



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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LIVE JESUS

Provincial Circular EAP – JP 10

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

We are in the season of Advent. We will celebrate the solemnity of Christmas soon! In advance, I wish you all a very happy Christmas!

Christmas is an invitation to create space for Jesus in our life. According to the Gospel of Luke, Joseph and Mary followed the decree of Census which Ceasar Augustus ordered. Accordingly, they went to Bethlehem to register themselves. Mary was in her advanced stage of pregnancy (Lk 2:1-4). There, “she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn” (Lk 2:7). Mary had to lay the child Jesus in a manger since there was no room for her in the inn. Jesus is present in the midst of us all (Lk 17:21). Nevertheless, Jesus seems to lament, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." (Lk 9:58). It is important to examine ourselves and see if Jesus has a room in our lives, communities and ministries. God gave Jesus as a gift to us. He waits for our gift in return. It is the gift of our hearts, our lives. Let us make room for him in the inn of our hearts, lives, communities and ministries.

News from the Province

Hija Takatifu, Lububu

The annual pilgrimage to the Salvation Hill took place on September 14, 2024 with many Fathers, Sisters, Fransalian Associates, government leaders, choir from the MSFS parish in Mlolongo, Kenya, and the faithful from the neighbouring parishes taking part in it. Fr. Francis Kyule preached the homily while the Provincial was the main celebrant of the Eucharist. Congratulations to the parish priest and his assistant for organizing everything well.

School Day at Dumila School

On September 27, 2024 the annual school day was conducted in our Dumila School. Congratulations to the manager and the Sisters!

Pearl Jubilee of the Junior Seminary and the Graduation of Form IV

The pearl jubilee (30 years of existence) of the Junior Seminary and the graduation of Form IV students were held on September 28, 2024. On that day, Junior Seminary celebrated the sacerdotal silver Jubilee of Fr. James Panthalanickel who was the main celebrant of the Eucharist concelebrated by many priests and participated by the seminarians, their parents and the former junior seminarians. Honourable minister of minerals Mr. Anthony Mavunde, a former Junior Seminarian was the chief guest during the felicitation program. Dr. Salvatori Nyanto, Professor in Dar es Salaam university and a former Junior seminarian was the guest of honour. The association of the alumni of the junior seminary was present. They sponsored a pedal piano for the junior seminary. We thank them and congratulate the Rector, Vice-Rector, regent, the Sisters and the teachers who organized this event.

Inauguration of the Centenary Celebration of Lububu

On 29.09.2024, Lububu Parish joyfully celebrated its annual parish feast while officially launching its 100-year Jubilee, marking a century of spiritual growth and community service. The event was led by Protase Cardinal Rugambwa of the Archdiocese of Tabora. The retired Archbishop Paul Ruzoka also graced the event. Fr. Thomas Kochuparambil, representing the Provincial attended the celebrations along with Fr. Antonysamy Sebastian, Councillor-in-Charge of Missions. During the event 255 candidates received the Sacrament of Confirmation. On the previous day, the Igabula Outstation Church was officially blessed by the Cardinal. Thanks, and congratulations to the parish priest and his assistant for organizing these events.

A New Local Community at Fransalian Spirituality Centre (FSC), Morogoro

A new local community is created at FSC, Morogoro on September 21, 2024 and Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel is installed as its Superior.

Inauguration of Fransalian Spirituality Centre, Morogoro

A new centre called Fransalian Spirituality Centre was inaugurated on September 30, 2024 at Morogoro, Tanzania. Rt. Rev. Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe, the bishop of Morogoro blessed and opened it together with Fr. Provincial and Fr. Augustine Mangatt, the former regional superior who purchased the land some 30 years ago. We thank Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the director of FSC who organized and supervised the entire function! Many priests, religious, government leaders, invited guests, and the choir from Mkambarani graced the occasion. We thank the Provincial bursar, SKD Sisters and the Fransalian Community at Kola for rendering their services for the success of the program.

Silver Jubilee celebration at LCI

On October 2, 2024 Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Fr. James Panthalanickel MSFS was celebrated at LCI. After the solemn eucharistic celebration, a felicitation program and a solemn dinner were organized in honour of him.

