



**JESUITS**  
EASTERN AFRICA



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# Shukran

Shukran:  
Swahili/Arabic  
for Gratitude



## WE ARE HOPEFUL FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

**Habeamus Papam!** ("We have a Pope!") These are the words that brought joy to our hearts and a sense of a new beginning. A new successor of Peter and spiritual leader of the World Catholic Church, Pope Francis, has been elected. Ordained a Jesuit priest, he served as Novice Master and Provincial in his native country, Argentina. We are inspired by Pope Francis's humility, commitment to serving God and his strong stand against social injustice around the world. We are indeed hopeful for a brighter future.

As we celebrate the resurrection of Christ, we are hopeful that he will fulfill his promises to us. His resurrection has the most profound and significant implications for the past, present and future of our lives. And as we reflect on our lives, our relationship with Christ, his promises and deep love for us, we must be hopeful that our risen Lord will accomplish all that is impossible for us to achieve.

It is our hope for a brighter future that has seen us continuously dedicate ourselves to our mission in South Sudan. This is despite the ongoing challenges that parts of the country are facing, particularly in Wau where we have a secondary school. Although it was almost recently sent to the brink of another civil war, its people have managed to keep the peace. Our students have a solid hope for a brighter future. For this reason, our priority for this Year of Faith is to rebuild Loyola Secondary School (LSS) in Wau.

To this end, we have embarked on a comprehensive project to construct classrooms, science and IT labs, staff room, administration block and a library. From the generosity of our partners we have received a modest donation that will see us accomplish part of our mission in Wau. We invite you to join us, support us and pray for us in our effort to bring hope to our students in Wau and transform LSS into an instrument for the development of South Sudan. May God bless you and your family for your continuous prayers and support. HAPPY EASTER!

**Agbonkhanmeghe E. Orobator, S.J.**  
Provincial



Pupils of St. Ignatius Prep & Primary School at playtime

## St. Ignatius Preparatory and Primary school: Offering Education for Life

For many years, Education in African societies was used as a tool to prepare young children and youth to take their place in society. But all that has changed. Nelson Mandela once noted that *"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* It has since been noted as one of the most fundamental keys to achieving part of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Although there are efforts to ensure the universal provision of primary education, there are still more than 71 million children, around the world, of primary school age who are not in school. Majority of these children (45.5 million) are in regions of sub-Saharan Africa (UNICEF & the UNESCO Institute for Statistics, September 2012).

In Eastern Africa, Jesuits have been working with different partners around the world to improve the situation by establishing schools to ensure that children get quality education. Established in 2003, St. Ignatius Preparatory and Primary School in Dodoma, Tanzania, is one of such schools. Inspired by the Jesuit intellectual tradition, the school not only strives for academic excellence, but also trains young girls and boys to become morally responsible men and women for others; men and women, who think critically, act wisely and work skillfully to

advance the common good. In short, children get education that they can use for life.

Over the past ten (10) years, the school has seen tremendous growth from a Kindergarten with only 45 children, to a fully-fledged primary school. Currently, there are approximately 23 teachers and 470 students (225 boys & 245 girls) enrolled at the school.

St. Ignatius Preparatory and Primary school is one of the few primary schools, in Dodoma, established with an aim of providing quality education opportunities to children with excellent academic abilities but from families with difficult financial situations, but with excellent academic abilities. The school however faces challenges such as providing adequate IT materials/computers for the students and putting up a school hall. But even as it marks its 10th anniversary in July 2013, the school has a lot to celebrate and be thankful for. In the 2012 national primary examination, St. Ignatius Preparatory and Primary school not only emerged as the top primary school in Dodoma region, it also produced the best student, Sarah Mvuma, in the region. Congratulations are indeed in order!

**Diana Karua**, Communications Coordinator, Jesuits Eastern Africa

# About the Jesuits

The Society of Jesus was founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola in 1540 and is today the largest religious order of men 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, 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 of themselves to put an end to these ills. We train 'men and women for others.' We currently 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 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 Hakimani center, African Jesuits Aids Network (AJAN), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and Radio Kwizera.

Visit [www.easternafricajesuits.org](http://www.easternafricajesuits.org) for more information on our work

## From Liability to Asset

My name is Alex. 25 years ago, I was born in Yei River County, a small village to the South West of South Sudan. According to my parents, I was born normal like any other child. One day, I mysteriously fell down. Since I was still learning how to walk, my mother thought it was normal; though I couldn't get up any more. Thereafter, my legs lost strength and I became paralyzed. I grew up in this condition.



When I was 6 years old, I developed an interest in school. I used to see my age mates going to school and so I told my parents about my intention to go to school. They were against it; to them, it seemed like I was dreaming. "How will you go to school?" they asked. Nevertheless, I insisted that I would go even if it meant crawling to school. When my father realized that I was too determined to reverse my decision, he made me crutches to aid my movement to school.

