

CPA REPORT TO THE 48TH GENERAL CHAPTER

Introduction

Dear brothers, allow me to extend my greetings of peace and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ to all of you. Let me also take this opportunity to thank the General Superior, Most Rev. Fr. Joachim Rego, CP., and the entire General Council for having journeyed with us in these last six years. General Chapter, dear brothers, offers us an opportunity to reflect, examine and reevaluate our identity, community life, apostolic life, leadership, formation, finances, major challenges, vision, and future prospects. In doing so, it should promote our unity, common good, fraternity and mutual listening that allows the Holy Spirit to guide the delegates.

As the president of the Configuration of Passionists in Africa (CPA), I take this humble opportunity to update all members present in this General Chapter of our mission situations in Africa, which is made up of four Vice Provinces (entities): CARLW – Kenya, GEMM – Tanzania, SALV – Congo DRC and MATAF – Botswana, Zambia and South Africa.

1. Personnel

CPA is a young and growing configuration. We have CARLW – Kenya (63 perpetually members = priests + brothers); GEMM – Tanzania (36 perpetually professed members = priests + brothers); SALV – Congo DRC (52 perpetually professed members = priests + brothers), and MATAF – Botswana, Zambia and South Africa (25 perpetually professed members = priests). We have, 46 temporary professed candidates in different theology houses (Morogoro Theologate in Tanzania, Kinshasha Theologate in DR Congo and Kisima Theologate in Nairobi, Kenya); 16 Novices; about 40 students in philosophy, and a good number of Aspirants (those Residential Programs).

While this can be good news to the future of the Congregation in the African continent, we still continue to struggle with finances, particularly on how to support initial formation of these young men for our future apostolates and missions.

2. Formation

We have different initial formation houses in the Configuration comprising of formators and candidates in formation. However, the main challenge that still remains, is how to finance and to support formation work. There is a great need to prepare those working in formation houses as formators before they are engaged in the work of formation. The entities are also committed to ongoing formation of those working in different areas of apostolate.

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3. Mission and Apostolate

As ardent sons of St. Paul of the Cross, we seek to spread our charism and Passionist life to the people around us. We carry our mission and apostolates in retreat houses, parishes, schools, hospitals, disciplined forces (militaries) and prisons. We seem to be collaborating well also in the sharing of personnel whenever there is some dire need within the configuration or between the entities.

4. Finances

Finance still remains the greatest challenge for us in Africa. The leadership has to struggle to find ways of how to support the initial formation of our candidates and ongoing formation of the members; cover medical bills for the sick or infirm confreres; support non-income generating missions and apostolates, salaries for the workers (subordinate staffs) and maintenance of the already existing structures.

Conclusion

Despite all these challenges that we are facing in the Configuration of Passionists in Africa (CPA), I am glad to report that the confreres are happy and enthusiastic. We are hopeful and trust in God's providence and believe that Africa is becoming slowly but surely, a beacon of Good News. We commit ourselves to walk together and to be in solidarity with one another both in joys and in sorrows.

Thank you very much.

May the passion of our Lord Jesus Christ remain always in our hearts.

Yours Sincerely,

Rev. Fr. Raphael Mangiti, CP.
President CPA
Vice Provincial CARLW – Kenya.