



Christian Brothers  
East Africa District

# East Africa District Newsletter

**DRAWN BY MYSTERY, DESTINED FOR LIFE.**

Volume 2, Edition 40  
May 4, 2015

## — A BLESSING FOR EQUILIBRIUM —



Like the joy of the sea coming home to shore,  
May the music of laughter break through your soul.

As the wind wants to make everything dance,  
May your gravity be lightened by grace.

Like the freedom of the monastery bell,  
May clarity of mind make your eyes smile.

As water takes whatever shape it is in,  
So free may you be about who you become.

As silence smiles on the other side of what's said,  
May a sense of irony give you perspective.

As time remains free of all that it frames,  
May fear or worry never put you in chains.

May your prayer of listening deepen enough  
To hear in the distance the laughter of God.

~ John O'Donohue ~





## EDMUND RICE FEASTDAY, SHAMS

On Sunday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, the community at Shams invited a number of men in the Arusha area who had passed through the postulancy in Shams over the years and had moved onto different lifestyles and commitments. Eleven were able to come and most came along with their wife and/or children. There was much laughter and sharing during the afternoon and the group decided to have a meeting amongst themselves towards the end of the day to see how they could keep more contact and support one another. Immediately, thanks to modern technology, a whatsapp group was set up and photos sent!

During the prayer together in the chapel, each introduced himself and his family members, what years they had spent at Shams in the past and what they were doing now. It was delightful to have this day with them and to hear of how they had continued to live a life of commitment as husbands and fathers. Amongst them, many are teachers, or school administrators, some are involved in business and one is a lawyer. There was a moment during the prayer to share how Edmund Rice had continued to inspire us in our lives, no matter what we are doing and what commitments we are living.

There was time to pour over old photo albums and to show their children pictures of themselves going back years! Some of the men had not seen each other in a long time, so it was a good opportunity for renewing friendships. Br. Simon Kaswahili from Sinon community also joined the celebrations. It was, indeed, a wonderful day!



**Back row:**

Jeremiah Hongo;  
Philip Kashindye;  
Joseph Mremi;  
Joseph Mushi.

**Middle Row:**

Martin Kashakiri;  
Peter Manjalla;  
Stephen Chemuku;  
Evans Shirima;  
Aristides Kilawe

**Front Row:**

Joseph Mburu;  
Erneus Rutta

**Gerard Ellul**





## REACHING OUT IN A SMART WAY



It was not business as usual as the Eldoret community decided to pay Rescue Center a visit. It a center where street children and also abandoned children are placed for some time as the centre looks for other alternatives. It was a day well spent. The meal was prepared from the brothers' community and we shared with the children. Towards the end

of the day we had a movie with them. It was such a delightful moment as some of them said it was more than Christmas for them.

As much as the place had its own challenges, the experience of being with the less fortunate in the community in very small ways brought much joy and hope to us. It is our hope that they were able to realize they are not alone in their struggles, since we are connected and we can make a difference by our presence. As much as we are living in a very dynamic and challenging world, there are many things to smile about: 1 being human and appreciating what we have through sharing with those who don't have. In the process of us sharing the small that we had, we realized that we received more in return, pure love that gives meaning to the very core of our existence.

Constantine Sunday

## DEFENCE OF THESIS



Vincent Mallya defending his thesis

On Thursday, 30 April, 2015, Vincent David Mallya defended the thesis he had written as part of earning his Master's Degree from ISMM at Tangaza University College.

Vincent had discovered a gap in the research about Community Service Activities (CSA) in Secondary Schools: while many secondary schools sponsor social service activities, no researcher has made a study to see whether the students after they graduate continue to be involved as agents of social transformation. Vincent had interviewed 524 administrators, teachers, students, parents and alumni of two





schools: ERSSS in Arusha and Loyola School in Dar es Salaam. The results of his study proved to be most encouraging: over 90% of the alumni of these two schools continue to be involved in social service. 60% of those interviewed recommended that CSA be encouraged and/or made mandatory in all secondary schools. It is Vincent's plan to work through different organizations to share the results of his study and to encourage programs of CSA. The readers and those present said how important was the contribution that this research will be to secondary school education. They also congratulated Vincent on completing this work while fulfilling the demanding responsibilities of a Province Mission Officer. Graduation will be celebrated on 2 October 2015.

