

# THE LWANGA DISTRICT OF AFRICA



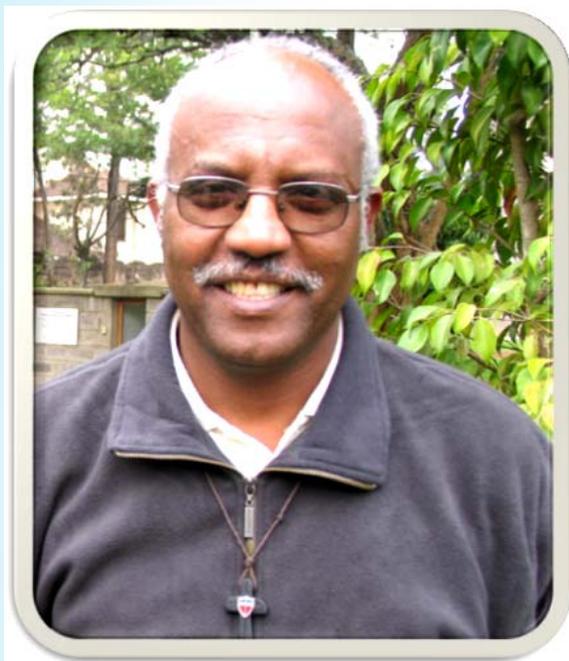
## BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

February 2014

## **1. NAIROBI, KENYA**

### **1.1. APPOINTMENT OF A NEW BROTHER VISITOR**

Brother Superior General, appointed a new Brother Visitor for the Lwanga District of Africa, beginning July 1<sup>st</sup> 2014. Brother Ghebreyesus Habte is the newly appointed Visitor for the Lwanga District of Africa. Br. Ghebreyesus is from the Sector of Eritrea, currently, the Director/Principal of Hagaz Agro-Technical School.



Brother Ghebreyesus, did his initial formation and his Primary and Secondary education in Eritrea. He did his Undergraduate and Graduate studies in Psychology in Rome, Italy, at UPS (Salesian Pontifical University). Since his return to Eritrea in 1988, he has been involved in various capacities as religious educator and administrator. Brother Ghebryesus has been Director of St. Joseph's School, Keren, of the Institute of Religious Studies in Asmara and currently, the Principal of Hagaz Agro Technical School and the Management of the Project concurrently.

Brother Ghebreyesus was Sector Coordinator of the Sector of Eritrea for twelve years. He was also involved in the accompaniment of the young Brothers of the Sector and was responsible for the Formation and accompaniment of the young Brothers.

The Editors of the Newclip, the Brothers of the Lwanga District and the Brothers in the

Administration of the District welcome wholeheartedly the long awaited Good News and congratulate Br. Ghebreyesus and assure him of our support in this very important Pastoral and Administrative responsibility entrusted to him. You are in our prayers Br Ghebreyesus.

Anybody who would like to communicate with Br. Ghebreyesus, please use the following e-mail address [bghabte@gmail.com](mailto:bghabte@gmail.com).

## **1.2. FROM FORMATION OFFICE**

### **1. SOME STATISTICS**

At the beginning of the year 2014, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, we had 20 Juniors, 14 Postulants, 7 first year Novices, 13 second year Novices, 4 first year Scholastics, 5 second year Scholastics, 3 third year Scholastics, 5 Brothers in their apostolic immersion experience, 4 fourth year Scholastics and 6 Brothers in temporary vows in apostolic communities.

In addition, we have 2 Scholastics from the District of West Africa whose Brother Provincial Visitor paid them a much appreciated visit at the beginning of this month, 5 Scholastics and 1 Student Brother from the Delegation of Rwanda, and 1 Scholastic from the District of Antananarivo.

We are grateful to God for His blessings, love and mercy, to all the Formators for their dedication and generosity and to the Juniors (20), Postulants (14), Novices (20), Scholastics (21) and Brothers in temporary vows (6) for their willingness to let God's gift unfold in their personal lives by implementing well the Formation Guide of the Charles Lwanga District of Africa.

### **2. BROTHERS' SOLIDARITY ASSEMBLY IN THE ETHIOPIAN SECTOR**

Four Brothers, i.e. Brothers in temporary vows and in the first two years of final vows, participated in this yearly Assembly that took place at the La Salle Retreat Centre

in DebreZeit, Ethiopia, at the beginning of February 2014.

