



Vol.2 No.1 Issue 3

Jan - Jun 2013

BARAKA

ZA FRANSALIANS

Half yearly news bulletin of MSFS in East Africa



**“We miss you
Anna!
May you rest
in peace with
other Angels
of God”**

**25 Years
MSFS
in Africa**

Anna is another
victim of the
silent Tsunami
called Malaria
See page: 35

“You are so Precious in the eyes of God.”



Congratulations to
Rev. Fr. Abraham Mullenkuzhy MSFS

On Golden Jubilee of
Priestly Ordination

Date of Ordination:
September 21, 1963
You are Blessing for us All.

Congratulations!

Fr. A. Robert MSFS
Ordained Priest on July 18, 2013



Dn. C. Sudhakar MSFS
Ordained Deacon on July 18, 2013



Hearty Congratulations

First Religious Commitment July 14, 2013 (Kibaha - Tanzania)



Boris



Cyrille



Denis



Joseph



Remijus



Senghor



Gonzaga



Joseph



Brian



Chief Editor

Fr. Francis Devadass MSFS

Associate Editors

Fr. Johnson Pathiyil MSFS

Fr. Robert Soosai Raj MSFS

Chief Designer

Sojan Puthussery Joseph

Publishers

MSFS East Africa Province

P. O Box 12, Morogoro
Tanzania.

email: provincialeastafricamsfs@gmail.com

Web: www.msfs-eastfrica.com

Your valuable suggestions and
comments are most welcome.

francischad008@gmail.com

CONTENTS

Editorial Note..... 4

Message from Fr. Provincial 5

Re-Defining Fransalian Education for
21st Century..... 6

The Beginnings of Christian Mission in
East Africa 11

Fransalian Education Apostolate in East
Africa..... 14

Cheers to Fransalians for the Best
Formation and Education 18

A Journey with Fransalians and its
Spiritual Benefits..... 20

Graduate and employed too 22

Ministry of Education in East Africa 24

My Unforgettable Moments 27

Sincere thanks 31

Unfathomable Love on All..... 32



Editor's Desk

“The universe is one great kindergarten for man.

Everything that exists has brought with it its own peculiar lesson.”

Orison Swett Marden

Learning is like rowing upstream. The future belongs to the learners. Purposeful and planned education enables persons to develop themselves as mature human beings capable of contributing to society.

This edition is dedicated to The EDUCATIONAL APOSTOLATE of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales - Africa.

We congratulate and appreciate the toil, sincere effort and dedication of all Fransalians in Africa who are directly or indirectly involved in the ministry of educating the young, very specially to all the Managers, Principals, Directors, Head teachers, Staff – both teaching and non-teaching- of all our schools. May God reward you richly in your endeavors to form the young and build a value based society.

Fr. Francis Devadoss MSFS



Message from Fr. Provincial

Are you not that someone?

Dear Reader of Baraka, Greetings from East Africa!

It now the third time we the Fransalians in East Africa reach you through *Baraka*! We are inspired to proclaim the glad tidings that God loves us; that God loves you. The remarkable 175 Years of global presence of MSFS Congregation and 25 years of its presence in the continent of Africa impel us to sing His praises. God loves! God blesses!

Baraka means blessing. There is no blessing that is stagnant. On the other hand blessing of God is a movement. Movement of graces from the Almighty to *someone* through *someone*. When you are blessed you become that *someone* through whom again blessings of God are to flow to *someone* else. Thus the natural flow of divine blessings never ceases! If ever it ceases it definitely implies that *someone* has somewhere ceased to be instrumental in being the communicator or the recipient of the blessings of God.

Dear friends, the entire history of Fransalians and very specially the history of Fransalians in Africa for the quarter of a century is nothing but story of the blessings upon Fransalians and how every Fransalian was that *someone* who was and who is ready to be transmitting the blessings of God through one's life. May be you have received something though the Fransalian ministry; may be you have received some blessings somewhere somehow, sometime, for the Spirit moves where it wills (cf Jn. 3:11). I believe no one can deny this fact. If so this is only a reminder to each one of us that you are already blessed and you are called to be that *someone* giving further the blessings of God to those who need them. May *Baraka* inspire you for the same.

Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS
Provincial MSFS East Africa Province

RE-DEFINING FRANSALIAN EDUCATION FOR 21ST CENTURY

Fr. George Parampukattil MSFS, General Secretary for Education



Fr. Peter Marie Mermier, the venerable founder of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS) gave to the Congregation a triple charism viz. renewal of faith (parish missions), Mission abroad (foreign missions) and the education of the young. Fr. Mermier himself realized and recognized the need and importance of quality education as he experienced the aftermath of the French Revolution. His own initial education was in his homebound school as a consequence of the French revolution.

EARLY THRUST

When the Congregation was still very young, and the members very few, Fr. Mermier took up the challenging task of accepting the request of the Bishop of Annecy, to take over and to run the schools at Melan and Evian with his limited resources. It was because of this thrust for education and focus on guidance and formation of the young, that the early missionaries in India established schools in various places in India. The early schools established were St. Aloysius school in Visakhapatnam, St. Francis de Sales schools in Nagpur, schools in Aurangabad etc.

One can notice three prominent thrust areas of education according to Fr. Mermier. These points are relevant even today.

- 1. *The homely atmosphere prevalent in the schools.*** He started his own schooling within the family environs. His own home became a school for himself and for the children of the neighborhood. Children from the neighborhood were welcomed in the school and his mother herself was a teacher for them. Home is the first school for every child and our schools should provide a homely and welcome atmosphere for our students.





