

APRIL 1996		Eastern Africa Province
Mon	1	Josphat Gikonyo
Wed	3	Richard Cherry
Fri	5	Gregory Bayelladong*
Sun	7	<b>EASTER</b> Shumdehan Haile-Michael, Bernard Mallia, Jaki Patrick
Thu	11	Anthony Wach†
Wed	17	Paul-Emile Beaudoin †1985
Thu	18	Sebastian Malambo*, Calvin Poulin†
Mon	22	<b>MARY, MOTHER OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS - Feast</b>
Tue	23	Edmund M. Lello, Paschal Mwijage
Fri	26	Gabriel Mmassi
Sat	27	<b>St. Peter Canisius - Memorial</b> Joseph O. Afulo, Jean-Pierre Karegeye*



# Easternet

Newsletter of Jesuits of Eastern Africa  
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## OUR EAP SCHOLASTICS IN HARARE



Seated: Patrick Wambua, Samuel Maghali, Moses Were and James Lomulen.

Standing: Fidelis Udahemuka, Charles Lutambi, Simon Drasiga, Daniel Akau,  
2 Francis Kitope, Emmanuel Ngabirano and Nicholas Bunyige.

(Taken at St. George's College, in front of the Staff building, in January 1996.)

**GC34, 140** ... *Since the core of all true religion consists in its capacity to lead people to an authentic and deeper spiritual experience, it is important that we strengthen in our formation the mystical dimension of Christian faith and Jesuit spirituality in encounter with the spiritual traditions of others.*

**GC34, 141** *Our proclamation of the Gospel must be sensitive to the religious and cultural background of those to whom it is addressed, and "attentive to the signs of the times through which the Spirit of God is speaking, teaching and guiding all men and women."*

**GC34, 142** *Theological reflection must dwell on "the significance in God's plan of the different religious traditions and the experiences of those who find in them their spiritual nourishment."*

## THE PROVINCIAL'S PAGE

### Appointments

Fr. General has appointed **Fr. Joseph Payeur** as JRS Regional Director for Eastn Africa as from 31st of May .

I have appointed **Fr. Tony Wach** the Superior of the Xavier House Jesuit Community in Kampala and Provincial's Delegate for Uganda as from 19th March.

I take advantage of this occasion to express my gratitude to Fr. Mike Evans for his devoted work as Regional Director of JRS during the past years.

In the same way, I want to thank Fr. Paul Mallia for his faithful service to the Jesuit Community in Kampala as Superior, and for his contribution as Provincial's delegate for Uganda and as Province Consultor.

### New Provincials with Fr. General

From 29th January to 9th February I participated in the meeting of new Provincials and Regional Superiors with Rev. Fr. General in the General Curia. We were an English-speaking group, of different nationalities: six from India, three from the United States, one from Korea, one from Austria and myself. This was not ofcourse a "school", Father General insisted, but a fraternal meeting with him and with his immediate collaborators in the Curia. As a matter of fact, Father General was with us most of the time and had a personal meeting with each

one of us. Besides getting familiar with the normal running of the Curia and its various Secretariats, we consecrated most of our time to reflect and exchange on some of the Decrees of General Congregation 34. The whole meeting was organized and animated by Father Julian Fernandes, S.J., Assistant "ad providentiam", General Counsellor and Regional Assistant for South Asia. We concelebrated in the small chapel of "La Storta" and at the rooms of St. Ignatius carefully restored to their original simplicity. One of the fruits of these two weeks was to meet one another and to foster friendship in the Lord among us. I had the chance to exchange with Fathers Edward Mathie and John Libens, respectively Provincials of Wisconsin and Detroit, with which our Province has special links of collaboration.

### Begging in the steps of Ignatius

Following the steps of Ignatius who went to Flanders in order to find some benefactors who could pay for his studies in Paris, I also started my "begging tour" among the Mission Procurators of Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, Germany and Italy in order to ask for a structural help to our "Arca Seminarii". I was able to meet most of them personally and talk on the phone to the others. I was very much welcomed by all of them. They constitute a group of Mission Procurators who meet and plan together. Their next meeting will take place in

## RECOMMENDED TO YOUR PRAYERS

For Fr. PIO CIAMPA's brother-in-law, Gabriel Jaccarino, aged 64, who died of a heart attack, and for his widow, PIO's sister, Maria Luiza, and their two grown-up sons and one daughter.

