



Habari za Tanzania

Greetings
From
District Superior

Mission & Life
From
Rev. Fr. Mariel SUMALLO

Share & Spread
From
Tanga Family



District of Tanzania Members Meeting with OLA Sisters in December 2021



Society of African Missions (SMA)
Press Road Bwiru, Mwanza, Tanzania
| Website : smatanzania.org |

† Sala ya Mt. Fransisko wa Assisi (Swahili)
- Kwa Amani

Ee Bwana,
unifanye niwe chombo cha amani yako.

Palipo na chuki, nilete mapendo;
Palipo na kukoseana, nilete msamaha;
Palipo na utengano, nilete umoja;
Palipo na shaka, nilete imani;
Palipo na makosa, nilete ukweli;
Palipo na kukata tamaa, nilete matumaini;
Palipo na giza, nilete mwanga;
Palipo na huzuni, nilete furaha.

Ee Bwana Mungu,
unijalie nitamani zaidi
Kufariji kuliko kufarijiwa,
Kufahamu kuliko kufahamika,
Kupenda kuliko kupendwa,
Kwa kuwa ni katika kutoa ndipo tunapokea,
Ni katika kusamehe ndipo tunasamehewa,
Ni katika kufa ndipo tunazaliwa
katika uzima wa milele.
Amina.

† A Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi
- For Peace

Lord,
make me an instrument of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is discord, unity;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is error, truth;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying
that we are born to eternal life.
Amen.



We are now presenting to you the third Newsletter of our District of Tanzania. When I wrote the introduction to our first it was in the context of the ongoing Covid pandemic and how to a greater or lesser extent it had impacted on all of us.

Now, as I write this introduction, the virus is still with us but much of the world seems to have begun to cope with it; vaccines and other measures seem to be having the desired effect and the latest strain seems less serious. These days if you are not planning international travel – PCR-RT negative results are still a pre-requisite for international travel – life seems to go on as normal.



Rev. Fr. John Kilcoyne, Ireland
Tanzania District Superior

These days we are reminded of the fragility of world peace. In 2022 we watch in horror as a terrible war of aggression is being fought in Ukraine. I cannot understand it and am as shocked as our people here are. Europe is no longer a measure or example of peace. And we cannot forget the millions caught up in the ongoing conflict in Ethiopia, clashes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the increasing extremist violence in many countries in northern parts of West Africa where even some of our own missions have had to be abandoned, the almost destroyed Yemen, and the madness of Afghanistan. And our prayer from the depths of our hearts is for peace and justice everywhere.

I always hoped that the Covid pandemic might, at least, increase the sense of a shared humanity among peoples, to paraphrase Pope Francis that we could dream through such an experience of a pandemic of a path to a better future for all. And indeed, we can continue to dream and to pray for a better future and make that happen in the one place we can really make a difference – here in our District of Tanzania. And Thank God for the gift of peace in our country of Tanzania – peace a gift to be treasured.

Many things have and are continuing to happen in our District. We have had our Superior General, Fr. Antonio Porcellato SMA and General Councillor, Fr. Rozario Francis SMA on a Canonical Visitation. During their stay with us they visited every member of our District in every parish and project. We were delighted to have them with us and deeply grateful for the valuable practical advice they shared with us. They were very happy with the way they were received by all and by what they saw in our parishes and projects.

Time moves on and quickly. We are now preparing for our mid-mandate Assembly. We are almost half-way through the first mandate of our new District of Tanzania. Much has been done and much still to be done. In this newsletter we learn from one of our parishes – Fr. Mariel writes from the parish of Bugisi in Shinyang diocese, and the members of the Tanga family (project to assist and enable Albino youth) tell us about their ministry. These are very instructive and moving articles which shows great personal commitment and enthusiasm.

Finally, this is the last newsletter formatted and produced by Anastasia. The next will be put together by other members of our media team, in this case Sr. Amelia and Kasia. I take this opportunity to thank Anastasia for her great work during her time working in our district, continuing even after she has left, and in a special way for her magnificent contribution to our media ministry – the newsletters, videos, calendars, photos and so on. May God Bless you Anastasia in your future life and work.

