



EAPNEWS 2008-8 APRIL, 2008

### **News in Brief:**

- Fr. Donald Ward passed through Nairobi so as to say good bye to the EAP, on his way back to his home Maryland Province. His new apostolic assignment will be among Latin-American immigrants in the USA. Fr. Don stayed at Hekima and visited the Loyola Curia and Pedro Arrupe community.
- Fr. Gaspar Suhnwa returned to Nairobi, as he had the Curia's Prado towed back after an accident.
- Fr. Francis Lado landed in Nairobi a few days ago. He was advised to come for a medical checkup. Francis is staying at Pedro Arrupe community.

### **Fr. Sal Ferrao writes from Rumbek, Southern Sudan:**

It was in 2002 that the bishop of Rumbek briefed the Jesuits about the needs in Maper Alor, located some 110 kms from the city, towards the Bentiu road, with a population of 94,350 circa in the area. The Church's intention was to establish a Catholic presence in the area. However, from the outset, all parties concerned knew about the many difficulties of starting a venture there. To mention but one, Maper Alor remains landlocked during the rainy season, because of the lack of good roads.

Being aware that "our future mission is under construction living at the frontiers" (cf. Fr. Fernando Franco S.J., Secretary for the Social Apostolate, Rome), the Society welcomed the challenge and took action. Drawing both personnel and financial resources from different agencies and SJ mission offices, and in agreement with the local government, a simple 4 classroom school was built as a start. At long last the Church's visible presence was seen and there were high hopes for the future. However, this newly born mission was to have a first setback soon. Regional ethnic conflicts resulted in the burning of 13 villages, along with the Church's newly built facilities.

Rather than giving up, the Society made new efforts to start again. And international agencies such as UNMIS, WFP and DKA approached Fr. Sal to offer him assistance, so as to restart the project. Moreover, the local community joined in and contributed with bricks for the building. Then, the model regent, scholastic Francis Anyanzu, managed to put the roof on the school's pillars, to the delight of both the local community and the bishop. Scholastic Anthony Koma followed in his steps and has kept himself busy at the site. He is working hard to get the school building ready for use, despite the threats posed by the approaching rainy season. "Deo volente et Petro favente."

The present project is the outcome of both the joint efforts and interest of many: the local community, international aid agencies, the local Catholic Church and the Jesuits. Wasn't it the dream of John Garang to "bring the towns to the villages"? Once again, such a concerted and successful venture has proved that "small is beautiful." Now we ask ourselves: What's next?



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### **Fr. Sossy writes from Dodoma, Tanzania**

Fr. Rwashia Mberabagabo Michel, SJ (ACE), has been missioned to this community. Michel arrived in Dodoma early February. He is catching so fast with his Kiswahili. Karibu Michel to AOR! Michel's email address is [Mikaelisj@yahoo.fr](mailto:Mikaelisj@yahoo.fr). Meanwhile Fr. Marandu Melchior, SJ has been assigned to a St. John the Baptist Parish in D'Salaam. We thank Melchior for his service while in Dodoma!

Yet another baby! Miyuji outstation which has been under the Airport Parish will be erected into a Parish on Sunday 6 April, 2008. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Jude-Thaddaeus Ruwa'ichi, OFMCap., Bishop of Dodoma. Thanks to Our Lady Queen Peace Foundation that offered about 80% of the funds to complete the construction of the church in Miyuji. Miyuji becomes the third parish in Dodoma engendered by Airport Parish (Jesuits).

We continue with the extension of the parish church - the contractor is now laying the traces to hold the rafters. Hope we start roofing in a month's time. The extension will practically double the capacity of the existing parish church.

The Jesuit Youth Centre, JCY, ever vibrant thanks to the endless effort of Cypriano Mwithia, SJ! More young people continue to frequent it - for the library facility, classes and the recreational facilities available. The construction of the new hall at the JYC is moving at a snail speed, but hope never deceives! We hope it finishes one day. The JCY plans a big HIV/AIDS awareness campaign in early May in collaboration with AJAN - details to be posted in the next updates!

St. Ignatius Preparatory and Primary School, IPPS, is in the process of twinning with another Jesuit College (St. Ignatius College, Enfield, London) in a bid to promote Global Partnership and exposure for both students and teacher of the partners. The project is at an advanced stage. In this regard IPPS is working on a music album entitled "Life is Sacred". The music has been jointly composed by Cypriano, SJ and Teacher Mbonea Mwanga and sung by the school choir composed of class 2-5 students. The album with its 15 songs addresses important current issues such as abortion, HIV/AIDS pandemic, drunkardness, environment, etc. The album is scheduled to be released on July 31, the feast of the founder of the Society of Jesus and the IPPS school patron saint.

Next week, we will inform you in more detail about the Jesuit school project in Dodoma.



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Polite Note: The EAPNEWS Update will be sustainable only through your support and active involvement. All companions and communities are welcome to send their news regularly. A 50 to 100-word paragraph is easy to make and always pleasant to read.

Please send your contributions to Stephen Nzyoki at [nziokisteven@yahoo.com](mailto:nziokisteven@yahoo.com)