



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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LIVE JESUS

Provincial Circular EAP – JP 7

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My dear confreres,

Fraternal greetings to all of you!

Last Sunday (21.04.2024) was the Good Shepherd Sunday, which reminded us of our true identity. God is our shepherd and we are his sheep. God has called every one of us by name, as the Good Shepherd calls his sheep by name (Jn 10:3). The book of Genesis describes our identity as God's children created in His own very image and likeness (Gen 1:26). God's image is love and forgiveness. He revealed Himself in Jesus as forgiveness and mercy. One of the last words of Jesus was, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." If God is forgiveness and love, God's children ought to reflect this love and forgiveness in their daily life. Do we live up to our true identity? Are we ready to grant forgiveness to those who offend us and seek forgiveness when we offend them. Certainly, it demands of us a lot of courage! Let us ask the Lord for this courage!

Action Plan of the 10th Provincial Congress

In September 2023, we conducted the 10th Ordinary Provincial Congress with the theme: *Walking Together as Fransalian Missionaries to Live our Charism in East Africa Today*. May I take this opportunity to remind you that the very first item in the Action Plan we drew up at the end of the Congress was to ***“remain rooted in God through community time-table and by being faithful to morning prayer, evening prayer, personal prayers and meditation on the word of God.”*** I appeal to every confrere and community to execute this in their daily Fransalian way of life.

Vocation Promotion

Ever since 1989, we have started various ministries in East Africa in line with the apostolates of our congregation. To continue our ministries, we need those who give themselves completely for the missionary tasks of our Congregation. Constitution 131 speaks of the responsibility of every confrere to promote vocations. *“Each confrere and every community has the duty to make known the life and mission of the Congregation so that we are able to inspire young men to opt for our way of life.”*

On April 21, 2024 we prayed for vocations. I appreciate all our confreres who work day and night for the welfare of the people entrusted to their care. I would like to ask every parish priest in our province to promote vocations to our province from the parish, where they are working. This implies that the parish priest and assistant parish priest appointed in a particular parish make conscious effort by explaining to the faithful about our congregation and inviting vocations to it. Please ask every parent and guardian to pray for vocations to priesthood and religious life. Please employ various ways to promote vocations by making use of your talents and initiatives.

There are priests and candidates to priesthood and religious life from many parishes where we render our services. I do appreciate the priests who have been instrumental in promoting such vocations. Nevertheless, I do strongly desire that there be MSFS priests and MSFS priest candidates from our parishes for our province. As far as I know, there are formees in our province from Mji Mpya, Lububu, Kashishi, Osia and Agururu parishes only as well as some who studied their Ordinary Level Secondary School at the Junior Seminary, Morogoro. It is true that we should not force anyone to embrace the way of life of our congregation. *But, I would like that at least one candidate each from every parish where we work joins our congregation in the period of these coming 5 years.*

Promotions To Various Stages of Formation

The following Deacons are Promoted to Priesthood

1. Godwin Nanalo
2. Joseph Mwasa

The following Brothers are Promoted to Diaconate

1. Collins Barasa Simiyu
2. Linto Vargheese

The following Brothers are Promoted to Perpetual Vows

1. Collins Barasa Simiyu
2. Linto Vargheese

The following Brothers are promoted to renew their temporary vows

Third Year Theology

1. Collins Barasa Simiyu
2. Linto Vargheese

Second Year Theology

1. Abraham Wamakale
2. Dismas Ikachuli

3. Justine Wanjala
4. Lazaro Mnuka
5. Moses Lobong
6. Pascal Wangi
7. Peter Eboyu
8. Richard Masereka
9. Xavier Nimusima

First Year Theology

1. Lawrence Ssekayi

Regents

1. Innocent Munishi
2. Joseph Kapungu
3. Raymond Kiti
4. Richard Woniala
5. Victor Muhangi

Third Year Philosophy

1. Pascal Wanjala

First Year Philosophy

1. Brian Arineitwe
2. Darius Twinomuhangi
3. Fredrick Odhiambo Afulo
4. John Chruchill Omondi
5. Joseph Tweteise
6. Justus Twesigye
7. Louis Natukunda
8. Petrus Kabulwa
9. Pius Munshi

