

Provincial Desk April 2026

Provincial Desk

ABOUT THE PROVINCIAL COUNCILORS

 <p>Fr. Evarist SIRIMA, CSSp.</p>	<p>2003: Perpetual vows and ordination to diaconate, Paris, France</p> <p>2004: Ordination to priesthood</p> <p>2004 - 2010: Mission Appointment-France, Assistant Parish Priest, Strasbourg, France</p> <p>2010: School of Journalism, Paris</p> <p>2011-2020 : Chief editor, Pentecôte Sur le Monde, Paris</p> <p>2020-2026: Assistant Parish Priest, Blotzheim, France</p> <p>2024 - 2026: Community Superior, Blotzheim</p> <p>2026: First Provincial Assistant</p> <p>Languages: Kiswahili, English and French</p>
 <p>Fr. Victor ASHWA, CSSp.</p>	<p>2014: Perpetual vows (Nigeria)</p> <p>2014: Diaconate</p> <p>2015: Ordination to Priesthood, Mission Appointment-Tanzania</p> <p>2016: Charles Lwanga Parish (Usa River) Assistant Parish Priest and Youth ministry</p> <p>2021: Parish Priest</p> <p>2026: Second Provincial Assistant</p> <p>Languages: English and Kiswahili</p>

 <p>Fr. Elias RUVAHOFI, CSSp.</p>	<p>2007 Perpetual Vows, Bagamoyo 2008: Priestly Ordination 2008-2014: Mission Appointment to Reunion Island. Seafarers' Ministry 2014-2018: MA in Education (Salesian Pontifical University-Rome) 2018-2022: PhD in Educational Planning and Administration MWECAU-Moshi 2022-: Lecturer-MARUCo 2025: Dean of Bagamoyo Deanery 2026: Provincial Assistant Languages: Kiswahili, English, French and Italian</p>
 <p>Fr. Albano MWOMBEKI, CSSp.</p>	<p>2011: Perpetual Vows, Rue Lhomond, Mother House, Paris 2011: Deaconate, St Joseph Parish, Nantere France 2012: Ordination to Priesthood, Tanzania 2012-2014: Parish Ministry, St. Charles Lwanga, Usa River 2014-: Endulen Parish 2017-: Dean of Ngorongoro 2017-2026: Provincial Assistant 2026: Provincial Assistant Languages: Kiswahili, English and French</p>

“While trusting completely in the divine mercy, let us take all precautions to succeed... Size up things and act with prudence. Be strong and courageous, full of trust in God, but also prudent and sensible." *Francis Libermann*

UCEAF NOVICES 2025–2026



Living the Spiritan Dream: Ten Months in the Novitiate

Ten months ago, we, 20 novices of UCEAF 2025–2026, arrived at Oaklands Novitiate in Magamba, Lushoto from the Spiritan Missionary Seminary (SMS) in Njiro, Arusha. We came with hearts full of questions, yet sustained by hope, responding to the gentle call of the Holy Spirit. Today, as we prepare for our religious profession, we look back with deep gratitude.

These months have not been easy, but they have been profoundly beautiful. They have taught us what it truly means to live as Spiritans in community, in prayer, in service, and in total commitment to God and His people. We are especially grateful to our formators, Fr. Deus Tarimo, CSSp (Director of Novices), and Fr. Godfrey Maliamungu, CSSp (Assistant Director of Novices), for their tireless, fatherly care and authentic accompaniment throughout this journey.

This sacred time of novitiate has been a period of genuine formation, helping us to understand our spiritan vocation more fully, to experience the life of the Spiritan Congregation, and to discern our suitability for this way of life, as outlined in the Code of Canon Law (Can. 646). Our daily life itself has been our primary formation: a shared vocation, a gift of the Holy Spirit, calling us to give ourselves fully in a praying and fraternal community for the mission of proclaiming the Good News, especially to the poor and to the marginalized (SRL. 1, 4, 12).

Daily Community Life: Learning Brotherhood

One of the greatest gifts of this journey has been learning to live together as brothers. Our days begin with personal prayer, followed by Morning Prayer (Lauds) and the Eucharistic celebration in Laval

Chapel. At breakfast, we share meals, listen to the Spiritan Anniversary Diary 1703 - 2003, and begin the day together in simplicity and joy.

In the evenings, recreation becomes a space of listening, sharing, and mutual support. There are moments of misunderstanding, but also opportunities for forgiveness and growth. In these experiences, we discover that brotherhood is not automatic, it is learned, nurtured, and strengthened daily.

This reflects the teaching of *Perfectae Caritatis* (no. 15), which emphasizes the importance of community life in fostering charity and union with Christ. Our founders, Claude Poullart des Places and Francis Libermann, saw community as the heart of apostolic life. SRL echoes this vision: we are called to live in unity through the Holy Spirit, who binds us together and sends us out on mission (SRL Chapter 3). As St. Paul reminds us, “Bear one another’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ” (Galatians 6:2).

