



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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LIVE JESUS

Provincial Circular EAP – JP 4

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**My dear confreres,
Fraternal greetings to all of you!**

In October we honoured the Blessed Virgin Mary by praying the Rosary daily. Mary stands as an example of Christian discipleship and fidelity to our religious consecration. She remained faithful to her *fiat* even when she faced crises in her faith. We are invited to remain faithful even when we face trials and difficulties in our consecrated life. On October 24, we celebrated the Foundation Day of our beloved Congregation. Mgr. Joseph Ray exhorted the first Missioners to imbue the spirit of St. Francis de Sales. On the same day, Fr. Mermier expressed his joy in being able to live in a community of Brothers. Common living was part of our congregation from the very beginning. Does community life become a source of trouble for us? May Mary and Mermier be our intercessors and examples in facing such crises!

In November we remember and pray for all the diseased. May our prayer for the diseased help us realize that we are in communion not only with our diseased confreres, family members near and dear ones but also all the human beings living and diseased!

Proposals from the Buwooya Committee

A report, of the committee which studied the condition of Buwooya Seminary, was presented to the Provincial Council Meeting held on October 19-20, 2023. According to it, the following changes in the available facilities were proposed: Add a blackboard in the TV hall which can be used as a class room; remove the partition of the present class rooms to make it a single bigger class room; add cupboards in the dormitories; create one more dormitory by removing the partition between the present library and Infirmary and add a few more toilets; and create a passage to the toilets from the dormitory by converting one of the toilets to be the passage. The repair needs to begin only during the long vacation in the seminary since the immediate needs are already dealt with by the seminary, although making cupboards could start earlier.

Courtesy Visits to the Bishops

The provincial superior could make courtesy visits to most of the bishops of the dioceses where we engage in our ministries. Accordingly, meetings were held with the bishops of Morogoro, Dar es Salaam, Arusha, Tabora and Kahama in Tanzania; bishops of Meru and Machakose in Kenya; and bishops of Jinja and Lughazi in Uganda. Meetings with the bishops of Dodoma, Ngong and Tororo could not be held as planned. I appreciate and thank the efforts made by the confreres in arranging the meetings.

Of special importance was the meeting held with the new bishop of Kahama on October 27,2023. The meeting was very cordial and the bishop likes to make a new contract with the Fransalians. Details are being worked out. He likes to collaborate with the Fransalians and avoid all competitions between the diocese and the missionaries.

New Missions in Nakuru and Eldoret, Kenya

Fransalians like to open its missionary activities in Nakuru and Eldoret. In view of that, meetings were held between the bishop of Nakuru and the Fransalians on October 3 and 9, 2023. The bishop of Nakuru has offered a non-functional Secondary school (St. Luke's Secondary School) to be converted into a Catechetical Centre. There is an adjacent substation, which the bishop likes to develop into a parish in the future. We have requested that this substation be entrusted to the MSFS. The council meeting held on October 19-20,2023 was in favour of taking up the mission. Negotiations are going on between the diocese and the Fransalians. Let us pray that everything goes well.

A meeting was held with the bishop of Eldoret in view of opening our ministry in his diocese. The meeting was very cordial and the bishop is ready to give us a parish when we are ready with priests. Besides, he has given his permission to the Fransalians to acquire a plot of land in Eldoret. Fr. Augustine Mangattu and Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil will do the necessary things for buying land in Eldoret.

Centenary of the Lububu Parish

Our first mission in Africa, the parish of Lububu will be celebrating its centenary as a parish in 2025. This is a landmark in the history of the MSFS. Suggestions came up in the council meeting for a meaningful celebration of the event. Accordingly, a committee at the level of the province may be formed, of which the councillor in charge of mission will be the chairman, and the chairman of the apostolic community of TAKA, the parish priest of Lubugu, the assistant parish priest of Lububu and the parish priest of Bukene will be the members. Another committee has to be formed at the parish level at the initiative of the parish priest of Lububu. The council also suggested that the cardinal, the archbishop emeritus and some other dignitaries could be invited for the programs. The celebrations could be held along with the annual Hija and the Feast. A history book of Lububu Parish could be released on that day.

