

*This obituary on Fr. Alex Mugonya was found on the Archdiocese of Mwanza's website.
It was translated from Swahili to English using Google Translate.*

**FIRST CATHOLIC DISTRICT OF MWANZA
A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LATE
PADRE ALEXANDER MACHUNDA MUGONYA
WHO DIED ON SUNDAY 8/5/2022 AT BUGANDO APPEAL HOSPITAL**

Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya was born on 15/03/1935 in Kiyozu township, Igala village, Ukerewe. He is the 3rd child out of 8 children of the late Bernardino Musa Buyanza and mother Thereza Mugwe Solotola.

In addition, Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya received the sacrament of Baptism on 31/03/1935 in Kagunguli-Ukerewe Parish. He got it First Communion on 26/05/1944 and later Confirmation on 26/10/1944 and the late Bishop Antoni Oomen in Kagunguli Parish.

EDUCATION

Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya started primary education studies (Ia Subu, Sub standard) and basic (grades I-IV) in the mission school Kagunguli, Ukerewe between 1944 to 1950. Later he joined Small seminary of Mt. Maria Nyegezi for Secondary education studies (Classes 5-12) from 1951 to 1958. He did the Examination of Cambridge (England) and obtained a second grade, Nyegezi SeminariMwanza.

JOURNEY TO THE CALL OF THE PRIEST

Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya's journey to the priesthood began in 1959 when he joined the Major Seminary of Mt. Paulo Kipalapala, Tabora to studies of Philosophy and Theology and graduated in 1965. In 1964, while continues with Theology studies, he was given the rank of Deacon in the Parish of Sengerema (now Geita province).

Later, Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya was conferred the Holy Order of Priesthood on 22/08/1965 by the late Archbishop Marko Mihayo of Tabora Catholic Archdiocese, in Itira-Ukerewe Parish (now the province of Bunda) being the first native priest in the Parish. Motto which he chose and led his priestly life and it came from the book of from 3:4, and appears like this in his Sovenia, in Latin "ADSUM", in kirewe, KARAME RUGABA, in Kiswahili NAAMU BWANA!

After preaching he was sent to teach in the small seminary of Mt. Maria (Nyegezi Seminary), Mwanza.

EDUCATION AFTER PRIESTHOOD

In 1967 to 1969, he was sent to Masons in Ireland at the College Dulbin University and awarded a B.A Degree in studies of Geography (Geography), Political Science (Political Science) and Education of Ancient Objects (Archaeology) In 1970 to 1972, he was sent to study in the United States and after his studies he was awarded a Master's degree (M.A) in the studies of School Administration (School Administration) where he specialized in the field of Guidance and Counseling Psychology Psychology workplaces, from the University of Detroit-USA.

HIS MISSION AS A PRIEST

In September 1965 to August 1966, Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya taught at the small seminary of Mt. Maria (Nyegezi Seminary), Mwanza

In addition, from 1971 to 1972, Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya, was The Parish Administrator in the Parish of Mt. Bernard (Detroit- USA).

From 1973 to 1982 Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya was Principal of the Seminary (Gambera) in the small Seminary of Mt. Maria (Nyegezi), Mwanza and so he became the second African gambler after Hayati Padre Ferdinand Master.

1983 to 1984 Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya was Assistant Parish Priest in the parish of Mt. Justin Bujora, Mwanza.

1985 to 1988 Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya was Assistant Parish Priest In Mt. Angela Parish, Detroit -USA. And later in the parish Mt. Ephrem, Sterling Heights (Detroit USA).

September 1988- July 1999 Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya was Parish Priest in the Parish of Mt. Justin-Bujora.

August 1999 to October 2001 Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya did Pastoral work in the parish of Mt. Maria (Gaylord- United States) and Mt. Joseph (Manistee, Gaylord-USA) as Assistant Parish Priest.

November 2001 to December 2010 Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya he worked providing Pastoral services to patients (Chaplain) in Sumve Select Hospital, Mwanza state.

From January 2011 to 2021 Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya did the work of Apostolic, in repose, present house of Priests (Epiphany) Bugando Parish, Mwanza Catholic Diocese.

