



Rafiki



NOVITIATE SILVER JUBILEE RAFIKI EDITION

July 2016



HAPPY SILVER JUBILEE



**ST. GONZAGA GONZA JESUIT
NOVITIATE: 1991 – 2016.
WITH JOY AND GRATITUDE WE
CELEBRATE 25 YEARS OF
FORMATION!!**



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Editor's note:

With Joy and Gratitude



The climax of the Novitiate's Silver Jubilee year opened by the Superior General, Rev. Adolfo Nicolas, in November, 2015, was celebrated on 31st July 2016 on the feast of our Founder, St. Ignatius. Pomp and glamour characterized the solemn occasion as Jesuits and friends gathered in the Novitiate grounds to celebrate the auspicious occasion.

We celebrate our Silver Jubilee at the same time as the Jubilee year of Mercy. Read on what we can draw from the two Jubilees from Novice Fidelis, nSJ. St. Ignatius insisted the value of gratitude; Don Remy, nSJ, offers his gratitude to the Lord for the 25 years of the existence of the Novitiate in a poem. In another article, he gives reasons why he loves life in the Novitiate, certainly his reasons resonate with the

various Jesuits who did their novitiate here, including the jubilarians. Often, we are faced with the age-old query on how a Jesuit is formed. Michael Kyalo, nSJ, gives his take on the same. The six Jesuits celebrating their silver jubilee are an inspiration to many in our Province, Joseph Njoroge, nSJ, narrates how much their achievement has impacted on his resolve to follow Jesus.

A picture is worth a thousand words. Find in this issue of Rafiki photographs capturing the various occasions of the Celebration and others spanning the 25 years of our Novitiate and savour the moments and the memories. With Joy and Gratitude imagine the words, the conversations and the feelings shared and thank God for His love and his graces. Happy Jubilee!

Victor Mureithi nSJ

Formator's Desk: Fr James Moro SJ

WALKING WHERE OTHERS HAVE TRODE



"As I schlepped my beach bag, chairs and towels up over the sand dunes, I recognized that if I put my foot into the footprints of the people who walked up just ahead of me, the sand and dunes were much easier to walk up" L. J. Allen.

Much in this issue of the Rafiki is the reminiscing of the experiences of the celebration of the silver Jubilee of the Novitiate. As I ponder the concept of those that have

gone before us in conceiving the Idea of establishing this Novitiate, the First batch of novices who celebrated their Silver Jubilee, and those who have been formed in this place over the years, I cannot help but ponder on the following thoughts. First is the fact that others have paved the way for us. When I

looked through the photo albums I noticed that a lot of work went into the building of the Novitiate. A number of people worked here as formators and collaborators. Novices over the years did a tremendous amount of work to keep the place in good shape and disposed themselves generously to the formation. From the preceding facts I figured out that it is right and fitting that we express a word of Gratitude to God and all of you wherever you are. We pledge that with the grace of God upon us we shall follow in your footsteps.

Secondly, with the celebration comes the awareness that we are also paving the way for others. The things we invest in will be a legacy. This awareness of paving the way for others then obliges us to be responsible and intentional. This responsibility and intentionality should mark our approach to the formation going on here; all the while relying on Gods guidance so that he can bless our humble efforts in making the Novitiate serve its purpose of forming more Jesuits. With the preceding disposition then comes the reasonable hope of looking forward to celebrating the Golden Jubilee.

As is typical of Indigenous Africans to express their joy through song and dance, concluding these few thoughts with Psalm 100 is in order. "For the Lord is good and His love endures forever, His Faithfulness continues through all generations"

Rafiki Team

Victor M: Editor



Michael S: Associate Editor



Vincent M: Graphics & Design



Ronald M: Correspondence



Lawrence M: Photography



Dominic M: Graphics & Design



IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE SON OF MAN
by Joseph Njoroge, nSJ



As we celebrate the Silver Jubilee of the Novitiate, our brothers and the Solemnity of our founding

father, the words of Jesus in Mt 8:20 captured my attention: "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head." These words apply to our jubilarians and to us all. As a first year novice, I am beginning to have this experience in the novitiate: in effect I am saying that I don't have, or aspire to have a place that I can call my very own. Granted that I have a self-contained 'villa' (my room, which contains a sink, a wardrobe, etc.), still, it isn't really mine, because after a few months I will vacate it and move to another, which I will also vacate after a few months. Ultimately, I will leave this novitiate, and 'my room' at the time of my leaving will be given to another novice, or remain empty, waiting to accom-

modate a visitor, if need be.

