



Out of Africa

Annual News Bulletin of the Fransalians in Africa



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CONTENTS

03

EDITORIAL

04

MESSAGE FROM THE
SUPERIOR GENERAL

05

EAST AFRICA PROVINCE

13

SOUTHERN AFRICAN
REGION

26

CHAD-CAMEROON
DELEGATION

34

MOZAMBIQUE
DELEGATION

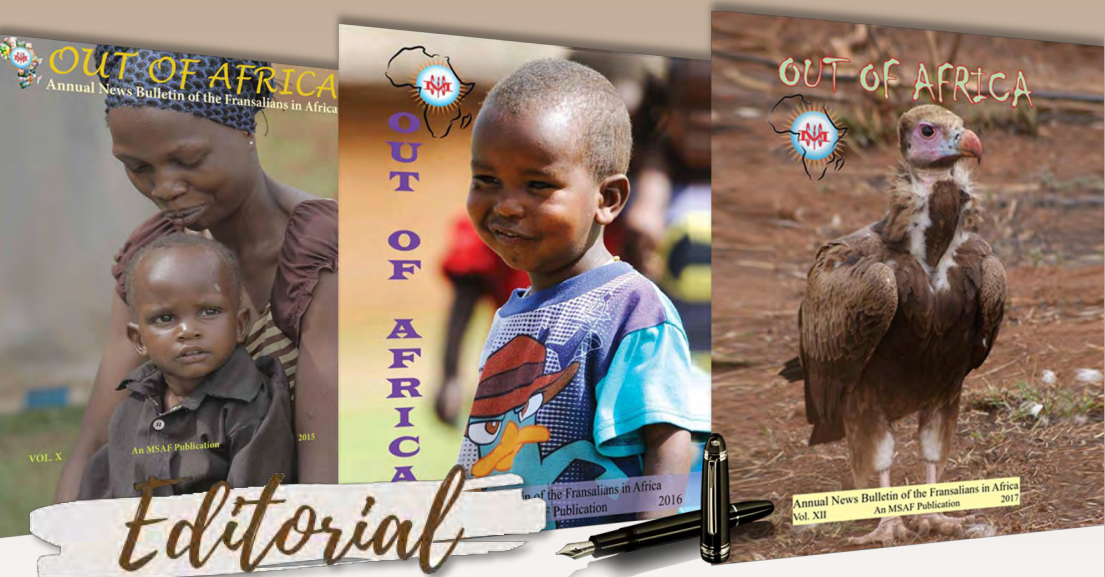
42

ZAMBIA MISSION

47

MALAWI MISSION

Cover Photo: Two kids of the Ndelane outstation of the SFS Parish Bela-Vista waiting inside the chapel for the Holy Mass to begin.



Editorial

OUT OF AFRICA is the annual news bulletin of the Fransalians in Africa. It is an initiative by the MSFS Mission Superiors of Africa Form (MSAF) from 2004. The task of publishing it was allotted to a unit for a term of three years. East Africa Province, Southern African Region and Chad-Cameroon Delegation brought out three issues each. Then it was the turn of the Mozambique Delegation. Though we had brought out three issues (Vol. X, XI, XII), they failed to reach you as there were some lapses in the circulation of these issues. So here we are with the XIII volume.

This year the MSFS are celebrating the **Year of Missions**. In the light of this the Editorial Team of Out of Africa thought that it would be very appropriate and relevant to make a journey backwards. This would enlighten us to know more about the origin and the growth of each unit, and how it has reached up to the present stage.

It is said that taking a look back into history informs the present and shapes the future. Are any of us aware of the fact that the MSFS served in Algeria, Northern Africa from 1947 to 1978? Thirty-One years of glorious service in the mission.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to each and every one for all the hard work and committed dedication put in. Your wholehearted cooperation immensely helped us in the successful completion and the release of Out of Africa. God bless you and your ministry.

During this festive season all of us will be involved with our people in joyful celebrations. We humbly urge all of you to take care, follow Governmental norms and S.O.P.s to be safe from the new variant of Covid-19. We wish all of you our esteemed readers, a **Very Happy Christmas** and a **Bright and Prosperous New Year 2022**. May the Baby Jesus born in the manger also be born in our hearts so that we may share His love, peace and joy with others. **Live Jesus**.

*Yours devotedly in Christ,
Fr. Henry Nedumkallel MSFS*

Message



In this 'Year of Missions', it is a blessing that we can receive 'OUT OF AFRICA' hosted by Mozambique Delegation with fresh mission news from the African continent. The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales have one Province, one Region, two delegations, and two missions in Africa. It is always inspiring to read the stories of our brave missionaries in Africa. Our missionaries are brave to address their struggles and challenges with their missionary dynamism flowing from the Holy Spirit.

According to Washington Post, 'Africa has the fastest-growing Catholic population on the planet, which is projected to reach nearly 350 million by 2050'. Africa will continue to be one of the pillars of the Church. Evangelization in Africa calls for social transformation, protection of the environment, fighting corruption, compassion for the disadvantaged, education of the children, and human dignity for all. The challenges are numerous. However, we shall not forget that we also evangelize when we confront the various challenges and inconveniences. We evangelize ourselves and evangelize others when faced with trials and sufferings.

It is promising to note the willingness among the young MSFS to go to the peripheries and frontier mission. Provinces have taken a keen interest to open new missions in geographically remote villages where missionaries are most needed. It is encouraging to note that some confreres including scholastics have opted to pioneer into frontier missions. Our latest African mission in Malawi is an example of what young confreres can do as pioneers to an unknown land. Our Founder, Father Peter Mermier, and our Patron, St. Francis de Sales, continue to be our role models for the mission of Christ.

We have the good news. Our God does not operate within our human limitations and imperfections. God is all-powerful, slow in anger, and rich in mercy. Our God holds the power to change hearts and transform lives. This realization gives missionaries an enduring hope that enables them to persist in their call. Such awareness also gives time, energy, and perseverance to the most difficult work of evangelization in the frontier mission.

Congratulations to the Mozambique delegation for enriching us with the missionary of journey of confreres in Africa,

Live JESUS!

Father Abraham VETTUVELIL, MSFS
Superior General



MSFS Missionary Activity in East Africa

God in the O.T. is presented as the 'Missionary God'. It is God who calls and sends, it is God's initiative and it is God's decision in choosing and entrusting His salvific activity to whom He wills in His providence, in saving the people of God. For e.g. Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc. In the N.T. the same missionary mandate is



continued and in His providence God sent Jesus as Savior and Redeemer. The same missionary mandate is continued in the history of salvation, entrusting His Apostles the mission of salvation He initiated. He commanded His disciples to go into the 'whole world' and make disciples of all nations. This task of making disciples is the missionary vocation of the Church.

Mission is the essence of the Church and it originates from Jesus' 'missionary mandate' to all Christians, to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed, so that all human beings can freely make the decision for Christ. This mission of the Church has continued right from the apostolic times to this day, through the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, reaching to all the corners of the world, in proclaiming the Gospel in word and deed, through the varied missionary movements in Church right through the centuries.



In the aftermath of the French Revolution (1787-1799) the Church went through a turbulent time in France, and Savoy was not spared. Our Holy Founder Servant of God Father Peter Marie Mermier was born during these difficult times. This difficult situation of the Church moulded him to be a model priest and a good missionary through the instrumentality of his devout parents, who loved the Church and were true missionaries. Being a zealous and devout priest he devoted his time for 'Parish Mission Preaching' (PMP) renewing the faith life of the people. His clarion call '**I Want Missions**' was focused on faith renewal programs in the parishes, and for this purpose he founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales (MSFS). However, the inner fire and desire to be 'missionary' in him impelled him in 1842 to ask the Holy Father for a mission abroad, especially to send MSFS Missionaries to Africa. However it was not the plan of God. He sent the first members of the Congregation to India as requested by the Holy See, accepting the vast mission territory of Visakhapatnam Mission, when the Congregation was in its infancy with just 14 professed members. This missionary dynamism of our Founder was inspired by the Chablais experience of St. Francis de Sales: his missionary endeavour to bring back to Catholicism his own countrymen from Calvinism. It was by his faith formation initiatives undertaken in Savoy and neighbouring France, through faith formation initiatives and spiritual direction in varied forms. Fr. Mermier imitated St. Francis de Sales in all his missionary initiatives.

MSFS Missionary Initiatives in East Africa:

The missionary dynamism of Fr. Mermier is very much lived and continued in all the Provinces and mission units established by the Congregation in India. In the Province of Visakhapatnam the missionary spirit of the Founder gave expression to the MSFS Mission in the North-East India, (1975) which today has grown into two full-fledged Provinces, the MSFS Mission in East Africa and the MSFS Mission in Indonesia. The first missionaries from the Visakhapatnam Province landed in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 31st December 1987. When we look back into 33 years of our history in East Africa, we can only but thank God for His manifold blessings and His Providence. The MSFS Mission then started with 4 missionaries, today has grown into a flourishing Province (1996) and is spread out in three countries – Tanzania (1988), Kenya (1997) and Uganda (2000). The Province consists of 104 professed members - 74 priests, 30 scholastics. There are 25 communities in the Province. The charism of the Congregation is expressed through the following Apostolates in the Province: Apostolate of Formation, Apostolate of Pastoral Animation and Faith Formation, Apostolate of Education, Apostolate of Social Ministry and Daunting Tasks

Apostolate of Formation:



The right focus and priority of implanting a new mission is by facilitating the right mission and vision of forming its own members, from its own people. Right from the beginning full attention was given for vocation promotion and

as a result today more than half of the confreres (57) are from East Africa. The Province has a very vibrant formation program with formation houses in all the stages of formation – Junior Seminary, Aspirancy and Postulancy, Novitiate, Philosophate and Theologate. Every year new members from East Africa are added to the Congregation. Right now the members from East Africa are introduced to responsible positions so that the MSFS Congregation is implanted well in East Africa. A new formation house in Uganda is already constructed to give a two year initial formation to our candidates from East Africa, before the Novitiate.

Parallel to vocation promotion and formation of the native members of the Congregation, scholastics from the Indian Provinces volunteered to come to Tanzania. After completing their Philosophy they came to Tanzania to continue their formation in Tanzania. It helped very well in speeding up the number of MSFS Missionaries in East Africa.

Apostolate of Pastoral Animation and Faith Formation

Without learning the language and culture of the people it is almost impossible for a missionary to be successful in the pastoral apostolate in a foreign land. The Provincial Administration of Visakhapatnam Province was convinced of this important aspect of taking up the mission in Tanzania. Therefore the right orientation and encouragement was given to the four pioneering missionaries, to focus on learning well Kiswahili and learning the culture of the people of Tanzania. Initially the first MSFS Missionaries



attended six months of Kiswahili classes at Language Institute in Kipalapala (Tabora) which is managed by the Missionaries of Africa. After the language course the pioneering missionaries were assigned six months of pastoral experience with the Missionaries of Africa, one each in Ussongo, Urambo and Kaliua parishes. This pastoral experience facilitated very well in getting a good foundation to pastoral work in the Tanzanian context. With the confidence of receiving enough pastoral exposure, the pioneering missionaries launched into missionary work in Tanzania, by taking charge of Lububu parish on 24th January 1989, after little more than a year of their presence in Tanzania.

