

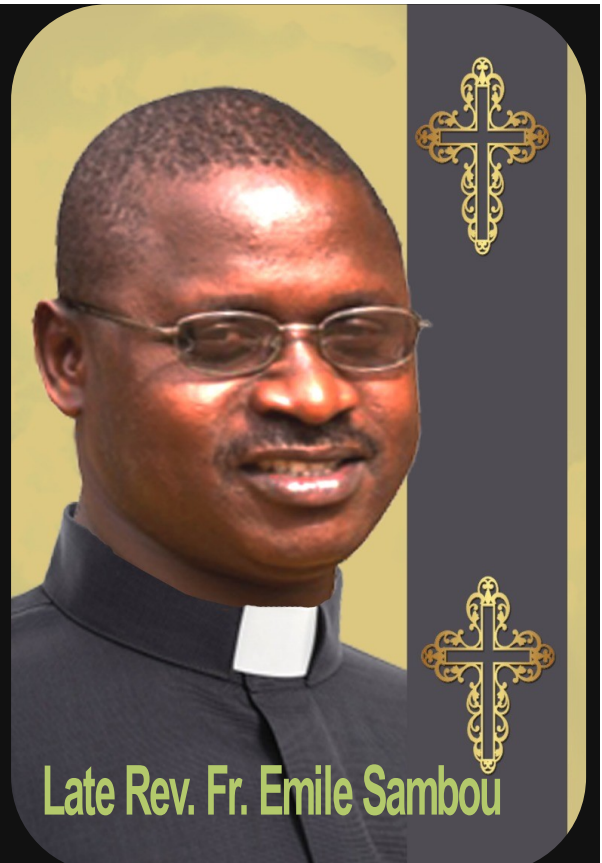


The Diocese of Banjul **NEWSLETTER**

Incorporating The Catholic Newsletter

The Catholic Church Deeply Saddened

Mourns The Painful Exit of Rev. Fr. Emile Sambou



Late Rev. Fr. Emile Sambou

Editorial Hint

**The Tsunami of Candidates for the 2021
December 4th Elections and Others**

**Are Gambian Christians Marginalizing
Themselves?**



A New Gambian Spiritan Priest Ordained

Ordination to the Presbyterate
of Rev. John Nicolas Correa, C.S.Sp

DIOCESE OF BANJUL NEWSLETTER

Our Mission and Vision

We entertain, we encourage, and we enlighten. More so, Diocese of Banjul Newsletter gives you the tools you need to feed your faith life, nurture our society and relationships, care for your family, and bring the light of Christ to others. We connect with our readers through personal stories of triumphs and struggles, joys and challenges, and the lighter side of Christian living.

Dioocese of Banjul Newsletter is a source of support and encouragement for our society, especially those who love their faith, those who struggle with their faith, and those who long to learn more about the richness of Catholic tradition. More so, we strive to build a healthy society for the welfare of all.

Dioocese of Banjul Newsletter seeks the positive in the world and in our Church. It emphasizes those things that our society is doing right and well, as a means of inspiring and encouraging others to do the same. It is hope-filled, optimistic, and forward-looking. In the main, the newsletter moves our readers beyond inspiration and toward action, and gives them the information, tools, and resources they need to answer God's call to holiness and bring the light of Christ to others.



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STAY SAFE



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 Telephone: 4394847 Email: info@gpi.gm
 Editors: Fr Peter S. Lopez / Dr. Burang Goree-Ndiaye
 Editorial Consultant: Mr Joseph Akagha
 Layout: Betty Quacoo
 Production: Henry Gomez & Mam Gorr Peter Campbell

Editorial Hint

The Tsunami of Candidates for the 2021 December 4 Elections and Others

Are Gambian Christians Marginalizing Themselves?

Currently, over 20 people are aspiring for the nation's top job – the Presidency, in the December 4 Presidential elections. However, surprisingly, it is difficult to notice the names of Christians in the current roll-call of candidates at the Independent Electoral Commission – IEC. Also, multitudes of aspiring contestants are warming up for the forthcoming National Assembly/Parliamentary and local government elections, yet, the names of Christians are rarely heard as contestants.

Gambian Christians have long been complaining of marginalization, ipso facto, deprivation of their rights in many spheres of the national scheme of things. As we approach the forthcoming December 2021 elections, over 20 political parties and numerous independent candidates are gearing up for the contest. However, it is sad to know that out of this lot, the number of Christians involved is less than 3 per cent. The implication is that Christians cannot be in the mainstream of political decisions of this nation. Christians have a right to participate in the politics and public life of this nation, and claiming and asserting this right can help them to bring about the change they want to see in society, especially as it affects the status of Gambian Christians and the people at large.

Bible characters like Joseph and Daniel were 'on the inside' and close enough to the leaders of nations. Recent church culture has encouraged single-issue lobbying more than relational participation in politics. The aim of Christians in politics is to reverse this trend, and wherever possible, to do so via relational engagement in parties, as this is where most policy and decisions are made. We recognize there are many creative and dedicated Christians working for and lobbying on a range of causes, but we would like to see more of that energy and commitment working on the inside of politics too.

Therefore, Christians who constitute a small proportion of the Gambian population and a religious minority, so to say, can only boost their welfare and uphold their rights as a community, if they are actively or engaged in the national political process. Thus, as the presidential election looms, and the parliamentary and local government elections approaching. Gambian Christians should come out, brace up and embrace the challenges of power struggle. Without being involved in the mainstream of our national political dynamics, it will be very difficult for Christians in this country, to have a strong voice in the nation's governance. As a minority group, our non-participation in the national political system and its allied processes, will marginalize us the more. Harold Lasswell, the influential American political scientist, known for seminal studies of power relations and of personality and politics, made it clear in his 1936 essay defining politics, that "Politics is a game about Who Gets What" This means that one must connect in order to collect. Similarly, we must connect ourselves to the mainstream of national affairs in order to get what we want from the nation. Hence, in the doctrine of Harold

Lasswell, this can only be achieved through our engagement in politics. All Christians, like other persons, are political, whether they realize it or not. And, it is usually counterproductive when they do not realize it. The key point is to realize that we are involved anyway; we have no choice about being political, because if we choose not to engage, then it is a vote for the status quo – the way things are, which are often, to our displeasure as a Christian community.

We should not sit and watch the political scenario as mere spectators, lest we will be sidelining ourselves from the mainstream of our nation's open stakes. Across the globe, Christians rule many nations. Some nations are even ruled by Roman Catholic Priests. In fact, in Nigeria with its predominantly Muslim population, the Vice-President is a Pastor. All these varying manners of Christians have proved wrong, the satanic German Philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche, and his claim that Christianity is a religion for cowards and meant to numb fear and pain inflicted upon them by their oppressors. More so, Friedrich Nietzsche claimed that every Christian's DNA carries a gene or trait that makes him or her take refuge in an attitude of docility and passivity in the midst of oppression. This is not so, and can be disproved when we take action to speak words of truth to our oppressors, as well as taking actions to strike the socio-political balance of our society in our favor.

In this edition, we honor all those Gambian Christians who are willing to invest time, energy and resources to be involved in the forthcoming political process, as their noble endeavor will go a long way in upholding the dignity of Gambian Christians.

The Diocese of Banjul NEWSLETTER

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Catholic Devotions

OCTOBER, THE MONTH OF ROSARY

For centuries, countless Catholics have found that saying the rosary regularly, greatly nourishes their faith.

October, in particular, is the Month of the Rosary. But we say the rosary throughout the year.

The term 'rosary' comes from Latin. It refers to a garland of roses, the rose being one of the flowers that symbolise the Virgin Mary. The rosary is a biblical form of devotion, because the prayers that comprise it come mainly from the Bible.

How to say the rosary

The rosary consists of a set number of specific prayers. We use rosary beads to help us say the prayers in order.

First come the introductory prayers: the Apostles' Creed, the Our Father, three Hail Marys and the Glory be.

Between the introductory prayers and the two concluding prayers is the substance of the rosary: the decades.

The decades

Each decade has thirteen prayers: ten Hail Marys followed by Our Father, Glory be and the short prayer, 'O my Jesus'.

Each decade is devoted to a mystery (a truth of the faith) in the life of Christ or his mother.

The twenty decades of the rosary are divided into four groups of five:

- **The Joyful Mysteries**
- **The Sorrowful Mysteries**
- **The Glorious Mysteries**
- **The Luminous Mysteries.**

When people speak of 'saying the rosary' they usually mean saying one set of five mysteries each day (joyful, luminous, sorrowful or glorious). This takes about fifteen minutes.

To say all twenty mysteries would take about an hour.

