

## Committed to Excellence

The past month has been loaded with events that continue to enrich our mission and vision. We had well attended Faculty Development workshop, ERP training, Youth Symposium, Conference on Social Transformation, and the Commission for University Education curriculum approval inspection visit. All these among others had a very positive impact on our Tangaza family because they were successful. Such continuous engagement facilitate the exchange of ideas and visions as well as stimulating our scholarly acumen.

We continue to encourage you to attend such functions because I particularly found them enriching and very informative and challenging to what we are as academicians, transformative agents, and witnesses of the Kingdom of God.

We have continued to experience the drought which has devastated our greens on campus. We pray for some rains to give a relief to the current sauna.

This is a special month for all of us. We have the presidential elections on October 26. It is a special time for us Tangazanites to actualize our transformative agency by praying for peace and being instruments of peace as championed by St Francis of Assisi. This has necessitated the change of dates for our mid-semester break, of which we thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

We thank the Library staff for their continued updates on the new books, journals and other informa-

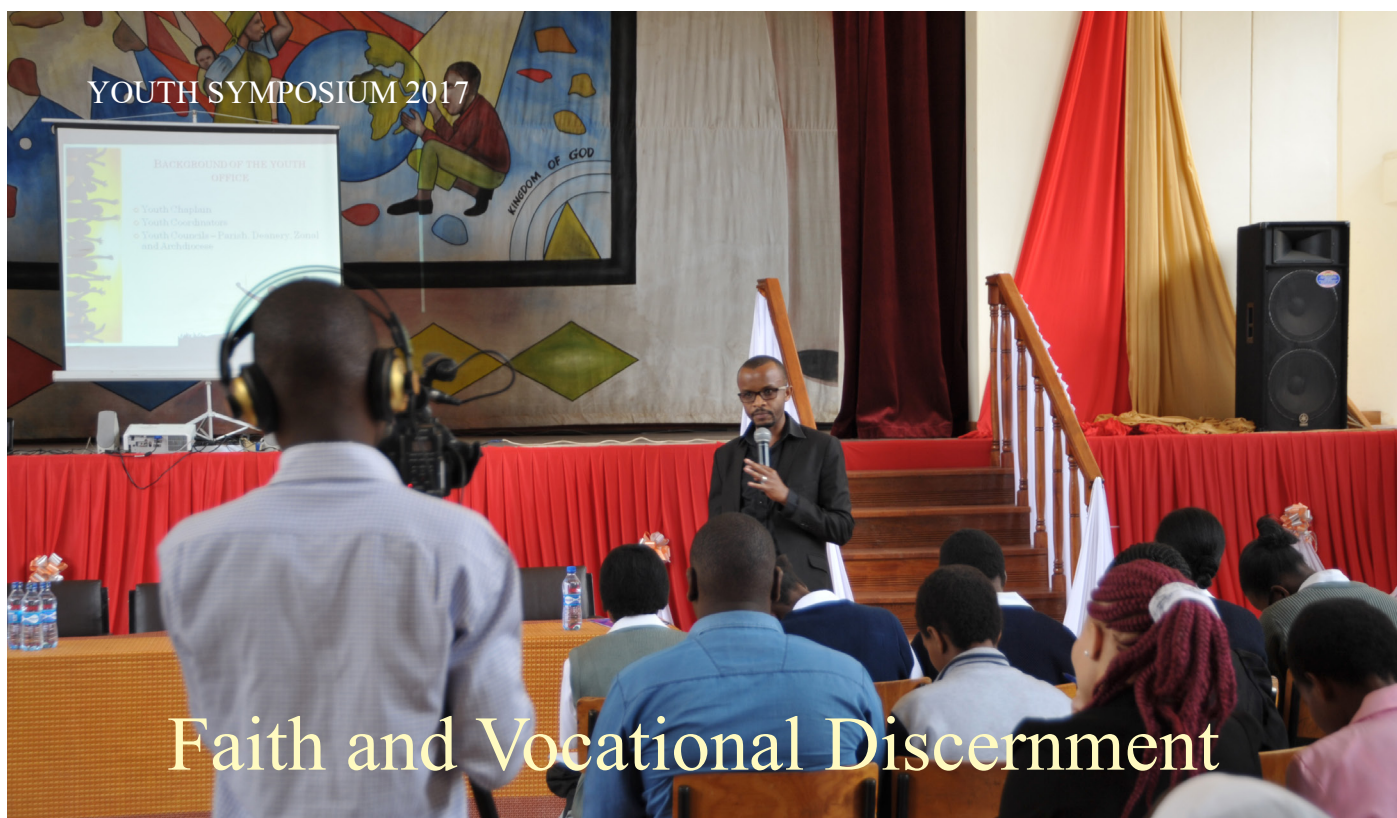


tion that facilitate our academic growth. We ask our students to take advantage of the same provisions so that they can continue to be the cutting edge in areas of academics, innovation and growth. In a world that is quickly changing, such evolution of ideas and world views require the capacity to adapt. If not, we shall become stale and not able to cope with the new realities.

I wish thank you for your continued dedication as faculty, staff and students in maintaining our high standards of academic, spiritual and good witness to one another. This makes us a wonderful family where everyone is recognized, appreciated, and becomes self-actualized. Let us sustain this momentum and pray that God energizes us to achieve our potential.

**Rev Professor Stephen Mbugua Ngari**





## Faith and Vocational Discernment

Pope Francis has proposed “Young People, the Faith, and Vocational Discernment” as the theme for 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops which will be held in Rome in October 2018. The Pope noted: “The theme, an expression of the pastoral care of the church for the young, is consistent with the results of the recent Synod assemblies on the family and with the content of the post-synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*. Its aim is to accompany the young on their existential journey to maturity so that, through a process of discernment, they discover their plan for life and realize it with joy, opening up to the encounter with God and with human beings, and actively participating in the edification of the Church and of society.”

With this in mind, the Institute of Youth Studies at Tangaza University College organized a symposium