The first day was animated by Brother Marc on the District Development Policy. The theme was initiated with two pictures: a boat with people that symbolized the Ethiopian Sector with the pertinent question: *are we not in one and the same boat? Vow of association*, and an exhausted and preoccupied banker surrounded with files and computer that symbolized the Ethiopian Sector on the road to self-sufficiency in economic resources with the pertinent question: *do we have a common vision and a common future? Vow of stability*. This was followed by a reflection on **a brief history of Lasallian Expansionism** with its three main stages marked by different outlooks and perspectives of the agents of its expansionism. It helped us to understand better the background of today's Finance and Development Policy of the Institute since the 42<sup>nd</sup> General Chapter (1993) and of

today's Finance and Development Policy of the Charles Lwanga District of Africa.

The next two days were animated by Brother Marc on behalf of Brother Anton Oloo and of Brother Patrick Obama who participated in the International Assembly of Young Brothers that took place in the Philippines. We had a very lively, insightful and open-minded discussion on the major texts and declarations of this important Assembly. We had the opportunity to share our own ideas, concerns, convictions and hopes with one another.

Nairobi, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2014 / mh

## 1.2. THE NAIROBI NOVITIATE

### MASS IN MEMORY OF THE LATE BROTHER ANSELM UBA

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of December the Association of Nigerian Priests and Religious in Kenya visited the Novitiate and celebrated Mass in memory of the late Brother Anselm Uba. Brother Uba had founded the association about 25 years ago when he was a staff member of the Formation Team at

the Novitiate. The Sector Co-coordinator of Nigeria, Brother Damian Ikor and his assistant, Brother Simon Kesiki attended the memorial service. Fr. Ambrose Okeke, the President of the Association, regretted that because of the various commitments members of the Association had, they were unable to come sooner to offer their condolences upon Brother Uba's passing. He eulogized Brother Uba for the vision he had for uniting Nigerian students and missionaries in Kenya by forming the association. After the Mass, the association members who were about 80 in number, from about 13 different Communities had a social moment as they shared food and beverages they had brought for the occasion. Brother Damian, on behalf of the Nigerian Brothers, thanked the members of the Association for taking such initiative to honour the late Brother Uba. At the gathering it emerged that the association President had missionary commitments in Isiolo which were going to distract him from running the affairs of the association, and an election was conducted to choose a new leader. Our very own Brother Julius Adi, the Sub Director of Scholasticate became the President of the

Association of Nigerian Priests and Religious in Kenya. Congratulations Brother Julius!

### **HABIT TAKING AT THE NOVITIATE**

As our Institute celebrated the Feast of St. Mutien-Marie on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January, the Novitiate in Nairobi honored the feast with a habit taking ceremony of 8 novices (Amanuel Seifu and Solomon Tobias-Ethiopia, James Mutunga and Michael Otieno- Kenya, Cornelius Ilozue, Godwin Atoo, Peter Obi and Moses Orbunde - Nigeria). Some members of the Scholasticate and Provincialate Communities were present to grace the occasion. In the absence of the Brother Visitor, the Auxiliary Visitor, Brother Gabriel Griffin presided over the investiture.



The following day after the novices took the Habit of the Brothers of the Christian Schools,

they left for their assigned schools and communities for an apostolic experience. Godwin, Solomon and Michael have reported to the Brothers community in Marsabit. The Brothers community in Nyeri welcomed James, Peter and Moses for the experience. Finally, Cornelius and Amanuel are in the Brothers community in Nakuru.

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

### **2.1. SECTOR OF ERITREA**

#### **FIRST PROFESSION: ERITREA**

Parallel to the Nairobi International Novitiate program, the District is running another Novitiate in the Sector of Eritrea. On the 15<sup>th</sup> of February 2014, Novices Efreem Amine, Filmon Menghisteab, Merhawi Berhe and Teklesenbet Gaim made their first profession after completing the eighteen months of their Novitiate Program. During the ceremony, they were accompanied by the Brothers, family members, friends; and the Lasallian Youth

both from Asmara and Keren with whom they worked so closely.



We thank Brothers Ghebretensae and Ghebrehwet for the guidance and accompaniment throughout their Novitiate program.



