



Christian Brothers
East Africa District

East Africa District Newsletter

DRAWN BY MYSTERY, DESTINED FOR LIFE.

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———— I LIVE MY LIFE IN WIDENING CIRCLES ————



I live my life in widening circles
that reach out across the world.
I may not complete this last one
but I give myself to it.

I circle around God, around the primordial tower.
I've been circling for thousands of years
and I still don't know: am I a falcon,
a storm, or a great song?

~ Ranier Maria Rilke ~

———— PRAYER REQUESTS: ————

For the repose of Evaline Oduor, sister-in-law of Br Kelvin Otieno, (First year novice in Tamale novitiate)

For the repose of the soul of Evan Ngalan, nephew of Br. Constantine Sunday, who had heart surgery and went into a coma for three weeks before passing.





WELCOME BACK TO THE DISTRICT



Br Daniel Lyimo

Last week Daniel Lyimo returned to the District after completing his 9 months training in Spiritual Direction in Melbourne at the Heart of Life Spirituality Centre in Melbourne. He is up-beat about his experience in Melbourne and the skills he gained. We now have a fully-fledged spiritual director of the post-modern era in our midst!

George Massay

COMMUNITY SUPPORT TEAM MEETS



L-R (Standing) John Paul, Bill Colford and Vincent Mallya
(Seated L-R) Russell Peters, Constantine Sunday and Tom Kearney

On the weekend of Dec. 4th – 5th the members of the newly appointed Community Support Team (CST) John Paul, Russell, Sunday, Tom, Vincent and Bill (Colford) met with George and Amandi to iron out what the way forward would be for the team.

Work was done on the Vision and Mission statements as well as the role description and action plan. During the meeting there was much discussion about specific

wording of each of these but in general the team had the same focus. By far the most often spoken truth for the group was that it has to be willing to model what it is trying to foster. The goal or the team will be to assist the communities in the struggle to implement the Chapter Calls of 2014.

At the end of the time together, all felt that it was a very worthwhile quality time of sharing - not without its challenges. Tom Kearney was chosen to be the convener for CST and the team was informed that it





would have an hour at the assembly to introduce themselves and the program to the District members.

The Community Support Team would remind the Brothers that this initiative came from the membership of the District and the DLT is responding to what was raised by the Brothers during cluster meetings and last year's assembly. This initiative will only be effective when the Brothers give their whole-hearted support. We are committed to walking with and working with communities and individuals as best we can but, again, without the commitment of the Brothers we can do little.

Bill Colford

———— **WEDDING** ————



Saturday, December 5, was a day of great joy for my family as my brother, Peter Shanahan, known to most or all of the Brothers in





EAD, who married Naomi Njeri, whom many Brothers know as she is the housekeeper at the Embulbul community. Peter and Naomi have known each other for nearly five years, and developed a closer relationship since 2013 that led them to the decision to marry.

The wedding, a simple ceremony in the garden of our other brother Tim's house, was very joyful and uplifting. A message expressing joy, congratulations and blessing, sent by Naomi's family, was read out at the start of the ceremony. A church celebration of the marriage will follow in Nairobi next year so that Naomi's family can participate in this happy event.

Tony Shanahan

———— VISITOR IN THE DISTRICT ————



We welcome Br Peter Richardson, who arrived in Nairobi on Saturday and is staying at South C. He is on Sabbatical from Melbourne. He has just finished a four-week Liturgical Study Tour in Europe called "Places, People, Rites". The tour focused on significant places and people who influenced the liturgical movement leading to the reforms of Second Vatican Council and it gave the 18 participants the opportunity to take part in various liturgies. Peter is in East Africa for two weeks to reconnect with life and ministry that he saw in early 1992 when he visited here last time.

Karibu sana

———— THE ADMINISTRATION STAFF AT EDMUND RICE SINON SECONDARY CONCLUDES THE YEAR WITH A SUCCESSFUL RETREAT ————

The administration and staff at Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School has concluded the year 2015 with a very successful retreat. The retreat was held on 28th to 30th November 2015 at Frescobaldi Center.

Frescobaldi is a retreat center run by the Passionist Sisters at Njiro, Arusha. The participants chose the place for it was very affordable and easily reachable. Br. Gerard Ellul, the Director of Shams Pre-





novitiate Program was the man who skillfully and diligently facilitated the retreat. Gerard began the sessions by seeking from the participants their hopes and expectations for the retreat. Among many: boarding issues, evaluation of the past year, review of the strategic plan, creation of policies and planning for the coming year were among the issues that were on the agenda for discussion.



Staff of Edmund Rice Sinon during the end of the year retreat

The facilitator created an opportunity for the participants to share. At the end, all participants had shared their views and were very much satisfied. Even though the time was limited, all expectations were successfully covered. The retreat concluded on the 30th of November after lunch and all participants departed with a sense of accomplishment. I thank the facilitator and all participants who made the event to be of great value.

Simon Kaswahili

RENEWAL OF VOWS IN KAREN



Richard DeMaria receiving the vows of Daniel Kyalo

On 27 November, six brothers renewed their vows as Christian Brothers for another year at the Karen Community during the celebration of the Eucharist with Father Moses Kawa from Sierra Leone as celebrant. Brothers John Paul Olouch, Stephen Wandabusi, Chrispinus





Munielo, Peter Amara Kabia, Amos Kutwa, and Daniel Kyalo shared their understanding of the vows and of religious profession in the vow formulae, which they had prepared for the occasion. Br. Russell Peters formally renewed his vows, this being the 50th anniversary of his profession of final vows. Tom Kearney was among the many guests who gathered to support the brothers in their continued discernment and dedication.

———— **AFRICAN HONEY BEES CHANGE LIVES AND SAVE ELEPHANTS** ————

You might find this interesting, if you have 5 mins to spare.

Lucy, conceptualized a theory around elephants and bees a few years back whilst doing her PhD at Oxford....the simple theory has since been proven to work and she and her team at Save the Elephants are now doing some incredible, and properly sustainable work up in Kenya

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkpNZx8YY-o>

CALENDAR

- December 11-14 District Assembly
- December 13 Arrival of the newly professed with their parents (at Mary Ward Centre)
- December 14 Reception and Missioning of the newly professed
- December 12 Jamhuri Day (Kenya)

Many Blessings,

George Massay



