

# **BROTHERS OF CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS**

## **THE LWANGA DISTRICT OF AFRICA**



## **1. NAIROBI, KENYA**

### **1.1. FROM FORMATION OFFICE**

#### **Good News from my recent visits**

During my recent visits to the Sectors of the Charles Lwanga District of Africa and to the International Formation Houses in Nairobi I noticed that the implementation of the 6 positive aspects of the formation process transforms little by little Brothers' Communities INTO HOMES where the Brothers feel really AT HOME.

In these Communities the Brothers have been willing to establish, implement and evaluate their Community Annual Programme (1) and their Community Annual Budget (2), to experience Participative Management (3) and Team Work (4) in mutual trust and accountability in their Communities and Ministries, to nurture their interior life (5) and the human dimension of their beings (6) in appreciating positive experiences in their own lives and in correcting each other in a fraternal spirit whenever needed.

What an encouragement to all of us in knowing that with God's grace and with our

good will we are able to transform together our Communities into real HOMES.

During my recent visits to the Sectors I received nearly all the questionnaires from the Brothers. According to the 88 filled questionnaires we have 51 Brothers in the age group of 29 to 43 years. Therefore, the Charles Lwanga District of Africa is really blessed with young, dynamic, creative and energized Brothers. The only huge challenge to be faced is to channel wisely all this energy in planning well these human resources such as for Ministries, Leadership, Formation, Studies, and Accompaniment.

The Novitiate in Nairobi with its 11 first year Novices from Nigeria (6), Kenya (3) and Ethiopia (2) started very well at the beginning of the year 2013 under the leadership of Bro Godwin Biin, Director, and Bro Anthony Gitahi, Sub-Director.

The Scholasticate in Nairobi with its 16 Brother Scholastics from Rwanda (5), Nigeria (3), Ethiopia (3), Kenya (2), Burkina Faso (2) and Madagascar (1) has really become a HOME where universal Brotherhood is experienced and where the Brothers enjoy peace of mind and heart in their studies. The new leadership of Bro TaddeleNegash, Director, Bro Michael

Kimotho, Sub-Director, and Bro Jean Protais Hategekimana, Formator, are very well appreciated by all the Community Members.

Br Marc Hofer

## 1.2. NOVITIATE

*Recent Events at the De La Salle Novitiate-Nairobi*

The Pre-novices for this year's novitiate class all arrived on the 11<sup>th</sup> of January, and they are all settling well into the Novitiate programme. We have two from Ethiopia-Amanuel Seifu and Solomon Tobias. From Kenya we have James Mutunga, John Wamara and Michael Otieno. Ato Godwin, John Ehimen, Ijegu Malachy, Cornelius Ilozue, Peter Obi and Moses Orbunde came from Nigeria; after orientation, they started their Canonical Year on the 30<sup>th</sup> January, the feast day of St. Mutien-Marie. The Novitiate group chose Blessed Brother Scubilion to accompany them on their formation journey. In addition, the novices elected Michael Otieno as their Novice President for the coming three months.

The novices are involved in three different weekend apostolates around Karen, namely;

St. Elizabeth Academy, Kilty Primary School and Mutueni Sunday school.

During the month of February the Novices were involved in an inter-novitiate formation course. The following courses were on offer-Prophetic Mission of Consecrated Persons in the Church and in the World today, Mission and Evangelization, Prophets and the Spirituality of Creation.

Brother Jerome Cox is back on the Formation Team of the Novitiate. Brother Jerome has joined the Novitiate Community after a two year break from the District. Among many other formation works, Brother Jerome is taking the novices for Lasallian Studies.

