

Provincial Desk June 2022 **Provincial Desk**

CONGRATULATION TO THE NEWLY PROFESSED CONFRES



A group photo after the profession Mass on 18 June at Magamba, Lushoto

On 18 June, 2022, 19 novices made the temporary vows at Magamba, Lushoto. Fr Peter Assenga, 1st Provincial Assistant received their temporary vows. They are from Kenya, Uganda, Mauritius and Tanzania. Many confreres, relatives, neighbours and friends witnessed their public commitment to religious life and shared their joy.

We are grateful to Fathers Deus Tarimo and Joseph Amasi who journeyed with them during the year. We also recognize that there were other confreres who contributed to the formation of these newly professed confreres-let them feel thanked.

EPISCOPAL CONSECRATION OF BISHOP JOHN MBINDA, Cssp.



At the invitation of Fr Dominic Gathurithu, the Provincial Superior of Kenya, Most Rev. Augustine Shao, the Bishop of Zanzibar and the Provincial Superior of Tanzania joined their Kenyan Confreres in Nairobi and travelled together to Lodwar on 2 June for Bishop John Mbinda's Episcopal consecration and installation. Spiritans were well represented with confreres not just from within the UCEAF but also as far as England and Ghana. The Bishop-elect was given a warm welcome to Lodwar on 3 June at

Turkwel Bridge, Southern border with West Pokot. He was accompanied by an escort comprised of Spiritans, diocesan priests, religious Sisters and other well-wishers from Nairobi, Machakos, Nakuru, Kitale, Eldoret, etc. It took about 6 hours to cover the distance of 167 kilometers to downtown Lodwar. He was given a welcome befitting a chief at the (only) 2 parishes on the Southern side of this vast diocese. There were several stops along the way where the Bishop elect took time to meet the faithful who gathered to greet him and receive his blessings. The ambiance was really festive. Bishop Dominic Kimengich of Eldoret who served for 10 years as the Bishop of Lodwar and 2 years as Apostolic Administrator of the same diocese, did an excellent work of organization and mobilization for the reception of the Bishop-elect and his Episcopal consecration.

Hundreds of faithful from the four corners of the diocese gathered at the precinct of the cathedral around 5 pm ready for the solemn vespers during when the Bishop-elect made the Profession of Faith and Oath of fidelity. The Episcopal ordination took place the following day at Ekales Cultural Grounds. The Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya, Archbishop Hubertus Matheus Maria van Megen, was the ordaining Bishop in company of 20 Bishops and many priests. It was a celebration rich in symbols; Turkana cultural elements were visible, audible and palpable ranging from the music, rituals, dressing, artifacts, etc.

The following day was the feast of Pentecost. Bishop Mbinda presided over an outdoor Mass within the compound of the cathedral. As expected, many people turned up at the rendezvous including the local government leaders some of whom are products of catholic education. Bishop Mbinda spoke unequivocally about his Spiritan missionary identity during the homily.

Most of the Spiritans left Lodwar late in the afternoon with lingering sentiments that new Bishop needs a Spiritan community close to him which is also his cherished desire. It is hoped that his episcopacy would be a blessing to this semi desert diocese which is as big as Rwanda in size, surrounded by 7 dioceses, 3 among them are in Uganda, South Sudan and Ethiopia. The catholic population numbering about 194, 000 souls has a lot of expectations on him in the diocese where the catholic church's holistic approach to evangelization has impacted countless number of people in the areas of education, health and relief services. *Bon courage His Lordship!*

ANNUAL RETREAT 2022



The first group of this year's annual retreat took place at Emmaus Catechetical Centre Sanya Juu from 26th June to 2nd July 2022. Our Preacher, Rev. Fr. Gilbert Joseph Mardai, S.J. opened the 6 days journey of the retreat by a very brief meeting where we agreed on the timetable, the theme and the attitude expected to observe during the retreat.

The major theme was "Renewal based on our communion with the Church both local and universal." It was a very relaxed moment of prayer guided by the gospel of

John and enriched with lived experience of some renowned people of faith, including Fr. Pedro Arrupe, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Francis Xavier.

