

Newsletter

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Do you have a story that may fit in this newsletter's theme???

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The Augustinian Federation of Africa (AFA)

June Edition

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A VISIT TO BAGAMOYO HISTORICAL SITE IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA

By Sr. Lydia Mukari, SMK

The 5-day AFA General Assembly ended on a high note with a tour to Bagamoyo historical sites by the delegates. The delegates gathered for morning mass at St. Monica early on the morning of March 9, 2023 before departing for Bagamoyo at 7 am. The journey which lasted about two hours landed them at Stella Maris Hotel in Bagamoyo where members took some time to remember the day through photo sessions followed by a heavy



breakfast. The delegates then proceeded to the Bagamoyo ruins - a famous historical as well as a tourist site where people go to seek for different favours. Some of the notable sites here include the lovers' grave and the tree of life - (it is believed that those who wish to prolong their stay on earth go round this Augustinian Federation of Africa (AFA) The tree in a clockwise manner,. On the other hand, those who wish to shorten their life go round this tree in an anticlockwise manner). Many politicians from Tanzania and the neighbouring countries are alleged to visit this historical site to seek for divine success. The AFA team delegates visited the Bagamoyo Kaole Snake Park where a variety of snakes including the green mamba, black mamba, python, cobra among others are kept for...Continued on page 2.

The team then visited the Bagamoyo Slave market (now Bagamoyo Art Market), where slaves used to be sold in the 1800's. The tour ended with a visit to the Roman Catholic museum where the Spiritan Fathers used to rescue slaves and convert them into Christians as well as educate them.



AFA 2023 Delegates at Kaole Snake Park, Fr. Kola translating the tour guide's words to French



Delegates at Bagamoyo Art market



At the Roman Catholic Museum

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

The Augustinian Federation of Africa (AFA) is glad to present to you the AFA Newsletter, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2023. Did you know? The AFA Newsletter brings you news updates from the different circumscriptions/ congregations of male and female religious who are guided by the Augustinian spirituality. The updates may range from celebration of professions, ordinations, General Assemblies, Apostolates, Formation, accomplishments of members of the Augustinian families, Augustinian-related activities as well as funerals. Through this newsletter, the AFA family heeds to the call for Synodality by the Holy Father Pope Francis.

AFA Newsletter promotes the spirit of Synodality by promoting communion and providing a forum where members can listen and engage with each other as they strive to accomplish God's mission. Members belonging to the Augustinian Federation of Africa are encouraged to embrace this forum in order to learn from each other and encourage one another. Those who have news updates along with pictorials can forward to the AFA Editorial team through this email address (afaeventsnewlsetter@gmail.com). Is your congregation guided by the Augustinian spirituality? Are you already members of the Augustinian Federation of Africa? If not, feel free to join the Augustinian family so that

together we can fulfill the mission of God, and in the end like St. Augustine say,

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You."



Delegates visiting Bagamoyo Fish Market

AUGUSTINIAN FEDERATION OF AFRICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023 HELD AT ST. MONICA MAVURUNZA PARISH

The General assembly of the Augustinian Federation of Africa 2023 was held from Monday 6th March 2023 to Friday 10th March 2023 at St. Monica community in Mavurunza, Dar es Salaam Tanzania. The theme of the assembly which brought together 34 religious men and women of the Augustinian family was: The Augustinian Heritage at the Service of the Synodal Church in Africa. Among the issues deliberated on during this assembly was: Review and approval of AFA Statutes by the delegates, welcoming of new members, election of AFA Executive Council from 2023 to 2026. Some of the new recruits to the Augustinian family were:

- The Augustinian Sisters of Jesus and Mary, Lubumbashi/Congo;
- Sisters of Mary of Kakamega;
- The Augustinian Missionary Sisters, Tanzania.

AFA 2023 Theme: *"The Augustinian Heritage at the service of the Synodal Church in Africa."*

The election of the AFA Executive Council members marked the climax of this event. The following members were elected to the Executive Council:

- Rev. Fr. Kenneth Eze, OSA, Nigeria as the President
- Sr. Faustine Lugadi, Congo as the Vice President

- Rev. Fr. Anaclet Paluku, OSA Congo as the General Secretary
- Sr. Lydia Mukari, SMK., Kenya as the Assistant Secretary
- Bro. Anthony Baumuke, OSA, Togo as the Treasurer
- Sr. Jacqueline Michel, OSA, Togo as the Assistant Treasurer
- Rev. Fr. Tasilo Nchimbi, OSA, Tanzania, as the Secretariat Coordinator and PRO.

