

Tangaza Update

A Publication of Tangaza College, CUEA

August-September 2007

Welcome!

From the Principal

I am delighted at the start of a new academic year to welcome everyone to Tangaza. It is always good to see familiar faces returning. It is particularly encouraging to see the largest number ever of new members, both staff and students. This is a tribute to the enthusiasm and hard work in of all members of the community, promoting Tangaza and raising our profile. Together we must commit ourselves to consolidating the achievements of the past and continuing to build on our solid foundations.

At our core, we are a Catholic College training people for a wide variety of ministries in East Africa and beyond. At the same time we embrace the diversity brought by members of other Christian traditions and other religions. We acknowledge the equality of all people and must daily show this forth in our practice.

My earnest wish is that all those who make up the Tangaza community will be happy and fulfilled here in the coming year. This should allow us to live up to our motto: *Tangaza Fumbo la Imani.*

Fr. Tim Redmond

A New Year Begins with *Gusto*

First years' General Orientation program which took two days was well received by most of the students. It was an occasion on which there was much demonstration of enthusiasm and love of the college by the staff and especially the old students who assisted in the exercises involved. The first years shared their views of the program through an evaluation form that was part of the package they received in a new folder specially entitled Tangaza College Orientation file.

The opening mass of the school year was the Mass of the Holy Spirit. Officiated by the Principal, it had such a good attendance record that the 800 chairs under tents prepared before hand were not enough for the congregation. Nevertheless there was a spirit of patience and friendship even as at one moment the skies threatened to pour down rain.

Present among the concelebrants was Fr. Mario Barbello the first chair of the Tangaza Board of Governors in 1986. Special spice to the occasion was the presence of the two Golden Jubilerian Priests – a beloved Tangaza lecturer, Fr. Aelred Lacomara, CP and Fr. Dennis Mason, OSA who gave a very inspiring homily, born, by his own admission, of his grateful reflection on the 50 years of priesthood. Congratulations to the Jubilerians! .

Mrs. Beatrice Edel Churu,
Deputy Principal Student Life (DPSL).

The Tangaza Update editorial team also welcomes our new students, staff and lecturers to the college

Meet The New DPA



The Tangaza community welcomes the new Deputy Principal Academic affairs, Brother Dominic Ehrmantraut, FSC. (pictured left)

By Stephen Muinde

Bro. Dominic brings a wealth of experience to this post as he has previously been involved in the college on different capacities. His immediate former positions were the Director at CTIE and Provincial of the DeLa Salle Brothers in English speaking Africa . He was at one time vice-chair of the Tangaza Board of Governors, and a member of the Board for almost ten years. Bro. Dominic has been actively involved in the annual development of Tangaza. His community, the DeLa Salle Brothers are also actively involved in the education of youth and especially the poor.

In an interview, Bro. Dominic was very upbeat with his new duty and he said that he is happy to be part of Tangaza College . The Academic office works in co-ordination with Tangaza's School of Theology and the six Institutes in academic policies and procedures.

Top on the agenda of the academic office will be the on-going development of Strategic Planning which is currently in process. The DPA mentioned in the interview that in October when a meeting will be held to determine the implementation of the plan, a blue print of the same will be already out. The plan will look into matters of development in the college including but not limited to Academics, Finance and possible expansion of facilities

Tangaza University?

On the possibility of Tangaza developing into a University, Bro. Dominic said that aspect had been raised in the proposals of the Strategic Plan and will be explored. "It is important that we look at all possibilities," he said.

The Future

The DPA said that Tangaza is really a unique institution that has rich background of both lay and religious individuals, variety of ages and cultures among other things. He says that we have to continue to develop what unifies us. "Our plan is to help develop young people to offer leadership to the church in Kenya and Africa at large and professional young men and women for leadership and service in the civic society," he added.

The DPA mentioned that the College institutes affiliated to CUEA are currently upgrading from the 80 points mark cut off to 100 points in line with the University's policy (CUEA).

The college is also welcoming new programs, i.e. The Depaul University degree and the TACAP (more on these in another section of the update).

In all, the DPA says that he is impressed with the commitment of the Tangaza Administrators, lecturers, support staff and the students who always strive to do something even beyond the college.

what's new?



DePaul University
School For New Learning

BA Programme 2007

The DePaul School of New Learning BA programme is under the Institute of Spirituality and Religious Formation and has its own Coordinator (Sr. Loretta Brennan), Assistant Coordinator (Sr. Candida Mukundi) and Secretary (Catherine Wangui). The programme began on Monday August 20 with 17 students. There are 6 lay students 5 religious women, and 6 religious men: 6 students are from ISRF and 11 from ISMM.

