

# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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Provincial Circular MSFS - EAP- JK.38

December 31, 2015

Beloved Confreres,

## From 2015 to 2016

The year 2015 is saying adieu to us. And we firmly hope that we would be permitted to see the dawn of 2016. I am sure, to every one of us the year 2015 was a time of blessings. What blessing? Someone may ask! We are still alive, we had enough air to breath, got enough water to drink, ate enough to sustain us, and could sleep peacefully under a roof. Often do we not take these things for granted and look for "blessings" that we think are blessings in the forms of achievements, victories, recognitions and rewards?

Turning back to 2015 what is our "Feel"? Sure every one of us has both positive and negative experiences. No amount of negative experiences can make a year "bad". In itself every year is good. If I believe in the goodness of God and if the good God has given me this year, no matter how "bitter" it might have been, it is still a good year for me. God can turn all the bitterness to "betterness".

Let us always end the year with a positive thought. No matter how hard things were, tomorrow is a fresh opportunity to make it better.

But in fact the Year's end is neither an end nor a beginning but a going on, with all the wisdom that experience can instil in us. In the calendar, days, weeks, months and years roll on... but life should go on one day after another, one year after another. Let us leave behind the burdens and struggles, pains and disgraceful memories of 2015. Let such negative memories be left behind the closed doors of the past. We need not carry them forward to the new year. Let us carry forward to new year sincere convictions of thanks and praise to the merciful father. Let us not punish ourselves by carrying the unnecessary burden of the pains of the past. Being totally free from the burdens of the past enthusiastic to receive the graces of God let us welcome the good year 2016. I wish you all a very Happy New Year 2016.

## Bishop Mathew Shija - RIP : *Mungu ana saa yake!*

Bishop Emeritus Most Rev. Mathew Shija of Kahama Diocese was called to eternal rest on December 9, 2015 in Kahama at the age of 91. Those of us who have encountered him know how fatherly he was to us. He was the Bishop of Kahama from November 11, 1983 to April 24, 2001 during which time we as MSFS started our ministry in the Diocese of Kahama. I am happy that together with many confreres of TAKA Apostolic Community I could be also participate in the funeral services and pay homage to the departed on December 17. His mortal remains were laid to rest on December 17 in the Cathedral Church of Kahama.

Bishop Shija was a person of simplicity and compassion. He had genuine human concern for the other. We all remember the graceful moments we had with him whenever he visited our communities in Kahama and Tabora. With his unassuming personality and ever willing pastoral zeal, his life served as a telling example of the compassionate love of God and the missionary face of the church. When asked about his health, future, life style etc, he had

always the serene answer: *Mungu ana saa yake*. God has his own time. Yes, God called him to eternal rest at the very beginning of the Jubilee Year of Mercy - in his own time.

I request each of the priest confrere to offer a Holy Mass for the departed soul of the late Bishop Mathew Shija, preferably in the next earliest community Mass you have.

*May the Souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in Peace. Amen.*

### **Circular from Superior General**

Our beloved Superior General in his Circular SGAB-10 dated December 22, 2015 has exhorted us to observe the Year of Mercy and Year of Formation in our Fransalian way after the example of our patron St. Francis de Sales. Let us draw inspiration from this circular. I have already forward to you the circular form Superior General. If anyone has not received the circular please let me know.

### **The Jubilee Year of Mercy**

In the last circular (J.K. 37 dated Dec. 8, 2015) dedicated to the year of Mercy, we have reminded ourselves of our obligation to praise God for we have been forgiven much. Hence we are also obliged to forgive much. We all float and swim in the ocean of the eternal mercy of God. This ocean is so vast that everyone has a place and chance to be deep into it. But often times we do not realize how much of the merciful love we do experience from God.

In the context of the year of Mercy, let us begin the year 2016 with a will to forgive and a heart to be compassionate to the other, even to those who were most unkind to us.

Let the merciful Father be present and alive in our hearts, in our looks, words and actions. Without him our priestly ministry become rigid and clerical. We become ambassadors of statistics and managements, failing to give to the people what they really need: mercy, love and compassion.

In addition to what was directed in the previous circular during this year of Mercy,

- I request you to take the themes of the Mercy of God for the Community as well as Apostolic Community recollections.
- Let us also pray the Chaplet of Divine Mercy every day at least once in the community, as an additional prayer and not replacing anything that is already there.

Let us be merciful as the Father himself is merciful. It is easy to give examples of mercy and compassion. But our task is to become examples of compassion.

