

# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

## Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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Provincial Circular MSFS - EAP- JK.32

May 24, 2015

Beloved Confreres,

Happy Feast to you!

### Solemnity of the Pentecost

As we celebrate today the great feast of Pentecost, I greet you in the name of the Triune God. I am sure you have been preparing for this day with special fervour by way of Novena and other pious practices. Today we are reminded that we are powerful people. Our power is the power of the Holy Spirit. Our weakness is the absence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. This is a power not to be taken for granted. By virtue of our baptism, religious profession, and priestly ordination etc we are offered the immeasurable possibility of being imbued with the Spirit of God. We do not doubt the power of the Spirit of God. Yet as the people of God we do not experience and exercise the same power. The reason is clear: We are limited or rather we make ourselves limited. The word of God tells us that the Spirit moves where it wills (ref. Jn.3:8). It is true. But we need to understand that the Spirit works where it is allowed to work. Just because the Spirit is there, it does not imply that the Spirit is at work in us. By the grace of God we need to facilitate the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and apostolate.

The fire that blazed in the Upper Room was a sign of the Uncreated Energy, the Grace of the Holy Trinity. The infinite Love of the Three Persons, spills out in vast profusion into the entire Universe deeply touching every fibre of every being including you and me.

The fire is that glory of grace: it is the light and life of the Body of Christ. It is the ground of belief, the substance of faith. It is what transforms fishermen into fishers of men. It is what amplifies the language of men into the Gospel of God. It is what make us mere earthen vessels **consecrated gems** for God. It is that turns the so called deprivations of our vowed life into blessings.

The fire of Pentecost is nothing less than the profound presence of the Holy Spirit. It is the only power that constitutes the Church. That Holy Fire is what transforms a society of common folk into the mystical Body of Christ. It is this Spirit that makes our living together into Religious Communities. It is this Spirit that makes possible to call our religious organization as an Institute of Consecrated Life. The Spirit makes us common folk who become partakers of the divine nature, a chosen people, a royal priesthood who are called by God the Father, fashioned by the Son, and realized by the indwelling and filling of the Holy Spirit.

Beloved confreres and friends! You and I are inducted into that Day of Pentecost which never ends. Every sacrament we celebrate, administer or participate completely ushers us into the mystical Upper Room and immerses us in its Holy Fire. Through the sacraments we commune with the Holy Trinity. Through prayer the Holy Spirit gives utterance with a language that goes beyond human speech.

All we have to do, is to set priority for greater things and to give up our passions and our entanglements, and receive grace and spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit pushes and raises, moves and leads, cajoles and calls us in the day and the night, in depth of our souls. The Holy Spirit calls us to solidarity with Jesus Christ in the Church, in our Fransalian family. If we say no to that invitation, we commit the sin which will be the only sin that remains unforgiven (ref. Mark 3.28-29).

Let us cast aside all the passions, the despair and the worldly entanglements that draw us away from belief. Let us lighten ourselves with prayer and freedom, simplicity and love, communion and repentance, so that the Spirit may lift us up from earthly cares. Let us lift up our hearts and give thanks unto the Lord.

The WAKE UP call of Pope Francis to all consecrated persons reminds us about the need to allow the Holy Spirit to be at work in us. Let us wish each one of us, the people we serve and with whom we work powerful experiences of revival and rejuvenation through the power of the Spirit of God. Let that Fire burn in us, make us bright and powerful.

### **Promotion to Priestly Ordinations**

Three of our Seminarians, Deacon Charles Linus Ouma Ondiek, Deacon Japhet Kirimi Mwebia and Deacon Joseph Mary Kayanja are promoted for the priestly Ordinations. Their Priestly Ordinations are planned in their respective dioceses.

#### **Deacon Joseph Mary Kayanja MSFS**

**Dn Joseph Mary Kayanja** was on May 9, 1978 in the Christian family of Mr. & Mrs. Ddumba Laurence and Esther Ddumba Najjemba in Mityana, Uganda and was baptized on May 30 same year. He is the second born and the only boy in the family of five children. Joseph Mary Kayanja received his First Holy communion on the Dec 13, 1987, and was confirmed on May 19, 1991 at Mwera Parish - Kiyinda Mityana Diocese.

