



# MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa

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LIVE JESUS

Provincial Circular EAP – JP 12

April 19, 2025

**My dear confreres,**

Fraternal greetings to all of you!

“Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed.” (Jn. 20:8). Seeing like “the other disciple,” perhaps, can help us believe in the Risen Jesus! Peter also had seen the empty tomb like the other disciple. But, according to the gospel of John, it was the other disciple who saw the empty tomb and believed that Jesus is risen. The other disciple is often mentioned in John as the disciple whom Jesus loved (Jn 13:23, 19:26, 20:2, and 21:7, 20-24). LOVE forms the basis of FAITH. Jesus loved the other disciple. The other disciple loved Jesus. Let us place our names in the place of “the other disciple.”

Easter reminds us of God’s love, compassion, forgiveness and hope. Jesus redeemed us by shedding his blood for us. He rose from death establishing the power of life over death. The death of Jesus brings hope and joy of new life in the mystery of his resurrection. It should encourage us to introspect our life and enable us to live a life with a renewed commitment. In the year of jubilee, let us live with renewed commitment and let us walk together as pilgrims of hope showing our compassion and forgiveness to others!

I wish you all a very happy Easter! Live Jesus!

## **Convenors of Apostolic Communities**

Fr. Japhet Kirimi – Dar es Salaam Apostolic Community  
Fr. Thomas Chozhithara – Morogoro Apostolic Community  
Fr. Siljo Aupadan – MODOA Apostolic Community.  
Fr. Jacob Thekkekara – Arusha Apostolic Community  
Fr. Joseph Poikunnel – TAKA Apostolic Community  
Fr. Antonysamy Sebastian – Kenya Apostolic Community  
Fr. Robert Soosairaj – Uganda Apostolic Community

## **Secretaries of Apostolic Communities**

Fr. Edward Mgi – Dar es Salaam Apostolic Community  
Fr. Simon Peter Nabende – Morogoro Apostolic Community

Fr. Alois Lubega – MODOA Apostolic Community.  
Fr. Johnson Pathiyil – Arusha Apostolic Community  
Fr. Godwin Nanalo– TAKA Apostolic Community  
Fr. Michael Mwangi – Kenya Apostolic Community  
Fr. Joseph Ambongo – Uganda Apostolic Community

### **The Spirit of the General Chapter XXI**

The Superior General has published the Call of General Chapter XXI in his circular SG JK 2. Please read it again and again so that we are constantly reminded of the need to implement it. The recently held Forum Meetings where confreres from almost all the communities participated proved to be an occasion to discuss in details the action plan of the GC XXI. The Superiors Forum Meeting had an input session by Fr. Thomas Chozhithara one of the delegates of GC XXI. It discussed in detail the ways to live by and implement the spirit of the General Chapter. I request all the confreres to put the spirit of the GC XXI into practice!

### **The Cause of the Founder**

The Closing Session of the Diocesan Phase of the cause of our Founder for the approval of his heroic virtues will be held on May 6, 2025 at 10.30 hours in Annecy, France. Please fulfil what the Superior General has requested each confrere to do, on this day. Let us pray through the intercession of our Founder that we may imbibe his spirit and the spirit of our Patron!

### **Thanks be to God for giving us water**

We could manage to get plenty of water in the new boreholes dug in the Junior Seminary, Morogoro and Dodoma School Land! We thank God for his blessing!

### **Convent for SKD Sisters in FSC, Morogoro**

Construction of a convent for SKD Sisters who are rendering their service at the Fransalian Spirituality Centre (FSC), Morogoro has started. The foundation of the building was blessed by the Provincial in the presence of other Fathers, Sisters, students and workers on March 14, 2025.

### **New Mission in Eldoret**

On 25.03.2025 Fr. Michael Mwangi MSFS assumed the charge of the new MSFS mission in the diocese of Eldoret. This centre, in the parish of Osorongai entrusted to the MSFS, is located in Kipkaren. It will be declared as St. Francis de Sales Parish on 09.11.2025! Let us pray for the success of this new mission!