in the University hall on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 to discuss some relevant themes and thus make a contribution to the Synod. The facilitators were drawn from different groups that work for youth in their various apostolates. These included: the office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor designate, TUC; the University Chaplaincy; Christ Work for Life Movement; Youth in Small Christian Communities; the Archdiocese of Nairobi Youth office; St. Martin’s CSA, Nyahururu; Radio Waumini and the Kenyan Association of Vocations Animators (KAVA).

The participants of the symposium were drawn from youth groups from parishes in the Archdiocese of Nairobi, various communities of young people in formation for religious life and students from the Institute of youth Studies. The total number of participants was approximately 200 people of all age groups.



### Key Messages

#### *Formation of Youth Through Media*

In this presentation the speaker took the participants through the merits and demerits of social media especially with regard to contemporary youth. Although media is one of the very important features of contemporary life, it must be controlled so that it does not lead young people into negative behavior. The presenter suggested that before people post anything on social media there must be a clear indication that the message being transmitted is true, helpful, inspiring and kind.



### *Youth Experience in the Parish*

Every person, willed into existence by a loving God, has a vocation to realize thus enjoying 'fullness of life'. Family, school and church should support the young person in the realization of this vocation. When one examines, however, what happens in catechesis, one discovers that instead of supporting the discovery of vocation, catechesis tends to offer only a series of precepts to be memorized. Likewise, modern families tend to provide very little support for the process of discernment, leaving young people without any clear sense of life purpose. This has a negative effect on their ability to make sound moral choices, especially as they enter into adolescence.

### *Conceptualizing Youth in Africa*

Over the years, the understanding of what constitutes 'youth' has changed with the changes in society. Adolescence is now prolonged as the age of marriage is postponed. Youth should be able to understand who they are and at what time they are living so that they may be able to face the challenges surrounding them and deal with them in the context of their locality. Youth in Africa may face different challenges from those in America or Europe.



**In these pages, moments of the Youth Conference: the speakers, youth participation, and group activities.**





**Above, a youth participating in the conference. Below, Sr. Mary of IYS leading the opening prayer.**

#### *Ministry to youth in the University concept*

Youth within University should be handled with a lot of care. They represent a big percentage of young people who need a lot of input in order to hold them together until the completion of their studies. A lot of challenges surround them and religious leaders, especially the chaplains, should engage them to make sure all or most of their energy is spent on the right things.

#### *Youth in Small Christian Communities*

Small Christian Communities (SCC) are the basis and foundation of faith in the church in Africa. Young people should be involved in SCC matters so that their faith is consolidated from the family setting. In a SCC setting, a youth is able to fully participate and this will provide them with solid foundations that will enable them to participate more fully in the wider church context.