He studied at Elgon View Primary School, Tororo, from 1991-1997. Later he studied "O" Level at Atiri secondary school, Tororo from 1998-2001. After Form IV, Joseph Mary Kayanja joined Rock High school, Tororo for "A" level from 2002-2003.

Dn Joseph Mary Kayanja started his religious formation in the congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, at Ndagani minor seminary Chuka - Kenya, from 2004-2005. After the postulancy, he began Novitiate on May 15, 2005 at Kibaha - Dar es Salaam, and on July 10, 2007, he made his first religious profession. He did his philosophical studies at Spiritan Missionary Seminary, Affiliated College of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, from 2007-2010. After Philosophical studies, Joseph Mary Kayanja did his pastoral year at Katani Primary school Nairobi -Kenya from 2010-2011.

He did his theological studies at Jordan University college, a constituent of St. Augustine University of Tanzania, from 2011-2015. He made his final profession on July 10, 2014 and was ordained deacon on September 27, 2014 by His Lordship Most Rev. Telesphore Mkude, the Bishop of Morogoro. His Grace Archbishop Emmanuel Oboo A.J of the Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda has consented to ordain him to priesthood. God willing, his priestly ordination is scheduled to be on July 4, 2015 in the Cathedral Church of Tororo Archdiocese, Uganda.

#### **Deacon Japheth Kirimi Mwebia MSFS**

Dn Japheth Kirimi Mwebia MSFS was born on March 25, 1981 of the family of Mr and Mrs Bernard mwebia in Chogoria-MERU. He is the fourth born of the seven children of whom five are boys and two are girls. He was baptised on April 19, 1984 at Majira Prayer House Kariakomo parish and was confirmed on January 1, 1992. He studied his initial primary

school from 1990-1998. Secondary education was from 1999-2002 partly in Nturiri sec School and Thigaa sec school.

Having the desire to become a priest he joined the missionaries of St Francis de Sales and started formation in Ndagani Seminary on July 4, 2005. Then the following year proceeded with his Noviciate. He joined Noviate in July 9, 2006. He made the first profession on July 10, 2007. He studied philosophy in Spiritan Missionary Seminary Njiro, between 2007-2010 and did his regency between 2010-2011 at St Francis de Sales Seminary Kihonda.

He did the Theological studies at Jordan University College, Morogoro. He made the perpetual profession on July 10, 2014. Japhet Kirimi Mwebia was ordained deacon on Sept. 27, 2014 at Jordan University College by His Lordship Bishop Telesphore Mkude of Catholic Diocese of Morogoro.

God willing, Dn Japhet Kirimi Mwebia will be ordained a priest in his native land Chogoria Majira prayer house on July 18, 2015 by His Lordship Bishop Salesius Mugambi of Catholic Diocese of Meru, Kenya.

### **Deacon Charles Linus Ouma MSFS**

Dn Charles Linus Ouma MSFS was born on February 24, 1981 at Kisumu, Nyanza Province Kenya. His parents are Mr Silfanus Nicholas Ondiek and the late Mary Atieno Ondiek. He received Sacrament of Baptism on July 26, 1981 at Sacred Heart Church, Kericho Diocese. Later, at the Parish of Saint Mary's Chiga he received the first Holy Communion on April 24, 1993 and confirmation on December 18, 1994. He did his Primary education at Koruma and Bungu Primary schools. And Secondary at Dr Aloo Gumbi High School in Kisumu County.

