



LWANGA LA SALLE **GAZETTE**

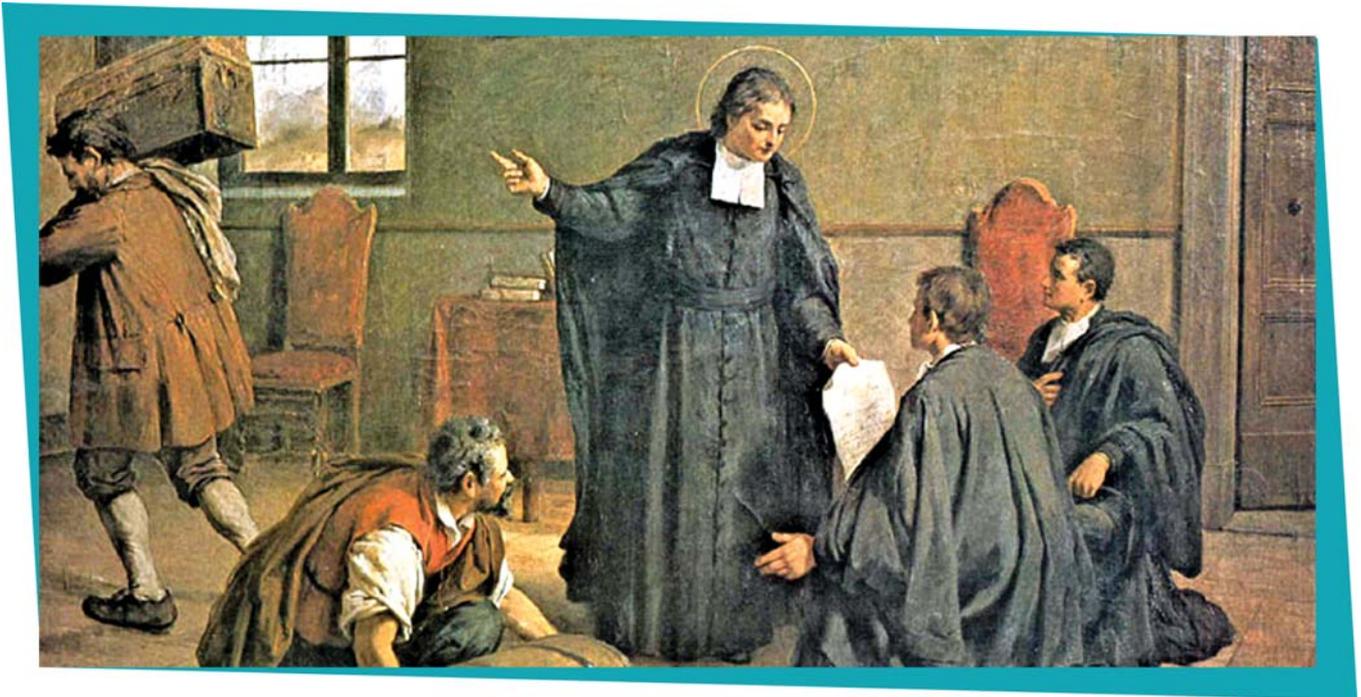
Issue 1 • December 2013



Peace

Love

Unity



Lwanga Lasalle Gazette is published twice a year by the De La Salle Christian Brothers of the Lwanga District of Africa to foster the Lasallian Mission of Human and Christian Education.

Many thanks to the Brother Visitor, the Auxilliary Visitor, the contributing educators and learners, all the members of the Lasallian Family in the District, and the entire staff of the Provincilate, for the support they give to this important project.

Editorial Board: Brother Esayaz Tzegay FSC
Brother Gabriel Griffin
Mr . Isaiah O. Otieno

(The Editorial Board welcomes feedback from you,
Dear Readers)

Brothers of the Christian Schools
P.O BOX 29318, Kangemi
00625 Nairobi, KENYA.

TEL:+254 20 444 193 2/444 602 1

FAX: 444 945 1

Email: fsclwanganews@yahoo.com

Have you sent us anything this time? Please, submit photos, poems, jokes, brainteasers and articles to the shared Communication Office email address at the Provincilate, Nairobi, by the end of April 2014.

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*Peace and Joy
of Christmas*

Message from the Brother Visitor's Desk



Brother Esayas Tzegay, FSC

Dear Lasallians; as we prepare for Christmas, we are trying to enter into the meaning of the Incarnation of the Son of God and the plan of salvation of God, and what it means to us. Entering into that mystery of our salvation, entering into that total awareness and opening ourselves to that plan of salvation is the beginning of

our personal sanctification and transformation. I believe all the prayers and preparation, should be centered on Jesus Christ who came to show us the way to the Father, to share God's life with us and to show us how much God loves us and how much he wanted us to be saved, so that we share his Glory.

Christmas preparation should be focused on that, through the historical coming of Jesus that we also have the responsibility to share this Good News with our brothers and sister, especially as Lasallians who are directly involved in the formation and preparation of the young people. We have a big responsibility in helping them to take Jesus Christ as their model and found them-

selves on Gospel values. We have the responsibility to help them to know and love Christ; share with them the love we have received from God.

The biggest challenge and problem would be if we, ourselves, do not experience that love of God that we have received through Jesus Christ his Son. If we have no love within us there is no way we can share that same Love with our students. The love of God radiates to them through us. If we are not experiencing that joy and happiness that comes from God within us, there is no way we can share it with them. It's all about love. If our commitment to education and teaching is not motivated and centered in the love we have towards our students, our effort more or less is dry and

fruitless. It does not matter if you are a Brother or a Lay Lasallian. That's why in this high season of Advent, the Church dedicated to us this time to evaluate our spiritual journey, our relationship with our Lord, to make some resolutions so that we put our life in conformity with the teachings and life of Jesus Christ. Let's all be reminded that God wants all to be saved and no one lost. As Lasallians, we have a huge responsibility in taking care of the life of every individual (student) who is put under our care. Our every effort should be that none of our students should be lost but enjoy that love and salvation shared with us from God.

This time, we are re-launching the La Salle Gazette via Internet. The La Salle Gazette is a tool to connect our ministries and ourselves with each other. The purpose is to share our stories with each other. Every-day a miracle is happening in every educational institution we run within our District. Unfortunately,

we work in isolation without sharing the rich experience with others. Therefore, the La Salle Gazette will be a tool to connect all our ministries and ministers with each other. It will also be a tool for educational and formation purposes through educational articles. It will be a source of encouragement in the important ministry that you are engaged in by reading about great work which is happening in a different country and different reality. You will experience that you are not alone but a member of a vibrant Lasallian family which is global.

We Lasallians; Brothers and Lay Colleagues are very fortunate to be part of the Vision and Mission of St. La Salle, a great and important gift to the Church and humanity. All of us are sharing the same mission which is the human and Christian Education of the youth especially the poor. Youth or children are signs of life, signs of a vibrant future; they bring

hope and joy to the family, society and the Church. However, having youth or children is not enough. Their upbringing, formation, and quality of their preparation matters. That's why, we as Lasallian educators, have to dedicate our full time to character building and academic excellence, taking as our model Jesus Christ. In this way we bring a better future through the youth that we prepare today.

