

# Resurrection BULLETIN



  
Tanzania

RESURRECTION BULLETIN • WINTER 2026



*Fr. Eric Wagner, CR*

## Our Tanzanian Mission



Our growing Tanzanian Mission will be the focus of this edition of the Resurrection Bulletin. There is much life and energy flowing from the Mission, which is growing steadily every year. In the midst of their pastoral, educational, and formational ministry, members of the Mission still have time to welcome visitors from other parts of the Congregation. This issue features a visit by Fr. Raphael Ma, CR (Canadian Province), recounted by Fr. Jim Donohue, CR, and another by Fr. Eric Wagner, CR (U.S.A. Province), who wrote about his visit in his own words.

This issue also includes an update on our needs for a new formation house, as the present one is at its full capacity. We will need many prayers and much financial support to accomplish this huge project.

## An American Resurrectionist Visits Tanzania

*By Fr. Eric Wagner, CR*

I departed from St. Louis, MO, USA on December 15, 2025 to visit the Resurrectionist House of Formation in Morogoro, Tanzania, East Africa. Br. Mosses Katikiro Karimbula, CR, who serves as the director of aspirants at Morogoro, met me at Dar es Salaam International Airport in the evening (local time) of December 16, 2025. Because of the late hour, we stayed a night at a hotel near the airport and traveled the next day, by train, to Morogoro. Fr. Jim Donohue, CR, who serves both as mission superior and rector, met Mosses

and I at the Morogoro train station and drove us to the seminary, which is in Tungi, an outlying area of Morogoro. The seminarians greeted me with the utmost warmth. There was even ice cream to celebrate the occasion!

The next day (December 18), I joined in the daily prayers of the community, which included lauds, rosary, and Mass – the regular Thursday schedule for the house. After breakfast, Jim provided a tour of the grounds and, as the rains rolled in, we discussed some



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of the events and aspects of my stay.

Since the aim of my visit is to respond to a General Chapter resolution bidding all sectors of the Congregation to send members to visit the Mission’s House of Formation and offer formative international experiences for our Tanzanian seminarians, my first priority entails participating in the community’s daily life and prayer. The hope is to offer mutual enrichment through informal conversations and cultural exchange as well as formally organized formation experiences.

The first informal experience meant joining Jim for a pair of trips into Morogoro to purchase household supplies for the seminary. A rapidly growing town, Morogoro has a bustling “downtown” with an array of various shops and markets. Our first stop was at a local poultry and fish vendor. The proprietor, Immanuel, is a former Resurrectionist seminarian. He greeted Jim and me affectionately and we spoke for a time before heading to other vendors who deal variously in office and household supplies, beverages, dried goods, beef, and electronics. Jim has clearly befriended the clerks and shop owners. He kindly introduced me and each one offered a joyous greeting in return.

Prior to my arrival, Jim and I also organized some formal events. The first was a day of recollection, which I conducted at the House of Formation on Saturday, December 20. This day of prayer focused on the biblical concept of charism and the Resurrectionist charism in particular. All aspirants residing in the House of Formation attended, along with Br. Mosses and Valentino, a seminarian in his second year of theology. Our other seminarians attended a day of recollection offered at the same time at Jordan University College (JUCO).



*Fr. Eric with Valentino at the old German colonial church*

On Sunday, December 21, we celebrated the 4th Sunday of Advent with a Mass in Swahili at the House of Formation. Jim presided and preached. It was my first experience concelebrating Sunday liturgy in Swahili. Although I understood little, I was struck by the community’s joyous and fervent singing. Indeed, some of the brothers are so musically inclined and linguistically talented that we recorded ourselves singing *Silent Night* and *O Come all Ye Faithful* together in English, Swahili, German, and Latin. It was a delight!

Later the same day, Valentino generously volunteered to give me a tour of the Tungi area around the House of Formation. So, that afternoon, we set out for a walk. He provided an excellent introduction to the area, regaling me of the local history, customs, language, and culture. I cannot say that I picked up much Swahili, but it was not Valentino’s





*Fr. Eric with the Resurrectionist aspirants*

fault. He is an enthusiastic teacher! In any case, I will remember our visit to the old German colonial church, the local brick factory, and the now defunct colonial bridge, which, locals continue to traverse on foot but, for me, marked the limits of our trek.

