



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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LIVE JESUS

Provincial Circular EAP – JP 9

September 08, 2024

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

Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows, the patroness of the MSFS is an eminent Fransalian Devotion handed down to us by our beloved founder. Devotion to our founder Fr. Peter Mermier is yet another hallmark of the Fransalians. We celebrate both these solemnities in September every year. By praying the obligatory novenas that precede the celebrations, let us prepare spiritually for these events!

I would like to highlight here two important qualities of our Founder which everyone of us may imitate:

a. Fr. Mermier used sermons and homilies as the main means of proclaiming the Word of God. He adopted carefully-prepared simple preaching. He spoke with faith and conviction using a fatherly tone of voice marked with a kindly understanding of sinners like St. Francis de Sales. Let us spend time to prepare our homilies and use it as a means to instruct people in the Word of God. **Let God speak through our homilies!**

b. Fr. Mermier was a zealous and hardworking missionary. This is particularly evident in his last years. He himself had conducted ninety missions between 1828 and 1857. This is an average of 3 mission preachings in a year. Even five years before his death, he had preached parish missions. In spite of his old age, he took over the Parish of Pougny as priest-in-charge on 26 June 1857. He fell seriously sick in Pougny and was taken to La Feuillette. His eye-sight and thinking capacity weakened. When he became a little better in July 1859, he took up a pilgrimage to Our Lady of La Salette, in France. He suffered a fierce attack on June 6, 1860 and became fully blind. On 10 August 1862 he had a fall, which caused a double fracture of his right leg. He left for his heavenly abode on 30 September 1862. Even in his last years, he never lagged behind in his zeal and hard work. **Let zeal and hard work characterize our ministry!**

(Please read volume 26/August 2024 of DSM. This volume is on the *Missionary Zeal* of Fr. Mermier. It is a collection of articles by different authors. The document has been forwarded in the WhatsApp group *MSFS East Africa Province* on 30.08.2024.)

News and Views

Priestly Renewal Course in the Holy Land

Fr. Siljo Cherian and Fr. Abraham Musaja Kisegerwa attended the priestly Renewal Course in the Holy Land in July 2024. They had a safe journey and comfortable stay in Jerusalem and they profited a lot from the Course. Here below are their experiences:

My Journey to the Holy Land: An Experience of Grace and Reflection

My visit to the Holy Land was a pilgrimage of grace, reflection, and spiritual renewal. As I walked through the sacred sites (Bethlehem, Nazareth, Sea of Galilee, Mount of Olives, Via Dolorosa, Golgotha, Church of Holy Sepulchre, Dead Sea, Holy Temple, Western wall, and many other places) where Jesus lived, taught, and suffered, I felt a deep connection to the life of Christ—a connection that was far beyond what words could capture. The entire journey was like a living prayer. Throughout my time in the Holy Land, I felt a renewed passion for my faith. Each holy site I visited was a call to deeper prayer, reflection, and devotion. I left with a heart full of gratitude and a soul touched by the beauty of Christ's sacrifice. The journey reminded me of the boundless love of our Savior, a love that endures through time and transcends all human understanding.

I will always cherish this pilgrimage as a sacred encounter with the divine, an experience that deepened my connection to Christ and strengthened my commitment to follow Him more closely in my daily life. I express my sincere gratitude to our Provincial Superior, benefactors and the organizers for giving me this golden opportunity.

Fr Siljo Cherian MSFS

Ierushalom of Israel: A short description of my journey experience in Israel

The moment I stepped in Ierushalom – Israel, I felt the real presence of God. I saw Jesus Christ of history to be present, and, I felt much joy, peace, comfort and love in my heart. We went to the old Ierushalom and reached the western wall of the Temple mount. At this place, we had prayers with the Jews (something I have been dreaming of, but expecting to reach there one time by God's will).

We reached the following places: Temple Mount, Via Dolorosa, the streets of Ierushalom, the birth place of the B V Mary, the place where Mary visited Elizabeth, the birth place of John the Baptist, Mount of Olives, Bethany at the tomb of Lazarus, the place where Jesus stood and wept over Ierushalom, where Jesus ascended into heaven, River Jordan, Bet-lechem (birth place of Jesus Christ and the cave where the Angels found the shepherds and Gortto of milk), Nazareth, Mount Tabor (mt. of transfiguration), Iericho (on the Mount of temptation), Magdala (shore of Lake of Galilee), Korazim, Capharnaum, mount of the Beatitudes, house of Peter, Tabgha, Emmaus, Mount Sion (where Peter denied Jesus), the Cenacle, Jaffa (at the house of Simon the Tanner), Caesarea Malitima, and others. More interestingly, we visited Calvery and Sepulchre more than ten times of the time we spent in Ierushalom at Notre Dame.