This La Salle Gazette might be my last contribution as Brother Visitor as we are waiting for the appointment of a New Brother Visitor for the District. The Last nine years, one year as Brother Auxiliary Visitor and eight years as Brother Provincial have been years of enrichment and opportunity. I have met and worked with great people like you, I have been blessed by you. We are able to do many good things with our weaknesses and limitation here and there. Without your cooperation and selfless commitment, nothing would have

been accomplished. Thank you for your dedication and selfless commitment. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

May God bless you and enjoy reading the La Salle Gazette.

Br. Esayas Tzegay FSC



Message from the Brother Auxiliary Visitor's Desk

SHARING OUR LASALLIAN MISSION

Lasallian Schools flourish in eighty three countries around the world. They were established to provide human and Christian education for young people especially the poor and marginalized. They comprise a significant group of educators – over five thousand Brothers and eighty thousand Lay teachers to meet the needs of over one million students, in 1082 Educational Centers. Lasallian educators are prepared to offer something different in this modern world. The Lasallian schools owe their existence to a remarkable charismatic young French Priest, John Baptist de La Salle, who established the first Lasallian schools in France. De La Salle never left his country of birth but his influence is felt in 83 countries of the world. Although he lived over 300 years

ago, the Lasallian charism has a vitality and dynamism which continues to respond to the signs of the times.

There is much greater emphasis today on Association and the involvement of our Associates. For many years Chapters and Formation Programmes were for Brothers only. Over the past 50 years there was a gradual change and Lay teachers began to participate in Lasallian Workshops and Formation programmes. This gradual empowerment of Lay educators was reflected in a great variety of renewal and updating programmes organized at Institute level.

* The 41st General Chapter in 1986 addressed itself to the



Brother Gabriel Griffin

Lasallian Family.

* In 1989 Br John Johnson, Superior General, wrote a letter to the members of the Lasallian Family. This was the first time that the Superior General had written to the Lasallian Family worldwide. His letter was directed to all men and women who seek to become more clearly identifiable as Lasallians and to bear witness to this by their lives. The letter was an attempt to

describe what is understood by someone who is Lasallian:

A Lasallian is a person guided by faith.

A Lasallian is zealous to spread the Gospel.

A Lasallian shows special concern for the poor and neglected.

A Lasallian works with others “together and by association” to accomplish the mission.

After 1989 we talk about the Lasallian Family.

» Belonging to the Lasallian Family can take many forms. Sometimes it is a sentimental attachment, because someone is a former student and has fond memories of a Lasallian school.

» Other people are members of the family because their lives are nourished by Lasallian spirituality.

» Others belong, because they

are involved in the mission of Christian education that the Lasallian Family has inherited from its Founder. (Br Antonia Botana)

» The 42nd General Chapter in 1993 highlighted Shared Mission at some length and spoke of Partners for the first time.

Lay Consultants were invited to address the Chapter for the first time.

» The 43rd General Chapter, in 2000, gave recognition to Lay partners as actual Delegates with voice and voting rights in respect of propositions for Lasallian Mission.

» “In October 2006 a historic event took place at the Generalate of the De La Salle Brothers in Rome. For the first time, Brothers and members of the Lasallian Family gathered to discuss the state of the Lasallian Mission around the world and to develop a series of questions, suggestions that

would assist in charting the future of the Lasallian Mission.

In the year 2000 the General Chapter called for an International Assembly on the Education Mission prior to the 44th General Chapter which took place in 2007.” (Report of the International Assembly 2013)

» The Delegates to the 2007 General Chapter called for an International Assembly to take place prior to the 45th General Chapter (2014) The General Council scheduled a second International Assembly to take place at the Generalate in Rome in May 2013. The theme of the International Assembly was “*One Family, One Mission: Lasallians Associated for the Educational Service of the Poor.*”

I had the privilege of attending this Second International Assembly. It was an amazing experience. 150 Delegates attended the

Assembly. Two thirds of the Delegates (men and women) were Lay Lasallians from each Region of the Institute. It was wonderful to meet and interact with such enthusiastic, committed and dedicated Lasallians. It was amazing to hear these Lasallians quote and speak so enthusiastically about “Our” Founder. I came away from the Assembly with very positive feelings and impressions of these Lasallians, who are carrying out the Lasallian Mission all over the world often under very challenging circumstances.

In August a Workshop for Lwanga Lasallian School Animators, was conducted in Nairobi.

Most of our schools were represented. Again, what a wonderful experience! We are truly blessed to have such committed and dedicated educators in the Lasallian network so committed to passing on the Lasallian ethos to members of the Lasallian Family.

Teachers/Educators are at the core of a Lasallian school. One of the most significant achievements of John Baptist De La Salle’s was the establishment of Training Colleges for aspiring teachers. St John Baptist De La Salle held the teacher in the highest esteem. For him, teachers follow in the footsteps of Jesus the supreme teacher. When writing about the teachers he referred to them as ‘people called by God’ ‘co-workers with Christ’ and ‘ambassadors and ministers of Jesus Christ.’ He exhorts teachers to ‘work miracles daily’ and to ‘touch the hearts of their students.’

He viewed teaching as one of the most essential ministries in the Church. Lay Lasallians must be much more than just co-workers with the Brothers. St De La Salle strongly recommends that teachers ‘work together and in association’ to run schools, sharing deci-

sion making, responsibilities, concerns and good practice. “Association is the coming together of people who are inspired by the Lasallian charism. They bring their individual gifts to their own Lasallian ministry and to those with whom they are associated in order to promote the aims of the Lasallian mission.” Antonio Botano

As we approach the end of the year 2013, I take this opportunity to thank all Lasallians – Educators, Administration Staff, Support Staff, Parents, and Students for their commitment and contribution to the Lasallian Family during this past year. I wish each one of you a blessed and peaceful Christmas Season.

Recently I attended the Prize-giving Ceremony for the Primary School in La Salle College, Discovery, South Africa. I leave you with the final line of a poem

the Grade Seven pupils composed and presented as a choral item (with great passion) during the Prizegiving ceremony. You can read their contribution elsewhere in the Gazette.

I am, you are, we are, Lasalian

God bless



De La Salle Holy Cross College

We have quite a bit of news from recent events at De La Salle Holy Cross College (high school). Most of the ones below are events that took place this term (but some throughout the year).

- ◆ Leanne Stonier attended and ran a couple of sessions at the conference for Lasallian Animators in Kenya in August. This was a wonderful experience and learning opportunity for me to share with fellow Lasallians and learn from them and about their realities.
- ◆ We began the term with stress management workshop for all members of staff. This was run by Sr Bernadette Duffy and Br Patrick Merdiner. This was well-received by all staff members and encouraged us to take responsibility for the stressors in our lives and encouraged us to work together as a team.

Lasallian Peace

- ◆ We prayed the Lasallian peace prayer each day in all our classes and various prayers in assembly. A few of our pupils wrote peace pledges and made white peace doves, which we displayed in the hall on the 21st October. Br Patrick ran a beautiful prayer service during adoration on Thursday

morning, where each pupil lit a candle and together prayed for peace in our schools and in our country.



St. Francis Mass

World Food Day

- ◆ We held a 'sandwich making day' on World Food day, where our pupils and staff were encouraged to bring bread and condiments to make sandwiches. These were distributed to the St Vincent de Paul's society and a soup kitchen in our area.



