



LWANGA LA SALLE GAZETTE

Issue 2 :: September 2014



SERVICE TO
THE COMMUNITY



Lwanga Lasalle Gazette is published twice a year by the De La Salle Christian Brothers of the Lwanga District of Africa to foster the Lasallian Mission of Human and Christian Education.

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Have you sent us anything this time? Please, submit photos, poems, jokes, brainteasers and articles to the shared Communication Office email address at the Provincialate, Nairobi, by the end of November 2014.

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provincialate

Message from the Brother Visitors Desk



Dear Brothers and Lasallian Associates,

First of all I would like to thank God and you my Brothers and Lasallian Associates for your courage, passion, enthusiasm and the endless dedication you render to the teaching profession in forming and transforming the minds of our students through education in our five Sectors (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa).

How do we achieve this transformation of our students? I think we have to have a vision that can guide us and give us the internal will power to face the challenges we encounter in our realities. This vision is the vision of Jesus: “I came to throw fire on this earth and how much I desire to see it burning”(Lk 12:49).

Dear Brothers and Lasallian Associates, if we are really convinced and internalize in our hearts and our life this vision of Jesus, then I am sure that this will be something to live for, to suffer for, to work for and ultimately to die for, it will be something that we cannot keep to ourselves, something that we are so caught up with that one has to communicate it, let it out, and spread it. This fire and dynamite Jesus came to throw into this world indicate something dangerous, revolutionary, not leaving things as they are. The vision of Jesus will never leave us without affecting any change in our lives, because his vision aims at transformation and a revolutionary thrust. Lk 12:52 “I did not come to bring peace but division.” Jesus “Do not think that I came to leave you in peace, no, I came to disturb, to upset and to change things. The world will never be the same after I have thrown my fire on it.” Yes, we have to be able to say that if we really throw fire on our students’ minds they will never be the same; they will be transformed themselves and will help society to be transformed. As in Proverbs, we read: Where there is no vision the people perish. We do not want to perish and we do not want to be dead men and women walking, but we want to follow Jesus the teacher of wisdom and compassion with enthusiasm and passion.

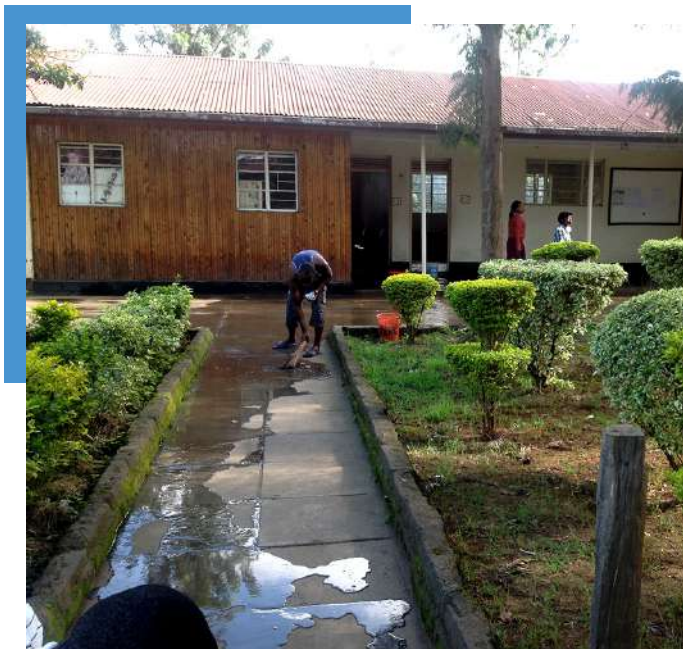
In conclusion, I would like to thank all of you for your dedicated commitment to make the Mission alive and meaningful for those who are entrusted to us and in contact with us. May St. John Baptist De La Salle and St. Charles Lwanga give us their blessings. Live Jesus in our hearts! Forever.

Bro. Ghebreyesus Habte FSC

Visitor



Brother Damian Ikor presenting the 3rd best prize to St. Mark's house.



La Salle Cleanup at Mwangaza College



Saint Joseph's Track and Field Team

provincialate

Message from the Brother Auxiliary Visitors Desk



The year 1994 was designated as “The International Year of the Family.” This year, 2014, is the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family. The occasion has inspired a series of awareness-raising events in a number of Churches and educational institutions around the world. The anniversary is an opportunity to refocus on the role of the family and review the challenges faced by families in the 21st century.

In February, 2014, Pope Francis wrote a letter addressed to every family throughout the world, asking for prayers for the upcoming Synod in October 2014. He begins: “With this letter, I wish as it were, to come into your homes to speak about an event which will take place at the Vatican this coming October. It is an Extraordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, which is being convened to discuss the theme ‘Pastoral Challenges to the Family in the Context of Evangelization.’ This Synod is dedicated in a special way to you, to your vocation and mission in the church and in society; to the challenges of family life, of education of children and the role of the family in the church. This Extraordinary Synodal Assembly will be followed a year later by an Ordinary Assembly, which will also have the family as its theme. In that context, there will also be the World Meeting of Families due to take place in Philadelphia in September 2015. (Pope Francis will attend this meeting) May we all, then, pray together so that through these events the Church will undertake a true journey of discernment and adopt the necessary pastoral means to help families face their present challenges.”