The offices, classroom and computer laboratory for the programme are on the basement of Imani House opposite the Media Theatre.

The Structure of the Programme

In these first two weeks of the semester the students have been engaged in a Learning Assessment Seminar. This is a requirement for any student wishing to enter the programme which has been designed to run in quarters, of eleven weeks duration. To graduate, a student must take 6 quarters of study. The first quarter began in August 2007 and the last quarter will end in December 2008.

This BA is a completion degree meaning that the diploma courses of study are granted 18 of the 50 competencies required for the degree. The degree is a Liberal Arts degree with a concentration in Leadership and Management. There are three major areas of study: Life-Long Learning, Liberal Arts and Focus Area.

Who can access the program?

Only students from ISRF and ISMM who have completed their diploma studies can join the program.

We are most grateful to the Principal and his deputies the Administration Officer and support staff who have been very generous with their time and expertise in the preparations to start the program on schedule.

On the our side we have experienced all manner of support and collaboration from Faculty and Administration. As this programme is a unique 'partnership' requiring a high level of involvement of both faculties; each quarter a faculty member from SNL will visit Tangaza to in-service our faculty and consult on the academic progress of the students. We are sure that the good will we have experienced in both Institutions will continue as we move forward into the future.

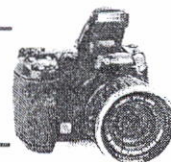
Sr. Loretta Brennan, csb & Sr. Candida Mukundi, asn

Due to unavoidable circumstances we were not able to bring to you updates from the other institutes. However, we will do so in the next issue of the update, send your comments to:
tangaza_update@yahoo.com

Quote of the Month

All Great Achievements
& Changes Begin with a Vision

On Camera:



ISRF



Left: ISRF graduates (2007/08) with Fr. Steven Payne (Sitted fourth from left).

African Spirituality Conference, Tangaza, May '07



Rev. Prof. Kirwen talks with Prof. Mary Getui



Left to right: Sr. Anna Minja, Fr. Quirine Ong'om and Dr. Emmy Gichinga receive materials for the conference.

Opening Mass 2007/2008 Academic Year

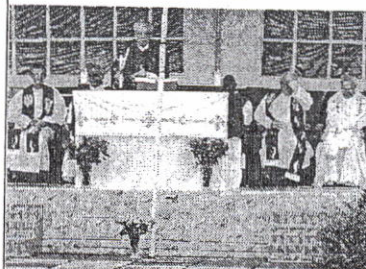


The new DPA and the celebrant Fr. Dennis Mason lead the procession to the mass, slightly behind them is Fr. Ambrose Mutinda.

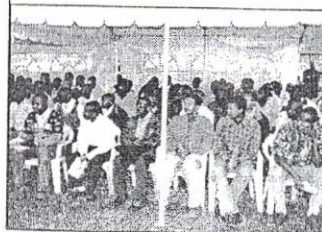
Right: Members of the Tangaza Choir who led the congregation in celebrating the holy spirit mass



Below: The mass concelebrants



Fr. Tim Redmond (principal) makes opening remarks



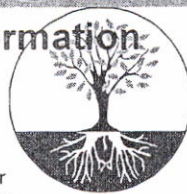
Students follow the mass keenly

Tangaza Programs: what's new?

Spirituality and Religious Formation

"*Xaribuni*"

(welcome) to all new and returning students! 16 of our students graduated on 19 May 2007 from our two-year diploma program, and four received their certificates in spirituality. On 23-25 May 2007, we were pleased to help host a three-day conference on African spirituality here. The conference attracted 170 participants and included such speakers as Prof. Mary Getui, Prof. Jesse Mugambi, Dr. Emmy Gichinga, Rev. Prof. Charles Nyamiti, Rev. Prof. Michael Kirwen -- and even the famous Prof. John Mbiti! Several of our own students assisted in organizing this event, which was so successful that plans are already underway for another conference next year.



This semester we have begun a new BA programme in partnership with DePaul University of Chicago. It is intended for qualified students who have a diploma from ISRF or ISMM (Institute of Social Ministry in Mission); Sr. Loretta Brennan, CSB, is in charge of this programme, assisted by Sr. Candida Mundi, ASN. We also welcome an unusually large class of 21 first-year ISRF students, some of whom are attracted by the B.A. option.

