

Provincial Desk September 2024

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C.A.M AT A GLANCE

TRAINING NEEDY YOUTH FOR INNOVATIVE PROFESSIONS



Fr Peter Kilasara, CSSp.

When the Provincial administration entrusted me with my new mission, after many years spent in Kenya and Italy, the situation seemed somewhat discouraging: I was asked to “develop” our vast plot of approximately 160 acres of forest land in the rural area of Mlandizi, within the Coastal Belt of Tanzania, which needed to be rescued from degradation. On 2nd March 2012 Fr. Kilawila (R.I.P.) and I went there to take a first glance: we found... nothing! No house, no road, of course no light or water – only thick bush, silence, interrupted every now and then by a bird.

Well, why be discouraged? It was a challenge after all, and I like challenges. I enjoy starting from scratch – having by now become rather specialized in this art. When I started my apostolate with first evangelization among the Pokot in Kenya, it was so different from my comfortable home area of Kilimanjaro – but I loved the challenge, and the formation I drew from there was incomparable. Later I co-founded our first parish in Italy, in a garage in Rome; then, still in Italy, I founded the Chaplaincy for English-speaking immigrants in Turin, in a church (and house) which had been abandoned for over 20 years... I start from scratch every time!



Clockwise Frs Peter Kilasara, Dyfrig Maliti, the late Josaphat Kilawila and the driver, Kuya

I soon figured out an enthusiastic plan on how to “develop” our Mlandizi plot, which seemed suitable and large enough to host a large institution: why not create a Technical School for needy youth? I have always been captivated by the idea of enabling youth from poorer backgrounds to exploit their skills and conquer better and more humane living conditions, contributing to their own development and the development of society as a whole.

I thus named this Mission “*Cor Ardens Mlandizi (C.A.M.)*” in memory of the disciples of Emmaus, who felt “their heart burning” when they discovered Jesus: my dream was that year by year many disadvantaged but clever and committed boys and girls would meet our Good Shepherd and experience liberation from poverty and ignorance through our C.A.M. Technical Formation Centre.

But how could I make this dream come true? Where was I to find the funds to finance it? I put this question aside for later, and in September 2012 I started working at C.A.M.. After all, the Congregation supported me with a room and free meals at our main Mission in Bagamoyo, over 50 Km. away, as well as the possibility of having my clothes washed and ironed. I collected some few coins and hired two boys; with them I started travelling every day from Bagamoyo to Mlandizi and back, in the used but faithful pickup offered by my friends from my previous Italian Mission in Turin.

Every morning, when we reached our Mlandizi bush plot, we eagerly started working on clearing the farm by hand. Searching for water, which we urgently needed, we dug for days and days where the local people said that water was available in the past... but fruitlessly. After many days of tireless digging, we had to surrender: that was not the right spot for water. However, I trusted that one day we would find water elsewhere!

We got water supplies in plastic tanks, built a small house, and on 13th March 2013 I was able to spend my first night in my still door-less new home, alone, sleeping on a surprisingly comfortable door balanced horizontally on 6 bricks.

In October 2013 we dug at a different spot and finally found water! Never give up... Our first borehole was small, and the water was slightly salty (making sugary sugar-canes grow salty!), but it finally gave shape to my dream: enacting agricultural and animal husbandry activities in view of biodiversity conservation, to support our main goal, a Technical School for innovative technologies, particularly renewable energies (solar and wind power, biogas), timber and metal works, and car mechanics.



In August 2016 we laid the first brick of a house for workers in the area designed for the Technical School, followed by the foundation of our first workshop. Consequently, our small borehole became insufficient: in the severe drought season of early 2017, hopes seemed to come to an end; but we could not give up: we rushed into drilling a 200-metre-deep borehole in a promising area, and... on March 2nd, 2017 we had abundant, crystal-clear freshwater flowing out naturally and flooding the place! To date, it still gives us a good overflow, partially stored in a 243,000-litres tank on a high tower so it can be used with strong pressure.