If you say the rosary every day, you may divide each set of five mysteries as follows:

Monday and Saturday, the joyful mysteries

- The annunciation of Gabriel to Mary (Luke 1: 26-38)
- The visitation of Mary to Elizabeth (Luke 1: 39-56)
- The birth of Jesus (Luke 2: 1-21)
- The presentation of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2: 22-38)
- The finding of Jesus in the Temple (Luke 2: 41-52)

Thursday, the luminous mysteries

- The baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3: 13-16)
- The wedding at Cana (John 2: 1-11)
- The proclamation of the Kingdom (Mark 1: 14-15)
- The Transfiguration (Matthew 17: 1-8)
- The Last Supper (Matthew 26: 26: 36-56)

Tuesday and Friday, the sorrowful mysteries

- The agony in the garden
- The scourging at the pillar (Matthew 27: 31)

- The crowning with thorns (Matthew 27: 31)
- The carrying of the cross (Matthew 27: 32)
- The crucifixion (Matthew 27: 33-56)

Wednesday and Sunday, the glorious mysteries

- The resurrection (John 20: 1-29)
- The ascension (Luke 24: 36-53)
- The descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2: 1-41)
- The assumption of Mary
- The coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven

THE PRAYERS OF THE ROSARY

The Sign of the Cross: In the name of the Father of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

The Apostles' Creed: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day He arose again; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence, He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

The Our Father: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name: Thy kingdom come: Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread: and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Do not let us fall into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Hail Mary: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee: blessed art Thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Glory Be to the Father: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Fatima Prayer: "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Your Mercy".
(Our Lady at Fatima, 13th July, 1917)

The Hail, Holy Queen: Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy! Hail our life, Hail our sweetness, and our hope! To Thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to Thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley, of tears. Turn, then, most gracious Advocate, Thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of Thy womb, Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Let Us Pray

"O God, whose only begotten Son, by His Life, death and resurrection has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant that we beseech Thee, while meditating upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord Amen."

Fatima prayer #2

"My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love You. I beg pardon of You for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope, and do not love You."

(The Angel to three children of Fatima, spring 1916)

Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.
 Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.
 Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.
 Christ hear us. Christ graciously hear us.
 God, the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.
 God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us
 God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us
 Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us
 Holy Mary, pray for us.
 Holy Mother of God, pray for us.
 Holy Virgin of virgins, pray for us.
 Mother of Christ, pray for us.
 Mother of the Church, pray for us.
 Mother of divine grace, pray for us.
 Mother most pure, pray for us.
 Mother most chaste, pray for us.
 Mother inviolate, pray for us.
 Mother undefiled, pray for us.
 Mother most amiable, pray for us.
 Mother admirable, pray for us.
 Mother of good counsel, pray for us.
 Mother of our Creator, pray for us.
 Mother of our Saviour, pray for us.
 Mother of mercy, pray for us.
 Virgin most prudent, pray for us.
 Virgin most venerable, pray for us.
 Virgin most renowned, pray for us.
 Virgin most powerful, pray for us.
 Virgin most merciful, pray for us.
 Virgin most faithful, pray for us.
 Mirror of justice, pray for us.
 Seat of wisdom, pray for us.
 Cause of our joy, pray for us.
 Spiritual vessel, pray for us.
 Vessel of honour, pray for us.
 Singular vessel of devotion, pray for us.
 Mystical rose, pray for us.
 Tower of David, pray for us.
 Tower of ivory, pray for us.
 House of gold, pray for us.
 Ark of the covenant, pray for us.
 Gate of heaven, pray for us.
 Morning star, pray for us.
 Health of the sick, pray for us.
 Refuge of sinners, pray for us.
 Comfort of the afflicted, pray for us.
 Help of Christians, pray for us.
 Queen of Angels, pray for us.
 Queen of Patriarchs, pray for us.
 Queen of Prophets, pray for us.
 Queen of Apostles, pray for us.
 Queen of Martyrs, pray for us.
 Queen of Confessors, pray for us.

Queen of Virgins, pray for us.
 Queen of all Saints, pray for us.
 Queen conceived without original sin, pray for us.
 Queen assumed into heaven, pray for us.
 Queen of the most holy Rosary, pray for us.
 Queen of families, pray for us.
 Queen of peace. Pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
 That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.

Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord God, that we, your servants, may enjoy perpetual health of mind and body; and by the intercession of the Blessed Mary, ever Virgin, may be delivered from present sorrow, and obtain eternal joy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me.

For the intentions of the Holy Father, one may recite at the end of the Rosary one "Our Father", one "Hail Mary", and one "Glory Be".

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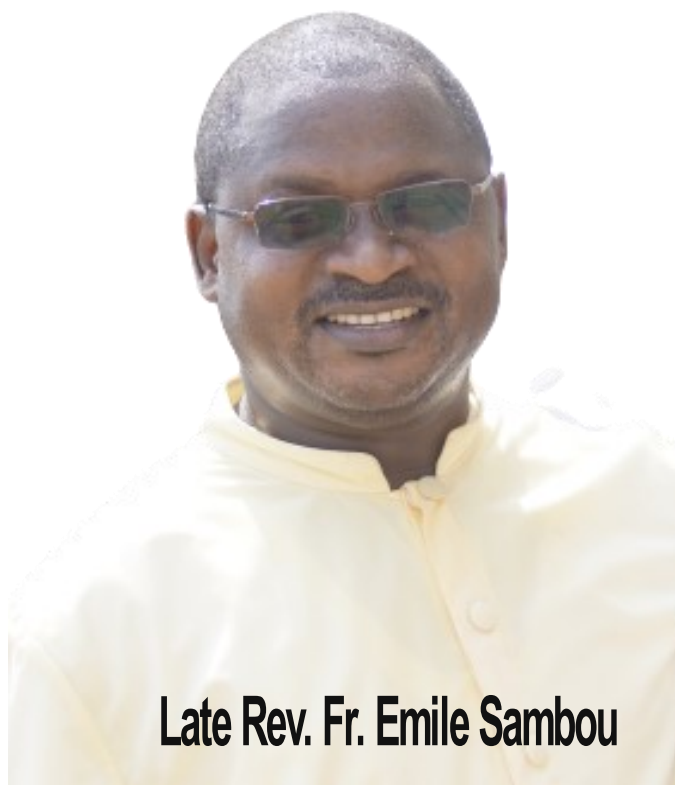
CONTACTS:
 5026644
 WhatsApp: 7740170

ADDRESS: Farato Brikama High Way
 E-mail: Tezaprovision@gmail.com

Cover Story

The Catholic Church Deeply Saddened

Mourns The Painful Exit of Rev. Fr. Emile Sambou



Late Rev. Fr. Emile Sambou

Rev. Fr. Emile Sambou (known also as *Bocande, Ponkal*), born in Dombondir, Cassamance on the 6th December, 1966, was the fifth born of his parents, the late Kuba Sambou and Christine Ainaino Demba. He attended St. Patrick's Primary School, Darsilami and St. Peter's Technical High School, Lamin, for his primary and secondary school education, respectively.

On completion of his schooling at Lamin, the then young Emile had a vocation to the Roman Catholic priesthood and went to study at St. Kizito's Pre-Major Seminary, Kenema in Sierra Leone in 1988. At the end of his one-year training there, he advanced to St. Paul's Major Seminary, Liberia in 1989, and thereafter to the St. Paul's College-Seminary, Sierra Leone in 1990. Fr. Emile had a brief spell as a teacher at St. George's Junior Secondary School in Basse whilst on his one year pastoral where he taught English Language, French Language and Christian Religious Education from 1993-1994, before his ordination as a Priest.

He had his final priestly training at St. Peter's Regional Seminary, Cape Coast, Ghana, and was ordained a Deacon on 29th June, 1996, in Kumasi, Ghana. On 15th November, 1997, he was ordained a Priest at St. Peter's Parish, Lamin.

Immediately after his priestly ordination in 1997, he was

posted to St. Martin's Parish, Kartong, as Parish Priest, and was later sent to Sacred Heart Parish, Bansang, as the Parish Priest. During his period at Bansang, he taught at Bansang Junior Secondary School, and Armitage Senior Secondary School, Janjanbureh, where he also served as Head of Department (H.O.D) of Modern Languages.

Fr. Emile served as the Parish Priest of St. Anthony's Parish, Kololi. In 2007, he went for further studies at D.C. University, All Hallows College-(Ireland) where he obtained his M.A. degree in Management of Non-profit Organizations in 2008, in addition to his other academic accomplishments; Diploma in Theology 1997; B.A. in Philosophical Studies, and G.C.E. O' Level Certificate.

He was Assistant Education Secretary at the Catholic Education Secretariat, and later became the Vicar-General of the Diocese of Banjul. He was a member of different boards and Commissions including the Republic of the Gambia National Agency Against Trafficking in Persons (NAATIP) and the Episcopal Commission on education

After his tenure as Vicar-General, he went to Ireland for his sabbatical where he spent two years. While on sabbatical, he seized the opportunity to do another Masters Programme in theology. He returned to the diocese in November last year and was assigned at St. Therese's Parish in Kanifing. He served the Diocese of Banjul in various other capacities until his demise on the 6th of September, 2021 after a brief illness. Fr. Emile was an excellent footballer, a great farmer and spent some of his leisure time fishing. He was a profound and prolific writer and an avid reader who loved languages. We greatly thank God for his life and that deep and unique voice of his that became his trademark.

