



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa
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NEW PROVINCIAL OF EAST AFRICA

Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our beloved Superior General, has appointed Rev. Fr. James Panthalanickel as the new Provincial Superior of the Province of East Africa, effective from July 15, 2023.

Fr. James Panthalanickel was born on May 15, 1970, in Meenachil/Palakad, Kottayam district, Kerala, India. After completing his secondary school studies, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor. He made his first profession on July 16, 1989. He pursued his Philosophical studies at Suvidya College and decided to join the East African Mission during this time. He obtained his Masters in Philosophy and Bachelors in Theology from St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore. He was ordained a priest on January 1, 2000.



Following his priestly ordination, he came to Tanzania and served as an assistant parish priest of Kahama-Mbulu parish in the Diocese of Kahama. After a year, he was transferred to Lububu (Archdiocese of Tabora), where he served as an assistant parish priest and Rector of Aspirants. From 2002 to 2004, he held the position of Vice-Rector at SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda, Morogoro. He also completed a one-year Formators' course in Pune, India (2004–2005). From 2005 to 2011, he served as the Director of Novices at Fransalianum Novitiate, Kibaha. He pursued his Masters and PhD studies in Biblical Theology at KU Leuven, Belgium, from 2011 to 2018. Upon returning to the province, he was appointed as the Superior of Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha (2019 – 2020), and has been serving as the Rector of the Scholasticate at LCI since 2019.

Fr. James is a dedicated religious priest who devotes his life and time to the ministry entrusted to him. He exemplifies Salesian virtues and follows in the footsteps of our Patron St. Francis de Sales and Venerable Founder Fr. Peter Mermier. He is an exceptional professor with expertise in both

philosophy and Bible studies. As an adept administrator, he cares deeply for the people under his charge. Environmental concerns hold a special place in his heart, and he exhibits love and care for nature and animals.

We express our gratitude to God for the gift of Fr. James in our Province. We also extend our thanks to the General Administration for appointing Fr. James as our Provincial and Animator. As we congratulate Fr. James on accepting this noble task, we assure him of our prayers and support in his leadership ministry within our province. May God abundantly bless him! Heartfelt congratulations, dear Fr. James Panthalanickel!

INSTALLATION OF THE NEW PROVINCIAL

The installation of Rev. Fr. James Panthanickel as the new Provincial of East Africa will take place on July 15th at 10:00 a.m. at SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda. I kindly request as many confreres as possible to participate in the installation ceremony and pray for our new Provincial.

NEW PROVINCIAL OF BRAZIL PROVINCE

Rev. Fr. Jose Devasahayam has been appointed as the new Provincial of Brazil Province. We wish him God's abundant blessings and prayerful support in his ministry of leadership in Brazil Province.

MSAF MEETING

The meeting of the Mission Superiors Forum (MSAF) took place on June 7, 2023, at Pretoria in South Africa. Fr. Soosai Raj, Mission Superior of Malawi; Fr. Jude Thadeus, Mission Superior of Zambia; Fr. Henry Nedumkallel, Delegation Superior of Mozambique; Fr. Manoj Arackal, Delegation Superior of Chad-Cameroon; Fr. Baiju Mundackal, Regional Superior of Southern Africa; and Fr. Mathew



Thazhathukunnel, Provincial of East Africa, participated in the meeting. The meeting discussed and evaluated pastoral ministry, formation, and consecrated life in Africa. There has been tremendous growth in all our missions in Africa, and the number of vocations is increasing. The meeting appreciated the collaboration among the various mission units in Africa, especially in regards to formation, particularly at the novitiate in Kibaha and LCI, Arusha. The new mission units are also preparing to promote vocations in their respective countries. The meeting also expressed the desire to open up new missions in existing territories as well as in other countries. Furthermore, the meeting discussed various challenges, particularly the lack of sufficient personnel in missions and the scarcity of financial support for various mission development projects in their respective countries. There was also a suggestion to publish a book on the history of MSFS in the African continent. The MSAF members also visited various missions of Southern African Region.



Deacon Moses Okoth MSFS, the son of Mr. Charles Oboth and Mrs. Geyunia Akech, was born on the 8th of July 1988. He is the eighth of 12 children, comprising 8 boys and 4 girls. He was raised in a devout Catholic family, baptized on the 17th of December 1988, received First Holy Communion on the 12th of April 2001, and Confirmation on the 26th of October 2003 at Nagongera Parish, Tororo, Uganda. He attended Nagongera Boys' Primary School from 1998 to 2005 for his primary education. For his secondary education, he studied at Busolwe Students Center from 2007 to 2010 for Ordinary Level and from 2011 to 2012 for Advanced Level. In 2013, he joined