Graduation of Class 7 and PP 2 at Fransalian Primary School, Kigurunyembe

On October 05, 2024, class seven students and the children of pre-primary II of the Fransalian Primary School, Kigurunyembe, Morogoro celebrated their graduation. Honorable Member of the parliament Joseph Kizito Mhagama, chairman of the Interparliamentary Union, was the guest of honour.

Hija Takatifu, Kashishi

The annual pilgrimage in Kashishi was held as usual on October 07. We thank and congratulate the parish priest and the community for organizing the event.

Diaconate Ordination

Two of our Brothers namely Bro. Linto Vargheese (EA) and Bro. Mathew Divoda (SEIP) were ordained deacons on October 19, 2024. Congratulations!

Welcome to Fathers from SEIP

Fr. Henry Joseph Councillor in Charge of Missions of SEIP and Fr. Santhanam Provincial bursar of SEIP visited our communities in Morogoro as they came to participate in the Diaconate Ordination of Bro. Mathew Divoda MSFS. Fr. Level Winner and Fr. Gerald from Malawi Mission also participated in the diaconate ordination. We thank the Lord for their visits!

Foundation Day of the Congregation

On October 24, we celebrated the Foundation Day of our Congregation. Many communities followed the directive of our Superior General and planted trees in their compounds.

Confirmation in Ipuli

The VG of the Archdiocese of Tabora conferred the sacrament of Confirmation on 83 students of our school in Ipuli, Tabora on November 3, 2024.

Visit to Chad-Cameroon Delegation

Fr. Provincial visited Cameroon and Chad from November 11-27, 2024 in order to take part in the MSAF meeting, the perpetual vows and the silver jubilee celebration of the MSFS presence in Chad. He met personally those who were promoted to make their perpetual vows and listened to their concerns.

The **meeting of the Mission Superiors of Africa Forum (MSAF)** was held in La Feuillette, Yaounde, Cameroon on November 13-14, 2024. It brought together all MSAF members: Fr. James Panthalanickel (Chairman and Provincial of East Africa), Fr. Thomas Vanderkunnel (Regional Superior of Southern Africa), Fr. Manoj Arackal (Delegation Superior of Chad-Cameroon), Fr. Britto Selvam (Mission Superior of Zambia), and Fr. Soosai Raj (Mission Superior of Malawi). The discussions during the

MSAF meeting cantered on the growth and development of the Lumen Christi Institute (LCI). We also addressed the challenge of personnel shortages across units, emphasizing the promotion of local vocations. Collaborative strategies were framed to support this, encouraging units without infrastructure to rely on those with existing formation facilities to train their candidates. Empowering MSAF was a concern to be discussed in the upcoming General Chapter 2025.

After the MSAF meeting on November 13-14, 2024, the Fathers visited several places in Cameroon, like the Theology Institute of St. Cyprien, where our Brothers are doing their theology, and the MSFS parishes of Sainte Josephine Bakhita-Ekoundoum, Sainte Famille d'Ebang-Ebang, Saint Thomas More-Bini-Dang, and Saint Charles Lwanga-Berem, the Catholic University of Central Africa, the Monastery of Our Lady of Mont Fébé, the Cathedral and Basilica of Mary Queen of the Apostles both in Yaoundé. On November 20th, we participated in the blessing and inauguration of the hostel in Gada Mabanga and the new Novitiate called St. James Novitiate in Ngaoundéré, Cameroon.

On November 21st, we travelled to Chad to participate in the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Chad-Cameroon Delegation. The foundation stone for the extension of SFS school and a new tailoring center in Gaki, Doba, Chad was laid on November 22nd, followed by the final profession of eight brothers, six for the Chad-Cameroon Delegation and two for the East Africa Province. The Eucharistic celebration was presided over by Fr. Jean Yves Letue (Provincial of the France-Swiss Province). The perpetual vows were received by Fr. Thomas Kalariparambil (Provincial of South-West Province) and Fr. James Panthalanickel (Provincial of East Africa Province).

The Silver Jubilee celebration marking 25 years of MSFS service in Chad was held on November 23rd at the Parish of St. Daniel Comboni, Doba where MSFS Fathers are based. The event was presided over by His Excellency, Most Rev. Martin Waingue Bani, Bishop of Doba. The celebration included the diaconate ordination of four brothers—three from the MSFS and one from the Comboni Missionaries. While in Chad, we visited Bishop Martin at his residence, the Cathedral of Doba, the MSFS Mission in Bero, and the SVD community in Laramanai, Chad.

