



Rev. Teclezghi m. Ucbaghiorghis, O.Cist.

March 3, 1949 – August 31, 2008

Monk of the Cistercian Congregation of Casamari

**EARLY LIFE**

Father Teclezghi was born in the Hadish-Adi (Keren) region of Eritrea (then Ethiopia) on March 8, 1949. He loved to talk about his father, who was a particular example and inspiration to him.

He entered the Cistercians’ minor seminary program in September, 1963, and was immediately sent to Mendida, Ethiopia, where he finished eighth grade in 1969. He returned to the monastery in Asmara for ninth and tenth grade.

On September 2, 1969, he was clothed in the Cistercian habit and began the novitiate year, taking the name of Brother Bernard Maria. Fr. Teclezghi’s initial public offering of himself to God as a vowed Cistercian monk took place on October 11, 1970, the day of his first profession.

He completed the philosophical (1971-74) and theological (1974-78) studies required of candidates for the priesthood with high marks. Father Teclezghi made his perpetual monastic vows on January 16, 1977. He was ordained to the sacred priesthood on June 11<sup>th</sup>, 1978 by His Excellency Abune (Bishop) Abraha Ferensua at Kidane Mehret Cathedral in Asmara.

From June, 1978 to December, 1981, Father Teclezghi was assigned to the monastery at Mendida, Ethiopia. Here, he was director of a technical school specializing in construction and electrical work. During evenings and

**ሐጺር ታሪኽ ኣባ ተክለዝጊ ዑቀባጊዮርጊስ**

ኣባ ተክለዝጊ ዑቀባጊዮርጊስ ካብ ኣቦታም ነፍስኔር ዑቀባጊዮርጊስ ፍረዝጊን ካብ ኣዲኦም ነፍስኔር ደሃብ ሓድጉን ብ 8 መጋቢት 1949 ኣብ ሓዲሽ ዓዲ፡ ዞባ ዓንሰባ፡ ኤረትራ፡ ተወልዱ። ብ 20 መጋቢት 1949 ኣብ ሓዲሽ ዓዲ፡ ፀጋ ጥምቀት ድሕሪ ምቕባል፡ ኣብ ትሕቲ ወለዶም ብክርስትያናዊ መንገዲ ተኹስኩሶም ዓበዩ።

ብ 1963 መስከረም፡ ኣብ ዘርኣ ምንኩስና ሲታውያን ኣስመራ ኣትዮም ብኡ ንብኡ ንመንዲዳ (ኢትዮጵያ) ዝርከብ ገዳም ሲታውያን ተላኢኹም ክሳብ 1967 ክሳብ ሻውናይ (8ይ) ክፍሊ ንዘሎ ክፍልታት ኣጠናቐቑ። ካብ 1967-1969 ናብ ኣስመራ ተመለሱም፡ 9ይን 10ይን ክፍልታት ተማህሩ። ብ 2 መስከረም 1969 ተመክሮ ኣብ ኣስመራ ድሕሪ ምጅግር፡ ዓመት ተመክሮኦም ዛዚሞም ብንኡስ መብፃ ንኣምላኹም ተወፈዩ። ካብ 1971-1974 ትምህርቲ ፍልስፍና፡ ካብ 1974-1978 ከኣ ትምህርተ መለኮት ብዓወት ኣብ ኣስመራ ዛዘመ።

ኣባ ተክለዝጊ፡ ነቲ ንክህነት ዘብቐፅ ትምህርትን ምቕርራብን ቅድሚ ምዝዛሞም ብዓቢይ መብጽዓ ንኣምላኹም ተወፈዩ። ብ 11 ሰኔ 1978 ከኣ ብኢድ ብፀዕ ኣቡነ ኣብርሃ ፍራንስዋ፡ ኣብ ቤተ ክርስትያን ኪዳነ ምሕረት ኣስመራ መዓርገ ክህነት ለበሱ።

ኣባ ተክለዝጊ፡ ካብ ሰኔ 1978-1979 ኣብ ገዳም ሲታውያን ኣስመራ፡ ካብ 1979-1981 ኣብ መንዲዳ (ኢትዮጵያ) ድሕሪ ምግልጋል፡ ካብ 1982-1984 ንሮማ፡ ዓዲ ጣልያን፡ ናይ ቅዱስ መጽሓፍ ትምህርቲ ክቕጽሉ ተላእኩ። ካብ 1984-1992 ኣብ ገዳም ኣስመራ ተመዲቦም ኣብ ናይ ኣቡነ ሰላሚ ትምህርተ መለኮት ተቅዋም፡ ቅዱስ መጽሓፍ፡ እናመሃሩ ምስ ኦርቶዶክሳውያንን ወንጌላውያንን ኣሕዋትና ኮይኖም መጽሓፍ ቅዱስ ኣብ ሓባራዊ ጎታም ናብ ምድላው ተዋፊርም ብዓወት ዛዘመዎ። ከምኡ ውን ንበቢይኖም ጉጅለታት ትምህርቲ ቅዱስ መጽሓፍ ይህቡ ነበሩ።

