



#### Dear Friends

The past few months have been of great blessings to the Eastern Africa Province. We have hosted major international events, ordained new men and marked important milestones in our history.

On the feast of St. Ignatius, 31 July, 2016, two important events were celebrated by our Province. The first was the end of the Silver Jubilee celebrations for the Jesuit Novitiate in Arusha, Tanzania (since its inauguration in 1991). Secondly, the day also marked the Silver Jubilee celebrations of 6 Jesuit companions (Jubilarians), namely, Fr. Raymond Manyanga, S.J., Fr. Simon Drasiga, S.J., Fr. Buberwa Karongo, S.J., Fr. Kizito Kiyimba, S.J., Fr. Francis Lado, S.J., and myself.

Another great event was the celebration of the ordination of three new priests. These are Fr. Paul Kalenzi, SJ, Fr. Alexander Wainaina, SJ, and Fr. Joseph Mboya, SJ. We pray for God's continued guidance upon these men as they prepare to start new missions. The Province also hosted the 22nd International Association of Jesuit Business Schools (IAJBS) Annual World Forum, the first of its kind in Africa. This forum opens up a world of opportunities to Universities in Africa including joint programs and strategic partnerships with Jesuit universities across the world. Even as we continue working towards our vision of establishing a Jesuit University in Eastern Africa, we hope that such opportunities as offered by IAJBS can be tapped into by universities in Africa.

The Province and Jesuits across the world are preparing for the upcoming 36th General Congregation to be held in Rome starting on October 2, 2016. This is an important time in the Society of Jesus where pertinent issues pertaining to our Jesuits life and missions will be discussed. Join us in praying for a successful Congregation.

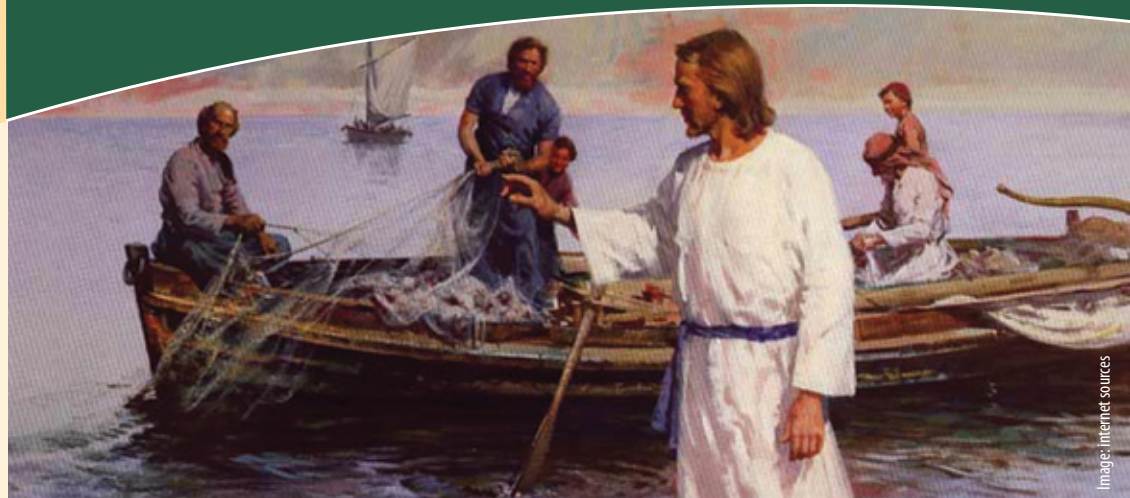
Lastly, we continue praying for South Sudan which has recently been faced with internal conflicts between the government and rebel forces. There are the big guns that draw attention of the international community and small arms that often go unnoticed yet very lethal and destructive. We are however grateful that we still have men working in Juba, Maban, Rumbek, Cueilbet and Wau where we run education apostolates, JRS, offering support for National Association of Religious Superiors and collaborating with the local parishes and church. The situation has become relatively calm even though many people are still living in Internally Displaced People (IDP) camps. Part of our strategy to initiate change is to include peace and reconciliation programs in all our institutions in South Sudan as a foundational effort to create understanding and foster peace among the local communities. We also continue praying for lasting peace in South Sudan and that our efforts to change lives may soon come to fruition. Please pray with us for lasting peace for this beloved country. May God bless you abundantly!

