

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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Provincial Circular MSFS - EAP- JK.30

February 18, 2015

Beloved Confreres !

The Season of LENT

Today we enter into the holy season of Lent. We are reminded of *THE WAY OF JESUS* in his redemptive action. *THE WAY OF JESUS* was the way of solitude, silence, suffering and sanctification. We are also invited to walk with Jesus the same way and that is *THE WAY* and the only way that will lead us to the true final destiny. Lent is the reminder of the path we need to take in our lives.

Generally we associate the season of Lent as a time of penance, mortification, more demanding pious practices sometimes making the life a *miserable* one! Lent is not a time of sadness or misery. It is not a time of self- inflicted suffering. Lent is a joyful time of walking with the Lord. No matter what we experience during the journey, everything is a matter of joy for us, everything has a reason to make us happy, for we are with the Lord. In other words, Lent is a time of being with the Lord in an intensive manner.

This intensive time of being with the Lord helps us to know the Lord in realistic manner. What is the realistic Jesus? The glorified Jesus is easily understood, proclaimed and followed. However Jesus *as the love of the Father* is manifested in the best way on the cross. If we are the beneficiaries of that love we need to go to Jesus where he is. Jesus of the cross and the Jesus of the tabernacle are one and the same. However mostly we prefer to greet him in the tabernacle. There are many things that we tend to ignore in Jesus: the human struggle of endurance and discernment, experiences of being abandoned, betrayed and so on.

Lent invites us to live Jesus in our lives – in the totality. Not the one sided version that we like or prefer but living HIM totally. When we move by mere human tendencies, we prefer the cosy and easy ways. But way of Jesus was different. Our Patron St. Francis de Sales teaches us: “The proof of our loyalty lies in our capacity to suffer rather than in our propensity to action.” Hence, my dear confreres, sometimes a moment of silent suffering in love is nobler than multitude of *performances* devoid of love. If Easter is a reason for Joy, what precedes Easter must be also be reason for joy. True Easter joy cannot be attained without the readiness to accept joyfully all that come on our way, no matter pleasant or unpleasant they are. Let us love Jesus as HE IS. *“We want the best of everything: the benefits of Calvary and the consolation of Tabor,”* exhorts our patron.

May our life, our attitudes, our words and deeds be agents of Good News to many. May we have the heart to endure suffering even silently. Let us be totally involved in our mission being ready to endure and face everything that might come on our way.

I wish you a grace filled, joyful and inspiring season of Lent.

The New Mission of Iyolwa: St. Francis de Sales Parish - Uganda

Marking a mile stone in the history of the MSFS in East Africa, in this year of Mission we have taken up a new mission in Iyolwa, Uganda. This was one of the outstations of the existing

Parish of Mulanda in the Archdiocese of Tororo. On February 8, 2015 in a very solemn Eucharistic celebration - conducted in open air, attended by more than 1500 faithful - **His Grace Archbishop Emmanuel Obbo A.J.** the Local Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda declared Iyolwa a new parish under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales and entrusted it to the care of MSFS. The Archbishop also administered the sacrament of confirmation to more than 100 young ones. Fr. Chozhithara Thomas MSFS and Fr. Peter Antony George MSFS will be rendering their services in this new mission. Soon we will be also initiating the Foster-Programs in Iyolwa and in the surrounding areas.

Our special thanks to **Rev. Fr. Augustine Odaro** the parish priest of Mulanda, who was very much instrumental in facilitating all the recent developments in Iyolwa, preparing the way for MSFS to come and begin the mission.

We congratulate the people of Iyolwa for getting the new parish and promise our total commitment for the glory of God and for the holistic development of the area. Let us pray for this new mission in order that it gets really touched by the spirituality of love - the St. Francis de Sales.

New Address: Fransalians-Iyolwa
P. O. Box 75, Tororo, Uganda

Phone number Fr. Antony George Peter: +256 777 277 203/ +256 754 766 067
Fr. Chozhithara Thomas +256 785 049 574/ +256 759 802 782

Our Jubilarian: Fr. Pius Kochuparampil MSFS

We celebrate 25 years of Priestly ministry of Fr. Pius! Rev. Fr. Pius Kochuparampil was born on December 12, 1962 at Anickad, Kerala India. His parents are late Mr Thomas and late Mrs Rosamma. He was born as the youngest among the 7 children.

