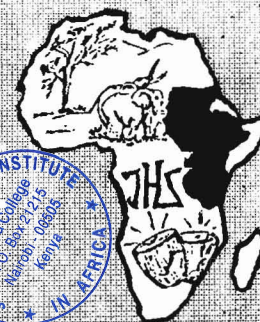


JANUARY 1997

Eastern Africa Province

Wed	1	MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - Solemnity THE NAMING OF JESUS (Titular Feast of the Society) Francis Lado, Cecil McGarry
Thu	2	<i>Elphège Degagnés</i> †1986
Fri	3	Jerome Manyahi
Sat	4	*Anthony Mpolokoso <i>Philippe Laurendeau</i> †1989. <i>Roger Leclaire</i> †1989
Sun	5	✠+Francisco Ornellas Gutiérrez: 50 years in SJ, Gérard Gagnon
Mon	6	Melchior Marandu. <i>Charles Eugène Côté</i> †1968
Sat	11	Tiberius Barasa, *Thomas Erinjery, Ambrose Kituyi, Aquiline Tarimo
Sun	12	<i>Paul Beaudry</i> †1970
Tue	14	Hillary Livombolo
Wed	15	James Wabwire
Thu	16	+Richard Twohig
Sat	18	Leo Amani Masawe
Sun	19	<i>Bl. James Sales and William Saultemouche; Bl. Ignatius de Azevedo and companions; Bl. James Bonnaud and companions; Bl. Joseph Imbert and Jean-Nicolas Cordier - Optional</i> Nganda N'Kisi
Mon	20	Victor-Luke Odhiambo
Tue	21	Stephen Msele, +Joseph Shubitowski
Wed	22	Zacharias Pazheparampil
Thu	23	Moses Wera
Fri	24	Timothy Tororey
Sat	25	Emmanuel Ngabirano
Sun	26	+Angelo D'Agostino, + David Skelskey
Tue	28	*Peter Edmonds
Fri	31	Richard D'Souza, Kizito Kiyimba



Easternet

Newsletter of Jesuits of Eastern Africa
P.O. Box 21399 Nairobi Kenya

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May this Christmas Season bring peace and joy to all the Companions working in the Eastern Africa Province! I pray that the Jesuit meetings in the different countries may be an occasion of living our union of minds and hearts and of mutual pastoral enrichment. As we start in 1997 the three-year preparation for the Jubilee year proposed by Pope John Paul II in 2000, I pray the Lord that this New Year 1997, especially consecrated to Jesus Christ, may bring to all of us a spiritual renewal both as individuals and as an apostolic body.

Rodrigo Mejía S.J.
Provincial

Father Provincial's Schedule for January:

- 1 - 7 : Facilitating the Province Assembly in Lusaka [Zambia]
- 14 - 16 : Province Consult
- 19 - 28 : Personal annual retreat - Benedictine Centre - Nairobi

WORKSHOP AT NGONG PASTORAL CENTRE

Once again Ngong Pastoral Centre was the venue for a Retreat and Workshop for Jesuit enquirers and candidates, from the 25th November to the 1st December. My task of setting up a programme was as usual made easy by the ready co-operation of so many. Fr. CHARLIE MURPHY set the tone for the meeting by a day of recollection in which he spoke of the vows as a preparation for the Lord's service and that of His Church. Fr. RAYMOND MOLONEY, back at Hekima College, treated of the importance of the Holy Eucharist. And, once again, Fr. JONATHAN HASCHKA returned to Ngong to help the participants with ways of using Sacred Scripture for prayer. Later Fr. STAN MAS-CARENHAS used the occasion of the centenary of the death of St. Therese of Lisieux to stress her great missionary zeal. Fr. PROTAS OPONDO, now lecturing at Hekima College, encouraged his audience with accounts of his own training as a Jesuit.

One session on Friday was devoted to reports on the candidates' various apostolates, such as that of looking after the very poor, deprived and sick at Nairobi's Korogocho. Others spoke of

their teaching apostolate at Kibagare, the work of rehabilitating street-children at Kwetu Home for Peace, the continuing apostolate at Dr. Barnardo's Home, work with the physically handicapped at Dagoretti Children's Home.