Lwanga District of Africa

Periodical: News Clip

## **2. NEWS FROM THE SECTORS**

### **2.0. SECTOR OF ERITREA**

#### **1. VILLAGIO ASMARA**

##### **Religious Studies Program**

This program is as old as the Institute itself. Based on historical references, IRS was basically established out of the sheer desire to serve Consecrated individuals who have fully dedicated themselves to the service of God and the church. At the time such individuals had only to attend the priestly studies offered at the Joint Studium, and thus were only confined to one branch of service of the church. The other services, indispensable to the church, were not acknowledged at the level of offering them at Institutes. Consequently, the church suffered a lack of qualified personnel in various fields like finances and other related Religious aspects. Therefore, to fulfill such educational need, the Institute of Religious Studies was born in the academic year of 1988/89. It began offering Religious and Business integrated courses on a three term year on a two year basis. Although it was founded to meet the religious educational needs of students of Consecrated life, it had

also involved some lay students who were active in their parishes. The main aim was as long as the courses were rendered; lay students would also become equal beneficiaries. Since then the program has kept on altering from time to time to suit the contemporary educational standards.

Currently the Institute offers educational training at the undergraduate level in two streams, Religious Studies and Business Management. Apart from Consecrated students for whom the Institute was founded initially; the IRS has opened such opportunity to any lay student unconditionally, as long as each candidate produced proof of a Secondary School completion Certificate and has obtained a passing mark at the Standardized English Entrance Exam given by the Institute regularly during the month of September, typically administered for screening purpose. Hence, to serve such growing need from the lay people, the Institute has kept on re modulating the courses it offers to the level the market demands of qualified business personnel. However, the majority of the students who make up the Religious Studies stream are those sent from the various Congregations of the church, thus, are exempted from taking any entrance exam. A student of either stream is obliged

to attend a 2 semester 3 years IRS course before the Institute can confer an Advanced Diploma. The Institute also admits students who directly join it from other local Colleges for varied reasons. For such candidates, the Institute exempts common courses that they had already taken in their previous Colleges, but insists upon them attending at least 60% of the courses provided in the IRS in order for them to qualify as graduates of the Institute. For such candidates, it is not obligatory to wait 3 years before graduation. On the successful completion of the provided courses, they can join the Graduates of the year. However, it is imperative that they present a Senior Paper during their last stay at the Institute.

#### *Holy Mass at St. John Church*

Following the Mass an orientation is given to the freshly admitted students about the Institute's regulations which they need to comply with and about each of the streams. During the first year of attendance, students are subject to common courses including two Bible courses offered to all regardless of faith and denomination. Each student must take the course on Islamology during his/her last year of attendance as a student. This course although offered to all, is basically meant for the Religious Stream students as

they will be required to serve the larger community shortly after their graduation. On the successful completion of the first year, students are made to decide which stream they would prefer to study. This is usually an easy task because most of the Consecrated Life students follow the Religious Studies stream and the lay, Business Management. In the current academic year, in both the senior years (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> years) IRS is offering training to a total number of 20 Religious Stream students and 147 Business Management students. It is also the Institute's policy to have each student conduct a research study as a partial requirement and present a Senior Paper at the end of his or her 3<sup>rd</sup> year studies. In this respect, the Institute has assigned methodology advisors who assist each student in their research and the preparation of both research proposals presented during the First Semester and research development presented during the Second Semester of their final year. In addition to this, the Institute also follows a strict oral defense procedure before the Senior Paper is approved. The process involves qualified instructors either from within the Institute or from other local Colleges who would scrutinize the paper ahead of the oral defense and interrogate the

presenter with related questions. It is also the norm that the student presents his or her paper for about 15-20 minutes before interrogation.

It is also a tradition that each Graduating Class elects a Committee from amongst its members who would foster the preparation of the Annual Bulletin and a trip after Graduation. The trip takes in some of the remarkable sights that Eritrea reserves as tourist destinations. The previous year's Graduating Class (2011/12), for instance, had arranged a camping trip to Flfl Solomuna, a verdurous sight that runs both sides of a long twisted asphalted road built in recent times by Eritrean ingenuity. The Graduation Ceremony usually held in the month of July is simple and is marked by the presence of Congregation Superiors, Religious Fathers, Consecrated Sisters, honored guests, parents of the Graduates, Instructors and the Graduates themselves. It begins after a solemn prayer led by the most honored Religious Father followed with the flower handling ceremony. The ceremony is carried out in segments; the first segment is handing flowers to Graduates by a representative from the fathers of the Graduates and then flowers are handed by a representative from the mothers of the Graduates. After short speeches given from

the Director of the Institute and a representative from the Graduates respectively, follow the conferring of Advanced Diplomas to the Graduates through the hands of the most distinguished guest. Finally after a piece of advice and a prayer from the Religious Father, who opened the Ceremony earlier. This is followed by a photo session involving the Graduates and their loved ones and brings the event to a close.