Currently, all four Brothers are directly involved in teaching and working with the youth. Brothers you are in our Prayers.



### **ST. JOSEPH'S KEREN EXCELS AGAIN!**

It is becoming generally customary, that St. Joseph's School being among the top Schools in the external exams of Grade Eight and in the Matriculation (ESLCE) Grade 12.

St. Joseph's School has again emerged at the top guaranteeing its status in both Grades country wise. We are so happy and proud to announce that our school stood first in the National Grade Eight Examination by achieving a 100% rate and in the Grade Twelve Matriculation achieving second position with 81.4%.

The other encouraging factor is that 82% of our Grade 8 students scored above 70 %

average, 32% of our students scored above 80% average and 14% scored above 90% average in the National Examination. This is an exceptional result when compared with the other schools in the country.

The School is first in both Grades in the Region, and first and third respectively in Grades Eight and Twelve country wise. We congratulate the teaching staff, the administration staff and the students for the tremendous performance. It is to be remembered that the School achieved similar success the previous year. This shows the school is clearly growing steadily in educational excellence. Hurray, St. Joseph's! Keep marching!



*St. Joseph's school Keren since 1949*

## LA SALLE CLUB; BEST KEPT SECRETS

La Salle Sport Club is an Eritrean club based in St. Joseph's School Keren. It is one of the most successful clubs in Keren. It includes foot ball, basket ball (boys and girls), volley ball and cycling teams. It was founded in 1952 by De La Salle Brothers under the leadership of Brother Jose Salces Gonzalez a Spanish Brother who worked in Eritrea between 1952 - 1973. Brother Gonzalez was commonly known as Michael Chahima in the local language which means Michel with the bread. Brother Gonzalez was also assisted by Yugoslavian Dr. Santokinik who was working in Keren at that time. Since its foundation the Club has been successful in aspect of sports. It has won many tournaments ever since.



*Brother Gebrekidan with La Salle Soccer Club*

The club has most recently established itself as home ground for training young players as young as 10. La Salle Football Club particularly since 2007 has trained its own players rather than searching for players in the market. Therefore La Salle Football Club has teams in First Division, Second Division and Third Division. It has kids playing at all grassroots football tournaments.

This year in particular the club has been blessed to have seen its first group of players that have trained for more than 5 years in the grassroots level play in the First Division and be one of the most dreaded teams. The average age of the players this year is 19.

They have become successful by reaching second place in the First Division on goal difference. The best player and top scorer being Aron Kiflay from La Salle, and Ermias Ghebrekidan (Maju) the best goalkeeper.

On the other hand the ladies Basketball team also became champions this year while the boys stood second in the same tournament. Fertuna Yohannes from La Salle also become the best player in the ladies tournament. Sefu Kidne from our team was also awarded a special medal for playing and leading the basket ball team for over 35 years.

## 2.2. SECTOR OF ETHIOPIA

Greetings and peace to all our Brothers and Lasallian families! The Sector in the past two months was blessed in so many ways.

### FINAL PROFESSION



On the 14th December two Brothers (Brs Sheferaw and Taye) made their Final Vows at Saint Joseph Parish Nazareth. His Lordship, Bishop Tsegaye Keneni, the Bishop of Sodo was the main celebrant of the Holy Mass and was accompanied by number of priests.



### NEW SECTOR COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Ethiopian Sector Brothers voted in new Council Members and Br. Betre Fisseha remains a member of the District Council

along with Br. Tsegaye Worku, Sector Coordinator. The following Brothers have been voted as the Sector Council Members to join the aforementioned two Brothers. The Brothers are: Br. Kassaye Antuan, Br. Retta Gezimu and Br. Sheferaw Mekonnen.

#### **NEW ASSIGNMENTS**

Brother Kassaye Antuan has been assigned to Bisrate Gabriel School and Community as Headmaster of the School replacing Br. Getachew Alemayehu who served the school for three and half years and is now in the United States for further studies. Br. Aycheluhim Samuel is also assigned to Bisrate Gabriel School Community. Br. Aycheluhim was in Southern Sudan and came back to the Sector because of the political instability in the country. We wish them fulfillment and success in their new ministries.

