

Provincial Desk January 2023 **Provincial Desk**

ONGOING FORMATION SEMINAR FOR CONFRERES BETWEEN ONE AND FIVE YEARS IN MINISTRY (31 JANUARY 2023-1 FEBRUARY 2023)



Some participants after 2nd February Mass which was also Libermann feast day

INTRODUCTION

Life is an ongoing school that constantly teaches, and as a result the human person is called upon to have the disposition of an incessant learner. It is in consideration of this reality that the Provincial team deemed it necessary to help facilitate this ongoing formation seminar. Additionally, this decision is equally in conformity with the Spiritan Rule of Life. In no. 142, it reiterates, “*God’s call to come and work for the Kingdom is not made for us just once for all. Our response has to be updated continually. So it is a necessity for all of us to retrain ourselves without fail if we are to remain true to our calling in the world and in the church.*” The participating confreres for the ongoing seminar were from the Province of Kenya (6 confreres) and the Province of Tanzania (12 confreres).

SEMINAR

The 2-day seminar was spearheaded by three facilitators with each tackling an aspect of the apostolic life of the confreres. The first speaker to set the ball rolling was *Fr. Joe Herzstein, CSSp.* on the theme - *Mission: Experience and Dynamics*. He shaded light on the need for Spiritan Missionaries to

continually be reminded of the Holy Spirit as the initiator and the advocate of mission and the necessity to continually solicit his guidance. The second speaker to facilitate the ongoing formation was Sr. Helen McKenna, MMM, who took the confreres through the theme - *Holistic Living: Self Care*. In her exposition, she emphasized the need for confreres to make effort to live a balanced life style for that is the only way one can become *whole* in each area of his life. The last theme was entitled: *Nonviolent communication* and was facilitated by Fr. James Shimbala, SMA., who drew the attention of the confreres on the need to learn a new language of life which is summarized in nonviolent communication. A unique way of looking at life with accent on how one observes, feels, recognizes his needs and how to express a request. The seminar was concluded with a discussion on *Spiritans issues*. The Provincial superior and his council engaged the confreres on matters concerning Spiritan issues. Some of the topics discussed ranged from our Spiritan way of life with focused on creativity and openness to the promptings of the Holy Spirit as we carry out our apostolic activities. The Superior of Tanzania reiterated the need for the confreres to be abreast with the current signs of our times, a call grounded on the theme of the 21st General Chapter at Bagamoyo 2: *Behold I am doing something new*. Furthermore, an appeal was made of the need to pay attention to our financial commitments especially as our provinces find themselves in an autonomous state now. Matters on education, development and planning were also on board for pondering. Moreover, general deliberation on our lives as Spiritans concluded the seminar.

RESPONSE FROM CONFRERES

Most of the confreres had a grateful heart for the opportunity given to learn and share what they have encountered and experienced at the early stages of their ministry. Both the confreres from the Province of Kenya and Tanzania were unanimous in pinpointing a certain reality that has been infused in the way community life is lived in our various apostolates. They observed that community life, which is core to our missionary outlook, could be lived better under the spirit of complementarity. Be that as it may, they equally admitted that just as mentors are essential in showing and passing on the Spiritan apostolic zeal, the disposition of a learner was equally encouraged especially from the older confreres. Moreover, due to the benefits derived from the seminar, the participating confreres expressed hope that such seminars for ongoing formation would be sustained as it afforded them the opportunity to renew and update themselves. Lastly, a request was made for such seminars to be extended to all the confreres.

CONCLUSION

Ongoing formation is an indispensable tool for our contemporary lives as Spiritans. The changing attitudes and mentalities require a certain approach to enable us respond to the new challenges as we carry out our apostolate. This seminar has provided such platform for confreres between one and five years in the ministry to be equipped for the present-day mission.

Fr Jojo Sackey, CSSp.



WHY ARCHIVES?

I can still recall my appointment a year ago, by the then Provincial superior, Father Philip Massawe CSSp. when he asked me to go to Ireland to do Archival studies. The idea I had in my mind of Archives was something to do with history. When I arrived in Ireland, I was well received by the confrères in Kimmage Manor, at White Hall Road Dublin, D12 P5YP. Before I commenced my studies at the University College of Dublin (UCD) in September 2022, Fr Brendan Cogavin CSSp., first introduced me to the Spiritan Heritage and Archives Centre. Brendan is the manager of the Centre.