### A Good Samaritan

One day, it started raining heavily on our way back from school. All the children ran for shelter, but I couldn't, given my condition. At the same time, I feared taking shelter at a nearby place in case the rain continued late into the night. In the process of struggling to reach home, the rain became too much and I fell down. A good Samaritan who saw me falling down came and helped me get up. He pitied my condition and asked if I could use a wheel chair. Before he could finish, I responded that I was able to use a wheel chair. He later brought me a second-hand wheel chair, which aided my movement to school.

When I finished primary school, my parents could not allow me to enroll in secondary school. They told me that they did not have school fee for me; yet they paid school fees for my siblings who were considered normal. I did not know what to do; I was disabled and could not work to support myself either. I cried bitterly as I watched my friends attending secondary school. At home, I was considered more of a liability than an asset; someone who disturbed people to do things for him. Though it was not said out loud, I

could see that my family was wishing me dead to relieve them from my burden. But I kept praying to God to open an opportunity for me to get school fees.

### Towards Empowerment

One day, I went to Yei Day Secondary School, which was the nearest secondary school to our home. I expressed my interest in schooling and explained my condition to the head teacher. He accepted to enroll me in senior one and told me he would refer my case to Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) which assists vulnerable people like me. Indeed, a few days later, the JRS team came to school and the head teacher presented my case to them. On seeing my condition, they immediately considered me for a scholarship given to vulnerable students. JRS also provided me a new wheel chair as the old one was now in a bad condition.

In 2011, I completed my senior four under the JRS scholarship program. Over the years, JRS has raised my ambition and improved my status and self-esteem. The knowledge I acquired made me more self-reliant than entirely depending on my parents. I used to pray at home but with a new wheelchair, I go for church services like other people. I am very grateful for the assistance given to me by JRS. I wish to further my studies or take a professional course to get skills that I can use to assist my community. I want to be a role model to other disabled people and their families. JRS have made such a dramatic change to my life. I am now an asset; no longer a liability as my family first considered me. May God continuously bless JRS to keep extending such help to others wherever they are.



A group of students browse through books in the library at Yei Day Secondary School in Yei, South Sudan that was set up by JRS.

Compiled by Malish Isaac, Jesuit Refugee Service, Yei Secondary Education Coordinator,  
Re-edited by Diana Karua, Communications Coordinator, Jesuits Eastern Africa

JRS began work in Yei, South Sudan in 2004, assisting returnees who had been exiled in Uganda following the two-decade long civil war in the then Sudan. After eight successful years, JRS closed down the project in Yei in 2012. The schools will be transferred to the Payam and County Educational Departments. More than 12,000 people directly benefited from JRS activities in Yei in 2011.



# Pope Francis!

## A Humble Servant of God

On March 13, 2013 the world was surprised by the election of Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio to the papacy. News of the election was received with great joy and thanksgiving among the Jesuits in Eastern Africa. It was a total surprise to everyone: surprise to the Jesuits, surprise to the media and probably a surprise to Pope Francis himself.

Although Pope Francis now belongs to more than one billion Catholics around the world, we are aware from which pot he was brewed, as far as the religious formation is concerned: Ignatian spirituality. We are proud and at the same time humbled that God has chosen one of ours to such great responsibility, especially at a time like this when St Peter's boat is baffled by the winds of all kinds from all sides.

Pope Francis' Ignatian spirituality and Jesuit training will probably bear on his papacy. As a Jesuit he would have made the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits, at least twice. The *Spiritual Exercises* is a period of intense prayer, meditation and contemplation in silence. From this experience the Jesuit learns to seek and find God in all things; he strives in all things to love and to serve. Hence, Ignatian spirituality will be part of Francis's gift to the Church and the world.

His election has also brought greater attention on the entire Society of Jesus. This may be good news to our vocation promotion programs in especially in

Eastern Africa. We can only pray and hope that Jesuits around the world will be even more dedicated to serving God and being men for others.

For centuries, Jesuits have served the Church in a unique manner: going to the frontiers where Church's response is needed; teaching in universities and high schools, and committing to alleviate poverty while working at the margins of society. For more than 470 years, Ignatian spirituality has also led countless men and women to a greater intimacy with Christ. For this reason, we maintain retreat houses in Kenya (Mwangaza), Sudan and Ethiopia (Galilee Centre) where we offer retreats guided by Jesuits.

As the media state, will Pope Francis be the new "poverello" or the "Green pope?" Or will he be the pope who will give more roles to women in the Church, and reform the Vatican bureaucracy? Will he be close to the poor and sensitive to social concerns? Only history will tell. We are however very confident that he will follow the Tradition of his predecessors. By being

### News/Events briefs:

- The AOR brothers' Ongoing Programme was held from 15 to 18 March 2013
- Fr. Udahemuka Fidelis pronounced his final vows on March 10 2013 at Loyola House
- Hekima College recently hosted a Diaconate ordination on the 9th of February 2013