With the blessing of inexhaustible water, well driven across the entire Mission by an ingenious self-engineered hydraulic system and also supplied to our neighbours, building was strongly assisted and agriculture expanded greatly, with many different products – all our local fruits and vegetables, plus oranges, bananas and Italian olives! We built a Chapel, a 30 x 8 metres greenhouse, a large piggery, a chicken farm with incubators; we added ducks, goats, cows, rabbits and even fish in our peaceful pond.



Workshop building

Our big workshop with four pavilions for electricity and electronics, metal works, mechanics and carpentry is in action, our large and beautiful refectory started in March 2020 is about to be completed.

We are now clearing the ground for the Technical School's first dormitories, classrooms and laboratories – all separate buildings scattered in an attractive manner in our large grounds. In January 2024 I had the joy of inaugurating another well-engineered masterpiece: our photovoltaic plant, powering the entire settlement, the Technical School buildings and the construction site with green energy.

Looking back, I can't but wonder how we came so far, starting from inextricable, abandoned forest land and empty pockets – once again from scratch! Creativity, hard manual work, patience and confidence brought us to this point, and above all, our good Lord's blessings: not once we came short of food or shelter, and whenever all resources seem exhausted... the Divine Providence comes in!

ABOUT THE LEGAL SUPPRESSION OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY GHOST/SRITANS



Mgr Alexandre Le Roy

The Spiritans were originally founded in 1703 in Paris by a young 24-year-old Breton, Claude-François Poullart des Places and re-founded in 1848 by a convert Jew from Alsace, Francis Libermann, when his Holy Heart of Mary Missionaries were absorbed into the Congregation of the Holy Spirit.

At the turn of the last century, France's government was becoming more and more dominated by a toxic form of Freemasonry. In 1901, a new law required all religious orders in France to submit a list of their houses and properties to the Ministry of Cult. This seemingly innocent law was the first step in a clever plan of the government eventually to enrich themselves by confiscating all ecclesial establishments. By 1903 the situation in France was such that everything was to be feared for the future of the Church. An anti-religious war was breaking out led by anti-clerical politician, Émile Combes, who rigorously enforced the 1901 law requiring religious associations to seek government authorisation and who masterminded the government's policy to suppress religious orders.

Though it is hard to believe, Combes had originally been a seminarian and becoming a Freemason, he turned vehemently against the Catholic faith and initiated a veritable persecution of the Church, aiming particularly at dismantling the Church's educational apparatus. He began by abolishing the teaching of religion in all schools and colleges. Combes was the main architect of the French government's policy to enact a series of laws which led to the definitive separation of Church and State in France, still in force today under the name of *laïcité*. During his mandate as Prime Minister, France unilaterally broke off all diplomatic relations with Pope Pius X's Vatican and Holy See. Combes' rampant anticlericalism created a huge crisis for the Spiritans, which indirectly and ironically led to the foundation of the British Province! The Congregation felt threatened by the real danger posed by Combe's. In January 1903, the Superior General, the formidable Archbishop Alexandre Le Roy CSSp. (1854-1938), warned all the members that it would be a dangerous illusion and false security to imagine that we Spiritans would be spared the anti-religious wrath of the new political regime. The impact of the Combe's laws meant that if Congregations and Orders couldn't produce proof of legal existence they would be suppressed-those which could prove that they had been legally approved by successive French governments in the past would be exempt from suppression. Now Claude Poullart des Places' original Society of the Holy Spirit had been legally approved twice after his death, first under the Bourbon kings in 1726 and then under Napoleon in 1816.

This approval had never been revoked. Unfortunately, by the late 1890's, the French Prime Minister's office had been led to believe that the Congregation of the Holy Spirit had ceased to exist in 1848 when it was merged with Libermann's non-civilly recognised Congregation of the Holy Heat of Mary. This misinformation was sadly fuelled by the bad example of many over-zealous Spiritans themselves, too much influenced by Ignace Schwindenhammer, Libermann's successor as General Superior, who spoke publicly of Libermann as the founder of the Order and its First Superior General, completely bypassing Poullart des Places. Consequently, the French Council of State, on 14th February 1901 recognized civilly that the Congregation of the Holy Spirit had ceased to exist in 1848 and should be suppressed. With many other Orders, the Congregation was legally suppressed in March 1903.