- ◆ Our pupils have visited a number of charities this year, in our area, to serve and give back to the community. They made and contributed Valentines cupcakes for the elderly, Easter eggs for underprivileged children, food for soup kitchens in winter, food for hampers for child headed households in November, gifts by staff for disabled children and indigent aged at Christmas; and tek-kie tax day. Grade 10 pupils collected food and made hampers for a nursery school in Soweto township. The Grade 8 Business Studies pupils raised over R13 000 for charities from their R10 in 10 days project. Helping with homework at an orphanage (Sparrow village, visiting toddlers and Babies at Mother Teresa home)
- ◆ We celebrated a beautiful Mass for our matriculants on their final day of school. Sr Bernadette Duffy (Holy Cross Sister) gave a wonderful presentation to our pupils as we sent the matriculants off into the world.

Lasallian Youth Camps

- ◆ We had 3 Lasallian Youth camps this year and a pilgrimage to Ngome, Vryheid for the leaders. 1 was a mission camp, helping 3 different charities. The last camp was in October and was thoroughly enjoyed by all the pupils.



Lasallian Youth Camp

Parent's honoring evening

- ◆ The Lasallian Youth group held a very thoughtful and meaningful parent's honoring evening – where they served their parents and teachers dinner and drinks and provided light entertainment and honored and thanked them for being their parents, for loving them and for providing them with an education.



- ◆ The Lasallian Youth group is currently organizing a Christmas party for the 2nd December for physically and mentally handicapped children. This will be the first time our pupils host this party for children with these difficulties. I'm sure it will be a great learning experience for them all.
 - ◆ DLSHCC started a High school Ethos committee this year, to discuss high school-related issues and for members of staff to have a voice in maintaining the Ethos of the College.
 - ◆ A new formation council was formed consisting of the principal, deputy principal, Lasallian Animator, a de La Salle Brother and a Holy Cross Sister representative. This is to ensure ongoing staff development and formation needs are met, that help staff to understand and embrace our dual charisms.
 - ◆ moving up into a new league this year.
 - ◆ Andrew Bishop and Elfie De Necker completed the Catholic Schools Office Growing Leaders Course (a year long course)–they will graduate on 6 November.
- The course is designed to develop leadership and management skills within a catholic school.
- ◆ Andrew Bishop & Talita Lewis qualified as Moderators via the IEB.
 - ◆ DLSHCC hosted and organized a well-received Leadership Day for 8 Catholic schools on 12th October. With a closing Mass celebrated at St Charles Parish.

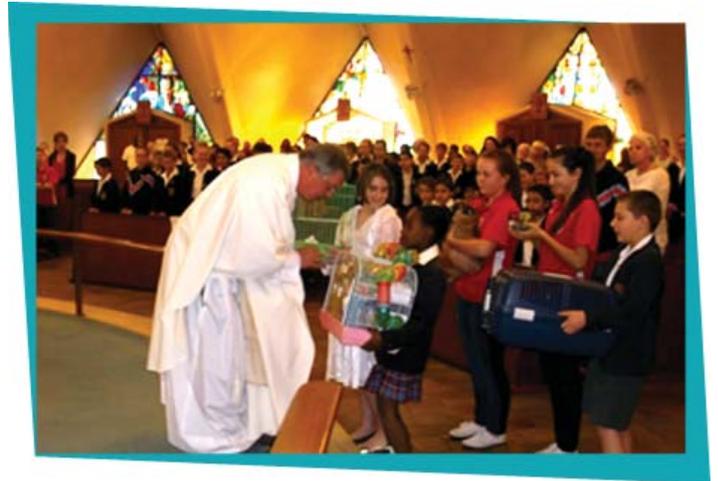


- ◆ DLSHCC has achieved in many sporting and cultural events and came first in the Inter-high Independent School Athletics league and we will be

De La Salle Holy Cross Primary School, Victory Park.

The Lasallian Peace Month was launched on the 4th October with a Mass on the Feast of St Francis of Assisi, one of our House Patrons. The liturgy opened with an entrance procession led by children carrying peace banners they had made during their art classes. These banners were displayed in the sanctuary during Mass and afterwards displayed around the school. All of the classes followed a theme on peace and examples of their work and activities were posted on the school notice boards. Children and Staff wore white peace ribbons as a reminder of our commitment to peace. It was fitting that the Grade 3 children made their First Confession during the month of peace. Their families were invited and the confessions were preceded by a short service. Many family members received the Sacrament of Reconciliation and so the gift of peace and reconciliation was shared with the community.

The Grade R children entertained fam-



ily and friends with their concert “The Musical Stars” adapted from the novel “The Little Prince”. It transported us away from earth to the planets in search of a better place to live. The conclusion? Stay right where you are and look for what is good around you! An inspiring and meaningful message delightfully presented by an enthusiastic cast.

As we head towards the end of the year we wish all our Associates a blessed Christmas and a restful holiday.

POEMS

I am a Lasallian

I AM A LASALLIAN

I am A Lasallian

Not because I was raised into
her traditions

But because my blood pulses with
the life-blood of the College

I am a Lasallian

Not because my knowledge is
advanced here

But because my spirit is at
peace here

I am a Lasallian

Not because I am forced to
But because my heart tells me
to.

When a Lasallian suffers

We all hurt as one

When La Salle celebrates her
victories

We lift up our hands in jubilation
When La Salle honours her lead-

ers

We follow them in respect

When La Salle celebrates a
new year

Our hearts beat like a drum.

I am a Lasallian

For my belief in God extin-
guishes my flame of worry

And her faith is food to my
soul

I am a Lasallian

For her students are loyal

And her teachers prepare me
for what lies ahead

I am a Lasallian

For spring excites us all

And my hope for the future is
bright.

When I see her colours, green
and gold

I remember her heritage

And the fire inside me is set
alight.

When the morning dew glistens
in the sunshine

I am at peace

And the College becomes the
heart of nature.

When her stories of the past
are whispered in my ear

We are reminded of those who
have gone before us

And we become the leaders of
tomorrow

I am a Lasallian

Because she is the beginning of
our religions

And strengthens our bond with
God

I am a Lasallian

Because she is the reflection of
John Baptist De La Salle

Brightening the right path for
us to follow

I am a Lasallian

For even though we are many

We are united as one

I am, you are, we are Lasallian.

The Grade Seven Class of La Salle College
2013

(A choral presentation at Prizegiving
December 2013)

Mount La Salle College, Naka

The History

Mt. La Salle College, Naka, then Bishop Kirstein College, was established in 1982 by the Late Rev. father James Hunter CSSp (of Blessed memory). It was handed over to the De La Salle Brothers in September 1987, since then the school has been excelling



in both academic and extra-curricular activities.

The college is a mixed school and part boarding. It has boys and girls dormitories. The school also has staff quarters with over twenty staff housing units. The boarding students are fed three times a day.

The school holds morning General Assembly on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays; House assemblies on Tuesdays, and class assemblies on Thursdays.

All students in the school are divided into four houses i.e. St. Mark, St. Luke, St. Matthew and St. Johns'. These houses compete amongst one another in the inter-house sports competition every year. The sports activities start in September of every year concluding with the Feast of St. John Baptist De La salle in May of the next year. The school has sports facilities in football, basket ball, Volley ball, handball, bad min-



Mt. La Students playing in a Basketball Court

ton and table tennis.

