

LWANGA NEWS

Lwanga District of Africa Newsletter

Feb 2020

Habit Taking Day Ceremony

On 1st February 2020, 11 postulants started their canonical year as Novices and 7 of the Novices completed the canonical year and received the Habit. The occasion was presided over by Father Peter and was graced by Auxiliary Visitor, Brother Betre.

The Novice included: Alemayehu Woldegebriel, Augustine Chukwunwike, Dinkayehu Bekele, Hilario Nicotompuanha, James Fanen, Michael Yoseph, Samuel Tadesse.

The Pre-Novices included: Aberaham Woldemaeriam, Admasu Yohannes, Ademe Alemayehu, Carolino Azevedo, Dawit Yadesa, Emmanuel Agba, Eyob Gebriel, Gosse Hirpo, Januario Felizardo, Mosirto Molipih.

The ceremony saw the Postulants and Novices planted a tree to commemorate the great day in their journey to Brotherhood.

"You renew your vows on a daily basis; there is nothing like I took my vows on this year..."

- Father Stephen



Habit Taking Day Ceremony

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Brothers taking a tour round Fort Jesus, a historic museum in Old Mombasa City

Witnesses of Fraternity': Mombasa Raha

Mombasa is the second largest city in Kenya after Nairobi. Raha is a Swahili word meaning enjoyment. So Mombasa Raha means Mombasa enjoyment. It used to be all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. Now it is all studies and no holiday makes De La Salle Scholastics Nairobi unfit for the mission of human and Christian education. The community trip was dedicated to the Pastoral Letter of the Superior General December 2019 titled 'Witnesses of Fraternity'.

27th - 30th December 2019 saw the Scholastic Community Nairobi in Mombasa enjoying the hot sun and the Indian Ocean. These can only be found in Mombasa as Nairobi is often cloudy and landlocked. 23 Brothers undertook the trip using the efficient rail way services to and fro. Only two people in that group had previously visited Mombasa so the whole experience was 96 percent new experience mathematically put.

The days in Mombasa were characterized by individuals going out in groups to savour chilled drinks, swimming their way into ocean and sitting under the trees chatting and sharing stories. They also visited some historic sites around Mombasa to widen their knowledge. It was indeed a wholistic tour.

the user an opening into your information. Don't be afraid to leave spaces open.

La Salle College

Be Kind

2019 can be described as holistic, from academics, spiritual, cultural and sporting events. Our learners and staff were involved in every aspect, thus resulting in a jubilant and successful 300th anniversary year. We enjoyed the time we spent with De La Salle College in Victory Park celebrating this special year.

Our teachers strive to design innovative learning experiences as well as adapt to the ever-growing environment of the College. We applaud our teachers and learners who made 2019 successful, from a massive drama production called "After happily ever after", to a successful outreach program with Phokeng Preschool, then attaining results such as league winners in various sports and 100% matric pass rate for 2019.



Students in Classroom

Brief Story of the La Salle School-Rumbek, South Sudan

MARCH 2018: responding to the urgent educational need in South Sudan, La Salle School-Rumbek opened its doors in the Loreto Sisters' existing facilities with 28 students. Meanwhile, work started to build the new school on the 48 hectares donated to us by the local chiefs.

JANUARY 2019: the 22 containers with prefabricated structures for 8 classrooms, two labs, offices, students' dorms, teachers' quarters and the Brothers' community arrived in Rumbek. In March 2019, for the second intake, 45 new students were accepted.

JUNE 2019: our students were able to attend classes in their new still unfinished school! In March 2020, the next intake of 80 students will start classes, bringing the total number of students to 153.



Students at the Rumbek School

La Salle School-Rumbek, South Sudan

Classrooms

The School provides 8 classrooms divided into 2 blocks, almost completed!

Brothers' Community

The Brothers House is under construction to host the 4 De La Salle Brothers that comprise the community of La Salle School-Rumbek.

Staff House

Works continue to build the Staff House, which will allow our teachers to live on the campus. The teaching staff is composed of three De La Salle Brothers and five lay teachers of whom three are Kenyans.

