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From Left to right: Deacon Steven, Deacon Joseph, Fr. Felix Phiri and Deacon Paul.

Malawi: Bros. Joseph, Paul and Steven Ordained as Deacons

Bvumbwe, Malawi - Three Montfortians received ordination to the diaconate at Bvumbwe parish in Malawi on 25th November this year after their life-time commitment as full members of the Company of Mary on the eve of the ordination.

Emeritus Bishop Allesandro Pagani, SMM laid hands on the three confreres namely, Joseph Gabriel Kudzala SMM, Paul Hallidy Kumwenda, SMM and Steven Davidson Mukusa, SMM.

The Superior Delegate, Rev. Fr. Felix Phiri, SMM said that he was delighted that the Montfortian family received three members as deacons and advised them to be available to people.

“The Montfortian family is happy and blessed to have you as deacons after the Perpetual Profession you made yesterday. I advise you to take the task of being at the service of the people as a priority, and aim at helping them spiritually by your own very lives,” said Fr. Phiri.

Meanwhile the Superior Delegate announced that Deacon Steve Mukusa will belong to Mbarara community, Deacon Paul Kumwenda will belong to Inter-Congregation Institute – Montfort community and Deacon Joseph Kudzala will belong to Stima Community as their juridical domiciles respectively.

During the online interview with Fr. Mpina, Deacon Paul Kumwenda said that he was delighted to be a member of the Company of Mary and to serve God and people as a deacon.

“My joy is first of all, that I have committed myself to be a member of the Missionaries of the Company of Mary for life. I am happy about being ordained deacon for it is my joy to serve God and his people as a minister in the Church. It is my joy also because by being ordained deacon, my journey to priesthood is being fulfilled,” said Deacon Kumwenda.

The Deacon advises our brothers in initial formation to be joyful and trust in Jesus and Mary as St. Louis did. *“My brothers who are continuing our initial formation: Trust in Jesus and Mary as what St. Louis-Marie de Montfort did. Be focused and commit yourselves totally and seriously to every aspect of formation. Remember to be joyful always; we're called to be happy and share the joy of Christ,”* he said firmly.

Deacon Joseph Gabriel Kudzala, smm was born on 17th August 1984 in Thyolo, Bvumbwe parish, Blantyre archdiocese, Malawi. He is the third born in a family of eight children. His motto is *“Open up for Jesus”*.

Deacon Paul Hilliday Kumwenda, smm hails from Katete, Mzimba district, St. Theresa Parish, Mzuzu diocese, Malawi. He was born on 17th May 1987. He comes from a family of three children. His motto is, *“Do whatever he tells you.”* Jn 2:5.

Deacon Steven Davidson Mukusa, the third child of a family of five children, was born on 16th December 1987 at Lijanga village, Mulanje district, Chisitu Parish, archdiocese of Blantyre. His motto is *“Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you.”* Mt 7:7.

The three deacons made their First Profession in the Company of Mary on 1st August, 2013 in the Philippines and Perpetual Profession on 24th November, 2017 in Malawi.

-Frs. Jailos Mpina, smm and Anthony Chilolo, smm