



FORMATION OF JESUITS

Eastern Africa Province takes great pride in the youth, vitality and energy of its membership, something that we consider our greatest gift. Since its inception twenty-six years ago, the province continues to record a steady flow of vocations. This year we welcomed nine candidates into our novitiate and celebrated the priestly ordination of three of our companions.

Vocation to the priesthood and brotherhood in the church and the Society of Jesus is a gift from God. For this reason, our Apostolic Plan (2010-2015) prioritizes the formation of our companions in Jesuit religious life and apostolic competence. We believe that good formation guarantees the future of the Society of Jesus and the sustainability of its apostolic mission. Forming Jesuits is a task that requires much personnel and enormous material resources.

The steady flow of vocations and the relatively low median age of our province come with a certain cost. Approximately one hundred and thirty-one Jesuits in our province are in various stages of formation, training and studies. Our annual formation budget is close to USD 1.2 million, drawn from a rapidly declining Formation Fund (aka Arca Seminarii). We invite you to support and partner with us in the task of providing quality training and formation to Jesuits of our province. Your donation to our Formation Fund will make a difference to the quality of Jesuit formation in Eastern Africa.

We are always grateful for your generous support that enables us to accomplish our mission in Eastern Africa. We never relent in our prayers for you and your families.

Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, S.J.
Provincial



Students perform traditional Acholi dance

Ocer Campion Jesuit College (OCJC): Signs of Hope 10 years later

When I received an invitation to attend the inauguration day of the Jesuit run Ocer Campion Jesuit College in Gulu, Northern Uganda, I responded immediately. Given the reputation for academic excellence among Jesuit run education institutions, I was curious to see a Jesuit school in an area recovering from war and violence perpetrated by Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) leader, Joseph Kony and his criminal gang. So I packed my bags and headed out on a *Safari* to Uganda.

On 18th June, students and staff marched through Gulu town then proceeded to clean around the administration block of Gulu District as a form of community service. The following day, the school was a beehive of activities as students dashed about preparing for the busy day ahead. Guests including politicians, religious partners, parents, head teachers and students from other schools, friends and reporters from media houses all arrived in time for the ceremony.

Celebrations started with mass at 10.30am led by His Grace John Baptist Odama, the Archbishop of Gulu Archdiocese. He was accompanied by several Jesuits and a number of priests from the archdiocese. In his homily, Fr. Orobator, S.J., the Provincial of the Jesuits of Eastern Africa, reminded students that they are the foundation on which Northern Uganda and the whole nation is being built upon. He mentioned that even in times of internal strife and insecurity, they were still signs of hope. After mass, the guests and students witnessed the blessing of the inauguration stone which was laid by Fr. Orobator.

In his speech, Fr. Tony Wach, S.J., OCJCs Project Director gave a brief history of the school and mentioned how he had met Hon Reagan Okumu, a Member of

Parliament, who had helped to find the land where the school is established. He thanked the Agari clan, represented by Ocan Rogers and Okwero Francis, for donating the school's land. Hon. Okumu then thanked the Jesuits for opening the school in Northern Uganda, and promised to uplift the standard of education in the region.

What was interesting to me was that the main ceremony was held next to a tree, which rebels had used as a cover when roasting goat meat after raiding local villages. But perhaps the most impressive experience was seeing students performing energetic traditional Acholi music and dance. Despite being immaculately maintained and landscaped, the large school campus still runs entirely from electricity generated by solar panels as the electrical grid is yet to reach the area surrounding the school. It is this setting of a secondary school built on a long standing Jesuit tradition, in the heart of a former 'bush' land that will serve as a lasting reminder of my visit to a Jesuit school in post-war Northern Uganda.

All in all, congratulations to Ocer Campion Jesuit College for being fully registered by the Ugandan Ministry of Education and Sports. This has paved way for the pioneer students who will be sitting for their senior four O-level-exams next year. All the best of luck to OCJC and kudos on the official school registration by the Ministry of Education and Sports of Uganda.