## **2. ST.JOSEPH SCHOOL KEREN**

On 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 2012 St. Joseph's School officially visited her students in Sawa. During that time I invited teacher Ljam Teweldebrhan to write something about his experience with the students in Sawa. He wrote his observation as follows:

### **“Long life to St.Joseph's School Keren”**

I have the honour to write about what makes me so proud of my school. This school has a plan to visit her students at Sawa every year. Last year, the festival was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> Dec. 2012 to visit the 26<sup>th</sup> Round in Sawa. The main purposes of visiting those students in Sawa were:

- to follow up their conditions and spend some days with them sharing their feelings.

- to know what their results look like and encourage them to overcome all challenges.

All St. Joseph's students of 26<sup>th</sup> Round were waiting eagerly for our arrival and with great enthusiasm. I noticed how they wished to enjoy and celebrate those days to minimize their longing for family and home sickness. I dare to say that it was really a wondrous occasion both for them and for the invited guests. Moreover, I observed some students embracing us and crying because of the nostalgia for school days in Keren.

What love it is! As far as I am concerned, it is very good to tell the reader about how St. Joseph's School love and treat her students and communities.

This school unified her members under the motto "We are Lasalle". They always believe that they are one family. They reflect their love every year whenever they visit their students in Sawa.

Not only did I notice this love and care with their students at Sawa but also it occurred when we accidentally stopped at Mogorayb (a place located between Sawa and Agordat). All the Brothers were anxious to settle the problem that we faced there by phoning each student's family. In addition to

that they could afford all meals for us without allowing us to spend a single Nakfa (Eritrean currency)

They also arranged another bus to transport us from where we were.

Finally I could sum up the impact of such a trip as:

- It strengthened and unified the relationship of the students with their school.
- It increases the morale and the motivation of the students to do their best.
- It gave them morale to work hard and achieve good grades.
- It gives the school a crucial feedback about past careers.
- It warns and helps the coming students to be on stand-by.

May God Bless Our School! 'Amen'

Teacher Ljam Teweldebrhan (English Department)

Thank you teacher!

### **A rare outing!**

February seems to be one of the exceptional months at St Joseph's School Keren. On February 22, 2013 all the Staff members of

St. Joseph's School made a very exceptional and enjoyable trip to the port city of Massawa. Many of the teachers have never been to Massawa, hence it was a very exciting experience for them to have fun in the sea. It was especially exciting going together and having a lot of fun on the way. Since the way they chose was a very scary but worth seeing the green belt of the country, many had mixed experiences. The meandering road and cliff as you go down was really fantastic although some of the staff members were scared even to look down from the escarpment to the valley below. Some teachers did not have even the courage to step out from their bus for a group photo.

However, despite the fear of the escarpment and the winding road, the trip was a very enjoyable and successful. Our teachers were able to see the different seasons in a day and learn a lot of Geography practically. It was especially more enjoyable when it came to swimming. They had two enjoyable days at the sea. They swam played games, shared meals and had a lot of fun together. Finally they came back home peacefully with a lot of memories that is still linger in their memories. We thank God for this occasion.

### 3. Keren Community

*February 9, 2013 a day of Utulation and thankfulness for the Bros of the Eritrean Sector!*

February 9 was indeed a day of rejoicing and deepest gratitude to God for the fittingly occasion that He had provided to the De La Salle Brothers of the Lwanga District as a whole and to the Eritrean Sector Brothers in particular. This day was a day that our beloved Bro. Gebrekidan Andemariam (Geru) committed himself to the stewardship of the abundant vineyard that is in need of dedicated and quality people like him for life time service. The journey to 'yes for life' has been a long walk with the Lord in seriously discerning what exactly God wanted of him, and to be equipped with the appliances that he needed for his mission. Thus Bro. Geru had taken his time to mature in his vocation as De La Salle Brother in all the aspects of his life. Deep reflections, prayers and intellectual maturity have been party of his journey in the years he stayed with the Brothers. Consequently, he finally was able to make the brave choice of opting for God to all the other privileges and other options that life would provided him with.

