



Christian Brothers
East Africa District

East Africa District Newsletter

DRAWN BY MYSTERY, DESTINED FOR LIFE.

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———— MERRY CHRISTMAS ————



Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

———— PRAYER REQUESTED ————

Prayers are requested for Br Peter Cole who is recuperating at Mater Hospital.





2016 DISTRICT ASSEMBLY



Br Edwin Wekulo presenting during the District assembly

From Friday, December 16–18, 32 Brothers of the East Africa District gathered at Mary Ward Centre for the annual assembly. Recognition was made of 17 Brothers who were not able to attend the assembly either due to ill-health, study commitments or others (the majority) who are outside the District for various commitments. Each of them was recalled as being part of this body of Brothers.

The focus of this assembly was community life. Brothers were able to review the quality of community life by looking at what we aspire to



Finally professed brothers making devotional renewal of their perpetual vows

be, the good things that are happening and the obstacles that are blocking us from living fully our ideals as set out to us in our Congregation documents. The session on community life engaged everyone, even those who are usually not as talkative! The reflections of this assembly will inform the work of the leadership and





Community Support Team for next year as we work together to address the obstacles.

The second day the assembly received the financial report of the District for the ending financial year. Brothers had an opportunity to seek clarifications on the finances of the District and they were informed of the future situation of the finances of the District and Province.

The assembly this year was shorter in anticipation of a switch next year to our District assembly during the Holy Week triduum and Easter.

George Massay

———— **RECEPTION AND MISSIONING**
OF THE NEWLY PROFESSED ————



L-R Brs Kelvin, Edwin, Melchizedek, Allan and Isaac during their missioning. Far right Br Tony Shanahan missioning the newly professed Brothers

Our newly professed Brothers (Kelvin, Edwin, Melchizedek, Allan and Isaac) were officially received in the District on Friday, 16th December, in a simple, but meaningful, Eucharistic ceremony at Mary Ward Centre. The families of the five Brothers travelled from upcountry for this event. Prior to the Eucharistic celebration, the parents had a session with the Brothers who briefed them about the lifestyle their children have embraced through the profession of religious vows. It was very moving to see the joy of the parents and siblings, and their support of their children as they serve God as Religious Brothers within the Congregation of Christian Brothers.





Br Michael de Klerk
addressing the newly
professed

Br Michael de Klerk, our Province Leader, was among those present at the ceremony. He urged the newly professed Brothers to keep alive the gift of their vocations. He reminded them that life is a journey, and there are times when doubts will come their way. He challenged them to keep an open mind and to remember what was taught to them in their formation as they embark on this journey.

George Massay

———— A VISIT TO THE ORPHANAGE ————

As St Pope John Paul II said; “Nobody is so poor that he has nothing to give, and nobody is so rich that he has nothing to receive.”



Catherine Wanjiku

This was the experience of the Education for Life (EFL) support group of Eldoret for children who are living positively with HIV when we visited Neema Children’s Home to celebrate Jamhuri day with them. Neema Children’s Home cares for Orphaned children living with HIV . We received a great welcome from 51 children who sang jubilation songs with great happiness as they saw us approaching their gate. The experience made us feel at home and at the right place.

We spent the whole day playing and sharing our life experiences, which was both insightful and sometimes heartbreaking as I recalled my own experiences when I was told that I was HIV positive. We encouraged everyone to stop stigmatizing others and instead to show love and care for those of us living positively. Br. Silverio urged us to support each other and not to worry about what other evil-minded people say. He told us that a person with the virus could live to up to 70 yrs. This gave hope to me as an individual and to the others who were listening.

Finally, we thank all the EFL family for supporting us with goodies and we thank our mum, Angie, for supporting and giving us an





opportunity to reach out to those needy children. We thank Br. Silverio for being with us and encouraging us always. We know you will not be with us next year and we will very much miss you.

CATHERINE WANJIKU

———— **PICTURES OF THE WEEK** ————



Gathering of family and brothers who attended the missioning of the newly professed



Children Support Group at EFL with Br Silverio Wafula





Members of the East Africa District at the end of the annual assembly

Many blessings

George