2. ***Schools were means and tools for evangelization.*** The degeneration of Christian faith had to be restored to its original dignity and the schools were meant also to recapture the deep faith that existed before the French revolution. Besides the vocations to priesthood and religious life were promoted from these schools. Our schools should have a religious atmosphere prevailing and pervading within it.
3. Though confreres were few, Fr. Mermier appointed more confreres in the schools for teaching and management of schools. A community of confreres from different backgrounds and with multiple talents were appointed in schools, as different confreres could take care of the different areas of the human, intellectual, and physical formation of the students. (*Ref. Our founders vision on educational apostolate by Fr. Agnelo Fernandes, Fransalian Edu Times international -vol.5.Sept. 2012*) This was also to show that education is an apostolate of the community of Fransalians, not just of individuals.

RELEVANCE OF FRANSALIAN EDUCATION

During the last 175 years of the life of Fransalians, the Congregation has grown in numbers spreading and expanding apostolate far and wide. The three charisms of the congregation have found concrete expressions in various forms of ministries in the continents of Asia, Africa, Australia, America and Europe, entering even, into relevant social ministries. Our

schools and colleges in Asia, Africa and Europe are deemed to be providing quality education and are sought after for quality education and human resource development.

The Fransalians run more than 108 schools, 13 Higher Secondary schools (Junior colleges) and two degree colleges affiliated to Universities catering to almost 1,00,000 students. One hundred and sixty five confreres (20%) are involved in the apostolate of education. These information indicate that a great deal of importance is attached to the ministry of education by the Fransalians.

MERMERIAN DIMENSION

Father Mermier insisted not only on the intellectual formation of the students but also on the **affective dimension of education** when he said, ***“the heart of education is the education of the heart”***. For him formation of the heart took a primary place in the noble task of education. He also said ***“True education is the opening of the heart rather than the mind”***. He had a word of advice to the educators as well, when he said, ***“Love the children, be a mother to them by tenderness and a father by your prudence”***. These words of Fr. Mermier indicate the climate that should prevail in our educational institutions, which make our educational institutions, truly Mermerian.



FRANSALIAN DIMENSION

St. Francis de Sales, the patron of the MSFS and patron saint of most of our schools which are named after him, loved knowledge and the importance of knowledge can be gauged from his saying that ***“knowledge is the eighth sacrament”***. For us Fransalians, the knowledge we impart through our educational institutions, should be transformed into wisdom to help and guide every student who comes out of our schools.

To give a **Fransalian dimension** to our educational apostolate, we should always try to disseminate **Salesian virtues of gentleness,**

simplicity, humanness, optimism, humility etc. in all our stake holders particularly our students. Our educators should pay attention to every aspect of human formation so that the students are formed and groomed into balanced, matured and integrated persons, who care for the environment and society. Our students should be made aware of, and familiar with, the life and works of this gentleman saint.

Our teachers as collaborators in the mission of education are to be introduced to Fransalian way of education. Teachers also should be introduced into Salesian spirituality and they should be made aware of the Fransalian vision and mission of education, and made sharers of Fransalian apostolate. Our teachers, while being sharers and collaborators of the mission of education, should approach their duty as a mission with passion, and deal with the students in a Salesian manner imbued with Salesian virtues of gentleness, simplicity, optimism and humility, humanness etc.

PASTORAL DIMENSION

Besides the intellectual formation of our students, there is also, a pastoral dimension of education. In and through our schools, our students should have God-experience and meet the caring compassionate, loving God in the teachers, especially in the Fransalian Fathers in charge of the schools. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes writes, *“An MSFS educator has to be a witness not only to academic and administrative excellence but also to being a man of prayer; a man of contemplation of the Gospel, a man who impacts the young minds with the spiritual energy that drives him on and on in selfless dedication to the cause of education, a man who has extra sensitivity to the very poor, the neglected in the school, the man who brings people closer to God and closer to each other in communion, understanding and forgiveness,”* (ref. Our founders vision of educational apostolate. Fransalian Edu Times international Vol. V)



In our schools, we strive to provide God-experience for the students through our way of life and commitment to the Gospel values by living a life of joyful optimism, and respect for others in disinterested self-sacrifice. This experience of God should help them to seek truth, truth about themselves, truth about others and truth about the world. This truth should help them to accept and respect each other, irrespective of caste, colour, or creed. Through our schools, we educate by evangelizing and we evangelize by educating.



Fransalians mission of education is a mission within the mission of the church. In the synod of 2012 church re-emphasized the inseparability of education and evangelization when it stated “***Education is a constitutive dimension of evangelization. To proclaim the Risen Christ is to accompany all human beings in their personal story, in their development and in their spiritual vocation. Education needs at the***

same time to promote everything that is true, good and beautiful that is a part of the human person, that is to say, educate the mind and the emotions to appreciate reality”.

Through the apostolate of education, the Fransalians try to create a society where kingdom values are upheld, where everyone feels that he is a child of God, where everyone has a feeling of self respect and everyone is treated as brothers and sisters. Through apostolate of education, we contribute to social change and societal transformation, an inclusive society and a better world.

