

Provincial Desk December 2022 Provincial Desk

LIVING THE SPIRITAN LIFE IN SYNODALITY SCCAI 2022-ANGOLA



Group photo of the participants, Bishop Belmiro Chissenguetei wearing a pectoral cross

From 5 to 10 December, 2022 SCCAI (Spiritan Conference of the Circumscriptions of Africa and Islands) meeting took place in Luanda, Angola, after 3-year hiatus due to COVID 19 restrictions. This is the biggest union of Circumscriptions in the Congregation. It concerns all Superiors of Africa and Islands of Madagascar, Reunion, Seychelles, Cap Verde and delegates of Formators by invitation. The meeting takes place every two years rotating in different linguistic zones. There were 37 participants including 4 from the Generalate.

We were hosted at Mama Muxima retreat centre in Ramiros about 38.8 km south of Luanda. The format of the meeting provides five full working days and one day is designated for excursion. The theme of the meeting was as seen in the above caption. On Monday 5 December, Bishop Mauricio Camuto, CSSp., diocese of Caxito, presided over the opening Mass. On Wednesday 7 December, Bishop Belmiro Chissenguetei, CSSp., diocese of Cabinda, gave an interesting and contextualized talk on “Living the Spiritan Mission in Synodality.” Both of them were Provincials of Angola in recent times and therefore familiar with a good number of participants.

The very possibility of gathering in Angola gave a special aura to the meeting, a country which was involved in decades of civil war and remained quasi-impenetrable fortress until few years ago. It was both an honour and privilege to have the Superior General. The meeting begun by reports from the Union of Circumscriptions. Major themes covered were governance, formation, solidarity, migrants and itinerant people and interreligious and intercultural dialogue.



In his talk, the Superior General covered the following areas: governance, animation plan (mission, spirituality and intercultural communities)¹, formation particularly harmonization of the 2nd cycle, changes in SRL and financial solidarity in the Congregation. He urged the participants to do “something new” in the life and mission of their respective Circumscriptions and it shouldn’t continue to be business as usual

after Bagamoyo 2021. Times have changed. He also touched on the sensitive area of safeguarding. Addressing himself to Superiors he said, “The responsibility of Major Superior is crucial even if something happened 20 years ago... Once this becomes an issue, you have to act. It is the matter of procedure.” He went on, “Do not dismiss somebody, investigate. When there is a case it doesn’t mean that a confrere is guilty; remove him from active ministry pending the investigation to be completed, don’t be biased, don’t accuse somebody-be discreet-you are Superior...If you can’t handle a case, call the Generalate for help.”

Other members from the Generalate spoke each according to his area of competence: Fathers Jude Nnorom addressed leadership challenges and how to assist Superiors while Kenneth Okoli spoke about development and Justi Tarimo covered formation.

It was a wonderful time to meet confreres from different horizons whom we have been in touch only by correspondence and through social media platforms. We prayed and socialized together which lead to the building of rapports crucial for further collaboration among us. On the day of excursion, we visited two places of great significance in the history of Angola: national slavery museum and museum of the armed forces. We were hosted for a convivial lunch at a parish run by Spiritans in a popular neighbourhood of Luanda. Lay Spiritan Associates were gracious hosts in collaboration with confreres. Bishop Camuto made time to join us.

SCCAI Executive Secretary was tasked to make a follow-up on some matters to be reported in the next meeting. He will also submit voted proposals to the General Council for approval. The next meeting will take place in Madagascar, a Francophone zone. Jude Nnorom, SCCAI correspondent from Rome expressed words of gratitude to our host, the Province of Angola, and to the Executive Secretary and his team for the work well done. Cor Unu et Anima Una.



¹ You will read with benefit the letter sent by the General Council on 2nd October, 2022, to launch the plan of animation for the whole Congregation.