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Frs. Manoj Arackal and Sen Vellakada, the Delegation Superior and Procurator of the Chad-Cameroon Delegation, for meticulously dealing with our documents, organizing our stay and arranging our travels during our time there. Everything was done perfectly well. I am also sincerely thankful to all the confreres in the delegation for their warm hospitality.

On November 27th, I travelled back to Tanzania with Fr. Henry Nedumkallel, the delegation Superior of Mozambique. From November 28th to December 1st, I stayed at Lumen Christi Institute. I participated in the community meeting of LCI and shared with

the Fathers news from the MSAF meeting related to LCI. I met the Brothers, Rector and the Director cum Superior personally.

Perpetual Profession

Br. Abraham Wamakale MSFS and Bro. Pascal Wangi MSFS made their perpetual vows on November 22, 2024 in Gaki, Doba, Chad. Fr. James Panthalanickel MSFS received their vows. We thank the Delegation of Chad-Cameroon for all the preparations and the hard work in order to make this program a successful one. We thank the provincial of South West India Province (SWIP), delegation superior, the rector, the brothers and all the confreres for accepting them and giving them formation in their Delegation.

Welcome to Fr. Henry Nedumkallel

The Delegation Superior of Mozambique, Fr. Henry Nedumkallel MSFS visited East Africa from November 28 to December 12, 2024. He met the students from Mozambique in LCI, Arusha and in Kola. He also could take part in the sacerdotal silver Jubilee celebrations held in the Fransalian Spirituality Centre, Morogoro. He could not go back to Mozambique as scheduled since there has been political unrest in Mozambique after the recent General Elections.

Blessing and Inauguration of the New Volleyball Court in LCI

Fr. Henry Nedumkallel blessed and the Provincial of East Africa inaugurated the new Volleyball Court in LCI in the presence of all the Fathers and Brothers of LCI. We thank the director, the bursar who supervised all the works and all those who were involved in making it a reality.

Silver Jubilee Celebrations in Mozambique Postponed Indefinitely

The silver jubilee celebrations of the MSFS presence in Mozambique was scheduled to be held on January 19, 2025. The archbishop of Maputo, the Provincial of Nagpur etc., were some of the dignitaries who were expected to participate. The delegation superior of Mozambique writes: *“Considering the uncertainty and prioritizing the safety of our confreres and participants, the Delegation Administration proposed rescheduling the jubilee celebration to a later date, once peace and stability have been restored.”*

Blessing of Calvary Hill, Lukobe, Morogoro

On November 21, 2024 bishop Lazarus Vitalis Msimbe of Morogoro diocese blessed and opened the newly constructed Way of the Cross in Lukobe Parish built on a hill near the parish. It is called Calvary Hill. I thank and congratulate Fr. Simon Peter Nabende for his initiative.

Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel to Europe

Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel visited Austria and Germany from November 17 to December 03, 2024, to meet with some funding agencies for various projects in the province.

Retreat in Portugal

Fr. Sunny Vettickal, Fr. Francis Kallikattu and Fr. Sebastian Palakudy attended a retreat in Fatima, Portugal as part of their jubilee celebrations. Their experiences are given below:

My experience of priest Pilgrimage Conference in Fatima

First of all, I would like to verbalize my sincere thanks to provincial and his Councilors for allowing me to attend this program. As for me, it was really a spiritual renewal and opportunity to look in to my own spiritual and personal life. To see also how faithful am I to my call as a priest and missionary. I was really fortunate visit the place where our blessed Mother appeared to three poor children and above all strengthen my spiritual life through the intercession of our blessed mother. To realize and reaffirm our tremendous power as priest over the evil powers which we very often forget or utilize in our ministry. Also, it was a golden opportunity to get know many priests working in different parts of the world. And again, it was a wonderful experience to pray rosary and take part in the procession with the people from all over the world at the shrine of our Lady. So, I thank God for this chance given to me and try to practice in my life whatever I learned and experienced with this spiritual conference.

