

| MAY 1999 |    | Eastern Africa Province   |
|----------|----|---|
| Tue      | 4  | <i>Bl. Joseph Rubio - Optional</i> , +George Aikara                               |
| Wed      | 5  | James Macharia, Pius Mwaura   |
| Fri      | 7  | *Virgilio A. Domingos   |
| Sat      | 8  | ❖Francis Rodrigues: 25 years of Priesthood  |
| Tue      | 11 | +Albert Said  |
| Fri      | 14 | Georges Kimonge   |
| Sun      | 16 | <b>St. Andrew Bobola - Memorial</b> ,<br>Berhanu Tamene, *Rigobert Kyungu Musenge |
| Wed      | 19 | <i>Jos Van de Loo</i> †1993   |
| Thu      | 20 | George Ukken  |
| Fri      | 21 | *Timothy Baghrmwin  |
| Mon      | 24 | <i>Our Lady of the Wayside - Optional</i><br>Eric Condillac, Joseph Rodrigues     |
| Tue      | 25 | *Armel B. Adanhounme, Isaac Kiyaka, *Nathanel Miti                                |
| Wed      | 26 | Athanas Njeru, Vincent Soreng   |
| Fri      | 28 | Festo L. Mkenda   |
| Sun      | 30 | <i>Emile Cambron</i> †1978  |
| Mon      | 31 | Binamungu Mukasa  |



# Easternet

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P.O. Box 21389  
Nairobi Kenya

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APRIL 1999

### FROM THE PROVINCIAL'S DESK

Father General has appointed Father **José M. de Vera** (Japan) to the post of Interim Executive Secretary of JESCOM International, effective in April. Fr. de Vera, Director of the Press and Information Office at the Curia, will assume the responsibility for the Secretariat for Social Communications until the new Executive Secretary is appointed.

"I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks in the name of the whole Society to Father **Gaston Roberge** (Calcutta) for the three years of dedicated service he gave to this work. Our prayers are with Fr. Roberge, who was asked to return, as agreed, to his Province as Director of the Social Communication Center Chitrabani, in Calcutta."

Father General has appointed Father **Amadeu Pinto** as Provincial of the Portuguese Province. He is now the Director of our High School "Instituto Nun'Alvres" (Caldas da Saúde - Santo Tirso). He will begin his Provincialate on the next July 7.

Father General has appointed Father **Thomas H. Smolich, S.J.**, as Provincial of the California Province. He will take office on July 31, 1999.

## ARUSHA GETS A 'NEW' BISHOP

After more than one year of guessing and struggling without a shepherd, we now have a bishop of our own. It was on Sunday 31st Jan. when we joined the faithful who had thronged the Sheikh Abeid Stadium in Arusha for the inaugural celebration of Bishop Josaphat Lebulu as the head of the Catholic Christians in the Diocese. This was marked by a colorful and inspiring Eucharistic ceremony which was attended by an estimated crowd of about 10,000. Notable figures during the function included: President Benjamin W. Mkapa, H.E. Polycarp Cardinal Pengo, H.E. Archbishop Fransisko Lozano (Apostolic Nuncio) and over twenty Bishops from almost all the dioceses in the country. Others included Archbishop Ndingi Mwana'a Nzeki of Nairobi, the Secretary General of the AMECEA, Fr. Peter Lwaminda, and the Rector of the Catholic University of East Africa (CUEA) among other dignitaries. The previous day we attended a vespers session in which the new bishop opened the Cathedral officially. The days we used to feel like sheep without a shepherd now seem to be an issue for the archives.

On 18th January we celebrated the golden jubilee of Fr. Amani since he came into our beautiful world. Although it feels great to be 50 years old, he would stay on willingly in the Club of the 40's for a little longer. With three titles to his credit (Novice master, Delegate of Formation and Procu-

rator), it is obvious that Fr. Amani has a busier schedule and a good amount of traveling to do. Now more than before, he is out of the community and we only hope that things will work out well for all of us considering our present condition. It is true that getting to fifty is really something to be grateful for. Twenty one days later, we celebrated one of the most remarkable birthdays in our Community when Fr. George blew out 80 candles!! Apart from a minor eye problem which needed surgery recently, he still maintains his prowess on the Tennis Court. He is still the undisputed champion of the local Wimbledon and you never know what to expect until he gives you a drubbing in straight sets. We welcome any hopeful contenders.