More information about the school is available on ocer.adventuredock.com and www.easternafrijesuits.org

Robert Osborne – AOR, Programmes Officer

About the. Jesuits

The Society of Jesus was founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola in 1540 and is today the largest religious order of men in the Catholic Church. We serve in 127 nations on six continents and are organized in administrative regions called Provinces.

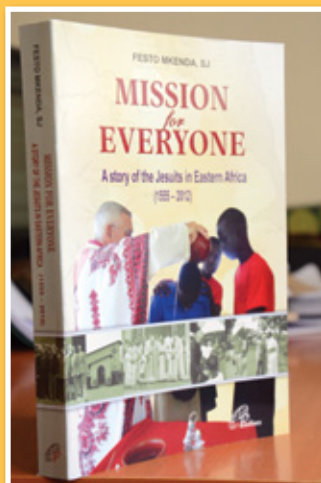
The Eastern Africa Province consists of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, North and South Sudan. Though the province was established in 1986, the earliest missions date back to the times of St. Ignatius in 1557 in Ethiopia.

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 of 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 or infected with HIV/AIDS, poverty and violence. Our justice and communication ministries include: Jesuit Hakimani center, African Jesuits Aids Network (AJAN), Jesuit Refugee Service (JRS) and Radio Kwizera.

Visit www.easternafrijesuits.org for more information on our work

BOOK REVIEW



Mission for Everyone: A story of the Jesuits in Eastern Africa (1555-2012)

Clearly, in post-independence Africa there was a mission for everyone. Anyone who wished to serve could come... from any corner of the world (Festo Mkenia, SJ, *Mission for Everyone*, p. 179; cf. p. 237).

One of the best books I have read recently is Festo Mkenia's *Mission for Everyone: A Story of the Jesuits in Eastern Africa (1555 – 2012)*. With the flair of an engaging raconteur, Mkenia vividly narrates an impressive tale of the feats and foibles of the Jesuit mission in the region. Such is the quality of his narrative skills that *Mission for Everyone* transports the reader back in time to the origins of our province in the enchanted imagination of St. Ignatius of Loyola and steadily guides us through successive events, interesting places and captivating personalities that supply multiple strands to weave the rich tapestry that is the present-day Society of Jesus in Eastern Africa.

In *Mission for Everyone* a cast of fascinating Jesuit characters comes to life – mavericks and martyrs, charlatans and heroes, itinerants and strategists gallop through the pages planting and fertilizing missions, raising and riding political storms, and negotiating and dodging ecclesiastical politics. Many of those companions are long dead, but their bones are interred in our province and they continue to fertilize the apostolic endeavours of the Society in Eastern Africa. Thankfully, many companions whose stories are told in *Mission for Everyone* still live and serve in our midst.

Mission for Everyone creates the impression of disjointedness in the apostolic adventures of the early Jesuits in the region. Like the biblical sower, Jesuits of diverse origins engaged in sundry ministries across the vast geographical expanse of Eastern Africa, scattering apostolic seeds among the rocks of Sudan, the deserts of Ethiopia, the mountains of Tanzania, the forests of Uganda and the bushes of Kenya. Some seeds, like the early missions in Ethiopia, flourished magnificently until imperial politics, popular caricaturizing of Jesuits and doctrinal shortsightedness mixed to crush the burgeoning plant. Some, like the missions in Sudan and Uganda, were choked and frustrated by political circumstances beyond the control of the Jesuits. Others, like the missions in Tanzania, took root and bore fruits, but continued to

be undermined by limited resources and overstretched personnel. Besides, there was no dearth of foes and friends, the former as was the case of some clergy in Uganda who resisted and frustrated the Jesuits, the latter as it happened when Cardinal Maurice Otunga welcomed the Jesuits to Kenya with open arms and a bag full of shillings – a singular act of ecclesiastical generosity that has never been repeated!

The haphazard nature of the early missions notwithstanding, diverse initiatives and visions gradually coalesced to form a common apostolic entity christened East Africa Mission. Father Pedro Arrupe, SJ, would harness this shared missionary identity and guide the Jesuits in Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, Kenya and Ethiopia towards the formation of an apostolic jurisdiction nicknamed TUSKER. A few years later, Father Peter-Hans Kolvenbach consolidated the identity and mission into the present-day Province of Eastern Africa (AOR).

