

**MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES**

**Fransalians - Province of East Africa**  
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**Provincial Circular EAP – MT.33** **March 02, 2022**

**My dear Confreres!**

I wish you all a grace-filled season of Lent! May this season of Lent be a time to renew our personal and community life through reflecting upon the Pascal mysteries of Christ!

**LENT: AN OPPORTUNITY TO FORM OUR HEARTS**

We begin today our Lenten journey towards Easter. Fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, as preached by Jesus (Mt. 6:1-18) would enable us to make an inward journey that would form our hearts and be for God alone. In the gospel reading of Ash Wednesday, Jesus calls us to deepen our interior life. He invites us to lead a life giving more importance to interior attitudes. He is asking us to move from the outer world to the inner world.



Pope Francis in his Lenten message of 2021 says that the path of poverty and self-denial (fasting), concern and loving care for the poor (almsgiving), and the childlike dialogue with the Father (prayer) make it possible for us to love a life of sincere faith, living hope and effective charity. In fasting, we sacrifice our love of “Self” so that we can become free to love God and others. In prayer, we sacrifice our love of “Time” to make time for the love of God. In almsgiving, we sacrifice our love of “Stuff” to make room for the love of others.

**Fasting:** In his sermon for Ash Wednesday, February 9, 1622, St. Francis de Sales preached: “Fasting fortifies the spirit, mortifies the flesh and its sensuality and raises the spirit to God... it disposes the heart to seek to please God alone with great purity of heart.” Pope Francis in his Lenten message of 2022 says that corporal fasting would fortify our spirit and would help us to fight against all evils. He encourages us to seek forgiveness through the sacrament of reconciliation and fight against selfishness and all evil tendencies within us. He also cautions about our addiction to digital media which impoverishes our human relationships. Fasting reduces the excessive

accumulation of “fat” in our soul in the form of evil tendencies and evil habits (spiritual obesity). It gives us additional moral and spiritual strength, and it offers us more time to be with God in prayer. By fasting, we discover who we are and encounter with our real self. Trimming, pruning, and disciplining ourselves will be part of this job. Doing all these three things with a joyful heart and mind will prepare us to rise with Jesus.

**Prayer:** For St. Francis de Sales “Prayer is opening our understanding to God’s brightness and light, and exposing our will to the warmth of his love.” He insists on “prayer of the mind and of the heart, especially that based on the life and passion of our Lord.” (IDL. Part II, 1). By Prayer, we highlight the fact that God is the most important person in our life. We magnify Him and humble ourselves and try to come closer to the Lord. St. Francis de Sales made every effort to make his Diocese a school of prayer. In prayer, we occupy ourselves with God in love, great faith, and trust. It is in interior prayer that we find God and our neighbour. Lent is a time to review our relationship with God and to mend our relationship with one another. Let us make our communities schools of prayer.

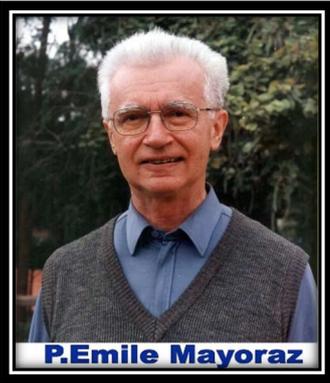
**Acts of Charity:** Acts of charity/almsgiving is an outflow of our interior life of prayer and fasting. Pope Francis tells us in his Lenten message that we should never grow tired of doing good in active charity towards our neighbour. Lent is a favourable time to seek out and not to avoid those in need; to reach out and not to ignore those who need a sympathetic ear and a good word; to visit and not to abandon those who are lonely. Jesus said don’t let your left hand know what the right is doing. In other words, when we help someone, we should not seek attention to ourselves. We need to keep a low profile and work behind the scenes. Serving and caring for others helps us to understand and identify with them. It also involves us in giving and receiving. We discover that in serving, often we are not only giving but also receiving. There is a mutuality, a reciprocity that raises us up to be more like God and makes us feel more in unity with other people and experience the fact that we are all one flock of God.

