

Welcome Back



Director. We have new partnerships with the Administration Police and with Africana College in Thika. Several new programmes have been approved, including ISRF's Masters in Religious Formation and CTIE's Masters of Education in Leadership and Administration. And ISMM has launched Tangaza's first doctoral programmes, in Social Transformation! But the most profound change is the result of the Commission for University Education's insistence, and the Board of Trustees decision, that Tangaza should no longer remain a constituent college of CUEA but should "mature" and become a Kenyan university in its own right. On the level of legal requirements, this means that we must now bring ourselves into conformity with the *Universities Act 2012*, and with the Commission's documents, *Regulations 2014*, and *Standards and Guidelines 2014* (see <http://www.cue.or.ke>). Those of you who have consulted those texts know that they require some adjustments in our governance structures. They also require us to submit a proposed charter, new statutes, a strategic plan, etc., all of which we are working on.

But most importantly, the process itself invites us all to re-examine and reaffirm our shared mission, vision and values, so that these are not lost but enhanced as we become "Tangaza University." We

Warmest best wishes for 2015! As we all know, Tangaza is undergoing many important changes. We began this academic year with a new Development Officer (Eric Njoroge) and Marketing Officer (Beatrice Muchugiah). The School of Theology received its long-awaited affiliation with Urbanium, allowing it to give an ecclesiastical degree, the Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology. We hosted various important events, including a three-day Conference on Social Transformation that brought speakers and participants from around the world. Our librarians organized a wonderful "E-Resources Week." After many years of service to Tangaza, Sr. Loretta Brennan has stepped down as Director of the Centre for Leadership and Management, and Sr. Agnes Njeri Mburu has succeeded her as the CLM



Dr. Joseph Mwangi

should never forget Tangaza's roots in the charisms and "mission"-orientation of the founding and participating congregations, as well as our rich diversity, because these are part of what give us our special identity and make us unique. At the same time, we must together seek fresh and creative ways to express our core identity in the contemporary context.

We are pleased to introduce Dr. Joseph Mwangi, who will be assisting Tangaza as the "champion" of the process of transition to university status. He previously served for 10 years as Director of Administration and Finance at Africa International University (Nairobi) and Bangui Evangelical School of Theology (CAR), and has been a consultant for CORAT Africa for 13 years. He was the lead member of the CORAT team that recently completed an organizational audit of Tangaza, and so has come to know us very well. We believe that he can help us very much as prepare to become "Tangaza University."

Finally, with so much happening, I am often told that we need more frequent and effective internal communication at Tangaza, so that everyone can be informed and involved. Accordingly, we are reviving the "Tangaza Update", as a regular newsletter for the Tangaza community and beyond. What you are now reading is the first issue of the "re-launch". Fr. Joseph Caramazza, MCCJ, from our Institute of Social Ministry and Mission (ISMM), is the former editor of *New People* magazine and has agreed to be the acting editor. "Tangaza Update" will be primarily an e-newsletter which we can email widely and post on the Tangaza website, with some additional printed copies made available for those who need them. Father Joseph will be approaching different units of the college for news and articles. We hope it will be an instrument of greater communication and collaboration as we journey together to become "Tangaza University".

Steven Payne, OCD (Principal)

Celebrating Life

The Institute of Spirituality and Religious Formation (ISRF) is one of the institutes of Tangaza University College in Nairobi. It runs several programmes which include certificates and diplomas in spirituality, Franciscan Studies, Religious Formation, and Spiritual Counselling. We also offer a BA Theology. The MA in Spirituality with specializations in Religious Formation and Spiritual Counselling will take off later this year.

The first semester of this academic year was full of events. The collaboration of the Institute with St. Anthony of Padua Institute of Africa (SAPIA) was wonderful. A representative of SAPIA administration attended the weekly Monday ISRF's Administration review and planning meetings. Towards the end of the semester, the administration of the Institute and a SAPIA representative held a useful evaluation of the just ended semester. ISRF takes care of the certificate and Diploma programmes of SAPIA as this is not yet an independent institute.

