



Striving for Excellence:

Gonzaga Prep & Primary still going strong after the floods

In December 2011, heavy rains in Dar-es Salaam resulted in flooding that caused extensive damage to Gonzaga Prep & Primary School and its surroundings. The flood waters rose to 2 meters destroying everything on ground level and claiming more than 40 lives, while displacing about 5,000 people. The damage, worth over £38,731, included loss of food items for pupils, textbooks, uniforms, furniture and IT machinery, among other electrical equipment.

Due to cleaning and repair works, the school term started late in January 2012. This has, however, not deterred the school from continuing with its mission, which is to educate young people to become morally responsible men and women for others. Although efforts are currently ongoing to restore it back to

its original condition, Gonzaga Primary still suffers from inadequate textbooks for the pupils. Computers, printers and furniture are some of the other items the school is working hard to acquire.

Despite these needs, Gonzaga Primary is keeping its students focused on their education, rather than the recent happenings. Primary 7 students are currently working hard to maintain its school's performance in the Primary level examinations (PLE). Over the years, Gonzaga primary has managed to be in the top 10 position, out of the 18 mission schools in the area and top 20 out of the almost 200 schools in the area.

Being a Jesuit school, Gonzaga Primary trains its pupils to learn and seek 'more' for the 'greater good and the greater

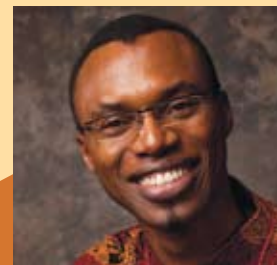
glory of God.' The school, established in Mabibo area, was built with support from the Doherty family along with other friends from Our lady Queen of Peace Foundation, Canada, in partnership with the Jesuits. It was founded to offer education to the vulnerable, orphaned, poor and underprivileged children in the area. When the school opened in January 2008, 200 students joined Pre Standard one to standard three. Currently, Gonzaga primary has approximately 470 pupils (254 boys and 216 girls) in attendance.

For more information on how you can support Gonzaga Primary, visit www.easternafrijesuits.org

Shane Burke, Programmes Officer, Jesuits Eastern Africa



JESUITS
EASTERN AFRICA



YOU ARE PARTNERS IN OUR MISSION

In this part of the world, there are just two seasons: the wet season and the dry season. We can be thankful that the rains have finally come (at least in Nairobi) and hope that they will not be too much or too little as to cause a flood or a drought.

Many readers of *Shukran* will remember that in 2011 parts of Eastern Africa suffered these two catastrophes. In July 2011, the Jesuit Province of Eastern Africa initiated a famine relief project to provide food and relief materials to vulnerable persons in the drought-stricken Northern Kenya. In December, a flood caused substantial damage in Dar es Salaam and affected two Jesuit institutions: St. Gonzaga Gonzaga Primary School and St. John the Baptist Parish. Again, we initiated a project to provide relief materials and to help renovate structures and replace equipment that was destroyed in the flood.

It is no exaggeration that the response to these two projects has been overwhelming. I am grateful that in that time of crisis, our province and the people we serve were not without friends who came to our aid. Thank you!

I am grateful, too, for the support we continue to receive for the many other initiatives of the Jesuits in Eastern Africa, especially our school projects. It is a real blessing that we have begun to receive contributions from generous friends residing in the countries of Eastern Africa, many of whom have made a donation by buying raffle tickets in the on-going 'Jesuit Jubilee Raffle'.

Recently, a YouTube posting, KONY 2012, drew global attention to the situation in Northern Uganda. We have a school in the area, Ocer-Campion. It is our little way of helping to reverse decades of conflict and crises that have blighted the lives of the people. In this, as in many other works, we are grateful and happy to count you among our partners in mission.

May God bless your generosity!

Wishing you blessings of the Easter season,

Fr. Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, SJ
Provincial

Shukran

Issue 02, April 2012

Shukran:
Swahili/Arabic
for Gratitude



Upendo Centre:

17 years of vulnerable care and support for children in Kangemi

When Kangemi slum sprung up many years ago, there were only 3 primary schools and 1 secondary school in the area. Although there were many children in the slum, the existing schools would only accept those who were able to pay their school fees. Unable to afford the school fees, most parents were forced to work as casual laborers in industrial areas, in order to provide for their families. Some of the children ended up in the streets begging for food since there was no one at home to take care of them.

There was also an increase in child abuse and some children were already working as house maids in the nearby posh estate. Because of idleness, some youth had taken to drugs. In 1995, Jesuits in the local parish decided to support the needy children to go to school, to get them off the street and to give them a fresh start. The Upendo Intensive Vulnerable care and Support Centre started by rehabilitating children from the streets as well as those in the slums. After psycho-social counseling and studies for a period of 1-2 years, the children were integrated into primary school.

