

Provincial Desk June 2025 Provincial Desk

ENLARGED GENERAL COUNCIL (EGC)



A SHORT ACCOUNT OF THE 2025 ENLARGED GENERAL COUNCIL



Since June 22nd, over 60 Spiritans from all over the world have been living and working together in an intense experience at Chevilly Larue, the former Senior Scholasticate of the French Province, on the outskirts of Paris. Together with the Superior General, Fr Alain Mayama, and 8 members of the Generalate Team from Rome, there are 22 elected Delegates representing 13 Unions of Circumscriptions, 6 invited speakers and a support team of over 22 moderators, translators, secretaries,

musicians and support staff. All together they constitute the 9th Enlarged General Council of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Every eight years, our Congregation gathers for a General Chapter, but midway through this cycle, something equally vital takes place, the Enlarged General Council (EGC). It is not a chapter, not a place of votes or elections, but rather a time of discernment, reflection, and fraternal consultation. Held this year at Chevilly-Larue, Paris, the 2025 EGC brought together a rich tapestry of Spiritans from across the globe, 28 nationalities, with a vibrant presence from Africa and Latin America.

The purpose of the EGC is clear: to examine how the General Council has responded to the decisions made at the last General Chapter (Bagamoyo II, 2021), to offer advice on how to navigate the challenges of today's world, and to begin preparing for the next Chapter in 2029. But beyond that, it is a moment of Spiritan communion, where cultures meet, songs rise in many tongues, and the Holy Spirit is palpably at work.

From the very first day, there was a sense of joy and unity. Liturgies were colorful and spirited, with music offered in English, French, Portuguese, Swahili, Lingala, and Igbo. The rhythm of drums and the power of youthful voices reminded us that the future of the Congregation is deeply alive. Moderators Alberto Tchindemba and Marc Whelan helped guide the process with skill, inviting deep listening and shared discernment. Small group tables allowed for rich discussion and honest feedback, always with the hope of listening more closely to what the Spirit is saying to us today.

Throughout the two weeks, confreres explored key themes: leadership and governance, Spiritan spirituality, safeguarding, formation, justice and peace, and the role of the Brother's vocation. Important practical matters were discussed too: finances, development, sustainability, and how to prepare wisely for the next General Chapter.

Despite the Paris heatwave, the experience was spiritually refreshing. There were visits to iconic Spiritan sites: Rue Lhomond, Notre Dame des Victoires, Libermann's tomb and moments of recreation and fellowship that reminded everyone that mission is not only work but communion in joy.

A deeply moving highlight was the pilgrimage to Rennes, the birthplace of our Founder, Claude-François Poullart des Places. On June 29th, the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul, over 40 confreres departed at dawn, taking a TGV train (high speed train) from Paris to Rennes. Welcomed by Spiritan confrères and lay collaborators, they walked the very streets where young Poullart grew up visiting churches, family homes, and sites where his heart was stirred toward the poor and marginalized.

At St Germain Church, they recalled the youthful faith of Claude and his friendship with Louis Grignon de Montfort. Confreres stood before a modest plaque honoring his memory and lit a candle in silent prayer. In the Basilica of Saint-Sauveur, they prayed before Our Lady of Miracles. At the Rue de la Monnaie, they paused where Claude's father worked, remembering the wealth and privilege Claude eventually left behind. Finally, they gathered in the Jesuit Church of All Saints once part of the Collège Saint-Thomas where Claude studied and where he made his fateful retreat. There, joined by Archbishop Pierre d'Ornellas of Rennes, the confreres prayed Vespers, ending the day full of gratitude and awe.

Returning to Chevilly that evening, hot and weary, the pilgrims knew they had walked not only through history but through the spirit and vision that still animates the Congregation. The EGC had not just been a meeting—it had been a renewal of purpose, a rediscovery of the roots, and a reaffirmation of our shared mission.

As one confrère remarked, “We came to evaluate the past and plan the future but we leave with our hearts full of fire for the present.”

FUNDAMENTAL ELEMENTS OF SPIRITAN SPIRITUALITY



Group picture before the statue of our Lady of Victories

On 22 June, Fr Richard Fagah, CSSp., led the delegates of the Enlarged General Council (EGC) in the day of recollection, in Chevilly Larue, France. He preached with conviction and clarity about the subject of interest to all of us. At his permission, you have below an abridged version of what he shared.

