

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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Provincial Circular EAP- JK.48

March 1, 2017

Beloved Confreres,

The Season of Lent

Once again, we enter into the holy season of Lent. As individuals and as communities I am sure each of us has some specific plans as to how we can live this holy season. We are very much used to the term - Abstinence ie restraining oneself from doing or enjoying something. It can be in matters of food, drinks, entertainments etc. But let us remember: *Not that which goes into the mouth defiles a man; but that which comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man (Mt.15:11).*

The things that come out of a man are the things that make him unclean. All these evil things begin inside a person, in the mind: evil thoughts, sexual immorality, stealing, murder, adultery, selfishness, doing bad things to other people, lying, doing sinful things, jealousy, saying bad things about people, pride, and foolish living. All these evil things come from within a person. These things make a person unclean (Mk. 7:20-23).

Beloved Confreres,

There is nothing like being a person of goodness. There is no selfishness in him. He does not think evil about others; he never talks ill of others and he restrains form doing bad things to other people. He is simple and humble. He is generous in sharing even though he may not have much. He does not feel jealous about the joy of others. His love for others does not go pervert. If we can reach to this stage of growth in our selves and in our relationships, I can assure you that we are pleasing in the sight of God.

On the other hand what does it matter, even if we abstain from many things such as food and drink and if we allow evil to be generated in us? *Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the LORD your God (Joel 2:13).* Lent is more than prayers and giving up some things that gives us legitimate pleasures. It is all about my person in relation to God and to my brothers and sisters. Let us make genuine efforts to be persons of goodness, kindness, compassion, forgiveness, simplicity and humility. Let us be persons who never speak ill of the others. Let us be persons who cherish and appreciate the good in the other.

May the ash that we apply today on our foreheads, be the seal for our mind and heart that we may never generate evil and transmit evil to the other by our thoughts, words and deeds. Besides let the ash also proclaim that we are persons of goodness and agents of mercy and compassion of God.

Our Annual Retreat in the Province 2017

We have also now the guides for the retreat who have consented to accompany us in our annual retreat. **May I ask you to continue your registration for the retreat.**

Retreat A

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

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

Guide: Fr Patrick Mwanja, CSSP

Retreat B

Place: Retreat centre: Ivrea Sisters - Dodoma, Tanzania

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

Guide: Rev. Fr. Gibson John OCD

New Catechism Books in Swahili by Fr. Sebastian Palakudy MSFS

As part of the family apostolate in the Archdiocese of Tabora, Fr. Sebastian Palakudy has brought out a set of seven books - titled: *Mafundisho kwa watoto* - meant for the children from Class 1 to VII. It is a very good work presenting the basic Catholic teachings in simple language and with illustrations. I recommend these books to be used in our parishes and schools. For the copies please contact: Fr. Sebastian Palakudy MSFS (+255 714 584 859); palakudymfs@gmail.com. Our sincere congratulations and appreciation for Fr. Sebastian Palakudy for his consistency and spirit of perseverance in bringing out these text books.

The Process of consultation: prior to the Appointment of the Provincial East Africa

As announced to you in the Provincial circular JK-47 dated February 4, 2017, Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS the Superior General, has instructed me to initiate the consultation process for the appointment of the Provincial of East Africa. My mandate as the Provincial Superior ends on July 14, 2017. Accordingly I am sending you the Ballot paper for the consultation as is required by our Constitution and General Directory.

As of now we are 68 finally professed members in our Province. Of these 67 have active voice. Fr. Mangatt Augustine being a member of the General Curia has no active voice, but has passive voice. Also among the 68 members only 47 have the passive voice. Those who have no passive voice are 12 Scholastics and 8 priests who do not fulfil the constitutional requirements. Besides, Fr. Kallidukil Johnson who held the office for two consecutive terms, just preceding this election, does not have the passive voice.

Kindly read and reflect on the points given by the Superior General. The Ballot papers are marked with: **1. First Choice. 2. Second Choice. 3. Third Choice.** These Ballot papers are to be duly filled up and returned to the Provincial in the sealed envelope and it is to reach the Provincial before **April 20, 2017**. Kindly use the envelope provided (DL Size, white) to place the Ballot paper and please seal it up and enclose it in the other envelope (B5 Size brown), which is the 'Return Cover' addressed to the Provincial's Office/ Superior General.

