


**MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES**

**Fransalians - Province of East Africa**  
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**Provincial Circular EAP – MT.20** **July 26, 2020**

**My dear Confreres,**

I wish you all a Happy Feast of St. Ann and St. Joachim!



As I assume the office of the Provincial of East Africa for a second term, I am grateful to Almighty God for guiding the destiny of our Province since 1987 and seek once again His guidance and blessings upon our Province, all our confreres and our apostolates in East Africa and elsewhere. I am indebted to each one of you for placing your trust and confidence in me and for entrusting me the task of animating the Province for another three years. Please continue to keep me in your prayers. Let us strive together to enhance the mission of Christ in East Africa through our missionary endeavours and various apostolates. Let us be united with the people of God who are entrusted to our care in their joys, sorrows, success and failures and in their well-being and sickness. Let the love of Christ permeate all our apostolate. That alone would enable us to live the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in our communities, dedicated to the mission of Christ. May our beloved Founder Venerable Father Peter Mermier always intercede for all our Missions.

## CONVOCAATION OF THE 9TH PROVINCIAL CONGRESS

In consultation with the Provincial Council and with due approval from the Superior General, and in accordance with the Constitutions and General Directory of the Congregation (Con. 234ff and GD. 261ff), I am glad to convoke the 9th Ordinary Provincial Congress of East Africa Province, to be held at Precious Blood Seminary, Kola Hills, Mororogo, Tanzania from October 02nd to 05th, 2020. The theme of the Congress is:

### **“STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY LIVING IN CONSECRATED LIFE FOR THE MISSION OF CHRIST”**

Our hallowed Constitutions speak about the importance of a Provincial Congress in the life of a Province in the following articles: “The Provincial Congress is a symbol of fraternal union and a forum of collective discernment and accountability for the life and mission of the entire Province” (234). “It is an occasion for thorough evaluation, discovery of greater inner strength, and a joint attempt to find ways and means to make the spiritual life and the mission of the Province more vibrant and effective” (235). Therefore, let us make use this gracious time of our Provincial Congress for the growth of the Province and for our personal growth as consecrated people living in communities. I earnestly request everyone to participate actively in the discussions and deliberations on the Working Paper and the draft of Province Statutes prior to the Provincial Congress and to come up with concrete proposals to strengthen our consecrated life in community for the mission of Christ. Let us hope and pray that the borders of states will be opened and travel restrictions due to Covid-19 lifted so that the Provincial Congress can be conducted as planned.

**PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR THE PROVINCIAL CONGRESS** is integrated into the Prayer in preparation of the Extraordinary General Chapter 2021. I request every community to kindly recite this prayer during the hours of liturgy. The prayer is attached to this Provincial Circular.

The Provincial Council also has constituted a steering committee for the preparation of the Congress.

#### **STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

1. Fr. James Panthalanickel (Convenor)
2. Fr. Jose Eriyanickal
3. Fr. Kenneth Maina
4. Fr. Patrick Musyimi
5. Fr. Martin Pendanath
6. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel (Chairperson)

## RETREATS

**Uganda:** The retreat in Uganda will take place from August 2<sup>nd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Kampala.

**Tanzania:** The second retreat in Tanzania will take place from August 20<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Pastoral centre of OSS Sisters at Rauya (on the way to Marangu).

**Kenya:** A retreat for confreres in Kenya will be organized after the lockdown.

## FIRST PROFESSION

The first profession of our novices will be on August 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at Fransalianum Novitiate, Kibaha.

## PERPETUAL PROFESSION

The perpetual profession of three of our scholastics will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at SFS Study House, Kola Hills, Morogoro.

## PRIESTLY ORDINATION AND DIACONATE

The Priestly Ordination of eight deacons and Diaconate of four scholastics will take place on October 1<sup>st</sup> at SFS Parish, Mkuza, Tanzania.

## INITIAL STAGES OF FORMATION

**Aspirancy:** If the lockdown continues, aspirants from Uganda and Tanzania will not be able to reach Ndagani. Therefore, it is decided that the Aspirants from Tanzania will stay in Lububu and candidates from Uganda will stay in Osia until the borders are opened and travel restrictions to Kenya are lifted. The Aspirancy is expected to begin on September 15, 2020.

**Postulancy:** The postulancy will begin on October 15, 2020 at Kalamira.

## HOLIDAYS FOR SCHOLASTICS

Due to Covid 19 and travel restrictions, there will be no holidays for scholastics and regents this year.

