

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 www.msfs-eastafrica.com

E-mail: johnsonmsfs@gmail.com; provincialeastafricansfs@gmail.com



Provincial Circular EAP- JK.15

May 19, 2013

Beloved Confreres,

Once again we are celebrating the birthday of the Mother Church in this great feast of the Pentecost. We are reminded of the immeasurable power of the Spirit who guides us, leads us and strengthens us in our life and mission. The praying community of the Apostles is through the power of the Holy Spirit is transformed to be an effective agent of transformation for the rest of the community. Illumined by the Holy Spirit, we see Apostles and the early Christian community display a rare spirit of joy in their lives. Though trial, persecution and suffering accompanied them, joy was their distinct mark!

Our patron says: *However the abundant the fountain, its waters will not enter into a garden, according to the extent of its flow, but according to the narrowness or the largeness of the canal through which its waters are made to flow. Even though the Holy Spirit, the source of Living Waters enter into every part of our heart with his grace... he will pour only as much as he thinks is best and according to the disposition of our hearts and our collaboration with him: (St. Francis de Sales.)*

In fact when St. Paul challenges saying, *who can separate us from the love of Christ*, he means also: *who can take away our JOY OF BEING IN THE LORD?* Let the canals of our minds and hearts be wide enough to receive the great joy that that Lord offers us in his Spirit.

This joy should be the distinct mark for every MSFS. What gives us joy is the presence of the Spirit of God within us. Let us try to be in this joy and to live joyfully our missionary presence wherever we are.

Church in Tanzania is under threat?

In the recent past we have been receiving clear indications from various sources regarding planned attacks on Christians in Tanzania. In my previous circular (EAP-JK14 dt. March 28, 2013) I had mentioned about the same. However one more tragic event has taken place with the bomb blast at Olacity in the suburbs of Arusha City where SVD Missionaries are working. The atrocious event took place on May 5, Sunday when the blessing of the newly constructed church was about to begin. The persons present on the spot included dignitaries such as His Grace Archbishop Josephat Lubulu, the Archbishop of Arusha, His Excellency Archbishop Francisco Montecillo Padilla, the Apostolic Nuncio to Tanzania, government officials, political leaders, several priests, religious and lay faithful and well-wishers and friends belonging to different faith groups and denominations. Very unfortunately three died, many injured and several are still under shock.

On behalf of all of us I had personal communication with both the Archbishop of Arusha and the Apostolic Nuncio expressing our deep concern and promising our prayers. They reciprocate sentiments of gratitude and prayers to all of us. Let us also remember the departed ones, the sorrowed families and the entire family of Christian faith and the

people of good will in all religions. Let us remember: It is when we are challenged we grow. God allows these and similar things in our lives, with the purpose of drawing us closer to him. Let nothing discourage us. Let no adverse situation blow off our missionary zeal. Through our prayers supplemented by mortification and penance let us strengthen one another, and strengthen the faithful entrusted to our care. It is also a call for us to make real efforts for inter-religious harmony.

Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes MSFS – General Councilor

The Office of the General Councilor for Social apostolate and Innovative Ministries became vacant due to the election of Fr. Jose Kumblolickal to the office of the Provincial of SW Province. As per the directives of the General Chapter on the principle of replacement, the person who stands elected is Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, our Former Superior General. At the request of the General Administration, Fr. Agnelo has accepted the decision saying : "...if it is what God really wants of me, I will serve His will' It is really an inspiration for us to submit ourselves to the Holy Will of God. We thank Fr. Agnelo and wish him every blessing in this new task.

Rev. Fr. Yves Carron re-appointed as Provincial of Franco Swiss Province:

The Superior General has appointed Fr. Yves Carron as Provincial of Franco Swiss Province for a second term. We offer congratulations and prayerful support to Fr. Yves Carron.

Rev. Fr. Jose Kumblolickal appointed Provincial of SW Province: Fr. Jose Kumblolickal, is appointed Provincial of the South West India Province. He was installed on April 7, 2013 at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, India. Hearty Congratulations! We shall accompany him with our support and prayers.

