

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

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Provincial Circular EAP – MT.10
Apr 21, 2019

My dear Confreres,

The peace and joy of the Risen Saviour be with you! May we know and cherish the joy, peace and love of the Risen Lord every day of our lives. Happy Easter!

The Lord is Risen, Alleluia

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is bursting with meaning for our lives, meaning that is applicable to us where we are now and where God wishes to lead us, just as he did to the holy women and early Christians. On the first Easter morning the sorrowing women came to anoint the body of Jesus and were greeted with the astonishing words of the angel: “Why do you search for the Living One among the dead? He is not here. He has been raised up” (Luke 24:5-6). What marvellous “Good News”. Easter is a time of great joy. Christ, our hope, is risen! Imagine the joy of the apostles, the women, and of Mary, his Mother. All of them ready to go around the world announcing his message of redemption and salvation.

St. Paul reminds us that Easter has meaning for our daily living. If we really believe that Jesus is risen, then we must make a sincere effort each day to set our hearts on heavenly things (Col. 3:1). Jesus left his place at God’s right hand to live among us; now he has returned to his Father and invites us to live in him. We must try to focus on things above rather than on things of earth. This is a daily struggle for most of us. It’s easy to focus on our own needs and wants, our own suffering and pain. These can easily distract us from the things that really count, that is, seeking God’s will and loving others as Jesus has loved us.



When Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life (Jn. 11.25),” he was saying that he is the source of both. There is no resurrection apart from Christ, and there is no eternal life apart from Christ. Jesus confers this spiritual life on those who believe in him, so that they share his triumph over death (1 John 5:11-12). Believers in Jesus Christ will experience resurrection because, having the life Jesus gives, it is impossible for death to defeat them (1 Corinthians 15:53-57).

In order to experience the power of resurrection in our lives, we need to roll away the heavy stone over our hearts. We must recognize that the tomb is empty and that Jesus is risen. There are several heavy stones/sins that prevent us from experiencing the risen Lord. The person who encounters the risen Lord is a joyful person because he has understood the focus of his life, that is, he lives here on earth in order to attain eternal life. Joy is the gift of the risen Lord. He tells his apostles: “You have sorrow now, but I will see you again and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you...ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full (Jn.16:22-24). The disciples on the way to Emmaus had not yet experienced the risen Lord. They were sad, men without hope, men without courage (Lk. 24:17, 21, 29). But the moment they experience the risen Lord their sorrow is turned into joy, their hope is revived, they leave their shelter and boldly return to Jerusalem, braving the darkness of the night, to share their joy with the other disciples (Lk. 24:32-35).

My dear confreres, we are called to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. We are called to proclaim: “Rejoice and be glad, for the Lord is risen!” We can do this truly and effectively, if only we have the joy of Jesus. To have this joy we need to recognize Jesus who walks with us, as he did with those two disciples on the way to Emmaus. For this we need to be with him in the silence of our hearts, saying to him, “Lord, be with us, there is in our hearts the darkness of the night!” Let our hearts burn for Jesus who guarantees us eternal life through his resurrection.

Once we recognize him in our personal life, our night will become the morning of resurrection, and then we will run with joy, eager to tell others that “He is risen indeed. Alleluia!”



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). Please register your names at the earliest.

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

ANNUAL HOLIDAYS

The Provincial council has decided to have annual holiday (one month) for every confrere in the Province. The modalities for annual holiday will be made known soon. It will come to effect from September 2019.

NEW APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

The Provincial council has decided to make a new Apostolic Community consisting of Dumila, Kikunde and Ibihwa communities with effect from September 01, 2019.

APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY CONVENORS

The Provincial Council has approved the election of the convenors of the following Apostolic Communities:

Morogoro:	Fr. Jose Eriyanickal
Arusha:	Fr. Japhet Kirimi
Kenya:	Fr. Sunny Vettickal

BLESSING OF THE CHURCH AT MKAMBARANI



St. Francis de Sales Mkambarani Mission is one of the Sub-stations of Mgulole Parish in the Diocese of Morogoro. Since 1999, MSFS Fathers and Brothers from the Fransalian Scholasticate, Kola have been rendering pastoral services there. Mkambarani Mission has made tremendous progress both spiritually and in terms of infrastructures. At present there are over 150 families consisting of 750 Catholics who are spread out in 7 Small Christian Communities. It took many years for the faithful to construct a Church. The faithful are very proud that they have completed the Church largely with their own effort. The Church

was blessed on 3rd March 2019 by Rev. Fr. Staney Rodrigus OCD, who is the Pastoral co-ordinator of the Diocese of Morogoro in the presence of Rev. Fr. Andrian Mkoba, Parish Priest and Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil MSFS who is the Priest-in-Charge of the Sub-station. Hearty congratulations to the pastoral council, the Catechists, the Deacon and Seminarians from Fransalian House and Sr. Rita from the Congregation of 'Little Sisters of Africa' for the beautiful ceremony of the blessing and opening of the Church. Congratulations to the 'St. Francis de Sales' choir, who sang melodiously during the function! Congratulations to one and all.