Therefore, Bro. Gebrekidan pronounced his vows in front of a big congregation that was composed of his family members, loved ones, the De La Salle Brothers, his spiritual family, and many other invited guests. Certainly the occasion was colorful and emotionally moving for all those who witnessed the celebration. Indeed, saying **Yes** consciously and deliberately to all the demands of the Lord who has asked him for a favor is a heroic and brave decision.



St. Joseph church Keren

The mass was presided by his Excellency the Bishop of Keren Eparchy, Abune Kidanemariam Yebeyo. The Liturgy was so colorful accompanied by the inspiring songs that were sung by the Lasallian choir. The other component that added to the beauty of the celebration and the day was the newly renewed Church of St. Joseph which was inaugurated on the same day. The Brothers

of the Eritrean Sector had invested a lot in making the St. Joseph's Church a real place where God is glorified and the believers are inspired to give the due worship by renovating the Church very artistically and professionally. The work took about six months and it was on this day that it came to a conclusion. Hence, Brother Geru was really lucky to pronounce his Vows in such a beautiful and captivating Church. It is one of the rare works in Keren to see design and masterpiece like that of the newly restructured and completely renovated Church. So, we give thanks to God for this rare work that was carried in making His house one of the best possible. In conclusion we congratulate Bro. Geru for his courageous decision and ask God's accompaniment and abundant blessings throughout his life.



Brother Geru With his parents

## **2.1. SECTOR OF ETHIOPIA**

Greetings and best wishes from the country of Ethiopia!

### **A Graceful Exit from Meki Ministry**

Having served for 26 years at Meki Catholic School in the town of Meki, the Brothers concluded their ministry at the end of January, 2013. While in Meki, Brothers who were part and parcel of the ministry in Meki made a huge impact in the lives of so many people-particularly in shaping citizens to have a bright future. There are today, some esteemed people who are graduates of Meki Catholic School and now hold top positions in Government offices. Most have been heard appreciating the noble mission of Christian Brothers and the great role they played in making them who they are today. The Brothers will continue to be relished and honored for the remarkable works they have done and the blue prints they left as indelible legacy. The Sector appreciates the selfless services rendered both by our expatriate Brothers (who were the star throwers) and the local Brothers who relentlessly served the inhabitants of Meki village. Thank you so very much dear Brothers!

### **Lasallian Workshop Animated**

Bisrate Gabriel School Staff Members participated in a one day workshop on Lasallian pedagogy animated by Brother Dennis Lee, Auxiliary Visitor of DENA DISTRICT. The workshop was well acclaimed and cherished by the staff members. The whole school community appreciated the enthusiastic nature and expertise of Brother Dennis Lee in animating the workshop. Both the Sector of Ethiopia and Bisrate Gabriel School of Dire Dawa are very much indebted and graced by the visit of Brothers Dennis Malloy, Visitor and Dennis Lee, Auxiliary Visitor of DENA DISTRICT.

### **Parents' Day Celebration**

Parents' Day was colorfully celebrated in almost all the schools in the Sector. It is during this celebration that parents get to know about the class performance of their children and also some other aspects of their children's lives in a very particular way. Parents' Day is also a time for students to display their special skills to parents by participating in some Drama and Art Shows, involving in some Cultural and Modern Dances and other activities which are exhibited on Parents' Day. Thus, parents' days are anxiously waited for by both

parents and staff members in the Sector like in other parts of the world.

### **Staff Outing**

Bisrate Gabriel School of Dire Dawa and St. Joseph School of Nazareth had a staff outing for one week. The two schools visited the famous historical places in the Northern part of Ethiopia, including the very source of Nile River. Such trip was the first of its kind made in the schools' history. Staff members of the two schools appreciated the schools because of seeing some historical places which would not have been very possible to make it individually. The outing was quite refreshing and remarkable in nature.

