

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-eastafrika.com

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



Provincial Circular EAP- JK.24

June 22, 2014

Beloved Confreres,

Happy Feast as we celebrate today the *Corpus Christi!* (Of course some of us in some parts of the world celebrated it on last Thursday.)

After many days of important meetings and long travels as part of the visitation from the Superior General and the visits from the Assistant Superior General and having behind many hectic days, I am very glad to greet you once again in this circular.

The Visitations: The Time of Grace !

The events of canonical visitations, visits and all the meetings and celebrations were experiences of being together, time of evaluation, appreciation, critique and receiving a thrust for new thinking and renewal. Let us thank the Almighty God for the many graces and blessings He has given to our Mission in East Africa. In a very special way God has offered protection and guidance in our journeys. From the time of landing in Nairobi on April 26 till the time of take off from Dar es Salaam on June 18, Superior General has covered the distance of kms 7010 by road kms 1850 by internal flights making the total distance travelled by him within East Africa kms 8860. This is much more than the air distance between Dar es Salaam and Mumbai! If we add together the total distances covered by each one of us during the recent past for the meetings and celebrations, the figures will be really astounding. We can only thank our good God for he has spared us from all the accidents and troubles.

Let us also thank the Superior General **Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS** for taking time to be with us, for the personal meetings, for the meetings in Local Communities, for the inspiring messages and uplifting interactions. I must include a special note of appreciation for the enthusiasm and keen interest he manifested in celebrating the Holy Mass in Swahili language. In all our Swahili speaking parishes he could celebrate the Mass very solemnly in Swahili bringing lot of joy and life to the people.

We also thank our beloved Assistant Superior General **Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas MSFS** for the visits and meetings in Apostolic Communities, for the keen listening to our open sharing and collating all the points for further considerations. In the given period of eight days he could cover all the five Apostolic Communities and could have the required meetings.

Our sincere thanks to all the General Councillors **Fr. Noel Rebello, Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, Fr. Jayaseelan and Fr. George Parambukattil** together with the General Bursar **Fr. Augustine Mangatt** for the beautiful time with us. We appreciate their simplicity, spirit of accommodation and adaptation. Their presence in our communities was a time of spiritual celebrations for us. We have learnt a lot by being with all of them listening to them and in our interactions. The Forum meetings in their presence brought to us deeper awareness of our being connected to the entire congregation, and our status as collaborators in the same mission. We thank them for encouraging us, challenging us and bringing new vitality into our apostolic activities.

Priestly Ordination: Fr. Silvester Clement Sudhakar MSFS

Reverend Father Silvester Clement Sudhakar MSFS was born on August 14, 1987, at P. Muthuvijayapuram, Semponkudi, Ramnad - in the Diocese of Sivagangai, Tamil Nadu, India. He is the first born of the family of Mr Silvester and Mrs S. Lourdu Mary. As in a devout Catholic family Clement was baptized on October 4, 1987. He received the First Communion on April 24, 1997 and later he was confirmed on May 30, 2004 at Infant Jesus Cathedral, Salem Tamil Nadu. He began his primary education R.C Elementary School at Muthuvijayapuram (1992 - 1997) and the Secondary School Studies at Sacred Heart Higher Secondary school at Thiruvaragam (1997-2002). Later he did his Orientation Program at Jyothi Darshan Minor Seminary and the Higher Secondary School at Holy Cross Higher Secondary School (2002-2005).

He did his Canonical Noviciate at Belgaum and made the First Profession on June 10, 2006 and became a member of the Fransalian Family. Originally he belonged to the Pune Province and after completing his Philosophy studies in Suvidya College in 2009 he opted for East Africa and became a member of the East Africa Province. He did his regency in the Noviciate, Kibaha and later did his Theological formation at Fransalian House Kola, studying Theology at Jordan University College. He was ordained Deacon on July 18, 2013 in Bukene, by His Grace the Archbishop of Tabora, Tanzania. After completing all the requirements and after due preparations he received the grace of Sacred Ordination to Priesthood on June 14, 2014 by His Lordship **Rt. Rev. Jebamalai Susaimanickam** Bishop of Diocese of Sivagangai, Tamil Nadu.

Our Congratulations, Gratitude and Good Wishes to our New Priest Fr. Clement

Our sincere appreciation and congratulations to Fr. Clement Sudhakar. He is a precious gift of God to the universal Church, to the Fransalian family and specially to our mission in East Africa. We also express our sincere thanks to His Lordship **Rt. Rev. Jebamalai Susaimanickam** Bishop of Diocese of Sivagangai for ordaining Fr. Clement. We also thank Rev. Fr. R.S. Irudaya Raj the Parish Priest and the parish team for all the arrangements. As a congregation we also express our sincere thanks to the parents of Fr. Clement and to his only brother who have made big sacrifice of giving their dear one for the work in the vineyard of the Lord.

