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BARAKA

ZA FRANSALIANS

Half yearly news bulletin of MSFS in East Africa



The friendship, which ends in fine words, is not of great worth. - St. Francis de Sales

Covid-19 Relief Actions

MSFS East Africa province has done Covid relief actions in Kenya and Uganda. In Kenya Il Bissl community supplied food items to 52 families. In Uganda Iyolwa Community distributed food items to some families. Covid relief actions were sponsored by MSFS MDO Rome.

Il Bissl Community, Kenya



Iyolwa Community, Uganda



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Editor's Desk

Dear Readers of Baraka,

I am indeed happy to reach you through this 15th issue of our Province Newsletter. By listening to the spirit and discerning his purposes, we commit ourselves to new and creative apostolates according to the needs of the Church in the changing situations of the world (*Const. 23, of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales*). Basing on this article of our Constitutions, the 13th General Chapter of our congregation gives us the following orientation: attentive reading of the signs of times is the matrix of innovative, prophetic mission. They are to be the new responses of the Fransalians to the new needs, life situations and problems of people of today (*Ref. MSFS, Call of General Chapter 2013, Rome, p.14*).



Adhering to this call of congregation, the Fransalians in East Africa are engaged in a variety of formal (institutionalized) and informal (non-institutionalized) innovative ministries and social apostolates. East African countries offer a very fertile ground for these ministries and many of our confreres individually and as communities took advantage of this situation to exercise their personal aptitudes and interests in the vineyard of the Lord.

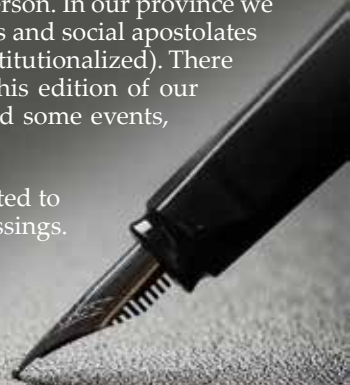
We call these ministries “innovative” or/and “social” because on the one hand they may not belong to our traditional or original apostolate but at the same time they are in no way contrary to them but rather contribute generously to the human well-being and development.

We commit ourselves to these ministries because they are very much needed in the contemporary world. It also means that we can exercise our original and traditional ministries with a new spirit and with new perspective in order to adapt to the new world and for the new generation.

The content of the mission is always the same but the method of communication changes according to the time. These ministries are also called social because they are directly concerned with the development of the society and the human person. In our province we have ventured into some worth mentioning innovative ministries and social apostolates which are either formal (institutionalized) or non formal (non-institutionalized). There are also formal institutions with non-formal programmes. In this edition of our new letter we are looking at some our innovative ministries and some events, which took place in our province.

I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those who contributed to this edition of Baraka. I wish all the readers of Baraka God's Blessings.

Yours devotedly in Christ,
Fr. Martin John Pendanath MSFS



Message from Fr. Provincial

*My dear Confreres and friends of Fransalians,
Fraternal Greetings from East Africa!*

God created man and woman in his image (Gen.1:26-31). The Catholic Church proclaims that human life is sacred and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. This belief is the foundation of all the principles of our social teaching too. The Church's social teaching contains a rich treasure of wisdom about building up a just society and living lives of holiness amidst the challenges of modern society. Sadly, the present condition of human beings is an affront to all those who consider them as created in the image of God. Julius K. Nyerere, the founding father of Tanzania tells: "I refuse to imagine a God who is poor (destitute), ignorant, superstitious, fearful, oppressed, wretched – which is the lot of the majority of those he created in his own image" (Freedom and Development, 216). How do we reconcile human dignity and the dehumanizing situations present in our world?



The mission of Jesus for humanity (Lk. 4: 18-19) is to be continued and realised through each one of us. Evangelization becomes meaningful only when it brings holistic liberation. The way we treat others, especially the poor, has a transcendental dimension: "As you did it to one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40). Pope St. John Paul II asks: "How in fact can one proclaim the new commandment of love without promoting justice and peace, the true authentic advancement of man?" (Ecclesia in Africa 68). The commandment of love calls for a degree of social responsibility that would bring about change in the dehumanizing situations around us. It would show that we have understood that we are all created in the image of God. It will help us to become just and builders of an equitable society. The message of Christ is truth and truth will set us free (Conf. Africae Munus 22).

Vatican II in 'Gaudium et Spes' clearly states that the Church is in solidarity with humanity. "The joy and hope, the grief and anguish of the men of our time, especially of those who are poor or afflicted in any way, are the joy and hope, grief and anguish of the followers of Christ as well" (GS. 1). Pope Francis echoes the same sentiments: "In the light of the resurrection, we would encounter the necessary antibodies of justice, charity and solidarity to change the world." He calls for the building up of "a civilization of love," which he described as "a civilization of hope," contrary to one marked by "anguish and fear, sadness and discouragement, passivity and tiredness." (Extracts from Spanish magazine Vida Nueva, April 17, 2020).