The new USA Vice Province of MSFS

In accordance with the decision made in the General Chapter, with a decree from the Superior General the existing USA Region of MSFS is raised to the status of a Vice Province with effect from July 3, 2013. This is indeed a great stride in the process of establishing the congregation in USA. Rev. Fr. Augustine Tharappel is appointed as the Vice Provincial of this new unit. Hearty congratulations to Rev. Fr. Augustine Tharappel and to all the MSFS present in USA. We extend our prayerful support to them. Kindly find: the DECREE OF RAISING THE MSFS USA REGION TO THE STATUS OF A VICE-PROVINCE, attached along with this circular in another document.

Provincial Congress: SW India Province

The Provincial Congress was held at Vinayalaya, Bangalore, from April 23 to 26, 2013. The Congress has elected the new team of the provincial administration.

1. Fr. Henry Jose Kodikuthiyil MSFS (Councilor and Admonitor)
2. Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS (Councilor)
3. Fr. Harold Christopher Crasta MSFS (Councilor)
4. Fr. Vinod Kanat MSFS (Councilor)

Fr. Joshy Thazhathukunnel MSFS was re-elected as the Provincial Bursar.

Our sincere congratulations to the new team. All the best!

MSFS hands over the Isaka Parish to Kahama Diocese

With effect from May 1, 2013 MSFS is no more rendering direct pastoral services at Isaka Parish, Kahama Tanzania. It was on September 22, 1993 up on the invitation of Most Rev. Mathias Shija the former Bishop of Kahama, MSFS began officially its ministry in the Catholic Diocese of Kahama when we were entrusted with the Mbulu Parish together with the several outstations. In the course of time the church there flourished and as a result, in the year 2006, the Mbulu Parish was divided into three parishes namely: **Mbulu, Kagongwa** and **Isaka** by the Bishop and the mother parish Mbulu was entrusted back to the Diocese by the MSFS. MSFS was then entrusted with one of the new parishes ie Isaka where we had the pastoral ministry until recently. Due to the acute shortage of priests, we were not in a position to renew the contract with the Diocese for further ministry in Isaka, as the contract came to an end on April 30, 2013. Although being fully aware of the need to have priests in Kahama, as the Diocese itself is having shortage of personnel and in spite of earnest plea from the Local Ordinary, it was with much pain we had to arrive at the decision not to renew the contract, knowing fully our present condition of lack of personnel. It was a decision after due reflections and prayers, involving enough consultation and discernment.

I sincerely thank **His Lordship Ludovick Joseph Minde ALCP/OSS** the Bishop of Kahama for the trust placed on us and the collaboration offered to us in the past. We also recall with deep sentiments of gratitude **His Lordship Bishop Emeritus Most Rev. Mathew Shija** the former Bishop of Kahama who paved the way for us to start our mission in Kahama. We also thank all the other Diocesan authorities and the lay faithful for the great support they have rendered to us. In my letter to the Bishop I have expressed clearly our readiness to be the service of the Diocese in the future when we are in apposition to do so.

In the thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration on April 28, Sunday at Isaka Parish Rev. Fr. Isaiah Bahati the Vicar General of the Diocese officially communicated the decision to the faithful and thanked the MSFS for the services rendered so far in the Diocese. The handing over was done very smoothly on April 29, in the presence of Fr. Isaiah Bahati, Fr. Rogatus Malulu and Fr. Andrew Maziku as delegates of the Bishop, representing the Diocese, Fr. Pius Kochuparampil the Parish Priest, Fr. Santhosh Paul representing the Provincial Administration and Fr. Soosai Raju Robert representing the confreres working in Kahama Diocese together with the representatives from the parish leaders.

Let us entrust to the Lord this new scenario and seek the blessings of the Lord, up on all our plans and activities. My thanks and appreciation for all the confreres who have rendered their ministry in Isaka at one time or other. I also thank the General Administration of MSFS and the previous Provincial Administrations of East Africa Province in assisting us in this process of discernment. My special thanks to Fr. Pius Kochuparampil MSFS who spared no efforts for the meticulous preparations of all the documents, accounts and data facilitating the smooth handing over of the Isaka Parish to the Diocesan authorities.

