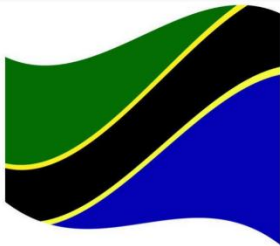


Provincial Desk October 2025 **Provincial Desk**

THE ISLAND OF PEACE: REFLECTIONS ON TANZANIA’S ELECTION UNREST



For many years, Tanzania stood apart from the political turmoil and violence that plagued much of East Africa and the Great Lakes region. We were often cited as a model of calm and stability, an island of peace in a turbulent sea. We even spoke of ourselves with pride, confident in our difference. But for how long could that peace endure? In African politics, it is said that no one can truly be a prophet.

The unexpected events of October 29th took us all by surprise. Violent protests erupted almost simultaneously in several cities: Arusha, Dar es Salaam, Mbeya, Songwe, Mwanza, and others as if orchestrated. In response, the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority switched off the internet, making it nearly impossible to obtain verified information. Though telephone lines still functioned, people became cautious of speaking freely, afraid that even ordinary conversations might endanger them. Each day brought new warnings against sharing information, videos, or images that might “threaten security.” Local FM radio stations resorted to playing only music, and television channels offered little guidance. It was left to Al Jazeera, the BBC, and a neighbouring country Television stations to reveal the shocking extent of the violence. Finally, on Thursday, our Minister for Foreign Affairs broke the silence. When asked about allegations of excessive force against civilians, he dismissed the concern as a proportionate response to the situation. Whatever language we use, the truth remains: lives have been lost, property destroyed, and public confidence in parts of the security apparatus deeply shaken. How did we come to this?

No society is perfect and ours is no exception. For years, voices from opposition parties, civil society, activists, and courageous religious leaders have spoken *ubi et orbi* about the need to address our nation’s most sensitive issues: constitutional and electoral reform, the separation of powers among the executive, judiciary, and legislature, the protection of natural resources, corruption in public institutions, government accountability and transparency, the struggles of unemployed youth, and the pursuit of peace grounded in justice and fairness. These calls echo the unspoken hopes of many ordinary citizens who lack a platform to express their concerns. Admittedly, some efforts toward reform have been made; yet the prevailing sentiment remains that such measures were often designed to appease rather than born of genuine political will.

In the last two years, we began to witness disturbing phenomena: enforced disappearances, abductions, and mysterious killings, most often of individuals linked to the opposition and critics of the government carried out by so-called “unknown persons.” Those who were meant to protect the public remained silent, except in a few isolated cases. As nature abhors a vacuum, the rumour mill quickly took over, fuelled by social media, attempting to make sense of what was happening. It takes little imagination

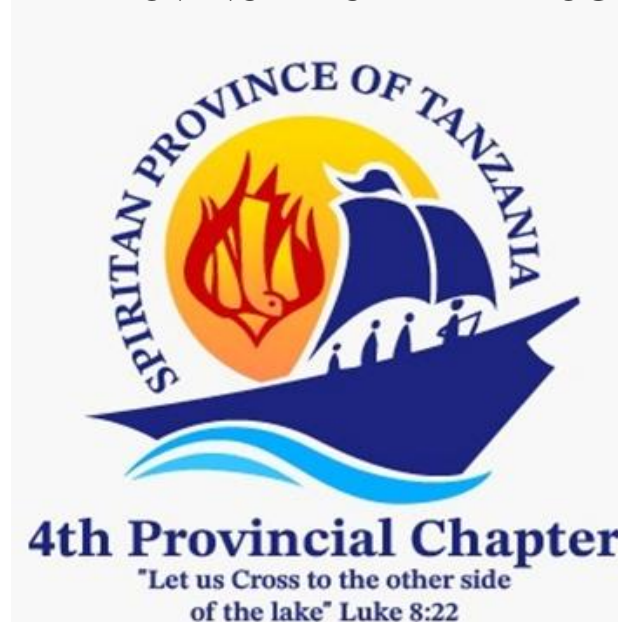
to understand how civilians interpreted these events. Images of innocent citizens being mistreated, coupled with the excessive use of force by certain security organs, only reinforced the growing sense of fear and mistrust.

