



# Spiritan Provincial Newsletter

A Publication of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit,  
Province of Nigeria North-East,  
P.O. Box 958, Makurdi, Benue State, Nigeria.

## Issue Number 3 2023 Christmas Edition.

### Editor:

Ternenge Daniel Ugande, C.S.Sp.  
Provincial Sec/Md, Spiritan Press, NNE.

### Editorial

Welcome to the latest edition of our Provincial Newsletter! We are excited to share with you some captivating updates and news from our province and beyond to spice up your Christmas Season. As one of the major features in this 3<sup>rd</sup> edition coming within the season of Christmas, we have at the heart of this publication, the 2023 Christmas Letter from the Superior General of the Congregation, Alain Mayama, C.S.Sp. There are also important reports of latest activities and developments from our Province and a few updates from some of our mission posts. We hope that this edition of our Provincial Newsletter like the previous ones, would go a long way to renew and fire up your commitment to our common mission as Spiritans, either within our Province or wherever we may find ourselves working as stewards in the Lord's vineyard.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

1. **2023 Christmas Letter from the Superior General, Alain Mayama, C.S.Sp**
2. **New Reports and Events:**
  - Ø *2023 Diaconate Ordination, Province of Nigeria, North-East*
  - Ø *Meeting of the Major Superiors in Rome*
  - Ø *Ucawa Formators Meeting*
  - Ø *Holy Ghost College Sankera Welcomes New Principal*
3. **100 years of Spiritan Presence of the Province of Nigeria North-East.**

## 2023 Christmas Letter

2021 - 2029



*“And if one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.” (1 Cor 12.26)*

Dear Confreres and Lay Spiritan Associates,

Pope Francis summoned the entire Church to a Synod on the occasion of the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the institution of the Synod of Bishops. In October of this year 2023, the first session of the Synod on synodality was held at the Vatican in Paul VI Hall with the aim of mutual listening to the experience of the people of God who have been walking together for two years. Despite certain apprehensions, fears and tensions, which we have been able to observe here and there, the definition of synodality as the experience of *“walking together”*, of *“moving with”*, is a prophetic sign for the ecclesial community, in need of a common project, capable of promoting the good of all. A Church capable of communion and fraternity, of participation and solidarity, in fidelity to what it announces, will be able to better place itself alongside the poor and the smallest, recognize itself in them and lend them its voice.

After the synodal assembly, during the SEDOS Autumn Seminar and the joint meeting of the International Union of Superiors General (UISG) and the Union of Superiors General (USG), in which I was able to participate here in Rome, stimulating testimonies were presented by the consecrated persons who took part in this first phase of the synodal assembly. Significantly, all underlined the historic character of this assembly and placed emphasis on the expression of *“walking together”* as baptized people, in the diversity of charisms, vocations and ministries. Women and men, lay people, consecrated men and women, deacons and priests, with the Pope and the bishops, lived an experience of the Church as a mystery of communion, evangelical fraternity and participation in the evangelizing mission. They saw the emergence of a new dynamism in the Church, characterized by a desire to walk together, as daughters and sons of God, to leave no one outside the ecclesial circle or on the margins, *de jure* or *de facto*. Fundamentally, the purpose of this *“walking together”*, as the Holy Father reminds us, is the mission. A more missionary Church, where each baptized person feels in solidarity with the realities of other churches, participates in the life of the Universal Church and takes his or her share of responsibility for the good of the common mission.

From this reflection on the synodal process, I would simply like to draw a lesson from the expression *“walking together”* for our Congregation. I see in it an inspiration that can illuminate the path of our reflection on financial solidarity in the context of current demographic, structural and financial changes in the Congregation. Summoned by the Holy Spirit into one single and great family, the Congregation of the Holy Spirit, today we cannot ignore the diversity of the financial conditions of the Spiritan circumscriptions in the various regions of the world. The effectiveness of the mission depends to a very large extent on the way in which we experience solidarity among ourselves, work for a certain financial autonomy of our communities and circumscriptions and share a common vision. And the movement that directs us towards the poor is what unites us more than anything else; a way of saying that solidarity between us comes from the same spirit that carried us towards the poor which is our charism.

The experience of a more diverse Congregation, as experienced in groups of different sizes throughout the world, has taught us the importance of *“walking together”* in implementing financial solidarity. It would be enough to revisit the texts of our various general chapters to note the number of times we call for sharing and solidarity in the Congregation. The traditional principle of financial solidarity in the Congregation states that *“solidarity between us is neither legally imposed nor levied as a tax”* (Maynooth 6.6). Furthermore, the functioning of the Congregation provides for a broad autonomy of the different circumscriptions while at the same time encourages a great solidarity between them. One cannot go without the other. The Rule of Life states that *“each circumscription makes every effort to achieve financial independence...”* (SRL 231.4). Similarly, the necessary support for solidarity will come from the pooling of *“wealth”* generated by each of the communities, each of the circumscriptions, in honesty, transparency and sharing. The Torre d’Aguilha chapter expressed it in these terms: *“In financial matters, there will be frankness, honesty, transparency and a real willingness to share between us”* (TA 7.5). The idea has always been the pooling of goods, a way of *“walking together”* and leaving no confrere, no community, no circumscription on the margins, intentionally or by default.