On the 2nd of February we joined the rest of the world in celebrating the World Religious Day. This was marked by a Eucharistic celebration at the Cathedral which was attended by all the Religious Communities in our locality. The main celebrant was Bishop Dennis Durning C.S.Sp. (Retired) with Fr. Bill Christie (C.S.Sp.) giving the Homily when he compared the challenges to religious life to the ups and down of a soccer match. The secular world of drugs promiscuity, greed and evil sometimes find us cat-napping, and they lead us in scores, and we should have our chance in extra time. Although we have a formidable foe we need to get together, harness our energies and at-

porting" As concerns my research, all is going on well. I'll be going to Sydney University on 27<sup>th</sup> March for another conference. I'll co-present a paper on "Television Soap Operas as tools for Informal Education and Development". My co-presenter is also a Ph.D candidate. He is from Bangladesh.

So long; will give more news after coming from Sydney.

### Kifle Wansamo reports from the USA:

Weston School is already on mid-semester after a one-week break. A good number of students like me have decided not to go away for the short holiday because of papers to be prepared. On 4 March, Fr. Peter Schineller, S.J. gave a lecture on "African Christianity in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Remnant of the Past or Hope of the Future?" In this talk he highlighted that the Catholic Church in Africa is growing fast and has many positive elements to contribute to the World beyond Africa. He also discussed about the aspect of forming Africans to make Christianity truly African and at the same time universal. In addition, he noted the economic and political hardship the continent is going through, the loss of trust in the politicians, and the Church's involvement in politics and education. "Africa is certainly in need of a lot of support to shape its politics and economics". "And the Church's involvement in education needs to be

supported more". he added. "Our Jesuit involvement in educating the future builders of the continent is very important, since education is one of the key factors in transforming society", was one of his final comments.

### Bonaventure Balige writes from the USA:

I have been very busy wrapping up so many things concerning my work in Pastoral Counselling. We have just finished our Spring break, but it didn't mean much to me as I had to carry on doing my own preparations as usual, writing papers, seeing clients, reading books. But I also managed to have some relaxation in playing tennis - I think I am now good enough to challenge Sosthenes Luyembe (of Hekima College).

I have been given the go-ahead to graduate on May 14. However, I will remain here until June 15 to finish up for my client hours in my clinical placement. I am supposed to have finished 1000 clinical hours before receiving the degree. So by June 15 I will be through. I have already booked my return ticket for June 29. God willing, I will see you in Nairobi by June 30, ready for my ordination on August 15. From Baltimore there's nothing more to report except these days it is always below freezing point. It is a little bit uncomfortable for a person like me who was born a few miles from the Equator.

*Bonaventure Balige, S.J.*

many have witnessed the massacre of their loved ones especially the thousands of widows and children in our camps. The witness of such faith is moving, the power to survive immense suffering is touching, and the dignity in which the cross is carried by so many has been real Holy Week experience for us who accompany the refugees. It has been an amazing experience of God's healing power and grace this last Holy Week.

We also live in an Easter hope of peace in Burundi this year. Peace talks continue and while people talk, there is hope even if there are many obstacles ahead in the achievement of a final and definite peace. We ask your prayers for all the people of Burundi as we live this Easter-hope so that the 300,000 Burundian refugees in Tanzania can finally return to their homeland.

### News of Father Marcel Gareau in Canada

"I have just come back from the Montreal General Hospital: my first visit since Marcel's operation. Marcel is still in the Intensive Care Unit of the Surgery Department. This is normal procedure after such an operation: he should be soon transferred to a room. He is fully awake and talks abundantly. He cannot eat yet, evidently, nor drink even water. He does not feel pain if he doesn't move. When there is pain, he takes morphine which is self-administered through a small device kept in his right hand. (I had the

same pleasant pain-reliever when I had my biopsy). The operation was a MAJOR one: removal of the tumour but, also, of a kidney, the spleen and part of the pancreas: this is more than what the doctors thought they would have to do. For the time being, we have no idea how long Marcel will remain hospitalized: in fact, he hasn't yet seen his surgeon! The colour is coming into Fr. Marcel's face. From being so whitish before his operation, it is now back almost to his normal reddish colour."

