



AUGUSTINIAN (AFA) Federation of Africa

Newsletter

November Edition

Vol 1, No. 2, 2024

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Welcoming the SCHOOL SISTERS OF NOTRE DAME: A Legacy of Faith and Education Joins the Augustinian Family.



The Augustinian Federation in Africa (AFA) joyfully welcomes the congregation of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) into its esteemed fold. In a formal letter dated 29th August, 2024, the School Sisters of Notre Dame expressed their desire to join the Federation, highlighting that “our charism flows from our spiritual heritage, especially the gift of St. Augustine, who formed community to be of one heart and one soul in God...”. Following the outcome of the AFA Executive Council meeting held on 7th September 2024, the President of the Augustinian Federation in Africa, Rev. Fr. Kenneth Udochukwu Eze, OSA, expressed AFA's approval and extended a warm welcome to the SSND into the AFA family.

The congregation of SSND was founded by Blessed Theresa Gerhardinger, born on June 20, 1797, in Stadtamhof, Bavaria,

Germany. Driven by a deep sense of mission and the desire to educate young girls, she established a small community of sisters on October 24, 1833, in Neunburg vorm Wald, Bavaria. Over the years, the SSND have expanded their reach globally, with their ministries spanning across over thirty countries, including Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, The Gambia, and Sierra Leone. Their commitment to education, spiritual guidance, and holistic development is rooted in their Augustinian spirituality, aligning perfectly with the mission of AFA.

The Augustinian federation in Africa looks forward to a fruitful service with the SSND through their active participation in the different AFA programs and initiatives. Their presence in AFA will not only enrich our collective mission but also hope to deepen the unity of mind and heart that defines our Augustinian spirituality.

In 1952, six Augustinians of the Belgian Province arrived in the Belgian Congo to start a mission. In 1959, other Augustinian Friars from Germany joined them. After the founding of "Congo Federation" by the two Provinces of Belgium and Germany in 1993, they created "the Vicariate of Congo in 1995. Despite the wars and rebellions which continued (1964-1966, 1996-1997 and 1998-2003) their efforts bore fruit for the local Church and also for the Order.

THE VICARIATE OF CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO) IN 2024

The Vicariate of Congo currently has five convents: Amadi, Poko, Dungu, Buta, Kinshasa and manages two parishes and a sanctuary of Saint Rita of Cascia in Kinshasa, 3 private schools in (Kinshasa, Dungu and Poko).

Currently the Vicariate of Congo counts 50 brothers in solemn vows with 44

priests included, 24 brothers in simple profession, 8 novices, 9 postulants and 26 seminarians. This confirms that the Vicariate of Congo is prolific in local vocation.

Since its establishment as Vicariate of Congo in 1995, the

Vicariate has five vicars:

- Paul Dewit (Belgian),
- Matthias HETCH (German),
- Michel KANERU (Congolese), Georges
- MIZINGI (Congolese),
- Martin BANGA (Congolese), and
- Olivier GANGOLA (Congolese).

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN THE VICARIATE IN 2024

It was on April 15th 2024 that the Vicariate of Congo received with surprise the appointment of Father Martin, until then Vicar since 2022, Bishop of the diocese of Buta. This news disrupted certain planned activities of the Vicariate, among others:

- Change in the head of Vicariate. The provisional appointment of the new Vicar in replacement of Father Martin before even the midterm of his mandate. Thus Father Olivier GANGOLA BAWA who was first Counselor was appointed Vicar to lead the Vicariate until the election of the new Vicar.

- Cancellation of the intermediate chapter of the Vicariate, which was to be held in July 2024 in Kisangani; occasioning the celebration of the Vicariate ordinary chapter in January 2025

after the new vicar is elected.

The episcopal ordination of Mgr Martin BANGA took place on Sunday July 7th, 2024 in Buta by His Eminence Cardinal Fridolin Ambongo BESUNGU, Archbishop of Kinshasa and the two co-consecrators Mgr Marcel UTEMBI TAPA metropolitan bishop of Kisangani and outgoing president of the episcopal conference of Congo (CENCO), and Mgr Mitja New apostolic nuncio to Congo with the presence of several other bishops of the ecclesiastical province of Kisangani including priests, religious men and women, civil, military and police authorities as well and other religious congregations (non-Catholics).

Bishop Martin BANGA, OSA succeeds Bishop Joseph BANGA Bane who retired after 25 years of episcopate.

