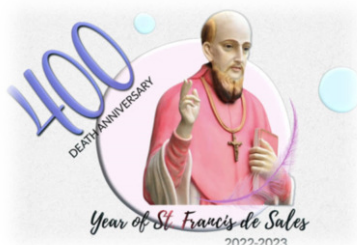


		<h2 style="text-align: center;">MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES</h2> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fransalians - Province of East Africa</b>          Provincial House P. O. Box 12 Morogoro Tanzania          Tel: +255 689 882 711; +255 624 027 880  <a href="http://www.msfs-eastafrica.com">www.msfs-eastafrica.com</a>          e-mail: <a href="mailto:provincialeastafricansfs@gmail.com">provincialeastafricansfs@gmail.com</a></p>	
<b>Provincial Circular EAP – MT.38</b>		<b>Sep 30, 2022</b>	

My dear Confreres!

I wish you all a very happy Founder's day! May the life and example of our beloved founder, Venerable Father Peter Marie Mermier continue to guide us, especially in imbibing the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales in our apostolates and personal life.

### ST. FRANCIS DE SALES AND FR. PETER MERMIER



As we commemorate the 400th death anniversary of our beloved patron St. Francis de Sales, it is imperative for us to reflect upon his influence on our venerable founder Fr. Peter Mermier. Undoubtedly, the missionary zeal and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales moulded the life and ministry of Fr. Mermier. Flagged by religious indifference after the French Revolution and the trauma left by Jansenism, people of Savoy were without any religious instruction for years. It is in this context that

St. Francis de Sales becomes a source of inspiration for Fr. Mermier to renew the faith of the people who were apathetic towards God and Catholic Spirituality.

Fr. Mermier was highly influenced by the life and example of St. Francis de Sales in his missionary endeavours and pastoral ministry. When his Bishop appointed young Fr. Mermier as the parish priest of Châtelard en Bauges, in the mountains of Savoy, all his attempts to revive the faith of the people met with failure due to the apathy of people. In 1821, in an attempt to rouse up his parishioners from their slumber, he decides to preach a mission in the parish with the help of Joseph Marie Favre, a renowned mission preacher. But it was a failure due to the indifference of the people. One fine morning, Fr. Mermier and Fr. Favre fled to the Monastery of the Carthusians, to pray for their obstinate parishioners. The Church bells remained silent and the presbytery was empty. This strange behaviour of their priests at last succeeded in shaking the people out of their apathy.



They went in search of their priests, brought them back to the parish and the mission preaching resumed in full swing and it was a grand success. Fr. Mermier decided to give up all other forms of apostolate and devote himself entirely to the apostolate of preaching and conducting parish missions.

Fr. Mermier breathed the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales at all times. He named the small band of missionaries as “The Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales”. In his letter to Cardinal Sermattei (29.05.1857), Fr. Mermier writes: “In confirming the title “Missionaries of St. Francis de Sales”, through this solemn approval, we will contract a more strict obligation of studying, of acquiring his spirit, of acquiring and imitating his virtues.” In his letter to Fr. Neyret (30.06.1846), Fr. Mermier writes, “it is in honour of the saintly ‘Apostle of Chablais’ that we make use of the tumble-down hovels of the Castle....Let us do it with perfectly pure intentions so that our Congregation may obtain from this perfect model, a little of this spirit of zeal and meekness which will make us die to ourselves in order to live only for God and for the welfare of our brothers as other St. Francis de Sales.”



Fr. Mermier wanted his fellow confreres to be like St. Francis de Sales at all times. He wrote to Fr. Gaiddon (24.02.1849) with regard to following the example of St. Francis de Sales in the missionary apostolate: “Our ministry demands that we show the people, the society, that we are other Saint Francis de Sales, perfectly disinterested, burning with zeal for the salvation of souls, full of compassion at the sight of the evils that afflict the people, without wasting our time in making useless speeches, but imbued with a genuine missionary spirit, an irreproachable doctrine and above everything else a pure life.”

Fr. Mermier, when he wrote to Fr. Cheminal, exhorted his confreres to imitate the outstanding virtues of St. Francis de Sales (29.01.1843): “Ah! How I would like to have something of the patience and gentleness of St. Francis de Sales. I wish them for you and implore the Holy Protector to inspire you with them, to obtain them for you so that we may become similar to him, worthy ministers of Jesus Christ.”