PHOTO NEWS



Bronze statue of Queen Nzinga Mbandi towering over in the compound of the museum. She fought for the independence and stature of her kingdoms against the Portuguese in a reign that lasted 37 years. In the years following her death, Nzinga has become a historical figure in Angola and in the wider Atlantic Creole culture



R-Entrance of the museum of the armed forces



National slavery museum



Our Lady of Remedies Cathedral (1628) situated in the business district of Luanda



SPIRITAN CONTRIBUTION IN THE FORMATION OF LOCAL CLERGY

Courtesy of Spiritan Heritage & Archives Centre in Ireland, we present the letter below for your perusal and appreciation of our predecessors' commitment in the formation local clergy. Fathers Pat Ryan and Joe Herzstein both of whom we know well are among the confreres who taught at St James Seminary. A good number of confreres in the Province passed there for either secondary or high school studies. We thank Adolph Msoka who "stumbled" on this letter (during his research) for the willingness to share it.

Letter from Rt. Rev. Henry A. Gogarty, C.S.Sp to Father Meagher, C.S.Sp

April 28th 1926.

Dear Father, I enclose a photo of the Kilima-Ndjaru seminarists who entered the newly-built seminary last year. There are sixteen in all, two of whom are from Zanzibar. The seminary is dedicated to St. James the Apostle as the site was chosen on his Feast-Day in July, 1922. This year I hope the number of seminarists will increase to the number of fifty.



Now as to who is who in the picture; The Vicar-General, Father Auguste, for over forty years in Africa as a missionary, is in the centre. He was one of the founders of the missions on Kilima-Ndjaru, having gone on the expedition in 1890 with Bishop de Courmont. On his left is Father Todorowski, C.S.Sp a Father from American Province of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost. To the right of the picture stands Father Hayward, C.S.Sp., recalled last year to the Apostolic College at Castlehead, in the English Province of the Congregation. On the left stands Brothers Sebastian and Agoulin, C.S.Sp who built the seminary

You might state under the photo, when you publish it, that the following Burses have been received by me:- Burses as St. James' seminary, Kilima-Ndjaru:

An American priest ... £200

Two catholic ladies ... £200

Sacred Heart burse ... £20

Ten pounds suffice for the upkeep and education of a native student for one year. Hence, two hundred pounds invested will provide for an Ecclesiastical student right through to his ordination, when the vacant place will be given to another student.

I am sure that St. James' seminary will receive other help from the friends of the Foreign missions in Ireland.

Wishing you every blessing from God, and to all our benefactors as well,

*I remain, sincerely yours in Christ,
+ H.A.Gogarty, C.S.Sp*



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

Arrival: Monday 30 January, 2022

N.B. Mandatory participation

BEREAVEMENT

We extend our prayerful sympathies to:

- ✚ Fr Thaddeus Siya– (brother) Emmanuel Mathias Kessy on 29 December, 2022.
- ✚ Fr Zakayo Kimaro – (step-mother) Mama Fortunata Stephen Kimaro on 30 December, 2022.

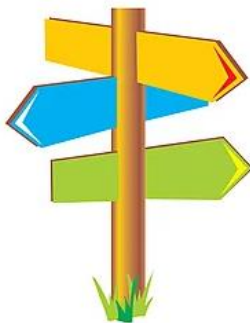
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

VACATION

- ✚ Fr Joseph Kiwango
- ✚ Fr Adolph Msoka

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

POSTCODE (for the Provincialate)



PROVINCIALATE
The Congregation of the Holy Ghost
304-CSC Duluti Road
Plot 1198
23306 Akheri

N.B. P.O. Box remain the same

BIRTHDAYS

JANUARY		
01	Gegory	MALLYA
01	Nolasco	MUSHI
05	Festo	URASSA

06	Emmanuel	SAITOTI
07	Nicetas	KYARA
12	Ezekiel	MREMA
13	Clement	TEMBA
13	Linus	MBAJO
15	Joseph	MASHAKA
18	Peter	MAMBO
20	Arbogast	PLATO
25	Gaudence	MAEMBE
27	Eligius	MKULIMA
23	Joseph	SHIO
31	Rogasian	KIMARIO

Faternally,

Florentine Mallya, CSSp.
Provincial Superior



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