


		<h2 style="text-align: center;">MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fransalians - Province of East Africa</b>          Provincial House P. O. Box 12 Morogoro Tanzania          Tel: +255 689 882 711; +255 624 027 880  <a href="http://www.msfs-eastafrica.com">www.msfs-eastafrica.com</a>          e-mail: <a href="mailto:provincialeastafricansfs@gmail.com">provincialeastafricansfs@gmail.com</a></p>	
<b>Provincial Circular EAP – MT.41</b>		<b>Feb 22, 2023</b>	

**My dear Confreres!**

I wish you all a grace-filled season of Lent! May this season be a time of personal and community renewal, guided by the life and message of Christ, who suffered, died and rose for our salvation!

### A LENTEN PRAYER

God, our heavenly Father, look upon me and hear my prayer during this holy Season of Lent. By the good works You inspire, help me to discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit. Without You I can do nothing.

Through Your Spirit help me to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your will. Teach me to find new life through penance. Protect me from sin, and help me live by Your commandment of love.

God of love, bring me back to You. Send Your Spirit to make me strong in faith and active in good works. May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your love, and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.

Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish me with Your Word of life and make me one with You in love and prayer. Fill my heart with Your love and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness. Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Father, our source of life, I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand; let me walk more readily in Your ways. Guide me in Your gentle mercy, for left to myself I cannot do Your Will.

Father of love, source of all blessings, help me to pass from my old life of sin to the new life of grace. Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom. I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever. Amen

(Ref: [www.atonementfriars.org](http://www.atonementfriars.org))

## XXI GENERAL CHAPTER

Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, the Superior General has convoked the XXI Ordinary General Chapter from February 1 to 14, 2025, to be held at Stella Maris, Vishakhapatnam, India.

### THEME: "I CHOSE YOU" (JOHN 15:16): MSFS, LIVE YOUR CHARISM

"Our charism is 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".

The prayer in preparation for the General Chapter is to be said every day in all our communities.

## YEAR OF FRANSALIAN YOUTH

Very Rev. Fr. Superior General has declared an year as the Year of Fransalian Youth starting from April 16, 2023 (Divine Mercy Sunday) to March 31, 2024 (Easter Sunday). Fr. J. Stephen, General Secretary for Social Apostolates and Innovative Ministries will work with Youth Coordinators of all the Provinces to celebrate the Year with various animation programs for the Youth.

## SCHEDULE OF VISITATION OF VERY REV. FR. SUPERIOR GENERAL TO KENYA AND UGANDA

Date	Programme	Accommodation
18.03.2023	Blessing of Fransalian Mission School, Bombambili	Mji Mpya
19.03.2023	Bissil	Katani
20.03.2023	Katani and Mlolongo	Mlolongo
21.03.2023	Travel to Ndagani	Ndagani
22.03.2023	Chera; Travel back to Mlolongo	Mlolongo
23.03.2023	Travel to Buwooya	Buwooya
24.03.2023	Buwooya, Kalagala and Kalamira	Kalamira
25.03.2023	Osia and Agururu	Osia
26.03.2023	Iyolwa	Osia
27.03.2023	Travel back to Bissil/Arusha	Bissil/Arusha

## NEW PROVINCIAL OF SOUTH EAST INDIA

**Fr. Patrick Jayaraj Antony** is appointed as the new Provincial of South East India Province with effect from January 24, 2023. The Province of East Africa assures its prayerful support in his ministry of leadership. Hearty Congratulations and best wishes!

## GRATITUDE

The Province of East Africa expresses its deep gratitude to **Fr. Ignaci Muthu**, the outgoing Provincial of South East India Province for his generous cooperation with and support to our Province during the last six years. We remember him with deep gratitude for taking the initiative to open Missions in Malawi. May God bless his future undertakings!