#### *Formation of Young Couples*

Young people need to make serious life decisions at some time. Most of them opt for married life. In marriage they are expected to fulfil certain obligations which are very core to the rest of their lives. It is clear that if young people do not make the right choice of spouse or learn how to handle their relationship they

end up in a broken or abusive marriage. Good preparation is therefore very important to ensure that their relationship may last and their marital duties be fulfilled.

#### *Evangelization Through Education*

Evangelization and education are two essential ministries of the Catholic Church through which she fulfills the mandate of Christ. The mandate of educating is not always easy but particularly today contemporary society can be said to be facing an educational emergency. Because of this all those involved in education, especially parents, teachers and the church have to see education as a means of new evangelization especially for young people who are often victims of cultural change.

#### *Vocational Accompaniment*

Every human being, but especially Christians, should be aware of being formed in the image and likeness of Christ. At the beginning of his mission, Christ called people to follow him in the realization of his mission in the world. Young people are not exempted from this call. Vocation to the joy of love is the fundamental call that God has placed in the heart of every young person so that each one will bear fruit in response to the experience of feeling chosen and loved. We would love to encourage our young vocations to remain strong and focused and also to dare to follow Christ more closely even in the most turbulent moments in their search for God, realizing that strong walls shake but they do not collapse. If we do not teach our young people to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to.





## Social Entrepreneurship Vision



Tangaza University hosted an international conference on social entrepreneurship from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> September. Over five hundred participants took part in the two day event. The theme of the conference was: Social enterprise: Engine of Africa socio-Economic Transformation. The vision of the conference was to have a socially transformed African continent.

On the opening day, Vice chancellor Prof. Fr. Stephen Mbugua focused on the importance of the conference to Tangaza and Kenya. The spirit of enterprise is growing rapidly in Kenya. He encouraged more and more groups to support this spirit and bring about social transformation among the poor of society.

Ms. Susie Kitchens, UK deputy High Commissioner, permanent Representative to the UN Environment Programme and chief guest of the conference, touched on the stakeholders of entrepreneurship, whom she placed into five categories. These were entrepreneurs, university, finance, corporations and government. On the University she emphasized the importance of creating hubs, incubators and bringing together people who think about social enterprises.

Corporations are key in providing new ideas in the ecosystems and incubate new support for the industry. They can also act as vacuum fillers through research when innovations are not forthcoming. The government was picked out as a key stakeholder because of the massive role and space it occupies. It was clear that governments do not like disruptions interfering with the status quo, yet they can help move things forward by providing a conducive and enabling environment for business investment. The government can also provide profiles for entrepreneurs and funds. Ms. Susie cited DFID as being behind the initial funds that started off the MPESA initiative in Kenya.

The second part of morning discussed disruptive innovation. Dr. Mwaniki of Netfund kicked off the session with keynote address. Others were Ms. Rosemary Wahome CEO-Beyond Profits, Mr. Maurice Mashiwa, CEO-Serano Africa. The core argument here was that through research we can innovate and be disruptive. Other panelists added their voice. Dr. Beatrice Gakuba reminded participants that networking and use of technology should be the key to empowerment of women across the continent.



Opening image, a view of the participants. Above, a passionate lady makes a point defending men entrepreneurs.



## Social Entrepreneurship

**Brother Jonas Dzinehou, ISMM Director, welcomed participants to the Conference with the following words.**

**W**e are grateful to have you with us for this first annual conference on social entrepreneurship. Tangaza University College, is the university that distinguishes itself for its commitment for social transformation. Social entrepreneurship is one of major pillars of the social transformation. Tangaza is the first academic institute to start training social entrepreneurs when it introduced in 2011 a unique MBA on global business and sustainability in collaboration with the Catholic University of Milan. Our MBA focuses on training social entrepreneurs so that they can conceive, start, and grow social businesses that will transform our Africa. In Tangaza, we have gone beyond teaching theories of entrepreneurship, to focus on training of social entrepreneurs. Over the last seven years, we have seen many social entrepreneurs impacting and transforming lives. These social entrepreneurs are moving Africa on a new path of social transformation. The work they are doing is the main inspiration behind this conference. We are convinced that social entrepreneurship is changing Africa. Where other economic systems have failed, social entrepreneurs can succeed. That is why Africa needs to create the environment for the social enterprises to thrive. This will only be possible if all the actors (academic institutions, financial institutions, government, private sectors, NGOs, etc) join in the effort to create an enabling environment. This is why this conference is essential for Tangaza to start generating discussions about the social enterprises sector, and find practical ways to move this sector forwards. We are very pleased that the first Kenyan organization of social entrepreneurs has been founded in Tangaza. The Social Enterprise Society of Kenya (Sesok) we will launched tomorrow. This is a sign of how Tangaza treasures social entrepreneurship and takes the lead in helping this sector to grow. I believe our discussions in these two days will energize all of us to the be committed to the social enterprises development. Tangaza is the home of social entrepreneurs. Welcome to the conference.

