










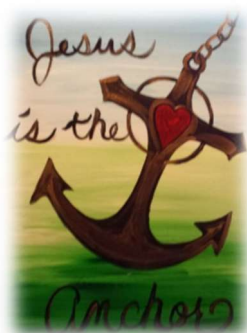
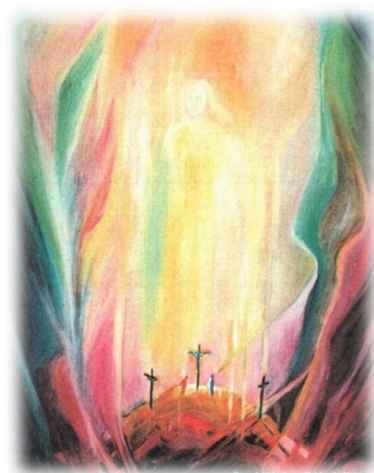
		
<h2 style="color: blue;">MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES</h2> <p><b>Fransalians - Province of East Africa</b>          Provincial House P. O. Box 12 Morogoro Tanzania          Tel: +255 689 882 711; +255 624 027 880  <a href="http://www.msfs-eastafrica.com">www.msfs-eastafrica.com</a>          e-mail: <a href="mailto:provincialeastafricansfs@gmail.com">provincialeastafricansfs@gmail.com</a></p>		
		
        		
<b>Provincial Circular EAP – MT.42</b>		<b>Apr 09, 2023</b>

**My dear Confreres,**

May the peace and joy of the Risen Saviour be with you! May we know and cherish the joy, peace and love of the Risen Lord every day of our life. **Happy Easter!**

**LET HIM EASTER IN US**

Today is Easter. Today, He is Risen. Let us describe it in the present tense. Today is Easter. We are not just recalling what happened to Jesus, nor the events of the first Easter. We are not mere spectators watching the reactions of the three disciples – Mary Magdalene, Peter and John. Rather, this Easter Sunday is our sharing in the triumph and victory of God. As the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins wrote, “Let Him Easter in us.” Let His victory and triumph touch our lives; today, now. Let our liturgical celebrations on this Easter Sunday refresh and renew us with the joy and the triumph that emanates from Christ whom no tomb could hold in death. We rise with Him. This rising began in the waters of Baptism and we rise with Him by faith, in Him whose light shines brighter than any darkness in us. Christ, the Risen Lord is our hope. Let Him Easter in us.



An Ancient Christian symbol for Christ is the anchor. The anchor steadies the vessel; the anchor safely holds the vessel in the water. Christ holds us steady when life gets rough. Christ holds us connected to God when the waves of life come crashing over us. Christ, our hope is Risen. Let Him Easter in us.

We can rise out of whatever deals death in our life because we have been joined to Christ's resurrection through Baptism and faith. We can rise out of our own sins with the power of Christ's resurrection in us. We can rise out of any darkness with the light of Christ's resurrection in us. We can rise out of any bondage that holds us by the power of the freedom of Christ's resurrection in us.

To be Easter people is a struggle within us. But the death and resurrection of Christ fills us with hope and keeps us steady and safe in this struggle. His rising guarantees our rising out of those tombs which may trap us. In the journey toward new life, the tomb is a necessary stop but not the destination. When we find ourselves in a place where our hope is scattered around us like discarded debris, when we become overwhelmed with despair, when we desperately seek another chance, or when we simply find ourselves open to the possibilities of something good in the midst of all that is wrong, we can turn toward the tomb, located by a garden teeming with life, hosted by angels, and tended by the Gardener who knows our name. The victory of Christ over death is our victory over all the dying we do while we live.

An American spiritual author Philip Yancey says, “If I take Easter as the starting point, the one incontrovertible fact about how God treats those whom he loves, then human history becomes the contradiction and Easter a preview of the ultimate reality.”

### VISITATION OF SUPERIOR GENERAL



The much-awaited Canonical Visitation of our beloved Superior General Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil in Kenya and Uganda took place from March 19th to 28th, 2023. (In 2020, Fr. General could visit only communities and confreres in Tanzania as the borders of Kenya and Uganda were closed due to Covid-19.) We are very grateful to Fr. General for visiting Kenya and Uganda. He met every confrere personally, prayed together and animated every community

or cluster of communities with his orientations to revamp religious life, community life as well as various apostolates basing on the spirit of the General Chapter 2019 and focusing on the upcoming General Chapter of 2025. Please find below few common points highlighted in his animation in the communities:

**1. Charism of our Congregation:** He explained in detail the Charism of the Congregation and exhorted every member “to continue the mission of Christ and the Church by living the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis



de Sales in religious communities as missionaries, as lived and envisioned by our Founder.” All our apostolates should be guided by our Charism.



**2. Community life:** He invited the confreres to live our consecrated life as envisaged in our hallowed Constitutions. He emphasised on the essential ingredients of community life such as common prayer, common Eucharistic celebration, minimum of half hour adoration daily, common meal, annual retreat and regular community meetings. He insisted that community meeting should take place once every month in every community. It should evaluate the religious life and various apostolates of the community. The bursar of each community should present the statement of accounts of the previous month. He also exhorted every confrere to lead a disciplined community life animated by the superior. There should be regular and punctual attendance in every community exercise. He also explained the role and functions of the Superior in animating a community.



de Sales. He invited every confrere to promote the cause of our Founder Fr. Mermier.