The vigil service took place on the 16th September, 2021 at the St. Therese's Parish, at 6:00pm, where a lot of faithful took part. The homily was delivered by Fr. John Mendy and three touching tributes from the parish, family members and priests. It ended well with a note of gratitude to everyone that attended.

The funeral mass took place at the same church on the 17th September, 2021 at 2:00pm. The viewing was done earlier from 11:00am to 1:30am. Followed by the mass in which the homily was done Fr. John Mendy, attended by a huge crowd of the faithful to pay their last respect. Interment was at the Banjul Cemetery and the condolences was received at the St. Augustine's Senior Secondary School, Bishop Cleary Hall, Banjul

May his gentle soul rest in peace. Amen

AN OUTPOURING OF TRIBUTES FOLLOWS**A TRIBUTE TO A BROTHER**

Heaven is our home and we are all moving towards our eternal home. Today, Fr Emile has gone before us we mourn his demise, but we are a people of hope, because of the promises made us by the Lord. Jesus tells us in John 14:1-4; “I will come back and take you to be with me so that you also may be where I am”. He has promised that he will never abandon us, so today, we believe that our brother is with him.

The four of us; Bishop Gabriel, Fr Emile, Fr Bruno and myself were ordained on the 15th November, 1997, by the late Bishop Michael J. Cleary. This record of four priests ordained on the same day is yet to be broken. We thank the Lord for from among us emerged the first Gambian CSSp priest and bishop and Fr. Emile himself also became a Vicar General as well under Bishop Ellison.

Fr. Emile was a close friend and a brother to me. We four did a lot of things together in the junior seminary. If my memory serves me right, I think he was the last among his batch to arrive in the junior seminary. There he was shy and reserved, but later became the most jovial person. Those who know him know he loved mocking and laughed heartily.

Fr. Emile was one of the best footballers in St Peter’s High School now St Peter’s Senior Secondary School. As a new entrant to the school, I do remember him playing in the junior team of the school as the number five central defender because he was a good player and added to this he was stout and sturdy. And when he proved himself excellent at this position, he was promoted to the senior team be the number four defender. This showed how strong this gentleman was. He played defence in the midst of the seniors who were much older.

We worked together in Basse when he was assigned Parish Priest in Bansang. He stayed with me in Basse and travelled to Bansang during the weekends for the weekend ministries. We did everything together, like we were in our seminary days. Fr Bruno would also come sometimes for weekends or for a few days and you could imagine the excitement of us being together in the same place.

Fr. Emile was a hard working person in his pastoral work and other assignments. In the junior and senior seminaries, he was one of those who loved doing manual labour especially cutting grass with cutlasses, one of the most difficult jobs for some. When we talk about pastoral work, the various parishes and parishioners will attest to the fact that he was a real pastor to them.

Bokande or Ponkal as he is fondly called was a man of peace and a true mediator. Fr. Bruno, Fr. Paschal and some of the senior priests will attest to this as we witnessed so many interventions he made to promote peace: on the football field, in the classrooms, etc. And I suppose, the different instances in the various parishes he worked and as Vicar General would also confirm.

Today, as we mourn his demise, we pray for the family that they will be consoled. On behalf of the bishop, priests and religious of the Diocese of Banjul, we extend our sincerest condolences and pray that God well help you accept this loss. We also pray for the Diocese, with the help and intercession of our Blessed Mother Mary, that the Lord will protect his priests, religious and parishioners from all danger and from diseases.

My brother, Rev. Fr. Emile, rest well in the peace of Christ and we hope to be together again at our eternal home in heaven.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual



light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. Amen.

May the Lord bless us all.

*Rev. Fr Antoine Sambou
President
Association of Diocesan Clergy*

FAMILY TRIBUTE TO REV. FR. EMILE SAMBOU

A tribute on behalf of the Sambou (Tchikumene and Nyambalang), Demba, Jasse, Jabang, and the entire Karoninka family in The Gambia, Senegal and the diaspora.

The news of the sudden passing into glory of our dear beloved son, nephew, brother, cousin, uncle and relative Rev. Fr. Emile Sambou (commonly known as Father Ponkal) took us with great shock, leaving us devastated and filled with great bitterness. Staggering through this news with denial, awaiting to hear someone tell us “no, it was a mistake, he is not dead”. This indeed is one of the greatest tests of our faith as a family, leaving us with so many unanswered questions.

Like Samuel in the Bible, the family willingly handed you over to serve God and his church. This, you did selflessly and unreservedly from the day of your priestly ordination, November 1997 to the day you responded to God’s call to glory.

The pain of your departure is very unbearable, especially to the family, piercing through like a dagger into our hearts, after burying one of our mothers and grandmother three weeks ago. Painful as it may be, we are conscious of the fact that God gives and he takes, blessed be His Holy name. Shall the clay say to the potter, why have you made me this way? As a family, we take this in good faith and lay all in the hands of our maker who assures us that you are not dead but alive with Christ in heaven.

Father Emile was known for his radiant, contagious smiles. When he laughs in your presence, you can't help but laugh with him. He was an intelligent, hardworking man, a wonderful footballer, and a man greatly loved by many. He had so much passion for family unity and had always preached that message. Two years ago, Father Emile sent a message to the entire Sambou Tchikumene family telling us of an impression laid in his heart to set apart an annual day dedicated for family prayers. This was well received, and since then, performed by the entire family in The Gambia, Senegal and the diaspora. He will always say to us including his senior brothers, that 'I am your Father, since that is how you call me'.

Moreover, he had a true and deep love for all people. He knew how to listen, how to observe, how to keep quiet, and how to discretely give advice and receive opinions. He knew how to say thank you, and create joy around people. He was simple, pious, calm and always ready to help. A priest for all, without discrimination. He always reminded us when we complained sometimes that he was ordained a priest for all and not for his family.

For the many times we did not understand his determination to serve the Lord, we ask for your forgiveness. A smiling man, you were for us, and a pillar of support. To see you leave at the prime of life, six months after the death of your beloved big brother, makes us cry. Your departure leaves a great void in our hearts. Your beautiful smile, your laughter disappeared in our eyes as soon as we heard you were called back to God, but you will remain forever engraved in our hearts.

His contribution to building the bond of peace and love within the family and beyond is apparent to many, a testimony the Sambou, Demba, Jabang and Jassey families, he lived with can attest to, and those who had the privilege to work with him in the different parishes he served within the Diocese of Banjul. His sermons are always inspiring, touching on the daily practical issues of our societies and coupled with a strong drive for peaceful coexistence.

He has indeed fought the good fight of faith; he has run the race amidst all adversities; death has not won, but he has. The Apostle Paul made a profound statement in Philippians 1:20-21 "... I trust that my life will bring honour to Christ, whether I live or die. For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better."

Father Ponkal, indeed you have lived for Christ, and now death has given you the chance to transit to a better place in the Father's bosom. What awaits you is the crown of glory for the good works you have done here on earth.

You leave us as a heritage, faith in God, love of the family and others, that's why we implore the mercy of God, whom you loved without reservation, to open wide the doors of Paradise. May he give you the reward promised to his faithful servants.

Father is survived by five (5) brothers and three (3) sisters, including a strong network of an extended family, who see themselves as brothers and sisters, irrespective of the surnames they bear, in The Gambia, Senegal and the diaspora.

We will miss you dearly, and the memories we shared will forever remain in our hearts as a family, until we meet again. May the angels welcome you into Paradise, and may your gentle soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in perfect peace. Amen.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE FR. EMILE BOCANDE SAMBOU FROM ST. THERESE'S PARISH

I have no doubt that the announcement of the death of Fr. Emile Bocande Sambou gripped the parish of St. Therese's, and by extension, the entire Diocese with deep shock. The dawning realization that a beloved Priest and friend had gone to his eternal reward churned hearts, thoughts and memories.

Day in and day out, Fr. Emile fulfilled his priestly ministry in quiet fidelity and love, in the most rounded manner. He was an inspiring witness to the love of God in his self-sacrificing service and priestly ministry. Through the years, Fr. Emile faced many trials in the Ministry. When those around him or members of the congregation made mistakes, he was long-suffering and very gracious when he needed to be. He was always ready to listen to what you had to say.

In losing Fr. Emile, the Diocese, more so St. Therese's Parish, has lost a friend with a humble way of making God present in every-day encounter. He truly took on the person of Christ – and made Him present in his own inimitable way. Few people can handle the accolades of their peers while not letting it go to their heads. Without one reservation, Fr. Emile was one of the few. He always give credit to Jesus for everything good and took blame for what went wrong

Always engaged, courteous, humble and kind, Fr. Emile touched many lives with civility and a wholesomeness and humanity that were noteworthy. The degree of mourning, cards, letters and texts of condolence indicate just how deeply appreciated and loved he was, by so many. Fr. Emile was not changed, one iota, on doctrine! He did not stick his finger to the wind to figure out what to preach.

I have never known my pastor to preach anything contrary to the Scriptures!

The Late Fr. Emile was no "sacristy priest", but a man fully immersed in his people. He always wanted what was best for them. His preaching of the word and priestly demeanour were always grounded in reality and stood in solidarity with God's Holy People. I, for one, marveled at the acuteness and prescience of his weekly homilies.

