


MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa
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Provincial Circular EAP – MT.02
Sept. 30th, 2017

My dear Confreres!

Fraternal Greetings to all of you on our Founder's day!

Today, we are commemorating the 155th death anniversary of our beloved Founder Fr. Peter Marie Mermier (1790 – 1962). The exemplary life and ministry of our Founder at the service of the Church and the people of God continues to inspire us to be dedicated missionaries in the contemporary world. Although the milieu and many generations have changed, the thirst for the Word of God continues in our times too, especially in Africa. Bishop Joseph Ray instructed the first missionaries to study St. Francis de Sales, to imitate his virtues and to follow his method of teaching in our missionary endeavours. He also told them that “people generally speak of the gentleness of Saint Francis de Sales and they are right. But according to me it does not bring out fully his characteristic trait. His gentleness appears to me to be but a means of exercising his ZEAL. His characteristic trait is zeal” (A. Duval). It is this zeal that echoed in the life and ministry of Fr. Mermier. He invites each one of us to be zealous missionaries. Africa was his first dream land for evangelization. That dream is being fulfilled through all of us. Let us never flag in our zeal for the mission of Christ in Africa.

"To God alone be honour and glory" (Soli Deo honor et gloria)

The Provincial Congress

The Provincial Congress of the Province of East Africa began on 22nd September 2017 with the Mass of the Holy Spirit presided over by Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy MSFS, the Assistant Superior General. It was followed by a day of recollection preached by Rev. Fr. Terry McGrath, the former Provincial of the English Province. Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy delivered an inspiring key note address based on the theme of the Provincial Congress: ***Fransalians in East Africa: Consecrated to live joyfully the mission of Christ, being loyal to the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and the missionary spirit of Fr. Peter Mermier.*** After four days of meaningful evaluations and intensive deliberations, the assembly drafted a final statement and an action plan, which would guide the members of the Province for the coming three years.



The Provincial Congress came to an end on 26th September with the celebration of the Holy Eucharist presided over by His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Josephat Lebulu, the Archbishop of Arusha. He thanked and appreciated the Fransalians for the great work they do in East Africa. I sincerely thank the staff and students of Lumen Christi Institute for hosting the Provincial Congress.

The Provincial Curia

The Provincial Congress elected the following confreres to the Provincial Curia:

- Fr. Jacob Thekkekara Admonitor and PCIC for Education
- Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil PCIC for Mission
- Fr. Kurian Kollapallil PCIC for Social and Innovative Ministries
- Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil PCIC for Formation
- Fr. Jose Eriyanickal Provincial Bursar

Hearty Congratulations to the new Provincial Curia.

New Priests

Jonathan Muema



Rev. Fr. Jonathan Muema was born on 11.12.1986. He is the son of Mr. Sebastian Mutunga and the late Ruth Ndinda from Wimboo village, Kenya. After completing his Primary and Secondary school studies, he joined Fransalian Aspirancy House at Ndagani, Kenya. He did his Novitiate (2008 – 2009) at Fransalianum Kibaha, Tanzania and made his first profession on 10th July 2009. He did his Regeny (Pastoral Year) at Ipuli SFS Children's Home in Tabora (2009 – 2010). He completed his Philosophy course at Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha (2010 – 2013) and his Theology in Jordan University, Morogoro (2013 – 2017). He made his Final Profession on 23rd August, 2016 and was ordained a

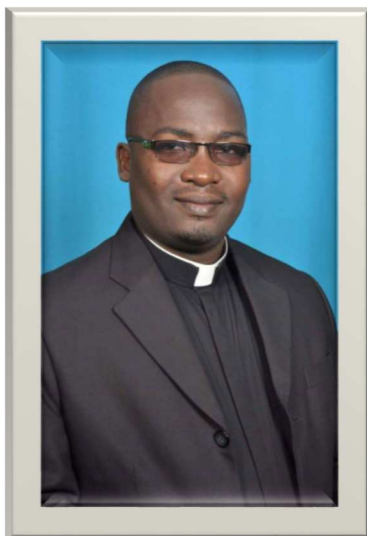
Deacon by His Lordship, Bishop Telesphore Mkude on 15th October 2016. He was ordained a Priest on 20th July 2017 by the Archbishop Anthony Muheria of Nyeri.

