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Provincial Circular EAP – MT.22		Sep 15, 2020

My dear Confreres,

I wish you all a very Happy Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, the patroness of our Congregation. May she guide our Congregation and all our apostolates for the greater glory of God!



Devotion to the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady has its roots in Sacred Scripture and in early Christian piety. The sorrows of the Blessed Mother have always been associated with the sufferings of her Son. The title, “Our Lady of Sorrows,” was first given to Mother Mary to recall her intense grief during the passion and death of our Lord. Gradually, the scope of this title was extended to comprise “seven dolours” or “seven sorrows” of Mary, as foretold by Prophet Simeon when Child Jesus was presented in Jerusalem temple.

It was not all sorrows for Mary. She also had her seven joys namely: Annunciation, Nativity, Adoration of Magi, Resurrection, Ascension, the Pentecost and the Assumption. She had her share of ups and downs, tears and laughter, joys and sorrows. In all these, her faith in God was constant. When angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would be the Mother of the Messiah, she was happy because the promise made by Yahweh was about to be fulfilled, but hard times followed the promise. The seven sorrows occurred one after the other. The message that comes to us from these sorrows and the feast in honour of them is the need to hang on to God in our life too especially in times of sorrows. There will always be dark days and dire situations. In those moments, we cannot rely on anyone or anything but on God alone. God is faithful and constant. He never leaves us alone. Mary realized that. It will be the same in our lives too if only we keep our faith.

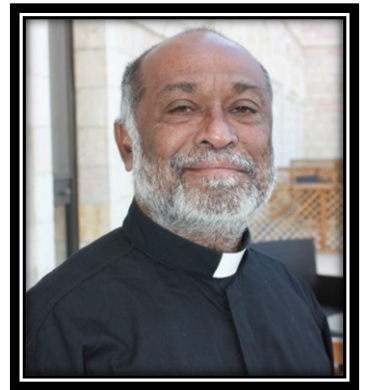
Our beloved Founder Fr. Peter Mermier placed our Congregation under the patronage of Our Lady of Sorrows. He had great devotion to Mother Mary because she had kept her faith despite the many difficulties in life. Fr. Mermier viewed suffering as a blessing. It taught him to be humble, to cling on to God, just as Mary did. The trials that a missionary faces, are seen by Fr. Mermier, as necessary elements of the discipleship of Christ. They refine the person. Therefore, he asked Fr. Lavorel: “Accept, with confidence the chalice which the paternal hand of God offers you. Rejoice at being

found worthy to suffer, because they were found worthy to suffer disgrace for the sake of Jesus.” He advised his niece, “Interior sufferings are excellent crosses which you must carry with resignation and even with joy. Real joy is not found without thorns and sacrifices.” He also advised: “Be at perfect peace, think of profiting much from your illness.” “Above all, love, love your crosses.” (Annals I: 171)

As we honour our Blessed Mother under the title ‘our Lady of Sorrows’, we honour her as the faithful disciple and model of the faith a disciple should have. Looking at the example of Mary, may we too unite our sufferings with that of our Lord and face them with courage, love and trust.

ADIEU FR. MATHEW CHAVELY MSFS

We were all shocked to hear about the sudden demise of our beloved Fr. Mathew Chavely on September 4, 2020. We have lost in the person of Fr. Chavely a true religious, a holy priest, a man of prayer and an untiring missionary. He followed the missionary zeal of our patron and also of our founder assiduously. His 42 years of missionary life in India and in East Africa will always be inscribed in the annals of our Congregation. He was instrumental in reviving the faith of the people wherever he worked and in evangelizing several parishes in the Archdiocese of Tabora, Diocese of Kahama and Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam. He pioneered our missionary endeavours in Uganda. In spite of the health issues he was having when working in the parish of Ngurdoto, in the Archdiocese of Arusha, he was very enthusiastic about starting the new mission in Masai Kusini, a remote corner in the Archdiocese of Arusha. In a short span of time, despite logistical limitations, he could spread the joy of the Gospel in Kikunde parish, his last mission. After his treatment in India, he yearned to come back to Tanzania and continue to work here and die here. But God had his own plans. He is a great role model for our missionary and pastoral apostolate in Africa. Fond memories of him will always be cherished in our hearts and minds for years to come.



