
		<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-eastfrica.com e-mail: provincialeastafricamsfs@gmail.com</p>	
Provincial Circular EAP – MT.39		Nov 27, 2022	

My dear Confreres!

I wish you all a grace-filled season of Advent! May this season help us to prepare our hearts to cradle the One who will be born anew when the feast of Nativity is celebrated once again!

ADVENT: A JOURNEY TOWARDS JESUS



Advent, a season of special grace, is a time set aside to journey to welcome Jesus more fully at Christmas. 'Journey' is a word often used in the context of Christian learning and faith education. The season of Advent is full of references to travel. The Prologue of Matthew's Gospel (Mat.1:1-18) speaks about the genealogy of Jesus, a trip back into the history of the Israelites and presents Jesus as the culmination of the Jewish journey. Mary after having said "yes" to the will of God, makes a trip to her cousin

Elizabeth to serve her and Elizabeth in turn recognizes the presence of the 'Son of the Most High' in Mary (Lk. 1: 39 – 45).

The most important Christmas journey was of course when Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem to participate in the census ordered by emperor Augustus (Lk. 2:1-7). The end of that dramatic journey, a journey from building to building trying to find shelter for Mary, who was on a donkey with labour pain. Jesus is born on a journey. The season is Advent is inviting us to set out on a journey towards Jesus.

Throughout the Advent season, we will journey through weekly spiritual exercises designed to help us reflect on the coming of Christ. They will help us to be more attentive to the movement of God in and around us. We will dwell on the Word of God, so that we can hear more clearly the voice of our creator. We will engage our God given imaginations to allow our minds to be in awe of this amazing God who left all power behind, in order to be with us. We will meet him in the silence of our prayers. We will meet him in our selfless service for the poor and the needy. We will meet him in humility, patience, simplicity and gentleness.

Advent is a time to reflect on what's really important in our lives and to prepare ourselves to meet Jesus, to welcome him into our lives. Each one should ask himself: if I change some of my habits or activities would that give me a bit more time to grow closer to God? Do I feel comfortable in my current routine? Need I to come out of any of them in order to better serve him? Could I possibly find an area in my life wherein I can become a better person by making better use of the talents that God has given me? Life is a journey towards Jesus who loves us and who is always with us. Let us prepare ourselves to receive him in our lives and listen to him more attentively.

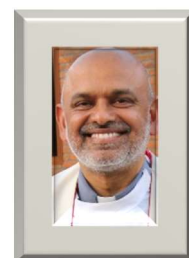
EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER



The Extraordinary General Chapter took place from 8th to 14th November 2022 at the Fransalian Seminary, Pune, India. There were 40 participants from 12 provinces. The Chapter discussed various matters concerning the life of the Congregation. The decisions of the Chapter will be made known shortly by the Superior General after the necessary formalities are completed.

NEW ASSISTANT SUPERIOR GENERAL

Rev. Fr. Superior General has appointed Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS as the Assistant Superior General of our Congregation until the next General Chapter 2025. As we congratulate Fr. Johnson, let us also keep him in our prayers and assure him our whole hearted support as he assumes the office of the Assistant Superior General. May God bless him abundantly!



APPOINTMENT OF PROVINCIALS

Fr. Benny Valiyaveetil MSFS is appointed as the Provincial of English Province for a second term.

Fr. Sabu Francis MSFS is appointed as the Provincial of Guwahati Province for a second term.

Hearty congratulations and best wishes!

UPCOMING PROGRAMMES IN THE PROVINCE

Date	Programme	Place
14.12.2022	Stewardship Forum Meeting and Budget presentation	LCI
15.12.2022	SAIM Forum Meeting	LCI
07.01.2023	Silver Jubilee of Fransalian presence in Kenya	Chera
07.01.2023	Blessing and opening of Fransalian Pastoral Centre	Ndagani
24.01.2023	Silver Jubilee of Fransalian House, Kola & Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Frs. Wilson Packiam and Mathew Thazhathukunnel	Kola
25.01.2023	Superiors Forum Meeting & Mission Forum Meeting	Provincial House
26.01.2023	Formation Forum Meeting	Provincial House
26.01.2023	Education Forum Meeting	Provincial House

FINAL PROFESSION AND DIACONATE ORDINATION



Thazhathukunnel, the provincial superior of East Africa Province and Rev. Fr. Ignacimuthu, the provincial superior of South-East India Province who presided over the Holy Eucharistic celebration and received the vows.