The AFA regional representatives were also elected:

- Rev. Fr. Ephraim Musigala, OSA Tanzania, representing the East Africa Region.
- Rev. Fr. Kolawole Chabi, OSA Nigeria representing the West Africa Region.
- Rev. Fr. Martin Banga, OSA Congo representing the Central Africa Region.

The activities of the event were held in two main languages: English and French since a majority of the delegates were from the Anglophone and Francophone regions. The delegates were hosted in different Augustinian premises around Mavurunza. While the lectures and masses were held at the St. Monica Parish, the delegates had an opportunity to visit the different Augustinian communities during dinners which were organized in the different accommodation areas. Much appreciation to OSA Tanzania for their warm welcome and making all the delegates feel at home.



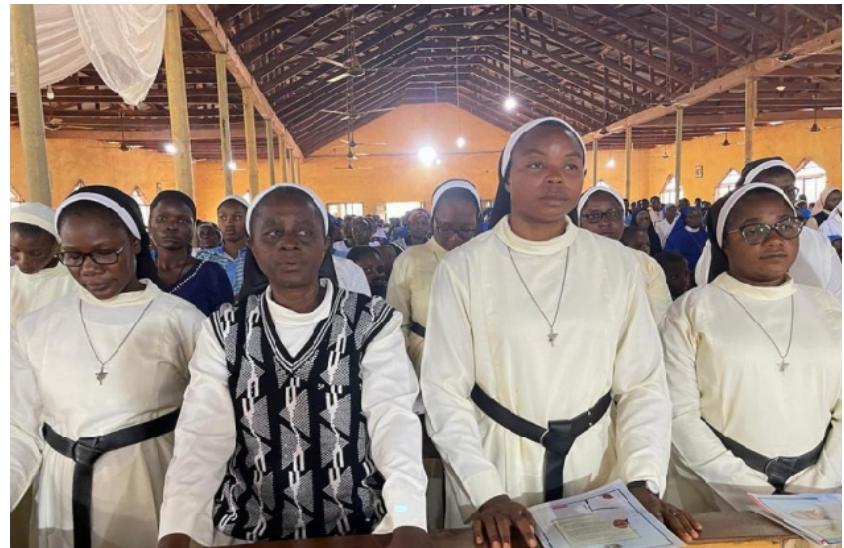
AFA delegates visiting Bagamoyo historical sites during the AFA General Assembly held at Mavurunza Dar es Salaam

THE AUGUSTINIAN SISTERS IN NIGERIA MOURN SR. AUGUSTINA OKEKE

By Sr. Maria Utaji, AMJ

The mortal remains of Sr. Augustina Nwakaego Okeke, of the Augustinian Sisters of the Mercy of Jesus (AMJ) was committed to mother earth on Thursday 15th June, 2023 at the Monastery of Our Lady Queen of Angels, Ejule. This was after a funeral mass held at St Martin the Porres Catholic Church, Ejule; a Parish of the Catholic Diocese of Idah (North Central Nigeria), under whose jurisdiction the Monastery Community of the Augustinian Sisters is now domiciled in Nigeria. In his address, the Catholic Bishop of Idah Diocese, Most Rev. Dr. Anthony Adaji, MSP appreciated the presence of the Most Rev. Dr. Mark Nzukwein, the Catholic Bishop of Wukari Diocese, North Eastern Nigeria, who was also in attendance in person. Also in attendance was the President of AFA, Rev. Fr. Kenneth Eze, OSA, the Augustinian Fathers in Nigeria among many other Priests from the Dioceses of Maiduguri and Jalingo (where Sr. Augustina served), Jos and Abuja; members of the institute of consecrated life who travelled from across the length and breadth of Nigeria, the members of Sr. Augustina's biological family, Friends and laity of the catholic Diocese of Idah. All these classes of persons, converged at St Martin de Porres Parish to pay their last respect to Sr. Augustina and commiserate with the Augustinian Sisters of the

