

## My dear Confreres,

I wish you all a happy feast of the Ascension of the Lord! May the glorification of our Lord be the beacon of hope for our life and ministry in bearing witness to the Risen Lord in our day to day lives!



# SILVER JUBILEE OF THE PROVINCE OF EAST AFRICA

It is with deep sentiments of gratitude to God and joyful memories of missionary endeavours of our beloved confreres who committed themselves to the cause of Evangelization in East Africa that we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Province of East Africa. Although Fransalians were present in East Africa since 1988, it was on the 24th of January 1996, that the Province of East Africa was established. The first Provincial Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil assumed the office on September 15, 1996. The Province of East Africa had its humble beginning with just 16 confreres. Today we thank God for blessing our Province with 71 priests and 61 seminarians at various stages of formation.

The number of communities and missions increased from four to twenty seven in the last twenty five years. Fransalians are entrusted with 18 parishes and two sub-parishes in East Africa. We have established 14 schools and two vocational training centres. There are two centres of social ministry to look after vulnerable children or to train visually impaired persons. There is also a holistic healing centre which brings healing and solace for many people through alternative medicine.



We have experienced the providence and gracious love of God since the inception of our missions in East Africa. Our Charism and Apostolates inspired by our heavenly patron St. Francis de Sales and our venerable Founder Fr. Peter Mermier, guided our missionary endeavours in East Africa. We thank all our pioneering missionaries whose dedication and commitment brought about remarkable pastoral and social developments in the Missions entrusted to the care of Fransalians. We also thank the ecclesiastical and civil authorities for supporting our missions in East Africa. We express our gratitude to the General Administration for supporting and guiding the Province of East Africa since its inception. We thank the previous Provincial Administrations whose vision made our Province a vibrant one for the mission of Christ. We thank all the Provincials whose constant support and collaboration strengthened our missions in East Africa. We also thank all our collaborators particularly Diocesan priests, Brothers and Sisters who have contributed immensely for developing our missions. We are indebted to our benefactors, well-wishers and the various organizations that help us spiritually and materially to develop our missions in East Africa.

There is no plan for any common celebration to mark the Silver Jubilee of the Province as we had already a celebration in 2013 in connection with the Silver Jubilee of our arrival in East Africa. I request every Apostolic Community to kindly organize a Thanksgiving Mass before September 15. I also request to you to kindly plant 25 trees on September 15 in every community. In deep solidarity with our fellow human beings during this pandemic, the Province is planning to make a specific contribution to poor patients who come to the dispensaries/hospitals in places where our confreres are working.

My dear Confreres, as we mark the Silver Jubilee of our Province, let us continue to take shelter under the providence of God and spread the joy of the Gospel through our personal life and ministry. Let us keep close to our heart and in our prayers our beloved Province and its mission for the greater glory of God and for the people of East Africa.

### A CHRONOLOGY OF FRANSALIAN MISSIONS IN EAST AFRICA

Year	Events
1976	Most Rev. Marko Mihayo, the former Archbishop of Tabora, wrote to Rev. Fr. Adrian
	Dual, the then superior general, inviting the missionaries to the Archdiocese.
1985	Most Rev. Mario Mgulunde, the new Archbishop of Tabora, wrote to Rev. Fr. Emile
	Mayoraz, the then Superior General, renewing the invitation to the Missionaries of St.
	Francis de Sales to the Archdiocese of Tabora.
1986	The Superior General asks the Visakapatanam Province to take up missions in
	Tanzania
1987	<ul> <li>Rev. Fr. M. Mariadas, the Provincial of Visakapatanam and Rev. Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil visit Tabora Archdiocese in March 1987.</li> </ul>
	The pioneers – Fr. Devasia Kuzhupil, Fr. Augustine Mangatt, Fr. Sebastian
	Kuzhupil and Fr. Thomas Kochuparambil - arrived in Dar es Salaam on
	December 31, 1987.
1988	The pioneers underwent intensive language course and were sent to various parishes
	in the Archdiocese of Tabora for pastoral ministry.
1989	On January 24 <sup>th</sup> , Fransalians were entrusted with Lububu Parish – the first mission of
	MSFS in Tanzania.
1990	Blessing and laying the foundation stone of the MSFS Aspirants' house in Lububu by
	the Emeritus Archbishop Marco Mihayo.