The school participates in both local and state academic and extra-curricular activities. Early this November, 2013 the school took part in the All Benue State Secondary Schools Arts and Culture competition came out with the 3rd position. The School also participates in the Gwer West All Secondary Schools

sports competition and won in all games they participated in, i.e. athletics, football and handball.

Going by the Nigerian Policy on Education, the school operates on a six year programme. Three years in the Junior Secondary School and three years in the Senior Secondary. After three years of Junior Secondary School, students sit for Basic Education Certification Examination. In this examination, students offer twelve subjects; Mathematics, English Language, Basic Computer, Basic Science, Basic Technology, Basic Education, Civic Education, Social Studies, Home Economics, Physical and health Education, Christian Religious Studies and French. Out these, Students must pass mathematics to qualify for the senior secondary school.

After the three years in the Senior Secondary School, students sit for nine subjects in the West African Examination Council and National Examination Council bodies. To qualify for university admission, students must pass on credit level, five subjects must include; Mathematics, English Lan-



guage.

The students also participate in school clubs which I may classify as religious, social cultural and academic. Religious could be grouped as; YCS, Legio Maria, Choir clubs and La Sallian movement. Academic clubs as Press club, JETS and debate clubs. The socio-cultur-



The newly renovated SS 2 and 3 block

al are the theatre troupe and the dramatic clubs.

On infrastructure, the school has adequate classrooms for teaching and learning. Unfortunately, in January 2013 one of the girls' hostels was raised down by wild fire. This was a very big setback to Brother Wole's administration, but with dedication and zeal, the principal set up a four-man standing development committee who made sure that the burnt building was successfully renovated before September, 2013. The renovation is successfully completed with the aid of the Old Students Association, some philanthropists and the School PTA.

The school enjoys a well equipped science and com-



One of the science Laboratories

puter laboratories.

In spite of the above, some buildings needed renovation, to this end, the principal Rev. Brother Wole Olanjo fsc took the bull by the horn in June 2013 staked his neck in the renovation of the block of SS 3 and 2 amidst meager funds but with the aid of the Brothers in the USA, the work is successfully completed since August 2013.

To cope with the challenges of water for the boarders and teachers on the compound, a school water works was imperative. With the encouragement of the brother Visitor, Brother Esayas Tsegaye and donations from the PTA, La Sallian Schools abroad, a water works was possible for Mt. La Salle College, Naka. Now the school can boast of a portable drinking water at its convenience.



Mt. La Salle College, Water Works supply engines



Naka earth dam, source of Mt. La Salle College, Water Works

MOUNT LA SALLE COLLEGE, NAKA CELEBRATES PRESS DAY

The Press club Organization of Mt. La Salle College, Naka celebrates its press day on the 21st Nov., 2013. The press club is an association for Lasallian students started in Mt. La Salle College Naka ten years ago.

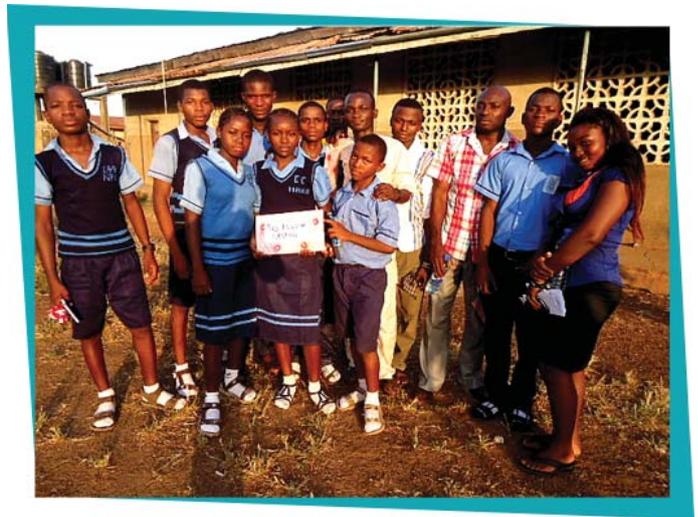


A cross section of Mt. La Salle Students during the occasion

The main aim of the association is to train students as feature orators. Students write and cast news on activities that take place within and around their environment on the general assemble every Wednesday. By so doing students learn and become use to public presentations.

On the 21st of November 2013, members of this

club organized a public press day in the school with the theme: “The Dangers and Abuse of Modern Technology Mass Media/Social Network: The way forward”. Six Neighboring schools were invited to participate.



Cornerstone Secondary School, Naka Invited School, 3rd in Casting.

During the opening ceremony, the host principal, Bro. Wole Olabanjo welcomes all present and appreciated the efforts of the host press club coordinating Mr. Igho Eugene Goma for the initiative and urges all participants to put in their best and be mindful of the fact that whether they win or lose, they have learnt something. On the other hand, the host Coordinator, Mr. Igho Eugene in his speech highlighted the evils caused by

Modern technology Mass media/social network in our society to include examination malpractice, violence, crisis of identity, sexual harassment among others.

Activities during the day included debate competition and news casting. Debate on the topic: “Westernization: A blessing or a curse. This was between Mt. La Salle College, Naka and Mt. Sinai Secondary School; Naka at the end of the debate, Mt. La Salle College took the lead.

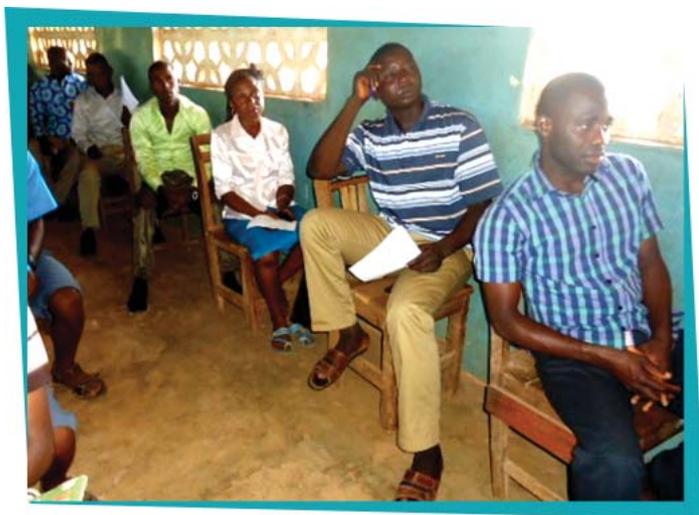


Mr. Igho Eugene Goma - Press Club Coordinator

Mt. La Salle College, Naka

Network has done more harm than good”. Modern Secondary School came first.

On the news cast event, all the invited schools caste the same news item titled: HEAL THE WORLD. This event was judged based on the rules of news casting Mt. La Salle College was declared the best.



Some staff at the occasion

The second debate was between Divine Hope Academy and Calvin Foundation College all in Naka on the topic: “The Nigerian Democracy; a Failure or a Success”. In this category, Divine Hope took first.

