

Lately it seems that every day there is some new and shocking scandal in government, business, public service or even in the church! Investigations are launched but go nowhere. Final reports end up gathering dust on shelves. Old cases pile up in the courts and are eventually dropped, without any clear resolution.

Similar challenges extend even to the tertiary education sector. Nowadays we constantly hear about student strikes, campus closures, interference by local politicians, fights among university administrators, complaints about unqualified lecturers and poor-



Lent:

a Call to Ongoing Conversion

quality programmes, accusations of tribalism, nepotism and graft. Meanwhile the Kenya Commission for University Education has been introducing a series of new policies and requirements for universities. Though these are rightly meant to help resolve problems and improve Kenya's institutions of higher learning, sometimes it feels as if the goal posts are constantly shifting. It is not an easy time for tertiary education in Kenya.

This is the arena that Tangaza will soon be entering as we become a full-fledged university. Rather than being discouraged by the challenges, however, or disoriented by the changing environment around us, we can learn important lessons from what is working or not working at other institutions. And we have an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to our own unique vision, mission and values.

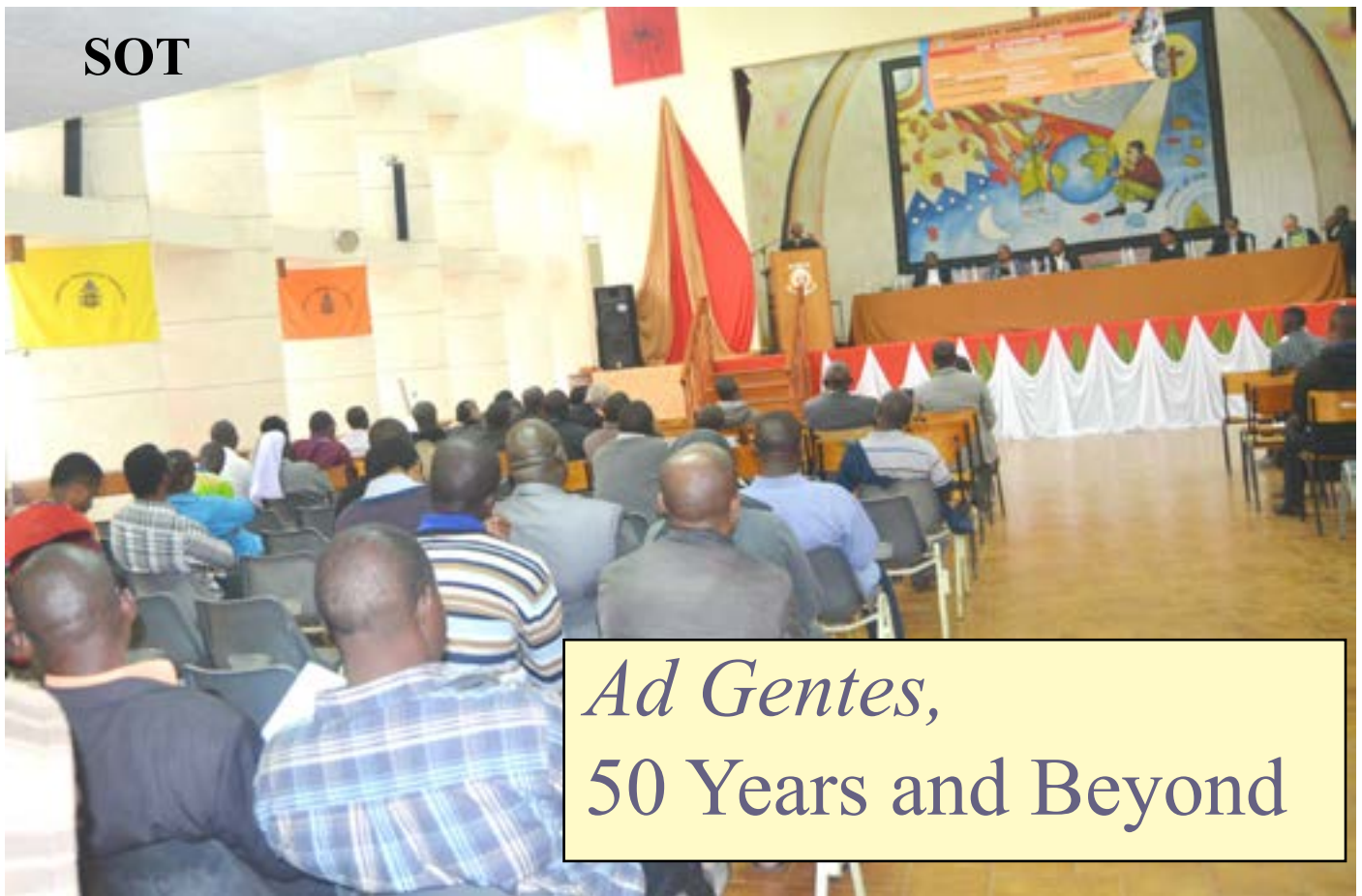
According to our proposed charter, these values include integrity and transparency, justice and peace. Thus, besides striving for academic excellence, we want to be a university where everyone is treated

