



Christian Brothers
East Africa District

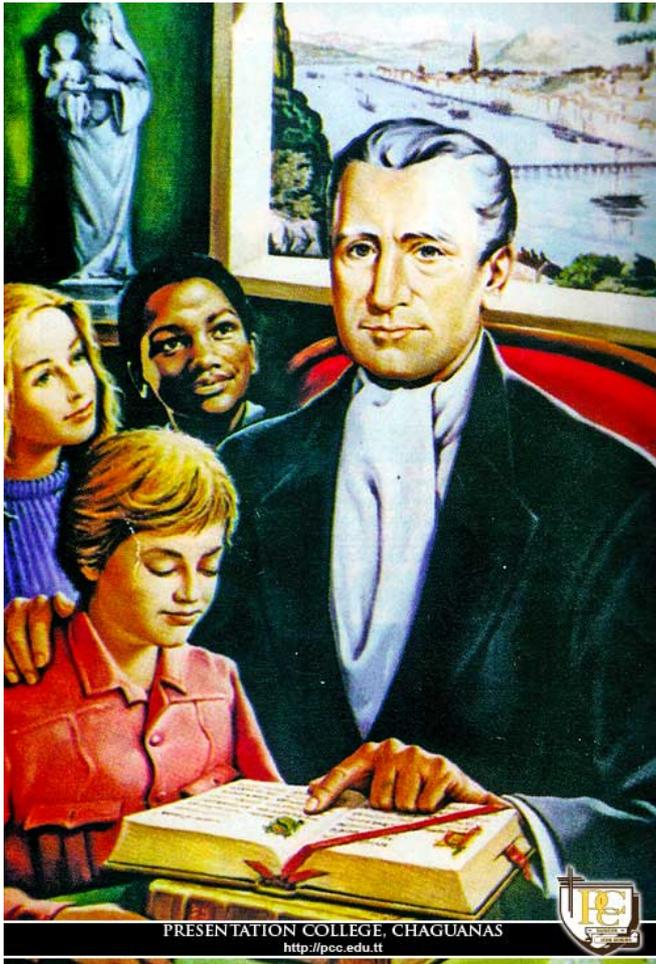
East Africa District Newsletter

DRAWN BY MYSTERY, DESTINED FOR LIFE.

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October 10, 2016

— BLESSED EDMUND RICE —

On 6th October 2016 we celebrated the 20th anniversary of the beatification of Blessed Edmund Rice. Various events have been held across the Congregation to mark the day, not least here in East Africa.



Here are some of the sayings of Blessed Edmund Rice

"Cast all your cares into the arms of Divine Providence."

"Have courage, the good seed will grow up in the children's hearts later on."

"The world and everything in it is continually changing ... Perfect happiness is not to be expected but in another world."

"One thing you may be sure of, that whilst you work for God, whether you succeed or not, God will amply reward you."

"Were we to know the merit and value of only going from one street to another to serve a neighbor for the love of God, we shall prize it more than silver or gold."



Edmund Rice

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Chapter 2014





———— ANNIVERSARY OF BLESSED EDMUND RICE
BEATIFICATION ————



Members of the Edmund Rice Network

On Saturday, October 8th, 35 member of the Edmund Rice Network (East Africa District) met at the Mary Ward retreat centre for a day of recollection to commemorate the 20th anniversary (October 6) of the beatification of Edmund Rice.

Members from Arusha and Eldoret joined members from Nairobi to reflect on the life of Edmund and to share how they plan to keep the spirit of Edmund burning in their own lives as well as in the lives of those they journey with. Amandi Mboya led a moving opening session of prayer. This was followed with input by Tony Shanahan focusing on the life and struggles of Edmund. Time was available for reflection on the presentation and sharing in small groups.

In the afternoon time was given to local groups to meet and share their way forward. Each group then presented their thoughts to each other. Eucharist was followed by social and dinner concluded the day. Thanks to all who participated and made the day as prayerful as it was. Also, thanks to local brothers who came and joined us for Eucharist and dinner.

Bill Colford





———— BEATIFICATION ANNIVERSARY AT BROTHER BEAUSANG ————

Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre (BBCEC) marked the 20th anniversary of the Beatification of Blessed Edmund Rice with a special Mass on Thursday October 6.

