

MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

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REMAIN WITH US

One of the most dramatic episodes depicted in the Gospels is the Resurrection experience of the disciples who were bound to Emmaus. It's a story worth repeating again and again because it is at the very heart of the Gospel. It highlights the dynamic hope generated by the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The two dispirited and disappointed disciples, walking to Emmaus, begin an experience altogether new and different from the Heart-Breaking Experience at his death. When Jesus joins them, it becomes a Heart-Searching Experience and ends as a Heart-Burning Experience.



The death of Jesus was a heart-breaking experience for the disciples. They expressed their disillusionment and despair when they told the stranger that this Jesus "was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people" (Lk. 24:20). "He was ..." Notice the use of the past tense, which strongly implies that he wasn't relevant to the present. Otherwise, they wouldn't have been in their present downcast state of mind. Their experience of Jesus was something of the past and they thought they were left alone and abandoned. They did not find any meaning in the cross and death of Jesus. It was a matter of the past.



Human hope is a fragile thing, and when it withers, it's difficult to revive. Hopelessness as a disease of the human spirit is desperately hard to heal. Jesus is still there. He's the unseen "stranger", walking with us, listening to us if only we are willing to listen to his voice, revealing himself to us. As the two disciples spoke of the Cross, he took hold of their bewilderment and sorrow and gave them a heart-searching experience.

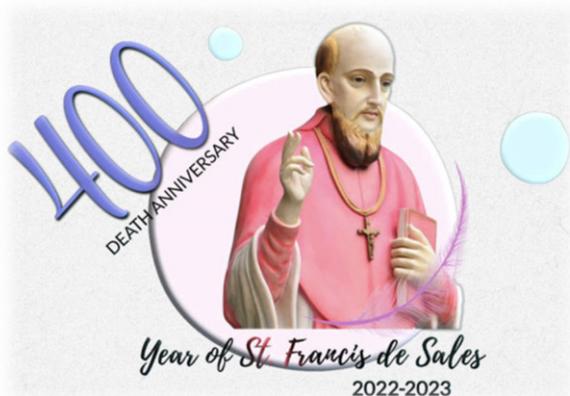
He enlightened them about God's self-revelation in the Scriptures. Luke tells us, "And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, Jesus explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." Jesus is not just a historical figure of the past but he lives with us through the Word of God.

The two disciples insisted on the stranger to remain with them as it was getting dark and he accepted the invitation. This hospitality led them to a heart-burning experience of Jesus in the breaking of the bread. When we invite Jesus into the dark areas of our lives, definitely he will give us a heart-burning experience just as the disciples experienced him in breaking of the Word as well as in the breaking of the Bread. The fruit of such a heart-burning experience cannot be concealed; it has to be proclaimed. At the same hour, they returned to Jerusalem proclaiming that Jesus is risen.

Let this season of Easter make us understand that Jesus is always with us. He remains with us. He seeks us and reveals to us the plan of God through the Scriptures. He is tangible to us through his Eucharistic presence with us. Let us proclaim the joy, peace and hope that has come to us through the Risen Lord. He remains with us until the end of ages (Mt. 28:20).



YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



The Year of St. Francis de Sales was inaugurated at the province level by Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS, the Provincial Superior of East Africa Province on 25th April at SFS Junior Seminary, Morogoro. Rev. Fr. Johnson Pathiyil MSFS preached a sermon highlighting the life of St. Francis de Sales and the relevance of Salesian Spirituality in the contemporary world.

The following are the programmes planned at various levels in the different centers of the province:

Province Level:

- Annual retreat based on Salesian Spirituality
- Recollections based on Salesian Spirituality (12 months)
- Salesian Seminar
- Formation of Fransalian Associates in all our parishes

Community Level

- 30 minutes of Eucharistic Adoration (Daily)
- Masses in honour of SFS on every Wednesday
- Reading from 'The Introduction to the Devout Life' during the meals
- Celebration of the Feast of SFS with employees and associates

Individual Level

- Salesian Meditations (Daily)
- Reading of 'The Love of God'
- Practice of SFS Directory
- Incorporating Salesian themes in the sermons.

Formation Forum

- Quiz on SFS
- Speech Competition on SFS
- Showing movies on SFS
- Enactment of plays depicting the character/life of SFS

Mission Forum

- Annual retreat by PMP in the parishes
- Skits on SFS for Catechism children
- Essay competition/Lyrics writing competition on SFS
- Support the education of children of needy families
- Family visits

Education

- Salesian seminar for teachers and non-teaching staff of schools
- Devoting a section for SFS in the Annual Magazine
- Displaying SFS Quotes
- Quiz/Essay competitions on SFS

Innovative and Social Ministry

- Wednesdays with SFS
- Disseminating Salesian literature/themes via social media
- Displaying SFS Quotes
- Helping poor children for education

VISITATION OF GENERAL CURIA

The Province of East Africa is delighted to welcome Very Rev. Fr. Superior General, the Assistant Superior General, all the General Councillors and the General Bursar to East Africa. Rev. Fr. Superior General was taking classes at LCI since April 19th. Rev. Fr. Assistant Superior General is visiting the Province since April 25th. The General curia will animate various meetings in the Province from May 17th to 21st. Hearty welcome to all!

