

CENTENNIAL MASS CELEBRATION (1926–2026)

St. Allamano, Pray for Us

Consolata Shrine – Westlands, Nairobi

28th February, 2026

**Your Grace H.E the Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Bert Van Megen,
Your Lordships Present,
Reverend Fathers and Sisters of the Consolata Missionaries,
Distinguished Guests, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,**

Today, I stand before you not primarily as a businessman, nor as a leader, nor as a public figure.

I stand before you as a grateful son of the Church - a beneficiary of missionary sacrifice, a product of faith in action, and living testimony that when God's work is planted in fertile soil, it yields fruit beyond imagination.

In 1955, I - Peter Munga - was a young village boy in Tuthu. My future, like that of many rural children, was uncertain. Opportunity was scarce. Resources were limited. Dreams were modest because circumstances did not allow one to dream too far.

It is at that defining moment that the Consolata Missionaries changed my destiny. Through the kindness and vision of Fr. Krismasco, I received a scholarship of five shillings to enable me to go and study.

Five shillings.

Today that amount may appear insignificant. But at that time, for me and for my family, it was transformational. It was not merely money; it was hope. It was trust. It was belief that a young boy from a small village deserved a chance.

It was that scholarship by Fr. Krismasco that later inspired me to start the Wings to Fly Program at Equity Bank - so that thousands of other children, like that small boy in Tuthu, would be given the opportunity to dream beyond circumstance. What was done for me, we felt compelled to multiply for the nation.

That small scholarship opened doors. It took me to Kiangunyi. Later, it took me to Gaichanjiru.

At Gaichanjiru, Fr. Delaide - another devoted Consolata missionary - became deeply instrumental in shaping not only my life but the lives of many other young boys.

They did not simply teach us literacy and arithmetic. They shaped our character. They instilled discipline.

They taught integrity. They modeled humility. Most importantly, they planted faith deeply within us.

When I reflect on my journey, I am humbled by one undeniable truth: without that five-shilling scholarship, without the Consolata missionaries, my life might have followed a very different trajectory.

The seed that was planted in Tuthu in Kenya has grown into a forest from which faith flourishes and thrives.

It is important to remember that this was part of a Divine plan - the missionaries were initially destined for Ethiopia, but Providence brought them to Kenya. From that divine redirection, a forest of faith emerged.

That forest of faith is now present in over 30 countries. The Consolata charism has crossed borders, cultures, and generations - forming bishops, leaders, educators, and servants of humanity.

From this congregation have emerged shepherds of the Church such as Bishops Kihara, Mukua, and many others who grew within the Consolata spirit to become faithful leaders of God's people, including Cardinal Malengo.

Among those shaped by this mission were leaders such as President Mwai Kibaki, Professor Wangari Maathai, Ambassador Francis Muthaura, John Michuki, Ambassador Emma Murai, Senior Counsel Fred Ngatia - who drafted the Constitution of the St. Allamano Foundation - Jane Michuki, Justice Gachoka, and many others across generations.

To immortalize this legacy left to us by St. Allamano, a new seed - in the form of the St. Allamano Foundation - has been inaugurated. Its mission is clear: to grow an even bigger forest, continuing the work of evangelization and holistic human promotion.

On the 20th of October 2024, I had the profound spiritual privilege of standing in St. Peter's Square in Rome as Saint Joseph Allamano was canonised. It was deeply moving. Later, traveling to Castelnuovo and celebrating Mass in the very church where he offered his first Mass in 1873 after his ordination was overwhelming. From that humble altar came a mission that reached Tuthu — and through Tuthu, reached the world.

Greatness begins with obedience.

Saint Allamano said yes to God.

The missionaries said yes to Africa.

And because of those yeses, generations were transformed.

As we commemorate one hundred years since he was born into eternal glory, our

responsibility is not merely to remember — but to recommit.

If five shillings could change one life, imagine what collective faith and stewardship can do today.

This centennial celebration is therefore not only remembrance. It is recommitment.

Recommitment to educating with integrity.

Recommitment to leading with humility.

Recommitment to serving without seeking applause.

Recommitment to investing in the next generation.

Personally, I remain forever grateful - grateful to Fr. Krismasco, grateful to Fr. Delaide, grateful to the Consolata missionaries, and grateful to God for the life and vision of Saint Joseph Allamano.

May this forest of faith continue to grow. May new seeds be planted.
May future generations look back and say we were faithful stewards.

With deep humility and gratitude, I say:

St. Allamano, pray for us.

St. Allamano, pray for Kenya.

St. Allamano, pray for the Consolata Missionaries.

St. Allamano, pray that we may be worthy custodians of this legacy.

Amen.

Dr. Peter K. Munga EGH.