



ALL SAINTS DAY: WHAT SORT OF SAINTS DO WE NEED?



BEATITUDES FOR SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT (Louise Helene Renou)

Blessed are you, when you remain available, sharing in simplicity what you possess.

Blessed are you, when you weep over the absence of happiness around you, and throughout the world.

Blessed are you, when you opt for gentleness and dialogue even when this seems long and difficult.

Blessed are you, when your creativity devises new ways of donating your time, your tenderness and gems of hope.

Blessed are you, when you listen with your heart to detect what is gift in others.

Blessed are you, when you strive to take the first step, the necessary one to attain peace with brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Blessed are you, when you keep your wonderment, openness and free questioning of life.

Blessed are you, when you take seriously your faith in the Risen Christ.





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GRADUATION DAY

Graduation day at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA) last Friday was a joyful day for two of our Brothers. Simon Kaswahili (l. in the photo) graduated with a Master's degree in Education. His thesis focused on the impact of teenage pregnancy on educational outcomes for girls in Kajiado County, near Nairobi. Clearly, the research was not just an academic exercise but was about the "real world" of our secondary schools



and teenage girls. Simon had to put up with much travel between Arusha and Nairobi over the last two years to complete his degree.

Chris Munialo (r. in the photo) completed his B.Ed. at CUEA earlier this year. His major areas were Mathematics and Chemistry. Chris is helping out as volunteer at Edmund Rice Advocacy Network while he waits for his ministry and community posting for 2017.

They were joined by many Brothers, family members and friends to celebrate at Karen community in the afternoon and evening. Hongereni sana to our two newest graduates.

COMMUNITY LEADERS MEETING



A more serious moment during the CLs' meeting: moving around the table from left: John Paul, Amandi (partly obscured), Clem, Chris, Paul, Sunday.

Despite several notable absentees, the Community Leaders had a fruitful and enjoyable meeting on Saturday. George (South C) was on retreat, and





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Vincent Mallya (Otiende) was visiting Yambio. Because of distance and his important visitor, Fred (Yambio) was also unable to be present.

A feature of these meetings is the honest sharing of experience and the pooling of wisdom about how the Community Leader's service to the community can be best performed. We also had valuable discussions about the implementation of Our Way Into the Future and the Nairobi Chapter directions in the communities of our District, and what our next steps might be as we look to 2017. On a very practical level, there was also consideration of community finances and budgets.

HARD TIMES IN SOUTH SUDAN



Bros. Denis Reardon (l.) and Fred Otieno sample the produce from the garden of the Star Support Group in Yambio.

With the insecurity in South Sudan, and basic services in such a poor state, it is very much a cash economy, which very easily becomes a “black economy”, where goods and services are paid for in cash and therefore not declared for tax. A black economy can also mean low tax revenues, poor government services and so a poor country and poor people. The fact that there is so much cash in circulation means that there are increased security risks. There is a likelihood of missionary people being targeted by robbers as they are seen as often moving around with cash.

Since I was here last year there has been dramatic inflation – the rate was 4 South Sudanese Pounds (SSP) to the US dollar last year; today it is 74 SSP!

Hearing gunshots is a normal occurrence here. Last night we heard gun shots and in the morning were told that here was a report that police had taken a lot of cash from the bank to pay salary this week. Robbers went to





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the central police station in Yambio and shot dead one policeman trying to get the cash, but in vain. This morning there was a gun shot at the church (near the Brothers' house) and people started running towards the bishop's house, while I took refuge inside our house.

UN personnel, politicians and the police seem to be the only people who can reliably withdraw money from the bank. Others, if they are lucky that day, might get only \$200 after queuing for a long time. Some days you can't get any cash. He was told to come back next week.

I am on a monitoring visit to Star Support Group, and offering community support for the Yambio community. Despite the difficulties, people are getting on with life. Br. Simon Odongo says that he cannot leave the place as, if everyone leaves, who will help the people of Yambio? Br. Denis Reardon says that this is his home and that is that.



The photo relates to a five day seminar on prophylaxis for people living with HIV/AIDS. The seminar was given by Dr. Simon Ngbazege from the government hospital in Yambio, and was organized by Br. Fredrick Otieno, the Director of Star Support Group.

Br. Vincent Mallya

A NEW DAWN FOR MARY RICE CENTRE

After a period of five years being hosted by St. Charles Lwanga Brothers, Mary Rice Centre last Friday relocated to the old site where it started in February, 2007. There was great relief when we discovered that the land belongs to the Congregation of Holy Cross after all. Plans are under way to formulate an MOU which will provide stability to Mary Rice Centre so it can go on developing its services to children with disabilities in the local area.





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Mary Rice parents and staff working together on the relocation.

It was a heartwarming experience to see our parents taking part in the work of moving, alongside the staff members. Three containers and all equipment were moved. Electricity and water are connected already. This week we will work on putting on the roof and building a kitchen. The children are on a break for the week while we are settling the place.

Parents have expressed their joy and gratitude, knowing that the new ("old"?) site will allow us to improve our services to the children, and also to the parents themselves through income-generating activities.

We thank those who have made it possible for us to relocate through their prayers, advice and financial support. We hope to have a Mass and blessing to mark the relocation. Stand by for further details.

Gerald Mgalula



Kwaheri Charles Lwanga.





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EDMUND RICE KARIBU CAMPS



What was exciting these youngsters?

The camp on Saturday aimed to give a joyful end to the end of the school year for our primary school kids. As it turned out, we had fewer children than usual but with a significant number (40!) of effective leaders. I thought the process flowed very well, giving all leaders a chance to prove they are on a learning curve. The afternoon skits highlighted the children's understandings of child abuse. Again, the laughter, non-stop energy and the gratitude of the children were the highlights.

Peter Cole

EDMUND RICE KARIBU GROUP



Review and planning under way





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Two weeks ago, ERKG leaders had a general meeting, well attended by 45 leaders. The meeting was to evaluate activities in the last three quarters: camps, community outreach programs, formation and skills training days. We also planned for the remaining activities before the year ends, and prepared for the visit from St. Edward's, Gosford (Australia) in November.

The work was furthered this weekend with a meeting of the ERKG executive, that also worked on plans for the "Tutembe Pamoja" visit from Melbourne in January.

Sammy Muga

BIRTHDAYS

October	26 SIMON KASWAHILI (Sinon) 31 TIM LOCKWOOD (Karen)
November	2 PAUL MUTUKU (Eldoret) 10 MARTIN KHAEMBA (Otiende) 15 GERARD ELLUL (Shams)

CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 9	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 (public holiday Kenya)
DECEMBER 16-18	District Assembly

