

**SOCIETY OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD**  
**(CPPS)**

**VICARIATE OF TANZANIA**

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**HISTORY OF C.PP.S TANZANIA**

**Vicariate Headquarters, Kisasa – Dodoma - 2014**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The CPPS Vicariate of Tanzania is in the process of being elevated to become a province by 2015. This is a sign that the Unit has grown and that the dream of St. Gaspar continues to be realized. Recalling the history of the Unit is also a sign of maturity whereby members get opportunity to evaluate its past comparing it with the present for the better future.

The history of the Vicariate of Tanzania has been written gradually by the life and mission of the missionaries since 1966 when the first CPPS missionaries from Italy arrived in Tanzania. The Unit has grown from a Mission, Delegation to Vicariate fulfilling all the criteria for its respective status. This short history is a written summary of what has been done in the Unit throughout these years from 1966 to the present when Tanzania becomes a province. Any data illustrated in this history is as per June 2013.

## 1. FROM GIANO-UMBRIA IN ITALY TO MANYONI IN TANZANIA

The Society of Precious Blood (C.P.P.S) was founded on 15<sup>th</sup> August 1815 at Giano in Umbria, Italy, by St. Gaspar Del Bufalo who lived in the years 1786-1837. His aim was to preach the love of the most Precious Blood shed on the cross for the salvation of entire world.

Missionaries of the Precious Blood, Mother Province of Italy, by then under Don Giuseppe Quattrino (1942-1966), with missionary zeal like St. Gaspar Del Bufalo, their founder, and in view of remembrance of 150 years since the birth of the Congregation decided to open a Mission outside Italy and Europe. Even, Don Ernesto Guerrieri, successor of Don Quattrino in guiding the Province (1966-1976) supported the opening of a mission in Tanzania.

The idea of extending to Africa and evangelizing African peoples was possible due to good relationship that existed between Fr. Joseph Montenegro, Fr. Dino Gioia and some of the Passionist Fathers, who for decades, were already working in Dodoma, Tanzania. With the consent of the office of Propaganda Fide, and with invitation from Passionists, the C.P.P.S missionaries came to Dodoma.

Having nominated, consulted the possible Missionaries, and made the necessary trip arrangements, three missionaries (Fr. Joseph Montenegro, Fr. Dino Gioia and Br Franco Palumbo) left Italy and landed Dar-es-Salaam in Tanzania on 19/05/1966 by ship. They were welcomed by White Fathers, who after sometime arranged their trip to Dodoma to meet Passionist Fathers, their hosts in response to the invitation from the Diocese of Dodoma, particularly, responding to the request made by four Christians from Manyoni to Bishop Jeremiah Pesce.

Their short stay in Dodoma was followed by Kiswahili course at Kipalapala in Tabora. Having accomplished such necessary cultural orientation to pastoral work in Tanzania, they returned to Dodoma and asked Bishop Jeremiah Pesce, the bishop of Dodoma at that time, to send them to a place where the Gospel was not yet preached. As result they were sent to Manyoni the place not yet much accessible to Christianity.

## 2. MANYONI MISSION (1967)

Manyoni at that time bordered the diocese of Tabora, Iringa and Dodoma itself. The Catholic evangelization was not there due to the British Policy that set apart the upper area of the rift valley (escarpment) for Anglican Church with its base at Kilimatinde; the Northern part of Singida instead was given to Lutherans.

The first CPPS Missionaries were able to visit areas around Manyoni and Itigi but they were not allowed by Anglicans to open up a permanent residence for fear of Catholicism in this area.

However, Muslims living in Manyoni who had learned how influential and service-oriented catholic missionaries were, preferred Catholics to Anglicans and so welcomed Precious Blood Missionaries but allocated to them a place believed to host magic powers and the nearby hill was often used for traditional sacrifices to deities or libation (*matambiko*).

It should be born in mind that, there were only two parishes around this area but at a far distance; Makiungu and Dung'unyi. So the CPPS missionaries who landed in Tanzania on 19/05/1966 had the task of engaging in first evangelizing to inhabitants of Manyoni and surrounding places. Manyoni house was officially opened on 11/02/1967.

Since then to-date, the Manyoni Mission enjoyed the service of Precious Blood Missionaries. With regard to parish priest is as follows: Fr. Joseph Montenegro (1967-1978), Fr. Domenico Altieri (1978-1980), Fr.