We also thank all the teachers, formators, professors and spiritual guides who constantly supported him in his journey of vocation. The kind services they have rendered is not merely a personal service given to Fr. Clement but to each one of us and to everyone who will be served by Fr. Clement. We owe much to the Pune Province for the initial formation and preparing Fr. Clement for the mission in Africa. It was very kind of **Fr. Vincent Lourdusamy MSFS the Provincial of Pune Province** to be present for the Ordination and to present the candidate to the Bishop on behalf of the Congregation. I also thank all our confreres from East Africa and from India who made efforts to participate in the ordination.

Conferring of Ministries

On May 10, 2014 our beloved Superior General conferred Ministries of Lector and Acolyte to our scholastics in Fransalian House Kola. It was very kind of Fr. Superior General to confer the ministries on our young confreres. Our Congratulations to each one of them and we wish them every blessings in the service of the Church as they prepare themselves to be ordained ministers.

Promotion to Renewal of vows

All the scholastics of East Africa Province were promoted for the renewal and have renewed their vows on May 19, 2014 in their respective formation house or communities. We express

our heartfelt appreciation and congratulations to them. May the Lord accompany you in your further journey of responding to the call of the Lord. I also thank all the confreres who were given the Delegation to receive the Vows and who readily accomplished this task. We also congratulate and thank the formators and community members who accompany our young seminarians.

Itaga Parish Itaga, Tabora - Tanzania - 100 Years!

On June 13, 2014 on the Feast of St. Antony of Padua the centenary of Itaga Parish under the patronage of St. Antony of Padua was celebrated in a very impressive manner. We as MSFS began our mission in Itaga in the year 1991. The parish has grown a lot. We started there with 28 out stations. Today it has 54 outstations and 140 Small Christian Communities. Itaga is the largest parish in the Archdiocese of Tabora and is also the largest parish among the 12 parishes we serve in East Africa. The farthest sub-station is 130 kms from the parish centre!

The event of jubilee was marked by Solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by **His Grace Paul Ruzoka, the Archbishop of Tabora**. The occasion was graced by the presence of **Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS** our Superior General who availed himself for the day. It was really a mega gathering of over 2000 people including MSFS Confreres, Diocesan clergy, religious and laity. The presence of dignitaries from the governmental departments spoke volumes about the existing collaboration between the Church and civil authorities for the holistic development of the people.

His Grace the Archbishop, in his homely and in his message thanked the MSFS for the very intensive work of evangelization that we accomplish in the Archdiocese. The MSFS priests who served the Itaga Parish were specially recognized and honoured. After the Eucharistic celebration and the felicitations with typical traditional touch, the entire community in celebration shared the meals in a very festive manner.

The jubilee celebration was the result of the long time planning and preparations by the parish administration under the efficient and experienced leadership of **Fr. Tomychan Perumannor MSFS** with the whole hearted assistance and commitment from **Fr. Antonysamy Robert MSFS** the Assistant Parish Priest. May I express our sincere thanks and appreciation to our beloved confers, to the religious sisters (Daughters of Mary), to the parish leaders and to the entire parish family for the graceful celebration of the event.

Once again we as the MSFS Family express our most sincere thanks to His Grace Paul Ruzoka the Archbishop of Tabora, the diocesan clergy other religious and the entire family of Archdiocese for the good collaboration, encouragement and constant support that we receive. We wish and pray that faith will continue to grow and after 100 years from now, the bi-centenary may be celebrated with still deeper faith and more faithful, although none of us may be there to take part in it.

Hearty Congratulations: Fr. Sebastian Palakudy MSFS

Fr. Sebastian Palakudy has successfully completed Licentiate Degree in Marriage and Family Science from CANA Pope John Paul II Pontifical Institute in Changanassery India. He based his thesis on the role of the Families in the promotion of vocation to religious life and priesthood. The study was based also on several interviews conducted with the parents of priests in different parishes. Fr. Sebastian secured the degree with *Summa cum Laude*. The Director of CANA has written to me personally appreciating very much the presence, study and the ministry of Fr. Sebastian during the past two years. Along with the Licentiate studies he also obtained Diploma in Family counselling from Calicut University.

We express our sincere congratulations to Fr. Sebastian Palakudy and extend a hearty welcome back to the ministry in East Africa. *Karibu Sana....*

Hearty Congratulations: Fr. Josephat Bududu of Tabora Archdiocese

In the year of the Jubilee of 25 Years of MSFS in East Africa, we had facilitated and sponsored the higher study of one of the diocesan priests from Tabora. Thus Rev. Fr. Josephat Bududu was sent to Indian Institute of Spirituality, Bangalore. Fr. Bududu was the first African Student to join IIS and he did very well in his life and studies. He has completed the studies - Masters in Spirituality - with distinction - and is back to Tanzania in order to continue the ministry here. Our sincere congratulations to Fr. Bududu. Our thanks to Fr. Benni Koottanal MSFS the Director of IIS and his wonderful team for constant support and accompaniment they have given to Fr. Josephat during his stay and study at IIS.