I was extremely impressed by the archive shelving where files and boxes are clearly marked for easy identification and some are mounted on top of each other. For example, confrères' files are named in an alphabetical order with their dates of birth, religious profession, priestly ordination and the list of deceased confreres. I also discovered that even confrères' names, who have left the Congregation were listed.

Another aspect that I found interesting is the collection of Magazines, Newsletters and community Journals spanning different periods of the History of the Congregation and in particular the Province of Ireland are well catalogued.

Looking and studying these archives, one clearly learns that they tell stories or give us a sense of history about human persons either individually or collectively on who did what, where, why and when. This is why archives become so important in the life of any institution as they provide evidence of activities and tell us more about individuals and institutions.

It is clear that the centre of focus is the human person, (the who), especially his daily activities; the **what** is the missionary task a confrere is entrusted with to perform; **where** is the geographical place of mission; **why** can be the reason, motivation and the outcome result of what a confrère has been doing or did while in the mission/institution and **when** is the time duration spent by the confrère in the mission/institution while performing the missionary activity or any other work entrusted to him.

What do the majority of us think happens in the Archives? Many might think that it is all about filling or arranging files and cabinets and keeping the official correspondences of the Provincial office. Well while this is indeed very important to keep the data, archiving is more than that. As I mentioned above, an archive is a place where people can go to gather first hand facts, data, and evidence from letters, reports, notes, memos, photographs, and many other primary sources that confreres wrote about, collected and then preserved. For example, in our case as Spiritans, archives contain the living history of the members of the Congregation. One can find some beautiful stories told about different cultures, religious encounters, socio-political situations lived by the confrères themselves, to mention but a few, the role of confreres during the Biafra War in 1967 in Nigeria and the expulsion of all non-indigenous religious missionaries men and women including the Spiritans from Guinea-Conakry in 1967 by president Sekou Touré.

By way of conclusion, what I can say about Archives is that they are neither a library nor a museum as many of us might think. **Chinua Achebe** once wrote, *“Until the lions have their own historians, the history of the hunt will always glorify the hunter.”* I purposely quoted him to invite each one of

us to do something especially to write a personal life-history about your missionary life that will one day end up or be part of our Provincial Archives as part of our beautiful and lively missionary life experiences and stories as Spiritans. I am delighted and grateful to have been granted this moment in my life time as a Spiritan to do archival studies.

I am sure the question asked by many about **Why Archives** has been answered through this short but curious reflection. Thank you all and may God bless you!

SAVE THE DATES

✚ **Canonical Visitation (SRL 196.3):** Frs Jeff Duaimé (UCEAF correspondent), Jude Nnorom, Philip Massawe and Justi Tarimo will be in our Province from 17 March to 1 April for the canonical visitation. As you can see, the time is too short to cover different communities and missions in our vast Province. We are working on the schedule which will include all pastoral zones. You will be informed about the dates of meetings with the general councillor/s in your respective zones. You are urged to avail yourself and help in the mobility of our visitors within the zones. The last canonical visitation took place in our in 2013/4, ever since a lot of water has passed under the bridge. This visit will be under the sign of Bagamoyo 2021, *Behold, I am doing something new* (in my ministry).

✚ **Annual Retreat (SRL 96 & 96.1):**

1st group: 25 June-1 July

2nd group: 2nd July-8 July

3rd group: 6th -12 August

Remarks about the annual retreat: We are all reminded that faithfulness to the Rule of Life doesn't provide for multiple choice option hence the obligation to conform to what is stipulated. We have enough time to organize our calendars so as to avail ourselves for this important spiritual exercise and ongoing formation. We should avoid to hide ourselves behind lame excuses.

NECROLOGY

Leonce	RAMBAU	12 February 2022
John	KWAY	14 February 2013
Aurelian	MASSAWE	19 February 2021

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

BEREAVEMENT

We extend our prayerful sympathies to:

✚ Fr Andrew Mwiko– (sister) Theresia Mwiko on 17 January, 2023.

VACATION

✚ Fr James Mchamungu

Welcome back home and enjoy your stay with family, relatives and friends.

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY		
01	George	MAYEMBA
02	Patience	MUGISHA
07	Joseph P.	SHAYO
07	Colman F.	KIMARYO
08	Patrick	NJAU KAGUA
12	Justi	TARIMO
14	Valentine	BAYO
22	Priva	TEMU
23	Komba	FLAVIAN
25	Firmin	LASWAI

Fraternally,

Florentine Mallya, CSSp.
Provincial Superior



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