The Institute also saw the advancement of the introduction of a new academic programme entitled Master of Arts in Spirituality with specializations in Religious Formation and Spiritual Counselling. The programme has been looked at by the Commission for University Education which has made its own



recommendations. The new programme is likely to begin in August 2015.

To improve the institute's lecturers' delivery, we also organized two sessions of Quality Assurance Meetings. These gatherings encourage lecturers to improve their professionalism and overall performance. A new monitoring instrument for spiritual direction and personal counselling was designed. All the students of the institute are required to regularly attend spiritual direction.



One of the striking events which took place towards the end of the semester was a special Eucharistic Celebration. The Mass took place on the 21st of November 2014. It was especially dedicated to our graduating students. The Mass was also a celebration of life together as members of the same Institute. It was a thanksgiving for all the blessings God had showered on lecturers and students. The members of the institute thanked God for the life and love which they had shared; they thanked God for the knowledge and many other blessings they had obtained.

The first reading of the Mass on that day talked about the scroll which once eaten was first sweet and later turned sour, meaning that within the circles of the Christian life, members of the Institute of Spirituality and Religious Formation had the sweet promise of heaven, but in the meantime, they had to sweat for it by undergoing a lot of sacrifices (Cf. Rev. 8-11). The members were reminded of the fact that it was not easy to remain steadfast in their holiness, but with the help of God, they would do it. For the graduating students, the acquisition of knowledge, had been both sweet and bitter; even its sharing in their various apostolates would be both sweet and sour, but they needed to be courageous so as not to give up the fight. In the Gospel of the day, Jesus had the courage to challenge some religious

leaders of his time by upsetting their activities in the temple which was a big risk as it was going to attract some sanctions on him. But that is what it is generally in life; we cannot reach the promised land without going through the wilderness. Difficulties and challenges in life are inevitable; there is no Easter without the cross; there is no giving of birth to a new life without going through labour; tension is inevitable in life.

The Institute shared the life and love of the graduating students and now it was sending them on, knowing that they would be strong in proclaiming what they had learnt at Tangaza University College through the Institute. What they heard being taught in enclosed buildings, they were to go and proclaim from the house tops, bearing in mind that it would be both a sweet and sour ministry. They need to be courageous like Jesus was when he was upsetting the tables of the traders in the temple.

After the Eucharistic Celebration, a student gave a vote of thanks while the academic advisor also said a few words on behalf of the institute. Thereafter, there was a meal to which everybody who was present was invited. During the meal, there were also some entertainments.

Fr. Dr. Jude Chisanga
Assistant Director

Relevant Media

These past few years, the area of communication and media has been getting much attention. The inflow of new technologies - and their seemingly never-ending innovations - have the public buzzing with excitement. The reception given to social media has been nothing short of spectacular. If indeed the world has become a global village, much of this has been the doing of the modern and



constantly evolving communication technologies. For the culturally and socially concerned among us, however, the current trend calls for critical investigation and focused approach both in usage and in study so as to be able to respond more appropriately to its possible negative impact, as well as benefit more meaningfully from the advantages.

Since its foundation in year 2000, the Institute of Social Communication (ISC) has been keenly aware of the so-called 'social power' of media, a power that could transform and shape societies. And so as a way of meeting the challenges of the modern times, the naming of our Institute and academic programme and more so the content of our curriculum highlight the aspect of communication and media as primarily social. ISC thus has made its affair to promote and teach social communication, not mass or development or corporate communication. The three mentioned academic programs, although legitimate and relevant from certain perspectives, have emphases and orientations different from ISC's. ISC utilizes media as a tool to initiate, facilitate, manage and operate communication in the interest of and for the transformation of the human society.

This ideological foundation of the Institute of ISC serves as the moral impetus which motivates the staff and students of the Institute to understand, embrace and broadcast media's obligation to society. As future media personnel and communication agents, ISC students are made aware of the empowering capabilities of the media knowledge and skills they acquire from the Institute, through which they are challenged to promote social justice, harmony

and peace among peoples of different faiths and cultures, economic progress, protection and preservation of our natural environment, promotion of human rights, among others. These advocacies are deeply embedded in ISC's curriculum.