Father Emile was no stranger to suffering and was most eloquent and inspiring in enduring it. He kept hidden from many this reality in his life, though the public knowledge of them could not be completely curtailed. Other sadness came his way too, not least the death of close family, friends and colleagues. I believe that he journeyed with all of this, not only stoically, but as a resolute Christian bearing his cross.

I wish to note at this point, Emile Bocande Sambou's care for everyone he encountered and his enormous generosity to them. He was really a Priest in his heart, in his very essence and a steadfast Christian in soul.

While now is not the time to eulogize, it is a time to take stock of the life that he has left us. We will all miss Fr. Emile here, but we will rely on his continued help and support from the heavenly kingdom. We will remember him in our prayers and Masses, asking the Lord to grant him membership with the saints, and the happiness of everlasting life with the Lord Jesus and his beloved mother.

Our sincere condolences to the biological and spiritual family of Fr. Emile Sambou

The union of Diocesan Priest – Ziguinchor send you (the presbyterium of the Diocese of Banjul), its fraternal and compassionate friendship in these moments of pain.

As Mary has given us the savior through her faith, so too does her maternal intercession allow the servant of God to be reborn with Christ in a blessed eternity.

We are with you in prayer.

*The Executive of the
Union of Diocesan Priests
Ziguinchor*

Most Rev. Dr. Gabriel Mendy C.S.Sp.
Bishop of Banjul
Catholic Secretariat
Box 165, Banjul
The Gambia
September 8, 2021

Re-Letter of Condolence

My Lord Bishop

The former altar servers at the Cathedral of our Lady of the Assumption, St. John Bosco Youth Club of the 80s and 90s members, Fr. William Cleary Foundation, My Brothers Keepers and the families of this diverse group wish to send our sincere prayers and condolences to you, the fraternity of priests in the diocese, Catholic Diocese of Banjul, and to all religious brothers and sisters, friends and families of the deceased on the sudden death of Rev. Fr. Emile Sambou.

Like most of you, we were saddened and shocked by his death, yet mindful that the Lord gives and takes always at his own time. During this difficult time for you and the Diocese, we continued to pray and put our trust in God, the father, knowing that he alone will give us all eternal life. Our faith tells us that the lives of the just are always in the hands and mercy of the Lord.

May the angels of God come to his aid and take him to the table of the Lord. May the good shepherd lead him safely home to be with God, our father. May the cross that he carries and the gospel that he preaches wipe away all his earthly sins. May the blessed Mother of God intercede for him to his son. May the Saints of God received him and present him to God, the Most High, and may we who mourn his lost, be assured of the comfort of our dear mother Mary, and may his soul rest in the shadow of the Lord. Amen.

Please accept, once again, on behalf of this group, our heartfelt condolences and prayers, as you all mourn his passing.

Yours in Christ.

*John Prospere Joof
Executive Director
Fr. William Cleary Foundation
My Brothers Keepers*

St. Therese's Senior Choir

Rev. Antoine Sambou

Sincere condolences on the demise of the late Rev. Fr. Emile Sambou

The executive and entire membership of St. Therese's Senior choir, Kanifing – The Gambia are in deep sorrow following the news of the sudden demise of our Assistant Parish Priest, Rev. Fr. Emile Sambou. We extend our sincere condolences to you, all priests in The Gambia and the family of the late Rev. Fr. Emile Sambou.

The late Rev. Fr. Emile Sambou rendered selfless service to the church and the Christian community at large during his entire life, the Parish of St. Therese, included.

We, the members of the Catholic community in The Gambia and abroad will miss him dearly. We will live to remember his audible voice as when he used to preach the Good news of the Kingdom of God to the Faithful from the pulpit and his ability to speak various local and international languages.

Fr. Emile's demise has created a vacuum in our hearts. However, we have pleasant memories of him in our minds as choristers of St. Therese's Senior Choir.


May the Lord condole and strengthen us by Faith. May He give us peace that is beyond human understanding! May Peter the Apostle open the gates of Heaven for him! May the angels welcome him to paradise! May Jesus Christ reward him for his selfless sacrifices and service to the Catholic Church of The Gambia, and may perpetual light shine upon him forever.

We at St. Therese's Senior Choir wish to extend, once again, our sincere condolences to you, all Priest, and Religious, Lay Faithful in the Diocese of Banjul and the entire family members of the late Rev. Fr. Emile Sambou.

May his soul continue to rest in peace.

Yours faithfully in Christ

*Alfred B. Jarjue
President
St. Therese's Senior Choir
Kanifing*



Archdiocese of Freetown

Archbishop's office

Santanno House
10 Howe Street
P. O. Box 98
Freetown
Sierra Leone
West Africa

Email: metroaft@gmail.com
Telephone: +23278955538/+23276771165

14th September 2021

Most Rev. Gabriel Mendy, CSSp
Bishop's Office
Diocese of Banjul
P. O. Box 165
Banjul, The Gambia

My Dear Bishop Mendy,

Message of Condolence on the Death of Rev. Fr Emile Sambou

I received with great shock and deep sadness the news of the death of Rev. Fr Emile Sambou, after what seemed like a short illness.

Fr Emile Sambou was among my first students when I returned to teach Philosophy in St Paul's College-Seminary in Gbarnga, Liberia, in September 1989. He was in the same class with Fr Bruno Toupan and Fr Antoine Sambou. At that time, he was strong, healthy, and a very tough footballer.

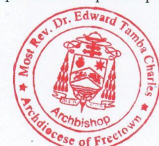
Later on, as Vicar General, Fr Emile represented Bishop Ellison a few times at the plenary meetings of our Bishops' Conference (ITCABIC) and made very useful contributions to our discussion. I remember very well, it was he who first suggested that we issue communiqués at the end of our plenary meetings to inform our dioceses about the main issues discussed at each meeting and our general concerns, as bishops, about the developments in our countries and in the West African sub-region in general, and how they affected the mission of the Church in our dioceses.

Now that it has pleased the Lord to call Fr Emile Sambou back home, I wish, on behalf of all in the Archdiocese of Freetown and in my own name, to express my sincere condolences to you, his bishop, to the entire Diocese of Banjul, and to his immediate family members and relatives. I join you to thank God for all the good things that he did during his pastoral ministry as a priest, and I pray that God may grant him eternal rest. I also pray that our faith in the resurrection of the dead may comfort you and all others who are mourning his death.

May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in perfect peace with the Lord!

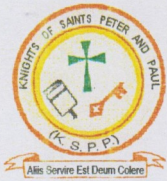
Faithfully yours in Christ,

Edward Tamba Charles
Most Rev. Edward Tamba Charles
Archbishop of Freetown



KNIGHTS OF SAINTS PETER AND PAUL

Your Ref:
Our Ref:



P. O. Box 2665 Banjul
Tel: (220) 9930071
Cell: (220) 7922261/9929179
E-Mail: chrisphilip2000@gmail.com
barthamarong@yahoo.co.uk

MOST REVEREND DR. GABRIEL MENDY C.S.SP
BISHOP OF BANJUL

9TH SEPTEMBER 2021

Your Lordship
Bishop Gabriel,

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE – LATE REV. FR. EMILE SAMBOU

The Knights of Ss Peter & Paul-The Gambia, are saddened by the death of Rev. Fr. Emile Sambou. We convey our condolences to you, the Gambian Clergy and the family of Fr. Emile.

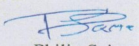
Fr. Emile Sambou demonstrated dedication to sacrifice and service to the Church and to humanity. He received the admiration of many on his courageous stance in defense of minority rights and social development rights. His solid leadership in challenging times for Gambian Christians in connection with former President Yahya Jammeh's declaration of Gambia an Islamic State in December 2015 was considered remarkable by many. He further participated significantly in protecting the Christian interest during the drafting process of the defunct 2020 Draft Constitution. The Catholic community will likely remember and miss his distinctly audible voice at the pulpit and eloquence in multiple local and international languages.

Fr. Emile's death evokes memories of yet another sad loss to our community, the 3rd within a short space of 3 months. May the Lord strengthen our faith and give us peace that surpasses understanding. May the angels welcome him to paradise; may Jesus reward him for his sacrifice and service to the Church; may Perpetual Light Shine upon him.

Our condolences are extended to all Priests and Religious of the Diocese of Banjul, the family of Rev. Fr. Emile Sambou and the entire Catholic community in the Diocese

May His Soul Rest in Perfect Peace.

Yours Faithfully in Christ,



Philip Saine
Supreme Knight

✓ Cc: Rev. Fr. Antoine Sambou
President Association of Diocesan Priests

me strong in the faith. He would send me on so many missions, which I gladly carried out, thus helping me to grow stronger in the faith. I thank God for his life and whatever I have become in the Catholic faith, was through his efforts. He was my spiritual guide.

During the time I spent with him, I learned a lot about him. He very much honoured the solemnity of the Holy Mass. I learned that during mass, no movements are allowed as they distract the attention of worshippers. Movements of children were not accepted in church. "Yalla bu yakar am tas chi Yesu Christa." Amen.