The celebration began with the Principal Peter Shanahan explaining the background to the Beatification and sharing some information on the day and event back on October 6 1996 including an extract from the homily by Pope John Paul II.



Brother Lawrence explaining the symbolism of the globe on the student's head i.e where Brothers work.

The students as always were very active in their participation led by the school choir. The liturgical dancers featured

students from every year level from Nursery to Form 4 and the 2016 Secondary Student Council were the key animators.

Following communion the 2016 Edmund Rice Awards for community leadership and service were presented to students from both primary and secondary; staff service awards were also presented. Br. Sunday Constantine did the honors in presenting the awards. A primary ensemble group led by Br. Daniel Kyalo then presented a moving song on Edmund Rice. The thunderous response to the award winners and the performance was typical of the wonderful sense of community that is a feature of BBCEC.

The Mass was also a double celebration as it was the school's first opportunity to congratulate the celebrant Fr. Thaddeus on his recent appointment as the SMA Regional Director.





Following Mass both the primary and secondary had a full school photo taken outside the church to complete our Beatification anniversary celebration. The spirit of Edmund was certainly alive and in full voice

on October 6 2016 at Embulbul.

**Peter Shanahan
Principal**

EDMUND RICE CAMPS KIBERA



With some confusion caused by the Nairobi Trade Show holiday, we ended up with 94 children instead of our usual 70-75. 45 leaders clocked in at different times of the day but in actuality we probably moved along with 35 at a time. Some of the children looked quite small but many of these including a few of the girls played the ball games ferociously as well as the

long route relays. The camp coach kept the moving relentlessly under the hot sun till 2.30 finally found food and some respite.

The art activity showed improvement with more colour and in a few cases enhanced talent. The kids who gave an assessment and a thank you were again so gracious. I came home happily, a bit exhausted really and knowing that still we need training days to hammer in the new games learnt on previous occasions. There is always something!!

Br PETER COLE





EDMUND RICE ELDORET CAMPS

Camps have become regular part of the life of Langas community. On Saturday we did host another camp in which 100 children were in attendance. The smiles in the children faces are what give us life and encouragement to host more of these camp activities. I felt the bond of togetherness among these children as they shared meals and played with each other. At the end of our activities, we were glad to hear positive responses from some of the children we shared our day with.



Children enjoying games in Eldoret

Most of them referred to the camp as the most import day in their lives since they are able to share meals and play together as children from the same community regardless of their tribes.

Elly Sakwa and Paul Mutuku

JACOB PIMA SINGANO: RIP

It is with sadness that we announce the death of a Form two student of Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School.

Jacob Pima Singano was due back at school last Tuesday, September 27th. A long time sufferer from epilepsy, he was found dead in his bed that morning – a very sad loss for his widowed mother and other relatives.

His body was received at school on the Wednesday afternoon to be honoured by students and staff many of whom attended the obsequies the following day.

Despite some bouts of ill-health, Jacob was a popular member of his class, showing great dedication and progress in his studies.

We pray for his soul while also extending our thoughts and prayers to his mother, wider family and school friends.

Jacob rest in peace.”

DR. DAVID ABDULAI R.I.P.

Last week’s newsletter carried the sad news of the premature death from cancer of Dr. David Abdulai, of Tamale in Ghana. It is a mark of





the great respect in which Dr. Abdulai was held that, when news of his condition came out, the government of Ghana arranged for him to come to Accra to get treatment at one of the best hospitals there.

Who was David Abdulai? For anyone who ever lived in Tamale – and many of us have done that, as novices or formators – he was a living saint. He was called by many people “the mad doctor”, not because of his own mental state but because he started a feeding programme that delivered a substantial meal, every day of the year, to the scores of street people in Tamale and to prisoners in the city gaol. Many of the homeless people have psychiatric disturbances, often due to the effects of untreated cerebral malaria. Most people in Tamale fear these “mad” people and keep at a distance – instead, David Abdulai set himself to care for them.

