

# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES



## Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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December 8, 2014

Beloved Confreres,

Greetings of peace to each one of you!

### **Advent: Mutual Consent of God and Man**

The month of November has bid adieu to us taking us to the edge of 2014. Now the holy season of Advent is at hand. The Mother Church presents to us the season of Advent as a time of hope, harmony and new life. Advent is not merely a time of preparation for Christmas.

God's YES to the humanity (I will give you a Saviour) can be accomplished only through Man's YES to God (behold the handmaid of the Lord).

This single act of promise of God in the Old Testament is an expression of the multitude of promises of myriads of blessings that the Lord wants to give us. The Saviour's coming is not merely in the form of Nativity of the Lord. The Lord blesses us in various ways when we are ready to respond to Him with our YES.

The YES of Mary Our Mother brought blessings not only to her but also to all. It implies that my YES to the Lord will bring many blessings to many others. Humanly speaking Mary personally got only sufferings and humiliations from the time of that YES. But she was not afraid or selfish. Are we not some time very evasive or calculative in our giving our YES to God?

Advent invites us to prepare ourselves and to equip ourselves well that our whole hearted YES would bring many blessings to others. Remember you ARE today the way you are because someone at sometime has said YES to God. My saying NO to the grace of God will surely deprive many people of the blessing that the Lord wants to give to them. You are the ADVENT through which many people have to experience the Christmas! You are the Manger into which Jesus is to be born.

### **Immaculate Conception**

The Mother Church teaches "*that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin.*" (Encyclical *Ineffabilis Deus* by Pope Pius IX) Therefore, being always free from original sin, the doctrine teaches that from her conception Mary received the sanctifying grace that would normally come with baptism after birth.

My dear friends, Mary was born immaculate by the special direct act of God; we are made immaculate through the divine act accomplished at our baptism by way of human ministry. In presenting to us our Mother with this unique nature, we are reminded of our potentialities to live a life that is immaculate. When we dip ourselves into the ocean of the Grace of God, we cannot but be freed from even the stains of sin. But unfortunately we have other negative possibilities too - to which we often direct our lives. Are not our lives far from being immaculate? The Mother Church has the right to see us her beloved children living a life that is immaculate.

### **Year of Consecrated life**

Pope Francis proclaimed 2015 a Year of Consecrated Life, starting on the First Sunday of Advent, the weekend of November 29, 2014, and ending on February 2, 2016, the World Day of Consecrated life. The year also marks the 50th anniversary of *Perfectae Caritatis*, a decree on religious life, and *Lumen Gentium*, the Second Vatican Council's constitution on the Church. Its purpose, is to "make a grateful remembrance of the recent past" while embracing "the future with hope." There are various programs organized at various levels in the church and in different congregations, organizations. Let us not end the meaning of this year with these programs.

It is primarily a year dedicated for you and for me. When each of us and each consecrated person in this world, live one's consecration to the core, there is nothing more needed to make the consecrated life more meaningful and attractive. Many events of seminars and symposiums on consecrated life, Mega liturgical and social celebrations may make great impressions and provide information. BUT what touches the other human being and what inspires other to come to God and even to consecrate oneself to God is nothing but our very personal lives. Hence let each of us say: This is MY YEAR. This is the YEAR of MY BROTHER and my SISTER. Let me live my consecration to the full, let me also allow, facilitate and strengthen the life of consecration of my brother and sister.

### **The Meetings in India**

From November 24 to 29 we had a series of meetings in Bangalore. There were sessions of animations for the Provincial Administrations, joint meetings of General Curia, PIF-PEA and MSAF. The input sessions were given by His Lordship Bishop Francis Serrao SJ the Bishop of Shimoga, Rev. Fr. Philip Thomas MSFS and Rev. Fr. Jerry Rosario SJ. The resource persons shared with us their enriching ideas and lessons on **Leadership according to the mind of Jesus, conflict management, and the new spiritual thrusts in the Joy of the Gospel**. It was also an occasion for me to meet many confreres.

