

The triple meaning of Advent

You probably may once have asked yourself this question: if Jesus already came into this world over 2000 years ago, what other coming of His are we still anticipating? Since His name is Immanu El (אֱמָנוּאֵל) - God with us -, then why are we anxiously waiting for someone who is already with and among us? Don't we risk making the same blunder committed by His kinsfolk in Judea who ate and lived with Him, yet never recognised Him as the redeemer whom they had been patiently waiting for all along? The Church reassures us that it is indeed still right and just to celebrate His coming, if anything, to celebrate this season more than ever before. The reason is threefold:

Just like any historical event, it is in order to commemorate Jesus' first eventful coming into this world, which surprised many at that time, mainly due to its low-key profile, uncharacteristic of a new king. We probably have no input to this moment in history which came and went-by, long before we were born apart from reading about it. Yet this historic coming is closely linked to His final coming when He shall come again in glory to make things right. And so, every time this season draws near, our hopes are raised a notch higher as we anticipate a glorious restoration of world order, which was lost due to our sinful nature.

However, the real kernel of *adventus* lies in the daily coming of our Lord in our lives so as to transform them and render them worthy of His second coming. This, in my

opinion, is where we should invest all our energy during these four liturgical weeks. It is important to note that this Godchild whose parents wandered about on that momentous night in Bethlehem looking for lodging in vain is still searching for shelter in our own lives. For Him to find room in our hearts, it means cleaning out that unwanted junk still occupying a sizeable portion of our innermost being; for behold Him standing at the door and knocking, waiting for you to open that He may come in (cf. Rev 3,20).

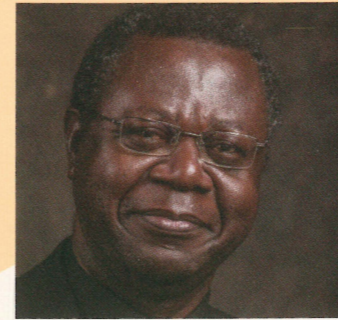
To the entire world-wide Jesuit fraternity, to all our partners, collaborators, well-wishers, friends and family, allow me to wish you a grace-filled Advent Season full of God's choicest Blessings. And when the appointed time comes, a Merry Christmas do I wish each and every one of you. Shukran!



Fr Allan Ggita, SJ The incoming AOR Province Director of Development



JESUITS
EASTERN AFRICA



Dear Friends,

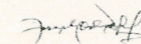
Advent greetings to you.

The Eastern Africa Province (AOR), in collaboration with various partners, has continued to support various communities to bring hope and encouragement especially to the marginalized. For a start, South Sudan, as a main priority of the Province has made notable achievements: In Rumbek, St. Teresa Reconciliation Parish implemented the Ignite Youth Conference as a peace building initiative while the Multi-Agricultural Jesuit Institute of South Sudan (MAJIS) program expanded its women empowerment activities to include a neighbouring village in Cuecock. These activities have opened up those communities to be more appreciative of each other and to receive relevant knowledge and skills pertinent to their daily lives. Similarly, the Mazzolari Teachers College (MTC) has expanded its programs to include training for in-service teachers with the aim of empowering teachers who have no formal training to acquire relevant skills for their teaching work. In Wau, Loyola Secondary School continues to be the leading school in the National Examinations in Wau State. Similarly, Ignatius Preparatory and Primary school, in Dodoma Tanzania, emerged as the best school in Dodoma region in the 2019 National Primary Examinations. This is a true reflection of the hard-work and determination of the teachers and other staffs of AOR schools to ensure that students perform to the best of their abilities.

In Uganda, Ocer Champion Jesuit College in Gulu recently received great support from USAID-ASHA to initiate the construction of a girls' dormitory and computer science labs. While the construction of the girls' dormitory has started, the construction of the science labs is scheduled to begin early 2020. These new developments will enable the school to venture into teaching science subjects for A-Level students. Likewise, Loyola High School in Dar es Salaam received support from USAID-ASHA toward the construction of a girls' dormitory; the construction will commence in early 2020. In Malindi, the construction of a Jesuit residence alongside the completion of the church structure at St. Charles Lwanga Parish is on course. Similarly, the construction of a building for the Tertiaries program alongside a kitchen and dining hall for Mwangaza Spiritual Centre are ongoing, and are set to be completed in March 2020. In Ethiopia, construction of an additional accommodation block has been completed while there is ongoing construction of a Jesuit residence at Abay Mado Catholic Academy in Bahir Dar.

