



**Blessed Cyprian Iwene Tansi**  
1903-1964

“Let us remember in our daily joys and daily sorrows the God of the tabernacle, who delights to remain with God’s children.”

“Let Christian charity be our norm of relationship with everybody irrespective of colour and nationality, and we shall be fulfilling the law of Christ.”

“While we have time let us lay up treasures in heaven so that on the day of reckoning our reward may be great indeed.”

“Let us show ourselves true children of God the Father whose sun shines on the just and on the unjust. Let us prove ourselves docile disciples of Christ our Lord whose compassion for men knows no bounds.”

*(from the writings of Bl Cyprian)*

### **Prayer to Blessed Cyprian Tansi**

Blessed Cyprian, during your life on earth, you showed your great faith and love in giving yourself to your people and by the hidden life of prayer and contemplation. Look upon us now in our needs, and intercede for us with the Lord. May he grant us the favours we ask through your prayers. Amen.

### **Novena for the canonisation of Blessed Tansi**

O God who granted many graces to your Blessed Servant priest and monk, Cyprian Michael Iwene Tansi, choosing him as your faithful instrument for evangelisation and sanctification of your people, grant also that I may spend my life, loving you and my neighbour and serving the Church. Deign to glorify your servant Cyprian and through his intercession grant me the favour I ask of you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Michael Iwene Tansi was born in Nigeria in September 1903. He was sent to a mission school when he was 6 years old. He was baptised aged 9. In 1924, aged 21, he became headmaster of his old school in Aguleri village. A year later he went to the newly founded seminary to become a priest, not without much opposition from his family. He was ordained in 1937, only the second group of Nigerians to be ordained. From the moment of his ordination, and even from his time in the seminary, he combined an energetic apostolic life with a life of profound prayer and demanding personal asceticism. His care and zeal for the people committed to him in the diocese of Onitsha remains legendary to this day. Many of the traditional Catholic devotions he started remain active.

His belief in the value for the local and the worldwide Church of the hidden life of prayer in a contemplative order led Fr Tansi to leave behind his country and highly successful missionary work in Nigeria and go to England to join the Cistercian Order at Mount Saint Bernard Abbey in 1950. He was confident that prayer was the soul of the apostolate and that he would be an even more effective apostle and do more for his beloved Church in Nigeria than by any amount of activity out on the mission. His dream was to establish the contemplative way of life in Nigeria and although he died before seeing his dream fulfilled, several houses have since been founded.

Blessed Cyprian died in England on 21 January 1964, sadly a few days before he was due to return to Africa to introduce monastic life there. He was 61 when he died after 13 years of monastic life and 27 of priestly ministry. Blessed Cyprian was beatified by Pope John Paul II in Nigeria in March 1998.

*Anyone who receives graces or favours through the intercession of Blessed Cyprian Iwene Tansi should write to:*

*For Nigeria: Postulator, Cause of Fr Tansi, Archdiocesan Secretariat, PO Box 411, Onitsha  
For UK: Cause of Fr Tansi, Mount St Bernard Abbey, Coalville, Leicester, LE67 5UL*