
 <h2 style="text-align: center;">MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES</h2> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Fransalians - Province of East Africa</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">Provincial House P. O. Box 12 Morogoro Tanzania Tel: +255 689 882 711; +255 624 027 880 www.msfs-eastafrika.com e-mail: provincialeastafricamsfs@gmail.com </p> 		
Provincial Circular EAP – MT.08		Dec 18, 2018

My dear Confreres and Friends,

As we are fast approaching the great feast of the Nativity of our Lord, let me wish you all a very happy Christmas and a grace-filled New Year 2019!



THE CHILD IN THE MANGER

The angel announced to the shepherds; “Do not be afraid. Look, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. And here is a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger” (Lk.2:10 – 12).

The child in the manger, who was born in the stable, places us in the right perspective for the celebration of the nativity of Jesus. The birth of Jesus Christ is the essence of the Christmas celebration. Ironically, many people celebrate Christmas ignoring the significance of the celebration. Worse still, they are not even willing to consider the purpose of the celebration or how it affects their personal life. To some, Christmas is just an annual Christian festival, and for others, it is an opportunity to exchange gifts and niceties. We need to go beyond the glamour of the season and get hold of the essence and the meaning of the birth of Jesus Christ.

The child in the manger is a sign, a sign from God. It is a tiny, fragile and humble sign filled with God’s love, manifested in the incarnation of Jesus. The child in the manger is a sign of hope, peace, consolation and liberation for the humanity. The Child in the manger is our salvation. The child in the manger is Emmanuel – God with us.

The child in the manger was the sign given to the shepherds. In Palestine, shepherds were despised by the orthodox Jews, who considered them as unclean people, since due to the nature of their work, they could not follow meticulously the rules and regulations of Jewish religion,

particularly washing of hands and other similar rituals. These marginalized shepherds were given the sign to visit the God-Incarnate, Jesus Christ. When the shepherds found Jesus in the manger, Mary must have felt very bad, since no one would expect to find a baby in a manger, let alone the Son of God. When the shepherds told Mary of their “sign,” it must have been an amazing confirmation for her that the manger had been a God-ordained sign all along. Perhaps Mary needed a sign just as much as the shepherds, to know that God was still with her and that she is the handmaid of God.

The child in the manger is a sign of humility, simplicity and love. In order to meet him, we need to humble ourselves, and make simplicity as the hallmark of our life. The child in the manger challenges us to renounce our insatiable cravings and to abandon our endless yearning for material things, and to transcend ourselves to discover the simplicity of the child in the manger, who would give us peace, joy and eternal happiness. May this season of Christmas be an opportunity for us to decipher the presence of the child in the manger and acknowledge him as our personal Lord and Saviour. Let us live the child in the manger in our day to day lives by radiating humility, simplicity and love.

GENERAL CHAPTER 2019



The intensive preparations for the 20th General Chapter with the theme “**MSFS, Wake up to the Basics**” are underway. I request you to kindly continue to pray for the success of the General Chapter 2019 so that every Fransalian may find a new impetus to be faithful to the ideals of Consecrated Life in Community, Mission, MSFSness and the Spirituality of St. Francis de Sales. I am happy to inform you that **Fr. Zachariah Burrofero** will be a special invitee from our province besides the ex-officio and elected delegates for the General Chapter 2019.

YEAR OF LOCAL COMMUNITY

Our beloved Superior General declared the year 2018 as the “Year of the Local Religious Community” with theme: **REVITALISING MY LOCAL COMMUNITY: SPACE FOR COMMUNION AND MISSION**. We have been reflecting on various topics such as: my role in revitalizing my local community, various dimensions of community as “space” and building communion in community, during the course of the Year 2018. We also had seven recollection themes during this year to help us to revitalize our community life. The seminar on “Community animation and leadership” for superiors, animated by Fr. Philip Thomas gave us new dimensions of community animation. The concluding of the Year of the Local Community will take place in our Apostolic Communities with a Holy Mass officiated by Fr. Provincial. Please find below the dates for the conclusion of the Year of Local Community for each Apostolic Community:

21.12.2018: TAKA Apostolic Community
28.12.2018: Uganda Apostolic Community
10.01.2019: Dar Apostolic Community
12.01.2019: Arusha Apostolic Community
18.01.2019: Nairobi Apostolic Community
23.01.2019: Morogoro Apostolic Community

ANNUAL RETREAT 2019

In 2019, the Province is organizing two Salesian retreats for priest confreres and a thirty day retreat for second and third year Theologians. It will be animated by Fr. Suresh Babu MSFS. Please find below the dates of retreats:

July 16th to 20th, 2019: Retreat for Priest confreres, at Maua, Moshi.