He becomes the fourth

THE EPISCOPAL ORDINATION OF FATHER MARTIN BANGA AS THE DIOCESAN BISHOP



bishop of the diocese of Buta since its erection in 1959 with the motto: "*Servire in humilitate*" (Serve in humility).

BIOGRAPHY OF BISHOP MARTIN BANGA, OSA

Mgr Martin Banga Ayanyaki, O.S.A., was born on December 1, 1972 in Dungu in the Province of Haut-Uélé, in the northeast of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). After completing his studies in philosophy at Philosophat Saint-Augustin and theology at the University of Saint-Eugène de Mazenod in Kinshasa, he made his solemn profession on November 30, 2002 and was ordained a priest on August 28, 2003, in Poko, in the diocese of Dungu-Doruma.

Since his ordination to the priesthood, he has exercised the following responsibilities:

2003-2006 vicar of the parish of Poko, in the diocese of Dungu-Doruma

2006-2010 counselor to the Augustinian vicariate and parish priest of Poko

2010-2014: regional vicar of the Order of Saint Augustine 1 term

2014-2020, studies at the Pontifical Gregorian University, in Rome, obtaining a doctorate in sociology.

2014-2020: pastoral collaborator at the

convent of Santa Maria del Popolo, in Rome

Since 2022, he has been regional vicar of the Order of Saint-Augustin in Congo and professor of sociology and anthropology at the University of Saint-Augustin in Kinshasa.



Priestly Ordination of Three Fathers (DR Congo)

After the good news of the appointment of Father Martin as the new bishop of the Diocese of Buta, another joyful event which marked the life of the Vicariate in 2024 was the priestly ordination of three brothers: Fr Ignace MIBIBA, OSA, Benoit BELANGBA, OSA, Christophe KUMBOYO, OSA in Dungu by the imposition of hands of His Excellency Mgr Emile Mushosho Matabaro Bishop of the Diocese of Dungu-Doruma on May 5, 2024.



In Amadi, on 4th August 2024, six brothers: Moise MADHIO, Jean-Claude MBARAZA, Patrick MASIKABUDRI, Isaac NDEBI, Jean de Dieu TUMUSA, Cédric LOBIA did their first religious profession in the hands of Father Olivier GANGOLA, the Vicar.



**First Profession
of six brothers**

By Fr Elia TABAN, OSA in Amadi/DR Congo

SISTERS OF MARY OF KAKAMEGA

Sisters of Mary of Kakamega (SMK) is a Religious Congregation that was founded with the aim of spreading the Good News and fostering the education of the African women so as to uplift their standards of living in a world where they seemed to be completely marginalized by their male counterparts. The Congregation was started by the late Bishop Brandsma, a Mill Hill Missionary in 1932 in the



Diocese of Kakamega in Kenya. He requested the help of the Ursuline Sisters from Bergen-Holland as to assist with the religious formation of the African girls who wished to become sisters. Some of these young girls were also trained as religious nuns to help other girls and women to learn to be self-sufficient in order to enhance and improve their standards of living.



JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

The Sisters of Mary of Kakamega - Kenya had their Jubilee Celebrations on 28th August 2024 at Mukumu Mother House. We had 5 sisters celebrating Diamond Jubilee, 5 sisters celebrating Golden Jubilee and 7 sisters celebrating their Silver Jubilee. The celebration mass was presided over by Rt. Rev. Philip Sulumeti, Bishop Emeritus of Kakamega Diocese. Bishop congratulated the Jubilarians for the far they had

come in Religious life. The Vicar General of Kakamega Diocese: Very Rev Fr Vincent Mukoho during his Homily encouraged them by saying "this was the time to thank God for the past, face the present with courage and the future with Hope". The congregation of SMK appreciates the efforts of Sr. Mary Beatrice Twinomugisha, SMK Councillor coordinating Formation and Spirituality Matters for having journeyed with the sisters

celebrating Jubilee 2024 to that far. Mother Josepha Angeline Atswale, the Superior General of the Sisters of Mary of Kakamega also appreciated the Jubilarians for their existence in the congregation and their great positive contributions to the congregation. We the Sisters of Mary of Kakamega (SMK) do thank God for this far He has brought us. God Bless!

