



ISSUE 1, APRIL 2019

HUC NEWS BITES





Welcome to 2019; the year 2018 came to an end, a time to reflect on what you achieved last year and what you hope to achieve this year. At HUC one of our resolutions was to connect better with our Alumni and what better way than to involve them in what has been happening in their absence. And from our end we hope your resolution is to be amazing pastoral leaders and ministers of the word, spread love, joy, peace and harmony. Touch a soul in every country you step foot in. We are hereby pleased to present to you our first Alumni Newsletter.

Happy reading!

A poster for 'Cultural Fiesta 2018' at Hekima University College. The poster features a woman in traditional African attire on the right and a group of dancers on the left. The text includes the date '30th November' and a list of featured activities: a lecture on culture and youth by Rev. Fr. Chukwuemeka Orji, SJ, at 4:00 PM-5:00 PM; a cultural mass celebrated by Rev. Fr. Laurenti Magesa at 5:15 PM-6:30 PM; and cultural presentations, a food fair, and a martial art demo from 7:00 PM-10:00 PM. The venue is Hekima University College, Joseph Kangethe Rd, Ngong Rd. Ticket prices are listed as Ksh.500 for adults and Ksh.200 for students (with ID). The dress code is traditional. Contact information is provided at the bottom: Koshoffa: 0715557065, Bushiri: 0715559115, Boniface: 0715146921.

It has become a tradition at HUC to hold a cultural event at the end of the civil year for all students, professors and workers. The purpose of the event is to celebrate the cultural diversity and promote our particular traditions. On Friday 30th November, all the acquaintances, friends, students and professors gathered at HUC to celebrate this cultural fiesta. Among the main attendants was Fr. Deogratias Rwezaura, SJ, Rector of Hekima College Jesuit Community, Fr. John Okoria SJ, the principal of Hekima University College. The theme of the year was “encountering cultures”. Four parts marked the year’s cultural day: the lecture on Culture and Youth by Fr. Chukwuemeka Orji, SJ, professor of Old Testament; the cultural mass celebrated by Fr. Laurenti Magesa, professor of African theology, the food fair, and the different cultural presentations.



Sudanese Cultural Dance

Madagascar Traditional Dance



HUC GRADUATING CLASS OF 2018



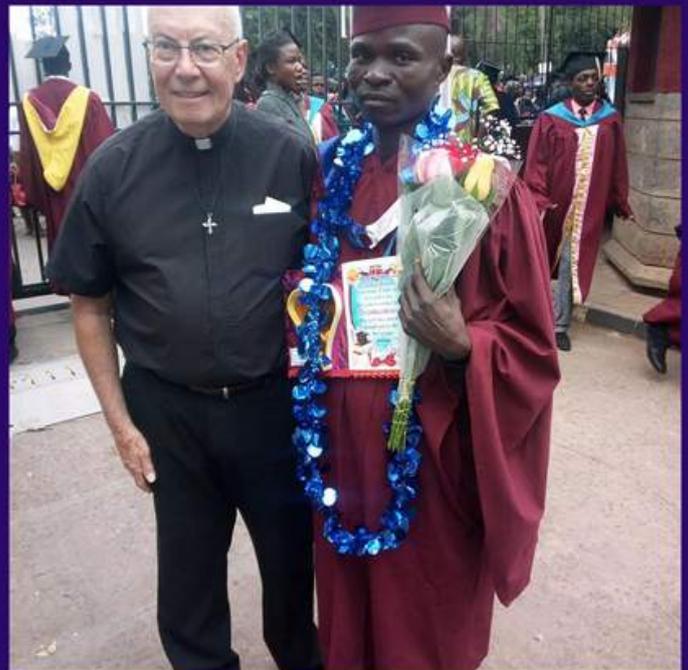
“As you go forth from us, be confident that you are greatly equipped with the relevant skills and competencies for the life ahead. Whether you eventually pluck attractive fruits off the job trees, or you become fruitfully engaged in religious/social ministry, yours will be the future. On you will the human society come to depend. Therefore, remember that all you receive in life is for the service of God and others - especially the poor.”

Rev. Dr. John-Okoria
Principal-Hekima University College

Fortunately or unfortunately a time comes when students must all leave the HUC family. HUC class of 2018 graduated on the 19th of October 2018 at the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Graduation Square, Lang'ata Campus, Nairobi

Meet Wilberforce, one of the students who graced the occasion that day. If someone was to ask you what you think of him based on his appearance you will quickly say he is a no-nonsense guy, quite the contrary Wilberforce is a calm guy who graduated as a theologian. His desire is to be a priest; we all know how that takes a lot of guts!