Fr. Francis Kallikattu MSFS

A short report of my experience in Europe especially the priestly renewal program in Fathima

I take this opportunity to thank all for creating a wonderful opportunity to have a pilgrimage at Fathima and to have a visit of different places in Europe. First of all, I thank the provincial administration for giving me this chance to make a pilgrimage to Fathima. I thank Fr. Johnson Kallidukkil the assistant general for giving the invitation letter to visit Europe. I spent almost the whole of October in Europe. In all the places we received very cordial welcome. Rev.Fr. Superior General postponed his journey and came to receive us at the station. All the community members of both communities in Rome showed maximum care to make our trip an enjoyable one. Our community members in Graz Austria Frs. Gerald and Francis cancelled their programs to make themselves available for us. I had a chance to visit Fr. Josef Gifing, some friends and relatives in Austria. I spent a few days in our community at Florimont in Genieva where our conferrers were hospitable and friendly.

Fr. David and other conferrers took very good care of us while we stayed in Germany. I had chance to visit a few agencies to get financial support to build the Centre at Ndagani. I am happy that all of them responded very positively.

I had the chance to visit Fathima pilgrim Centre, to pray a few days with many pilgrims from different parts of the world. The retreat organized by the AFCM group of UK was spiritually very enriching. Priests from different congregations, dioceses and continents participated. It was really very good experience. I really thank Fr. Provincial and administration for giving me this chance to make a good pilgrimage and visit to many countries in Europe.

Fr. Sebastian Palakudy msfs

Salesian Program in Annecy (SPA)

Fr. Antonysamy Sebastian attended SPA this year. His experience is given below:

My experiences from the **“Cradle of MSFS”** through SPA
(Salesian Programme Annecy)

Experiences are very personal and dear to an individual. When it is shared doubles the joy and the goodness of God is spread far and wide. We agree that experiences are effective tools for moulding the personality of someone in the society. I am glad to share few such experiences went through recently, during the Salesian programme Annecy. Some remain closer to my heart and special, some others remain as part of life. We were eight priests in SPA for this year 2024, gathered from eight provinces, to be together and learn the heritage of MSFS Congregation, from its cradle at Annecy, France. I humbly along with my group experienced the Fransalian hospitality from day one to the end. We were given sufficient time for classes daily taught by various persons which made us to understand deeply the birth of our Congregation, life of Fr. Mermier, St. Francis de Sales, St. Jane de Chantal, Mother Claudine Echernier and the writings and teachings of our founder and of St. Francis de Sales.

The most touching experiences of SPA are visiting the places of above-mentioned persons' history, where they were born, grown, studied, received Sacraments, worked for the Lord amidst hard times of the history, founded the Congregations, died and their remains preserved. I can say that it was a spiritual travel of walking in their footsteps, feeling their presence as if walking on their foot prints during all such places rather than just visiting like other tourists.

We had always privilege to visit the Basilica of Visitation daily even to go down to the crypt and to pray at the remains of Fr. Mermier, bishop Joseph Rey co-founder of MSFS, St. Francis de Sales and St. Jane de Chantal. We had an exciting moment to enter in to the archives at visitation convent to see and touch the original handwritten notes of Mermier and St. Francis de Sales.

We were given an assignment for studying the places related to our Congregation and present as part of evaluation. I was given to study on the ministry places of Fr. Mermier, *Magland* his first appointment as an assistant parish priest, *the Melan* as teacher and disciplinarian, *Le Cahtelard –en-Bauges* as the 35th parish priest.

As the climax of SPA, we were given pilgrimage tour to places of St. John Mara Vianney, St. Mark's tomb, St. Antony of Padua, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Clara, Blessed Carlo Acutis, in Rome the richness of historical places of Church and finally to our Generalate as the concluding event of SPA.

It is not easy to put down all experiences we had as a group and me personally during the SPA. I am obliged to say word of thanks to EA province, Frs. J. Stephen, Samuel, John and the Franco Swiss province for hosting us and imparting the heritage of MSFS to us and to many in the past. My sincere thanks to *the Cradle of MSFS* and *the team of SPA*. I cannot take it for granted my seven companions of SPA and all their contributions for me to go through all unforgettable cherishing memories to its maximum. I pray that this SPA continues and enables many to experience personally from this *Cradle of our Congregation* and be in deep bond in MSFS family in the spirit and zeal of our founder and Patron St. Francis de Sales.