THE AUGUSTINIAN BROTHERS OF THE VICARIATE OF TANZANIA

New Novices 2024/2025

On July 1, 2024, sixteen postulants marked a new step in their religious life by officially entering the novitiate stage at Kola – Morogoro, Tanzania. The late Fr. Fidelis Mfalanyomba OSA, received them into the Augustinian Order during Vespers at St. Augustine

Community Chapel. Three novices come from the Vicariate of

Kenya and thirteen are Tanzanians. We pray for them so that they continue say yes to the Lord who calls them daily, “Follow me” and gradually discern their vocation.



The Vicariate of Tanzania and Kenya

First Profession

were blessed with sixteen new Simple Professed members; five of them from the Vicariate of Kenya and eleven from the Vicariate of Tanzania. The profession took place on Saturday, July 27, 2024, in the Church of Saint Augustine Parish, Mkolani, Mwanza – Tanzania. The late Fr. Fidelis Mfalanyombo OSA, who was one of the Counsellors of the Vicariate of

Tanzania, presided at the Mass and reception of vows. He reminded the brothers to live community life as our Father St. Augustine puts it in the Rule and as found in the Acts of the Apostles. Congratulations to them and all the Frays of the Vicariate of Tanzania and Kenya, and May God continue to bless them.

Funeral Ceremony

The Augustinian Brothers in Tanzania mourn for Rev. Fr. Fidelis Illuminatus Mfalanyombo OSA, who passed away on Thursday, August 15, 2024, On the Solemnity of Assumption, at St. Augustine House Kola – Morogoro, at the age of 49 years and 19 years of religious life. The funeral for his eternal rest was celebrated on Tuesday, August 20, 2024, at St. Augustine Parish Church, Madaba in the Archdiocese of Songea. The funeral Mass was presided by His Grace Filbert Felician Mhasi, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Tunduru – Masasi (Southern Tanzania). In his homily, His Grace

Damian Denis Dallu, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Songea (Southern Tanzania), lauded on staying awake, because we do not know either the day or the hour, as



sited from Jesus' parable of the ten wedding attendants. Also in attendance, was the Regional Vicar

Superior of the Vicariate of Tanzania, Rev. Fr. Kosmas Asenga OSA; Augustinian Brothers in Tanzania and many other priests from the Diocese of Songea and other Dioceses; members of Institutes of Consecrated Life who travelled from different parts of Tanzania; Laity Augustinians; Friends and Faithful from the Parish of Madaba. At the end of the funeral Mass, Rev. Fr. Kosmas Asenga, Vicar of the Vicariate of Tanzania, on behalf of all Brothers in Tanzania, expressed kind words to all. Finally, the rite of the internment was celebrated at the Augustinian cemetery at Madaba, by Rev. Fr. Kosmas Asenga OSA. May the soul of our departed brother rest in peace.

Solemn Profession and Silver Jubilee

Six brothers of the Vicariate of Tanzania made their Solemn Profession on August 22, 2024, at St. Augustine Community Chapel, Kola - Morogoro. Also three brothers: His Grace Stephano Musomba OSA, Rev. Fr. Erastus Mgani OSA, and Rev. Fr. Emmanuel Kahuka OSA, celebrated their silver jubilee. The Holy Mass was presided

by His Grace Stephano Lameck Musomba OSA, Auxilliary Bishop of Dar es Salaam and the vows were received by Rev. Fr. Kosmas Asenga OSA, Regional Vicar Superior of the Vicariate of Tanzania. May God bless them in their vocation.



By Fr. Urick Kinyero OSA

LES FETES DE FIN D'ANNEE DES SŒURS DE SAINT AUGUSTIN DU BENIN (S.S.A)

27,28 et 29 AOUT 2024

L'Institut des Sœurs de Saint Augustin du Bénin (S.S.A) créée le 22 Août 1968 par le Cardinal Bernardin GANTIN de lumineuse mémoire est une Congrégation autochtone de droit diocésain. Elle compte aujourd'hui 272 religieuses réparties dans les dix diocèses du Bénin, au Tchad, en Centrafrique, au Niger, au Togo, en France et en Italie. Notre spiritualité est d'inspiration augustinienne et se résume en ces trois points : Intériorité et recherche de Dieu, Vie fraternelle en communauté et Service d'Eglise. Notre devise est : Unir Dans la Charité. Notre Charisme est Vivre la charité pour la promotion intégrale de l'homme surtout de la femme par l'Evangélisation, l'éducation et les œuvres sociales.

