

Provincial Desk April 2025 **Provincial Desk**

A SERVANT LEADER: THE HUMBLE LEGACY OF POPE FRANCIS



Holy Thursday 2024-Photo credit: <https://www.usccb.org/news/2024/tears>

Introduction

Pope Francis has shown the world that true leadership is rooted in valuing other people especially those placed in our care. This is the essence of servant leadership: leading by serving. It was the example Jesus set during His ministry, choosing to serve rather than be served. In the same spirit, Pope Francis placed people first, especially the poor and marginalized. The “preferential option for the poor” was at the center of his mission. To me, his leadership embodied the heart of the Gospel. As Jesus says in Matthew 25:40, “*Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.*” In this way, Pope Francis leaves behind a legacy of compassion and humble service, a gift to the world.

Cultural Perspective On Death

In my culture, we never speak ill of the dead. Even those who may not have lived honorable lives are treated with dignity after death. There is always something good said about them when they close their eyes forever. This respect is so deep that we refer to the deceased as *Mfumu* which means “king.” A king deserves honor, no matter what his life was like.

But what I wish to share here is different. I want to talk about someone whose life itself was marked by humility and dignity: Pope Francis. His humility was not only in death, but in life—lived out fully and deliberately.

Humble Beginnings

Pope Francis was born to immigrant parents in Argentina, with roots in Italy. In many places, immigrants are often viewed through a negative lens. But behind immigration lies strength: courage, perseverance, and humility. These were the values that shaped Francis from the beginning. His life started in simplicity, yet it was grounded in resilience and quiet strength, qualities that would later define his leadership.

Servant Leadership Examples

While previous popes lived in grand papal apartments, Pope Francis chose a modest guesthouse. It was a deliberate act of humility, a rejection of luxury in favor of simplicity. He also declined the use of an armored Mercedes, opting instead for a modest vehicle. These choices reflected not just personal preference, but a deeper conviction: that leaders should not seek privilege, but remain close to the people they serve.

One of the most moving examples of his humility was when Pope Francis washed the feet of 12 women inmates one of them being a Muslim at the Rebibbia women's prison in Rome on Holy Thursday, March 28, 2024. Like Jesus washing His disciples' feet (John 13:2–17), this was a gesture of love and service—but also a bold commitment to inclusiveness, reconciliation and interfaith dialogue.

In 2023, during a peace mission to South Sudan, Pope Francis knelt and kissed the feet of rival leaders, pleading with them to pursue peace. It was a moment few could have imagine: the head of the Catholic Church bowing before political leaders in a war-torn country. His actions spoke louder than any sermon—humility in action.

Lessons From Francis' Life

Pope Francis has taught us that true leadership is measured not by power or position, but by compassion and service. He reminded the world that to lead is to serve especially the poor, the forgotten, and the vulnerable. His life echoed the words of Jesus in Matthew 25:40: *“Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*

In every humble gesture, in every quiet act of service, Pope Francis gave us more than words—he gave us a living example of the Gospel. His legacy challenges us to walk the same path: to lead with love, to serve with humility, and to find greatness not in status, but in selflessness.

Fr. Colman Kimaryo, CSSp.

LET THERE BE LIGHT: A NEW DAWN AT TENGERU



Towering solar panels on the roof



Lithium-ion batteries, inverter and switch boards

For years, the Provincialate at Tengeru grappled with frequent power cuts and voltage fluctuations which was a frustrating reality on daily life. Household appliances and office equipment rarely lasted their expected lifespans, leading to significant losses each year. The unreliable power supply affected not only the residents but also our visitors.

In the search for a sustainable solution, various expert teams were commissioned over the years to conduct feasibility studies for alternative energy. However, most reports never materialized, and the few that did came with prohibitively high-cost estimates.

Then, in a surprising and providential turn of events, a confrere who wishes to remain anonymous visited the Provincialate and immediately saw the potential for solar energy to meet our needs. Acting swiftly, he arranged for a solar energy expert to visit and conduct a thorough assessment. Within days, the groundwork was laid for a new direction.

We are now proud to share that a **solar power system** has been successfully installed at the Provincialate. The setup includes:

- **40 high-capacity solar panels**, each generating **540 watts**
- **2 lithium-ion batteries**, each with a capacity of **10.2 kWh**

This system produces more than **30 kilowatts of power during the day** (off-grid), and **up to 16 kilowatts** at night using battery storage (on-grid). It's a modest system, but one that perfectly meets our current needs and brings stability where there was once uncertainty.

