



**JESUITS**  
EASTERN AFRICA

# Shukran

March 2023

Issue 1

Vol. 12

Shukran  
Swahili/Arabic  
for Gratitude



## THE NEW FRONTIERS

In the footsteps of our forefathers who have done it before as great educators.

**Pg. 6**

## Go Green

A new project to inspire Climate-positive action and advocacy.

**Pg. 8**

## The Harvest Remains Plenty

Updates from St. Charles Lwanga Church, Muyeye Parish (Malindi – Kenya)

**Pg. 12**





### JANUARY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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29	30	31				

### NOVEMBER

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24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Cover Painting: *Conversion of St. Ignatius* Courtesy of Maestro Natnael Samson, SJ

# 2023



# UNIVERSAL APOSTOLIC PREFERENCES



The Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) are the fruit of a discernment process that lasted almost two years, in which all Jesuits together with their partners fully participated. It concluded with a confirmation from Pope Francis in a special meeting with Father General Arturo Sosa. The Preferences give a horizon, a point of reference to the whole Society of Jesus. They capture our imaginations and awaken our desires. They unite us in our mission. The new Preferences are four areas vital for our world today.

The Society of Jesus will pay special attention to these four areas in the next ten years, 2019-2029. We invite you to learn more and take action with us! We want to make a Gospel difference.

Although the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs) may inspire us to confirm current ministries or lead to new ones, they are not primarily about things to do. They represent four ways in which we are searching to discover the signs of the Spirit at work. In a sense, we may see the UAPs as four roads on which we are invited to walk with others. As we do so, we will discover new apostolic companions, many of whom may often be ahead of us. It is also a source of consolation for us that the UAPs express some of the key directions the Church has also identified as part of her mission. At the deepest level, they speak of our desire to be drawn more closely to God and to discern the ways in which God is working in our world.

The UAPs are part of our own process of renewal. They will become important ways into our processes of discernment. If they are to touch us in these ways, it would be good if we could first let them become part of our prayer. The liturgical season of Advent gives us a natural opportunity for this. With Lent, it marks out a time when the Church desires to prepare herself to enter more deeply into the mystery of Christ's incarnation and his work of redemption. In Advent we can let our prayer illuminate the UAPs, asking that we may be open to whatever graces of renewal, insight and understanding God wishes to offer us.

## Dear Friends,

“Feeling gratitude and not expressing it, is like wrapping a present and not giving it”,

**William Arthur Ward**



In the words of William Arthur Ward, the AOR Jesuit Development Office and its respective apostolates cannot express gratification in a better way rather than saying a big Thank You to all our benefactors. The year 2022 was gradually recuperating from the confusing moments of the Covid-19 and thanks to the financial and material support that was granted, we were able to implement diverse interventions to help us cope up with the effects that came up with the pandemic. This particularly enabled the respective apostolates to return back into normalcy in one way or another. The only prayer we can say to you is Thank You.

In a very special way, the AOR Jesuit Development Office would like to thank all the donors who despite stiff competition for the resources from your corpus, you spared enough to share with our needy apostolates within the Province and this assisted in building their resilience in different perspectives. With all this in mind, we hope to keep a very strong collaboration and partnership with you, yet still hoping to trade further through a journey of changing a needful life even if it means just one ... and this would be enough!

In this issue we present to you some selected apostolates across the Province that have genuinely expressed their gratitude for your immense support towards enhancing their wellbeing in different interventions; Ocer Champion Jesuit School-Gulu, the new upcoming Jesuit High School in Jimma Bonga-Ethiopia, St Joseph Development Programmes-Kangemi, the new AOR Jesuit Development Office-Nairobi, Pedro Arrupe Jesuit Community-Mwangaza, Loyola Centre for Media and Communications-Nairobi, St Charles Lwanga Parish-Muyeye-Malindi, Abay Mado Catholic Academy-Ethiopia and the Majis School (St Peter Faber Pri Sch) Rumbek-South Sudan.

Your continued support to these and other works throughout the Eastern Africa Province is a clear indication of your understanding of the missionary approach of the Church. From our end, we can only say that “it is not happy people who are thankful, it is thankful people who are happy” Jairek Robbins (Nov;2014). Our most assured payback for this noble gesture is definitely the daily prayers we shall be offering for you and your loved ones. We shall remain grateful at all times.

### Damaris Josiah Kamanthe

Programmes Officer | Jesuit Development Office

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



06

**SCULLING DEEPER**  
INTO THE NEW  
FRONTIERS

08

**GO GREEN**  
**RUMBEEK PROJECT**  
AT ST PETER CLAVER  
ECOLOGICAL AND  
COMPUTER CENTER

11

OCER GETS STATE OF  
-ART SCIENCE  
BUILDING

12

**JOURNEYING WITH**  
THE CHILDREN AND  
YOUTH IN KANGEMI  
SLUM

14

CLICK TO EMPOWER  
PROJECT **(C2E)**

15

**TRANSFORMING LIVES**  
OF PEOPLE AT THE  
MARGINS

18

**A TALE OF GOD'S**  
**UNCONDITIONAL LOVE**  
AT PEDRO ARRUPE  
COMMUNITY

12

THE HARVEST  
REMAINS PLENTY

24

THE NEW  
**DEVELOPMENT**  
**OFFICE CENTER**

26

**LCMC SUPPORTING**  
CHILD IDENTITY  
FORMATION (CIF).

# SCULLING DEEPER INTO THE NEW FRONTIERS

**W**e have set off our feet in the southwestern part of Ethiopia, the dream mission land of St. Ignatius of Loyola. Stretching deeper into the horizons of Jimma-Bonga Vicariate where the fire was ignited about four years ago upon the invitation by the local ordinary. Perhaps we are making a comeback than venturing new in the Southern region. Speculatively, the Portuguese Jesuits pioneered evangelisation in Jimma Bonga more than 400 years ago having been expelled in Northern Ethiopia.

The primacy of our presence is geared towards Educational Apostolate. We believe that good Education is a channel of propagating faith that does justice and is therefore capable of liberating people. Surprisingly, it is not an invention in Ethiopia, we are simply treading in the footsteps of our forefathers who have done it before as great educators. In 1944, Emperor Haile Selassie invited back the Jesuits after their expulsion while restricting them to Education Ministry only. The outcome was a successful transformation of Tafari Makonnen School and the establishment of Addis Ababa University. Thus, our coming is igniting anxiety and people are anticipating a model high school and technical college.

