



CONGREGATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
PROVINCE OF NIGERIA NORTH-EAST



Provincial Newsletter

Christmas Edition, 2025

Editor's Tablet

Be a Light!

A story is told of a man, who on a Christmas Eve, when the community had prepared for Mass, a sudden downpour made the paths muddy and almost impassable. Just as worry set in, the oldest member of the village, a man with little to call his own, took his lantern and walked from house to house. He did not ask for shelter; instead, he stood along the most flooded path, holding his light high so others could cross safely. When asked why he did it, he simply said, "If the baby Jesus could journey through the night to reach us, can I not stand in the rain to help His family find their way?"

This simple, albeit profound act, captures the spirit of Christmas: light in darkness, presence in uncertainty, and love made visible through service. As we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, we are reminded that the Christmas story is not only about a Child laid in a manger, but about the love that compels us to go out—to illuminate, to guide, and to stand with one another.

In this special Christmas edition of our Spiritan newsletter, we bring you updates, and recent happenings in the Province. May this season renew in us our true Spiritan charism and shared mission.

As we contemplate the mystery of the Incarnation, let us also recommit ourselves to being bearers of that light—especially in the shadows where it is most needed. May the same light that guided the shepherds and wise men, shine through our apostolates, our communities, and our Province.

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- ❖ Priestly Ordination of Fr Philip Kennedy Pwadeni CSSp.
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Happy Reading.

Fr Kenneth Oori, C.S.Sp.

THE NEW KING BORN IN BETHLEHEM IS OUR HOPE IN ADVERSITY

May the grace of the Nativity be with you all.

The season for advent and Christmas is here again, when Christians celebrate the coming of God as man. Incidentally, as we wind down towards this celebration and the end of the year, 2025, we are also approaching the end of the Jubilee Year which Pope Francis had declared on May 9, 2024 as the “Jubilee of Hope.” The Jubilee Year of hope was projected to run from December 24, 2024 and last until January 6, 2026.

In the Papal Bull entitled, *Spez non Confudit*, the Holy Father of Blessed Memory invited all Catholics to renew their hope of Christ, using St Paul the Apostle as a guide. It is in the Spirit of this jubilee and the context of current social realities in our context as a Province that, I have once again chosen to reflect in this newsletter on the theme, “The New Born King in Bethlehem as our hope in adversity”.

As we approach the Manger of Bethlehem this year, the Christmas season does not find us in a world of peace and easy comfort. We know, deeply and personally, like St Paul would say (2 Cor 4:10), the heavy crosses we bear, the death of Jesus Christ which in itself is manifested in the gnawing anxiety of security challenges, the anguish of ministering to those caught in crushing poverty, and the sheer, daily exhaustion of being a reliable presence in times of instability and fear.

We acknowledge this reality not to



Fr Jude Ortese, CSSp
Provincial Superior.

dwell in darkness, but to affirm where our true light breaks in. The Incarnation did not happen in a palace of solved problems; it happened in the raw, messy reality of an occupied land, a stable, and amidst the threat of Herod's violence. Our faith teaches us that Hope is not the belief that our difficulties will simply vanish; rather, it is the absolute certainty that God has entered the difficulty with us.

This radical hope – the assurance that Christ, the Prince of Peace, is born in the slums of our world and the insecurity of our hearts is the wellspring of our priestly zeal. Every time you celebrate the Eucharist on a makeshift altar, every time you offer comfort to a widow whose harvest failed, every time you stand firm against the threats that loom, you are making the Incarnation visible. You are living witnesses to the truth that the ultimate security lies not in

military might or economic abundance, but in the fidelity of God's love.

Dear brothers, in your poverty of spirit and your weariness of body, you are most closely aligned with the mission of the Christ Child. Allow the quiet strength of St. Joseph and the trusting surrender of the Blessed Mother to recharge your spirit this season. Keep your eyes fixed on the stable, not on the storms around it.

May the peace of the Christ Child fill your hearts and sustain your ministry through the coming year. Be assured of my prayers and deepest fraternal affection.

In one Heart and one Soul,

THE 2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION/FUNDRAISING FOR THE 2025/2026 ACADEMIC SESSION OF SPIRITAN SCHOLASTICS



Fr Iorjaan, CSSp, Gideon Kelenna, CSSp
& Members of SVS

*“Some people
give to the
missions by
going, others
go to the
missions by
g i v i n g .
Without both,
there are no
missions”.*
**Saint John
Paul II**

The religious dictum of St. John Paul II summarizes the purpose of our 2025 Annual Convention/fundraising. A convention built on love, support and fundraising for the Spiritan scholastics and future missionaries. A blissful gathering, which commemorate the unity of the church with its members; with the praying and preparing for missionary life, here we have a group, members of the Spiritan Vocations Support, who are willing to do everything possible, both financially and material-wise, to bring to success the mission entrusted to us by Christ himself. **“Go ye into the whole world, proclaim the good news.” Mk 16: 15.**

