

Provincial Desk December 2023

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MISSION AT MATALA: ORGANIC EXTENSION OF MANG'OLA CHINI

INTRODUCTION

The XXI General Chapter – Bagamoyo 2021 theme inspired by Prophet Isaiah was “Behold, I am doing something new” (Is 43:19). It called the Congregation to open up to new initiatives and continually re-evaluate how mission is carried out with regards to the contemporary signs of the times. Moreover, it is worthy of note to state that the God we serve is the God of the present as we notice how he reveals his Name to Moses as “I AM WHO AM” (Ex 3:14). It is in the light of and the acknowledgment of the ever-presence of the Holy Spirit who keeps revealing the needs of the signs of the times at mission, that the Mission at Matala is seen as an organic extension of the Mission at Mang’ola Chini.

MATALA

Matala is a mission area predominantly dominated by the Datoga (Wamang’ati) and Sukuma people. The main sources of livelihood of the people are fishing and farming. As a mission, they were initially under the guidance of the Pallotine Fathers at Haydom with Fr Simon Amsi as the founding father of the mission. The Augustinian Fathers were handed over the baton after sometime till now. The distance from Haydom to Matala is 60 km. They have 4 Christian communities with 240 Christians. With that being said, it is interesting to highlight that Matala has different denominations like KKKT and Pentecostal churches but also other religious traditions: Islam and African Traditional Religion (ATR). On the side of social amenities, the area has four government schools and one health facility. The main challenge the Pallotine and Augustinian Fathers encountered was the nature of the roads. It was virtually inaccessible especially during the rainy season. Consequently, they visited the place at most 4 times in a year.

ORGANIC EXTENSION OF MANG'OLA CHINI

The Spiritan charism continually reminds us that the Holy Spirit, like wind, blow at will. Be that as it may, the Holy Spirit blows in a carefully designed direction. The Spiritans were the Founding Fathers of the diocese of Mbulu and subsequently, the mission at Mang’ola Chini. The seed that was planted by Fr. Father Jose Aguilar Torner (Pepe), CSSp and Father Miguel Angel Lozano continues to blossom to date.

It is worth stating that the mission at Matala is not something new to the Spiritans. It was initially under the coverage of the mission of Mang’ola Chini from the onset. Be that as it may, the demand of the needs of the mission at the centre of Mang’ola Chini made it highly impossible for the early missionaries to have any outreach at Matala at that time. Amusingly, with hindsight wisdom has proven the decision of the early missionaries right, for the development made at the centre at that

time has grounded and partially equipped the current missionaries to reach out to unchartered territories like Matala.



The existing make shift church

The Catholic Bishop of Mbulu, Rt. Rev. Anthony Lagwen appealed to the Spiritans to reach out to Matala and the handing over took place officially on Tuesday, 18 December, 2023. The distance from Mang’ola Chini to Matala is around 100 km. In his remarks, the Bishop affirmed that all effort would be made to support the mission at Matala. The confreres at Mang’ola Chini have already put plans in place to commence missionary activities in the New Year.



L-R Fr Jojo Sackey, CSSp., Bp. Antony Lagwen, Fr Simon Sulley, S.A.C (Pallotine), Fr Matthias Ng’oja, CSSp. and Fr Josip Brnjic, CSSp. (behind)

CONCLUSION

Mission at Matala becomes an extension of the mission in Mang'ola Chini and in the same light; a new adventure for the confreres at Mang'ola as far as evangelization is concerned. Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Companion of Missionaries, and the help of the Holy Spirit, God will continue to lead us.

**Spiritan Pastoral Team
Mang'ola Chini**



IN MEMORIUM

REV. FR. GEORGE MARANDU, CSSp.



Dear Confreres,

Over the years, there likely have been many correspondences exchanged between a succession of superiors heading the Province of Tanzania and those of the Indian Ocean Foundation (IOF), the Union of Circumscriptions of the Indian Ocean (UCOI), and, in a very special way, with the Spiritan group of Mauritius. It is safe to presume that these former exchanges were colored with joyful expectations and optimism around fraternal collaboration between your province and our circumscription and group here in the Indian Ocean regarding the formation or the mission appointment of new confreres.