1991	Itaga Parish in the Archdiocese of Tabora was entrusted to the pastoral care of
	Fransalians.
	<ul> <li>First pilgrimage to the <i>Mlima wa Wokovu</i> – Hill of Salvation - Lububu.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Blessing of the new Aspirancy house at Lububu</li> <li>Blessing of the first ever MSFS community house in Morogoro:</li> </ul>
1992	Tanzanian mission is raised to the status of a Region. Fr. Augustine Mangatt
1332	was appointed as the first Regional Superior.
	<ul> <li>Lukobe Mission in the diocese of Morogoro was established.</li> </ul>
1993	Mbulu parish in the diocese of Kahama was entrusted to the Fransalians.
	Blessing of the SFS Junior Seminary Kihonda, Morogoro
1995	The General Chapter of July 1995 decided to raise African Region into a Province.
1996	January 24: The Province of East Africa was inaugurated;
	Fr. Augustine Mangatt was appointed as the interim Provincial.
	<ul> <li>Fr. Thomas Kochuparambil was appointed as the first Provincial. He assumed</li> </ul>
	office on September 15.
	<ul> <li>The first Provincial Congress took place at Lububu from December 16 to 20,</li> </ul>
	1996.
1997	<ul> <li>Mission in Kenya: Chera Parish in the Diocese of Meru was entrusted to the</li> </ul>
	Fransalians.
	Mermier Healing centre was established in Morogoro.
1998	<ul> <li>Blessing of the Fransalian Scholasticate, Morogoro</li> </ul>
	Blessing of SFS School at Bukene.
	Blessing of SFS School at Kagongwa.
1999	Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil is reappointed as the Provincial.
	The second Provincial Congress took place at Morogoro (September 20 to 24)
	Mlolongo Parish in the Diocese of Machakos was entrusted to the Fransalians.
2000	Blessing of Fransalianum Novitiate, Kibaha.
	The first batch of Novices began their Canonical Novitiate.
	Blessing of the House in Angamaly, India.
2004	Dumila Mission is entrusted to Fransalians.    Dumila Mission   Dumil
2001	First batch of Novices made their Profession on September 08.  Planting of Colored asked at Charge.  Planting of Colored asked at Charge.
2002	Blessing of Salesan school at Chera.  Blessing of Francellian House, and Ct. Joseph's VTC at Mislance.  Place in the Company of France line of the Company of the Comp
2002	Blessing of Fransalian House and St. Joseph's VTC at Miolongo.  Mission in Liganday Osia parish in the Arabdiagons of Tayara was entrusted to
	<ul> <li>Mission in Uganda: Osia parish in the Archdiocese of Tororo was entrusted to the Fransalians.</li> </ul>
	Buekene Parish is established.
	Blessing of Children's home at Ipuli.
	Blessing of De Sales School at Isaka.
	<ul> <li>Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil is reappointed as the Provincial for a third term.</li> </ul>
	The third Provincial Congress took place at Morogoro (November 26 to 29)
2003	<ul> <li>Agururu Parish in the Archdiocese of Tororo was entrusted to the Fransalians.</li> </ul>
2004	Erection of the new parish at Mkuza in the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam.
	Blessing of Fransalian School at Kigurunyembe.
	Blessing of Fransalian Seminary at Ndagani.
	Blessing of the New Presbytery at Dumila.
2005	Blessing of SFS VTC at Mwakata.
	Blessing of the newly constructed Church at Mlolongo.
	Mkambarani Mission in the diocese of Morogoro was entrusted to the
	Fransalians.
	<ul> <li>Fr. Thomas Olicakal is appointed as the second Provincial of East Africa.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>The fourth Provincial Congress at Morogoro (September 21 to 25).</li> </ul>

