



Priestly Ordination of the First Burundian Montfortian

BWOGA-CHIOGGIA, Burundi - On Sunday December 11, 2022, the third Sunday of Advent, called the "Sunday of Joy", the Company of Mary, in general, and the General Delegation of Francophone Africa (DGAF), in particular, were in a great joy, together with the local Church of Burundi, to have welcomed the very first Burundian Montfortian to the priesthood.

Indeed, after his philosophical studies in Kisangani (DR Congo), Father François NSHIMIRIMANA, SMM had his Novitiate experience in Montfort/Meu (in France) with his 4 promotions from the DGAF, including two Burundian compatriots (Deacon Eric MANIRAKIZA, SMM who is on mission in France, and Bro. Majoric MANIRAMBOGOYE, SMM studying in PNG) and two Congolese (Fr. Ephrem KULONDWA, SMM who was ordained a priest on November 6, and Bro. Bienvenu LUKINU, SMM who is still studying theology in PNG).

After this stage of the novitiate, Fr. François went to Gitega/Burundi for his theological studies for four years after which he returned to Kisangani where he did his six-month pastoral internship and three more months for the preparation at the perpetual profession (PPP) at the end of which he was ordained deacon with two of his promotions (Dr. Eric and Fr. Ephrem).

However, from the hands of Mgr. Bonaventure NAHIMANA, Archbishop of Gitega, Deacon François received the priesthood which made him the first Burundian to be ordained a Montfortian priest. In fact, Fr. François is the second Montfortian to be ordained in Burundi, in the Montfortian parish of Marie, Fille de Nazareth/ Bwoga-Chioggia, after Fr. Elisée KAMBALE, who is presently the vicar in this same parish.

Ultimately, after his first Masses in Burundi, Fr. François will return to Kisangani where he already has a mission awaiting him. Let us continue to pray for his promotions who are still on their way to the priesthood.

Long live Jesus in Mary, long live the Montfortian missions in the world!

To Jesus through Mary!

Bro. Emmanuel KWASIA, SMM