Others again reported on their further education programme - training at St. Mary's Teacher Training College near Voi, and a computer training course in Eastleigh.

As usual the presence of our young Jesuits - Novices, Jesuits studying at Tangaza and our Theologians from Hekima - was a very important contribution to helping our enquirers and candidates learn more about the Society of Jesus. On Friday afternoon PIUS OJARA and ANSSELM MUTHUMBI came to us from Kangemi. Just two years ago ANSSELM had been at Ngong at one of these workshops. Thank you, PIUS, ANSSELM, and Fr. JOHN GUINEY. The next morning JAMES WABWIRE and DAVID EHIMANRE traveled from Loyola House, interrupting their studies, and also helping to inspire their listeners. JAMES and DAVID, thank you.

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER - 1997 INTENTIONS

January

- That Catholics and Christians of different confessions may collaborate effectively to bring out what unites them.
- That baptized people may be a testimony with their lives to the proclamation of universal salvation in Jesus Christ.

February

- That in every Christian community attention towards the suffering may turn into practical gestures of charitable solidarity.
- That the sick and the elderly may learn to unite their sufferings with those of Christ, offering them for the universal Church

March

- That both the rich and the poor countries, in a spirit of responsible agreement, may work together for development and peace.
- That the 175th anniversary of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith may inspire Christian Communities to ever more generous missionary co-operation.

April

- That participation in the Eucharist may awaken in the faithful the sense of true Christian freedom according to the message of the 46th International Eucharistic Congress.
- That Christians in Hong Kong may continue to bear witness in faith and unity and to proclaim the Good News, in dialogue with the entire Chinese people.

May

- That Mary's Faith may be an encouragement for all those who seek to know and accomplish God's will.
- For the integral promotion of women after the model of Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

June

- That Christians, as living images of Jesus Christ who welcomes and forgives, may be promoters of reconciliation and evangelical joy.
- That the peoples of Africa, heeding the encouragement of the Pope and the Bishops, may resume with increased zeal the way of faith and peaceful development.

July

- That the Church may promote the "civilization of life" in a world afflicted by the culture of violence and death.
- That the peoples of Asia may be open to Jesus Christ's light and love, and may discover in the Gospel the fulness of the values in their cultures and religions.

August

- That the Church, in its diversity of charisms and gifts, may increasingly manifest communion in the Spirit.
- That preparation for the Third Millennium (year 2000) may revive the Church's ardour in proclaiming Jesus Christ, the only Redeemer of mankind.

September

- That educators and teachers may bear witness credibly so that young people may discover the meaning and the beauty of a life lived as a gift for others.
- That responding to the Holy Father's call, young Christians may be true and active protagonists of the New Evangelization.

October

- That the experience of the Spirit of Christ may lead Christians to bear witness to the Father's love for humankind and with greater conviction and coherence.
- For the Church in Japan, that the memory of the testimony of her first martyrs may be an incentive for new missionary dynamism.

November

- For broken families and for spouses that have lost their mutual trust, that they may rediscover through faith and Christian charity their right path.
- That institutes of consecrated life, in response to the Synod's call, may rediscover and live deeply the special dimensions of their particular charism.

December

- For the "street children" and all abandoned, rejected, ill-treated children who are victims of violence.
- That voluntary missionary service may develop among the lay people in Latin America.

pass on what's going on over here.

I'm in theology and starting my second year, which everyone rightly predicted would be a long haul. It's not that I don't enjoy theology, it's rather that at age 35 I'm feeling ready to actually work instead of study all the time. As for the community of Jesuits here, JONATHAN will be interested to know that there are a number of Wisconsin Province guys here who remember him fondly from novitiate days, and so we all trade "Jonathan stories", many of which are the same ones!

In addition to studies, I'm working at a local jail as a prison minister, which I enjoy very much. This summer, I went back to working at America Magazine, and as much as I enjoyed it, I realized that I needed to start working again with real people. My time with the refugees really touched my heart and I wanted to meet Jesus again through others. The woman who runs the practicum program at Weston laughed and said: "Wow, working with people to prepare for ministry: what a novel idea!" In any event, I started at the jail and I enjoy it.