The word family conjures up a series of different images for different people. For some it has a warm glow to it - a place of security, love and encouragement. For others, family conjures up less happy memories – broken trust, hurt, regrets and failures. Many diverse family structures exist in our society. Families can be described as conventional, intact, nuclear, multi- generational, upper-class, middle class, lower class, impoverished, dysfunctional, educated, uneducated, first world, second world, third world, traditional, nontraditional and extended. More recently we speak about the displaced

family and child- headed households.

We live in a situation now where a set of parents, a mother and father, are not necessarily the privilege of every child. Whatever its composition, the family plays a vital role in the development of the child.

Pope Francis highlights the significance of the family in *Evangelii Gaudium*; ‘The Joy of the Gospel’ The family is experiencing a profound cultural crisis, as are all communities and social bonds. In the case of the family, the weakening of these bonds is particularly serious because the family is the fundamental cell of society, where we learn to live with others despite our differences and to belong to one another; it is also the place where parents pass on the faith to their children.

The family is the first and most important of all the influences that affect our lives. It is a place where generosity, tenderness, forgiveness, stability, care, acceptance and truth can be best taught and learned. Parents are the first models. The most important lessons in life are learned in the home. Children’s antennae are always out, picking up, attitudes, values and priorities, which they often assimilate into their own personality. Where does the child first learn to say ‘please’, ‘thank you’ and ‘sorry’? Where does the child learn respect, kindness and good manners? Lessons learned early in the family are tucked deep in our personalities and they will remain there a lifetime prompting and motivating us. As the original cell of society, the family is essential for the formation of members of society. Parents are the most significant people in a child’s life and their primary educators. Parents are also the “first and best teachers of their children in faith.”

The school is a microcosm of society. A child enters the classroom carrying with him or her effects of relationships with significant adults. The

teacher is also among the most significant people in a child’s life. Schools are important places. Students spend a lot of time in them. This includes a significant proportion of the most formative period in life between 4 years of age and 18 years of age.

“In one of those typically resonate phrases of his, Pope John Paul II wrote that ‘the future of humanity passes by way of the family.’ (*Familiaris consortio*) Few would argue with this. It is no exaggeration to suggest that humanity is indeed shaped by the relationships we experience in these cradles of society. Yet what is true of the family also holds true of the environment in which we spend so much of our formative years – school. This is even truer of the relationship between the Catholic Church and the school. ‘The future of the Church passes by way of its schools.’ For an increasing number of children and young people in our society, the context of faith formation has shifted away from the family and the parish community to the school. While this may not be the ideal, it is pretty much the reality. “John Bollard, ‘The Light of his Face.’

While it is impossible to expect the Catholic school to meet all the aspirations of society, or to replace the primary educational function of the family and community in the formation of young people, it is becoming more and more obvious that our schools and educators are having to take on broader and exacting societal roles.

St John Baptist De La Salle founded his schools for parents who could not afford to send their children to school. “Some people do not have enough money to pay others to look after their children for them. They have to let their children run around by themselves until they are old enough to go to work. These parents can’t send their children to school because they can’t pay school fees. They go to work themselves, and there

is no one to look after their children.” Meditations for the Time of Retreat No 2. De La Salle speaking about the pupils reminded his teachers “When they are in class, you take the place of their fathers and mothers, so you must watch over them as a special work God has given to you.”

Life can be hard for families. The family structure has changed dramatically over the past 20 years. Our students live in a dramatically different world than the one in which most of today’s adults grew up. We must provide our young people with the tools and direction they need to function amid these challenges. A changing society means changing pastoral needs. In the challenging economic climate of today, many parents have to work long hours to find additional sources of income to raise their children so teachers today have the tricky task of being all things to all people.

I believe that when you take a child into the school you take a family into the school. Research tells us that parental involvement is one of the most significant factors contributing to a child’s success in school. Parents are the ‘first and principal educators’ of their children. Parents are partners in the school. Schools that have taken the trouble to invest staff time in parental participation have found not only that support for their school has increased but that there is evidence of improved standards of behaviour and improved pupil morale and performance.

St De La Salle wrote: “One of the main duties of fathers and mothers is to bring up their children in a Christian manner. But most parents are taken up with the material support of the family or with the concern of earning the necessities of life.”

The Vatican Document, “The Religious Dimension of Education in a Catholic School” challenges the school to try to involve the family as much as possible in the educational aims of the school and in the educative process: “The first and primary educators of children are their parents.”

