



JESUITS
EASTERN AFRICA



Issue 03, August 2012

Shukran

Shukran:
Swahili/Arabic
for Gratitude



ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL

The Swahili proverb *kilicho na mwanzo kina mwisho* ('everything that has a beginning has an end') found its relevance at the closing of the Jubilee Year of the Jesuits of Eastern Africa. The Jubilee Year, which began on 31 July 2011, was closed by the Superior General, Father Adolfo Nicolás, SJ, on 17 July 2012. During this period, we celebrated the 25th anniversary of Jesuit presence and work as a province in six eastern Africa countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Sudan, South Sudan, and Tanzania.

We organized several events and activities during the Jubilee Year, including a province retreat, leadership/formation training workshops, and pilgrimages to historic Jesuit sites in coastal Kenya and northern Ethiopia. More significantly, for the first time in its history, the Society of Jesus held its 70th Procurators' Congregation in Nairobi, Kenya. In his letter to the whole Society after the Congregation, Fr. Nicolás writes: "All who participated in the Congregation felt we were seeing the Society's future in Nairobi: a future of deep Ignatian feeling and perspective; a future full of life, vitality, and dynamism; a future that communicates joy and unreserved hope." It was indeed a special grace and privilege to host the Universal Society in Eastern Africa Province!

The Jubilee Year was an occasion to take stock of our journey so far and renew our resolve to 'Go Further Still!'. We have reason to celebrate the achievements we have made. I am grateful to the Lord for the ordination of three young Jesuits to the priesthood: Fr. James Ayaga, SJ; Fr. Douglas Onjala, SJ; and Fr. Kyaligonza Achal, SJ. May the Lord bless them in their new mission. I am also grateful to our partners for the support we continue to receive for our various apostolic initiatives. Among other projects, we managed to install solar panels in Loyola High School, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; increase food security through various agricultural projects, and complete a classroom block and a boys' dorm in Ocer-Campion Jesuit College, Gulu, Uganda; and inaugurate a set of classrooms in Loyola Secondary School, Wau, South Sudan – thanks to the generous contribution of our partners.

We always count on your strong support to meet the apostolic goals of Eastern Africa Province and to go further still in our mission. You can count on our prayers for you and your family! May God bless you abundantly!

Fr. Agbonkhanmeghe E. Orobator, SJ
Provincial.



Loyola Secondary School, Wau:

A Light to the Nations

About 30 years ago, Loyola Secondary School was initiated in Wau, South Sudan by the Jesuits in Eastern Africa, with the aid of the Detroit Province of the Society of Jesus. This was following a request by Bishop Joseph Nyekindi. The little town of Wau had, for many years, been ravaged by civil war, which affected their economy, infrastructure, education as well as their increasing population. By establishing the school, Jesuits hoped that they could empower the local people to be able to improve their living standards.

Although the school was started in 1982 following a request from Bishop Joseph Nyakindi, the first intake of students, a total of 50, took place in 1984. However, more war and turmoil in South Sudan saw the school only run for two years before being closed. 35 students successfully completed the second year and an additional 22 completed their first year. As a result of the war, the school remained closed for 22 years. During that time, the army took over the school building.

In January 2005, the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) was signed, paving way for the re-opening of the school in September 2006.

Loyola Secondary School is currently run by Jesuits in Wau, South Sudan. It is a mixed day school with a total of 450 students. There are 5 Jesuits and 29 lay members of staff teaching at the school, and 6 subordinate staff. There are 15 main

subjects taught at the school including English, Physics, Arabic, History, Mathematics, Religion, and Engineering and Family science.

School Mission

The school aims to provide spiritual guidance to students in their faith formation, human growth, and spiritual wellbeing, laying strong emphasis on justice and peace. Students at the school uphold Jesuit values in acts of charity, kindness, tolerance, understanding, forgiveness, reconciliation, unity and peace.

The school recently saw the addition of 6 new classrooms. At the moment, their main priority is fencing and guarding the property. This is because the return of locals, who were displaced during the 20 years of war, caused some to pitch their houses on the school property. Other priorities include acquiring new text books, sponsoring students, salaries to staff, constructing an administration block and a school laboratory as well as expanding the solar power system to provide more energy for the school and Jesuit community.