Fr. Mermier promoted unity among the confreres after the example of Jesus Christ and St. Francis de Sales. He wrote to the confreres in La Feuillette (20.09.1842): “You will be perfectly united by doing everything in the most cordial manner as brothers who love one another and have the true zeal of Jesus Christ and of St. Francis de Sales, our glorious and illustrated patron, who desire only the greatest glory of God, the salvation of people and their own salvation.”

The life and example of Fr. Mermier in following the spirit and spirituality of St. Francis de Sales, is our legacy which we need to cherish in our life by becoming true witness of Christ in the contemporary world and promoting values of the Gospel.

**HAPPY FOUNDER’S DAY!**

## **EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL CHAPTER**

The Extraordinary General Chapter will take place from November 8th to 14th, 2022 at Fransalian Seminary, Pune, India. Please continue to pray for the success of the Chapter.

## **NEW PROVINCIAL FOR THE DIBRUGARH PROVINCE IN INDIA**

Fr. Thomas Aerethedath is appointed as the new Provincial of Dibrugarh Province. He was installed as the Provincial on September 15, 2022. Hearty congratulations and best wishes!

## **GRATITUDE**

The Province of East Africa expresses its deep gratitude to Fr. Emmanuel Mappilaparampil, who was Regional Superior first and then the Provincial of Dibrugarh Province. We thank him for his generous cooperation with and support for our Province. May God bless his future undertakings!

## **NEW PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF USA VICE-PROVINCE**

Fr. Antony Bonela (Provincial Superior)  
Fr. Augustine Tharappel (Admonitor)  
Fr. Regi Narikunnel (Councillor)  
Fr. Noble Dominic Ambalathuruthel (Bursar)  
Fr. Jose Kumbloickal (Consultor)  
Fr. Anthony Rajesh. S. (Consultor)

## **NEW PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION OF FRANCO-SWISS PROVINCE**

Fr. Jean-Yves Le Tue (Provincial Superior)  
Fr. John Hepuni (Admonitor)  
Fr. Scaria Joseph (Councillor)  
Fr. Jose Puthiyaparampil (Councillor)  
Fr. Samuel Devaraj (Bursar)

## UPCOMING PROGRAMMES IN THE PROVINCE

Date	Programme	Place
05.10.2022	Blessing of Hostel, Bissil School	Bissil
06.10.2022	Inauguration of the new Parish at Bomba Mbili	Bomba Mbili
21.10.2022	Perpetual Profession	Kola
22.10.2022	Diaconate	JUCO
12.11.2022	Golden Jubilee of Osia Parish	Osia
14.12.2022	Stewardship Forum Meeting and Budget presentation	LCI
15.12.2022	Education and SAIM Forum Meetings	LCI
24.01.2023	Silver Jubilee of Fransalian House, Kola & Sacerdotal Silver Jubilee of Frs. Wilson Packiam and Mathew Thazhathukunnel	Kola
25.01.2023	Superiors Forum Meeting & Mission Forum Meeting	Provincial House
26.01.2023	Formation Forum Meeting	Provincial House

## FIRST PROFESSION

On August 27, 2022 twelve Novices made their First commitment to the Lord (Tchad-Cameroon Delegation: 8; and Mozambique Delegation: 4) at St. Francis de Sales Church, Mkuza, Tanzania. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel, the Provincial of East Africa province presided over the Eucharistic celebration and received the vows. Hearty congratulations to all our newly professed confreres as we welcome them to the Fransalian Family.

Sincere appreciation and gratitude to Fr. Stephen Ubadesi, Director of Novices and Fr. Rakesh Ekka, Assistant Director of Novices who accompanied the novices during their canonical year of novitiate and assisted them to discern and grow in their vocation to religious life in the Fransalian Family.





## GOLDEN JUBILEE OF AGURURU PARISH



On September 03, 2022 St. Bruno Sserunkuma Catholic Church Agururu (Tororo Archdiocese, Uganda) celebrated its golden jubilee with the theme: "Be holy for I am holy". The parish was erected in 1970. The Jubilee celebrations could not take place in 2020 due to covid. The church compound was teemed with Christians, old and young. The Jubilee celebration began with the blessing of the Jubilee gate by Archbishop Emmanuel Obbo. During the Holy Mass over 600 candidates received the sacrament of confirmation and three couples received matrimony.

