



# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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LIVE JESUS

Provincial Circular EAP – JP 5

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**My dear confreres,**

Fraternal greetings to all of you!

“And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth” (Jn. 1:14). We celebrated the Feast of Christ the King on the last Sunday of the Ordinary Time of the Year! God entered into a covenant with Abraham and his offsprings to be God to them. (Gen 17:7-8). He reiterated this covenant when He spoke to Moses, “I will take you as my people, and I will be your God (Exod. 6:7). For God, the people of Israel were the treasured possession among all the peoples. The Israelites had been freed from the rule of an earthly king in Egypt. Israel had made a covenant with Yahweh that He would be their God and they would be His people (see Lev. 26:12). Nevertheless, they turned away from the Living God and went after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice. So, all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, **such as all the other nations have**" (1Sam 8:5). God had already been their Judge (Deuteronomy 32:36), gone out before them (Exodus 13:21), and fought their battles (Exodus 14:14). But they wanted a king “**the same as all the other nations**” (1 Samuel 8:5). And **they rejected their true King**, the God of heaven and earth.

The people of Israel wanted to have a king “**same**” as all other nations. But Jesus as king is “**different**” from other kings. We do not find him in a palace, reigning on a throne or ruling his people with might. He is not far away from his people. Rather, he is one among them (Jn 1.14). Born to ordinary parents, laid in a manger, a refugee due to the wicked designs of king Herod, brought up in ordinary surroundings, rejected by his own people, and suffering for being truthful, **Jesus is like one of us**. But he is mocked as "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews." (Jn. 19:19). Nevertheless, he accepts that he is a KING. But he says, "**My kingdom is not from this world**. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here." (Jn. 18:36).

If we accept Jesus as king, he must reign over our hearts. His kingdom should be among us (Lk. 17:21). If Christ is to be born in our hearts and among us during this Christmas, then we should **not be the same**. We should live by the values of Christ and **be different** from the world. I wish you all a very happy Christmas!

### **Local Governing Bodies (LGB)**

For the time-being, LGBs have been reconstituted for the schools, VTCs and Formation Communities.

LGB is constituted to initiate, envisage and plan developmental projects in a community. It makes proposals to the Provincial Administration about the feasibility of a project. It is a consultative body. The Provincial, the Provincial Bursar, the Provincial Councillor in-charge of the respective Apostolate are ex-officio members of the LGB. In Kenya and Uganda, the respective Mission Coordinators will also be ex-officio members of LGB. It meets at least four times a year. The minutes of the meeting has to be sent to the Provincial by the Chairman of LGB. Provincial Statutes 7.62-64 give us the policy of the Province regarding LGB. Here are the reconstituted LGBs in the Province.

1. Bombambili School: Frs. Sheejan K, Sylvester Sudhakar, Pius K
2. Mji Mpya School: Frs. Pius K, Gregory Mutisya, Sheejan K
3. Mkuza School: Frs. Kirimi, Nelson V, Patrick Titus
4. Kigurunyembe School: Frs. Thomas Chozhithara, Reji, Richard Tamaro
5. Junior Seminary: Frs. Richard Tamaro, Tomichan, Regi
6. Dumila School: Frs. Lubega, T. Kochu, Richard Tamaro
7. Kagongwa School: Frs. Lawrence Sebowwa, Dennis Dindi, Avil Vegas
8. Isaka School: Frs. Lawrence Sebowwa, Dennis Dindi, Siljo A
9. Mwakata VTC: Frs. Dennis Dindi, Lawrence Sebowwa, Sunny Mattam
10. Bukene School: Frs. Siljo A, Leonard M, Charles Ouma
11. Ipuli Schools: Frs. J. Poikunnel, Moses Okoth, Siljo A
12. Mlolongo VTC: Frs. Nirappel, Jonathan Muema, Joby M,
13. Bissil School: Frs. Amal N, Augustine M, Joby M
14. Katani School: Frs. Joby M, Nirappel, Augustine M
15. Ndagani Spirtuality Centre: Frs. Palakudy, Aristides, Francis K
16. Salesan School: Frs. Francis K, Michael Mwangi, Sebastian Palakudy
17. Iyolwa School: Frs. Sunny Vetty, Gerald Mbirizi, Kayanja, Santhosh
18. Buwooya School: Frs. Robert Soosairaj, Ssentamu, Innocent Ngowi
19. Buwooya Seminary & Kalagala parish: Frs. Ssentamu, Robert, Ibrahim, Sunny Vettickal
20. Fransalianum Novitiate: Frs. Patrick Titus, Rakesh Ekka, Nelson V
21. Fransalian Seminary, Kola: Frs. Thomas Chozhithara, Regi, Richard Tamaro

## **Reconstituted Forums**

Forums are meant for the systematic planning and coordination of mission and life of the Province. It is a consultative body. Please read 7.56-61 of the Province Statutes for details. Here is a list of the reconstituted forums.