The Vicariate has set the pace to use education as a means of evangelisation. So far, they have established



***this is the site of the proposed Jesuit highschool in Bonga which is 2 km away from the main road and the town center***

a strong foundation through kindergartens in almost every mission centre. Progressively, they are moving towards establishing two elementary schools to supplement the existing 15 elementary schools owned by the government. In terms of high schools, there are only 4, which are government-sponsored in Bonga Town. The average number of students in each high school is about 1300 students. With a growing population of above 100,000 people, the majority being young, we realise that there is a need to increase the number of schools not limiting to providing quality education. This necessitates a pedagogy which will enrich students with a holistic view of the world.

Bonga University is one of the latest developments in Bonga Town. It was established about 4 years ago and serves as a surety that our future alumni will have a smooth transition to the institution not limiting other Universities in the Country and across the globe. The



***A 3D view of the proposed school indicating the administration auditorium and classrooms***

niche of our school will be to educate students for the real world by integrating hands-on skills from the technical college.

Within the town is Bonga polytechnic college which serves about 3500 students from Bonga and other regions. Yet a majority of young people presumably didn't get an opportunity to access education or didn't advance their studies after high school and therefore are struggling to sustain their lives. We have embarked on a needs analysis for the technical college to help us focus on the practical skills that are viable to the people of Bonga. Our Technical College is to make a difference in equipping locals to be job creators. Perhaps some of the considerations can be sustainable farming that can help people boost their food security within their families. The daunting challenge to comprehend is the beautiful topography and green scenery of the town, with a struggle to make ends meet within families. Much as most people are peasant farmers, they can hardly sustain themselves with the product in a given season.

The onset of the project will be a Jesuit residence to house the Jesuits who will labour in the school and the technical college. It will also accommodate at least three retreatants at ago within Jimma Bonga. The high school will be built concurrently with the residence. It is aimed to have a capacity of 1500 students in the long run. The first phase will accommodate about 600 students. Thereafter, the second phase will be the technical college.

We are located about 2km from Bonga town. Our land is a forested region neighbouring the Manja community. They tend to be isolated and live within the forest region. A majority of them have no access to formal education, and their means of livelihood are limited to peasant farming and selling firewood and charcoal. We are indeed inserted within the margins of the frontiers.

Our presence offers us another chance to be evangelists. The catholic faith seems to be penetrating the region. The vicariate currently has 48 parishes and 84 outstations ministered by about 36 priests half of whom are diocesans. Moreover, It covers approximately 57,000 km<sup>2</sup>, stretching to the borders of Kenya and South Sudan. Thus, there is an opportune moment to journey together with Christians in deepening the faith.

Our response to this mission has been made possible courtesy of the generosity of Mr Stefan Sten Olsson's family together with the Jimma Bonga Vicariate for considering us worth for the invitation and facilitating the acquisition of the land. We further more remain grateful to the Bonga town Administration for allocating the valuable land for the project. We are indebted for making us respond to the call of living and walking in solidarity with the poor and outcast as we take up their cause under the standard of the cross.

Article by Bernard Adika S.J.

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Our Technical College is to make a difference in equipping locals to be job creators. Perhaps some of the considerations can be sustainable farming that can help people boost their food security within their families.

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# Go Green

Rumbek project  
at St Peter  
Claver Ecological  
and Computer  
Center





1. A child from the community viewing art drawn by the art group members from the go green project
2. Art club
3. One of the graduates of the Go Green program

“ ACCOUNTABLE  
TOWARDS TAKING  
ACTION FOR CLIMATE  
CHANGE



St. Peter Claver Ecological and Computer Center (SPCECC) in South Sudan launched a new project called Go Green – Rumbek which targets young people and inspires them towards climate-positive action and advocacy. Through this project SPCECC uses music, art, drama and poetry to inspire youth to develop messages around climate change. The project has so far trained 95 youth, in a series of workshops facilitated by Shete Josephat (Jesuit Hakimani Center) with support from Fr Lucas Ng’hwagi (Director – SPCECC). In the workshops youth learned about the Laudato Si movement, the impacts of climate change, climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience. Four groups were formed, specifically, music, art, drama and poetry groups. In the groups, youth are encouraged to be creative in developing messages about climate change. They are also encouraged to use their voices in holding community members and local government authorities accountable towards taking action for climate change. The groups are expected to deliver music, art, drama and poetry performances across multiple platforms in Rumbek, including churches, schools and public spaces. By targeting youth and facilitating collaboration among stakeholders, Go Green Rumbek ensures people across a diverse range of groups are involved. The project fosters an inclusive and innovative approach where youth take the center stage.

Article by Caroline Sanga.

Programme officer, South Sudan.

Photos by Ng’hwagi Lucas SJ, Jesuit communications south Sudan.

# OCER GETS STATE-OF-ART SCIENCE BUILDING

On 9th April 2022, Ocer unveiled the new Science building. The project that was built and equipped with funds from USAID/ASHA has three Science laboratories and five classrooms.



*Archbishop and Minister unveiling the plaque*

The Grand Opening of the Science building was graced by the Archbishop Of Gulu Diocese, His Grace John Baptist Odama, and the then State Minister of Education and Sports, Hon. Denis Hamison Obua who represented the Minister of Education and Sports. In attendance, also, were District Educational Officers, political leaders, students, faculty members, and local community members.

The Archbishop appreciated the quality of work done by the contractor, USAID/ASHA for funding the project, and the Jesuits for choosing Northern Uganda precisely Gulu to establish a Jesuit School. The Archbishop urged the students to concentrate on their studies and also encouraged them to go on to become Scientists.

"I will be happier to have you students enroll for Medicine at the University, Ocer should produce Scientists. This building has been sponsored by USAID/ASHA from a

country of Scientists," said the Archbishop.

The Hon. Minister, Denis Hamson Obua urged the students to work hard and be disciplined. "Success cannot come to you on a silver plate, success requires commitment," he said. He also called on students to embrace other co-curricular activities.

The Deputy Project Director, Fr. Paschal Mwijage, SJ called on the government to consider waiving taxes on funded educational projects. He cited the high expenditure on taxes that the school incurred on this project yet the taxes are not catered for by the donors.

The presence of this Science laboratory has increased A' level student enrollment. In 2021 alone, the school admitted 105 students in A' level compared to 30 students admitted in 2020. Of the 105 students, 63 were Science students.