Installation of New Superiors

Fr. Sebastian Palakudy MSFS assumed the office of the Superior and Director of Fransalian Spirituality Centre, Ndagani, Kenya on October 10, 2023.

Fr. Richard Tamaro MSFS assumed the office of the Superior and Rector of the SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda, Morogoro on October 27, 2023. I thank Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS for officially delegating the provincial superior during the ceremony.

Fr. Ssentamu Ruthital MSFS assumed the office as the Acting Superior and Rector of SFS Seminary, Buwooya, Uganda on November 3, 2023. He will act on behalf of the appointing authority. According to the revised Constitutions, "to be Superiors of Delegations and Local Community, Rectors of Minor Seminaries one should have completed 30 years of age and 5 years in the perpetual profession." I thank Fr. Sunny Vettickal MSFS for officially delegating the Provincial Superior for the installation ceremony.

We wish them all the blessings as they assume their new tasks.

Ministry in the US

Fr. Robert Soosai Raj MSFS will substitute a priest for one month at the Blessed Sacrament Catholic Parish, Diocese of Kalamazoo, Michigan, US in the month of January 2024. Fr. Robert will go to the US towards the end of December and return to Uganda towards the end of January 2024.

Morogoro Apostolic Community

With the transfers of some of the confreres, there had to be new leaders for the Apostolic Community in Morogoro. In their meeting held on 30.10.2023, Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS is elected as the convenor and Fr. Simon Peter Nabende MSFS is elected as the secretary.

Appointments

1. Fr. Jobin Karotukampadathil MSFS is appointed to do pastoral ministry in the diocese of Lucera Troia in Italy. He will move to the Provincial House community as soon as he finishes the data collection for the required Paper in order to get his Master's Degree in Education from IGNOU.
2. Bro. Innocent Munshi MSFS is appointed to Katani Community to continue with his regency there with effect from December 15, 2023.
3. Besides, his responsibilities in Kola, Morogoro, Fr. Thomas Chozhithara is appointed as the project coordinator of Buwooya Primary School. He will raise funds for the construction of Buwooya Primary School through the benefactors belonging to *Maisha Pamoja* in Germany and *Neema* in Switzerland. Fr. Robert Soosairaj will function as the Project manager in Buwooya.
4. Fr. Sunny Vettickal MSFS is appointed as the permanent delegate of the provincial. He is also appointed as the coordinator of our missions in Uganda.

[Please note the following carefully. According to the amended constitutions 233. *“Once the provincial administration is in place, in consultation with his council, the Provincial nominates one of his councillors, other than the Admonitor as his permanent delegate who will act on his behalf, in case of his absence or prolonged incapacity.”*

Before the amendment came into effect, the constitutions 233 read as follows: *“If the Provincial is unable to carry out his duties owing to absence or prolonged incapacity, he is to appoint a Vicar from among the members of his Council.”*

The amended General Directory further explains the role of the permanent delegate and the admonitor:

GD 253, iii. Says: *“The permanent delegate of the Provincial/Vice-Provincial will act only in the absence or incapacity of the Provincial/Vice-Provincial in terms of those delegated functions specified by the Provincial/Vice-Provincial and made known to the province.”*

GD 253, iv. says: *Admonitor to the Provincial/Vice-Provincial has only an internal function of admonishing the Provincial/Vice-Provincial for grave reasons and informing the Superior General with the prior information to the Provincial/Vice-Provincial if a need arises.*

According to the amended articles, there is no Provincial Vicar in the MSFS Congregation. Some even wrongly considered the Admonitor as the Assistant Provincial. There is no Vicar and no Assistant Provincial according to the constitutions of the MSFS.]

Studies in Religious Formation

Fr. Ssentamu Ruthitical MSFS and Fr. Moses Okoth MSFS are doing an online two-year course on Formation, Canon Law and Consecrated Life organized by the Dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, Rome. We wish them all the blessings in their studies.

Committees Created

The following confreres are assigned to various committees. In case of need the Provincial Superior will assign other competent members to the committees.