Fr. George Parampukattil MSFS

General Secretary for Education

www.msfschool.in/ parampug@rediffmail.com

The Beginnings of Christian Mission in East Africa

A Historical Perspective

Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS

INTRODUCTION

The history of the Christian missionary endeavours in East Africa is not very old. However, it is very rich and impressive, especially when we consider the vast contributions by the missionaries to human and social development. And this in spite of the fact persecutions and even martyrdom confronted them throughout. The same is going on even today. However, the blood shed by the missionaries bore fruit by giving birth to a rapidly growing Christian community.



Christianity came to East Africa with the *foreign traders*, and the *colonial powers* helped the implantation of it in the African soil. The first Catholic missionaries in East Africa were the Holy Ghost Fathers, the White Fathers and the Benedictines of St. Ottilien. They were not only preaching the Good News to the hungry Africans but also made every effort to accelerate social development by eradicating inhuman practices from the lives of the people and by establishing schools and hospitals.

THE PORTUGUESE TRADERS AND MISSIONARIES (1498-1730)

At the end of 15th Century the Portuguese people sailed the Indian Ocean exploring the possibilities of trade and in that process waging war against the Arabs. They were all Christians and so were interested in establishing Christian missions. The Arabs were active in the coastal areas and they were already obsessed with the idea of jihad, but were not dangerous fanatics like those on the west coast of African continent. The East African Swahili people who had already accepted the Faith of the Arab traders considered the foreign Christians as infidels and also as rival traders. They looked on these new arrivals as a threat to their business concerns. The former were considered by the latter as Moors. The coastland extending from Mogadishu

to Sofala, and from Lamu to Kilwa was ruled by Arabic sultans or kings from the Shirazi tribe of Persia. These trade centres were oriented towards Indian Ocean than the African continent and many things were exported to India and Arabia.¹

In 1498, Vasco da Gama, searching for a sea route to India, made a stop in Malindi and was cordially received by its sultan, who was desperately looking for new allies in order to stop the aggression of his neighbouring ruler, the sultan of Mombasa. Vasco da Gama was permitted to erect the *padrao*, which is seen even today as a reminder of the first arrival of Christians on the East African coast. Two years later, another Portuguese navigator, Cabral by name reached Kilwa with eight Franciscans, eight chaplains and one vicar. Cabral wanted to preach the Good News of

pagans did not accept the Christian faith: they rather were attracted to the opulence and pleasure which came with business transactions. The Friars however preached the Gospel, though the Arabs neither accepted their faith nor their friendship.²

Vasco da Gama reached Kilwa again in 1502 to bring the gold trade under the king of Portugal. At the time of his departure he heard that his crew had brought on board 200 Swahili women who wanted to become Christians. Fearing indiscipline, Gama wanted to send them back, but they threatened to drown themselves as otherwise the sultan would kill them. Reluctantly Gama took them to India in locked cabins and the younger ones were sent to Portugal later. They were the first Christian converts of East Africa in



peace and love before establishing an exploiting trade. However the

recorded history. In 1542, St. Francis Xavier, who was on his way to India is recorded to have visited Malidi

1 Ref. John Bauer, 2000 years of Christianity in Africa, Nairobi, 1994, 86.

2 Ref. Ibid, 87.



Fort Jesus (Mombasa) built by the Portuguese in the 1500s

for holding a dialogue with a sheik there.³

Towards the end of 16th Century more and more Portuguese traders settled along the East African coast. In 1585 and 1588 the Turks from Egypt declared jihad against the Portuguese in the Indian Ocean and tried to forcibly convert them to Islam, under threat of death if they refused. But with the help of Zimba, a tribe from Zambezi, the Portuguese succeeded in defeating the sultan Ali Bey in Mombasa. The Portuguese conceived the idea of moving from Malindi to Mombasa. It was during this period that the well-known Fort Jesus was built (1593).⁴

In 1630 Yusufu bin Hassan, educated in Goa and known to the Portuguese as Dom Jeronimo Chingulia, was

installed as the first Christian king of Mombasa. The following year he expelled his Portuguese masters and all Christian converts were either forcibly converted to Islam or killed. Portuguese rule was re-established in 1639. In 1652 the Arabs of Oman came, for the first time, to the succour of their countrymen in East Africa. After continual ebb and flow for nearly eighty years, the Portuguese were finally driven out in 1730. In East Africa they retained their hold only on Mozambique and the country south of Cape Delgado.⁵ Though the Portuguese could not contribute much to the social development of East Africa, nor could they build a large Christian empire or colony in East Africa, they worked hard to implant Christian faith in the African soil. Their hard work bore fruit. We can still see these fruits of their missionary work in Mombasa and surroundings.

3 Ref. Ibid, 87-88.

4 Ref. Klaus Hock, Das Christentum in Afrika und dem Nahen Osten, Leipzig, 2005, 49.

(To be continued...)

5 F.B. Welbourn, East African Christian, London, 1965, 63.

FRANSALIAN EDUCATION APOSTOLATE IN EAST AFRICA

Fr. Santhosh Paul Prakashpavan MSFS
Councilor in-charge – Education Apostolate



East Africa consists of five countries namely Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi. Lately South Sudan also has been admitted to this group. These countries are rich in culture, traditions, human resources, minerals and natural wealth. Most of the people in East African countries are either farmers or pastoralists and live in remote villages.

Tanzania is the biggest among East African countries with a population of 45 million. People mostly live in villages and depend on cultivation or pasturing animals for their livelihood. They fully depend on seasonal rains and employ traditional means of cultivation. The first president and the Father of the Nation, Hon.

