

LWANGA LA SALLE GAZETTE

Issue 4 :: August 2015



THE ART OF GIVING





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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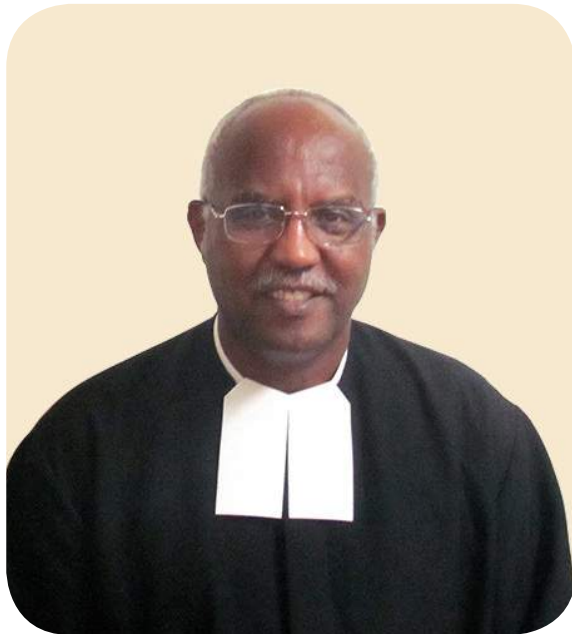
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PROVINCIALATE

Message from the Brother Visitor's Desk



Serving Happily

Bro. Ghebreyesus Habte FSC

Dear Brothers and Lay Partners,

Sending my gratitude and best wishes from the Provincialate Office, I would like to thank you for the Selfless, and generous commitment you are performing in your daily service for the successful achievements of the Lasallian Mission in the Lwanga District of English Speaking Africa (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa).

After my greetings and thanks, I would like to share with all of you a Reflection on our Serving Happily, to give more time for our commitment in our different apostolates. Sometimes it can be a routine service with no **Compassion, Happiness, Dynamism and Enthusiasm**. So, I think and I believe we need some reflections that can awaken us and raises our Self – esteem in order to serve Jesus in a joyful way.

As Lasallians, our life finds its fulfilment in the act of self – giving, in our selfless commitment and compassion. Compassion is inserted in the dynamism that characterizes every relationship involving the entire human person. To have compassion is to take to heart the joys and sufferings of our students and the society we serve, making them our own, to make ourselves the bearers of one's neighbour's burden, to feel ourselves responsible for other's needs. This means to be afflicted with them who are in affliction, to be one with them who are suffering. To love for those who are entrusted to us means to put ourselves in their shoes, for only then will their burden of sorrow either fall off

their shoulders or at least weigh lightly on them. For us who believes in the careful management of the cross, God shows something that counts for more than the sorrow itself: but, the love for others that stretches our heart and arms to the most needed ones.



Our consolation as Lasallians, will be, when we bring into the life of our students and the society, sunshine, hope, light and warmth, gifts that spring forth from authentic sharing of our knowledge. We thus walk along the road that leads to the humanization of relations making us capable of greatness and of participation in the growth, development and construction of a society through Education, that is solid and structured in brotherly and sisterly nature. Without compassion the heart becomes muddled, its capacity to relate lessens, and a corrosive mentality slips in attacking every relationship we have with those who are entrusted to us. Let us see the incident concerning Ruth, the young widow in the Old Testament, serves us as an example on sharing our life experience totally to the Lasallian Mission through Education. Let me narrate the story of Ruth:

During the famine Naomi was constrained to immigrate to the land that the Lord had given His people towards the land of Moab, Where her sons married Moabite women. But death reigned in her household. Naomi's husband died, and so her two sons.

The famine continued and the only possible future was in the land previously abandoned, many years before. Yet, for no reason did Ruth, the Moabite, intend to leave her mother-in-law: "Do not press me to leave you or to turn my back from following you! Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, there I will be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!" (Ruth 1:

16-17)

Ruth has true commitment and compassion, and she totally shares the experience of Naomi, her mother-in-law. Dear Brothers and Lasallian partners, as Ruth has the true compassion, sacrifices, even up to death, for sharing totally her life in what she believed, we have to be always awake and ready to share our life experience totally to the Lasallian Mission through education. That has to be our belief and conviction as followers of St. John Baptist De La Salle.

