

# the Update

A Publication of Tangaza University College

August 2017

I wish to thank all of you for the great support accorded me during my first two weeks in office. The transition has been very good. The DVC Designate, Prof Selvam, has been very good due to his institutional memory. As Toler states, a good leader will not know the answer to every question, but knows where to get the answer. You are all the great resource from which the answers to our progress will be derived. I wish to thank Fr Steven Payne, my predecessor, who has been very supportive during the handing over. He is a wonderful team player and was very upbeat on my settling down. We wish him well in his sabbatical and hope that he may join us thereafter. We have been pursuing



the issues of the Charter. First, we have formed a consortium of the University Colleges that do not have the requisite size of land to be chartered. The good news is that the guidelines on the land requirements are being revised. We are very confident that Tangaza will meet the threshold after the promulgation of the amendments. This is the only hitch to granting of Charter. The Board of Trustees and the Governing Council are very supportive on our obtaining a Charter. We count on all your prayers so that soon we shall celebrate the Tangaza University's Birthday. It will be a wonderful occasion. As we prepare for the Charter, we have had a few meetings, and the Directors as well as leaders of various institutes and schools are working towards forming a great synergy and front for our institution. We count on your active participation in this endeavor. We may be calling you to serve in various committees as needs arise. I believe and have experienced your good potential and abilities to be very involved in the transition to full university. We shall then be in the league of world universities, having our niche through our strength in academics as well as the prowess of our charism.

We recently visited our Kisanju land and we had some discussions on the possibilities about its use. Good proposals were raised and I am following them up with our Tangaza family members. I am sure that something will be realized there not far from this time. We are also looking forward receiving our first-years for admission into various levels of training. Let us be proactive in making them comfortable and fitting into our family. I always remember my first days at campus and how useful everyone was in adapting to the new place and to the academic and spiritual culture of the place. You will be remembered for this when our graduates move on after completing their studies. We have had various innovations in our University College. Media technology in teaching has been much enhanced. We are using the state of the art technology which is second to none in the region. This is the way to go and it is very fulfilling to be at Tangaza.

**Rev. Prof. Stephen Mbugua Ngari**  
VC Designate



## *Gratuitousness and beauty*

**I**do hope that the Commission for University Education would grant the University Charter to Tangaza over the coming weeks so that the first graduation ever of *MA in Social Transformation* might be celebrated in Tangaza premises. Social Transformation is the mark of the new university as a centre for world upgrading, amelioration and change. Seventy percent of the world population is living under the poverty line in undignified life conditions.

Our degrees are instruments to boost the process of the transformation/exodus from an unjust world to a far better one. The ultimate goal of our degrees is not first and foremost personal self-affirmation and better salary, even though both affirmation and salary are important components of life, not to be disregarded. The people, and particularly the poor, are the final goal of our own academic efforts and pursuits. Against this backdrop let me share a reflection on: gratuitousness and beauty.



### **The first pearl: gratuitousness**

All of us in Tangaza: Vice Chancellor, lecturers, students, support staff and other employees are called upon to nurture deep gospel motivations beyond the salary and career. Obviously I do not want to underrate the importance of a just salary. A just financial retribution is a basic human right, an important element of the Social Teaching of the church, and an important component of the prophetic message of the Old Testament. If remuneration can be improved in the newly emerging university, the better. Yet, my point is to

**Opening picture, TUC iconic water tower. Left, students from various Institutes. Facing page, TUC staff members.**



go beyond the salary. Each one should offer values and examples which can be hardly measured financially. In Tangaza, each Institute is grounded and cemented in a charism granted by God to the Founder of a given congregation. That is God's intervention in the person through special infusion of the Holy Spirit so that the ultimate motivations of one's performance and daily labor transcends personal gains and self-centered attitude. The focus of attention is shifted from the givers to the receivers. In each charism there is a great dimension of gratuitousness. Take for example lecturers: academic availability for the students is included in the remuneration contract with Tangaza. Personal availability, welcoming countenance and gentleness and appreciation goes beyond financial recompense. Even when a negative intervention is to be performed, the last word should be always of hope and encouragement.

At times we lecturers might vent personal frustrations and angers on the students. Gratuitousness implies as well to bear our students and Tangaza as a whole in personal prayer so that we become intercessors for one another. Gratuitousness is a great chunk of each charism! Moreover gratuitousness is now becoming an important factor even the economic world as Benedict XVI reminds us in *Caritas in Veritate* no. 39. Without gratuitousness we would not stick to the first value of Tangaza: option for the poor.

### **The second pearl: beauty**

The late Cardinal Carlo Maria Martini, whose writings are an inexhaustible source of inspiration for ministers interested in building the kingdom of God, keep on repeating a kind of slogan and mantra: salvation comes

through beauty, beauty will redeem the world. In Tangaza beauty, thanks to God, is visible, appreciated, cared for. Beauty in the architectural structures of the University; beauty through cleanliness and order, beauty in the integration of cement with plants and flowers. Even the dress code is supposed to be the service of holist beauty, which goes remarkably further than the curves of the body and the cost of dress, shoes and wristwatches.

