



LWANGA LA SALLE

SHARING

IN GOD'S LOVE



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.

Many thanks to the Brother Visitor, the Auxilliary Visitor, the contributing educators and learners, all the members of the Lasallian Family in the District, and the entire staff of the Provinciate, for the support they give to this important project.

Editorial Board: Brother Ghebreyesus Habte FSC

Brother Gabriel Griffi n

Mr . Isaiah O. Otieno

The Editorial Board welcoms feedback from you, Dear Readers

Brothers of the Christian Schools

P.O BOX 29318, Kangemi

00625 Nairobi, KENYA.

TEL:+254 20 444 193 2/444 602 1

FAX: 444 945 1

Email: fsclwanganews@gmailcom

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 May 2015.

table of content

Message from the Brother Visitor's Desk	4
Message from the Brother Auxilliary Visitor's Desk.....	6
Mwangaza College, Nakuru.....	8
St. Joseph School,Ethiopia.....	10
Victory Park.....	20
De La Salle Holly Cross.....	21



Message from the Brother Visitors Desk



Dear Brothers and Lasallian Partners, I send you my best wishes and greetings from the Provincialate Office Nairobi, I wish you all Merry Christmas and a peaceful, prosperous New Year 2015. This time of Advent, is the time for all of us to be ready and open to receive Christ in our hearts, in our Communities, in our schools and our families.

To accept Jesus in our hearts we have to repeat what St. Paul said to the Philippians (3:8-9, “ I reckon everything as complete loss for the sake of what is so much more valuable, the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have thrown everything away. I consider it all as mere garbage, so that I might gain Christ and be completely united with him.”

Yes, we have to rejoice and be happy to receive Jesus the child in our hearts, if we really consider those things which give us frustrations, worries and unhappiness as mere garbage and be free. Then I am sure that Christmas has a meaning for our life, our Communities and our families.

Bro. Ghebreyesus Habte FSC

Visitor - Lwanga



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR
2015



Message from the Brother Auxilliary Visitors Desk



As I write we are entering the last few days of the Advent Season. Amid the clatter of TV adverts offering super savings at our local shopping malls, we remind ourselves that the season of Advent is a time of spiritual preparation for the Christmas event. However, the spiritual message of Advent has been submerged under the tide of a commercial Christmas.

From early October, you can't turn on the radio without being reminded of how many 'shopping' days are left before Christmas is upon us. One could be forgiven for thinking that the main purpose of Christmas is to buy things. If you haven't gone out and spent your money on gifts and gadgets then perhaps you haven't really celebrated Christmas. Many of us are aware of the hollowness of a materialistic

attitude during the season of Christmas, and of how it can smother the spiritual message of Christ's birth.

Since Christmas is the celebration of God's becoming a child in the person of Jesus and our prime aim is to recall that event so that it may have an effect on us here and now. Because Christmas has been hijacked as a season of commercial bonanza it can be hard for us to focus on its true meaning. It is essentially about simplicity rather than opulence. The second person of the Trinity humbled himself to share our human nature so that he could teach us how to live and love. The birth of Jesus took place so that we could find out what it means to be human.

Christmas is a wonderful time when we celebrate God taking human form and coming into our world as a baby. At Christmas time in schools and parishes all over the world children act out the story as part of a Nativity play and they enthusiastically welcome Jesus into the world again.

There is a beautiful story about a little girl who was given the part of the innkeeper's wife in the school's Nativity play. She had just one line to recite to the two children playing Mary and Joseph: 'There is no room at the inn.'

Finally, the big night arrived and all the proud parents and grandparents filed in to see the Christmas drama unfold. Up to the tavern door trudged Mary and Joseph. Out swept the little innkeeper's wife.

And then the Christmas spirit broke through. Instead of telling the couple that there was no room at the inn, the little girl stepped to one side and waved them in with the lines: 'Come on in. There's plenty of room for you!'

Today, let us ask ourselves how do I welcome Jesus into the world this Christmas? Do I have room for him in my heart?