Despite these challenges, Loyola Secondary School still works to prepare young men and women who will become the light not only to Sudan but to all nations of the world.

For more information on how you can get involved in our work in Wau, please send an email to the Development Director, Shane Burke, at develop.aor@gmail.com

About the Jesuits

The Society of Jesus was founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola in 1540 and is today the largest religious order in the Catholic Church. We serve in 127 nations on six continents and are organized in administrative regions called Provinces. The Eastern Africa Province consists of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and North and South Sudan. Though the province was established in 1986, the earliest missions date back to the times of St. Ignatius in 1557, in Ethiopia.

Our works in Eastern Africa include:

- **Education** - through our educational institutions we form well rounded and competent persons committed to a faith that does justice. Our students are aware of the social ills that are present in Africa and they generously give themselves to put an end to these ills. We train 'men and women for others'. We currently run seven schools in Eastern Africa.
- **Retreats** - for more than 470 years, Jesuit spirituality has led countless women and men to a greater intimacy with Jesus Christ and to a dedication to serve those most in need. We maintain retreat houses in Kenya, Sudan and Ethiopia. In addition, we run mobile retreats in all countries of our province.
- **Parish ministry** - we run 5 vibrant parishes within the 5 countries of our province, with a variety of pastoral, formation and service programmes. All our parishes give emphasis to 'community' and have dynamic Small Christian Communities.
- **Social Justice and Communication** - we aim to transform unjust structures and offer hope to the marginalized in society. We reach out especially to refugees, those affected or infected with HIV/AIDS, poverty and violence. Our justice and communication ministries include: Jesuit Hakamani center, African Jesuits Aids Network (AJAN), Jesuit Refugee Service and Radio Kwizera.

Visit www.easternafricajesuits.org for more information on our work



"Priesthood is the Life of serving others..."

Close of the Jesuit Jubilee Year

The Swahili proverb "Hayawi hayawi leo yamekuwa" that means (they cannot be but today they are) befits the ordination of two young Jesuits to priesthood - James Ayaga, SJ and Douglas Onjala, SJ - on 17th July 2012 at St. Joseph the worker Parish in Nairobi, Kenya. The celebration also marked the close of the Silver Jubilee (25th anniversary of the Jesuit Province of Eastern Africa), which started on 31st July 2011.

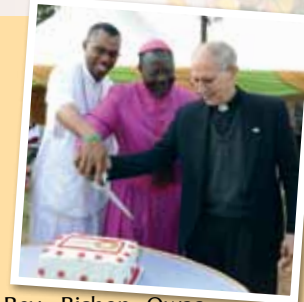
The occasion was blessed by the presence of Fr. Adolfo Nicolás S.J., the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, and Jesuits who had been attending the 70th congregation of procurators from all over the world. This was a great privilege for some of us (Jesuits) to be with the Superior General for the first time.

As usual, the celebration started by the holy mass. The liturgy was animated by the Bishop of Ngong' diocese, Rt. Rev. Bishop John Oballa Owaa who was accompanied by Fr. Adolfo Nicolás S.J., Fr. Orobator, S.J., the Provincial of Eastern Africa Province, and Fr. Paschal Mwijage, S.J., the priest in charge of St. Joseph the worker Parish, and several other priests. More than two hundred guests from the outskirts Kangemi community, Jesuits from different parts of Eastern Africa, and guests from other religious congregations were in attendance. It was a very colorful celebration as the choir belted numerous tunes that sent the congregation, led by the parish children, into a dance.

In the Liturgy, Rt. Rev. Bishop Owaa reminded the chosen ones that "priesthood is not being a judge but a reconciler, priesthood involves a sacrificial life, it is the life of serving others and preaching the Gospel of truth without fear; priesthood is not a life of vainglory but a life of service; priesthood is the Eucharist." He also emphasized to the two newly ordained priests the importance of living the vows and the spirit of availability in the ministry.

At the end of the liturgy, Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, SJ, thanked the congregation for attending the ordination and gave a brief introduction on the Jesuits. The main points highlighted in his speech were the universality of the Society of Jesus, and the mission of Jesuits. The General compared the Jesuit mission to the mission of Christ. He emphasized that the mission of Christ was for the whole church and that "a Jesuit is small, but the mission is big."