Dear Lasallians, happiness lies wholly in God and only from Him could it be attained. We are therefore, invited to go to Him, almost in light flight like the birds of the air. His invitation is like the life-giving lymph – it pervades our spirit, causing it to blossom. Lasallians, we would do well to be constantly active and thus ever faithful to the Lasallian mission God has entrusted to us, that is of being happy and making others happy. This will be realized if we are truly desirous of making things better by - Remaining open to every opportunity, - Interested in digging below the surface, - Concerned about achieving complete understanding, - Optimistic, enthusiastic and self – confident, - Ever aware of the meaningful service we are doing.

Let us see what an individual who is a happy and a joyous person does in his life:

- * Is he who knows how to open the depth of his heart.
- * Is he who makes space and time for the Lord: his strength is in self- abandonment.

- 
- * Is he who masters self, because life does not depend on his wealth.
 - * Is he who persistently avoid whatever tends to weaken his humanity: as a result, he will thus enjoy the fullness of life.
 - * Is he who accepts suffering: because it is the only way for survival.
 - * Is he who thinks of all that is beautiful in him and around him: that will help him not to get into trouble with others.
 - * Is he who serenely looks at things that are important: because he will avoid causing others to suffer on account of his fault and limitations.
 - * Is he who considers the suffering of the moment beyond compare to the glory that lies ahead. (Ideas taken from the book of J. Maurus Pages: 26, 27, 29, 38)

I think when we read the above mentioned ideas, we might question ourselves: What are the obstacles we encounter in our life not to commit and serve in an joyous way? There might be many factors that hinder us from being a happy person in our daily life: I believe and am convinced of that it all depends from how we see things in our mind, our perception and misperceptions of the realities, challenges we encounter in life.

Let me quote William James in (The Principles of Psychology)
 “ Man alone, of all the creatures of

the earth, can change his own pattern. Man alone is the architect of his destiny. The greatest discovery in our generation is that human beings, by changing the inner attitudes of their minds, can change the outer aspects of their lives.”

Having in mind the quotation above, let us now see very briefly the misperceptions we create ourselves in our minds. Misperceptions are also called “distortions” that are mistaken beliefs, faulty ideas, unrealistic and unhealthy attitudes. They usually come in bundles since one misconception frequently leads to other related misconceptions in the same area. Some misconceptions are relatively harmless, because they do not noticeably affect emotional or behavioral patterns. Other distortions are crippling, because they produce painful and negative emotional patterns which are disruptive of the whole personality and of social adjustment.

A person can find a happy and fully human life only to the extent that these crippling misconceptions are recognized and then modified or eliminated. After recognizing them the person should have the moment of insight. What actually happens in such insights is that the person see, sometimes very suddenly the distortions in the way he was interpreting the evidence of personal experience. He see that he was incorrectly putting together the pieces of the reality picture. The more flexible and open people are, the more insights they will acquire. Their emotional patterns and ability to participate in a fully human life will improve and grow with each new insight.

In conclusion, the success of our vision is measured by our satisfaction and by our growth into a fully human and joyful life. Such progress in turn can be more specifically measured by our growth in pos-

itive, life – giving attitudes toward self, others, life, the world, and God. The composite of all these attitudes is our vision, the way we see reality. It is this vision that determines the emotional patterns of our life. Only if this vision is sound and healthy can we enjoy a truly happy and fully human life.

(Ideas taken from John Powell's Book Fully Human Fully Alive)

LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS!! **FOR**
EVER!!



RONGAI AGRITECH

Kenya

RONGAI AGRITECH GOES GREEN FOR SELF SUFFICIENCY

Since the beginning of this year, Rongai Boys High School has made a calculated move to revamp the long time school Agricultural enterprise. The ploughing of the long fallowed Napier Plantation and the secondment of the school Agriculture teacher to manage the grand horticultural project proved this point beyond reasonable doubt. The purchase of the necessary Agricultural inputs including seeds and agrochemicals such as fertilizer and pesticides showed a great commitment for material and moral support to the mega project. The two acre ploughed land was first demarcated into 4 meters by 3 meters plots which were allocated to each of the 104 Form 2 students for their practical Agriculture project. The new examination policy has incorporated the Form 2 Agriculture project as part of the continuous assessment test. Among the agronomic practices assessed in the Agriculture project include:

Land Preparation

- Land clearing
- Primary tillage
- Secondary tillage
- Tertiary operations



Planting

- Ridging/furrowing
- Spacing
- Fertilizer application
- Placement of planting material
- Covering

La Salle Kwanga





- Mulching
- Field Management Practices
- Gapping
- Weeding
- Watering
- Top dressing
- Pest and disease control
- Thinning
- Earthing up
- Mulching
- Roeuging
- Soil and water conservation
- Staking

Harvesting

- Harvest handling
- Yield obtained

The hands-on practical Agriculture work in the field is meant to supplement the theory work done in class. With that effect, the Form 2 class time table has been revised to accommodate an Agriculture double lesson for this project work. More to that, the afternoon community service for the Form 2 class has been extended for one hour to create more time for the project.

