



I need to interrupt the Serengeti photos to report on something far more significant...and the reason I am here! (By the way, several readers have commented that it does not seem that I am doing much WORK! I would only point out that the blog is entitled “CR’s in Action” not “CR’s at Work!”) In any case, we had a very exciting weekend at our parish, The Blessed Mary of the Precious Blood of Jesus, in Butiama: our 10 candidates were officially introduced into the novitiate on the evening of Saturday, September 14, the Vigil of Our Lady of Sorrows, one of our community feast days.



As the delegate of our Superior General, Fr. Paul Voisin, C.R., I presided and preached at the induction liturgy. Fr. Daniel Hinc, C.R. (pastor of the parish), Fr. Andrzej Duda, C.R. (novice director), and Fr. Wojciech Adam Kościelniak were also present. Fr. Wojciech, a polish missionary from Kraków since 1990, is

the pastor of a nearby parish—which is actually the National Shrine of Divine Mercy—and he gave a 5 day retreat to the candidates that ended Saturday evening.



From left to right: Gervas Syrilo, Petro Kushaha Francis, Selestine Matutu, Leonsi Simoni Ignasi, Francis Mkata Peter, Brayon Edward Gigo, Mario Rwegoshora Rutajula, Michael Mabuluja Charles, Emmanuel Matiku, and Emmanuel Ntula.



We began close to sunset in the small chapel connected to the church. Soon, the sun set and, as the power went out, we had a “special” environment of candlelight. But, then there was light again!



The first reading was taken from 1 Samuel 3:1-10, wherein the young Samuel learns to respond, “Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.” The responsorial psalm reminded us that the Lord is our Shepherd and that we can count upon his care and faithfulness. The second reading, from Romans 6:3-11, reminded us that from our Baptism we called to repeat the paschal mystery in our lives, dying to ourselves so that we might rise as new creations in Christ. Our Gospel reading came from John 15:1-8, where Jesus reminds us that he is the vine and we are the branches.

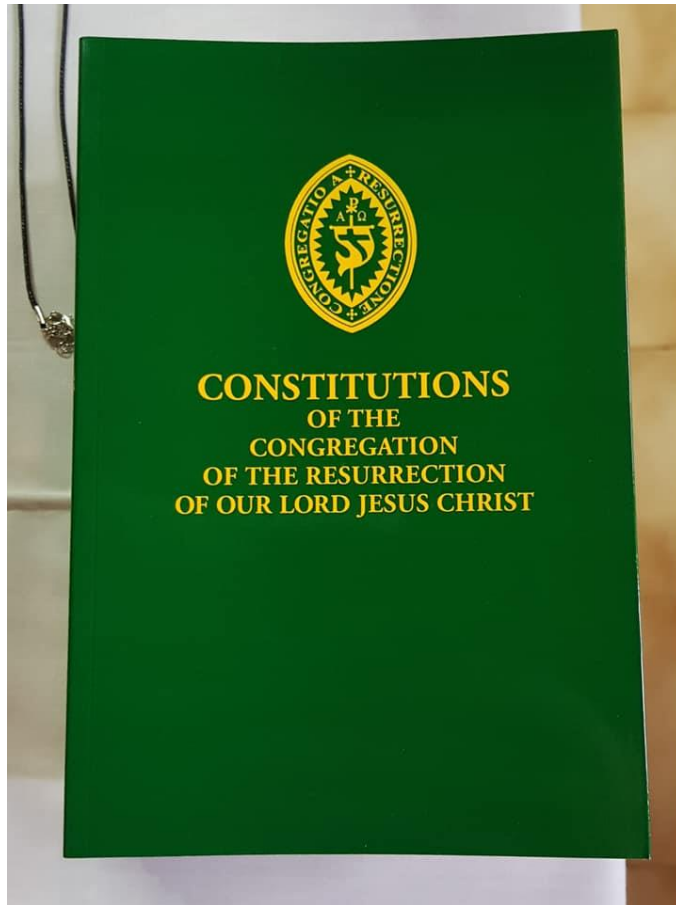






We blessed the crosses that would be given to the novices on their initiation. Fr. Andrzej put a cross around the neck of each novice and then gave each novice a copy of our Constitutions, which they will study and learn to embrace during their novitiate.







Part of the initiation ceremony was to, on behalf of Fr. Paul, to entrust the novices into the care of their novice director, Fr. Andrzej. We gave him a big blessing and hug as he begins the novitiate with this responsibility!



Here, the new novices are gathered around the Table with their crosses around their necks and the Constitutions in hand.





The next day, we celebrated Eucharist in the parish; Our Lady of Sorrows is the feast day of the parish, so it was quite a celebration! After Eucharist, our new novices posed for more photos! Can you spot the new novices?







*Here the novices are with Fr. Andrzej, C.R. and Fr. Daniel, C.R.*



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