The current issue of Baraka with its focus on the social and innovative ministries of Fransalians in East Africa, is a powerful reminder of our social responsibility. Fransalians in East Africa are engaged in education of youth through formal and non-formal (vocational training) schools, projects for empowering women, visually impaired and street children and in holistic healing ministry. A large section of society is profiting from these social ministries in East Africa. We can do a lot more as many of our people experience poverty and social injustice. Let us strive to become more and more images of a loving and just God as we proclaim the Gospel of Christ.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus
Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS
Provincial, MSFS East Africa

A Tribute to Spiritual Excellence

The life and ministry of Rev. Father Antony Mookenthottam can be summed up in the above-mentioned caption. Father Antony was a person who embodied Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. His vast knowledge in Salesian literature and his unassuming way of practicing Salesian spirituality in his personal life had been an inspiration for all. Father Antony was a spiritual guide for numerous people and he had a unique way of manifesting God to all, who came to him for guidance.

He experienced the love of God in his personal life, which was indeed the strength of his spiritual life. He was a dignified, courteous, humble, holy and kind priest, who is a model priest for the contemporary world. His spiritual excellence was based on his self-discipline and intimate union with Christ in prayer. He was an epitome of missionary endeavours both in India and Chad. He was both a theologian and a philosopher who excellently blended both Eastern and Western traditions in his teaching. We have lost a true Fransalian in the person of Father

Antony. It is sure that his legacy will continue to influence our Fransalian way of life.



Father Antony was born on February 28, 1931. After completing his secondary school studies, he joined MSFS Congregation. He made his first profession on May 27, 1953 and was ordained a priest on April 27, 1957. He served as a missionary in Vizag mission, was General Councillor, Provincial of Vizag and served the Congregation in various other capacities. He was a prolific writer, who authored several books and articles in Salesian spirituality, Indian Philosophy and Spirituality. His death on January 03, 2020 has created a vacuum in our Congregation. May his life and ministry continue to lighten our path to imitate Christ through the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales.

May his soul through the mercy of God rest in peace.

“Go to the Right side.”

Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil MSFS

I am glad to see that our province is going to bring forth one special issue of the magazine focusing on innovative ministries. The Lord has called each one of us for special tasks seeing the need of the time.

Ever since, Fr. Mermier founded our Congregation the focus was given for the renewal in the parishes, evangelizing the new missions, and youth formation. Instead of flocking together in the institutions in some of the provinces, we need to have some rearrangements in the Congregational level so that the resourceful personals may be available in the innovative fields, especially that of healing ministry in the missions. We see in the Gospel (Lk 5, 5 – 7) the apostles helping out as there was a miraculous catch.

In our missions, the healing ministry is significant. It is a wrong notion that the healing is meant for

the Pentecostals or the so-called charismatics. For the very fact of baptism and strengthened by the sacraments we are given a special task to carry out different charisms within the church.

Instead of establishing some traditional educational institutions which ordinary people could do, we need to come out and be available for the poor and needy. No way it is justifiable that any good ministry which was initiated by one of the confreres should die with him when it is useful for thousands of poor and needy. It is the time from the part of our province and the Congregation to open up our eyes and act.

In a parish, even the local clergy will be happy to do the ordinary ministries, whereas, through the healing ministry, we can be available not only for our catholic population but also to various peoples of different religions and denominations and the non-believers, irrespective of sex and age.

For the healing ministry what we need is loving dedication and availability. While guiding the souls, the healer needs to observe rules and regulations of the church and government more than any other field. Once, more understanding and



collaboration is there, the church and the society will be enriched, like the salt of the earth and light of the world, as the Lord has designed in the sermon on the Mount Cf. Mt 5, 13-16.

As time goes, we pray to the Divine Lord of the harvest to provide

more dedicated missionaries in the field of healing ministry. I am more optimistic that more confreres will be available for the innovative ministries, especially for the healing in our new missions in Africa, for which our beloved founder himself has a focus in his lifetime.



Fr. Sebastian kuzhupil was born at Athirampuzha on 25th March 1951. After the schooling in the village, he joined the Congregation in 1968. From his rector Fr. George Vayalil he came to know the value of Home remedies in the future mission and so he completed one year course in Homeopathy in 1969.

Ever since that course, his entire reflections was on helping the people without formal Hospital medicines.

In his regency time at the Nilambur Estate, he observed how to help the snakebite cases with medical herbs.

After that pioneering works of Peren in Nagaland and Thelpara in Nilambur, he opted to join the pioneering team to Africa and landed in Tanzania on

31st December 1987.

His first case was at our first mission at Lububu to cure an incurable wound of fr. Gabriel who was a priest in Kahama Diocese in 3 days with mud (cf. Jn 9:6). At Itaga Parish he just blessed little water and gave it to drink and cured many sicknesses. The number of patients increased from different parts of the Tabora Region.

To facilitate more people to come from the different parts of Tanzania he was brought to Morogoro. Here as the availability, he uses some medical herbs and its products. Humanly speaking impossible is made possible for those who have faith. The healing is the medium to bring many to the Lord.

