

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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Provincial Circular EAP- JK.46

December 21, 2016

Beloved Confreres,

Fr. Paul Samy MSFS - Two years since he is gone!

It was on this day in the year 2014, we were shocked by the sudden demise of our beloved confrere Fr. Paul Samy. Following the call of God, he left us for the eternal life. Let us remember with gratitude the blessings God has given to us in and through the person of Fr. Paul Samy. In such moments of pain and despair let us tell ourselves: *Human Life belongs to God. He has given it to us. He sustains it for us and in his own time He takes it away from us. Why to complain? God has not done any injustice to us! He took away only what belongs to Him!*

Advent to Christmas

The great feast of the birth of our Saviour Jesus is at hand! These are days of intense preparations. May I take a few moments to share these thoughts.

Christmas happens every year. Usually when we enter into the season of Advent, it is almost taken for granted that this year also God will give us the chance to celebrate Christmas. With the Advent we enter into a particular frame of time and with the Christmas we come out of that. Then the life continues as earlier. This is true even of the season of Lent. A particular period that calls for some reflections, evaluations, resolutions and then it ends with a celebration. Often, very unfortunately with that celebration ends also our resolutions and decisions.

My invitation to all of us is to continue to live in the spirit of Advent and spirit of Christmas.

1. In the spirit of Advent because we need to wait in hope every day for what the Lord gives to us. Our Lord is the Lord of surprises and we do not now know what the Lord has in store for us every day. He continues to manifest himself in various manner in different times. Hence we should have a spirit of positive expectation deeply rooted in the season of Advent. *Behold, I stand at the door and am knocking; if any one hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in unto him and dine with him, and he with me.* (Rev. 3:20).
2. In the spirit of Christmas because the Lord is with us. We forget that we are privileged to be living at a time, when the Lord made it possible for the us to experience the living presence of his very being in our midst. Often we live, as if we have never seen the Lord; as if we have nothing to do with him. When we are really aware of the loving, comforting and vibrant presence of the Lord in our lives, our lives can be very confident to go forward in our mission. *If God is with us, who can ever be against us?* (Rom. 8:31).

Let us continue to live in the Spirit of Advent and Christmas - radiating Joy, Hope and Vibrancy. These are the qualities that I wish for each one of us. When we get or give the

wish "Happy Christmas", remember that it is an invitation as well as commitment to be to be happy throughout my life for Christmas is *Emmanuel* the presence of God in my life. In fact my life is supposed to be with the Lord and I am to be happy all through my life.

Cause of our holy founder Fr. Peter Mermier - Another important step:

In communiqué from Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvélil MSFS our beloved Superior General, we are informed that a very substantial move has taken place in the process our efforts for the beatification of Fr. Peter Mary Mermier. Here are excerpts from his mail:

My dear Fathers:

Greetings to you!

I am glad to inform you that we have some good news about the Cause of Father Peter Mermier. I thank God for his intervention to our prayer for the glorification of Father Mermier, which, I believe, is glorification of God Himself for the great things accomplished through this Servant of God for His Church.

These are the recent developments:

- 1. Cardinal Amato, Prefect of the Congregation for the Cause of Saints, has given 'nihil obstat' to re-open the Process of the cause of Father Peter Mermier, by a letter sent to the Bishop of Annecy.*
- 2. Mgr. Yves Boivineau, Bishop of Annecy, will announce the re-opening of the Cause of Fr. Mermier on January 24, 2017. It will be published in the diocesan bulletin of January.*
- 3. Bishop Boivineau has also appointed Fr. Pierre-Marie MASSON as the Delegate priest to conduct the procedures at the diocesan level in view of beatification and canonization of Fr. Mermier.*
- 4. We have a revised Prayer for the cause of Father Mermier which is approved by the Bishop of Annecy.*

Our Superior General has also exhorted us to have some special prayers on the occasion of the announcement of the re-opening of the Cause of Fr. Mermier on January 24, 2017 by Mgr. Yves Boivineau, Bishop of Annecy.