We live in a world where having more is considered the best or only option. In practicing detachment, we contradict the world, or the world contradicts us, just as Simeon predicted with regards to Christ (Lk 2:34) where he refers to Jesus as a 'sign,' meaning that with our Lord there is always a greater reality than what we perceive. Christ's way of life is a call to everybody to imitate him. He should be the yardstick by which we gauge ourselves.

There is more to poverty and detachment, as St Ignatius said: "I must consider only the end for which I am created, that is, for the praise of God and for the salvation of my soul". I believe that material goods in themselves are not bad; God placed us in the Garden of Eden after creating all things. He wanted us to enjoy his gifts. But since 'the fall,' we have developed disordered attachments, and therefore material goods place us in an awkward situation; we risk loving them more than God, the custodian of all goods, hence not attaining the end for which we were created. There is nobody who would be pleased, at the end of his life, to realize that his life was a waste. Embracing the poverty

of our Lord is meant to augment our efforts to make the most out of this short life. When viewed in this light, poverty becomes less of a burden and more of a gift.

In the poverty of our Lord we can see His love. He was at liberty to just give instructions on poverty to a prophet, but He knew that detachment is a struggle, and He wanted to personally show us that it is both possible and fulfilling. His love is also seen in the fact that He identifies with us to the extreme: in addition to taking the form of man, he took the form of those who are at the 'bottom of the food chain', the poor, the weak, outcasts. In becoming like us, his desire is for us to be like him, to follow his example here on earth, and then to share in the benefits of his divine kingship in the after-life.

Indeed, it is quite a privilege to follow in the footsteps of the Son of Man who, unlike foxes which have dens and birds which have nests, has nowhere to rest his head. I am in awe of my dear brothers who have done the same for twenty five years.

God we thank you

by Niyitegeka Don Rémy nSJ

Twenty-five years of formation now down the line

The good Lord has continued to protect our novitiate

Blessings, zeal for mission and endless joy

For the gift and hard work of our formators pray

God we thank you for this Jubilee

The Society of Jesus' mission is going further still

Gonzaga Gonza pioneers are strong servers still

Our hearts are jubilant, full of joy singing jubilation

For in our charism we find hope and consolation

God we thank you for this Jubilee

Gonzaga Gonza Novitiate has nurtured many Jesuits

For many years you're still the kindergarten of Jesuits

The formation you give these men for others is irreplaceable

The foundation which you have given is unforgettable

God we thank you for this Jubilee

Oh school of prayer, home of love, haven of Christ

We your children celebrate you; bravo and congratulations

Six priests, you're first born, today they glorify You Oh Christ

They thank you for guiding them, they testify to your consolation

God we thank you for this Jubilee

My heart is overwhelmed; my life testifies to your love and Grace

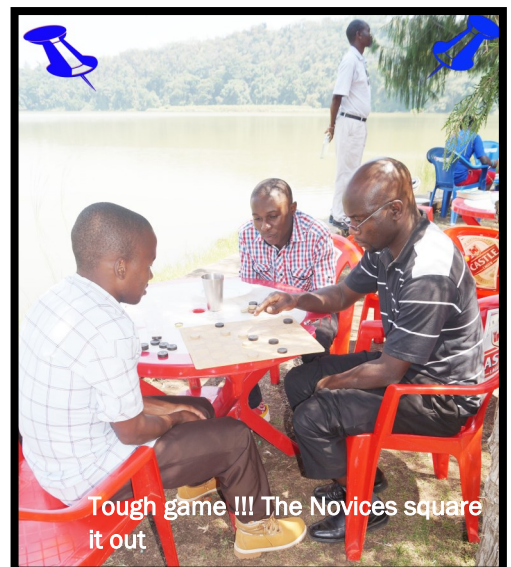
Merry jubilee Gonzaga, we give our

thanksgiving and gratitude

Go forward Gonzaga, for the greater glory of our Lord Jesus

Happy Jubilee Gonzaga Gonza! Happy Jubilee Gonzaga six!

