
		<h2 style="text-align: center;">MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">Fransalians - Province of East Africa Provincial House P. O. Box 12 Morogoro Tanzania Tel: +255 689 882 711; +255 624 027 880 www.msfs-eastafrica.com e-mail: provincialeastafricamsfs@gmail.com</p>	
Provincial Circular EAP – MT.15		Dec 21, 2019	

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 blessed Christmas and a grace-filled New Year 2020!



THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS

“Joy is the true gift of Christmas, not expensive presents that demand time and money. We can transmit this joy simply: with a smile, with a kind gesture, with some small help, with forgiveness. Let us give this joy and the joy given will be returned to us. Let us seek in particular to communicate the deepest joy, that of knowing God in Christ. Let us pray that this presence of God’s liberating joy will shine out in our lives.” (Emeritus Pope Benedict XVI). The angel announced the source of Christmas joy to the shepherds on the first Christmas night: “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10-11).

The true joy of Christmas lasts not only in the season of Christmas but all through our life. It is an abiding joy and contentment that comes from knowing that we have a hope that holds beyond the uncertainties of this life. That kind of lasting joy comes only to the one who has personally accepted God's gift: Jesus Christ.

We find the real joy of Christmas when we make Jesus as the focus of our life: Born in a stable, cradled in a manger, He came forth from heaven to live on earth as a mortal man and to establish the kingdom of God. His glorious gospel reshaped the thinking of the world. He lived for us, and He died for us. What can we, in return, give Him?

As the Christmas season envelops us with all its glory, may we, as did the Wise Men, seek the bright star to guide us in our celebration of the Saviour's birth. May we all make the journey to Bethlehem in spirit, taking with us a tender, caring heart as our gift to Jesus.



Our beloved Superior General Rev. Father Abraham Vettuvellil will be making the Canonical Visitation of our Province from March 08 to April 08, 2020. The visit of Rev. Fr. Superior General is an occasion for every community and the entire Province to evaluate upon the quality of our religious life, community life and apostolic activities in East Africa. Let us prepare well for the visitation that it may further strengthen our commitment as missionaries in East Africa. I request the Superiors of every community to kindly prepare a report as per the directives of Rev. Fr. Superior General, which has already been sent to you per email. Please find below the tentative time table of the Visitation:

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF THE VISITATION

Date	Programme	Accommodation
07.03.2020	Arrival KIA	LCI
08.03.2020	LCI	LCI
09.03.2020	Travel to Mwakata by road	Mwakata
10.03.2020	Mwakata: VTC, Isaka, Kagongwa Travel to Kashishi	Kashishi
11.03.2020	Kashishi Travel to Lububu	Lububu
12.03.2020	Lububu Travel to Bukene	Kashishi
13.03.2020	Bukene Travel to Ipuli	Ipuli
14.03.2020	Ipuli	Ipuli
15.03.2020	Ibihwa (Afternoon)	Ibihwa
16.03.2020	Kikunde	Dumila
17.03.2020	Dumila	Provincial House
18.03.2020	Provincial House SFS Junior Seminary	Provincial House
19.03.2020	Fransalian Scholasticate, Kola Fransalian School, Kigurunyembe	Provincial House
20.03.2020	Mkuza Parish	Mkuza
21.03.2020	Novitiate	Novitiate
22.03.2020	Novitiate Travel to Mji Mpya (Afternoon)	Mji Mpya
23.03.2020	Mji Mpya Evening flight to Nairobi	Mlolongo
24.03.2020	Mlolongo	Katani
25.03.2020 Ash Wednesday	Katani School Travel to Ndagani (Afternoon)	Ndagani
26.03.2020	Ndagani Seminary	Chera
27.03.2020	Chera Travel to Mlolongo	Mlolongo
28.03.2020	Travel to Tororo by road	Agururu
29.03.2020	Agururu	Osia
30.03.2020	Osia	Iyolwa
31.03.2020	Iyolwa	Kalamira
01.04.2020	Kalamira	Kalamira
02.04.2020	Lugazi	Osia
03.04.2020	Travel to Mlolongo	Mlolongo
04.04.2020	To Bissil	Bissil
05.04.2020	Bissil	LCI
06.04.2020	Ngurdoto	LCI
07.04.2020	Maji ya Chai	LCI
08.04.2020	LCI	

YEAR OF FRANSALIAN ASSOCIATES

Rev. Fr. Superior General has declared 2020 as the year of Fransalian Associates. It begins on January 24, 2020 and ends on January 23, 2021. During this year of Fransalian Associates, we shall strengthen Fransalian Associates in our Province by initiating a formation programme in view of helping and encouraging people to consecrate themselves to God as Fransalian Associates, to intensively study the spirituality of St. Francis de Sales and its practical applications in daily living and to live a life of holiness following the Spiritual Directory. I request the Coordinators of each country to kindly organize for Fransalian Associates the following programmes:

- Seminar on Salesian spirituality
- Dissemination of Salesian literature
- Encouraging devotion to Venerable Father Peter Mermier
- Organizing quarterly recollections on little virtues

PMP SEMINAR

The First Parish Mission Preaching (PMP) Seminar was conducted by Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes MSFS on 26 & 27 of November 2019 at Lumen Christi Institute. The seminar focused on the origin of parish missions as the foundational apostolate of the Congregation and as practiced by our Venerable Founder Father Peter Mermier. The seminar made a thorough study of PMP Manual. The group discussions highlighted the practical ways to implement PMP in East Africa. It was felt that PMP would be a great help in renewing the families in the parishes. We thank Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes for guiding us to understand the primordial apostolate of the Congregation.

