



## **FR. WINFRIED (CHARLES) KIPKEMOI YEGO, OSB**

Fr. Winfried (Charles) Kipkemoi Yego OSB was born on 22nd July 1968. He was the son of the late Raphael Yego and Pauline Sokomo of Kaptung village, Chesuman location in Tunyo division in Elgeyo Marakwet County. He was the stepson of the late Philomena Toyoy. Fr. Winfried was second born and brother to Clement, Salina, Sylvester, Emmanuel, Johnstone, Alice, Ednah, Elly and Lilian.

The late Fr. Winfried Yego started his primary school education at Chepkum Primary School, and went for his secondary school at Moi High School, Kabarak for 6 years where he completed his Advanced level of Secondary Education in 1988. He later joined the National Youth Service training before being admitted to Kenyatta University where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree in economics in 1993. After graduation, he taught at St. Benedict High school, Aror before being employed by CCF Samburu where he worked until he joined the Benedictine monastery.

Fr. Winfried was baptized by the late Fr. Winfried Thumann OSB before joining high school. He started aspiring to be a monk of the Benedictine monastery as a first year student in Kenyatta University. He used to join us in the monastery for all celebrations and was very enthusiastic to become a monk. After graduating from Kenyatta University and working for some time in Samburu, he decided to join the monastery and was received as a postulant.

Fr. Winfried joined postulancy together with seven other aspirants on 10th of February 1999. After finishing the two years of noviciate, he took his first vows on 5th of January 2002. He was subsequently appointed to be in charge of the personnel in the administration office in Tigoni and later as the administrator of Vocational Training and Production Centre (VTPC) in Ruaraka. He worked in this office and studied German until he went for his priesthood studies at Wuerzburg University in Germany. He took his final vows on 5th of January 2008 and after successfully completing his studies was later ordained to diaconate in 2009. He was sent to work in Kamwosor parish where he worked until his ordination to priesthood on 10th of July 2010. Thereafter, he was sent to Nanyuki monastery where he worked for two years. He also briefly assisted in the parish of Illeret for three months to relieve Fr. Florian who had taken his annual leave in Germany. He was later posted to work at St. Benedict Parish, Ruaraka as the assistant Parish priest and later appointed as the Parish priest where he served between 2015 and 2017. During his tenure as the Parish priest, he supported the parish council in renovation of all the outstations and the repair of the roof of the main church. He wanted the parishioners to worship in decent places. He was deeply involved with the activities of CMA and CWA and supported the choir to a point of accompanying them to Germany. He was very passionate in family unions and officiated many marriages.

He was later appointed as the Secretary of the Council of the Congregation in 2018 and relocated to the Archabbey of St. Ottilien in Germany [Congregation House]. He served for a period of three years until February 2021 when he returned to Kenya to take up the appointment as the superior of Nanyuki Monastery. Fr. Winfried took up the leadership of the monastery of Nanyuki monastery on 25th of April 2021 after a one-month's stay at Tigoni community. He took up the responsibility with a lot of vigour and enthusiasm. He started working with some Christians in refurbishing the guest rooms and cleaning the compound and the African Bible on the Ground. He was everyday supervising these activities and ensured that the members of the community

were actively participating in all the monastic activities. He had dreams of making the Nanyuki monastery vibrant and to improve on income generation.

Fr. Winfried enjoyed a healthy life, until 2015 when he was diagnosed with diabetes. But it was not a cause for alarm. However, he started feeling unwell in the second week of July that followed the community retreat at the Prince of Peace Benedictine Abbey, Tigoni. The condition was mild and did not warrant much concern and it was only on 21st of July 2021 that he sought medical attention at Huruma hospital, Nanyuki. The doctor recommended that he be admitted for better attention. He remained stable as the treatment continued and talked with confreres who visited him and there was no cause for alarm. On the night of Tuesday, 27th of July 2021 and after 6 days of hospitalization, the doctor noted that his condition had drastically changed and referred him to an Intensive Care Unit. He was immediately taken the following day to the ICU at Kiria-ini Mission hospital in Murang'a County where treatment commenced immediately. However, his condition worsened at night, and on the morning of 29th of July 2021, he passed on at 04.30 hrs. The Lord gave us Fr. Winfried and He has taken him back. Farewell Father. Amen.

Fr. Winfried will be greatly missed by his family, friends, parishioners and the Benedictine fraternity, whom he lived with and touched their lives. He was very social, friendly, cheerful, courteous to his fellow monks and parishioners. He liked taking walks and encouraged others to keep fit and join him. He liked to make people happy and had a sense of humour and had a taste of old music; he would explain its meaning and even use some in his homilies. Fr. Winfried, we cherished you in our midst but your time was ripe. May you rest in eternal peace till we meet again. Amen.

Abbot John Baptist Oese, OSB and Community  
Prince of Peace Abbey  
Tigoni, Kenya

The funeral Mass and burial took place on 3 August 2021 at Prince of Peace Benedictine Abbey, Tigoni, Limuru