Prayer, fasting, and acts of charity – these are the foundational practices of Christian piety. During Lent, we highlight these matters once again to set our Christian life on the right track by reviewing and forming our hearts as Jesus wants us to do. And here’s an irony. We practice them in secret, not drawing attention to ourselves, not making a public show, but the effect of them is highly social. They help us to develop a stronger relationship not only with God and with ourselves but also with one another. They work toward reconciling us. True spirituality strengthens our relationship with God and happens in secret and is out of the public view. The benefits have to do with our inner transformation, renewal, and reconciliation and not how others perceive us or treat us. Lent is a time to re-orient our lives towards God.

#### LENTEN PRAYER

Almighty and Everlasting God,  
You have given the human race  
Jesus Christ our Saviour and as a model of humility.  
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man  
And giving His life on the Cross.  
Help us to bear witness to You  
By following His example of suffering  
And make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son. Amen

**A TRIBUTE TO REV. FR. EMILE MAYORAZ**



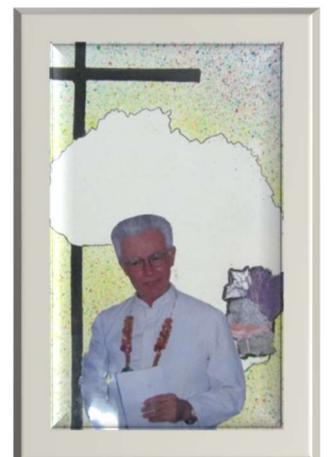
Rev. Fr. Emile Mayoraz was born on March 01, 1928, at Heremence, Valais, Switzerland. After his secondary school education, he joined MSFS Minor Seminary at Fribourg. He made his First Profession on September 10, 1947. He was ordained a priest on January 06, 1953. His first appointment was in the school at Florimont as warden (1953 – 1954). He did his studies in Canon Law and Pastoral Ministry in Rome from 1955 to 1961. He was the rector of MSFS Scholasticate at Fribourg from 1961 to 1966. He was appointed as the first Provincial of Franco-Swiss Province (1966 – 1977). He was elected as the 12th Superior General of our Congregation in 1977 and continued to remain as the Superior General until 2001. He was General Councillor and Admonitor from 2001 to 2007. He retired from active life and was at Bonlieu, Fribourg from 2008. He was in the old age home Lex Bonesfontaines, Fribourg from 2018. He passed away on January 30, 2022. May his soul rest in peace!



The Province of East Africa owes much to Rev. Fr. Emilie Mayoraz. Since the arrival of Fransalians in 1987 in Tanzania, Fr. Mayoraz had been fully involved in the life and mission of our Province. He used to visit our missions regularly and encourage our Fathers and scholastics to preserve the missionary dynamism of our Patron and Founder, even though there were difficulties and problems like lack of amenities, poor roads and prevalence of malaria. We remain ever grateful to his love and generosity to all our missions. We would not have been able to start many of our missions without his help. He had a special love for our missions in East Africa even after his tenure as Superior General was over. He was constantly in contact with our confreres through letters and email. Without any hesitation, we could describe him as the “Father of African Missions” as he encouraged our confreres in India to take up new missions in Africa. It is due to his indefatigable love for Africa that we are present in eleven countries and are about 250 confreres in the continent.



He was an epitome of all Salesian virtues. May his simplicity and love for the missions continue to inspire us in our missionary endeavours in Africa! Let us continue to pray for the repose of his soul as we seek his intercession for the expansion of Fransalian missions in Africa.