Hence I request each community:

- 1. To have some special prayers on January 24, 2017 (Feast of St. Francis de Sales) thanking God and offering this process to the loving hands of God.*
- 2. To announce it in all our parishes and educational institutions and invite them to join us to pray for the Beatification of Fr. Peter Mary Mermier.*
- 3. To use the revised prayer - which I hope will reach you in printed form very shortly.*

My dear confreres, let us continue to seek the blessings of God up on this great desire of the MSFS together with the Sisters of the Holy Cross of Chavanod to see our Founder raised to the honours of the Mother Church.

Priestly Ordination: Dn Jobin Joseph Karottukampadathil MSFS

Dn Joseph Jobin Karottukampadathil was born on June 13, 1989 in the family of Mr and Mrs Joy Joseph in Kappumthala, Kerala, India. He is the first born of the two children. He has a younger brother who has now completed his B.Com. Dn. Jobin was baptized on July 15, 1989 at St Mary's Church Marangoli. He studied his initial school and high

school at St. Johns High School Kanjirathanam from 1993- 2004 and the Secondary School at St. Aloysius Athirampuzha from 2005 - 2007.

With the deep desire to become a missionary priest he joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and started formation in SFS Seminary Ettumanoor from June 2004. In the year 2006-2007 he did his canonical novitiate at Sannidhi and made the first profession on June 10, 2007. He studied Philosophy in Suvidya College Bangalore 2008 - 2011 and came to Tanzania for the further stages of formation. He did his Regency during 2011- 2012 at St. Francis de Sales VTC Mwakata, Tanzania. He did the Theological Studies at Jordan University College, Morogoro from 2012- 2016. He made the perpetual profession on July, 10, 2015. He was ordained deacon on January 3, 2016 at St. Francis de Sales Parish Dumila, by his Lordship Telesphore Mkude of Catholic Diocese of Morogoro.

God willing, Dn Jobin Joseph Karottukampadathil MSFS will be ordained priest in his homeland at St. John the Baptist Church Kanjirathanam in the Diocese of Palai on December 28, 2016 by his Lordship Jacob Murikan the Auxiliary Bishop of Catholic Diocese of Palai, Kerala, India.

Priestly Ordination: Deacon Aristides Timothy Danda MSFS

Deacon Aristides Timothy Danda MSFS was born on January 12, 1979 of the family of Mr and Mrs Timothy Danda in Tabora, Tanzania. He is the fifth born of the eight children of whom four are girls and four are boys. He was baptized in the following year in Njombe Parish and was confirmed in January 1993. He studied his initial Primary School from 1989-1995. Secondary Education was from 1997-2005, in Matola Pre-form one seminary-Njombe, Mafinga Seminary-Iringa, Montfort Sec. School-Mbeya, and Ifakara High School.

Having the desire to become a priest he joined the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales, after a brief community experience in Itaga Parish, and started formation in Ndagani seminary in 2006. Then the following year he was admitted to the Canonical Novitiate. He made the first profession on July 10, 2008. He studied Philosophy in Jordan University College from 2008 to 2010 and he did his regency, 2010-2011 at St Francis de Sales Parish-Ngurdoto Arusha.

He did the Theological studies at Jordan University College Morogoro between 2011-2016. He made the perpetual profession on 10 July, 2015 at *Fransalium* Kibaha. Aristides Timothy Danda was ordained deacon on January 3, 2016 at St Francis de Sales Parish Dumila by His Lordship Bishop Telesphore Mkude of Morogoro Diocese, Tanzania.

God willing the priestly ordination of Dn Aristides Timothy Danda will be in his home parish in Njombe on January 5, 2017 by His Lordship Bishop Alfred Maluma of Catholic Diocese of Njombe, Tanzania.

We wish our deacons all the graces and blessings necessary for the worthy reception of this wonderful and precious gift of priestly ordination.

