



# Habari Za Hekima

|| A Newsletter of Hekima University College Jesuit Community

April 2023



## He is Risen as He promised

- Conrad Azefac Ajumesi, SJ

Already immersed in the spiritual atmosphere of the Holy Week, both Staff and students of Hekima University College, together with their friends and other people of good will, lived the central days of the liturgical year as a people of hope. The Hekima University College family celebrated the mystery of the passion, death and resurrection of the Lord in a spirit of tranquility and fraternity. There were no obstacles like the covid-19 restrictions which had adversely affected the celebrations in the previous years. From the rehearsals to the actual ceremonies, everything was simple, prayerful and self-explanatory.

On the evening of Holy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper was beautifully presided by the Rector alongside a number of concelebrants. This was a commemoration of the evening when Christ left his disciples the testament of his love in the Eucharist. The institution of the Eucharist was not simply to serve as a remembrance of a past event but as a sign of his everlasting presence. As is the custom and practice of this day, we ended the celebration in great silence and in an atmosphere of perpetual adoration with the Blessed sacrament reposed in a suitable place outside the chapel.

Good Friday was a moment for the commemoration of the passion and death of Jesus Christ. This was realized through the Stations of the Cross at noon and the service of the day which started at 3.00pm. The day continued and ended in the usual silence of mourning, bearing in mind that only God's love will free us from our sins. Joining our hope and faith with St Peter in 1 Peter 2:24, we all acknowledged that by his wounds we have been healed and by his death we have been reborn. In the darkness of Holy Saturday, joy and light broke out during the liturgy of Easter Vigil. This was an outstanding celebration especially marked by the festive singing of the Exultet, the Gloria and the Great Alleluia. At last the joy of Easter could be seen on the faces of each and every one. The celebration signified an encounter in faith with the Risen Christ. We became an Easter people. From the decorations we were all consoled and encouraged not to be afraid.

After spending nine months and four days at Hekima University College, through these Easter mysteries of our Lord, I have come to the conclusion and conviction that theology is not only an academic affair. It is a daily encounter with a person, the person of Jesus Christ. This for me has been through the daily activities I carry out here. Real theology involves putting into practice the theory I have learned through availability to my fellow companions and the people of God as well as accepting and understanding others the way they are. Thus, the phrase that "theology is done on one's knees" becomes meaningful because I see it as part and parcel of my life. This I can corroborate with the Jesuit saying "finding God in all things."



## Go Forth and Make a Difference !

- Kang'ethe Ngonjo, SJ

Whether you are having a tete-a-tete with a brother, breaking macadamia nuts or sharing memes, the conversation will have to include a piece of advice from a finalist brother who will end it with a reminder, "My brother, where I am going, you cannot follow now, but you will follow later."

*Hayawi hayawi yamekuwa!* (The anticipated day has finally come!). On 29th April, HUC Jesuit Community gathered to send forth this year's finalists and some of the formators who are leaving the community on their way to the next village. The event was celebrated in the light of three tables: Eucharistic, social, and meal tables. As is the tradition, the Eucharistic table was first in line as the event opened with the missioning Mass presided by the JCAM President, Fr. Agbonkhanmeghe Orobator, SJ, who is also preparing for a new mission as he nears the end of his term as JCAM President.

His homily centered on the theme, *'Faith as an Encounter that Never Leaves Us the Same!'* Drawing from Peter's encounter with Jesus in the Gospels, he invited the congregation to recall the character of Peter when he walked with Jesus during Jesus' ministry. Peter was an unreliable man who, regardless of his claims to love Jesus, went ahead to deny Jesus three times at his point of need. However, something happened to Peter when he received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Peter was transformed to a point of courageously facing death. Faith thus changes us and our worldview.

The focus of our core purpose at Hekima has been 'faith seeking understanding.' Fr. Orobator posed three questions to the congregation: "How real has this encounter been?", "Where has this encounter left us?" and "How has this encounter transformed us?" He encouraged the companions leaving to go forth as members with an experience of what the encounter with the risen Christ has done in their lives. This encounter should not remain holed up in their lives, but, like Peter, it should be an encounter that touches lives wherever they go. Furthermore, he charged them to go forth and give life to those who desire it, hope to the hopeless, faith to the faithless and love to those yearning for it. Let him who has ears hear!

The Mass concluded with gifts exchanging hands as a way of recognizing both the shared moments and the absence that the rest of the community will feel when the companions leave. The community also took the opportunity to celebrate the birthdays of companions, some of them in advance.

After the Eucharistic fellowship and a photo shoot to keep the memories, the community gathered in the dining hall for the social table and table *swallowship*.