“Partnership between a Catholic school and the families of students must continue to be strengthened . . . Catholic tradition teaches that God has bestowed on the family its own specific and unique educational mission.”

“Close cooperation with the family is especially important when treating sensitive issues such as religious education, moral education, sexual education and choice of career”

“Every school should initiate meetings and other programmes which make the parents more conscious of their role and help to establish a partnership; it is impossible to do too much along these lines.”

Home and social background influence what can be achieved in the school. The school cannot attain its objectives without the cooperation and support of the home. Collaboration between home and the school community is vital to the educative process. Here we should be conscious of the characteristics of the ethos of a Lasallian School such as a sense of belonging, a spirit of rapport and cooperation an atmosphere conducive to learning and development. Lasallian Schools are committed to seeking to change what is undesirable in present educational structures and policies. Finally, as members of an Institute with more than three hundred years of educational experience behind it, the Brothers and Lasallian Educators ought never to be found wanting in adaptation and renewal. This anniversary year of the Family is an opportunity for Lasallian Educators and Lasallian Schools to explore ways in which they can engage and support parents in the formation of their children.



Mt La Salle Nakak - Girls 100m at the occasion



St Joseph teams participating in the division one and two finished as runner ups

MWANGAZA college:

Nakuru Kenya

MWANGAZA COLLEGE OPEN DAY

On July 26th Mwangaza College had an open day to welcome the first semester students who had just reported to the College. The day was full of activities and all the departments showcased their products and several displays were made to market the departments to the new students. Students also invited their friends from other institutions.

The Fashion and Design Department displayed the latest fashion trends in different categories like children's wear, bridal, office and casual wears. There were also beads and locally made jewellerys on display and for sale too. Still in the same department, hair design and beauty therapy section did a lot of manicure and pedicure to both the students and staffs. They also displayed their products and courses on offer. The Business de Department also took the students through different Accounting and Business courses on offer in the college. The Food and Beverage Department made a lot of profit from selling their cookies, sandwiches, juices and many other kitchen products that they made that day in their open air cafeteria. To crown it there were other fun games going on like tennis, volleyball, dancing competition, cat walk and the rest. The day was full of fun and for sure the first semester students felt welcomed in the best way to start their academic life in the College.



LASALLE CLEAN UP DAY

This semester the Lasallian Group started their outreach program by first organizing a clean-up activity within the College. Over sixty Lasallian students participated and the exercise started as early as 8:30 am in the morning. They were spread all over the compound covering the Brothers house, Sisters house, classrooms, library, computer labs, tailoring room, kitchen, cafeteria and all other departments. The exercise was a great success and was finished by a simple joint lunch which was shared out of their contributions. The Principal (Br. Antone) and the Lasallian Co-ordinator Madam Jane gave their motivational speeches at the end of the exercise. This was then followed by other sports activities like ball games and indoor games to conclude the day in the afternoon. There are more programs planned for the Lasallians this semester and we hope it will be a very busy one full of fun and community service to embrace the Lasallian mission.



rongai high school:

Nakuru Kenya

RONGAI CELEBRATES THE FOUNDERS DAY IN STYLE

Shalom Lasallian Brothers and Sisters, much greetings from Rongai Agri-Tech High School.

As you are all aware, the Feast of our Founder St John Baptist De La Salle was to be celebrated on Thursday 15th May this year. But after much deliberation, we opted to push the celebration to the next day on Friday. The rationale behind this was to avoid interruption of classes for the smooth running of the week and to enjoy the long weekend after the celebrations. Otherwise, having the celebrations on Thursday and back to class on Friday and then breaking for the weekend was a kink that did not sit well with most of us. There was only a week to prepare for the the Day the major event on the calendar of events. The school choir chanted songs and Bible verses in preparation for the day's Eucharistic celebration. The YCS movement decorated the venue for the D Day. The Lasallian Youth Movement prepared holes and seedlings for the tree planting ceremony to mark the day. It was a thorough preparation to ensure that everything went on as scheduled. On the material day the students took their breakfast at 6.00 am.

The morning community service started at 6.15 am. At 9.00 am, the entire school community gathered for the Holy Mass which was celebrated with much jubilation. After the mass at 10.00 am, there was a tree planting ceremony to commemorate the day. At 11.00 am, everyone was in the field for the morning entertainment. Games such as sack race, egg race and wheelbarrow race among other games. It was all jubilation and fun for all in the field. Thereafter there was the Prizegiving for the winners. At 1.00 pm, there was a common lunch for all in the dining hall. The afternoon entertainment games started at 2.00 pm with interclass tug of war and volleyball. There was a Prizegiving for the winners and afternoon community service thereafter. Supper was taken at 6.00 pm followed by entertainment from 7.00 pm to 10.00 pm.

Otherwise every Lasallian member in the Rongai fraternity had enjoyed to his fill on this great day.



la salle discovery

South Africa

Fraternally and prayerful greetings to all our readers from La Salle, Discovery where we are enjoying some beautiful Spring weather.

