

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

Provincial House P. O. Box 12 Morogoro Tanzania

Tel: +255 787 766 555; +255 784 418 799 www.msfs-eastafrika.com

E-mail: johnsonmsfs@gmail.com; provincialeastafricamsfs@gmail.com



Provincial Circular EAP- JK.50

June 4, 2017

Beloved Confreres, Greetings of the Pentecost!

Feast of Pentecost

Mother Church provides us again another opportunity to rejuvenate ourselves - to be drenched in the Spirit of God; to be anointed; to be empowered; to witness and to be the witnesses. Through Pentecost, we are reminded of the uniqueness of our creation as *beings in the BEING and as beings from the BEING* - the Ultimate. Created in the image and likeness of God, we are beings brought to life by the life- giving breath of God. It is good to remember that for no other creature God breathed into their nostrils. This implies for us that we have a life that is supposed to be unique; a life manifesting the life of God in whose life we share; a life as lived by our brother Jesus the Son of God; a life that breathes in and breathes out the breath of God.

As conceived by God and as desired by God we have only one life and level of existence in him. However from my perspective and in my relationship to God, the other and my own self, I can have different levels of existence:

1. My unique being as God wants me to be. (This is the will of God; it can never be wrong.)
2. My being as I am in reality (It is my life as it really is; it may or may not be according to the will of God. Whether I like it or not, whether God likes it not, it is the way my life is.)
3. My being as what I think, what God wants me to be (It is my own understanding of my ideal self, my vocation; it can have its limitations and drawbacks.)
4. My being as I myself want (It is my wishes, decisions and vision about my own self; it may or may not correspond to what God wants of me.)
5. My being as understood by others (what others think of me)
6. My being as understood by me based on what I think, what others think of me.

Still we can go on enumerating the different levels of my being. But if only we know what we are to be in the plan of God, we can really work on it. The difference between level 1 and level 2 is the sum total of my defects, limitations, weaknesses and sins. Growing towards perfection demands from our part serious and consistent efforts to minimize this difference, making our beings to correspond to what God wants of us. It is here we need the help from the Spirit of God. It is the spirit who helps us to call Abba Father (ref. Rom.8:15). It is the Spirit who comes to help us in our weaknesses (ref. Rom.8:26).

The more we dwell in the Spirit of God, less we are away from the will of God. When we are in the Holy Spirit, our ways cannot be bad, our plans cannot be mere secular, our decisions cannot go wrong. Let us be docile to the invitation of Mother Church to receive the Holy Spirit and his graces without any measure and to live a life of grace and lead others for the same. Thus through a life being led by the Holy Spirit our life will correspond to what God wants of us.

Rev. Fr. Mathew Thomas Thazhathukunnel MSFS : Our new Provincial

Great indeed are your works o Lord!

With these sentiments of the Psalmist, I am very glad to introduce to you our new Provincial Superior in the person of **Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel**. He was born on July 17, 1971 to the parents Mr. Thomas and Ms Mary at Poovarany, Kottayam Dt, Kerala India. He was baptized just five days after his birth on July 22. He received the sacrament of Confirmation on May 2, 1980. Having completed his higher secondary education in the year 1986 he joined SFS Seminary Ettumanoor where he did the initial formation and the pre-university course for three years. Then after the short pre-noviciate program in Philip Nagar, A.P, he was admitted to the Canonical Noviciate in Salesianum on June 9, 1989. He made the first profession on June 10, 1990. Thereafter he did the Philosophical formation at Suvidya College for three years and at the same time he also secured the BA from Mysore University.

Meanwhile he had already opted to join the Tanzanian mission and for the regency (1993-1994) he was designated for the North East Province and he was appointed to Vinayabhavan Minor Seminary, Thamarassery, Kerala. Up on completion of the regency he came to Tanzania on May 10, 1994 and started his Theological studies at St. Paul's Major Seminary Kipalapala, Tabora. However after the second year of Theology he continued the studies at Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune and completed securing B.Th in the year 1998.