There are still some 'stopping' days left before Christmas!



christmas story

One night I had a strange visitor. This is how it happened. I just finished the household chores for the night and was preparing to go to bed when I heard a noise from the front of the house. I opened the door of the front room, and to my surprise, Santa Claus himself stepped out from behind the Christmas tree. He placed his fingers over his lips so I would not cry out.

“What are you doing”? I started to ask, but the words choked up in my throat as I saw that he had tears in his eyes. His usual jolly manner was gone – gone was the eager, boisterous soul we all know.

As I stood there Santa said again, “Teach the children.” My perplexed expression still showed in the near darkness. “Teach them the old meaning of Christmas – the true meaning of Christmas – the meaning that Christmas nowadays has forgotten.”

I started to say, “How can I”? when Santa reached into the bag and pulled out a brilliant shining star.

“Teach the children, the star was the heavenly sign of promise long ago. God promised a Saviour for the world and a sign for fulfillment of that promise was the great star of the East. Teach the children Christmas is the birthday of Jesus – read from the Bible about the first Christmas. Tell the children how the wise men followed the star to find the Christ child. The star now reminds us of God’s love for all people and of God fulfilling His promise. The countless shining stars at night – open for each person – show the burning hope of all.”

Santa gently laid the star upon the fireplace mantle and drew forth from a bag a glittering red Christmas ornament.

“Teach the children, red is the first colour of Christmas. It was first used by the faithful people to remind them of the blood which was shed for all people by the Saviour. Christ gave his life, shed his blood and arose from the dead so that all people might have God’s gift, eternal life. Red is deep, intense, vivid - it is the greatest colour of all. It is the symbol of the gift of God.”

Santa was twisting and pulling another object out of his bag. I wanted to help him but before I could reach him he went right on . . . “Teach the children,” he said as the twisting and pulling suddenly dislodged a small Christmas tree from the depths of the bag. He placed it before the mantle and gently hung a red ornament on it. The deep green of the fir tree was a perfect background for the ornament. Here was the second colour of Christmas.

“The pure colour of the stately fir tree remains green all year round,” he said. “This depicts the everlasting hope of all people. Green is the youthful, hopeful, abundant colour of nature. All the needles point heavenward – symbolic of our returning thoughts toward heaven. It has sheltered us, warmed us, made beauty for us and

formed furniture.”

Santa’s eyes were beginning to twinkle now. Suddenly, I heard a soft tinkling sound. As it grew louder, it seemed like the sound of long ago.

“Teach the children, that as the lost sheep are found by sounds of the bell, so should it ring for all to return to the fold – it means guidance and return, and it further signifies that all are precious in the eyes of the Lord.” As the soft sharp sound of the bell faded into the night, Santa drew forth a candle. He placed it on the mantle and the soft glow from its tiny flame cast an eerie glow about the darkened room. Odd shapes in the shadow slowly danced and weaved upon the walls.

“Teach the children,” whispered Santa, “that the candle shows our thanks for the star of long ago. Its small light is the mirror of starlight. At first candles were placed on the Christmas tree. They were like many glowing stars shining against the dark green. Safety has removed candles from the tree and coloured lights have taken over in the remembrance.”

Santa turned the small Christmas tree lights on and picked up the gift from under the tree. He pointed to the large bow ribbon and said, “A bow is placed on a present to remind us of the spirit of the connectedness of us all. We should remember that the bow is tied as we should be tied - all of us together, with the bonds of good will toward each other. Goodwill forever is the message of the bow.”

Now I wondered what else Santa had in his bag. Instead of reaching in his bag, he slung it over his shoulder and began to reach upon the Christmas tree. I thought he was hungry as he reached for a candy cane purposely placed high on the tree. He unfastened it and reached out toward me with it.

“Please teach the children that the candy cane represents the shepherd’s crook. The crook on the staff helps bring back the strayed sheep of the fold. The candy cane is the symbol that we are indeed our neighbour’s keeper.”

Santa then paused. He seemed to realize he should be on his way. As he looked about the room a feeling of satisfaction shone on his face. He read wonderment in my eyes and I am sure he sensed my admiration of this night. He was his old self as he approached the front door. The twinkle in his eye gave Santa away, and I knew he wasn’t through - not yet. He reached into his



christmas story

bag and brought forth a large holly wreath. He placed it on the fireplace and said,

“Please teach the children, the wreath symbolizes the eternal nature of love; it never ceases, stops nor ends.