Today, on the scale of the entire Congregation, despite our long and wonderful experience of financial solidarity, we realize that existing forms of solidarity are no longer sufficient to meet the financial needs that we encounter. Regular contributions, although fairly stable for the moment, are gradually decreasing, and it will become increasingly difficult to meet the needs of such a large number of financially fragile circumscriptions. François Marie Paul Libermann, although counting on providence, on several occasions had to sound the alarm about the concerns caused by the reduction in financial resources: *“Our income is not sufficient”* (N.D. VI, 78; cf. N.D. VII, 120). And further, he adds: *“I don’t know if we will reach the end of the year. We will reach it, I hope, but our resources will not reach it”* (N.D. VI, 425).

The fact that certain communities and circumscriptions lack sufficient means to live and carry out their mission questions our real desire to *“walk together”*, to support and lean on each other in our missionary enterprise. There is more and more individualism, which leads to great inequalities within communities and circumscriptions; an inconceivable difference in the standard of living between different groups of Spiritans. Some communities and circumscriptions have more than their needs, while others have barely enough to live on. In this spirit, Libermann urged communities that had more to *“pour their surplus, at least in part, into the general fund”* (N.D. VI, 426). Despite many examples of great generosity and sharing that are already being experienced, we need broader and more intense solidarity and mutual support in the Congregation. And as Libermann says, *“it is urgent to get rid of the habit of accumulating things and to move away from the search for well-being”* (N. D. X, 354). It is a call to return to a simpler and more authentic lifestyle, which does not make us slaves to material goods, but opens us to solidarity, an existence more visibly in conformity with the intuitions of our founders and with our Rule of Life. Such an approach will only be possible through a sincere conversion to the Gospel.

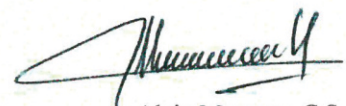
A journey through our past shows that our founders, Claude François Poullart des Places and François Marie Paul Libermann, favored a simple lifestyle in order to put what few financial resources they had at the service of the Congregation's beginnings and its mission. From a wealthy background, Claude François Poullart des Places voluntarily gave up his wealth to put himself in the ranks of poor students, a way of walking and becoming one with them. He accepted a lifetime inheritance only to be able to share it with his community. Libermann, on his part, insisted to his missionaries that they live a life of *“poverty without excess”* (N. D. III, 181). He recommended to the confreres of the island of Bourbon not to seek so much *“everything that the world seeks, everything that can put us at ease, everything that can give us a rich exterior”* (N. D. IX, 15).

The General Chapter of Bagamoyo II invites the entire Congregation – confreres, communities, old circumscriptions, whose financial income is constantly declining, as well as new circumscriptions – to strengthen, optimize and, above all, put financial solidarity back at the heart of the economic model of our religious family. Everybody is concerned. The emphasis is placed on the strict application of SRL 65, on solidarity and sharing with other communities, with the Spiritan circumscriptions (SRL 70.1), on simplicity of life (SRL 71), on collective responsibility in the management of the material goods available to us (SRL 72; 72.1) and finally on self-financing with a view to perpetuating the Spiritan mission. It is a question of returning to the traditional principle of financial solidarity in the Congregation, creating a new way of being, inventing new forms of financial solidarity in the new circumscriptions, so that the confreres also think of solidarity within the circumscriptions – between communities and with the circumscription administration – because it is these new circumscriptions which will have to take over when the old circumscriptions are no longer able to contribute as much as they do today.

In addition, the assignation of stable patrimony requested by Bagamoyo II, 160 and SRL 229.1, provides a stable minimum basis for the economic subsistence of the circumscriptions and the pursuit of their mission. It requires each circumscription to assess its real needs and better sustain the lives of its members and the mission of the Congregation. So, on these better-defined bases, the (re)emergence of solidarity can be reflected upon within the circumscription, which may have more than it needs.

The mystery of the Incarnation, this incredible fact that the Son of God showed solidarity with humanity and shared our human condition, which we will soon celebrate, invites us to reflect in depth on our financial solidarity, as Spiritans today. May our meditation on this astonishing mystery increase our certainty that we need each other and help us to better live our motto *“Cor unum et anima una”*.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2024.



Alain Mayama, C.S.Sp.

## 2023 SPIRITAN FINAL VOWS AND DIACONATE ORDINATION, PROVINCE OF NIGERIA NORTH-EAST

**O**n Friday, the 24th of August, 2023, the Spiritans, Province of Nigeria North-East had the Final Profession of Religious Vows of two of their members, namely, *Revd Philip Ndifwi Omanga, CSSp* and *Revd Gbagyo Thomas Terungwa, CSSp* at St Michael's Catholic Church Yagba, Catholic Diocese of Makurdi.



