



### — ADVENT LONGING —

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin once suggested that peace and justice will come to us when we reach a high enough psychic temperature so as to burn away the things that still hold us apart. In saying this, he was drawing upon a principle in chemistry: Sometimes two elements will simply lie side by side inside a test-tube and not unite until sufficient heat is applied so as to bring them to a high enough temperature where unity can take place.

That's wonderful metaphor for advent. What is advent?

Advent is about getting in touch with our longing. It's about letting our yearnings raise our psychic temperatures so that we are pushed to eventually let down our guard, hope in new ways, and risk intimacy.

John of the Cross has a similar image: Intimacy with God and with each other will only take place, he says, when we reach a certain kindling temperature. For too much of our lives, he suggests, we lie around as damp, green logs inside the fire of love, waiting to come to flame but never bursting

— **RONALD ROLHEISER**

into flame because of our dampness. Before we can burst into flame, we must first dry out and come to kindling temperature...

How do we sizzle psychologically and spiritually? For John of the Cross, we do that through the pain of loneliness, restlessness, disquiet, anxiety, frustration, and unrequited desire. In the torment of incompleteness our psychic temperature rises so that eventually we come to kindling temperature and, there, we finally open ourselves to union in new ways. That too is an image for advent.

Advent is all about loneliness, but loneliness is a complex thing... Advent is about longing, about getting in touch with it, about heightening it, about letting it raise our psychic temperatures, about sizzling as damp, green logs inside the fires of intimacy, about intuiting the kingdom of God by seeing, through desire, what the world might look like if a Messiah were to come and, with us, establish justice, peace, and unity on this earth.

### — PRAYER REQUESTED —

For the uncle of Br Gerald Mgalula who passed away this week.





## OUTSTANDING KCPE RESULT FOR BROTHER BEAUSANG



Celebratory procession around Embulbul

Brother Beausang Catholic Education Centre is pleased to announce that the top student in the 2016 KCPE Monicah Cherop scored 422 marks. This meant Monicah was the second placed girl in Kaijiado County and in the top 100 students in the country (top 0.01%).

This is an outstanding result, the best ever by a BBCEC pupil and places Monicah is the top .01% of candidates. Congratulations to Monicah as well as her parents and teachers for their great support.



L-R Br Daniel, Head Teacher Eva, Auntie, Monicah, Peter Shanahan and Br Lawrence

There was a celebratory parade around Embulbul last Friday which drew a wonderful response from the community.

Monicah was also awarded an Edmund Rice Award at the celebration Mass for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beatification of Edmund Rice on October 6. The award is for outstanding leadership in the school community so Monicah is a great example of an Edmund Rice graduate.

**Peter Shanahan**





## KAREN COMMUNITY HOSTS RICHARD DEMARIA



L-R Br Chris Muniolo, Sr Leonida Kwamboka, Br Richard and Benjamin Mbas

Br Richard DeMaria, who has been diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gherrig's) disease, was able to return to East Africa for a farewell visit on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. The Karen Community welcomed Richard and Robert Lewis to the community for the week, hosting some of his friends and colleagues for dinners each night of his stay. During his visit, he was able to fulfill a promise to the Karen Community to celebrate

his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday with them at a local restaurant.

Richard first came to Africa in 2010 when he was missioned in houses of formation in Johannesburg, Stellenbosch, Lusaka and Cape Town. With the closing of the Cape Town novitiate, he was missioned to the East Africa District. He lived in the Karen International House of Studies for three years. During that time taught as an Associate Professor in the Centre for Leadership and Management in Tangaza University College and also served as Editor for the Tangaza Journal of Theology and Mission. He also served on the Boards of Wanawake kwa Wanawake and Mary Rice Centre in Kibera.

We know that the next years will be difficult ones for Richard as he lives with this devastating illness and assure him of our prayers that he can embrace this new phase of his life with grace and faith.



## WORLD AIDS DAY 2016 CELEBRATIONS IN ELDORET KENYA



I quote words of Alex Garner, "One of the best ways of fighting stigma and empowering HIV positive people is by speaking out openly and honestly about who we are and what we experience". His words became a reality on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 during the celebration of World's AIDS Day where Pamoja Mentors and Edmund





Rice Camp Leaders in Eldoret through different talents went a notch higher and organised an event which brought young people together to spread a message of solidarity with people living with HIV/AIDS.



Br Paul Mutuku (far left) with the youth

The day was marked with different activities from HIV testing and counseling, to different groups showcasing their talents with awards to the winning groups.



Youth showcasing their talents

Special mention to Presentation Sisters in Canada through

Brother Bill

Colford who gave financial support which enabled us to purchase trophies and other presents for the winners.

**Bros. Paul Mutuku and Elly Sakwa**





———— **EDMUND RICE KABIBU CAMPS, RECRUITMENT  
FORMATION, SATURDAY 3<sup>RD</sup>. DECEMBER** ————



Old and New Edmund Rice Camp Leaders

The venue was the 'new' Mary Rice Centre. We had done a recruiting campaign but the ultimate turn out of possible new leaders turned out to be small. In total we ended up with 45, old and new. However, the spirit was strong and old leaders animated and excited the new. Edmund Rice story, the ideal ER camps for children, the benefits to children, benefits to leaders, leadership styles, specific expression of different gifts and required responses, as well as child protection issues relevant on camps were all done in small groups with expert 'old' leaders adding their wisdom at the time of reports. We are happy to using the new Mary Rice facilities.

**Br PETER COLE**

———— **VOCATION ACTIVITY** ————

Losing the old Nokia phone did not help though miracle of miracles it was belatedly discovered – but alas after the simcard had been deregistered. Now, names have been reclaimed and three more texts have been recently sent besides two letters and articles. Fifty replied yesterday in good spirit. It still is beyond belief that so many youth respond to me with positive energies and sheer goodwill without me even knowing them by face. It amazes me. What does this say about the need for mentoring?

George is hoping for a few days trip before Xmas. Another letter or email to some 100 'aspirants' will fill Kenyatta P.O on 3<sup>rd</sup>. or 4<sup>th</sup>. January, hopefully eliciting some positive responses to the come and see invitations sent out in the most recent letters. I love the task though I feel guilty it gets squeezed by the immediacy of ERKG activities. So, that's where we are presently at in Kenya.

**Br PETER COLE**





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## CALENDAR

DECEMBER 3-7

DLT away for end-of-year review and planning

DECEMBER 12

Jamhuri Day (public holiday Kenya)

DECEMBER 16-18

District Assembly

Many blessings

George