Julius K Nyerere had made notable efforts to establish primary schools even in the remotest villages in order to provide basic education to all children as well as to the adults. But still majority of the children have no access to quality education and end their schooling at the primary level of education. In recent years the government has taken steps to establish more secondary



schools. Most of the schools lack necessary facilities.

Fransalian Education in East Africa

Education of the youth is one of the foundational charisms of the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales. Wherever the missionaries had established parish missions, together with them they had tried to establish schools both primary and

pioneer missionaries had realized that there will be no possibility of development or true freedom without education and eradication of illiteracy. It is only by educating the people especially the youth that one can ensure the overall development of a nation. Therefore wherever the missionaries went they gave importance to the education of the youth and established schools for that purpose.



secondary, as well as institutions of higher learning and also vocational training centers. From the very beginning of the Mission the

East Africa was not an exception to this policy of the Missionary Congregation of Fransalians. As early as 1990s the Congregation began to work in the field of education and started primary as well as secondary schools. Gradually the Congregation extended its field of activities and took up many more missions in various parts of Tanzania. Wherever Fransalians took up missions the first priority of the Congregation was to educate the children.

Achievements

There is a tremendous change in the attitude of the people because of the tireless and assiduous efforts of the missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. In earlier times children were not sent to school but were given the job of grazing the livestock. But now times have changed and most of the parents have realized the need of education and have begun to send their children to schools. The

“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”

-Aristotle

Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales have taken bold steps to facilitate quality education in our schools in remote areas with minimum school fees in order to provide quality education to the children in rural areas. This has enabled many to get quality education with minimum expense. Many of the children who were educated in our rural schools are now working in big cities and are able to get along with those who were born and brought up in urban areas.

As a result of modern education the people have begun to abandon many of the traditional practices and witchcraft. In the rural areas up to the very recent past, modern medical facilities as well as good educational institutions were absent. People were depending on witch doctors, fortune tellers and traditional medical practitioners for their needs. Initiation rites during child birth and puberty were conducted mostly by inexperienced

persons. But after the arrival of the missionaries, people have started to approach modern means of medication.

Challenges

Even though there are remarkable achievements in the area of education there is a lot to be done still. In rural areas illiteracy remains as a major problem to be tackled. Quite a few are conscious now about the need of educating their children especially the girls. Parents give their girl children in marriage at a very early age due to the prevalent dowry system. In rural areas basic facilities like water, electricity, medical care etc. are still not available. It is always difficult to run the schools in rural areas and to get teachers for teaching especially in remote villages. Many people in the rural areas are still too poor to afford quality education.

Missionaries have always been trying to find generous benefactors



to raise funds to educate these children. Agencies such as 'The Living Waters International', 'Salesan', 'Maisha Pamoja' etc. are also sponsoring a number of children. But in recent years the number of benefactors has come down drastically.

Another challenge facing these children and their parents is the lack of text books and teaching materials in English language. Those which are available are too costly for the poor children to afford.

Conclusion

Within a period of 25 years the Missionaries have done remarkable works in the area of education, and still a lot is to be done to eradicate illiteracy in the society. Corruption and injustice is still seen in all areas of the society. Majority of the people have no knowledge about the modern means of cultivation nor do they use any modern machinery for doing their work. All these improvements are possible only if we educate the children so that at least after a few years we can see a society where justice and equality prevail. Trusting in God we go forward to proclaim good news to the world through the ministry of education.

SFS Vocational Training Centre - Mwakata

SFS Vocational Training Center was started in the year 2003 with a plan to help girls and boys who were dropouts from primary and secondary schools in and around Syinyanga Region Tanzania. SFS VTC offers a variety of training programmes like automobile mechanic, carpentry & Joiner, Welding & Fabrication, Electrical works, basics of Computer, Driving, Tailoring, Secretarial course etc.. The Institute also provides separate boarding facilities for Girls and Boys. SFS VTC is one of the best institutes of the VETA system in Shinyanga region. We boast of a well-trained teaching staff and of modern and advanced machineries and tools for our students. The dedication and availability of the staff encourages every student to equip himself/herself well and also to become self-reliant. We sincerely thank God Almighty for His ever-flowing showers of blessings through our benefactors and friends.

Cheers to Fransalians for the Best Formation and Education

It is almost thirteen years since I lived with Fransalians but the memories of that period of my life are still very fresh in my mind and heart. The five years I spent with Fransalians shaped my life and character and sowed the seed of my priestly vocation. One half of my early formation was with Fransalians and those years positively inspired me to join the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Mwanza. I was sent to Kibosho Philosophicum, and I completed theology at Segerea. I was ordained priest on 15th August 2013. I am grateful to Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS the Provincial, Fr. Pius Kochuparampil MSFS and Fr. Mathew Chavely MSFS for their presence at my ordination. Now I am the parish priest of Kawekamo parish. I also serve as Director of Pontifical Missionary Society (PMS), and the General Secretary of Human Resource Development in the Archdiocese of Mwanza.

All these did not happen all on a sudden. 'Living in a community' 'praying well' and 'dedicating myself to the mission of the church' are all the fruits of the best formation I received from the Fransalians. I always feel proud of the MSFS



Fathers who were in charge of my formation. I am much impressed and attracted by the way Fransalians live in communities, the way they pray together, the love they share with one another, and the manner in which they care for the others as members of the one and the same family. I am very much challenged and struck by their commitment to the mission, sharing with the poor (not that they are rich, but they share even the little they have), trust in the providence of God. I still remember Fr. Mathew Chavely, (my spiritual director) and the way he used to spend time before the Blessed Sacrament. He revealed to me that the best way to pray is to feel the presence of God, and draw strength from that to be a good pastor.