## VISITATION OF ASSISTANT SUPERIOR GENERAL

I am very happy to announce the Visitation of our beloved Assistant Superior General Rev. Fr. Yves Carron to our Province. The purpose of the Visitation is with a specific responsibility of evaluation, animation and monitoring and animation of Local Superiors and communities in the light of the general Chapter 2019 and the Provincial Congress 2020. He will be visiting us from April 25th to May 16th. Please find below the tentative timetable of his Visitation:

Date	Programme	Accommodation
25.04. 2022	Arrival Kilimanjaro 8.40 PM	LCI
26.04. 2022	LCI: Meeting with Fathers Evening: Conference for Scholastics	LCI
27.04. 2022	Mass: LCI LCI: Meeting with Fathers Afternoon: Flight to Dar	Mji Mpya
28.04. 2022	Short visitation to Bomba Mbili <b>09.30: Dar Apostolic community meeting at Mkuza</b> Afternoon: Novitiate	Novitiate
29.04. 2022	Mass at the Novitiate Travel to Morogoro Visit to MSFS Scholasticate, Kola	Kola
30.04. 2022	Visit to Kigurunyembe School <b>At 09.30: Morogoro and MODOA Apostolic Community Meeting at the Provincial house</b> Afternoon: Visit to Lukobe	Provincial House
01.05. 2022	Mass at Junior Seminary Visit to Dumila (Lunch) Visit to Kikunde	Kikunde
02.05. 2022	Travel to Ibihwa (Lunch) Travel to Ipuli	Ipuli
03.05. 2022	Mass at Ipuli Travel to Kashishi after Lunch	Kashishi
04.05. 2022	Mass at Kashishi Visit to Kagongwa Travel to Lububu (Lunch) Travel to Bukene	Bukene
05.05. 2022	Mass at Bukene <b>At 09.30: TAKA Apostolic community Meeting at Bukene</b> Afternoon: Travel to Mwakata Visit to VTC and Isaka School	Mwakata
06.05. 2022	Travel to Uganda	Vincentian Seminary; Masaka
07.05. 2022	Travel to Buwooya Visit to Ugandan Martyrs Basilica	Buwooya Seminary
08.05. 2022	Mass at Buwooya/Kalagala	Buwooya Seminary
09.05. 2022	Visit to Kalamira (Lunch) Visit to Agururu/Osia	Osia

10.05. 2022	Mass at Iyolwa School/Blessing of the Hostel Afternoon: Iyolwa Parish <b>Evening at 4.30 PM: Uganda Apostolic community Meeting in Osia</b>	Osia
11.05. 2022	Travel to Kenya	Mlolongo
12.05. 2022	Mass at Mlolongo Visitation to Katani <b>Evening at 4.30: Kenya Apostolic Community meeting at Mlolongo</b>	Mlolongo
13.05. 2022	Travel to Ndagani	Ndagani
14.05. 2022	Mass at Chera After lunch at Chera: Travel back to Mlolongo	Mlolongo
15.05. 2022	Bissil (Lunch) Travel to LCI	LCI
16.05. 2022	Visit to Maji ya Chai Visit to Ngurdoto <b>Evening at 4.30: Arsuha Apostolic community Meeting at LCI</b>	LCI
17,18,19.05. 2022	General Curia meeting with Provincial Curia of East Africa	LCI
20.05. 2022	MSAF Meeting with LCI community	LCI
21.05. 2022	MSAF meeting with General Curia	
22 - 23.05. 2022	LCI	LCI
24.05. 2022	Departure to Europe	

The programme of Apostolic Community Meeting will be as follows:

- Half an hour adoration
- Meeting with Local Superiors
- Apostolic Community Meeting
- Eucharistic Celebration
- Lunch/Supper

### SEMINAR FOR YOUNG PRIESTS

The Province is organizing a seminar for priests who were ordained in 2018, 2019, and 2020 at Lumen Christi Institute from March 7th evening to March 10th evening. It is obligatory for all the priests who were ordained in the above-mentioned years, to attend the seminar.



## OPENING OF KALAGALA PARISH



The much-awaited opening of St. Francis de Sales Parish at Kalagala, Lugazi Diocese, Uganda took place on February 20, 2022. Rt. Rev. Christopher Kakooza, the Bishop of Lugazi, in a solemn Eucharistic Celebration declared Kalagala as a full-pledged Parish under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales, and Fr. Jose Eriyanickal was installed as the Parish Priest of the newly established Parish. A large number of faithful, religious women and men and diocesan clergy witnessed the joyful occasion of the opening of the new parish. Kalagala parish is bifurcated from Malongwe Parish. The new parish has a catholic population of 5,000 spread in 10 sub-stations within in a radius of 20 KM. The parish has a small church that was recently renovated. There is no presbytery for the parish, and at present, the

parish office is used for the accommodation of priests. Fransalians are rendering pastoral services in the parish since March 2021. The new parish is a gift of God in the year of Missions. It is the fifth Fransalian Parish in Uganda. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Jose Eriyanickal and the faithful of Kalagala Parish for the wonderful celebrations of the opening of the parish!



