



## MISSION AND SERVICE IN EASTERN AFRICA

Guided by faith, the Jesuits of Eastern Africa Province continue their efforts to serve local communities across the six countries of our Province. We promote community development through education and increasing faith through our spiritual ministries. In this edition of *Shukran*, among other stories, we share with you recent developments at Abay Mado Catholic Academy. Located on the outskirts of Bahir Dar city, Ethiopia. The city of Bahir Dar is a recipient of the 2002 UNESCO Cities for Peace Prize.

We have also recently celebrated the priestly ordination of our companions, Frs. Corbinian Kyara, Miricho Macharia and Stephen Meyo. Indeed, this has added to the number of Jesuits available for ordained ministry in the church. As a province, our commitment to our spiritual ministry remains as robust as any other ministry in the Society of Jesus. Our spiritual ministry allows us to grow in faith, hope and love and to share this with our partners, friends and collaborators.

I also take this opportunity to draw your attention to two recent publications from the province Development Office: *Jesuits to the Frontiers: Reflections on Vocation and Mission and our 2013 Annual Report*. The former gives an insight into the many Jesuits who give of themselves fully for the betterment of others as they engage in various apostolates in Eastern Africa Province and beyond. In particular, *Jesuits to the Frontiers* narrates the journey we have taken as individuals and as Jesuits, the challenges we have faced and the way we unceasingly strive to overcome them. The latter reports on our progress, accomplishments and challenges for the year 2013. God continues to bless our efforts generously; we realized many achievements in various projects – schools, social and media organizations, spirituality centers and parishes - in all countries of the province.

I thank you for your continuous support and strong commitment to our mission in Eastern Africa.

May God bless you abundantly!

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



Newly ordained Frs. Stephen Meyo (left) and Zachary Macharia (right) at their ordination, presided over by John Cardinal Njue (middle), the Archbishop of Nairobi diocese) and Rt. Rev. Rodrigo Meija (second left), the Emeritus bishop of the Vicariate of Soddò-Hosanna.

## Priests of the restoration: Fr. Stephen Meyo, SJ and Fr. Zacharia Macharia, SJ

**“To me, therefore, you shall be sacred; for I, the Lord, am sacred, I, who have set you apart from the other nations to be my own.” *Leviticus 20:26***

On 31st July of every year, Jesuits all over the world celebrate the feast of our founder, St. Ignatius of Loyola. The celebration this year was exceptional. Firstly, Jesuits all over the world are commemorating the 200th anniversary of the restoration of the Society of Jesus by Pope Pius VII in 1814. Secondly, in Eastern Africa Province, the day was special in that, we marked the feast of our founder, celebrated the priestly ordination of Stephen Meyo and Zachary Macharia, and had the official announcement of the incoming provincial, Fr Joseph Oduor Afulo. It was a blessed opportunity in which Jesuits and friends converged at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Kangemi to witness the ordination of Stephen and Zachary. Both of them were supported by the presence of hundreds of friends and family members who travelled from far and wide to witness their acceptance to serve the people of God in the Church.

The occasion was graced by John Cardinal Njue, the Archbishop of Archdiocese of Nairobi, who was the main celebrant, and the Rt. Rev. Rodrigo Meija, the Emeritus bishop of the Vicariate of Soddò-Hosanna. In his homily, the Cardinal emphasized the need for priests not to confuse challenges facing them with the call to act in God's name as a priest. The cardinal advised

priests in the face of such eventualities to return to the place where they were originally called. This implies going to Galilee - revisiting prayerful the initial experience of the origin of one's vocation journey with Jesus. Cardinal Njue added that going to the first experience for a priest means rediscovering our vocation by drawing new spiritual capital from the sources of our faith and Christian experience. In using the wisdom of General Congregation 35 “a fire that kindles other fires”, returning to the first experience basically means returning to that consuming fire with which God's grace touched you at the start of your vocation journey.

The celebration continued at the parish grounds with a sumptuous meal comprising Kenya's best dishes. Participants were entertained by the parish youth and choir through a series of educative and entertaining drama and dances. Like most speech and art-forms, the songs and dances expressed vital information regarding life. As the dust from the dances settled down, the ordinands and the provincial performed the cake cutting ritual, perhaps symbolizing their union and promise to forever work towards the building of the Kingdom of God. The two newly ordained will be remembered as the only Kenyan Jesuits ordained on the year the Jesuits commemorate the 200th anniversary of the restoration of the Society of Jesus.



