

Provincial Desk August 2025 **Provincial Desk**

RE-IMAGINING EDUCATION AND INNOVATION



Introduction

On 2nd–3rd September 2025, the Tanzania Episcopal Conference (T.E.C.) hosted a meeting of all Advanced Level Seminary Rectors at its Kurasini offices in Dar es Salaam. The session was convened by Sr. Joyce Mboya, Education Secretary, on behalf of the Director for Education, Bishop Dr. Flavian Matindi Kassala of the Catholic Diocese of Geita.

Out of 27 rectors of minor seminaries across Tanzania, 22 were in attendance. The meeting focused on three central themes:

1. Declining numbers of seminarians in Advanced Level education
2. In-service training for heads of Catholic seminaries
3. Cybersecurity and digital responsibility

1. Declining Numbers of Seminarians in Advanced Level Education

The meeting noted with concern the sharp decline in the number of seminarians pursuing Advanced Level studies. Without timely intervention, some seminaries may face downsizing or closure in the near future.

In his keynote address, Bishop Kassala reminded the rectors of the central mission of seminaries: forming future servants of Christ. Seminaries, he said, must not only prepare candidates for the

priesthood, but also nurture vocations for consecrated life and strengthen the universal priesthood received through Baptism.

He urged rectors not to be “swallowed by the competitive nature of modern education” but to hold firmly to the seminary’s enduring pillars—prayer, academics, and community life. “These values,” he stressed, “must never be compromised.”

While acknowledging concerns about enrollment, Bishop Kassala proposed increasing intake at the ordinary level as a long-term solution. He also encouraged rectors to accompany young men with patience and love, reminding them of St. Paul’s words to the Colossians: *“Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged”* (Col. 3:21). Seminaries, he concluded, must be nurturing environments where students grow in faith and character.

Education specialist Mr. Henry Kulaya¹ challenged participants to “read the signs of the times” and to rethink how knowledge is transmitted. He observed that many teachers still use outdated methods while expecting students to solve modern challenges. “What our young people need,” he said, “is not just grades, but relevance.”

Mr. Kulaya explained generational shifts in attitudes toward education and technology:

- Baby Boomers (1946–1964): disciplined, loyal, experienced
- Generation X (1965–1980): independent, resourceful, adaptable
- Millennials (1981–1996): tech-savvy, value work–life balance
- Generation Z (1997–2010): digital natives, entrepreneurial, socially aware
- Generation Alpha (2011–2025): AI-native, highly connected, shaped by technology, often with limited religious formation

He emphasized that while the government’s competence-based curriculum is a positive step, the Church must respond quickly if seminaries are to remain relevant. Otherwise, more students will opt for technical colleges instead of A-level education, seeing seminaries as a “waste of time.”

On discipline, he cautioned against corporal punishment, sharing his experience as a principal in England: “Beating children may silence them, but it does not win their hearts.” Instead, he advocated teaching the “Three R’s”—Respect Yourself, Respect Others, and Respect the Environment.

Looking ahead, Mr. Kulaya urged seminaries to embrace technology rather than fear it: “We must allow students to use mobile phones and tablets responsibly, guiding them in positive use. When we resist new tools, we step away from innovation itself.” Quoting Albert Einstein, he concluded: *“We cannot solve our problems with the same thinking we used when we created them.”*

¹ Henry Kulaya is a Senior Consultant specializing in education reform, working closely with development partners and the Ministries of Education in Tanzania and Zanzibar. He has supported various major national initiatives, including the Education Sector Analysis and the Education Sector Development Plan. Henry is also the Co-founder and Executive Director of The Launchpad Tanzania, promoting skills development and inclusive education through technology and innovation. With over 22 years of experience in the UK and Tanzania, he is a recognized leader in education strategy, leadership development, and research on effective school practices.

Bishop Kassala responded by affirming the continued importance of seminaries, even with smaller numbers. Seminarians, he noted, play a vital role in shaping peers, teaching prayers, serving at Mass, and strengthening the wider Church community even if they do not later enter the priesthood.

He also encouraged:

- Strengthening compliance with government education policies, including active school boards.
- Fostering collaboration among seminaries rather than division between diocesan and missionary institutions.
- Building networks of rectors for mutual support and exchange of ideas.

The rectors outlined several practical steps:

1. Ensure each seminary has at least five priest-teachers (Rector, Vice Rector, Academic Dean, Discipline Dean, and Spiritual Director).
2. Increase ordinary-level enrollment to support A-level numbers and reduce fees.
3. Develop income-generating projects (e.g., agriculture, livestock) to subsidize costs.
4. Strengthen vocation promotion through personal visits rather than social media alone.
5. Revitalize pontifical movements in parishes, such as Holy Childhood and Young Christian Society.
6. Eliminate corporal punishment and improve meals.
7. Encourage bishops and religious superiors to visit seminaries regularly, even teaching classes to inspire students.
8. Avoid assigning priests “wounded in formation” to seminaries, as this can harm vocations.
9. Foster role-model priests who pray and celebrate Mass with true spiritual conviction.

