



SJ Africa News

News Bulletin of the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar

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FROM THE MODERATOR'S DESK

KARIBUNI



“Karibuni” is a Kiswahili word for welcome to all of you. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the first electronic

edition of SJ AFRICA NEWS. This is a product of an idea that has been percolating for many years since the creation of the new and permanent structures of the Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar. Now the time is ripe to see the real fruit – the first born!

It is a “Karibu” to the first born even if it is at a time when Kenya, Chad, Rwanda and Eastern Congo are not in the right space for a first born. But it is good to know why they are not in the right space. It is hoped that the first born would be of assistance. And in solidarity with all of us, we can face many of the human and natural challenges, starting with the right

information; for the power of truth will make us truly free.

On behalf of all the Major Superiors of Africa and Madagascar, our sincere thanks to the editorial committee, (JESAM-Socius and the JESAM Social Apostolate Secretariat), who like mid-wives, brought the first born into cyber-space. And to all the supporting structures of JESAM who sent in their contributions on the appointed time. Many thanks.

We started with “Karibuni” and we end with “Karibu”. The editorial team of SJ AFRICA NEWS welcomes contributions to the coming editions every two months. These contributions could be in the form of news bits, updates, coming activities, or future events and they can easily be sent through the Socii of our Regions and Provinces. And let us be always in union of minds and hearts for God’s greater glory.

*Fratern Masawe, SJ
JESAM Moderator
10/02/2008*

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FROM THE GC 35

ENCOURAGING MOMENTS of GC 35

The most striking features of the 35th General Congregation (GC 35), first and foremost are the liturgies. The daily morning prayers in the aula made a great impression on me. I found it spiritually uplifting with a calming effect. It helped me to take one day at a time, trusting in God’s love and graciousness for the rest. Thanks to Fr. Vlasto Dufka from Slovakia, for his daily dose of music. It is not surprising then, that our companions scattered all over the city of Rome for accommodation and meals are all on time for the morning prayers.

The Eucharist in linguistic groups is based on personal choice and interest. There are several options Italian, Spanish, French, German and in English. While the French speaking group boasts of their short and concise liturgies, the Anglophones talk of the longest and the most attended celebration, the English Mass. We wait to see the reaction

of the Spanish speaking groups. One wonders, what the future would be like, with changing demographics, would there be a Mass in an African language or in one of the oriental languages! The awesome moments so far are the celebrations held in common such as the Opening Mass, the Mass of the Holy Spirit and the Thanksgiving Mass. The language did not matter much, but the spirit that brought us together.

The second striking feature for me is discernment. The discernment in common of a group or better still of the whole Society of Jesus in prayer, in search of the one who would carry on the burden of the Society and of what is more for God’s greater glory in these times.

We are already moving to the fifth week of GC 35, time is of essence... we have many topics to discuss, discern and deliberate... Yet as history has it, 60% of the energy is spent on the election of the General, the *Ad Electionem*

phase, and 40% is spent on the business, the *Ad Negotia* phase.

As every one knows, we have a Superior General. If we use it as a criterion for passing our exam, then we have done very well, so far so good. However, one of the many topics to be discussed is Africa. As expected, many of our electors are looking forward to it.

RP Adolfo Nicolás, our Superior General, since his election on the 19th January 2008, has been very busy. Besides the demands of GC35, he cordially received the entire Curia staff, had a meeting with the press on the 25th and on Saturday, the 26th of January, he had an audience with His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI.

The second phase, as usual started with putting the house in order. Namely the election of the Secretary and two assistants and Mark Rotsaert (EUR), Ignacio Echarte

(LOY) and Thomas Smolich (CAL) were elected for the respective offices. Also elected were ten companions for the "Deputatio ad Negotia" for GC35, and among them Fr. Jean-Roger Ndombi (AOC). These are the people who work very closely with Father General in the business phase of the 35th General Congregation.

The rest were divided into linguistic groups to work on the four themes: Governance, Obedience, Mission and Identity, and on Collaboration with Others. To date drafting commissions are working on the material received from the discussions of the different groups. And even though we are many, we are one body, in the end we shall speak with one voice, the voice of GC 35.

Fratern Masawe, SJ (AFR)

IMPRESSIONS ON THE ELECTION OF FATHER GENERAL ADOLFO NICOLÁS

"We didn't know Father Adolfo Nicolás at all, and that's one of the remarkable aspects of the elections of the Society. I had heard his name because he was Secretary of GC34 but I had never seen his picture, I didn't know him at all, and it was the same for many other African delegates.

After the election, from the point of view of the work of the Congregation, I felt very peaceful, very happy; I think that we have worked well. Adolfo Nicolás is someone who is good at relationships, at giving attention to the person. He also has a simplicity in the good sense, mixed with sobriety."

Augustin Karekezi, SJ (RWB)



Fr. Jean-Roger Ndombi, SJ

FR. NDOMBI: REGIONAL ASSISTANT FOR AFRICA

Fr. General Adolfo Nicolás has appointed Fr. Jean-Roger Ndombi (AOC) as his Assistant for Africa. We congratulate Fr. Ndombi on his appointment and promise him our prayers and support. We would like to thank Fr. Jean Ilboudo (AOC), the outgoing Regional Assistant for Africa, for the 8 years of dedicated service he has offered to the Society of Jesus and wish him God's blessings.