After mass, the guests had lunch at St. Joseph Primary School, in Kangemi, where they were entertained by different groups: Burundian drummers, songs by children of Upendo Centre and Christ the King choir members. The raffle draw was also held and the winners of different prizes were announced. The Jubilee year was then closed by Fr. Adolfo Nicolás, S.J., after the cutting of the ordination and jubilee cakes.



By Sch. Didimus Shirima, S.J



"Africa is an apostolic preference because it is important"

Fr. Adolfo Nicolas, SJ, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, was in Nairobi for the 70th Congregation of Procurators. Br. Elias Mokua had the pleasure of interviewing the General on the following issues:

What are the emerging priorities for the Society?

General: The priorities for the Society were decided less than ten years ago by Fr. Kolvenbach as a result of consultation with the whole Society. However, a new priority, defacto, emerging in many provinces of the Society is the 'youth.' They are the greatest majority of the people in Africa and South East Asia. In the youth you can find the energy, the thinking, the creativity, and, therefore it is the area of hope. It is from there that we are going to have our continuity.

Where does Africa stand as a priority for the Society?

General: Africa is an apostolic preference because it is important. Although Africa has a lot of economic possibilities, this is not the most important. The most important to me is the humanity of Africa. The values, the traditions, the vitality, the sense of life that I find every time I come to Africa. The fact that many values in Africa are considered very important because they belong to the whole of humanity. The world needs Africa, and the Society needs Africa. We need Africa if we want the fullness of Christ.

What are some of the challenges faced by the Society with regard to networking?

General: The world is becoming more and more complex. We need to appreciate the need of networking and make it operative. Not only networking among Jesuits but with the lay people,

with religious and whoever is concerned about different issues. This is because we need a complex network to respond to a complex situation. We will have to work much more in interreligious communication and this is a new network of dialogue at the level of the life of the people and how certain insights are common to all religions but expressed differently with images and vocabulary.

What are your thoughts on the mission of the Society?

St. Ignatius conceived the Society for the service of the mission of God; therefore, without limits. I think the Society has to be concerned with quality so that the service we offer to the people is a good service, a quality service for the good of the church, for the good of the people, for the good of the Gospel. The mission is not the mission of the Society of Jesus; it's the mission of God. It is God who wants to transform the world not us.

We organize ourselves in regions and provinces for the purpose of help. We always work in the local culture. Therefore, we have to understand the people, the culture, the language but our hearts remain universal. Poverty has no nationality, goodness is universal, and suffering is also universal. Thus, our service is also universal. We want to collaborate with God in his mission. This is the way the Society of Jesus should continue. I would encourage the young to be honest with their hearts, with what they believe, with what they don't believe, without making it a rational process. No human answer will ever be perfect.

News/Events briefs:

- The first Bilingual expert seminar hosted by the Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church, was recently held from 21-24 August 2012 at the Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations. More than 20 scholars from the continent participated.
- A National conference on the 2013 General Elections in Kenya was hosted from 9-10 August 2012, by Jesuit Hakimani Centre, in conjunction with the Kenya Episcopal Conference Catholic Justice & Peace Commission.
- Lawrence Achal Kyaligonza, SJ was ordained to the priesthood on 4 August 2012. The ordination, held in Kasese, Uganda, drew many Jesuits from different countries of the Eastern Africa Province. James Ayaga, SJ and Douglas Onjala, SJ from the Eastern Africa Province of the Society of Jesus were also ordained to the priesthood on 17 July 2012.
- The Eastern Africa Province of the Society of Jesus, recently hosted the 70th Procurators Congregation from 9-16 July 2012, in Nairobi. More than 100 procurators from all over the world took part in the Congregation.

Many Thanks:

To all who participated in the raffle which run from February to July 2012. Congratulations to all the winners. The following prizes were won:

- Plasma TV (Top Prize): Alice Karanja
- Laptop: Anthony Hulula
- Mini Laptop: Grace Kahome
- Blackberry phone: Susan Mwangi

To all our friends and benefactors of our work in Eastern Africa for your continuous support and interest in our ministries. May God bless you abundantly.