Vincenzo Boselli (1980-1986), Fr. Dino Gioia (July 1986-October 1987, Fr. Tonino Calabrese (1987-1989), Fr. Vincenzo Boselli (1989-1996), Fr. Francesco Bartoloni (1996-1997), Fr. Timothy Coday (1997-1999), Fr. Richard Orotu (1999-2006), Fr. Reginald Mrosso (2006-2010) and Fr. Chrisogoni Vulstan (July 2010 up to the present).

Other C.P.P.S Missionaries who worked in Manyoni include Fr. Felix Mushobozi, Fr. Thomas Temba, Fr. Denis Massawe, Fr. Philibertus Manyama, Br. Francis Maganga, Fr. Nicholas Ngowi, Fr. Archadius Mapinduzi, Fr. Ansovinus Makwanda, Fr. Denis Mlimira, etc.

The number of the faithful (Christians) has increased from 50 to more than 10,128. Manyoni Parish is composed of 18 sub-stations including Manyoni itself. These are the fruits of the life of the missionaries of Precious Blood, living the Gospel by deeds rather than words.

Missionary activities in this Parish include spiritual activities and sacramental life: Evangelization through choir seminars and retreats, formation of Small Christian communities, visiting people at home and in the Hospitals, youth apostolate, teaching catechism in schools, etc.

The situation continued like this till 1973 when the meeting was held and decision to open new parish was passed. This was Itigi Parish. The history of Itigi Parish started with Fr. Peter Milambo (of Tabora diocese) who sent Mr. Simon Joseph the first catechist in Itigi. He landed at Itigi on August 1954 from Igalula Tabora. There were only 4 Christian Catholics at Itigi all of them immigrants.

As the matter of fact there were no defined places for worship (church or chapel). So they decided to have their prayer meetings at the house of one of them. Two years later 33 people were baptized, the fruits of Mr. Simon Joseph. The number of Christian increased, as result they decided to build a small church just like native house (tembe). They got priestly spiritual services from Dung'unyi parish or Igalula and sometimes from priests who were on journey.

The coming of the missionaries of Precious Blood at Manyoni was also a blessing for them, for the whole area of Manyoni including Itigi was served by the C.P.P.S Missionaries.

In 1968 Fr. Joseph Montenegro built a new church which was later renovated by Fr. Mario Dariozzi in 1974 and later by Fr. Vincent Boselli in collaboration with parishners from Bagnolo Mela, in Brescia (Italy), who apart from the Parish Church, constructed Maktaba building, Amani Home craft, etc, making the Mission a real pastoral centre as seen today.

During the time of establishment of Itigi, the first windmill was constructed and installed, thus, marking the beginning of the C.P.P.S Water Project in Tanzania. On the first phase, at Itigi, Fr. Mario Dariozzi was with Br. Umberto Reale. Meanwhile, Fr. Dino, Fr. Joseph Montenegro, and Fr. Domenico remained at Manyoni.

Fr. Vincent Boselli who did his theological studies at St. Paul's major seminary at Kipalapala - Tabora in Tanzania used to go and come back to Manyoni. He was ordained in 1977. In the same year Fr. Joseph Montenegro was called back home in Italy and in 1983 was sent to open a new mission in India.

### **3. ITIGI MISSION (1973)**

The Itigi mission was launched as parish in 1973. From that time, the following has been done; construction of sisters' convent, fathers' house and formation house for CPPS (named after St. Francis Xavier), St. Gaspar hospital, children center, nursing school, etc.

All these were done under the leadership of Frs. Mario Dariozzi, John Piepoli (1976-1976) and assisted by Fr. Enzo Zoino, Bro. Umberto Reale. Other missionaries who worked at Itigi include; Fr. Francesco

Bartoloni, Fr. Sebastian Benedettini, Fr. Gennaro Cespites, Fr. Ernest Gizzi, Fr. Mario Brotini, Fr. Dino Gioia, Fr. Emmanuel Kimoruru, Fr. Onesphory Kayombo (one of the first two native CPPS Missionaries), Fr. Alphons Minja, Fr. Genes Mahedi, Fr. Seventine Banulirwa, Fr. Richard Orotu, Fr. Benedict Magabe, Fr. Nicholaus Ngowi, Fr. John Makarius Ikelesho, Fr. Fidelis Abela, Fr. Henry Nila. Others include Fr. David Kinabo, Bro. Francis Maganga, Fr. Thomas Wambura, Fr. Seraphine Lesiriam, Fr. Paul Kitale, Bro. Deusdedit Wambura

Itigi parish since 1973 to 2007 grew to about 35 sub-stations which are far away from Itigi itself. The furthest sub-station was 192 km from Itigi. However, in 2007 Mitundu became a parish which included eleven (11) sub-stations which previously were under Itigi parish.