With this new development we have no more MSFS community at Isaka. The MSFS Community at Mwakata remains and congregation retains ownership and management of the three institutions that we have in the territory of the Diocese of Kahama namely and SFS Vocational Training Centre Mwakata, De Sales English Medium School Isaka and SFS Primary School, Kagongwa. The confreres at MSFS community at Mwakata are to function in close collaboration with local church and engaging themselves in pastoral ministry in

the diocese when needed and possible. We wish them all the graces and blessings they are in need of.

Jubilee Matters: Jubilee Cross

I would like to share with you the following regarding the JUBILEE CROSS. After having taken to Tabora, Kahama, Uganda and Kenya, I am very glad that now the cross is back in Arusha Tanzania. Now for the rest of the time till October 26, 2013 the day of the conclusion of the Jubilee years, the cross can be circulated in the Apostolic communities of Arusha, Dar es Salaam and Morogoro.

I leave the task of planning of the *pilgrim journey* of the Jubilee Cross to the three convenors of Apostolic Communities: Fr. Nelson Antony, Fr. Sunny Mattathil and Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil

Please plan in such a way that the Jubilee cross can be reached to all our communities, parishes, outstations or even JNNs, schools, institution etc. You can also conduct processions with the cross and different forms of venerations. However please note that during the annual retreat (June 26 to July1) the cross will be with us at Boko where we are making the retreat.

Renewal of Vows and promotion to further stages of formation

The following scholastics are promoted for the renewal vows, further stage of formation, studies etc

Promoted for the final profession and Fourth Year of Theology (JUCO- Morogoro)

- Bro. Clement Sudhakar MSFS

Promoted for renewal of vows and Third Year of Theology (JUCO- Morogoro)

- Bro. Charles Ondiek MSFS
- Bro. Japhet Kirimi MSFS
- Bro. Joseph Kayanja MSFS
- Bro. Siljo Auppadan MSFS

Promoted for renewal of vows and Second Year of Theology (JUCO- Morogoro)

- Bro. Aristedes Danda MSFS
- Bro. Jobin Karottukampadathil MSFS
- Bro. Stephen Mutisya MSFS
- Bro. Thomas Njue MSFS

Promoted for the renewal of vows and First Year of Theology (JUCO- Morogoro)

- Bro. Amal Paul Neerolickal MSFS
- Bro. Gerald Mabiriizi Ssekalembe MSFS
- Bro. Ibrahim Kiseegerwa Musajja MSFS
- Bro. Jonathan Muema Mutunga MSFS
- Bro. Lawrence Sebowwa MSFS

Promoted for the renewal of vows and Regency

- Bro. Francis Kyule Mwovi MSFS
- Bro. Martin John Pendanath MSFS
- Bro. Patrick Titus Musyimi MSFS
- Bro. Simon Peter Nabende MSFS

Promoted for the renewal of vows and Third Year Philosophy (LCI - Arusha)

- Bro. Richard Tamaro Gitono MSFS
- Bro. Paul Onyango Sylvester Okech MSFS

Promoted for the renewal of vows and Second Year Philosophy (LCI - Arusha)

- Bro. John Dennis Dindi MSFS
- Bro. Gregory Mua Mutisya MSFS
- Bro. Leonard Musembi Ngumbi MSFS
- Bro. Michael Mwangi Mumbi MSFS
- Bro. Ssentamu Ruthitical MSFS

Promotion to renewal of Vows and designated for higher studies

- Bro. Francis Aloo Indimuli MSFS (JUCO - Morogoro)
- Bro. Kenneth Maina Mwangi MSFS (DVK – Bangalore)

Our sincere congratulations to these young confreres of ours for their successful completion of their respective stages of formation, renewal of vows and we wish them every blessing in the further journey of discerning the call of God to each one of them in the Fransalian family.