The project work commenced with the students harrowing the ploughed land by pulverizing the soil clods into fine tilth. The application of the farm-yard manure followed shortly before the rains set in. The roaming poultry from the teachers' quarter which would be a great menace to the project were locked in before planting. Among the horticultural crops grown in the project are:

- Spring onions
- Carrots
- Courgette(zucchini)
- Pumpkins
- Coriander



- Capsicum
- Water melon
- Tomatoes
- Kales
- Spinach
- Potatoes
- Peas
- Beans
- Maize
- Bananas

The agriculture teacher opines that the horticultural produce is meant to supplement the student diet. She pinpoints the major challenges facing the horticultural project being lack of maximum corporation, despondency and negative attitude towards practical Agriculture by those students who will not take agriculture next year. Otherwise the project has picked up very well on the way to regaining the schools' agricultural past glory.



ST. JOSEPH ADDIS

Ethiopia

St. Joseph Addis celebrated its 55 years Anniversary and Its Alumni Homecoming

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



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

The Alumni Organizing Committee honored Brother Roger and Brother Vincent for their lifelong service to Ethiopia and members of the distinguished alumni who have achieved professional successes and made major contributions to their community and country. The event also renewed the pact the alumni made during their old days at school and will enhance the cooperation between the students and friends of SJS.



Renovation Work to Start

The first leg of implementing Vision 2020 will start in July 2015 by renovating two wings of class and administrative buildings built more than 50 years ago when the school was established in 1959.

A technical committee of professionals from parents and Alumni will supervise the renovation work which is expected to be finalized during the summer break. The renovation work will be handled by a former student construction firm which won a competitive bid among construction firms owned by former students.

Funds for the project are obtained from the proceeds of the 55th Anniversary Homecoming organized by the Alumni, from pledges made by parents and Alumni and the school's saving.

Saint Joseph School Addis Ababa Awarded as the best School in Addis

Saint Joseph School was recognized as the Addis Ababa Education Office as the best private school in Addis Ababa in the High school and Preparatory section. St Joseph school also received recognition as one of the best schools in the Elementary section receiving a second place award. The award was given after a three year long assessment by the education office. The school had previously received an award from the Kirkos Sub City for its outstanding standard prior to the City's



Student Award at District Level
recognition.

Students of St Joseph were recognized by the District Education for excelling in Students Quiz competition and for their innovative work in produc-

Environmental Award and Environment Day

ing teaching materials and software program.

St Joseph received an award from the Municipality of Addis Ababa for its environmental work. The school is the only school to receive this award which is given to institutions that helped in making Addis green and environmentally suitable for its inhabitants. Ato Alemu Asfaw Assistant Principal of St Joseph's received a trophy and a medal from the Mayor of Addis Ato Driba Kuma.

St Joseph has a very active environmental club which works on taking care of gardens in the compound and outside in which the school invest-



ed heavily. The club also organizes activities for the school community to heighten environmental awareness.

The club organized an environmental awareness day on May 2015 in collaborate with its sister club from the Nazareth School. On this day club members from both schools participated in attending lectures, presentations, debates and exhibition on the environment. To conclude the day participants played in a friendly sport tournament at the end of

which participated in Basketball, Cross country, U12 Track and Field and Soccer competitions.



In Basketball both U19 Teams competing in Divisions one and two finished as runner ups.



In U 14 soccer St Joseph finished third with very young talented players.



St Joe Sport

the day which was enjoyed by participants and spectators alike.

International Schools Sport Association's Season two was a successful for St Joseph's sport teams



In cross country and U12 Track and field though no substantial results were gained as a team, students who took part gained a valuable experience in competing in those events.

St Joseph's U 19 division One and Two teams finished fourth and third in the ISSAAA Soccer season which started in



Track and Field

March and ended in May 2015. Both teams improved a lot within the season.

In ISSAAA Season Three St Joseph participated in U12 Boys Basketball Tournament by fielding two teams.

St Joseph's track and Field team participated in the Annual ISSAAA Track and Field Meet in April 2015 held at the International Community School of Addis Ababa(ICS). In the meet St Joseph students performed their best in all events they competed.