The Archbishop in his homily thanked the priests who have served in Agururu and all the Christians for the spiritual and material developments of the parish. A cake was cut by the Archbishop together with the priest who had served longest in the parish, Msgr. Hippolytus Omodoi, Fr. Sunny Mattathil msfs, and all the elderly parishioners (70-100 years). The occasion was also graced by distinguished leaders from cultural, political and civil fields. The Adhola King, Moses Steven Owor, in his speech spoke about



Angelina Lyaka, a girl who died from the brutal wounds inflicted on her by a man who wanted to take her as his second wife. She refused to comply because she wanted to remain faithful to God. Her remains were buried in the compound of the Agururu Church. The King witnessed and helped Fr. Willemen to document the miracles that were experienced through the intercession of this girl Angelina Lyaka. The King requested the Archbishop to support the cause of Angelina for beatification.



During the celebration a mini fundraising was conducted for finishing the construction of a Church in one of the Substations. May the Lord continue to bless Agururu Parish!



(Reported by Fr. Stephen Mutisya MSFS)

## SILVER JUBILEE OF BUKENE SCHOOL



“Give thanks to the Lord, for He is Good!” On 17th September 2022, St Francis de Sales Primary School at Bukene celebrated its Silver Jubilee. The school was established in 1998 and is managed by the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales of the province of East Africa. St Francis de Sales School Bukene was the first primary school of the Missionaries of St Francis de Sales in the continent of Africa. The school started with 27 pupils in kindergarten and the total strength of

the school this year is 378. On this day of jubilee, the 17th batch of class VII students graduated from the school. Jubilee is an occasion to celebrate, to recall the marvellous ways in which the school has fulfilled its mission in imparting education and in implanting moral and spiritual values and discipline, to help in building up leaders who will disseminate cultural and moral values which our society and country need today.

The school has grown from strength to strength under the able guidance of its past managers. We express our sincere gratitude to them, Fr. Sunny Vettickal, Fr. K.V.S Prasad, Fr. Tomy Kattikkanayil, Fr. Johnson Nepolean, Fr. Sijo John Pendanathu, Fr. Jomat Kollappallil, Fr. Sebastian Nirappel, Fr. Jonathan Mwema and Fr Siljo Cherian.



We gratefully remember our beloved provincials, past and present, Fr Thomas Kochuparambil, Fr Thomas Olickal, Fr Johnson Kallidukkil and Fr Mathew Thazhathukunnel for their support in times of various needs of the school.



The Holy Mass was presided over by Fr Mathew Thazhathukunnel, who was also the chief guest of the jubilee celebration. The celebration was blessed with the presence of Fr Sunny Vettickal (the founder of SFS School) who was the guest of honour of our programme. We are grateful to all fathers, sisters, religious, parents and the faithful of Bukene for their presence and support.



(Reported by Fr. Siljo Cherian MSFS)



## HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

**Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal** has obtained PhD in Business Management from the University of Cape Town. Hearty congratulations!

The book of **Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil** on **Empowering the Individual: A path towards eliminating ethnic conflicts** is translated into six other languages: German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese and Russian. Hearty congratulations!

## HEARTY WELCOME TO EAST AFRICA

**Fr. Ajish Cheeramban** from Tchad-Cameroon Delegation and **Fr. Bala Jesu Rao** from Vizag Province have joined the staff of Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha.

Hearty welcome dear Fathers and we wish you an enriching time in East Africa!

## SACERDOTAL SILVER JUBILARIANS



**Fr. Wilson Packiam** was born on 8th June, 1971 at Kulipirai, Tamil Nadu, India. His parents are Mr. Packiam and Mrs. Ubagaram. After completing his secondary school, he joined SFS Seminary, Pudukottai in 1986. He did his Novitiate in Salesianum, Visakapatnam and made his First Vows on 10th June 1990. He pursued his Philosophical Studies in Suvidya College from 1990-1993. He did regency in Telam Mission, Assam. He did his Theological studies at St. Paul's Major Seminary, Kipalapala and in JDV Pune during 1994 -1998. He made his Final Vows on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1996 and was ordained a priest on 28th April 1998.