God we thank you for this Jubilee.



Tough game !!! The Novices square it out

NOVITIATE NEWS.

by Lawrence Mwanzia nSJ and Ronald Magoba nSJ.

Seminar on Conflict Resolution: We attended a seminar on Conflict resolution from 4th-8th July at Canossa Spirituality Center that was facilitated by our very own and able Fr. Kifle Wansamo, S.J., assisted by a former student at Peace Institute, Hekima College, Ms. Elizabeth Kanini. The seminar was well attended by other novices and we numbered nearly 100 and was very insightful and well presented. The seminar concluded with a Mass at the Canossian Chapel presided over by Fr. Kifle, S.J.



Novices' Pilgrimage: On Saturday the 9th of July we joined



novices within Arusha Archdiocese for a pilgrimage walk to mark the Jubilee Year of Mercy. The turn up was quite good with over 200 participants. The walk started at the Holy

Family Church, Njiro, at 9.00 am with a talk and blessings from the Parish priest, Fr. Benedict Kashe. We walked up to the Cathedral, St. Theresa Church, through Daraja mbili, which is a sub-parish of Holy Family Parish, where we prayed the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. We then proceeded to the Cathedral where we all went in through the Door of Mercy. The pilgrimage ended with a beautiful Mass presided over by the Spiritan Provincial, Fr. Kapele, assisted by other priests present. After Mass we were taken round the new church building which is under construction.

Community day out: On 2nd August we had a community picnic at Lake Duluti camp site. It was a good way to unwind after the busy celebrations of the Jubilee in our Novitiate Community. It was also a joy since it was the Primi's first picnic since they reported to the novitiate. Preparations were well done



and come the day all went well. Each of us was cheerful and engaged in all sort of activities, such as indoor games, some dancing, chatting and the boat ride that some were not courageous enough to join.

Fr. Mboya celebrates Mass at the novitiate: Fr. Joseph T. Mboya S.J., visited us at the novitiate and we were pleased to have him. It was indeed a blessing to have him around for we benefitted a lot.



First we had a 'Meet-a Jesuit' session with him which lasted for about an hour and forty five minutes. Later in the evening he celebrated his first Mass at the novitiate. It was a good opportunity for him to encourage us and pray with us and for us on that day.

Later on we had a simple reception in our refectory in his honor. We all joined in as a community and danced. Then there was the cutting of a beautiful cake with a rosary, chalice and host placed on it. He was also given a gift and he was crowned as an elder of the novitiate. We wish him well as he helps out at the Airport Parish in Dodoma and when he resumes his studies.

Secundi long experiment Missioning 2016.: The second year novices were missioned out for their final two month long experiment on Friday the 5th. We had a Missioning Mass in the community chapel at 9AM celebrated by the formators with the Novice Director presid-



ing. He urged them to be good witnesses of the Ignatian Spirituality and Pedagogy and strive to edify souls in their missions. Novices Meba Teklemariam nS.J. and Lawrence Mwanzia n S.J were missioned to Dodoma while as Fidelis Mdendemi nS.J. and Michael Kinaka nS.J were missioned to Dar es Salaam. The fifth novice, Dominic Mutunga n S.J, will be missioned later due to unavoidable circumstances. Below find a photo of the secundis.