For Brother Joseph Auger, S.J., of the Province of French Canada, who died in Rome on February 4, shortly before his 87th birthday. He had entered the Society in 1928, and spent 57 years of his Jesuit life working in various capacities at the General Curia. He had diligently fulfilled many tasks. Perhaps his most important task was that for about fifty years, from the time of

Fr. Ledochowski to the years of Fr. Kolvenbach, he typed practically all the letters sent by our Superiors General to the Jesuits of the three Assis-tancies of France, England and Africa.

Fr. TONY WACH is asking the brethren to pray for his father who is facing colostomy for recently discovered rectal cancer. There was to be surgery on February 20. His Dad, aged 81, has been in good health and is in good acceptance of whatever the Lord has in mind. The Doctor-Surgeon is also optimistic that they caught the cancer early. TONY's sister, a nurse, is with their Dad to accompany him.

*GC34, 136 Our involvement in the promotion of justice takes place in a world in which the problems of injustice, exploitation and destruction of the environment have taken on global dimensions. Religions have also been responsible for these sinful elements. Hence our commitment to justice and peace, human rights and the protection of the environment has to be made in collaboration with believers of other religions. We believe that religions contain a liberating potential which, through inter-religious collaboration, could create a more humane world. Through this process the Holy Spirit overcomes the structures of sin and creates anew the face of the world until God will be all in all. Jesus always focused on the human person as the centre of religious beliefs and practices. Hence commitment to integral human liberation, especially of the poor, becomes the meeting point of religions. "Christians will join hands with all men and women of good will and work together in order to bring about a more just and peaceful society in which the poor will be the first to be served."*

*GC34, 138 Our spirituality should be characterized by a "deep respect for everything that has been brought about in human beings by the Spirit who blows where he wills". Consequently, we must be alert to the global quest for a contemplative experience of the Divine, and compassionate towards the poor who seek justice and freedom. We will seek to be enriched by the spiritual experiences and ethical values, theological perspectives and symbolic expressions of other religions.*

## ASSISTANCY ANNIVERSARY

25 years ago, on the 5th March 1971, Fr. General Pedro Arrupe appointed Fr. Victor Mertens as the first Regional Assistant for Africa. Fr. Mertens had for several years been his Counsellor for matters that concerned Jesuits living and working on the African Continent.

The decree setting up the new African Assistancy came into effect on the feast of St. Joseph (1971). Fr. Arrupe's letter also gave a number of statistics regarding the early Jesuit presence in the Congo (1547), Ethiopia (1556), Morocco, Mozambique (1560). In 1971 there were 1600 Jesuits working

in Africa, of whom 270 had been born in Africa. An international Jesuit Novitiate had been started in Lusaka in July 1969 and Maltese Jesuits had gone to Uganda the following October. Zambia became a Vice-Province in November of 1969, while the Vice-Province of Madagascar was about to become a Province, and Central Africa had been a Province for years.

Fr. Arrupe also assured the Jesuits working in Africa, coming from outside this continent, that their ties to their home Provinces still remained the same.

*Sean O'Connor, S.J.*

**GC34, 131** . *The Society must foster the four-fold dialogue recommended by the Church: "a. The dialogue of life, where people strive to live in an open and neighbourly spirit, sharing their joys and sorrows, their human problems and preoccupations. b. The dialogue of action, in which Christians and others collaborate for the integral development and liberation of people. c. The dialogue of religious experience, where persons, rooted in their own religious traditions, share their spiritual riches, for instance with regard to prayer and contemplation, faith and ways of searching for God or the Absolute. d. The dialogue of theological exchange, where specialists seek to deepen their understanding of their respective religious heritages, and to appreciate each other's spiritual values."*

**GC34, 132** *This Dialogue of Theological Exchange can more easily be carried on with religions which have a written tradition. However, the dialogue with indigenous religions is equally important. These religions express a sense of the divine and the transcendent which must be "approached with great sensitivity, on account of the spiritual and human values enshrined in them." They play an important role in creating ecological harmony and human equality and have developed a great variety of expression and ways of communicating religious experience through devotional practices, ritual, dance and song, which are a true source of blessings.*

Rome in October, and they promised me that they will include the Eastern Africa Province in their Agenda. Hope is never deceitful, says St. Paul.