Fr. Jean Ilboudo, SJ

PROVINCE AND REGION BRIEFS

NEWS FROM ANW PROVINCE

JESUIT MEMORIAL COLLEGE

As most people know, the North-West Africa Province has decided to accept the offer to build a new school in Port Harcourt, Rivers State. This offer came about as a consequence of the tragic plane crash on December 10th, 2005 when 60 students of Loyola Jesuit College in Abuja were killed on their way home for Christmas break. 40 hectares of land and a huge grant was offered to the Jesuits by Rivers State to build a school of the same standards as LJC in Abuja. A team of Jesuits and bereaved parents have been meeting regularly to develop the plans. There was a dispute over the land that was granted by the State. So a group from the planning committee, headed by Fr. Jerry Aman, Br. O.T. Jonah and Mr. Kevin Odey met with the new governor, Gov. Chibuike Amaechi, to seek his assistance. Not only did the Governor agree to settle the dispute, he also granted the other requests of the planning

committee to bring electricity to the land, to construct the inner roadways, and to increase security in that area. One of the distinguishing features of the new school is the plan to build a small primary school which will be for the people of the nearby village, Aluu, and will be completely free.

FROM THE NOVITIATE

The eight first year Jesuit novices have been making their long retreat at the Daughters of Charity novitiate in Port Harcourt. For the past couple of years the Jesuit retreat Centre in Cape Coast, Ghana, has been used. But because of the new e-passports being issued by the Nigerian Government and the difficulty in attaining them, it was decided to keep the novices in Nigeria for the retreat this year.

Jerry Aman, SJ

NEWS FROM AOR PROVINCE

THREE PRIESTS TAKE FINAL VOWS

On Christmas day and following closely in early January, three Jesuit Companions of the Eastern Africa Province took their final vows.

Fr. Paschal Mwijage took his final vows on December 25th 2007 at La Storta, the Novitiate chapel in Arusha. Fr. Valerian Shirima, Provincial of the Eastern Africa

Province, presided over the colourful celebration. Fr. Mwijage's choice to pronounce his final vows on Christmas day was seen as a radical way of affirming that he is ready and willing to give up himself wholly in serving God.

And on January 2nd 2008, amidst the confusion and mayhem that had become the Kenyan election, **Fr. Joseph**

INAUGURATION OF GONZAGA PRE & PRIMARY SCHOOL IN DAR ES SALAAM

On January 26th, 2008, **His Eminence Cardinal Pengo** joined the Jesuits of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and the Sisters of the Company of Mary in celebrating the formal inauguration day for *Aloysius Gonzaga Preparatory & Primary school*; a Jesuit owned English medium primary school located in Dar es Salaam at Luhanga area.

SECONDARY SCHOOL PLANS FOR GULU

Gulu, the youngest community in the Eastern Africa Province and the second community in Uganda besides Kampala has the status of a sub-community. The community of three **Fr. John Legge SJ**, **Fr. Stephen Msele SJ** and **Scholastic Stefan Hengst SJ** is temporarily located in the Minor Seminary Lacor along the Juba road. ... "Temporarily means that we are looking forward to building our own Jesuit Residence as part of a school project. We are working hard to build a secondary school in Gulu. We are planning for 1000 boarding students (boys

NEWS FROM MOZ REGION

OURS IN FORMATION

Novitiate – On January, the 7th, five new novices were admitted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Novitiate, in the city of Beira: **Irineu Modesto**, **José Mateus**, **Narciso Mariano**, **Nelo José** and **Orlando Simão**. On the 23rd of January, the three second year novices, **Eulário Fernando**, **Izequiel Luciano** and **Joaquim Lucas** professed their religious vows. The Mass was presided over by Fr. Francisco Correia, Socius to the Regional Superior, who is taking part in GC 35. The Jesuits from Matacuane community, several diocesan priests, Sisters, relatives and friends were present. On the following day, they travelled to Maputo to be part of the Juniorate community. On the

SERIOUS PROTESTS PARALYSE MAPUTO

The biggest and probably the most violent protests ever to occur in Maputo since independence took place in February, the 5th and 6th, evoking what had been happening by then in Nairobi. An extraordinary high raise of public transport (small buses known locally as "chapas") prices caused anger among the commuters. Fr. **Virgílio Domingos**, Superior at the Juniorate and Formation Delegate, was almost caught up in the midst of the turmoil, and reports:

NEWS FROM ZAM PROVINCE

PROVINCE ASSEMBLY

The ZAM Province held a two-day Province Assembly at the Christian Centre on the University of Zambia campus in Lusaka on 27-28 December. The theme of the Assembly was *Our Vow of Poverty*. Three main speakers introduced

Afulo and **Fr. Gabriel Mmassi** took their final vows at the Hekima College Chapel. Making their life time commitment at such a time provided a sure sign that God is always close to his people and he will never abandon them. We congratulate our three companions and thank God for the gift of their vocations.

...At present the Missionary Sisters of the Company of Mary have been requested to help in running the school. The school takes off with a total of 180 pupils. There are pupils at Nursery, Std One, Two, Three and Five. In its full capacity the school is expected to accommodate about 700 pupils.

... Source: EAP News Update 2008-2

and girls). The North really lacks an advanced secondary school and we want to provide such a school in a region still suffering from 20 years of civil war", reports Scholastic Hengst. He also adds "...We have still one room available for a guest or a new community member. Therefore whenever you feel the desire to visit Acholi land and the North of Uganda or you want to join us in our mission, please come and stay with us. You are very welcome."