# OCER ENHANCES COMPUTER TRAINING FOR **STUDENTS AND TEACHERS**

We are excited at the enhancement of computer learning and training for both our students and faculty. This initiative has been made possible with funds from Blessed Francis Seelos Foundation.

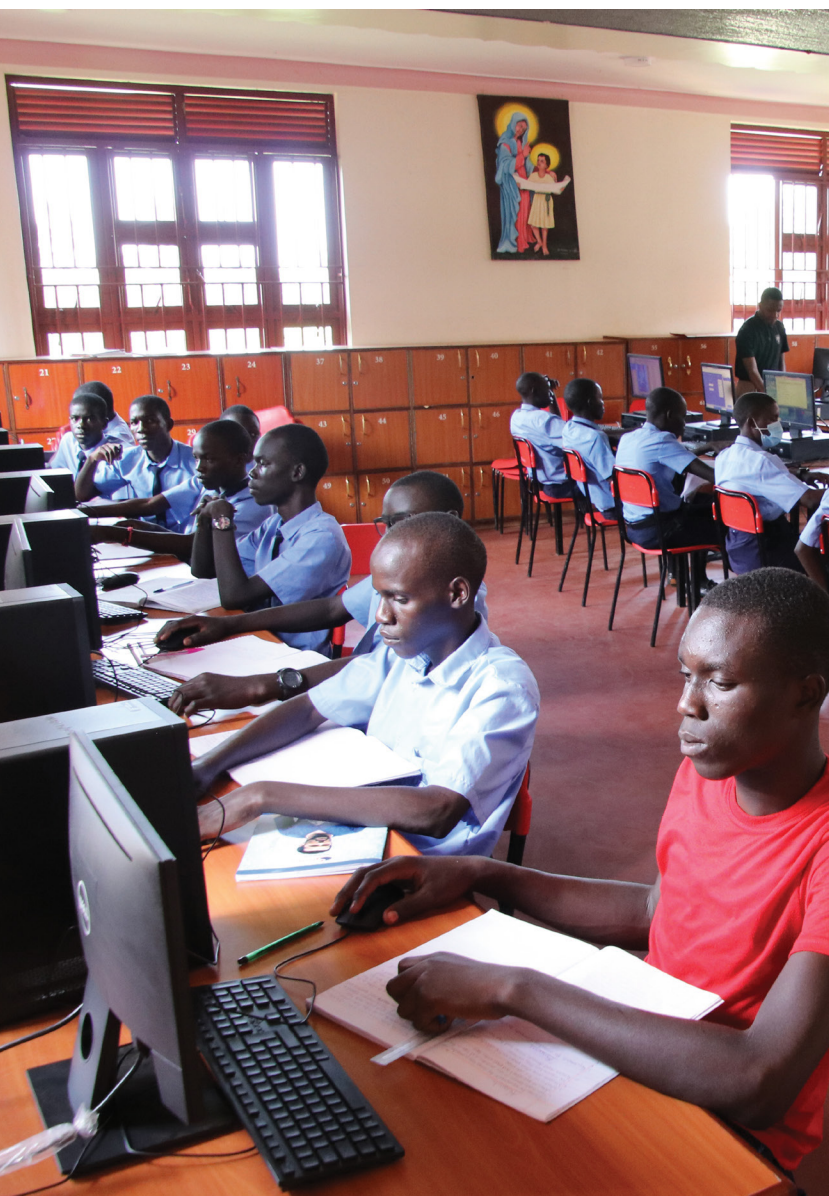
With these funds, the school procured 20 desktop computers to equip a new laboratory situated on the new administration building. This laboratory mainly serves the high school students, majority of whom offer computer science as a study subject. The school also acquired 15 laptops for faculty members.

This funding has also enabled the school to extend internet coverage from the school administration building to student classrooms (Campion hall, Loyola hall, and A' level Science building). This development will enable students and teachers to access a wealth of information, knowledge, and educational resources, increasing opportunities for learning in and beyond the classroom.

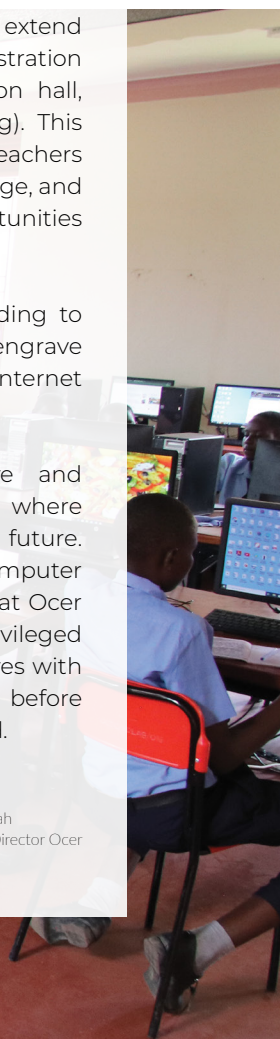
The school also utilized part of the funding to do maintenance on teachers' laptops, engrave desktops and laptops as well as replace internet equipment.

Computer laboratories create inclusive and structured learning environments where students can prepare for a tech-heavy future. The presence of a well equipped computer laboratory with internet connection here at Ocer enables our students who are from less privileged homes to access and familiarize themselves with new communication gadgets and tools before entering a competitive employment world.

Article by Idah Leah  
Communication Director Ocer  
Campion



Students in the new computer laboratory



# JOURNEYING WITH THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN KANGEMI SLUM

In 2022, we as SJDP family are grateful for the collaboration and partnership of our friends and well-wishers in improving our infrastructure. We have managed to complete 2 buildings in our institution; the ultra-modern workshop and Upendo kitchen and library facilities.

The 3-storey workshop facility at St Joseph Technical Secondary School will provide a safe and conducive learning environment where at least 300-400 youths will be undertaking different courses in Electrical Installation, Hairdressing and Beauty, and Tailoring and Dressmaking. This building which was funded by Hungary Helps Agency was inspired by the fact that the school was experiencing a significant increase in student enrollment, more so those undertaking the vocational courses.

Located at the front of the school, the facility presents a new “front door” to the school, along with workshops/classes for different courses, administration offices, staffroom, computer laboratory and an open rooftop. We had a great



*The new St Joseph Technical and Secondary complex Building which was funded by the Hungarian Government*



*The new Tailoring and Dressmaking Workspace*

ceremony hosting the Hungary State Secretary Mr. Tristan Azbej and the President of the Republic of Hungary His Excellency János Áder and First Lady Anita Herczegh who came to inspect the facility on different occasions.