the Fransalian Formation House after completing his postulancy at Ndagani Chuka-Kenya. He underwent his canonical novitiate from 2014 to 2015 and had his First Religious Profession on July 10, 2015, at Fransalian Novitiate Kibaha, Tanzania. Subsequently, he pursued his Philosophical studies at Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha, Tanzania, from 2015 to 2018. After completing his Philosophical studies, he served as a regent in Iyolwa Fransalian Parish and School, Tororo, Uganda, from 2018 to 2019. Following his regency, he joined the Fransalian Study House, Kola for his Theological Studies at Jordan University College from 2019 to 2023. He made his final religious profession on the 21st of October 2022 and was ordained as a deacon on the 22nd of the same year at Jordan University College, Morogoro, Tanzania, by His Lordship Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe, SDS, the Bishop of Morogoro. Deacon Moses Okoth will be ordained as a priest on the 29th of July 2023 in Lugazi by His Lordship Christopher Kakooza, the Bishop of Lugazi, Uganda.



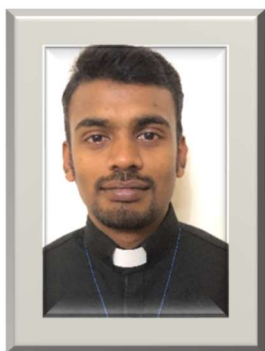
Deacon M. Adaikala Arul Raj MSFS was born on December 29, 1994. He grew up in a devout Catholic family, the son of the Late Mr. A. Mudiappan and Mrs. M. Lourthu Mary in Viriyur, Tamilnadu. He is the youngest of three children. He was baptized on January 15, 1995, received First Holy Communion on May 22, 2005, and was confirmed on June 07, 2005, at Our Lady of Assumption Church, Maiyanur. He completed his primary and higher secondary education from 1999 to 2012 at St. Don Bosco Higher Secondary School, Pagandai Kootu Road. With a desire to become a priest, he joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and began his formation at SFS Minor

Seminary, Pudukkottai, in 2012, followed by a pre-novitiate program in Sudhivana, Bangalore, from 2013 to 2014. In the subsequent year, he underwent canonical novitiate and made his First Religious Profession on May 31, 2015. Thereafter, he pursued his Philosophical Studies at Suvidya College while simultaneously earning his B.A. in Psychology at SFS College, Bangalore, from 2015 to 2018. After completing his Philosophical studies, he was assigned to the SFS Community in Tabora for his regency from 2018 to 2019. Subsequently, he pursued his Theological Studies at the Jordan University College from 2019 until 2023. Deacon Adaikala Arul Raj made his perpetual Profession on October 21, 2022, at Fransalian Study House, Kola, and the following day, he received the Diaconate Ordination conferred by His Lordship Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe, SDS, the Bishop of Morogoro. He will be ordained as a priest by Most Rev. Dr. S. Singarayan D.D, the Bishop Emeritus of Salem, in his home parish Our Lady of Assumption Church, Maiyanur. He belongs to the Malawi Mission of the South East India Province.



Deacon John Britto MSFS was born on February 7, 1995, and grew up in a devout Catholic family in Eraiyur, India. He is the eldest child of Mr. Augustin and Mrs. Alphonsa and has a brother and a sister. Deacon John Britto was baptized on February 19, 1995, and received his First Holy Communion on May 27, 2005. His confirmation took place on May 30, 2005, at Our Lady of Rosary Church in Eraiyur. He completed his primary and secondary education at St. Joseph's Higher Secondary School in Eraiyur from 2000 to 2012. He joined the congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales in Pudukkottai in 2012. He underwent his regency at the Provincialate in

Trichy from 2014 to 2015. Deacon John Britto then entered the canonical novitiate and made his First Religious Profession on May 31, 2016, at Salesianum in Vizag. Concurrently, he pursued his Philosophical Studies at Suvidya College and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from SFS College, Bangalore, between 2016 and 2019. In 2019, Deacon John Britto decided to join the Malawi mission and enrolled at the Fransalian Study House Kola for his Theological Studies at Jordan University College in Morogoro, Tanzania, from 2019 to 2023. On October 21, 2022, he made his perpetual Profession at Fransalian Study House, Kola, and the following day, on October 22, 2022, he was ordained a Deacon at Jordan University by His Lordship Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe, SDS, the Bishop of the Diocese of Morogoro. Deacon John Britto is scheduled to be ordained as a priest on August 24, 2023, at Our Lady of Rosary in Eraiyur, by the Right Reverend Francis Kalist, the Bishop of the Archdiocese of Pondicherry and Cuddalore. He belongs to the Malawi Mission of the South East India Province.



