



Spiritans in Ethiopia



As we approach a new year in the Ethiopian calendar, 2006, (11-09-2013) we reflect with joy and gratitude on the year gone by. Of the many gifts which the Congregation in Ethiopia has received this year none has been greater than the ordination to the presbyterate of Kilimpe Garbicha, in Yabello on the 8th of June, by Bishop John Migliorati MCCJ of Hawassa Vicariate. Past missionaries from the USA, Nigeria, UK and Uganda, as well as some of their friends, joined the Spiritans in Ethiopia, along with many local religious and priests, but principally Kilimpe's family, neighbours, fellow parishioners and members of the Borana people, for the wonderful celebration, made possible by months of diligent preparations on the part of many people. After the ceremony, Kilimpe spoke to all present in English and Borana. The following is his address in English.

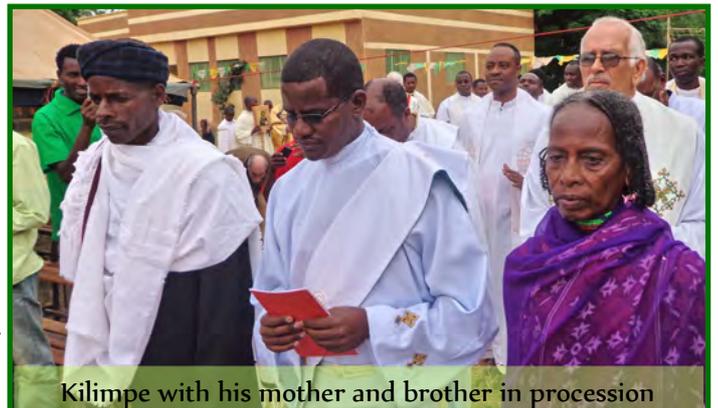
A Note of Thanks

So that by God's will I may come to you with joy and, together with you, be refreshed. (Romans 15:32)

Your Lordship, Bishop John Migliorati, Vicar Apostolic of Hawassa Vicariate, Rev. Fr Martin Kelly, Superior of the Ethiopian Foundation, priests, brothers, sisters, invited guests, my fellow parishioners, ladies and gentlemen: I salute you all in your distinguished respective honours and responsibilities.

A special day like today requires me to go back in my history and reread the journey I have made in various stages of my life and to remind myself of the number of people involved in my journey. I am happy that some of those are here present with me today.

What has happened today would make no sense without faith – our faith in the loving Father who draws us into the fullness of life through Christ and his Church. So I, the newly ordained priest, give thanks and praise to Almighty God for the gift of faith and for the gift of ordination. What has happened today would make little sense too without everyone who is present. This is because the gift which I received today is not for myself, but for serving the People of God. This is just my beginning of a new life and a mission. Priesthood is not a point of arrival. Rather, it is a point of beginning of the ministry and



Kilimpe with his mother and brother in procession

mission of the Lord that I am called to do. It is not even title of honour but of humble service of following Christ. So I thank every one of you for helping me to realise the meaning of this sacrament, for praying for me, and for praying with me.

In a particular way, I thank the Spiritan family of the Ethiopian Foundation who accepted me as a seminarian at the beginning of my journey and have now ordained me a priest. Special thanks go to Fr Kenneth Okoli who welcomed me as candidate with open arms and treated me as his young brother at the beginning of this journey. My brothers, I am sincerely grateful to you and can only hope to repay you by my dedication to the ministry.

Special thanks to my formators and lecturers who have contributed towards my spiritual and human formation. You helped me to cherish the values I received from my family and culture, while, at the same time, inspiring me to expand my horizon and go beyond the limits society imposes on me and to experience the presence of the Lord in others and to radiate the love of Christ wherever I go.