For those of you north of the Equator, you have just begun a new academic year. May it be a year of blessing and achievement for students and teachers (“learners” and “educators” in S.A.) In South Africa our Grade XII learners are busily preparing for the Senior Certificate (“Matric”) Examination which begins in October. This is preceded by a Preliminary Examination, the results of which are submitted to the Department of Education and are taken into account when the Senior Certificate results are finalised. Our learners are now writing the “Prelim” exam. Here in La Salle the main sporting activities were cricket and athletics and considering our small numbers we did very well against schools twice our size.

On the 21 and 22 August our drama department produced a drama entitled “WHAT IF ..” based on the Gospel story of the Annunciation. It was highly acclaimed and enjoyed by all in attendance. Learners and educators combined in writing the script. Our Lasallian Youth Group continues with its weekly meetings and Outreach projects. Our monthly Masses in the school hall are organised in turn by different Grades.

Brothers Timothy, Cornelius and Thomas attend to various pastoral and Sector activities. Due to an increase in applications the school Management are planning to build some extra classrooms to meet the demand.

Live Jesus in our Hearts. Forever.

Lasallian Outreach

The Grade 7 class of La Salle College, in Discovery, South Africa, spent an afternoon socializing with the children of a local home for abused and abandoned children. The children of St Lawrence's kids Haven were delighted to have friends round to play for afternoon, especially as the Lasallian's provided fun party games with sweets as prizes. During lunch the girls helped to redecorate one of the boys bedrooms. Finances for the decorating was generously donated by AGI Africa. The carpet and all bedding was replaced, as well as walls painted and decorated. The Children were delighted by the results! The Grade 7's donated food packs for the children during the holidays, as well as clothing. When it was time to leave, none of the children wanted the day to end!



Boys Bedroom before decoration



Room after decorating



Grade 7's and Children from St Lawrence Kids Home

de la salle holy cross

South Africa

De La Salle Day -15th May 2014

2014 was the year for change in De La Salle Holy Cross College and I am so glad I got the opportunity to be apart of it! Usually on De La Salle day our school would celebrate by being given a packet of chips and a juice, but this year a change was introduced.

It was a perfectly organized day filled with fun and a little bit of healthy competition! It started off with the whole school attending Mass, which centered everyone and provided interesting information about Saint La Salle's life. We then headed back to school for the fun to start! Each class was told to wear a different coloured shirt to create teams. Everyone really loved this idea and each class came up with a name and some even painted warrior stripes on their faces! The celebration started officially in the hall with an opening ceremony...and then came what we were all eagerly anticipating , the activities! They included a debate, a De La Salle quiz, netball , soccer , tug-of-war and baseball. Each of these activities were thoroughly enjoyed as there was something for everyone!

There was a graffiti wall to write encouraging Lasallian messages and a brainstorm by each class of how we can connect with Lasallians worldwide. During the day we could pop past the staff photo baby competition to try guess the staff member.

It was beautiful to see the Lasallian spirit in each and every person , all the teams worked so well together and a smile was on every face! It gave us as pupils a chance to get to know our peers outside of the classroom. Everyone I spoke to said it was such a truly fantastic day and we really hope in years to come this way of celebrating will be continued!

Outreach at the College this term.

Outreach has been busy helping at Mother Teresa Home twice a month and has started helping at the Angels orphanage one a month. The school also collected and donated blankets, mealie meal, scarves and gloves to 3 shelters for the homeless, the Woodside sanctuary and the Safe Houses for abused children.

News

Exam season has come to an end so now our energies are being divided between report writing and parent interviews! The senior classes, Grades 4 to 7 are preparing for their concert which will be staged from the 29th to the 31st of August. Saturday 12th July was an exciting day for the children as we held our annual soapbox derby. This is both a fundraiser for the school and an opportunity for the school community to come together for some fun and sociability. We thank our generous parent body for the donations of prizes, food and time so that this day could be such a wonderful success.

Both our Junior and Senior choirs have been preparing for the upcoming music festival. They also give concerts at some of the retirement homes in the city so they have been working hard at increasing their repertoires. A small group of senior boys has shown particular interest in singing at our liturgical celebrations and have decided to call themselves “The Singing Lasallian brothers”. They are committed to attending extra practices so that they can be ready to sing the Psalm and other songs at school Masses. What a wonderful way for young boys to share their talents for the glory of God.

We began our 67 minutes for Mandela Day with an assembly dedicated to the memory of Madi-ba. The theme of the assembly was kindness and reconciliation. It began with the singing of the National Anthem, NkosiSikileleAfrika, followed by a short talk on Mandela’s contribution to life in South Africa, prayers and a short meditation. The classes then participated in different activities to make up the remainder of the 67 minutes.

Report

Winter Sports

The 2014 Winter Sports season has seen some incredible results and some exciting new developments.