## UPCOMING PROGRAMMES IN THE PROVINCE

Date	Programme	Venue
18.03.2023	Blessing of Bombambili School (Tentative date)	Bombambili
21.04.2023	Silver Jubilee of MSFS Study House at Kola and Sacerdotal Jubilee of Frs. Wilson Packiam and Mathew Thazhathukunnel	MSFS Study House, Kola
29 <sup>th</sup> May evening to 3 <sup>rd</sup> June noon	Retreat I	LCI
12 <sup>th</sup> June evening to 17 <sup>th</sup> June noon	Retreat II	Kenya

## SILVER JUBILEE OF KENYA MISSION

“The Almighty has done great things for me and Holy is His name” (Lk 1:49). The life-giving presence and growth of the Church, in the modern world through various missionary Congregations proclaim the gracious presence of God amidst us. In the year 1997, MSFS accepted the invitation of the Bishop of the Diocese of Meru in Kenya and began its pastoral services in Chera Sub-station of Chuka parish. This Mission was elevated to be an independent parish in 1998 and thus it became the first mission of Fransalians in Kenya. Later, Fransalians’ presence has been extended to other Dioceses in Kenya such as Machakos and Ngong.



On January 7, 2023, with great jubilation and joy Fransalians and Christians of Chera parish gathered together to celebrate the silver jubilee of Fransalian presence in Kenya as well as that of the Chera Parish. The celebration began with the blessing of Jubilee memorial Grotto at Chera parish. Rt. Rev. Salesius Mugambi, the Bishop of Meru blessed the Grotto of Our Lady. The solemn Holy Eucharist was presided over by Bishop Salesius Mugambi. He thanked the Fransalians



for developing Chera Mission and for all the other ministries of Fransalians in Meru Diocese and in Kenya. The Parish choir, PMC and the youth made the occasion sweet by their melodious hymns during the Mass. The occasion was graced by the presence of the member of parliament for the area, chiefs, county leaders and several invited dignitaries. Many priests and Religious, together with Fransalian confreres were present for the Holy Mass. Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the MSFS Provincial of East Africa appreciated and thanked the Bishop of Meru for his support and cooperation in the various apostolates undertaken by the Fransalian confreres. The priests and the

laity who served the parish during the past were presented with mementoes in appreciation for their hard work and dedication to the parish. The choir and the PMC entertained the guests. Thereafter, we had a family agape. God bless the Fransalian Missions in Kenya and the Christians of Chera parish.



(Report by Fr. Michael Mwangi MSFS)

### FRANSALIAN PASTORAL CENTRE, NDAGANI

Fransalian Pastoral Centre at Ndagani was formally blessed and inaugurated by His Lordship Rt. Rev. Salesius Mugambi, the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Meru on January 7, 2023. He distributed certificates to nine catechists who had completed the first course at the centre. The centre offers various courses on Catechism of the Catholic Church, Family Apostolate, Seminars on Marriage preparation, seminars and counselling for couples and a three month long catechetical training. Hearty congratulations to Fr. Innocent Ngowi and Fr. Aristides Danda for their initiatives to establish and run the centre.



## BLESSING OF IYOLWA PARISH CHURCH



“My house shall be called a house of Prayer for all Peoples” (Isaiah 56:7). January 21, 2023, will always remain a historical date in the minds of the Parishioners of Iyolwa, as on that day they had gathered together to witness the official opening, blessing, consecration and dedication of the newly constructed St. Francis de Sales Parish Church at Iyolwa in the Archdiocese of Tororo. On the same day, 705 candidates were confirmed by His Grace Most Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Obbo, A.J., the

Archbishop of Tororo.