And May God Bless all of you, our members, our people whom we live and work with, our magnificent benefactors, and we enter the Holy Season of Lent.

Nataka kuchukua fursa hii kuwashukuru ninyi nyote ambao mnatusaidia kufanikisha utume wetu – katika parokia zetu zote na miradi yetu yote katika District yetu ya Tanzania. Nawashukuru kwa sala zenu na ukarimu wenu. Mungu awabariki nyote.



 Rev. Fr. Mariel SUMALLO, Philippines
Assistant Parish Priest of BUGISI

**I am a missionary
of the Society of African Missions,
and this is my story...**

THE CALL

My name is Mariel Sumallo of Eastern Samar, the Typhoon capital of the Philippines. I never imagined that I will become a missionary priest. I am just an ordinary man with ordinary gifts just like many others. Then one day when I was busy studying in the university, I received a call that changed my life forever:

"COME TO AFRICA!"

I thought it was a joke. I said, "Oh Lord! Why me?" I tried to forget about it—seriously! But the more I tried to forget it, the more the call became stronger. In 2010 I joined the SMA Come-and-See Program at the SMA Seminary in the Philippines. I fell in love with the community life and simplicity of the SMA. It was wonderful. I was also fascinated by the African Artifacts on display, the books in the library and the stories about the early SMA missionaries especially Fr. Francisco Borghero. After a long and prayerful discernment, I decided to join the Society of African Missions two days after I finished my university studies.

But wait! Was joining the SMA that easy? Of course, not! My father was against it. He was horrified that I was going to Africa. He wanted me to work as a teacher instead. It was a tough decision because I also felt responsible to help my family. But when my father felt that I was serious with my decision to become an SMA missionary, he gave me his support and blessing.

THE JOURNEY

People used to ask me, "Are you sure God is calling you to be a priest?" That is a difficult question indeed. What do you think is the best answer to that question? Every time I get asked with that question, I just say, "I don't know. But what know of is that I am happy in the seminary."

Now that I am a priest, I do miss the seminary life. It was full of fun and excitement. One of my sources of encouragements throughout my seminary journey was my community. Of course, it was not a perfect community, but we did our best to support and help each other.

One of the people who helped me appreciate the SMA missionary life was Fr. Damian Bresnahan, SMA of the Irish province. He, with others on the formation team made me fall in love with the SMA and its missions. He never failed to remind me that "Africa is in the Heart of the SMA."

AN INSPIRATION

My first missionary exposure in Africa was in Tanzania for my Stage program. It was a wonderful experience. I met many great missionaries who dedicated most of their time in the mission like Fr. Tony Gill, Fr. Robert Wolff, Fr. Mick McKee and many others. My encounter with them helped me appreciate my vocation and the mission of the SMA. It's my humble dream to be a missionary as dedicated as they are.

I spent most of my time in Ukara Island with Fr. Adam Bartkowicz, SMA. He was a dedicated missionary whose heart was very close to the people. Our days were usually spent visiting all the outstations to celebrate Masses and to visit the sick. Sometimes we also explored the mountain side and climbed the big rocks for fun or fly a plane using his simulator which he was good at and passionate about.

Fr. Adam is an inspiration and a real brother for me. When he was still alive, he never failed to remind me especially in times of doubts that I must focus on the Lord and the



mission of the SMA. He is a missionary who gave up his life that others may have life.

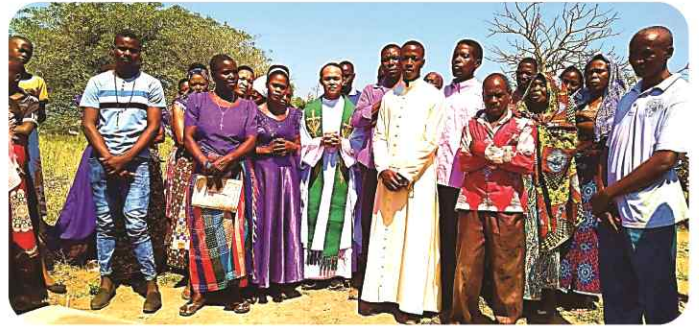
THE MISSION

On the 7th of November 2020, I left the Philippines to come to Tanzania for my first missionary assignment. And on the sunny afternoon of the 12th of December, I arrived to the parish of Bugisi with Fr. Patrick Machayi SMA after 3 hours travel from the City of Mwanza.