Our convention began with the arrival and registration of the members of the Spiritan Vocations Support (SVS) on Friday, 26th of October, 2025. Among those present for the convention were members from ten (10) parish units:

- ✓ Holy Spirit Parish Wukari,
- ✓ St. Vincent Chaplaincy Aliade,
- ✓ St. Thomas Parish, Anum,
- ✓ 12 Apostles Parish, Pika
- ✓ St. Joseph-Quasi Parish, Iniongum,
- ✓ SS Peter and Paul Parish, Aliade,
- ✓ St. Michael's Yagba,
- ✓ Holy Family Catholic Church, Yagba Annex,
- ✓ Church of the Immaculate Conception, Upper-hill
- ✓ Holy Spirit Parish, New GRA.

Afterwards, at 5pm, we entreated the help of our Mother Mary, through the October devotion. There was room for interactions and rest, while waiting and praying for members on their way coming. It was time for dinner, members present were entertained and welcome by the Spiritan Provincialate community, the venue of the convention.

On Saturday, 27th October, 2025, the second day of our convention, was brightened with an exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, the rosary, confessions and spiritual talk by Fr. Jacob Iorjaan CSSp. One of the newly ordained Priests, full of zeal and courage for the mission of Christ, with the charisma needed for missionary life. In this spiritual conference, Fr. Jacob expresses and explained the joy we derive when we support the training of seminarians for the missionary life. He stated that, the spiritan vocations support are not just people who pay for the training of seminarians, but are also part of the missionary life, and share in the apostolate of the congregation. The spiritual conference ended and we had our first Holy Mass. In his sermon, Fr. Jacob praised and encouraged the relentless efforts of member of the support group. A group photograph was taken at the end of the first session of the second day of our convention.



Fr Iorjaan, CSSp,
Paper Presenter

In the evening of the same day, we had another talk on *Formation on Spiritan Elements* by Fr. Albert Wulfu CSSp. He gave us an inspiring approach to the Spiritan formation, and explained the necessity of formation in the life of a good catholic Christian and a good Spiritan. For Fr. Alfred, we are all priests by the virtue of our baptism, but the Spiritans also have the ministerial priesthood which focus more on the religious and missionary life; preaching by going to the mission. He emphasized that on through good and thorough formation can we be able to achieve a success in our missionary life. As Catholics, we must take our knowledge and understanding of the catholic doctrines seriously, in order to become good Catholics. The Spiritan vocation support is an important group in the life and charisma of the Spiritans. They play special role in making sure that our dreams of spreading the gospel of Christ to the ends of the earth is achieved. Thus, they become helpers and friends of



Fr Wulfu, CSSp,
Gideon Kelenna, CSSp
& Members of SVS

those who spread the good news, by their financial contribution to the mission. The evening session was ended with the October devotion of our Lady.

On Sunday, 28th October, 2025, marked the final day of our convention, with the holy mass at 10am, followed by our fundraising for the school fees of our seminarians. In the homily, the Superior, Very. Rev. Fr. Ortese, Jude Ortese CSSP., emphasized the need to contribute towards the training of missionaries in the North-East province, and the world at large. He encouraged the members of the Spiritan vocations support to continue in their good works in supporting the training of seminarians.



Eucharistic Celebration

The 2025 convention was concluded with thanksgiving and the fundraising from different parish units, including the members from, Holy Spirit Parish Wukari, St. Vincent

Chaplaincy Aliade, St. Thomas Parish, Anum, St. Joseph-Quasi Parish, Iniongum, SS Peter and Paul Parish, Aliade, St. Michael's Yagba, Holy Family Catholic Church, Yagba Annex, Church of the Immaculate Conception, Upper-hill and Holy Spirit Parish, New GRA. We also received the presence of our invited guests, those who were present, and those who sent representatives to grace the occasion.

This year's annual convention is a sign of hope for more to come. After the Mass we had refreshment in the Provincialate hall, there we welcomed our guests properly, and also bid them farewell as they go back to their destinations. To all who, because of one thing or another, could not attend this year's fruitful convention, but have supported towards the success of it, may God bless them. We hope that our convention will be more fruitful.

KELENNAGIDEON, CSSp.

Prefect, Spiritan Vocations Support



Members of SVS During the Eucharistic Celebration

PRIESTLY ORDINATION OF

REV. FR. KENNEDY PWADENO, C.S.Sp.

In a profound celebration of faith and vocation, the serene grounds of the Ayati Pilgrimage Centre in Makurdi, Benue State, hosted the priestly ordination of Reverend Kennedy Pwadeno, C.S.Sp., on Thursday, 13th November 2025. The ceremony, distinguished by its vibrant liturgy and deep spiritual solemnity, was presided over by the Most Revd Dr Wilfred Chikpa Anagbe, CMF, Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Makurdi.



