

## Provincial Desk July 2023

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#### STEWARDSHIP



*Prof. Onesmo Matei at the centre front row with the participants*

The Provincial Superior and his Council organized a one-day seminar on stewardship on 28 July, 2023. The seminar focused on good stewardship which should reflect the responsible and faithful management of all God-given resources. The programme commenced at 9:00 am with the welcome address by Fr Florentine Mallya. The facilitator was Dr Onesmo Matei. The overall aim of this seminar was to introduce participants (Spiritans scholastics and the newly ordained confreres) to the call of becoming good stewards in the society affected by consumerism and to strengthen our Spiritan identity as we are called to be the conscience of the people particularly the disadvantaged and the marginalized in our societies. Additionally, the seminar gave insight in discerning our Spiritan vocation amid contemporary challenges affecting the world.

Drawing from Scripture, Church teachings and the Spiritan Rule of Life (SRL), Dr Matei ably dealt with the meaning of stewardship. He said stewardship is all encompassing and it is an expression of our obedience to everything that God has placed under our control. The presentation called for commitment and the embracing of evangelical counsels as the first and the highest form of good stewards.

As religious, we are primarily set apart by God to do His specific Christ-like mission. We, Spiritans, are in principle responsible for management of creation. And because in essence, all the baptized are responsible stewards of creation, religious, more so the Spiritans are tasked with a primary responsibility of setting the example. We are living in a technocratic world in which technological changes can have social, economic and political implications, some being positive and others detrimental. Hence, being good stewards is our purpose for, we, like our founders have a goal to evangelize and liberate people from the modern forms of slavery.

Just like in the time of our founders, today we face the challenge of evangelizing our societies from “modern forms of slavery” such as forced labour, human trafficking, debt bondage, domestic and gender-based violence, sex work, agricultural slavery, economic injustices, family disintegration, information overload (infobesity), replacement of education and professionalism with political gymnastics, extreme materialism to mention but a few. The question to ponder upon is, as Spiritans called to evangelize the poor, the oppressed and the disadvantaged, how have we been good stewards amid these challenges facing our communities/ societies today?

Spiritans view of stewardship is an integral element of our charism and our way of living, exhibiting the following ethos: attitude of being grateful for our personal gifts and the gifts of other confreres, a prudent utilization of resources in a manner that benefits all and commitment to mission. Each Spiritan ought to see himself as a responsible steward of God’s mission. As good stewards, Spiritans must embrace transparency and accountability, ensuring that assets and funds are managed with integrity, openness towards our donors and the wider community.

Dr Matei went on to elaborate that stewardship begins with self-management, upskilling, goal setting, time management, emotion regulation and capacity to have favourable intra and inter personal relationship. Echoing Pope Francis’ Apostolic Exhortation (2018) “*Gaudete et Exsultate*”, the facilitator called us to demonstrate our stewardship not only through our words but also through our lives. Creating and cultivating a culture of sharing, embracing environmental stewardship, integrating stewardship in our formation houses, emphasizing and promoting an attitude of collaboration and partnership with all people regardless on one’s faith leads to realising and achieving common goals for the kingdom of God.

The facilitator also developed a topic on how to integrate stewardship in our religious context by highlighting eight responsibilities: responsibility for the gospel, for the time, for all abilities, for material possession, for the community, for scriptures, for prayer and for God’s creation. We were called to take into our hearts the responsibilities encompassing our vocation and to always remember that: our good stewardship shall also be measured by the honesty and diligence we put into our work as true missionaries. He called us to develop a gratitude practice, integrating stewardship in our various ministries, setting visionary and leadership goals, conflict resolution, performing regular and effective self-assessment and reflection and cultivating a culture of financial discipline.

Being good stewards is more urgent today than ever before, considering the unprecedented technological advancement and consumeristic attitudes that the world powers have imparted to our societies. As participants, we are grateful for this opportunity, indeed we have not only gained knowledge on how best to talk about stewardship, but also better carers of resources entrusted to us.

Echoing words of a sage, Dr Matei said, “A little knowledge may be a dangerous thing, but to have none at all is to shun change and to surrender hope.”

We are very grateful to Dr Matei for taking time to speak to us. His insights and guidance were truly valuable, and we were all thoroughly engaged by his presentation. His passion for stewardship really came through his words. We are all grateful for the knowledge and inspiration he shared with us.

Sincere gratitude to the Provincial Superior and his Council for organizing, facilitating and ensuring that the seminar is put into reality. Your contribution to the success of the seminar was unquantified, and we hope to have the opportunity to have a series of other seminars in the future.

