

## **Provincial Desk March 2025** **Provincial Desk**

### **UCEAF ON-GOING FORMATION WORKSHOP 2025**



### **THE UNION OF THE DISTRICT OF KILIMANJARO WITH THE PROVINCE**

In September 1987, when the East African Foundation was preparing to become a Province, the district superior of Kilimanjaro sent a letter to all the members of the district, as well as the superiors of the other districts in East Africa, asking that we begin to think more seriously about the future spirit and presence in East Africa. How can we best serve the local churches and respond effectively to the needs of the poor and evangelized? What changes are called for so that we give a witness that is truly Christian, truly Spiritan?

This set in motion individual discussions out of which came the 10 reasons for and 10 reasons against the union. As these reflections and discussions seemed to drag on, it was felt necessary to form a union committee composed of members from Kilimanjaro District in the East African province.

The union committee prepared a paper on the following topics.

1. Administration, Membership and Retirement.
2. Formation.
3. Apostolic Work and Ministry.
4. Religious Life.
5. Finance.

This paper was circulated among all the members of the province and district for comment. The provincial and district superior presented the results to a meeting of the union committee on June 29, 1992. These results were made available to the East African Chapter Preparatory Committee for use in preparing for the chapter in January 1993.

Then, at the joint meeting of the Councils of the Kilimanjaro District and the East African Province on July 22, 1992, it was unanimously agreed that this petition be sent to the Superior General in this Council. I quote, “We ask that the Kilimanjaro District be joined to the East African Province so that the latter becomes the sole juridical and administrative entity.”

“This petition for union brings to a close the work of the Union Committee, which met seven times between October 26, 1990, and June 29, 1992. The Committee has fulfilled its mandate to probe and spell out the possibilities of the union of these two circumscriptions. The membership of both the District and the Province overwhelmingly approves this step. We also ask that the union, if sanctioned, take place on February 2, 1993...”

"Decision 103/92 of the General Council approved of this union on August 28, 1992. The General Councillor, James Okoye, sent a letter of congratulations, which stated in part, “Your resolution is epoch-making in the congregation, not only for itself, but also for all of the congregation as both an end and beginning. It will stand out in the annals of the congregation as both an end and a beginning. An end of the one-way traffic of mission, a beginning of the era of intercultural exchange as part of mission.”

And so, on February 2, 1993, at the celebration, of the Eucharist at Usa River Seminary, the Mother house of the East African Province, the keys of the Kilimanjaro District were handed over to the Provincial of East Africa, Fr. Augustine Shao, now bishop of Zanzibar.

## THE TEN COMMANDMENTS OF A POLITICIAN



As the pre-election period unfolds, speeches fill the air, with each candidate striving to persuade the people. In this climate, it is essential to reflect on the integrity and consistency expected of a politician—values emphasized by Pope Benedict XVI in his encyclical *Caritas in Veritate*. The Pope reminds us that human development requires "upright individuals, economic actors, and politicians who are deeply guided by their conscience and committed to the common good. Both professional competence and moral integrity are essential."

This guidance applies not only to how a politician exercises their mandate but also to the positions they take and the decisions they make. In today’s political landscape—often driven by ambition, competition, and moral compromise—upholding these principles is no easy task. As the presidential and legislative elections approach, here are ten essential commandments for politicians seeking to navigate the complexities of modern governance while staying true to their mission.

### 1. Serve the Common Good

A politician must work to foster unity and social cohesion. Their role is to "ensure the well-being of society by upholding justice, protecting property, maintaining security, and promoting prosperity." Effective leadership requires strong management skills, strategic thinking, and the ability to mobilize communities toward collective progress.

## **2. Defend the Weak and Vulnerable**

True leadership is measured by how the weakest members of society are treated. A politician must advocate for the rights and dignity of all, ensuring that the poor, the marginalized, and the disadvantaged—whether they be foreigners, orphans, or widows—are protected. Every worker, regardless of social class, deserves a fair and dignified wage.

