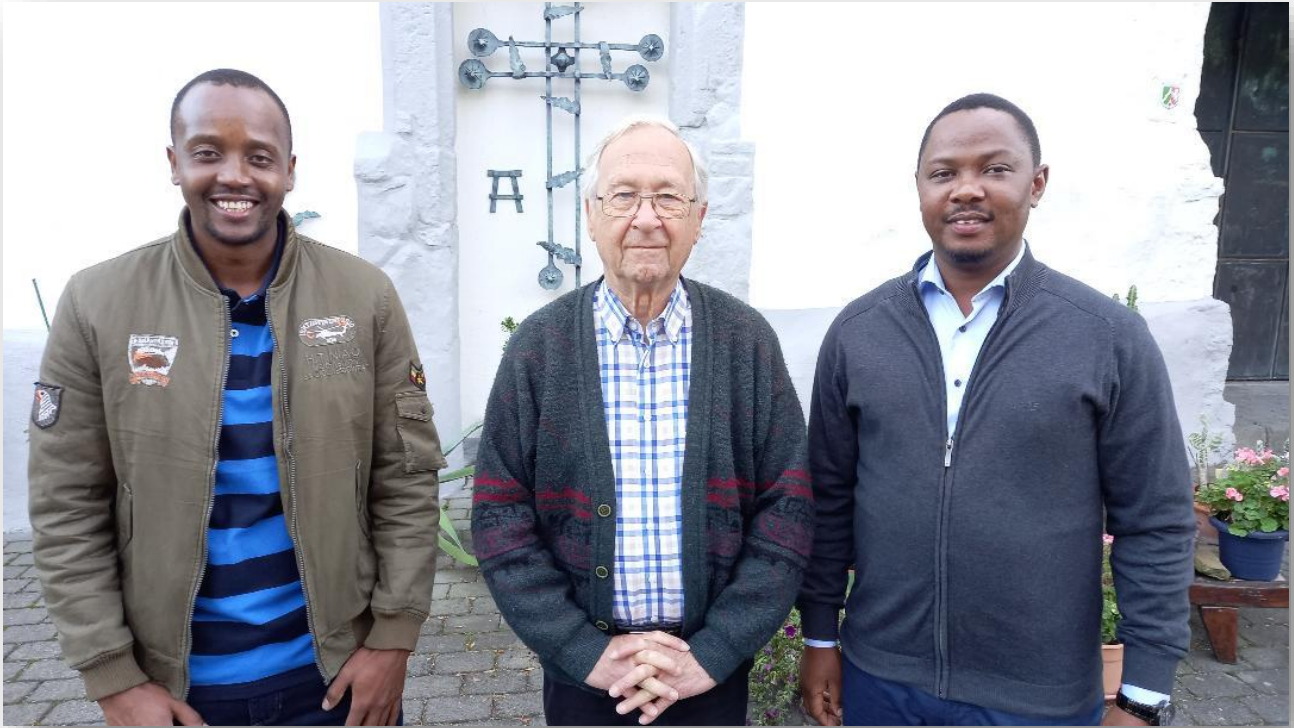


Provincial Desk October 2022 Provincial Desk

MISSIONED TO GERMANY



L-R Fathers Matthew Assenga, Konrad Breidenbarch (former Provincial and Formator in Germany) and Gasto Lyimo

Relationship between the Provinces of Tanzania and Germany dates back to the East Africa Foundation and later East Africa Province time. The Bishop of Zanzibar, Augustine Shao, was the first Spiritan from East Africa to be appointed to Germany. Few others followed and there were even students from East Africa who did 2nd Cycle formation in Germany. Most of us remember Fr Johannes Herschel's attachment to Bagamoyo through his writings and the formidable work he did at the catholic museum.

Fr Gaston Lyimo is among the African Spiritans who is presently appointed to Germany. Most of them work in parishes, some in school chaplaincy while a few work in the Provincial administration. Gasto did the Period of Missionary Experience (PME) in Germany from 2006 to 2007 where he strived to learn the language and the culture of the people. Even without the knowledge of German language, listening and observing the way he articulates himself and relates with the people, one can't help but conclude that he is in sync with them both the young and the elderly. His advantage has been that during the PME he did the youth apostolate especially with a government sponsored youth volunteer program and later became one of the resource persons for the same program. He is also part of the diocesan team which offers cultural orientation to new missionaries. This is why PME is an important stage of formation, if taken seriously.