Joy of the Gospel - 2017

Joy of the Gospel The Fransalian Bible Diary for the year 2017 has arrived from India. Congratulations to the IIS/ SFS Publications! Please contact Fr. Robert Soosai Raj for the copies. Let us make every effort to reach the Good News all over the world. Due to the

transportation and clearance charges the cost is high. However the we are giving the Bible Diaries at subsidised ate of TZS 10,000/- KES 500/- and UGX 17,000/-

I request you to collaborate in effort to spread the Good News as well to make our congregation known through this Bible Diary.

News from Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly MSFS

During my recent visit to India, I was happy to spend some time with our dear **Joseph Mzee** lovingly called so in Kenya, ie Fr. Joseph Kunnappilly. As informed earlier, he is taking the treatment from MIMS Hospital in Kozhikode, Kerala and is residing at Lissa Hospital Thiruvampady, which is a few kilometres away from his home. With the treatment of peritoneal dialysis, the health condition is stabilized and he feels fresh and energetic. There is also a lay person appointed to attend to his needs. However he misses the community life and the above all the mission in Africa which he still holds dear to his heart.

As he is not able to celebrate the Mass alone due to the poor eye sight, he misses that aspect much. So, recently as Fr. Santhosh Paul as he was on holidays made the necessary arrangements for the celebration of the Holy Mass in the hospital room itself. So whenever there is a priest visiting him, and is willing to celebrate the Mass there, Fr. Joseph would join the celebration. I also celebrated a few times Mass with Fr. Joseph in the hospital room. Other times I was taking the Holy Communion for him. On December 15, 2016 he turned 71.

Let us continue to pray for him for the stability of his health and that he can take every suffering as the holy will of God, offering it for our sanctification.

Fr. Thomas Olickal MSFS to the Holy land

Fr. Thomas Olickal made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land from October 29 to November 9, 2016. By the grace of God he managed it very well despite the health challenges. Congratulations! We can only thank God for the good health he enjoys today, making himself available totally at the service of the Congregation. Fr. Thomas takes some *ayurvedic* nutrients complimenting his food intake. Otherwise he is keeping fine. He is greeting every one of us.

Fr. Francis Kallikattu MSFS : back from Philippines

Fr. Francis Kallikattu MSFS is back from Philippines after successfully completing the course on Pastoral animation and leadership at EAPI. Congratulations to Fr. Francis. We also specially thank Fr. Ginu Pathiyakam, the Delegation Superior of Philippines and all the MSFS Confreres for keeping in touch with Fr. Francis and giving his stay over there Fransalian touch.

News Snippets

- The newly constructed grotto at Agururu parish was blessed on November 23, 2016 His Grace Archbishop Dr. Emmnauel Obbo. The work of the compound wall is already initiated.
- *Young Fransalian* makes "Come-back". With this initiative the SFS Junior Seminary Annual Magazine was prepared in a very attractive and novel manner this year after a gap of a few years.
- The construction works for the school and the hostel are progressing in Iyolwa. The opening of the new Secondary school in Iyolwa, Uganda is scheduled for February 6, 2017.

- The construction of the compound wall of the church land in Dumila, is almost complete.
- The new Kindergarten Building for the SFS Integrated Primary School Katani is in progress.
- The extension of the presbytery of Osia Parish was blessed by His Lordship Bishop Emeritus Denis Lote Kiwanuka October 24, 2016.
- Bukene Mission has obtained a tractor for the material transport and agricultural purposes.
- Boreholes were dug in the parish compound in Mlolongo and in the land in Bissel.
- Additional water storage facilities are made in SFS Junior Seminary.
- The Construction of the SFS Church in Katani is in progress.
- A renewal program was organized for the University students in Morogoro, by the MSFS Scholastics on November 26, 2016 at Fransalian House Kola. The program was attended by almost 300 students.
- Fransalian Communications Morogoro is organizing a Seminar on Biblical Spirituality from December 27 to Jan 1, 2017. All are invited to participate. We wish them all the blessings for this project.
- MSFS Scholastics community in Kola, Morogoro won the Claretian Volley Ball - Ever rolling trophy for the third consecutive time this year. The trophy which was ever-rolling is now never-rolling! Since the beginning of the Tournament 14 years ago, as per the rules of the organizers it was ever rolling unless otherwise won by the same team for three consecutive years. Now the trophy is for the Fransalians forever. Our sincere congratulations to the young MSFS Community Kola under the leadership of Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil MSFS for this great achievement.