Soon the mission which started



with four missionaries made steady progress. Many MSFS missionaries volunteered to come to East Africa in order to continue missionary work in East Africa. In spite of long distance and poor infrastructure in the interior territories, the missionaries bring the

Good News to the remotest villages. At present we are actively present in Dar es Salaam - 2 Parishes; Morogoro - 2 Parishes and a semi-autonomous Mission Centre; Tabora - 3 Parishes; Dodoma - 1 Parish; and Arusha - 3 Parishes in the **Dioceses of Tanzania**. In **Kenya**, Machakos - 1 Parish; Meru - 1 Parish; and Ngong Dioceses - 1 semi – autonomous Mission Centre. In **Uganda**, Tororo - 3 Parishes; Jinja - 1 Parish; and Lugasi - 1 Parish.

The main thrust of the parish work is faith formation of the faithful, following the method followed by our Founder Fr. Peter Mermier in preaching Parish Missions. Though the Province of East Africa has not fully involved itself in PMP by setting apart confreres for this important ministry, however all the confreres involved in parish ministry principally follow the PMP method. Faith formation of all the faithful in the parish is taken care of in groups – children, youth, women, men, different associations, etc. The main focus is spiritual and sacramental formation of the faithful. Special focus is given to teaching the children and adults catechism as preparation before Baptism, First Communion, Confirmation and Marriage Preparation Course for youth and adults. As a result tremendous progress is made with regard to the spiritual and faith formation of all the faithful in all our parishes. Special stress is given for Family Apostolate in visiting the families regularly and assisting them with counseling and accompaniment. In faith formation and catechesis well trained catechists, charismatic groups and lay leaders are assisting the confreres. In all our parishes special stress is given to empower the laity to lead the parish in varied capacities. Another aspect of spiritual formation of the people in East Africa is establishing Pilgrim Centers and Divine Mercy Chapels. There are 4 such centers in Tanzania and 1 centre in Uganda.

The Apostolate of Education

The Province of East Africa has given great importance to providing quality education for children and youth in East Africa. Only true education can lead to liberation and social transformation. In Tanzania there are 7 Pre-Primary and Primary Schools, 3 Secondary Schools and 1 Vocational Training Institute. There is





also a home for needy and orphaned children. In Kenya there are 3 Pre-Primary and Primary Schools, 1 Secondary School and 1 Vocational Training Institute. In Uganda there is 1 Secondary School. There are also several hostels attached to our primary and secondary schools.

There is also a very well organized scholarship program. Hundreds of children are assisted in education through the generosity of benefactors and sponsors. Our schools are also setting apart some amount to assist the needy children and youth.

Another important initiative of the Congregation is the Lumen Christi Institute at Maji ya Chai, Arusha. This institute is committed to giving development oriented formation and higher education to clergy, religious and laity in East Africa. The programs and courses offered by LCI are: Degree/Diploma in Philosophy; one year Formators Course for Religious and Priests; Catechetical Courses; short weekly/biweekly courses; Swahili Language Course for the beginners, etc.

Social Apostolate and Innovative Ministry

Several social, community development and health-care centers are attached to our parishes. Many of these initiatives are directed towards empowering women socially and economically. Prominent among the innovative ministry is Mermier Holistic Healing Centre where annually thousands of the people come for treatment and almost all get healed of their sickness. Another prominent social apostolate is through Fransalian Communications activities, like animating the University students through spiritual seminars and counseling, media apostolate,

soup kitchen for needy children, etc. Another initiative is empowering the visually impaired through skill formation like making water filters, flower pots, etc. It will make them self-employed when they finish their training. Through NGOs Foster Life and Foster Africa Fransalians East Africa are engaged in youth animation and giving the youth proper direction in their life.

Conclusion

Within a span of 33 years of MSFS presence in East Africa the Congregation has laid a strong foundation to the spirit and charism of the Congregation in East Africa. While thanking God for His abundant providence and protection, we implore His continual blessings for the steady growth of the Congregation in the years ahead. With full optimism and confidence let us move forward in implanting the Congregation and charism in African soil. May this year of Missions be an inspiration for each of us, to be genuine missionaries in the Church and the Congregation in Africa.





SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION

Every mission is born out of a profound conviction and desire to reach out, develop and serve. Servant of God, Fr. Peter Mary Mermier, the Founder of the MSFS Congregation had the same desire and vision. Even though his vision was to send his priests to Africa, he was given the responsibility to send priests to India. The dream of Fr. Mermier to have his priests working in Africa was eventually fulfilled when the missionaries came to Africa from India and this opened up a new avenue for the MSFS to take root in and minister to the people in many African countries.

In 1975, the missionaries of St. Francis de Sales from the Province of Visakhapatnam went beyond their geographical boundaries of South India and began the mission work in the hitherto unknown territory of North-East India, a land of stunning natural beauty and a mosaic of colour, culture, dialects and traditions. In 1979, it was raised to a Region and in 1984 into a Vice-Province. In 1990 it was made into a full-fledged Province. In 1995, the first native priests from the region were ordained and they continue to grow in number as new mission centers were being opened. On 22nd July 1998, three priests, Fr. Philip Mangatt, Fr. Joseph Kunjaparambil, and Fr. Babychan Arackathara from the then North-East India Province were sent as pioneers to work in Namibia, and in the following year, the MSFS presence was extended to South Africa.



Fr. Philip Mangatt was appointed as the first Mission Superior, and his foresight and vision enabled the MSFS presence in Namibia and South Africa to evolve into a Region in Southern Africa on 28th May 2003. Fr. Job Karikkampally was appointed as its first Regional Superior, and Fr. Joseph Kunjaparambil, Fr. Babychan Arackathara, and Baiju Mundackal succeeded him as Regional Superiors.

MSFS IN NAMIBIA

In the year 1994, Bishop John Minder OSFS, the Bishop of Keimoes-Upington extended an invitation to the then Superior General of the MSFS, Rev. Fr. Emile Mayoraz, to send some Missionaries to work in his diocese. In 1996, the Superior General with the approval of his Councilors entrusted this new venture of the Congregation to the then North-East India Province. Responding to the request of the Bishop, the North-East Provincial Administration designated Frs. Philip Mangatt, Joseph Kunjaparampil, and Babychan Arackathara to work in Southern Africa. On 22nd July 1998, the designated three confreres of the North-East India Province landed at Windhoek airport in Namibia.

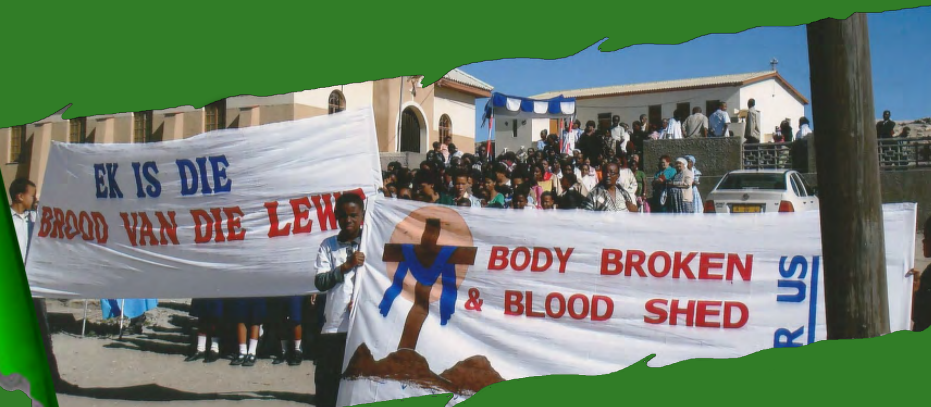
After four months of intense language studies, on 8th December 1998, Bishop Antonio Chiminello OSFS appointed the three priests to **St. Peter Claver Church, Bethanie**, the first parish entrusted to the care of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in Southern Africa. Later Fr. Saju Thalayinakandathil and Fr. Augustine Parampuzhayil served this parish and its five out-stations. In the year 2007, the parish of Bethanie was annexed to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Keetmanshoop which is now being looked after by the MSFS.

St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Mission, Ongha was the second mission centre taken up by the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in Namibia and the first in the Archdiocese of Windhoek. It is situated in the northern part of Namibia bordering Angola and is 720 kilometers from Windhoek, the capital. Before it was made into an independent parish (Pastoral District) and entrusted to the MSFS on 28th February 2002, it was part of Okatana parish (Pastoral Region) and was looked after by the OMI priests. Fr. Lukose Perumannikala was appointed as the first MSFS parish priest and Fr. Baiju Mundackal as assistant priest. In 2003 January Fr. Baiju was transferred to Annamulenge as assistant priest and to study the feasibility of the MSFS to take it up, and Fr. Thomas Vanderkunnel was appointed assistant priest. Fr. Lukose Perumannikala, Fr. Baiju Mundackal, Fr. D. R. Paul, Fr. Philip Kurisummoottil, Fr. Mathew Maliyil have served the parish in the past, and currently Fr. Sanish Plakootathil is the parish priest, and Fr. Jose Mamalassery is the assistant priest.



The Ongha Mission has six units with eighteen out-stations. It has four schools, three hospitals, and one rehabilitation centre under its spiritual care. The people of the place are known as Kwanyamas, one of the major Owambo tribes. They speak a dialect called Oshikwanyama, one of the major Oshiwambo dialects. After the MSFS took over the Mission of Ongha, four more communities were added to the Mission. With the support of Archbishop Liborius N. Nashenda OMI, the mission was able to build a proper priests' house, a hall, a community kitchen, common toilets for the people, and nine more new church buildings for the different out-stations. With the support of the Congregation (from the Southern-African Region) and the Archdiocese, the Ongha Mission was able to build a dormitory for women accommodating 100, and a dormitory for men accommodating 50. Pastoral ministry is the main focus of the Missionaries in this region. Family visits, youth ministry, administration of the sacraments, catechesis and faith formation are the important apostolates of the Missionaries in their pastoral ministry.

Christ the King Parish, Luderitz is situated in the south-western part of Namibia under the Diocese of Keetmanshoop. It had its origin when Fr. Sollier the first missionary reached Luderitz. On 8th March 1910, Fr. Hetzenecker landed at Luderitz along with Brother Eugen Haffenmeyer and two Oblate sisters, Maria Martha, and Maria Aloysia. The Oblates of St. Francis de Sales continued to work in this mission till the retirement of Fr. J.J.E. Bokern, OSFS in 2002. On 22nd September 2002, Fr. Joseph Kunjaparambil of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales was appointed parish priest and Fr. Salu Thattaparambil as assistant priest, and the mission was entrusted to the MSFS. Fr. Joseph Kunjaparambil, Fr. Salu Thattaparambil, Fr. Augustine Parampuzhayil, Fr. Philip Mangatt, Fr. Joseph Illickal, Fr. Jijesh Palatty, and Fr. Noble Nakathingal have served the parish in the past, and currently Fr. Libin Chiraparambil is the parish priest and Fr. Bibin Puthuppallyil is the assistant priest.



