



BROTHERS OF THE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

**THE LWANGA DISTRICT
OF AFRICA**

February 2018

1. PROVINCILATE

1.1. PROVINCILATE

DISTRICT COUNCIL MEETING:

Photo of the Council Members of the Lwanga District and Brothers Edgar Nicodem, the Visitor of Braziel -Chile District and Lino Matias, Coordinator of the Sector of Mozambique, Brother Directors of the two formation houses in Nairobi (Scholasticate and Noviciate) and a French Brother who came to study English language have come together for luncheon in the Provincialate house.



Brother Edgar and Br Lino Matias came to meet the District Council Members and explain the process they have made to materialize the desire and the continuous commitment they have to amalgamate the Sector of Mozambique to the Charles Lewanga District of Africa in the near future. The two Visitors meeting has launched to

start a dialogue and come up with a practical way forward plan for the integration process. The photo was taken on Dec 27, 2017 at Provincialate house, Nairobi.

1.2. FROM FORMATION OFFICE

Happy New Year 2018!

It is a blessing to review and share with you some of the activities and experiences I have encountered in the past months. All of them show vibrant life in the various corners of our District and Institute at large.

As Brothers Ghebreyesus and Tinsiew did in Eritrea, I facilitated the Final Profession Retreat for 6 Brothers at Tabor Hill, Nyahururu. We journeyed together following the wisdom and writings of our Founder, and we reflected on the commitment of our consecrated life. Personally, I fully enjoyed the sense of brotherhood and spirituality out of the contribution of all the Brothers. A promising future coming from our soon final professed Brothers.



We have been working in a number of development projects particularly in Kenya, such as: Marsabit, Karemno, Nakuru, Novitiate, Scholasticate. Some of them have already got positive response. In September I visited some of the Kenyan communities and joined the Brothers who met the Bishop of Home Bay, diocese of our new project in Migori.



In October I visited the Novitiate in Nairobi. At that time the community was composed of the two Formators and six novices. Four new novices have just arrived to Marula Lane in January. Together with them, attended one

session in the intercongregational program Chemi Chemi, where a huge number of novices attend formation courses, like the one of Liturgy that was the main topic on that occasion.

In November-December I participated in the CIL Session about “Leadership & Fraternal Accompaniment for a Renewed and Revitalized Community Life”. 41 Brothers and 5 La Salle Sisters of Vietnam lived the fraternal spirit of Association reflecting about the needs for a committed leadership in our communities. After the three-week program in Rome, we followed our Founder footsteps in France. Notre Dame de Liesse, Rheims, Paris, Rouen, Grenoble, Parmenie helped us a great deal to take us to the Founder’s experience and revitalise us for our mission.



Back in Kenya, we had some Christmas celebrations at our Provincialate community: we hosted the Novitiate and Scholasticate communities for lunch, Christ the teacher

Community for dinner, and our staff for lunch. Christmas is the time to celebrate Life and strengthen our togetherness, as God became one of us and wanted to relate so closely with us.



2. NEWS FROM THE SECTORS

2.1. SECTOR OF KENYA

HOMABAY DIOCESE

KENYA –RECEPTION OF BROTHERS IN HOMABAY DIOCESE

The delegates from the Brothers of the Christian Schools paid a visit to Homabay Diocese on September 26, 2017, where they received a warm reception from the local Ordinary Bishop Philip Anyolo. “Your visit dear Brothers is so important to me and to my Diocese, for I have been looking forward to any missionary congregation that would be willing to come and work in my diocese.” The Bishop commented.

The Brothers’ delegates who visited the Bishop were among them; Brother Agustin Rachel, Formation and development coordinator of Lwanga District of Africa, Brother Antone Oloo, Kenyan Sector coordinator, Brother Oscar Okoth and Brother Stephen Mwaura both of whom are Kenyan council members.



