

***A Mission for Everyone* took historical flesh as fourteen Wazee met at PAC Nov. 8—10, 2013 for the first Ongoing Formation of Members of the AOR over 70.**



JESAM President, Mike Lewis facilitated the group sessions, using his own vast experiences to model sharing stories of ongoing formation ranging through a life time. Bator assisted.

As a group we promised to “Let what is said here, stay here”, so that I cannot share details of our conversations. If I did, I would have to kill you. However, I can share this: Topics ranged from pre-Vatican II experiences of formation, all of them in far off places, which eventually brought us to work in East Africa, finally coalescing into the Eastern Africa Province we know today. As a group we span the pre to post Vatican church, World War II to the present, the first beginnings of JRS mandated by Fr. Pedro Arupe, Sputnik to the exploration of the moon and outer space, TV, the computer, i-pad and Facebook.



Eleven Hekima scholastics spent Friday afternoon with us, honoring us by their attention, sharing a poem, a Ukrainian Ballad, songs, and guiding some interesting conversation.



Saturday afternoon, Dr. Ajaa walked the group through some of the physical, psychological and spiritual changes older folks experience as their physical and mental powers diminish. Suggestions about diet, exercise, and various activities were also given to care of one’s self into maturity.

James Strzok, SJ

“When the signs of age begin to mark my body (and still more when they touch my mind); when the illness that is to diminish me or carry me off strikes from without or is born within me; when the painful moment comes to which I suddenly awaken to the fact that I am growing ill or growing older; and above all at the last moment, when I feel I am losing hold of myself and am absolutely passive within the great unknown forces that formed me; in all these dark moments, O God, grant me that I may understand that it is you (provided only my faith is strong enough) who are painfully parting the fibers of my being in order to penetrate to the very marrow of my substance and bear me away within yourself.” Tielhard de Chardin, The Divine Milieu