



Networking Cedara

Volume 28 Number 23 2- 10 October 17



In this issue...

The next two weeks at Cedara

TWO WEEKS AT CEDARA.....1

A WORD OF THANKS..... 1

CHANGE IN TIME TABLE: THEOLOGY 3 AND 4.....1

MORNING OF REFLECTION.....2

AN INVITATION FROM POPE FRANCIS TO THE STUDENTS OF ST JOSEPH'S.....2

RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE OF ILLITERACY TO OUR MISSION IN SERENJE PARISH IN CENTRAL ZAMBIA.....2

THE ROSARY: A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.....4

EDITORIAL8

Monday, 2 October: Lectures resume- 4th term begins-
LECTURES RESUME

Tuesday, 3 October: Institute Liturgy (5 pm, Charles Rensburg OMI presiding)

Tuesday, 10 October: Collaborative Research Group (12:15. Classroom 0-4)

Institute Liturgy (5 pm, Manuel Casillas MCCJ presiding)

Friday, 13 October: Academic Assembly (10:30, Classroom 2-3)

A WORD OF THANKS

Allow me to sincerely express my heartfelt appreciation to all those who supported me with their prayers and came to see me while I was ill at the hospital and at home. I feel a lot better now. Thank you so much for the support and prayers.

Fr Zaba Mbanjwa OMI

CHANGE IN TIME TABLE: THEOLOGY 3 AND 4

Theology 4,
Integrity in Ministry
on Tuesday morning,
8:15 – 09:55

Theology 3,
African theology
on Friday morning
8:15 – 09:55

From the Office of the Academic Dean

MORNING OF REFLECTION

Dear Colleagues and Students

Please be aware of the morning of reflection coming up in October.

Archbishop Peter Wells, Papal Nuncio to Southern Africa
27th October 2017
08:30am
Auditorium

AN INVITATION FROM POPE FRANCIS TO THE STUDENTS OF ST JOSEPH'S

The theme of the next Synod of Bishops to be held in 2018 is “Young People, Faith and Vocational Discernment”.

A survey has been designed to learn what young people 16-29 (most students here are in their 20s) think about these issues.

Pope Francis hopes that millions of young people will complete the survey which can be found online at <https://survey-synod2018.glauco.it/limesurvey/index.php/147718>.

Let the Pope and those planning the Synod know what you think!

RESPONDING TO THE CHALLENGE OF ILLITERACY TO OUR MISSION IN SERENJE PARISH IN CENTRAL ZAMBIA

Zambia is one of the countries in the southern African region blessed with vast lands. However, it is sparsely populated as most of its land is still idle and unoccupied. Serenje is one of Zambia's largest districts. Villages here are sparsely scattered from one another. One can travel for a distance of 10-15 kilometres without seeing a village nearby. As a consequence, the government has found it quite difficult to provide basic social amenities like schools to every village. Rural areas are the mostly affected. Serenje being a rural area is among those affected. The government has tried to build basic schools across the district, but they are still

inadequate and far from one another. For instance, in one of our parish centres called Chikele, the nearest basic school is 15 kilometres away. Long distances to school have dire consequences on literacy levels in our Parish. Children do not begin school early as they have to delay until they are old enough to walk these long distances to and from school. Regrettably, when they delay for so long, desire for schooling easily fades away. As a result, the phenomenon of school drop-outs is very widespread across our parish.

To a large extent, girls are the ones who are mostly affected by delay in beginning school. By the time they are old enough to begin school, that is, about 10 years old, they are already in their adolescent stage. And since they have waited for so long to begin school, the interest of beginning school at that time is so low or not there at all. Like their mothers, who had hardly had an opportunity of schooling, they end up getting married early. During Sunday liturgies in most of our centers across our parish, it is very common to see young girls, hardly developed, cradling babies on their laps. Unfortunately, such early marriages seldom survive for long; often after bearing 3 to 4 children, their partners desert them for younger ones. These girls end up being subjected to an endless chain of poverty and illiteracy in their entire life as they too won't be able to educate their children.

In the fishing camp areas along the Luapula River there are virtually no schools nearby. People living in these regions are quite illiterate; they neither know how to write nor how to read. For instance, in one of the church centres during a recent election for leaders, it was difficult to find a secretary as all members didn't know how to write. And in another centre, after one young man was elected as a secretary, he stopped going to church as he felt that people had "set him up" by electing him while knowing clearly that he couldn't neither write nor read. These two examples clearly illustrate not only the level of illiteracy but also how it affects our efforts of evangelization. Moreover, since they cannot read, it means that an important book for Christians, the Bible, will remain unread by them. Therefore, despite our efforts to evangelize them, Christianity will always remain foreign to them. Illiteracy is a clear set back to our work of evangelization in Serenje parish.