### **Rest in Peace**

On Saturday, February 16, 2013, the Brothers learnt the death of Brother Betre's mother. Most Brothers attended the burial ceremony conducted in a very religious way in a village called Chacha, some 93 km away from the capital, Addis Ababa. Betre's mother was graced with good health and age until she was called back by the Almighty. She now joins the late Ato. Fisseha (Betre's father); who died almost a decade ago. We pray for the soul of Betre's mother and remember him and his family at this difficult moment. May the souls of the faithful

departed and the soul of Betre's mother rest in peace, Amen! If anyone wishes to pass on some condolence messages to Betre, you can try to reach him via e-mail. Here is his e-mail address:-betref@yahoo.com

Finally, the Sector of Ethiopia wishes all the Brothers and Lay Lasallians a blessed Lent Season! May each of us receive the virtues of generosity and compassion to remember the last, the least and the lost at this special season, a season in which our Lord teaches each one of us to be more charitable than ever before. Amen!

## 2.2. SECTOR OF KENYA

### ST. MARY'S COMMUNITY, NYERI

In St. Mary's community, Nyeri, we have been so privileged to have a number of activities going on for the past two months since the year began. Some of them include the digging of the borehole on the school compound. The process was so successfully that we were able to dig up to 160 meters deep. The water sample was sent to Nairobi for a test. We are looking forward for its completion that we may have a constant and adequate supply of water within the compound for humans, animals and irrigation. We thank the sponsors for their timely support for this project because water is very essential for life and our survival.



The Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education 2012 results were released yesterday. St Mary's Boys emerged top in the County and number 31 countrywide.

Lwanga District of Africa

Periodical: News Clip

We thank God for His blessings and sustainability through last year. We also thank the entire fraternity staff and all 2012 Form Four students for their hard work, discipline and devotion in prayers that we have these good results.

Both our High School students and Juniors went home for a period of one week to be with their families and guardians during this General Election period. The Guest House is almost complete - just to finish the dining room and the kitchen. We thank the sponsors and all those who have tirelessly constructing it. It can accommodate ten guests at once.



### ST. PAUL SECONDARY MARSABIT

#### **Education and Development**

The school was blessed to have well wishers who erected a Green House (Red Cross) for planting vegetables. The new Principal Br. Njoroge is now trying to stabilize things

within the school vicinity to reduce some expenses outside the school, for instance he has repaired the posh mill that had been having mechanical problem. The Form One students reported on time and they are still adjusting to Secondary life. As the KCSE result was released on the 1/03/2013 our school emerged the best in the county with eight boys emerging in the top ten student list. It was a plus for that class of 2011 and we are proud of them.

### **LASALLIAN YOUTH**

The Lasallian youth in the school are making an effort to reach different schools and churches to evangelize them with all sorts of drama and songs so as to uplift and strengthen the Catholic faith within the surrounding schools and churches. Within the last two months they have visited the Cathedral Church and LogoLogo Girls where they did amazing evangelization. The Brothers tried to bring together different Congregations during their birthday celebrations i.e. Br. Oscar's and Br. Francis which many appreciated and longed to have such occasions within the year.

### **RONGAI COMMUNITY**

The year began well with the arrival of Bro. James Thiongo as the new Principal. He took over from Bro. Michael Kimotho who moved to the Scholasticate community in Nairobi.

Bro. James Thiongo's mother died on 9<sup>th</sup> January, and was buried on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2013 at their Bahati home in Nakuru county. She was 88 years old and had been ailing for quite some time. Brothers and people from around Bahati parish attended the funeral.

The Form One students reported recently and are still adjusting to a new life in Secondary School. The Basketball and Handball team participated in Nyeri Baptist Basketball and handball tournament held on 26<sup>th</sup> January, 2013. It was a good exposure for them as they were able to play and meet some great schools in Basketball and handball. Our Basketball team emerged the winner in the zonals held at Moi High School Kabarak. They will be representing Rongai District in the Regional Competition to be held soon. The trip to Nyeri enlightened them and they practiced some skills they acquired from Nyeri and were able to win all their matches.

The scouts also had an opportunity to travel to Nyeri and participate in camping and commemoration of the founder of the scouts movement. Scouts from all over the world participate in this great event which is held annually in Nyeri where the grave of the founder of the scouts is located. They were accompanied by Bro. Jeff who is their patron.