Richard DeMaria

### ANNUALLY PROFESSED WORKSHOP



Peter Cole doing a presentation

This past weekend, May 1-3, during our annually professed workshop, we were engaged with the theme of Intimacy and Religious Growth, which was so helpful towards our growth in relationships with ourselves, with others and with

God. Br Peter Cole led the first session on the theme of Paschal Mystery. This helped us to understand how Jesus emerged from his Passion and death and entered into His glorious life lived with the new spirit.

The last days of Jesus' life were characterised by loss and grief to himself, his Apostles and his close friends. Through this discussion of the paschal mystery/resurrected life, I learned that the resurrected life is not just a restoration of the old but the reception of the new life lived in a new spirit, which transforms us into new beings. In our Eucharistic celebration, we are challenged to unite our lives with the death of Christ and assume new life in his resurrection.





In the second session, which was led by George Massay, we deepened our understanding about intimacy, which is the condition of knowing oneself and being known at the level of our essential selves. I was inspired by the contribution of brothers on what is required for intimacy to be achieved. For intimacy to develop it takes time, as it involves the process of self-disclosure. This process is characterized by virtues of trust, openness and respect as it touches the deeper areas of life. This also requires a lot of understanding from each individual and a high level of maturity as this exposes our strengths and vulnerabilities.



L-R Daniel Kyalo, Lawrence Agalo, Philip Kwena and Stephen Wandabusi during a small group discussions

The workshop reminded me of the chapter call whereby we are called to build joyful communities, characterised by intimacy, gentleness, compassion and love.

James Mwenda

### FORM 6 NATIONAL EXAMINATION KICKS OFF AT EDMUNDRICE SINON SECONDARY SCHOOL

In the last edition, there were photos colourful graduands, dressed in attractive attire. They were dancing, cheering, and celebrating their achievements. Now, the time for celebration has suddenly ended. For the next two weeks, all 140 form 6 candidates will be engaged in their national examination. The exams kicked off today with Basic Mathematics and are expected to conclude on 13<sup>th</sup> May, 2015 with Divinity paper 2. You are all requested to join us in praying for them that they pass with flying colours.



Edmund Rice Students sitting for their exams

Br. Simon Kaswahili





## LES NOUVELLES DE GENEVE

“Bonjour” Reply “Merci.” I am writing this reflection after a five-hour mountain climbing experience. We are 8 participants in this workshop, cutting across the globe, from India, Australia, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya. It has been a great experience, learning the mechanism the United Nations uses to protect Human Rights. Unless one visits the Brothers community here, one can not grasp why they need to be in Geneva: they are busy rushing out reports from all over the world to UN, and Moy is just far too busy to smell the flowers.



Participants of the Advocacy Training in Geneva,

Thumbs up to East Africa District: no conversation ends without you people being mentioned: how committed you are to advocacy. The fact that Amandi is here as a member of the DLT say's a lot about that commitment.

Joash, Irene, Rufina, Doreen (Staff of ERAN East Africa): on your behalf I take an extra chocolate. It's all threads of connections:



Amandi Mboya and Colleagues on a hike

Rodgers and Anne, who have been in East Africa a couple of times, came all the way from Zurich to catch up with us. Because they miss the warmth of East Africa they took the challenge to come and meet us. Next week there will be a hive of activities; so watch this space in coming weeks.

For those who are hesitant to become involved in





Advocacy: many years from now, when our leaders will stand up and apologise for the damage done to humanity and mother earth, we will be told that, we didn't know then what we know now. But we did know; we always knew; we just chose not to hear and to silence those who tried to remind us of the truth, - Richard Flanagan

Je suis Samuel Munyua

## **BIRTHDAYS**

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

## **CALENDAR**

### **MAY**

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