His funeral services were conducted on September 06, at SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor, India. Most Rev. Sebastian Thekethecheril, Bishop of Vijayapuram presided over the Funeral Mass. We thank Bishop Sebastian for his availability and love for our Congregation. We are grateful to Rev. Fr. Benny Kootanal, the Provincial Superior of South West India Province for organizing the burial services with the help of the staff and students of SFS Seminary. We sincerely thank Fr. George Chirayil and SFS Seminary community for meticulously planning out the funeral services despite Covid 19 protocols and an inclement weather. We thank them for the live streaming of the funeral services, which was watched by many of us including the parishioners of Kikunde. We thank Fr. Jose Parappillil for his heart-touching homily which portrayed the life of Fr. Mathew Chavely. We are extremely grateful to Fr. Thomas Olickal, who was the only one from East Africa Province present at the funeral, for taking care of Fr. Chavely during his stay in Angamaly and also for organizing the funeral services. We sincerely thank Rev. Fr. Superior General, the members of General Curia, the Provincials, and all MSFS confreres and friends, who sent condolence messages and praying for the repose of the soul of Fr. Mathew Chavely. We have one more intercessor in heaven in the person of Fr. Chavely. May he intercede for us and our Missions in Africa. Adieu Fr. Mathew Chavely!

PROVINCIAL CONGRESS 2020

The Provincial Congress is due to take place from October 2nd to 5th, 2020. However, some uncertainty with regards to the opening of borders particularly of Uganda still continues. We are awaiting the formal announcement regarding the opening of the borders of Uganda. A final decision regarding the Provincial Congress will be taken by September 20.

INITIATION TO THE NOVITIATE



On 28th August, 24 brothers were initiated to the Novitiate at Kibaha by Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, Provincial of East Africa. This year there are 13 novices for Tchad-Cameroon Delegation, 10 for East Africa Province and one for Mozambique Delegation. We wish them God's blessing as they begin to discern their vocation as Fransalians and experience the basics of religious life in the Novitiate.

FIRST PROFESSION

August 29 was a joyous day for Fransalians in Africa as 14 Novices made their First Commitment to the Lord (Mozambique Delegation: 1; Southern Africa Region: 2; Tchad-Cameroon Delegation: 5; and East Africa Province: 6). Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the Provincial of East Africa presided over the Eucharistic celebration and received the vows. He exhorted the novices to live for ever the commitment that they have made to God by following the Charism and spirituality of the Congregation. A large number of priests, religious and lay people participated in the celebration. Hearty Congratulations to all our newly professed novices as we welcome them to the Fransalian Family.



I sincerely thank Fr. Stephen Ubadesi, Director of Novices and Fr. Prakash Prashanth, Socius, who accompanied the novices during their canonical year of Novitiate and helped them to discern and grow in their vocation to religious life in the Fransalian Family.

PERPETUAL PROFESSION

Bro. Brian Paul Wasswa, Bro. Joseph Abongo Orengo and Bro. Lubega Aloizio Gonzaga will make their Final Commitment on September 30, 2020 at Fransalian House, Kola, Morogoro. Please keep our brothers in your prayers.

DIACONATE ORDINATION

Bro. Brian Paul Wasswa, Bro. Fabian Wasonga Wawi, Bro. Joseph Abongo Orengo and Bro. Lubega Aloizio Gonzaga will be ordained deacons on October 01, 2020 by Most Rev. Jude Thaddaeus Ruwa'ichi, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Dar es Salaam, at SFS Parish, Mkuza, Kibaha. Please keep them in your prayers.

PRIESTLY ORDINATION

On October 01, 2020, eight of our deacons (Southern Africa: 1 and East Africa: 7) will be ordained and raised to the sacred order of Priesthood by Most Rev. Jude Thaddaeus Ruwa'ichi, O.F.M. Cap., Archbishop of Dar es Salaam, at SFS Parish, Mkuza, Kibaha. Please keep them in your prayers.