Fr. Joseph Oduor Afulo, SJ  
Provincial

# Shukran

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Shukran:  
Swahili/Arabic  
for Gratitude



Jesus invites his disciples to cast their nets into the deep

## General Congregation 36: Rowing into the Deep

The Society of Jesus is currently preparing for the 36<sup>th</sup> General Congregation (GC36) which will officially commence on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October 2016, in Rome. Fr. Deogratias Rwezaura, SJ, AOR Socius, reflects on the meaning, impact and expectations of GC 36

### 1. What is GC 36 and why is it important for the Jesuits?

GC 36 stands for the 36<sup>th</sup> General Congregation since the founding of the Society in 1540. A General Congregation remains the ultimate authority in the governance of the Society of Jesus. GC 36 will discuss "matters of greater moment" in the Society, starting with the election of a new Superior General. It has been preceded by Province Congregations and consultations at Assistancy levels, each of which elects delegates to the Congregation and presents a spectrum of issues technically known as postulates from across the entire Society. Two discussion themes have been identified namely, the Call to a Renewal of Jesuit Life and Mission and the Call for Renewed Governance for a Renewed Mission. The Coordinating Committee is working on the agenda for these two themes.

### 2. The theme for GC 36 is 'Rowing into the deep' what does it mean to the Jesuits?

Perhaps no one has put more emphasis on the call for depth in our Jesuit life than our current Superior General, Father Adolfo Nicolas, SJ. Rowing into the deep is scriptural and depicts Jesus' invitation to his disciples to cast their nets into the deep and a great catch ensued from their listening to the call of Jesus. For us Jesuits, "Rowing into the deep" implies starting from within the depth of our hearts where we reflect, discern and decide how best to serve God in a given context. The depth of our spirituality necessarily invites us to reach out to others in dire need and evaluate the impact of our apostolic

engagements on the people we serve. Depth impels us to constantly find innovative ways of remaining relevant (renewed) to the Gospel by addressing the root causes of apostolic challenges while alleviating the suffering of the people of God.

### 3. What are some of the expectations of the Jesuits of Eastern Africa Province for GC 36?

While I cannot speak for every Jesuit in our Province, I know for sure that we are all expecting change in leadership following the request by Father Nicolàs to step down. We expect to have a new Superior General. However, as our current Father General has said, it all depends on what the delegates to the GC 36 decide – to allow Father Nicolàs to resign or to say serve us for some few more years! The second expectation for our Province is that there will be insights from GC 36 which will redirect our mission in Eastern Africa. This is a normal expectation because such a great moment cannot pass without concrete recommendations to be implemented. GC 36 is taking place at a time of a disturbed world in many ways – global forced migration trends never experienced since the second World War, unprecedented climatic changes, religious fundamentalism, a Church challenged by Pope Francis to become poor for the poor through his encyclical *Evangelii Gaudium* and care for our common home through *Laudato Si*. I believe GC 36 cannot close its eyes to the above issues.

### 4. What happens after a General Congregation has been concluded?

After a General Congregation has been concluded the delegates return to their respective

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# 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 112 nations on six continents and are organized in administrative regions called Provinces.

The Eastern Africa Province consists of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan 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.'
- **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 and Ethiopia. In addition, we run mobile retreats in all countries of our province.
- **Parish ministry** - we run 4 vibrant parishes and 3 outstations, 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.