Formation Beyond the Classroom

Throughout the year, we were enriched by several important seminars and workshops. In July 2025, Fr. Joseph Lekundayo, CSSp, led us in a deep exploration of Spiritan spirituality, helping us to appreciate more fully the charism handed down by our founders and lived by generations of Spiritans. We also participated in a safeguarding seminar facilitated by Fr. Mutune Henry, IC (Rosminian). This formation helped us to better understand the responsibility of protecting children and vulnerable adults, and to respond to the expectations of today’s society with integrity, respect, and pastoral sensitivity.

Prayer: The Heartbeat of Our Life

Prayer has been the foundation and rhythm of our novitiate life. Each day is marked by personal prayer, communal Lauds, the Eucharist, Vespers, and Night Prayer. In addition, we gather for Eucharistic adoration on Sundays, *Lectio Divina* on Fridays, and the Rosary on Saturdays.

A seminar on prayer, facilitated by Sr. Pauline Urio (Capuchin Sisters from Maua), helped us to deepen our understanding of different forms of prayer: contemplative, vocal, and apostolic. We were reminded that prayer is not merely recitation, but a living relationship: a loving dialogue with the Father, through the Son, in the Holy Spirit.

JPIC: A Call to Justice and Compassion

The theme of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) has become an integral part of our formation. Through a seminar led by Fr. Gervase Taratara, CSSp, we explored how the Spiritan charism calls us to stand with the poor, defend human dignity, and care for creation.

These sessions moved beyond theory as we reflected on real experiences from Spiritan missions across the world. We came to understand more deeply our call to proclaim the Good News not only in words, but through actions that promote justice and compassion (SRL 5).

Manual Work and Simplicity of Life

Manual work has been an essential part of our formation. Each week, we engage in tasks such as gardening, cleaning, caring for animals, repairing facilities, and assisting in the kitchen. What initially felt demanding gradually became meaningful.

Through manual work, we learn humility, responsibility, and the dignity of work. It connects us with the everyday realities of the people we are called to serve. The Spiritan tradition of simplicity of life reminds us to remain free and available for mission. In these ordinary tasks, we follow the example of Christ and embrace a life of gratitude and solidarity.

Retreats: Moments of Grace and Renewal

The retreats we experienced were among the most transformative moments of our novitiate. In silence and prayer, we encountered God more deeply, faced our personal struggles, and experienced His mercy.

The first retreat, guided by Fr. Daniel Kilala, CSSp, focused on conversion and the role of self-giving love expressed through obedience, charity, and generosity. The second retreat, led by Fr. Arnold Baijukya, CSSp, centered on commitment and the meaning of professing the evangelical counsels of poverty, chastity, and obedience.

We came to understand that religious profession is not merely a formal step, but a total offering of one's life to God and to the Congregation. As Canon 654 states, through profession, we are consecrated to God and incorporated into the institute with its rights and responsibilities.

Looking Ahead with Hope

As this period of novitiate draws to a close, we move forward with hope, not because we are perfect, but because we have experienced God's faithful work within us. We have grown in prayer, strengthened our bonds of brotherhood, deepened our commitment to justice and peace, and embraced the responsibility of safeguarding the vulnerable.

Magamba has truly been a school of love, conversion, and mission. With gratitude to the entire Spiritan family, we now look forward to our first profession. We desire to live fully our call: to be men of the Holy Spirit, sent to bring the Good News to the poor in communities rooted in prayer and fraternity.

May the Holy Spirit, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion (Philippians 1:6). And may our "yes" echo the faith of Mary and the missionary zeal of our Spiritan founders.

Novices
2026



Venue : Carolus Retreat Centre

Dates:

 **Group 1: June 21 – 27**

 **Group 2: June 28 – July 05**

 **Group 3: August 02 – 08**

A CONVERSION THAT CHANGED HISTORY: CELEBRATING LIBERMANN'S BICENTENARY



Father Francis Mary-Paul Libermann, the son of a Rabbi, eventually became a Catholic missionary priest. His life marked a turning point from Judaism to Christianity. He was born on 12 April 1802 in Saverne, France, into a Jewish family. He was originally named Jacob, the son of Lazarus Libermann, who himself was a respected Rabbi in Saverne.

Saverne, a small town located about forty kilometers from Strasbourg, was the place where Jacob grew up in a deeply religious environment. Because of the respect and influence his father enjoyed in the town, Lazarus hoped that his son would one day succeed him as Rabbi. For this reason, in 1822, he sent Jacob to

Metz for religious formation.

Later, Jacob proceeded to Paris and, on Christmas Eve in 1826, he was baptized into the Catholic faith. He took the name François Marie-Paul after his godfather. This marked the beginning of a new direction in his life and spiritual journey. Convinced of his priestly calling, he entered Saint-Sulpice Major Seminary, where he developed a deep desire to dedicate his life to the evangelization of the Blacks and to the defence of the poor and oppressed.

It was Frederick Le Vasseur and Eugene Tisserant, seminarians originating from Réunion Island and Haiti respectively who shared their missionary vision with Libermann. From that moment, Libermann made it his life mission to open the way for many Spiritan missionaries who today continue their work throughout the world.