## UPCOMING PROGRAMMES IN THE PROVINCE AT A GLANCE

Date	Programme
02. - 07.Aug.2020	Retreat in Kampala
20. - 25.Aug.2020	Retreat in Rauya (Marangu)
28.08.2020	Initiation to the Novitiate
29.08.2020	First Profession at the Novitiate
21. – 26. Sept.2020	Retreat for candidates to Priesthood and Diaconate at Morogoro
30.09.2020	Final Profession at Kola, Morogoro
01.10.2020	Priestly Ordination and Diaconate at Mkuza, Kibaha
02. - 05. 10.2020	Provincial Congress at Precious Blood Seminary, Morogoro.

## COVID-19 IN EAST AFRICA: AN UPDATE

As Covid-19 continues to create havoc around the world, it also has devastating consequences on the lives of the people and on the economy of East Africa. Its effects vary from country to country. **Tanzania** did not have lockdown although it had a few cases of Covid-19 and deaths. Tanzania closed the schools for three months and on June 29, the schools were reopened. Life seems to be normal and we do not hear about cases of Covid-19.

In **Kenya**, the lockdown, which began in the month of March, still continues to be in force, although some restrictions are lifted. The places of worship are partially opened with restricted number of participants. The schools remain closed and normal life is disrupted as many are out of job. Covid-19 cases continue to surge in Kenya.

In **Uganda**, the lockdown, which began in the month of March, continues to be in force with some freedom of movement within the country. The schools and places of worship remain closed. Although the number of cases is substantially reduced, the government is very cautious and want to prevent the social spread of Covid-19. Borders of East African countries are closed for travel although goods vehicles are allowed to move with some restrictions.

## LECTOR AND ACOLYTE

Rt. Rev. Telesphor Mkude, Bishop of Morogoro conferred ministry of Lector on six of our scholastics and the ministry of Acolyte on four of our scholastics on July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at JUKO Chapel, Kola, Morogoro. Hearty Congratulations to our brothers.

## A NEW PARISH AT CHAKENGE

Chakenge, a sub-parish of Mother of Mercy Parish, Mji Mpya Relini, in the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam was erected into an independent Parish on July 07, 2020 by Most Rev. Jude Thaddeus Ruwa'ichi, the Archbishop of Dar es Salaam. The parish priest and the assistant took charge of the newly erected parish on July 12, 2020. The Parish is entrusted to the priests of the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Jacob Thekkekara and all our confreres who made it possible to create a new parish within a short span of the existence of Mji Mpya Relini Parish. A new presbytery at Chakenge was ready before the inauguration of the parish.

We wish the new parish team a fruitful ministry.

## GRATITUDE TO FR. R.V.P. PRASAD

Fr. R.V.P. Prasad, of the Archdiocese of Visakhapatnam, was an associate member of Fransalians in East Africa since July 2015. He served as an assistant parish priest at Mkuza parish, Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 2015 to 2016. He was the assistant parish priest and the manager of the primary school at Chera, in the Diocese of Meru Kenya from 2016 to 2017. He rendered his pastoral services in two parishes of the Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda: Agururu parish (2017 – 2019) and Osia (2019 – 2020). He also served as the Youth chaplain of Tororo deanery during his stay in Tororo. Due to ill-health, he has returned to his home diocese on July 18, 2020. We sincerely thank Fr. Prasad for his yeomen pastoral services in East Africa. We appreciate his cheerful availability and dedication to his duties especially in organizing the youth, starting self-help groups for women etc. May God bless him abundantly as he takes up his new ministry in the Archdiocese of Visakhapatnam.

## MODOA APOSTOLIC COMMUNITY

The new Apostolic community which consists of communities of Dumila, Kikunde and Ibihwa will be known as MODOA (Morogoro-Dodoma-Arusha). Fr. Joseph Poikunnel is elected as the animator and Fr. Martin Pendanath as the secretary of the Apostolic community.

## ON-GOING PROJECTS IN THE PROVINCE

**1. Presbytery at Kalamira:** The presbytery construction at Kalamira, in the Diocese of Jinja, Uganda, which began in April 2019, has completed the structure. The remaining works like flooring, electrification, installation of solar panels, plumbing, painting and furnishing are yet to be completed. These works are expected to be completed by October 2020.