The book that I was working on this

summer should be coming out next September. It's a collection of essays entitled "How Can I Find God?", which asks that question of many different types of people - famous and not-so-famous, rich and poor, across the United States. I'm glad I did it, but also glad it's over. Someone wrote, I think, that you don't as much "finish" a book or a poem or anything written, as much as you "abandon" it!

Of course, I think about East Africa all the time, and miss it very much, particularly Loyola House and the refugees. The other day I even tried to make a little Kenyan meal for my community with "sukuma wiki" (which came out very good) and "ugali" (which did not come out good at all, giving me renewed respect for the cooks at Loyola House!). On a more serious note, though, it's hard not to think of Africa, especially with all the news about the refugees in Zaire.

Anyway, I hope and trust you're all well. Perhaps some day soon I'll be able to return. In the meantime, if you're in Boston, look me up.
Tutaonana.

Jim Martin S.J.

YOUR PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED

- For Mrs. Teresina Isutsa Namanjia, who died on the morning of the 13th November. She had been sick for a long time. Mrs. Namanjia was the maternal grandmother of IGNATIUS IKUNZA, S.J.
- For Bishop Joseph Nyekindi, the former Bishop of Wau, Sudan, who died last month.

The Holy Eucharist at noon on the Saturday was reserved for Fr. KAPPA as our principal concelebrant and, once more, he rose to the occasion, drawing lessons from the Gospel reading about the call of Andrew and the other Disciple. Thank you, Fr. KAPPA.

The last session of the retreat and workshop was kept for our three Jesuit Theologians, KWAME KORANG-ASARE, ALEXIS RAKO-TOZANANY and JOSEPH AFULO ODUOR, their leader. Their sharing was much appreciated and was indeed a fine finale to the week at Ngong.

And what about those who worked behind the scenes? Yes, thank you, Fr. ERIC and Fr. JOSEPH PAYEUR for ferrying us to and from Ngong Pastoral Centre. And to Fr. MARCEL GAREAU for once again typing the programme. And, of course, a word of thanks to Mama Domitilla for photocopying the programme among her many helps. Finally, to Sister Coronata, the Director of Ngong Pastoral Centre and to her devoted staff for

once again making us feel completely at home.

ONCE AGAIN ON THE ROAD

Earlier in the month I was in Mombasa visiting the families and parishes of a Jesuit candidate and an enquirer. And I used the occasion to meet the families of PETER OUMA OJUNGA, nSJ and of JOSEPH OKUMU, S.J., now in Harare. This time my stay in Mombasa was so much pleasanter as each evening I could look forward to a pleasant sleep at the Consolata Guest House. My room wasn't even 20 meters from the calm sea, so I had a beautiful fresh breeze wafting into my room each evening. Also I managed to meet the St. Joseph Sisters whose Mother General is an aunt of Novice JOSEPHAT SHETE and to call on the Little Sisters of the Poor (some of our Jesuit candidates have worked with the Sisters at their Old People's Home in Tudor) - and also to let them know that I had visited their postulants and novices in Dublin while I was on home leave.

Sean O'Connor, S.J.

HEKIMA COLLEGE

A month has passed now since we started our theological studies here at Hekima. Everyone seems to be settling well.

Our community at Hekima has received one more EAP Scholastic, JOSEPH AFULO ODUOR. He was

expected to join Nairobi University to do his Master's in Physics. As the response from the University was slow and uncertain, he is now with us studying theology. We happily welcome him.

Fr. EMMANUEL NKENG, the Min-

ister of the College, is also a Consultant of the West African Province. He left for Cameroon on Sunday 27th October for the Province Consult, and came back in good form on November 6.

Fr. CECIL McGARRY, the Rector of the College, gave a one-week seminar in Ethiopia a week after the mid-term break, in November.

We have been blessed with visitors since the opening of the new academic year 1996-97. Fr. Gilbert Modikayi

FROM DUST TO MUD

"From dust to mud", that is our year in Kangemi. Life is becoming more hectic in Kangemi as we approach the closure of the year. For Fr. OPONDO, he has been specialising in weekend retreats. Asked how it has been, his "charismatic reply" has always been "Great" - not to utter in full the Ignatian motto: Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam! Mid-November saw OPONDO applying his class knowledge to practical stuff as he headed the interviewing committee for post of Headmaster of "our" Primary School. The aftermath of the interview was marked with laughter and joy in our community, for "now we can talk". Refer yourself to OPONDO if you can't get the point.