... Source: EAP News Update 2008-3

28th, a welcoming Mass was celebrated at the Juniorate, present at the Mass were Jesuits from the Curia. A lively gathering followed.

Theologians – Deacon **José Júlio** travelled to Abidjan on the 6th of February, where he will complete the requirements for the 4th year of Theology, as he prepares for priestly ordination. The 3rd year students **Paulo César Gaspar** and **Bernardo Tipeliua** were admitted to the holy orders, and are expected to be ordained as deacons on the 29th of March, in Abidjan.

"Many people went to the streets, breaking car glasses, blocking roads, which made the city very dangerous. I had gone downtown with a junior (Zeca). When the protest began at Eduardo Mondlane Ave., we had to run, get into the car and drive very fast back home. In the ensuing mayhem, one person was killed by a stray bullet, many hurt and several shops looted.

This morning (the 6th), the city is calm. The airport was almost empty. Since the government has not released any statement, people are afraid of going out".

Francisco Correia, SJ and Mário Almeida, SJ

discussions: **Fr. Simon Makuru**, the Rector of Arrupe College, spoke on "The Call of Christ;" **Fr. Ken Johnson**, a surgeon in Choma District Hospital spoke on "Accepting the Mission of the Society;" and **Professor Seshemani**, a lecturer in economics at the University addressed the topic,

“Hopes and Expectations of Religious Stewardship of Material Resources.” About 70 Province members attended the Assembly. It concluded with Mass, a social hour and dinner at Luwisha House.

LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

The Province Centre for Ignatian Spirituality sponsored a two-day workshop on Spiritual Aspects of Leadership at Xavier House in Lusaka at the beginning of January. **Fr. Tony Harris**, an Oregon Province Jesuit visiting Zambia as part of a sabbatical, and **Mrs. Josephine Shamwana-Lungu**, a member of CLC, facilitated the workshop for 37 participants.

OURS IN FORMATION

Novitiate – The first year novices (three from ZAM and five from ZIM) together with their directors, **Fr. Peter Titland** (the novice director) and **Fr. Joe Danel**, travelled

on January 30th to St. Kizito Pastoral Centre near Monze, Zambia to begin the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius.

Deacons - Three Zambians, **Brian Banda**, **David Masikini** and **Godwin Mulenga** were among the Jesuits ordained deacons on February 2nd in Nairobi. **Fr. Klaus Cieszynski** represented the Province at the ordination.

JCTR CELEBRATES

Fr. Clive Dillon-Malone, a professor at the University of Zambia, recently published a book, *With Christ in Scripture*, with Mission Press in Zambia. The book was launched on February 5th at the JCTR conference room in Lusaka. The Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR) is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. The launch is the first of a number of activities that will mark the anniversary.

James McGloin, SJ

JESAM SOCIAL APOSTOLATE NEWS

IN SEARCH OF A NEW COMMON APOSTOLIC VISION FOR AFRICA

The Hekima College Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR), in collaboration with the Office of the Social Apostolate of the Jesuits of Africa and Madagascar (JESAM) held in Nairobi, at Hekima College, from 4-6 December 2007 a workshop on New Jesuit Apostolic Vision for Africa. Twenty three Jesuits, from all corners of the Assistancy, took part in the Conference.

The main goal of the workshop was to promote a common apostolic vision in the African Assistancy for a better future of our continent. An apostolic common vision for the Assistancy is needed for two main reasons: first, at the age of globalization, we can no longer afford to work in a scattered and isolated manner. This will definitely hurt one of the characteristics of our Jesuit identity, namely, to be one apostolic body, despite our geographical locations on the continent. Second and correlatively, a common vision is needed so as to develop a continental or Assistancy-wide vision of our mission, through a greater understanding of the continental scope of many of the problems we face, and the continental range of many of the needed responses.

The workshop revolved around the following themes and objectives:

- (i) Day One: Narratives on apostolic commitments in Africa: The Reality on the

Ground. The objective was thus: to tell one's personal/collective story of commitment in the social change of the plight of Africa: successes and setbacks.

- (ii) Day Two: In Search of A *New Apostolic Vision for Africa*. The objective: to explore and to discuss (new) ways through which we can effect change in Africa.

- (iii) Day Three: The Way Forward for a Better Africa. The objective: from the presentations and discussions, to propose a common vision (including actions to be taken as strategic plan) that will be the landmark in our (social) commitments for a better future of Africa.

Overall, the presentations and discussions were excellent. They showed the need for constant dialogue and interaction at the Assistancy level if we want to achieve something as an apostolic body and not as individuals. In order to promote this sense of dialogue and interaction, one of the recommendations concerned communication via Assistancy website and Assistancy E-Newsletter. And we are glad to notice that the Assistancy is already implementing this recommendation.

The epitome of the workshop can be found in the following final Statement on the New Apostolic Vision for Africa:

STATEMENT OF A NEW APOSTOLIC VISION OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS FOR AFRICA

“I HAVE COME SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE AND HAVE IT TO THE FULL” (Jn 10, 10).