Appointments: Regency

The following scholastics are appointed for regency as follows:

Bro. Onyango Paul Sylvester MSFS : MSFS Community Katani-Mlolongo, Kenya
Bro. Gitono Richard Tamaro MSFS : Fransalian Seminary Ndagani, Kenya

We wish them all the best for this very significant year of formation and practical living of the religious life in the context of community and apostolate.

News from LCI Arusha - New Strides

May 17, 2014 is marked in golden letters in the history of Lumen Christi Institute (LCI), Arusha because of the twin celebrations that highlighted the programmes of the day. These were the opening and the blessing of the new dispensary (Lumen Christi Dispensary) and the graduation of seven Brothers who had successfully completed their philosophical studies at the Institute. The celebrations began at 9.30 a.m. with the solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by very **Rev. Dr. Abraham Vettuvelil MSFS, the Superior General of the MSFS** and the Chancellor of the Institute. Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, Provincial of the East Africa Province and Vice-Chancellor of the Institute, **Rev. Fr. Simon Tenges, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Arusha**, Civil Dignitaries, LCI staff, MSFS Fathers and Brothers, Sisters, invited guests and the leaders of the parish graced the occasion with their presence. After the Holy Eucharist the new dispensary was officially opened by very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvelil and was blessed by Rev. Fr. Simon Tenges in the presence of the Regional Medical Officer of Arusha Region and other officials from the Department of Public Health. **Sisters of the Congregation of the Mother of Carmel (CMC)** are entrusted with the responsibility of running the dispensary.

The opening and the blessing of the dispensary was followed by the ceremony of graduation of seven students (two of East Africa Province, two of Southern African Region, two of Mozambique Delegation & one of Archdiocese of Arusha). Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvelil presented the certificates to the graduating students. In his convocation address he emphasized the role of philosophical studies for a sound intellectual formation. He challenged each student to become a servant-leader. He thanked and congratulated the staff and students of LCI for their invaluable contribution and hard work. He wished them all success and divine blessings in their endeavours. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the Director of the Institute thanked all the participants and very specially Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvelil, Rev. Fr. Simon Tenges, Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, Civil Dignitaries, Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and other invited guests. The celebrations ended with a fellowship meal.

Reported by Fr. Gijo Panamattathil MSFS

Province Forum Meetings

The various apostolic forums of the Province had their meetings as planned in the presence of the General Secretary of each Forum. It was a good exercise of learning from each other,

with an objective evaluation of the quality and direction of our various apostolates. The reports of the Forum meetings and the thrust given by the Provincial Curia with General Curia - will be sent to you soon. We have a lot to do and I am sure that these documents would serve as study materials for us in the forthcoming Provincial Congress. I thank all the members who took trouble in participating in the meeting and the Provincial Curia Members for the due preparations done for the meeting.

New Address

Fr. Kurian Kollapallil MSFS is transferred to Jackson, MI with effect from June 25, 2014. His contact:

St. John the Evangelist Church
711 N. Francis St. Jackson, MI 49201 USA
(517) 784-0553 : cell.734-276-0118 kjpallil@gmail.com FAX (517) 788-5381

Fr. Antony Rajesh MSFS sends his greetings from USA to all of us. He is appointed parochial vicar at St. Margaret Parish, Otsego, MI in the diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan. His contact:

St. Margaret Parish
766 S. Farmer Street
Otsego, MI 49078
Phone: 269-694-6311; Fax: 269-694-5415; Cell: 269-201-8003

We wish them all the blessings in their ministry.

New Mandate as Provincials

The Superior General in his communiqué dated May 28, 2014 wrote:

My dear Fathers:

Greetings and warm regards from East African Provincial House, Morogoro!

I am glad to announce that the following confreres are appointed Provincials during the General Council Meeting being held at the East African Provincial House:

Fr. Tomson Aerathedam: Brazil Province

Fr. Vincent Lourduswamy: Pune Province

Fr. Johnson Kallidukil: East Africa Province

Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhy: Nagpur Province

Please keep our Provincials in your prayers and communicate the news to your respective Provinces and communities.

United with you in prayer,

Live Jesus!

Father Abraham, MSFS

The Renewed Mandate

Placing my entire self in the service of the Mission in Africa and trusting in the Almighty God who is LOVE who has given us life and call to LOVE, and placing my confidence in the graceful collaboration of each of you my dear Father, my dear Brother, I have accepted the decision of the General Administration. Let us move forward in making our lives meaningful oblation in love of God and our brothers and sisters.