- 2. Hostels in Iyolwa:** Additional hostels for boys and girls at SFS Secondary School Iyolwa, in the Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda, are nearing completion.
- 3. Chamwinula Sub-Parish Church:** The construction of a Church at Chamwinula in the parish of Agururu, Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda began in November 2019. The construction is completed and the Church is expected to be blessed after the lockdown.
- 5. Purchase of land at Buwooya for Aspirancy House:** We have purchased 31 acres of land at Buwooya, in the diocese of Lugazi, Uganda in view of establishing an Aspirancy house.
- 6. Primary School at Bissil:** The construction of a Kindergarten and Primary School at Bissil, Diocese of Ngong, Kenya, has just begun. We expect to complete the construction by February 2021. In the campus, a bore-hole of 300 meters depth was drilled in May 2020.
- 7. Presbytery at Ibihwa:** The presbytery construction at Ibihwa, in the Archdiocese of Dodoma, Tanzania began in April 2020. The structure work is completed and the entire construction is expected to be completed by October 2020.
- 8. Presbytery at Kashishi:** The presbytery work at Kashishi, in the Archdiocese of Tabora, Tanzania began in June 2020. The foundation work is completed. The entire work is expected to be completed by January 2021.
- 9. Study Hall at Ipuli:** A study hall for boys at SFS secondary school at Ipuli, in the Archdiocese of Tabora, Tanzania began in June 2020. It is expected to be completed by November 2020.
- 10. Hostels at Kagongwa:** Two hostels, one for boys and another for girls for SFS School, Kagongwa, in the diocese of Kahama, Tanzania began in March 2020. The foundation work is completed. Both hostels are expected to be completed by December 2020.
- 11. Primary School at Dumila:** The construction of the Primary school at Dumila, Diocese of Morogoro, Tanzania began in June 2020. The foundation work is underway. The project is expected to be completed by January 2021.
- 12. Compound wall construction at Bomba Mbili:** The construction of a compound wall around the premises of the proposed primary school at Bomba Mbili, in the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania is nearing completion.
- 13. Retirement Home at Angamaly:** The construction of a retirement home at Angamaly, India began in June 2020. It is expected to be completed by December 2021. A plot of land (40 cents) adjacent to our present property, was purchased in May 2020.

We thank Almighty God for blessing our missions through our benefactors and well-wishers who are facilitating the developmental works in our missions. May God bless their generosity abundantly. I am indebted to all our confreres for their commitment and dedication in developing necessary infrastructures in our missions.

## NEW WEBSITES FOR SCHOOLS

Fransalian Hekima School, Maji ya Chai: [www.fransalian-hekima-school.msfs-eastafrika.com/](http://www.fransalian-hekima-school.msfs-eastafrika.com/)

Mary Mother of Mercy School, Mji Mpya: [www.marymotherofmercyschool.ac.tz](http://www.marymotherofmercyschool.ac.tz)

## APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

**Fr. Thomas Chozhithara** is re-appointed as the Director of MDO for a second term of three years by Rev. Fr. Superior General with effect from 25.06.2020.

**Fr. Johnson Pathyil** is appointed as the Co-Director of De Sales and Mermier Resource and Animation Centre (DSM) for a term of three years by Rev. Fr. Superior General with effect from 25.06.2020. He will be appointed in the East Africa Province upon his return and will function as Co-Director from his residence in East Africa.

**Fr. Francis Kallikatt**, responsible for the Seminary Project at Buwooya, Lugazi, Uganda will shift his residence from Kalamira to a rented house in Buwooya with effect from 01.08.2020.

**Bro. Leo Cheruvil**, an associate member (Patrician Congregation) is transferred from Iyolwa and is appointed in Buwooya, Lugazi with effect from 01.08.2020.

**Fr. Johnson Nepolean** is appointed as a member of SFS Bhavan community, Angamaly as he undertakes his studies in Family Counselling at St. John Paul II Institute at Changanassery, Kerala, India, from 15. 09.2020.

**Fr. Jomet Kollapallil**, after having completed the studies for his Master's degree in Leuven, Belgium, is now in Münster, Germany, for his doctoral studies. His address is:

St. Mauritz-Freiheit 44  
48145 – Münster  
Germany

## OBITUARY

**Mr. Tomiyar (60)**, paternal uncle of Fr. Clement Sudhakar, passed away on 08.07.2020.

**Fr. Kurian Cheriankalayil (82)**, of Vizag Province, passed away on 15.07.2020.

May their souls rest in peace!



## MY TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Date	Programme
29.07.2020	Ibihwa
30.07.2020	Ipuli
31.07.2020	Kashishi
01.08.2020	Mwakata
02.08.2020	Lububu
03. – 04.08.2020	Apostolic Community Meeting, Bukene
28.08.2020	Initiation in the Novitiate
29.08.2020	First Profession at Kibaha
07. – 09.09.2020	RSAT and TEC meeting, Mwanza
10.09.2020	Mwakata
11.09.2020	Kashishi
12.09.2020	First Communion, Bukene
30.09.2020	Final Profession, Morogoro
01.10.2020	Priestly Ordination and Diaconate, Mkuza
02. – 05.10.2020	Provincial Congress, Morogoro

Wishing you once again a happy feast of St. Ann and St. Joachim, I remain.

Yours devotedly in Christ



Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS  
Provincial - East Africa Province

### Salesian Thought

The human being is the image of God. The same sacred love of a human being towards another human being is the true image of the heavenly love of the human being towards God. (TLG, Book X, Chap. 11)