I honour the presence of Abba Kenneth all the way from UK,



Kilimpe with Bishop Migliorati and concelebrants after the ordination in Yabello town, Borana

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"



የጌታንም ድምፅ ማንን እልካለሁ? ማንስ ይሄድልናል?
ሲል ሰማሁ እኔን ላከኝ አልሁ

ሊሳ 6:8

Spiritan



Qoonqoo Aabboo taa ani eennu ergadha? eentu naa deema?
jettuu dhageennaan ani waan jedhe ani kana na ergadhu aabboo.

በአንድ ልብ እና በአንድ ማንፊስ

R.Isayyaa: 6:8

One Heart and One Soul

Abba Kilimpe garbicha c.s.s.p

of Vince Stegman and his team from the USA, Fr PeterSixtus from Nigeria, Fr Benedict who was my Rector in Nairobi and my young confreres Denis Mugalula, Jude Kiggala and Vincent Mutebi from Uganda. I thank all the priests who are present for their kind gesture of solidarity; I promise to do my best to learn from you and to work with you. I also thank all the religious who are present; you are an inspiration to me and



Vincent Mutebi leads the choir

I could not do without your prayers.

I thank the Organizing Committee those who spent short nights and long days to put thing in place, to make this day what it has been. Thank you for being so available and very generous with your time. Readers, ushers, Mass servers, the Choir for their beautiful songs, for leading us through the celebration, for make us aware, conscious and full participants in the liturgy. Special thanks to the Masters of Ceremony for the very important role they have played to help today's ceremony be carried out smoothly.

In a very special way, I thank my parents, some of who are no longer physically with me, but "with me", nevertheless, through the heavenly liturgy which we have been celebrating. Dear parents, it was your generous love that prepared me to respond to the call from the Good Shepherd. I will always carry with me the love that you have given me, so that our Lord may use it for heavenly purposes. Likewise, I thank my family members for their faithful support and for, in so many ways, carrying with me the weight of the priestly vocation which can be heavy at times.

Please, if I have not mentioned your name, for-

give me. But each and everyone who is present with me today has played an important role in my journey toward the priesthood. Even though I may not see you often, you are in my consciousness and in my prayers.

Today, I, the newly ordained priest, have undergone a life-changing experience. I felt the Spirit touching and moving me in a special way at the moment of my ordination. As you all know this sacrament could not have been possible without a Bishop.

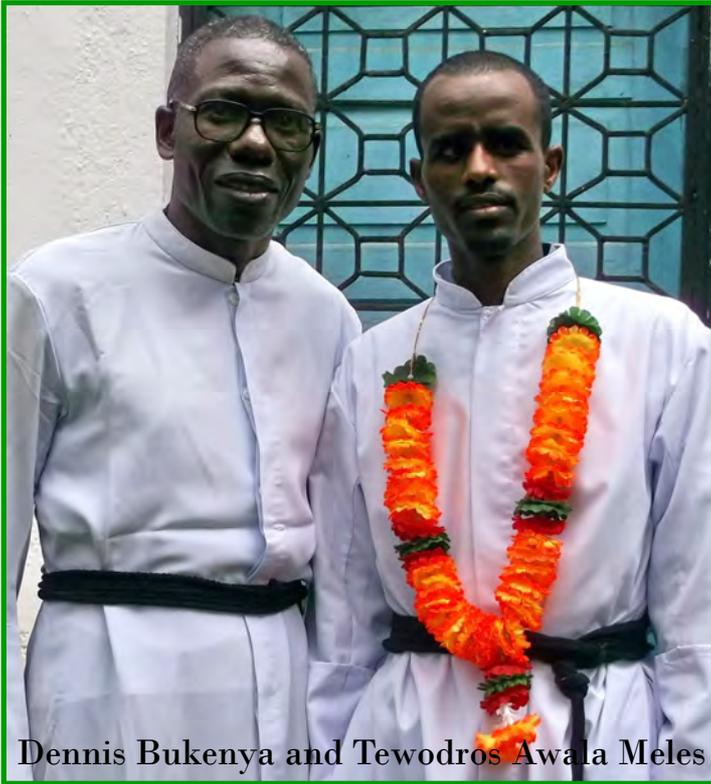
Therefore I am very much blessed to have Bishop John Migliorati, who presided over my Ordination. Your Lordship, I am very grateful to you for accepting our invitation and to your taking the trouble to travel from Hawassa to Yabello to ordain me. You presided over this ceremony with a deep sense of reverence and dignity. I am sure that you will be happy to announce to the people of God in Hawassa that you have given the Lord of the harvest, especially for Borana, one energetic young priest.