Deacon Francis Indumuli Aloo MSFS was born on 8th of November 1980 in the family of Mr and Mrs John Aloo Atundo in Mumias, Kenya. He is the second born in a family of four boys and three sisters. He did his primary education at St. Peters Mumias Boys Primary school from 1985 – 1989, and later at St. Charles Lung'anyiro primary school from 1990 – 1995. He joined Munami secondary school from 1996 – 1999. From the year 2000 – 2005, he was employed as a BOG teacher at St. Theresa secondary school Itete, where he taught English. In 2006, he felt the call to become a priest, and on the 15th of June, 2006, he joined the

Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales and started his formation at Ndagani seminary, Chuka. He did his novitiate at Fransalianum, Bungo, Kibaha, Tanzania, and made his first Religious Profession on 10th July, 2008. He did his philosophical studies at the then Salvatorian Institute of Philosophy and Theology, Morogoro, from 2008 – 2011. Upon completion of his philosophical studies, he was sent to St. Charles Lwanga and Companions Parish, Bukene, Tabora, for his regency. After six months of his regency in Bukene, he was transferred to Provincial House, Morogoro to continue his regency. He did his M.Phil studies at Jordan University College (JUCO), Morogoro from 2013 – 2015. In septemeber 2015, he was sent to Yaoundé, Cameroon for his theological studies. After having mastered French language, he did this theological studies at St. Cyprian College of Theology in Yaoundé, Cameroon from 2016 – 2020. He made his perpetual profession on the 9th of February 2017 in Ngaoundere, Cameroon. He was ordained deacon on the 29th of June 2019 at Mary Queen of Apostles Basilica, Yaoundé, Cameroon, by His Lordship Sosthene Leopold Matdjei, bishop of Obala diocese, Cameroon.



Deacon Gregory Mua Mutisya MSFS was born on March 27, 1990 in the family of Mr Dominic Mutisya and Mrs Annastacia Kalusi in Makueni-Kenya. He is the last born of eight children. Deacon Gregory Mua Mutisya was baptized on November 2, 1991 and received the first Holy Communion on March 24, 2002 at St Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Mukuyuni. He was confirmed on March 24, 2002 at St Francis of Assisi Parish, Mukuyuni. He did his primary education from 1996 to 2004 and from 2004 to 2005 in Nzukini and Nzouni Primary School respectively. He did his secondary education from the year 2006 to 2009 in Inyokoni Secondary School. Having had the desire to become a priest, he joined the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales and started formation in Fransalian Seminary Ndagani in September 2010. After completion of the first year of formation, he did his canonical Noviciate and made his First Religious Profession on July 10, 2012. Thereafter, he did his Philosophical Studies at Lumen Christ Institute from 2012-2015. After the completion of Philosophical Studies, he was sent to SFS Community in Tabora for Pastoral year from 2015-2016. After the Pastoral year, he joined the Fransalian Study House Kola-Morogoro for his Theological Studies at Jordan University College from 2016-2020. He made his Perpetual Profession on August 23, 2019. Deacon Gregory Mua was ordained Deacon on August 24, 2019 at Dumila St Francis de Sales Parish by His Lordship Telesphore Mkude, Bishop of Morogoro.



Deacon John Dennis Dindi MSFS was born on 14 February 1989 in the family of Mrs Beatrice Juma Dindi and late Mr David Sivach in Athi-River, Machakos-Kenya. He is the third born of four children. He was baptized on November 16, 1997 and received the First Holy Communion on November 16, 1997 at St. Jude's Catholic Church, Athi-River, Machakos. He was confirmed on November 14, 1999 at St. Jude's Catholic Church, Athi-River. He did his Primary education from 1996 to 2004 in St. Paul's Primary School, Athi-River/ Machakos and his Secondary education from

the year 2005 to 2006 in St. Augustine Secondary School, Mlolongo, Machakos-Kenya. Then he joined the Aman Bright Future Secondary School, Emali, Machakos-Kenya from 2007 to 2008. From 2009 onward, he worked in St. Christopher Secondary School, Machakos and in Airtel company, Nairobi-Kenya.