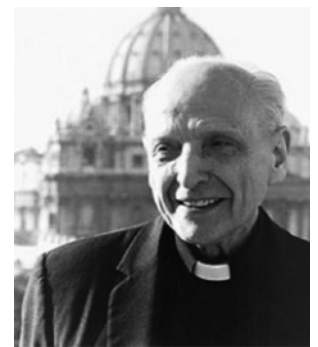
Visit [www.easternafrijesuits.org](http://www.easternafrijesuits.org) for more information on our work

## General Congregation facts

- The 1st general congregation began on June 19, 1558, almost two years after St. Ignatius' death; it was composed of 20 members and Father Diego Laynez was elected Superior General.
- Father Claudio Acquaviva, SJ, was elected Superior General during the 4th general congregation in 1581. He served for 34 years - the longest term in Jesuit history - and presided over three general congregations.
- The fifth General Congregation made it clear that the Society's teachers were to follow St. Aquinas and Aristotle in theology and philosophy.
- The sixth General Congregation made obligatory a daily hour of prayer and an annual eight-day retreat for all Jesuits.
- The 8th general congregation (1645-46) was the longest taking 145 days, while both the 6th (1608) and the 23rd (1883) wrapped up in 38 days.
- The 10th general congregation is the only one to have elected two Superior Generals: Father Luigi Gottifredi was elected first, but he died before the congregation concluded. The same group then elected Father Goswin Nickel.
- The 12th congregation (1682) elected Father Charles Noyelle, SJ. He and Ignatius have been the only generals elected with all the votes of the delegates except their own.
- GC 31, which took place during and after Vatican II, met in two sessions in 1965 and 1966, for a total of 141 days and Father Pedro Arrupe, SJ, was elected Superior General.
- There have been 30 Superior Generals of the Society of Jesus.



Father Claudio Acquaviva, SJ



Father Pedro Arrupe, SJ

### Rowing into the Deep

- The logo for GC 36 was inspired by Pope Francis' message to the Jesuits on the 200th anniversary of the restoration of the Society of Jesus. On September 27, 2014, in the Church of the Gesù in Rome, the pope urged Jesuits to discern in difficult times; to be receptive of and obedient to the will of God; and to row with him in the service of the church according to the call of Jesus to his disciples: "Put out into the deep."
- On the logo, the IHS represents the Society's boat in the church, and the waves represent the sea where Jesuits are invited to enter and row out into, toward frontiers. The cross represents the sail where the Spirit blows, helping the Society row. The flame above the cross represents "a fire that kindles other fires," a link to Decree 2 from GC 35 on rediscovering the Jesuit charism.



Adapted from an article by Fr. John Padberg, SJ, a historian and the former director of the Institute of Jesuit Sources. This post has been originally published by the JCU conference website



# Vocation journey to the Priesthood

Recently ordained Jesuits priests Frs. Alexander Wainaina, Joseph Mboya and Paul Kalenzi reflect on their vocation journey



## Fr. Alexander Wainaina, SJ: From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required

My desire to become a priest began when I was about 5 years old. I admired priests and somehow desired to become like them one day. As I grew up, the desire to spend my life as a missionary became part of my daily prayer. My prayer relationship with God has always kept me focused on that dream and I am thankful to God for making the dream come true. It was always my prayer that my medical studies and work would not hinder me from my dream of becoming a priest but provide me with necessary skills to help me grow in working with, and for other people.

One Biblical verse that strongly helps me in my religious life is Luke 12:48, "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required; and from the one to whom much has been entrusted, even more will be demanded." This verse reminds me that everything that I have is from God. God entrusts me with gifts that ought to be spent for His glory and the wellbeing of creation; it is my desire that as a Jesuit priest I will always try and pursue that goal.



## Fr. Joseph Mboya, SJ: Everything is in God's hands

My greatest motivation to become a Jesuit priest was a desire to serve the people of God by bringing joy and God's message of consolation to people. I was also motivated by the many priests I had seen work with so much zeal, passion and dedication. I kept telling myself that if they could do it so could I. By looking up to such priests, I felt very much encouraged in my own journey towards priesthood. At the core of this desire was a strong conviction that God was calling me to be a priest, and that my life could only make sense by responding to this calling.

The words of Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for disaster, to give you a future and hope," always inspires me in my vocation journey. They remind me to place my total trust in God and not spend time worrying about what shall come next, where I shall go to work next, what I should do next. Everything is in God's hands and my dreams can only become useful when they become God's dreams for me. God's dreams for me are the best.

