



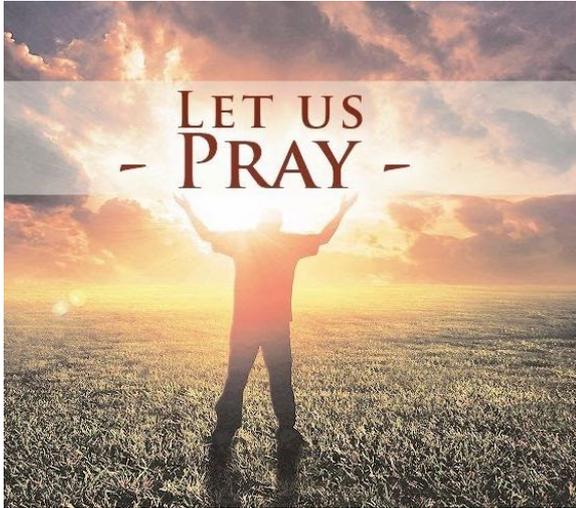
Christian Brothers
East Africa District

East Africa District Newsletter

DRAWN BY MYSTERY, DESTINED FOR LIFE.

Edition 132
March 27, 2017

— LET US PRAY —



Almighty and eternal God, you have created each one of us in your image and likeness, and endowed us with love and care. You have given us your commandment, to love our brothers and sisters, just as you have loved us.

We thank you for the gift of Mary Rice, a daughter of the Blessed Edmund Rice. In Mary Rice, a child born with special needs, you taught Edmund how to be a parent who is gentle and loving.

Edmund as a single parent did all he could to make sure that Mary experienced the love and care she deserved. Edmund treasured the first words of Mary when she attempted to call him 'dada'.

We pray Lord that you inspire us with the example of Edmund in caring for his beloved daughter. Fill us with your love and grace especially when we become impatient with our children. We thank you for revealing your face daily to us in these children whom you have given to us in your name. May we be ever grateful for the blessing and opportunity to care and teach them.

We thank you for blessing us with this special day today. May today mark the beginning of the next chapter for Mary Rice. We especially pray for all our guests present here today, may they feel the warm embrace from the Mary Rice community as we all continue on this journey together.

We ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN

(Prayer recited by Ms Esther Ndung'u, Occupational Therapist of Mary Rice Centre Kenya)





— PRAYER REQUEST —

Edmund Rice Camp leader Seline, who lost her mother two weeks ago (Zilah Musimbi Lando) and Lydia who lost her mother (Selpha Kemoli) last week Thursday.

— MARY RICE CENTRE KENYA LAUNCHES ITS 5-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN —



Mr Stuart Shaw, (middle) First Secretary and Consul of the Australia High Commission launches the Mary Rice Strategic Plan assisted by other stakeholders

March 24th 2017 marked a very special occasion at the Mary Rive Centre. It was a day where many guests and visitors travelled from near and far to come together as one Mary Rice Community for the launching of the strategic plan for the next 5 years. The Mary Rice Centre embraces the idea that it should grow and develop. As Br John Paul stated, "Plan to prepare or prepare to fail." Failure is something that is foreign to the Mary Rice Centre.

Director, Br Gerald Mgalula provided a greater understanding of the beginning of Mary Rice through the Christian Brothers. He shared the





story of Edmund Rice, who had a daughter with a special needs, after whom the centre is named. A painting of Edmund and Mary can be seen hanging as you walk through the doorway to the newest building as a daily reminder of how Mary Rice Centre came to be.

Br George said that it is a privilege for Christian Brothers and our various partners to minister to the children of Mary Rice. Our charism speaks of finding God in the face of the poor and the marginalized. It is in them that we find the reason for our vowed consecration.



Moment of celebration for everyone. Br Russell and Mr Stuart and the local Chief are seen as they joined the children in the dance

The African drumming, singing and dancing from the parents in bright blue t-shirts brought an incredible energy to start the event and this energy only continued throughout the day. Hearing a number of the Mary Rice children exclaim a poem directed to parents, community and the government, stating 'give us opportunities not sympathy' sums up what Mary Rice represents.

While the Australian High Commissioner was not able to be present, we were honoured by the presence of the First Secretary and Consul, Mr Stuart Shaw. Mr Shaw showed great enthusiasm throughout the day and even joined in dance with the children. We look forward to building our relationship in the future. "Yes, Mr Shaw, please do come and visit your freshly planted mango trees at any time."





Overall the day was full of prayer, singing, dancing, laughter, story telling and staff from each department sharing their objectives and the intended impact and challenges to be faced. The day itself was a huge success, this marks the beginning for the next 5 years and I'm sure everyone present at the launch is excited to see just how far Mary Rice will go.

Claire Samantha

———— MY EXPERIENCE IN EFL-ELDORET ————

Learning does not stop and if it stops the learner must be either non-living or he/she must have stopped to grow and develop.

Having gone through the Education for Life program as an attaché for a period of 2 months, I must confess that I have learnt a lot as the name of the program suggests. It is an “Education for life (EFL). I have learnt to apply some of my skills to bring change into the lives of the people made poor in our world.