It costs me nothing to say a word of thanks to God for shaping me to be what I am now. I thank the Fransalians for the many inspirational experiences I had with them. They are the ones who challenged me to be a 'man of prayer', caused me to feel the need to 'grow in faith', and made me aware of the rich spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. I continue to be faithful to the spirituality and principles of St. Francis de Sales. I am delighted to be a Friend of Fransalians.

May the good Lord bless us all

Fr. Damian Dotto

e-mail: damiandotto@yahoo.com



De Sales English Medium Primary School, Isaka - Kahama

"Education for Liberation" is the motto of De Sales primary school, Isaka. The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales with the aim of imparting, enlightening, and giving good education to the younger generation of Isaka started De Sales primary school in 2002. Pupils from this area are mostly from the low income group. However some of them pay a reasonable amount of school fees. Those who are not able to pay like the orphans are given free education from the school with the help from generous sponsors.

De Sales school always excels in academic performance. Out of 15,000 primary schools in the whole of Tanzania, De Sales School held 116th position in class VII examination in 2009, 10th position 2010, and 27th position 2011. Parents in this locality have very high admiration and also high expectations from this Institution and expect the management to add still more facilities and expand it for the good of the students.

Mr. Amos Nyambo
Parent & Teacher



A JOURNEY WITH FRANSALIANS AND ITS SPIRITUAL BENEFITS

My journey with Fransalians began back in 1995 during my mid-term holidays in June, when I made a visit to my maternal uncle Dr. Joseph Lugumila who was serving as doctor in charge of the Dispensary at Lububu parish. Providentially, there I met a priest by name Fr. Mathew Chavely MSFS, a very friendly and welcoming character (*He is now the parish priest of Mkuza parish, Kibaha*). Fr. Mathew offered me the friendship of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and invited me to join the MSFS after my primary education. “Many are called, but few are chosen” (Mt. 22:14) I was among the few young boys chosen to join Fransalian Aspirants’ house at Lububu in January 1996.

Apart from imparting quality education, the Fransalians also instilled in me **spiritual maturity** and a **general awareness** about values such as team work, patience, perseverance, hard work and above all unconditional love. I now live mainly with three

virtues: **Serenity, Courage, and Wisdom.**

Serenity: to accept things I can’t change.

Courage: to change what can be changed.

Wisdom: to know the difference between the two and accept the unchangeable.

Indeed you (Fransalians) have become the greatest mentors in my life. You have shaped my life.

“The best of my knowledge is what you have taught, the best in my heart is what you have imparted”. There are no words to express my gratitude. You have shaped my attitudes, have nurtured me with discipline. From your heart I have learnt the things I ought to do, and the implicit messages you never openly expressed have shaped me. Thank you very much. I owe you a great debt.

I am one among the founding members of **“Friends of St. Francis**

St. Francis de Sales Primary School Kagongwa – Kahama

de Sales” (FSFS) to carry out the mission left to us by the great and glorious patron St. Francis de Sales. I serve as the secretary of ‘Friends of St. Francis de Sales’. I am self-employed and running a catering service both indoors and outdoors, arranging general supplies of processed food and dry food stuffs. I am engaged to Anna. My motto is “For God and Country”. Your prayers are highly valued.

God bless you all in your mission.

Dennis Nhigula and Anna

e-mail: demagie2002@yahoo.com

St. Francis de Sales’ Primary School at Kagongwa has transformed the lives of many young children during the past 13 years through the education imparted through it. Our motto is “Education for Transformation”. The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales together with a team of selfless teaching staff transform children intellectually, socially, culturally, morally and psychologically. I personally had been thirsting to contribute my share in transforming people’s life. My dream came true when I was asked to teach at St. Francis de Sales school, Kagongwa.

Education is for transformation, but education has lost its vitality and value because of commercial competition. Education has become a business and those with a capitalist outlook have captured it. (‘No Money No Education’ is their catchword.) Contrary to such a value system the Fransalians excel in giving quality education to everyone equally, rich or poor, qualified or non-qualified, educated or non-educated, paying school fees or not paying. I am proud to be part of the teaching staff of this school and be an agent of imparting education, harmony and respect for human persons. My sincere thanks go to Fransalians for their educational apostolate.

Rev. Sr. Bertha Manyanda FSRJC
(Head Teacher)



GRADUATE AND EMPLOYED TOO

Ms. Gabriella Joseph Nchimbi

Let me introduce myself first. I am Gabriella Joseph Nchimbi, born in the year 1985 at Mbinga, Ruvuma Region, Tanzania. I am the fourth child among the five children of my parents. I was born of financially poor parents. At the age of five, due to some family issues, I had to stay with my uncle at Dakawa, Morogoro Region. I had completed Standard VII at Mtawala primary school, with the help of my uncle. After the completion of my primary education I was badly stuck in my life and was on the verge of abandoning further education due to poor financial hitches of my family.