Most recently, the Province participated in the Conference Formation Assembly, organized by the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar (JCAM). The assembly was aimed at Transforming the Mission of Formation in Africa and Madagascar in the Context of Faith and the Universal Apostolic Preferences.

As we continue to mark the advent season and deepen our understanding of the reality of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, I thank you for your friendships, prayers, support and collaboration. I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas and abundant blessings in the Year 2020!


Fr. Joseph Oduor Afulo, SJ
Provincial

Shukran

Vol. 8 Issue 03, December 2019

Shukran:
Swahili/Arabic
for Gratitude



Pupils of Ignatius Primary School pose for a group photo.

Ignatius Primary School Emerges top in the District and Dodoma Region!

In the 2019 Primary Leaving Examinations for Tanzania, Ignatius Primary and Preparatory school emerged the best, beating 97 schools in the District to be ranked in the first position. With a total of 55 students (24 girls, 31 boys), the school beat 483 other schools in the region to be ranked in the first position, placing it at number 113 out of 9,929 schools in Tanzania. This tremendous achievement is a great improvement compared to the 2018 examinations where the school was ranked eighth in the District and in the region and 135 out of 10,090 schools in the nation.

Established in the year 2000, Ignatius Preparatory and Primary School was the first of its kind to be established by the Jesuits in Tanzania. The school is run in collaboration with the Sisters of Saint Gemma Galgani of Dodoma, Tanzania. Rooted in the Ignatian pedagogy, Ignatius Primary strives to impart education that evokes balanced and critical thinking that forms the whole person intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually. This is what makes them unique from other schools.

In addition, students from Ignatius primary are often involved in activities aimed at giving back to the community. During Lent, for instance, pupils visit disadvantaged children and share some basic needs with them. This allows them to be in touch with reality and to develop a sincere and deep concern for others, especially the orphaned and marginalized children. Pupils also engage in weekly Eucharist celebrations aimed at strengthening their spiritual lives. The school community equally engages in a practice of fraternal and peer correction.

Besides the academic life, the school strives to be self-sustainable. A poultry project was recently initiated to serve the school and as an income generating activity. This is in line with the aim of the Eastern Africa Province Apostolic Plan (2017-2021) of ensuring self-sustainability of all the

apostolates. In addition to improving the school diet, pupils also get a firsthand experience in rearing poultry. The school has also initiated the construction of a sports ground that will expand the space for the pupils and staff to take part in physical exercises. As a response to the Universal Apostolic Preference of caring for our common home, the school has engaged in tree planting activities aimed at boosting the environment and creating a more beautiful space. More trees and lawns have been planted thereby changing the learning environment. Pupils are often involved in tree planting exercises as a way of teaching them the value of caring for the environment. Dodoma being a very dry area, this tree planting exercise will definitely improve the overall look of the school.

Due to the great work Ignatius primary is engaged in, the government allocated 39 acres for the school expansion, to allow for an increase in enrollment of pupils owing to increased demand. The enlarged space is expected to allow for the construction of more classroom blocks and a modern playground for the pupils. Even with the rising demand, the school expects to maintain excellence in education by increasing the quality of education in the Jesuit Spirit of *Magis*.

By Sr. Euphrasia Mungira, Headmistress - Ignatius Preparatory & Primary School

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Back to Back USAID-ASHA funding, more than a blessing to Ocer Campion Jesuit College!



Artistic impression of the girls' hostel

On 7th November 2019, Ocer Campion Jesuit College broke ground for a new girls' dormitory, courtesy of the funding received from USAID-ASHA. The facility is expected to accommodate 300 female students. The dormitory, scheduled to open in February 2021, will help to meet the increased demand for more accommodation facilities. The grant comes at a perfect time when the school has expanded to offer Advanced Level secondary education.

Besides the student rooms, the facility will consist of sleeping quarters for resident tutors, a study room as well as residences for volunteers. It will be located near the administration and library block and the site earmarked for the construction of a Science block, which will house Science laboratories and three classroom blocks for Advanced level (high school) students; this will offer the students easy walking access to the library and classes.

