

# **Provincial Desk January 2026** **Provincial Desk**

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 4th PROVINCIAL CHAPTER

14<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> JANUARY, 2026



The 4<sup>th</sup> Provincial Chapter was held from 14<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> January, 2026, represented a profound moment of reflection, discernment, and renewal among Spiritan confreres. Below is an overview of the meeting.

### **Day 1: Welcoming and Introduction**

The chapter began with a warm welcome from Fr Mwombeki Albano followed by a hymn to the Holy Spirit, which set a solemn tone for the opening ceremony. Fr Gabriel Kitira, the chairperson of the preparatory committee, presented the Chapter documents to the Provincial Superior, Fr Florentine Mallya. The theme, *“Let us cross to the other side of the lake”* (Luke 8:22), encapsulated the Chapter’s aspirations and focus.

To symbolize the divine presence, the Provincial Superior lit the chapter candle. Then, each capitulant was called by name, lit his candle, and held it while offering prayers for guidance. Observers in attendance included the Superior General, Fr Alain Mayama; his 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant, Fr Jeff Duaimé, who is also the Correspondent of the Province of Tanzania and UCEAF. Other notable figures, who underscored the Chapter's historical and congregational significance were: the two moderators, Fr

Brendan Carr and Dr. Onesimo Matei, were introduced. They gave brief self-introductions, after which the co-moderator outlined the week's agenda. The evening concluded with a closing prayer and the hymn "Salve Regina," marking a spiritually enriching beginning.

### **Day 2: Navigating Contemporary Challenges**

On January 15, the focus shifted to overcoming contemporary challenges faced by the Spiritan community. The day began with two recollection sessions led by Fr Brendan, themed "Conversations in the Spirit," encouraging open dialogue and self-examination among capitulants. Fr Brendan emphasized Tanzania's unique importance to the Spiritan family and encouraged reflection on personal sacrifices for collective growth.

The spiritual highlight of the day was the Holy Eucharist, which was presided over by Archbishop Isaac Amani. In his homily, he reinforced themes of fidelity and the active embodiment of the Gospel message. Next, the Superior General addressed the assembly, expressing gratitude for the Province's role in organizing the last two General Chapters and urging members to align their mission with the congregation's values.

Fr Jeff presented the evolving Spiritan mission, emphasizing transitional approaches away from colonial models of evangelization toward inclusivity and community development. The day concluded with an impactful address from the guest speaker, Rev. Fr Dr. Charles Kitima, the Secretary General of Tanzania Episcopal Conference (TEC) who called on participants to engage deeply with local cultures for effective evangelization, thus setting the tone for ongoing discussions on critical matters.

### **Day 3: Solidarity and Growth**

The third day highlighted themes of unity and collective action. Morning Prayer and Mass, led by Fr Brendan, emphasized solidarity and support for one another in faith journeys, drawing inspiration from the story of the paralytic brought to Jesus by four individuals (Mark 2:1-2).

The Provincial Superior, provided a comprehensive report outlining achievements and ongoing challenges within the Tanzania Province since its establishment as an independent entity in 2008. Key successes in urban and rural outreach, as well as education and health initiatives, were highlighted, alongside the completion of a significant classroom building at the "New" Usa Seminary and the launch of a sustainable avocado farm.

Financial discussions led by the Provincial Bursar pointed to shifts in demographic and funding landscapes, emphasizing needed strategies for resource management and sustainability. Participation from confreres from various provinces shed light on challenges such as declining membership in certain regions and the importance of interprovincial support.

### **Day 4: Enriching Safari to Ngorongoro**

On January 17, the delegates set out on a safari to the Ngorongoro Crater, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. They marveled at the breathtaking landscapes and later engaged with parishioners from Spiritan-run parishes who had gathered at Ngorongoro Parish. The Congregation's legacy in the area, established by pioneering missionaries, was evident.

On behalf of his confreres, Fr Albano presented a brief history of the Spiritans in the Ngorongoro Conservation Area and emphasized the importance of cultural sensitivity when engaging with the Maasai community. He also raised concerns about a government project that threatens the Maasai's ancestral lands, adding another layer of complexity to the church's mission amid social justice issues.