with equal dignity and respect, where funds are handled honestly and responsibly, where lecturers give and students receive only the marks they have rightly earned, where there is open consultation and accountability at all levels, where potential employers can trust that students have gained the knowledge and skills their academic awards attest to, and where we don't have to post signs declaring "this is a corruption-free zone" because it is already written in our hearts.

None of this happens automatically or in an instant. Rather, it is an ongoing task requiring a continual renewal of heart and recommitment to our ideals. Recently Pope Francis has reminded us: "Let us not waste this season of Lent, so favourable a time for conversion!" For the whole Tangaza family, may this Lent be a time to rededicate ourselves to become a university known both for its academic excellence and its moral integrity. Have a blessed Lent!

**Steven Payne, OCD,
Principal**

SOT



Ad Gentes, 50 Years and Beyond

This year's School of Theology Symposium took place on 8th - 9th of February 2016 and focused on *Ad Gentes*.

The Symposium opened with a few remarks from the Principal, Fr. Steven Payne, OCD. He welcomed all the people present reminding them that mission is not only reserved to missionary institutes, but that - by the virtue of our baptism - we all are called to be missionaries whatever form or vocation it takes. In his address, Fr Payne underlined especially the fact that despite the plethora of religions present in the world, we are brothers and sisters with a common origin and destiny.

The Dean of the School of Theology, Rev. Prof. Patrick Mwanja, CSSp, followed with his thematic introduction. In his speech, the Dean recalled Pope Francis' invitation to the whole Church to celebrate the 50 years anniversary of the decree *Ad Gentes*. It was in this context that the School of Theology chose *Ad Gentes* as the theme of this year's theological symposium. He expounded on how *Ad Gentes* has been a very key document in this epoch, coming out of an Ecumenical Council that has been described as a watershed. Fr. Patrick explained that the symposium is therefore an invitation to us to reflect on the impact of *Ad Gentes* today after 5 decades and its relevance for the church in the future.



Opening photo, a view of the symposium hall. Right, one of the speakers addresses the participants and, below, a moment of group work.



The first keynote address of the Symposium was *Evolution and Revolution of Ad Gentes* and was given by Rev. Dr. Joseph Ngulu, a Ugandan national and a diocesan priest from the Catholic diocese of Jinja. He is a lecturer of Church History in CUEA and Tangaza University College. In his powerful presentation, Dr Ngulu explained in

detail how the decree *Ad Gentes* came about and the processes it went through until its final version.

The second keynote address was given by Prof Clement Majawa, who is a diocesan priest from the Catholic Archdiocese of Blantyre, Malawi, a lecturer and the Dean of Postgraduate Studies at CUEA, on the topic *50 Years of Ad Gentes in Africa, Towards a Deeper Evolution*. In his presentation, Prof Majawa gave a deep theological perspective of *Ad Gentes* stressing the point that mission begins from God himself; it is indeed a divine enterprise.

The final speaker of the symposium was Prof Philomena Njeri Mwaura, Associate Professor in the Philosophy and Religious Studies department and Director of the Centre for Gender Equity and Empowerment at Kenyatta University, Nairobi. The topic of her presentation was *The Going of the Fourth Church: A Pastoral Missionary Oriented Church*. She gave a very rich exposition of the missionary nature of the Church and the way how the Church can be faithful to her mission in the future.