Since its establishment 17 years ago, over 400 students have benefited from the program which sponsors children from primary school to tertiary levels. In 2011 alone, 43 students from

the program joined different secondary schools in the country, while 36 more joined in 2012. Currently, the support centre has 12 children (6-12 years) waiting to be enrolled into primary school; 6 children were directly integrated into primary schools at the start of 2012. Aside from sponsoring their education, Upendo centre has a feeding program for the children in the support centre. The feeding programme provides porridge during break hours and a mixture of maize and beans at lunch.

Upendo not only supports children, but it also works with the parents to help them better themselves. Seminars and training workshops on child abuse and how to support children are offered to the parents. Children at the centre get free medical assistance from the nearby St. Joseph Dispensary, also established by the Jesuit-run Parish. Aside from this, Upendo Centre initiated and facilitates a self-help program for the parents. Each parent is required to contribute Kshs. 100 on a monthly basis. The money is then used by the parents to acquire loans (repaid with interest) to start small businesses. With support from donors and well-wishers, Upendo centre is truly living up to its mission.

Anthony Hulula, Development Officer, Kangemi

To Subscribe to our newsletter, write an email to shukran.aor@gmail.com

Contacts:



JESUITS
EASTERN AFRICA

Kenya:

Jesuit Development Office
Loyola House
P.O. Box 21399, 00505,
Ngong' Road, Nairobi
(+254 20) 387 0436
Info.aor@gmail.com
www.easternafrijesuits.org

Tanzania:

Jesuit Development Office
P.O. Box 1140,
Dar-es Salaam
(+255) 22 244 3600
Info.aor@gmail.com
www.easternafrijesuits.org

Uganda:

Jesuit Development Office
Xavier House
P.O. Box 7310,
Kampala, Uganda
(+256) 414 510 340
Info.aor@gmail.com
www.easternafrijesuits.org

Ethiopia:

Jesuit Development Office
Xavier House
P.O. Box 30105,
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
(+251) 11 123 6650
Info.aor@gmail.com
www.easternafrijesuits.org

North Sudan:

Jesuit Development Office
Ignatian Spiritual Centre
P.O. Box 1629,
Khartoum, N.Sudan
(+249) 85 341 855
Info.aor@gmail.com
www.easternafrijesuits.org

South Sudan:

Jesuit Development Office
St. Peter Claver, Jesuit Community
C/o Bethany House
P.O. Box 211023, 00505, Nairobi, Kenya
(+249) 944 286 719
Info.aor@gmail.com
www.easternafrijesuits.org



Keeping Hope Alive:

"I will make it no matter what challenges I face"

"When I was 7 years old, a neighbor brought me to Upendo centre for school. I had never attended school before so it was a new experience for me..."

When Maurice Macharia, 22 years old, was enrolled into the Upendo sponsorship programme 16 years ago, he did not know what fate would bring him. When he first joined the unit programme, Maurice, alongside other children had to undertake a 2 year programme that included psychosocial counseling aside from academic work. 2 years later, he qualified to join St. Joseph Primary School. *"Because I knew this was the only opportunity I had, I worked hard. I enjoyed reading so I spent most of my free time reading."* True to his word and hard work, Maurice managed to attain good grades that gave him an opportunity to join Dagoretti Boys High School. Four years later, he scored an A- and joined the University of Nairobi for a Bachelor's degree in Quantity Survey.

Like many other children in Kangemi, Maurice comes from a single parent home; he lives with his mother and 8 siblings. Being the 4th born of 9 children, Maurice is the first one in his home to

join both secondary school and university. For this reason, he is faced with a lot of responsibilities. Although Maurice and two of his sisters have received much support from Upendo Intensive Vulnerable Care and Support centre, he still has a lot on his mind.

For instance, with the little money he receives from student loans, Maurice provides food for his family and pays school fee for one of his younger brothers who recently joined secondary school. He is also faced with the responsibility of educating their last born who is currently in class 4. Besides worrying about his siblings' education, Maurice also worries about his mother who suffers from cancer and is currently bed-ridden. Although it is difficult, he helps out whenever he can. *"At times when I get a little money, I use it to buy medicine for my mom. Upendo has also been very supportive since they helped to pay her medical fee during therapy."** How does he manage all this?

** A few days after this interview, Maurice's mother died of Cancer. Please remember him and his family in your prayers.*

Laughing, he explains that he is supported by Upendo and his friends.

During his free time, Maurice loves to read. He also sings in the church choir and is the leader of Youth Alive Africa, in the church. He spends most of his free time at Upendo centre teaching children during the school holiday program. He also helps out with social work. Because he is inspired by the children in Upendo, his aim in life is to be able to uplift them to his level so that they can achieve what he has achieved. He explains that though he comes from a financially poor family, he has made it despite the challenges. According to Maurice, he is a fulfillment of Upendo's motto; behind every successful child, there is someone who cares. *"I am a fulfillment of that motto because there is no single day I have missed school fees. There is always someone who cares. In the end you succeed."* One of his dreams is to be able to give back to Upendo for all the care and support they have given him over the years.

