



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

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My dear Confreres,

I wish you all a happy feast of Saints Peter and Paul! May they be our guides and inspiration in our missionary endeavours in Africa!

APOSTLES PETER AND PAUL

We remember today Saints Peter and Paul who guided the early Church just after the time of Jesus. Both died in Rome as martyrs for the faith, in the early 60's, just thirty years after the death of Jesus. Each of these saints is important for different reasons. Peter is important because he was the first Pope and kept the church united as it was spreading very rapidly in the years following the Pentecost. Paul began to preach, also to non-Jews, the Gentiles as they were then called. His preaching was very successful and he brought large number of non-Jews into the church, so much so that the Jews who accepted Jesus were soon outnumbered by the non-Jewish Christians.

It is interesting to compare the personalities of Peter and Paul. Neither of them understood Jesus initially. Peter was impetuous. He fell asleep while Jesus was in agony in the Garden of Gethsemane, which clearly indicated that the agony of Jesus did not affect his personal life. On Holy Thursday night he told Jesus that he would die with him (John 13:37) but later that night, he denied any knowledge of him. We also remember Peter's objection to Jesus' prediction about his suffering and death in Jerusalem and the words of Jesus to Peter 'Get behind me Satan because the way you think is man's way and not God's way' (Matt 16:23). Faith and action were not aligned correctly in the life of Peter, they were separated. Although we see him weak and struggling, he became a great apostle for Jesus and the first Pope (John 21:15-17). He is for us a beacon of hope.



After Pentecost Peter became a different man. In the Acts of the Apostles, we see Peter showing extraordinary courage on many occasions. He was brought before the Sanhedrin twice soon after Pentecost, for preaching about Jesus (Acts 4:1-22; 5:21-42), and was imprisoned once (Acts 5:17-21). The man, who could not stand up against a servant maid before, is no more afraid to face even the whole Sanhedrin. The man who denied Jesus, considered it an honour to suffer for Jesus (Acts 5:41). St. John tells towards the end of his Gospel, about Jesus' warning to Peter that he will be martyred just like Jesus (John 21:18-19). Tradition says that Peter asked to be crucified upside down on the cross because he did not consider himself worthy to be crucified in the same way as Jesus. What a change! Peter's faith in Jesus had grown immensely that he no longer acted under impulse but under the power of the Holy Spirit. We see two alternatives in Peter; rejecting the cross and denying Jesus or accepting the cross to live a new life in union with Jesus. We cannot have Jesus without the cross. Jesus said, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it." (Matt 16:24-25)

Paul was once busy persecuting Christians. God had to knock him off his horse to make him aware of his true vocation. Paul was a controversial character in his own way. He had a fiery personality. In the early part of his life he channeled all his energy towards persecuting the Christians in Jerusalem. He was actively involved in the killing of Stephen, the first martyr for Jesus (Acts 8:1). Paul spent 10 years in Tarsus before he began his preaching. It was a time for him to mellow down and learn what the death and resurrection of Jesus meant for us all.

Why did God call Paul? Paul was a highly educated Pharisee and only someone like him could see that faith in Jesus demanded a totally new relationship with God for Jews. A very strong personality like him was needed to help the early Jewish converts to accept Jesus as the Saviour of all peoples, and the fact that for God there is no difference between Jew and non-Jew. Paul had the strong personality needed to accept that daring challenge and the insight to see that faith in Jesus is the fulfillment of their Old Testament hopes bringing salvation to all.

Paul was filled with the love for Christ and his desire to spread the Good News to all. He said, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?" (Rom. 8:35). He advises us, "I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship. Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect." (Rom 12:1-2).

As we look at the personalities of Peter and Paul, we see that God called them and used even their personal traits as means to spread the Gospel: Peter to use his impetuous love to look after the flock, and Paul to use his training as a Pharisee and his strength of character to ensure that the non-Jews would be welcomed into the church. It is a reminder to us that our talents and in fact even our weaknesses too can become instruments in the hand of God to help others, if we allow him to work in and through us.