Highlights include:

- The development of a fully-fledged and successful Cross Country team.
- The 40-0 victory over CBC Boksburg by the 1st XV.
- The 1st Hockey teams feat of going unbeaten at the Annual Inter Catholic Hockey tournament.

But the growth in the number of pupils participating in sport is the most pleasing aspect to the 2014 winter sports season.

The start of the 2014 season was a wet one with games and tournaments having to be cancelled or postponed because of flooded fields.

Fixtures in for the 2014 season fell into three categories, Friendlies, Tours/Festivals and League. This is the 2nd season that the College has competed in the Pirates School Challenge (PSC). This is a league that was started by Pirates Rugby Club to help support school rugby as well as to provide an introduction to the club for the boys.

The PSC provided some very tough games for our players but this experience was good for our players as it forced them to lift their performances. This proved decisive in the final 3rd of the season when the players carried the intensity of the PSC into their matches against schools such as St Dunstan’s.

mt. la salle college

Naka, Nigeria

All Caths Games "ALIADE 2014"

All Catholic Secondary Schools games are an extra-curricular activities organized by the Catholic Education Secretariat for all Catholic Secondary Schools in Makurdi Diocese.

The 2014 version of the sport festival was attended by not less than ten schools; Mt. St. Gabriel's Makurdi, Mt. La Salle College, Naka, Holy Child Secondary School Makurdi, Sacred Heart, Udi, St. Marks Apir, St. John Bosco, Aliade, St. Joseph Technical, Makurdi, St. Joseph , Nyiman, Mt. Carmel Makurdi and the host school Mt. St. Michaels, Aliade.

Mt. La Salle College, took forty participants to the sports festival and participated in twenty six available field and track events such as shot put, Javelin, Discuss, long and triple jumps, others were 100m, 200m, 400m 800m 4x400m, 4x100m, volleyball, handball, football both boys and girls, to mention but a few.

However at the end of the Sports Festival, Mt La Salle College dominated the medal table with a total number of 33 medals, i.e 9 gold, 10 silver and 14 bronze to be the overall winner of the Sports Festival 2014.

OTHER ACTIVITIES DURING THE TERM

Sometimes within the session, Mt. La Salle College, Naka played host to her illustrious alumni, Miss Jessica Lkyon who graduated in 2009. At her graduation, she was admitted at the Benue State University to study Mass Communication. With her love for culture, she contested and won the QUEEN of Culture and Tourism, Benue state.

During her visit, she addressed the students encouraging them to shun social vices such as exam malpractice, drug abuse, sexual abuse and others. They should rather take to hard work so as to be a giant in academics. For hard work pays off and it is only through hard work that one can achieve his or her ambition. The queen also advised students to be proud of their culture for culture is an identity. A person or group of persons can be identified with their culture by way of dressing, eating or way of life.

The queen thereafter donated some textbooks to the school library and some exercise books to the students.



The Principal, Rev. Br. Wole Olabanjo on behalf of the management and staff thanked the queen for her kind gesture too her Alma Mater and prayed God to bless and reward her abundantly. The Principal then encouraged the students to be hard working so as to emulate her in such given opportunity.

The Head Boy, Asema Frank on behalf of the students thanked the queen for the show of love to them and the school. He said that they will do their best in order not to disappoint the school to keep the flag flying.

In another development, the School Management organizes a Career talk for the SS students to educate students how to combine subjects at the SS level to suit their career in life in the many professions and different walks of life such as; Clergy, Law, Medicine, Accounting, others are engineering, architecture and teaching profession to mention but a few.



MOUNT LA SALLE COLLEGE, NAKA CELEBRATES FOUNDER'S DAY

The annual feast of St. John Baptist De La Salle is a feast celebrated in the Catholic Church worldwide on the 15th of May.

For parishes, the feast is marked with a Holy Eucharist celebration with proper liturgical readings in honour of the St. De la Salle.

For the Brothers of the Christian Schools, the order established by St. De La Salle in the 17th century, the Brothers solemnly celebrate this day in memory of their founder.

To the La Sallian family, i.e. schools established and or run by the Brothers of the Christian Schools, together with students and staff, this day is always celebrated elaborately.

Particularly at Mt. La Salle College, Naka it is not just the day that is marked but week long activities are lined up in honour of the Founder of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and Patron Saint of Teachers worldwide.

On the 15th of May, which was the feast day, a solemn High Mass was celebrated in the school auditorium organized by the students. The students presented in a colorful way the scriptures and brought the bread and wine to the alter amidst songs dancing and jubilation.

Then, the Inter-House activities continued from 19th to 22 with the grand finale on the 23rd during these days, students compete in several activities and for the grand finale other schools were invited to grace the occasion.

The occasion was also graced by the proprietor, Rev. Brother Damian Ikor FSc, the Superior of the De La Salle Brothers in Nigeria, the PTA Chairman Mr. David Yongu and some parents and old students of the College.

