



**MISSIONARIES OF AFRICA**  
“*I am a man, and nothing human is foreign to me.*”  
**JPIC / ED**  
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### **Labour Day or Workers Day?**

Some name the 1<sup>st</sup> May "Labour Day" while others "Workers Day." Some name it both and others one of the two but putting the other in brackets! Which is right? Whichever name or names one gives this day, what is at stake are both the *worker* and the *work*. It is the issue of the dignity and value of the human person as well as the dignity and value of human labour for the individual and society.

This day and month could be an opportunity for ecumenical and interreligious mutual awareness on this issue trying to discover the 'St. Josephs' of other Churches, religions and even of those who do not believe in God. The Encyclical of St. John Paul II '*Laborem Exercens*' (On Human Work) could offer us some food for thought in this exercise.

When we look around us and look at the statistics vis-à-vis the youth and employment-unemployment, we cannot remain indifferent. The figures of unemployment are so worrying that some speak about it as a '*ticking time bomb*'! How are we handling this 'bomb' in our respective areas?

*Nnyombi Richard, M. Afr.*

### **NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY**

#### **Ethics and Safeguarding in the Society**

The Plenary Council decided to require that all those who work with minors or the vulnerable are to sign a Code of Pastoral Conduct by March 2014. In many Provinces, great work has been done to bring this about. Bravo!

The push to have the Codes of Pastoral Conduct signed may lead to the neglect of the far richer Model for a Provincial Code of Conduct. If so, this is an unfortunate side effect. It is Appendix 1 of the Society's policy on *Dealing with Sexual Abuse of Minors and Vulnerable Adults* (Prot 14 0865) and covers the following ground:

- The delicate art of ethical pastoral work, including issues of confidentiality of records, sexual conduct, conduct with youth, recording information, conflicts of interest, avoidance of harassment, reporting professional misconduct.
- It states the conduct expected of professionals such as Spiritual Directors and Counsellors.
- The different expectations justly required by the Society of volunteers, catechists and staff.
- Administrative matters involving parish records, including those concerning the publication of research.

Even if Society members do not sign Appendix 1, it is a useful reference for all those involved in pastoral or professional activities. (*Peter Welsh, M. Afr*)

### **Tangaza-Nairobi Interreligious Photo Exposition and Symposium**

From Monday 5<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May, we had a photo exposition on interreligious dialogue in the Main Hall of Tangaza College. We concluded this exposition with a one-day symposium on the same topic with Catholics, Protestants and Muslims participants from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Mgr. Barbara, Bishop of Malindi and Administrator of Mombasa Archdiocese was one of the speakers. The question of religious radicalism and terrorism was very much present in the presentations and discussions. Many were of the opinion that we should address real issues that are the cause of all these conflicts: poverty, lack of education, unemployment, etc. The moral issue underlying all the radicalisation of the youth into extremist and terrorist groups was stressed. The passionate presentation of a young Islamic Finance Lawyer, Rahma Hassan Hersi, on the issue of interreligious dialogue from a feminine perspective was very much appreciated. At the end, there was a call on the Government to treat people with dignity and respect. The confreres and the MSOLA of Nairobi supported the event. The various presentations will be published in the Tangaza Journal. (*Innocent Maganya, M. Afr.*)

### **Nairobi : Launch of a DVD on modern forms of slavery**

A DVD on human trafficking will be launched at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, in South B, on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2014. Its title is “**Uhuru Barani Africa**” (Freedom on the African Continent). An ex-convict has composed the songs and put them into music. He talks about different modern forms of slavery: prostitution, abuse of children and vulnerable adults, especially house girls. He invites us to break these chains of slavery.

This is a follow-up on the symposium we had in Tangaza last year on the anti-slavery campaign of Cardinal Lavignerie. The benefits from the sales of this DVD will help to support KEFABIS (Kenya Ex-Prisoners Fighting Acceptance Back into Society). We hope to reach many people through music.

At the initiative of Kenya Sector, we are in the process of registering KEFABIS as a TRUST in view of supporting the re-insertion of ex-convicts in society. The members of the TRUST are lay men and women from the parish who accepted to collaborate with us in this project.

