

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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September 15, 2016

Beloved Confreres!

Cross and Sorrows: The Way chosen by God - lived by Our compassionate Mother !

Greetings of peace and joy as we are amidst two great feasts that speak of trials and tribulations: The feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross and Mother of Sorrows.

In all the universal religions, God being the source and dispenser of all that is good and the consolation of the sorrowful ones, it is very strange and incomprehensible as to why "Our God" (I do not mean the *Catholic God* - as Pope Francis is has very clearly taught and discarded the concept) chose this way of the cross. He chose this way because that was *his way*. The Son took up on himself the *same way* - for he was the beloved of the Father. The mother lived the way, for she was accompanying the son in this hard and challenging task.

Based on the biblical narrations and the traditions in the Church only seven sorrows are presented to us as arrows piercing through the heart of Blessed Mother Mary. But if we count, in our reasonable imagination the instances whereby she was sorrowed, we can be sure that Mother Mary had many more sorrowful moments in her life. No matter how many there were, Mary never lost hope. She was never impatient. She was never hurt or wounded for she always wore the armour of faith which gave her true protection. This shield of deep faith not only gave her protection but also just absorbed all the sharp arrows of sorrows. All the sorrows came to her. But no sorrow went forth from her. In faith she could absorb everything.

My dear friends, when sorrows come to us, how do we respond? Leave alone the sorrows: When the events take another course than that which we were expecting or had planned, do we not get panic and "make lot of noise"? In the all the sorrows of Mary, we find twist of events. She had planned or expected things in particular way. But God gave her other things in a different way - each time. She allowed herself to float in the turbulent current of the holy will of God. God never allowed her or let her be drowned.

In our daily life, the sorrows break us and put us asunder. We are lost; we get wounded; we are hurt. Sometimes we direct the arrows on others. At times a sense of false justice dominate our thoughts in such way that we want others also to experience the same sorrows. It can also happen that when God sends to us moments of challenges and sorrows, instead of responding to them in serenity marked by deep faith in God, we tend to react vehemently.

May our Mother be our inspiration. Mary stood by her son in his suffering. She was the one who in a very special way stood by our Holy Founder Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier, in all those moments of dreadful challenges in founding our religious family of MSFS. Sure, this Mother of sorrow will stand by us her beloved sons in our moments of trials and tribulations.

The cross holds the promise of transformation to new life; we must embrace it. It comes in various forms of sorrows, challenges and struggles - as in the case of Blessed Mother.

*We call Mary Mother of Sorrows: But she was never a sorrowful mother (a person who was lamenting and complaining) in terms of our thinking, for deep within her she had always the **Joy of the presence of God** in her life.*

Promoted to receive the Diaconate

These brothers of ours are promoted to receive the Order of Diaconate:

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

God willing and if everything goes as planned, they will be ordained Deacons on October 15, 2016 at JUCO, Morogoro. Let us accompany them with our prayers and blessings.

The New Provincial Administration of USA Vice Province

Vice Provincial : Fr. Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil
Councilor & Admonitor : Fr. Davis Chackaleckal
Councilor : Fr. John Peter Arul
Adviser : Fr. Sunny Joseph Punnakuzhiyil
Adviser : Fr. Mathew Varkey Elayadathamadam
Bursar : Fr. Joseph Pottemmel

Hearty Congratulations to Rev. Fr. Tomy Joseph Puliyanampattayil MSFS and the team, with lovely greetings from East Africa.

New Address:

This is the new address of Fr. Tomy Kattikanayil MSFS

Sacred Heart Church
207 South Market Street
Hudson, MI 49247
USA
Tel. [+15172709127](tel:+15172709127)

Inauguration of the New Academic Year at the LCI

The Inauguration of the Seventh Academic Year (2016 – 2017) at the Lumen Christi Institute, Maji ya Chai, Arusha took place on Thursday, September 1, 2016. It was a memorable day for the Institute as the new Catechetical Centre and the new wing of the Scholasticate were blessed and inaugurated on the same day. This dream of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales was actualized through the hard work of all our confreres and very specially of Fr Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the Director of the Institute and Fr Tomichan Perumanoor, the Administrator. Monsignor Daniel Pacho, the Secretary of the Nunciature in Tanzania officiated at these functions. After the blessings, at 9.30 am, there was the Inaugural Eucharistic Celebration. All the priests, staff and students joined Monsignor Pacho who presided over it. This was followed by the Inaugural Address delivered by Monsignor Pacho and the *Lexio Bravis*

by Dr. Tabitha Naisiko from the Ugandan Martyrs University in Uganda. This year there are 25 participants for the Catechetical Programme, 16 for the Formators Programme and 37 Brothers, including four from the Vincentian Congregation and one from the Archdiocese of Tabora, for Philosophy. The inaugural ceremony and celebrations came to a conclusion with the sharing of the common meal for all by 2.30 pm.

Report by Fr. Joseph Puliyilakat MSFS

Our French wing Theology in Cameroon

After having got sufficient expertise in French language, our scholastics Bro. Francis Indumuli MSFS and Bro. Richard Tamaro MSFS are going to start their study of Theology in French language at St. Cyprian College, Yaoundé. The course begins from October 3, 2016. We congratulate them for having come thus far and wish them all the blessings in the study and formation.

Prayers requested for the sick and suffering

Sr. Sunita Pazhayattil the former Regional Superior of Sisters of St. Ann of Luzern is in need of fervent prayers and support as her health is deteriorating due to leukaemia. She is in India taking the treatment.

Prayers requested for the departed

- Fr. Sayu Cheruvil MSFS, of Nagpur Province, aged 52, died on August 31, 2016
- Fr. Annem Joji Reddy MSFS, of Vizag Province aged 33, died on August 31, 2016

May their souls rest in peace! Amen. Kindly offer the required suffrages

Swaziland Mission Opening

On September 19, 2016 Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil and Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil are leaving for Southern African Region to participate in the official opening of the MSFS Mission in Swaziland. They will also visit the MSFS Missions in South Africa and Namibia and return to Tanzania on October 6. We wish them safe journey.

Beloved Confreres,

Soon we are preparing for the celebration of the Founder's Day honouring our Holy Founder Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier. As a congregation, as the Province of East Africa and as individual persons, we have come thus far overcoming many sorrows in faith by the grace of God. The journey of life so far was not a bed of roses for us. We will be again exposed to many challenging sorrows in our lives. Let our Mother of compassion teach us this truth: In the face of challenges and sufferings we have two options: **Response** or **Reaction**. what we need is: Response well founded in faith and NOT Reaction ill founded in our Ego. May God bless you all.

Yours in the Eucharistic Lord,



Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS

My child, if you aspire to serve the Lord, prepare yourself for suffering and sorrows.
Be sincere of heart, be steadfast, and do not be alarmed when disaster comes.
Cling to him and do not leave him, so that you may be honoured at the end of your days. Sirach 2:1-3