Although the building is currently in use, there are still pending works to bring it to 100% completion. These include mechanical and plumbing works, installation of a lift and connecting a bridge to the adjacent school library to enable the physically challenged beneficiaries access both buildings. This also means that this facility will need to be well equipped to enable the youths acquire the relevant saleable skills.

Additionally, St Joseph Development Programmes has managed to construct a 2-storey facility that has a kitchen on the ground floor and a library facility at the upper floor. The kitchen has been separated from the Upendo



**Fr. Kizito Kiyimba S.J., Opening the new kids Library and St Joseph Upendo Unit**

Unit class. This means that the Unit pupils now have a conducive learning environment and are able to study without being disturbed by the smoke anymore. The Provincial for Jesuits Eastern Africa Rev Fr. Kizito Kiyimba SJ, officially opened and blessed the building on 7th October 2022.

Fitted with modern cooking equipment among them the 2 eco-friendly stoves, the new kitchen will serve at least 300 students from the Upendo Unit and St Joseph Technical Secondary School. Initially, the old kitchen was meant to serve about 25-30 students from the Upendo Unit only, but was overstretched to serve all the students of the Unit and those from St Joseph Technical Secondary School.

St Joseph Development Programmes has managed to construct a 2-storey facility that has a kitchen on the ground floor and a library facility at the upper floor.

The library in the upper floor serves students both from the Upendo Unit and our beneficiaries at St Joseph Nursery and Primary School to conduct their studies and revision.

At SJDP, we aim to train men and women for others-MAGIS, by constantly working towards the greater development of the society. We strive to do this to ensure that our students are morally responsible persons who can think critically, act wisely and work skillfully as they seek to advance the common good. Shukran to Hungary Helps Agency who have supported us bring up the workshop facility to journey with youth and build their future full of hope.

Shukran also to Irish Jesuit International, Entreculturas, Ecole de province Marseille-France, Femme d' Europe, Hekima College Jesuit Community and other partners for enabling us complete the kitchen cum library facility at Upendo Unit.

Article by **Collins Osanyo**  
(Programmes Officer SJDP)

# CLICK TO EMPOWER PROJECT (C2E)

Click to Empower Project (C2E) aims to provide photography, videography and business skills to 45 urban youth in Rumbek and will also provide a select number of students with starter-kits. The project is supported by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). The



*A captured moment by one of the students on World Food Day- students were given coursework to capture moments during live events*



*Group photo of graduates from the photography and videography course*



*UNMISS Public Information Officer Nina Zubovic Vignjevic*

project is implemented at St Peter Claver Ecological and Computer Centre (SPCECC). The launch of the project was conducted on 5th September 2022. The Guest of Honor was the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports Hon. William Koji. Other invited guests included UNMISS staff (led by UNMISS Head of Mission – Lakes State) and all project participants. The Minister commended SPCECC and UNMISS on this new initiative. His message to youth was centered around utilizing the learning opportunities presented to them. He emphasized that the practical skills they will gain will prepare them for success in their future careers.

Article by Caroline Sanga,  
Programme officer, South Sudan.  
Photos by Ng'hwagi Lucas SJ,  
Jesuit communications south Sudan.

# THANK YOU, FOR HELPING MAJIS FOR TRANSFORMING LIVES OF PEOPLE AT THE MARGINS

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*Teresa nursery School pupils in Rumbek*

For many years, Akol Jal Village, Rumbek, Lakes State, South Sudan has been a very volatile village. It has been an epi-centre of intercommunal and interclan fighting. The inter-communal and inter-clan fighting have left great impacts on children, youth and men and women. Children cannot access basic education because of insecurity, no schools and no qualified teachers. Youth have not been spared – many young boys have been killed and many young girls are married off at an early age. Most women have been left widows because their husbands have been killed in the fights. Despite the hardship, MAJIS has continued to offer different services that are transforming the lives of the people at the margins.

For children to access basic education, MAJIS has been offering informal learning up to primary two. For some that is the end of accessing basic education. A few would move to other villages to continue with primary school. To solve the problem of discontinuity, construction of three classrooms of proposed St. Peter Faber Primary School, Rumbek, has begun. We shall offer Jesuit education to children.

MAJIS offers agricultural and micro-saving skills to women. Most families are headed by widows. The skills MAJIS offer are geared to transforming the lives of women and their families in terms of production of food, better nutrition and income generation. Trained are now champions of developing quality families.

To enable MAJIS offer better agricultural skills, the director and a field officer went for training in Kenya. As we encourage women to produce food, we need to train them on sustainable means of production and post-harvesting which takes into consideration the care of the environment. The training at Baraka Agricultural College gave us new agricultural sustainable skills that we shall share with beneficiaries.

We could not do much progress of positively transforming the lives children at the margins without you. Thank you the Little Way-UK, Misesan Cara and Xavier Network for your generous support in the year 2022 that enabled us to transform the lives of people at the margins.

Children receiving basic education at MAJIS



Installation of Netafim drip irrigation system, MAJIS, Rumbek, South Sudan.