Furthermore, as evangelizers, we have always felt how illiteracy handicaps our people. It hinders them from being effective leaders and from being collaborators in the mission of evangelization. Due to the vastness of our parish, priests are constrained from constantly smelling our sheep as Pope Francis puts it. We are only able to make pastoral visitation to all centres every three months. This means that most of the time centres are in the care of lay leaders who are tasked with the responsibility of conducting prayers on Sundays and other activities that may arise in the course of the week like funerals. Therefore, in centres where members cannot read or write, mission is enormously affected as it is difficult to find lay ministers.

Lastly, high illiteracy levels among our people contribute to loss of lives through the shunning of hospitals. When struck by disease, the first question that comes to the mind of our people is: who is behind it? This question leads them to begin pointing fingers of witchcraft accusation. Rather than seeking medical attention in hospitals, they recourse to witchdoctors for protection against witchcraft. Unfortunately, lives that could have been saved by seeking medical attention end up being lost. Above all, when people begin pointing fingers of witchcraft accusations, families, and Christian communities suffer enormously, and in some cases, they are torn apart. Such occurrences clearly impede our earnest efforts of evangelization, leaving our heart and mind aching with pain.

Our Pastoral Response

It is for the above reasons that we have resolved as a parish community to work towards reducing levels of illiteracy through establishing basic schools in centers that are greatly affected. The basic schools will mainly consist of three classes: grades one, two and three. It will target young children from areas where government schools are situated far away from where they live, hence enabling them to begin school at an early age. We believe that by beginning school early, the morale for schooling will be high. Above all, they will be motivated to proceed to the next school for higher classes despite the long distance. A pilot project is already in existence in one of the centers along the fishing areas and the progress is amazing. We are indeed looking at the future with greater hope and we dream that by the year 2020, every child across our parish will not be delaying to begin school because of far away schools.

Fr Douglas Momanyi Ogato MAfr

THE ROSARY: A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE KELVIN BANDA, OP

One of the joys I experience as a born Catholic Christian, and as a Dominican Scholastic, is to pray the Rosary everyday either in the morning or evening. The Rosary is a simple, yet profoundly, powerful and beautiful prayer that Christians cannot afford to live without. Daily devotion to the Rosary is a powerful witness to prayer that enhances my spiritual life through the visiting of the inner sanctuary of God's castles through praying the Rosary.

Whenever I say the Hail Mary, it resonates in my heart like the echo sounds of seraphim in heaven whenever they sing Holy, Holy to God. Even when I feel I am unable to say the Rosary, such an experience, resurrects me and gives me the

strength to pray the Rosary. For me, the Rosary is a powerful unique and fruitful lasting example of devotion to Mary that rests in the heart of the Church. The Rosary is a unique prayer that is loved by many priests and the laity alike; furthermore, it represents Mary's particular role in our lives as an intercessor. Pope John Paul II writes in his apostolic letter on the *Rosary* that the Rosary is, "Simple yet profound. It still remains at the dawn of this third millennium. A prayer of great significance, destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness." There have been times when praying the morning Rosary that I have experienced this *harvest of holiness*. Actually we only need one special person whose *holiness shines* to pray with us, to feel what a *harvest of holiness* is like – the Blessed Virgin Mary.

As a Christian, the Rosary has brought such joy in my life. As I believe it has done for many who pray with our beloved mother Mary. The Rosary is actually deep in my heart. It has become a part of my life, and of who am I. There is an authentic deep sense of consolation for me of Mary's maternal presence. The Rosary when praying speaks so clearly of Mary's abiding love for me and for all humanity. This happens whenever I pray – especially in times of trouble, loneliness, etc. Mary's maternal presence smooths my anxiety and troubles. This is because of the repetition of the prayer and the contemplation of the mystery at hand. It has a way of gracefully bringing me to a quiet resting. What makes the Rosary even richer is by calming myself down before the mysteries of Christ when I am alone in the early morning, either in the room or in the Chapel with only the light from the Tabernacle radiating the presence of Christ and of our mother of perpetual help lit in my heart. St Dominic spoke to God about people during the night and to people about God during the day.