Having the desire to become a priest, he joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and started formation in Fransalian Seminary Ndagani in September 2010. In the subsequent year, he did the canonical Novitiate and made his First Religious Profession on July 10, 2012. Thereupon, he did his Philosophical Studies at Lumen Christi Institute from 2012-2015. He did his Regency at SFS Primary School, Katani, Machakos-Kenya from 2015-2016. He joined the Fransalian Study House Kola-Morogoro for his Theological Studies at Jordan University College and completed it during 2016 - 2020. He made his Perpetual Profession on August 23, 2019 at Fransalian Study House, Kola-Morogoro. He was ordained Deacon on August 24, 2019 at St. Francis De Sales Parish in Dumila, by His Lordship Telesphore Mkude of the Diocese of Morogoro.



Deacon Leonard Musembi Ngumbi MSFS was born on December 31, 1989 in Makueni-Kenya. He is the last born of five children of Mr Joseph Ngumbi Mathuva (deceased) and Mrs Regina Mbendwa Ngumbi. He was baptized on March 21, 1999 at Our Lady of Mercy Itumbule Catholic Church and on the same day received his first Communion. He was confirmed on September 13, 2009 at St. Francis of Assisi Mukuyuni Parish-Machakos Diocese. He did his primary education from 1996 - 2003 in Nthongoni Primary School and his secondary education from 2004-2007 in Inyokoni Secondary School. He joined the Congregation

of the Missionaries of Saint Francis de Sales in September 2010 and began his formation in Fransalian Seminary Ndagani. He did his canonical novitiate in Fransalianum, Kibaha from 2011 to 2012. He made his first profession on July 10, 2012. From 2012-2015, he studied Philosophy in Lumen Christi Institute. He did his pastoral year in Fransalian Seminary Ndagani from 2015-2016. He joined Fransalian Study House Kola-Morogoro for his theological studies in Jordan University College from 2016-2020. His perpetual profession was on August 23, 2019 at Fransalian Study House-Kola. He was ordained a deacon by His Lordship Telesphore Richard Mkude of the Diocese of Morogoro on August 24, 2019.



Deacon Michael Mwangi Mumbi MSFS was born on September 23, 1985 in the family of Mrs Agnes Mumbi Mwangi in Nakuru – Kenya. He is the first born of their two children. He was baptized on January 4, 1987 and received the first Holy Communion on March 30, 1997 at St. John's Catholic Church, Subukia. He was confirmed on December 14, 1997 at St Paul, Subukia. He did his primary education from 1992 to 2000 in Bahati Primary School, Nairobi and his secondary education from the year 2001 to 2005 in Pumwani secondary school. From 2006 to 2009, he studied at Kenya Polytechnic University College and graduated in

Information Technology. Having the desire to become a priest, he joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and started formation in Fransalian Seminary Ndagani in September 2010. In the subsequent year, he did the canonical Novitiate and made his First Religious Profession on July 10, 2012. Thereupon, he did his Philosophical Studies at the Lumen Christi Institute, from 2012-2015. After the completion of Philosophical studies, he was sent to SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda for Regency 2015-2016, he joined the Fransalian Study House Kola for his Theological Studies at Jordan University College 2016-2020. He made his Perpetual Profession on August 23, 2019. Michael Mwangi was ordained a Deacon on August 24, 2019 at St. Francis de Sales, Dumila, by His Lordship Telesphore Mkude of the Diocese of Morogoro.