**4. Daily Prayers** should include the following too: Prayer for the Cause of Fr. Peter Mermier, prayer for the deceased confreres (MSFS Obituary), prayer for the monthly intention of the Holy Father and of the Superior General and prayer in preparation for the coming General Chapter.

**3. Mission:** He reminded that the essence of Fransalian way of life is the missionary dimension of our Charism as taught by our patron and the founder. In order to strengthen our missionary presence in East Africa, Parish Mission Preaching (PMP), which is the primordial apostolate of the Congregation, has to be promoted. He insisted to form Fransalian Associates to spread the spirituality of St. Francis



**5. Relationship with the local Church and Civil society:** Fr. General encouraged the confreres to maintain good relationship with the respective local Ordinaries and also priests and other religious of the respective Dioceses. He also said that we should participate in the diocesan and religious meetings and activities of the local church. He also reminded that we should cultivate cordial relationship with civil leaders of various categories.



## BLESSING OF BOMBAMBILI SCHOOL

Fransalian Mission School, at Bombambili was blessed and inaugurated on 18th March, 2023. Rt. Rev. Stephano Musomba OSA, the auxiliary bishop of Dar es Salaam presided over the ceremony together with Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil msfs, the superior General of the MSFS and Rev. Fr. Mathew T. Thazhathukunnel msfs, the provincial superior of the MSFS province of East Africa.



The inauguration of this primary school in Tanzania marks another significant milestone for the Fransalian missionaries and the local community, especially for children who will benefit from access to quality primary education. The school will provide a safe and structured learning environment that promotes literacy, numeracy, and critical thinking skills. It is also an opportunity to

address gender and social inequalities, as education is a powerful tool that can empower children, especially girls, and transform communities. Geared towards this end is the special school program to teach sign language to all its pupils to empower them to communicate effectively with persons with hearing or speech impediments.

The inauguration ceremony was a joyous occasion filled with items like cultural performances, speeches, and festivities. Local dignitaries, community leaders, and education officials attended the event, which symbolizes the commitment to invest in education and the future of the community. The ceremony featured the unveiling of the school's name, a tour of the facilities, Eucharistic celebration, entertainment by the students and a lunch together. We express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who contributed to the establishment of this school.



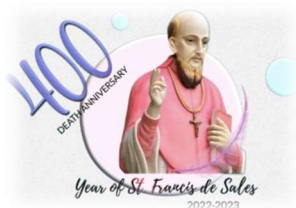
A word of appreciation also to the Fransalian Communities at Mjimpya and Bombambili and to the Fathers who worked there previously and those who are there at present. We also express our appreciation and indebtedness to all the school managers of our schools in Tanzania, who were part of resource mobilization for the establishment of this school.

(Report by Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal msfs)

Hearty congratulations and deep gratitude to Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal who worked tirelessly for the establishment of the school. May God bless him abundantly!



## CONCLUSION OF THE YEAR OF SFS



The conclusion of the Year of SFS will take place on April 16th 2023. I request the superiors of the communities to kindly organize a special Holy Mass in honour of St. Francis de Sales to conclude the Year of SFS on the same day or a day convenient to the community/apostolic community.

## VISITATION OF CONFRERES FROM GERMANY

**Fr. Wilson Packiam** will be visiting the province from April 18<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Fr. David Susai** will be visiting the province from April 24<sup>th</sup> to May 18<sup>th</sup>.

Hearty welcome our dear confreres!

## HOLIDAYS

Fr. Sebastian Williams	April 12 – May 26 (+ treatment)
Fr. Sunny Vettickal	April 14 – May 22 (+ treatment)
Fr. Nelson Vijayakumar	April 15 – May 15
Fr. Rakesh Ekka	April 16 – May 16
Fr. Santhosh Prakashbhavan	April 17 – May 17
Fr. Sunny Mattathil	April 24 – May 24
Fr. Robert Soosai Raj	May 01 – June 09
Fr. Augustine Mangatt	May 04 – June 07

## OBITUARY

**Fr. Bernad Caszo MSFS** (90) of English Province passed away on 11.03.2023.

**Mr. Charles Mukwaya** (67), father of Fr. Ssenthamu Ruthitital, passed away on 22.03.2023.

**Fr. Aloysius Kuzhuppallil MSFS** (58) of South West India Province passed away on 24.03.2023.

**Fr. Cyriac Velikkettel MSFS** (83) of Nagpur Province passed away on 25.03.2023.

**Bro. George Ettackakunnel** (87) of Vizag Province passed away on 29.03.2023.

May God grant them eternal life!



## MY TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Date	Programme
05 – 11.04.2023	Tabora Apostolic community
14.04.2023	Fransalian School, Kigurunyembe
16.04.2023	Conclusion of the Year of SFS
19 – 20.04.2023	Council Meeting at the Provincial House
21.04.2023	Jubilee of Fransalian House, Kola and Sacerdotal Jubilee
23.04 – 18-05. 2023	Ministry and Visitation in Europe
23.05-2023	Graduation at LCI

My dear confreres, I wish you all once again the peace and joy of Easter.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

*Mathew*

Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS,  
Provincial - East Africa Province



### Salesian Thought

The Death and Passion of our Lord is the sweetest and most compelling motivation that could possibly animate our hearts in this mortal life: and it is the truth that mystic bees make their most excellent honey in the wounds of this Lion of the tribe of Judah, his throat slit and torn to pieces on the mount of Calvary; and the children of the Cross are glorified in their wonderful problem, that the world does not understand: from death, comes the substance of our consolation; and from death, stronger than all, comes forth the sweetness of the honey of our love.” (TLG BK XIII; XIII)