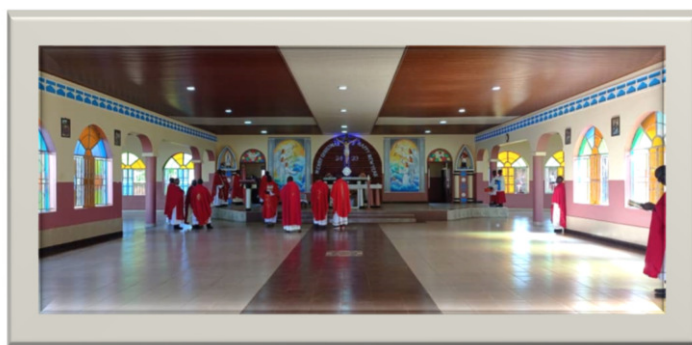


The Provincial Superior of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazahathukunnel, the diocesan priests, MSFS Confreres in Uganda, Religious men & women and the area M.P Dr. Emmanuel Otaala, a good number of leaders of various denominations and laity from Iyolwa and nearby parishes were among guests who graced the occasion.



The Construction of this newly consecrated Church was begun by Rev. Fr. Thomas Chozhithara in the year 2015 and was completed by Rev. Fr. Robert Raj in the year 2020.

We are thankful to all our generous benefactors who helped in the construction of the Church. We specially thank the Parish of Urndorf, Maisha Pamoja, and the Mission Development Office of the MSFS in Rome, as well as the generous parishioners of Iyolwa. Our sincere thanks for their kind contributions. May God bless their families.



The whole ceremony ended with a family meal provided by the parish community and shared by more than 3,500 persons.

Hearty congratulations to the East Africa Province of the MSFS, especially Frs. Thomas Chozhithara and Robert Raj, who tirelessly worked for the realization of this project. May God bless all of us!

(Report by Fr. Joseph Mary Kayanja MSFS)



## BLESSING OF THE COMMUNITY HOUSE AT LCI

21st January, 2023 would remain in the annals of Lumen Christi Institute Arusha as a memorable one, as that day marked multiple celebrations like the long-awaited blessing of a new community house, Institute Day of LCI and the feast of St. Francis de Sales, it's heavenly Patron. Rev. Fr. Peddy Castelino SVD, the delegate of Most Rev. Isaac Amani, the Archbishop of Arusha, presided over the solemn Eucharistic celebration at 9:00 am in the presence of many MSFS confreres from different parts of East-Africa, various invitees from the deanery including Fathers, Brothers, Sisters, the contractors, employees and the domestic staff of LCI. The Holy Mass was solemnized by the melodious singing of the scholastics. In an inspiring homily preached by Fr. Peddy in which he depicted St. Francis de Sales as a model of perseverance and a doer of God's will in all circumstances. Later, all gathered in front of the new community house for its blessing. Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil MSFS, the Superior and Director of LCI welcomed and thanked everyone who had worked tirelessly for the completion of the building. He placed on record the appreciation and gratitude of the MSFS to the benefactors and friends from St. Damien Parish, Ocean City, New Jersey, USA and the Mission Development Office of the MSFS in Rome and all the well-wishers who had helped LCI in fulfilling the dream of a new community house by their support and help. Fr. Peddy along with Fr. Thomas Kochalu, unveiled the plaque and transferred the Holy Sacrament to the tabernacle in the chapel of the new community house. It was followed by the programmes of the



Institute Day in the institute hall and a meal at the institute refectory. LCI community is indeed grateful to God Almighty for his blessings and to all the invitees for gracing the occasion with their presence. We are reminded of the famous quote "Be thankful for what you have; you'll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don't have, you will never, ever have enough". Hearty congratulations to LCI community!

(Report by Fr. Ajish Cheeramban MSFS)



## BLESSING OF THE MARIAN GROTTO AT KASHISHI

On 24th January, the entire parish family of St. Francis de Sales of Kashishi joyfully celebrated the Feast of St. Francis de Sales, the patron of the Parish. His Grace Most Rev. Paul Ruzoka, the Archbishop of Tabora blessed the newly constructed Marian Grotto in the parish premises. During the Holy Eucharistic celebration, he confirmed 163 children and adults. His Grace appreciated the ministry of Fransalians in Kashishi parish. Hearty congratulations to the entire parish team!