1. Stewardship committee

Provincial Bursar (Convenor), Fr. Augustine Mangattu, Fr. Sunny Vettickal

2. Land Committee for Each Country:

The committee will advise the provincial regarding the buying and sale of land. Wherever registration of the land is not yet done, the individual community will take responsibility to do it.

Tanzania: Fr. Tomychan Perumanoor (convenor), Fr. Lawrence Sebowa, Provincial Superior, Provincial Bursar

Kenya: Fr. Augustine Mangatt (convenor), Fr. Joby Maruthomalayail, Provincial Superior, Provincial Bursar

Uganda: Fr. Sunny Vettickal (Convenor) Fr. Robert Soosai Raj, Provincial Superior, Provincial Bursar

3. Education Core Committee

Fr. Sunny Vettickal (Convenor), Fr. Richard Tamaro, Fr. Japhet Kirimi, Fr. Amal Neerolickal, Provincial Superior, Provincial Bursar

4. Pastoral Committee

Fr. A Sebastian (Convenor), Fr. Sunny Mattathil, Fr. Santhosh Paul, Fr. Charles Ouma

5. Parish Mission Preaching (PMP)

Fr. Innocent Ngowi (Convenor), Fr. Francis Indumuli, Fr. Sebastian Palakudy, Fr. Michael Mwangi

6. The remaining committees/fora will be created in the near future.

Care-Takers of Our Lands

The following confreres will take care of the land mentioned below:

Dodoma: Fr. Antonysamy Sebastian MSFS

Chanika, Dar es Salaam: Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal MSFS

Mikundi, Morogoro: Provincial Bursar

Kilimanjaro, Morogoro: Provincial Bursar

Lukobe, Morogoro, 2 plots of land: Fr. Simon Nabende MSFS

Turiani, Morogoro: Provincial Bursar

Osia, Uganda: Fr. Santhosh Paul MSFS

Entebbe, Uganda: Fr. Ssentamu Ruthitical MSFS

Land in Arusha

Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuattil MSFS is entrusted with the task of looking for a plot of land for the province in Arusha since it is the centre of East Africa Province.

News from the Province

1. Visit of the Benefactors of Simba Clay

Mr. Rainer, Mrs. Gaby and their children recently paid a visit to the Simba Clay project for the blind in Ipuli, Tabora. We congratulate and thank them for their constant support and their commitment to the needy.

2. Graduation in SFS Mission Schools, Ipuli

Graduation of class seven students was held on September 15, 2023 at SFS Mission Schools, Ipuli. We congratulate and thank Fr. Joseph Poikunnel, Fr. Martin Pendanath, Bro. Joseph Kapungu, Brothers, Sisters and the teachers who organized the program.

3. Hija and Feast in Lububu

Annual Pilgrimage to the Salvation Hill and the Feast of Lububu parish was held on September 16 and 17 respectively with the traditional pomp and enthusiasm. Many people actively participated in the pilgrimage and feast. We congratulate and thank Fr. Charles Ouma, Fr. Avil Vegas, Sisters and the leaders who worked hard in organizing the events prayerfully.

4. Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of the Bishop of Morogoro

Rt. Rev. Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe SDS celebrated the silver jubilee of his ordination to priesthood on September 27, 2023. Many Bishops, Priests, Sisters, Brothers, leaders of the government, guests and people were present for the event. We congratulate his Lordship on his silver jubilee and thank him for the cooperation and appreciation he has for us for the pastoral and missionary activities we do in his diocese.

5. Parish Feast of Chera and Laying of the Cornerstone for the New Presbytery

On October 1, 2023, the cornerstone for a new presbytery was officially laid. The new presbytery is sponsored by the faithful of Chera. The foundation for the building is already complete. There was also a fund-raising campaign for the same purpose during the parish feast of St. Michael, the patron saint of Chera Parish. We congratulate and thank Fr. Francis Kallikattu, Fr. Michael Mwangi, Sisters and the leaders for organizing the events.