On the following day, the order of Diaconate was conferred by His Lordship Most. Rev. Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe, SDS, Bishop of the Diocese of Morogoro. The ceremony took place in Divine Saviour chapel of the Jordan University College. The presence of friends and Religious from around the Kola campus and from various MSFS Communities in Tanzania and Malawi made both these occasions more solemn. We thank everyone for their generous support and availability.

The Kola Fransalian Study House joyfully witnessed the gracious occasions of the perpetual profession on 21st October 2022 and ordination to the diaconate on 22nd October 2022 of six of our Brothers namely: Bro. Moses Okoth of East Africa Province, Bros. Adaikala Arul Raj, P. Arokia Marcel, Arun Raj, John Britto and Vimal Raj of the South-East India Province. The Final Profession was graced by the presence of Rev. Fr. Mathew



(Report by Bro. Ivan Mubbo)

NEW PARISH AT BOMBAMBILI

Mary, queen of the Rosary Parish in the Archdiocese of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania is the new parish entrusted to the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales for pastoral care. The new parish was created by bifurcating an outstation from the Mary Mother of Mercy parish, Mji Mpya Relini. The outstation was made as a parish on 6th January, 2022. by Rt. Rev. Jude Thaddaeus Ruwa'ichi, O.F.M.Cap. the Archbishop of Dar es Salaam, and promulgated it as a parish on 8th August, 2022. The parish was officially inaugurated on 6th October 2022. Rt. Rev. Stephano Lameck Musomba, OSA, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Dar Es Salaam officiated at the Eucharistic celebration. Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal was officially installed as the Parish Priest of the new Parish. The occasion was graced by Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the provincial superior of the MSFS Province of East Africa, MSFS confreres and many priests and Religious from Morogoro and Dar es Salaam.



There are 43 small Christian communities within the parish, and has over 850 families. The Catholic community is active and vibrant despite their daily struggles and challenges. We need to concentrate more on faith formation, family apostolate and implement pastoral strategies that attract and maintain the youth of the parish. The parish has huge potential for future growth, as new settlers are migrating to this place and the area is fast developing. Hearty congratulations to all Fransalian Fathers who developed Bomambili into a vibrant parish!

(Report by Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal MSFS)

HOLY PILGRIMAGE AT LUBUBU



The annual pilgrimage (Hija Takatifu) to the Salvation Hill at Our Lady of Grace Parish-Lububu was celebrated on 10th September 2022. The entire parish began the preparations with a novena prior to the Hija. On the actual day, around 600 pilgrims gathered and the procession with the Holy Eucharist began at 8.30 a.m. Fr. Patrick Musyimi MSFS the Parish Priest of Kikunde was the main celebrant of the solemn Holy Eucharist. He delivered a powerful sermon on the theme "The power of the cross"

This pilgrimage to the Salvation Hill was truly a blessing to all who participated in it and a public witnessing of faith by the people of Lububu. I express my profound gratitude to God for the success of the Hija. Congratulations to Fr. Ibrahim Mussajja, Fr. Gregory Mutisya and the leaders of Lububu parish who spared no efforts to make this spiritual event a successful one. The presence of many MSFS Fathers, religious Sisters, Friends of Fransalians and pilgrims from neighbouring parishes added solemnity and joy to the celebration.



(Report by Fr. Charles Ouma MSFS)

HOLY PILGRIMAGE AT KASHISHI



On 7th October every year is the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary. Kashishi Parish honours this day in a special way by having a Hija Takatifu (pilgrimage). A Novena precedes the Hija. The inauguration of this year's novena was graced by the presence of Fr. Leonard Musembi MSFS. On these nine days, seminars were conducted for the Christians. On the last day of the Novena, there was a whole-night long adoration, confessions and a healing session. It was a memorable event for the parishioners to spend the whole night with the Eucharistic Lord. Many were healed.

