



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

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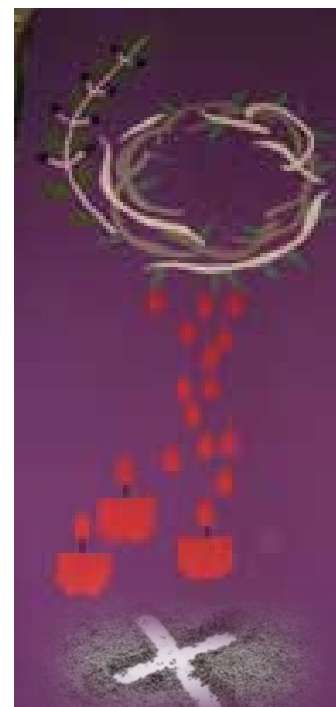
Provincial Circular EAP – MT.17
Feb 26, 2020

My dear Confreres!

I wish you all a grace-filled season of Lent! May the Spirit of the Lord guide us throughout this season in our reflections on the great mysteries of passion, death and the resurrection of Jesus, our Saviour!

RETURN TO ME

“Return to me, I will return to you” (Zechariah 1:3). The season of Lent is a call to return to the Lord. "Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truths of who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..." says Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI. It is a time to reflect on fundamentals of our lives, which we often conveniently bury amidst various preoccupations. When we have been stripped of the trivial desires that preoccupy us, we can see, with a somewhat disturbing clarity, who we essentially are and what are our fundamental goals as disciples of Christ. Blaise Pascal said that most of us spend our lives seeking divertissements (distractions), for we cannot bear the weight of the great questions. We play, gossip, eat and drink, seek the most banal entertainment—so that we don't have to face the truth about ourselves, the reality of death, and the demands of God.



The Spirit drives us into the season of Lent - a desert experience, because it is where the divertissements will disappear and we begin to focus on “things that eternally endure” (Preface II of Lent). The chosen people of God had a desert experience through which they were purified to enter the Promised Land. Jesus too had a desert experience and at the end of it, he was tempted to be deviated from the plan of God, tempted to be someone other than who he was. But Jesus did not yield to the temptation of the devil. Desert experience strengthened his identity as the Son of God

and clarified his mission on earth. It vitalized the rest of his mission: preaching, healing, and revealing the merciful and loving God until his passion, death on the cross and Resurrection.

The season of Lent is a journey through the desert. It is an inner journey to clarify our identity and mission as disciples of Christ. It is fundamentally a journey towards God. "Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy" says Pope Francis. Lent calls us to our inner room. It calls us to spend more time with the Lord in the solitude of our chapel, to soften our hearts and listen to the voice of God: the still, small voice that whispers and waits inside of us. It calls us to return to faithfulness, urging us to repentance and forgiveness, and calling us to begin our Lenten journey back home to the God who loves us.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER 2021

Our beloved Superior General has convoked an Extraordinary General Chapter which is to be held from February 01 to 07, 2021 at Pune, India. The Extraordinary General Chapter will continue to reflect on the theme of 20th Ordinary General Chapter: "MSFS, Wake up to the Basics". The Extraordinary Chapter is to study further the four pillars of our Charism: Mission, Consecrated life in the Community, MSFS-ness and the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. It will also study certain changes in the Constitutions and General Directory, proposed by the 20th General Chapter and will make appropriate legislation. I request you to kindly pray for the success of the Extraordinary General Chapter 2021.

VISITATION OF SUPERIOR GENERAL

The programme for the Visitation of the Superior General is finalized. Father General will meet every confrere individually and then will meet the whole community. I would like to remind the Superiors to prepare a report based on the guidelines given by Fr. General to be presented during the community meeting with Fr. General.

Date	Programme	Accommodation
07.03.2020	Arrival KIA	LCI
08.03.2020	LCI	LCI
09.03.2020	Travel to Mwakata by road	Mwakata
10.03.2020	Mwakata: VTC, Isaka, Kagongwa	Mwakata
11.03.2020	Kashishi	Lububu
12.03.2020	Lububu	Bukene
13.03.2020	Bukene	Ipuli
14.03.2020	Ipuli, Blessing of the Administrative wing	Ipuli
15.03.2020	Ibihwa (Afternoon)	Ibihwa
16.03.2020	Kikunde	Dumila
17.03.2020	Dumila	Provincial House
18.03.2020	SFS Junior Seminary (Morning) Fransalian Scholasticate, Kola (Afternoon)	Fransalian House

19.03.2020	Fransalian School, Kigurunyembe (Morning) Fransalian Scholasticate, Kola (Afternoon)	Provincial House
20.03.2020	Provincial House (Morning)	Mkuza
21.03.2020	Mkuza Parish (Morning) Novitiate (Afternoon)	Novitiate
22.03.2020	Novitiate Travel to Mji Mpya (Afternoon)	Mji Mpya
23.03.2020	Mji Mpya Evening flight to Nairobi	Mlolongo
24.03.2020	Mlolongo	Katani
25.03.2020	Katani School Travel to Ndagani (Afternoon)	Ndagani
26.03.2020	Ndagani Seminary	Chera
27.03.2020	Chera Travel to Mlolongo	Mlolongo
28.03.2020	Travel to Tororo by road	Agururu
29.03.2020	Agururu (English Mass)	Osia
30.03.2020	Osia	Iyolwa
31.03.2020	Iyolwa Blessing of Multipurpose hall and Hostel	Kalamira
01.04.2020	Kalamira: Meeting with Jinja Bishop	Kalamira
02.04.2020	Lugazi; Meeting with Lugazi Bishop	Osia
03.04.2020	Travel to Mlolongo	Mlolongo
04.04.2020	To Bissil	Bissil
05.04.2020	Bissil	LCI
06.04.2020	Ngurdoto	LCI
07.04.2020	Maji ya Chai	LCI
08.04.2020	LCI	