As Jesuits of Africa, we are inspired first by the universal mission of the Kingdom of God and by the desire of Saint Ignatius of Loyola to put the Society of Jesus at the service of the Church and the world; we salute with admiration the heroic work that many Jesuits have been doing and are doing in the African Assistancy and the world; we are motivated by the desire of the people of Africa for life; and we are convinced that the Society of Jesus can continue to make a significant contribution to the transformation of the world according to the vision of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Our Assistancy envisions an Africa in which people enjoy the fullness of life, live in peace and justice, and are in charge of their own development. The vision is born out of our Ignatian charism and our shared love for the Gospel and for Africa. We strive to be an enabling presence to our people in their needs and concerns in a way that is salvific.

This one vision will be supported by ever more effective Assistancy structures and an active collaboration between our apostolic works, particularly between our common houses of formation.

In terms of strategies and actions to be carried out in order to implement this vision, we would like to single out two main activities, among many others, that would constitute the cornerstone of our apostolic commitments in the Assistancy: education and advocacy. Advocacy will allow us to be at the crossroads of modern ideologies and at the heart of the processes of decision-making for the future of our humanity, while sound education – at all levels (primary, secondary, tertiary, in our social and spiritual centers, and in our parishes) - is the sine qua non condition for any sustainable and durable development of Africa and the royal way through which Africa could tackle the many challenges of today's globalization: the digital divide, ecological threats, the HIV/AIDS pandemic, to name but a few.

The realisation of our vision will demand excellence in the formation and professional training of ours, highly competent and visionary Jesuits and co-workers, and good leadership at all levels as well as cooperation and collaboration at all levels.

We humbly and prayerfully recommend this vision and our commitment to it to the greater glory of God.

Nairobi, 6 December 2007

*Paulin Manwelo, SJ
Director of HIPSIR*

COMMON WORKS AND COMMISSIONS BRIEFS

JRS

CHAD: FIGHTING IN THE CAPITAL AFFECTS REFUGEES IN THE EAST

Following fighting between government and rebel forces from 2 until 5 February in the west of Chad that has cost the lives of an estimated 100 civilians, injured as many as 1,000 and displaced another 30,000, many to neighbouring Cameroon, JRS Staff fear that the violence will have serious implications in the east of the country, where approximately 500,000 refugees and internally displaced persons are living in over 12 camps. Initially, the unrest resulted in the closure of the Abéché connections with N'Djamena airport. The airport has since been opened but there are still delays in the arrival of humanitarian aid.

All JRS Chad staff have safely resettled to Abéché, both for project and security reasons. Project personnel have used this time in Abéché to recruit training officers for the JRS teacher training programme in the IDP schools of Goz Beida.

JRS-supported schools in the IDP camps of Goz Beida have not stopped activities. Trainings and distributions of materials have already restarted. All children at the JRS Transit and Orientation Centre for former child soldiers in Abéché have been re-united with families or host families. Follow up on these children is impossible due to instability in the Guéréda zone. The JRS teacher training programme in Abéché refugee camps will also likely face constraints, as numerous expatriate workers have evacuated. ...

KENYA: JRS ASSISTANCE IN THE MIDST OF CONTINUING VIOLENCE

JRS Kenya's emergency assistance to meet the needs of displaced persons in the Kitale region in the west of the country (following the post election violence in the country) will be extended to a long-term response. Shortly after the violence broke out, JRS teams were involved in distributing emergency relief to displaced Kenyans. Teams distributed tents, medical attention, and food supplements

Chad is currently affected by a humanitarian crisis, involving over 240,000 Sudanese refugees in the east, more than 50,000 Central African refugees in the south, and over 170,000 IDPs, as well as members of the host communities in the east who are also in need of assistance.

Meanwhile, new refugees have arrived to Chad from the Guéréda area of Sudan as a result of clashes between the Southern rebel group, JEM, and the Sudanese government. Around 8,000 Sudanese refugees have been registered around Birak.

LIBERIA: LOCAL STAFF IMPLEMENT HEALTH AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

On 1 January, JRS hired a two-person team of local Liberians to raise health awareness in Tappita, a rural region in central Liberia. ...

JRS began working in Tappita in late 2005, continuing the cycle of accompanying returnees to their communities of origin. A participatory approach, by which communities assess their own situations and needs, is employed in order to promote sustainability and empowerment.

... Source: JRS Dispatches n. 231

for children and HIV-sufferers. The JRS Kenya Country Director, Anne Wangari, says once the situation returns to some sort of normalcy, JRS will begin offering counselling services and working with affected populations to identify initiatives which will promote peace in the area and help them rebuild their lives.

... Source: JRS Dispatches n. 230

INTERNATIONAL: VIDEO ON CHILD SOLDIERS TO COMMEMORATE INTERNATIONAL DAY

On 13 and 14 February, the JRS representative organisation in Spain, Alboan, will show its latest video on child soldiers in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), produced in cooperation with the local JRS in the Grands Lacs region.

The 12-minute video, "Infancias Heridas" (Wounded Childhood), shows interviews from four former child soldiers who discuss how they became involved in the war in the DRC, how they were freed and what their hopes for the future were.

The DVDs will be available in Spanish on the JRS website from 2 February; to download a copy, see www.jrs.net/reports

... Source: JRS Dispatches n. 230

AJAN

FIRST PROGRAMME REPORT

The African Jesuit AIDS Network (AJAN) is about to launch its first report of Jesuit AIDS ministries underway across the Assistancy. Covering 2002 to 2006, the first five years of AJAN, the 76-page report sketches the history of the network and gives a picture of Jesuit initiatives in 23 countries responding to the pandemic. Both the ministries, and reflections by Jesuits upon them, are placed in a wider context of how HIV and AIDS affect each country. Also explained in-depth is how AJAN House (Kangemi, Kenya) implements its mission to encourage and coordinate Jesuit AIDS ministry, by offering support, communications, formation, and research facilities to individuals and provinces.