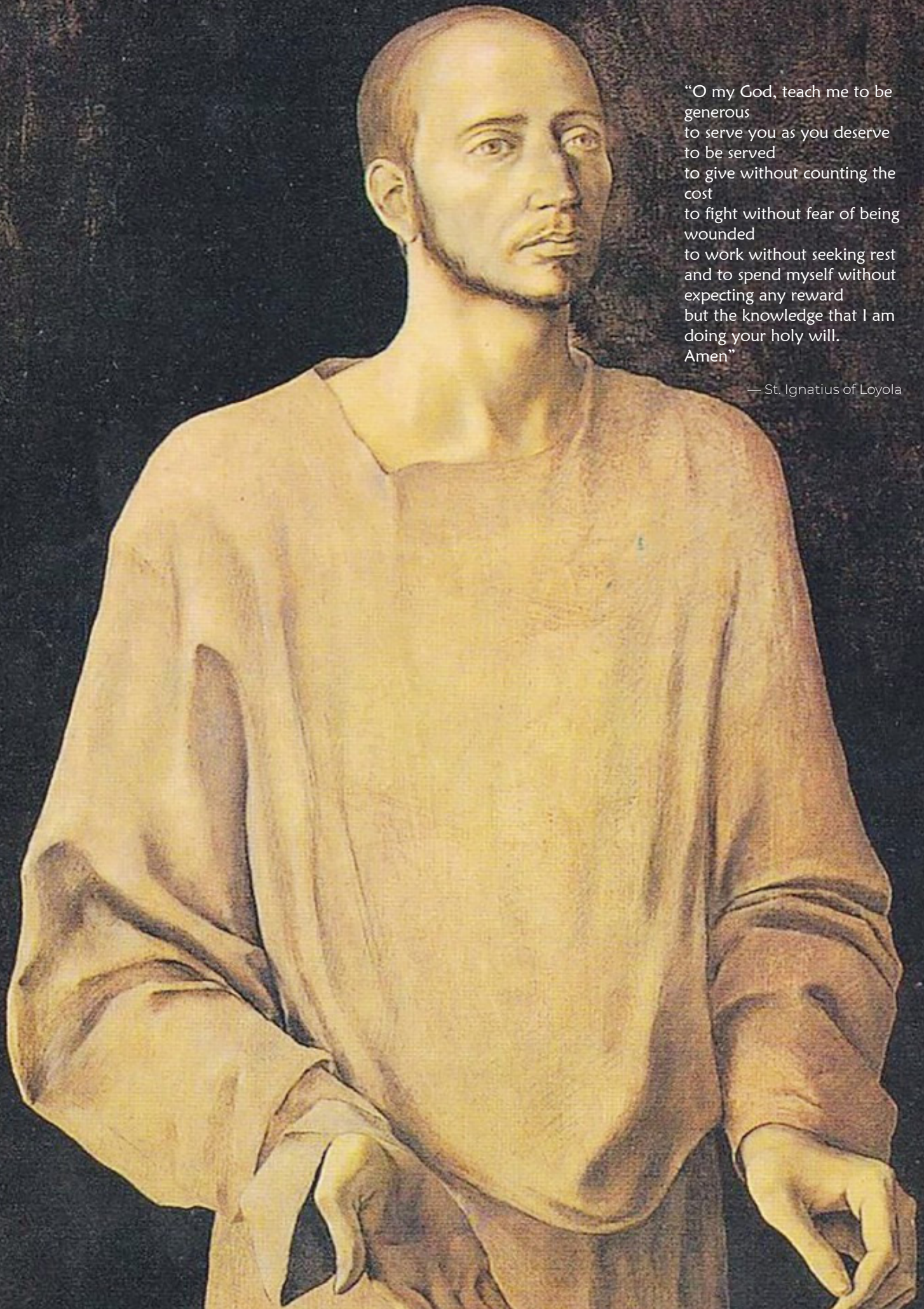
Women at micro-saving training, MAJIS, Rumbek, South Sudan.



MAJIS Director and Field Officer attending sustainable agriculture training at Baraka Agricultural College, Molo, Kenya.







“O my God, teach me to be  
generous  
to serve you as you deserve  
to be served  
to give without counting the  
cost  
to fight without fear of being  
wounded  
to work without seeking rest  
and to spend myself without  
expecting any reward  
but the knowledge that I am  
doing your holy will.  
Amen”

— St. Ignatius of Loyola

## A TALE OF GOD'S UNCONDITIONAL LOVE AT **PEDRO ARRUPE COMMUNITY**

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was a season of light and a season of darkness. These words of Charles Dickens in a Tale of Two Cities describe the pre-Pandemic and in-pandemic periods of our Pedro Arrupe Jesuit community. How can we account, for example, for the festivities during Christmas only for a month later to have one of our community member's admitted at the Intensive Care Unit at Nairobi Hospital?

The Coronavirus brought about that state of affairs. A strange elusive and life-threatening virus. I presume Winston Churchill would have easily characterized the virus as "a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma." The ways of the virus were quite mysterious to us. Fortunately, many months later community members began receiving their jabs of the AstraZeneca vaccine from the Serum Institute of India. What a relief we felt when science came to our aid.

The Pandemic unfolded amid the Ignatian Year (May 2021-July 2022). I reflected on the this in an article published in the spirituality journal *The Way* titled: Ignatian Year and the Pandemic: Reflections from a Field Hospital. The image of a "Field Hospital" did not sit so well with some of us. Yet, it is an image popularized by Pope Francis to refer to the reality of the Church. It evokes our vulnerability, our wounded reality, and the yearning for healing in a Field Hospital, exposed to the dangers of an enigmatic virus.

Five hundred years ago, Iñigo López de Oñaz y Loyola was lying injured on the battlefield of Pamplona. That was his Field Hospital experience where he felt cared for (offered first aid) and then carried on a stretcher to Loyola a good distance away to recuperate. Without that Field Hospital experience, perhaps we would not have the converted St. Ignatius of Loyola whom we celebrate five hundred years later. Our resident maestro artist, Natnael Samson Antonio, SJ has captured that moment in a painting that speaks so powerfully to community members. The Pandemic has helped us to reflect anew on that Field Hospital experience of our wounded soldier, a knight errand who turned into a knight of God, and a pilgrim. All that in the most extraordinary and vulnerable way. It is in our vulnerability, our disappointed states, and our Field Hospital moments, that our spiritual greatness can emerge.

It is in the experience of Field Hospital vulnerability that we feel challenged to be better people rather than bitter people. We resist speaking like Lucifer Mandengu the protagonist in Charles Mungoshi's novel *Waiting for the Rain*, who cried out "why was I born here, this was a geographical and biological mistake, I was born against my will!" We rather say, "it is good to be here, all the challenges have made us better people, not bitter people, we were not born against our will, we were born by the will of God, called to be on mission in the Field Hospital."

We remember our faithful departed the nonagenarian Fr Gene Hattie, SJ who passed on one month before his ninety-ninth birthday. He bravely fought a Coronavirus infection a few months before his death. He won the battle against the virus, but a few months down the line old age took him to the Lord. A humorist with a great sense of mission even into his nineties, a missionary all his life: first in Patna in India, then in the Sudan, and



*Conversion of St. Ignatius by Maestro Natnael Samson, SJ*



**Frs. Sidney, Hattie, Bart, Br. Vincent, Sr. Teresa with Guests**

then Uganda. In his last station in Kampala, Uganda, with the help of his typewriter, (he never used email or mobile phones) he raised millions of dollars for the care of orphaned children. That typewriter is now in the Province archives as a valuable sentimental item for the Province and should be visited from time to time.

