



# OMI Zambia

A Newsletter of the Zambia Delegation of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate  
To establish and maintain a vital and culturally integrated missionary presence in Zambia

## FROM THE DELEGATION SUPERIOR



**Fr. Freeborn Isaac Kibombwe, OMI  
Delegation Superior**

Dear Oblates and Associates,

Welcome to the first edition of our Zambia Oblate Delegation Newsletter for the year 2011.

It is with great joy that I wish to sincerely congratulate Rev. Fr. Evans Chinyemba on his appointment as the bishop for the Diocese of Mongu. We are proud of you Rev. Fr. Chinyemba and be assured of our prayers and support as you begin your ministry as shepherd of the people of Mongu Diocese whom you have known having grown up in the same diocese. May Mary our mother and the blessings of our founder St. Eugene De Mazenod be with you, to guide and strengthen you.

May I take this opportunity to extend my sincere gratitude to all the members of the delegation as well as associates in different ministries for your support during the time I served as Acting Delegation Superior. I pray that the same spirit may prevail as I begin my term of office as Delegation Superior for Zambia.

I would like to thank Fr. Evans Chinyemba, OMI our former Delegation Superior for serving us with dedication and affirming our many ministries and individual efforts. I also thank him for setting the delegation on course through the Strategic Document 2011-2017. We have a lot on which to build, especially as we raise the walls and crown its completion with a roof.

I wish to also extend my sincere gratitude to my team of Councilors: Frs. Pat Gitzen, Barnabas Simatende, Valentine Kalumba, Chibesa Chishimba and Godfrey Mpundu. In them I have experienced fraternal brotherhood. Special welcome to Fr. Barnabas Simatende who will be serving for the first time on the council. We look forward to sharing your many gifts in the delegation.

To you our brothers in the delegation, the council will count on your support in your respective ministries of the Delegation and Communities. Our brother Scholastics in South Africa, USA, Cameroun, Germany and Rome, we are all in this together, your youthful energy will be summoned at different forums and as you participate in our regency program. Your participation in the structures of internationality, regardless of your location, is a greater challenge since you are our ambassadors. Special gratitude to our prenovices and their presence at our house of formation, keep reflecting, "an unexamined life is not worth living."

The challenges are many. Among them is the area of financial self-sustainability. Our mother province, in collaboration with the previous administration, thought it wise to send two experts in finance and self-sustainability to help us strategize in terms of becoming a self reliant Delegation in the future. A workshop was

conducted for some Council members and all unit treasurers. The workshop looked at how the available human resources can be channeled into positive generating income. Nancy Lee led the group in this aspect. On the other hand, Jackie Unger had an opportunity to prepare us for an extensive audit, this she did at the administrative office and at Oblate Radio Liseli, in Mongu. To them we say thank you, and all the suggestions as well as affirmations made will be put to good use.

Formation has always been at the heart of our Congregation and as a Delegation we participate through the progress we have seen over the years. On January 15<sup>th</sup>, we were happy to participate in the diaconate ordination of Bro. Joseph Kapyia Kang'ombe, OMI, at St. Michael's parish in Kalabo. A week later, at Mary Immaculate Parish in Lusaka, we witnessed the perpetual vows ceremony for Bros. George Mandona, Richard Chanda and Theodore Mbulo. Both events were moments to give thanks to God for his blessings on us. We are grateful to their families for their generosity in sharing their sons with us. We are also grateful to the formators who are dedicated and journey with our young men.

We look forward to the completion of our new Pre-Novitiate in Makeni to be opened soon. We thank Fr. Ron Walker and Fr. Godfrey Mpundu who have stayed on top of the project.

