



MISSIONARIES OF MARIANHILL

OFFICE OF REGIONAL SUPERIOR

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EAST AFRICA REGION CIRCULAR LETTER- MAY 2022

Dear Confreres,

Greeting of peace from East Africa Region. We thank the Almighty God for having protected us from the Corona pandemic so far. Here in Nairobi life has almost all come to normal and we hope that this COVID-19 will completely disappear and it will never come again to continue harming human life. Let us ask God to continue guarding and protecting us so that we are safe and healthy wherever we are. Allow me now to share with you the following information:

1. CONGRATULATIONS AND GRATITUDE

- A) We congratulate Fr. Thulani Victor Mbuyisa who was our Superior General and who has been appointed by the Holy Father, Pope Francis, as Bishop of the Diocese of Kokstad in South Africa. We wish him God's blessings in his ministry as the Shepherd of his flock in Kokstad. We thank God as well for the gift and the service of Fr. Thulani in our Congregation. We assure him of our prayers.
- B) As a Region we are extending our gratitude to Fr. Patrick Chongo who was with us as Regional Administrator from May 2021 to March 2022 when he left for Rome to continue serving the Congregation as a General Councillor and House Superior of the Generalate Community. We thank him for the work he did in our Region of East Africa and we wish him well in his ministry in Rome.
- C) We are grateful to all Unit Superiors and Confreres worldwide, more especially the leadership of the Congregation in Rome for their support to our new leadership team in this Region. Thank you to you all Confreres in the Unit for your hard work and commitment in your various places despite some challenges here and there. We are grateful for your cooperation rendered to us as new leadership in the Region from the time we were ushered into office on March 1, 2022. Let us continue with the same spirit as we all strive to build the Unit of East Africa, our mother. We continue reflecting on the Synodal Church where everyone is called to work with others guided by the pillars of **communion, participation, and mission**. May we be motivated by these same principles as we continue praying for our 2022 General Chapter anchored on the theme of **Solidarity**. The aim of the Church is to involve everyone in evangelization so that no one is left behind. May this too be our goal, in collaboration and cooperation with others.

2. PASTORAL PLACEMENTS

Assignments of our Confrere students in our Parishes and Communities for pastoral experience during the forth-coming school holidays are as follows:

- A) Frt. Lebohang Mothetho Joseph goes to St. Mary Magdalene Parish -Kimara Mtoni, Tanzania.
- B) Frt. Steven Banda goes to Kidoka, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Kondoa Diocese, Tanzania.
- C) Frts. Patrick Mangoma and Jonathan Kusinga will go to St. Mary Salome Parish, Kimara Kana, Tanzania.
- D) Frt. Fredrick Jackson Lesangurikuri goes to Kericho, Ndanai Parish, Kenya
- E) Frts. Cephas Wamalabe and Tatenda Kakwedza, will go to Longido, St. Lawrence Parish, Tanzania
- F) Frt. Leandro Langa goes to Juja Farm, Presentation of the Lord Parish, Kenya.
- G) Dismas Mwebi Ayogo and Godfrey Tom Otieno Owuor will remain at CPC for the continuation of their special re-admission program under the guidance of Fr. Francis Ngadi Ochieng, the Rector.

3. THE CANDIDATES

All our candidates will spend their holidays at home until schools resume in August 2022.

4. VOCATION DIRECTOR

Fr. Paul Omari Omweri continues the role of Vocation Director in collaboration with Fr. Denis Ndolo Kasyoka, who is the Regional Councillor responsible for Formation.

5. COMMUNITIES IN OUR REGION AND CONFRERES LIVING THERE

- A) Juja Farm Community: Bro. Thomas Fischer is expected to arrive in East Africa on May 23, 2022 from Germany. We wish him a safe trip to our Unit. *Karibu sana.*
- B) Fr. Benedict Kimutai Yegon is currently looking after our Aspirants in Juja Farm Community while he is following his studies on Formation.

6. TRANSFERS

A) WITHIN THE REGION

Fr. Robert Kiiza Kaiza has been transferred from Juja Farm Community, where he has been helping, besides other various services in the Region, in Pastoral work in Presentation of the Lord Parish in Juja Farm, Archdiocese of Nairobi, Kenya, to Wukiro Parish- Mbinga Diocese, Tanzania. He will be Assistant Parish Priest to Fr. Dennis Aura who is the Parish Priest. We wish him a fruitful ministry in his new place.

B) OUTSIDE THE REGION

- i) Fr. Wenceslaus Wangila Wanjala has been transferred by the General Government from East Africa Region to the Region of Mthatha. We wish him God's blessings in his new Unit. Thank you, Fr. Wenceslaus, for all you have done in our Region.
- ii) Frt. Thomas Masereka who has been transferred to Spain is at the moment in Uganda, processing his papers for the Visa to Spain
- iii) Frt. Fredrick Jackson Lesangurikuri who has also been transferred from East Africa to Spain is also waiting for his Visa.
- iv) Bro. Sithole Sithembiso Promise who has been transferred from Mariannahill to East Africa will arrive in our Unit on May 21, 2022.
- v) Frt. Mwale Cletus who has been transferred from the Region of Zambia to East Africa will arrive in our Unit on May 20, 2022.

We welcome the two Confreres to the Region of East Africa with both hands.