Deacon Patropio Mutangili MSFS was born on 17th June, 1987 in the family of Mr Mathias Malungu Mungala and Mrs Regina Ndinda Mathias in Makueni – Kenya. He is the second born of six children; two girls and four boys. He was baptized on 17th August 1988 and received the first Holy Communion on 12th Aug, 1998 at Kyambeke Catholic Church, Kilungu Parish. He was confirmed on 14th Oct, 1998 at Wautu Catholic Church, Kilungu Parish. He did his primary education from 1996 to 2004 in Ndolo Primary School,

Makueni and his secondary education from the year 2005 to 2008 in Ndolo Secondary School. Having the desire to become a priest, he joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and started formation in Fransalian Seminary Ndagani in Sept 2010. In the subsequent year, he did the canonical Novitiate and made his First Religious Profession on 12th July, 2012. Thereupon, he did his Philosophical Studies at Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha from 2012-2015. After his completion of Philosophical studies, he was sent to St. Michael's Catholic Church, Chera Parish for Regency from 2015-2016. After his Regency, he joined the Fransalian Study House, Kola for his Theological Studies at Jordan University College 2016-2020. He made his Perpetual Profession on 23rd Aug, 2020. Patropio Mutangili was ordained Deacon on 24th Aug, 2020 at St. Francis de Sales Parish, Dumila by His Lordship Telesphore Mkude of the Diocese of Morogoro. He has opted to work in the Southern African Region of the MSFS.



Deacon Richard Tamaro Gitono MSFS was born on December 03, 1986 in the family of Mr. Justus Gitono and Jenniffer Kwamboka in Kisii- Kenya. He is the fifth born of the seven children in his family. He was baptized on April, 28, 2001 and received first Holy Communion on the same day at Our Lady Assumption parish Nyamagwa-Kisii. He did his primary education from 1993 to 2001 in Nyamokenye primary school- Kisii and secondary education from the year 2002-2006 at St. Clement Gucha Boys High school- Kisii. From 2007-2009 he served as a teacher of English grammar and literature at Gekongo secondary. Having the desire to become a priest, he joined MSFS seminary at Ndagani in 2009. He did

his canonical novitiate at Fransalianum Kibaha from 2010- 2011 and made his first profession on July, 10, 2011. Thereafter he joined Lumen Christi institute- Arusha Tanzania for philosophy from 2011-2014. After successfully completing his philosophical studies, he was sent to Ndagani seminary Kenya for his Regency from 2014-2015. After his Regency he was asked to specialize in French language in Cameroon from 2015-2016. At the end of his French course, he was enrolled at St. Cyprian school of theology in Yaoundé Cameroon from 2016-2020. He made his perpetual vows on 09th February, 2017. He was ordained deacon on 29th June, 2019 at the Basilica of Mary Queen of Apostles- Mvolye Cameroon by His Lordship Leopold Sosthène, the bishop of the Diocese of Obala- Cameroon.



Deacon Ssentamu Ruthital MSFS was born on October 27, 1987 in the family of Mr. Mukwaya Charles and Mrs Nnankya Esther in Mityana District - Uganda. He is the first born of eight children. He was baptized on November 29, 1987 and received the first Holy Communion on August 3, 1997 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Busega Parish, Kampala. He was confirmed on October 14 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Busega Parish, Kampala. He did his Primary Education from the year 1996 to 2002 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Primary School Busega, Kampala and his Secondary School at Crescent High School Busega for "O" level from 2003 to 2006 and at St. Marys' High School Lubaga for "A" level from 2008 to 2009. When he finished his Secondary School with the desire to become a priest, he joined the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and commenced his formation at Fransalian Seminary Ndagani,

Kenya in September 2010. In the following year, he entered the canonical Novitiate at Fransalium Novitiate Kibaha and made his First Religious Profession on July 10, 2012. Thereafter, he did his Philosophical Studies at Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha from 2012 to 2015. He did his regency at St. Francis de Sales Parish community Iyolwa, Tororo - Uganda in 2015, and after Six months he was appointed at Mwakata VTC Kahama - Tanzania in 2016 where he completed his Regency. Later, he joined the Fransalium Study House Kola, Morogoro - Tanzania for his theological studies at Jordan University College from 2016 to 2020. He made his Perpetual Profession on August 23, 2019. Ssentamu Ruthitil MSFS was ordained a Deacon on August 24, 2019 at St. Francis de Sales Parish Dumila, Morogoro - Tanzania by His Lordship Telesphore Mkude of the Diocese of Morogoro.

