

Provincial Desk May 2024 Provincial Desk

PENTECOST CELEBRATION ST. MARY'S PARISH - MODECO



St Mary Parish-Modeco: L-R: Frs Matthew Igbawua and Paul Yaga with aspiring Lay Spiritan Associates in Modeco Parish

Every year the Church celebrates the feast of Pentecost, which marks the end and the goal of Easter season. Pentecost is a memorial of the day the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles and the Virgin Mary in the form of fiery tongues. It is an event that took place fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus. The feast also commemorates the official inauguration of the Christian church by the apostolic preaching of St. Peter, which resulted in the conversion of 3000 Jews to the Christian faith. (cf. Acts 2:5-41)

Aside from being the birthday of the Christian church and the descent of the Holy Spirit on the apostles, Pentecost is also an important day in our lives as Holy Ghost Fathers and Brothers. It was on Pentecost day, precisely on the 27th May 1703; about 321 years ago that a young man called Claude Poullart des Places founded our Congregation and formally dedicated himself with a group of 12 seminarians in Rennes, France to the Holy Spirit.

Because of its significance in our life as a Congregation, on 19th May 2024, we as members of the Congregation working at St. Mary's parish, MODECO in the Diocese of Morogoro were not left out. In order to mark this year's Pentecost celebration in a grand style, we welcome 56 lay faithful who have willingly given themselves to be part of the Spiritan family. By their reception, a community of Lay Spiritan Associates is started here at Modeco.

The following activities heralded the celebration of Pentecost:

1. **Retreat and seminars for the Would-be Lay Spiritan Associates.** By virtue of their baptism, all the members of the people of God have become missionary disciples (Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium* 120, 2013). In the light of the Second Vatican Council, each one according to his/her charism and situation in the church is co-responsible for announcing the good news of Jesus Christ. The Laity, in virtue of their role in this onus of evangelization, are invited to share more intensely in the charism, spirituality and mission of our Institute. It is in this regard that our invitation of lay people was based.

The retreat and seminar spanned for a whole week. It started daily with adoration of Jesus in the Eucharist, followed by *Lauds* (from the Divine Office) and culminated with the sacrifice of the Mass. It made a *resume* in the evening with the recitation of the Holy Rosary at 5:00pm daily. After the Rosary, we had vespers and a conference of about 30 minutes. The conferences harped on the History of the Congregation, her Mission, Spirituality and the Role that Lay Spiritan Associates are called to play in the life of the Congregation. **The facilitators were Frs Matthew Igbawua CSSp. and Faustine Emil CSSp.**

On mission: The intending Lay Spiritan Associates were taught that our mission springs from God, following the example of Jesus Christ and his continuous call to follow him. As Lay Spiritans, they will be required to live their Christian vocation by sharing the Charism, the Spirituality and Mission of the Congregation. They would be required to do this by trying to respond to the challenges of the present day, each according to his/her personality, history and talents. They are to offer to the world the witness of the Congregation's apostolate, prayer and community living. Our apostolic witness finds its expression in the evangelization of the poor. They will do this in the normal circumstances of their lives (local, professional, the voluntary sector in collaboration with the professed members). They may be required in various works such as an explicit proclamation of the gospel; supporting human communities, particularly those in situations on the margins of the society, the promotion of justice and peace and integrity of Creation locally and at the global level; dialogue between people of different generations, cultures and religions and in the world of education. (cf. *Guide for Spiritan Lay Associates*, 3.2.5, pg.11).

On Spirituality: The intending Lay Spiritan Associates were taught that prayer is at the heart of our Spiritan life. Our prayer draws upon various sources such as listening to the word of God, reflection with the Church and the intuitions of our founders. Our commitment to prayer is shown in personal and communal prayer, sharing in the prayer of the Church, especially the Eucharist, through meditation and scripture sharing, together with moments of retreats.

On the Roles of Lay Spiritan Associates: They were taught that the Congregation of the Holy Spirit welcomes them joyfully in the various forms of associations and commitments such as:

- a) **Spiritans Friends:** It is an organized group that support our communities and collaborate with us in different ways in our missions. Thus, the saying "Some become missionaries by going to the mission physically; others become missionaries by supporting the missionary work (i.e. sponsoring missionary work).
- b) **Spiritans Fraternities:** This is a group of lay people who feel attracted by the spirituality of our founders and our mission.

- c) **Lay Spiritans:** Are those who feel a call to live their whole life according to the Spiritan charism by a show of a deeper commitment within the Congregation after a time of discernment and specific formations (SRL 24.3, 246.1.19). They are set up in missionary groups, youth movements, volunteer groups, supporting vocations etc. They can also be formed around local community or a particular project. They also involve in project material support for the Spiritan mission, especially taking part in fundraising efforts. However, it is not created solely for financial purposes. It is always a place of sharing our spirituality and mission.