He was ordained priest on April 22, 1998 at his home parish Poovarany by Rt. Rev. Dr. Joseph Pallikaparampil, the Bishop of Palai. As a new priest he was appointed to the Mission house of East Africa Province in India - SFS Bhavan, Angamaly. He was also the vocation promoter and the formation co-ordinator in India. During his stay in Angamaly along with other tasks he also did the Masters in Theology - obtaining First Class with Distinction - from the Pontifical Institute in Alwaye. Later in October 2001 he was appointed to be the Pre-Novice Master and Socius at MSFS Noviciate, Kibaha. One year later in November 2002, he was elected as the Provincial Bursar and was also appointed as the Superior of the Provincial House community. It was during this time he piloted the project of starting the Fransalian Primary School, Kigurunyembe, Morogoro and was appointed as the first Manager of the School.

In the year 2006 he was designated for doctoral studies and pastoral work in the Diocese of Eisenstadt, Austria. He completed this mission very successfully and faithfully. His doctoral thesis addressed some of the key pastoral and social concerns in Tanzania in relationship inter-religious dialogue. Thereafter in September 2011, he assumed the office as the Director Lumen Christi Institute. From September 1, 2015 he was also appointed as the Local Superior of the MSFS Community at LCI.

With his life of integrity and faithfulness to the tasks given to him, Fr. Mathew has won the confidence of the Province community. He is a man of deep faith and trust in God. He has a sense of determination and can ensure that things move. He has deep trust in the Providence of God and can venture into the unknown. We have all witnessed how LCI has grown in all the ways under his able leadership during the last six years. With his sociable and friendly nature he radiates a sense of confidence instilling self-confidence in the one

who associates with him. We also find in him a true pastor, who does not hesitate to avail himself for the needed pastoral commitments. We wish him all the blessings he stands in need of.

Our beloved Fr. Mathew, Hearty Congratulations! We welcome you as our leader and guide. As a province community we assure you our prayerful support and blessings.

A Word of Thanks and Appreciation for the election / appointment process

We thank God for the person of Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel. We thank the General Administration for their decision to appoint Fr. Mathew as our new Provincial Superior. We also thank Fr. Mathew for readily accepting this sacred task.

I must also express a very sincere thanks to all the conferees and formees for your sincere prayers in this process. My special thanks to all the finally professed confreres who participated in the discernment process of getting the new Provincial. When Fr. Superior General informed me that 65 of the 67 ballots reached his office, it was a moment of great joy and sense of deep appreciation for you my dear confreres who handled your tasks very responsibly. The 67 votes were scattered in 10 countries in four continents. Yet more than 97% of the ballots reached the office of the Superior General. My sincere congratulations and thanks.

Installation of the New Provincial

As it is customary, we will have the installation of the new Provincial Superior on Saturday July 15, 2017 in Morogoro. More details will be communicated later. I request your participation on this very important event in the life of our Province.

At present, Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel is visiting Europe as he had already some commitments and programs. Let us pray for the success of his trip and may the Lord keep him safe and healthy. I request your prayers for our mission as we are in the transition period of change of leadership that the Holy Spirit would continue to guide us in every step we take.

The Pre-Noviciate Program

The Pre-Noviciate Program is already started at LCI under the guidance of Fr. Charles Ouma MSFS. There are 18 of them - from Chad Cameroon Mission and East Africa Province. We wish them all the blessings.

Dates of Priestly Ordinations

God willing our five Deacons will be ordained to priesthood as follows:

Jul 20	Dn. Muema Jonathan MSFS,	Katoloni, Machakose, Kenya
Jul 22	Dn. Neerolickal Amal MSFS,	Muvattupuzha, India
Jul 29	Dn. Sebowa Lawrence MSFS,	Cathedral Lugazi , Uganda
Aug 5	Dn. Kissegerwa Ibrahim MSFS,	Cathedral Masaka, Uganda
Aug 12	Dn. Ssekalembe Gerald MSFS,	Cathedral Kampala, Uganda

Our Sincere Congratulations in Advance!

Let us continue to pray for them and for the Bishops who will ordain them and for the entire events of ordinations and celebrations.

Annual Retreat - 2017 - Participation list

As announced earlier, the annual retreat will be in two sessions.