In the year 2005, he was admitted to Ndagani Seminary for his initial formation. He did his Canonical Novitiate at Fransalium, Kibaha, Tanzania, and made the first profession on July 10, 2007. Thereupon, He joined Spiritan Major Seminary for his Philosophical Studies 2007-2010 in Arusha. After the completion of his Philosophical studies he was sent to Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha for Regency in 2010-2011. Later he joined Fransalium Study House Kola for his Theological Studies at Jordan University College (JUCO) Morogoro. He made his perpetual profession on July 10, 2014. He was ordained a deacon on September 27, 2014 by His Lordship Telesphor Richard Mkude Bishop of Morogoro. God willing, he will be ordained to priest on July 23, 2015, by His Grace, Most Rev. Zaccheus Okoth Archbishop of Kisumu at Saint Mary's Chiga Parish, Kenya

**Let us accompany dear deacons with our since prayers and blessings!**

### **Annual Retreat 2015**

As planned and announced earlier, our Annual retreats at the Province level will be organized in two places. The details and the list of participants according to your registration is as follows:

#### **Retreat A Uganda**

**Date:** May 27, 2015 evening to June 1 2015 evening  
**Venue:** St. Benedict Monastery, Tororo, Uganda  
**Arrival:** May 27 18.00 hours  
**Departure :** June 2 morning hours  
**Guide :** Rev. Fr. George Mathew CSsR

## Participants

1. Chinnappan Arockiasamy
2. Chozhithara Thomas
3. Jayaseelan Rajesh
4. Kallikatt Francis
5. Kochalumchuvattil Thomas
6. Kollapillil Jomat
7. Kuldip Kujur
8. Kuzhupil Sebastian
9. Maruthomalayil Joby
10. Mattathil Sunny
11. Nirappel Sebastian
12. Pendanath Sijo
13. Sebastian Williams
14. Silvester Clement Sudhakar
15. Soosai Raj Robert
16. Thazhathukunnel Mathew
17. Ubadesi Stephen
18. Vellachalil Jomon
19. Vettukattil Joseph
20. Vijayakumar Nelson

### **21. Fr. GEORGE Mathew CSsR (Guide)**

Our Confreres in Uganda under the guidance of Fr. Thomas Chozhithara are looking into the organization and logistics. Fr. Thomas is already in touch with you. Please communicate in advance about your arrival and other matters. Some of you have registered for the pilgrimage to the Namugong to the Ugandan Martyrs and I am very happy for that. May it be an event of strengthening our faith and our missionary commitment. I also recommend very much to climb the Salvation Hill in Osia on June 2 and to pray the Mercy Rosary at the foot of the cross.

## **Retreat B Tanzania**

**Venue:** Precious Blood Sisters Centre, Kifungilo, Lushoto, Tanzania  
**Date :** July 11, 2015 evening to July 16 evening.  
**Arrival** July 11, Saturday 18.00 hrs  
**Departure** July 17, Friday morning hours  
**Guide:** Rev. Fr. DEVASIA Manalel MSFS

## Participants

1. Antonysamy Muthusamy
2. Antonysamy Robert
3. Antonysamy Sebastian
4. Auppaden Siljo (Deacon)
5. Chavely Mathew
6. Eriyanickal Jose
7. Kallidukil Johnson
8. Kattikanayil Tomy
9. Kochuparampil Pius

10. Kochuparampil Thomas
11. Ngowi Innocent
12. Packiam Wilson
13. Palakudy Sebastian
14. Pendanath Reji
15. Perumanoor Tomychan
16. Peter Antony George
17. Peter Napoleon Johnson
18. Poikunnel Joseph
19. Prakashbhavan Santhosh
20. Susai David
21. Vettickal Sunny

## **22. FR. DEVASIA Manalel MSFS (Guide)**

The retreat centre is run by the Precious Blood Sisters (CPS). It is located 90 minutes slow drive from Mombo via Lushoto. The last part of the road is very rough. It is likely that the temperatures can be very low and please bring along enough warm clothes. For those coming from TAKA, Arusha and Kenya Uganda, you may stay at LCI and come together. Please contact Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil for further arrangements.

Please bring along: Everyday Prayer book, Alb, Stole (white). Kindly make sure that you have all the necessary travel and medical documents especially those who need to cross the borders.

