

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

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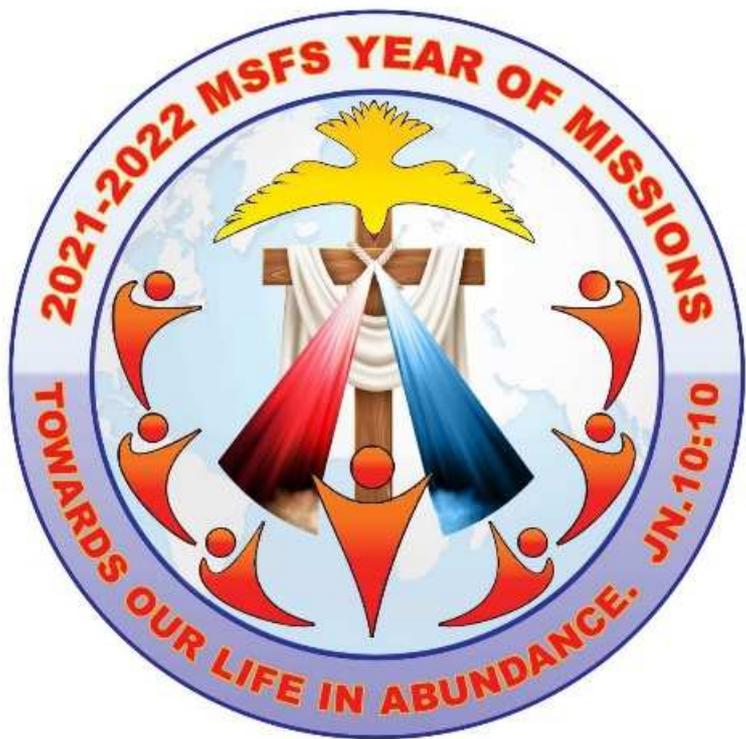


Provincial Circular EAP – MT.28
July 19, 2021

My dear Confreres,

Fraternal greetings to you in the name of Lord Jesus! As we mark the Year of the Mission, the Congregation is inviting us to reflect upon our missionary commitment as Fransalians in East Africa. May this Year of the Mission help us to proclaim the Word of God and bear witness to the Risen Lord!

YEAR OF MISSIONS

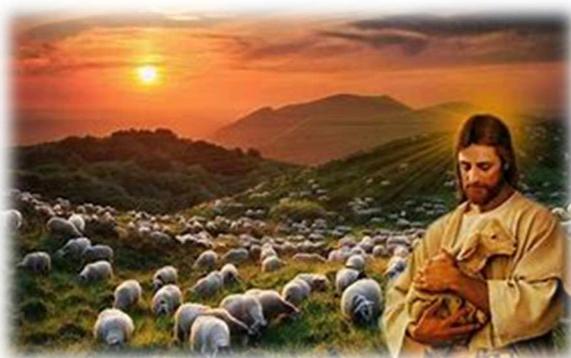


Mission involves several elements such as sending, proclaiming, healing and teaching. Prior to these, one should have personal experience of Christ and an unconditional personal transformation as a witness to Christ. The Prologue of Our Constitutions asserts clearly that the purpose of our vocation as religious and missionaries is to bear witness to Christ. It states that “God, our Father, has gathered us from various tribes, languages, cultures and nations (cf. Rev. 5:9) to live as brothers united in heart and mind. It is his purpose that we proclaim his plan of salvation to all” (Prologue: e). “The daring and passionate affirmation of our Founder “I want Missions” is the inspiration behind our apostolic ventures and missionary initiatives. Ours is a call to be missionaries by remaining constantly attuned to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and by imbibing the spirit and vision of our Patron and of our Founder” (Prologue: f).

The Year of Missions once again invites us to live our identity as religious and missionaries. It reminds us that “we are called to share radically the same mission of the Father for the world entrusted to Jesus Christ and the Church” (Constitutions: 47). Through evangelical counsels “we consecrate our whole life joyfully to the service of God and his Kingdom, and become living witnesses to proclaim to the world that God alone suffices” (Constitutions: 49). Our Constitutions call us to be living witnesses of the Gospel.