The development from small to the current bigger Church was facilitated by the above named Missionaries especially Fr. Mario Dariozzi, Fr. Dino Gioia, Fr. Francis Bartoloni, Fr. Sebastiano Benedettini, Eng. Vincent Forlenza, etc.

From years back to the present, the mission has enjoyed the presence and apostolate of various Nun congregations working at Itigi parish and St. Gaspar Hospital such as Misericordia sisters since 1975, Ursula sisters (Based at Mkiwa), Sisters Adorers of Precious Blood (based in Manyoni), Srs of Mercy of St. Vincent De Paul (based at Mitundu).

Along with the pastoral and spiritual services, missionaries at and from Itigi missions showed concern and took care of Sukamahela centre which has people and families suffering from leprosy. This center was built by the government of Tanzania during the campaign of *ujamaa* in 1974. The Missionaries extended their service to this village of lepers for the sake of promotion of services henceforth human dignity.

Between 1976/1977 Fr. Dino was sent to Chibumagwa and so he stayed there with Fr. Ernest. In these years, Fr. Francis Bartoloni and Fr. Domenico came to Tanzania to join with them and were assigned to Itigi community. They were sent to Itigi because Fr. Mario Dariozzi had gone back to Italy for he was elected the Provincial of Italian province.

#### **4. CHIBUMAGWA MISSION (1978)**

The history of this catholic mission, owes much to Germany White Fathers, Frs. Gash and Amandus at the place known as Mpandagani since 1894. The C.P.P.S Missionaries took charge of and continued the establishment of the parish and in building of a new parish church.

In 24 June 2006 Rev. Bishop Desiderius Rwoma of Catholic Diocese of Singida consecrated the new parish church, the event which also marked 40 years of C.P.P.S service in Tanzania. The task of establishing, and cementing Christianity in Chibumagwa was not easy because of the place being dominated by Anglicans who were favored by the government. Local government leaders once accused Fr. Joseph Montenegro of delaying the people from going for village work. This came about due to the fact that some people were required to go for village work and at the same time to build the church. As result Fr. Joseph was locked up for about 4 hours till Fr. Dino with the permission of DC intervened for his release.

So Chibumagwa started as parish officially in 1979 under the leadership of Fr. Dino Gioia and Fr. Ernest Gizzi, both being C.P.P.S. Missionaries.

Till now, Chibumagwa Parish has about 17 out - stations and about 11,734 Christians. The following are the missionaries who have worked and are working in Chibumagwa; Fr. Gash and Fr. Amandus, both are Holy Ghost missionaries, Fr. George, a Passionist, then followed C.P.P.S Missionaries. These are Fr. Joseph Montenegro, Fr. Mario Dariozzi, Fr. Ernest Gizzi Fr. Antonio Calabrese, Fr. John Piepoli, Fr. Francis Bartoloni, (Fr. Boniphaz Msomi-diocesan), Fr. Vincent Boselli, Fr. Mario Brotini, Fr. Brendan

Dohetry, Fr. Felix Mushobozi, Fr. Timothy Coday, Fr. Adolph I.L. Majeta, Fr. Alphons Minja, Fr. Thomas T. Kilewona, Fr. Fabian Ruganyiza, Fr. Ansovinus Makwanda, Fr. Richard Tiganya, Fr. Crisogon Vulstan, Fr. Philbertus Manyama, Fr. Denis Mlimira, Fr. Sosthenes Ndendya, Fr. Deusdedit Mulokozi and Deacon Danford Mahumi.

Apart from Precious Blood Missionaries, the mission enjoyed the presence of ASC sisters; the prominent ones are Sr. Santina (who died in these years in Italy), Sr. Delfina and Sr. Germina who were of great help especially to women and children.

Since then the number of missionaries and sisters at Chibumagwa has been changing due to transfer from one area to another.