We had seminar every day after super, and, we had retreats also. Our guide was well equipped with data about the places we visited. I enjoyed the journeys we made while visiting different historical sites. The Masses we celebrated every day (in shifts) in the Holy Land.

In brief I cannot explain everything because even today I feel that am in Israel. For sure, the historical Jesus cannot be separated from the Jesus of faith (Spiritual Jesus). Again, I walked on the Land of Jesus with my own legs, God is great and may His great name be praised always in my heart and life.

Lastly, I thank my Provincial Superior and his Council for giving me this opportunity to go to the Holy Land. Every day I used to pray for the Province of East Africa and the Congregation of msfs, and for the missions we have in the world. This journey has renewed my spiritual life.

Fr. Abraham Musseja Kisegerwa

Translation of the *Introduction to Devout Life*

I thank Bro. John Churchill MSFS and his team for putting in their hard work in completing the first draft of the translation of the *Introduction to Devout Life*. The translation is undergoing further editing!

SPA 2024

The Salesian Spirituality Program in Annecy will start on September 28, 2024. Fr. Sebastian Antonysamy is preparing himself to attend this program.

25 years of Chad Mission

It's 25 years since the MSFS started working in Chad. In November 2024 special celebrations will be held in Chad to mark this occasion.

MSAF Meeting

The annual MSAF meeting will be held on November 13, 2024 in Cameroon.

Perpetual Profession

Bro. Abraham Wamakale and Bro. Pascal Wangi will make their Perpetual Profession on November 22, 2024 in Chad.

Pastoral Ministry

Fr. Thomas Chozhithara did a month's pastoral ministry in Switzerland in July-August 2024.

CSC Jubilee

Fr. Sunny Vettickal will attend the Catholic Spirituality Centre's Jubilee in Singapore from 18-24, September 2024.

Chapter of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny

Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil will animate the chapter of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny in Seychells, in October 2024.

First Communion at SFS Parish, Lukobe

On August 18, 2024 around 111 young Catholics received Communion for the first time at Lukobe parish! Fr. Provincial was the main celebrant of the Eucharistic celebration.

Graduation of Class VII in Bukene and Mkuza

The graduation ceremony of Class VII students at SFS School, Bukene was held on August 10, 2024. Fr. Provincial was the chief guest. Similarly, graduation of Class VII

students of Fransalian Mission School, Mkuza was held on August 17, 2024. The Provincial bursar was the chief guest.

Golden Jubilee of an FCC Sister in Bukene

Sr. Seena FCC working in the SFS School, Bukene celebrated the golden Jubilee of her First Profession on 10.08.2024.

Confirmation at SFS Parish, Ibihwa

His Grace Beatus Kinyaia administered the sacrament of confirmation to 220 Catholics on 11.08.2024. He blessed a cross at the main road as memorial for the five years of existence of the parish. In addition, he blessed a grotto of Our Lady near the presbytery.

Fransalian Spirituality Centre, Kingolwira

The Spirituality Centre at Kingolwira, Morogoro began to function on September 01, 2024. As part of the first batch, ten students have arrived the Centre already. His Lordship, bishop Lazarus Msimbe of the catholic diocese of Morogoro will be the chief guest on September 30, 2024 when the official opening of the Centre will take place.

Pearl Jubilee of the Junior Seminary and Form IV Graduation

On September 28, 2024 the Junior Seminary, Kihonda, Morogoro will celebrate the 30 years of Jubilee of its existence and the graduation of Form IV students. The Provincial Superior of East Africa will preside over the Eucharistic Celebration. Honourable Anthony Mavunde, minister for Minerals who was a former Junior Seminarian will be the guest of honour. On that day evening the association of Friends of St. Francis de Sales, Tanzania will hold their Annual General Body Meeting in Morogoro.