Unfortunately, in this current correspondence to you, dear confreres, grief and pain are taking precedence over gratitude and joy as we mourn the sudden loss of our dearest brother, George Marandu. Indeed, our dear brother George is dead, and this is the painful truth with which we are still being “sucker punched”, even as we write these words to you. We want to take comfort in the fact that he died peacefully in his sleep; that he was a great missionary dearly loved by his parishioners; that he was a great confrere to each and every one of us; that he is now with the Lord who has called him home. However, the honest truth is that he is gone, and gone too soon: without saying goodbye, without giving our group a chance to “make everything new” with him, without giving us a chance to express to him personally our undying gratitude for his invaluable contributions he brought to this group, this circumscription, this country during his time as a Spiritan religious missionary priest here.

Why has he gone so soon and so young? What does God have in store for him now? How now do we as a group in Mauritius and you as a Province in Tanzania advance with our vision and mission

without him? This remains for us not a problem to be solved, but a mystery to embrace and to live with.

So dear confreres, as we tread the memory lane of our years of journey alongside George, through the fog of our mourning eyes, we can still discern various situations that provoke eruptions of gratefulness to the Province of Tanzania:

- *You graced our group here with a great missionary, a wonderful emissary of God's love for the people he served in Mauritius, a beacon of hope for the parishioners entrusted to him in the diocese of Port-Louis, a committed and faithful Spiritan whose devotion and attachment to his confreres never wavered.*
- *Our heartfelt thankfulness also rose for your hospitality shown to the young confreres we sent to you for their formation as priests and Spiritans. It is probably safe to say that it is the opening of your formation houses to us, since the days when we were still the Indian Ocean Foundation (IOF), that really paved the path which led Octavian and our late confrere George to our doorstep.*
- *Our wholehearted gratitude also goes to your sensitivity to delegate representative of the Tanzania Province in the person of Fr. Kastory Kisuda, and arrange for one of George's close relatives, namely Sr. Marandu Gotfrida Mark to be with us here during these sorrowful moments.*

Dear confreres, George's sudden passing on is a painful reality for both your Province and our group with which we now have to continue living. However, let it also be an appeal for more collaboration and sharing of persons and resources to work in the vast missionary vine of the Lord that He has entrusted to the Spiritan Congregation. Let us, as we bear mutually the heavy pangs of sufferings due to the loss of our beloved confrere, look forward to carrying on our mission of "making everything new" together.

Pray for us as we do likewise for you and the Tanzania Province.

Cor Unum et Anima Una!

**Fr Wilbert-François Kalenga Wa Kalenga, CSSp.
Superior of the Group of Mauritius**

STEWARDSHIP

CONTROL MANUALS

Control manuals for the Province of Tanzania are ready for use and will be officially launched this month. We are all invited to take time to go through the manuals and own them. These are indispensable tools needed to help us do something new in stewardship. In due course, we are going to organize capacity building and familiarization sessions by zones.

APPOINTMENT

The Provincial Superior, with the consent of his Council appointed:

- Fr Adolph Msoka as new superior of Bishop Dennis Durning Community, Provincial Archivist and Librarian with effect from 1st February, 2024.

We wish him all the best in his new ministry.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

In order to strengthen our Planning and Development Office, the Provincial Council has engaged Ms Georgina Tenga principally but not exclusively for the following responsibilities:

1. Assistant Planning and Development officer
2. Acting Monitoring and Evaluation officer

She will start working as from 15th January, 2024.

VACATION

-  Fr Philip Ngoja
-  Fr Justi Tarimo

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

BEREAVEMENT

We extend our prayerful sympathies to:

Fr. Daniel Kilala-(Father) Ambroce Clemence Shio, 15th December, 2023

Fr. Karol Shirima (Brother) Arethas Ludovic Shirima, 21st December 2023

Sch. Joely Bufyuru-(Sister) Lucy Zakayo Bufyuru, 31st December, 2023

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

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY		
Gregory	MALLYA	01
Nolasco	MUSHI	01
Festo	URASSA	05
Emmanuel	SAITOTI	06
Nicetas	KYARA	07
Ezekiel	MREMA	12
Clement	TEMBA	13
Linus	MBAJO	13

Joseph	MASHAKA	15
Peter	MAMBO	18
Arbogast	PLATO	20
Gaudence	MAEMBE	25
Eligius	MKULIMA	27
Joseph	SHIO	23
Rogasian	KIMARIO	31

PRAYERS

Fr. Nicetas Kyara is in India for specialized treatment accompanied by Fr. Flavian Komba. Fr. Peter Assenga has made significant progress and has resumed his duties. Fr. Evod is back to the Provincialate. He is doing well. Fr. Nolasco is in Dar es Salaam attending clinic there. Let us continue to pray for them and all who support us in the care of our sick Confreres.

Fraternally,



Florentine Mallya, CSSp.
Provincial Superior