Coordinator **Michael Czerny SJ** says the programme report yields a "way of proceeding" which is becoming ever clearer and draws attention to the progress achieved by AJAN: "With the concrete evidence of the report, everyone can appreciate why a growing network exists to help encourage, nourish, interconnect and express the Jesuit mission of responding to HIV and AIDS in Africa and Madagascar." From now on there will be an annual AJAN programme report.

Linked for Life / Un peuple qui veut vivre / Um povo que quer viver, another publication highlighting Jesuit AIDS ministry in Africa, was issued to mark AJAN's fifth anniversary. "On the same day we made an aula presentation on Africa," the book was distributed to each member and staff of the General Congregation by JESAM moderator Fratern Masawe SJ. He mentioned AJAN as an "encouraging sign of progress in the apostolic activity of Africa-Madagascar." *Linked for Life* was offered as a gift from the Assistancy, "a sign of gratitude for the SJ solidarity," and an expression of thanks to the Society for supporting AJAN during its first five years. "Many said thank you after receiving the book."

The 2002-2006 Programme Report will be available in English in March and in French in April. It will be distributed in each Province and Region. Any Jesuit of the Assistancy can ask for one or more copies of the report or of *Linked for Life* by writing to regent **Eric Simiyu SJ** jewsma@gmail.com

Michael Czerny, SJ
Coordinator, [mzczerny@jesuits.ca](mailto:mczerny@jesuits.ca)

KENYA: RESPONSES TO THE POST ELECTION VIOLENCE

AJAN has dedicated two special February Editions of AJANews to the post election situation in Kenya and various responses of Jesuits in Kenya at the community and institutional levels. In their own words ... "AJAN House has prepared a special issue of AJANews, for you to picture how Jesuit communities and works in Kenya have been affected, how everyone is struggling to carry on and to reach out to those affected by the unthinking violence.

As befits AJAN's mission, we highlight the impact on people living with HIV and AIDS and those who care for and serve them."

To receive AJANews write to ajanews@jesuitaids.net and for more information on the AJAN efforts send a brief message to aids@jesuits.ca

COMMON HOUSES OF FORMATION NEWS

ARRUPE COLLEGE - HARARE

RECTOR'S CUP

The traditional Arrupe College Rector's Cup Soccer Tournament kicked off on the 09/02/08. This is an annual event bringing together various provinces, regions and congregations of Arrupe College together. The participants are:

1. Carmelites.
2. Zimbabwe and Rwanda-Burundi (ZIM-RWB).
3. Zambia-Malawi, Angola and Mozambique (ZAM-Lusophones).
4. Eastern African Province (AOR).

5. North-West African Province (ANW).

In the opening matches played at the University of Zimbabwe stadium, the Crocodiles of ANW swallowed the Lions of AOR 2-0 while the Carmelites smashed the ZAM-Lusophones 2-1. The team with the highest points will take the Cup. Last year, the Southerners triumphed over the AOR in the finals giving them a big win for the first time since the rector's cup was inaugurated.

PAPER DUES

The first bunch of research papers is pushing students to work extra time to meet the deadlines. Usually students are expected to submit two research papers for coursework each semester. The first bunch of papers should be submitted within the first half of the semester, which ends at the onset of the reading week, that is, on 25/02/08. Reading week is a time in the Arrupe College academic calendar when students have a whole one-week to read at their own pace, bring sanity to their notes, and work on some unfinished businesses without much ado. No classes during this week of reading.

ARRUPE COLLEGE MA PROGRAMME

The Arrupe College MA programme in Philosophy began this semester with three students: Scholastics **Pacho O. Titus SJ** and **Moro James SJ** both from Eastern Africa Province; and a Franciscan priest, **Fr. Stephen**. The courses on offer this semester are:

HEKIMA COLLEGE-NAIROBI

DEACONATE ORDINATION – 02/02/2008

At about 11:20am on Saturday, 2 February, 2008, ten Jesuit candidates were ordained deacons by Bishop **Rodrigo Mejía Saldariaga SJ**, the Titular Bishop of Vulturia and Vicar Apostolic of Soddo-Hosanna in Ethiopia. Among the candidates were, **Brian Banda** (ZAM), **Fidèle Ingiyimbere** (RWB), **David Masikini** (ZAM), **Désiré Yamuremye** (RWB), and **Loïc Mben** (AOC). Others included, **Godwin Mulenga** (ZAM), **Eugène Rakotoarisoa** (MDG), **Jacques Randrianary** (MDG), **Pascal Rumb** (ACE) and **Richard Tambwe** (ACE). The ordination took place at Our Lady of Guadalupe parish; Adam's Arcade, in Nairobi, during a Eucharistic celebration presided over by the bishop and assisted by almost thirty Catholic priests. The ceremony began at 10:00am with a procession led by Eucharistic dancers.