Though Luderitz is a coastal township, the parish has three out-stations that are quite far from the main parish. **Oranjemund**, a beautifully built-up mining township bordering South Africa, and having a population of about 500 Catholics, is about 400 kilometers from the parish. **Rosh Pinah** is another mining township about 300 kilometers away from Luderitz that has about 900 Catholics. In 2003, with assistance from the MSFS Fathers, a church with an attached room for the visiting priest was built and blessed. Later a parish hall with a common kitchen and a room for the priest was built. **Aus** is about 125 kilometers away from Luderitz and it borders the Great Namib desert. Though Aus has a beautiful church and a small presbytery, the Catholic population is very small, numbering about 100 and most of them are unemployed.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish, Keetmanshoop is the second biggest parish in the diocese of Keetmanshoop and is adjacent to the diocesan headquarters. It was bifurcated from St. Stanislaus parish which is the cathedral parish of the diocese. The OLPH Church was started in 1925 by Fr. Rehor OSFS, for the Catholics of the local Nama tribe as St. Stanislaus Church was able to look after only the whites during the apartheid years. As most people in the area can speak Afrikaans, the liturgy is conducted mostly in Afrikaans though many of the parishioners belong to the Nama tribe and have their own dialect.

In the year 2004, after the death of Bishop Antonio Chiminello OSFS, the parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was entrusted to the care of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales by the then Administrator of the Diocese, Fr. Klaus Lettner. Fr. Philip Mangatt took over as parish priest of OLPH, Keetmanshoop on 24th January 2004 along with Fr. Salu Thattaparampil as the assistant. The Catholic population of OLPH is about five thousand members together with four outstations, namely De Sales, Bethanie, Koes, and Blouwes. Fr. Philip Mangatt, Fr. Salu Thattaparampil, Fr. Joy Kaniyammattel, Fr. Joseph Illickal, Fr. Saju Thalayinakandathil, Fr. Jijesh Paul Palatty and Fr. Libin Chiraparambil have served the parish in the past. Currently, Fr. Joseph Kunjaparambil is the parish priest and the Vicar General of the Diocese and Fr. Mathew Maliyil is the assistant priest.

St. Peter Canisius Parish, Anamulenge is situated in the northern most part of Namibia bordering Angola and is about 900 kilometers away from the state capital and the Archdiocesan headquarters, Windhoek. The Catholic community of Anamulenge is organized into a pastoral region with ten centres and forty-two communities with almost 30,000 Catholics. The people in this region belong to the Owambo tribe, the biggest tribe in Namibia and they speak the Oshiwambo dialect. The mission of Anamulenge was

entrusted to the care of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales officially with the installation of Fr. Jose Mamalassery as the parish priest in 2004 and Fr. Baiju Mundackal was appointed assistant priest, who worked in the parish from 6th January 2003.

Fr. Jose Mamalassery, Fr. Baiju Mundackal, and Fr. Dotmai R Paul have served the parish. In 2013 the parish was handed back to the Archdiocese.

St. Theresa of Child Jesus Parish, Tses lies about 80 kilometers from Keetmanshoop, towards the north. This mission was established on 3rd January 1927 by Fr. Nowak, a missionary who belongs to the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales. The mission consists of St. Theresa of Child Jesus Parish, Nowak Primary School, St. Theresa Junior Secondary School, and R. C. Church Hostel. More than two hundred children are benefiting from this hostel. On 24th January 2006, the mission was entrusted to the care of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, and Fr. Saju Joseph Thalayinakandathil was appointed as priest-in-charge. After about two and a half years, the mission was handed over to the diocese in June 2008.

St. Augustine's Parish, Soweto, is one of the six parishes in Windhoek, the capital city of Namibia. Soweto is a township created by the then apartheid government of Namibia and has a population of about 14,000 from the different parts of the country, with at least seven major language groups. St. Augustine's was blessed and opened on 17th March 1985, to cater to the spiritual needs of the people living in the Soweto area. The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales were entrusted with the parish on 30th September 2007. Fr. Joseph Kunjaparambil was installed as parish priest by Fr. Werner Afunde, the Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Windhoek and Fr. Joseph Illikkal joined him in November as the assistant priest.

Fr. Joseph Kunjaparambil, Fr. Joseph Illikkal, Fr. Lukose Perumannikala, Fr. Philip Purayidathil, Fr. Devasia Manalel, and Fr. Jose Mamalassery have served the parish in the past. In the year 2018, the Parish Church was rebuilt with more facilities and bigger capacity under the able direction and guidance of Fr. Saju Joseph Thalayinakandathil, the current parish priest, and Fr. Jijesh Palatty, the assistant priest.

The Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion assist the priest on Sundays and the Funeral Leaders conduct the funeral services. There are many ministries like the Ushers, Sacristans, Altar Servers, Cantors, Readers and Catechists that enhance the functioning and ministry in the parish. Associations and pious organizations like Bloukring and Jongwag (for the children between 9-18), Senior Youth, Unity Youth Choir, Church Choir, Ame Neumbo Lange, Our Journey Together, Legion of Mary, Anna

Vroue, Charismatic Movement, Parish Youth Group, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Soup Men's and Women's Groups, Mothers' Circle and Catholic Aid Action are some of the groups that operate under the supervision of the parish pastoral committee.

St. Peter Claver Parish, Okahandja has about 2850 registered Catholics, composed of different language groups such as Damara, Herero, Nama, Kavango, Caprivian, Oshiwambo, and the Coloured people. The Holy Mass is celebrated in Afrikaans or mixed with English. Okahandja town is situated 70 kilometers north of Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. The word, 'Okahandja' is derived from *Otjiherero* (a local tribal language), which means 'the place where two rivers flow into each other to form one wide one'. The parish consists of the main community at Okahandja, and three out-stations: St. John Vianny Community (Ovititi Settlement), St. John the Baptist Community (Huttenheim Farm), and St. Boniface Community (Five Dollars). The Parish was entrusted to the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales on 28th October 2007 and Fr. Joseph Kunjaparambil was appointed as the parish priest. Fr. Lukose Perumannikkal joined the parish team on 25th April 2008. The priests were residing at Soweto and did the pastoral ministry and celebrated Holy Mass for the community on Sundays and Wednesdays. When Fr. Lukose Perumannikala was transferred to Ongah the parish of Okahandja was given back to the diocese.



St. Thomas Catholic Church, Vredendal with its spacious and beautiful building, is in the Diocese of Keimoes-Upington.



This is the first parish in which the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales began their mission in South Africa. Vredendal, which means in Afrikaans ‘valley of peace’, is situated about 300 kilometers north of Cape Town, towards the northwest of South Africa. The area is known for vineyards and sand mines. As most people in the area speak Afrikaans, the liturgy is conducted mainly in Afrikaans though some use English. Before the apartheid era, the Catholics in the area were under the Vergenoeg mission, but during the apartheid, the coloureds were assigned to occupy the northern part of Vredendal and were ministered there. After the apartheid, Vredendal was made into a parish, and Vergenoeg remains an out-station of the present parish. On 2nd January 2000, the MSFS was entrusted with the parish of Vredendal. Fr. Varghese Chettupuzhakaren was appointed parish priest and Fr. Babychan Arackathara as the assistant priest. Fr. Varghese Chettupuzhakaren, Fr. Babychan Arackathara, Fr. Alex Varickamanthottiyil, Fr. Augustine Parampuzhayil, Fr. Anil Francis Topno, Fr. Philip Mangatt, Fr. James Madappallil, Fr. Benjamin Ngade, Fr. Salu Thattaparambil, and Fr. Nikseng Sangma have served the parish in the past. Currently, Fr. Libin Varghese Pallathutharayil is the parish priest, and Fr. Patropio Mutangili is the assistant priest. A beautiful new church was built for the parish under the guidance of Fr. Alex Varickamanthottiyil. The church was blessed and consecrated on 8th November 2008, and it can seat over 600 faithful. The parish continues to grow in numbers, and all members greatly appreciate the priestly service offered by MSFS Fathers in Vredendal.

The parish of **Holy Trinity, Matroosfontein** falls under the Archdiocese of Cape Town, South Africa. It is situated in the well-known Cape Flats of the Western Cape. Fr. James Kelly and Fr. Marcellus of the Capuchin Order founded and organized the Catholic community here. On 12th January 2002, the Holy Trinity parish of Matroosfontein was entrusted to the care of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales by the then Archbishop Most Rev. Lawrence Henry. Fr. Job Kaleekaparampil was appointed parish priest and Fr. Babychan Arackathara as the assistant priest. Fr. Job Kaleekaparampil, Fr. Babychan Arackathara, Fr. Baiju Mundackal, and Fr. Thomas Vanderkunnel have served as parish priests in the past, and currently Fr. Lukose Perumannikala is the parish priest. Though the official and liturgical language is English, a vast number of people use Afrikaans and a few Khosa. After the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales took over, the parish is well-organized and people are actively involved in the various ministries in the parish. A lot of renovation to the existing buildings of the parish hall, presbytery as well as parish church were undertaken and completed with the help of the parishioners. A beautiful garden is made and the compound wall constructed, before the canopy for the church was made for the congregation to interact with one another after the church services.

Catholic Church Grassy Park falls in the Southern suburbs of the city of Cape Town and is about twenty kilometers away from the city of Cape Town. The vast majority of the parishioners are from the Coloured community while a few are from other African countries. The Catholic community of Grassy Park started to have a separate history of its own when the Redemptorists working at Heathfield felt the need of the people there to have not only spiritual but also physical health care, and asked the Holy Family Sisters of Sea Point to assist the sick in the area. In 1959, the property at First Road where the present church of **Our Lady Queen of Peace** was bought. On 10th March 1962, Archbishop Owen McCann laid the foundation stone for the new parish church and presbytery. In 1963, the parish priest moved into the new presbytery at First Road, Grassy Park. The parish has two sister churches. **St. Gerard Majella, Parkwood**. Later, when Fr. Ratcliffe was appointed parish priest, he started to celebrate Mass for the people of Parkwood and Fairways area at Parkwood. In 1971 Fr. Ratcliffe was able to get a church built at Kestrel Road, Parkwood, and on 31st May 1971, it was officially blessed and opened by the then Archbishop Owen Mc Cann. The church was consecrated on 16th October 2001 by Most Rev. Lawrence Henry of Cape Town. This year the church celebrated the 50th year of its existence. **St. Clement Hofbauer, Lotus River**: Seeing the inconvenience of the Catholics of the Lotus River area, Fr. Ratcliffe started to celebrate Mass in the Lotus River area in some private homes. Later, a church was built at Lotus River, and on 3rd March 1973, it was blessed and opened by Monsignor Galvin.



When the Redemptorists handed over the parish of Grassy Park to the Archdiocese in 1994, it was entrusted by the Archbishop to an Indian missionary society called the Heralds of Good News. After they left in October 1997, there was no parish priest appointed till Fr. Francis Joseph Whyte, a diocesan priest of the Archdiocese became parish priest of Grassy Park in January 1998. He continued till March 2006. The late Archbishop, Most Rev. Lawrence Henry entrusted the parish of Grassy Park to the care of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. On 16th March 2006, Fr. Job Kaleekaparmpil was appointed parish priest, and Fr. Jacob Puthiyidathuchalil, was appointed as assistant priest. Fr. Job Kaleekaparmpil, Fr. Jacob Puthiyidathuchalil, Fr. Babu Joseph Kudakkachirakunnel, Fr. Joseph Puliylakatt, Fr. Mathew Pallichankudiyil, Fr. Benjamin Ngade and Fr. Noble Nakathingal have served the parish in the past. Currently, Fr. Baiju Mundackal is the parish priest, and Fr. Ventino Mutume is the assistant priest.