The Newly Ordained Priests

Our confrere, Rev. Pwadeno, was ordained alongside sixteen candidates from the Catholic Diocese of Makurdi and one member of the Immaculate Conception Congregation. The event drew the faithful from across Benue State and beyond, uniting the community in prayer and joyful support for the new ordinands as they pledged their lifelong commitment to ecclesiastical service.

In his homily, Most Revd Dr Wilfred Anagbe CMF, cites God's instruction to Moses to set apart the Levites for the service of the Tent of Meeting. They *were chosen, taken from among the people, yet set apart for the people*. In his very words; "My dear sons, this is your first

lesson. You are taken from us—from your families, your communities, your tribes. You are set apart by this sacrament. But this "setting apart" is not a separation for privilege; it is a consecration for service. You are set apart *for* the People of God, to bear their burdens, to intercede for them, to handle the holy things on their behalf." He exhorted the ordinands, like the Levites, to model their life as one of total availability to God for the sake of His people.

After the ordination, a modest reception followed at the Holy Ghost Provincialate in Makurdi, where Rev. Fr. Pwadeno was welcomed with fraternal joy by confreres who came to offer their support and fraternal encouragement to the newly ordained priest. The celebration was also graced by the presence of Rev. Fr. Pwadeno's family, relatives, and friends, who travelled from Yola to honour this milestone, alongside members of the Spiritan Vocations Support. In continuation of the festivities, a Thanksgiving Mass was offered by Rev. Fr. Pwadeno on Sunday, 16th November 2025, at the Chapel of

the Holy Spirit, Holy Ghost Provincialate. The Mass served as an expression of gratitude to God for the gift of priesthood and a moment for the newly ordained to commend his ministry to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The homilist, Revd Fr. Hilary Nwankwo, C.S.Sp., extended a warm welcome and offered exhortations for diligence in his priestly ministry.



Confreres at the Reception of Fr Pwadeno, CSSp in the Provincial House

The ordination of Fr Pwadeno, marks a significant landmark in his spiritual journey and constitutes a moment of pride and joy for the Province. We wish him well in his ministry of service to God and humanity through the shared mission of the Congregation.



Fr Superior and Fr Pwadeno, CSSp.

SPIRITAN NURSERY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL, ATOOKYAA, MARKED HER FIRST CHRISTMAS PARTY/CAROL AND HOSTED HER HOST-COMMUNITY

By:
Fr Gbagyo Thomas Terungwa CSSp.

Undoubtedly, another page of history had opened in the Province. The sun shined brightly and differently on the 12th December, 2025, as the Spiritan Nursery and Primary School, Atookya marked her first Christmas Party and Carol. This significant event featured; end of the year party, awards presentation to learners for excellent academic performance, last PTA Meeting of the year, and hosting the local Community.

All began at exactly 8:45am, with Holy Mass celebrated by Fr Gbagyo Thomas Terungwa CSSp, the Administrator of the School. It was a Mass of 'Thanksgiving' to God for the merits enjoyed. The staff, pupils, parents and members of the Host-



Cross Section of Pupils at the Party

expressed deep sense of gratitude towards the good gesture Holy Ghost Congregation keep showing to them. They promised to be supportive to all the projects the Holy Ghost Fathers embark on their land, sending regards to the Provincial Superior, the Leadership Team, and all members of the Holy Ghost Congregation.

More to mention, there was an interaction between the School Administrator and the PTA members, which centred on creating a driving force that will enhance quality education in the school. The Administrator stated the changes that will be implemented at the beginning of next term; with the change in dress code (uniforms, socks and shoes), proper hair cut for male and plaiting of required hair by female pupils, intolerant to

late coming, English and Mathematics textbooks compulsory for all learners, discipline and hard work will be paramount, coupled with intellectual development. Fr Gbagyo advised parents to cooperate and comply with the new strategic plans in developing their children, leading to character formation; for character formation is integral to education.

The parents who were present at the meeting

welcomed the development and promised to support the new developmental plans of the Administrator. They gave their various opinions, which aligned with the genuine plans of the school authority. They encouraged him to ride on, and promised to be fully committed to his agenda for the growth of the school, and to motivate and equip their children in becoming reasonable people in the society. Similarly, the four school houses proposed by the administrator and approved by the Provincial Leadership Team in the last Council meeting were officially projected. These school houses include:

- Bishop Shanahan's House
- Bishop Kirstein's House
- Bishop Hagan's House
- Bishop Murray's House

The aim is to honour the Spiritan bishops who spent much time in their missionary works, especially in this part of the world.