*Fr. Gilles Pion S.J.*

### Otieno Ndong'a writes from Australia:

It is quite a while since I shared with you all what I'm doing here "down under". Well I had a three-day break over Christmas which I spent at the family home of my supervisor Prof. Peter B. White. After the break, I was back at the University to prepare for a conference in Adelaide University mid-January when I presented a paper entitled "Participatory Communication Development and Developing Nations". The paper was well received. Stephen Msele was around towards the end of January and we had a good visit. He is now in Sydney where the Tertianship has been relocated.

At present the University is on. All the students are back and life is quite hectic. I have been asked to give tutorials to first-year students on "Television News Gathering and re-

take. The combined choir of the Canossian Sisters and the Jesuits was at hand to belt out the melodies. After the Eucharistic celebration we had a social gathering with refreshments.

In the last couple of weeks Fr. Ludwig's creative self has taken on a new dimension. First of all there was the overhaul of the tiled pavements and extension of the walkways which has made walking around an even more pleasurable experience than it was before. It wasn't long before the Diocese got wind of his abilities and without any hesitation they had him harnessed to the Executive Committee for the Diocesan Synod. He has been forced to use his computer skills in designing a catalogue for all the Religious Orders in the Diocese and go an extra mile in the diocesan Vocation Animators' Council. We are glad that all this has not dampened his humorous spirit and the love for the cartoons we all admire.

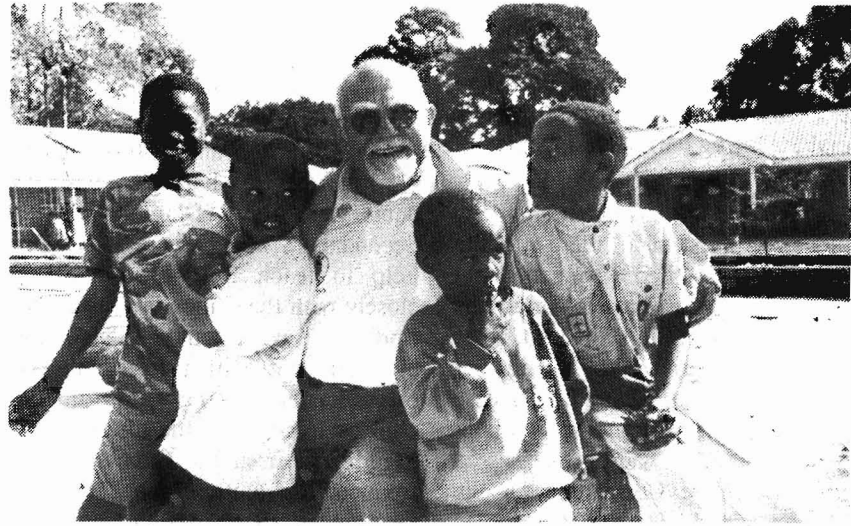
From the projects there is news that for the **ninth** consecutive time, two of our cows have yet again brought forth bull calves. The reason is we never have our own bull to service the cows and this brings a problem of timing which is a predetermining factor on the sex of the calf. Once we have our own bull the chances for a heifer calf will be doubled and this can be expounded more by the biologists. In the meantime the cow-shed is being re-structured so that it can face the millennium's challenges with ease.

### CASTING OUR FISHING NETS ....

The latest news comes in the form of vocation promotion or more correctly youth apostolate. On Saturday 13th March, we hosted about 50 young people for a day of sharing. These students were drawn from three of the Secondary Schools where some of us help to teach Religion. Working closely with the Canossian Sisters, Fr. Ludwig was asked to delve into "Discernment" with a strong emphasis on decision-making and making choices in life. In the afternoon Sr. Magdalena from the Canossians, introduced the youth to the "Crisis and Challenges" faced by Religion today. Then there were group discussions and question-time which was an anticipated climax. For a change we had both boys (35) and girls (15) and it was clear from their comments that the young people are out there looking for the true meaning in life. They are desperately looking for someone to help. If we don't offer them this guidance they will get it from somewhere else and it might be the wrong thing.

