



MISSIONARIES OF MARIANHILL

OFFICE OF REGIONAL SUPERIOR

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EAST AFRICA CIRCULAR LETTER : OCTOBER 2021

Dear Confreres,

Greetings of love and peace from Christ the Prophet Community (CPC) and the Region of East Africa. We continue to battle through COVID-19 as the whole world looks forward to some kind of “normal life” back again. It is gratifying to note that a number of you Confreres have already received full vaccination or have received the first dose and now waiting for your next appointment for the second dose. We thank God that no one in our Region has died from this “invisible enemy” so far, although a number of us have seen people close to us, in our parishes and families, succumb to this terrible disease. A number of us in the Region, especially at CPC, have in the past tested positive to COVID-19 and recovered: we praise God. Having said that, let us continue to keep guard against this disease by observing Government regulations for prevention of the spread of COVID-19. It is consoling to see the Faithful back in our churches in both Kenya and Tanzania .

In sending you greetings from the Regional Office, please allow me to share the following items:

- 1. Arrival of all Student Confreres and Candidates in CPC** – CPC welcomed back safely all its students, new and old, in August and school is in full swing since.
- 2. Special day at CPC :** On the 12th of August 2021, CPC celebrated the following:
 - a) Reception into the Postulancy:** Candidates **Douglas Maina, Alphonse Rutayuga, Michael Joel Musasizi, Petro Elikana Ololepo, Edson Wilber Tumwesigye** were received into the Postulancy (see photo below):





b) Installation of the new team of Formators for CPC (Frs. Roy Chimbindi and Victor M. Mwansa as Acting Rector and Assistant, respectively) :



c) Bidding farewell to Fr. Benedict Kimutai who, until August, was Rector of CPC:



Fr. Benedict has since travelled to Rome where he has started a formation course at the Angelicum. Best wishes Fr. Benedict.

- 3. Fr. Jacktone A. Kupalo** – We bade farewell to Fr. Jacktone on the 4th of October 2021 before he left for his new mission (Switzerland) the following day. Wishing you well Fr. Jacktone in your new Unit.

4. Hearty welcome to :

- a) **Bro. Thomas Fischer** – who has been transferred to our Unit by the General Government from the Unit of Germany. His assignment will be announced later. Welcome to your new home Bro. Thomas. *Karibu sana.*
- b) **Fr. Francis Ngadi** – who has been transferred to our Unit by the General Government from the Unit of Mthatha where, until now, he has been Vicar Regional. Fr. Francis will be the **new Rector** of Christ the Prophet Formation House in Nairobi. He arrives in Kenya in December (2021). *Karibu nyumbani* back to your Home Unit Baba Ngadi.

- 5. **Fr. Nicholas Mwiti** – has been appointed Parish Priest of St. Laurent Parish in Longido, Tanzania, having moved from Ndanai Parish in the Diocese of Kericho, Kenya, where he served in the same capacity. Best wishes in your new assignment Fr. Mwiti :



- 6. **Fr. Wenceslaus Wanjala** – who until now has been Parish Priest of St. Laurent Parish, Longido, is presently on home leave. His new assignment will be announced later. Thank you Baba Wanjala for your ministry to the people of Longido who are mostly Maasais over the past 5 years and for your immense assistance to all of us in the Unit (Confreres and Candidates alike) whenever there were immigration or customs complications when crossing the Kenya-Tanzania Namanga border that is very close to Longido.
- 7. **Frs. Cosmas Momanyi and Michael Njenga** – have been appointed Parish Priest and Assistant Parish Priest, respectively, of St. Theresa Parish, Ndanai, in the Diocese of Kericho. Best wishes dear Confreres as you serve the people of Ndanai.