Over the years, ISC has been getting students from beyond Kenya's borders. Although our student population could not compete with those of bigger schools and the government universities, such 'weakness' is actually our strength. With an average number of 90-100 students per semester, ISC is able to provide the students higher quality service through greater access to and use of the Institute's equipment and learning facilities. Transferring knowledge and media skills through a hands-on approach has been the trademark of our teaching methodology. The fact that some students that graduated from other universities took up short media courses with us during the last long break is a testament to the effectiveness of our practice.

ISC offers Bachelor's Degree in Social Communication, as well as Diploma and Certificate Programs in Media Productions. A Master's program is in the pipeline and, if things go as planned, could be launched next year. As we continue to meet the challenges of the changing times, ISC remains committed to journeying with the young people in this country and those from neighboring nations by offering them quality and a responsive educational program in media and communication.

Fr. Narciso Cellan, SVD

New Masters

The late Nelson Mandela will forever be remembered for his focused struggle to liberate South Africans. He knew well that education was the most important tool of liberation. Indeed, the undying spirit of this man reverberates through his many speeches. Once he said, “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.” Indisputably, the transformation of a nation heavily relies on the kind of education offered to its people. Socio-political, economic, scientific, and technological aspects of a nation, which are often used to measure its growth, profoundly depend on education. And even as education aids transformation of a nation, the dynamics that come with this transformation in return shape education itself. The two cannot be separated as they are symbiotic. That education and transformation depend on each other means that education stakeholders should ensure that education offered in learning institutions is abreast with the dynamics in the society. As such, technology, for instance, must be incorporated in education not just as a facilitator of teaching and learning but even most importantly as a subject to be academically investigated and advanced. Very key stakeholders at the centre of implementing education policies include education institutions. Not only do the education institutions implement the education policies, but they also do so by taking care of the immediate, gradual, and dynamic needs of the learners who are in return expected to be able to cause transformation in their environment. But taking care of learners needs in educational institutions has never been satisfactorily done. Actually, joblessness among thousands of educated youth today is often associated with education which fails to take care of the dynamic needs of the learners and the society at large. What this means is that educational institutions have a big role to make education relevant to

the prevalent societal needs.

As a teacher training institution, Christ the Teacher Institute for Education (CTIE) acknowledges that all learners ought to be equipped with relevant life-skills. These skills are attained when a learner is formed, informed and transformed. And transformation must begin with teachers themselves before it radiates to the learners. At CTIE we believe that every teacher is a leader. And every leader must understand and have at heart the needs of those s/he leads.

It is against this back-drop that CTIE has designed and now offers a Masters of Education in Leadership and Administration which targets local and international educators. This new educational programme is uniquely designed to help leaders at all levels of education to adequately respond to the needs of today’s society whose learners are surrounded with innumeral challenges. The program



appreciates that educational leaders and administrators have more challenges than ever before and that quality of education highly depends on the leaders who have the mandate to oversee the running of educational institutions, programs, and projects. And to this extent, therefore, a nation’s education is as good as its educational leaders.

Henry Kamundi
Registry Co-ordinator

Youth Studies

As we open the new year, we want to thank Sr. Bernadette for the marvelous work she did. We regret she had to leave last January for India due to bone cancer. We appreciate all her hard work to make the Institute of Youth Studies (IYS) alive, and for her determination to get the approval of the Counselling Psychology Programmes. We continue to pray for her health. The last news we had is that she is doing well and she has recovered her strength to go on working in India. She extends her affectionate greetings and gratitude for your closeness and prayers for her recovery.

We started the new semester on the 18th of August with a workshop conducted by Mr. Paul O'Callaghan, a lecturer at Queen's University in Belfast. During the workshop, he elaborated on different types of needs such as cognitive learning difficulties; communication and interaction challenges; social, emotional and behavioural ones; and also sensory and physical impediments.

