OPENING AND COMMISIONING CEREMONY OF THREE BROTHERS TO SPIRITUAL JOURNEY IN NERTHELANDS

On 15th January 2023, we had an opening and commissioning ceremony of our three brothers, namely Pascal Mtuwana (animator), Mike Mbato and Bonaventure Kasiya (participants) to the spiritual journey in Netherlands. The occasion started with a prayer service led by Bro. Pascal Mtuwana. All brothers in the province attended the ceremony held at Bethel Community, the Provincial House.

During the prayer service, the animator invited all the brothers to reflect together on article 1 of our FIC Constitutions: *"To be human"*; and a reading from the gospel of Luke 1:26-38. We, indeed, live in this world as human beings together with others and it is our wish to make the best out of it. This means that the spiritual journey of these our brothers, who are to travel to the Netherlands, is truly a journey of the whole province because it's not only to their benefit but rest of the brothers. The province has commissioned them as Angel Gabriel (who delivered good news to Mary of her immaculate conception) to go forth and deepen their spiritual life, to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit that continues to speak in their continuous formation. Whatever comes in their discernment should be shared with all the communities to help in deepening our spiritual lives too. The Provincial Superior, Bro. Lawrence Sitima, presented burning candles to the participants as a symbol of commissioning them to be the light of fellow brothers, and to let the Holy Spirit enlighten them in their discernment to bare good fruits after the pilgrimage.





Left: *Brothers Mike Mbato (from left), Bonaventure Kasiya and Pascal Mtuwana received burning candles from the Provincial Superior.* ***Right:*** *Bro. Pascal Mtuwana leading the commissioning ceremony prayers service.*

In his commissioning speech during the ceremony, the Provincial Superior, encouraged and urged the three brothers to commit themselves to the spiritual assignments/exercises as prepared and directed by the General Council. They should take this time of discernment seriously, make themselves available, and stay committed to the deepening stages of the program. The Provincial Council together with local superiors of the participating brothers, and ofcourse all brothers, assured them of providing the needed support for the success of the pilgrimage. Lastly, the Provincial Superior encouraged the participants to use the three months in preparatory for their spiritual deepening through spiritual reading, personal reflection and sharing, practical incorporation of the spitirual exercise into their life and to model one's life on what the program aims at.

We wish Brothers Pascal Mtuwana, Bonaventure Kasiya and Mike Mbato a successful period for their spiritual deepening as prepare for the pilgrimage to the Netherlands. We assure them of our continued prayers and support.