

Preparing for Servant Leadership

I wish to welcome you to the New Year 2018 Update series. We again embark on our academic and holistic development that prepares us for servant leadership. This is our niche as Tangaza and we need to guard and upscale it jealously. This is because great achievers can never be satisfied with current levels of performance, they are driven by



possibilities and potential achievements. I appeal to all of us to keep the spirit of excellence aflame with positive engagements in the academics and personal developments. This January, we were privileged to have Rev Dr. Joseph Caramazza appointed the Deputy Vice Chancellor Designate for Administration and Finance. Fr Joseph brings a great impetus to our family from his work in pastoral, administration, and communication fronts. We welcome him and wish him well as he executes his mandate. We are also pleased to recognize the product of our scholarship through two book publications. Rev. Dr. Sahaya Selvam has published a book titled *Empirical Research*, while Fr Antonio Magnate has published one titled *Missionary Spirituality*. The two books are fresh from press and add up to our learning and formation inventories at Tangaza. We thank them and encourage others to come up with publications that make them visible at the scholarly platform. We also request the members of staff to enter into joint research and publication engagements in order to uplift their portfolio. The Commission for University Education has stringent procedures and criteria for pro-

motion of academic staff. This can be obtained from the Commission's website. It will help in our pre-assessment before formal application for promotion. The requirements can also be obtained from the Human Resource Officer. Finally, we plead with you to keep advertising our programmes to prospective students at all levels. With even fewer of the 2017 KCSE cohort attaining the university entry level compared to other years, we need to upscale our visibility and many potential students' appetite for our programmes. You have done a commendable job. We are also making use of our website and other social platforms to reach out to as many students and parents as possible. If you have any suggestions, we are happy to accommodate them. Tangaza belongs to all of us and its success is our success. I commend you to the care of our God together with your families and members of the Religious congregations. God bless you.

Rev Prof Stephen Mbugua Ngari
Vice Chancellor Designate

Talk and Panel Discussion



Faith and Choices

Drs. Reginald Nalugala and Lucy Wakiaga host monthly talks featuring Tangaza lecturers and visiting professors. The Talk and Panel Discussion initiative is aimed at sharing the result of research conducted by faculty members and it is open to all Tangaza teaching staff, and other interested parties. The first meeting in 2018 saw

Fr. Joseph Caramazza, DVC-Administration and Finance, reporting on his research among politicians in Kenya and Uganda. The talk, Personal Faith and Political Choices of Easter African Politicians, was based on the research done by the author for his PhD dissertation, and subsequent research conducted among Catholic Ugandan MPs.



Fr. Joseph expanded on the politicians' religious perception of their personal faith and the relationship this has on choices that probe their ethical integrity and their faith. The results of identical questionnaires distributed among politicians in Kenya and Uganda were compared and analysed. The first observation was how similar the scores were. This points to a common perception of faith, and of personal involvement in politics, a perception that goes beyond borders within the region. Fr. Joseph concluded that, based on the answers afforded to the questionnaires, politicians in Kenya and Uganda are ready to let faith guide their choices. There remains a question about the depth of understanding the faith and many related issues, like ethical aspects and others.

In relations to the needs of politicians, a case can be constructed about the lack of proper guidance by religious leaders. These are perceived as intervening in political issues only for personal benefits, with little or no attention to the on-going religious and ethical preparation of political leaders. It seems clear that there is a need to support initiatives providing politicians with a vision for their countries, help them ask questions about the real motivation of their choices, and help identify issues as

nepotism, negative ethnicity, corruption, among others.

A positive note regards the role of Tangaza in Kenya and Uganda. Tangaza has a MoU with CAMPSSI, a group of Catholic MPs who meet regularly for spiritual and formation initiatives. Tangaza is usually represented by Frs Pierli and Caramazza, but others have joined particular activities from time to time. The work done with CAMPSSI sparked the formation of the African Chapter of the International Catholic Legislators Network (ICLN). It has also empowered Ugandan MPs to revive their own spiritual programme and add new activities of on-going formation for legislators. Similar links have been established with Malawi - aided by Hon. Charles Tikhiwa, a Tangaza alumnus - South Africa and Zimbabwe. In the up-coming continental meeting of ICLN, new members are expected from Sierra Leone, Ghana and Mozambique.