The climax

The acme of the whole week's preparation culminated in the celebration of the Feast of Pentecost Sunday. The day began with morning prayers and was followed by the Holy Mass presided by the Parish Priest, **Fr. Matthew Igbawua, CSSp**. During Mass, 56 members beautifully dressed in their uniform (both men and women, young and old) were formally received, marking the birth of the first Lay Spiritan Associates at Modeco.

After the mass, there was a Pentecost party in the parish hall with those who were received and some invited guests. It was a blissful day as those who participated in the celebration beamed with joy on their faces as an external expression of their fulfilment and commitment to the Congregation. There was enough to eat and drink. Just as Jesus in the gospel, all ate and drank to their fill and we collected more than 12 baskets of leftovers.

Conclusion

We are grateful to the Congregation, especially the Province of Tanzania under the leadership of Fr. Florentine Mallya, CSSp, the Provincial Superior, for availing us this golden opportunity to welcome these Lay Spiritan Associates in the Spiritan family. It is our hope that they will continue to deepen their understanding of the Spiritan life and charism and gradually insert themselves in the spirituality, mission and various forms of their engagement in the Congregation and the Church.

We propose that a Director be appointed whose sole responsibility will be to accompany the Lay Spiritan Associates and also harmonize the various groups in different parishes in the province to bring about effective collaboration and equal formation.

Fr. Matthew Y. Igbawua, CSSp.
Modeco parish

PHOTO NEWS



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Bagamoyo Confreres on the eve of Pentecost after a spirited day of prayer, animation and recruitment of Lay Spiritan Associates from our 3 parishes: Christ the King, Epiphany and Immaculate heart of Mary



Charles Lwanga Parish, Usa river: Frs Victor Ashwa, Florentine Mallya and aspiring Lay Spiritan Associates



Usa river parish: a little pause in the just inaugurated VIWAWA studio



Feast of Pentecost: Modeco pastoral team

REMINDER



Animation Plan of the Congregation phase One on Spiritan Mission Today 2022-2024

Dear Confreres, we have been receiving questions for reflection and discussion from the Generalate to guide us for the first part of animation plan. We have just received this weekend, the last part on conclusion of Phase one. We are required, as a Province, to send to Rome the responses of the questions asked by September 2024. Zonal leaders and community superiors have the oversight of this exercise.

Kindly send in your responses to the Provincial Secretary for compilation by the end of July, 2024.

“We are aware that many of you already live very busy schedules in your ministry, but the proposed plan of animation is not intended to add yet another burden to your already busy calendar. Rather, it is intended to commit each one of us, personally and collectively, to a process of conversion, ...We are all called to participate actively in this process...”

The plan the General Council is proposing is an invitation to put into action the call of Bagamoyo II to do “something new”. Our very future as a Congregation depends on this pilgrimage.”

**Alain Mayama, CSSp.
Superior General**

SAVE THE DATES

 **Priestly Ordination**

Deacon William Simon Kipelelo

Date: 06 June, 2024


Place: St Augustine parish, Salasala, Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam

 **Final Vows**

Will take place at the end of the Spiritan Month

Date: 08 June, 2024

Place: Kipawa parish

 **Annual Retreat (Cf. SRL 96 & 96.1):**

1st group: 23-29 June

2nd group: 30 June 6 July

3rd group: 4 August 10 August

Remarks about the annual retreat: We are all reminded that faithfulness to the Rule of Life doesn't provide for multiple choice option hence the obligation to conform to what is stipulated. We have enough time to organize our calendars so as to avail ourselves for this important spiritual exercise and ongoing formation. **Please don't organize other private activities which will interfere with these dates.**

BEREAVEMENT

Our former novice: Rogasian Hugo, Magamba, 20 June, 2024

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

NECROLOGY

Clemence	MUSHI	20 June 2021
Bp. Bernard	NGAVILIAU	26 June 2005

PME – Period of Missionary Experience



We are glad to welcome among us Br. Bemhur Barbosa Ferreira from Brazil who arrived in Tanzania on 27 May for PME. As a matter of fact, he is the first Brazilian PME student to be assigned in Tanzania. He has already joined Mto wa Mbu community.



BIRTHDAYS

JUNE		
Gasto	LYIMO	06
Deockary	MASSAWE	07
Honest	LYIMO	15
Joseph	KIWANGO	20
Erasmus I.	MANWA	22
John	MAENDELEO	24
Dennis	LEIYA	28

Fraternally,

Florentine Mallya, CSSp.
Provincial Superior