## **5. CPPS PRESENCE IN DAR-ES-SALAAM**

### **5.1. Tegeta Parish and Procura (1979)**

Between 1978-1980, C.P.P.S Missionaries had only three centres or houses in Tanzania; Manyoni, Chibumagwa and Itigi and that they had been confined in Singida region only. Ideas to extend came due to the fact that every time these missionaries of the Precious Blood went to Dar es Salaam had to stay at Consolata Missionaries' house. In response to this need, Fr. John Piepoli in 1979 was sent for the establishment of Procura and Tegeta Parish, making their total number of houses or centres to be four.

### **5.2. Mtongani St. Nicholas Parish (1999)**

Rapid increases of believers especially in Dar es Salaam, made the missionaries think of opening other parishes. This idea became even more possible as Fr. Domenico Altieri put effort in building the churches. As result Mtongani parish was opened on 5/12/1999 and Fr. Domenico Altieri became the first Parish Priest. This parish started as sub-station since 1982 at Mtakuja Primary School. The lay founders of this sub-station are Mr. Gerald Peter and Mr. Cornel Umayya who led the prayers in the absence of the priests. The missionaries also opened St. Gaspar Vocation Training Centre to educate and form the increasing number of youth at Mtongani. Some of the missionaries who have worked on these two centres at Mtongani include:

- a) Fr. Domenico Altieri (Parish priest since 1999-2001) assisted by Fr. Richard Mjigwa, Fr. Joachim Ndelianaruwa;
- b) Fr. Denis Massawe (Parish priest since 2001-2003), assisted by Fr. Seraphine Lesiriam, Fr. Leonidas Ntampera, etc;
- c) Fr. Alfons Minja (Parish priest since 2003-2007) assisted by Fr. Fr. Seraphine Lesiriam, Fr. Arcadius Mapinduzi.
- d) Fr. Philibertus Manyama (parish priest – 2007-2011).
- e) Fr. Vedsto Ngowi (parish priest – 2011 ...)

Other missionaries who have worked at this center are; Fr. Gregory Mkhotya, Fr. Seventine Banulirwa, Fr. Thomas Kilewona, Fr. Achilles Mutalemwa, Fr. Geoffrey, Mwarabu, Fr. Thaddeus Membwa, Bro. Paschas Mjengi.

### **5.3. Mbezi Beach - Machakani (St. Gaspar Parish and Shrine) (2009)**

Not only Mtongani parish stemmed from Tegeta parish but also St. Gaspar del Bufalo, Mbezi Beach parish. As a sub-station of Tegeta parish, it was known as Machakani. It started in 1992 with only seven Catholics. In the years 1993-1996 a small church was built and named after the Blessed Maria De Mattias.

Later from 1998, Fr. Domenico Altieri discussed with the mother superior of ASC sisters on the possibility of the latter's availability for apostolate, who eventually agreed. Apostolate went on and number of Catholics kept growing to the point of building the parish church (by parishners and help from mother province) dedicated to St. Gaspar. The church's main structures were completed by 11/3/2007- the date of official inauguration; parishners went on providing it with modern furniture and services.

Missionaries who have worked and some still working in this parish include; Fr. Domenico Altieri, Fr. Denis Massawe, Fr. Alfons Minja, Fr. Gregory Mkhotya, Fr. Patrick Kimaro, Fr. Thaddeus Memba, Fr. Joachim Ndelianaruwa.

### **5.4. Blessed Virgin Mary Mother of Mercy (Bikira Maria Mama wa Huruma)**

Formerly under Mbezi Beach (Machakani) but once raised to be a parish, it was taken by the diocese henceforth excluding it from St. Gaspar Parish and Shrine (Mbezi Machakani).

### **5.5. Salasala**

The sub-station of St. Augustine Salasala is another product of the missionary activities of C.PP.S based at Kunduchi Dar-es-Salaam. It was proclaimed a substation by Fr. Domenico Altieri on 15/4/1998. Under the guidance of the missionaries of Precious Blood, it grew and on 25/7/2004, his eminence, the Arch Bishop of Dar es Salaam, Card. Polycarp Pengo upgraded it to the level of a parish and handed it over to Spiritans (the Holy Ghost Missionaries).

### **5.6. St. Dominic**

Under the pastoral care of Fr. Domenico Altieri and subsequent Missionaries, St. Gaspar del Bufalo parish - Mbezi Beach was not barren. From it, stemmed St. Domenic-Mbezi Juu parish. It started as a small Christian community of 25 people. As it grew spiritually and physically, on December 1997, it became a sub-station of Mbezi Beach parish, and was named after St. Dominic Guzman. The inauguration of St. Dominic as a sub-station was done by the Arch-Bishop of Dar es Salaam, Card. Polycarp Pengo, on 10/10/1999 while having 1000 Catholics, and in recent years, precisely on 10/11/2007, the same Arch-Bishop and Cardinal elevated it to a parish.