(Reported by by Deacon Ventino Mutume, MSFS)

BLESSING OF THE NEW WING OF FRANSALIAN SCHOOL

Fransalian English Medium Pre & Primary School, Kigurunyembe had a historic and memorable moment on 4th April 2019, when our beloved Provincial Superior Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel inaugurated and blessed its third phase of the school building, in the presence of the provincial councillors namely, Rev. Frs. Jacob Thekkekara, Thomas Kochupampil, Thomas Kochalumchuvattil and Kurian Kollappallil with Fr. Sebastian Palakudy. In his address to the students and teachers, Fr. Provincial exhorted them to use the facilities well and make themselves creative in the competitive world in which they live. The new wing will have a computer room, a smart classroom, library, laboratory, storeroom, staff room and manager's office. Our sincere gratitude to the Italian Bishop's Conference and the Diocese of Eisenstadt who helped us to realize our dream through their financial support. The school management, staff and students thank the provincial administration for the support and encouragement. Our thanks to Fr. Robert Soosai Raj, the former manager of the school, who started the project. God Bless you all!



(Reported by Fr. Clement Sudhakar MSFS)

INTER-SCHOOL CULTURAL COMPETITIONS 2019



Fransalian Communications of Lumen Christi Institute held an Inter-School Cultural Competition on 9th March 2019. The event was opened by Miss Irene Mbowe, a professional motivational speaker, who gave the inaugural speech. The occasion was graced by Doctor Deo Temb, a veteran entrepreneur who was the guest of honour. Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil, the director of Fransalian communications welcomed all.

The event was attended by 370 students and 18 teachers from six schools. The schools competed in four items namely; Jiving, Ngonjera, Group Song and Ngoma. These were based on three themes; Drug Abuse, Child Marriage and Education for Development respectively. Rolling shields and cash prizes were awarded to the best three schools in each activity after a professional scrutiny by competent judges. The others were awarded with certificates of participation. We hope to continue reaching out to the youngsters to revive our fading culture and instill values for a better tomorrow.

(Reported by Bro. Mathias Tiigo MSFS)

APPOINTMENTS

Fr. Stephen Ubadesi is appointed as the Director of Novices with effect from 24th of July 2019.

Fr. Clement Sudhakar is appointed as Priest-in-Charge of Lukobe Sub-station with effect from 12th of May 2019.

Fr. Martin Pendanath is appointed as the editor of Baraka and Province Website with the effect from 1st of May 2019.

Regency

1. Bro. Collins Barasa Simiyu: Mwakata Community
2. Bro. Fred Bwoba: Ipuli Community
3. Bro. Godwin Nanalo: SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda
4. Bro. Abraham Wambuchi: SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda
5. Bro. Ivan Mubbo: Fransalian Seminary, Ndagani
6. Bro. Joseph Mwasu: Iyolwa Community

EDUCATION CORE COMMITTEE

The following Confreres are appointed as members of Education Core Committee:

Fr. Jacob Thekkekara (Chairman)

Fr. Sunny Vettickal

Fr. Jonathan Muema

Fr. Gerald Mabiriizi

COMMITTEE FOR PREPARING THE HISTORY OF THE PROVINCE

Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil (Chairman)

Fr. Joby Marathuamalayil

Fr. Sebastian Nirappel

Fr. Martin Pendanath

Fr. Francis Kyule

The following scholastics are promoted to the respective next stages of their formation as well as to the renewal of vows:

Promotion to Priestly Ordination

1. Dn. Kenneth Maina Mwangi

Promoted to fourth year of theology and renewal of vows

1. Bro. Dennis Dindi
2. Bro. Gregory Mua Mutisya
3. Bro. Leonard Musembi Ngumbi
4. Bro. Michael Mwangi
5. Bro. Ssentamu Ruthital