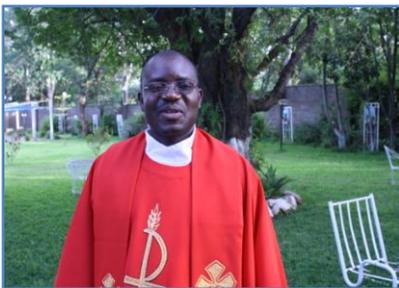
May I also add a word of thanks and gratitude to the Management and Staff of Oblate Radio Liseli for their support during my one year stay at Radio Liseli. We accomplished much and I ask you to soldier on and be willing to spread the light of Christ to the people in Western province. May you also be the voice of the voiceless especially as the country prepares for the tripartite elections sometime this year.

I wish you all well in this entire year. May Mary our mother guide us in everything we do.

Fr. Freeborn Kibombwe, OMI  
Delegation Superior

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## **A NEW BISHOP FOR THE DIOCESE OF MONGU**



*Fr. Evans Chinyama Chinyemba, OMI*

Rev. Fr. Evans Chinyama Chinyemba has been appointed as the bishop of Mongu diocese taking over from Bishop Paul Duffy, OMI. The appointment was announced on February 15, 2011 by His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI.

The appointment comes in a month and nine days after his installation as Councilor for Africa Madagascar Region.

Fr. Chinyemba becomes the second bishop of Mongu diocese which was created in 1997.

## ANOTHER DEACON FOR THE OBLATES

*By Sch. Bro. Musonda Sydney, O.M.I*

The diaconate ordination of Sch. Bro. Joseph Kapyra Kang'ombe, which took place on January 15, 2011 in Kalabo, was characterized by traditional liturgical dancing of the people of Western Province. The liturgical celebration, which lasted for more than two and half hours, was celebrated by Right Reverend Paul Francis Duffy, OMI the Bishop of Mongu Diocese.

In his homily, the Bishop emphasized the role of the Deacon as that of service. He pointed out that in order to serve, prayer should be central to the life of the newly ordained Deacon.

The Bishop encouraged the Deacon to emulate Jesus Christ who "came to serve and not to be served and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45). Reflecting on the scripture passage from the first book of Samuel, the Bishop

said, like Samuel, the Deacon has to answer God's call each time he is called upon to serve. And he should always answer:



*L-R: Deacons Nicholas Kabombo, Joseph Kan'gombe and Bp. Paul Duffy during Dec. Kan'gombe's diaconate procession.*

"Speak Lord, your servant is listening (1Sam. 3:10)." Deacon Kang'ombe has been doing full time ministry at St. Michael's Parish in Kalabo, since April, 2010. Prior to that, he had two months of intensive cultural immersion of the Lozi people, familiarizing himself with the language and the culture. Deacon Kangombe graduated from St. Joseph's Scholasticate in South Africa

with a Bachelors Degree in Theology.

The celebration was attended by Oblate Priests and Brothers, diocesan Priests, Religious Sisters, family members and parishioners.

Deacon Kan'gombe will continue to serve the people of St. Michael's Parish as he awaits his priestly ordination. We pray that through the intercession of our Blessed Virgin Mother Mary, he

may be a minister of service to others as we wish him well.

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## THREE PROFESS FINAL VOWS

*By Sydney Sakala and Nchimunya Haakakata*

Jubilation and joy continued in our delegation when three scholastics professed their final Oblation. Those ordained were:

Bros. George Mandona, Theodore Mbulo and Richard Chanda . The mass of perpetual vows took place at Mary

Immaculate Parish in Lusaka on 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 2011 in a prayerful atmosphere.

Rev. Fr. Freeborn Kibombwe, the acting Delegation Superior was the main celebrant. The celebration was also graced with the presence of Fr. Patrick Chiso who was on holiday from the USA. The presence of the other Religious fraternities, Diocesan Priests, Brothers, Sisters, family members and the parishioners also added joy and delight to the occasion.



*L-R: Bros. George Mandona, Richard Chanda and Theodore Mbulo during their Final Oblation.*

During the Homily, Fr. Freeborn gave an insight on the meaning of the four vows that Oblates profess. Emphasis was placed on the value of the vows to the Holy Mother Church and the love

required of the candidates to embrace the whole family of believers, the faithful.