The indispensable and inalienable foundation of our mission lies in our God experience. In other words, mission is a personal radiation of the Christ-event. Ad Gentes says that “all Christians by the example of their lives and the witness of the word, wherever they live, have an obligation to manifest the new man which they put on in baptism....so that others, seeing their good works, might glorify the Father (Mt. 5:16)” (AG:11). Pope Paul VI emphasised the theme of witness in *Evangelii Nuntiandi*. He says that “the Gospel must be proclaimed through witnessing.... this witnessing involves many aspects like presence, sharing, solidarity but the most essential of all and generally the first one in evangelization is our life as a witness” (EN: 21). Pope John Paul II in *Redemptoris Missio* says that the first form of evangelization is witness. “People today put more trust in witnesses than in teachers, in experience than in teaching, and in life and action than in theories. The witness of a Christian life is the first and irreplaceable form of mission: Christ, whose mission we continue, is the “witness” par excellence (Rev 1:5; 3:14) and the model of all Christian witnessing. The Holy Spirit accompanies the Church along the way and associates her with the witness he gives to Christ (cf. Jn 15:26-27)” (RM:42). Therefore mission finds its foundation in witness. Fr. Antonio Magnante in his book “Mission Perspective in Luke and Acts” provides a few biblical models of mission as witness.

First Model: The Logos



In the Johannine Prologue the Logos is described as the only and absolute revealer of the Father. This marvellous hymn describes the origin, the motive and also the cosmic dimension of sending of the Son by the Father. The movement of the Logos starts with God’s eternity and gradually he becomes one of us. This downward movement reveals the mystery of God’s love for humanity. Jesus came into this world to bear witness to the Father and make him known. “No one has ever

seen God; the only Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has made him known” (Jn.1:18). Jesus does not speak as an indirect witness, but speaks of God as he has seen and heard. (Jn.3: 11, 32) The mission of Jesus is to share his eternal experience of love with the Father. God extends his love for humanity through Jesus. The Logos speaks to us and reveals the Father, drawing from his eternal fellowship with the Father. Therefore, he is the only one ontologically qualified to lead humanity towards the love of the Father.

Second Model: Paul

Paul, the apostle of gentiles, is known for his passion for mission. His Damascus experience is the key to understand his theology of the mission. His experience of the Risen Lord totally changed his life from a persecutor of the Church to a zealous missionary of Christ, bearing witness to him beyond the boundaries of Palestine. Although Paul is proud of his Hebrew origin (Phil. 3: 5-6), his faith in Christ goes beyond his nationalistic affiliations (Phil. 3: 7 -11). His personal and intimate experience of Christ led him to serve the Lord with loyalty, love and obedience. Paul no longer belongs to himself because Christ has taken possession of him. That is why he could say, “It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me” (Gal.2:20) and “For me to live is Christ, and to die is to gain” (Phil. 1: 21). Paul is convinced of his vocation to bear witness to Christ (Acts 26:16). He is bearing witness to what he has seen and heard. His mission is the radiation of his very deep experience of Christ.



Third Model: Disciples of Jesus



The public ministry of Jesus begins with a programmatic statement: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel” (Mk. 1:15; Mt. 4:17). After this statement follows the call of the first four disciples (Mk. 1:16-20; Mt. 4:18-22). The powerful announcement of God’s reign requires a set of committed disciples. Both the call and

discipleship are essential elements of mission.

According to Jewish custom, disciples used to choose their master. But Jesus chooses his own disciples. The discipleship amounted to total renunciation (Mt.10: 38-39). In the conflict between demands of the individual and those of the discipleship, Jesus does not allow any choice: the disciples are to follow him (Mt. 4: 20,22; Mk. 9:35; Mk. 10: 35-45). Among Jews, the disciples were attached to a Rabbi and were learning to make a career for themselves. On the contrary Jesus’ disciples followed him not to become rabbis and to make a brilliant career, but to become apostles in view of becoming “witnesses” of resurrection.