Finding what unites us in our Jubilee Celebrations. By Fidelis Mdendemi nSJ



As we celebrate the 25th year of the existence of the Jesuit Novitiate, Arusha, we also celebrate our brothers who have been in the Society for the same number of years. I express my heartfelt congratulations to all those who are celebrating their Silver Jubilee. Despite the fact they differ in many ways, like in terms of the number of years they have been priests and of their apostolates, they have served for all those years we celebrate their unification through a Silver Jubilee.

The celebration of the Novitiate Silver Jubilee comes at the time when the Church pronounced the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Just as our companions are united by the Silver Jubilee, the Church is united by the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. The members of the Holy Catholic Church are very different and are spread all over the world, but this year they have all been united by the Jubilee Year of Mercy, with its very special intentions in each month from the Holy Father. As members of the Eastern Africa Province, we have been very much gifted this year by the presence of two great gifts.

These are gifts in a very broad sense. Let us think about how to narrow these gifts to our respective communities and to see how we shall thank the good Lord for them. We should find what unites us in all our communities, just as we have been united as the Universal Church through the Jubilee Year of Mercy and as Jesuits of the AOR Province through the Silver Jubilee of the Novitiate and our companions. We should see how our communities are united by love, mercy, charity and the apostolates and not just by being a combination of members. In this Year of Mercy, our communities can be more united and the Jubilee should mark the peak of our unification. Congratulations to all for the Jubilee.

The joy of life in the novitiate by Niyitegeka Don Rémy, nSJ.

The experience of being part of this family of the novitiate and belonging to it is so wonderful and amazing. One can't help but thank God Almighty for this gift. The novitiate is a house of prayer where all Jesuits begin their lives. It can be compared to a baby-class of Jesuits that welcomes them into the religious life as members of the Society of Jesus.

The joy of life in the novitiate is to open oneself to formation, to a new beginning and to a new way of life. The formation forms us to be men for others in serving them without limitations and to face the current challenges faced by humanity. Formation is all about total transformation which leads to a new reorientation in our lives. This reorientation will help us in the future apostolate of saving souls for the greater glory of God.

The novitiate is an experience of a holistic growth for both the social and the spiritual life. In these few months here, one can feel the difference after all the introduction to the ways of proceeding. We feel freer and the integration in the novitiate has changed us. Without a doubt, my fellow novices can testify to that joy and to that internal peace.

When it comes to our lives, one sees the difference in the way we do what we do here, and that brings us joy and fulfillment. Following are some of the things which make me happy here in Gonzaga Gonza:

The manner in which we pray: coming from a very noisy world out there, it is very amazing for us to change and to enjoy prayer-life. Helped by our formators, one comes slowly to understand and appreciate those precious moments in prayer. As we grow in prayer we come to be aware of the value of being contemplative in action.

Our amazing formators are generous and they sacrifice a lot for us. They are our parents and our big brothers. I love the way they are very patient with us. They are always there for us to help us and accompanying us in this journey. For if God doesn't use them I think none of us will be enjoying the fruits of the family.



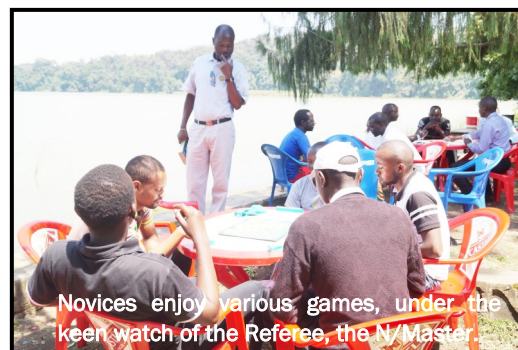
Communication is the key to understanding and the door to forgiveness. Nothing can be compared with sharing our experience and life in general. Every time I listen to my companions I thank God for having them. They are amazing people and I learn many things from each one of them. I feel the love of God who has called us from our different backgrounds. We are a family of Jesus, but yet still living on earth. So, forgiveness plays a big role in strengthening our vocation in this family. We have always to be ready to forgive unconditionally and to be humble enough to ask for forgiveness when we are wrong.

