

# the update

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Like Tangaza University College (TUC), our neighbor Marist International University College (MIUC) is a constituent college of the Catholic University of Eastern Africa with a distinguished history stretching back almost 30 years. In 1986, the same year that Tangaza was founded, the Conference of Major Superiors of the Marist Brothers in Africa decided to centralize their post-

come from a joining of the two institutions.

And so the negotiating teams are now working on a Memorandum of Understanding which could be signed this semester. Many details still need to be worked out. On the level of classes and programmes, not much would change immediately, since students have a right to com-

know, opted to apply to become a university. The Marists, on the other hand, chose to pursue collaboration with another institution. And so they approached Tangaza about a possible partnership.

For many months we have been in discussions about the shape that the partnership could take. Over that time, we have come to an ever deeper appreciation of our comparable histories (rooted in the charisms of founding congregations) as well as our common interests and ideals. Many have said that we somehow share a very similar “DNA”. We now recognize the great advantages for all stakeholders that could

## *“You Are the Light of the World”*

novitiate formation in Nairobi and purchased their present campus. Later, like Tangaza, the Marists opened their programmes to other congregations, and eventually to everyone – women and men, religious and lay – in order “to equip the students with Christian values, knowledge and skills for the work of Christian education and development of society”. Like Tangaza, their vision is to produce well formed “agents of liberation, transformation and development of humanity.” Today they specialize in the academic areas of education, business and social science.

Thus, when the Kenya Commission for University Education announced in October 2013 that constituent colleges could not continue indefinitely in that status, both TUC and MIUC were faced with decisions. Tangaza, as we

plete those programmes in which they are already enrolled. But the negotiating teams on both sides agree that we should aim to become one university, with one chancellor, vice-chancellor, university council, academic senate and so on. We expect the contributions of both sides to be harmonized gradually. And although we will still be Tangaza University, we will want to embrace what the Marists bring to this “marriage”. After all, their motto – *You Are the Light of the World* – is very much in keeping with our own traditional motto: *Tangaza fumbo la Imani*. It is only by “proclaiming the mystery of faith” in our words and actions that we bring light to the world around us – teaching minds, touching hearts, transforming lives.

**Steven Payne, OCD**





## *Sell* what you have and *give* to the poor

**I**t will be hard to forget the New Year's party that we had on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2015. The college community kept the exciting tradition of coming together to celebrate the great gift of life. Regrettably, this new year's party took place when our minds were clouded by the tragic death of Brother Kennedy Mwangi from the School of Theology. We are quite convinced that his soul is in peaceful rest with God. The celebration of the New Year's party gave us an ample time to come together and express our gratitude to God.

The past year was an eventful one. We had many activities both as a college and as individuals. We are still reflecting on the marks left in our lives by those events. Let us thank God for the achievements of the past year and work hard to perfect the shortcomings. And now the New Year 2016!

We are now totally immersed in the activities of this year. Perhaps we are now already experiencing the challenges and burdens meant for this year as is usual in the human journey of life. Let us embrace these challenges and transform them into platforms for success. It is often said that 'life without challenges would be boring'.





# New Year Party



It is the beginning of a semester in the New Year 2016, and Tangaza's students orga-

nized themselves to usher it in style. On 15<sup>th</sup> January 2016, they assembled in the main hall in Nuru building for their New Year party.

The hall had been decorated and arranged in such a way as to express the occasion's festive mood. At first the hall was sparsely populated but, as many ended their final class sessions on that Friday, students flocked to the hall.

TANSA President, Emmanuel Koroma, seized the moment to welcome the excited guests to their party and invited them to share the food prepared for their enjoyment. Deputy Principal Student Life, Dr. Andrew Lujuo, and the Principal, Fr. Steven Payne, gave their speeches encouraging students to work hard and be committed to the activities of the college. The college choir provided hymns and various students participated in the dances, songs and other entertaining activities that ended with the cutting of the New Year cake.

**Brenda Lare**

**Opening page, the cutting of the New Year cake. Above, a student shows his talent at singing and, below, a group dance. Right, Dr. Lujuo, Deputy Principal Student Life.**



Let us ask ourselves as individuals: what marks will the events and activities of this year leave in my life?

