

# Ordination at Msolwa St Gaspar Bertoni Church

**«I know in whom I have put my trust,  
and I have no doubt at all» 2 Timothy 1: 12**

*«The single greatest desire within me is to use my priesthood to help others experience, limitlessness of God's love and mercy for each of us, his cherished sons and daughters. God loves us beyond our deepest longings for love, and my hope is that, if I am able in some small way to be a faithful instrument in his hands, it will also enable others to be a monument of his love to their own family and friends, and the light of faith will spread as a beacon of hope. This is possible for; **«I know in whom I have put my trust, and I have no doubt at all»**, 2 Tim 1: 12, said the newly ordained Fr. Godfrey Kolowoga, C.Ss.*

Bishop Telesphore Mkude, Of the Diocese of Morogoro, ordained two young Stigmatines priests in the remote parish church of Msolwa on April 7, 2016. In his homily, Bishop Mkude emphasized and described the essential value of priests as "instruments of God's mercy", saying that "Christ consecrates you to Himself in order to give you as a gift to everyone." The Bishop emphasized that Holy Orders is not a reward for hard work, nor is it a graduation after many years of preparation. By laying his hands on the heads of these young and enthusiastic Stigmatines (Godfrey and Emmanuel), they are sanctified for the purpose of showing the merciful face of God to others. This gift is made concrete in the celebration of the Eucharist, and their availability for the sacrament of reconciliation.

The Holy Redeemer province, is grateful to the Lord for these two young men; One from Botswana (Emmanuel Morweng) and the other from Tanzania, Iringa (Godfrey Kolowoga). We have great hope in these two young priests as we continue zealously without relent on our path of ongoing renewal and service to others. It gives us great joy to see increasing number of Young men from countries such as Botswana and Tanzania arrive to the priesthood, as they have much to offer our congregation. This confirms that the button stick that our missionary Italian confreres left is not stuck in the corner but we are still continuing the work that they showed and left us to do.

The ordination Mass took place in the Parish Church of Msolwa. This was not according to plans. The Ordination was planned to take place in the school grounds of Msolwa "St Gaspare Bertoni" secondary school Basketball court where the stage, tents, decorations were all put in place in time. Little did we know that God's plan was different from ours, the night before, the 7th April, it rained heavily, until early morning having heavy darkly clouds as a clear signs of continuing to rain. For us it was a sign of blessings that through the intercession of Fr. Gaspar Bertoni and our forefathers in mission who are now in the heavenly court of God gave a nod of acceptance to this humble offering of our young African to the altar of God through the blessing of heavy downfall of rain.

Once again, Yovi valley was in jubilee. Memories of the previous ordination to the priesthood in the year 2010 was still ringing in the minds of some faithful. Behold, solemnly, the Ordination Mass stated at 10:00 am with attendance of many Priests from the diocese of Iringa

where Fr. Godfrey comes from and the Stigmatines from different parts of the province, as well as from the Diocese of Morogoro. We also have a good participation of the sisters from various congregations. In spite of the bad roads due to the heavy rains many visitors managed to come from South Africa, Botswana and from many regions of Tanzania.

The Thanksgiving Mass of Fr Godfrey was put on the following Sunday 10th April in his home parish of St Joseph in Itengule village, Iringa diocese. The parish priest welcomed us well and it was well organized. In the evening of the same Sunday we went to pray at the tombs of the late parents: Mr Augustine Kolowoga and Agnes Chonya, to thank them for their constant prayer! May they Rest in Peace.

On the 15th April, in the afternoon accompanied by Fr Richard, Fr Godfrey, we drove to Botswana to attend the Thanksgiving Mass of Fr Emmanuel scheduled on the 17th April 2016. The following day in the afternoon at 4 pm Fr Emmanuel was welcomed home by the Chief and elders of the village of Taung. This service was to symbolize the transition that has taken place in the life of Fr Emmanuel. With the Sacred sacrament of Holy orders, Fr Emmanuel has become an elder in the society and is welcomed to sit and discourse issues with elders. This traditional ceremony is always done a day before ordination, but since Fr Emmanuel was ordained in Tanzania, it was still fitting for them to do it after his ordination.

Similarly, before the beginning of the thanksgiving Mass Fr Emmanuel was welcomed by the elders of the Church, Bishop Valentine and Bishop Emeritus Boniface Setlalekgosi. The Mass took place in the outstation of St Bernard, the church that is looked after by the Bishop Emeritus.

Where are they going to work? Fr. Godfrey Kolowoga will be working in Msolwa, Tanzania as the Administrator of Msolwa St Gaspare Bertoni Secondary school and Health Centre, while Fr. Emmanuel will be the curate at St. Josephine Bakhita Parish in the Archdiocese Dar es salaam.

Finally, we pray for them that, they may be configured ever more to Christ the Good Shepherd, and under the protection of Mary and Joseph our patron, may they maintain the inner joy of priestly ordination throughout their ministerial life. May they bring that joy to the most remote and difficult corners and fringes of humanity, confident that the Holy Spirit, who has chosen them to follow Jesus, in the footsteps of Fr. Gaspar Bertoni, will bless their ministry. May they remain steadfast in the mission **«know what you are doing, and imitate the mystery you celebrate: model your life on the mystery of the Lord»** Viva Gaspar Bertoni!



Fr David A. Kalyosi

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