

Welcoming 2017!

The new calendar year promises to bring many changes to Tangaza. Although the Commission for University Education has not made any promises, we believe that we are closer than ever to the grant of a charter. Soon we will have identified a new Vice-Chancellor and new Deputy Vice Chancellors, ready to step in once the charter is granted.

During this semester we will have a series of inspections, visitations and audits to ensure that we are truly ready for this momentous step. As you may have read in the newspapers, the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Dr. Fred Matiang'i, has ordered the Commission for University Education (CUE) to conduct an immediate quality audit of all universities and constituent colleges in Kenya, to check that admissions standards and programmes meet all of the academic requirements and that degrees are being awarded properly. Our Registrar, Mr. Ngure Githinji, has been working round the clock to gather the information requested. CUE may soon follow up with an on-site inspection. The Commission is also likely to visit this semester to confirm that we are implementing all of the recommendations they made following the technical inspection of April 2016. And Tangaza's Governing Council has decided to revive the annual visitations that used to be done by the Board of Trustees.

Meanwhile, we ourselves are organizing a Human Resource Audit and a Security Audit, to be completed in the next few weeks. Among other things, the Human Resource Audit will deal with our administrative structure, recommending improvements in efficiency and effectiveness; it will review our employment terms, job descriptions, salary structure, staff skills and so on, to see that they are in line with what we will need as a university. The Security Audit will inform us on what more we can do to protect our Tangaza family members, and will enable us to begin regular fire and safety training and drills, to improve our security. Among other things, according to government requirements, we will need to begin collecting biometric data on all our staff, lecturers and students.

Don't be surprised, then, if during the next few weeks you see various officials on campus for inspections and visitations. Some will likely request data of various



sorts, or even ask you for interviews. We hope for your honesty, patience and cooperation. If you point out what we could be doing better, don't forget also to mention those things we are already doing well. After all, we need to show that we are truly ready for the responsibilities of university status. These processes can seem tiresome and distracting, and we may wonder at times whether this or that particular review and recommendation is truly necessary and beneficial. But overall, we realize that these are all part of the process of ensuring that Tangaza is measuring up to its ideals and providing the highest quality educational services. May they all help us to "proclaim the mystery of faith" (*Tangaza fumbo la imani*) more effectively by "teaching minds, touching hearts and transforming lives".

Steven Payne, OCD
Principal



The Incarnation of Jesus

A few weeks ago we celebrated the feast of Christmas - the memorial of Christ's coming to the world in human form and dwelling among us. The Christmas mood is slowly fading from our minds, as happens every year after the many festivities. Some questions arise: Is Christmas only a routine memorial that we annually celebrate to then revert to our normal lives once the celebration passes? Does it have any lasting significance or impression that continues to shape our daily lives?

We have at our disposal both theological and spiritual knowledge that serves the purpose of explicating the event of Christ's incarnation. This information offers us the theological and spiritual significance Christ's incarnation. By so doing, this information rightly conveys the message that Christ's incarnation is a theological-spiritual event. On the theological-spiritual level, the incarnation of Jesus Christ has established our reconciliation with God, as St. Paul tells us. The incarnation of Jesus Christ has brought about the process of restoring everything to God through Christ.

I intend to claim that the incarnation of Jesus Christ is a moral event as well. Christ's coming to the world in human form was motivated by Christ's love that was born out of a moral obligation. Jesus Christ felt morally obliged to descend to our low, poor, sinful, and hopeless state so as to uplift us. This means that the incarnation is an event of moral compassion moral concern. Jesus Christ becomes our Good Samaritan par-excellence. He is the perfect brother who relates with us without prejudice, suspicion, favoritism or pre-conceived ideas. In short,

unconditionally. Because of his unconditional moral concern "Jesus did not cling to equality with God as a thing to be grasped. He emptied himself taking the form of a servant".

The yearly celebration of Christmas would maintain its proper significance if we adopt Jesus' attitude. We will come to realize that our moral obligation to offer unconditional love, care, compassion, and availability to our brothers and sisters is a task that can never be dispensed under any circumstances. Like Jesus Christ we can always feel morally obliged to descend or stoop down to the level of our needy brothers and sisters even if it entails inconvenience, discomfort or personal sacrifice. This is the attitude which should define our daily lives, that is becoming life to others as Christ did. By so doing, we speed up the process of restoring everything to God through Christ.

Aquinas Mutua - SOT



In this page, artists' renditions of Jesus' birth and Jesus healing a paralytic.