### **Our Confreres in India**

I had the opportunity to meet our Confreres, Fr. Eriyanickal Jose, Fr. Kunnappilly Joseph, Fr. Devadoss Francis and Bro. Kenneth Maina. All are doing well with their works and studies. However Fr. Kunnappilly Joseph needs our special prayers as his health condition is not very steady. I also had the joy to meet Fr. Emile Amougu, Bro. Godwin Nuwamanya MSFS and Bro. Fabian Wasonga MSFS who are doing their studies in Bangalore. They do send lot of Greetings to East Africa.

## **Transfers and Appointments**

**Fr. Peter Antony George MSFS.** With effect from December 20, Fr. Antony George is transferred from the MSFS Community Lububu, Tanzania to the MSFS Community at Osia-Agururu, Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda. He is assigned for the new MSFS mission in Iyolwa in the same diocese and will be residing at Agururu till the MSFS community at Iyolwa is established and the confreres move to the new presbytery in Iyolwa.

**Fr. Antonysamy Muthusamy MSFS.** With immediate effect Fr. Antonysamy is appointed to the MSFS Community in Lububu and is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest.

**Fr. Paul Samy MSFS** is appointed to the Community in Ipuli. He is appointed as the Assistant Manager and Administrator of all our Educational Institutions and Social Apostolate.

**Fr. Pandanath Reji MSFS** will hold the additional tasks as the Manager of SFS / Mermier Homes/ Hostels, Simba Clay and the Social Apostolates.

**Fr. Perumanoor Tomychan MSFS.** With effect from December 20, 2014 Fr. Tomychan is relieved from the responsibilities as the Parish Priest of Itaga and as the Superior of the MSFS Community at Itaga.

**Fr. Ngowi Innocent Vincent MSFS.** With effect from December 21, 2014, Fr. Innocent is appointed to the MSFS Community at Itaga as the Superior of the Community. He is also designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of Itaga from the same date.

## **Bon Voyage to Namibia**

**Bro. Mutume Ventino Peter MSFS** and **Bro. Oliver Vincent Olowo MSFS** of North East India Province/ Southern African Region as they were awaiting their visa to Namibia, have rendered their service as part of the regency at SFS Junior Seminary Morogoro. Now that they have obtained the Visa, they will be leaving for Namibia in the third week of December. We thank them for their valuable services and we wish them all the best in their further states of formation and mission. "The World is a book, and those who do not travel, read only a page." (Saint Augustine). Our dear brothers, we wish you the abundant blessings of God in your lives. Read many more inspiring pages in the book of this world. Namibia and South Africa has many things to teach you. May you have a very enriching time of giving yourselves for the mission.

## **Update Programme in Philippines: Fr. Perumanoor Tomychan MSFS**

Fr. Perumanoor Tomychan will be attending PASTORAL LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT FOR MISSION PROGRAM from January 5 to – June 26, 2015 at East Asian Pastoral Institute, Quezon City, Philippines. We wish Fr. Tomychan a great time in learning, meeting new people and encountering new cultures.

## **MSFS Bible Diary - Joy of the Gospel - 2015**

Our Congregation has launched the new project of preparing a Bible Diary very effectively. IIS/SFS Publications Bangalore was entrusted with this task. The Bible Diary

has come out well and gets lots of appreciation from all corners. Now it is available with Fransalian Communications Morogoro and Arusha. Kindly make every effort to popularize the Diary in your parishes and institutions. Once well footed in the market / in the hearts of the faithful it would be also a beautiful chance for us to disseminate the Spirituality of our Patron and Founder adding flavour and fragrance to the rich meal of the Word of God. Our Sincere Congratulations to Rev. Fr. Koottanal Benny MSFS and the team of the Joy of the Gospel - 2015.

## **Baraka 5**

The fifth issue of Baraka is already out. It is dedicated to Pastoral Ministry. It is also available in web.