Amal Paul Neerolickal



Rev. Fr. Amal Paul Neerolickal MSFS, was born on May 04, 1986 at Arakuzha, Ernakulam District, Kerala, India. His parents are Mr. Paul Joseph and Ms Daisy Paul. Having completed his primary and high school education he joined the Carmelite seminary at Karukidam (Carmel Nivas) where he completed his initial formation and his higher secondary. (2002-2005). He finished his philosophical studies from Calvary Philosophical College, Thrissur (2006-2009). He joined the MSFS East Africa Province in 2010 and did one year of probation in SFS Junior Seminary Kihonda, Morogoro (2010-2011). He did his pre novitiate at Tejas Vidya Peeta and Canonical Novitiate at Sneha Joythi MSFS Ashram Makiyad (2011-2012). He made his first profession on 31st of May 2012. He had his regency at the Fransalian Community in Ipuli, Tabora (2012-2013) and his Theological studies from Jordan University, Morogoro (2013-2017). He made his perpetual profession on August 23, 2016. He was ordained a Deacon on October 15, 2016 by His Lordship Telesphore Mkude. He was ordained a priest on 22nd July in his home Parish by Rt. Rev. George Madathikandathil, the Bishop of Kothamangalam.

Lawrence Ssebowa



Rev. Fr. Lawrence Sebowa MSFS was born on 24th September 1985 at Kawolo, Buikwe district, Uganda in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Kaddu John. After having completed his Primary and Secondary school studies, he joined the Fransalian seminary at Ndagani, Kenya in 2007. He did his Novitiate (2008 – 2009) at Fransalianum Kibaha, Tanzania and made his first profession on 10th July 2009. Immediately after his novitiate Rev. Fr. Lawrence did his regency (Pastoral year) at St. Francis de Sales Junior Seminary Morogoro, Tanzania in 2009-2010. After his regency, he studied Philosophy at Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha, Tanzania from 2010 to 2013. He did his Theological studies at Jordan University, Morogoro Tanzania (2013 – 2017). He made his perpetual profession on 23rd August 2016 at Lumen Christi Institute Maji ya Chai, Arusha. Lawrence Sebowa was ordained a Deacon on 15th October 2016 at Jordan University Chapel Morogoro Tanzania by the Rt. Rev. Telesphor Mkude the Bishop of Morogoro. He was ordained a Priest on 29th July 2017 at Lugazi Mary Queen of Peace cathedral by the Rt. Rev. Christopher Kakooza the Bishop of Lugazi Diocese.

Kisegerwa Ibrahim Musajja



Rev. Fr. Kisegerwa Ibrahim Musajja MSFS was born on 03.09.1977. He is the son of Mr. Kafeero Athanasius and Mrs. Anna Iko Kafeero of Kigasa village, Masaka, Uganda. After his secondary school and Diploma in Building and Civil Engineering, he joined Fransalian Aspirancy house Ndagani (2007 – 2008). He did his Novitiate at Fransalianum-Kibaha (2008 – 2009) and made his First Profession, on 10th July 2010. He did his Regency at the Mother of Compassion Parish Mji Mpya-relini, Dar es Salaam from 12th August 2009 to 13th July 2010.

He had his Philosophical studies at Lumen Christi Institute (LCI) Arusha (2010 – 2013) and Theological studies, at (JUCCO) Jordan University from 2013–2017. He made his perpetual profession on 23rd August 2016. He was ordained a Deacon on 15th October 2016 by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Telesphore Mkude, Bishop of Morogoro and was ordained a priest on 5th of August 2017, at Christ the King cathedral by His Lordship Rt. Rev. John Baptist Kaggwa, the Bishop of Masaka.

Gerald Mabiiri



Rev. Fr. Gerald Mabiiri MSFS was born on 27th April 1981. His parents are the late Joseph-Anthony Ssekalembe and the late Restetuta Nabulya in Bukulula, Masaka. After having completed his Diploma in Education, he joined Fransalian Aspirancy house Ndagani, Kenya (2007 -2008). He did his Novitiate at Fransalianum Kibaha Tanzania from 2008-2009 and made his first profession on July 10th 2009. He did his Pastoral year at St. Francis de Sales Integrated Primary School Katani Kenya from 2009-2010. He did his Philosophical Studies

at Lumen Christi Institute (2010-2013) and Theological studies at Jordan University Morogoro (2013 – 2017). He made his final Profession on 23rd August 2016. He was ordained a Deacon on 15th October at Jordan University Chapel by his Lordship Bishop Telesphore Mkude of Morogoro Diocese. He was ordained a priest on 12th of August 2017 by His Grace Most Rev. Cyprian Kizito Lwanga, Archbishop of Kampala.

