

Provincial Desk June 2026 **Provincial Desk**

FROM KILIMANJARO TO ETHIOPIA: A LEGACY OF MISSION



The Assembly of the Group of Ethiopia was held from 22–26 June 2026 in Arba Minch. In accordance with the statutes of the UCEAF, circumscriptions are encouraged to support one another during significant moments in their life and mission. It was in this spirit that the Province of Tanzania sent an observer to the Assembly. Other participants included observers from UCEAF and our correspondent from Rome, Fr. Jeff Duaime.

An Assembly differs from a Chapter in both purpose and function. Its primary objective is to review, midway through the mandate, the implementation of the decisions taken at the Circumscription Chapter

and to offer recommendations for the remainder of the term. The Assembly is also elective, choosing both the Superior and the members of his council.

The Province of Tanzania shares a long and meaningful history with the Group of Ethiopia. The initiative to establish a Spiritan mission in Ethiopia originated with Fr. Eugene Hillman, a member of the then District of Kilimanjaro. In 1969, he travelled to Ethiopia to explore the possibility of opening a new mission. Following his visit, he presented a report to the Superior General. The General Council subsequently decided to take direct responsibility for advancing the proposal, coordinating efforts with the Province of the United States East, the Dutch Province, and the District of Kilimanjaro.

In 1972, the first three missionaries, two from the United States and one from the Netherlands were sent to Ethiopia. Fr. Iede Delange, who shared this history, remains in Ethiopia, serving among the Borana, a semi-nomadic pastoralist community in the Oromia Region, based in Yabelo. The late Fr. Ned Machesseault later joined the pioneering missionary team at Dadim, the first Spiritan mission among the Borana. Today, four of the six Ethiopian Spiritans come from that original mission.

The relationship between Tanzania and Ethiopia has continued to grow over the years. The former East African Province (EAP), and later UCEAF, has regularly sent students to Ethiopia for their Period of Missionary Experience (PME). At present, two PME students from Tanzania are serving there. Likewise, every Ethiopian confrere has completed part of his formation in Tanzania. Although the Province of Tanzania has not yet been able to send missionaries to Ethiopia because of restrictive immigration policies, recent improvements in relations between the two countries offer hope that this may become possible in the future.

Catholics make up only about one per cent of Ethiopia's population of approximately 138.9 million people, while the Ethiopian Orthodox Church remains the country's most influential Christian tradition, accounting for about 43 per cent of the population. Within this context, the Spiritan presence has developed through complementary missionary approaches. The Irish Spiritans invested significantly in ecumenical dialogue and collaboration with the Orthodox Church, particularly in the Vicariate of Sodo. Meanwhile, the American and Dutch Spiritans concentrated on education and later on primary evangelization in the Vicariate of Awassa.

All these missionary efforts were accompanied by a strong commitment to humanitarian service, especially during the devastating famine of 1983–1985, which claimed an estimated 1.2 million lives. The experience gained during that period strengthened the confreres' capacity to respond to humanitarian emergencies and promote sustainable development. It eventually led to the establishment of Spiritan Community Outreach in Ethiopia (SCORE), the Congregation's humanitarian and development arm in the country. Through an integrated approach that combines evangelization with human development, SCORE now reaches approximately 80,000 people each year.

This model offers valuable inspiration for our own Province as we work towards establishing an NGO to respond more effectively to the diverse needs of the people among whom we minister. It demonstrates how evangelization and human development can be integrated into a single missionary vision, making our presence both credible and transformative.

PHOTO NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS !



First Profession at Magamba on 27 June, 2026



Fr Alex Jimmy Bizimana on the day of his priestly ordination on 02 July, 2026



Final Vows: scholastics Pastore Shimbo and Peter Mallya in Manila on 02 July, 2026



Venue: Carolus Retreat Centre

Dates: Group 3: August 02-08



BIRTHDAYS

July		
Nicetas	KYARA	01
Colman	KIMARYO	02
Joseph	SHAYO	02
Patrick	PATTEN	03
ABAH	Gabriel	04
Deockary	MASSAWE	06
Paul	MBAV	07
Joseph	MUSHI	07
Victor	ASHWA	09
Edmond	KARKAMOIE	10
Gevase	TARATARA	17
Peter	AWOLANWO	18
Melchizedeck	KIOKO	14
Renatus	KARUMUNA	14

Godfrey	MGONJA	14
John	LAIZER	21
Modest	PENGO	23
William	KALANDE	27
Emmanuel	KWAY	31

UPDATE

RELOCATION

As reported in the previous issue of the *Provincial Desk*, the relocation of the Provincialate continues. While the project continues, it also presents significant financial demands, particularly given the limited timeframe for relocating and vacating the current Provincialate to Spiritan House in Arusha.



Successfully completing this undertaking will require the collective support of the entire Province. During the recent retreats, we shared these challenges with both groups of confreres. We were deeply encouraged by the overwhelmingly positive response and by the willingness of many confreres to contribute towards this important project.

We are currently putting in place a simple, transparent, and accountable system for receiving contributions and acknowledging every donation. Details will be communicated as soon as the process is finalized.

We thank you in advance for your generosity, solidarity, and fraternal spirit. Every contribution, regardless of its size, will help us bring this important project to completion and strengthen our common mission.

VACATION

✚ Fr. Octavian Massao

✚ Fr. Calvin Massawe

We wish you a happy stay with your family and loved ones.



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

Faternally,

Florentine Mallya, CSSp.
Provincial Superior