### **Year of Formation**

Our Superior General exhorts us: **"In our Congregation, I am glad to announce with the consent of the General Council that we are celebrating Year 2016 as "MSFS Year of Formation for Mission of Mercy and Compassion" -combining the Year of Mercy and Year of Formation. I invite all of us to make this Year 2016 as a year dedicated to intensify our efforts on renewing our FORMATION PROGRAMS AND ON-GOING FORMATION PROGRAMS in tune with the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and with the missionary charism of our Congregation."**

Hence dear Confreres, along with the year of Mercy, at our Congregational level we are also observing the year of Formation. Formation is the Apostolate that takes our Fransalian family with all its heritage and riches to the generations to come. The year of formation is a reminder for us to be fully alive in the apostolate of formation. It is not a option given to us. No matter one is appointed or not as a formator or vocation promoter, we all are bound by obligation to exercise the apostolate of formation. Today we enjoy being members of the Fransalian family. This means someone was our vocation promoter, someone was our

formator. Today I am obliged to be that "someone" to someone else.

### **Special Prayer for the Year of Formation**

Given by the Superior General we have a CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER for the YEAR OF MSFS FORMATION FOR MISSION OF MERCY AND COMPASSION 2016. Please find the text of the prayer attached to this circular. Let us pray this every day in our communities.

### **Promotion to Diaconate**

The following scholastics were promoted to receive the order of Diaconate:

1. Danda Aristedes Timothy MSFS
2. Karottukampadathil Jobin MSFS
3. Mathembo Stephen Mutisya MSFS
4. Njue Thomas Njeru MSFS

They are now doing the Final year of Theology. From December 19 to 24 they have done the retreat in preparation for the Diaconate. The retreat was conducted in the Provincial house animated by Fr. Santhosh Prakash Bhavan MSFS.

God willing our bothers will be ordained Deacons on January 3, 2016 at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Dumila, in the Diocese of Morogoro, Tanzania. Let us accompany these brothers of ours with our sincere prayers. Hearty Congratulations dear brothers.

### **Baraka 7**

The seventh issue of Baraka is already out of the press. Our thanks and congratulations to Fr. Clement Sudhakar and team and for those contributors. This issue had special focus on the apostolate of social and innovative ministry. You can also find the Baraka 7 in our website with this link. [www.msfs-eastafrica.com/images/baraka/baraka7.pdf](http://www.msfs-eastafrica.com/images/baraka/baraka7.pdf)

The editors requests for your evaluations and contributions to the next issue. Please contact: editorbaraka@gmail.com; clementsudha@gmail.com.

### **Celebret - Our ID cards**

I notice that most of you have complied with request to provide with your personal details to prepare the *Celebret* which today has become a necessity. I thank you for providing the details on time and for obtaining the id cards. I request those who have not provided with the requested details to give them soon so that we can complete the process at the earliest. Please contact: Bro. Martin Pendanath MSFS: pendanathmartin@gmail.com.

### **Our Sincere thanks to Fr. Joseph Vettukattil MSFS**

From November 2011 to November 2015 Fr. Joseph Vettukattil MSFS from South West India Province served in the East African missions. At the completion of the term of service he has now returned to India. We thank him for the time with us and the services he rendered to us especially in the mission of Mkuza in Tanzania and in Agururu in Uganda. We wish him all the blessing in his life and ministry in the days to come, wherever he is in mission.

### **New PIF Chairman**

Very Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil, the Superior General appointed Rev. Fr. George Panthanmackel as the Chairperson of the Provincials of India Forum for a term of three years with effect from December 05, 2015. Fr. Jacob Karamakuzhiyil is the Vice Chairperson. On behalf of the MSFS East Africa Province I congratulate you dear Fathers

and wish you God's abundant blessings for a fruitful tenure in service.

### **The Annual PIF-PEA Meeting with General Curia**

Provincials of India and Provincial of East Africa had the Meeting with General Curia in Belgaum, Karnataka from November 20 - 22, 2015. The meetings was held at Harmony the ongoing formation and training centre of Pune Province.

After a brief evaluation of the various programs of the year of Consecrated life and year of Mission at the congregational level, the meeting shared the concerns and plans for the Year of Formation and the Jubilee Year of Mercy at the Province and Congregational levels. Our Superior General exhorted all the Provincials to review our commitment to the Congregational presence in Africa in various mission units as well as in LCI.