Power House

This building protects the electrical generator that powers the entire La Salle School-Rumbek with clean and sustainable energy, thanks to the use of solar panels.



Classrooms Under Construction

Water Tanks

In La Salle School-Rumbek there are 2 water tanks for the needs of the school and 4 drilled wells available for local communities.

Agriculture

In July 2019 one third of the land was cleared and ploughed thanks to the arrival of the tractor with all its implements. All the available space will be used for agricultural purposes. The goal is to produce most of the grains and vegetables needed to feed the students.



Classrooms Under Construction

St. Mary Boys Secondary School and Children Rescue Centre - Nyeri, Kenya

Partners in Mission Spotlight: Nicasio Gacungi

My name is Nicasio Gacungi and the current Deputy Head Teacher at St. Mary's Boys High School. I have been the longest serving staff having joined the institution in 1982. At that time, I was only 28 years old, newly married and with one child. My six children are now college graduates and working. When I joined St. Mary's, it was purely a day school for all



Mr. Nicasio Gacungi

students. The school introduced the boarding section in 1987 with only 60 students admitted as boarders. Today, we have 421 boarders and 3 day scholars. The boarding facility has also been extended.

St. Mary's has been a religious institution. When I joined, I was actively involved in teaching catechism, organizing for prayers and mass and teaching Social Ethics to students. In 1987, I doubled up as the Boarding Master as well as in charge of kitchen. I ensured that all students got adequate and proper food and they slept in a conducive environment.

One of the unique things that I have witnessed happening at St. Mary's is the establishment of Juniors Program. Before the Program started, street children who were from the nearby Majengo slums used to sneak into the school during meal times to eat leftovers and even ask students for food. Being in charge of the Dining Hall, I found it difficult to chase them away. I reported the matter to the late Brother Dominic Jordan who came and witnessed what was happening. He asked the street children to keep coming for meals and set aside some food for them.

In 1998, Brother Dominic opened a Home for them.



Visit to Phokeng

By Mary Hyam

Director of Religious Education and Formation

De La Salle Holy Cross

7 teachers and a driver went out and stayed two nights with Brother Joseph. We divided ourselves into pairs and visited the 7 creches/nursery schools during the mornings. Our aim was to see how the morning programme ran in the various classes, what equipment is available, and where we would be able to be of help.

We were pleased to see that the creches are clean, the children are well looked after and that the teachers are dedicated to their work. There is a need for further skills training to equip the teachers with more up to date pedagogy and ideas for creative and educational activities. In the afternoon we presented a workshop to the teachers, showing them how to make teaching and learning equipment using recyclable materials. After the demonstration the teachers were engaged in making the equipment for themselves and we were gratified the next day to see that many of them were using their new teaching aids in their classrooms. We also sent them home with enough materials to make all of the different examples they were shown.

The workshop included a section on classroom organisation and different ways of storytelling. The ideas were well-received and I think the teachers felt motivated



and empowered.

There is a need for skills training and both indoor and outdoor equipment as well as story books and stationery. We did take each school a starter pack of stationery and showed the teachers how to make playdough.

A wonderful lady by the name of Lindy Harris accompanied us and after making her observations gave us some helpful advice as to the way forward. She runs an NGO called Flying Children. She and her co-workers train and upskill ladies who run creches and nursery schools in Johannesburg so she is a great contact for us to have. We now rely on the Divine Providence to provide the funding required for this training to take place. Having started the process, we are very aware that this is something that we need to continue. Several of the teachers are interested in participating so I'm sure that once we have a programme running we will be able to make a meaningful difference.

Almost every street child was coming for meals. They were fed, offered accommodation, were rehabilitated and taken to nearby public primary schools. Our high school students started offering guidance to the new members in the community and interacted with them as elder brothers.

The first bunch of the street children joined St. Mary's High School in 2004 and graduated in 2007. St. We currently have at least 200 children in the primary section and almost 70 students in high school who were formerly in the Jr.s Program.

