

Tangaza Update

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Silver Jubilee Launched



Fr. Paddy Roe, reads his homily against the backdrop with the Silver Jubilee theme, "Proclaiming the good news in Joyful Service and hope."

This academic year marks the 25th Anniversary for the college. This far we have come and now we celebrate our Silver Jubilee.

At the opening mass, Fr. Patrick Roe, the College Principal launched the Silver Jubilee and a banner bearing the Jubilee theme, "Proclaiming the good news in joyful service and hope" was unveiled by one of the new students and Fr. Wokorach, a member of the Governing Council and one of the founding students of the college.

The Principal welcomed all the guests and in particular past Tangaza Principals who he thanked for making the college what it is. Two past principals were present, Fr. Andre McGrath and Fr. George Kocholikali. Fr. McGrath made some comments at the end of the mass.

Fr. Roe remembered the late Fr. Denis Mason of the Augustinian community, who passed away in July. "His wise guidance enriched our Board of Trustees and our Gov-

erning Council". He also remembered the late Fr. Joe McLain of the Vincentian community, a professor of theology at Mary Immaculate Seminary, Northampton, Pennsylvania. "His crowning life-work was the building of the Mary Immaculate Library Collection which Tangaza now enjoys." He described the ministry of the late Fr. Joe.

Another memorial that pained the Principal and indeed all in the college was the passing away of Nicholas Musyoki an ISMM alumnus and till his demise a student of African Studies (MIASMU). Nicholas had just passed away that previous weekend. "He showed such enthusiastic commitment as an activist for justice and peace."

He also had kind words for the new students, "Most especially we welcome our new first years in the various schools and institutes. You are the new life and future of Tangaza ... Welcome! We pray that Tangaza can fulfill your expectations and needs for the future of your ministry in the Church."

On the Jubilee, the Principal had this to say, "Our Jubilee in Tangaza is not primarily about our institutional past history, however admirable and praiseworthy that might be. It is, first and foremost, about the biblical values of Jubilee which ministers, clerical or lay, trained at Tangaza are sent to proclaim and announce. "Tangaza fumbo la imani".

For the opening of the new college year we celebrate the Mass of the Holy Spirit and hear in the second and third read-

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One of the very early individuals who was here as Tangaza began back in 1986, is Fr. Andre McGrath, OFM.

And if you were at the opening mass, you will remember very well that the present Principal invited Fr. McGrath to speak, as the third principal to the College beginning in May 1988.

According to him the first group of congregations to form a consortium (outside of America probably) for training seminarians was in Australia. The late Fr. Daniel Lyne, a passionist was sent to Chicago to learn how that works and took the same idea to Australia. He went on to become the first Rector/Principal of Tangaza.

Tangaza was then known as the Theological Centre for Religious (TCR), It had about 20 students in the first Theology class and Fr. Tom McDonald, CSSP, was the Dean. Among the notable students was Fr. George Kocholikali who also later



Fr. Andre McGrath, shares his experience at the opening mass

became Principal and is now in charge of the Theology masters programme.

There were only about four lecturers and Fr. McGrath clearly remembers how they used to gather at what is today's 'Cy-

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Fr Andre's Remarks

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ber Cafe' for their meals. Apparently, a painting on the wall just behind the IT Desk at the Cyber was done by one of the missionaries who wanted to remind the students gathering there of the struggles their parents were going through back at home. The same missionary also did other paintings within Nuru House.

Fr. McGrath also remembers Alfredo Fiorini a Comboni missionary, a previously trained doctor, who came to do his theology here at the College. He considers him our first martyr as he was killed in Mozambique during the war in August, 1992 where he was providing medical aid to disadvantaged people. Fiorini's photo hangs at the hot spot area of the college cyber.

He also fondly remembers Fr. Isaiah Kessy who help in setting up the library, Fr. Barnabas Ahern, CP started the scripture department of the College, and had also been an expert at the Vatican Council II and authored one of its documents.

Fr. McGrath described the encounter with such people as Fr. Barnabas as unbelievable. "I could not imagine meeting such a scholar in Africa."

He vividly recalls how our current Principal, Fr. Patrick Roe, CSSP came in as the college registrar, became the administrator and would later become the dean.

As we celebrate our Silver Jubilee, Fr. McGrath tells us not to live in the past but to look ... "at the light that our ancestors shed in giving their lives for Tangaza – as a beacon for the future."