The Parish Priest, Fr. JOHN, has been as busy as usual. Meetings have tied him down. High on the agenda was "Ukaguzi wa Jumuiya" (Evaluation of

(ZIM) stayed with us since the end of September. He was on holiday, and was due to go back to Zimbabwe around November 20. Fr. J. J. O'Leary (WIS) arrived at the end of October and stayed with us until November 16. Welcome, "JJ". Bishop Peter Kairo of Muranga Diocese also passed a night at Hekima. Fr. GASPAR SUNHWA stayed with us until Wednesday 13th November. He came on November 8, after the meeting of the Jesuit Vocation Promoters in Arusha.

Kifle Wansamo, S.J.

Small Christian Communities), and this kept him at our Pastoral Centre with all the leaders of the SCCs and Parish Projects to evaluate how gracious has been this last year, at all levels. This meeting was great for it was also time to celebrate the 10th anniversary since the founding of the SCCs in this parish. Bravo to the founders - but what next for those labouring here? This is a challenge.

New progress: a powerful generator has been installed on a trial basis to curb the irregularities in power supply from Kenya Power. To ensure that it is of use to our parish an up-to-date Gestetner printing machine has already been installed. So if you were worried that we couldn't print your material on time, bring it and we shall stand up to the challenge!

God... "Pray that the Lord of the Harvest send harvesters into His Field."

VOICE OF TOORO

Since October 3, 1996, Fort Portal has been added to the radio map of the world. Private-sector/FM is broadcast as the Voice of Tooro. VOT/FM-101 is self-advertised as The Voice of the People. It may have a limited range of about 150 kilometres outside, but Fort Portal town itself echoes and re-echoes with the latest music throughout the marketplace. Handy FM receivers sell for five dollars (about 1000 Ugandan shillings), and have become quite popular with people on the move. The DJ (disc jockey) rides the radio-waves like an expert jockey in a horse-race, interspersing African and Western songs with news and a lively patter in Ruotooro and English. A couple of hours on Sunday are devoted to religious subjects and music; this is pleasantly programmed as "Morning Glory".

On a visit to town on November 16, Bro. Joseph Aligonza, SJW and I were given a tour of the VOT studios, located right in the heart of Fort Portal. One of the news-readers, Mr. John Rwamuhumbu, showed us around.

JIM MARTIN, S.J. WRITES FROM CAMBRIDGE

Greetings from Cambridge and the world of theology. I thought that I'd drop you all a line to say that I was still alive and well, remembering everyone in Nairobi. The "Easternet"

MONTHLY RECOLLECTING

At St. Paul's National Seminary, Kinyamasika, Fort Portal, I gave the monthly recollection for the staff on November 8. The challenging topic requested was "Experiencing God". I was asked to preside at the Seminary community Mass the following morning at 7.15. After breakfast there, I was driven by Bro. Joseph Nyakairu, SJW, the seminary bursar, to Virika Hill, nerve centre of the diocese, to animate the monthly recollection of the Brothers of St. Joseph the Worker. The theme was "What do I find striking about the saints?" After a general orientation that highlighted joy in the lives of saints, all were invited to share their feelings regarding any saint(s) of their choice. It is interesting to note that Pope Benedict XIV (1675-1758) made it a rule for a person to have manifested the presence of joy in his/her life in order to be officially considered for canonical sainthood. During the Vocation-Outreach Week in Fort Portal (October 13-20), Sr. Arlene Gates, MSOLA, stressed the same point in religious vocations - the joy factor. Being J-O-Y oriented: J-esus + O-thers + Y-ou.

Bob Mayer, S.J.

newsletter, happily, keeps me up to date, more or less, on what's going on in the Province and in Nairobi. (The new juniorate, the high school, JRS, and - Wolfie!) But I thought I might

FORT PORTAL REPORTING

Vocation Outreach:

Fort Portal Diocese has an active vocation team. Fr. Joseph Wamara, Diocesan Vocation Director, is the chairman of the team. While Fr. Wamara handles vocations for the diocesan minor seminary, his office is also the clearing-house for youth enquiring about the various types of vocation in the diocese or elsewhere. The vocation team includes vocation directors of religious congregations serving in Fort Portal Diocese. Since the vocation team's inception two years ago, I have been a charter-member, representing the Society of Jesus.