### Upcoming Events:

- 3 April 2013: We invite all our partners interested in taking part in a day of recollection at Mwangaza Spiritual Centre, Nairobi. Please call or sms +254 713 387 252 for more details
- 1st May 2013: Ordination in Nairobi
- 16 May 2013: Novitiate 1st vows at Gonzaga Gonza Novitiate in Arusha
- 19-23 May 2013: Jesuits in Formation (JiF) meeting to be facilitated by Fr. John Paul, SJ from the Wisconsin Province
- 19 July: International Conference on Emerging Christian Identities in East Africa
- 20 July: Ordination, Launch of Jackson Otto Masha's Autobiography and the AOR History book in Dar-es Salaam, Tanzania
- 31 July: Launch of AOR History book & Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus at Hekima College
- 14-16 August 2013: A Theological Colloquium on Church, Religion and Society in Africa (TCCRSA) at the Hekima College Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations, Riara Road, Nairobi
- 14 & 20 August 2013: Fr. Roland Turenne and Fr. Theodore W. Walters, respectively, celebrate their Jubilees of 70 Years in the Society of Jesus

himself, he will meet the challenges and try his best for the greater Glory of God. A journalist recently said of Jesuits, that they do unexpected things: Jesuits expect that this pope will do unexpected good things. We wish Pope Francis well and pray that the Holy Spirit may guide him to continue to lead the Church the way he started: in humility, simplicity, and concern for the poor.

By Fr. Richard Tambwe, SJ, Architect, Menelik Twin Towers

**PARTNER WITH US.** You can be part of our mission to educate orphaned & vulnerable children at the Upendo Intensive Vulnerable Care & Support Centre in Kangemi, Nairobi by:

- Donating 145USD towards school fees for one pupil for one Year
- Donating 550USD towards school fees for one Secondary School student for one Year
- Contributing an amount towards providing scholastic materials for children at 9,750USD

To support this cause, please make a **donation by cheque** in favour of '**Society of Jesus Kenya**' or make a **transfer** in favour of '**Society of Jesus Kenya**, ACC No: 6517490029, Swift Code: CBAFKENX

# LENTEN APPEAL



# Course correction in the Spiritual Life

It is the beginning of Lent as I write these reflections and I am reminded of a story which is sometimes told at this time. It is the account of some naval maneuvers involving a number of ships in close proximity and operating at night.

During one of these maneuvers, and with patches of fog further reducing visibility, awareness of the location of other ships was not easy. Hence, because of the danger, the sailors were on high alert. It was in that situation that the captain in charge of the maneuvers remained on the bridge throughout the night in order to oversee the maneuvers. During his watch, a report came from one of the sailors of a light directly in front of his ship. Upon inquiry the captain learned that the light source was fixed and not in motion, prompting him to surmise that his ship was on a collision course. Hence the captain immediately issued a command to the light source demanding it make a course correction of some 10 degrees. Immediately the response came back, “**YOU** make the required course correction.” The captain, somewhat irritated, dispatched a second message. “I am the captain. Make a course correction of 10 degrees.” Without delay a response came back: “I am a seaman. **YOU** make the required course correction.” The captain, now quite angry, dispatched a further directive: “This is a battleship. Make the requested course correction immediately.” The response came back immediately: “This is a lighthouse. **YOU** make a course correction immediately.”

In our daily round of challenges and struggles, and especially in the “foggy moments” when our decisions are shaped by responses to immediate concerns and not with a view to their long-range consequences, we can easily drift off course. It is only when we step back and

take a longer view that we realize that we are in need of a course correction. And like heavy ships, inertia can keep us going along the wrong trajectory unless corrective action is taken. That is precisely what Lent summons us to: to take a longer view of our journey and to make the necessary course correction.

What are the “foggy moments” in our daily rounds? Those in which our actions are prone to be shaped by immediate and pressing concerns, perhaps because of anxiety or human respect or the desire to please or be recognized, or perhaps because of self-pity or self-righteousness or resentment or hypercritical attitudes or jealousy and enviousness of others and their gifts, talents, position, and whatever. And like heavy ships, even our small decisions have an inertia which can continue to propel us along a false trajectory if no corrective action is taken. Although in the beginning we may find ourselves off-track by only a small distance, if unchecked, the distance from the correct path will increase with the passage of time, so that, the longer corrective action is delayed, the closer we come to disaster and the greater will be the energy and effort required to bring us back to the correct path.

Our daily activities frequently place us in situations where the long-range consequences of our decisions and actions are not the center of our focus. Our visibility, like that of the ships maneuvering through the patches of fog in the dark of night, is frequently quite limited, and perhaps made



all the more so in the hurried, rushed and anxious-laden atmosphere in which our decisions are made. Our focus is frequently directed to immediate concerns – seeking the quick fix, the hurried completion of unpleasant tasks, the prompt resolution of tension, the rushed advancement of a project. In the process, the long-range consequences of our decisions and actions are not immediately detected. And when we do become aware that we are off course, we find ourselves in need of a course-correction. The difference of a few degrees may seem insignificant. But even small errors over time can bring enormous suffering and sorrow into life. They can mean the difference between joy and misery in life, between fulfillment and frustration or success and disaster.

A checking of our long-term course-alignment and the making of the necessary course correction is what is routinely and regularly called for in the spiritual life. Such is what we are called to in the Lenten season.

By Fr. Bartholomew Murphy, SJ,  
Retreat Guide, Mwangaza Spirituality Centre.



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