We also celebrate Fr Sidney D'Souza, SJ who also died during the pandemic period. He did not die of the virus but because of other underlying complications. An octogenarian, excellent homilist, retreat-giver, with a broad smile. Many a retreatant coveted his Jerusalem Bible because it had copious notes that helped him deliver his excellent homilies that moved many. That Bible is also in our AOR archives as a sentimental item, which needs a visit too just like Fr Hattie's typewriter. I was fortunate to acquire some of Fr Sidney's retreat-giving skills and even skills in homiletics: be simple, brief, polite, you do not know everything, and to use everyday examples that touch people's hearts.

The death that shocked us to the core was that of Sr Teresa Brancalione, MI our resident nurse. She contracted the Coronavirus while caring for community members. Unfortunately, she had other underlying conditions and could not recover from the effects of the virus. In my tribute to her, I described her as a "Candle in the Wind" in the words of Elton John's song dedicated to Princess Diana.

How can I describe Sr Teresa? A larger-than-life character, a gallant disciple, always putting her patients first before her comfort. She was a woman of great energy. Many a Jesuit and other people were amazed by how she gave her life totally to the service of the companions in the community. She was always close to Christ even unto death. She gave her life for us, for her it was a mission fulfilled. To give her life fully to the people of God. Charles Dickens would have said of her, "it was a far, far better thing she could do than she had ever done, it was a far, far better rest that she was going to than she had ever known."

The post-pandemic period has taught us to appreciate life even more. To live life to the fullest not to take for granted the gift of one another. The experience challenged us to take love immensely. We pour our hearts in thanksgiving and love to the Irish Jesuit Mission (IJM) for their immense love in supporting us during the pandemic by sponsoring the purchase of hospital materials worth Euro 15,000.00. That donation has helped to improve our infirmary's capacity to manage life-threatening situations like the Covid-19.

Above all we continue to celebrate one another, especially our six octogenarians and one nonagenarian. We feel blessed to be in the presence of such wise men full of wisdom, humor, wit, and life. The most moving moment was the celebration of the ninetieth birthday of Fr Bob White, SJ where community members made a video all singing in celebration of Fr Bob's achievements. What a wonderful way to celebrate a companion!

What more can I say? This is just God's "excess love" for us, as one of my favorite gospel singer Mercy Chinwo would say. What we have experienced in our community is too much love, excess love; The lyrics of Chinwo's famous song "Excess Love" sang in her Nigerian Pidgin, express my sentiments and I believe that of the community:

*Jesus, you love us too much, oh*



**Community Photo on the Occasion of Fr. Bob's 90th birthday**

*Jesus, you love us too much, oh*

*Too much, oh, too much, oh, excess love, oh*

*Your love is kind, your love is patient*

*You fill our hearts with so much peace and joy*

*You're amazin', amazin', you make our lives feel brand new*

*All your promises are yeah and Amen!*

This love has converted us just as the cannonball experience converted a certain Iñigo López five hundred years ago. We are better people, not bitter people. All manner of things shall be well!

Article by Oscar Momanyi, SJ

# The Harvest Remains Plenty

“ Updates from St. Charles Lwanga Church, Muyeye Parish (Malindi – Kenya)



It has been four years now since Jesuits landed in Malindi Diocese, Kenya, to start a new parish! The first two Jesuits Fathers arrived in December 2017 and on June 4, 2018, St. Charles Lwanga Parish was officially decreed. Fr. Sossy, the Pastor, joined the Parish staff in August 2018 to spearhead and shape the future of this nascent parish! Our joy and gratitude to God as we witness the encouraging growth of the Church at St. Charles Lwanga parish and environs. As Jesuits, we are emboldened by the positive contribution we are making to this mission!

## Re-vitalizing Christianity in Malindi Diocese

It is only after the 19th century that Christianity returned, but met a stiff resistance along the Islamized coastline.



Malindi Diocese is a missionary diocese formed in 2000. The diocese has 25 parishes and about 40 priests working in the diocese. The percentage of Catholics is about 10% of the entire population. Many parts of the diocese have not yet been evangelized. Islam and local religions dominate the diocese. Although Christianity in Malindi arrived as early as the 15th Century, the change of events impeded the fast growth of Christianity. Islam later outpaced Christianity to become the dominant religion along the Eastern Africa Coast. It is only after the 19th century that Christianity returned, but met a stiff resistance along the Islamized coastline. In the practical sense, we are still doing early evangelization in Malindi. Christianity is again taking roots and progressing! That being the case, new areas that we are reaching out for evangelization have no church buildings, and if any, the buildings are poorly done and are in dilapidated state. We thank God that we have managed to establish the parish church that was dedicated on August 22, 2021. As a new parish we are now trying to form new outstations, new frontiers. This is to serve numerous Catholics who can not afford to reach the parish for masses especially on Sundays. Outstations also serve to evangelize and stabilize new converts. When the parish was established in 2018, it had about 450 baptized Catholics. Today, the number is over 750. Indeed, the harvest is plenty!

## Evangelization and Pastoral Activities

### Psalm 98:4

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth;  
Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.



As noted above, today the parish has a large church for worship! It accommodates 650 people at once! The availability of a large church has made it possible for people to worship and praise God with joy, tranquility and safety! The new church has also brought back many lapsed Catholics in the area! The number of worshippers has almost doubled from the time we took over the parish and completed construction of the church. Now we are expanding the service to parishioners on the margins!

Two new outstations – St. Bakhita and St. Francis of Assisi are in the pipeline. Currently under construction is St. Francis of Assisi, Msoloni village. Outstations bring Sunday services close to Catholics who live far away from the main parish. As pastoral agents, we try to reach them in their various locations and bring them together for worship. The two outstations are estimated to have a combined population of about 300+ Catholics.



Our Jesuit Community residence has also contributed to the spiritual well-being of many religious men and women, clergy and laity in the diocese and countrywide who come for retreats, recollections and private prayers. In a year, we direct retreats to some 30-40 people!

## Youth Ministry and MAGIS Group Activities

The parish is proactive in youth ministry! Youth formation is one of our pastoral priorities. Parish youth meet every Saturday to pray and share about their faith and various aspirations. Every Sunday we have Youth mass, all led, directed and animated by the youth. Recently, the parish coordinated a deanery forum for the youth. Over 200 youth from the deanery participated and prayed together.

More so, we have formed the Magis Group in our parish. Magis group is trying to structure itself and collaborate with Magis International. Magis members meet every Saturday and

collaborate with the other Youth to prepare their Sunday liturgies. Magis Group plans to have monthly masses in future. Currently there are over 20 members in Magis Group. The youth and Magis group serve as good ground for vocation promotion and church leadership formation.