The Bishop reiterated that in his term of office, Brothers of the Christian Schools were the first Pontifical Missionary congregation to visit his diocese. However, there are some other missionary congregations who had settled in the Diocese in the early years before he was appointed to take charge of the diocese. They are among them; the Camilians, Marist Brothers of the School and the Passionist Fathers.

I have known the Brothers for some time now and I know the amount of zeal at which you carry out your apostolic mission in different dioceses here in Kenya. “I am very happy to have you in Homabay diocese and I encourage you to make great impact in your plans to establish a Lasallian Education mission which I hope will be incorporated with Agricultural skills.” Bishop Anyolo said. He then went on to say, “Always feel free to contact me at any time you need my assistance in your mission. I know about your good work in Rongai Boys and Mwangaza College in Nakuru Diocese. I wish that

someday you could consider establishing a Mwangaza college type of institution in my diocese.”

On his part, Brother Agustin expressed his joy concerning the warm welcome they received. “For sure the presence of the Brothers will be a gift to the Diocese, and I am encouraged by the Kenyan Brothers for the big step they have taken in expanding our Lasallian charism in another venue (after the recent opening of St. La Salle School Karemeno), a very fertile land in the Christian point of view as well as in its geographical richness.” Expressed the development coordinator.

Brother Agustin went on to congratulate the Brothers for their energy, passion and good efforts they are undertaking on the matter. “All this is a sign of your generous commitment to the Mission, a determined vision for the future of the Kenyan Sector and the District at large.” He commented

Brothers of the Christian schools recently acquired a 15 acre piece of land in Ulanda area in Homabay which is located in the former Nyanza Province, along the south shore of Lake Victoria’s Winam Gulf in Western Kenya. Meanwhile, Brother Antone said that the visit to the Bishop ended well and now the Brothers are recognize by the

Bishop of the land. “Bishop Anyolo is very much willing to work with the Brothers and support us in his diocese as we work on building our Lasallian mission.” Brother Antone commented.

MWANGAZA COLLEGE

Mwangaza College 23rd Graduation Ceremony

One hundred and two graduands from Mwangaza College graduated during the 23rd graduation ceremony which was held at Mwangaza College ground in the outcast of Nakuru town on the 4th of December 2017.



The graduands were from different departments among them; Hospitality, Food and Beverage, Business and Accounts, Information Computer Technology (ICT) and Fashion, Tailoring and Design. Majority of those who graduated were from the department of Hospitality, Food and Beverage. It is important to note that there

were no graduands from Hair and Beauty department.

The Guest speaking for the day was Mr. John Paul Ngeso, the teaching practice coordinator at Christ the Teacher Institute of Education (CTIE), an institution that is conducted by the Brothers in Nairobi, Kenya. Mr. Ngesho congratulated and encouraged the graduates not to stop at the certificate or diploma level but to desire to pursue further education and get the best out of what life can offer.



The Director of the college, Bro. Oscar Okoth also congratulated the graduates and challenged them to go out there and make a difference in the lives of others. “Use what you have received from Mwangaza to change the world.” Bro. Oscar commented. Meanwhile, He congratulated the staff members for their cooperation and thanked them for the good job they have done. He also appreciated the Parents for their commitment in the provision of whatever their teenagers needed in their academic endeavors.

The Deputy Director, Mr. Paul Waweru on his part, echoed his sentiments of congratulations to the graduates on behalf of all Mwangaza staff members. He also used the same platform to urge the remaining students to continue to work hard and to take advantage of what Mwangaza offers them in order to achieve the best in life.



On the other hand, the former students' leader also took the platform to congratulate the graduates and wished them all the best as they get ready to face the world with all the challenges and opportunities the world will throw at them. "Be courageous to face the world since Mwangaza has given you what it takes to be strong, fit and survive in the job market." He commented.