In the recently released Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education, we were ranked number 47 in the Private Schools category with a performance index of 60.384 which is a B-. The students are currently on midterm break due to the general elections held on 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2013. They resume on 9<sup>th</sup> march, 2013.

### **KENYA ELECTIONS**

Kenyans all over participated in the process of electing new leaders. It is the first election under the New Constitution and for the first time had to elect the President and his running mate, Senators, Governors of each county, Women Representative, Member of Parliament, and Ward Representative. The exercise went on smoothly without major incidences reported. We are anxiously waiting to get the

Presidential results as this will determine if we will go to the second round of voting for a President in the month of April. We continue praying for peace throughout the country as we wait for a new President to be announced soon.

### **2.3. SECTOR OF NIGERIA**

All is calm and peaceful except disturbances by Boko Haram group in some parts of the northern states of Nigeria.

Br. Marc Hofer- visiting the Sector at the moment.

The “**Come and See**” programme in Naka just ended on Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> February. Br. Philip joined the Naka Community for the programme and evaluation of the Candidate for September 2013 Postulancy Programme.

Br. Damian-Sector Coordinator begins his community visitation from 28<sup>th</sup> Feb. to 6<sup>th</sup> March- starting from Naka on the 1<sup>st</sup> of March and then to Yola on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March 2013.

In late December 2012, Br. Gabriel Uko Onwu also joined the RELAF Community in Abidjan, as one of the Secretaries. We wish

Br. Gabriel Onwu well in his new apostolate in Regional Office.

Br. Gabriel Agba Mondo joined Ondo Community in January, shortly after his professional studies at St. Mary University of Minnesota, Nairobi Campus, Kenya. He is a Geography graduate.  
CONGRATULATIONS! GABRIEL.

In January 2013, Br. Damian Ikor was re-elected as the treasurer of the Conference of the Major Religious Superiors of Nigeria for a third term of two years.

In the month of February, the Brothers attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> February (**Day of Religious**); Presentation of our Lord in the Temple. Br. Fred Sherrer presented a paper titled: **Vowed Life in the year of Faith; (The Relationship of Faith to Religious Observance)**

Br. Damian will give a two day retreat to the Catholic Youth Organization of Nigeria, Ondo Deanery 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> March 2013.

In preparations for the TENTH Anniversary of LA SALLE COLLEGE, ONDO, the school has produced a Lasallian Calendar; it is in circulation at the moment. If you need copies, you can contact us at [www.lasallecollegeondo.com](http://www.lasallecollegeondo.com)

**Yola Community-** Brothers are very much available and continue to work hard despite the fact that Yola era will come to an end in July 2013. Preparations are in top gear to disengage from St. Peter's Seminary, Yola in July 2013. Inventories and other valuables are being sorted out between the Brothers and the Diocese for an amicable departure from the Diocese.

Br. Marc is presently visiting the community of Yola as well as the school.

**Naka Community-** All things are going well. 'Come and See' programme just ended yesterday, 24<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2013. Br. Philip Ejoro was one of the presenters. 12 candidates showed up for the Come and See Programme. The report is very positive and encouraging too.

Br. Gabriel represented the Sector at the Episcopal Ordination of Rev. Fr. Peter Adobo-Br. Gabriel's Parish priest, who during his studies in Canada, lived in the Brothers' community. He is now Bishop Peter Adobo, of Katsina Ala Diocese; carved out of Makurdi Diocese, Benue State.

1<sup>st</sup> March 2013 will be the grand finale of the cultural week celebration in Mt La Salle College, Naka.

The work on the burnt Girls' Hostel is in progress. Kudos to Br. Wole for the good job.

**Ondo Community-** Renovation and ongoing development are on course. The palm orchard was rented out twice for a wedding ceremony and a funeral reception.

The brick laying machine is almost completed and very soon La Salle College will start producing cement blocks for its use and for sale as well.

St. Joseph's Parish Church, Ondo, made a donation of N100, 000 towards the rebuilding of the burnt girls hostel at Naka. Br. Alfred through Br. Fred Sherrer also contributed N60, 000 towards the same objective.