The third category of debate was between Modern Secondary School and Cornerstone Secondary School on the topic: “Modern Technology Mass Media/Social



Abah Jacantha receiving the best caster's award from Banke Shituku

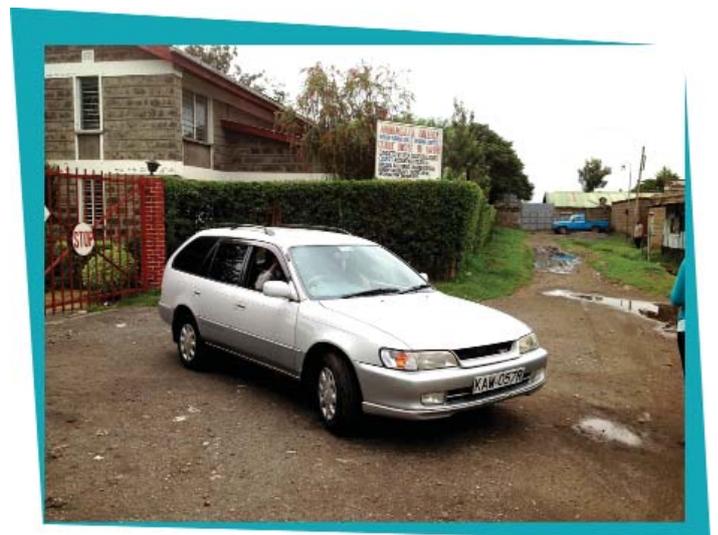
MWANGAZA COLLEGE

The History

The Bishop Centre for Skill Formation

In 1973 Bishop Ndingi of Nakuru Diocese, situated in the central Rift Valley in Kenya, East Africa, opened a community centre on the edge of Nakuru town the fourth largest town in Kenya. The Centre was administered firstly by the Holy Rosary Sisters, a missionary congregation founded in Ireland to serve the need of Catholic girls mainly in Nigeria; they started a sewing class for poor girls from rural areas around Nakuru.

Twenty years later, recognizing the graduates of secondary schools needed skills to find employment, the Bishop asked the Brothers to administer and develop the Centre to teach various skills that would help them to find employment in an already crowded job market. The Brothers took up the challenge and through funding from MISEREOR, the LA SALLIAN WORLD FUND and contributions from friends, were able to build a quadrangle of classrooms and an administrative building. Much appreciation is due to Brothers John Moriarity, Chuck Gregor and Paul Ackerman from various Districts in the United States for providing an oasis in an otherwise neglected area of the town.



The De La Salle Christian Brothers have been administering a number of educational projects in Kenya since before independence in 1963. As time went on,



the focus and type of their educational efforts changed according to how they perceived the needs of the country. Before and shortly after independence, there was a need for an educated civil servant work force. Since the number of schools was still very small in the country, the Brothers academic-style schools fulfilled a very real need for a newly independent country. As time went on, however, and the number of schools in the country multiplied significantly, the Brothers initiated more career-opportunity oriented schools. Accordingly, a more technical and agricultural skill's program was introduced into its existing schools and newer educational projects focused exclusively on this type of curriculum.

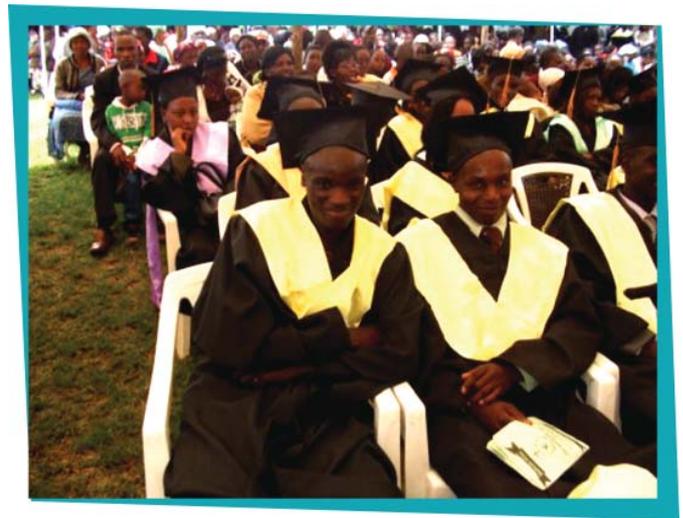
MWANGAZA (Kiswahili word meaning Light) Centre for Skills Formation was established by Nakuru Catholic Diocese in 1992. As a result of a grant from the Belgian Government, the basic buildings were completed in time for the Centre to open in January

1993. The Centre is administered under the Diocese of Nakuru by the De La Salle Christian Brothers (a world wide educational religious Congregation with a 300 year tradition). The goal of setting up the Centre was to provide a technical post-secondary education to mainly but not exclusively young women of the Nakuru area. Over 70% of Nakuru's populations of 450,000 are under the age of 25. In this society the needs of women have previously not been given the same priority as that of men. The Brothers considered this an important issue and addressed it with the establishment of this Mwangaza Centre (Currently Mwangaza College Nakuru).

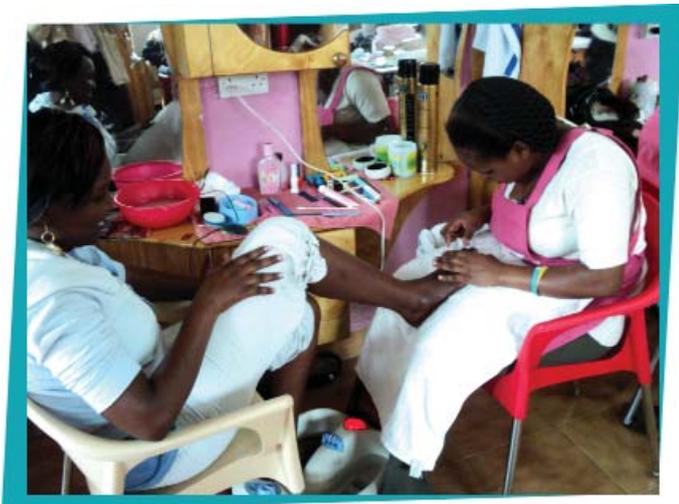


Many of our students have graduated from secondary schools and are children of non-farming residents who depend for their livelihood on low-paying jobs in the local business sector. Since they do not have land, the opportunities of their children are limited to whatever jobs they can procure in Nakuru or other

town economies. The tragic result is that there is high unemployment, massive despair and high crime; it is due mainly to the lack of employable skills and the lack of affordable places to go to get the most basic of employable skills. Yet there is a growing economy and a demand for such skilled people in towns as the Kenyan business & service sector expands there. MWANGAZA CENTRE, therefore, provides a very necessary service in the educational system.



served their purpose well in helping students to become computer literate. The Fashion & Design Department has been likewise fortunate in having singer sewing machines. These machines, while basic have proved their worth over the years and have proved reliable and very easy to maintain considering the amount of use they have received. The typewriters have been much more problematic in that it has taken a lot of money and time to keep them in working order. That situation is not helped because the getting or reliable people to service these machines are not easy. The dusty climate also added its contribution to



The Commercial Skills program is the heart of the MWANGAZA CENTRE FOR SKILL FORMATION. The demand is great because the opportunities for future employment are much more numerous than in any other area in the growing economy of Kenya. The original program was started on a “shoestring” budget, relying on donations of “hand-me-downs” from USA schools. Mwangaza Centre received dated model 286 computers that have over the years



make to the difficulties just described. This together with the fact that many of the machine parts are made of plastic has rendered these items very expensive to maintain.