It is one continuous round of affection. The wreath does double duty. It is made of many things and in many colours. It should remind us of the things of Christmas. Please teach the children.”

As we reach the end of the 2014 calendar year and for some the academic year - it is appropriate for us as Lasalian educators to pause, look back and reflect on the year just ending and ask ourselves some questions:

What have I taught my students?

How did I teach them?

What did they teach me?

‘Education is assimilated more easily and makes a deeper impression by way of the eyes than by way of the ears.’

St John Baptist De la Salle reminds us that there is more to teaching than passing on information and facts:

“Preach by example, practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept.”

Med. 99



Itake this opportunity to thank all our Lasallian educators for their dedication and commitment and for all they do for the students in our Lasallian schools and I wish them and all the members of the school community and their families a peaceful and blessed Christmas season.

Brother Gabriel Griffin



MWANGAZA college:

Nakuru Kenya

LASALLIAN CAMPING WEEKEND AT LAKE ELEMENTAITA

Mwangaza lasallian youth went out for a camping weekend after finishing exams on 5th December 2014. The organization was well done and a goat was purchased to crown the occasion. On day one of the camp, they had different ball games activities like volleyball and in the evening they organized themselves to cook and roast the goat. They had big dinner afterwards followed by dancing and merry making (Christmas came early until late in the night before they retire to bed in the cold tents. The following morning we had a 10km hike around Lake Elementaita to visit the hot springs. The hike was very good exercise after consuming the goat the previous night. After the hike we made lunch together and went back to the College. It was a memorable camping experience and we are looking forward for next year's camping at Cray Fish Camp at Lake Naivasha in May.



SECTOR ASSEMBLY

East African Sector Brothers had a wonderful assembly from Dec 8th to 11th at Rongai Community. The Brothers reviewed different issues affecting the Sector as well as planning activities for the coming year of 2015. The assembly was well attended and Brothers were in good spirit during the assembly. They also came up with good investment plans for future projects for self sufficiency for the Sector in the coming year. After the assembly Brothers returned in their various communities to celebrate the Christmas season.



st. joseph school:

Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Recognition

St Joseph School gave recognition to the three best teachers and five teachers who contributed beyond their specific duties to the school and its students. Brother Belayneh awarded the top teachers each chosen from their respective sections at the end of the academic year on a banquet organized by the school marking an end of a successful academic year of 2013-14. Teachers Nigisti, Asrat and Kinfegebrel from Elementary, Junior High and High School respectively were awarded prizes from the school. On this occasion staff members who are retiring from the school after serving more than 25 years were given a farewell present from the school administration and social committee of the school.



New Academic Year

St Joseph school has started its new academic year on September 15th 2014 as most schools in Ethiopia. Marking the beginning of the academic year staff of the school took part in a two day Workshop and meeting which will enable them to help the school achieve goals set for the academic year which are

1. **I**mprove our relation with students

2. **M**ake use of cooperative learning strategies in groups created
3. **I**mprove the academic achievements of our students as the school's benchmark



Lasallian News

Prayer Service

Students were also informed about the school's focus points for the academic year when the school's Principal met with different classes from September 21-25.

A prayer service to welcome new students to St Joseph School was conducted on September 19, 2014. The service was organized by the Lasalian Animator and the school's campus ministry. New students were briefly introduced to the term Lasallian and were given blessing by Brother Belayneh and members of the campus ministry.

Lasallian Peace Month

Lasallian Peace Month and Lasallian Peace Day was celebrated by students of St Joseph in the month of October. Throughout the month different messages of peace were posted to students and teachers to read. On October 21 the campus ministry organized a brief prayer season in the morning assembly,

st. joseph school:

Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Parents Meeting with School Administration

Lasaalian Peace and Justice Club made the non violence pelage with the entire school comunity and later in the day the School's Student Sport Council organized a sport tournament enjoyed by most of the middle school and High School students.

Administration of St Joseph had a meeting with parents in October to present its action plan and goals for the Academic year of 2014-15 and to discuss points raised by parents on the suggestion forms sent by the school.