Our sincere congratulations and good wishes for all the accomplishments and for all the initiatives. May the Holy Spirit of God guide us in every step we take.

Holiday ministry in USA

Fr. Robert Raj and Fr. Chinnappan Arockiasamy will be going to USA for the holiday ministry from December 29 to February 28, 2017. Our good wishes and prayers.

Another study team from Mother Province - Visakhapatnam after 30 Years!....

On March 20, 1987, late Fr. Midathada Mariadas MSFS then Provincial of Vizag Province and late Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil MSFS the then Provincial Councillor in-charge of the mission, landed in Tanzania and visited some of the mission in Tanzania to have an on the spot study of the future mission.

Now after 30 years, with the sincere desire to expand its missionary presence to Africa, Vizag Province (our so-called Mother Province) sent another team to study the need and possibilities. The team in the persons **Rev. Fr. JONNALAGADDA Lourdu Ravi Kumar MSFS** and **Rev. Fr. GUNDAPUREDDY SANDEEP MSFS** from Visakhapatnam Province were in EA from November 23 to December 15, 2016. By the grace of God they could visit all the MSFS communities in the three countries. I also thank all the confreres who were taking care of them and accompanied them in different stages of their trip. Very sincerely and personally I thank Fr. Chinnappa Reddy MSFS the Provincial Superior of the Vizag Province for taking this daring step.

Let us firmly hope that this study visit would bear the desired fruits soon. Here is what they have noted soon after their return to India.

My dear Fathers and brothers, Greetings !

Mandated by the MSFS Visakhapatnam Provincial Administration, with the intention to study the possibility of missionary expansion in the continent of Africa, we had the privilege of visiting The MSFS East Africa Province from November 23 to December 15, 2016. It was a visit of great experience and both of us were very impressed by the religious life and the ministry of our confreres working over there. The community life, the religious life and the pastoral care, apostolate of education, social and healing ministry etc marked by simplicity of life style and the total availability of our confreres.

It was a pleasant experience to see the zeal and commitment of the confreres about their ministry and work entrusted to them by the Provincial Administration. In spite of the lack of personnel there is enormous amount of work being done by every confrere. We are also very much edified by commitment and cheerful availability of the fathers and brothers. We were very much taken up by the devotion of the faithful over there. People take time to pray. It was gracious to see the generosity of the people towards God and to the Church. The liturgy is very alive with lot of singing and dancing. The friendly and caring attitude from the people, the order and discipline in driving, clean roads and surroundings, being patient in adverse situations, the awareness of laws and regulations etc were matters that left in our hearts indelible memories.

We were extremely happy to note the good community living over there. The beautiful and well kept houses with a good number of guest rooms, large parlours and above all the well maintained community chapels have brought us so many lessons and impressions about the good community and religious life in the Province of EA. We thank the Almighty God for giving us an opportunity to visit East Africa Province in our life .

We thank the Almighty God for the great care and protection given to us during our journeys. From Dar es Saalam International Airport where landed - in Tanzania to Entebbe-Kampala Airport in Uganda from where we returned having visited all the communities in three East African countries in Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda, we covered almost 5000 kms by road.

We express our deep felt gratitude and thanks to Very Rev Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, the Provincial for the meticulous organization of our visit. We are extremely grateful to all of you dear confreres for your warm hospitality, love and care.

My dear Fathers and Brothers in East Africa, MSFS Visakhapatnam Province highly appreciates and recognizes the services you have done to both us and we remain thanking the Almighty GOD FOR GIVING THIS WONDERFUL CHANCE OF VISITING THIS GREAT PROVINCE. We are very much convinced about the need and possibility of the MSFS Mission expansion in Africa.