(Report by Fr. Francis Kyule MSFS)



## BLESSING OF THE GROTTO OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES AT LUKOBE



It was a day of joy and happiness for the parishioners of St. Francis de Sales parish at Lukobe. They gathered together as a family to celebrate the Feast of its patron on 28th January, 2023. Rev Fr. Benjamin Mkuchu, the Dean of the town Deanery was the delegate of the Bishop of Morogoro. He blessed the newly constructed Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes and later presided over the Holy Eucharistic celebration. During the homily the Dean spoke about St Francis de sales as a saint of our

times who was a great example of humility and meekness. His zeal for souls and his pastoral spirit as a Bishop and Doctor of the Church was highlighted.

The newly elected parish leaders were installed during the Holy Mass. After the Holy Mass a short history of the parish was read out. Rev Fr. Benjamin Mkuchu appreciated the apostolates and the all-round development in Lukobe parish ever since the Fransalians took it up in November 2021. A large number of priests, Religious and the parishioners had gathered for the feast day celebration which ended with a family meal. Hearty congratulations to the entire Parish team!



(Report by Fr. Sunny Mattathil MSFS)

## NEW PARISH OFFICE BUILDING AT MKUZA



The new office building of St. Francis de sales parish at Mkuza called “JENGO LA FAMILIA TAKATIFU”, (Holy Family), was blessed and opened on 29th January 2023 by his Lordship Henry Mchamungu, the Auxiliary Bishop of Dar es Salaam. The foundation stone of office building was blessed by his Grace Jude Thaddaeus Ruwa'ichi, OFM Cap, the Archbishop of Dar es

Salaam, on 1st of October 2020 and construction started on 5th May 2021. The new office building has all the needed offices like that of the Parish Priest, the Assistant, the Catechist, the sister in charge of Holy Childhood, the Parish executive committee, secretary, a reception room,





a Parish Development office and in the basement a room for Prayer meetings and store rooms). We are very much thankful to God for his blessings and graces and for enabling us to complete this new office building of the parish. We are also very much thankful to His Grace Rt.Rev. Jude Thaddaeus Ruwa'ichi, OFM Cap, the Archbishop of Dar es Salaam for his financial support and blessings.

The whole Christian community of Mkuza is thankful to Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the Provincial superior of Fransalians for East Africa for his support and guidance during this work. Big thanks and gratitude to Rev.Fr. Pius Kochuparampil, a good visionary and a missionary, for having completed all the necessary formalities with the civil authorities and starting the construction works. The office building is named as (HOLY FAMILY) “JENGO LA FAMILIA TAKATIFU” as a symbol of gratitude and blessings to all our Christian families and donors. Hearty congratulations to the entire parish team!

(Report by Fr. Nelson Vijayakumar MSFS)



### NEW KINDERGARTEN AT KIKUNDE



February 04, 2023 was a joyous day for the parishioners of Kikunde as they gathered for the blessing and opening of a new Kindergarten in the parish premises. Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS blessed the Kindergarten and it was officially opened by Mr. Toni Zender, Head of

Africa section at Aid to the Church in Need, Germany. Mr. Zender appreciated Fransalians for their various apostolates particularly primary evangelization and education of the poor people in remote areas. The Chairman of the parish thanked Fransalians for bringing quality education to Kikunde. There are 30 students in the Kindergarten which had already been started in the middle of January 2023. We thank Caritas Graz,

benefactors from Austria and the parishioners of Kikunde for their generous support to complete the Kindergarten. Hearty congratulations to the entire parish team!



(Report by Fr. Patrick Musyimi MSFS)





## FORUM MEETINGS

The annual meetings of the various Forums in the Province took place on February 01 and 02, 2023 at LCI.

**Superiors' Forum Meeting:** The forum discussed the Call of the General Chapter concerning consecrated life in community and its implementations at various levels in the province. The confreres are urged to live disciplined community life respecting one another and fulfilling our obligations as Religious. All the superiors are requested to conduct monthly community meetings to evaluate religious life, apostolic activities and to present financial report of the previous month. The forum discussed action plan of the Congress 2020 and the focus areas suggested by the General Curia and Provincial Curia in 2021. The forum also decided to deepen knowledge of Salesian spirituality at personal and community levels. Every community presented a report on community life and apostolic activities as well as the various challenges that they face in their ministry.