Prof. Mwenja discussed that academic institutions should help build capacities of entrepreneurship and be the link between the market and the products of entrepreneurs. The exhibitions outside the hall were a good example of how Tangaza had just fulfilled that purpose. Therefore, the government cannot lead social entrepreneurship but academic institutions and teaching staff there can.

Prof. Mwaniki (Netfund) excited the audience with his analysis of how social entrepreneurship can contribute effectively to the implementation of SDGs. They can fight hunger, poverty, help sustain the environment and provide fresh clean water.

The second day was full of many good speeches and contributions from the floor. Ms Jane Mwangi of the KCB Foundation, helped clear the air that banks

do not fund SMEs unless from their own initiative. The foundation is passionate over designing innovations that work. Banks are ready to put money there.

The afternoon was presided over by Ms. Anne Soy of BBC Africa. It was to help the experts nail the question. Is Social enterprise: Engine of Africa socio-Economic Transformation? For Dr. Kipngetich, CEO Uchumi, what was important was to demand there is a cabinet seat for Small Business Administration (SBA). At independence Kenya had created corporations to serve the needs of the public. Why can we not do such innovations today? Prof. Selvam closed the conference with a message of encouragement, inviting more such conferences to Tangaza.

**Reginald Nalugala**





# SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SOCIETY OF KENYA

## *SESOK Launch*

relevant in today's economy. In the past and still today, traditional businesses have existed and made profits along the way but have neglected to pay attention to the social and environmental impacts of their activities. Social and environmental impacts are critical if we are to sustain ourselves as a planet and the aim is to increase this positive impact on a grand scale. A good benchmark or guide to use while running a social enterprise is to consider the set of sustainable development goals (SDGs) which are critical and should be linked with the daily activities of social enterprises.

### **Our Vision**

A Kenya transformed through Social Entrepreneurship.

### **Our Mission**

To be the main catalyst for development of the Social Enterprise sector in Kenya.

### **Our Objectives**

- To raise awareness on social entrepreneurship in Kenya.
- To offer support for social enterprises in Kenya through advisory services, training, research, relevant resources & business networks.
- To strengthen the social enterprise sector in Kenya by guiding the establishment, operations and development of social enterprises.



**D**uring the Conference, SESOK was officially launched by Br. Jonas and the Society's officers. The Social Enterprise Society of Kenya (SESOK) is a registered society in Kenya which was founded in January 2017 and is Kenya's umbrella body for social enterprises in all sectors of the economy. We aim to expand our membership and influence throughout the East African region and possibly beyond. A social enterprise is an organization or business which uses commercial strategies for the benefit of society or the environment while making a profit. Our aim is to bring social enterprises in the limelight and make them visible and



**Above, Br. Jonas - ISMM Director - and SESOK members at the official launch of the Society during the Conference on Social Entrepreneurship. Below, Br. Jonas cuts the ribbon. Facing page, one of the many pannel discussions at the Conference.**

- To encourage the growth of social enterprises as a sustainable way to address social needs (improvement of people's lives and the environment).
- To build networks among social enterprises in Kenya.
- To build relationships and work very closely with our partners for the benefit of our members.
- To promote the profile of the social enterprises to partners, stakeholders in both public and private sector.

*Contact Sesok at the Centre for Social Impact, Gataka Road, or write to [info@socialenterprise.or.ke](mailto:info@socialenterprise.or.ke), P.O.Box 15055 – 00509, Nairobi, or visit the website [www.socialenterprise.or.ke](http://www.socialenterprise.or.ke)*