### **5.7. St. Andrew Parish (Bahari Beach)**

For a couple of years it was a sub-station of Mtongani parish. It grew out of the small Christian community of St. Andrew. By the efforts of Fr. Domenico Altieri while at Mtongani it grew and became a sub-station on 13/8/2000. Since then the efforts of the Christians of Bahari Beach, under the direction of different Precious Blood missionaries, this sub-station has grown to the level of a parish 2012. This recent C.PP.S parish is under the pastoral care of Fr. Angelo Kaizirege (its first Parish Priest), Fr. Richard Orota, and Br. Pascas Mjengi.



## **5.8. Boko Parish**

From the community of Procura and Tegeta in Dar-es-Salaam, C.P.P.S Tanzania, after long pastoral service at the said area managed to begin a community and Parish, a dream that was realized in early 2000's. This realization was geared by Fr. Francis Bartoloni, in memory of his 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priestly Ordination, utilized gifts from home benefactors to build the Parish Church.

Other Missionaries who worked there (before and after Fr. Francis) are Fr. Domenico Altieri, Fr. Ernesto Gizzi, Fr. Emmanuel Kimoruru, Fr. Adolf Majeta, Fr. Evarist Lefiyo, Fr. Denis Mlimira, Fr. Angelo Kaizirege, Br. Francis Maganga, Fr. Dismas Mfungomali, Fr. Dominic Mwaluko.

## **6. FORMATION OF PROSPECTIVE MISSIONARIES**

The formation centres include the former Itigi St. Francis Xavier' Seminary (currently transformed part of St. Gaspar School of Nursing), Miyuji Ven. Giovanni Merlini Formation House and St. Gaspar College of Morogoro.

Although from the early days of the presence of Precious Blood Missionaries some boys showed interest to join the congregation, notable requests were noted in the later 1970's and especially in 1980s.

### **6.1. St. Francis Xavier - Itigi Seminary and Formation Centre**

Around those years, candidates who wanted to join the Congregation, after standard seven or Ordinary Secondary Education and subsequent orientation course, they were sent to various Junior Seminaries including Dung'unyi St. Patrick Seminary (Catholic Diocese of Singida), St. Francis Seminary at Maua in Kilimanjaro (belonging to the Capuchins), later to Salesian Seminary in Dodoma (belonging to Salesians of Don Bosco), and St. Peter's seminary – Morogoro.

And whereas candidates for philosophical studies were sent to diocesan seminaries of Kibosho, Ntungamo and Peramiho; for theology, they were sent to Kipalapala, Segerea and for a long time to Italy.

### **6.2. Ven. Giovanni Merlini Formation House in Miyuji-Dodoma**

It should be born in mind that the birth of Singida Diocese in 1972 cut off the missionaries of Precious Blood from Dodoma Diocese as the parishes of Manyoni, Itigi and Chibumagwa formed part of Singida Diocese. With the ideas of putting much emphasis in the formation of candidates with vocation, missionaries thought of having their vocational centre in Dodoma, a place where the aspirants could pass before going for philosophy and theology in Morogoro. This idea was actualized in 1990s, as Giovanni Merlin Vocation Centre for the Missionaries of Precious Blood was opened. Before this year, that is since 1990 form five and six students who wanted to join the Precious Blood Missionaries lived there while attending the studies at Don Bosco Seminary-Dodoma.

Among the prominent figures for such establishment were Fr. Francis Bartoloni and Eng. Vincent Forlenza. Other Missionaries who worked there are Fr. Brotini Mario, Fr. Sebastiano Benedettini, Fr. Onesphory Kayombo, Fr. Felix Mushobozi, Fr. Basil Ndeshingio (who died on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2004 in Rome Italy and was buried at Manyoni CPPS Cemetery on the 18<sup>th</sup> May 2004), Fr. Gregory Mkhotya, Fr. Chesco Msaga, Fr.

Emmanuel Kimoruru, Fr. Arcadius Mapinduzi, Fr. Henry Matandula, Fr. Leonidas Ntampera, Fr. Egidius Seneda, Fr. Joseph Mabala, Fr. Gaspar Baraka.

