



MISSIONARIES OF ST FRANCIS DE SALES

Fransalians - Province of East Africa
 Provincial House P. O. Box 12 Morogoro Tanzania
 Tel: +255 689 882 711; +255 624 027 880
www.msfs-eastafrika.com
 e-mail: provincialeastafricamsfs@gmail.com

Provincial Circular EAP – MT.26 **April 04, 2021**

My dear Confreres,

I wish you all peace and joy of Easter! May the spirit of Easter fill our hearts with joy and gladness and help us to hold on even when times are tough!

DO NOT BE AFRAID....HE IS RISEN



Easter was never meant to go back to the old ways; but was, and still is, intended to make all things new. The women who came to pay tribute to the sacred body of Jesus found an empty tomb and heard the words “Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has risen just as he said” (Mat. 28:5-6). The sight of the empty tomb terrified the women. Everything they had dreamed of—all their hopes, all their joys—everything that, they thought, gave meaning to life had been buried in that tomb and sealed up when they found the massive stone rolled across the opening. Jesus was dead. His body was supposed to be in that tomb. But his body was gone. They were probably on the verge of an emotional collapse.

However, the initial fear and apprehension gave way to belief and joy when they found the Risen Lord as he had foretold about him (Lk.9:22). Once they understood the meaning of the empty tomb, they left the tomb behind. They ran to tell others what had happened. They ran to tell others the Good News. They didn’t tell, “Alleluia, the tomb is empty.” They said, “Alleluia, he is risen.”

Peter and John also had similar experience – they left the tomb wondering at all that had happened (Lk. 24:12). On Easter day, we are not celebrating the empty tomb, rather what it signifies, namely the Resurrection of Jesus. Jesus Christ has conquered death. He has conquered death not only for himself but also for every one of us. What we're celebrating on Easter day is our salvation and our faith.

The Resurrection of Christ is not just an event that took place long ago. It's an event that continues to take place when we patiently walk with our Lord through the trials, crosses and sufferings of life, with hope and trust in his power to help us to persevere and do good things. The resurrection of Jesus offers new hope to a world in the tomb of misery having no hope of a new beginning. But with the new hope given by Jesus we know that light will outshine darkness, truth will conquer falsehood, good-will will triumph over evil, and life will overcome death. The hope of resurrection ought to inspire us to do great things for the glory of God. It is this hope of resurrection that allows us to suffer everything here on earth with patience, especially when persecuted for our faith in Jesus. It is this hope of resurrection that motivates us to go beyond our own self-interests and love our neighbour. The hope of the resurrection allows us to let go of our own judgements, living our lives as intended by God, striving to be faithful to his will and not our own.

During these days of Covid pandemic, with lockdown, social distancing and quarantine, life is not 'normal.' The Resurrection of Christ gives us great hope to trust in the power of God who makes everything new. The Covid crisis is yet another opportunity to firmly believe in the resurrection of Christ who gives meaning for life through his promise of eternal life. The celebration of the Resurrection may be saying to us during these days of pandemic, "I can, and we can rise again and make things new." Two women rushed back early that morning from the tomb with the happy news that everything can be different. The disciples ran into an empty tomb and ran out with courage in their hearts. Two men walking in utter despair bumped into a stranger, realized who he was, and found hope again. A movement began whose message was that all things can be made new.

Let the message Easter deepen our faith and make everything new in our ministry and personal life. "We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song" (St Augustine).

HAPPY EASTER!



VISITATION OF THE SUPERIOR GENERAL

Our beloved Superior General V. Rev. Fr. Abraham Vettuvellil arrived in Tanzania on 25th of March. Although we reached Kenya on 26th, due to the sudden imposition of lockdown in Kenya the canonical visitation of Superior General had to be postponed. We hope that by the end of April, the lockdown will be lifted and in the second week of May, the visitation can take place. Please find below the new time table for the visitation:

May 07	Mlolongo
May 08	Katani
May 09	Chera
May 10	Ndagani
May 11	Bissil
May 12	Graduation at LCI
May 14	To Entebbe by flight
May 15	Buwooya
May 16	Opening of the new Parish at Kalagala
May 17	Kalamira
May 18	Osia
May 19	Iyolwa
May 20	Agururu
May 21	Return to Rome from Entebbe