The friendship of well-regulated persons is extremely useful to us to keep our own life well regulated. ~St. Francis de Sales

A SHORT REPORT OF SFS VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE-TANZANIA

One of the main Apostolate of our Congregation (The Missionaries of St. Francis de sales), is Education and formation especially of the Young. In the field of Education, the MSFS in the early days focused mostly on Primary and Secondary Schools. However, on February 7th 2003 we moved into another level of starting the first Vocational Training Centre (VTC) in Tanzania. This Technical institute is situated at Northern part of Tanzania, in the District of Kahama.

This is a very fundamental tool for Socio-economic development of the

nation. The basic aim of Starting VTC was to impart vocational skills to learners which match to career opportunities as supplied by the labour market. This is the ground for preparing Young Tanzanians for realities of earning a living, bearing in mind the escalating number of poor people, especially in this Region. So as MSFS, we are aware that, it is vital to ensure that Young People of Tanzania, gain the best possible Vocational qualifications, to provide them with a realistic chance of succeeding in today's competitive job market.

So SFS Vocational training centre





over the years has become a centre for supporting Youth entrepreneurship. We give Youths and Young Adults both men and women in Tanzania an opportunity to obtain training or improve their skills in Technical subjects. This has helped in increasing employability and entrepreneurial potential. Due to cheap Education, the SFS Institute has, therefore, become a weapon of fighting illiteracy, hence poverty reduction. The various courses offered by SFS are Carpentry, Motor Vehicle Mechanics, Secretarial course, Computer Course, Electrical Engineering, Driving, Design, sewing and Cloth technology. We hope shortly to have more trades like, plumbing, wiring, masonry, food production just to mention but a few.

The institute also is dedicated to teaching life skills to enable the young

men and women to become more aware of themselves (Self Awareness). This has helped many young people in the institute as they are now able to withstand the challenges they face as youths. Recently we have conducted several seminars on Self-awareness, Friendship, sexuality, Relationships and the entrepreneurship. All these, have helped them in one way or the other, but the latter one has helped many youths to start a small business, hence earning a living without being dependant.

The SFS Institute is dedicated at offering Technical skills especially to Class Seven, Form two and Form four dropouts. This has enabled them to employ themselves as I mentioned earlier. Some of our students also have been employed by different companies. The SFS institute also is dedicated to

helping orphans and needy youth. In recent years many people have died of Aids in Tanzania. This epidemic has left many Families poor and also has increased the number of Orphans, especially in Shinyanga Region. We thank all the Charitable Organization like pact Tanzania, Donbosco network and Mvumwa who are collaborating with us to help the poor youth to get Education. In the past year, we have trained more than 600 youths through the collaboration of the above-mentioned organizations.

Apart from Academics, the students also are guided Spiritually. I strongly believe that man should grow Physically, Mentally, Emotionally, Intellectually and Spiritually. The latter one is very important because without God we are reduced into nothing. Somebody said that Good minus God is Zero. This is very true and therefore, the Daily Mass and the Holy Rosary we offer to God has

helped the students to be young men and young ladies of substance.

Again our students are trained to improve their talents through various games. Many times we have organized competitions with the neighbouring communities. This has helped our Young Men and ladies realize their Talents. Through the games also the youth have become more united as they get an opportunity to meet different youths from different places.

Last but not the least, we hope to have an institute which can offer Diplomas and even degrees in various courses. This is because we are living in a competitive world and therefore youth with only a certificate will be unable to compete properly with the most qualified one.

*Fr. Thomas Njue MSFS
Mwakata-Tanzania*



FOSTER TABORA

INTRODUCTION

The very word 'FOSTER' means to "take care," "look after," "oversee," and others. **FOSTER** –Fransalian Organization for Social Transformation, Education and Renewal was established in the year 2002, to assist and support children in need who live in vulnerable environments by providing them with holistic rehabilitation. It is social welfare and educational services of Fransalians

in Tabora, Tanzania-Africa which strives to reform the lives of children from a vulnerable background, to empower the visually impaired persons to become self-sufficient and to transform the society at large by providing holistic and quality education.

Therefore, this article is going to focus on what the FOSTER by its definition in an etymological way 'take care' is fostering about, here aiming at:



The religious life is not a natural life; it is above nature, and its soul is given and formed by grace. ~St. Francis de Sales



being physically fit, morally upright, emotionally balanced, intellectually informed, culturally integrated, socially aware, bringing change and transformation in the lives of people. Looking at the universe, it has enough for everyone's need not for everyone's greed. Hence, accordingly, the modern and materialistic world has enough and much more but the man-made poverty deprives so many and this is also due to human's selfish nature. In this way, somehow of our sacrifices can get a child access to good health, education and better living conditions. That means a little to us means a lot to them. They await someone who will actualize their dream of education and decent living. Thus, here is the opportunity to make a change and transform the society at large.

