

## **Provincial Desk August 2024** **Provincial Desk**

### **SPIRITAN CONFERENCE OF CIRCUMSCRIPTIONS OF AFRICA AND ISLES (SCCAI) 2024**



*SCCAI participants Group picture*

*Theme: “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” (Mt 5:9): Capacity-Building for Spiritan Major Superiors and Formators as Promoters of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation in Africa and the Islands.*

SCCAI gathers Spiritan Superiors and the representative of formators every two years alternating in different linguistic and geographical zones. This year, the meeting took place in Antananarivo, Madagascar from 4 to 11 August. The Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Tomasz Grysa, presided over the opening Mass on Sunday evening preceded by a keynote speech he delivered to the participants.

After the introductory SCCAI formalities, reports were presented from the Union of Circumscriptions. Fr Philip Massawe, represented the General Council. Other Spiritan invitees covered areas of Formation, Central Development Office, Interreligious and Intercultural dialogue. There were two experts from Pax Christi International and one from Pan African Congress for Ethics and Bioethics (COPAB). Pending the approval by the General Council, the plan underway is to sign memoranda of understanding between SCCAI and each of these entities after which SCCAI member Circumscriptions could initiate contractual working partnership with the two. Fr Stephen Makagutu OFMCap, assistant to the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) presented the Strategic Planning for Environmental Protection. Throughout his talk, he walked the participants through a number of Church documents and

teachings regarding justice and peace and integrity of creation (JPIC). The good news is that there is already an abundance of church literature that may inspire and direct our communities and Circumscriptions in addressing this challenge.

SCCAI, which is made up of twenty-nine Provinces and Groups operating in thirty-two countries, plays a key role in shaping the future of the continent and the Church in Africa, specifically in the areas of justice, peace, reconciliation, and integrity of creation. The week-long workshop which adopted a participatory and interactive approach helped the participants to:

- Gain a deeper understanding of the interconnectedness of justice, peace, and the integrity of creation in the African context.
- Identify key challenges and opportunities for promoting sustainable development, social cohesion, and environmental stewardship within their respective circumscriptions.
- Develop action plans and strategies to address social injustices, conflict, and environmental degradation in Africa.
- Strengthen networking and collaboration among Spiritan Major Superiors and members of other institutes of consecrated life to support ongoing peacebuilding and development initiatives in the region.
- Have a greater awareness and appreciation of the diversity and complementarity of the roles and contributions of SCCAI's Major Superiors and other actors and stakeholders in Africa.

It wasn't all work; the Province of Madagascar organized an eventful excursion that took participants to significant historical national monuments, the shrine dedicated to Blessed Victoire Rasoamanarivo at the Cathedral, and the famous *Nouveau Relais des Jeunes* (NRJ) center for the most deprived children in the capital, which is owned and managed by the Spiritans. The day culminated with a delightful rich cultural evening.



*Youth at NRJ centre in Antananarivo*

## **SPIRITANS IN TANZANIA CELEBRATE JUBILEE MILESTONES IN A JOYFUL CELEBRATION**

On the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Spiritans of Tanzania gathered at the Provincialate in Tengeru to celebrate a significant Jubilee. This momentous occasion marked fifty years of religious life of Daniel Moris Macha, Liberatus Mapendo Kundy and Paul Michael Chuwa, twenty-five years of religious life of Adam Joseph Bago, Firmin Asoni Laswai, Joachim Boniface Karabwe and Linus Richard Mbajo, twenty-five years of priestly ordination of Justi Kiralia Tarimo and Paul Martin Flamm and forty years of priestly ordination of Andrew F. Mwiko and Pius Onyango.

The celebration began with a Holy Mass presided by His Lordship Bishop Rogath Kimaryo, CSSp, of the Catholic Diocese of Same. In his homily, Bishop Kimaryo expressed profound gratitude and joy for being part of the event, praising the jubilarians as a "mirror for others" and urging all present to stand for truth and be the voice for the voiceless.

The Bishop further emphasized that mission is lifelong. He went on to encourage the jubilarians and the faithful to remain steadfast in their vocation until death. He acknowledged that suffering is an inevitable part of the journey but reminded everyone that even Jesus, our Master, faced challenges and that He is always present to support us. His homily also included a powerful reflection on the reading from the Book of Revelation chapters 11:19 and 12:1-6, 10, where he painted a vivid picture of the pregnant woman (The Blessed Virgin Mary) and the dragon, relating it to the ongoing struggles faced by Christians. He called on the faithful to stand firm in their faith despite these trials.

The celebration was also graced by the presence of Spiritan confreres who were on holiday from various parts of the world. During the event, the Provincial Superior Fr Florentine Mallya, warmly welcomed two new confreres from the Kenyan Province: David Mwinyao and Urbanus Kioko who are appointed to work in Tanzania.