We are in need of more generous donors to speed up the Hostel for the poor girls in Mount La Salle College, Naka.

La Salle College Ondo finale of the cultural week was on the 16<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2013 with a majority of the parents present.

The S S S 3 (Grade 12) students start their mock exams on the 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2013.

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> of March is the Annual Career Guidance and Counseling Day in La Salle College, Ondo. Ten other

schools have been invited to participate in this year's event.

Also four speakers have been invited to speak on the following topics.

1. Teaching: Teaching as a Profession; its' prospects, and Occupational hazards.
2. Health. Nutritional Diet and malnutrition
3. Youth and the society: Aspirations, hopes and Dreams.
4. Force: Prospects and Job Hazards

The Brothers' Solidarity Meeting/Workshop is taking place in Ondo Community this year. This begins on the 5<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2013. Br. Marc is the facilitator and Br. Philip Ejiro is presenting a paper. Br. Patrick Obam has been invited to attend before he travels to the Philippines for the young Lasallians' meeting.

Peace!

## 2.4. SECTOR OF SOUTH AFRICA

### LA SALLE COMMUNITY - DISCOVERY

Fraternal greetings from Discovery. Even though we are in mid-February we wish you all a blessed and happy 2013. May it be a year of blessing, grace and achievement for you all.

On behalf of the Brothers I wish to extend our deepest sympathy to Br. Betre Fisseha on the recent double loss of his mother and uncle. R.I.P. Betre, we pray that the Lord will comfort and console you and your family in their grief and that the deceased will enjoy the vision of God's glory forever.

We also wish to congratulate Br. Geru on his recent Final Profession. May the Lord reward him for his generosity in dedicating his life His service as an FSC. Geru, your profession is a source of inspiration to all your confreres, young and not so young, in the Lwanga District. May your future ministry continue to be blessed and fruitful.

This edition of Newsclips contains accounts of the launch of Lasallian Association in South Africa and also an account of the Affiliation ceremony of Brendan O'Connor.

Some highlights to date of 2013:

- Our Senior Certificate results were excellent -100% success against a 73%o Pass Rate nationally. Some excellent individual results.
- On 21 January we attended the official opening and blessing of the new Science Block in Victory named after Br. Alpheus Farrell who pioneered the Lasallian presence in Victory Park Johannesburg in 1958 and in Discovery in 1966. A well-deserved honor for a great Lasallian.
- On the 24 January the Management of La Salle invited a well-known expert to address parents and pupils on the issue of "Bullying" His presentations were very well received by the parents and by the pupils whom he engaged with in their respective classes.
- The R.E. Dept. organized beautiful Masses for the opening of the Academic Year and for Ash Wednesday. Fr. Millar, our Parish Priest, was the celebrant.
- Our Grade XII students attended a Leadership Workshop at the Bosco Youth Centre.
- On 30 January, Br. Tom was interviewed by Radio VERITAS, our

National Catholic Radio Station. The main topic was the Lasallian ministry around the world and also here in South Africa.

- Both schools, Victory Park and Discovery, held their Prize giving - well attended by parents. The reports of both Principals paint a very positive picture of the academic and religious life of their schools.
- Once again we were delighted to welcome back Br. Gabriel, A.V. for a visit. It was fitting that he was present for the Affiliation of Brendan O'Connor with whom he had a long association during his term as Principal in Victory Park.
- Lasallian Youth continues to be very active, meeting every Monday afternoon. One such afternoon was spent with children in a local squatter camp. We continue to collect clothing, books and stationery for the crèches managed by Br. Joseph and the Tsholofelo Community in Phokeng.
- On the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> of February we celebrated the birthdays of Br. Cornelius and Br. Laurence. In cricketing terms Br. Laurence is "80 NOT OUT" and is still batting well.

LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS.  
FOREVER.

### **LASALLIAN ASSOCIATION**

The airwaves and satellites were frantically working, sending sms' and emails between committee members as 2013 rapidly approached. No! It was not the concern to send heartfelt wishes for the New Year but to ensure that the first meeting to launch Lasallian Association would be perfect and worthy of the Founder's ideals.

