

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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Beloved Confreres,

Warm Greetings to you from SFS Bhavan Angamaly, India!

The Devotion of the Holy Rosary

As we pray the most holy rosary, the *mysteries* of the most holy rosary invite us to sink ourselves deep into the mysteries of our own salvation. I underline the words our own, for often as Catholics fervent in all sorts of devotions we have the false conviction that we are already saved and that we only need to pray for the conversion of the world. Rosary invites us to unveil this myth.

Every event enumerated in the mystery of the rosary were different milestones as well as significant indicators of the manner in which God implemented his plan to save us. Holy Rosary reminds us of the manifold elements of the salvation including the many persons and circumstances involved in it. The 20 events narrated in the four mysteries are not exhaustive nor exclusive. Of course they are the ones given to us, so far by the Magisterium. In fact every biblical event is an indicator as well as contributing element towards the fullness of salvation.

When does rosary become Prayer ?

Rosary becomes a prayer and something meaningful to us only when we live and experience those mysteries in our personal lives. We must become fully aware of the need to re-live those mysteries in our lives. We can re-live them in three ways:

1 With a purposeful commitment from our part.

This implies in engaging in the activities that are similar to those biblical activities or events. For example: The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth: We can make decision to visit those who are in need of our active, vibrant and positive presence. Being bearers of Jesus we can make others happy and enable positive movements and changes in the lives of the other. This implies human initiative and it involves mortifications and good will from our part.

2 With total resignation to the holy will of God.

This implies being submissive to the holy will of God and being open to the interventions of God in our lives, no matter how demanding and painful they are. For example: The crowning with the thorns. There can be times and situations in lives we have to undergo such experiences as the Holy Will of God. Instead of resisting and avoiding for our own conveniences, we need to develop deep trust in the guiding hands of God who leads us to the saving plan.

3. What God offers to us.

While the Joyful Mysteries, the Luminous Mysteries and the Sorrowful Mysteries tell us of the encounters between God and Man and the manner in which God prepared the human

beings for the salvation, the Glorious Mysteries reminds us of the infinite possibilities for us to be with the risen Lord. Our Mother Mary in her being crowned as the queen of heaven and earth is set for us as a perfect example. Salvation ultimately takes us to where Mother Mary is - in the glorious and joyful presence of God.

Hence when we pray the holy rosary let us meditate over the unique path through which God brought us out of the slavery of sin and clothes us in the garment of salvation.

Priestly Ordinations

Deacon Thomas Njue MSFS

Deacon Thomas Njue MSFS was born on November 13, 1984 of the Family of Mr and Mrs Alloys Njeru in Embu- Kenya. He is the last born of the seven children of whom five are boys and two are girls. He was baptised on April 16, 1995 and received the Holy communion the same day. He was confirmed on August 8, 1998 at Nthagaiya Parish. He did his primary education from 1991 to 2000 in Nthagaiya primary school. He did his secondary education from the year 2000 to 2004 in Macumo high school. After one year, he got a desire to become a priest and he joined the missionary congregation of St. Francis de Sales in June 2006 at Ndagani -Kenya.

The subsequent year, he did the canonical Novitiate and made his first commitment on July 10, 2008. From 2008-2011 he did his philosophy in Salvatorian Institute of Philosophy and Theology. He did his one year Regency from the year 2011-2012 at Lumen Christi institute-Arusha. Dn. Thomas did his Theology from the year 2012-2016 at Jordan university college. He was ordained Deacon on January 3, 2016 at St. Francis de Sales Parish -Dumila by His Lordship Bishop Telesphor Mkude of the Diocese of Morogoro. God willing he will be ordained priest in his home parish on October 22, 2016 by His Lordship Bishop Paul Kariuki of the Diocese of EMBU, Kenya.

Dn Stephen Mutisya Mathembo MSFS

Dn Stephen Mutisya Mathembo MSFS was born on November 11, 1986 of the family of Mr and Mrs Charles Mathembo in Wote-Makueni, Kenya. He is the first born of the five children of whom two are boys and two are girls. He was baptised on March 31, 1996 at Ngai Prayer House Mbooni parish and was confirmed on October 15, 2006. He studied his primary school from 1991-1999. Secondary education was from 2000-2005 partly in Kaumoni Sec School.

Having the desire to become a priest he joined the missionaries of St Francis de Sales and started formation in Fransalian Seminary Ndagani on June 15, 2006. Then the following year he did the Canonical Novitiate and he made the first profession on July 10, 2008. He studied Philosophy in Salvatorian Institute, during 2008-2011 and did his regency during 2011-2012 at St Francis de Sales Primary School Katani.

He did the Theological studies at Jordan University College, Morogoro. He made the perpetual profession on July 10, 2015. Stephen Mutisya Mathembo was ordained deacon on January 3, 2016 at St. Francis de Sales Catholic Parish, Dumila by His Lordship Bishop Telesphore Mkude of Catholic Diocese of Morogoro.

