



June 22, 2015

Weekly Reflection

In the week of the release of "LaudatoSii" by Pope Francis... some thoughts.



Look deep into nature and then you will understand everything better. (Albert Einstein)

Every creature is full of God, and is a book about God. (Meister Eckhart)

The universe is the first book of God's revelation. (St. Thomas Aquinas)

Nothing is itself without everything else. (Thomas Berry)

God cannot express himself fully in any one creature: and so He has produced many and diverse life forms, so that what one lacks in its expression of divine goodness may be compensated for by others: for goodness, which in God is single and undifferentiated, in creatures is refracted into myriad hues of being. (St. Thomas Aquinas)



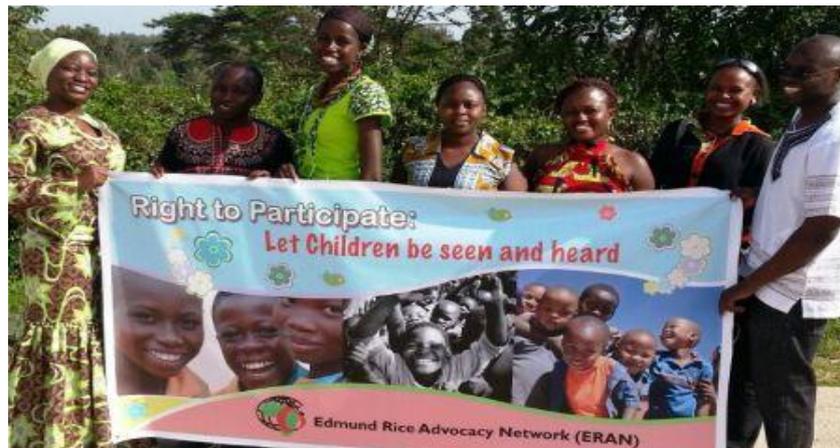


June 22, 2015

DAY OF THE AFRICAN CHILD

ERAN dedicated the month of June to creating awareness on rights of the child in the Kenyan Christian Brothers' ministries, including Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre (BBCEC) in Embulbul, Ruben Centre in Mukuru and Education for Life in Eldoret. June includes a number of days marking children's rights, including Child Labour Day and Day of the African Child.

BBCEC involved the children in talking to their friends, parents, neighbours and teachers on children's rights and responsibilities to make as many people as possible aware of these. The school also hosted Day of the African Child with support from ERAN. Children from four schools in Kibera and teachers from Embulbul schools joined in the celebrations. The day's theme was 'Right to Participate: Let Children be Seen and Heard'. Children took part in all the activities including presentation of poems, songs and skits. These referred to different violations of rights of children, reporting procedures and the need for support from all stakeholders in ensuring healthy and responsible upbringing of children. A member of the Child Rights Club and student leadership team at the school was Master of Ceremonies, supported by an Edmund Rice Camp leader.



(Top) The ERAN team gets the message out. (Below) One of the presentations.





June 22, 2015

VISITING THE HOME OF EDMUND RICE

The 2015 RUAH programme is now at its half way point. The participants are currently in the “Holy Land” of places that figure in the stories of Edmund Rice and Nano Nagle. Yesterday, we gathered in Callan, at the family home in which Edmund Rice grew up. We prayed for God to open our eyes so as to see the face of God, our ears to hear the voice of God and our hearts to love like Jesus and Edmund did. It was such a moving experience to see and to touch the actual items which Edmund Rice and his family used. The simple pen, the suitcase and the rosary which are still kept in his family house were among the many tangible symbols which struck the participants. We continue to pray for Jesus to live in our hearts forever.

Simon Kaswahili



The most recognizable house in the Congregation – the Rice family home in Callan.

EDMUND RICE CELEBRATION DAY AT BROTHER BEAUSANG

Last Wednesday the school community celebrated its annual Edmund Rice Day, starting with a special Mass in the morning, and culminating in a thrilling victory to the Christian Brother XI against the school staff in football later in the afternoon.





June 22, 2015

The Mass was vibrant to say the least, as the theme of the day “2006-2014 – Celebrating 10 Years of Edmund Rice Education” was highlighted through the wonderful involvement of the students, staff, Brothers and parents in the dancing, processions, readings, music and rituals.