## **Inter-Institute quiz ...**

In February we shall have two major events that require the participation of all students. The inter-institute quiz will take place on the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016. Let us prepare ourselves to participate adequately in this exciting activity. As happened during the inter-institute debate, this event will serve the enviable purpose of promoting the interaction of students from all our constituent institutes. We kindly request the directors of the respective institutes to provide conducive time for their students to participate.



## **... and community service**

Community service activities will be the climax of the month of February. They will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2016. In community service the college fraternity takes up the responsibility of visiting and helping the less fortunate. The theme of this year's community service is "Sell what you have, and give to the poor". We encourage members of staff and all students to register and participate. We are looking forward to visiting one of the needy children homes within Kenya.

**Aquinas Mutua**

**ISRF**



## *Moving On*

The Institute of Spirituality and Religious Formation continues to run dynamically. We are grateful to different religious congregations which send their members to ISRF for training. There are very few lay persons who come to study at ISRF, but that does not mean that we do not have any at all. The second semester started on a high note; we thank almighty God for that. However, we cannot close our eyes before the challenges ahead. In any way, there are more graces which the institute is enjoying than drawbacks.

We are particularly grateful to the Lord that after about two years of getting along without a secretary, the institute now has a person for the task. Her name is Mrs. Norah Nafula and she joined our team during the last semester. Mrs. Nafula is making a great contribution to the smooth running of the Institute of Spirituality and Religious Formation. The reason for her good performance is that she is experienced enough for the job. Together with the academic advisor, Sr. Maria Felix, she has helped a lot in the synchronization of the class timetable for undergraduate programmes in the institute. In this vein, we are also very grateful for the co-operation of all the lecturers who stooped in to negotiate with their respective students some appropriate times for their lessons, until solutions were found.

We are really grateful to the Lord for the many blessings the institute has been receiving in various ways. There are many achievements the institute has enjoyed, for example, recently, four of

our students sat for their BA written and oral comprehensive examinations in order to conclude their undergraduate studies. This is no mean achievement.

Also worth noting is the increased number of students in the newly started Master of Arts in Spirituality and Religious Formation. The programme



**Here and above, students and lecturers of ISRF.**



kicked off last semester with eight students, and it has now increased to ten. The class has been joined by two more religious brothers from Zimbabwe, a very encouraging development indeed. We remain looking forward to some more students in the next semester, it being the beginning of a new academic year.

The Institute of Spirituality and Religious Formation experiences a general spirit of unity among staff members and students. One easily notices a sense of responsibility and concern for one another. There is a great love of human, intellectual, spiritual and pastoral values. An atmosphere of familiarity is evident among both lecturers and students. For example, when a student loses a member of the family, other students mobilize to cushion the burden of the loss of his or her beloved one. This is an amazing spirit as they do not wait for the initiative of the administration. Apart from that they have formed some study groups in order to carry one another along intellectually.

### **Spirit of Unity**

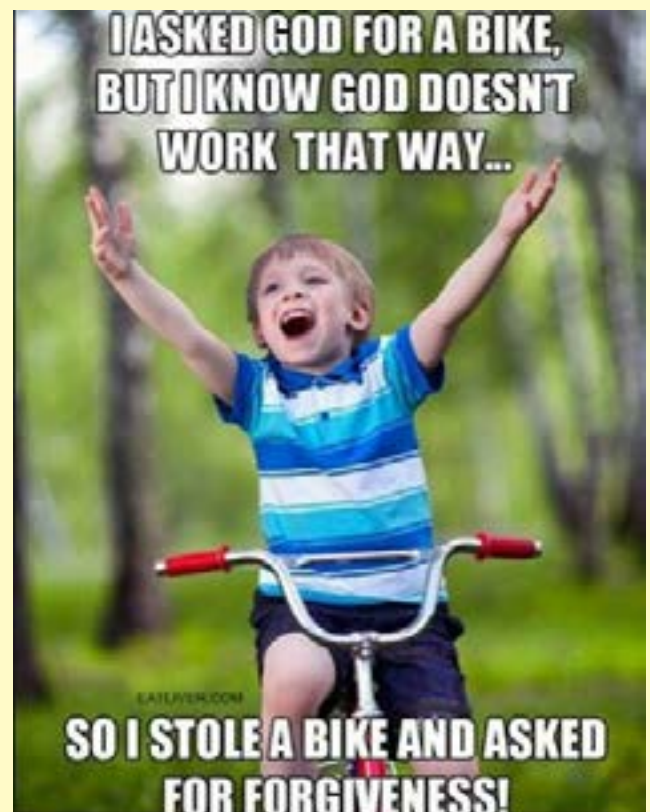
The atmosphere in ISRF is simply enabling. Some of the obvious reasons for the uniqueness and normality of the ISRF atmosphere are the positively embraced processes of Spiritual Direction and Personal Counselling. The second semester is the time given to all full-time first year students to undergo ten sessions of counselling. This process helps them to process some of the pending issues in their lives, a factor which assists them to relate even better among themselves and with lecturers. During the recent meeting of students and counsellors, there was a lot of enthusiasm from both counsellors and students. In the case of students, they cannot wait to begin their scheduled ten sessions of personal counselling. The students will also get one credit for their ten sessions of personal counselling. Equally, the process of spiritual direction is positively taken as evident from the fruits manifested by students. They are happy with the fact that they are invited and encouraged to go for spiritual direction once a month, as long as they remain pursuing their studies in the institute.