Let us be warmly grateful to our support personnel, women and men, young and mature, for the way they keep Tangaza clean and orderly. But beauty does not depend only on them; it is a challenge, a duty an honor for all of us. Through beauty all of us, students and faculty will acquire that environmental spirituality and conversion from ugliness and pollution strongly insisted on by Pope Francis in *Laudato Sii* 216 – 221. Every day at 6.45 at my arrival in Tangaza, I open the day one of the two prayers for environmental spirituality and prosperity which close the encyclical pope Francis (LS 246). Visitors from all over the world highly appreciate beauty and nobility in Tangaza. Since beauty is an important factor for holistic education, let us consider our own support staff and workers as well as educators and trainers. Though they do not offer lecturers in the classes, they play an essential factor in holist education and training of our students.

May Tangaza never lose these two pearl of our tradition; in a globalized world they can be even further appreciated. As a visible reminder of our commitment to them we might plant two trees: gratuitousness and beauty.

**Francesco Pierli, mccj**







## Leading Change

The Ethics and Anti-Corruption Commission (EACC) of Kenya wishes to collaborate with The Leaders Guild (TLG) of Tangaza University, a constituent College of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa (CUEA). The aspiration for collaboration was stated by the Chairman of EACC, retired Anglican Archbishop Eliud Wabukala last Friday, July 14, when he was presiding over the opening of TLG's second conference under the theme, *Leading change: The challenge*. "We are encouraged by initiatives such as this which seek to impact people at various leadership levels in our society, and we look forward to collaborate in future," EACC Chairman told the over two hundred participants who turned up for the second TLG conference at Tangaza University College in Nairobi.

Established three years ago, TLG is an alumni association of De Paul University's School for New Learning and Tangaza University College's Centre for Leadership and Management. Conrad Hilton Foundation supports TLG's activities. EACC Chairman enumerated his Commission's responsibilities, among them, investigating corruption and economic crimes, the recovery of assets obtained through corrupt processes, preventing corruption through systems reviews and advisories, creating public awareness about corruption and most importantly, promoting ethics and integrity in Kenya.

The retired Archbishop emphasized the value of collaborative efforts in fighting the cor-

ruption and faulted those who think that "is the sole responsibility of the EACC, particularly the Chairman to fight corruption in this country."

"From a more realistic perspective, every person has full responsibility to guard his moral behaviour and promote ethical values," the Anglican Prelate said, adding, "It is against this backdrop that we appeal to the hearts and minds of every individual to join hands with us and together we restore the glory of this our beloved nation."

"So far, we have sought and obtained partnerships with various stakeholders including Faith Based Organizations, the Civil Society and the private sector," the EACC Chair said.

He lamented the menace of corruption in Kenya, describing it as being "deeply entrenched in our society." Corruption, in his considered view, "has gained credibility to the point that those who engage in corrupt deals are now famous and accorded high status in society instead of being condemned and castigated." "Some are elected to various political posts in the country and others are appointed to high offices in government," the Archbishop decried, adding, "Others are even celebrated leaders in our places of worship. Worse still, is the fact that those who engage in this vice may not even be aware that it is wrong."

Speaking to the theme of TLG's conference within the context of Kenya's general elections, the EACC Chairman said, "The word change has become a common term



especially during this campaign season with each political aspirant wanting the voters to believe that he (or she) can bring the change that is so desired in our society today.”

“Change is dreaded by many people because it brings with it the fear of the unknown,” he said, challenging the conference participants to become agents of change by overcoming the fear of the unknown and “by constantly keeping in mind the great benefits of integrity to society.”

“Finally, I would like to challenge you to be ambassadors of peace during this period of campaign in the run up to the August 2017 General elections to ensure that Kenyans hold peaceful and ethical elections and also elect leaders of integrity.”

Meanwhile, Ms. Shamsia Ramadhan who works as a peace-builder and peace practitioner urged the participants to become sources of inspiration and encouragement if they want to make and lead change. “As a leader, before you change the world, you need to change yourself and believe in yourself,” Ms. Shamsia said and cautioned, “While preparing yourself to be leaders and influencers, it is important not to confuse leadership with high positions and titles.” She emphasized the need to cultivate the virtue of teamwork and quoted Mother Teresa as having said, “You can do what I cannot do. I can do what you cannot do. Together we can do great things.”

Sr. Agnes-Lucy Lando, an Associate Professor at Nairobi’s Daystar University who spoke about intra-personal communication as an effective tool for leading change encouraged the participants to discern what adds value to their overall mission, urging them to embrace perseverance, patience, dedication, self-reflection and self-awareness as well as humility. “As we lead change, we need to prepare others to take over from us



**Above, Sr. Prof. Agnes Lucy Lando. Below, Ms. Shamsia Ramadhan with Sr Agnes. Opening page, Arch. Eliud Wabukala addresses the Conference.**

so that we don’t leave a gap and have a leadership crisis when we are not there,” Sr. Lando said, describing change as a challenge and often times a painful process.

On his part, Dr. Luis Franceschi, Dean of Strathmore University’s School of Law and Board Member of Transparency International-Kenya, outlined values and virtues proper to leadership, among them, prudence that is about making right decisions, courage that involves staying on course and resisting pressure, self-control, which has to do with subordinating passions to the profit and fulfilment of the mission at hand, loyalty, sincerity and justice, which is being fair to all and having a big heart like Nelson Mandela. He further appealed for competence and piety and also advocated for humility, giving the example Mwalimu Julius Nyerere of Tanzania.

TLG’s activities are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, with emphasis on goal 16: peace, justice and strong institutions, which is “dedicated to the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable institutions at all levels.” Sr. Margaret Mutiso of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart is the current TLG Co-ordinator. The next conference has been slated for September 2018 under the theme *Authentic Leadership*.

**Don Bosco Onyalla and Catherine Muteithia**