### **Regents' Half-Yearly Meeting**

An evaluative online meeting of the regents was held on March 24, 2025. Fr. Thomas Kochalumchuvattil, the Councillor-in-charge of Formation organized the meeting. All the regents and the Provincial attended the meeting!

### **Visitation of Fransalian Communities in Uganda**

Fr. Provincial and the provincial bursar made canonical visitation of all the communities in Uganda from March 28-April 5, 2025. I thank all the communities for their availability and the evaluation of their lives and ministries.

### **New Dormitory in Fransalian School, Dumila**

The foundation stone for building dormitory for the Fransalian School, Dumila was blessed by Fr. A. Robert, the superior and parish priest of Dumila on 03.04.2025 in the presence of Fr. Alois Lubega, Sisters, teachers, students and workers!

### **Forum Meetings and Council Meeting**

As scheduled the Formators Forum Meeting (April 08); Superiors' Forum Meeting (April 09); Mission Forum Meeting (April 10) and the Council Meeting (April 11-12) took place in LCI, Arusha. I thank the Fransalian Community in Arusha for hosting all the meetings. I thank all the Fathers for their participation in the meetings!

### **Welcome to Fathers**

Fr. Kurian Kollapallil MSFS visited the province from March 6-26, 2025 and Fr. Chinnappan Arokiasamy MSFS is visiting the province from April 21, 2025. We welcome them wholeheartedly!

The contract of Fr. Wilson Pakkiam MSFS with the diocese of Bamberg, Germany will end on the first of September and he is returning to the province after 25 years of ministry in Germany. We thank him for his faithful service there, his commitment to the province and welcome him to the territory of East Africa.

### **Assistant Parish Priest of Isaka, Kahama Diocese**

Fr. Lawrence Sebowa is appointed as the assistant parish priest of Isaka, Kahama, Tanzania

### **MSAF Meeting**

The next MSAF meeting will take place in Zambia in the second half of July 2025.

### **Ordinations**

Ordination of Dn. Linto Vargheese is on August 16, 2025 and that of Dn. Mathew Divoda of SEIP is on August 22, 2025.

### **A Novice from Brazil**

Gildasio Trindade Dutra, from Brazil province, will start the novitiate in Kibaha with the batch of novices of 2025-2026. He is expected to arrive in Kibaha in the month of May, 2025

### **Visit to Southern African Region**

From April 22 to May 22 Fr. James Panthalanickel and Fr. Joseph Poikunnel will visit the MSFS missions of South Africa and Namibia as part of their sacerdotal silver jubilee

Fr. James Panthalanickel will preach a Constitutional Retreat to the MSFS Confreres of Southern African Region from April 28 to May 03, 2025. Fr. Joseph Poikunnel will attend this retreat.

### **Thanks to Fr. Abraham Mutoro**

Fr. Abraham Mutoro is going to South Africa on April 22, 2025. We thank him very specially for his presence with us in East Africa Province during his formation and his life as a new priest. We thank him for his dedicated service in Kikunde and Lukobe as a new priest. We wish him all the blessings as he undertakes his ministry in South Africa!

### **DSM Heritage Retreat 2025**

Fr. Sebastian Nirappel will attend the DSM Heritage Retreat from May 12 – 23, 2025 in Annecy, France!

### **Visit to Europe**

Fr. Sebastian Williams is scheduled to visit Europe from May 6-18, 2025 as the spiritual guide for a group of people visiting holy places in Europe.

Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunnel will visit the benefactors and some of the funding agencies in Europe from June 16-July 22, 2025.

### **Visit to Benefactors in the USA**

Fr. Augustine Mangatt will visit the benefactors of Living Waters International from May 19-June 6, 2025.