Fr. A. Sebastian Msfs

Welcome to the Bishop of Regensburg

The bishop of Regensburg who visited Lumen Christi Institute on November 20, 2024. We thank Fr. Thomas Chozhithara for making the visit possible.

Blessing of the parish office of Mji Mpya Parish

On November 28, the office of the parish office of Mji Mpya Parish was blessed and opened by the archbishop Ruwaichi of Dar es Salaam diocese. Fr. Reji Pندانath was the official delegate of the Provincial in that function. Congratulations and thanks to the parish priest and the community for organizing the events.

Lucera-Troia, Italy

Congratulations to Fr. Zachariah Burofero MSFS and Fr. Jobin Karottukampadam MSFS for being installed as parish priests of Celenza and Carlantino in the diocese of Lucera-Troia in Italy towards the end of November, 2024. All the blessings to them for a fruitful pastoral ministry!

Vocation Promoters Meeting

An online meeting of the Vocation Promoters of various countries in East Africa, together with the Councillor in Charge of Formation and the Provincial was held on December 02, 2024. Various issues like the challenges faced in vocation promotion,

policy of the province regarding vocation promotion, increase of vocations, admission of aspirants from Zambia in 2025, vocations from Malawi, lack of sufficient space in Buwooya seminary etc., were part of the discussions.

Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee celebrations

Silver jubilee celebrations of three of our Fathers namely Fr. Joseph Poikunnel, Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil and Fr. James Panthalanickel were held at Fransalian Spirituality Centre, Morogoro on December 6, 2024. Thanks to the community and administration of the FSC, Kola community, and the Provincial Bursar for organizing the event.

Ordination of Fr. Collins Barasa Simiyu MSFS

Fr. Collins was born on July 10, 1991, in Kenya. His father is Joseph Simiyu and mother is Felisters Majuma. He has six brothers and seven sisters. He is the last born in a family of fourteen. After completing his Secondary he worked as a catechist and taught in a school for two years. He joined Ndagani for formation in the year 2014. He did the Canonical Novitiate (2015-2016) at Fransalianum Kibaha and made the First Profession on 10/07/2016. Thereafter, he did Philosophical studies at L.C.I., Arusha from 2016 to 2019. He did one year of Regency at Mwakata, from 2019 to 2020. From 2020 to 2024 he did his theological studies at Jordan University College (JUCO), Morogoro. He was ordained a deacon by Rev. Chrstopher Kakooza, the bishop of Lugazi on July 27, 2024 at Lugazi Cathedral, Uganda. He was ordained priest on December 10, 2024 at St. Peter's Church, Kaplamai Parish of Kitale diocese by Rt. Rev. Bishop Henry Juma Odonya. Fr. Provincial, many MSFS Fathers, Mill Hill Fathers, diocesan priests and relatives of the deacons and the faithful of Kaplamai parish graced the occasion. We pray for the continued gifts of the Holy Spirit upon him as he intensifies his relationship with Lord on whom his life of faith and priestly ministry depend.

First Mass in Bukene

The Thanksgiving and First Mass of Fr. Paul Usiga Kagolo was held in St. Charles Lwanga and Companions Church in Bukene on 11.12.2024. We thank Fr. Tomichan Perumanoor and the community for organizing it.

Seminar for the Recently Ordained Priests (December 18-20 at LCI)

The recently ordained priests (2021-2024) attended a seminar at LCI organised by the councillor-in-charge of formation from December 18-20, 2024 as part of their ongoing formation.

Goodbye to Fr. John Britto MSFS of SE Province

Fr. John Britto MSFS of SEIP is going to Malawi in December 2024. We thank him for his services in Ibihwa and FSC, Morogoro. We wish him all the blessings for his ministry in Malawi.

Fr. Sony's Request for Laicization

Fr. Sony Kochumalayil MSFS has formally requested for laicization. The process is going on, though it is very tedious and time-consuming.