MSAF MEETING

The meeting of Mission Superiors of Africa Forum (MSAF) will take place on May 20th and 21st at LCI. Hearty welcome to all the members of MSAF.

MINISTRY OF LECTOR AND ACOLYTE



Msimbe SDS, Bishop of Morogoro, in the Chapel of Jordan University College. The celebration was graced by the presence of Superiors and members of various religious communities and the students of Jordan University College.

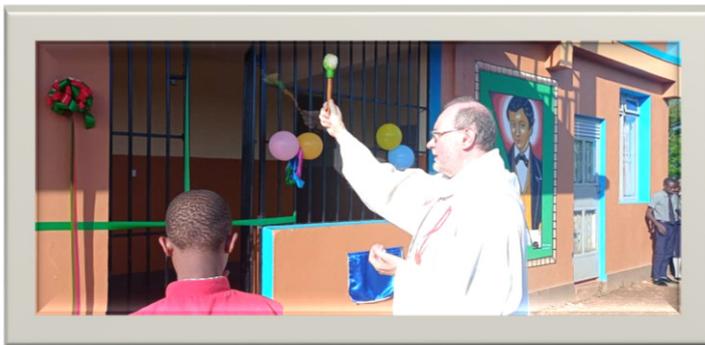
30th April, 2022 was indeed a memorable day for the Fransalian Study House Community, Kola. On this auspicious day five of our brothers were conferred the ministry of Acolyte and three of them the ministry of Lector.

The Ministries were conferred by Rt. Rev. Lazarus



(Reported by Bro. Linto Varghese)

BLESSING OF HOSTEL AT IYOLWA



The well-equipped hostel can accommodate 400 students. Hearty congratulations to our Confreres particularly Fr. Soosai Raj Robert, Fr. Jerald Mabiiriizi and Fr. Thomas Chozhithara for their dedication and commitment to improve the standard of the school.

The newly built Boys' Hostel and Sickbay was blessed by Rev. Fr. Yves Carron, Assistant General on 10th May, 2022. It was a joyous day for the SFS Secondary School community as it culminated the Visitation of the Assistant General. The students thanked God and the Congregation and benefactors for the new facility.



(Reported by Bro. Anthony Kabagambe)

PROMOTION OF SCHOLASTICS

The following scholastics are promoted to the respective next stage of their formation as well as to the renewal of vows:

Promotion to Priestly Ordination

1. Bro. Avil Viegas
2. Bro. Edward Mgagi

Promoted to Fourth year of theology and Renewal of Vows

1. Bro. Okoth Moses

Promoted to Third Year Theology and Renewal of Vows

1. Bro. Collins Barasa Simiyu
2. Bro. Godwin Nanalo
3. Bro. Joseph Mwasa

Promoted to Second Year Theology and Renewal of Vows

1. Bro. Dennis William Minja
2. Bro. Linto Varghese

Promoted to First year of Theology and Renewal of vows

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|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bro. Eboyu Peter | 6. Bro. Nimusiima Xavier |
| 2. Bro. Ikachuli Dismas | 7. Bro. Wamakale Abraham |
| 3. Bro. Lobong Moses | 8. Bro. Wangi Pascal |
| 4. Bro. Masereka Richard | 9. Bro. Wanjala Justin |
| 5. Bro. Mnuka N. Lazaro | |

Promoted for Regency and Renewal of Vows

1. Bro. Orikiriza Darius
2. Bro. Lawrence Ssekayie

Promoted to Third Year Philosophy and Renewal of Vows

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|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Bro. Innocent Munishi | 4. Bro. Richard Woniala |
| 2. Bro. Joseph Kapungu | 5. Bro. Victor Muhangi |
| 3. Bro. Raymond Simon | |

Promoted to Second Year Philosophy and Renewal of Vows

1. Jonathan Pius
2. Marvin Eliud Hango
3. Mugala Pascal Wanjala

APPOINTMENT OF REGENTS

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Bro. Julius Onaga (SA Region) | Iyolwa Community |
| 2. Bro. Lawrence Ssekayie | Buwooya Community |
| 3. Bro. Orikiriza Darius | Ipuli Community |

HOLIDAYS

Fr. David Susai	May 02 – June 02
Fr. Siljo Auppadan	May 12 – July 12
Fr. Jose Eriyanickal	May 12 – June 12
Fr. Santhosh Paul	May 12 – June 12
Fr. Thomas Kochuparambil	May 17 – June 28
Fr. Pius Kochuparambil	May 17 – June 28
Fr. Sunny Mattathil	May 17 – June 28
Fr. Ibrahim Kissegerwa	June 01 – July 31
Fr. Sunny Vettickal	June 15 – July 15

OBITUARY

Most Rev. Denis Lote Kiwanuka, Emeritus Archbishop of Tororo passed away on 24.04.2022.