HEKIMA LENTEN PEACE CAMPAIGN 2008

The entire country waits with bated breath for the outcome of the Annan-led National Dialogue and Reconciliation talks. But we are not idle: **Hekima Lenten Peace Campaign** continues to spread the message of peace to different parts of the country. Since the launch of the initiative, students of Hekima College have distributed over 50,000 postcards of St. Francis of Assisi's Prayer for Peace. We have distributed them in public places, several Parishes and Small Christian Communities, and more Parishes are asking for postcards. Catholic Radio Waumini FM 88.3 now broadcasts the prayer four times a day in English (7:45AM & 5:15PM) and Swahili (11:58AM & 2:15PM). Major outlets of Uchumi Supermarkets are distributing the prayer postcards. This week we got permission to distribute postcards at four outlets of Nakumatt Supermarkets, which is the largest chain of departmental stores in Kenya. During the coming week, we plan to distribute postcards in campuses of some private and public universities. We are also working on sending postcards to all the Catholic Dioceses in Kenya. Through the generosity of peace-loving Kenyans and friends abroad,

Epistemology by **Fr. Simon Makuru, SJ**
Social Philosophy by **Fr. Lawrence Daka, SJ**
Gabriel Marcel by **Deacon Pius Ojara, SJ**

KENYAN SCHOLASTICS MEET

The Kenyan Scholastics from Arrupe College met on the 31/01/08 to try to discuss the possible contributions they can make towards the post-election violence disaster, to share their views, and to try to come to terms with the worsening scenario. The escalating violence has really touched us here to say the least. We are saddened especially by the merciless killings and destruction of property which is likely to create a wound that will take many years to heal. They proposed the following: a need to recognize that things are really bad, continuous prayers, writing articles, and a Mass to bring all Kenyans in Harare for a united prayer for the country.

... Arrupe College Correspondent: *Pacho Titus, SJ*

In his homily, the bishop reminded the congregation that the pastoral duties of the deacon consist of liturgical service, the service of the word of God, and "service to the community, the church, and the world, out of love and without borders". He charged the candidates to situate their service within the context of the ongoing Jesuit GC 35, and also the forthcoming African Synod that would be focusing on justice, peace, and reconciliation as the most urgent challenges to the church in Africa. The Hekima College choir flavored the celebration with vibrant music. In a vote of thanks given later during a reception held at the Hekima College grounds, **Rev. Pascal Rumb SJ** expressed gratitude to all who had contributed to make their ordination a success.

... Hekima College Correspondent: *Ibe Oguh, SJ*

we are able to print more cards and spread the message of peace far and wide. We envisage a long road ahead for all the people of Kenya. Long after a political settlement has been reached, lives will still need to be healed, broken relationships mended and justice restored. All this will succeed only in an atmosphere of peace and stability. Our commitment to peace is for the long haul. God is a God of peace. We are grateful for your generosity, solidarity and commitment to peace in Kenya.

Asanteni sana!!! Thank you very much!!!

**Hekima College Lenten Peace Campaign
Organizing Committee**

... For more information on the Campaign, please get in touch with the Rector of Hekima College Fr. Agbonkhanmeghe E. Orobator, SJ on wadoghe@yahoo.co.uk.

GRAND OPENING!

The newly refurbished Hekima Multi-Court Complex was commissioned on Wednesday, 13th February, 2008 @ 3.30PM with pouring of libation by Fr. Mário José Galvão de Almeida, SJ, JESAM Socius. After the cutting of the ribbon, Hekima Volleyball Team (AKA 'Hekima Scorpions') took on the Marist and Tangaza Volleyball Teams. The Multi-Court Complex meets with international specifications and is one of the projects of the Capital

HIPSIR

HIPSIR INITIATIVES IN THE WAKE OF POST ELECTION VIOLENCE IN KENYA

The Hekima Institute of Peace Studies and International Relations (HIPSIR) has joined in the search for both short term and lasting solutions to the many challenges unearthed by the current crisis that is facing Kenya.

Before the December 2007 general election, the Institute, in collaboration with Hekima Peace Forum held a symposium on "*Ethnicity, Conflict, and the Future of African States*", whose main objective was to take stock of one of the burning issues in the would-be general elections.

Since the outbreak of violence following the announcement of the election results, HIPSIR, in collaboration with the Jesuit Hakimani Center, a research, formation and

ITCJ - ABIDJAN

ORDINATION OF TWO JESUITS AT N'ZÉRÉKORÉ – GUINEA CONAKRY

On December 30, 2007, the Lord gave the Church an invaluable gift of two priests in the Society of Jesus: **Loua Pierre SJ** and **Loua René SJ**. The mass of ordination took place in the cathedral of N'zérékoré (Guinea Conakry) at 10h00. Present at this happy occasion was a delegation of Jesuits, **Fr. Ngoy Leon SJ**, **Fr. Loua Hyacinthe SJ** and of four scholastics from ITCJ (the Institute of Theology of the Society of Jesus) of Abidjan: **Bokouamanga Hugues Christian SJ**, **Compaore Ghislain SJ**, **Loua Fassou Bienvenu SJ**, and **Ouedraogo Jacques SJ**; they were joined by scholastic **Dounia Richard SJ** a regent in Tambacounda, in Senegal. Many faithful Christians (approximately 3000) came to give thanks to the Lord and to support, by their prayers, their sons of the Kpèlè land. Several groups and delegations from various cities of Guinea and bordering countries were also present. The participative presence of the members of the JRS was remarkable in the reception of their companion Jesuits. I take this opportunity to thank **Fr. Nzanu Kapitula SJ** for the wonderful reception he gave us. The ordination Mass was presided over by **Rt. Rev. Emmanuel Felemou**, new Bishop of Kankan in the place of **Rt. Rev. Philippe Kourouma**, Bishop emeritus of N'zérékoré, who could not attend due to health reasons.