The U19 team managed to finished third in the U19 Boys category and was awarded a banner from the Principal of ICS. In this category the contribution of Nathan Abeba was significant. Nathan won two gold medals in 100 and 200 meter and a bronze medal in the 4 by 100mts relay. Nathan shone during the meet by breaking the ISSAAA record in 200mts.

Participating in the meet gave a valuable experience to the schools track and field team and especially for the younger boys who were taking part for the first time in a big track meet.

De La Salle Day 2015

De La Salle Day was celebrated at St Joseph Ad-dis with prayer, music, art and sport with a lot fun on May 15, 2015.

De La Salle Day celebration started with a prayer service organized by the School's Campus ministry accompanied by St Joseph's music Club. At this session a brief history of De La Salle was presented to students and staff. Students competed in question and answer competition, poetry and art based on the founder's story.



Following the prayer session finals of the Annual Intramural Sport competition of St Joseph which

begun at the start of the second semester in three divisions took place in three sports. The competition named after the founder (De La Salle Cup) was one of the highlights of the day. Beside the sport and other activities the Lasallian Charity Club raised funds for it cause by providing games, food and drinks throughout the day.

The celebration ended with presentation of awards by Brother Belayneh, Principal of St Joseph for winners of different competitions organized by the Campus Ministry and Champions in the sports competition.



Parents Day and Meeting

Following the successful finish of the first semester the school held its Parents' Meeting on February 22, 2015. On this day students exhibited their work and the activities of the different clubs were presented to parents and the school community. Outstanding students and students who showed dramatic improvement received awards from the school during the occasion.

Following the Parents' Day the School's Administrative body held a meeting with parents on the following week end. At the meeting the school administration reported to parents regarding academic achievements of students compared with previous year and its plan to improve it in the coming semester. Also at this meeting the Principal Brother Belayneh presented to parents a report on St Joseph's 55th Anniversary and on the VISION 2020 of the school.

Parents gave valuable feedback to the school on all topics presented during the meeting. The Administration later shared this feedback with the teachers at a separate meeting held on February .



Zeal 2.0 Concert at St. Joseph

The Graduating class of St Joseph held a very successful concert (named Zeal 2.0) at St Joseph School to help them fundraise for their Graduation Ceremony in June 2015.

On the concert day more than 2000 students showed up despite an unanticipated shower ear-

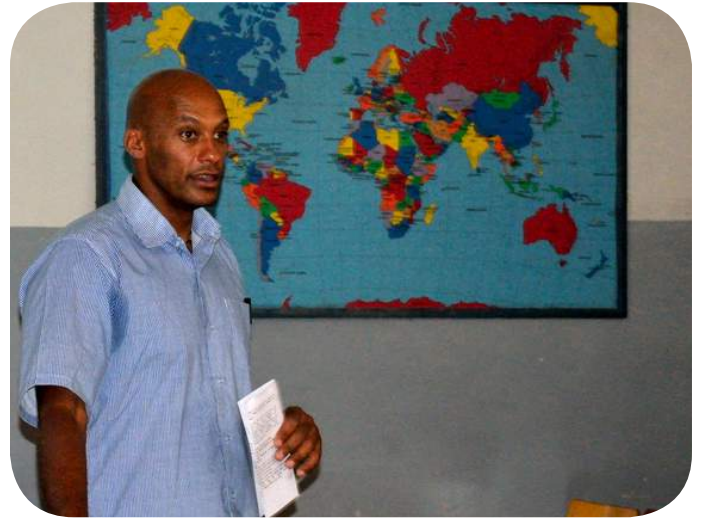
ly in the afternoon. Different popular bands performed live during the concert making it memorable for all who came.



Lasallian Animator's Visit

St Joseph's Lasallian Animator Deresse Almamaw and Student Dean Gezagne Worku visited two Lasallian School in March 2015 to strengthen ties and share experience within the Sector. The schools visited were St Joseph Adama and Bisrate Gebriel in Dire Dawa.

In Dire Dawa a presentation on a Lasallian topic was given by Deresse to staff members and in Adama a meeting was held between the visitors and teachers and staff who are working in the Lasallian Club. In both schools the team managed to share valuable experience and learned about Lasallian activities in each school.



Lasallian Charity Club and Campus Ministry Visited Maki

Members of St Joseph's Lasallian Charity and Campus Ministry traveled to meet poor students who get support from St Joseph's students to attend their studies at Maki Catholic School.

The Visitors raised money from their friends and parents to pay school fees and buy school supplies to students they help. The visit helped them to know the beneficiaries in person which motivated them to raise more funds during the celebration of De La Salle Day at St Joseph on May 15, 2015.