May God grant him eternal life!



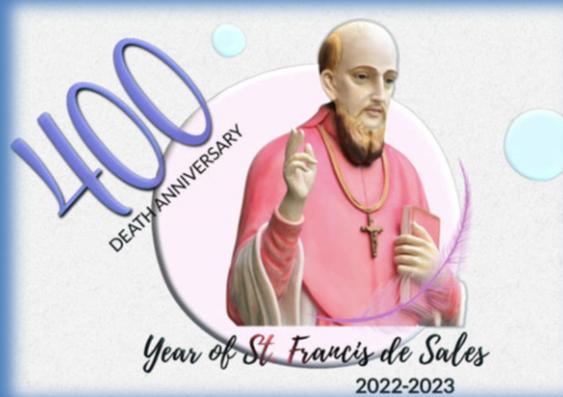
Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

Mathew

Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS,
Provincial - East Africa Province

Year of St. Francis de Sales

An opportunity to decipher Salesian Spirituality



It has been a great cause of joy for the entire Salesian family all over the world as we celebrate the 400 years of the death anniversary of St. Francis de Sales. It is an opportunity for each of us to rededicate oneself to relive the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales as well as to commit oneself from a personal point of view to spread this spirituality that is most convenient and adaptable to the people living in the world.

Francis de Sales was born in an era which was wounded and torn apart by the wars of religion. The violence and the massacres that took place in this era will make one shudder. Such was the horrific situation created by the rivalry between the nations and the Protestant Reformation which added fuel to the fire which was already burning. The ideologies and the teachings of the Protestant leaders viz. Martin Luther, Zwingli and John Calvin shook the foundation of the Church and society. The Church came up in defence with the help of the Council of Trent. It focused more on the reform within the Church especially by regulating the life of the clergy and the importance of the sacraments.

The birth of St. Francis de Sales at that moment of the history is to be considered as part of the providential plan of God who always intervenes the human history to renew it and redeem it. Adding to the great contributions of the spiritual giants like Ignatius of Loyola, Theresa of Avila, John of the Cross, Philip Neri and Angela Merici, God made Francis de Sales a humble promoter of a great spirituality which was to be spread all over the world. He was also made a symbol of peace and reconciliation and he brought great renewal to the people who lived in the world and who did not know how to order their lives in the world while loving God and neighbour.

Thanks to the wonderful and pious upbringing by his parents viz. Mgr De Boisy and Mme De Boisy. Their contribution to the growth of the saint is unforgettable. Their devotion and their humanness had a tremendous impact in his life. And perhaps it is their dedication and commitment to Christ despite living in the world and all the matters of the society as lay people that inspired Francis de Sales to develop a spirituality that would be a source of inspiration and consolation to the millions of people stranded in the world with their daily affairs while they were desperate to follow the path of

perfection. They were also sceptical about the success of leading a devout life in the midst of worldly affairs.

The miraculous combination of the duo, Francis de Sales and Jane Francis de Chantal, made the Church vibrant with the Spirituality which emulated from their holy living while supporting each other in their pursuits to grow in perfection. Salesian Spirituality is the result of this holy friendship which moulded the spirituality that promoted holiness for all.

The foundation that was laid by his parents was further built stronger by the formation and education he received from the Jesuits (College of Clermont 1580-1588) in Paris. It was during this period that he experienced the greatest spiritual crisis, from which he emerged a victor who fought against the temptation to despair. He was healed of the tendency to despair when he recited the prayer Memorare.

During his studies, he not only looked for academic excellence, but he also focused on forming himself to be a morally and spiritually well equipped. He desired to have a holistic growth and development of his personality. This approach made him well disciplined and well-focused in his life.

Although his academic life was aimed at making him a successful advocate and further attain an honourable position in society and the pride of the family, he had a different perspective and goal in life. He realized that his vocation was to be a priest. But it was not easy for him to realize that desire to respond to God's call. He had to undergo much struggle and battle with his father who desired and dreamt that his son would become a successful advocate and bring fame and honour to his family. Finally, by the grace of God, his father half-heartedly, with much tears and pain in his heart, gave his consent to Francis to follow his vocation. Francis was ordained priest in 1593.

His missionary zeal was only lighted up in a blazing mode when he heard about the mission in Chablais. He was sent to the Chablais Mission in 1594 where he brought practically almost all the faithful who had embraced Calvinism. His gentle and sweet approach proved him a successful missionary in his mission.

Francis de Sales promoted a spirituality which enabled the ordinary Christians realize that they are loved by God and that they too are called to love God in return. For him love was the indispensable aspect of Christian life. It is not a spirituality which compromises with the world but a spirituality that enables an ordinary person to embrace the path of devotion and holiness while remaining in the world without being corrupted by it.

(An article by Rev. Fr. Johnson Pathiyil MSFS)