Discipleship demands an unconditional openness and a great deal of courage to face an uncertain future. Discipleship also demands a communion of life with Jesus. The purpose of the call of the twelve is (1) “to be with him and (2) to be sent out to preach” (Mk.3: 13-19). The expression “to be with him” connotes the contemplative dimension of mission. One can bear witness to Christ only if he remains with him (Jn. 15:4). Being with Jesus is not to be presupposed, it has to be always

verified. Without communion with Jesus, there is no mission. The second purpose of the call of disciples is “to be sent out to preach”. Jesus wants them to be his messengers. The task of the envoy is always being the voice of the sender. To follow Jesus does not mean just passing on his teaching or becoming faithful custodians of his insight, but to be his “witnesses.”

“Make disciples of all nations.....” (Mt. 28:19). Jesus’ command sets in motion a very important chain of transmission. Not only the first disciples must mould others in the image of Christ, but also the disciples of the forthcoming generations must do the same. Each generation of Christians should be able to say: “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.” In this way, we become salt of the earth and light of the world (Mt. 5:13-14). The light does not need proclamation; it shines and enlightens others leading them toward Jesus. Furthermore, the genuine disciples must be “brothers” (Mt. 5:22-24.47; 18:15.21.35; 23:8) and servants to others. Reciprocal love is the true mark of genuine discipleship, as Jesus himself teaches: “By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (Jn. 13:35).

Unlike the case of Paul, the training and formation of disciples had been quite long and hard. They moved between instruction and misunderstanding. Jesus, however, with patience led them until the end and commissioned them “to make disciples of all nations”.

You shall be my witnesses (Acts 1:8)

In the expression “You shall be my witnesses” one perceives that Jesus is the one who officially proclaims them as “witness”, and at the same time he is the object of such witness. Jesus therefore is the origin and content of all witnessing. The Holy Spirit sent by the Father through the mediation of Jesus Christ enabled the disciples to bear witness and helped them to focus on Christ-event. According to Acts 1:8 such witnessing had to be extended to the ends of the earth. Therefore bearing witness to Christ is to be identified with mission. The essential and fundamental mission of disciples is to bear witness to the Christ even to the ends of the earth. The more the witness is authentic the more the Kerygma is convincing.



My dear confreres, the Year of Mission is once again inviting us to deepen our personal experience with the Risen Lord and to bear witness to him. Mission as witness should be the basis for all our missionary commitment.

YEAR OF MISSIONS: ACTION PLAN

Personal Level

- ❖ Make every effort for personal renewal by reading and reflecting on the Word of God daily and through our sacramental and fraternal life in the community.
- ❖ Read and reflect upon the missionary endeavours of our Patron and Founder.
- ❖ Read the history of the Congregation.
- ❖ Reading books and articles on mission.
- ❖ Deepen our conviction to be missionaries in East Africa.
- ❖ Daily recitation of Rosary for the missions.

Community Level

- ❖ Offer Holy Mass in honour of St. Joseph every Wednesday
- ❖ Recite the prayer for the Year of Mission every day.
- ❖ Pray every day for the various missions of the Congregation.
- ❖ Enhance our commitment to the Mission entrusted to the community.
- ❖ Foster team work in our communities and various ministries.
- ❖ Read a few articles of our Constitutions every day.
- ❖ Conduct monthly recollections based on the theme: Mission