The Oblate cross was given to each of the Brothers making their final vows, as per tradition, accompanied by the words "receive the cross, a

symbol of Christ's suffering and death. May it be a sign of hope and evangelization to you and to all the people you will evangelize." They were also given medals of the Blessed Virgin Mary, which should always remind them that together with her Motherly help, they may live the duties and joys of religious consecration."

The profession of Brothers Theodore Mbulo and George Mandona brings the number of Brothers in the Zambia Delegation to three. Bro. Maximillian Mwakacheya has been the only Brother since 1998.

## **2010 SPECIAL DELEGATION ASSEMBLY**

*By Fr. Katongo Kennedy, OMI and Fr. Lewis Sauti, OMI*

One of the things that the year 2010 will be remembered for is the holding of the first ever *Special* Delegation Assembly. This Special Assembly took place in Lusaka at Kasisi retreat centre from 27<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2010. Fr. Ron Carignan, the former Delegation Superior was the facilitator. The assembly was

held under the theme "I and the Father are one" (John 10:30). The Assembly is called "Special" because it was only attended by members of the delegation in fulltime ministry.

Joining the assembly was Oblate Fr. Warren Brown, who is the new Regional Councilor for USA/ Canada region and

Tom Ovalle who is the South-West Area councilor for the US Province. Also in attendance was Fr. Joe Phiri, former Delegation Superior, who is currently in the USA, Bro. Max, and Fr. Raymond, who are working as formators at the Oblate Scholasticate in Cedara, South Africa.

Bishop Paul Francis Duffy, OMI of Mongu Diocese who was also at the assembly was recognized for his role as a voice of justice and peace in the country.

The main session of the assembly was the review of the Delegation Directory and Strategic Document which was well guided by the facilitator.

One important observation made by Fr. Carignan, was the existence of hope in the delegation, "hope is on the move", said Fr. Carignan. He affirmed the life and ministries in the

delegation and encouraged the general membership to keep up with the same zeal and energy. During the review of the

those which need to be achieved, Fr Ron Carignan asked the delegation to identify the values which characterize our missionary presence in Zambia, and which should guide our evangelizing activities in the future.

As members of the delegation we all testified to the fact that, 'hope is on the move' in the delegation. The gathering was spirited-filled and energizing for the delegation and its mission.



**Zambia Delegation Oblates with Fr. Ron Carignan  
(standing on the right in the first row)**

Strategy document of 2005 concerning the projects which have been accomplished and

## MEET THE NEW DELEGATION SUPERIOR

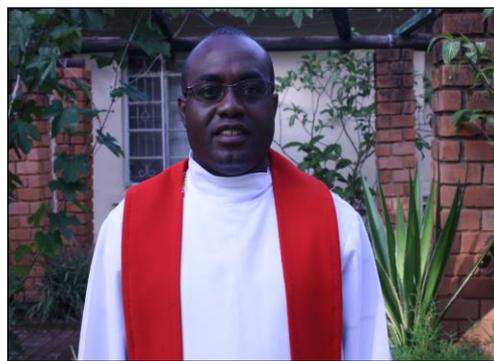
*By Musonda Chipili*

Fr. Freeborn Isaac Simfukwe Kibombwe, OMI was born on 21st August, 1971 in Lusaka, Lusaka Province. He is fourth from a family of six boys and two girls. Both parents and his first born brother are deceased. He did his primary and secondary schooling in Lusaka at Burma and Libala respectively.

He Joined the Pre-Novitiate formation house in 1991. He

thereafter proceeded to enter Our Lady of Hope novitiate in Johannesburg, South Africa in 1993. On 5<sup>th</sup> February, 1994 he professed his first vows.