Visit www.easternafrijesuits.org for more news and events

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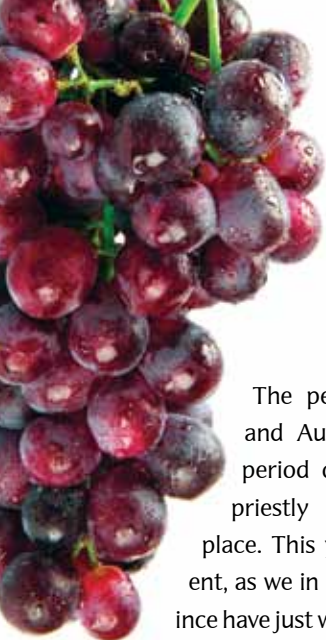
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“Go and bear fruit, fruit that will last!”

The period between May and August is generally a period during which many priestly ordinations take place. This year was not different, as we in Eastern Africa Province have just witnessed, with great joy, the ordination ceremonies for Fr. James Ayaga S.J., and Fr. Douglas Onjala S.J., at St. Joseph the Worker, in Nairobi, Kenya, and Fr. Lawrence Kyaligonza, S.J., in Kasese Diocese in Uganda.

These ordinations reminded me of my own ordination and the many ordinations that I have witnessed. In them, there is always something very closely related to the general Christian calling, that is, the call to be with Jesus first, and then to go out and transform the world! In the priestly ordination, we are reminded of the scene at the last supper,

with Jesus’ many teachings, and, especially culminating in teaching about the vine and its branches. This teaching is two-pronged: in the first place, it is an invitation to remain closely attached to him, to cling to Him; and, secondly, it is a reminder that the call of Jesus is beyond simply being with him or clinging to him. Indeed, it is a reminder that Jesus calls the disciples, and in turn calls each of us for a mission; and our mission, like that of the disciples and in turn, that of the newly ordained priests is to go out and bear fruit, and not just any seasonal fruit, but fruit that will last! In his own words, Jesus tells the disciples: “It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will last.” (Jn: 15:16).

While this call is so undoubtedly fitting during ordinations, it is nevertheless a

call that every Christian should hear, and hear daily. It is a reminder of the correct relationship with Jesus, and also the mission Jesus gives to each one of us. It should evoke in each one of us the question, am I still attached to Jesus? And what kind of fruit am I bearing, if any? The Christian call is lived more vividly in each one’s daily activities, and that is where these questions would find the most intimate responses. However, whether or not we are exactly what Christ expects us to be; whether or not we are bearing lasting fruits, we are nevertheless being invited to reflect about it, pray over it, and ask the same Jesus who calls us, to help us in transforming the world in our own little ways.

By: Fr. Stephen Nzyoki, SJ

Pray with us
Send us your prayer request to prayer.aor@gmail.com



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Contacts:



JESUITS
EASTERN AFRICA

Kenya:
Jesuit Development Office
Loyola House
P.O. Box 21399, 00505,
Ngong’ Road, Nairobi
(+254 20) 387 0436
Info.aor@gmail.com
www.easternafricajesuits.org

Tanzania:
Jesuit Development Office
P.O. Box 1140,
Dar-es Salaam
(+255) 22 244 3600
Info.aor@gmail.com
www.easternafricajesuits.org

Uganda:
Jesuit Development Office
Xavier House
P.O. Box 7310,
Kampala, Uganda
(+256) 414 510 340
Info.aor@gmail.com
www.easternafricajesuits.org

Ethiopia:
Jesuit Development Office
Xavier House
P.O. Box 30105,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
(+251)11 123 6650
Info.aor@gmail.com
www.easternafricajesuits.org

North Sudan:
Jesuit Development Office
Ignatian Spiritual Centre
P.O. Box 1629,
Khartoum, N.Sudan
(+249)85 341855
Info.aor@gmail.com
www.easternafricajesuits.org

South Sudan:
Jesuit Development Office
St. Peter Claver, Jesuit Community
C/o Bethany House
P.O. Box 211023, 00505, Nairobi, Kenya
(+249)944 286 719
Info.aor@gmail.com
www.easternafricajesuits.org