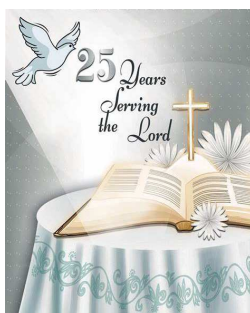
SACERDOTAL SILVER JUBILARIANS

Fr. Reji Pendarth, Fr. Sunny Vettickal, Fr. Francis Kallikattu and Fr. Kurian Kollapallil were ordained priests in the year 1997. Fr. Joseph Kunnappally of happy memory also was ordained in 1997. We thank God for our confreres who had been serving the Church in East Africa for the last 24 years. All of them have contributed immensely for the growth and development of our Missions in East Africa.

They were instrumental in establishing several Mission centres/schools/institutions in our Province. Despite various challenges, they remained ever faithful to their call as missionaries in East Africa. My dear Jubilarians, we thank you for your commitment and love for our mission in East Africa.

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!

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS DEAR FATHERS!



Fr. Rejimon Pendanath was born on 26th February, 1970 at Malom, Kerala, India. His parents are Mr. P.V. Joseph and Mrs. Alikutty Joseph. He joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in 1985. He did his Novitiate in Salesianum, Visakapatnam and made his First Vows on 16th June 1989. He pursued his Philosophical Studies in Suvidya College from 1989-1992. His regency was in Lububu Parish and his Theological studies at St. Paul's Major Seminary, Kipalapala and JDV Pune from 1993-1997. He made his Final Vows on 16.06.1995 and was ordained a priest on 8th April 1997.



Priestly ministry:

Place of Appointment	Designation	Year
Lububu Seminary	Vice Rector	1997
Lububu Seminary	Rector	1998-2000
Itaga Parish	Asst. Parish Priest	2000
SFS Junior Seminary	Vocation Director	2000-2004
Lububu Parish	Parish Priest	2004-2007
Fransalian Sem. Ndgani	Rector	2007-2009
Fransalian House, Kola	Rector	2009-2013
Foster Tabora	Director	2014-2020
Provincial House	Provincial Bursar & Superior	2021-

Fr. Sunny Vettickal was born on 11th November, 1967 at Kizhapparayar, Kerala, India. His parents are Mr. V.T. Thomas and Mrs. Elikutty Thomas. He joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in 1983. He did his Novitiate in Salesianum, Visakapatnam and made his First Vows on 16th July 1987. He pursued his Philosophical Studies in Suvidya College from 1987-1990 and had his Regency at LRG School, Anathapur. He did his Theological studies at St. Peter's Pontifical Seminary, Bangalore (1991-1994) and JDV Pune (1996-1997). He made his Final Vows on 10th June 1993. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Education and Master's degree in Business Administration. He was ordained a priest on 17th April 1997.



Priestly Ministry:

Place of Appointment	Designation	Year
Lububu Parish	Asst. Parish Priest	1997 – 2000
Lububu Parish	Superior & Parish Priest	2000 -2002
Bukene Parish	Superior & Parish Priest	2002 – 2005
SFS Junior Seminary	Principal, Bursar	2005 – 2012
MSFS Community, Katani	Superior and Manager of SFS School	2012 -

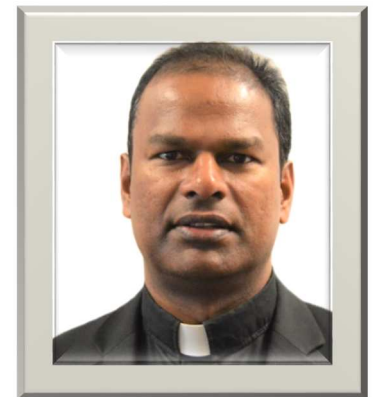
Fr. Francis Kallikattu was born on 22nd January, 1969 at Mundanmudy, Kerala, India. His parents are Mr. K.D. Varghese and Mrs. Theresia Varghese. He joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in 1985. He did his Novitiate in Salesianum, Visakapatnam and made his First Vows on 16th June 1989. He pursued his Philosophical Studies in Suvidya College from 1989-1992 and his regency in MSFS Regional House, Morogoro. He did his Theological studies at St. Paul's Major Seminary, Kipalapala and JDV Pune from 1993-1997. He made his Final Vows on 16.06.1995. He has secured a degree in Mechanical Engineering. He was ordained a priest on 17th April 1997.