God willing, Dn Stephen Mutisya Mathembo will be ordained a priest in his native parish St. Francis of Assisi Parish Mukuyuni on October 27, 2016 by His Lordship Most Rev. David Kamau, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Nairobi, Kenya.

Diaconate Ordination

Five of our scholastics were ordained Deacons on October 15, 2016 at JUCO, Morogoro. Now we have

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

Let us accompany them with our prayers and blessings in their life of service and in the further stages of formation.

Transfers and appointments

Fr. Francis Kallikattu MSFS is appointed as the superior of the MSFS Community Lububu. He is also designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of Our Lady of Grace Parish Lububu, Archdiocese of Tabora, Tanzania, with effect from December 18, 2016.

Fr. Jomon Vellachalil MSFS is transferred from MSFS Community Lububu from December 28, 2016 and is appointed as the Superior and Rector of Fransalian Seminary Ndagani, Kenya with effect from May 1, 2017. He will be attending some update programs from January to April 2017.

Fr. Stephen Ubadesi MSFS is designated for further studies and he will be freed from the present responsibilities in Ndagani from April 30, 2017.

Dn Thomas Njue MSFS when ordained priest, is appointed to the MSFS Community Mji Mpya Relini and is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest in Mother of Compassion Parish, Mji Mpya Relini, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania with effect from December 17, 2016.

Fr. Japhet Kirimi MSFS is transferred from Mji Mpya Relini to MSFS Community Ipuli as assistant Manager of all our institutions with effect from December 27, 2016.

Fr. Clement Sudhakar MSFS is transferred from Ipuli to MSFS Community Mlolongo as Assistant Manager of all our Institutions and is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest in St. Joseph's Parish Mlolongo with effect from January 28, 2017.

Fr. Sijo Pendanath MSFS is transferred from Mlolongo and is appointed to the MSFS Community Mwakata as the Superior of the Community and Director VTC and Manager of De Sales School Isaka with effect from February 10, 2017.

Fr. Peter Johnson Napoleon MSFS is transferred from MSFS Community Mwakata to the MSFS Community Chera to be the Superior of the Community and Manager of Salesan School. He is also designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of St. Michael's Parish Chera with effect from February 15, 2017.

Fr. Arockiasamy Chinnappan MSFS is transferred from Chera and is appointed to initiate the new MSFS Mission in Bissel in the Diocese of Ngong, Kenya with effect from February 25, 2017.

Dn Stephen Mutisya MSFS, when ordained priest, is appointed to the MSFS Community Osia. He is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of St. Jude Parish Osia, Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda and as Vocation Promoter in Uganda with effect from December 17, 2016.

Fr. Charles Ouma MSFS is transferred from Osia to MSFS Community Ndagani. He will be the Assistant Rector and Vocation Promoter in Kenya with effect from December 28, 2016. He is also designated to attend the formators course from September 2017.

We sincerely thank all our conferees for the yeomen services they do render in their respective places and wish them all the blessing in the new places of ministry.

400th year of the publication of Treatise of Love of God:

Our obligation to know and to live the richness of this spiritual classic.

Our beloved Superior General wrote:

“As we are on the 400th year of the publication of Treatise on the Love of God, I request all of us to spend some time during this year to brush up our knowledge on the Love of God. I suggest that this study material is used in the Apostolic Community Meeting. The conveners of Apostolic Community Meeting and the Rectors of Formation Houses can use this material for presentation. If you can make copies for all confreres and read and reflect together, it will be a wonderful way of our on-going formation in Salesian Spirituality.”

My dear confreres the study material provided by the Superior General is already printed in the booklet form and is available for every confrere. May I request the Conveners and Secretaries of the Apostolic Communities to do the needful as requested by Rev. Fr. Superior General. Those who still need the new translation of the Love of God, may please contact Fr. Robert Raj and collect from the Provincial house.

Mission expansion in East Africa

Among other dioceses in EA who have welcomed us to start our ministry, we are in the process of considering to open the mission in the **Archdiocese of Dodoma** Tanzania, **Diocese of Ngong**, Kenya and **Diocese of Jinja** in Uganda. As we are well aware of the lack of personnel in our province and other demands of growth, we need the special blessings from God who guides our destiny. Let us pray that we will be able to start these missions with a firm footing. Let us include this intention in our personal and community prayers.

Pre-Noviciate Program at LCI

Hereafter we will have one month intensive Pre-Noviciate Program. For the coming batch of the novices it will be from June 3 to June 30, 2017. All the Postulants who are promoted to the Noviciate from our formation houses under MSAF, will attend this program at LCI.