Those who are attending the retreat in India with special request and permission

1. Thekkekara Jacob
2. Kallarackal Sheejan

Others who would make their annual retreat outside East Africa

1. Augustine Stephen Gerald
2. Burrofero Zachariah
3. Devadoss Francis
4. Kochumalayil Sony
5. Kollappillil Kurian
6. Kunnappilly Joseph
7. Mangatt Augustine
8. Olickal Thomas
9. Panthalanickal James
10. Pathiyil Johnson

My dear Confreres, let us make our retreats well, allowing the Spirit of God to be at work in us. Let us pray for the entire Fransalian family and very specially for the mission entrusted to us in East Africa. Let us also pray for the safe journey of each one of us as we need to cover great distances. Let us pray for our retreat guides and all those who facilitate our stay in the retreat centres. As we see new places and encounter new people let us make conscious efforts to communicate to them our MSFSness. I wish you a very fruitful retreat wherever you are.

## **Establishment of the new MSFS Community Iyolwa Uganda**

The Provincial Administration has taken the decision to establish new MSFS Community in Iyolwa. With effect from June 2, 2015, the new community is erected with Fr. Thomas Chozhithara and Fr. Peter Antony George as the members. Fr. Thomas Chozhithara is appointed as the Local Superior. The neighbourhood community of Osia and Agururu continues as before until further arrangements are made.

## **Congratulations !**

**Fr. Babychan Arackathara MSFS** is re-appointed as the Regional Superior of the Southern African Region for the second term. We thank Fr. Babychan for his vibrant leadership and effective collaboration in MSAF. All the blessings of God for you and the entire Region of SA.

**Fr. Pentareddy Chinnapa Reddy MSFS** is appointed as the new Provincial Superior of Visakhapatnam Province. We express our heartfelt congratulations and good wishes and support to him and the entire Province in this office of service. Our heartiest wishes and Congratulations also goes to Rev. Fr. Simon Paicatt for his effective and successful two terms of ministry in leadership. May God Bless them.

## **Forum Meetings**

May I remind you of the forthcoming Forum meetings:

- Superiors Forum Meeting on June 16
- Pastoral Forum Meeting on June 17.

Venue : MSFS Provincial House Morogoro.

I request all the Superiors and all Parish Priests to attend the meeting without fail. Please inform Fr. Robert Raj the Bursar about the date and time of your arrival.

## **Let us pray for the departed:**

Bro. Lazarus Karakunnel MSFS (84) of Nagpur Province, passed away on Sunday March 29, 2015.

May the Soul of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, Rest in peace.

## **Home Holidays:**

Fr. Reji Pendanath    May 1, 2015 to June 30, 2015  
Fr. Sijo Pendanath    July 11, 2015 to September 11, 2015

We wish them a good and relaxing time with the dear and near ones.

## **My Tentative Program**

### **June 2015**

8 - 13 Animating a retreat on Consecrated Life at LCI, Arusha  
16     Superiors Forum Meeting Morogoro  
17     Pastoral Forum Meeting  
18-19 Provincial Council Meeting  
20-23 RSAT - TEC Annual Meetings, Dar es Salaam  
25-30 In Southern Africa Region MSAF Meeting in Cape Town

## July 2015

- 1-5 in Uganda, Priestly Ordination Dn Joseph Kayanja MSFS
- 9 Initiation to Noviciate, Kibaha
- 10 First Profession, Kibaha
- 11-17 Province Retreat B in Lushoto, TZ
- 18 Meru Kenya, Priestly Ordination, Dn Japhet Kirimi MSFS
- 23 Kisumu, Kenya, Priestly Ordination, Dn Charles Ouma MSFS

## Conclusion

Our Patron St. Francis de Sales tells:

*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.*

This tells us clearly that the power of the Holy Spirit is infinite and unlimited. But the work of the Holy Spirit can be limited. This limitation is nothing but the limitation we place before the Holy Spirit. The human being is supposed to be the tangible fullest expression of the Divine. Jesus is the clearest example for the same. However in many ways we place limits to the Spirit of God to be at work in our human situation. The more we minimize these limitations from our side, the more powerfully and freely the Spirit can be at work in us. Let us remove all the restrictions that we have placed for the Holy Spirit to be at work in our personal lives, in our communities and in our apostolate.

Once again Happy Feast of Pentecost.

Yours in the Risen Lord,



Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS (Provincial MSFS East Africa)

***The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person  
is for a good purpose.***

I Cor. 12:7.