Congratulations to the Provincials

As a Province Community we also express our sincere congratulations to **Fr. Tomson Aerathedam MSFS, Fr. Vincent Lourduswamy MSFS and Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhy MSFS** in being entrusted with this task of servant leadership. May Jesus who served others as the Leader be our guide and inspiration in our task of leadership.

Prayers Requested

Necrology

- ❖ Fr. Frederic Meynet MSFS of France-Suisse Province, aged 90, passed away on March 17, 2014.
- ❖ Fr. S.M Peter MSFS of Pune Province passed away on May 21, 2014 at the age of 49.
- ❖ Rev. Fr. Paul Iyramana MSFS of Vizag Province passed away on June 14, 2014 at the age of 89.

Sick and suffering:

Mr Werner Mueller, our dear mission friend from Switzerland is undergoing now intensive Chemotherapy.

In my letter to him Mr Werner responded on June 19, 2014:

Dear Fr. Johnson

Thank you for your supporting words. The complete programme will end by November.

Therefore not much activities from my side. First I have to recover and get my immune system up to normal.

Thank you very much for the prayers by you and your confrères. I am confident that the lord is with me all the time.

Best regards to all your confrères in East Africa.

Werner

Rev. Fr. Gilbert Bugnon MSFS the former Provincial Superior of Brazil Province. He is very critical as he is suffering from advanced stage of cancer.

Mr. James Mwachi, the brother in-law of Bro. Ndimuli Francis Aloo MSFS (Kola), was attacked by armed robbers last month and was seriously injured on the head and chest. He is recuperating at Kakamega General Hospital, Kenya. Let pray for his sister too who experienced this trauma. It is very unfortunate that such things take place in our society. As consecrated persons we have the duty to pray for those who cause harm to us so that the Spirit of the Lord will touch them and anoint them.

My Tentative Program:

June 2014

- 19-21 RSAT Meeting Mbagala, Dar es Salaam
- 22 TCAS (Union of Women Religious Tanzania) Golden Jubilee & Corpus Christi at TEC
- 23-24 TEC Plenary Assembly With Bishops and RSAT
- 29 Mass in Dumila/ Dakawa

July 2014

- 6 Blessing of Renovated Church Dumila, Jubilee Celebrations of St. Joseph Sisters
- 9 Initiation to Noviciate
- 10 First Profession and Final Profession at Fransalianum, Kibaha
- 15 Installation of the Provincial

Beloved Confreres,

After the events of visitation and meetings, as we celebrate today *Corpus Christi* and as we are preparing ourselves for the great spiritual events of our annual retreat based on the spirit of the General Chapter, the First Profession and Final Profession of our young brothers, let us pray for one another and very specially for our young brothers. May all of us be Eucharistic Persons ready to be broken - at the service of others. It implies: I should become for the other, what Jesus is for me! Through the power of the Lord in me, I become strength to the weak, inspiration and hope to those in ignorance and despair, healing agent to those who are ill and sources of consolation to the broken hearted.

Our Patron -***Saint Francis de Sales*** Exhorts us: *Have patience with all things, but chiefly have patience with yourself. Do not lose courage in considering you own imperfections but instantly set about remedying them - every day begin the task anew.*

Patience is the expression of faith: Faith in God, in the Other and above all in Oneself. However, we can have true faith in the Other and in Ourselves only when we have faith in God.

Human as we are, we have our weaknesses and limitations. However our biggest strength is being in God whose power and perfection is infinite. When we allow ourselves to be on our own, when we separate ourselves from God we are lost and confused. Our Patron tells us to focus ourselves on God. When we focus ourselves on God, we begin to be patient with God, with Others and with our own self.

In our personal lives, in our communities, in our mission in East Africa we have achieved a lot in the past. However there are several matters we have not achieved and accomplished. However they are not reasons for us to get discouraged and to be desperate. On the other hand we should be generous enough to sing the praises of God. In the faces of challenges and discouragements our venerable Founder **Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier** declared boldly: *I am so resolved!* It was nothing but an expression of deep faith in God. As St. Francis tells us, let us *every day begin the task anew.*

Remember:

- Every Eucharistic celebration is unique.
- Every holy communion that we receive and distribute has infinite power.
- Although a single drop of the blood of Christ was enough to sanctify the entire world, Jesus shed even the last drop.
- In the order holiness, we may be last in the line, yet Jesus called us to administer the most unique and precious treasure in the Catholic faith: the Most Holy Eucharist.

Let us praise the Eucharistic Lord!

United with you in the Eucharistic Lord,



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

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart and
lean not on your own understanding.**

Proverb 3: 5