Holy Pilgrimage and the Parish Feast of Lububu

The Holy Pilgrimage (Hija Takatifu) to the Salvation Hill and the Parish Feast of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Lububu were celebrated on 16th and 17th of September 2017. The celebration was well organized and arranged by the parish community under the guidance of the priests, sisters and members of the parish council. Over 2000 pilgrims participated in the procession from the parish church to the Salvation Hill and in the Holy Eucharist there on the day of Hija Takatifu and



over 1000 faithful participated on the next day during the celebration of the parish feast. Various sacraments (88 baptisms, 73 first communions and 81 confirmations) were celebrated. The presence of pilgrims from in and out of parish and especially the 200 or more pilgrims who came walking more than 20 kms. from Bukene Parish added a new dimension to the pilgrimage this year. It was a powerful witness to all the pilgrims on the day of Hija Takatifu. The presence of Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the provincial of East Africa Province, Rev. Fr. Faustine Rwuchungura, the parish priest of the Cathedral Parish and the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Tabora, who was also the main celebrant of the solemn Eucharist, added solemnity and joy to the celebrations. The meaningful and spiritual celebrations conducted on these days, were a great witness to the Christians and the non-Christians alike in faith formation.

(Reported by Fr. Francis Kallikatt MSFS)

The Blessing of the New Presbytery at Maji ya Chai



The 2nd of August 2017 became a memorable day in the history of St. Stephen's Church at Maji ya Chai as His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Josephat Lebulu, the Archbishop of Arusha, blessed the new Presbytery and administered the sacrament of Confirmation to 88 children on that day. The Holy Eucharistic Celebration commenced with an angelic procession by children to the accompaniment of divine melodies by the choir. His Grace presided over the Holy Eucharist. Through an inspiring homily, he invited all to be witnesses of Christ and in a special way instructed and encouraged the children to live a life sanctity

and holiness. A number of Priests and Religious sisters and over 1000 parishioners participated in the celebrations. Fr. Tomychan Perumannor thanked His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Josephat Lebulu and Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS for their presence and constant support and encouragement. He also thanked the parishioners for their hard work and the benefactors, particularly Rev. Fr. Emile Mayoraz, the former Superior General of MSFS for his financial assistance to complete the presbytery. The celebrations came to an end with a sumptuous meal.

(Reported by Fr. L. Yesudoss MSFS)

Inauguration of the Eighth Academic Year 2017-2018

After a break of three months, on first September 2017 Lumen Christi Institute once again started bustling with forty seven Philosophy students, nineteen participants of Formators' course and twenty eight catechists. The inauguration of the academic year began with a solemn Eucharistic celebration presided over by Rev. Dr. Celestine Peter Safari, the chief guest of the day's functions. All the Professors and students together sang the hymn "Come Holy Spirit." The chief celebrant, reminded the community of the role and the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian. The second part of the programme, the 'Lectio Brevis' at the LCI academy hall began at 11 am with a prayer song sung by the first year Philosophy students. Fr. Devasia Manalel welcomed the gathering. During the welcome speech, Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel the new Provincial of East Africa Province and the chief guest Rev. Dr. Celestine Peter Safari were felicitated with a Masai Shuka each. Rev. Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil presented a report of the previous academic year. Thereafter, Rev. Dr. Celestine Peter Safari, a political theologian with a doctoral thesis on 'Genocide in Rwanda', and a professor in the department of Ethics and Development in the Ugandan Martyrs University and a priest of the diocese of Kabale, Uganda, enlightened the gathering with a scholarly presentation on *Forgiveness, the Hidden Power for Personal and Societal Healing*. Our philosophy students enjoyed the talk and



and holiness. A number of Priests and Religious sisters and over 1000 parishioners participated in the celebrations. Fr. Tomychan Perumannor thanked His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Josephat Lebulu and Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS for their presence and constant support and encouragement. He also thanked the parishioners for their hard work and the benefactors, particularly Rev. Fr. Emile Mayoraz, the former Superior General of MSFS for his financial assistance to complete the presbytery. The celebrations came to an end with a sumptuous meal.

responded with a series of clarifications. In his message Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the newly appointed Provincial of East Africa Province of the MSFS advised the students to develop a philosophy of life during their academic studies. The vote of thanks proposed by Brother Moses Okose marked the end of the Inaugural function.

(Reported by Fr. Devasia Manalel MSFS)

Promotion to the Order of Diaconate

The following scholastics are promoted to the Order of Diaconate:

- Musyimi Patrick Titus
- Mwovi Francis Kyule
- Nabende Simon Peter
- Pendanath Martin John

They will be ordained Deacons on 28th October, 2017 at Jordan University College, Morogoro.