By the time I have finished praying the Rosary, there is an intrinsically spiritual change in me as the Rosary echoes the mysteries of Christ and Mary's maternal help. This gives me hope that the day will be fruitful and beautiful filled with many blessings and that even challenges that may come my way will be overcome. I doubt no longer that God, with Mary our mother of perpetual help will carry and rescue me through. Each person has been gracefully blessed with their own spiritual insights as one ponders on the life of Christ in the mysteries of the Rosary. For me, it is the Rosary that has led to a beautiful growth of my spiritual life. Pope John Paul II writes in his apostolic letter on the *Rosary* that, "To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Christ." Despite that the Rosary is Marian in its character; it is at its heart a *Christo-centric prayer*. It is rooted in Christ. The Rosary is a *compendium* of the whole Gospel.

The Rosary as a compendium of the Gospel echoes the prayer of Mary in the beautiful magnificent where she praises God for the wonderful love God has for her. Pope John Paul II writes in his apostolic letter on the *Rosary* again that, "with the Rosary, we sit at the school of our Lady and contemplate the beautiful face of Christ and to experience the depths of the love of Christ." Mary lived with Christ.

She was the mother of Christ. Her eyes were always fixed on Christ. Her heart was broken because of the cruelty of those who crucified Christ. This can be the feelings of any of our mothers. Like any mother who raises a child, Mary has many memories of Christ. The Gospel of Luke tells us that Mary pondered and treasured the memories of Christ her heart.

The memories Mary pondered in heart were her Rosary. A living Rosary which she prayed uninterruptedly throughout her earthly life. And when we pray the Rosary, we too enter into those memories and the contemplation gaze of those memories. Above all Pope John Paul II writes that, "The Rosary mystically transports us to Mary's side as she is busy watching over the human growth of Christ in the home at Nazareth." For us, we watch Christ grow in wisdom, knowledge and in grace in the Gospels as Christ moves from Nazareth, to Galilee, and to His death in Jerusalem on Calvary and finally to His resurrection. The Rosary comes from the rose garden. The rose is the symbol of joy. In the Litany to the Blessed Mary, Mary is properly referred to as the "cause of our joy." And so she is our joy as she brought and continually brings Christ to us. Christ is the joy of our lives.



**Call your
Mother!**



She hasn't heard from you in decades!

From Mary and her spirituality, each person is led to a deeper joy in Christ. St Francis once said, “if a town does not pray, then, the town labours in vain.” This simple wisdom can be applied to the Rosary. The Rosary is a prayer. It is not simply a repetition of words. It is a prayer from our hearts to the heart of Mary, our mother of perpetual help and it leads us to treasure like her the very memories that she treasured and pondered in her heart. All those memories enable us to see and to bring us into the presence of Christ. Pray the Rosary and experience the power that the Rosary brings to all those who are devoted to Mary.

MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Happy times in the Lives of Jesus and Mary

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Nativity of Jesus
4. The Presentation
5. Finding Jesus in the Temple

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

These Mysteries show the Divinity of Jesus

1. The Resurrection
2. The Ascension
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit
4. The Assumption of Mary
5. The Coronation of Mary

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

Sad moments in the Lives of Jesus and Mary

1. The Agony in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Way of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

These recall times in Jesus' Life when He revealed God's Kingdom

1. The Baptism of Jesus
2. The First Miracle at Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom
4. The Transfiguration
5. The Institution of the Eucharist



Networking Cedara

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor: Emmanuel Ndlovu, CMM
Reporter: Sue Rakoczy, IHM
Layout: Isaac Mutelo, OP, Emmanuel Nyerere, SAC,
Justus Oseko, MCCJ & Badjanga Titi Jean-Pierre M. Afr.

Production & Distribution: Octavio Francisco Bernardo, SCJ

All articles must be submitted by Wednesday afternoon
Email: emmanueln@sjti.ac.za

SJTI Website: <http://www.sjti.ac.za>

Applications and Student Records: registrar@sjti.ac.za

Academic Dean: dean@sjti.ac.za

Sibanda Gideon Mth, Head of Development Studies: hodsrs@sjti.ac.za

James Calder PHD, Head of Philosophy Department:

calderjg2003b@yahoo.ca

Patrick O'Sullivan STL, Head of Theology Department: hodth@sjti.ac.za

Institute Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/St-Josephs-Theological-Institute-182152505476216/>

Student Forum Office: studentsforumsjti@gmail.com

Student Body Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/St-Josephs-Theological-Institute-Student-Forum/431392193576786>