ኣባ ተክለዝጊ፡ መምህርን ሰባኽን ጥራይ ዘይኮኑ ጸሓፊይ ውን ኔሮም እዮም። 5-መጻሕፍቲ-ጽሒፎም፡-ከምኡ ውን-ንመጽሔታት ብርሃንን ተሓድሶን ከም ኣቕራብን ኣራምን ኮይኖም ብምግልጋል፡ ንሕዝበ ክርስትያን ብዙሕ ጠቓሚ ጽሑፋት ኣበርክቱ።

ካብ 1993-1994 ኣብ ወገን ኣዲስ ኣበባ ድሕሪ ምሥራሕ፡ ካብ 1995-1997 ኣብ ዓዲ ጣልያን፡ ኣብ ካሜሪ ተመደቡ። ካብ 1997-2008 ከኣ

weekends, he carried on sacramental ministry and was always available for the needs of the people. He organized a Bible study attended by youth of various faiths.

From January, 1982 into 1984, Father Teclezghi lived at the Monastery of Saints Vincenzo and Anastasia in Rome, where he pursued further studies in Biblical theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University and Biblicum. His evenings and weekends were occupied with pastoral ministry.

From 1984 to 1986, Father Teclezghi was assigned to the Monastery of Our Lady of the Assumption in Asmara, Eritrea, where served as a seminary professor in the field of Sacred Scripture. During this period, he also devoted himself to collaboration with Orthodox and Evangelical Protestant scholars in the work of translating the Sacred Scriptures into the Tigrinya language (a principal native language of Eritrea). This translation remains in widespread circulation today, and has made the Scriptures available to thousands of people.

The author of five books in his native language (Tigrinya), Father Teclezghi was also an editor for, and contributor to, two major Eritrean magazines, *Tehadso* and *Berhan*. He had also participated at the international level in activities held during the 1990s as part of the “Decade of Evangelization” pursued in anticipation of the turn of the millennium.

On June 12, 1997, Father Teclezghi arrived at Our Lady of Fatima Monastery in Mt. Laurel, where he served the people of St. John Neumann Parish until his death. He conducted regular Bible studies and prayer meetings, became a highly-sought preacher, spiritual director, confessor and counselor, served as our community’s vocation director, and was entrusted with a large share of the work of forming young monks.

አብ አመሪካ ዝርከብ ገዳሞም ኮይኖም፡ አብ ማኅበሮምን፡ አብ ቁምስናን፡ ብትግሃትን፡ ብተገዳስነትን፡ ብፍቕርን ኣገልገሉ።

አብ አመሪካ ከለው፡ አብ ልዕሊ’ቲ ምዱብ ናይ ማኅበሮም ሥራሕን ሓላፍነትን፡ ብፍቓድን ቡራኪን ሓለቃኦም፡ አብ አመሪካ ንዝርከቡ ኤረትራውያንን ኢትዮጵያውያንን ክርስትያን ብትግሃትን ብመንፈሳዊ ትብዓትን የገልግሉ ነበሩ። ምስቲ ናይ ማኅበሮም ሥራሕ፡ እንዳላወሃሃዱ፡ አብ ብዙሓት ከተማታት ናይ አመሪካ፡ አብ ግዜ ዓበይቲ በዓላትን፡ መርዓታትን፡ ቀብሪን፡ ካልእ ኣገዳሲ ጉዳያት እናክርከብን፡ ደኺመ ከይበሉ፡ ንሕዝቢ፡ ይምህሩን፡ የተባቡዱን፡ የጸናንዑን ነበሩ። እዚ ናይ መጨረሻ መገሸኦም’ውን ከምቲ ልመድ፡ ንሕዝቢ ከገልግሉን፡ ቃል ኪዳን ከእስሩን ዝግለመ ጉዕዞ ነበረ። ካብኡ እናተመልሱ ድማ ኢዮም ብሓደጋ መኪና፡ ሰንበት 31 ነሓስ 2008 ካብዚ ዓለም ብሞት ዝተፈልዩና።