Other matters of discussions included but not limited to: Functions and Role of Major Superior in Suvidya; Establishment of local communities in Switzerland and Australia; Possibilities of starting of new missions in Argentina, Cuba, Swaziland, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Bangladesh, Indonesia etc; Integration of new members into western provinces; Finalizing Code of ethics; Preparations for the TMM and GC-PIF-PEA MSAF meetings at LCI in Arusha 2016; Finalizing the document on financial transparency; Finalizing the vision and mission plan of each community; De Sales and Mermier research and resources centre at the General Secretariat; Promotion of the Cause of Fr. Mermier our Founder; Parish mission preaching at the Province level; Guidelines for the division of the Provinces etc.

We had also a Holy Eucharist animated by his Lordship **Most Rev. Peter Machado** the Bishop of Belgaum. He appreciated very much the services rendered by MSFS in the diocese.

### **The NEW REGION IN THE NORTHEAST INDIA PROVINCE**

#### **Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparampil MSFS the Regional Superior.**

A new REGION comprising of Upper Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, and Nagaland is established under the Northeast India Province on September 15, 2015. The new administrative unit is in view of animation of confreres and administrating of the missions in the geographically vast Northeast India Province. It really shows the dynamism and growth of the Province The Region will come into existence on January 20, 2016 as the Regional Superior takes charge of his office. Our Sincere congratulations to Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparambil and wish him and the entire Province and Region all the blessings they are in need of in this new development.

### **REV. FR. BENNY KOOTTANAL MSFS : NEW PROVINCIAL SW India Province**

Fr. Benny Koottanal is appointed as the new Provincial Superior of the Southwest India Province with effect from January 24, 2016 for a term of three years. Hearty Congratulations and prayerful good wishes to Fr. Benny and to the entire Province.

### **Fr. Jose Kumblolickal - Our thanks and appreciation**

We also thank Fr. Jose Kumblolickal the outgoing Provincial for the kind understanding sincere collaboration we had with him especially in matters of African Mission.

### **Holiday Ministry in USA**

Fr. Chinnappan Arockiasamy will be in USA for two months from January 6 to March 6 for the holiday ministry. We thank Fr. Antony Rajesh MSFS (SE) for facilitating the same and wish Fr. Samy safe journey and good time in USA.

## **Fr. Sebastian Palakudy MSFS Coordinator Family Apostolate**

In consultation with us, His Grace Most Rev. Josaphat Lebulu the Archbishop of Arusha, has appointed Fr. Sebastian Palakudy as the Coordinator of the family Apostolate in the Archdiocese. Our sincere congratulations to Fr. Sebastian Palakudy and we wish him all the blessings he stands in need of.

### **Home holidays:**

Fr. Kurian Kollappallil	November 3 to November 19, 2015
Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil	November 28 to January 8, 2016
Fr. Johnson Pathiyil	December 1 to December 30, 2015
Fr. Tomychan Perumanoor	December 10 to January 15, 2016
Fr. Mathew Chavely	January 28 to March 17, 2016

We wish our confreres good time with their dear and near ones.

### **News Snippets:**

- ✓ In the year of Mercy, the Parish Church of Bukene, *Mlima wa Wokovu* Lububu and *Mlima wa Kategele* in Itaga were declared by the Archbishop as special places of pilgrimage.
- ✓ Fr. Philip Thomas MSFS visited us in Morogoro and Dar es Salaam as he is at LCI for the classes for the formators.
- ✓ Our young brothers in Fransalian House Kola have won the Clareritians Morogoro Volley ball cup for the second consecutive time this year. Our hearty congratulations!
- ✓ The Consecration and opening of the new St. Francis de Sales Parish Church of Mkuza is planned on January 24, 2016.
- ✓ The school construction at Mji Mpya Parish, Dar es Salaam is on progress.
- ✓ The Spirituality seminar on the Jubilee Year of Mercy is going on at Fransalian House Kola with over 50 participants.
- ✓ Fr. RVP Prasad was in India for the treatment for the crack on the shoulder.
- ✓ Common Uniform cloth material is made available for all the schools in Tanzania.
- ✓ The roofing of the extended parish church of St. Francis de Sales Parish of Iyolwa is completed and on Christmas night they had service in the new church.
- ✓ A seminar on Consecrated Life was organized at LCI in November.

### **Confreres giving retreat:**

I am glad to share with you that our confreres were / would be at the service of ministry of retreat. To mentions some of them:

- Fr. Innocent Ngowi to Daughters of Mary in Tabora (Seminar cum retreat) in September and December 2015
- Fr. Thomas Chozhithara to Holy Cross Sisters in Uganda in Jan 2016 and May 2016
- Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal to the Vincentian Priests in Songea, in November 2015
- Fr. Jomat Kollapallil (directed retreat) at Maua Retreat Centre Moshi December 2015

- Fr. Santhosh Paul for our brothers preparing for the Diaconate December 2015

I really appreciate the readiness of our confreres for these spiritual services. Let us encourage one another to be at the service of the universal Church.