Born in a very traditional Catholic family it is very natural that he responded to the call of Jesus to be a priest and missionary. One should not wonder that two of his sisters are nuns and two of his brothers as religious priests. One of them is here with us in East Africa - ie Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil MSFS.

After his secondary school education at St. Thomas High School Anickad in the year 1977 he joined St. Thomas Minor Seminary in view of becoming a diocesan priest in the Catholic Diocese of Kanjirappally, Kerala India. But after the Philosophical Studies, his inner thirst to be a missionary was pressing him to look for another possibility. With due consent and blessings of the Local Ordinary and in dialogue with the authorities of MSFS Congregation, Visakhapatnam Province he started his MSFS formation in the year 1983 at Philipnagar, India. On December 15, 1984 he made his First Profession in Salesianum, Vizag and became a member of the MSFS Family. Later he was sent for the regency at Mermier Farm Bangalore. From the year 1986 to 1990 he did his Theology at St. Peter's Pontifical Institute, Bangalore, India. He was ordained priest along with his elder brother Rev. Fr. Xavier Kochuparampil OFM Cap. on April 19, 1990. That was 25 Years ago!

Meanwhile he had opted for the Tanzanian mission and he was accepted. He followed the steps of his elder brother Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil MSFS who was one of the pioneers in Africa. Fr. Pius took a few months in India to complete his secular studies and during that period he was working in the parish of Adoor, Kerala. On Jan 22, 1991 he arrived in Tanzania. After equipping himself with the skills in Swahili language in September same year he started his mission in Lububu as the Assistant Parish Priest and as the Director of Aspirants, Lububu, Tabora. Later from 1995 to 1998 he was the Parish Priest in Itaga; from 1998 to 2000 Parish Priest in Lububu; from 2000 to 2004 Director of Novices in Noviciate, Kibaha; from 2004 to

2008 Rector of Junior Seminary, Morogoro, from 2008 - 2012 as the Parish Priest in Isaka, Kahama. From 2013 to till this day he is Assistant Parish Priest in Mkuza. He was also in the Provincial Administration as the Councillor in Charge of Formation. In the year 2000 he did an ongoing formation program for three months in Jerusalem.

My dear Confreres and friends, we rejoice with Fr. Pius for the past 25 years in faithful ministry as a priest, as missionary as a consecrated person. We have innumerable reasons to thank God. We know Fr. Pius loves his priesthood. I have never seen him as a priest who is tired of his vocation!.

Our beloved Fr. Pius, May the Lord grant you many more happy years in your life as PRIEST IN MISSION, Priest for Mission and Priest in Consecration! In the life of the Province of East Africa we are privileged to witness this jubilee in the very beginning of the year dedicated to Consecrated life!

We promise our sincere prayers for you... Hearty Congratulations !!! Now start with new life the journey towards the Golden Jubilee of your Ordination!

Jubilee Celebrations in East Africa

The Jubilee of Fr. Pius was celebrated in a worthy manner on February 14 at Fransalian House Kola Morogoro and on February 15 in St. Francis de Sales Parish Mkuza. Both celebrations gave us the glimpse of the myriad of blessings given to Fr. Pius in his life and the blessings received by others through his life and mission. The large number of faithful gathered in the parish with exhilarating songs and dance, with their generous gifts, made the entire celebration an euphoric experience.

Bishop Prosper Balthazar Lyimo : Auxiliary Bishop for Archdiocese of Arusha

On February 15, 2015, Fr. Prosper Balthazar Lyimo was consecrated Bishop and is appointed by the Holy Father as the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Arusha in Tanzania. He has been serving as Chancellor and Judicial Vicar of the Archdiocese of Arusha. He is from the parish of Ngurdotto. We congratulate His Lordship Prosper Lyimo on this new mission of being a true shepherd and wish him all the blessings and promise our prayerful and whole hearted support in the new task entrusted to him.

Bishop of Machakos - Bishop Martin Kivuva Musonde to Mombasa as Archbishop

Our dear Bishop His Lordship Martin Kivuva Musonde until the Local Ordinary of Machakos, Kenya is appointed by the Holy Father as the new Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Mombasa. Bishop Martin is also the Chairman of the KCCB – Commission for Social Communications. It was our pleasure to work with his blessings over past one decade in the Diocese of Machakos. He will be installed as the Archbishop on February 21, 2015. As Fransalian family we wish him all the blessings for the new and very demanding task in the Archdiocese of Mombasa.