The Christmas Carol began with the introduction and presentation of Carol of three lessons, accompanied with beautiful songs, cultural dance, drama etc. All were performed by the learners of the school. This was followed by award presentations to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd positions in all the classes. Refreshment was greatly

carried out, as members of staff, learners, parents, guests, and the host-community enjoyed themselves. There was enough food, meat and drinks, to entertain all. This was put a smile on the faces of the IDPs children who dominated the school and their parents. The event ended at exactly 5:16pm



Fr Gbagyo, CSSp with the Staff and Parents

Community were fully in attendance. After the Holy Mass, the School Administrator had joyful interactions with the Host-Community, where he presented a goat, food and drinks to them on behalf of the Provincial Superior, Very Rev Fr Ortese Jude Ortese CSSp and the Province of Nigeria North-East, Holy Ghost Congregation. This solidarity aimed at reuniting the school with the local community, promoting adequate security of lives and properties, promotion of quality education among learners, rewarding hardworking staff and learners, and encouraging parents to support the development of their wards.

The Host-Community however,

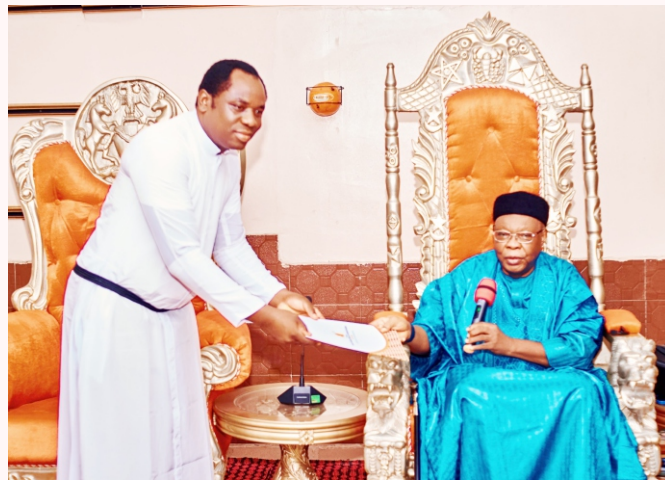


Fr Gbagyo, CSSp Celebrating the Eucharist

News Flash

Congratulations to our confrère, Very Revd Fr Wulfu Albert Augustine, CSSp, who was given a Merit Award by the Wukari Traditional Council for his meritorious services both in the Church and the community.

Bravo!



PLT DECISIONS

New placement and Transfers

S/N	Name	Place/Apostolate
1.	Fr Mathias Alonyenu, CSSp	Parish Priest, Holy Spirit Parish Ekeh
2.	Fr Hilary Nwankwo, CSSp	Assistant Parish Priest, Holy Spirit Parish Ekeh
3.	Fr Iorjaan Jacob, CSSp	Acting Director Spiritan Vocations Support
4.	Fr Emmanuel Agundo, CSSp	Residence, Holy Ghost Provincialate Makurdi
5.	Fr Matthew Ikyosen, CSSp	Novice Director, Holy Ghost Novitiate Aliade
6.	Fr Iorpuu Celestine, CSSp	Residence, SS Peter and Paul Aliade
7.	Fr Titus Kaajime, CSSp	Director, Spiritan JPIC Centre Chonko
8.	Fr Umangu Tsav, CSSp	Director, Spiritan Centre Auta-Balefi
9.	Fr Pwadeno Kennedy, CSSp	St Joseph's Parish Lau, Taraba State
10.	Fr Cyprain Faerenga, CSSp	Chaplain, St Vincent Hospital Chaplaincy Aliade
11.	Fr Demekpe Patrick, CSSp	Residence, Holy Ghost Provincialate Makurdi
12.	Fr Moses Igbabee, CSSp	St Michael's Secondary School Aliade
13.	Fr Gaga Clifford, CSSp	St Mary's Secondary School Yola
14.	Fr Agber Emmanuel, CSSp	Residence, St Patrick's Parish Abako

Our best wishes and prayers are with you, dear confrères, for a fruitful mission in your respective apostolates. Congratulations!



BEREAVMENTS

Bereaved Confrère	Relative	Date
Fr Mathias Alonyenu, CSSp	Father, Rtd Capt. Edward Alonyenu	Buried 14/11/2025
Fr Boniface Agbo, CSSp	Mother, Mama Rose Edeba	Buried 2/12/2025
Onoja Alexander, CSSp	Brother, Mr. Simon Julius Ogwuche	Buried 20/12/2025

Our heartfelt condolences, dear confrères. May God grant the souls of your beloved parents eternal rest. Amen.

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Holy Ghost Provincialate,
No 5, Fr Alia Street, New GRA, Makurdi, Benue State,
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Editor: Fr Kenneth Oori, C.S.Sp.
Tel: +234 813 341 9480
Graphic Designer: Donald Tyonum, CSSp
Tel: +234 706 215 0144