For the last two years, the vocation team has organized the Vocation Day in the diocese, with a triduum of prayer preceding it. The three days had as themes: 1) family-vocation; 2) religious women-vocation; 3) religious brothers and priests. On the Vocation Day itself, there was a carefully-prepared liturgy in the cathedral. On June 23, Bishop Paul Kalanda led the Eucharistic Celebration and preached on vocations, while representatives of the various types of vocation in the Church came up and explained what role they played in the Family of God. The vocation exhibit, arranged on the verandah of the diocesan administrative block, gave the seminary and religious congregations a chance to advertise by posters, brochures and persons-on-the-spot. There was also an exhibit on the fam-

ily, with a married couple on hand there.

The latest venture of the vocation team took place October 13-20, 1996. It consisted of a Vocation-Outreach Programme in Fort Portal Diocese. Within the octave, as many groups as possible of youths were contacted. Target-groups included secondary schools, teacher-training colleges and parish groups. Holy Cross Vocation Director Bro. Fred Cosgrove came from Jinja for this vocation-outreach programme and provided a double-cabin pickup truck. This enabled five vocation team members at a time to go out "fishing" for vocations. Two trips were overnight.

Whenever there was a place in the vehicle, I availed myself of the opportunity as Fr. TONY WACH's designated Vocation Director for the Society of Jesus in Western Uganda. Consequently, I was able to ride out and "Jesuitize" on 5 out of the 8 days. Whenever the team moved about, there was supposed to be at least one representative of the priesthood, sisterhood and brotherhood included. There was also a laywoman, Associate of the Sisters of the Presentation of Mary (who represented the married state) going out with the team when she could.

The sowers went out to sow the seeds of vocations to build up the Family of

The coming year may see some changes in the apostolic undertakings of our regent here. Just hold on and let it materialize first - then we shall let you know in detail.

Novices PIUS and ANSSELM continue on with their experiment, always

experiencing and discovering new things. The magical laughter of PIUS and amusing stories from ANSSELM help revive our tired souls in the evening. PIUS and ANSSELM have been very gracious to the "Jumuiya" with their weekly visits to the sick in the parish.

Sosthenes Luyembe, S.J.

LOYOLA HOUSE

Travelers of the month:

- MUDIAPPASSAMI DEVADOSS, our UNESCO-Somalia man, left for Paris and Brussels on November 16, for a meeting, and was back on November 30.

- TOM FITZPATRICK (JRS) arrived back from the U.S.A. after his home-leave. After his cataract operation of both eyes, he has new eyes and supervision.

- JOSEPH PAYEUR, our Vice-Superior, went for a visit to the refugee camp at Kakuma, November 1-6.

JOSEPH PAYEUR's birthday was on November 12, and STAN MASCARENHAS' on November 13. They were jointly feted on November 12.

Ministries:

- CHARLIE MURPHY: retreats in Meru (November 4-11) and in Kisii (November 29-December 7).

- Loyola House helpers for the Candidates' Workshop at Ngong Pastoral Centre, November 22-December 1: JONATHAN HASCHKA, CHARLIE

MURPHY, WARGISS KAPPAM-MOOTTILL, STAN MASCARENHAS.

Our sick: MARCEL GAREAU was admitted to Nairobi Hospital on November 21 for internal bleeding, and was operated for prostate the next day. He returned home on November 28, and is making good progress towards complete recovery.

Our Visitors:

- RICHARD D'SOUZA, November 9-11;

- MANI NEDUMATTAM, November 9-10,16;

- GERARD GAGNON, from Addis Ababa, November 14-21;

- OTIENO NDONG'A, from Ngara, November 25-30;

- Bro. JOSEPH SHUBITOWSKI arrived on November 28 for a short holiday and his retreat;

- Fr. Vincent P. DeCola, S.J. (NYK), Executive Director of "Jesuit International Volunteers", U.S.A., en route from Kampala to New York, November 17-18.

