



# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

Provincial House, P. O. Box 12, Morogoro, Tanzania

Tel: +255 620 420 372 [www.msfs-eastfrica.com](http://www.msfs-eastfrica.com)

Email: [provincialeastafricansfs@gmail.com](mailto:provincialeastafricansfs@gmail.com); [frjamesp@gmail.com](mailto:frjamesp@gmail.com)



LIVE JESUS

Provincial Circular EAP – JP 11

March 7, 2025

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

With Ash Wednesday we have entered into the season of Lent! This season should remind us that we are weak and that we stand in need of God’s strength. Jesus, our saviour has redeemed us with his cross. We offer all our weaknesses to God and ask Him to help us experience the redemption He has worked for us on the Cross.

The season of Lent calls us to reconcile not only with God but also with our fellow human beings. As the Superior General exhorts, let us appreciate one another especially those in our community. “A hearty smile, a friendly hello, a sincere greeting, a warm hug, a firm handshake and a firm genuine prayer for our community member,” will go a long way in experiencing the redemption God has worked for us!

## **General Chapter XXI**

General Chapter XXI was held in Stella Maris, the Provincial House of Visakhapatnam Province between February 1 and February 14, 2025. The chapter was a unique occasion to experience the togetherness of the MSFS and its life as one family. As the supreme legislative body, it has laid down means for “the effective carrying out of the mission of the Church, in willing obedience to her teachings and in fidelity to the Charism of our Congregation.” The teachings are found in the second circular of the new Superior General. Please go through that reflectively in order to imbibe the spirit of the Chapter. Besides deliberating, it also elected the new General Administration for the next eight years.

## **New General Administration of the MSFS**

**Very Rev. Fr. Kallidukil Johnson Michael MSFS** was elected as the 15th Superior General of the MSFS Congregation. Assisting him in leadership are:

- Rev. Fr. Puthiyakulangara Saji George MSFS – Assistant Superior General
- Rev. Fr. Thumma Mariadas Reddy MSFS – General Councillor in charge of missions
- Rev. Fr. A. Christu Raj MSFS—General Councillor in charge of SAIM

- Rev. Fr. De Souza Benedict MSFS – General Councillor in charge of Formation
- Rev. Fr. A. Anthony Swamy MSFS—General Councillor in charge of Education
- Rev. Fr. Karickal Jose MSFS—General Bursar

Congratulations to all of them! May the good Lord guide them in their task of leading the congregation!

### **New Mother General of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod**

Sr. Elizabeth Miranda has been elected as the new mother general of the Sisters of the Cross of Chavanod. Besides her, the new general administration has been elected during their General Chapter held in Sri Lanka.

### **A New Mission of the MSFS in Eldoret, Kenya**

We thank Rt. Rev. Dominic Kimongic of Eldoret for inviting us to the diocese of Eldoret. On January 22, 2025 accompanied by Fr. Antonysamy Sebastian, the coordinator of MSFS in Kenya, Fr. Sunny Vettickal and Fr. Innocent Ngowi Provincial Councillors, Fr. Japhet Kiriimi and Fr. Provincial visited the centre called Kipkaren which is on the highway to Malaba, Uganda. Since the MSFS is working in the Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda, the new centre is very strategically located. The auxiliary bishop of Eldoret Rt. Rev. John Kiplimo Lelei guided us to Kipkaren. We thank Fr. Peter Pinto SVD who accompanied us and who was instrumental in making our meeting with bishop of Eldoret possible.

In fact, Kipkaren is the substation from which the auxiliary bishop hails. The centre Kipkaren is right now under St. Mary, Queen of Peace parish, Osorongai in the diocese of Eldoret. This parish is run by Salvatorians. The parish borders with Bungoma and Kakamega dioceses. The parish church as well as the presbytery is located 3kms away from the highway. The MSFS is invited to take up Kipkaren and make it a parish. The assigned MSFS priest will stay in the presbytery of Osorongai parish along with the Salvatorians until a new presbytery is built in Kipkaren. It is then that an MSFS community can be established there.

**Blessing of the Newly Renovated Novitiate House** at Fransalianum, Bungo-Mkuza, Kibaha was done on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. Fr. Provincial presided over the Eucharistic celebration. It was also the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination to priesthood.

### **SFS Feast, Silver Jubilee Celebrations, Blessing of the Swimming Pool at SFS School Katani**

On January 24, 2025 the feast of SFS, Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee celebrations of Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil, Fr. Joseph Poikunnel (though absent) and Fr. James Panthalanickel were held at SFS School, Katani. The newly constructed facility of the Swimming Pool was blessed by the Provincial Superior on the same day! We thank Fr. Joby

Maruthomalayil and Fr. Francis Indumuli Aloo and all those who worked for organizing the events well.

### **SFS Feast and the Inauguration of the Renovated Chapel in SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda, Morogoro**

On January 24, 2025 the feast of SFS and the inauguration of the Renovated Chapel at SFS Junior seminary were held. Fr. Reji Pendanath, the Provincial Bursar was the main celebrant. The new chapel has more space and can accommodate many students.

### **SFS Retirement Home**

Our ministry at the Retirement Home at Angamaly, Kerala, India is slowly taking off. There are three retired people already staying there. Ten more have reserved their rooms. Congratulations to Fr. Thomas Olickal and Fr. Martin Pendanath.