**Mission Forum:** The forum discussed matters concerning Mission from the Call of the General Chapter, the Action Plan of the Provincial Congress 2020 and Focus areas suggested by General and provincial curia for the year 2022-2023. It decided to intensify PMP in our parishes as well as to encourage starting of Fransalians Associates in every mission. The parish priests submitted reports regarding their respective parishes with the challenges that they face daily in their pastoral ministry. The forum suggested measures to deepen the faith of people by insisting on catechesis and sacramental life.

**Education Forum:** The forum made an evaluation of the implementation of Call of the General Chapter, action plan of the Provincial Congress 2020 and the focus areas suggested by General and Provincial Curia for 2022-2023. The forum insisted on imparting quality education in all our schools. The managers presented report from their respective schools.

**Formation Forum:** The forum discussed matters concerning Formation from the Call of the General Chapter, Action Plan of the Provincial Congress 2020 and Focus areas of General and provincial curia for the year 2022-2023. The forum discussed every stage of formation. It was decided to intensify vocation promotion from all three countries of East Africa. Although there are various challenges to vocation promotion, the forum upheld the present policy of vocation promotion. Reports were presented about every stage of formation. From this year, a programme in preparation for perpetual profession will be introduced for scholastics in Regency to third year of Theology.

## SALESIAN ANNECY PROGRAMME (SPA)

**Fr. Amal Neerolickal** is designated to attend SPA from October 1 to November 15, 2023 at Annecy.

## DE SALES AND MERMIER HERITAGE RETREAT

**Fr. Joby Marathomalayil** is designated to attend DSM retreat from May 10 to 18, 2023 at Annecy.

## BARAKA MISSION MAGAZINE

**Fr. Lubega Gonzaga, Fr. Michael Mwangi and Fr. Ssentamu Ruthital** are appointed as editors of Baraka Mission Magazine of the Province.

### HOLIDAYS/MINISTRY

Fr. Jacob Thekkekara	January 17 – February 28
Fr. A. Sebastian	February 7 – March 10
Fr. Francis Kallikattu	January 28 – February 28
Fr. Simon Nabende	February 20 – March 22
Fr. Johnson Pathiyl	February 22 – March 14
Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel	March 05 – March 16

### OBITUARY

**Mr. Johny Thekkekara (72)**, the brother of Fr. Jacob Thekkekara, passed away on 08.01.2023.

**Mr. Francis Kisyula Kunga (105)**, the maternal grandfather of Fr. Patrick Musyimi, passed away on 11.01.2023.

**Fr. Reddy Joseph (83)** of Vizag Province passed away on 24.01.2023.

**Mrs. Priscilla Syumwai (114)**, the maternal grandmother of Fr. Jonathan Muema, passed away on 28.01.2023.

**Mr. Palao John (71)**, the paternal uncle of Bro. Julius Onaga, passes away 31.01.2023.

**Mrs. Gaudencia Aouri (77)**, the paternal grandmother of Fr. Joseph Abongo, passed away on 01.02.2023.

**Mr. Joseph Vattapparakkal (72)**, the maternal uncle of Fr. Jomet Kollapallil, passed away on 17.02.2023.

**May God grant them eternal life!**





## MY TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Date	Programme
25 – 26.02.2023	Fransalian House, Kola
05 – 16.03.2023	Meetings in Germany
18.03.2023	Blessing of Bombambili School
19 – 27.03.2023	Visitation of Superior General in Kenya and Uganda
03 – 10.04.2023	Tabora Apostolic community

My dear confreres, I wish you all a grace-filled season of Lent!

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

*Mathew*

Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS,  
Provincial - East Africa Province



### Salesian Thought

“Inspirations draws us to faith. If it does not meet with any opposition from us, it leads us even to repentance and charity.” (Love of God II, 21)



Artwork: Mary Judine Bruch, BVM