Apart from seminary formation, the community is engaged in taking care of a vineyard of whose grapes wine is produced for home consumption and sale.

### **6.3. St. Gaspar College- Kola Morogoro**

With the increasing number of seminarians in Tanzania and with the missionary enthusiasm to expand, Missionaries of Precious Blood thought of preparing a place where their aspirants or seminarians could be prepared till their ordination.

As result C.PP.S became the co-founder of Salvatorian Major Seminary, along with Salvatorians and Capuchin Friars. Salvatorians set the structures while C.PP.S, Capuchins and subsequent Missionary Congregations provided the Lecturers.

With this in mind, Precious Blood Major Seminary, known as St. Gaspar College was constructed. Construction began early 1990's and the house started operating in 1994, under the supervision of Fr. Francis Bartoloni. During construction, C.PP.S students stayed at the Salvatorian Seminary hostel for one semester while waiting the completion of their house. Fr. Francis Bartoloni, their formator, he used to supervise construction coming from Miyuji Dodoma and during days of stay in Morogoro he stayed at the Capuchin Friary at Kola Morogoro.

Salvatorian Seminary was transformed to Salvatorian Institute of Philosophy and Theology and recently to Jordan University College that enrolling not only seminarians but a variety of people for various courses, ecclesiastical and secular.

### **6.4. Kola B Church**

In Morogoro, the missionaries saw the importance of having a centre for pastoral experience of their students instead of waiting till the canonical pastoral year. In response to this, and with the consent of the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Morogoro, the church of Body and Blood of Christ was built and started operation in 2002. This church is also used as a shrine and pilgrims centre by the Catholic faithful of Morogoro and from other places.

## **7. EXTENSION TO OVERSEAS (INTERNATIONALITY)**

The 2003 Vicariate's Business Assembly, establishing its 10 years plan, decided to open new missions outside Tanzania. While meditating where to go first, other C.PP.S units requested or influenced C.PP.S Vicariate of Tanzania to collaborate in overseas mission or take their centres of apostolate.

### **7.1. Collaboration with Cincinnati Province in the Mission of Chile**

In 2001, the request of Cincinnati was accepted and three seminarians for Pastoral year, namely, Richard Kungi, Arcadius Mapinduzi and Deusdedit Mulokozi were sent to Chile. After a year, these returned to Morogoro to accomplish their fourth year of theology, and soon after their ordination in 2003, Frs. Richard Kungi, Deusdedit Mulokozi and Magnus Tegete went to Chile. This stay was terminated in 2007.

## **7.2. Collaboration with Iberian Province in the Mission of Guinea Bissau**

Apart from the request by Cincinnati Province, CPPS Tanzania was asked to collaborate in mission work in Guinea Bissau. In September 2003, Frs. Leonidas Ntampera and Egidius Seneda were sent to their mission in Guinea Bissau. Thereafter, Frs. Wenceslaus Bamugasheki and George Mwaluko were sent, who are still there.

## **7.3. Presence in Ferrara, Italy**

The CPPS Missionaries Province of Italy went to Ferrara in the year 1930 to take care of the Basilica of Santa Maria in Vado which hosts a Eucharistic Miracle recorded in the year 1171. This apostolate however, was thought to halt in the year 2003 due to lack of personnel. Fortunately, C.PP.S Missionaries from Tanzania agreed to take care of the Sanctuary and Basilica. Thus, Frs. Dino Gioia, Onesphory Kayombo were set aside for the mission. Later, Fr. Evarist Lefiyo was destined there. After Fr. Evarist's return to Tanzania, precisely in September 2004, a newly ordained priest, Eugene C. Nchimbi was sent to Ferrara for parish work and some studies. In 2007 both Frs. Dino Gioia and Eugene C. Nchimbi came back to Tanzania; consequently, other missionaries were sent in turns include Frs. David Kinabo (currently member of Italian Province), Denis Gerald and Leonidas Ntampera.

## **7.4. Collaboration with Cincinnati in Colombia**

To ensure continuity of CPPS presence in Colombia, CPPS Tanzania was asked to send two missionaries in Colombia in the year 2008. However, due to the scarcity, Fr. Magnus Tegete along with Fr. Oscar Makala (seminarian for pastoral year) were sent. The one year experience of Oscar Makala was followed by a return to Tanzania to accomplish theological studies and soon after his priestly ordination he was sent back to Colombia for apostolate. After an agreed time, Fr. Oscar was called back home to pursue studies. Fr. Magnus Tegete is still in Colombia.