The Following Brothers are Promoted to make their First Profession

1. Alpherius Masereka
2. Denis Atuheire
3. Derick Sibolo
4. Gyavira Arinde

5. Hansbeth Kuboja
6. Ignatius Atuheire
7. John Alex Msabila
8. Kalist Nangai
9. Reagen Bwambale
10. Samuel Obbo

The following Brothers are Promoted to Novitiate

1. Andrew Mutisya Wambua
2. Archangel Owomugisha
3. Edwin Kato
4. Felix Mela Mutunga
5. Humphrey Godwin Sikanda
6. John Onesmo Mboro
7. Laurent Joseph Mgata
8. Lawrence Nabaya
9. Paul Charles Kizito

The following Brothers are promoted to Postulancy

1. Ambrose Nyesigamukama
2. Anthony Luyimbazi
3. Austin Mumbe Wanjuiru
4. Brian Omboga Nyabuto
5. Dominic Mulinge
6. Erickson Pius Kundi
7. Fabius Arinaitwe
8. Gideon Ndambuki Ndisya
9. Gilbert Muhereza
10. Hezekia Godfrey Nyasulu
11. Innocent Ainembabazi
12. Laurence Tukamuhabwa
13. Owen Micheal Kimbori
14. Paskali Josephaty Mnyangu
15. Patrick Ocilet
16. Philemon Anderson
17. Prosper Ahaisibwe
18. Rodin Muhindo Malisere
19. Ronald Turyamuhaki
20. Victor Atumanya

Ordinations to Priesthood 2024

Dn. Godwin Nanalo, Dn. Joseph Mwasu, Dn. Abraham Mutoro (SA Region), and Dn. Ivan Mubbo (SA Region) will be ordained priests by Rev. Christopher Kakooza, the bishop of Lugazi on July 27, 2024 at Lugazi Cathedral, Uganda.

Ordinations to Diaconate 2024

Bro. Collins Barasa Simiyu will be ordained as a deacon by Rev. Christopher Kakooza, the bishop of Lugazi on July 27, 2024 at Lugazi Cathedral, Uganda. Bro. Linto Vargheese will be ordained as a deacon in October 2024, in JUCO, Morogoro.

Perpetual Vows 2024

Bro. Collins Barasa Simiyu will make his perpetual vows on 29.06.2024 at Fransalian House, Kola, Morogoro. Bro. Linto Vargheese will make his perpetual vows in October, 2024 at Fransalian House, Kola, Morogoro.

Novitiate 2024-2025

The postulants will enter novitiate on June 14, 2024 and their First Profession will be on June 15, 2025.

New Novitiate in Cameroon

The Chad Cameroon Delegation is starting its own Novitiate in July 2024. We wish them all the blessings!

Fransalian Spirituality Centre, Ndagani, Kenya

As the Centre is about to start a Catechists' Course, some renovation works of the house are going on in order to make the house suitable for men and women to stay.

Fransalian Spirituality Centre, Morogoro, Tanzania

The Centre will begin its academic programs in September 2024, offering diplomas in Spirituality and family apostolates.

New Presbyteries at Lububu and Kalagala

The parishes of Lububu in Tabora, Tanzania and Kalagala in Lugazi, Uganda have started building new presbyteries there. While we congratulate the confreres there, we pray that the Lord may bring their efforts to completion.

A Primary School at Mlolongo, Kenya

The Provincial Administration has decided to initiate the process of converting the secondary school at Mlolongo, Kenya into a primary school. To start the process, a Kindergarten will be built first. Recently, the land around the secondary school has been allotted to the MSFS. We thank the confreres at Mlolongo for their efforts.

Visits to the Formation Houses

The Councillor-in-Charge of Formation visited the Novitiate, Scholasticate and the Theology Study House. It was an opportunity to listen to the formees and the formators. Fr. Provincial visited all the Formation Houses in the Province and met the staff and students of the Novitiate, Philosophy, and theology personally. He also visited all the regents and their Superiors.

Our Ministries in Kahama Diocese

The Provincial Council felt the need for a wider discussion about our presence and ministries in the diocese of Kahama. The mid-term Provincial Assembly provides opportunity for that.