Meanwhile, the Eucharistic celebration was led by Fr. Stephen Nyamueya, who come to represent his Lordship Bishop Maurice Muhatia. The Bishop was unable to attend the celebration due to some engagements in the diocese. However, he sent his greetings and warm wishes to the graduates and wished them all the best in their future endeavours. Father Nyamueya on the other hand, congratulated the Brothers for the good job they have done and the staff members for preparing the students well.



2.2. SECTOR OF NIGERIA

MOUNT LA SALLE COLLEGE, NAKA

In the bid to promote humility, community service and cleanliness, Mount La Salle College Naka in December embarked on a service that led them to clean up Naka town.



Students set out to carry out community service for Naka Town

The Naka Park and the market square which are busy places came to a standstill as staff and students of the school in various house wears matched their way in numbers into Naka town for this uncommon exercise.



Students and Teachers actively carryout Community Service

Mount La Salle Naka's School Opening Mass



The Priest reads the Gospel at the Term's Opening Mass

Mount La Salle College, Naka's school second term opening mass took place on the 17th of January 2018. The mass was conducted by Rev Dr. Alphonsus Azenda Kyei, Cssp.

The priest in his homily told the Mount La Salle School community that lasallian education is a gift from God which was sent

to humanity through St John Baptist De La Salle. As such he urged all present at the mass to show appreciation to God by conducting the second term's school affairs with full commitment and diligence.



Staff and Students share the sign of Peace at the Term's Opening Mass

Career Day at Mount La Salle College, Naka

Career day at Mount La Salle College, Naka took place on the 19th January, 2018. The theme that gave direction for the career day was, "My Career, My Life." The occasion featured presentations from professionals who are former students of the great learning institution and parents of the school who have specialized in one career or the other. The four career choice areas that papers were presented on include: Sciences, Arts, Social Sciences, entrepreneurship and Management. Students zealously participated in this academic exercise and they seemed to have gotten new insight as how to choose the right careers for their future lives.

Re-Visioning our Founding Story in Naka



Dr. Br. Moses Abunya, FSC and Br Emmanuel Ade, FSC travelled for eight hours, from La Salle College, Ondo to present a two day workshop to the teachers and Brothers who work at Mount La Salle College, Naka.

The workshop was titled, "Re-Visioning our Founding Story." In order to kick start the workshop, Br Ade gave a presentation to the teachers on the founding story of the Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the charism that has animated and sustained our institute for the past close to 300 years. The presentation on the founding story served as an appetizer to the workshop. Serving what one could consider 'the main course of the workshop,' Br Abunya gave a day and a half's animated presentation on Lasallian Pedagogy. In the presentation, Brother constantly pointed out the

uniqueness of this teaching and educating approach which the De La Salle Brothers have for a very long time held in great esteem.



*Mount La Salle College, Naka's
Administrative Team with Brothers Abunya
and Ade*

Group reflections, group discussions and group presentations formed the basis of the workshop. This presentation method created excitement and the curiosity among teachers to learn more about our charism and how it has for many years been positively influencing our human society. The workshop gave many teachers in the school the opportunity to ask questions and seek better understanding about the Lasallian Charism.

The Brothers and teachers who work at Mount La Salle College, Naka heartily appreciated the wonderful work Brothers Abunya and Ade did during the course of the workshop.

2.3. SECTOR OF SOUTH AFRICA PHOKENG

Council Meeting 29/11/2017

We are 4 members in the community Georgina, Alfred, Moalusi, and Joe. We have 3 candidates in formation -Basetsana, Remi and Jabu. We have 6 students all attending local high schools except Keitumetse who is attending St. Augustines with Moalusi and both are being accommodated at Victory Park Community. WE have no words to describe our gratitude for the way there are being looked after.

We had a group of high school girls and teachers from Belfast - an integrated school. They were with us 19-29th October. During their stay we had 25 youth for a weekend training with the Belfast students. Then they did 3 days voluntary work in Nkaneng squatter camp. It was a great experience for all involved.