6. Admission to Postulancy

Nine Aspirants were formally admitted to Postulancy at SFS Seminary, Buwooya by Fr. Provincial on October 6, 2023 during a Eucharistic celebration. The occasion was graced by most of the provincial councillors and the Formators in Buwooya. We congratulate and thank Fr. Amal Neerolickal, Fr.

Ssentamu Ruthital, Bro. Lawrence Ssekayi and Bro. Charles Ariinde who were instrumental in their formation.

7. Blessing of the Ground for the Primary School at Buwooya

The site for building a new primary school at Buwooya was blessed on October 6, 2023. Besides, the Fathers and Brothers, guests from Switzerland were present for the occasion.

8. Welcome to Our Guests from Switzerland

Led by Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS, some guests who are also part of NEEMA visited our missions in Uganda in the month of October. Hearty welcome to them!

9. Annual School Day and Blessing of the New Community House, Iyolwa

On October 7, the new community house in Iyolwa, Uganda was blessed and opened. The annual school day was also held on that day at SFS Secondary School, Iyolwa. We thank God for Fr. Robert Soosai Raj, Fr. Gerald Mbirizi, Bros. Richard Woniala, Julius Onaga, Fr. Joseph Kayanja, the former regents and all those who worked behind the successful completion of the house and the organization of the school day. In a special way, we thank Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS and all the benefactors who contributed to the building of the community house and were part of the development of our school at Iyolwa. We congratulate and thank all the guests and the benefactors who graced the occasion.

10. Prayer Request

Please keep Michael Owen, an aspirant from Buwooya Seminary, Uganda who underwent a surgery on October 8, 2023.

11. Hija in Kashishi

On October 7, 2023, a pilgrimage was organized in Kashishi, Tabora where around 1700 pilgrims participated. We congratulate and thank the parish priest, his assistant and the leaders who organized the event.

12. Feast of WAWATA, Maji ya Chai

The feast of WAWATA (Catholic Women) at the level of the diocese of Arusha was celebrated in Maji ya Chai Parish on October 15. We congratulate and thank the parish priest and the leaders for organizing the event.

13. The Sacrament of Confirmation in Lububu Parish

During the Eucharistic Celebration on October 15, 2023, Archbishop Paul Ruzoka of Tabora Diocese administered the sacrament of confirmation to 258 Catholics in the parish of Lububu. We congratulate and thank Fr. Charles Ouma, Fr. Avil Vegas, Sisters and the leaders who organized the event.

14. Perpetual Profession and Diaconate

On October 20, Bros. Abraham Mutoro, Ivan Mubbo, Godwin Nanalo and Joseph Mwasia made their Perpetual Vows at Fransalian House, Kola, Morogoro in front of the Provincial superior of East Africa, Rector of Kola, two Fathers from SA Region, East Africa Provincial Administration and many other Fathers, Brothers, Sisters and invited guests. On the following day (October 21, 2023), these Brothers were ordained deacons along with other seminarians by Rt. Rev. Salutaris Libena, the bishop of

Ifakara at the Salvatorian Institute Chapel in the presence of major superiors, Fathers, Sisters and guests.

15. Welcome to the MSFS Fathers from SA Region

We have been blessed with the visits of two Fathers from the Southern African Region, namely, Fr. Shiju Poomaram MSFS one of the Regional Councillors of SA Region and Fr. Saju Thalayinakandathil MSFS. They were present for the Perpetual Vows and the diaconate of our Brothers as Bros. Abraham Mutoro and Ivan Mubbo belong to the SA Region. Besides, the Fathers had the opportunity to visit some of our communities in Kenya and Tanzania.

16. Beginning of the New Academic Year in Kola

All our theologians returned to Kola, Morogoro on October 7. After a hectic period of annual retreat and celebrations of various kind, they started their classes on October 23, 2023. Celebrations included the First Mass of the new priests for Malawi, Perpetual profession, Diaconate, official welcome to the new Rector Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS and the new Provincial Administration, Send-off to the former Rector Fr. Johnson Pathiyil MSFS and Fr. Sebastian Palakudy MSFS. Their classes began on October 23, 2023. We congratulate and thank Fr. Thomas Chozhithara and Brothers for organizing the events.