The next day, 25<sup>th</sup> of August, 2023 was their Diaconate Ordination at the same venue. The ordaining prelate, Most Revd Wilfred Chikpa Anagbe, CMF, in his homily, emphasized that the Vow of Obedience is at the heart of the religious life. He therefore encouraged the candidates to be diligent and steadfast in listening to their legitimate superior, following the values of the Religious Life, particularly in keeping with the norms of the Spiritan Congregation and following the norms of the Church especially in matters of administration of the Sacraments appropriate to their ecclesiastical office as Deacons.



It was a joyful day for the Spiritan Confrères especially of the Province of Nigeria North-East, Priests/Religious and the Lay Faithful far and near. The Provincial Superior Fr Ortese, C.S.Sp. in his speech appreciated the Ordaining Bishop, Most Revd Wilfred Chikpa Angbe, CMF for graciously accepting to honour the invitation and for always making himself available whenever they call on him. Fr Ortese, C.S.Sp. also appreciated the families of the Candidates for freely accepting to offer their children to be part of the Spiritan family so that they could become stewards in the vineyard of the Lord. Moreover, he congratulated the two candidates for making it to the level of attaining full membership of the Spiritan Family and Deacons of the Universal Church, urging them to remain courageous and committed for the journey ahead.



## MEETING OF NEW MAJOR SUPERIORS OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN ROME

The meeting of Spiritan Superiors from many different provinces and groups around the globe, living and working in very diverse social, economic, cultural and political situations took place from 18<sup>th</sup> September through 29<sup>th</sup> September. Eighteen new Superiors were in attendance, ten superiors were from Africa, three from Indian Ocean, three from the Caribbean and two from South America. One of them was in his late 30s, eight were in their 40s, eight were in their 50s, and one was 64. It was indeed a group of dynamic and motivated Superiors for the demanding mission of leadership and the animation of their circumscriptions. According to history, the last such two Meetings were held in March 2020 and September 2022 the former having concluded just two days before the official announcement of the COVID-19 outbreak and the lockdown.



This very important annual meeting for the members of the General Council had three main goals of:

- Ø *Giving the General Council an opportunity to get a sense of the challenges that our Spiritan leaders around the world are facing.*
- Ø *giving our new superiors a sense of the various services available to them in the Generalate and the various ways in which we might assist them in carrying out their*

*ministry.*

- Ø *Providing the new Superiors and the members of the General Council an opportunity to work together towards a common understanding and a common vision of what it means to be a Spiritan leader in the world today which is vital for a decentralised organization.*

The opening liturgy, presided by Fr. Alain Mayama, the Superior General, emphasized self-

giving and leadership as service to others. A striking example of this service is given to us by our founders Claude Francois Poullart des Places and Francois Marie Paul Libermann, in their ability to lead others. They were spiritual mentors for their

brothers in the imitation of Christ. To further strengthen and renew this ideal of self-giving in the hearts of the Superiors, there was a ceremony of washing of feet incorporated into the Mass, carried out by the Superior General, Fr. Alain Mayama and assisted by his first Assistant, Fr. Jeff Duaimé.

The meeting started with presentations by each new superior on the reality of his circumscription and followed by some discussions. Then members of the General Council gave inputs on Leadership and Animation, functioning of the Unions of Circumscriptions, Confreres in irregular situation, Interreligious Dialogue (IRD), Canonical process, Intercultural communities, Central Development Office/Mission Office, Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC), Mission

Appointments, Finances, Spiritan formation, Safeguarding Minors & Vulnerable Adults, Spiritan Education and Lay Spiritan Associates. Fr. Marc Whelan from France and Lucy Franks, Consultant in leadership and governance from

Ireland were invited to give an input on leadership. Fr. Kenneth Okoli and Fr. Chika Onyejiuwa gave input on CDO and JPIC. Br. Carmo a Gomes from Portugal was invited to help in audio-visual communication and translation. Apart from these presentations and inputs, The Superiors also had opportunity to visit and see different services at the Generalate.

Very Revd Fr Ortese Jude, C.S.Sp., the Superior of the Province of Nigeria North-East who was also part of this meeting gave his presentation, tracing the history of the province and pointing out the composition and state of affairs in the



province.

The meeting was not all work; the new superiors had an opportunity to visit the city of Rome, to attend the Papal audience and to spend a day in Assisi, the birthplace of Saint Francis. The Congregation hopes that the New Superior will return home with renewed vigour and strength to continue to work for the good of the Spiritan family.

## UCAWA FORMATORS MEETING AT THE SPIRITAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY, ATTAKWU-ENUGU, NIGERIA, 6-8TH OCTOBER, 2023.