The Lasallian youth group ran a YES weekend in Modimong for a group of 25 young adults drawn from Fr Gillespie out stations from the 10-12th November.

Bro Joseph and Bro Moalusi presented Echoingthe Word Workshops on the 20th

October and the 18th November in a rural parish. There were 18 participants -teachers, catechists, prayer leaders etc.

We had an auditor from Misesan Cara Ireland for 3 days 19-21st November to examine the finances for 2 projects funded in 2013 and 2014. It seems to have been ok but we have not yet received the auditor's report.

Basetsana has been running a crèche in one of the squatter camps in 2017. She had a graduation ceremony at our house on the 17th November. The parents came early to prepare the food etc. Moalusi was MC for the day and a great time we had other crèches are having their graduations in various centers during the next 2 weeks.

Our projects in Nkaneng have been very successful in 2017. There were graduations for 40 participant who received certificates for sewing, welding, adult literacy and computer on the 22nd November. The ladies attending sewing classes all bought material to make outfits for the occasion - they were stunning

The clinic at SIZA continues to serve local people and many outsiders. It closes on the 7th December because most of the people

from Siza squatter camp are from the Eastern Cape and they like to go home at this time.

We are preparing ourselves for our annual retreat from the 10-16th December. Fr. Larry Kaufmann CSsR will be the retreat master and the theme is St John's Gospel. We have been preparing ourselves for this using Jean Vaniers books on St John.

LASALLIAN WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM 16 - 19 July 2017

On 15 July 2017, Brother Superior General Robert Schieler delivered an opening address to over 100 Lasallian women from thirteen countries gathered together at the Global Women's Symposium held in Auckland, New Zealand; thus marking its official opening.

The Theme of this symposium was, Women as change makers to our ongoing Lasallian story, with the focus on how to collectively move it forward on a global scale. In Brother Robert Schieler's address he further emphasized this by stating, *"It is your challenge and responsibility to describe the specific contribution of women to our common mission and to envision new and invigorating modes of participation. Your task is to help me and the rest of the Lasallian*

Family appreciate the 'women's perspective' and the experienced based 'women's impact' that you contribute to Lasallian educational Communities."

From the 16th to the 19th July, the Symposium organizer, Trish Carroll, together with the members of the symposium's Steering Committee effectively and successfully led various discussions through thought-provoking presentations, such as:



- Significant women who have influenced the Lasallian story.
- World statistics on issues involving women, such as, illiteracy levels, physical and sexual abuse, number of

female business/political leaders worldwide.

- Statistics on Today's Lasallians" - 41% Male Partners; 56 % Female Partners; 2 % Brothers; 1 % Other Religious.
- Why the inclusion of women is good for the Catholic Church.

Throughout the symposium, members were given opportunities to have meaningful discussions with one another on various topics, thereby developing a better understanding of each other's story, of the Lasallian world, of the Lasallian Mission and the legacy of its Founder, St John Baptist de La Salle. The importance of education and its impact on the lives of children and families and the need to care for the vulnerable was an integral part of the discussions. These discussions revolved around topics, such as:

- Global relationships;
- How global relations can be fostered;
- The current realities and the experiences of Lasallian women;
- How to create opportunities to give a voice to Lasallian women;
- What the Lasallian women's calling might be in twenty years' time.

After much discussion and reflection, outcomes were formalized to be prepared and

submitted to Brother Robert. These outcomes were:

