



THE IMC YOUNG MISSIONARIES RENEWAL COURSE EXPERIENCE

On a long journey, travelers find it necessary to have a moment of rest. During this moment, a traveler can have a cup of water or eat some food to energize and continue with the journey. It is with this regard that the congregation of Consolata Missionaries thought of organizing a one-month renewal course for its young members working in the continent of Africa, who were ordained 4-7 years ago.

For the participants, this renewal course is a moment to refuel and to reflect more on the vocation journey by sharing their pastoral experience. The one-month course takes place in Consolata Mission Centre Bunju/Dar es Salaam.

The 20 participants are drawn from different delegations and regions of Africa: 3 from Ivory Coast, 2 from the South Africa-Eswatini delegation, 4 from the Mozambique-Angola region, 4 from Tanzania, 6 from the Kenya-Uganda region, and 1 comes from Ethiopia. The course began on Wednesday 27th April 2022 in the evening being facilitated by two senior confreres: Fr Leo Bagenda and Fr Matthew Ouma. Each participant shared his vocation journey as well as the challenges faced since joining Consolata Missionary. Despite the challenges, the participants are optimistic and happy to be part of Consolata Missionary Family.

The course has been an eye-opener, a moment

of grace and renewal for all the participants. The sharing and bonding sessions have helped the participants understand more and appreciate the challenges they face in their respective regions hence giving them comfort and consolation.

The main theme of the course is 'The Renewal Integrated Zeal.' The facilitators have reminded us that its goal was to renew and rekindled the missionary zeal of each participant.

They insisted by saying that each missionary cannot change the past but he can influence the future. They also added that happiness is not found in the mission but in the heart of a missionary.

Among the topics discussed were: 'Self-awareness as the Essential Tool for Success in the Mission'. This topic helped the participants to understand themselves and enhance the spirit of community life. The facilitators also emphasized the importance of listening to the people we serve since it is a tool for success in our mission.

Finally, I am glad to be back in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania where I began my mission as a Consolata priest. I am enjoying the course and I thank the General government for organizing this course as well as the region of Tanzania for hosting us.

May the Blessed Joseph Allamano our founder and our Lady Consolata continue to strengthen us in our vocation journey.

Fr André Nzuzi, imc