Stan Mascarenhas, S.J.

SUDAN JESUIT UPDATE

The three hoped-for new recruits for the Sudan mission have now come. Fr. PAUL MALLIA arrived from Uganda on August 16 and has been teaching Old and New Testament in the Theologate since then. On November 7 Fr. HANS PUTMAN arrived from Egypt to stay, and he is based at St. Augustine Minor Seminary while doing various ministries around Khartoum. He accompanied his mother on her first visit to Khartoum before she returned home to Holland. Fr. RICHARD D'SOUZA is to return from Dodoma in December and start his definite assignment after an earlier discernment exploratory period in Khartoum. He will be based at the Orientation Year Seminary at Shambat, also within the Capital.

Fr. Provincial RODRIGO made his first visit to Sudan, and his visitation of the Jesuits in Khartoum, between September 4 and 12, but it was not possible for him to reach Fr. GEORGE UKKEN and Br. TARCHI TOPPO in Wau, in the South. He arrived with a cold, but this did not prevent him from being very busy with meeting the brethren, getting to know personally the Church personnel concerned with our mission, spending some time among the displaced, on the outskirts of the city in mud shelters and under bad conditions of living, and with their pastors. Besides that, Fr. Provincial gave talks in the three Seminaries separately. And the

day before his leaving he even experienced the Seminary and seminarians under stress, as the Theologate's basement was flooded and Rector and students at 4.30 a.m. fought the waters in the chapel, the library and corridors. At the evening Mass the seminarians appreciated Fr. RODRIGO's words of admiration and encouragement for their response to the emergency.

On October 10, the Church in Sudan celebrated the recent beatification of Bishop Daniel Comboni and started off this year of spiritual renewal among all the Catholic dioceses. Blessed Comboni is the founder and first Bishop of the Church in modern Sudan. The number of Christians in the Comboni grounds, their joyous and vigorous singing, the liturgy with its appropriate colourful dances, all gave testimony to what Blessed Comboni meant for them, their father in the Faith.

In the two-week break between the first and second semesters, the seminarians had their yearly five-day retreats. This time both retreats were entrusted to Jesuits: Fr. PAUL BESANCENEY helped the Theologians, 92 of them, and Fr. PAUL MALLIA the Philosophers, 60 of them.

Since October those of us engaged in Seminary teaching have been trying to coordinate our ministry in some measure. We started dialoguing with some

Sudanese priests about inculturation, our own culture and about our ministry. We found the young local priests quite happy to dialogue with us. We have met four times so far, and things look hopeful.

Fr. BERNARD MALLIA has been continuing with his outside ministry as well as with his regular work at the Seminary. So, on Fridays he helps at a prison, on Sundays at an out-station in a parish, and on Wednesdays he carries on with a Bible course for Religious in formation, mainly novices. But more recently, while the Rector of the Theologate was busy attending the annual meeting of the Sudanese Bishops' Conference, he was asked to add to his tasks that of Acting Vice-Rector. I understand BERNARD has served in

that capacity before.

At the end of the meeting just mentioned, the Bishops contacted the Government, a number of Ministries and the President himself, about various matters of concern, for example, about their wanting to be involved in some way in accelerating the peace process.

I am pleased to notice the change of weather in Khartoum: I am informed that this pleasant weather may continue till around Easter. That would be welcome!

Please pray for Bishop Joseph Nyekindi, formerly Bishop of Wau, who passed away the last week of November.

Paul Mallia, S.J.

UGANDA COUNTRY ASSEMBLY

TOPIC: "United with Christ AND ONE ANOTHER on Mission"

DATES: December 30 afternoon - January 1 evening.

(January 2 - perhaps optional outing to lake)

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION:

- Review of the Year, especially graces/blessings.
- GC 34: main encouragement/challenge, personally and communally.
- Discussion of Fr. General's questions for the annual letters on community.
- Supplement to Our New Apostolic Plan: reactions, fine-tuning?

CELEBRATION:

Companionship - Te Deum - World Day of Prayer for Peace and Titular Feast of the Society of Jesus (January 1).

Tony Wach, S.J.