አባ ተክለዝጊ፡ ብፍላይ አብ ከባቢ ፊላደልፍያን፡ ዋሽንግቶን ዲሲን፡ ባልቲሞርን፡ ወርሓዊ ኣኼባ እናካየዱ ቅዱስ መጽሓፍ ይምህሩ ነበሩ። ዓመታዊ ኮንፈረንስ እናጸውዑ ድማ፡ ንሳልስቲ ዝኸውን ጸሎትን ለስተምህሮን ይህቡን ይመርሑን ነበሩ። አብዚ መጨረሻ ዓመት ከአ ብተለኮንፈረንስ፡ ናብ ምሉእ ዓለም ዝዘርጋሕ ትምህርቲ (አብ ሰሜን ሓደ ግዜ፡ ሰሎስ) የመሓለፈ፡ ነበሩ። መደቦምን ባህጎምን ግን፡ ክሳብ ብሬድዮን ብተለቪጅንን፡ ዝመሓለፍ ጌሮም ከዕብይዎ እዩ ኔሩ።

አባ ተክለዝጊ፡ ብስብከቶም አብ ኩሉ ቦታ ውሩይ፡ ተደለያይ፡ መንፈሳዊ አቦ፡ ንኡድ መናዘዚን መኻርን ነበሩ። አብ ውሽጦም፡ ሃል ሃል ብዝብል ፍቕርን ስምዒትን፡ ብቕንኣት መንፈስን፡ ንክርስቶስ ይሰብኩን፡ ንደቂ ሰባት መንገዲ ኣምላኽ የመርሑን ነበሩ። አብ ብዙሃ ስብከታቶም ከአ፡ “ አሕዋተይ፡ መዓልቲ ጎይታ ኣይንፈልግን ኢና’ሞ ተዳሊና ንጽናሕ” ይብሉ ነበሩ። አባቲ፡ “መንፈስና ክክደስ ኣለዎ፡ ብውህበታት መንፈስ ቅዱስ ክንምለክ ኣሎና” ዝብል ርዲኢትን ዘይሕለል ሃረርታን ነበሮም። ንብዙሕ ዓመታት ከአ ካብ ዓዲ ጀግሮም፡ አብ ማኅበር ተሓድሶ፡ ኣስመራን አብ ዘዝኸድዎን፡ ንሕዝቢ ይምህሩን፡ ይመርሑን፡ የተባብዑን፡ ነበሩ።

ክቡራት ኣሕዋትን ኣሓትን፡ ዓቢ ኣቦን፡ ትጉህ ሓዋርያን ከም ዝጉደሉና ንርኢ ኣሎና። ሰብ ነባሪ ስለ ዘይኮነ፡ ዊዲዮ ሓዲሩ፡ በዛ መንገዲ ሞት ገይሩ ናብ ዘለዓለማዊት ቤቲ ምእታው ናይ ግድን እዩ። ሞት ግን ተዳልዩ ንዝጸገሕ፡ መወዳእታ ዘይኮነትስ መጀመርታ ናይ ዘይውዳእ ሕይወት ኢያ። ስለዚ፡ ኩላትና ብተስፋ ትንሣኤ ተጸናኒሶና ንዘለዓለማዊት ሕይወትና አብ ቅድሚ ዓይንና ጌርና ንመላለስ።

እግዚአብሔር፡ ንሓውናን፡ ኣቦናን፡ መምህርናን፡ አባ ተክለዝጊ፡ አብ መንግሥቲ ይቀበለልና፡ ንቤተሰብን ፈተውትን ጽንዓት ይሃብ፡ ካብ ድንገተ ሞትን፡ ካብ ዳግማይ ሞትን ይሰውረና። አሜን።

እቲ ብላይ ዝአመነስ፡ እንተ ሞተ’ውን፡ ብሕይወት ክነብር እዩ። ወንጌል ዮውሃንስ 11፡ 25

His ministry was frequently sought by other religious communities and prayer groups. Fr. Teclezghi threw himself into all of these tasks with generosity and zeal.

Father Teclezghi was a true promoter of friendship with the Holy Spirit. He usually celebrated daily mass at ten o'clock in the monastery chapel, was devoted to priestly ministry, and was always available to hear confessions, give blessings, and pray with people.

With the permission and blessing of his superiors, Fr. Teclezghi generously served the Eritrean and Ethiopian émigré community in the United States. This ministry frequently took him to the Baltimore-Washington area, where he had organized a monthly meeting of this community. Recently, his ministry to Eritreans and Ethiopians was extended to many parts of the world through teleconferencing and Internet technology. He organized and directed an annual conference in Washington, D.C. for members of the Abyssinian diaspora from all parts. Father Teclezghi showed us what it is to be a missionary, even in the United States.

In fact, it was in priestly ministry that Father Teclezghi died. He was killed in an automobile accident near Pocomoke, Maryland, on the morning of Sunday, August 31, 2008, on the way back to Mt. Laurel after the celebration of a wedding in northern Virginia the previous day.

Father Teclezghi is survived by one brother, three sister, a large extended family, and his Cistercian family.



Bishop Mengisteab and eight priests celebrated Mass Fr. Abba Teclezghi



His brothers and sisters came from all corners of North America to pray and pay their respects.

(Photographs by Dr. Amine Kidane)