**Participants**

**PERIOD OF MISSIONARY EXPERIENCE (PME)**



*Ten PME students 2023*

The Guide for Spiritan Formation (GSF) states, “Stage” (PME) is an essential element in the Spiritan formation process. It should normally be for two years in a transcultural mission situation among the poor and be appropriately accompanied (no. 68)”. It goes on to say, “PME is an obligatory step in Spiritan formation and an integral part of it (no. 69)”.

In conformity with the GSF, the ten newly professed confreres will do their PME in the following countries: Malawi, South Sudan, Ireland, Ghana, Kenya, Spain, Bolivia, Reunion, Senegal and Uganda. Some have already left, while others are processing their visas. Some confreres had the opportunity to share with them their missionary experiences, the importance of culture, which was likened to a “moving target” as well as the benefits of PME.

### SENDING ON MISSION



What has now become a tradition in the Province of Tanzania, two ceremonies of sending on mission both the newly professed confreres (see above photo) and those who were ordained to priesthood recently namely; (Emmanuel Madinda, Modest Pengo, Joseph Mahimbali and Aloyce Rogath) took place on Sunday, 23 July and on Friday, 28 July, 2023 respectively at the Provinciate. Spiritans from the neighbouring communities and the novices from the Palottine community graced the occasion. We wish them fecund and successful mission.

*Sending on mission rite during the Mass*

### APPOINTMENT AND TRANSFER

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

- Fr Michael Amwai to Nainokanoka Parish with effect from August, 2023.

*We wish him all the best in his new ministry.*

### SPECIALIZED STUDIES

On 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2023, Fr Denis Ziba arrived in Rome to pursue studies at the Gregorian University. He will specialize in Sociology. He resides at Villa Notre Dame community.

*We wish him all the best in his studies.*

### RENEWAL

We are glad to welcome Fr James Mchamungu back to the Province for a period of renewal. He is in residence at Bishop Dennis Durning community while helping at Usa Seminary on part time basis. We appreciate his availability and spirit of service to the Province.



PHOTO NEWS



*Three PME students from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania with some members of Kenya PLT and South Sudan group superior*



*Happy Spiritans after a courtesy visit with Archbishop Isaack Amani of Arusha on the 25th July, 2023. From left: Frs. Michael Amwai, Josephat Shirima, Gaudence Mushi and Nyson Charles Mmali*

**SOON TO BE PUBLISHED**

Fr Joseph Lekundayo is finalizing the publication of his latest book, **Maswali 49 Kuhusu Shirika la Roho Mtakatifu**.

The nouveauté of this book is that for the first time, the history of our Congregation is written in Kiswahili. It is a much awaited book and probably an overdue response to requests made by many people who are associated with our Congregation in East Africa. The use of Kiswahili will bring the epic Spiritan history at the doors of many especially in our schools, parishes, formation communities, institutions and dioceses we work in.

**We are all requested to assist in marketing and distributing this publication in our individual institutions and parishes because it's about our history. The publication qualifies as an endeavour that complements the Congregation's Animation Plan 2022-2024 at the level of our Province.**

**SAVE THE DATES**

✚ **15 August, 2023, Jubilee Celebration:** Mass 10:00 AM at the Provincialate.

**Juilerians:**

- 25 years of religious life: Evarist Shirima, Joseph Lekundayo, Renatus Karumuna, Dyfrig Maliti, Peter Mallya and Peter Kway
- 60 years of religious life: Joe Herzstein
- 25 years of priesthood: Kastory Kisuda, Amandus Kapele and Casti Mushi

✚ **Annual Retreat**

3<sup>rd</sup> group: 6<sup>th</sup> -12 August

**VACATION**

- ✚ Fr Godfrey Mgonja
- ✚ Fr Rogatian Msami
- ✚ Fr Amandus Kapele

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

**NECROLOGY**

Joseph TENGA                      02 September 1998

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

**BIRTHDAYS**

September		
Ricklan	MALLYA	<b>03</b>
Peter Claver	MALLYA	<b>09</b>
Filbert	KIMARO	<b>15</b>
Francis	KIMARO	<b>19</b>
Albano	MWOMBEKI	<b>21</b>
Peter	NJAU	<b>24</b>
Bp Augustine	SHAO	<b>25</b>
George	MARANDU	<b>27</b>

**PRAYERS**

We thank God and continue to pray for the speedy recovery of Frs Nolasco and Evod who are convelescung well. Frs Dan Macha and Rogatian Massoy are undergoing treatment at Muhimbili and KCMC Hospitals, respectively. Let us continue to pray for them.

**GRATITUDE**

We owe thanks to our Scholarstic, Edward Simkonda, a nurse by profession who assisted Fr Nolasco before, during and after the operation in India and Tanzania. He sacrificed a good part of his well merited vacation to care for another confrere with joy and professionalism. Edward, feel thanked.

Fraternally,



Florentine Mallya, CSSp.  
Provincial Superior