Consultation to shift Novitiate to Turiani, Morogoro, Tanzania

The consultation done at the province level regarding shifting the novitiate to Turiani Land indicated that a large majority of the confreres are of the opinion that the Novitiate should stay where it is now and half of the land of the Novitiate be used for a secondary school. Nevertheless, it should be remembered that sufficient supply of water is essential for starting a secondary school. Fr. Japhet Kirimi is entrusted with the task of finding a good source of water in the land as well as finding out how schools nearby address the problem of water.

Study Paper 2 of the General Chapter 2025

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for the timely Apostolic Community meetings to discuss the Study Paper 2 of the General Chapter 2025. I thank all the convenors and the secretaries for sending me the reports on time. I take this opportunity to thank the Rector of LCI Scholasticate for making it possible for the Scholastics to study the second Study Paper and give their feedback. I also thank the Delegates to the General Chapter who collated the reports.

Health Insurance

Confreres working in a particular country should have health Insurance in the respective countries provided by the Governments. NHIF of Tanzania is an example. Confreres above 60 will contact the Provincial to make arrangements for their Health Insurance.

Priestly Renewal Course in the Holy Land

Fr. Siljo Cherian and Fr. Abraham Musaja will attend the priestly Renewal Retreat in the Holy Land (Jerusalem) which will take place in July 2024.

Retreat in Fatima, Portugal

In October 2024, Fr. Sunny Vettickal, Fr. Regi Pendanath, Fr. Francis Kallikattu, Fr. Sebastian Palakudy and Fr. Kurian Kollappallil will attend a renewal retreat in Portugal as they have been recently celebrating their silver jubilees.

Province Retreats and Ongoing Formation

Both the Province Retreats and Ongoing Formation will take place as scheduled at LCI, Arusha in June 2024. But the preacher who originally had agreed to animate both the retreats and the ongoing formation cannot come due to some unavoidable circumstances!

The first ongoing formation sessions, the first Province Retreat, and the second ongoing formation sessions will be animated by **Fr. James Kulwa Shimbala SMA**. He is a psychotherapist and holds an MA in psychotherapy from the university of East Anglia in UK. He also holds a post-graduate diploma in Psycho-spiritual Counselling from the Institute of St. Anselm, Rome. Besides, he has gained experience from the Psycho-Spiritual Institute, Nairobi where he was a Trainer of the Trainees (ToT). The second retreat will be animated by **Fr. Titus Wambua CSsR**, the Regional Superior of the Redemptorists.

Congratulations

Rev. Fr. Karnam Dhaman Kumar MSFS is appointed as the bishop of Nalgonda, Telangana, India. We extend our congratulations to him and offer him our prayers!

Gratitude

Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhiyil is leaving Lumen Christi Institute (LCI), Arusha on May 25, 2024. Ever since the starting of Philosophy, Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhiyil has been serving LCI as vice-rector, formator and professor. He has taught many of our priests here in Tanzania and in Bangalore, India. He proved to be an integral part of LCI. It will be very difficult for LCI, the Province of East Africa and the Congregation to accept the fact that he is leaving LCI. Nevertheless, we respect his health and old age. We thank him sincerely for his presence and service! The Provincial of East Africa cum the Major Superior of LCI will accompany him back to the province of Guwahati, Assam, India.

Fr. Devasia Manalel who has been the animator of the formators course for 9 years is going back to South Africa in May 2024. He has guided many Sisters, Brothers and Fathers from East Africa and other countries. We acknowledge his great service, his counselling skills and guidance not only to LCI but also to the Province of East Africa. We could approach him whenever we needed him to animate retreats or Salesian Spirituality Programs. We thank him for his presence and service!

Fr. Rakesh Ekka has been serving the novitiate as socius for the past three years. He belongs to the South-West India Province. He is going back to the Province on May 20, 2024. He is already appointed as Socius in the new Novitiate which Chad Cameroon Delegation is starting in July, 2024. We thank him for his dedicated service and commitment.

Fr. John Britto belonging to the Malawi Mission of South-East India Province is going to Malawi in December 2024. We thank him for his dedicate service to the province for the past one year.