After each main presentation, people joined break-out groups for discussions. The questions for discussions were taken from Patrick Mwanja's book *Ad Gentes* published by Paulines Publications (2015). The discussions were facilitated by some faculty members of the School of Theology. All the main presentations of the symposium plus the main points from the discussion groups will be published in the 2016 issue of *Tangaza Journal of Theology and Mission*.



**Patrick Mwanja, CSSp
Dean – School of Theology**

Dialogue and friendship



On Sunday, February 7th, 2016, the class of Ecumenism in the School of Theology attended the Divine Liturgy at the cathedral of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of Kenya, led by Fr. George Kocholickal, S.D.B. The Greek Orthodox Church of Kenya is under the jurisdiction of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and all Africa led by Patriarch Theodoros II. We were welcomed well at the Cathedral by Fr. John Ndugu, a Greek Orthodox priest, who is also an alumni of Tangaza University College.

The Divine Liturgy was presided over by Archbishop Makarios assisted by two priests and a deacon. We were glad to have an experience of praying with our brothers and sisters of the Orthodox Church. We experienced a lively liturgy which begins at the moment one steps at the entrance of the Church.

The Christians led by the Orthodox seminarians chanted throughout the whole service. The Church itself is filled with icons which are aids to prayer. The service is related to a celestial liturgy set to help the Christians to have an experience of heaven.

After the Divine Liturgy we were given an opportunity to ask questions about the Greek Orthodox Church. Later, we were welcomed to share a cup of coffee and some snacks with our hosts. All in all, we had a good ecumenical meeting with our brothers and sisters of the Eastern Church. Our visit came at a good time as Pope Francis

was also set to meet the Orthodox Patriarch of Russia that week. Let us continue praying for unity of the Church.

Leonard Ronald Iragaba



Opening photo, the SOT class of ecumenism outside the Greek Orthodox cathedral in Nairobi. Below, Archbishop Makarios during the celebration.

The Finance Department is a support unit within Tangaza University College and is a vital partner in the teaching, learning, research and community activities taking place at TUC. The department takes its services very seriously, as it is important that all students and staff are happy with the service they receive. The vision of the department is to be a trustworthy unit in providing excellent financial services at TUC. The mission of the department is to provide admirable financial services to both internal and external clients of TUC as a contribution to the achievement of the vision and mission of our college.



and use their feedback to improve our services. We also want to acknowledge and process complaints quickly and deal with them effectively. Our staff will be provided with opportunity for further training.

Of course, like other departments, our unit will work smoothly only if aided by the people accessing our services. This means respecting the work of our staff and their willingness to offer services, but also to offer feedback in a constructive manner.

Joseph Muiruri

Above, Mr. Muiruri, Financial Manager discusses with Mr. David Kariuki (on the left), Financial Accountant. Right, Assistant Accountants Joy Idaki - left - and Louisa Wanja.

The service of financial support

As a way to improve our performance, we have prepared a service charter that will guide us throughout the year. There we can read how our main goal is to create a sense of unity and harmony within the department. This will certainly enhance our commitment to the functions of the finance department, help uphold integrity and transparency, and be conducive to professionalism. One important objective is to become real partners and collaborate for mutual synergy.

On a daily basis, we deal with a broad customer base. This includes students and staff, our main interlocutors, but also parents, sponsors, visitors, suppliers and distributors. So we resolved to improve our ability to identify our customer needs quickly and efficiently, relate with those who come to our offices to build long-term relationships, and seek our customers views

The following are the staff of the department:

1. Joseph Muiruri - Finance Manager- overall in charge
2. David Kariuki - Financial Accountant- In charge of financial reports, payments & cash management
3. Agnes Kiongo - Management Accounting- In charge of budgets, management accounts and fixed assets.
4. Joy Idaki - Assistant Accountant responsible for receivables and faculty payroll
5. Louisa Wanja - Assistant Accountant responsible for payables and cash collection
6. Felister Muia - Assistant Procurement Officer- In charge of procurement docket.