### Visit to Malta

After my tour in the continent I travelled to the biblical island of Malta, where the memory of St. Paul's shipwreck is very much alive. I had the marvellous occasion of visiting the families of all the Maltese Jesuits who are members of our Province, and I was welcomed by them as a member of their own family. I also was able to meet with Fathers GEORGE GERMAN, HENRY FORMOSA and JOE CASSAR, who have worked in our Province. I could not meet with Father GALEA because he is living in

the neighbouring island of Gozo and the time was short. The main purpose of my travel was to make the members of the Malta Province aware that we would be very happy to have Maltese Jesuits, particularly in Ethiopia, because of a certain affinity between their Maltese language and the Amharic language, both belonging to the Semitic linguistic family. On Ash Wednesday I had the opportunity to give a short talk to almost the entire Province (it is not so difficult in Malta!). To Father Charles Caruana, the Provincial, who invited me, to all the Maltese Jesuits and to the families of our Companions I visited I say: "Grazie hafna!" (no need of translation).

### Provincial's Schedule for March:

- 03-09: Assistancy Meeting of Coordinators of Faith and Justice, (Hekima College).
- 11-15: Interviews with the Candidates to the Society in Nairobi.
- 17-20: Interviews with the Candidates in Arusha.
- 26-28: Interviews with the Candidates in Kampala.
- 29-03 April: Visitation of the Addis Ababa Community and interviews with the Candidates there.

*Rodrigo Mejia, S.J.*  
*Provincial*

**GC34, 109** *It is part of our Jesuit tradition to be involved in the transformation of every human culture, as human beings begin to reshape their patterns of social relations, their cultural inheritance, their intellectual projects, their critical perspectives on religion, truth and morality, their whole scientific and technological understanding of themselves and the world in which they live. We commit ourselves to accompany people, in different contexts, as they and their culture make difficult transitions. We commit ourselves to develop the dimension of an inculturated evangelization within our mission of the service of faith and the promotion of justice.*

## DANDI GUDINA

On Sunday, February 11th, Father CLAUDE SUMNER, better known among us as "The Professor", attended the inauguration of the "Dandi Gudina Education Centre" in Fantalle. The Centre is located at about 200kms. east of Addis Ababa, at the foot of Mount Fantalle. (That same mountain was visited and studied by Teilhard de Chardin, S.J., in 1919, in one of his geological research visits). One fifth of the total cost of the building was paid with the revenue of Fr. SUMNER's latest best seller, "Oromo Wisdom Literature. Proverbs, Collection and Analysis". "Dandi Gudina" (The road to growth) is the name that the Karayyu people (a branch of the larger Oromo ethnic group) gave to the Centre that the Gudina Foundation built in Fantalle. It is the very first school built to serve the Karayyu people. So far about 1,000 trees and flowering plants on the school compound have been partly cared for by the school children.

On Saturday 17th, at last, we were able to celebrate what all had been longing for: the 50th anniversary of religious life of Brother JAN CAERS. From early in the morning Sisters, lay people, Brothers and Priests of all sorts, all JAN's friends, started flocking towards the chapel of Nazareth Girls' School, so as to celebrate in the Lord all the blessings bestowed upon them through JAN's sincere and devoted presence and assistance. It was

indeed a joyful celebration. Then, as customary in Ethiopia, all were invited to continue the celebration with a breakfast kindly prepared by the Missionaries of Charity. But this was not all. Bro. JAN's anniversary was important indeed. At 12:00 a more restricted group of friends came to our Residence for a lunch given in JAN's honour. Among these were the Belgian Ambassador, Belgian friends of JAN, Sisters representing numerous communities, the Vatican Nuncio, etc. Fr. GAGNON, our Minister, and ANTON, our Tertian, showed their extraordinary qualities to make this feast an unforgettable event, meaning "ever to be remembered and commented upon".

