

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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Beloved Confreres,

St. Peter and St. Paul

Greetings to you in the precious name of the Lord as we celebrate the feast of the two strong pillars of Christian faith. The life of both of them, tell us very clearly that there can be and there will be an enormous difference in the life of a human being when one is without God and when one is with God. Someone who was weak and non-reliable like the "loose sand" becomes "firm rock" - in the person of Peter. In the person of Paul we have the one who works for the death of Christians becomes the one who works for the life for Christians. What a change! It is not merely a change in the accidentals but a fundamental contrast giving a total twist in their personal lives. There is a zero point in their lives. Up to that zero point it is one phase in their lives and from that zero point it is yet another phase which is very different from the former phase. In both the zero point is marked by a series of events such as being struck down, blind, confined, confused, cowardice, disowning the master, bitter tears etc. But all these lead to a new life of convictions for Christ when they are anointed by the Holy Spirit. Apparently there is nothing positive about those zero points. They break us to pieces that we feel very small and humiliated, defeated and depleted. They are the experiences of a human person "being ground in the mill of life and being pressed in the wine press of suffering." St. Peter and St. Paul literally went through these experiences in their zero points that served them as the firm foundation for the rest of their lives. The challenges they faced after that point were hundred times stronger than those challenges before. However the Lord made them thousand times stronger than they were earlier in order to be able to face those challenges which were only hundred times tougher than the previous ones. That is the way in which God works in the lives of his chosen ones.

Our Space in this universe

With the experience of conversion i.e., going through the zero points - St. Peter and St. Paul found their correct space in this universe. Before that they were confused, they did the things they thought to be right, for the purposes they wanted rather than for the purposes God wanted. The convictions that Peter had were very exciting but very weak. The convictions that Paul had were very strong but wrong! Until then their life here on earth did not serve a purpose except as a preparatory phase for the second phase of their lives. In the lives of every one of us there is such a period until we find the right space in this universe. This right space implies what God wants us to do in this life here on earth and after our earthly life. There is seldom a direct intervention from God as it has happened in the case of St. Paul. However God wants us to be open to various situations, events and persons that would be mediators for us to travel through the zero points and to discover our right space in this universe. Once we have done that, we move as God wants us to move, we move in the will of God, we move for the glory of God. There will be positive energy radiating from us for we are in God. The unique manner in which St. Peter and St. Paul manifested their mission was nothing but the vivid expression of their positive energy of being the right persons for the right job in the right time.

TMM and other meetings held in Arusha

As it was announced earlier the Triennial Mandatory meeting, MSAF, PIF-PEA and General Curia Meeting were held at LCI from May 8 to 25, 2016. First of all let us thank the Almighty God that everything went on well as planned. The journeys of the confreres, the visits and the meetings were all experiences of mutual support and encouragement. We thank the General Curia for deciding to keep these meetings for the first time in Africa. Sincere thanks and appreciation to the LCI Community for hosting the meetings and for all the logistics. Besides, many of our communities especially Mlolongo-Katani, Mji Mpya, Mkuza, and Noviciate played a vital role in receiving the guests and organizing their movements. We welcome them again.

Graduation in LCI

On May 14, 2016 eight MSFS Scholastics who have completed the requirement for the BA in Philosophy were conferred the Degree from the De Sales University, Pennsylvania USA. After the Affiliation of the LCI Philosophy Program to the De Sales University this was the first graduation. Besides 15 students (4 Priests and 11 Sisters) who completed the one year course for the Diploma in Formation and Community animation were also awarded with certificates from the Institute. Our Sincere Congratulations to the Staff of LCI and all the graduates! May the Lumen Christi be your guide in every step you take in your life.

Love Conquers all - Drama based on Chablais Experience of St. Francis de Sales

Based on the Chablais experience of St. Francis de Sales, our Scholastics at LCI presented a drama on May 12. It was a very much praise worthy performance. With the very limited facilities and despite the time constrains, they did their best - presenting a very impressive and inspiring drama. The script was written by Bro. Peygres Senghor and directed by Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil. Congratulations to the Scholastics and the staff of LCI.

Promotion to First Profession

The following Novices are promoted to first profession.