## **3. Respect Your Opponents**

Political debate should be rooted in honesty and integrity. A politician must stand firmly by their convictions while also engaging in fair discourse. "They must endure criticism as much as they give it." However, they should reject "malicious attacks, personal insults, and slanderous accusations." True leadership focuses on ideas and solutions, not tearing down opponents.

## **4. Be Wary of Money and Power**

Holding office is a responsibility, not a privilege. Political power brings many advantages, but a true leader must always remember: "You are here to serve, not to be served." Those who seek personal gain from their position betray the trust of the people.

## **5. Speak the Truth—Even When It's Unpopular**

Politics revolves around communication, but words must be used responsibly. Leaders must resist the temptation to spread lies, half-truths, or empty promises. A politician must remain committed to truth and transparency, even when it is difficult or unpopular. Leadership means having the courage to tell the people what they need to hear, not just what they want to hear.

## **6. Reject Vanity and the Obsession with Public Image**

"The desire to constantly be in the spotlight can be dangerous." While a politician cannot be invisible, overexposure to the media can distort priorities and inflate egos. True leadership is about humility and purpose, not self-promotion. No single individual holds all the answers—politics is a collective effort.

## **7. Surround Yourself with Honest and Wise Counsel**

The more power one holds, the harder it is to accept criticism. Machiavelli warned that rulers must beware of flatterers and be willing to reassess their inner circle. "A good leader must have advisors who are not afraid to say: 'Be careful, you are straying from the right path.'" Honest feedback is essential for wise decision-making.

## **8. Stay Vigilant and Think Long-Term**

Vigilance is a virtue that must not be neglected. Leaders must take time to reflect before making decisions. Reacting impulsively to short-term crises, media pressure, or public outrage can lead to poor governance. True leadership requires patience, foresight, and a commitment to the bigger picture.

## **9. Accept That Politics Requires Compromise**

In governance, choices are rarely black and white. A politician's role is not to seek perfection but to make decisions that serve the greater good, even when they fall short of an ideal. "Politics is about choosing the lesser evil in a complex world. Consensus is often less ambitious than ideological purity, but it is necessary for progress."

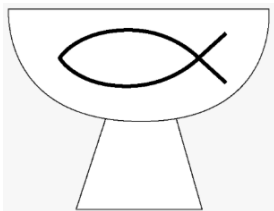
**10. Do Not Worship Politics—Remember Its Limits**

The temptation to see oneself as all-powerful is strong, but every leader must recognize their limits. "No politician owns their mandate; they are merely entrusted with it for a time." The ultimate goal of politics is to improve people's lives, but those who believe they can create a perfect world deceive themselves. "God's plan is not to establish paradise on earth, and neither is a politician's."

Translated and adapted from: *La Vie, Edition du 01 décembre 2011 (N°3457)*

 **SAVE THE DATES**

**Priestly ordination**



May 15, 2025: St Joseph Spouse of Mary Parish, Patandi, Arusha

July 10, 2025: Epiphany Parish, Burka, Arusha

**Annual Retreat**



**Venue:** St Carolus, Tengeru

**1<sup>st</sup> group:** June 22-28, 2025

**2<sup>nd</sup> group:** June 29 - July 5, 2025

**3<sup>rd</sup> group:** August 3-9, 2025

**BIRTHDAYS**

APRIL		
Fulgence	MOSHI	08
Felix	JABU	04
Simplis	LAKSHI	27
Josephat	SHIRIMA	04
Deus	TARIMO	10
Silvanus	MRINGI	05
Florian Paul	AMANI	05
Adam	BAGO	15
Appolinarius	MSAKY	24

**NECROLOGY**

Thamelus	Mloka	25/04/2005
Cyril	Chuwa	14/04/2012

*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.*

### INFORMATION



Please take note of the new link to the provincial web site: Provincial Web Site:

<http://www.spiritanzania.or.tz>

Fraternally,

Florentine Mallya, CSSp.  
Provincial Superior



**PRAYER  
FOR THE 4th PROVINCIAL CHAPTER  
2026**

