

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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Provincial Circular EAP- JK.47

February 4, 2017

Beloved Confreres,

Day of consecrated life - A day celebrated meaningfully or disregarded?

In the year 1997 Pope John Paul II the saint of our times, initiated the practice of celebrating the *Day of Consecrated Life*, on the day of the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord. This year, the day is already part of the history. Have we really celebrated it personally and collectively in a meaningful way? What lesson has it brought to us?

Through the celebration of this day, were we able to tell the world with conviction that we are set apart for God for God only? This day was primarily a reminder for us that our intentions and efforts to live our consecrated life would bear the best fruit in the context of the life of the Church, in the context of the consecration of the others. None of us can live fruitfully our consecrated life if we live in isolation.

One of the favourite prayers of St. Francis de Sales was, *Jesus my saviour, my heart belongs to you and to you alone*. I say that whoever can this prayer sincerely and meaningfully is a consecrated person. No matter what is the vocation or the call one follows, beneath all the calls there is and there should be the spirit of consecration. Often we equate the consecrated life with established and organized forms of religious life. This understanding has its limitations. Consecrated life is much more than religious life. Consecration is not to be limited to the practice of evangelical counsels and pious practices. Consecration implies a person living in God and God living in that person. In this sense, the best example for consecration is Jesus himself. If God has the primary place in your life and if you live and move in the presence of God, you are consecrated. In this sense even those who live in the world, those who lead the family life, can be people who are consecrated to God. Consecrated life implies having one's focus on God and doing what God wants of that person. As religious whenever we celebrate this day, it is a reminder for us that every Fransalian belongs to God alone.

Hence, the life of consecration can be lived in the frame / context of religious life or even outside of it without this frame. We know that the *frame* is not more important than the *photo*. Frame has a meaning only in so far as it can hold the photo and display it. Sometimes the frame may look very good, but the photo in it, may not be appealing at all. It is the same way: All who are in the frame of religious life, need not be really consecrated ones. One may appear to be a consecrated person. But there may not be any element of consecration in that person. (Ref. Rev. 3:1-3). Our religious vows and the observance of our rule of life are not the sum total of consecration. They are only indicators or means for the life of consecration.

The historical event of the *presentation of the Lord*, reminds that we have a God who was like us in every respect. The event also reminds us that after the example of Jesus, we can be to the Father totally consecrated beings in love and gratitude. But this demands that we are holy. Let us submit ourselves totally to the hands of the Lord that he may guide our destiny; he may take us to the pastures unknown and the paths still new. Let us earnestly

pray that every one of us would grow more and more in deep love for the Lord enabling us to be totally consecrated persons emanating the joy and peace of our *Being in the Lord and the Lord being in us*.

Appointments

Fr. Danda Aristides MSFS is appointed to the MSFS Community Mlolongo- Katani and is appointed as the Assistant Manager of the SFS Integrated Primary School Katani, Kenya with effect from February 18, 2017. He will render services at the St. Joseph's Parish Mlolongo.

Fr. Karottukambadathil Jobin MSFS is appointed to MSFS Community Kashishi with effect from July 1, 2017. He is also designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest St. Francis de Sales Parish Kashishi, Archdiocese of Tabora. Until June 30, he will render his services in MSFS Community Mkuza.

New Associate Members

I am very glad to inform you that we are getting two more persons as our Associate Members to share in our Apostolate in East Africa.

Rev. Bro. Leo Cheruvil, a religious brother in brotherhood from the Congregation of the Society of the Brothers of St. Patrick, India. He is appointed to the MSFS Community in Iyolwa and he will be rendering his service mainly in the apostolate of education.

Rev. Fr. Stephen Nadakuzhackal, a diocesan priest from the Catholic Diocese of Srikakulam, India. He is expected to arrive in Tanzania in a couple of months. His appointment will be announced later.

We extend to both of them a warm welcome and fruitful ministry in East Africa.

New MSFS Community in Katani

With effect from March 10, 2017 the confreres in Katani Mission would form a new community distinct from that of Mlolongo. However they will continue to assist one another in the matters of apostolate especially the pastoral works.

Fr. Sunny Vettickal MSFS is appointed as the Local Superior of this community. Our Congratulations and good wishes.

Final Profession

With the due approval from the Superior General, the following scholastics are promoted to make their final profession:

1. Gitono Richard Tamaro MSFS
2. Indumuli Francis Aloo MSFS
3. Musyimi Patrick Titus MSFS
4. Mwangi Kenneth Maina MSFS
5. Mwovi Francis Kyule MSFS
6. Nabende Simon Peter MSFS
7. Pendanath Martin John MSFS

Brothers Gitono Richard Tamaro and Indumuli Francis Aloo will make their final profession on February 9, 2017 at MSFS Scholasticate, La Feuillette, Yaounde, Cameroon.