Brothers and sisters, this is a very joyful occasion for me indeed; I hope that you can feel this joy too. As much as you are happy for me, as much as you might like to congratulate me, I humbly ask you to do one thing: please pray that I will always love God above all things and that I will give everything that I have, everything that I am, to the service of God's people.

Thank you all and God bless you!



First Profession of Tewodros Awala Meles CSSp by Dennis Bukenya CSSp



Dennis Bukenya and Tewodros Awala Meles

The Spiritans in Ethiopia have been blessed that a new member has been added this year. We now have four Ethiopians in the Congregation, two Ge'ez Rite and two Latin Rite. Our newest member, Tewodros Awala Meles, son of Mr Awala and Mrs Mazu, comes from Alitena Parish in the Diocese of Adigrat, bordering on Eritrea.

On Thursday 20th June 2013, Tewodros and other eight others made their first profession in Magamba. Their vows were received by Fr. Kisuda Castory CSSp, delegate of the Provincial Superior of Tanzania. A great number of priests, Spiritans, Rosminians, Benedictines and other priests from Moshi and Tanga dioceses concelebrated. Many religious sisters and brothers, students from SEKOM University and Spiritan Vocational Training Centre, Mabugayi Parish members, relatives and friends filled the church to overflowing.

Fr Nicetus Kyara welcomed the guests. Fr Castory invited the congregation to pray for the novices, along with two confreres from Nairobi, Massawe Arnold and Kimaro Cleofasi, who were renewing their vows, for the outgoing novice master Fr Nicetus Kyara who is about to take a new appointment and for the new formators, Kiso Benedict and Deus Tarimo, who have taken over the work of formation at the Novitiate. The Mass was animated by the students' choir from SEKOM University.

In his homily Fr Castory compared the call of Samuel with the call of the nine novices. The same call and response applies to all who are called to religious life. This life is a continuous journey like that journey of Jesus heading to Jerusalem. He reminded the nine and all the religious to be faithful to the call and avoid selfishness, materialism, tribalism and attachments which are contrary to religious life. He insisted that community life is an

obligation to our call. He concluded by citing that "a Spiritan is called, a Spiritan is consecrated and a Spiritan is commissioned". He finally remarked that as Spiritans we must be relevant to the place where we live. We should overcome the challenge of helping the people surrounding our formation houses to understand who are the Spiritans and encourage them to join the congregation.

Then Fr Fred Musungi, delegate of the Superior of Kenya, invited the nine forward: Tewodros Awala Meles, Filbert Marandu, Erasmus Manwa, David Manwa, Charles Lwanga, Thaddeus Mosesti, Ambrose Kyomukama, Isaac Edyelu and Michael Egesa. Then followed the ceremony of the **Act of Profession**. After Mass Michael Egesa gave a speech on behalf of the newly professed members. He expressed the gratitude of the nine to all those who have contributed to their formation in various capacities.

In his speech the outgoing Novice Master thanked the superiors of the circumscriptions of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, India, Australia and Sierra Leone for sending their candidates to Magamba. Their contribution and support has been of great significance to the formation of our young brothers. The ceremony was concluded by a reception with a nice meal at novitiate refectory. It was really a blissful and great event. Congratulations to the nine! Congratulations, Tewodros!



Tewodros with Sebastian Samikannu from India. Sebastian is now a novice in Magamba after two years missionary experience in Dubluq and Yabello. Citius, altius, fortius, Sebastian!

