



**JESUITS**  
EASTERN AFRICA

# Shukran

Shukran: Swahili/Arabic for Gratitude



## The Doherty family

**W**e extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Doherty Family. Through their family foundation, Our Lady Queen of Peace Foundation, the Doherty family has contributed generously to many Jesuit projects in Dodoma Tanzania: the construction of St. Peter Claver High School and St. Ignatius Primary School, the extension of Kiwanja cha Ndege (Airport) Parish church and completion of churches in Makole and Miyuji Parishes.



Mr. Doherty (fourth right) with family & friends at SPCHS

## The Jesuit Jubilee Raffle

As part of the Jesuit Jubilee celebrations, the Development Office organised a raffle in aid of school projects in the Province. The raffle was carried out in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda and yielded revenue of approximately US \$ 8,000. Many prizes such as safari hats, T-shirts, bags, umbrellas, phones laptops and Plasma TV were won by people. The main prize, the Plasma Television was won by Isaac Fivawo from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

A big 'thank you' to all who participated in the raffle. The following won prizes

- Plasma TV (Top Prize): Isaac Fivawo (Dar es Salaam, Tanzania)
- Laptop: Terry Hanley (Kitale, Kenya)
- Mini laptop: Tina Kanyesigye (Kampala, Uganda)
- Blackberry phone: Freddy Mwaipopo (Dar es Salaam)
- Samsung phone: Virgilio Arimeteia Domingo, SJ (Maputo, Mozambique)
- Nokia phone: Julian Kababiito (Kampala, Uganda)



Fr. Binamungu Mukasa, Headmaster of Loyola High School, awards the raffle's top prize to Isaac Fivawo a student of the school.

## A WORD FROM FR. PROVINCIAL



**T**hese are exciting times for the Jesuits in Eastern Africa. We celebrate 25 years as a province and what better way to celebrate than by redoubling our efforts. The theme of our jubilee year is, "Going Further Still"; it signals our intention to pursue the magis (Latin for "the more"). And so, everywhere you look in the six countries of the Eastern African province, Jesuits are starting new initiatives and consolidating existing works, for the greater glory of God and the good of humanity.

One such new initiative is Shukran, a newsletter published by the Development Office of the Province. As you may have noted from the masthead, Shukran is an Arabic/Swahili word that means 'gratitude'. It expresses our thankfulness both to God and to our friends for the many benefits we have received and continue to receive.

In this inaugural issue of Shukran, and in future editions, we share with you our achievements, our hopes, our lives. As a friend of the Jesuits, you will have the opportunity to see for yourself what it means to be a Jesuit in Africa today. Hopefully, you will also appreciate that we work together with you to realise our mission. Without your prayers, support and partnership, none of our accomplishments would be possible. Be assured that we pray for you. May God bless your generosity.

Agbonkhanmeghe E. Orobator, SJ  
Provincial



The newly ordained Fr. Mungai (in green) with Bishop Rodrigo to his left, and companion priests.

## GOING FURTHER STILL: Inauguration of the Jesuit Jubilee Year

“Being a Jesuit points the way to answering so many fundamental questions that I ask myself as a Christian in Africa today. [...] Does Africa's experience hold a unique meaning for the rest of humanity?” asks Fr. Kizito Kiyimba SJ. He is one of the 52 Jesuits sharing their vocation journeys in a newly published book, titled *Going Further Still: Jesuit Jubilee Reflections*. Ready to go further in following and serving Jesus Christ, these Jesuit priests, brothers, and scholastics have set this year aside to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Province of Eastern Africa. The Province comprises: Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan, S. Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The jubilee year started on 31st July, 2011. This date was blessed with the birth of yet another African Jesuit priest, Michael Mungai SJ whose ordination took place at St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Kangemi, Nairobi. The ordaining bishop was Rt. Rev. Bishop Rodrigo Mejia Saldariaga SJ, Vicar Apostolic of Soddo Vicariate in Ethiopia. St. Joseph the Worker Parish is famous for its colourful liturgy and it lived up to its reputation: during the processions (entrance, gospel, offertory and exit) the parish children performed beautifully choreographed dances while the parish youth executed more vigorous Maasai dances.