STEWARDSHIP FORUM MEETING & BUDGET

Stewardship Forum meeting was held on November 28, 2019 at Lumen Christi Institute. During the meeting, budgets of every community/institution was presented and evaluated. The members were reminded of following the FAST format for accounting. The meeting also discussed at length taxation and various payments to the Government. The Forum evaluated the new health insurance policy. It was felt that since the premium has gone very high, only those who use medicine regularly will join the programme. It highly recommended making a Corpus Fund which can be used in case of emergency. It also appreciated the internal auditing which began this year. The Forum felt that when a confrere is on transfer, handing over of the accounts, documents etc. has to be strictly done as per the statutes of the Province.

MEETING FOR EDUCATORS

A meeting of School managers and religious collaborators of the Province was held on 10th and 11th of December, 2019. Mr. Christian Bwaya, a lecturer of Mwenge University conducted a seminar on Child Protection and Safeguarding. The seminar focused on child centred education which would give children a safe environment for learning and nurturing their childhood. The second day's seminar was animated by Rev. Fr. Agnelo Fernandes MSFS on the theme: Fransalian Profile of an Educator. The seminar was based on Salesian Spirituality and Fransalian core identity in the education apostolate. We thank Mr. Bwaya and Rev. Fr. Fernandes for their insights to improve the quality of education in our schools.

NEW PROVINCIALS

Rev. Fr. Superior General has appointed Provincials for the following Provinces:

South East India:	Rev. Fr. K. Ignaci Muthu (Second Term)
Guwahati:	Rev. Fr. Sabu Francis Manasrayil
Dibrugarh:	Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Mapplilaparambil
England:	Rev. Fr. Benny Valiaveetil

Hearty congratulations dear Fathers and we assure you our prayerful support as you assume the ministry of leadership on January 24, 2020.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Rev. Fr. Superior General has made the following appointments:

Rev. Fr. K. Ignaci Muthu:	Chairman of Provincials India Forum (PIF)
Rev. Fr. Chinnappa Reddy:	Chairperson of the Suvidya Governing Body, Delegate Superior of the Superior General and the Major Superior of Suvidya College

Hearty Congratulations! We assure you our prayers as you assume your respective responsibilities.

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

Rev. Fr. James Panthalanickel has successfully defended his doctoral thesis in Biblical Theology on December 11, 2019 at KU Leuven, Belgium. His doctoral thesis is on "*Luke's Strategy for the Salvation of the Rich: An Exegetical Analysis of Key Pericopes in the Gospel*". Hearty Congratulations and best wishes for your ministry in LCI.

COORDINATORS OF FRANSALIAN ASSOCIATES

The following confreres are the new Coordinators of Fransalian Associates:

Tanzania:	Fr. Sebastian Williams and Fr. Siljo Cherian
Kenya:	Fr. Lawrence Ssebowe
Uganda:	Fr. Gerald Mabiriizi

VOCATION PROMOTORS

Tanzania:	Fr. Japhet Kiriimi, Fr. Kenneth Maina
Kenya:	Fr. Charles Ouma
Uganda:	Fr. Stephen Mutisya and Fr. Gerald Mabiriizi

HOLIDAYS

Fr. James Panthalanickel:	December 27 – January 07
Fr. Thomas Kochuparambil:	December 28 – February 10
Fr. Pius Kochuparambil:	December 28 – February 10
Fr. Mathew Chavely:	January 01 – March 01
Fr. Sony Kochumalayil:	January 07 – January 28
Fr. Siljo Cherian:	January 11 – March 11
Fr. George Anthony:	January 14 – February 14
Fr. Tomichen Perumanoor:	January 14 – January 27
Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil:	January 14 – March 06



PROVINCE PROGRAMMES FOR 2020 AT A GLANCE

Date	Programme	Venue
January 08 & 09	PMP	Provincial House
March 08 to April 08	Visitation of Superior General	
May 04	SAIM Forum meeting with General Secretary of SAIM	LCI
May 05	Formation Forum meeting with General Secretary of Formation	LCI
May 06	Education Forum meeting with General Secretary of Education	LCI
May 07	Mission Forum meeting with General Secretary of Mission	LCI
May 08	Stewardship Forum meeting with General Bursar	LCI
May 10	MSAF meeting with General Curia	LCI
May 11	LCI Graduation	LCI
May 12	LCI Decennial Celebration	LCI
May 13 & 14	Provincial Curia meeting with General Curia	LCI
May 27 & 28	PMP	Uganda
July 6 th evening to July 11 th noon	Province Retreat I	Marangu
July 26	Initiation to Novitiate	Kibaha
July 27	First Profession	Kibaha
July 31	Final Profession	Kola
August 01	Diaconate Ordination	Kibaha
August 17 th evening to August 21 st evening	Provincial Congress	LCI
November 16 th evening to November 21 st noon	Province Retreat II	Nairobi

MY TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Date	Programme
December 22	Ipuli
December 23	Bukene, Lububu, Mwakata
December 24 & 25	Kashishi
December 27	Morogoro
December 28 to January 30	Visit to Europe
February 02	Lukobe
February 04 - 06	Visit to Archdiocese of Mombasa
February 07	Chera/Ndagani
February 08	Katani
February 10 – 13	Uganda Apostolic Community
February 15 – 16	LCI
February 18	Meeting with Archbishop of Dar es Salaam
March 06 & 07	Council Meeting in LCI
March 08 to April 08	Visitation of Superior General

My dear confreres, once again wishing you all the joy and peace of Christmas and a grace-filled New Year 2020, I remain.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

Mathew

Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS,
Provincial - East Africa Province



Salesian Thought

Often awaken in yourself the spirit of joy ... and firmly believe that this is the real spirit of piety; and if you sometimes feel the opposite spirit of sadness and bitterness, all the more throw your heart at God with all your might (DASal 7,219).