East Africa Province

From

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|--------------------------|----------|
| 1. Collins Barasa Simiyu | Kenya |
| 2. Cosmos Clement Mungo | Tanzania |
| 3. Francis Ayweya Aura | Kenya |
| 4. Fred Bwoba | Uganda |
| 5. Godwin Nanalo | Uganda |
| 6. James Makuli | Kenya |
| 7. Joseph Mwasa | Uganda |
| 8. Ronald Kumali | Uganda |

Those belonging to other MSAF units were promoted by respective provincials

Southern African Region/ North East India Province

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| 9. Abraham Mutoro Wambuchi | Kenya |
| 10. Ivan Mubbo | Uganda |

Mozambique Delegation/Nagpur Province

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| 11. Lucas Adelino Uassuque | Mozambique |
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Chad Cameroon Delegation/ South West India Province

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| 12. Eyeya Aloys Jean Baptiste | Cameroon |
| 13. Guifo Totso Gael Baudoin | Cameroon |
| 14. Temgoua Jacques Clovis | Cameroon |

God willing, together with other novices from other MSAF units they would make their first profession on July 10, 2016. The ceremony would be held during the Holy Mass at the St. Francis de Sales Parish, Mkuza, Dar es Salaam. Let us earnestly pray for the 14 novices who would be the youngest members of our Fransalian family.

Promoted to the Noviciate

The following Aspirants who have completed their formation at Fransalian Seminary Ndagani are promoted to be admitted to the Canonical Noviciate in Fransalianum Mkuza.

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|--------------------------|----------|
| 1. Albert Momanyi Ombati | Kenya |
| 2. Denis William Minja | Tanzania |
| 3. Eric Nyabuga Nyamweya | Kenya |
| 4. Linto Vargheese | India |

God willing they would be initiated to Noviciate on July 9, 2016.

First Profession in India

On May 31, 2016 Novice Anand Johnson Pendanath made the first profession and became a member of the Fransalian Family. Bro. Anand Pendanath MSFS is for East Africa Province. He would continue with his Philosophy formation at Suvidya College Bangalore. Hearty Congratulations to Bro. Anand and to his companions who made the first profession. We thank in a very special way the good will of Vizag Province in providing good formation for him. Our special thanks also to Fr. Joseph Kondala MSFS the Director of Novices and the staff for accompanying the novices.

Promotion to Final Vows

The following scholastics were promoted to make the final vows. Their promotion was approved by the Superior General and the Council.

Bro. Amal Neerolickal MSFS
Bro. Gerald Mabiriizi MSFS
Bro. Ibrahim Musajja MSFS
Bro. Jonathan Muema MSFS
Bro. Lawrence Sebowa MSFS

God willing they would make the final vows on August 23, 2016 at Lumen Christi Institute Arusha. Let us accompany them with our sincere prayers

Assigned for the Diaconate Ministry

Our Deacons have completed their Theological Studies and are assigned for the Diaconate ministry as follows:

Deacon Aristidis Danda MSFS to MSFS Community Bukene
Deacon Jobin Karottukampadathil MSFS to MSFS Community Ngurdotto
Deacon Stephen Mutisya MSFS to MSFS Community Mkuza with assistance in Noviciate

Deacon Thomas Njue MSFS to MSFS Community Chera with assistance in Ndagani

This ministry would be from July 6 to September 30, 2016. We wish them a very fruitful time of ministry.

MSFS Community Dumila

With effect from July 1, 2016 our confreres in Dumila mission will form the MSFS Community in Dumila. As you know earlier it was a separate community and later as the members were less, it was attached to the Provincial house community.

Hearty Welcome to East Africa

Fr. Sebastian Annaikandathil MSFS from Mozambique / Nagpur Province has already joined us to strengthen our mission in EA. He arrived in Dar es Salaam on May 22, 2016. In the person of Fr. Sebi (as he is usually called) there are many blessings in store for us. A man of vast experiences with deep sense of focussed commitment, with positively critical thinking, he sees hope even in persons and situations that are written off. I am very sure his presence in EA will be enriching to all of us and to the people with whom we work.

Bro. Godwin Nuwamanya MSFS & Bro. Fabian Wasonga MSFS (Southern African Region/ NEI Province)

Up on the successful completion of their BA studies in Bangalore, Brothers Godwin and Fabian are designated to the East Africa Province to do their regency. We are very happy to receive them in our midst and we extend a warm welcome to them. Congratulations also on their completion of their studies.

Appointments

Fr. Sebastian Annaikandathil MSFS is appointed to be on the staff of St. Francis de Sales Junior Seminary with effect from May 24, 2016.