New Masters

Two students defended their Master of Arts in African Studies theses at the Maryknoll Institute of African Studies. Catherine Muthonde and Margaret Wahungu successfully defended their academic work on Monday 15th and Wednesday 17th February, respectively. Both students went before a panel consisting of MIAS faculty members: Prof. Mary Getui and Prof. Douglas Wa-

Above, Sr. Margaret Wahungu before the panel. Below, Ms. Catherine Muthonde. They both defended their work successfully.

ruta alongside program director Prof. Michael Kirwen. Muthonde’s work was titled *Single Motherhood and its Impact on Adolescent Behaviour in Secondary Schools: Focus on Makadara Constituency, Nairobi County* and was supervised by Prof. Mary Getui. Sr. Margaret’s work was titled *African Spiritual Values enhancing Environmental Conservation and Sustainability: a Case Study of Engineer Ward in Nyandarua South District* and was supervised by Prof. Douglas Waruta.

New Wisdom



**James Chege
Head Librarian MIASMU**



New Disability Policy

It is very clear now that Tangaza University College is becoming a university soon. With this information, the Mainstreaming Disability Committee started their meetings early this month so as to make sure no one is left out in this transition journey. The first meeting overviewed what a mainstreaming disability policy should entail. The committee resolved to come up with a policy document providing clear guidelines regarding the position of TUC in regards to non-discriminatory practices, effective participation, equity and respect to people with disability. This policy will comply with existing local and international legal frameworks on disability mainstreaming. It will provide guidelines on mainstreaming disability into the various programs, services and structures of TUC.

To start drafting the policy, the committee invited an official from the National Council for Persons with Disabilities to brief them. On his arrival, he pointed out that a person's environment has a huge impact on the experience and extent of disability. Inaccessible environments create disability by creating barriers to participation and inclusion. Examples of the possible negative impact of the environment include a deaf individual without a sign language interpreter; a wheelchair user in a build-



Brenda Kiema, left, with a, ISC student.

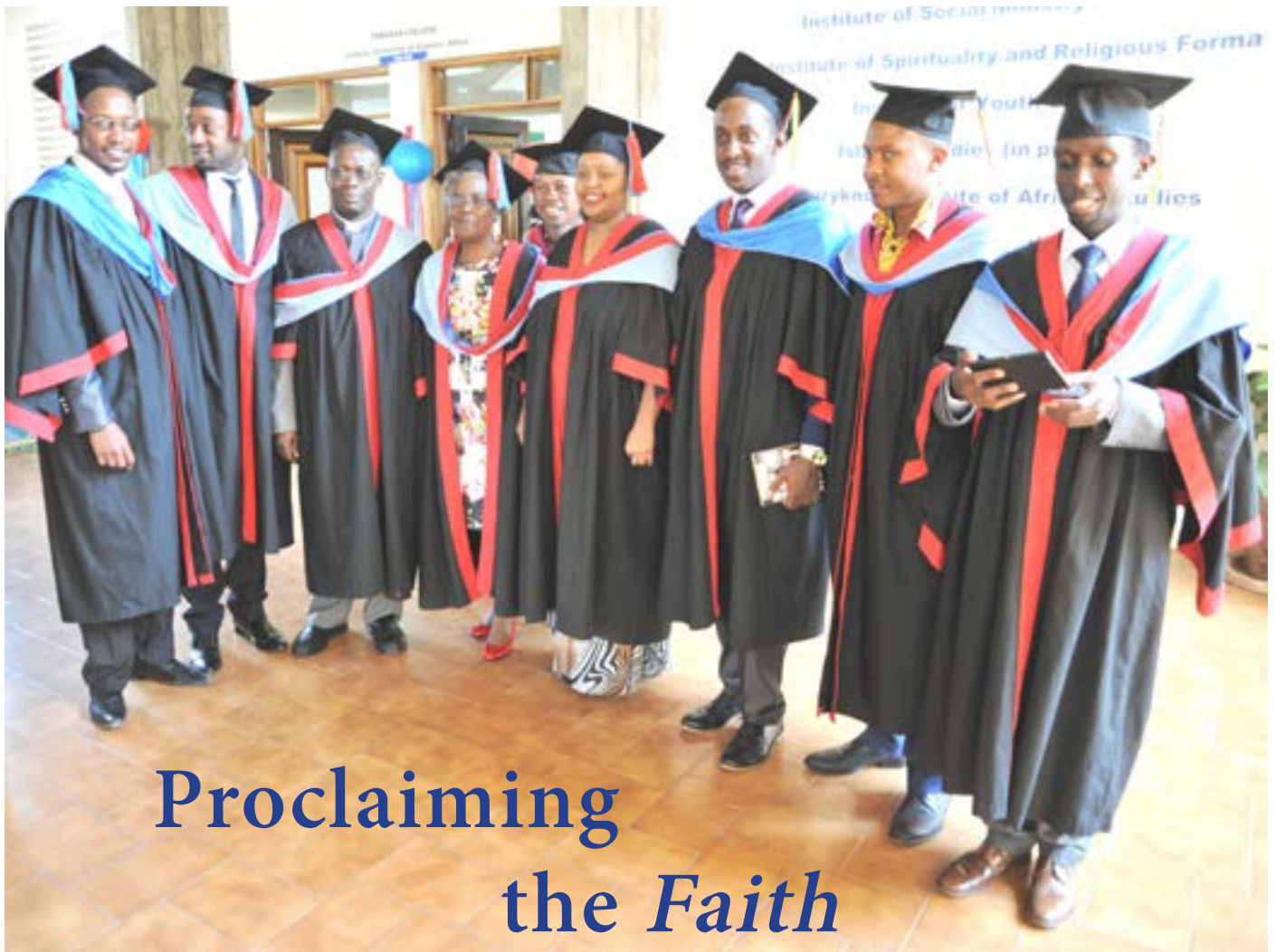
ing without an accessible bathroom, ramp or elevator and a blind person using a computer without screen-reading software. For a better inclusion, all different forms of disabilities need to be treated according to their special needs. He said disability results from the interaction of impairment with social, attitudinal and physical barriers preventing equal participation in community life. With that briefing and clear understanding the team embarked on drafting the Mainstream Disability Policy for TUC.