2. In-Service Training for Seminary Leaders

This session was led by Mr. Kilipamwambu from the Ministry of Education. He emphasized that effective teachers require continuous professional development. “Too often,” he said, “teachers fail their students not because of lack of effort, but because they lack updated skills.”

He illustrated this by posing two questions:

1. *What makes a question?*
2. *How did the formula for π (pi) come about?*

Many teachers, he observed, struggle to answer such inquiries, showing gaps in their foundational knowledge. He insisted that in-service training is essential for keeping teachers current, especially as Tanzania moves toward a competence-based curriculum. Rectors themselves, he added, must master this approach if they are to lead others in adopting it effectively.

3. Cybersecurity Awareness

Madam Sarah Pelaji briefed rectors on the importance of cybersecurity, noting that priests’ phones often carry sensitive institutional data. She shared several practical guidelines:

- Never leave phones unattended.

- Prefer iPhones over Android devices for security.
- Always use a Virtual Private Network (VPN).
- Create strong passwords with numbers and special characters.
- Change phones every six years.
- Never store passwords on devices or notebooks.
- Avoid discussing sensitive matters on ordinary calls.
- Use “read-once” methods when sharing confidential information.
- Stay updated on new digital threats and solutions.

Her presentation reminded rectors that safeguarding information is part of safeguarding the mission of the Church.

Conclusion

The two-day meeting proved enriching and forward-looking. Rectors left with renewed commitment to strengthening seminaries through love, innovation, professional excellence, and responsible use of technology. Participants expressed gratitude to Church leaders for convening the meeting and pledged to work together for the well-being of seminarians and the future of Catholic education in Tanzania.

May God bless our efforts and guide the mission of our seminaries.

Fr Francis Kimaro, CSSp.
Rector-Usa Seminary

FORMATION

About our students in 2025-2026

Postulancy	12		
<i>1st Cycle Formation</i>			
Philosophy	49		
Novitiate	10		
PME	19		
<i>2nd Cycle Formation</i>			
Theology	27		

Pastoral Missionary Experience (PME) 2025

Arrival: We are happy to welcome among us 2 PME students from Vietnam:

1. Bro. Joseph Dang (Kipawa Parish-Dar es Salaam)
2. Bro. Anthony Phong (Mto wa Mbu Parish-Arusha)

Departure: Bro Bemhur Barbos, who was serving in Mtu wa Mbu parish, left for Brazil on 6 August following the death of his father. He will not be returning, as he was due to complete his PME in October 2025. We are grateful for his time with us and wish him all the best for the rest of his formation.

NOLASCO MUSHI, CSSp. 1970-2025



Nolasco Mushi, CSSp., peacefully departed after a courageous battle with cancer on the evening of Saturday, 16 August 2025, at the age of 55. He passed away at St. Elizabeth Hospital, Ngarenaro, Arusha.

Nolasco, the youngest of Fourteen siblings, eight brothers and six sisters (five of whom are still living), was born on 28 January 1970 in Singa Chini, Kibosho, Moshi, to Joseph Emmanuel and Natalia Ndesiangao, who have since passed away. He was baptized on 22 February 1970, received his First Holy Communion on 1 January 1984, and was confirmed on 13 July 1985.