Our newest lecturer, Fr. Chrispinus Kakai Mutondo, CECC, from the Contemplative Evangelizers will be teaching "Spirituality of the Vows." We have also got some additional lecturers from other parts of the college: Sr. Candida of the DePaul B.A. Programme will be teaching "Leadership Skills". Fr. Publius Mair, OFM Cap of Theology will be teaching our "Introduction to Franciscan Spirituality" course, and Sr. Jane Gikonyo, IBVM of CTIE will be running one of our "Personal Growth Groups." All in all, we are very excited about the new year and eager to be an active part of the Tangaza family.

Steven Payne, OCD, Director, ISRF

Institute of Youth Ministry, IYM

By: Martin Munyagia (marto)

The youth friendly institute, being part and parcel of the entire Tangaza Family, welcomes the first year students in our community. Tangaza was diverse opportunities where we can meet people from different backgrounds, cultures, religious and political affiliations.

Youth Ministry has achieved what it has been called to do to the people of Africa and as we start this academic year we thank the Almighty for his constant care to us!

While you were away for the long holiday and before the first years came, the institute didn't go on holiday without doing something artistic, this time round some of the students learnt how to play the steel band through the help of Sebastian and Catherine from Tanzania.

During the month of July, three of our friends- Susan Achayo 2nd yr, Miriam Otieno and Bridget Ochichi 3rd years 2006/07, represented the institute and of course the entire Tangaza Family for a three months experience in international youth center in Taize, France (if your counting is still in order three months are not yet over), another achievement, our academic advisor Sr. Joyce fma and Sr. Lucy Wegoki fma 3rd year 2006/07 and Sr. Celestine took their perpetual vows and to them we say HONGERA SANAI.

By the way we still have more in store for you in this academic year the tricks have been improved and we have a basketful of activities for you just watch this space for more information!!!!!!

munyagia.martin@yahoo.co.uk

Social Communication:

What's in a name?

You may have noticed (it is easily overlooked) the fact that ISC calls itself precisely the Institute of Social Communication, whereas the media, with which we are so concerned, are called the mass media. Why not the Tangaza Institute of Mass Communication? It is the case that some other sister institutes do identify themselves in this way. To the point there is the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication. Does it make any difference, after all?

I see no ideology here, but a couple of ideas that clarify the meaning of the term, *social*, as we use it could be brought forward. First, to label ourselves in this way is in line with a lead provided by the Catholic Church in the Second Vatican Council (1961-1965). *Social Communication* is the topic of one of the documents produced then. Blessed Pope John XXIII, who convoked the Council, as well as his successor, Pope Paul VI, who guided it through to its conclusion was the Son of an Italian journalist, and he never seems to have lost his intense interest in and appreciation for the potential the media have to affect society.

From a Catholic viewpoint, even without any explicitly religious thrust, the media are a tool for the promotion of **community** within **society** (these two are not the same thing!). And that's how we see the mission of the Institute and how we want to be seen by others.

With the departure of Sr. Paola, who has moved to a Comboni Missionaries communication project in Southern Sudan, the running of the Institute is now in the hands of a team of four. Fr. Maurice Schepers has assumed the position of Director; Mr. Joseph Mwongi continues in the role of Academic Advisor; Mr. Jeffrey Atika is in charge of technical affairs; and Bro. Francis Chishimba completes the team, and implements his expertise in production courses. All of us do some teaching in our own particular field, but the administration of the ISC is a team project. Well aware of the challenge that Sr. Paola has laid down for us in getting the Institute off the ground, we intend to further its development and provide a programme in which our students can become agents of social change, even transformation.

Fr. Maury Schepers, o.p.
Director.

Institute of African Studies

The 2007 August - November semester for the Maryknoll Institute of African Studies began on Friday, August 31, 2007. There are five courses being offered: Monday - "African Culture: An Overview", Tuesday - "Spirituality, Personhood and Psychotherapy in an African Context", Wednesday - "African Christian Theology" and "Sociology of Development/ Underdevelopment and African Religion", Thursday - African Religion: Major Beliefs, Practices and Contemporary Forms". All courses are taught from 12:00 to 3:30 p.m. Places are still available. All courses are four-credit post graduate courses and are taught by four professors and one senior lecturer.

Justice & Peace Club

HAS SOCIETY FAILED?

By Luke Arap Bett, OP, TJPC.