17. Ordination of Fr. Toussaint MSFS

Most Rev. Martin Waingue Bani, Bishop of Doba conferred the order of priesthood upon Dn. Toussaint Ndelaldongar MSFS on October 21, 2023. Fr. Toussaint did his regency at Hekima School, LCI, Arusha in 2018-2019. We congratulate Fr. Toussaint and wish him a fruitful priestly ministry in Chad-Cameroon.

18. Sacrament of Confirmation in Bukene and the Blessing of Gegeshi Substation Church

On October 28, 2023, His Grace, Archbishop Paul Ruzoka and the co-adjutor archbishop Protase Cardinal Rugambwa together administered the sacrament of confirmation to 193 faithful from the parish of St. Charles Lwanga and his Companions parish at Bukene.

On the following day, the new church at Gegeshi substation of Bukene was blessed and opened by Fr. Provincial. On the same day 43 received Baptism, 10 received First Communion and one couple received the Sacrament of Matrimony. The choir of our Mji Mpya parish led the hymns on both the occasions. We congratulate and thank Fr. Siljo Aupadan, Fr. Leonard Musembi, Sisters and the leaders for organizing the events.

19. Graduation in the Junior Seminary

On October 14, 2023, the Junior seminary celebrated the graduation of 58 Form-Four students. The program was attended by the Fathers from the Apostolic Community, parents, teachers, leaders of the government, guests and students. We congratulate and thank Fr. Zachariah Burofero and Fr. Tomychan Perumanoor for organizing the event.

20. Annual School Day Celebrations at Bombambili

The Annual School Day in Bombambili was celebrated on November 4, 2023. The pre-primary II pupils graduated on that day. Guests from Switzerland graced the occasion. We congratulate and thank Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal, Fr. Cement Sudhakar, Sisters, teachers and leaders for organizing the celebrations.

21. Welcome to Our Guests from Switzerland

Mr. Werner Muller, his wife Hildegard Muller and three other guests from Switzerland visited some of our missions in Tanzania and Kenya in the month of November. They attended the annual School Day celebrations in Bombambili. Hearty welcome to them.

New Addresses and Phone Numbers

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Obituary

Please pray for the departed souls of the following and their near and dear ones:

1. Fr. Narisetty Francis Xavier of Visakhapatnam Province who died on 10.09.2023
2. Mr. Joy Mathew, the first cousin of Fr. Jose Eriyanickal who died on 18.09.2023
3. Mrs. Tessy Jose Illickal, younger sister of Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil who died on 18.09.2023
4. Fr. Godfrey Daudi Temba ALCP/OSS who died on 20.09.2023
5. Fr. Novatus Naachochariwa Mbuya ALCP/OSS who died on 22.09.2023.
6. Martin Murithi John (36), brother of Dennis an aspirant at Buwooya, Uganda who died on 29.09.23
7. Mother of Sister Shaji FCC, working in Fransalian Mission School, Mkuza who died on 05.10.2023
8. Mr. Bagambe Kinyata, the paternal uncle of Bro. Victor Muhangi who died on 16.10.2023
9. Fr. Lucien Gurliat MSFS of Franco-Swiss Province who died on 27.10.2023
10. Ms. Anna (91), mother of Sr. Ruby FCC working in the Junior Seminary, Morogoro who died on 07.11.2023

Salesian Thought

We may be engaged in many things. Our ministries keep us busy and fully occupied. In the midst of all our daily chores, we should focus on Christ. Our life has relevance only in so far as it is able to radiate the love and compassion of Christ. Let our eyes be turned towards Christ as our patron St. Francis de Sales exhorts: "Even though we commit many faults through human weakness, we should

not become upset. While detesting the fact that we have offended God, we can still experience a certain joy in humility and a kind of delight in our miseries. In the midst of the occupations of each day, see to it that you do not become too absorbed in material things. Keep a tight grasp of Christ's hand. Whenever you find yourself with more than you can handle, do not panic, but look to Christ."

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

James

Father James Panthalanickel MSFS
Provincial – MSFS East Africa

