



Christian Brothers  
East Africa District

# East Africa District Newsletter

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

Volume 2, Edition 45  
June 8, 2015

## WHAT I HAVE LEARNED SO FAR



Meditation is old and honorable, so why should I not sit, every morning of my life, on the hillside, looking into the shining world? Because, properly attended to, delight, as well as havoc, is suggestion.

Can one be passionate about the just, the ideal, the sublime, and the holy, and yet commit to no labor in its cause? I don't think so.

All summations have a beginning, all effect has a story, all kindness begins with the sown seed. Thought buds toward radiance. The gospel of light is the crossroads of -- indolence, or action.

Be ignited, or be gone.

~ Mary Oliver ~





## Prayer Requested

For the repose of the soul of Wilfred Odima Odeny, maternal grandmother to Br Nicholas Odhiambo. May she rest in peace.

## RAY OF HOPE FOR THE VIRGILIAN HOUSE

Last year, Mary Rice Centre purchased a nearby house to be used for programs which help parents of children with disabilities develop income-generating activities. It named this house Virgilian House. For over a year, the Centre has been harassed by another agency over its right to use this house. This controversy reached serious dimension recently.

It has been over two weeks since the neighbour of the Virgilian House, who runs the Good Heart Foundation, incited some local youths to demolish the wall of the Virgilian house. He eventually put up a gate and locked it, blocking access to the house.

Br Gerald Mgalula, Director of Mary Rice Centre, has had countless visits to the various Government offices seeking help so that the parents of children of the Mary Rice Centre can continue uninterrupted with their income-generating activities.



L-R Joash Olum (MP Langata), George Wainaina (Chief of Staff Nairobi County) Alex Otieno (Member of County Assembly) with parents of the Children of Mary Rice

and friends of Mary Rice Centre, gathered at the site on which the Virgilian House is situated to have the stand-off between the owner of the Good Heart Foundation and us resolved.

His unrelenting efforts finally resulted in success. On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June, Nairobi County Chief of Staff George Wainaina, flanked by Joash Olum (Member of Parliament – Langata), Alex Otieno (Member of County Assembly), Richard Juma (Chief of

Mugumoini Location) and about one hundred parents

The Chief of Staff, after inspecting the grounds, promised that on Monday morning (8<sup>th</sup> June) the County Surveyor would come and





divide the property into two and give occupancy licenses to the Good Heart Foundation and us respectively. This comes as a great relief to parents, staff, and all those who are interested in the wellbeing of the Mary Rice Centre. The leaders who came were moved by the great ministry that Mary Rice is rendering to the disadvantaged children, and indicated annoyance with anyone who is blocking this service delivery to the underprivileged of our society.

**George Massay**

### ———— THE ‘PERFECT’ CHILD ————

Late August 2014 Ruben Centre ventured into an experience of a ‘Road Less Travelled’ by many mainstream Primary Schools. They were courted by APDK (Association of People Living with Disabilities of Kenya) to look into the possibility of starting a unit for children living with Cerebral Palsy. Br Frank O’Shea carried the proposal forward, with technical assistance from APDK and the Ministry of Education. The first steps were made in early January by inviting an official from the Ministry Office who conducted an assessment after an intensive program of mobilization by APDK Community Health Workers.

By February 18<sup>th</sup>, the officials from St. Ann’s identified fifteen (15) children who needed an immediate registration into the special unit. An opening was planned for the second term 2015. After preparations for both the facilities and logistics were in place, the unit started taking the first 15 students on 5<sup>th</sup> of May 2015.

Culturally speaking, children with CP are seen as “Children of a Lesser God,” viewed by his/her parents as bad luck!! Many families would rather hide the children or make them disappear mysteriously. The difficulties accompanying CP are far too many to list here, but the affection these children bestow when you visit their room is a ‘constant gift’



Children with cerebra palsy in class

that can give you courage to overcome many questions about the mysteries of life. At times children with CP teach us a lot about our own lives and what we mostly take for granted in life.





The priority of this special unit is very clear; to enable children living with Cerebral Palsy to perform normal activities like getting dressed, washing hands, eating, toileting and buttoning.

Every child is special in its own way as are CP.

