

### Some African Saints / Holy People / Martyrs

Names	Dates	Country	Status / Profession
Simon of Cyrene, the Ethiopian eunuch, Apollo	1 <sup>st</sup> century	Libya, Ethiopia, Egypt	Christian believers of the first generations (mentioned in the New Testament)
St. Pantenus, Origen, St. Cyril of Alexandria. Lactantius	2-3 Centuries	Egypt	Christian 'doctors' (theologians, teachers) and writers
Martyrs of Scillium, Sts. Perpetua & Felicita et al, Martyrs of Carthage, St. Cassian of Tangier, Martyrs of the Vandals Martyrs of Alexandria, Martyrs of the Thebaid, St. Aretas of Ethiopia,	2-3 <sup>rd</sup> Centuries  3-4 <sup>th</sup> Centuries 5 <sup>th</sup> Century 6 <sup>th</sup> Century	Tunisia,  Morocco Tunisia Egypt, Ethiopia	Numerous groups of Christian martyrs, including "martyrs of charity" (Alexandrian Christians who died while nursing the sick and burying the dead in the plague)
St. Anthony of Egypt, Mary of Egypt, St. Pachomius; St Shenute; St. Augustine of Hippo, St. Fulgentius of Ruspe, St Adrian of Canterbury	3 <sup>rd</sup> Century  4 <sup>th</sup> Century  4-5 <sup>th</sup> Centuries  7 <sup>th</sup> Century	Egypt,   Tunisia,  N. Africa	Pioneers of hermetical and cenobitic monastic life, especially in Egypt;  later exemplary monks and redactors of the first (and still influential) monastic rules
St. Athanasius, St. Cyprian, St. Felix of Thibiuca, St. Augustine of Hippo; St. Fulgentius of Ruspe	4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> Centuries	Egypt, Tunisia...	Bishops and doctors of the church

Cf. the excellent Internet resource "Dictionary of African Christian Biography" at: <http://www.dacb.org/index.html>

**African saints and holy people: 15<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> centuries**

Bl. Anthony Neyrot OP	† 1469	Italy ⇒ Tunisia	Dominican apostate who later publicly professed his faith, certain of martyrdom
St Benedict the Black ('il moro')	1526-1589	Sicily / Palermo, Italy	Free son of black slaves in Sicily; first a hermit, later a saintly, observant Franciscan
Martyrs of Mombasa	†† 1631	Portugal ⇒ Kenya	300 Portuguese Christians (& OSA's)
Sr. Teresa Chikaba OP <sup>1</sup>	1676-1748	Guinea ⇒ Spain	Abducted W. African princess, became OP nun
St. Anne-Marie Javouhey	1779-1851	France ⇒ Senegal	Foundress, Srs. of St. Joseph of Cluny
Fr. François Libermann	1802-1852	France ⇒ W. Africa	Superior, Holy Ghost Frs.
Bp. Melchior de Marion Bressillac	1813-1859	France ⇒ India; later SMA; Sierra Leone	Founder of the Soc. African Missions; died shortly after arriving in Africa
David Livingstone	1813-1873	England ⇒ S Africa, central Africa	Protestant explorer and missionary
Card. C.M.A. Lavigerie	1825-1892	France ⇒ Algeria	Founder of the White Frs. & Srs. (M.Afr. MSOLA)
St. Daniel Comboni	1831-1881	Italy ⇒ Sudan	Founder of the "Verona Frs." (Comboni Miss.)
Bp. James Hannington	1847-1885	England ⇒ Uganda	Missionary (Anglican) bishop & martyr
Bl. Victoria Rasoamanarivo	1848-1894	Madagascar	Virtuous wife of a profligate and violent husband
Sts. Charles Lwanga and companions martyrs	†† June 3, 1886	Namugongo, Uganda	45 Catholic and Anglican martyrs, many of them young pages of the Kabaka and all recent converts to Christianity, willingly accepted martyrdom rather than deny their faith

<sup>1</sup> Cf. very balanced & informative booklet by Sr. K. BONER OP *Sr. Teresa Chikaba OP, A Dominican Woman 1676-1748.*