The spirit of God at work in human persons

“With God nothing is impossible” (Lk. 1: 37) This I believed and I prayed earnestly for financial assistance to continue my studies. God answered my prayer through Fr. Tomichen Perumanoor msfs who was the then parish priest of St. Francis de Sales parish, Dumila. He contacted Fr. Johnson Kallidukil msfs (*who was studying in Germany then*) to look for a sponsor to finance my studies. The spirit of God inspired Mrs. Elfride Apfel, from Unterduerrbach, Wuerzburg, Germany and she offered to support me financially for my secondary education. I completed secondary school at Masama Girls Secondary school at Kilimanjaro Region, and was selected to pursue advanced secondary level at Dakawa high School at Morogoro Region. After completion of secondary school level, I was among the selected candidates for university education. For the past ten years (2002 to 2011) Apfel family had been supporting me for my secondary and university studies. Now I am a graduate with Bachelor of Arts with Education as my subject from Dar es Salaam University, Tanzania. I am employed too as a teacher at Itewe Secondary School, Chunya, Mbeya.



I must confess that it was not merely financial assistance that the Fransalians facilitated. They also gave me correct orientation for my life. Their timely advices and spiritual guidance equipped me with proper convictions in my life. Today as we look around in the world of fantasies many young people are being misled by false convictions and allurements. Fransalian Fathers and Brothers are instrumental in building up the lives of many young men and women. The seminars and renewal programmes that they conduct for university students give proper orientations and convictions, develop new horizons, and provide spiritual guidance. I am happy to share that I am engaged to Mr. Benedict Matogo, whom I met at a renewal programme for university students organized by the Fransalians.

I am thankful to almighty God, for whom nothing is impossible and who made everything possible for me. I also thank the family of Mrs. Elfride Apfel for their generous sacrifices for me and my family. I gratefully remember all the Fransalian Fathers and Brothers for enlightening the minds of youth to know the spirit of God working in human persons. I promise to join hands with Fransalians in my own little way to render assistance to the poor and the needy especially in the field of education.

May God Bless You.





MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN EAST AFRICA

Mr. Werner Mueller
(President Salesan e. V.)

Historical Background

Education in Africa began as a tool to prepare the youth to assume their responsibilities in their respective societies and not as preparation for securing employment or for a life abroad. Education in early African societies included acquiring skills in artistic performances, ceremonies, games, festivals, dancing, singing and drawing. Boys and girls were taught separately to help them prepare themselves for their adult roles. Every member of the community had a hand in contributing to the educational upbringing of a child. The highlight and 'graduation' at the end of this process of education in certain societies in Africa was the ritual ceremony of passage from childhood into adulthood.

European colonialism brought about changes in many indigenous education systems. Schooling was no longer just about rituals and rites of passage. School would now mean earning a degree that would allow Africans to compete with their

counterparts in countries such as the United States and those in Europe. Africa would begin producing their scholars as in other countries. The rate of enrollment in literacy programmes in many African countries is still low in spite of much effort from the respective governments and NGO's. Schools often lack many basic facilities.

Importance of Education

Africa is no longer an island in the globalized world. The main motivating forces for pursuing education are the desire to escape from poverty, the opening of mental horizons and the possibilities of better and richer opportunities for the future. The people want to participate in the



fast growing industrialization and developmental processes, which is the key for better living.

As a consequence, we see more and more people getting more and more educated in the society and thereby gaining intellectual freedom, better awareness of their rights and also fighting against corruption.

It is estimated that there are more than 40 million children in Africa. A large part of the school-age child population receives no or very limited schooling. This is due to crowded classes in the existing schools, unmotivated teachers and lack of textbooks. The dropout rate is very high. It also appears that



geographical disparities (rural areas / urban areas) and economic disparities (low income households / wealthy households) are more responsible than gender disparities for this situation.

Enrollments at secondary (lower and higher levels) and higher education levels have progressed proportionally but not so at the primary level. This is an indication of priorities of the people concerned. Primary education seems to be neglected. The strong pressure from the majority of those who already have

benefited from their schooling for giving more importance to primary education points to the existence of this problem.

As a result of the above mentioned points the quality of education provided in secondary schools is decreasing. Children who have no chance for higher education may end up as day labourers or live on the streets without any future prospects. The reason is the lack of facilities for vocational training for primary school leavers.

The ministry of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales

For Fr. Peter Mermier, the Founder of the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, **Education of the Youth** was an important mission. As early as 1856 the first school of the Congregation was opened in Evian, France. In 1905 the Institute Florimont in Geneva was founded. The Institute Florimont is a private, co-educational, catholic day school which was and still is open to students of all religious faiths. Florimont offers a continuous educational programme right from kindergarten to university entrance. Down the years the Missionaries have started several schools in Europe, India and Africa.

In India, the Missionaries have progressed well and have ventured also into higher education up to university level. Students have the possibility to continue their studies in philosophy and theology. Thus the schools are also a source of vocations to priesthood.

The ministry of Education in East Africa

When the first Missionaries arrived in Tanzania in East Africa they found that schools do not exist especially in rural areas and so children from such places had to go long distances to attend primary schools. It was clear that people had to be educated so that they would open up their hearts, minds and eyes and understand the words of the gospel.

The first MSFS pioneers coming to East Africa felt the need for a holistic education and started schools in Tanzania and Kenya upon requests from the local people. The characteristic of each school is to provide education to the poor and needy children of the area irrespective of their religious or ethnic affiliation. There was always room for children whose parents were not able to pay the school fees.

The MSFS Congregation identifies felt needs of the people or areas where no development has taken place due to government apathy or any other reason and mobilizes resources, personnel and funds towards satisfying those needs of development. Holistic education, conveying ethical values etc. are given due importance in the school programme.