St. Mathew's Parish, Bonteheuwel was originally a farm on the outskirts of Cape Town and was inhabited by the Coloured people who were mostly of the working class living in flats rented from the government. The Catholics in the area were taken care of by the OFM Capuchin Fathers who were working in the parish of Welcome Estate. They celebrated Mass in a community centre and the homes of parishioners. The parish of Bonteheuwel falls under the Central Deanery in the Archdiocese of Cape Town. Though the Catholic community was organized much earlier and a parish was established, the church under the patronage of St. Matthew was blessed and opened only in 1964 and dedicated in 2002. The parish of Bonteheuwel was entrusted to the care of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales on 9th October 2002 by the then Archbishop Lawrence Henry and Fr. Job Kaleekaparmpil was appointed parish priest. The MSFS returned the parish of Bonteheuwel to the Archdiocese on 28th March 2008. Fr. Job Kaleekaparmpil and Fr. Lukose Permannikala have served the parish as parish priests.



St. Ann's Catholic Church, Steenberg, situated in the Southern suburbs of Cape Town was opened and blessed in 1961. It has over 3000 registered parishioners from different areas, Steenberg - Hill View, Lavender Hill, Vrygrond, Capricorn, Sea Winds, Montague Village, and Tokai. The vast majority of the parishioners are from the Coloured community while a few are from other African countries. Though the parish was started by the Redemptorists, later on it was handed over to the Archdiocese. In April 2007, St. Anne's was given over to the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, and Fr. Babychan Arackathara was appointed parish priest on 9th April 2007. Fr. Babychan Arackathara, Fr. Thomas Vanderkunnel, and Fr. Paul Dotaomai have served the parish as parish priests in the past, and currently, Fr. Philip Mangatt is the parish priest.

St. Clare's Parish, Elsie's River falls in the Archdiocese of Cape Town and is adjacent to the Holy Trinity Parish, Matroosfontein. The new parish of St. Clare's, Elsie's River was blessed and opened in 1981. It was manned by the Capuchins and diocesan priests till August 2011. The Archbishop of Cape Town, Most Rev. Stephen Brislin, handed it over to the care of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, and Fr. Job Kaleekaparampil was appointed parish priest on 29th August 2011. After the arrival of the MSFS, a new vitality has come into the parish and lots of developments have taken place in the parish.

Holy Rosary Parish, Dundee is the Cathedral parish of the Diocese of Dundee. The Diocese of Dundee was created on 19th November 1982. The Cathedral in town and Sibongile have about 200 families each. Forestdale, another substation is a so-called 'Coloured' township - today simply part of town and only about 5 minutes away from Dundee main Church. The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales were invited to work in

the Diocese of Dundee by Right Reverend Bishop Thomas Graham Rose in 2012. The first missionaries, Frs. Jacob Mattathil and James Madapallil arrived in Dundee on 8th July 2012 and were officially installed as parish priest and assistant priest respectively on 14th July 2012. Since Fr. Jacob went back to India and Fr. James was designated to work in Germany, the parish was given back to the diocese on 14th June 2015.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church, Ermelo was canonically established in 1928 and this parish belongs to the Diocese of Dundee. From early 1924 Franciscan Missionaries from the Prefecture of Volksrust used to visit and administer sacraments in Ermelo and many outstations. The presence of Dominican sisters gave an added impetus to the growth of the Church through their education and boarding school. Due to lack of personnel, they closed down the convent, sold the area and left for their home country. The parish was enriched with the presence of missionaries which began with the Franciscans (fsc 1924-1948) and was followed by the Capuchins (OFM 1949-1974) and the Consolata Missionaries (IMC 1974-19). The Consolata Missionaries entrusted the parish to the care of the diocesan. The first diocesan priest was Fr. Alfred Ntuli and was followed by Fr. Solly Mokoena and Fr. Tomasz Wargacki (2008- 2016). In January 2016, Fr. Shiju Poomarathinkal reached the parish and began to stay with Fr. Tomasz Wargacki, and the parish was officially entrusted to the care of Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales on 1st May 2016. Fr. Thomas Vanderkunnel was appointed parish priest and Fr. Shiju Poomarathinkal as the assistant priest. Fr. Thomas Vanderkunnel and Fr. Augustine Parampuzhayil have served the parish as parish priests in the past, and currently, Fr. Shiju Poomarathinkal is the parish priest.

The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales have made a move into the Archdiocese of Pretoria by taking up **Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, Midrand** which is situated in Johannesburg, Gauteng. The Parish has one more church, **Holy Trinity Parish, Olifentsfontein**. Our Lady of the Sacred Heart in Midrand has 700 registered families and Rabie Ridge 20 families. Up to 1981 Midrand parish was served by various priests especially from neighbouring towns. Holy Mass was celebrated in a school classroom, garages and makeshift shelters for about 10 families. In 1981, it was decided that a central parish church should be built to serve this fast-growing community of Midrand and the land was made available in President Park Midrand by the Archdiocese. The church was finally completed and named “Our Lady of the Sacred Heart” in honour of Mother Mary and a tribute to the Missionaries of Sacred Heart on 8th December 1987, on the feast of Immaculate Conception. The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales were entrusted with the parish on 30th September 2017 and Fr. Thomas Joseph Vanderkunnel was appointed parish priest by the then Archbishop William Slattery. On 2nd December 2017, Holy Trinity, Olifentsfontein was entrusted to the MSFS as a full-fledged parish,

and Fr. Joseph Puliylakatt was appointed parish priest. He resided at Midrand along with Fr. Thomas Vanderkunnel. Holy Trinity Parish Olifentsfontein was given back to the Archdiocese on 1st July 2021 when Fr. Joseph Puliylakatt was appointed parish priest of Maria Regina, Lyttelton.

The Immaculate Conception Parish, Hercules is situated at the suburbs of Pretoria between the Daspoort and Magaliesberg ranges. The parish is situated about 9 Km from the Union Buildings and about 7 Km to the Chancery and the Cathedral. At its inception, this parish was entrusted to OMI Congregation. Fr. O. J. de Vos, OMI was the first parish priest in 1958. In 1963 the present Church was constructed and blessed. In 1990 the parish was entrusted to the Society of Christ Congregation (SChr). In 1916, the pastoral care of the parish was entrusted to the Sacred Heart Fathers (MSC) and then eventually to the MSFS. At the request of Archbishop Dabula Mpako, Fr. Shibu Augustine Parampuzhayil was appointed the parish priest on 11th October 2019. The parish initially was catering to the spiritual wellbeing of the Dutch, Flemish and Afrikaans speaking Catholics of Pretoria. Later on with the arrival of the Polish priests in the parish, Polish Mass was introduced every Sunday, as well until Fr. Bogdan left the parish. At present, to cater to the different language groups in the parish, all the services are conducted in English. Previously, the parish was predominantly white. At present, the parish consists of about 60% non-whites and the rest of the population consists of whites.

The foundation stone of **Maria Regina, Lyttelton** was laid on 10th October 1956. Before this, Holy Mass was celebrated in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Dawes on Main Road (now called Botha Avenue). Fr. John Magennis, who stayed at the Cathedral before moving to Lyttelton, was parish priest for almost ten years. The presbytery was extended from time to time to accommodate catechism classes and in 1984 the parish hall was built. In 1998 the entire house was renovated. On 1st September 2020 the MSFS took up Maria Regina Parish, Lyttelton, and Fr. Joseph Puliylakatt was appointed parish priest.



MSFS IN SWAZILAND

The Kingdom of Swaziland is a sovereign state, part of Southern Africa. It is neighboured by Mozambique to its east and by South Africa to its north, west and south. The country and its people take their names from Mswati II, the 19th century king under whose rule Swazi territory was expanded and unified. Swaziland is one of the smallest countries in Africa. The population is primarily ethnic Swazis whose language is siSwati. The country is an absolute monarchy. It's a small economy with lower middle income. Although there is a democratic process of election to the parliament the king has absolute power in all decisions. In October 2014, Bishop José Luis IMC formally invited the MSFS to work in his diocese as the number of priests was dwindling.

St. Philip's Mission at Mhlatuze is situated in the southern part of Swaziland. It was opened on 23rd August 1926. St. Philip's Mission is in the most rural area of Swaziland, 78 km from the nearest city, Manzini. St. Philip's is a growing mission. The mission has a pre-school, five primary schools, one high school, a clinic, a tiny post office and a small market where people can purchase such provisions as chicken, bread, candy; there is also a fuel filling station. There is even a branch of the Swaziland Police Department in the mission. At the request of the Bishop of Manzini, the Southern African Region took up the responsibility of St. Philips in Swaziland in September 2016 during the year of Mercy. Fr. Shibu Augustine Parampuzahayil was appointed parish priest and Fr. Francis Huwn was appointed assistant priest. The parish has 8 outstations (Mbabala, Ngudzeni, Madubeni, Maloma, Ndobandoba, Lubuli and Gucuka) to which the priests give service. When Fr. Augustine was transferred to Ermelo, Fr. Francis was appointed parish priest and Fr. Alwyn Zothansanga was appointed assistant priest. In 2018 the parish was bifurcated and St. Ignatius of Loyola, Siphofaneini was erected. Fr. Francis was appointed as its first parish priest.

St. Ignatius Parish, Siphofaneini is under Lubombo region, in Swaziland. This parish was made into a full-fledged parish on 9th December 2018 by Bishop Jose Ponde Luis, the Bishop of Manzini. Fr. Francis Huwn MSFS was installed as the first parish priest on the same day. St. Ignatius Parish is the latest and the 17th parish in this Catholic Diocese. This is the second parish entrusted to the MSFS in Swaziland. It has three outstations (Monteberico Catholic Community, St. Louise Catholic Community and Martyrs of Uganda Catholic Community). It has a Catholic population of about 400 and is still growing. On Sunday 8th September 2019 Fr. Alwyn John MSFS was installed as the new parish priest of St. Ignatius Parish in the presence of Fr. George Panthamackel, the then Provincial Superior of the North-East India Province, Fr. Baiju Mundackal, the Regional Superior, Fr. Francis Huwn, and a large gathering of parishioners.

Fr. Francis Huwn after having completed his five years of ministry in the region returned to India and Fr. Alwyn Zothansanga returned to his heavenly home on 22nd January 2021. Since there was no one to replace them due to the lack of priests in the region, both these parishes had to be returned to the diocese. We had to close our mission in Eswatini temporarily from 13th April 2021.



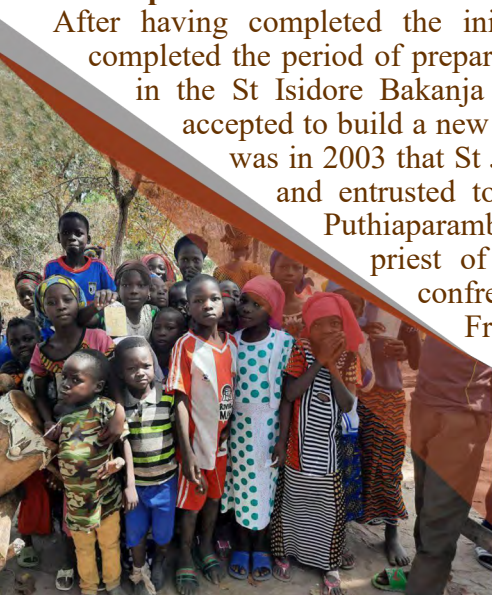
CHAD-CAMEROON DELEGATION

MSFS IN CHAD

Diocese of Doba: Responding to the invitation of His Lordship Michel Russo, the former Bishop of Doba, to take up the challenging mission in Chad, our Superior General Rev. Fr. Emile Mayoraz entrusted the Chad-Cameroon Mission to the South-West India Province. It was on 12th November 1999 that the first Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales from South-West India Province arrived in the mission land of Chad. Three of our veteran missionaries, Rev. Frs. Anthony Mookenthatham, Thomas Payattukandathil and Jose Puthiaparambil (Jr.) were the pioneers to implant our Congregation in the Chad-Cameroon Delegation. Initially we rendered our services in three parishes in the diocese of Doba, namely St. Isidore Bakanja of Maybomabay from 1999-2002, St. Josephine Bakhita of Bero from 2003 and St Daniel Comboni of Doba from 2009. We still continue to render our pastoral services in two parishes, Bero and Comboni, Doba. A distance of around 25 km separates the MSFS communities of Bero and Doba.