Priestly Ministry

Place of Appointment	Designation	Year
Mbulu Parish, Kahama	Asst. Parish Priest	1997-1999
SFS Junior Seminary, Morogoro	Administrator	1999-2002
Acharya Institute of Technology, Bangalore	Diploma in Mechanical Engineering	2002-2005
SFS VTC Mwakata	Director	2006-2009
St. Bruno Parish, Agururu	Parish Priest	2009-2013
Mji Mpya Parish, Dar es Salaam	Asst. Parish Priest	2013-2016
Lububu Parish, Tabora	Parish Priest	2017-2019
Buwooya, Lugazi Diocese	In charge of Seminary construction	2019-

Fr. Kurian Kollapallil was born on 31st May, 1969 at Ulickal, Kerala, India. His parents are Mr. Joseph and Mrs. Mary Joseph. He joined SFS Seminary, Ettumanoor in 1985. He did his Novitiate in Salesianum, Visakapatnam and made his First Vows on 16th June 1989. He pursued his Philosophical Studies in Suvidya College from 1989-1992. He did his regency in Itaga Parish and his Theological studies at St. Paul's Major Seminary, Kipalapala and JDV Pune from 1993-1997. He made his Final Vows on 16.06.1995. He has a Master's degree in Social work and two doctorates in Theology. He was ordained a priest on 28th April 1997.



Priestly Ministry

Place of Appointment	Designation	Year
Chera Parish	Assistant Parish Priest	1997-2000
Itaga Parish	Assistant Parish Priest	2000-2001
SFS Children's Home, Ipuli	Director	2002-2004
Mangalore	PG studies	2004-2006
USA	Pastoral ministry	2006-2017
Mlolongo, Nairobi	Parish Priest	2018
Ngurudoto, Arusha	Assistant	2019-2020
LCI, Arusha	On the staff	2020

HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS

Fr. Nelson Vijayakumar has successfully completed his Master's degree in Religious studies with Education (MRSE) from Jordan University College, Morogoro. His dissertation was on "Christian faith and education as basis for good family building among Catholics". Hearty Congratulations!

DEPARTURE FROM THE CONGREGATION

Eric Nyamweya, who was doing regency in Iyolwa, left the Congregation for good. We wish him all the best for his future life.

HOLIDAYS

Fr. Jose Eriyanickal:	April 06 – May 06
Fr. Santhosh Paul:	April 06 – May 06
Fr. A. Sebastian:	April 11 – May 25

OBITUARY

Mr. Vincent Wafula Simiyu, elder brother of Bro. Collins, passed away on 21.02.2021.

Mr. Joseph Mathew (90), father of Sr. Smitha FCC (Bukene), passed away on 24.03.2021.

Fr. Dennis Salvador Joseph MSFS (67) of Nagpur Province, passed away on 27.03.2021.

Bro. Mathew Thudianplackal MSFS (79) of Vizag Province, passed away on 01.04.2021.

May God grant them eternal life!



MY TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

Date	Programme
April 09 & 10	Council Meeting, Morogoro
April 12	Dumila School blessing
April 17 & 18	Novitiate
April 19	Mkuza
April 20	Mji Mpya
May 01	Kashishi Presbytery blessing
May 07 - 11	Visitation of Superior General in Kenya
May 12	Graduation at LCI
May 14 - 21	Visitation of Superior General in Uganda
May 16	Opening of the new parish at Kalagala, Lugazi Diocese, Uganda

Wishing you once again a happy Easter, I remain.

Yours devotedly in Christ Jesus



Father Mathew Thazhathukunnel MSFS
Provincial - East Africa Province

Salesian Thought

“Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either He will shield you from suffering, or He will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace, then, put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations, and say continually: ‘The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart has trusted in Him and I am helped. He is not only with me, but in me and I in Him.’

(St. Francis de Sales)