“Hekima is one of the best institutions in terms of education. It has some of the most knowledgeable lectures, all of which are PHD holders. The people at Hekima are so friendly, hospitable, welcoming and of course God fearing. It's an amazing Catholic Institute that prepares future Catholic Church ministers,” says the serious looking guy.



And of course what better way to end the ceremony with a heartwarming message from the Principal Fr. John Okoria. “Greetings! On behalf of HUC, I congratulate all our recent graduates and welcome them into the Jesuit alumni family. Dear graduates, you have proven to be good soil in which Hekima has sown its seed of Jesuit scholastic pursuit. Your years with us have nurtured this seed through the “4 Cs” (Conscience, Competence, Compassion and Commitment) that form the goal of Jesuit education. The graduation ceremony over the weekend is only a symbolic acknowledgement of your growth in the “4Cs”.As you go forth from us, be confident that you are greatly equipped with the relevant skills and competencies for the life ahead. Whether you eventually pluck attractive fruits off the job trees, or you become fruitfully engaged in religious/social ministry, yours will be the future. On you will the human society come to depend. Therefore, remember that all you receive in life is for the service of God and others - especially the poor.Farewell, as we look forward to inviting many of you to work with us in the future.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF Fr. Tarimo, SJ

Fr Aquiline Tarimo, a Tanzanian Jesuit of the province of eastern Africa, went to the Father on January 9th, 2019 after a long time of sickness. The funeral mass was celebrated in the Umoja Chapel of Pedro Arrupe Community in Mwangaza (Kenya) where he was laid to rest on the 15th of January 2019.

We all die, the goal isn't to live forever; the goal is to create something that will. What Father Tarimo created is priceless, He has left an intellectual legacy with the Society of Jesus in general and the Eastern Africa Province in particular.

"The Jesuits of Africa have lost a great man who devoted his life for the formation of young Jesuits" said Fr Orobator.

"He will be remembered as an intellectual man and a great lecturer" according to his student Fr Bienvenu Matanzonga.

May the Light of the Lord continue to shine upon him and may he rest in peace. Amen.



STAFF END OF YEAR PARTY

At HUC it has always been a norm to have a staff end of year party as way of appreciating HUC staff members for their immense and dedicated hard work in achieving the objectives of the college. This event has helped in team building over the years which has seen the organization grow over the years.

The event was held on the 20th of December at the Smith hotel, Ongata Rongai, Kajiado County. It was successful with plenty of food, entertainment and speeches from various departments. Sam Okirigiti the Deputy Librarian chaired the event and saw to it no one dozed off.

On the same day, farewell gifts were presented to Rev. Dr. Stephen Nzyoki who was set to leave HUC around mid-march. He has been serving HUC diligently as the Deputy Principal Admin.



He will deeply be missed by the entire HUC fraternity.

SERVICE TO MANKIND IS SERVICE TO GOD.

Divinah Nyaera Former Administrative Assistant



“It’s a great joy for me to stand here for the first time in front of you, unfortunately during my farewell”. These were Ms Divinah Nyaera’s words, full of emotion, as she addressed the students and staff at the end of the traditional Wednesday Mass at HUC.

On Wednesday, 12th September 2018, on the feast of the Holy Name of Mary, HUC bid farewell to one of its collaborators, Ms Divinah Nyaera, after the traditional Wednesday school Mass. Divinah has been the administrative assistant at Hekima University College for the past ten years.

Some of the heartfelt messages to Divina were:

From one of the students Anthony Aduaka: *“it was a pleasure working with Divinah and having collaborated with her as the International Officer of Hekima. God bless her immensely.*

From Stephen Kasisi, *CMI: Divinah was charming, a person of all people who made the campus more lively”.*



During announcements, the principal Fr. John Okoria SJ, thanked Mrs Nyaera, affectionately known as Divinah, by giving her a gift for her dedicated service to the institution. “Divinah,” he said, “we will miss you a lot, especially after all those years spent together.”

