

Provincial Desk December 2021 Provincial Desk

✎ MERRY CHRISTMAS



Dear Confreres and Lay Spiritan Associates,

We have a noble tradition of wishing each other Merry Christmas around this time of the year. It is the period which offers a respite to many after going through challenging times in the past twelve months. We are still under the real threat of Covid-19 pandemic with its deadly variants. As people of hope we have to count our blessings and move on.

Christmas brings us profound joy because we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ, who comes to manifest God's closeness to us by stepping into human life with ultimate simplicity and humility. Jesus, the one who saves, comes to reform sinners that is why Christmas signals the beginning of a wonderful work of God. The work of

restoring His image in us with Jesus as our model.

Spiritan charism and mission engage us in the dynamic of extending Christmas joy wherever we are missioned confident that we are in company of the Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Will 2021 Christmas be different or business as usual? What are we going to do on a personal and community level to share Christmas joy with others, especially those most in need? Aren't there people around us who are as poor as the shepherds of Bethlehem or even worse? Do we reflect in our lives the image of God through our actions, concrete gestures of solidarity and commitment to justice and peace? Merry Christmas!

GRATITUDE AND FAREWELL

In his first Christmas letter to the Congregation, our new Superior General, Rev. Fr. Alain Mayama, has complementary words about our Province,

We give thanks to God for the extraordinary work of our confreres from the Province of Tanzania. They accepted and hosted the General Chapter, Bagamoyo II, with very short notice. They made all efforts to make the Chapter possible, setting aside their own plans as they reached out to the needs of participants.¹



Dear Confreres and Lay Spiritan Associates, let us all feel thanked for the recognition of the work well done. You may as well consult the online General Chapter evaluation (gc2021.evaluation@gmail.com). The leadership team of the Province of Tanzania is aware that we owe an immense debt of gratitude to those who generously and quietly shared their resources, time, experience and expertise, all of which

account for this success. We had an overwhelming goodwill from those whom we appealed for help. We can't undervalue the sacrifices made by many of us.

It is for this reason that two events were organized on 26 November and 2 December, 2021 in Dar es Salaam and Arusha respectively to express our gratitude to those who helped us. These events were wonderful opportunities for animation on what we are about as a religious Order. We have an animation tool, that is, Guide for Spiritan Lay Associates, which helps us to share the treasure of our charism and mission. This initiative is in line with the decision of 2021 Provincial Chapter.²



At both events we bid farewell to Fr. Philip Massawe. As we know, he was elected a member of the General Council at Bagamoyo. It was fitting that we congratulate and recognize his contribution to the life and mission of the Province. We thanked him for his leadership and vision. His wide knowledge of the Congregation; grasp of issues and the complexity of missionary adventure today has been helpful in stirring our Province towards the future.

¹ Christmas Letter from the Superior General 2021 titled, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15)

² 3rd Provincial Chapter of the Province of Tanzania, Decision no. 3.1



The Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Arusha, Isaac Amani, joined us in Arusha at the splendid Charles Borromeo Sisters Hall on 2 December event. He had encouraging words for us and insisted on our obligation to nurture vocations both religious and secular. Archbishop Amani seized the occasion to give certificates of appreciation to Fathers Joe Herztein and Ned Marchessault for the extraordinary missionary work they did among the Maasai and their longevity in mission. In an obvious light-hearted mood, he reminisced about the young Joe who taught him at St. James Minor Seminary, Moshi, in mid-sixties. Indeed, we had an uplifting evening.

🕊️ APPOINTMENT/TRANSFERS

The Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council appoints Fr. Charles Mmali from Malawi to Our Lady of Mercy Parish, Nainokanoka, Archdiocese of Arusha, effective from December 2021. Charles did his PME among the Maasai. It is with great enthusiasm that he begins his ministry there. We wish him a fruitful ministry.

The Provincial Superior with the consent of his Council appoints Fr. Matthew Ngowi to Saint Cecilia Parish, Kinzudi, Archdiocese of Dar es Salaam, effective from December 2021. We wish him all the best in his new ministry.

Fr. Matthew Assenga safely arrived in Germany to take up his mission appointment while Fr Banabas Kileu reported his happy return to Spain where he did his theological studies. Barnabas has been transferred to the Province of Spain after many years of teaching philosophy at Spiritan Missionary Seminary, Njiro. We wish both of them joy and fulfilment in ministry.

Fr. Andrew Mwanja has been transferred to the Province of Kenya effective from December 2021. He will be missed at Njiro where he taught philosophy for nearly eight years. May the Spirit guide him in his future ministry.

🕊️ SPECIALIZED STUDIES

The Catholic University of Eastern Africa conferred the Master in Justice, Peace and Cohesion Distinction to Fr. Deockary Massawe. Congratulations for the successful completion of studies in the area in which you are so much passionate about. Enjoy your home leave!

🕊️ CONFRERE/S ON VACATION

Fr. Honest Munishi from the United States is on home leave. We wish him enjoyable time with family and friends. Welcome back home!

✎ **HEALTH**

We continue to remember our sick confreres. May the healing hand of our merciful God be upon them. We also keep in our prayers members of our families who are sick.

✎ **MISSION MAGAZINE**

Fathers Victor Ashwar, Gaudence Mushi and Karol Shirima have been appointed by the Provincial Council to work towards the creation of a missionary magazine³ for the Province. Fr. Evarist Shirima who has a long experience in print media is willing to share his expertise in support of this project.

✎ **UPCOMING EVENTS**

- ✚ **Provincial General Assembly on January 12, 2022** at Stella Maris Hotel in Bagamoyo. Kindly note that the **arrival will be on January 11** and the departure **on January 13**.
- ✚ Confreres who wish to travel to Bagamoyo by our minibus (Coaster) should contact Fr. Evod Shao not later than **January 6, 2022**.
- ✚ For the accommodation at Stella Maris Hotel, you are urged to send your name to Fr. Evod Shao before **31 December, 2021**.

Save the dates: Safe Guarding Seminar

8-11 February 2022 Northern Zone

14-17 February 2022 Coastal Zone

Other details will be communicated in due course.

Do you take time to visit our Website?
<http://www.spiritanzania.org>

³ 3rd Provincial Chapter of the Province of Tanzania, Decision no. 1.9

✎ **BIRTHDAYS**

JANUARY 2022	
URASSA Festo F.	05-Jan
KYARA Nicetas	07-Jan
MREMA Ezekiel	12-Jan
MBAJO Linus	13-Jan
TEMBA Clement	13-Jan
MASHAKA Joseph	15-Jan
MAMBO Peter	18-Jan
MESIC Tomislav	20-Jan
Ndetembea Plato Arbogast	20-Jan
SHIO Joseph	23-Jan
MUSHI Nolasco	28-Jan

Fraternally in the Holy Spirit,



Florentine Mallya, CSSp.
Acting Provincial Superior