Renewal of Vows

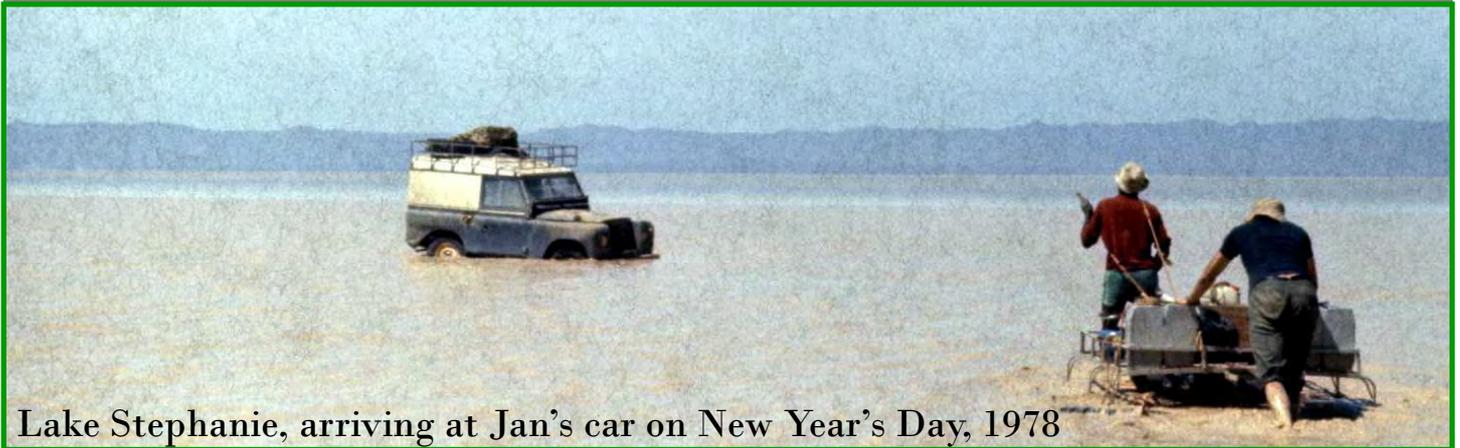
On June 22nd, the vigil of the feast of Pentecost in Ethiopia, Ugandan Spiritans Jude Kiggala and Dennis Mugalula, both of whom did two years missionary experience in Boranaland from 2010-2012, renewed their vows for three years in the presence of the Dhaddiim parish community. They came for their pastoral



Jude Kiggala & Denis Mugalula

placement and for the ordination of Kilimpe Garbicha, to which they contributed immensely. We thank them for coming back to us and wish them well as they return to their studies.

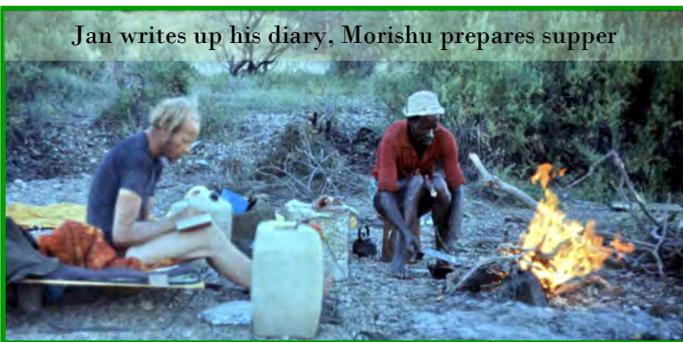
Exploration and Farewell—Rescue Trip One



Lake Stephanie, arriving at Jan's car on New Year's Day, 1978

Thirty five years later it's difficult to recall clearly what happened during the six or so days we spent on the lake trying to retrieve the two remaining vehicles. Jan Ermers kept a diary but it's been lost. One car was to be repaired and brought back, the other cannibalised as it had reached its end.