BOOK LAUNCH; GOD'S QUAD AND RELIGION & FAITH IN AFRICA

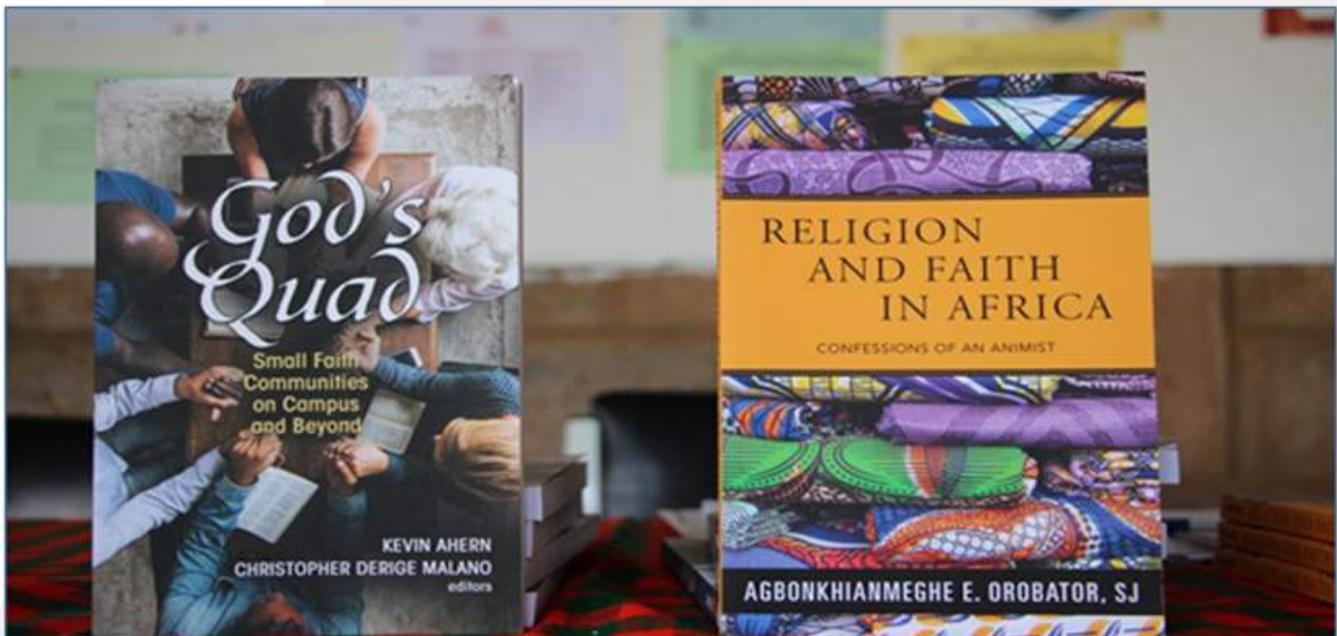
Rev. Dr. Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator

President of JCAM & Hekima College



On Thursday, September 27, at the auditorium of Hekima University College were presented two books written by HUC lecturers; Gods Quad & Religion and Faith in Africa. Among the distinguished guests present was the rector of Hekima Jesuit Community, Fr. Deogratias Rwezaura, Sj, the principal of Hekima College, Fr. John Okoria, SJ, and Professor of African Christianity and religious studies at Kenyatta University (Nairobi, Kenya) Prof Philomena Mwaura,

The first book, Religion and Faith in Africa presented depicts the personal experience of Rev. Fr. Agbonkhianmeghe E. Orobator SJ, Chairman of HUC Board of Governors. According to Fr. Orobator, the book is drawn from his personal religious experience. He says, "I want to tell my story. There is a lot of stories in this book. I think that my way of doing theology is not going from concepts and try to distill some implications, but to withdraw from my own experience. Theology has to speak to real life."



The second book presented was written by several authors among whom are some young Kenyan Catholics. They share about their faith experience in small Christian communities. In their book published by Orbis Books, they provide some good insights for the next synod of bishops in Rome on "Youth, Faith and Vocational discernment from 3rd to 28 October, 2018". According to the authors, young people can deepen their faith through the creation of their own peer faith-sharing group without priests and religious. Online Christian communities are also important in order to influence the new generations and help them to be more involved in the Church.

The anxiety, excitement and tension; all this are familiar feelings most students getting ordained as deacons experience. On the 2nd of March 2019, twenty-one candidates were presented to The Church for Diaconate Ordination and one candidate was presented to the church for priestly ordination.



Eighteen were Jesuits, three were Carmelites of Mary Immaculate and one was a Xaverian Missionaries of Yarumal.



This day marked another history on the grounds of Hekima College because it was the first time a priestly ordination and diaconate ordination were combined in one single celebration. The ordaining prelate was Rt. Rev Virgilio Pante, IMC (Bishop of Maralal Diocese in Kenya). He invited the deacons to the service of The Church.

Being ordained to the diaconate for Jesuits is a key part of formation that is required prior to priestly ordination. In the next few months, as part of their formation, some will proceed for pastoral work while others will undertake second cycle of studies, the new deacons will continue to gain pastoral experience over the next few months before being ordained to the catholic priesthood. They will proclaim the word of God, preach and preside at the sacraments of baptism and marriage and at the rite of a Christian burial.