Transfers and Appointments

Fr. Sebastian Williams MSFS is freed from his responsibilities at SFS Junior Seminary with effect from March 1, 2015 and is appointed as the Manager and Administrator of Fransalian Mission School Mkuza. He is also designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Mkuza, Archdiocese of Dar Es Salaam.

Fr. Kallarackal Sheejan MSFS is appointed as the Rector of SFS Junior Seminary and the Superior of the Community with effect from February 20, 2015. He is relieved from his responsibilities from Mkuza School and Parish with effect from March 1, 2015.

Fr. Chozhithara Thomas MSFS is designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of St.

Francis de Sales Parish, Iyolwa, Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda with effect from February 8, 2015.

Fr. Peter Antony George MSFS is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Iyolwa, Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda with effect from February 8, 2015.

Our Visitors

Rev. Fr. Jose Kumblolickal MSFS the Provincial Superior of MSFS South West India Province, along with **Rev. Fr. Vinod Kanatt MSFS** one of the Councillors will be in East Africa from March 3 to 9, 2015. They will be visiting mostly our formation houses.

Fr. Thomas Cherukatt MSFS the Director of Mission Development, Rome together with **Mr. Dr. Claus Schubert** from Germany were with us from January 23 to February 10, 2015.

Rev. Sr. Suguna FCC, the Provincial Superior of Franciscan Clarist Congregation Iduki Province is on visitation from February 10 to March 5, 2015. The sisters are working with us in Bukene Mission.

Rev. Sr. Angel Grace FCC the Provincial Superior of Franciscan Clarist Congregation Noida Province is making visiting us from March 9 to 26, 2015. The sisters are working with us in Mkuza Mission.

We extend to all of them a warm welcome - *Karibuni sana!* Have an enjoyable and memorable time in Africa.

MSFS in Itaga 25 Years!

We are in the 25th years of our missionary presence in the parish of Itaga, Archdiocese of Tabora. It was on January 13, 1991 the parish of Itaga was entrusted to the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales - Fr. Kuzhupil Sebastian being the first MSFS parish priest. Over the years the parish has grown enormously and now it is the largest parish in the Archdiocese and the largest parish served by MSFS in East Africa. Let us join our dear faithful in Itaga in thanking God for multitude of blessings. We wish them a Happy Jubilee Year!

Bro. Emmanuel Simba Paulo (CM) Called to eternal Glory

Bro. Emmanuel Paulo from our Parish in Bukene was a seminarian in the Congregation of the Mission (CM - Vincentians). He was son of our Catechist Paulo in Bukene. He was doing his Philosophy Year II at JUCO in Morogoro. On January 25, 2015 as he was going to the place of ministry in Pangawe, riding motor bike, he was knocked down from behind by a truck at Mkambarani - resulting in severe damage to the brain. After a few days of intensive care and treatment in Morogoro and Dar es Salaam, he breathed his last on January 29. His mortal remains were taken to Bukene was buried in Bukene on February 1, 2015. We express our sincere condolences to the community of the CM and to the family of Bro. Emmanuel. May the soul of Bro. Emmanuel and all the departed Rest in PEACE.

Prayers requested for departed:

- **Rev. Fr. Mathew Mundamattam MSFS** of Vizag Province, aged 68, died on December 8, 2014.
- **Rev. Bro. John Maruthikuzhiyil MSFS** of Nagpur Province, aged 86, died on December 9, 2014.
- **Mr. Corey Noel Judie** the nephew of Fr. John Judie (USA) our mission friend and collaborator, died at the age of 27 on December 25, 2014.
- **Fr Emmanuel Simba Paulo** - a seminarian in the Congregation of the Mission (CM) from Bukene Parish, died in the road accident on Jan 29, 2015.

May they Rest in PEACE!

Kindly offer the suffrages for the departed confreres as required of our Rule of Life.

Prayers requested for the sick and suffering

- **Mrs Anastasia Okech**, the beloved Mother of Bro Paul Onyago MSFS, is critically ill due to cancer.
- **His Grace Most Rev Paul Ruzoka** the Archbishop of Tabora, who is undergoing treatment in India (Amala Medical College, Trissur, Kerala) as he is recuperating from the aftermath of the road accident he had on December 5 in Igunga, Tabora.

May the good Lord touch and heal them!