It was a momentous occasion as Superiors of UCAWA organized a 2-day meeting for all Formators in the various Houses of Formation within the region. Fr. ASOMUGHA John, C.S.Sp. (Rector, SIST Attakwu, Nigeria), welcomed all confrères present to the meeting and introduced the facilitator, Fr Justi Tarimo, to the assembly. Fr. Tarimo, ordained in 1999 had worked as a Rector in the Philosophy house in Tanzania, as well as a Novice Master for 3 years in Tanzania. He is currently the Coordinator for Formation in the Generalate, Rome.

In his address to the participants, Fr. Tarimo stated that the demography of the Congregation has changed given the fact that a large number of about 49% of formatees in the Congregation come from the UCAWA region, adding that the region is also enjoying a numerical strength of 291 Scholastics with 143 coming from SIST, and 36 out of the 95 Novices in the Congregation coming from the region. Fr Tarimo, C.S.Sp went on to point out that the General Council pays close attention to the quality of missionaries that come out from the formation houses and since the region produces a good number of future missionaries for the Congregation, there is need to ensure that confrères are properly and adequately prepared for the religious-missionary work ahead.

Fr Tarimo, C.S.Sp further maintained that the quality of the workforce (Human Resource) is

Yet, there have been experiences that question the quality of the recent crop of missionaries.

As a result, the General Council having acknowledged this lack is working assiduously to respond to the problem.

The General Council has therefore taken up the responsibility of coordinating the training of formators, and funds have already been created for that purpose (setting aside 20% of the Annual Cor Unum Fund for Formation of Formators). This will help in equipping formators to help them accompany formatees in the best way possible. Their focus would be on accompaniment, discernment, assessment, and evaluation as constitutive parts of formation. Because the work of formation has to do with accompanying others, there should be a concerted effort, on the part of the formators, to attain emotional maturity and intelligence.

Fr. Justi Tarimo averred that it is imperative that Spiritan formators acquaint themselves with key working documents on formation in the Congregation, particularly, the Chapter Documents on formation (Torre D'Aguilla, Bagamoyo I and II, etc.), Spiritan Rule of Life and the Guide for Spiritan Formation. In this connection, the General Council has therefore decided to train formators for at least 6 months (Bagamoyo II No. 122). The centers for the training, as identified, include: UPS (Rome), AFRN (Paris), Chemichemi (Nairobi), Mater Christi (Burkina Faso), and DU-Jos (Nigeria).

Furthermore, Fr. Justi Tarimo proposed what he termed "Personalized Formation" which he described as a process of accompanying a candidate in his vocation journey, while putting

emphasis on the individual according to his concrete emotional, psychological and social connectedness needs (Emotional Intelligence). He also conscientiously outlined varied methods and approaches to be used by the formators for efficiency in accompaniment and problem-solving in formation settings.

The confrères were later divided into groups for discussions on issues concerning formation, how to foster a unique and efficient formation system, proposals to improve accompaniment, and capacity building for formators in the Congregation. The recommendations, suggestions and proposals, resulting from the fruitful discussions were carefully collated for further deliberations and action by the General Council.

At the last session, Fr. John Asomugha thanked Fr. Justi Tarimo for his lucid presentations and dedication to his ministry. He also appreciated those who sacrificed their time to attend the meeting. The convivial and thought-provoking meeting came to a fruitful close with Holy Mass on Sunday 8th October, 2023.

### **HOLY GHOST COLLEGE SANKERA WELCOMES NEW PRINCIPAL BY HGC PRESS CLUB**

The saying that "nothing is permanent and the only permanent thing is change" came to reality at Holy Ghost College Sankera as the pioneer Principal Rev. Fr. Kuha Indyer, C.S.Sp bowed out and Fr. Godwin Alkali, C.S.Sp stepped in.

The College which took off 17 years ago (2006-2023) was under the leadership of Fr Indyer, C.S.Sp from its inception until September 1, 2023, when the Provincial Superior Very Revd Fr

Ortese Jude Ortese, C.S.Sp transferred Fr Alkali, C.S.Sp from St. Peter's Parish Ujamaityu, Makurdi to Holy Ghost College Sankera to take over as the Second Principal.

As a new Principal, Fr Godwin Alkali, C.S.Sp is set to take the school to even greater heights building on the sacrifices and foundation of his

predecessor Fr Kuha Indyer, C.S.Sp. Fr Alkali, C.S.Sp was able to convene his first PTA meeting so as to deliberate on urgent and pressing matters for the good of the school. The meeting deliberated on a number of issues including how to improve on the student's payment of fees. The resolution reached in this regard was that since there was strike in the country and banks were temporarily non-operational, it was better to adopt cash payments of school fees for easy access and feeding of students. This idea eventually turned out fruitful in sustaining the school in terms of feeding and payment of August to November salaries.

### **PROJECTS / ACHIEVEMENTS RECORDED SO FAR**

Few ongoing projects include: fixing of nets in the students hostels, furnishing of rooms for Scholastics on PME, electrification of the Hostels, school Hall, the kitchen, and classrooms; repair of Generators for pumping of Water and the Sumo. Thanks to *Comfort Alkali*, a sister to the Principal Fr Alkali, C.S.Sp. who generously took up the repair of the Sumo.