Before the commencement of the occasion, the school Houses paraded in a march pass after which the Principal, Rev. Brother Wole Olabanjo fsc gave a welcome speech where he appreciated all present for gracing the occasion and for felicitating with the school on the grand finale of the Inter House Sports competition and the Founders' Day celebration.

The Principal said that the Inter House Sports Competition is an annual event where the four houses compete in different events which usually begin in September and end in May with the feast of St. John Baptist De La Salle so as to celebrate the feast of De La Salle elaborately.



St. Matthew's house during Match Pass

He further advised the competitors in the various Houses to accept the results at the end in good faith because in every competition, there must be winners and losers.

However, the guest speaker of the occasion, Mr. Ayagah Francis who spoke on the topic: "Sports, National Unity and Peace" and emphasized the importance of sports in a school stating that sports is regarded as a unity building activity because of its practical potential and capacity to unify people from a diversity of socio-cultural and political backgrounds and to develop



St. Mark's House during Match pass



Brother Damian Ikor presenting the overall best prize to St. Luke's house House.



The principal, Brother Wole Address guests at the occasion and internalize in them certain basic values and ethical orientations that enhances team spirit and togetherness.

According to Ayagah, sports if nurtured can be an instrument in nation building when the basic ethical orientations and principles of sports are harmonized with general societal values.

After the whole events, St. John's House went home with the consolation prize, St. Matthew came third, St. Marks' house second and St. Luke took the trophy for the overall best House of the year.



Staff Race



St. John's house during Match Pass



St. Luke's During Match Pass

CULTURE, A TOOL FOR INTER-ETHNIC HARMONY

By **PILOR EMMANUEL (SS 3 Student)**

Here comes the tool for inter-ethnic harmony.

Behold I usher in the foundation of harmony.

Our bright future lies with our culture.

Oh! Great conqueror of evil and foe; friend of all,

Our dreams of unity lie with her

The most perfect harmonious source.

Here comes the magnet for inter-ethnic harmony.

Behold the icon of peace and unity of different races.

Her footsteps, we must all follow.

She brings peace to our differences,

Harmony to our tribes,

Indeed our happiness comes from her.

I bow before my harmonious culture.

I dance to the rhythm of her united tribes.

For our ancestors founded her in peaceful deed.

Who say our culture will die?

Our culture has come to stay

Then, we shall never lie in disarray.

Our culture is the most perfect harmonious mother.

I weep at the sight of conflict among tribes, where

Idoma and Igbos

Igede and Yoruba,

Tiv and Fulani

Forget their culture; the tool for harmony

For she is never divided nor devastated.

When I lay at her feet, I am consoled.

Oh! Culture! What a mother with a heart of togetherness.

MT. LA SALLE COLLEGE CELEBRATES CULTURAL FESTIVAL

Cultural festivals are age long activities in Mt. La Salle College. It is a three-day program full of life-events where students organizes and compete in a variety of events according to their Houses (i.e. Saint Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) respectively.

The 2014 cultural festival is tagged; “Culture: a tool for inter-ethnic harmony” took place between 5th and 7th March. The first two days, students came to school in their uniform and after the first three lessons, all the students gather in the auditorium in their Houses to participate in activities.

On the grand finale, other schools around the area and other guest were invited; students came to school in their different cultural attires.



Rev. Br. Wole Olabanjo FSc
Principal Mt. La Salle College, Naka

The Principal, Rev. Br. Wole Olabanjo welcomed all present to the occasion, saying that cultural festivals are important extra-curricular activities for the school because when you celebrate culture; one appreciates the importance of culture and where you come from. When we celebrate culture, we acknowledge where we come from and learn to stick to the norms and values of our culture. He then encouraged students to participate wholeheartedly.

In another development, the Chairman of the Central Planning Committee, Mr. Akishi Moses the School Cultural Director in his speech said that the cultural festival is aimed at exposing the students to our cultural norms, values and the creative world. Also to avail students the opportunity to discover their inherent talents which may be used as a vocation to earn a living. He emphasized that the festival engendered excellence by making the events competitive, therefore there may be winners and losers, but he advised that as good competitors we should win or lose gracefully.

Thereafter, the lighting of the cultural festival flame was done and the La Salle Theatre Troupe opened the floor for the activities to commerce. The invited schools presented traditional dances after which the competition among the four Houses, i.e. Saint Matthew, Mark, Luke and John kicked off with traditional dances followed by a traditional fashion parade.

At the end of the cultural festival activities, the winner of the cultural award went to St. Marks House.



The Great St. Marks: The winning house



The Dominican Sisters at the occasion



St. Matthew's house: 2nd position



St. Lukes house:3rd position

HIV/AIDS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP CORPER MEMBERS CELEBRATE WORLD AIDS DAY

To mark the Worlds Aids Day, the HIV/AIDS community development group Corper Members serving in Gwer West Local Government of Benue State organized a one-day celebration for Secondary School students within Naka the Local Government Headquarters.