Jan, Morishu and I arrived at the lake on December 31st, 1977. We were under the impression the clutch was gone in Jan's car and came prepared for that. Also the two front springs needed replacing. The car was about 40 minutes from the island where



Jan writes up his diary, Morishu prepares supper

we were based and on New Year's Day we got there about mid-day, having had to spend the morning retrieving the raft and its contents from where we had left them overnight.

Working in about a foot of water and mud is not ideal but after a few hours we had worked out that the clutch was OK. The problem was the differential. No spare. And the nearest one was several hours away on the car on the shore. The following day Jan and Morishu made a trip to the shore for the differential.

The daily routine was up at daybreak and after breakfast making the journey to the car, returning sometime before nightfall to prepare supper. On this trip we were lucky that there was a fresh breeze, no mosquitoes and no clouds, and with no artificial light within two hundred miles it was ideal for star-gazing at night. Even in those early days of satellites we had no difficulty picking them out passing overhead every ten or twenty minutes, or so it seemed.

Hans and Philippe joined us after a few days and our hopes were boosted, only to be dashed firmly when, after days of trying every trick we knew, the engine still refused to start. After so many days of this, with trips back and forth to the shore to recharge batteries, we reluctantly gave up and decided to hit for home. Again, in under the car to take out the differential, haul it and the raft and much of our gear back to shore, where the differential had to be reinstalled in its own car. We left our tents and as much gear as we could on the island, safe in the certain knowledge that no one would pass that way before we returned.

The next morning, after a breakfast of a few biscuits, the last of our food, we left at 07.00. Thirteen hours later we came on the road surveyors' camp, where, after we were initially suspected of being invaders leading a counter revolution, the cook was put back to work and we were treated to a magnificent meal, our first bite in about 15 hours. Can't say for sure what the meat was but it might have been what some people in East Africa now term a form of 'catholic goat'. Next day on our way back to Arba Minch we called into the Lutheran mission in Konso for elevenses, where we were hospitably received. But after we left they must have been wondering about these deprived and hungry Catholics who left not a crumb of sweet cake behind them.

The trip was a total failure in terms of retrieving the cars. But as an introduction to the wild and its ways it was magnificent. We



Jan, aided by Morishu, tackles removing the differential



The rear wheels of the Landrover are resting on wheels to facilitate taking out the differential.

learnt much – after sitting on a metal jerry can for a few hours something penetrates! – and so we were better prepared for our next trip. But even though we learnt much we didn't learn enough. For that we needed another trip.

Martin Kelly

We wish Boniface Muema Isenge (right), our confrere from Kenya, who has been with us in Ethiopia for the last eight years a very happy and fruitful sabbatical in Ireland.

Boniface spent his time in Dhaddiim Parish and was head of the pastoral team in Borana area and the Borana Deanery representative on the Vicariate Council. His heart was in his pastoral work and his work with the youth but he was actively involved in all aspects of Borana life, in particular peace-building, a process he related in our 5th Foundation Newsletter in December 2012.



Boniface Muema

Albrecht Dürer's Magic Square

16	3	2	13
5	10	11	8
9	6	7	12
4	15	14	1

Each vertical line = 34

Each horizontal line = 34

Diagonally from corner to corner = 34

The sum of the four corner squares = 34

The sum of the four central squares = 34

The sum of the squares clockwise to each corner = 34

The sum of the squares anti-clockwise to each corner = 34

The sum of the central squares on the right and left = 34

The sum of the central squares on the top and bottom = 34

The sum of the squares adjacent to opposite corners = 34

Albrecht Dürer created this square in 1514 = the two centre bottom squares.

"D" for Dürer is the 4th letter of the alphabet and "A" for Albrecht is the 1st, the two bottom corner squares.

Albrecht Dürer was rightly proud of his invention. In a word - pure genius!

እንቁጣጣሽ — New Year

On Tuesday, September the 11th, 2013, in Ethiopia we have our New Year - 2006. We move from the Year of Matthew, to the Year of Mark. We have 13 months in our year, 12 of 30 days each, with five (six) days for the 13th month. So, congratulations! You have made it to the New Year!

And you're seven years younger!

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