2006	<ul> <li>Isaka Parish is entrusted to the Fransalians.</li> </ul>
	Blessing of SFS Integrated School at Katani.
	Blessing of SFS School at Ipuli.
	Blessing of newly constructed Church at Bukene.
	Blessing of MSFS community house at Maji ya Chai.
2007	Blessing of the new wing of MSFS Provincial House at Morogoro.
	Blessing of school for visually impaired at Ipuli.
2008	Fr. Thomas Olickal is appointed as the Provincial for the second term.
	<ul> <li>The fifth Provincial Congress took place at Mororogo (September 23 – 28).</li> </ul>
2009	Mji Mpya/Relini Parish was entrusted to the Fransalians.
	Priestly ordination of Fr. Zachariah Burofero, the first African Fransalian to be
	ordained as a priest.
2010	Lumen Christi Institute was established.
	<ul> <li>Maji ya Chai and Ngurdoto parishes in the Archdiocese of Arusha were</li> </ul>
	established.
2011	Fr. Johnson Kallidukil is appointed as the third Provincial of East Africa.
	The sixth Provincial congress at Morogoro (September 23 to 28)
2012	Blessing of Fransalian House at Ipuli.
	Blessing of Secondary School at Ipuli.
	Blessing of the newly constructed Parish Church at Osia.
	Blessing of the Presbytery at Mji Mpya/Relini.
2013	Silver Jubilee of the arrival of Fransalians in East Africa
2014	Iyolwa Parish in the Archdiocese of Tororo is entrusted to the MSFS.
	Fr. Johnson Kallidukil is appointed as the Provincial of East Africa for a second
	term.
	The seventh Provincial congress took place at Morogoro (September 22 -26)
2017	Blessing of SFS Secondary School at Iyolwa.
	Kashishi Parish entrusted to MSFS.
	<ul> <li>Blessing of the newly constructed Parish Church at Mkuza.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel is appointed as the fourth Provincial of East</li> </ul>
	Africa.
	<ul> <li>The eighth Provincial Congress took place at Arusha (September 22 -26)</li> </ul>
	Blessing of Presbytery at Maji ya Chai.
	Blessings of the new wing of Primary school at Katani.
2018	Kalamira Parish in the diocese of Jinja was entrusted to Fransalians.
	Blessing of Fransalian School at Dumila
	Blessing of Fransalian Hekima School, Maji ya Chai.
	Blesseing of Rosary Graden at Osia.
	Blessing of Perpetual Adoration Chapel, Mkuza.
2019	Ibihwa Parish in the Archdiocese of Dodoma was entrusted to the Fransalians.
	Kikunde Parish in the Archdiocese of Arusha was entrusted to the Fransalians.
	<ul> <li>Blessing of the newly constructed Church at Lukobe.</li> </ul>
	Blessing of Fransalian House at Bissil.
	Blessing of the new wing of SFS Junior Seminary.
	Blessing of hostel and new class rooms at Mwakata.
	Blessing of the Parish Hall at Mlolongo
	Blessing of hostels and the new wing of Primary school at Katani.
	Blessing of the newly constructed Church at Mkambrani.
	Blessing of the new wing of Fransalian School, Kigurunyembe
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2020	Blessing of hostels and Multi-Purpose Hall, Iyolwa Secondary School.
	Blessing of Presbytery at Ibihwa.
	Blessing of the Administrative wing of SFS Secondary School, Ipuli.
	<ul> <li>Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel is reappointed as the Provincial.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>The ninth Provincial Congress took place at Morogoro (October 2 -5)</li> </ul>
	Blessing of Ibihwa Presbytery.
	Blessing of Mother of Mercy School at Mji Mpya/Relini
2021	Blessing of hostels at SFS School, Kagongwa.
	Blessing of Presbytery at Kashishi
	Presbytery at Kalamira (work in progress)
	New wing of Iyolwa School (work in progress)
	<ul> <li>Kalagala Parish in the Diocese of Lugazi is entrusted with Fransalians.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Minor Seminary at Buwooya in the Diocese of Lugazi (work in Progress).</li> </ul>
	Presbytery at Kikunde (work in progress)
	Primary School at Bissil (work in progress)
	Retirement Home, Angamaly (work in progress)