Fr. Emile devoted his life to the poor and the needy. Throughout his stay at St. Anthony's Parish, his door was never closed. Food was always on his table and he would share his meals and eat on the same table with the poor, the sick, strangers and those that society would call useless, were closest to him. May God reward him with the honour of sharing with Jesus in his heavenly banquet. Amen. Sometimes he would be very angry, but quick to let go. He would always accept his faults and apologize even when confronted by a little child.

Fr. Emile loved his Karoninka culture very much and he was a good dancer. May God reward him for all his good works and forgive his shortcomings.

Certain teachings I learned from him and will always keep in my heart.

- The spirit of the Christian is not a spirit of timidity.
- The Christian faith is not the faith of an individual, but the faith of communion.
- There nothing Jesus, who healed the sick and raised the dead, cannot do. We just have to ask and we shall receive.

- That when our hearts and minds are separated, how can we become our brother's keeper?
- That when the Son of man comes again to take his place in judgement, what will he find us doing?
Goodbye Fr. Emile. My faith tells me that we shall meet again. Till then, rest in peace.

*Aunty Monica Johnson
Missionary Childhood Coordinator
St. Anthony's Parish*

TRIBUTE TO FR. EMILE SAMBOU

The Lord has given and the Lord has taken. Blessed be the name of the Lord...

I came to know Fr. Emile in 2011 when he was posted to St. Anthony's Parish, where I was the Missionary Childhood Coordinator. Fr. Emile stood by me when it came to matters of the church. He neither judged me, nor condemned me. Instead whenever, I was weak, he made

The Pope's Prayer Intentions

OCTOBER: Missionary Disciples

We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.

NOVEMBER: People Who Suffer from Depression

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

View Point

REASONING AN APRC/NPP ALLIANCE



By: Philip Saine

On Thursday, 2nd September, 2021, the National People's Party (NPP) and the Alliance for Patriotic Reorientation and Construction (APRC) formed an alliance that seems not to be a popular initiative. The Peoples Progressive Party (PPP) leader also said his party has no

problem with the alliance, arguing that in the 2017 National Assembly and Council elections, the PPP put up candidates throughout the country, half of whom were APRC supporters. Whilst there is little or no objection for a merger between political parties, this particular one is unpopular for a number of reasons. Firstly, the alliance potentially could undermine the report of the TRRC; the objective is principally for party interest rather than of national interest. Secondly, the merger is likely to try to absolve ex-President Yahya Jammeh from legal responsibility for his actions whilst in office. Another objective for the alliance could be to enhance Barrow's victory in the December 4th Presidential elections. These reasons and conclusions are being buttressed by the disclosures of *Afrobarometer's* recent survey publication that Gambians have expressed mixed feelings for the ex-president Yahya Jammeh to receive amnesty and his assets return to him. According to the survey, 73% of people want Jammeh to face justice and his assets confiscated by the state, and for all perpetrators of offenses to be prosecuted according to law.

The APRC announcement at a press conference held at Coco Ocean Hotel on Saturday, 4th September, 2021 that it has agreed to form an alliance with the NPP, has triggered a wide-scale condemnation. While it is advocated to promote national reconciliation, this initiative of an alliance is probably premature. The alliance could have been propagated after implementation of the Truth, Reconciliation & Reparations Commission (TRRC) report and after ex-president Jammeh had answered to the numerous allegations. The TRRC sittings had received testimonies that revealed that 240 people were unlawfully killed during the 22 years rule of dictatorship by Jammeh. There were challenges faced by the families of victims of enforced disappearances. We heard of testimonies of a woman kicked in her genital area with military boots. (*The Point for Freedom and Democracy*) About three hundred and ninety-two (392) witnesses, including those who participated in the killings, through the instructions of Jammeh, have appeared before the Commission, and the testimonies of nearly all of them included human rights abuses, killings and mysterious disappearances of people; unlawful detention of people for a long period without access to a lawyer; abuse of power, sacking of government officials without genuine reasons, and misuse of government funds. As early as 1994/1995, Yahya Jammeh started calling journalists '*the illegitimate sons of Africa*'. He illegally and unconstitutionally declared the state Islamic that threatened the religious harmony always known to exist in The Gambia. For all these stated reasons ex-President Yahya Jammeh's return to The Gambia has the potential, as stated earlier, to create instability because his victims will not forget easily. Some commentators

have dubbed the NPP-APRC Alliance as '*Axis of Evil rather than Axis of Good*'. Others refer to it as '*An unholy Alliance*'. Playing politics with the TRRC under the pretext of national reconciliation '*Never Again!*' would be the greatest deception. The atrocities revealed at the TRRC do not seem to be given any seriousness by the government in all the circumstances.

Some personal opinions were expressed that, the NPP/APRC coalition and the return of Yahya Jammeh would bring peace to The Gambia. However, the persons that made such statements have not indicated whether Yahya Jammeh would be held accountable; whether his allegedly stolen wealth would be returned; and whether the victims would be appropriately compensated. The 'Reparations' as enshrined in the TRRC Act are meant to be delivered. Individuals and merged political parties can forgive and forget but this is not the reactions being received from the general population. It should be noted that a national issue as significant as this, is well beyond two political entities to negotiate away; the alliance has absolutely nothing to do with Gambia as a country. It has all the indications that it's all about Barrow's desire to stay in power. It's for his personal, rather than the national interest. We still remember '*who held the knife that killed the Lion?*'. Matthew Jallow, a distinguished political commentator, has this to say: '*Everyone should put their presidential aspirations in the back burner for the purpose of putting Gambia back on track. This is a moment when everyone's patriotism is put to the test. The Gambia deserves it. Citizens need it*'.

This alliance, it must be said, even threatens the efforts of national reconciliation and represents an apparent betrayal of the Gambian people, notably the victims of state terror and terrorized religious communities. Many who suffered are still distressed, as a result of the Jammeh regime. Madi Jobarteh, a reputable political commentator, has justifiably stated: '*So long as Tinpot Dictator Yaya Jammeh and the APRC leadership remain in denial, unremorseful, unrepentant and insulting victims and Gambians every day, any talk of forgiveness and reconciliation is mere hypocrisy!*' Here is another related quote from Sidi Cherno Jammeh/World Bank Group--IMF African Society Chairman Emeritus; '*Any political alliance and/or partnership between President Barrow and the APRC, even by appearance, will tantamount to a stunning betrayal of everything that Gambians fought so very hard for in December 2016. That would be a mistake*'.

Sacrifices were made then to make The Gambia depart from Jammeh's regime and adventurism. People who had been forced into exile have regained trust and confidence and are returning home. Therefore, any MOU agreed upon by the NPP/APRC alliance, if it is in good national faith, should be disclosed and perhaps justified to the public. It shall be for the State and Courts to determine the outcome of the commission and ex-president Jammeh's return. While the Alliance, which is '*a marriage of convenience*', may be contracted in the Gambia, is likely to have its '*honeymoon*' outside the jurisdiction of The Gambia and may involve Ghana and/or the ICC. The words of Aboubacarr Tambadou, former Minister of Justice and Attorney General (2017-2020), at the 2020 Opening of the Gambia Judicial Year must resonate in our minds.

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Rev. Fr. Peter Lopez / Director of Programmes

Tel: (mobile): + 220 – 700 6955

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The Ecoview	D10,000	D9000	D8000	D7000	D6000	D5000	D4000
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Voice of Hope with Jane Gomez	D10,000	D9000	D8000	D7000	D6000	D5000	D4000
Growing in Wisdom and Favour with God with Maurice J. Gomez	D10,000	D9000	D8000	D7000	D6000	D5000	D4000
Desert Voice with Fr. Yomi	D10,000	D9000	D8000	D7000	D6000	D5000	D4000
Fire and Rescue Services Programme with Officer Ebrima Kuyateh	D10,000	D9000	D8000	D7000	D6000	D5000	D4000
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WEEKDAY CELEBRATION - October & November

October 1st: St. Therese of Lisieux, *doctor of the Church*

Therese was born to devout parents in 1873 in Alençon, France, youngest of nine children. When she was four, her mother died; and her father, a watch-maker, moved to Lisieux. Early on, she wanted to follow two of her sisters in the religious life, but was told she was too young. She persisted, and in 1888 was admitted as a Carmelite nun. Therese is known for her 'Little Way', which asserts that it is not necessary to achieve 'great deeds' to become holy. 'I see that it is enough to realise one's nothingness and give oneself wholly, like a child, into the arms of the loving God.' Therese suffered from tuberculosis, and died aged only 24 on 30th September, 1897. Her autobiography, *L'histoire d'une âme* ('The story of a soul') was edited by her sister Pauline and published after Therese's death. It became a best-seller. Therese was canonised in 1925. The Gambia's largest church is dedicated to St Therese. In this diocese, we pray, especially today, for the priests and people of the parish of St Therese, Kanifing.