I. Claude-François Poullart des Places : Spiritual Conversion and Foundational Mission

Claude-François Poullart des Places’ life is marked by a decisive personal conversion. Though born into privilege and raised in a devout Catholic environment, his real transformation occurred as a young lawyer. When he saw himself in his court robes and felt spiritually disconnected, he redirected his life toward priesthood and solidarity with the poor. This moment of metanoia became a foundational

element of Spiritan spirituality, a call to continuous missionary conversion. For Spiritans, true mission begins with this personal spiritual transformation.

Poullart's mission was marked by renunciation: he gave up wealth, social prestige, and power to follow the poor Christ. He established a seminary for poor candidates to the priesthood, placing poverty and spiritual detachment at the center of Spiritan identity. His concept of "*paratus ad omnia*"—readiness for all works, especially the least attractive—emphasizes availability grounded in self-denial and evangelical poverty.

A key moment occurred on Pentecost night in 1703 when he consecrated the seminary to the Holy Spirit under the protection of Our Lady of Good Deliverance. Thus, Spiritan spirituality was born in the fire of the Spirit and the gentleness of Mary—an enduring balance between zealous mission and Marian serenity.

II. François Libermann: Interior Life and Missionary Mysticism

Libermann's contribution to Spiritan spirituality reinforces and deepens Poullart's foundation. A convert from Judaism, Libermann emphasized the unity of spirituality and mission. For him, the missionary life without an interior life is empty—a "spiritual assassination." His insistence on the "primacy of the interior life" is foundational: the true missionary must be deeply grounded in prayer and spiritual discipline.

He articulated this in his "Little Treatise on the Interior Life," written before founding the Missionaries of the Holy Heart of Mary. This inner depth gave rise to his idea of "practical union"—a mystical state where one's interior presence permeates all actions. Spiritans are called to live and act as missionary mystics, witnessing through holiness rather than cleverness.

Libermann's phrase "Make yourselves negroes with the negroes" has deep spiritual implications: a call to kenosis (self-emptying), radical identification, and solidarity with the marginalized. His mysticism is not about private ecstasy, but sacrificial witness—martyrdom in the original Greek sense (marturion). Holiness and sacrifice are the foundation of mission.

In his final words, Libermann called Spiritans to embrace the spirit of sacrifice. This echoes Christ's "It is accomplished" a life fully offered. Spiritan spirituality is thus marked by sacrifice, interiority, and mystical witness.

III. Marian Devotion and Spiritan Mission

Both founders emphasize Mary's role. With Poullart, the Marian dimension began; with Libermann, it matured. He saw the Virgin Mary as an essential figure in the Spiritan's life—symbol of humility, love, and sacrifice. Spiritans draw strength and guidance from her, seeing mission as a labor of the heart.

In practice, this spiritual depth gives Spiritans the resilience to remain where others cannot. Their mission formation and spirituality, the unseen "something extra", make them capable of lasting presence and deep impact.

One of Libermann's spiritual sons, Father Melchior Freyd, immediate successor of Father Lannurien at the French Seminary in Rome, understood this spirituality and did his best to pass it on to those who were trained in Rome. Here's what he says in an 1855 letter to the Superior general, three years after

Libermann’s death. He wrote against the temptation for greatness that he must have seen in some of the candidates.

“Let us remain little, always little in our own eyes, and let even the world look upon us as little, provided we fulfill the designs Heaven has for us. The great works will be for others; obscurity and humility with a solid science must be what we share. And when it comes to science, I think it is extremely important to ensure that all scholastics have a good and serious education, otherwise we won’t be able to do what God asks of us. A spirit of prayer, humility, simplicity, modesty, acceptance of the crosses and positions that Providence and the Holy Heart of Mary offer us – this is our life and the goal of all our ambition...”

Conclusion

Spiritan missionary spirituality is rooted in continuous conversion (Poullart), grounded in interior life and sacrifice (Libermann), and carried forward in a Marian spirit of humility and love. This dynamic configuration remains the strength and identity of Spiritan mission today.

Congratulations!

First Vows: Magamba, Lushoto on 21 June, 2025



Bishop Thomas Kihangio of the diocese of Tanga in a group picture with 21 newly professed Spiritan

Priestly Ordination:



Joyful Fr Isaac Omwanza (middle) on his ordination day in Mombasa, Kenya. Isaac has been appointed to serve in Tanzania for his mission appointment

Final Vows:



L-R: Scholastics Edward Simkonda, Straton Ngowi, Joseph Mushi, Alex Bizimana and Barnabas Kyara took their final vows alongside their colleagues from Kenya and Uganda on Sunday, 29 June 2025, in Mombasa, Kenya

SAVE THE DATES

Priestly ordination:

July 10, 2025: St. Theresa Cathedral, Arusha



SHIRIKA LA ROHO MTAKATIFU
Chini ya Ulinzi wa Moyo Safi wa Bikira Maria

KANDA YA TANZANIA
wanayofuraha kubwa Kukulika/Kuwaalika

.....
kwenye Misa Takatifu ya Upadrisho wa Vijana wao wapendwa:-
1. **Shemasi Prince Reginald KIMARO, C.S.Sp.** na
2. **Shemasi George Gregory KITANGE, C.S.Sp.**

itakayofanyika Tarehe 10.07.2025 kuanzia saa 10:00 Asubuhi Katika Parokia ya Mtakatifu Teresia wa Mtoto Yesu, Arusha, Tanzania na kuongozwa na Askofu Mkuu ISAAC AMANI wa Jimbo Kuu Katoliki Arusha.
"TAZAMA NAFANYA JAMBO JIPIYA" (Is 43:19)

RANGI YA MAVAZI NI NYEUPE

Shemasi Prince Reginald KIMARO, C.S.Sp.

Shemasi George Gregory KITANGE, C.S.Sp.

Annual Retreat



Venue: St Carolus, Tengeru

3rd group: August 3-9, 2025

*Jubilee
Celebration*

Jubilee celebration: on August 14, 2025 at the Provincialate, Tengeru

 **Silver Jubilee-Religious life:**

1. Francis Lasway

2. Patience Mugisha
3. Ricklan Mallya
4. Daniel Waweru
5. Arnold Bajjukya

 **Silver Jubilee-Priestly Ordination:**

1. Honest Munishi
2. Nicodemus Massong
3. John Laizer

VACATION

-  Simplis Lakshi
-  Dismas Massawe
-  Prosper Gasto

We hope you enjoy time with family and friends.

BIRTHDAYS

JULY		
Honest	Munishi	02
Patrick	Patten	03
James	Nwauzor	05
Paul Mbav	Kalukang	07
Daniel	Macha	12
Valence	Tingo	12
Renatus	Karumuna	14
Godfrey	Mgonja	14
Gevase	Taratara	17
John	Laizer	21
Modest	Pengo	23
William	Kalande	27
Emmanuel	Kway	31

BEREAVEMENT

We extend our prayerful sympathies to:

Fr. Justi Tarimo-(brother) Mr Arbogast Alber Tarimo, June 30, 2025.

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

ENLARGED GENERAL COUNCIL(EGC)

The EGC began at the Spiritan Centre in Chevilly-Larue on Sunday 22 June, amidst the sweltering Parisian summer heat. It will end on Saturday, 5 July 2025. The July issue of Provincial Desk will report on the highlights of the meeting.

SICK CONFRERES

Let us continue to pray for our sick confreres. We remember in a special way **Fr. Nolasco Mushi**, who is experiencing severe pain. We are profoundly grateful for the presence and care of our confreres, the house staff, the palliative care team, and the doctors who are walking closely with him through this journey.

Let us remain steadfast in prayer, asking the Lord to grant all our ailing confreres peace, strength, and consolation.

Fraternally,



Florentine Mallya, CSSp.
Provincial Superior



PROVINCE OF TANZANIA-PROFILE



on this link: <https://heyzine.com/flip-book/acecb327dd.html>

PRAYER
FOR THE 4th PROVINCIAL CHAPTER
2026

O God, our loving and caring Father, with the life-giving Spirit you sent into the world your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour. In word and deed he has shown us how to always do your will.

We thank you for the gift of our Founders: Claude-Francis Poullart des Places, for his love for you, the most needy students of his time, and for his emphasis on the necessity of community life; and Venerable Francis Libermann, for his missionary action in favour of the most rejected and despised of society.

We Spiritans of the Province of Tanzania are grateful for the many blessings we have received in our Province and in the Congregation as we prepare for the 4th Provincial Chapter.

Fill our hearts and minds with faith, hope and love. Give us the courage to respond to your call to "cross to the other side of the lake" (Lk 8:22) and to experience something new (cf. Is 43:19). May your Holy Spirit guide us and give us courage to take up new challenges where the need is greatest, in the spirit of synodality and in this Jubilee Year, as pilgrims of hope in your Church.

As we cross to the other side of the lake, let us be open, flexible and available to the Holy Spirit in interpreting the signs of the times, in the words of the Venerable Libermann: "be like a feather in the wind".

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, companion of missionaries, intercede for us and help us to open our hearts to the Holy Spirit, so that he may fill them, possess them and act in them as sovereign Master and Lord - Amen.



One heart
One soul