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

Participants

1. Chavely Mathew
2. Cheruvil Leo (Bro)
3. Danda Aristides
4. Eriyanickal Jose
5. Kallarakkal Sheejan
6. Kollappallil Jomat
7. Kuzhupil Sebastian
8. Mutisya Stephen
9. RVP Prasad
10. Sebastian Williams
11. Soosai Raj Robert
12. Thekkekara Jacob
13. Vellachalil Jomon
14. Vijayakumar Nelson

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

Participants

1. Annaikandathil Sebastian
2. Antonysamy Muthusamy
3. Antonysamy Robert
4. Antonysamy Sebastian
5. Auppaden Siljo
6. Chinnappan Arockiasamy
7. Kallikattu Francis
8. Karottukambadathil Jobin
9. Kayanja Joseph
10. Kirimi Japhet

11. Kochuparampil Pius
12. Kochuparampil Thomas
13. Kollappallil Kurian
14. Mattathil Sunny
15. Nadakuzhackal Stephen
16. Ngowi Innocent Vincent
17. Nirappel Sebastian
18. Njue Thomas
19. Ouma Charles
20. Pendanath Sijo
21. Peter Napoleon Johnson
22. Poikunnel Joseph
23. Prakashbhavan Santhosh
24. Silvester Clement Sudhakar
25. Thazhathukunnel Mathew
26. Vettickal Sunny

Those not able to participate for valid reasons/ who participated/will be participating other retreats:

1. Palakudy Sebastian (Holy Land)
2. Maruthomalayil Joby (Holy Land)
3. Kochalumchuvattil Thomas
4. Chozhithara Thomas
5. Perumanoor Tomychan
6. Kallidukil Johnson
7. Peter Antony George
8. Pendanath Reji

Those who are outside EA

1. Augustine Stephen Gerald
2. Burrofero Zachariah Claudio
3. Devadoss Francis
4. Kattikanayil Tomy
5. Kochumalayil Sony
6. Kunnappilly Joseph
7. Mangatt Augustine
8. Olickal Thomas
9. Packiam Wilson
10. Panthalanickal James
11. Pathiyil Johnson
12. Susai David
13. Ubadesi Stephen

Blessing in Bisil

In a very simple but well organized ceremony, we marked the beginning of our presence in the new mission Bisil in Ngong Diocese Kenya. The foundation stone for the MSFS community house together with the designated area for the construction was blessed by Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS the Provincial Elect. Fr. Chinnappan Arockiasamy MSFS the priest in -charge of the project organized the day well, in collaboration with the priests of the parish and the faithful of Kajiado Parish. Our special thanks to Rev. Fr. Patrick Nkaai the parish priest who shows keen interest in our mission in Bisil. Fr. Samy continues to reside in the Parish in Kajiado. Let us continue to seek the blessings of God that this project will take shape in the most appropriate manner.

Baraka 10

The tenth issue of Baraka News Magazine is already printed. You can also see them in this link. <http://www.msfs-eastafrika.com/images/baraka/baraka10.pdf> Congratulations to Fr. Clement and team for the great efforts to bring out Baraka in good quality. The next issue is due by the end of June. Please give your quality contributions at the earliest.

News Snippets

Fr. Stephen Ubadesi MSFS has secured the Admission for M.Sc - Counselling Psychology (2017-2019), at Sampurna Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS) Bangalore, affiliated to Martin Luther Christian University (MLCU) India. We congratulate him and wish him all the blessings in this new task of studies.

Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil MSFS is designated to participate in the special training program on Salesian Spirituality. This would take place in Annecy, in the month of October 2017. This is meant to train the resource persons on Salesian Spirituality and on the history of the Congregation. From every province one each confrere is specially identified for this task.

Fr. Gijo Panamattathil MSFS from Chad Cameroon / SW Province who served LCI for the past five years, is now leaving for higher studies to Rome. We thank and appreciate his commendable service and wish him all the blessings.

Fr. Sunny Vettickal MSFS is visiting Europe from May 29 to June 29 for mission appeal and to visit friends and benefactors.

Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil MSFS is in USA for the holiday Ministry from May 31 to Aug 15, 2017

Fr. Susai David MSFS has completed his German Language course in India and obtained the Visa for the pastoral work in Germany. He will be leaving for Germany, from India on June 22, 2017. Our sincere thanks to Fr. Vincent Lourdusamy and the MSFS Provincial House community Pune for all the assistance given to Fr. David during his stay there.

Fr. Petrus Kullu MSFS the Delegation Superior of the Mozambique Delegation will be in Tanzania from July 8 to 17. He will be the one officiating the Mass on the of First Profession on July 10. We extend a warm welcome to him.

Fr. Yesudoss Lucas MSFS from Mozambique Delegation / Nagpur Province has joined the LCI staff. *Karibu sana Baba*. We wish him all the blessings he is in need of for the graceful ministry in LCI.

Fr. Josef Giefing from Austria will be with us for some time from July 5. We accord a warm welcome to our beloved *Mzee*.