Centenary Celebration of Lububu Parish

On September 29, 2024 Protase Cardinal Rugambwa will declare formally the starting of the centenary celebrations of Lububy Parish. On the same day he will confer the sacrament of Confirmation to those who are prepared for it. Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil will represent the Province officially during these celebrations.

Annual Pilgrimage to the Salvation Hill, Lububu

The annual Pilgrimage to the Salvation Hill will be on September 14, 2024 in Lububu. Fr. Provincial will be the chief celebrant and Fr. Francis Kyule will be the preacher.

Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee Celebrations

The Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee celebrations of Fr. Joseph Poikunnel MSFS, Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil MSFS and Fr. James Panthalanickel MSFS will be held at Fransalian Spirituality Centre, Morogoro on the evening of 06.12.2024.

New Administration of Southern African Region

The Regional Assembly of the Southern African Region was held from August 26 to August 29, 2024 with the theme, “*Fransalians, Pilgrims of Hope: Committed to renew and revitalize the founding Charism for the mission of the Church in Southern Africa*”. The following are the members of the New Regional Administration:

Fr. Thomas Vanderkunnel, Regional Superior
Frs. Noble Nakathinngal, Regional Councilor
Fr. Saju Thalayinakandathil, Regional Councilor
Fr. Lukose Perumannikala, Regional Bursar

Hearty Welcome

- Fr. Johnson Kallidukkil MSFS and Fr. Francis Kyule MSFS are in the province with their guests visiting various places. We wish them a very hearty welcome!
- Sr. Tina Kunnel, Mother General of SKD Sisters visited her Sisters working in the Fransalian Spirituality Centre, Morogoro.

Prayers and best wishes to all our students

In our schools, class VII and Form IV students are going to write their national exams very soon. I request your prayers and blessings for them.

New Address

Fr. David Susai has moved into the new parish in the diocese of Wuerzburg. His new address is: Hauptstraße 44, 63875 Mespelbrunn – Hessenthal, Germany.

Treatment

- Fr. Wilson Pakkiam underwent a successful surgery to remove contract from his right eye on September 5, 2024. He will undergo the same surgery of his left eye in a few weeks' time.
- Fr. Sebastian Nirappel will undergo treatment for a small growth on his back while he is at home for holidays.
- Fr. Jomat Kollapallil will undergo treatment for navel-hernea while he is at home for holidays.

Home Leave

- Fr. Sebastian Williams – August 22 to September 22, 2024
- Fr. Francis Kyule – August 19 to September 23, 2024
- Fr. Gregory Mutisya – September 01 to October 01, 2024

- Fr. Thomas Chozhithara September 02 to September 14, 2024
- Fr. Sebastian Nirappel September 10 to October 24, 2024
- Fr. Patrick Musyimi September 4 to October 4, 2024
- Fr. Jomat Kollapallil October 15 to November 22, 2024

Departure

Novice Archangel Owomugisha has ceased to be a novice since August 2024.

Obituary

- On 12.08.2024, Viola Wafula, niece of Dn. Collins Barasa Simiyu
- On 15.08.2024, Pd. Kosmos Asenga OSA, an Augustinian priest working in Kola, Morgoro, Tanzania
- On 17.08.24, Mr. Che Francis, father of brother Bertrand Ching, 1st year Theology, Chad - Cameroon
- On 29.08.2024 Mr. Charles Ochieng, cousin of Fr. Moses Okoth
- On 31.08.2024 Mr. David Nkwera, a former Junior Seminarian of 2006-2010
- May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace!

Conclusion

On September 8 every year we celebrate the birthday of Mary, Mother of Christ. Her birthday is important in the history of salvation. With her birth, the birth of Jesus our Saviour from her, comes nearer. The mystery of our salvation becomes clearer. When Jesus on the cross entrusted Mary to John his beloved disciple she has become the mother of us all. As we celebrate the birth of our beloved mother let us pray that we accept the will of God in our lives just as Mary did. I wish you all a happy feast of the birthday of our mother!

I wish you a happy feast of the exaltation of the Cross on September 14. Let us remember and pray for all the Sisters of the Holy Cross as they celebrate their feast! I wish you all a happy feast of the Mother of Sorrows, our patroness on September 15. I wish you all a very happy feast of the Founder's Day on September 30.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

James

Father James Panthalanickel MSFS
Provincial – MSFS East Africa