**African saints / martyrs / holy people of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (pre Vatican II era)**

Bl. Bakanja	1880 – Aug. 15 <sup>th</sup> 1906	Ikili / Busira, Congo	Mild-mannered lover of Jesus, maltreated by a violent, anti-clerical employer: first Christian martyr of the Congo
Bl. Charles de Foucauld	1858 – † Dec 1 <sup>st</sup> 1916	France ⇒ Algeria	Explorer turned “missionary monk” among the Tuareg; inspirer of the Little Brothers / Sisters of Jesus...
Blds. David Okello & Jildo Irwa	1902/ 06 – 1918	Paimol, Uganda	Young pioneer catechists who face fierce opposition from their own tribes, ready to give their lives for the Gospel
Khama Boikano <sup>2</sup>	1840’s -1920’s	South Africa	Eminent South African Christian chief
Ibrahim Abdel Messieh	1855? – Nov 1, 1935	Sudan ⇒Egypt, Sudan	Sudanese abducted into slavery into Egypt, briefly a Muslim, then a convinced Christian. Self-taught in the Scriptures (Arabic, Hebrew), a lifelong <i>colporteur</i> ; respectfully engaged in dialogue the Sudanese Muslims.
Edel Quinn	Sept 1907- May 12, 1944	Ireland ⇒ Kenya	Intrepid Legion of Mary envoy (worked in Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, S. Africa, Mauritius 1936-44)
St. Josephine Bakhita (feastday: Feb 8)	1869-1947	Sudan ⇒ Italy	Freed slave; baptized a Christian and became a Canossian sister; in her later years missionary animator in Italy
Louis Ouandété & Valérie Ama	1877-1949	Côte d’Ivoire	Lifelong pioneer catechist and his wife, collaborator of the SMA Frs.
Adrian Atiman	1862?-1956	Mali - Tanganyika	Slave boy rescued by the White Frs; catechist, doctor and missionary to African peoples <sup>3</sup>
Bl. Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi <sup>4</sup>	1903-1964	Nigeria ⇒ England	Parish priest who later become a Trappist monk; saintly in every stage of his life
13 OP friars & 13 OP sisters	†† 24-26 Nov 1964	Uele region, Congo	Belgian and Spanish Dominican missionaries held hostage and then killed by rebel Mulelistas in odium fidei
Bl. Anuarite	29 Nov. 1940 - † 1 Dec 1964	Isiro, Congo	Congolese Sister of the Holy Family, who rejected sexual assault of rebels...
Albert (& Hélène) Schweitzer <sup>5</sup>	1875-1965 (1879-1957)	Germany ⇒ Gabon	Brilliant biblical theologian, later medical missionary; with his wife he directed a hospital & leprosarium for some 50 yrs

<sup>2</sup> For a brief biographical sketch of Khama Boikano, cf. Frederick Quinn, *African Saints*, pp. 109-110.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. D BOSE – L. GALLESIO, *Adriano Atiman: medico e apostolo africano*, Bologna: EMI 1987. (in Italian) Consolata 922.24/BOS/A.

<sup>4</sup> See E. Isichei, *Entirely for God: The Life of Michael Iwene Tansi*, Lagos: Macmillan 1980. ( Consolata 920/ISI/E )

<sup>5</sup> For a brief but beautiful biographical sketch of Schweitzer and his wife, cf. Frederick Quinn, *African Saints*, pp. 171-172. Cf. also paragraph in my notes on “La Segunda Llamada.”

**African saints / martyrs / holy people of the latter 20<sup>th</sup> century (Vatican II, post Vatican II era)**

Bp. Joseph Kiwanku WF	- 1966	Masaka ⇒ Kampala, Uganda	first modern African Roman Catholic (arch)bishop
Rev. Wanoike Kamawe (PCEA)	1888-1970	Kenya	Kenyan Protestant pastor in the early days of the colony <sup>6</sup>
Albert John Mvumbi Luthuli	1898-1967	Rep. South Africa	Nonviolent Christian freedom fighter; South African “Martin Luther King” and Nobel Peace Prize winner <sup>7</sup>
4 Dominican Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart	† Feb 6, 1977	St. Paul’s Mission, Musani, Zimbabwe	Killed along with 3 Jesuits in the violent land struggles, having decided to stay and be a haven of peace for the people <sup>8</sup>
Bp. Janani Luwum	1922 – † Feb 16, 1977	N. Uganda	Outspoken Anglican bishop martyred under Idi Amin
Fr. Georges Anawati OP	1905-1994	Egypt	Erudite Dominican scholar of Islam in the IDEO (Cairo)
Sr. M Liliana Monica Loyarte OP	1958 - † 1994	Argentina - Uganda	Missionary killed by thugs on the way to the Entebbe airport
Cyprien & Daphose Rugamba	1935/40 – † Apr 7, 1994	Rwanda	Catholic couple, founded charismatic Emmanuel Community in Kigali; social ministry; killed in front of Bl. Sacrament
Bp Thaddée Nsengiyumva	1949 – † June 6, 1994	Rwanda	Bishop of Kabgayi (Rwanda), outspoken defender of human rights & nat’l reconciliation
Christian de Chergé and 6 Trappist Monks of Tibhirine Monastery)	† March 26 – May 21 1996	France ⇒ Tibhirine, Algeria	Contemplative witnesses to the love of God and of their fellow men among Moslem Algerians; stayed on despite death threats
Bp. Pierre Claverie OP	1938 – † Aug 1 1996	Oran, Algeria	Remarkable man of dialogue rooted in his native Algeria, murdered within context of escalating Islamic fundamentalist violence in the country <sup>9</sup>
Seminarians of Buta <sup>10</sup>	†† Apr 30, 1997	Buta, Burundi	martyrs of inter-tribal solidarity during ethnic clashes
Julius Kamarage Nyerere	1922- Oct 14 <sup>th</sup> 1999	Tanzania	Staunch, lucid Catholic Head of State with a heroic personal integrity and courage

