

A Word of Farewell

Once again we come to Advent, a time to start afresh. For me this year there is an additional dimension as I prepare to leave the college after eleven and a half years. I arrived in August 1997, having previously spent 2 years working in the parish of "Immaculate" in Kitale.

I am grateful for my long experience in Tangaza from which I hope I have learned a lot. We often hear it said, and indeed I think it is true, that "Tangaza is unique." One of several things which makes Tangaza special is the central importance of a ministerial dimension in all our courses. I earnestly hope that this will never be forgotten.

Ministry means service and the Tangaza community reaches out to give service in many ways. I think it is also important to recognise that many people over the years have given immense service to the college. The college has depended on the generosity of many people who one way or another give "a little bit extra." The little bit extra is of time, of talents, of skills, of energy, of dedication, of knowledge. This applies to religious and lay people, administration, supportive staff and teaching staff. This is a tradition which we here now have inherited and I believe it is one we must nurture and pass on.

I am happy as I finish my term in the College to see that it is thriving and enthusiastically embracing new challenges and new opportunities in the future. As well as a commitment to service, we need to preserve our tradition of academic excellence and integrity. We owe it to our forebears in the College and we owe it to those who will come after us.

I hope that the new liturgical year, beginning with the season of Advent will be a time of blessings and thanksgiving for all members of the college and for their families and friends. Let our celebration of the Incarnation increase our commitment to the task which our college motto gives us: Tangaza fumbo la imani.

Fr. Tim Redmond, SPS.
Principal.

Editor's Note:

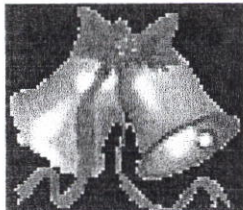
Indeed 11 years is a long time and in this time, Fr. Tim has definitely touched many hearts and shaped different persons. It is unfortunate that you had to leave before your time but we are grateful for the great service. All the best in your next ministry.

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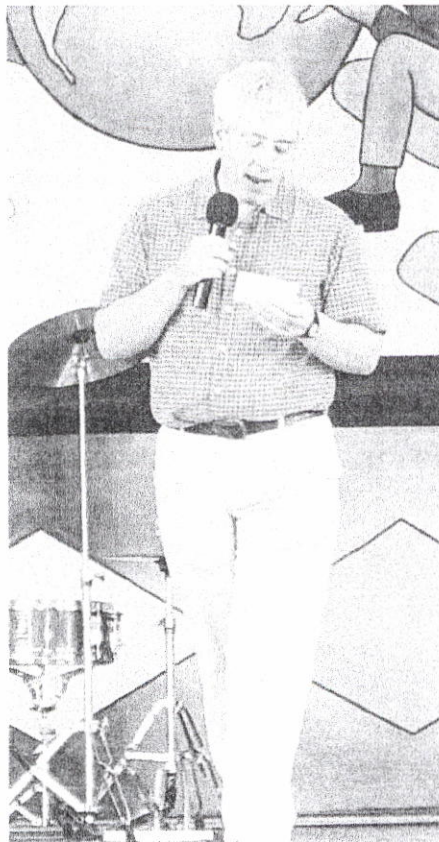
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TANGAZA UPDATE EDITORIAL TEAM WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL THE STUDENTS THE BEST OF LUCK IN THEIR END OF SEMESTER EXAMS.



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2009. MAY GOD BE WITH YOU AS YOU PROCEED FOR YOUR HOLIDAYS. HOPEFULLY WE WILL MEET AGAIN IN JANUARY.



Fr. Tim makes his speech during this year's Cultural day.

JUSTICE & PEACE CLUB/PRO-LIFE

Members of the Justice and Peace Commission, Tangaza visited Bahati Rehabilitation Centre on 15th November and had an opportunity to interact with the youth. We gave donations including clothes and food.

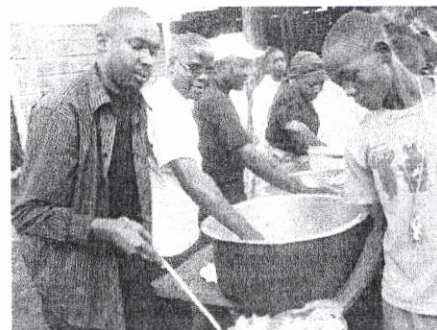
We shared and had fun with the young people and by the time we left, they realized they are important and special to God and the world.

Justice and Peace Commission also took time to weed for the peace trees that were planted early this year as a way of promoting peace amongst us.

Our next service trip is on 14th December to Malindi Diocese visiting two parishes and holding talks with the community members. All are welcome.



Apart from the visit to the rehabilitation centre, J&PC members also took time to weed the peace trees planted in the college earlier in the year (below).



Abortion: Let's Say No to New

By Reubens Njagi
Tangaza Pro-life.