### **I. Superiors' Forum**

1. Fr. James Panthalanickel (Convenor & Chairman)
2. Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal
3. Fr. Pius Kochuparambil
4. Fr. Nelson Vijayakumar
5. Fr. Patrick Titus
6. Fr. Thomas Chozhithara
7. Fr. Richard Tamaro
8. Fr. Simon Peter Nabende
9. Fr. Reji Pندانath
10. Fr. Thomas Kochuparambil
11. Fr. Stephen Upadeshi
12. Fr. Sebastian Anthony Samy
13. Fr. Jacob Thekkekara
14. Fr. A. Robert
15. Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil
16. Fr. Sunny Mattathil
17. Fr. Siljo Aupadan
18. Fr. Charles Ouma
19. Fr. Joseph Poikunnel
20. Fr. Lawrence Sebowa
21. Fr. Sebastian Nirappel
22. Fr. Francis Kallikatt
23. Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil
24. Fr. Augustine Mangatt
25. Fr. Sebastian Palakudy
26. Fr. Stephen Mutisya
27. Fr. Santhosh Paul Prakashbhavan
28. Fr. Joseph Kayanja
29. Fr. Innocent Ngowi
30. Fr. Ssentamu Ruthital
31. Fr. Thomas Olickal
32. Fr. David Soosai
33. Fr. Stephen Gerald
34. Fr. Zachariah Burofero

## **II. Formators Forum**

1. Fr. James Panthalanickel (Chairman)
2. Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil (Convenor & Vice-Chairman)
3. Fr. Johnson Pathiyil
4. Fr. Thomas Chozhithara
5. Fr. Patrick Titus
6. Fr. Ssentamu Ruthitical
7. Fr. Richard Tamaro
8. Fr. Michael Mwangi

## **III. Education Forum**

1. Fr. James Panthalanickel (Chairman)
2. Fr. Sunny Vettickal (Convenor & Vice-Chairman)
3. Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal
4. Fr. Pius Kochuparambil
5. Fr. Japhet Kirimi
6. Fr. Thomas Chozhithara
7. Fr. Richard Tamaro
8. Fr. Lubega Alois
9. Fr. Kenneth Maina
10. Fr. Joseph Poikunnel
11. Fr. Lawrence Sebowa
12. Fr. Siljo Aupadan
13. Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil
14. Fr. Francis Kallikkatt
15. Fr. Robert Soosairaj

## **IV. Mission Forum**

1. Fr. James Panthalanickel (Chairman)
2. Fr. Sebastian Anthony Samy (Convenor, Vice-Chairman)
3. Fr. Sheejan Kallarackal
4. Fr. Pius Kochuparambil
5. Fr. Nelson Vijayakumar
6. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel
7. Fr. Simon Peter Nabende
8. Fr. Thomas Kochuparambil
9. Fr. Stephen Upadeshi
10. Fr. Jacob Thekkekara
11. Fr. A. Robert
12. Fr. Sunny Mattathil
13. Fr. Siljo Aupadan

- 14.Fr. Charles Ouma
- 15.Fr. Amal Neerolickal
- 16.Fr. Sebastian Nirappel
- 17.Fr. Francis Kallikatt
- 18.Fr. Stephen Mutisya
- 19.Fr. Santhosh Paul Prkashbhavan
- 20.Fr. Joseph Kayanja
- 21.Fr. Innocent Ngowi
- 22.Fr. Ibrahim Musseja
- 23.Fr. Francis Devadoss
- 24.Fr. Jose Eriyanickal
- 25.Fr. Kurian Kollappillil
- 26.Fr. Tomy Kattikanayil
- 27.Fr. Chinnappan Arokiasamy
- 28.Fr. Jomon Vellachalil
- 29.Fr. Wilson Pakkiam
- 30.Fr. David Soosai
- 31.Fr. Stephen Gerald
- 32.Fr. Zachariah Burofero
- 33.Fr. Jobin Karottukampadam

#### **V. SAIM Forum**

1. Fr. James Panthalanickel (Chairman)
2. Fr. Innocent Ngowi (Convenor & Vice-Chairman)
3. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel
4. Fr. Thomas Chozhithara
5. Fr. Dennis Dindi
6. Fr. Moses Okoth
7. Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil
8. Fr. Sebastian Palakudy
9. Fr. Sebastian Nirappel
- 10.Fr. Martin Pendanath

#### **VI. Stewardship Forum**

1. Fr. James Panthalanickel (Chairman)
2. Fr. Reji Pendanath (Convenor & Vice-chairman)
3. Fr. Augustine Mangatt
4. Fr. Sunny Vettickal
5. Fr. Tomychan Perumanoor
6. Fr. Sijo Pendanath

