

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Fransalians - Province of East Africa Provincial House P. O. Box 12 Morogoro Tanzania Tel: +255 689 882 711; +255 624 027 880 www.msfs-eastafrika.com e-mail: provincialeastafricamsfs@gmail.com</p> 		
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JESUS IS ALIVE

After 40 days of spiritual and physical journey of penance and self-denial, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ today. We have no doubt that Jesus is risen. His grave is not a destination but a process. Neither the cross nor the grave is an end but a means to glory. The resurrection proclaims that Jesus Christ is alive.



The Apostles and early Christians wanted to share with the world only one message and that was 'Jesus is alive'. All the accounts related to the empty tomb and various personal experiences of the risen Lord say that Jesus is risen and is alive. Each disciple had his/her own story about Jesus being alive. Even if a person wasn't at the empty tomb, even if one was not present in the upper room, one can experience the resurrected Jesus. We need only to remember the example of St. Paul who met the risen Jesus months after his death. His experience changed his whole life. Yes, the message of Easter is that Jesus is alive, and we can meet him.

On this Easter Sunday, we have to ponder where we can meet this Jesus who is alive? Is he alive in us? Do we feel his presence daily in us? Has his spirit moved our lives? If we were to spare a moment and ask ourselves to share our experiences of Jesus, what would we say? Jesus can change our lives today. The risen Lord is alive in us when we work for the advancement of the values of his Kingdom such as love, peace, truth and justice. The Lord is alive in us when we live in solidarity with our brothers and sisters, especially the poor and the needy. He is alive in us when we become agents of forgiveness and reconciliation. The risen Lord is alive in us when the flame of faith is active in us and when we share it with others. If Easter becomes just another holiday without any effect on us, then, we are not living Jesus in our personal life.



The dictum that guided our Patron St. Francis de Sales was LIVE JESUS. Let this dictum resound in our hearts and minds that we may LIVE JESUS daily in our personal life and ministry! May we learn to ask for God's grace each day so that we may live Easter everyday of our life! Then the words we say and the actions we do will proclaim to everyone we meet the truth we celebrate today: Jesus is risen! He is alive in us!

I wish all of you the blessings of the RISEN LORD who is and will be with us till the end of the world. HAPPY EASTER!.

YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

We are celebrating this year the 400th death anniversary of our Patron, St. Francis de Sales. To mark this occasion, our Superior General has declared an "Year of St. Francis de Sales" from April 24, 2022, (Divine Mercy Sunday) to April 16, 2023 (Divine Mercy Sunday).

In order to celebrate meaningfully the life of our beloved Patron and spiritual master, the following programmes will be organized:

1. Pope Francis has agreed to write a letter on SFS to mark the 400 death anniversary of our patron.
2. Wednesdays with St. Francis de Sales: every Wednesday from April 27, nearly 13 Congregations and lay associates are participating in a 5-minute reflection on the spirituality of SFS.
3. Celebrations in Annecy (organized by Franco-Swiss Province) with all the confreres from all over Europe.
4. A short documentary on SFS and a special calendar for 2023.
5. Starting the formation programme for Fransalian Associates in all the Provinces in view of their consecration on January 2024.
6. On December 28, 2022, (actual date of death of SFS) something to be done at the congregational level to reach out to the people in need of support.

I kindly request all our communities to begin the Year of St. Francis de Sales with a Holy Mass and Salesian Reflections on April 25, 2022. Please say the Prayer of St. Francis de Sales daily in our communities.

YEAR OF THE MISSIONS

The conclusion of Year of Missions will be on April 23, 2022. I request all our communities to kindly celebrate the Holy Mass or conduct a Prayer Session to conclude the Year of Missions.

EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER

The re-scheduled Extraordinary General Chapter will take place from November 8th to 14th, 2022 at Fransalian Seminary, Pune, India.

VISITATION OF ASSISTANT SUPERIOR GENERAL

The Visitation of Assistant Superior General will take place from April 25th to May 24th, 2022. The time table for the Visitation was communicated to you in the previous Provincial Circular.

ANNUAL RETREAT

The annual retreats will be held on the following days:

Retreat I: July 26th evening to 31st evening.

Retreat II: August 6th evening to 11th evening.

