



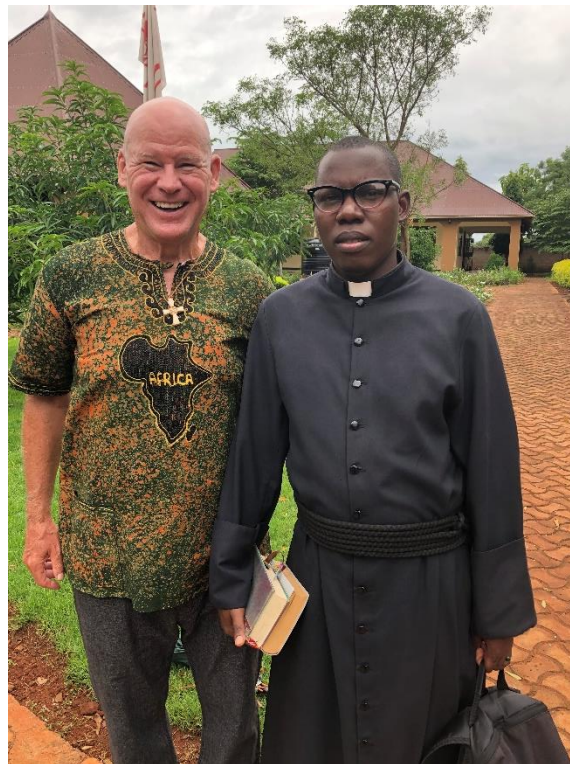
We continue to monitor the reach of the global COVID-19 pandemic into Tanzania. For several weeks now we have had the same number of confirmed cases: 32. Consequently, activity seems to be carried on as normal with the exception of handwashing everywhere and an attempt to have smaller numbers of people when gathering. Although the churches were open for services this weekend, we decided to stay at home and celebrate the Triduum and Easter Sunday morning with the Blessed Sacrament Sisters. They have a bigger outdoor space which we used for the liturgies.



Other than the gospel and the homily, I presided at all the liturgies in Swahili. You can imagine the results! I fear I set the Swahili language back 100 years! With more familiar prayers, I did well; but with the many new prayers, I struggled. The seminarians told me that I did great, but I used to tell my rectors (Fr. Bob Liddy, Fr. Pat Aiello, and Fr. Charlie Fedy) that they did great all the time! I did try my best and I think I am improving.



Yohana was in charge of the liturgies and he and I would meet and figure out a plan. Then we would walk over to the Blessed Sacrament Sisters to work out the details with them. It was a good experience of collaboration, with give and take among all of us. The singing was particularly moving in the liturgies. As an oral culture, people know so many hymns and psalm settings by heart; it is absolutely amazing, as they sing with no song books. As I think of this ability to remember without written materials, I think about how many phone numbers that we *used to* have memorized before we had “saved numbers” and mobile phones. Now, I can hardly remember my *own* phone number! One interesting aspect of the liturgy is that the Passion of Christ is chanted on Passion Sunday and Good Friday.



Yohana and I, on our way to another liturgy planning meeting! This shirt was a 65th—Wow! Did not see that coming!—birthday present to me from the seminarians.

Our own grounds and chapel was decorated very nicely for Palm/Passion Sunday. I asked if we needed to order or pick up palms in town, but the guys laughed and told me that they would just pick them off one of the palm trees outside! Rookie!





Joseph, Phillip, Yohana, Vitalis, Mosses, Peter and me after the Good Friday service.

The Easter decorations made the chapel look quite beautiful and really captured the new life of the Resurrection!





To complete our Easter celebration, we went to a new hotel for dinner on Easter Sunday evening. The new hotel had a small live band that played music. The next day, I mentioned to Mosses that I really enjoyed the music. Without thinking, he told me that, yes it was good, and that it was music that older people liked!



Yohana, Mosses, Phillip, Joseph, Vitalis, and me enjoying old people music!



When I come back from the market each week, I usually help Pendo (our regular cook) or Maria (our temporary cook, below) to put away the fruits and vegetables.



This week, I took the broom (that you can see in the photo) and started to sweep the floor. However, somehow, it broke! I am probably much stronger than I look...ha ha! In any case, Maria was cooking the week when this happened. When Pendo returned the next week, she and Maria were talking in the kitchen. I brought out the broken broom and told Pendo that Maria had broken the broom, but that it was an accident. Pendo started to laugh, but you should have seen Maria's face. Now she was out for revenge!



Neither Pendo nor Maria speak much English, but we seem to be able to communicate very well together. We truly are very fortunate to have both of them

as our cooks, as they do everything—even chasing me out of the kitchen with a broken broom—out of love. I don't know what we would do without them.



Pendo and Maria showing off some of our produce. Pendo has a papaya and Maria bananas.

So, this Easter was a very strange one for all of us. I know that many readers were not able to gather with their families and friends and fellow parishioners because of the virus. I was keeping you in my thoughts and prayers as I celebrated the Triduum and Easter Sunday Eucharist with my Resurrectionists brothers and Blessed Sacrament Sisters in a way that I would never have imaged this time last year. This is where we are today, and we live in hope that we will grow through these challenges and continue to experience the new life that the Risen Lord will bring us through the many unknowns that we face, as well as the sufferings and difficulties that we endure at present.

I find hope every day in the way the God has answered our prayers for vocations here in Tanzania. Together, the seminarians and novices, number 15. Let us continue to keep them in our prayers as they continue to discern God's will.



Seminarians Vitalis, Yohana, Br. Mosses, Phillip, and Joseph.



Novices Peter, Selestine, Francis (front), Emmanuel, Leonsi, Bryan, Mario, Br. Michael, Emmanuel, Gervas (back).