## **7.5. Collaboration with Italian Province**

In the year 2008, C.PP.S Tanzania received request from director of Italian Province on the possibility of CPPS Tanzania to provide it with missionaries to do apostolate in Italy. Frs. David Kinabo and Frs. Denis Massawe were sent there. Fr Denis is now in Tanzania. Fr. David Kinabo on the contrary, after his service at Sonnino, in July 2012 decided to join with the mother Province. In 2010, another missionary, Fr. Perfect Leiya was sent to the mother province for pastoral work.

## **7.6. Collaboration with Cincinnati Province in USA**

Apart from requests made of personnel for Chile and later on for Colombia, a request by Cincinnati of two missionaries to work in the States got a positive response, consequently in 2008, Frs. Alfons Minja and Benedict Magabe were sent, an apostolate which goes on even today.

## **7.7. CPPS Tanzania at the C.PP.S Generalate**

During 2007's General Election, Frs. Francesco Bartoloni and Fr. Felix Mushobozi were elected as Moderator General and Councilor respectively.

## **8. CPPS PRESENCE IN THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF MAHENGE**

after a long plea by the Ordinary of Catholic Diocese of Mahenge, in October 2007, C.PP.S Tanzania sent two missionaries to the Parish of Mkula; these were Frs. Chrisogon Vulstan (the first CPPS Parish Priest of Mkula) and Nicholaus Ngowi. After few months, the latter was transferred to Kisasa Dodoma and replaced by Fr. Angelo Kaizirege. In 2010, Fr. Chrisogon Vulstan (by then Parish Priest) was transferred to Manyoni in Singida Diocese; Fr. Thomas Kilewona replaced him becoming the second CPPS Parish Priest. Later, when Fr. Angelo Kaizirege was transferred to Mbezi Beach Parish, Fr. Philbert Manyama became the Assistant Parish Priest.

## **9. ELEVATIONS, PRESENCE AT KISASA DODOMA AND DREAM**

### **9.1. Mission**

The arrival to Tanzania precisely in Manyoni of CPPS Missionaries from Tanzania marked the beginning of a mission under Italian Province. And according to Statutes, the leadership of the Mission was under Mission superior.

### **9.2. Delegation**

As years passed by, there came a need for Tanzania to have a Provincial delegate whose duty apart from reporting and guiding the mission was to represent the Mission to the Assemblies of the Province, hence Tanzania was elevated into a delegation. Missionary delegates included; Fr. Francis Bartoloni (the first Delegate), then Fr. Dino Gioia and the last was Fr. Antonio (Tonino) Calabrese.

### **9.3. Vicariate**

In view of an increase of member missionaries and sufficient apostolate, during a Meeting of Major Superiors, in 1998, Tanzania was raised to a Vicariate and Fr. Tonino Calabrese (who returned in Italy after being elected as Treasurer of Province and there he died on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2009) became the first Vicariate Director (1998-2002), followed by Fr. Vincent Boselli (2002-2006), Fr. Joachim Ndelianaruwa (2006-2010) and since 2010 to the present, Fr. Reginald Mrosso.

## **10. PRESENCE AT KISASA IN DODOMA**

### **10.1. Vicariate Headquarters**

Having been elevated to Vicariate, the Delegation Headquarters, St. Gaspar College became the First Vicariate Headquarters. But in view of time and in order to set Headquarters away from the centre of candidate's formation, Kisasa in Dodoma was chosen to host Vicariate Headquarters. Early 2000 construction began supervised by Frs. Vincent Boselli and Chesco Msaga - while staying at St. Gaspar College in Morogoro and at Ven. Merlini Formation House, Miyuji in Dodoma respectively.

### **10.2. Radio Mwangaza FM and St. Gaspar Hotel and Conference Centre**

In 2002 the above named missionaries moved to Kisasa in order to supervise more closed the construction of spiritual centre and for running Radio Mwangaza Fm (launched on the 24<sup>th</sup> December 2002). Later development include the transformation of the previous thought Spiritual Centre to St. Gaspar Conference

Centre opened in March 2007 and which eventually came to be named as St. Gaspar Hotel and Conference Centre (SGHCC) in the year 2010.