Fr. Peter Antony George is relieved from the present responsibilities, with the intention of gaining more experience in preaching ministry. He is designated to render his services at Divine Retreat Centre, Muringoor, India for a period of ten months starting from July 1, 2016.

Fr. Joseph Poikunnel MSFS is appointed as the Superior of the MSFS Community in Dumila with effect from July 1, 2016.

Appointments - Regents

Bro. Godwin Nuwamanya MSFS is appointed for Regency to MSFS Community Dumila

Bro. Fabian Wasonga MSFS is appointed for Regency to MSFS Community Provincial House with assistance in Junior Seminary, Morogoro.

Novice James Makuli, when professed will do the regency at MSFS Community SFS Junior Seminary, Morogoro

These appointments are with effect from August 24, 2016

Welcome to FCC Sisters

On June 16, 2016 Franciscan Clarist Sisters from Delhi Province have reached Tanzania to collaborate with us in our Apostolate in SFS Junior Seminary. Three Sisters would be working with us in Junior Seminary assisting in the teaching, academic administration, counselling to the students and in the accounting. We extend a warm welcome to them and wish them very fruitful ministry in Africa.

Ministries Conferred

On May 23, 2016 the ministries of Lector and Acolyte were conferred on our Scholastics by Rev. Fr. Vincent Lourdasamy MSFS, the Provincial of Pune Province. Other six Provincials were also present to grace the occasion.

Those who received the Ministry of Acolyte

Bro. Francis Kyule MSFS
Bro. Martin Pendanath MSFS
Bro. Patrick Musyimi MSFS
Bro. Simon Nabende MSFS

Those who received the Ministry of Lector

Bro. Kenneth Maina MSFS
Bro. Ventino Mutume MSFS (SA/NE)

We express our sincere congratulations to them. Our thanks to Fr. Vincent for officiating the ceremony and for giving a very inspiring message. Congratulations also for the Rector and the entire community of Fransalian House Kola.

Dumila School - Magole Church: Blessing the foundation stones and site

One May 23, 2016 the foundation stone and the site for the planned SFS School Dumila was blessed by Rev. Fr. Yves Carron MSFS the Provincial of the Franco-Swiss Province. On the same day the foundation stone and site of the construction of the Church in Magaloe village, in Dumila parish too was blessed by Fr. Antony Dharmaraj MSFS the Provincial of South East India Province in the presence of six other Provincials. Let us entrust these projects in the hands of God and seek his guidance and blessings.

New Vice Provincial of USA Vice-Province

Our Hearty Congratulations and prayerful best wishes to Fr Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil MSFS, who has been appointed as the new Vice Provincial of USA Vice-Province, for a fruitful ministry of leadership in the Vice-Province.

Rev. Fr Yves Carron MSFS the Provincial of Franco-Swiss Province

Rev. Fr Yves Carron, the Provincial of Franco Swiss Province, has been re-appointed Provincial for a third consecutive term of three years by Superior General. Our heartiest felicitations and prayerful wishes as he begins his third mandate.

Our Sincere thanks to Rev. Fr Augustine Tharappel MSFS

The outgoing of Vice-Provincial of USA Vice Province Rev. Fr. Augustine Tharappel deserves our special thanks and appreciation. Although he was never physically present in EA, he is very much associated with us. We know that at the congregational level, he spared no efforts to ensure that our congregation has a valid and solid ecclesiastical and civil identify in USA. As a person caring for the mission he has assisted us through his personal efforts and through the organized mission appeals. I must specially thank Fr. Augustine as a perfect accountant who has the record of every cent. Whenever it came to transactions and wiring money to us he was very prompt in rendering that service with a sense of dedication and precision. Sure, we remember with deep sense of gratitude the care and concern he gave to Fr. Thomas Olickal during the days of his treatment in USA. Dear Fr. Augustine we pray for you... May God continue to bless you. *Asante sana Baba...*