On the very day there was a procession from the church to the Mlima wa Bikira Maria, as it is commonly referred to, where the Eucharistic Celebration was held. Fr. Charles Ouma MSFS was the main celebrant of the day. Food was served for all who attended the Hija. We are grateful for the pioneers who came up with this idea.

(Report by Fr. Francis Kyule MSFS)



Blessing of Boys' Hostel and Sick Bay:

Rev. Fr. Yves Carron MSFS, the Assistant Superior General, blessed the newly constructed hostel for boys and the Sick Bay of St. Francis de Sales Secondary School, Iyolwa, on May 10, 2022. He presided over the Eucharistic celebration as well. The hostel can accommodate 400 boys. The Sick Bay can accommodate 16 students. We thank God for the new facilities in the school, we also thank our Congregation, benefactors and well-wishers who have contributed for the constructions. We thank in a special way "Engineers without Borders" from Germany for constructing the Sick Bay. Later the students entertained the guests with various cultural programmes.



Blessing of Girls' Hostel: The opening and blessing of dormitory for 'A level girls' at St. Francis de Sales secondary school, Iyolwa Tororo took place on September 10, 2022. The event started with the holy Mass officiated by Fr. Thomas Chozhithara at 6.30 a.m. After the Mass, the new girls' hostel was blessed by Fr. Thomas Chozhithara and opened by Mr. Wolfgang Sagmeister, Director of Schäflan Monastery Higher Secondary School in Germany, in the presence of Prof. Dr. Achim Goepferick and His wife Mary from the University of Regensburg, Germany. Fr. Thomas thanked the generous support of those people whose help



made this construction possible. The occasion was blessed by the presence of local leaders, and the MP of the area, Dr. Emmanuel Otala, who was the Guest of honour for the school day. He thanked the provincial and the administration of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, for bringing this school to Iyolwa village and he assured of the support of the Government. He said the MSFS by establishing this school in Iyolwa made Iyolwa

known in the whole of Uganda. The cultural programmes by the students added colour to the celebrations of the day.

(Report by Fr. Robert Raj Soosai MSFS)

BLESSING OF A NEW HOSTEL IN BISSIL



“Mzee wa kazi” alijenga tena”. (The great man of work has built again). People and the priests of the Kajiado deanery, with respect, address Fr. Augustine as “mzee wa kazi,” meaning– The great man of work. It was another great feast for Bissil Fransalians to have the S.F.S primary school hostel built within a few months after its beginning. The hostel is a two-storey building with restrooms, showers, and accommodation facilities for matrons. The hostel can accommodate 80 students. It is the result of the tireless efforts of Fr. Augustine. He obtained the required funds and supervised the construction. The hostel is a great blessing for the ‘Masai’ students who come from far away villages.

The hostel was funded by Mr. & Mrs. George Shinnars and Living Waters International. It was blessed by the provincial superior, Rev. Fr. Matthew Thazahathukunnel and opened by Mr. George Shinnars on October 05, 2022, in the presence of the students, teachers, and guests from Living Waters International, Mr.& Mrs. Brian and Karen Prunty, Eileen Hartl, and Emilyn. After the opening and blessing, the students welcomed and entertained the guests.

(Report by Fr. Kurian Kollapallil MSFS)

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF OSIA PARISH

St. Jude Catholic Parish, Osia, Uganda celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the establishment of the parish on November 13, 2022. Osia was a substation of Achilet Parish for half a century before its own formal beginnings as a parish in 1972. The first permanent church was built in 1944. The first parish priest of the newly formed parish of Osia was Fr. Vincent Castling MHM. But Fr. Leonard Wiedemayer who succeeded Fr. Vincent can be called as the real founder of Osia parish because it was he who built all the permanent structures in Osia as well as its sub parishes.