FOSTER strives to transform lives

through its multifaceted projects which are: SFS Children's Home, SFS Daycare Center, Simba Clay Furaha Project, Mermier Boys and Girls Homes; and St. Francis de Sales Mission Schools (Pre-Primary, Primary and Secondary). Thus, through all these, we solely aim at education for transformation of all kinds of people irrespective of tribe, religion and culture.

- **SFS Children's Home**

To actualize the dream of eradicating poverty and enabling the orphans, the Children's Home was established as a centre for the rehabilitation and education of the less fortunate boys who came from vulnerable background for example street boys, orphans, impoverished children and so on. SFS Children's Home seeks



to provide them with all the necessities of food, clothing and shelter coupled with counselling, school education and training which enable them to be what they are capable of. In addition to that, we aim at reintegrating these children back to a normal stream of societal life. Following Jesus's words, "let the little children come to me for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," and also our patron says, "the opportunity of doing great things does not come very often, but at every moment, we can do little acts with great love," thus, we do all that is possible for children within the limited capacity.

• FOSTER DAY CARE CENTRE

The main hope of a nation lies in the proper education of its youth, hence learning and growing should be fun.

This project of foster Daycare is run within the premises of SFS Children's Home. Its sole aim is to encourage and promote the overall personality development of the poor children from the neighbourhood in a child-friendly manner and a free environment, full of fun and devoid of any threats or embarrassment. With a firm conviction, we believe that meaningful, happy learning experiences in the early years will provide a child with a sound foundation for future education. Therefore, with this in mind, we expose these children to stimulating experiences which promote healthy mental growth, great freedom and overall personality development. We identify their development patterns and education potentials and prepares them for primary education as in the quotation "you learn to speak by speaking, to study by studying, to

run by running, to work by working and just so you learn to love God and people by loving. Begin as a mere apprentice and the very power of love will lead you on to become a master of the art." SFS

Foster Day Care centre was started in the year 2003. There are 48 children enrolled for this year. It is a free daycare centre for the most vulnerable children from the neighbourhood they are given free education, study materials and a midday meal. One staff is directly involved in the running of the centre.

- **FOSTER EDUCATION CARE CENTRE(FECC)**

Foster Edu care is an education support programme for the neighbourhood children who are attending schools other than St. Francis De Sales Mission. It is a free tuition coaching centre for pupils around. Teachers are appointed to take care of these children. Around 25 [pupils attend this session from 3.30 to 5.00 every day.

- **FOSTER LIGHT.**

FOSTER LIGHT is a student sponsorship programme, which aims at supporting needy and vulnerable children. It is a scholarship or sponsorship by subsidising

or concession of school fees. The candidates remaining in their own homes and attend the school. Foster light programme sponsors their studies. Fifty-two students in primary and 14 students in secondary are beneficiaries of this programme. Majority beneficiaries of Foster light of the secondary are accommodated in the Mermier Homes.

- **Foster Simba Clay**



If you are not willing to learn, no one can help you. If you are determined to learn, no one can stop you. There are a lot of blind people in Tanzania. However, there are only very few schools or development projects for them. FOSTER, came up with the innovative idea of establishing Simba Clay, a project aimed at empowering young people to reach self-reliance. We understand blindness does not need to be a tragedy. Therefore, we impart them with pottery and counselling



skills thus opening doors for them to realize their true potential. 'We see the capability, not the disability.' This is why if you are determined, no one can stop you... Bacher family from Germany played a very important role in the execution of this great project in Tabora. The project aims at empowering visually impaired young people to reach self-reliance. They will be made capable of working with clay to make pots, tiles and water filters in the villages, where they can support the ordinary people by giving them safe drinking water at a cheap price. In addition to this, these young people are given the rudiments of secretarial skills. They are taught typing and

shorthand. The centre began its initial operations in July 2007. One of the first things to be done was to look for the proper clay for making the water filter. His Grace Paul Ruzoka the Archbishop of Tabora blessed the Fransalian Project for blind people on 2nd August 2007.

• **Mermier Boys and Girls Homes**

'You can catch more flies with a spoonful of honey than with a barrel of vinegar,' SFS. As the need grew to take care of the Boys and girls who are suppressed in the society and those students who despite being financially wealthy unable to get good education due to lack of schools nearby, the Mermier Boys & Girls Home was



introduced. We have a good number of boys and girls at present who hail from different parts of Tanzania. The Boys are accompanied by the Fransalians and Girls are always accompanied by the St. Joseph sisters. The Mermier Home also fosters their formation as a whole: spiritual, social, physical, intellectual, creative and aesthetic by providing them with opportunities to participate in various programs to help them in developing their talents and personal human life skills.