In 2019, he was installed parish priest of a cluster of four parishes in the diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart assisted by Fr Chidi Emezi from Nigeria. Some of these parishes are in the villages and small industrial towns where some industrial giants are located, for example, Porsche Research & Development Centre (Weissach), Bosch headquarters (Renningen) etc. In September 2022, the Archbishop of Rottenburg-Stuttgart appointed Gasto the administrator of three other parishes. This

means a lot of work requiring organizational skills and good health. It should be recalled that the Catholic Church in Germany is effervescing in different pastoral and doctrinal fronts reminiscent of the time of Martin Luther. Some Catholic parishes are hoisting LGBT flags (not without divisive cacophony), women are not left behind either in this procession for liberation. I had the opportunity to participate in “women’s” Mass. Gasto managed very well to negotiate his place without rebellion thanks to his pastoral wisdom and insights about the culture. It is an understatement to say that the German society is getting very secular. Many have abandoned a cherished tradition of church support through tax deductions. The series of child-abuse scandals by some Catholic clergy were toxic and alienated many practicing Catholics from the church. It is not easy to work in this kind of pastoral context. One needs good and solid missionary training. Bagamoyo 2021 was right on in its reflection on formation for the contemporary world.



Youth group from Germany on visit in Tanzania

Being a Spiritan, Gasto has other congregational calls to mind about. He has been a JPIC coordinator in Germany for nearly six years. He was elected to the Provincial Council last year. In the midst of all that, he managed to bring a youth group to Tanzania accompanied by two adult parishioners. In this way, he is sowing the seeds of missionary collaboration.

Fr Matthew Assenga is on Mission Appointment in Germany since last February. He lives in Aachen while doing the language course after which he will have to go to a driving school. These are some of the basic requirements in order to be operational hopefully in the near future.

We wish both Gasto and Matthew a fecund ministry in Germany.



Parochial church-Renningen



Fr Gasto with Mass servers





EAST AFRICA PROVINCE



“Perhaps a question may be asked: When did the East African Foundation begin? **The East African Foundation officially began on Wednesday, January 10, 1973 when the Novitiate was opened at Usa River and a group of six aspirants made their Act of Commitment and were received into the Novitiate by the Novice Master [Director of Novices] Fr. Pat Ryan.**” ¹

Conscious of this historical milestone, the Provincial Council of Tanzania, in consultation and collaboration with UCEAF Circumscriptions is convinced that together we have a historical duty to celebrate and document our common history. We propose the following to this effect:

- ✎ A Thanksgiving Mass at a chosen date during the canonical visitation from the Generalate from 19 March to 8 April, 2023.
- ✎ A commemorative historical album/plaque on our common history to date. This will also have chronological dates of significant events.

This initiative is laudable but very demanding because of time factor. Once it is agreed among us, we will need to co-opt some confreres to create a pool of contributors led by a coordinator and editor.

APPOINTMENT

Fr Gabriel Kitira: Spiritual Director, Usa Seminary with effect from 8 November, 2022

We wish Gabriel enjoyable ministry

VACATION

- ✚ Fr Philip Ng’oja
- ✚ Fr Anno Massawe

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

BEREAVEMENT

We extend our prayerful sympathies to:

20 October, 2022, **Mama Maria Maselle**-Mother to Joseph Lekundayo

24 October, 2022, **Mzee Sebastian Kanana Mahinga**-Father to Barnabas Kileu

May they rejoice in the company of God’s saints. Amen.

¹ Gerard Majella Nnamunga and Don Bosco Ochien Onyalla, *25 years of the Spiritans of the East African Province*, 1998

NECROLOGY

21 November 1978: Joseph Kilasara

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

 **Save the dates**



Ongoing formation seminar for the Confreres between one and five years of priesthood and religious life.

Date: from 31 January 2023 to 2 February 2023

Venue: Provincialate, Tengeru

N.B. Mandatory participation

BIRTHDAYS

November		
23	Amandus	KAPELE
29	Raymond	JOEL

Fraternally,

Florentine Mallya, CSSp.
Provincial Superior



Do you take time to visit our website? <http://www.spiritanstanzania.org>