#### **YOUNG BROTHERS SOLIDARITY ASSEMBLY**

The Young Brothers' Meeting that was held in Debre-Zeit was animated by Br. Marc Hofer. The Brothers present in the meeting freely expressed their joys, hopes and challenges both in their respective communities and apostolates. Vocation promotion and the quality of the candidates were some of the concerns raised in the meeting.

#### **APOSTOLATES**

##### **Bisrate Gabriel School Dire-Dawa**

Classes resumed for the third quarter on 10<sup>th</sup> February after having two weeks break. Both teachers and students look refreshed and ready to face the joys and challenges of teaching and learning. Bisrate Gabriel School can be proud of its teaching staff who knows very well that teaching in a Lasallian School is intellectually and professionally rewarding as it provides a unique opportunity and challenge of helping to respond to the needs of young people of the world to achieve self-actualization and

fulfillment in God's plan for them. But recruiting teachers who consider teaching as a vocation remains a challenge.

### **CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION**

The Christmas celebration is the most anticipated activity in the school community. The most touching part of it is that all the preparations and plans being headed by our Muslim students. As it has been the tradition of the school, the Lasallian Youth members celebrated the Christmas with more than 400 street families.



Besrate Gabriel School Lasallian youth Celebrating X-mass with the Street Families Using the money collected from the entire

school community, they prepared lunch for their guests and fed them. Distributing some

clothing was another service rendered to the street families after the lunch. Another group of students celebrated Christmas with the poorest of the poor in Mother Teresa's Centre for sick and dying. The initiative taken by our students is really encouraging and the holistic kind of education they have been receiving has created the spirit of sharing with less privileged in our society.

### **SPORT**

Our students participated and won a trophy in boys' basketball in the sport festival prepared by the Education Bureau of Dire-Dawa Administration for all Elementary and Junior High Schools in Dire-Dawa. Our Girls finished the competition holding the second position and our Sports' teacher was named the best coach of the year. It seems that our school has understood the manifold advantages of sport activities for academic excellence.

### **NEWS FROM SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN ADAMA!**

As it is well known, St. Joseph School has been working hard in shaping students in discipline, knowledge and skills. *“Teaching Minds and Touching hearts,”* is used as a slogan in the school.

This is the second week of the second semester. The class assessment result has been collected from daily activities in class, projects works, assignments and short tests. These were performed based on each teacher’s plan. The summative assessments of this year’s first semester, was conducted on the schedules set in the school academic calendar. We will have the Parent’s Day on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2014.

There is a very strong demand from the Education Office that we need to open one stream of Oromiffa language. The school operates the Amharic section. According to them, since the school is offering a quality education for all, the local people “the Oromos” are not benefiting from the school in academics. Hence, we have requested

them to write an official request letter so that we could submit it to the office of the Lwanga District.

Teachers’ supervision was conducted in our school both formally and informally for the Elementary and High School sections. The informal supervisions are performed using the forms set at the beginning of the year.

For the first time, the Scout Club is being established in the school in this academic year. The members of the clubs have taken four Saturdays training to understand what scout is all about and what it takes to be a member of the Scout Club. The members of the Scout Club will receive their Certificate during Parents’ Day.

The De LaSalle and the Girls’ for Success Clubs showed exemplary activities working together. Member students, teachers and Brothers planned to collect stationery and clothes for students who have serious problems in De La Salle School in Adama

Town. This school was established with the help of Brother Taddele and Brother Martine. The club members planned a lunch with students on Christmas celebration in the school and it was conducted very well. Besides, stationery and clothes gathered from the school community have been donated to those students who are under privileged

If you remember, I have forwarded an email regarding the celebration of the **50<sup>th</sup> GOLDEN JUBILEE** of Saint Joseph Catholic School in Adama. At the moment, we have arranged all the Committees and started discussing the preparation for the big day.

The actual foundation date of the school supposed to be more than 50 years. However, due to many different reasons, it has been postponed to this time. Now, we think that it is a high time to consider its anniversary to be celebrated by the end of this academic year. We are planning for the

celebration of the **50<sup>th</sup> GOLDEN JUBILEE** of Saint Joseph Catholic School in Adama that is going to be held on July 12, 2014. Hence, we kindly request that if you could confirm your calendar for the possibility of you becoming available for this date.