Maybe he was “mad” in another sense – like many saints, he was happy to seem a fool in the eyes of the world for the sake of his faith and his desire to share with others the love and compassion he received as a boy from a very poor family. Due to the kindness of a missionary priest (I think a Missionary of Africa), he was able to complete his secondary education and go on to study medicine at university. During these years he converted from the Islamic faith in which he was raised to become a Catholic. Like Edmund Rice, his faith and his giving were nourished by prayer and frequent celebration of Eucharist.

He spent most of his life as a doctor serving the poor. Wealth, status and fame meant nothing to him. In 1989 he started the Shekhinah clinic which treated anyone for no charge. Visitors are still shown the mango tree under which he performed his first operation. Later he started the feeding programme referred to above, as well as another clinic on the eastern outskirts of Tamale. He also organized periodic visits to a leper village in a remote area of northern Ghana. Every year, on Christmas Day, his compound was thrown open to thousands of poor people in Tamale who came for lunch and a gift of clothing. It was the sort of extravagant giving that showed what Christmas meant to Dr. Abdulai. We remember the words attributed to Edmund Rice: “Give to the poor in handfuls”.

Again like Edmund Rice, David Abdulai had a great trust in Providence. He once told me he had only ever applied in writing for funding two times, and failed both times! He was supported by donors who came and saw, and believed in him and what he was doing.

If “joy is the infallible sign of the presence of God”, as Teilhard de Chardin SJ said, then God was surely present in and around David Abdulai. His simplicity and joyfulness were obvious.





Meeting Dr. Abdulai and experiencing his ministries was one of the privileges of living in Tamale. May his gentle and compassionate soul rest in the peace of joy of the one and all-loving God.

Tony Shanahan

———— **ERAN FEATURES IN MISEAN CARA REPORT** ————

Misean Cara has lauded the work of Edmund Rice Advocacy Network in East Africa. To read the report, please click this link:

<http://www.miseancara.ie/education-human-rights/>

———— **GONE FISHING KICKS OFF** ————

Gone Fishing is an immersion program of Edmund Rice Foundation Australia which brings people involved in the corporate world in Australia to visit various projects that are supported by Edmund Rice Foundation Australia (ERFA). It is a 12-day program, which enables the participants to encounter the realities in which the poor people live and are led to reflect on those experiences.

Nine new participants, including Anthony Ryan, founder of this immersion program are currently undergoing the program in Nairobi.



Last night (Oct 9) in an emotionally moving ceremony the nine participants were commissioned to enter the journey.

These are Ed Phelan (Leader of this immersion program), Andrea Kenny (New leader), Amy Graham, Rachel McDonald, Julia Pignatelli, Jacqui Folsam, John Corry, Geoff Doyle

and Rob McKeney.

George Massay

———— **MR ANTHOY RYAN RESIGNS AS CEO** ————

Mr Anthony Ryan has tendered his resignation as the Chief Executive Officer of Edmund Rice Foundation Australia (ERFA).





The District had an opportunity to thank him for his work in the foundation, his friendship over the years and his passion in serving the people, especially the poor.

Anthony will be greatly missed by the Brothers in East Africa and by many of his friends whom he has made over the five years of his involvement as the CEO of ERFA.

We wish him well in his new role as a CEO of an Australian Foundation.

George Massay

Birthdays

OCTOBER

13	CHRISPINUS MUNIALO (Karen)
23	TONY SHANAHAN (Sth C)
23	WYCLIFFE MAISIBA (Sinon)
26	SIMON KASWAHILI (Sinon)
31	TIM LOCKWOOD (Karen)

CALENDAR

OCTOBER 10-12	Formation Committee Meeting
OCTOBER 12	DLT Meeting
OCTOBER 14-16	AP Workshop - Arusha
OCTOBER 26	DLT Meeting
OCTOBER 28-29	Community Leaders Meeting
NOVEMBER 8	DLT meeting
NOVEMBER 21-24	PLT meeting (Freetown)
NOVEMBER 26	First Profession (Tamale)
NOVEMBER 30	DLT meeting
DECEMBER 3-7	DLT away for end-of-year review and planning
DECEMBER 12	Jamhuri Day
DECEMBER 16-18	District Assembly

Many blessings

George