On Monday, December 22, I joined the aspirants for a formation conference conducted by Br. Mosses on religious life. Mosses did a splendid job walking the young men through select paragraphs of a Vatican document and introducing them to key features of a religious vocation in the Church. On Tuesday, December 23, I led the aspirants in a formation



*Fr. Eric presides at Mass*

conference on lectio divina. On both occasions I was struck by the thoughtful engagement of these young men. Their fervor gives me great hope for the future of the Resurrectionist charism and mission in Tanzania.

A forthcoming event that Jim and I planned prior to my arrival is a lesson on sacraments at JUCO, which he and I will co-teach. Our seminarians study philosophy and theology at JUCO with students from a wide range of other religious orders. Despite already outsized demands as mission superior and rector, Jim graciously accepted JUCO's request to teach a course and I am happy to join him in the classroom during my visit. It's not every day that I get to teach with a fellow Resurrectionist. I also hope to go for a hike with the seminarians in the nearby mountains and celebrate Mass at (or near) the top. A Q & A session on vocations and formation in Africa and North America is also



*Fr. Jim Donohue, CR decorating the tree*

in the works. But, for now, we are preparing to celebrate Christmas with much fervor!

*More about my visit will be recounted in the next issue of the Resurrection Bulletin.*

## A Visit from Fr. Raphael Ma, CR

By Fr. Jim Donohue, CR



Fr. Andrzej, CR, Fr. Phillip, CR, Fr. Raphael, CR, Emmanuel Ntula, CR, and Vitalis Masika, CR

Fr. Eric Wagner, CR has recounted some of his experience of his visit to our Mission in December, 2025. This article will give a report of Fr. Raphael Ma, CR's visit a month earlier.

Fr. Raphael has been appointed as the Director of Novices for the Canadian and the U.S.A. Provinces. This visit was an opportunity for Fr. Raphael to spend time with Fr. Andrzej Duda, CR, who has served as Director of Novices for years, both in Poland and in Tanzania. On the way to Buhemba, Fr. Duda stopped at Butiama so that Fr. Raphael could greet Fr. Phillip (pastor of the Butiama Parish) and Vitalis and Emmanuel (both have finished their theology studies and are on their pastoral year).

Fr. Raphael was able to meet the nine men who have been on novitiate since August 15, 2025. These young men lived in Morogoro last year as they completed their postulant year. The banner written on the wall



From left to right: Luis Kelvin Kiyaya, Emanuel Regius Sanyanga, Desdery Exupery Adolf, Edison Stephen Mahonde, Linus Theonest Kasigara, Fr. Raphael Ma, CR, Robert Msabila Mzurikwao, Polycarp Kaishe, Hilary Venance August, and Livinus Mkuras Anatory. Emmanuel Ntula, CR, and Vitalis Masika, CR

above the novices reads in English: The Congregation of the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Novitiate is located in the Buhemba parish, which has a main parish church and six outstations. Fr. Raphael was able to visit the outstations in Tarani and in Nyaburundu.



*Fr. Raphael was joined by some young children for a photo*



*Fr. Raphael with a young friend*

After Mass, everyone wants a ride. I remember as I was driving, people would bang on the roof and yell, “HAPA, HAPA!” ...which means “Here, Here!”



Fr. Raphael shifted from the novitiate in Buhemba to the formation house in Morogoro. Br. Mosses met him at the airport, and they took the high-speed train to Morogoro from Dar es Salaam, where I was able to meet them at the train station.

We welcomed Fr. Raphael with joyous singing and cake and ice cream...a great combination to make anyone feel “at home.”



*Cutting the cake is a big thing but Fr. Raphael was more than up to the task!*

Livinus Galeba and Joseph Amani did the honors of formally welcoming Fr. Raphael to our formation house. Then, Joseph Chacha and Br. Mosses joined Fr. Raphael in my room after dinner.