### **Priestly Renewal Course in the Holy Land**

Fr. Stephen Mutisya and Fr. Jonathan Muema are selected to attend the Priestly Renewal Course in Jerusalem scheduled for July 7-26, 2025.

### **Congratulations**

Rev. Fr. Josephat Bududu is appointed as the Auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Tabora. He has done his Masters and PhD at the Indian Institute of Spirituality run by the South West Province of the MSFS. He has been sponsored by East Africa Province. His episcopal consecration will take place on May 25, 2025. The Superior General of the MSFS and the Provincial of East Africa Province along with other MSFS Fathers are planning to attend his episcopal ordination!

His Lordship Stephano Msomba, the auxiliary bishop of Dar es Salaam is appointed as the first bishop of the newly created diocese of Bagamoyo carved out from Dar es Salaam and Morogoro dioceses.

His Lordship Jackson Murugara of the Consolata Missionaries is appointed as the coadjutor bishop of Meru, Kenya. He was consecrated bishop on March 19, 2025.

### **Committee for the Centenary Celebration of Lububu Mission**

The centenary celebration of Lububu parish will be held on 13-14 September, 2025 along with the Hija. In the provincial circular *EAP JP 4*, it was proposed that a committee be created in order to meaningfully celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> jubilee of Lububu Mission. Accordingly, the following Fathers are members of the committee:

Fr. Antonysamy Sebastian (Convenor and Chairman of the Committee)  
Fr. Charles Ouma (Parish Priest of Lububu)  
Fr. Tomichan Perumanoor (Parish Priest of Bukene)  
Fr. Joseph Poikunnel (Convenor of TAKA Apostolic Community)  
Fr. Godwin Nanalo (Assistant Parish Priest of Lububu)

### **Departure from the Congregation**

Dismas Ikachuli, Peter Eboyu and Xavier Nimusiima have departed from the congregation!

### **Treatment**

Fr. Augustine Mangatt will undergo treatment for his eye while he is on home leave!  
Fr. Stephen Upadeshi will undergo treatment for his foot while he is on home leave!  
Fr. Sunny Vettickal will undergo treatment for his back while he is on home leave!

### **Home Leave**

Fr. Francis Kallikatt	April 21-May 21, 2025
Fr. Santhosh Prakashbhavan	April 21-May 21, 2025
Fr. Reji Pendanath	April 21-May 22, 2025
Fr. Sijo Pendanath	April 21- May 22, 2025
Fr. Sunny Vettickal	April 24-May 24, 2025
Fr. Stephen Upadeshi	April 25-May 26, 2025
Fr. Robert Soosairaj	April 30-May 30, 2025
Fr. Sebastian Palakudy	May 7-May 22, 2025
Fr. Mathew Thazhathukunel	May 11-May 26, 2025
Fr. A. Sebastian	May 13-June 13, 2025
Fr. Augustine Mangatt	June 6-July 6, 2025

## Obituary

- Ms. Djetoguem Victoria younger sister of Bro Bere Ervard MSFS (first year philosophy LCI of Chad Cameroon) died on 16.3.2025
- Fr. Siby Manickathan MSFS of SWIP died untimely due to a massive heart-attack on 17.03.2025
- Mr. James Othiambo, the paternal cousin of Fr. Francis Indumuli Aloo died on 19.03.2025
- Mr. Dominic Mutisya, the father of Fr. Gregory Mutisya died on 20.03.2025
- Fr. Karachira Joseph MSFS of Vizag Province died on 23.03.2025
- Child of John Mgugi, brother of Fr. Michael Mwangi MSFS died on 24.03.2025
- Mr. Ittiavira Joseph, the elder brother of the father of Fr. Sebastian Palakudy died on 12.04.2025.

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace!

## Conclusion

But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So, he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" (Lk. 24:29-32). Let us experience the Risen Lord at the breaking of the WORD and at the breaking of the BREAD!

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus,

*James*

Father James Panthalanickel MSFS  
Provincial – MSFS East Africa