MSFS schools enjoy a high reputation due to the great commitment and motivation of the religious

persons who are responsible for the management and running of schools.

Due to the high quality of education imparted, majority of the students who have completed their schooling are being promoted for higher education. St. Francis de Sales Junior Seminary, a high school in Morogoro is such an institution. We know students who had studied there, continued their studies at the university and have become doctors, lawyers or other professionals excelling in their respective fields.

Conclusion

Education opens up the eyes and broadens the minds thus rendering it open to a wider horizon. An educated person is able to compare, differentiate and make up his own mind on issues of individual as well as national importance. Education is the condition for a better understanding, peace, personal responsibility and sustainability.



My Unforgettable Moments



I had the unique opportunity of staying at Chera Parish for a short period of time and experience the daily life of Chera and Salesan Academy Schools. I am very happy to share my experience with all the readers of Baraka.

Chera is a village located in a rather remote area in Kenya. Chera parish Church is dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel. Holy mass is celebrated in different languages like Kimeru, Kiswahili, and English on different days.

Salesan Academy, is a Primary school with 160 students and is situated in the parish premises. I had the opportunity to take lessons on Creative Arts and PE for standards 1 to 8. It was not easy for me to interact with the students of lower classes. I used to communicate by mixing up Kiswahili and English and also with a lot of body language. We drew pictures and made greeting cards

for the parents of the students. I had also the responsibility of taking care of the boarding children and of assisting them in their studies.

Tough competition among the schools in this area is the biggest challenge making it very difficult for the Fransalians to run this school. In spite of the many difficulties Fransalians continue their ministry of education for the poor with dedication and joy. I understand that mission work is not easy because it needs a lot of energy, time and presence. I congratulate the Fransalians at Chera and all MSFS priests for their hard-work and especially for their services for providing education to the poor in remote areas of Africa.

Andreas Goerner

Germany



ST. FRANCIS' PRIMARY SCHOOL - IPULI, TABORA

SFS English medium pre-primary and primary mission school, Ipuli in Tabora Region is run by the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. I am a member of the staff here. Our motto is **“KNOWLEDGE, LOVE AND SERVICE”**. We aim at imparting high quality education and modern technical knowhow to the children. The aims of the school are quiet high. SFS Mission School educates the poor and trains the young generation for a better future. Fransalians have built a rehabilitation center (SFS Children Home) to care, love, reform, and educate orphans and street children. Our school has very good reputation in the district because of the excellent results secured by the Class VII students in the years 2011 and 2012. Most of these class VII students got selected for admission in the special government secondary schools.

Along with the intellectual growth of the students our school gives also importance to co-curricular activities such as music, traditional dance, arts and crafts, games, sports, agriculture, and computer literacy. Our school is situated in a good and conducive environment. In the year 2011 the school received a certificate for Environmental conservation in Tabora Region.

The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in close collaboration with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Annecy and the teaching and non-teaching staff focus on raising an academic fraternity of knowledge, excellence, love, peace, and service. Welcome to Tabora. Welcome to St. Francis, an excellent school in Tanzania.

Gilbert Misenya

St. Francis Primary School Teacher



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES MISSION SECONDARY SCHOOL-IPULI, TABORA

Seven years ago the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales decided to start an English medium pre-primary and primary school at Ipuli, a small town about 5 kms. north of the centre of Tabora. At that time the place appeared to be in the middle of nowhere. The tarmac road stopped in Ipuli, and apart from a few small dwellings no other building could be seen. On Saturdays, a lot of Taborians used to come to the local cattle market; some to buy a goat some to eat it barbecued on the spot. But once the sun was set, Ipuli would go back to sleep till the next Saturday.

But things are changing. The town of Tabora is spreading fast in all directions. St. Francis Primary school was a huge success from the beginning

because it offered quality education and had very dedicated teachers and non-teaching staff. The next logical step was to start a secondary school. Fransalians opened St. Francis de Sales Mission Secondary school in the year 2012. The school is now in its second year with a total of 240 students. Interestingly there are more girls than boys in the school at present. The drop-out rate of girls during the course of their studies in the schools is a cause of great concern in Tanzania, but our school is determined to take remedial measures and keep the boys-girls ratio up till the end.

Apart from the national curriculum, the school offers courses in French, Bible studies and Computer literacy. There are plans to offer to the best from among the computer students a course in programming. The school has a library which is accessible to teachers and students during school hours. The new building with three laboratories, for physics, chemistry and biology is almost finished and everybody is looking forward to the time when they can use them.

St. Francis de Sales Mission Secondary school is still in its early days but has already shown that it is determined to contribute in a big way to Tabora's old reputation of having the best schools in Tanzania.





A Loving Appreciation of my School

St. Francis de Sales English medium primary school, Bukene aims at assisting children to get quality education. The total dedication and sense of responsibility of the teachers and administrative staff are instrumental in bringing good results in the academic performance of every child. Besides intellectual excellence, our school imparts to its pupils moral, spiritual, and physical education thus preparing them to be responsible, to be committed, and to be religious imbued with moral principles. Teachers diligently search for the hidden talents in every child and encourage them to develop them. They give considerable importance to each student and help him/her to grow into full human beings. Our two hostels, one for boys and the other for girls, are homes away from home for each one of us to grow well under the loving guidance of FCC Sisters, guardians, and MSFS Fathers. Though we are of different religions and denominations, we live as brothers and sisters of the same family, irrespective of religion, tribe, and language. My school promotes perfect equality and fraternity among teachers and students.