Transfers and Appointments

1. Fr. Edward Mgagi is appointed to the Fransalian Community of the Novitiate as the socius with effect from May 31, 2024.

Appointments taking effect in the month of August, 2024

1. Fr. Tomichan Perumanoor is appointed as the Superior of the Fransalian Community and is designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of Bukene Parish.
2. Fr. Gregory Mua Mutisya is appointed to the Fransalian Community, the Manager of the SFS School, Bukene and is designated to be appointed as the Assistant parish priest of Bukene Parish.
3. Fr. Siljo Aupadan is appointed to the Fransalian Community. Ibihiwa. He will also initiate the process of building a primary school at our land in Dodoma. He is designated to be appointed as the assistant parish priest of Ibihwa Parish.
4. Fr. John Britto is appointed as the assistant at Fransalian Spirituality Centre, Kingolwira (from August to December 2024 only)
5. Fr. Avil Veigas is appointed to the Fransalian Community of the Junior Seminary, Kihonda, Morogoro. He is also appointed as the vice-rector and the bursar of the Junior Seminary.
6. Fr. Leonard Musembi is appointed to the Fransalian Community of Osia, Tororo, Uganda. He is designated to be appointed as the assistant parish priest of Osia parish.
7. Fr. Gerald Mibirizi is appointed to the Fransalian Community of Mji Mpya, Dar es Salaam. He is designated to be appointed as the assistant parish priest of Mji Mpya Parish. He will also learn German in the Goethe Institute, Dar es Salaam.
8. Fr. Peter Johnson Nepolean is appointed to the Fransalian Community of Iyolwa, Tororo, Uganda. He is appointed as the Principal of SFS Secondary School. He is designated to be appointed as the assistant parish priest of Iyolwa Parish.
9. Fr. Brian Wasswa is appointed to the Fransalian Community at LCI (from August to November, 2024). During this time, he will be the animator of the Catechists Course at LCI.
10. Fr. Francis Indumuli Aloo is appointed as one of the Spiritual Directors for LCI Scholastics.
11. Fr. Johnson Pathiyil is designated to be appointed as the animator of Formators Course at LCI.

12. Fr. Anthony Rajesh of South East India Province is designated to be appointed as Rector of LCI Scholasticate.

Appointments taking effect in the month of December 2024

1. Fr. Antonysamy Sebastian is appointed as the Mission Coordinator of Kenya and the superior of the Fransalian Community, Mlolongo, Kenya. Besides, he is designated to be appointed as the parish priest of Mlolongo Parish and the director of the VTC.
2. Fr. Kenneth Maina is appointed to the Fransalian Community Mlolongo, Kenya. He will pursue a PhD in Philosophy in CUEA and continue to teach in LCI. He will also initiate the process of converting the secondary school at Mlolongo, Kenya into a primary school. Besides, he is designated to be appointed as the assistant Parish priest of Mlolongo Parish.
3. Fr. Jonathan Muema is appointed as the Superior of the Fransalian Community at Osia, Tororo, Uganda. He is designated to be appointed as the parish priest of Osia Parish.
4. Fr. Sebastian Nirappel is appointed as the superior of the Fransalian Community at Ngurdoto, Tanzania. He is appointed also as one of the Spiritual Directors for the LCI Scholastics. Besides, he is designated to be appointed as the parish priest of Ngurdoto Parish.
5. Fr. Brian Wasswa is appointed to the Fransalian Community Ngurdoto. He is designated to be appointed as the assistant parish priest of Ngurdoto Parish.
6. Fr. A. Robert is appointed as the superior of the Fransalian Community, Dumila, Tanzania. He is designated to be appointed as the parish priest of Dumila Parish.
7. Fr. Santhosh Paul is appointed as the superior of the Fransalian Community, Ibihwa, Tanzania. He is designated to be appointed as the parish priest of Ibihwa Parish.
8. Fr. Thomas Kochuparambil is appointed as the assistant at Fransalain Spirituality Centre, Kingolwira.
9. Fr. Sebastian Williams is designated to be appointed as the manager of Fransalian Hekima Seminary Secondary School, LCI.