## Catechesis and Faith Formation

Invite and Enable Ongoing Conversion to Jesus in Holiness of Life.



Understanding the need for solid Catholics, catechesis and faith formation are core to our pastoral activities. About 40 children in the parish continue to undergo various levels of catechesis in preparation for different sacraments. The big numbers of children remind us that we are a young church in need for solid future Catholics. As conventional wisdom goes, “the future of the church is in their hands!”

We also have a good number of catechumens, who are receiving instructions and being prepared for baptism and confirmation. About 12 adults are currently undergoing the program. In addition, we are aggressively inviting the many “non-solemnized marriages” to come forward and bless their marriages. This is one of the huge pastoral challenges in our African pastoral spheres. This year so far we have managed to bless eight marriages!

## Education

### Psalm 98:4

Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth;  
Break forth and sing for joy and sing praises.

The parish offers kindergarten education to over 100 children from poor families. The parish tries to shoulder the burden of giving them the necessary formation that eventually allows them to enroll in government primary schools. Support from well-wishers and people of good will has been enormous in this area! The needs remain great. Our great joy is to see these little young men and women not left behind as far as early childhood education is concerned.

## Towards Empowering Our Christians



The parish started a couple of poultry and gardening projects to support youth and women income. The two projects also offer knowledge and support to the participants in order to start their own income generating activities. More so, they have improved the nourishment of some members of the community. A good number of parishioners purchase eggs and chicken for consumption from the two projects.

## Shukran

The successes we continue to witness in this parish are made possible through the continuous moral, spiritual and material support we receive from friends, particularly at St. Xavier Parish, Cincinnati! Surely, you have been wonderful and generous supporters to our mission in Malindi! We thank you for the wonderful support you continue to accord us. May God continue to bless you abundantly! We remain united in prayers.

# THE NEW DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

During a recent priestly ordination, Fr. Provincial Kizito Kiyimba SJ, reiterated the need for gratitude in every moment that life has to offer while stating that, “He who is not grateful is a witch!” Well, as the AOR Development Office, the Lord has been grateful to us and we cannot hide it.

What used to be an abandoned and dilapidated St. Joseph Kangemi Workshop is now a fully functional Development office. The transformative journey has had its own learning curves, as every moment seemed to open a Pandora of challenges!

Before its closure, the place was a thriving carpentry workshop in the region with a visionary leadership of its great founding Fathers like John Guiney SJ, Joseph Payeur, Bishop Rodrigo, among others. The workshop provided valuable training and employment opportunities to many young people from the local Kangemi community in Nairobi Kenya, imparting valuable skills and crafts that included cutting, shaping and installing building materials for construction projects such as ships, timber bridges and concrete formwork.



A view of the new space of the JDO



An old gate of what used to be the St Joseph carpentry Workshop

A transform  
developm



In the 2000's the gates to the space closed indefinitely. With this in mind, Fr. Allan Ggita SJ, in Collaboration with Br. Magoba Ronald SJ, the Executive director of St Joseph Development Programme in Kangemi, saw an opportunity to transform the space into a sustainable space to aid and revive some of the development projects of the Eastern Africa Province. The journey to this dream began in January 2022.

What was once a notorious den of thieves has been transformed and welcomed as a valuable resource by the local community today, with enhanced security and better business environment. The space not only serves as a host to the Development Office but also as a hub for young people to develop their vocational skills in agriculture and carpentry. The Development Office is passionate about celebrating the potential of ordinary young people to make positive changes in the world. We are committed to youth empowerment



Outside the new Development office



Transformed Gate of what used to be the St Joseph Kangemi Workshop now the Development office

Our vision, **Serviam** (Latin for "I will serve.") inspires us to realize our missions and goals through positive, effective action by providing a basis for developing our spaces to serve others. Our aim is to empower young people and the wider community to take action and build vibrant and thriving living centers. By doing so, we hope to cultivate the next generation of active citizens and leaders across the continent who can champion for sustainable positive changes. We are very eager to leverage on national and global networks who are willing to collaborate with the people in constructive projects and initiatives designed to enhance the value of justice, equality and fairness in a continuously developing world.

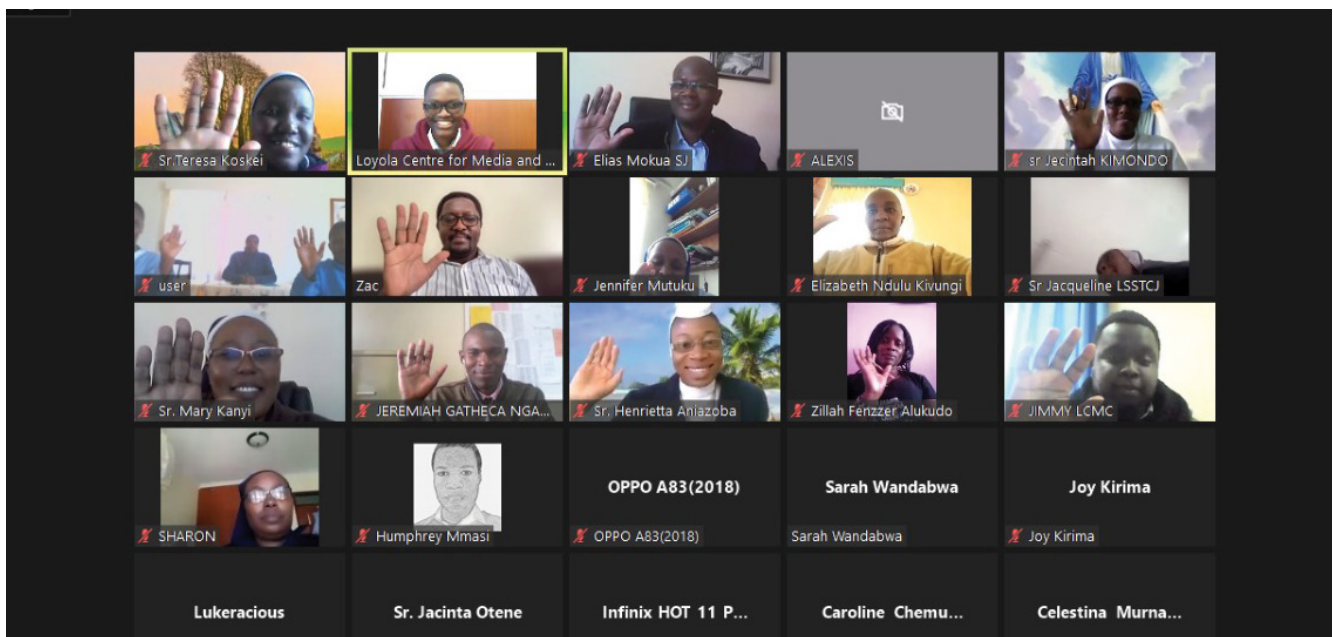
Lastly, not wishing to be witches. We sincerely express our gratitude to all our partners and collaborators for ensuring and enabling this dream come true. May God bless you as we strive to positively transform the world.