Br. Tom Kearney gave the homily and clearly identified to all present what makes Edmund Rice education different and, drawing on the history of both Edmund and the school, why it is important to be different.



(L.) Mass gets under way. (R.) The Principal and the District Leader.

The District Leader, Br. Tony Shanahan, presented Edmund Rice Awards for community leadership to six students from primary and secondary, as well as service awards to eight staff who had given five years of service to the school and one long serving teacher in primary, Lydia Muturi, who last year completed ten years at the school.

It is worth noting that sixty three current students from Class 7 to Form 4 were all in the primary school when Br. Laurie Collins became principal in 2006, including this year’s secondary Head Girl and Head Boy (Vincent Irungu, who in 2006 was a prefect in Class 3!).

Following the Mass, the school marched through Embulbul, led by the scouts carrying banners about our 10 years of Edmund Rice Education, and also the theme for the scouts this year, raising HIV awareness in the local area. Many people were interested in what was happening and even the Embulbul Assistant Chief came to greet us.

Following the procession everyone enjoyed a special lunch, then after a short assembly featuring an award to Christelle In-Hyang on her success in the national science competition, and a dance presentation from four ‘guest’ pupils from Kibera, it was off to the sports field for the football match. Under Br. Tom Kearney’s astute managerial tactics and subtle personnel changes the CB XI came from a goal down (a 40 metre ‘wundergoal’ from the Development Officer, who showed that people from Kisii can do more than talk!) to draw level in the second half, resulting in an overconfident staff





June 22, 2015

coach insisting on penalties to decide bragging rights. It was ironic that a former member of FC Edmund Rice missed the deciding penalty for his new club! He forgot the school motto – “carpe diem” (seize the opportunity)!

Overall a very special day for the school community. Special thanks to the Christian Brothers who attended - their presence and involvement was something the students and staff valued and commented on. Well done to all.

Peter Shanahan



Students dancing.



Tactics at half time?

CHURCH INTERVENTION IN SOLIDIFYING PEACE IN SOUTH SUDAN

Since the Republic of South Sudan gained independence four year ago, the country has slipped back into war, adding to the toll of people who have lost their lives in years of civil war, with many others internally displaced. Yet in two weeks' time we will mark the fourth anniversary since the country became a republic.



The Christian churches in Yambio came together on Friday to pray for peace. Many effective forms of conflict resolution depend on a relational approach to solidifying peace i.e. inter-religious dialogue unifying all the





June 22, 2015

believers is a practical way of restoring peace. In a war-torn country like South Sudan, diversity of tribes is a real challenge and can result in high power vs. low power. The church in this case is striving to promote peace through economic justice, promotion of disarmament, the dignity of the person, and the rights and responsibilities of all. The picture below depicts the people of Yambio marching bare footed to pray for peace.

Fred Otieno

VISIT TO YAMBIO BY SOME OF OUR DONORS

Star Support Group was recently privileged to be visited by Sudan Relief Trust Fund (SRTF) and Church In Need (CIN) donors based in USA and Germany respectively. Last year our project submitted a successful proposal to the SRTF and we have benefited so much. The challenge of supplying the drugs to counter opportunistic infection and provide prophylaxis to the clients was solved by the funding received from the SRTF. The donors were very impressed by the assistance the project is offering to the people living with HIV/AIDS to live a dignified life. Through the SRTF funding, the project is also supporting 350 orphan children by paying school fees. The climax of this visitation was a well prepared dinner by the community in honor of the delegation.

Fred Otieno



SPECIAL NOTICE – next week's issue of the Newsletter will come out on Sunday as the Editor is still on holiday, and the Acting Editor will be starting a retreat on Sunday night. *If you have material for next week's newsletter, please have it in by SATURDAY IF POSSIBLE.*





June 22, 2015

BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 24 LAWRENCE AGALO (BALOZI)
JUNE 25 RICHARD DEMARIA (KAREN)
JUNE 26 MARTIN BINYENYA (TAMALE)

CALENDAR

June 28-July 4 PLT Retreat (Subiaco Centre, Nairobi)

July 5-20 PLT visitation of the District
July 16-17 DLT Review Days

August 9-14 AP Brothers workshop with Br. John Casey (CLT)
August 10-14 PLT meeting

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

Many Blessings,

Tony Shanahan (Acting Editor)