*Simon Gachoki, n.S.J.*





*Fr. Angelo D'Agostino with orphans at Nyumbani Hospice, Nairobi.*

## NEWS FROM .....

### Loyola House:

The rain did come, thank God! As of last night it is still coming. The poor people in the slums are not that much helped by it, but the farmers and the country are. Jerome Gagnier used to say that he never saw a farmer happy about the weather. And he is from Stony Point, near Detroit, all farm country, where he learned an intensive dislike for cows. They seemed to sense that dislike, and would frequently swish him in the face while he was milking them. Things seem to even out!

The conferences on a place for the elderly go on; meanwhile Fr. Aloysius is getting stronger spiritually and physically under the watchful eye of

Eric. Kappa is usually on the prowl, helping out with liturgy at the Missionary Brothers on occasion, and keeping us all on the alert and smiling.

A grand 50<sup>th</sup> celebration for Fr. Gerry was had on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the feast of St. Joseph, with Fr. Provincial as celebrant and Gerry sharing his joy with us in the homily. Momentarily he had himself saying three masses a day for the Little Sisters of St. Joseph, but quickly got back on track. There were many guests who were in a festive mood with food and drink to help.

Jonathan's celebration of his birthday was on March 20 with a great friend of Loyola -- Marjorie as guest. Stephen Power returned from a business holi-

dedication of the missionaries.

Joe Boel and Victor Jaccarini are renewed from their personal retreats at the Subiaco Centre, Windy Ridge, Karen, which was very windy indeed. They found the place very conducive to silence, with good food and clean, self-contained accommodation in the hermitages.

Joe Small and John Quinn are back from their camping safari in Amboseli, and Tsavo East and West Game Parks as well as at Shelly Beach, Consolata Hostel in Mombasa. Joe kept up with the best, pitching the tent, sleeping on the ground, hanging on to the truck, and watching elephants, etc., sometimes right inside the camp. A couple from Holland, avid bird watchers, helped him see many birds. But he always made sure of the identification marks for himself. Consolata House on the beach was a welcome relief. However all swimming was done in the pool of the hotel next door. The heat was more than they bargained for. So we are back to full strength, though it's a low time for occupancy.

Trevor D'Souza has completed two programmes: a psychosynthesis retreat and an enneagram. For the latter he was assisted by Srs. Mary Jo Welter, SSND and Francesca Kearns, C.V.I. He has left for another programme to Benedictine Sisters in Ndanda, Tanzania.

During March and April, Cecil and Tony will give 2-hour sessions every Tuesday afternoon to Formators on

spiritual guidance of novices and postulants. This is in response to a request from some of the Formators attending the Hekima Course on Riverside Drive.

From March 26 - April 4, Fr. Cecil McGarry has been on his own retreat at Nazareth Hospital, Banana Hill, where the Sisters have a small cottage.

Recently John Quinn was in the Masai Mara (March 25-28) with friends he had made through AA meetings. He will soon be returning to Weston to finish his tertianship programme.

Fr. March 21-28, Victor Jaccarini was helping with a retreat to the students of Tumaini Centre, at the Carmelite Seminary, near Langata, Nairobi. He also gave the Triduum during Holy Week.

Fr. Leo Amani spent part of March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting us as individuals as part of preparing his report for Fr. General.

### John Guiney reports from Kakonko, Tanzania:

Easter greetings from the camps in Kibondo. For the past weeks we have had reconciliation services in our 3 camps for the thousands who want to go to confession this Easter time. Our communal reconciliation services were an absolute necessity because of their being just one priest and particularly meaningful for a community which has survived the ravages of war. Some have participated directly in this bloody conflict in Burundi and

papers) have fallen. Cardinal Otunga High School, Nyabururu Girls' High School, St. John's Seminary, Rakwaro, this year have NOT appeared among the first 100 best performance schools, as they have been accustomed to do. In the presence of the Nuncio, who paid a visit on the 19<sup>th</sup>, the Principal of Cardinal Otunga School promised that next November they will be again among the best 50 schools. To which the Bishop of Kisii (Joseph Mairura) objected and demanded that they be again among the FIRST TEN!!