7. Fr. Sylvester Sudhakar
8. Fr. Gregory Mutisya
9. Fr. Japhet Kirimi
10. Fr. Rakesh Ekka
11. Fr. Thomas Chozhithara
12. Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel
13. Fr. Lubega Alois
14. Fr. Johnson Napoleon
15. Fr. John Britto
16. Fr. Francis Aloo
17. Fr. Williams Sebastian
18. Fr. Dennis Dindi
19. Fr. Avil Vegas
20. Fr. Leonard Myusembi
21. Fr. Moses Okoth
22. Fr. Brian Wasswe
23. Fr. Amal Neerolickal
24. Fr. Jonathan Muema
25. Fr. Joby Maruthomalayil
26. Fr. Michael Mwangi
27. Fr. Aristides Danda
28. Fr. Robert Soosairaj
29. Fr. Joseph Ambongo
30. Fr. Francis Kyule
31. Fr. Jobin Karottukampadam

### **Mission Development Officer**

Fr. Reji Pendanath, the provincial bursar is appointed as the Mission Development Officer with immediate effect.

### **Projects Coordinator**

Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel is appointed as the Projects Coordinator with immediate effect.

### **Budgets**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of you for your very positive response to my invitation to send the annual budgets to the Provincial Bursar. He will contact you soon to give you the feedback regarding the budgets.

Based on the recommendation of the stewardship forum of 2022, the then provincial council had decided to pool together our resources. It will be operational from the beginning of the year 2024. Accordingly, each institution will have an OPERATIONAL ACCOUNT for its daily running, which will be operated by the local community. Each institution will also have a MAIN ACCOUNT, which will be the existing account through which one collects the fee and other income. This main account will be operated jointly by the local community and the provincial administration (namely provincial and the provincial bursar). For daily operations, the budgeted fund will be transferred to the operational account quarterly from the main account according to the annual budget.

### **Salary Scale of Employees**

Manager of any school or VTC who wants to make any change to the salary scale of the employees needs to consult the Provincial Superior and Provincial Bursar. Any change in the salary scale needs to be approved by the Provincial. Please do not make any increase in the salary at an individual confrere's own will.

The salary of new employees appointed should not exceed the ceiling set by the province. To know the ceiling set by the province for each school or VTC please consult the Provincial Bursar. For the increment of salary which may happen each year, please consult the Provincial Bursar.

I would like every School and VTC to send to the Provincial Superior and the Provincial Bursar a copy of the existing salary scale with immediate effect.

### **Parish Mission Preaching (PMP)**

According to the Province Statutes, the councillor-in-charge of Missions organizes Parish Mission Preaching in the province (See Province Statutes 7.22). Accordingly, Fr. Antonysamy Sebastian will be the leader of PMP in the province. The members of the PMP are Fr. Antonysamy Sebastian (convenor), Fr. Innocent Ngowi, Fr. Francis Indumuli Aloo, Fr. Sebastian Palakudy, and Fr. Michael Mwangi.

### **Fransalian Associates in East Africa**

On December 4, 2023 a meeting of all the confreres who are involved in organizing Fransalian Associates was held at Mlolongo parish, Kenya. Fathers who attended the SPA program were invited to this meeting. After this meeting, a letter regarding Fransalian Associates has been sent to all.

Parishes named after St. Francis De Sales will officially start Fransalian Associates on the Feast of SFS occurring in January 2024. The celebration of the feast of SFS is an appropriate occasion to start the Fransalian Associates in those parishes. Some such parishes may be celebrating the feast of SFS on January 21 and some others on January 28. This means that the confreres who are responsible should begin the preparations for

starting the Fransalian Associates much in advance. All other parishes will start the Fransalian Associates in their parishes by March 31, 2024.

### **Regents' Half-Yearly Evaluation**

On December 6-7, 2023 all the regents gathered in LCI, Arusha for a half-yearly evaluation and seminar. I thank all the resource persons who animated the seminar as well as the Councilor-in-charge of Formation who organized the meeting and personally met all the regents.

### **Fransalian Community in Graz**

As you know, the province of East Africa is establishing a new community in the diocese of Graz, Austria with all due permissions. Fr. A. Stephen Gerald and Fr. Francis Kyule have moved in to the new place. Fr. Stephen Gerald will formally assume the office of the superior of the local community on January 21, 2024. I have requested Rev. Fr. Johnson Kallidukkil, the Assistant Superior General to officially witness this occasion. We wish Fr. Stephen Gerald and Fr. Francis Kyule all the blessings. May their life and service bear witness to the Love of God and the Charism of our congregation in the diocese of Graz, Austria!