Fr. Sebastian Williams MSFS will be officially representing me in the RSAT Meeting at Mbagala Spiritual centre on June 15 and 16, 2017.

Bro. Francis Indumuli MSFS and **Bro. Richard Tamaro MSFS** who are now doing Theology formation in Cameroon will be coming down to East Africa for the holidays towards the end of June.

Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS to take up the Mission Development Office in Rome

At the special request from the Superior General, the Provincial Administration has designated Fr. Thomas Chozhithara to be appointed as the Director of MDO in Rome. However he will function in this office while continuing to hold the responsibilities in East Africa Province. He will be in Rome and Europe for a couple of weeks from the first week of June.

MSAF Meeting in Zambia

The 14th MSAF meeting was held at MSFS Community in Liteta, Kabwe, Zambia. The superiors from five MSAF units in Africa participated in the meeting held on May 10 and 11. Liteta is the first MSFS Mission in Zambia - where our confreres from Pune Province started the apostolate in Zambia. I thank our confreres for hosting the meeting and doing all that was possible to make our stay pleasant and comfortable. It was very edifying to see how the confreres were very much committed to the mission living a life marked by simplicity and in real brotherhood.

Home Holidays

Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil MSFS from June 6 to July 13, 2017

Fr. Pius Kochuparampil MSFS from June 6 to July 13, 2017

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

Prayers requested

Mr. METEDIO NKAMANYA, the paternal uncle of Bro. Ventino Mutume, was called to eternal life on May 31, 2017. He was 85 years old.

May the soul of the faithful departed through the mercy of Go, rest in peace. Amen.

My tentative Program

- 1 Meeting the Archbishop of Dodoma
- 2-3 In LCI - Pre-Novitiate Program
- 4 Pentecost - Mass in Sakila, Ngurdotto and travel to Morogoro
- 6 In Dar - RSAT Constitution Commission Meeting
- 7-14 In Morogoro
- 14 Meeting with Provincial Superior - FCC Noida
- 15 Travel to Tabora

- 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 two sessions in August and September)
- 25-28 Visit to the TAKA Communities
- 29 Priestly Ordination in Lububu

July

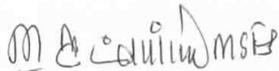
- 1 Meeting with the Archbishop of Tabora
- 2 Official Opening of the St. Francis de Sales Parish, Kashishi, Tabora
- 3 Travel to Morogoro
- 9 Sunday Mass - Dumila; evening Initiation to the Canonical Novitiate
- 10 First Profession in Kibaha
- 15 Installation of the New Provincial

Concluding note

The narrations of Pentecost in Acts of the Apostles was a special historical event, signifying a new period in God's dealings with His people. But never it remained a one-time event. The spirit moves where it wills (Jn.3:11). Pentecost signals the dawning of the new age of the Holy Spirit. And the fullness of the Spirit in God's people is to empower us to be witnesses to all the nations. Thus, the meaning of Pentecost is God's equipping His church with the power of His Spirit so that He will be glorified among the nations. God being glorified among the nations is, when each of us is led by the Holy Spirit. If so our existence here and now will correspond to what God wants us to be. It is the Spirit helps us to be what God wants us to be. Thus we as individual persons, as a community, as Fransalians - we will be glorifying God among the nations.

Once again I wish you the blessings of Pentecost!!

Yours in the Risen Lord,



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

MUST - READ MATTER

.....One of the manifestations of secularism in our religious institutes is our tendency to seek more comfort zones. Many religious today do not want to face hardships in the missions; they look for best cars, road side and city parishes of rich and well dressed people. Pope Francis invites to go further, to the deep villages, to the dirty people who are dirty and stinking. Build Schools and hospitals for those who are really in need of them. Our institutions should not be one among them many schools or hospitals in the city collecting a lot of money, but rather the only one in the remotest areas where the poorest and the most needy can be served. The more comfort zone seekers we are, the more mediocre people we become. Mediocre people hesitate to give their best, they are satisfied with the minimum; These people will become dissatisfied and depressed. Mediocrity has no place in religious life. No founder was a mediocre person. They longed for the best and they sacrificed everything possible for the mission.

Excerpts from the Message by

His Excellency Archbishop Michael A. Blume, Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda on 31.05.2017,
Addressing Major Superiors Meeting (ARU) Kampala,, Uganda.