In the year 2021 until his death, Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya did apostolic work, while resting in the parish of Christ the King in Kiseke, Catholic Archdiocese of Mwanza until he met Adsum that is, Yes Lord when God decided to call him to him.

ILLNESS AND DEATH

For a long time, Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya has been suffering from high blood pressure and diseases especially due to old age. He has been attending treatment at Bugando Referral Hospital and Nyakahoja clinic and doing regular exercises to improve his health. In recent years, his health improved despite his old age. On 6/05/2022 around five o'clock in the morning, Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya's condition changed to weak and thus he was sent to Bugando Referral Hospital. The doctors found that Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya had high blood pressure which led to the decision. In the morning, on Sunday 8/5/2022 at 2:30, he concluded his journey of life on earth with 87 years of birth, 87 years of baptism and 57 years of priesthood.

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM HIS LIFE?

Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya loved Life and loved to enjoy Life, he also loved others to enjoy the Life he loved. And he loved community life more, he was often heard saying don't worry be happy.

Again, Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya loved his vocation, he loved to pray the Holy Rosary and the prayer of the church. He was also patient, obedient and truly humble, he received all people, he respected his leaders very much.

It is a clear truth that Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya was wise, in few words he spoke about serious things, he loved cooperation, he loved people. Family members testify that he was the leader (chairman) of the Clan of Wasilanga, by his actions he united them despite being an old man. He remembered them and visited them in the village in his old age, he wished others well on their birthdays.

Again, Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya was kind and a very grateful person, when he had something good, he shared it with others. In his later rest, he spent a great deal of pastoral work to maintain good relations with people.

Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya was an inspiration to many, he gave great love to people, and people returned that love and generosity to him. Perhaps that is why he had many spiritual children, and many friends big and small. Indeed, he tried to heal the broken hearted.

In spiritual and physical weakness, Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya trusted in God, He was not a person to complain, nor did he like to disturb those who cared for him. He didn't like to hurt anyone. He was quick to realize his mistakes, to apologize. He was also quick to detect someone's problem, and help him.

In another position, Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya loved the African culture and its pride, he used a lot of energy to educate them about the values we were given as Africans. He also liked to read various books.

Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya liked to mingle and sacrifice himself. He joked a lot with people, and people joked with him, for example: they joked with Nzoka ya Bukerebe, (that is, the Dragon of Ukerewe).

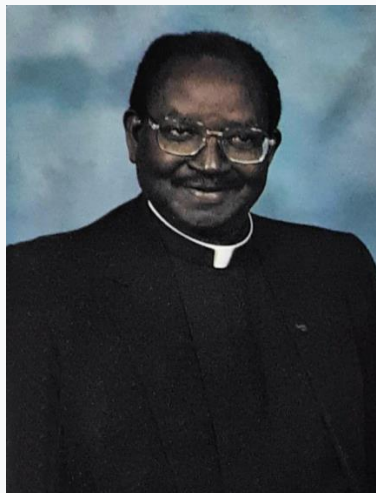
Elder MUGONYA He was not behind in globalization, he loved music, even when it came to football games, he was a Yanga kid, many called him Mayele wa kiseke.

Elder MUGONYA has left with great happiness, let's continue to pray to God to have mercy on his shortcomings as a human being and to reach heaven early. Amen

THANK YOU

Special thanks go to God who gave us Father Alexander Machunda Mugonya as a gift to the church. He who gave us that gift has loved to take it. We thank the Father Archbishop, Priests, Nuns, Seminarians, (in a special way Fr Lazarus and Fr Salala who served him directly), also his relatives, all friends and all believers, who in one way or another were a blessing to him and helped him a lot in his mission and in a special way in his illness and old age. We thank the doctors and nurses of all Bugando and Nyakahoja hospitals when he received treatment. May God bless you greatly and increase your grace and blessings.

The Lord has given and the Lord has taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord. Amen
Give Him Eternal Pleasure, O Lord, and Shine Eternal Light on Him; May he rest in peace. Amen



*Photo of Fr. Alex Mugonya
From St. Joseph Parish, Manistee
2021 Parish Directory*