

St. Charles Lwanga Church – Muyeye Parish
P.O. Box 2019-80200, Malindi – Kenya.

Email: karolilwanga1@gmail.com

Phone# 0759519255

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St. Charles Lwanga Parish: December 2022/January 2023 Updates

Closing 2022 and Beginning 2023:

Dear friends, “Happy New Year, 2023!” The end of year 2022 and beginning of New Year, 2023 were packed with activities and events in the parish! We thank God that all went well!



From December 27, 2022 to January 3, 2023, the Jesuit Community in Malindi was blessed with visits of companions coming in for holidays and well deserved rests! A good number of Jesuit Professors and Scholastics from Hekima College, our Jesuit School of Theology in Nairobi came to refresh and recharge their batteries on the shores of Indian Ocean! More than 15 Jesuits visited Malindi, ensuring to pay homage to the historical “St. Francis Xavier Chapel”, aka “Portuguese Chapel” and Vasco da Gama pillar! Cherishable and treasurable experience to all! More inspiring was to continue witnessing the universality of the Society of Jesus as these companions visited. We had companions from Nigeria, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Liberia, Mozambique, Ethiopia, and Burkina Faso! It is a small world as the sage remind us!



St. Francis of Assisi, Msoloni Outstation - First Vigils in History:

Finally, the Catholic Community in Msoloni Outstation had a taste and understanding of “Vigil Masses”! Speaking of early evangelization ...! The evenings of December 24 and December 31 - the newly built church was filled up with children and elders as they came to witness and celebrate the Christmas and New Year Vigils! The choir was superb as they sung to the top of their voices and liturgical dances, thanking God for his wonderful deeds! Vibrant and rememberable masses, filled with ululation, joy and songs of rejoicing! On Sunday, 1st January, 2023 - the first baptism was celebrated in the same new church, done by Fr. Deshi, SJ! Let faith continue to grow and spread in Msoloni and environs!

My First Baptism in Africa: Fr. Deshi Ramadhan, SJ



On Sunday, 25th December, during the noon Christmas Sunday mass, Fr. Deshi, SJ was elated to do his first infant baptism on the African soil, in Kiswahili language, under the assistance of Fr. Sossy! Awesome and fluid. He baptized one Joseph, 6 years old. After the baptism, Fr. Deshi was so moved, and thanked God for that baptism that he documented in his personal journal! Hongera sana baba Deshi! (And again, Fr. Deshi did it solo, infant baptism, on Sunday, January 1st, at the outstation in Msoloni. Now Deshi is an expert in Swahili Baptism Ritual!)

Eastern Africa Magis Encounter - Dar es Salaam Tanzania:



Five members of Magis group from our Parish traveled to Tanzania between December 28, 2022 to January 2, 2023 for the first Eastern Africa Province Magis Encounter. The five representatives from Malindi are Raymond, Stella, Lavender, Riziki and Pendo. The meeting took place at our Loyola High School, Dar, Tanzania. Other group members from Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda also attended the forum that brought together some 60 members of Magis Eastern Africa. The focus is to have a more cohesive Magis AOR Province team. Participants were enriched by community services, prayer, vocation and Ignatian Spirituality! We pray that our young men continue to grow in that spirit of always being men and women for others!

Welcome Sr. Mary Nzasa, Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi - to Msoloni:



The growing pastoral needs in Msoloni Outstation and Muyeye Parish are calling for collaboration in the mission. To ensure proper pastoral care and catechetical instructions for Msoloni Outstation, we requested The Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Assisi to join hands with us in the ministry. The Congregation has missioned Sister Mary Nzasa as a pioneer to the Outstation, to pave way for pastoral care in the outstation. Sister Mary arrived in Malindi on 28 December, 2022. Immediately she started the mission with joy and passion! Karibu sana Sister and we pray for success in your new ministry in Msoloni. Together we can ...!

Fr. Sossy travels to Chennai, India:

Fr. Sossy, the Pastor, traveled to India beginning January 5. He went there for medical reasons. He has a *retina detachment* in his right eye that will require a surgery. His return to Malindi is scheduled for February 10, though the healing process may determine that. He is scheduled to undergo a surgery on Monday, January 10. We wish him a quick recovery!

Exploring Possibilities of a Jesuit Primary School in Malindi:

Malindi remains one of the illiterate regions in Kenya. The literacy average is about 45%. Many young men and women remain educated. Girl children are forced into early marriages, forced to drop out of school. With the influence of Islam, few young men are recruited into terrorist gangs. Youth unemployment is very high. Around the parish you always see a multitude of children loitering and involved in petty theft, simply because they are not in school and need to survive. Since us, Jesuits, arrived in Malindi, have been discerning the possibility of helping and supporting the underprivileged children to acquire the basic education that can help them in future to further their knowledge and education levels. Following the visit of Mrs. Dana, the Jesuit Development Office Director from the Suisse Province, we were encouraged to explore the possibility of starting a Jesuit Primary School in Malindi. We are currently searching for at least two or more acres of land in the area, and from there to start fund-raising for the school project. We pray that the envisaged project becomes a reality one day, and that it uplifts the lives of people in this area we serve!

Preparations for the Official Blessing of St. Francis of Assisi, Msoloni Outstation:

Following completion of the construction for the outstation church, the people of Msoloni have chosen Sunday, April 23, 2023 to be the official blessing of their new church. Preparations are already underway, and the Bishop has been notified for the same! We look forward for a colorful event as the word of God continues to go forth!

Counting the Fifth Year since St. Charles Lwanga was founded:

Time flies! It is coming to the fifth year since St. Charles Lwanga was officially inaugurated as a parish! We thank God for the steady growth of the parish! Parishioners are busy scratching their heads on how to mark this historical event, come 3-4 June, 2023!

Happy and blessed New Year 2023!

Fr. Sossy Luyembe, SJ - Malindi (Kenya)