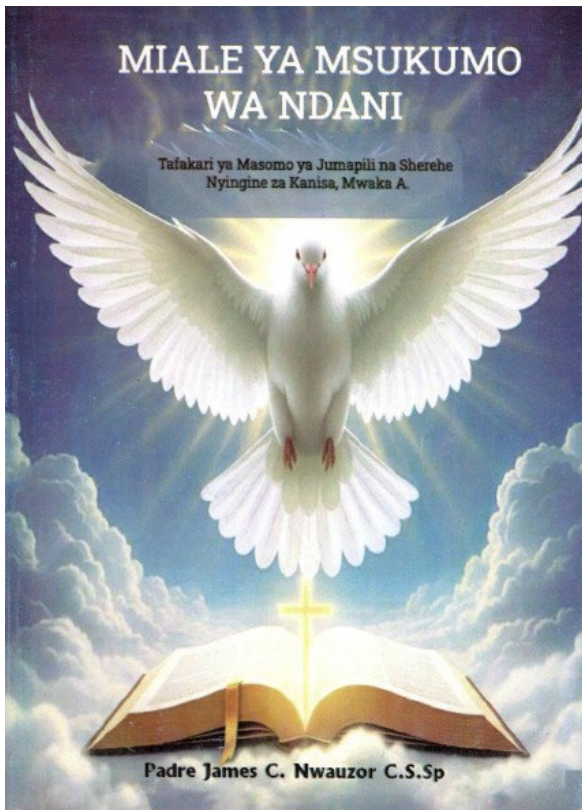
He completed his primary education at Msinga Primary School, Moshi (1995). He did his O-Level at Uru Seminary (1987–1989) for three years and then attended Mlama Secondary School, Moshi, where he graduated in 1991. In 1992 he enrolled at Kinampanda Teachers Training College in Singida, graduating as a Grade A teacher in 1994. After earning his teaching qualification, he joined Usa Seminary for his Advanced Level studies (1995–1997). He then joined Spiritan Missionary Seminary, Njiro, Arusha, in 1997, graduating in 2000 with a Bachelor of Philosophy degree from the Pontifical Urbaniana University, Rome, Italia. He entered Magamba Novitiate in 2000, making his First Profession on 29 June 2001.

Nolasco pursued his theological studies at Tangaza College, Nairobi, Kenya (2001–2006), during which he undertook Pastoral Missionary Experience in Borana, Ethiopia (2003–2004). He made his Final Profession on 7 July 2005 and was ordained deacon on 10 September 2005. He was assigned to Mto wa Mbu parish for his diaconate pastoral ministry from 1 March 2006 to 18 April 2006. His priestly ordination took place on 13 May 2006, at St. Theresa Cathedral, Arusha, by Rt. Rev. Bishop Jacob Koda of the Diocese of Same.

He subsequently pursued further studies at the University of Dar es Salaam, Faculty of Education, and, after completing teaching practice at Patandi Teachers College, graduated in 2007 with a PGDE in Education. On 15 October 2007, Nolasco was appointed Rector of Usa Seminary, a role he held until 2013, when he volunteered to be among the Spiritan pioneers who founded the Spiritan mission in South Sudan. He remained a member of this team until his death.

May Nolasco rejoice forever in the company of God's saints, Amen

SPIRITAN PUBLICATION(S)



Nwazor, James C. *Miale ya Msukumo wa Ndani*. Peramiho: Benedictine Publications, 2025.

Extract of the foreword:

RAYS OF INNER INSPIRATION are the fruits of some of my reflections, which I have already shared with the faithful of St. John Paul II Parish, Ilomba, in the Catholic Archdiocese of Mbeya, Tanzania. They are my meditations on the readings of the Church’s “Year A.”

A reflection is of the heart, grounded in the Word of God with the aim of teaching, converting, edifying, and nourishing the faith of believers. These reflections flow from my pastoral experiences in Nigeria, India, and Tanzania. The encouragement and requests from my parishioners that I preach to a wider audience led to this publication. For, “the unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple” (Psalm 119:130).

This book is a historic achievement that marks the commemoration of my tenth anniversary of priesthood. Reading it does not prevent one from listening to other preachers during Sunday Masses, because the Holy Spirit continues to touch individuals in different ways to address the challenges that confront us continually as Christians.

Moreover, the Word of God is ever new, and we are encouraged to read and meditate on it daily; for “the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

SAVE THE DATES

 Uganda Martyrs Parish (Colobane), Ziguinchor-Senegal

Sch. Justus Asingizibwe (Tanzania)
 13 September, 2025: Final Vows
 14 September, 2025: Diaconal Ordination

✚ St. John the Evangelist Parish, Lang'ata, Nairobi-Kenya



On 19 September 2025, six Scholastics belonging to our Province will be among thirteen Spiritan candidates from Kenya, Burundi and Uganda who will be ordained to the diaconate. We wish them all the best!

PHOTO NEWS



Carolus Retreat Centre: 3rd Group Retreat participants



Provincialate: 14 August, 2025: 25 years of Religious life and Priesthood Jubilarians

VACATION


-  Fr Clement Temba
-  Fr Rogasian Msami

We hope you enjoy time with family and friends.

BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER		
Philip	MASSAWE	01
Respicius	KWEYAMBA	01
Nicodemus	MASSONG	03
Fulgence	MOSHI	04
Zakayo	KIMARO	15
Evarist	SHIRIMA	18
Anno	MASSAWE	18
Arnold	BAIJUKYA	22
January	MKUDE	22
Paul	CHUWA	28

NECROLOGY

 02 September 1998: Fr Joseph Tenga

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

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**



4th PROVINCIAL CHAPTER LOGO