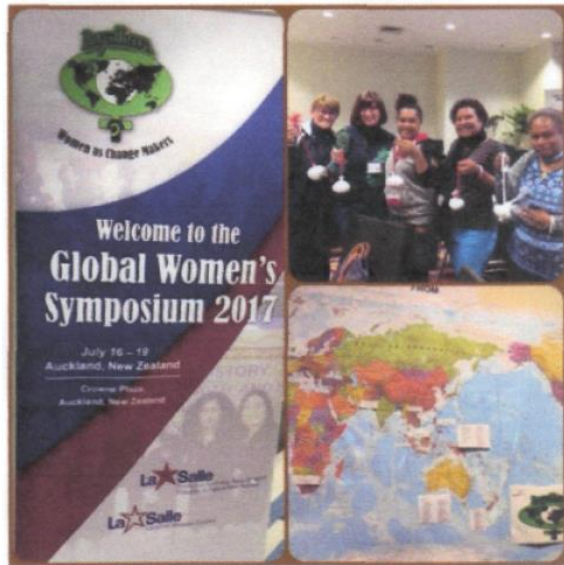
- *"A need to have an International steering committee or advisory group, with a true representation from all regions and Districts, cultures, ages and Ministries.*
- *A true representation of the International Women's 'Council' with a Mission Statement and clear purpose statements by the end of 2017; an appointment of person(s) as a short-term bridge to effectively get this started in a timely manner and consider the potential use of secondment to utilize existing skills/experience.*
- *Engagement with District/Regional groups that work with existing structures.*
- *Ensure inclusivity and collective Lasallian voice, gender parity in leadership and representation with concrete policy. Be culturally sensitive.*
- *Effectively communicate using both virtual and traditional means to inform, engage, and include ALL Lasallians.*
- *Global, Regional and District mentoring program using a variety of*

structures (technology'/face-to-face) tailored to meet the individual needs.

- *Engage the voice of students/clients/Young Lasallians immediately in Mission planning, as well as in the promotion of Lasallian vocation.*
- *Create a database and directory for global connections.*
- *We acknowledge the need to remain faithful to the Mission by bringing to life the commitments contained without our Lasallian documents.*
- *The personal commitment of all delegates to share this experience, knowledge, and outcomes with their local Lasallian communities upon return."*

Although much of the day was taken up with fruitful discussions, the organizers treated all the delegates to some wonderful entertainment ranging from traditional dances, to the making of Poi, to a visit to the very interesting Cultural museum. They are to be commended on a superb Symposium and congratulated on achieving its outcomes. I feel truly blessed for having been given this opportunity to take part in these discussions, together with Carren Ilsley, from De La Salle Holy Cross College, thereby representing South Africa and the Region.

In conclusion I quote from Brother Robert's opening speech:



"You Lasallian women, with your diverse experiences, gifts, perspectives, tenderness and empathy are helping all of us to convert and believe in the Gospel. Echoing Mary of Magdala you announce to us "He is risen!" You are assisting the Holy Spirit in the transformation of the Lasallian mission as it strives to be a beacon of hope and a witness to the Reign of God, especially to our students who are blocked from living life to the fullest.

Thank you for the gift you are to the Lasallian Family! You indeed bring wisdom, joy and creativity to the Lasallian mission. You are building on the legacy of the women who inspired and supported John Baptist de La

Salle during the founding of the Institute, Perrette Lespagnol, Madame Maillefer, Sister Francoise Duval, Madame des Croyeres, and Sister Louise."

LASA (LASALLIAN ASSOCIATION SOUTH AFRICA)

LASA is still growing and teachers are being inspired and challenged by the life and vision of St John Baptist de la Salle. Regular meetings are held.

Ms. Debbie Harris, Principal in Victory Park, attended the Buttimer Programme in New York from the 26 June to 9 July 2017.

One of our Matric girls died suddenly of a heart failure in June.

Ms Isilda de Oliveira (La Salle) and Mrs Carren Ilsely (Victory Park) attended the Lasallian Womens' Symposium in Auckland, New Zealand from the 16 – 19 July.

The Government carried out one of its regular inspections in La Salle to ensure that it still qualifies for registration. We still await the final report but the leader remarked to the principal "You have an amazing school ---

*you have good educators and wonderful
happy learners... the ethos is in the air.”*

**The next submission deadline for the news
clip will be on April 20th 2018.**