



———— **WARNING: ADVENT VIRUS** ————

(but not all viruses are deadly!)

Be on the alert for symptoms of inner Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The hearts of a great many have already been exposed to this virus and it is possible that people everywhere could come down with it in epidemic proportions. This could pose a serious threat to what has, up to now, been a fairly stable condition of conflict in the world.

Some signs and symptoms of the Advent Virus:

- + A tendency to think and act spontaneously rather than on fears based on past experiences.
- + An unmistakable ability to enjoy each moment.
- + A loss of interest in judging other people.
- + A loss of interest in interpreting the actions of others.
- + A loss of interest in conflict.
- + A loss of the ability to worry (this is a very serious symptom).
- + Frequent, overwhelming episodes of appreciation.
- + Contented feelings of connectedness with others and nature.
- + Frequent attacks of smiling.
- + An increasing tendency to let things happen rather than make them happen.
- + An increasing susceptibility to the love extended by others as well as the uncontrollable urge to extend it.

———— **PRAYERS REQUESTED** ————

For the 40 victims who lost their lives in the inferno caused by a tanker that exploded after it rammed into vehicles near Naivasha. The country and families are coming into terms with this tragic incident, which has caused pain to so many. “Scenes from hell” has been one of the headlines. For further news please visit www.nation.co.ke





———— SKY IS THE LIMIT AT RUBEN CENTRE WITH THE NEW STREET ————

Monitoring visit in our Christina Brothers ministries is by itself a tool to affirm and recognize what is being done in accordance with our OWITF and working with the people made poor. A recent monitoring visit at Ruben Centre led me to fashion the title of this brief article. Among other things is the speed at which the Human Development and Skill Training for community development unit (HDST) is being refurbished and the enthusiasm of Ms. Bev Watkinson (a volunteer from Australia) who heads the skill training for tailoring and weaving for people who opted for alternative education. This is one of many exciting new ventures being opened along what is called “New Street,” the location of Edmund Rice’s first school in Ireland.



Brs Vincent Mallya and Frank O'Shea along the "New Street"

Moving along New Street we find the Radio station, the newly opened enterprise at Ruben Centre (Ruben FM 99.9). The radio has become a tool of advocacy and SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises). The radio station is being broadcasted within the Mukuru slum as a community radio. The director of Ruben, Br. Frank O'Shea, reported how the radio has become a useful tool to bring to the community's attention issues of human rights and malpractice in the community. A crime that is committed is reported and attended to immediately. For example, when a child was lost one night, the information was brought to the radio station and within no time, the child was brought to the Center to be collected by her mother that very night.





The radio is being used in development, imparting knowledge, social interaction, peace-making, social cohesion and skill training through documentary and a lot more.



Ms Bev Watkinson and Br Vincent Mallya in the new IT room

There is a new Information Technology IT unit ready for adventure. Wi-Fi Connectivity and computers are in place to facilitate this special education program at the opening of the school next year.

Blessed Edmund Rice in 1802 established a makeshift school in a converted stable (his horse unit) in New Street, Waterford, offering education to the street boys of Waterford, Ireland. Today at Ruben centre and at many other of our ministries across the world, the opportunity is being taken to open programs and units to support people made poor.

We congratulate our leaders, brothers, ministry leaders and donors for being open to venture into new ideas of working and engaging the communities of people made poor. Because of the good leadership we have in place in the congregation - brothers, associates and collaborators can fly free and establish ministries and programs that are in line with OWITF, through the Mission Strategic Development Framework of the whole congregation, forging new streets in many areas.

Br Vincent Mallya

———— TAILORING TRAINING ACHIEVEMENT ————

South Sudan is the newest country in the world, having attained its independence in the last five years. Sadly recently the country has





been experiencing on-off conflicts i.e. tribal conflict, political instability and differences. All these challenges have contributed to the loss of many lives, displacement of people, under-development, looting of property, insecurity etc. From 2013 to date, South Sudan has been very unstable. Nearly everybody is traumatised in Yambio and almost all the states: every tribe has its own 'rebel army' that has turned to terrorize their own people.



Tailoring participants celebrate their achievement

Despite all these challenges, our project - Star Support Group that offers psychosocial care and support for People living with HIV/AIDS was privileged to host a short, meaningful and colourful graduation ceremony for the 25 participants who have been in the tailoring course for two years. The chief guest of honour was the Minister for Education, Gender and Social Development. Delivering his speech on behalf of the State Government, he appreciated the work of the Christian Brothers and promised to publicize the work of the Brothers at the National level. The Star Support Group has been chosen as one of the best projects that offers: a social protection policy, poverty intervention, advocacy, empowerment of the vulnerable, social welfare, child protection policy, economic empowerment, awareness workshops on HIV/AIDS, medication, reintegration, etc.

The sustainable development goals to end poverty in all its forms everywhere, achieve gender equality, and empower all women and





girls are among the achievements that Star Support Group has been striving to achieve with the aim of empowering the marginalized people to live a dignified life.

Br Fred Otieno

———— **PICTURES OF THE WEEK** ————

Photos of the last training day of the year at Mary Rice center Saturday 10th Dec 2016 in preparation of Amberley team 'Tutembe Pamoja-2017'.



Below South C Community takes a day off to review and celebrate a year, which concluded with a strenuous bike ride on Ngong Hills.



L-R Brs Frank O'Shea, George Massay, Tony Shanahan and Amandi Mboya





CALENDAR

DECEMBER 16-18 District Assembly

Many blessings

George