There are several lessons that we can learn from the lives and examples of these great saints. We often resemble St. Peter or St. Paul. Like St. Peter, sometimes our head gets it, but the will is weak especially when things get tough. Though we do not physically persecute anyone, we are like Paul, when we verbally persecute others by gossiping or thinking or saying unkind things. The big lesson from these two saints is that they were willing to change, as they went wrong and allowed God to work on them.

God's grace can transform our weak nature. Peter and Paul were weak in themselves, Peter denied Christ while Paul persecuted Christ. But they cooperated with the Grace of God to become great. Weak as we are, we can still become great in the sight of God by cooperating with His Grace. Through the intercession of Saints Peter and Paul, may God heal our weakness and make us as worthy instruments to spread his Gospel.

DIACONATE ORDINATION

Bro. Francis Indumuli Aloo and Bro. Richard Tamaro Gitono will be ordained deacons by Most Rev. Sosthene Leopold Bayemi Matjei, Bishop of Obala, on June 29, 2019 in the Minor Basilica of Mary Queen of the Apostles, Yaounde, Cameroon. Hearty Congratulations!

FIRST PROFESSION

The First Profession of our novices will be held at St. Francis de Sales Church, Mkuza on 27th July at 09.00 hrs. Most Rev. Jude Thadaeus Ruwa'ichi, O.F.M. Cap., Coadjutor Archbishop of Dar-es-Salaam will be the main celebrant.

ANNUAL RETREAT

The annual retreat of the Province will be held in Franciscan Capuchin Sisters' Retreat house at Maua (Kilema/Moshi). Both the retreats will be Salesian retreats preached by Fr. Suresh Babu (General Councillor for Formation).

Retreat I	2019
Day of Arrival	July 15 th before 7 PM in Maua
Days of Retreat	July 15 th evening to 20 th noon
Retreat II	2019
Day of Arrival	July 29 th before 7 PM in Maua
Days of Retreat	July 29 th evening to August 3 rd noon

RETREAT FOR SCHOLASTICS

One month long Salesian Retreat for scholastics (2 nd and 3 rd year Theologians of Kola and East African Scholastics in Cameroon)	July 21 st to August 20 th 2019 (in Fransalian House, Kola)
Retreat for Scholastics in LCI	August 25 th to 30 th 2019

FORUM MEETINGS

The forum meeting of each area of apostolate is vital for our ministry in the Province. I request you to kindly participate in the forum meetings. Please find below the dates and the venue of the meetings.

Date	Forum	Place
28 th June 2019	Education	Provincial House
4 th August 2019	Social and Innovative	LCI
5 th August 2019	Mission	LCI
4 th September 2019	Formation	LCI

PRIESTLY ORDINATION



Dn. Ventino Peter Mutume was born on June 15, 1985, as the eighth child of Mr. Petero Baryanengobya and Mrs. Leontina Ireterera. He comes from Kichwamba Centre, Rugazi Parish, in MBARARA Archdiocese, Rubirizi-Uganda. He was baptized on December 10, 1985, received his First Holy Communion on June 11, 1996 and received his Confirmation on January 29, 2001. He did his primary education at Kichwamba primary School from 1995-2002, he did his ordinary level (O'level) at Kichwamba High School from 2003-2006 and he had his Higher Education (A' level) at Ishaka vocational secondary school from 2007-2008. In 2009 he joined the MSFS and started his formation at Ndagani seminary in Kenya. He made his first religious profession on July 10, 2011 at Fransalium-Novitiate, Kibaha Tanzania.

After the completion of philosophy at Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha (from 2011-2014), he was sent for Regency to Luderitz (Christ the King Parish), Namibia (from 2014-2015). He did his theological studies at Jordan University College (from 2015-2019), and was ordained a Deacon on October 27, 2018. Dn Ventino Peter Mutume will be ordained a priest on July 13, 2019 by Most Rev. Paul K. Bakyenga, Archbishop of MBARARA-Uganda. He belongs to Southern African Region of our Congregation.