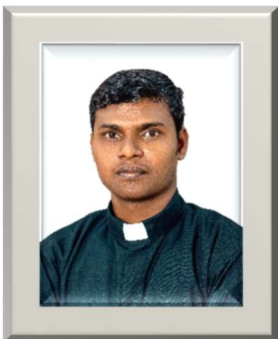
Deacon Arun Raj C. MSFS was born on July 18th, 1996 and grew up in a devout Catholic family, as the youngest of three children, with two sisters. His parents, Mr. T. Christuraj and Mrs. T. Theresemmal, raised him in Tamil Nadu, India. Arun Raj was baptized on July 25th, 1998, and received his First Holy Communion on July 7th, 2006. His confirmation took place on October 19th, 2008, at Sacred Heart Church in Kadyal. For his education, Arun Raj attended Sacred Heart Middle School in Kadayal from 2001 to 2009 for his primary education. He then studied at St. Mary's Higher Secondary School in Kaliyal from 2009 to 2011 for his high school education. He began his seminary life

at SFS Minor Seminary at Pudukkottai, where he also pursued his higher secondary education privately from 2012 to 2014. In 2014-2015, Arun Raj completed his canonical Novitiate and made his First Religious Profession on May 31st, 2015, at Salesianum in Visakhapatnam. He then proceeded to Suvidya College in Bangalore, where he pursued his Philosophical Studies from 2015 to 2018. Simultaneously, he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from SFS College in Bangalore. Following the completion of his philosophical studies, Arun Raj had his regency from 2018 to 2019 at Betty Boys Home in Kolli Hills. In 2019, he chose to work in the Malawi mission and traveled to Tanzania, Africa. He joined the Fransalina Study House, Kola for his Theological Studies at Jordan University College in Morogoro, Tanzania, from 2019 to 2023. Arun Raj made his perpetual Profession on October 21st, 2022, and the following day he was ordained a deacon at Jordan University College Chapel by His Lordship Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe, SDS of the Diocese of Morogoro. He is scheduled to be ordained as a Priest on August 30th, 2023, by His Lordship Peter Remigius, the Bishop Emeritus of Kottar, at his home parish Sacred Heart Church at Kadayal. He belongs to the Malawi Mission of the South East India Province.



Deacon Vimal Raj S. MSFS, born on February 5th, 1996, hails from a devout Catholic family. He is the son of Mr. George Saravanan and Mrs. Prema Vinoliya, residing in Kolar Gold Fields (KGF), Karnataka, India. He has one younger brother. He was baptized on March 30th, 1997 and received his first Holy Communion on October 12th, 2008, and confirmation on October 11th, 2009, at St. Teresa's Parish, KGF. He completed his primary education at St. Teresa's Primary School, Robertson Pet, KGF, from 2000 to 2008. For his high school studies, he attended St. Mary's High School, Anderson Pet, KGF, from 2008 to 2011. He joined the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis

de Sales in 2011 and began his formation at SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai. He pursued his higher secondary education in Pudukkottai from 2012 to 2014. Dn. Vimal Raj completed his canonical Novitiate and made his First Religious Profession on May 31st, 2015, at Salesianam Novitiate, Vizag. He then continued his education, studying Philosophical Studies at Suvidya College and earning a bachelor's degree in Psychology at SFS College, Bangalore, from 2015 to 2018. Subsequently, he completed his regency at the SFS Minor Seminary, Pudukkottai, from 2018 to 2019. Following that, he joined the Fransalian Study House for his Theological studies at Jordan University College, Morogoro, Tanzania, from 2019 to 2023. Dn. Vimal Raj made his perpetual profession on October 21st, 2022, and was ordained a Deacon on October 22nd, 2022, at Jordan University Chapel by His Lordship Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe, SDS, of the Diocese of Morogoro. He is scheduled to be ordained as a priest on August 12th, 2023, at St. Teresa's Parish, KGF, by His Lordship Arulselvam Rayappan, the Bishop of Salem Diocese, Tamil Nadu. He belongs to the Malawi Mission of the South East India Province.



Deacon P. Arokia Marcel MSFS was born on May 28, 1995. He grew up in a devout Catholic family, the son of Mr. Periyannayagam and Mrs. Yesu Mary, in Sithanangur, Tamil Nadu. He is the youngest of three children. Arokia Marcel was baptized on July 2, 1995, and received his First Holy Communion on March 15, 2007. He was confirmed on April 10, 2008. He completed his primary education in Sithanangur from 2000 to 2005, and his secondary education in Pondicherry from 2005 to 2010. Recognizing his calling to become a priest, he decided to join the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in 2010. He began his seminary life at SFS minor seminary