### **YEAR OF MISSION 2021-2022**



Our beloved Superior General has declared 2021 – 2022 as the Year of Mission. He writes, "Taking into account the Year of St. Joseph, the Year of Family, the Devotion to the Holy Family, and the directive of the General Chapter XX to initiate more ministries directed to families, with the consent of the General Council, I am glad to formally declare the year 2021 – 2022 as Year of Mission in our Congregation starting from Pentecost Sunday, May 23, 2021, and concluding on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 24, 2022."

We assure you our prayers as you begin the Silver Jubilee year. May the good Lord continue to bless your priestly ministry at the service of the people of God in Africa!

#### Objectives of the Year of Mission:

- Bring to the forefront the apostolate of Missions in the Congregation-
- For the renewal of the individuals and communities so that we can function more effectively with credibility as agents of renewal ·
- To impart to our young formees and scholastics the correct orientation regarding the nature and purpose of being a member of a missionary Congregation.
- For the renewal and rejuvenation of our parishes through PMP (Parish Mission Preaching)-
- Focused implementation of the directives of the General Chapter 2019 on MISSION.
- To initiate ministries directed to families, to promote devotion to the Holy Family, and to celebrate the Year of Family and Year of St. Joseph

Fr. Johnson Kallidukil, General Secretary for Mission, in consultation with Provincial Councillor in Charge of the Mission will work on a detailed program for the Mission Year in the coming weeks and months. Let us collaborate with the Mission Forums and Mission Secretariat in this noble cause of our Mission.

#### **VISITATION OF SUPERIOR GENERAL**

The scheduled Canonical Visitation of V. Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvelil, our Superior General to our communities in Kenya and Uganda had to be postponed due to the Covid situation in these countries. However, he conducted online Meeting with every community in Kenya and Uganda. Rev. Fr. Superior General gave lectures in LCI and left for Rome on May 16th. We thank and appreciate Rev. Fr. Superior General for his presence in East Africa and for his constant support and guidance to our Province.

# **RETREATS**

The first annual retreat of this year, of the Province in Tanzania will be conducted from June 07th evening to June 12th noon at OSS Sisters Retreat house, Marangu, Moshi. The second retreat will be held from July 26th evening until July 31st noon at Ivrea Sisters' Retreat Centre, Dodoma. Rev. Dr. Theodatus Maramba (Professor at Kipalapala Seminary) will animate both retreats.

As cross-border travel restrictions continue, confreres in Kenya and Uganda will have retreat in their respective countries. The dates will be made known later.

#### **FAREWELL AND GRATITUDE TO FR. PRASHANTH**

Rev. Fr. Prashanth Prakash MSFS of South West India Province served as Assistant Director of Novices for the last three years in our Novitiate at Kibaha. He has returned to his Province on April 30. We sincerely thank Fr. Prashanth for his yeomen services in East Africa particularly in our Novitiate and Mkuza Parish. We appreciate his cheerful availability, gentleness and dedication to his duties especially in forming our young Brothers. May God bless him abundantly as he takes up his new ministry in the Province!

#### HEARTY WELCOME TO FR. JOHNSON PATHIYIL

Rev. Fr. Johnson Pathiyil MSFS who has completed his Doctoral studies in Rome has returned to the Province on May 15. Hearty welcome to Fr. Johnson and we wish him all the best in his new ministry as the Rector of the Scholaticate at Kola.

#### **BLESSING OF PRESBYTERY AT KASHISHI**



'Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain.....' (Psalm 127:1-2). On May 1, 2021 witnessed а huge number Parishioners of Kashishi Parish gathering together to experience the abundant blessings of the Lord, as the Provincial Superior of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales in East Africa Rev. Fr. Mathew Thomas Thazhathukunnel graced the ceremony of the blessing and opening of the newly built presbytery, Mermier Hall as well as the new

water tank. He officiated the Holy Eucharist which started at 10:30 am in jubilation with a procession led by the Parish choir.