July 30th to August 3rd, 2019: Retreat for Priest confreres, at Maua, Moshi.

July 21st to August 20th 2019: Salesian Retreat for II and III year theologians at Kola.

SUPERIORS FORUM MEETING AND SEMINAR

Superiors Forum meeting and a seminar for superiors were conducted on 11th and 12th of December, 2018. The seminar on "Community Animation and Leadership" was animated by Fr. Philip Thomas MSFS. We thank Fr. Philip for the wonderful insights to animate our communities. The Superiors Forum meeting discussed various matters concerning the religious life and various ministries in the Province. It was proposed to promote devotion to St. Francis de Sales and Fr. Peter Mermier in all our parishes and institutions, to begin Parish Mission Preaching, to make a Child Protection Policy and also to organize update programmes for the confreres.

STEWARDSHIP FORUM MEETING AND BUDGET SESSION

Stewardship Forum Meeting and Budget session took place on 14th and 15th of November. All the communities/institutions presented the budget for 2019. The stewardship Forum meeting discussed various matters concerning financial administration. The bursars are urged to use the FAST format for accounting. It was suggested to complete the audited account of 2018 by 31st of March, 2019. Internal auditing will be done in April and May 2019. The meeting also urged members to pay taxes and land rents on time. The Quickbook accounting system was introduced to the members by Fr. Clement Sudhakar MSFS.

Budget 2019

The Provincial council has approved the ordinary budget of every community/institute. The extraordinary budget is referred to LGB and respective committees for further study and consultation.

IBIHWA: OUR NEW MISSION IN DODOMA

The Archbishop of Dodoma, his Grace Beatus Kinyaiya has entrusted with the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales Ibihwa Mission, which was till now a sub-parish of Bahi parish. Ibihwa is about 50 KM away from Dodoma town on the way to Singida. Ibihwa with its five mission stations has a Catholic population of 8,049. There is a small Church, which can hardly contain 200 people. There are two Holy Masses in Ibihwa on Sundays and regular Holy Masses are given in the five Mission stations. The faithful have started the construction of a presbytery, but the work is stalled due to lack of sufficient funds. Fr. Anthonysamy Sebastian MSFS, who is assigned to the Ibihwa mission was welcomed by the parishioners on 25th of November. He resides now in Bahi parish, which is 16 KM from Ibihwa and serves the faithful of Ibihwa. We wish Fr. Sebastian all the best in the new Mission.



DIACONATE ORDINATION



On 27th October 2018, two of our confreres, Kenneth Mwangi Maina MSFS and Ventino Peter Mutume MSFS, were ordained deacons by his Lordship Telesphor Richard Mkude, the Bishop of Morogoro Catholic diocese at Jordan University College. After the solemn Eucharistic celebration and the Diaconate ordination at JUCO, we had the joy of celebrating the event at Fransalian Study House, Kola. It was celebrated in a very unique style. Each newly ordained deacon had the opportunity to plant a tree to mark such an anointed moment in his life. The felicitation was

attended by a jubilant crowd of approximately 230 people who came from near and far. It ended at around 4.00 pm with agape. Deacon Kenneth belongs to the East Africa province while Deacon Ventino belongs to the South Africa region. Hearty congratulations, dear deacons!

Reported by Bro. Leonard Musembi MSFS)

SFS JUNIOR SEMINARY SILVER JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

St. Francis De Sales Junior Seminary, Morogoro, Tanzania celebrated the Silver Jubilee on 30th September 2018. His Lordship Telesphore Mkude, the bishop of Morogoro, graced the occasion. In his message, Bishop insisted on the need to promote and sustain quality education and vocation to the Catholic priesthood. The occasion was also blessed with the presence of the previous rectors and formators of St. Francis De Sales junior seminary for the past twenty-five years. The local village and political leaders as well, joined the celebrations and thanked the Missionaries for their efforts to promote secondary school education and religious vocations in the country. Mr Werner Muller, a long-time friend and benefactor of the Seminary and the president of Salesan International, Switzerland also attended the silver jubilee celebrations. Thirty-seven Form Four students graduated on the same day after completing their Ordinary Level of Secondary School education from the Junior Seminary. Hearty Congratulations!