Conclusion

Learning gives creativity, creativity leads to thinking, thinking provides knowledge, knowledge makes humans great, and also knowledge is life with wings, this is why once a wise man said, intelligence without ambition is a bird without wings. In conclusion, therefore, our love for the mission has made us to accomplish and progress till

now, hence we give thanks to Almighty God for all. More reflections about 'love' of our mission according to our heavenly patron St. Francis de Sales is in two things, that is, to tie up the love of God with our human experience of love, to persuade one that it is his/her nature to love God, according to the ways and laws of other human loves; and also to present this love of God as attractive and fulfilling, filling the soul with joy. So, Francis invites us to be aware that 'love is the soul of our life.' Thus, FOSTER is filling up joys of



many here in Tabora. We are too filled with lots of joy and energy in doing our mission and we are happier when our mission is progressing. We too welcome challenges in our midst with joy. Finally, we are blooming where we are planted. All glory and honour be to Jesus, "Live Jesus," sfs.

Bro. Frederick msfs

FRANSALIAN COMMUNICATIONS IYOLWA, UGANDA

With great pleasure, on behalf of the Fransalian Community of Iyowa, Uganda, I would like to use this moment to thank the Lord who enabled us to start the Fransalian Communications in Uganda for the secondary schools.

The reason why Iyolwa Community thought of creating Fransalian Communications was that Ugandan cultures and their values are disappearing from the face of the earth hence it was seen as one the ways to make the young people go back to their cultures and pick out the values and use them as a tool to change their lives, therefore, Iyolwa community saw it a need to promote, reinvigorate and revitalize the cultural values in the present society which seem to be lost due to the emergency of Foreign cultures and the intermingling of the tribes.

All the nations should not forget their cultural values and roots hence the aim is to create in the students' hearts a spirit of love for their cultural values and make them feel proud of their own cultures and traditions. The competitions also



aim at the formation of one's personality; improve on one's talents and creativity among students

The idea was welcomed by many headteachers of the surrounding secondary schools and I would like to inform the reader that for the first very time, fives schools came in big numbers and competed with a competitive spirit and the winners were awarded trophies and some little money to encourage them.

The first Fransalian Communications on the land of Uganda organized the

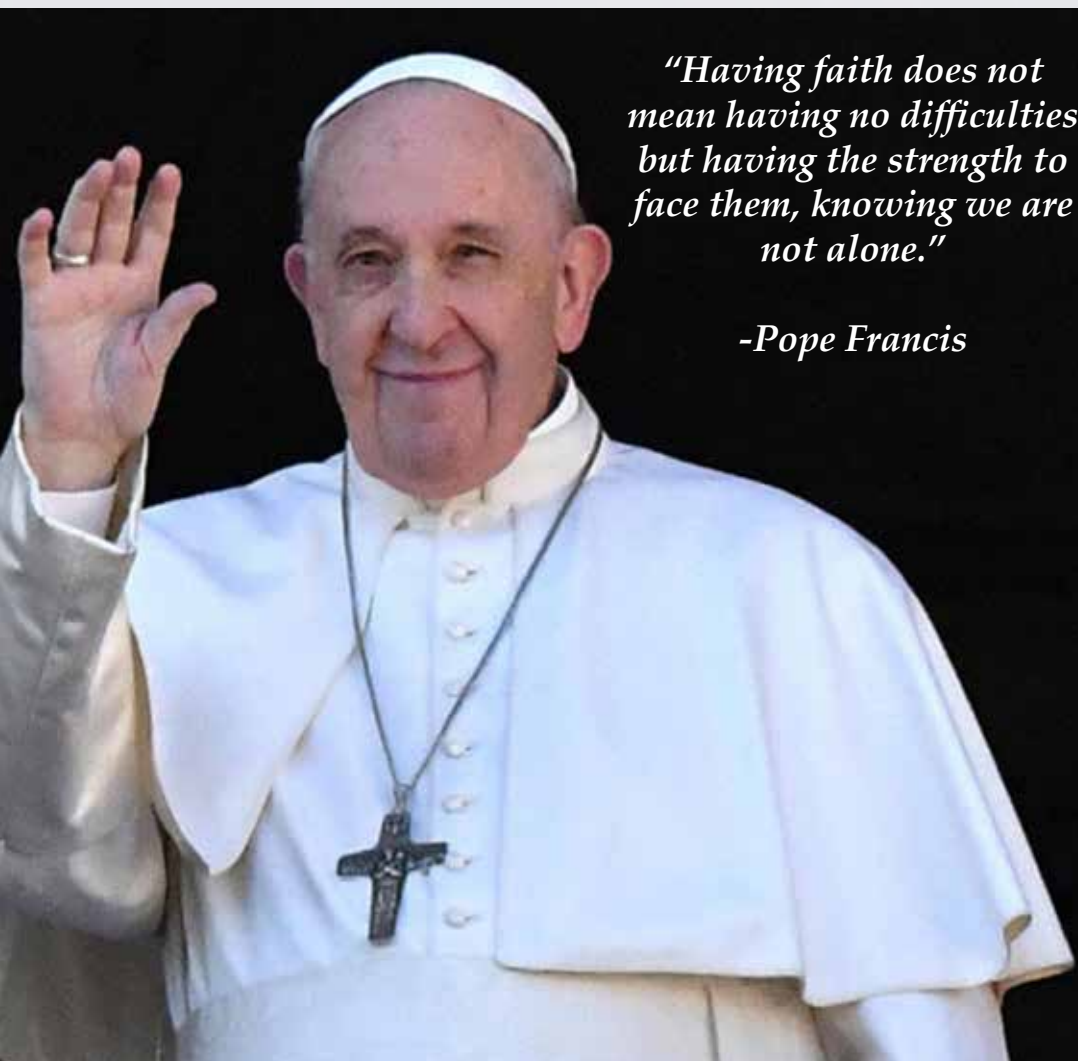


The sharper a dart, the more easily it enters into our bodies. Similarly the more pointed an evil word is the more it penetrates into our hearts . ~St. Francis de Sales