The Spiritan archivist, Fr. Désiré Barillec, and Mgr. Le Roy challenged the government's decision. They made a meticulous study of historical documents in the archives at the Mother House Paris and discovered that the Congregation dated back unbrokenly to 1703 and that in 1901 it still legally existed both civilly and

canonically. An integral condition of the merger with Libermann’s group in 1848 was that Rome’s Propaganda Fidei had suppressed – not the Society of the Holy Spirit – but the Society of the Holy Heart of Mary. Mgr. Le Roy discovered to his delight that he was not, as he originally thought, the fifth- but the fifteenth Superior General of the Holy Ghost Congregation! He immediately drew up a new memorandum for the Council of State with the correct documents, outlining its continuing civil legal status. After much lobbying, the Council of State reversed its original decision by a majority of just one vote which resulted in legal recognition the Congregation enjoys to this today.

As things turned out, thanks to the dogged persistence of the Archbishop Le Roy, the permanent suppression of the Congregation never materialised and we were spared dissolution- but the threat of losing more properties including the crucial Senior Seminary at Chevilly-Larue near Orly outside Paris still loomed large.

Though the Spiritans survived total suppression, on 04th November 1903- under direct orders from ever more powerful Emile Combes, now President of the Supreme Council of State, Minister for Religion- the French Police closed 12 of our Spiritan houses in France. Mgr. Le Roy again contested this decision but received a personal letter from Combes saying, “I have the honour of notifying you that your request has been rejected! ... allow me, dear Sir, to assure you of my greatest respect, Emile Combes”.

Edited from from *Tongues of Fire*, Newsletter of the Spiritans, British Province, (Summer, 2024)

NORTHERN SPIRITAN LAY ASSOCIATES PILGRIMAGE TO KILEMA



LSA at Mt Ngangu

The Lay Spiritan Associates (LSA) of the Northern Zone made a pilgrimage to Kilema in the Kilimanjaro region on Saturday, September 14, 2024. About 23 pilgrims accompanied by their Spiritual guide, Fr Evod Shao, left Arusha early in the morning towards Kilema. Arrival at Our Lady of Lourdes parish around 11:00, they were warmly welcomed by the parish priest at the main entrance of the church with prayer and sprinkling of holy water. This was followed by confessions and the Stations of the Cross leading up to the summit of mount Ngangu and back to the parish for the Eucharist and the great blessing. The pilgrims were given a talk on the history of the founding of Kilema parish, the oldest and first Catholic parish in the northern region of Tanzania. Construction of the current church building began in 1893.

After the Mass, the pilgrims shared a meal at the parish’s Vocational Training Centre. All good things must come to an end, the Pilgrims bid farewell to their hosts and returned to Arusha. They returned full of joy throughout the journey. They travelled singing different songs including songs of the Holy Spirit and praises of Jesus and Mother Mary.

Mr Moderst Akida

VACATION

✚ Anno Massawe

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

BEREAVEMENT

Fr Deockary Massawe, (Father) Mzee Joseph Sumni Massawe, 22 September, 2024

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

NECROLOGY

Vedastus	Msilanga	12 October 2006
Thomas	Tarimo	15 October 1997
Eunan	Ritte	15 October 2011
Micheal	Massawe	26 October 2015

BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER		
Prosper	Gasto	01
Francis	Laswai	01
Deus	Tarimo	04
Gaspar	Mushi	05
Calvin	Massawe	09
Daniel	Kilala	12
Eric	Temba	13
Florentine	Mallya	16
Lucas	Tilisho	18
Dyfrig	Maliti	19
Carol	Shirima	22
Joseph	Amasi	27
+ Rogath	Kimaryo	30

Fraternally,



Florentine Mallya, CSSp.
Provincial Superior

