

## Provincial Desk November 2022

### Provincial Desk

#### JOYFUL IN HOPE



*One has a feeling that the world is taking on a roller coaster ride. Apart from the usual drama-inclined media accounts to which we are familiar, the incursion of COVID 19 took the world into uncharted waters. Many lives and livelihoods were lost. The world nearly came to a standstill. As the world was learning to cope with the new normal, the war in Ukraine broke out and it's still on. While there are few who have become super rich, taking advantage of the war situation, a great many especially the poor pay the price because the world is intrinsically connected. Jesus didn't*

*come to a pristine world devoid of illness, conflict, war, exile, corruption, hunger, persecution, scandals, etc.*

*As we travel through Advent season to Christmas the constant prayer word is COME. Advent invites us to sobriety amidst distractions around us. As long as there is Someone who is coming there is hope. Our ministry in the Church as Spiritan missionaries brings many of us closer to the reality of everyday life which is "tough and rough" to a majority of people. I think particularly but not exclusively of some members of our Province who have been working in refugee camps for some 27 years. It is a ministry which requires a spirituality of Advent hoping that life would be better for the refugees. Our presence in their midst with little (material) to offer is significant. It is a humble way of being witnesses of the hope that God cares. We all need this assurance in whichever social location we find ourselves to trigger in us the so much waited Christmas joy.*



**PROVINCIAL VISITATION  
SPIRITAN REFUGEE SERVICE (SRS) COMMUNITY  
5-6, 8-9 NOVEMBER 2022**



*Western Zone Members: Frs Joseph Mashaka, Deockary Massawe, Dan Waweru, Francis Lasway & Paul Flamm*

During the provincial visitation to the Western Zone communities made at the beginning of November, we were blessed by a visit from our Provincial, Fr Florentine Mallya and the head of the Provincial Planning and Development Office, Fr Evod Shao, to our Spiritan Refugee Service (SRS) community.

They attended two Sunday Masses, one of the Burundian Catholic community and the other of the Congolese Catholic community in the Nyarugusu refugee camp located in Makere Town of the Kasulu District in Kigoma. The faithful of both communities were overjoyed to receive our two confreres in liturgies unique to each of their countries of origin.

However, the exuberant celebrations belie the increasingly difficult daily life in the camp. Stringent measures have been put in place with the intent to bring the refugees to decide to return to their countries of origin. Those measures include closing the markets and knocking down the small shops, as well as the prohibition of motorcycles and bicycles.

Another area of serious concern to us is a shortage of funds that has resulted in the lack of essential medicines and increasing difficulty in getting referrals for treatment outside the camp in serious cases. The shortage of funding also affects the availability of appropriate foods for the dietary needs of the elderly and people with serious illnesses like diabetes and/or high blood pressure. All these issues have serious implications for the health and well-being of those affected.

For our part, we often act as liaisons between the health services and aid agencies to request assistance, especially for the chronically ill and disabled. However, policy decisions taken concerning restrictions imposed on the refugees and questions of shortage of funding are taken at levels far beyond our own sphere of influence. For that reason, we are also exploring alternative avenues for advocacy through the existing church leadership structure.

The visit of Florentine and Evod also provided a good opportunity to reflect on these twenty-seven years of the SRS' ministry and to look forward to the future. Over the years, many confreres have shared in this ministry. Among them there have always been specific confreres who have served as anchors for extended periods of time. That continuity is essential in an environment where there is constant turnover in the leadership of the government and aid agencies with the resulting frequent changes in policies affecting the daily lives of the refugees.

Similarly, we have a great interest in preparing our young confreres for future engagement in our ministry by way of offering pastoral experiences, either during vacation time or for longer experiences like that of the Congregation - Period of Missionary Experience (PME).

With respect to the future of our ministry, we see a long-term presence of a certain core group of the refugees, even though the majority of them either will return to their countries of origin, or be resettled to third countries.

In addition, as a part of an outreach to the refugee hosting community of Kigoma, we are currently constructing a health facility. That will also serve as part of a permanent commitment on the part of the Province of Tanzania to the presence of a Spiritan community in Kigoma. Together with the health facility, a Spiritan residence will be built on the same plot owned by the Congregation in Makere Town, Kasulu District of Kigoma.

If there are any regrets we have in our ministry, it is that over the past twenty-seven years of our ministry with refugee communities, we have only accepted two young men in our formation program. Concerns are often raised over the effect of life in exile on the motivations and emotional fitness of candidates from the refugee camps.

In response, we refer such concerns to the profound influence of war and exile on the Israelites' understanding of God's presence among them and the importance of their fidelity to their covenantal relationship with God throughout the entire account of salvation history in the Old Testament. In the end though, especially for ourselves as members of a Congregation dedicated to the Holy Spirit, our commitment, or lack thereof, to welcoming young men from refugee communities to join us raises the question as to whether we truly believe that the Holy Spirit continues to work among them as the difficult events unfold throughout their lives. From our own experience in the three camps where we have served the Burundian Catholic community in exile, there is a WhatsApp group formed by sixteen priests and sisters from those camps at least five of whom are now priests.