It's amazing, sad and painful for our country and people of Kenya at large, that even after moments when our country lost thousands of people through post-election violence, another evil comes up.

The bill proposing to legalize abortion in Kenya comes in a very strange way to the people of Kenya who have already been wounded so badly and challenged to value human life by the post-election violence. What a misfortune, one may ask.

The church, our mother and teacher, is baffled too by that perverse idea of such very selfish minds and individuals who structured the bill and actually wanted it to be passed by the parliament through the backdoor, even before the public could come into contact with it. Thanks be to God, the source of all revelation, that the bill landed in the hands of the church before it could get entry to parliament.

In situations and moments where human life is threatened, the church is called to come up strongly to defend, protect, promote and to advocate that

human life, regardless of its stage of development, should be respected. It is because of that call that since the bill became public, the church has never ceased to inform, expose and guide people accordingly in relation to the bill.

This has been to help people understand it, see how terrible and inhuman it is and the damage it can cause to human fraternity in Kenya and hence make an informed choice of saying 'a clear No' to such a bill. Pro-life movements in Kenya have been very active organizing seminars and open forums to discuss and inform the public about the dangers of the bill if it is passed in parliament. They also direct them on what they can do to see to it that the bill does not go to parliament. This is by signing up against the bill that will see unborn babies as things, a bill that categorically states that a pregnancy may be terminated at any stage.

It is in responding to this call of respecting the sanctity of human life by saying 'NO' to the parliamentary bill on abortion that the Consolata Shrine parish priest, justice and peace together with pro-life members of the

same parish organized a seminar on the same, inviting everybody to defend life. Tangaza College was represented by 10 members (a great attendance). The seminar was highly attended and was facilitated by high profile panelists: a medical doctor, a lawyer, a counselor, a parent and a youth, all with different viewpoints and specializations. Similarly the seminar was widely covered by local media.

It came out clearly from all aspects of specializations of the facilitators that the bill challenges and threatens the essence of our life and it should be rejected holistically. Many weaknesses of the bill were highlighted like the way the bill threatens family units as the role of men as fathers and husbands is belittled and treated with contempt. In addition, the bill would open the floodgates for homosexuality and also enshrines the right to "new and safe reproductive technologies, including artificial insemination" which is not only playing God but would create room for homosexuals to have children. However, even after questions and clarifications everybody came out of the hall that day convinced that, we should all say 'NO' to the bill.

Cultural day: Celebrating Diversity

By Emmanuel Uko

This year's Tangaza Cultural day did not disappoint. Held on the 25th of October, different cultural pieces were showcased. Indeed, the day was one of a kind.

Remember the Ethiopian coffee? Did you taste the Nigerian Egusi? Wasn't the little dancing Indian Angel amazing? Recall the Kenyan reconciliation ritual. Hey, the Nyerere praise? Reminded of the harmonious singing voices? The breath-taking Rwandese drumming skills? The Filipino dancing sticks! The Polish incantation? Oh my...the Cameroonian juju and the bewitched kuku...!

From dances, plays, music performances to different foods. Those who attended indeed enjoyed themselves and contributed to the overall glamour of the whole day. Doesn't one just wish that this would just be happening everyday!

As remarked by the Nigerian ambassador to Kenya, Tangaza represents a unique master piece of cultural display. In which other institution would find so many cultures represented? From the Far east to America, down to South America. From North Africa to South Africa, West Africa to East Africa. Indeed we are unique.

May be, the best illustration to this are the diverse dancing styles. One learned student made an observation on different dancing styles from the North to the South Pole.

Many cultures dance with the head, others with the neck, some emphasize the shoulders, a few the middle, the rest enjoy a kicky dance with their legs. Apparently, cultures from the north of the equator emphasize the northern parts of the body...and the downward progression continues. 25th October was a day to attest to this.

Then came the time to choose the two outstanding individuals of the day. "When you see me you see culture" said Mr. Tangaza 2008, Luciano with the beautiful Joyce Njeru (Miss Tangaza) clad in a colourful Maasai dress leaning to his side. The attire in which they were clad must have symbolized the rich forty-nine colors that comprise the college.

Our venerable college beats the seven-colored rainbow with her forty-nine flags: the nationalities in the college – so diverse yet...so...united. The reality of unity in diversity in the Tangaza tribe motivated the choice of theme for the cultural day; so diverse yet...so...united. "The day was whao", a student in Social Ministry commented.

With forty-nine nationalities, Tangaza must be the richest tribe that has ever existed.

Long live Tangaza College!!



First with the hosts....



'We love Poland' or so they seem to say. Isn't this a great mark of diversity?



This award winning dancer dazzled the attendees with her fine movements as she danced to Indian music



The Nigerian Ambassador honoured the event as the chief guest (2nd left)



Karate members show their culture