As for future plans, the institute is considering coming up with a new research methodology for the lecturers' and students' use. This idea is being propelled by the fact that the current Tangaza typographical norms seem to be unclear and confusing to students. However, this plan has to be agreed upon with the School of Theology under which ISRF falls.

**Fr. Jude Chisanga**  
**ISRF Assistant Director**

## *Smile the While ...*

### *The Year of Mercy ...*



### *The New Family ...*



## MBA 4<sup>th</sup> Graduation

The fourth Master of Business Administration class has reached the end of the trail. On January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016, thirty-one graduants were awarded their MBA title, an important achievement that crowned 18 long months of study and work. Professor Mario Molteni, from the Catholic University of Milan (Italy), reminded the graduants that “we do not teach entrepreneurship, we train impact entrepreneurs”. The students focused their studies on specific areas: agribusiness, ICT mobile technology, renewable energy, green economy, business services and educational training. Their achievement shows that ISMM lecturers and business coaches were able to support their work and transform their business ideas into reality. These new social entrepreneurs are now ready to work in Kenya and abroad to create jobs, enhance local communities’ economies, and thus transform society so that growth, respect for the person and the environment, and profit may go hand in hand.

ISMM director, Br. Jonas Dzinekou, addressed the graduants with these words: “Dear graduates, on this special day that marks the end of your academic journey here at Tangaza, ISMM congratulates you for the determination and commitment you showed throughout the program. When you look back at the challenges, you



**Top, the new MBA graduates and ISMM lecturers. Bottom left, graduates cut the cake and, right, Br. Jonas, director of ISMM. Bottom right, the winner of the business competition flanked by Prof. Molteni and Br. Dzinekou.**



should be proud of yourself for reaching so far. The MBA degree that is conferred on you today is more than a mere academic degree. The MBA has given you the skills and competencies to transform life through your social enterprises. In fact, many of you are already transforming the life of many people through your social business. Whatever stage you are in your business, you have to work hard to increase your impact. As ISMM we are proud of what you already doing. In this way, you share in our mission of transformation the society. Keep the fire of social transformation alive. Invite other to embrace it.

You should also realise that you cannot transform the world alone. The work of social transformation requires collaboration, partnership, synergy and networking. This should start among you and extended to others. Do not work in isolation but join hand with others. This is the best way as social entrepreneurs you will increase your impact and you can be reckoned as a force in the social entrepreneurship ecosystem. Kenya is a land of great promise for social entrepreneurship. I will not be wrong to say that Kenya is going to be the leader in social entrepreneurship in Africa. You are big player in the shaping the social entrepreneurship ecosystem. You are the creator of a new culture of social business. I do not have the slightest doubt that the





future of Africa, the regeneration Africa is in social enterprises. That is why the MBA is a unique programme that will contribute greatly to the regeneration of Africa. We are writing a new history of Africa. A happy history!