**Br Francis Nkwabi**

———— **BEHAVIOUR CHANGE WORKSHOP AT SOY PARISH** ————



Facilitators of the workshop and participants

We conducted a behavior change workshop at Soy, in Eldoret Diocese with parents who were from 40yrs old and above. It came up clearly that people do not have the information about HIV/AIDS and do not understand their faith as Catholics. We took them through the process of BCP (Behaviour Change Process) which is a form of group counseling that helped them to realize the underlying issues affecting them. It was evident at the end, when they were sharing, that the workshop created a huge impact on their lives and some shared how they are going to make choices to leave alcohol and be good agents in society.

**Br Silverio Wafula**

———— **EDMUND RICE CAMPS FORMATION DAY - SATURDAY, 6/6  
/2015 – AT ST. ALOYCE GONZAGA** ————

Despite the chronic weather conditions, continual drizzling rain, the formation day turned out to be enjoyable, informative and a great community experience. Members contributed items, witnessing to





their growth through involvement in the camps and community outreach. Karanja, Fedrick presented an ERMEA pillar, compassionate response.

The four skits that followed in response gave much food for thought. Small groups discussed what had been the successes so far this year in terms of personal growth, their sense of belonging and what stage of development they believe the group is at. Br. Peter finished the session by encouraging members to remember the impact that unselfish, generous volunteering had made on their personal lives as well as on the Kibera children. The statement: “you don’t think your way into a new way of living but you rather you live your way into a new way of thinking.” Gave focus to the discussion.

Br. Declan was the main presenter, helping the group to see where they could use their giftedness effectively. He evoked response and discussion on the issue of anger. This helped members to get in touch with what happens when as leaders they conflict with one another. The afternoon session focused on preparation for coming camps and community outreach to targeted schools. The main item was the election of new leaders. More on this next week.

The final session was a tribute to outgoing Director and Co-Coordinator of Edmund Rice Camps, Br. Samuel Munyua. His last action was to commission the newly elected leaders. Youth members spoke highly of Br. Sammy’s inspirational leadership. We wished him well for his final vow preparation and his commitment to the new cluster communities.

BR. PETER COLE

### ———— AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER VISITS MARY RICE CENTRE ————



Mr John Feakes and family with children and staff of Mary Rice

The afternoon of Monday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2015 was a beehive of activities to welcome the Australian High Commissioner to Kenya, His Excellency Mr John Feakes with his family during their informal visit to Mary Rice Centre.

Parents, members of staff together with the pupils joined hands to





welcome the guests as they sang songs of praise to God the Almighty. The area Chief also graced the occasion together with other visitors from the locality.

In his speech, His Excellency the High Commissioner expressed how humbled he was to witness the great work that Mary Rice staff are doing in serving the needy children. He thanked them for their generosity and commitment in their services and in welcoming his family and himself to witness this great work. He said this experience of visiting Mary Rice is an eye opener for him. The High Commissioner also visited some of the homes in Kibera slum from where some of the children at Mary Rice come. In a very moving testimony, a parent of a child of Mary Rice explained how his daughter who is handicapped and was not able to stand up on her own is now able to walk. He thanked the donors in Australia who have made this possible. In his parting short, the High Commissioner promised to pay another visit to the Centre.



As members of Mary Rice, we thank God for the wonderful gift of friends.