The school has also within this short time made payment of salaries (arrears) and admitted 34 New Students bringing the total number of students to 118. Other achievements include procurement of working implements such as two shovels, matchets, buckets for drawing of water,

axe trimmer of flowers, repair of wheelbarrows among others. As a first attempt towards self-reliant projects, the new Principal has already cultivated a yam farm of about 50 Lines for the

school and he is still acquiring more land for the next farming season. A piggery and poultry farm are also in the pipeline. In the light of this, the school is soliciting for support of good spirited individuals and organizations in order

to bring these projects to fruition.

### **CELEBRATIONS DURING THE FIRST TERM**

The School management was able to organize a welcome ceremony for new Students successfully and it was covered live by Ashi Waves and Holy Ghost College Sankera Facebook Page. Thirty Four (34) new students were received with over 100 parents in attendance including the Parish Priest of Holy Spirit Parish Sankera, Rev. Fr. Paul Atibee, traditional rulers, and other notable dignitaries.

The school also participated in the choir competition organized by the Catholic Diocese of Katsina-Ala in the Sankera area known as Kyado. and came up with first positions in singing, best Choir director of the year, and a host of others. The school also participated and took first position in the 2023 Christmas Carol organized by the Catholic Diocese of Katsina Ala.

Under the new leadership of the new Principal, Fr Alkali, C.S.Sp, the school had a beautiful maiden Christmas Carol that featured the Tiv Choir and the Catholic Youth organisation of Nigeria (CYON) of St. Paul's Catholic Church Atuluku. These choirs sung in turns and it was very colourful. This was made possible by Haruna Daniel, C.S.Sp and our School Music Directress Miss Linda who tirelessly assisted in the





Christmas party celebration where students had a social night to showcase their talents in different areas.

The combined meeting of both staff from the Nursery/primary and Secondary school, recorded a huge success. The meeting agreed to have staff uniform to be worn on Mondays, Fridays and outing days in order to promote and advertise the school. The meeting also accepted the Principal's idea to buy a new School Bus in order to aide movement of Students for occasions as well as bringing the pupils from the town to school, and staff coming from some distance like Zaki Biam town. The School management made available Christmas packages for all the staff as a form of appreciation. Items given included, rice and cooking ingredients. The meeting ended joyfully with good refreshment for all who were present and two months salaries were paid to all the staff including the August, 2023 arrears.



### **GIFTS RECEIVED DURING THE NEW PRINCIPAL'S TENURE SO FAR**

1. A Mass box From the Bishop of Katsina Ala, Most Revd. Isaac Bundepuun Dugu
2. A big Crucifix from the Provincial Superior, Very Revd Fr Ortese Jude Ortese, C.S.Sp (Yet to arrive the school)
3. A big Monstrance that is worth a million naira, a bed and mattress from Hon. Mrs. Regina Akume, JP
4. Sunday Missal from the new Principal Rev. Fr. Godwin Alkali, C.S.Sp
5. Food Stuff (Yams) from some Priests Frs. Eugene Luga, MSP, Ankau Jacob, Emmanuel Gondo, Paul Atibee, Innocent Tseave, VC,

Ikyem, Peter Abiem, St. Paul Atuluku and Some Parents.

6. The school also received over N97,000 as Mass intention from Revd. Fr. Terna Pember, C.S.Sp.

### **URGENT NEEDS OF HOLY GHOST COLLEGE SANKERA.**

1. Renovation of Dormitories. There are no nets on the windows, the floor is sandy, the walls have cracks all over, the ceilings are pulled down, no proper electricity, no toilets etc.
2. Classrooms are not habitable. They are in dilapidated condition including the Library and offices.
3. Generator for electricity and Pumping of water.
4. School Bus
5. A bakery for baking bread.
6. School fence.
7. New Hostel block, Classroom block and an administrative block.
8. The school also has financial debts.



The Press Club and the Management appreciate your generosity and pray God to reward you abundantly in Jesus name. Amen.

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



## CENTENARY OF SPIRITAN PRESENCE IN THE PROVINCE OF NIGERIA NORTH-EAST.

The Province of Nigeria North-East on Wednesday the 13th of December, 2023 had the Opening Mass for the celebration of their Centenary Year at SS Peter and Paul Parish Aliade, Benue State.



Most Revd Wilfred Chikpa Anagbe, CMF, the Catholic Bishop of Makurdi Diocese who was the Principal Celebrant of the Mass maintained during his homily that the pioneer Spiritans of the present day Province of Nigeria North-East remain undeniably the Primary Evangelizers and Foundation builders of the entire region that has now given birth to the Five Dioceses of Makurdi, Otukpo, Lafia, Gboko and Katsina-Ala today. He acknowledged the unflinching and untiring zeal and sacrifices that characterized their approach and disposition to missionary outreach and thus

challenged the confrères of the Province to consider the Centenary Year as a privileged moment of sober reflection and a going back to their roots. He emphasized that the Christian faithful within the province expects them to keep the pace and values set by the founding Fathers of the Congregation of the Holy Spirit and even improve on them.