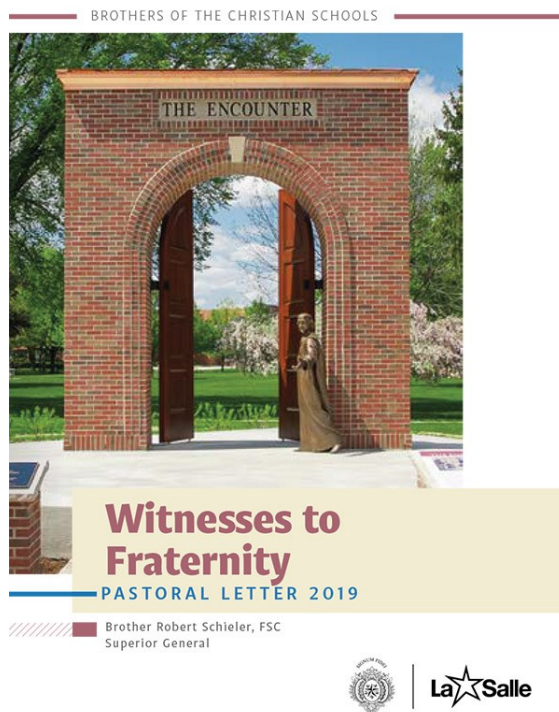
The spirit of the late Brother Dominic Jordan is ever present in our community as we continue with the noble work that he started. I have personally been able to serve St. Mary's at different capacities to ensure that we have morally upright young men who graduate from high school. I can truly attest that there are people of good will who have made St. Mary's to offer good life to the destitute in the society. I would like to thank De La Salle Christian Brothers and donors who ensure that the needs of these children are taken care of. We have offered them a safe haven for them at St. Mary's – Nicasio Gacungi.

Great Things are Possible with Lasallians

The 2019/2020 Pastoral Letter of the Superior General titled Witnesses to Fraternity towers as one of the most heart piercing Pastoral Letter in recent times. It is decorated with very prophetic words and phrases like; awake, encounter, dialogue, Christian conversion, evangelical fraternity, re-energized, renewed, rededicated etc. The 31 page letter carries as the cover page a symbolic statue; The Encounter depicting that first encounter between the founder and Andrien Nyel. The Superior General recalled page 15 the last Pastoral letter where it asserted the role of both intimate encounter and shared encounter reminding us of our Lasallian vocations.

After reading the first two lines, you will be convinced that the Superior General was writing you a personal letter, opening thus, 'I ask you...'

Great Things Are Possible is the Institute's theme for 2019/2020 launched on page 6. There are 16 pauses containing reflective questions in the 31 page Letter for individuals and the community dialogue and encounter. Aside the Institute theme; Great Things Are Possible, the letter can be said to have AWAKE as its story line. The repetition of Ephesians 5:14 on pages 3 and 29 must be a message to us Lasallians, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light.' It is no surprise then that he called on each Brother individually and all Brothers together in community to be like persistent and annoying alarm clocks that wake people up, that are in fact loud enough to wake the dead, page 5.



The expectation of the Pastoral Letter is that each Brother and his community will wake up and continue the journey to Christian conversion, page 6. while acknowledging that our fraternal life is fragile, the Letter however asserts the fact that our

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**GREAT THINGS
ARE POSSIBLE**
2019 - 2020

"to accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe.."



fraternal life is also a prophetic sign, page 7. stories of Brothers bearing witness to fraternity as highlighted in his experiences during pastoral visits to various missions of the Brothers in different parts of the institute. He concluded his witness in the following words, 'Throughout my pastoral visits I have encountered new expressions of creativity and new forms of ministry in response to the practical need of the poor for human and Christian education.' (17).

This is a Letter you just need to read and reread till you are re-energized, renewed and rededicated through encounter, dialogue and ordinary activities of our lives drawing us to the lifestyle of Br James Miller. Brother James' life is indeed an evidence that GREAT THINGS ARE POSSIBLE through ordinary activities of our lives, page 28.

The Pastoral Letter is concluded with a poem by Brother John Deeney on page 31. Summarily, the Lasallian mission today revolves around moving beyond structures, making our mission accessible, Lasallian spirit complementing other spiritualities, attentiveness to needs and above all a personal call to reflection that leads to contemplation.

- *By Brother Kesiki*