At the end of the mass, Fr Agbonkhanmeghe E. Orobator SJ, Provincial of the Jesuits in Eastern Africa announced the start of the Jubilee Year. He noted that “Our history [in Eastern Africa] is long and short.” The first Jesuit to step foot on Eastern Africa soil was St. Francis Xavier who stopped at Malindi, Kenya in 1542 on his way to India. St. Ignatius of Loyola (founder of the Society of Jesus) established a 15-member Province of Ethiopia in 1553. This was the first General Superior's desire to save souls in the land of the famed, mythical Christian King, Prester John. There followed other (mostly unsuccessful) Jesuit efforts to evangelise Eastern Africa, until 1976, when the Jesuit the Region of Eastern Africa was established. A decade later, on 31 July 1986, the Eastern African Province was born. Fr. Orobator sang a moving thanksgiving song in his Bini mother tongue to commemorate the Jubilee Year. Spontaneously, Fr. Philo Nguruwe SJ, Master of Ceremonies at the Mass rendered a Swahili 'version' of Fr. Orobator's song and Sr. Ida Lagonegro, an Italian Dimesse Sister, crooned her Kikuyu version of the song.

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After Mass was a reception at St. Joseph Primary School, Kangemi. Following a hearty lunch, guests were treated to music, dance and skits from various Kangemi groups: the youth, Catholic Women, altar servers, children and Magis (a youth group that fosters Ignatian Spirituality). Also in attendance was the Kiwanja cha Ndege (Dodoma) choir. With the Kangemi choirs, the choir from Dodoma sang songs off their newly launched Jesuit Jubilee Album. There followed the cutting of the ordination and jubilee cakes and picking of the winners for a jubilee raffle that had been running from May 2011. The ceremony was closed with a prayer and blessing from the newly ordained jubilee priest Fr. Michael Mungai SJ.

*Raymond Ngaiza SJ and Nathaniel Lubanga SJ*

## Gonzaga Novitiate: First Vows

The Jesuit First Vows on 2 July 2011 were marked by a splendid ceremony at Gonzaga Gonza Novitiate in Arusha, Tanzania. Among those who attended were members of other religious congregations, family members and friends of the novendi (the men taking vows) and Jesuits. All were dressed in a miscellany of colourful attire, showcasing the great diversity of vocations.



*Newly vowed men with Fr. Orobator*

The following men professed their simple perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience: Adika Francis SJ, Angaluki P. Isimwamu SJ, Bwesigye Thaddeus SJ, Gemechu G. Yadeta SJ, Kimario A. Theobad SJ, Ochen Anthony SJ, Ondieki T. Machuki SJ, Shing'da D. Pascal SJ and Ssekitoleko C. Lwanga SJ. Four other novices: Dagne Asefa, Heskias Mulat, Geoffrey Nyangeri and Silas Kipkorir, professed their vows later in July in India where they are doing their studies.

"I rejoiced when I heard them say, let us go to God's house", were the introductory words of the main celebrant Rev. Fr. Agbonkhanmeghe E. Orobator, SJ, Provincial of the Eastern Africa Province. In his homily, Fr. Orobator remarked that from now on the nine novendi will be called Jesuits; servants of Christ's mission. He reminded them that they are not just servants, but the suffering servants of Christ on account of the three vows. Fr. Orobator encouraged them, nevertheless, that by the wounds of their commitment they will bring healing to others.

After the spiritual nourishment, there followed a reception for all. We came together as one, blessed family of God; to join in the joy of the newly vowed men. To them we say, "May the good Lord who started the good work in you bring it to completion."

*Dominic Mutuku, nSJ  
Gonzaga Gonza Novitiate  
Arusha, Tanzania*

## Ocer Campion Jesuit College

Back in 2010 Ocer Campion Jesuit College (OCJC) opened its doors to the very first group of 34 students for the preparatory class (Primary Seven – P7). Some of these pioneer students had spent time in the 'bush' during the civil war that ravaged Northern Uganda for more than two decades; others had been at home due to lack of school fees and a few students joined OCJC in order to re-sit the Primary Leaving Examinations (PLE).