St. Josephine Bakhita Parish of Bero

After having completed the initial contract of three years and having completed the period of preparation and introduction into the new culture in the St Isidore Bakanja Parish of Maybomabay, the Congregation accepted to build a new parish at Bero, 25 kms away from Doba. It was in 2003 that St Josephine Bakhita Parish, Bero was erected and entrusted to us for its pastoral needs. Rev. Fr. Jose Puthiaparambil (Jr.) was installed as the first parish priest of the newly erected parish. Many of our confreres namely Fr. Abessouguié Christophe, Fr. Arackal Manoj, Fr. Cheruvil Johny, Fr. Elanjimattathil Boban, Fr. Kannezhathu Scaria, Fr. M. Perianayagam, Fr. Robin Mathew T, Fr. Mangalathu Joshy, Fr. Narikunnel Regi, Fr. P. Sujith John, Fr. Panamattathil Gijo, Fr. Puthiyaparambil



Jose (Jr.), Fr. Tirkey Sandeep, Fr. T.Paul Raj, Fr. Vadakkedath Saji, Fr. Lakra Giridhari, Fr. Parfait Innocent Ayissi Onomo. As regents the following confreres worked in Chad Mission, Fr. Amougou Emile, Fr. Onomo Ayissi Innocent Parfait, Fr. Boris Nixon, Fr. Senghor Bro. William Faver, Bro. Emmanuel Cyrille, Bro. Mbolo Philip, Bro. Francky, Bro. Aloys and Bro. David.

At present, Frs. Aneesh Mathew and Jose Simon along with the regent Bro. Paulin carry out all the pastoral activities of the Parish. Bero Parish has 5 sectors and 35 villages. The farthest village is 40 km from the parish church. All the villages have their catechists to animate prayer services in their respective places and to prepare the faithful for the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and marriage. Every year around 200 people get baptized. There are around 5000 Christians and 1500 catechumens in the parish.

SFS Primary School and Boys' Home at Bero

Illiteracy is one of the main causes of every social evil in society. Having studied the social background of the people, our fathers felt the dire need to open a primary school for the local children and a home for boys to accommodate at least 50 children. This noble project was well appreciated by the parishioners as well as the local and ecclesial authorities of the diocese. Therefore, the very second year of the parish, we opened SFS Primary School and in 2009 SFS Boy's Home in Bero. Today, we have a full-fledged primary school, recognised by the Associated Catholic Schools of Chad since 2014. We have around 300 students coming from near and far and 40 boys in the Boys' home.

St. Daniel Comboni Parish, Doba

St Comboni parish in Doba has a history of 24 years as a parish and 40 years as a sector. It was the Combonian fathers and sisters who worked hard to form it into a well-developed parish. It was in its 12th year that this parish was entrusted to the MSFS Congregation. We received St. Daniel Comboni parish on 11th October 2009, with Fr. Scaria Kannezhathu MSFS as the first MSFS parish priest and Giridhari Lakra MSFS as deacon, and later as assistant parish priest. Later on many of our fathers like Boban Elanjimattathil, Innocent Parfait Ayissi, Robin Mathew Thonikuzhiyil and Brs. Senghor, Francky, David and Christian have assumed different responsibilities in the parish, schools and the boys' home. At present, Frs. Sandeep Tirkey, Francis Ekka, Boris Nixon and Ajish Anthony carry out the various responsibilities of the parish, schools, boys' home and the community.

There are around 7000 Christians and 2000 catechumens in the parish. It has 6 CEBs (Basic Christian Communities) in the city. It also has two sectors

namely Bekonjo and Damala, comprising of 11 villages with 14 CEBs. The farthest village is 29 kms from the parish church. There are around 60 catechists who prepare the candidates for the sacrament of baptism, confirmation and marriage. Every year, we have the joy of receiving more than 300 newly baptised Christians into the flock of the faithful. We have around 30 pious groups in the parish, involving the children, the youths and the adults, without taking into consideration the self-help groups which are more than hundred.

St. Daniel Comboni Primary and Secondary Schools

The parish in Doba runs a nursery school and a primary school. The administration and the management of the school are left to the parish. In September 2011 at the request of the Bishop and the parents of the students, we started a secondary school with 96 students with two classes. Every year we added a higher class. Today we have 715 students with 45 professors and the school has become number one among the prestigious higher secondary schools in Doba. It has 100 percent success in public exams until today. However, the secondary school lacks some basic structures such as playgrounds, classrooms and labs for science students, administrative block, etc.



SFS School and Boys' Home at Doba

It is a matter of great pride that we have secured some land of our own to make our Congregational presence felt in Doba city since 2015. We envisaged constructing primary and secondary schools, a boy's home and our community house on this land. So far we have been able to construct the ground floor of the primary school building and the boys' home. St. Francis de Sales Primary School opened its doors to children on 1st October 2018. At present, there are some 250 students in the primary school and we hope to gradually open higher

classes for the secondary school in the coming years. We also have SFS Boys' Home for the students of secondary classes. At present, we accommodate 60 boys who come from near and far and from poor economic backgrounds, in pursuit of better education. However, the other envisaged projects are pending due to lack of resources, both human and material.

General Remarks:

The MSFS have been present in St. Josephine Bakhita Parish of Bero since 18 years and in St. Daniel Comboni Parish of Doba since 12 years. We thank God for all the initiatives, achievements and impact that we have left on the people in general and in these parishes in particular, due to our hard work and the generous help of our benefactors. First of all, the initiative of starting the schools with a Boys' Home is a unique step taken by our fathers to impart quality education for those deserving students. Secondly, the bold steps taken by our fathers to start a secondary school in Comboni Parish created opportunities for the students in the pursuit of quality education and helped them in their character formation. Today this institution has grown and it enjoys national recognition. The first batch of students from the school secured the fourth position at the national level for the public exams. Thereafter every successive year we have 100% of success in the higher secondary board exams.

It is also to be noted that the developmental and charitable activities like self-help groups and health-related activities like conscientization and prevention of diseases programs, contribution for charity realized in our parishes, serve as a model for many other parishes in the diocese. Nearly 75 students are sponsored for their studies. 42 open wells were dug to make potable water available for the people. Our ministerial presence through these parishes has helped us a lot in establishing ourselves as committed missionaries in the diocese of Doba.



MSFS IN CAMEROON

Every mission of the Church is a mission of joy and hope. Every mission of the MSFS is a mission to proclaim the unending love of God towards humanity. The basis of Fr. Mermier's missionary commitment was his total trust in God. This is literally true in the history of the Cameroon mission. Zeal founded on deep faith rather than on fool-proof calculations is the legacy with which the MSFS missionaries started the daring and challenging Cameroon mission. In 1842 Fr. Mermier had written to Propaganda expressing his desire to take up missionary activities in Liberia and in French speaking parts of Africa. This dream of our Founder was realized in the Jubilee Year 2000. Rev. Fr. Thomas Cherukat on completion of his tenure as Provincial of South West India Province opted to pioneer the Cameroon Mission in 2000. His arrival gave a new energy and vitality to the Chad Cameroon Mission. Cameroon is Called 'Africa in miniature' because the country is home to more than 200 different groups of people divided by linguistics and ethnicity. In

2001 five newly ordained priests were sent to the mission. In 2002 two more priests and two scholastics came to Cameroon mission. Sending the scholastics to do theology in Cameroon was a judicious decision. In the course of time many more confreres were

sent from India, in addition to that there are a good number of local vocations. Looking back how the Chad-Cameroon Delegation of the MSFS came to be and progressed until now, one cannot but wonder at ways of divine plan. What the MSFS have achieved during these 21 years of missionary existence is the result more of divine providence than of human planning.

Our first missionaries had to undergo all kinds of struggles and difficulties. They had to learn French and the local languages; to bear the struggle against malaria, typhoid etc.

One of the famous sayings of Fr. Martin the superior of the pioneering team of MSFS in India was "Poverty is a much more solid foundation than

money." These words are particularly true when we look back to the history of the MSFS in Cameroon. We had to wait for seven years to have a house of our own. This Year of Missions gives a clarion call to all the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, to a spiritual and missionary renewal. This article does not in any way attempt to glorify the pioneers or their present day successors. It simply presents some facts. It has four parts: 1) Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry; 2) Formation; 3) Education; 4) Social Apostolate.



Evangelization and Pastoral Ministry

Though not much preparation was done to take up this mission, the unpreparedness and other handicaps like lack of funds, shortage of personnel and unfamiliarity with the local culture, did not prevent the MSFS from proclaiming the good news. MSFS confreres cater to the spiritual need of the following parishes:

Holy Family Parish, Ebang

St. Josephine Bakitha's Parish, Ekoumdoum

St. Thomas More Parish, Bini Dang and Chaplaincy to the University of Ngaoundéré

St. Charles Lawanga Parish, Mberem,

Sts. Peter and Paul University Parish, Molyko

In the following parishes the MSFS rendered their services and in the course of time these parishes were returned to the dioceses mainly due to lack of personnel.

St. Francis De Sales Parish, Ekekam,

Holy Name of Jesus Parish, Kokobuma

St. Andrew's Parish, Mbé Karna

The MSFS have done a lot in the field of pastoral ministry, but a lot more is yet to be done. Most missionaries want to develop their parishes but many are unable to achieve much due to financial strains.

Formation

The Chad-Cameroon Delegation from its very inception gave great importance to promote local vocations. It led to a spectacular growth in the number of seminarians in formation. At the moment, the Delegation has 37 professed members from Africa, 8 novices and more than 20 postulants.

La Feuillette, the mother house of Chad-Cameroon Delegation is situated at Ngoya near Yaounde. La Feuillette continues to play a vital role in the formation of our students in various stages. Twenty priests have completed their theological formation here. It is the study house for theologians. From the very beginning La Feuillette serves as a transit house for the confreres who newly come to the mission, and as a formation house. Under the same roof we have students of theology, philosophy, postulants and aspirants. La Feuillette has an extension center for conducting retreats, seminars and recollections. Last year the Cameroon Bishops Conference was held in this house. It was a matter of pride and joy for the MSFS to host nearly 30 bishops for eight days. The growing number of vocations is a matter of joy and concern. The exorbitant formation expenses are already a big concern for a poor Delegation.