Leading up to the elections, the political space grew ever narrower. The reasons are many, but one cannot ignore the tension between the government and the main opposition party, CHADEMA. The party had long insisted on electoral reform as a sine qua non for free and fair elections. In response, the government changed the name of the electoral body to the Independent Electoral Commission. Dissatisfied, CHADEMA refused to sign the ethical code of conduct required by the IEC as a condition for participation in the process. In so doing, it effectively “opted out” of the race. Many assumed that, with no serious contender, the elections would proceed smoothly and without incident. Yet, lo and behold, we found ourselves in a situation reminiscent of the COVID-19 lockdown.

On 3 November, 2025 the President and Vice President were sworn into office. We can only hope that this marks a turning point. In his Angelus message on All Souls’ Day, Leo XIV called on Tanzanians to embrace dialogue not as a political cliché, but as a moral imperative. In his prayer for the new administration, a religious leader dared to acknowledge our nation’s divisions and invoked divine wisdom to guide our leaders in healing the land. Likewise, the President of Zambia, reflecting on his own years in opposition, offered advice rooted in experience: the need for inclusive dialogue and investment in the future of the Gen Z: education, skills, and business opportunities.

In our Christian tradition, we believe that God speaks to us through the events of life (both the joyful and the painful) and through the lives of others. It is only human beings who can listen, speak, and choose to engage in true dialogue. I would like to believe that our political leaders are, above all, human beings. *GOD BLESS TANZANIA.*

4th PROVINCIAL CHAPTER LOGO



WELCOME



We are delighted to welcome Fr Isaac Omwansa, CSSp., among us. He has already reported to Igoma Parish in the Archdiocese of Mbeya. Karibu!

APPOINTMENT

Fr Faustin Emile: Spiritan Refugee Service/Ministry, Kigoma. With effective from 31 October, 2025.

VACATION

 Fr Dennis Leiya

We hope you enjoy time with family and friends.

BIRTHDAYS

NOVEMBER		
Urbanus	KIOKO	12
Amandus	KAPELE	23
Daniel	WAWERU	25
Raymond	RIZIKI	29

NECROLOGY

 + Joseph KILASARA: 21 November, 1987

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

SICK CONFRERES

Let us continue to pray for our sick confreres. In a special way, we remember **Fr Dan Macha**. He is currently receiving treatment at the Aga Khan Hospital in Dar es Salaam. **Fr Adam Bago** is travelling to India for a follow-up check on his operation.

Let us remain steadfast in prayer, asking the Lord to grant all our ailing brothers peace, strength, and consolation.

Fraternally,



Florentine Mallya, CSSp.
Provincial Superior



PROVINCE OF TANZANIA-PROFILE



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

**PRAYER FOR THE 4TH PROVINCIAL
CHAPTER - 2026**

O God, our loving and caring Father, with the life-giving Spirit you sent into the world your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour. In word and deed he has shown us how to always do your will.

We thank you for the gift of our Founders: Claude-Francis Poullart des Places, for his love for you, the most needy students of his time, and for his emphasis on the necessity of community life; and Venerable Francis Libermann, for his missionary action in favour of the most rejected and despised of society.

We Spiritans of the Province of Tanzania are grateful for the many blessings we have received in our Province and in the Congregation as we prepare for the 4th Provincial Chapter.

Fill our hearts and minds with faith, hope and love. Give us the courage to respond to your call to "cross to the other side of the lake"

(Lk 8:22) and to experience something new (cf. Is 43:19). May your Holy Spirit guide us and give us courage to take up new challenges where the need is greatest, in the spirit of synodality and in this Jubilee Year, as pilgrims of hope in your Church.

As we cross to the other side of the lake, let us be open, flexible and available to the Holy Spirit in interpreting the signs of the times, in the words of the Venerable Libermann: "be like a feather in the wind".

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, companion of missionaries, intercede for us and help us to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, so that he may fill them, possess them and act in them as sovereign Master and Lord - Amen.



**ONE
HEART
ONE SOUL**