Some strong lessons learnt from this year's retreat could be summarized in the following terms:

- ✓ As missionaries, we are invited to be presbyters (elders with experience of the love of Christ) who always seek to learn from Jesus and find our fulfilment in Him. Just like Nicodemus (Jn 3: 1-10), we can only become successful missionaries if we develop a deep intimacy with Jesus. Our entire life and missionary activities should be deeply rooted in Christ.
- ✓ We need to receive God's gift of love in gratitude and let it transform us so that we may, in turn, show the same gratitude to others through our missionary endeavours.
- ✓ Our duty as missionaries is to reveal to the people we serve the hidden glory of God in our ordinary way of life. This hidden glory of God is manifested through us, the entire creation and the order of the Universe. Hence man, creation and the entire universe are the expression of God's dwelling among us and thus the Temple of God which should in no way be profaned. Here we have the duty to protect the sanctity of God's Temple.
- ✓ We become successful in our religious calling by accepting ourselves as "loved and forgiven sinners," the understanding that moulds our understanding of others. We feel impelled to foster this love and forgiveness in our society.
- ✓ As missionaries striving to build and strengthen the communion between Christ and his people, we need to adhere to the Chair of Peter who was commissioned to shepherd Christ's flock. Since this ministry of Peter is founded on love he had for Christ, then, it has to be the service of love just like Jesus would want to serve his people.

In brief, this moment of retreat has been a crucial moment for us who are always busy in mission to revitalize our spiritual zeal through prayers and meditation. We were able to sail, thanks to the guidance of our Preacher, with the gospel of St. John to the immense spiritual richness and land safely renewed and refreshed ready to continue with our apostolate in our various placements. It has also been an important moment of celebration and sharing for us Spiritans.

Fr Casti Mushi, CSSp.

PME

We are happy that 5 students have already reported back from the places where they did PME. We are expecting 2 more from Gabon.

We have nine newly professed confreres who just finished the novitiate. Attentive to the instructions of the Guide for Spiritan Formation (GSF) 68-74 and Spiritan Rule of Life (SRL) 136.1-4, the Provincial council is going to send seven out of the nine outside the country for the PME this year. We are going to receive two students from the sister provinces.

VACATION

- ✚ Fr Amandus Kapele
- ✚ Fr Valence Tingo
- ✚ Fr Evarist Mkahe
- ✚ Fr Calvin Massawe
- ✚ Scholastic Prince Kimaro

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

NECROLOGY

11 July 2007: Fr Alfred Matei

18 July 1993: Fr Isaiah Kessy

30 July 1993: Remi Macha

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

SPIRITAN MONTH

A Spiritan month began on 4 to 30 July, 2022. Fr Joseph Shirima is responsible for the whole organization. Scholastics Joseph Mahimbali and Emmanuel Madinda will make perpetual profession in August, we shall announce the exact date and place.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Save the dates

1. Jubilee of Profession and Ordination (25 years): tentative date 11 August, 2022 at the Provincialate.

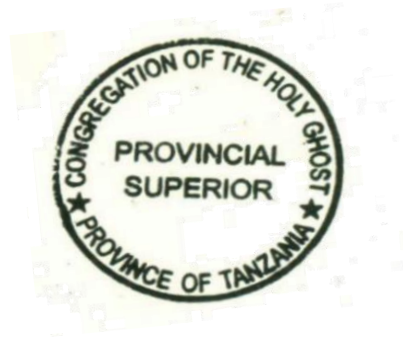
BIRTHDAYS

July		
02	Honest	MUNISHI
07	Paul Mbav	KALUKANG
12	Daniel	MACHA
12	Valence	TINGO
14	Renatus	KARUMUNA
14	Godfrey	MGONJA
20	Marcel	KESSY
17	Gervase	TARATARA

21	John	LAIZER
31	Emmanuel	KWAY

Fraternally,

Florentine Mallya, CSSp.
Provincial Superior



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