The students also visited the Brothers Retreat House at Bishoftu on the shore of Lake Babugaya on their way back to Addis.



Yazmi Satellite Education System Pilot Project at St Joseph

68 Grade eight Students and their teachers will take part in a pilot project to be conducted by Yazmi Education Solution with collaboration of St Joseph's IT department for 5 weeks during the summer break. Yazmi is giving educational solutions to developing countries which are in the margins of the digital gap by providing first class educational material through it innovative tablet computers which can download data direct from satellite.



On the pilot project half of the students will learn using the Yazmi tablets and the other half will be educated in the conventional education system that the school uses. Both groups will be following the same course outline and curriculum. The study will enable researchers to observe a child's learning process while using the Yazmi tablet and see if the tablets are beneficial to Ethiopian Students. This project is

the first in Ethiopia to be conducted by Yazmi which will do more studies in the country. St Joseph's IT Department will benefit much from this project since one of the Department's plans is to introduce tablets in the day to day education of students. Technology offered by Yazmi will enable St Joseph to use the conventional computer network of the school in addition to direct satellite link which makes educational material accessible to students and teachers all the time.

Yazmi is founded by St Joseph's Alumnus Noah Samara founder of Worldspace the first satellite Radio in 2009. Yazmi will be using two satellites formerly owned by Worldspace which are now assets of Yazmi, repurposed to provide unique educational solutions to developing countries. The aim of the company is to provide "end to end learning technology platform " to marginalized communities which don't have access to power and internet mostly located in developing countries of Africa and Asia. Yazmi Tablets, first satellite tablets in the world can download data from Satellite without a need to connect to the internet. The tablets can also be charged using a solar charger making them ideal for schools in remote parts of the globe where electric power from the main grid is not accessible.

DE LA SALLE HOLLY CROSS

South Africa

Blood Donors - Life Savers!

The gift of blood is the gift of life - every drop counts!

The South African National Blood Service visited De La Salle Holy Cross College on 7 May, for their termly 'Blood Drive' on 7 May.

A large number of the DLSHCC learners, teachers and principal - donated blood in response to the SANBS' urgent call, as part of the College's 'Be first, that you may be of Service' ethos.

“I am always so proud of our learners and teachers, who respond to the call of the SANBS with such enthusiasm and spirit of giving! Just one selfless act saves lives.” said Ms Debbie Harris, College Principal.



Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week commenced on Sunday 17 May.

In Johannesburg we have just celebrated Catholic Schools Week which has given us the opportunity to show case Catholic Education to the wider community.

The children attended Sunday Mass in their uniforms and performed many of the ministries at the different Masses.

The Grade 7 children helped with the sandwich making, which is a Saint Vincent de Paul initiative, and also helped at the toy sale which was a fundraiser for SVDP.

The Grade 3 children painted beautiful pictures of the Madonna and Child and these were displayed on the school notice boards.

Grade 4 made bead rosaries which were on show in the foyer.





Learners from the Junior School attending mass at St Charles Catholic Church in Victory Park during Catholic Schools week.

'Come Back, Give Back' - Charity Dance at De La Salle Holy Cross College

On Friday 8 May, De La Salle Holy Cross College held their Matric Dance. The Grade 11s spent weeks decorating the hall for their Matrics' special evening.

As is the tradition, the following evening the beautifully-decorated hall is used for the 'Come Back, Give Back' Dance in aid of charity. This year the following charities were chosen:

The annual contribution to the Lasallian Youth Mission Camp, an outreach initiative

The Plastic View community initiative, run by the Holy Cross Sisters

The Phokeng Mission, a De La Salle Brothers initiative

Parents and Past Pupils buy tickets and also bring along a blanket to donate to a worthy cause - and a great evening is had by everyone. "The dance was a great success, with dancing continuing into the early hours - and I was so proud of our hard-working Grade 11s who were waiters on both evenings. A very special evening on so many levels!", said Debbie Harris, College Principal.

Sister Kieran (pictured below) of the Mercy Sisters in Johannesburg, collected the blankets from De La Salle Holy Cross College - and was overjoyed with the amount of blankets donated.



Some thoughts from some of the Grade 7 children in response to the statement "What it means to be in a Catholic School?"

“I may not be a Catholic but this school has taught me how great and how big their hearts are. When I was in Grade R the teachers advised me to stay back and it was the best thing that has happened to me. I have a lovely grade and without this school I wouldn't have done so well. Thank you.”