The parents of our two young Jesuits presented their sons to the Lord through the parish priest of the cathedral and the diocesan administrator with gifts of cola nuts, according to the customs of the Kpèlè land. Then it was the turn of **Fr. Ngoy**, as representative of the Father Provincial and Senior member of ITCJ, to introduce the two Jesuit

Campaign. It has facilities for basketball, volleyball and lawn tennis; it is also fitted with gymnastic bars, and will be used by the Hekima Dojo of the Shotokan Club for training. Along with the Multi-Court Complex, we have also purchased equipments and sports gear for the various sports, including a new Olympic-size table tennis board in the Games Room. Please pray for our donors and benefactors.

advocacy faith based organization, has organized two panel discussions in a bid to "... foster space for understanding through dialogue toward peace". The first panel discussion addressed "*The Root Causes of the Post Election Crisis in Kenya*" and "*Analysis and Findings on Post Election Crisis: Mapping the Early Warning Systems*", while the second dealt with "*The Way Out of the Current Crisis*". The Institute also plans to seize the unfortunate opportunity to expose its students and staff to face the reality on the ground by applying some theories learned in classrooms.

...For more information on these initiatives, contact the Director (HIPSIR) Fr. Paulin Manwelo, SJ on manwelop@hotmail.com

deacons to the Bishop so that he could ordain them priests in the Church. After a brief introduction of each the ordinands, the Bishop, in the name of the Church, agreed to ordain the two companions: **Loua Pierre** and **Loua René** into the priesthood.

In his homily delivered in French and Kpèlè, **Rt. Rev. Felemou** reminded the two young Jesuits the prophetic role of the priest among God's people, and encouraged them to face the challenges of our time with the weapons provided by the Church and the Society of Jesus. He invited them to follow in the footsteps of Saint Francis Xavier and their holy founder Ignatius of Loyola, who knew how to interiorize the spiritual life, had the concern for souls and who were available to the service of the Church through obedience to the Pope, all for the greater glory of God. After ordination, the two new priests, dressed in albs of Kpèlè fabric, were presented to the jubilant assembly with grateful thanks to the Lord.

Fr. Loua Hyacinthe, on behalf of the two new priests, thanked Father Provincial and his representative, **Rt. Rev. Felemou** who presided over the Eucharistic celebration, the priests of the diocese, the parents and all the Christian faithful. There were about thirty diocesan priests and approximately twenty religious present at the ordination Mass. After the Mass, a fraternal meal was shared at the cathedral and with the families of the two new priests where everyone was invited.

Fr. Loua Pierre celebrated his first Mass in Tamoé on January 2, 2008 while **Fr. Loua René** celebrated his first Mass in Takoléta on January 3. These two Masses of thanksgiving were the occasion for our two young Jesuit priests to express their heartfelt gratitude to God and to thank their companions, family and friends for their

spiritual and material support. They asked the Lord to bless their villages, to increase faith and perseverance among the Christians and to increase the number of the Christians. During each one of these two thanksgiving Masses, about fifteen priests and religious were present, together with the inhabitants of two villages and the surrounding villages belonging to the parish of Gouécké. **Fr. Hyacinthe** took the opportunity to introduce the Jesuits present at the occasion, (both those from far as well as those from N'zérékoré) to the Christians. It should be noted that it was the first time for the diocese of N'zérékoré to attend the ordination of two Guinean Jesuits. At the end of the Mass,

Fr. Ngoy, on behalf of Fr. Provincial thanked **Mgr Emmanuel Felemou** and the entire diocese without forgetting the faithful present at the celebration.

Lastly, the Diocesan Administrator, **Abbot Jean Pierre Delamou**, expressed his desire to see the Society of Jesus opening, within a short time, a Jesuit community in the diocese. **Fr. Ngoy**, representing Fr. Provincial, thanked the Christians of the region for their generosity and requested them to continue praying for the young priests and for vocations in the Church.

Loua Fassou Bienvenu, SJ

FOCUS

JESAM COMMON HOUSES AND WORKS PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

JESAM has asked me to prepare a video on the works of the Society of Jesus in Africa. The video that will be out at the end of this month will cover the works that JESAM is directly involved in the AFR Assistancy and in the common houses of formation. It will be a presentation to friends and well wishers of Jesuits in Africa of the works that Jesuits are doing in the continent.

Companions have been extremely helpful and have offered me precious material that would have otherwise taken too long and would have been too costly to produce. I am greatly indebted to all these wonderful companions.

Special thanks go to Loyola Productions, Zambia who have graciously offered their facilities in Lusaka for the final compilation of the video. I am sure the end product will be a wonderful representation of our Assistancy for God's greater glory. AMDG.

Elias Mokuu, SJ

PERSONAL

ACE HAS A CENTENARIAN! FR. MAURICE COLAS SJ



When opening the new ACE catalogue on page 3, some among us could be surprised to discover: *"Hundred years of age for Father Maurice Colas"*, born on January 28, 1908 in Halancy near Namur. In fact our Province of Central Africa is proud to have a Jesuit centenarian among its members, though he is little known among his fellow-members of Africa, because since 1960, his ministries have led him to Belgium for 9 years and for nearly 40 years to the south of France where he resides presently.