### Priestly Ministry

No.	Places of Appointment	Designation	Year
1.	Itaga, Tanzania	Assistant Parishpriest	1998 - 2000
2.	Nürnberg, Germany	Assistant Parishpriest	2000 - 2005
3.	Lichtenfels, Germany	Assistant Parishpriest	2005 - 2006
4.	Coburg, Germany	Parishpriest	2006 - 2011
5.	Seinsheim, Germany	Parishpriest	2011 -



**Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel** was born on 17th July, 1971 at Poovarany, Kerala, India. His parents are Mr. T.M. Thomas and Mrs. Mariakutty Thomas. After completing his High School studies, he joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in 1986. He did his Novitiate in Salesianum, Visakapatnam and made his First Vows on 10th June 1990. He pursued his Philosophical Studies in Suvidya College from 1990 -1993. His regency was in Vinaya Bhavan Seminary, Thamarassery, Kerala. He did his Theological studies at St. Paul's Major Seminary, Kipalapala and JDV Pune from 1994 -1998. He made his Final Vows on 4th June 1996 and was ordained a priest on 22nd April 1998.

### Priestly Ministry

No.	Places of Appointment	Designation	Year
01	SFS Bhavan, Angamaly	Superior and Vocation Promoter	1998 - 2001
02	Frasalianum Novitiate, Kibaha	Socius; Director of Pre-Novices	2001 - 2002
03	Provincial House, Morogoro	Provincial Bursar and Manager of Fransalian School, Kigurunyembe	2002 -2005
04	Mischendorf, Kirchfidisch, Hannesdorf (Austria)	Asst. Parish Priest	2006 - 2007
05	Großpetersdorf, Neumarkt im T., Jabing (Austria)	Asst. Parish Priest	2007 - 2009
06	Unterrabnitz and Piringsdorf (Austria)	Priest-in-Charge	2009 - 2011
07	Lumen Christi Institute, Arusha	Director	2011 -2017
08	Provincial House, Morogoro	Provincial	2017

### DEPARTURE FROM THE CONGREGATION

**Marvin Hango** and **Jonathan Pius** (Scholastics at LCI) left the Congregation on their own. We wish them all the best in their future life!

### REGENTS

**Bro. Darius Orikiriza:** Agururu Community

**Bro. Ngono Basile Arnol:** Ipuli Community



## TRANSFERS AND APPOINTMENTS

**Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal** is appointed as the parish priest of Our Lady of Rosary Parish, Bomba Mbili in the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam with effect from August 06, 2022.

**Fr. Peter Johnson Napoleon** is designated to be appointed as the assistant parish priest of Our Lady of Rosary Parish, Bomba Mbili in the Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam with effect from October 15, 2022.

**Fr. Ibrahim Kissegerwa Musajja** is designated to be appointed as the parish priest of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Kalagala in the Diocese of Lugazi with effect from October 05, 2022. Fr. Ibrahim will be a member of SFS Seminary community, Buwooya.

**Fr. Edward Mgagi** is designated to be appointed as the assistant parish priest of St. Jude Parish, Osia in the Archdiocese of Tororo with effect from September 22, 2022.

**Fr. Avil Veigas** is designated to be appointed as the assistant parish priest of Our Lady of Grace Parish, Lububu with effect from September 26, 2022.

## NEW ADDRESSES

**Fr. David Susai MSFS**

Kirchpl 16  
97753 Karlstadt am Main  
Germany

**Fr. Jose Abraham Eriyanickal MSFS**

St. Joseph Catholic Church  
220 Church Street  
St. Joseph, MI, 49085-1129  
USA

## HOLIDAYS

Fr. Dennis Dindi:	September 29 – October 24
Fr. Joseph Kayanja:	October 1 – November 1
Fr. Lubega Gonzaga:	October 1 – 30
Fr. Sebastian Nirappel:	October 12 – November 13
Fr. James Panthalanickal:	October 21 – November 24
Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel:	October 29 – December 1

## OBITUARY

**Mrs. Pauline Giefing** (90), mother of Fr. Joseph Giefing passed away on 18.07.2022.

**Fr. Mathew Mannukuzhumpil** (72) of Vizag Province passed away on 08.08.2022.

**May God grant them eternal life!**



## MY TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Date	Programme
September 30	Bissil
October 01	Mlolongo/Katani
October 02 - 3	Chera/Ndagani
October 04	Mlolongo
October 05	Blessing of the Hostel at SFS School, Bissil
October 06	Opening of the new parish at Bomba Mbili
October 9 - 19	LCI, Arusha
October 21	Perpetual Profession, Morogoro
October 22	Diaconate Ordination, Morogoro
October 29 – December 01	India

Once again wishing you all a Happy Founder's Day, I remain.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS,  
Provincial - East Africa Province

### Salesian Thought

Our life is no longer ours but belongs to the one who gained it for us by his death. We should live no longer for ourselves but for him: not in ourselves, but in him; not for ourselves but for him. (TLG, Bk.VII, Ch.8)