Designated for specialization

Last year, two of our scholastics namely Bro. Francis Aloo Indimuli MSFS and Bro. Kenneth Maina Mwangi MSFS who were designated for pursuing in Masters in Philosophy at Jordan University College, Morogoro, could not do it as JUCO had not got green signal from the Tanzanian Government. As the decision came too late from JUCO, we had no other alternatives than for them to continue their services in their respective communities and wait for the present academic year. Meanwhile we had the decision to send to them to Suvidya College of MA Philosophy this year. But due to some reasons Suvidya College is not taking new admission to the MA first year for one year. Seeking other alternatives we have found the possibility for Bro. Kenneth Maina to do MA Phil at Dharamaram Vidya Kshetra in Bangalore, India. He has obtained the visa to India and will be leaving for India on May 29. Meanwhile JUCO has confirmed its MA program beginning in September and Bro. Francis Aloo Indimuli will join the same. We wish them all the best in this new task assigned to them.

Departure from the Congregation

The following scholastics were not promoted for the renewal of vows and with immediate effect they cease to be members of the Congregation.

- Gabriel Ashindu (III Phil LCI)
- Julius Alex Woniala (I Phil LCI)

We thank them whole heartedly for the time of being together in congregation and wish them the blessings of God in their new life.

Appointments:

The following scholastics were appointed to do regency as follows:

- ❖ Bro. Francis Kyule Fransalian Seminary Ndagani
- ❖ Bro. Simon Peter MSFS Community Katani
- ❖ Bro. Patrick Musyimi Provincial House, with teaching assistance to Junior Seminary
- ❖ Bro. Martin Pendanath MSFS Community Ipuli

We wish them a very fruitful year of regency.

Golden Jubilee of Priesthood: Rev. Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhy MSFS

Rev. Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhy MSFS was ordained priest on September 21, 1963. Hence on September 21, 2103, by the grace of God, he completes 50 years of his priestly ministry. We know him as an exemplary religious whose services and ministries in various capacities, we have enjoyed over these past years. At present the East African unit of MSFS as well as Lumen Christi Institute is very much privileged to have him at LCI as staff and formator.

As informed to you earlier, I would like to remind you that on June 26 evening we will have a thanksgiving Eucharistic celebration officiated by Rev. Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhy MSFS in this Golden Jubilee of his priestly ordination. We shall join him in this thanksgiving Mass at 18.00 hrs at Boko Retreat Centre, Dar es Salaam. We thank Fr. Abraham for obliging to our request for this celebration. On June 27, he will be leaving for India for holidays.

MSFS Registered Society in Uganda

Through the strenuous efforts of our confreres in Uganda now MSFS has a Registered society in Uganda recognized as a juridical person by the civil authorities in Uganda. The name is: Missionary Society of St. Francis de Sales Limited ; No. 166547 dated May 8, 2013. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Sebastian Nirappel and Fr. Francis Kallikat for initiating this following it up. I am sure with this new step, we can launch further developmental projects in Uganda. The plan to establish a Children's Home at OSIA is in progress. Now we are working on the plan to start a new residential secondary school at Osia

General Councilor residing at SFS Bhavan in Angamaly

As indicated earlier, from June 2013, Fr. George Parampukattil MSFS, one of the General Councilors will reside at SFS Bhavan Peechanikad, Kerala. Besides, occasionally some of the members of General Curia may halt there and would have some of the meetings too. We appreciate this decision taken by the General Administration and welcome Fr. George and others to SFS Bhavan.

Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly MSFS

As a temporary arrangement, since the middle of March Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly is at MSFS Community Vinayabhavan, Thamarassery. It is one of the minor of seminaries of the North East India Province. The stay there facilitates his community life as well as going for the regular medical checkup in MIMS Calicut. I thank Rev. Fr. Francis Thadathil MSFS the provincial of NE Province and Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil (Jr) the Rector and community of

Vinayabhavan for the care and concern for Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly. His mobile number is: +91 8943 7133 96

Prayers requested: Called to eternal life:

- **Rev. Bro. Joseph Thekkumthottam MSFS** of Visakhapatnam Province died on March 11, 2013. He was 84 years old.
- **Mr. Joseph Ngumbi Mathiswa**, the beloved father of Bro. Leonard Musembi, died on April 1, 2013, He was 61 years old.