It was interesting to learn that the First Special Schools were set up in the late 18th century. At that time, only the middle and upper class children were educated and these special schools were intended for children with severe hearing and visual difficulties. By the late 19th century, more and more children were being brought into the educational system and schools struggled to cope with a range of learning and behavioural challenges. This resulted in increasing numbers of students being excluded and the need for special schools to help these children. In the early 20th century pupils with special educational needs were termed as 'handicapped' children with physical and sensory impairments which limited their cognitive development. But fortunately, in 1970, the concept of 'ineducability' was removed and for the first time all children, even those with severe physical disabilities or profound learning and/or communication difficulties, were entitled to an education.

On Saturday 30th August, IYS students gathered at the Carmelites Community to have a day of recollection. Fr. Alex Mulongo, SDB, was the facilitator. He compared the Magnificat with our own lives as we also have a mission to accomplish through the



studies. As Mary, we stand at the service of humanity, we are agents of change and transformation and we become servants to our brothers and sisters, all those who need our service and help.

We have also had a couple of faculty training days. The first one was on 23rd August. It was great to meet all the faculty members again after some weeks of rest as we face a new semester together. We had the opportunity to learn about the charism of the Institute. A practical training on the Moodle platform was conducted by Fr. Hubert Pinto, SDB. On 14th October, we had another faculty meeting. We shared not only academic matters, but also our hopes and struggles with the students, our joys and difficulties. We were enriched by a talk on "Positive Psychology", given by Fr. Selvam, SDB.

In this semester, we are strengthened by the presence of new lecturers in the person of Stella, Pascal Mwita, Margaret Njoroge, George Kaggwa, and Joseph Muhuhi. Damaris Miruka has taken charge as a BA Secretary. We welcome each one of them to IYS!

The IYS students had a good experience of integrating knowledge gained in the College with practical day-to-day life during the Symposium on "Social Transformation" held on November 13-15. We are celebrating the feast of St. John Bosco, father and teacher of the youth. We would like to share our charism with our students and with the lecturers of other Institutes in Tangaza, as we celebrate the Bicentenary of Don Bosco's birth, and we want to make everyone participate in this great event and to celebrate it together as IYS family.

Sr. Maria Pilar Garcia Moreda, fma



In 2013, our Principal Dr. Steven Payne, OCD, signed a framework of collaboration with the Executive Director of the African Sisters Education Collaborative (ASEC), Sr. Dr. Jane Wakahui, to facilitate the Centre for Leadership and Management (CLM) to offer a diploma tailored to the needs of the Sisters in Leadership and Resource Management.

On Saturday December 6, 2014, eleven sisters, alumni of the Sisters Leadership Initiative were awarded the Tangaza University College diploma in Leadership and Resource

Management. These sisters were sponsored by ASEC as part of the Higher Education for Sisters in Africa programme. Of the eleven sisters who undertook the diploma programme ten were Kenyans and one was from Zambia. In January 2015, twenty-two sisters joined the diploma programme in Leadership and Resource Management. CLM is honoured to be part of the Higher Education for Sisters in Africa programme and is committed to provide an education for the sisters which will equip them to face the challenges of the 21st Century.

The partnership between Tangaza and DePaul is in its seventh year and during that time over a hundred students have graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree with a focus in Leadership and Management. At the latest Commencement Ceremony, seventeen students graduated with the DePaul BA in Leadership and Management. The students come from a variety of ministries and occupations and value the breadth of course covered in the degree which prepares them to flexible and intentional learners in the future. The fruit of any form of education must be seen in the increased capacity of graduates to make a difference to their part of the world by performing their daily tasks with competence, understanding, born of study and critical thinking and the ability to encourage others to live with dignity and compassion.

At the Ceremony honorary degrees were given by DePaul University to the Daughters of Charity in Kenya whose charism is to be servants of the poor, sick and disadvantaged people of Kenya. The award was received by the Regional Superior of Kenya, Sr. Catherine Mulligan, who was also the guest speaker for the occasion.

The second recipient of the Honorary Degree was Rev. Dr. Laurenti Magesa whose writing and teaching on the spirituality of African Traditional Cultures has contributed to a more balanced and intelligent understanding of this spirituality which continues to make an impact on the lives of contemporary Africans.



Fr. Laurenti Magesa receiving the Honorary Degree from the De Paul University representative.