



### ———— **TEACH ME TO PRAY** ———— *(Published on National Catholic Reporter)*

"Lord, Teach us to pray." Did the disciple who made that request have any clue about the intimacy of asking someone how he prays? Our prayer exposes the heart of our relationship with God: who we think God is and how we stand in God's presence.

Listen to Joan of Arc who, when her interrogators demanded that she tell them how she prayed, said, "Most sweet God, in honor of your holy passion, I beg you, because you love me, to reveal to me how I must respond to these churchmen."



That gave witness to her faith and hinted that she saw herself as obedient but was not so sure about the opposition.

Thomas Merton teaches us to approach God with humility and trust: "My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. ... I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost ... I will not fear ... you will never leave me to face my perils alone."

We also have St. Ignatius' Suscipe: "Take, Lord, receive all my liberty ... Give me your love and your grace, that's enough for me." And that's a centuries-old version of Reinhold Niebuhr's "God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Each of these prayers somehow echoes the Lord's Prayer...

When the unnamed disciple asked Jesus to teach them to pray, she (or he) recognized that praying is something we learn. Just as Jesus had to be taught to talk, so too his parents instructed him in the ways of prayer — from the prayers of Scripture to their own ways of relating with God...

Sr Mary M McGlone

Source: URL [www.ncronline.org/blogs/spiritual-reflections/teach-me-pray](http://www.ncronline.org/blogs/spiritual-reflections/teach-me-pray)





## ENCOUNTERING OUR WEST AFRICA DISTRICT



The Blama Community and two postulants on immersion: Standing from left: Joseph Gomeh, Scott Bock, Samuel (postulant), Philemon (postulant), Melvin Lebbie. Squating: Pascal Gibba

I don't intend to try to report on everything that I experienced during a very encouraging and interesting two weeks with the PLT in West Africa. However, I can say that being there, meeting the Brothers and seeing how they are living and

working has made a huge difference to me in having a deeper and more balanced appreciation of this part of our Province.

In Gbarnga, Liberia (see photo in last week's newsletter), and in Hamilton, Blama, Bo and Tengbeh Town, Clement (my visitation partner) and I received a warm welcome. It was good to meet Brothers who were companions in the novitiate with various EAD Brothers.



Edmund Rice Network group meeting at the Brothers' house in Blama

I was particularly interested by Blama, our first community in Sierra Leone when the Brothers came there from Liberia. The community residence is a large old (100+ years) house,

built to last by the Spiritan missionaries who evangelised that part of





Sierra Leone early in the 20th century. Like our own "mother house" in Shams, Arusha, it is where our deceased Brothers are buried - the late Emmanuel Marrah and Benji Borniea.

It is also a place where we could see some of the newer aspects of the congregation coming alive - there is an active Edmund Rice Network group that includes the parish priest, the local police chief, teaching colleagues, parishioners and (the deputy chair of the group) at least one Muslim, a student at the local Catholic secondary school.

A piggery project and a shamba managed by the Brothers and the ERN group are aimed at benefiting the poorest pupils and their families in the two local primary schools where the Brothers work. It was inspiring to hear how the Brothers' presence is empowering staff and students, e.g. in advocating for children's rights and child protection.

I could share experiences and stories from other places, but space doesn't allow. I conclude by expressing my gratitude for the chance to spend this time in WAD and so develop a stronger sense of our shared Province identity.

Tony Shanahan

### ———— EDMUND RICE CAMPS ELDORET ————



It was an honor Edmund Rice Camps Eldoret (ERCE) to be invited to share meals and games activities with street boys at Morning Star rehabilitation

centre in Eldoret. All our leaders who participated showed their expertise in leading different games. Some were active in the kitchen, enabling each one of us to be re-energized from the delicious meals they prepared. It was marvelous for the Morning Star to have such a special day full of games and celebrations through meals. We felt blessed from the big smiles and joy that we saw from the street boys who urged us to visit them more often. Just like morning star gives light in the morning, we hope that Morning Star will give light for a brighter future of these children.

Elly Sakwa and Paul Mutuku





## — VISITING EFL ON MONDAY MORNING —



This morning the District Leadership Team and Br Vincent Mallya (District Mission Officer) had an opportunity of visiting Education for Life Program (EFL) in Eldoret, where over 140 beneficiaries were having their regular Monday gatherings. The spirit of vibrancy and communion was so alive among the people.

