



EAPNEWS UPDATE 2008-11, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2008

#### **News in Brief:**

- Fr. Protas Okwalo Opondo has informed Fr. Provincial that he successfully defended his doctoral dissertation in the USA last week. Congratulations to him, for such an eventful happening. We look forward to seeing Fr. Okwalo back in the EAP soon.
- The JRS seminar for Africa and Asia/Pacific regional directors ends today Friday, May 9. Corrigenda of last week's information: where it says "organized by JRS Rome" should say "organized by JRS Eastern Africa." We apologize profusely for this most unfortunate editorial mistake.
- The EAP Superiors met from May 5-7 at Arrupe House, Nairobi. Intense, fraternal and prayerful sessions characterized this year's gathering. Only Fr. Jonathan Haschka and Agbonkhanmeghe Orobator were not able to attend. All participants are very grateful to the outstanding hospitality offered them by the ever welcoming Pedro Arrupe Community. Fr. Terry, Fr. Kabutta and Fr. Jim Strzok saw to it that everything was appropriately provided for the smooth running of the sessions. The time spent with the community at meals, especially in the evening was pleasant and restful. Thanks for all that.
- The EAP Province Consult's meeting Fr. Provincial is taking place from May 8-9 at Loyola House.
- Fr. Joseph Rodrigues was our guest at Loyola House for two weeks. Last Sunday, he went back to Rumbek loaded with equipment for the computer school.

#### **PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR**

Fr. Sal Ferrão who was admitted to Nairobi Hospital, so as to undergo prostate surgery on Friday 9 morning. Fr. Sal was participating in the EAP Superiors meeting when he was taken to hospital for a medical check up.

#### **Fr. Gilles Pion, S.J. writes from Montreal, Canada:**

This should have been done a long time ago: to thank you for the regular sending of all EAP communiques and Newsletters. It is now nearly 11 years ago that I left Nairobi; but not EAP. I cherish so many good souvenirs. At my age, (85 y.o.), souvenirs are important to keep one's balance, I thank God for granting me a peaceful old age. Oh! there are some incidents, here and there: just coming back from a second hospitalization in two weeks... that makes you appreciate even more life in a Jesuit community.

Since the beginning of April, my Email server Netscape has stopped giving technical support. So, I have reverted to the ever reliable **Jesuits.net** . Would you be kind enough to change my address to [gilpion@jesuits.net](mailto:gilpion@jesuits.net) Thank you, God bless.



EAPNEWS UPDATE 2008-11, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2008

**Scholastic Shete Wangira, our EAP correspondent from Hekima College, Nairobi, writes:**

Greetings from Hekima. A lot has been happening in Hekima. Since the post election crisis period *Hekima Jesuit Community* in conjunction with the *EAP Post Election Crisis Task Force* and *Jesuit Hakimani Centre* has been carrying out various activities to help the victims of post election violence. *Hekima Outreach Committee* continues to reach out to victims of post election violence especially in Kibera slums to offer humanitarian assistance and means of resettlement. The *EAP Post Election Crisis Task Force* and *Jesuit Hakimani Centre* have reached out victims in Kariobangi, Umoja and Kibera. They have also organized the Ambassadors of Peace program. The program is meant to promote peace, justice and reconciliation through visiting and listening to people affected by the post-election crisis in different parts of the country. The targeted places include Korogocho, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kitale, Bungoma and Naivasha. The program was successfully launched in Korogocho slums. This event had prominent ambassadors of peace including Auxiliary Bishop David Kamau, former Nominated MP Njoki Ndungu and Rev. Peter Njoya. The ambassadors then moved to Nakuru and are meant to visit other towns in the course of this month of May.

**Back to school.** The EAP scholastics had a memorable day at Olepolos on the Maasai plains to bid farewell to Benard Wasilwa SJ who is in his final year at Hekima College. The occasion was graced by our two elder brothers Fr. Mmassi and Bro. Deus. *Heri na Fanaka, Mzee wa Kanisa!*

Before the beginning of the reading week, the Hekima Jesuit Community had a moving and powerful day of recollection facilitated by Fr. Miguel Garcia SJ, the EAP Socius, who shared on his personal encounter with the late General of the Society of Jesus Fr. Pedro Arrupe SJ. At the end of his sharing, all were contemplating on ways to sign "blank cheques" and let God "fill in the amount" all for the greater glory of God.

The reading days are over and the exams are here with us. Pray for us and with us, as we come to the end of this academic year.

**Scholastic Angelo Munduni Dema writes from Ngara, Tanzania:**

Radio Kwizera- Western Tanzania Ngara, Celebrated May Day with JRS International Director Fr. Peter Balleis

Radio Kwizera is blessed to have had a picnic on May Day with the International JRS director. Present in picnic was also the JRS country Director for Tanzania Fr. Romy Cagatin and Radio Kwizera Project Director Fr. Romy. About 50 members of staff to Radio Kwizera coming from three stations had some fun during the event.



EAPNEWS UPDATE 2008-11, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2008

In a rural setting, about 30 Kms away from Ngara town and near a fish pond of the catholic diocese of Rulege, Radio Kwizera staff members had fun in celebrating May Day and in entertaining Fr. Balleis, JRS Tanzania Country Director Fr. Romy.