Prior to the Golden jubilee celebrations, a solemn declaration of the jubilee was done on August 28, 2022 and a Jubilee cross was blessed on that day. The cross was taken to every Catholic family in the parish and approximately 4,156 families were visited and blessed by the priests during the period of the following two and a half months.

On the jubilee day all the faithful of the parish joined together for a procession from the main road to the parish church, which began at 9. 00 a.m.





At 10.30 a.m. the Archbishop of Tororo Most Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Obbo AJ, arrived at the parish and the Holy Mass began at 11.00 am. The parish choir, which was constituted exclusively for this function sang melodious hymns for the liturgy. The Archbishop confirmed 896 candidates and blessed the marriage of one couple during the Holy Mass. The King of Ateso tribe, the representative of the King of Adhola tribe, 4 members of the Parliament were among the many dignitaries present during the celebration. In spite of being a Sunday many priests and religious, together with many MSFS confreres were present for the Holy Mass and celebration. Rev. Fr. Robert Soosai Raj, the Mission Coordinator of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in Uganda, represented Rev. Fr. Provincial Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel and conveyed the message from Fr. Provincial. The Holy Mass ended at 4.30 pm and thereafter all shared a fellowship meal.

(Report by Fr. Santhosh Paul MSFS)

BLESSING OF THE NEW CHURCH AT MAGOLE

It was a very joyful experience for the Faithful of the Magole Substation on 20.11.2022 on the occasion of the Feast of the Christ the King. Magole is one of the Substations of St. Francis de Sales



Parish, Dumila. The newly built Church of the outstation was opened and blessed by Most Rev. Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe SDS, the Bishop of Morogoro. "Presentation of Mary in the Temple" is the Feast day of Magole Substation. It was also the day of sacrament of Confirmation for the faithful, whereby 210 children and faithful received the sacrament of confirmation. It was a very colourful and spiritual event where large number of faithful participated. The Bishop was very pleased with construction of the Church congratulated the MSFS Congregation for their tireless work in contributing pastoral and other developments in the diocese. Many invited guests were present representing different denominations of religious groups and leaders of the local government. At the climax of the celebration all the faithful and



invited guests shared an 'Agape meal' which was well prepared. As a whole it was a day of joy and we thank God for His Providential care and love!



(Reported by Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil MSFS)

NEW ADDRESS

Fr. Chinnappan Arokiasamy MSFS
St. Louis Catholic Church
1306 Angela St., Castroville, Texas, 78009
Ph: +1830 346 2218

HOLIDAYS

Fr. Francis Indumuli:	November 01 to December 01
Fr. Michael Mwangi:	November 12 to December 12
Fr. Japhet Kirimi:	December 04 to 13
Fr. Kurian Kollapallil:	December 18 to January 10
Fr. Joby Marothomalayil:	December 18 to January 10
Fr. Tomichen Perumanoor:	December 19 to January 19

OBITUARY

Fr. Ganji Bala Joji Reddy (62) of Vizag Province passed away on 16.10.2022.

Fr. A. Francis Stephen (53), of Vizag Province passed away on 20.10.2022.

Mr. Antu Thomas (45), brother of Fr. Sunny Vettickal, passed away on 27.10.2022.

Mr. Stephen Mbogo (59), father of Bro. Lawrence Ssekeyie, passed away on 09.11.2022.

Fr. Tomy Thekkel (58) of Dibrugarh Province passed away on 11.11.2022.

Fr. K.T.Thomas (88) of Vizag Province passed away on 13.11.2022.

Maria Bobby (7), niece of Fr. Joby Marathomalayil, passed away on 19.11.2022.

Mrs. Margret Namaweje (32), the cousin of Fr. Joseph Kayanja, passed away on 22.11.2022.

May God grant them eternal life!



Once again wishing you all a grace-filled season of Advent, I remain.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

Mathew

Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS,
Provincial - East Africa Province



Salesian Thought

“God has not put you in this world because he has any great need of you, but only because he wants to shower on you his blessings of grace and glory. And for this he has given you intelligence to know him, memory to remember him, will to love him, imagination to visualize his marvellous deeds, eyes to see the beauty of his creation, tongue to praise him, besides many other faculties.”