Entrusting our desires in the hands of the Lord and praying for you all dear Fathers and Brothers,

Fr. JONNALAGADDA Lourdu Ravi Kumar MSFS

and Fr. GUNDAPUREDDY SANDEEP MSFS

Code of ethics for MSFS EA

The Code of Ethics is a document that is today mandatory for every ecclesiastical entity. In COE for EA, we formulate for ourselves a document consisting of certain norms to be followed by major superiors/superiors/confreres, in the event of allegations against our confreres/ institutions very specially in matters of paedophilia, any immoral act, scandalous life styles and financial / power misuse. It is an expression of our resolve to create a system to address effectively any allegation/ accusation made against any member of the congregation in East Africa and promptly and properly to investigate in a fair and transparent manner in accordance with law. We have a draft of the Code here. I would be sending that to each one of you. Please go through the text personally, in community and in the Apostolic community. I request the Apostolic Community Convenors to give your feedback latest by February 28, 2017.

Regents' Meet - 2016-17

The scholastics who are doing the regency in different communities in EA will come together for the half-yearly evaluation in Morogoro. They will also participate in the Seminar on Biblical Spirituality from December 27 to January 1, 2017. Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil the PCIC formation will arrange the meetings. The regents are expected to be in Fransalian House Kola from December 27 evening till January 3 evening.

SFS Seminary Ettumanoor, India - in Golden Jubilee (1967-2017)

We have an invitation for a great jubilee celebration: SFS Seminary Ettumanoor is celebrating its Golden Jubilee (1967-2017). During the jubilee year, different events are going to be organised. All the priests who have studied in the Seminary and now working in different provinces and outside India are specially invited.

The conclusion of the jubilee year will take place on October 4 and 5, 2017. Alumni Meeting is scheduled on October 4, 2017 from 17.00 hours. The thanksgiving Eucharistic Celebration is on the following day on October 5, 2017 from 10.30 am followed by fellowship meal. As in our Province we have many who have gone through the SFS Seminary Ettumanoor, I request you to plan your holidays in such a way that many can participate in this historical event. Let us thank God for this institution which has produced good fruits.

Superior General comes to Tanzania again. *Karibu sana Baba!*

Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS our beloved Superior General will be in LCI from January 5 to February 20, 2017 for the classes. We extend a warm welcome to him.

Guests from USA : *Karibuni sana !*

Mr. George Shiners, Mr. Brian Prunty and Ms. Karen Prunty from US will be visiting us in EA from February 18 to March 4, 2017. We extend them a very warm welcome and wish them a good and graceful time with us in our missions. Let us pray for the safety of their travel. They will be landing in EBB and flying out from DAR.

Visit from the Provincial of South West India Province

Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS the Provincial of SW Province together with Fr Vinod Kanat MSFS and Fr Joy Vazhappally MSFS the members of the Provincial Curia will be visiting us in Tanzania. They will be coming to DAR on January 25 and going to Arusha via Morogoro and flying out from JRO on January 31, 2017. We extend a warm welcome to them. *Karibuni sana!..*

On Suvidya College

Rev. Fr. Benny Kottanal MSFS the Provincial of South West India Province is appointed by the Superior General as the Major Superior to all the members in Suvidya college, Governing Body Chairperson, and Superior Delegate of Suvidya College. Let us accompany him with our prayers in this very important task.

Home Holidays:

The following confreres were / will be on home holidays:

Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS	from November 22, 2016 to December 9, 2016
Fr. Clement Sudhakar MSFS	from November 23, 2016 to January 23, 2017
Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil MSFS	from December 16, 2016 to February 16, 2017
Fr. Jose Eriyanickal MSFS	from December 26, 2016 to February 26, 2017
Fr. Jomat Kollapallil MSFS	from December 26, 2016 to February 26, 2017
Fr. Sheejan Kallarakkal MSFS	from January 26, 2017 to February 12, 2017

We wish them a good time of relaxation and rejuvenation.

Update Programs in LCI

I find the following short courses in LCI very useful for our personal growth and in ministry. I request the confreres to make use of this opportunity.