**Cylus Juma**

———— **BROTHER BEAUSANG STUDENT HEADS TO THE  
NATIONAL KENYA SCIENCE ENGINEERING FAIR FINALS** ————

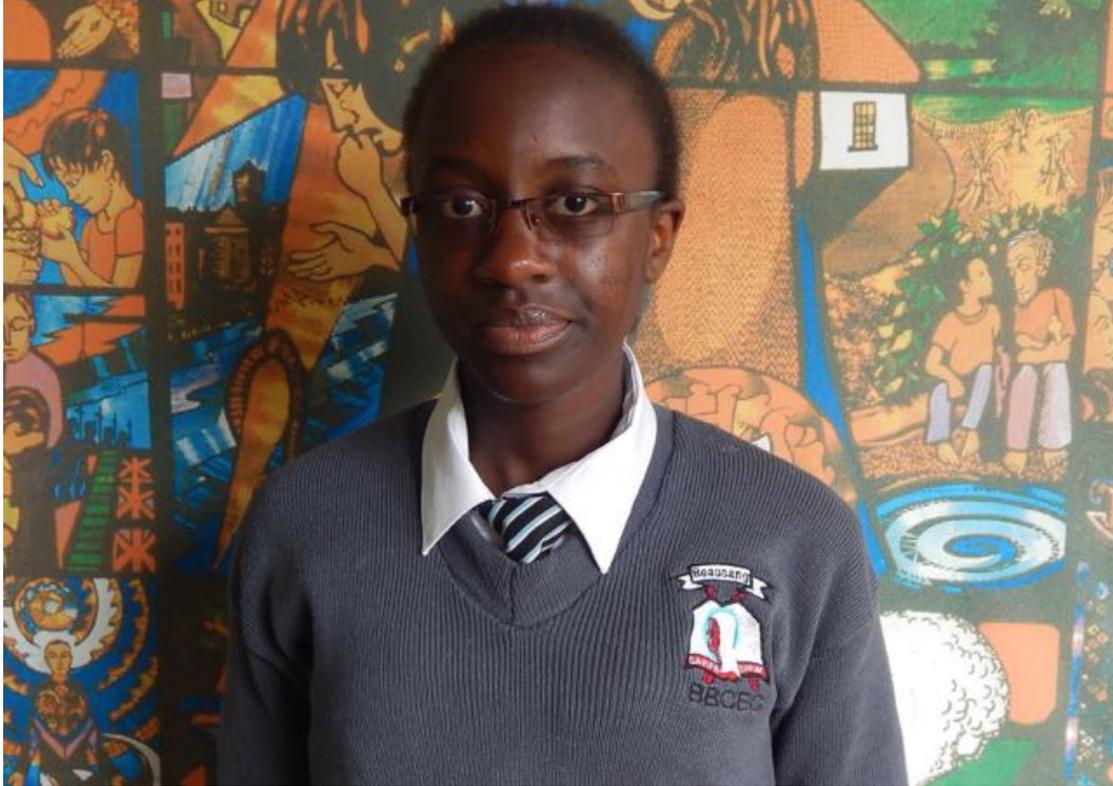
Christelle In-hyang, a Form 3 student will be among the crème de la crème of upcoming Kenyan scientists who will be showcasing their projects at the national Kenyan Science and Engineering Fair (KSEF) competition to be held in Meru later this week.

Christelle qualified from the Metropolitan region with her project in the Bio –Technology category on a homemade disinfectant. Christelle has proven that the disinfectant is cost effective because it utilizes readily available materials such as garlic, ginger and pepper.





Christelle dreams that one day her idea can be put up into production because it is extremely affordable in terms of cost and availability of the resources required. Christelle believes that her disinfectant can be put into wide use in the community including in hospitals and health facilities as well as for school and domestic use.



**Christelle In-hyang**

In the short history of the Kenya Science and Engineering Fair, this is the first time that a Brother Beausang student has qualified for the national competition final. The KSEF presents an excellent platform where future scientists showcase their innovative ideas. The entire school community wishes her well.

**Mercilinus Ounde  
Development Officer**

———— **EDMUND RICE CELEBRATION DAY AT BROTHER  
BEAUSANG: JUNE 17** ————

As published in the District Newsletter two weeks ago, the school is celebrating its annual Edmund Rice Day on Wednesday June 17. The theme this year is “Celebrating 10 Years of Edmund Rice Education” so we are keen to have as many Brothers as possible to be part of the day.

Mass will start the program (7.45 a.m.) and will feature Br. Tom Kearney giving the homily. A procession around Embulbul will follow





with lunch served from 12 noon and a Christian Brother Invitational XI v Staff XI football match at 2.30 p.m.

**Please RSVP to Br. Daniel Kyalo (0708142582) by Friday June 12 if you are able to attend the Mass (we would like to acknowledge the Brothers in attendance) and / or lunch and if available for selection in the CB XI!**

Peter Shanahan

### **BIRTHDAYS**

JUNE	24	LAWRENCE AGALO (Balozi)
	25	RICHARD DEMARIA (Karen)
	25	MARTIN BINYENYA (Tamale)

### **CALENDAR**

#### **JUNE**

28 June – July 4 PLT Retreat (Nairobi)

#### **JULY**

4	PLT Retreat
5-21	PLT Visitation EAD

#### **AUGUST**

9-14	AP Long Workshop
10-15	PLT Meeting

#### **SEPTEMBER**

4-6	Child Protection Workshop
12	Nairobi Cluster
19	Arusha Cluster

Many blessings

George Massay

