



Christian Brothers  
East Africa District

# East Africa District Newsletter

**DRAWN BY MYSTERY, DESTINED FOR LIFE.**

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———— **EVERYTHING IS GRACE** ————



Mercy is not a virtue that you choose to put on one day. Mercy has to be your deepest way of seeing, a generosity of spirit that draws from your identity, your deepest dignity, which is love. It is basically a worldview of abundance, wherein I do not have to withhold, protect, or hoard myself.

I liken this deepest dignity, this True Self who we are at our core, to a diamond buried deep within us and constantly forming under the intense pressure of our lives. We must search for and uncover this diamond, freeing it from the surrounding debris of guilt and shame. In a sense, our True Self must, like Jesus, be resurrected. That process is not resuscitation of something old and tired, but a wonderful discovery of something always new--and already perfectly formed.

For the True Self, there is nothing to hate, reject, deny, or judge as unworthy or unnecessary. It has "been forgiven much and so [it] loves much" (Luke 7:47).

Diamonds are said to be the hardest substance on this earth. It is this strong diamond of love that will always be stronger than death (Song of Songs 8:6).

**Richard Rohr**





———— **BROTHER KEVIN DELANEY CELEBRATES  
DIAMOND JUBILEE** ————



L-R Fr Dave O'Sullivan, Br Kevin Delaney and Br Clem Barret appreciating Kevin's jubilee gift

It was exactly 60 years ago, on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2016, when Kevin left his family home to join the Christian Brothers. This step in 1956 began a journey which Kevin says he never regrets.

The Arusha Brothers and a small group from Nairobi, along with a priest friend, Fr David O'Sullivan M.Afr., gathered at Arusha Hotel to celebrate a vocation lived with great generosity and unwavering fidelity. Stories were shared during the evening of the last 60 years. Clem Barrett, who is of the same vintage as Kevin, and former students Frank O'Shea and Gerard Ellul, were able to share with us some highlights of Kevin's life in the Brothers before he came to Africa. Of great significance was Kevin's gentle and supportive pastoral approach to Brothers during his time in the former St Patrick's Province Leadership Team where he served for two terms of six years each. His genuineness and compassion offered great support to many.

Kevin's main involvement in Africa Province for the last 12 years has been in formation, especially in postulancy and novitiate. We thank Kevin for sharing his life and brotherhood with us so generously.

George Massay





## REFLECTION DAY AND MISSIONING OF NEW NOVICES



"All my bags are packed..." seems to be a song for these new novices L-R Ismael, Alphas, Denis, Alphonse and Juma

Thursday, February 4, was a very important day for us novices from Kenya who are getting ready to start the novitiate programme as from 5th February 2016. The day gave us the opportunity to reflect over the past year of postulancy and find out how this past year has helped us in getting ready for this new adventure.



Brothers praying blessings on the new novices

We were also able to express our readiness to start this important stage. There was a mixture of feelings: joy, happiness, anxiety to

mention but a few. However, there was a lot of assurance and hope for the best.





Later on the day, we experienced another sense of happiness, being loved and cared for when many Brothers came to pray for us, encourage us with words of wisdom and celebrate with us. During this time we also got a chance to interact fully with Brothers and even share out what has kept us on searching for our hearts' desires.

We request you to journey with us in prayer as we are looking to complete this good work that we have started, by responding effectively to this noble call of brotherhood and service.

ALPHONCE OROCHE SOKIA

———— **EDMUND RICE KABIBU SKILLS TRAINING DAY**  
**SATURDAY 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2016** ————



Edmund Rice Camp Leaders playing a quasi rugby game using empty yoghurt containers

On the one hand the training day was highly successful for the 22 leaders who attended. On the other, we were quite disappointed with the low turnout of new members. 15 new games were introduced and 5 old games were repeated besides the quasi rugby and quasi handball games. The photo shows a crazy contest as to what team could scoop most old yoghurt containers through the opposition goal!! Dust flying everywhere!!

Well, we are challenged to find further means of enticing!!

PETER COLE

**Birthdays**

*None in February!*

**Calendar**





## February

|       |                             |
|-------|-----------------------------|
| 10    | DLT Meeting. Ash Wednesday  |
| 11-12 | District Financial Audit    |
| 12-14 | Annually Professed workshop |
| 15-19 | PLT Meeting (Freetown)      |
| 24    | DLT Meeting                 |

## March

|       |                                    |
|-------|------------------------------------|
| 13-15 | Gone Fishing                       |
| 11    | Formation Committee Meeting        |
| 13-15 | ERMEA meeting                      |
| 18-20 | Child Protection Training Workshop |
| 25    | Good Friday                        |
| 27    | Easter Sunday                      |

## April

|       |                                     |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| 2     | Cluster Meeting Nairobi             |
| 9     | Cluster Meeting Arusha              |
| 29    | ERN celebration for Edmund Rice Day |
| 29-30 | Community Leaders Meeting           |

Many blessings

George Massay