This year marks the bicentenary of Libermann's conversion from Judaism to Christianity (1826–2026). It represents an interior spiritual journey: from the synagogue to baptism, and from baptism to the evangelization and accompaniment of the Blacks. For his father Lazarus, however, Jacob's conversion was not only a deep pain, but also a painful loss and a betrayal of the hopes he had placed in his son.

Father Paul Coulon, CSSp, a historian, once said, "For Libermann, he invented nothing, he has received all but he took his gifts and talents very seriously. For Libermann there is no calculation or any ambition: his health though fragile, the rupture with his father Lazarus and all the misfortunes of life would have discouraged him but they became a source of his strength and confidence."¹

Paul Coulon explains further that Libermann was not simply a man of words, but a man of action and of serious commitment. He was concerned not only with conversion, but also with the accompaniment and care of people after his conversion. In his letters to missionaries, he encouraged them to maintain peace of mind and respond with humanity to the demands of missionary life.

Today, despite the many trials and sufferings he experienced, Father Libermann remains an iconic and inspiring figure for Spiritan missionary activities throughout the world. His life continues to encourage us to spare no effort in allowing the will of God to take first place in our lives.

Fr. Adolph Msoka, CSSp.

¹ La Famille Spiritaine: Pentecôte sur le monde, Libermann, la force de la fragilité, n° 945 Janvier/Février 2026, p 7.

ONGOING FORMATION: A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE OF RENEWAL



There are moments in religious life when one is invited, in a particular way, to pause, reflect, and begin again. For me, ICOF (Interreligious Ongoing Formation Program) became such a moment of a quiet but profound experience of renewal.

After many years in consecrated life, I found myself reminded that formation is truly ongoing. It is not something we leave behind after initial stages, but a lifelong journey that continually calls us back to the essentials of our vocation. At its heart, this journey begins within by deepening my relationship with myself, with God, and with those I live and serve with.

One of the most meaningful insights for me was the reminder that spirituality is lived in the ordinary. It is not only found in extended moments of prayer, but in the simple, daily choices we make: how we begin our day, how we listen, how we respond, and how attentive we are to God's presence in everyday life.

The programme also emphasized the importance of holistic living. We were reminded that caring for the body through rest, exercise, and healthy habits is not separate from our spiritual life, but supports it. A balanced life enables us to remain faithful and available in our mission.

We also reflected on the challenges of our time, including different forms of addiction and the need for greater self-awareness. What stood out was the invitation to respond with compassion rather than judgment towards ourselves and towards others in our communities.

Community life itself was a central theme. We were encouraged to grow in openness, mutual support, and accompaniment. In a very real sense, we are called not only to live together, but to journey together, to notice one another, to listen, and to offer support where it is needed.

One approach that deeply touched me was the practice of beginning with the positive, that is, recognizing the good in one another before addressing difficulties. This simple shift fosters encouragement, strengthens relationships, and helps to build more life-giving communities.

As I return to my own community, I do so with a renewed sense of purpose. I hope to continue this journey of renewal through regular reflection and by integrating these insights into my daily living.

More importantly, I hope that this renewal will be visible not only in what I say, but in how I live within my community and in the wider mission entrusted to me.

This experience has truly been a gift, and I remain grateful for the grace of renewal in my vocation.

Sr. Magdalene²,
Little Sisters of St. Francis-Zambia

² Sr Magdalene worked alongside many Tanzanian Spiritans in Zambia. After completing the ICOF programme, she spent a couple of days at the Provincialate in Tengeru.

APPOINTMENT

Fr. Anno Massawe: Diocese of Zanzibar with effect from 15 May 2026.

FIRST AND PERPETUAL VOWS



First Vows: 27 June, 2026

Perpetual Vows: 13 June, 2026 in Uganda (6 candidates from Tanzania)
07 July, 2026 in Manila (2 candidates from Tanzania)

BIRTHDAYS

MAY		
Florian Paul	AMANI	04
Silvanus	MRINGI	04
Adolf	MSOKA	06
Peter	ASSENGA	08
Filbert	MARANDU	10
Faustine	EMIL	12
Renatus	ASSENGA	13
Elias Petro	RUVAHOFI	14
Andrew	MWIKO	16
Mathew Raphael	ASSENGA	18
Josaphat	MOSHA	20
Casti Cornel	MUSHI	22
Thomas	KESSY	23
Alphonse	DONATHO	24
Pamphilus	NGOWI	25
Gideon	MICHAEL	25
Philip	NG'OJA	27

Peter	KILASARA	28
Barnabas	KILEU	28
Joachim	KARABWE	29
Gilbert	MENAS	29
Aquiline	MREMA	30

NECROLOGY

Josephat Msongore: 10 May, 2017

PROVINCE WEBSITE-UNDER CONSTRUCTION

We are grateful to Fr. Josaphat Moshu, CSSp who spent a large part of his holiday working on our Provincial website. He continues to work on it remotely, assisted by Fr Victor Ashwa, CSSp.



on this link: <https://tanzaniaspiritan.com>

Fraternally,

Florentine Mallya, CSSp.
Provincial Superior

