



CAMAS LILIES

Consider the lilies of the field,
the blue banks of camas
opening into acres of sky
along the road.
Would the longing to lie down
and be washed by that beauty
abate if you knew their
usefulness,
how the natives ground their
bulbs
for flour, how the settlers'
hogs
uprooted them, grunting in
gleeful
oblivion as the flowers fell?



And you — what of your rushed
and useful life? Imagine setting it all down —
papers, plans, appointments, everything —
leaving only a note: "Gone
to the fields to be lovely. Be back
when I'm through with blooming."

Even now, unneeded and uneaten,
the camas lilies gaze out above the grass
from their tender blue eyes.
Even in sleep your life will shine.
Make no mistake. Of course
your work will always matter.

*Yet Solomon in all his glory
was not arrayed like one of these.*

~ Lynn Ungar ~

(Blessing the Bread)





PRAYERS REQUESTED

———— SUDDEN DEATH OF MY SISTER IN-LAW ————

It is hard moments to our family now as we mourn the death of my sister in-law Evaline who has been my guardian since the death of my mum in 2006. Br. Chris Munialo, Br. Julius Oluoch and Br. Daniel Lyimo have had encounter with her when they visited before I joined the novitiate. I will miss this great lady in my family. Rest in peace Evaline.

Isaac Odongo – (Novitiate Tamale)

———— JERRY VALK ————

For the repose of the soul of Jerry Valk, a brother-in-law of Bill Colford. Bill is in Canada for the funeral. We hold Bill and his family in our prayers during this period of mourning.

———— NEWS FROM BILL COLFORD ————

Hope all is relatively well your way. Just to inform you that my brother-in-law passed away last night, Saturday (25th April) and it was a blessed relief all around. He has been semi conscious since I arrived and had no quality of life. He simply stopped breathing. For the last week he has been so medicated that the pain he was experiencing was totally suppressed, thank God. Of course all are sad that he is no longer physically present with us but are content that his suffering has ended and that he is in a better place. I thank everyone who has been so thoughtful in making it possible for me to be present to family during this time. The funeral services will be on Wednesday and Thursday so please remember the family in a special way during these days.

Again, thanks to all who have been so supportive in the journey of mine.

Bill Colford

———— EDMUND RICE SINON SECONDARY SCHOOL CELEBRATES THE 9TH FORM 6 GRADURATION ————

The 25th April, 2015 was a remarkable day at Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School. The day was blessed by sunshine in the morning and heavy rains in the evening. Fortunately, the rains started a minute after the closing the ceremony! On that day, all 149 graduands were filled with noticeable excitement, which they expressed through cheering and enthusiastic ululations. The staff, parents, students, community, invited guests and even non-invited guests took part in the celebrations.





Edmund Rice students during their graduation ceremony

The guest of honour was Prof. Ward J. Mavura, the Director of the Arusha Campus of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture . He arrived on time and spent the whole day at Edmund Rice. The theme of his speech was “aiming higher.” He told the graduands that they have the potential of becoming the engineers, doctors, pilots, and



Students performing Taekwendo during the graduation

technicians of tomorrow, basing his recommendation on the science exhibition that he visited shortly before the ceremony began. He encouraged the graduands to advance in their studies so as to achieve their academic dreams. He

concluded by thanking the school for creating a wonderful opportunity for learners. He reckoned Edmund Rice was an ideal school for any serious student.

Br. Simon Kaswahili





———— CHILDREN MIRROR THEIR TEACHERS' ATTITUDES! ————

If a teacher believes children can learn, they are likely to trust themselves and their abilities.

This is what St. Josephs' school Kensecca, one of the 12 primary schools within Mannyra Parish in Uganda goes through. Despite the lack of safe and stable environment, the teachers in this school shared with us Brothers (Philip, Paul, Silverio and myself) some of the strategies they find helpful in supporting these children and their families. They work hard in building social connections with the parents and guardians so as to become aware of resources needed in school, such as classrooms. I was amazed on how their presence in that community enlightens the minds of many through caring, showing empathy for children and responding to emotional issues among kids to ensure positive reinforcement for attendance.



Students and teacher of Kensecca Primary school in Manyra - Uganda

By encountering teachers who are dedicated, many children find joy and strive harder to achieve their goals. Their school motto "*we hope in Jesus*", the school hopes to have standard classrooms and conducive environment. It is also a sign of hope for the children ahead of them lies a bright future.

As we interacted with Children, they seemed to appreciate the presence of their quality teachers and their supporters. From this encounter with struggling kids, I learnt that, together we can give life and hope by our presence through sharing what we have with less fortunate.

DANIEL KYALO





———— **EDMUND RICE CAMP FOR KIDS FOR KIBERA**
APRIL 25, 2015 ————

What a blessing to have a sunny day, a rain-uninterrupted day for the camp. Finally 62 children arrived with 30 leaders including four come and see people who fitted in so well. The training we had the week before had its impact and the games flowed without stop. By 2.00 p.m all were exhausted. Martin Khaemba made a great debut as driver, actor and locutor with the leaders. The highlight of the presentations was A young girl who animatedly made a commentary on the drama that the rest of the group was acting out. John Muisyo, camp coach, made my blood tingle with his motivational speech at the end to the members which revealed how much he has assimilated Edmund Rice and the traditions of our Victorian camps way back

PETER COLE

———— **STAR SUPPORT GROUP NEWS**
IN YAMBIO, SOUTH SUDAN ————

Star Support Group Project is a faith-based organization of the Christian Brothers that provides psychosocial support for people in Yambio living with HIV/AIDS. The project strives to build the capacity of the people living with HIV and AIDS (PLWHA), by creating a community of affected women, men, children, families, a community which is free from any form of stigmatization, discrimination and isolation. HIV/AIDS poses a continuous threat to all persons regardless of age, sex, lifestyle, ethnic background and socioeconomic status.