Mercy of Jesus. Delivering the homily, the vicar for Religious, Rev. Fr. Michael Melladu eulogized the virtues of calmness, pastoral charity and zeal demonstrated by Sr. Augustina as a noble legacy while urging all the Christian faithful to emulate those virtues. Also in his remarks, the Bishop praised the dedication of Sr. Augustina's devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary as well as her formidable pastoral engagements which endeared her to people, especially the sick and the aged. At the end of the funeral mass, the rite of final interment was performed at the Monastery of our



Religious during the funeral mass of Sr. Augustina Nwakaego Okeke

Lady queen of Angels by Bishop Anthony Adaji, MSP, and Sr. Benedicta Anthony, The Prioress of the Augustinian Sisters in Nigeria expressed kind words of appreciation to all and sundry.



AUGUSTINIAN SISTERS SERVANTS OF JESUS AND MARY IN LUBUMBASHI, CONGO UPDATES

The three postulants said yes to the Lord on March 25, 2023 at Kipushi in Lubumbashi Congo. This marked a new step in their religious life where they officially entered the novitiate stage of religious formation. We pray for the three novices as they continue to discern their vocations that the Lord may show them the right path. Saint Augustine said, "The measure of love is to love without measure" May the novices echo these words of St. Augustine, to love the Lord without measure.



Sr. Emmanuel taking care of infants at their daycare



Sr. Faustine (2nd from left) with New Novices at Kipushi



Sr. Faustine with the Youth at School in Lubumbashi

AUGUSTINIAN PRIESTS IN KINSHASA CONGO



Augustinian priests in Kinshasa celebrating First Holy Communion



Augustinian Priests in Kinshasa administering infant Baptism



Augustinian Priests' Convent in Kinshasa Congo



Augustinian Priests' School in Kinshasa Congo

SISTERS OF MARY OF KAKAMEGA UPDATES

By Sr. Mary Shisiali, SMK

Eleven second-year novices of the Sisters of Mary of Kakamega made their first profession on June 20, 2023 at the Sacred Heart Parish Mukumu. The holy mass was presided over by Rt. Rev. Philip Sulumeti, the bishop Emeritus of Kakamega diocese. In his homily, bishop Sulumeti encouraged the sisters to embrace humility just like Mother Mary did even after receiving the good news from Angel Gabriel. He reminded them to be faithful to the vows they had taken. He also reminded the sisters to keep alive the spirit of their founder Bishop Brandsma whose death they were commemorating the same day. Bishop Brandsma was focused on education and primary evangelization.



SMK brides just before profession



*Newly professed Sisters with Kakamega Bishop Emeritus Philip,
Superior General and Council member*



A section of the Sisters of Mary of Kakamega praying for their departed sisters during the closure of their annual retreat held from June 10th to 18th 2023 at their Mukumu Motherhouse.

The Sisters of Mary on June 19, 2023 officially received nineteen candidates as aspirants. The candidates joined the congregation in March this year. They are now based at their Aspirancy residence within their Motherhouse in Mukumu, Kakamega.



REV. FR. SOLOMON BITALI, OSA NAIROBI ORDAINED PRIEST

Rev. Deacon Solomon Bitali, OSA was ordained to the order of priesthood on June 3, 2023 at the Sacred Heart Catholic Parish, Babadogo. Following his ordination, he celebrated his first Parish mass at Nalondo Parish on June 4, 2023 and his home coming mass at Pongola village on June 12, 2023. We entrust Fr. Solomon to the care and protection of God. Congratulations and God's blessings in your vocation.



Fr. Solomon with fellow priest during home Mass



THE NEWLY ELECTED AUGUSTINIAN FEDERATION OF AFRICA (AFA) EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2023-2026



The AFA Executive Council 2023. From left, Fr. Anaclet Paluku - Secretary General, Rev. Fr. Kenneth, President, Fr. Edward Daleng, Sr. Faustine Lukadi, Vice President, Sr. Lydia Mukari, Assistant Secretary, Bro. Antony Baumuke - Treasurer, Fr. Tasilo Nchimbi - Secretariat Coordinator and PRO.