Prayers requested: Sick and suffering

- **Mrs. Savariammal** the beloved Mother of Fr. David Susai MSFS. She is suffering from old age related sicknesses.

Annual retreat – 2013 at the Province level

I would like to remind you about the Province annual retreat 2013. The retreat will begin on June 26, Wednesday after the supper and end on July 1 Monday with the supper. We will be departing from the retreat Centre on July 2 soon after the breakfast. The Guide of the retreat is Rev. Fr. Thomas Kandathil CM. He is now the formator at the Scholasticate and the Professor at Jordan University College, Morogoro. The venue of the retreat is: The Carmelite Spiritual Centre Boko, Off Dar- Bagamoyo Road. Post Box 7765 Dar es Salaam.

The annual retreat is the opportunity for us to come together as the Fransalian Family in East Africa. More than the personal dimension it has a wider communitarian dimension too- more so in this year of Jubilees. It is the time to share our concerns as a family with the Lord, time to mend our relationship with Him and with one another; to ensure spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation, to encourage and strengthen the other through our prayerful presence. Let us come for the retreat with singleness of purpose in order to make the retreat well. Let us be aware that we ourselves are responsible for the benefits of the retreat. We are investing our time, energy and resources for the retreat. It is the task of every one of us to ensure our joyful participation and maintenance of prayerful conducive atmosphere during the retreat.

May I remind you of your obligation to participate in the retreat. I do not rule out the possibility of any one to attend the retreat at other times or during holidays. That is one's personal choice. However that should not be the replacement of the obligation to attend the annual retreat as a Province.

Forum Meetings

The Superiors Forum meeting is on June 26, Wednesday from 10.00 hrs am to 15.30 hrs at Fransalianum, Novitiate, Kibaha.

The Mission/ Pastoral Forum meeting is on July 2, Monday from 10.00 hrs onwards at MSFS Community Mkuza parish, Kibaha.

My tentative Program

May

- 21 Meeting at LCI
- 22 At LCI Chapel and Refectory Blessing and graduation
- 25, 26 Canonical visitation to Mkuza Parish

June

- 8,9 Canonical visitation Mji Mpya Relini Parish
- 18, 19 Council meeting in Mji Mpya Relini Dar es Salaam
- 20, 21 RSAT Meeting in Morogoro
- 22 Jubilee Celebrations the Bishop of Morogoro
- 25 TEC Plenary study session, Dar es Salaam
- 26 The Superiors' Forum meeting from 10.00 hrs Fransalium, Novitiate, Kibaha
- 26 Evening Jubilee celebration Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhy in Dar
- 26 to July 1 Annual retreat at Boko, Dar

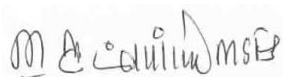
July

- 2 The Mission Forum meeting from 10.00 hrs onwards at MSFS Community Mkuza parish, Kibaha.
- 9 Initiation to the Novitiate, Kibaha
- 10 First Profession in Kibaha
- 18 Priestly Ordination in Bukene

My dear confreres,

May every day be an experience of true Pentecost for us as we place ourselves freely and unconditionally for the working of the Holy Spirit in our lives. May we never be exhausted; never discouraged; never overcome with feelings helplessness and hopelessness for it is the Spirit who is ready to guide us and strengthen us in our weaknesses. The days ahead of us are very busy with Jubilee preparations, retreat, meetings etc. Yet let us dwell in the Lord all the time. Let us walk with the Lord so that we can work for him. I wish you very graceful days ahead.

Praying for you dearly through the intercession of our holy founder servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier,



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

**Happy the man who meditates on wisdom
and reflects on knowledge. Sir 14:20**