[http://www.msfs-eastafrica.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=41&Itemid=53&lang=en](http://www.msfs-eastafrica.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=41&Itemid=53&lang=en)

Kindly forward this link to all your friends and our well-wishers who might be interested in reading more news about our mission. Our sincere congrats to the Editors and Contributors team for the wonderful work done.

## **Baraka: New - Editor: Fr. Nirappel Sebastian**

As Fr. Pathiyil Johnson who was the chief editor of Baraka till now, is away from East Africa for the studies, Fr. Nirappel Sebastian MSFS is appointed to be the chief editor of Baraka with the forth coming issue. Baraka 6 is dedicated to the Apostolate of Formation. All are welcome to contribute. Please contact Fr. Nirappel Sebastian. (snirappel@gmail.com).

## **Convent blessing in Kagongwa, Kahama**

The SFS community at Mwakata had the joy of blessing and the opening of the new Residence for the Sisters who are collaborating in our apostolate of Education in SFS School Kagongwa on December 1, 2014 at Kagongwa. At 6.30 am there was most Holy Eucharistic celebration which was presided over by His Lordship Most Rev. Ludovick Joseph Minde ACLP/ OSS the Local ordinary of Kahama Diocese who Blessed the house, and the house was opened by Sr. Salome FSKJS. His Lordship Most Rev. Ludovick Joseph Minde in his homily appreciated the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales for their good work of the education ministry. The event was graced by the presence of VG of the diocese and the parish priest of Kagongwa, and many other religious priests, sisters and children. At present the Franciscan Sisters of the Kingdom of Jesus Christ are collaborating with us in the school and they have started to stay in the new community. Our Sincere Congratulations to all the Confreres who initiated the works and brought it to completion.

## **Statement and Action Plan of PC EA-2014**

The final text of the Statement of the Provincial Congress and the Action Plan was sent to you with the due approval of the Superior General. Above everything else, please make it a point to reflect on them in your very personal life. The rationale behind this direction of thought is that *The Real Life of the Province is nothing but the totality of the life of each individual member.* Please make them also matter of the sharing and evaluation in the community/ Apostolic Community meetings.

## **Annual Budget and Statement of Accounts**

As the new Calendar cum Financial year is starting from January 2015, I remind you to submit the budget to the Provincial Bursar latest by December 15, 2014. The annual accounts are to be submitted by January 31, 2015.

## **The health condition of Fr. Prakashbhavan Santhosh**

Fr. Prakashbhavan Santhosh has come back from India after getting treated for the kidney related illness and after few days of holidays. He also made use of the opportunity to attend one month training program in Counselling and Spiritual Direction from Christ Hall - by Jesuits in Calicut. Let us thank God for the speedy recovery to Fr. Santhosh.

## **Home Holidays**

The following Confreres are / will be on home holidays. We wish them a refreshing time with their dear and near ones.

Fr. Peter Johnson Napoleon	from	October 23, 2014 to January 20, 2015
Fr. Prakashbhavan Santhosh	from	September 28, 2014 to November 28, 2014
Fr. Kuzhupil Sebastian	from	December 15, 2014 to February 14, 2015
Fr. Vellachalil Jomon	from	December 28, 2014 to February 28, 2015
Fr. Kollappallil Jomat	from	December 16, 2014 to February 16, 2015

## **New Mission in Iyolwa - Tororo Uganda**

The Archbishop of Tororo His Grace Most Rev. Emmanuel Obbo AJ has informed us that on **February 8, 2015** the mission of Iyolwa will be declared a parish and will be entrusted to the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales for the pastoral care and the overall development. It is an affirmation of the trust the ecclesiastical authorities are placing on us. Let us prayerfully anoint this decision with our sincere good wishes. I wish that as many confreres as possible could join our confreres and the local church on that day in this significant event.