Promoted to third Year Theology, Ministry of Acolyte and Renewal of Vows

1. Bro. Brian Wasswa
2. Bro. Gonzaga Lubega
3. Bro. Joseph Ambongo

Promoted to Second Year Theology, Ministry of Lector and Renewal of Vows

1. Bro. Avil Viegas
2. Bro. Edward Mgagi

Promoted to First year of Theology and Renewal of vows

1. Bro. Okoth Moses

Promoted for Regency and Renewal of Vows

1. Bro. Collins Barasa Simiyu
2. Bro. Fred Bwoba
3. Bro. Godwin Nanalo
4. Bro. Joseph Mwasu

Promoted to Third Year Philosophy and Renewal of Vows

1. Bro. Linto Varghese
2. Bro. Dennis William Minja
3. Bro. Nyamweya Eric Nyabuga
4. Bro. Albert Momanyi Ombati

Promoted to Second Year Philosophy and Renewal of Vows

1. Bro. Eboyu Peter
2. Bro. Ikachuli Dismas
3. Bro. Lobong Moses
4. Bro. Masereka Richard
5. Bro. Mnuka N. Lazaro
6. Bro. Nimusiima Xavier
7. Bro. Orikiriza Darius
8. Bro. Wakoba John
9. Bro. Wamakale Abraham
10. Bro. Wangi Pascal
11. Bro. Wanjala Justine

The following scholastics have ceased to be members of MSFS Congregation.

1. James Makuli
2. Ronald Kumali
3. Cosmos Clement Mungo

We wish them all the best in their future life.

OBITUARY

Rev. Fr. Joseph Vichatt MSFS (77) of Vizag Province passed away on 06.03.2019.

Mr. Urbanus Masila Mathuva (52), the paternal uncle of Bro. Leonard Musembi (Kola), passed away on 07.03.2019.

Mr. Robert Nyarombe (36), brother-in-law of Bro. Richard Tamaro, passed away on 13.03.2019.

Bro. Etaba bivina emmanuel Cyril MSFS (30) from Cameroon belonging to South-West India Province, second year Theologian, who had been suffering from cancer passed away on 26.03.2019.

Mr. Ngambor Joseph (80), the beloved father of Bro. Djoitanan Paulin (LCI), passed away on 02.03.2019.

May they rest in peace!

HOLIDAYS/MINISTRY

Fr. Joseph Poikunnel	April 21 – May 17 (MDO Meeting, Rome)
Fr. Napoleon Johnson	April 24 – June 24
Fr. Tomichen Perumanoor	April 25 – May 29
Fr. A. Robert	April 25 – June 01
Fr. A. Sebastian	April 26 – June 26
Fr. Sunny Mattathil	May 07 – June 06 (Treatment)
Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal	May 12 – May 24 (Study: South Africa)
Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel	May 15 – June 27 (Ministry/Visits: Europe)
Fr. Kurian Kollapallil	May 25 – July 03 (Ministry: USA)
Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil	June 05 – August 20 (Ministry: USA)
Fr. Japhet Kirimi	June 01 - 30
Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhy	June 10 – July 10
Fr. Murali Balam	June 07 – August 07
Fr. Francis Kyule	May 25 – June 25

MY TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Date	Programme
April 01	TAKA Apostolic Community Meeting
Apr 03 - 05	Council Meeting
April 04	Blessing of the New Wing of Fransalian School, Morogoro
April 08	Meeting with Bishop of Ngong
April 10 - 11	LCI
April 14 - 21	Morogoro/Dumila
April 23	Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee, Kola
April 25	Mji Mpya
April 26	Mkuza
May 01	Lector/Acolyte, Kola
May 06	Frasalian House, Kola
May 11	Graduation, LCI
May 15 – June 27	Europe
June 28	Education Forum Meeting, Morogoro

My dear confreres, I wish you all once again the peace and joy of Easter.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,



Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS, Provincial - East Africa Province

Salesian Thought

Meditation: St. Francis de Sales on Our Saviour's Resurrection

“Consider that after a deluge of sorrow, of torments, and of anguish, Our Saviour rose from the tomb by His own power; He came forth by His own might. Behold your dear Jesus more triumphant than ever; behold the sign of Jonas come to pass; behold your dear Jesus alive!

With what gladness was the company of the apostles ravished, when they saw once more among them the holy Humanity of our Saviour raised to life again, and glorious.

Consider how needful it was that the kind Saviour should go and visit His disciples. Their faith, their hope, their charity were all wavering. Our Saviour came to strengthen them. “It is I, Myself, My dear disciples, see my hands and my feet, and the wound in my side.”

(From Meditations and Conferences for a Retreat of Ten Days according to SFS and Jane de Chantal by Armand Duquesne)