I pray that God may bless the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales

(Fransalians) with strength and courage to establish many more such schools, that many more children in Tanzania may get the opportunity to grow in knowledge, faith, love for others and for the country. May almighty God bless all of us.

Joshua Lutonja – Standard VII

**St. Francis de Sale English Medium
Primary School
Bukene – Tanzania**



Sincere thanks to SFS School, Bukene

Ms. Bernadetta Ezekiel - Parent



SFS English medium primary school always stands first in our locality. It is also one among the best five schools in Nzega district, Tanzania. Our children are given quality education, they are taught good behavior, discipline, self-confidence, and good morals. The students of SFS School are always outstanding for their good character in our society.

I am proud of SFS School and

its management for the efficiency and success it has achieved with a very minimum of school fee. Though parents fail to pay regularly the school fee, the administration never fail to facilitate education to all children. Among the parents all are not well educated and so they are not able to help their children at home in their studies, but the teachers are patient and

kind to help the children to achieve maximum success in their examinations. SFS School is a blessing to our children. On behalf of the parents, I express my sincere thanks to the teachers, management and staff but above all to the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales.



“Children must be taught how to think, not what to think.”

-Margaret Mead



UNFATHOMABLE LOVE ON ALL - JUBILEE YEAR 2013

Silver Bells Are Ringing In Jubilation
Announcing God's Unfathomable Love on All
Giving a Chance to Narrate and To Share
The Redoubtable Deeds of God's Own Hand.

Uniting Our Hearts and Lifting Our Voices
Singing Aloud To God of Divine History-We
Relish the Meal of Love Divine on Our Journey
And Echo the melody of His Praises.

Turning Our Faces to the God of Sunshine and Rain
Thanking Him for the Daring Spirit of Pioneers-We
Relinquish Our Past Memories and Glorious moments
And Address The Anthem Of His Faithfulness.

The Chiming Of Silver Bells Tells of Many Generous People
Contributing Their Best of Ability to Build –We
Thank God for Their Kindness and Goodness
That Made All Things Possible In Due Season.

With Folded Hands We Pray In Unison
Walk With Us Lord to the Path We Never Trod
Hold Us Lord As We Dare For More Miles Ahead
Teach Us Lord To Make YOU Known To The Unknown.

Jubilee Celebration



Hearty Welcome

Date: October 26, 2013
Venue: St. Francis de Sales Junior Seminary
Morogoro - Tanzania.

“We have done everything in Him
who strengthens us” *Phil. 4:13*

Our Immediate Dreams in the field of Education

To Establish...

- SFS Children's Home in Tororo - Uganda
- SFS Secondary School in Tororo - Uganda
- SFS Primary School in Dumila, Morogoro - Tanzania
- SFS Primary School in Mji Mpya, Dar es Salaam - Tanzania
- SFS Boys Hostel in Tabora - Tanzania
- Salesan Academy Hostel in Chera - Kenya



Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (Fransalians)



Our Patron
St. Francis de Sales



Our Patroness
Mother of Compassion



Our Founder
Servant of God Fr. Peter Mermier

Do you like to join our Congregation?

Qualifications required to be a Fransalian Missionary Priest:

- Catholic young man of deep faith
- Have good morals and sound catholic family background
- A person of good reputation in the local church and society
- Should have finished higher secondary education and eligible for bachelor studies or above in East Africa / Eligible for Plus Two or bachelor studies or above in India
- Age not more than 23 years unless you have higher educational qualifications, Capacity to live in community
- A man of self- discipline, good character, and right motivation
- Good health of mind and body, Balanced, sociable, generous nature
- Sincere desire to become a missionary religious priest
- Readiness to work anywhere in the world, even in challenging conditions

Vocation Director Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales

P.O. Box 575
Tororo, Uganda

P.O. Box 896,
Morogoro, Tanzania

P.O. Box 376 - 60400
Ckuka, Kenya

SFS Bhavan, Peechanikad, Angamaly, Kerala - India - 683 572

Tel: +255 756 031 972 (Fr. Innocent Ngowi MSFS) East Africa

Tel: +91 949 533 4174 (Fr. Jose Eriyanickal MSFS) India

Email: msfs-eastafrika@gmail.com • Website: msfs-eastafrika.com



Sad and Silent! The friends of Anna Novatus



**COVER
STORY**

"Anna Novatus was in this class room"

Malaria

Do you wish to join hand with us?

- A prayer for the Mission
- Offering Mass intentions
- Sponsoring a candidate to priesthood
- Sponsoring an orphan child in his/her studies
- Supporting a development project in a Mission center

Contact Persons:

Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS
The Provincial Superior
P.O. Box 12, Morogoro
Tanzania
Cell: +255 787 766 555
email: johnsonmsfs@gmail.com

"God blesses
abundantly a
cheerful giver"

Fr. Sheejan Kallarakal MSFS
Provincial Bursar
P.O. 12, Morogoro
Tanzania
Cell: +255 784 377 306
email: sheejanmsfs@gmail

"Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education."
-Martin Luther King Jr.

MSFS in Africa

- Since 1987

1987 - Tanzania



1996 - Kenya



1998 - Namibia



1999 - Chad



1999 - South Africa



2000 - Mozambique



2000 - Cameroon



2001 - Uganda



2013 - Zambia



We have done all things in him who strengthen us. Cfr. Phil. 4:13