Dn. Kenneth Maina Mwangi MSFS was born on August 3, 1984 in the family of Mr Thomas Mwangi and Mrs Anne Wanjiru in Nairobi, Kenya. He is the third born of the four children and is the only son. He was baptized on March 25, 1995 and received the First Holy Communion on April 7, 1996 at St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Jericho. He was confirmed on December 6, 1998 at Our Lady of Visitation Parish, Makadara. He did his primary education from 1990 to 1998 in Uhuru Primary School, Nairobi and his secondary education from the year 1999 to 2002 in Queen of Apostles Seminary.



From 2003 onward, he studied and worked in the computer and telecommunications companies. Having the desire to become a priest, he joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and started formation in Fransalian Seminary Ndagani in July 2006. In the subsequent year, he did the canonical Novitiate and made his First Religious Profession on July 10, 2008. Thereupon, he did his Philosophical Studies at the Spiritan Missionary Seminary, affiliated to the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, from 2008-2011. After completion of his Philosophical studies, he was sent to SFS Community in Tabora for Regency (2011-2012), Provincial House and Fransalian Seminary Ndagani (2012-2013). He was sent to India for Higher Studies in 2013- 2015 after which he joined the Fransalian Study House Kola for his Theological Studies at the Jordan University College (2015-2019). He made his Perpetual Profession on March 4, 2017. Kenneth Maina was ordained Deacon on October 27, 2018 at JUCO by His Lordship Telesphore Mkude of the Diocese of Morogoro. He will be ordained a priest by his Lordship Bishop David Kamau, the Auxiliary Bishop of Nairobi, on August 03, 2019.

SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



On April 22nd, 2019, the MSFS Confreres and friends gathered together at Fransalian Study House, Morogoro, to thank God for the gift Priesthood that God granted to our beloved Fathers Jacob Thekkekara, Johnson Kallidukil, Jose Eriyani and Tomichan Perumanoor, who were ordained as priests in 1994. The silver jubilee celebration was attended by about 130 people consisting of priests, religious men and women, friends and well-wishers who were gathered at the Study House and filled the chapel to its full capacity. A meaningful account of life and

activities of each jubilarian was presented after which the celebration began with a solemn jubilee Mass presided by Fr. Jose Eriyani. It was concelebrated by the other jubilarians, Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, Provincial, Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil, Rector, Fransalian House at Kola and 20 other priests from the religious and diocesan fraternity. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil gave a heart-touching homily that filled the ambience of the Church with a spirit of thanksgiving and love to the Almighty. After the Holy Mass, the jubilarians were felicitated in an atmosphere of joy and gaiety as Fr. Tomychan Perumanoor on behalf of the jubilarians shared some sweet memories about their experiences. The Provincial congratulated and thanked jubilarians for their faithful ministry in Africa for 25 years. A large number of the people present conveyed their greetings and good wishes by showering gifts upon the jubilarians. Finally, a vote of thanks was proposed by Fr. Jacob Thekkekara, who thanked the organizers and everyone else present for the felicitations and prayers. The programme was concluded with a sumptuous dinner.

(Reported by Dn. Kenneth Maina)

GRADUATION AT LUMEN CHRISTI INSTITUTE

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it. - Ps. 118:24

Lumen Christi Institute organized the ninth Graduation ceremony of the Degree in Philosophy and Diploma in Formators Course on 11th May, 2019. The celebration began at 9.00 hrs. with the Eucharist, presided over by Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil MSFS, the Superior General, along with Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS, the Provincial, Rev. Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil MSFS, the Director of LCI, Rev. Fr. Kevin Nadolski OSFS, vice president for Mission, from De Sales University, USA, and the fathers, sisters, brothers from LCI.



