



Fr Emmanuel Mumba, S.J.
(1968-2020)

13 October 2020

Emmanuel Mumba was 11th of 12 children born from Ephan Zinyonge Mumba and Anna Katambo Mumba on October 30 1968 in Matero, Lusaka. He completed his secondary school in 1989 at Kabulonga Boys' secondary school in Lusaka. He joined the Society of Jesus on June 30 1990 and took his first vows on July 2, 1992 at Marian Shrine in Lusaka.

He did his philosophical studies in Kimwenza DRC from 1993 – 1996. After this philosophical studies, he was sent to do his regency at the JCTR, pioneering the piloting of data collection for the now JCTR flagship project; BNNB (Basic Needs & Nutrition Basket) while living at St Ignatius parish. He proceeded to do his Theological studies at Hekima College in Kenya from 1998 to 2001. Afterwards, he pursued studies leading to the STL at Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, USA until 2003. He was ordained priest on July 12, 2003 at the Marian Shrine in Lusaka.

His first mission after ordination was St Mary's Mother of the Redeemer Parish in Matero, Lusaka as Assistant Parish Priest where he remained until 2004, before he went to pursue his MA in International Relations and Political Science at Loyola University in Chicago, USA from 2004 to 2007. He came back to Zambia, served as Assistant Parish Priest at St Ignatius from 2008 to 2009, and took his final vows on October 23, 2010 at Chelstone Parish. In the same year, he was appointed Parish Priest for Matero where he served until 2019 when he took ill and moved to St Ignatius Parish.

He was appointed Provincial for the Zambia-Malawi Province and served from September 8, 2011 to September 8, 2017. After his mission as Provincial, he took over the office of Executive Director for the JCTR from 2017 until his death.

In his ministry at Matero Parish, he served as a gentle steward, tolerant and understanding of people's situations, feelings, strengths and weaknesses. He joyfully journeyed with the people in a search for personal and spiritual wholeness. In so doing, he succeeded in building a strong parish community that grew in deep faith and became more self-sustaining and more self-propagating during the period that he served there. He helped to uplift the living standards of the people through the various projects that he started in the parish.

He took special passion for education and ensured that even the underprivileged children got an opportunity for a decent education. This was seen by the special interest he took in the community school at the parish where he took a front role in sustaining it. Further, he ensured that the underprivileged families had a special meal every Christmas, and so made sure that there was always a special lunch at the Parish every Christmas day for them.

Emmanuel was humble and exuded gentleness; he always carried a warm smile on his face and calm demeanor, which made him easily approachable and a confidant for many. His homilies were comforting and insightful. He was a firm believer in truth and the goodness of people and was a patient man too; no amount of external pressure could force him to make a rushed decision. He took his time to reflect on issues presented to him, before he could make a decision. His leadership style could be described as one where everyone felt given their space and encouraged to blossom. Many Jesuits and non-Jesuits in the province and beyond, testify to his extraordinary gift of listening and empathizing with fellow Jesuit companions and lay collaborators. He was such a person who made people own their weaknesses yet rise beyond them.

Lecturing and formation at St Dominic Major Seminary in Lusaka showed another side of Emmanuel. In him, many seminarians found not only a role model but also a pillar of strength due to his unwavering courageous character.

His faith and courage were tested when he rose to the battlefield with cancer in 2019. Despite the ferocity of the disease and the aggressive treatment that wasted his body, he held on to his faith and courageously battled the disease.

He lost his battle to colon cancer on October 13, 2020 and was put to rest on October 16 2020 at Kasisi Mission.