

Tangaza Update

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Issue No. 2

Major changes in community exchange

By Erick Wamanji

Drastic changes have been introduced in the annual Tangaza Community Exchange widely viewed as a mechanism to streamline the program.

Participants are now required to apply directly to the communities to be visited. They should also specify the apt dates for the visit clearly stating the intent and import of the visit. Communities will then communicate directly to the individual after a prior interview with the house superior.

This is a major departure from tradition where the SRC and the office of the DPSL were responsible for the coordination.

Critics however complain that "the pro-

cedure is unnecessarily too bureaucratic."

But the BOG visiting team on February 3 defended the changes saying applications will facilitate planning for the visitors. The same is corroborated by Mrs. Ebale, Tangaza's DPSL, who said the changes were necessary to give the program meaning.

Application will facilitate proper planning in readiness for the visitors

Ebale acknowledges that the exchange had lost direction. She told *Update* that at one time she convened a four-member committee that prescribed stringent measures aimed at curbing abuse of the program. However, her recommendations were replaced by the Formation Council, which proposed the current changes. Father Rolandi Giovanni

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Transforming Africa: Institute of Social Ministry in Mission in a past graduation. The ISMM celebrates its tenth Anniversary this month

(see story back page)

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From the Principal's Desk

Salt of the earth

Dear members and friends of the College,

"You are salt of the earth, O people: salt for the kingdom of God! Share the flavour of life, O people: life in the kingdom of God!" these verses of a devotional hymn, which the Administration Officers and Directors sang together a few times during our sharing days of January, succinctly expresses the core of the mission that all of us have received, whether as members or friends of the College. We have begun the second semester knowing very well that Tangaza College is a centre for communicating the gospel in an interdisciplinary and integrated way. We move forward in providing integral ministerial formation to our students, keeping the transformation of persons as the key to any development.

The second semester is normally a very busy one. This year it is going to be more so as many of us are very involved in the preparation of the Congress celebrating the ISMM's 10 years of involvement in the social transformation of Africa. The celebrations are planned from the 23rd to the 27th of February. The College hopes to welcome many interested persons during the week. The inaugural Eucharistic celebration will be presided over by his Eminence Cardinal Renato Martino. His Excellency Honourable Moody Awori, the Vice President of the Republic of Kenya is expected to deliver a keynote speech on the inaugural day. We will have other important personalities such as Bishop Cornelius Korir, the Chairperson of the Kenya Episcopal Conference, The Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Giovanni Tonucci, Honourable Prof. Anyang Nyong'o the minister of Planning and National Development and many others. The Congress intends to reflect in a very serious way on the topics related to the *Integral Sustainable Development* in Africa.

In the month of March the college will be celebrating its annual feast and the Graduation of the Theology Students (March 25). The months of February-March are also very busy for the 4th year students of theology as they complete their long essays, do the comprehensive examinations and then prepare themselves for the ordinations to serve the Church in Africa and beyond. We wish them God's abundant blessings.

The college is also moving ahead with the proposal for a residence for Religious Sisters and laywomen. We

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Major changes in community exchange

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chairs the council.

Nevertheless, Ebale welcomed the new changes as "brilliant ideas."

And going by notices appearing in Tangaza, very few congregations seem to be interested in accommodating lay students. At the time of going to press, only six congregations had offered to host lay male students while five for lay women students, confirming doubt the lay have no real role on the program.

Real meaning

Community exchange as it was understood at initiation, was a way of sharing others charisms, spirituality, and way of living. At the end of the session usually after a week or two, visitors were required to evaluate the experience together with their hosts. This was no more as we reliably established.

Sources say complications emerged when some participants opted for self-hermitage while on the experience, while others go to places they have friends yet others have just been "interested in adventure" thus jeopardizing the whole concept of learning and sharing as it were.

The exchange will be running the whole of February unlike previously where it used to take place just the first two weeks.

Improve cafe services

When the New Year came, we thought the cafeteria management would come with new tactics to be efficient. Nothing has changed.

Everyday, during lunch hour, especially Wednesdays, the queue is very long and the attendants very slow. Besides, in most cases, chips, which is the only affordable meal is never enough. In most cases students will go to the afternoon class without lunch because there was no chips.