The most striking thing is the positive attitude of the members toward their lives, despite the conditions in which they live and the challenges they face: all kinds of social injustices (such as humiliation, rejection, stigmatisation, prejudice)



A dance to farewell Danish by members of EFL

According to the members, the program offers them what the world has denied them: it is a place where Gospel values are not only read but also lived. It is a home where the bigger family lives together,





embraces each other, shares sorrows and joys. Truly, the program is a source of hope, love, understanding, care, acceptance and equity.

I am struck by how the members feel free to express themselves without fear. They have been empowered to recognize how important their lives are. This has confirmed the saying “Knowledge is power.” It is worth noting that the members are now able to live well with their condition and not only living well but also living positively with HIV/AIDS Infections. In my opinion, this is a great milestone to have achieved and a great lesson to learn, to praise and value.

**Dennish Opiyo
(Postulant, Shams-Arusha)**

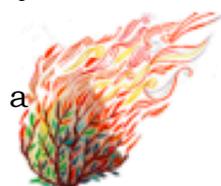
———— **EDMUND RICE CAMP NAIROBI –
FORMATION DAY** ————



Br George Massay facilitating the session

Forty members of Karibu Camp Leaders gathered at St. Mary’s Hospital in Regina Pacis’ hall in Langata. Our facilitator for the day was Br. George Massay. The topics were: Communication skills (non-violent communication) and Leadership and Anger Management (when interacting both with children and with fellow leaders.) It was a day packed with learning.

The morning sessions included icebreakers, a prayer reflection by a leader and one-to-one communication. Small group’s discussions





mainly focused on how the spirit of Edmund Rice is seen in the leaders and in the community work we do. We also explored how the seven basic needs of children have been fulfilled.

The afternoon sessions focused on the “Pillars and Features” of Edmund Rice Ministries East Africa (ERMEA). Samuel Karanja facilitated one of the pillars, which is Advocacy and Networking. Planning of upcoming activities was the last activity followed by a final prayer reflection.

Sammy Muga

———— OLOOLUA MCA ASPIRANTS’ DEBATE ————



Domus Radio, in collaboration with ERAN and other partners, hosted contestants of the Ooloolua Ward Member of the County Assembly position on Friday, 24th March 2017 at the Domus Mariae School. The event was aimed at bringing the candidates, a selection of the voters and the listeners, drawn from the Ooloolua Ward of Kajiado County to a meeting where they could discuss the various issues that the contestants hoped to tackle if elected to office. Key among the issues discussed were youth and women empowerment, infrastructure, bursary, insecurity, inclusivity and peaceful and harmonious living during this and the post-election period. Further, the candidates undertook to work with the eventual winner of the elections.

Ludivicus Omollo





EDMUND RICE TOURNAMENT ELDORET KENYA



The Edmund Rice cup tournament in Eldoret for youths under 14 years of age officially started on 25th March 2017 with many young people hoping the best for their teams. This event will take place over the next seven weeks. Ten teams have already registered to participate and are anticipating winning. These matches bring together the youths between 12-14 years, gives them a platform to develop their talents and to showcase their skills. They engage in healthy competitions while at the same time experiencing peace, love and unity among the youths from different backgrounds.

During the launch you could see the high spirits of each team and their motivation to give the match their best in order to emerge winners and take the cup home. The finals of the tournament will be on 6th May 2017 to mark Edmund Rice Day with the winner of the tournament receiving the trophy and other gifts.

Over the weeks of the competition, our camp leaders will be offering the youths life skills training. We hope these matches create an environment that brings the young youths together to work towards the same goal irrespective of their backgrounds.

Br Paul Mutuku

— EDMUND RICE ELDORET CAMPS —

Despite the busy schedule of the day, Camps activities were given their desired time and space. Due to the great cooperation and support from each camp leader, the event was well conducted. 21 camp leaders successfully coordinated 86 children. The joy of playing together, eating together, interacting was apparent to all that





participated in the event. It was great joy to see smiles on the face of children who participated in the event. I am very grateful to God and to ERFA, which provides the support that enables us to reach out to these destitute children.

Br Elly Sakwa

———— **INVITATION TO THE 10TH FORM 6
GRADUATION CEREMONY** ————

Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School will be holding an annual graduation ceremony for Form 6 on Friday, 7th April, 2017. This year about 248 candidates will be graduating. The school is pleased to invite you to join in the entire function, which will commence with Holy Mass at 8.30am followed by the graduation ceremony, scheduled for 10.30am to 2.30pm. The main celebrant and guest of honour will be **His Grace Archbishop Josaphat L. Lebulu**, the Catholic Archbishop of the Arusha Archdiocese. Your presence on this day will be highly appreciated.

Br. Simon Kaswahili

BIRTHDAYS

MARCH	30	EDWARD MASINDE (Limulunga, Zambia)
	31	SIMON PETER ODONGO (Yambio)

CALENDAR

April 4-8	EREA immersion
April 13-17	District Assembly – Mary Ward
April 18	Community Leaders Meeting
April 20	Departure of OP group to India
May 2-7	Mission Capacity Support Team Meeting
May 15-16	Formation Committee Meeting
May 15-19	PLT Meeting
May 27	Br Pascal Kituku's death anniversary
May 31 – June 6	AP Long Workshop
June 26-30	Accompaniment In-services training

Many blessings

George

