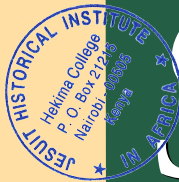




JESUIT'S
EASTERN AFRICA



Vol. 4 Issue 01, April 2015

Shukran

Shukran:
Swahili/Arabic
for Gratitude



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The first few days of my time in office have been filled with lots of visits to various apostolates in the Province. The support and encouragement I continue to receive from Jesuits, the laity and our benefactors gives me hope for a brighter future. With this, I am assured that we will continue advancing towards achieving our mission.

On the education front, the year started well with excellent performance of our Jesuit Secondary schools in the 2014 National Examinations. The graduates made us proud and we heartily congratulate them. We are very grateful to all the teachers, the administrative and academic personnel who work tirelessly to ensure that the students in our schools attain the best results. As a province, education for social transformation remains a priority. We are very much convinced that providing access to appropriate education to our students is very critical for the society. We shall continue dedicating our efforts and resources towards this end.

The province is also in the process of finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Catholic Diocese of Rumbek, South Sudan, for taking over the management of Cueibet Teachers Training College in Cueibet County, Lakes State. The College will provide pre-service Primary teacher training of 30 students for two years and in-service teacher training during the school holiday period. Plans are already underway to make the college operational soon. As usual, we count on your moral, material and prayerful support for the success of this venture.

Keeping with our tradition of Apostolic planning and in line with the 35th General Congregation's emphasis on the importance of structures for apostolic planning (Decree 3, n. 37), the province has been reviewing the current Apostolic Plan, (2010-2015) and is in the process of preparing a new one. As has been the case for the current Apostolic Plan, the new apostolic plan will also provide a roadmap for the province streamlining ministries in order of priority.

As we continue experiencing the graces of the Risen Lord, let us remember our brothers and sisters at the margins of society that the Lord may continue showering graces that bring strength and protection. On behalf of the Jesuits of Eastern Africa Province, I thank all our benefactors, companions and friends for the continued support and prayers for the mission of the Society of Jesus in Eastern Africa. May God bless you abundantly!

Thank you and may God Bless!

Fr. Joseph Oduor Afulo, SJ
Provincial



Students of St. Peter Claver High School celebrate after their final examinations

Jesuit Schools lead in academic excellence

The Jesuit schools in Eastern Africa had exemplary performance in the recently concluded National Examinations (2014). Each of the Secondary schools had a Grade Point Average (GPA) of more than 3.0. In Tanzania, a total of 4,419 candidates sat for the examination. Out of these, 2,097 schools had 40 candidates or less, and the remaining 2,322 schools had more than 40 candidates. According to Fr. Faustine Binamungu, SJ, Headmaster of Loyola High School in Dar es Salaam, schools in Tanzania are ranked within these two categories.

With 154 candidates, Loyola High School was ranked in the category of schools with more than 40 candidates. 45 of them got Distinction, 75 got Merit, 31 Credit while 3 got pass. The overall school performance was impressive with the centre ranked 8th out of 191 centres. Out of 2,322 schools nationwide, Loyola High School was ranked 66 with a GPA of 3.351. The school also emerged as the best day school in the country. All the 65 schools ranked ahead of Loyola High School in the country are boarding schools.

St. Peter Claver High school (SPCHS) in Dodoma, also had more than 40 candidates. The school had its first batch of students graduate in 2014. In its first attempt, the school broke into the top 100 schools in the Nation and top 10 in the region. 140 candidates sat for the examinations and all passed; 38 got Distinction, 60 Merit, 32 Credit, while 10 got Pass marks. Regionally, SPCHS was ranked 5th out of 70 schools and was position 80 out of 2,322 schools nationwide. The Form 2 National Examination results were equally

encouraging; out of 172 students who sat for the exams, 171 got distinction. The school is set for starting Form 5 classes this year.

Similarly, Ocer Champion Jesuit College in Gulu, Uganda, had its first batch of graduates in 2014. The School had 42 candidates; 22 of them (8 girls and 14 boys) got Division One, while 20 (8 girls and 12 boys) got Division two. Ocer Champion topped 70 schools in Gulu District, becoming position 1. Out of 179 schools in Northern Uganda, Ocer Champion was ranked 3rd, and 69th out of 3,149 schools in Uganda. Two of our students, Olweny Vincent and Gemma Mark, were position 9 and 10 (respectively) out of the 10 best performing students in Gulu district.

St. Aloysius Gonzaga (St. Al's), in Kenya, equally recorded its best results since it was established. In Langata District, the school was ranked at position 4 out of 37 schools, with the top performing student being a girl. Two boys from St. Al's scored A (-) minus. This marks the third year in a row that the school has registered improved results.