## BLESSING OF BUWOOYA SEMINARY



February 20, 2022, was a remarkable day in the history of Fransalians in East Africa as Rt. Rev. Christopher Kakooza, the Bishop of Lugazi, officially blessed and opened the new St. Francis de Sales Minor Seminary (for Aspirants and Postulants) at Buwooya, Lugazi Diocese, Uganda. A large number of faithful from Malongwe and Kalagala parish, priests, and religious blessed us with their presence. The foundation stone of the

seminary was laid on March 05, 2021, by Rev. Fr. John Lule. On behalf of the Province, I sincerely thank Fr. Francis Kallikatt, Bro. Leo Cheruvil and Jose Eriyanickal for supervising the construction and completing it in a record time. The seminary can accommodate 40 seminarians. The new seminary will provide a new impetus to the missionary vocations for Fransalians in Africa. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Charles Ouma, Fr. Amal Neerolickal, and Seminarians for making the day a memorable one!



## BLESSING OF IBIHWA CHURCH



A long-cherished dream of the faithful of Ibihwa was realized on February 20, 2022, when Rt. Rev. Stephen Musombe OSA, the Auxiliary Bishop of Dar es Salaam blessed the newly constructed St. Francis de Sales Parish Church at Ibihwa, in the Archdiocese of Dodoma. The blessing ceremony took place in the presence of a large number of faithful, women and men religious and priests. Ibihwa has over 8,000 Catholics spread in five sub-stations. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Antonysamy Sebastian, the parish priest, Fr. Joseph Abongo, the assistant parish priest, and the faithful of Ibihwa for having constructed a new Church!



## APPOINTMENT

**Fr. Lubega Gonzaga** is appointed as the Chief Editor of Baraka with effect from 01.03.2022.

## EXCLAUSTRATION

**Fr. George Antony** is granted exclausturation with effect from February 22, 2022, in view of joining the Diocese of Meru, Kenya. We appreciate and thank Fr. George for his priestly ministry in the Province of East Africa. We wish him all the best in his new life and pastoral ministry!

## OBITUARY

**Nithin Mathew** (15), the nephew of Fr. James Panthalanickel, passed away on 22.01.2022.

**Fr. Emile Mayoraz** (94), the former Superior General of Fransalians, passed away on 30.01.2022.

**Mrs. Theresa Antony** (88), the mother of Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil, passed away on 16.02.2022.

**Mrs. Theresiamma John** (93), the mother of Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, passed away on 21.02.2022.

**Mrs. Rosily Jose Puthenpurackal** (67), the sister of Fr. Jacob Thekkekara, passed away on 24.02.2022.

**May God grant them eternal life!**

## MY TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Date	Programme
March 1 - 2	LCI
March 3	Ipuli
March 4	Kashishi
March 5	Mwakata and Lububu
March 6	Bukene
March 7 - 10	LCI
March 19	Blessing of Kalamira Presbytery
March 14 – April 21	Ministry in Europe
April 22	Provincial Council Meeting, Morogoro
April 25 – May 24	Visitation of Assistant General
May 17 to 19	General Curia meeting with Provincial Curia of East Africa
May 20 - 21	General Curia meeting with MSAF
May 25	Graduation at LCI

My dear confreres, I wish you all a grace-filled season of Lent!

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,



Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS,  
Provincial - East Africa Province



### Salesian Thought

„Lent is the autumn of the spiritual life during which we gather fruit to keep us going for the rest of the year. Enrich yourselves with these treasures, which nobody can take away from you and which cannot be destroyed.”