Parents were happy with their children's progress and the work the school is doing to improve quality and method of education and improvement in the schools physical environment. On this occasion representatives from the committee organizing the schools 55th Anniversary and briefed parents about the event and urged their participation in celebrating the school anniversary with its alumni on December 28, 2014.

Research on Students and Teachers Relationship

Ato Tadesse a civics teacher for grade 11&12 made a presentation to teachers of the school at the end of the Academic year of 2013-14 based on the research on Students and teachers relationship at St Joseph. Ato Tadesse's research titled "An Assessment of Student-Teacher Relationship in Saint Joseph School (Grade7-12)" gave a good indication that the schools need to improve teacher student relationship in order to improve the quality of education and alleviate some disciplinary issues which occur occasionally. The school administration have seen



the importance of the finding of the research and improving students teacher relationship is made one of the three focus points in the new academic year.

School Development Summer 2014

While students and teachers were enjoying their summer vacation St Joseph administration was working hard to improve facilities of the schools for the new academic year which started on September 15, 2014.

- ♦ Major renovation was done to two student's toilet facility which includes new sanitation system and toilet seats. The work done improved the quality of toilet facilities in the school significantly.
- ♦ Four class rooms were renovated
- ♦ Desks for two class rooms have been changed.
- ♦ Student's e-learning center which will be used also as an additional computer lab and when the e-library is open. The center is equipped with 40 computers which will be connected to



the school's network and will have high speed internet access.

- ♦ The schools computer network access has been further expanded with the help of an alumnus Michael Sheble. Now each class room in the school is part of the network which will enable teachers to use IT technology in each classroom.

st. joseph school:

Addis Ababa Ethiopia

Football Fields Renovation Completed

Renovation work for St Joseph's football fields which began in May 2014 with the help of former students Rato Solomon Sebhata and his son Neguse Solomon, who have three generation of experience behind them is now complete. Fields became available for students sport activities in November 2014 as planned. In addition



to working on the football fields Tropical Gardens has planted grass adjacent to the newly finalized fence of the school. It has also worked to improve the gardens within the school and adjacent to the school. Members of the school community planted indigenous trees as part of improving the flora of the school compound and the green area entrusted to the school during the summer.

St Joseph's Sport Activity

Season one ISSAAA sports

Students athletes participated in the International Schools Sport Association of Addis Ababa's (ISSAAA) St Joseph's teams took part in the U12 Soccer, U14 Basketball, U19 Volleyball in Division One and Two and in the annual ISSAAA Cross Country meet held at Bingham Academy on November 14, 2014 in all categories. Students had been training and taking part in games from September to November 2014.

SJS to celebrate its 55 years of quality education

The 55th year of the founding of Saint Joseph School (SJS), Addis Ababa will be celebrated on December 27, 2014 at THE AFRICAN UNION and on December 28 at Saint Joseph School. The event will be highlighted by the unveiling of the grand VISION "DIAMOND JUBILEE"- 2020.

Presentations will be made celebrating the glorious historical beginnings of our school, its trials and tribulations as well as its monumental contribution in the persons of its distinguished alumni here in Ethiopia and worldwide. A way forward will be discussed culminating with a shared vision to move SJS forward in the next decade, 2020. The event will primarily celebrate the SJS family, parents, teachers, staff and alumni who are all stakeholders in the way forward.

The Alumni Organizing Committee will honor members of the distinguished alumni who have achieved professional successes and made major contributions to their community and country. The event is also expected to renew the pact the alumni made during their old days at school and will enhance the cooperation between the students and friends of SJS.

The school is blessed with extremely loyal alumni. An example of that loyalty is the funding of numerous scholarships that enable needy and deserving students to attend the school. The gathering will also help to increase this funding for the needy to pursue their studies at one of the best schools in Ethiopia.

Established in 1959, St. Joseph School of A.A comprises a Primary and Secondary levels with almost 1600 students - all boys - at any given time. It's one of the few schools that has managed to maintain academic prestige for the past half century in spite of the socio-political upheavals. Throughout this period, it has provided top notch education based on the national curriculum that has enabled its graduates to adapt to both local and



st. joseph school:

Addis Ababa Ethiopia

international challenges and excel.