The Provincial Superior, Very Revd Fr Ortese Jude Ortese, C S.Sp. in his keynote address at the Mass reiterated that, besides the need to keep the records of the works and impact of the Spiritan Missionaries in the region straight, the Centenary Celebration of the Province with the theme: *One Hundred Years of Spiritan Mission, Commemorating the Past and Inspiring the Future*, seeks to re-awaken the drooping spirit of confrères to the ideals that are increasingly growing cold in the Province. He informed all present that a host of activities to be communicated by the steering committee of the Centenary in due course are lined up to mark the Centenary Year spanning to November, 2024.



The opening Mass also witnessed a joyful unveiling of the Spiritan Vocation Support Uniform. The Provincial Superior and the Director of the Vocation Support of the Province,

Fr Peter Iyaghigba, C.S.Sp addressed the members and appreciated them for opting to become collaborators in the Spiritan Missionary work of evangelization, pointing out that the Uniform is intended to create and strengthen a sense of identity and belonging in the membership of the Vocation Support as members of the Spiritan family.

**B**ehold the New Local Superiors of the Zonal Communities in the Province of Nigeria North-East elected for a mandate of 3 years with effect from Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2023.

1. Aliade Zone Fr Agbo Boniface, C.S.Sp
2. Gboko Zone Fr Akuve Francis, C.S.Sp
3. Makurdi Zone Fr Ahua Emmanuel, C.S.Sp
4. Wamba Zone Fr Agundo Emmanuel, C.S.Sp
5. Wukari Zone Fr Atim Matthias, C.S.Sp
6. Yola Zone Fr Sevali Anthony, C.S.Sp

## OUR CENTENARY PRAYER

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

O God of Love, you brought to birth the Spiritan Congregation to share in the salvific mission of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. You inspired our predecessors who selflessly and joyfully toiled in the evangelization of Nigeria. Through succeeding generations of the same congregation you have continued to nurture the seed of faith which they planted.

Lord, we thank you for the immense blessings you bestowed on our land through the missionary endeavors of this Congregation.

As we celebrate the centenary of our Spiritan mission in this part of the world, we pray for your continued blessings on all our members and associates.

Renew our vision, vigor, zeal, human and material resources for the journey ahead, and be our constant protection and guide. Grant eternal bliss to our departed members.

Holy Spirit, enlighten and sanctify us.

Mary our Mother, pray for us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

## DECISIONS OF GENERAL COUNCIL

### The Superior General with the consent of his Council:

- decides to close the UCOI novitiate in the Province of Madagascar (SRL 248.6).
- confirms the election of Fr. Marcin Dusinski as Superior of the Province of Poland, for a mandate of four years, from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 (SRL 165.2; Can. 625.3).
- confirms the election of Fr. Toussaint M'NDENDI Zumbu Toussaint Junior as Superior of the Province of Congo-Kinshasa, for a mandate of four years, from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 (SRL 165.2; Can. 625.3).
- authorises the closure of the Seme-Podji Spiritan community in the diocese of Porto-Novo in Benin (SRL 248.3.2 & Can. 616 §1).
- appoints Fr. Floria MARZOVA as Provincial/Major Superior of the Group of Zimbabwe, for a mandate of four years, with effect from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 (SRL 165.1).
- authorises Mr. Jonathan CHICOT, Scholastic of the Group of Mauritius, to leave the Congregation. By leaving, he will be *ipso facto* released from his religious vows (SRL 256; Can. 688.2).
- grants Fr. Jean-Paul DURANDIS, of the Province of Haiti, with the agreement of the Bishop of Boston, an indult of exclaustation for a period of 3 years, beginning on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (SRL 252; Can. 686.1).
- confirms the election of Fr. Innocent Baba Abagoami as Superior of the Province of Switzerland, for a mandate of four years, from 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2023 (SRL 165.2; Can. 625.3).
- appoints Fr. Joseph Lam Nguyen as acting Major Superior of the Group of Vietnam-India until the organization of the election of a new superior within 6 months, with effect from 12<sup>th</sup> September 2023 (SRL 248.2.6; SRL 165).
- authorises the erection of the UCAL Group novitiate in Brazil for one year (RSL 113, 248.3.3 ).
- approves the contract between the Province of the United States and the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in respect of the pastoral care of the Parish of the Holy Ghost located at 6921 Chetwood De, Houston, TX 77081 and the School of the Holy Ghost, located at 6920 Chimney Rock Rd., Houston, TX 77081 (SRL 234.3).
- decides to recommend to the dicastery for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life the request for incardination *ad experimentum* for one year in the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, United States, presented by Fr. Elias Ifeanyichukwu Udeh, of the Province of Nigeria SE (SRL 260, Can. 691,693).
- at the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023, the Superior General and his Council examined and with the amendments agreed, approved the decisions of the Chapter of the Province of Congo Kinshasa (SRL 181, 248.4.6).
- at the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> October 2023, the Superior General and his Council examined and with the amendments agreed, approved the decisions of