One day later, ANTON was heading for Jimma (South-West Ethiopia) so as to give a retreat to the Missionaries of Charity, while JAN was preparing to go beyond Jimma to make use of his building expertise and help the Little Sisters of Jesus finish the building for their new foundation.

Finally, MIGUEL has just come back from a weekend in Galilee Centre, Debre-Zeit. There he attended a seminar on "Oriental Spirituality - monasticism - and Missionary Religious Life". Twenty-nine Religious, Sisters and Priests spent two insightful days under the wise direction of Archdeacon Taddee Barnas, O.S.B., from the

## WHERE WATER IS (WILD)FIRE

### Holy Water Crusade

Holy water is spreading like wildfire around Saaka Village. The goal of our Holy Water Crusade, begun a month ago, is holy water in every home. Villagers like to drink holy water. So I make sure it's not only blessed - but boiled! A new bright orange jerrycan is brought to the Saaka Village chapel each Sunday and is quickly emptied of its blessed contents. When I went to dispose of a bowl of holy water left over after the "Asperges nos", I went to the chapel window after Mass and a young lady graciously accepted it and drank freely, passing it on to her friends till the bowl was empty.

### Seven Candles on Candlemas Day

On Candlemas Day, February 2, 1996, feast of Our Lord's Presentation, seven candles were arranged on our Saaka Novitiate chapel altar. The seven candles represented the seven Sacraments, showing how Jesus, the Light of the World, communicates His divine life to us especially through the living actions of His Sacraments. That day at Mass there were seven members of our community present. So each got a chance to light one of the candles at different moments of the Liturgy, with a suitable commentary on the significance of each Sacrament. Since it was the 26th birthday of Bro. Selvanus Mugume, SJW, who

manages the novitiate farm, longhorns and goats, he began the ceremony by lighting the first candle from the sanctuary lamp. He commemorated not just his entrance into life, but into supernatural life at Baptism. It also happened to be the second anniversary of my life in Eastern Africa Province.

### All Stages of Formation

February 1996 finds me not only Director of two 2nd year Novices, but of two Postulants undergoing an 8-day retreat who are eager to be officially called Novices, and of a newly-arrived Postulant who arrived on February 13. Besides, I'm directing two Tertian Brothers who are in a 3-month programme prior to taking final vows.

At present there are 8 Brothers of St Joseph the Worker with final vows, as well as 31 others who have made their first commitment. The Society of Brothers of St. Joseph the Worker was founded in Fort Portal in 1973 by the late Bishop Serapio Magambo. A developmental Brotherhood, they have served in half of Uganda's 16 dioceses so far, from Kabale in the southwest up to Kotido and Moroto in the northeast of Uganda. Their services have been requested from abroad.

*Bob Mayer, S.J.*

**ATTENTION:** Those who have not yet returned their evaluations of the Province Assemblies are kindly asked to send them in as soon as possible to Ozy Gonsalves at Mwangaza. They should reach him at the latest by March 31st 1996.

behalf of all our friends who were invited but failed to turn up. The Eucharist extended to the dining room where all our supporting staff were present. The famous African beats were sung and Abba GROUM was vested in a kitenge suit and was wished a good sleep for his last night here (at least for a couple of years)

with a gift of a bedcover. Fare thee well, Abba GROUM.

Lent found us still nursing the nostalgic moods as we stretched our muscles while planting maize in the hope that the rains would continue. All this made us somewhat forget the past.

*Peter Otieno, N.S.J.*

### JONATHAN, DAVID AND COMPANY

During the 3-week absence of SEAN O'CONNOR, Chaplain of the Sisters of Mary of Kakamega, the Novices and the Professed Sisters next door have been joining our Jesuit brothers for the 7 a.m. Liturgy, filling the Loyola Chapel to capacity from Monday to Friday. MARCEL GAREAU, JONATHAN HASCHKA and CHARLES MURPHY have taken turns to preside at these morning celebrations.