Why can't the management increase the amount of chips? Can't they employ more efficient staff so that students are not delayed?

Another horrible pattern is emerging; some people will get their food through the backdoor as the rest queue. Who is special here? Aren't we all paying the same price?

The grumbling of clients is not healthy for any business and the management should either wake up or pack up.

Immaculate Opala

(from page 1)

will soon begin soliciting funds towards the construction. The intention is to provide an affordable and secure residence run by a group of Religious Sisters. The proximity to the college as well as the availability of facilities for e learning in the Residence could be very helpful to many of our students who may intend to take advantage of it.

The Mary Immaculate Library is in the process of moving to Tangaza from the USA. We are expecting it to reach here sometimes in the month of July after which there will be the long process of setting it up in the new Library space in Imani House. Father Agostino Bertolotti is coordinating the works related to that.

Masters

Studies and reflections regarding the re-structuring of the Theology

Programme and the introduction of the Masters in Mission studies and in Religious Formation are in process. We expect Board of Governors to make the relevant decisions after the study is completed.

As we move forward enthusiastically believing that Tangaza College has a unique role to play in the ministerial formation of many pastoral agents in Africa and has the responsibility of traversing at times unbeaten paths, I wish the entire Tangaza Community- faculty, students, administrative and supportive staff- grace and energy to put ourselves to all these tasks with dedication and peace. To our friends a big thank you! For your support and encouragement. May we all be one.

Fr. George Kocholikai, sdb
Principal

OPINION

War on the Fourth Estate absurd

By Erick Wamanji

Deep in the future, historians wading our time will describe January 2004 as a strange month concerning media. They will, with precision note the manner in which the Fourth Estate was vilified as absurd.

This is because, a couple of weeks ago, a determined and systematic crackdown on the so-called gutter press preoccupied the executive, prompting the question: is the media in Kenya free?

Several weekly tabloids including *Weekly Citizen*, *Independent*, *Patriot* among others that had taken the street by storm, were viciously hit under the belt. They were confiscated, vendors arrested and printing presses raided.

The picture is a reminiscent of the Kanu days where papers like *Economy* and *The People* were hunted and haunted off the market following their spirited campaign against bad governance.

Attacking the press is attacking the messenger, which is quite unAfrican. It also contravenes laws on free speech, a fundamental human right enshrined even in our constitution, and a measure of democracy.

That some of these publications are nothing but a bunch of sensational junk cannot be denied. However, a blanket terror on them raises eyebrows. Some of them like *Citizen* are duly registered complying with the stipulated laws. Why can't the government and the aggrieved move to court? Can they be aggrieved and judge at the same time?

This is not enough. Last year, senior editors with a respected leading daily were arrested "for publishing alarming information." The charges would be watered down to possessing stolen material worth

500 shillings. But the manner one of the editors was treated as if he belonged to an illicit terror ring worse than *al Qaeda*, just proved callous treatment journalists are subjected to.

A renowned West African journalist, Edward Okonkwo, aptly notes: "news is power for the public. Press is the child of enlightenment. Attacking the press is attacking unconsciously the values of enlightenment."

And the new government misinformed efforts of scuttling the media is squeezing itself on records no different from Kanu. Moreover, this is a stark contrast. A year ago, Narc and the press were *darlings*. Divorce came when the latter chose to stick by its cardinal rule - the truth, while Narc seems to follow the reverse. And fighting the media is a classic case of breaking bridges after crossing.

Today, interestingly, Narc supports the autocratic and controversial Statutes Law (miscellaneous amendment) Bill 2002. The Bill spells harsh laws sought to gag the media in the twilight of the Kanu regime. It among other things demanded Shs. 1 million bond before a publication could operate.

Of course, the media has to operate within the sphere of professionalism upholding high ethical standards, which most, especially the mainstream media observe fairly well. But that they attack the gutter, tomorrow it will be the mainstream.

Enemies of the press should however hear George Reeve. Says he: "Journalism is now truly an estate of the realm; more powerful than any of the other estates, more powerful than all of them combined."

Lecturer killed in ambush

By Lawrence Kivondo

A prominent lecturer at Christ The King Institute died last December.

Mr. Julius Osaso, a lecturer in the Department of Philosophy was brutally murdered by a gang of armed robbers on December 26, in Ongata Rongai Township.