The Mary Mother of God Parish of Bugisi is located in the Diocese of Shinyanga, Tanzania, East Africa. The parish was established by the Maryknoll Fathers in 1959 and was handed over to the Society of African Missions (SMA) in 1990. It is composed of 34 outstations in the heart of the Sukuma land. This is a place where we patiently waited for rain for almost 8 months last year, 2021.

I received a lot of support from the SMA District of Tanzania and from my SMA Filipino brothers. It's very encouraging. The support also of our parishioners is stunning. Who will not fail to love the mission if the people always prepare chicken stew, boiled beans, rice and soda every time we go to the outstation? The people are generous and welcoming.

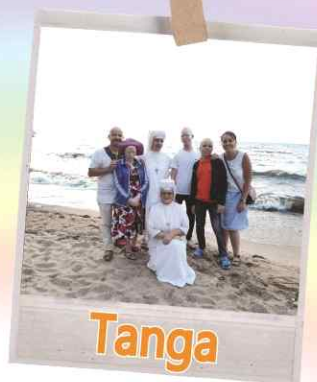
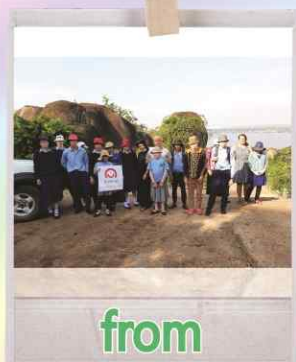
Bugisi parish is a busy parish. Sometimes it is even challenging for us to cover the 34 outstations for Masses because of the long travels to get to the villages. And when it rains, some of the roads become really bad. I even got stuck in the mud once when I tried to avoid a herd of animals on the road. I'm glad I was able to move and managed to arrive in the outstation on time. We also visit for pastoral activities the vocational school, English Medium Primary School and Hospital run by the OLA Sisters. And recently, we welcomed our SMA brothers to Bugisi for their language course. When we are not busy with pastoral works, we usually



spend most of our time planting and cleaning around the parish together the altar servers.

The Society of African Missions has a wonderful mission. It is my prayer that many young men will join us and become members of the SMA. It is also my prayer that the people will continue to help and support the mission of the Lord entrusted to the SMA.

COME TO AFRICA!



Our Tanga family, a home for children and youth with albinism, is growing. Kabula, Tatu, Regina, Agnes, Nyakahoja, Asha, Nasry, Ngasa, Simon, Martin and Matekele have been recently joined by new residents – Kabula, Teresa and Sylvester, who have started Form I as well as Jennifer and Lillian our youngest children, 12 and 10 years old respectively. Teresa has got six siblings, Sylvester seven and Kabula eleven (five of them with albinism, too). All of them with the exception of Lillian spent their childhood in the Buhangija Center, (a centre in Shinyanga town for children of primary school age who have albinism as well as those who are blind and deaf: it has in latter years mostly become a refuge for Albino children; it can only shelter the children until they complete primary school) which, although overcrowded, provided them with safety and at least a semblance of primary level education (it is not easy to study in a class of 120 pupils for example). After the completion of the primary school studies, children are sent to their respective family homes and if ever they get a chance to continue their education, it would be most likely be in a similar type of schools as that of Buhangija.