The Ash Wednesday liturgy for the community, at 5.45 p.m., was presided over by JONATHAN HASCHKA, the Superior. CHARLES MURPHY assisted STAN MASCARENHAS with confessions and celebrated the Ash Wednesday liturgy at State House Girls' School.

#### Our visitors:

Bro. VINCENT SORENG arrived on February 7th from India via Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, after his home-leave.

He left for the Novitiate in Arusha on February 12.

GEORGE WINZENBURG (Wisconsin) arrived on February 8 to spend at least three months of his sabbatical year in the Province. JONATHAN accompanied him to Mombasa by train on February 15 for a short holiday on the beach, and returned on February 21. GEORGE went on to Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, for a few days (February 21-26). He leaves for Kampala on March 12.

David and Ruth Springob, Jesuit Associates from Wisconsin, are here for a month's vacation. David and DAN KENNEY grew up together. Ruth is on the Health Commission of the Wisconsin Province. JONATHAN has been their tour-guide. The Springobs were our special guests at dinner on February 24.

*Stan Mascarenhas, S.J.*

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEWSLETTER COPY TO REACH NAIROBI IS THE 28TH OF EACH MONTH**

Abbey of the Exaltation of the Cross in Chevetogne, Belgium. Open dialogue, reflection and long liturgies in the Ethiopian rite helped the participants

to deepen both their knowledge and commitment to working in the Ethiopian Church.

*Miguel Garcia, S.J.*

### SMALL IS POSSIBLE

I'm just back from three weeks in Tanzania (7th-28th February), trying to encourage our Jesuit Communities to get more involved in Jesuit Vocation Promotion on a local basis - to show that it's more possible that way. And I'd say we're now off to a good start. I spoke to each Jesuit Community as a group and discussed methods with many individual Jesuits.

In Mwanza Brother DEUS has three strong contacts at Nyegezi Social Training Institute, and during his holidays he plans to do vocation promotion in Bukoba. Scholastic MARCEL PIUS MTETE is arranging for Vocation weekends at Musoma and Shinyanga. In Dodoma FRANCIS LADO has his contacts especially with the students from the outstanding Mazengo Secondary School. While in Dodoma I travelled with ten of those students to Bigwa in Morogoro for a Vocation Awareness Weekend (VAW). FRANCIS will also help with contacting students at Morogoro's Secondary Schools.

Dar es Salaam has had VAWs for the past 13 years, so it will be easy for Fr. VICTOR ODHIAMBO and Scholastic JOSEPH AFULO. Both will help - where they can - in keeping up contacts with F5 & 6 students in Dar's schools as well as the city's Higher In-

stitutes.

Fr. FRANCIS CARDOZ has already been in contact with two fine candidates in Moshi and will continue this work. He would love to see more attention paid to religious instruction in Moshi's 80-90 secondary schools.

I spoke to the Community in Arusha Novitiate and last of all to the 2nd year Novices - the 1st years were out on experiment. The Novices already are in contact with many through their different apostolates. They, too, hope to help in putting on Vocation Awareness Weekends along with the White Fathers, Spiritans, Passionists, Dominicans, etc.

When I left Nairobi by MAF on the 7th February I had my doubts about how to get our Jesuit Communities more convinced of the possibilities in localizing vocation promotion, but on leaving Arusha Novitiate three weeks later I was a good deal happier. When I spoke to our Novices I said two sayings sum up this new approach: one is that "small is possible" and the other I borrowed from the words of Fr. ALOYSIUS D'SOUZA - used by him on those many occasions in the past when we appealed to him for help - "it can be done". So, let's pray and make sure that it will be done.

*Sean O'Connor, S.J.*

## HEKIMA TRAVEL TALES

**Back to square one?** or back to the desk? We are in again for the second semester, after a one-week break from the shock of the exams.

**Weekenders:** A few people took the opportunity of the break to travel around the Province and visit families and friends. Fr. Rector and some Scholastics left for Mombasa for a week while others travelled to Uganda and Tanzania. Everybody came back relaxed.

**Two escape death in a bus accident:** Schs. KIYAKA and KIMONGE, who had travelled to Dar for their holidays, survived with very minor injuries, when the Tawfiq bus in which they were travelling from Dar to Nairobi left the road and overturned into a ditch full of water, leaving two people dead and others seriously injured. The accident took place near Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA), half way between Moshi and Arusha.