Impact that Matters

INSPIRE

What the Ordained Deacons Had To Say



Christian Okeke

Class of 2019, Nigeria



For Okeke it is not by his power or might that he made it this far but all the glory goes to the almighty. All he asks for is for the grace of God to live it out faithfully. Chuckling he says “I was yearning for a wife and kids and left on my own I would probably be a family man right now.” He ends by saying according to him life is more than just material things and certificates. His utmost fulfillment is to glorify God by serving him and his people. That is impact that matters to him.



Godfrey Dhalimi

Class of 2019, Zimbabwe



Having a conversation with Godfrey; for him being a priest has always been his dream since he was in Grade 5. During the ordination he felt immense inner peace and joy that could not be explained. His utmost desire is to bring many souls to God. “I will not look back, my mind is made up, I am now taken by God and am sorry to all the girls who wanted me and could not get me before my ordination.” He says amidst laughter.



Je're'mie H. Kinzamba

Class of 2019, DRC



“Diaconate Ordination for me is that of divine gift and grace, I have always aspired to live a religious life and being a Jesuit has given me that opportunity. I live this experiences as a pilgrim who, on his way to his master, learns to know himself.” says Kinzamba. He believes he has been ordained to walk in the footsteps of Christ and to serve God and his people. He says that he knows he still has to learn to serve. He is however reassured that the Divine grace will always accompany him in the footsteps of Christ.



Stephen Kasisi

Class of 2019, Kenya



Stephen one of the ordained students started by saying he was planning to get married at some point but a calling from the Almighty made him change his mind. For him life has never been better and the Ordination helped him clear all doubts he had on whether he was on the right path. He gets fulfillment from serving Christ and his people. “I feel a lot of joy and happiness as my long term dream has finally been realized.” He says with a pretty smile.

Know Your Principal



Brief Interview with The Principal Fun Facts about Fr. John Okoria, SJ

Editor: Thanks for agreeing to this interview, despite your busy schedule.

Rev. Dr. John-Okoria: It's my pleasure to chat with you and so support your initiative for an alumni newsletter-particularly this fun page.

Editor: Let's get started with a serious question; what do you want to achieve as the HUC Principal or rather what legacy do you want to leave?

Rev. Dr. John-Okoria: My expertise is in Contextual Learning. Therefore I hope we can improve the way Hekima does Theology, Peace Studies & International Relations, by making the learning process and content more contextual. It is a process, so we will continue to find creative ways to commit ourselves to a culturally contextualized pursuit of knowledge- of course, within our Catholic tradition.

Editor: What has been the most challenging thing for you at HUC?

Rev. Dr. John-Okoria: Recently it has been the mosquitoes (not the human ones, lol!) that bite me endlessly in my office - especially at night.

Editor: Sorry to hear about that and hope the situation improves.

Rev. Dr. John- Okoria: Thanks, I hope so too.

Editor: What do you love about Kenya that you will deeply miss?

Rev. Dr. John- Okoria: Dawa, a most fantastic drink- very healthy too!
<http://www.longevitylive.com/nutrition-body/kenyan-dawa-drink-cocktail-recipe-health/>

Editor: Are you a die-hard fan of any football team?

Rev. Dr. John- Okoria: I would say ARSENAL any day, but they are not worth "dying" for these days!

Editor: Beauty or Brains?

Rev. Dr. John- Okoria: I think that's another crazy question. Anyway, let's say both because they are both God's gifts.

Editor: What was your childhood dream?

Rev. Dr. John- Okoria: To be a scientist, but that was until the Lord called...

Editor: If you were to have a tattoo what would you get?

Rev. Dr. John- Okoria: I hate tattoos, so there is nothing like "if" there please!

Editor: Finally, what was your new year's resolution?

Rev. Dr. John- Okoria: As I said at the first College Mass in January, and encouraged everyone to adopt the same New Year's Resolution. "To Love More" - as Christ Jesus taught as to love.

Editor: Thank you very much Father, for your time and openness, it was a pleasure talking with you.

Rev. Dr. John- Okoria: You are welcome, and best wishes in your newest endeavor to serve the HUC Community, especially our alumni and friends. God bless you!

IT'S A WRAP!

Dean of HUC, Rev. Dr. Peter Knox



ON OUR NEXT EDITION

Did you find this round of news exciting? This is just the beginning. The next round of news will be sweeter. Here is a glimpse of what will be covered on our next edition:

A Spotlight of the Dean of HUC, Rev. Dr. Peter Knox.

We will find out what some of our Alumni are up to.

A round up of news from our current students.

And of course many more. To our Alumni, if you want anyone spotlighted or any news featured, feel free to give your suggestions.

If you also wish to be featured and inspire other people kindly contact the Alumni Officer Stella Mbithe.

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From the International Officer; Stella Mbithe



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