We believe this marks the end of our long struggle with unreliable electricity. The Provincialate now enjoys steady power, renewed peace of mind, and a reduction in equipment failure and energy-related costs.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude for this remarkable gesture of solidarity. May the anonymous confrere and all those who supported this initiative feel the joy and blessing of having made a meaningful difference.

SAVE THE DATES

i. Invitation to priestly ordination: May 15, 2025




SHIRIKA LA ROHO MTAKATIFU
Chini ya Ulinzi wa Moyo Safi wa Bikira Maria
KANDA YA TANZANIA NA SHIRIKA LA NDUGU
WAFRANSISCO WAKAPUCHINI OFMCAP
wanayofuraha kubwa Kukulika/Kuwaalika

.....

kwenye Misa Takatifu ya Upadirisho wa Vijana wao wapendwa:-

1. **Shemasi Evagre Erasmi Silayo, C.S.Sp.**
2. **Shemasi Oden Maneck Siwale, C.S.Sp.**
3. **Shemasi Desdery Joseph Mfoi, C.S.Sp.**
4. **Shemasi Francis Raymond Massawe, C.S.Sp na**
5. **Shemasi Ladislaus Julius Munishi, OFMCap.**

itakayofanyika Tarehe 15.05.2025 kuanzia saa 4:00 Asubuhi Katika Parokia ya Mt. Yosefu Mume wa Bikira Maria Tengeru, (Patandi) Arusha, Tanzania na kuongozwa na Askofu Anthony Gaspar Lagwen, wa Jimbo Katoliki Mbulu.

“TAZAMA NAFANYA JAMBO JIPIYA” (Is 43:19)

Rangi ya Mavazi ni Nyekundu 



Shemasi Desdery
Joseph Mfoi, C.S.Sp.



Shemasi Ladislaus
Julius Munishi, OFMCap.



Shemasi Oden
Maneck Siwale, C.S.Sp.



Shemasi Evagre
Erasmi Silayo, C.S.Sp.

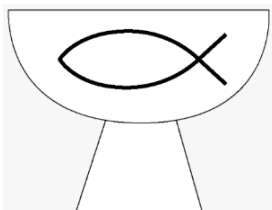


Shemasi Francis
Raymond Massawe, C.S.Sp.



ii. Announcement

Two Spiritan deacons:



July 10, 2025: Epiphany Parish, Burka, Arusha

Annual Retreat



Venue: St Carolus, Tengeru
1st group: June 22-28, 2025
2nd group: June 29 - July 5, 2025
3rd group: August 3-9, 2025

FORMATION

Period of Missionary Experience (PME)

On April 16, 2025, we bade farewell to Brothers Francis Bình Nguyễn and Vincent Đức Trường as they returned to the Philippines to continue the second cycle of their formation program. Their presence among us was marked by dedication and service, and we wish them continued growth and blessings in their ongoing journey.

Spiritan Month

It's the turn of the Province of Kenya to organize the Spiritan Month for the candidates who will make perpetual vows this year. This period of intense spiritual preparation will take place in Mombasa, Kenya, from May 29 to June 29, 2025.

Promotion of candidates

Taking into consideration the opinion of formators, candidates were promoted to different stages of formation

- ✓ Admission to novitiate 12
- ✓ Admission to Temporary Vows 13

BIRTHDAYS

MAY		
Andrew	MWIKO	16
Aquiline	MREMA	30
Barnabas	KILEU	28
Casti	MUSHI	22
David	MUNYAO	24
Donatho	ALPHONCE	24
Elias	RUVAHOFI	14
Festo	URASSA	01
Gaspar	MUSHI	10
George	KITANGE	11
Gideon	MICHAEL	25
Gilbert	MENAS	29
James	NWAUZOR	07
Joachim	KARABWE	29

Josaphat	MOSHA	20
Martin	OKOYE	18
Mathew	ASSENGA	18
Pamphilus	NGOWI	25
Peter	KILASARA	28
Philip	NG'OJA	27
Renatus	ASSENGA	13
Thomas	KESSY	23

BEREAVEMENT

We extend our prayerful sympathies to:

Fr Evod Shao–(Mother) Mama Firimina Edward, April 7, 2025.

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

NECROLOGY

Josaphat	Msongore	10/05/2017
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SICK CONFRERES

Let us continue to pray for our sick confreres. At this time, we especially remember **Fr. Nolasco Mushi**, who is experiencing severe pain. We are profoundly grateful for the presence and care of our confreres, the house staff, the palliative care team, and the doctors who are walking closely with him through this journey.

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



**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**