St Joseph Inaugurated E-Learning Center

On November 10, 2014 St Joseph School inaugurated its e-learning center/ e-library which will be used by students and teachers as a learning hub using computers. The new center has 40 computers and two servers which were bought with the help of the German Catholic Church Diocese of Rottenburg-Stuttgart. This gives the IT department an opportunity to provide more service to students and teachers.

Saint Joseph School had never been new to technology and using it to enhance the vast potential of its students. In the 60s and 70s the Brothers used the latest technology at the time as teaching aids. Students then were taught by their teachers who were using slide shows which also had taped lectures going with them, overhead projectors and 18mm film reels with a great collection of documentaries on every subject. St Joseph used to have a language lab and a cinema projection room, vast slide show archives with the appropriate sound bite on reels or cassettes. Languages were taught with a help of colour coded reading cards bridged in different levels. Each



class room in the high school level used to have a screen mounted on its walls up to the beginning of the 90s. The library was equipped with micro film readers and advanced technology found in only very few libraries in the country at the time. This resource managed even to survive up to the late 80 to teach more students though

they were not used extensively as they use to be. In the late 80s and through the 90s VHS were used in limited scale which later was replaced by VCD and DVD in 00s.

In 1996 the first computers came to St Joseph and at the time there were even nowhere to put them so Brother Paulos Headmaster of St Joseph then had to use the chapel as computer room to train the graduating class and teachers to the new digital devices. This problem was alleviated when the computer lab was built in 1998 to house the new computers and give an organized lesson in ITC. Now students are taking lessons in computers starting from grade 7. Though computers have been at St Joseph for more than two decades they were not used as teaching aids for other subjects. Unfortunately for the past 20 years the schools teaching system went back to the basic chalkboard and textbook.

But it looks like things are changing for the better starting last year. A fiber optic computer network is being laid out by an alumnus owned company USi networking every part of the school. Ato Michael Sheble owner of USi a leading computer specialist in the country has a very pragmatic vision for the school in embracing technology in its day to day teaching. His vision is



st. joseph school:

Addis Ababa Ethiopia

also shared by the duo computer instructors of the school Ato Gezogene and Ato Yoseph who had been pushing hard the school administration to adopt ICT as one of its core methods in teaching young students. The school administration has also now embraced the idea that the need to use ICT in its classrooms at every level. The new e-library is just the beginning, and in the near future students will be using tablet computers to access lessons in their classrooms instead of copying from the chalkboard. Teachers and students will have vast archive of information and lessons on any given topic on the schools servers or the World Wide Web accessible by broadband internet connection.



Annual Teachers Outing

Faculty and Staff of St Joseph School traveled to Sodere a popular weekend getaway 125kms from Addis for their annual outing. This year's travel was more comfortable since the route taken was on the new Adama Addis express way which has been just inaugurated in September 2014. This cut the traveling time and the dreaded traffic congestion on the regular route. The outing is used to appreciate teachers and staff for their hard work and to integrate new members into the community through many fun games. The social committee helped to organize

the event and the school covered all expenses.

Visitors from Sweden

St Joseph school's social science students had an opportunity to discuss and share ideas with High School students who came from Sweden's Rudbeckianska School. The visitors presented a presentation about Sweden, the Swedish economy, culture, politics and about their school. St Joseph School students also made a presentation on the topic of water preservation. After the presentation group discussion were held between St Joseph's students and the visitors. This gave a broader outlook in international relations to the students' of both schools. Ato Bruck Biology teacher for Grade 10 and 12 facilitated the sharing experience opportunity for both parties which was very much enjoyed by the visitors and the hosts.



Junior School

It's holiday time and the school is reverberating with the sounds of sanding machines, the sloshing of concrete and the banging of hammers as the maintenance team gets to work to make the school ship shape for the beginning of 2015.

This has been a year of change! Debbie Harris, Principal, was transferred to the High School in June and will assume the position of Principal of the School in 2015. Mary Hyam has been appointed Headmistress of the Junior School. We bid farewell to a few members of staff at the end of the year so look forward to sharing the Lasallian journey with the new staff who will start in January. We eagerly anticipate the changes and new energy that they will bring as they breathe new life into the school.

