

THE FRUITS OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF SAINT AGNES CHIPOLE IN TANZANIA.



SAINT AGNES

The Congregation of the Benedictine Sisters of Saint Agnes Chipole was established in 1911 with three indigenous young women of Nkaya Village in the Lituhi Parish. They made their first promises of chastity and a simple life in 1922 at Kigonsera, after which they moved to Peramiho in 1923. On arriving at Peramiho, Rt. Rev. Abbot Bishop Gallus Steiger OSB (the Superior of the Missionary Benedictine Abbey and Bishop of Lindi) and Sr. Melania Vollmer OSB (Superior General of Tutzing Sisters) received them as Oblates of Saint Benedict living the Holy Rule and forming their own constitution. Their first formators were Tutzing Sisters.

In 1927, they made their first vows as Oblates of St. Benedict living the Holy Rule. From this group of Oblates, Abbot Bishop Gallus Steiger OSB started the Congregation of the African Benedictine Sisters of Peramiho which was approved by the Holy See in 1938. This confirmed the year on which we count as the official affirmation of the congregation. In 1952, the congregation moved to Chipole.

The congregation enjoys a rightful measure of autonomy in its life, and particularly in its government, so that it may follow its own discipline in the Church and may retain and foster its spiritual and material legacy. The bishops of dioceses where the congregation is present recognizes and protects the congregation's autonomy (can. 586).

The congregation is inspired by the spiritual heritage of Saint Benedict whose main charism is based upon "Ora et labora."

CHARISM



The charism of the congregation is a gift from the Holy Spirit (can. 577). Our congregation has received the gift of being called to catechesis; we live this out by seeking and finding God, practicing stability, fidelity to monastic life and obedience (RB. 58:17) taking the example of the first Christians who lived together sharing their goods, breaking bread together (Acts 2:44-46), living the Evangelical Counsels, prayer and work with good zeal (RB. 72) by imitating Christ whom we serve.

MISSION

The mission of the congregation is to sanctify its members through living community life, according to the Rule of St. Benedict. We give witness to the world by teaching people through words, actions and life, prayer and work (*Ora et Labora*). We also offer different services to people according to the charism of the congregation and the needs according to the time and environment.

THE PRIORESSES OF THE CONGREGATION OF THE BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF SAINT AGNES CHIPOLE

Being the founding convent, Chipole has cultivated three other prioresses each with its complete leadership, thus making a total of four Prioresses: Chipole in the Archdiocese of Songea (supra), Imiliwaha in the Diocese of Njombe (the Convent of Saint Getrude), which was established on Januar 30, 1968, the Convent of Saint Maria Gorethi in the Diocese of Same, which was established on September 20, 2018 and the Convent of Saint Benedict of Kalabi-Uruila in the Diocese of Mpanda, which was established on November 10, 2018. Currently, Ven. Sr. M. Asante Goliamia OSB is the Superior General of the congregation.



BENEDICTINE SISTERS OF ST. AGNES CHIPOLE, 1ST DAY IN KALABI-URUILA
MPANDA 10/11/2018

Tanzania

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Supervised by Benedictine Sisters of Saint Agnes Chipole