Similarly, the school will soon break ground for a Science laboratory block, also generously and fully funded by USAID-ASHA. The building will have laboratories for Physics, Biology and Chemistry. It will also have a section for classroom blocks for the Advanced Level students. At the moment, only Art related subjects are offered due to the absence of adequate laboratories to cater for science-related subjects. When the new laboratory block is completed and fully furnished with the relevant laboratory equipment, it is expected to boost student enrollment at the Advanced Level section since most of the students in the Northern part of Uganda have a preference for science subjects.

While speaking at the ground breaking ceremony of the girls' dormitory, the school head teacher, Fr. John Chachu SJ, appreciated the generous support from USAID-ASHA and the American People. The student community was equally overjoyed at the new development. "Our successors will surely have better accommodation and privacy," one of the Advanced female student said.



The provincial, Fr. Joseph Afulo takes part in the ground breaking

The provincial of the Jesuits Eastern Africa Province, Fr. Joseph Afulo, SJ, also attended the ground breaking ceremony. He equally appreciated the American people for their support not only to Ocer but also to other Jesuit projects in other parts of the province. This includes a recent grant by USAID-AHSA for the construction of a girls' dormitory at Loyola High School, in Dar es Salaam, to be initiated in 2020. In addition, Fr. Provincial pleaded with the government of Uganda to lend an extra support to private mission schools.

By Idah Leah Nabunya, Communications Officer, Ocer Campion Project

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. 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 and Ethiopia. In addition, we run mobile retreats in all countries of our province.
- **Parish ministry** - we run 6 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.

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

AOR Parishes working towards meeting the UAPs

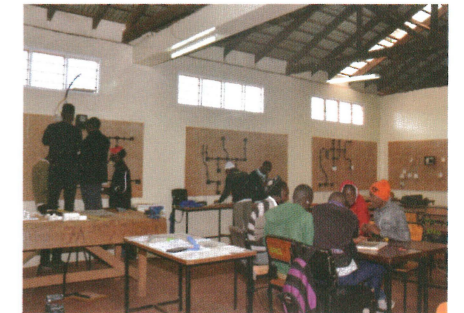
The parish ministry is a fundamental work of the Society of Jesus. According to General Congregation 34 (GC34) nearly 3,200 Jesuits serve in more than two thousand parishes throughout the world. The parishes are involved in the service of faith, promotion of justice, and walking with the poor and excluded. This affirms that Jesuit parishes are actively participating in the realization of the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) of the Society of Jesus. The UAPs are the fruit of a process of discernment, lasting almost two years, which give a point of reference to the whole Society of Jesus. They capture our imaginations, awaken our desires and unite us in our mission.



St. Charles Lwanga Parish

The Eastern Africa Province runs a total of six parishes - 2 in Kenya, 3 in Tanzania and 1 in South Sudan - alongside several outstations. As with all Jesuit parishes, our work in the pastoral ministry is guided by the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius Loyola, which encourage people to reflect on their experiences and to discern God's presence in their lives.

Besides pastoral work, our parishes have programs aimed at Journeying with the Youth, one of the four apostolic preferences. Within these programs the youth encounter spiritual guidance and support, vocational training among other youth empowerment activities. In Kenya for instance, St. Joseph the Worker Parish runs the St. Joseph Technical



Technical training under St. Joseph the Worker Parish

Secondary School in Kangemi, Nairobi. The school aims to incorporate the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) initiated by the Kenyan Government as a crucial vehicle for social equity, inclusion and sustainable development. The training is aimed at providing students with the knowledge and skills for formal and informal employment.

In Tanzania, our parishes in Mwanza, Dodoma and Dar es Salaam all run youth centres aimed at empowering the youth with skills meant to help them realize their full potential. In South Sudan, St. Teresa Parish in Rumbek has initiated programs mainly targeted at uniting

the youth and giving them a platform to interact, share and develop their full potential. Some of the programs are funded by the Xavier Network and they encompass youth formation programs such as peace building seminars, sporting activities, spiritual guidance and support.

In general, the Eastern Africa Province is working towards ensuring that all its apostolates incorporate the Universal Apostolic Preferences in their work. Particularly, the role played by the various parishes in meeting these preferences is vital. We therefore endeavor to ensure that our parishes, as the initial point of contact, are spaces to connect our beneficiaries with God, to experience social justice and are a platform to develop the full potential of our young ones.



St. Teresa Parish

By Diana Karua, AOR 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.

The Jesuits of Eastern Africa Province wish you God's Blessings in this time of Advent, a joyful festive season & a wonderful 2020!