Les grandes cérémonies de notre congrégation se déroulent chaque année les 27, 28 et 29 Août. Cette année, le 27 Août, nous avons eu la grâce d'accueillir treize sœurs professes temporaires qui sont :

- ADJENIYA Marie Chantal
- AGBIDINOUKOUN Michelle
- MAHOUEAHOSSA Donatienne
- AKPLONOU Morelle
- BEKOUTONAA Deline.
- EKPAGOU DAMarcelline
- HOSSIKINDE Sidonie
- HOUNSOU Rosine
- HOUESSOU Elodie
- HOUETENON Huguette
- KAKPOVI Victoire
- NOUKPOZOUKOUN Pierrette
- WANMASSE Julienne

Cette messe fut présidée par Mgr Aristide GONSALLO, évêque de Porto-Novo entouré de Mgr Luigi Vari, un évêque italien ami de notre Congrégation venu avec un groupe de prêtres et laïcs de son diocèse nous soutenir et d'une cinquantaine de prêtres.

Le 28 Août où nous fêtons notre saint Père Augustin, le Seigneur nous a fait don de deux sœurs professes perpétuelles qui sont les sœurs

Perpétue AGOÏNON et Geneviève ANAGOKO.

A cette même occasion neuf (9) de nos sœurs ont rendu grâce pour les vingt-cinq ans de vie religieuse ce sont :

Sœur Denise Sylvestre AMOUSSOU
Sœur Ida Ange DONKPEGAN
Sœur Odette Marcel OGA
Sœur Claire Agnès MESSANGBO
Sœur Chantal N'DAH
Sœur Isabelle Charlotte SANTOS
Sœur Odile Fidélia SOHOU
Sœur Antoinette YOKOSSI
Sœur Agathe KOUMAPLE

Cette messe fut présidée par Mgr Roger HOUNGBEDJI, archevêque de Cotonou entouré de trois évêques et de plus 60 prêtres. Nous bénissons le Seigneur pour ses bienfaits et sa présence authentique au cœur de notre Institut.

Le 29 Août, nous avons eu la journée de famille qui a commencé par une messe solennelle présidée par Mgr Luigi Vari et deux de ses prêtres. Un riche enseignement sur la synodalité nous a été donné par le même évêque après la messe et le petit déjeuner. Ensuite après les salutations chaleureuses de notre Supérieure Générale Mère Philomène FATON, il y a eu l'accueil et les félicitations adressées aux nouvelles professes temporaires et perpétuelles ainsi qu'aux Sœurs jubilaires. Enfin, nous avons accueilli les nouvelles de notre famille religieuse et les nominations (obédiences) données par notre Mère et son Conseil. Il faut signaler que nous avons eu droit à un exposé sur la santé par le sport suivi d'échanges. Ces trois journées furent des moments très agréables ponctuées de prières, de grande joie, de retrouvailles et de fête.

LES VŒUX TEMPORAIRES

Après un an de pré postulat, les jeunes sont admises dans la maison de formation où elles seront formées à la vie religieuse pendant un an de postulat et deux ans de Noviciat.

Les sœurs AGOÏNON Perpétue et ANAGOKO Geneviève ont émis leurs vœux perpétuels, ceci c'est après six ans de juniorat. Elles vont consacrer

LES VŒUX PERPETUELS 2024

définitivement leur vie au Seigneur, avec cette étape elles appartiennent définitivement à la congrégation, elles sont membres entières de notre Institut. Action de grâce au Dieu Trine qui appelle et se consacre à Lui ses créatures.



LES NOCES D'ARGENT

Dans la marche à la suited u Seigneur il est souvent bon de prendre un temps pour méditer et rendre grâce à Dieu pour toutes ses merveilles. Ainsi, nous avons 7 Sœurs qui ont remercié Dieu qui a veillé sur elles pendant ses 25 ans de consécration : les Noces d'Argent, ce sont les sœurs :

- Odette Marcel OGA,
- Agathe KOUMAPLE,
- Odile Fidélia SOHOU,
- Ida Ange DONKPEGAN,
- Claire Agnès MESSANGBO,
- Isabelle Charlotte, SANTOS,
- Denise Sylvestre AMOUSSOU,
- Antoinette YOKOSSI et
- Chantal N'DAH.