*Fr. Raphael with a cooler full of chickens purchased from Emmanuel Matiku.*

Fr. Raphael had many adventures. One involved me taking Fr. Raphael with me to purchase the fish, chicken, beef, and store groceries that we will need for the week. We buy 44 chickens each week from a former seminarian, Emmanuel Matiku. Fr. Raphael noticed that they are not wrapped in cellophane!

Fr. Raphael was able to join us for prayer and Eucharist each day. He also gave a day of recollection to our 30 seminarians and aspirants.



*Fr. Raphael leading a day of recollection for the seminarians and aspirants*

Overall, the greatest thing that Fr. Raphael did was to spend time with the seminarians. That, actually, is the main purpose of us inviting Resurrectionists from Europe, the United States, and Canada to be with us. I want the seminarians to meet and establish relationships with many Resurrectionists. It was sad for everyone to say goodbye, but we hope that our paths will cross again in the future.



*Fr. Yohana presented Fr. Raphael with some gifts on the occasion of his departure.*

## The Tanzanian Mission Is Growing

*By Fr. Jim Donohue, CR*

The Tanzanian Mission is growing rapidly. Presently, we have two priests—Fr. Maciej in Buhemba and Fr. Phillip in Butiama—ministering in parishes. Fr. Maciej is also the director of the Resurrection pre-primary, primary, and secondary schools. Fr. Yohana is ministering at the Catholic pre-primary and primary school run by the Blessed Sacrament Sisters as a counsellor, teacher, chaplain, and administrator. We also have one perpetually professed brother and two priests in formation ministry: Br. Mosses as Rector of aspirants, Fr. Andrzej as Director of Novices, and Fr. Jim as Rector of Philosophy and Theology seminarians. In addition, we have two perpetually professed men who are finished their Theology studies and have begun their pastoral internship in the Butiama parish—Emmanuel Mtula and Vitalis Misika. That is a total of 8 men ministering in different capacities in Tanzania.

In formation, we currently have 9 novices in Buhemba, as well as 11 aspirants and 18 professed seminarians in Morogoro. There are also 2 young men at a catechetical school in preparation to apply to be brother candidates. This is a total of 40 men in different stages of formation.



This is a long way of saying that we have run out of room! We have permission to build a new novitiate that will be located in Dodoma, the capital of Tanzania. This city lies about half way between where our parishes and formation house are located. We have already bought the land and have begun initial steps, such as securing water and electricity, and

building a wall around the property. Fr. Andrzej has been working to raise money for this new novitiate. We envision a place that can house the novice director, 10 novices, and some room for guests. Such a place would require a chapel, kitchen and dining room, living quarters, and study/recreation spaces.



*Br. Mosses and Frs. Daniel, Andrzej, and Jim looking at property in Dodoma.*

We also have permission to build a new seminary in Morogoro. This is a much bigger project than the novitiate because the number of seminarians is so much higher than novitiate.



*The current seminary in Morogoro is in the middle of the forefront of this photo.*

*The town of Tungi is to the left of the property and the Blessed Sacrament Sisters' property (which is 4 or 5 times larger than our property) lies behind and to the right of our property.*

If we continue to accept 10 aspirants each year, we will need space for 30 Philosophy students, 30 Theology students, and 10 students returning for one semester after their pastoral/deaconate year. Seventy seminarians will need more than one formator and we will need rooms for guests. Because of the numbers, everything will need to be bigger to accommodate everyone: the chapel, kitchen and dining room, living

quarters, and study/recreation spaces. We purchased the land a few years ago. It is three times the size of our present formation property and it lies half way closer to the university where our seminarians study than our present property. To this point we have only constructed a wall around the property, but we will shortly begin to hook up the electricity and dig a well for water. We are only in the initial stages of fund raising for this project.



*The new property that we purchased in Morogoro with its surrounding wall.*

We know that people are praying for vocations. We are extremely grateful for your prayers. It is good to know that God is answering these prayers! It might not be exactly as we might imagine, but God's plans are not always the same as our plans! So, when you continue to pray for vocations, please sneak an extra prayer in... perhaps, something like this: "Gracious God, please continue to bless the Congregation of the Resurrection with vocations to the priesthood and religious life... and please provide them with enough beds! Amen!"





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Please make cheques payable to Resurrectionist Missions and forward to:

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