“A Catholic school I think has more faith based learning. Everyone is friends and gets along well. We worship God and go to church. We do various events, mostly to do with something about faith. Being in a Catholic School is very nice, it feels like you are in one big family and everyone cares about you.”

“It means that we get to spend more time with God. We get to know why Jesus is so important and how he saved us. Whenever I'm sad or lonely I'm not scared to ask God to help me like I was before I came here.”

“In a Catholic School you are united as everyone knows each other and you are close. I have noticed that teaching the learners about God is very important, filling that gap in my life has been very important. De La Salle Holy Cross College is very involved in doing community service; I think this is very important because you get to know the people

around you. This school shows leadership and gives everyone a chance to lead. You also get individual help based on what you need help with. This makes you feel special.”

“You feel close to God because we learn a lot about what he did and who he created. You learn in detail about Jesus' life and how he healed people, how he suffered and died on the cross for us.”

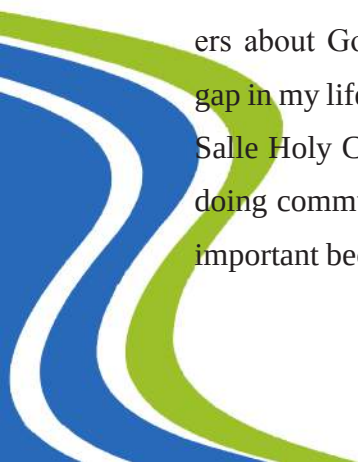
“We look after the poor, go to church and are kind to one another and respect one another.”

“Someone once asked me what it's like to go to a Catholic School. I answered by saying, "I don't go to school, I go to a big, big family." Even in our school uniform we all manage to be unique. Our school is beautiful and always has a caring spirit. We strive to be good, helpful children so come and join our happy family. When we compete in sport we encourage each other.”

“It is more of a family because of the way our classes and teachers bring us together. Our faith also brings us together. The school has a balance of sport and curriculum.”

“What I find meaningful about this school is that we get closer to God throughout our time here. I love that our teachers are kind and caring and always looking out for us. I find it meaningful that we all know each others' names. Our school goes out of its

De La Salle Lwanga



way to make sure we have fun activities to do and amazing things to learn about. I love that we take pride in all that we do. I like that we are taught not to be mean but to always understand one another.”

“I am not Catholic but I enjoy this school very much. I find it very interactive and social.”

“The teachers teach us in a friendly, kind way just like Jesus would teach us. There are manners in the school. We learn about Jesus and that we should be more like him. We are accepted as we are. We are in small classes so we get attention and the teachers help us. I like that we interact with other Catholic Schools.”

“The sports are played with manners and kindness.”

“It means that you are committing to God and doing lots of community things to help the poor. We are committed to our work.”

“I love my school because I get closer to God and learn about him. The school is a family and everyone knows everyone’s names. The teachers are kind and prepared to help. We have a beautiful church and go to Mass. We have wonderful guards who always have a smile on their face even though they leave home early in the morning.”

“It is very faith based. The school grounds are calmer and more well kept than they were in the last school I went to. It is not so competitive here.”

“I get to spend more time with God. I am very proud to be in this school and to wear this uniform.”

“To me the best thing about this school is when there is a small problem it is addressed immediately. Everyone knows everybody and there are not stereotypes.”

“People think that there isn’t much of a difference between a Catholic School and a non-Catholic one. Well they’re wrong!. It’s not just that we learn about religion, it’s more than that. We reach out the community and care for one another, it’s like being in one big family.”

“We are not competitive, we are not sore losers! When we need help the teachers help us instead of moving on.”

“You learn interesting things about God. The teachers know us as individuals, not just children. We reach out to the community.”

“We talk about God and our school is like a family. We reach out to the community.”

“Everyone in our school, no matter what religion, has faith. Faith that drives us forward when it comes to work. Faith that encourages us on the sports field, but most importantly, faith that bring us together as a family.”

“At our school over the years our faith is getting stronger and it is also good because we help the community. Putting others before ourselves. Jesus is in everyone’s heart and that is why everyone is so loving and kind.”

Holy Cross Provincial Education Conference

The Management of De La Salle Holy Cross College spent an inspirational weekend with the Holy Cross Sisters in Cape Town.

The theme of the Holy Cross provincial meeting was 'Inspired by the WORD, HOPE urges us forward'. This was our ninth annual education conference held this year at the Holy Cross Provincial House in Parow, Cape Town. Each school gave a presentation about their respective schools and Brother Michael Chalmers gave an excellent presentation on "Empowered by the Word".