inter-school cultural competitions for secondary schools to compete in poem, skits, and traditional dance and drama which were held on the 29th of June 2019 at St. Francis de sales secondary school under the leadership of the MSFS fathers of Iyolwa Fransalian Community. It was such a wonderful competition and the students who took part including their teachers appreciated it.

Trophies were given to the schools that won; all the schools that took part in the competitions were given the certificates of attendance and it was such very joyful time for the students, I thank all the MSFS Fathers of Iyolwa community for organizing wonderful competitions.

Bro. Joseph Mwasu MSFS



"Having faith does not mean having no difficulties but having the strength to face them, knowing we are not alone."

-Pope Francis

Fransalian Communications Morogoro, Tanzania



Fransalian communications, Morogoro is an initiative from the part of the Fransalian theologians studying in Jordan University College for the spiritual and academic wellbeing of the students and religious around Morogoro. They go around different parishes and universities on Sundays and other days for pastoral services. Other than the pastoral services they also involved in the following activities.

A brief history

Fransalian communication program began in Morogoro as an initiative of the scholastics staying in Fransalian house Morogoro ever since 1999 when the house was opened for the scholastic. Scholastics started to take initiative to go around different parishes, religious houses, schools and universities, enquiring their needs and try to organize these

programs as I explain below. With the support of different well-wishers and the participants, these programs got organized better and better. Formatters and scholastics always work together for the success of the program.

1. SPIRITUAL SEMINAR

BIBLICAL



Kola Fransalian Community
through Fransalian Communications

organizes a Biblical Spiritual Seminar once in a year. The seminar is always conducted in the last week of December just after Charismas. It is meant for religious men and women and those who are undergoing formation from different Religious Congregations.

Different competent facilitators are always called upon to energize the Religious on the themes. About 80 Religious men and women, Novices and postulants from different Religious Congregations participate in this Seminar. According to the reports and evaluations collected, these Seminars are very much loved and appreciated by those who attend it.

The participants express always their joy and love for the Seminar and commend that, it is well organized and they request the community to continue organizing such enriching Spiritual Seminars. The Seminar supports, energizes, challenges and transforms the Religious thus, providing an opportunity for the participants to be inspired to live more fully their Religious vocation. Each participant is awarded a certificate of Participation.

2. Fransalian Inter-School Cultural Competitions



We are conducting the Fransalian Inter-School Cultural Competitions every year consists of the following items: *Jiving, Igizo, Ngoma* and Drawing. This competition will take place at Fransalian Primary School, Kigurunyembe. There will be the Ever Rolling Trophy for the first, second and third prizes respectively.

The purpose of conducting these competitions is to promote, reinvigorate and to revitalize the cultural values in the present society, which seems to be lost due to the emergence of the foreign Cultures and inter-mingling of the tribes. We should not forget our cultural values and roots. Thus our aim is to create in the students' hearts a spirit of love for their cultural values and make them feel proud of their own culture and traditions. These competitions also enrich the formation of personality, improving talents and creativity among the students. Besides all these, the competitions to provide an opportunity for interaction with students from other schools.

3. Seminars for university students

We conduct seminars for the students studying SUA, JUCO and Mzumbe universities. It is conducted four times every year. The aim of the seminar is to

enrich the young students spiritually, intellectually, morally and socially. We the young students pursue intellectual growth they tempt to forget the spiritual and moral aspects of life. Each seminar is conducted for a day, starting in the morning and end by evening.



We give prior information to the students concerned. An experienced person is invited in advance to give a talk for two hours about the most relevant theme. Students get sufficient time to reflect on the theme and ask further clarifications. Participants are prepared well to receive the sacrament of reconciliation. They also get a chance to get counselling and spiritual advice. Priests are made available for spiritual services. The seminar ends with the celebration of the Holy mass.

It is evident that these seminars are effective and helpful to the students because the number of participants remains constant.

4. Sale of books and liturgical articles



As a part of our service to the people around, we opened a book shop to make available books and other religious articles which are needed for the people around. Since there is no other place nearby where these things are available we bring things from different places. A good number of people visits our book shop and benefits our service.

Conclusion

Frasalian communications in Morogoro did and is doing an appreciable service to the church around with the support and cooperation of many generous people. We expect it to function better in the future. Our valuable support is highly appreciated.