General Chapter 2025

The 21st Ordinary General Chapter of the MSFS Congregation will take place from January 31, 2025 to February 14, 2025 at the Provincial House of Visakhapatnam Province. The following confreres from East Africa Province will participate in the General Chapter. Fr. James Panthalanickel (Provincial Superior); Fr. Japhet Kirimi (Delegate from EA); Fr. Thomas Chozhithara (Delegate from EA); and Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil (Invitee for the session on Formation). I wish those from EA a safe journey and all the participants God's Grace and Blessings! I thank you all for participating in the General Chapter through the Study Papers and through your prayers! Please continue to pray for its success until it is over.

New Email

Fr. Zachariah Burofero has new email: donzac77@gmail.com

Appointments

Fr. Collins Barasa Simiyu is appointed to the Fransalian community Kikunde as its bursar and designated to be appointed as the assistant parish priest of St. Francis de Sales parish, Kikunde with effect from 10.01.2025.

Fr. Abraham Mutoro will stay in Lukobe parish from 10.01.2025 as he prepares his documents to go to South Africa.

Studies

Hearty Congratulations to all those who completed their studies! I wish much success to all those who are about to complete their studies.

Fr. Jonathan Muema, started his studies at Kenya College of Accountancy University (KCAU) on September 2020 by taking online classes while engaged in Apostolate at Bukene, Tabora in Tanzania. He took a course in Bachelor of Commerce specialized in accounting. Later was transferred to Mlolongo in February 2021 in order to attend regular classes at the university. The University was founded in 1989 whose main campus is located at Ruaraka along Thika Super away. He graduated on 29/11/2024 during 17th Graduation ceremony with Second Class Honors (Upper Division) in a class of 690 students.

Fr. Jomon Vellachalil began his MSc studies in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) in St. Mary's Catholic University in San Antonio, Texas, USA at the end of 2021. He graduated with honors on 14.12.2024.

Fr. Jomat Kollapallil began his MA in philosophy in September 2018 in the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium. In 2021 he shifted himself to Münster, Germany and began an MA in Social Anthropology. He did his German language studies there. After completing his Masters, he began his PhD. Currently, he is in the Second semester of his PhD in the Münster University which was formerly known as Wilhelms Westfalen Universität. He is doing his research in the faculty of Catholic Theology, in the research unit "Philosophische Grundfragen der Theologie" under Prof. Thomas Hanke and Prof. Nitsche. His theme is "A Critical realist comparison of Ludwig Feuerbach's *Das Wesen des Christentums* and Karl Rahner's *Der Geist in Welt*." Although he has a number of criteria to complete, he hopes to his studies in two years' time i.e. towards the end of 2026.

Fr. Aristides Danda began his Master's in Religious Studies in May, 2022 at the Chuka University, Kenya. He has completed all the exams. He has to now wind up his thesis. The theme of his thesis is "Evaluation of the African Hospitality in building Christian faith among the Catholic Faithful of Ndagani Parish." He is expected to complete his thesis in the next six months.

Fr. Jobin Karottukampadam was admitted for Masters in Education at the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) in 2021. He could give his exams later only, due to the corona pandemic. The theme of his thesis is socio-economic factors influencing school drop-outs among the girls in public secondary schools in Machackos county, Kenya. He is expected to complete his studies by the end of 2025.

Fr. Amal Neerolickal registered for Masters in Education in 2021 at the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU). Due to Corona his studies were delayed. His thesis deals with the Impact of Visual media on CBC Learners. He will complete his studies in 2025.

Fr. Peter Johnson Napoleon started Licentiate in Marriage and Family Science at John Paul II Pontifical Theological Institute for Marriage and Family Sciences, CANA Changanacherry, India on 10th September 2020. His thesis is titled, "The Impact of Witchcraft and Superstition in East Africa as Regards Immorality of Christian Families." He is expected to complete his studies in the year 2025.

Fr. Clement Sudhakar started his Bachelor of Laws (LLB) in December 2020 at Tumaini University, Arusha, Tanzania. He completed it in July 2023 and began his Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice at the Law School of Tanzania in July 2024. From January 2025 to May 2025, he will be doing Field Placement. He will be at the District Court of Kibaha from January to the first week of March and at the Law Firm of Chuwa and Company at Oysterbay, Dar es Salaam from the second week of March

to the second week of May 2025. Thereupon, he is expected to complete his studies in Law.