Brenda B. Kiema



The River Within James Chege

*There is a river
far not from here
that twists yet turns,
its waters unclear.
Holding dark, holding bright;
both heavy and light.
Trudging on and on
bringing new life.
At this the place
we keep every embrace,
A smile,
a frown,
a night out on the town.
But in the end
when all is done
who but you can tell?
Still, on the river goes...
but forever close by.*



Proclaiming the *Faith*

This year affords us the special opportunity to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Tangaza College. History tells us that Tangaza opened its doors to the first group of students on August 25, 1986. The celebrations of this year's Tangaza day on March 15th will give us with the opportunity to thank God for the past eventful years. Of course, the whole year is a celebration time for the thirty years of proclaiming the mystery of faith. But what does it mean to proclaim the mystery of faith? The manner of proclaiming the mystery of faith is rightly inscribed in the vision statement of the college that "our community is committed to ministerial education to produce agents of evangelization and social transformation with a special interest in outreach towards the integrity of creation and a wider human horizon".

Every member of the college should feel obliged to participate and fulfill this noble task. All members of the teaching staff, students and non-teaching staff are called to actively and constructively participate in the proclamation of the mystery of the faith. The vision statement of our college adds that "as a consequence we aspire to transcend all artificial boundaries of race, religion, gender, class and ethnicity to be consistent with the divine vision for the human family".

2016 MBA graduates celebrate their achievement.

Thirty years have elapsed. The College has remained faithful to the proclamation of the mystery of faith. Let us remain faithful to this mission in the years to come. The vision statement directly implies that dishonesty, tribalism, negative ethnicity, religious segregation and corruption are hindrances to the proclamation of the mystery of faith. The opportunity to celebrate this anniversary is a timely reminder that the values of truth, honesty, transparency, peace and justice, high moral standards, preferential option for the poor are indispensable in the proclamation of the mystery of faith. Let no one contradict this proclamation.

We invite all students to actively participate in this year's celebration of Tangaza day on March 15th, 2016. Let us be willing and generous in exhibiting our talents in music, poetry and dance. We are as well invited to passionately participate in all the other events that will be put in place to celebrate 30 years of our existence. Let us all start afresh in the proclamation of the mystery of faith which is the motto of our beloved college - lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power (1 Cor 17).

Aquinas Mutua - TANSa