The Celebration was aimed at sensitizing the students on the reality and dangers of HIV/AIDS amongst the youth. The venue of the celebration was the auditorium of Mt. La Salle College, Naka. The celebration featured talk from Dr. Efosa, a medical doctor with the general hospital Naka on the “History of HIV/AIDS in Nigeria.” He exposed the sorrows of the HIV pandemic since its discovery in Nigeria in 1985 when two cases of HIV/AIDS were identified. According to him, youth and young adults in Nigeria are particularly vulnerable to HIV, with young women at higher risk than the men. He stated that there are many risk factors that contribute t the spread of HIV Therefore, the physician encouraged the students to know their status and stop discriminating against people living with virus and advised the students to avoid pre-marital and indiscriminate sexual acts in order to prevent the contracting and spread of the virus.

The celebration also featured a debate between Devine Hope Secondary School and Mt. la Salle College on the topic “Is a HIV Free Generation Possible?” At the end of the exercise, Devine Hope Secondary School won the debate



Winners of the debate with the Organizers

OUR CULTURE SPEAKS PEACE

By ZAUKA GRACE (SS 2 student)

Our culture speaks peace

Our culture: our mirror

Our culture: our dreams

Our culture; our way of dressing,

Our culture; our way of eating,

Our culture; our way of speaking

Our culture; our way of socializing

Our culture; our way of uniting

Like our greatest Mount La Salle,

What a home of peace,

A home of harmonious living.

Her administration; like the rising sun from,

the East to the West, piercing through the human heart.

And a star shining brightly everywhere you go,

Mount La Salle, what a home of socialization.

Our culture, a way of promoting peace

Our culture; a way of unity.

Our culture; our strength.



Members of the HIV/AIDS Community

Development corpsGwer West Local Government

Mt. La Salle

Our culture, never a way of fighting,

But always a way of progress.

O! Our sweetest culture, our greatest and whole wide culture

Our culture, never a way of fighting

But a way of promoting inter-ethnic peace.

Mount La Salle, a diamond in the bush, glitters like gold,

Which supersedes darkness and overcome all odds of our society

Standing buoyantly and gallantly.

The greatest Mount La Salle, my sweet culture,

Your blood flows in my veins.



st. joseph Addis Ababa

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

55th Anniversary and Alumni Homecoming

Preparation is underway to organize 55th anniversary celebration and homecoming event for St Joseph Alumni in December 2014. A meeting by prominent members from the alumni community coming from different generations was held on April 6, 2014 at St Joseph to hear report from a core group of volunteers committee who helped further plan the event and elect people to work in a planning and organizing committee. The meeting discussed plans to do two big events in December 2014 based on the report from the core committee's developed plan. Also an additional event to finalize the two events was also proposed during the meeting. The meeting was concluded after electing an organizing and planning committee which will plan and organize the 55th anniversary of St Joseph School on December 28, 2014 and an Alumni Homecoming gala dinner on December 27, 2014. The committee will also work on organizing a panel discussion to conclude those big events in January 2015.

The organizing committee elected on April 6, 2014 is organizing the greatest homecoming and celebration of the schools 55th anniversary. The committee has organized four committees who will work under the main committee to make the events successful. Committees created are the event organizing committee, Public Relation Committee, Finance committee, Marketing committee, Legal committee and School development committee. Task oriented teams are being created under each committee. To update on progress made to the alumni and get inputs, the committee called a meeting on June 22, 2014 at St Joseph school. In this meeting different committees have presented their action plan and received inputs from members of the alumni Community.



Principals Meeting with Parents

Principal of St Joseph Brother Belayneh Medhanit held a meeting with parents on two consecutive Sunday mornings of March 2 and March 9 following the report he made to parents on activities of the school during the first semester and during the summer of 2013 on Parents Day. At this meeting parents thanked the school administration and its teachers for improvement they have witnessed in their children and the school in general.

St Joseph's Community contributed to Grand Renaissance Dam

St Joseph's staff, faculty and students bought bonds issued by the Ethiopian government for a second time to help raise money for the construction of the Grand Renaissance Dam project underway at the Blue Nile River. Besides buying bonds student also took part in a fundraising run organized by the municipality of Addis Ababa on April 6, 2014. The mega dam project which is in its third year is one of the biggest dam project in the world and when completed it will make Ethiopian a major exporter of power in the region.



Founders Day Celebration May 2014

St Joseph has celebrated Founder's day colorfully on May 16, 2014. On this day Final games for the De La Salle Cup were played and many fun games were organized by the Charity club who used the occasion to raise money for its charitable cause. Prior to the main date Brother Daniel and the campus ministry had organized a prayer for the whole week and third place games for the De Lasalle Cup were played. Brother Peter also organized an arts competition for students from Grade 1-12 the winners received their awards on May 16.

