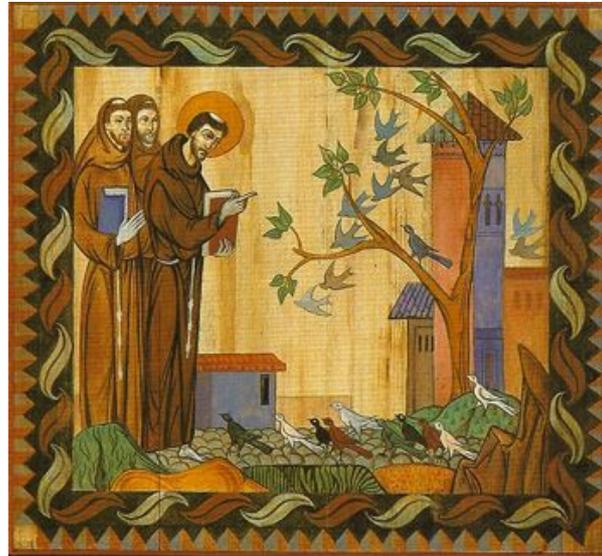




———— NATURE AS MIRROR ————



Francis' first sermon was not to humans, but to birds.

At the end of the sermon, he told the birds,

“Now, go off, because I’ve told you who you are.”

And he was addressing them as equals in creation, calling them “brother” and “sister,” as no one recorded had ever done before!

Throughout his life in his interactions with creatures—including a wolf, a lamb, worms, fish and bees—Francis is always telling them that by their very existence they are inherently giving glory to God. All things should be who they truly are, and that is enough. Every animal must simply “do itself.”

Each creature has a unique thing to do in the circle of life, and in that simple performance it is giving glory to a unique aspect of God and making us happy besides—at least I hope so.

I wonder if Francis preached to birds, to wolves, and to sheep because he knew they would believe him and act on their true identity more easily than we humans.

Richard Rohr: In the Footsteps of Francis: Awakening to Creation

———— PRAYER REQUESTED ————

For our Brothers and the people of West Africa who are in the midst of the Ebola outbreak.





ENERGY AT ERMEA CONFERENCE

There was abounding energy at the ERMEA (Edmund Rice Ministries East Africa) Conference at the Mary Ward Centre, Karen from Sunday evening 28 September to lunch Wednesday 1 October.

The Sunday evening Eucharist was led by Fr Andrew Okeyo whose words from the Gospel about 'walking the talk' became a touchstone for our days together. After supper on Sunday the participants from the DLT, Edmund Rice Sinon, Edmund Rice Camps, the Brother Beausang Schools Embulbul, Edmund Rice Advocacy, Mary Rice Centre, Ruben Centre, Education for Life Eldoret, Star & Solidarity Yambio introduced themselves. There were 8 Brothers and 17 lay people present. Loreto Sister Stephanie O'Brien, who coordinates the Loreto group of 13 ministries in Kenya, was the facilitator.



On Monday morning Amandi Mboya led the opening ritual, followed by sharings on the ministry implications of Christian Brother gatherings in earlier 2014. George Massay gave a passionate sharing about the Congregation Chapter and Tony Shanahan about the Africa Chapter. Amandi took the dominant theme of 'Our Way into the

Future' further. Simon Kaswahili explained the implications of the 'Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders' conference in May. The gathering was greatly enthused by the implications of 'Our Way into the Future'.

Monday afternoon was taken up by a review of the *2014 Pillars and Features* document and the formulation of the central issues in the *2015-2017 Pillars and Features* document. Evening Prayer was led by the Mary Rice Centre staff.

On Tuesday morning, after prayer led by Beausang Embulbul, Frank O'Shea and the Ruben participants led through a sharing on the movement towards Best Practices. After morning tea Eva Njagi of Beausang Embulbul led a reflection on some of the burning issues affecting ministries. After lunch Joseph Githenji of ERSS Arusha led a reflection on Policies and Practices. In the latter part of the afternoon there was a spirited Volley Ball game among reps from each of the





ministries. A moving evening prayer in the HIV-AIDS theme was led by the Yambio-Eldoret ministries.

Wednesday began with a sharing by Vincent Mallya on development and funding issues. The Group distilled the major issues to be carried forward. A recommendation was made that there be two conferences in 2015, one in May and another in later September. A steering committee of Evangeline Njagi (Embulbul), Joash Diemo (ERAN), Vincent Mallya (Development), Gideon Mvurya (Ruben) was nominated to assist Russell in the Coordinator work.

The conference was brought to a conclusion by a moving ritual led by Sr Stephanie

Russell Peters

———— **EDMUND RICE CAMP FOR KIDS,**
SATURDAY 4TH OCTOBER ————

I have rarely seen, if ever, a camp where there was more non-stop physical activity and such robust yelling and screaming, especially with the handball games and the mass relay!! The 6 small group leaders were fantastic in initiating new games and keeping their group active. We had 28 leaders most of whom were fairly recent recruits and over 60 kids including about 20 grade 8s. This gave us a chance to bless and commission the grade 8s and the form 4s into their forthcoming exams. Catherine Jemimah, (Daystar Uni) and Kennedy Njoroge (JKUAT) both from Kibera, were the coaches for the day. The presentations of the kids were also charming.