Fr. Williams Sebastian is scheduled to complete his PhD in Education at the Mwenge University in Moshi, Tanzania in January 2025.

I wish all the confreres mentioned here and many other confreres, who are not mentioned here but doing their specialized studies, much success and determination!

2025 Province Retreats, Forum Meetings, Council Meeting

April 8	Tue	Formation Forum in LCI, Arusha
April 9	Wed	Superiors Forum in LCI
April 10	Thu	Pastoral Forum in LCI
April 11-12	Fri-Sat	Council Meeting in LCI

June 4-9	Wed-Mon	Retreat I, in FSC, Morogoro
June 10	Tue	Stewardship Forum in FSC
June 11	Wed	Innovative Forum FSC

July 2-7	Wed-Mon	Retreat II in LCI, Arusha
July 8	Tue	Education Forum in LCI

Home Leave or Holidays

Fr. Nelson Vijayakumar	October 04 to November 09, 2024
Fr. Jomat Kollapallil	October 15, 2024 to November 22, 2024
Fr. Dennis Dindi	October 28 to November 28, 2024
Fr. Amal Neerolickal	November 1 to December 1, 2024
Fr. Joseph Ambongo	November 02 to December 02, 2024
Fr. Sijo Pandanath	November 09 to December 08, 2024
Fr. Michael Mwangi	November 16 to December 16, 2024
Fr. Ssentamu Ruthital	November 16 to January 01, 2025

Fr. Brian Wasswa	November 21 to December 17, 2024
Fr. Simon Peter Nabende	November 22 to December 16, 2024
Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal	December 04 to December 13, 2024
Fr. Francis Indumuli	December 09 to December 20, 2024
Fr. Larence Sebowa	December 04, 2024 to January 3, 2025
Fr. Aristides Danda	December 16, 2024 to January 17, 2025
Fr. Johnson Napoleon	December 20 to January 20, 2025
Fr. Moses Okoth	December 21 to January 17, 2025
Fr. Edward Mgagi	December 21 to January 21, 2025
Fr. Sunny Mattathil	December 26 to January 28, 2025
Fr. Tomichan Perumanoor	December 26 to January 28, 2025
Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil	December 26 to February 13, 2026
Fr. Pius Kochuparambil	December 28 to February 06, 2025
Fr. Thomas Kochuparambil	December 28 to February 06, 2025
Fr. Stephen Mutisya	January 04 to January 31, 2025
Fr. Wilson Pakkiam	January 08 to February 07, 2025
Fr. Avil Veigas	January 11 to February 11, 2025
Fr. Jobin Karottukampadam	January 26 to February 27, 2025

Obituary

- On September 10, Fr. Nicholas Ngowi CPPS, in a road accident.
- On Septemeber 16, Ms. Nakye Kotida, maternal aunt of Fr. Ivan Mubbo MSFS
- On October 04, Ms. Mariyamma Mathew, mother of Fr. Johnson Pathiyil MSFS

- On October 19, 2024 Rev. Fr. Paul Gonsalves MSFS of Pune Province
- On October 25, Mrs. Giustina Cresta, mother of the Apostolic Nuncio of Uganda His Excellency Most Rev. Luigi Bianco, Apostolic Nuncio to Uganda
- On November 27, 2024 Mrs. Signoric Mbithe Makau, wife of the brother of Fr. Gregory Mua Mutisya MSFS
- On December 10, Mr. Alois Murani father of Fr. Thomas Njue
- On 14.12.2024 Ms. Angelina Kundi Selestino, cook at the former SFS Aspirants House, Lububu, Nzega.

May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God rest in peace!

Conclusion

As the forerunner of Jesus, John the Baptist pointed Jesus to his disciples saying, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (Jn. 1:29), let our lives point to Jesus through our very words and deeds. As Mary, the mother of Jesus said, "let it be to me according to your word" (Lk. 1:38), let us accept the will of God in our lives though it may be difficult. As St. Francis de Sales says, "we must not only do the will of God, but to be really devout, we must do it cheerfully, nay, joyfully." As the incarnate word Jesus our Lord says, "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" (Jn. 12:24), let us be ready to fall to the ground and produce much fruit.

I wish you all a fruitful celebration of Christmas!

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

James

Father James Panthalanickel MSFS
Provincial – MSFS East Africa