The construction of the newly built house began by collecting of stones and sand by the Small Christian Communities of the Parish who continued to collaborate with construction at every stage. The foundation stone was laid on August 8, 2020 by Rev. Fr. Chinnappan Arokiasamy MSFS. The presbytery was a long-cherished dream of parishioners and priests at Kashishi as they did not have proper accommodation for almost three years. Our sincere thanks to our benefactors and various organizations for their generous contributions to support this project. May God bless them abundantly! We thank the parishioners for their hard work and contributions in building the presbytery.

Rev. Fr. Edward Ntunde, the Dean and Parish Priest of Urambo, Tabora opened the newly built house amidst a rejoicing crowd of the Parishioners. Rev. Fr. Provincial blessed the house and Rev. Fr. Joseph Kayanja, the Parish Priest placed the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle of the New Chapel. The occasion was made more solemn by the presence of a good number of leaders of various denominations and laity from Kashishi Parish and also nearby Parishes, together with a good number of MSFS Confreres from various communities.

The blessing and opening ceremony was followed by a short gathering in the Parish Premises during

which the invited guests were entertained by different choirs from the various Sub-Stations of the parish, and the Youth group. This was followed family meal. Heartv Rev. Fr. congratulations to Mathew Thazhathukunnel, Fr. Chinnappan Arokiasamy, Fr. Joseph Maria Kayanja, MSFS confreres of TAKA Apostolic community and all the confreres of the Province, who tirelessly worked hard for the realization of this project. May God bless you all!



(Reported by Fr. Joseph Mary Kayanja, MSFS)

#### **GRADUATION AT LUMEN CHRISTI INSTITUTE**

The 9th convocation of LCI took place on 12th May 2021. Very Rev. Dr. Abraham Vettuvelil, MSFS, the Superior General of the Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales and Chancellor of LCI was the chief guest. The day's programme began with the solemn Eucharistic Celebration presided over by the chief guest. Rev. Dr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, Provincial of East Africa and the delegate of the Superior General and Vice Chancellor of the Institute concelebrated the holy Eucharist along with the members of the staff.

The graduation ceremony began with a silent and procession sombre seventeen graduating students **Formators** of Course and twenty four Philosophy students led by Rev. Dr. Devasia Manalel Rev. Dr. **James** and Panthalanickel, respectively to the podium. Rev. Dr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil. the Director of the Institute



welcomed everyone for the commencement programme.



The seventeen Formators who graduated came from fifteen different Congregations and five different nationalities, such as Burkina Faso, India, Seychelles, Tanzania and Zambia. Among the twentyfour seminarians, which is the highest number of students graduating in one year since the start of Philosophy programme, were students hailing Tanzania, Uganda, Cameroon and Tchad. They belong to our various mission units in Africa,

Camilian Fathers, Adorine Congregation and the dioceses of Kigoma and Condoa. The programme ended with a family meal.

(Reported by Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil MSFS)

#### MINISTRY OF LECTOR AND ACOLYTE



On 1st May, 2021 was indeed a memorable day for the Fransalian Study House Community, Kola. It was a blessed day as twelve of our Brothers received their minor orders, of whom six of them conferred with the were ministry of Acolyte and six of them were conferred with the of Lector. ministry The Ministries were conferred by

Bishop Emeritus Telesphor Mkude in the Chapel of Jordan University College. During his touching homily, the Bishop exhorted the seminarians to grow in love for the Word of God and for the Eucharist as signs of their willingness to embrace these ministries. The celebration was graced by the presence of Superiors and members of various religious communities and the students of Jordan University College.