A brochure re-edited by the Lassalian Animator about the life and work of De La Salle and about the Lasallian method of teaching was distributed to each student and teacher. The brochure was re-edited so that all would know Who De Lasalle Was, Who De La Salle Brothers are, Lassalian Methods of Teaching and About the Lwanga District and the Ethiopian Sector.



May 16 was the highlight of De La Salle Week with final games of the De La Salle Cup which concluded games which started in February 2014 in three sports and three divisions among students of the school. Following that the presentation of award to winning teams. Ato Yonas Urbanos Assistant Principal of St Joseph handed over prizes to winning teams on the conclusion of De La Salle week.

Lasallian Charity Club Made a Donation

The Lasallian Charity Club made its annual donation to disadvantaged students at Meki Catholic School. The club raised money for the students by organizing games at the De LaSalle Day. The club covers school fees and handout copybooks, pens and school bag to 16 students in Meki. Members of the club traveled to Meki on July to make the donation and meet the beneficiaries.

In relation to this Class of 2014 made a donation to Macedonia Center (founded by an alumnus of St Joseph) which cares abandoned elderly and Mentally Ill. The class raised money on their “Zeal” concert and by auctioning their group picture.

Lasallian Animators Presentation

Lasallian Animator at St Joseph Deresse Almamaw made a presentation for teachers as a refresher for old teachers and as an introduction to Lasallian Education and its founder for new teachers on April 4, 2014. First part of the presentation was a brief introduction of the purpose of Lasallian institutions followed by a short documentary on life of St John Baptist De La Salle. Following the story of De Lasalle Teachers were shown a 22 minutes documentary on the 12 Virtues of a Good Teacher. In the middle and at the end of the presentation teachers were given a self appraisal questions to help them see what they can do to improve their mission as Lasallian educators. The presentation was well received by both new and old teachers.

Graduation and New Students

St Joseph School Graduated 125 students on June 14, 2014 at a graduation ceremony held at the school. Among this year’s graduates 9 are scholarship students who studied at St Joseph school for four years with the help of scholarship funds obtained from alumni of the school. At the ceremony outstanding students were awarded different prizes and diplomas were handed to all graduates who successfully met the academic criteria. His eminence Abune Brhaneyesus D. Suraphiel Archbishop of the Ethiopian Catholic Church handed out the diplomas and different invited guests handed out awards to outstanding students who achieved high scores in academics and extracurricular activities. Speeches were made by students, invited guests and Brother Belayneh.

While 125 students are graduating 100 new grade one students have been admitted to St Joseph for the academic year of 2014-15 after passing an Entrance exam and a lottery draw. The school will also admit new students to Grade 7 in July.



Model United Nations MUN

Students of St Joseph became the second high school students in Ethiopia to organize and host the MUN conference. The MUN Cub of St Joseph organized a one day MUN conference at St Joseph School on June 7, 2014. Members coming from different classes debated representing different UN countries as delegates of the nations they represent. At the conclusion of the conference certificates were handed out to best delegates and honorable mention certificates were handed out to runners up.

Moderators of the conference were seasoned MUN club members who have participated different International and National MUN conferences.

Other Students Activities

Academically outstanding grade 11 students had an opportunity to participate in College fairs organized by different top US Colleges and Universities in May 2014. The Students were given a chance to meet Admissions Directors and recruitment officers for Universities like Brown, Yale, Tufts, Amherst, Smith, Davidson and the University of Pennsylvania.

Mentoring

A half day mentoring conference for Grade 10 and 11 students were organized by the school to help students choose their careers in the future in mid May 2014. Guest Speakers from former students and parents coming from different professions mentored the students for a half day. After the conference students had a better vision for the future and which career they want to follow.

Teachers and Staff Outing



St Joseph School and Staff traveled to Sodore Spa Resort, a popular weekend getaway located 120 Kms east of Addis for a day trip on May 2, 2014. The annual outing was organized by the school in collaboration with the schools Social Committee. Different entertaining games were organized by the Social Committee and enjoyed by all. All expenses for the trip were covered by the school. An annual teachers and staff outing is organized with the aim of creating a bond among teachers and staff. It also helps new teachers to integrate within the school community.

Student Council

Election of Student's Council

St Joseph School students have elected their representatives to the Student Council which will work as student government body representing the students and their interests. The 26 member council will work with the school administration as a link between the students and the school's administration.

Election for Students President was conducted late November 2013. Electoral committee consisting of students organized and executed the election in a transparent way with the close supervision and help of the social Science Department. In the election Robson Ahmed become President by gaining the majority vote and Bemlak Shimelis was elected Vice President after gaining the second highest vote from students.

On June 10, 2014 St Joseph School Students Council made a presentation to High School students and teachers on what it had done in its first term. On this occasion a report was read by the Council's Secretary and President. On this occasion the Council held its last activity for students which was an essay competition with the theme of "Your Vision of St Joseph in 2025" which Emanuel Teferi from grade 11 won.





SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY



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