



Return to Tanzania!

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I returned to Tanzania on Saturday, August 7 to participate in Phillip Justinian Makondo's ordination to priesthood in Butiama, Tanzania. As you know, it is not easy travelling these days. After having a pre-flight COVID test, I left for Dulles airport on Friday, August 6 thanks to the great driving of Jack McCarthy early in the morning.



Phillip just before his ordination to deaconate on July 11, 2020.

Prior to leaving, I also needed to obtain a visa for Tanzania, schedule a COVID rapid test upon arrival at the airport, electronically fill out a health form the day

before arrival, arrange for a COVID test on my return, obtain an international driver's license, and book a hotel for arrival and departure.

But, it was worth it!



The flight from Dulles to Dubai is 13 hours, but we were late taking off. I was worried that I would miss my connection to Dar es Salaam because I only had 1 ½ hours between flights. I was happily surprised to find out that they delayed the flight because there were about 20 people who needed the flight and Emirates only flies to Dar es Salaam once a day. I landed in Dar es Salaam about 5 hours later, and having passed the COVID rapid test and passing through immigration, I collected my bags and proceeded to the hotel where I would stay overnight. It was called the BLUE SAPHIRE. I am not sure if the name completely described it, but it was very nice!

I went to sleep early because Fr. Andrzej was scheduled to pick me up at 7:00 a.m. the next morning. Unfortunately, my sleep clock was off and I really only fell asleep at 4:30 a.m. I was in a deep sleep when the alarm sounded at 6:00! 😞

Fr. Andrzej and I drove to the airport to pick up two other Resurrectionist priests from Rome: Fr. Paul Voisin, C.R. and Fr. Paul Szymanowski, C.R. Both men are members of the Ontario-Kentucky Province of the Resurrectionists. Fr. Paul Voisin is our Superior General and Fr. Paul Szymanowski is working on his doctorate in Moral Theology at the Academia Alfonsiona in Rome. Now we were off to Morogoro in a 5 hour car ride.



Fr. Paul Voisin, C.R. and Fr. Paul Szymanowski, C.R.



Fr. Andrzej Duda, C.R. (the capable driver) and Fr. Jim Donohue, C.R.

We arrived at our Formation House on Sunday, August 8 and were able to meet two of our newer seminarians and four aspirants (those wishing to join us). The two seminarians—Valentino Chatanda and Levinus Galeba—finished their first

year of Philosophy. The four aspirants only arrived a few days before our arrival: Audax Maganya, Benedict Kaonjela, Cleophace Kajuna, and Jerome Janas. I had



*Front: Levinus Galeba, Jerome Janas and Valentino Chatanda.
Back: Audax Maganya, Benedict Kaonjela and Cleophace Kajuna.*

met Audax when I was in Morogoro in 2020, as he had come to stay with us for about a week for a “Come and See.” The four aspirants will spend August and September in an orientation program, and hopefully will begin their Philosophy studies at Jordan University College at the end of October.

After staying overnight, we resumed our safari the next morning after Eucharist and breakfast. We drove throughout the day, stopping for lunch and a few stretch breaks. We stayed overnight in the Pastoral Center in Singita. We ordered chips and chicken for dinner and to our surprise we had many chips and only the smallest imaginable piece of chicken. Fr. Paul Voisin said that we ordered “French fries with a touch of chicken!” Early in the morning, after Eucharist and breakfast, we

were off again for Butiama. In the midst of some good conversation and jokes among ourselves, we were able to take in the beautiful landscape.



Before I came to East Africa I imagined that it was filled with jungles. In fact, the land here is quite dry, especially now in the winter dry season. You often see mountains in the background. The land has much scrub brush with trees dotting the landscape.







Lunch along the way with Fr. Paul, Fr. Andrzej and Fr. Paul Voisin.

As we passed Singita, we started to see odd formations of rocks. These rock formations are a result of the glaziers forming Lake Victoria.





The Tanzanian sunsets are simply beautiful! Our journey continues for a few more hours. We will arrive to be greeted by our Resurrectionist brothers in Butiama.