Peter Cole

———— **BACHELOR OF ARTS IN SUSTAINABLE HUMAN**
DEVELOPMENT
GRADUATION CEREMONY KARIBU CAMPS STYLE ————

Br. Samuel, now Director of ERKG, chose a novel way of graduating from Catholic University (Studies in Sustainable and Community Development) Sammy sent greetings to his fellows who graduated on Friday, 3rd. in traditional way but rather opted to receive his graduation at the Edmund Rice Camp,





requesting the participating children to make him a gown and hat from cardboard cartons. This a few volunteers did, adorning the cartons with colour and drawings. A cake was cut and distributed. Sammy was rapt to the eye balls to receive this gift of a 'graduation gown' and the acclamation of the kids and the leaders. Sammy ended the day more nourished in spirit than could have been possible in the conventional way.



Sammy in his locally fabricated academic attire

Peter Cole

— THE MAGIC OF TECHNOLOGY —

Why are the children at Mary Rice Centre so happy this term? The term started well and vibrant for all of us. Then, St. Virgil's College Australia presented the children with a unique gift. They received four iPads. It was a real surprise. These will help the children acquire new and very different skills.



This is a wonderful gift. The preloaded alphabet training, games, cartoons, painting and other programs will support the children in their learning. The teachers will train the children in the use of the iPads. The iPads will encourage the children learn in new ways through the use of technology.

The children were delighted to play games that contained animal pictures and through rearranging the picture pieces they could name the animals. By cooperating with each other, the children enjoyed using the iPads. At first the children were not able to use the equipment, but after a short training session they became very expert in their use. We could also observe how much concentration the children put into using the iPads; they showed so much interest in learning how to use them.

We are very grateful to St Virgil's College for this wonderful gesture and also for thinking of the well-being of the children of Mary Rice. This will lay a very wonderful foundation for the children who are





currently with us. We appreciate this act of kindness from St. Virgil's and will always be grateful.

Jerusa Ongeru.

———— MY ONE-WEEK IN ELDORET ————

One week over and I have survived. Really more than survived. I am very much still wondering how I will fit into the local picture and how I can best use my time and talents. I went to the Education For Life Centre where I will spend most of my time and energy. It is a centre dedicated to helping people (mostly women 95%) who have been infected with HIV. On Monday 100 women and 2 men showed up for their weekly group session. Since it was all in Swahili I was for the most part an observer. They did their best to include me but once the surprise of seeing me passed they continued in their own language, as they should. I managed to stay for three or four hours until they broke into small groups to discuss micro financing before going home.



Bill Colford visiting a family

On Thursday from 8:30 till 1:30 we visited the homes of five new members. The moments that stay with me, is the experience of sitting in the home of a woman and wondering about the ability of people to live in such poverty. The house was three meters by five meters at most and the walls were made of mud. The ceiling was corrugated steel sheets with light shining through the many holes. Her bed was in the corner with the least number of holes. The floor was earth and not at all level. She was responsible for five children and there was no “man” in the picture. She had to pay 10 dollars a month for the privilege of living in that home. Her main chance at work is if





someone calls her to wash or if she gets a job smearing dirt on mud huts to semi insulate them. But for the most part she just survives. It really heightens my own sense of appreciation for what I have.

Bill Colford

———— **GONE FISHING EUCHARIST** ————

All Brothers and their co-workers are invited to the Mary Ward Centre for the Commissioning Eucharist for the nine members of the recently arrived Gone Fishing group.

DATE: **Sunday, 11 October**
TIME: **3:00 pm**

Fr Andrew Okeyo CP will lead the Eucharist. After the Eucharist there will be refreshments.

Russell Peters

BIRTHDAYS OCTOBER

- 01 CHARLES TAMUKU (First year novice – Lusaka)
- 08 DENIS REARDON (Yambio)
- 13 CHRISPINUS MUNIALO (Karen)
- 23 TONY SHANAHAN (South C)
- 23 WYCLIFFE MAISIBA (Karen)
- 26 SIMON KASWAHILI (Embulbul)
- 31 TIM LOCKWOOD (Otiende)

CALENDAR

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Oct. 10 – 12 | Annually Professed Weekend |
| Oct. 30 – 31 | Formation Committee Meeting - Nairobi |
| Oct. 31 – Nov. 1 | Community Leaders Meeting (Friday supper and Saturday) |
| Nov. 29 | First Profession (Tamale) |
| Dec. 6 | Reception and missioning for newly professed (Nairobi) |
| Dec. 12 - 15 | District Assembly |
| Dec. 16-18 | DLT review and planning days |

Many thanks

George Massay