A TRIBUTE TO SR. MARY ANTONY



Sr. Mary Antony FCC (68) was born on 07.11.1951 in Ernakulam, Kerala, India. She was a member of the Ernakulam Province of the Franciscan Clarist Congregation (FCC). She made her first profession on 27.12.1977 and her final profession was on 24.05.1984. Sr. Mary Antony came to Kenya in the year 2007. She served as Headmistress of Katangi Primary School, Principal of Kola Secondary school in Machakos Diocese and as a Formator at Kilwa FCC Convent. Since 2016, she was the Headmistress of SFS integrated Primary school Katani until her death. She was called to eternal rest on 23rd December 2019 after a short attack of pneumonia. She was buried at Clarapuram, Aluva, India on 28th December, 2019.

Sr. Mary Antony worked hard to bring up the standard of SFS School at Katani. She rendered her services at the School until two days before her death. Her total dedication to work won the hearts of students, staff and the parents. We have lost a genuine religious and a committed teacher and administrator in the person of Sr. Mary Antony. Let us continue to pray for the repose of her soul. May she rest in peace!

BOYS' HOSTEL, KATANI

SFS Integrated Pre and Primary School witnessed another milestone in its history, when the new Boys' hostel was blessed and inaugurated on February 08, 2020. The new hostel, which can accommodate another 80 students was blessed by Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS, Provincial of East Africa Province and was opened by Dr. Bimal Kandariya, who supported the project partially. The school can now accommodate 160 boys and girls each. The hostel is dedicated to the memory of Late Sr. Mary Antony FCC who was the Headmistress of the school for the last five years. Hearty Congratulations to Fr. Sunny Vettickal and Fr. Simon Nabende for making additional facilities for the school.



ST. JOSEPH'S VTC, MLOLONGO



St. Joseph's VTC at Mlolongo, Nairobi strives to facilitate a bright future for young people by providing them formal and non-formal education for personal development and self-reliance. Since 2002, St Joseph's VTC has trained thousands of young people in different trades like:

- Tailoring and Dressmaking
- Computer and Information Technology
- Computerized Secretarial and Front office
- Motor Vehicle Mechanic (MVM)
- Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE-Teacher's Training Centre)

In addition to the above mentioned trades, the management of St. Joseph's VTC has introduced a new trade: Hair Dressing and Beautician course. The course aims to help single young mothers and young women who strive to be financially self-reliant. It is a trade which can accommodate many students because there are different short courses involved, from two months to one year. The new trade classrooms for **Hair Dressing and Beautician course** were blessed by the Councillor in charge of Education Rev. Fr. Jacob Thekkekara MSFS, on 13th Feb 2020. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Sebastian Nirappel MSFS, the Director and Fr. Lawrence Sebowa MSFS, the Principal for initiating

SPA 2020

Fr. Japhet Kirimi will participate in Salesian Annecy Programme (SPA) from May 25 to July 02, 2020.

FRANSALIAN ASSOCIATES

On 29th February 2020, there will be a seminar animated by Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy MSFS on Fransalian Associates (FA) at St. Joseph Parish, Mlolongo. I request all the Coordinators of Fransalian Associates in the Province and all those who are interested in FA to kindly attend the seminar.

MEETING OF BURSARS IN TANZANIA

A meeting of all the bursars of the communities in Tanzania will be held on March 03, 2020 at the Provincial House. The meeting will be animated by a chartered accountant who will brief the participants about the new TRA regulations and accounting as per rules and regulations of the Tanzanian Government. I request the bursars of all the communities in Tanzania, particularly the managers/bursars of the schools, to kindly participate in the meeting.

SECONDARY SCHOOL EXAMINATION RESULTS – 2019

CSEE – FORM FOUR RESULTS IN TANZANIA

Name of the School	Students Appeared for Exam	Division I	Division II	Division III	Division IV	Position in the Region	Position in the Country
SFS Ipuli	62	19	39	4	-	2/111	126/3908
SFS Kihonda	68	21	36	11	-	8/176	143/3908

UGANDA NATIONAL EXAMINATION BOARD (UNEB)

Name of the School	Students Appeared for Exam	Division I	Division II	Division III	Division IV
St. Francis de Sales Secondary School, Iyolwa, Tororo	43	10	22	10	1

MY TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Date	Programme
February 21 – March 01	India
March 03	Bursars' Meeting at Kihonda
March 06 & 07	Council Meeting at LCI
March 07 – April 08	Visitation of Rev. Fr. Superior General

My dear confreres, wishing you all a grace-filled season of Lent, I remain.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,



Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS,
Provincial - East Africa Province

Salesian Thought

“We mostly boast of our bodies and take little care of the soul. Dust, dust, what are you boasting about? You look in the mirror before you go out; one does not test one's conscience. We care about the clothing of the body, not that of the soul.” (DASal 9,150)