### Centenary of the Consecration of the World to the Heart of Christ.

Since that Centenary is approaching, I have published a booklet of 32 pages: "A LOVE STORY: BLESSED MARIA DROSTE AND THE CONSECRATION OF THE WORLD TO THE HEART OF JESUS" and I have tried to send it round. From Dublin, Ireland, Fr. Bernard McGuckian, S.J., has started serializing it in the magazine **The Pioneer**. The Messenger of the Sacred Heart (Canada) has promised to publish an article on it in June. Other papers and magazines have been asked to do the same. The booklet has been co-published by a group of religious families having the charism and spirituality of the Heart of Jesus (among them, of course, also is the Society of Jesus). If you need copies please ask Fr. Gerry Rebello, at Loyola: Shs. 20/= per copy.

On Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> March, in the Kisii Cathedral, the Bishop ordained three deacons: two for the diocese and one for the Camillian Fathers. I helped prepare them with a 3-day retreat.

That very afternoon, I went to Homa Bay Cathedral for the Way of the Cross and to show the Bible film on the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Due to power failure, I showed it in the morning in the large dining hall of St. Martha Girls' High School in the presence also of the boys of the neighbouring Polytechnic. At the end of the show the Headmaster said: "This is the very best film I have seen in my life". I am trying to show that film in as many places as possible as a very fruitful way to prepare for Holy Week.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> March, at Cardinal Otunga High School, there was a large YCS Parish Rally when more than 100 were enrolled in the Movement. On the 20<sup>th</sup>, there was the Diocesan YCS Rally at Sangera Girls' High School on the theme of "God the Father: our relationship with Him".

*Pio Ciampa, S.J.*

### MWANGAZA

Tony Sequeira reports from Mwangaza:

Early in March, Cecil McGarry returned from Loyongalani (Lake Turkana) by road, visiting Consolata Sisters' communities who work in the desert areas. He was very impressed by the starkness of the north and the

day to London and Rome, but he is gone again. And Deva has been in retreat, and D'Ag too. Sean, Francis, Stan, Dan carry on. Joining Elizabeth in the kitchen we have Peter, who many years ago worked for the Jesuits on Riverside Drive.

Charlie had a Parish Prayer Retreat at Kangemi. He tells them that it is not really a retreat, but for lack of a better name he calls it that. On five successive days he has been giving them five different kinds of prayer that help them to achieve in every day life the goal of a retreat: to become free to love.

*Charlie Murphy, S.J.*

### A TIME FOR EVERY-THING (Ecclesiastes 3, 1-9)

This is indeed the time to thank Our Lord for sending us so many to join our Jesuit Novitiate. And it is a time to thank the Province and, especially, all those who have helped to foster the vocations of these 14 young men from Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya. Fr. Provincial has still to decide on two candidates from Sudan.

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

### APRIL

#### Prayer for Vocations

Gracious and loving God,  
we praise you  
at this time of year  
as we remember  
how you delivered  
your Son, Jesus,  
out of death  
to walk in hidden glory  
among his disciples.

Stir up our faith as well,  
that our hearts  
may burn within us  
at the sound of his word,  
and our eyes be opened  
to recognize him  
in the breaking of the bread.

Stir up the grace of vocation  
among those you choose  
to serve you in the Society  
and in this Province  
as together we fashion  
the Kingdom established  
through the death and  
resurrection of your Son  
who lives and reigns for ever  
and ever.  
Amen.

#### From Nairobi way up to Isibania

Each month I'm on the road either to make new contacts or continue encouraging those already in contact with me wherever they are. And so I visited St. Paul's Teachers' College

in Nyabururu, Kisii, where there are five Jesuit aspirants. And, of course, was helped when there by Fr. Pio Ciampa who's on the road most days saying Mass at Cardinal Otunga High School or helping in Nyabururu parish as well as visiting Y.C.S. Centres.