<sup>6</sup> E.N. WANYOIKE, *An African Pastor*, Nairobi: East African Publishing House 1974. (In Consolata library)

<sup>7</sup> See the extensive information on Chief Luthuli given in the indexed autobiography of Nelson Mandel, *Long Walk to Freedom*:

<sup>8</sup> Cf. IDI 454, p. 191; Biographical sketches and details of their martyrdom in N. Contran, *Ambushed: Women martyrs in Africa*, pp.131-133

<sup>9</sup> See the exhaustive and extremely well researched biography of Pierre Claverie by Jean-Jacques Perennès, *A Life poured out: Pierre Claverie of Algeria*. Orbis, Maryknoll, 2007 (French original Ed. du Cerf, Paris, 2000). 279pp. Cf. also IDI

<sup>10</sup> See a brief but beautiful testimony about this martyrdom by their rector, in Frederick Quinn, *African Saints*, pp. 136-137

**African saints / martyrs / holy people in the 21<sup>st</sup> century**

Marc Nikkel <sup>11</sup>	1950-2000	USA ⇒ Sudan	Episcopalian missionary priest, artist, peacemaker and defender of human rights
Fr. John Kaiser, MHM <sup>12</sup>	1932 – † 21-24 Aug 2000	MN USA ⇒ Nairobi, Kenya	missionary, defender of human rights in Kenya for more than 30 years
Dr. Matthew Lukwiya <sup>13</sup>	1957- Dec 5, 2000	Gula, Uganda	heroic Christian doctor, died of Ebola
Maurice Cardinal Otunga	1923-2003	Kenya	First Kenyan Roman Catholic archbishop
Fr. John Hanlon M.Afr.	† Nov 4, 2004	Ngong, Kenya	Brutally murdered just before opening a school for youth in the Ngong Diocese
Fr. Thomas Heath OP <sup>14</sup> (84)	June 1920 Jan 13 <sup>th</sup> 2005	USA ⇒ Kisumu, Kenya	Dedicated his last 25 years to the African Church as novice master, teacher, guide
Fr. Martin Addai, MAfr.	† Mar 10, 2007	Nairobi, Kenya	Seminary professor, killed by shooting at close range without motive of stealing
Fr. Michael Kamau	† Feb 2008	Nakuru, Kenya	Diocesan priest, seminary professor / vice-rector killed in the post electoral clashes near his home
Fr. Giuseppe Bertaina (82)	† Jan 16, 2009	Italy ⇒ Nairobi, Kenya	Aged Consolata Fr. (procurator) killed in robbery of the Consolata house in Lang'ata; among the thugs was a former student of Consolata Institute
Fr Jeremiah Roche (68)	† Dec 11, 2009	Ireland ⇒ Kericho, Kenya	Aged Patrician Fr. brutally killed in Kericho (it would seem) to silence him from giving testimony about the ethnic clashes of 2008 and to terrorize other would-be witnesses
Fr. Lewis Shea OP (81)	1923 - Feb 9, 2010	USA ⇒ Nigeria ⇒ Kisumu,	Missionary 38 years in (mostly northern) Nigerian, then, since 1991, missionary in Kisumu, Kenya. Wanted to die in Africa.
Archbp. Benjamin Nzimbi <sup>15</sup> (ACK)	1944 -	Kenya	Very significant Anglican archbishop in Kenya & abroad

<sup>11</sup> Cf. brief biographical sketch in Frederick Quinn, *African Saints*, pp. 152-153

<sup>12</sup> Cf. book of Fr. Kaiser's writings on the plight of the IDP's and other victims of violence in Kenya during the period 1986-1995, with appendices from his letters and data on his death, *If I die*. (Cana Publishing, Nairobi, 2003) 120pp. BX/4690-4700

<sup>13</sup> for a brief biographical sketch, cf. Frederick Quinn, *African Saints*, pp. 129-130. Also on-line at: [http://www.dacb.org/stories/uganda/lukwiya\\_matthew.html](http://www.dacb.org/stories/uganda/lukwiya_matthew.html)

<sup>14</sup> Cf. book "Thomas Heath OP" for a description of his life and work.

<sup>15</sup> S. MWANGI, *Called to Serve: Archbishop Benjamin Nzimbi. A biography*,