Fr. Sebastian Palakudy MSFS





When one talks about Education, he/she points at the process by which a person obtains knowledge and learns new talents and skills. Thus getting a proper education is essential to achieving more success and happiness in life if at all it is incorporated with good moral values. Education is vital in all spheres of life. It gives us the opportunity for a better and more prosperous life, helps in the development of personality, personal standards, standards in society and transforms the living status of a person. Nelson Mandela at his wisest said: *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales presence in Mlolongo Kenya has made a difference to many lives of people through Education.

At St. Joseph's Catholic Parish Mlolongo in the diocese of Machakos is where we find an Education Institution namely; **St. Joseph Vocational Training Centre.**

This institution was started in the year 2004 to empower the lower strata of the society especially the Youth and Women with quality technical and entrepreneurial skills at a subsidized rate to alleviate the problems of unemployment, crime and poverty and thereby improving the quality of life and subsequently contributing to the socio-economic development of the area. The Institute stands as a beacon of hope for the poor and disadvantaged population of Mlolongo and the diocese at large.

Since establishment, the VTC has successfully trained thousands of artisans and junior professionals in various courses and disciplines offered in the institution. These include;

- Tailoring, Dress Making and Industrial Sewing
- Computer and Information Technology (CIT)





- Front office and Secretariat
- Motor Vehicle Mechanics
- Early Childhood Development and Education Teachers' Training (ECDE)
- Hairdressing and Beauty

The institution has maintained a high calibre training programs that incorporate theory, practice as well as on the job-training and orientations for all the artisans. This necessitates rigorous monitoring, supervision and accompaniment of trainees both in class and in the job placement and practicum field locations.

Tailoring and Dressmaking

This was the first initiative that was started at St Joseph's Vocational Training Centre in the year 2004 towards getting job opportunities in the export processing companies in Nairobi. In view of giving the tailoring students certificate in the Directorate Industrial Training (DIT) of grade II and grade III, St Joseph's VTC affiliated with DIT in the year 2007. Later on, the trade was affiliated to the National Industrial Training Authority (NITA) and now awarded examination centre for all the three Grades by January 2020.



Computer and Information Technology

St Joseph's VTC introduced computer and information Technology in January 2005, in view of providing the students Diploma and certificate in software and hardware. Perhaps this course is where many Youths get interested. The management has to make shifts for the students to accommodate more. The challenge is space and more laptops for learning purposes. In a day with three shifts the facilities can provide skills to a maximum of 120 students.

Secretarial and Front office and office administration

In March 2006 St Joseph's VTC opened up yet another trade, the secretarial course. St Joseph's VTC is incorporated with Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC). On the other hand, the Front Office and office administration course was started in the year 2016 offering certificate for Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC) Motor Vehicle Mechanic - MVM

St. Josephs introduced motor mechanic in the year 2007, in view of providing the students education and know-how in motor vehicle mechanic. This trade has since then helped young men in achieving their dreams and attain Certificate in NITA for Grade III, II & I. This skill is very important and vital for the Youth in such a way that even to be employed by a company as a driver



today one must have a background of the motor mechanic. Thus those Youths who pass through our institute always stand a higher chance of Job opportunities.

Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE Teacher's Training Centre)

In the year 2008, St Joseph's VTC (St Joseph's Early childhood development education) initiated to qualify and to train teachers for pre-primary/primary schools, offering them diploma/certificate of Kenya examination council (KNEC) in ECDE.

Hair Dressing and Beauty 2020

In addition to the above-mentioned trades, the management of St. Joseph's VTC of recently started a new trade which is **Hair Dressing and Beauty**. The main aim was to help many single young mothers who strive to earn a living and also to substitute the ECDE program which is being phased out temporarily by the Kenyan Government. The new course has been accepted well by the locals and classes started with a good number of students registered. It is a trade which can accommodate many students because there are many different short courses involved. Therefore, the minimum stay



for a course can be two months and the maximum can be a year.

HOSTEL

We also have **hostel facility for girls** studying in our institution, and nearby secondary schools and working women. Our objective is to empower and equip young people with skills for life with a special emphasis to uplift the poor, the marginalized and the vulnerable youth and their self-reliance.

We could achieve this because of the blessing of the Almighty God, the prayers and support of our well-wishers and benefactors, and also because we share the mission and vision for St. Joseph's Vocational Training Centre and we believe in its cause.

Education is the basic right of a person. When a person doesn't get to have this right, it can lead to a raft of poorer community living including social problems such as poverty, child labour, discrimination, around the world. Education is the best tool to provide inner strength to an individual and confidence.

Fr. Lawrence Sebowa
Principal

PIGGERY PROJECT at BUKENE PARISH

Fr Siljo Cherian MSFS

The piggery project in Bukene parish was initiated by Fr Sebastian Nirappel. With the help of Caritas Austria, there are 140 women who are part of this project and they have formed eight groups in seven villages. Each member of the group is given two piglets and initial treatment for the piglets. For the continuity of the project the beneficiaries have to return the piglets and these piglets will be distributed to more groups. Thus this project will be helping more women of the area. Many women in the parish are illiterate. Since there is a high demand of pork in the local market women will have no difficulty in marketing the product. Along with their saving activities in the group, adult literacy programs are

introduced and periodical seminars are conducted for the group members.