SFS Minor Seminary at Ngaoundere: It was a long cherished dream of the MSFS to have a full-fledged minor seminary. It came to reality in 2018. This seminary can accommodate around 40 minor seminarians. We need



indigenous vocations for the spread of the Good News of Jesus and for laying a strong foundation for the Church and the MSFS Congregation. Fransalians in Chad-Cameroon gave great importance for local vocations. It led to a remarkable growth in the number of seminarians in formation.

Education

Our Patron, St. Francis de Sales said; “Knowledge is the eighth sacrament.” Fr. Mermier believed that “True education is opening the heart rather than the mind.” For him education of the heart is the heart of education. The MSFS in Chad-Cameroon Delegation, inspired by the vision of their Founder and Patron commit themselves to the apostolate of education as one of their charisms. True transformation is possible only through education. Fransalians gave great importance to education wherever they went. They believed that in education lies the fundamental key to solutions to most of the problems of the society. Today the MSFS in Chad-Cameroon is running 5 schools. Four are in Chad and one is in Cameroon. All these schools are purely service oriented. To make education possible for the poorest of the poor we collect a minimum fee. The Congregation has to find the resources to cover the rest of the expenses. The Fransalians keep in mind that the primary purpose of education is not information but transformation. We evangelize by educating and educate by evangelizing.

Social and Innovative Ministries

God helps those who help themselves. Commitment to the socially, economically and culturally sidelined and oppressed is an indispensable dimension of one’s commitment to God’s kingdom and its values. The mission of the Church is that of Christ. It can be spelt out in the words of Jesus himself. The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me... he has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives; to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free and to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour. [Lk 4/18] From the very beginning the Fransalians in this part of the world gave due importance to the spiritual as well as the material dimensions of human life. I’d like to numerate a few of the social and innovative activities of the

MSFS - nearly 200 children are sponsored for their studies; 98 boys are taken care of in our boys' homes; 50 wells were dug and potable water was made available to the people; plants were distributed; seminars and classes were organized for ecological awareness; 7 houses were constructed for the poor.

Conclusion

After twenty-one years of existence we can affirm that Chad-Cameroon Mission is a providential gift from the Divine Master. The inspiration of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God are seen at every step. Looking back at the twenty-one years of the life of the delegation one can affirm without doubt the bold truth that it was an epoch of God's providence. So far Providence has never failed us. There is a real need for missionaries especially in Chad. In several places the faithful are like sheep without shepherds, to lead them to the green pastures and limpid streams of Christian faith. There is a profound appreciation from the part of the faithful and the Bishops for the services the MSFS have been rendering to the local Church. Neither the strangeness of the country, nor the dreadful malaria, the frightful typhoid, the lack of transport or communication facilities, the hazardous travelling on rough and precarious roads, the strain of learning the local language or French, the lack of personnel, deter our confreres from going forward. Our motto is to move forward. The MSFS confreres of Chad-Cameroon Delegation are sparing no pains to proclaim the Good News in season and out of season. The results are already very visible. I would like to conclude with the famous saying of St. Paul. Paul planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God made it grow. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who makes things grow. Let us reaffirm the words of our venerable Founder **"I Want Missions."** The following confreres are rendering their service in Chad-Cameroon Mission. Fr. Abessouguie Christophe Bertrand, Fr. Arackal Manoj, Fr. Dung Dung Marcel, Fr. Francis EKKA, Fr. Emile Amougou Amougou, Fr. Innaci Muthu, Fr. Innocent Parfait Onomo Ayissi, Fr. Lakra Giridhari, Fr. Nellimalamattam Joshy, Fr. Palathadathil Aneesh, Fr. Thurthippallil Jose, Fr. Thonikuzhiyil Robin, Fr. Tirkey Sandeep, Fr. Vellakada Sen, Fr. Xess Bipin Kishore, Fr. Boris Nixon, Fr. John Joseph, Fr. Ajish Antony Cheramban, Fr. Nguimatio Peygres Senghor.

The following confreres rendered great service for the growth of Chad-Cameroon Delegation. Fr. A.C. Arogyanathan, Fr. Cherukat Thomas, Fr. Cheruvil Johny, Fr. Elanjimattathil Boban, Fr. Kannezhathu Scaria, Fr. Kavithazhayayil Mathew, Fr. Kidangathkarot Binoy, Fr. Kunnathothil Viju, Fr. M. Perianayagam, Fr. Mangalathu Joshy, Fr. Mookenthottam Antony, Fr. Moongamakal Thomas, Fr. Narikunnel Regi, Fr. Panamattathil Gijo, Fr. Pallasserry Sujith, Fr. Payattukandathil Thomas, Fr. Pezhathinal Jaison, Fr. Puthiyaparambil Jose (Jr.), Fr. Puthiyidom Georgekutty, Fr. Richard Martin, Fr. Vadakkedath Saji and Fr. Vellaramkunnel Sathish.

Paul planted, Apollos watered...



MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION



Towards Consolidation and Building up the People of God

Mozambique in its historical existence faced three stages. In the **first stage** – it was oppressed by the Portuguese Colonialist Regime, thus marked with fights, revolts, hunger and death. However, during this period, many religious and missionary congregations ventured into the country to carry out God's work of evangelization. The colonialist reign gradually led to the **second stage** of Mozambique - to a brutal Civil War between the natives and the Portuguese from 1976-1992. During these sixteen years, all the foreign missionaries and religious were forcefully asked to leave the

country, and all the churches, schools and hospitals and all that was owned by them were nationalized. From this point of time up to the present the country lacked enough missionaries and religious to bring back the shattered Catholic flock to the faith and the fold. Even though, the **third stage** of the dawning of freedom, coloured the country with democracy, social vices like poverty, illiteracy, sicknesses, fear, insecurity, immorality, robbery, attacks and crimes never ceased to exist. At this juncture, all the Local Ordinaries, conscious of their divine obligation, sought the

support of the foreign missionaries and religious to re-evangelize the country. It's at this historical transition that the MSFS took the daring step to re-evangelize the faithful with our Founder's mission Renewal of Faith. On this historical horizon shone forth the Fransalian rays on **4th January 2000**, with its three pioneering missionaries namely, Frs. Melroy Almeida, Sebastian Annaikandathil and Mathews Kodamullil, sent by the first Provincial Superior, Fr. Joseph Pottemmel. It was a response to the request of the then Cardinal Archbishop of Maputo, Rt. Rev. Alexandre Jose Maria dos Santo, made to the then Superior General of the MSFS, Rev. Fr. Emile Mayoraz.

St. Francis de Sales Parish – Belavista: On 1st May 2000 the Cardinal Archbishop of Maputo installed Frs. Sebastian and Matheus in the new parish church at Belavista, constituting 19 outstations and a population of over five thousand Catholics. Saint Francis de Sales was chosen as the patron saint. On 15th December 2001, Fr. Pottemmel, the Provincial, came to Mozambique with two more members. They were Frs. Ignatius D'Costa and Alexander Tigga. Fr. Provincial laid the foundation stone for the first MSFS house at Belavista. Soon the work of building the 2nd MSFS community at Salamanga began. However, we lost the entire infrastructure except the new church, due to nationalisation. The main apostolates of the Congregation are re-evangelization and pastoral care of the native people. They were simply thrilled as the good Lord gave them these opportunities. The people were very cooperative. They helped our Fathers in full measure to be great missionaries. The new Archbishop Francisco Chimoio soon requested us to give up the Salamanga residence and take up the Katembe parish. Thus the four of them were entrusted with an additional 3,400 sq. km of area with 10 more far-flung sub-stations for re-evangelisation and pastoral care. Regular catechism, effective administration of the sacraments, creative ways of spreading our Fransalian spiritual culture, reciting the rosary, singing hymns, procession and teaching about the life of the saints and all other related activities made a great impact on the spiritual life of the faithful. In addition, women religious congregations made their visible presence in the parish, to support them in ministering to the faithful. Our pioneers also taught the people different way of farming and offered quality



under
the care
of the
catechist-
professors. This

mission has a history of 110 years being in the hands of the Jesuits, Salesians, Diocesan priests and the MSFS. The MSFS team took over the Katembe parish in 2003, with Fr. Ignatius D'Costa as the administrator and Fr. Alexander Tigga as his assistant. For a short while Fr. Ignatius was appointed parish priest. On 26th October 2004, Fr. Alexander Tigga was appointed parish priest and Fr. Prabhudas Kujur was appointed as his assistant. The faithful are a mixture of natives and Indo-Africans [Goans]. They needed good pastoral care and renewal of faith. In the hands of Frs. Paul and Matthew the pastoral and sacramental life of the faithful witnessed renewal and newness. At present the parish has 9 sub-centers and among them one is an island. There are active

seeds and plants to support the livelihood of the natives. On the other hand, they gradually acquainted themselves with the local administration and procured land for the Diocese and the Congregation and got the land registered.

Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Katembe: The mission has its unique origin and formation from the catechist-professors who kept the faith of the people alive by organizing devotional practices. They were the sole animators of religion even before the advent of priests in that locality. In the late 50's and early 60's of the 20th century, the whole territory was

movements like Infant and Adolescent Missionaries, Legion of Mary, Apostles of Prayer, 3ª Idade (Aged Women Association), and Equipa da Nossa Senhora (Our Lady's Warriors). On 29th September 2019 the parish celebrated the concluding Feast of the Extraordinary Jubilee; i.e. the 110th anniversary of its foundation. It dates back to 2nd January 1909. Along with two women religious congregations, i.e. Sisters of Mercy (Mercedárias) and Franciscan Sisters of Souza, we cater to the pastoral needs of the faithful.

Casa Fransaliana - Delegation House and Minor Seminary, Matola:

With the transfer of two parishes to our care, the fathers began focusing on vocation promotion, our very first dream since the inception of the Mission. The dream strongly took root and found its fulfillment on 14th October 2004 at Matola. With the help of many agencies and local benefactors the Fransalians entered their first house of formation. Soon they welcomed new local vocations from Belavista and Katembe. On 4th April 2005 the house was blessed and inaugurated by His Grace Archbishop Francisco Chimoio in the presence of all the MSFS Fathers and Brothers of Mozambique. Since then the house has contributed and played a vital role in forming the young Fransalians for the Delegation. As the days passed, the house came to serve as the Mother House and Office of the Mission Superior with its name – **Casa Fransaliana**. Till 2013 the house was considered as the Mission Superior's office. Fr. Sebastian was the first Rector and Mission Superior. A decree on the 2nd June 2013 by Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, the Superior General, raised the Mozambique Mission to the status of a Delegation. Since then, it has been the Office of the Delegation Superior. In the course of time, an adjacent building was bought, renovated and modified to create a Kindergarten with the aim of venturing into the Educational Apostolate. It was officially inaugurated on 8th February 2019. It admits children from 3-5 years. The objective is to give quality God oriented education and to equip the children for primary school.

Saint Anthony's Parish, Mavila: The Mission was started on 20th May 1939 in the district of Zavala and the Ecclesiastical territory of the Diocese of Inhambane. The Franciscans were the pioneers. They were

predominantly involved in pastoral ministry, with emphasis on administering the sacraments. On 17th October 1959, the church building was blessed and inaugurated and from the year 1996 the Pallotines looked after the mission. On **24th February 2008** the MSFS, i.e. Frs. Sebastian Annaikandathil and Kailash Hiwale officially took charge of the Mission. They took care of the faith formation of the 25 plus sub-centers/communities. Due to its vastness the Mission is presently divided into 4 zones. Each zone has a coordinator. Each zone consists of 6-8 small communities/sub-stations, where the Eucharist is celebrated regularly. There are 28 sub-centres. Malaria, robbery, lack of support and the vast distance of the communities are the challenges faced by the MSFS. The building of a kindergarten is our greatest achievement and many social welfare and health care programs are being conducted on a regular basis. Due to the congested environment in the Minor Seminary at Matola, a seminary was built in 2017 to serve as the house for aspirants. The reason for the establishment of this seminary was to intensify and emphasize Fransalian formation. Therefore, this center is a confluence of Mission, Formation, Education and Socio-Innovative Apostolates.