Mission for Everyone shows that as a province, we are old and we are young. Our venerable history endows us with maturity, wisdom and experience, but our present composition confers on us youth, vigour and promise. We may appear relatively young, but our roots reach deep into centuries of Jesuit fascination with ministry in the geographical boundaries of our province. In fact, Mkenia lays his story to rest at the doorsteps of our times, implying that it now falls to us to create the plot of the story of the Jesuits in Eastern Africa for the next 400 years. The question is: are we up to the task? What stories would be told of us and our apostolic works in *Mission for Everyone (Part 2): A Story of the Jesuits in Eastern Africa (2013-2043)*?

Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator, SJ – Provincial

To get a copy of the book,
email develop.aor@gmail.com or
call +254 (0)713387252 (020)3870436

African Jesuit AIDS Network:

Supporting those affected by the HIV/AIDS Pandemic

Poverty, lack of resources and unemployment are among the key gateways for the spread of HIV and AIDS. Thus, any realistic move towards curbing the spread of HIV/AIDS should ideally incorporate concerns about poverty reduction and individuals' empowerment. In addition, following the recent past's experience of donor fatigue in areas of HIV/AIDS intervention, it looks rather prophetic to forge ways of enabling the needy to respond by themselves to the hardships of their social reality without waiting for external intervention. It is in this perspective that Africa Jesuits Aids Network (AJAN), has as its core mission to help and support those stricken by the pandemic to come to terms with its effects. Present in over 36 African countries, Jesuits respond to the pandemic mainly through facilitation and support, networking, advocacy, and resource mobilization.

AJAN has embarked on empowering those afflicted by HIV/AIDS in an effort to ensure self-sustenance at times when external support is uncertain. Among the pilot groups to benefit from this move in 2013 were women from the Mirror of Hope, a local Community Based Organization (CBO), and the Uzima Programme which operate respectively from Guadalupe Parish, Adams Arcade and Saint Joseph the Worker Parish, Kangemi. Having fallen victim to the virus, these women are often in solitude, defenceless and unemployed. Due to their failing health conditions, they could not submit to the rigorous requirements of any formal work settings. For this reason, AJAN sourced funds to train them on small businesses, particularly in manufacturing bar and liquid soaps

and crafting small baskets from recycled materials. These women later formed two associations, each having a common bank account to save their proceeds from the sales they make through their products. The project has since enabled members to attend to their daily needs.

Although their beginnings were haunted by customers' high interest in good quality products and little knowledge on the market, they currently produce quality products that match the market's standards. The Mirror of Hope group, for instance, now ship their products to Canada and Italy, and their baskets can be purchased at no more than 10 US dollars. It feels uplifting to see them regaining their smiles while enjoying the fruit of



News/Events briefs:

- Fr. A.E. Orobator, SJ, provincial, recently hosted the 1st Theological Colloquium on Church Religion and Society in Africa. The event, held from 14-16 August at the Hekima Peace Institute, Riara Road, saw a huge gathering of African theologians from all over the world. Charles Nyamiti, renowned theologian, made a surprise appearance on the final day of the event
- The Feast of St. Ignatius of Loyola was celebrated on July 31 at Hekima College in Nairobi. It was a very successful event drawing a huge crowd from all over Nairobi. The event also saw the official launch of *Mission for everyone* and the autobiography of Jackson Otto Mosha, SJ.
- The AOR development office recently published its first annual report. The publication, which will now be produced on a yearly basis, serves to share the achievements and success of the development office programs with partners and collaborators of the province. Copies are available on the province website
- Ocer Campion Jesuit College, Gulu, Uganda, was recently officially registered by the Ministry of Education and Sports of Uganda. The school celebrated its inauguration on June 19, 2013

Upcoming Events:

- **2-3 September 2013:** Jesuit Hakimani Centre and the Kenya Peace Network host a two day national conference on enhancing citizen participation on county governance at Hekima Peace Institute, Riara road, Nairobi
- **6 September 2013:** African Jesuit AIDS Network (AJAN) invites you to a book launch to be held at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa from 2.30pm. The Publication, *AIDS, 30 Years down the line: Faith Based reflections about the Epidemic in Africa*, is a collection of essays, written by experts in AIDS-care.
- **11-13 October:** On-going apostolic Formation of Ordained Scholastics <5 years in Ministry at Menelik Twin Towers, Nairobi. The program will be facilitated by Fr. Bernie Owens, SJ
- **8-11 November:** On-going apostolic Formation for Jesuits 70 years and older at Mwanga Jesuit Spiritual Centre, Nairobi. The program will be facilitated by Fr. Mike Lewis, SJ
- **11-14 December:** AOR Province Assembly and Celebration of AOR Jubilees

their hard-work on days when they gather to share portions of their incomes.

Our prayer is that of gratitude for the success of the program in bringing hope to those who once felt all was lost. AJAN continues discerning ways this initiative can be further developed by broadening the nature of the products and training the women on marketing strategies and managerial skills. Such would truly resonate well with AJAN's vision of enabling HIV/AIDS victims to enjoy their lives to the fullest. Indeed, this will be AJAN's vivid witness of labouring towards God's greater glory, as elegantly echoed by Saint Irenaeus: "the glory of God is man/woman fully alive."

Patrice Ndayisenga, SJ, AJAN's Advocacy Chair, Nairobi – Kenya



Women from the Uzima program in Kangemi, Nairobi, weave baskets from recycled materials for sale. The women use the profit from the income for their upkeep

Support the training of Jesuits

Approximately 10 men join the Jesuit Novitiate each year. This offers them a series of experiences and experiments that help them to become men for others. However, Jesuit formation is an ongoing process. Kindly pray for our men in formation.

To support the education and training of Jesuits, please make a **donation by cheque** in favour of '**Society of Jesus Kenya**' or make a **transfer** in favour of '**Society of Jesus Kenya**, ACC No: 6517490029, Swift Code: CBAFKENX



Lord, increase our Faith (Luke 17:5)

Ours is a scientific world and so we are found of using quantitative terms even for things which cannot be measured. Faith is such a thing! As we get closer to the end of the year of Faith, some of us are still asking the Lord to increase our Faith. This prayer request presupposes that we at least have some faith which, if the Lord so permits, needs to be increased. In other words, before I should ask the Lord to increase my faith, I probably need to think of how much faith I have. How much faith do I have and how much more do I need from the Lord?

When the disciples requested the Lord for an increment in faith, the response they got was rather confusing, 'If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, Be uprooted and planted in the sea,

and it would obey you' (Lk 17: 6). This seemingly quantitative response, albeit a figurative one, must have prompted the disciples to re-phrase their request from 'Lord, increase our faith' to 'Lord, give us faith'. You need Faith before you can ask for its increment. The response must have also led the disciples to the understanding that they actually did not have to have faith the size of a mountain; only faith the size of a mustard seed would be enough to move mountains!

We all have faith in one thing or another; we believe that the bus driver will take us to our destination even though he has not shown us his driving licence; we believe that, that man is our dad even though we do not have the scientific results of a DNA test! And some of us believe in God. However, our faith in God needs to be strengthened in order for it to

endure the scientific whims of our times. We believe in a God who does not have an email address or a phone number and yet we expect very prompt responses to our prayers. We cook our food using microwaves – everything is done at a supersonic speed. Consequently, we have become an impatient humanity, at least unconsciously! We have become impatient with ourselves, with our neighbours, and with God, and our impatience has in one way or another impacted on our faith. Thus, instead of asking the Lord to increase our faith, shouldn't we be asking Him to 'reduce our impatience'? Remember the year of Faith will soon be history – everything, even time, goes very fast these days!

Fr. Lawrence Kyaligonza, SJ, Vocations Promoter, Jesuits Eastern Africa

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