This news clip is more about the staff than the children! The staff began the third term by going on a tour of Soweto. This piqued their interest to such an extent that the history lessons continued when they went on the sightseeing trip around Johannesburg in an open topped bus at the end of the school year. Both tours were excellent opportunities for the staff to interact with each other at a different level as they learned about the history of Johannesburg and Soweto. Those who grew up in Johannesburg relived many happy memories as we travelled the streets and suburbs of the vibrant Jozi!

The Christmas season was heralded in with a beautiful Carol Service in the St Charles Church and a nativity play which was performed at the Junior Prizegiving. The generosity of our families was evident when we packed 600 Christmas gift boxes which were distributed to local charities.

We wish all our Lasallian Associates a blessed Christmas. May the love of the Christ Child bring peace into our hearts.

de la salle holy cross

South Africa

Outreach

♦ Outreach this year has regularly visited the Mother Teresa Home to help feed the babies and interact with the toddlers who are all Aids orphans. We also visited the Sparrow Village to help Aids orphans with homework in the first term. In the second term we made contact with another Aids orphanage Hotel Hope and began visiting there.

♦ For Valentines Day together with the Lasallian Youth group we iced cupcakes and delivered them to retirement homes, concentrating in the poorest ones. The choir accompanied us to sing to the residents of the Millennium Home for the Aged.

♦ Easter eggs were collected and delivered to the Sunshine Homes for abused Children, Woodside Sanctuary for Physically and Mentally disabled, Nazareth House, Mother Teresa Home and the Immaculata Shelter for the Homeless as well as Little Eden (for the cerebral palsy children) and St Vincent de Paul.



de la salle holy cross

South Africa

- ♦ **A**n Easter party was held for children of Nazareth House with fun games and activities organised by our pupils.
- ♦ **S**oup, mielie meal and blankets were collected in the 2nd term and delivered to 3 Soup Kitchens and shelters for the homeless. The staff and some parents knitted and made scarves and mittens which were supplied to the shelters as well for the homeless. Hand knitted jerseys were supplied to the Sunshine Homes for Abused Children.
- ♦ **M**oney was collected from staff and pupils for the Ethiopian Girl Child Bursary Fund, to educate another girl.
- ♦ **A** collection of handbags with basic female necessities was taken in and given to a group who supply them to abused women who have had to leave their homes and apply to the courts for protection. A collection of female necessities was also taken up by Mrs Towns for girls who miss school because they don't have them.
- ♦ **T**he whole school took part in a sandwich making marathon for World Hunger Day and the Lasallian Days of Peace. The sandwiches were supplied to St. Vincent De Paul to be distributed to the homeless.
- ♦ **A** Christmas food collection has been taken up for Sr Kieran's two Homeless Shelters in Johannesburg for December.



- ♦ **T**he Staff are donating Christmas presents for the abandoned aged at the Millennium Home and children at the Woodside Sanctuary.
- ♦ **T**he Thusanani project initiated by our Head Girl 3 years ago carried on with a group of pupils spending time in their August holidays helping out at a rural school in Limpopo.
- ♦ **T**he Lasallian Youth group will be hosting a Christmas party on 28th November for the (physically and mentally challenged) residents of Woodside Sanctuary.
- ♦ **T**he Lasallian Youth pupils held a mission camp in May, where 5 different groups helped 5 charities. Including painting a container for victims of abuse at the local police station; knitting blanket squares for the poor; making soup and sandwiches at two soup kitchens; planting vegetables at the Culture of Life Apostolate home for pregnant ladies; and helping out at a function at a shelter for children.
- ♦ **W**e are selling gift bags in aid of the Reach for a Dream foundation. We are aiming to raise R7000 to be able to sponsor one of the “bigger dreams”.



International Lasallian Days of Peace

- **T**he Tennis Girls raised R680 for ILDP – three inoculations and one nursing student tuition fees.
- **D**uring the Lasallian month of Peace the u/14 netball team donated R650 to send a nursing student to college.