The project's overall objectives are:

- To strengthen economic empowerment of women of Bukene parish.
- To impart skills of self-reliance program and improve standard of living of the people.
- To uplift women from gender based violence, poverty and illiteracy.
- To help the single mothers to educate their children



VISITATION OF SUPERIOR GENERAL

The Canonical Visitation of our beloved Superior General Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil to the Province of East Africa began on March 07, 2020. Fr. General could visit only communities and confreres in Tanzania as the borders of Kenya and Uganda were closed due to Covid-19. We are very grateful to

Fr. General for visiting our Province amidst the fear of Coronavirus. He met every confrere personally, prayed together and animated every community with his orientations to revamp religious life, community life as well as various apostolates absorbing the spirit of General Chapter 2019.



BOYS' HOSTEL, KATANI

SFS Integrated Pre and Primary School witnessed another milestone in its history, when the new Boys' hostel was blessed and inaugurated on February 08, 2020. The new hostel, which can accommodate another 80 students was blessed by Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS, Provincial of East Africa Province and was opened by

Dr. Bimal Kandariya, who supported the project partially. The school can now accommodate 160 boys and girls each. The hostel is dedicated to the memory of Late Sr. Mary Antony FCC who was the Headmistress of the school for the last five years.



A NEW TRADE AT ST. JOSEPH'S VTC, MLOLONGO

St. Joseph's VTC at Mlolongo, Nairobi strives to facilitate a bright future for young people by providing them formal and non-formal education for personal development and self-reliance. Since 2002, St Joseph's VTC has trained thousands of young people in different trades like:

- Tailoring and Dressmaking
- Computer and Information Technology
- Computerized Secretarial and Front office
- Motor Vehicle Mechanic (MVM)
- Early Childhood Development Education

(ECDE-Teacher's Training Centre)

In addition to the above mentioned trades, the management of St. Joseph's VTC has introduced a new trade: Hair Dressing and Beautician course. The course aims to help single young mothers and young women who strive to be financially self-reliant. It is a trade which can accommodate many students because there are different short courses involved, from two months to one year. The new trade classrooms for Hair Dressing and Beautician course were blessed by the Councillor in charge of Education Rev. Fr. Jacob Thekkekara MSFS, on 13th Feb 2020.



BLESSING OF THE NEW ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK OF SFS SECONDARY SCHOOL, IPULI



On March 14, 2020 Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, our Superior General blessed and opened the new Administrative Block of SFS Secondary School, Ipuli Tabora, Tanzania. The new administrative block

was named after the late Fr. Paulsamy MSFS, who had worked at the school. The new wing consists of various school offices, staff room, library, computer class rooms and a spacious multi-purpose hall.



ST. FRANCIS DE SALES CATHOLIC CHURCH DUMILA

INNOVATIVE PROJECTS FOR SELF-RELIANCE

St. Francis De Sales Catholic Church in Dumila is situated within the region of Morogoro and within the catholic diocese of Morogoro. It is started in the year 2000, has ten outstations and sixty five small Christian Communities. Apart from the parish contributions, the parish is run by various self-supporting projects such as making hosts, tailoring and embroidery projects, and providing water service for the people around.

The project of making hosts is meant for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist which we distribute to the entire diocese of Morogoro

and to our confreres. As a project it was started in the year 2016 with a small machine providing hosts for the parish use alone. Later due to the demands from the diocese and from the confreres we added two more machines providing available hosts for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. For the stability of this project, there is a lady appointed from the parish to run this project successfully and she is able to make ten to fifteen (20litrs) buckets of hosts per month. Representatives from various parishes from the diocese of Morogoro usually come to the parish to buy the hosts for their parish celebration of the Holy Mass. Together with this project





we do offer services like selling of church articles and church based books.

The second project that we have started is the tailoring and embroidery dress making project. This unit in the premises of Dumila parish is started recently to support the people who are unemployed. The idea of establishing this department is caused by the high demand of stitching quality dress for the inhabitants. After seeing the need of the people from the parish we established a tailoring section comprised of one single needle, over lock machine, and two embroidery machines. With these tailoring machines we started stitching school uniforms and other dresses for the public. Another aspect of this project is to make church cloths which can be used for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. For this we purchased single head embroidery machine which can use twelve needles at a time with better quality. Moreover we thought of buying another machine for making school sweaters for the school children. Also already made church



vestments and the other dresses are displayed at various diocesan shops in Morogoro, in Dumila and in our province.

Thus through this project we have already provided temporary employment for five to ten youth from this parish. Moreover we help the community with quality cloth making facilities for all. We also facilitates sufficient hosts for the parishes of Morogoro diocese. Overall, all the above mentioned projects in one way or the other contribute a lot for the daily running of the parish and for the well-being of the parish community.

Fr. Amal Paul MSFS





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*Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS
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