Three policemen are alleged to have been involved in the saga. Their case is still in court and would be heard on February 19.

The late Osaso joined CTIE in 2002. He was also a field assistant at the Maryknoll Institute of African Studies.

May the Lord rest his soul in eternal peace.

... as another escapes death

By Beatrice Maagu

The evening is cool and fresh. Father Christopher is on his way to attend Jumuia at Uhuru Estate in Jericho. Everything looks normal, as has been in the past ten years, and no slightest hint that death loom large like the proverbial sword of Domicile.

A botched robbery attempt saw his body lodged with bullets. Christopher had just parked his car when out of the blues sprung two gun-wielding men who immediately "demanded everything from me," he recalls as if it just happened yesterday.

"I didn't know what everything meant. I hesitated and the next thing my body was in pain. It was a bullet," he narrates.

His host opened the door, puzzled; they started screaming only to be silenced by death threats from the gangsters.

"They then demanded for my car keys and money. I handed the keys and told them that the money was in the car," adds a com-

posed Christopher as if it was not a big deal.

Meanwhile, a pool of blood formed where he lay nursing very painful wounds.

"I was convinced I was going to die," he adds. Luckily, transport was hurriedly organized and he was rushed to Matter Hospital.

"I was taken to the Emergency Wing. Interestingly, my blood pressure was stable in spite of losing a lot of blood," he says with a smile.

An X-ray result indicated minor injuries on small intestines and the bladder, so, he was out of danger.

Speaking and laughing freely as if nothing big had happened to him, Christopher is back to his job-teaching. "I feel strong. I'm fit for work," he boasts.

But his attackers were unable to start the vehicle forcing them to abandon it because it was secured by a double gear lock.

Curiously, Christopher seems to harbor no grudge against his attackers. "I forgave them. I'm not bitter, in fact I look forward to continue visiting the area," he affirms.



Christopher: Survived

Of birth dates and people's characters

Discover your world

Every human being is unique, so we are told. But research has found out that some people born at a particular season tend to portray similar character traits. Our correspondent **Mercy Watetu** writes on those born January.

Were you born in January? You are ambitious and serious with your work. You love teaching and to be taught. You are very critical and interested in

people's flaws and weaknesses, but you are hard working and productive.

You are a smart and organized person and know how to make others happy. You are highly resistant to illness but prone to colds.

On a brighter side again, you love children and very loyal but unfortunately you are easily jealous, your socialization need some improvement.

The Tangaza Palaver

It is not true...

That if you want to have your lunch on time and be in time for your afternoon class, you should pay a day earlier and then start queuing at

From the fences with Erick Wamanji

The case of missing lecturer and wrong class

The day is Monday 12, at 10.35. We are seated in room 3G8 on the third floor of Imani house. Eavesdropping into discussions of how students spend their December holidays, you understand why most of them seem to be nursing severe hangovers.

But what is wrong with the lecturer? We wonder for it is already 10.45 ten minutes into time. Then the clock ticks 10.50 and in unison as if we rehearsed, we all say "Noo. Something should be wrong, may be we are lost,"

Quickly, we revisit our timetables, then glanced at each other and burst into rib breaking laughter. We are lost! The lecturer was impatiently waiting for us in the right class!

Getting lost in the buildings and confusing classes is a common tale in the first few weeks of opening. The situation is even worse in Imani House, where too many, floors and classrooms appear as akin as zebras.

And for first year media students, its disproportion, from the fences I saw those entering classes exclusively for second years.

That is why, again, media research students are waiting for the lecturer, and a group of first years join. They are turned away. The scene replicates itself monotonously about five times. It takes the intervention of a senior lecturer to act as a human traffic controller directing them where to go.

However, the problem is not only with students. A lecturer got lost in the labyrinth of the building for about 20 minutes. Not once, remember!

From the fences, I sit, watch and smile as my colleagues get lost.

Pamoja House by 11.00 am the day you want to have lunch.

That at the end of their course, none of the male lay students will be lucky to court and marry any of the lay female students because they are all taken over by the theologians.

(to be continued)

ROUND-UP

From IYM

The Institute of Youth Ministry (IYM) began the year on a high note. We celebrated the feast of Don Bosco, our saint and the patron saint of the young people, on February 2, as a family. IYM students, lecturers and friends shared lunch at Mamba village.