NEWS in Brief

Growing numbers

In the past decade, secondary schools enrolment in Kenya increased from 43 percent to 67 percent of primary school leavers. This growth, coupled with the increase in children attending primary schools, led to a growing number of students seeking enrolment in public and private universities. Between 2013 and 2014, the number of university students grew by a massive 28 percent. Today, the university population in Kenya is at about 445,000. While some 13,000 Kenyans are studying abroad, their number has been dwindling over the past decade.

TUC counts for a small fraction of university students. However, our college has also seen an increase in students studying in our schools and institutes. The latest data afforded by the registrar's office show that 1,438 students are currently registered in Tangaza. The largest share of this group is taken by the School of Theology (497), followed by the Institute of Social Ministry in Mission (306) and Christ the Teacher Institute of Education (236). Male students are 842, while female students are 447. This means that, if we do not take SOT in consideration because of its almost total male population, there is gender balance throughout the college. Even though it is too early to compare these data with the new intake, the trend of growing numbers of students seems to continue also in 2017.

African Studies

In the past weeks, the Maryknoll Institute of African Studies' library has received a large consignment of books. Most books deal with African politics, religion and cultural practices. Faculty members and students interested in these topics are welcome to visit the MIAS library housed at the institute (room 2E17), where thousands of specialized books are available to researchers.

Troubled Intake

Recent newspaper reports claimed that private universities are in trouble, because - given the lower number of students who received C+ and above in the KCSE - all degree applicants will be absorbed by the public universities. This information is simply false. Cabinet Secretary Dr. Fred Matiang'i assured all university principals that, although the students placed by the government will be government-funded, they will be free to choose equally between private and public universities. Also, placements will all be done at the same time. The Ministry of Education is also concerned



Sr. Agnes of CLM with a student.

that a good number of students were admitted to programmes in public universities which had not been approved by the Commission. This should not happen again. Dr. Matiang'i assured private university heads that there will be no shortage of students for them. The challenge, rather, will be for private universities and colleges to make their programmes known so that students may choose them. This is a challenge for us, since many high school students do not know our institution.

New Programme

CLM is currently preparing a new Masters in Leadership and Ethics. A needs assessment was carried out in the last months of 2016. The assessment highlighted the demand for such programme, especially because of the new insistence on ethics by private cooperations and government agencies alike.

CLM personnel are currently writing the course descriptions which will be presented to the relevant authorities to obtain academic recognition. The two-year programme will start with the August intake and it will be open to leaders involved in companies and agencies where ethics is becoming an important issue for effectiveness and transparency.

The place of the library in an institution of higher learning cannot be undervalued considering its role in promoting scholarship, research and learning in various fields of study. Today, due to the exponential growth of information as a result of developments in ICT and the evolution of electronic information, the role of the library has become much more significant than ever before. The Tangaza University College library is at the forefront of providing information services to the different categories of users including students, lecturers and researchers in order to support their teaching, learning and research needs. As a department, it plays its supportive role by providing necessary information resources and services.

Collection

Our collection of books and journals has proved to be relevant and of quality to the community of users. Through careful selection and acquisition processes, the library is well stocked with a collection of print books and journals that meet the current information needs of our patrons. Through its membership to Kenya Library and Information Services Consortium (KLISC), the library provides its user community with access to diverse electronic databases of e-books and e-journals both on and off-campus.

Services

We are a service-oriented department with the aim of ensuring the satisfaction of every user. We, therefore, provide the following services:



New Resource

Circulation service where we facilitate lending and returning, reserving and renewing of library items.

Reference service which involves helping the user search, access and retrieve relevant information resources in the shortest time possible.

Inter-Library loaning where we facilitate the loaning and borrowing of information items from neighbouring libraries that are consortium members, such as CUEA, Marist International, Hekima College and Apostles of Jesus.

We also provide ICT-related services such as connecting a user's electronic gadget to the Wi-Fi within the library. In relation to ICT, the library provides e-resources user training. We also provide door-to-door e-resources training in religious communities on how to access e-resources off-campus.

Other services provided include Current Awareness Services (CAS), photocopy services and individualised help to the disabled.

Staff

Our library staff members are highly trained. Having studied in some of the best universities in Kenya that provide Library and Information Science studies, they are highly skilled in attending to any patron's information



Above, a group of students following training in the library. Opening image, the main library desk. Right, readers at the MIAS library.



the library has taken note of their irreplaceability and value. Due to their vulnerability, the items will be stored separately from the regular library collections, in a secure location with environmental controls to preserve them for posterity. Our library is proud to have some of these rarest books that date back to the XVI century. This type of collection contains a historical development of thought and also provide evidence of the history of writing, printing and publication.