News Snippets

- ❖ **Fr. Johnson Pathiyil MSFS** has successfully completed his Licentiate in Spirituality and he is preparing to begin his Doctoral studies from the coming semester. Our Sincere Congratulations and prayerful good wishes.
- ❖ **Fr. Devadoss Francis MSFS** successfully completed his Masters in Communications. He would be continuing with his M. Phil on the same. Our sincere congratulations and prayerful good wishes.
- ❖ **Fr. Sunny Vettickal MSFS** paid a visit to the Catholic Spirituality Group in Singapore from June 1 to 9, 2016, during his home holidays.
- ❖ **Fr. Nelson Vijayakumar MSFS** had to undergo Angioplasty due to some blocks in the arteries. He is now in Bangalore recuperating. We continue to pray for him.
- ❖ **Fr. Santhosh Prakashbhavan MSFS** was giving a retreat for the Misericordia Sisters in Dodoma from June 22 to 28. Hearty Congratulations!
- ❖ **Fr. David Susai MSFS** has arrived in Pune and has started with the German Language course on June 27. He will be residing at the MSFS Provincial House Pune. We wish him all the best.
- ❖ **Fr. Johnson Pathiyil MSFS** is appointed as one of members for the **Inter Provincial Preparatory Committee for Graded Formation**. All the best and prayerful good wishes.
- ❖ **Fr. Innocent Ngowi MSFS** arrived in Europe on June 24 and will be back on July 30, 2016. We wish him a good time of learning and gathering new experiences.
- ❖ **Fr. James Panthalanickal MSFS** is officially appointed as the Spiritual Director of the Leo XIII Seminary, in Leuven where he is residing. This appointment is done from the Belgian Episcopal Conference after due consultation with the Provincial Superior. Our sincere congratulations and the prayerful wishes in this challenging ministry of guiding the priests and seminarians who are students in Leo XIII Seminary.
- ❖ **Fr. Tomy Kattikanayil MSFS** has obtained the Visa to do the pastoral ministry in USA. Hearty Congratulations and prayerful good wishes.

Our Annual retreat - 2016

By the grace of God, both the retreats took place as planned. My dear fathers, I sincerely thank you for your graceful and cooperative presence during the retreat making it a spiritual event. Let us remain united with the Lord living the new life God has given to us.

Year of Formation : Gathering of all the Scholastics

As informed earlier, this year being the Congregational year of formation, we are organizing a gathering of all the MSFS Scholastics in EA. This would include all the scholastics in EA doing Theology, Philosophy and Regency. God willing, 60 MSFS Scholastics in EA would come together for three weeks. The program would consist of Seminars, Input sessions Symposium and Annual retreat. Details will be made known later.

The venue will be LCI Arusha: All the students of LCI (Phil I, II and III) and the Deacons would arrive on August 6, Saturday latest by 18.00 hrs. Others will arrive on August 7, Sunday, latest by 18.00 hrs. The Program ends with the Final Profession on August 23, 2016. Departure for the non-LCI Scholastics will be on August 24.

This is going to be a time of being together as brothers called by God with a particular mission as Fransalians in Africa and for Africa. This is a chance of serious learning and constructive appraisal of the quality of our life. It is a time of getting to know each other and strengthening our fraternal unity. I request the prayers from each one of you my dear confreres for this first ever program of this kind in East Africa.

News of Demise

Fr. Chacko Perumanoor, the Grand Uncle of Fr. Tomyhchan Perumanoor. Fr. Chacko died on June 26, 2016 at the age of 98. He was a priest for 66 years.

Mrs. Lilly, the elder sister of Fr. James Panthalanikcal. She died of heart attack on June 27, 2016 She was only 57 years old.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace!

My Program

July

- 1 - 3 Dar - Morogoro
- 4-7 Arusha/ LCI
- 8 Morogoro
- 9 Initiation to Novitiate Kibaha, Tanzania
- 10 First Profession, Mkuza
- 11 Travel to Kenya
- 12 Meeting the Bishop of Ngong Diocese
- 13-14 Visits to Chera, Ndagani
- 15 Back to Morogoro
- 16 Blessing of the St. Alphonsa Convent, Chalinze

Conclusion : Winter in Africa?

As Europe is beginning to experience the Summer, we in this part of Africa now experience Winter! Some might ask if there is winter at all in Africa! The change of seasons tell us one thing very clear. The heat and light from the Sun is same, during the day and during the night. During the Winter and during Summer the Sun does nothing different. Depending on where the earth is and where on earth we are, we have the days cold or hot, dark or bright. This example can throw very clear light into the reality of God and how our lives can have different experiences based on our relationship with God. The presence of God in human life is guaranteed. However depending on how far or near we are to him, we experience the darkness or light, cold or heat. No matter in what season we are, the Sun continues to be Sun. In the same way God continues to be God - good and faithful (ref. 2 Tim.2:13) regardless of how we are and how we are to him. Let us pray for the gift of deep faith in God and in his goodness and kindness to us.

Yours in the Eucharistic Lord,



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