October 4th: St. Francis of Assisi, *religious*

St. Francis is one of the best-loved saints. He was born into a wealthy family in Assisi, Italy, around 1181. In his early 20s, after being a soldier and a prisoner of war, he experienced conversion. Francis sold all his possessions, gave the proceeds to the Church, and began a life of poverty. In 1209, Pope Innocent III approved the formation of the Franciscan Order, which stressed the need to imitate the life of Christ. Francis viewed nature as a mirror of God, calling all creatures his brothers and sisters. In 1209, he approved the formation of a women's order (the Poor Clares). In 1219, Francis visited Egypt and the Holy Land. In 1224, after a vision, he became the first person to receive the stigmata. Francis helped to restore popular faith in a Church which had been corrupted by wealth and political aspirations. He died in October, 1226 and was canonised in 1228.

October 7th: Our Lady of the Rosary

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. Today, in particular, we are reminded to meditate on the mysteries of Christ, following the example of Mary, who was associated with her Son's incarnation, ministry, passion and resurrection. In this diocese, we pray today for the people of the Church of the Holy Rosary, Lamin, opened in April 1995.

October 9th: Blessed John Henry Newman

John Henry Newman (1801-1890), was an Anglican priest who became a leader of the Oxford Movement, a group of Anglicans who wished to return the Church of England to Catholic beliefs and forms of worship. In 1845 Newman left the Church of England and was received into the Roman Catholic Church, where he was eventually made a Cardinal by Pope Leo XIII. Newman was instrumental in founding the Catholic University of Ireland, which evolved into University College, Dublin, today the largest university in Ireland. Newman's beatification was proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI in September 2010 during his visit to the United Kingdom. Newman's writings include his autobiography *'Apologia Pro Vita Sua* (1865-

66)'. He wrote the popular hymns 'Lead, Kindly Light' and 'Praise to the Holiest in the Height'. Newman is the patron of the English Ordinariate, set up by Benedict XVI for former Anglicans who are in full communion with Rome while retaining some Anglican forms of worship.

October 13th: St. Edward, *king and confessor*

Edward (1404-1466) was the last of the Anglo-Saxon kings of England, renowned for second-sight, curing scrofula and generosity to the poor. He founded Westminster Abbey, the best-known church in England. The title 'confessor' is given to an outstanding witness to the Gospel. It was conferred on Edward in his lifetime by Pope Alexander II. Edward's tomb at Westminster Abbey was a place of pilgrimage until the Reformation, as it has become again in modern times. Pope Benedict XVI prayed there in September 2010 with the Archbishop of Canterbury. In this diocese, the school at Bwiam is named in St. Edward's honour, and today we pray for past and present teachers and pupils of that school.

October 15th: St. Teresa of Avila, *doctor of the Church*

Teresa was born in Avila, Spain, in 1515. She joined the Carmelite Order and received mystic revelations. She underwent many trials in reforming her order. Her writings are marked by a deep understanding of doctrine. She died in 1582. She is one of the patron saints of Spain.

*Omnes sancti et sanctae Dei, intercedite pro nobis
(All holy men and women of God, intercede for us)*

October 17th: St. Ignatius of Antioch, *bishop and martyr*

Ignatius succeeded the Apostle Peter as second Bishop of Antioch (in present-day Turkey). During the reign of the Roman Emperor Trajan, he was arrested and sent to Rome. On his journey to execution, Ignatius wrote letters encouraging fellow-Christians to remain faithful despite persecution. He met his death by being thrown to wild animals.

October 18th: St. Luke evangelist

Luke was not an eye-witness of Christ's ministry, but accompanied St. Paul to Macedonia and Rome. Paul referred to Luke as 'the beloved physician'.

Luke's cultural background was Greek, and he was writing for Greeks. His Gospel account of Our Lord's ministry emphasises Jesus' compassion and his sympathy and openness towards women - who at that time were generally treated as inferior to men.

The Acts of the Apostles is a continuation of Luke's Gospel. It deals with events in the life of the early Church.

October 28th: St. Simon & St. Jude, *apostles*

Simon was born in Cana and was known as the Zealot.

Jude, known also as Thaddæus, asked Jesus at the Last Supper why he showed himself only to the apostles and not to the world (John 14: 22).

November 4th: St. Charles Borromeo, *bishop*

Charles was nobly born in 1583 at Arona (in present-day Italy) and was known in his youth for his saintly life

and academic ability. When he was 23, his uncle, Pope Pius IV (1559-65), made him Cardinal Archbishop of Milan. Charles gave his inheritance to the poor. His endeavours to revive the spiritual zeal of the clergy made him enemies. During the plague of 1575, he relieved distress and gave the last rites to the dying. Charles founded the Order of Oblates. He fought hard to eradicate Protestantism from his diocese. He died in 1584.

November 10th: St. Leo, the Great pope

Leo is one of the Doctors (teachers) of the early Church. He was born towards the end of the 4th century in Tuscany (part of present-day Italy). As Pope, from 440 to 451, he championed orthodoxy. When the monk Eutyches of Constantinople asserted that Christ had only a divine nature, Leo wrote his 'tome' insisting that Christ was true God and true man. Leo's teachings, as the 'voice of Peter',

were embraced by the Council of Chalcedon, and his example, letters and sermons contributed to the growth of papal authority.

November 21st: Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

We honour Mary's dedication of herself to God from her childhood by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, who filled her with grace at prayers and work in The Gambia since 1964 of the Presentation Sisters.

November 24th: St. Andrew Dung-Lac & companions *martyrs*

Born in 1839, Andrew was a priest in Vietnam, his homeland. In 1839, he was arrested and beheaded. Between 1820 and 1862, 117 Christians in Vietnam were similarly martyred. In 1988, they were canonised by St. John Paul II.

Holy Day of Obligation

ALL SAINTS AND ALL SOULS DAY

November First is one of the great days of the Church's calendar – a holy day of obligation.

Remembering martyrs and other saints, and dedicating a specific day to each of them, has been a Christian tradition since the 4th century. But it wasn't until AD609 that Pope Boniface IV designated 13th May as the commemoration of all the Church's martyrs.

Over 200 years later, in 837, Pope Gregory IV extended the feast to include the commemoration of all the saints, and designated 1st November as the date.

The saints are examples of 'virtuous and godly living'. The Letter to the Hebrews tells us that during our earthly pilgrimage 'we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses'.

Sainthood is not so much about hero-worship as about having friends: the saints are the real men and women of every age in whose lives we can glimpse heaven in our midst. They are our partners in prayer.

Pope Benedict has written: 'Human life is a journey. Towards what destination? How do we find the way? Life is like a voyage on the sea of history, often dark and stormy, a voyage in which we watch for the stars that indicate the route. The true stars of our life are the people who have lived good lives. They are lights of hope. Certainly, Jesus Christ is the true light, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history. But to reach him we also need lights close by - people who shine with his light and so guide us along our way.'

Pope Benedict XVI: Spe Salvi

'We celebrate the Solemnity of All Saints. This invites us to turn our gaze to the immense multitude of those who have already reached the blessed land, and points us on the path that will lead us to that destination.'

Pope John Paul II

ALL Souls falls this year on a Tuesday, November Second.

On this day, we commemorate all the faithful departed.

We remember and pray for the souls of those in Purgatory – the place or state in which those who have died, atone for their less grave sins, before being granted the vision of God in heaven.

When a soul leaves the body, it is not entirely cleansed from venial (minor) sins. But, through the power of prayer, the faithful on earth may be able to help the departed to gain the Beatific Vision, bringing the soul eternal happiness.

So at the Mass, when visiting family graves, and in our private prayers, we remember our dead.

Praying for the dead is an ancient Christian tradition, but it was Odilo, Abbot of Cluny, in France, who in AD998 designated a specific day for remembering and praying for those in the process of purification. This started as a local feast in his monasteries and gradually spread throughout the Catholic Church towards the end of the 11th century.

'For the souls in Purgatory, waiting for eternal happiness and for meeting the Beloved is a source of suffering, because of the punishment due to sin, which separates them from God. But, there is also the certitude that once the time of purification is over, the soul will go to meet the One it desires.' *St John Paul II*

Grant to us, Lord God, to trust you, not for ourselves alone, but for those also whom we love and who are hidden from us by the shadow of death; so that, as we believe your power to have raised our Lord Jesus Christ from the dead, we may trust your love to give eternal life to all who believe in him.

Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever. Amen.

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GAMBIAN CHRISTIAN ANNIVERSARIES:

October & November

8th October, 1878: Death of the Superior of the Mission, Fr Renoux, who arrived six months earlier on 11th April.

15th October, 1884: Opening of Bethel Methodist Church in Stanley Street, Banjul.

26th October, 1905: Arrival of Fr. John Meehan, ordained in Paris the previous year.

16th October, 1931: Fr. Meehan was nominated first Ecclesiastical Superior of the Banjul Mission, which in May that year had become self-governing. (His appointment was confirmed in January 1931).

1st October, 1933: Ordination in Paris of Fr Thomas Jobe, who celebrated his first Mass in Banjul on 15th October 1934.

21st November, 1936: Fr. Joseph Charles Mendy arrived from a retreat in Dakar, bringing with him an English priest, Fr. Harold Whiteside.