Mission Apostolate

- ❖ Offer Holy Mass in honour of St. Joseph every Wednesday.
- ❖ Offer Holy Mass in honour of the Holy Family once a month.
- ❖ Concentrate on a family-based approach in the parish work.
- ❖ Attend to the broken families and make every effort to unite the family members.
- ❖ Offer more opportunities for the sacrament of reconciliation.
- ❖ Intensify catechism for children in parish and substation levels.
- ❖ Intensify youth ministry in our parishes.
- ❖ Prepare youth for family life through seminars.
- ❖ Offer spiritual/material help for widows, widowers and single parents.
- ❖ Visit the sick and administer sacraments to them.
- ❖ Conduct house visits and blessings with the statue of St. Joseph.
- ❖ Organize Bible conventions in the parishes.
- ❖ Begin PMP in our parishes.
- ❖ Introduce Fransalian Associates in the Parishes.
- ❖ Train more Catechists for evangelization.
- ❖ Organize pilgrimage from our parishes to our pilgrim centres at Lububu, Kashishi and Osia with the theme "Mission and Evangelization".

Formation Apostolate

- ❖ Train scholastics for PMP.
- ❖ Organize workshops on Mission in the Scholasticate.
- ❖ Invite veteran missionaries to share their experiences.
- ❖ Conduct monthly recollections based on the theme: Mission
- ❖ Encourage devotion to St. Joseph and Holy Family.

Education Apostolate

- ❖ Provide guidance in moral issues for students, and staff.
- ❖ Organize seminars to teach family values for parents, children and staff.
- ❖ Inculcate Spirituality of SFS and Fr. Mermier among Children and the staff.
- ❖ Place pictures and quotations of SFS and Fr. Mermier in the school premises.

Social Apostolate

- ❖ Try to better the life of people in our parishes through various projects that would make them self-reliant.
- ❖ Educate as many poor children as possible.
- ❖ Provide medical help for poor people.
- ❖ Help homeless people to build houses.

Province Level

- ❖ Assign confreres for PMP and establish a centre for PMP.
- ❖ Establish more parishes especially in Kenya and Uganda.
- ❖ Invite confreres from other Provinces to work in East Africa for a specific period of time.

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES IN THE PROVINCE AT A GLANCE

Date	Programme
26 – 31 July	Retreat in Dodoma
12 August	Priestly Ordination of Dn. Fabian and Dn. Joseph Ambongo in Kisumu
14 August	Priestly Ordination of Dn. Brian
15 August	Priestly Ordination of Dn. Lubega
23-28 August	Retreat in Kenya
27 August	Initiation to the Novitiate
28 August	First Profession at Kibaha

PRIESTLY ORDINATIONS

Dn. Wasswa Brian Paul MSFS was born on June 3rd, 1991 of the family of Mr. Kiwanuka



Enkwanga Alex and Nalubwama Mary in Kampala, Uganda. He is the second of the two children in his family. He was baptized on April 12th, 2009 and received the first Holy communion on the same day at Saint Joseph Parish Kyengela. He did his primary education from 1997 to 2004 in Kichwa Primary school in Mukono and secondary education from 2005 to 2008 (ordinary level) at Kinaawa High school in Wakiso and Royal Giant High school from 2008 to 2010 (advanced level). Having finished his secondary studies with the desire to become a priest, he joined MSFS seminary at Ndangani for Aspirancy and Postulancy from 2011 to 2012. He did his canonical novitiate at

Fransalium, Kibaha from 2012 to 2013 and made his first profession on July 14th, 2013. Thereafter he joined Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha Tanzania for philosophy from 2013 to 2016. After successfully completing his philosophical studies, he was sent to Saint Bruno Sselukuma Catholic church Agururu parish in Uganda to do regency from 2016 to 2017. After his regency he

got himself enrolled at Jordan University College for Theology from 2017 to 2021. He made his perpetual vows on September 30th 2020. He was ordained a deacon on October 1st, 2020 at Saint Francis de Sales Parish at Mkuza by His Grace Jude Thaddeus Rwa'ichi OFM Cap, the Archbishop of Dar-es-Salam. He will be ordained a priest on August 14, 2021 by Most Rev. Paul Ssemwogerere, Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Kampala.