The Lay Spiritan Associates of the Province of Tanzania, led by their chairman Dr. Sizar Simba, also played an active role in the celebration. Bishop Kimaryo invited them to extend their missionary efforts into the Diocese of Same, encouraging them to be vibrant preachers of the Word of God and to continue being a voice for the voiceless.

The Provincial Superior closed the event with a heartfelt vote of thanks, congratulating the jubilarians and expressing his joy for all in attendance, including the clergy, religious, lay Spiritans, and lay faithful. The day concluded with a spirit of unity and merriment, reflecting the joy and gratitude of the occasion.

This celebration marks a significant milestone in the Spiritans' mission in Tanzania and East Africa, highlighting their unwavering commitment to faith, service, and the call to spread the Gospel worldwide.

**Fr. Victor Tersoo Ashwa, C.S.Sp**

## OBITUARY

### FR MARCEL GABRIEL KESSY, CSSp.

We regret to announce the passing of Fr Marcel Gabriel Kessy CSSp., who died of hypertension on Tuesday morning, 27 August, 2024, at the age of 54. He passed away at Igogwe Hospital in Rungwe District, Mbeya. At the time of his death, Marcel was serving as the assistant parish priest at St. Joseph the Worker Parish – Igoma Mbeya.



The youngest of six children, Marcel was born on 20 July 1970, in Arusha District to Mr. Gabriel Samanya Kessy and Filomena Ndeerio Njau, both of whom have since passed away. He was baptized on 7 September 1970, received his First Holy Communion on 20 November 1983 and Confirmation on 29 September 1985.

Marcel completed his primary education at Manu Kirua Vunjo Moshi on 9 December 1985, before beginning his O-Level secondary education at Kirua Secondary School in 1987, finishing in 1990. He then joined Usa Seminary for advanced-level and completed his studies in 1993. Following that, he studied philosophy at Spiritan Missionary Seminary in Arusha, graduating in 1996. He entered the Novitiate at Magamba, on 15 July 1996, making his first profession a year later on 24 July 1997. His theological studies began at Tangaza College in Nairobi, Kenya in August 1997.

On 25 June 1999, Marcel began a one-year Period of Missionary Experience (PME) at Holy Childhood Parish, Makunka, Zambia, before returning to Nairobi to complete his theology studies. He made his perpetual profession in Langata, Nairobi, on 12 October 2001, and was ordained deacon the following day. He was then appointed as deacon to Charles Lwanga Parish, Usa River, from 26 March to 24 April 2002. Marcel was ordained priest on 4 May 2002 by Archbishop Josaphat Lebulu at the Holy Family parish Njiro and subsequently assigned to the Zambia International Group for his missionary appointment.

Marcel served as priest in charge of Maria Regina Parish Linda in Livingstone Diocese from 2002 to 2008 after which he was assigned to Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Monze Diocese from 2008 to 2013. In 2014, he was redeployed to his home province of Tanzania, where he became the curator of the Bagamoyo Catholic Museum in the Diocese of Morogoro after a brief training in Holland. In 2015, he was appointed assistant parish priest of St. Jude Thaddeus Parish in Mto Wa Mbu, and in June 2023, he was assigned to St. Joseph the Worker Parish Mbeya, where he served until his untimely passing.

We extend our heartfelt sympathies to his family, relatives, Spiritan confreres, Lay Spiritans, and friends during this time of sorrow.

*May Marcel rejoice forever in the company of God's saints, Amen.*

PHOTO NEWS



*Jubilairians with Bishop Kimaryo after the Mass*



*Mission Ad Extra: missionaries on holidays L-R: Josaphat Masha (Croatia), Gasto Lyimo (Germany), Linus Mbajo (Croatia), Valence Tingo (Guyana), Fulgence Theodory Moshi (Guadeloupe), Calvin Massawe (France) and Beatus Babu (Senegal)*



*The Rova: a royal complex fortified located in the centre of the Upper Town of Antananarivo, the capital city of Madagascar*



*Blessed Victoire Rasoamanarivo shrine*





**APPOINTMENT**

**Fr. Nichodemus Massong:** St Cecilia Kinzudi with effect from 8 September 2024.

**CONGRATULATION**

Our sincere congratulations to Frs Ricklan Mallya and Amandus Kapele for their new responsibilities as 1<sup>st</sup> Assistants to Superiors respectively in the British and Irish Provinces.

**VACATION**

-  Fulgence Theodory Moshi
-  Josaphat Mosha
-  Dickson Kilula
-  Batholomeo Kwiyege

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

**NECROLOGY**

Joseph	Tenga	02 September 2098
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**BIRTHDAYS**

September		
Ricklan	MALLYA	03
Peter Claver	MALLYA	09
Filbert	KIMARO	15
Francis	KIMARO	19
Albano	MWOMBEKI	21
Peter	NJAU	24
+Bp. Augustine	SHAO	25

Fraternally,



Florentine Mallya, CSSp.  
Provincial Superior