While giving some remarks to RK staff, Fr. Balleis gave a genealogy of the radio; Fr. Balleis explained that he was present at very inception of the radio Kwizera when Rwandese refugees settled at Chabalisha in Karagwe District in western Tanzania.

According to Fr. Balleis, the mission of radio Kwizera was to demystify the propaganda which the hate radio, Radio Milicoline in Rwanda had in instigating hatred among the ethnic Tutsis and Hutus. According to Fr. Balleis, a radio must propagate good message for the people, and this was what JRS intended to do.

Gurus are always happy when they see something grows to a success, and as one of the gurus of radio Kwizera, Fr. Balleis was happy to see that after 14 years the radio has grown in helping refugees and the local population. In explaining the good ethics expected of a radio, Fr. Balleis remarked that the aim of information of a radio is to speak the truth and to give good information and values to the people; values that can educate, entertain, and to promote peace and harmony among the people.

While assessing the long walk of the radio mid 1990s, 14 years ago, and since most refugees are now repatriating, Fr. Balleis commented that the role of JRS in Tanzania will have to shrink as JRS has to look at other areas that are in need, yet the role of the radio has to continue. The future of radio Kwizera in building new structure has to continue and JRS has to move on where new needs are greater.

Fr. Balleis was happy to see that the radio continues its message of peace, reconciliation and in making people happy with music and other entertainment. He was grateful to all collaborators who have made the radio a success story.

The project director thanked Fr. Balleis for his visit, and between the 2<sup>nd</sup> to the 4<sup>th</sup>, they shall be visiting the refugee camps in Kasulu and Kibondo as well as visiting the other sub-stations of Radio Kwizera in those areas.

#### **Fr. Richard D'Souza writes from Wau, Sudan:**

The Loyola Secondary School opened on May 1st as planned. So far 135 students have been accepted to join the school this academic year. The school will have two classes to begin with: Preparatory Class and Senior One. Each class will have two divisions. This means we have four classes operating this year. Fr. Victor Luke Odhiambo is the new headmaster of the school. Frs. Dick Cherry, Vitus Sedlmair and Scholastics Joe Karanja and Andrew Omondi are working in the school. Fr. Albert Said did his bit of work by supervising the entrance tests before the school started.

Bro. Joe Shubitowski was responsible for the renovation of the school buildings. In spite of the



EAPNEWS UPDATE 2008-11, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2008

non-availability of building material and high prices, he managed to get the classrooms, library and offices ready for the opening of the school. We thank him sincerely for his services and availability.

The school accepts both male and female students. At present, we have 37 female students and the rest are men. It is difficult to find teachers in maths and sciences. For this year we have recruited two teachers from Uganda to teach these subjects. They should be arriving next week. If there are Jesuits qualified to teach math and sciences. There is ample opportunity for pastoral in the school. Wau has a big Catholic population. Our future plans are being slowly formulated. The Provincial and bishop of Wau would like us to increase the number of students in the school. Our target for the future is a 1,000 students. At present we have only six classrooms which were built in 1984. There is a shortfall of 20 classrooms and other facilities like science labs, computer room, and offices for administration and staff.

The whole education system is being revamped by the Government of Southern Sudan. But things are moving at snail speed. There is no proper syllabus or text books for the schools. The teachers have not been paid for several months until they refused to supervise the primary school examination.

The vision of the school is really to form students who will be the light to the nations. Sudan has gone through 20 years of war and suffering. The whole nation has been traumatized by this war even non-Sudanese who have been working in this country. The bishops of Sudan want a different Sudan which is built on peace and reconciliation. Many southerners are slowly returning to their villages and counties. Loyola school hopes to prepare young men and women who will become the light not only to Sudan but to all the nations of the world. This is our vision for Loyola Secondary school.

#### **Fr. Gerry Whelan writes from Rome:**

"Greetings from the Gregorian University in Rome. Together with Fr. Thèonest Nkeramihigo, who is Dean of the Philosophy Faculty, I am representing the African Assistency here. After my twelve years of living in Kenya this is a big change and I have to go through the hoops of learning another language (my Kangemi Swahili keeps popping out at the strangest times!). Still, I have managed to get launched with the language and taught a course in pastoral theology in it to 160 seminarians, religious and lay people last semester. Rome has been an exciting place to live in the year I have been here. In the Gregorian you meet students and faculty from all over the world. Also, we had a number of delegates to General Congregation 35 staying with us. From them we got a feel for the excitement that all of them felt about making such a good choice for our new Fr. General (I met him briefly and he told me that he used to teach pastoral theology in Asia!). Finally, I would like to advertise the Gregorian (and the Biblicum) as attractive places for studies for scholastics from EAP. And thinking to the future, would others think of accepting to teach here?"



EAPNEWS UPDATE 2008-11, May 9<sup>th</sup> 2008

**Polite Note: The EAPNEWS Update will be sustainable only through your support and active involvement. All correspondents, companions and communities are welcome to send their news regularly. A 50 to100-word paragraph is easy to make and always pleasant to read.**

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