Let us close with our sincere thanks to our own Congregation and various benefactors who have so generously supported our ministry both spiritually and materially. May God bless you all.

**Spiritans Refuge Service  
Kigoma**

PHOTO NEWS



L-R: Frs Joseph Mashaka (Kasumo Parish), Bishop Joseph Mlola (Diocese of Kigoma), Frs Florentine Mallya, Francis Lasway (Assistant Manager Kasumo Agricultural Sec School) & Diocesan Procurator, Kigoma



Gathering after a Sunday Mass with a Burundian Parish community in Nyarugusu refugee camp



Nyakitonto: a sacristy which doubled as residence for the SRS pioneers, Frs Gervas Taratara and (the late) Josaphat Kilawila



Jeannette Niyomukiza, Ivrea Sisters aspirant from Nyarugusu camp mentored by our confreres



Welcome to Kasumo Agricultural Secondary School (Left-Francis Lasway)



Spiritan Makere health facility still under construction



**MESSAGE FROM THE GENERAL COUNCIL**

The 2021 Bagamoyo General Chapter changed the mandates of circumscription superiors from three to four years with the expressed goal of synchronizing the occurrence of circumscription chapters with General Chapters. In order to strengthen the international Spiritan mission and to achieve the maximum benefit from General Chapters, it is important that circumscription Chapters are convened within 1-3 years of a General Chapters in order to harmonize planning at the global level with what is happening locally. One of the primary goals of a circumscription chapter should be to implement decisions locally based on the Congregation's goals that are decided at the General Chapter. The successful implementation of the General Chapter depends on the integration of these decision in individual circumscriptions.

For this reason, the General Council has reflected on the cycle of Province Chapters in Tanzania, and we are requesting you and your Council to convene a Chapter for 2026 and again in 2030 to enable the Spiritan Province of Tanzania to be in synch with General Chapters going forward. We appreciate that this will mean having successive chapters over a four year period after having a Chapter in 2021, but we believe that it is necessary to make this adjustment to synchronize circumscription chapters with the General Chapter. With this adjustment then, going forward a chapter will be held every 8 years in your circumscription which will enable you to meet within up to three years after future General Chapters.

Thank you for your collaboration in making this change. As always, the Spiritan mission is our focus, and the structures and processes that we have are intended to serve and support that mission.

Fraternally in the Holy Spirit,

  
Superior General

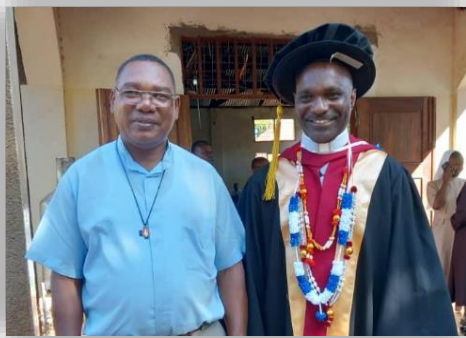


  
Correspondent



**Spiritan Mission**  
**2022 – 2024**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**



Dr. Fr Elias Ruvahofi was awarded a PhD in Education on 26 November, 2022 at Mwenge University College (MWECAU) in Moshi. He is the first member of the Province to be awarded a PhD at a local University. Bravo!

His doctoral thesis: **Effectiveness of leadership Practices of Heads of Community Secondary Schools in Enhancing Equity in Education in Kigoma Region, Tanzania.**

**APPOINTMENT**

**Fr Elias Ruvahofi:** Lecturer at Marian University College with effect from 1 December, 2022. He has already joined Christ the King Community at Kerege.