Enclosed please find:

1. The ballot paper with official stamp
2. The Envelope to place the Ballot paper. White DL Size Vote - EAST AFRICA -2017
3. 'Return Cover' addressed to the Provincial's Office Brown B5 Size
4. The list of the confreres who can vote (Active Voice)
5. The list of the confreres who can be voted for (Passive Voice)
6. Copy of the letter from the Superior General
7. Instructions from the Superior General

Those confreres residing outside the territory of East Africa may send the Ballot to me to Morogoro, or directly to the Office of Superior General in Rome / Hyderabad India in another envelope. These Ballots should reach the Superior General latest by May 1, 2017. Kindly note that there is no provision for sending the vote electronically or online.

As we exercise this sacred and noble task, let us remind ourselves of the utmost importance of the process of discernment that each of us need to make. Let us also read Art 225 from our hallowed constitutions before we exercise this sacred task.

I wish all of us a time of grace and peace in this exercise of discernment seeking the will of God in this process of identifying the one who would be leading our Province in the coming years.

Distribution of ballots

We have initiated the Process of consultation in preparation for the appointment of the new Provincial. You will receive the ballots and other documents in a packet addressed to you, either through the confrere in the particular apostolic community / geographical area or by other means as mentioned here.

Morogoro - Dumila: Fr. Kochuparampil Thomas MSFS (Distributor)

1. Kallarakkal Sheejan
2. Kallidukil Johnson
3. Kochuparampil Thomas
4. Kuzhupil Sebastian
5. Poikunnel Joseph Antony
6. Soosai Raj Robert
7. Vijayakumar Nelson Antony

Scholastics in Morogoro Fr. Kochuparampil Thomas MSFS (Distributor)

8. Musajja Ibrahim Kisegerwa
9. Musyimi Patrick Titus
10. Mutunga Jonathan Muema
11. Mwangi Kenneth Maina
12. Mwovi Francis Kyule
13. Nabende Simon Peter
14. Neerolickal Amal Paul
15. Pendanath Martin John
16. Sebowa Lawrence
17. Ssekelembe Gerald Mabiriizi

Tabora - Kahama: Fr. Pendanath Reji Joseph MSFS (Distributor)

18. Antonysamy Robert
19. Kallikattu Francis
20. Kayanja Joseph Mary
21. Kollapallil Jomat Mathew
22. Mwebia Japhet Kirimi
23. Ngowi Innocent Vincent
24. Nirappel Sebastian Devasia
25. Pendanath Reji Joseph
26. Peter Johnson Napoleon

Dar es Salaam: Fr. Sebastian Williams MSFS (Distributor)

27. Antonysamy Sebastian
28. Karottukampadathil Jobin
29. Kochuparampil Pius Thomas
30. Njue Thomas Njeru
31. Prakashbhavan Santhosh Paul
32. Sebastian Williams Rajarethinam
33. Thekkekara Jacob

Uganda: Fr. Mattathil Sunny MSFS (Distributor)

34. Auppaden Siljo Cherian
35. Chozhithara Thomas Varghese
36. Maruthomalayil Joby Antony
37. Mathembo Stephen Mutisya
38. Mattathil Sunny Kurian

Kenya: Fr. Vettickal Sunny Thomas MSFS (Distributor)

39. Chinnappan Arockiasamy
40. Danda Aristedes Timothy
41. Eriyanickal Jose Abraham
42. Ouma Charles Ondiek
43. Pendanath Sijo John
44. Sylvester Sudhakar Clement
45. Ubadesi Stephen Savarimuthu
46. Vellachalil Jomon Joseph
47. Vettickal Sunny Thomas

Arusha - Fr. Thazhathukunnel Mathew MSFS (Distributor)

48. Chavely Mathew
49. Kochalumchuvattil Thomas
50. Palakudy Sebastian
51. Perumanoor Tomychan Jacob
52. Thazhathukunnel Mathew Thomas

Scholastics in Cameroon - Sent by registered post to Fr. Manoj Arackal MSFS

53. Gitono Richard Tamaro
54. Indumuli Francis Aloo

USA - by hand post by Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS

55. Kattikanayil Tomy George
56. Kollapallil Kurian

GAH- by hand post by Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS or by Registered post

57. Augustine Stephen Gerald
58. Kochumalayil Sony

- 59. Packiam Wilson
- 60. Panthalanickal James

Italy - Hand post by Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvelil MSFS

- 61. Burrofero Zachariah
- 62. Pathiyil Johnson

India - Registered post - posted in India

- 63. Devadoss Francis
- 64. Susai David

India - Registered post - addressed to Fr. Thomas Olickal MSFS

- 65. Kunnappilly Joseph
- 66. Olickal Thomas
- 67. Peter Antony George

In case of undue delay in receiving your ballots please let me know. I wish you all the blessings in this process of discernment.