7. PPPP IN JUNE-JULY 2022

Fratres Gabriel Chirawu, Benito Sedem Agblekpe and Bro. Chewe Mwape will attend the Perpetual Profession Preparation Program (PPPP) **that will take place in Abbot Francis House in Merrivale from June 13 to July 10, 2022.** Fr. Francis Ngadi will be part of the Formation Commission facilitating this workshop. Best wishes to these Confreres.

8. SABBATICAL PROGRAM

Fr. Robert Kiiza Kaiza who attended the sabbatical program in the Retreat House in Mariannahill from January to April 2022 is back in our Region. We thank the General Government that sponsored his Sabbatical. Welcome back Baba.

9. VISITS, HOME LEAVE / HOLIDAYS:

A) Fratres Mzokhona Gumede and Gabriel Chirawu will have 2 months of home leave in their home countries.

B) The following Confreres will be visiting the Province of Germany: Frts. Wesonga Evans Ogola, Ndlovu Ntokozo Sbonelo, Mzizi Thumbelani and Mushi Simon Francis from May 20 to August 10, 2022.

C) Fr. Adrian Maqhawe Ndlovu from the Unit of Zimbabwe will be visiting East Africa Region in June 2022 as he attends a renewal program in Arusha. Welcome kwetu Baba Adrian.

D) Fr. Thomas Winzenhörlein and friends of Mariannahill will be visiting the Unit of East Africa. They arrive in Kenya on June 27, 2022 and they will be with us for 12 days. Hearty welcome to our visitors.

E) Fr. Roy Chimbindi is still on holiday in Zimbabwe. He comes back to East Africa on May 10, 2022. Safe trip back home Baba Roy.

10. GENERAL CHAPTER CAPITULARS

Fr. Nicholas Mwiti Nkonge and Fr. Roy Chimbindi are the Capitulars who were elected from East Africa for the General Chapter that takes place in Rome in October 2022. Fr. Vincent de Paul Nzabandora is ex-officio. Fr. Francis Ngadi was elected substitute.

11. NEW TRUSTEES OF THE REGION OF EAST AFRICA

New CMM Trustees before the government of Kenya are Fr. Vincent de Paul Nzabandora, Fr. Nicholas Mwiti Nkonge and Fr. Francis Ngadi. We thank the previous Trustees i.e. Fr. Robert Kiiza Kaiza, Fr. Robert Reuben Abulala, and Bro. Yvon Bourret

12. REGIONAL FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairperson of our Finance Committee is Fr. Nicholas Mwiti Nkonge. Mr. Fredrick Okoth Odhiambo is the Secretary with Frs. Roy Chimbindi, Vincent de Paul and Paul Omari Omweri as members.

13. MINISTRIES

On May 1, 2022, by the grace of God, I conferred the ministry of lector on:

1. Frt. Mzizi Thembelani, Theology I.
2. Frt. Steven Banda, Theology I.
3. Frt. Patrick Mangoma, Theology I.
4. Frt. Iyonda Jonathan Kusuinga, Theology I.
5. Frt. Leandro Langa, Theology I.
6. Ntokozo Sbonelo Ndhlovu, Theology I

During the same ceremony I conferred the ministry of acolyte on :

1. Frt. Mzokhona Gumede, Theology IV.
2. Frt. Tatenda Kakwedza, Theology IV.
3. Frt. Benito Sedem Koudzo, Theology II.
4. Frt. Simon Francis Mushi, Theology II.
5. Frt. Evanns Ogola, Theology II.
6. Frt. Gabriel Chirawu, Theology II.

15. THEOLOGICAL STUDIES IN KENYA

All our CMM students in East Africa Unit will be doing their Theological Studies at Don Bosco Utume – a Salesian College affiliated to the Pontifical Salesian University in Rome.

16. COMPLETION OF PHILOSOPHICAL STUDIES

Our Seven Students; Joseph Charles Avahu, Duncan Kipkurui Yegon, Erneste Uwezeyimana, Francis Mwanji Njoki, Joseph Wekesa Barasa, Emmanuel Dukuzeyezu and John Cornel, who were doing their philosophical studies at Consolata Philosophical Institute, have successfully completed

their studies. They graduated on 5th May, 2022. One of them, Joseph Wekesa, was the best student in terms of grades obtained. We wish to congratulate them most sincerely and wish them all the best in the next step of their formation. Their next stage is Postulancy, to which they are yet to apply and be admitted by the Regional Council.

17. DEPARTURE FROM OUR CONGREGATION.

John Cornel, one of the students who have completed their philosophy has decided to leave our congregation on his own to join the Diocese. We wish him well in his vocation discernment.

18. FR. FELIPE VOORN

Fr. Felipe Voorn Theodor is still undergoing treatment in the Netherlands, his home country. We continue to pray for him for quick recovery, and we hope that he may return soon to East Africa.

19. CONDOLENCES

1. Frt. Leandro Langa lost his father back home in Mozambique
2. Fr. Robert Kiiza Kaiza lost his aunt, back home in Bukoba Tanzania
3. Fr. Benedict Kimtai lost his mother, back home in Kericho in Kenya
4. Bro. Isanda Bernard (Mthatha Region), lost his father back home in Kisii in Kenya.

Hearty sympathies and sincere condolences to you Confreres. May these our dearly beloved rest in eternal peace!

I wish you well dear Confreres and may God bless you where you are.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Vincent Nzabandora CMM

Regional Superior.