One important thing that we see in our students is the strong belief in ethical values and spirituality for social entrepreneurs. This is becoming a very strong characteristic of the programme and we are proud of that. Because of that, we are convinced that you are going to do business differently. Let these ethical values permeates every aspect of your business. The end of your academic journey is not the end of your journey with the institute. We want you to remain connected with the institute. Now you go out as the ambassadors of the institute preaching and doing the work of social transformation through your businesses. Your next challenge is: dream big! Grow your enterprise! Scale your impact!"

**Joseph Caramazza**



## Business Competition

The latest Business Competition organized by ISMM last January 30<sup>th</sup> saw the participation of a large group of entrepreneurs. Each presented his or her business idea to one of the juries, chosen according to the focus areas of the MBA: agribusiness, ICT mobile technology, renewable energy, green economy, business services and educational training. The overall winner of each group then competed with the others in the main hall to win the competition.

About 30 competitors presented their business ideas, some very innovative. The jurors expressed their surprise in seeing the good quality of entrepreneurship attracted by the organizers. The five finalists presented interesting projects to sup-



port local communities develop food and job security.

The overall winner was Dr. Oscar Aghan who presented a business idea on recycling waste plastic to produce posts and other building materials. A post thus created is lasting - for it cannot be eroded easily - and the impact of plastic waste is reduced.

Through business competitions, the ISMM MBA programme becomes more and more known and the business community, especially investors, find it easier to identify worthy projects to finance.





## *Remembering Don Bosco*

On Saturday, 30th January, IYS celebrated the feast of our beloved Don Bosco. The day started with the Eucharist presided over by Fr. Simon Asira, the Vice Provincial of the AFE Province, and animated by the students of our Institute who sang, danced and participated in an active way. Fr. Simon made us reflect about Don Bosco at the light of his Bicentenary, the closing of the year of the Consecrated Life, and the current Year of Mercy. Then we had an interesting talk given by Fr. Cosmas Kagwe titled “Logotherapeutic Interpretation of Don Bosco”. He focused on the 3 main points of logotherapy which is education to responsibility:

- 1) The meaning of life, because life has a meaning to be discovered by each person in whatever circumstance;
- 2) The freedom of will: a human person is free to take a stand in spite of the prevailing circumstance. To be free therefore means to be true to one self, to be authentic.
- 3) The will to meaning, that is a person’s primary motivation in life.

The ways of discovering meaning in life are by fulfilling a task, mission (doing something); by experiencing something or encountering someone; and by the attitude we take toward unavoidable suffering. All this leads us to self-transcendence.

Then Fr. Cosmas gave a brief summary of the Preventive System of Don Bosco which is so crucial in educating the youth: reason, religion and loving-kindness. He concluded by looking at Don Bosco from this logotherapeutic point of view and gave us some resonance



**Moments of the Eucharistic celebration and feast to remember Don Bosco.**





with Don Bosco's 'Preventive System' of education:  
 Meaning of life: young people found meaning of life by being loved by Don Bosco.  
 Uniqueness of each person: we cannot be repeated and Don Bosco respected the unique value of young people.

Value of self-transcendence: Don Bosco taught his youth to give of themselves to others, to go beyond themselves through love.

Education to responsibility: the ability to respond to the different situations and to assume responsibility was one of the values instilled by Don Bosco.

Ultimate search for meaning: the love of Christ manifested in the love of the assistant who walks with the youth and creates a relationship which opens them up.

After lunch and the celebration of the birthdays of the students born in January, we had another talk, the topic was "Young People, Society and Satanism" by Mr. Aloys Ojore, a lecturer at Tangaza University College. He shared with us his own experience and how we can help the youth. He mentioned that it is always important for parents and guardians to be close to their children and to exert authority when necessary. He advised parents to monitor and watch over their children's behavior, friends, what they watch, what they listen to... among other important aspects surrounding the young people today.

His talk was an eye opener to many participants who are directly or indirectly experiencing issues on Satanism with friends or relatives and do not know what approach to take.

During the session of question and answer, one of the students suggested that we could have a workshop on this "kind of dangerous groups" in order to help the students doing counselling to be able to handle the youth. Young people in our society are targeted by these groups.

Fr. Matthew gave a vote of thanks and we finished the day with a prayer by Fr. Selvam.

We would like to thank all the students, lecturers, personnel, friends... who participated in the feast with enthusiasm and commitment.

**Srs. Mary Ngina and Pilar Garcia Moreda**