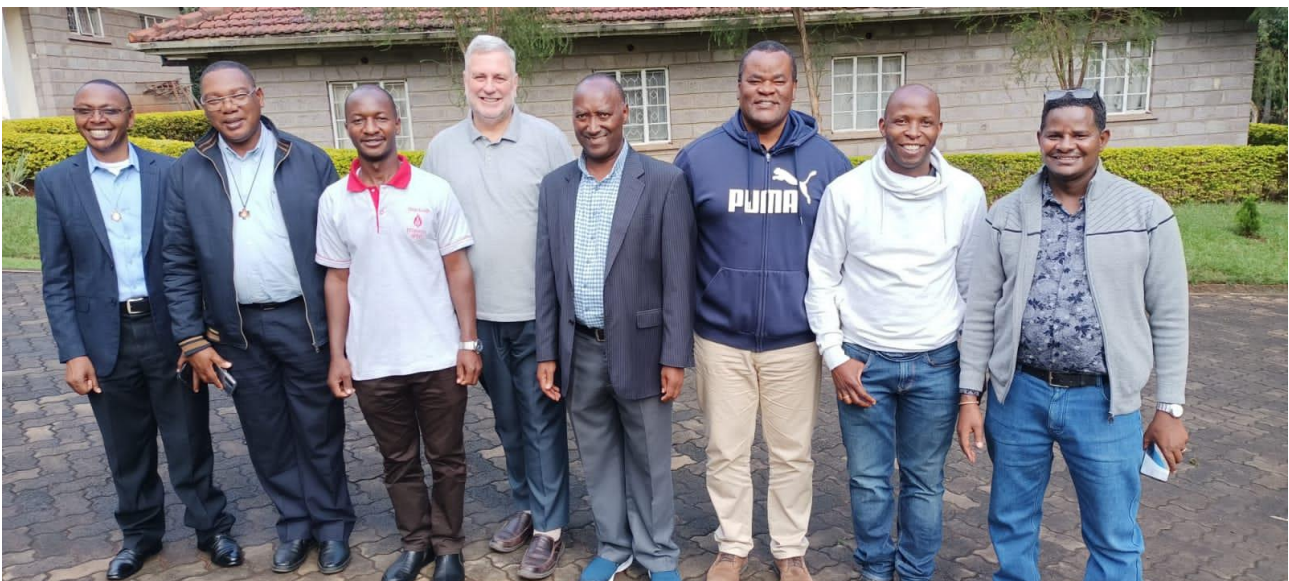
**PME**



We are happy to welcome **Brother Anthony Bien Van Cong from Vietnam.** He has just arrived in Tanzania for his 2-year Period of Missionary Experience (PME).

*Anthony and some members of the Provincial Council at Tengeru*

**UCEAF MEETING**



*UCEAF Superiors and Bursars meeting from 23 to 25 in Nairobi. UCEAF correspondent, Fr Jeff Duaime (tallest), attended the meeting.*

## NECROLOGY

28 December 2011: Fr John Marandu

22 December 2016: Fr Joseph Babu

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

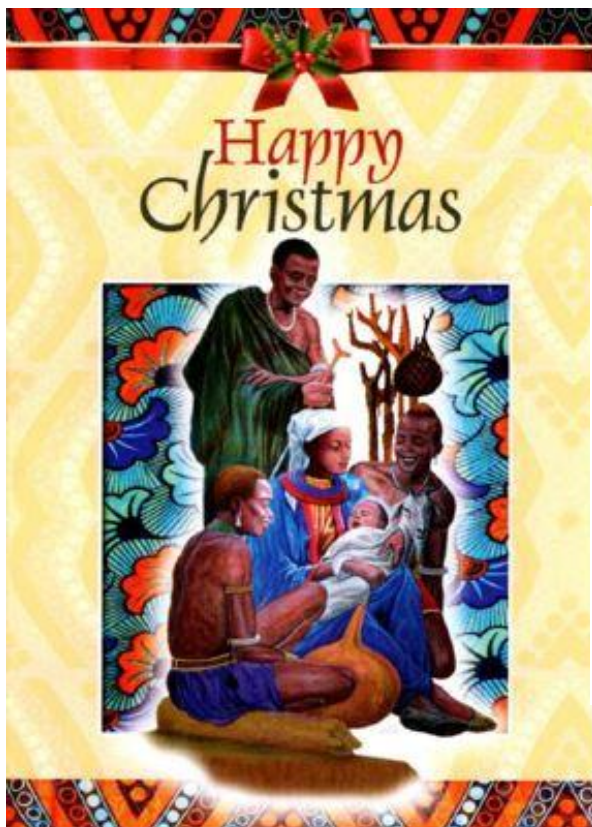
**Venue:** Provincialate, Tengeru

**N.B.** Mandatory participation

## CALENDER

- **SCCAI Meeting:** Fr Florentine will participate in the Spiritan Conference of the Circumscriptions of Africa and Islands meeting in Angola from 5 to 10 December, 2022.
- **Christmas break:** Provincial offices will be closed from 20 December 2022 to 6 January 2023.

THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL WISHES US ALL HAPPY CHRISTMAS



*May you have a blessed Christmas!  
May you know peace, love, and light  
as we celebrate the birth of our Lord  
and Saviour, Jesus Christ.  
Merry Christmas!*

**BIRTHDAYS**

December		
01	Alphonse	KIMATHY
08	Liberatus	KUNDY
08	Joseph	LEKUNDAYO
15	Gilbert	TAIRO
18	Emmanuel	CHUWA
22	Batholomew	KWIYEGA
27	Dismas	MASSAWE
28	Kastory	KISUDA
28	Gabriel	KITIRA
29	Noel	SALEKWA

Fraternally,

Florentine Mallya, CSSp.  
Provincial Superior



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