The 14<sup>th</sup> of January dawned as a beautiful sunny South African day and in the crisp early morning the staff members of De La Salle Holy Cross College, Victory Park and La Salle College, Discovery, met to celebrate Mass in Victory Park. They were joined by the Brothers from Victory Park and Discovery and by the Holy Cross Sisters. The celebrant was Fr. James Ralston OMI. Parish Priest in Victory Park.

In the true spirit of Association candles were placed on a map representing the 83 countries with a Lasallian ministry. The joint charism of the Holy Cross Sisters and the De la Salle Brothers was emphasized by holding the Mass in the Sisters' exquisite chapel. It was rather a tight squeeze as about

120 Lasallians were in attendance. The service emphasized the need for Association to be acknowledged and promoted. Br. Thomas gave an outstanding and motivating homily praising the staffs of both colleges for their dedication and professionalism and for the need for De La Salle's mission to be further developed and promoted by Lasallian Associates. The Mass ended with symbols of Association from the Holy Cross Sisters, Muslim, Hindu and Jewish faiths being placed on the altar next to a picture of St. De La Salle.

After Mass, all moved to the High School for a most enjoyable tea and an opportunity to meet new Lasallians and to catch up with old ones.

After tea we settled everyone in the auditorium where Mary Hyam was Master! (Mistress) of Ceremonies. She stated off the proceedings by asking Brothers Thomas, Patrick and Timothy to tell their stories of Association. The rest of the Committee – Leanne Stonier, Susan Chapple as well as Mary shared their stories of Association. Thereafter Mary gave an informative PowerPoint presentation on the history and purpose of Lasallian Association.

Using Circular 461's story of "Climbing the Mountain", a self-reflection activity as well

as a timeline of one's life as well as questions on what drew one to a Lasallian school, was completed.

Leanne then presented a fascinating PowerPoint presentation on Br. Alpheus Farrell FSC, the main driving force behind the Colleges in Victory Park and Discovery. In honor of this amazing man the new Science Block on the Victory Park campus will be named after him.

We then broke up into groups to discuss on what principles Association should be built on and how we go forward to ensure the future growth of Association. The groups reported back and Committee members noted the suggestions made. Br. Thomas encouraged all to work among themselves to promote Association. It was decided that the staffs of both Colleges would meet at least twice a year to build and strengthen Association. Br. Patrick encouraged everyone to avail of the library in the Brothers' House and familiarize themselves with Lasallian literature.

Br. Patrick then closed the meeting with a prayer. The morning was a success and everyone seemed genuinely happy with the events of the day. The Committee was gratified that all had gone well and agreed to meet soon again to take the suggestions and

evaluations to the next chapter in Lasallian Association.

Sue Chapple, Head of R.E.

La Salle, Discovery.

### **Lasallian History in the Making!**

On Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February, Brendan O'Connor became the second South African to be affiliated to the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools, aka the De La Salle Brothers. The first Affiliate was John Classen, now deceased, from East London.

In a moving ceremony, held in the chapel of La Salle College, Discovery, Gauteng, Br. Gabriel Griffin, Assistant Provincial, based in Nairobi, handed over the Letter of Affiliation to Brendan. The letter was signed by Br. Alvaro Rodriguez Echeverria, the Superior General.

Brendan is the Chairman of the School Boards in La Salle College, Discovery and De La Salle Holy Cross College, Victory Park. Brendan has been, and still is, a valued mentor to the Principals of both schools. His association with Lasallian schools started many years ago when his son was enrolled at De La Salle College, East London.

Lwanga District of Africa

Periodical: News Clip

Br. Thomas Sheehy, the local Superior, gave a heart-warming speech, thanking Brendan and his wife, Dolores, for their long-serving dedication and commitment to the Lasallian mission in South Africa. By way of gratitude and appreciation for such service, the Brothers deemed Brendan worthy to be inducted as an affiliated member.

As an Affiliated member, Brendan shares “in the spiritual benefits of the prayers and apostolic activities of all those who are serving in the Lasallian Mission and of the Brothers of the Institute”.

Sue Chapple, Head of R.E.

La Salle College, Discovery.

### **DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSCLIP ISSUE**

The deadline will be on 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2013