The venue of both retreats will be Lumen Christi Institute, Maji ya Chai. This year being the Year of St. Francis de Sales, we will have a Salesian retreat. I request all the confreres to kindly send me the date of your preference for retreat via Email or WhatsApp.

NEW COMMUNITY AT LUKOBE

The newly established Fransalian community at Lukobe came to existence on March 12, 2022. Fr. Sunny Mattathil was installed as the Superior of the Community. Fr. Simon Nabende, the assistant parish priest was welcomed to the community on this day. We wish them all the best and prayers.



PARISH DAY AND BLESSING OF THE PRESBYTERY AT KALAMIRA



19th March 2022 was a historical day for St. Francis de Sales Parish at Kalamira in the Diocese of Jinja, Uganda. It was a day of blessing for all the people of God in the parish and in the whole diocese at large as our dear bishop Rev. Dr. Charles Martin Wamika made his first pastoral visit to our parish. The Holy Mass began at 10:30 am officiated by the bishop. He was accompanied by Fr. Paul Wandera, the pastoral coordinator of

the Diocese of Jinja, Fr. Godfrey, the Bursar of the Diocese, Fr. Kizito, Land and Education coordinator of the Diocese, Bishop's councillors, diocesan priests, many Religious priests and sisters. The provincial councillors of different apostolates were present along with a number of Fransalians from Tanzania and Uganda. The political leaders were represented by Hon. Akamba the MP, Mrs. Maria Women's rep (MP) and other administrative officers from the Namutumba District together with the Councillors of the Busoga kingdom. Many parishioners and many faithful from other parishes also attended the event.

During the Mass the Bishop consecrated the new tabernacle in the church, administered the sacrament of Confirmation to 168 candidates and welcomed the SMI sisters officially to work in the parish. This year being the year of the Holy Spirit in the Diocese, the Bishop blessed the cross and gave a special blessing to the parishioners and more specially to those who had different intentions. In his homily the Bishop thanked the Provincial Superior and the entire family of Fransalians for taking up the mission in Kalamira in the Diocese of Jinja.



He officially installed Fr. Sunny Thomas Vettickal msfs as the Parish Priest and Fr. Dennis Dindi msfs as the assistant Parish priest of the parish. The Bishop also blessed the newly built presbytery in Kalamira Parish and the convent building for Sisters at Namutumba. After the Mass the children from different schools entertained the assembly with various programmes. The celebrations concluded with a sumptuous family meal.

We thank our benefactors, the MSFS Congregation and the parishioners, who have helped us to build the Presbytery. We appreciate and thank Fr. Joby Marathomalayil MSFS and Fr. Dennis Dindi MSFS, who supervised the construction of the presbytery. Hearty Congratulations!

(Reported by Fr. Sunny Vettickal)

HOLIDAYS

Fr. Stephen Ubadesi	March 17 – April 18
Fr. Sebastian Palakudy	March 26 – May 12
Fr. Augustine Mangatt	April 21 – June 16
Fr. Francis Kallikattu	April 21 – June 21
Fr. Siljo Auppadan	May 12 – July 12
Fr. Thomas Kochuparambil	May 17 – June 28
Fr. Pius Kochuparambil	May 17 – June 28

OBITUARY

Mrs. Brigitha Vattaparackal (100), the maternal grandmother of Fr. Jomet Kollapallil, passed away on March 06, 2022.

Ms. Plaxeda Nantumbwe (32), the sister of Fr. Gerald Mabiriizi passed away on March 14, 2022.

Mr. Lawrence Ubadesi (52), the brother of Fr. Stephen Ubadesi, passed away on March 15, 2022.

Fr. Mathew Alappatt (88), of Vishakhapatnam Province, passed away on March 16, 2022.

Fr. Philip Souriamkuzhy (86), of Vishakhapatnam Province, passed away on March 31, 2022.

May God grant them eternal life!

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

In winter the earth relaxes, rests and does not produce. When spring comes it renews itself with flowers that bring us joy. Because our nature grows cold easily, we need to renew our promise to love God above all, and love all other things because they are agreeable to God, profitable to God's honour, and destined for God's glory. Before we enter eternal glory, the Gardener wishes to plant in our garden many flowers. Let us serve God as God wishes and we will see that one day God will do all we wish, and more than we know how to wish. When we are raised to a life of divine love, we live for our Saviour who has risen. It is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice. Alleluia!