## Fr. Paul Kalenzi: How long have you loved me, O Beauty, both Ancient and New?

It was an almost surreal experience, what happened on 2nd July 2016: the day I had been waiting for, dreamt of for 28 years had finally arrived. At the start of the ordination mass, my mind travelled back to Nairobi in 1988, the year I discovered God as a nine year-old reading the Bible and a little prayer book I bought myself at the Paulines' bookshop. I knew then that God was calling me to himself and so I said to him, and anyone who asked, that I would be a priest one day. In my mind, a priest was someone who was close to God in prayer; a man who brought God's message to his people. It was only a little later, when I took classes in catechism, that I understood the sacramental role of the priest and was drawn even more to this vocation.

My aspirations as a Jesuit are firmly anchored in the context in which I find myself: I recall especially the poverty of my childhood, the poverty in which many Africans live today, and I say to myself, "Surely, God is not pleased with this state of affairs. Surely, he wants to do something about it." Hopefully, I can bring "good news to the poor" (cf. Is 61:1 and Lk 4:18), and, in a continent riven by so many divisions, I can be an instrument of God's peace and reconciliation.

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## General Congregation 36: Rowing into the Deep

provinces and regions, the proceedings of the Congregation are promulgated and work begins at each level of the Society's governing structures, institutions and at personal levels to implement the spirit of the Congregation.

In the Eastern Africa Province we hope to set pace for the implementation of the results of GC 36 during the Province Assembly which will be held in Mwangaza Spirituality Centre – Nairobi, from 2 to 6 January 2017.

I pray that the Lord may give the entire Society the wisdom to have a correct reading of the signs of our times and respond with generosity and magnanimity.

Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam (AMDG)!

# Emergency appeal for

## Loyola Secondary School, Wau, South Sudan

In July 2016 clashes broke out in Wau leaving hundreds of people dead and about 50,000 are estimated to have fled from their homes. The conflict, which quickly spread across the nation created a severe humanitarian crisis with at least 30,000 people still camped at UN compound, churches and schools in Wau, too afraid to go back to their homes.

Our school, Loyola Secondary located in Jabel Kher in Wau, South Sudan, was not spared by the violence. The army camped near the school compound, thereby disrupting learning. As a result the school had to temporarily close down. Some of our students moved to other parts of the country and majority were displaced and are living in the camps. As a result of the infighting, the cost of goods and services (including food) have skyrocketed. It is for this reason that we are appealing to well-wishers to assist us in providing humanitarian support to 450 students at Loyola secondary school, and their families. Through this appeal, we intend to provide these students and their families with food, medical assistance, scholastic material and psychosocial support.

### Basic Facts:

- **Location of Wau:** 650 kilometres North West of Juba in the Western



Bahr el Ghazal State. The city serves as an economic, administrative and capital centre of Bahr el Ghazal state. Wau is the third largest city of South Sudan

- **Population:** Approximately 200,000 people
- **Current status:** 50,000 people are displaced and 30,000 more living in camps (including women and children). Hundreds of people are at risk of starvation, malnutrition and disease
- **Mission work:** Jesuits have been working in Wau, particularly at Loyola

Secondary School for more than 30 years. Loyola Secondary is one of the best performing schools in Western Bar el Ghazal state

### How you can help

The Jesuits of Eastern Africa Province are working to provide basic food items including rice, maize, beans and cooking oil, as well as scholastic materials (books, pens, school uniforms) for the students and medical supplies. We are also providing psychosocial counselling for the affected. To help us to do more, kindly consider making a contribution towards:



**Student Support - USD 100:** towards the provision of food, clothing, stationery and scholastic materials, psychosocial counselling for a period of 3 months



**Family Basket - USD 65:** each family has an average of 6 people.

This basket ensures the provision of food, water, clothing, medical supplies and blankets on a daily basis

### Bank details:

	US Dollars (\$)	Euros (€)	Kenya Shillings (Shs) + all others
A/c name:	Society of Jesus Lacus Arca	Society of Jesus Kenya	Jesuit Development Office
A/c number:	100 002 3414	651 749 0034	651 749 0068
Bank & Branch:	NIC Bank; Prestige Plaza	CBA; Junction	CBA; Junction
SWIFT	NINCKENA	CBAFKNX	CBAFKNX

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