The history of Jennifer is really heart-breaking. Her mother did not have an easy and happy childhood herself. When Jennifer was born, her father refused to accept “that white child” as his own. In face of the danger to the Albino population which erupted at that time, Jennifer’s mother was advised to look for a safe place for her three-year old child, as where she was she could not provide her with proper security. Eventually she was directed to the Buhangija Centre. Since that day until now Jennifer spent her entire childhood in that centre. Almost 10 long years in a place where at a time there were more than 430 children. The history of our youngest child – Lillian is different. She comes from a family of three kids, she has an older sister and an older brother. Her mother is taking care of them on her own as their father left them as well. She was lucky to be helped by some sponsors and she has done her first four primary school years in a very good private school here in Mwanza. Unfortunately, her sponsors pulled out abruptly at the beginning of her Standard IV without a prior notice and she was in danger of being sent home. We came to the rescue and she was able to finish that class, now she has also moved to Tanga house to continue her education with us. As

you can see our main idea is to help those who are in most need, those coming from the poorest families, those in a very difficult situation. We do it mostly by giving them a home and an opportunity of receiving a high-quality education.

Our family is growing and with it our whole place is growing as well. Probably the biggest and the most challenging task for the last year was to build an access road to our house. Mwanza is called “Rock City” for a reason – the hills around are full of huge boulders and rocks. They are beautiful and picturesque but, also, they are very difficult for construction works. Breaking the rocks and levelling the ground took a lot of effort, finances and time. But the road is ready and it makes such a difference!!! The second very important task is to build self-sufficiency of the house, mostly through farming and breeding of livestock. We have already cleared the area, brought some fertilizer, planted fruit trees and vegetables. After a few weeks of rain, we are now getting the first crops. Soon we hope to have our own milk, meat, eggs and honey. Goats and sheep are already grazing around the house, we have got ten beehives and some chickens and a high breed cow.

We are trying to use the natural resources through newly installed rainwater tanks and a solar system to have a backup electrical and water supply in case of cuts but also to economise on the bills. For safety reasons and to protect the crops we have almost finished building a fence around our rocky and hilly ground which again has been quite challenging. We still have some more dreams for the further evolution and growth of the Tanga house. One of them is to set up a multi-purpose hall for meetings, games and educational activities for children especially from the neighbourhood. This house is a place of integration, a place of building up of bridges and of reaching out to those who need our help most. Another dream is to have at least a few guest rooms as for the moment all our rooms are occupied. We would like to offer accommodation to the visiting members of the families of our youth, to various guests coming to us from time to time, and maybe also to volunteers who would like to join our family for longer or shorter time. As we are a group of Catholic Missionaries, we also need a chapel. For the moment we say our prayers and celebrate the daily Mass in our small office/common room. We have already got a beautiful spot for the chapel on a magnificent rock formation near our house where we want to build a simple but hopefully a very beautiful chapel which will be fitting very well into the environment.

From the outset of the Tanga project we have planned to do some outreach by conducting workshops and seminars about albinism in villages, parishes, schools etc. We have recently started doing that and, so far, we

have reached out to about 30 villages, mostly in Mwandoya parish, in Shinyanga Diocese, where we got a wonderful welcome. Through this type of education, we hope to change the prejudices and superstitions about albinism in Tanzania and consequently substantially contribute to a better future of the Albino people in Tanzania. Such village outreach gives us also an opportunity to search for the most needy and abandoned Albino people and try to help them. Already one such visit has resulted in bringing Teresa from one of the villages to Tanga. She finished primary school in Buhangija and was sent home with no chance to go to a good school.

Our house is open and full of life. We have received many visitors this passing year. Among them there were also some medical specialists. A dermatologist examined the skin of the children, ophthalmologists checked their eyes and a dentist their teeth.