After the novitiate, Fr. Freeborn Kibombwe went to study at St. Joseph's Theological Institute in Cedara, South Africa (1994 - 1997). In August of 1997, he



**Fr. Freeborn Kibombwe, OMI**

was sent to Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas (USA) where he completed his philosophical and theological studies.

He made his final vows on 12th June, 1999, in Lusaka and diaconate on 24th October, 1999. He was ordained priest on 22nd July, 2000, at Sacred Heart Parish (now Good Shepherd Parish) Kabwata, Lusaka. He was assigned to Lukulu as associate pastor at Sancta Maria Catholic Church from 2000-2001.

Fr. Kibombwe later moved to Mongu in 2001 to become the

point person and the first Director of the new radio station sponsored by the Oblates - Oblate Radio Liseli (*Liseli means light in Silozi*). While setting up the radio station in Mongu he was also assigned as the associate pastor at the then Oblate run St. Lawrence parish in Limulunga from 2001-2003.

From 2006 to 2009 he went on study leave to Texas, USA. While on study leave, he was the Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Austin, Texas from 2006-2007 when the Oblates handed over the parish to the Diocese of

Austin. From 2007-2009, he was appointed Associate Director at George Sexton House of Studies Scholasticate. He was reassigned as Director of Radio Liseli in March 2010, until his appointment as Delegation Superior.

He has served on the Delegation Council from 2002 - 2006 and from 2009 to 2010 as Delegation Vicar. In January 2011 he was confirmed as the delegation superior after acting from November, 2010.

*The current and past superiors of the Zambia Delegation*



*L-R: Bp. Paul Duffy, Frs. Freeborn Kibombwe, Evans Chinyemba, Ron Walker, Ron Carignan, Joseph Phiri*

## **REFLECTIONS ON THE CELEBRATION OF THE 17<sup>TH</sup> February, 2011**

*By First Year Prenovices*

By being formally received into the prenovitiate community and programme in the course of the celebration of the anniversary of the approval of the congregation by the Holy See, we, the five candidates

who have arrived in the course of February felt that we were being imbued with the spirit of St. Eugene de Mazenod.

On arriving at De Mazenod house, we found house, people

and community life strange but were struck by the fact we felt quickly assimilated, due to the warmth of the reception given to us by prenovices and formators. Already started on the Oblate way of life, we were

impressed by Fr. Ron Walker's assertion that those gathered in the parish church of Mary Immaculate were celebrating past, present and future. We could look back to the lives of those Oblates who had been engaged in the mission to the poor around the world since the early days of the congregation. We were made aware of the work now being done by the Oblates in Zambia, and know that since young men continued to join, not only in Zambia but in other parts of the world, a future was assured.

into the world from the wombs of our mothers as the sign of God's love for us and of our call, echoing the words of Jeremiah: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I dedicated you,

transform our own lives, but we could help build the church of Christ around the worlds. It was also a moment to be encouraged once again by the words echoed in the celebration, "each Oblate shall cherish a tender devotion to Mary and he shall look upon her as his own mother."



**L-R: Godwin Wali, Benjamin Kazule, Patson Kaputo, Crescent Mvula and Chanda Bwalya. (the new candidates)**

*"With such a founder and such a mother, and committed to following Jesus Christ in the way inspired by St. Eugene, these young men could look forward happily to the days and years to come, however challenging the long journey ahead seems to be. As one of the group wrote, "We know that God has placed in us such wonderful potential that he wants us to be all that he made us able to become. Amen."*

**Fr. David Power, OMI**

Appealing to the image of life as a journey travelled, we are taking an important step along the road. Inspired by faith, we looked back to our entering

a prophet to the nations I appointed you." (Jer 1:5). We know that with God's grace, and sharing in the achievement and mission of St. Eugene de Mazenod, not only could we

## MORE NEWS IN PICTURE

From January 31<sup>st</sup> to February 7, 2011, the delegation was visited by two consultants; Nancy Lee, Management Consultant and Jackie Unger, an Accountant. The two ladies came from the USA at the request of the US Provincial Administration.