Les sœurs qui ont rendu grâce pour les vingt-cinq ans de vie consacrée
LES SŒURS JUBILAIRES
(NOCES D'ARGENT)

Province of St. Augustine, Nigeria:

KEY UPDATES AND INSIGHTS

On Thursday, November 28, 2024, the solemn profession of Brothers Inalegwu Daniel Abel, Pius Mary Benjoso, Abraham Ayuka, and Moses Angelo Ziazia into the Order of St. Augustine, Nigeria Province and the Province of Belgium, was celebrated. The event began with a Eucharistic celebration at the Augustinian House of Theology Chapel, Makurdi, Benue State, presided over by the Prior Provincial, Very Rev. Fr. Anthony Ikechukwu Kanu, OSA. In his homily, Fr. Kanu reflected on Mark 10:35–45 and the teachings of St. Augustine, highlighting commitment, sacrifice, humility, and service as hallmarks of religious life. He reminded the candidates of the significance of their vows of poverty,

chastity, and obedience, encouraging them to embrace God's infinite love and the mission of the Augustinian Order.

At 10:45 AM, the candidates solemnly professed their perpetual vows, placing their hands in those of

The parents of the newly professed were recognized for their contributions to their sons' vocations and were given a special blessing, formally welcoming them into the extended Augustinian community.

A JOURNEY SEALED IN FAITH: Solemn Profession into the Augustinian Family

the Prior Provincial, who received their vows on behalf of the Prior General, Most Rev. Alejandro Moral, OSA. This profound moment was marked by symbolic presentations of the Rule and Constitution of the Order, signifying their full incorporation into the Augustinian family.

The celebration concluded with a reception where family, friends, and members of the religious community gathered to rejoice and offer prayers for the brothers as they began their lifelong commitment to God's service. It was indeed a day of gratitude, reflection, and joy.



Faith, Fellowship, and Formation:

Highlights from Augustinian Week in Kenya

This year's Augustinian week that took place in our international theology house based in Karen Nairobi – Kenya begun on 13th May 2024 with a morning mass that was presided over by Rev. Fr. Kolawole Chabi OSA, the facilitator of the week. Fr. Kolawole is an expert in the field of Augustinian Studies and is based in Rome, working at the Pontifical Patristic Institute AUGUSTINIANUM. In physical attendance were The Sisters of Mary of Kakamega (SMK), and the Augustinian Missionary Sisters. The event was also aired live via zoom meeting and was attended by the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) from Ghana, Sr. Eunice, Sr. Monica among others. Several people also joined from Kenya and Nigeria even

Revolving around the topic “AUGUSTINE AND CULTURAL DIALOGUE: Theoretical foundation, Method and Practice”, the week has been a wonderful moment of growth, a moment of encountering St. Augustine in his works as a man who dialogues, not just a teacher but also a student, not only a speaker but also a good listener. Fr. Kolawole started the week with some general considerations on dialogue, indicating the various postures people could adopt in dialogue: rejection,

indifference, tolerance, acceptance, etc. Afterwards, he delved into Augustine, theoretical framework, this method and final practice of dialogue in concrete terms.

He emphasized that St. Augustine believes in dialogue as the method of bringing out ideas of the people. He listens, he learns and out of the contribution of the interlocutor he



gets to appreciate the knowledge of the speaker. As a method of teaching and learning, the dialogical method of St. Augustine is a fundamental approach to seeking what is true. He put this method in use with a wide range of interlocutors: Pagans philosopher (Platonists), Jews, and Heretics prominent among which are the Manicheans, the Donatists and the Pelagians. With each of these groups, Augustine sought to engage in a fair

dialogue always starting from what he has in common with them and from there he tried to expose what the Catholic faith is.

The Augustinian week was a wonderful moment of intellectual, social, physical and spiritual growth. The week ended with a Holy Mass presided over by Rev. Fr. Kolawole Chabi, OSA. Then followed by exchange of best wishes, communion in a sumptuous meal, joyful moments and sharing of gifts. We extend our gratitude to Rev. Fr. Kolawole for his tremendous preparation and presentation throughout the week, we give an applause to all the attendees. A lot of gratitude also goes to Rev. Fr. Peter Imaji OSA for his hard work and resilience in organizing and seeing to it that the program was a success. We are delightful to the bursar of the community for his availability in providing all that was needed throughout the week and finally thank the Prior of the community for such a hospitality and serene environment. On the part of the technical team, we extend our well-wishes and blessings for the smooth flow of the events. We ask St. Augustine to always intercede for our unity, communion and growth, and may Almighty Father always bless the Augustinian Fraternity.

Bro. Reuben, O.S.A.

