

## THE BEGINNING OF THE NOVITIATE AND HABIT TAKING FOR 2021



“The Novitiate is the unique experience of initiation into the religious life of the Brothers,” as written in the *Rule of the Brothers of the Christian Schools*. The ceremony of the Beginning of the Novitiate and Habit Taking (6th February, 2021.) started with the Mass at exactly 11:00am with the Chief celebrant Rev. Fr. Henry I. Ugesi CSSR. The Novitiate Director, Br. Anthony Githahi welcomed all those present in his opening speech during the Mass.

“This is a journey, a journey to see, to listen and to touch”, said Rev. Fr. Henry in his reflection. He further stressed on the importance of the Star. The Star of faith which makes the Lasallian family unique, as we follow the star who is Christ the teacher which is our mission.

Brother Visitor, shared his experience to the Novices. While speaking during the Eucharistic celebration, He thanked God for keeping all of us safe from the Corona Virus and he thanked the Formators for their good

work. He encouraged the Novices on the authenticity of this journey, that the desire should be a conviction rather than mere feelings. This he said, at ‘De La Salle International Novitiate in Nairobi’ marking the start of the canonical year for the eleven first year novices, namely: Andre Julio, Auxilio Alfredo, Benefica Jorge, Tomas Alexandre, and Eurelio Segura, from Mozambique, Polite Ncube from Zimbabwe, Jude Oguname and Samuel Akadu from Nigeria, Justus Matata, Ronald Malala, and Zacchaeus Nderitu from Kenya. The habit taking of the ten second year novices. The ten second year novices namely: Abraham Woldemariam, Ademe Alemayehu, Dawit Yadesa, Admasu Yohannes, Eyob Gebriel, Gosse Hirpo from Ethiopia, Carolino Azevedo, Januario Felizardo, Mossito Molipiha from Mozambique and Emmanuel Agba from Nigeria.



The ten will still be continuing their novitiate.

On the other hand, the eleven first year novices will be involved in different activities aimed at deepening their understanding of the Brothers' life and at the same time, continuing to acquire the identity of the Brothers.

Meanwhile, in the short speech of Brother Visitor, he started off by reminding Brothers that they have to trust in Jesus and to make sacrifices to find Jesus. For if we are in love with Christ, we will want to be like Him by abandoning ourselves and let His Will be done in us. Spiritual surrendering, he said, takes great courage and self-sacrifices to be a fool for Christ. For it is an active choice to place our person or ourselves and possession into the hands of God.

During Mass, at exactly 12:06pm the Novice Director declared the beginning of the Canonical Year, and naming Saint Benilde Romancon as the Patron Saint for the new novices. This was in the presence of Brother Visitor Ghebreyesus, Br. Philip Ejiro Novitiate sub Director and Br. Kassaye Antuan the Bursar of the Novitiate. The

Director of the scholasticate Br. Wole Olanbanjo and the sub Director Brother Wolde who were accompanied by some Brothers from the scholasticate community.



Before the final blessing, a procession was led by the first year novices for the tree planting which is part of the tradition and the tree planting was led by Brother Visitor. This was witness by the heavens as the sound of thunder followed by rain began soon after the tree planting. This marked the end of the ceremony. Indeed this was the day that the Lord had made; we rejoiced and we were glad.

***Leave Jesus in our heart! Forever!***

*Novice Oguname Jude*

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Kenya.*