The school's Accountancy and other Business related-programs, which normally are dominated by men in Kenya has over three times the number of women enrolled. In addition, more traditional women-dominated programs like tailoring and catering have an increasing number of men enrolled. The Centre's programs have been very successful in preparing about three hundred and sixty students for the National Exams in the various disciplines that are essential qualifications for any candidate seeking a future business opportunity.



MWANGAZA CENTRE adheres to the philosophy that education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfils its commitment to the dignity of the person. A key responsibility is that of

providing a positive environment. Here people can develop their unique talent and leadership potential. Mwangaza seeks to serve the community in presenting a challenging atmosphere toward the attainment of life preparatory comprehensive training.

MWANGAZA draws its uniqueness from the educational philosophy of St. John Baptist De La Salle that echoes the Church's mission: first, education is ministry- one's personal commitment to the spiritual and vocational formation as a means of living a Christ centered life. Second, members of the MWANGAZA community come together in an association based on a common acceptance of Gospel values and on a shared desire to foster these values in their lives and in the lives of those they touch. Third, the experience of community leads to service.

A common vision share by the Catholic Church and MWANGAZA is the importance of religious instruction, vocational training and cultural development to those whom it serves. In the presence of God, MWANGAZA challenges learners to be at their best: to use their God given talents to be creative problems solvers an informed decision-makers in order to participate in the process of creating a more world. In that spirit, MWANGAZA strives to create a challenging atmosphere that stresses personal responsibility and mutual respect. The resulting community, with its diversity, proclaims this common vision: the Gos-

pel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

This year there are over 400 students following classes in their chosen fields: Secretarial, Data Entry, Kenya Accountancy & Technical Certificate, Certified Public Accounts, Fashion & Design, Fine Art, Food & Beverages, Business English, French and English communication. The Centre provides the students with the opportunity to be attached to offices to practice their skills during the holidays and attempts to find employment opportunities for them when they have finished their two year course and passed external examinations. The reputation of the Centre is such that there is maximum enrolment for nearly every course. Unfortunately the cost of repairing typewriters and purchasing computers is hindering the maximum development of the conscientious students.



In general, the cost of living in dollar or sterling terms seems very little, but in the real life situation of the people very few of our students are relatively well off. The fees are minimal and the salaries of staff are, too. Without the assistance of students in a few Brothers schools it would not be possible for MWANGAZA to offer bursaries to some of the neediest students. Every Wednesday afternoon a priest officiates a liturgy that is truly a joyful celebration in which liturgical dances, traditional music and Kiswahili hymns are sung. During lent about a dozen of the La Sallian Youth meet every evening to make the way of the cross.



MWANGAZA awards certificates to those students who pass each of the course requirements. Already the name MWANGAZA is synonymous with high standards. Students who do not complete the full Programme will be given a transcript of courses taken.

MWANGAZA offers part-time opportunities for those people who already have employment or who desire training in other fields. Afternoon classes are available in typing, shorthand and computing. These short courses are conducted after regular classes have ended or at weekends. Students who are not enrolled at Mwangaza are required to pay a registration fee as well as the course fee. These short courses are taken as a package and normally last for one month.



For More Information Visit
www.mwangazacollege.org



ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL ERITREA



St. Joseph's School is almost 64 years old. It is a school that has had a history of success and fame. St. Joseph's School gives an inclusive education to thousands of young Eritreans. At the moment there are about 1700 regular students in the school. They are almost evenly distributed, the boys exceeding slightly the girls.

Most of the students who are educated at St. Joseph's School come from poor families. Keren is one of the areas which are continuously stricken by drought and was a war front during the indepen-

dence struggle. So most of the parents of our students are economically disadvantaged. Hence the school is still dependent. There are many students who can not even afford paying the minimum school fees that



they are asked for. Each student pays less than 20.0 \$ (less than twenty USD) per year. The total income that the school gets from the students covers only six months' budget of the total school budget.

This shows the school is still heavily subsidized by other resources. We must admit that it is very challenging to continue like this, especially with current economical situation of the country.

The school gives free education to the neediest students. The school tries to educate completely free every year at least 50 to 75 students. We try to help the orphan and desperately needy ones every year.

Teachers

There are about 56 teaching staff and 13 non teaching staff at St. Joseph's School. How much is a teacher paid per month? The most highly paid teacher at St. Joseph's. School is paid 1800.00 Nakfa (which is less

than 40.0 USD). Hence, teachers are poorly paid putting in consideration the escalated market situation. Anyway, St. Joseph's School remains indebted to its

Eritrean Currioculum



hardworking teachers.

The Elementary grades go from Kindergarten to grade 5(1 - 5) medium of instruction is Tigrigna. English is given as a subject. Here students study General Sciences, Maths, Eritrean Languages, Social studies and



Arts and English language. Then the Junior Secondary goes from Grade 6 to Grade 8. In these grades students study, English, Mathematics, General Science, Social studies, Health Science and Life skill and Information Technology.

The High school goes from grade 9 up to grade 12. In grade 9 and grade 10 students take general courses. These are : Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, History, English, Mathematics, Computer

Science, Business and Economics, Physical education, Moral Education and Life skills

At the end of grade 10 students choose either Science Stream or Social Studies stream. Then for two years they study in the stream they have chosen.

At the end of grade 12 students sit for Matriculation exam. If a student passes will go to one of the local colleges, and if fails the student will be sent to one of the training center for a year and will be given a certificate on the areas of his or her specialization.



St Joseph's School in Relationship with other schools in the country

St. Joseph's School has an upper hand nation wide. At the moment the school is among the top three schools in the country. In the national exams of grade 8 and Matriculation exam of grade 12, St. Joseph's school has been among the top three the past few years. The school is highly appreciated by the ministry of education and the parents. Hence the school needs to be assisted to keep its standard position and giving hope to the thousands of young men and women who are being educated at the schools,



Main activities that take place at St. Joseph's School:

1. Formal Education:-
 - i. Elementary Level both boys and girls
 - ii. Junior Level both boys and girls
 - iii. Secondary Level both Boys and Girls
2. A Library that serves the whole town of Keren in addition to its students
3. Metal and wood workshop that gives skills to students who have no access to formal education
4. School Chapel that serves as a semi parish
5. La Sallian association movement which also serves as a choir in the Chapel on Sundays and feasts
6. St. Joseph's Alumni association which is strongly linked with the school.
7. Charismatic movement
8. Football, Basket ball and Volley sporting fields that are always busy
9. Cultural club which incorporates: Music training, drama staging and poetry plus many other activities

Some More Facts about St. Joseph's School:-

- i. Foundation 1949.
- ii. Ownership and Running of the school completely by De LaSalle Brothers
- iii. Students from all denominations, trained mainly with Christian values
- iv. Economically mostly poor
- v. Academically it is always with the first top three nation wise in external exams
- vi. High demands by the community, including family who come to Keren area to educate their children in our school from other parts of the country.
- vii. The students of St. Joseph's School are almost evenly distributed slightly the boys exceeding.

Strengths of St. Joseph's School:-

- » One of the best schools in the country which has a big name and high standard
- » Inclusive school (No discrimination on sex, religion or any other divisive factors)
- » Has a well established Infrastructure
- » Offers human and Religious Education unlike the other schools in the country
- » It is the biggest Catholic school in the country



Challenges of the School

1. Lack of constant power (Mostly no electricity)
2. Lack of enough conferences rooms, cafeteria, Multimedia center etc.
3. The Challenges of maintenance
4. Lack of First aid when students get sick
5. It has a small hall which is unequipped
6. Teachers are poorly paid
7. Lack of qualified man power to substitute if any teacher leaves the school. And related challenges such as problems of maintenance and related issues.