[February 15 - 18 Seminar on Psycho-sexual and Spiritual Integration](#)

Registration : before 05.02.2017 Arrival : 14.02.2017 before. 18 hrs. Fee : Tsh. 120,000

[May 08 - 12 Seminar on Transformative Leadership](#)

Registration : before 01.05.2017 Arrival : 07.05.2017 before 18 hrs. Fee : Tsh. 150,000

Kindly register with Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS the Director of LCI - at the earliest as there are restrictions on the intake.

Prayers requested for the sick and suffering

- **Fr. Augustine Mangatt MSFS** who has undergone Angioplasty on November 16, 2016 in India. Now he is back to Rome.
- **The Mother** of Fr. Thomas Chozhithara, who is sick.

Prayers requested for the departed ones

- **Fr. John De Vore MSFS** of the USA Vice Province aged 91 was called to eternal life on November 23, 2016.
- **Bro. Job Poovathumootil MSFS** of Vizag Province, aged 86 was called to eternal life on November 26, 2016.
- **Fr. Louis Brugger MSFS** of Franco-Swiss Province, aged 96 was called to eternal life on November 30, 2016.
- **Mr. Sunday Klesensio** the husband of the maternal aunt of Bro. Ventino Mutume MSFS was called to eternal glory on November 25, 2016.
- **Mrs. Hellen Kwamboka Akunga** the elder sister of our Novice Albert Momanyi Ombati from Kenya, was called to eternal glory on November 29, 2016.
- **Sr. Sunita Pazhayattil (St. Ann of Luzern)** the former Regional Superior of East Africa - was called to eternal life in December 1, 2016. She was 60 years old.

- **Mr. Joshy George** from Kerala, employee cum business man in Tanzania since a few years; known to many of our confreres. He died in a road accident in Gairo, Tanzania on December 15, 2016. He was 43 years old.

May I request all those who have not fulfilled the suffrages to do the same at the earliest (Const. No. 118; General Directory No 98).

Sr. Sunita Pazhayattil - St. Ann Sisters of Luzern: Our Tribute

We were very saddened by the demise of Rev. Sr. Sunita Pazhayattil of the Congregation of the Society of St. Ann Luzern. She was a missionary from India working in Tanzania for the past 25 years! She was also very much associated with us MSFS in our presence and apostolate in EA. She served the church and the congregation in different capacities and in various apostolate. Last year, shocking all of us she was diagnosed to be suffering from Leukaemia. Since then she was undergoing treatment in India. She was called to eternal life on December 1, 2016 at the age of 60.

Those of us who have encountered her know how wonderful a person she was. Personally, each time I encountered Sr. Sunita, they were moments of inspiration for me. There was always a spontaneous enthusiasm and eagerness in her very person. Her presence was really energizing for the other. She had always a great sense of commitment in her duties.

The last time I met her was on October 10, 2016 in Vijayawada, India where she was spending her last days here on earth, very united with the Lord. At the end of our meeting we prayed together. So also in Bangalore when I met her in November 2015. I am sure she was fully prepared to be received into the eternal joy her hands being held by Mother Mary and Mother Ann. What a graceful departure from this life!!

On behalf of all the MSFS we express our solidarity with the Sisters of St. Ann, specially the East African Region.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, Rest in Peace. Amen

The Best Christmas Gift - J.T.J : Joy to Jesus !

Beloved confreres,

Many of us may be now preparing the Christmas gift for others. But let us not forget the one who deserves most the Christmas gift - Jesus himself. Many times Christmas is celebrated this way: *Birthday is remembered and celebrated: But the baby is forgotten and disgraced.*

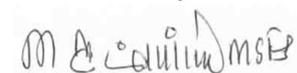
Let us turn to him who became the best gift for us. It was the gift of his very self to God in serving us. When we serve others selflessly that becomes the best Christmas gift for Jesus (Ref. Mt. 25:40)

*Do our cakes and sweets, drinks and food, stars and cribs, carols and dances, decorations and illuminations give any **joy to Jesus** ? When we have all these in service of others it makes meaning and it would give **joy to Jesus**. It is only then we can say meaningfully. **Merry Christmas !!!!***

I wish you all a blessed Christmas and a grace filled start of the year 2017.

Requesting your prayers,

United with you in the Child Jesus,



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