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(Principal).

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Write to the Update

Tangaza Update is a publication for all members of Tangaza College. If you have any views, observations or suggestions, write to us. We welcome your reports and articles. Please send them to: update@tangaza.org

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The banner displaying the Jubilee theme is unveiled.

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ings the narration of that foundational event of the Christian Church, indeed the birthday of the Church, the gift of the Holy Spirit on the community assembled.

Note the way Luke describes the event. The coming of the Spirit only happened when the disciples were gathered in community, in a disposition of listening to the Spirit of God. There is so much of God's revelation that is only accessible to those gathered in a listening community.

And my prayer for Tangaza this coming year of Jubilee is that the Holy Spirit will find here among us just such a listening and attentive community, as we seek to discern God's ways for ourselves, and for those to whom we are sent to proclaim the wonderful works of God.

And note Luke's further description of the phenomenon "and there appeared to them tongues, as it were of fire". Luke battles with the limitations of human language and imagery. They were not tongues of fire, but the closest human language could reach was "as it were, tongues of fire".

The tongue is the principal organ of communication, of proclamation, and it is a proclamation not limited to the communication of a single culture.

The God of Pentecost is not limited to Hebrew and Judaism, but to communicate with power in every human language and to every culture, each with its own genius.

Note the tongues of Pentecost were not just a gift to the preacher, to speak in foreign tongues, but also a gift on the community to hear and understand other cultures.

My prayer for Tangaza in this Jubilee Year is that each of us will be gifted to

reach across the boundaries of human prejudice which blind us to the wonder of the Other.

No longer is the Holy Spirit whispering only in the *qol damamah* (the still small voice) of Elijah on Mt. Horeb, but in the resounding power of the tongues, as it were of fire.

This is the fire which will eventually drive this fearful and weak group of disciples to become a surging force, bringing the message of God's salvation full of the Spirit of God, to the very ends of the earth. And this, in the twenty-first century, is what gives Tangaza its meaning and its energy.'

In conclusion, he quoted Jean Vanier, "God wants us to respect difference, and to learn the language of the Other so that there may be true communication and communion Learn and respect others in their own culture.

Fr. Roe also took great note of the new constitutional dispensation in the country, "While Tangaza turns its attention outwards to the universal, yet it would be a failure not to recognise the new realities which have come to being in recent weeks right under our noses : a constitution with many elements to render the society which hosts our presence here more just, more equitable, more sensitive to the needs of the vulnerable, the dispossessed, indeed more in keeping with the ideals of biblical Jubilee.

I hope as a community we can embrace the new order in Kenya and realise that, in spite of lacunae which will be always there in human affairs, we have witnessed something wonderful coming to birth in the country whose hospitality we continue to enjoy."

Mourning our brother & Sister

As a community we are part of the world, and we are not left out in the rigours of life and of course death. So did it happen that as this academic year began, some of our members would no longer be with us. They had left us for their eternal rest. It was a sad thing and still remains nimbly in our hearts but that is the final destiny for all of us. So in this piece we remember at least two of our members. We also mention the late Anthony Gathogo (CTIE lecturer) who also left us.

One of our heaviest losses was of one of our students, Nicholas King'oo Musyoki.

Nicholas joined Tangaza College in August of 2006 where he pursued a B.A in Social Ministry and graduated in October 2009. He was pursuing his M.A in African Studies at MaryKnoll Institute of African Studies at Tangaza, where he was a student until the time of his demise.

In a requiem mass held here at the college on the 20th of August, he was eulogised as a very unique member of the College.

"Brothers and sisters gathered here today, a reality has dawned on us today which we must accept and Nick's contribution will remain vivid in our hearts. The outpouring of love, gratitude and fond memories which each of us here can witness to, is a testimony to the way this singular young man was of purpose.

We have lost the irreplaceable centre of our community and a joyous and luminous light in our lives; a man who advocated fiercely for his convictions.

Nick, the God who formed you in your mama's womb, before you were born, knew you better than us. With a

purpose he created you and for a reason he has taken you. As a farmer harvests the best rose, so you are to the Master, the best rose in the garden. May the inspiration of your faith, optimism and perseverance live on in our hearts forever." The eulogy said in part.

Nicholas was buried at his parents' home, in Kyeleni village, Kangundo District on August 21. During his hospitalisation, a large bill was incurred and the family seeks the support of everyone to clear the same.