But, with all these challenges St. Joseph's School is shining and can shine even brighter is it is economically steady.

ST JOSEPH SCHOOL ADDIS ABABA

New Academic Year

September 11 is the date when a new year begins in Ethiopia. It is also the beginning of the new academic year for all the schools in Ethiopia. St Joseph school Addis Ababa officially started its academic year on September 13 with a general meeting followed by a one week afternoon workshops for the teaching staff. The students came back to school on September 16 from a long summer break with high excitement and great expectation.



New School Year for St Joseph's Students

This academic year, St. Joseph admitted 106 new students for grade 1as well as a significant number of new and highly competitive students for grades



Teachers Meeting September 18, 2013

7and 9 who could pass the School's entrance exams. Of the new grade 9 students, 10 are financially challenged outstanding students who were selected from public and government schools in Addis who have received full scholarship provided by the alumni of St. Joseph School.

The Administration of the School has clearly identified major priorities for the year in the effort to improve the school in accordance with its motto, which is "High Expectation from all and High Standard for All". The school selected the major areas of improvements for the academic year based on previous evaluation made and feedbacks gathered from the staff, which articulated possible approaches to meet the challenges. The Three areas of improvement for

the year 2006 academic year are to:

1. Improve academic achievements of students in Science subjects(Biology, Chemistry, Physics) and Math
2. Improve the quality of examinations and assessment approaches
3. Improve the instructional approaches , implementation of school regulations and student's activities

Simultaneously with the teachers 'meeting and workshop, Brother Belayneh Medhanit, Principal of the school and his management team held separate meetings with students of all grades to welcome them and brief them on the School's expectation



Brother Belayneh Medhanit Addressing Students

from the students during the new academic year. The meetings also gave chance to the students to ex-

press their needs and forward their expectations from the school's administration.

Appointments at Saint Joseph School

Saint Joseph School appointed Ato ChuChuAyalew as club activity coordinator, Ato AndualemMelaku as unit leader for Grade 7-12, and Ato Fikru Suga as Exam Officer of the school.

The school put a strategy of launching club activities as a means of minimizing possible communication gap between teachers and students while also improving instructional approaches in the new academic year. All students and teachers are required to be part of at least one club. The new appointed club coordinator has the responsibility to facilitate and oversee clubs activities. Ato Fikru, an experienced educator of the school has been appointed as exam officer with the sole purpose of improving the quality of examinations set and introducing creative approaches to the overall assessment of students. Likewise, the unit leader was appointed to provide assistance to the office of Dean of Students by way of leading, coordinating, monitoring and supervising students discipline regularly.

Ato Chuchu is a Civics and Geography teacher who has extensive experience in serving St Joseph School

since 1996. Ato Fikru is a veteran mathematics teacher who cares about quality education and sound assessment. Ato Andualem is a studious Amharic teacher who has been teaching at St Joseph for the past five years. These teachers have proved to be exemplary in their annual performance evaluation and outstanding in their leadership skills.



Left to Right Ato Chuchu Ayalew, Ato Andualem Melaku and Ato Fikru Suga

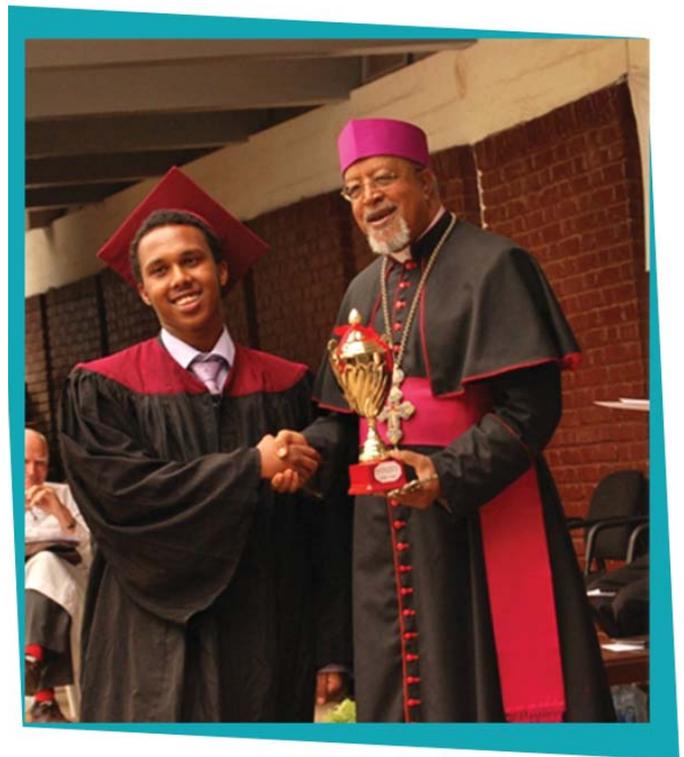
Out Standing Results for St. Joseph Addis in all National Exams in 2012–13 Academic Year

St Joseph school students have achieved an outstanding result in all National Exams of Ethiopia. All Grade 8 students who took the Ethiopian Elementary School leaving exams passed their exams achieving over 90% in their results.

Grade 10 students who sat for the Ethiopian Grade School Exam (EGSEC) in June 2013 passed their

exam with flying colors. Of the 149 students, 139 of them got 4.0 and no student scored below 3.4. Moreover, 121 students were able to score straight A's in at least 8 subjects.

Similarly, of the 150 students who sat for Grade 12 University Entrance exam in June 2013, 149 of them got results above 400, of which 98 students got points above 500, which could be considered as great distinction. In the 2012/13 academic year, 4 students scored above 600 point among whom is Gedion Yonas who scored 630 point, which is the second highest point in Ethiopia for the academic



Gedion Yonas receiving a trophy for outstanding academic achievement from Abune Brahneyesus

year. Gedion has also scored a very high point in the SAT subject testes achieving a perfect score in Math

and Physics which helped him win a full scholarship study at Colombia University.

Totally 16 outstanding students joined top North American & European Universities with full scholarships and the remaining students were all admitted in Ethiopian Universities and colleges based on their desired disciplines.

Lasallian News

Prayer for the New Year

The new academic year was started with a prayer service for teachers led by Brother Belayneh in the tradition of a Lasallian school and in the spirit of faith. On September 21, 2006, a prayer service for the students and new teachers was organized by Brother Daniel Carlin, Director of campus ministry. During this solemn prayer service, new students and teachers were called forward for blessings as they were also welcomed to the Lasallian family.

Lasallian Animator Presentation

Deresse Almamaw who attended Lasallian Animators workshop that was held in Nairobi Kenya from June 29 to August 2, 2013 has presented a comprehensive report to St. Joseph School teachers during the week of the workshop on September 20, 2013.



Brother Daniel giving blessing to new students

In his presentation, Deresse shared major topics presented on the workshop he had attended and the experience he got from meeting other Lasallian teachers from the Lwanga District of Africa. He also shared his observation from his visit to the Lasallian institutions in Kenya. Two small video clips were shown to teachers on the founders' journey and on being Lasallian in the mission of education.