Diana Karua, Communications Coordinator, Jesuits Eastern Africa

The Road to Emmaus:

Did not our hearts burn within us?

My favourite appearance of the Risen Christ is in Luke 24: 13-35. In this passage two disciples are walking home, in mourning, disheartened, their hopes shattered. The man they thought was the Messiah has been killed and, it would appear, his body has disappeared. Some women claim to have seen angels announcing Jesus is risen, but more likely, the body has been stolen.



A stranger walks up to them and invites them to share their distress with him. When they tell him their worries, the stranger explains the mystery of the Passion and the hope of the Resurrection. Perhaps the stranger cited the seven readings from the Old Testament that are familiar to us in the Easter Vigil Mass. A problem shared is a problem solved. St. Luke recalls Cleopas and his friend saying: "Did our hearts not burn within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?"

The two disciples experienced something within them that we too often experience when we encounter Jesus. St. Ignatius of Loyola had a name for this experience: consolation - a joy deep inside that reassures us of God's presence, of his love, of his grace.

I am impressed by two actions of the disciples. First, they invite the stranger to stay with them. Maybe a bond had developed between them, maybe they wanted to hear more, maybe their new faith obliged them to house the stranger. Second, when they realise the stranger is, in fact, Jesus, they forget the late hour and rush back to Jerusalem to share the fire that was burning within them. Contemporary Jesuits would say: the two disciples went to enkindle other fires.

I am moved by the example of Cleopas and his friend: to welcome Jesus and the stranger 'under my roof.' During this Easter Season, we invite you to share the consoling news of the Resurrection of Christ with those in distress.

Happy Eastertide!

Paul Kalenzi SJ, Director of Development, Jesuits Eastern Africa

News/Events Briefs:

- Hekima College recently hosted a Diaconate ordination on the 18th of February 2012.
- On 19th and 20th January 2012, Jesuit Hakimani center held a National conference on the preparedness of Kenya towards the 2012 General Election. The conference was officially opened by the Vice President Hon. Kalonzo Musyoka. His Grace, Archbishop Zaccarius Okoth and Fr. Agbonkhanmeghe Orobator, SJ, Provincial, were in attendance.
- The Jesuits of eastern Africa Province recently hosted visitors from Loyola University Chicago, from the 10th - 13th January 2012, during their visit to the East Africa Province.
- On 12th January 2012, the second province Jubilee Pilgrimage started in Addis Ababa. 17 Jesuits and lay collaborators took part in the Pilgrimage.

Up coming Events:

- Novitiate 1st vows: 30th June 2012
- Procurators congregation: 9-16th July 2012
- Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church, regional seminar: 21-24 August 2012



About the Jesuits

The Society of Jesus was founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola in 1540 and is today the largest religious order in the Catholic Church. We serve in 127 nations on six continents and are organized in administrative regions called Provinces. The Eastern Africa Province consists of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and Southern Sudan. Though the province was established in 1986, the earliest missions date back to the times of St. Ignatius in 1557 in Ethiopia.

From July 2011 to July 2012, the Jesuits of Eastern Africa Province celebrate our 25th

anniversary as a Province. Our works in Eastern Africa include:

- Education** - through our educational institutions we form well rounded and competent persons committed to a faith that does justice. Our students are aware of the social ills that are present in Africa and they generously give themselves to put an end to these ills. We train 'men and women for others.' We currently run seven schools and plan to establish 5 more.
- Retreats** - for more than 470 years, Jesuit spirituality has led countless women and men to a greater intimacy with Jesus Christ and to a dedication to serve those most in need. We maintain retreat houses in Kenya, Sudan and

Ethiopia. In addition, we run mobile retreats in all countries of our province.

- Parish ministry** - we run 5 vibrant parishes with a variety of pastoral, formation and service programmes. All our parishes give emphasis to 'community' and have dynamic Small Christian Communities.
- Social Justice and Communication** - we aim to transform unjust structures and offer hope to the marginalized in society. We reach out especially to refugees, those affected of infected with HIV/AIDS, poverty and violence. Our justice and communication ministries include: Jesuit Hakimani center, African Jesuits Aids Network (AJAN), Jesuit Refugee Service and Radio Kwizera.

Please cut out this form and send it with your contribution



Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please accept this gift of _____ to support: ☐ Area of Greatest Need ☐ Formation of Jesuits ☐ Education Projects

Please make Cheques payable to:

☐ Jesuit Development Office, P.O. Box 21399, 00505 Ngong Road, Nairobi, Kenya

☐ Jesuit Development Office, P.O. Box 1140 Dar-es Salaam, Tanzania

☐ Jesuit Development Office, P.O. Box 7300, Kampala, Uganda

To make a cash gift with your phone, use the following numbers:

Kenya: +254 713387252 | Tanzania: +255 769493234 | Uganda: +256 778565805