*L-R: Jackie Unger and Nancy Lee at the delegation office in Lusaka.*

Jackie Unger came to give advice in financial reporting and controls of the delegation Administration Office and Oblate Radio Liseli.

Nancy came to work with treasurers to plan for a financial sustainability plan. The workshop took place from January 31<sup>st</sup> to February 2<sup>nd</sup>, in attendance were, treasure's from all the delegation communities; Frs. Victor Mwansa, Singini Nacidze, Nebby Mutale, Lewis Sauti, Barnabas Simatende and Bro. George Mandona. Others were Frs. Freeborn Kibombwe, Pat Gitzen, Godfrey Mpundu and the delegation office Administrative Manager, Mr. Albert Nalishuwa and the Accountant, Mr. Sikota Sikena.



*Nancy Lee giving a talk*



*L-R: Bros. Richard Chanda, Theodore Mbulo and George Mandona after professing the final vows*



*A block of the Student's House*



*Administration Block*

## ANNIVERSARIES

### Birthdays

#### January

Fr.	Kalumba Valentine	16
Fr.	Keba Cyril	17
Fr.	Sekula M. Godfrey	25

#### February

Sch. Bro.	Chupa Chanda	4
Fr.	Chibesa C. Peter	6
Fr.	Gitzen Patrick	8
Fr.	Nacidze Singini	13
Sch. Bro.	Kasonde M. Michael	18
Sch. Bro.	Phiri Christopher	22
Sch. Bro.	Musonda Sydney	22
Sch. Bro.	Nkomesha Joseph	28

## Final Vows

### January

Fr.	Raymond Mwangala	5
Fr.	Lewis Sauti	6
Fr.	Chinyemba E. Chinyama	6
Bro.	Maximillian Mwakacheya	8
Sch. Bro.	Chibwe Tembo	15
Fr.	Nebby Mutale	29
Fr.	Chishimba P. Chibesa	30

### February

Fr.	Lubinda Kelvin	02
Fr.	Joseph Phiri	02
Fr.	Kalumba Valentine	20
Fr.	Francis Kabika	30
Fr.	Cyril Keba	30
Fr.	Barnabas Simatende	30

## Ordinations

### January

Fr. Lewis Sauti	16
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### February

Fr. Francis Kabika	02
Fr. Nebby Mutale	02
Fr. Joseph Phiri	11

## CONGRATULATIONS

- Oblate Delegation of Zambia congratulates Rev. Fr. Evans Chinyama Chinyemba on his appointment as the Bishop for the Diocese of Mongu.
- Bros. Richard Chanda, Theodore Mbulo and George Mandona for professing final vows.
- Bro. Joseph Kapya Kang'ombe for being ordained as deacon.

## CONDOLENCES

- To Fr. Valentine Kalumba, OMI on the death of his sister, Agness Kalumba.
- To pre-novice Carlos Chipasha on the death of his aunt, Mary Mwansa.
- Missionary Oblates are saddened by the death of Mr. Simon Phiri who was the caretaker at Makeni House of Philosophy.
- Mrs. Mahongo Machayi a MAMI member, on the death of her brother, Dr. Joseph Nguvu.
- Ms. Violet Kafula, a MAMI member, on the death of her son, Kenny Mpange Kafula- Williams.

### OMI Zambia Newsletter

Our newsletter aims at informing on the happenings in the Zambia Delegation, with a view of connecting people in the Oblate world and its Associates. Our articles focus on the church, justice, peace and development.

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### NEWSLETTER ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS

*The Information Office is appealing to each community to submit articles on the activities that have been going on in your respective communities. As Oblates you have been doing good ministry and sometimes your efforts go unnoticed. The Information Office would like to share with other Oblates and Associates on your ministry. Please submit any articles accompanied with pictures.*