

CHRISPIN VUNGWA – ORDINATION – 5 June 2009 – NZOVWE, MBEYA.



complementary roles and ministries in the Church.

Two sons of Nzovwe were ordained together: Chrispin Vungwa and Eric Mwakibete OFMCap. Bp. Evarist Chengula IMC was joined by some 70 concelebrants and a good number of confreres, MSOLA and stagiaires on home leave. The Bishop was in his element, being a missionary (formerly in DR Congo) and Religious (Consolata). He encouraged the international and adaptable spirit required for the missionary who brings these qualities into one's ministry and celebration. But then he remembered that he is also a Bishop who needs to ensure the parameters for such expressions! With seriousness and humour, he encouraged both ordinands and people in their

The music and choir animation was creative, and cultural melodies and dances blended with new choir songs and chants that stimulated the participation of all. After the blessings and gifts, we shared a meal with many in the parish hall. Further celebrations followed with the Thanksgiving Eucharist celebrated in Chrispin's local Mass Centre, followed by a reception in his family home which involved more local people expressing their joy and solidarity in song and dance... and this continued well into the evening hours.



There followed a historical commemoration on 9 June, in the Rukwa Valley parish of Galula, the second parish of the diocese, founded in 1901, and the original home parish of the Vungwa family. It was there that Fr. TEOFIL DROMAUX (of the first caravan) died exactly 100 years ago.



Other missionaries are buried there too, and also sons of Galula (Frs. Adolfo Ndezi and Daudi Misso), and a Deacon from the mother parish of Mkulwe (founded in 1899, 110 years ago this year!) The Bishop unveiled and blessed the list of

10 missionaries and diocesan clergy inscribed on two pillars, and also blessed the ten graves and the wider cemetery area. Then we processed to the refurbished parish church.

The expression of celebration was quite different in this rural parish, 70 kms. from Mbeya! Spontaneity and involvement of all ages, including many youth, constantly effervescent! A group of secondary school students, girls and boys, had walked a 3-day vocational 'SAFARI YA UPENDO' from the ordination in Mbeya to Galula with reflections along the way. Their commitment and stamina (with Marcel Mangnus as chaplain, and a diocesan sister as matron) were a missionary inspiration for all of us who tend to rely more on modern motorised transport! It is well worth noting that Marcel and the Mbeya Diocese Youth leaders had earlier held a series of events over 2-3 weeks in May involving hundreds of TYCS (Young Christian Students) in vocations seminars and celebrations. Alex Mutasingwa and Francoise Nadeau MSOLA were involved in the annual programme, together with missionary and vocations counsellors of other congregations and societies.

The crowning of the historical event was THE SENDING OF CHRISPIN ON MISSION IN SOUTH AFRICA, as a corporate gesture of all present, with hands and hearts extended towards him in deep prayer.



J. Aserbire, B. Mashata, C. de Visser, D. Michon



The Blessing and Sending on Mission