

East Africa First Profession of Vows 2022



On February 10th, 2022, our eight novices began their hundred days countdown to Profession Day. It was a very exciting moment creating a great eager longing for the day of their commitment. The novices were guided through a reflection by Sister Mary Pascalia on the theme they had chosen, **“Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light to my path.”** (Psalm 119:106) Throughout the hundred days, the group gathered daily to offer a prayer they made themselves. Each person prepared a reflection and shared it with her companions on various days.

Our eight novices made an eight-day retreat under the direction of Fr. David Eliaona, CSC (Congregation of the Holy Cross) at Moshi, Maua Retreat Centre, run by the Franciscan Capuchin Sisters. “Being at the foot of Mt. Kilimanjaro, it was a privilege for us to enjoy the beauty and meditate on the greatness of God seen through his creation,” a novice commented. A Day of Recollection for the eight novices, guided by Fr. Cyrus, SJ, the day before their profession, set them in a deep, prayerful mood in immediate preparation for offering their **“yes”** to the Lord.

This great day was celebrated in the Notre Dame school hall on 21st May 2022. The Eucharist was celebrated by Rev. Bishop Isaac Amani, Archbishop of the Diocese of Arusha. Temporary and Perpetual Vows were celebrated together and Sister Mary Christine Syombua received their vows. For this reason, many invited guests including parents, other relatives, and nearby religious were among those present. We thank God for the community of the Missionaries of Africa, St. Mbaaga Spirituality Centre, who generously accommodated most of our visitors.

We gathered at the end of the day for prayers and missioning. Sister Mary Christine Syombua called the newly professed sisters forward and gave each one her appointment. The local superior of the community to which the sister was appointed came forward and welcomed her.

Sisters Mary Pascalia Ndunge, Mary Immaculate, the newly temporary professed sisters, and all the novices wish to thank all our dear sisters for the support and every contribution given to the formation of the novices. May God continue to bless you abundantly.