The graduation ceremony started at 11.00 hrs. in the Institute Hall, in the presence of Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, the Chancellor of LCI, Fr. Kevin Nadolski and Mr. Brain Kane and other dignitaries. Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil, the Dean of Studies of Philosophy and Fr. Devasia Manalel, the Animator of the Formation programme presented reports of the academic performance of the students, after which the graduates were awarded the certificates. A short felicitation programme was organized

by the students, where the dignitaries were honoured. The celebration concluded with a common meal.

(Reported by Fr. Thomas Kochalu)

GRATITUDE TO FR. SEBI ANNAIKANDATHIL



Fr. Sebastian Annaikandathil, of the Mozambique delegation of Nagpur Province, was serving at SFS Junior Seminary since June, 2016. On 11th June, 2019, he returned to the Mozambique to take up a new mission. We sincerely thank Fr. Sebastian for his yeomen service at Junior Seminary as well as his spiritual services at the Novitiate. We appreciate his cheerful availability and dedication to his duties as a Formator. May God bless abundantly his new ministry in Mozambique.

NEW PROVINCIAL CURIA OF SOUTH WEST INDIA PROVINCE

The Provincial Chapter of South West India Province elected the following confreres to Provincial Curia:

Fr. Binu Edathumparambil : Provincial Admonitor and Councillor in charge of Formation Forum

Fr. Joe Cherolickal : Councillor in charge of Mission Forum

Fr. A. Jabamalai : Councillor in charge of Education Forum

Fr. Riju Vazheparambil : Councillor in charge of Social & Innovative Forum

Fr. Vinod Kanatt : Provincial Bursar

On behalf of the Province of East Africa, I congratulate Rev. Fr. Benny Kootanal, the Provincial and his new Curia.

HOLIDAYS

Fr. Stephen Gerald:	June 01 – 18
Fr. Zachariah Burofero:	June 17 – July 07
Fr. Wilson Pakiam:	July 01 – 28

OBITUARY

Rev. Fr. Anthony D'souza MSFS (75) of Pune Province passed away on 21.04.2019.

Rev. Fr. Armind Nazareth MSFS (92) of Pune Province passed away on 02.05.2019.

Fr. Xavier Michael MSFS (65) of Visakhapatnam Province passed away on 25.05.2019.

Mr. Magimairaj (76), paternal uncle of Fr. Stephen Ubadesi, passed away on 08.05.2019.

Mr. Ignatius Mani (68), the father-in-law of Fr. A. Sebastian's younger sister passed away on 10.05.2019.

Mrs. Safira, aunt of Fr. Simon Nabende passed away on 12.05.2019.

Ms. Thresiamma Panthalanickal (86), the aunt of Fr. James Panthalanickal passed away on 30.05.2019.

Mr. Kuriachan Mattathil (72), uncle of Fr. Sunny Mattathil, passed away on 04.06.2019.

May they rest in peace!

Please fulfil the suffrages for our deceased confreres as prescribed by MSFS Constitutions.

MY TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Date	Programme
June 28	Education Forum Meeting
July 01	Novitiate
July 13	Ordination of Dn. Ventino, Mbarare
July 15 - 20	Province Retreat
July 26	Initiation ceremony at Novitiate
July 26	First Profession at Mkuza
July 29 – Aug 03	Province Retreat
August 03	Ordination of Dn. Maina, Nairobi
August 04	SAIM Forum Meeting, LCI
August 05	Mission Forum Meeting, LCI
August 11	Erection of the new Parish at Ibihwa
August 13	Uganda Apostolic Community
August 23	Final Profession, Fransalian Scholasticate, Kola
August 24	Diaconate Ordination, Dumila
September 02	LCI Academic year opening
September 03 - 04	Council meeting

My dear Confreres, once again wish you a happy feast of Saints Peter and Paul, I remain.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,



Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS, Provincial - East Africa Province

Salesian Thought

Don't get upset with your imperfections. It's a great mistake because it leads nowhere - to get angry because you are angry, upset at being upset, depressed at being depressed, disappointed because you are disappointed. So don't fool yourself. Simply surrender to the Power of God's Love, which is always greater than our weakness.