Generally, our library is on the path of transformation alongside the mother institution as we wait for the charter. Being on the path of transformation, we consider our library today as no longer a store of books with cold walls where users were forced to go. Our novel idea of the library that drives us is that the library should be taken to the user by being made accessible even remotely. Our hope is that one day Tangaza University will have a stand-alone library where users will have access to some of the modern facilities in the library including: a maker-space facility as well as study carrels for the privacy of graduate students and faculty members; a children's section for users who are worried about where to leave their children as they come to the library, and a cafeteria to minimise the time a user would take walking out to look for a bite. This is our dream. A dream that we are hopeful will one day come true.

Agava Stanislaus Litsalia
Chief Librarian

es and Services

need. With ICT quickly becoming a key component in the delivery of library services and resources, all the staff members are ICT proficient. And as part of staff development, they keep on acquiring skills through short training and further education in order to serve users better.

Institutional Repository

The library is at an advanced stage of implementing an Institutional Repository (IR). This is an on-line archive meant to collect, preserve, and disseminate digital copies of the College's intellectual output. It is a system or platform that is meant to shape the production and dissemination of scholarly material within the academic community of Tangaza. Students' long essays, thesis, projects and other unique term papers will now be preserved online making access easy. Being on-line, the uploaded item will be accessed worldwide. This means that our quality of research will have to be improved in order to preserve the status and high standards of our institution in terms of quality of research output.

Special Collection

This is a new baby in the library. The library is in the process of developing a special collection section. This is a group of items, such as rare books or documents of which



I am excited, and to a certain extent impatient, to complete the passage from college to university. I am happy that the policy of the incumbent Secretary for Education, Fred Matiang'i, renders the process more challenging and demanding under the serious monitoring of the Commission for University Education (CUE). That was not the case a few years ago, when universities were mushrooming all over Kenya. Quantity was not matching quality. If I were to be asked which major transformations would be needed in Tangaza today, I would provide the following suggestions:

1) MA and PhD programmes in all Institutes. For the first 20 years of its life, Tangaza has had a tradition of Bachelor level of studies. It had an undergraduate mindset

with scanty attention to research publication and dissemination of knowledge as prerequisites for transformation. It is now becoming urgent for all the Institutes and SOT to offer postgraduate programmes at the MA and PhD level. These should be not only imported from elsewhere but granted by Tangaza and approved by the CUE.

2) From Trent (seminary) to Vatican II (university) culture and attitude. The seminary approach is based in the ecclesiology of the Council of Trent and of Vatican I. That ecclesiology and mindset are to be replaced by the ecclesiology of Vatican II, particularly in the

4) Profession and ministry – an original point of Tangaza. To harmonize professional competence, ministerial attitudes, ethics and spirituality is part of the DNA of Tangaza. We have come a long way, but we have not yet achieved the goal. Theology per se does not guarantee professionalism. SOT should become more aware of it. A confrere of mine ordained recently told me only a few days ago: “the atmosphere at Nuru house and Imani house is remarkably different; if I had had more exposition to Imani house I would be a better priest now”. In Imani the dimension of ministry is not clear in all Institutes, an element which should be seriously scrutinized, even if this is not the concern of CUE.



A Time for *Transformation*

light of chapter four of *Gaudium et Spes* which is about what the church receives from the world and what it offers to the world. The relevance of what today's Tangaza programmes offer to the World, and Africa in particular, is paramount.

3) From clericalism to people of God in governance. Church leadership with decision power is still too much in the hand of male religious clerics. The negative experience of CUEA might offer some food for thought. We should not be interested much with being a pontifical university, but instead strive to be a full-fledged university with Catholic inspiration. In the choice of future leadership in Tangaza, priestly ordination, gender and religious vows are not adequate criteria. There are other criteria – competence, scientific formation, openness to dialogue and research, and others - which are more important to face today's challenges

5) Research and dissemination of knowledge. These are essential for university level and for apostolate nowadays. This dimension in Tangaza is structurally, culturally and financially seriously insufficient. This is an area where we need to grow. We have much to offer, it is important to find new ways to share our wealth of information and reflection with society.

6) Science and theology: in all Institutes we need to insert an element of post-Vatican II theology and theological reflection. We also need to improve the presence of non-theological sciences, particularly social sciences, in our theological studies. This is important since we want to transform the society.

Francesco Pierli