### **Uganda Apostolic Community - office bearers**

The Provincial Council has ratified the election of Fr. Sunny Mattathil as the Convenor and Fr. Charles Ouma as the Secretary of the Uganda Apostolic Community. Congratulations and good wishes !

### **Prayers requested:**

#### **For the departed ones**

- ✓ Mrs. Leonida Ochola the paternal grandmother of Fr. Charles Ouma. She died on December 8, 2015 at the age of 88.
- ✓ Mrs. Monica Ochogo, the paternal aunt of Fr. Charles Ouma. She died on December 10, 2015 at the age of 62

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace! Amen.

#### **For the Sick and Suffering**

- Fr. Emile Mayoraz MSFS due to old age and issues related to heart.
- Fr. Jose Maliekal MSFS of SW India Province suffering from Pneumonia.
- Fr. D. Doraiswamy MSFS of SW India Province suffering from heart issues.
- Fr. Joseph Kunnapilly MSFS - still undergoing peritoneal dialysis. His condition is getting stabilized.

As we thank God for all the blessings, let us firmly believe in the healing touch of the Lord and pray for these confreres and all the sick and suffering.

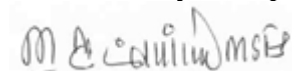
### **May the Lord bless us with new life**

Beloved Confreres, the fulfilment in life is not a matter of how much we have or how much we accomplish. Rather, what gives life purpose and meaning is a living relationship with the living God:

“Satisfy us each morning with your unfailing love, so we may sing for joy to the end of our lives” (90:14).

We cannot in fact think of a better thought with which to end the year and begin a new one. If we live each day in the satisfaction of God’s love, we will be empowered to live for him, to love him through serving our fellow human beings, nature and the entire universe. We would not be fretting about the passing of the years, but will accept the gift of each day as a new opportunity for love and service.

Entrusting each one of you to the merciful love of the Father,  
United with you in prayers,

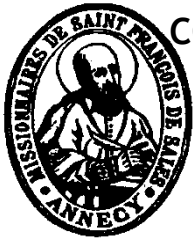


Fr. Johnson Kallidukil MSFS (Provincial Superior MSFS East Africa Province)

**Teach us to realize the brevity of life,  
so that we may grow in wisdom.**

Psalm 90:12





# CONGREGATION OF THE MISSIONARIES OF SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES

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## **CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER:**

### **YEAR OF MSFS FORMATION FOR MISSION OF MERCY AND COMPASSION 2016**

Loving God/ thank you for your abounding mercy and compassion/ through which you constantly manifest your love/ We acknowledge/ we are often tagged by our fragilities/ sinfulness and unworthiness/ Yet you never despise us nor abandon us/

In your mercy you forgive us/ cleanse us and heal us/of all our prodigal and wayward ways/ both personal and collective/ Like the Eternal Good Shepherd and Good Samaritan/ you always seek and find us/ stranded and wounded/and you care for us to complete restoration/

We pray Lord/ to instil and deepen within us/ the spirit of formation/geared to a mission of mercy and compassion/ Bless all our young formees/ to be profoundly groomed in a formation/ set for a mission of mercy and compassion/ Accompany us and sustain every step of ours/ on this sacred and committed journey/

In a world tormented by un-forgiveness/ resentment, retaliation and violence/stir us with bonds of pardon, reconciliation and forbearance/ Guard us against our inclination/ to slander and condemn/ Help us transcend/our barriers of division and discrimination/ and foster us as persons and communities/ that bear witness to unity and justice/ Heal us from our infirmities of indifference and tepidity/ with the balm of sensitivity, concern and solidarity/ Guide and train us/ to be more seekers and catalysts of such ministries/ that transmit mercy and compassion/.

Renew us with that spirit of our Patron, St. Francis de Sales/ so gentle and merciful to the faltering/ of our Patroness Mother of Compassion/so patient and full of compassion/ and of our Founder/ Servant of God Father Peter Mermier/ filled with zeal and dedication/.

O Father, Son and Holy Spirit/ mould us and transform us/ into Missionaries of mercy and compassion/ Amen!

**Mother of Compassion – Pray for us!**

**St. Francis de Sales – Pray for us!**

**Servant of God, Father Peter Mermier – Intercede for us your sons**