#### **CHALLENGES FACED IN THE SEMESTER**

- Large Class Size
- Shortage of Textbooks
- The conditions of the school building

The conditions of the buildings in the school are very good in the High School section. We are able to open two new classes for the Grades Nine and Ten. Now, all the High School section is four streams except Grade 12 with three streams.

On the other hand, because of long time service the ground building of the Elementary section needs to be improved shortly. Besides, we are overspending on the maintenance of the building.

**ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL ADDIS ABABA**

### **Borehole Dug at St Joseph**

To alleviate water shortage encountered by the school a bore hole has been dug in the premises of the school. The bore hole has been dug by a rig owned by the Ethiopian Catholic Secretariat. The 116 Mt dip borehole has been tested to have potable water which will provide a solution to water shortage encountered by the school for the past few years.



### **2.3. SECTOR OF KENYA**

#### **KENYAN SECTOR INDUCTION**

The postulants in Kenya had a two days workshop conducted by the Sector Co-coordinator Br. Antone on 6th and 7th of February. The theme of the workshop was

about the Call to Religious life and the focus was on the Call of Moses. It was a wonderful workshop which also covered the current challenges faced by Religious in the modern life. The workshop was then followed by induction ceremony of the Postulants which was done on 8th of February. We had Mass which was conducted by the Parish Priest of Karemeno Parish and was attended by the Novices in immersion program at Nyeri community together with Br. Collins who accompanied them on their faith journey.



Both the Postulant Director and Br. Steve congratulated the Postulants for the big step they took in their journey of faith. I would also like to wish them all the best in their

journey of faith and thank the Postulant Community for the wonderful work they are doing in accompanying them .



### **2013 REPORT OF THE EAST AFRICAN SECTOR ASSEMBLY**

We closed the year in Kenya by having a five day assembly at Mwangaza College in Nakuru from 16<sup>th</sup> Dec to 20<sup>th</sup> Dec. During the Assembly we were able to come up with the Sector strategic plan for the next four years. The fair copy will be out by the end of January 2014 and shall be distributed to all Brothers and a copy to the Provincialate. We also came up with several Committees to investigate possibility of starting some projects for self-sufficiency for the Sector.

We ended the Assembly very well and more focused for more work to be done in the coming year of 2014.



### **JUDITH WAHU WANJIKU WINNER - MISS CAMPUS NAKURU COUNTY AND MISS UNIVERSITY/COLLEGES 2013**

There was pomp and color at the Miss Campus Nakuru 2013 finals. The event was an invite only which saw beauties try their best to win the coveted prize.



Coincidentally, the beauties are students from local Universities and Colleges in Nakuru County which saw their respective Campus students come to support their own. Judith Wahu Wanjiku, 22 won the congeniality award, which is an award that goes to the person who is most likeable and pleasant. The lady of the day pictured is a fashion and design student at Mwangaza College. She was crowned Miss Campus Nakuru 2013. She also went home with a

whopping

Ksh.10,000.00.



Just like any other ordinary girl, Juddy says she is not perfect, she is scared of some things, and she even chokes on her own words at times. Miss Campus Nakuru has dreams and sees greater and bigger things in the future. She knows that anything can happen in this world for anyone and she believes in keeping dreams alive no matter how long it takes to achieve them.

Her hobbies are singing, dancing, making friends, socializing, and swimming.

## **2.4. SECTOR OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**LA SALLE COMMUNITY, DISCOVERY – DEC 2013**

Prayerful greetings to all our readers as we mourn the passing of our esteemed former President and world icon, Nelson Mandela. RIP.

As our schools closed for our summer holidays on the 4<sup>th</sup> Dec. our report basically covers the month of November.



#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Prize giving for our Grade VII and Grade XII classes in both schools. Grade VII is the senior class in Primary school and most of our Grade VII's continue on to our High schools.
- Beautiful Carol Services were well attended by parents in both schools.
- Br. Thomas attended the Ethos and Board of Governors meetings in both schools during November. Br.

Timothy and Br. Cornelius are also kept busy with community, parish and Sector activities.

- There was a big turn-out of parents at the end-of-year Cocktail Party in Victory Park.

This is an indication of the satisfaction of parents with the quality of the "human and Christian education" being provided for their children at our schools in Victory Park.