Lar Mermier-The Scholasticate of Theology, Maputo: The house was bought on 6th October 2009 to accommodate our Scholastics who do their theological studies in Seminário Pio X, Maputo. On 24th October 2009 the Foundation Day of our Congregation, the house was blessed. This day is commemorated as House Day/Lar Mermier Day. It is situated in the Vincentian Parish which is about 1 km away, so it provides an opportunity for our Scholastics to have pastoral exposure. Lar Mermier is a happy place because of the cordial and loving atmosphere maintained. This is a tradition started by the earlier Rectors and brothers. It is the only house we have in the capital city of Maputo; the only Major Seminary/Theology Study House of the

Delegation. On 24th October 2019 the house completed 10 years of its existence. Till date the house has given 12 priests to the Delegation. The house also serves as the transit point for the confreres as all our missions.

Our Lady of Fatima Mass Centre – Ponta Do Ouro: Ponta do Ouro (also known as **Ponta d'Ouro** - meaning "tip of gold") is known for its beaches, dolphins, off-shore diving and deep-sea fishing. It has got around 4000 habitants of which 500 are practicing Catholics. Our Lady of Fátima Church is a sub-center of St. Francis de Sales Church, Belavista. The mission sub-center was left without any pastoral services due to the remnants of the Civil War. At the request of Archbishop Chimoio to establish a MSFS community at Ponta de Ouro, the MSFS built a church [2002-2005] with the support of a few Agencies and benefactors. The principal ministry is re-evangelization through retreats and different formation programs, in preparation for the reception of the Sacraments. Since the Mission lies on the border with South Africa, there is a lot of human trafficking and drug mafias. We organize animation and formative talks for the children, adolescents and youth on human trafficking, drugs, child abuse, etc. A Pre-Primary school was established to provide children with human formation. They are taught basic prayers, moral values, good manners and respect for one another.

Peter Claver Parish, Domue, Tete: The Domue Mission is situated in the Tete Province of Mozambique and in the Ecclesiastical territory of the Diocese of Tete. The Mission lies about 380 kms from the main city of Tete. The Domue Mission is the biggest parish in the Diocese of Tete with 105 sub-centers and a total of 55,200 parishioners as per the census of 2017. The people speak about three languages, Chichewa, Portuguese and English, but mainly Chichewa is spoken.



On 11th October 2017 Frs. Aajo and Ranjit Lakra were received into the mission and were installed by the Local Ordinary. They began to reside from 15th January 2018 after renovation of the parish house. Their main ministry was to bring back the lost sheep to the Catholic fold. They had gone away from the Church due to the long absence of the priests in the area. For better conduct of pastoral activities, the fathers divided the 105 sub-centers into 22 zones, each comprising four to eight sub-centers. Our fathers are fully engaged in pastoral work with great satisfaction and joy. Within a few years many chapels in the sub-stations were renovated and rebuilt. They are also engaged in vocation promotion and the parish house serves for the 'come and see' programs.

Sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima, Muliquela: The parish sanctuary of Our Lady of Fatima is located in the district of Ile, in Zambézia Province and in the Ecclesiastical territory of the Diocese of Gurue. The parish is situated 80 km from Gurue; 350 km from Quelimane, the capital city of the Province in Central Mozambique. Our Lady of Fatima Church, Muliquela was erected as a parish on 21st February 1940 Till 1947 the Diocesan priests of Portugal offered pastoral service to the faithful. In 1948, the parish was entrusted to the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart [S.C.I.]. In 2010 the Church dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima in the Diocese took the new nomenclature as it was consecrated as a Shrine.

In mid-March 2017, Frs. Petrus Kullu and Paul Gonsalves made a voyage to explore the possibilities of mission expansion in the Provinces of Tete and Zambezia. Among the few stations, two were chosen. On 7th January 2020, Frs. George and Melky, along with Fr. Henry, the Delegation Superior and Fr. Jins, the Delegation Bursar, placed their first missionary steps in the mission at Zambezia. On 12th January 2020, the MSFS officially took over the parish. Frs. George and Melky were installed as the parish priest and the assistant parish priest respectively. From 19th January 2020, they began celebrating Mass in the centers to get to know the faithful. The fathers were quick to learn to read and celebrate Mass in the dialect of the people. In Christmas 2020, the fathers baptized about 1500 children and adults, about 250 marriages were Christianized, and 2000 received the First

Holy Communion. Majority of the Christians in this mission are below 34, so 80% are youth, adolescents and children. In the midst of all the challenges and difficulties our fathers are making a lot of efforts to uplift the faithful and to form the youth as integrated human beings.



All these historical developments of the Fransalians in Mozambique manifests the immense dedication and commitment, which ultimately results in transformation and brings about holistic development in all spheres of life of the faithful, leading to social transformation. Trusting in the providence of God, we give our best and it is the Lord who blesses and transforms our efforts.

Fransalian confreres in Mozambique engage in the pastoral ministry in all simplicity and openness. Simplicity in our way of living and openness, for we totally rely on the providence of God and the goodness of our benefactors. It's not enough that we feed the hungry but we need to teach him to earn his daily bread. So mere pastoral concern won't suffice if there are no indigenous priests. We are happy to have a Mozambican priest and many more are preparing to become priests. If the Church gives you values, it is the School that gives you discipline. So almost every MSFS center has a pre-school that feeds the stomach and mind as well.

Jesus Christ entrusted to the Church a great missionary task; "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation." [Mk 16/15; Mt 28/19] And so, it is the duty of every Christian to participate in the mission of God, inaugurated by Jesus Christ and entrusted to the Church. The mission of God has been constantly manifested to us in the past through Prophets and in the fullness of time God manifested his mission in Jesus Christ through the Spirit and through Jesus to the Church. [Ad Gentes 1-9]



ZAMBIA MISSION



Zambia is one of the most peaceful countries in the southern African continent. Home to the second biggest waterfalls in the world, the Victoria Falls, Zambia is rich in natural resources and minerals. It is one of the largest producers and exporters of copper. This is a major source of income to the nation. Zambia also has vast land resources and produces a lot of maize to feed many of its neighbouring countries. The people are predominantly religious.

St. Francis de Sales Parish, Liteta, Diocese of Kabwe

Positively responding to the invitation of Rt. Rev. Clement Mulenga SDB, Bishop of Kabwe, three priests, **Fr. Jude Thadeus**, **Fr. Amal Sebastian** and **Fr. Britto Michael Selvam** of Pune Province, of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales, landed on **21st August 2013** in Lusaka. They were accompanied by Fr. Vincent Lourdusamy, the then Provincial Superior of Pune Province. We were entrusted with a mission station at Liteta, which would gradually become a parish. This was to be formed by bifurcating the existing parish at Kaparu and another parish at Chibombo. This new parish was given 12 outstations for pastoral care. The area of the parish is 50 KM radius.

Kaparu is a mission of 30 outstations covering an area of 100 KM. This mission was created for the refugees from Zimbabwe. After the Civil War some of the refugees returned to Zimbabwe while many remained in Zambia and so the mission remained.

Liteta is half the way between Lusaka and Kabwe. About 70 KM from Kabwe and Lusaka, it is about one and half hour drive from Lusaka and Kabwe. Kabwe is the headquarters of the Central Province. Liteta is in the newly created Chisamba district. The headquarters is about 30 minutes' drive from Liteta. Chisamba has a population of about 100000. 95% of the people are farmers. Four main languages are spoken in this area, namely Cinyanja, Cibemba, Cilenje and Citonga.

Initially all the three pioneering missionaries were kept in 3 different parishes in order to learn the culture and the language. Fr. Amal was in Kaparu Mission, Fr. Jude in Chibombo Parish run by the Passionists and Fr. Britto in Ralilways Parish in Kabwe. After 9 months of experience in different parishes the priests came to live in Liteta on **11th June 2013** in a small house built by the people. After settling down in Liteta the very first task of the missionaries was to build a Chapel which would become the parish, an inauguration memorial as well as a place for daily mass. On 5th October 2014 Liteta was erected into a parish under the patronage of St. Francis de Sales. During the solemn Mass celebrated by Rt. Rev. Clement Mulenga SDB, Bishop of Kabwe, Fr. Jude Thadeus was appointed its first Parish Priest. Fr. Amal was appointed as assistant Priest. The three missionaries staying in Liteta continued to give pastoral care to all the 12 outstations entrusted to their care. Meanwhile with the support of the Congregation and Propaganda Fide, a spacious presbytery was built for the priests. In October 2016 Fr. Jude was transferred to Lusaka to start a new parish. Fr. Amal was appointed Parish Priest of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Liteta and Fr. Britto was appointed assistant Priest. Fr. Amal completed the building of the presbytery and initiated the work of building a parish hall. The parish did not have any structures where people could gather for worship. They have been using a hall that belonged to the hospital. Meanwhile Fr. Sahayaraj joined the team in Liteta in July 2017. After being for one year in Liteta, Fr. Sahayaraj was transferred to Lusaka to join Fr. Jude in his Mission. In the year 2019 Fr. Sudhir Korada joined the team in Liteta. In 2019 Fr. Amal was appointed to go to USA for mission work. Fr. Britto was appointed Parish Priest of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Liteta and Fr. Sudhir Korada was appointed as co-pastor in the parish. Fr. Prince joined the mission and was appointed

Administrator of the house. In December 2020 Fr. Antonysamy who was working in East Africa Province joined the mission. He was given the responsibility of taking care of the Natemwa learning centre school, which was under the care of the Fransalians for a year. Now the mission is served by Fr. Britto as Parish Priest and Fr. Sudhir Korada as co-pastor. Fr. Britto completed the second phase of the building of the parish hall and made it usable for the people for Sunday worship and other activities.

St. Gabriel Parish, Ndeke-Meanwood, Archdiocese of Lusaka

On being invited by of Most Rev. George Mpundu, the then Archbishop of Lusaka, on October 2016 Fr. Jude Thadeus MSFS was transferred from Liteta mission to start a new parish in Lusaka. Ndeke Meanwood was a small Christian community under one of the outstations of Our Heavenly Father Parish, Chelston. Ndeke Meanwood area is 7 KM away from the outstation and the parish is 10 KM away. People who did not have their own means of transport found it difficult to go for mass. Rainy season was really a great challenge for them. Ndeke Meanwood was a new residential area and a lot of people were shifting from different parishes to settle there. The community approached the Bishop stating their difficulties on account of the distance, and requested for mass to be celebrated in the community. However the community just being a Small Christian Community did not have any land or structure for the same. It is at this juncture the Archbishop approached the Fransalians to take up the place and to develop it into



a parish. From being a Small Christian Community it was raised to the status of an independent centre and entrusted to the Fransalians for development and pastoral care. On **27th November 2016** Fr. Jude Thadeus celebrated the first mass in the community in a shed, erected in a plot that was offered to the community by the real estate developer, Meanwood Properties. There was no house for the priest to stay. Fr. Jude continued to come from Liteta to offer Sunday mass to the community. Meanwhile the people took a house on rent for the priest to stay. In the month of March 2017, Fr. Jude moved to the rented house and continued to organize the community. Various fund raising programs were organized to raise funds to purchase the plot of land for the parish. The place grew so fast that on 8th April 2018 on the feast of Divine Mercy, the Archbishop raised the centre to a parish under the patronage of St. Gabriel the Archangel. In December 2018 Fr. Sahayaraj who was in Liteta mission was transferred to Ndeke Meanwood to join Fr. Jude in the mission. In 3 years the community managed to raise the needed funds to purchase a 5 acre plot and built a multipurpose hall where the community could gather for Sunday worship. In the 4th year the community built the wall to fence the property. They also built an adoration chapel and a small presbytery for the priests. However 2020 and 2021 had been a challenge to raise funds due to Covid-19. Fr. Jude and Fr. Sahayaraj continue to serve the people of St. Gabriel Parish Ndeke-meanwood.