BLESSING OF PRESBYTERY AT IBIHWA

August 16, 2020 was a joyous day for the newly established St. Francis de Sales Parish, Ibihwa as on that day the new presbytery was blessed by Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS, Provincial of East Africa. We thank our benefactors and well-wishers particularly the Archdiocese of Munich, Missio Austria and the Parish of Kirchberg am Wagram, Austria and people of Ibihwa for helping us to realize the project of having a presbytery at Ibihwa.



On that day, Rev. Fr. Onesmo Wissi, the Vicar General of Dodoma Archdiocese laid the foundation stone for a new Church as the present Church is too small to accommodate the growing number of Christians. The Vicar General also administered First Communion for 83 young people. Hearty congratulations to Fr. A. Sebastian and Fr. Antonysamay for their dedication and hard work in making Ibihwa a vibrant parish within a short span of time.

INAUGURATION OF NEW ACADEMIC YEAR AT LCI

On September 01, 2020, LCI began its eleventh academic year. The Holy Eucharist was presided over by Rev. Dr. Juvenalis Asantemungu, Professor of St. Augustine University, Mwanza. He also delivered the Lectio Brevis based on the biblical understanding of vocation with a title: "Follow your Star". This academic year there are 63 seminarians for Bachelor of Philosophy (East Africa: 20; Tchad-Cameroon 13; Mozambique: 1; Southern Africa: 5; other religious Congregations: 3, Diocesans: 21), 17 for Formators' course (14 sisters, 2 brothers, one priest) and 25 for certificate course in Catechetical training. We wish the staff and students of LCI a successful academic year.

APPOINTMENTS

Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil is appointed as the Superior of Lumen Christi Institute community by Rev. Fr. Superior General with effect from 01.09.2020.

Fr. J. Stephen is appointed as the Director of De Sales International Film and Media Academy (DE SIFMA), Chennai, India, by Rev. Fr. Superior General with effect from 15.09.2020.

Fr. Shaibu Ezhanikatt is appointed as the Administrator of De Sales International Film and Media Academy (DE SIFMA), Chennai, India, by Rev. Fr. Superior General with effect from 15.09.2020.

Regency:

Bro. Albert Momanyi Ombati is appointed at Fransalian Hekima Seminary Secondary School with effect from 15.09.2020 for his year of regency.

OBITUARY

Fr. Martin Griffin (82), of English Province, passed away on 18.08.2020.

Mrs. Thresiamma (93), aunt of Fr. Sunny Mattathil passed away on 24.08.2020.

Sr. Annie Flossy FCC (75), sister of Sr. Sissy FCC (Mkuza) passed away on 01.09.2020.

Fr. Mathew Chavely (71), of Province of East Africa, passed away on 04.09.2020.

Mr. Basase John Bosco, Father of Bro. Victor Muhangi (LCI), passed away on 05.09.2020.

Archbishop Joseph Chennoth (76), who was Apostolic Nuncio in Tanzania (2005 – 2011), passed away on 08.09.2020.

May they rest in peace!



MY TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Date	Programme
15. Sep 2020	Feast of Mother of Sorrows
19. Sep 2020	Graduation, Mkuza School
30. Sep 2020	Perpetual Profession, Kola
01. Oct 2020	Diaconate and Priestly Ordinations, Mkuza
02. – 05. Oct 2020	Provincial Congress, Morogoro
10. Oct 2020	Graduation, Ipuli

Wishing you once again a happy feast of Mother of Sorrows, I remain.

Yours devotedly in Christ



Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS,
Provincial - East Africa Province

Salesian Thought

The glorious Virgin had a share of all human wretchedness except those which come directly from sin. She made use of them very usefully for the practice and growth of the holy virtues of courage, temperance, justice, prudence, poverty, humility, suffering and compassion. (TLG, Book VII, Ch. 14)