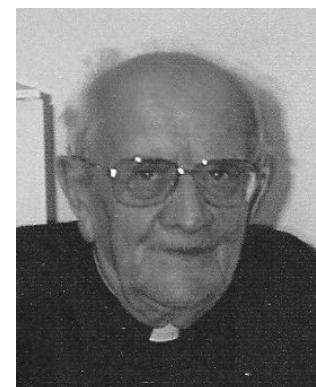
Maurice Colas arrived in 1932 in the Mission of Kwango for his regency, in the minor seminary of Lemfu and at Ngidinga, as assistant to the famous Jesuits: **Fr. Van Wing**, then **Fr. Pol Meulenyzer**. He also worked a fourth year with **Fr. Libbrecht**, in the Mission of Djuma.

After his theology in Louvain, the war of 1939-45 retained him in Belgium where he worked as a young priest at Fayt-lez-Manage. Then he worked in Kwilu for 5 years as a minister and priest visiting the outstations of the Mission of Kimbongo. Thereafter he worked in Kikwit for 3 years. From 1953 to 1956, he was a minister and taught religion at

the High School Albert in Léopoldville; until independence, he was minister in the Mission of Kisandji. These details evoke memories of a good companion, capable of telling endless humorous stories.

After a few years with the High School of Namur, God's providence led him to the South of France for pastoral ministry. He served as a parish priest in the town of Osseja in the Pyrenees, and other neighbouring small parishes. A *priest with a heart of gold* as some would say, he was well received by the parishioners. Alas, at 80 years, he received from his Bishop "his honourable resignation" with a mission to rest at Fleur-des-Neiges, where he became extremely bored, confides a friend. Providence intervenes again: sent one day to help in Rognes, the parishioners of Saint-Denis discovered Father Colas and were happy to have him as a "voluntary priest" for many years; he was a member of the Jesuit community "*La Beaume*" of Aix in Provence.

He was transcribed to the Province of Central Africa in 1957 at the time of its creation. In 1969, he was applied to the Province of France, and was welcomed. After a committed apostolic life he joined, in 2005, "*La Chauderaie*" community in Francheville near Lyon, where he received all the attention worthy of a "centenarian". Let us not hesitate to send a message of friendship and congratulations to his superior; who will not fail to forward them fraternally to him. The postal address and e-mail: *La Chauderaie, 4 chemin de la Chauderaie, 69340 FRANCHEVILLE FRANCE*; pchatagnon@jesuites.com ou sj.chauderaie@jesuites.com.



Gérard Triaille, SJ Servico, Kinshasa.

OBITUARIES

Alexis Aamale Doghle SJ 27/08/1980 – 23/12/2007

On December 23rd 2007, God called Scholastic Alexis Doghle of the ANW province to his eternal rest. Born on August 27th 1980 in Nandom, in the northern part of Ghana, Alexis Aamale Doghle joined the Jesuit novitiate in Benin City (Nigeria) on August 7th 2005. On July 27th, 2007 he pronounced his perpetual vows in the novitiate chapel in Benin City. He was assigned to begin his philosophy studies at St. Peter Canisius College, Kinshasa,

in the Democratic Republic of Congo. He was taken ill in Kinshasa while undertaking his French language studies and was diagnosed with Hepatitis B which caused complications to his liver.

We join the ANW province in thanksgiving for his life and pray for his family. May God grant Alexis Aamale Doghle eternal rest. AMEN

Massimo Reverdito SJ 11/02/1921 – 16/01/2008

The Lord called Fr. Massimo Reverdito to his rest on the morning of Wednesday January 16th 2008. Fr. Reverdito was one of the great missionary figures in Madagascar. He was born on February 11th 1921 in Piémont, Italy; he joined the Society of Jesus on September 7th 1938. He was ordained priest on July 15th 1951 in Chieri and arrived in

Madagascar two years later on September 25th 1953. He made his final vows on February 2nd 1956.

Together with the MDG province we thank God for the missionary devotion of Fr. Reverdito. May God rest his soul in eternal peace. AMEN

LOOKING FOWARD

- **Hekima Forum for Exploring Faith in Public Life – Hekima College Auditorium 23rd February 2008**
Hon. Njoki Ndung'u former nominated MP and Author of the Sexual Offences Act 2007 (Kenya)
'Re-Shaping the Socio-political space of Kenya: why women matter'
For more information, contact the Rector of Hekima College Fr. A.E. Orobator, SJ on wadogbe@yahoo.co.uk
- **Reconciliation Workshop – Kigali 11th – 13th March 2008**
For more information, contact Fr. Emmanuel Uwamungu, SJ on uvenmanuel@yahoo.com
- **Deaconate Ordinations in ITCJ – Abidjan will be held on 29th March 2008**
The Rector of ITCJ Fr. Leo Amani, SJ can be reached on leonam@jesuits.net
- **JESAM Meetings**
 - **JESTRAM – Antananarivo 10th – 14th March 2008**
The Convenor of JESTRAM Fr. Michel N'Tangu, SJ can be reached on ecopac@ic.cd
 - **Rectors & Deans – Antananarivo 15th – 21st July 2008**
The Coordinator of the Rectors and Deans Commission Fr. Simon Makuru, SJ can be reached on makuru@arrupe.co.zw
- **A course of Spanish for Foreign Jesuits – Salamanca 1st – 30th August 2008**
If interested, please contact the Socius of Castille Province Fr. Luis López-Yarto, SJ on socio@jesuitas.es



Please visit our reworked JESAM Website on <http://jesam-infos.org>

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