The talk was followed by an interesting dialogue between participants. The discussion highlighted strengths and limitations of the relationship between religion and politics in Kenya. About twenty five lecturers were present at the Talk and Panel Discussion. Credit goes to Drs. Nalugala and Wakiaga for organizing this event, but also to participating faculty members.

Saint Thomas Aquinas

Steadfast in Your Work



The staff of Saint Thomas Aquinas National Major Seminary invited Tangaza to their family day. The annual celebration aims at gathering families of seminarians and well wishers who support the formation of future priests. Frs Stephen Mbugua and Joseph Caramazza participated in the event representing the whole Tangaza family. Bishop Alfred Rotich presided the Eucharistic celebration. In his homily, he underlined the importance of tradition and learning from the achievements of past students. The bishop invited the seminarians to be committed in their studies and their vocational journey.

Mass was followed by a meeting of all participants in the main hall of the seminary. Students, patrons and guests were given a chance to share about their experiences and dreams. One of the seminarians gave a detail report on how they try their best to become self reliant through communal work and husbandry projects. Fr Mbugua complimented St. Thomas' staff for their work and presented a donation towards the upkeep of the seminary.



Above, Bishop Rotich with St. Thomas' Seminary staff. Opening photo, seminarians and guests during the celebration.



A Vincentian Experience of Collaboration

Early into the new year, on January 16-20, Tangaza saw over a hundred parish priests and deacons-to-be stream into the Media Centre for an intense formation on Church Management. This program, initiated by the Vincentian Missionaries of Kenya led by Fr. Garry Mueller, and in partnership with the De Paul Center of Leadership and

Management in Tangaza, targeted parish priests from the dioceses of Kitale and Kakamega, where the Vincentians work. The Church Management Programme is one of the activities of the Vincentian Centre for Church and Society based in St. John's University in New York. This Centre serves as a resource to identify and respond to the needs



Workshop participants gathered in the Media Theatre. Most of them expressed their gratitude to the organizers for the timely and well prepared group work.



of the local church. By utilizing the diversified personnel resources of St. John's University, it develops educational materials, conducts in-service sessions and consultation services for church managers and other leaders. With the long-standing partnership of the Vincentians not only with Tangaza but with the De Paul Centre for Leadership and Management, it was the most logical network to avail in order to launch this initial program of Capacity Development to Strengthen Church Personnel and Church organizations.

Fr. Patrick Griffin, the head of the Vincentian Centre for Church and Society, led the team of two from their University faculty, Larry Boone, PhD and W. Ryall Carroll, PhD. They ably led the group to reflect on topics such as Servant Leadership, Parish Communication, Marketing, Pastoral Planning, Parish Quality Service and Performance Assessment that the audience thirstily drank in and brought into dialogue with their actual parish experience.

Living out their Vincentian charism of helping in the formation of priests, the Centre has long been involved with these trainings in different dioceses all over the United States. This was a first time they were bringing the program outside their country and indeed it was a good first experience. They also made available the materials from their lectures as well as an excellent book that is a concise guide for parish planning. The Programme holds much process for the future partnering with a local team from among the participants that would make the skills and content better contextualized in the African setting, coming up with a trainers' training, and other activities. It was indeed a good way to start the year with fresh initiatives and revitalized energy to serve God's people in the parishes with greater effectively as servant leaders.

BUILDING THE FAMILY OF GOD

Just-completed surveys of young Africans and Americans have highlighted the challenges facing the Youth Synod taking place later this year. Excerpts from *The Tablet*.

In a research by AMECEA, the bishops took on board the urging of Pope Francis to be a "Listening Church" first and a "Teaching Church" second. Sessions were set up with groups of 10 to 15 young people, mainly high school and college students. The survey was initiated by Small Christian Communities (SCCs), led by Joseph Healey, an American Maryknoll priest based in Nairobi who is a driving force behind the SCCs in eastern Africa. The sessions explored issues to do with young people's personal lives; what they felt about the Catholic Church; and their attitudes to society in general. Fr Healey reported finding dedicated young people on "both ends of the spectrum": "On the right young people are deeply spiritual. On the left young people are deeply involved in social justice, advocacy and service projects."