Of the 34 pioneer students, 31 sat the PLE and several passed well enough to join Senior One (the first class in secondary school) either at Ocer or at other secondary schools. A few of them, however, did not qualify to join secondary schools and have opted to enter vocational training centers. Of the 31, five of them - four boys and a girl- were the best in Gulu district. In fact, the girl was the best girl in the district.

On 31st January 2011, Ocer received the second group of students for the P7 class, 15 boys and 16 girls, making a total of 31 students. 3 weeks later, on the 21st February 2011, 15 of the pioneer class reported for Senior One and they were joined by 63 students from other parts of Northern Uganda. OCJC now has 44 boys and 34 girls in Senior One.

We have had a good start despite several challenges. We really are looking forward to a fruitful year and are counting on your support and prayers. Feel most welcome to pay Ocer a visit!

*Bro. Innocent Mulili, SJ  
Headmaster, OCJC  
Gulu, Uganda*



*Kangemi youth performing a Gospel Procession at the Ordination Mass*

## St. Peter Claver High School: Official Dedication

After two months of intense preparations, the Dedication Day for St. Peter Claver High School (SPCHS) finally arrived on 4th June 2011. Hon. William V. Lukuvi, MP and State Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, was Guest of Honour and Rev. Fr. Chesco Msaga, the Vicar General of the Catholic Diocese of Dodoma, blessed the school buildings. During the ceremony that followed the blessing of the school, Hon. Lukuvi led parents and well-wishers in a fundraiser and promised the Government of Tanzania's support for the project.

The students showcased a wide variety of entertainment to the joy of their parents and other visitors: they sang their school anthem, staged a play based on the life of St. Peter Claver, the Servant of Slaves, and danced to both traditional and contemporary music.

Though only a few months old, SPCHS already enjoys a good reputation. Government officials, including President Kikwete, have commended the school, for its physical infrastructure, its curriculum and ethos captured in the school motto: "To learn, to love, to serve." The President has in fact promised to tar the road from SPCHS to the University of Dodoma.



*Fr. Martin Connell with a student at the inauguration of SPCHS*

"Nyumba ya Upendo" (House of Hope) as well as other orphanages and hospitals.

We are grateful to our benefactors, especially the Doherty family, who have made SPCHS possible.

*Sch. Martin Waweru, SJ  
Teacher and Clerk of Works, SPCHS  
Dodoma, Tanzania*

SPCHS is a boarding high school that took in its first students on 23rd January 2011: 52 girls and 76 boys. Four Jesuits work full time at the school: Fr. Martin Connell (Headmaster), Fr. Kizito Busobozi (Assistant Headmaster), Br. Vincent Soreng (Environmental Care and Gardening), Sch. Martin Waweru (Teacher and Clerk of Works) and Sch. Anthony Ochen.

In keeping with the school motto, SPCHS students are trained to deepen their relationship with God and are required to do community service. As part of community service, the students have so far visited Cheshire Children's Home and in future will go to a nearby hospice run by the Brothers of Charity known as

## 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. Usually known as Jesuits; we serve in 127 nations, on six continents and are organised in administrative regions called Provinces.

The Province of Eastern Africa consists of Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania, Sudan, S. Sudan and Uganda. The province was established in 1986, but our history in Eastern Africa dates back to the time of St. Ignatius— one of our earliest missions was in Ethiopia in 1557.

From July 2011 to July 2012, the Jesuits in Eastern Africa celebrate their 25th anniversary as a province.

### Our Work in Eastern Africa

**Education:** Through our educational institutions we form persons who are well rounded and competent, yet committed to a faith that does justice. Our students are aware of the social ills that are present in Africa and they give of themselves generously to put an end to these ills. We train "men and women for others." Currently we run seven schools and plan to establish 5 more.

**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 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 marginalised 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 Hakimani Centre, African Jesuits AIDS Network (AJAN), Jesuit Refugee Service and Radio Kwizera.



*Students of OCJC going to study; in the background, the new classrooms*