



# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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LIVE JESUS

Provincial Circular EAP-JP 2

August 25, 2023

My dear confreres,

## **Fraternal greetings to all of you!**

In the month of August, we celebrated the feast of St. John Mary Vianney, and the solemnity of the Assumption. Let us live committed to our priestly vocation as St. John Mary Vianney and be faithful disciples of Jesus as Mary was. Through this circular, I would like to bring to your attention the following information and news from East Africa Province!

## **Delegates to the General Chapter 2025 from East Africa Province**

1. Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS
2. Fr. Japhet Kirimi MSFS

**Substitute:** Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil MSFS

## **Approval of the Amended Articles of the MSFS Constitutions**

Rev. Fr. Superior General has informed us that the amended articles of the MSFS Constitutions are approved by Rome. They are already effective!

## **Appointments**

1. Fr. Johnson Pathiyil is appointed by the Superior General as the Rector of the MSFS Scholasticate at LCI with effect from August 1, 2023.
2. Fr. Moses Okoth is appointed as the animator of Catechists Course at LCI, Arusha from August 15 to November 15, 2023.
3. Fr. Edward Mgagi will follow the Formators's Course at LCI, Arusha starting from September 1, 2023.
4. Fr. Moses Okoth will do the work of publishing BARAKA, the half yearly news bulletin of MSFS in East Africa. Please contribute news items to him.

## **Ministry in the USA**

Fr. Kurian Kollapillil is getting ready to travel to the USA. He is now processing his documents. He will work in the diocese of Florida! All the blessings!

## **Welcome Back**

Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS has returned to work in the Province of East Africa after six years of service as the director of MDO, Rome. Thank you, Fr. Thomas!

## Sacerdotal Silver Jubilees

The following Fathers began the jubilee of their ordination to priesthood: **Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil** MSFS on 01.05.2023, **Fr. Sebastian Palakudy** MSFS on 08.07.2023 and **Fr. Sebastian Nirappel** MSFS on 31.07.2023. Please keep them in your special prayers.

## Home Leave

Fr. Sebastian Palakudy	July 12 to September 2
Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel	July 17-August 22
Fr. Jobin Karottukampadam	July 18-August 17
Fr. Richard Tamaro	July 20-August 22
Fr. Amal Neerolickal	July 22 to August 22
Fr. Lawrence Sebowa	August 1- August 26
Fr. Clement Sudhakar	August 1- September 2
Fr. Lubega Gonzaga	September 7 - October 7
Fr. Patrick Titus	September 8 to October 8
Fr. Denis Dindi	September 10-October 10
Fr. Pius Kochuparambil	September 25-October 25
Fr. Thomas Kochuparmbil	September 25-October 25

## Preparation for the Xth Provincial Congress

1. I would like to remind you to continue to pray for the success of our Provincial Congress. As requested, please add “and Xth Provincial Congress of East Africa” after the two places where “XXIst General Chapter” appears in the prayer for the General Chapter 2025.
2. Time table and the list of members of the various committees essential for the successful organizing of the Congress will be sent to you soon.
3. The next meeting of the Steering Committee will take place in the evening on 28.8.2023 at LCI, Arusha, Tanzania.
4. The venue of is St. Carolus Retreat Centre, Tengeru, Arusha. You will find it at <https://maps.app.goo.gl/m1SVoJgedAuzFAgg9>
5. The Congress will begin with the Holy Mass at 6.00 pm on September 2 and will end with lunch at 1.00 pm on September 6, 2023.
6. Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil MSFS, the Provincial Superior of South West Province will preach the Recollection and give the Key Note Address.
7. Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhy MSFS is the delegate of the Superior General for the Provincial Congress of East Africa.

## Visitation of Confreres

I could visit all the communities and most of the confreres personally. I thank God for each of you and thank each of you for your hardwork and hospitality! Besides, I thank Fr. Japhet Kirimi for accompanying me in Kenya and Uganda and Fr. Regi Pendanath in Tanzania.

## **Hearty Welcome to Our Guests**

1. Guests of Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS are visiting our missions in Uganda from the middle of August, 2023.
2. Guests of Fr. Stephen Gerald MSFS are visiting Kenya and Uganda from the third week of August, 2023

## **News from the Province**

### **1. Blessing of the Multipurpose Hall in Bisil, Kenya**

The long-cherished dream of building a multipurpose hall for the SFS children at Bisil was realized on 22nd July, 2023. The foundation stone was laid by Mr. George Shinnors, in October, 2022 and the construction started in December 2022. The hall was blessed by Rev. Fr. James Panthalanickel, Provincial on 22nd July and opened by Mr. Shashi Shah, one of the Trustees of late Mr. Chandubhai Jasani. The solemn ceremony was attended by the SFS fraternity, a few prominent people and Parents. In the ensuing celebration the SFS children showed their God given talents on the stage with cultural programs, songs, speech etc.

In his address to the children, Fr. Provincial gave a wonderful message and thanked the SFS fraternity for their commitment and dedication for the education of the poor and needy children in the area. In his message to the children Mr. Shah, the chief guest, stressed the need in bringing out the innate talents of the children, appreciated their all-round performance. The SFS fraternity and the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales are ever grateful to Late Chandubhai Jasani and George and Jane Shinnors, the co-sponsors towards the realization of this wonderful project.