- 8. Hospitalization of Candidate Duncan Yegon** – Due to Kidney complications, only discovered recently, Candidate Duncan Yegon had two operations (both successful) in the month of September at Mater Misericordiae Hospital in Nairobi. He is recovering very well at CPC from the second operation, which took 8 hours. We thank the General Government for coming to our aid in settling the bill for these two emergency operations, considering that our Candidates are not on medical insurance. Get well soon Candidate Duncan.
- 9. Fr. Phillip Voorn** – From my last communication with him over a week ago, Fr. Phillip who is in the Netherlands for medical help on his back problems, has seen Doctors a few times but continues to be on the waiting list for proper treatment, because of COVID-19. He sends greetings. We continue praying for you Fr. Philip. We miss you in CPC.
- 10. Admissions to the Ministry of Lector** – Fratres **Tatenda Kakwedza, Mzokhona Gumede, Gabriel Chirawu, Simon Mushi, Benito Sedem Agblekpe** and **Evans Wesonga** were installed Lectors on 15 October 2021 at CPC:



- 11. Online workshop for our Treasurer** – Our Treasurer, Deacon Paul Omari is among new Unit Treasurers in the Congregation who will attend an online workshop organized by SOFIA on grant writing, project management, monitoring and evaluation during some days of the months of November and December 2021. We thank the General Government which has offered this opportunity to our Treasurer and those of other Units. All the best Deacon Paul.
- 12. Workshop in Kigali, Rwanda** – Our Regional Vicar, **Fr. Patrick Musumba**, has been invited by the Regional Executive Secretariat of Caritas Africa in Lome, Togo, to attend a one week African Microfinance Week in Kigali, Rwanda, running from 17 – 22 October 2021. Fr. Musumba is representing the Archdiocese of Dar Es Salaam. All the best dear Confrere and safe journey back.

- 13. RSCK Meeting 2021** – Religious Superiors’ Conference of Kenya (RSCK) had their AGM at the Passionist Retreat Centre in Nairobi from 12 – 14 October 2021. About 60 Congregations of men present in Kenya were represented. I attended. The Apostolic Nuncio to Kenya and Bishop David Kamau, Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Nairobi, joined in.
- 14. Priestly Ordination** – If all goes well, the Priestly Ordination of our Confrere **Deacon Paul Omweri Omari** will take place at our CMM-run Presentation of the Child Jesus Parish in Juja Farm on **Saturday 11 December 2021** at **10:00AM** by Bishop David Kamau. More later.
- 15. Fr. Bonphace Omondi Otianga** – celebrates Thanksgiving Mass at home on 13 December 2021. Confreres who are able to attend this Mass are kindly encouraged to do so to support our Confrere. *Hongera sana* Fr. Bonphace.
- 16. St. Michael’s School in Athi** – received special help from students of the Mariannahill school in Mariaveen, Germany, towards COVID-19 relief and prevention. We thank God for these students who went out of their way cleaning the streets of the township in Reken raising money for this intention. God bless them. Our Finance Committee presented these donations to a very grateful St. Michael’s School in Athi, Nairobi area, on 2 September 2021 (see photos) :



17. Condolences to :

- a) Frt. Peter Otieno** (presently of the Unit of Mariannahill but comes from East Africa) – who lost his father last month here in Kenya
- b) Frt. Gabriel Chirawu** – who lost his aunt in August in Zimbabwe
- c) Postulant Wilber Tumwesigye** – who lost his young sister in Uganda during childbirth in August
- d) Candidate Erneste Uwizeyimana** – who lost his grandfather in Rwanda in August
- e) Candidate Joseph Avahu** – who recently lost his sister in Tanzania, and
- f) all of you dear Confreres and Candidates** who recently lost your loved ones.
- g) We mourn with our neighbour in CPC**, Mr. James Kariuki, who lost his wife, **Lucy Kariuki**, yesterday after a long battle with cancer. This family, which often joins us for Mass, is well known to all who have stayed in CPC over the years.

May the souls of these loved ones rest in the loving arms of our Lord Jesus. *Poleni sana !*

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Patrick Chongo CMM
Regional Administrator