We were able to see the chicken project which was donated by the Uasin Gishu County Government under the County Government initiative of “Inua Mama na Kuku” (literally “Lift a mother with a chicken”). The Inua Mama na Kuku initiative targets women groups in Uasin Gishu County where each of the groups are given chicks by the county government in a project aimed at empowering women. EFL was given 300 chicks and so far 295 are doing well.

George Massay

## — EDMUND RICE KARIBU FULL DAY CAMP ACTIVITY, JULY 23 2016 —

This camp activity was one of our best ever. There were 73 children and 36 or so leaders.

The small group rotational games were full of energy and vigour with laughs a-plenty. I sat relaxed and satisfied instead of my usual mode of scanning for mistakes. The leaders under John Muisyo have acquired commendable expertise despite the fact that at each activity there are always new members.





The afternoon small discussion and skit groups were also gratifying as I saw better than most time, kids and leaders lying around in a tight circle facilitating good communication with one another.

Br PETER COLE

———— **A DAY TO BE REMEMBERED** ————



Fred, Mutua and Br Julius cutting a cake

Oh! How wonderful it is celebrate the gift of my fellow brothers in community as we marked their birthdays: Mutua, Fred, and Julius are “full of beans”. This “living as brothers” is a beautiful thing! It’s a treasure to be able to call a Kenyan or an Australian my “brother.” This is not trivial, it is too uncommon. It is a great sign in a world tempted by racism, intolerance, exclusion of the other who is different from me?

Reflect and think: “I am because you are.” However, that’s why I am “over the moon,” because of my three fellow brothers, who have “set off” and now they are proud of it. God bless you fishers of people.

CALVINE ODERO

———— **VOCATION NEWS** ————

For some time now I have surmised it would be good to give continual updates as to how things are panning out, vocation wise. Here we are. I am trying now to sort out definite starters for the Come and See programme, generously being undertaken by the Embulbul Community under Sande and Daniel Kyalo especially with Chris Munialo popping in. This come and see programme is from August 7—13. Our ministry will mainly focus on Beausang but visits will be made to other sites. I have nine ‘tentatives’ from P1 colleges and 12 with eligible secondary credentials. We are due to take eight of these 21 aspirants. Gradually over next week many of these will withdraw. Wisdom or cunning is required!! Exams for P1s and some others will finish on 28<sup>th</sup> July. After that the texts, phone calls, the **‘FUN’** starts in earnest. Pray for us/me.

Br PETER COLE





———— **INVITATION FOR THE BIG DAY** ————  
**AT EDMUND RICE SINON SEC. SCHOOL** ————

Edmund Rice Sinon Secondary School will be celebrating Edmund Rice Feast Day on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The actual date (5<sup>th</sup> May) is not mistaken but was postponed due to unavoidable circumstances. The school will also mark 20 years of the Beatification of Edmund Rice. The celebration will start at 11.00am to around 4.00pm and will be characterized by entertainments and few speeches. The alumni and the best students in the 2016 form six national examination will also be present. The guest speaker will be Br. Russell Peters. Come one, come all. Your presence will be highly appreciated.

**Simon Kaswahili**

**REMAINING BIRTHDAYS IN JULY**

July 26 GERALD MGALULA (Otiende)

**CALENDAR**

AUGUST 7-19	Come and See Program
AUGUST 15-19	PLT Meeting (Lusaka)
AUGUST 24	DLT Meeting
SEPTEMBER 4-11	Congregation Formation Summit (Lusaka)
SEPTEMBER 14	DLT Meeting
SEPTEMBER 16-18	Child Protection Training Workshop
SEPTEMBER 28	DLT Meeting
OCTOBER 1	Cluster Meeting – Nairobi
OCTOBER 8	Cluster meeting – Arusha
OCTOBER 10-12	Formation Committee Meeting
OCTOBER 12	DLT Meeting
OCTOBER 14-16	AP Workshop - Arusha
OCTOBER 26	DLT Meeting
OCTOBER 28-29	Community Leaders Meeting

Many blessings

George