My first port-of-call was to Migori where I haven't been for over seven years. I stayed the night in the Parish after paying my respects to the Asumbi Sisters who are also there. Next morning I moved on to Isibania, on the border of Kenya and Tanzania, to meet the Parish Priest there as well as, again, the Asumbi Sisters who run two fine schools there. In the afternoon I carried on to Asumbi via Homa Bay. Once again I was the guest of Fr. George Aikara and I was pleased to stay two full days with him, hearing of his many activities apart from his regular Masses and Conferences for the Sisters. I met the two Jesuit aspirants I had planned to meet in Fr. George's house. And then on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> March, I travelled with him to Nyabururu to stay two days at St. Paul's Teachers' College.

Fr. Pio Ciampa had offered to drive me to Tabaka Mission but unfortunately his car was not in good shape that Sunday, so I had to travel by public transport to Tabaka – not a great problem. There I was welcomed by the Father Administrator of Tabaka Hospital and he made me very much at home. Once again I met one of the two Jesuit aspirants I had hoped to meet. I also paid my respects to the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin way up at

the Mission. Fr. Francis Cardoz had given them a retreat in December.

My last place to visit was to St. Gabriel's Minor Seminary just outside Kisumu on the way to Busia. There I met the four young men who have been in contact with me. And I also met a member of the Teaching Staff who has for over a year been in contact with me.

And on my last day I managed to fit in a visit to the family of Brother George Ochieng in Kisumu itself. And then after a pleasant evening and night at the Mill Hill Residence in Kisumu, I travelled back to Nairobi in the comfort of an Akamba bus.

*Seán O'Connor, S.J.*

### **Launching of the Development Office**

If you pass by the Province Offices at Loyola House, you will find one door with the label "Communication Office". That office has been taken over by the new Development Officer. For the time being it is the "Ex-Communication Office". But in the near future, it will be more properly and accurately labelled. But whatever it is called, you are most welcome.

Since January this year, apart from getting acquainted with my new surroundings, I have been trying to renew contact with parents, friends and benefactors from abroad who have been helping in the past and have not got fed up with my repeated begging.

Some have overcome what they now call the "donors' fatigue". The next step is to establish contact with the parents, friends and benefactors of the African members of our Eastern Africa Province. And so, mainly through e-mail, I have contacted those young and old African members of our Province and I am now looking forward to receive their precious lists.

Meanwhile, we are trying to develop a team of brave Jesuits who will find ways to reach those friends and relatives. Will it take the form of simple but attractive folders that can be posted to them? Or more courageously of a magazine that will be dispatched to them, a magazine that will unravel the mysteries of our lives? Should they not know more about our apostolic initiatives or the ordeals our Young Jesuits have to go through before reaching the glory of the ordination or of the profession as Brothers? This is most important if we are to help others to really know who we are, what we do, what our concerns are and to value our contributions to the life of the Church in Africa and the world and to the Africa we live in and/or have come from. Needless to say we all have to help in fattening up our famished Province Funds. So let's hear what you have to say.

*Joseph Payeur, S.J.  
Development Officer*

### **From Nyabururu, Kisii**

His Grace Archbishop Giovanni Tonucci paid a pastoral visit to the Diocese of Kisii from the 12<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> February, concluding with a Mass at Kisii Sports' Stadium. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, he was in Nyabururu to bless the newly-built Nursery Classroom Block and to see the Carmelite Nuns. All the Catholic Institutions in this big Mission lined up to greet his arrival. These included Nyabururu Girls' High School, St. Paul's Teachers' Training College, St. Joseph Day Primary School, St. Mary's Girls' Primary Boarding School.

I was away at Nakuru Pastoral Centre for a few talks on Church History to members of REAP [Religious Education Awareness Program]. There were 42 teachers present. On my return I joined Mass with the Nuncio at Ichuni, (the Mass was supposed to start at 10 a.m., but started at 1 p.m., so I was well in time).

Mosocho Cardinal Otunga High School and St. Mary's Boys' Primary (Boarding), no longer have a resident Chaplain, since Mill Hill Fr. Wilde was transferred on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January, after 11 years of service there. So of late, I have been travelling 10 km on a terrible road five times a week (except Monday and Saturday) to say Mass for the students and the religious community of the Brothers of Mercy, with the three last Dutch Brothers, now retired from teaching.

Educational standards in the Kisii area (as you must have read in the