Newly Ordained Fr. Corbinian Kyara  
blesses his Father (left)

# New Dawn on Kilimanjaro

On July 10, 2014, ten deacons adorned in white vestments were presented by their respective Ordinaries, to the ordaining prelate Rt. Rev. Isaac Amani, the bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Moshi, to be ordained as Catholic priests, at the Christ the King Cathedral in Moshi, Tanzania.

In attendance were more than 3000 people, including religious men and women, seminarians and parishioners. During the homily, Bishop Amani emphasized the essence of diakonia (service) in the church and congratulated the deacons for giving themselves to this noble responsibility, highly needed in the Church and in the world.

One of the ordinands was our brother, now Fr. Corbinian Kyara, SJ. After all the ordination rites were carried out, we had a sumptuous lunch at the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) center,

located few meters from the Cathedral. A mixture of songs, dance, speeches by parents, the parish priest and Fr. Provincial were all part of the luncheon. We then had a day of rest on Friday before proceeding to the slopes of Mt. Kilimanjaro on Saturday 12 July to witness the celebration of Kyara's thanksgiving Mass at his home Legho Kilema, Moshi. It was a spectacular event as the church witnessed their son celebrating Mass. Kyara thanked his parents, formators and all who accompanied him on his vocation journey.

After Mass, we had a reception in which a special Chagga cake, made of a whole goat roasted without any broken bones, was presented. Even the neck was still attached to the entire body after roasting. Kyara had to cut this cake and share with all guests. There was also Chagga champagne, locally made from banana wine. This was presented by Kyara's parents and shared with all guests. Even after the function had concluded, celebration continued for an entire week at Kyara's home and other chosen places. Indeed Kilimanjaro had seen a new dawn at the ordination to the priesthood of the ten deacons. For us Jesuits, we see a new dawn at the ordination of our very own Fr. Corbinian Kyara, SJ.

Sch. Peter Gumisiriza, SJ, Teacher - St. Peter Claver Computer & Ecological Center, Rumbek, South Sudan

# 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, Sudan 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

# Abay Mado Catholic Academy, ETHIOPIA

## Jesuit Collaborators: Participation in Action

In 2007, the Jesuits were invited to take over the Abay Mado Catholic Academy in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia. The project has since grown at a rapid pace; all school buildings at Kindergarten, Primary and Secondary level are expected to be complete by the end of 2014.

This is largely due to the generous support of Italian and Danish donors, encouraged by the strong leadership of Bishop Lesane-Christos Matheos. With the school's facilities taking shape, there was need to develop a strategic plan for the school's future development and management whilst ensuring that local Abay Mado residents were involved in the decision making process.

During the second week of July 2014 Abay Mado Catholic Academy began the process of developing a five year strategic plan with the support of the Province's Development Office and the Irish Jesuit Mission Office. 14 parents and teachers (3 male, 11 female) from Abay Mado and 5 local stakeholders/ education service providers in Bahir Dar were involved in the process. The motivation and insightful contributions of participants allowed us to get through steps 1-4 of a 10 step strategic planning process. Participants took part in identifying potential strategies to guide the projects development by linking-up strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Following this, pair-wise ranking was conducted to identify those strategies of greatest importance.



Participants finished by sharing their opinions of what they viewed to be Abay Mado Catholic Academy's core values, the community vision of Abay Mado and mission statement of the Abay Mado Catholic Academy.

The current school committee members (parents and teachers) will provide insights as members of the 'Strategic Planning' committee when they meet to discuss and approve the strategic plan as it develops further from stages 5 - 10. The final draft of the document is planned to be ready by September 2014 when the school year begins. An additional 210 students will be admitted to the primary school in grade 1 - 4, bringing the total number of students served by the school to approximately 420 by September 2014.