- On the 25 of November a Memorial Service was organized for deceased Brothers, teachers and students of Victory Park. The service conducted by Fr James Ralston OMI, Parish Priest, began at the Memorial Shrine in the College grounds and concluded with Mass in the parish church.
- Masses were celebrated in both schools to mark the beatification of our 74 Spanish martyrs at Tarragona on the 13 October. Br. Thomas preached the homily at both Masses.

- Br. Thomas hosted a lunch for the members, including Br. Gabriel, of our newly-formed Lasallian Council. As has been explained elsewhere, the remit of the Council is to ensure that we retain ownership of our school properties.
- On the 16 November the Executive Committee of LASA (Lasallian Association of South Africa) organized a 1/2 day meeting with the Management of our Junior and High Schools in Victory Park and Discovery. The purpose of this meeting was to inform the Managements about the aims and purposes of LASA and to enlist their support for the various activities being organized in the schools. All in attendance agreed that the meeting achieved its purpose. "We are Lasallian" is now the buzz- word. !!
- Our Lasallian Youth Groups meet weekly and were involved in a number

of Outreach Projects especially leading up to Christmas.

- We were delighted to welcome Br. Gabriel and Br. Joe Schmidt for their visits in Nov./Dec. Such visits always enrich our sense of District and help us to look beyond our own horizon and to learn from the experiences of other Sectors.
- From the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> of December we held our Sector Retreat at La Verna, a Franciscan Retreat Centre. Our Director was Fr. Bonga Majolla OMI from Victory Park. His presentations were both inspiring and challenging with his basic theme being the "Call to Holiness".

We wish all our readers a blessed and happy Christmas and may 2014 be a year of fruitful ministry for all. Be assured of our prayers.

**LA SALLE COMMUNITY, DISCOVERY – FEB.  
2014**

Prayerful greetings from Discovery where we are in the 4<sup>th</sup> week of our new term.

May 2014 be for you all a year of blessing, fruitful ministry and achievement for you and your students.



Here at La Salle we have got off to a good start with the news that our Matric (Senior Certificate) class of 2013 achieved 100% success in the I.E.B. Matric. Schools in S.A. may choose to do the Government Exam or the I.E.B. (Independent Examination Board) Exam. Most Private schools do the I.E.B. because it is deemed to be of higher standard. Catholic Schools in our Province of Gauteng achieved 99% Pass Rate against 72.5% for Government schools.

De La Salle Holy Cross College in Victory Park had a tremendous result – 100% and all its students qualified for University Entrance. One student achieved 11 A's (Distinctions). A Distinction means 80%+. Most students take only 6 subjects.

Since classes resumed there have been a number of Parent Information evenings during which they were addressed by visiting lecturers dealing with such themes as “Bullying”, “Parenting the Modern Child”. Counselors and House Captains in our Grade XII class attended a leadership weekend.

Br. Thomas attended Ethos meetings and Board meetings in both schools. Ethos is always the first item on the agenda. We have a new Chairman on the Board at La Salle. He is Kevin De Beer, a Methodist minister, and a past pupil of the school. Two of his children attend La Salle. A true Lasallian.

From the 16-21 January we were delighted to host Br. Esayas for a visit. He visited both schools and met with the Principals and Chairmen of our Boards. We also had a Sector Assembly. We thank him for his wise words and for his pastoral attitude.

Our sympathies to Br. Joseph Kiely and his family on the sudden death of his brother Austin in Ireland. R.I.P.

South Africa is in Election mode at the moment. General Election in May. So we are in the “Land of Promises” with all parties trying to outdo one another in describing the Promised Land that awaits us if we vote them into office.

Unfortunately the country is racked with strikes and Protest marches – mines, Post Office, etc. There have been confrontations with the police resulting in loss of life.

In the mines alone over 100,000 miners are on strike demanding that their wages be doubled.

Finally, we wish to congratulate Br. Ghebreyesus on his appointment as Visitor. We pray that the Holy Spirit will empower and inspire him in his new ministry of administration and animation. He can be assured of our prayers and of wholehearted support at all times.

**LIVE JESUS IN OUR HEARTS.  
FOREVER.**

### **3. DISTRICT CALENDAR**

#### **BROTHER VISITOR'S CALENDAR**

March in Nairobi.

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

The deadline will be the 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2014.