(Reported by Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal MSFS)

GOLDEN JUBILEE OF BRO. LEO CHERUVIL



On 20th October, 2018 the Golden Jubilee of Religious Profession of Bro. Leo Cheruvil (Patrician Brothers), who is an associate member of Fransalians in Iyolwa, was celebrated at St. Francis de Sales Secondary School in the Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda. The joyous occasion was graced by several dignitaries, guests from Germany and Kenya, Head teachers from neighbouring schools, parents and well-wishers. The guest of honour was the District Resident Commissioner of Tororo (RDC) Mr. Orach Martin. The day began with Holy Mass officiated by the Education Secretary of Tororo Archdiocese Rev. Fr Romans Olwenyi. He appreciated the services rendered by Bro. Leo in the school. The cultural events staged after the Holy Mass added colour to the celebrations. The programmes came to an end with a fellowship meal. Hearty Congratulations dear Bro. Leo!

(Reported by Fr. S. Robert Raj MSFS)

THE BLESSING OF THE ROSARY GARDEN

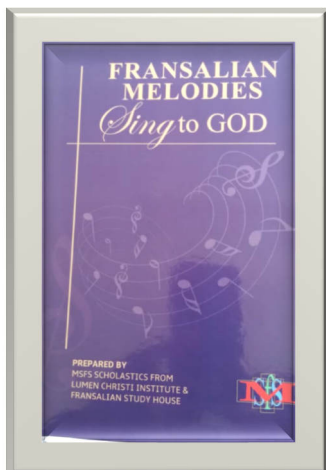
On October 28, 2018, St. Jude Catholic Church Osia, Uganda celebrated the parish feast. The celebration of the parish feast was a unique one this year as on that day the parish officially blessed and inaugurated the Rosary Garden which was under construction since three years. Fr. Michael Kibiye, the pastoral coordinator of the diocese blessed and inaugurated the Rosary Garden, in the presence of the Emeritus Archbishop Dr. Dennis Kiwanuka Lote. Priests from the neighbouring parishes and a good number of faithful from the parish and outside joined the celebrations.



It was Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil, the former parish priest who planned to make a compound wall around the church and fix panels representing all the mysteries of the Rosary on the wall in order to spread the devotion to Our Lady. All the mysteries of the Holy Rosary are printed on aluminium panels and are placed on the wall. Each mystery is written also in three languages – English, Adhola and Ateso which are commonly spoken in the parish. Hearty congratulations to Frs. Joby Maruthomalayil, Stephen Mutisya and Santhosh Paul, who successfully completed the Rosary Garden.

(Reported by Fr. Santhosh Paul)

FRANSALIAN MELODIES



“Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give thanks, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus.” On 27th October 2018, a hymn book with the title “Fransalian Melodies: Sing to God” was officially released by Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS, Provincial of East Africa. This hymn book is a collection of hymns for various liturgical services. Hearty congratulations to the Rectors and Scholastics of Fransalian House, Kola and Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha for compiling the hymns and for bringing it out.

(Reported by Bro. Michael Mwangi)

BLESSING OF THE PERPETUAL ADORATION CHAPEL

Yet another dream came true for the faithful of St. Francis De Sales Parish, Mkuza in the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam, on the 17th of November, 2018, when the Archbishop of Dar Es Salaam His Eminence Polycarp Cardinal Pengo blessed the perpetual adoration chapel (Kanisa la Huruma) in the presence of many priests and the faithful.

It is indeed the brainchild of Rev. Fr. Mathew Chavely MSFS the former Parish Priest and was executed by the present Fransalian community at Mkuza with the wholehearted collaboration of the parishioners and other benefactors in and outside the country. Lord Jesus waits for you “24 hours in this door to heaven” said Cardinal during the blessing ceremony and asked people to be with the Lord as the disciples of Emmaus told the Risen Jesus “Stay with us Lord”. The beautiful structure has the adoration chapel in the ground floor and facilities for sacrament of reconciliation in the first floor. It is yet another gem in the spiritual milieu of Mkuza parish.



(Reported by Fr. Pius Kochuparampil MSFS)

PARTNERSHIP: MSFS AND MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE, AUSTRIA

The ministry of Social Welfare of the Austrian Government has recognized MSFS in Tanzania as a “Placement Organization for Volunteers” in the field of education and medicine. Since 2010, we have been receiving a number of volunteers from Austria. This is an official recognition by the government of Austria for facilitating volunteers to learn and experience African life and culture. I sincerely thank Ms. Elisabeth Hartl of Caritas (Diocese of Graz) for making strenuous effort to make a contract with the government of Austria.

PARTNERSHIP: SFS IYOLWA AND SCHOLA THOMAS MORUS

St. Francis de Sales Secondary School at Iyolwa has made a partnership with St. Thomas More School (Schola Thomas Morus) Vienna, Austria. The school will collaborate with St. Francis de Sales Secondary School, Iyolwa in five areas: (1) sponsorship for poor children (2) voluntary service to the school by the alumni from 2020 (3) help in raising funds to develop the school (4) support teachers with seminars and (5) provide materials for the character formation of children. Our sincere thanks to Fr. Thomas Chozhithara, who facilitated the partnership with Schola Thomas Morus.