Transfers and Appointments

Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil is transferred from Osia Parish from 6th of November, 2017 and is designated to the new mission at Namutumba-Kalamira, Jinja Diocese, Uganda from 15th of November, 2017. He will reside at Namunyumya Parish until the presbytery is ready at Namutumba. He will continue to be a member of MSFS Osia Community, until an MSFS Community is established in Namutumba-Kalamira.

Fr. Santhosh Paul Prakashbhan is transferred from MSFS Novitiate Community, Kihaba from 3rd of November, 2017 and is appointed as the Superior of MSFS Community Osia and is also designated to be appointed as the parish priest of St. Jude Catholic Church, Osia, Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda, with effect from 12th November, 2017.

Fr. Stephen Nadakuzhackal, a Priest from the diocese of Srikakulam, India, is appointed to the MSFS Community, Ipuli with effect from 27th September, 2017.

Fr. Jonathan Muema is appointed to the MSFS Community, Bukene and is designated to be appointed as the assistant parish priest of St. Charles Lwanga and his companions' Church, Bukene, Archdiocese of Tabora, with effect from 5th October, 2017.

Fr. Amal Neerolickal is appointed to the MSFS Community at Dumila and is designated to be appointed as the assistant parish priest of St. Francis de Sales Church, Dumila, Diocese of Morogoro, with the effect from from 5th of October, 2017.

Fr. Lawrence Ssebowa is appointed to the MSFS Community, Mlolongo and is designated to be appointed as the assistant parish priest of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Mlolongo, Diocese of Machakos, Kenya, with effect from 17th December 2017. However from October 5th to December 16th, 2017 he is assigned to the MSFS Community Chera.

Fr. Ibrahim Kisegerwa is appointed to the MSFS Community, Lububu and is designated to be appointed as the assistant parish priest of Our Lady of Grace Church, Lububu, Archdiocese of Tabora, with effect from 5th of October, 2017.

Fr. Gerald Mabiriizi is appointed to the MSFS Community, Mji Mpya Relini and is designated to be appointed as the assistant parish priest of Our Lady of Compassion, Mji Mpya Relini, Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam, with effect from 1st of February, 2018. However he is assigned to MSFS Novitiate Community, Kibaha from October 10th, 2017 to January 31st, 2018.

Budget 2018

I request every community/Institution/parish to kindly send the budget for 2018 to the office of the Provincial Bursar by 10th of November 2017.

Pocket Money

The Provincial Council has decided to introduce pocket money system in the Province from October 2017. The priest confreres in Tanzania will receive Tsh. 60,000, in Kenya: Ksh. 3,000 and in Uganda: Ush. 100,000. The scholastics will receive Tsh. 40.000 from November 2017.

Provincial Vicar

Fr. Jacob Thekkekara will be the Provincial Vicar in my absence from 2nd to 23rd October 2017.

Home Holidays

Fr. P. Johnson Napoleon is on home holidays from September 30th to December 15th, 2017.

Obituary

Fr. Tony LOPEZ of Pune Province passed away on 1st of September, 2017. He was 74 year old.

Fr. Théodore VANNAY of Franco-Swiss Province passed away on 12th of September, 2017. He was 83 years old.

My Tentative Schedule

Date	Programme
01 October	Parish Feast: Mji Mpya Relini
02.	Meeting with CMC Sisters; Flight to India
04 – 5	Golden Jubilee of SFS Seminary, Ettumannor, India.
06	SFS Bhavan, Angamaly
07 - 17	Retreat and PIF-PEA Meetings
18 - 19	SFS Bhavan, Angamaly
23	Flight to Tanzania
28	Diaconate Ordination, Morogoro
30	LCI
03 November	Kenya
06	Uganda
12	Ngurdoto
13 - 30	LCI
04 – 08 December	Provincial Council Meeting, Morogoro

Wishing you all a Happy Founder's day, I remain.

Yours devotedly in Christ



Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS

Provincial - East Africa Province

At the time of sending out his Missionaries to India, Fr. Mermier enumerated the qualities which make up the personality of a missionary: "This cluster of qualities which renders a man apostolic is rarely found in one piece. A vocation in the midst of all kinds of trials, a total dispossession in all things, a complete abandonment to the plans of divine Providence, an entire and absolute renouncement of one's own will, so as to seek and to will only what Christ wants of us and from us, through the way of obedience. I do what pleases him and I do it always with a zeal that is pure, ardent and well ordained for my own sanctification as much as for the sanctification of others; a zeal that is constant and determined, accompanied by all its fruits; all the necessary dispositions of a missionary whom God calls to work for the conversion of the peoples, especially in the overseas missions". (A. Duval)