(Reported by Bro. Level Winner MSFS)

#### PROMOTION OF SCHOLASTICS

The following scholastics are promoted to the respective next stages of their formation as well as to the renewal of vows:

### **Promotion to Priestly Ordination**

- 1. Dn. Brian Wasswa
- 2. Dn. Gonzaga Lubega
- 3. Dn. Joseph Ambongo

### Promoted to fourth year of theology and Final vows

- 1. Bro. Avil Viegas
- 2. Bro. Edward Mgagi

#### **Promoted to third Year Theology and Renewal of Vows**

1. Bro. Okoth Moses

# Promoted to Second Year Theology and Renewal of Vows

- 1. Bro. Collins Barasa Simiyu
- 2. Bro. Fred Bwoba
- 3. Bro. Godwin Nanalo
- 4. Bro. Joseph Mwasa

#### Promoted to First year of Theology and Renewal of vows

- 1. Bro. Dennis William Minja
- 2. Bro. Linto Varghese

#### **Promoted for Regency and Renewal of Vows**

Bro. Eboyu Peter
 Bro. Orikiriza Darius

2. Bro. Ikachuli Dismas 8. Bro. Wakoba John

3. Bro. Lobong Moses 9. Bro. Wamakale Abraham

4. Bro. Masereka Richard 10. Bro. Wangi Pascal

5. Bro. Mnuka N. Lazaro 11. Bro. Wanjala Justine

6. Bro. Nimusiima Xavier

### Promoted to Third Year Philosophy and Renewal of Vows

1. Bro. Issac Mangoye

2. Bro. Lawrence Ssekayi

# Promoted to Second Year Philosophy and Renewal of Vows

1. Bro. Innocent Munishi 4. Bro. Richard Woniala

2. Bro. Joseph Kapungu 5. Bro. Victor Muhangi

3. Bro. Raymond Simon

# **APPOINTMENT OF REGENTS**

1. Bro. Wangi Pascal: Designated for Regency and Theology in Cameroon.

2. Bro. Wamakale Abraham: Designated for Regency and Theology in Cameroon.

3. Bro. Lobong Moses: Fransalianum Novitiate, Kibaha

4. Bro. Nimusiima Xavier: SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda

5. Bro. Wanjala Justine: SFS Junior Seminary, Kihonda

6. Bro. Eboyu Peter: Ipuli Community

7. Bro. Masereka Richard: Ipuli Community

8. Bro. Mnuka N. Lazaro: Bukene Community

9. Bro. Wakoba John: Mwakata Community

10. Bro. Orikiriza Darius: Bissil Community

11. Bro. Ikachuli Dismas: Katani Community

12. Bro. Joseph Lule: Ndagani/Buwooya Seminary

13. Bro. Anthony Kabagambe: Iyolwa Community

#### **FINANCE COMMITTEE**

The following confreres are appointed as members of Finance committee. They will also do the internal auditing:

Fr. Reji Pendanath (Convenor) Fr. Robert Soosai Raj Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal Fr. Simon Nabende

### KINGURVILE PROJECT COMMITTEE

The following members are appointed to develop Kingurvile Project:

Fr. Johnson Pathiyil (Convenor) Fr. Thomas Kochuparampil

Fr. Sebastian Palakudy Fr. Reji Pendanath

Fr. Zachariah Burefero Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel

### **OBITUARY**

Mr. David Otieno (33), brother of Fr. Charles Ouma passed away, on 24.04.2021.

**Msgr. Martin Korpitsch (65),** Vicar General of the Diocese of Eisenstadt, Austria, passed away on 10.05.2021.

Fr. Rijo Francis MSFS (35) of Nagpur Province, passed away on 12.05.2021.

# May God grant them eternal life!

Wishing you once again a happy Fest of the Ascension of our Lord, I remain.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus

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Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS

Provincial - East Africa Province



#### **Salesian Thought**

"After Jesus had shown himself for a little while to the disciples, he ascended up to heaven, and at length a cloud surrounded him, took him and hid him from their eyes. Jesus Christ, then, is hidden in heaven in God. Jesus Christ is our love, and our love is the life of the soul. Therefore our 'life is hidden in God with Christ Jesus, and when Christ who is' our love and therefore our spiritual life 'shall reappear' in the Day of Judgment, we shall also appear 'with him in glory." (TLG, Book VII, Chap. 6)