### Parting Shot to our finalists

As depicted in the movie *3 idiots*, **life is a race!** Run your race at your pace! Compete with no one. As you run your race, take my grandfather's advice for he would say *Ugere bara gatagati* (Walk in the middle of your path).

Go forth faithful servants!



## The Incomplete Mass, and Still Alive

- Masilamani Salamanraj, SJ

As I reflect on my life's journey, I realize that I have crossed many milestones. One of the significant moments in my life was when I attended a Mass and during the distribution of the Holy Eucharist, there was an air strike. The sound of the bombing was deafening with people scattering in fear and trying to hide themselves. I remember crying and looking at the aircraft while walking towards my home without realizing that my nose was bleeding.

The devastation caused by the aircraft was massive, with many animals killed and many trees destroyed. However, amidst the chaos, the aircraft failed to spot a child with bloodied face walking from an incomplete Eucharistic celebration. People sought shelter in a bunker to protect themselves from the aircraft and while peeping through the bunker, they saw me standing amidst the fallen trees with a bloody face. They informed my parents that I was still alive.

However, the war continued and I found myself seeking refuge in a church compound filled with smoke due to shelling. There I lived with some other people for seven days, sharing everything, including food and drink, just like the first Christian community. On the last day of the week, at night, shells fell on our church compound and the smoke made it difficult to breathe. We were thirsty and searched for water while fleeing from that disastrous situation.

As we fled, we had to cross the sea, and I was reminded of the Exodus story. The sea was in low tide and we were able to cross to the other side. When we reached the dry land, people brought their wounded and dead relatives. We buried them and realized that we were lucky to be alive.

I still have many more experiences like this but let me stop here. Despite the traumatic experiences, my theological studies have given meaning to my past experiences. I am still alive to proclaim the Good News, respect other people's religions, protect human dignity and values, and work for the common good. I am still alive to give my helping hand to those in need, including the marginalized, isolated, and alienated.

The child with a bloody face and unfinished Mass is called to be reminded "I am still alive" for a purpose – to accomplish the Mass and to spread hope and love in a world full of chaos and war.



## The Song of Johane!

- Luis Matope, SJ

My soul glorifies You my Lord,  
My spirit rejoices in You my Saviour.

Mine may not be the Magnificat of Magnificats like that of Mary  
And yet indeed, my soul glorifies You,  
My soul rejoices in You.

Mine may not even be the great Benedictus  
Like that of Zechariah  
And yet, my soul blesses you my Lord  
The Lord of my life.

I may never be able to acclaim  
As Hannah did  
And yet like her, I render,  
I give this soul back to You God,  
I offer myself back to You.

I may never be as good a singer or a poet  
Like King David of blessed memory.  
And yet, like him,  
I shall write of Your love and Mercy  
For I know You will help me.

For indeed Your abundant mercy and grace,  
Have found me.  
Like St Paul, I was lost.  
I persecuted Your Church,  
I persecuted Christ.

But You Lord have had mercy on me  
You have lifted me up from the dungeon of Sheol.  
With Your right arm You have rescued me  
From the darkness and density of death.

I sing of broken vessels for Your Amazing Grace!

I needed conversion of heart like St Peter  
To confess and profess  
That Christ is the Son of the living God  
For indeed He is.  
And like Moses,  
Lord, You did not disappoint  
Lord, You listened.

Though my sacrifice could never be like that of Abel,  
Or my offering like that of Your great and holy priest  
Melchizedek of old,  
Yet my humbled contrite heart  
I give to You my Lord.

Lord You have raised me up  
Like Daniel from the lion's den.  
High above Zion Your great mountain,  
Like broken Israel.

Lord, You have gathered my brokenness and weaknesses,  
You have taken up my failures,  
Turned all of them into something more beautiful,

You have set up bulwarks around me,  
Your strong armies surround me.  
Your great seraphim and cherubim surround me  
With them I continuously sing  
**Musande, Musande, Musande Mambo.**

Like St John the Baptist,  
Lord, You send me as Your anointed,  
To proclaim the greatness of Your mercy and love,  
To share the richness of Your grace.

'You are God's vessel,  
And His great and mighty works  
Shall be done in and through you for God's greater glory.'

And as my brother St Ignatius of Loyola,  
I, a sinner whom you call  
To serve You with humility,  
Desire all the more to do it  
**Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam.**

For You, Lord, You protect me,  
Lord, You remember Your mercy for ever and ever,  
Amen.

### Hekima University College (HUC)

Joseph Kangethe Road,  
Postal Address: 21215  
Postal Code: 00505  
Plot No: 209/10170  
Nairobi, Kenya.

### Kindly stay in touch

Instagram: @Hekimahuc  
YouTube: @Hekima University College  
Twitter: @HUChekima  
Website: www.hekima.ac.ke  
Email: habari@hekima.ac.ke