Companionship is another value which makes us enjoy our life here in the novitiate. We enjoy so much celebrating together all important events in our life, like birthdays, feasts, etc. Every day here is a learning experience from our companions and a growing in Faith. Manualia and sports are other forms of our joy; they humble us and bring us to our human nature, but with fulfillment. They bring us closer to each other and they help us to love God's creation.

Really, the novitiate is a house of love and prayer where we fall in love for the greater glory of our Lord. I greatly celebrate our pioneers, the Wonderful six Jubilarians!



**Our dear Professed 'Novice',
Fr. Bernard Mallia SJ.**



Novices enjoy various games, under the keen watch of the Referee, the N/Master.

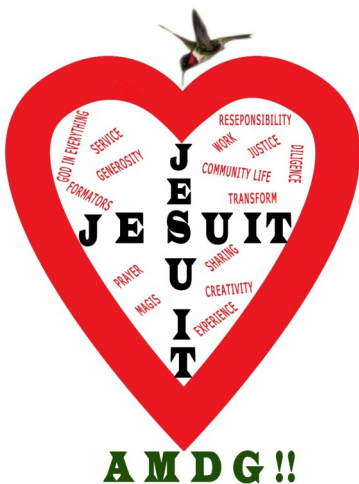
JESUIT: A FORMED HEART AND MIND.
 By Michael Kyalo Kinaka. nSJ



Looking at our Jubilarians, I muse upon our formation in our contemporary world, that which brings out men to develop and lead from a condition of latent existence into something valuable. The sense of time does not matter, it is rather the humanizing and civilizing aspects at the end of it all that count. Jesuits are formed heart and mind so that through their disposition they may reconcile and reclaim the foundations of a humanizing and civilizing formation system. The outward expression of such inner dispositions is their harmonious interconnectedness with other men and women and all created things (contemplation to attain love).

The six Jesuits we celebrate in our Silver Jubilee are men who though modern, possess the desired virtues to navigate through the world. They have formed hearts and minds disposed to the worldview of our founding father Ignatius; as novices we have a chance of emulating them by sinking our roots deep into the Ignatian spiritual genius. They are an oasis of substance in a desert of deviation to rugged individualism and extreme communism, injustice, workaholism, unhealthy competition and radicalization which seem to characterize the modern curriculum. Trying to understand a formed Jesuit, I have the image below:

This formed heart is strong enough to hold in it all people and all created creatures. The interior of this heart



comprises values that characterize a Jesuit All this happen through the chief formator, the HOLY SPIRIT, and all is done for the greater glory of the Divine majesty. Congratulations our elders! Congratulations Gonzaga Gonza!

The silver jubilee was opened by the Superior General, Fr. Adolfo Nicolas on the 10th November 2015. He led the community in Eucharistic celebration that was followed by a tree planting session for commemoration. Below are photos marking the occasion.



“Whosoever would enlist in the cause of God neath the standard of the cross, to serve the Lord...” Formula of the Institute .