in Pudukkottai. During this time, from 2011 to 2013, he also pursued his higher secondary education privately. Deacon Marcel completed his canonical novitiate from 2013 to 2014 and made his First Religious Profession on May 31, 2014, at Salesianum Visakhapatnam. He then pursued his philosophical studies at Suvidya College in Bangalore from 2014 to 2017, while simultaneously earning his Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from SFS College, Bangalore. In 2018, Deacon Marcel chose to work in the Malawi Mission and was subsequently sent to Junior Minor Seminary in Morogoro, Tanzania, for his Regency from 2018 to 2019. Following that, he embarked on his Theological Studies at Jorden University College from 2019 until 2023. Deacon Marcel made his perpetual profession on October 21, 2022, at Fransalian Study House in Kola. The following day, he received his Diaconate Ordination from His Lordship Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe, SDS, of the Diocese of Morogoro. He is scheduled to be ordained as a priest on August 22, 2023, at Emmaus Aanmiga Maiyam in Sithanangur, by Most Rt. Rev. Francis Kalist, the Bishop of the Archdiocese of Pondicherry and Cuddalore. He belongs to the Malawi Mission of the South East India Province.

The 12th convocation of LCI was held on May 25, 2022. The celebration began with the Eucharistic ceremony presided over by Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, MSFS, the Former Superior General of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. His presence was truly inspiring, as he enlightened the participants on the growth of knowledge into wisdom to lead a disciple's life.

The second part of the convocation ceremony began at 11:00 a.m. A procession followed, led by Fr. Ajish Antony, the Dean of Studies, and Fr. Devasia Manalel, the animator of the Formators training. Eighteen Philosophers, dressed in purple gowns, and twenty-two formators, wearing white shawls, marched behind them. The procession included esteemed guests Prof. Dr. John Eudes Ruhangisa and Rev. Fr. Nicolas, the Superior General of the Congregation of the Missionaries of Hope, along with the Director of the Institute, Rev. Fr. Dr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil. The community respectfully stood and welcomed them into the hall.



The Convocation program commenced with a beautiful prayer song presented by the Formators, followed by a welcome address from the Director of the Institute. Dr. Devasia Manalel then presented the formators who successfully completed the one-year formators training program, making them eligible to receive the Diploma in Formators' Program.

Dr. John Eudes Ruhangisa awarded the diploma in Religious Formation and Spirituality to the twenty-two formators. In their valedictory speeches, Sr. Sarah Nyingo and Fr. Konrad Simon Milleanzi praised the Institute for daring to conduct such a training program for the African Continent. They expressed their gratitude for the nine months they spent here, considering it their home—a place where sharing begins and love never ends. As they concluded, they quoted, "Acknowledging the good that you already have in your life is the foundation for all abundance." They thanked God for dedicating this day to their graduation and expressed deep appreciation to all the individuals who made a positive impact on their lives since their arrival.



Fr. Ajish Antony then took the opportunity to introduce the Philosophers. The Director of the Institute officially declared the eighteen Philosophers as Bachelors in Philosophy. After awarding the degree certificates, the Chief guest addressed the audience. The former Judge of the High Court, Professor, and Head of the Department of International and Commercial Law, spoke in simple, ordinary language, expressing his appreciation for the priesthood and religious life. He concluded with a heartfelt prayer in Latin dedicated to the Blessed Mother, bringing joy and happiness to everyone in the hall. The entire assembly stood prayerfully, singing the LCI Institute anthem, signifying the end of the official Graduation day program.

BOOK RELEASE

The day also celebrated the launch of a book titled '**Self and Community in Contemporary African Society: An Existential Perspective**' by Rev. Dr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil. Fr. Gijo John introduced the book and invited Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, the Former Superior General, to unveil it and present it as a gift to the Chief Guest. After a short photo session, the attendees moved to the refectory to indulge in a delightful dinner at 1:30 p.m.

HEARTY WELCOME

Rev. Fr. Josef Giefing, a longstanding friend and collaborator of the Fransalians in East Africa, will be visiting Tanzania from July 4 to 21, 2023.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to **Bro. Paschal Wanjala** and **Bro. Abraham Wamakala**, who are currently pursuing their theological studies in Cameroon. They will be on holiday from June 24 to August 24, 2023.

We wish them a delightful stay with us in East Africa. Karibuni sana!

HOLIDAYS/MINISTRY

Fr. Japhet Kirimi	June 05 - July 05
Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil	June 05 – August 18
Fr. A Robert	June 12 – July 20
Fr. Sebastian Palakudy	July 10 – September 02

OBITUARY

Mr. Paskali Fungo (83), the father of Fr. Simon Nabende passed away on 20.05.2023.

Mrs. Papanamal (75), the mother of Fr. A. Sebastian passed away on 01.06.2023.

Mr. Thomas Kadakampallil (62), brother-in-law of Fr. Reji Pandanath passed away on 04.06.2023.

Fr. Cyriac Nellikunnel MSFS (57) of Pune Province passed away on 06.06.2023.

May God grant them eternal life!



Wishing you a graceful month of Sacred Heart of Jesus, I remain.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

Mathew

Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS,
Provincial - East Africa Province



Salesian Thought

The grace of God supplies the void and, where there is less nature, there is more grace.