“We are always humbled to see the wonderful work of the Sisters and the other

teachers in our schools, sometimes under difficult circumstances.” said Ms Harris, Principal, De La Salle Holy Cross College, Victory Park.

De La Salle Day

De La Salle Holy Cross College and La Salle College celebrate the Feast of Saint John Baptist de La Salle

Gr 8's from DLSHCC High School were invited to join the Gr 8's of La Salle College in Discovery as part of their celebration of the Feast of Saint John Baptist de la Salle, held on 13 May.

La Salle presented De La Salle Holy Cross College with the "Lasallian cloth" depicting the 4 'legs' of the Lasallian way of life.



La Sallian Youth camps

Ngome - January - La-sallian Youth Committee Camp:

On 22-25 January some of our LaSallian Youth group went to Ngome on a pilgrimage.

Our Head Girl, Candice Elliot, had this to report:

“The Lasallian Youth Committee went to Ngome near Vryheid. We stayed in Inkamana, a Benedictine Monastery and visited the sight where Mary appeared to Sister Reinolda May 10 times from 22 August 1955 to 2 May 1971.

We attended Mass with the monks and visited the grotto at the meeting point of 7 streams, specified by Mary as a holy place in Sister Reinolda's vision. It was a healing and peaceful experience, and the new Lasallian Youth leaders grew closer to each other and to God throughout this special pilgrimage.

Thank you to the teachers and the driver for making this wonderful experience possible!”

March - High School Lasallian Youth Camp

Caitlyn Mahony, Grade 12:

“The High School Lasallian Youth camp this weekend was themed around Jesus as our Superhero, and living to be His superheroes as well. More than anything else, the camp changed three aspects of my perception of what a Christian superhero actually is.

Firstly, I was able to see not only that a defining characteristic of God is His infinite, incredible power, but that His unique superpower lies in the fact that he CAN do amazing things, with ... average, fallible people. I felt such freedom in seeing that God doesn't need some perfect being to be a vessel for His love – because His power can never be diminished by my own weakness. I also realised that it IS our human weakness that leads us to rely on God, and God is where our greatest superpower comes from. And so we never have to try to depend on our questionable “human strength”, because our greatest power as Christians is our ‘superweakness’ as humans.

Lastly, I realised that one superpower we use every day in interacting with other people is that, as Christians, we know that we are able to “see Christ in the least of our brothers and sisters”. I think that we can see other people as the people who God meant them to be. Through recognizing our own weakness, we can forgive others' faults, recognize the best part in them, and build that little part up. Ultimately, this camp showed me that bringing God to the world may not be about heroically bearing some news from “out there somewhere” but simply about recognizing Christ in every single person we meet.



May Procession

During Catholic Schools Week we also had our May Procession.

The Junior School children and staff, and some parents, gathered in the quad to sing hymns to Our Lady and to pray a decade of the rosary.

Our Lady was crowned with a crown of flowers and the Grade R children brought flowers to honour her.

The rest of the school brought foodstuffs which were donated to the SVDP.



No Business Like Show Business!

De La Salle Holy Cross College High School recently put on a fantastic theatre production of Michael Frayn's 'Noises Off'.

The performance of Michael Frayn's 'Noises Off' was an outstanding production and provided entertainment of the highest calibre. The cast and crew used their talents to enhance the performance. Thanks and appreciation go to each and every one of them as well as to the teachers who guided the young people to produce such a high standard of theatrical work.



The cast and crew of 'Noises Off'

OUTREACH

HIGH SCHOOL OUT-REACH:

We follow a policy in which we reach out to the needy whether they be children, elderly or destitute adults or animals. We believe in giving of our time as well as in kind where needed.

On a weekly basis pupils have visited either the children's section of Mother Teresa Home or Hotel Hope. (Hotel Hope is once a month on Thursdays, Mother Teresa Home is on Tuesdays whenever we are not going to Hotel Hope). On these visits the pupils help feed the babies at Mother Teresa or play with the toddlers, giving them the much needed individual attention. At Hotel Hope, the pupils play with the older children or help with the babies.

At Valentines, the pupils brought cupcakes which they iced at school. These were then delivered to the retired residents at a number of Homes for the aged including Friedrichs Place, Nazareth House and Millennium Home. In the case of the Millennium Home the choir sang to the residents as the cupcakes were distributed. One resident told our pupils we were the only outside visitors they get. Cupcakes were also donated to the Immaculata Haven for the Homeless.

The food collected in a pet food drive we held to coincide with World Wildlife day was donated to a shelter for abused and abandoned animals.