### **10.3. Kisasa Parish**

The CPPS Missionaries at Kisasa apart from facilitating routines of Vicariate Headquarters, Radio Mwangaza FM and SGHCC, they engage themselves with the care of the people of God especially in:

- a) The substation of Medeli, later on plus Nzuguni Maweni, Nzuguni Sokoine (part of St. Gaspar Makole Parish) and *Nyumba 300*. However, in 2009, Bp. Thaddaeus Ruwa'ich, OFM Cap, the Ordinary of Dodoma raised Kisasa-Medeli from substation (for years taken care by CPPS Missionaries) to Prospective Parish (*Parokia Teule in Kiswahili*); and finally on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2011, it was raised to a Parish dedicated to the B.V.M. of the Precious Blood and Fr. Richard Orotu became the first Parish Priest. After his transfer to Dar in 2012, Fr. Chesco P. Msaga became the Parish Administrator. Other Missionaries involved in pastoral care of the parish are Frs. Reginald Mrosso, Nestory Kadyoshe, Sosthenes Ndendya, Deusdedit Mulokozi and Fr. Eugene Nchimbi.
- b) Chaplaincy at the Village of Hope: the Village of Hope comprising of a Health Centre, Orphanage, and schools, was inaugurated in 2002, and since its foundation, Fr. Vincent Boselli operated as chaplain and Manager of the project.

### **11. DREAM OF THE VICARIATE**

Finally, in their workshop of March-April 2010 held at Ven Merlini Formation House, facilitated by two members of the General Council, Frs. Francis Bartoloni and William Nordembrock (Bill), as remembrance of CPPS' bicentennial celebration since its foundation, Vicariate members set as their dream (a thought for the future), to become Province in the year 2015.

### **CONCLUSION**

In short the Missionaries of Precious Blood came in Africa for a new mission as remembrance and celebration of 150 years since the birth of the Society of Precious Blood by St. Gaspar del Buffalo in August 15, 1815.

Provincial Fathers who succeeded each other in leading the Italian Province during the opening of the Mission of Tanzania to its institution as Vicariate were Don Giuseppe Quattrino (1942-1966), Don Ernesto Guerrieri (1966-1976), Don Mario Dariozzi (1976-1984), Don Beniamino Conti (1984-1992), Don Pietro Battista (1992 to 2000). Later successors include Don Giovanni Francilia (2000-2008), Don Giuseppe Montenegro (2008-2012 and finally the present one, Don Oliviero Magnone (2012....).

The following Missionaries were involved in leading CPPS Tanzania from its foundation to the present: Fr. Dino Gioia (1966-1976), Fr. Francis Bartoloni (1976-1979), Fr. Dino Gioia (1980-1988), Fr. Francis Bartoloni (1988-1992), Fr. Dino Gioia (1992-1996), Fr. Antonio (Tonino) Calabrese (1997-2002), Fr. Vincent Boselli (2002-2006), Fr. Joachim Ndelianaruwa (2006-2010), Fr. Reginald Mrosso (2010...)

Since its foundation, CPPS Tanzania in observing the Gospel, CPPS Constitution and Statutes, Canon Law, etc, managed to fulfill a missionary outreach in areas of spirituality, pastoral care, human promotion, Vocation, etc.

To the present time (Jan. 2013), the Vicariate has a total number of 72 Missionaries of whom 70 are priests and 3 brothers. May God bless C.PP.S Tanzania and the CPPS worldwide family at large.

**Sources:**

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- b) "Elevation of the Tanzanian Delegation to the Status of Vicariate" Anno XLVIII n. 4 Luglio-agosto-settembre 1998, pp. 180-181 in a Collective Book VITA NOSTRA 1998; found in "Archivio C.PP.S. Provincia Italiana, V. Narni 29- Roma.
- c) Audio CD "Historia ya CPPS Vicariate ya Tanzania" – Narration by Fr. Vincent Boselli, December 2012 and archived by HQ Vicariate of Tanzania, Dodoma, Tanzania.
- d) Don Pietro Battista, *Karibu Tanzania: Missionari Del Pre.mo Sangued in Tanzania ..... in Cammino dal 1966*, Stilgraf editrice – Cesena, 1999.
- e) Records by the Old Sage of the parishes of Manyoni, Chibumagwa and Itigi and typed and archived by HQ Vicariate of Tanzania, Dodoma, Tanzania.
- f) Records from Chronicles of CPPS communities in Tanzania.