Congratulations to all our schools for the effort they put to ensure that students excel in their academic work. We thank our partners, friends and collaborators for the continued support. Together, we will continue to transform lives inspired by our shared desire to provide quality education.

SCHOOL	DISTINCTION	MERIT	CREDIT	PASS	FAIL	CLASS SIZE	NATIONAL RANK	REGIONAL RANK	SCHOOL GPA/ AGGREGATE
LOYOLA HIGH SCHOOL	45	75	31	3	0	154	66/2322	8/191	3.3510
ST. PETER CLAVER HIGH SCHOOL	38	60	32	10	0	140	80/2322	5/70	3.2686
OCER CAMPION JESUIT COLLEGE*	22 1 st Grade	20 2 nd Grade	0 3 rd Grade	0 4 th Grade	0	42	69/3149	3/179	31
ST. ALOYSIUS GONZAGA**	3 Grade A	23 Grade B	38 Grade C	4 Grade D	0	68	N/A	N/A	7.120
LOYOLA SECONDARY SCHOOL***	Awaiting Results								

*Grading indicated according to Tanzanian, Ugandan and Kenyan systems.

**Kenyan Ranking system abolished thus no National/Regional ranks

***Loyola Secondary School sat for 2014 National examinations in January 2015. Results Due later in April

By Diana Karua, Communications Coordinator

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.'
- **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.easternafrijesuits.org for more information on our work

Building a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence in Ethiopia

“Roots of Peace and Justice are bitter, but the fruits are Sweet”

The vision for a culture of peace and non-violence by the Addis Ababa Archdiocese' Peace Desk started taking shape on November 8th 2011. As part of its objectives, the Archdiocesan Catholic Secretariat (ACS) begun by setting up a Justice, Peace and Environment Bulletin (JPEB) in collaboration with the Jesuits, in Ethiopia, under the auspices of the nascent Pedro Paez Center (PPC).

The JPEB mainly targets Conference of Major Religious Superiors (CMRS), Bishop's Conference of Ethiopia, Priests' Associations, Formation Institutions, Schools, Universities, Embassies, UNESCO and other International NGOs. Four issues of the Bulletin featuring articles on a culture of peace, human dignity, environmental awareness and the global dimension of a peace and non-violence culture have been published.

Deepening Roots of Justice and Peace in a Spirit of Collaboration

In the first issue of JPEB, Sr. Belaynesh Abera, MMS, ACS coordinator, stressed the need for social justice and peace indicating that “while donations have been offered by donor agencies in much of the world, the local challenge of bringing about social justice and peace still exists, and we are still faced with the need to eradicate the ills associated with the lack of social justice and peace, inequality, poor health, and oppression among other issues.”

Renowned authors and experts such as Prof. David Hollenbach, S.J. (University Chair, Human Rights and International Justice, Boston College), Prof. Mary Ann Glendon (*The Quest for Peace Fifty Years After Pacem in Terris: What Role for Religion*), and Prof. Joseph Stiglitz (*Harmony Between Man and Man, and Man and Nature*) have contributed to JPEB. As the sweet fruits of justice and peace continue to spread, the 'building

a culture of peace and non-violence' program has entered the next phase - Peace Building Movement. On 11th to 12th October, 2014 a workshop that had inputs on 'common good' and the importance of 'Peace Building Movement' was held at ACS. The mission statement and guiding principles for the peace building movement were also designed.

With this in place, the roots of justice and peace will go deeper while the fruits continue to grow. The Youth who complete school will graduate from peace clubs to the peace building movement. As the narrative for peace continues to unfold, it is hoped that other African countries will follow this model of building a culture of peace and non-violence. But always remember that “roots of justice and peace are bitter but the fruits are sweet.” May Ethiopia continue to grow into an island of peace and justice in the Horn of Africa!



Cover photo of the 4th issue of the Justice, Peace and Environment Bulletin

By Rev. Dr. Odomaro Mubangizi, SJ

AOR collaborates with Biomin

The Eastern Africa Province of the Society of Jesus (AOR) continues to be inspired to collaborate with organizations who share our sense of mission and passion to reach out to people at the margins of Society. This is mainly because our works are largely supported by the generosity and skilled collaboration with others. For instance, AOR is adequate for it has been defined in the previous sentence; so delete Jesuit Eastern Africa through the Austrian Jesuit Mission Office (AJMO), partnered with Biomin, an agricultural company specializing in animal nutrition and feed additives.

