

## **Provincial Desk November 2024** **Provincial Desk**

### *God's light continues to shine*



*Dear Confreres and Lay Spiritan Associates,*

*As we approach the joyous celebration of Christmas, we take a moment to reflect on the many blessings we have received throughout the year. This season of love and hope invites us to acknowledge God's unwavering presence in our lives and ministry, guiding us through moments of joy and challenges alike.*

*The year has brought with it countless opportunities for growth, collaboration, and service to the people entrusted to our care. Together, we have shared in the mission, witnessed the fruits of our labour, and encountered God in the faces of those we serve. For all these gifts, we are deeply grateful.*

*We recognise, however, that the journey has not been without its trials. The challenges we have faced—both personally and collectively—have tested our faith and resolve. Yet, as Spiritans, we are reminded of the courage and strength that Christ's birth brings to us. The message of Christmas assures us that even in the midst of difficulty, **God's light continues to shine**, offering us hope and renewal.*

*As we celebrate the birth of our Savior, may we find inspiration in His humility and unwavering love. Let us renew our commitment to the Spiritan mission, drawing strength from the bonds we share as confreres and Lay Spiritan Associates.*

*May the peace and joy of Christmas fill your hearts, communities and homes. With gratitude for your dedication and prayers for a blessed New Year, we extend our heartfelt wishes to you and your families.*



## LOCATING THE RELEVANCE OF OUR SPIRITAN APOSTOLATE IN THE TECH-DRIVEN WORLD



*Fr Raymond Riziki and Taiwanese colleagues facilitating ICT workshop for Spiritan teachers in Bagamoyo*

Reflecting on the signs of the times amidst a world characterized by rapid technological advancements and scientific breakthroughs, we are compelled to ask ourselves: How do we stay relevant in our ministry, and how do we remain effective in this digital age? Technology is unavoidably transforming every aspect of human life: how we communicate, learn, work, travel, entertainment, and even how we practice our faith.

Consequently, many, especially young people, are deeply affected as they engage with these new technologies daily in ways humanity never imagined. Their unprecedented access to information brings incredible learning opportunities, but also serious challenges.

Even prominent tech leaders have voiced concerns about the risks of these advancements. Elon Musk, for instance, warned 10 years ago, “...*With artificial intelligence, we are summoning the demon*” (MIT Aeronautics and Astronautics Department Centennial Symposium, 2014). Warnings like these have been voiced now more than ever, reminding us of the urgent need for practical and localized ethical frameworks and moral guidance in navigating the technological landscape.

As young people increasingly learn, socialize, and build businesses in the digital realm, they urgently need guidance — a moral and ethical foundation to help them make responsible choices and remain rooted in the human values. As such, use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools like ChatGPT, NotebookLM, Copy.ai, Canva, and more, for example, will have ethical practice as its springboard.

The flourishing emergence also necessitates the urgency of integral empowerment towards respect of privacy and responsible use of social media in ways that reflect both their faith and respect for others, and reduce the loopholes for vulnerability. Without such guidance, technology can lead to isolation, stifled creativity, loss of

focus, and exposure to harmful content, knowledge, and harmful people, among other risks, which potentializes even more the spread of such harms.

In our ministries we cannot keep quiet! We are uniquely tasked with leading the faithful to discern wisdom and good values that build them up, especially young people. Following young people where they are and speaking their language wins them as it creates a common ground for dialogue over the things that interest them the most, with technology topping the list. This becomes especially important in our Spiritan academic institutions to ensure that we make a difference in how our young people desire, treasure, and utilize information, knowledge, and tools at their privileged disposal.

Undeniably, our students are engaging with these technologies in ways we never did at their age. As educators and mentors, we ought to guide them not only in studies but also in navigating the digital world responsibly. We ought to help them understand the ethical implications of the technologies they use daily, from social media to AI tools, admonishing them to use these tools to grow, learn, and connect in ways that are consistent with the Gospel values we teach. Our approach ought not to be dismissive!

The Church in Taiwan, where I do my apostolate, actively organizes seminars and provides resources for religious and priests to learn about emerging technologies, particularly AI. We are encouraged to familiarize ourselves with these tools—not to become experts but to gain enough understanding to speak confidently on these topics. This enables us to offer guidance, which is relevant, practical, timely, and rooted in the Gospel values.

Pope Francis has urged us, *“Do not be afraid of new things! Be creative. Be witnesses of a different way of doing things, of acting, of living!”* (Address to Religious Superiors, 2013). His words resonate deeply with the theme of Bagamoyo II: *“Behold I am doing something new”* (Isaiah 43:19), which calls us to move forward with boldness, wisdom, and creativity, trusting in God’s promise to work through us in new and wonderful ways.

The tech-driven world is not just a passing phase; it is the reality of our time which has come to stay. Embracing willingly, curiously and openly these advancements is essential to ensuring that our apostolate remains relevant to the world we live in and faithful to our Spiritan calling and vocation.

**Fr Raymond Riziki, CSSp.**



 **MISSION APPOINTMENTS 2024**

The Superior General, with the consent of his council appointed the following confreres to the Province of Tanzania:

-  Owolanwo Peter from Nigeria SW to Tanzania
-  Joseph Minh Loc Nguyen from Vietnam to Tanzania
-  Desdery Joseph Mfoi Tanzania to Tanzania

 **KARIBU**

We are happy to welcome two new confreres: Fr Martin Okoye is staying with the Kerege community while he learns Kiswahili. Fr Gabriel Abah will join the community of MODECO while taking Kiswahili classes. We wish them a happy stay and fruitful ministry in Tanzania.



*Fr Martin Okoye*



*Fr Gabriel Abah*

**ONGOING FORMATION**



An ongoing formation program for UCEAF confreres with less than five years\* of ministry is planned for 2025. The programme will begin on 3 February (arrival) and end on 10 February (departure) 2025 in Tangelbei, East Pokot, Kenya.

NB: We (Tanzania Province) have excluded confreres who are learning Kiswahili and have included some who are in their 6th year of ministry.

**VACATION**

✚ Raymond Riziki

*Welcome back home and enjoy your stay with family and friends.*

**NECROLOGY**

|                     |                          |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>Joseph Babu</b>  | <b>22 December, 2016</b> |
| <b>John Marandu</b> | <b>28 December, 2011</b> |

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

**BIRTHDAYS**

| <b>DECEMBER</b> |            |           |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|
| <b>01</b>       | Alphonse   | KIMATHY   |
| <b>08</b>       | Liberatus  | KUNDY     |
| <b>08</b>       | Joseph     | LEKUNDAYO |
| <b>15</b>       | Gilbert    | TAIRO     |
| <b>18</b>       | Emmanuel   | CHUWA     |
| <b>22</b>       | Batholomew | KWIYEGA   |
| <b>27</b>       | Dismas     | MASSAWE   |
| <b>28</b>       | Kastory    | KISUDA    |
| <b>29</b>       | Noel       | SALEKWA   |

**CHRISTMAS BREAK**

Please be informed that the offices at the Provincialate will be closed from December 16, 2024, to January 3, 2025. During this period, our team will be unavailable to attend to any official matters.

Fraternally,



Florentine Mallya, CSSp.  
Provincial Superior