Blessing of new church in Ngelani - Kenya

The newly constructed church at Ngelani - one of the out-stations of Mlolongo Parish, Kenya - was opened and blessed on February 1, 2015. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil was the main celebrant. Ngelani is 15 kms away from the parish centre. The area is arid and the roads are dusty. However there is a growing and vibrant community over there in this station dedicated to St. John the evangelist. Our sincere Congratulations to Fr. Jacob Thekkekara and the community, the faithful of Ngelani and Mlolongo Parish for this great contribution made to the local church. The solid and beautiful structure is the result of the good will of many. May God reward them richly.

Blessing of the new Administrative wing of SFS School Katani - Kenya

On February 2, 2015 on the day of the Consecrated Life, in a very simple but lively ceremony the ground floor of the newly constructed administrative wing of St. Francis de Sales Integrated Primary School in Katani was opened by Fr. Thekkekara Jacob and was blessed by Fr. Kallidukil Johnson. The new storey building is very elegant and solid structure is a great asset to the SFS School. Our sincere congratulations to Fr. Vettickal Sunny the Manager and the entire Fransalian community of Mlolongo Katani, the staff and the students, parents and well-wishers for this achievement. Our sincere gratitude to *Manos Unidas* for their generous support. You may see photos in this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/611006828942350/photos/pb.611006828942350.-2207520000.1424163898./853170961392601/?type=1&theater>

New Books

Sermons of Father Mermier: On Consecrated Life, Word of God, and Mother Mary' (Ed. By Fr. Adrian Duval, MSFS and Translated into English by Fr. Antony Mookenthottam, MSFS).

Way of the Cross for Today- by Rev. Dr. Jacob Parappally MSFS A new and inspiring Way of the Cross with relevant reflections and illustrations.

Congratulations to these confreres! You may contact Fransalian Communications Morogoro and Arusha for the copies.

GAH Unit: New Coordinator

New Coordinator of the Delegation/Local Superiors' Forum in GAH Fr. Superior General in his recent circular has officially announced the name of **Rev. Fr. Silvester Ottaplackal MSFS** as the newly appointed Coordinator of the Delegation/Local Superiors' Forum in GAH. Our sincere congratulations to Fr. Silvester and we promise our prayerful support and cooperation! On behalf of the Province of East Africa and specially on behalf of our confreres in GAH we also thank **Fr. Sabu Francis MSFS** who has been until now functioning as the Delegate of the Superior General in GAH.

Regents' Meeting - 2014

Fr. Kochuparampil Thomas the Councillor in charge of formation met the regents at MSFS house in Katani on January 10 and 11 for the general evaluation. Fr. Kozhuppakalam Mathew gave the orientation talk. I thank Fr. Thomas for organizing the same.

My tentative Program

February 2015

22-28 Seminar for the Formators at LCI Arusha

March 2015

- 1 Mass in Maji ya Chai Parish
- 1-2 Meeting the Scholastics at LCI
- 3 Meeting with De Sales University Reps at LCI
- 10 Fransalian Development Board Meeting at Ipuli
- 11 Innovative and Social Apostolate Forum Meeting in Ipuli
- 12-13 Provincial Council Meeting in Tabora
- 17 Formators Forum Meeting at LCI

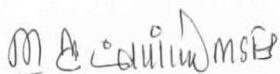
Conclusion

Beloved Confreres,

It is possible that our life can be like a piece of ground where there is everything possible: thorns and weeds, stones and wastes. But there is always a space in which the good seed can sprout and grow. We need to look around. Even after looking around if we do not see that space, we MUST just lift our feet and step out of the place where we stand and we will find the place where good seed can grow. We need to get out of our ego and securities and allow ourselves to be hurt by thorns, weeds, stones and wastes. We have to bear the brunt and we cannot put the blame on any one. It is we who have invited those negative elements in our lives. We have sometimes allowed our lives to be dumping areas. When we familiarize ourselves with stink and dirt, they do not disturb us anymore. At the end the seed of goodness is choked by those dirty and hurting elements.

During this Lent, let us resolve to clear off the unwanted elements from our lives. Let us not be dismayed by the thorns and stones. But let us go ahead with the hope and with deep trust in God that there is a suitable place for the seed of goodness to sprout and grow in our lives, in our communities and in our relationships.

United with you in the Lord fasted and prayed for us,



Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS

(Provincial Superior MSFS East Africa Province)

Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

I Pet. 5:6