NEWS FROM FR. JOMET KOLLAPALLIL

I arrived in Belgium on 12th September and I was received by Fr. James Panthalanickal who also introduced me to the life in Leuven and helped me to complete the registration processes. Prof. Paul Cruysberghs was a great help in introducing me to the Faculty of Philosophy. My accommodation is with the community of the Assumptionist Fathers, where there are eight retired Flemish Assumptionist priests and four international student priests who are studying at the Catholic University of Leuven. I participate in all the community activities including meals and prayers. Since the third week of September, I have begun the MA in Philosophy and the classes are going on well with a lot of assignments. The distance between the Assumptionist Fathers and

the Faculty of Philosophy is about 1.3 km. The bicycle offered by Prof. Paul is a great help in commuting between the residence and the Faculty. I am getting acclimatized to the life in Leuven as a student. Thank you all for the support and prayers and I request you all to continue to pray for me.

NEWS FROM FR. INNOCENT NGOWI

I landed in Cotonou (Benin) on 18th October, 2018 to pursue my Licentiate degree studies on Marriage and Family in the Pontifical Institute of St. John Paul II. It will take three years for me to complete my studies, since I have to learn French before starting my Licentiate. At present, I am residing in the Institute together with other Priests from different Countries of Africa. I pursue language course in another Institute. It is a challenge to encounter a new language, culture, and food habits. The standard of living here is much higher than in Tanzania. Benin is predominately a Catholic country. Though it is not long since I arrived here, I think of you my dear brothers in East Africa with gratitude and you are in my prayers. I thank God, Provincial and his administration for giving me such an opportunity to learn and to know more. There is a Swahili saying, "Tembea uone" (make journey and you will see). Let's pray for each other.

PSLE 2018 EXAMINATION RESULTS

SCHOOLS ABOVE 40 STUDENTS

Name of the School	Students Appeared For Exam	School Average/250	Place Of School In District	Place Of School In The Region	Place of School in the Country/10090
Fransalian Primary School, Morogoro	65	204.9	4/67	8/525	155
Fransalian Mission Primary School, Mkuza	80	200.2	2/34	6/251	202
St. Francis de Sales Mission Primary School, Tabora	135	181.7	4/47	10/448	498

SCHOOLS BELOW 40 STUDENTS

Name Of The School	Students Appeared For Exam	School Average/250	Place of School in District	Place Of School In The Region	Place of School in the Country/6726
SFS Primary School, Bukene	30	220.5	1/57	1/319	42
St. Francis de Sales Primary School, Kagongwa	37	215.9	3/31	6/245	80
De Sales Primary School, Isaka	24	192.1	2/37	20/245	406

Our Primary schools in Tanzania have done very well in the Class Seven Exams. On behalf of the Province, I would like to congratulate our confreres, sisters, teachers, non-teaching staff, parents and others who have facilitated our students to get good results. I sincerely thank you for your love and commitment to our young generation. Hearty Congratulations!

APPOINTMENTS AND TRANSFERS

Rev. Fr. Superior General has appointed **Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil** as the Director of Lumen Christi Institute with effect from December 01, 2018.

Fr. Zachariah Burrofero is appointed as the Superior and Rector of SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda with effect from December 10, 2018.

Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of Mary Mother of Compassion Church Mji Mpya/Relini with effect from December 10, 2018. He will pursue his doctoral studies and will also initiate the school project at Bomba Mbili.

Fr. Gerald Mabiriizi is appointed as the Head Teacher of St. Francis de Sales Secondary School at Iyolwa and is also designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of St. Francis de Sales Church at Iyolwa with effect from January 10, 2019.

Fr. Siljo Auppaden is appointed as the Superior of MSFS Community at Bukene and is designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of Ugandan Martyrs Church, Bukene with effect from January 10, 2019.

Fr. Jonathan Muema is appointed also as the Manager of SFS School at Bukene, besides his present responsibilities at Bukene Parish, with effect from January 01, 2019.

Fr. Sebastian Nirappel is appointed as the Superior of MSFS Community at Mlolongo and is designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of St. Joseph Catholic Church, Mlolongo with effect from January 15, 2019.

Fr. Antonysamy Robert is appointed as the Superior of MSFS Community at Ngurdoto and is designated to be appointed as the Parish Priest of St. Francis de Sales Church, Ngurdoto with effect from January 10, 2019.