# LOYOLA CENTRE FOR MEDIA & COMMUNICATIONS SUPPORTING CHILD IDENTITY FORMATION (CIF).

The great journey of life begins with a meaningful reflection and self-discovery. Life begins to have meaning when our identities are formed. Our identity helps define who we are as a people. In our hectic modern world, it is easy to lose track of our true self and fail to achieve our maximum potential due to lack of self-knowledge.

With the ever evolving trends in the world and great influence from everyone around us, most of us do not have the privilege of living our lives to the fullest and burst at minimum pressure. In today's world, it is not uncommon to have identity crisis or simply forget important parts of our personality, straying from important parts of our character.

Research conducted by LCMC on parenting in this technological era suggests that Parents, teachers and guardians face a myriad of challenges in nurturing children: family conflicts, weak social fabric, child exposure to risky neighborhoods, a child predator society, lack of resources, lack of sufficient time to be with children, peer pressure among the children themselves, irresponsible use of social media, teen pregnancies etc. Occasional strained relationship between teachers and parents makes mentoring children even more difficult leading to inconsistency in guidance and character formation and development due to lack of cohesion. It is important to remember that these affect children differently for and this is often when peer influence kicks in.



*CIF for teachers online training*

“Unless we base our sense of identity upon the truth of who we are, it is impossible to attain true happiness.”

– *Brenda Shoshanna*



**The area chief of Barsaloi awarding the young people after the social justice project implementation**

LCMC's project on CIF is substantiated by the current numerous challenges that our society faces in the modern day. Poor understanding and a strained relationship between the so called 'generation y and z' and their parents who they refer to as 'analogue' continues to bring some sort conflict. This results in disunity between the two groups; the older group not understanding the modern generation and the modern generation feeling suppressed. At the same time, young people need their

older counterparts to accompany them on the journey of growth especially at the brink of the tricky ages during which teens search for identity (teenage years; 13 - 19). This is why LCMC found it worthy to support those who journey with children and teens to learn about Child Identity Formation and get empowered with knowledge and skills of accompanying them.

In light of these challenges, LCMC has this year conducted Child Identity Formation trainings which have benefited



**Dr. Mokuia introducing 'Blogging' to the seminarians**

103 people including parents, teachers, animators, religious men and women.

Thanks to all our collaborative partners for supporting this project which has proved to be relevant for the modern parent, teacher, religious, and animator. Together we strive and hope for a future of people who are well integrated emotionally, socially and spiritually.



**Social justice project implementation in samburu**

# Merchandise

*We highly appreciate donations:  
They go a long way in helping maintain the projects  
we have initiated regionally that help a lot of people in need!*



**Calendar**  
Useful information about the holidays, new seasons, religious festivals, and other days of interest throughout 2022.  
**650 KSh**



**Hand Notebook**  
Attractive Design  
Quality paper  
Very Portable & Durable material  
Replaceable papers  
**900 KSh**

**Executive Pens**  
Every single one is sure to be well-loved by the authors, bosses, students, or professionals in your life.  
**400 KSh**

**Not only are they great for you, your Friends, Family and clients will love them! Unlike other gifts which they may use once and discard,**



**Executive Notebook**  
Attractive Still Design Notebook  
Quality paper takes pen and pencil beautifully.  
Medium-sized to go anywhere!  
Durable material makes this notebook stay together  
**2500 KSh**





### Executive Folders

These folders have a calculator and some pouches to place your documents.

**2700 KSh**



### Umbrella

Discover a great selection of colorful stylish umbrellas at the best price

**1000 KSh**



We have a variety of customized products to choose from and an extensive range of environmentally friendly sustainable items.

### Travel Coffee Mugs

Cupholder Friendly: Travel coffee mug made from durable stainless steel. Double Wall Insulated: Keeps beverages hot or cold for hours

**1400 KSh**



### Card Holders

Beautiful, finely crafted engraved business card holders

**500 KSh**



### St. Ignatius T-shirts ( Round necks )

A wide variety of amazing quality round-neck t-shirts in different colours.

**1000 KSh**



### Executive Water Bottle

Its unique design and high quality construction proving to be a great option for everyone

**1500 KSh**

# ABOUT THE JESUITS

The Society of Jesus was founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola in 1540 and is today the largest Religious Order of men in the Catholic Church. We serve in 112 nations on six continents and are organized in administrative regions called Provinces. The Eastern Africa Province consists of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan. Though it was established in 1986, the earliest missions date back to the times of St. Ignatius as far as 1557 in Ethiopia.

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SOCIETATIS  
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## OUR WORKS IN EASTERN AFRICA

**Education:** Through our educational institutions we form well rounded and competent persons committed to a faith that does justice. We train men and women for others.

**Retreats:** For more than 470 years, Jesuit spirituality has led countless women and men to a greater intimacy with Jesus Christ and to a dedication to serve those most in need. We maintain retreat houses in Kenya and Ethiopia. In addition, we run mobile retreats in all countries of our Province.

**Parish Ministry:** We run 6 vibrant parishes with a variety of pastoral, formation and service programmes. All our parishes give emphasis to 'community' and have dynamic Small Christian Communities.

**Social Justice and Communication:** We aim to transform unjust structures and offer hope to the marginalised in society. We reach out especially to refugees, those affected or infected with HIV/AIDS, poverty and violence.

SUPPORT ANY OF OUR WORKS  
WITH A KIND DONATION

Account Details

NCBA Bank Kenya PLC  
Mara-Ragati Road,  
Bank Code: 07000 | Swift Code: CBAFKENX

Name on Bank Account: Society of Jesus Kenya

Bank ZIP/Postal Code: 00100

US Dollar Account: 651 749 0029

Euro Account: 651 749 0034

Kenya Shillings Account: 651 749 0068

Mpesa Number: 0713 387 252

Till No: 5758987 (Buy Goods)

*Seek God in all things and you  
shall find God by your side.*

– St. Peter Claver, S.J.

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