We were also honored to have our principal, George Kocholickal, with us. This day was a sign of family union.

The IYM is privileged to take a course of African Worldview from the Institute of MIASMU in order to learn more about the diversity of our African culture. This will aid us as youth ministers to minister to the young people on how to treasure and honor our African culture. We are very happy to have a chance to talk to our elders every week so that we will grow more in matters concerning our continent.

Coming up soon in IYM is the symposium on youth ministry a life-giving ministry that will be held on March 4-5 from 2.00 to 5.00P.M.

It is a public event of this semester, which will be hosted by the IYM in Tangaza College. We welcome you to be with us on these special days. Come along with all your friends there will be much to learn for all of us.

On behalf of Tangaza community we wish our principal George Kocholickal a happy Silver Jubilee of religious profession, which will be on 24, May 2004. On this we thank God for the gift of your life as a priest.

We recognize his priestly life which he has lived and still living. Besides, we thank him for his total dedication in maintaining Tangaza College in academic matters.

BOG tours Tangaza

The Tangaza Board of Governors (BOG) made its official annual visitation of the College from February 2.

Three Representatives of the Board met with all Administration Officers, Directors, Heads Of Departments, SRC and some faculty members and students.

My peace I give you

Tangaza College hosted a public lecture titled *My peace I give you*, presided over by Rev. Andrew Hinderlie, a pastor with Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

ISMM celebrates 10 years with a bang!

The Institute of Social Ministry in Mission (ISMM) has organized a five-day congress slated for the end of February as it celebrates its tenth anniversary.

Sources from the institute confirm that the event will take place from February 23-27, under the theme Contemporary Issues on Integral Sustainable Development; Experiences, Trends and Challenges.

Prominent personalities are expected to grace the grand occasion. Among them include, His Eminence Cardinal

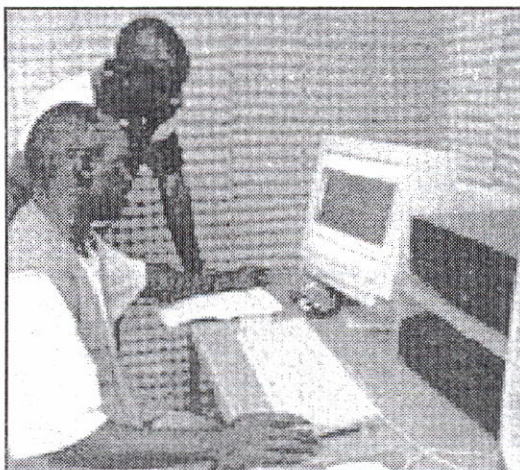
Renato Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace who will preside over the inaugural Eucharistic Celebration.

Others are Moody Awori, Kenya's Vice President and minister for Home Affairs, Anyang Nyong'o Minister for Planning and National Development and Archbishop Giovanni Tonuci the Pope's representative in Kenya.

ISMM boasts of ten years of successful, consistent growth and contribution to society.

When dreams come true...

Social Communications introduces B.A.



Radio matters: Social Communication students in the studio editing a radio programme. The Institute plans to introduce a B.A programme.

dents who were allowed to enroll as full-time students in communication courses were only three. By August 2003 the total number of full-time students in Social Communication had reached 35. This remarkable development, which was made possible after the inauguration of Imani building, ushers in the next step: the B.A. Degree in Social Communication.

C.U.E.A. is now evaluating the proposal.... And most probably we will have it by August 2004.

When I first came to Tangaza College in 1999, the Department of Social Communication was a very tiny creature: 11 students of Theology, however, had shown great interest in the different communication courses that Sr. Pat Kane had managed to set up, and by the year 2000 they qualified for what, in those days, was still named the "Diploma in Social Communication" for Theology students.

From then on Tangaza has grown so much!

In August 1999 the first lay stu-

Tangaza student wins journalism award

Eric Wamanji, a student in the Institute of Social Communication, is 2003 Most Promising Young Talent of the Year. This is an award bestowed to journalism student(s) who have demonstrated prowess and flair in the field. The award was given by the Kenya Union of Journalists in December last year.