News from the Province

1. Fr. Simon Peter Nabende has obtained a Masters in Management and Public Administration from Kampala International University, Uganda! Congratulations!
2. Fr. Stephen Mutisya is pursuing a Masters in Education at Busitema University, Tororo, Uganda
3. Fr. Sijo Pendanath is pursuing a Correspondence Course with the IGNOU doing Master's in Education.

4. An MSFS Society is registered under Graz-Seckau Diocese. I thank Fr. Augustine Stephen Gerald and Francis Kyule for all their efforts.
5. Foundation stone for the Primary School at Buwooya was laid by the provincial Superior on March 15, 2024. We thank Fr. Robert Soosairaj, Buwooya Community and Fr. Thomas Chozhithara for their hard work and cooperation.
6. I had the privilege of paying a courtesy visit to the archbishop of Tororo on March 13, 2024. Besides, I had a meeting with the bishop of Lugazi on March 14, 2024.
7. Forum meetings were held as scheduled in the first week of April in LCI, Arusha. I take this opportunity to thank all the councillors-in-charge and the provincial bursar for organizing them well. I thank the LCI community for hosting these programs.
8. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our Superior General was in LCI giving classes to the Formators. We thank him for his concern and availability!
9. Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil is concluding his silver jubilee on May 1, 2024. We thank God for the gift of this great person to our Province!
10. Frs. Zachariah Burofero and Fr. Jobin Karottukampadam have reached Lucera - Troia, Italy safe and are doing well. They are staying together in one Rectory and giving services in the same parish.
11. Fr. Augustine Mangatt is doing well after the bypass surgery. The surgeon is happy with the progress he has made. The review check-up on April 2 attests to that. He has another review check-up on April 29 after which his return will be planned.
12. Due to lack of personnel in the province we will be able to start our ministry in the diocese of Nakuru, Kenya only in August 2026.
13. We will buy a plot of land in Eldoret, Kenya only after starting our own ministry in that diocese.
14. We are progressing with our plan to acquire a plot of land in Arusha, Tanzania.

Let us continue to pray for...

1. Fr. Augustine Mangatt who is recovering from the bypass surgery
2. Mrs. Juliet Kaswa, mother of Bro. Peter Kabulwa who is recovering from heart related ailments
3. Mr. Mathew Kallikattu brother of Fr. Francis Kallikattu who is recovering from a heart attack
4. Mrs. Mariam Kollappallil (91 years), mother of Fr. Kurian Kollappallil and grandmother of Fr. Jomat Kollappallil, who is suffering due to age related illnesses.
5. Mr. Kurian Kochalumchuvattil, brother of Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil who suffered a stroke recently and had to amputate one of his legs. He is recovering from his trauma.

Obituary

1. Fr. Joseph Pednekar MSFS of Pune Province died at the age of 94 on 17.02.2024

2. Mr. Kassim Mikongolo, father of Bro. Alex Mikongolo (Lindi Diocese) Second year philosophy in LCI died on 11.03.2024.
3. Mr. Emmanuel Kasibate uncle of Fr. Joseph Kayanja died at the age of 74 on 24.03.2024
4. Mr. Luka Palliyodil, maternal uncle of Fr. Santhosh Paul died on 26.03.2024 at the age of 80.
5. Mr. Joseph Kallarackal, father of Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal died on 04.04.2024 at the age of 77.
6. Mr. Omoto Charles, maternal uncle of Bro. Julius Onaga (First year theology, SA Region) died on 11.04.2024 at the age of 44.
7. Mrs. Marietou Ildjima Boyalngar (69 years), paternal aunt of Bro. Chirac Noubayam MSFS, a first-year philosophy student from Chad, died on 21.04.2024.

Concluding Exhortation

I repeat what I stated in the beginning. The Action Plan of the 10th ordinary Provincial Congress of East Africa demands of us to “***remain rooted in God through community time-table and by being faithful to morning prayer, evening prayer, personal prayers and meditation on the word of God.***” Let us build a real community where we feel at home. Let us make our community a true family which gives sufficient space for God and provides opportunity for daily contact with God.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

James

Father James Panthalanickel MSFS
Provincial – MSFS East Africa