The partnership has led Biomin to support a multi-year rural livelihoods and food security programme being implemented by the Multi-Educational and Agricultural Jesuit Institute of South Sudan (MAJIS) located 13 kilometres outside of Rumbek town. The programme has already been operational for a year and has successfully empowered 25 women (each representing one household) to grow vegetables. The women then sell their produce to cater for their families' basic needs and to send their children to school. Through the skills they have learnt, the women are now able to grow and harvest vegetables in both wet and dry seasons with the assistance of 8 water points installed across the project site. Other livelihood activities currently being introduced to the local Akol Jal community include poultry and bee keeping. The progress is ever more impressive given the MAJIS project's location on the boundary between the Dinka Akol Jal and Panyon communities who have a long history of inter-communal violence.

Recently Margarete Erber, head of the Biomin Corporate Social Responsibility program, alongside her son, Lukas Erber

and Fr. Hans Tschiggerl, SJ (AJMO) visited Jesuit projects in Rumbek and Wau, South Sudan. Their first stop was at the MAJIS project where they had a chance to meet some of the beneficiaries and see the impact of their support. Following MAJIS, the guests were able to visit Cuiebet Primary Teachers Training College which has recently been taken over by the Jesuits. The trip concluded with a visit to Loyola Secondary School in Wau. Biomin supported the fencing of the school compound which had previously been under threat from site encroachment from settlers, open defecation and dumping of animal corpses. Despite



Fr. Hans Tschiggerl, SJ views the demonstration plots alongside one of the beneficiaries

having experienced the stark realities and challenges of South Sudan, Biomin remain committed to supporting MAJIS and Jesuit works in the country. AOR is also grateful to Biomin for sharing in our mission.



Margarete Erber, Biomin, with Fr. Hans Tschiggerl, SJ



Fr. Hans Tschiggerl, SJ, Lukas Erber and Margarete Erber in Wau, South Sudan.



Support our School

LOYOLA SECONDARY SCHOOL IN WAU, SOUTH SUDAN is seeking to increase its capacity from 450 students to 800. You can support this growth by donating towards:

- The School Feeding Program
- Science Laboratory equipment and furniture
- Construction and furnishing of a multi-purpose hall

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

Kindly include the words '**LSS Shukran April 2015**' with your donation.

Easter Lessons from a Cup of Tea

In his 2014 Lenten message, Pope Francis said, "Lent is a fitting time for self denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty. Let us not forget that real poverty hurts: no self denial is real without this dimension of penance. I distrust a charity that costs nothing and does not hurt." Upon reading these words, I remember involuntarily saying out loud, "Exactly!" For in these few words, the Pope had managed to wrap my long held sentiments on lent and deliver them in a small, neat and clear package.

I remember a time when all I knew about lent was that we were required to fast, give to the poor and substitute red meat for white meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of lent. Back then, I used to wonder whether or not the poor were exempted from observing lent considering that the majority could not afford three meals a day and seldom ate meat. In Addition, the trading of red meat for white made no economic sense to me given the fact that fish has always been more expensive than beef or mutton. With so narrow a view, it is no wonder lent had very little impact on my life since everything I thought was expected of me during those forty days was easy to achieve and at a very minimal cost.

That was my understanding of Lenten practice until I worked with Sr. Pauline Curley (RIP), an Irish nun of the Missionary Sisters of the Holy Rosary, twenty years ago. Long before sugar was demonized by health enthusiasts and unsweetened beverages became a fad, Sr. Pauline was already taking her tea without sugar. Upon enquiring why, she

told me that more than fifty years ago she had given up sugar during lent but come Easter Sunday when she was more than ready to get back to her sweetened tea, she discovered that she no longer liked the taste. From her, I learnt the true essence of giving and of self-denial which in contrast to my belief, was not a mere transfer of ownership rights, but liberty and happiness borne of the realization that we are more than our possessions and desires. Lenten practices ought to transform our inner-self and prepare us for Easter.

Anyone who has ever had to give up a habit or something they held dear will probably tell you that it was the hardest thing they ever had to do. True giving is not easy nor is it designed to make one feel good about their action. While it is required of us to be mindful and to care for the poor in our midst, it is my belief that the needs of those we give should matter to us. Let bread be given to those who hunger, rest to those who tire, care to the sick and jobs to the unemployed. Sr. Pauline also used to say, "Every



person is made in the image of God and therefore everyone carries a part of God inside of them." Those words have since become the foundation of my charity and my reward. The very thought that every time I talk to, help or care for someone, I am doing the same to God, always fills me with positive energy and gratitude for the opportunity to serve God who is present and resides in that person.

The Lenten season is a unique 'New Year' in my spiritual journey; an opportunity to surrender a habit, a desire or possessions capable of enslaving my heart and diverting me from my journey. Though it may be difficult, I try to make it to the finish line hoping and praying that, like Sr. Pauline, I will wake up on Easter Sunday to the discovery that what I thought I could never live without has somehow become a part of my past.

Ms. Bertha Kikuyu, Jesuits Eastern Africa Province Accounts Officer

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