The survey found favourite discussion topics in the YSCC meetings, that took place from 2013 to 2017, included: relationships with the opposite sex; sexuality; dating; fashion; popular music; video games; social networks; information technology; sport; and the use of leisure time.

In general students were very positive regarding Pope Francis' efforts to reach out to young people but for many the "Institutional Church" was not welcoming or nourishing. Many asked whether the "official" Church (the Vatican and the bishops) really wanted to listen to the concerns of young people, especially in the areas of sexuality and personal relationships.

There was a disconnect between campus ministry and what students encountered off campus. A number found a congenial community at college, but after graduation found nothing similar in their home parishes. Researchers felt that small faith-sharing communities for college graduates that were either parish-based or organised through some other network could help address this problem.

James Roberts

Prayer of a hard-pressed woman

Dear Lord,
I pray for wisdom to understand my man;
Love to forgive him;
and Patience to cope with his moods.
Because Lord, if I pray for Strength,
I shall beat him to death. Amen.



Faculty Development Workshop

The Three Pillars

Elimu haina mwisho! Even lecturers and professors need to be trained. Members of the faculty of Tangaza are committed to life-long learning. Besides their personal efforts, Tangaza offers every semester one day of training for its faculty members. Topics for our previous trainings have ranged from research methods to using ICT in teaching and learning.

On 27th January 2018, over 100 members of the faculty of Tangaza gathered yet again for their training. This time, the team of the DVC Academics and Student Affairs chose to focus the training on the three pillars of a university: Teaching & Learning, Research, and Community Service.

Interestingly, these three pillars are included in the mission statement of Tangaza: to prepare ethical servant leaders for the church and society in an environment of

freedom and responsibility by providing quality education, research and community service.

The day began with the session on community ser-

In these pages, activities and sharing during the Faculty Development Workshop of last January.



vice led by Dr Beatrice Churu, the Dean of the School of Arts and Social Sciences. Community service at the university level refers to systematic and knowledge-based interventions in the society that are carried out by individual lecturers and department. It is understood to be a reciprocal process: knowledge is generated and disseminated in forms that are useful to the community. The interactive session that generated a lot of energy in the hall ended with a sharing among the faculty members aiming at a collective effort as departments and institutes to reach out to the community.

The second session was on teaching and learning: once again focusing on the importance of a well-framed Course Outline. This session was facilitated by Fr Cyprian Binaka of the School of Theology and Mr Simon Wachira of the School of Education. The participants had an opportunity to interact over a template of a Course Outline attempting to apply it to their own specific course. In between, Rev. Prof. Sahaya G. Selvam, the DVC Academics shared with the faculty members his experience of delivering the Course Outline using Google Classroom, which is similar to Moodle.

The final session consisted of an input from Dr Stephen Ouma, a member of the full-time faculty of the Tangaza Institute of Social Ministry, and an experienced person in carrying out funded research projects. He shared with the participants his experience of getting funding for very down-to-earth research projects. For instance, one of his research projects focused on a curious question that has great impact on microeconomy: is it more effective to have overhead passes on the highways for pe-

destrian crossing than underpasses? The study suggested that overhead passes are more likely to be secure, clean, and could encourage hawkers to sell their products. This input was chaired by our very enthusiastic Director for Research and Postgraduate Studies, Dr Daniel Kitonga.

Research goes with academic resources – in print and digital forms. Our librarian, Stanislaus Agava challenged the faculty members on the use of E-resources and the journals in print. This way, he said, students will be motivated to use latest scholarly worked published in journals.

As the faculty members had their lunch at around 1.30pm, they felt energized and motivated, not only by the ice-breakers of Fr Selvam, but by the valuable inputs and discussions. They unanimously agreed: Tangaza is on the right direction!

Sahaya Selvam