The Provincial Superior made a canonical visitation of the Fransalian Community at SFS Bhavan, Angamaly and reviewed the functioning of the community, the new ministry and the studies of Fr. Martin Pendanath.

### **Fransalian Nursery School, Buwooya**

On 10<sup>th</sup> February, the new school at Buwooya, Lugazi has started to function with 98 students admitted into the Baby Class, marking a promising start to the year. I thank the tireless efforts of Fr. Robert Soosairaj and the Fransalian Community Buwooya for making it a reality. I thank also Fr. Thomas Chozhithara who is the project coordinator of the school.

### **Fransalianum (Center for Catechesis and Renewal, South Africa)**

The pastoral centre in South Africa, where Fr. Devasia Manalel is the director has begun to function. Congratulations to the Region of South Africa for this new venture!

### **Rev. Fr. Josephat Bududu as the Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Tabora**

As you may know, Rev. Fr. Josephat Bududu of Tabora Archdiocese did his higher studies at the Indian Institute of Bangalore, India run by the MSFS. He was sponsored by the Province of East Africa during his studies. He has been very close to the MSFS. We thank God for calling him to be the Auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese of Tabora where the MSFS began its first Mission in Africa! His episcopal consecration is on May 25, 2025.

### **MSFS APP**

MSFS App is available now on Android. Please download it and access the details given therein.

## **Studies**

**Fr. Martin Pendanath** is doing his first year Masters in Computer Application as a regular student in UC College, Aluva, India which is under Mahatma Gandhi University, Kerala, India. He is expected to complete it in 2026.

**Fr. Stephen Mutisya** is doing his first year Masters in Education, Leadership and Management (MEIM) at Busitema University, in Tororo, Uganda. He is expected to complete it in 2026.

## **Congratulations**

- **To all the new superiors**, parish priests and those who started their ministry in a new place recently! I wish God's blessings for a fruitful ministry in the new places!
- **To our school managers** and Sisters who collaborate with us for the good results in Form II and Form IV National Examinations
- **To Fr. Sebastian Williams** for successfully completing his PhD in Education at the Catholic University of Mwenge, Tanzania. His public defence was on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January, 2025.
- **To Fr. Manoj Arackal** for being appointed as the delegation Superior of Chad-Cameroon for the third term of three years!

## **New Telephone number**

Fr. Jomat Kollapallil has a new mobile number +4915510593695. However, he is still using his old number as his WhatsApp number.

## **Speedy Recovery to Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil MSFS**

Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil underwent a key-hole laser surgery to remove gallbladder stones at Caritas Hospital, Kottayam, India in January, 2025.

## **Let us Pray for Pope Francis**

The Vatican has announced that Pope Francis is diagnosed with a polymicrobial respiratory tract infection. Recent tests reveal a complex clinical picture, requiring an extended hospital stay for the 88-year-old Pontiff in Rome. Although he is showing signs of improvement, please keep him in your fervent prayers!

## **Departure from the Congregation**

Bro. Baban Nayak of SWIP and regent at the Junior Seminary, Kihonda travelled back to his province on 27.1.2025. He has left the congregation for good. We thank him for his presence and services here and wish him all the blessings for his future!

### **Demise of Ms. Karen Prunty**

Ms. Karen Prunty was called to eternal life on February 08, 2025 after a prolonged illness. We sincerely pray for the repose of her soul and thank God for this inspiring person. She has been a member of the Living Waters International and has been instrumental in supporting many needy children in Africa to do their education. Even after her death, her beloved husband Mr. Brian Prunty says that she and he want to give the memorial funds in memory of her, to the MSFS in East Africa for a project supporting children of Africa. After discussing it with Mr. Steve Zimmerman, the co-founder of Living Waters International, the Province of East Africa has decided to use those funds for the building of the primary school at Dodoma, Tanzania in honour of Ms. Karen Prunty.

### **Reminder of Meetings in April 2025**

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

### **Appointments**

- Fr. Michael Mwangi Mumbi MSFS is appointed to our new mission in Eldoret diocese with effect from March 26, 2025.
- Fathers from Fransalian Community, Ndgani will assist in Chera on Sundays until new arrangements are made.
- Fr. Joseph Mwasa is appointed to the Fransalian Community Lukobe with effect from March 19, 2025 and is designated as the assistant parish priest of Lukobe.
- Fr. Thomas Olickal is appointed as the director of SFS Retirement Home with effect from March 1, 2025.

### **Obituary**

- On December 30, 2024 Ms. Beatrice Juma (55), the wife of the paternal uncle of Fr. Collins Simiyu MSFS
- On December 31, 2024 Ms. Marykutty Kollapallil (91), mother of Fr. Kurain Kollapallil MSFS and grandmother of Fr. Jomat Kollapallil MSFS
- On January 30, 2025 Mother Corrada Magnani, former Mother General of the DSFS

- On February 03, 2025 Mrs. Annamma Varghese (79), mother of Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS
- On February 06, 2025 Fr. Leonard Massawe of Moshi diocese
- On February 08, 2025 Mrs. Karen Prunty of Living Waters International
- On February 22, 2025 Fr. Jean Paul Fournier MSFS

### Conclusion

**“Do not lose your inner peace for anything whatsoever**, not even if your whole world seems upset. If you find that you have wandered away from the shelter of God, lead your heart back to Him quietly and simply.” SFS

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

*James*

Father James Panthalanickel MSFS  
Provincial – MSFS East Africa