Together with the Lasallian Youth we hosted a party for the children of Nazareth House for Easter in which the children had the novel experience of mak-

ing their own pizzas.

Recent service protests on the West Rand had resulted in a library being burnt down. Many youth in the area were very upset at the loss of this resource and started their own library – The Hidden Library. With donated books from staff and supporters we added 7 boxes of books to this worthwhile grass roots effort.



The Easter egg drive which brought in, so far, 3600 eggs has been dedicated to children's homes. Eggs have been donated to Woodside Sanctuary, Mother Teresa Home, Sparrow Village, Rosie's Nursery School and Avril Elizabeth Home.

Junior School OUT-REACH:

Saint Vincent de Paul Society: We undertake a sandwich-making project once a month, whereby children and families are asked to donate bread and spread and to spend time on a Sunday morning making sandwiches for the “Sole Provider” initiative.

Nazareth House: The Grade 7 learners visit the children’s home at Nazareth House once a week to help with homework and to play games. They also visit some of the elderly residents in the retirement section of the Home. The choir entertains the residents once a year.

Frederic Place: The Grade 7 learners visit Frederic Place Old Age Home once a week. They take biscuits for teatime and entertain the elderly residents. They also host a Christmas lunch. The choir entertains the residents once a year.

Sparrow School: The Grade 2 classes and the Matric class host the Grade 2 children from Sparrow School for the annual fun sports day.

Christmas Boxes: Throughout the year the school collects suitable items for Christmas gift boxes and these are donated to a variety of charities at Christmas.

Easter Eggs: Every year about 10,000 Easter eggs are donated to the Holy Cross project in Plastic View.

Lady Selborne Fete: Lady Selborne is a retirement home for Holy Cross sisters and a hospice. Every second year they have a fete and the school collects items for the tombola and white elephant stalls.

May Procession: In May we have a beautiful outdoor procession to honour Mary the Mother of God. During the procession the children donate gifts of fresh fruit, bread and tinned foods which are donated to Robin Hills Primary and the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Grade 7 Mass: In October the Catholic Schools Office organises a Mass at Regina Mundi in Soweto for all Grade 7s in Catholic Schools in Johannesburg. Donations of tinned food are presented during the Offertory Procession at the Mass. They are given to the Sisters of Charity for distribution.

Footloose: During the month of November we remember those who have gone before us. We walk in their footsteps. At our memorial service we collect shoes which are donated to the St Vincent de Paul Society.

Johannesburg Library book collection: Each year about 4000 second-hand books are collected for the Johannesburg Library.

ANGELS Programme: Through the Grade 7 ANGELS initiatives many other charities benefit from the generosity of our school community.

Class Masses: A different class attends Mass each week and the children are invited to present a loaf of bread at the Presentation of the Gifts. The bread is donated to the Mother Theresa Home.



Grade 11 Pilgrimage Crosses

The Grade 11 students gathered together with other Catholic Schools in the diocese of Johannesburg for Mass on Wednesday, 20 May, at the Cathedral of Christ the King.

The Pilgrimage Crosses, which get passed from one school to the other, are finally brought back by the last schools to the whole community at this Mass. Every school collected food for a children's home and our students' generosity provided 10 full boxes, which were brought up at the offertory procession. Our students were actively involved in readings and as leaders of the Praise and Worship after Mass.

The idea of Mass is to experience the unity of Catholic Education in Johannesburg. De la Salle Holy Cross College belongs to a bigger family and this realization is created through prayer together at the Grade 11 Mass once a year and through our inter sport gatherings throughout the year.

“As I looked over the great number of young people worshipping God in prayer I felt great hope for the future of South Africa because of the gospel values they will bring to their families and work place.” said Debbie Harris, College Principal.



Rosaries for Our Lady in the month of May

Each morning a different class at the De La Salle Holy Cross College, says the Rosary in front of Our Lady's Statue at the Grotto.



De La Salle Holy Cross College hosts a "Páirti Gaeilge mhaith"

On Friday, 13th March, De La Salle Holy Cross College hosted a St Patrick's Irish Evening with entertainment provided by the Driver-Charlton School of Dance, the De La Salle Pipe Band and special guests - Sister Bridget's Irish Dancers from Holy Cross Convent, Aliwal North. Katleho Ndlovu, our brand new piper, made his debut in the DLS pipe band!

The evening was a complete sell-out, a great time was had by all - and was a very successful fundraiser.



Sister Bridget's Irish dancers from Holy Cross Convent in Aliwal North.