New Provincial for South East India

I am very glad to inform you that Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our beloved Superior General, has appointed **Rev. Fr. Ignaci Muthu MSFS** as the Provincial of the South-East India Province for a term of three years beginning on January 24, 2017.

Renewed mandate for the Provincial of North East India

The Superior General has re-appointed **Rev. Fr George Panthanmackel MSFS** as the Provincial of Northeast India Province for a second consecutive term of three years beginning on January 24, 2017.

May God bless you dear Fathers with his choicest blessings in your ministry of leadership.

On behalf of the Province of East Africa we extend our most sincere congratulations and good wishes to Rev. Fr. Ignaci Muthu and to Rev Fr George Panthanmackel and we pray for their intentions.

Neema Foundation in Switzerland

With the intention of assisting our missions, some of our mission friends from Switzerland, under the guidance of Fr. Thomas Chozhithara have started a charitable foundation with the name NEEMA. (*Neema* in Swahili means: Grace). We thank all the people of good will. May God bless their generosity. The first general body meeting of Neema was held on July 26, 2016. Congratulations to Fr. Thomas Chozhithara for this initiative. May God bless all the effort made by Neema e.V.

Home holidays

The following confreres are on home leave.

- Fr. Jomon Vellachalil from October 1 to December 1, 2016
- Fr. Joseph Kayanja from October 16 to November 16, 2016
- Fr. Charles Ouma from November 1 to December 1, 2016

We wish them safe journey and good time with their dear and near ones.

Prayers Requested for the departed ones

- **Rev. Fr. Luke Cheruvil MSFS** (Visakhapatnam Province) was called to eternal life on October 5, 2016. He was 74 years old.
- **Dr. Alice Mugagga Nampiira** the maternal grandmother of Dn Lawrence Sebowa, was called to eternal life on September 15, 2016. She was 72 years old.
- **Mrs. Negensa Anna-Mary** the maternal aunt of Bro. Simon Peter, was called to eternal life as she lost the life in a road accident in Uganda on September 21, 2016. She was 59 years old.
- **Mrs. Thumma Chinnamma**, the mother of Fr. Thumma Mariadas MSFS (our Assistant Superior General), was called to eternal life on October 3, 2016. She was 92 years old.
- **Rev. Fr. Shanoj Mathew CST** died of massive heart attack on October 19, 2016 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He was missionary from India - spent only a few months in Tanzania. He was 29 years old.

News Snippets

- **Most. Rev. Abraham Viruthakulangara** the Archbishop of Nagpur, India paid a visit to us at LCI on September 29-30. On the Founders' Day he officiated the Eucharistic celebration at LCI. We thank His Grace for honouring us with his visit.
- **Fr. Thomas Olickal MSFS** will be making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from October 30, 2016 - for ten days. We wish him a safe journey and enriching experiences.
- **In LCI Philosophate** in this new academic year (2016 - 2017) there are 39 scholastics: (MSFS 32; VC 4; Archdiocese of Tabora 1; Diocese of Bunda 2)

- **At LCI** there now for the second batch of the formators course there are 17 participants from 13 religious congregations and one diocese.
- **Rev. Fr. JONNALAGADDA Lourdu Ravi Kumar MSFS** and **Rev. Fr. GUNDAPUREDDY SANDEEP MSFS** from Visakhapatnam Province will be visiting us in EA from November 23 to December 15. Both of them are in the Provincial Curia. This visit is with the purpose of knowing more about the possibilities of collaboration between MSFS EA and Visakhapatnam Province and the expansion of the missionary presence to other African countries. We extend a warm welcome to Fr. Ravi and to Fr. Sandeep. *Karibuni sana!!*

Year of Mercy and Life of Mercy

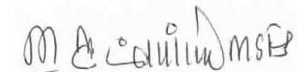
Beloved Confreres

In a few weeks - exactly said - one month from today **the Jubilee Year of Mercy comes to an end!** During this year of Mercy, we have done so much - at least as visible signs of mercy of God - like printing prayers, cards, flexes and placards; reciting special prayers, doing works of mercy and charity etc. Most of these special activities in this year special year of mercy will come to an end with closure of the year of mercy. However this truth we must realize: The year of mercy was only a starting point. The life of mercy in reality begins now where the year of mercy ends. During this year of mercy we did many things - including the works of mercy and compassion because we were / we are in the year of Mercy. However we are to continue to do more works of mercy and compassion because God our Father is a God of mercy and compassion. Here there is no choice for us for it is supposed to be in our very nature as the children of God. If at all we have a choice it is to decide the other way ie not to live a life of mercy and compassion. That will be a decision that will lead us to eternal damnation. Let us conform ourselves to the holy will of God and continue to pray that we become *merciful like the Father*.

I wish you all the blessings you are in need of.

Requesting your prayers,

United with you in the Eucharistic Lord,



Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS

(Provincial Superior MSFS East Africa Province)

According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Phil. 1:20-21