



I thought the wonderful gift of a child would be a good photo to include during the Advent-Christmas season. This adorable person—I am talking about the baby!—is the grandson of my good friend Sandy Baumgartner, who works as the Dean’s assistant in the Richard J. Bolte, Sr. School of Business at Mount St. Mary’s University. Notice that Seamus (now 6!) had a fairly good grip on my alb!

I still have more photos from my time in Butiama and Buhemba from September, but there is much happening in REAL time here in Morogoro, so I want to keep you up-to-date. On Sunday, December 8, Phillip Justinian will profess his perpetual vows at Jordan University College Chapel—our first



Tanzanian to profess perpetual vows in the Congregation of the Resurrection. His request for full and permanent membership as a Resurrectionist was approved by our Superior General, Fr. Paul Voisin, C.R., with the unanimous consent of his council in Rome. Fr. Andrzej Duda, C.R. will preside at the liturgy and receive Phillip's vows as the delegate of the Superior General, and I will preach at the liturgy. There have been many things to prepare. Here is a copy of the invitation.



THE CONGREGATION OF THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST HAS THE JOY OF INVITING YOU TO THE PERPETUAL PROFESSION OF VOWS OF OUR BROTHER

PHILLIP MAKONDO JUSTINIAN, C.R.

AT JORDAN UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CHAPEL

ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2019 AT 10:00 A.M.



RECEPTION FOR INVITED GUESTS

AT THE RESURRECTION FORMATION HOUSE, TUNGI

AT 2:00 P.M.

The reverse side of the invitation has the same graphics, but it is in Swahili. By the way, Fr. Andrzej has translated our Rite of Perpetual Profession into Swahili for the liturgy. The Franciscan Capuchin seminarians have volunteered to form a choir

and Fr. Vincent de Paul, the chaplain at Jordan University, has graciously allowed us to use the chapel, as ours is too small. Phillip’s mother—his father, unfortunately, died last year—and a few members of his family will be present. They live in the Kagera Region, which is quite a distance from Morogoro; it will take at least two whole days of travel to Morogoro from there. For his own preparation, I am currently directing Phillip on a five-day silent retreat.

Back at our formation house, we will host a reception that has involved “sprucing things up,” as well as buying a special cake, ordering soda and water, securing a caterer, clearing some space for parking, and borrowing about 200 plastic chairs from Charlotte Secondary School. To give you a sense of the spirit of Tanzania I should tell you that when we asked the principal of the school if we could borrow the chairs, she replied that we could have the chairs AND that she would have them delivered and set up for us! One thing that I am really looking forward to is Yohana in his role as “DJ” He is very good at this and will provide a range of music that is liable to bring out my “break dancing.” 😊 We will see! 😊



Our newest candidate, Peter Sunze China, who joined us on November 15.

We are very happy to welcome a new person to our community: Peter Sunze China. Peter comes to us from our parish in Butiama, Our Lady of the Precious



Blood. He was baptized by Fr. Maciej Braun, C.R. and was confirmed by Fr. Daniel Hinc, C.R. He has served as an altar server at the parish for years and has always wanted to become a Resurrectionist priest. So, he is joining us to complete some necessary preparatory school work before Philosophy and Theology studies.



Of course, whenever the camera comes out, our friend Hope soon appears!

Peter is nineteen years old, so he has many years ahead of him. He is a very likeable young man and has started his studies in Form Four at Alphagem's Secondary School where Br. Mosses also studies. It is a crucial year because students must pass the national exam after Form Four to be eligible for Form Five and Six and College. It takes 30 minutes each way to ride a bicycle to school.



We have a few extra bikes because some of the “old” users are in Novitiate. But we needed to make sure that one of them was in working order for Peter. Here is



Peter in his school uniform on the way to school. His classes are in the afternoon, so he eats lunch at 12:00 and then leaves at 12:30 to be at school at 1:00. Today he is studying English and Geography. He is also studying Swahili, History, Civics, and Bible Knowledge.



Peter has also joined our “English class” at the Resurrection Formation House. The other members of our “class” are Pendo, our cook, and Zubar, who works as a goat shepherd for the Blessed Sacrament Sisters who live next door to us. Lisa Bell, a good friend of mine and a fourth grade teacher, told me about a program that teachers use at her school for students whose first language is not English. It is called *Starfall Education* and it has been very helpful with the alphabet, numbers, colors, flavors, and some simple vocabulary. I was able to download it for \$35 for the year. The only real trouble is that I need the internet which is sometimes slow. But, this program has been a real help. The content is great, but the delivery is excellent, with repetition built into games and fun activities. Some of the animations really make them laugh, which I find absolutely delightful! It is simply wonderful to participate in their adventure of learning!



Peter and Pendo with the computer program Starfall.



Zubar, the goat shepherd for the Blessed Sacrament Sisters, is really the one who started this English “class.” I would see Zubar on my walks and we would always greet each other with these elaborate handshakes that seemed to change each time we met. I think he delighted in my confused expression! But, one day he

was trying desperately to tell me something. I had the sense that he was asking me if I would teach him English. The next day I asked one of the Blessed Sacrament



Sisters to ask him what he was trying to tell me. Sure enough, he wanted me to teach him English. I was trying to imagine the courage it would take to ask someone that you barely know to help you with English. His *desire to learn* was so touching that I could not say anything but “YES!” We met for a week and, unknown to me, our cook was listening to us from the kitchen. She, in turn, asked one of the seminarians if I would “allow” her to join in. “Of course,” I said. Again, it is hard to imagine the courage and resolve it took her to ask. So, now we were two. And then when Peter arrived, I realized that he could benefit from more exposure to English. So, we are now three! I guess, I should really say that now we are four because I think I am learning so much from them. They certainly are trying to teach me some Swahili, but I am learning more about the courage and commitment to learn that they are demonstrating each time we meet. So, this twenty year old young man, a goat shepherd by trade, was the catalyst not only for

our little English class and but also for an invitation to be part of their lives in a way that I would not otherwise have experienced.



So, we continue to prepare for Phillip's vows on Sunday, December 8; this will be the subject of the next blog.



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