<p>the Chapter of the Province of Poland (SRL 181, 248.4.6).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>extends the mandate of Fr. Sean O’Leary as Superior of the Group of Taiwan until 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2026.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>authorizes the suppression of the Spiritan communities of St Martin’s Kartong and St Michael’s Jongon, in the diocese of Banjul (SRL 248.3.2 and Can. 616§1).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>appoints Fr Tatenda Huni of the Group of Zimbabwe, originally appointed to the Group of Cape Verde, to the Group of Zimbabwe with immediate effect (SRL RVS 159.2 et 248.2.3).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>appoints Fr. Victor Byarugaba from the Group of Australia/ Papua New Guinea to the Province of Nigeria SE as from 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023. (SRL 248.2.4).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at a meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the Superior General and his Council examined and approved the decisions of the Chapter of the Group of Amazonia. (SRL 181, 248.4.6).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>examined the statutes of the Union of Circumscription of South Central Africa and with the amendments agreed, approves the statutes of the UCSCA (SRL 248.3.7, DOC 3.3.1).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at the meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023, the Superior General and his Council audited the accounts and approved the budget of the General Bursar’s Office for the year 2024, as presented by the General Bursar (SRL 248.5.1).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>appoints Fr. Benoît SYLVA of PANO, originally appointed to the Group of Algeria, to the Group of Mauritius (SRL 248.3.4).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>confirms the election of Fr. Jean-Marc Bertrand as superior of the Group of Algeria for a one-year term from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2023 to 1<sup>st</sup> December 2024 (SRL 165.2; Can. 625.3).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>transfers Fr. Simon MTULO from the Group of Malawi to the Province of Tanzania as from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. (SRL 248.2.4).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>authorizes the Province of Ireland to alienate the Spiritan property of Hyde Park, Blackrock (SRL 248.5.5; Can. 616§1).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>appoints Fr Simon Mtulo of the Group of Malawi as member of the ICOF Executive Committee in Tanzania, for a mandate of three years from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>authorizes the Province of Ireland to alienate the Spiritan property of N. 4, Temple Park (SRL 248.5.5; Can. 616§1).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>approves the transfer of Fr. Pierre Kahenga, originally appointed to the Province of Congo Kinshasa, to the Group of Mauritius (SRL 159.2 and 248.2.3 ).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>authorizes the Province of Ireland to alienate the Spiritan property of the Provincial House, Temple Park. (SRL 248.5.5; Can. 616§1).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At the meeting of 30<sup>th</sup> October 2023, the Superior General and his Council examined the revised statutes of the Union of UCEAF and with the deliberative vote of his Council, and with the amendments agreed, approves the revised statutes of the UCEAF (SRL 248.3.7, DOC 3.3.1).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>authorizes the Province of Ireland to alienate the Spiritan property of Willow Park House, Lawn and Lodge (SRL 248.5.5; Can. 616§1).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>appoints Fr. Aloysius Nsibambi from the Foundation of Uganda, originally appointed to the Province of Congo Brazzaville, to the Group of Uganda. (SRL 159.2 and 248.2.3 ).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>authorizes the Province of Ireland to alienate the Spiritan property of St. Michael’s House, Front Lawn and Lodge (SRL 248.5.5; Can. 616§1).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>authorises the Amazonia Group to sell the spiritan property of the Manaus Community (SRL 248.5.5; Can. 616§1).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>authorizes Herman Mosha, Scholastic of the Province of Tanzania to leave the Congregation. By his departure, he will be <i>ipso facto</i> released from his vows of religion (SRL 256; Can. 688.2).</li> </ul>

## 2024 CALENDER OF EVENTS, PROVINCE OF NIGERIA NORTH-EAST.

MONTH	DATE	EVENT
<b>January</b>		
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God
	4 <sup>th</sup>	Scholastics Reunion/New Year Get-together for all confreres of the Province at the Provincialate.
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Meeting for all Zonal Community Superiors, Heads of Pastoral Units and institutions at St Michael's Parish, Yagba.
	13 <sup>th</sup> - 16 <sup>th</sup>	Canonical Visitation to Holy Spirit, Wukari and Holy Ghost College, Sankera
	15 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup>	Workshop on Project Management and Fund raising at Domus Fidei Conference Centre, Ikeja, Lagos.
	21 <sup>st</sup> - 28 <sup>th</sup>	Conference of Major Superior in Nigeria, DRACC, Abuja, 2024.
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Zonal Community day of Recollection
<b>February</b>		
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Ground Breaking for Spiritan Model College, Makurdi.
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Libermann's Day Celebration/World Day for consecrated Persons.
	3 <sup>rd</sup>	Libermann's Day Celebration at Zonal Communities
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Beginning of Postulancy Session, 2024
	6 <sup>th</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Provincial Council Meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter</b>
	10 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup>	Canonical Visitation to Twelve Apostles, Pika and Spiritan Farm, Anhyundu.
	14 <sup>th</sup>	ASH WEDNESDAY
	16 <sup>th</sup>	<b>FIRST GENERAL MEETING FOR ALL PRIEST CONFRERES IN THE PROVINCE</b>
	17 <sup>th</sup> - 24 <sup>th</sup>	First Plenary, CBCN
	18 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>	Canonical Visitations to St Paul's Kontien and COE, Obudu.
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Visitation to Libermann Star College, Mbajor
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial of Father Daniel Brottier
<b>March</b>		
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Centenary Celebration Mass at Holy Spirit, Ekeh
	9 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup>	Canonical Visitation to St Theresa of Avilla, Wamba
	19 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>	Visit to Spiritan Centre, Auta-Balefi
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Provincial Secretariat Closes for Easter Break
	31 <sup>st</sup>	Easter Sunday