AUGUSTINIAN WEEK (NAIROBI) 2023

By Br. Fred Mukisa, OSA

This year's Augustinian Week held from 16th-20th May 2023 at the Augustinian International House of Theology in Nairobi, Kenya was indeed a beautiful one. It has been a week full of mental gymnastics on Augustine and Augustinian thought on education, gathering for the first time Augustinian friars and a few sisters of St Mary of Kakamega, Kenya. The week was moderated by Rev. Fr. Kolawole CHABI, O.S.A. from the Pontifical Patristic Institute "Augustinianum" (Rome). According to Fr. Kolawole, when we speak about education, it is important to make a clear distinction between the contextual meaning of education and academics, education and training. People often speak of education centers as an equivalent of training centers. In the contemporary world, education connotes by necessity the art and process of passing on skills and practical knowledge to learners for the purpose of securing employment so as to secure and manage themselves. In this case, education seems to be

less interested in manners or morals. However, for Augustine a proponent of education, this kind of education is incomplete. Augustine's education is predicated on his anthropology and theology. For St. Augustine, following the thought of St. Paul, the human person has two dimensions: the outer man, and the inner man. To provide skills for just an instrumental and utilitarian purpose is merely to equip the outer man without educating the inner man. The truth lies in the inner man. The outer man consists of all traits that we have in common with animals e.g. sensations, body, and acquired memory, etc. The inner man on the contrary consists of characteristics peculiar to man e.g. conscience, interrogating and evaluating, intelligence, and the will. Augustine



The Augustinian friars at the International Theology house in Nairobi pose for a photo with the Sisters of Mary during the Augustinian week facilitated by Rev. Fr. Kolawole Chabi from May 15th to 20th, 2023.

defines the inner man as "what I am." Wholistic and transformative education is, therefore, that which motivates and stimulates the latent knowledge from the inner man who is not born tabula rasa and the outer man to move to reflection with the Inner Teacher. It is education that focuses both on the outer man and the inner man. Teaching and education critically analyzed have the same objective to humanize man, to make him become a worthy man among men. The focus is not to inject content into the learner like feeding a computer with programs but rather to dynamize and help what is latent in the learner to emerge. It is Socrates' midwifery concept of leading the learner to give birth to knowledge with the help of a pedagogue. This must be achieved through quietness, humility, and honesty, qualities which influenced Augustine to

become an intellectual giant among his peers. He expected the same qualities from his students when he became a Grammaticus and subsequently a professor of rhetoric at Thagaste, Carthage, Rome

and Milan. Augustine's pedagogy is catechetical and pastoral seeking to offer wisdom [profound knowledge] more than science [knowledge of human things]. Following the various stages of his responsibility as a teacher, Augustine made important shifts in his method of teaching. From forming his students to be good rhetoricians, Augustine shifted toward emphasizing interior, reflection, and the goal of transformation and conversion. His pedagogical approach further emphasizes the qualities and aptitudes of both the educator and the learner as they are both protagonists in education respectively. For him, in a nutshell, education needs a mystique, spirituality, and a profound motivation stimulating values among learners.

OSA TANZANIA UPDATES

ST. AUGUSTINE TAGASTE SECONDARY SCHOOL - TANZANIA

By Fr. Tasilo Nchimbi, OSA

Saint Augustine Tagaste Secondary school is owned by the Vicariate of St. Augustine in Tanzania. The school Motto is “Tolle lege” translated as “Take and Read” taken from our holy father Augustine when he was walking around the garden and suddenly heard the voice commanding him to take Bible and read (Rom 13:13). The school is located at Dar es Salaam region in Tanzania. The school was inaugurated on 28/01/2017 by His eminence Polycarp Cardinal Pengo, the arch bishop of Dar es Salaam archdiocese. It began in January, 2014. It follows all programs underlined by the Ministry of Education of the country which is supervised by National Examination Council of Tanzania (NECTA). It is a Co-school, means it contains both boys and girls. It is also a boarding school. All the students are living within a school compound as to emphasize the spirit of St. Augustine to live as

brothers and sisters, to live in peace and harmony, to help one another towards God. The teachers, other workers and students are enhanced to live the spirit of St. Augustine, living together as brothers and sisters, helping one another especially in social events like weeding, funerals, sickness etc. the attached photos below was the 4th form Six graduation ceremony conducted on 22nd April, 2023.



Some of the employees of the Augustinian school Tagaste during the graduation ceremony of Form 6 graduands



Form 6 students of the Augustinian school in Mavurunza pose for a photo with the clergy during their graduation ceremony