**Visiting lecturer:** Fr. Norman Tanner, S.J., from Oxford, UK, arrived at Hekima College on February 18, to give a course on the Decrees of the Ecumenical Councils from Nicea I to Vatican II. Fr. Norman, who was at Hekima five years ago, is an expert on the Ecumenical Councils of the Church and has edited two volumes on these Ecumenical Councils. His course ends on March 20, of course with an exam.

**Arrivals:** Fr. MARTIN MUDEN-

DELI, sometimes known as Mzee around the College, who had left for Butare, Rwanda, during the first half of the semester, to teach in a major seminary, arrived just a day or two before the exams. Many had thought that he would not manage to be here in time for the exams. But with the modern means of transport Mzee flew in unexpectedly, to be seen at 8.30 a.m. in a classroom, ready for the interrogations on the Historical Books and Prophets.

Fr. JEAN-ROGER NDOMBI, briefly known as JR, who had left on January 7 for home holidays in Brazzaville, was back at the college on February 18, ready for the second semester. Fr. JR, who joined the Hekima Staff at the beginning of this academic year, teaches Scripture and is the animator of Ushirika House, formerly known as Hostel II. Unfortunately, just after his arrival, Fr. JR suffered a bit of malaria, which forced him to go to bed for three days.

### Calendar: March

3-4: Assistancy meeting of the Faith and Justice Delegates.

13: Ecumenical Symposium.

16: Laity Meeting.

23: Admission of Lectors and Acolytes

29: Easter break begins for three weeks.

### April

11: Diaconate Ordinations.

23: Classes resume after Easter break.

*Pascal Mwijage, S.J.*

## FARE THEE WELL, ABBA GROUM!

We completed a course on "The Spiritual Exercises Revisited" with Abba GROUM and started classes with Fr. AMANI on the vows, which we are still busy with. We were blessed with many visitors this time: Sch. JIM HORGAN came for his annual retreat and Sr. Nyawirara (International Assumption Sisters) did hers as well. Then we had our friends from the Ethiopian Airlines joining us for supper, during which they officially said farewell to Abba Groum. Our immediate neighbours, Mr. (Rev.) Allan Stephenson and his family and collaborators joined us for supper and said their good-bye as well.

Br. VINCENT arrived back from a three months' home-leave. He was happy to be back after resting. He expressed his satisfaction at the strides made in development back home where he says there is a university in his diocese, and his home sub-parish has been given the status of a parish. At any rate, "Karibu nyumbani", Br. VINCENT. (Incidentally, his experimental dam did hold some rain water to overflow, though one end of it gave way as the rains persisted).

So we got into the mood of saying bye to Fr. GROUM. The Kiserian Christians (an outstation where Fr. GROUM often said Mass on Sundays) set the ball rolling. Clad in their Arusha traditional attire, they sang in praise of Abba and thanked him for

who he was to them. He was adorned with a cross and a bangle (watch strap) made in the kiarusha way with beads, to the accompaniment of a dance done with traditional agility. The so-called Patriarch of Kiserian was saying "kwaheri".

Our Simba, alias Boy (the young bull) was the best gift we could offer Abba GROUM. Somebody claimed to have seen - or dreamt to have seen - Fr. AMANI almost shedding tears, though it could not be ascertained whether it was because Father GROUM was leaving or because the young bull (which was born exactly thirteen months ago on his very birthday) was going to face the knife, or both... Fr. AMANI could not be found to give his version of the story. Anyway, bristling with energy, PIUS MWAURA was busy sharpening the knives in readiness for the slaughter while WASILWA was struggling with SIMBA, directing the bull to the temporary butcher's house. Its meat was served as "nyama choma" accompanied with "ugali" and "maziwa ya mgando" (curdled milk). It was a quasi-traditional meal never matched with any other. More so because it was feasted on under the shed of our new tukul, christened St. Joseph's tukul, (also in honour of the builder, Br. SHUBITOWSKI).

The evening farewell Mass was attended by Patricia Mardai, a sister of one of us, who acted as ambassador on