27th October, 1938: Arrival of Fr. Michael Moloney (later became Bishop Moloney).

10th October 1945: Arrival of Fr. James White, who died in The Gambia in February 1996.

1st November, 1948: Opening of St Therese's Elementary School, with 114 pupils.

30th November, 1951: Fr. Moloney was named Prefect of the Banjul Mission, which had been designated a Prefecture Apostolic on 15th April that year.

16th October, 1952: Arrival of Fr. William Costelloe and Fr Reginald Gillooly.

26th October, 1958: Enthronement of Bishop Moloney as first Bishop of Banjul, at Hagan Street Church, becoming his Cathedral.

3rd October, 1959: Building began in Bakau of Stella Maris Church (Star of the Sea).

17th October, 1962: Founding of Pioneer Total Abstinence Association.

20th October, 1965: Arrival of Fr. John Sharpe.

3rd October, 1967: Arrival of Fr. Michael Casey, who retired from service in The Gambia after 47 years' service.

28th October, 1968: Arrival of the first Presentation Sisters, Sr. Cecilia and Sr. Margaret.

12th November, 1968: Arrival of Br. Liam Sheridan and Br. Benedict Stapleton to begin Lamin technical school.

27th October, 1970: Arrival of Fr. Robert Ellison (who later became the Bishop of Banjul).

11th October, 1972: Fr. Sharpe moved to Kunkujang to found a mission station.

12th November, 1972: Bishop Moloney blessed the Junior Seminary at Fajara. The first Director was Fr Pierre Sagna (later, Bishop Sagna). Among the 19 seminarians were Fr Anthony Gabasi and Fr Peter Gomez.

4th November, 1976: First meeting of all Mission personnel to work out a pastoral plan for the diocese.

29th October, 1977: Death of James Ndow, first Gambian Principal of Gambia High School.

31st October, 1981: Departure of Fr. Michael Murray owing to ill-health.

23rd November, 1983: Sudden death in Ireland of Fr Francis Farrell.

18th November, 1999: Funeral in Banjul of Tony Blain, former Director of Education, who had died in the USA.

6th November, 2000: President Yahya Jammeh appointed Bishop Michael Cleary an honorary Commander of the Order of the Republic of The Gambia (CRG).

13th November, 2000: Death of Rachel Palmer, former Head of the School of Nursing, Banjul.

13th October, 2002: Death in Ireland of Fr. Vincent Comer, former Principal of St. Peter's Technical High School Lamin, and Vicar-General of the diocese.

6th October, 2005: Death in Ireland of Sr. Benigna Kearney, who had taught in The Gambia for more than 50 years.

17th November, 2007: Bishop Ellison began a three-day pastoral visit to the neighbouring Diocese of Ziguinchor.

24th November, 2007: Archbishop Théodore-Adrien Sarr of Dakar was among 23 new cardinals created by Pope Benedict XVI.

17th October, 2008: Death in the USA of Arthur K. Carrol, Methodist, who after retirement as head of the Gambia Public Transport Corporation, worked for the Catholic charity, Caritas. Mr. Carrol's funeral was held at Wesley Methodist Church, Banjul on 7th November.

10th-18th November, 2008: Fr. Peter Conaty, former Director of GPI, returned after 20 years to lead a workshop on the liturgy for priests, religious and choir leaders.

21st November, 2008: At Farafenni, Bishop Ellison ordained Fr. John Mendy.

29th November, 2008: Sr. Vivian Aduni, Sr Benedicta Peligabase, Ghanaians, and Sr. Marie Sylva, Gambian, made their first profession as Sisters of St. Joseph of Cluny.

14th November, 2009: At Brikama, Bishop Ellison ordained Fr. Yenes Manneh.

2nd to 23rd October, 2009: Bishop Ellison was among 244 bishops who took part in the Synod for Africa in Rome.

5th October, 2009: Death in Banjul of Matilda Ann Faal, aged 98, who had attended Holy Spirit Banjul every day since its opening.

25th November, 2009: Death of Marcel Jinage Badji, aged 58, Director of St. Joseph's Family Farm, Bwiam.

1st – 10th October, 2010: Sr Calixte Thomas, Sr Josephine Kamada, Sr Teresa Mundow and Sr Jeanne-Therese Ndeye joined Cluny Sisters from all over Africa at a synod in Dakar.

15th November, 2010: Simon Suta Mendy became Catechist Co-ordinator at GPI.

29th October, 2011: Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral for the 50th anniversary as a reverend sister of Sr Jeanne-Thérèse Ndeye, first Gambian Sister of St. Joseph of Cluny.

10th November, 2012: Bishop Ellison ordained Fr Aimé Joseph Colley and Fr Matthew M. Mendy at Lamin.

17th November, 2012: Sr Barbara Kumangtum from Ghana, Sr Rahel Matandala from Kenya, and Sr Victoria Tholley from Sierra Leone made their first profession at the Novitiate of St Joseph of Cluny at Kanifing.

9th November, 2013: At Brikama, Bishop Ellison ordained Fr Victor Ndecky.

1st October, 2016: Ellen B. Mendy and Harriet B. Mendy made their first vows as novices of the Presentation of Mary.

19th October, 2016: At Bakau Stadium, the Gambian Christian Council held an ecumenical gathering to pray for the peace, human rights, security and religious freedom, especially for Christians in The Gambia.

7th October, 2017: Dawida Krzempek of the School Sisters of Notre Dame (SSND) celebrated the silver Jubilee of her religious profession, having spent 17 of her 25 years as religious sister in The Gambia.

5th October, 2018: Three priests of the Salesians of St. John Bosco took up ministry at Kunkujang-Mariama.

2nd November, 2018: The Dutches of Cornwall, wife of the Prince of Wales, visited St. Therese's Upper Basic School, Kanifing.

5th November, 2018: At Jaama Hall, the choir of St. Peter's, Lamin staged a Silver Jubilee Concert.

9th November, 2018: Crowds of Christians and Muslims welcomed Bishop Gabriel Mendy when he paid his first visit to Basse. He also confirmed 17 young Catholics.

19th November, 2018: Bishop Mendy hosted a dinner at GPI for Archbishop Dagoberto Campos-Salas, Apostolic Nuncio to The Gambia.

2nd October, 2021: Ordination of Rev. Fr. John Nicolas Correa at the St. Kizito's Parish, Bakoteh.



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- 04 Avoid crowded places and close contact with anyone that has fever or cough.
- 05 Stay at home if you feel unwell.
- 06 If you have a fever, cough and difficulty breathing, seek medical care early — but call first.
- 07 Get information from trusted sources.

Saviour of the world, by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

REFLECTIONS AND READINGS

for the Sundays in October and November



October 3rd, 2021

**Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B**

1st Reading: Genesis 2:18-24

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 128:1-6

2nd Reading: Hebrews 2:9-11

Alleluia: 1 John 4:12

Gospel: Mark 10:2-16 or Mark 10:2-12

Reflection: Those three words, “From the beginning,” are key words for our day and age. It is important for people of faith to recognize not only the supernatural gifts God has given us, but also the natural gifts. The supernatural gifts are all those gifts given us by the Cross of Christ. His life, death and Resurrection poured forth upon us grace from Heaven and made holiness, salvation and Heaven possible. But, there is a whole other order of “gift” that God gave us that we often take for granted. That’s the gift of nature. Creation itself, the order of the Universe, our humanity and the natural design of God are all gifts. Science can do much to discover the secrets and mysteries of the natural world, but ultimately a full understanding of even the natural world is mysterious, deep and awe-inspiring. One aspect of the natural world God gave us is our sexuality. “God made them male and female...” Reflect, today, upon the many ways that being “male and female” are natural blessings from God. Reflect, also, upon the ways that these natural gifts are challenged and undermined in our world today. Embrace who you are, embrace who God made you to be, and let that natural gift from God flourish in your life.

October 10th, 2021

**Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B**

1st Reading: Wisdom 7:7-11

Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 90:12-17

2nd Reading: Hebrews 4:12-13

Alleluia: Matthew 5:3

Gospel: Mark 10:17-30 or Mark 10:17-27

Reflection: “For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God.” Jesus says that it is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God. These are hard words. Is He saying that a person with wealth cannot get into Heaven, because a camel certainly can NOT fit through the eye of a needle? Or is He simply reminding us that we are not going to get to Heaven of our own accord...? If God wills a camel to fit through the eye of a needle, it WILL fit. Obviously, God wants us in Heaven with Him, but our wealth and worldliness impede

the path. As missionary disciples who seek to be FULLY alive, we can’t fall into the trap of putting our trust in the riches of the world — we must put our wealth to the service of the Lord. God can use the blessings of this world to bring us closer to Him, but we have to cooperate willingly and completely.

