 14