In partnership with the Institute of Youth Ministry (Tangaza), Sr. Maggi (MSOLA) has started a radio programme that aims at creating awareness of human trafficking. She also runs a programme on the same issue in the Diocese of Machakos. She has distributed more than 100 DVDs of the documentary, which was produced during our symposium on human trafficking in Tangaza College. She uses it as a tool for animation. (*Innocent Maganya*)

### **Ghana-Nigeria Province**

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014, we had the meeting for the section animators at Tamale. Five confreres attended. Reports coming from the different places (sections) show that we are working closely in collaboration with the local churches and other religious congregations. Some of our confreres are members of diocesan and inter-congregational JPIC-ED

commissions. Presently, our Province is focusing on the parishes and we are preparing a comprehensive manual for 'Building Parish Justice and Peace Groups' that is based on that of LUMKO. As a follow-up on the anti-slavery campaign, we have still to decide on what kind of small project to support. A few have been proposed. Three of our confreres, James Ngahy, Michael Heap and Clenerius Chimpali will attend the session on child protection in Nairobi (7-12 July 2014). We are planning for a Provincial JPIC-ED session in September 2014. (Clenerius C.)

### **European Province**

A meeting of JPIC-ED animators will be held in Cologne from the 9th to 13th June 2014. Participants will include the MSOLA.

### **OTHER NEWS**

#### **Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue (PCID) - 50 Years!**

This year, the PCID is celebrating its 50th anniversary. It marks 50 years of service of promoting good relationships and constructive collaboration between Christians and believers of other religions. Our confrere, Mgr Michael Fitzgerald, worked in this Council as Secretary for 18 years. How do we evaluate these 50 years on the ground, at the grassroots? How do we project the future of this Council in the context of religious radicalisation and fanaticism experienced in the different parts of the world?

#### **Visit of Pope Francis to Middle-East (May 24-26, 2014)**

This month, Pope Francis is visiting Jordan, Israel and Palestine. His visit coincides with the 50th anniversary of the meeting in Jerusalem between Pope Paul VI and Patriarch Athenagoras. He will meet with Queen Rania and King Abdullah II of Jordan, Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas, President Shimon Peres, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Jerusalem Grand Mufti, Muhammad Ahmad Hussein, Sephardi Chief Rabbi, Yitzhak Yosef, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi, David Lau and the Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople Bartholomew I. The pope will be travelling with a Rabbi, Abraham Skorka, and a Muslim Sheik, Omar Abbud, with whom he has cultivated dialogue and friendship. It will indeed be an ecumenical, interreligious, and 'political' pilgrimage!

#### **Annual Feast of Uganda Martyrs ...Ecumenical Celebrations**

This year is the Golden Jubilee of the canonisation of the 22 Holy Uganda Martyrs. They were canonised on the 18th October 1964 by Pope Paul VI (himself due to be beatified on 19th October 2014). However, the national celebrations of this Jubilee have been postponed in the hope that Pope Francis, who had been invited and could not go will be able to do so in the near future. On the other hand, this year's Martyrs Day (June 3) will be celebrated as usual. Kotido Diocese (Karamoja) is in charge of the preparations under the theme: ***The Uganda Martyrs: An Example of True Christian witness and Good Citizenship.*** On the same day, the Protestants remember their martyrs killed on the same occasion. There are ecumenical liturgical celebrations on the eve, held at the two sites in addition to a common meeting between the Bishops of the two Churches.

## INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL AND RELIGIOUS DAYS

### May

- +01. St Joseph the Worker - Labour Day
- +05. The Netherlands - Liberation Day
- +25. African Liberation Day

### June

- +02. Italy - National Day
- +03. Uganda Martyrs' Day. Day for prayer against arms trade.
- +04. Day for Children as victims of aggression (wars, etc.)

- +05. World Day for Environment
- +12. World Day against Child Labour. Philippines Independence Day
- +16. African Child.
- +17. World Day to combat desertification and drought
- +20. World Refugees Day
- +25. Mozambique - National Day (1975)
- +26. International Day against torture / against drug abuse
- +30. DRC Congo - National Day (1960)

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## Youth and Employment

Global Employment Trends for youth 2013- A generation at risk

[http://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/global-employment-trends/youth/2013/WCMS\\_212423/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/global-employment-trends/youth/2013/WCMS_212423/lang--en/index.htm)

Global Employment Trends 2014 - The risk for a jobless recovery

[http://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/global-employment-trends/2014/WCMS\\_234107/lang--en/index.htm](http://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/global-employment-trends/2014/WCMS_234107/lang--en/index.htm)