## **Nagpur Province: The New Provincial Administration**

Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhiyil	Provincial Superior
Fr. Benedict De Souza	Councillor in-charge of Formation & Admonitor
Fr. Manoj Tirkey	Councillor in-charge of Education
Fr. Willie D'Silva	Councillor In-Charge of Mission
Fr. Joseph Kailamangalam	Councillor In-Charge of Social & Innovative Ministries.
Fr. Wilson Adackaparayil	Provincial Bursar

## **Pune Province : The New Provincial Administration**

Fr. Vincent Lourdusamay	Provincial Superior
Fr. Sunny Joseph	Councillor in-Charge of Formation cum Admonitor
Fr. Peppin Jayaraj	Councillor in-Charge of Education
Fr. Nazareth D'Silva	Councillor in-Charge of Mission
Fr. Albert Fernandes	Councillor in-Charge of Social / Innovative ministries
Fr. Jerry Misquith	Provincial Bursar

We wish the new Provincial Curia the blessings of the Lord in the task of serving and leading us and the rest.

### Let us pray:

*For the departed ones:*

### **R.I.P**

➤ **Mr Micheal Irudhayam**, the maternal grandfather of Fr. Sudhakar Clement, died on October 12, 2014 at the age of 74.

❖ **Rev. Fr. Raison Kaduvakuzhickal MSFS** of South-West Province, aged 36 passed away on October 28, 2014.

❖ **Fr. Mathew Mundamattam MSFS** of Vizag Province passed away on December 8, 2014.

May I request all those who have not fulfilled the suffrages to do the same at the earliest (Const. No. 118; General Directory No 98). *May their souls Rest in Peace.*

### My Tentative Programs

#### **December 2014**

8-12 Guiding Seminar for the Formators: at LCI, Arusha

13-15 In Morogoro- Dar es Salaam.

17-18 Provincial Council meeting at LCI

19-24 Taka Apostolic Community

21 Itaga Mission

24-25 Dumila Mission

31 Seminar on Consecrated Life, Kola Morogoro

### Conclusion

*Comfort, Comfort my people* (Is. 40:1), is the is the Biblical Verse that soothes our hearts giving us the uplifting feeling that we are in Advent. But, we are in a world of discomfort. There are lots of elements of discomforts in our hearts, in our communities, in our relationships, in the places of work. Where do these elements of discomfort come from?

**Discomfort results from the absence of true comfort**

**or**

**from the presence of wrong comforts.**

What could be the true comfort? True comfort is the presence of **the Comforter**, ie the Spirit of God. When the Spirit of God is in us, no matter what happens to us, what surrounds us, what challenges, we are not moved. When the true comforter is within us we are never defeated. We may not reach the ideal, but we are not discouraged. We may not have all that we desired and planned but we are not desperate. Others may judge us by the standard of the world and say we are lost. But when the true comforter, the Spirit of God is with us, nothing can disturb us.

What could be the wrong comfort? When we think that what comforts us is what we possess, what we perform, what we gain etc, we seek the wrong comfort. In moments of difficulties, when one seeks consolation in things of this world and in relationship of the world, we seek the wrong comfort. When one is convinced that one can depend merely on human strength without taking into consideration the divine aspect, one is seeking the wrong comfort. For them the comfort of the Lord is irrelevant, for they are already comforted by their world, through their strength, their accomplishments, their victories. *Cursed be the man who trusts merely in human power* (Ref. Jer. 17:5).

Let us humble ourselves before the Lord who humbled himself in the incarnation. Let us acknowledge that we need the comforter. And indeed we need HIM!

With these thoughts I wish you a very graceful time of Advent as intensive preparation for coming of the Saviour, our true and only Comforter.

May the blessed Mother pray for us! May the powerful intercession of our holy Founder Fr. Peter Mermier help us to move forward!

Yours in the Eucharistic Lord,



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

***The Lord will guard you from all evil,  
preserving your life.  
The Lord will guard your goings and comings,  
from this time on and forever.***

Psalm 121: 7-8