News Snippets

Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas MSFS our Assistant Superior General is at LCI rendering teaching services. We extend a warm welcome to him.

Rev. Fr. Anto Varghese MSFS from Mozambique Delegation/ Nagpur Province will join LCI staff from March 12, 2017. We extend a warm welcome to him and wish him a fruitful time of ministry at LCI.

Prayers requested

- The beloved mother of Fr. Raparthy Prasad, is seriously ill needing Gastric surgery.
- The beloved father of Fr. Gijo Panamattathil MSFS, is seriously ill due to old age related matters.

Let us pray for them and for all the people who suffer in one way or other in our families, among our friends and those in our Congregation.

Blessing of the Kindergarten Building in Katani, Kenya

The newly constructed structure for the Kindergarten in SFS Integrated Primary School Katani, was officially opened and blessed on February 24, 2017. The new building now provides ample room and facilities for the children to have a better ambience for learning and relaxation. The program began with the march-past and the hoisting the flags, followed by various entrainment programs by the students, messages from the management and guests. Then, the new building was opened by Mr. George Shinnars from USA and was blessed by Fr. Augustine Mangatt MSFS. The memorial plaque was unveiled by Mr and Mrs. Prunty - representing the Living Waters International Inc.

We express our sincere thanks to all our benefactors and mission friends who have supported us in this endeavour. May God bless their generosity. Our congratulations to

our confreres in Mlolongo - Katani for this initiative and making this dream a reality. The school has a record strength of 433 pupils this year. Let us thank God for everything.

My tentative programs

March

- 1 Ash Wednesday - Mji Mpya
- 2-3 Morogoro - Dumila
- 4 Final Profession in Morogoro
- 4 Departure for USA and Europe: Visit and ministry (till April 10)

April

- 12 Back to Dar es Salaam
- 13-16 Holy Week in Mji Mpya
- 17 Morogoro
- 18 Travel to Arusha
- 19-20 Council Meeting at LCI
- 24-28 Classes for formators and Meeting the brothers in LCI

May

- 1 Conferring of the Ministries for the Scholastics - JUCO
- 6 Graduation at LCI
- 9 - 11 MSAF Meeting in Zambia
- 15 - 18 In Novitiate, Kibaha
- 19 Renewal of Vows - in Kola
- 23-28 In Tabora-Kahama

June

- 1 Opening of the Pre-Novitiate Program at LCI (June 1 to 30)
- 3 Pentecost - Mass in Ngurdotto (out station)
- 16-24 First session of the Seminar and Retreat for the entire Congregation of *Mabinti wa Maria* Tabora in preparation for their General Chapter (other sessions in August and September; in November specially for chapter members)
- 29 Priestly Ordination in Lububu

July

- 2 Official Opening of the St. Francis de Sales Parish, Kashishi, Tabora
- 9 Initiation to the Canonical Novitiate
- 10 First Profession in Kibaha
- 15 Installation of the New Provincial

Beloved Confreres,

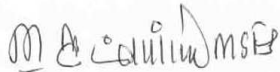
God willing, on April 16, 2017 we shall celebrate Easter once more here on earth. But should this Easter be just another liturgical and social event in our lives. ***As the Lent, so***

the Easter! I mean to say the meaningful celebration of Easter depends how meaningfully we have spent the days of Lent. I wish each of us a graceful time of Lent. Let us not hesitate to accept any opportunity for us to share in the suffering of Christ.

*If I am unable to say **No** to the small pleasures - though legitimate - how am I able to say **No** to the sins? **No** to sin is the pre-requisite to say **Yes** to the will of God.*

Wishing you a very fruitful season of Lent,

Yours in the Lord who suffered for us,



Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS

The Rules for a new Life : Ephesians 4: 25-32

Therefore, laying aside falsehood, speak truth each one of you with his neighbor, for we are members of one another. Be angry, and yet do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not give the devil an opportunity. He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing with his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share with one who has need. Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving each other, just as God in Christ also has forgiven.