St. Francis de Sales Pre-Primary and Primary Schools

It has been a cry from the people of Liteta for a good school for their children. Though there was a primary school in Liteta run by the government, a lot of people who desired quality education sent their children to Hope School about 5 KM away run by a Pentecostal denomination, or to Banani International School run by members of Bahaism. There was a lot of influence on the faith of the children by those who managed the schools, which was not liked by the parents. So many parents continued requesting the missionaries to start a school for their children within the community. Respecting the request of the people the Fransalians began a pre-primary school on the parish land in the year 2021 with three classes. Soon looking at the demand from the community the management decided to build the primary school. Now the construction of St. Francis de Sales Primary School is underway. We thank the generous donors from USA, who through Fr. Amal Sebastiar, financially supported the project of the primary school.

Chishawasha Children's Home and Colin B. Glassco Primary School

Chilshawaha Children's Home was started and managed by Glassco Foundation from Canada. A lot of vulnerable children were adopted and given care and education at Chishawasha Children's Home. In 2018, the Foundation decided to send the children back home and continue to supply them with food and fund for education. From 2019 onwards all the children were sent home but home based care continued. The Foundation was looking for a local agency to take up and run the program and the school. The Foundation approached the Fransalians to take over the School and the Home. After serious study, in January 2021 the Fransalians entered into partnership with the Foundation, and have taken over the School and the Children's Home. The Fransalians have found it as a call of God to care for the poor and vulnerable children of the area. Some children remain with the parents and guardians and go to nearby schools. Some have been sent to different good boarding schools to complete their secondary education. Through this program the Fransalians have built a relationship with poor and needy of the society and continue to serve them. Fr. Jude Thadeus and Fr. Antonysamy are taking care of the management of the school.

Natemwa Learning Centre

To mark the Year of Missions the Fransalians in Zambia adopted a community school in one of the interior villages called Kachele Village, in Chisamba district of Central Province. This is about 20 KM from Liteta mission. Fr. Sudhir Korada was given charge of this project. Through the support of an NGO an IT Lab with 20 laptops was setup. Power to the laptops is supplied by 10 solar panels which were fitted with Lithium batteries. This rural school was renovated by reflooring the classrooms and corridors. There are 235 children studying in the school. Through this support rendered by the Fransalians these rural children who otherwise would not have had the opportunity of even touching a computer are now learning with laptops in their modern IT Lab.

Conclusion: Zambia is a fertile land for evangelization. The Bishops from different dioceses are looking for collaboration with religious missionaries for development. The love of the people for the Word of God and the Sacraments is a great motivation to the missionaries working in Zambia. We pray and look forward for more labourers to work in the vineyard of the Lord.



MALAWI MISSION

The Malawi mission started with Fr. Soosairaj and Bro. Level Winner who volunteered to be on the pioneering mission team. The first team of missionaries accompanied by Fr. Innacimuthu, the Provincial South East India Province and Fr. Kanikkai, the Councilor in Charge of the Missions, arrived in Tanzania on 28th December 2017. They were warmly received by Fr. Sebastian, Fr. William and Fr. Robert at Dar es Salaam airport and they travelled to the Provincial House of the East-Africa Province, Morogoro. After a few days of stay and visit to the mission stations of the East-Africa Province, on 24th January 2018 Fr. Soosai moved to SFS Parish, Ngurdoto and Bro. Winner to Ipuli for his regency.

At the request of Rev Fr. Innacimuthu, Fr. Anandraj, Fr. Sathish, Fr. Berin, Fr. Nelson, Fr. Arockia Doss, Bro. Jerald, Bro. Marshal and Bro. Adaikalam volunteered to be a part of the second team of missionaries. They arrived in Tanzania on 29th August 2018 at 5.30 pm. They were accompanied by Fr. Santiyagu, the Admonitor cum Councilor in Charge of the Formation and Fr. Kanikkai, the Councilor in Charge of the Missions. The team landed at Dar es Salaam and was received by Fr. Soosai Raj and Fr. Robert.

The team reached the Provincial House of the East-Africa Province at 10.00 pm and was welcomed by Rev. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the Provincial, Rev. Fr. Jose Eriyanickal, the Bursar, Rev. Fr. Sebastian Kuzhupil and Rev. Fr. Clement Sudagar, the Secretary. On 2nd and 3rd September an orientation course was arranged for all. It was animated by the pioneering missionaries of the East-African Province.

In order to have an experience of the mission in Africa the fathers and brothers were appointed in different mission stations in the East-Africa Province within Tanzania. They moved to their particular mission stations on 4th September 2018.

Fr. Anandraj - SFS Parish, Mkuza

Fr. Sathish – SFS Junior Seminary, Morogoro

Fr. Berin - SFS VTC Mwakata/Ibihwa, Dodoma

Fr. Nelson - SFS Parish, Dumila

Fr. Arockia Doss - LCI/SFS Parish, Ngurdoto
Bro. Jerald - Theology,
Bro. Marcel - Regency at SFS Junior Seminary, Morogoro
Bro. Adaikalam - Regency at Ipuli

Arrival of the First Missionaries in Malawi:

After a few months stay in Tanzania, on 17th October 2018, Frs. Soosai Raj, Anantharaj and Nelson left for Malawi mission along with Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnal the Provincial of East-Africa Province, Fr. Innacimuthu, the Provincial and Fr. Nicholas, the Bursar. They were welcomed by Bishop Martin Mtumbuka and a few Diocesan priests, accompanied by Catholics from St. Mary's Parish, Karonga on 18th October 2108. They stayed in St. Mary's parish and had 3 months language course. They were then assigned to different parishes for the pastoral experience.

Fr. Soosai Raj - St. Anne's parish, Chilumba

Fr. Anandaraj - St. Steven's parish, Kasanta

Fr. Nelson - St. Michael's parish, Chitipa



St. Francis de Sales Parish, Livingstonia: The First Mission

After a few months of pastoral experience they were asked us to take up St. Francis de Sales parish, Livingstonia on 5th May 2019. This is the first mission that we took up in Malawi mission. Since it was the first mission Fr. Abraham Vetuvellil, the Superior General, Fr. Johnson, the General Councilor in charge of Missions, Fr. Ignacimuthu, the Provincial of South East India Province and Fr. Amirtharaj, the Provincial Councilor in charge of the Innovative mission

were present. Fr. Soosairaj was appointed as the parish priest of St. Francis de Sales parish, Livingstonia and also as the Local Superior of Livingstonia community, Fr. Nelson was appointed as the project Coordinator and Fr. Anandaraj as the mission bursar. These three stayed together in the first mission.

Arrival of Frs. Berin and Sathish to Malawi Mission:

Frs. Berin and Sathish after 8 months of mission experience in Tanzania left for Malawi accompanied by Fr. Abraham Vetuvelil, Fr. Johnson and Fr. Arockiadoss. They were welcomed by Bro. William at the cathedral. Both had their language course from June to August 2020. Then Fr. Berin was appointed as the assistant parish priest in St. John Paul II Parish, Kapoka and Fr. Sathish was appointed as the assistant parish priest at St. Steven's Parish, Kasanta.

St. Augustine of Hippo Parish, Kameme: The Second Mission

St. Augustine of Hippo parish was under St. Michael's parish, Chitipa as a zone. It was declared as a sub-parish on 6th November 2020. Fr. Berin was appointed as the moderator of the sub-parish and on 1st May it was raised as a full-fledged parish by Bishop Martin Mtumbuka. Fr. Berin was appointed as the first parish priest of St. Augustine of Hippo parish. He stayed alone for 8 months. From March 2021 he was joined by Fr. Nelson as the assistant parish priest.

St. Martin de Porres Parish, Ngerenge: The Third Mission

St. Martin de Porres parish was under St. Steven's parish, Kasanta as a zone and was declared as a sub-parish on 17th May by Bishop Martin Mtumbuka. On 2nd April the Bishop declared St. Martin de Porres sub parish as a parish. He also announced to the faithful that the parish will be given to the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales. We will be officially taking up the parish on 1st January 2022. Fr. Nelson will be the parish priest of the parish.

Challenges of Malawi Mission:

Pioneers of any mission or project have to face a lot of challenges and difficulties; we too were no exception to that. Being new to the climate, culture, language and food habits, we had to face these gripping challenges. In fact our stay in Tanzania helped us to know and become familiar with these things.

Each country has its own unique cultural differences and each tribe has its own differences. To understand and live with them took a bit of time for us. There are many tribes in Malawi and their habits and customs are very different. So it took some time for us to adapt to the new and challenging

culture.

In our first mission in Malawi, for the first few months we found it difficult to deal with the people and communicate with them, as we were just learning the language. There was a bit of a problem in administering the parish too, because of certain differences. But we got accustomed to all these issues very soon.

Since our first parish is on the hill and the parish center is on the hill top, we really struggled with transport facilities. We could not meet the people as often as possible who were down near the lake. We found a big distance between us and the people.

We did not have a stable flow of help in terms of investment, transport and other things. Because of this our ministry could not have a steady growth. But in the course of time all these issues were sorted out. By God's grace we are able to accept and go ahead with our mission and ministry, because we want mission as our Founder says "I Want Missions".



NEWLY ORDAINED



EAST AFRICA
PROVINCE

Fr. Brian Paul
Wasswa

Fr. Lubega
Gonzaga

Fr. Joseph
Orengo

MALAWI MISSION



CHAD-CAMEROON
DELEGATION

Fr. Nirmal
Kumar

Fr. Infant Jesus

Fr. Ajish
Cheeramban

Fr. John
Belavendran

MOZAMBIQUE DELEGATION



SOUTHERN AFRICAN
REGION

Fr. Anish
Praveen

Fr. Fabian
Wawi

OUR HEAVENLY INTERCESSORS

EAST AFRICA PROVINCE



Fr. James
Nedungatt



Fr. Joseph
Kunnapilly



Fr. Lourance
Thadathil



Fr. Mathew
Chavely

SOUTHERN AFRICAN REGION



Fr. Anil Francis
Topno



Fr. Alwyn John
Zothansanga

CHAD-CAMEROON DELEGATION



Fr. Georgekutty
Puthiyidom



Bro. Cyrille
Bavina

MOZAMBIQUE
DELEGATION



Fr. Prabhudas
Kujur



Do you wish to join hand with us?

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

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