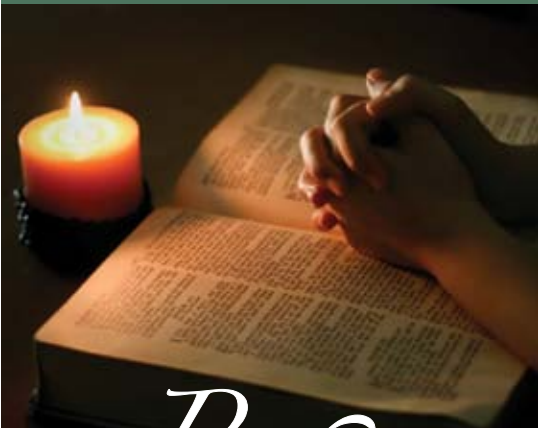
By Robert Osborne, Programmes Officer

## News/Events briefs:

- Fr. A.E. Orobator, SJ, provincial, recently hosted the 2nd Theological Colloquium on Church Religion and Society in Africa. The event, held from 6-10 August at the Hekima Peace Institute, Riara Road, saw a huge gathering of Theologians from all over the world.
- Fr. Sosthenes Luyembe, SJ, celebrated 25 years a Jesuit on Sunday, 3 August at K-Ndege Parish in Dodoma. Congratulations Fr. Sossy and may the Lord deeply enrich your vocation
- The Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola was celebrated on 31st July alongside the ordination of Frs. Stephen Meyo and Zachary Macharia at St. Joseph the Worker Parish, Kangemi
- Fr. Joseph Oduor Afulo, SJ was appointed the next Provincial of the Jesuits Eastern Africa. The transition will take place in December 2014. Congratulations to Fr. Afulo, SJ for his availability for this ministry of service and leadership
- The St. Joseph the Worker Parish Dispensary Kangemi, officially opened a maternity ward giving hope to the local community. The maternity ward was opened by Senator Beatrice Arachi who represents Kangemi area.

## Upcoming Events:

- 23 August: Priestly ordination of Deacons James Moro and Angelo Munduni Dema in Koboko, Uganda
- 18 September: Jesuit Hakimani Centre National Conference at the Hekima Institute of Peace Studies, Riara Rd Nairobi
- 11-12 October: Ongoing Apostolic Formation of Ordained Scholastics <5 Years in Ministry facilitated by Bishop Rodrigo Mejía, SJ, at Menelik Twin Towers



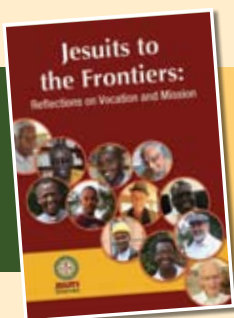
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today*

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# Ordination To Priesthood: what does it mean today?

On 14th June I attended the ordination to the priesthood of my nephew Julius Nyaraga. Nyaraga means 'of the wild or from the wild.' He was born in 1983 during the peak of conflict in the North Western part of Uganda. His family and that of many others at that time were forced to live in the wilderness and hiding among bushes while fending for themselves and avoiding being caught in the cross fire between the rebels and the government forces. Therefore, the name Nyaraga was born out of that situation.



What are the implications and effects of such a name? To a congregation gathered for his thanksgiving Mass, I reflected and shared on the meaning of his priestly ordination. Every name given to a child among our people has a meaning. It often expresses the hopes and aspirations of the people around the newborn child. Sometimes the name describes the situation of the family in which the child is born. In Nyaraga's case, his name was about the struggles and fears of a family that had to hide in bushes during armed conflict.

Therefore each individual's name is special and has a personal meaning. He or she responds to it when the name is mentioned or becomes alert when the name is mispronounced or incorrectly written. Since Nyaraga was born in the wild surrounded by the danger, he is also

expected to learn how to survive in the wild, understand the habits and ways of the wild and even become an expert in the use of herbs for both food and medicine. Jesus, who himself was born among animals and where cattle sleep, became an expert of all the ills, hopes and aspirations of those in his time.

Becoming a priest today is like being born into the present situation of humanity, for the priest is surrounded by the worries, fears and doubts of the people he serves. My hope is that all those ordained to this ministry will respond to their new name "father" when someone calls it out aloud and be concerned should this name be misconstrued.

I dedicate this reflection to the newly ordained Jesuits Stephen Meyo, Corbinian Kyara, Zachary Macharia and to those soon to be ordained- James Moro and Angelo Munduni

Fr. Isaac Kiyaka, SJ, Superior - Our Lady Queen of Peace Jesuit Community, Ihumwa, Dodoma

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