Fr. Kurian Kollapallil is designated to be appointed as the Assistant Parish Priest of St. Francis de Sales Church, Ngurdoto with effect from January 28, 2019. He will also teach at the Lumen Christi Institute.

Fr. Mathew Chavely is appointed as the superior of our new mission in Kikunde and is designated to be appointed as the Priest-in-Charge in Kikunde Mission in the Archdiocese of Arusha with effect from February 01, 2019.

Fr. Stephen Nadakuzhackal, an associate member (Srikkakulam Diocese, India) is appointed to the MSFS Community at Iyolwa, in the Archdiocese of Tororo, Uganda with effect from January 01, 2019.

EDUCATION CORE COMMITTEE

The following confreres are appointed as members of the Education Core Committee:

1. Fr. Jacob Thekkekara(c)
2. Fr. Gerald Mabiriizi
3. Fr. Jonathan Ssebowa
4. Fr. Jonathan Muema

HOLIDAYS/MINISTRY

Fr. Joby Maruthamalayil:	October 15 – December 20
Fr. Jose Eriyanickal:	November 20 – January 20
Fr. Lawrence Ssebowa:	November 27 – December 27
Fr. Thomas Njue:	December 06 – January 06
Fr. Gerald Mabiriizi:	December 20 – January 10
Fr. Francis Kallikatt:	January 05 – March 05
Fr. A. Sebastian:	January 14 – February 02 (Holy Land Programme)
Fr. Joseph Kyanja:	January 14 – February 02 (Holy Land Programme)
Fr. Johnson Nepolean:	January 21 – March 2 (Ministry in USA)

OBITUARY

Mr. Owona Ndounda Nicolas (80), the father of Bro. Aloys Eyeya Amot (in LCI - Tchad-Cameroon delegation) passed away on 11.11.2018 in Cameroon.

Mrs. Annamma (92), the paternal aunt of Fr. Sebastian Palakudy passed away on 18.11.2018 in India.

Mr. Hilary Veigas (54), uncle of Bro. Avil Veigas passed away on 25.11.2018 in India.

Mr. Thomas (89), father of Sr. Daisy CMC (Lumen Christi Dispensary) passed away on 27.11.2018 in India.

Mr. Anthony (Liju) (47), brother-in-law of Sr. Tresa (Fransalian School, Kigurunyembe). passed away on 27.11.2018 in India.

Mrs. Mary (77), mother of Sr. Rosli (SFS Ipuli), passed away on 08.12.2018 in India.

Let us pray for the repose of the departed souls.

MY TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Date	Programme
Dec 19	Ibihwa, Dodoma
Dec 20	Meeting with the Archbishop of Dodoma
Dec 21	Ipuli – Conclusion of Year of Local Community
Dec 22	Meeting with Bishop of Kahama
Dec 23	Bukene
Dec 24 & 25	Kashishi
Dec 28	Osia - Conclusion of Year of Local Community
Dec 30	Namutumba - Kalamira
Dec 31	Lububu
Jan 02 2019	Morogoro
Jan 09 2019	Novitiate
Jan 10 2019	Mkuza - Conclusion of Year of Local Community
Jan 12 2019	LCI - Conclusion of Year of Local Community
Jan 13 2019	Mlolongo
Jan 15 2019	Ndagani/Chera
Jan 16 2019	Meeting with the Bishop of Meru
Jan 17 2019	Katani
Jan 18 2019	Mlolongo - Conclusion of Year of Local Community
Jan 19 2019	Bissil
Jan 20 2019	Ngurdoto
Jan 21 2019	Morogoro
Jan 23 2019	Morogoro - Conclusion of Year of Local Community
Jan 24 2019	Feast of SFS
Jan 26 2019	Travel to India
Jan 27 2019	Angamaly
Feb 01 - 13 2019	General Chapter
Feb 16 2019	Visit to Fr. Joseph Kunnapally
Feb 22 2019	Nairobi
Feb 23 2019	Blessing of the new presbytery at Bissil
Feb 24 & 25 2019	Ndagani/Chera

Feb 26 2019	LCI
Mar 01 2019	Mwanza
Mar 02 2019	Mwkata/Lububu
Mar 03 2019	Bukene
Mar 04 2019	Ipuli
Mar 05 2019	Blessing of convent at Dumila
Mar 06 2019	Mkuza/Novitiate
Mar 12 & 13 2019	Council Meeting in Morogoro

My dear confreres, once again wishing you all a blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year 2019, I remain.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

Mathew

Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS
Provincial - East Africa Province

Salesian Thought

Simplicity leads the soul to gaze exclusively on God. This results in peace of mind and serenity of spirit. (AE, VI 235, Conf. 14)