Visitors were offered well-chosen gifts to symbolize solidarity and friendship. Though brief, the safari helped raise awareness of the interconnectedness of faith, JPIC issues, and cultural identity.

#### **Day 5: Observers from the Union of the Circumscriptions of Eastern Africa (UCEAF)**

On January 18, Superiors from Kenya, Ethiopia, and Uganda shared insights and challenges about their respective circumscriptions. The focus was on collaboration and the shared commitment in mission.

Kenya Province reported on evangelization efforts among marginalized communities, stressed a call for sustainable missions, and shared personnel among provinces. Ethiopia articulated its challenges, particularly regarding governmental restrictions and the urgent need for vocations. Uganda expressed gratitude for past support, insisting on the importance of collaboration among provinces.

The day included a ceremony at Tengeru Boys Secondary School, where delegates witnessed the blessing of a new hall. The school hosted a cultural evening in honor of all Chapter participants.

#### **Day 6: Renewing Commitment to Formation**

On January 19, the focus shifted to the critical aspect of Spiritan formation. Fr Kilimpe Garbicha, followed by a reflective address from Fr John Bosco Kamoga, who emphasized the calling to “Do Something New” as they build future direction, led a Eucharistic celebration.

Fr Josephat Shirima presented a comprehensive report on formation practices, noting successes in vocation promotion and collaborative training but highlighting challenges such as funding and qualified formators. Various perspectives from commissions underlined formation’s importance as a life-long commitment, with discussions on structural governance to enhance effectiveness.

#### **Day 7: Empowering Vulnerable Communities through JPIC Initiatives**

On January 20, the focus was on the Spiritan commitment to justice, peace, and integrity of creation (JPIC). Participants gathered for a Eucharistic celebration led by Fr Austin Nwosu, the Provincial Superior of Nigeria South East.

Fr Albano gave a presentation on JPIC, highlighting initiatives that target vulnerable communities, particularly the Maasai amid land conflicts. The report emphasized environmental stewardship and advocacy for marginalized populations. It detailed various ongoing projects, including support for refugees and ecological initiatives.

#### **Days 8-10: Strategic Planning and Decision Making**

The last three days of the chapter were crucial for governance discussions and strategic planning. Morning prayers set a reflective tone, followed by Fr Jeff Duaimé leading discussions around informed decision-making based on faith and collective responsibility.

Deliberations on potential structural changes included expanding the Provincial Council and revising election processes for improved representation. The chapter passed several significant resolutions relating to governance, finance, and education emphasizing the integration of lay involvement and enhancing fundraising mechanisms.

On January 23, a collective commitment to the Spiritan mission was reaffirmed, symbolizing unity and the collective response to contemporary needs.

### Closing Ceremony

The chapter concluded on January 25 with a solemn Mass at St. John Paul II Chapel in the Provincialate. Rev. Fr Alain Mayama presided over the Mass. This significant gathering marked the official end of the chapter and included expressions of gratitude for participation and support.

The insights and decisions made during the Chapter set the foundation for future missionary endeavors-*across the lake*.

**Fr Victor Ashwa, CSSp.**

### PHOTO NEWS

Excursion/Safari  
Ngorongoro  
Delegates & Observers





Blessing of Libermann Hall  
Tengeru Boys

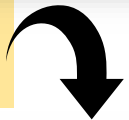
Galaxy Z Fold6

Fr Alain Mayama &  
Bp Athony Lagwen  
(Diocese of Mbulu)



Galaxy Z Fold6

Matala Mission:  
Datoga People &  
Water Drilling



Galaxy Z Fold6



## BIRTHDAYS

FEBRUARY		
George	Mayembe	01
Patience	Mugisha	02
Joseph	Shayo	07
Colman	Kimaryo	07
Patrick	Njau Kagua	08
Justi	Tarimo	12
Valentine	Bayo	14
Priva	Temu	22
Flavian	Komba	23
Firmin	Laswai	25

Fraternally,



Florentine Mallya, CSSp.  
Provincial Superior



### PROVINCE OF TANZANIA-PROFILE



on this link: <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/acecb327dd.html>