<b>April</b>		
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Galilee Get-together with Ex-Spiritans at Holy Ghost Provincialate, Makurdi.
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Easter Re-union for all Prefects Working in the Province.
	7 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup>	UCAWA Major Superior's Meeting at Holy Ghost Provincialate, Makurdi.
	22 <sup>nd</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Retreat/ Capacity Building Workshop on in the Province.
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Centenary Celebration Mass at Holy Ghost College, Sankera
	28 <sup>th</sup>	Canonical Visitation to St Patrick's Agbaikyor
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Zonal Community day of Recollection
<b>May</b>		
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Feast of St Joseph the Worker
	5 <sup>th</sup>	Canonical Visitation to St Thomas, Anum
	12 <sup>th</sup>	May, Canonical visitation to St Michael's Yagba
	19 <sup>th</sup>	Pentecost Sunday / Canonical Visitation to Holy Family, Yagba Annex
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Provincial Pentecost Celebration/Centenary Celebration at St Paul's Parish, Kontien
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Proposed Canonical Visitation to UCNAC
	26 <sup>th</sup>	May, Canonical Visitation to CIC, Upperhill
<b>June</b>		
	5 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Convention of Spiritan Vocations Support
	10 <sup>th</sup>	End of Visitation to UCNAC
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Centenary Celebration at St Theresa's Wamba
	20 <sup>th</sup>	
	26 <sup>th</sup>	End of Academic Session for Scholastics
	25 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Provincial Council Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter</b>
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Canonical Visitation to St Joseph's Iniongun
<b>July</b>		
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Beginning of Apostolic Work for Scholastics
	14 <sup>th</sup>	July, Canonical Visitation to St Peter Claver Parish, Ujamaityu
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Centenary Celebration at St Mary's Parish, Yola
	30 <sup>th</sup>	End of Postulancy Year
<b>August</b>		
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Beginning of 2024 Spiritan Month
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Centenary Celebration, Holy Spirit, Wukari
	26 <sup>th</sup>	Ordination retreat begins for Deacons
	30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>SECOND GENERAL MEETING FOR ALL PRIEST CONFRES IN THE PROVINCE</b>

<b>September</b>		
	1 <sup>st</sup>	Spiritan Provincial Ordinations, 2024
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Memorial of Fr Jaques Laval
	13 <sup>th</sup>	Centenary Celebration, Bauchi Diocese.
	10 <sup>th</sup> - 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Provincial Council Retreat &amp; Meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter</b>
	15 <sup>th</sup> – 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Proposed Canonical Visitations to UCAL
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Annual Holidays of the Provincial Superior begins
<b>October</b>		
	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Founder’s Day, Claude Poullart Des Places.
	7 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup>	Step down of ICOF workshop for those above 12 years of ordination.
	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	JPIC Workshop on <i>Laudato Si</i> for senior prefects of all Spiritan Schools.
	26 <sup>th</sup>	
<b>November</b>		
	22 <sup>nd</sup>	End of Autumn General Council Meeting in Rome
	24 <sup>th</sup>	Visitation of the Superior General to the Province of NNE begins.
	27 <sup>th</sup>	End of Superior General’s Visitation
	28 <sup>th</sup> - 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>GRAND FINALE OF THE CENTENARY OF SPIRITAN PRESENCE IN THE PROVINCE</b>
	30 <sup>th</sup>	Beginning of General Council Official Visitation of the Province.
<b>December</b>		
	8 <sup>th</sup>	Solemnity of Immaculate Conception.
	9 <sup>th</sup> – 16 <sup>th</sup>	Plenary of Spiritan Conference of Circumscriptions of Africa and the Islands (SSCAI). Madagascar, 2024.
	21 <sup>st</sup>	End of Generalate Visitation, General Meeting for all confreres at the Provincialate.
	20 <sup>th</sup>	Secretariat Closes for Christmas Break
	25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>CHRISTMAS</b>
<b>January</b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	End of year get together.