All the others will make the final profession on March 4, 2017 at MSFS Scholasticate, Kola, Morogoro, Tanzania.

Let us accompany these young brothers of ours with our sincere prayers. When possible I request you also to join them in these sacred moments in their lives as well as in the history of our congregation.

Prayers Requested

For the departed ones

- **Fr. Simon Rodrigues MSFS** of Pune Province, was called to eternal life on January 17, 2017. He was 62 years old.
- **Fr. Camille MEYNET MSFS** of Franco-Swiss Province, was called to eternal life on January 23, 2017. He was 82 years old.
- **Fr. George Nellikunnel MSFS** of Vizag Province, was called to eternal life on January 26, 2017. He was 97 years old.
- **Fr. Zacharias Mannukuzhumpil MSFS** of Vizag Province, was called to eternal life on January 26, 2017. He was 93 years old.
- **Fr. Velamparambil Ephrem MSFS** of Vizag Province, was called to eternal life on January 29, 2017. He was 79 years old.
- **Rev. Sr. Clare Maruthomalayil CSN, the paternal** aunty of our confrere Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil, was called to eternal life on December 28, 2016.

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

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

The Process of consultation in preparation for the appointment of the new Provincial

As the term of office for me as the Provincial is getting over on July 14, 2017, our Superior General has instructed me to initiate the process of consultation. The ballots and the list will reach you in most cases by hand post from March 5, 2017. Meanwhile I will send a document from Superior General that needs much careful attention and study - regarding the whole "discernment process".

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

From January 16 to February 6, 2017, **Fr. Stephen Ubadesi** and **Fr. Reji Pendanath** are in Holy Land attending the renewal program and making the pilgrimage. As they pray for us in the holy places, let pray for them as well as those who facilitated this program.

Father Peter Mermier School Dumila

In this year of re-opening of the Cause of our holy founder **Servant of God Fr. Peter Mary Mermier**, we have initiated the new educational project in Dumila under his patronage. The pre-primary section of the school is now functioning in the parish hall. The Pre-Primary section was opened by **Rev. Fr. Benny Koottanal MSFS** the Provincial of the South West India Province and was blessed by Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS on January 27, 2017. We wish Fr. Joseph Poikunnel MSFS the Manager and the community members, all the blessings, very specially through the powerful intercession of Fr. Mermier.

MSFS 20th General Chapter

Our Superior General Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvilil MSFS has convoked the 20th General Chapter of our Congregation to be held from February 1 to February 13, 2017. The theme: **MSFS, Wake up to the Basics**. The venue will be the MSFS Provincial House North East

India Province, Gawahati, India. Please find the attached document from the Superior General.

It is our ardent duty and sacred privilege to be part of this great event in the history of our Fransalian Family. Please start praying specially for the General Chapter with the prayers given by the Superior General. The text of the prayer is attached.

Our Annual Retreat in the Province 2017

Retreat A

Place: Subiaco Retreat centre of the Benedictine sisters, Karen, Nairobi, Kenya

Date: June 6 Tuesday evening to June 12, Monday morning

Retreat B

Place: Retreat centre: Ivrea Sisters - Dodoma, Tanzania

Date: July 16 Sunday evening to July 22, Saturday morning

The names of the guides will be informed to you later. As we know the participation in the Province annual retreat is mandatory. Those who need exception for valid reasons, are to get explicit permission from the Provincial Superior. You can choose one of these retreats. Kindly register your names before March 31. Since both venues may have limitations to accommodate beyond a particular number we need to distribute more or less equally. Annual retreats are special times in the life of the individual and of the Province. It is a time of being together with the Lord and with one another in an intensive manner. Let us already begin to pray for the blessings of God up on our retreats. Let us also pray for our guides who would be guiding us in retreat.

Update Programs in LCI - Reminder

The following short courses in LCI are 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](#)

Arrival : 14.02.2017 before. 18 hrs. Guide: Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS

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

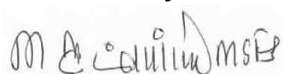
Arrival : 07.05.2017 before 18 hrs.

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

Let us belong to Jesus

Beloved Confreres! Every day and every moment of our lives, let us remind ourselves that we belong to God. The theme of the GC-XX **MSFS, Wake up to the basics...** is nothing but this truth that we are supposed to belong to God.

United with you in the Lord,



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

My dear children, you belong to God. 1 Jn.4:4