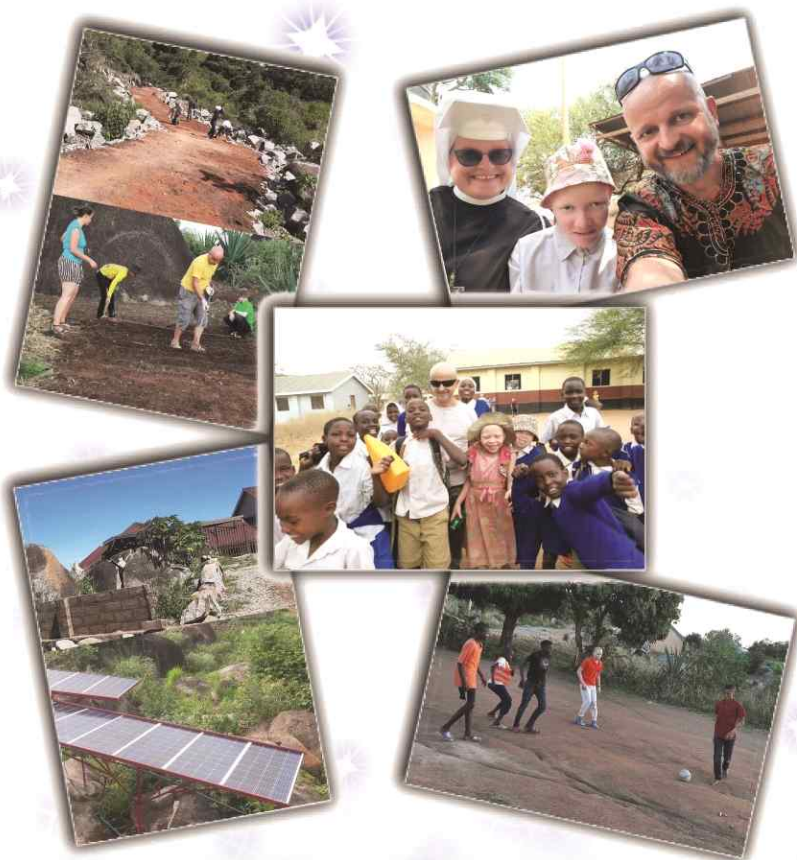
We organised a series of psychological workshops. One of our friends prepared for us a workshop on dyeing fabrics by the batik technique. We provide some supplementary classes for our youth and for our neighbours on a regular basis.

Tanga (in Swahili – a sail) set up its sail two years ago, now it is getting into the full sea, join our family through your prayers and good heart. Together we make a real change.

Our youth - Kabula, Tatu, Regina, Agnes, Nyakahoja, Asha, Kabula, Teresa, Jennifer, Lillian, Nasry, Simon, Ngasa, Martin, Matekele, Sylvester and Sr. Amelia Jakubik CSL, Sr. Barbara Łydowska CSL, Lay missionary Katarzyna Jurdziak and Fr. Janusz Machota SMA

We invite you to visit our website - tangahouse.org or to follow us on fb

- Tanga House SMA and on Instagram - tangasmatz.



“To seize every opportunity for preaching God's word.”



- Bishop Melchior de Marion Brésillac -
Founder of SMA

“Kuchukua kila fursa ili kuhubiri neno la Mungu.”



Contact the Vocations Director in Tanzania
+255) 789 337 498 / machayi.pm@gmail.com

You could contact us via WhatsApp
using the following languages English, French and Swahili

+255) 687 300 889 / bursarsmatz@gmail.com

For contributions and support to SMA Mission in Tanzania
contact Receiving requests for Mass intentions



*** Current status of members from Tanzania District : 7 Priests, 15 Seminarians**

***Philosophy (8)**
Kenya (8)

***Theology (3)**
Côte d'Ivoire (2)
Kenya (1)

***Calavi (3)**
Bénin (3)

***Stage (1)**

Ministry of Tanzania
Rev. Fr. James Kulwa Shimbala

Ministry of USA
Rev. Fr. Joseph Chacha Marwa

Ministry of Kenya
Rev. Fr. Ephrem Kway
Rev. Fr. Edwin Tanu Nicholas Mmasi

Ministry of Togo
Rev. Fr. Athanas Dotto Vedastus

Ministry of Italy
Rev. Fr. Benjamin Yenze Shija

Ministry of Central African Republic
Rev. Fr. Frank Kitambi



SOCIETY OF AFRICAN MISSIONS(SMA) DISTRICT OF TANZANIA