Reported by Fr. Augustine Mangatt MSFS

### **2. Graduation of Class VII, Mji Mpya, Dar Es Salaam**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of August was yet another joyful and colourful day in the life of the MARY MOTHER OF MERCY PRE AND PRIMARY SCHOOL, Mji Mpya Relini. The 4<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony took place on that day in the school run by the Mary Mother of Compassion Parish in the Archdiocese of Dar Es Salaam, managed by MSFS confreres and run by the Holy Spirit Sisters.

The programme started with the Holy Eucharistic Celebration at 9 am presided over by Rev. Fr. James Panthalanickel MSFS, the Provincial of the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales, East Africa Province. It was a time of coming together before the Lord in thanksgiving for the blessing. The Holy Mass was followed by the graduation ceremony at the school grounds in which the Guest of Honour was Rev. Fr. James Panthalanickel. There were different cultural programs put up by the children like traditional and modern dances, skit, exhibitions, speech and other educational activities. 40 class seven students were awarded with the School Leaving Certificates and other prizes were given to teachers, children and the school staff. All events were witnessed by the parents and invited guests. After a sumptuous meal all were dispersed by 3 pm after wishing the

class seven students very best in the forthcoming National Examinations. May God Bless our School!

Reported by Fr. Pius Kochuparambil MSFS

### **3. Graduation of Class VII, Mkuza, Kibaha**

The Fransalian Mission school, Mkuza celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony of the seventh grade on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2023. It began with the Holy mass which was attended by the whole Fransalian community Mkuza, school board members, grade seven parents as well as invited guests. The chief guest, Rev.Fr. James Pathalanickal MSFS the Provincial Superior of East Africa Province presided over the Holy Mass con-celebrated by Rev. Frs. Nelson Vijayakumar, Patrick Titus, and Rakesh Ekka. A notable absentee was Fr. Japhet Kirimi, the manager as he was in Kenya for the funeral of his beloved sister.

After the Holy mass, the Chief guest was formally received by the Scout Group of the School which led him to the Flag hoisting ceremony. The cultural program was preceded by the inspection of the Exhibition by the Chief Guest. The school children from different grades entertained the guests with their captivating cultural programs. The class seven students were awarded their graduation certificates and those who performed academically well were offered special prizes. The event came to an end with a sumptuous meal provided for all those who attended the ceremony.

Reported by Sr. Maria Saumya, Fransalian School Head Teacher

### **4. Blessing of the Church in Kupalizwa, Maji ya Chai**

13<sup>th</sup> August 2023 was a day of blessing and jubilation for all the people of God in the Parish of Maji ya Chai and in particular the outstation of Kupalizwa Bikira Maria – Maji ya Chai as priests, religious brothers and sisters, government dignitaries and a large number of Parishioners, gathered together to experience the abundant blessings of the Lord, as His Lordship Prosper Baltazary Lyimo, the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Arusha graced the occasion of the blessing and opening of the newly completed church and the parish office. He officiated the Holy Eucharist which started at 10:00 am by blessing and opening of the Church. In his homily, the Bishop thanked the Provincial Superior of the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales and the entire family of Fransalians for taking up the mission in Maji ya Chai in the Archdiocese of Arusha. The church was a long-cherished dream of the Christians in the outstation and they worked hard towards the realization of this dream through their generous contributions and co-operation. Our sincere thanks to the well-wishers, benefactors and Christians for their generous contributions and hard work towards the completion of this noble task of building the house of the Lord. We appreciate and thank specially Fr. Johnson Kallidukkil MSFS, Fr. Nelson Anthony MSFS, late Fr. Mathew Chavely MSFS, Fr. Tomichan Perumanoor MSFS, Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil, Fr. Sebastian Palakudy MSFS, Fr. Japhet Kirimi MSFS, Fr. Jacob Thekkekara MSFS, Fr. Clement Sudhakar

MSFS and the entire community of Lumen Christi Institute who collaborated towards the realization of this project. May God bless them abundantly!

The blessing and opening ceremony was followed by a short gathering in the church Premises during which the children entertained the gathering with variety entertainment. This was followed by a family meal. May God bless you all!

Reported by Fr. Jacob Thekkekara MSFS

### **Obituary**

Please pray for the following and their near and dear ones:

1. Ms. Catherine Karendi (50), sister of Fr. Japhet Kirimi MSFS died on 05.08.2023.
2. Mr. Joseph Musao (29), cousin of Fr. Michael Mwangi MSFS died on 07.08.2023.
3. Ms. Nyanjura Christine (69), maternal grandmother of Bro. Anthony Kabagambe MSFS died on 8.8.2023.
4. Mr. Andrew Omari Tamaro (64), paternal uncle of Fr. Richard Tamaro MSFS died on 14.8.2023.
5. Fr. Joseph Pulickal MSFS of the Province of Vizag passed away on 15.08.2023.
6. Fr. Saji Tharayil MSFS of the Province of Guwahati passed away on 18.08.2023.

### **Conclusion**

As the Xth Ordinary Provincial Congress of East Africa is fast approaching, let us work together as a religious community to “continue the mission of Christ and His Church by living the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in a religious community as missionaries, lived and envisioned by our Founder (Cons. 7),” Fr. Peter Mermier. Let us read the signs of the time and encounter the Lord in the persons with whom we live and the daily events that we experience. Pope Francis in his homily at the opening of the synod of bishops on October 10, 2021 says, “Let us not miss out on the grace-filled opportunities born of encounter, listening and discernment. In the joyful conviction that, even as we seek the Lord, He always comes with His love to meet us first.” Let us encounter the same Lord present in our communities and ministries.

United in prayers,

*James*

Fr. James Panthalanickel MSFS  
Provincial Superior  
East Africa Province

