



# MISSIONARIES OF MARIANNHILL

## OFFICE OF REGIONAL SUPERIOR

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24 December 2021

### EAST AFRICA CIRCULAR LETTER : DECEMBER 2021

Dear Confreres,

Grace and peace to you from Christ the Prophet Community (CPC) and the Region of East Africa. I know many of you are busy with last minute Christmas preparations, especially Confreres in Parishes. Best wishes. Please allow me to share a few items :

1. **Our Novices in Mariannahill** - A few days ago I met our 7 Novices from East Africa in Mariannahill. They are fine and send their greetings. Special thanks to the Acting Director of Novices Fr. Emmanuel Nkofo who facilitated this meeting and the second one with the whole Novitiate group, from the General Government Formation Portfolio point of view. We have a total of 15 Novices in Mariannahill from 7 different countries. Let us commit them to prayer together with their formator, Fr. Nkofo. A special word of gratitude to Fr. Kevin Mapfumo, now Regional Superior of Zimbabwe, for journeying faithfully with these Novices and others before this group who passed through his hands as Director of Novices in the past. These vocations and all others in initial formation give hope for the future. May God continue to bless us with more vocations, good vocations. As we celebrate Christmas we pray that these signs that God The Emmanuel is with us may be a source of encouragement to our Unit and the Congregation at large.



*Photo with East Africa Novices (From left to Right): Jovinus Sirito Njau (Tanzanian), Erick Ongaga Barongo (Kenyan), Thomas Masereka (Ugandan), Rubin Mumene Munsebi (Congo DR), visitor, Cephass Wamalabe (Kenyan), Fredrick Jackson Lesangurikuri (Kenyan) and, in a Cassock, Samuel Gitau Waweru (Kenyan)*

2. **Congratulations to Fr. Paul Omweri Omari, our Regional Treasurer** – on his ordination to the Priesthood by Bishop David Kamau, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Nairobi, on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2021 at Juja Farm Parish. Dear Confrere, may you become a priest after the heart of Jesus. We thank God for the

Thanksgiving Masses, very well attended both at your home parish and at your family home on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> December 2021, respectively.



*Ordination at Juja Farm Parish*



*First Mass at his home parish, see also photo below*



3. **Congratulations to you Fr. Bonphace Omondi Otiang'a** - on the beautiful Thanksgiving Mass at home on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021, something that couldn't be done earlier since your Ordination but finally it happened. God bless your priesthood.



*Fr. Bonphace was asked to perform a traditional act of authority and war, in line with his ministry as a servant of God. Second photo: with parents and friends of Mariannahill from Tanzania*

4. **Fr. Francis Ngadi** – arrived in Kenya on 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021 from Mthatha. Welcome to your new Unit Fr. Ngadi and God’s blessings as you take up the noble ministry of Rector at Christ the Prophet Formation House.
5. **Fr. Moris Msuya** – leaves for the Unit of the Generalate (Rome) on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2021. We wish you a safe journey Fr. Msuya, and we thank you very profoundly for your immense service to the Unit of East Africa as a Formator, Regional Treasurer and Regional Superior. Thank you so much and may God bless you.
6. **Hearty welcome** – to **Fr. Thomas Winzenhörlein** and **two lay people (Missionaries for a time)** who arrive in Kenya on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021 for a brief visit in our Unit. *Karibu*
7. **Fr. Robert Kaiza** – will participate in the 3 month-Sabbatical program organized for Priests and Religious by the Southern African Bishops’ Conference in the Monastery Retreat House in Mariannahill. It starts on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2022. He leaves on 14<sup>th</sup> January. Wishing you Fr. Kaiza a restful and enriching Sabbatical.
8. **Fr. Tiago Vilanculo** – who came to Kenya for 17 days from Mozambique, eventually left from Kenya for his new mission in Indianapolis, USA. He couldn’t travel to the US straight from Mozambique since it is one of the Southern African countries red-listed by the US because of the Omicron COVID variant. It was nice being with you Fr. Tiago in our Unit. May God bless our new mission in the State of Indiana.
9. **Amendment to Signatories on Regional Bank Accounts** – Following the departure to Rome in September of Fr. Benedict Kimutai, one of the bank signatories, the Regional Council has decided to replace him with Frs. Francis Ngadi and Roy Chimbindi. Thank you Frs. Ngadi and Chimbindi for accepting this service to the Community.
10. **Condolences to the following who recently lost loved ones** –
  - ✚ **Novice Rubin Munsebi** – lost his grandmother in Congo DR
  - ✚ **Novice Thomas Masereka** – lost his aunt in Uganda, and
  - ✚ **Postulant Douglas Maina** – who lost his brother in Kenya
 May their souls rest in eternal peace.

Lastly, I wish you all a **Blessed Christmas and a good 2022**. May Jesus the New Born King stay close to you in your ministry / formation.

Yours in the Child Jesus,

Fr. Patrick Chongo CMM  
Regional Administrator