### **Fr. Devadoss Francis**

The General Administration has “arrived at a consensus that Fr. Francis can work in the South East India Province, while being a member in East Africa Province based on a specific contract for a certain number of years - which can be renewable.” The South East India Province will appoint Fr. Devadoss Francis in their province while he will be member of the East Africa Province with all the voting rights. A contract is being worked out. We wish Fr. Francis all the blessings of God for his ministry in the South East India Province!

### **The Land at Mlolongo**

The land where the secondary school at Mlolongo is situated has been allotted by the Land Commission of Kenya to the Congregation of the Missionaries of St. Francis De Sales Registered Trustees. Congratulations to Fr. Sebastian Nirappel, Fr. Jonathan Muema and all others for their hard work and commitment.

### **Silver Jubilee Celebration**

Silver jubilee celebrations of Frs. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil, Fr. Sebastian Palakudy and Fr. Sebastian Nirappel was held on December 4, 2023 at St. Francis De Sales Church, Katani, Kenya. Congratulations to them for their selfless service as priests for the past 25 years.

### **New Provincial Curia of Nagpur Province**

1. Fr Agnelo Fernandes (Admonitor & Councillor in-charge of Mission)
2. Fr Sandeep Tirkey (Councillor in-charge of Formation)

3. Fr Joseph Kailamangalam (Councillor in-charge of SAIM)
4. Fr Allen Gonsalves (Councillor in-charge of Education)
5. Fr Selbestar Xalxo (Provincial Bursar)

### **New Provincial Curia of Pune Province**

1. Fr Ramesh George (Admonitor & Councillor in-charge of Formation)
2. Fr Austin Joy (Councillor in-charge of Mission)
3. Fr Roxy Fernandes (Councillor in-charge of SAIM)
4. Fr Daniel Paraste (Councillor in-charge of Education)
5. Fr Tony Premanand (Provincial Bursar)

Congratulations to the newly elected Provincial Curia of Nagpur and Pune Provinces. We wish them God's abundant blessings in leading the province to greater heights!

### **General Chapter 2025 – Study Paper 1**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the Apostolic communities and their convenors for gathering together, discussing the Study Paper 1 and sending me the reports in due time. I do appreciate your concern and cooperation!

### **Gratitude and Blessings**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all who handed over various offices and those who assumed them in the last few months. You have been serving or begun to serve the congregation and its ministry in various capacities. Thank you for your sincere service. May God bless you all!

### **Congratulations**

- To Fr. Thomas Chozhithara MSFS for getting a teaching post in JUCO.
- To Fr. Clement Sudhakar for being the best student for the Bachelor of Law, Makumira, 2023
- To our Schools which performed excellently well in the primary school exams both in Tanzania and Kenya.
- To Bukene Fransalian Community for blessing and inaugurating two outstation churches in K/nglanga and Mkulima-kidete.
- To Bro. Desiderio Joao Deveriasse MSFS of Mozambique delegation for making the Final Vows and receiving the Order of Diaconate on November 24 and 25 respectively.
- To Ipuli School for the confirmation of the children.

### **My travel to India**

I am travelling to India on December 26, 2023. While I am in India, I will be in our community in Ankamaly when Fr. Martin Pendanath takes charge as the director of the

Retirement Home there. I will also meet with Fr. Devadoss Francis on December 27, 2023. I plan to be back to Tanzania on January 19, 2024.

### **Delegate of the Provincial**

During my absence from East Africa, Fr. Sunny Vettickal will be the delegate of the Provincial.

### **Obituary**

1. Fr. Gabriel Ashindu, new priest of Fransiscan Missionaries of Hope, died on 8.11.2023
2. Fr. Peregrina Da'silva MSFS died on: 10-11-2023 (pune province)
3. Mr. Eleme Wolfgang (85), father of Bro. Basile, died in November, 2023
4. Trinity, the new-born niece of Bro. Pascal Wangi, died on 20.11.2023
5. Mr. Mbyemire Gratsiano (60 years), father of Novice Denis Atuheire, died on 21.11.2023
6. Mr. Tsasse Maurice (67), father of Bro. Christian Tsasse, died on 25.11.2023

### **Concluding Thoughts**

May our life together in the communities as Fransalian confreres reflect the love and concern of the Holy Family at Nazareth! "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (Jn. 13:35). In the early Church, Tertullian tells us that others were struck by the witness of Christian love. "See how they love one another!" they would remark. Our patron invites us to do everything by love. May Jesus and his values be the source of inspiration for all of us! May St. Francis de Sales intercede for us to live in love as Brothers. I wish you, once again, a very happy Christmas and all the blessings for a bright new year!

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

*James*

Father James Panthalanickel MSFS  
Provincial – MSFS East Africa