Lasallian Peace month

Lasallian Peace Month was marked at St Joseph School with different activities. A moment of silence was observed by teachers before Deresse, the Lasallian animator presented his report on the workshop he attended in Nairobi. Posters and peace messages were posted for teachers and students to read and see during the month. The Peace and Justice club organized competitions in literature and art on the theme of **Peace is**

Possible. At the end of the peace month on October 21, 2013, students marked the day with a prayer organized by the campus ministry during the morning assembly before the flag hoisting ceremony. The Students' sport council has also organized a lunch time friendly games between different classes in different sports on the theme of "Peace is Possible through Sports." Finally, the Lasallian peace month is concluded on October 21 with public debate competition organized by peace and justice club

Work done during the summer of 2013

Though St Joseph school was officially closed for the summer in the month of July, a lot of development work had been going on during the whole summer. The administration staff had to forfeit their vacation time to supervise the work to ensure the completion of the project before students return to school in September. Here are the major works done during the summer.

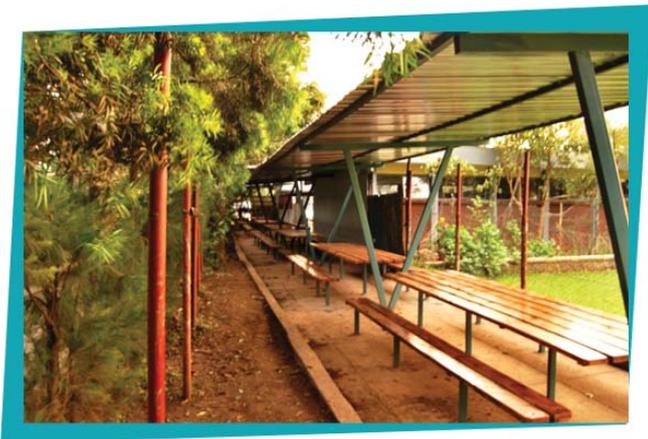
1. Sport field seating area with a capacity of 400 spectators was built adjacent to the main football field.
2. Dining area for younger elementary students was constructed during the summer and the area became operational in the beginning of October.



Poster for the Lasallian Peace Month



3. Broadband Internet were obtained from Ethio Telecom to complete the fiber optic network installed by the help of a proud alumnus, Ato Michael Shebelle
4. Some areas of the compound were paved in concrete.
5. Grass was replanted on the elementary football field with the help from parents and another proud alumnus from the organization of the Tropical garden here in Addis.



6. Class rooms and the High School Library were painted and new book shelves for the library replaced the old ones. A number of reference books have also been donated by parents, former students, and generous donors in addition to the books purchased by the school
7. Five classrooms were furnished with new desks.
8. Permission to put up our school fence was granted and construction has been in progress since mid-October

TO THE EDITOR

Heal the World



Mr. Igho Eugene Goma - Press Club Coordinator

Mt. La Salle College, Naka

For most among the many paradoxes of the Nigerian society is poverty. Often, people wonder and ask: how can a country be at once so rich and yet so poor? How can a country that is so richly endowed and so naturally favoured be yet at the same time notoriously impoverished, home to individuals who are by all standards and indices among the poorest in the world, a people plagued and ravaged by diseases of all kinds. Here several deplorable plights come to mind: the abhorred destitute, the maltreated maid, the undermined driver, the scorned street beggar, the forlorn disabled, the jobless and penniless graduate, the

derided imbecile, the carelessly abandoned and pitiable victims of natural disasters, the list goes on and on.

While it is usual for all accusing fingers to be directed at corruption, often acquiesced as the basic cause of the nation's predicament, a closer reflection would perhaps reveal that corruption itself has a cause; a cause which can only be identified when one casts a penetrating look into the mind of the corrupt man or woman and sees that behind his or her compulsion to steal and stash public funds, is the underlying tendency to amass unearthly goods without limit, a predisposition known in Christian theology as greed.

We make bold to aver that though we live by the river bank, many wash their faces with spittle. We prefer to build walls that protect and promote our selfishness rather than construct bridges to undo the vast gap that segregate the rich from the less privileged. We have learnt to fly in the sky like and with birds; to inhabit the forest like and with beasts; to swim in the seas like and with fishes; to tame the deadliest of beasts, but man has not learned to live on earth with man as man. What a puzzling paradox!

The effect of this on the social, political and economic life of Nigeria can be seen everywhere, displayed on the pages of our national dailies, where we find ostentatious display of affluence by a few individuals in romance with widespread penury in the land. The recent case of the minister for Aviation comes to mind, who we are told purchased cars worth 250 million Naira, whereas our elder friends in the university have being on strike for four months now. It is there on the faces of poor and hungry Nigerians who cannot afford a single decent meal in a day. The impression is not different with the dejected faces of poor hungry children who run after vehicles in the heavy traffics of Lagos, Kano and Abuja, armed with begging bowls, disfigured by the sores of hopelessness, begging for alms. It is also perceivable in the worn-out shoes and parched soles of young enterprising Nigerian school leavers, who prowl from city to city looking for non-existent jobs, since as is commonly the case, the funds meant to establish industries and create more job opportunities for them have earlier on been stolen and tucked away safely in banks, where they are generating interests for a few greedy men. Greed is also responsible for the many homeless Nigerians who crowd around motor parks dur-

ing the day and retire under major bridges at night to catch a piece of sleep, while there are many uninhabited mansions up for sale and rent at unbelievable and unaffordable prices for even the average Nigerian.

The vice, greed, which is precisely what has kept Nigeria as a country poor amidst plenty, underdeveloped amidst immense developmental potential, stagnant and unproductive, must be uprooted from the nation's soil, if Nigeria must ever hope to regain her rightful place in the committee of nations. Good people, let's give! Let's give from the basis of pure love. Let's give with the aim of putting the recipients in a state where they no longer need our gifts. Stretch out your hand today and touch the neighbour. Be generous, be charitable. HEAL THE WORLD!

By Mr. Igho Eugene Goma

Staff, Mt. La Salle College, Naka

Lwanga District of Africa

Lasallian School Animators

Ethiopia

Dereje Mekonnen (St Joseph School, Nazareth) deremko@gmail.com

Endale Mekonnen (St John Baptist De La Salle School, ASCO, Addis Ababa)
endalessamuel@gmail.com

Deresse Almamaw (St Joseph School, Addis Ababa) deressea@gmail.com

Kenya

David Kareche (Rongai Agri-Tech Secondary School) davidkareche@gmail.com

Kelvin Mbuthai (St Paul's Secondary School, Marsabit) kelvinkeshi89@yahoo.com

Jane Wambui (Mwangazaa College, Nakuru) jnmainah@yahoo.com

Nigeria

Ajav Tertesgha (Mount La Salle College, Naka) ajav.theddy@yahoo.com

Ajayi Victor Abiodun (La Salle College, Ondo) ajayivictor39@yahoo.com

Isaac Ojo Olasupo (La Salle College, Ondo)

South Africa

Susan Chapple (La Salle College, Discovery) schapple@lasalle.co.za

Leanne Stonier (De La Salle Holy Cross College, Victory Park)

lstonier@dlsh.gp.school.za

Mary Hyam (De La Salle Holy Cross Primary School) mary@dlsp.gp.school.za