Dn. Lubega Gonzaga MSFS



was born on 24th November 1988 in the family of Mr. Kasozi Ponsiano and Mrs. Nambuusi Noeline. He is the second born of the five children in the family. He was baptized on 29th Jan 1989. He received the first Holy Communion and Confirmation on 11th October 2001 at Mary Immaculate Church, Kyamulibwa Parish. He did his primary education in St. Francis primary school Kitulikizi and St. Kizito primary School Kyamuliibwa from 1997 to 2004. He then went to Holy Family Secondary School Kyamuliibwa for ordinary level secondary education from 2005 to 2008. He later joined Masaka Secondary School for advanced level secondary education from 2009 to 2010.

Responding to God's call, he joined Fransalian seminary Ndagani for aspirancy and postulancy from 2011 to 2012, thereafter, he did his canonical novitiate at Fransalianum Kibaha from 2012 to 2013 and he made his first profession on 14th July 2013 at Mkuza Parish. Thereafter, he joined Lumen Christi Institute Arusha for his Philosophical studies from 2013 to 2016. After finishing philosophy he was appointed to Iyolwa Fransalian Community Uganda for Regency from 2016 to 2017. He did his theological studies from 2017 to 2021 at Jordan University College, Morogoro. He made his perpetual vows on 30th September 2020 at Kola study house Morogoro. He was ordained a deacon on 01 October 2020 at Mkuza Parish by His Grace Jude Thaddeus Ruwa'ichi OFM Cap, Archbishop of Dar Es Salaam. He will be ordained a priest on 15th August 2021 by His Lordship Serverus Jjumba, the Bishop of Masaka diocese, Uganda.

Dn. Joseph Ambongo Orengo MSFS



was born on February 01, 1990 of the family of Mr. John Orengo and Mrs. Hellen Awiti in Kakamega- Kenya. He is the first born of the five children in his family. He was baptized on February 20, 1991 and received the first Holy Communion on February 4, 2006, at The Nativity of Our Lady Mutoma Catholic Church, Kakamega. He did his Primary school and Secondary school education at St. Bede High School Kakamega. After completing secondary education, he worked at Hill Light Academy as a teacher of Mathematics and Kiswahili for seven Months.

Responding to the call to become a priest, he joined MSFS Seminary Ndagani for Aspirancy and Postulancy during 2011-2012, thereafter he did his canonical novitiate at Fransalianum Kibaha during 2012-2013 and made his first profession on July, 14, 2013. Thereafter he joined Lumen Christi Institute Arusha, Tanzania for Philosophy from 2013-2016. After successfully completing his Philosophical studies, he was sent to Ndagani Seminary Kenya for his Regency. He did his theological studies at Jordan University College Morogoro from 2017-2021. He made his perpetual vows on 30th October 2020. He was ordained deacon on 1st October 2020 at St. Francis de Sales Parish Mkuza Tanzania by His Grace Jude Thaddeus Ruwa'ichi OFM Cap, the Archbishop of the Diocese of Dar es Salaam.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

Rev. Fr. Saji Puthiakulangara MSFS is appointed as General Councillor and General Secretary for Formation.

Fr. Baviri Suresh Babu MSFS is appointed as the Provincial of Visakhapatnam Province.

Best wishes and prayers to both of them in their ministry of leadership.

Rev. Fr. Innocent Ngowi MSFS has successfully completed his studies with Magna cum Laude in Sciences of Marriage and Family from the St. John Paul II Institute, Cotonou, Benin. He has obtained Masters Degree from the Catholic University of West Africa as well as from the Pontifical University of Lateran, Rome. He also will be appearing for the exams at National University of Benin in October. Hearty congratulations dear Fr. Innocent!

HEARTY WELCOME TO EAST AFRICA

Rev. Fr. Rakesh Ekka MSFS from South West Province has come to Fransalian Novitiate as Assistant Director of Novices.

Rev. Fr. Gijo John MSFS from Pune Province has joined the staff of Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha.

Hearty welcome dear Fathers and we wish you an enriching time in East Africa!

TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS

Name of the Confreere	Place of Ministry	Responsibility
Fr. Sebastian Palakudiyil	Mkambrani	Priest-in-charge
Fr. Sunny Mattathil	Lukobe	Priest-in-charge
Fr. Tomichen Perumannor	SFS Junior Seminary	Bursar
Fr. Pius Kochuparambil	Mji Mpya/Relini	Parish Priest and Superior
Fr. Nelson Vijayakumar	Mkuza	Parish Priest and Superior
Fr. Jacob Thekkekara	Maji ya Chai	Parish Priest and Superior
Fr. Francis Kyule	Kashishi	Parish Priest and Superior
Fr. Martin Pendanath	Ipuli	Bursar
Fr. Joby Marathomalayil	Katani	Superior and Manager
Fr. Sunny Vettickal	Kalamira	Parish Priest and Superior
Fr. Joseph Kayanja	Iyolwa	Parish Priest and Superior
Fr. Stephen Mutisya	Agururu	Parish Priest and Superior
Fr. Francis Kallikattu	Kalagala	Priest-in-charge
Fr. Jose Eriyanickal	Kalagala	Designated for ministry in USA
Fr. C. Arockiasamy	Mji Mpya	Designated for ministry in USA
Fr. Kurian Kollapallil	LCI	Designated to be appointed as the Manager of Hekima School.
Fr. Sijo Pendanath	LCI	Designated to be appointed as the Bursar of LCI

- ❖ All transfers come into effect from September 01, 2021.
- ❖ A delegate of the Provincial will be appointed to oversee the Handing over.
- ❖ The appointments of New Priests will be published after their Ordination.

HOLIDAYS

Fr. Japhet Kirimi:	June 12 – July 12
Fr. Kenneth Maina:	June 12 – July 03
Fr. Denis Dindi:	July 02 – July 25
Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel:	July 18 – August 07
Fr. Francis Kyule:	August 05 – September 09

OBITUARY

Fr. Joseph Edacherrypauvath (93) of Vizag Province, passed away on 17.05.2021.

Mr. Wilson Wambua (60), paternal uncle of Fr. Patrick Musyimi, passed away on 20.05.2021.

Helen (10), niece of Fr. Simon Nabende, passed away on 21.05.2021.

Mr. Sunny Kalekattil (57), cousin of Fr. Sunny Mattathil, passed away on 26.05.2021.

Dr. Emmanuel Chacha, a former student of SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda, passed away on 27.05.2021.

Mr. Maria Savari (61), the beloved father of Bro. Level Winner Raj (Kola), passed away on 07.06.2021.

Fr. Thomas Vazhayil (72) of Vizag Province, passed away on 08.06.2021.

Fr. Anish Mundiyanickal (40) of South West India Province, passed away on 09.06.2021.

One day old nephew of Fr. Lawrence Ssebowa, passed away on 13.06.2021.

Mr. Henry Gambwa (41), cousin of Bro. Fred Bwoba (Kola), passed away on 18.07.2021.

May God grant them eternal life!



MY TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Date	Programme
18.07. to 07.08.2021	Visit to India
12.08.2021	Priestly Ordinations of Dn. Fabian Wawi and Dn. Joseph Ambongo at Kisumu
14.08.2021	Priestly Ordination of Dn. Brian Wasswa at Kamplala
15.08.2021	Priestly Ordination of Dn. Lubega Gonzaga at Masaka Blessing of Presbytery, Kikunde
20.08.2021	Formators' Forum Meeting at LCI
27.08.2021	Initiation of Pre-Novices to the Novitiate
28.08.2021	First Profession, Kibaha
01.09.2021	Inauguration of Academic Year at LCI
03.09.2021	Blessing of the Primary School, Bissil
19.09.2021	Episcopal Ordination of Msgr. Lazarus Msimbe, Morogoro
26.09.2021	Parish Feast of Mji Mpya/Relini

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,



Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS
Provincial - East Africa Province

Salesian Thought

The Lord expects nothing else than that you share in His mission. What he demanded of the Apostles when He sent them into the world was: to give life in its fullness to all men
(Jn. 10:10). (AE VI 89)