

Remembering Rev. Josaphat Msongore Shayo C.S.Sp.

Fr. Josaphat Msongore was born May 13, 1930 at Mulo Kilema the first born of four children of Pancras Shayo and Mama Emerensiana Mosha.

He received his Early Education at St. James Minor Seminary from 1948 to 1956. From 1957 to 1959, he did Philosophy at Kibosho Major Seminary. From 1960 to 1963, he was in the Netherlands and in Ireland for his theological Studies. In September 1960, he made his first Vows at the formation House in Kilshane, Ireland and in September 1963, took his final Vows at Kimmage Manor Ireland where he was ordained to the Priesthood on December 12, 1963.

After his ordination, Fr. Josaphat was assigned to St. Teresa of the Child Jesus (Cathedral) Arusha, as Associate Pastor from 1964 to 1966. In succeeding years he served as Associate Pastor in the Mbosho Mission and Mengwe Parish Rombo—Diocese of Moshi. From 1968 to 1971, he was Pastor of Christ the King Cathedral, Diocese of Moshi and Chancellor.

From 1971 to 1974 he served as Pastor at St. Peters Parish Oyster Bay Dar-Es-Salaam. In 1974 he was appointed Vocations Director; a position he held until 1985.

In 1982, he was appointed to be manager of Tengeru Farm in addition to his vocations work.

From 1988-1990 he was Pastor at Loliondo Mission. In February 6, 1990, he was appointed Pastor at Usa River Parish and served till 1997. In January 2000 to January 2004 he was associate Pastor at St. Mary's Parish Diocese of Morogoro, and February 1, 2004 he was transferred to Mbokomu Parish in response to the invitation of the late Bishop Amedeus Msarakie for Spiritans to have presence in the Diocese of Moshi again. He served there as Associate Pastor until 2007. In March 1, 2007 he chose to return to St. Mary's Parish in Morogoro Diocese to a kind of semi-retirement.

Fr. Josaphat stayed at St. Mary's Parish until 2016 when his health forced him to move to the Spiritan House in Arusha. He died May 10, 2017 from heart problems. He was interned at the Spiritan Cemetery at Usa Seminary, Arusha on May 17, 2017. He was 87 years old.

He will be remembered as among the first to bring forward the Idea of recruiting Africans from this side to the Spiritan Family. As Vocations Director he worked tirelessly to get responses to the call from all tribes, Nations and Clans. It is such efforts which gave birth to the East African Foundation of the Spiritans and today we have two Spiritan Provinces (Kenya and Tanzania) and the Ugandan Group.

His favorite saying was "Paratus ad Omnia" meaning "Prepared for all things."

Rest In Peace, Fr. Josaphat!