Above: Fr. Hubert Pinto blesses the casket bearing Nick's remains while below, Nick's friends cover the casket with a white cloth during the burial.



The late Sr. Abrehet Aregay

Sr. Abrehet Aregay was born in Alitena - Tigray in Ethiopia, on 19 February 1977. She was the first born in a family of six children.

In 1996, she joined Ursuline sisters in Asmara (Eritrea) as a postulant, 1999 joined novitiate in Addis. She took her first profession in 2001 and her final profession in 2007.

After her first profession, she studied and specialized in Mathematics and sciences. She was a teacher for four years in Wukro till June this year. She was sent to Kenya for her studies and arrived in Kenya on June 23. She immediately started a course in English. In August, she joined the Institute of Spirituality and Religious Formation (ISRF) where she was preparing to work in formation.

On Tuesday September 6, while going home after classes, she had an accident. It happened on Ngong road just a few metres from the community. She was rushed to the Adams Arcade Women hospital but later transferred to MP Shah Hospital, Parklands. She received the sacrament of the anointing of the sick on Thursday, September 9.

The next day, Friday afternoon, she got worse and at 1.20 am Saturday, Sep-

tember 11 she was pronounced dead. She was 33 years old.

In a message, the director of ISRF Fr. Steven Payne said that in an essay the institute asks students to send with their application, Sr. Abrehet had written that since her novitiate she has had "Jesus and Mary Immaculate as the models of my life," and that she had "committed myself to know and put into practice and to realize the project of God in my life and fulfill it in my daily life as Christ the servant of the Father." She had applied for the Diploma in Religious Formation, and when asked what qualities are important in a formator, she wrote: "person of faith, open to the Holy Spirit, spirit of prayer and service, welcoming and respectful, self-giving and responsible."

"May these words also serve as a description of her own life and personality," Fr. Steven added.

DePaul 2(X)19 Alumni Awarded

Three DePaul University School for New Learning, Tangaza alumni of 2009 were presented with excellence awards on 24th September, 2010 in a ceremony coinciding with the celebration of St. Vincent de Paul Day.

These are; Anthony Tsikalata Muchenditsi (in absentia), Sr. Caritas Ntibarutaye and Sr. Gladys Nkatha Mulindu.

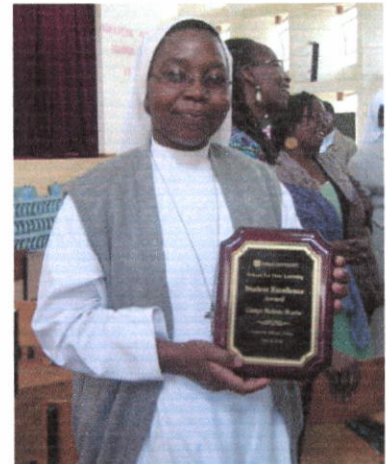
Present to give the awards was Dr. Derise Tolliver – Atta (Director, DePaul BA Programme, Chicago) and Dr. Martin Akilah (SNL Faculty member). The Co-ordinator of the program in Tangaza, Sr. Loretta Brennan, her assistant Sr. Alice and other members of the local DePaul faculty were also present.

On the same day the Centre for Leadership and Management under which the DePaul programme falls also opened a two day conference on leadership with Fr. Laurenti Magesa being the keynote Speaker.

Fr. Magesa spoke about, "How Shall We Form Them? African Cultural Notions of Leadership in the Contemporary World and Some Tentative Pedagogical Approaches towards Change."



Left: Sr. Caritas receives her award from Dr. Martin Akilah while on the right, Sr. Gladys Nkatha displays her award.



Young Scholars in Residence Gifted

The School of Theology under the initiative 'Young Scholars in Residence' on Monday, September 27 held a presentation of the three best papers written by their students after their Symposium in March.

Their Symposium had focused on one of Pope Benedict's encyclical, 'Charity in Truth'. The three 'young scholars' gave very well polished papers that mainly focused on Fr. Laurenti Magesa's Presentation (*Culture and Human Development: Reading Charity in Truth from the African Context*) during the symposium.

The three are J. B. Shyirambere, C. Kimaryo and J. Lowrent. They were also given presents for their nice pieces.



Clockwise from left; Lowrent the youngest amongst the three makes his presentation; Kimaryo receives his present from Fr. Mulcahy and Fr. Roe (College Principal); Raphael congratulates Jean Baptiste Shyirambere.