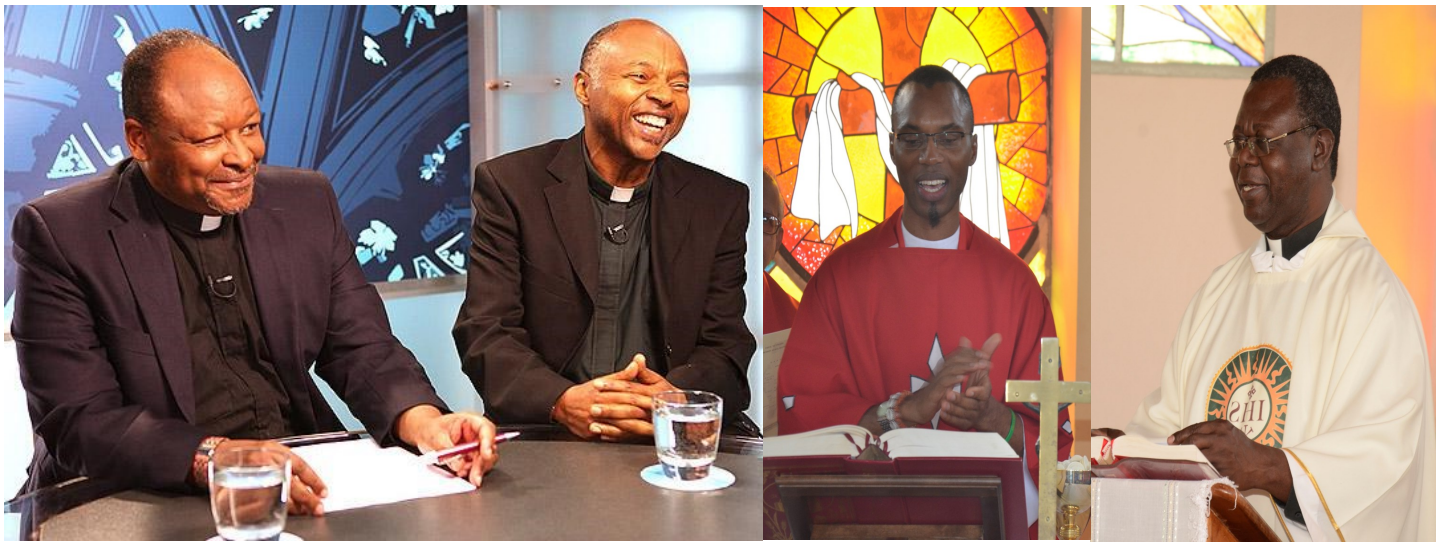
For the last 25 years, there is so much to be thankful to God.

On the Feast of our Founder, we congregated to celebrate our Silver Jubilee with Gratitude. Jesuits and friends joyfully gathered in Love of Christ to express our thanksgiving to Abba Father in a Eucharistic celebration



JESUIT GRATITUDE —A Uniquely Novitiate way of expressing Gratitude . Gratitude is a central pillar of our African heritage and is ingrained in our Jesuit way of life; St. Ignatius always insisted on the need for Gratitude.





Some of the AOR provincials , left to right: Frs: V. Shirima SJ, F. Masawe SJ, A. Orabator SJ and J. Afulo SJ.



HISTORICAL FACTS

ARRUPE IN AOR PROVINCE— left : A group of Jesuits with the then Superior General, Don Arrupe in Addis Ababa in 1976.
FIRST JESUIT IN EASTERN AFRICA : St. Francis Xavier was the first Jesuit to set foot in East Africa . He stopped in Malindi on the Kenyan coast in March 1542. Right photo, is a group of Jesuits on a pilgrimage to Malindi, Kenya where there is a memorial Chapel.



Brief history of the AOR Province and its Novitiate.

St. Ignatius missioned fifteen Jesuits to Ethiopia in 1553 creating the first Jesuit missions to Africa. There were subsequent missions to Ethiopia led by notable persons such as Pedro Paez.

The roots of the present AOR Province began in Ethiopia when Canadian Jesuits arrived in the country in 1945. The 1960s and '70s saw many more Jesuits from other provinces, such as

Malta, Karnataka, Ranch, Bombay and Goa-Puna (India) establish missions in Eastern Africa. Jesuits from the British, Chicago, Detroit and New York provinces also laboured in Eastern Africa in the 70s.

The predecessor of the Eastern Africa Province, the Eastern Africa Region was created by the then superior General , Fr. Arupe on 31st of July in 1976 on the Feast day of St. Ignatius. An Indian Jesuit, Fr. Polycarp Toppo was

the regional superior. After ten years of progress, the region was elevated to full fledged Province of Eastern Africa on the 31st of July 1986.

The Novitiate was established in Morogoro, Tanzania in July 1991 and moved to Arusha in 1992 under the then Provincial, Fr. Paul Besanceney SJ. The Novitiate continues to mold young Jesuits .

By:
Victor Mureithi nSJ



We acknowledge the significant role played by all contributors (articles) and readers. We request for feedback upon reading this issue.

Rafiki Publication e-mail address: gonzagafiki@gmail.com