October 17th, 2021

**Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B**

1st Reading: Isaiah 53:10-11

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22

2nd Reading: Hebrews 4:14-16

Alleluia: Mark 10:45

Gospel: Mark 10:35-45 or Mark 10:42-45

Reflection: As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up, knelt down before him, and asked him, “Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” (Mark 10:17) This story starts out looking quite good. Here is a young man who is quite wealthy, who comes to Jesus with a question grounded in faith. By asking Jesus what He must do to inherit eternal life, this man, most likely, believed that Jesus had the answer. And in his excitement, he wanted direction from Jesus. Jesus tells him that he must keep the Commandments, to which the young man responds that he has observed them from his youth. But then, Jesus says something that this young man never expected Him to say. He says, “You are lacking in one thing. Go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” Ouch! This must have stung this rich young man in the heart. Reflect, today, upon the radical call of Jesus in your life. He wants every part of your life. You may have good intentions of trying to be good, but are you willing to go all the way, following Christ in a full and unlimited way?

October 24th, 2021

**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B**

1st Reading: Jeremiah 31:7-9

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 126:1-6

2nd Reading: Hebrews 5:1-6

Alleluia: 2 Timothy 1:10

Gospel: Mark 10:46-52

Reflection: On hearing that it was Jesus of Nazareth, Bartimaeus began to cry out and say, “Jesus, son of David, have pity on me.” (Mark 10:47) These words from Bartimaeus, the blind man, present us with the perfect prayer for a few reasons. Reflect, today, upon these three

lessons from Bartimaeus' short prayer. We must be humble, beg for mercy, and do so with deep passion and longing. Praying this way will most certainly dispose us to the grace and mercy of God.

October 31st, 2021
Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B

1st Reading: Deuteronomy 6:2-6
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 18:2-4, 47, 51
2nd Reading: Hebrews 7:23-28
Alleluia: John 14:23
Gospel: Mark 12:28-34

Reflection: "The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:31) The first and greatest Commandment is to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength. But Jesus goes on to give us the second most important Commandment. "Love your neighbor as yourself." Reflect, today, upon the ways that you act as a bridge of love between God and others. Recognize this as your absolute duty, privilege and honor. Commit yourself to a wholehearted love of God and allow that love to overflow and be poured out upon all those with whom you encounter every day. Love is contagious, and it must consume everything you are and everything you do.

November 7th, 2021
Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B

1st Reading: 1 Kings 17:10-16
Responsorial Psalm: Psalms 146:7-10
2nd Reading: Hebrews 9:24-28
Alleluia: Mark 5:3
Gospel: Mark 12:38-44 or Mark 12:41-44

Reflection: "Beware of the scribes, who like to go around in long robes and accept greetings in the marketplaces, seats of honor in synagogues, and places of honor at banquets. They devour the houses of widows and, as a pretext, recite lengthy prayers. They will receive a very severe condemnation." (Mark 12:38-40) It's important to note here that, Jesus says: "They will receive a very severe condemnation." These words are spoken from Him, who is the source of mercy and grace. His heart is full of kindness and compassion, He is gentle and forgiving, and He wants nothing other than our eternal salvation. And yet, Jesus is clear that the scribes will be severely condemned. Reflect, today, upon the harsh judgment Jesus issued toward the scribes. Know that this is done, in part, to teach us what to avoid in life. Avoid all selfish pride. Seek humility and true prayer and you will be greatly blessed.

November 14th, 2021
Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year B

1st Reading: Daniel 12:1-3
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 16:5, 8-11
2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:11-14, 18
Alleluia: Luke 21:36
Gospel: Mark 13:24-32

Reflection: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." (Mark 13:31) Yes, it is true. Heaven, as it is now, and Earth, as it is now, will pass away. The Gospels and the Book of Revelation speak to this truth. As we draw close to the end of this liturgical year, we are reminded of this fact. We are reminded that Jesus will return in splendor and glory and will make all things new. The world, as we know it, will be made anew, and Heaven will be joined to this new Earth, and all will be one. Jesus will reign in this new world as the glorious King of all. Reflect, today, upon the simple fact that everything in life is passing away except the words of our Lord. All that He has spoken and revealed to us, will remain for all time, and these truths are the only thing in life worth working for. Turn your eyes to the Word of God and try to grasp its meaning more deeply, so that you can begin to build up treasure in Heaven, here and now!

November 21st, 2021
Feast of Christ the King
Year B

1st Reading: Daniel 7:13-14
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 93:1-2, 5
2nd Reading: Revelation 1:5-8
Alleluia: Mark 11:9, 10
Gospel: John 18:33-37

Reflection: Jesus answered: "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If my kingdom did belong to this world, my attendants would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not here." (John 18:36) Today, on the final Sunday of our Church year, we celebrate the glorious Solemnity of Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Next Sunday begins Advent. On this day, we profess the profound truth that our Lord is King! He is the King of all things. He is King of the Universe. And He is King of Heaven and all spiritual realities. However, in the Gospel passage quoted above, Jesus responds to Pilate, who was questioning Him about whether or not He was the King of the Jews. Jesus is clear that He is a King, but that His Kingdom does not belong to this world. So, where is His Kingdom? Reflect, today, upon your duty to help bring forth the Kingdom of God, here and now. Start by seeing your duty to allow God's Kingdom to grow within you and your family. From there, be open to the many ways that God wants to use you to help others do the same. As you do, do not be afraid to work toward the external establishment of God's Kingdom in all that you do and in all that falls within your responsibility. Jesus is King, and He desires to reign everywhere. Cooperate with Him, and His Kingdom will indeed come.

November 28th, 2021
First Sunday of Advent
Year C

1st Reading: Jeremiah 33:14-16
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 25:4-5, 8-10, 14
2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 3:12-42
Alleluia: Psalm 85:8
Gospel: Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

Reflection: Son of Man will come. Watch and pray always!



A New Gambian Spiritan Priest Ordained

Ordination to the Presbyterate
Rev. Fr. John Nicolas Correa, C.S.Sp.

Reverend John Nicolas Correa, C.S.Sp. was born into the family of Augustus Ken Correa (of blessed memory) and Anna Marie Mendy of Bakoteh on the 10th October, 1990 at Fajikunda in the Kanifing Municipality of The Gambia.

Reverend Correa received the sacrament of Baptism as an infant on 17th October, 1990 and First Holy Communion in 1997 at St Charles Lwanga Parish, Fajikunda. To become a soldier of Christ in the Catholic faith which he professes, Reverend Correa received the sacrament of Confirmation on 16th July, 2006 at St. Kizito's Parish, Bakoteh.

He began his seminary formation at St Peter's Junior Seminary, Lamin from 2007 to 2009. He applied to the Spiritans Congregation and was admitted and sent to Ghana in 2011 to pursue Philosophy studies at the Spiritans University College and Formation House, Ejisu in the Ashanti Region, Ghana for a period of four years.

Upon completion of his Philosophy studies, he did Pastoral Experience Programme at the Sacred Heart Parish, Bansang, The Gambia from 2015 to 2016. After the Pastoral experience programme, he was admitted into the Holy Ghost Novitiate, Aliade in Benue State, Nigeria from 2016 to 2017. Reverend Correa professed his First Religious Vows into the Congregation of the Holy Spirit on the 8th September, 2017.

Reverend Correa proceeded to the Spiritans International School of Theology (SIST), Attakwu, Enugu State, Nigeria residing in the Spiritans International Formation Community (SIFCA), from 2017 to 2021. He received the ministries of Lector (24th November, 2018) and Acolyte (28th November, 2019) during the period of his Theology studies at SIST.

He professed his Perpetual Vows into the Congregation of the Holy Spirit on the 2nd October, 2020 and was ordained a Deacon by the Most Reverend Dr. Donatus A. Ogun, OSA the Catholic Bishop of Uromi Diocese on 17th December, 2020 at Ehor, Edo State, Nigeria.

Reverend Correa gained Apostolic work experience in the following places: Spiritan Formation House Ejisu, Ashanti Region, Ghana 2011 to 2012; St. Kizito's Parish Bakoteh, The Gambia in 2013; Queen of Peace Parish Golokwati, Volta Region, Ghana in 2014; St Martin of Tours Parish Ahiala, Anambra State, Nigeria in 2019.

He possesses the following academic qualifications: West African Senior School Certificate (WASSC), St. Augustine's Senior Secondary School, Banjul (2009); Bachelor of Arts (B.A) degree in Philosophy and Social Sciences, Spiritan University College, Ejisu, Ghana (2015); Higher Diploma in Theology, Spiritans International School of Theology, Enugu, Nigeria (2021); and Master of Arts (M.A) degree in Theology, Duquesne University, Pittsburg, USA (2021).



Reverend John Nicolas Correa, C.S.Sp. has been appointed by the Superior Generalate and Council to the Spiritans Province of Ireland.

His hobbies are listening to good music and reading liberal Theology.

The Ordination and Thanksgiving Mass for Rev. Correa took place at the St. Kizito's Parish, Bakoteh on October 2nd and 3rd, 2021, respectively.

A Prayer for Priests

by
St. Charles Borromeus

O Holy Mother of God, pray for the priests your Son has chosen to serve the Church. Help them, by your intercession, to be holy, zealous, and chaste. Make them models of virtue in the service of God's people. Help them be pious in meditation, efficacious in preaching, and zealous in the daily offering of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Help them administer the Sacraments with love and joy.
Amen.