Some of the beneficiaries undergoing training

The project is committed to help the PLWHA live with dignity. Creating awareness, provision of opportunistic infection drugs and prophylaxis, home-based care support are some of the project's activities. Last year the project was privileged to receive donor funding for the purchase of much-needed medication for the dispensary and support to pay school fees

for the orphaned children to acquire basic primary education. Currently 1124 clients, including 403 orphaned children, are the beneficiaries of the project.

The eagerly-awaited tailoring project was opened late last month to empower the members with skills and knowledge to become job-





creators. This is one way in which the project is striving to become self-reliant. So far, the first phase of training enables thirty beneficiaries to undergo the training. The pictures below depict the progress of the tailoring project.

FREDRICK OTIENO

———— **HOME VISIT IN MANNYA COMUNNITY** ————



It was a grace filled moment for us to have got opportunity to immerse into the life of Mannya community. We, with the Parish Priest Fr Nestus, conducted home visitation which, for me, was really disturbing, challenging and same time supportive. Personally I was in a confusion when we visited three families. In one, five children aging 10years and below living alone. All their parents and relatives died of Hiv/Aids. In another, an old man left alone in a falling thatched house and with jiggers all over his body. And we visited an old woman who is immobile; she can't do anything by herself due to

pain she has in her knees. All this experience left me disturbed and a times was interrogating myself 'why this God'? To my surprise, in every home we visited we were welcomed with a big smile but you can tell the nature of poverty they are undergoing.

Silverio Wafula

———— **ENCOUNTER WITH WOMEN OF ST LUKES MANNYA, UGANDA** ————



Women group of Manya with the visiting brothers

It's amazing how women involvement in development does not only change themselves

lives but the whole society. This was clear when I met St. Luke's





women in my excursion to Manny; how the women's projects have lifted them from grass to grace and this I got when they shared their living life experiences. Through different stories they shared it was clear that the health of a community is directly linked to its economy and more benefits when a woman is empowered.

PAUL MUTUKU.

———— **ANZAC WELL COMEMORATED** ————

How often do I think of all those who in one way or another shaped my life? This is one of the questions that remained with me after the dawn of Saturday, 25th April 2015.

It was not just an usual dawn for me and perhaps for the hundreds of people who attend this year's ANZAC Day dawn Service which, has its origins in an operational routine that is still observed by the Australian and New Zealand Armies today. Above all, this year marks 100th anniversary. So it was a kind of its own. I was opportune to be among the '*dignitaries*' of different caliber and believe me, it was a very solemn, touching memorial service.



I am pictured on the left, next to Jeremiah Mumo (Choir Director) and some of the choir members.

It all commenced by total silence and lighting of candles. Solemn blowing of flutes and trumpets by the Kenyan army. A welcome





speech by HE Mr. John FEAKS, the Australian High Commissioner in Kenya followed. *“This ANZAC centenary is also a time to remember the essential contribution of those on the home front who support and care for those in service, and often face the loss and injury of loved ones.”* However, that was not all. The speech by the Turkish Ambassador, HE Ms Deniz EKE touched me when she said; *“Despite the suffering and destruction, it was also a battle where honor and dignity prevailed; a battle where both sides respected each other as humans. Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives are not different with all other heroes and heroines around the globe. They are now lying side by side in the soil of our friendly countries...You, the mothers who voluntarily sent your sons from far away countries, wipe away your tears. Your sons are lying in our bosom and are in peace. They have indeed become our sons as well.”*

Br. Russell Peters, CFC, who has been attending the ANZAC each year, honored the occasion by leading a wonderful prayer.

Br Lawrence Agalo

———— **COME AND SEE PROGRAMME-**
MONDAY 13 – MONDAY 20TH. APRIL ————

I thank the Embulbul community so much for hosting the first come and see group for his year, 2015. I had been in constant contact with 10 aspirants but in the end five appeared, with the other five seemingly having good reasons for non-attendance. The hospitality of the community was huge. Each member immersed himself in the conversations, the community prayer, the responsibilities and the UNO game. As well, we thank the Balozi community for their hospitality and the opportunity for Eucharist. The aspirants all mentioned the warmth of welcome from the old ‘shuffler.’ (I had better escape). I appeared only early in the morning each day and left late evening. We visited all ministry activities including the Edmund Rice camp ones. The aspirants were moved by the care the Brothers have for the marginalized and especially their simplicity of being. We particularly thank Lewis of Mary Rice Centre for taking them for Kibera home visits, something they found very touching. We finished with a half day recollection. I found the interviewing deeply encouraging.

PETER COLE

BIRTHDAYS

MAY	04	CLEM BARRETT (Sinon)
	12	AMOS KUTWA (Balozi)
	17	SAMUEL MUNYUA (Embulbul)
	17	PAUL FOLLAS (Keating House, Lusaka)
	20	FREDERICK OTIENO (Yambio)

CALENDAR





MAY

- 1 Labour Day
- 1-3 Annually Professed Workshop
- 5 Blessed Edmund Rice Feast Day
- 11-15 PLT meeting
- 20 DLT meeting
- 24-26 ERMEA meeting
- 28-29 Formation Committee Meeting (Nairobi)

JUNE

- 1 Madaraka Day
- 3 DLT meeting
- 24 DLT meeting
- 28 June – July 4 PLT Retreat (Nairobi)

Many blessings

George Massay

