*Bishop of Geita in Tanzania*

On April 28 2016*,* Pope Francis appointed Fr. Flavian Matindi Kassala, director of the Stella Maris Mtwara College, as the new Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Geita in Tanzania. The Diocese of Geita fell vacant when Archbishop Damian Denis Dallu was appointed Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Songea on March 14, 2014.

The Christian faithful of Geita were very joyful to have a Shepherd from among the diocesan priests. Some said, “God has listened to our two years prayers.”

The Bishop-elect of Geita was born on December 4, 1967 in Sumve, in the Archdiocese of Mwanza. He attended the St. Pius X Minor Seminary in Makoko, in the Diocese of Musoma, for his secondary education. From 1988 to 1990 he was a student at the Minor Seminary of Sanu, in the Diocese of Mbulu, and from 1991 to 1992 at the Preparatory formation house at Kome Parish, in the Diocese of Geita.

He continued his formation for priesthood with studies in philosophy at the St. Anthony of Padua Major Seminary at Ntungamo, in the Diocese of Bukoba, and studied theology at the St. Paul Senior Seminary at Kipalapala, in the Archdiocese of Tabora.

He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Geita on July 11, 1999, at Our Lady Of Fatima Parish in Geita. Since his ordination, he has served the following academic and pastoral roles:

* 1999-2002: Assistant priest at Sengerema Parish, in the Diocese of Geita;
* 2002-2004: Formator and Spiritual Director of Saint Mary Queen of Apostles Minor Seminary in Sengerema and a Diocesan Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies;
* 2004-2012: Student in Rome at the Pontifical Salesian University, where he obtained a Doctorate in Theology with specialization in Youth Ministry and Catechesis, residing in Nepomuceno College;
* 2013: Coordinator of the Episcopal Projects Office of the Diocese of Geita;
* 2013-2015: Professor and Director of St. Augustine University of Tanzania (SAUT) in Arusha;
* Since 2015- May 2016: Director of the Stella Maris Mtwara College affiliated to St. Augustine Catholic University.

Speaking of his appointment the Bishop –elect thanked the faithful of the Diocese of Geita for their diligent prayers and asked to journey with him again in prayers as he takes his new pastoral ministry as the Ordinary Bishop of Geita.