One of the pillars of Tangaza Justice and Peace Commission is "to research and analyze matters concerning justice and Peace, and study them in the light of the Gospel." This academic year kicks off with a lot of enthusiasm and optimism towards the achievement of this goal. While fostering love and unity amongst the rich and diverse cultures and institutes in Tangaza remains our priority, our different backgrounds, mission and focus dictate that we give justice to the horizons that are encompassed therein in our world, so called "Global village."

Discords and conflicts in our civilization are becoming intricate everyday thanks to globalization and technology. In history many battles have been fought between a state and another. Currently we are witnessing more and more internal strives and conflicts within states. These conflicts take different forms; religious, social, economic, cultural, psychological and political dimensions.

Any source of conflict at any level can be traced invariably to a form of injustice. A litany of these can be cited from individual level, family, institute, state or even between continents. Some injustices are between individuals, others between groups, individual to group, Church or society and vice versa. Some conflicts are self-inflicted by an individual, community or state. Inevitably some are as a result of nature as evidenced recently in the examples of Budalangi floods, to earthquakes in Peru. It must be underscored that human beings do cause a lot of injustice to the environment.

The concrete situations where the society has failed in its duties are innumerable. Think of the tensions in Ethiopia-Eritrea border, Congo DRC and Uganda. Consider the long standing turmoil in Somalia and Iraq. What about economic crisis in Zimbabwe and struggle for resources in the Niger delta? Along these avenues big organizations like IGADD, AU, SADDAC, ECOWAS, NATO and UN immediately come to focus. A shift to illiteracy, cattle rustling in Kenya, land clashes and Mungiki menace invites yet a different dispensation. Who/what comes to the spot in this case? If we move even down to issues like street kid nuisance, Female Genital Mutilation, wife inheritance, wife/husband battering and exam cheats, the challenge moves from big institutions and collective responsibility to individual awakening.

Conflicts and discords affect all members of the human race in one way or another, individually or collectively. Every single individual in his/her on own way has a role, first and foremost, to prevent conflicts and strive for harmony. Secondly, we all have a crucial task of working devoutly for the resolution in the starring reality that these conflicts are in our midst. The 1971 Synod of Bishops grants all of us an impetus, "The Church has the right and duty to proclaim Justice on the social, national and international level, and also to denounce instances of injustice when the fundamental rights of people and their salvation demands it."

Thus we in Tangaza Justice and Peace appropriate accordingly the challenge to make manifest and solidify the genuine love of God within each and every one through total integration of Love and Justice that is modeled and finds emanation in Jesus Christ. This is a virtue for which all in Tangaza community and beyond are invited to inculcate, cherish and embrace.

Coming up

- ◆ The group Gen Rosso will be hosting a music workshop in the college on 6th and 7th September, 2007. Gen Rosso is an international musical group which has held concerts in 43 countries around the world, spreading a message of universal brotherhood through music, holding workshops and seminars in connection with their performances. The theme of their visit is **STRONG WITHOUT VIOLENCE!** You are all welcome.
- ◆ The annual Tangaza Welcoming party comes on Friday, 7th, September, 2007.

for Laughs

Two employees of a gas company were at a house call. The younger man said to the older one, "Geez, you're old!"
"Yeah, that may be so, but I can still outrun you," replied the older employee.

"How about a foot race to see if you're right," said the younger employee.

With that they start running at full speed around that block. The older man kept up with the younger man around the first corner, the second corner, the third corner. As they come up on the last corner, the younger man sees an elderly woman running as fast as her legs could carry her. Puzzled by this, they both stop to ask her why she was running behind them. The old woman caught her breath and said, "Well, you were at my home checking my gas meter, and when I saw you running away, I figured I'd better run too!"

.....
A preacher dies, and when he gets to Heaven, he sees a Nairobi city cab driver who has more crowns. He says to an angel, "I don't get it. I devoted my whole life to my congregation."

The angel says, "We reward results. Did your congregation always pay attention when you gave a sermon?"

The preacher says, "Once in a while someone fell asleep."

The angel says, "Right. And when people rode in this guy's taxi, they not only stayed awake, but they usually prayed!"

- ◆ A graduate with a Science degree asks, "Why does it work?"
- ◆ A graduate with an Engineering degree asks, "How does it work?"
- ◆ A graduate with an Accounting degree asks, "How much will it cost?"
- ◆ A graduate with a Law degree asks, "Who gave it a permission to work?"
- ◆ A graduate with a Bachelor of Anything degree asks, "Would you like fries with that?"

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Write to the Update

**You have something to communicate?
You are the person we are looking for.
Send your Jokes, reports, articles to:
tangaza_update@yahoo.com**